Output 2: Implementation Checklist

Project: Fallen Pines Focus Area - Fallen Pines GNA	**District:** Laramie Ranger District
Partnership Project: Yes	**Primary Partner(s):** Wyoming State Forestry Division
Accounting Unit: North Corner	**Accounting Unit:** Choose an item.
Objective(s): This project will meet all seven of the objectives of the LaVA project: #1 mitigate hazardous fuel loading; #2 provide for recovery of forest products; #3 enhance forest and rangeland resiliency to future insect and disease infestations; #4 protect infrastructure and municipal water supplies; #5 restore wildlife habitat; #6 enhance access for forest visitors and permittees; and #7 provide for human safety.	
Project Description: Fallen Pines GNA is a cross-boundary project that includes about 705 acres on National Forest System lands. Treatments prescribed are a combination of clearcut (474 acres), overstory removal (41 acres), and commercial thinning (190 acres). Temporary road construction of about two miles is planned as part of the project. Complementary treatments are planned on adjacent private, state, and BLM lands. Wyoming State Forestry Division developed the project in conjunction with the US Forest Service.	
Location Description: This project is located in the eastern Snowy Range north of Centennial, Wyoming along the Fallen Pines Road (National Forest System Road 329).	
Legal Location: This project is located in Township 16 North, Range 78 West, Sections 2, 3, 10, 11, 14, and 15; and Township 17 North, Range 78 West, Sections 26, 34, and 35; 6th Principal Meridian, Albany County, Wyoming.	
Management Areas: Treatment units are located in Forest Plan Management Areas 3.58 Crucial Deer and Elk Winter Range, 5.13 Forest Products, and 5.15 Forest Products Ecological Maintenance and Restoration Considering the Historic Range of Variability.	
Treatment Opportunity Areas: Treatment units are located partially in the Forest and Rangeland Resiliency and Forest Products Emphasis Treatment Opportunity Area (TOA), partially in the Wildlife Emphasis TOA, and partially in the overlapping Fuels Treatment and Safety Emphasis TOA.	
Pinyon Data Location(s): https://usfs.box.com/s/h0lj5m4ztf4runlpktahw58ulejn9ufs	
GIS Data Location(s): T:\FS\NFS\MBRTB\Project\LaVA_Implementation\GIS\FallenPines\Data	

Available Treatment Acres from Record of Decision					
Stand Initiation:	**82,068**	**Intermediate:**	**148,692**	**Other Treatment(s):**	**51,267**

Project Treatment Acres					
Stand Initiation:	515	**Intermediate:**	190	**Other Treatment(s):**	0
Treatment Type	**Acres**	**Treatment Type**	**Acres**	**Treatment Type**	**Acres**
Clearcut	474	Commercial Thin	190	N/A	0
Overstory Removal	41				

Management Areas			
Management Area	**Treatment Acres**	**Management Area**	**Treatment Acres**
3.58	265	5.15	345
5.13	84		

Wildlife Areas Acreage			
Security Area (Accounting Unit)	**Treatment Acres**	**Lynx Analysis Unit**	**Treatment Acres**
North Corner	313	Snowy Range East	694 (641 suitable, 53 currently unsuitable)

Specified Road Work (Type)	Miles
Reconstruction	9.8

Temporary Road Mileage Available	Project Temporary Road Mileage	Balance of Temp Roads
573.6	2.0	571.6

All temporary road mileage is estimated. Actual road miles will be tracked during the monitoring phase.

Summary of How Public Feedback was Incorporated / Addressed:

Public feedback was received from one individual during both the focus area and preliminary treatment area phases of the project. Both comments were concerned with fragmentation of wildlife habitat, particularly for the American marten, a Forest Service Sensitive species. The comments recommended leaving connected strips of "heavy timber" to provide habitat connectivity, along both roads and stream/wetland corridors.

From the LaVA Modified Final Environmental Impact Statement, page 217: "American marten habitat consists primarily of dense, old forest with a complex understory and downed woody debris. The preferred habitat includes late-successional multi-storied stands of spruce-fir forest, multistoried lodgepole with an understory of subalpine fir, and other forest types with downed wood."

The treatment units were developed to avoid some of the highest quality marten habitats, such as recommended old growth stands and riparian corridors. These areas will provide important habitats as well as connectivity between those habitats.

