Tenderfoot Creek Experimental Forest Metadata Report (TEN)

Missoula, Montana

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Research Area Information

Tenderfoot Creek Exp	erimental ForestTEI
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Tenderfoot Creek Experimental Forest

Research Area Information

Harvest URL - Option 1

ftp://ftp.forestry.umt.edu/special/hydrodb/ten_data.txt

Site URL

http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/ecology/demo/tenderfoot/

Site north bounding coordinate (decimal degree)	46.95776
Site west bounding coordinate (decimal degree)	110.94757
Site south bounding coordinate (decimal degree)	46.89142
Site east bounding coordinate (decimal degree)	110.83292
Experimental Design	

The Tenderfoot Research Project was designed to test an array of 2-aged management treatments for regenerating and restoring healthy lodgepole pine forests through emulation of natural disturbance processes, but avoiding catastrophic-scale disturbances. The project was developed to determine the effects of shelterwood with reserve harvest systems including prescribed burnining on regeneration response, growth and survival of regenerated trees, growth response of residual overstory, water production, changes in water chemistry, and suspended sediment production. Two harvest treatments are being tested (1) shelterwood with reserves with even distribution and (2) shelterwood with reserves with group or clumpy distribution of reserve trees. For each silvicultural treatment there are four replications of each with prescribed underburning and four replications with no underburning. Two uncut units with prescribed burning are used to compare results with the harvest and burn treatments. Water production is being measured with water level recorders at 15 minute intervals and water chemistry is manually collected and measured periodically. Suspended sediment production is measured daily with automatic sediment samplers.

Publications

http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/ecology/publications/

USGS Harvest URL

http://gce-lter.marsci.uga.edu/harvest/usgs/ten_lter.txt

Meteorlogical Stations

Onion Park Met Station	ONIOONION
Stringer Creek Met Station	STRINGER

Onion Park Met Station

Meteorological Station

Latitude (decimal degrees)	46.913450
Longitude (decimal degrees)	110.852700
Elevation (meters; a.m.s.l.)	2259
Exposure (degrees)	35
Wind Exposure (degrees azimuth)	45
Begin Date	10/1/1993
End Date	Present

Topography

gentle 5% slope

Surface

grass

Area Description

The ONION Park site is located in a 2.5 ha meadow surrounded by a dense stand of lodgepole pine, Engelmann spruce, and subalpine fir.

History

The ONION Park weather station was established in water year 1994. In water year 2001 the weather station was converted to a SNOTEL site. During the 2001 SNOTEL installation in Onion Park, several small trees were removed from the general area of the site but not from the actual site of the instruments.

Precipitation

Begin Date	10/1/1993
End Date	. Present

Instrumentation Description

SNOTEL Site

Stringer Creek Met Station

Meteorological Station

Latitude (decimal degrees)	46.926950
Longitude (decimal degrees)	110.901300
Elevation (meters; a.m.s.l.)	2008
Exposure (degrees)	35
Wind Exposure (degrees azimuth)	20
Begin Date	10/1/1995
End Date	Present

Topography

valley bottom

Surface

mineral soil

Area Description

The STRINGER Creek site is located within an existing road corridor that was established in the early 1960's and is not used for vehicle traffic.

History

The STRINGER Creek weather station sites was established in water year 1994 and converted to a SNOTEL site in 2001. Date are available from October 1, 1995 to the present day.

Precipitation

Begin Date	. 10/1/1995
End Date	Present

Instrumentation Description

SNOTEL Site

Watershed

Bubbling Creek Watershed	BUBBLING
Lonesome Creek Watershed	LONESOME
Pack Creek Watershed	PACK
Passionate Creek Watershed	PASSIONATE
Spring Park Watershed	SPRPARK
Stringer Creek Watershed	STRINGER
Sun Creek Watershed	SUN
Tenderfoot Creek Watershed	TFOOT

