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Melissa,

I hereby strongly object to the Medicine Bow Landscape Vegetation Analysis (LaVA) Project #51255.

It is a terrible waste of taxpayer's money and will do far more harm than good.

The Medicine Bow is of course under a real threat from the mountain pine beetle and the cascading effects of the infestation, however, Project #51255 won't undo the damage or reduce the future impacts.

Other forests have gone through the same infestations and recovered. Given the opportunity to do so, the Medicine Bow will adapt to climate change, survive the pine beetle and heal itself.

LaVA will destroy vital habitat and remove essential nutrients from naturally felled and decaying trees.

A much more effective approach would be to ban grazing, logging and hunting in the forest to reduce the negative pressures on an already stressed forest. Some fires should also be allowed to burn in order to eliminate the pine beetle.

Tim Loncarich

