

**NEW MEXICO
COMMUNITIES AT RISK ASSESSMENT PLAN**



**ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
FORESTRY DIVISION
April 2004**

Cover photo: Structure protection efforts in the Pendaries subdivision during the Trampas Fire, 2002

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The New Mexico Fire Planning Task Force (NMFPT) was created by the 2003 New Mexico legislature to identify wildland urban interface areas most vulnerable to danger from forest fire in the State of New Mexico. Additionally, the Task Force will work with local governments in developing minimum standards for building codes and ordinances that will reduce the threat of forest fires to those communities.

The NMFPT will annually review the Communities at Risk list, whether for the inclusion of new communities or the reduction of adjective ratings or ultimate removal of communities from the list.

By September 30 of each year the Communities at Risk subgroup of the NMFPT will identify updates and revisions to the Communities at Risk list and submit these to the full NMFPT for approval. By December 15 of each year the NMFPTF will publish updates and revisions to the list and provide a finalized report to the Governor and New Mexico legislature.

Hazard risk assessments have been ongoing in New Mexico since 1999. They have yielded a wealth of information to determine communities at risk from wildland fire.

The National Fire Plan has brought funding into the state for planning and treatment in fire prone areas. Matching complementary projects on private and adjacent federal lands continues to be the primary goal.

This assessment highlights eighteen areas (in GIS polygon format) around the state that roughly coincide with the Forestry Division's original "Twenty Community Strategy". Inside these polygons are 220 communities. Using standard hazard risk rating methodology there are 133 communities rated high, 65 rated moderate and 22 rated at low risk from wildland fire. There are 12 tribal areas that fall within the WUI areas. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) in consultation with the effected tribes has conducted the hazard risk ratings for these areas.

BACKGROUND

The 2000 fire season in New Mexico and other western states prompted the development of the National Fire Plan (NFP) www.fireplan.gov and The 10 -Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan that was completed in May 2002. In the implementation plan there are four broad based goals. Goal 4- Promote Community Assistance includes the task “ develop nationally comparable definitions for identifying at-risk wildland urban interface communities and a process for prioritizing communities within state and tribal jurisdiction.”

In 1999, the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, Forestry Division and United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (USFS) Region 3 staff completed a New Mexico statewide wildland urban interface risk analysis. The assessment was based on the NFPA *Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Hazard Assessment Methodology* (c. 1997). The publication is available on the Forestry Division web site, www.nmforestry.com. The results of that survey began an internal prioritization process in the Forestry Division to produce hazard risk assessments on a countywide scale.

Forestry Division and Santa Fe County Fire Marshal's office staff completed the Santa Fe County Wildland Urban Interface Area Inventory Assessment in February 2001. This project was completed using state and local funding sources. This project provided the Fire Marshal enough compelling evidence to prompt the Santa Fe County Commission to implement the first urban interface building regulations in New Mexico in October 2001.

As NFP funds are delivered to the state, additional assessments at the county and local area level are being funded. Some as flow through grants from the state and others are direct grants to local governments or community interest groups from the USFS. The formats of these plans can differ based on the funding sources and the goals of the recipients. The basic premise of hazard rating is present in them all. Four years into the NFP there is an impressive array of planning being carried out around the state. See Tables 1 and 2.

A portion of the Forestry Division web page is devoted to the New Mexico Fire Plan. Electronic versions of as many of these documents as possible will be available at www.nmforestry.com.

Following the Cerro Grande Fire the Forestry Division recognized that although the countywide risk assessment model is a valid approach to conducting medium scale inventories, the need to quantitatively describe the most hazardous wildland urban interface areas in the state could not wait for the completion of county assessments. A list of evaluation criteria was developed using the NFPA model and point values were assigned to the criteria.

Wildland urban interface areas that Division fire management staff historically considered to be at risk or potential problem areas were rated against objective evaluation criteria. The original survey brought about 35 communities into the evaluation process. After the ratings were completed the list was pared down to twenty. The twenty chosen rated out as the highest in the hazard rating process and therefore were considered to be those most vulnerable to wildland fire.

In the fall of 2000, the Forestry Division, in consultation with federal land management agencies, local and tribal governments, community groups and citizens reviewed the proposed "Twenty Community" list. This consultation resulted in the addition of one community and the separate listing of 34 tribal areas. These 55 communities were published in the Federal Register in January 2001. See Figure 1.

The term "community" in this case referred to geographically distinct areas mostly adjacent to federal lands that included small towns and subdivisions. These polygons ranged in size from occluded subdivisions within National Forest boundaries (Catron County Interface) to the East Mountain polygon that stretches over 40 miles along the east side of the Sandia and Manzano Mountains adjacent to the Cibola National Forest.

Strategically, the Forestry Division recognized it was under funded and under staffed to commence projects in all the original areas identified. The original target was to be active in five communities each year. The "Twenty Community Strategy" was launched in December 2000. Response to this initiative was far greater than expected and some level of work was started almost immediately in all the communities.

**TABLE 1
FIRE PLANNING ASSESSMENTS IN NEW MEXICO
MEDIUM AND SMALL SCALE**

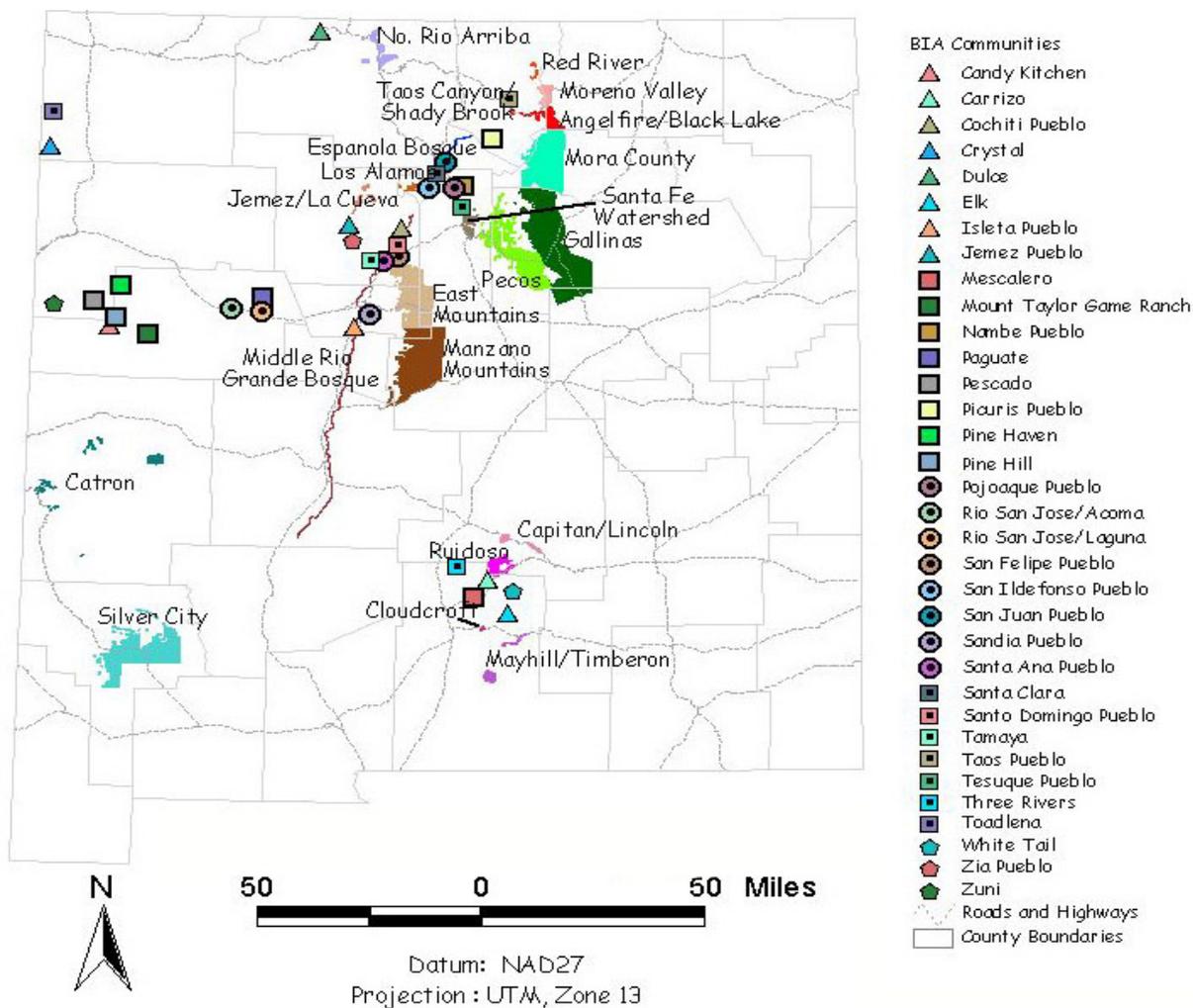
Area	Funding source	Completion date	Available at
Bernalillo County	USFS-SPS7	6/2002	www.nmforestry.com
Catron County	State/local	10/2002	www.nmforestry.com
Grant County	USFS-SPS7	9/2002	www.nmforestry.com
City of Las Vegas	FEMA	10/2003	www.nmforestry.com
Eight N. Pueblos	USFS-SPS7	?	
Los Alamos	FEMA	5/2001	
Mora County	USFS-SPS7	6/2002	www.nmforestry.com
Otero County	USFS-SPS7	9/2003	www.nmforestry.com
Raton/Colfax County	USFS-SPS7	In progress	
Rio Arriba County	USFS-SPS7	9/2003	www.nmforestry.com
Sandoval County	USFS-SPS7	12/2003	www.nmforestry.com
San Miguel County	USFS-SPS7	Fall 2003	
Santa Fe County	State/county	2/2001	www.nmforestry.com
Sierra County	State/local	6/2003	www.nmforestry.com
Sierra Land Grant	USFS-SPS7	9/2002	www.nmforestry.com
Taos Canyon	USFS-SPS7	In progress	
Torrance County	USFS-SPS7	12/2003	www.nmforestry.com
Truchas Land Grant	USFS-SPS7	9/2002	www.nmforestry.com

**TABLE 2
ADDITIONAL PLANS ADDRESSING FIRE HAZARDS
IN NEW MEXICO**

Area	Funding source	Completion date	Available at
Catron Stewardship	State	1/2002	www.nmforestry.com
Grant Stewardship	State	4/2003	www.nmforestry.com
Hyde State Park	WSFM	6/2001	www.nmforestry.com
N14 Stewardship	WSFM	11/2001	www.nmforestry.com
S14 Stewardship	WSFM	11/2001	www.nmforestry.com
SOBTF Action Plan	State/local	1/2003	www.nmforestry.com

FIGURE 1

Original communities listed in the Federal Register, January 2001



BIA data provided by that BIA Albuquerque Office.
 Area of concern is estimated location drawn based on topography,
 knowledge of local fuel conditions, and typical weather patterns.
 Updates are performed as new information becomes available.
 No warranties are made regarding the accuracy of this data.
 March 28, 2001. Produced by NM EMNRD Forestry Division.

FUTURE DIRECTION

Direction provided by National Association of State Foresters (NASF) in "*Field Guidance – Identifying and Prioritizing Communities at Risk*" (6/27/03) refined the Forestry Divisions course in assessing communities at risk in the state. It became the ideal time to expand and/or consolidate some of the original "Twenty Community" polygons and present additional ones. Individual towns, villages and subdivisions within the polygons were ranked for the first time. *Field Guidance* defines community as "a group of people living in the same locality and under the same government."

Using 2000 census data and hazard risk assessment methodology the Forestry Division developed adjective ratings for communities within polygons that have physical attributes that could negatively affect a community should a wildfire occur. These features include large tracts of forested private, federal and tribal land, and municipal watersheds. Ranking communities numerically is discouraged in *Field Guidance* as a means of setting priorities in favor of evaluating future project work in an area based on the merits of those projects. This allows for the opportunity to identify complementary projects on adjoining ownerships that could provide greater protection to a community than a stand-alone project. Adjective ratings of high, moderate and low were established.

Not all communities that fall within a polygon are listed. Communities that were considered at no significant risk from wildland fire and place names with a population of zero based on the 2000 census were excluded. The BIA in consultation with those tribes that fall in the polygons has determined the hazard risk rating for the tribal lands. (Appendix 2)

The Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) was passed by Congress and signed into law on December 3, 2003. This represents the legislative component of the Healthy Forest Initiative (HFI) that the federal land management agencies have been working with since August 2002. The objective of the HFI is the streamlining of administrative procedures to expedite the development and implementation of hazardous fuel reduction and ecosystem restoration projects on federal land when certain conditions are met. Although the HFRA is specific to USDA Forest Service and DOI Bureau of Land Management, the other DOI agencies are using the definitions and protocols from the Act as appropriate.

One of the major premises that the Forestry Division has used since the inception of the project in 2000 is working with communities when they are ready. Local leadership, whether it be elected officials or homeowner associations have a way of making themselves known when a community organization is advanced enough to deal with this issue. The HFRA emphasizes the need for federal agencies to work collaboratively with the states and local communities in the development of hazardous fuel reduction projects and places priority on treatment areas identified by communities themselves in a Community Wildfire

Protection Plan (CWPP). A summary and checklist for the process can be found in Appendix 3.

