

POST-FIRE FLOOD ISSUES

Jeremy Klass, Ph.D. | July 15, 2025



Post-Fire Needs and Initiative Objectives



Statement of Intent:

To build a sustainable recovery framework by working across all lands, ecosystems, and jurisdictions in coordination with federal, state, tribal, local, non-profit and academic organizations to support post-fire recovery efforts.



Challenges

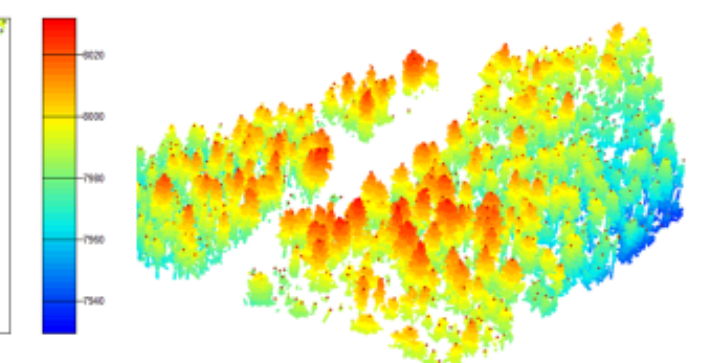
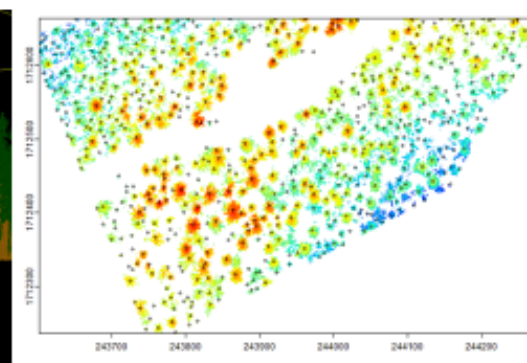
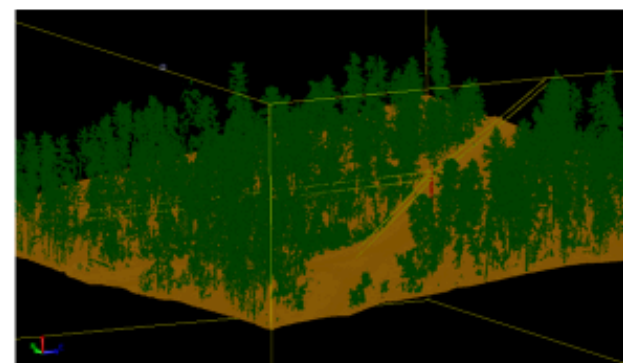
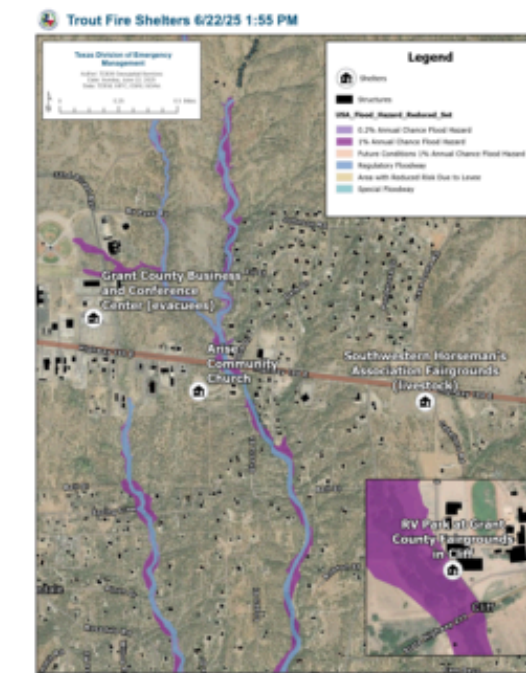
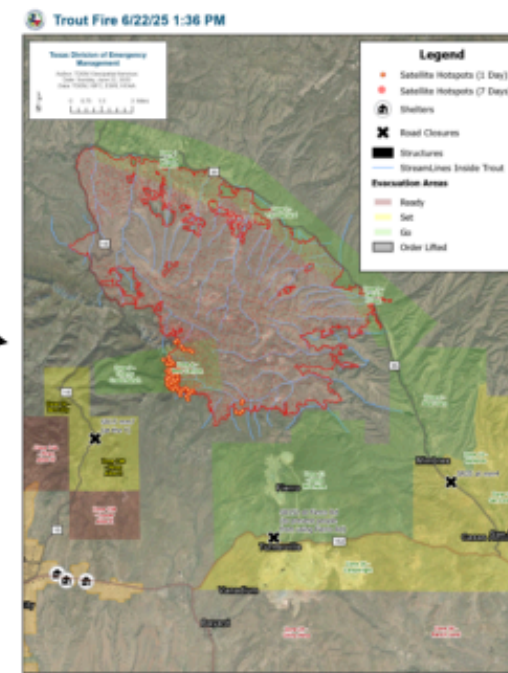
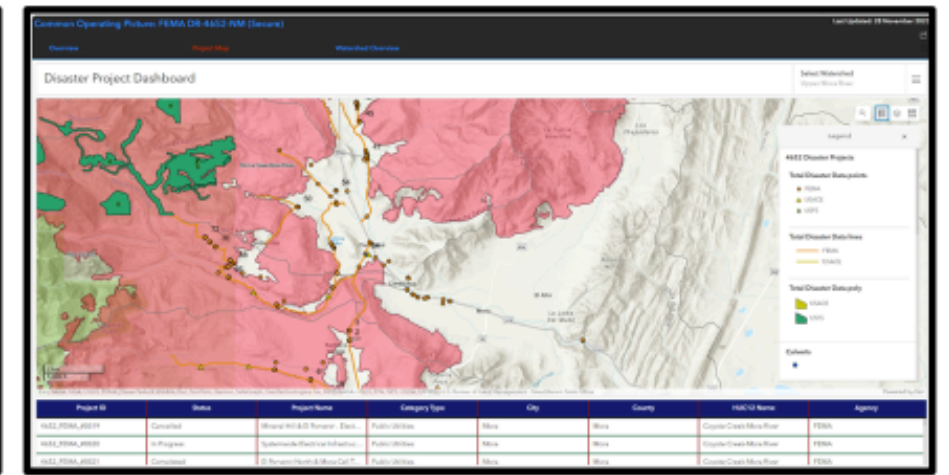
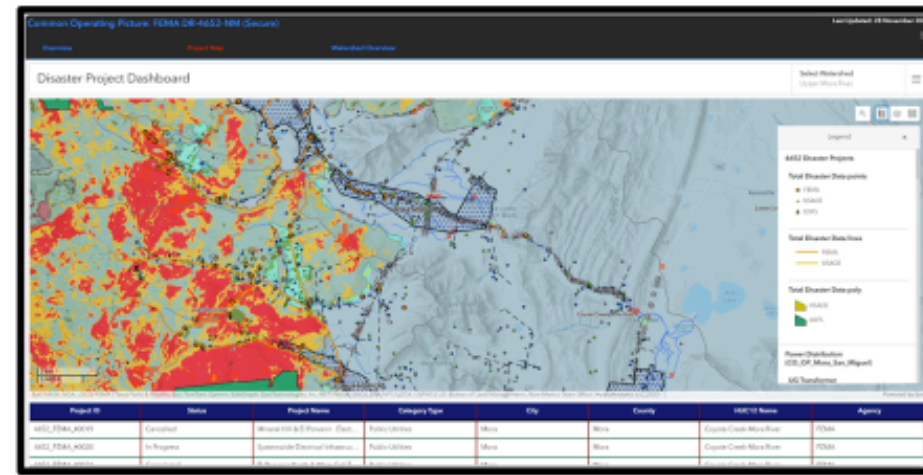


