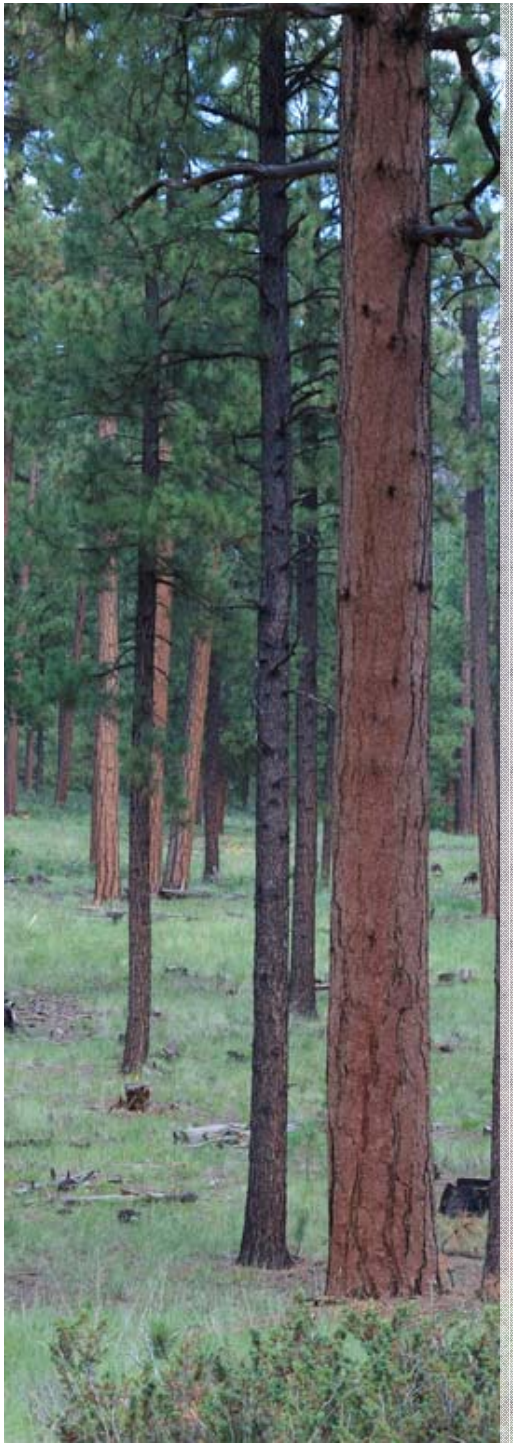
The Nature Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.

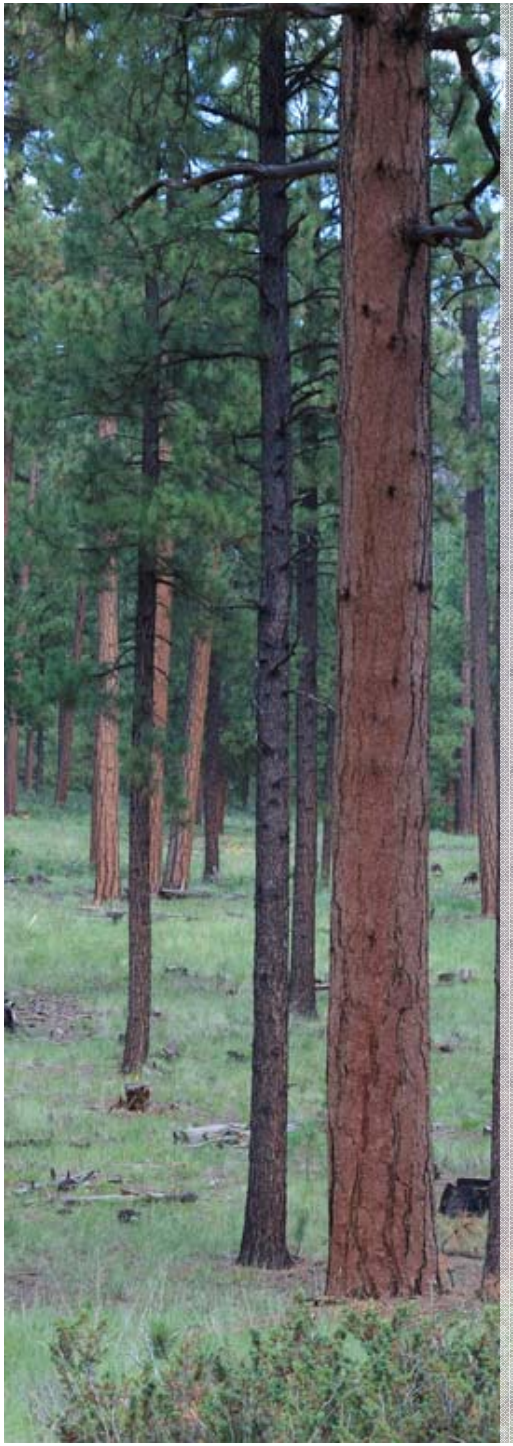
Middle Rio Grande Wood Supply Analysis

Downscaled FIA Data for Local Inventory Estimates



Study Area


Monte Vista
Hinsdale County
Mineral County
Rio Grande County
Alamosa County
Huerfano County
La Plata County
La Jara
Costilla County
Archuleta County
Conejos County
Las Animas County
San Juan County
Costilla
Chama
Heron Reservoir
El Vado Reservoir
Tres Piedras
Questa
Colfax County
Taos County
Cimmaron
Rio Arriba County
Angel Fire
Taos
La Madera
El Rito
Abiquiu Lake
Coyote
Peñasco
Guadalupita
Cuba
Española
Mora
Mora County
Los Alamos County
Sapello
Sandoval County
McKinley County
Jemez Pueblo
Santa Fe
Cochiti Lake
Las Vegas
Pecos
San Miguel County
Santa Fe County
Albuquerque
Bernalillo County
Cibola County
Guadalupe County
Torrance County
Valencia County
Manzano
0
40 Miles
Socorro County
De Baca