The project would modify marten habitats by converting them from generally mature forest to openings or more open, younger forest across 705 acres of the 12,808 acre focus area, leaving a high proportion (94%) of habitats in their current condition. While the project would increase the extent of open or early seral habitats, it is also expected to reduce the risk of large-scale, high-intensity wildfire. This could reduce the risk of future wildfires similar to the 2020 Mullen Fire, which as noted by the commenter, substantially reduced the extent of quality marten habitats in the southern Snowy Range.

Project Validation

Resource specialists have confirmed the project: a) meets applicable Forest Plan standards and guidelines; b) is consistent with the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), design features, Modified Final Environmental Impact Statement (MFEIS), and Record of Decision (ROD); c) surveys and fieldwork has been completed; and d) if necessary, provided any additional design features.

A set of standard design features are applied to each project prior to its implementation. Any additional project design features have been approved by the responsible official. The sections below list the design features by resource area.

Amphibians and Fisheries

Objective**:** Conserve populations of amphibian and fisheries species and maintain or improve habitats.

Design Feature	**Applicable? (Yes, No, Modified)**	**If no, explain. If modified, describe modification and rationale.**
Keep heavy equipment out of streams during fish spawning, (May 15 to July 31 for cutthroat and rainbow trout, October 15 to November 30 for brook trout and brown trout). **(DF-AF-1)**	Yes	Click or tap here to enter text.
Install stream crossings as perpendicular to flow as practicable. **(DF-AF-2)**	No	Stream crossings not planned
In consultation with fisheries and timber staff, Forest Service resource specialists will locate, design, and designate any temporary road crossings of perennial streams. **(DF-AF-3)**	Yes	Click or tap here to enter text.
Avoid direct ignition in riparian and wetland areas; allow fire to back into these areas. **(DF-AF-4)**	Yes	Click or tap here to enter text.
Use spill containment equipment if it is necessary to locate staging and refueling areas within water influence zones. **(DF-AF-5)**	Yes	Click or tap here to enter text.
Felled material or other debris with potential to block stream culverts or bridges will be removed from the high-water mark. **(DF-AF-6)**	Yes	Click or tap here to enter text.
In consultation with fisheries staff, develop site-specific design criteria to ensure protection of boreal toad, wood frog, and northern leopard frog habitat and populations. **(DF-AF-7)**	Yes	Wetlands with observed wood frogs in Unit 6 are buffered 300 feet. Other known wetlands are buffered 100 feet in accordance with hydrology standards.

Heritage Resources

Objective**:** Protect cultural sites that need protection; fulfill National Historic Preservation Act requirements; and avoid, minimize, or mitigate unexpected adverse effects to heritage resources.

Design Feature	**Applicable? (Yes, No, Modified)**	**If no, explain. If modified, describe modification and rationale.**

National Historic Preservation Act compliance will be completed for each treatment area prior to treatment implementation. This may include literature reviews, field surveys (if deemed necessary by the heritage specialist), and completion of State Historic Preservation Office and Tribal consultation. Surveys, reporting, and consultation may be conducted in accordance with a programmatic agreement. State Historic Preservation Office and Tribal consultation may result in additional cultural resource avoidance or protection measures. **(DF-HR-1)**	Yes	This Design Feature is required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Survey was completed to Class III (intensive) standards.
If cultural materials or human remains are discovered, all activities in the immediate area will stop, the area will be secured, and a Forest Service archaeologist and District Ranger will be notified immediately. Work will not resume in that area until the archaeologist has evaluated the material and notified the District Ranger that the applicable requirements of 36 CFR 800 and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act have been completed. **(DF-HR-2)**	Yes	Click or tap here to enter text.
Site-specific measures to protect or enhance heritage resources will be determined at the time of treatment implementation. **(DF-HR-3)**	Yes	As agreed upon with the Wyoming SHPO, all potential adverse effects to historic properties will be avoided and/or mitigated. Heritage resource restriction areas were provided to the project lead. There are no historic properties within the treatment units. One historic property is in proximity and should be avoided by all treatment actions and ground disturbing activities (hauling, decking, staging, etc.).

Hydrology and Wet Areas

Objective**:** Maintain long-term ground cover, soil structure, water budgets, and flow patterns of wetlands to sustain their ecological functions.

