



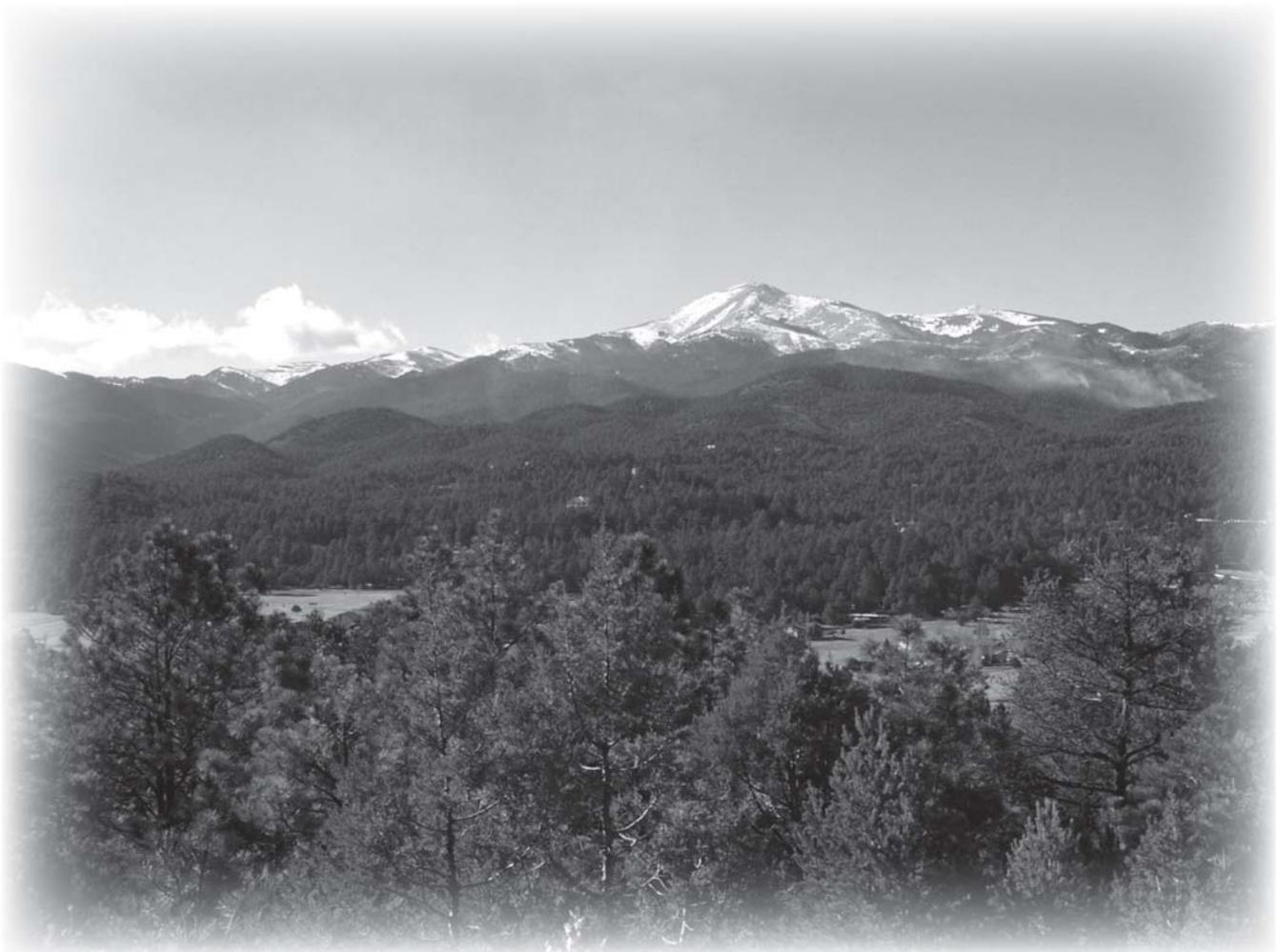
United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

FR-R3-08-1



Lincoln National Forest Stakeholder's Report for 2003



Dear Friends of the Forest

Two thousand and three was a busy year for the Lincoln National Forest (LNF) and surrounding communities. Please join us in reflecting on some of the accomplishments of the past year. The year's work was guided by a strategic plan aimed at producing a healthier, more resource balanced forest.

