

# Energy Minerals and Natural Resources

► Forestry Division

Presentation to the Land Grant Committee - October 14, 2020

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# Forest Conservation Act, Section 68-2-8

- ▶ Forestry Division has statutory authority to suppress fire on approximately 43 million acres of non-municipal, non-federal and non-tribal lands
- ▶ Forestry Division is authorized to enter into agreements for fire suppression with federal agencies, neighboring states and local governments to carry out suppression responsibilities





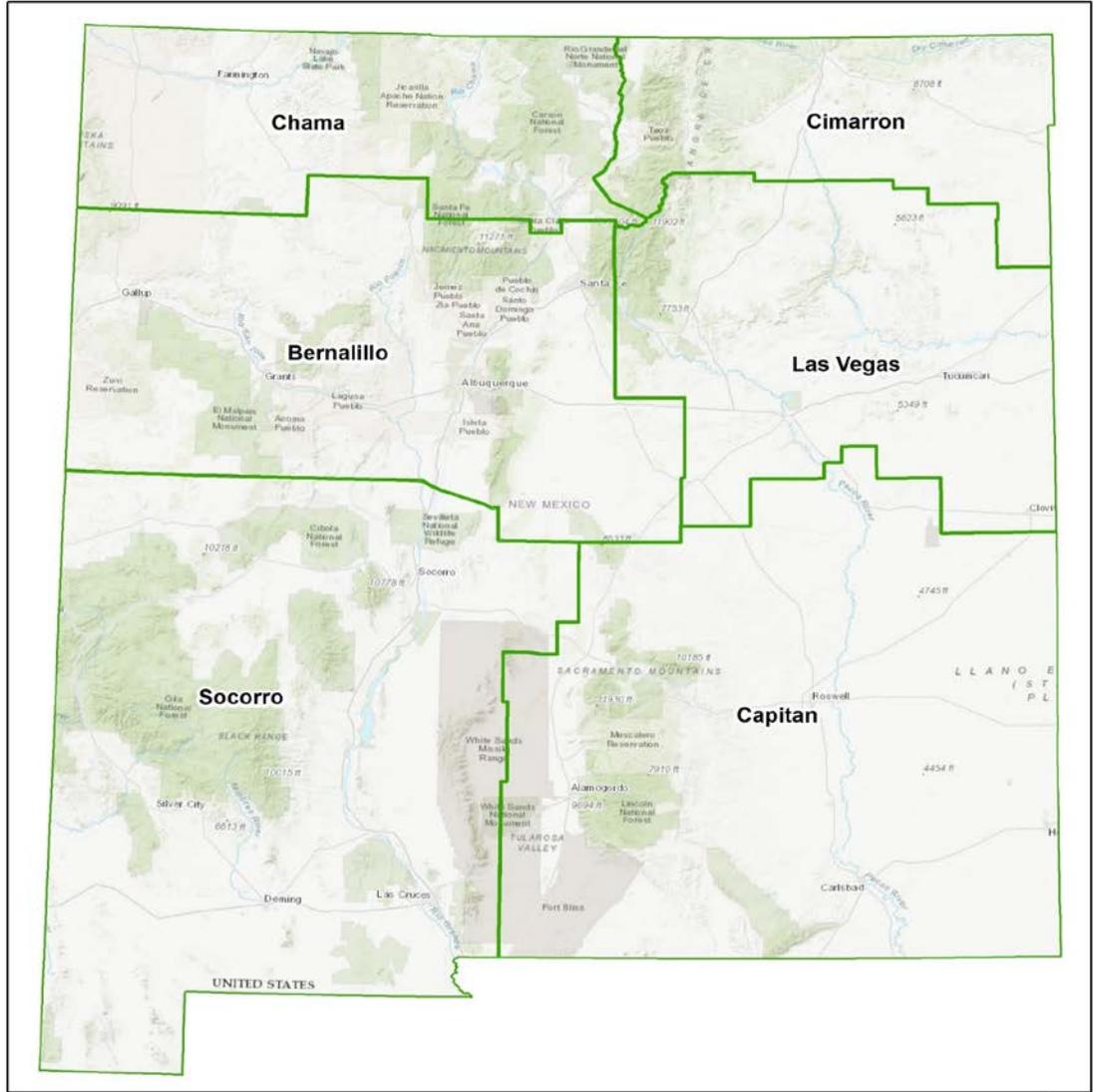
## Division Wildland Fire Resources

- ▶ Resource Protection Bureau
- ▶ Returning Heroes Program
- ▶ Inmate Work Camp
- ▶ Forestry Division District Offices
  - ▶ Chama
  - ▶ Cimarron
  - ▶ Socorro
  - ▶ Las Vegas
  - ▶ Capitan
  - ▶ Bernalillo
- ▶ 18 Type 6 Wildland Fire Engines
- ▶ Fire personnel are configured of FTE and Administratively Determined (AD) emergency wildland firefighters