Bubbling Creek Watershed

Watershed Spatial Characteristics

North bounding coordinate (decimal degrees)	46.922495
West bounding coordinate (decimal degrees)	110.907268
South bounding coordinate (decimal degrees)	46.898313
East bounding coordinate (decimal degrees)	110.884814
Area (hectares)	318
Aspect (degrees azmuth)	
Minimum watershed elevation (meters; a.m.s.l)	2048
Maximum watershed elevation (meters; a.m.s.l)	2294
Watershed Ecological Characteristics	
Mean annual precipitation (millimeters)	802
Mean annual precipitation (millimeters)	
Slope (Percent)	
Slope (Percent)	10.93
Slope (Percent)	10.93
Slope (Percent) Slope description zonal statistics calculated from 30m DEM Channel length (meters)	10.93
Slope (Percent) Slope description zonal statistics calculated from 30m DEM Channel length (meters) Channel length description Channel length is for perennial streams. Length estimates deri	10.931609 ived from Lewis and
Slope (Percent) Slope description zonal statistics calculated from 30m DEM Channel length (meters) Channel length description Channel length is for perennial streams. Length estimates der Clark National Forest hydrography dataset.	10.931609 ived from Lewis and

Watershed Descriptions

Pre-treatment vegetation

401 mm SWE

Barren Ground <1 Grassland <1%, Shrubland <1%, Spruce-Fir Forest 36%, Lodge-pole Pine Forest 53%, Low Density / Disturbed Forsest 12%,

Pre-treatment description

See Tenderfoot Watershed description for more details

Soil description

See Tenderfoot Watershed description for more details

Geology description

See Tenderfoot Watershed description for more details

Succession description

See Tenderfoot Watershed description for more details

Lonesome Creek Watershed

Watershed Spatial Characteristics

North bounding coordinate (decimal degrees)46.916608
West bounding coordinate (decimal degrees)110.947584
South bounding coordinate (decimal degrees)46.893484
East bounding coordinate (decimal degrees)110.921236
Area (hectares)
Aspect (degrees azmuth)
Minimum watershed elevation (meters; a.m.s.l)
Maximum watershed elevation (meters; a.m.s.l)2258
Watershed Ecological Characteristics
Mean annual precipitation (millimeters)802
Slope (Percent)
Slope description
zonal statistics calculated from 30m DEM
Channel length (meters)3310
Channel length description
Channel length is for perennial streams. Length estimates derived from Lewis and Clark National Forest hydrography dataset.
Drainage density (km/km2)
Mean snowpack description

Watershed Descriptions

Pre-treatment vegetation

Barren Ground <1%, Grassland <1%, Shrubland <1%, Spruce-Fir Forest 23%, Lodgepole Pine Forest 75%, Low Density / Disturbed Forsest 2%,

Pre-treatment description

See Tenderfoot Watershed description for more details

Soil description

See Tenderfoot Watershed description for more details

Geology description

See Tenderfoot Watershed description for more details

Succession description

See Tenderfoot Watershed description for more details

Pack Creek Watershed

Watershed Spatial Characteristics

North bounding coordinate (decimal degrees)	46.926919
West bounding coordinate (decimal degrees)	110.926621
South bounding coordinate (decimal degrees)	46.896027
East bounding coordinate (decimal degrees)	110.904368
Area (hectares)	333
Aspect (degrees azmuth)	10
Minimum watershed elevation (meters; a.m.s.l)	1967
Maximum watershed elevation (meters; a.m.s.l)	2258
Watershed Ecological Characteristics	
Mean annual precipitation (millimeters)	789
Slope (Percent)	13.42
Slope description	
zonal statistics calculated from 30m DEM	
Channel length (meters)	2354
Channel length description	
Channel length is for perennial streams. Length estimate Clark National Forest hydrography dataset.	es derived from Lewis and
Drainage density (km/km2)	0.71
Mean snowpack description	
395 mm SWE	

Watershed Descriptions

Pre-treatment vegetation

Barren Ground <1%, Grassland 1%, Shrubland <1%, Spruce-Fir Forest <1%, Lodgepole Pine Forest 93%, Low Density / Disturbed Forsest 5%,