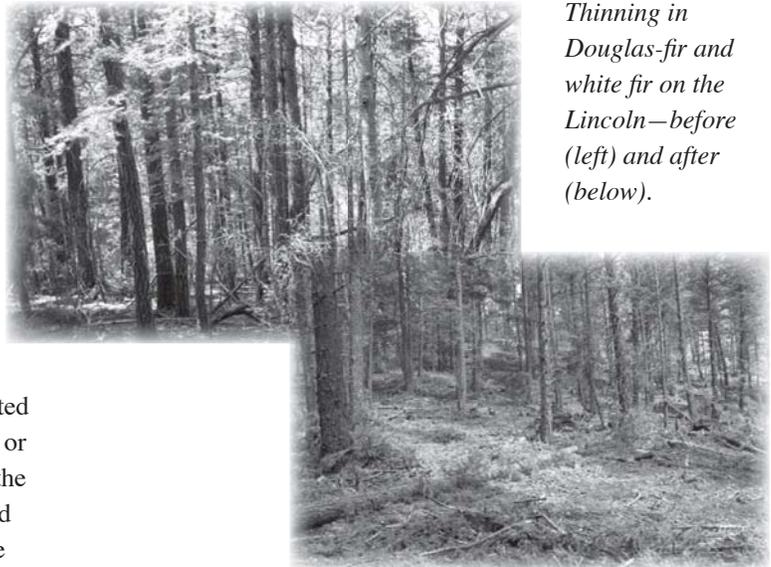
The Lincoln National Forest's goal is to create a more productive and healthy forest while reflecting trust and respect for each other and our customers. Our land and professional work ethic is to create the greatest good for the greatest number of people.

Over the past few years, local communities have received a reminder that fire is part of living in the desert southwest. The National Fire Plan, introduced in 2001, targeted increased firefighting capability; rehabilitation and restoration of watersheds and landscapes; reforestation; facility replacement; rebuilding communities damaged by wild fires; reduction of hazardous fuels; and community assistance for fire preparedness/prevention and economic action. Not only is catastrophic fire a major concern, but the Southwest is in a major drought situation creating other issues such as bark beetle infestation, lack of forage, water quality, forest closures and other resource elements. As a team of forest specialists, including an ongoing process to work and establish community collaborative support, we have taken positive steps in achieving our goals. The projects in this report show how this valuable stewardship and everyone's positive efforts can unite us in supporting a natural and beautiful ecosystem within our national forests.

Jose Martinez
Forest Supervisor
Lincoln National Forest

Forest Health and Rangeland

In 2003, we focused on restoring healthier forest conditions through fuels reduction and watershed restoration projects. We are working on strategies to expedite project analysis required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Healthy Forest Initiative (HFI). Planning efforts are completed in the Upper Eagle Creek drainage in Lincoln County and also on the Rio Peñasco II watershed in Otero County, and ongoing in the Turkey/Gavilan and Elk Canyon/16 Springs watersheds. A 150-acre portion of the 800-acre White Mule Mistletoe Reduction Project was completed in 2003. Trees infected with mistletoe were removed or thinned to reduce the spread of mistletoe throughout the Guadalupe Mountains. This project will be completed as funding becomes available. In total 300 acres have been treated to date. In an attempt to return the southern portion of the Guadalupe Ranger District to a ponderosa pine open savanna forest, the district has conceptualized a 30,000-acre ponderosa pine restoration project. As the first step in this large undertaking, a 9,000-acre archeological study was contracted and implemented in 2003. The contractors will inventory for archeological sites and evaluate them so future prescribed fires can be planned around significant sites.



Thinning in Douglas-fir and white fir on the Lincoln—before (left) and after (below).

National Fire Plan

The National Fire Plan targeted increased fire fighting capability; rehabilitation and restoration of watersheds and landscapes; reforestation; facility replacement; rebuilding communities damaged by wildfires; reduction of hazardous fuels; and community assistance for fire preparedness/prevention and economic action. We aggressively pursued activities to create healthier forest conditions, especially adjacent to communities and subdivisions. The Village of Ruidoso received a grant under the National Fire Plan for over \$335,000 and a participating agreement with the LNF for \$150,000 to begin fuels reduction around the village.