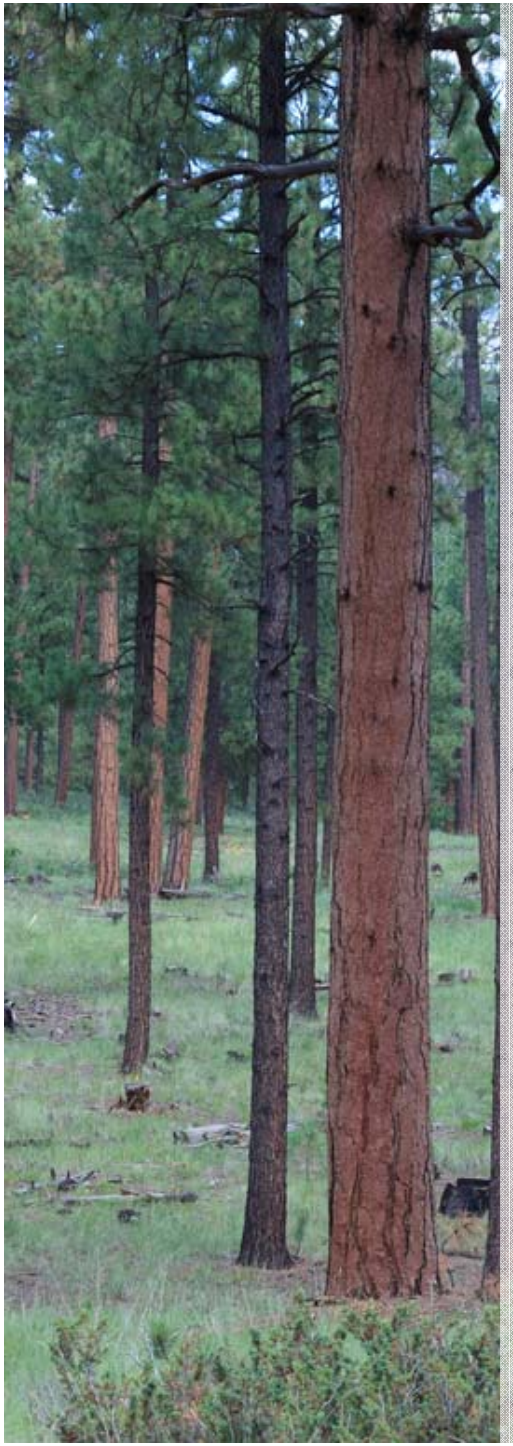
Purpose

Three Objectives:

1. Estimate the ***total standing inventory*** in the Middle Rio Grande region.

2. Conduct analysis to determine how much of the standing inventory is ***treatable*** (not precluded from treatments).

3. Analyze the ***transportation feasibility*** of the treatable timber to any city with existing or proposed mills or other processing facilities.



Existing Research

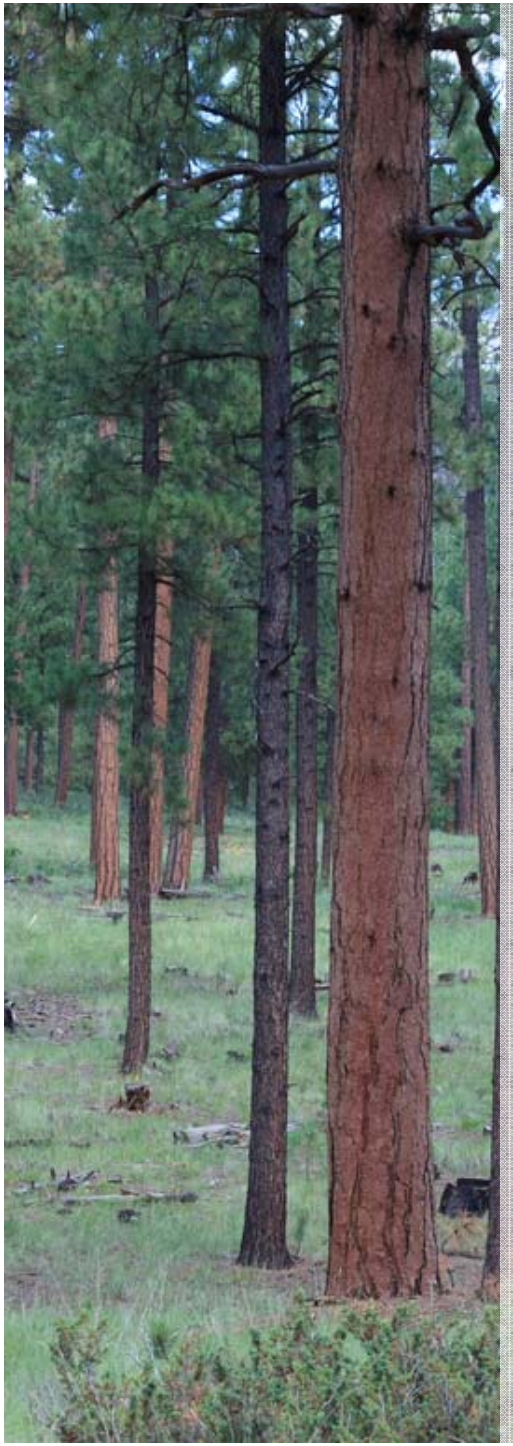
Chama Healthy Forest and Wood Utilization Study (CPLA, 2013)

NM's Forest Resources, 2008-2012 (Goeking et al, 2014)

USFS Forest Inventory and Analysis Program (**FIA**)

- EVALIDator Summary Areas

- State, counties, watersheds, etc.