Design Feature	**Applicable? (Yes, No, Modified)**	**If no, explain. If modified, describe modification and rationale.**
Fens: Treatment will not occur in fens. In addition, fens will be protected by a 300-foot limited-action buffer in which heavy equipment use will be prohibited. **(DF-HWA-1)**	Yes	GIS and field inventory completed. No treatment planned in fens or 300-foot buffers. Unit 16 will be modified to allow for a full 300-foot buffer around the fen-like feature in its northwest corner.
Wet meadows: No operation of heavy equipment, prescribed fire control lines, or tree removal will occur in seasonally wet, herbaceous- or shrub-dominated wetlands, commonly referred to as wet meadows. Wet meadows may also contain trees but do not include aspen woodlands or riparian gallery forests. **(DF-HWA-1a)**	Yes	GIS and field inventory completed. All known wet meadows have been excluded from treatment units.

Design Feature	Applicable? (Yes, No, Modified)	If no, explain. If modified, describe modification and rationale.
Wetlands, riparian areas, and aquatic ecosystems: When treating within non-excluded wetlands (see above), riparian areas, and aquatic ecosystems: **(DF-HWA-2)** • Restrict temporary roads, landings, or main skid trails as recommended by resource specialists and approved by the line officer; • Hand fall and leave in place; or • Treat with mechanized equipment over a combined surface of 12 inches of frozen ground and snow.	Yes	GIS and field inventory completed. All known wetlands, riparian areas, and aquatic ecosystems have been excluded from treatment units.
Water influence zone (WIZ): A buffer with a minimum horizontal width of 100 feet from the top of each stream bank or edge of wetlands will be applied to perennial and intermittent streams, lakes, reservoirs, riparian areas, and wetlands. However, buffers may vary depending on the type of wet area and site conditions, as agreed upon by resource specialists. When treating buffers including the WIZ, equipment use is permitted; **(DF-HWA-3)** • If winter activities occur, the over-snow design feature (**DF-SOIL-1**) will apply. • Where feasible, avoid temporary roads, landings, main skid trails, or slash piles in the WIZ. • If the aforementioned are necessary in the WIZ, consult resource specialists. Prior to working in WIZ buffers, resource specialists will assess the need for site-specific design criteria for retention of coarse woody debris.	Yes	GIS and field inventory completed. WIZ buffers were developed for all known perennial and intermittent streams, lakes, reservoirs, riparian areas, and wetlands but some did not receive the full 100 feet. Units 6, 14, and 15 will be modified to allow for the full 100-foot WIZ.
Winching of trees across streams is prohibited. **(DF-HWA-4)**	Yes	Click or tap here to enter text.

Infrastructure

Objective**:** To protect improvements and investments.

Design Feature	Applicable? (Yes, No, Modified)	If no, explain. If modified, describe modification and rationale.
All Forest Service authorized improvements (for example, fences, water improvements, survey monuments) will be protected during management activities. **(DF-INF-1)**	Yes	Click or tap here to enter text.
Slash piles should be removed as soon as practicable. If possible, locate all machine piles at least 100 feet from infrastructure. If possible, locate hand piles at least 50 feet from infrastructure. If not possible to meet the aforementioned distances, consult the zone fire staff or forest fuels specialist. **(DF-INF-2)**	Modified	All hand and machine piles will be located a minimum of 300 yards downwind of infrastructure and property lines.

Invasive Weeds

Objective**:** Maintain ecological integrity by preventing the introduction and reducing the spread of noxious weeds and invasive plant species in the project area. The following decision criteria were developed to comply with the direction in the forest plan, Executive Order 13751 – Safeguarding the Nation from the Impacts of Invasive Species, and the USDA Forest Service guide to noxious weed prevention practices.

