

Photos of Three Years Monitoring of Winged Subsoiler Treatment Areas

Rio Grande National Forest, Colorado

July 3, 2006

Million Fire Subsoiler Monitoring Project





This set of photos shows a road that was used to access a staging area during the Million Fire, which occurred on June 19, 2002. The photo on the left was subsoiled in June 2003 and the photopoint was marked with 3 rocks. The same location was re-visited and photographed on June 20, 2006, three years later. The subsoiled area is revegetated and water is entering into the soil instead of running off the soil. No further vehicle use has occurred and there is a carsonite sign below this photo site. This is evidence that route closure using subsoiling

can effectively be done. 13S 0359505/4167079



This is another portion of an access road used during the Million fire. Photographed 6-20-2006. The photo above shows more vegetation on the subsoiled and seeded route than in the nearby native ecosystem.



This was called the Six-wide Meadow, a staging area for crews and equipment during the Million Fire. The photo on the far left is of a main access road to the staging area, taken prior to subsoiling in spring 2003. The middle photo shows after subsoil June 2003. About 3 years later (photo taken June 20, 2006), the soil is producing ample vegetation and no runoff or erosion is apparent. 13s 0360058/4167744

Twister Salvage Sale Subsoiler Monitoring



Twister Salvage Subsoiler Monitoring

The left side photo is taken on a skid trail after harvest in 1999. This area was subsoiled in 2003. Ideally, we would have subsoiled immediately after logging, but it took a few years to obtain the subsoiler and get it operational. The photo on the right was taken June 28, 2006. The planted stock seems to have good survival in the subsoiled areas.



The following photos show another area that was subsoiled in 2003. This was the site of a soils transect that was sampled in the lab for bulk density (compaction) prior to and after logging. In the photo at left, there is considerable soil exposure from logging activity. Lab results showed that soil standards for compaction were exceeded on the 6 core samples along this transect. Subsoiling was done in 2003. Photo on right, taken 6-28-06 shows excellent growth of cover and no evidence of erosion.



The left photo was taken after logging in 1999 near a landing at the summit of the divide that borders the backcountry cutting unit. It was subsoiled in 2003. Photo at right was taken June 28, 2006. It shows very good recovery. It has not been replanted. Throughout the subsoiled areas there has been isolated pockets of Canada Thistle. There was Canada Thistle present prior to logging in the area as well as after logging. There has been good response from seeding and from the natural sedges that occur on this site.

