

# Introduction to Jones Meadow Ranch

This is an introduction to the Jones family and the Jones Meadow Ranch (JMR) that are used as an example throughout the Forest Stewardship Workshop, the JMR is used to demonstrate the Stewardship planning process.

## **History of Jones Meadow Ranch**

The JMR has been impacted by a variety of natural and human activities that have occurred over the past century. The following topics are most important for future planning.

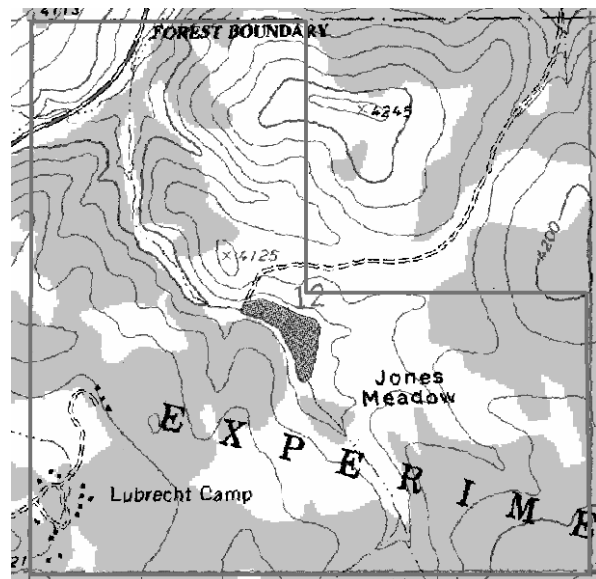
**Timber:** The ranch was heavily logged between 1900 and 1935. Harvest methods ranged from individual tree select to clearcutting. Until the early 2000s there was little active management other than fire protection and small timber harvests to help with college and ranch expenses. The forest was inventoried for the workshop in 1995. There have been several recent harvests with the objective of removing beetle killed lodgepole pine and other dead or dying trees. These were done by clearcutting some entire stands of dead trees which are now growing a new generation of lodgepole that are about 3 feet tall. Other stands were of mixed species and with the removal of dead and dying trees was managed as a thinning of the overstory leaving a mix of tree species. In other areas the objective was to create mixed age stands leaving healthy trees of various species as well as age and size classes.

**Grazing:** Grazing rights have been leased to a neighboring ranch since 1948. A pond was constructed in 1955 for stock water.

**Wildlife:** In general wildlife is a priority with the objective of keeping a balance of species. There are a variety of wildlife on the forest including amphibians in and around the wetland and riparian areas, turkeys and grouse, small mammals, deer and elk, and predators such as grizzly bear, mountain lions, and wolves. Recent harvesting has created openings that have increased the presence and availability of forage for wildlife and livestock.

**Recreation:** A cross-country ski trail as well as a self-guided nature trail are available to the public, with a nominal use fee suggested. Historically the property has been open to public hunting. Some designated walk-in areas have been established in recent years.

**Forest Health and Fire Resilience:** The owners use an approach to their forest management with an eye for maintaining a forest diverse in species and age classes and increasing the



resilience to fire. They retain trees that are of good form and health. Their management includes monitoring for the presence of insects and disease and removing affected trees to avoid spread.

**Aesthetics:** The owners desire to keep the forest a place of diverse views by maintaining open meadows, manipulating the trees to maintain views, and by using variable spacing throughout the forest.

**Road Access:** Improved road access is limited to the ranch headquarters. There are jeep trails to access most of the ranch property.

**Fencing:** There is perimeter fencing along the property boundary. Fencing also surrounds the ranch headquarters.

### **Joneses' Stewardship Goals**

Past uses and practices may all have potential impact on how the Joneses plan for the future management of their forest land. While the Joneses have many ideas that will lead them towards future management of their property, they have narrowed their thoughts down to ten general goals. These goals will provide them with direction necessary in developing specific goals for their Forest Stewardship Plan.

- Protect soil and water resources
- Reduce timber losses to insect and disease
- Improve timber growth
- Increase fire resilience
- Realize income from periodic timber sales
- Maintain aesthetic appeal of the property
- Maintain seasonal grazing for cattle
- Improve grazing distribution across ownership
- Improve white-tail deer and elk habitat and usage
- Maintain variety of resident wildlife



Some of the Joneses' goals may diverge from traditional goals. Remember that landowner goals represent ideals and principles important to them. Goals can be and usually are adjusted throughout the Forest Stewardship Workshop experience as you learn additional information and develop new understandings.