Design Feature	Applicable? (Yes, No, Modified)	If no, explain. If modified, describe modification and rationale.
Cleaning of equipment: Require equipment to be cleaned of mud and plant debris and inspected before vehicles are moved into the project area to prevent introduction or spread of noxious or invasive weed species. **(DF-INV-1)**	Modified	Additional cleaning shall be completed when exiting Unit 8 because of the presence of yellow toadflax in the unit.
Vegetation treatments: Manage vegetation treatments to promote native species and to hinder weed species germination. Prior to implementation, field conditions will be assessed to locate areas with existing infestations of weeds. Areas may be excluded from prescribed burning where there are infestations of fire-proliferating species (cheatgrass and musk thistle). Weed-infested areas included in burns, except for annual grasses, will be treated with appropriate herbicides or other control methods, as needed, to minimize the spread of weed species pre-treatment, post-treatment, or both. **(DF-INV-2)**	Yes	Click or tap here to enter text.
Seeding: On sites where the probability of erosion or weed infestation is high, disturbed areas will be seeded with an appropriate mix of native plant species per the "Guidelines for Revegetation for the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grasslands" (signed 2007, as updated). Areas may not need to be seeded where duff or slash cover the ground, or where natural revegetation is expected to occur quickly. The intent is to intervene only if necessary, to establish effective ground cover to control erosion, prevent weeds, and meet scenic objectives. **(DF-INV-3)**	Modified	Only applicable if seeding is done on temporary roads or landings. All grass seed must be certified weed-free.
Imported materials: All materials imported from off-forest (erosion control materials, soil, mulch, etc.) will be certified weed-free or from a weed-free source or area. Forest-level source material (gravel pits and borrow areas) used for individual treatments will be inspected prior to use to inventory noxious weed presence and treated with herbicide as needed. If inspections cannot occur before implementation, identify where the material came from and monitor for noxious weed presence. **(DF-INV-4)**	Yes	Click or tap here to enter text.

Old Growth

Objective**:** To maintain or enhance old forest across the landscape.

Design Feature	Applicable? (Yes, No, Modified)	If no, explain. If modified, describe modification and rationale.
If treatment in old growth is planned, replacement acres will be identified prior to implementation, per Forest Plan biological diversity standard 1. Vegetation management can be conducted in these stands if treatments maintain or promote characteristics of old growth stands, new stands are identified that meet the requirements of old growth, and these stands are incorporated into the Medicine Bow National Forest old-growth strategy. Treatment of old growth is prohibited in Forest Plan MA 5.15. **(DF-OG-1)**	No	Designated old growth was avoided during treatment layout.

Public Safety

Objective**:** To provide safe conditions for the administrative operations and the public uses.

Design Feature	**Applicable? (Yes, No, Modified)**	**If no, explain. If modified, describe modification and rationale.**
Forest Service personnel will provide advanced notice to the public if roads are temporarily closed during project activities. Alternate access routes may be identified. Forest Service personnel will work cooperatively with the applicable federal, state, county, and local governments to post road closure information. Traffic control will comply with the Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices. **(DF-PS-1)**	No	No road closures planned.

Rangeland Resources

Objective**:** Maintain grazing opportunities on suitable rangelands to achieve desired conditions. Desired condition includes emphasis on healthy native plant communities, minimizing noxious weeds and other non-native species.

Design Feature	**Applicable? (Yes, No, Modified)**	**If no, explain. If modified, describe modification and rationale.**
Treatment opportunities must be coordinated with Forest Service rangeland management specialists to provide adequate time to plan changes in grazing management and to limit effects to allotment management and permittee operations. **(DF-RNG-1)**	Yes	Cross boundary work in unit 16 during summer months may allow permitted cattle onto private property or private property livestock onto the forest. Work with RMS to coordinate with livestock operators and minimize issues.

Rare Plant Species and Sensitive Ecosystems

Objective**:** Maintain ecological integrity and functioning of uncommon, sensitive, or otherwise vulnerable ecosystems. Protect populations of threatened, endangered, and sensitive plant and pollinator species and maintain viability of all plant species in the project area. The follow design criteria were developed to comply with the standards and guidelines in the Forest Plan, meet the requirements of the National Forest Management Act and 2012 Final Planning Rule, and conform to the policy described in Supplement 2600-2017-1 to the Forest Service Manual 2600 – Wildlife, Fish, and Sensitive Plant Habitat Management, Chapter 2670 – Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Plants and Animals.

Design Feature	**Applicable? (Yes, No, Modified)**	**If no, explain. If modified, describe modification and rationale.**
Rare plants: Threatened, endangered, Rocky Mountain Region sensitive, and local concern plant species will be subject to a limited-action buffer (typically 30 to 100 feet) in which heavy equipment will be prohibited and other activities may be limited, unless otherwise agreed upon by the botanist and District Ranger. Specific buffer distances will depend on plant and habitat characteristics and will be determined at time of discovery. **(DF-TESS-1)**	No	No rare plants in need of protection measures found within treatment units. One rare plant population in Unit 8 will be monitored post-treatment.