The eighteen polygons that are presented in Figure 2 are named for a prominent geographic feature or by the former "Twenty Community" name for the area. Their primary purpose is descriptive. The polygons should not be considered permanent fixtures on the landscape but more in terms of a template for future work. Based on the HFRA these polygons should be considered broad Community Wildfire Protection (CWP) Zones.

The communities listed within the polygons are by no means a final tally of areas at risk from wildland fire. Communities not listed have the opportunity to be included through the development of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). Communities are encouraged to contact their local Forestry Division district office for assistance. Agencies concerned with communities or occluded subdivisions near ecologically or culturally sensitive areas may have these areas considered for inclusion through the development of Hazard Risk Assessments that include a local community collaboration component.

The wildland urban interface (WUI) is commonly described as the zone where structures and other human development meet and intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels. The established definition of WUI is the area within ½ mile of a community boundary or within 1-½ miles of the boundary when mitigating circumstances exist such as steep slopes or the presence of an evacuation route. In the context of the HFRA a community can now define its unique wildland urban interface as part of a CWPP.

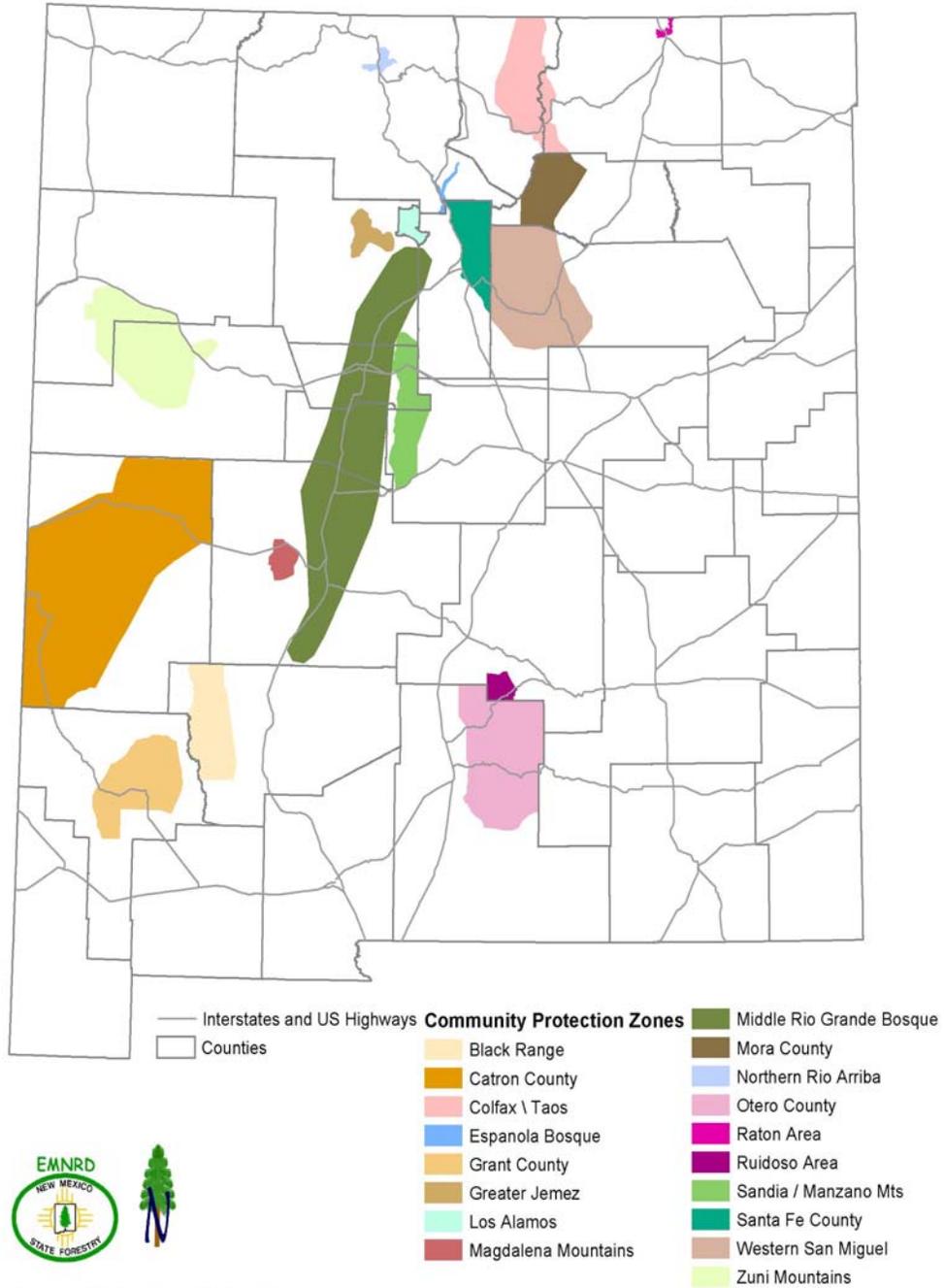
Through the use of CWPPs the HFRA provides communities with the opportunity to influence where and how federal agencies implement fuel reduction projects in federal lands and how federal funds are distributed for projects on non-federal lands. Local CWPPs can take a variety of forms based on the publication "Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan: A Handbook for Wildland-Urban Interface Communities" available at www.safnet.org.

Of the 220 communities listed 133 communities rated high, 65 rated moderate and 22 rated at low risk from wildland fire. Involvement by homeowners and businesses in any of these communities can significantly alter their immediate surroundings and the adjacent landscape.

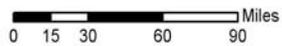
Agency perspective and new federal legislation four years into the National Fire Plan has had an impact on the shape of the polygons and the delineation of individual communities within them. The persistent drought has increased the hazard risk rating of some areas in northern New Mexico that were previously considered to be at low risk. Additionally the development of subdivisions continues around the state and has brought entirely new areas to light as to risk from wildland fire.

FIGURE 2
2004 Community Protection Zones

NEW MEXICO COMMUNITY PROTECTION ZONES



Datum: NAD83 Projection: UTM, Zone 13N
 Project location data as of October 2003
 Base data from NM RGIS Clearinghouse or derived by NM Forestry.
 No warranties are made regarding the accuracy of this data.
 Produced by NM EMNRD Forestry Division GIS



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The NMFPT will annually review the Communities at Risk list (table3), whether for the inclusion of new communities or the reduction of adjective ratings or ultimate removal of communities from the list.

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TABLE 3
COMMUNITIES AT RISK LIST

COMMUNITY PROTECTION ZONE	COMMUNITY	RANKING
Black Range	Chloride	H
Black Range	Hillsboro	M
Black Range	Kingston	M
Black Range	Poverty Creek	M
Black Range	Winston	H
Catron	Apache Creek	M
Catron	Aragon	M
Catron	Coyote Creek	M
Catron	Cruzville	M
Catron	Datil Area	H
Catron	Elk Springs	H
Catron	Glenwood	M
Catron	Horse Mountain	M
Catron	Jewett Gap	H
Catron	Luna	H
Catron	Mogollon	H
Catron	Pie Town Area	M
Catron	Quemado Lake Estates	H
Catron	Rancho Grande Estates	H
Catron	Reserve	H
Catron	Wildhorse	M
Catron	Willow Creek	H
Colfax/Taos	Amalia	M
Colfax/Taos	Angel Fire	H
Colfax/Taos	Arroyo Hondo	M
Colfax/Taos	Arroyo Seco	M
Colfax/Taos	Black Lake	H
Colfax/Taos	Costilla	M
Colfax/Taos	Eagle Nest	L
Colfax/Taos	El Padro	L
Colfax/Taos	Idlewild	H
Colfax/Taos	Lakeview Pines	H
Colfax/Taos	La Lama	L
Colfax/Taos	Latir	H
Colfax/Taos	Questa	M
Colfax/Taos	Red River	M
Colfax/Taos	Shady Brook	H
Colfax/Taos	Taos	L

COMMUNITY PROTECTION ZONE	COMMUNITY	RANKING
Colfax/Taos	Taos Pueblo	H*
Colfax/Taos	Valle Econdido	H
Espanola Bosque	Alcalde	M
Espanola Bosque	Chamita	M
Espanola Bosque	Chili	M
Espanola Bosque	Embudo	L
Espanola Bosque	Espanola	M
Espanola Bosque	Fairview	M
Espanola Bosque	Hernandez	H
Espanola Bosque	La Mesilla	M
Espanola Bosque	Los Luceros	M
Espanola Bosque	Lyden	M
Espanola Bosque	San Juan Pueblo	H*
Espanola Bosque	Santa Clara Pueblo	H*
Espanola Bosque	Velarde	L
Grant	Bayard	M
Grant	Burro Mountain Area	M
Grant	Hanover	H
Grant	Lake Roberts	H
Grant	LS Mesa	H
Grant	Mimbres Valley	H
Grant	Oak Grove	H
Grant	Pinos Altos	H
Grant	San Lorenzo	M
Grant	Santa Clara	M
Grant	Silver City	M
Grant	White Signal	H
Greater Jemez	Cochiti Mesa	H
Greater Jemez	Fenton Lake State Park	H
Greater Jemez	Jemez Springs	M
Greater Jemez	La Cueva	H
Greater Jemez	Seven Springs	H
Greater Jemez	Sierra de Los Pinos	H
Greater Jemez	Thompson Ridge	H
Los Alamos	Los Alamos	M
Los Alamos	White Rock	M
Magdalena Area	Hop Canyon	H
Magdalena Area	Magdalena	M
Magdalena Area	Mills Canyon	H
Magdalena Area	Water Canyon	M
Middle Rio Grande Bosque	Abeytas	H
Middle Rio Grande Bosque	Albuquerque	H

*Hazard Risk rated by BIA

COMMUNITY PROTECTION ZONES	COMMUNITY	RANKING
Middle Rio Grande Bosque	Belen	H
Middle Rio Grande Bosque	Bernalillo	H
Middle Rio Grande Bosque	Bernardo	M
Middle Rio Grande Bosque	Bosquecito	H
Middle Rio Grande Bosque	Cochiti Lake	H
Middle Rio Grande Bosque	Cochiti Pueblo	H*
Middle Rio Grande Bosque	Corrales	H
Middle Rio Grande Bosque	Isleta Pueblo	H*
Middle Rio Grande Bosque	La Joya	H
Middle Rio Grande Bosque	Lemitar	M
Middle Rio Grande Bosque	Los Lunas	H
Middle Rio Grande Bosque	Los Ranchos	H
Middle Rio Grande Bosque	Pena Blanca	M
Middle Rio Grande Bosque	Peralta	H
Middle Rio Grande Bosque	Placitas	M
Middle Rio Grande Bosque	Pueblito	H
Middle Rio Grande Bosque	San Acacia	H
Middle Rio Grande Bosque	San Antonio	M
Middle Rio Grande Bosque	San Felipe Pueblo	H*
Middle Rio Grande Bosque	San Pedro	H
Middle Rio Grande Bosque	Sandia Pueblo	H*
Middle Rio Grande Bosque	Santa Ana Pueblo	H*
Middle Rio Grande Bosque	Santo Domingo Pueblo	H*
Middle Rio Grande Bosque	Socorro	M
Middle Rio Grande Bosque	Valencia	H
Middle Rio Grande Bosque	Veguita	H
Mora	Chacon	H
Mora	Cleveland	H
Mora	Gascon	H
Mora	Guadalupita	H
Mora	Holman	H
Mora	La Cueva	M
Mora	Ledoux	H
Mora	Mora	H
Mora	Rainsville	M
Mora	Ocate	H
Mora	Ojo Feliz	M
Otero	Cloudcroft	H
Otero	Cox Canyon	H
Otero	Dry Canyon	H
Otero	High Rolls	H
Otero	James Canyon	H

*Hazard Risk rated by BIA

COMMUNITY PROTECTION ZONES	COMMUNITY	RANKING
Otero	Mayhill	H
Otero	Mescalero Apache Res.	H*
Otero	Sacramento	H
Otero	Sixteen Springs	H
Otero	Timberon	H
Otero	Weed	H
Raton	Bartlett	H
Raton	Carisbrooke	L
Raton	Gardiner	M
Raton	Linwood	H
Raton	Pine Forest	H
Raton	Raton	M
Raton	Sugarite	H
Raton	Sugarite State Park	H
Northern Rio Arriba	Brazos	M
Northern Rio Arriba	Canones	M
Northern Rio Arriba	Ensenada	L
Northern Rio Arriba	La Puente	L
Northern Rio Arriba	Los Ojos	L
Northern Rio Arriba	Plaza Blanca	L
Northern Rio Arriba	Ponderosa Estates	H
Northern Rio Arriba	Rutherford	L
Northern Rio Arriba	Tierra Amarilla	L
Ruidoso Area	Alto	H
Ruidoso Area	Bonito	H
Ruidoso Area	Cedar Creek	H
Ruidoso Area	Eagle Creek	H
Ruidoso Area	Gavilan Canyon	H
Ruidoso Area	Hollywood	H
Ruidoso Area	Ponderosa Heights	H
Ruidoso Area	Ruidoso	H
Ruidoso Area	Ruidoso Downs	H
Ruidoso Area	Sierra Vista	H
Ruidoso Area	Sun Valley	H
Ruidoso Area	Villa Madonna	H
Western San Miguel	Bernal	M
Western San Miguel	Canoncito	H
Western San Miguel	Cedar Hill	L
Western San Miguel	East Las Vegas	L
Western San Miguel	El Porvenir	H
Western San Miguel	Gabaldon	M
Western San Miguel	Gallinas	H

