

Output 1: LaVA Pre-treatment Checklist

Project: White Rocks Focus Area		District: Brush Creek-Hayden Ranger District
Partnership Project: Yes	Primary Partner(s): WY Game and Fish	
Project Objective(s): #1 mitigate hazardous fuels; #2 provide for recovery of forest products; #3 enhance forest and rangeland resiliency to future insect and disease infestations; #4 protect infrastructure; #5 restore wildlife habitat; #6 enhance access for forest visitors and permittees; and #7 provide for human safety		
Accounting Unit: Bow Kettle	Accounting Unit: Rock Morgan	
Project Description and Location: North end of the Snowy Range, around the White Rocks estates		
Data File Location(s): T:\FS\NFS\MBRTB\Project\LaVA_Implementation\GIS\White Rocks\Data\1_PreTreatment		

Project Description (narrative):

Eight preliminary projects have been identified in the White Rocks Focus Area and are described below. Many of the preliminary treatment units have not been reviewed in detail on the ground and are likely to change based on site-specific resource surveys, application of the design features and standard operating procedures identified in Appendix A, public and Cooperator feedback, and other factors.

- 1) Basalt Fuels: approximately 1,297 acres of treatments designed to meet objectives 1, 3, 4, 6, and 7. Activities may include thinning, mastication, prescribed burning, or other treatments. Recovery of forest products is not anticipated; however, commercial thinning will be considered if appropriate. The use of temporary roads is not anticipated.
- 2) Basalt Timber Sale: approximately 290 acres of commercial timber sale designed to meet objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7. Harvest prescriptions may include clearcutting or overstory removal. Temporary roads will be needed to access harvest units.
- 3) Granite Timber Sale: approximately 162 acres of commercial timber sale designed to meet objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7. Harvest prescriptions may include clearcutting or overstory removal. Temporary roads will be needed to access harvest units.
- 4) Obsidian Fuels: approximately 1,153 acres of treatments designed to meet objectives 1, 3, 4, 6, and 7. Activities may include thinning, mastication, prescribed burning, or other treatments. Recovery of forest products is not anticipated; however, commercial thinning will be considered if appropriate. The use of temporary roads is not anticipated.
- 5) Obsidian Timber Sale: approximately 265 acres of commercial timber sale designed to meet objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7. Harvest prescriptions may include clearcutting or overstory removal. Temporary roads will be needed to access harvest units.
- 6) Precommercial Thinning: approximately 823 acres of precommercial thinning designed to meet objectives 1, 3, 4, 6, and 7. Activities may include hand or mechanical thinning or prescribed burning. Recovery of forest products is not anticipated, and temporary roads will not be used.
- 7) Wildlife – Aspen Enhancement: approximately 320 acres of treatments designed to meet objectives 1, 3, 5, 6 and 7. Activities may include removal of conifers encroaching on aspen

stands, aspen cutting, or other treatments. This project was developed in response to Cooperator interest in promoting resilience of aspen stands. The use of temporary roads is not anticipated.

- 8) Wildlife – WGFD proposal: approximately 547 acres of treatments designed to meet objectives 1, 3, 5, 6, and 7. Activities may include shrub cutting, conifer removal, prescribed burning, or other treatments. This project was developed at the suggestion of Cooperators to complement similar treatments on adjacent state lands in the Wick/Beumee Wildlife Habitat Management Area. The use of temporary roads is not anticipated.

For all “yes” answers below provide documentation on the next page.

YES	NO	Issue:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The treatment has the potential to affect long-term stream health. (If yes, go to Decision Trigger 1).
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The proposed treatment includes treatments meant to maintain or improve wildlife habitat. (If yes, go to Decision Trigger 2).
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The proposed treatment has the potential to alter wildlife security areas. (If yes, go to Decision Trigger 3).
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The proposed treatment occurs within a Lynx Analysis Unit or Linkage Corridor. (If yes, go to Decision Triggers 4 thru 9).
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	This treatment will utilize temporary roads to access treatment areas. (If yes, go to Decision Trigger 10 and 11).
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The treatment has the potential to affect public access. (If yes, go to Decision Triggers 13 and 14).
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The treatment was brought forward or is primarily funded through a partnership source.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do any “yes” answers above result in a Yellow-Light Trigger?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do any “yes” answers above result in a Red-Light Trigger?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Is it likely that the proposed treatment will result in a deviation from any Forest Plan Guideline? (If yes, elaborate on the next page)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does the proposed treatment impact the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail or a Wild and Scenic River? (If yes, describe length of trail/river affected, type of effects, and duration of effects on next page).
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Based on the proposed treatment, further Design Features are anticipated. (If yes, elaborate on next page).

