

Howard Hallman

Comments on USFS Frisco Backyard Project Draft Environmental Assessment

April 30, 2025

I appreciate the changes made by the U.S. Forest Service and the Dillon Ranger District to incorporate new ideas and advanced approaches where appropriate, based on public comments on the 2023 scoping. In my opinion the project has been substantially improved as a result of the process and the willingness on the part of the Dillon Ranger District of listen to multiple points of view. After reviewing the Draft Environmental Assessment, I have three additional suggestions to further improve the Project

(1) The Summit County economy is highly dependent on our visual (esthetic) assets, tourism and recreation. Further, the Frisco Backyard Project adjoins the newly created Cape Hale National Monument with shared lands. Views are critical to the local real estate industry. With that in mind, esthetics should be given appropriate consideration in Project design. Through smart design, high quality esthetics can be maintained without diminishing Project objectives. I would request that the USFS consider a review of the timing and sequence of treatments such that multiple clear-cuts are not conducted simultaneously on adjoining treatment areas.

(2) Staging of treatments over-multiple years is encouraged to align with regional timber industry capacity, and should be incorporated into the Environmental Assessment and Project design. The result will be less expensive treatments with increased efficiencies within the U. S. Forest Service and the timber industry locally. A schedule to complete work within 10 years, using the staging approach should be incorporated into the Environmental Assessment and I would request that the USFS consider extending the treatment timeframe to a period not to exceed 10 years..

(3) Musk Thistle and other noxious weeds are series problem, and have not in my opinion been fully addressed in the Draft Environmental Assessment. I would request that the USFS consider establishment of a proactive funded program to eradicate Musk Thistle and other noxious weeds that would be incorporated into the Frisco Backyard Project Design.

Thank you for considering my comments and suggestions.

Respectfully,



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