Two fire modeling efforts are being developed on the LNF by the Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Center to ascertain the amount of large woody debris on the Sacramento Ranger District. The research utilizes satellite imagery and plot data. The information will be

used for a state-of-the-art smoke modeling program. In addition, the forest has completed a fire area simulation program within the 16 Springs Watershed. The program enables fire managers to predict fire behavior more effectively and determine fire effects on forests. Planning efforts will continue throughout the year, and information will be shared with local municipalities for fire protection planning.

The LNF constructed the Lincoln Zone Dispatch Center and Alamogordo Air Tanker Base facilities to improve fire suppression response. A new water well was drilled at the site to reduce the impact on local, potable water resources for fire retardant use. The construction contracts were awarded to a local firm in September 2003.

The forest has two 10-person seasonal crews for fire suppression and hosts two 20-person hotshot teams. Our engines are at 100 percent of our most efficient level of operation.

Enhanced Water Production

The water shortage in New Mexico has reached critical levels due to drought conditions and increased customer demand. National forests, containing much of the higher elevations and higher levels of snow and rainfall, are looked to as a source of increased water production.

The effect of thinning trees often benefits a watershed by reducing soil erosion when the cut trees are left on the ground to decay. As the forest continues watershed improvement and fuels reduction projects, we include actions to benefit water production in the efforts.

Watershed Restoration

The Rio Peñasco Large-scale Watershed Project, begun in 1999, was designed specifically to explore a broad range of restorative activities applied to a large land area known as a watershed. The specific objective was to restore ecological integrity and biodiversity at the watershed level, improve water quality and supply, and create an economic base for local businesses dependent on forest resources. Comprehensive activities provided a blueprint for returning the watershed to a condition within its historic range of variability.

The project has become a community-based partnership active in efforts designed to restore the La Luz/Upper Rio Peñasco Watershed. Local and regional community leaders are active in the partnership. Although the initial aims of this project were refocused by the need to reduce fire susceptibility, the strategy for large-scale watershed restoration will continue to be interwoven within the new priority framework. The appropriateness and effectiveness of this type of collaborative approach is county partnership restoration being explored on a 3 state, 3 forest, 17 county level and is receiving significant congressional interest.

Fire Rehabilitation Efforts

The forest accomplished approximately \$160,000 of post-fire rehabilitation efforts on the Walker and Ski Run Fires. The May 2003 Walker Fire burned over 3,439 acres (including 59 acres of private land), and the October 2003 Ski Run Fire burned over 275 acres.

“Devil Dusters” (Artesia, NM) conducted fixed-wing aerial seeding of a specially-formulated grass-legume mixture over 1,700 severely burned Walker Fire acres at a cost of \$35,000 (cost reimbursed by Natural Resource and Conservation Service (NRCS)). Helicopter straw mulching was accomplished on 7 acres to a highly

erosive soil area. The estimated 2,000 pounds per acre were dropped over sloping areas to provide protection to residences, if an above normal rainfall occurred. Two miles of channel work and 20 structures were constructed, along with 200 acres of log barrier contour felling. The post-fire response has been largely successful even though a number of heavy rainfall events have occurred over the area. Grass is coming up across large portions of the most severely burned areas.

This success was made possible by the tireless efforts of the entire communities. Partners included USDA/NRCS, NM State Forestry, NM State Highway and Transportation, NM Youth Conservation Corps, Otero County, Village of Cloudcroft, community of Mayhill, South Central Soil and Water Conservation District, local fire departments, landowners, contractors, and crews.

Insect and Disease

Current conditions in the south and central Sacramento Mountains are low to moderate insect and disease mortality, but given today’s densities, regional drought, and fire stresses an increase is more than likely. Piñon has not been attacked to the extent predicted a year ago, but we are losing pockets of pine within larger mixed conifer stands. Species diversity is helping prevent a full-blown outbreak; however, if a stand where ponderosa pine is merely persisting is attacked, we can forever lose that specie component. Under the new NEPA authority, the forest will try to increase salvage within these insect and disease problem areas.

