



Healthy Forests | Protected Watersheds | Resilient Communities

2018 End of Year Report



In celebration of the collaboration between Pagosa High School and the Partnership, we planted signs on Reservoir Hill to promote additional learning and appreciation for local forests and forest health.



www.sanjuanheadwaters.org | 970-387-5156 | akimble@mountainstudies.org

Letter from the Program Director, Aaron Kimple

Dear Partners and supporters of the San Jan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership,

As we wrap up another successful year, I want to thank you for all of your support and hard work. In 2018 we experienced a prolonged drought leading to increased wildfire activity in the region—reinforcing more than ever the importance of local collaborative-based forest management.

In 2018, we continued to support local efforts that advanced forest health initiatives, protected community resources and educated community members about local forest conditions. Treatments aiming to mitigate fuels and benefit overall forest health and resilience were completed on over 3000 acres combined, on both public and private land in the San Juan Headwaters region. The partnership also offered 12 different forest health education events to the Pagosa Springs community. We also saw a huge increase in volunteer hours for SJHFHP related events and continued student monitoring on Reservoir Hill.



As we gear up for the year ahead, the Partnership will continue to self-evaluate to determine how we can improve and increase our local impact. We are excited to engage in the ecological monitoring that will inform the adaptive management process in the mixed conifer forest types at near Pagosa Creek or Huerto Creek this summer. We plan to expand the low-income wildfire mitigation program for the residents of Aspen Springs and Twin Creek Village subdivisions. We will also continue to support and organize events that increase community awareness of local forest health issues and challenges.

While the Partnership has been around since 2009, our work has never been more important. With the potential for longer wildfire seasons and increased wildfire activity being the new norm, the Partnership is uniquely poised to mitigate those impacts and help our communities become more resilient in the face of these threats. This group has proven itself as one that is hard working and effective, and I am honored to be a part of it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Aaron Kimple".

Aaron Kimple
SJHFHP Program Coordinator
Mountain Studies Institute Program Director



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2018 Project Highlights

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ✓ **1420 ACRES & 1716 ACRES**
of public land of private land
Treated for Forest Health
- ✓ **\$16,377 RAISED**
Increase in # of Small Donors
- ✓ Offered **12 forest health learning events** & **2 citizen science opportunities**
- ✓ Offered forest health education through citizen science, classroom outreach, and more than **670 hours of internship and classroom time**



COMPARED TO 2017...

