

Reforestation Centers and Forest Management: HB175, SM2 and SJM1

Presentation to the Water and Natural
Resources Committee
July 2, 2025

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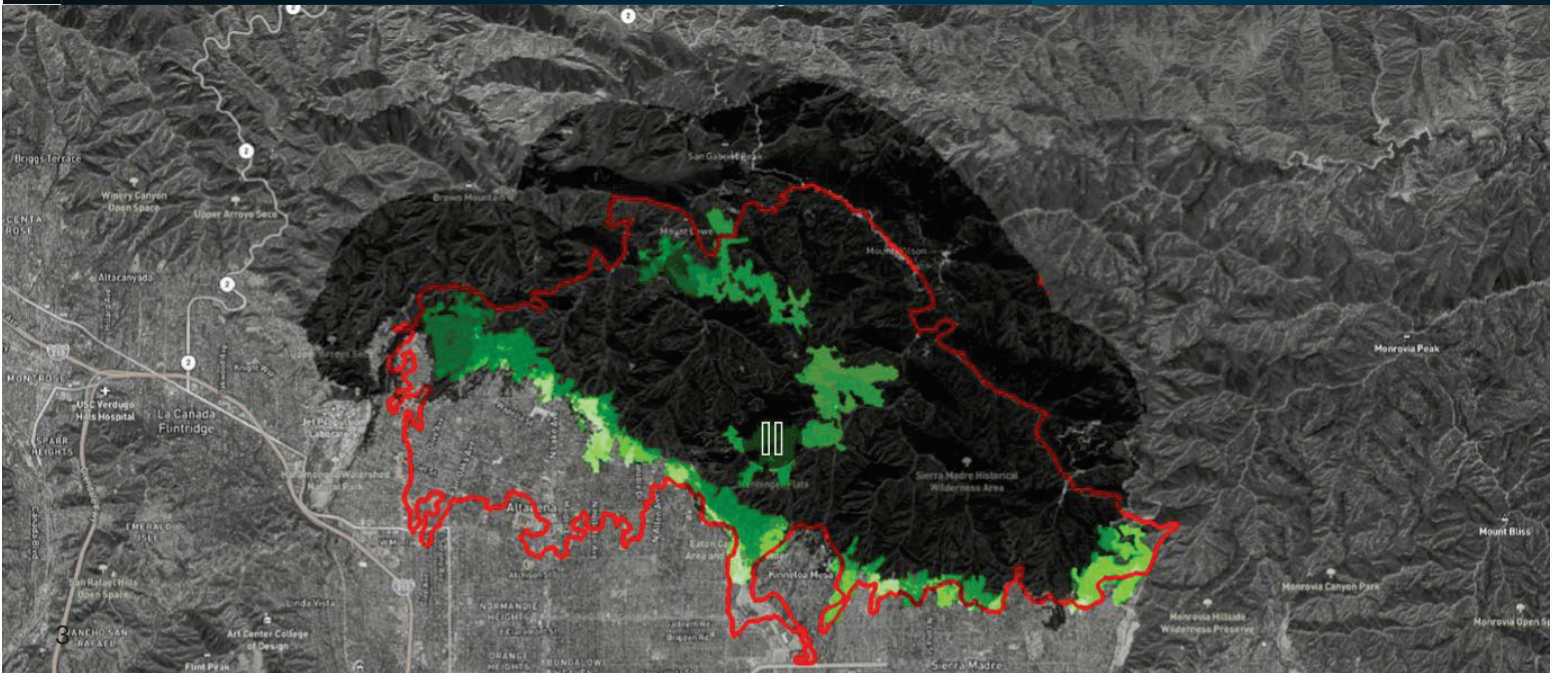
HB 175

HB 175 amended the Forest and Watershed Restoration Act (FAWRA), 68-4-1 et seq, to include projects that create or maintain a “buffer” in or around a wildland-urban interface.

