

F
Y

2
0
0
8

Strategic Plan



Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources
Department





Forestry Division

Mission: The Forestry Division's central purpose is to promote healthy, sustainable forests in New Mexico for the benefit of current and future generations.

The Forestry Division works in the following three key areas to accomplish its mission.

I. Forest and Watershed Management

The Forestry Division provides leadership in New Mexico's approach to managing its complex ecological needs. Although the Division's primary responsibility is to healthy and productive forests, the Division recognizes the interrelatedness of forest lands and other vegetative landscapes, of watersheds and waterways, of land management practices, and of the many entities, state and other that are responsible for stewardship of the land. This understanding provides the foundation for the Division's efforts, which are collaborative, interdisciplinary, and focused on long-term sustainability.

The Division provides technical assistance and promotes sound forest and watershed management toward statewide ecological balance. The Division supports the development of community-based resource management plans and provides access to forest health project funding. The Division also regulates the harvest of forest products through permits and law enforcement on private forestland. The Division conducts habitat protection projects by studying plant species abundance, defining rare and unique ecosystems, acquiring easements and purchasing key properties.

II. Community Forestry

The Forestry Division empowers New Mexico communities to protect, enhance and utilize their forest resources.

The Division provides an array of services to assist communities that are vulnerable to damage from wildland fires, insects, invasive species and other natural processes. Forestry services include training on tree care and forest health principles, distribution of low-cost seedlings and access to contractor labor and other resources. The Division also provides assistance in developing sustainable forestry practices, including the development of value-added forest products industries that use thinning bi-products. All of these efforts enhance the economic viability of New Mexico communities while protecting their natural resources.

III. Wildland Fire Management

The Forestry Division has the responsibility to protect forests from wildfire and has the lead responsibility for wildland fire management on non-federal and non-municipal lands.

The Division provides for fire fighter safety and community protection while promoting natural resource benefit. The Division maintains appropriate fire suppression capability, including the development of qualified fire fighters and the maintenance of state-of-the art fire fighting equipment.

Forestry Division



Objectives and Strategies: FY 2008

I. Forest and Watershed Management (Performance and Accountability - 5.2)

Objectives	Strategies
<p>The Forestry Division provides technical assistance and promotes sound forest and watershed management toward statewide ecological balance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private Land Stewardship (Helping landowners manage their natural resources through technical assistance, training, funding and other support.) • Forest and Watershed Restoration • Commercial Timber Harvest • Hazardous Fuels • Insects and Disease • Conservation • Natural Resource Planning • Fire Rehabilitation • Tree Farms

II: Community Forestry (Performance and Accountability - 5.1)

Objectives	Strategies
<p>The Forest Division empowers New Mexico communities to protect, enhance and utilize their forest resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-Jurisdictional Stewardship Projects (Landscape) • Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) • Economic Development (Woody Products Utilization) • Community Education • Re-Leaf Program • Seedling Program • Urban Forestry

III. Wildland Fire Management (Performance and Accountability - 5.1)

Objectives	Strategies
<p>The Forestry Division provides for fire fighter safety and community protection while promoting natural resource benefit. The Forestry Division is committed to developing qualified, equipped fire fighters to safely and effectively suppress and manage fire.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Fire Planning ➤ Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) ➤ Fire Department Capacity Building (Joint Powers of Authority) ➤ Preparedness ➤ Fire Fighter Training ➤ Prevention (Smokey) ➤ Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) • Suppression

Forestry Division



Capacity Development

The Forestry Division is committed to developing the resources necessary to provide outstanding service in each of the three areas above. The Division works efficiently with its current resources and acts creatively to solve problems when resources are not available. The Division’s capacity development efforts fall into three broad categories: planning, partnership, and public awareness.

Through careful planning the Division develops strategic priorities for its work, which take advantage of current opportunities and available resources. Through collaborative planning efforts, increased synergy is developed between different entities working toward similar ends. Through partnerships the Division is able to leverage the resources of all partners to achieve greater results for all. And through on-going public awareness efforts, the Division grows understanding among New Mexico’s citizenry for the important work of ecological restoration and maintenance that will ensure support into the future.

Capacity Development

Objectives	Strategies
<p>The Forestry Division leads and participates in a wide range of planning efforts to identify priorities, capitalize on opportunities, and increase cooperation among partners.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene and facilitate statewide meetings of natural resource land managers (Fire Planning Task Force). • Lead statewide planning efforts on issues of complexity and concern (Forest & Watershed Health Plan). • Develop planning tools to support and streamline planning processes (Ecosystem Restoration & Maintenance Community Plan)
<p>The Forestry Division partners with a wide variety of entities—state, federal, tribal, private—to leverage resources for increased results.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Health Project Labor: develop additional labor force through partnership with NM Corrections Department (Inmate Work Camp), Youth Conservation Corps, etc. • Partner with other EMNRD Divisions on task forces that cross Division responsibilities included are the Drought Planning Task Force and Bio-mass Task Force. • Partner with other state departments (Environment, Agriculture, SWCDs, Historic Preservation) and with federal land management agencies and NM tribes/pueblos.
<p>The Forestry Division increases public awareness and understanding of important ecological health issues to ensure lasting support.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene public meetings for input and consensus building. • Maintain an on-going public relations effort to keep the public informed of activity, issues and news • Participate in public events and forums (Tree Care Workshops, Forestry Camp, Conservation Days) • Develop public outreach materials that provide consistent information and messages. • Provide a single point of contact for the media in emergency situations.