


Zuni Mountain CFLR Old and Large Tree Retention Strategy

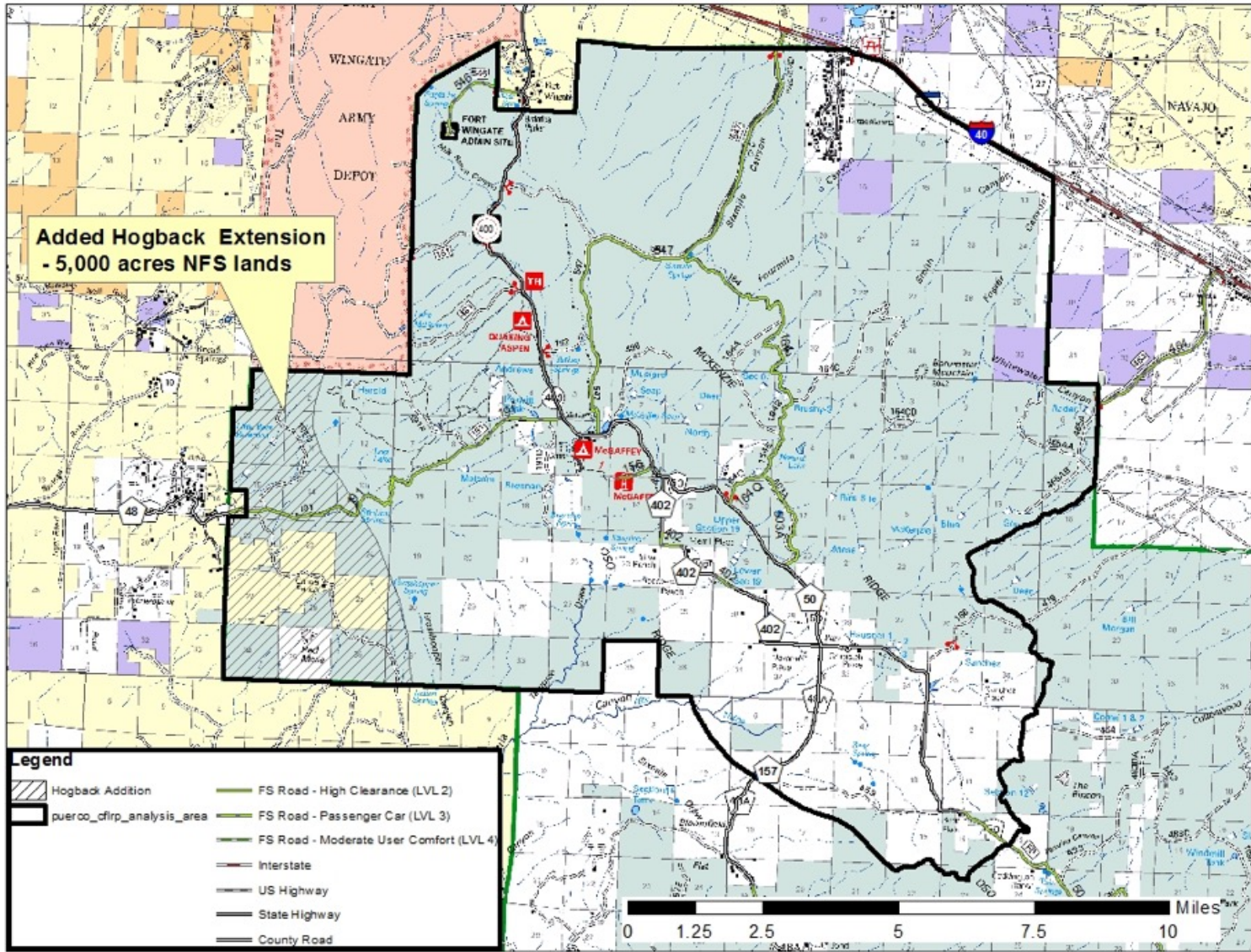
In November 2015, the Cibola Forest Supervisor made the decision not to cut any trees in excess of 24" diameter (DBH) throughout the Zuni Mountain Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project area, which includes all of the Zuni Mountains. The Puerco Project proposes to retain all trees over 24" diameter to assist in moving the area toward desired uneven-aged conditions.





