

SOUTHWESTERN JEMEZ MOUNTAINS

COLLABORATIVE FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION - UPDATE

What a difference a year makes!

It is hard to believe that just one year ago the Santa Fe National Forest (SFNF), Valles Caldera National Preserve (VCNP) and other partners reached out and formed a collaboration focused on restoring natural ecosystems of a landscape in the southwestern Jemez Mountains.

Recall that the 210,000 acre landscape includes mesas and mountains, forests and grasslands, streams and wetlands – all in dire need of ecological restoration.

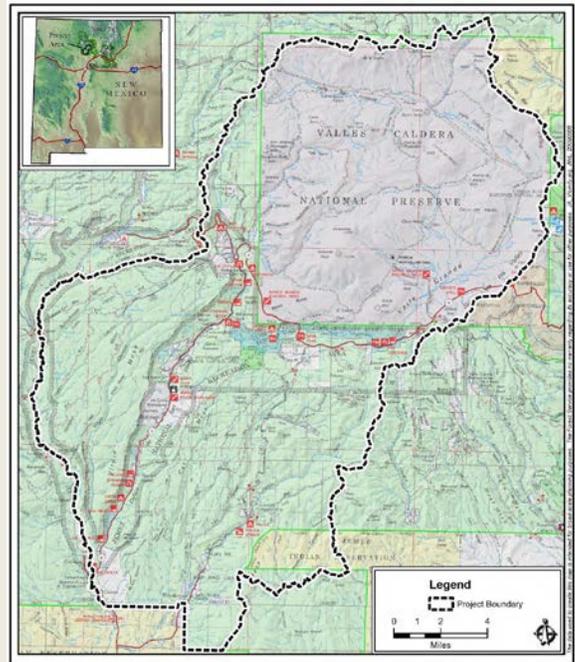
Thank you for the tremendous response!

In response to this outreach numerous individuals and organizations participated in a field trip and workshop series to develop a forest restoration treatment strategy. Key partners and agencies supporting this effort included The Nature Conservancy, New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute, Jemez Pueblo, New Mexico State Forestry, Santa Clara Pueblo, USGS, Bandelier National Monument, and many others.

Our proposal was a winner!

The SWJM forest restoration strategy was selected for funding under the federal Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) authorized by Congress in 2009. This allows us to receive up to \$40,000,000 in CFLRP funds over 10 years to help restore our forests, grasslands and waters!

Thank you to all of our partners, supporters and especially those who participated in the workshops and fieldtrip. This would not have been possible without you!!



Southwestern Jemez Mountains Landscape

Contact Us:

Email: jemezrestoration@fs.fed.us

Web links:

Southwestern Jemez Mountains Landscape:
www.fs.fed.us/r3/sfe/jemez_mtn_rest

Santa Fe National Forest:

www.fs.fed.us/r3/sfe

Valles Caldera National Preserve:

www.vallescaldera.gov

The Nature Conservancy

www.nature.org

New Mexico Forest & Watershed Restoration Institute

www.nmfwri.org

Jemez Pueblo

www.jemezpuablo.org

"Never doubt that a handful of committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

- Margaret Mead

Thank you to the nearly 60 individuals representing nearly 30 agencies, organizations, universities, and communities for your contributions!

SWML Collaborative Workshop February, 2010



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Landscape photo by Michael Mudd

Steps taken...

Money was made available immediately following the CFLRP award. Based on the collaborative plan, the first investments were made in acquiring instrumentation to establish long term monitoring and continuing ongoing restoration activities surrounding Thompson Ridge Estates.

Next steps...

Prior to conducting treatment actions identified and prioritized in the SWJM forest restoration strategy, proposed actions must undergo analysis in compliance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and meet other federal requirements such as in the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and Endangered Species Act (ESA). This process may require a year or more to complete.

Fortunately the SFNF and VCNP have some projects “shovel ready” including thinning, prescribed burning, as well as some riparian and wetland restoration. These projects will be the first priority for implementation.

The NEPA process offers the public an opportunity to get involved and comment at the earliest phase of project-level planning and decision-making. If you want more information about the project-level NEPA processes on the SFNF or VCNP and how to get involved in this phase of restoration planning, please visit these websites:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/sfe/projects/index.html>

http://www.vallescaldera.gov/get_involved/stars/ or use the links on the right.

The monitoring group is also hard at work establishing baseline data for monitoring the restoration outcomes. Monitoring and evaluation supports a systematic approach to adaptive management which allows us to adjust our actions based on knowledge gained from new information, experience, experimentation, and monitoring results. Adaptive management is the preferred method for managing complex natural systems.

“What is important is to keep learning, to enjoy challenge, and to tolerate ambiguity. In the end there are no certain answers.”

-Martina Horner, President Radcliff College



Keeping you informed

- On the web: www.fs.fed.us/r3/sfe/jemez_mtn_rest
- Subscribe to the [email list](#) to receive news and website updates.
- Email comments/questions about this effort to: jemezrestoration@fs.fed.us
- Subscribe to the Valles Caldera Trust email list at www.vallescaldera.gov (select “Mailing Lists” from the top, left corner).



Diagram of “Adaptive Management”