# New Mexico State Forestry's Districts



Cartographer: Randall Fowler  
 Data Sources: NMSF, RGIS  
 Coordinate System: NAD 1983  
 UTM Zone 13N  
 Scale: 1:3,000,000  
 Date: 10/7/2020

 NMSF District



# Returning Heroes Program (RHP)



- ▶ Created in 2014 to provide veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces with training and work opportunities in the wildland fire capacity
- ▶ 12 full time employees
- ▶ Fire personnel are configured of FTE and AD emergency wildland firefighters
- ▶ Two Initial Attack Type 2 Hand Crews
- ▶ 6 - Crew Carriers
- ▶ 4 - Type 6 Wildland Fire Engines

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# *Administratively Determined (AD) emergency wildland firefighters*



- ▶ AD Emergency Wildland Firefighters boost the capacity of the Forestry Division to respond to wildfires on state and private lands.
- ▶ AD's are hired at the start of the fire season to staff fire engines stationed at each District Office and RHP crews.
- ▶ The Districts have one FTE responsible for the fire program and seasonal assistance to staff the engines and dispatch desk.
- ▶ The Districts hire and train dozens of AD firefighters each year with an annual cost to outfit a wildland firefighter averaging approximately \$2,700.
- ▶ Without the use of AD's the Division would not have the ability to quickly and safely respond to wildland fires on state and private land, potentially saving the State millions of dollars.

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# Inmate Work Camp (IWC)



- ▶ IWC is a joint program of the Forestry Division and the Department of Corrections who provide inmate labor for natural resource work, fire suppression and emergency response activities for deployment within the State.
- ▶ 4-5 - Type 2 short fire crews
- ▶ 6 - Crew Carriers
- ▶ 1 - Type 6 Engine
- ▶ Fire personnel are configured of full-time employees and inmate fire fighters.
- ▶ The program is temporarily closed due to COVID-19 pandemic and Department of Corrections restrictions on inmate activities.

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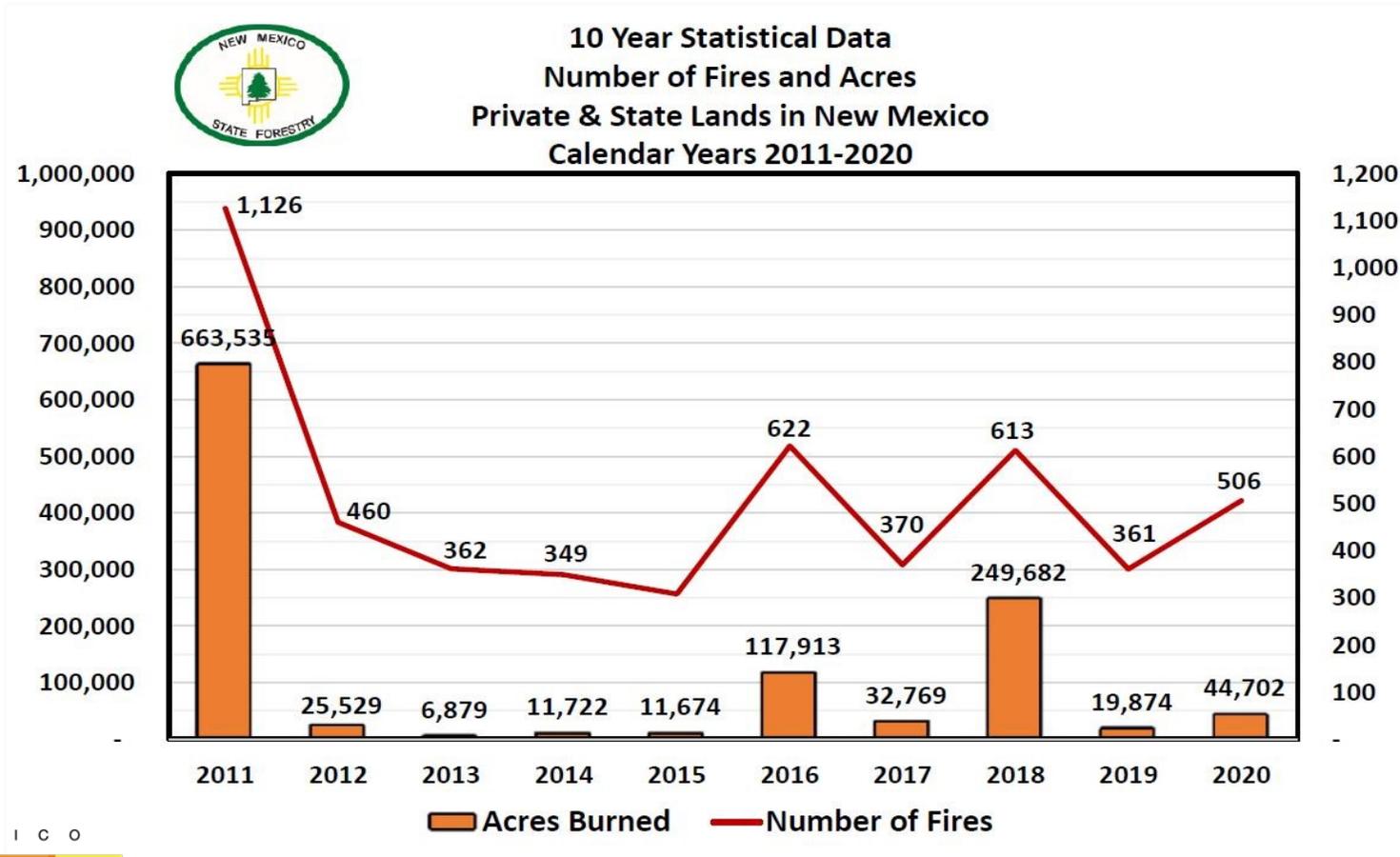