Cave Monitoring

The Guadalupe Ranger District cave crew monitored and evaluated 10 caves on the district, 5 caves on the Smokey Bear Ranger District and 1 cave on the Sacramento Ranger District. The crew monitors these caves for formation degradation, human impacts, completed restoration projects, and bat populations. Mapping and exploration for new caves was also completed by the cave crew. High Guads Restoration Group continues to provide thousands of volunteer hours toward cave cleanups and restoration projects in degraded caves as well as volunteer guides for public recreational caving.

Range

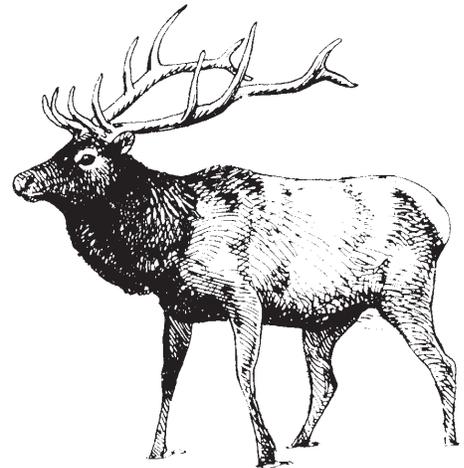
In 2003, the forest collected \$101,359.60 in grazing fees; 9,849 cattle, 20 horses and 65 sheep were authorized to graze. Half of the grazing fees collected were deposited in the U.S. Treasury and the other half was returned and used on the Lincoln National Forest as range betterment funds to replant trees, provide treatments to eradicate noxious weeds, and for construction of fences, water developments, pipelines, trick tanks and other range improvements.

Drought

Drought continued in 2003 and caused reduced cattle and sheep stocking rates on grazing allotments across the Lincoln National Forest. The average stocking on allotments was 35 percent less than what the permittees graze. On the extreme side, some allotments were not grazed at all with cattle in 2003, while most allotments were grazed at reduced stocking rates. Range conditions will be evaluated through the winter of 2003 to determine stocking levels for 2004.

Livestock and Elk

In parts of the Lincoln National Forest there are questions about potential conflicts between elk and livestock, which could be further complicated by future drought conditions. The potential for elk/livestock conflicts seems to be the greatest in Big Game Unit 34, which includes the Sacramento Mountains south of the Mescalero Apache Reservation. We are continuing to work with New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, sportsmen, and interested groups managing elk populations throughout the Lincoln National Forest.



Recreation

Forest Roads Analysis

The forest completed an analysis of its main transportation system. This analysis assessed risk and value of the roads and made recommendations for future road management. The report for this analysis is available on the Lincoln National Forest Web site (www.fs.fed.us/r3/lincoln).

Rehabilitation

Cedar Creek Picnic Area was rehabilitated this year. Work was done to improve accessibility and to repair this aging facility. New toilets, tables and grills at this site greatly enhance the user's experience.

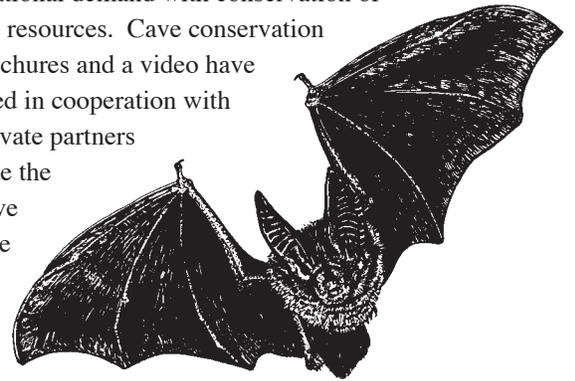
Wildlife Habitat Improvements

The forest has long been a partner with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish and sportsmen of New Mexico. Under the authority of the Sikes Act, licensed hunters, anglers, and trappers on public lands are required to purchase a \$45 habitat stamp or validation from the NM Department of Game and Fish. The New Mexico Habitat Stamp Program has improved wildlife habitats through projects and riparian/wetland protection.