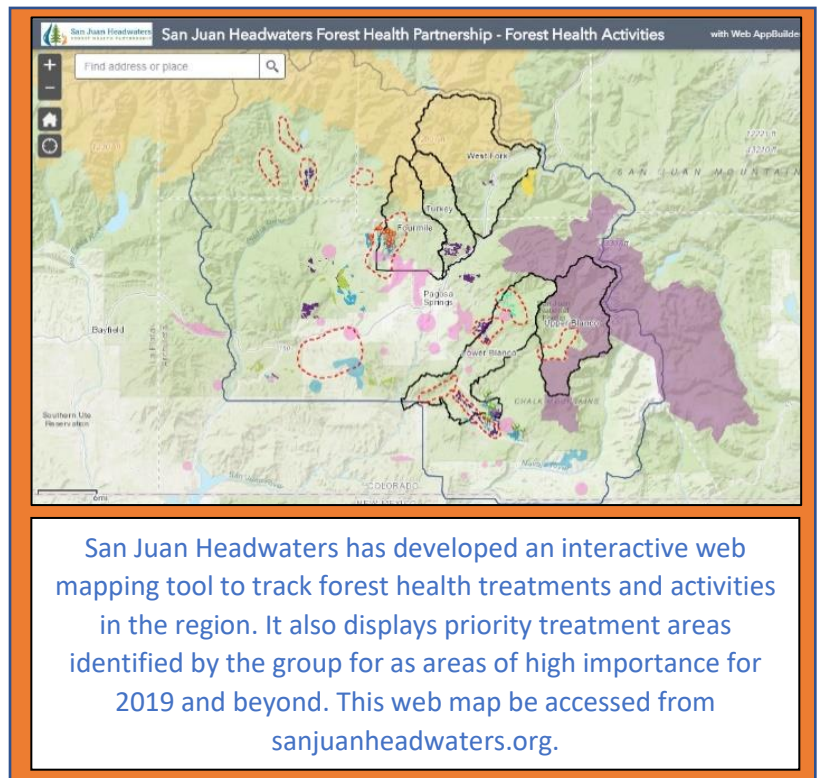


2X INCREASE IN STUDENT MONITORING PARTICIPATION



2X INCREASE IN VOLUNTEER HOURS

VOLUNTEER HOURS



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2018 Project Highlights



FAWN GULCH & WILLOW DRAW POST TREATMENT MONITORING



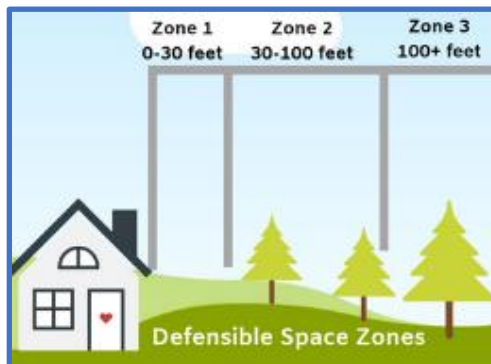
San Juan National Forest contracted Mountain Studies Institute to assess understory conditions and stand structure pre/post mastication treatments



These regions were identified by SJHFHP as high priority treatment areas



Pre/Post data was collected at 47 photopoints throughout the 2100+ acres of treatment units



STOLLSTEIMER CREEK LOW INCOME FUELS MITIGATION PROJECT

- Wildfire Risk & Defensible Space Treatments
- Funding through Colorado State Forest Service CAFA Grant
- Low-Income households in Aspen Springs & Twin Creek Village Subdivisions
- 8 homes assessed & treatments completed on 4 homes in 2018
- Project will continue to grow in 2019 with increased outreach and homes treated



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Outreach & Events

LOOKING BACK: 2018 EVENTS

- 🌲 "Smoky Air: Should We Care? - Dr. Kelley Barsanti - 3/20/18
- 🌲 TREX Prescribed Fire Training - 4/28/18-5/6/18
- 🌲 Wildfire Movie Night - 5/2/18
- 🌲 Forestry Workshop - 5/5/18
- 🌲 Sign Planting on Reservoir Hill - 5/18/18
- 🌲 Booth at Pagosa Folk 'N Bluegrass Festival - 6/8/18-6/10/18
- 🌲 Booth at Four Corners Folk Fest 8/31/18-9/2/18
- 🌲 Bridging the Divide - 9/7/18-9/8/18



San Juan Headwaters in the News!



In 2014, the San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership began a collaborative effort with the Town of Pagosa Springs, Colorado State Forest Service, Pagosa Springs High School, Southwest Conservation Corps and Forest Health Company to address forest health concerns on Reservoir Hill. In order to educate Reservoir Hill users about forest restoration work, signs are being placed to tell the story. On May 18, the first sign was unveiled, with two more ready to follow.

Educational signs placed on Reservoir Hill

By Bill Trimarco

Special to The SUN

In 2014, the San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership began a collaborative effort with the Town of Pagosa Springs, Colorado State Forest Service, Pagosa Springs High School, Southwest Conservation Corps and Forest Health Company to

address forest health concerns on Reservoir Hill.

They partnered with students from the high school to evaluate forest conditions and make recommendations for improving the health of the forest.

Since 2014, forest restoration efforts have focused on returning more open, healthy conditions to the landscape to lower

the threat of severe wildfire, insects and disease. Nearly 80 acres of this very special park within the town limits of Pagosa Springs have been treated in this project that now serves as an example for others to follow. Forestry officials in both the state and U.S. Capitol have been interested and praised this effort right here in our town.

In order to educate the park's users about this vital work, signs are being placed to tell the story about forest restoration. On May 18, the first sign was unveiled, with two more ready to follow. There were a lot of local partners involved, so take a look at the signs next time you are on Reservoir Hill enjoying a hike or ride or listening to music.

Communities Want Trees Thinned. Timber Companies Want Contracts. So What's The Problem?

STATELINE ARTICLE October 24, 2018 By: Sophie Quinton Topics: Economy & Energy and Environment Read time: 8 min



Anthony Culpepper, Aaron Kimple, Matt Cook and Laurel Sebastian — all of the Mountain Studies Institute — stand in a clearing atop Reservoir Hill in Pagosa Springs. The city-owned forest was thinned with the support of the local forest health collaborative.



