



Wyoming State Forestry Division

Office of State Lands and Investments



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Attn: Davis Hazardous Fuels Reduction
Bearlodge Ranger District
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Sundance, WY 82729

To whom it may concern,

Wyoming State Forestry Division (WSFD) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed Davis Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project. The WSFD supports the U.S. Forest Service's proposal to reduce fire hazards on National Forest lands in the Moskee area. Given the high fuel loading in these areas, proactive measures are crucial to mitigate fire risks and protect surrounding communities and lands. Please see the comments below to aid in the planning and implementation of this project.

- WSFD supports the utilization of Good Neighbor Authority agreements to complete the implementation of this project and points out that this work aligns with state objectives for collaborative forest management. We look forward to partnering with the Forest Service to implement these activities and recommends that a project-specific meeting is set up after the public comment period closes.
- The identified 1,304 acres is readily accessible from non-National Forest lands, which requires engagement with local landowners and communities. WSFD has been working in the areas surrounding the proposed project and recommends coordinating access and communication plans to facilitate the most efficient plan moving forward.
- WSFD appreciates the alignment of goals with the Crook County Community Wildfire Protection Plan and recommends including Crook County and the Crook County Conservation District in future conversations to ensure that a holistic approach is utilized to addressing wildfire risks comprehensively.
- The Davis project will significantly expand the footprint and effectiveness of previous and ongoing work in the Moskee area. By integrating efforts on National Forest lands with those on adjacent state and private lands, the project will create a more cohesive and extensive fire hazard mitigation strategy. This integrated approach will amplify the impact

of state and private land management efforts, enhancing overall landscape resilience and reducing wildfire risk more effectively.

- While the proposed activities of commercial thinning, non-commercial thinning, mechanical piling, and burning, are all tools required to meet the project goals, WSFD recommends focusing efforts on commercial thinning where possible. We request that more specific information is shared regarding the prescriptions that will be utilized in this project area. Examples are estimates on timber volume, fuel reduction, residual tree spacing, or basal area.
- WSFD recommends removing language that avoids new road construction. While the plan to use existing roads and temporary roads may minimize environmental disruption, it could also remove the tool of new road construction where it is necessary to facilitate access.

The Wyoming State Forestry Division endorses the proposed activities to reduce fire hazards in the Moskee area. We believe these actions will significantly improve forest resilience, safeguard communities, and align with broader state and national wildfire management goals. We look forward to continued collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service on this and similar initiatives.

We are open to further discussions and are ready to assist in the successful implementation of this project.

Sincerely,



Kelly Norris
State Forester