

**State and Private Forestry
FY 2009 Western Competitive
Grant Process
Single-State Application Form**

Administration Information	
Dollar Amount Requested:	\$299,990
Matching Share:	\$933,092

Applicant Information	
1	State Forestry Agency: NM EMNRD, Forestry Division
	Contact Person: Arthur " Butch" Blazer, NM State Forester
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Project Information				
2	Title of Proposed Project:	Unit 16E Forest, Watershed & Rangeland Restoration Project		
	Names of Partnering Agencies / Organizations:	NM State Land Office, NM Game and Fish Department USDI Bureau of Land Management-Socorro Field Office, Adobe, Farr, Luera, Y, Blair, Triangle C and Harriett Ranches (among others), Natural Resource Conservation Service-Datil Field Office, New Mexico State University-Range Science Department, NM Highlands Watershed Restoration Institute (FWRI), Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Mule Deer Foundation, National Wild Turkey Federation, Quail Unlimited, Catron County, Salado Soil & Water Conservation District		
	State(s):	NM	Congressional Districts:	2
	Counties:	Catron & Socorro	Forest Service Regions:	3

3 rd Party Contributors								
Please specify each 3 rd Party contributor and the dollar value of each contribution. Please DO NOT show grant requested funds in this table. This is for 3 rd Party matching share only.								
3	Contributors: (Please specify by name)	NM State Land Office	NM Game & Fish Dept.	Salado SWCD	Non-Profit Wildlife NGO's	Catron County/ Ranchers Contri	NMHU, FWRI/ NMSU	TOTAL
	Value of Contributions:	\$151,570	\$305,392	\$10,000	\$168,471	\$54,659	\$50,000	\$740,092

Total Project Expense					
	Grant Share (\$ requested)	Applicant	3rd Party Contributors	TOTAL	
		Cash¹	In-Kind²		
4	Personnel / Labor:	\$25,433	\$21,485	\$58,500	\$105,418
	Fringe Benefits:	\$12,532	\$10,582	\$4,592	\$27,706
	Travel:	\$0	\$0	\$12,500	\$12,500
	Equipment:	\$0	\$0	\$7,500	\$7,500
	Supplies:	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$19,500	\$29,500
	Contractual:	\$250,000	\$150,000	\$607,500	\$1,007,500
	Construction:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ 0
	Other:	\$0	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
	Indirect Costs:	\$7,025	\$5,933	\$	\$12,958
	TOTAL:	\$299,990	\$193,000	\$740,092	\$1,233,082

Project Duration	
5	What is the duration of this project? <input type="checkbox"/> One Year <input type="checkbox"/> Two Years <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Three Years

National Relevance	
6	Conserve Working Forest Landscapes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protect Forests From Harm <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enhance Public Benefits From Trees and Forests <input type="checkbox"/>

Project Description	
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¹ 'Cash' is the value of *any qualifying match* the applicant pays for such as cash, staff time, supplies, or equipment.

² 'In-Kind' is the value of *any qualifying match* contributed by a 3rd Party contributor such as cash, donated time, supplies, or equipment.

Maximum 4500 Characters Including Spaces

New Mexico Governor and State Legislature directed state agencies to develop landscape scale restoration projects that incorporate multi-jurisdictional lands designed by a diverse group of stakeholders and partners (local landowners/ranches, universities, local/county/federal land management agencies, non-profit, non-governmental organizations). Through the collaborative effort of this group this project conserves healthy working forest landscapes and protects forests and watersheds from and enhances public benefits from trees and forests.

Approximately 180,000 – 240,000 acres will be treated utilizing S&PF programs - forest health, invasive species management, coop fire hazardous fuels treatment, invasive species and forest stewardship in addition to water quality and watershed protection; fish and wildlife habitat improvement; prescribed fire; natural fire re-introduction, re-seeding/replanting, pasture fencing, installation of erosion control structures and development of a coordinated travel management program that allows road access while providing large blocks of roadless landscapes.

Approximately 150,000 acres of proposed hazardous fuel projects are identified as high priority treatment areas in the Socorro and Catron County CWPP's. There is a high potential for several large landowners (Y Ranch, Adobe, Farr, and Triangle C) to be incorporated into the Forest Legacy program thus protecting them from possible subdivision and development in the future. The area currently has 3 large forest stewardship plans, 4 existing fuels/forest health treatments, and 3 existing invasive species treatments.

