

REQUEST FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS		Report Control Symbol (RCS): CMSFS REPI OSR
INSTRUCTIONS: <i>Section I to be completed by Proponent; Sections II and III to be completed by Environmental Planning Function. Continue on separate sheets as necessary. Reference appropriate item number(s).</i>		
SECTION I - PROPONENT INFORMATION		
1. TO (Environmental Planning Function) 721 CES/CEN	2. FROM (Proponent organization and functional address symbol) Air Force - 21 CES OL-CM/CENP	2a. TELEPHONE NO. 719-474-3740
3. TITLE OF PROPOSED ACTION REPI Old Stage Road Pike National Forest Wildland Fire Mitigation - Protection of Cheyenne Mountain Spaceforce Station		
4. PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION (<i>Identify decision to be made and need date</i>) 1. State the purpose of this action. The purpose of this action is to decrease risk of wildfires at CMSFS. The FY25 REPI Challenge Project through the USDA Forest Service (see attached) will mitigate 400 acres of forest along Old Stage Road in Pike National Forest directly to the west of Cheyenne Mountain SFS to create a fire break to protect the installation and surrounding communities and parks from the threat of wildland fires. 2. State the need for this action. CMSFS proximity to the Pike National Forest has become an increasing concern for catastrophic wildfire due to accumulating fuels, current vegetation conditions, fire history, and expanding development in the wildland-urban interface (Catamount Forest Health and Hazardous Fuels Reduction EA, Sect. 1.1). Action is needed to protect the forest, installation, and surrounding communities and parks from wildland fire. 3. What do you intend to accomplish and why is the action necessary? The action will mitigate 400 acres of forest along Old Stage Road in Pike National Forest (REPI Challenge Map, Old Stage Rd) to protect Pike National Forest, Cheyenne Mountain SFS, and surrounding communities and parks from wildland fires (FY25 REPI Challenge American's Mountain Front Range Resiliency Project, pg. 1 and EA sect. 3.6.4). 4. Is the action identified in existing environmental management plans? If so please identify which one (e.g. INRMP, ICRMP, Wildland Fire, Other) and the status of that plan. Wildland Fire Plan only encompasses Cheyenne Mountain SFS but does talk to the dangers resident in surrounding areas and the need for mitigation. 5. What is currently being done to meet the need? Fight wildfires as they occur with no help from mitigation projects to reduce risk. 6. Provide any additional details related to the Purpose and Need for Action. Need Date: 03/07/2025		
5. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES (DOPAA) (<i>Provide sufficient details for evaluation of the total action.</i>)		
1. Describe the proposed action. The Proposed Action would focus on restoring the montane forest to its historic conditions, that would result in reducing wildfire hazards and improving the health of the ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir dominated forests of the montane ecosystem (EA, Sect. 2.2.2). The Proposed Action consists of vegetation treatments including thinning, creating openings, prescribed burning, and removing trees on up to 21,100 acres within the Catamount Project Area (EA, Figure 3 and Sect 2.2 for general operations and action details). It is expected that the proposed treatments would take five to ten years to complete to accomplish the initial project objectives. The REPI Challenge project is a 400 acre subset of this broader work on Old Stage Road to the west of Cheyenne Mountain SFS (EA, Alternative B (Proposed Action) Cumulative Effects, pg. 133). 2. Describe alternatives to the proposed action. Under Alternative A (No Action), none of the proposed thinning, creating openings, prescribed burning, and removing trees and fuels breaks would be implemented in the Catamount Project Area. Vegetation on the forest would follow natural succession, disturbance and recovery processes. These processes include the continued natural accumulation of forest fuels over time. The municipal watershed reserves for the cities of Colorado Springs, Green Mountain Falls, Cascade, Chipita Park and Manitou Springs would remain susceptible to catastrophic wildfires that could negatively affect the ability of those watersheds to provide high-quality drinking water. The WUI would continue to have a high risk of extreme fire behavior in many locations. Forest health and vigor, and associated resistance to insects and disease would continue to decline (EA, sect. 2.1).		

3. What alternatives were eliminated from consideration and why?

The no action alternative because it would not address wildland fire, forest health, or any of the other issues described in the proposed action. All other alternatives were eliminated in EA sect. 2.5 because they would not meet the purpose and need or were already incorporated in the proposed action.

4. Describe what will happen if no action is taken.

The risk for wildland fires starting in Pike National Forest and threatening Cheyenne Mountain SFS and its missions would remain high, with increased potential for impacts to trainings, operations, and safety.

5. Please provide a description of the environmental management action and timing when it will occur.

The Proposed Action would focus on restoring the montane forest to its historic conditions, that would result in reducing wildfire hazards and improving the health of the ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir dominated forests of the montane ecosystem. The Proposed Action consists of vegetation treatments including thinning, creating openings, prescribed burning, and removing trees on up to 21,100 acres within the Catamount Project Area. It is expected that the proposed treatments would take five to ten years to complete to accomplish the initial project objectives. The REPI Challenge project for the 400 acres on Old Stage Road will be executed in FY25 (EA, sect. 2.2, Alt. B Cumulative Effects, pg. 133).