Methodology

1) MRG Total Standing Inventory

- Downscale FIA Data by Forest Type
- Three Types of Products Evaluated
  - Sawlogs
  - Midsize Timber
  - Other Biomass

2) Treatable Inventory

- NOT Wilderness, NOT Too Far from Roads, NOT Too Steep

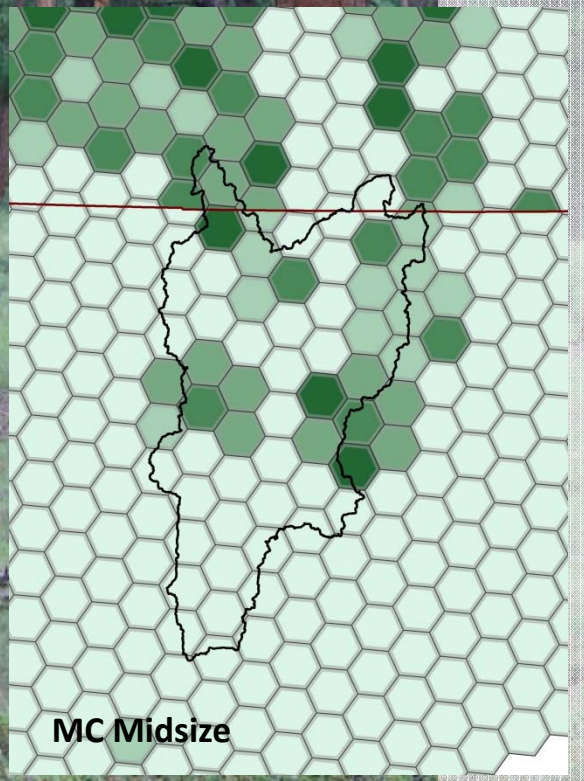
3) Transportation Feasibility

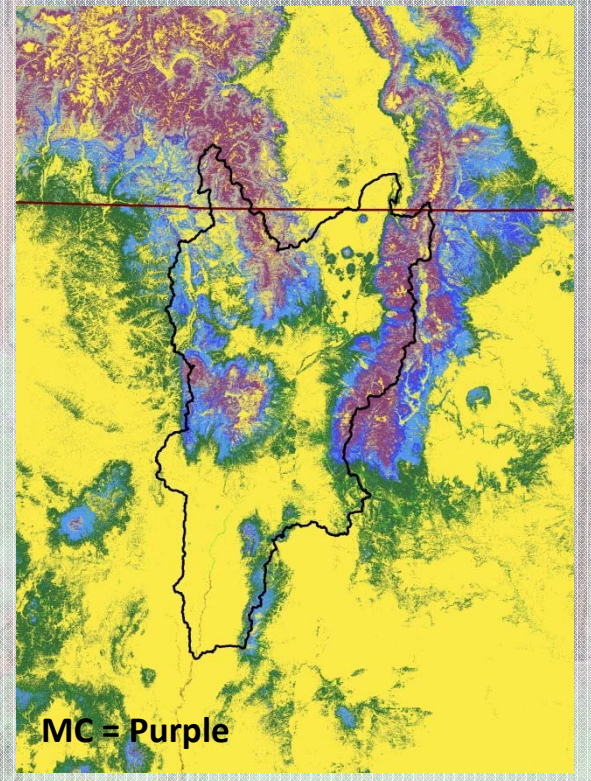
- Road Network Distance from Mills and Processors