In 2003, sportsmen's dollars supported the enhancement of 3,053 acres of habitat through water tanks and habitat improvements (thinnings). To benefit fisheries and the angler, 10 miles of riparian zone (streamside habitat) was protected (fence construction) from domestic livestock grazing. Vegetation thinning for habitat improvements was for deer, turkey, quail and bear. Although these species are emphasized when projects are planned, other species such as bats, migratory birds and small mammals also benefit. In addition to the contribution of sportsmen through the Habitat Stamp Program and Forest Service funds, some of these projects were partially funded through partnership grants from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the National Wild Turkey Federation.

World Class Caving Experience

Many caves on the forest are considered world class because of location, unique processes involved in their development, and extraordinary content. Some caves are available for recreational use while others are closed for restoration, to protect threatened or endangered species, or for scientific research. The challenge is to balance recreational demand with conservation of nonrenewable resources. Cave conservation and ethics brochures and a video have been developed in cooperation with public and private partners to help educate the public and cave users about the importance and fragile nature of cave ecosystems.



Ski Cloudcroft and Ski Apache

The forest worked with the Village of Cloudcroft and the Mescalero Apache Tribe to ensure these ski areas are kept operational for tourist skiing and winter sports activities. The ski areas operate partially on national forest land and contribute significant dollars to both Ruidoso and Cloudcroft's economies. Recently, three new cross-country ski areas were opened for use.

Community Vitality

The National Fire Plan brought money to accomplish community goals through grants to communities and individuals for economic and rural development and development of small diameter wood product usage. These grants allowed communities to develop their own economic development plans. They also helped gear up businesses to deal with forest products resulting from fuel reduction projects, including small diameter materials.

Company	Project	Grant Amount
Moon Mountain Fuels Reduction	Forest Restoration	\$358,669
Lincoln County Compost	Mulch	\$90,000
SBS Treatment and Transporation	Small Diameter Utilization	\$85,000
Bookout Thinning	Fuels Reduction	\$67,000
Otero County – Timberon/ Sacramento Mountain	Fire Action Plan	\$60,000
TOTAL		\$210,759

Sherry Barrow Strategies in Ruidoso, a Forest Service grant recipient producing wood shaving animal bedding, is also piloting the use of BioMax 15, a state-of-the-art, transportable, fully automated, and environmentally friendly biopower system that uses forest residues to produce electricity and heat suitable for small enterprises, rural homes, and schools.

The sawmill in Alamogordo was retrofit to accommodate smaller diameter logs in cooperation with Otero County through a Forest Service grant in the amount of \$225,000.

New Road to Timberon

The last phase of construction, 7.6 miles, began in winter 2003. The \$20 million Sacramento River road reconstruction and paving project was funded through the Public Lands Highway Program (FHWA). The first

5.7-mile phase is complete. The Lincoln National Forest is a cooperating agency. Otero County, FHWA, and the forest are working together to meet the needs of private landowners along the route as Otero County acquires the right-of-way across private lands. The second phase was awarded in December 2003. Travel to and from Timberon for school bus routes, residents and tourists will be quicker, safer, and more enjoyable because of this project.

Sitting Bull Falls Recreation Area

This area continues to be a vital attraction for locals and visitors to southeastern New Mexico. The Guadalupe Ranger District sets a high standard for operation and maintenance of the recreation area. Sitting Bull Falls is almost completely operated and maintained by the Recreation Fee Demo dollars collected at the site.



Unloading dock for small-diameter materials entering SBS Wood Shavings chipping facility in Ruidoso.

In 2003, fee dollars funded our Host Program, employees time and on-the-ground projects. Hosts are paid a stipend of \$10 a day plus propane, electricity and facilities to house their recreational vehicle. They are invaluable to the upkeep of the area. The hosts monitor fee compliance, provide visitor information and 24-hour security of the area, primarily. In addition, they pick up trash and clean the restrooms as needed throughout the day.

Forest Service personnel such as the site manager and seasonal support were also funded through Recreation Fee Demo dollars. These employees painted, replaced wornout parts, and completed spot trail and sign maintenance on 26 miles of trails in and associated with Sitting Bull Falls. They also conducted the daily operations of the site such as restroom cleaning, water system operations and maintenance, trash pickup and removal, as well as providing visitor information and compliance of rules and regulations.

