



Medicine Bow National Forest Landscape Vegetation Analysis (LaVA) Project



Proposed Action Update - January 2018

Proposed Action: The Forest Service has been cooperating with numerous state and federal agencies since March of 2017 to develop the LaVA Proposed Action. This collective effort, and comments received during Project Scoping (July/August 2017), have resulted in a proposal to treat up to the number of acres as listed in the following Table.

Proposed Action Vegetation Activities	15 Year Treatment Cap	Potential Treatment Types (Including but not limited to)	Potential Objectives (Including, but not limited to)
Stand Initiation	95,000 acres	Clearcutting; coppice; overstory removal; seed tree cut; prescribed fire; shelterwood	Forest restoration, forest resiliency, stand re-initiation, timber production, reduce conifer encroachment, aspen enhancement, wildlife habitat improvement, fuels reduction
Uneven Aged or Intermediate Treatments	165,000 acres	Group and individual tree selection; shelterwood; salvage, sanitation; thinning; prescribed fire	Forest restoration, forest resiliency, wildlife habitat improvement, watershed improvement, fuels reduction
Green tree/shrub land and grass	100,000 acres	Prescribed fire; group and individual tree selection; shelterwood, salvage; sanitation; thinning; clearcutting; coppice; prescribed fire	Forest restoration, forest resiliency, reduce fuel loads around Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Communities, improve wildlife habitat, provide for human safety, reduce conifer encroachment, aspen enhancement, timber production

The proposal also includes prescribed fire and tree cutting in inventoried roadless areas (IRAs) and temporary roads to access treatment areas. No temporary road construction would occur in IRAs. Projects under LaVA would be initiated over a 15-year period.

For More Information

The Proposed Action document, maps, and other project information are available on the Forest Service web site at

www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=51255

Contact District Ranger Frank Romero at (307) 745-2337 or feromero@fs.fed.us



PROJECT GOALS include, but are not limited to: using tree cutting and/or prescribed burning to make areas more resilient to future disturbance; restoring and enhancing forest ecosystem components; providing for human safety; reducing wildfire risk to communities, infrastructure, and municipal water supplies; supplying forest products to local industries; and improving, protecting, and restoring wildlife habitat.

Proposed Action Development



Project Timeline

January 2018	Public Engagement/Check-in Opportunity
May	Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for public review (45-day comment period)
June	Public Meetings for Draft EIS
September	Final EIS and <i>Draft</i> Record of Decision (ROD) for Objection (60 days total)
December 2018	Signed ROD and Project Implementation

** We are in the development phase of this project. Public feedback will be accepted throughout the process and additional formal public engagement efforts are being considered. The next formal comment period for the LaVA Project is expected in May of 2018 with the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.





Potential Project Design, Implementation, and Adaptive Management Process



The information below outlines a 'Vision' for LaVA Implementation. This 'Vision' is in the early stages of development and will be described in more detail in the Draft EIS, expected in May 2018. The Draft EIS will be available for a 45-day public comment period.

