Senate Joint Memorial 1





Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Presentation to the Economic and Rural Development and Policy Interim Committee

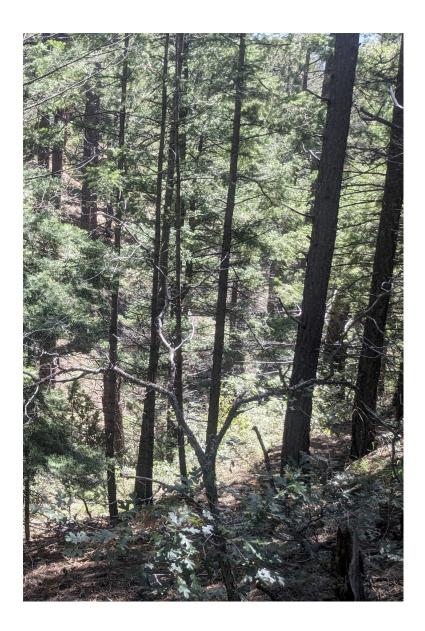


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Senate Joint Memorial 1 is a legislative memorial requesting a comprehensive review of how New Mexico can better utilize its forest resources to support both wildfire mitigation and economic development. The scale of overgrown forests and increasing 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 studentbased 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

Innovation

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