



New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute

New Mexico Highlands University



Working with tribal entities to build economic opportunity in forest restoration

A Partnership between the Alamo Navajo School Board, Inc. and the New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute

THE PARTNERSHIP. In Fall 2010, a formal partnership was signed by the ANSBI and the NMFWR to develop 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. In addition, the partnership involved housing NMFWR equipment with the ANSBI, including firewood processors, a 30-foot in-woods self-loading trailer and a portable sawmill.

OBJECTIVES. Key objectives of the partnership include:

- The development of economic opportunity in forest restoration in the Alamo Navajo Community.
- The establishment of a model for restoration-based economies.
- The sharing of lessons learned with other communities and individuals.

OUTREACH. As part of the partnership, the ANSBI and the NMFWR collaborate on two workshops each year on aspects of restoration-based business development including: firewood processing; forest products marketing; utilization of small-diameter thinnings; harvest system safety and efficiency; and capacity building in forest restoration.

PROGRESS. During the first quarter of 2010, all wood was cut, brought to the wood yard, cut to length and split. The wood yard was maintained by a six-person crew with two splitters. All loading was done by hand. During the second quarter of 2010, additional NMFWR equipment was available in the field and in the wood yard. Learning to use the new equipment has taken some time, but productivity has already increased, with approximately 40 percent more cord wood being shipped during the second quarter of production. This partnership has also been instrumental in reducing the workers compensation rates of forest workers from 27 to 13.5 percent.



The New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute
www.nmfwri.org
505.426.2080



140 Lora Shields Science Building
New Mexico Highlands University
Box 9000
Las Vegas, New Mexico
87701

