



# COLORADO

## Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Grand Junction Service Center  
Northwest Regional Office  
711 Independent Ave.  
Grand Junction, CO, 81505

P 970-255-6100 | F 970-255-6111

United States Forest Service  
White River National Forest  
900 Grand Ave  
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601

4/19/2021

Attn: Forest Supervisor, c/o Brett Crary

Re: White River Aspen Management Project Notice of Proposed Action

Dear Mr. Crary,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Notice of Proposed Action (NOPA) for the White River Aspen Management Project. Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) has a statutory responsibility to manage all wildlife species in Colorado. This responsibility is embraced and fulfilled through CPW's mission to perpetuate the wildlife resources of Colorado and to provide sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities that educate and inspire future generations. CPW fulfills this mission by responding to requests for comments on wildlife impact reports, land use actions, and consultations through public-private partnerships.

CPW is broadly in favor of the proposed aspen treatments as conifer occurrence in aspen stands and widespread aspen mortality has become of pressing concern. The regeneration of aspen stands throughout the White River National Forest (WRNF) will generally create wildlife habitat that supports a broad range of species. CPW understands that the WRNF will evaluate and identify sites for harvest over many decades. As clarified in this NOPA, each location must go out for public notice before project commencement, as fishery & wildlife concerns will vary across targeted aspen stands. CPW requests the ability to formally consult on proposed treatments before the public notice issuance, to ensure fishery & wildlife concerns are proactively addressed.

The NOPA states that "mechanical operations would use existing roads where possible and would also include the use of temporary roads to access treatment areas." We would like to stress the importance of reclaiming temporary roads in a manner that is not attractive to recreation. Anecdotally, forest restoration appears to coincide with an increase in recreation. A plan to manage for recreation on both reclaimed parcels and temporary roads would be beneficial. Any disturbed surface should be reseeded with native seed mixes and be closely monitored for invasive plants post-reclamation. CPW would prefer that any work associated with these projects (harvest, controlled burns, road construction, and reclamation activities) occur outside of hunting seasons to protect sportsman opportunities.



CPW encourages WRNF biologists and associated planners to communicate directly with our local field staff. Opportunities to compound the effects of aspen stand treatments on USFS land with private land projects may exist through CPW's Habitat Partnership Program and other initiatives. If you have any questions or need additional information please contact Jacob Brey, Deputy Regional Manager, at (970) 255-6145.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JB', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Jacob Brey  
NW Region Deputy Regional Manager

Cc. JT Romatzke, NW Regional Manager  
Garett Watson, NW Region Deputy Regional Manager  
Bill de Vergie, Area 6 Wildlife Manager  
Kirk Oldham, Area 7 Wildlife Manager  
Matt Yamashita, Area 8 Wildlife Manager  
Jeromy Huntington, Area 9 Wildlife Manager  
Kris Middledorf, Area 10 Wildlife Manager  
Danielle Neumann, NW Region Land Use Specialist