Design Feature	Applicable? (Yes, No, Modified)	If no, explain. If modified, describe modification and rationale.
Meadows: Use of heavy equipment is prohibited in meadows and grasslands unless no other option is available. If heavy equipment use cannot be located outside these areas, Forest Service resource specialists will be contacted prior to implementation to determine whether additional surveys are needed, or special requirements are warranted to protect site integrity. **(DF-TESS-2)**	Yes	Click or tap here to enter text.
Pollinators: In consultation with Medicine Bow National Forest resource specialists, conduct vegetation management activities in a manner that protects or enhances pollinator habitat. The pollinator-friendly best management practices for Federal lands (draft, May 2015 or finalized version) will be used as a guide. **(DF-TESS-3)**	Yes	No special measures necessary.

Recreation

Objective**:** Maintain or improve the condition of recreation resources while enhancing recreation opportunities by improving public safety and accessibility around recreation features.

Design Feature	Applicable? (Yes, No, Modified)	If no, explain. If modified, describe modification and rationale.
Remove operational slash and merchantable materials from developed recreation sites that are the direct result of logging the site. **(DF-REC-1)**	No	No developed recreation sites in project area.
Do not implement treatments in developed campgrounds during the highest periods of use or when damage to campground features is likely to occur due to snow depth. If treatments require implementation during snow cover or high use periods, coordinate with recreation staff to minimize conflicts with recreation use and damage to infrastructure. **(DF-REC-2)**	No	No developed campgrounds in project area.
Temporary road or skid trail crossings of designated trails will be kept to a minimum. Any crossings will be perpendicular to designated forest trails to the extent practicable. **(DF-REC-3)**	Yes	Click or tap here to enter text.
Minimize overlaying skid trails or haul roads on nonmotorized system trails. If trails are used as skid trails or haul roads, they will be returned to pre-existing conditions. Trail widths will not be increased. **(DF-REC-4)**	Yes	Click or tap here to enter text.
When activities preclude use of a nearby trail, a) notify the public; b) consider identifying timeframes for safe travel on the trail; c) if activities are expected to preclude use for more than one season and a detour is feasible, provide a detour; and d) place warning signs on all trail access points and along the trail where treatment activities are occurring. **(DF-REC-5)**	Yes	Click or tap here to enter text.
Unauthorized user-created routes within treatment boundaries may be decommissioned to discourage continued, illegal motorized use and to offset effects to resources. **(DF-REC-6)**	Yes	If unauthorized routes are found. Currently not included in project.
To the maximum extent possible, alternate route(s) or detours will be used during implementation to allow continued use of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail and to mitigate scenery management effects during vegetation management operations. **(DF-REC-7)**	No	No CDNST in project area.

Design Feature	Applicable? (Yes, No, Modified)	If no, explain. If modified, describe modification and rationale.
No skidding is allowed on or across the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail without prior coordination with recreation staff. Any skidding on or across the trail will be located to limit damage to the trail, which will be returned to pre-treatment condition. **(DF-REC-8)**	No	No CDNST in project area.
Coordinate with recreation staff on off-highway vehicle trails if vegetative treatments are planned on or adjacent to off-highway vehicle trails. Off-highway vehicle trails will be returned to pre-existing conditions. **(DF-REC-9)**	No	No off-highway vehicle trails in project area.
Coordinate with recreation staff if winter operations are planned on snowmobile trails. **(DF-REC-10)**	Yes	Click or tap here to enter text.
Design and implementation of vegetative treatments or associated activities (for example, access routes, staging, etc.) within MA 8.22 Ski Based Resorts – Existing and Potential) shall be coordinated with the Forest Service ski area permit administrator to ensure compatibility with current and potential recreational opportunities. **(DF-REC-11)**	No	No MA 8.22 in project area.

Scenic Resources

Objective**:** To provide high-quality scenery while allowing multiple-use management to occur.

Design Feature	Applicable? (Yes, No, Modified)	If no, explain. If modified, describe modification and rationale.
In all treatment areas, follow general direction and associated standards and guidelines in the "Scenery Management" section of the Forest Plan (pages 1-56 to 1-58). **(DF-SCN-1)**	Yes	Click or tap here to enter text.
Along scenic byways burned slash piles will be rehabilitated, if needed, within four years of the activity to eliminate the appearance of uncharacteristic disturbance. **(DF-SCN-2)**	Yes	Click or tap here to enter text.