In addition to trees greater than 24” diameter, all trees with pre-settlement characteristics will be retained. For ponderosa pine, pre-settlement trees may be determined by the following characteristics described by Thomson (1940) as age class 3 (intermediate to mature) and age class 4 (mature to old):

- Age – approximately 150 years and older.
- Bark – ranging from reddish brown, shading to black in the top with moderately large plates between the fissures to reddish brown to yellow, with very wide, long and smooth plates occupying more than 50% of the tree bole.
- Branching – ranging from upturned in upper third of the crown, horizontal in the middle third and drooping in the lower third of the crown to mostly large, drooping, gnarled or crooked.



Leveraging Funding for Restoration and Resilience

FAWRA

CFLR

Youth Corps

CFRP

FAC NM

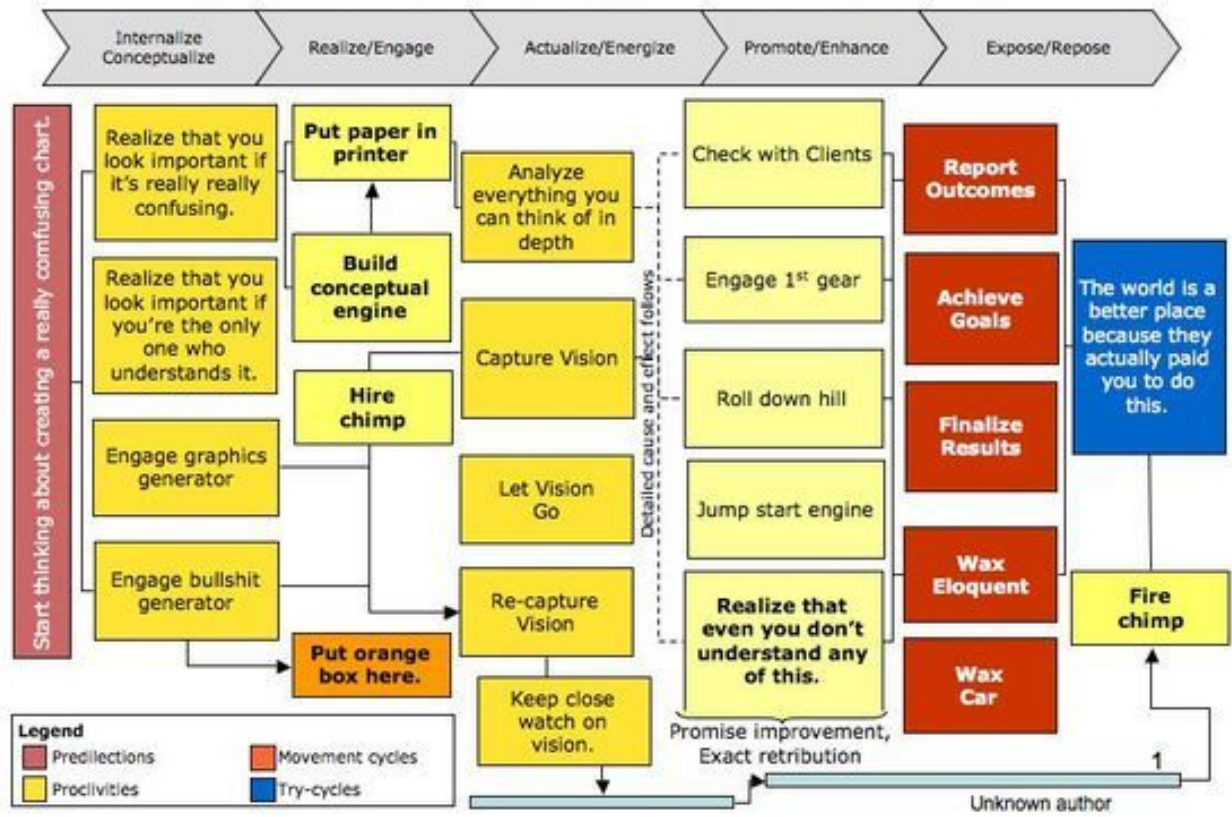
Land Swap

EQIP

FHI

What's Missing?

Logical Model for Creating Achievable and Sustainable Change Modalities over Time





MSO Injunction Update

September 12, 2019

- Court order halting all USFS “*timber management actions*” pending formal consultation and the issuing of superseding Biological Opinions (BiOps).

