



Pagosa Area Prescribed Fire Tour

Date: 21 June 2019

Time: 0830 – 1300 (8:30am – 1:00pm)

Location: Lower Middle Mountain, Brockover Mesa, Turkey Springs

Itinerary:

0830 (8:30am) – Meet at the Turkey Springs/Coyote Hill Trailhead

0830 – 0840 – Condense into vehicles for carpooling

0840 – Depart for Lower Middle Mtn

0900 – 0930 – Arrive at Lower Middle Mtn; Introductions, objectives for the day, and quick round robin updates

0930 – 1045 – Tour of the Lower Middle Mtn 2008 burn units; Dr. Julie Korb, Fort Lewis College, will present on her post burn (2018) monitoring results from these units.

Dr. Korb initiated a study to test the effectiveness of three forest treatments (thinning followed by prescribed fire, prescribed fire only and no treatment) to restore forest stand structure and function and increase resistance and resilience to disturbance. Treatments were re-visited, one, five and 10 years following full treatment with prescribed fire and the following questions were asked:

- 1) *How does understory plant richness, diversity, abundance and community dynamics differ among the various restoration treatments over time?*
- 2) *How does forest floor, understory, mid-story, and overstory fuels vary among alternative restoration treatments over these same time intervals?*

1045 – Depart for Brockover Mesa

1100 – 1200 - We will tour the recent burn units 2016 – 2019. Note the order of this portion of the tour is TBD and will be determined by SJNF staff.

1200 – 1245 – Field lunch and group discussion.

1245 – Depart for Turkey/Coyote Hill Trailhead

1300 (1:00pm) – Wrap-up



San Juan Headwaters

FOREST HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

Tour Objectives:

- See the response to prescribed fires from 2008 – 2019.
- Learn about the planning and operations of prescribed fire.
- Learn about the objectives of each burn we tour and discuss if those objectives were met.
- Learn about the ecological response to prescribed fire and the ecological need for fire in our warm-dry mixed conifer and ponderosa forests.
- Discuss with SJNF staff their vision and use for fire as a tool for fuels reduction and forest health management.
- Discussion with the group regarding the negative aspects of prescribed fire; primarily the smoke issues with community members.
- Brainstorm outreach and messaging efforts by SJHFHP to support prescribed fire around Pagosa Springs.

Logistics:

- We will have lunch in the field so please bring something for yourself. We will have water and light snacks for the group.
- We will be hiking, not far, but off trail. Please wear sturdy close toed shoes and long pants.
- For those driving into the burn units, you will need high clearance and four-wheel drive; this in case it rains while we are out.
- Please bring a day pack with you with extra layers, raingear, sunscreen, water, snacks/lunch, etc.