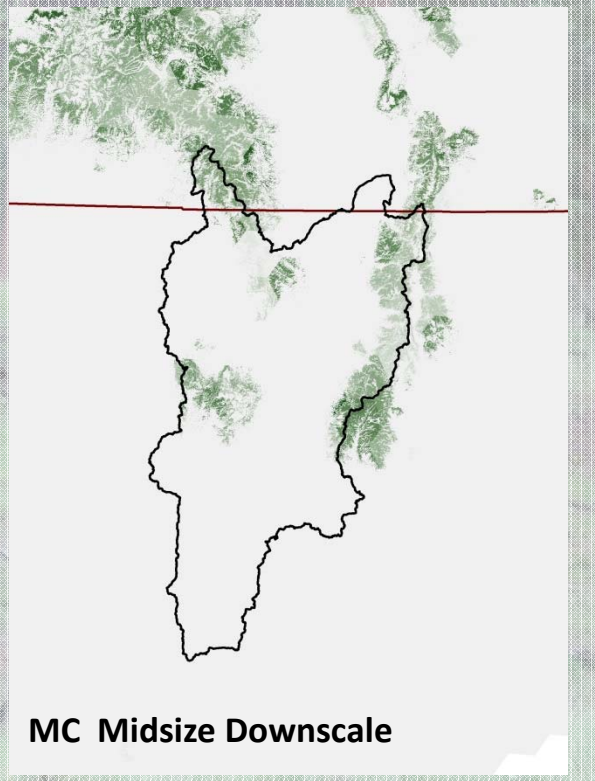
1) Total Standing Inventory – Methods

FIA Estimates for EMAP Hexagons by Forest Type

Forest Type Spatial Data

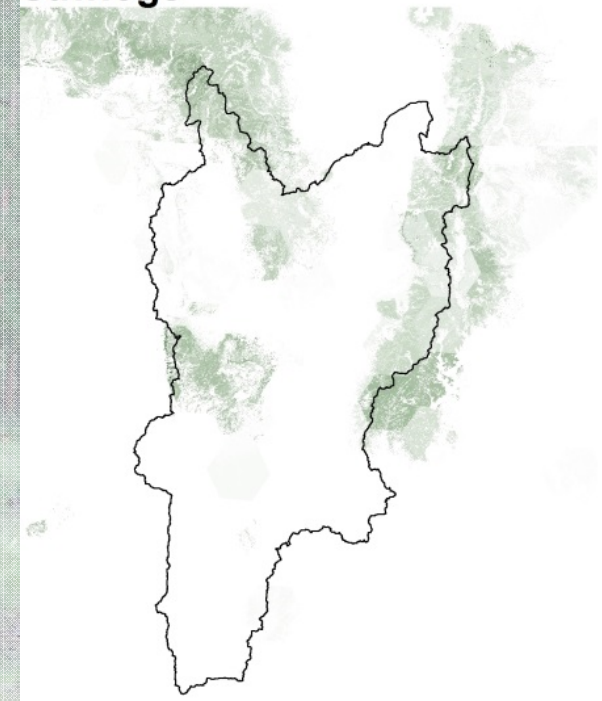




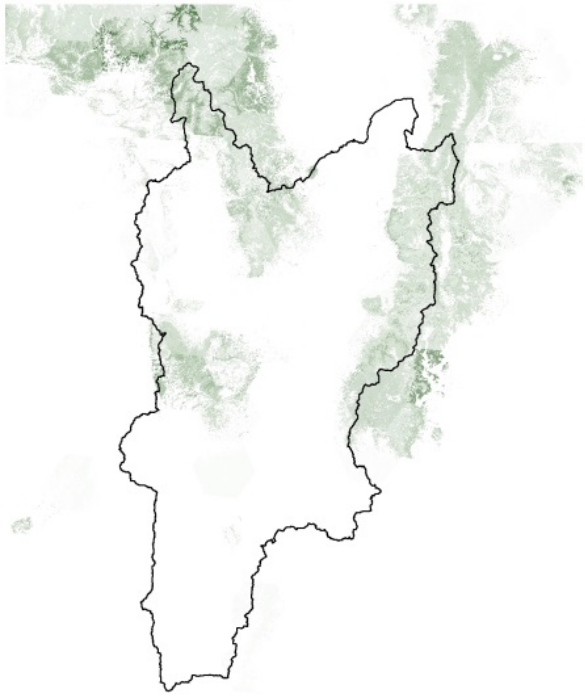


Total Standing Inventory – Results

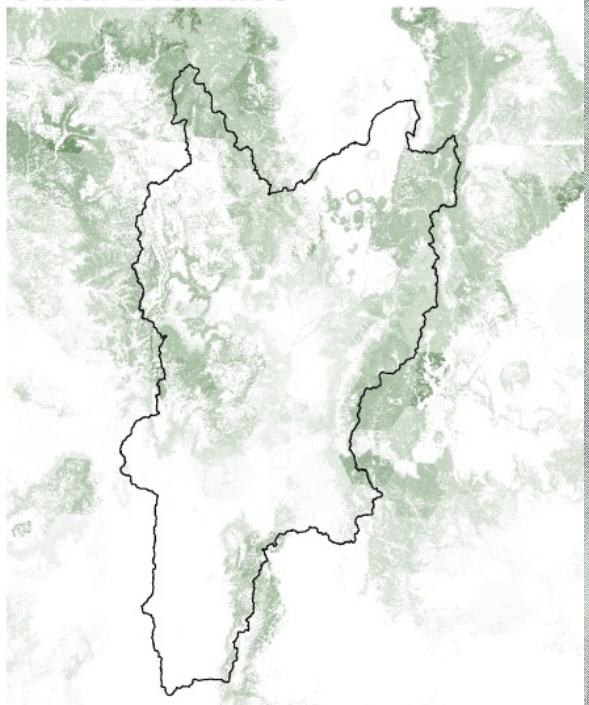
Sawlogs

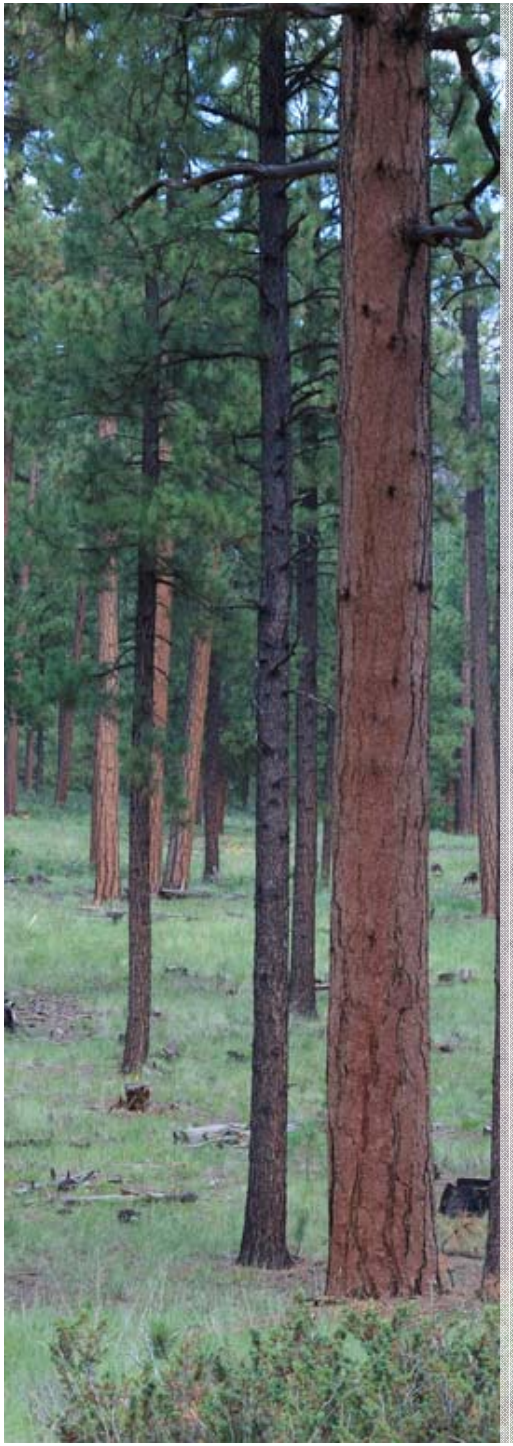


