

# South Pass Aspen and Forest Health



A Cooperative Habitat Restoration  
and Fuels Reduction Effort

# Cooperative Agencies and Organizations



Amy Anderson- Wyoming Game and Fish  
Brian Russell- Wyoming State Forestry  
Brandon Houck- USFS  
Tim Kramer- BLM  
Bob Budd- WWNRT



# Mission Statements of diverse public and private interests in project

- Wyoming Game and Fish: “Conserving wildlife, serving people”
- WWNRT: “Enhance and conserve wildlife habitat and natural resource values throughout the state”
- BLM: “To sustain the health, diversity, and productivity for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations”
- USFS: “to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nations forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations”
- Wyoming State Forestry: “to manage state lands for long-term forest health and productivity”

# General Project Objectives

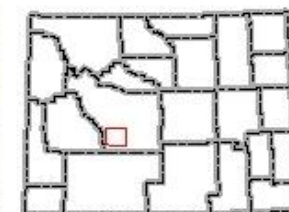
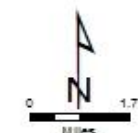
- **Restore Declining Aspen Stands For Landscape Health and Ecological Diversity**
- **Reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire**
- **Support Goals of Fremont County CWPP**
- **Improvement of Mule Deer and General Wildlife Habitat**

# South Pass Aspen

- WK\_AspenUnits
- WK\_BanjoFiddlers
- WK\_LoopRoadPlannedTreatments
- WK\_MiddleFork
- South\_Pass\_Aspen\_USFS
- aspen treatments
- LFO Boundary
- Surface Ownership

- SURFACE**
- Indian Reservation
  - Bureau of Land Management
  - Forest Service
  - Private
  - State
  - Water

USA Topo Maps



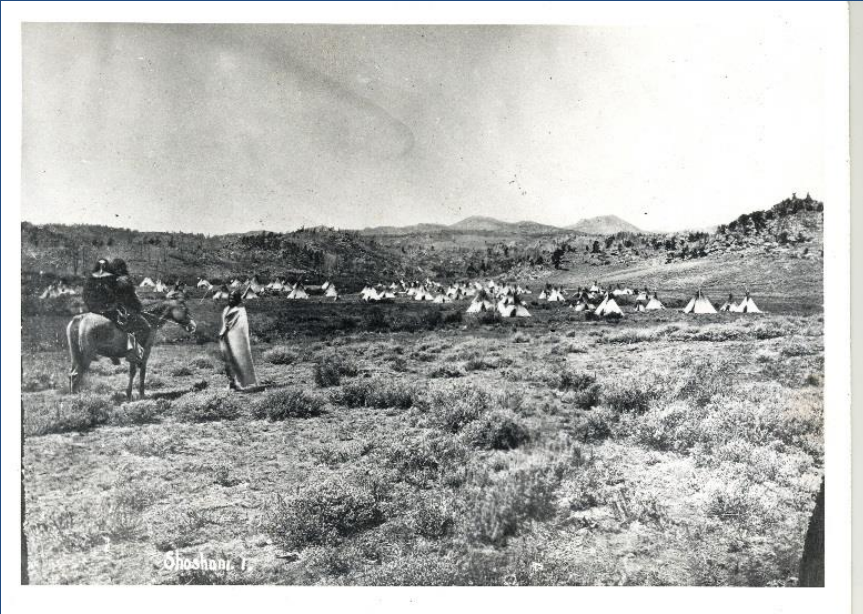
Date: 2/20/2017

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**South Pass-Southern Wind River Mt Landscape**

# Historic Photos of South Pass Area



1870



1967



1990

# Project Accomplishments and Planned Implementation

- *2015: 317 Acres completed on USFS Lands*
- *2016: 344 Acres Treated on BLM and State of Wyoming Lands*
- *2017: 545 Acres USFS*
- *2018: 200 Acres BLM and 50 Acres State of Wyoming. Planning for 285 acres on USFS.*
- *2019: Expansion of project onto Rock Springs BLM jurisdiction. 500 acres USFS.*
- *2020: Planning for 200 acres BLM*