- Recurrence periods are shrinking, cascading impacts are becoming the norm - **Reality is that large-scale wildfire events will continue to increase in frequency, intensity and scale**
- Federal programs are not structured to address cascading impacts inherent to post-fire landscape prior to major shifts at federal agencies - **Fire and Water don't adhere to jurisdictional boundaries**
- Program limitations and lag-time for Federal Declaration Requests - **Limits funding and what we can and cannot do**
- Lack of capacity and funding
- Post-Fire Network development is stalled



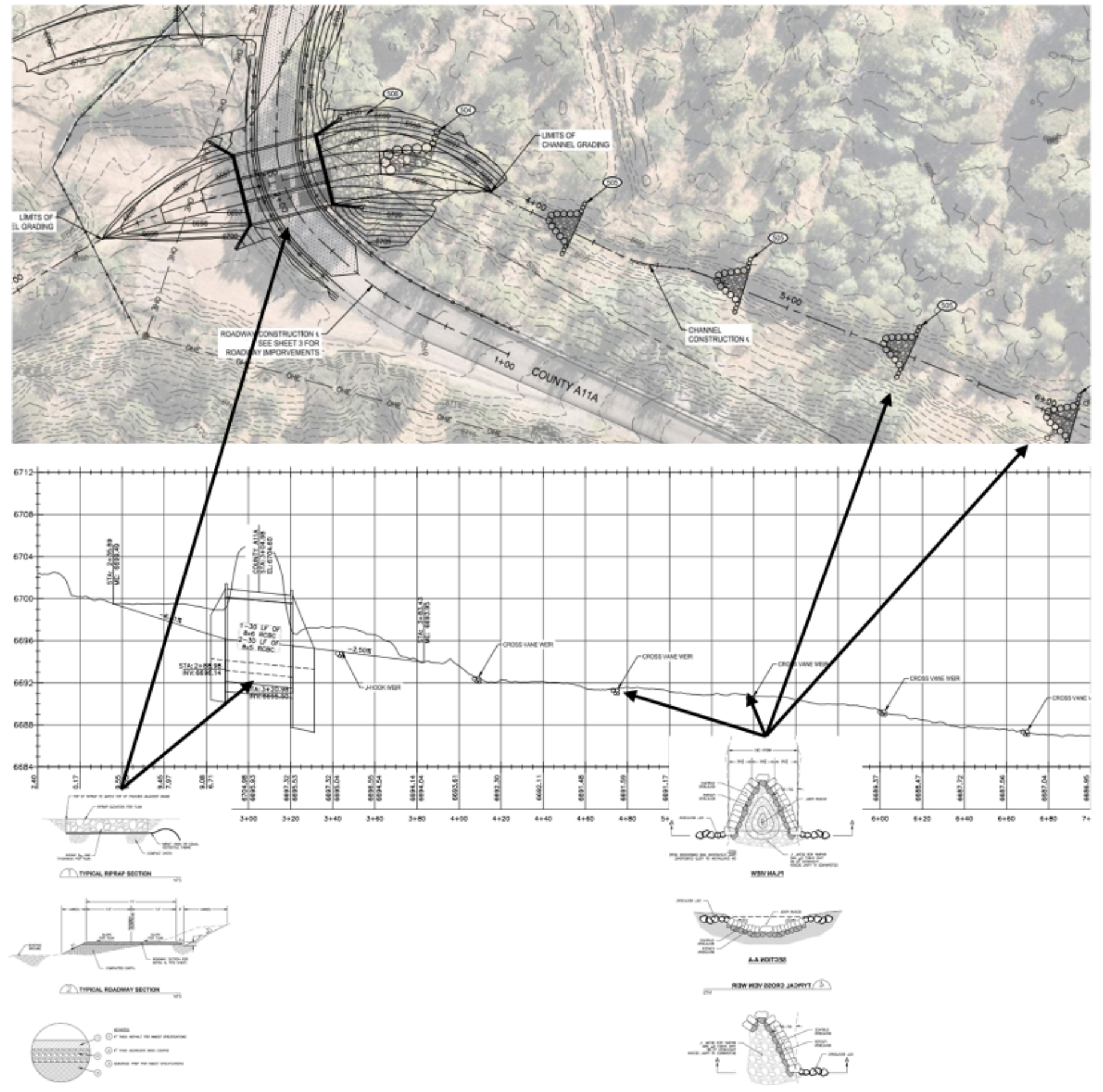
How New Mexico is addressing post-fire disasters

- Common Operating Picture (COP) to coordinate disaster response, recovery, and mitigation
- Integrating local emergency operations with incident management teams
- Using HMGP planning funding to create watershed restoration plans
- Creating innovative technological advancements to address immediate needs



Pilot Project: Sebastian Canyon CO Rd A11A

- From the WRP (overall assessment) we have a three-phased approach:
 - Phase I – Final Flood Assessment (complete)
 - Phase II – Pilot Area Design (current)
 - Phase III – Priority Area (29 priority areas identified) Concept Development (not started)
- Hermits Peak Sebastian Restoration Pilot Project
 - Design emphasizes Natural Process Restoration implementing natural channel design
 - Plans to be utilized by NRCS and project construction to be conducted and financed through EWP program



What is needed?



- An immediate reorganization of how wildfires are managed, funded, and executed - **We have to coordinate better, across agencies, across authorities, across jurisdictions**
- The establishment of a holistic post-fire program to cooperatively assist with recovery after wildfires burn in these areas by leveraging their subject matter experts - **The Post-Fire Program Proposal is intended to establish, at the state level, Burned Area Assessment, Stabilization and Recovery mechanisms to rapidly deploy resources for wildfire events and to transition into recovery as soon as possible**
- The achievement of holistic and sustainable mitigation and recovery outcomes must be supported by all relevant partners and stakeholders; the Post-Fire Program proposal is intended to identify these gaps and develop sustainable solutions - **Sustained support from a state network of practitioners**
- Create regional working groups with local leadership and state support – **Agency partnerships, pooling resources, adequately funded**



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Jeremy Klass, Ph.D. | July 2, 2025

