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Comments: Please see comment letter in attachment, along with supporting article.

Kevin McLaughlin

Boulder Ranger District

2140 Yarmouth Ave.

Boulder, CO 80301

Via web portal: <https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public/CommentInput?Project=61372>

Comments on Saint Vrain Forest Health Project #61372 Draft Decision

September 5, 2023

Dear Ranger McLaughlin and staff:

Your responses in the Consideration of Comments document, "while herbicide remains the most used tool" (page 1) and "most of the weed populations will continue to be treated through chemical means" (page 3) are somewhat disconcerting after a third round of public comments. Pesticides should be the last resource after exploring all the other alternatives.

The forest treatment creates a vast disturbance of the ecosystem. Creating more disturbance by using chemicals is not acceptable. Chemical weed eradication destroys soil health with pesticides (follow link to online article or see pdf of same article submitted with this comment). Healthy soil is our best option to retain water and sequester carbon to address the climate crisis.

The usual invasive plants returning after the forest treatment are mulleins, thistles, and cheatgrass. These three plants are easily controlled by removing and collecting their seed heads. Monitoring and regularly patrolling sites are critical to constantly reducing the seed bank.

Sincerely,

Christel Markevich

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Attachment - Bueno de Mesquita et al. 2023. Adverse impacts of Roundup on soil bacteria, soil chemistry and mycorrhizal fungi during restoration of a Colorado grassland. Applied Soil Ecology