

SIERRA COUNTY

Draft Wildfire Hazard Mitigation
And
Implementation Plan
June 18, 2003

***20 COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE
National Fire Plan***



Authors:

Sierra Soil & Water Conservation District
County of Sierra

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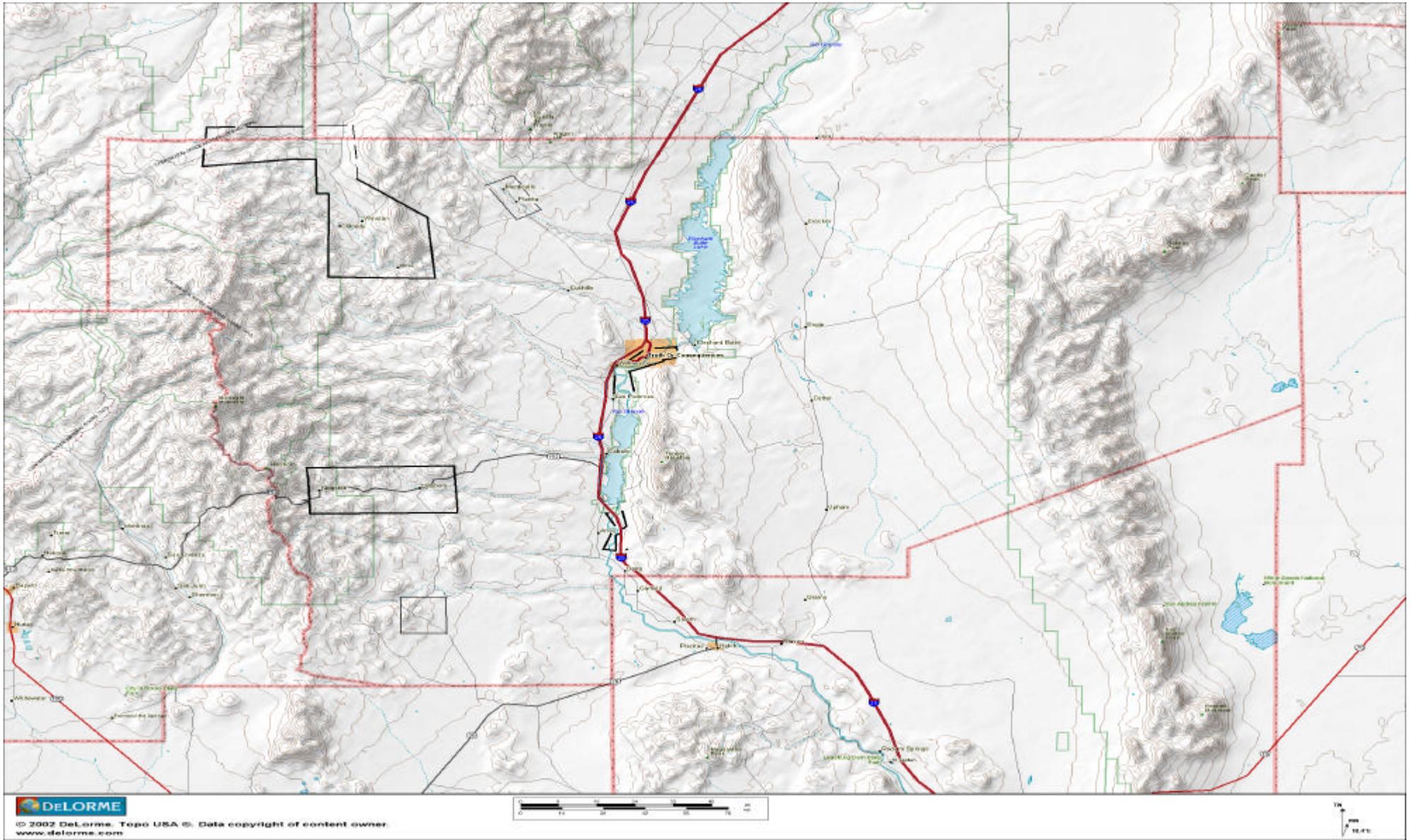
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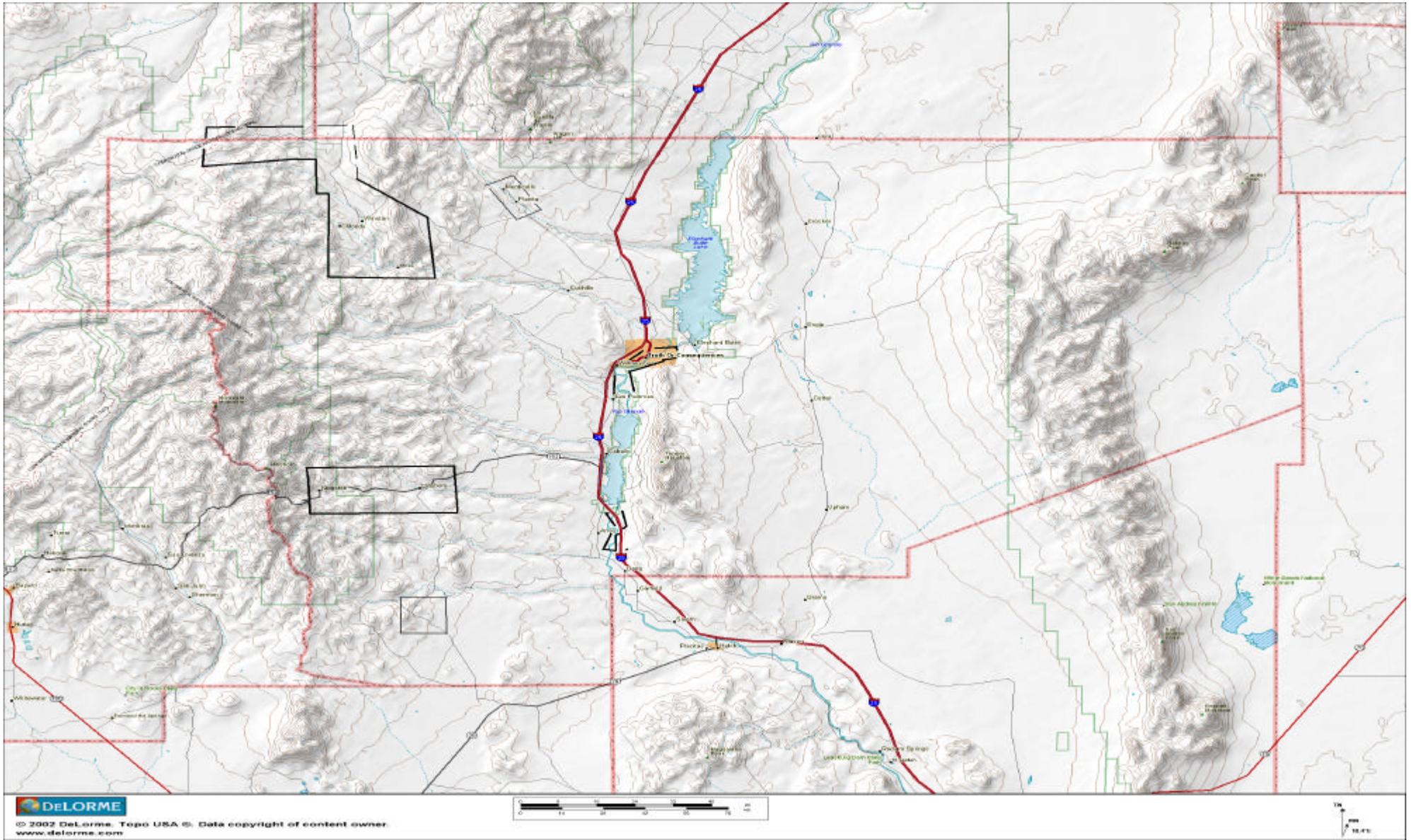