6. Describe the project location. Attach map(s)/diagram(s) – make sure to include an overview map of where your requested project area is on the installation.

See Figures/Maps 2-5, 12-13, and 17 in the attached EA. Old Stage Road is directly west of Cheyenne Mountain SFS in Pike National Forest (REPI Challenge Map).

7. What external coordination has occurred with environmental management stakeholders and what coordination remains before the action can be implemented?

Full EA with FONSI has been completed by the National Park Service and coordination is documented in those documents.

8. Provide any additional details related to the Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives (e.g., outline mitigation measures and other issues).

Map Attachments:

[REPI Challenge Map.pdf](#)

6. PROPONENT APPROVAL (<i>Name and Grade</i>) Kozak Michael DOD - michael.p.kozak	6a. SIGNATURE //Kozak Michael DOD - michael.p.kozak i:0e.t[fedvis]michael.p.kozak//	6b. DATE 12/12/2024
SECTION II - PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEY (<i>Check appropriate box and describe potential environmental effects including cumulative effects.</i>) (+ = positive effect; 0 = no effect; - = adverse effect; U = unknown effect)		+ 0 - U
7. AIR INSTALLATION COMPATIBLE LAND USE/ZONE USE (<i>Noise, accident potential, encroachment, etc.</i>)		X
8. AIR QUALITY (<i>Emissions, Attainment status, state implementation plan, etc.</i>)		X
9. WATER RESOURCES (<i>Drinking water, wastewater, quality, quantity, source, water features, etc.</i>)		X
10. SAFETY AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH (<i>Asbestos/lead-based paint/radiation/chemical exposure, explosives safety quantity distance, bird/wildlife aircraft hazard, etc.</i>)		X
11. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS/WASTE (<i>Use/storage/generation, solid waste, toxic materials, etc.</i>)		X
12. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (<i>Wetlands/floodplains, threatened or endangered species, etc.</i>)		X
13. CULTURAL RESOURCES (<i>Burial sites, archaeological, historical, etc.</i>)		X
14. GEOLOGY AND SOILS (<i>Topography, minerals, geothermal, Installation Restoration Program, seismicity, etc.</i>)		X
15. SOCIOECONOMIC (<i>Employment/population projections, school and local fiscal impacts, etc.</i>)		X
16. OTHER (<i>Potential impacts not addressed above, such as Host Nation considerations/concerns for non-US locations.</i>)		X

SECTION III - ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS DETERMINATION

17. ☒ PROPOSED ACTION QUALIFIES FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CATEX) #DON-(f)(45) ; OR
☐ PROPOSED ACTION DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR A CATEX; FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS IS REQUIRED.

18. REMARKS

The proposed action qualifies for applications CATEX DON-(f)(45) because it involves fire mitigation on land zones owned by the State of Colorado. Project is public health and safety management from wildfires and authorized through the FY2025 REPI America's Mountain Front Range Resiliency Project. USDA Forest Service is managing responsibility and authority over the project to mitigate 400 acres in Pike National Forest. Project does not include construction of permanent roads or other infrastructure. The proposed action does not fall within CMSFS property and thus does not need to be consistent with the INRMP established property management procedures. Additionally, the proposed action has been determined to have insignificant impact as established in an Environmental Assessment resulting in a FONSI. Specifically, the Final Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Catamount Forest Health and Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project, Pikes Peak Ranger District, Pike and San Isabel National Forest, Feb 2011. The EA was reviewed and determined a re-evaluation was not necessary. The REPI proposal has been phased since the EA completion and is now requesting Phase 4 implementation to include fire mitigation efforts near CMSFS at Old Stage Rd (see FY25 America's Mountain Front Range Resiliency Project REPI Challenge Proposal, pg. 3). Proposed action is still accurate of location description and prevalent concerns and comply with current regulations. The largest concern, prescribed burning and air quality, complies with state regulations through FWS (EA, sect. 2.3.3). Proposed action will be organized, maintained, and completed by FWS and USFS outside of CMSFS and has completed required formal consultation.

The DAF extraordinary circumstances pursuant to appendix B to 32 CFR part 989—Categorical Exclusions, § A2.2. Additional Analysis has been reviewed and no circumstances have arisen in A2.2.1 thru A2.2.8. CATEX DON-(f)(45) is still available and part of the owning agency's regulation and the DON extraordinary circumstances pursuant to appendix B to 32 CFR part 775.6—Planning Considerations, § (e) Categorical Exclusions has been reviewed and no circumstances have arisen in 1(i) thru 1(v)(E) (concurrent by FONSI, pg. 4-5). Proposed action improves overall human and environment health with well established methods adhering to all applicable laws, and site was analyzed to confirm no adverse effect on wilderness areas, endangered species, wetlands, or historical lands. Proposed action does not use uncontrolled/unpermitted hazardous substances and provides an overall positive effect on human safety, native vegetation growth, and natural disaster aversion. Safety is not required to perform analysis as all work for the proposal will take place off of DAF controlled property and no DAF employee will be conducting any work.

