

May 4, 2020

514. S. 12<sup>th</sup>

Laramie, WY 82070

USDA Forest Service, Region 2  
Rocky Mountain Region  
Attn: Objection Reviewing Officer

Dear Sirs,

I am writing you to express my concerns about, and my opposition to the Modified Final Environmental Impact Study to the Region 2 Forest Service.

I wrote to the Forest Service about my objections to the Medicine Bow Landscape Vegetation Analysis Project back in 2018. I hoped my concerns along with those concerns of many others had put aside and cancelled this project, which was an assault on the natural forest a public asset/ resource.

**Asset and Resource** I am not a scientist but a recreational user and "asset and resource value" should not be measured in only monetary value of the lumber that comes from the forest. It is much more than a agriculture crop. 95,000 acres of clear cut, 600 miles of temporary road and prescribed burns (? acres) destroys a large portion of the forest which probably will not regenerate as quickly as the Forest Service might hope. Studies have been done by respected researchers ("Evidence for declining forest resilience to wildfires under climate change." CS Stevens-Rumann, KB.Kemp. PE Higuera, MT Rother, Ecology Letters, Feb., 2018) that indicate that there is a lack of forest regeneration due to the effects of climate change and the lack of moisture. Under this project's plan, commercial harvesting at 8.8- fold increase in the first 6.5 years, and 4.8- fold increase in the following years plus some amount of prescribed burn will change the Medicine Bow Forest for a long time. I have seen temporary roads and clear cuts from long ago that remain for years, they don't "heal"

I don't understand all the terminology but, if by being a "Adaptable Management Plan" means that NEPA has no oversight to protect the environment from missteps in this project this plan is not good for the environment and ecology of our public lands.

Sincerely, Virginia (Ginnie) Madsen Resident of Laramie Wyoming, user of the Medicine Forest

*Virginia Madsen*