



New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute

New Mexico Highlands University

The New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute (NMFWR) provides practical knowledge and technical assistance in forest and woodland restoration to reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire and restore healthy and sustainable forest ecosystems. The NMFWR has been engaged in nearly 100 projects across New Mexico and the southwest US.

The NMFWR is one of three institutes chartered under the Federal Southwest Forest Health and Wildfire Prevention Act of 2004. Our partner institutes are located in Arizona (Ecological Restoration Institute) and Colorado (Colorado Forest Restoration Institute).

The New Mexico
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How is the New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute making a difference? Here are a few examples:

- **Developing restoration-based businesses and jobs:** Partnering with the Alamo Navajo Community, the NMFWR has developed a model for business and job creation related to forest restoration by providing training in restoration monitoring, forest worker safety, harvesting processes, firewood processing, and lumber manufacturing.

“With the commitment and help from the Institute in training and collaboration, we now have a crew of 16 forest workers doing hand thinning projects on state, private, and federal lands. Because of the training we have received ... our Worker’s Compensation rate has dropped from 27 percent to 13.5 percent.”

- **Reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire:** The NMFWR provides technical assistance with stand- and landscape-level fuel treatments, outreach to land managers and tribal entities regarding restoration prescriptions, and monitoring to inform adaptive management, and is a key player in the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP) processes.

“Their level of monitoring is just right...They do a great job steering treatments in the right direction. Staff of the Institute are some of the best in the field”

- **Engaging in collaboration and facilitating partnerships:** NMFWR facilitates the coordinated activities of the Estancia Basin Watershed and Forest Health, Restoration, and Monitoring Project, a partnership among area Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Land Grants, local governments, and federal and state agencies that is designed to reduce the threat to life and property from catastrophic wildfires and to improve watershed health on private and public lands in the East Manzano Mountains.

“The NMFWR is surprisingly efficient considering the number of statewide projects they are engaged in.”

- **Synthesizing and contributing to restoration science:** The NMFWR is taking a systematic approach to assess the effectiveness of watershed restoration efforts, developing socio-economic indicators for CFRP projects, and documenting and synthesizing indigenous knowledge related to watershed management.

“The Institute is taking rigorous, systematic approaches to applied research - like the development of socio-economic indicators for CFRP projects.”



New Mexico Forest & Watershed Restoration Institute Projects and Legislative Districts Map

NM House Legislative Districts



NM Senate Legislative Districts



0 25 50 100 150 200 Miles

NMFWRI Projects: Cooperating Agencies

- | | | | |
|--------------|---------------------|------------------|---------------------|
|) BLM |) Private |) SWCD |) Tribal |
|) Land Grant |) USFS |) NM State Parks |) State Land Office |
|) Mixed |) NM State Forestry |) NMSU |) Federal |
| | | |) NM Tech |

