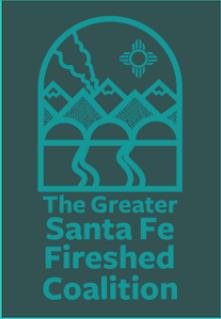


GREATER SANTA FE FIRESHED COALITION

LANDSCAPE RESILIENCE STRATEGY

2022





Cover photo:

Thinned and burned ponderosa pine stand in the City of Santa Fe's municipal watershed that is moving towards the desired state.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 GREATER SANTA FE FIRESHED HISTORY & BACKGROUND

The Greater Santa Fe Fireshed (Fireshed) is a 107,000-acre landscape in the southern Sangre de Cristo Mountains around Santa Fe, New Mexico. The Fireshed landscape encompasses traditional lands of the Tewa people, O'gah'poh geh Owingeh (White Shell Water Place), or Santa Fe, New Mexico. Also, within the Fireshed area are the landscapes of Pueblo, Apache and Navajo communities, whose people continue to maintain vital connections to this place. For thousands of years, Native Americans have stewarded the lands and waters of the region surrounding Santa Fe. The Coalition recognizes and is mindful of these rich cultural traditions that continue to thrive in our landscape today and strives to maintain respectful and mutually beneficial relationships with these communities.

The Fireshed includes lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service, the Pueblo of Tesuque, the City of Santa Fe, other non-federal public lands, and 36,370 acres of private land (See map *Appendix A*). Fire and postfire flooding and debris flows are a significant threat within the landscape. At risk are Santa Fe's Municipal Watershed serving over 80,000 people, traditional resources used by Native American and Hispanic people, and homes in the many neighborhoods and small communities in the Santa Fe vicinity. Important public infrastructure as well as recreational facilities are also at risk. Tourism is a major economic driver, bringing in about 20-25% of the general fund revenues of the City of Santa Fe; this is a secondary value at risk.

The impacts of the 2000 Cerro Grande Fire in the neighboring Jemez Mountains provided a catalyst for accelerated fire risk reduction treatments in the 17,000-acre Santa Fe Municipal Watershed, which sits in the heart of the Fireshed. Congressional earmarks funded work for several years. However, partners realized that this was not a sustainable solution and began working on a watershed management and financing plan to expand treatments and fund long-term treatment maintenance. In 2009 the City, the USFS Espanola Ranger District, The Nature Conservancy, the Santa Fe Watershed Association, and the U.S. Geological Survey completed [the Santa Fe Municipal Watershed Plan](#). In 2010, the City began providing funds on a continuing basis to the Española Ranger District for treatments, and to the Santa Fe Watershed Association for education and public outreach. Thinning and prescribed fire treatments in the Municipal Watershed continue to be implemented. The Pueblo of Tesuque and the Bureau of Indian Affairs Northern Pueblos Agency also initiated work in 2010 to treat tribal lands on Aspen Ranch and the Vigil Grant in 2018. Both are located in the Santa Fe National Forest and are projected to be completed in 2022. Since July 2014, the State of New Mexico has invested \$10 million in priority watersheds statewide; nearly one million in state and federal dollars is for private and public lands projects in the Santa Fe area. Despite these efforts, recent large fires like Las Conchas and Cerro Grande have made it clear that working at a larger scale is needed to address the risk to the water supply, critical infrastructure, and cultural values.

Recognizing the importance of this landscape and the need to scale up and coordinate efforts, New Mexico State Forestry and the City of Santa Fe Fire Department convened stakeholders in December 2015 to address larger landscape fire threats using the three tenets of the National Cohesive Wildland