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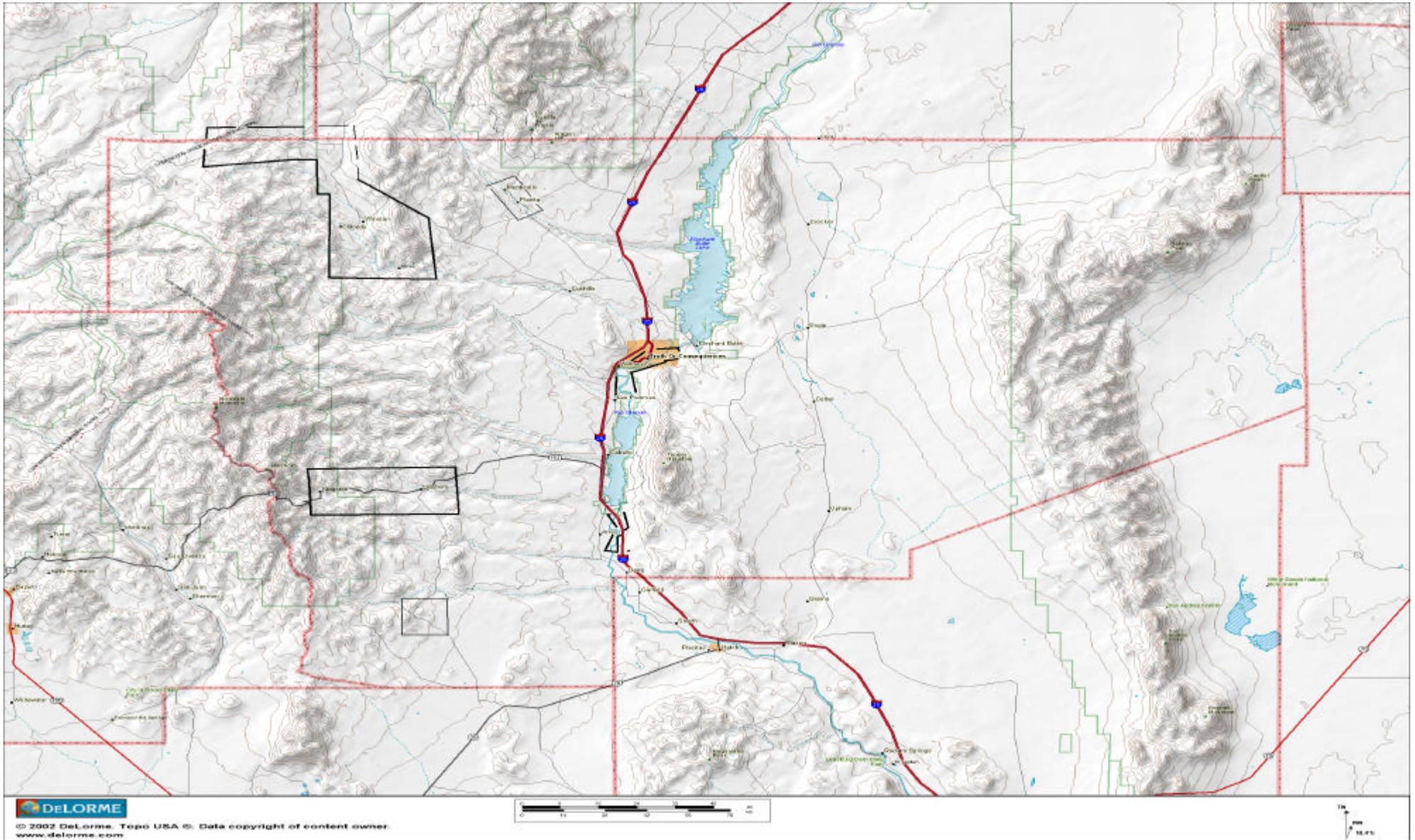
Sierra Soil & Water Conservation District
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Map of Sierra County, New Mexico with Critical Wildland-Urban Interface area identified



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Agencies and entities involved in developing this action plan include: N M Forestry Division

- U S Forest Service –
 - Gila National Forest
 - Sierra Soil & Water Conservation District
- County of Sierra
- Bureau of Land Management
- Sierra County VFDs
- NM State Highway Department



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III.

A. Regional Command Team



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III.

