



# Intermountain Forest Association

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**December 4, 2024**

Ryan Nehl, Responsible Official/Forest and Grasslands Supervisor  
Pike-San Isabel National Forests  
Pueblo, CO 81008

Submitted via: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=65019>

## **Re: Comments on the Lower North-South Vegetation Management Plan and Draft Environmental Assessment**

Dear Mr. Nehl:

Intermountain Forest Association (IFA) is a member-based organization that advocates for healthy forests and healthy communities, including actively promoting sound forest management that provides a stable and sustainable supply of timber from public and private forestlands. IFA's members engage in many aspects of forest management and are an important stakeholder partner to the United States Forest Service (USFS). IFA's members presently, and plan in the future, to engage in timber removal in some capacity from the project area.

IFA appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the draft environmental assessment (EA) for the Lower North-South Vegetation Management Plan. IFA is supportive of the USFS and their willingness to manage National Forest lands to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire, improve forest diversity and resiliency, and to protect communities and watersheds. The Lower North-South Vegetation Management Plan is a good example of the USFS using the tools and authorities available to implement meaningful and overdue active forest management.

The project area is in critical need of forest management as described throughout the EA to protect communities and watersheds, enhance wildlife habitat, and improve overall forest health. IFA is sensitive to alternative opinions; however, we maintain that in order to protect the long-term health and viability of the forests, active management at meaningful scales and using all the tools available, including industry, is necessary. For these reasons IFA supports the Lower North-South Vegetation Plan.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Megan Maxwell*

Megan Maxwell  
Intermountain Forest Association  
Colorado Programs Manger