

# After Wildfire

A Guide for New Mexico Communities

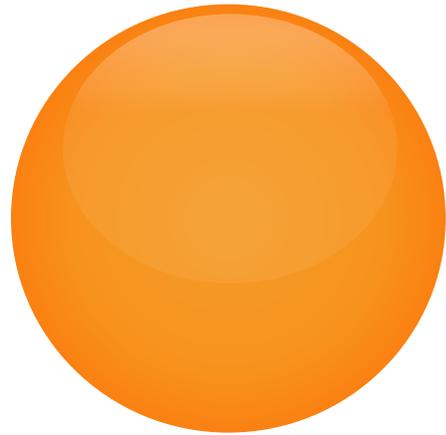


# About the 'After Wildfire' Guide



**AFTER WILDFIRE**  
A GUIDE FOR NEW MEXICO COMMUNITIES





# POST FIRE ENVIRONMENT

Ecological responses, human perspectives, response issues, 



# Post Fire Environment

- **Fire Impacts**
  - Homes
  - Outbuildings
  - Businesses
  - Trees & forests
  - Other vegetation
    - Grazing potential
    - T & E species
  - Archeological sites





Goals for individual losses:

Insurance claims

Rebuilding considerations

Temporary housing

Fences, Roads, etc.

Short term support

Long term support

*Impact on Individuals*



# Post Fire Environment

- **Flooding Impacts**
  - Buildings
  - Infrastructure
    - Roads
    - Fences
  - Archeological sites
  - Uplands
  - Drainages