One on-the-ground project was completed in 2003. Trees and shrubs were purchased and installed to provide shade and to improve the beauty of the parking area and picnic table cabana areas.

Recreation Fields for Cloudcroft

The Village of Cloudcroft and the forest have been working together for many years to transfer much needed land to the village for softball fields, soccer fields and a wastewater treatment plant. This year, Forest Supervisor Jose Martinez made a decision to transfer (at fair market value) the requested 81 acres of land to the village. Transfer can take place at the discretion of the village.

Land for Ruidoso High School Auditorium

The Ruidoso School District applied to acquire about 2 acres of national forest land and the forest issued a land use permit to the school district so they could use some of the land to complete their new auditorium.

Money to Local Businesses

The forest invested over \$3.6 million by contracting 2,300 acres in 10 separate thinning contracts for local small business development.

Historic Preservation and Tourism

The forest surveyed 12,000 acres for archeological sites, providing documentation of 67 new sites. Volunteers from around the world traveled to Alamogordo to participate in the Passport-In-Time project to identify historic battle sites in Dog Canyon. The results of the project will be used for future management activities within the canyon, including artifact displays at the Oliver Lee State Park Visitor Center and historical interpretation along the canyon trail. Archaeological excavations were conducted at a prehistoric pithouse village in the Sacramento River Canyon and at a cave site near High Rolls to gather information about use of national forest lands by past inhabitants.

Community Involvement

The Guadalupe Ranger District organizes and participates in Fire Prevention Week for Carlsbad area schools including the school sponsored Firefighter Olympics. The district—in partnership with the BLM—participates in Christmas on the Pecos, MADD Ballon Fiesta, and the Eddy County Fair. The Guadalupe district organizes an Environmental Education Week at Sitting Bull Falls Recreation Area for all Carlsbad area 5th graders.

Forest Wood Products

The forest sold several timber sales ranging from salvage to right-of-way highway clearings, and provided firewood, posts, poles, vigas, Christmas trees, and other timber products. Sales of sawtimber during 2003 totaled about 5 million board feet (5,000 m.b.f.) of which sawtimber made up approximately 3.3 million board feet (3,300 m.b.f.).

Archaeological Finds

During 2003, archeologists on the Lincoln National Forest were responsible for the survey of about 12,000 acres. Sixty-seven new archeological sites were discovered during these surveys, and management recommendations were made on approximately 271 sites. An ongoing site stewardship program has resulted in the periodic inspection of over 10 sites on the Smokey Bear and Sacramento Ranger Districts.

Archaeological excavations were conducted at a prehistoric pithouse village in the Sacramento River Canyon and at a cave site near High Rolls, NM. To date, the results of these excavations indicate that prehistoric people lived in subterranean houses (pithouses) above the Sacramento River and in caves above Fresno Creek.

In May 2003, LNF archeologists sponsored a National Conference on Apache Archeology. Archeologists, amateur archeologists and tribal members from across the nation traveled to Carlsbad to share their research.

Current projects include leading the environmental analysis for proposed stabilization of the Mexican Canyon Trestle, several ongoing archeological surveys, administration of several archeological survey contracts, and planning for a Passport-In-Time program to document the historic communities of Marcia and Russia.



Community Protection

The forest is a member of the Ruidoso, Cloudcroft, and Timberon community-based fire and rural community planning working groups which meet monthly to do priority setting, development of grant and agreement proposals and implementation, and participation and recommendations in the decisionmaking process. Interaction has led to projects designed to meet specific community needs.

These working groups are very active and continue to support the forest in mitigating and implementing forest health programs. Working groups leveraged funding to communities for mitigating the risk of catastrophic fire. Since initiation, several community leaders and county officials have proposed the forest for consideration as a demonstration forest for dealing with forest health and watershed restoration issues and concerns.

Firewise Workshops have been conducted in the Village of Ruidoso to inform the community of available state funds to reduce fuels around their private residences. The workshops also provide presentations on challenges faced by fire managers, urban planners, local governments and residents in the rapidly changing complexities of wildland-urban fire interface areas.