September 23, 2019

- Clarification that the injunction pertains only to the six forests in Region 3 (Lincoln, Santa Fe, Cibola, Carson, Tonto, and Gila) that operate under the 2012 BiOps.

October 1, 2019

- Order is amended to state that “timber management actions **other** than personal firewood cutting and gathering in Region 3 national forests must cease pending formal consultation.”

October 21, 2019

- The following activities are permanently excepted from the Court's injunction:
 - Projects entirely outside of MSO Protected Activity Centers (PAC), critical habitat, and recovery habitat (Attachment 1)
 - Prescribed burning projects with the limitation that no trees greater than 9"dbh in PACs
 - Commercial firewood gathering projects that are outside MSO habitat.
 - Christmas trees, personal use forest products, ceremonial products, hazard trees



MSO Injunction Update

November 6, 2019

- Motion to Dissolve: (1) Completion of reinitiated consultation with USFWS and (2) the issuance of a new superseding Biological Opinion (BiOp) for the Cibola National Forest.

November 17, 2019

- Filed in opposition, stating that the Cibola NF BiOp does not fully comply with the Court's September 12th instructions because it does not:
 - Have a requirement for long-term range-wide population monitoring, the Cibola NF's "informal" owl surveys do not stand in for long-term range-wide population monitoring.
 - PAC designation and protection does not cure the deficiency – recovery of the species will require the protection of non-PAC nesting/roosting habitat
 - Recovery Habitat has not been identified and managed on a landscape level scale, and that habitat management is not a sufficient way in which to insure against jeopardy and the diminution of recovery prospects for the MSO
 - USFS did not prepare any MSO Recovery Habitat maps (at least to the specifications recommended by the 2012 Revised RP) until October 24, 2019.
 - "Empirical data on the effects of thinning and other mechanical forest treatments on [MSO] are nonexistent."

MSO Injunction Update

November 25, 2019

- Reply in Support of the Motion to Dissolve the Injunction on the Cibola, and request for an expedited review.

December 4, 2019

- Motion to Strike Federal Defendants' Reply in Support of Motion to Dissolve
 - Provided argument and evidence – both for the first time

December 16, 2019

- Response to Plaintiff's Motion to Strike. Defendants did the following:
 - 1. Reiterated the point that the agencies completed consultation and issued a new superseding BiOp (the sole basis of the motion);
 - 2. Explained that Plaintiff's merit arguments must be brought in a separate lawsuit based on a separate supporting administrative record; and
 - 3. rebutted the merits arguments and evidence that the Plaintiff introduced

December 27, 2019

- Motion to Dissolve the Injunction in relation to the Gila, Lincoln, Carson, Santa Fe, and Tonto National Forests.

January 13, 2020

- Plaintiff's Opposition to Motion to Dissolve Injunction against 5 Forests

FAWRA Q&A

January 15, 2020

Years of Collaboration Payoff to Restore Forests and Sustain Jobs



It is a sincere pleasure to share the following story with you all. As of December 16th, 2019, New Mexico State Forestry Division signed a landowner agreement that will enable work to start on 9 private ranches in the Zuni Mountains, providing a supply of timber to keep Mt. Taylor Millworks operational for the foreseeable future. This helps sustain

jobs that are critical to New Mexico communities while restoring fire adapted forests across fence lines. This is an agreement that we all should celebrate, a moment that was brought to fruition through years of collaboration, innovation, and brave use of a new authority. Thank you all for your continued commitment to building strong partnerships and working together to protect New Mexico's forested landscapes and the communities that depend upon them.

Please read the full story:



FY 2020 Plans

Implementation Plans, Addressing Internal Challenges:

Increased training

NM Timber Summit- Increasing capacity sharing resources.

Assigned Engineer to evaluate future road maintenance needs.

Leverage training of Cibola personnel with work capacity on other forest through the New Mexico Timber Summit.

Work with NM State to find projects outside of the injunction for the partner to work on while we wait on the court's ruling.



Zuni Mountain CFLR – Bluewater & Puerco Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Projects

Background and Current Status:

- ▶ Cibola has a small forestry staff and expected stay ahead of the need to layout, prepare and administer 2-3,000 acres/year.
- ▶ Goals:
 - ▶ Marking with DXP
 - ▶ Layout Virtual Boundaries
 - ▶ Scale By Load Count
 - ▶ Timber Summit and Training Opportunities.

