

Pinyon Juniper Partnership Scoping Meeting Quick Report

The P-J Partnership Scoping Meeting was a great success, judging by the number of participants, the pages of flip chart notes, and the vigorous engagement throughout the day.

The PowerPoint by Robin Tausch, of the Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station was informative and stunning (visually – photos over 30 years) in its depiction of the movement of PJ stands from class 1 to class 3 densities and the consequences of such densification.

Each of the six spokes of the PJ wheel (environment, agriculture, production, conservation, renewable energy, technology/economic development, and fire/fuels) received a thorough fleshing out. Full notes from those breakout groups and their report backs are being assembled.

Common themes emerged from all the reports, such as the need for comprehensive (thus multi-jurisdictional and interagency) planning and environmental assessment, the need for longer term mechanisms for treatment (e.g. stewardship contracting authority for longer time periods), and the need to bend the cost curve on utilization with the recognition of other costs averted (such as of catastrophic fire) being added into the equation. A general recognition was acknowledged that the expertise and will existed within the room and within the groups represented to work together to move forward. (To accept the status quo-is to let the bark beetle and fire win)

Next steps:

- Formulate a steering committee to guide the process from here to the proposed Pinyon Juniper Partnership Summit. Volunteers were noted, others are welcomed (contact Sarah.adler@nv.usda.gov). A regular monthly teleconference/videoconference date and time will be established and announced shortly.
- Get funding resources in place to hire a consultant with requisite technical and process expertise (initial funding from USDA Rural Development has been identified; other funding is needed go deeper within spoke areas. The Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition is having a meeting in Ely June 10&11; it is hoped individuals who participated in the scoping meeting will also attend, participate, and report back from the ‘management paired with utilization’ perspective adopted by the PJ Partnership. A meeting to get deeper into utilization/technology/energy issues is anticipated in the near future.
- Talk about it! Stay in touch, share ideas and information.

Thanks for your interest in this critical activity for the landscape and economic health of rural Nevada.