

Table S2. General descriptions of fires and forest structure in Colorado and the San Juan Mountains

[53] (p. 196)	Large fires from 1876-1882 in Colorado	“...fully one-third of all the timber accessible among the mountains in [Colorado] has been burned over and killed by fire within the last six years”
[15] (p. 21)	Large, severe fires in the San Juan Forest Reserve	“Of the total forest area within the reserve boundaries 12-1/4 percent has been burned over, and 5 percent within ten years. All the Rio Grande side of the range from Hot Springs east, with the exception of bodies of spruce on the heads of creeks, has been burnt, much of it repeatedly. The result is a stand of aspen of varying ages, containing scattering small bodies of conifers, the ground throughout being covered with down timber and thick underbrush. Recent burns, especially above the aspen line, present a scene of complete desolation. Nothing is left but bare burnt poles. Even the top soil is burnt off in many cases, leaving only dust and rock. Such burns are very slow in restocking. After eight or ten years the poles will have fallen, piling up four feet high and making travel next to impossible. Here and there will be bushy, scrubby spruce seedlings, and everywhere on the ground a dense mat of grass which greatly retards reproduction.”
[54] (p. 121)	San Juan ponderosa pine timber was uneven and less abundant than in the Zuni Mountains in New Mexico	“In the Southwest this species [ponderosa pine] is found scattered over the slopes of the Rocky Mountains at altitudes between 6,000 and 9,000 feet. There are three regions, however, where it extends over large areas in practically pure stands. The first of these is in extreme southwestern Colorado and northwestern New Mexico. Here a belt of western yellow pine forest, twenty-five miles wide, runs northwest and southeast for one hundred miles. There are six important mills operating in this territory, supported mainly by Denver trade and capital...The second region is in west central New Mexico, in the Zuni Mountains. This timber area is smaller than the former—only fifty miles in length by eighteen miles wide. The stand of pine is more uniform than that of the Colorado forest, however, and over a large part of the area it is of better development. The Colorado timber is estimated to yield from 3,000 to 4,000 board feet per acre; the Zuni timber will average from 4,000 to 6,000 board feet per acre. Stands of from 10,000-25,000 feet per acre occur quite frequently in the Zuni Mountains, but are rare in Colorado.”

[50] (p. 122)	San Juan National Forest	“On the whole, the area now comprising the San Juan National Forest has suffered less from fires than is the case in many other sections of the west. Even so, there have been some disastrous fires in this territory and in some cases, years after the fire, the areas are entirely barren of timber”
[50] (p. 122)	San Juan National Forest	“Throughout the early days, before the white man reached the Western slopes numerous fires burned unchecked over large areas and their origin was contributed to Indians for purposes of securing game or improving grass lands. This theory is reported to be false by people who have lived with and know the Indians. They have never heard of Indians hunting in that manner. Most of those fires were probably caused by lightning. Fall is the driest time of the year and because that was the time the Indians were hunting they were blamed. The fires burned over large areas owing to the fact that forage at that time was heavier and nobody bothered to put them out. Most of the early fires were allowed to burn until rain put them out. It is also believed that the largest of the fires came after the white man arrived. The old settlers contribute these fires to Indians, but more likely those settlers had the same habits and were as careless as the same type of people today.”