



Chewaucan Aspen Meadow Enhancement FL-03-401

District: Paisley Ranger District/ Lake County, Oregon

Contractor: Quicksilver Contracting, ARC, GH Ranch

Contract #: AG-04P5-52-04P5-4-0051A

Job Code #: RSH602

Title II Dollars: \$89,700

Workers Employed: 52

Total Local Workers: 52

Total Worker Days: 385

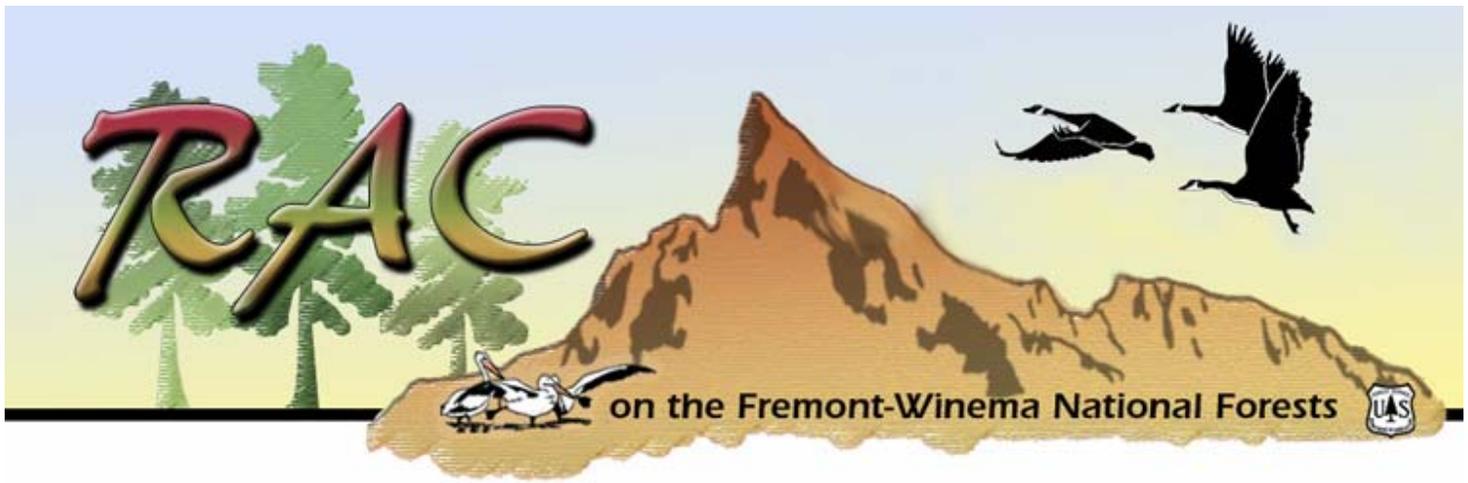
Total Local Worker Days: 385

Accomplishment: NEPA complete June 9, 2004. 750 acres of junipers were thinned... see the following page for a detailed summary.

For further information contact:

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Summary for the Chewaucan Aspen Meadow Project FL-03-401

Due to the significant amount of water and nutrient use by juniper, the expansion of juniper has resulted in a loss of understory vegetation which increases the potential of soil nutrient loss, runoff, and erosion in the watershed. Juniper expansion can also result in a loss of water available for stream flow during the dry summer months. By removing juniper, ground vegetation will increase and prevent erosion and sedimentation, and subsurface water flows will increase.

This project involved the thinning of juniper in upland habitats and adjacent to riparian areas along the Chewaucan River and its tributaries. In areas where the juniper has encroached into ponderosa pine stands or aspen stands, small diameter conifer trees were also thinned. Juniper trees that display old-growth characteristics were not cut to maintain trees that became established prior to fire suppression. For the most part, these trees are located on rocky outcrops and ridges, and display unique characteristics.

This project was coordinated with a large-scale restoration project located within the Chewaucan Watershed. To date, six Chewaucan Watershed Council members have been actively thinning juniper in the uplands to make this happen. For instance, the J-Spear, Murphy, and O'Leary Ranches and the Paisley Ranger District have cooperatively cut juniper and burned across approximately 5,400 acres in the Chewaucan Watershed between 1997-2003. In 2004, the Paisley Ranger District thinned approximately 3,500 acres of juniper and conifer in the Chewaucan watershed. The BLM and the J-Spear Ranch cut approximately 5,600 acres of juniper in the north end of the Chewaucan subshed and have burned approximately 8,800 acres in the same area. Since 1997 there has been a total of 14,500 acres of juniper and conifer thinned in the Upper Chewaucan watershed. These efforts are going towards fuels reduction, restoring historical vegetative conditions, and to improve forage for big game.

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation has funded this project for \$15,000 to be accomplished before February 2007. The USFS funded this project for \$50,000 in 2005. In addition, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board just recently funded thinning of juniper on adjacent private lands at a total of \$165,000.

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