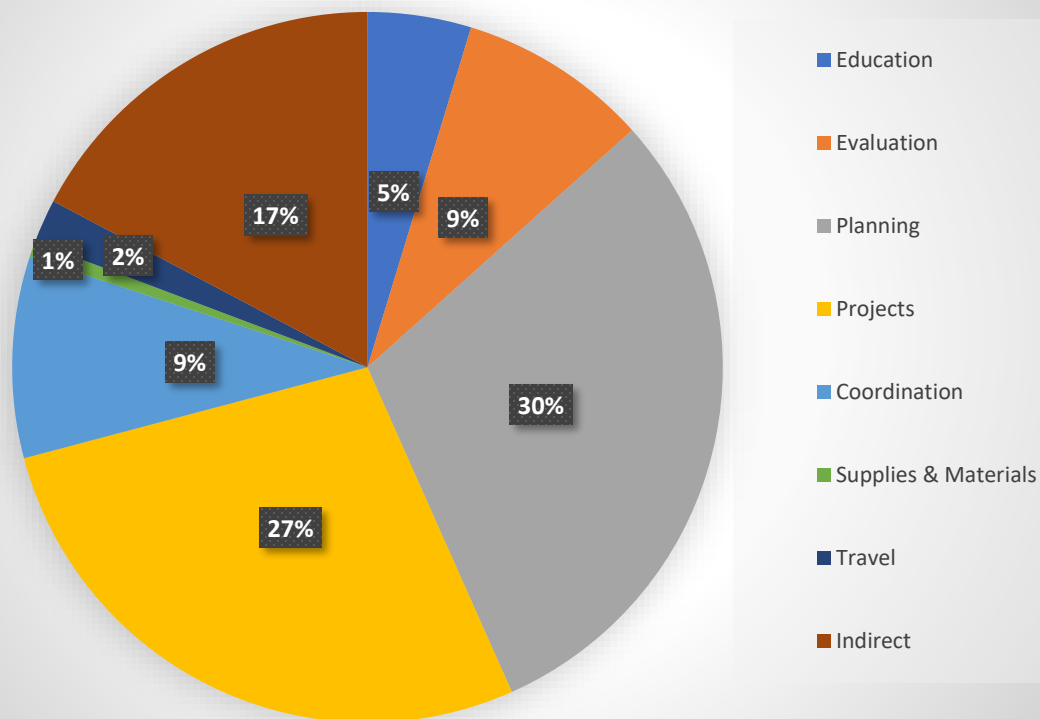
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Budget & Financial Summary

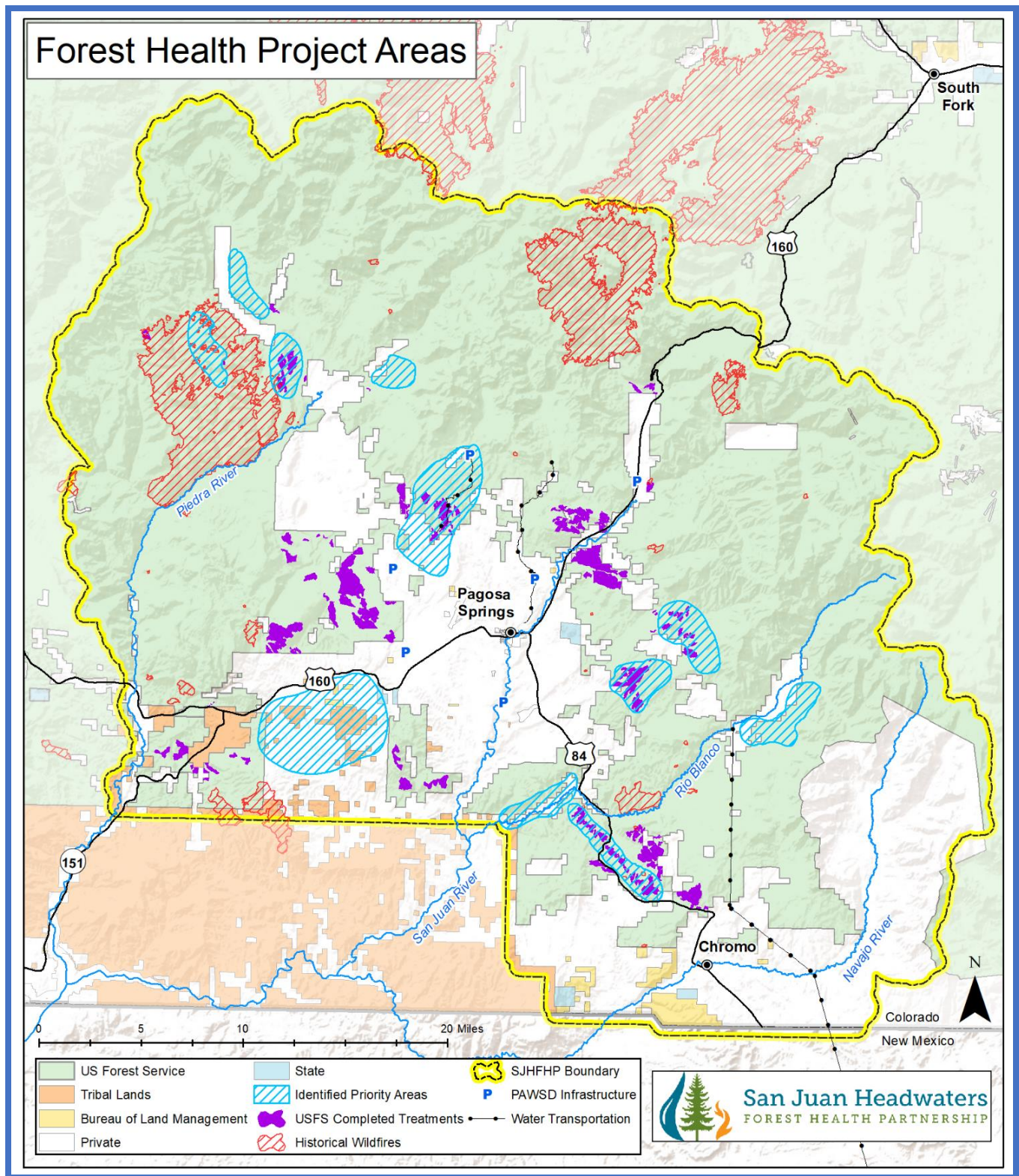
2018 Expenses	
Education	\$5,968
Evaluation	\$9,417
Planning	\$32,582
Projects	\$29,945
Coordination	\$9,954
Supplies & Materials	\$768
Travel	\$2,172
Indirect	\$18,770
Total	\$108,732



