



Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation

www.wyfb.org  
800.442.8325 | 307.721.7719  
P.O. Box 1348, Laramie, WY 82073

April 30th, 2020

submitted electronically (<https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public//CommentInput?Project=51255>)

USDA Forest Service, Region 2 Rocky Mountain Region  
Attn.: Objection Reviewing Officer  
P.O. Box 18980  
Golden, CO 80402

RE: Modified EIS & Revised ROD

Dear Ms. Melissa Martin and Mr. Russell Bacon,

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation is commenting on behalf of over 2,500 agricultural producer members and our over 10,000 non-agricultural members that support a strong agricultural industry. We support the Landscape Vegetative Analysis project (LaVA). Rather than offer an objection, we would like to commend the Forest Service for their attention and responsiveness to devastating effects the bark beetle epidemic has had on the Medicine Bow Routt National Forest (MBRNF).

Reductions of fuel loads on the MBRNF must occur to mitigate threats to human health and safety as well as to improve and protect the health of the forest. According to seasoned firefighting professionals, the fires that have resulted on the MBRNF are the “hottest, most unpredictable” fires they have ever encountered due to the number of down and dead trees. These fires have threatened the health and safety of Laramie’s rural residents and created an air quality hazard across the region. While also having a devastating effect on the forests health and the species that rely on a vibrant and healthy forest. Again, thank you for addressing these concerns.

Ultimately, we feel the long-term success of LaVA hinges on ongoing fuel load reduction projects. We urge the Service to continue to invest in maintaining these fuel load reductions. We remind the Forest Service that grazing is an important management tool and would encourage the Agency to look at opportunities to utilize grazing animals as a cost effective, highly controllable fuel loads reduction tool.



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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Holly L.M. Kennedy  
Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation  
Field Services & Federal Lands Associate

\*Please note previous comments submitted on behalf of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation were submitted by Ken Hamilton.

CC: NER; SGA; Board