Soils

Objective**:** Minimize disturbances to soil properties (physical, chemical, and biological) to ensure inherent ecological capacity and hydrologic functions of the soil resources are maintained.

Design Feature	Applicable? (Yes, No, Modified)	If no, explain. If modified, describe modification and rationale.
When activities are planned over snow or frozen ground: • Conduct activities when frozen soil is more than 4 inches deep or snow or a combination of compactable snow and frozen soil is more than 12 inches thick. Snow quality should be such that it will compact and form a running surface for equipment by being moist and non-granular. **(DF-SOIL-1)** • Additional site-specific design features may be developed to minimize resource concerns.	Yes	Click or tap here to enter text.

Design Feature	Applicable? (Yes, No, Modified)	If no, explain. If modified, describe modification and rationale.
Prohibit soil-disturbing activities on slopes greater than 60 percent and on soils susceptible to high erosion and geologic hazard. Site-specific design features will be developed if these areas cannot be avoided. **(DF-SOIL-2)**	Modified	Numerous areas of geologic hazards and soils susceptible to high erosion were identified during field surveys. Most of these areas were removed from treatment, but some remain in several treatment units because of the need to meet project objectives.
For mechanical treatments, maintain a minimum 60 percent effective ground cover across treatment units throughout the implementation period to provide long-term organic matter, nutrients, and erosion control. **(DF-SOIL-3)**	Yes	Residual slash and other forms of ground cover have met this guideline in previous projects. Post-treatment monitoring will be conducted to identify any need for adjustments.
Site-specific design features will be developed if treatment activities include operation of heavy equipment on slopes greater than 40 percent. **(DF-SOIL-4)**	No	No treatments are planned on slopes greater than 40 percent.
Designated skid trails will be used, when applicable, during timber harvest. Designated skid trails are recommended if more than three passes over the same ground is necessary or when not on flat ground. Designated trails are not necessary when harvesting over frozen ground, snow, or both. **(DF-SOIL-5)**	Yes	Click or tap here to enter text.
Where feasible, skid trails and landings from past harvests will be used to minimize new soil disturbance. **(DF-SOIL-6)**	Yes	Click or tap here to enter text.
Equipment operation shall not occur when ground conditions are such that extensive damage will result. If ruts develop that are six inches deep and 30 feet long or more, activities should stop. **(DF-SOIL-7)**	Yes	Click or tap here to enter text.

Temporary Road Construction, Landings, and Skid Trails

Objective**:** To decompact compacted soil in the temporary road surfaces, restore natural drainage, and prevent unauthorized motorized use after vegetation management.

Design Feature	Applicable? (Yes, No, Modified)	If no, explain. If modified, describe modification and rationale.
Erosion Control: Recontour temporary road template to the original contour to permit normal maximum flow of water. **(DF-RdEC-1)**	Modified	Temporary road will not be re-contoured until all projects on this road are complete.
Erosion Control: Remove culverts, install water bars, and restore stream channels to near natural dimensions. **(DF-RdEC-2)**	Yes	Apply design feature regardless of potential for future use of temporary road.
Erosion Control: For the entire length of the temporary road, provide 35 percent to 65 percent ground cover by scattering debris on the route footprint. Ground cover range is provided to account for different harvest methods and project objectives. **(DF-RdEC-3)**	Yes	Apply design feature regardless of potential for future use of temporary road.

Design Feature	Applicable? (Yes, No, Modified)	If no, explain. If modified, describe modification and rationale.
Compaction: Rip or otherwise roughen the length of the temporary road prism to eliminate compaction, ensuring an average depth of 6 to 12 inches, as needed. Avoid continuous furrow lines as they function as conduits for water transport and do not eliminate compaction within the entire prism. **(DF-RdCOM-1)**	Modified	Temporary road will not be ripped or otherwise roughened until all projects on this road are complete.
Visuals and Motor Vehicle Access: Temporary road rehabilitation methods will be designed to effectively prevent motorized vehicle use by utilizing berms, boulders, slash, mulch, dead trees, or a combination. The obliteration method(s) selected will cover the temporary road for the sight distance from its origin. For the entire length of the temporary road, provide 35 percent to 65 percent ground cover by scattering debris on the route footprint. **(DF-RdVis-1)**	Modified	Temporary road will be closed to motorized use after completion of each project. Hydrologic processes (DF-RdEC-2) and ground cover (DF-RdEC-3) will be re-established after completion of each project. Road will not be permanently obliterated until all projects on this road are complete.
Timing: Complete rehabilitation of temporary roads will occur within three years after the vegetation management treatments have been completed. **(DF-RdT-1)**	Modified	Temporary road will be closed to motorized use after completion of each project. Hydrologic processes (DF-RdEC-2) and ground cover (DF-RdEC-3) will be re-established after completion of each project. Road will not be permanently rehabilitated until all projects on this road are complete.
Timing: Skid trails and landings will be rehabilitated as needed to minimize soil and hydrologic effects. Site-specific measures will be developed at time of implementation. **(DF-RdT-2)**	Yes	Click or tap here to enter text.

