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Comments: I am in support of the nature of the North-South project as it pertains to vegetation management for the sake of fuels management, as well as its incidental positive impacts on improving wildlife habitat through the creation of breaks, patches, etc. on the landscape. It is difficult for myself or my counterparts to provide more detailed feedback without knowing the specific details of the plans. It would be beneficial for CPW to review the actual planned treatments for the North-South project in conjunction with our Species Activities Maps to ensure that critical habitat components (i.e. big game production areas, winter ranges, concentration areas) are not adversely impacted by the treatments.

My key concern is that the infrastructure created to support the project is truly temporary and that roads, trails, etc. used by USFS personnel are destroyed or rendered ineffective following completion of the project. The area in question faces a huge "non-consumptive" recreational impact to the detriment of Colorado's wildlife. Ensuring that infrastructure associated with the North-South project is properly destroyed following completion will deter increased recreational use in less-developed areas, providing wildlife better access to much needed refuge areas in what is already a heavily-used landscape.

Thanks for your request for comments. Please feel free to reach out for further wildlife concern consultations on the project. --Jake