A. Regional Command Team



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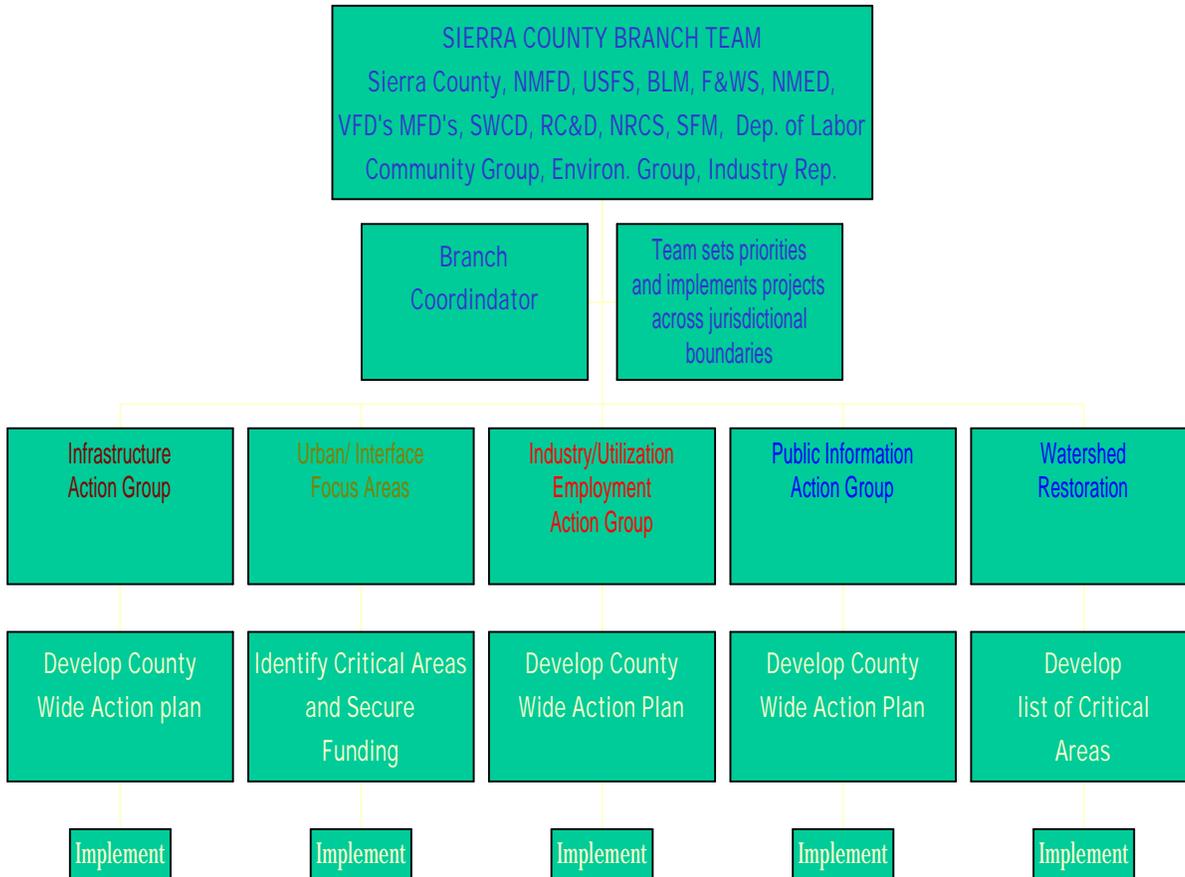
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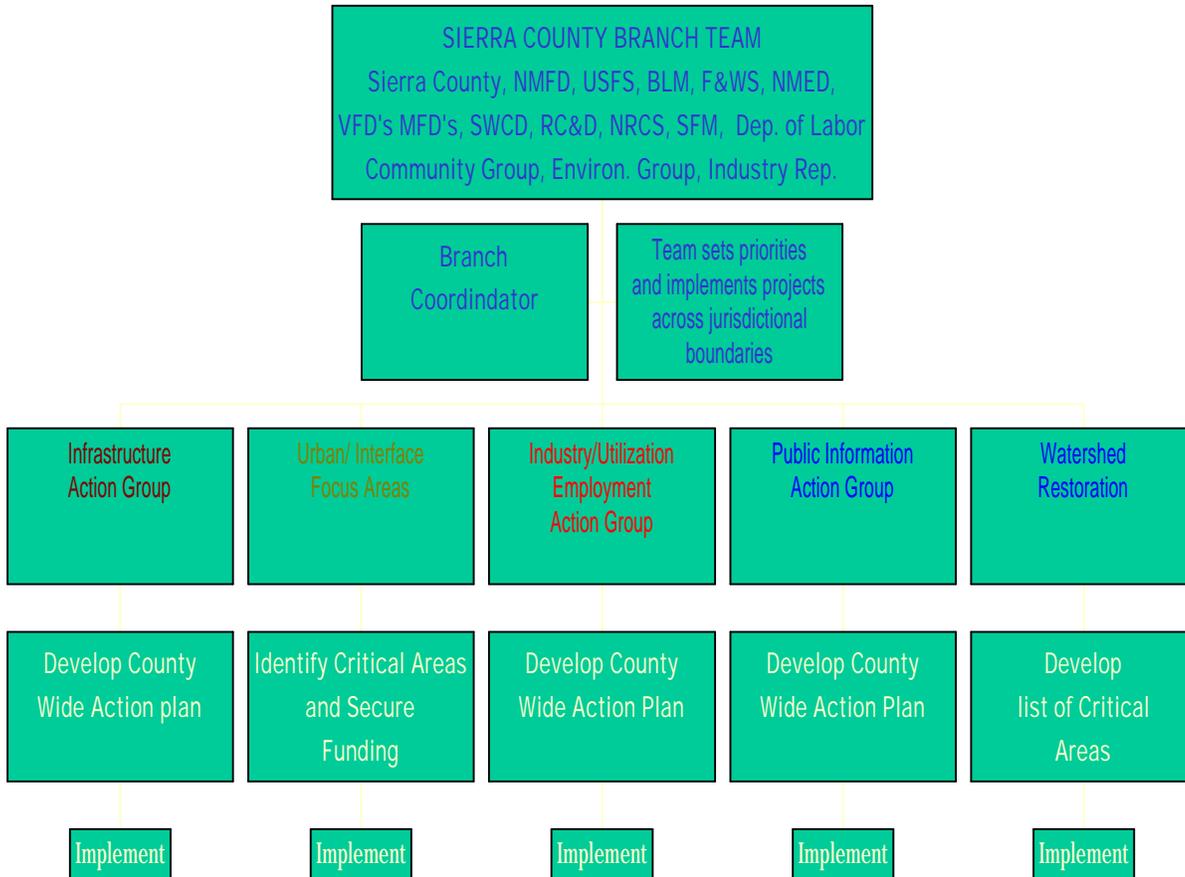
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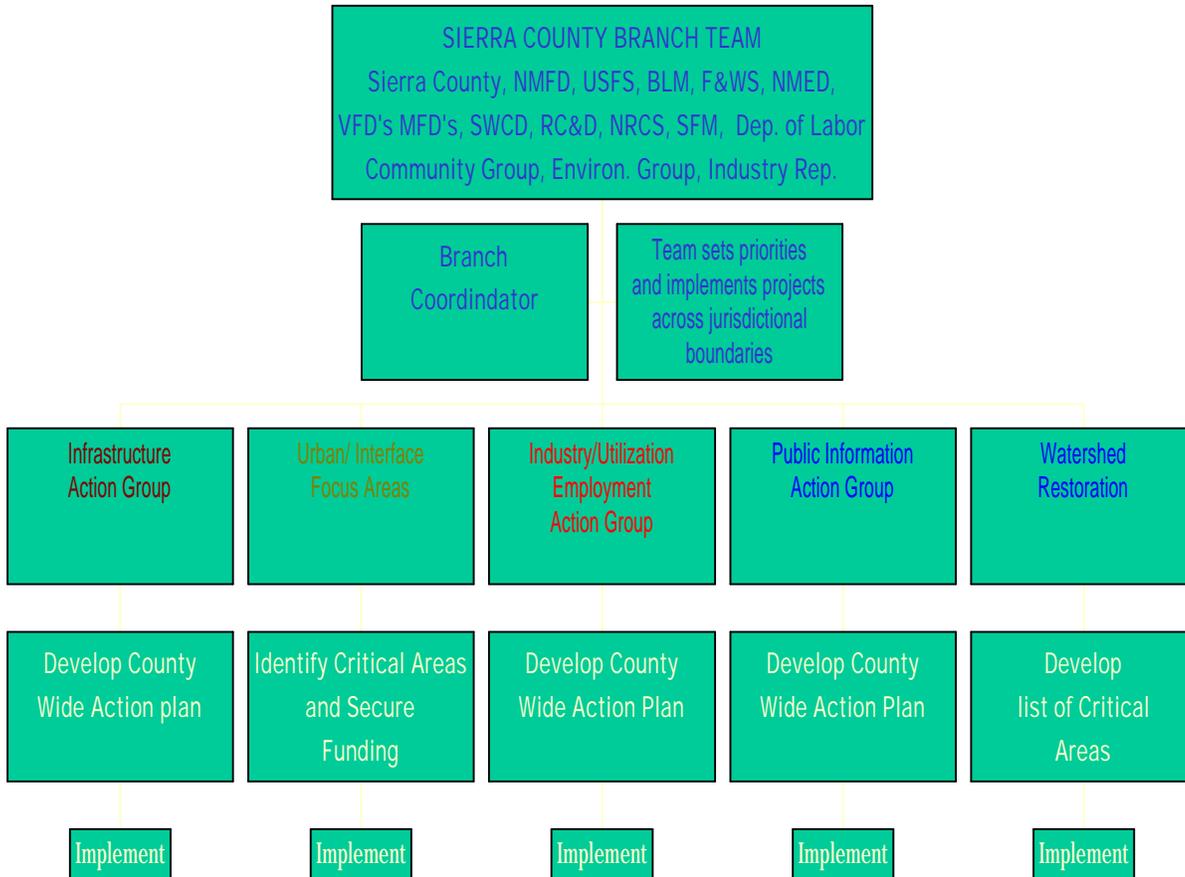
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20 COMMUNITIES ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



2. CATEGORIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION (Action Items)

1. Infrastructure Protection

This category consists of communication sites, utility lines and improvements, county, state, and federal highways.

Coordinating this category will be the Sierra County Manager and the chairman of the Sierra County Emergency Management Office.

2. Urban Interface Focus Projects

This category identifies the 6 most critical areas in Sierra County as identified and agreed upon by the branch team. Many of these areas have already had, or will have, hazard mitigation work completed. The branch team felt that if these areas could be treated within the next 1-3 years, and a yearly maintenance program established, risk to wildfire could be greatly reduced.

Sierra Soil & Water Conservation District and the Black Range District, Gila National Forest will coordinate this category.

3. Industry, Utilization & Employment

This category deals with creating, developing, and improving the forest based industry and employment opportunities in Sierra County that will play a major part in the removing and utilization of the large amounts of bio-mass and wood products that will become available when projects are initiated.

The Sierra County Economic Development Organization, as well as the Sierra County Commission will look for ways for implementing strategies to create these types of industries.

4. Public Information & Education

This category will deal with correctly spreading the message of the 20 Communities initiative to the general public, individual landowners, county officials, regional organizations and interested persons. The USDA-FS-Gila National Forest, BLM-Las Cruces Field Office and NM State Forestry-Socorro District Office will coordinate this category.

5. Grants and Finance

This category will deal with securing and tracking various grants to accomplish the identified goals and objectives under each category. The Sierra Soil & Water Conservation District will coordinate and be the contact for this category.

6. Back 40

This category will deal with watershed health that communities in Sierra County are depended on and individual private lands and improvements in the backcountry. The USDA-FS-Gila National Forest, BLM-Las Cruces Field Office and NM State Forestry-Socorro District Office will coordinate this category with

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1. INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

A. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Communication Sites

Objective

The objective is to mitigate the threat of an intense wildfire that could threaten the communications equipment at the site. Fuel types immediately adjacent to the communication sites consists of heavy brush, pinyon-juniper, Ponderosa Pine and mixed conifers, depending upon the elevation.

Electronic equipment on the sites includes:

- Sierra County Sheriff Dept. and EMS radio repeater
- State of New Mexico Communications Bureau radio repeaters
- Cellular phone contractor
- U.S. Forest Service/Bureau of Land Management radio repeaters
- NM State Police
- Sierra County Volunteer Fire Departments
- US Border Patrol

Repeater sites:

Winston (on ridge at east side of town – Red Hill)

USDA-FS-Lookout Mountain, Black Mountain, Caballo Mountain

BLM- Caballo Mountain,

SHTD-Caballo Mountain

Black Range Outfitters (Private)-Sawmill Peak

Berrenda Peak (Private)-near Lake Valley

Monticello / Placitas – ridge overlooking post office on north; located on private land of Dan Montoya.

Beaverhead Outfitters

Work Completed

Minimal work completed on all sites: have GPS locations on many of the repeater sites and have attached a list of entities / companies that utilize Caballo Mountain.