Wildlife

Objective**:** Conserve populations of threatened, endangered, and sensitive species and maintain or improve wildlife habitats.

Design Feature	Applicable? (Yes, No, Modified)	If no, explain. If modified, describe modification and rationale.
General: Vegetation management and ground-disturbing actions within ¼ mile of suitable goshawk nesting habitat will be surveyed using the accepted protocol (Joy et al. 1994) between June 19 and August 4 of the year prior to actions or the year actions are expected to occur. Where active nests or territories are identified, Forest Plan standards will apply (USDA 2003a). **(DF-WILD-1)**	No	Goshawks observed during surveys. No nests discovered.
Migratory Birds: Outside the wildland-urban interface, vegetation management actions will be designed to retain or promote unique features for overstory and understory diversity if feasible. These features can include items such as snags, uncommon trees, or woody debris. **(DF-MB-1)**	Yes	MBTA species observed during surveys. Recommend timing restriction for treatment operations. See Additional Design Features.

Design Feature	Applicable? (Yes, No, Modified)	If no, explain. If modified, describe modification and rationale.
Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse: No treatment will occur in the Preble's meadow jumping mouse Area of Influence (766 acres) that occurs in the LaVA project area, located adjacent to the upper Laramie River in the southeast corner of the Fox Wood accounting unit. This area occurs within Township 13 North, Range 77 West, section 33 and Township 12 North, Range 77 West, section 4. **(DF-PM-1)**	No	Outside PMJM area of influence.
Columbian sharp-tailed grouse*: Prioritize treatment in Columbian sharp-tailed grouse habitat to manage conifer invasion in shrublands and manage over-mature (more than 40 percent canopy cover) mountain shrublands, especially Gambel oak. Prioritize treatment on ridges, mesas, and other flat topography. **(DF-CS-1)**	No	Outside range of CSTG.
Columbian sharp-tailed grouse*: Prescriptions can treat up to 20 percent of over-mature sagebrush shrublands. Individual treatment areas can vary up to two to 10 hectares. Prioritize treatment in over-mature stands (more than 40 percent canopy cover). Retain some over-mature stands within 400 meters of leks. **(DF-CS-2)**	No	Outside range of CSTG.
Columbian sharp-tailed grouse*: Prescriptions can treat up to 30 percent of over-mature mountain shrublands, focusing on Gambel oak. Individual treatment areas can vary up to 20- to 100-hectare patches. Future treatments can occur at 5 to 10-year intervals in remaining stands. Where mountain shrublands comprise less than 15 percent of the area, prescriptions can treat up to 10 percent of the over-mature mountain shrublands with subsequent treatments at 10- to 15-year intervals. Treatment areas can vary up to 2- to 10-hectare patches. **(DF-CS-3)**	No	Outside range of CSTG.
Columbian sharp-tailed grouse*: Prescribed fire can occur before April 15, during September if there will be substantial early fall snow to cover treated areas, or after September. **(DF-CS-4)**	No	Outside range of CSTG.
Columbian sharp-tailed grouse*: Treated areas should be rested from livestock grazing for one to two growing seasons unless mountain shrubs have resprouted sufficiently and grass and forb cover is adequate for long-term habitat productivity. If mountain shrub and grass and forb response is not adequate, additional measures such as adaptive livestock management or temporary fencing can be adopted until recovery occurs. **(DF-CS-5)**	No	Outside range of CSTG.

* Design criteria for shrubland treatments within two kilometers (1.24 miles) of Columbian sharp-tailed grouse leks (based on Hoffman and Thomas 2007 and Hoffman et al. 2015).

Additional Design Features

Objective**:** To provide additional, site-specific protection for resources not identified elsewhere in the checklist.