Breakdown of 2018 Expenses



Current, Past & Future Project Areas



Looking Ahead: 2019 and Beyond

2019 Upcoming Events

May TBD: Wildfire Preparedness Day
June TBD: Beetle Tour – Wolf Creek Pass
June 7-9: Pagosa Folk 'N Bluegrass Festival
August 30 – September 1: Four Corners Folk Festival
September: San Juan TREX Prescribed Fire Training

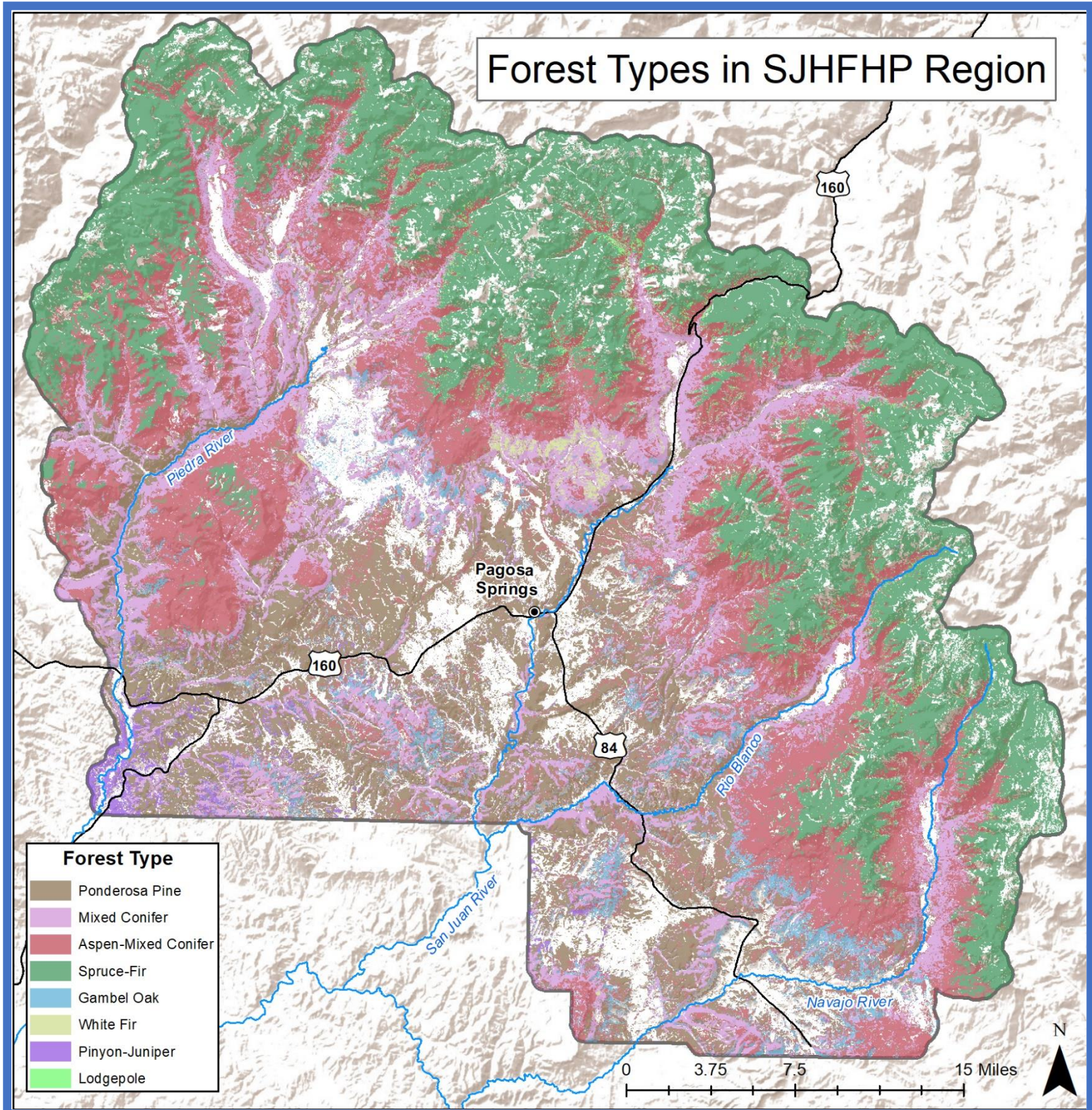


2019 Work Plan Highlights: Objectives and Tasks

- **Objective 1: Support collaborative watershed analysis and assessment**
 - Create report on priority projects
 - Host 2-3 community education events
 - Create 2-5 citizen science learning opportunities
 - Attend state and regional meetings to integrate efforts
 - Update communication strategy to increase consistency
- **Objective 2: Evaluate completed work and effectiveness of current partnerships**
 - Continue reporting on current projects and partnerships
 - Establish monitoring protocols to be used throughout southwestern Colorado
 - Collaborate with Colorado Forest Restoration Institute on statewide database for storing and assessing monitoring results
- **Objective 3: Continue efforts to inform, educate, and outreach to landowners/communities**
 - Demonstrate the connection between healthy forests and clean water
 - Continue to share the most recent science through events like Connecting for Conservation and Bridging the Divide
 - Develop more educational materials, including additional? public signage on Reservoir Hill
- **Objective 3: Support and Implement on the ground treatment**
 - Promote and coordinate a program to treat 90 acres around low-income properties in Pagosa Springs
 - Support coordination between land managers and implementers



SJHFHP Geography



San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership

Mission

The San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership is committed to pro-active, collaborative approaches to improving the health and long-term resilience of communities by addressing forest and watershed health. The Partnership is focusing on strengthening understanding, sharing knowledge and lessons learned, developing management approaches, initiating high priority projects, and monitoring results using an adaptive framework