Midsize Timber



Other Biomass





2) Treatable Inventory – Methods

Known Precluded Areas

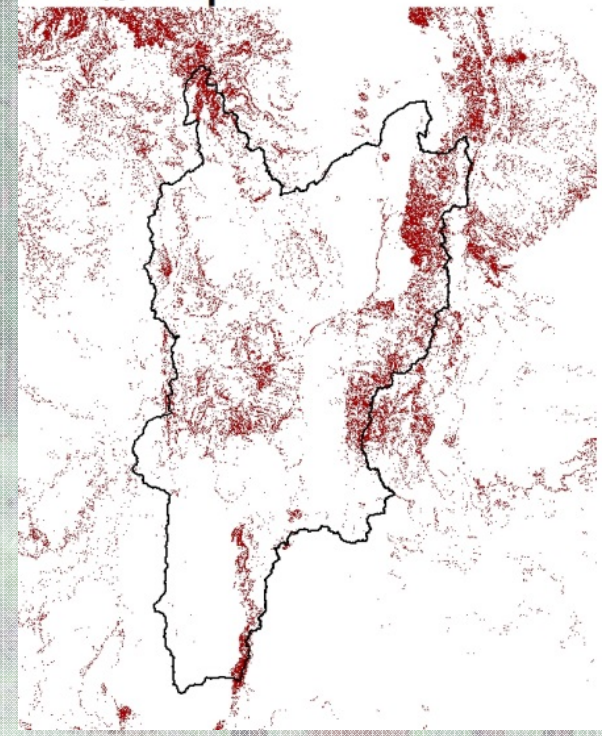
- Steep Slopes
- > ½ mile from existing road
- Designated Wilderness

Many other criteria were not included

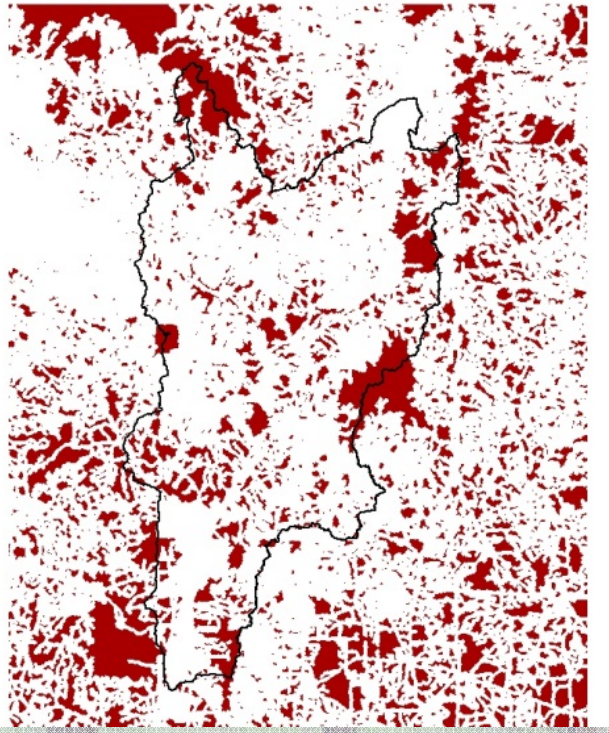
- cultural resource sites
- T&E critical habitat
- inaccessible areas

