



## WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

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May 8, 2020

WER 13922.00k  
U.S. Forest Service  
Landscape Vegetation Analysis (LaVA) Project  
Modified Final Environmental Impact Statement  
Draft Record of Decision  
Albany and Carbon Counties

Russell Bacon  
Forest Supervisor  
Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests  
2468 Jackson St.  
Laramie, WY 82070

Dear Mr. Bacon,

The staff of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (Department) has reviewed the Landscape Vegetation Analysis (LaVA) Project Modified Final Environmental Impact Statement (MFEIS) and Draft Record of Decision. We offer the following comments for your consideration.

The Department has been actively involved as a cooperator in the LaVA project since its inception. We believe projects implemented through LaVA will provide many benefits to wildlife and forest resiliency. The Department has funding and resources for a number of projects through our Mule Deer Initiative to improve mixed mountain shrub and aspen habitats in big game summer and transitional range habitats.

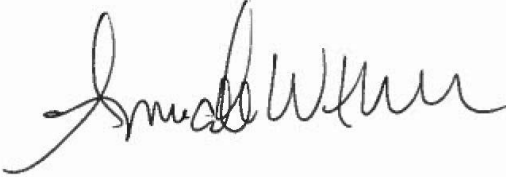
We believe the Adaptive Implementation and Monitoring Framework will provide more opportunities for both public and cooperator input than standard National Environmental Policy Act analysis, will streamline project implementation, and will ensure resources are protected through monitoring and reporting.

We look forward to working with the Forest Service and other stakeholders to implement wildlife habitat improvement projects under LaVA.

Russel Bacon  
May 8, 2020  
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Mark Conrad, Habitat Protection Biologist, at 307-777-4509.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amanda Withroder", is centered on a light gray rectangular background.

Amanda Withroder  
Habitat Protection Supervisor

AW/mc

cc: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Joe Budd, Office of Governor Gordon  
Katie Cheesbrough, Wyoming Game and Fish Department  
Embere Hall, Wyoming Game and Fish Department  
Mark Zornes, Wyoming Game and Fish Department  
Chris Wichmann, Wyoming Department of Agriculture