



San Juan Headwaters

FOREST HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

PAGOSA CREEK TOUR: Friday October 15, 2021

PARTNERS REPRESENTED

Clean Forest Energy, Pagosa Area Trails Council, San Juan Citizens Alliance, USFS San Juan National Forest, Weminuche Audubon, Wildfire Adapted Partnership, Watershed Enhancement Partnership, Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District, Mountain Studies Institute

Tour Site I

Pagosa Creek Attributes

- Cool-Moist Mixed-Conifer forest
 - Douglas fir, ponderosa pine, white fir, Engelmann spruce, blue spruce, aspen
 - Significant shrub component consisting mainly of Gambel oak, serviceberry, and snowberry

Contracting at Pagosa Creek

- Traditional Timber Sales vs Stewardship Contracts (many types)
 - Timber Sale Contracts are awarded to highest bidder
 - Integrated Resource Timber Contracts (IRTC) are a type of stewardship contract used when the value of goods is greater than value of services and can be awarded based on criteria beyond bidding price including technical capacity and past performance
 - Retained receipts from IRTCs allow excess funds to remain on the forest and be used for trail work, decommissioning of roads, and other priority projects
- The Pagosa Creek IRTC is the first Mixed-Conifer timber contract completed in partnership with the SJHFHP
 - Prescription was drafted collaboratively and reviewed by MSI and the Colorado Forest Restoration Institute (CFRI) using up to date, relevant science

Local and Regional Forest Products Markets

- CRS Timber awarded the Pagosa Creek IRTC contract
- Douglas fir, spruce, and some aspen are the most marketable products from Pagosa Creek
- Regional mills in Blanca, Montrose, Salida, and La Jara
- Transportation distance and weight to mills is key. Shorter distances to mills allow for more turns/day resulting in greater support of small business and local timber economies and greater potential to diversify contractors

PROJECT DESIGN & GOALS

KEEP DOMINANT, FIRE-ADAPTED DOUGLAS FIR & PONDEROSA PINE ON LANDSCAPE

COPPICE WITH THINNING TO PROMOTE ASPEN

THINNING TO PROMOTE RESILIENCE, REDUCE FOREST HEALTH CONCERNS, AND CONTRIBUTE TO SAWTIMBER PRODUCTION

DBH'S ABOVE 10" FOR DOUGLAS FIR, PONDEROSA PINE, AND ASPEN IN 30-40 YEARS

GROUP/PATCH SELECTION WITH NO MATRIX THINNING FOR CANADA LYNX/SNOWSHOE HAIR HABITAT



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Tour Site II

Monitoring

- Monitoring Questions
 - Can we manage Mixed-Conifer forests for both forest product outputs and mixed species composition?
 - Can we create within-stand variability through natural regeneration?
 - Does regeneration match expected conditions, and does it still occur in various sized group selections?
 - Does management reduce intensity of spruce bud worm on regeneration?
- Results and Implications
 - Variability across space can enhance biological processes and utilize small-scale stand processes to mimic natural successional trajectories
 - Retaining species resistant to spruce bud worm reduces intensity of spruce bud worm on overstory trees
 - 1/100th acre plots are too small to capture patterns of regeneration on these landscapes
- Potential future improvements to monitoring
 - Repeat regeneration methodology and add belt transects to capture post-treatment regeneration
 - Consider a monitoring approach that utilizes rigorous quantitative methods supplemented by more rapid community science methods
 - Evaluate feasibility and cost of utilizing drone (UAV) monitoring technology in the future

Public Perceptions

- A complex project means communication and framing challenges
- Overall positive reactions to this project
 - Some complaints about early morning log trucks

Ongoing/Future Work

- 2022/2023
 - Burn ~100 slash piles
 - Post-treatment monitoring
- 30-40 Years
 - Current openings will encourage regeneration of Douglas fir and aspen and anticipated re-entry will regulate stands through group selection
- Continue to learn through ongoing management actions, monitoring, and experimentation in Cool-Moist and Warm-Dry Mixed-Conifer



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

~485 ACRES TREATED IN 17 UNITS OVER ~3 MONTHS IN 2021

20-30 LOADS/DAY IN WOODS PRODUCTION

375 TOTAL LOG TRUCK LOADS WITH TRUCKS MAKING 2 TURNS/DAY

70-90% WOOD MATERIAL PILED, 10-30% LOP AND SCATTER

\$11,000 TOTAL STUMPAGE MINUS \$1,500 STEWARDSHIP CREDIT = \$9,500 NET FOR WORK