Treatable Inventory – Results

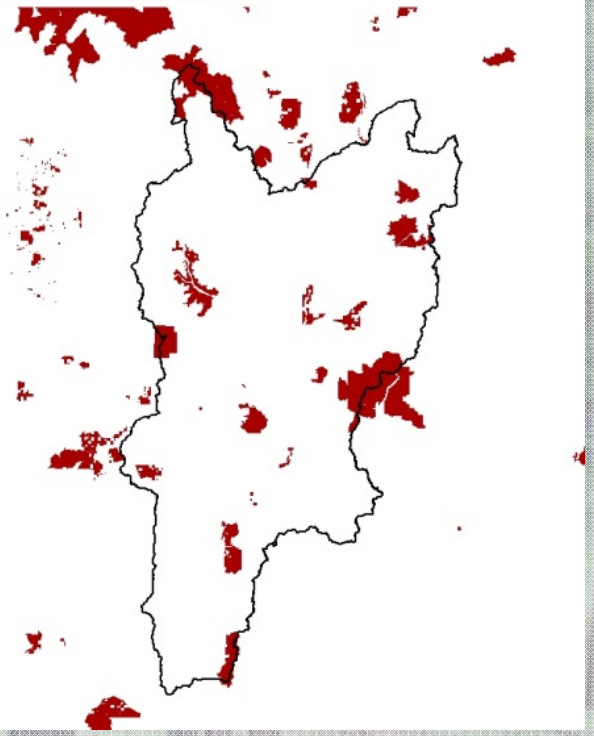
> 40% Slope



> 1/2 mile from Road



Wilderness



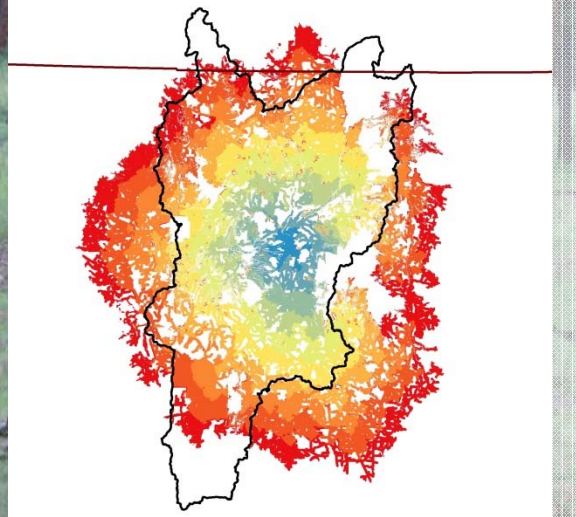
3) Transportation Feasibility – Methods

Road Network Creation

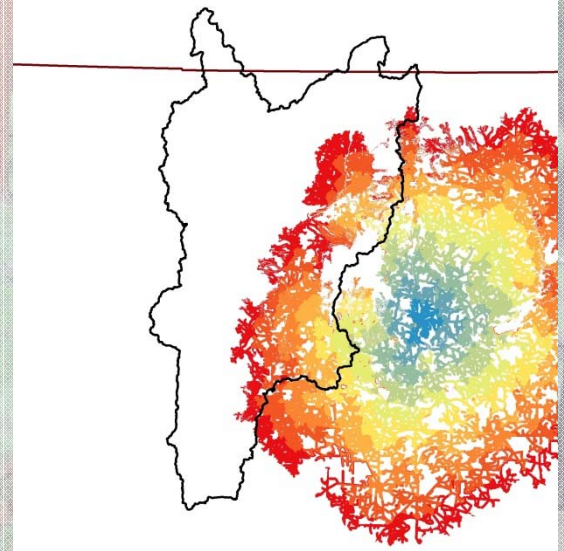
- USFS Roads
- US Census Bureau Roads (Tiger line data)

Same cost for every road.

