

Pike and San Isabel National Forest Pikes Peak Ranger District



Upper Monument Creek Restoration Project

Please submit comments by July 7, 2014

Public Comment Form

Thank you for your interest in this project. Please complete the form below and provide any comments or questions you would like addressed. *Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection.*

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

Name

Organization (optional)

Street Address

Phone No. (optional)

City

State

Zip Code

e-mail address

Please provide any questions or comments about the project below (continue on back or additional pages if necessary):

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO PARTICIPATE.

Please submit comments by the following means:

- ✓ Leave this form at the meeting
- ✓ Mail the form or a letter to the address below:

Upper Monument Creek Restoration Project
Pikes Peak Ranger District
601 S. Weber Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

- ✓ Fax the form or a letter to (719) 477-4233
- ✓ E-mail comments to psicc_umc@fs.fed.us

Please submit comments by July 7, 2014

Project information can be found at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/psicc>
click on "Land & Resources Management and Current Projects"

Purpose and Need for Action

The size, severity, and behavior of recent wildfires on the Pike National Forest and along the Front Range have highlighted the risks posed by current forest conditions. The human and environmental costs of wildfire suppression and rehabilitation have seen a significant increase across the region in recent decades. As a result of increasing risks for large fires and extreme water flows, there is a need to make strategic investments in vegetative treatments within the UMC landscape. Strategically placed vegetative treatments reduce the vulnerability of surrounding communities, municipal watersheds, and natural resource values at risk to severe fire and excessive water flows in the future.

Proposed Action

In response to the conditions described above, the proposed action is to effectively treat up to 25,000 acres within the 67,000 acre analysis area. Combinations of mechanical thinning with product removal, mastication, hand thinning, and prescribed fire will be used to shift forest conditions across the analysis area towards agreed upon desired conditions. Emphasis will be on retention of older trees in all forest types, opening up densely closed stands of mid to late seral classes, creating a more open forest environment and improving shrub and grass diversity. The forest ecosystems that will be the primary targets for treatments will be the ponderosa pine, dry mixed conifer, aspen, and mesic mixed conifer, with some treatments in lodgepole and oak/ponderosa types. Vegetative treatments will balance the need to protect important values at risk within and adjoining the project area. Values at risk include but are not limited to the following; private property, utility infrastructure, wildlife habitat and fully functioning rivers and streams. The Proposed Action includes the use of adaptive management principals to enable land managers with public participation to identify management treatments that modify forest structure, pattern, and composition across the landscape to help improve forest resiliency and function in response to the potential for large, high intensity fires and excessive water flows within the Upper Monument Project Area. Adaptive management relies on monitoring change conditions and the result of actions to determine if management changes are needed, and if so, what changes and to what degree.

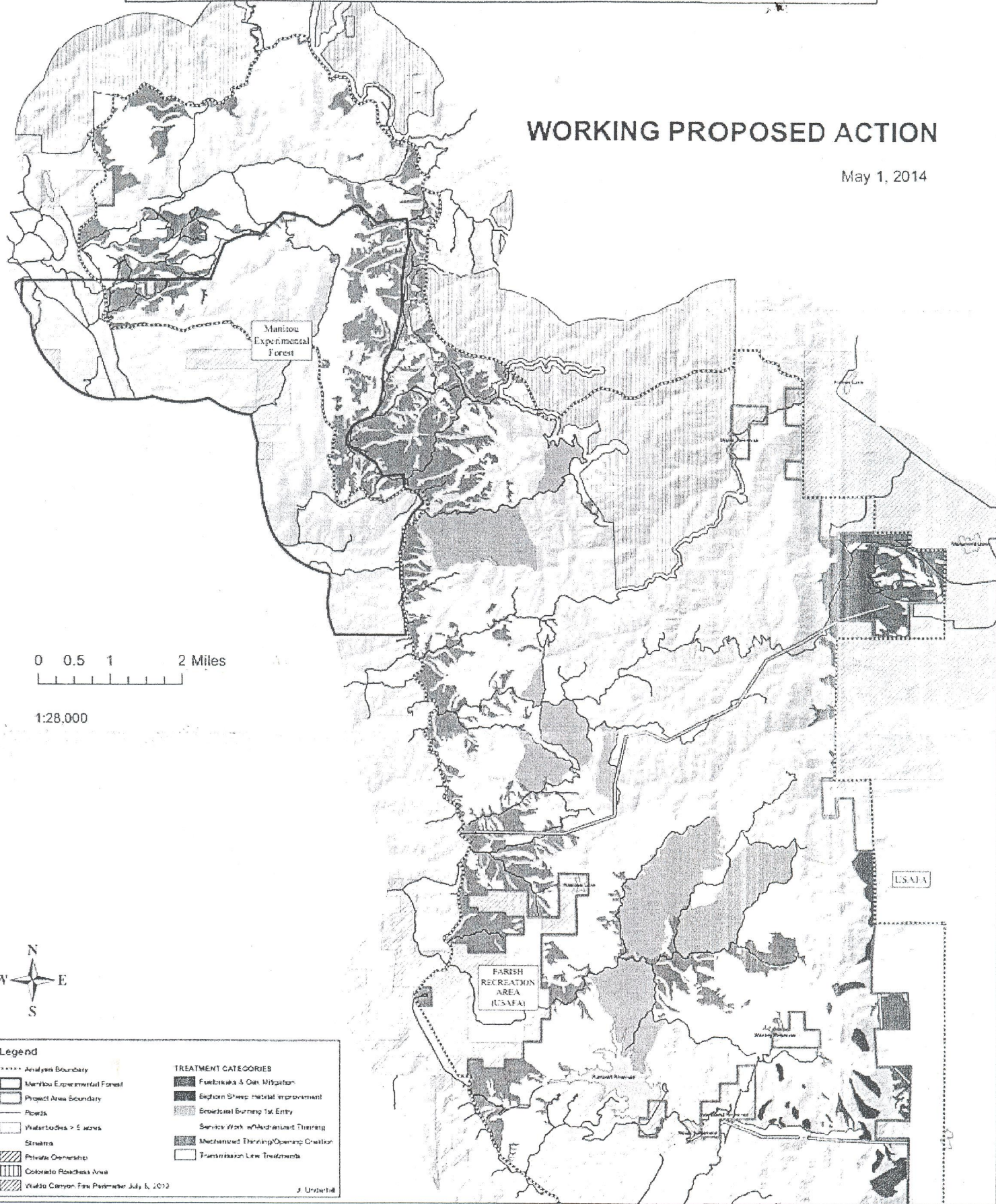
More Information

For more project information visit www.fs.usda.gov/psicc and click on "Land & Resources Management, Current Projects" or visit www.uppermonumentcreek.blogspot.com

UPPER MONUMENT CREEK LANDSCAPE RESTORATION INITIATIVE

WORKING PROPOSED ACTION

May 1, 2014



0 0.5 1 2 Miles
1:28,000



Legend	
..... Analysis Boundary	TREATMENT CATEGORIES
▭ Monument Experimental Forest	▨ Fuelbreaks & Oak Mitigation
▭ Project Area Boundary	▨ Eighteen Sheep Habitat Improvement
— Roads	▨ Broadcast Burning 1st Entry
▭ Visitor Loads > 5 acres	▨ Service Work w/Advanced Training
▭ Streams	▨ Mechanized Thinning/Opening Creation
▨ Private Ownership	▭ Transmission Line Treatments
▨ Colorado Roadless Area	
▨ West Elk Canyon Fire Perimeter July 8, 2012	

J. Underhill