Pre-treatment description

See Tenderfoot Watershed description for more details

Soil description

See Tenderfoot Watershed description for more details

Geology description

See Tenderfoot Watershed description for more details

Succession description

See Tenderfoot Watershed description for more details

Passionate Creek Watershed

North bounding coordinate (decimal degrees)46.949863	3
West bounding coordinate (decimal degrees)110.922688	3
South bounding coordinate (decimal degrees)46.929849)
East bounding coordinate (decimal degrees)110.898361	l
Area (hectares)201	l
Aspect (degrees azmuth)230)
Minimum watershed elevation (meters; a.m.s.l)1922	2
Maximum watershed elevation (meters; a.m.s.l)2236	3
Watershed Ecological Characteristics	
Mean annual precipitation (millimeters)802	2
Slope (Percent)17.78	3
Slope description	
zonal statistics calculated from 30m DEM	
Channel length (meters)1776	3
Channel length description	
Channel length is for perennial streams. Length estimates derived from Lewis an Clark National Forest hydrography dataset.	d
Drainage density (km/km2)0.88	3
Mean snowpack description	
401 mm SWE	

Watershed Descriptions

Pre-treatment vegetation

Barren Ground <1%, Grassland <1%, Shrubland <1%, Spruce-Fir Forest <1%, Lodgepole Pine Forest 97%, Low Density / Disturbed Forsest 2%,

Pre-treatment description

See Tenderfoot Watershed description for more details

Soil description

See Tenderfoot Watershed description for more details

Geology description

See Tenderfoot Watershed description for more details

Succession description

See Tenderfoot Watershed description for more details

Spring Park Watershed

North bounding coordinate (decimal degrees)46.946247
West bounding coordinate (decimal degrees)110.882204
South bounding coordinate (decimal degrees)
East bounding coordinate (decimal degrees)110.852781
Area (hectares)418
Aspect (degrees azmuth)210
Minimum watershed elevation (meters; a.m.s.l)2117
Maximum watershed elevation (meters; a.m.s.l)2419
Watershed Ecological Characteristics
Watershed Ecological Characteristics
Watershed Ecological Characteristics Mean annual precipitation (millimeters)
Watershed Ecological Characteristics Mean annual precipitation (millimeters)
Watershed Ecological Characteristics Mean annual precipitation (millimeters)
Watershed Ecological Characteristics Mean annual precipitation (millimeters)

413 mm SWE

Watershed Descriptions

Pre-treatment vegetation

Barren Ground <1%, Grassland 2%, Shrubland <1%, Spruce-Fir Forest 36%, Lodgepole Pine Forest 60%, Low Density / Disturbed Forsest 2%,

Pre-treatment description

See Tenderfoot Watershed description for more details

Soil description

See Tenderfoot Watershed description for more details

Geology description

See Tenderfoot Watershed description for more details

Succession description

See Tenderfoot Watershed description for more details

Stringer Creek Watershed

North bounding coordinate (decimal degrees)	46.957775
West bounding coordinate (decimal degrees)	110.901834
South bounding coordinate (decimal degrees)	46.926391
East bounding coordinate (decimal degrees)	110.869728
Area (hectares)	555
Aspect (degrees azmuth)	200
Minimum watershed elevation (meters; a.m.s.l)	2014
Maximum watershed elevation (meters; a.m.s.l)	2418
Watershed Ecological Characteristics	
Mean annual precipitation (millimeters)	822
Slope (Percent)	16.83
Slope description	
zonal statistics calculated from 30m DEM	

Channel length (meters)5250)
Channel length description	
Channel length is for perennial streams. Length estimates derived from Lewis an Clark National Forest hydrography dataset.	d
Drainage density (km/km2)0.99	5
Mean snowpack description	

411 mm SWE

Watershed Descriptions

Pre-treatment vegetation

Barren Ground 1%, Grassland 2%, Shrubland 1%, Spruce-Fir Forest <1%, Lodge-pole Pine Forest 85%, Low Density / Disturbed Forsest 11%,

Pre-treatment description

See Tenderfoot Watershed description for more details

Soil description

See Tenderfoot Watershed description for more details

Geology description

See Tenderfoot Watershed description for more details

Succession description

See Tenderfoot Watershed description for more details

Sun Creek Watershed

Watershed Spatial Characteristics

March Lawre Paragraphy (1, 2, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1,	10.010550
North bounding coordinate (decimal degrees)	46.919556
West bounding coordinate (decimal degrees)	110.890860
South bounding coordinate (decimal degrees)	46.891402
East bounding coordinate (decimal degrees)	110.868483
Area (hectares)	347
Aspect (degrees azmuth)	10
Minimum watershed elevation (meters; a.m.s.l)	2146
Maximum watershed elevation (meters; a.m.s.l)	2364
Watershed Ecological Characteristics	