Zuni Mountain CFLR - Puerco Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project

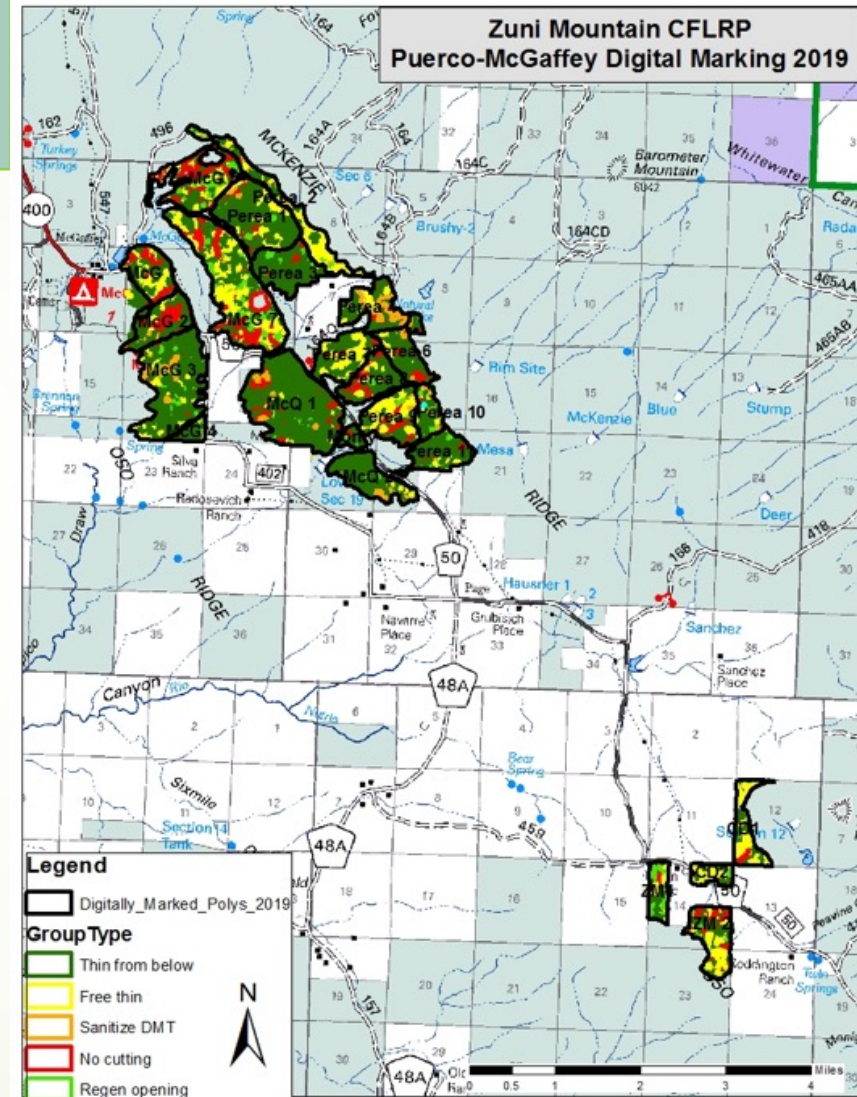
Why DxP and DxP+?

- ▶ Increase/maintain the level of forest thinning by reducing time and costs associated Presale.
- ▶ Concerns:
 - Cost & Quality of work from using Enterprise
 - Cost redistribution between Presale to Logger(s).
 - Cost savings in sale prep will result in additional Administration by FS
 - Will DxP decrease operator productivity? Just in the short term? How to assess outcomes, compliance, and accountability?

Puerco Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project

Preparing for Harvest Operations Using DxP+ in 2020

- Hired Enterprise for multiple tours
- Selected primarily even-aged, straight forward stands with low-medium complexity.
- Digitally marked 5,300 acres
- NWF to purchase tablets for the logger(s)
- Have agreed to be a demonstration area for R3



Puerco Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project

Results: Nothing has been cut out yet, but...

- ▶ Two-thirds of the units were even-aged, almost pure ponderosa pine with low-moderate mistletoe.
 - ▶ Pine-oak and a PFA
- ▶ Average group size is 0.7 acres, with a range of 0.4 to 1.8 acres at the unit level.
- ▶ Largest polygon was a 21 acre DMT Sanitation.
- ▶ Average interspace is 45%, with a range of 29 – 54%