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Work Scheduled

BLM-Las Cruces District will determine needs for Caballo Mountain

Work Needed

1. All sites need to have site visits and mitigation plans developed.
2. Develop map of Communication sites in the County **Brent - SWCD**

Budget and Finance

Budget has not been secured to mitigate the threat. This will need to be planned into the budget in FY-03. Commercial operators have authority and responsibility to reduce fuels near commercial sites. The Bureau of Land Management will focus National Fire Plan dollars for prescription treatment at the Caballo Mountain repeater site.

2. Communication Needs

Objective

The objective is to improve communications between federal, state, county and local entities to maximize the use of current communications infrastructure and improve communications where they are currently inadequate and unsafe.

Work Completed

Currently all entities have individual frequencies that are not always available to other entities. Current communications are lacking but better than no communications

Work Scheduled

1. Continue effort to contact the NM Communications Bureau to complete a communication assessment. **Adam Polley by 2004**
2. BLM will work to pass on old Bendix King radios to Sierra County VFDs as they become available. **Steve Bamgarner - BLM**
3. Sierra County is currently working on a communications plan to address some of these issues.

Work Needed

1. Investigate possibility of installing a Repeater on San Mateo
2. VFDs all need programmable radios to talk to USDA-FS

Work Scheduled

BLM-Las Cruces District will determine needs for Caballo Mountain

Work Needed

1. All sites need to have site visits and mitigation plans developed.
2. Develop map of Communication sites in the County **Brent - SWCD**

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Work Scheduled

BLM-Las Cruces District will determine needs for Caballo Mountain

Work Needed

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2. Develop map of Communication sites in the County **Brent - SWCD**

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4. Lake Valley and Poverty Creek area-no cell phone or radio coverage
5. Develop a Communication Plan- Toby Richards/Doug Boykin
 - a. List location of repeaters sites,
 - b. Determine future needs,
 - c. List frequencies, primary and secondary frequencies
 - d. Proper protocol
7. Problem with safety at Caballo Mtn
 - a. Limited security
 - b. Large propane tank on-site –Brent B GPS all tanks/sites
8. Investigate possibility of locating VFD repeaters on USFS Lookout Mountain.

Budget and Finance

Grants and additional avenues of funding are available to mitigate the above threats. All agencies will review current resources and see where cooperative efforts can be addressed.

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COMMUNICATION SITES OVERVIEW

SITE	NEPA YES/NO	FUNDS AVAILABLE	CURRENT WORK	FUTURE WORK
Caballo Mountain	YES	YES-BLM	NEPA-FY2003	Fuels reduction work if needed in 2004
Winston	Yes	Yes-BLM	NEPA-FY2004	Fuels reduction work if needed in 2005
Lookout Mountain	Yes	YES-USDA-FS	NEPA ???	Fuels reduction work if needed after NEPA-2003-2004
Berrenda Peak	No	No	Site assessment-2003	Fuel reduction work if needed after site assessment-2003
Beaverhead Outfitters				Site located:T10S,R13W, Sec 1
Alternate site for Winston/Poverty Creek	Yes	No	Determine feasibility and availability of site	
Black Range Outfitters-Sawmill Peak	No	No	N/A	N/A

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3. Communications/Emergency Operations Plan

Objective

The purpose of this plan is to describe how Sierra County will handle Emergency situation and/or disasters within its jurisdiction. It assigns responsibilities for emergency preparedness and planning and for coordinating Emergency response activities before, during and after any type of emergency or disaster. A *DRAFT* plan is a part of this Appendix.

Sierra County has secured funding for an all-hazards operational plan that will be completed in draft form by March 31st, 2004.

Fire departments will develop site-specific plans for their own jurisdictions. **Doug Boykin will provide an example.**

2. UTILITIES

Objective

To open a clear and direct dialogue between the USDA-FS, BLM, and other entities and companies on all right-of-way responsibilities and procedures regarding the installation, maintenance, and responsibilities of all utilities that service areas in Sierra County.

a. Electrical Power lines

Includes two classifications.

aa. Inter-state Transmission

El Paso Electric (Doug, Toby, and Steve to get them involved in process)

bb. Local Service

Sierra Electric Cooperative is the local service outside the City of Truth or Consequences.

Work Completed

El Paso Electric is reviewing their special use permits with federal agencies to insure they are up do date

Work Scheduled

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3. Communications/Emergency Operations Plan

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The purpose of this plan is to describe how Sierra County will handle Emergency situation and/or disasters within its jurisdiction. It assigns responsibilities for emergency preparedness and planning and for coordinating Emergency response activities before, during and after any type of emergency or disaster. A *DRAFT* plan is a part of this Appendix.

Sierra County has secured funding for an all-hazards operational plan that will be completed in draft form by March 31st, 2004.

Fire departments will develop site-specific plans for their own jurisdictions. **Doug Boykin will provide an example.**

2. UTILITIES

Objective

To open a clear and direct dialogue between the USDA-FS, BLM, and other entities and companies on all right-of-way responsibilities and procedures regarding the installation, maintenance, and responsibilities of all utilities that service areas in Sierra County.

a. Electrical Power lines

Includes two classifications.

aa. Inter-state Transmission

El Paso Electric (Doug, Toby, and Steve to get them involved in process)

bb. Local Service

Sierra Electric Cooperative is the local service outside the City of Truth or Consequences.

Work Completed

El Paso Electric is reviewing their special use permits with federal agencies to insure they are up do date

Work Scheduled

Will need to compile a list of all special use permits and attach

USDA-FS will be conducting field reviews and making strong recommendations for clearing brush and right-of-ways

BLM will focus NFP dollars for right-of-way for El Paso Electric lines on BLM land (Iron Mountain /Riley Peak area)

Work Needed

Recommendations from USDA-FS field reviews will need to be implemented.

Budget and Finance

Develop ways to secure funding for hazard mitigation on critical areas adjacent to special use permit responsibilities.

ADDITIONAL MITIGATION MEASURES

- A. Create a feathered appearance from edge of right-of-way back into the adjoining forest stand so that approaching crown fires would have the potential to become ground fires, which would result in reduced spread.*
- B. Reduce fuels to minimize arcing of power lines during wildfire, prescribed fire and strong wind events. Transmission lines are very sensitive to smoke. The actual lines must be cleaned by hand.*
- C. In some areas, especially on large interstate type transmission lines, the lines are very high due to canyon spans and typically not affected by wildland fires.*
- D. Approved herbicides and growth retardants would be beneficial in controlling vegetation.*
- E. Utility substations need to be treated, including areas outside of chain link fences.*
- F. Amend and review all agreements with cooperators, as needed, to be sure that there are no issues or concerns that will hinder appropriate actions.*

b. Telephone Service

Telephone:

Will need to compile a list of all special use permits and attach

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b. Telephone Service

Telephone:

Hillsboro/Kingston-Valor Telecom; lines running on power poles intermittently
Connection via Microwave from Hillsboro area to Caballo Mountain
Poverty Creek-Western NM Communications; lines are underground
Lower Hatch Valley is Qwest Communication

Work Completed

Minimal maintenance

Work Scheduled

Continued minimal maintenance

Work Needed

1. Power poles: Hillsboro to Kingston line will need to thin and remove brush from around telephone/power poles
2. Minimize weeds around Hillsboro Microwave site
3. Minimize weeds around underground switchboxes
4. Maintain microwave site around Caballo Mountain

Budget and Finance

Seek grant-funding opportunities to assist entities in accomplishing assessments and implementing objectives and goals

c. Propane companies

Butte Propane
Ikard-Newsom
Cortez Gas
Ziggy's Butane Co (Deming)
Burns Butane (Hatch)

Work completed

Minimal maintenance by propane companies and landowners

Work scheduled

1. Develop a flyer to be handed out with customer billing-note fire wise ideas such as turning off the valve when a fire is close by **Summer, 2003 (Loretta/Merry Jo)**
2. Locate on map any tanks greater than 1000 gallons by **Fall 2003-Brent B.**

Work Needed

Identify GPS locations of all major distribution tanks within the County of Sierra

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3. Highway Right-of-Ways.