Describe any Issues or Triggers from Page 3:

Trigger 1

The Willow Park watershed (HUC7 10180004010204) has a pre-project Equivalent Clearcut Area (ECA) of 29.6%, above the 25% threshold for a yellow-light trigger. Preliminary treatments have been modified to avoid increasing ECA in this watershed.

If all preliminary treatments were implemented, the ECA in four additional watersheds would increase to above the 25% threshold for a yellow-light trigger, including East Fork Medicine Bow River 05: HUC7 10180004010205 (33.5%), Stanley Park: HUC7 10180004010206 (35.2%), Wagonhound Creek: HUC7 10180004010601 (32.3%), and White Rock Canyon: HUC7: 10180004010602 (26.0%). In these watersheds, the preliminary treatments would need to be modified to reduce cumulative ECA below 25%. Alternately, watershed information would need to be validated and a stream health assessment may need to be conducted. If a stream health assessment were to indicate a moderate or high potential for a long-term change to a lower stream health class (red-light trigger), treatments would be modified as needed to avoid this risk following the options described in Appendix A.

Trigger 2

Two of the proposed projects (Wildlife-Aspen Enhancement and Wildlife-WGFD) were designed specifically to maintain or improve wildlife habitats.

Trigger 3

The preliminary treatment units have been modified to avoid altering wildlife security areas.

Triggers 4-9

There are two Lynx Analysis Units (LAUs) in the focus area: Kettle Ponds and Morgan. Both LAUs have low percent unsuitable habitats (14.5 and 11.4% respectively). At present, there are 4,760 acres of suitable lynx habitat available for conversion under the yellow-light trigger threshold (Trigger #4) in the Kettle Ponds LAU, but only 732 acres of total proposed treatments. Similarly, there are 4,240 acres of suitable lynx habitat available for conversion in the Morgan LAU, but only 326 acres of total proposed treatments. The amount of habitat that would be converted is currently unknown and would not be known until treatment units and prescriptions are finalized.

WUI exemptions to Standards VEG S1 or VEG S2 (Trigger #5) would not be used for the proposed projects.

Very little suitable habitat has been converted to unsuitable in either LAU in the past 10 years (Trigger #6). At present, there are 5,161 acres of suitable lynx habitat available for conversion under the yellow-light trigger threshold in the Kettle Ponds LAU in the next decade, but only 732 acres of total proposed treatments. Similarly, there are 5,069 acres of suitable lynx habitat available for conversion in the Morgan LAU in the next decade, but only 326 acres of total proposed treatments.

The 1% exemption to Standard VEG S5 (Trigger #7) would be used for limited amounts of precommercial thinning (PCT) in both LAUs: 75 acres in Kettle Ponds and 35 acres in Morgan. These amounts are substantially less than the 1% exemption limits for the yellow-light trigger of 374 acres in Kettle Ponds and 344 acres in Morgan.

WUI exemptions to Standards VEG S1, VEG S2, VEG S5, and VEG S6 (Trigger #5) would not be used for the proposed projects.

The use of other exceptions to the SRLA standards (Trigger #9) is unknown, but is expected to be a small fraction of the 2,314 acres available under the yellow-light trigger.

Triggers 10 and 11

The use of temporary roads is expected, but currently unknown, for the three timber sale projects. No need for temporary roads is anticipated for the fuels and wildlife projects. The use and rehabilitation of temporary roads is expected to be well within the limits for yellow-light triggers.

Trigger 13 and 14

Public access would not be affected in the long-term. Minor, short-term restrictions on some routes may be needed to protect public safety during active treatment operations.

Other Supplemental Information

Two of the proposed projects (Wildlife-WGFD and Wildlife-Aspen Enhancement) were brought forward based on Cooperator interest and input.

At this point in the Appendix A process, the potential need for additional design features is unknown. Additional design features may be needed to address ECA concerns or other issues that arise when the preliminary treatments are refined and finalized and will be addressed during preparation of the Implementation Checklist(s).

District Ranger Approval/Review

District Ranger signature confirms all appropriate documentation for necessary pre-implementation items is attached and the treatment planning can proceed.

Approved By (District Ranger):