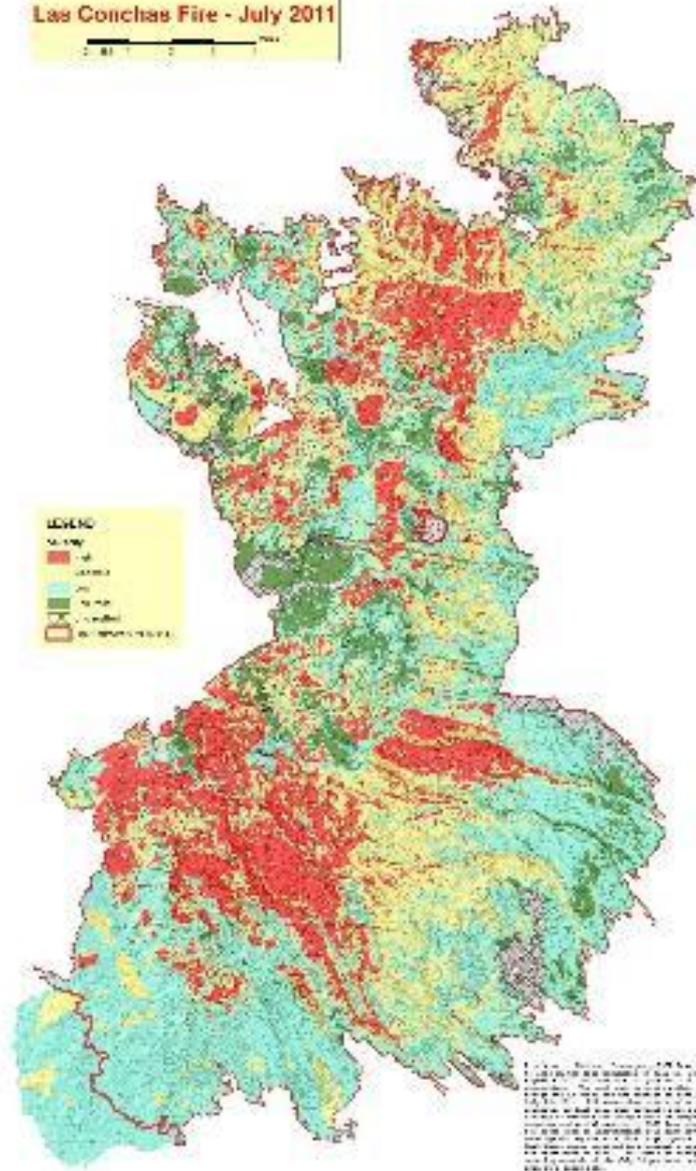




Ponil Fire – Philmont Scout Ranch 2002

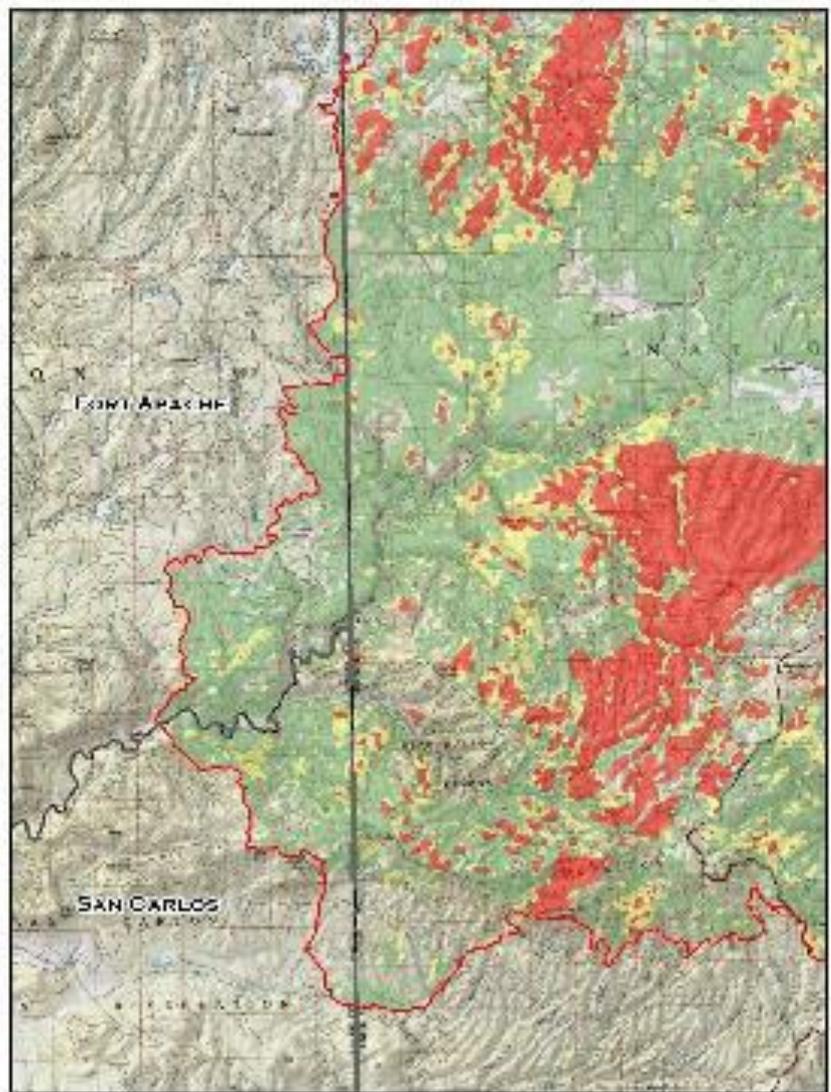


**Las Conchas Fire - July 2011**



- LEGEND**
- High
  - Moderate
  - Low
  - Unburned

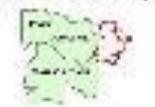
1. This map was prepared by the U.S. Forest Service, Las Conchas Fire, July 2011. It is a product of the National Fire Plan, which is a collaborative effort between the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Department of the Interior, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The map is intended for informational purposes only and should not be used for legal or financial decisions. For more information, please contact the U.S. Forest Service, Las Conchas Fire, at (505) 251-2000.



**WALLOW FIRE  
Soil Burn Severity**

- County Boundary
- Low
- Moderate
- High

**Locational Map**









# Sediment catchment basins (stock tanks)



# Post Fire Environment

- Infrastructure









## *Infrastructure Recovery*

Short & Long term –

- Culvert cleaning
- Install low water crossings
- Acequias
- Roads
- Fences
- Power lines
- Dams
- Drainages



# Post Fire Environment

- Uplands





List of upland goals –  
Reduce erosion  
Encourage  
infiltration  
Accelerate  
vegetation recovery

*Upland Treatments*



# Post Fire Environment

- Drainages





## *Drainage Treatments*

### List of drainage goals

- Prevent large materials from moving down stream
- Slow energy
- Catch sediments
- Encourage infiltration higher in watershed
- Armor banks



# Why AFTER WILDFIRE NM

Impacted communities asked for guidance in finding assistance after wildfire.