*Hazard Risk rated by BIA

COMMUNITY PROTECTION ZONES	COMMUNITY	RANKING
Western San Miguel	Ilfeld	H
Western San Miguel	Las Vegas	L
Western San Miguel	La Manga	M
Western San Miguel	Manuelitas	H
Western San Miguel	Mineral Hill	H
Western San Miguel	Montezuma	H
Western San Miguel	North San Ysidro	H
Western San Miguel	Pecos	H
Western San Miguel	Pendaries Village	H
Western San Miguel	Rociada	H
Western San Miguel	Romeroville	H
Western San Miguel	Rowe	H
Western San Miguel	San Antonio	M
Western San Miguel	San Miguel	L
Western San Miguel	Sapello	H
Western San Miguel	Sheridan	H
Western San Miguel	Tecolote	M
Western San Miguel	Tererro	H
Western San Miguel	Tres Lagunas	H
Western San Miguel	Upper Colonias	H
Western San Miguel	Upper Rociada	H
Western San Miguel	Villaneuva	L
Western San Miguel	Winsor Creek	H
Sandia/Manzano Mts.	Cedar Crest	H
Sandia/Manzano Mts.	Chilili	H
Sandia/Manzano Mts.	Manzano	H
Sandia/Manzano Mts.	Mountainair	M
Sandia/Manzano Mts.	Sandia Park	H
Sandia/Manzano Mts.	Sedillo	M
Sandia/Manzano Mts.	Tajique	H
Sandia/Manzano Mts.	Tijeras	H
Sandia/Manzano Mts.	Torreon	H
Santa Fe County	Canada de los Alamos	H
Santa Fe County	Chupadero	M
Santa Fe County	Cundiyo	M
Santa Fe County	Glorieta	H
Santa Fe County	Hyde Park Estates	H
Santa Fe County	Hyde State Park	H
Santa Fe County	La Cueva	H
Santa Fe County	La Puebla	M
Santa Fe County	Nambe	M
Santa Fe County	Nambe Pueblo	M*

*Hazard Risk rated by BIA

COMMUNITY PROTECTION ZONES	COMMUNITY	RANKING
Santa Fe County	Pojoaque	L
Santa Fe County	Santa Fe	H
Santa Fe County	Seton Village	H
Santa Fe County	Tesuque Pueblo	H*
Santa Fe County	Tesuque	H
Zuni Mountains	Bluewater	M
Zuni Mountains	El Morro	L
Zuni Mountains	Fort Wingate	M
Zuni Mountains	Lobo Canyon (Grants)	M
Zuni Mountains	McGaffey	H
Zuni Mountains	Milan	L
Zuni Mountains	Page	L
Zuni Mountains	Pinehaven	M
Zuni Mountains	Ramah	M
* Hazard Risk rated by BIA		

APPENDIX 1

BIA COMMUNITIES AT RISK FEDERAL REGISTER LIST 2001

Candy Kitchen
Carrizo
Cochiti Pueblo*
Crystal
Dulce
Elk
Isleta Pueblo*
Jemez Pueblo
Mescalero*
Mount Taylor Game Ranch
Nambe Pueblo*
Paguete
Pescado
Picuris Pueblo
Pine Haven
Pine Hill
Pojaque Pueblo
Rio San Jose/Acoma
Rio San Jose/Laguna
San Felipe Pueblo*
San Ildefonso Pueblo
San Juan Pueblo*
Sandia Pueblo*
Santa Ana Pueblo*
Santa Clara*
Santo Domingo*
Tamaya
Taos Pueblo*
Tesuque Pueblo*
Three Rivers
Toadlena
White Tail
Zia Pueblo
Zuni

*Fall within WUI polygons

APPENDIX 2
Southwest Region BIA ranking of tribal Communities at Risk

Federal Register Tribal Community	Priority	Included in State Risk Assessment?
Carrizo	H	No
Cochiti Pueblo	H	Yes
Dulce	H	No
Elk	H	No
Fort Wingate	H	No
Isleta Pueblo	H	Yes
Jemez Pueblo	H	No
Mescalero	H	Yes
Mount Taylor Game Ranch	H	No
Nambe Pueblo	M	Yes
Paguate	M	No
Pescado	L	No
Picuris Pueblo	H	No
Pine Hill	H	No
Pojoaque Pueblo	M	No
Acoma Pueblo	H	No
Laguna Pueblo	H	No
San Felipe Pueblo	H	No
San Ildefonso Pueblo	H	No
San Juan Pueblo	H	Yes
Sandia Pueblo	H	Yes
Santa Ana Pueblo	H	Yes
Santa Clara Pueblo	H	Yes
Santo Domingo Pueblo	H	Yes
Tamaya	M	No
Taos Pueblo	H	Yes
Tesuque Pueblo	H	Yes
Three Rivers	H	No
Whitetail	H	No
Zia Pueblo	H	No
Zuni Pueblo	H	No

APPENDIX 3

Community Wildfire Protection Plan¹ Summary and Checklist

Step One: Convene Decision Makers

- Form a core team made up of representatives from the appropriate local governments, local fire authority, and state agency responsible for forest management.

Step Two: Engage Interested Parties

- Contact and encourage active involvement in plan development from a broad range of interested organizations and stakeholders.
- Identify and engage local representatives of the USFS and BLM.
- Contact and involve other land management agencies as appropriate.

Step Three: Establish a Community Base Map

- Work with partners to establish a baseline map of the community that defines the community's WUI and displays inhabited areas at risk, forested areas that contain critical human infrastructure, and forest areas at risk for large-scale fire disturbance.

Step Four: Identify Problems to Be Addressed

- Work with partners to identify problems to be addressed, including fuel hazards; risk of wildfire occurrence; structural ignitability; local preparedness capability; and location of homes, businesses, essential infrastructure and other community values at risk.
- This "community risk assessment" can be simple or complex depending on the resources available to the community and partners.

Step Five: Establish Community Priorities and Recommendations

- Use the base map and community risk assessment to facilitate a collaborative community discussion that leads to the identification of local priorities for fuel treatment, reducing structural ignitability, and improving fire response capability.
- Clearly indicate whether priority projects are directly related to protection of communities and essential infrastructure or to reducing wildfire risks to other community values.

Step Six: Develop an Action Plan and Assessment Strategy

- Consider developing a detailed implementation strategy to accompany the CWPP, as well as a monitoring plan that will ensure its long-term success.

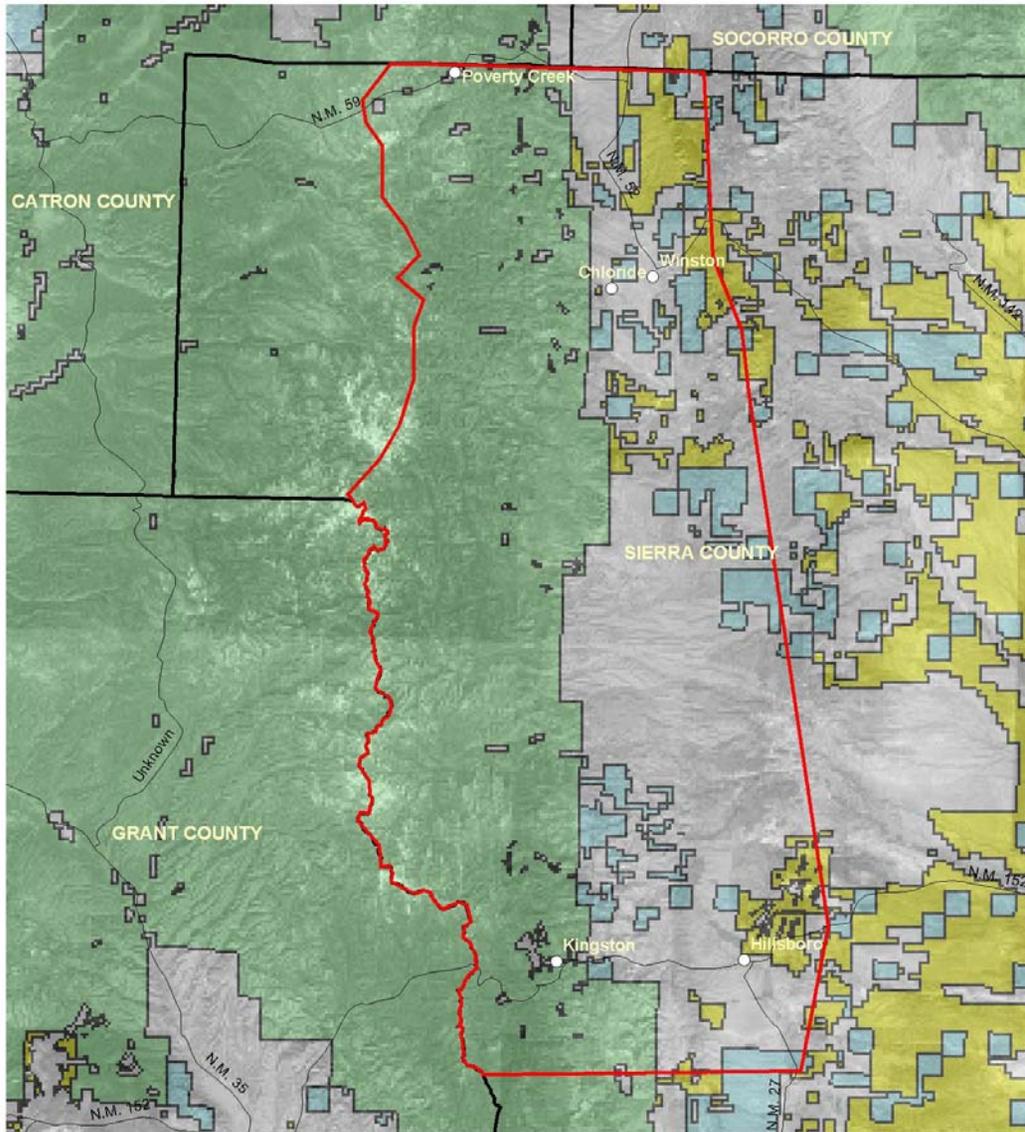
Step Seven: Complete the Community Wildfire Protection Plan

- Consider the CWPP complete for the year and date stamp the document.
- Communicate the results to the community and partners.
- Collect information to update the plan for revision the following year.

¹ This checklist was adapted from the publication "Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan: A handbook for Wildland-Urban Interface Communities" that can be downloaded from www.safnet.org. The checklist was modified by the New Mexico Fire Planning Task Force for use in New Mexico.

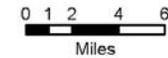
APPENDIX 4
New Mexico
Community Protection Zone Maps

Black Range	Mora County
Catron County	Otero County
Colfax/Taos	Raton
Espanola Bosque	Northern Rio Arriba County
Grant County	Ruidoso Area
Greater Jemez	Western San Miguel County
Los Alamos	Sandia/Manzano Mountains
Magdalena Area	Santa Fe County
Middle Rio Grande Bosque	Zuni Mountains



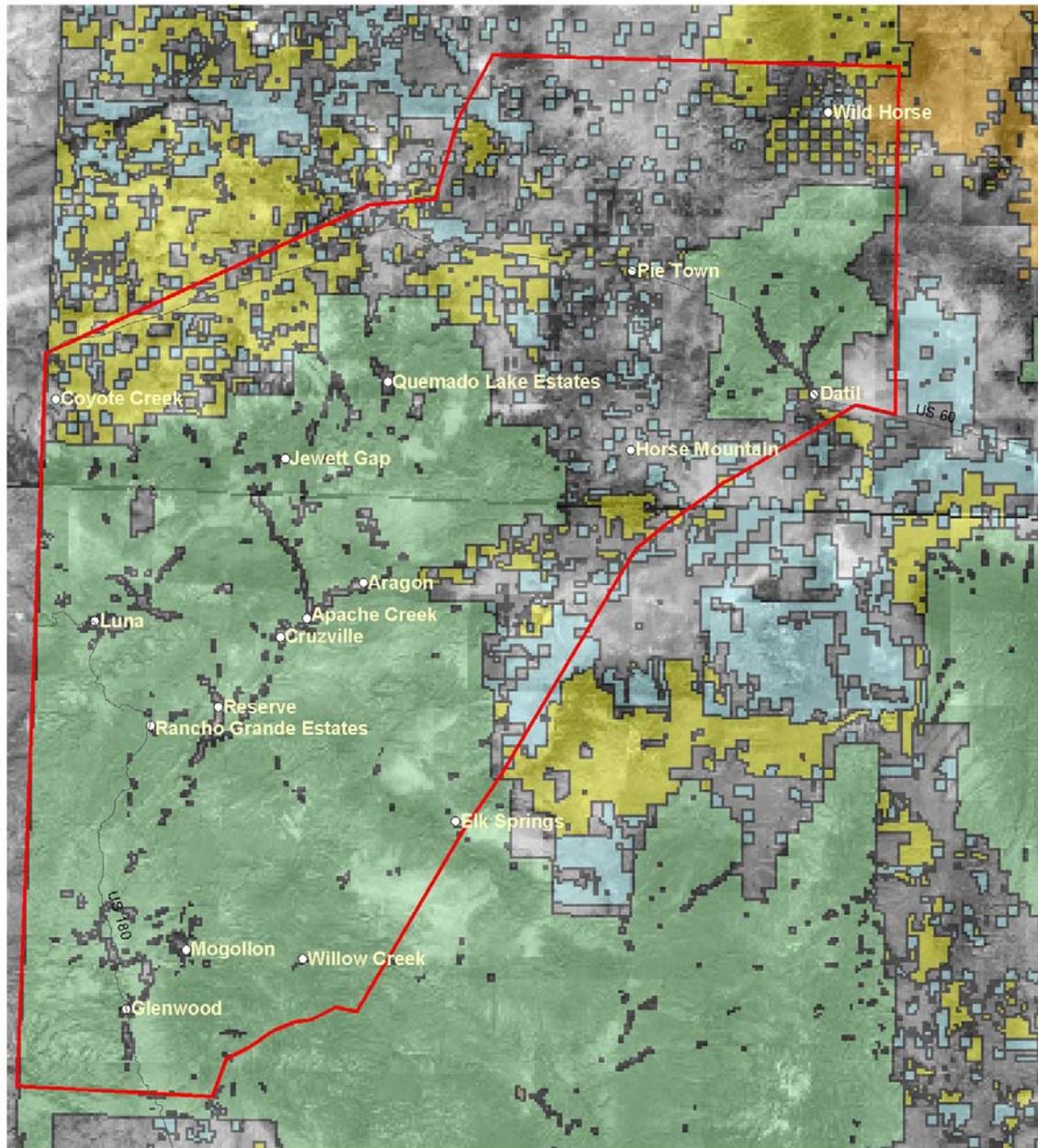
BLACK RANGE

- CITIES AND TOWNS INCLUDED IN CWP ZONES
- BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
- BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
- DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
- DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
- DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
- US FOREST SERVICE
- US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
- TRIBAL OR PUEBLO
- NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
- PRIVATE
- STATE
- STATE GAME AND FISH
- STATE PARKS



