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Comments: It was a surprise to me that the Forest Service is planning to focus on getting treating 20,000 acres of white spruce trees to allow for more growth of pine, aspen and oak. Is it really necessary to have heterogeneity in spruce dominated areas? A spruce stand seems to be a welcome sight in the midst of a forest dominated by pine trees. Hiking through the forest, it is always pleasant to come upon a spruce stand, usually a cool, moist area.

Perhaps creating openings in the stands of over-mature trees is needed to foster growth of spruce in the long term and keep down the fuel loads and ladder fuels.

I can also see that the Forest Service must perform a balancing act to keep our loggers in the woods and the sawmill going. There is an economic factor involved. However, it appears to be overkill, and I ask you to consider the detailed concerns offered on the comment page by people who are in the field.