Requests were brought to the New Mexico Forest and Watershed Health Coordinating Group & the New Mexico First 'Fire and Water' Town Hall



# Background

- The guide was written for community leaders and individuals in fire-affected areas.
- Also useful as a planning tool.
- NM State Forestry led the project teams.
- The team researched other existing guides first.
- Partners and volunteers contributed a lot of expertise, time and talent.
- Wildfire survivors critiqued draft.
- Product funded through USFS grant.



# Contributors to the guide



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Albuquerque District



The NM Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management also provided content and edits. Volunteers Ryan Weiss and Madeleine Carey assisted with many tasks.





# AFTER WILDFIRE

A GUIDE FOR NEW MEXICO COMMUNITIES



**Tour** of the Guide,  
[www.afterwildfirenm.org](http://www.afterwildfirenm.org)



# The Sections of the 'After Wildfire' Guide

-  **Immediate Safety**
-  **Mobilizing Your Community**
-  **Who Can Help**
-  **Post Fire Treatments**
-  **Financial Tips**
-  **Flood Information**
-  **Additional Resources**





# Immediate Safety



Photo: Courtesy of US Forest Service.





# Mobilizing Your Community

- How does a community best **work together** to respond? Communities that are organized can better recover together.
- Establishing a **Post-Fire Coordinator**.
- **Communication**, working with volunteers.



Photo: Courtesy of US Forest Service.





# Who Can Help?

- What financial and technical assistance is available to **communities, tribes and pueblos**?
- What assistance is available to **individuals and families**?
- Where can individuals, fire staff, and firefighters find **emotional support**?





# Post-Fire Treatments

- What can a community or landowner do on the **land** after a wildfire to assist with **recovery**?
- What are some methods to prepare for the threat of **post-fire flooding**?





# Financial Tips

- This section provides **financial tips for individuals** and about **funding considerations for communities** in a post-wildfire situation.





# Flood Information

- This section provides links and resources for how to **stay informed** about flood threats, and how to **prepare** and stay safe.
- Adapted from material from the USACE and the NM Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.





# Additional Resources

- This section provides links and resources to **other guides** and more **in-depth information**.
- It is also where you can download a **paper version** of the guide.
- If you are viewing this before a fire occurs, this section includes links to helpful **planning tools for wildfire**.





# AFTER WILDFIRE

A GUIDE FOR NEW MEXICO COMMUNITIES



## Lessons Learned



# Need for the Guide Beyond NM

**National Use: All 50 states, most use in 2017**

- California – 21%
- New Mexico – 8%
- New Jersey - 7%
- Texas – 6%
- Colorado - 5%