Sierra County is in District 1 in the State Highway Department's organizational structure. The major highways in Sierra County consist of:

1. State Highway 152 (I-25 to Emory Pass)
2. State Highway 52 (I-25 to Junction with Highway 59 (Beaverhead turnoff))
3. State Highway 59 (Junction with #52 to Sierra County border)
4. Highway 27 (Junction with Highway 152 (Hillsboro) to Junction with Highway 26 (Nutt)).
5. Highway 187 - Flume Farm Bridge

There are numerous secondary roads (County and Forest Service) and private (ranch) roads.

Objective

The primary objective is to develop a procedure where the right-of-ways along all major roads are managed so that tree densities allow motorist to see and avoid wildlife safely. Additionally, if these right-of-ways were thinned and maintained, they could be used as viable fuelbreaks and pre-suppressions lines by wildfire suppression resources.

The USDA Forest Service currently holds the right-of-way titles, where the highway crosses National Forest lands. On BLM lands, some areas are dedicated highway right-of-ways and others are under special highway designation status. Where highways cross State Trust land, the State Land Office holds the title, with a lease being issued to the State Highway Department. Private land title is usually dealt with by declaring eminent domain.

Maintaining aesthetics and view sheds is an issue.

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Work Completed

Assessments completed by USDA Forest Service and State Highway Department personnel to prioritize critical areas.

Initial prescriptions for developing recovery zone and thinning zone have been approved and implanted on highways in Catron County. Similar prescriptions should be able to be used under a categorical exclusion document for areas within Sierra County.

Clearing prescription consists of:

Recovery Zone: clear everything from white line to 24 feet out unless greater than a 3:1 slope.

Thinning Zone: from recovery zone out to 53 feet or to right-of-way fence, whichever comes first; thin Ponderosa Pine under 9" in diameter and all other species under 12" diameter; All trees will be pruned up to 6" above ground level.

The State Highway Department is currently looking at increasing the recovery zone to 40 feet with no slope limitation. Thinning zone prescription may also be changed so that slope is not limited to the 3:1.

Work Scheduled

Nothing is scheduled at this time. Assessments and prescriptions will be finalized when funding is secured.

Work Needed

Priorities will be established December 2002. Consideration should be placed on implementing herbicide treatments, where possible. Efforts should be made to work with contracts and contractors to market fuelwood that is obtained through hazardous fuel reduction projects along right-of-ways.

Budget and Finance

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THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF CRITICAL AREAS NEEDING WORK AS IDENTIFIED BY THE STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT.

HIGHWAY	LOCATION	NEEDS / Vegetation Types	OWNERSHIP	PRIORITY
State Highway 152	Hillsboro/Emory Pass	<p>Riparian areas, Pinyon/Juniper/Oak/ Mountain Mahogany, Ponderosa Pine and Mixed Conifer depending on elevation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Highest Priority: Mile marker 40 at Kingston campground to mile marker 37; parts of the Kingston WUI area have been treated. This area poses the highest threat to the town and with work will provide the best area of defense. 2. High priority: Mile Marker 37 to Mile Marker 36. When this area is completed it will add to the work done lower on the highway and beef up the Kingston WUI project. It will also add protection of the upper portions of the South Percha Watershed 3. High Priority: Mile Maker 36 to Emory Pass. This area will also add to the protection of Kingston and the South Percha watershed 	Hillsboro to Kingston – private, Kingston to Emory Pass - USDA-FS	2
State Highway 52	I-25 Junction to Junction with 59	<p>Creosote Shrub-lands to Grass lands to Pinyon/Juniper/Oak Shrublands, small amount of Riparian Areas above Winston</p>	Private, BLM, State Trust Land (2 Sections)	3
State Highway 59	Junction of 52 to Sierra County Line	<p>Grasslands to Pinyon/Juniper/Oak Woodlands to Riparian Areas to Ponderosa Pine depending on elevation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Moderate Priority: Mile marker through Poverty Creek townsite; thinning the highway right of way will have little or no effect acting as a fuel break due to minimal ground fuel; sparse timer and open grass along the highway. The area of concern will be the private landowner property and fuels reduction in these areas. 2. Low priority: Mile marker 6 to 8; no urban interface; the dominant fuel model is pinion-juniper with Ponderosa Pine intermixed. Livestock grazing occurs along this stretch of the highway thus minimizing future fire activity due to minimal ground fuel 3. Low priority: Mile marker 2 to forest boundary to mile marker 6; no urban interface; the dominant fuel model is pinon-juniper. Livestock grazing occurs along this stretch of the highway thus minimizing future fire activity due to minimal ground fuel 4. Low priority: Mile Marker 14 to Forest Road 521; open grass with moderately spaced timber. 5. Low priority: Forest Road 521 to Forest Road 677; Low priority: open grass with moderately spaced timber. A fuel break along Highway 59 can be treated by prescribed fire to incorporate the Castle and Water Fire Use files of 2002; the Adobe Ranch previous fire use 	Private, USDA-FS,	1

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State Highway 27	Hillsboro to Nutt	Grasslands to Pinyon/Juniper/Oak Woodlands with small stretches of Riparian Areas	Private, BLM, State Trust Land (10 Sections)	4
State Highway 187	Flume Farm Bridge	Willow and Salt Cedar along approaches to Bridge Natural Gas Lines Water Lines Timber Structure /Deck		5
County Road B038	River Bridge	Willow and Salt Cedar along approaches to bridge	EBID/BOR Lands	6

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4. Airports/ Airstrips/Heliports

- a. Truth or Consequences Municipal Airport
- b. Winston Landing Strip
- c. Helipad and Air Strip at Beaverhead
- d. Landing Strip at Sterling Roberts Ranch, next to Hillsboro Cemetery
- e. Helipad at Kingston Work Station
- f. Helipad at Emory Pass
- g. Helipad at Hillsboro Peak
- h. Helipad at Lookout Mountain
- i. Ladder Ranch
- j. Quintana Mining (Emergency Use only)

Objective

The objective is to maintain the facilities for safe, effective flight operations for the public as well as governmental personnel. These facilities also serve as the primary sites for medical emergency air operations in Sierra County.

Work Completed

Preliminary assessments have been completed at most sites, with work accomplished at:

Lookout Mountain – Brush reduction around helipad

Hillsboro Peak - USDA-FS maintains Helipad on a yearly basis.

Kingston Work Station Helipad – brush reduction and refurbished the landing pad.

Work Scheduled

Work Needed

1. Assessments needed to determine work needed to maintain all sites for safe operations.
2. Complete work identified in the assessment.

Budget and Finance

Presently there are no funds ear-marked for this facility.

4. Airports/ Airstrips/Heliports

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Budget and Finance

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5. Fire Department Training

Objective

To build capacity and knowledge so that the recognized volunteer fire departments in Sierra County can not only assist the state and federal agencies in wildfire suppression and protection, but also be a complementary force to all wildland fire management activities. Members of Volunteer Fire Departments would serve as the Initial Attack Incident Commander until state and federal agencies arrive.

Work Completed

State Highway Department staff received the Basic S-130/190 training. There have been numerous basic wildland fire-training classes in the past presented by various state and federal agencies.

Work Scheduled

There is an S-130/190 scheduled for the spring of 2003 coordinated by USDA-FS and NM State Forestry Division. Completed 2003 training, will develop an annual training schedule.

Work Needed

The following courses need to be offered on an annual basis.

S-130 Basic Wildland Training **Refresher course needed every 3 years**

S-131 Advanced Wildland Training **Refresher course needed every 3 years**

S/190- Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior **Refresher course needed every 3 years**

S-200 Fire Boss- **Refresher course needed every 3 years**

S-215 Fire Ops in the Urban Interface

S-230 Single Resource Boss – Engine

ICS 100, 200, 300

Training/Equipment Needed

Various training videos and manuals, including:

Essentials in Firefighting (video)

Wildland Fire Training (video)

Budget and Finance

NM Forestry Division has responsibility, through the Joint Powers Agreement with Sierra County, to provide and coordinate wildland fire training courses to fire department personnel in Sierra County. Additionally, the USDA Forest Service and BLM will continue to assist with Forestry Division's training activities.

5. Fire Department Training

Objective

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There will be funds appropriated through the National Fire Plan to address training needs over the next few years. These needs will be prioritized in accordance with the list shown above.

6. Fire Department Equipment

Objective

To acquire equipment needed to adequately improve the ability to safely respond to wildland fires and to ensure acquisition of personal protective equipment (PPE), which is essential, when responding to wildland fires. To coordinate New Mexico Volunteer Fire Assistance and the BLM Rural Fire Assistance funds to maximize interagency cooperation. To assist Volunteer Fire Departments (VFDs) with acquiring Federal Emergency Management Agency funds.

