

New Mexico Statewide Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy

Kickoff Meeting

July 8, 2009



In our dry, desert state, el agua es la vida – water is life.



Most water in New Mexico originates in the mountains where the forests are water's first filter.



**Forest health = water health = the health of all beings,
including human communities.**



Today many of New Mexico's ecosystems are in crisis: issues include over density of fuels, including invasive species and noxious weeds.

Our forests are experiencing catastrophic fires, resulting in irreversible changes on the landscape.





New Mexico's resources are diverse-
forests
shrub lands
grasslands
riparian corridors
urban environments





Recognizing the immediate need for action, a diverse group of stakeholders met over the course of 11 months to develop a plan that identifies ways to work together.

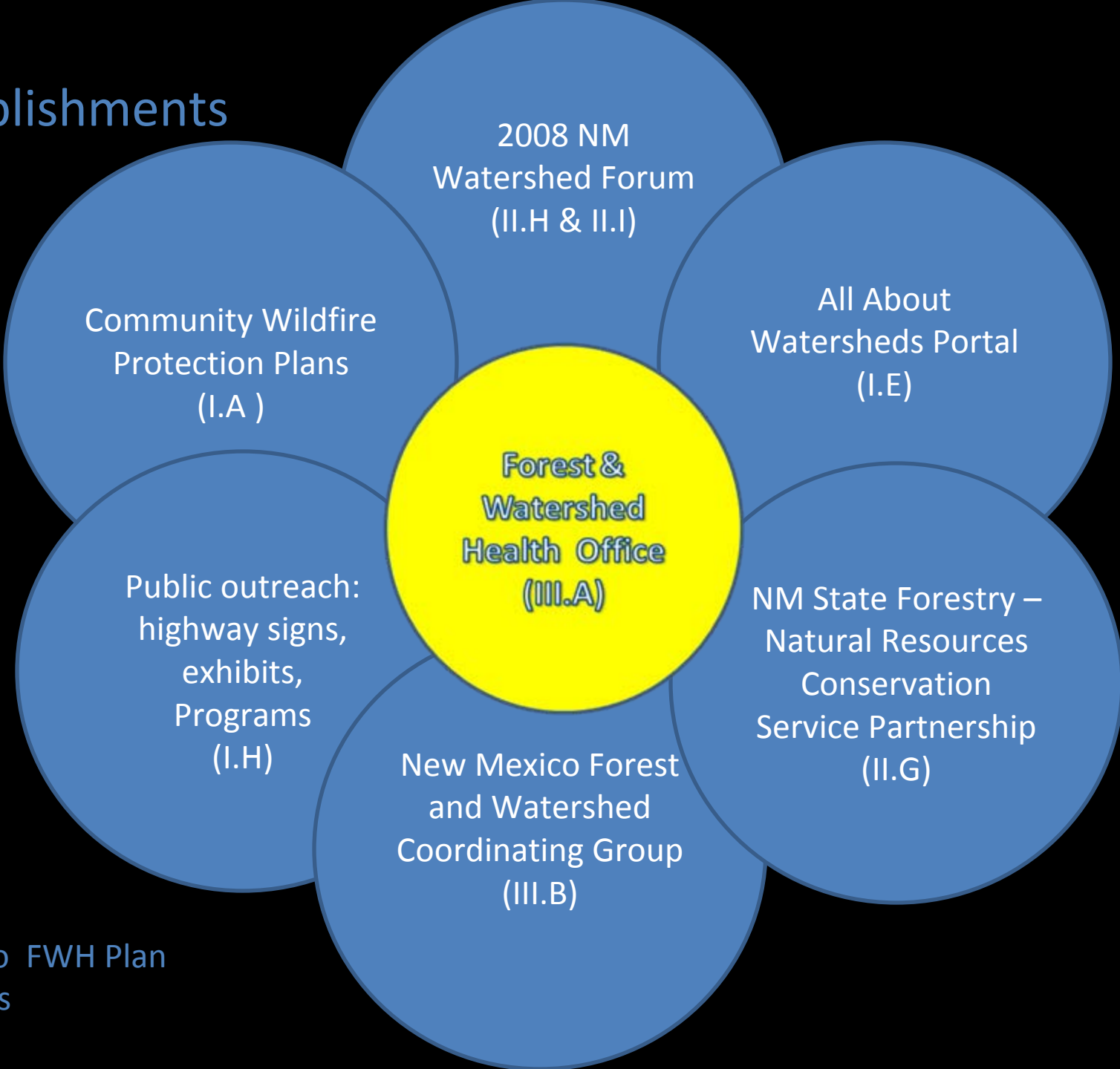
Forest and Watershed Health Plan

- ▶ Signed by Governor Richardson - March 2005
- ▶ Framework for ecological restoration
- ▶ 20 Recommendations
 - Objectives
 - Action items
- ▶ Forest and Watershed Health Office (FWHO)
 - coordinates and facilitates implementation

Action Items

- I State-level action in support of local on-the-ground efforts
- II State-level strategic planning and coordination
- III State-level management and administration

Recent Accomplishments



New Mexico FWH Plan
Action items

Forest and Watershed Health Coordinating Group

Members represent 17 agency and non-governmental stakeholders

Coordinating Group's Role:

- Strategic planning
- Improve communication
- Increase coordination
- Identify issues of common concern
- Propose solutions
- Establish task teams





ALL ABOUT WATERSHEDS

Forest and Watershed Health Information Clearinghouse

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About the Forest and Watershed Health Information Clearinghouse

The Forest and Watershed Health Information Clearinghouse provides centralized access to ecological, socio-cultural and economic information related to restoration and maintenance of New Mexico forests and watersheds. The clearinghouse functions as a library as well as a shared workspace. Content can be uploaded, organized topically and searched by users of the clearinghouse. Shared workspace will also enhance collaboration, training, and knowledge among those involved in forest and watershed restoration. The Clearinghouse is a joint project of New Mexico State Forestry and the New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute, pursuant to the state's Forest and Watershed Health Plan.



New Mexico's Forest and Watershed Health Plan

An Integrated Collaborative Approach to Ecological

Funding for Forest and Watershed Restoration