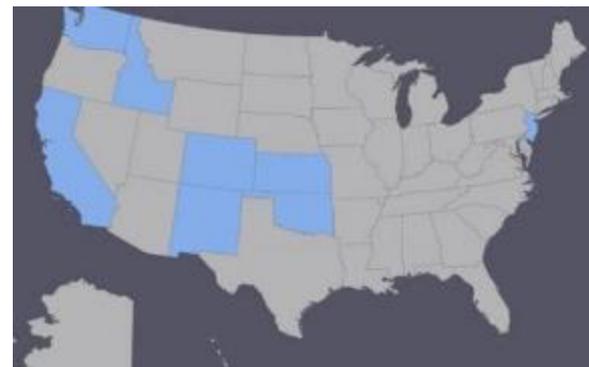
**May 2014-2016:**

- 33,880 Visits
- 106,269 Page Views

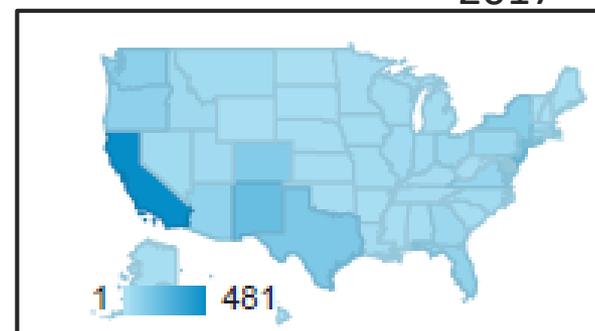
**2017:**

- 3,606 Users

2016



2017



# What information

## Tracking Statistics to see what is being used

- By category
- **Number of visits**

## By state

- NM is our focus
- Interesting differences

Between states

## Timing

- During & after fire activity

Page path level 2	Pageviews	Ur
	2,018 % of Total: 21.30% (9,473)	
1. /treatment-descriptions/	<b>1,406</b> (69.67%)	
2. /index-of-treatments	<b>193</b> (9.56%)	
3. /treatment-descriptions	<b>164</b> (8.13%)	
4. /which-treatment-do-i-use	<b>113</b> (5.60%)	
5. /how-to-guides	<b>89</b> (4.41%)	
6. /literature-cited	<b>27</b> (1.34%)	
7. /useful-definitions-for-treatments	<b>21</b> (1.04%)	



# Also a Planning Tool

- Sections such as **Mobilize Your Community** and **Financial Planning** are particularly relevant
- From the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network (the Forest Guild): **Planning: If your area burns, who needs to be at the table the next day?**
  - Lists to help you assess your needs to build a team
- Help **manage expectations** of how much help/what kind of help you may receive after a wildfire



Photo: Courtesy of US Forest Service.



# Gaps in Assistance After a Destructive Wildfire

- Funding that is immediately available
  - Immediate help for specific needs.
- Limitations of agency funding, strong sidebars on funding: challenge for agencies working with communities
- Long term assistance for communities (resources focused on short term)

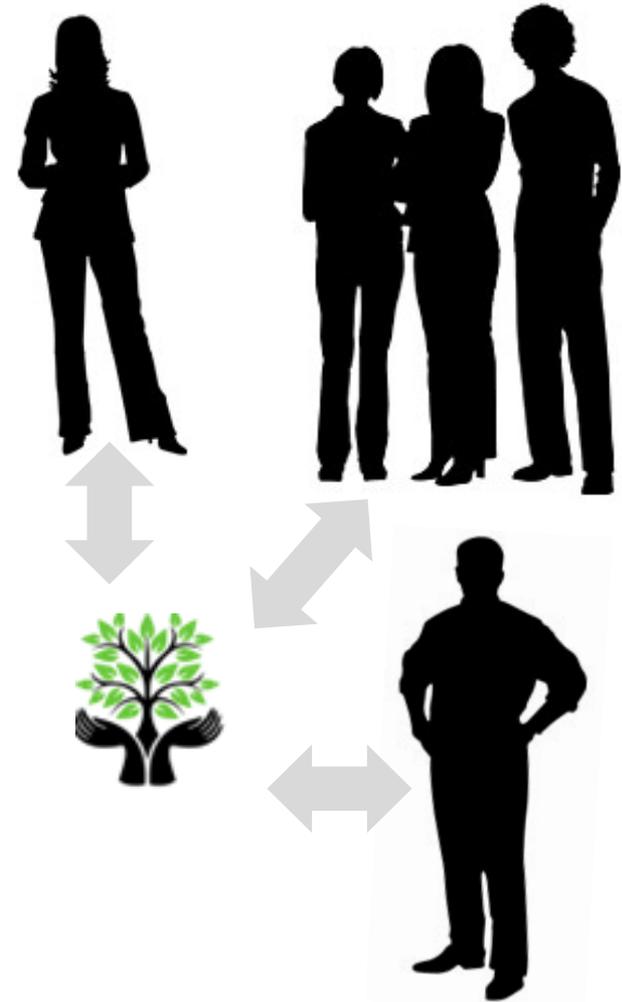
How will these gaps be filled?



# More focus needed on the social/community aspects of wildfire?

From the Fire Adapted Community Learning Network (Forest Guild):

- Do we need a “BAER type” team to deal with people and communities the way current BAER teams assess soil and revegetation?
- Can post-fire pre-planning be part of CWPP updates? (Community Wildfire Protection Plan)
- “Tools and resources are good, but we really need tested and adaptable approaches and processes when dealing with recovery, healing, and assistance.”



# Next Steps

- **Website updates:** now and ongoing
- **Short printed version** of the guide: on 3<sup>rd</sup> printing
- Integrating feedback: **we welcome your input**





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## Questions?



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