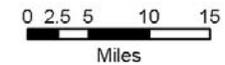
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CATRON COUNTY

- CITIES AND TOWNS INCLUDED IN CWP ZONES
- BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
- BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
- DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
- DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
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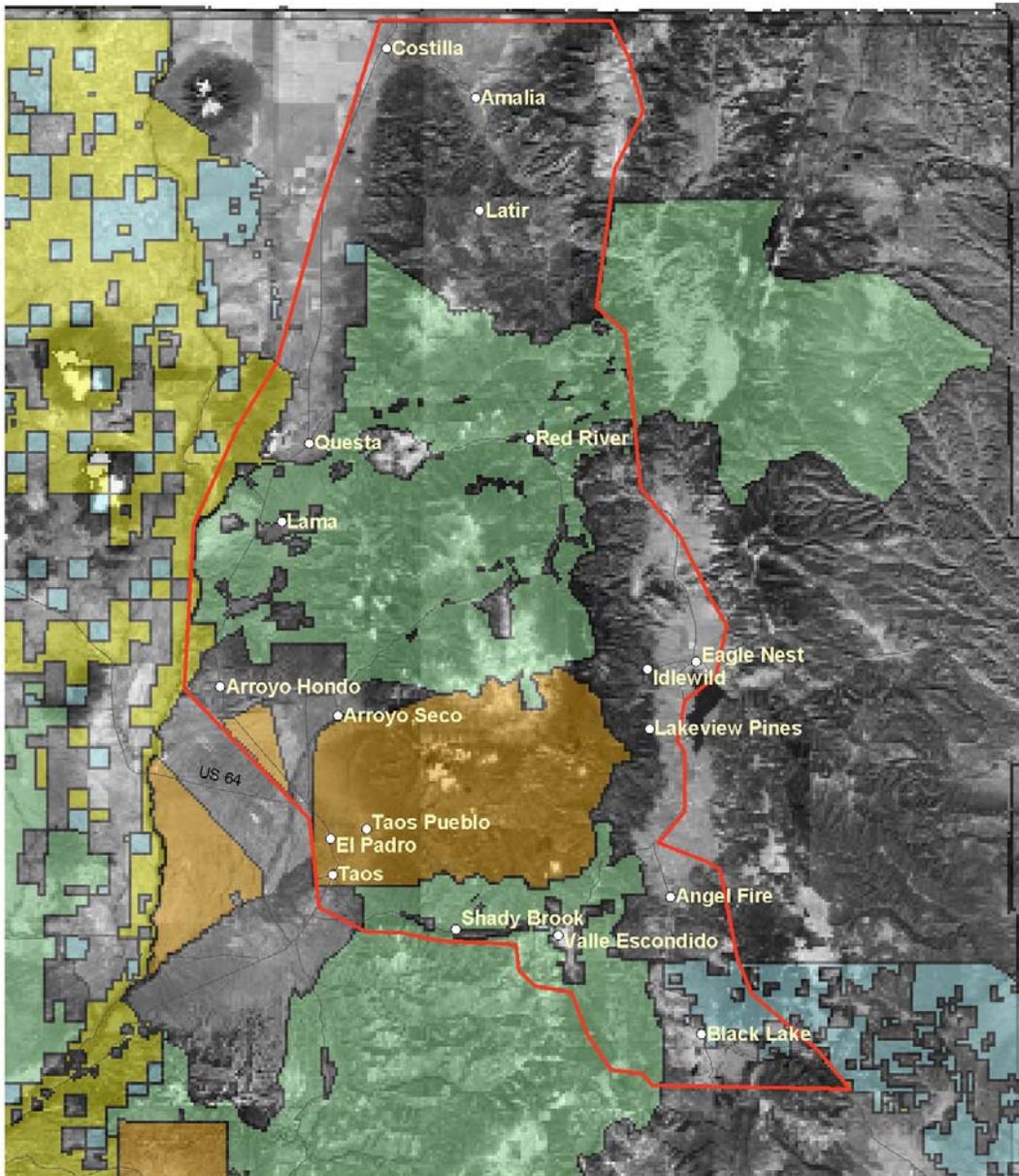


Vicinity



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COLFAX / TAOS

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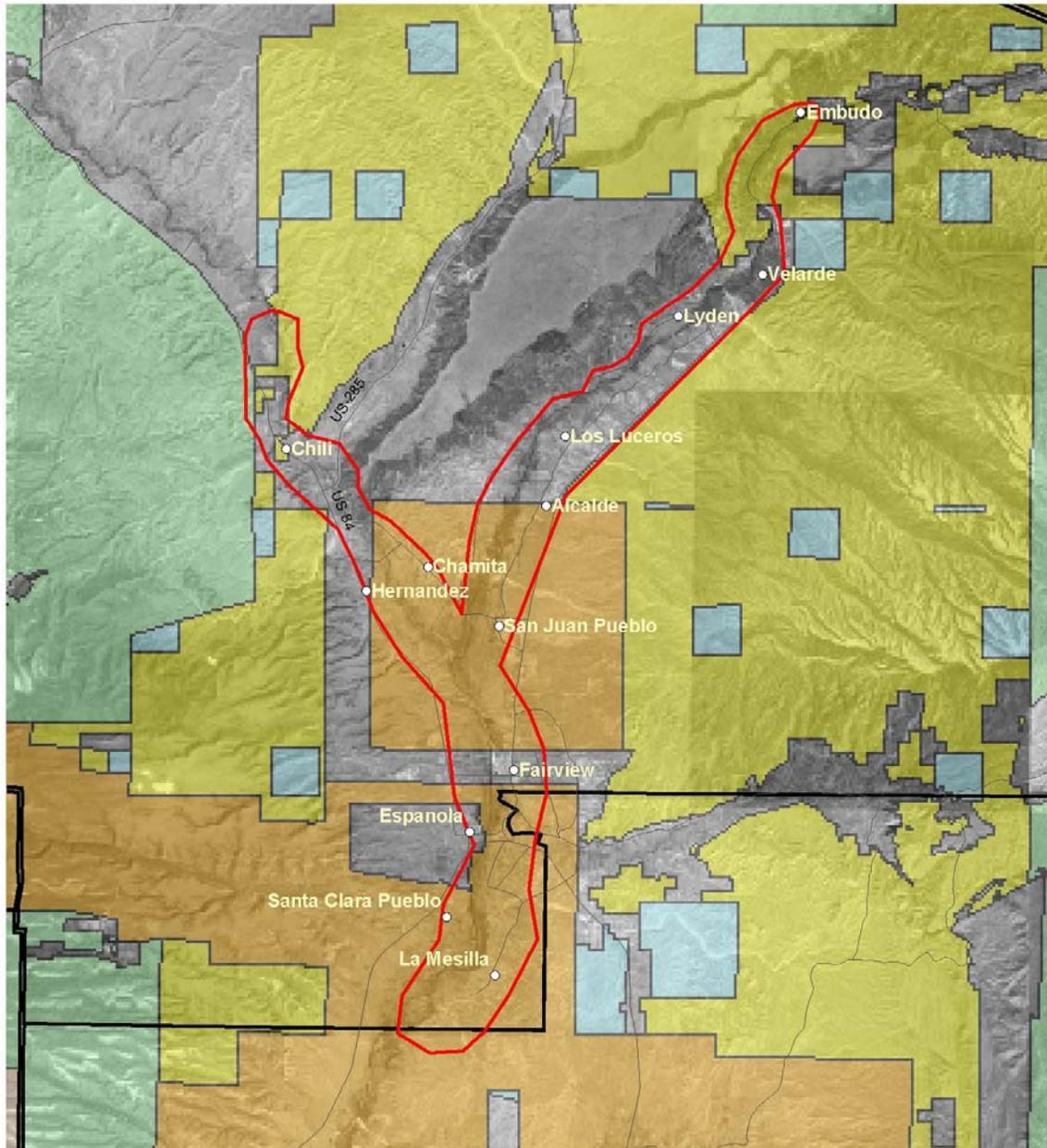


Vicinity



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ESPANOLA BOSQUE

- CITIES AND TOWNS INCLUDED IN CWP ZONES
- BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
- BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
- DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
- DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
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- STATE PARKS