Lincoln County

Ruidoso – We are continuing to participate in the Ruidoso Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Group, an organized collaborative effort among local, county, State, and Federal government agencies, the Mescalero Apache Tribe, and local businesses/industry. The group is hosted by the Village of Ruidoso and serves as the primary means to coordinate funding/grants requests, fuels management projects, and interagency/business relationships. In October, the group hosted a congressional tour/meeting which was led by the Village of Ruidoso and New Mexico State Forestry Division. Local and state elected officials, as well as congressional staffers and land/resource management agencies, attended this tour.

In August, the Smokey Bear Ranger District hosted a tour and press conference for Congressman Steve Pearce. The Village of Ruidoso, Lincoln County, and New Mexico State Forestry participated in this tour/press conference which was organized to discuss the pending Healthy Forest Initiative legislation.

Otero County

New tools to accomplish community protection goals included grants to communities for community fire planning. These grants allow communities to develop their own coordinated fire protection plans. Timberon and Otero County were recipients of grants for this purpose this year.

Cloudcroft – We finished the Trestle, Exchange, and Bailey thinning projects designed through community interaction. We provided training to local volunteer fire departments in wildland fire tactics and jointly developed staging area and communications plans for initial attack of wildland wildfires. We worked with unincorporated subdivisions within the forest boundary on hazard reduction. We held FIREWISE Workshops with New Mexico State Forestry and local communities in High Rolls and Cloudcroft. Restoration of the Scott Able, Penasco, Cree and Homestead Fire areas was completed. Approximately one million board feet were removed and utilized from the channels as part of the Peñasco rehabilitation effort.

Timberon – We are working with the community, McGregor Bombing Range and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to develop a fire plan for this remote community. BLM has the lead on the environmental analysis for projects south and west of the community, which will cover both BLM and FS lands and reduce timeframes to a product.

Eddy County

Queen – A commercial firewood sale located west of Queen, as well as several prescribed burns proposed across Eddy County, will reduce fuel loads and subsequent risk of catastrophic fire. Existing personal firewood areas will continue to provide wood for Queen and Carlsbad residents. Maintenance of the Pickett Hill Slash Pit Disposal Area continues to be a depository for slash created from thinning projects on local residents' private land. The district continues close participation with Eddy County Chiefs' Association in training and emergency response.

County Partnership Restoration Pilot – Lincoln National Forest

Political leaders at the national, state, and local levels joined in supporting a collaborative effort. The collaborative effort was expanded to a much larger geographic area, and a pilot project was developed and proposed to legislative leaders.

The National Forest County Partnership Restoration (CPR) Program is an innovative proposal to restore watersheds and larger landscapes to more desirable and sustainable conditions on three pilot forests; the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests in Arizona, the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests in Colorado, and the Lincoln National Forest in New Mexico.

The CPR Program was developed in response to the growing interest of local governments to be more meaningfully involved in defining future landscape and watershed conditions and appropriate actions to achieve desired outcomes. This CPR Program addresses ecosystem decline, threats to homes and lives from wildfire, and other factors contributing to ecological, social, and economic impacts within the three forests and surrounding areas.

The program promotes the co-lead partnership of the above 3 national forests and 17 counties in an effort to represent a diversity of landscapes, communities and issues and to allow for a more thorough evaluation of the approach. Pilot designation will provide the flexibility in funding and authorities needed to support collaborative processes, integrate best available science, and expedite implementation of projects to address the complexity of issues faced by forests and communities.

Lincoln National Forest Demographics

National Forest Acres 1.1 million
Forest Budget \$15.5 million

Fiscal Year 2003 (10/01/02 thru 09/30/03)
Calendar Year 2003

Human Resources **Number**
 Full-time Employees 139
 Temporary Seasonal (Approx.) 200

Forest Products **Revenue**
 Recreation Residences/Ski Areas \$74,856
 Communication Sites, Power Lines \$56,830
 Minerals \$10,578
 Outfitters/Guides \$12,617
 Wood Products \$15,238

Number
 Head Months Grazed 79,487
 Cattle Grazed 8,990
 Horses Grazed 28
 Sheep Grazed 65

