

**Update on US Forest Service Work with Land Grant Communities**  
**New Mexico State Legislature Land Grant Interim Committee**  
**October 4, 2012**

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- **Land Grant Council Memorandum of Understanding:** The Forest Service Southwestern Region and the New Mexico Land Grant Council signed an MOU in 2011 which serves as a framework for expanding partnerships and relationships between the two parties. As part of the MOU, the Forest Service attends the Council meetings regularly and we work together to connect Forest Service units with Land Grants to work on local issues.
  - Coordinated a meeting between Forest Supervisors from the Carson and Santa Fe National Forests and the New Mexico Land Grant Council.
  - Working with Land Grant leaders and congressional staff on draft legislation concerning an historic cemetery within a wilderness area on the Santa Fe National Forest.
- **Master Stewardship Agreement:** The Forest Service is working with the Land Grant Council to develop a Master Stewardship Agreement that will tier to the MOU and foster on-the-ground stewardship agreements between National Forests or local Ranger Districts and individual land grant communities. The purpose of these agreements is to develop projects for land grants to work on forest thinning to reduce fire risk close to their community and in exchange be able to utilize firewood, latillas, and other forest products.
- **Truchas Land Grant Boundary:** On September 5<sup>th</sup>, representatives from Truchas Land Grant, Forest Service, the Land Grant Council, the Land Grant Consejo, University of New Mexico Land Grant Studies Program, and Senator Udall's staff participated in a field trip to visit the southern boundary of the Truchas Land Grant. We have scheduled a follow-up meeting on October 9th to discuss the results of the findings with land grant representatives.
- **Mapping Project:** Working with the Land Grant Council and UNM, we have scheduled meetings in October and November with Forest Service staff and Forest Supervisors for UNM to present the results of their land grant mapping project.
- **Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP):** CFRP is a Forest Service grant program designed to encourage collaborative partnerships to build sustainable communities and forests. Projects include hazardous fuels treatments, riparian restoration, and landscape planning. To date, there are 12 projects that involve Land Grants as partners, including:
  - **Merced del Pueblo de Chilili Wildfire Fuels Reduction Collaborative Forest Restoration Project:** The project implemented a 290 acre forest restoration project to reduce fuel loads. The treatment occurred on Chilili common land bordering the Cibola National Forest. Approximately 1,800 cords of fuel wood resulting from the treatment was sold or donated to the community.
  - **The San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant Planning to Reduce Wildfire Risk:** This planning project to implement forest restoration in the land grant and the Cibola National Forest will also build a fire protection partnership between the Land Grant and the surrounding federal and private properties. The planning efforts will include the development of an implementation plan for restoring 108 acres of common land owned and managed by the Land Grant and 340 acres of Forest Service land along Las Huertas Creek.
- **USDA StrikeForce:** This is a USDA Secretary-led effort to increase outreach to rural communities to take advantage of USDA programs available through NRCS, Rural Development, and FSA. New Mexico is a pilot state for this initiative. There is an opportunity in 2013 to develop workshops in land grant communities.