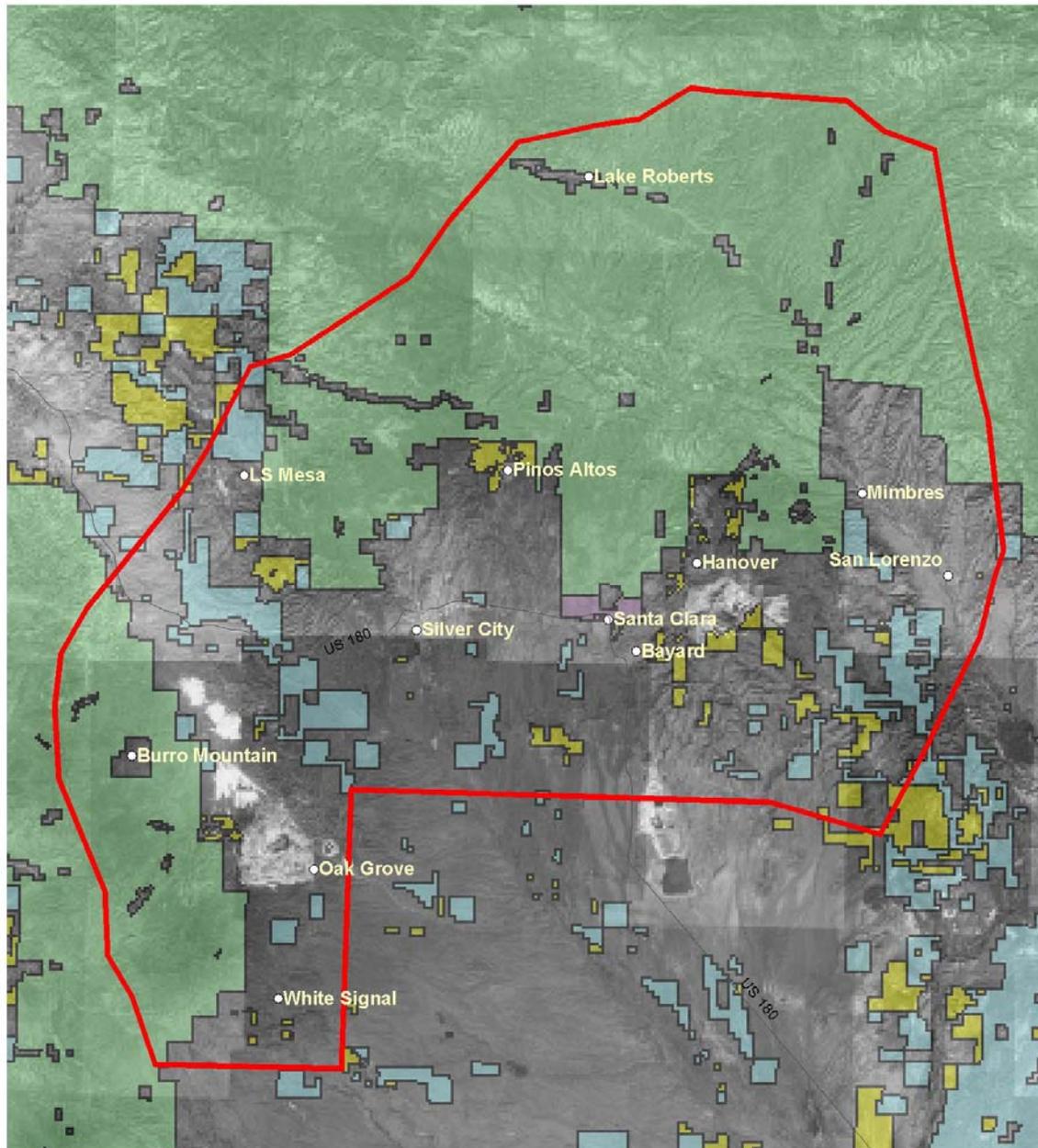


Vicinity



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GRANT COUNTY

- CITIES AND TOWNS INCLUDED IN CWP ZONES
- BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
- BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
- DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
- DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
- DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
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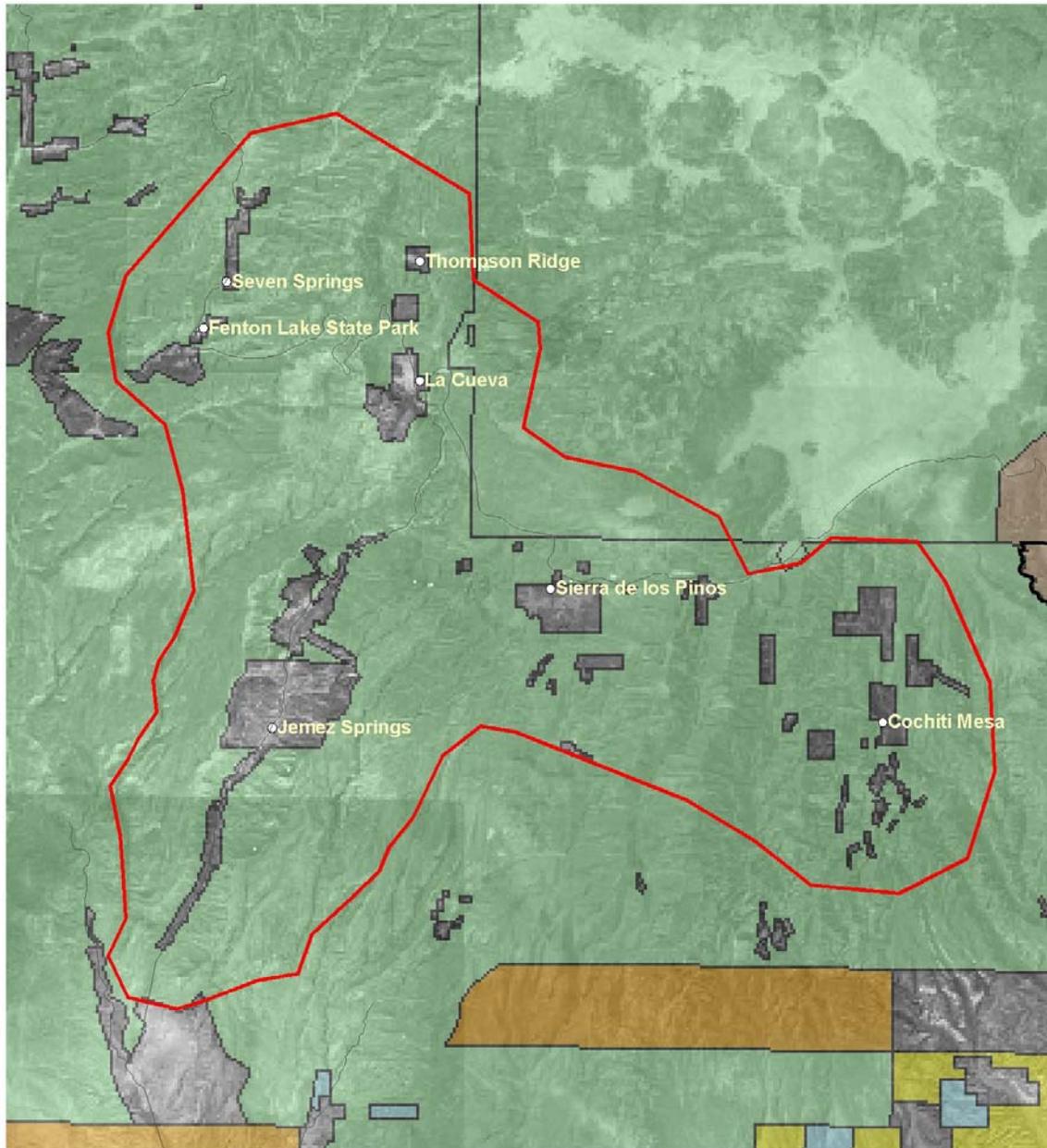


Vicinity



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GREATER JEMEZ

- CITIES AND TOWNS INCLUDED IN CWP ZONES
- BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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- STATE PARKS

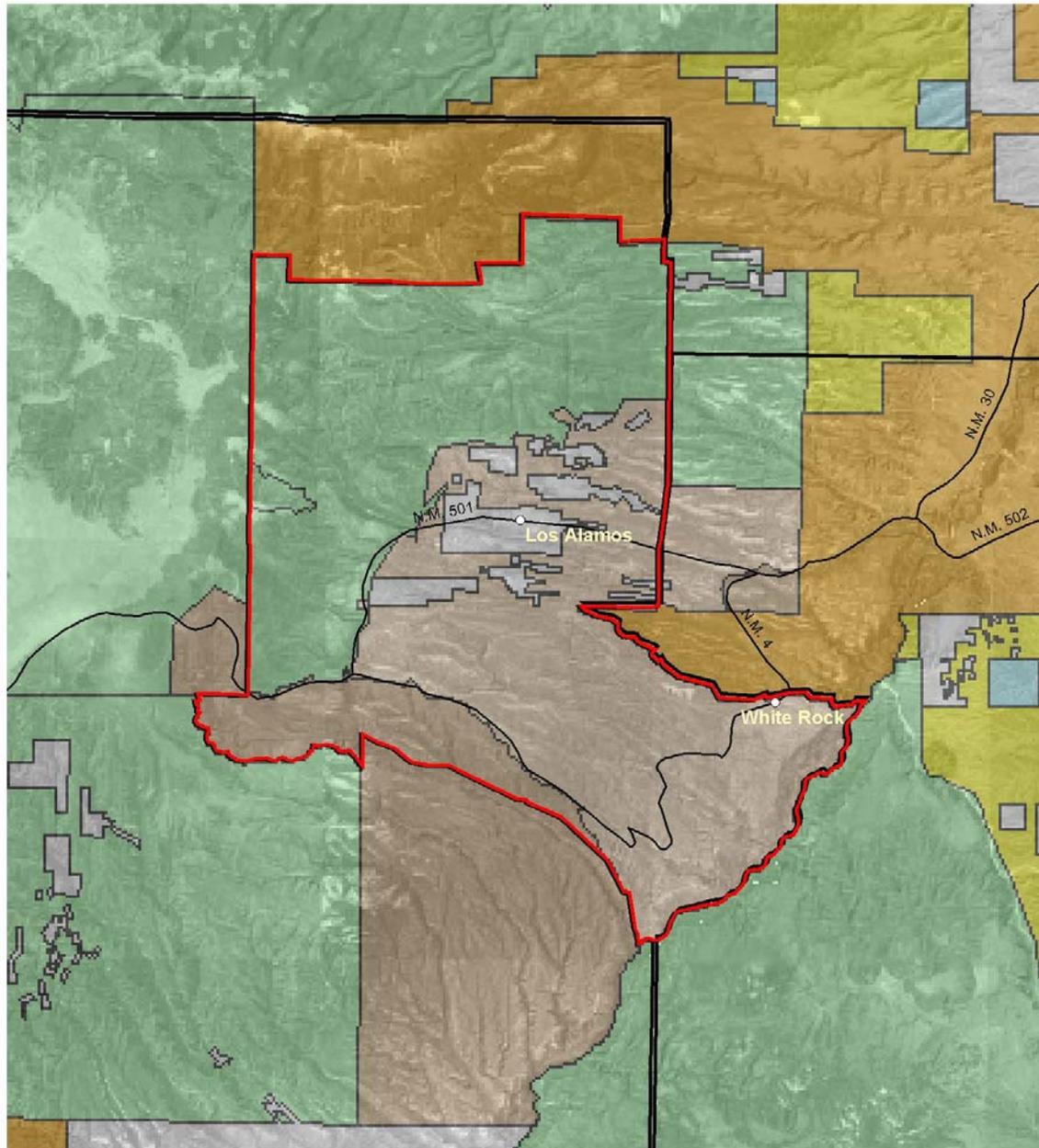


Vicinity



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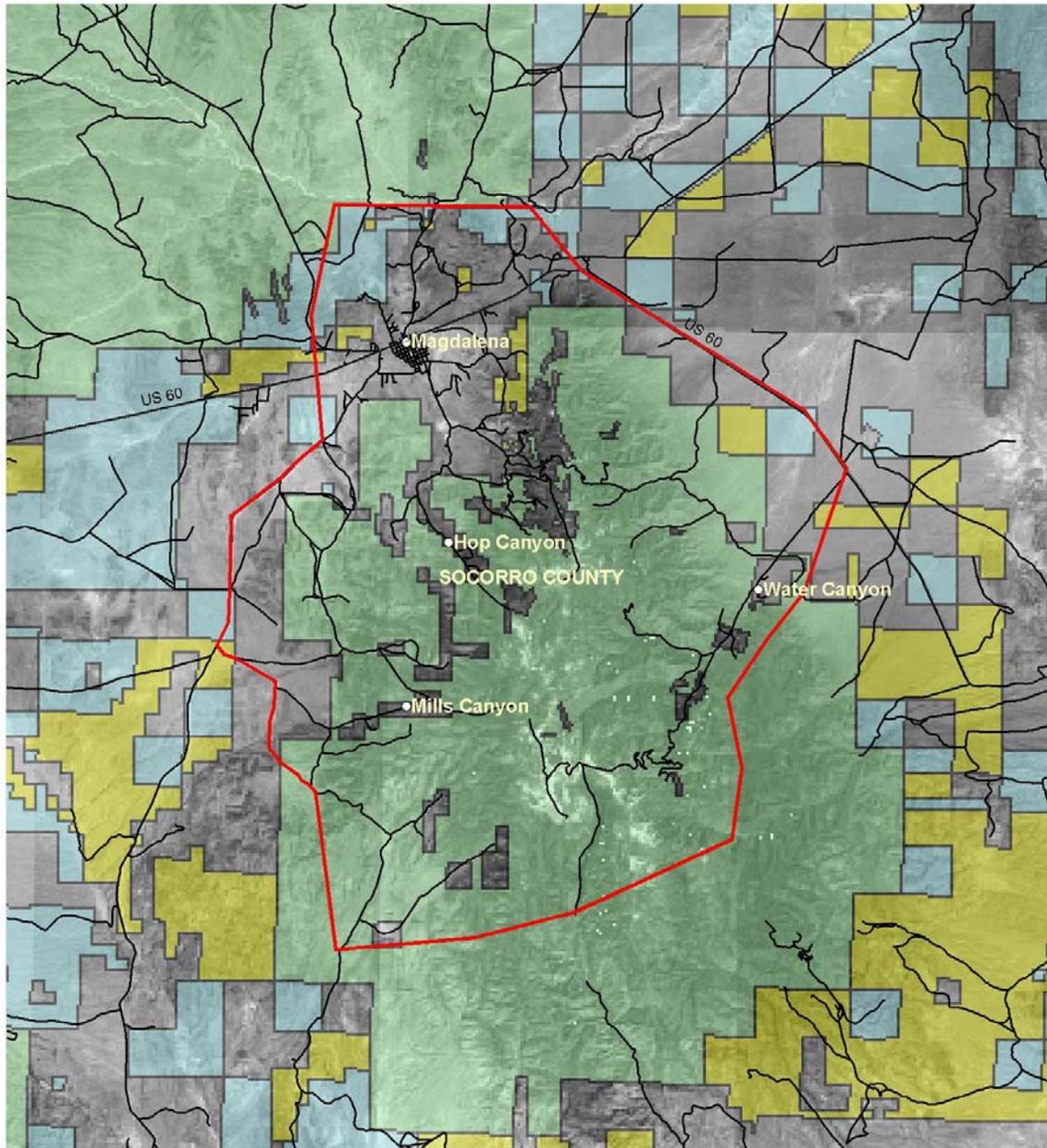
LOS ALAMOS

- CITIES AND TOWNS INCLUDED IN CWP ZONES
- BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
- BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
- DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
- DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
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MAGDALENA AREA

- CITIES AND TOWNS INCLUDED IN CWP ZONES
- BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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- DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
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- DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
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- STATE PARKS