The DAF is aware of the November 12, 2024 decision in *Marin Audubon Society v. Federal Aviation Administration*, No. 23-1067 (D.C. Cir. Nov. 12, 2024). To the extent that a court may conclude that the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA are not judicially enforceable or binding on this agency action, the DAF has nonetheless elected to follow those regulations at 40 C.F.R. Parts 1500– 1508, in addition to the DAF's procedures/regulations implementing NEPA at 32 CFR 989, to meet the agency's obligations under NEPA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 et seq.

19. ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING
FUNCTION CERTIFICATION (*Name and Grade*)
Tomlinson, Robert GS-13

19a. SIGNATURE
//Tomlinson Robert DOD - robert.r.tomlinson
i:0e.t|fedvis|robert.r.tomlinson//

19b. DATE
06/11/2025

CONTINUATION SHEET

Review Comments:

Water Resources (01/17/2025 - Yang Weiran DOD - weiran.yang)

No WQ concerns.

Hazardous Materials/Waste (01/21/2025 - Ingrassia Sandra DOD - sandra.t.ingrassia)

There are no hazardous materials used in the mitigation of forest fuel; therefore, there are no concerns.

Tanks (01/22/2025 - katrina.m.alvarez1)

1. Will the Project require a new and/or replacement of a tank(s)?

Based upon the project summary, a new or replacement tank is not needed for this project.

2. Will the Project require the relocation of a tank(s)?

Based upon the project summary, a petroleum tank does not need to be relocated.

Bioenvironmental (01/24/2025 - Puleo Michael DOD - michael.j.puleo)

Per DAFI 48-145, Occupational and Environmental Health Program and AFTTP 3-2.82, Occupational and Environmental Health Site Assessment, the activities for this proposed action are categorized as/similar to/identical to current operations at this installation. No significant occupational or environmental health concerns to mission personnel are noted, and 21 CES will ensure compliance with all applicable requirements.

Natural Resources (01/24/2025 - Kelley David DOD - david.j.kelley)

1. Would the Project potentially impact caves, faults, geothermal vents, mineral resources or any other geologic feature?

Based on a review of the maps and the scope of work provided. None of the above referenced geologic features listed are located within the project area. Because of this a no effect determination has been made.

Biological Resources (01/24/2025 - Kelley David DOD - david.j.kelley)

1. Would the Project impact any plants or animals that are listed or candidates for threatened, unique, rare or endangered status?

2. Will there be any impacts from the construction of the Project on any types of critical, sensitive or unique habitats to include floodplains, wetlands, vernal pools, etc.?

3. Would there be any potential impacts to Threatened or Endangered species (TES) from implementing the Project's construction, operation and/or maintenance activities?

4. Are there any surveyed federal- or state-listed TES within the Project's region of influence?

Based on a review of the maps and the scope of work provided. None of the above referenced geologic features listed are located within the project area. Because of this a no effect determination has been made.

Cultural Resources (02/20/2025 - Lawton William DOD - william.c.lawton)

This action has already been consulted on by the US Forest Service as part of its Environmental Assessment for this action. Section 106 consultation requirements have been fulfilled and no adverse effect to historic properties is expected. CRM recommends adoption of the USFS EA FONSI.

Air Quality (03/11/2025 - Norris Melinda F DOD - melinda.f.norris1)

1. Will the Project create criteria pollutant and/or hazardous air pollutant emissions during construction and or operations?

No- not if the wildland mitigation fires are done in prescribed/controlled manner.

2. Will implementation of the Project require the issuance of a new or modified air permit?

No

3. Has the Project been analyzed in Air Conformity Applicability Model (ACAM)? Attach the ACAM report.

No- Wildland Fire Mitigation is not an activity in ACAM to run.

4. Will the Project include source(s) that may be classified as a New Source or a major modification of an existing source?

No

5. Will mitigation, emissions control devices and/or other management practices be required to minimize or eliminate effects to the region's air quality condition with regard to attainment of National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)?

No- not if the wildland mitigation fires are done in prescribed/controlled manner.

Other (03/13/2025 - Tomlinson Robert DOD - robert.r.tomlinson)

The project has no impact to under privileged communities, will improve the access and protect homes and land. No additional analysis required.

Legal (04/29/2025 - Haynes Valerie DOD - valerie.v.haynes)

Attachments:

[Catamount Decision Notice - FONSI.pdf](#)

[FINAL JA SIGNED Legal Rev re 813 for Fire Mitigation Old Stage Rd- CMSFS.11 jun 2025.pdf](#)

[cui-proposal-export-2024-06-05.pdf](#)

[Catamount Environmental Assessment.pdf](#)