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# 2020 Wildland Fire Update

- NM state and private land fires through 09/21/20 - 506 fires / 44,702 acres
- Federal fires reported for NM as of 09/15/20 - 549 fires / 87,596 acres



# Forestry Division Agreements

- ▶ The Division maintains approximately 70 agreements with Federal, State, county and municipal agencies to cooperate and assist with wildfire activities.
- ▶ These agreements are critical to the ability of the Division to meet its fire suppression responsibilities. The Division has minimal staff capability to directly respond to wildfires and relies heavily on these agreements to authorize cooperator resources to respond for initial and extended wildfire. The Division shares wildfire responsibility on state and private lands with counties.

# Resource Mobilization Plan (RMP)

- ▶ In 2000, the Forestry Division implemented the RMP program that allows the Division to reimburse county and municipal governments when they send their resources who are nationally qualified fire fighters and their approved firefighting equipment to New Mexico incidents and out of state incidents.
- ▶ The RMP allows the county and municipal governments to be reimbursed at the highest allowable rate. This encourages fire department members to obtain the proper training and equipment to meet the national qualifications.
- ▶ The RMP also allows individuals with the qualifications to participate on Incident Management Teams or as single resources (e.g. Helicopter Managers, Operations, and Logistics) to fill orders from out of state.
- ▶ Having qualified individuals with this advanced training helps to sustain critical resources and ensures the state has skilled fire fighters available for incidents within New Mexico.



# New Mexico Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management Response Agreement

- ▶ The master fire agreement allows the Division to mobilize resources, such as wildland engines, equipment, crews and incident management teams for assignment both in- and out-of-state. The reasons for such mobilization are typically to support large fire activities and bolster initial attack capability.
- ▶ The Division represents local governments interests when working with SWCG and federal partners to coordinate and mobilize resources.



# Southwest Coordination Group (SWCG)

- ▶ Through the authority of the New Mexico Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management Response Agreement the Division participates in the Southwest Coordinating Group (SWCG) which is comprised of all land management agencies in New Mexico, Arizona and federal lands in Texas to the 100th meridian.
- ▶ The SWCG coordinates all fire activities within this Southwest Area (SWA), regardless of ownership.
- ▶ The SWCG's responsibilities include wildfire prevention, prescribed fire, aircraft, wildfire suppression, the movement of firefighters and resources nationally.



# Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFFDS)

- ▶ Scientific Decision Support System utilized to streamline and improve decision making processes for wildland suppression strategies.
  - ▶ Improvements in technology
  - ▶ Fire modeling
  - ▶ Develops a scalable decision support system for agency administrators critical for team typing right sizing the incident needs.
  - ▶ Uses appropriate fire behavior modeling, economic principles, and information technology