

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/5/2020 2:17:04 AM

First name: Melanie

Last name: Albert

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Overall, I like the general idea of this restoration project. I support the goals that this project aims to achieve for the site. Wildfires are a natural process in many environments. Not only do they clear out dead organic material on the forest floor but they return important nutrients to the soil and promote a healthy forest ecosystem. Fires also play an important role in plant reproduction as some species require fire to germinate. Prescribed fires benefit ecosystems by restoring balance and also prevent larger, uncontrollable fires from devastating a larger area. Wildfires can also be used to eradicate invasive species which are not adapted to withstand fires. I think using fire as a restoration strategy will be beneficial at this site due to the high number of pinyon and juniper pines as well as yellow pine and black oak stands in the area which require fire to reproduce. Fire will also encourage resilience to wildfire, insects, and disease.

In addition, watershed restoration will be extremely beneficial to the area, as water is important to the success of all life. Improving riparian areas and meadow systems will benefit the entire area. The removal and restoration of unsustainable trails and access roads will also benefit the area to lessen the negative effects of habitat fragmentation.

I do have questions regarding the restoration model or template. I would like to know what the historical ecosystem looked like (including species present and representative food webs) and what the previous uses of the area were. Are any human disturbances still observable from those past uses? Also, what will the site look like in the future? Will any new species be introduced? Regarding the public, what recreational activities will be present in the area after restoration that will encourage visitors to engage in the natural environment? Or is the focus simply on improving trails in the area?