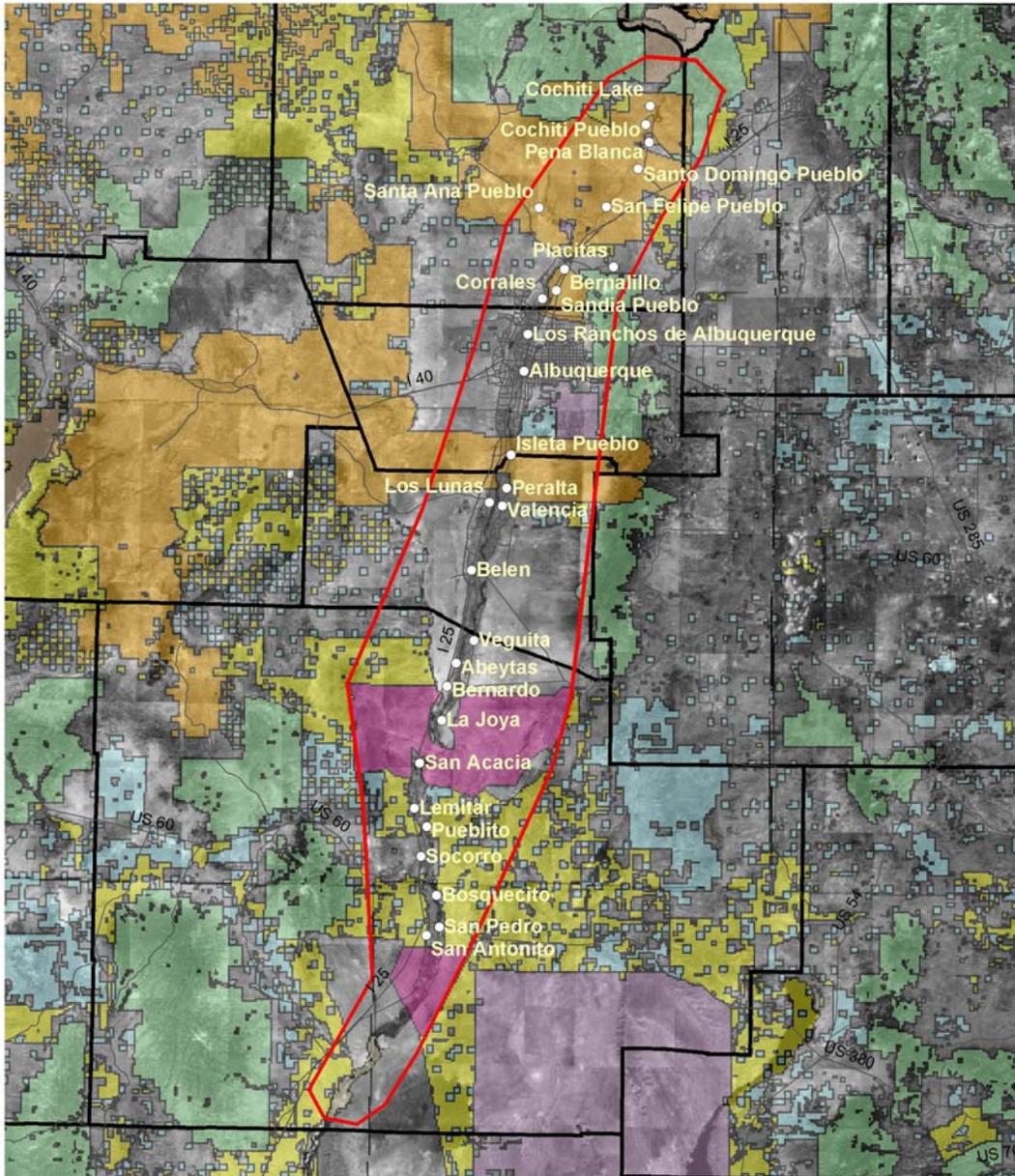


Vicinity



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MIDDLE RIO GRANDE BOSQUE

Legend

- Cities and Towns included in CWP Zones
- BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
- BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
- DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
- DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
- DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
- US FOREST SERVICE
- US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
- TRIBAL OR PUEBLO
- NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
- PRIVATE
- STATE
- STATE GAME AND FISH
- STATE PARKS

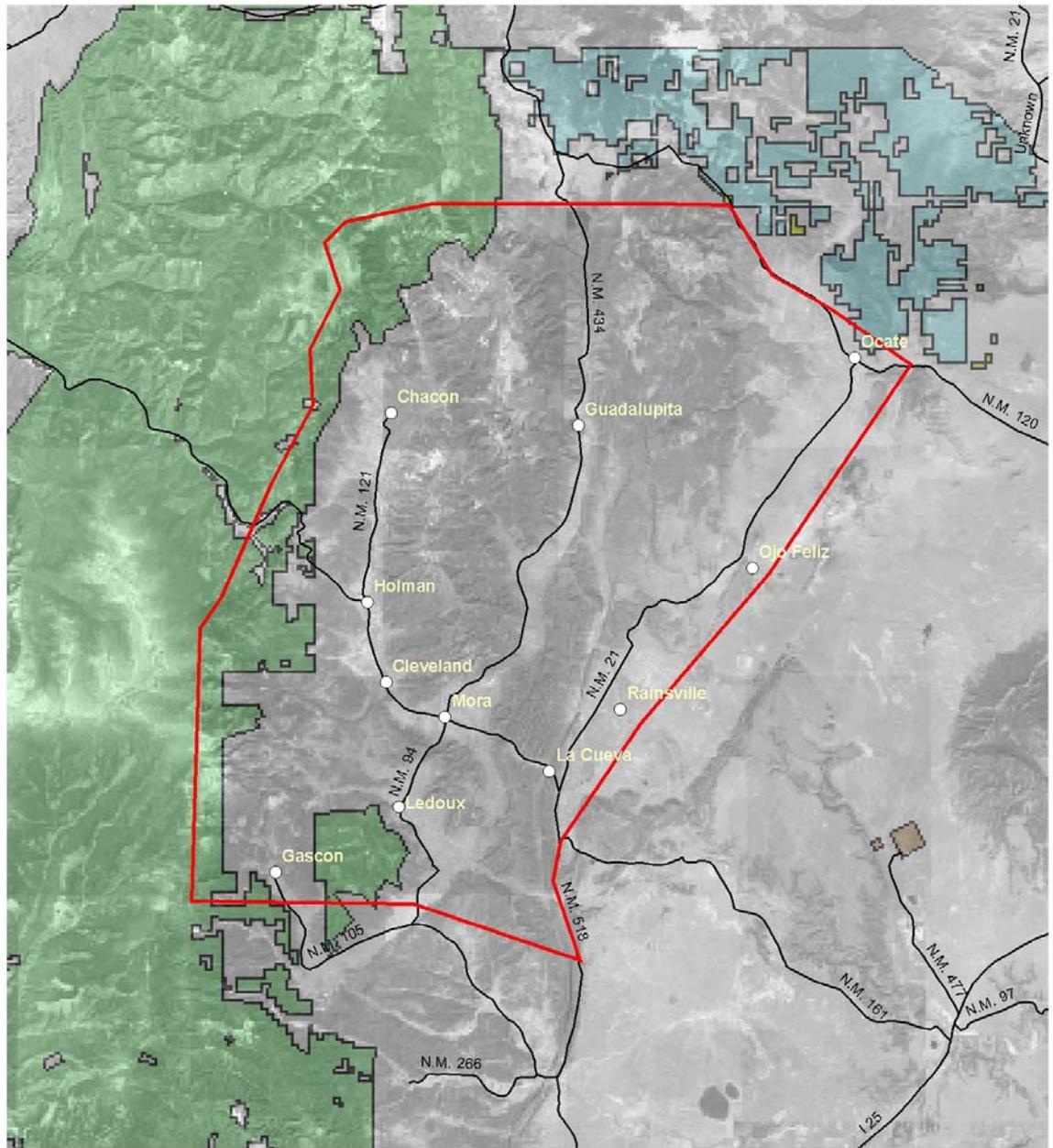


Vicinity



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 Produced by NM EMNRD Forestry Division GIS

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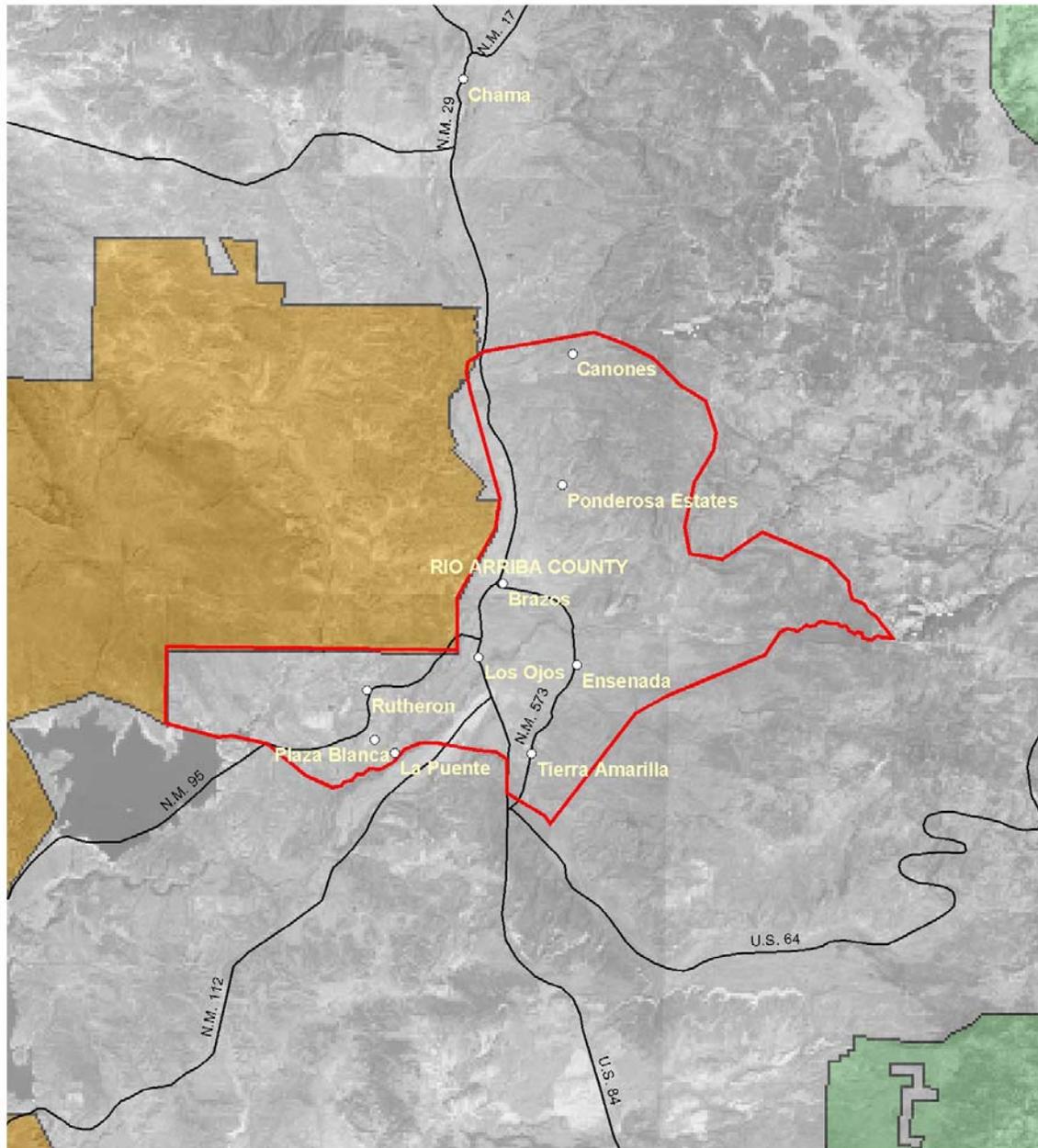
MORA COUNTY

- CITIES AND TOWNS INCLUDED IN CWP ZONES
- BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
- BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
- DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
- DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
- DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
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NORTHERN RIO ARRIBA

- CITIES AND TOWNS INCLUDED IN CWP ZONES
- BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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- DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
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- DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
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- STATE PARKS