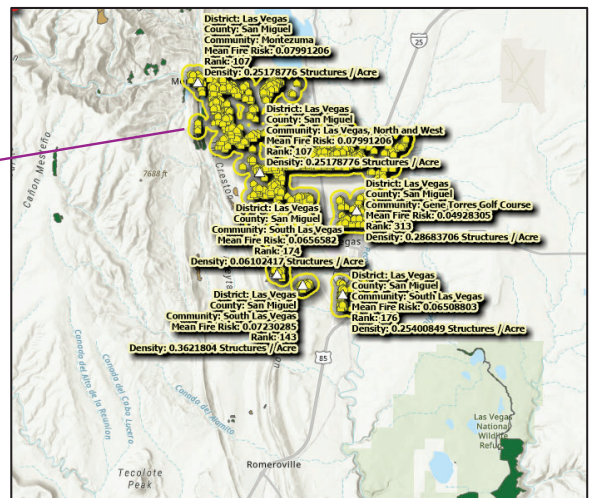
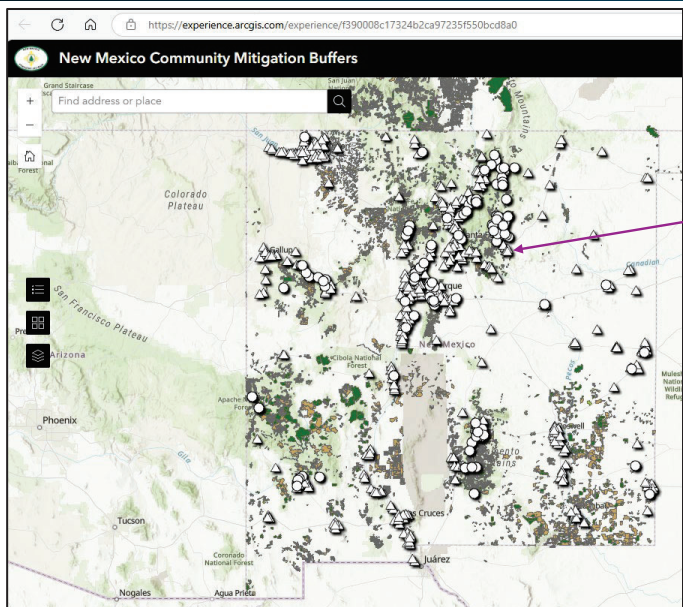
A buffer is defined in the FAWRA as a “an area treated to reduce wildfire fuel in order to act as a barrier between properties to limit and halt the spread of wildfire and provide a safe zone for firefighters to engage with wildfires.”

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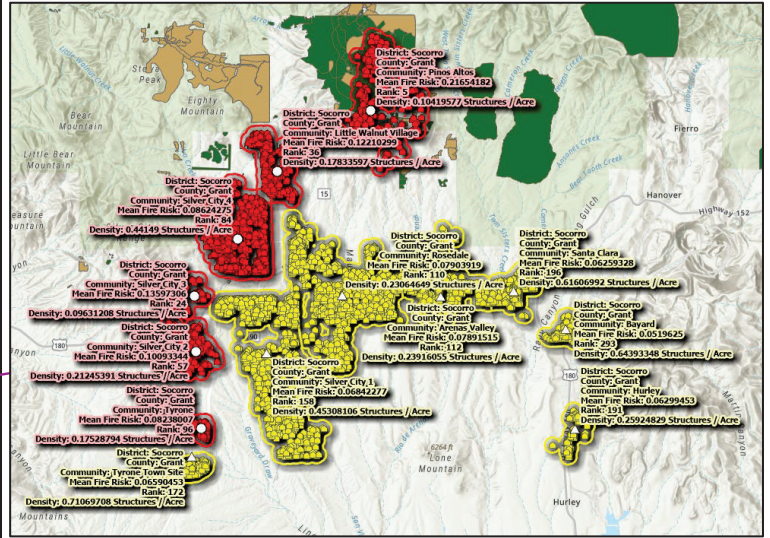
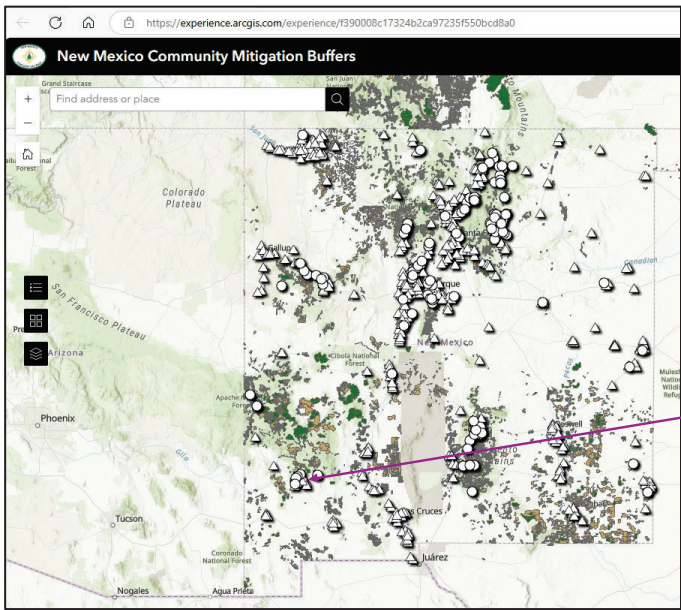
How Buffers Work



