

Four Rivers Resilient Forest Collaborative

Junction Creek EA

Draft Proposed Actions Meeting II

Location: Virtual

Date: March 8, 2022 1:00-3:30 PM

Notes

Prescribed fire

- Prescribed fire treatments are focused on Ponderosa Pine communities.
- Goal: align with burn frequency of forest type.
- The last prescribed burn in this area was about 20 years ago.
- For the planned prescribed burn, smoke and impacts to recreation will need to be managed carefully.
- How will the community (residents) in Junction Creek perceive a prescribed burn?
 - It was suggested that there be an education campaign for residents of JC because there are many new residents since the last burn.
 - Also, residents should be given plenty of warning about smoke, so they have time to plan for it.

Fisheries

- There is a healthy population of trout in Junction Creek.
- Access is the limiting factor in habitat improvement in Junction Creek.
- Some areas to focus efforts include:
 - Bank revetment
 - Bank stabilization
 - Block social trails to creek
- Major concerns with JC:
 - Sedimentation
 - E. Coli

Wildlife

- Ensure that prescribed burns are wildlife-friendly
- Questions and concerns about NM Jumping Mouse

Recreation

- Recreation is the most complicated factor in this proposed EA.
- Any action must involve JC's neighbors (public and private).
- Specific areas for improvement:
 - Expand the parking lot
 - Improve roads

- Concerns that improved roads will encourage people to drive faster on the road, making it more dangerous for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers.
 - Build two new trails
 - Use will be determined in the proposal process
- Need for early and often communication with user groups
 - Danny Margoles has insight from recent experience with closures in Boggy Draw and Chicken Creek
- There is interest in maintaining a vegetation buffer around trails, although this matter needs to be discussed further with user groups. This buffer could:
 - Prevent off-trail use
 - Shade trail to maintain snow cover (of interest among winter trail users like snowshoers and cross-country skiers)
 - Maintain aesthetic value for users
- Identifying needs and concerns of user groups:
 - Identify liaisons within trail groups that are consistently involved with the planning committee and reliably attend meetings.
 - Need representation from all user groups.
 - San Juan Mountains Associations' Forest Ambassadors could be a valuable resource for gathering information about trail users and their concerns.
 - Forest Ambassadors were stationed at JC last summer, and possibly this summer too.
 - Lean into pre-existing relationships within the outdoor recreation community.
 - The bottom line: Durango is complex and there are lots of people and user groups that recreate at Junction Creek!

Next steps:

- Recreation-focused meeting in April
- Field tour?
- Make education and outreach inclusive and widespread