Mean annual precipitation (millimeters)845

Slope (Percent)
Slope description
zonal statistics calculated from 30m DEM
Channel length (meters)
Channel length description
Channel length is for perennial streams. Length estimates derived from Lewis and Clark National Forest hydrography dataset.
Drainage density (km/km2)1.03
Mean snowpack description
423 mm SWE

Watershed Descriptions

Pre-treatment vegetation

Barren Ground 4%, Grassland 2%, Shrubland

<1%, Spruce-Fir Forest 14%, Lodgepole Pine

Forest 70%, Low Density / Disturbed Forsest 10%,

Pre-treatment description

See Tenderfoot Watershed Description for more details

Soil description

See Tenderfoot Watershed Description for more details

Geology description

See Tenderfoot Watershed Description for more details

Succession description

See Tenderfoot Watershed Description for more details

Tenderfoot Creek Watershed

North bounding coordinate (decimal degrees)	46.957780
West bounding coordinate (decimal degrees)	110.907280
South bounding coordinate (decimal degrees)	46.891355
East bounding coordinate (decimal degrees)	110.832812
Area (hectares)	2310
Aspect (degrees azmuth)	270
Minimum watershed elevation (meters; a.m.s.l)	1991

Maximum watershed elevation (meters; a.m.s.l)	2419
Watershed Ecological Characteristics	
Mean annual precipitation (millimeters)	824
Slope (Percent)	14.19
Slope description	
zonal statistics calculated from 30m DEM	
Channel length (meters)	17,886
Channel length description	
Channel length is for perennial streams. Length estimate Clark National Forest hydrography dataset.	es derived from Lewis and
Drainage density (km/km2)	0.77
Mean snowpack description	
412 mm SWE	

Watershed Descriptions

Pre-treatment vegetation

The Tenderfoot Creek Experimental Forest encompasses 3693 hectares (9,125 acres) at the headwaters of Tenderfoot Creek in the Little Belt Mountains on the Lewis and Clark National Forest in Meagher Country, Montana. It is approximately 64 kilometers (40 miles) north of White Sulphur Springs, Montana, or 114 kilometers (71 miles) southeast of Great Falls, Montana. This upper portion of the tenderfoot Creek watershed is heavily forested. Lodgepole pine (Pinus contorta) and mixed lodgepole pine with Engelmann spruce (Picea engelmannii) and subalpine fir (Abies lasiocarpa) stands are the dominant forest types and occupy about 95% (3,514 ha) of the experimental forest. Wet, irregularly shaped meadows are interspersed throughout the forest but only cover approximately 3.5% (125 ha), of the area. High, exposed hillsides with scree slopes and some dry grass communities make up the remaining 1.5% (54 ha) of the research area.

Pre-treatment description

Lodgepole pine stands on the experimental forest form a mosaic, typical of fire-prone upland forests at moderate to high altitudes in the Northern Rocky Mountains. The forest stands are classified as 1-aged (47% of the forested area) and 2-aged (53% of the forested area) which were created by past stand replacement and mixed severity fires. Engelmann spruce (Picea engelmannii) grows in the area"s sparse but species-rich wetlands, while whitebark pine (Pinus albicaulis) and subalpine fir (Abies lasiocarpa) grace the higher ridge tops. Average stocking density is 2150 stems/ha (870 stems/ac) Average basal area is 46 m2/ha (200 ft2/ac) LAI of dominant species: lodgepole pine = 2.8, spruce-fir = 3.0

Soil description

The most extensive soil groups are the loamy skeletal, mixed Typic Cryochrepts

and clayey, mixed Aquic Cryoboralfs. Rock talus slopes are prominent on the perimeter of the landscape, but rock outcrops are confined chiefly to areas adjacent to main stream channels. Soils in the grassland parks range from well to poorly drained. Seeps and springs are common over the entire Experimental Forest. No depth or porosity information is available at this time.

