



# IMPACTS OF THE SOUTH FORK & SALT FIRE

## Executive Statement

This information focuses on the Village of Ruidoso's challenges and impacts related to cost, revenue loss, infrastructure damage, and funding concerns.

## Challenges

Acres burned: A total of 25,508 were burned between the Salt and South Fork fires.

Issues: Millions of trees are left burned. What do we do with them? How do we process them? Who pays for removal?

Local business loss: several local businesses are without revenue as there is a lack of foot traffic, and workers are leaving with a lack of affordable housing

Issues: There is a lack of affordable housing, housing for displaced workers is expensive, and the FEMA rate does not cover local rent amounts. There is also a shortage of available workforce housing within the region.

## Financial Impact Issues

Lodgers tax: **down 63%** or \$432,213 for the first two fiscal months

GRT: **down** the first month by **\$350K**

Utility Account Reduction: 343 properties turned off meters, which equals a **\$50K loss a month**

Airport fuel sales: **Down %25.87** or \$72,476 over the first two fiscal months

## Infrastructure Impact

HB1 funding: submitted **18 projects** for a total of **\$199M** submitted to DFA 9/6/24

Estimated cost of infrastructure: Currently identified **48 projects** at a cost of **\$300M**

Estimated cost of market loss: 377 total lost structures identified, avg cost \$448K, avg size 1400sq ft. **Total loss \$168,896,000**

## Solutions being Evaluated

Municipal landfill: establishing a municipal land fill allows for the area to recoup funding and inject it back into the community



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Sawmill with a regional partner: standing up regional business and establishing connections and logistical partnerships to process wastes establishes a new industry

Tourism recovery fund: a fund established to assist in funding events in disaster areas to help increase foot traffic for tourism

A business retention grant fund is a fund established to assist businesses in rebuilding, either as a direct grant or as a match for enhancing facilities, equipment, or products.

Replacement of revenue disaster assistance for government and commercial entities: Government entities are projected to lose significant revenue in several funding sources. Allowing a fund to directly replace those lost funds based on past year allocations or past year plus projected revenues would assist government entities in continuing with current budgets.

Housing incentive programs: establishing a fund to assist private developers with infrastructure costs or other housing incentives for development to make housing more affordable.









