

**Report of FOSM Project to Remove Fallen Trees from Cienega Road and Haul Split
Wood and Rounds to Mountain Christian Church Woodlot
Wednesday, March 20, 2024**

FOSM members cleared three Rocky Mountain juniper trees that had fallen across Cienega road during a recent snowstorm then bucked and split the wood. Meanwhile, other FOSM members loaded and hauled previously processed wood to the Mountain Christian Church woodlot. Wood consisted of ponderosa pine, white fir, and Rocky Mountain juniper most of which came from trees felled earlier this year during chainsaw recertification of FOSM and Forest Service sawyers then bucked and split by FOSM volunteers over the past several weeks.

Eight FOSM volunteers worked in two crews with Dan Benton and Lou Romero splitting time between the crews:

- Removing trees and splitting wood – Jerry Carroll, Don Carnicom, and Cliff Giles.
- Hauling wood – Betsy Galloway, Eric Russell, and Byron Garner (with Mike Oliver from Mountain Christian Church).

The clearing crew processed three juniper trees ranging in size from large to small moving uphill on the road.

The hauling crew loaded wood into Mike Oliver's trailer from three areas:

- Acequia Trail and lower (east) parking lot – Previously bucked and split wood plus several large rounds from trees felled during chainsaw recertification.
- Upper (west) parking lot – Previously split wood 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 – Wood from a 23-inch ponderosa pine bucked and split in previous weeks.

From 80 to 90 rounds remain to be split and hauled in future weeks.

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 clearing crew started work on the larger of the three Rocky Mountain juniper trees that had fallen about halfway up the Cienega road.



Left: Larger fallen tree across Cienega road. (Photo by Jerry Carroll)
Right: Jerry bucking tree while Don Carnicom waits to move debris.



Left: Dan Benton waits to remove debris while Jerry continues to buck tree.
Right: Dan removes debris from road.

Meanwhile, the hauling crew loaded Mike’s trailer with split wood from the lower parking lot along with several large unsplit rounds and transported the wood to the church woodlot.



Byron, Mike, Eric, and Betsy with loaded trailer. (Photo by Dan Benton)

The removal crew moved up the road to clear the middle-size fallen tree.



Left: Middle-sized fallen Rocky Mountain juniper across road.
Right: Don removing limb cut by Jerry.



Left: Jerry removing limbs from middle-size tree.
Right: Jerry bucking logs from middle-size tree.

The removal crew then moved further up the road to remove the smallest of the three trees.



Jerry clearing the smallest tree from the road.

The removal crew then moved back down the road to buck and split the wood from the larger of the three juniper trees.

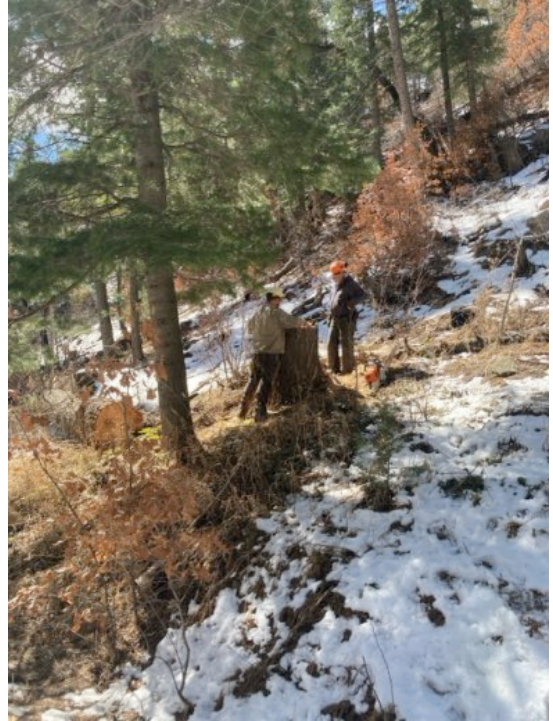


Left: Jerry bucking trunk of largest tree.
Right: Lou and Don splitting rounds from largest tree.



Stump and root ball of largest tree after bucking.

Sandia Ranger District Trails and Wilderness Assistant Program Manager Canyon Young and Seasonal Trails Chief Dorothy Hendrix were in the picnic area identifying hazard trees for felling. After jointly analyzing a dead 32-inch-diameter, approximately 100-foot-tall Douglas fir immediately adjacent to the road, Canyon and Jerry Carroll decided that Canyon would use his larger (28-inch-bar) chainsaw to fell the tree. Using a plunge cut and wedges along with standard face- and back-cuts, Canyon put the tree down exactly where he planned parallel to the road and slightly uphill.



Left: Canyon Young watches at a safe distance as Douglas fir tree falls exactly where he aimed it while Dorothy Hendrix and FOSM members block traffic down the hill.

Right: Canyon and Jerry examine stump of tree while Canyon explains the technique he used.



Left: Canyon Young
Right: Dorothy Hendrix

You can view a short video of the tree falling [here](#).

The hauling crew returned after offloading their first trailer-load of wood and loaded the previously split wood in the upper parking lot and Group Picnic Area.



Left: Mike, Byron, Betsy, Eric, and Lou loading wood from upper parking lot.
Right: Lou, Betsy, Mike, Byron, and Eric loading wood from upper parking lot.
(Photos by Dan Benton)



Left: Eric, Byron, Betsy, Lou, and Mike after trailer is loaded. (Photo by Dan Benton)
Right: Loaded trailer headed for church woodlot.

With the second trailer load of wood safely in the church woodlot, the only remaining task was to clean up debris left at the three loading areas before enjoying lunch on a beautiful day in the woods. FOSM member Gordon Eatman, who happened to be hiking in the area, joined us in the cleanup at the lower parking lot.



Left: Two trailer loads of wood in church woodlot. (Photo by Dan Benton)

Right: FOSM member Gordon Eatman helping Lou Romero remove debris from the lower parking lot.