Design Feature	**Describe purpose and rationale for the added design feature.**
A timing restriction will be in place from April 1 to June 15. During this period, treatment operations (for example, cutting, skidding, piling, or burning) shall not occur. Roads can be used, maintained, or re-constructed. Hauling can occur from existing decks along temporary or permanent roads.	To protect nesting migratory birds.

Review and Approval

The Project Manager and LaVA Implementation Coordinator will review the checklist and supporting documentation to confirm the project has been designed consistent with the MFEIS, ROD, and Appendix A. In particular, they will confirm the SOPs and design features, including any additional, project-specific design features, are correctly applied to the project.

The District Ranger will review the checklist and supporting documentation. By signing this checklist, the ranger confirms that this project is within the scope of the analysis in the MFEIS and ROD, including the SOPs and design features in Appendix A.

Reviewed By (Project Manager): Anna Thompson

Signature and Date: Anna Thompson Digitally signed by Anna Thompson Date: 2024.04.24 14:33:29 -06'00'

Reviewed By (LaVA Implementation Coordinator): Matt Schweich

Signature and Date: MATTHEW SCHWEICH Digitally signed by MATTHEW SCHWEICH Date: 2024.04.24 10:58:00 -06'00'

☐ **Approve proceeding with project. All resource concerns have been mitigated as recommended and the project is within the effects analyzed.**

☒ **Approve proceeding with project. Resource concerns could not be mitigated fully but project is still within effects analyzed under decision. Justification for proceeding is included in supplemental information.**

☐ **Do not proceed with project. Conditions since initialization of the project have changed substantially and need to be reassessed. Justification is attached.**

Approved By (District Ranger): Frank Romero

Signature and Date: FRANK ROMERO Digitally signed by FRANK ROMERO Date: 2024.04.24 15:21:53 -06'00'

Project Modifications Developed During Review and Approval

The following changes will be made to the project:

1) A fen-like feature is present adjacent to the northwest corner of Unit 16. This unit will be modified before implementation to allow for a full 300-foot buffer around the fen-like feature.
2) A small wet area is present in the northeast part of the bottom section of Unit 6. This unit will be modified before implementation to allow for a full 100-foot buffer around the wet area.
3) A spring is present in the northwest section of Unit 14. This unit will be modified before implementation to allow for a full 100-foot buffer around the spring.
4) Two wet areas are present in Unit 15. This unit will be modified before implementation to allow for a full 100-foot buffer around both wet areas.

5) The updated units around water features (items 1-4 above) will be a focus of monitoring to confirm the adequacy of the buffers and identify any future modifications to the field validation process.

6) Winter logging will be allowed, but not required, in all treatment units, following design feature DF-SOIL-1.

7) Areas of soils susceptible to erosion or geologic hazards are included in Units 7, 9, and 16. These areas will be a focus of monitoring to identify any need for mitigation or future modifications to the field validation process.

8) A temporary road is planned to connect National Forest System Road (NFSR) 329.C with NFSR 397.A, both of which are closed to public motorized use. The temporary road will follow an abandoned road that was not effectively rehabilitated in the past and will avoid project traffic in an area of slope instability and wet soils along NFSR 397.A. Our partners have asked to use this road for future projects in the same general area as Fallen Pines GNA. To avoid repeatedly rehabilitating and re-opening the temporary road, we will implement the following closure protocol between projects:

    a. The temporary road will be closed to all motorized traffic.

    b. Design features DF-RdEC-2 (hydrologic function) and DF-RdEC3 (ground cover) will be applied to the temporary road after completion of each project, regardless of potential use by future projects.

    c. Design Features DF-RdEC-1 (re-contouring) and DF-RdCOM-1 (de-compaction) will not be applied until all projects that use the temporary road are complete.

    d. The temporary road will not be permanently rehabilitated (DF-RdVis-1) until all projects that use the temporary road are complete.

    e. The timing of measure DF-RdT-1 will be extended until all projects that use the temporary road are complete.

    f. The temporary road will be monitored to ensure interim measures are effective and motorized use is not occurring. If monitoring indicates interim measures are not effective or motorized use is occurring, additional measures will be developed and implemented. These could include wing fences at the gate, other reinforced closure devices, or additional erosion control measures.

9) A timing restriction will be used to protect nesting migratory birds from April 1 to June 15.