This large planning area addresses all three themes: conserves working forest landscapes, protects forests from harm, and specifically treats a large landscape area to enhance public benefits from trees and forests (specific wildlife and fisheries habitat restoration). The project footprint is 360,000 acres of mixed ownership lands and is designed to re-establish pre-settlement conditions and allow the return of natural functions along with the return of the area's natural range of variability. Stakeholders involved have a proven track record for collaborative approaches to address natural resource issues, and is clearly capable of accomplishing not only the collaborative criteria required by this application, but also the goals of the State and Private Forestry program of work, as well as the goals and objectives identified in the New Mexico Forest and Watershed Health Plan, individual CWPP's and the NM Forest Stewardship SAP.

The plant communities range from lower elevation grasslands to Piñon-Juniper (P/J) woodlands, remnant Ponderosa Pine and Aspen stands, and higher elevation mixed conifer forest. Land ownership within the project area includes: State Land Office (NMSLO), multiple private ranchers and forest landowners, Bureau of Land Management, and the Gila National Forest. Most of the areas vegetation structure falls within the dry P/J and dry Ponderosa Pine habitat type, (due to their lower elevation and lack of perennial surface water) which are focus areas for the research into restoration work being done at NM Highlands University as well as New Mexico State University. Additionally the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail crosses the project area and has a potential to provide a unique opportunity to reach out to non-traditional partners.

Material removed or harvested will be used to support a local wood processing facility that has national markets in Lowe's and Home Depot and can ship over 500 semi-loads each year. Small diameter pine will be made available to local forest products manufacturing facilities, shredded juniper slash will be converted into colored mulch, securing a supply for a local processor for a number of years. Project outcomes enhance public benefits from trees and forests and include improved forest/ rangeland/watershed health; increased wildlife diversity; re-establishment of native grasses/forbs/shrub communities; decreased erosion; opportunities for application of prescribed fire and natural fire re-introduction; increased rainfall/snowfall retention, decreased insect and disease outbreaks; increase recreation and aesthetics; increased job opportunities for the local community; lowered risk of noxious and invasive species; and reduced Basal Area/stocking levels in forest and woodland plant communities.

Program Integration	
8	<p>Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</p> <p>This project integrates S&PF programs - forest stewardship, forest legacy, state fire assistance, forest health and invasive plants. The area currently has 3 large forest stewardship plans, 4 existing fuels/forest health treatments, and 3 existing invasive species treatments. According to the NM SAP, the area is at risk for insect infestations, development and wildland fire. There is over 75,000 acres private to be involved with stewardship planning, forest health at risk stands of piñon due to overstocking, invasive species, forest legacy, coop fire hazardous fuels.</p> <p>Other actions include forest restoration/habitat improvement, erosion control, and timber stand improvement by non profit, state and federal agencies; NRCS (EQIP, WHIP); NM State Land Office Land Protection funds, BLM Restore New Mexico, and wildlife habitat improvement programs/grants from Rocky Mtn Elk Foundation and National Wild Turkey Foundation. The BLM is planning a 60,000 acre fuels treatment, and the state completed meadow/habitat restoration on 75 acres. NM G&F is working with landowners to benefit wildlife and enhance public benefit. These activities clearly integrate state and federal goals, objectives and resources to benefit the S&PF programs.</p>

Collaboration	
9	<p>Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</p> <p>The project will strengthen a large scale restoration project started in 1992. Collaborating State and federal agencies include the BLM, NM G&F, NMSF, NMSLO, NRCS, and USFWS. Prescribed burns over 5,000 acres are completed, NMSF along with NMSLO completed a general forest management plan and basic wildfire management plan, and NMSLO has completed meadow restoration projects. Landowners are using NRCS EQIP funds for grazing plans and livestock water supply pipelines. NGO's have helped establish wildlife waters, riparian enclosures, and funded prescribed burns. NMSU is monitoring and studying effects in P/J Ponderosa/MC habitat types. NM Highlands and NM HFW are coordinating monitoring efforts on the 38,000 Shaw/Fullerton RX burn. Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Mule Deer Foundation, Wild Turkey Federation, and Quail Unlimited identified specific habitat areas for prescribed burning, wildlife drinker installation and brush control and committed to 3 years of funding. Socorro and Catron Counties, as well as environmental groups, will arrange/host public meetings explaining the goals and objectives of the proposed projects and be a vocal proponent with other environmental groups, as well as elected officials and policy makers.</p>

