

Senate Joint Memorial 1



Presentation to the Economic
and Rural Development and
Policy Interim Committee

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Senate Joint Memorial 1 is a legislative memorial requesting a comprehensive review of how New Mexico can better utilize its forest resources to support both **wildfire mitigation** and **economic development**. The scale of overgrown forests and increasing wildfire threats presents a significant challenge—but also a potential opportunity.

By exploring policy pathways that link ecological health with rural economic revitalization, SJM 1 opens a conversation about how New Mexico might scale up forest restoration in a way that benefits communities, ecosystems, and long-term resilience. This effort seeks to identify actionable strategies that are **adaptable, collaborative, and grounded in existing state capacity**.



Rapid Impact Ideas from SJM1 Draft Report



- **Flexible Forestry Labor Partnerships** – Citizen and student-based labor models to expand restoration capacity.
- **Forestry Logistics Tax Credit Option** – Private sector participation in biomass transport through potential incentive programs.
- **Cost-Share Collateralization Pathway** – Financial mechanisms that could allow landowners to access loans using expected reimbursement as collateral.
- **Cooperative Woodyards Model** – Shared-use woodyards to improve market access in underserved areas.
- **Forest Climate Loan Guarantees** – Framework for guaranteeing loans against thinning and restoration contracts.
- **Forestry Innovation Grant Opportunity** – Small business grants to support development of forest restoration tools and technologies.
- **Wildfire Donation Incentive** – Tax credits for contributions to nonprofits conducting fire mitigation or scholarships.
- **Homeowner Incentive Pathways** – Insurance or tax incentives for proactive private landowner mitigation work.

Potential Impact

Wildfire Risk Reduction

- Expand total treated acreage beyond current levels (14,750 acres/year by the state and 125,000 acres/year all ownerships)
- Empower private landowners to manage risk on more acres through financing and homeowner incentives

Workforce & Jobs

- Support job creation through service contracting, milling, defensible space consulting, and innovation

Capital Access & Local Investment

- Keep reinvestment and profits in-state through community banks and local enterprises

Rural Economic Development & Innovation

- Support growth of value-added forest product businesses and co-op woodyards
- Foster startup activity through forestry-focused grants and applied tech development