Fire Strategy – resilient landscapes, fire-adapted communities, and wildfire response. The partnership rapidly evolved into the Greater Santa Fe Fireshed Coalition (GSFFC, or Coalition), with representatives from 16 governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations. In 2016, the Santa Fe City Council and Santa Fe County Commissioners passed resolutions supporting the collaborative work in the Santa Fe Fireshed. The Coalition continues to meet quarterly to look for opportunities to coordinate work on the ground, share information with the public, and improve understanding of the Fireshed landscape. In 2019, New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham and Vicki Christiansen, USDA Forest Service Chief, signed an agreement between the federal and state government establishing a framework for shared stewardship that helps state and federal governments co-manage wildfire and other forest health risks across the land more efficiently (Agreement for Shared Stewardship 2019). [The Agreement for Shared Stewardship](#) strengthens an already solid partnership between the State of New Mexico and USDA Forest Service and establishes the Forest Action Plan as the primary tool to develop a framework to coordinate forest and watershed management in the state. The State Forest Action Plan identifies the Greater Santa Fe Fireshed as a priority landscape for restoration (New Mexico Forest Action Plan 2020).

1.2 MISSION AND VISION OF THE GREATER SANTA FE FIRESHED COALITION

Coalition members have developed Mission and Vision statements to articulate their collective aspirations for the landscape:

Mission of the Greater Santa Fe Fireshed Coalition

The Greater Santa Fe Fireshed Coalition uses proactive, collaborative approaches to improve the health and long-term resilience of forested watersheds and communities by addressing the wildfire risk that threatens us. The Coalition works to build support, understanding, and shared knowledge of the role of fire in a learning and adaptive framework to realize our goals. Our primary goal is to initiate and complete high-priority on-the-ground projects that make the Fireshed and its communities more resilient to wildfire. This goal will be realized when fire is used as a tool for management throughout our frequent fire adapted forests, and communities in and adjacent to these forests are fire adapted, meaning they understand the role of fire and are prepared for its occurrence.

Vision Statement

We envision a landscape with healthy forests and secure water sources. Communities in and near forested landscapes are fire adapted, with residents who take responsibility to reduce risks before wildfire occurs. Prepared communities feel secure and understand the role of fire in the landscape. Residents support treatments, including prescribed burns and managed wildfires, and accept smoke associated with fire management. Fire using agencies provide well-coordinated, safe, and effective response to wildfires, and strive to mitigate smoke impacts to communities. Resilient forests and thriving communities provide economic, recreational, and spiritual benefits for residents and visitors to enjoy.

1.3 THE COALITION STRATEGY FOR ACHIEVING LANDSCAPE RESILIENCE

To improve joint work in the Fireshed Landscape, Coalition members have developed a strategy for building landscape resilience. The following sections provide the basis for collaborative work. They include:

Understanding current landscape conditions: A description of the historic and current ecological and social landscape conditions in the Fireshed. This section also highlights the scientific basis for action through a Wildfire Risk Assessment.

Defining landscape desired conditions: Based on the Mission and Vision, this section describes a series of objectives that can help Coalition members track progress.

Using multiple methods to build landscape resilience: Describes the tools available to Coalition members to improve conditions in the landscape.

Priority actions for landscape resilience: Describes how Coalition partners will coordinate work to apply the resilience-building tools across the diverse landscape.

2 UNDERSTANDING CURRENT LANDSCAPE CONDITIONS

2.1 VEGETATIVE COMMUNITIES AND FIRE

Within the boundaries of the Fireshed, ecotype coverage includes approximately 6,357 acres spruce-fir, 20,393 acres mixed conifer (both wet and dry), 32,984 acres ponderosa pine, and 33,894 acres piñon-juniper. Historically, dry conifer forests (pine, piñon-juniper, and dry mixed conifer) across the Southwest burned frequently at low- to moderate-severity (Swetnam and Baisan 1996). Changes to this natural process were initiated by intensive and extensive livestock grazing that began after the arrival of the railroad to the region in the late 1800s. Livestock removed herbaceous plants which served as the fine fuels that carried these fires (Allen 2007). The impacts of overgrazing were compounded by intensive logging and active fire suppression, which led to the collapse of surface fire regimes across the region for over a century (Swetnam and Baisan 1996). After more than one hundred years without natural fire patterns, dry conifer forests have become denser (Fulé et al. 1997), creating a higher risk for uncharacteristically large patches of high-severity fire (Covington and Moore 1994). The dry conifer forests are therefore a high priority for restoration due to their departure from historical conditions and their coincidence with homes, roads, water supplies and other community values. Higher elevation spruce-fir/aspen forests historically burned at longer intervals and typically experienced larger patches of high-severity fire (Fulé et al. 2003; Margolis et al. 2007; Margolis et al. 2011). These forests are less removed from historical conditions.