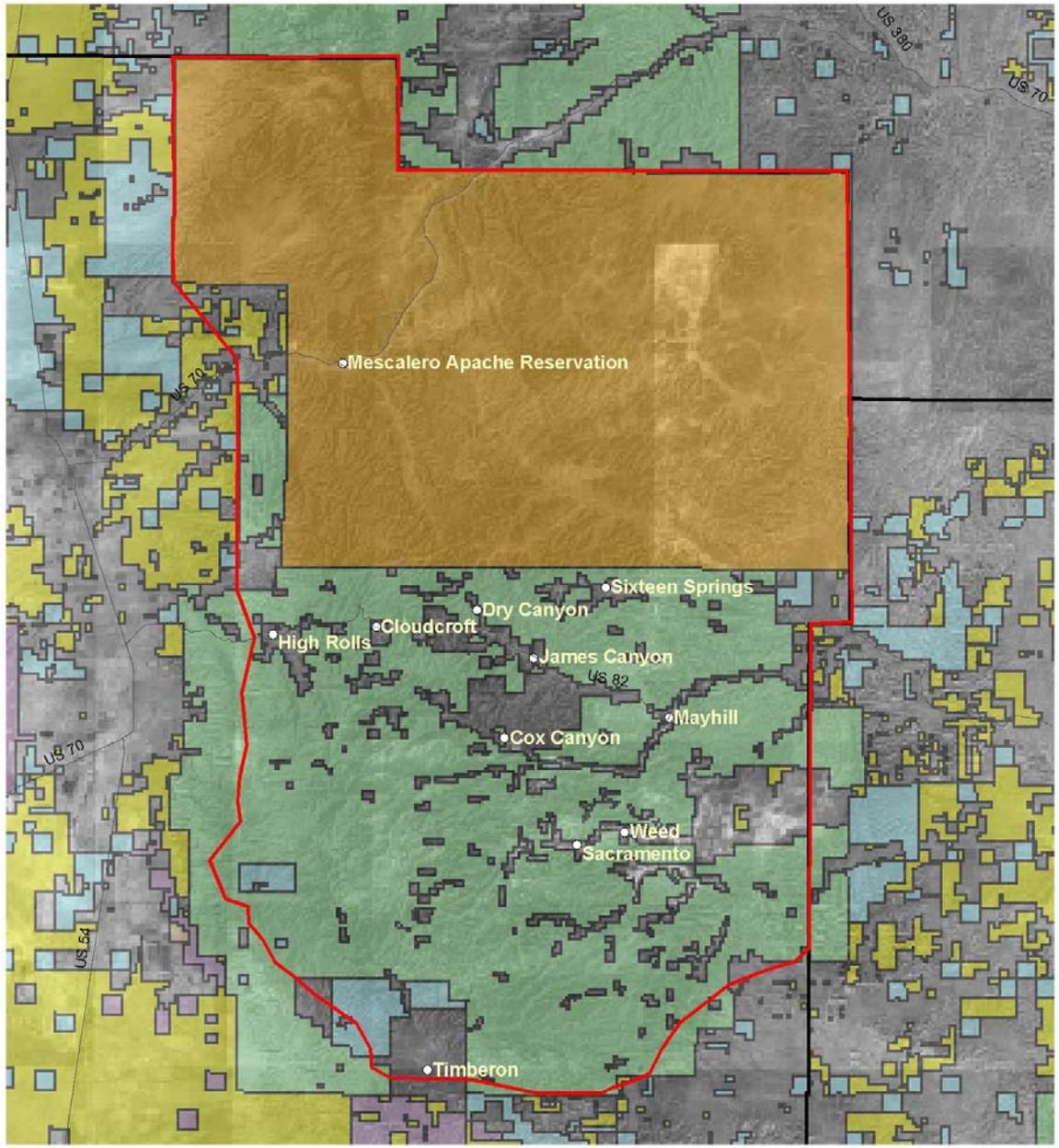


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OTERO COUNTY

- CITIES AND TOWNS INCLUDED IN CWP ZONES
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- STATE PARKS

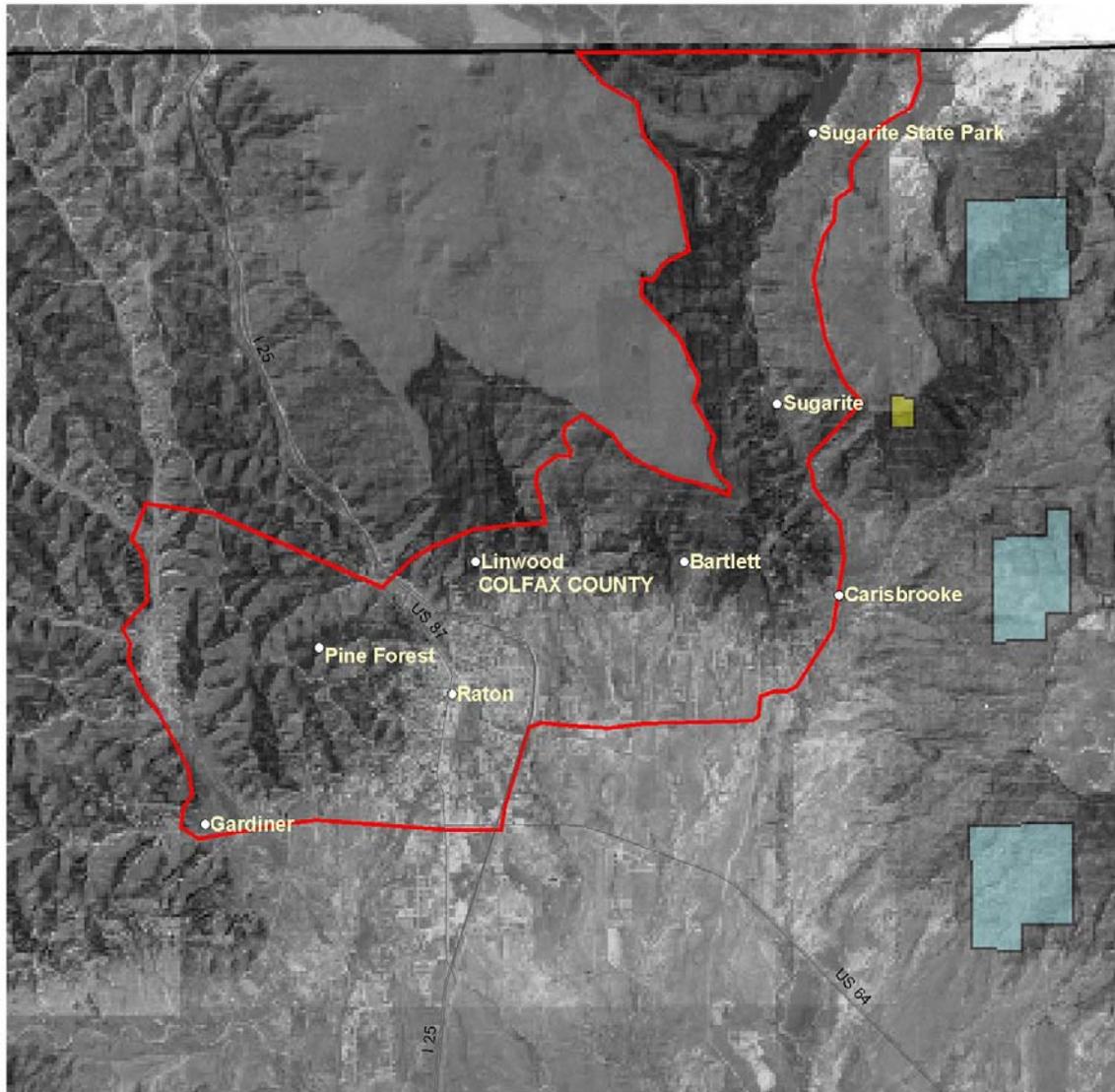


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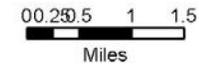
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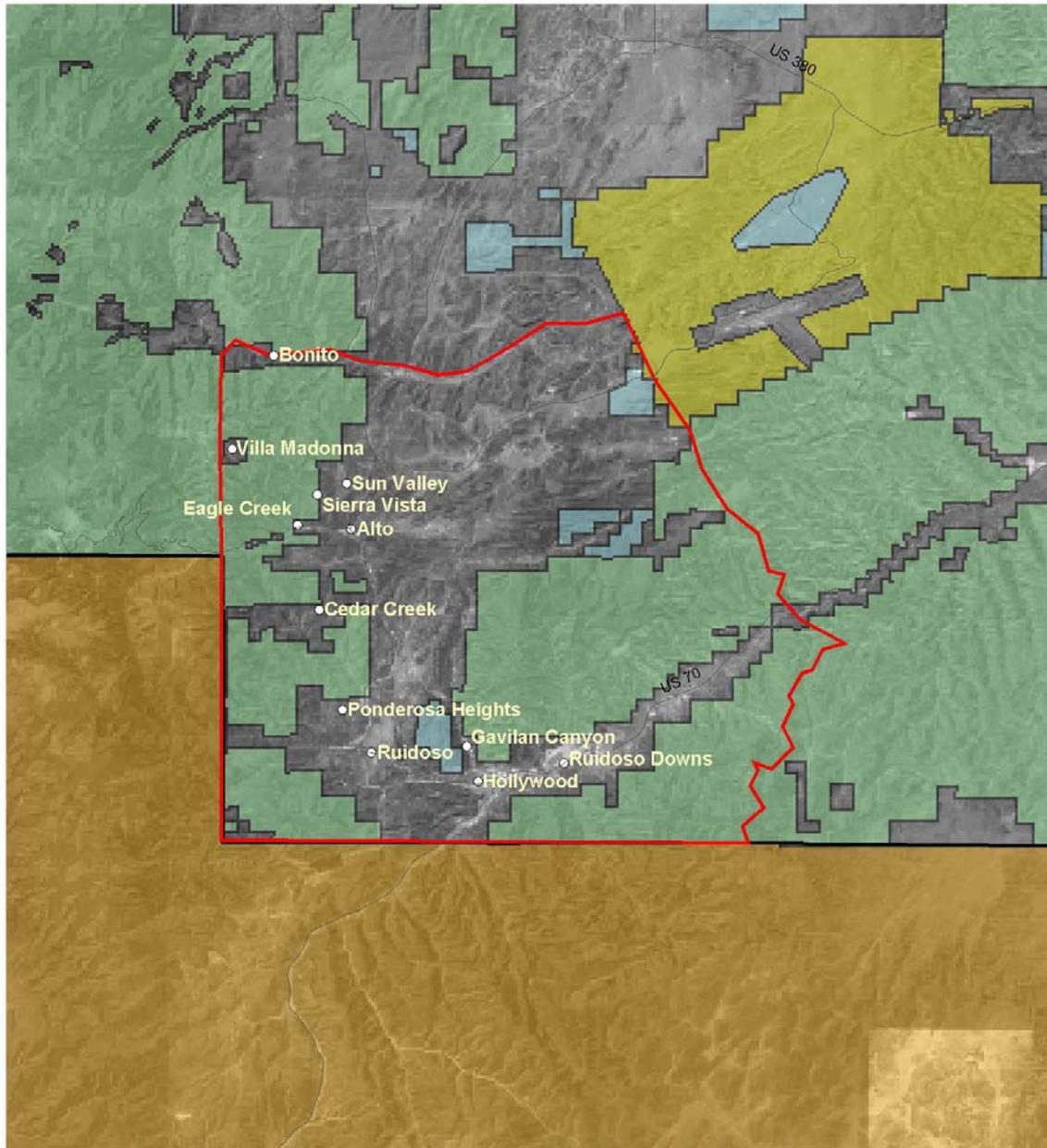
RATON AREA

- CITIES AND TOWNS INCLUDED IN CWP ZONES
- BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
- BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
- DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
- DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
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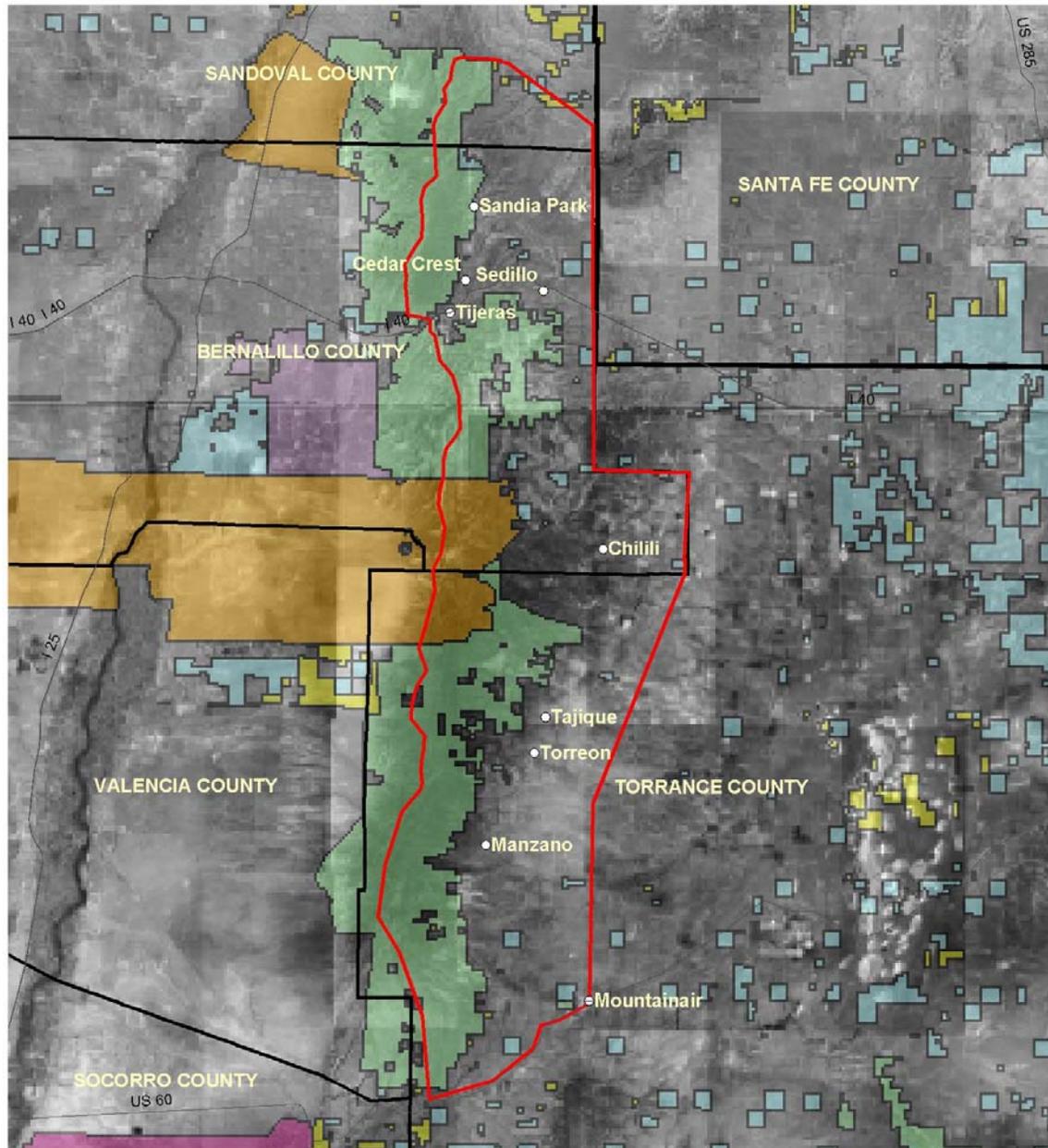
RUIDOSO AREA

