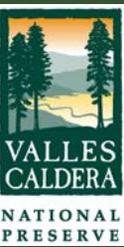


THE PRESERVE

Natural Resources



The existing condition of the natural resources of the Preserve is largely the cumulative effects of past actions including grazing, logging, and road building.

Grazing by domestic livestock has been practiced since the late 1700's. Archival documents indicate that upwards of 100,000 sheep were grazed on the Preserve in the early 1900's; numbers of 25,000 are documented in the 1930's. In the 1950's cattle replaced sheep with reports of over 10,000 head grazing on the Preserve. Numbers were reduced after acquisition by the Dunigan family, who practiced rotational grazing and stressed the need to disperse cattle out of the riparian areas.

Logging and road building began in the early 1900's with the harvesting of large trees from easily accessible areas of the Preserve. As technology advanced, the harvesting of timber increased throughout the Preserve. The most aggressive period of logging took place in the 1960s when the forested domes of the Preserve were clear-cut. 1000's of miles of road were constructed, spiraling up the forested domes to facilitate clear-cutting during that period. These destructive practices were halted when the Dunigans gained control over the timber through a lawsuit in the 1970's.

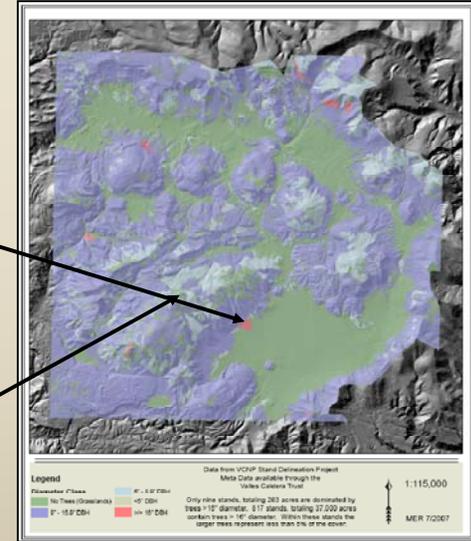
It should be noted that many of the individuals who actually built the roads and cut the timber on the Preserve cared deeply for the land. Where they could, they took action to reduce damage they saw occurring. Their efforts are seen today in roads that are naturally rehabilitating and the beautiful old growth remaining in the historic headquarters district.

Many families today treasure their parent's and grandparent's stories about growing up and working on the Preserve.

Nearly a century of logging removed nearly all of the large old trees from the Preserve. The majestic ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir that grow near the historic headquarters district represent the largest stand of old growth remaining on the Preserve today.



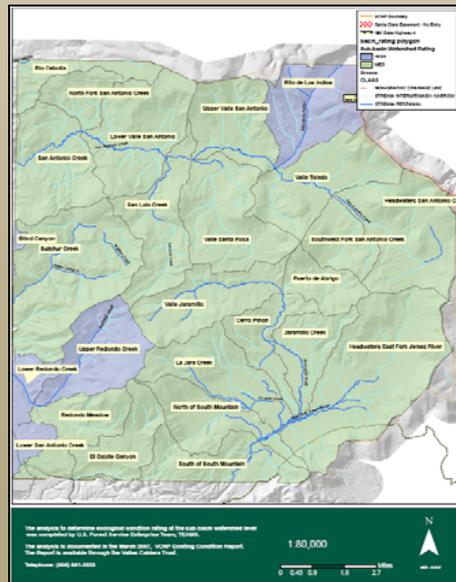
Dominant Forest Size Class Distribution



Jaramillo Creek in the Valle Grande ≈ 1935



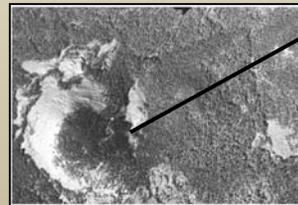
The map below indicates the overall ecological condition of the Preserve by sub-basin drainages. The assessment was based on field sampled data measuring characteristics of vegetation, soils, water quality, and stream bank structure and stability.



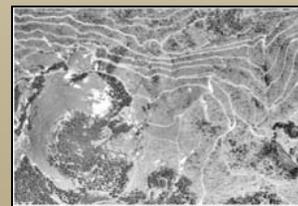
Repeat photo taken in 2001



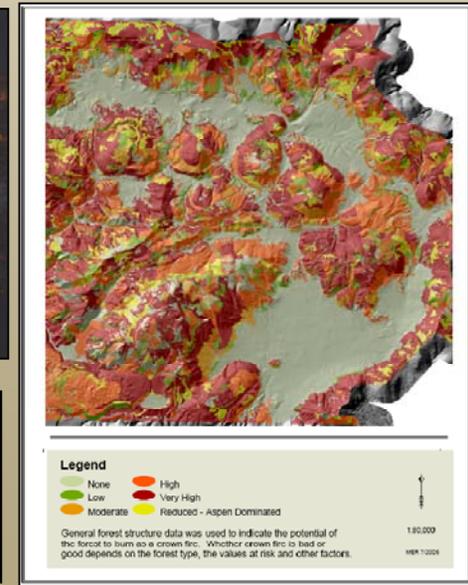
Redondito - 1963



Redondito - 1975



Crown Fire Hazard



Today the forests of the Preserve are dominated by dense stands of young trees. The dense forest is stagnated. Young trees growing close together compete for nutrients, sunlight, and water. Snow captured in the interlocking canopy is sublimated into the atmosphere – never penetrating the soil, moving into the aquifer, or recharging the streams.

These dense forests could also support fast moving crown fire over large areas of the Preserve. →