Fire Planning Task Force – Mitigation Mapping



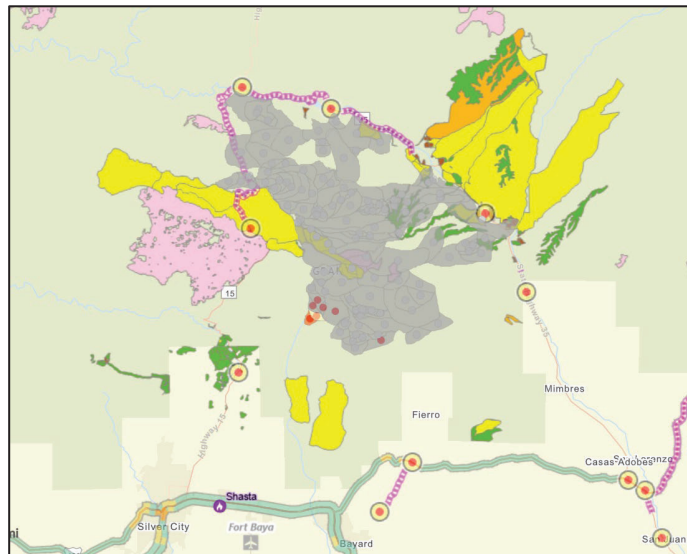
Fire Planning Task Force – Mitigation Mapping



5 <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/f390008c17324b2ca97235f550bcd8a0>

Treatment effects on Trout Fire

- Extensive thinning, prescribed burns and managed low-severity wildfires have taken place on the Gila NF, BLM and state and private lands over the last two decades.
- These treatments constrained the Trout Fire movement and prevented the fire from spread to homes in forested areas.



Senate Memorial 2 - Wildfire Study Group

- The memorial asks the Legislative Council to direct the creation of the Wildfire Study Group in coordination with the Forestry Division of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department.
- The intent of Wildfire Study Group is to study and develop a comprehensive approach to address and mitigate wildfires in our state.
- 14-member study group requested is created.
- Study group will meet July 8, and again in early August and early October to culminate in a final report of findings and policy recommendations to be presented before the appropriate interim committees by November 1, 2025.

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Senate Joint Memorial 1 Forest Restoration & Economic Development

SJM1 directs the EMNRD and EDD to jointly study and make recommendations to expedite forest restoration through economic development. The study is underway and includes:

A. what business opportunities are missing in New Mexico that are needed to develop a fully functioning, sustainable wood products economy, including to retain workforce and succession planning

B. what incentives, legal actions, financial mechanisms and partnerships are needed to reduce logistical costs of moving wood byproducts from remote forests to regional processing facilities and increase the economic viability of New Mexico's wood utilization sector

C. what programs, policies, laws and practices exist in other states that have successful wood utilization programs that can be adapted to New Mexico's unique economic and environmental context

D. what new or existing state programs and incentives can be leveraged to foster industry expansion, attract capital investment, create jobs and ensure local and state contributions yield a strong return on investment through performance-based evaluations

E. what incentives, legal actions and regulations are needed to ensure healthy forests that will reduce wildfire risk

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New Mexico Reforestation Center



Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

