

**Report of FOSM Project to Split Rounds in Cienega Picnic Area from Trees Felled  
During Chain Saw Recertification  
Wednesday, March 13, 2024**

FOSM members used Lou Romero's vintage log splitter to process rounds previously bucked in the Cienega Picnic Area in preparation for donating to the Mountain Christian Church Wood Ministry. Wood consisted of ponderosa pine, white fir, and Rocky Mountain juniper. Most of the rounds came from trees felled earlier this year during chainsaw recertification by the Forest Service of FOSM and FS sawyers and bucked over the past several weeks by FOSM volunteers.

The work took place in three areas:

- Upper (west) parking lot – Hauling and splitting rounds from a large, still-green, white fir tree felled during the recertification exercise as well as a small Rocky Mountain juniper tree.
- Group Picnic Area – Further splitting 26 quarter-rounds from a 23-inch ponderosa pine bucked and hand split in previous weeks.
- Acequia Trail and lower (east) parking lot – Hauling and splitting rounds from ponderosa pine trees (mostly) felled during the recertification exercise and bucked in previous weeks.

The eleven FOSM volunteers worked in two crews led by Dan Benton and Lou Romero:

- Hauling – Betsy Galloway, Jerry Carroll, Eric Russell, Mike Madden, and Dan Benton.
- Splitting – Rene Archer, Joelle Hertel, Lou Romero, Don Carnicom, Steve Roholt, and Cliff Giles.

The last rounds were split in a light pelting of snow; however, the forecasted high winds had not appeared by the time we finished at approximately 12:30.

From 80 to 90 rounds remain to be processed in future weeks. Hauling the split wood to the church parking lot will begin next Wednesday if Lou succeeds in obtaining Forest Service wood hauling permits in time.

Photos were taken by Cliff Giles unless otherwise noted. Full-resolution copies of the photos can be downloaded at

<https://1drv.ms/f/s!AgWvQtDuPtBo3qFlaSzYsZnFQZroWQ?e=WBb919>

The splitting crew of Joelle, Rene, Don, Lou, Steve, and Cliff began the day at the Group Picnic Area further splitting 104 ponderosa pine rounds.



Left: Rene and Lou and splitting quarter-round while Don, Steve, and Joelle observe. Right: Rene, Joelle, Don, and Lou split another quarter-round while Steve adds to woodpile.



Don, Joelle, Rene, Lou, and Steve with resulting woodpile in Group Picnic Area.

Meanwhile, the hauling crew consisting of Betsy, Eric, Jerry, Mike, and Dan used wheelbarrows to move rounds from a still-green, large white fir and a small Rocky Mountain juniper to upper (west) parking lot. Photos by Dan Benton.



Left: Betsy rolls round downhill. Right: Eric rolls wheelbarrow full of rounds downhill.

Below: Jerry and Mike lift large round into wheelbarrow.





Left: Mike hauling rounds in wheelbarrow.  
Right: Eric, Jerry, Betsy, and Mike behind woodpile.

The splitting crew quickly took care of the logs in the upper parking lot.



Lou, Joelle, and Steve split large round while Don and Rene stack wood.



Don, Joelle, Cliff, Rene, Steve, and Lou with woodpile. Photo by Dan Benton.

The two crews then moved to the lower parking lot where mostly ponderosa pine rounds were brought down from the Acequia Trail for splitting.



Left: Betsy carries a round to the parking lot.  
Right: Jerry hauls a load of rounds to the parking lot.



Mike (left) and Eric (right) haul loads of rounds down Acequia Trail.



Left: Dan loads a round into wheelbarrow while Betsy, Mike, and Jerry observe.  
Right: Dan and Mike load a large round into wheelbarrow.



Steve uses a chainsaw to buck a log into shorter rounds before splitting.



Joelle and Lou split rounds while Don starts a woodpile.



Lou and Joelle split the last ponderosa round while Rene and Steve wait to move pieces to the now large woodpile.