- CITIES AND TOWNS INCLUDED IN CWP ZONES
- BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
- BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
- DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
- DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
- DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
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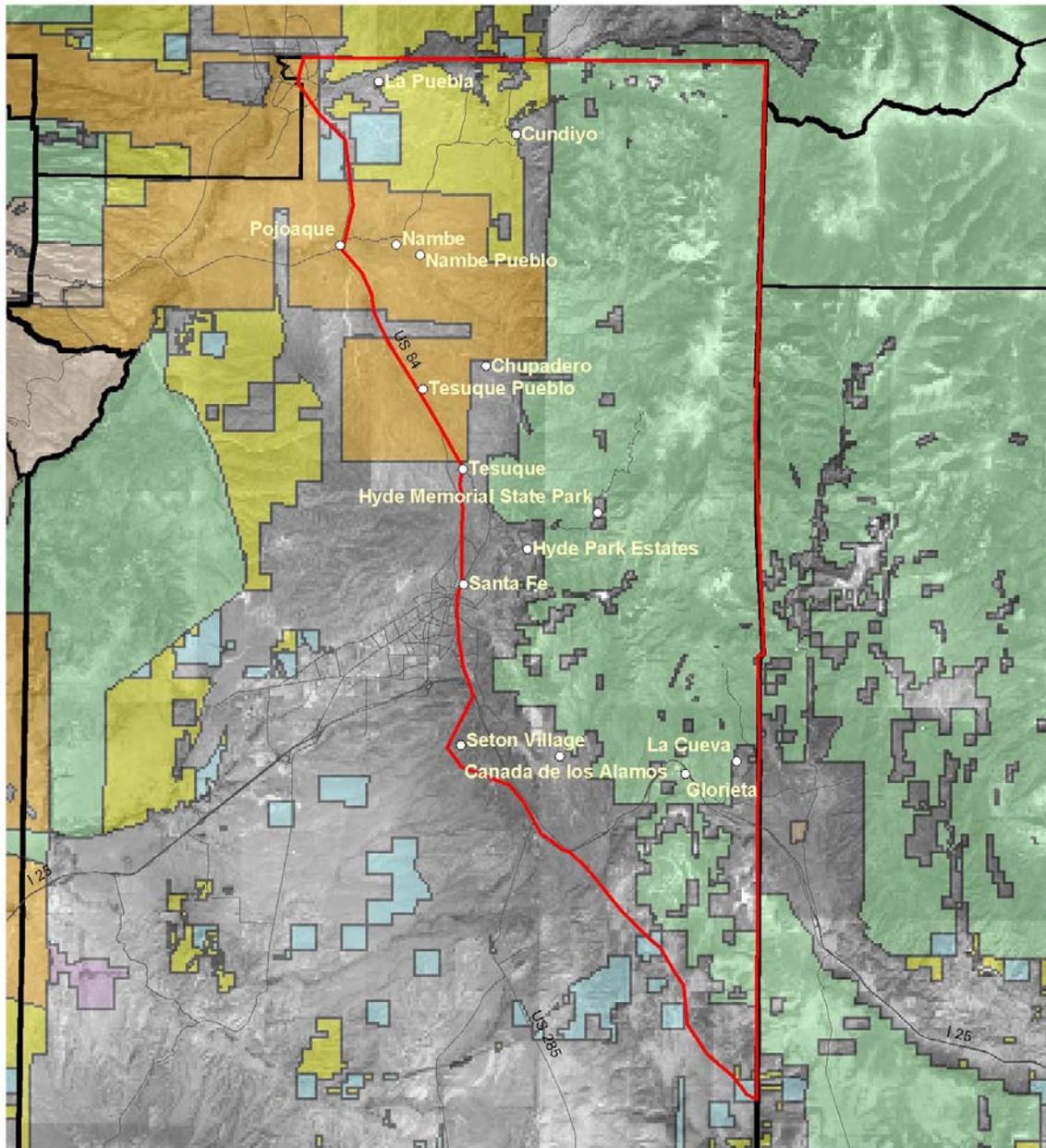
SANDIA / MANZANO MOUNTAINS

- CITIES AND TOWNS INCLUDED IN CWP ZONES
- BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
- BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
- DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
- DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
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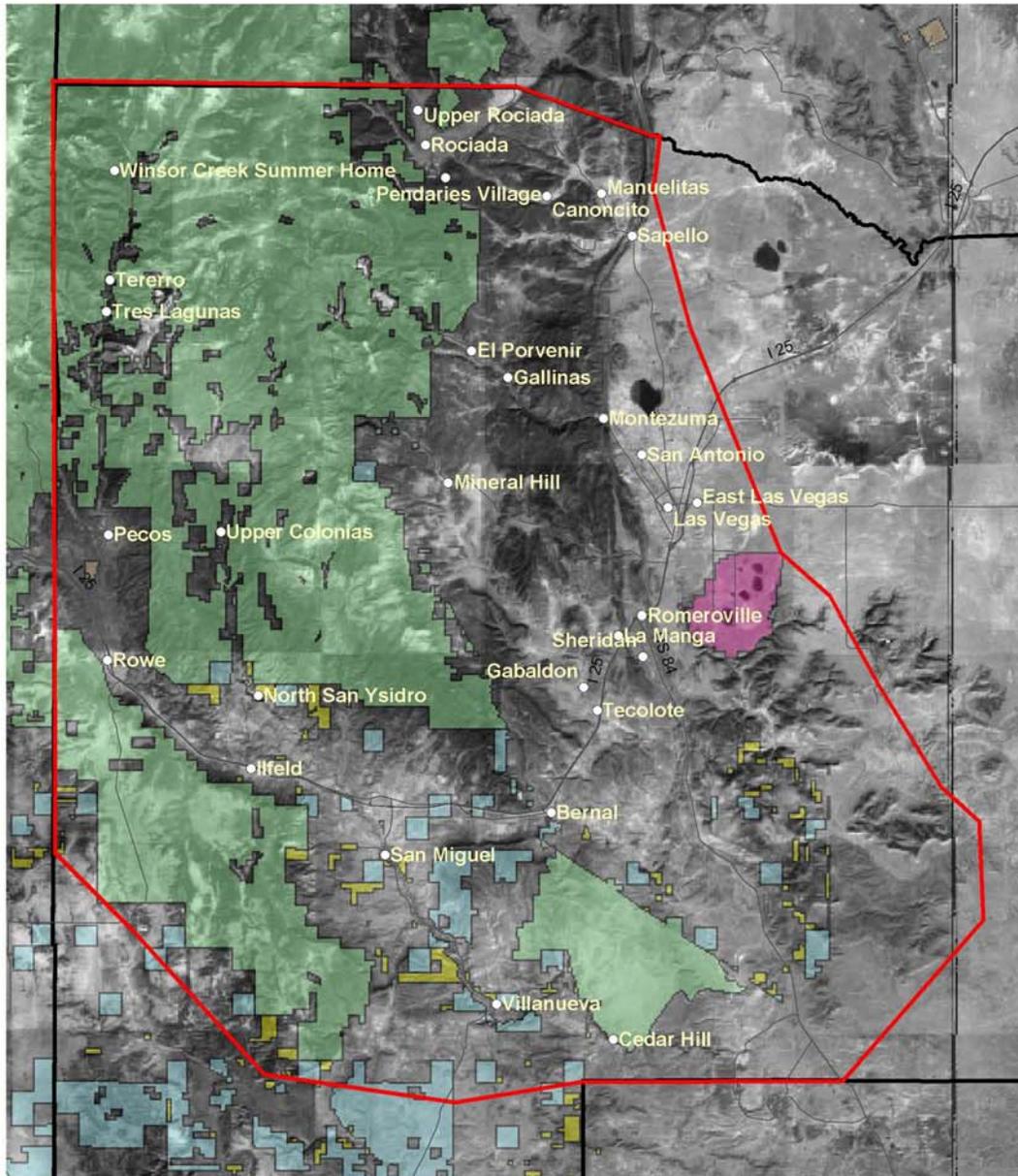
SANTA FE COUNTY

- CITIES AND TOWNS INCLUDED IN CWP ZONES
- BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
- BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
- DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
- DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
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WESTERN SAN MIGUEL

Legend

- Cities and Towns included in CWP Zones
- BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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- DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
- DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
- DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
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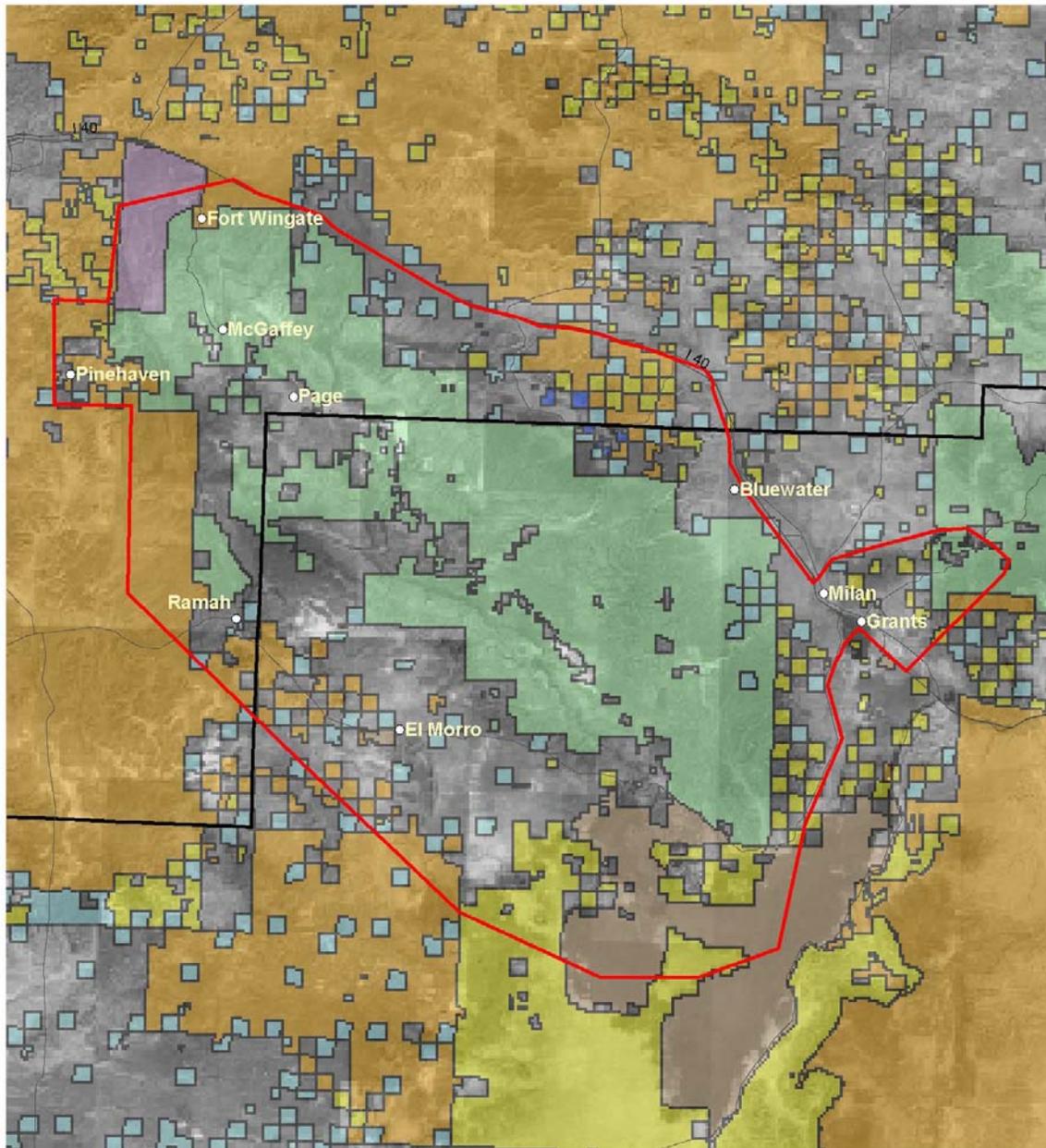


Vicinity



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ZUNI MOUNTAINS

- CITIES AND TOWNS INCLUDED IN CWP ZONES
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- BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
- DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
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APPENDIX 5

REFERENCE LIST:

Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Hazard Assessment Methodology. NWCG, undated (c.1997).

New Mexico EMNRD State Forestry Division Fire in the Wildland Urban Interface Risk Analysis. Lightfoot et. al, August 1999

Urban Interface Areas in New Mexico Criteria and Justification. Fitch et. al, October 2000

Santa Fe County Wildland Urban Interface Area Inventory Assessment. Lightfoot et. al, February 2001

A Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment. 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan. May 2002.

FIELD GUIDANCE Identifying and Prioritizing Communities at Risk. National Association of State Foresters. June 2003

Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan A handbook for Wildland-Urban Interface Communities. Society of American Foresters. March 2004