Goals

1. Strengthen regional communities through a landscape-scale, adaptive approach to addressing forest and watershed health
2. Work with partners to facilitate the development of and adopt a list of principles, values, and priorities
3. Enhance regional economic viability and use of forest health products
4. Implement forest treatments in high risk areas

Objectives

1. Inform and assist community members in understanding and improving forest resilience and diversity;
2. Provide educational opportunities about management goals, vegetation treatment methods, and outcomes;
3. Increase community awareness of the impacts of wildfire, and insect and disease outbreaks, and challenges associated with mitigation;
4. Provide opportunities for the affected communities and all interested citizens to learn about what they can do to get involved;
5. Promote the concept of resiliency;
6. Identify priority project areas; and
7. Form and implement a monitoring plan to guide adaptive management.



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Thanks to our partners and funders!



Get Involved with the San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership!

- ☐ **Support SJHFHP**—Your donations go a long way to making our work possible.
- ☐ **Become a member**—We invite you to participate in meetings and provide input to the group.
- ☐ **Volunteer**—Help SJHFHP monitor forest health and study the impacts of our efforts.
- ☐ **Participate in Events**—Go to the web site and learn about our upcoming events.

I am interested in making a contribution of \$ _____ to the SJHFHP. I have enclosed a check ☐

Name: _____ Address: _____

Charge my Visa or MasterCard (circle one) Card number: _____ Ext Date: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Please include me in your e-mail notifications ☐

Or Make a Donation On-Line at WWW.SANJUANHEADWATERS.ORG



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