Recreation Opportunities
 Picnic Areas 4
 Campgrounds (Family) 12
 Campgrounds (Group) 6
 Campsites 389
 Caves 108
 Trailheads 167
 Hiking Trails 491 Miles
 Mechanized Trails (OHV/
 Motorcycle/Mountain Bike) 357 Miles
 Nonmechanized Trails
 (Pedestrian Pedal Bike) 234 Miles
 White Mountain Wilderness 48,873 Acres
 Capitan Wilderness 35,000 Acres

Ecosystem Management

Accomplished
 Air Quality Management 41,017 Acres
 Soil and Water Resource Improvements 2,000 Acres
 Vegetation Thinned 6,135 Acres
 Urban Interface Vegetation Thinned 6,135 Acres
 Prescribed Vegetation Burned 3,322 Acres
 Urban Interface Prescribed
 Vegetation Burned 3,322 Acres
 Sensitive Plant &
 Wildlife Species Managed 22 Plants/10 Animals
 Threatened and Endangered
 (T&E) Species Managed 5 Plants/3 Animals
 Fish Habitat (Miles Protected) 10 Miles
 Wildlife Habitat Enhancement 3,053 Acres
 Noxious Weed Treatment Acres 4,980 Acres
 Allotted Livestock Areas 129 Areas
 Lake Habitat (Protected Acres) 24 Acres

Wildfire Management
 Number of Wildfires 62
 Wildfire Acres Burned (approx.) 5,200

Law Enforcement
 Arrests (Approx.) 11
 Fire (Unattended Citations) 81
 Forest Roads/Trails (Mechanized/Nonmechanized) 38
 OHV Use (Citations) 70

2003 Forest Budget

Description	Total Allocation	Dollars Spent
Fire Presuppression	3,911,054	3,854,431
Hazardous Fuels	1,620,000	1,466,646
Grants	549,842	549,842
Fire Rehabilitation	979,105	356,905
Total Fire	7,060,001	6,227,824
Law Enforcement	82,000	65,902
Land Ownership	429,645	299,749
Minerals and Geology	264,217	115,858
Vegetation/Watershed	1,618,107	1,361,698
Grazing	560,804	429,689
Recreation	863,384	774,851
Timber	646,422	520,769
Wildlife	835,474	556,591
Inventory/Monitoring	464,071	359,494
Planning	452,514	313,359
Total National Forest System	6,216,638	4,797,960
Forest Maintenance/Construction	2,125,595	2,073,960
Range Betterment	71,969	33,302
Grand Total	\$15,474,203	13,133,046

Lincoln National Forest Contacts

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Administration: Louise McGuire
Timber: Dennis Watson
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Web Sites for More Information

www.fs.fed.us/r3/lincoln

Lincoln National Forest: This site provides current Lincoln National Forest information and links to the USDA Forest Service main page.

www.fs.fed.us/r3

Southwestern Region Forest Service: This site provides access to regional updates on 11 forests and 3 national grasslands in Arizona and New Mexico.

www.fs.fed.us/r3/fire

Southwest Area Wildland Fire Operations: This site—maintained by the Southwest Coordination Center in Albuquerque—provides general fire information for the public and serves as a source of fire intelligence for the wildland fire community.

www.fireplan.gov

National Fire Plan: This site provides information through a cooperative effort among the Forest Service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of the Interior on planning and analysis at the National level for implementing the National Fire Plan.

www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/healthyforests

Healthy Forest Initiative: This site provides information on President George W. Bush's Healthy Forest Initiative.

www.nifc.gov

National Fire News: This site provides national fire news including fire management, wildland-urban interface, safety and prevention.

www.fs.fed.us/forestmanagement/stewardship

Stewardship Contracting: This site provides information on stewardship contracting and how they may be used for treatments to improve, maintain, or restore forest or rangeland health; restore or maintain water quality; improve fish and wildlife habitat; and reduce hazardous fuels that pose risks to communities and ecosystem values.

www.westgov.org

Western Governors' Association addresses important policy and governance issues in the West, advances the role of the Western States in the Federal system, and strengthens the social and economic fabric of the region.

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