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January 11, 2019

Mr. Scott Fitzwilliams
Forest Supervisor
White River National Forest
900 Grand Ave.
Glenwood Springs, Co. 81601-3602

Dear Mr. Fitzwilliams,

The following are comments relating to the White River Forest Health and Fuels Management Project. It is essential for the White River National Forest to maintain an active pre-commercial thinning program on areas that have been previously logged and are fully stocked. Thinning of these stands will ensure a consistent supply of saw logs in the future. Reducing the stems per acre in the regenerating stands will make the young trees more vigorous and more resistant to insects and disease. Thinning of the regeneration will promote species diversity, improve the overall stand health and reduce fuel densities. I have been the Supervisory Forester for private industry on a dozen or more Timber Sales during the past two decades and have first hand experience regarding the benefits of thinning and consequences of failing to thin young stands. The result of the mountain pine beetle outbreak and resulting salvage logging have left large areas of the White River National Forest with over stocked regeneration stands in need of thinning. The proposed treatment should be as close to the maximum target of 1000 acres annually to deal with the backlog of overstocked stands on the forest. These young stands are the future, you and I will never see the benefit of an active thinning program on the White River National Forest but forest user's decades from now will. Please call if you have any questions.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Orndorff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael Orndorff
Forester
Montrose Forest Products