Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/9/2022 2:37:04 AM First name: Scott Last name: Ritter Organization:

Title:

Comments: I'm writing to express my strong support for the proposed forest management actions in the Saint Vrain Forest Health Project. The strong collaborative process that lead to this proposal is commendable and speaks to the commitment of the USFS to ensure that its actions are in line with the overall public desires for the landscape. In particular, I think prescribed fire must be expanded as a treatment across the landscape. While thinning alone can mitigate fire hazard to an extent, prescribed fires (especially broadcast burns) result in significantly higher levels of hazard reduction and are in many cases are cheaper on a per acre basis. It must be recognized that while their implementation represents a small immediate risk such actions are required to substantially reduce future risks. Put simply, prescribed fire is the best, most effective fire hazard reduction treatment in the fuel manager's toolbox. I also hope that the USFS leans heavily on locally produced quantitative wildfire risk assessments when identifying areas for treatment. Both the Colorado All Lands Assessment and the Colorado Forest Restoration Institute lead ARP risk assessment were collaboratively developed and provide quantitative data that identify the areas most in need of treatment based on local values.