Leveraging	
10	<p>Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</p> <p>The project leverages resources and maximizes outcomes. Here are the commitments from multiple entities that share the S&PF mission and support state capacity needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NM SLO/ NMSF -Luera Mountain Forest Management Plan, committed staff time and \$151,570 over 3 years • NM State Forestry committed \$25,000 for plan development and \$193,000 over 3 years for implementation. • NM G&F committed \$100,392 match and \$205,000 leverage over 3 years • Adobe, Farr, Y, Harriett, Triangle 7 Ranches working with the Salado S&WCD programs committed \$61,962,000 over 3 years. • Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Mule Deer Foundation, National Wild Turkey Federation- staff & volunteer time, project funds for collaborative planning and implementation \$168,471 over 3 years. • NMSU-Range Science Dept. and NM FWRI-staff time, expertise, monitoring and assistance (\$25,000 each over 3 years) • Catron County-Staff time and assistance \$2,500 over 3 years • NM Environment Department (NMED), \$10,000 over 3 years <p>FEDERAL AGENCIES:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USDI-BLM -Restore New Mexico Initiative, \$1,006,000 over 3 years • USF&WS, \$7,500 over 3 years • NRCS, \$20,000 over 3 years
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	Meaningful Scale
11	<p style="color: red; margin: 0;">Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</p> <p>The Project covers 360,000 acres, making it large enough to demonstrate real results over time, provides an opportunity to show pro-active management on a landscape. Leveraging a diverse array of private, local, state, and federal entities and working at the landscape level, the project restores and maintains a very large diverse and unique New Mexico habitat.</p> <p>As adjoining landscapes are becoming increasingly fragmented, this project will help to protect important wildlife habitat which will improve and maintain an important wildlife travel corridor between critical habitat.</p> <p>The project is large enough to provide a mix of landownership's and support small forest industry clusters dependent on large volumes of non-traditional forest products (small diameter P/J). The effort will also meet long-term restoration goals of the NM SLO, BLM, NM Game & Fish Department and Wildlife Conservation NGO's, Soil & Water Conservation Districts and the landowners themselves. It will also support meaningful restoration in area large enough size to make measurable changes to protect forests, conserve open space, and enhance public benefits.</p>

	Sphere of Influence
12	<p style="color: red; margin: 0;">Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</p> <p>This project's approach clearly provides value beyond state boundaries. It can be replicated across the West as a model of landscape scale planning, removal of administrative barriers, and project implementation where local communities sets the objective and land management agencies work to meet that objective with a diverse group of collaborators. Successful implementation of this project will allow two counties to be involved in developing a new paradigm for land management processes where local cooperative groups not only design but implement multi-jurisdictional projects to accomplish a multitude of land management objectives. This approach demonstrates how interagency collaboration working together in a coordinated fashion with local landowner's can complete landscape level projects successfully. These local communities and their citizens view the current government gridlock that prohibits these projects from ever reaching the ground as a waste of resources. This project will be an example for other areas of the West that agencies can work together in a coordinated fashion to prioritize landscape level projects.</p>

Sustainability of Outcomes

Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces

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This project will result in skills, capabilities and lessons learned that will extend beyond the life of this particular project. New industries in the area that are developing markets for non-traditional forest products (chimanea wood, biofuels, charcoal, pellets etc) from non traditional wood sources.) Providing a consistent supply of material helps the industries become self-sustaining, allowing more treatment to be implemented. A template will be developed to be used across multi-jurisdictional boundaries. The project brings a new set of knowledge, skills and abilities to the next generation of natural resource stewards. The project is large enough to provide a mix on landownership's and support small forest industry clusters dependent on consistent volumes of non-traditional forest products. The effort will also meet long-term restoration goals of the NM State Land Office, BLM, NM Game & Fish Department and Wildlife Conservation NGO's, Soil & Water Conservation Districts and the landowners themselves. It will also support meaningful restoration in an area that has become a world class recreation area that carries a high public value, not only to the local community, but to the State, and region as a whole.