



Southwest Jemez Mountains Landscape Restoration Project

Notes from Public Meeting – Feedback on the Draft Purpose and Need

March 8, 2012, 6-8 pm Madonna Center, Jemez Springs

11 people in attendance, not including Forest Service staff

Questions and Answers

Q: Did the Las Conchas fire affect the Southwest Jemez Mountains project area?

A: It burned about 30,000 acres of the project area, but only 2,000 on the Santa Fe National Forest. The rest burned on the Valles Caldera National Preserve.

Q: Will the treatments go beyond the Southwest Jemez Mountains area?

A: Yes, eventually we plan to go clockwise around the Jemez Mountains, but we need to have an industry in place to remove the product.

Q: What do we need to do to clear around origination of acequias in northern part of forest—this project isn't big enough to accomplish that.

A: We are trying to reestablish industry to help expedite the process.

Comment: We need to know way ahead of time before you do treatments affecting acequias in Cuba.

Q: What does “burn slash around communities” mean?

A: It means burning the slash from thinning around Thompson Ridge and Cerro de los Pinos. Broadcast burns such as Paliza will be spread out, not burned at once. We will do as many projects as we can when conditions allow.

Q: Why don't you burn during balloon fiesta?

A: Because of the smoke during the Fiesta, we aren't allowed to.

Comment: We need to log more so we don't need to burn at all.

Response: Thinning and burning treat two different kinds of fuels. Burning treats fine fuels and reintroduces fire to this ecosystem. It doesn't usually kill trees that would be thinned or logged.

Q: Is there a way to treat National Forest lands adjacent to my property, which I've invested to treat (areas 1,2,3 in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan)?

A: We need to work together to align those treatments with our planned work.

Q: Will work begin in this calendar year?

A: Work proposed for this EIS can't begin until the decision is signed, anticipated in August 2013.

Purpose and Need discussion:

What is “fewer active headcuts”?

A: A headcut is like a gully; it’s a loss of soil that works its way uphill.

You should start each meeting by saying, “In lieu of spending \$50 million to put out Las Conchas, we could spend it to prevent the fires.”

What is “traditional practices”?

A: It includes hunting, point collection, and ceremonial uses for Native Americans among other things.

Concern as a landowner, what do I need to do myself to protect my own property? Lawrence Crane is involved in education—is coming to an attendee’s property to prepare a demonstration area. Can we get conference on firewise or something?

What is “fuel load”?

A: Dead or live fuel load is burnable material on the ground or standing.

Q: by Anne from Valles Caldera: Do these purpose/needs resonate with you all?

A: by attendee: We are mostly newbies here, so we are trying to understand it. We don’t have the long-term attachment that older residents have. Looking at the Las Conchas fire, we are impressed with the work that was done.

Comment by FS: we need perspectives from everyone, need help to make this helpful and understandable to people

How to be involved

Email: stay away from FS jargon

Regular article in newspaper for update (Jemez Thunder and others) to keep other communities involved

Post notices at PO, library, etc. like you do when you do prescribed burns.

Daily reports during fire last year were very helpful, as were the public meetings held during fire.

Provide them to offset the rumor mill.

Meetings when there are healthy topics of interest, upcoming movement—provide good information on what meetings will involve ahead of time.

What will you do when the money for this project runs out? How will you maintain it?

A: The hardest part is getting from where the forests are now to where we want them to be. Once they are less dense, we can maintain them mostly with fire/fire use to keep costs down.