

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/16/2022 6:00:00 AM
First name: Molly
Last name: Pitts
Organization: Intermountain Forest Association
Title: Colorado Programs Manager
Comments: September 16, 2022

White River National Forest

Attn: Reviewing Officer

PO Box 948

Glenwood Springs, CO 81601

SUBMITTED VIA ONLINE:

<https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public//CommentInput?Project=57654>

SUBJECT: Yellowjacket Project

Dear Reviewing Officer:

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. Given that several of IFA's members heavily rely on timber output from the White River National Forest, we are very supportive of the Yellowjacket Project on the Blanco Ranger District. Recognizing the importance of being involved with the process, IFA submitted comments on the scoping of the proposed Action. Therefore, having standing as outlined in 36 CFR Part 218, subparts A and B, we submit the following objections to the final Environmental Assessment and the draft Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact.

Environmental Assessment

Project Design Features

* Safety/Recreation o #7 [ndash] we object to this feature as written as we feel it could severely limit operations and increase implementation costs. We request the language be modified to state that a snowplowing schedule will be developed collaboratively between the Forest Service and contractor/purchaser.

* Engineering o #4 [ndash] we object to this feature as written as it could cause damage to log hauling

equipment. We request this language be modified to allow more flexibility, depending on the site. It has been our experience that long-term drainage and sediment control measures are over-engineered and make passage for commercial hauling equipment unfeasible. o #6 [ndash] we object to this feature as written and request language be added that details, if needed, any road decommissioning will be the responsibility of the Forest Service or will be included within the project appraisal process.

Draft Decision Notice

We fully support the decision to implement Alternative 2, including clear cuts up to 40 acres. We feel it is critical to be able to utilize the full silviculture system designated by the Land and Resource Management Plan to achieve the objectives of the project.

We look forward to working with you to resolve the issues discussed above as you move forward with the Yellowjacket Project.

Sincerely,

Molly Pitts

Intermountain Forest Association

Colorado Programs Manger