Work Completed

Wildland fire apparatus has been acquired or is in the process of be purchased by most fire departments in Sierra County. All departments are at various inventory levels of PPE for their firefighters, but will require additional acquisitions to meet our objectives. Brush trucks have been ordered/requested for all VFD's through the Homeland Security Administration.

Work Scheduled

Equipment needs assessments will be accomplished in 2003 and given to the Sierra County Emergency Office.

Work Needed

Fire departments will maintain and upgrade equipment inventories for wildland firefighting. Inventories should be submitted to the fiscal agent at Sierra County each year. Fire Departments will also submit lists of equipment needs, annually.

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Equipment Needed

FIRE DEPARTMENT	NEEDS	TARGET DATE
<u>Hillsboro/Kingston</u>	1) 1 brush truck for Lake Valley 2) 10 Bendix King hand-held radios 3) 1 tanker truck for Kingston 5	VFA/RFA Grant?
Winston	1) Truck mounted water tank with associated pumps and hoses (at least 2,000 Gallons). Pumps to fill from reams and ponds, and dump into portable tanks: equipment (PPE and wildland tools. 2) Radios: 10 hand held radios with base station for Winston, one base station for Chloride substation and one radio for each vehicle 3) 4X4 Brush truck with minimum 300/gal tank/have foam capability, equipped for a 3 man crew 4)10 sets of Nomex clothes with helmets/goggles 5) 6 complete sets of SCBA with tanks and equipment to recharge	VFA/RFA Grant? FEMA (Truck)
Chloride Sub-station	1) 4x4 quick response truck, min capacity of 300/gall of water and have foam capability, have a 100 GPM pump; Truck is for initial attack 2) Truck mounted water tank with associated pumps and hoses (at least 1500 Gallons). Pumps to fill from streams and ponds, and dump into portable tanks: equipment (PPE and wildland tools	FEMA (truck) VFA/RFA
Caballo	1) Tanker Truck 2)10 Portable Radios 3) PPE for 20 firefighters	FEMA (truck) VFA/RFA
Poverty Creek	1) firefighter protective clothing-one per volunteer 2) 4 SCBAs 3) 2 150' lengths of ¾ to 1" booster hose or 1 ½ or 1 ¾ " pre-connected hoses with nozzles 4) 2 portable fire extinguishers, Class A B and C with a minimum of 20 BC of dry chemical, 10 BC of CO2 and a 2B rating 5) 1 12' to 16' roof ladder with folding hooks 6) 1 24' or longer extension ladder 7) 1 pick head axe 8) 2 electric hand lights (4 volt wet 6 volt dry or volt rechargeable w/moveable heads 9) 1 Pike pole 10) 1 bolt cutter 11) 1 claw tool (hooligan tool) 12) 1 crow bar	
T or C		
Williamsburg		
Arrey/Derry	1)PPE for 20 2)4X4 Brush Truck. 3)Tanker Truck. 4)10 Portable Radios	FEMA (Trucks) VFA/RFA
Palomas	1) 1-200 gallon porta-tank. 2) 2- Chainsaws. 3) PPE for 10. 4)Fire Hose (300' of 1.5, 800 feet of 1") 5)Gated Wyes 6)Forestry Nozzle. 7)Float Pumps (2) 8)Wildland fire tools (10 each) 9)Portable Radios. 10)Tanker Truck (3000 gallon) 11) 4X4 Brush Truck	FEMA (Trucks) VFA/RFA

Equipment Needed

FIRE DEPARTMENT	NEEDS	TARGET DATE
<u>Hillsboro/Kingston</u>	<i>1) 1 brush truck for Lake Valley 2) 10 Bendix King hand-held radios 3) 1 tanker truck for Kingston 5</i>	VFA/RFA Grant?
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Chloride Sub-station	<i>1) 4x4 quick response truck, min capacity of 300/gall of water and have foam capability, have a 100 GPM pump; Truck is for initial attack 2) Truck mounted water tank with associated pumps and hoses (at least 1500 Gallons). Pumps to fill from streams and ponds, and dump into portable tanks: equipment (PPE and wildland tools</i>	FEMA (truck) VFA/RFA
Caballo	<i>1) Tanker Truck 2)10 Portable Radios 3) PPE for 20 firefighters</i>	FEMA (truck) VFA/RFA
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Palomas	<i>1) 1-200 gallon porta-tank. 2) 2- Chainsaws. 3) PPE for 10. 4)Fire Hose (300' of 1.5, 800 feet of 1") 5)Gated Wyes 6)Forestry Nozzle. 7)Float Pumps (2) 8)Wildland fire tools (10 each) 9)Portable Radios. 10)Tanker Truck (3000 gallon) 11) 4X4 Brush Truck</i>	FEMA (Trucks) VFA/RFA

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Monticello/ Placitas	1)5,000 Water Tank – Assorted Valves 2)PPE for 15. 3)SCBA for 8. 4)10 Portable Radios. 5)Tanker Truck (3,000 gallon) 6)2 4X4 Brush Trucks 7)Radio Repeater for Cuchillo Valley 8) 1 Open vertical fill compressor	FEMA (Trucks) VFA/RFA
Lakeshore		
Elephant Butte MFD		

Budget and Finance

Currently, funding appropriated by the State Fire Marshal’s Office is insufficient to meet the stated objectives. Additional funds that will be made available through the National Fire Plan, should be earmarked for enhancing the capabilities of fire departments. Additional funding source include BLM (Rural Fire Assistance Program), NM Forestry Division (Volunteer Fire Assistance Program), and Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) grants. The fire departments will be responsible for coordinating directly with Sierra County to pursue FEMA grant opportunities. BLM and NM Forestry Division will work in conjunction with Sierra County to prioritize distribution of grant funds, as they become available.

7. Local Community Water Supplies

Objective

To improve existing water systems and increase water supply to ensure adequate water supply for local firefighting efforts.

Work Completed

1. Hillsboro has a community water system with a 60,000 gallon storage tank.
2. Kingston has a 35,000 gallon storage tank made available by a private landowner.
3. Multiple Fire Hydrants in the Arrey/Derry area as well as northern Dona Ana County.
4. The Garfield Municipal water system provides water for the area below Percha Dam; there are 24 hydrants as part of the system
6. There is a private 4,000 gallon water tank in Chloride dedicated for the use by the VFD.
7. Develop long-term lease agreements for Water supplies countywide.

Work Scheduled

Monticello/ Placitas	1)5,000 Water Tank – Assorted Valves 2)PPE for 15. 3)SCBA for 8. 4)10 Portable Radios. 5)Tanker Truck (3,000 gallon) 6)2 4X4 Brush Trucks 7)Radio Repeater for Cuchillo Valley 8) 1 Open vertical fill compressor	FEMA (Trucks) VFA/RFA
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Work Scheduled

1. The Winston-Chloride VFD has drilled a new well and will install two (2) 17,000 gallon water tanks (Spring 2003).

Work Needed

1. Locate additional water sources; secure agreements with landowner, attach list; complete by Fall 2003-(Adam Polley)
2. Secure grants or funds to develop water supply for Poverty Creek area (Adam Polley)
3. Develop a permanent water supply for the Kingston area- Fall 2003-SWCD
4. Develop a dry fire hydrant at McLaughlin Spring for the Kingston area-Fall 2003 (North Percha – turn off to FR – 157).
5. Hook up new Winston well to tanks as soon as they are erected.
6. Secure funding and assistance for Monticello / Placitas water tank as soon as possible (VFA-RFA with assistance from Jornada RC&D).
7. Perform maintenance on the Chloride sub-station site.
8. Hook up the Chloride sub-station well to the two water tanks.

Budget and Finance

Explore methods to use funds that are being allocated through the National Fire Plan and other community assistance programs to assist the county and local fire departments to install these improvements. FEMA and VFA/RVA grants are available for these types of projects.

8. Evacuation Responsibilities/Procedures.

Objective

To development evacuation plans and structure protection plans by which urban/interface areas in Sierra County can be safely and timely evacuated and protected in the event of a wildfire disaster.

Work Completed

Work Scheduled

Fire Departments with the assistance from the Sierra County Emergency Management Office and all entities will need to develop individual evacuation and structure protection plan for subdivisions and in holdings within their areas. The EMO officer will compile these individual plans into an all-risk plan.