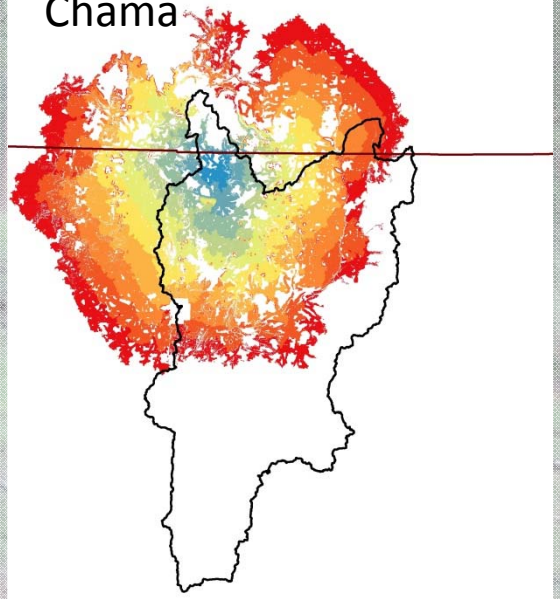
Española



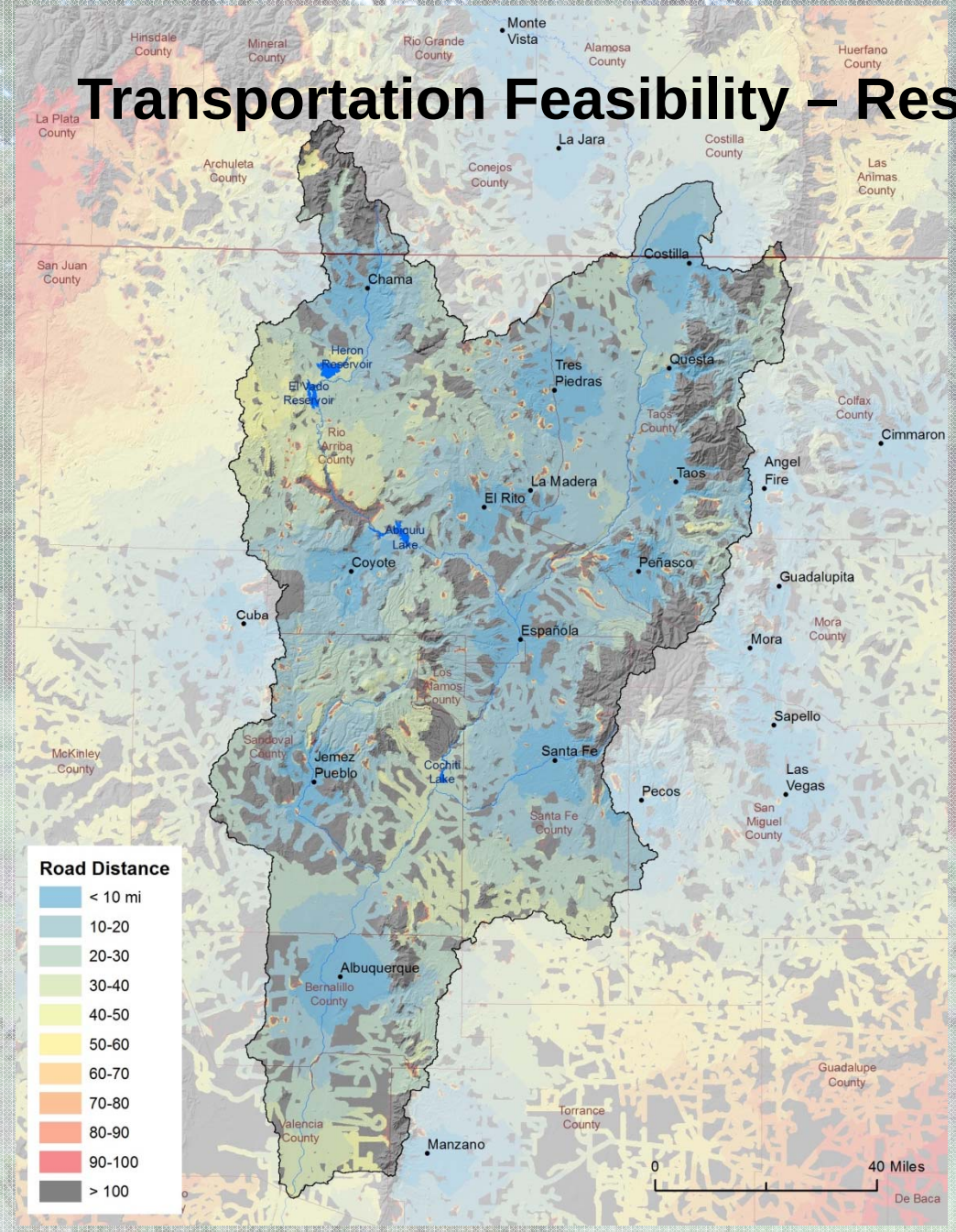
Las Vegas



Chama



Transportation Feasibility – Results



Distance from Any City w/ Mill

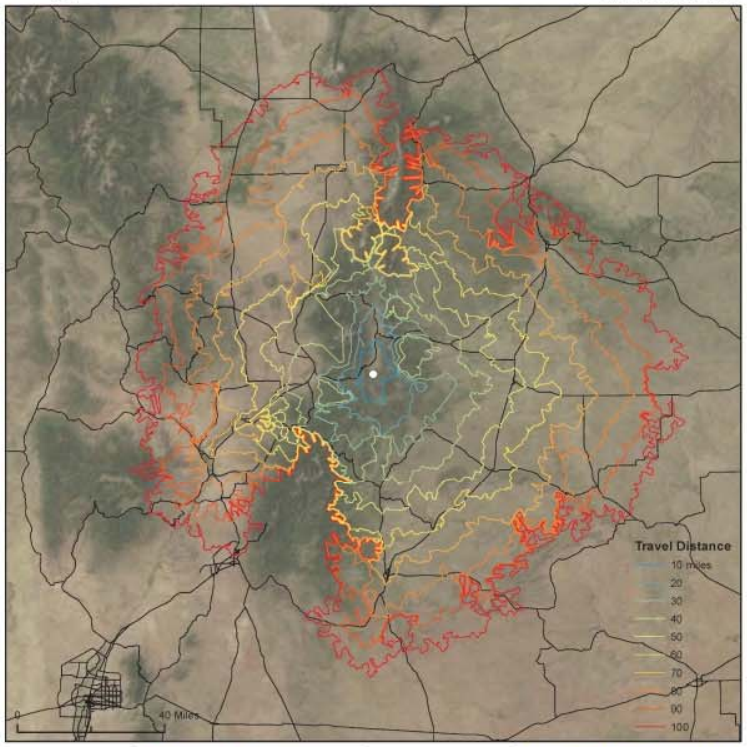
- Informative but not actionable

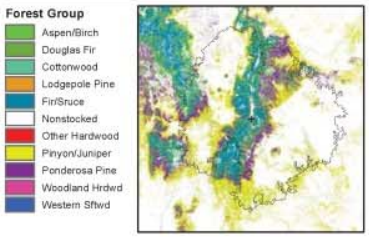
Distance from Each City w/ Mill

Mill Summaries

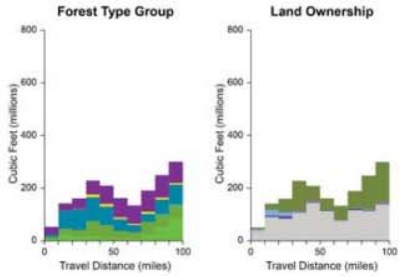
Angel Fire

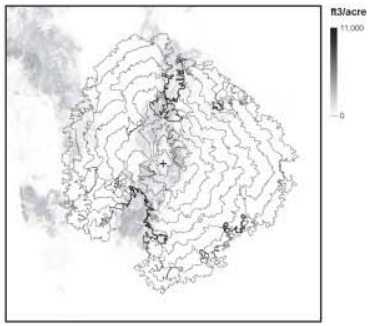
Population 2010: 1,216
Incorporated: 1986



