

## Decision Summary – Vegetation CE

<b>Project Name</b>	White River Forest Health and Fuels Project		
<b>Forest</b>	White River National Forest	<b>Region</b>	R2
<b>Choose Type of Activity</b> (Wilderness, Roadless, Energy infrastructure, Minerals, Vegetation CE, Land Management Plan) <b>and level of Decision</b> (No DM, DM, DN/FONSI, ROD)			
Timber Stand and/or Wildlife Habitat Improvement CE; DM 36 CFR 220.6(e)(6)			
<b>Planned Decision Date</b>	March 30, 2021		

### Summary Description

<b>Purpose/Need</b>
The purpose of this project is to improve forest health and maintain past vegetation management actions to maintain fuel breaks, improve health and reduced density in naturally regenerating stands of young lodgepole pine, and protect young Englemann spruce trees planted in areas affected by past spruce beetle outbreaks.
<b>Intended Selected Action</b>
The project involves pre-commercial thinning of dense regenerating lodgepole pine stands via mechanical and hand treatments, including vegetation removal, mastication or chipping, lop and scatter, and pile and burn. The forest would apply management practices at selected locations where treatment would effectively meet the purpose and need. No removal is proposed within roadless areas. The selected action would provide opportunity for vegetation management on 10,000 acres over 15 years. After a decision is made, the forest would identify specific treatments units annually.
<b>Potentially Significant Effects or Extraordinary Circumstances (if any)</b>
No significant effects or extraordinary circumstances are expected.
<b>Public Involvement (include State, local governments and Tribal consultation)</b>
Project information was provided to the Forest mailing list consisting of 718 individuals, organizations, county governments, town governments, state agencies, federal agencies and tribal agencies in December 2018-January 2019. A press release detailing the proposed action and instructions on how to comment was sent out by the Forest on December 18, 2018. An article concerning the project was published in the Aspen Times on December 18, 2018 and in the Aspen Daily News on December 29, 2018. Four comments were received. Commenters were concerned that no specific treatment areas have been identified; that the agency is using a CE to treat an unlimited number of acres; that there is no identified timeline for project completion; and that treatments will be occurring in Colorado Roadless Areas. The selected alternative addresses many of their concerns. Tribal consultation was conducted, and no comments were received.
<b>Timeline Considerations (statutory, court-related, administrative) and Objections Status</b>
Consultation with USFWS is completed. Submission to SHPO is pending. The decision is not subject to objections.