Geology description

The geology of the Tenderfoot Creek Experimental Forest is simple in terms of the rock and sediment units present and the geologic structure of the area. By contrast, the geologic history records a complex series of events that has influenced both the succession of rock units and the erosion that has produced the present physiography of the area. The rock units are exposed in the area and the surficial sediments that mantle the forest provide evidence of the history of events that led to the present configuration. The geology is characterized by igneous intrusive sills of quartz porphyry, Wolsey shales, Flathead quartzite, and granite gneiss. The northern part of the forest occupies the highest elevations and steepest upland topography and is underlain by igneous intrusive granitic rocks. The arched bedrock in the area was formed from metasediments of Cambrian Age consisting mainly of argillites and quartzites. Glaciation has influenced the landform producing broad basins in which the streams are beginning to regain a water-carved dendritic pattern.

Treatment History

Forest treatments in Sun Creek and Spring Park Creek sub-watersheds were initiated in fall of 1999 and completed in summer or 2000. Burning within treatments occurred in 2002 and 2003.

Succession description

Four forest habitat types are present on the Tenderfoot Creek Experimental Forest: subalpine fir/grouse whortleberry; subalpine fir/blue huckleberry; subalpine fir/bluejoint; subalpine fir-whitebark pine/grouse whortleberry. Besides these four climax types, a portion of the Forest keys to the lodgepole pine/huckleberry community type. In this case, however, the community type is attributable to the subalpine fir/grouse whortleberry habitat type because of the extensive and continuous presence of fir regeneration and old growth throughout the Forest. Within each habitat type there are stands of different age classes occurring intermittently throughout the Forest. There are also four other general land descriptions classified for the forest: talus slopes, rock outcrops, grassland parks and wet meadows.

Comparison description

Recently installed treatment units are located in two sub-watersheds 1) Sun Creek which flows north into Tenderfoot Creek and 2) Spring Park Creek which flows south into Tenderfoot Creek. Sub-watersheds immediately west and adjacent to the treatment sub-watersheds (Bubbling Creek adjacent to Sun Creek and Upper Stringer adjacent to Spring Park Creek) are hydrologically matched with adjoining treatment sub-watersheds and are used as control sub-watersheds. The Onion Park RNA, which comprises the headwaters of Tenderfoot Creek and is adjacent and immediately upstream (east) from both treatment sub-watersheds, is also used as a control area.

Gauging Stations

Bubbling Creek Flume	BUBBLING
Lonesome Creek Flume	LONESOME
Lower Stringer Creek Flume	LSTRINGER
Lower Sun Creek Flume	LSUN
Lower Tenderfoot Creek Flume	LTF00T
Pack Creek Flume	PACK
Passionate Creek Flume	PASSIONATE
Spring Park Creek Flume	SPRPARK
Upper Stringer Creek Flume	USTRINGER
Upper Sun Creek Flume	USUN
Upper Tenderfoot Creek Flume	UTFOOT

Bubbling Creek Flume

Hydrologic Gauging Station

Associated Watershed

BUBBLING

Associated meteorological station

ONION

Weir Description

H Flume

Stream Discharge

Begin Date	10/1/1993
End Date	Present
Data Logger Sampling Interval	15 minutes
Summary Interval	daily
Instrumentation Description	

H Flume

Lonesome Creek Flume

Hydrologic Gauging Station

Latitude (decimal degrees)	46.91365
Longitude (decimal degrees)	
Elevation (meters; a.m.s.l.)	2082
Begin Date	9/8/1994
End Date	Present

LONESOME

Associated meteorological station

STRINGER

Weir Description

H Flume

Stream Discharge

Begin Date	9/8/1994
End Date	Present
Data Logger Sampling Interval	15 minutes
Summary Interval	daily
Instrumentation Description	

H Flume

Lower Stringer Creek Flume

Hydrologic Gauging Station

Latitude (decimal degrees)	46.92694
Longitude (decimal degrees)	110.90100
Elevation (meters; a.m.s.l.)	2008
Begin Date	9/7/1994
End Date	Present
Watershed Area (hectares)	555
Appeniated Wetershed	

Associated Watershed

STRINGER

Associated meteorological station

STRINGER

Weir Description

H Flume

Stream Discharge

Present
15 minutes
daily

H Flume

Lower Sun Creek Flume

Hydrologic Gauging Station

Latitude (decimal degrees)	46.91980
Longitude (decimal degrees)	
Elevation (meters; a.m.s.l.)	2138
Begin Date	10/1/1992
End Date	Present
Watershed Area (hectares)	347
Associate I Wateral a I	

