

Date submitted (Mountain Standard Time): 4/20/2021 1:33:53 PM

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Comments:

Thanks for the opportunity. I submitted some similar comments earlier this year in emails to several Forest officials for considering in the analysis. My comments focus on the effects of invasive plants/noxious weeds on wildlife and native plant (rare/TES) species that are triggered by and part of the ground-disturbing actions of the Mud Ck Project.

1) The project specifics do not include early detection/eradication and suppression/containment treatments using herbicides that adequately mitigate the potential impacts on elk, bighorn sheep and mule deer foraging habitats types and rare, T,E,S plant population viability/sustainability.

2) Most past ground disturbing project analyses on the Forest recognize and address the fact that those actions (timber harvest, roads work, skid trails, pile burning, etc) carry a high probability of catalyzing the established and expansion of invasives that will degrade forage producing habitats for elk, bighorn sheep and mule deer and affect the viability's of rare/TES plant species.

3) The Mud Ck Project should conform to the numerous previous veg mgmt projects in addressing the invasive plant/noxious weed expansion issue with adequate treatment specifics including a robust and comprehensive herbicide treatment plan.

4) Mitigation measures and design criteria and funding must be detailed, clearly and thoroughly displayed and robust enough to effectively counter the invasion threats present and poised to exploit the opportunities for establishment and expansion created by the ground disturbances of this project.

5) Funding through KV and other sources must adequately meet with he effective prevention, restoration, suppression and early detection/eradication needs that will intercept the degradation of wildlife and native plant habitats.

6) The invasive plant/noxious weed issues triggered by this project have direct effects on habitat quality/quantity and population viability/sustainability for the wildlife and native plants mentioned in these comment.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments. Am looking forward to reviewing your responses. I hope you have some good strong coffee to help you all through this comment processing. Stay well. /s/ Gil Gale