Need \$ for your projects?
Learn more about funding opportunities...

New RFPs for Forest and Watershed Grants
and more!

« June 2009 »

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How To Participate In The Portal

Most of the Forest and Watershed Health Portal is available to the public. Registration is free and easy. Some portions, such as group workspace, are private. Membership is required for access to those portions. Members are allowed to post

FWHP Action Item II.A

Assess Statewide Ecological Condition

Need - a comprehensive picture showing:

- where restoration is most needed
- where projects are implemented and where there are gaps
- where the myriad of federal, state, tribal, local and private projects are linked to each other or at cross-purposes

FWHP Action Item II.A


Assess Statewide Ecological Condition

Recommendation:

- Assess statewide ecological conditions and restoration needs
- Analyze environmental threats to communities, causes of degradation, current restoration activities, and distribution of funds
- Identify gaps and opportunities

2008 Farm Bill

States must develop and submit a Statewide Assessment and Strategies for Forest Resources to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior by 2010

- 
- **For the Farm Bill, the focus is on state and private lands**
 - **For New Mexico's assessment, the focus is on all jurisdictions**

Although the Farm Bill requires only the forest assessment, we are looking at all ecosystems across the whole state. Therefore, some special emphasis will be given to forests based on Farm Bill requirements.

2010 Statewide Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy for Forest Resources

Forest and Watershed Health Assessment

- Must be completed within 1 year

GIS Format

- Watershed-based
- Ecological data layers
- Socio-economic data layers

Accessible via website

www.nmforestry.com

2010 Statewide Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy for Forest Resources

Layers

- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Water quality & water supply
- Economic potential
- Green infrastructure
- Forest fragmentation
- Wildfire risk
- Forest health risk
- Development risk

State Assessment Strategy



- Combine the state FWHP action item with the federal Farm Bill requirement.
- Contract support for GIS analysis, capturing stakeholder input, and plan writing
- Using STATE FUNDS; utilize state RFP process

Selected Contractors

- Proposal includes partnership with The Forest Guild and The Trust for Public Lands
- Proposal includes \$100,000 of additional value as TNC/The Forest Guild contribution to the effort.



For more information:

Mary .Stuever@state.nm.us

www.nmforestry.com

www.nmwatersheds.org

www.allaboutwatersheds.org