



Wheeler East Woodland Health Improvement

Project Purpose

Improve pinyon juniper woodland health through managing stand structure and reducing wildfire fuel loads to help protect life and property from catastrophic wildfire, as well as maintain sustainable habitat for wildlife use.

Project Treatments

Removal of insect and disease damaged trees via thinning to at least 30-foot spacing. Pinyon blister rust, pinyon and juniper mistletoe, pitch mass borer, and pinyon engraver are all causing damage and mortality. Mechanical removal will occur along with chipping of woody material. The prescription retains all age and size classes with the most dominant, healthiest trees left on the site.

Anticipated Impacts & Outcomes

Short-term benefits and impacts include improved forest health conditions of the residual stand. Elimination of the major insect and disease problems within the project area. Creation of a shaded fuel break which will help decrease the impacts of a wildfire and provide for more effective fire suppression strategies if needed.

Long-term anticipated outcomes include allowing for better monitoring of insect and disease conditions within the project area. Maintenance of the shaded fuel break will also be easier to maintain in the future and require less funding for future treatments.

Partners and Collaborators:

- ✓ Nevada Land Trust
- ✓ Nevada Division of Forestry

Acres to be Conserved or Treated:

- ✓ 80 acres of Pinyon-Juniper Woodlands

Communities & Residents to be Affected or Protected:

- ✓ Baker, Nevada
- ✓ Local Ranches
- ✓ 200 residents
- ✓ 75 permanent & seasonal residences, 50 outbuildings

Watershed(s):

- ✓ Lehman Creek
- ✓ Serves domestic aquifer recharge, agricultural irrigation aquifer recharge, livestock watering, and wildlife use.

Project Details

Project Timeline	Start	to	End	Priority Landscape(s)
Project Scoping	10/2019		10/2019	Funding and treatments were targeted for this area because it is the Schell Creek Range priority landscape in the Nevada Natural Resources Action Plan and is adjacent to Great Basin National Park (http://www.stateforesters.org/forest-action-plans/nevada).
Resource Inventory	10/2019		10/2019	
Planning	8/2020		11/2020	
Funding Acquisition	7/2020		6/2023	
Implementation	5/2021		11/2021	
Monitoring	Ongoing			

Threats and Risks to the Area

Wildfire hazards exist this area. The town of Baker, Nevada is rated very low for threats from wildfire. However, where the project is located west of town it is rated moderate and portions of the National Park are rated high to very high. In the last 10 years there has been two large scale wildfires in the area. There have been numerous single tree fires that have not posed any threats to the community because they were easily and quickly suppressed. Threats due to wildfire exist not only to the community, but the forest resource as well which provides wildlife habitat, and helps maintain water quality.

National and Nevada's Cohesive Strategy

This project is part of the strategy because it allows federal, state and local agencies to be more effective and efficient at responding to and controlling wildfires, maintaining resilient landscapes, and creating fire-adapted communities.

Funding Source(s)

- Nevada Division of Forestry
- US Forest Service – State and Private Forestry Western Bark Beetle 2020 Grant

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Wheeler East
Forest Health Project
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