

Output 1: LaVA Pre-treatment Checklist

Project: Badger Focus Area		District: Laramie Ranger District
Partnership Project: Yes	Primary Partner(s): Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Mule Deer Foundation	
Project Objective(s): #1 mitigate hazardous fuels; #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: Fox Wood	Accounting Unit: Choose an item.	
Project Description and Location: Treatment areas are located in and near the 2018 Badger Creek Fire Area; in portions of Townships 12 and 13 North, Ranges 77 and 78 West. 6th P.M., Albany County, Wyoming (Figure 1); in Forest Plan Management Areas 3.58 (Crucial Deer and Elk Winter Range) and 5.15 (Forest Products, Ecological Maintenance, and Restoration Considering the Historic Range of Variability); in the Forest and Rangeland Resiliency and Forest Products Treatment Opportunity Area (TOA), the Wildlife Emphasis TOA, and the Fuels Treatment and Safety Emphasis TOA.		
Data File Location(s): T:\FS\NFS\MBRTB\Project\LaVA_Implementation\GIS\Badger\Data\1_PreTreatment		

Project Description (narrative):

Five preliminary projects have been identified in the Badger 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.

Current projects in the 26,288-acre Badger Focus Area include:

- 1) Fuels: approximately 1,445 acres of treatments designed to meet objectives 1, 3, 4, 6, and 7. The primary purpose of this project is to reduce fuel loads in stands that were not burned, or only lightly burned, in the 2018 Badger Creek Fire, particularly around private lands. 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) Site preparation / planting: approximately 1,870 acres of treatments designed to meet objectives 1, 3, 5, and 7. The primary purpose of this project is to re-stock forested stands burned in the 2018 Badger Creek Fire where natural regeneration has not been adequate. Activities may include site preparation, mastication, tree planting, or other treatments. Initial plans include about 200 acres of site preparation in 2022, followed by about 300 acres of tree planting in 2023. Additional areas of site preparation and planting will be identified in future years. Recovery of forest products is not anticipated. The use of temporary roads is not anticipated.
- 3) Wildlife habitat improvement: approximately 177 acres of treatments designed to meet objectives 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. This project was developed in response to Cooperator interest in promoting resilience of aspen stands and restoring big game crucial winter range. Activities may include removal of conifers encroaching on aspen stands through thinning or mastication, aspen

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cutting, buck and rail fence construction, wildlife fence conversion/removal, or other treatments. Recovery of forest products is not anticipated. The use of temporary roads is not anticipated.

- 4) Shrub planting: approximately 554 acres of treatments designed to meet objectives 3 and 5. This project was developed in response to Cooperator interest in promoting restoration of shrublands and resilience of big game crucial winter range. Activities may include shrub planting, wildlife fence conversion/removal, or other treatments. Recovery of forest products is not anticipated. The use of temporary roads is not anticipated.
- 5) Weed treatment: approximately 200 acres of treatments designed to meet objectives 1, 3, 4, 5, and 7. Activities may include land-based or aerial spraying, manual removal, or other treatments designed to control infestations of non-native, invasive weeds (primarily cheatgrass, but also Canada thistle and other weeds). Recovery of forest products is not anticipated. The use of temporary roads is not anticipated. Note that this project is not displayed on Figure 1. Areas to be treated will be determined during field validation.

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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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 2:

Trigger 1

The Bear Ck watershed (HUC7 10180010020104) has a pre-project Equivalent Clearcut Area (ECA) of 25%, which is the threshold for a yellow-light trigger. If all preliminary treatments were implemented, the ECA would increase to 29%. In this watershed, the preliminary treatments would need to be modified to limit cumulative ECA to no more than 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. Additional design features may be developed to improve watershed condition.

The Pelton Ck watershed (HUC7 10180002010602) has a pre-project ECA of 46%, which is well above the 25% threshold for a yellow-light trigger. The primary cause for the high existing ECA is high burn severity from the Mullen Fire. If all preliminary treatments were implemented, the ECA would increase to 47%. In this watershed, the preliminary treatments would need to be modified to avoid increasing cumulative ECA. 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. Additional design features may be developed to improve watershed condition.

The Boswell Ck (HUC 6 101800100203) and Johnson Ck (HUC6 101800100202) watersheds lie on the edge of the Forest and have not previously been analyzed for ECA. Pre-project and cumulative ECA will be calculated for both watersheds prior to completion of the implementation checklist. If this analysis indicates that either watershed would exceed the 25% threshold for the yellow-light trigger, the Appendix A process would be implemented to ensure watershed condition is maintained or improved.

The Shellrock Ck watershed (HUC7 10180010020102) has a pre-project ECA of 22%, slightly below the 25% threshold for the yellow-light trigger; however, none of the projects in this watershed will contribute to increased ECA and no modifications to the treatments are planned.

The remaining watersheds in the focus area, including Eagle Cr / Laramie Rvr (HUC7 10180010020101), Jelm Ck (HUC7 10180010020105), Laramie Rvr (HUC7 10180010020106), and Porter Ck (HUC7 10180010020107) have existing ECAs well below the yellow-light trigger, ranging from 1% to 9%. Cumulative ECAs are expected to remain below the yellow-light trigger, ranging from 1% to 9%.

Trigger 2

Two of the projects (wildlife habitat improvement and shrub planting) were designed specifically to maintain or improve wildlife habitats, represent about 23% of the total treated area, and will contribute to achievement of the desired condition for this trigger.

Trigger 3

This trigger will not be affected because there are no wildlife security areas in the focus area.

Triggers 4-9

These triggers are specific to lynx habitat in lynx analysis units (LAUs) and will not be affected because there are no LAUs in the focus area.

Note: roughly the western half of the focus area falls within the Snowy Range linkage area, which is important for connectivity between LAUs farther north in the Snowy Range and to the south in Colorado. The projects will maintain connectivity in the linkage area by promoting a mosaic of different habitat types across the focus area. The proposed treatments and their effects will be consistent with the findings of the Biological Assessment for the LaVA project.

Triggers 10 and 11

This trigger will not be affected because no temporary roads are planned.

Triggers 13 and 14

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

Other Supplemental Information

Two of the proposed projects (wildlife habitat improvement and shrub planting) 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 during field validation of the preliminary treatments. The need for additional design features 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): [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Signature and Date: