

# Sims Mesa Stewardship Contracting Project 2005 Accomplishments



The Sims Mesa Stewardship Contracting Project, located on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG NF) National Forest in west central Colorado, is the natural outcome of a larger community collaboration effort known as the Uncompahgre Plateau (UP) Project.

The Uncompahgre Plateau Project is a partnership effort for landscape restoration. Partners include the Bureau of Land Management; Colorado Division of Wildlife; the Public Lands Partnership of Delta, Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel Counties; and, the GMUG National Forest.

The Sims Mesa Stewardship Project was the result of a cross boundary ecological assessment of the 256,000 acre Spring Creek /Dry Creek landscape near Montrose, Colorado. This landscape was selected for treatment prioritization because it contains the largest wildland-urban interface (WUI) zone on the Uncompahgre Plateau. It also represents the geographic area with the clearest trend in lightning caused wildfires resulting in the majority of the large wildfire events on the GMUG. The landscape area was also identified as the key area for mule deer winter range improvement on the Plateau.

The project has entailed working with all participants to implement comprehensive treatments across the 256,000 acre Spring Creek /Dry Creek landscape through agency and private sector mechanisms. This included designating the landscape as a stewardship contracting area and the Sims Mesa Stewardship Project was one of many successful outcomes.

The Sims Mesa Stewardship Project is an initial effort to take advantage of stewardship contracting authorities including the goods for services and best value contracting elements. The project involves commercial thinning of 215 acres of ponderosa pine and roller chopping 308 acres in the Gambel oak and pine community. The value in the commercial thinning offset the cost of roller chopping. Access to the commercial thinning units was negotiated with the private property owner adjacent to the National Forest.



## **Sims Mesa Stewardship Contract Project**

USFS Rocky Mountain Region 2  
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and  
Gunnison National Forest  
2250 Highway 50  
Delta, CO 81416

Contact: John P. Moore III  
970.874.6696

For more information about the Uncompahgre Plateau, visit the Uncompahgre Plateau (UP) Project:  
<http://www.upproject.org>