**Pre-Treatment**



**Post-Treatment**

# Lop and Scatter



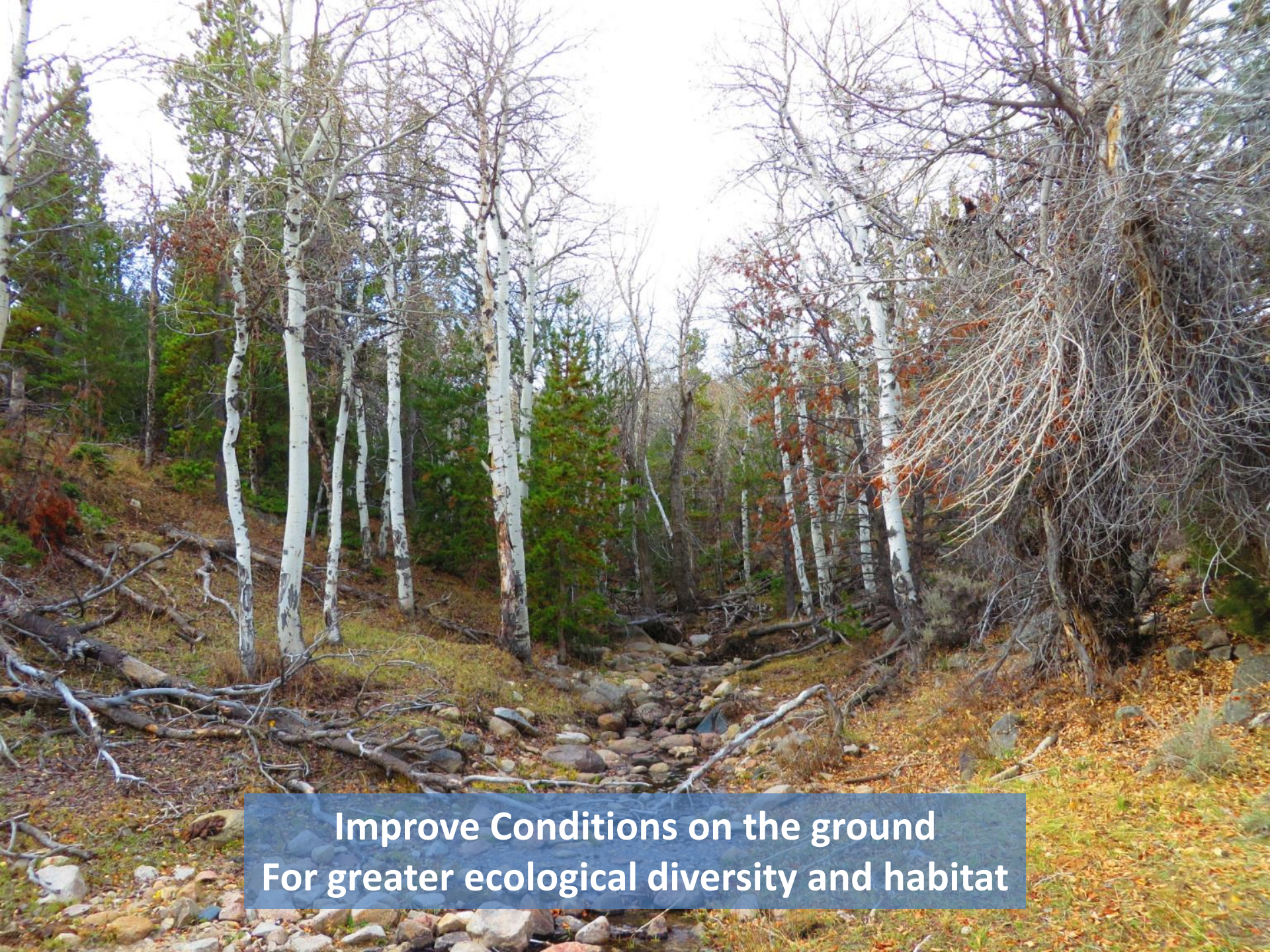
# Cut and Pile and winter burn



# Aspen as a natural fire break







**Improve Conditions on the ground  
For greater ecological diversity and habitat**

# Issues Related to Coordinated Aspen Restoration effort

- Local residents disapproval of cutting of conifers within area. Local representatives interest and heated response after the cutting.
- Outreach challenges
- Fire is not a frequent element of landscape
- How treatments looked afterwards. Piling and lop and scatter. Public reaction
- Satisfying funding partners expectations

# Issues Related to Coordinated Aspen Restoration effort

- Differing prescriptions between BLM, USFS and Wyoming State Lands. Challenges of communicating to contractors these differences.
- NEPA timing between USFS and BLM.
- Managing browsing pressure after treatments without individual fencing efforts
- Expense: \$812 dollars an acre average: \$590 /acre lop and scatter, \$1600/acre cut and pile  
Total cost through 2017 of \$975,000



# Future Planning from Lessons Learned

- Public outreach and education ahead of implementation to minimize negative public perception.
- Clearer specs for treatments that are consistent across project area
- Planning prior to treatment to minimize browsing pressure on young aspen
- Better pre-plan reconnaissance or survey prior to project initiation

- Project expected to continue for next 10 years
- Expansion to west within South Pass Area- Southern Wind River Mountains onto High Desert BLM
- Potential for mixed mountain shrub treatments, including broadcast burning

07/01/2015

Pre-Treatment



Post -Treatment





Atlantic City Area: Fremont County, WY