Challenges and Opportunities for Revitalizing the Forest Industry in New Mexico for Forest/Watershed Restoration

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New Mexico Forest Industry Association

Behind every healthy forest is a healthy forest industry

A trade association that serves as a voice for New Mexico’s industry including thinning contractors, loggers, mills, consultants, and wood products manufacturers.
The Elephant in Our Watersheds…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequent Fire Forested Watersheds</th>
<th>Total Acres</th>
<th>Treating 40% (Finney et al.)</th>
<th>20-yr Goal = 2% per year</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6.9 Million</td>
<td>2.7 Million</td>
<td>135,000</td>
<td>$95 Million</td>
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<tr>
<td>All Watersheds – Top to Bottom</td>
<td>25 Million</td>
<td>10 Million</td>
<td>500,000</td>
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Currently treating 20,000-30,000 acres/year in New Mexico

Scale up statewide to 50,000 – 135,000 ac/yr
70% of wood by-product of forest treatments is low quality

Conservative volume estimate across forest types: 20 bone dry tons/acre
Job estimate: Approx. 600 new forest, trucking and wood processing positions
Possible Uses of Low-Quality Wood from Forest Treatments

- Thermal Heating/Cooling
- Electricity
- Biofuels
- Mulch and Compost
- Shavings, posts and poles
- Lumber and SW Construction
NEW MEXICO FORESTS

Net Annual Growth compared to Removals
NM Forest Industry

- Operating below capacity - 2007
  - Capacity – 67,425 MBF
  - Operating @ 39,823 MBF
  - 59% of Production Capacity
NM Forest Industry

- Continuing to shrink
  - 1997: 170,000 MBF
  - 2002: 88,162 MBF
  - 2007: 67,425 MBF
We are already getting some done...

- **2014**
  - Estimate 33,000 acres restored in frequent-fire forests
  - $30+ Million spent
  - Much more in the entire watershed

- **2015**
  - MORE is getting done (just not sure how much, yet)
For every 1,000 acres of forests that are restored, we can generate:

- 4-10 jobs in mechanical or hand thinning
- 8 jobs in product manufacturing and sales
- 7 jobs in planning and transportation
Community Forests and Traditional Uses
Institutional & Policy Barriers

- Landscape commitment to match the desired level of private investment
- Integration of silos in government & society
- Ensure the fundamentals of bureaucracy don’t become the stumbling block
Consistent & Reliable Acres/Wood Supply
Which is our future?