**EMNRD Forestry Division**

**Forest and Watershed Health Office**

**Fiscal Year 2010/2011 Plan of Work**

**Task 1: Continue building capacity within the FWHO**

* Seek authorization to fill vacancy
* Coordinate with staff and other potential cooperating entities on actions that meet mutual objectives
* Provide or take advantage of appropriate opportunities for staff development through trainings, conferences, hands-on fieldwork, temporary assignments
* Develop funding requests and proposals for special projects

*(Addresses FWHP Recommendation III.A: Establish State Leadership Authority)*

**Task 2: Continue activities in support of local collaborative groups**

* Facilitate implementation of CWPPs by providing information, incentives, and technical assistance to community groups
* Support communities’ efforts to update existing CWPPs
* Support the development of watershed and landscape scale project plans
* Provide technical and/or administrative assistance for current on-the-ground projects
* Provide information and services to enhance the capacity of stakeholder groups and project managers engaged in restoration
* Participate in grant program and selection processes with partner agencies to ensure eligibility of watershed projects and mitigate obstacles to use of funding
* Continue coordination with funders group: expand grant and cost-share programs covered, widen distribution of information

*(Addresses FWHP Recommendation I.A: Support Local Collaborative Projects)*

*(Addresses FWHP Recommendation II.D & E: Coordinate State and Other Funding)*

**Task 3: Plan and hold 2010 Watershed Forum and conduct follow-up activities**

* Serve on watershed forum planning committee
* Co-host 2010 Forum
* Conduct follow-up activities based on meeting outcomes

*(Addresses FWHP Recommendation II.I: Educate Current and Future Generation)*

*(Addresses FWHP Recommendation I.A: Support Local Collaborative Projects)*

**Task 4: Expand public outreach and education on forest and watershed health**

* Complete Know Your Watershed Campaign with input from Public Outreach and Education Task Team
* Integrate Know Your Watershed resources into allaboutwatersheds.org
* Continue work to educate future generations through the New Mexico Envirothon and FFA Forestry programs
* Utilize partnerships to enhance outreach capacity
* Seek additional funding for continuing KYW (interpretive signs, billboards, media) and public outreach and education endeavors

*(Addresses FWHP Recommendation I.H: Develop Public Outreach)*

*(Addresses FWHP Recommendation II.I: Educate Current and Future Generations)*

**Task 5: Coordinate with other agencies, tribes, and organizations**

* Organize and hold meetings of Coordinating Group and Task Teams for exchange of information, setting priorities, and coordinating restoration activities
* Prepare annual plan of work and present to coordinating entities for review and comment
* Prepare and distribute annual report
* Further collaboration on Farm Bill and other programs for landowners through contribution agreement with NRCS
* Produce and distribute 5-Year Report
* Continue interagency efforts to mitigate unnecessary legal and policy barriers to ecological restoration activities and cross-jurisdictional efforts
* Continue work to coordinate state, federal, and other funding sources

*(Addresses FWHP Recommendation III.B: Establish Representative Advisory Group)*

*(Addresses FWHP Recommendation II.A: Assess Statewide Ecological Condition)*

*(Addresses FWHP Recommendation II.D & E: Coordinate State and Other Funding)*

*(Addresses FWHP Recommendation II.F: Mitigate administrative barriers)*

**Task 6: Build comprehensive forest and watershed health information clearinghouse**

* Complete development, oversee upgrades and updates to web-based clearinghouse for information on ecological restoration in the southwest (allaboutwatersheds.org portal), in cooperation with the New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute at Highlands University
* Work with partners to add content, publicize and expand use of portal
* Keep nmwatersheds.org website content up to date

*(Addresses FWHP Recommendation I.E: Create Comprehensive Information Clearinghouse)*

**Task 7: Promote ecological improvement and restoration based on sound science**

* Work with NM Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute and other partners on joint efforts to improve science-based restoration
* Link GIS resources from the New Mexico Statewide Natural Resource Assessment Strategy and Response Plan and New Mexico Resource Map in to portal; promote acquisition of new data to fill identified high priority data gaps
* Coordinate with and distribute information developed by entities active in researching and developing science-based ecological restoration and monitoring practices, including the Southwest Ecological Restoration Institute, NMSU Extension, Rocky Mountain Research Station
* Promote incorporation of assessment, monitoring and adaptive management into project plans; assist with training and/or conducting those activities

*(Addresses FWHP Recommendation II.A: Assess Statewide Ecological Condition)*

*(Addresses FWHP Recommendation I.F: Develop Ecological Restoration Practices)*

*(Addresses FWHP Recommendation I.G: Develop Ecological Monitoring Practices)*