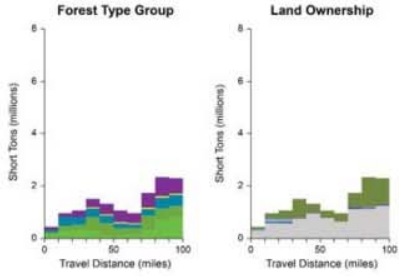


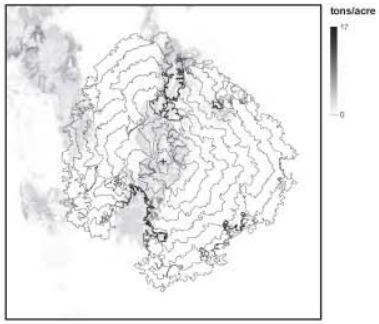
Sawlogs



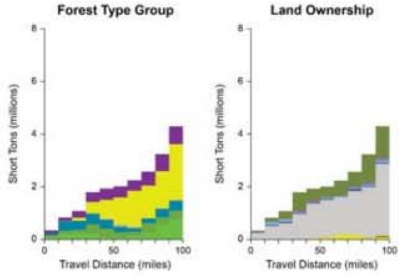


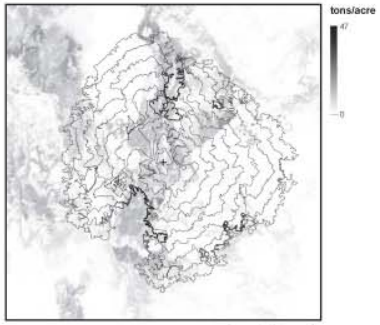
Small Diameter Timber

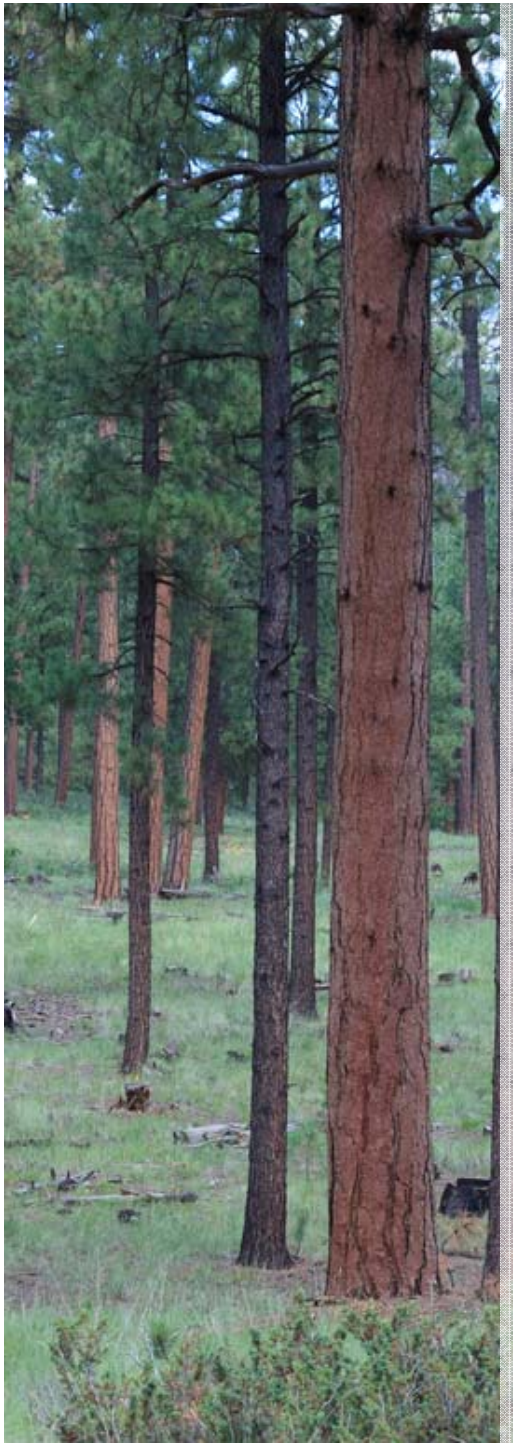




Other Biomass







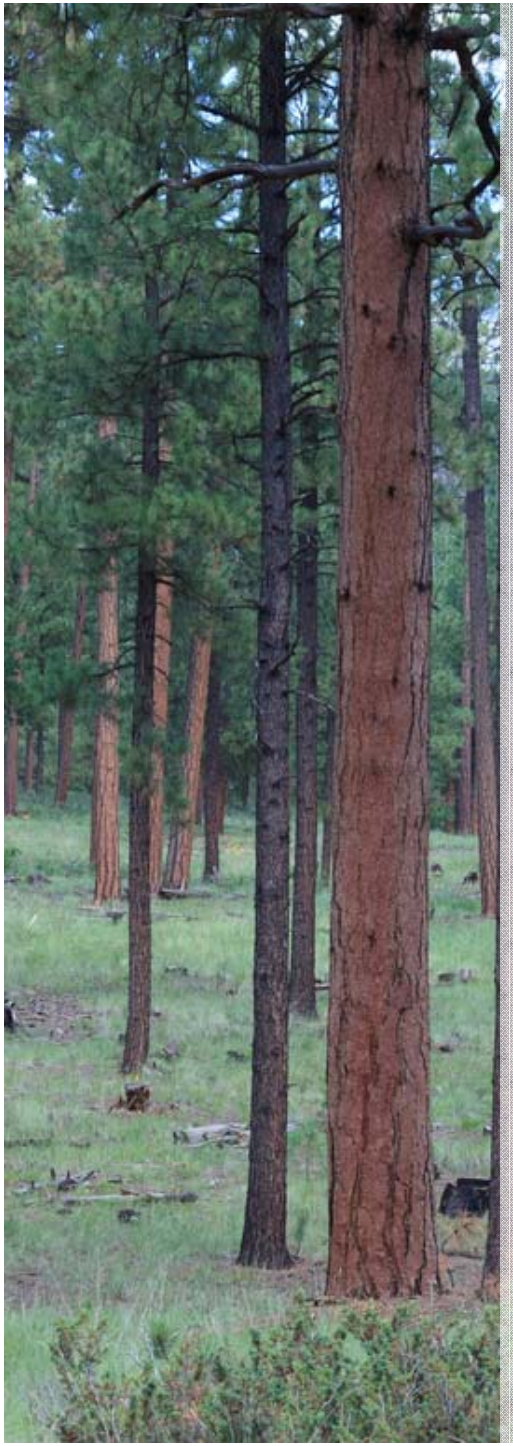
Next Steps

Data refinement (forest inventory, roads)

Demand and Processing Capacity Analysis

Treatment Scenarios (Harvestable Timber)

Regrowth Scenarios



Conclusion

Report will be released later this month. Along with an **atlas**, **spatial data**, and summary **spreadsheets**.

This analysis will be available for use by land managers and the forest products industry to inform decision making and enable additional investment in forest treatment capacity.

As capacity increases, forest restoration can occur in more areas and at a faster pace.