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Monticello/Cuchillo	July 2003 – VFD\County EMO
Arrey/Derry	September 2003 – VFD\County EMO
Lakeshore	October 2003 - VFD\County EMO
Caballo	November 2003 – VFD\County EMO
Elephant Butte	December 2003- VFD\County EMO
City of T. or C.	January 2004 – MFD\County EMO
Las Palomas VFD	February 2004 – VFD\County EMO

The all-risk plan should then be compiled by April of 2004.

Work Needed

Fire Departments who do not have a plan, with the assistance from the Sierra County Emergency Management Office need to develop evacuation and structure protection plan for all subdivisions and in holdings within their areas. Fire Departments who have developed an evacuation and structure protection plan need to update these plans.

The following is an example outline for these plans:

a. EVACUATION PLAN OUTLINE

An Evacuation plan should consist of the following sections:

Purpose
Situation
Operations
Traffic Control
Reception Areas
Preplanning
Plan Implementation
Conclusions

b. EVACUATION IMPLEMENTATION ORGANIZATION

Roles for implementing an evacuation must be clearly stated for all individuals and agencies involved in an evacuation. Roles and responsibilities must be outlined for the following positions at a minimum.

Chief Elected Official of Sierra County
Incident Commander
Local Law Enforcement Agencies
Traffic Control Manager
Sierra County Resident Evacuation Coordinator
Reception Area Manager
Incident Commander
Incident Information Officer
Operation Section Chief

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Incident Information Officer
Operation Section Chief

**Planning Section Chief
Security Manager
Sierra County Evacuation Contact List**

(Examples of these roles and responsibilities have been completed for Willow Creek and Rancho Grande and can be used as a template to develop Evacuation Plans for other priority areas.)

Budget and Finance

Agencies need to identify funding sources to accomplish the development of Evacuation and Structure Protection Plans.

C. Urban Interface Focus Projects

This is the priority list that the Sierra County Fuelbreak Initiative Team will utilize to define current resources that are available to reduce hazardous wildland fuels in Sierra County, over a 3-year period. Team members will be committed to working together to accomplish projects in an interagency manner on “both sides of the fence”.

	Private Land & Structures	State Trust Land	Forest Service Land	BLM Land	F& WS Land or ES Concerns	Pinon/ Juniper	Ponderosa Pine	Mixed Conifer	Joint NEPA 1-USFS 1-BLM 2-USFS/ BLM	Ingress/ Egress Issues 1-Low 2- Medium 3-High	Total Score
Poverty Creek	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	3	10
Kingston	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	3	10
Chloride	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	3	8
Hillsboro	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	6
Winston	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	6
Upper Rio Grande Bosque	1	0	0	0	1	1 (Salt Cedar)	0	0	2	1	6
Lower Rio Grande Bosque	1	0	0	0	1	1 (Salt Cedar)	0	0	2	1	6

**Planning Section Chief
Security Manager
Sierra County Evacuation Contact List**

(Examples of these roles and responsibilities have been completed for Willow Creek and Rancho Grande and can be used as a template to develop Evacuation Plans for other priority areas.)

Budget and Finance

Agencies need to identify funding sources to accomplish the development of Evacuation and Structure Protection Plans.

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1. Kingston

Objective

To protect the village of Kingston and outlying structures, including scattered in holdings around Kinston from catastrophic wildfire. A secondary objective is to develop and implement evacuation and structure protection plans for the village of Kingston and surrounding area.

Work Completed

41 acres completed in Block E of the prescription developed by the USDA-FS in 2002

Work Scheduled

USDA-FS has scheduled to complete a minimum of 40 acres per year on their prescription

Block A	21 acres	2003
Block B	66 acres	
Block C	96 acres	
Block D	43 acres	

Cooperative effort between NMSHTD and the USDA-FS to utilize USDA-FS slashes for erosion control work along highways.

Work Needed

1. Finish fuelbreak on all sides where deemed necessary, based on existing vegetation (USDA-FS).

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Work Needed

1. Finish fuelbreak on all sides where deemed necessary, based on existing vegetation (USDA-FS).

2. Fire departments, with assistance from the Sierra County Emergency Management Office, will develop evacuation and structure protection plans for Kingston and the surrounding area. (NMFD, USDA-FS, and VFDs).
3. It is estimated that approximately 320 acres need to be treated on private land in the Kingston area. Will apply for the 04-Western States Fire Managers Grant and field assessments will be initiated on the private land.

2. Fire departments, with assistance from the Sierra County Emergency Management Office, will develop evacuation and structure protection plans for Kingston and the surrounding area. (NMFD, USDA-FS, and VFDs).
3. It is estimated that approximately 320 acres need to be treated on private land in the Kingston area. Will apply for the 04-Western States Fire Managers Grant and field assessments will be initiated on the private land.

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Budget and Finance

Will apply for 04-Western States Foresters Grants which will be used to create defensible space and fuelbreaks on private land. Kingston and the surrounding private in holdings will be a priority for the 04-Western States Forester Grant; once it is implemented. Federal agencies need to continue to identify funding sources to complete NEPA analysis, planning and implementation.

2. Winston/Chloride

Objective

To protect the Winston/Chloride communities and outlying structures from catastrophic wildfire. A secondary objective is to develop and implement evacuation and structure protection plans for the Winston/Chloride communities and surrounding area.

Work Completed

Nothing to date

Work Scheduled

Will apply for the 04-Western States Fire Managers Grant; landowner applications and field assessments will be initiated on the private land.

Work Needed

Complete assessment of the fuel loads on private, state and federal lands by **April 2003-State Forestry & BLM**

Budget and Finance

Will apply for 04-Western States Foresters Grants which will be used to create defensible space and fuelbreaks on private land when assessments are completed. Federal agencies need to identify funding sources to accomplish NEPA analysis, planning, and implementation.

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3. Poverty Creek

Objective

To protect the Poverty Creek area and outlying in holdings from catastrophic wildfire. The area is extremely critical due to the high density of ponderosa pine stands in the immediate area. A secondary objective is to develop and implement evacuation and structure protection plans for all private in holdings in the surrounding area.

Work Completed

The USDA Forest Service with an estimated total of 600 acres needing treatment, both public and private, has completed initial assessments.

Work Scheduled

Prescription and field visits scheduled should be completed during the winter of 2002 and 2003 with actual work starting tentatively in 2003 by USDA-FS on federal land. Will apply for the 04-Western States Fire Managers Grant; landowner applications and field assessments will be initiated on the private land.

Work Needed

1. Fire departments, with assistance from the Sierra County Emergency Management Office, need to develop evacuation and structure protection plans for the Poverty Creek and surrounding area. (USDA-FS, NMF, VFDs)
2. Finish fuelbreak on all sides where deemed necessary, based on existing vegetation (USDA-FS).

Budget and Finance

Will apply for 04-Western States Foresters Grants which will be used to create defensible space and fuelbreaks on private land. Poverty Creek and the surrounding private in holdings will be a priority for the 04-Western States Forester Grant. Federal agencies will need to identify continuing funding sources to accomplish NEPA analysis, planning and implementation.

Sierra County should investigate Collaborative Forest Restoration Project funding (CFRP – Bingaman Bill) for projects around Poverty Creek.

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Sierra County should investigate Collaborative Forest Restoration Project funding (CFRP – Bingaman Bill) for projects around Poverty Creek.

4. Rio Grande Bosque - north

Objective

To mitigate the increased fire hazard that is posed to the area, which has resulted from a combination of drought and high densities of salt cedar along the Rio Grande.

Work Completed

Funding sources have been found by the Sierra SWCD to begin a cut-stump herbicide control program on private, state, and federal lands along a fourteen mile stretch of the Rio Grande below Elephant Butte Dam and through the communities of Truth or Consequences and Williamsburg. Funds are to be derived from:

02 USDA-FS Collaborative Forest Restoration Program

02 US Fish & Wildlife Foundation Hot Springs Quality Trout Waters

02 NM Legislative appropriations for the Lower Rio Grande Salt Cedar Control project

Work Scheduled

Cut-stump and/or mechanical treatment on private land will begin by December of 2002 and will stop by the end of March of 2003 when the plants begin to break dormancy; will resume process in October of 2003; Mechanical treatment on public land began June of 2003 as part of the 1st year of the CFRP

Work Needed

Monitoring of fuel loads and water quantity and quality during the grant cycle period, which concludes in 2007.

Continued funding to maintain salt cedar eradication and provide for re-establishment of native vegetation.

Budget and Finance

Continue to search for additional funding to complement the existing funding sources and programs.