Associated Watershed

SUN

Associated meteorological station

ONION

Weir Description

Parshall

Stream Discharge

Begin Date	10/1/1992
End Date	Present
Data Logger Sampling Interval	15 minutes
Summary Interval	daily
Instrumentation Description	

Parshall

Lower Tenderfoot Creek Flume

Hydrologic Gauging Station

Latitude (decimal degrees)	46.92693
Longitude (decimal degrees)	110.90190
Elevation (meters; a.m.s.l.)	1998
Begin Date	10/1/1992
End Date	Present
Watershed Area (hectares)	2310
Associated Watershed	

Associated Watershed

TFOOT

Associated meteorological station

ONION

Weir Description

Parshall

Stream Discharge

Begin Date	10/1/1992
End Date	Present
Data Logger Sampling Interval	15 minutes
Summary Interval	daily
Instrumentation Description	

Parshall

Pack Creek Flume

Hydrologic Gauging Station

Latitude (decimal degrees)	46.92719
Longitude (decimal degrees)	110.91010
Elevation (meters; a.m.s.l.)	1960
Begin Date	8/15/1996
End Date	Present
Watershed Area (hectares)	333

Associated Watershed

PACK

Associated meteorological station

STRINGER

Weir Description

Parshall

Stream Discharge

Begin Date	8/15/1996
End Date	Present
Data Logger Sampling Interval	15 minutes
Summary Interval	daily
Instrumentation Description	

Parshall

Passionate Creek Flume

Hydrologic Gauging Station

Latitude (decimal degrees)	46.93003
Longitude (decimal degrees)	110.92200
Elevation (meters; a.m.s.l.)	1925
Begin Date	8/21/1996
End Date	Present
Watershed Area (hectares)	201

Associated Watershed

PASSIONATE

Associated meteorological station

STRINGER

Weir Description

Cipolletti

Stream Discharge

Begin Date	8/21/1996
End Date	Present
Data Logger Sampling Interval	15 minutes
Summary Interval	daily
Instrumentation Description	

Instrumentation Description

Cipolletti

Spring Park Creek Flume

Hydrologic Gauging Station

Associated Watershed

SPRPARK

Associated meteorological station

ONION

Weir Description

Parshall

Stream Discharge

Begin Date	10/1/1993
End Date	Present
Data Logger Sampling Interval	15 minutes
Summary Interval	daily
Instrumentation Description	

Parshall

Upper Stringer Creek Flume

Hydrologic Gauging Station

Latitude (decimal degrees)	46.93484
Longitude (decimal degrees)	110.89270
Elevation (meters; a.m.s.l.)	2100
Begin Date	8/16/1996
End Date	

STRINGER

Associated meteorological station

ONION

Weir Description

H Flume

Stream Discharge

Begin Date	8/16/1996
End Date	Present
Data Logger Sampling Interval	15 minutes
Summary Interval	daily
Instrumentation Description	

H Flume

Upper Sun Creek Flume

Hydrologic Gauging Station

Latitude (decimal degrees)	46.90951
Longitude (decimal degrees)	110.87890
Elevation (meters; a.m.s.l.)	
Begin Date	6/10/1999
End Date	
Watershed Area (hectares)	227
A a a a ciata d Matanaka d	

Associated Watershed

SUN

Associated meteorological station

ONION

Weir Description

Open Channel

Stream Discharge

End Date	Present
Data Logger Sampling Interval	15 minutes
Summary Interval	daily
Instrumentation Description	

Open Channel

Upper Tenderfoot Creek Flume

Hydrologic Gauging Station

Latitude (decimal degrees)	46.92016
Longitude (decimal degrees)	110.87340
Elevation (meters; a.m.s.l.)	2159
Begin Date	10/1/1992
End Date	
Watershed Area (hectares)	444
Associated Watershed	

Associated Watershed

TFOOT

Associated meteorological station

ONION

Weir Description

Parshall

Stream Discharge

Begin Date	10/1/1992
End Date	Present
Data Logger Sampling Interval	15 minutes
Summary Interval	daily
Instrumentation Description	

Parshall