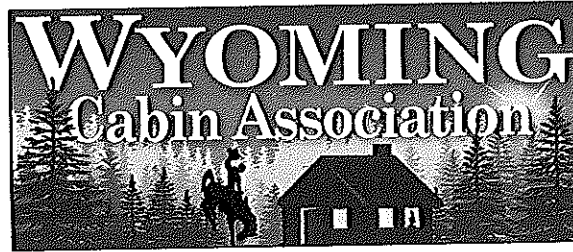


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Objection Review Officer,

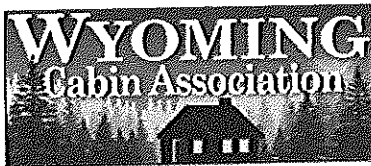
The basis of the initial proposed project is *"vegetation treatments"* over the next 10 to 15 years of 844,000 acres of the national forest in the Snowy Range and Sierra Madre, including 561,000 acres made available for "mechanical treatment" (i.e. logging), all of which will entail adding 600 miles of temporary roads and 10 miles of permanent roads. The rationale behind this project has to do with reducing the fire risk and/or improve forest ecology due to the bark beetle infestation.

Needless to say, the project is expansive. The Forest Service's reasoning is not supported by current scientific research, and there is concern for how this project will affect other uses of the national forest. As you are aware, there are way too many roads projected in this project. If this project moves forward, it needs to be completed very slowly to allow minimum disturbance to the forest. All national forest users have not been considered in this project.

The cost of this project has not been explained. Are other Forest Service's going to be scaled back to cover the cost of this very expansive project? Who is going to benefit from this project? It is definitely not the general public.

The LaVA project is too encompassing in terms of the area of deforestation. More than one third of its total area is to be designated as Treatment Opportunity Areas. This would amount to 95,000 acres being scheduled for clear-cutting.

After discussing this project, the Executive Board has unanimously voted to add WCA's voice to the side of the opposition for this project. It appears as if up to 116 cabins in the Medicine Bow Forest could be impacted from this project. We wish to represent them on a State basis and thus we are voicing our concerns for your continued full steam ahead attitude regarding this project. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.



George Mathes

Board Member - President

Middle Fork Summer Home Group

Big Horn National Forest - Johnson County

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Mobile: (630) 613-8330

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "George".