4. Rio Grande Bosque - north

Objective

To mitigate the increased fire hazard that is posed to the area, which has resulted from a combination of drought and high densities of salt cedar along the Rio Grande.

Work Completed

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Budget and Finance

Continue to search for additional funding to complement the existing funding sources and programs.

5. Hillsboro/Lake Valley

Objective

To protect the Hillsboro/Lake Valley area and outlying in holdings from catastrophic wildfire. The area is critical due to the riparian zone through the town of Hillsboro, Lake Valley and the surrounding grassland and Shrublands. A secondary objective is to develop and implement evacuation and structure protection plans for all private in holdings in the surrounding areas.

Work Completed

Nothing completed to date

Work Scheduled

Nothing scheduled to date

Work Needed

1. Initiate assessments of fuel loads on private/state/federal lands by **April 2003**.
2. Complete Evacuation plan.

Budget and Finance

Will apply for 04-Western States Foresters Grants which will be used to create defensible space and fuelbreaks on private land. Poverty Creek and the surrounding private in holdings will be a priority for the 04-Western States Forester Grant. Federal agencies will need to identify continuing funding sources to accomplish NEPA analysis, planning and implementation.

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Work Completed

Nothing completed to date

Work Scheduled

Nothing scheduled to date

Work Needed

1. Initiate assessments of fuel loads on private/state/federal lands by **April 2003**.
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Budget and Finance

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9. Rio Grande Bosque – South

Objective

To mitigate the increased fire hazard that is posed to the area, which has resulted from a combination of drought and high densities of salt cedar along the Rio Grande. The area is critical due to the riparian zone along the Rio Grande and the surrounding grasslands and shrublands. Most critical areas of concern are the Bureau of Reclamation tree farm and the right-of-way of the El Paso Electric line.

Work Completed

Nothing completed to date

Work Scheduled

Nothing scheduled to date.

Work Needed

1. Initiate assessments of fuel loads on private/state/ federal land by April 2003.
2. Complete evacuation plans.

Budget and Finance

9. Rio Grande Bosque – South

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To mitigate the increased fire hazard that is posed to the area, which has resulted from a combination of drought and high densities of salt cedar along the Rio Grande. The area is critical due to the riparian zone along the Rio Grande and the surrounding grasslands and shrublands. Most critical areas of concern are the Bureau of Reclamation tree farm and the right-of-way of the El Paso Electric line.

Work Completed

Nothing completed to date

Work Scheduled

Nothing scheduled to date.

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Work Completed

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Work Scheduled

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Work Needed

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Budget and Finance

URBAN/INFRASTRUCTURE FOCUS PROJECT OVERVIEW

LOCATION	NEPA Completed	Federal Lands Treated? Completed and Scheduled	Critical Needs	Defensible Space and Fuel Breaks needed on private lands	WSFG priority	Evac. & Structure Protection plan Status
Kingston	Yes	Yes; 32 acres to date; 40 acres to be completed annually	Continued funding	Yes; funds through 03-Western States Fire Managers Grant	2	No; complete Spring 2003
Poverty Creek	No	No; NEPA work to be completed by March 2003	Secure funding	Yes; funds through 03-Western States Fire Managers Grant	1	No; complete Spring 2003
Winston/Chloride	No	No; NEPA work to be completed by (USDA-FS/BLM)	Initial Assessment	Yes; funds through 03-Western States Fire Managers Grant	3	No; complete Spring 2003
Rio Grande Bosque – Upper Valley	Yes	Work to begin of December 2002	Maintenance and Re-Vegetation	Yes, funding through 02 State Legislative appropriation	5	No; complete Spring 2003
Hillsboro/Lake Valley	No	No; assessment to be completed by March 2003	Secure funding	Yes; funds through 03-Western States Fire Managers Grant	4	No; complete Spring 2003
Rio Grande Bosque – Lower Valley	No	Assessments needed	Secure funding	No	6	No

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D. INDUSTRY/UTILIZATION/ EMPLOYMENT

Objective

To improve the economy of Sierra County by implementing forest restoration and health initiatives as outlined in the National Fire Plan.

Work Completed

SCEDO advertised for interested contractors during the month of January 2003 to schedule an interest/training session for possible contractors.

Work Scheduled

Training session is scheduled for Feb. 13, 2003

Work Needed

1. Develop contractors to complete thinning and rehabilitation work across joint ownerships.
2. Develop viable markets for fuelwood, post, and poles.
3. *Develop* use of slash from projects.
4. Develop small diameter markets for commercial species (Ponderosa Pine and Mixed Conifer)

Budget and Finance

All entities need to seek out funding opportunities that relate to their specific mission and that will assist in the overall goals and objectives.

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Budget and Finance

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E. PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Objective

To increase public awareness and knowledge of forest health issues with emphasis on wildfire safety. All agencies and entities, which engage in wildland firefighting activities, will utilize the following sources for dissemination of pertinent education materials:

- Newspapers
- Publications
- County Fairs
- FIREWISE Workshops
- Public information meetings during all major fire events
- Defensible Space Workshops
- Regularly scheduled school programs

Work Completed

Defensible Space workshops and school education programs are ongoing.

Work Scheduled

Fire Departments to host Defensible Space Workshops on April 4th, 2003

Develop PSA's for Radio

Provide Booths and Exhibits at:

Sierra County Fair

Work Needed

1. Assess needs, in the way of printed materials, for distribution to the public by Fire Departments.
2. Recruit and enlist volunteers, whenever possible for planning, organizing, and staffing booths at specific events.
3. Hold community meetings during "fire season" while the community is fully aware of the fire danger
4. Hold community meetings at the conclusion of "fire season" to review the actions of the community during "fire season" and how to improve upon those actions.

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Sierra County Fair

Work Needed

1. Assess needs, in the way of printed materials, for distribution to the public by Fire Departments.
2. Recruit and enlist volunteers, whenever possible for planning, organizing, and staffing booths at specific events.
3. Hold community meetings during "fire season" while the community is fully aware of the fire danger
4. Hold community meetings at the conclusion of "fire season" to review the actions of the community during "fire season" and how to improve upon those actions.

E. PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Objective

To increase public awareness and knowledge of forest health issues with emphasis on wildfire safety. All agencies and entities, which engage in wildland firefighting activities, will utilize the following sources for dissemination of pertinent education materials:

- Newspapers
- Publications
- County Fairs
- FIREWISE Workshops
- Public information meetings during all major fire events
- Defensible Space Workshops
- Regularly scheduled school programs

Work Completed

Defensible Space workshops and school education programs are ongoing.

Work Scheduled

Fire Departments to host Defensible Space Workshops on April 4th, 2003

Develop PSA's for Radio

Provide Booths and Exhibits at:

Sierra County Fair

Work Needed

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Budget and Finance

All cooperators seek funding opportunities that relate to information and education activities so that message disseminated is consistent and represents all partners.

F. GRANTS AND ADMINISTRATION

Work Completed

Continue to work as a group in searching for funding availability and to disseminate information to the communities.

Work Scheduled

The clearinghouse for all information will be the Sierra Soil & Water Conservation District who will disseminate grants opportunities to cooperators as they are received.

G. INTERMEDIATE RESTORATION – *BACK 40*

Objective

While current National Fire Plan 20 Communities strategy focus on the areas identified as urban interface as a priority, it is understood that other areas beyond this zone will need to be treated to protect watersheds, infrastructure and customs, cultures of Sierra County. These projects will require increased cooperation between all cooperators, public, private and special interest. While it is not the intent of this action plan to identify projects at this time; once the wildland/urban interact conditions are improved these projects will be identified that will have a long-lasting affect on larger ecosystems. These projects will be multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional and complex in nature.

Budget and Finance

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Work Completed

1. USDA-FS- completed prescription burns on the following:
Hermosa: 47,720 acres
Indian Peaks: 35,000 acres
Fire-Use Fires: 7,687 acres

2. BLM- completed prescription burn on the following:
Iron Mountain:

3. Sierra SWCD- submitted a 319 proposal on the Alamosa Canyon Box

Work Scheduled

Future prescription (large-scale and fire–use) burns on USDA-FS, BLM, State and Private Lands in a watershed/ecosystem base approach

Planned Prescription by USDA-FS include:

Indian Peaks	10,000 acres	Spring 2003
Hermosa	10,000 acres/yr	Spring 2003
	3 consecutive years	

Work Needed

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IV. APPENDIX

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