

## Forest Health Task Force

### Connecting Forests and Communities



January 20, 2019

#### Comments on U.S. Forest Service White River Forest Health and Fuels Management Project Document Released December, 2018

Shelby Limberis  
White River National Forest  
PO Box 190, Minturn, CO 81645

Dear Ms. Limberis,

We compliment you and White River National Forest personnel for doing a good job in putting together the White River Forest Health and Fuels Management Project document (hereinafter “Project document”). We have compiled the following questions and comments.

- The Forest Health Task Force has been involved in collaborative projects with the Dillon Ranger District and would like to be involved in implementation decisions.
- What consideration has been given to changing climate and its impact on future regeneration and advantages of certain tree species types relative to other species types?
- Referencing prescriptions cited on Page 5, why is Englemann Spruce preferable to Subalpine Fir?
- Can thinning be more clearly defined? Where appropriate can patch cuts be used thin density across the landscape?
- The 1,000 acres maximum in a year seems low given the need for these types of projects.
- Referencing Page 5, the project apparently calls for up to 18” of tree debris. This seems to thick to the extent it could increase wildfire risk/hazard and create physical hazards for recreational users. Would you consider reducing the maximum depth of scattered debris (limbs, logs and slash) to an average of 6-12”?
- Referencing Page 6, bullet point 4, will adjustments be made based on “welcomed” public comment?
- Referencing Page 6, bullet point 5, can some of the identified work be performed by trained community volunteers?
- Can provision be made to reduce existing slash loading in treatment areas where excess slash increases wildfire risk/hazard?

Respectfully,  
(Summit County) Forest Health Task Force

Howard Hallman, President

Brad Piehl, Vice President