The forests of the Santa Fe Fireshed have a similar fire and forest history to the rest of the Southwest. Site-specific data for the Santa Fe Municipal Watershed indicates that there was fire in the ponderosa pine forest every 2 – 16 years and in the dry mixed conifer forest every 2 – 31 years (Margolis and Balmat 2009). There is also evidence of large patches (> 2000 acres) of high-severity fire in the higher elevation spruce-fir/aspen forests of the Santa Fe Watershed and the Tesuque drainage (Margolis et al. 2007; Margolis and Balmat 2009). In the wet mixed conifer forests that lie below the spruce-fir, but above the ponderosa/dry mixed conifer, the fire regime was mixed - generally dominated by low-severity surface fire burning at longer intervals (15 – 30 years) - than dry mixed conifer, with occasional patches of high-severity fire (Margolis unpublished data). The unique human history in and around Santa Fe likely led to early intensive grazing that shut down the fire regime decades before other locations in the Southwest; the last widespread fire in the dry conifer forests on the west flank of the Sangre de

Cristo Mountains was in 1842 (Margolis and Balmat 2009; Covington and Moore 1994). It is similar on the south and east flanks going into the Pecos drainage, but topography and human history (Pecos Pueblo, dating from around the early 12th century) may have created some anomalies.

Restoring forest conditions and historic fire regimes to build forest resilience and adapt to future climate change will reduce risk of high intensity fire to communities, improve forest health, and help forests survive future drought and insect attacks.

2.2 COMMUNITIES AND COMMUNITY VALUES IN THE FIRESHED

The region in and around the Fireshed has been home to people for hundreds of years. The city of Santa Fe was founded in 1607 by the Spanish, and ancestral Puebloan people were settled in the area at least as far back as the 13th century. Forests were used throughout Southwestern human history for wood, grazing, hunting, and gathering plants for food, medicinal, or religious purposes. Mountain streams were diverted for both agriculture and municipal use. The Fireshed landscape is defined by the interface of forests and human communities. Communities include the tribal lands of the Pueblo of Tesuque, the small historic communities of Chupadero, Tesuque, Cañada de Los Alamos, and Glorietta, the City of Santa Fe, and the more modern residential neighborhoods of La Cueva, La Barbaria, Hyde Park Estates, and North Summit. As this list exemplifies, the Fireshed communities are diverse in both size and heritage.

The City of Santa Fe is an economic and social hub of the landscape, providing employment, support services, and entertainment. The juxtaposition of urban amenities and wildland recreational opportunities makes Santa Fe appealing to both residents and visitors. The forest is a major asset for the tourism economy of the region. Hotels, restaurants, retail businesses, and vacation and second home markets all benefit from the enjoyable experiences the natural and cultural landscapes provide. In the Fireshed itself, quality experiences are provided by scenic vistas, a woodland and forest trail networks, camping and picnic areas, and the Santa Fe Ski Basin. Specialty outdoor recreation businesses, including guide businesses, bike shops, fly fishing shops, and large retailers such as Recreational Equipment Inc., are an important part of the economy.

Water is a key ecosystem service provided by the Fireshed. The City of Santa Fe Municipal Watershed supplies ~40% of the City's water. While additional water sources have come online in the past decade, Santa Fe River water is the most economical for the city to treat and transport. Other watersheds within the Fireshed supply the traditional communities north and south of Santa Fe water for household consumption, acequia systems that maintain small scale agriculture, and fishing opportunities.

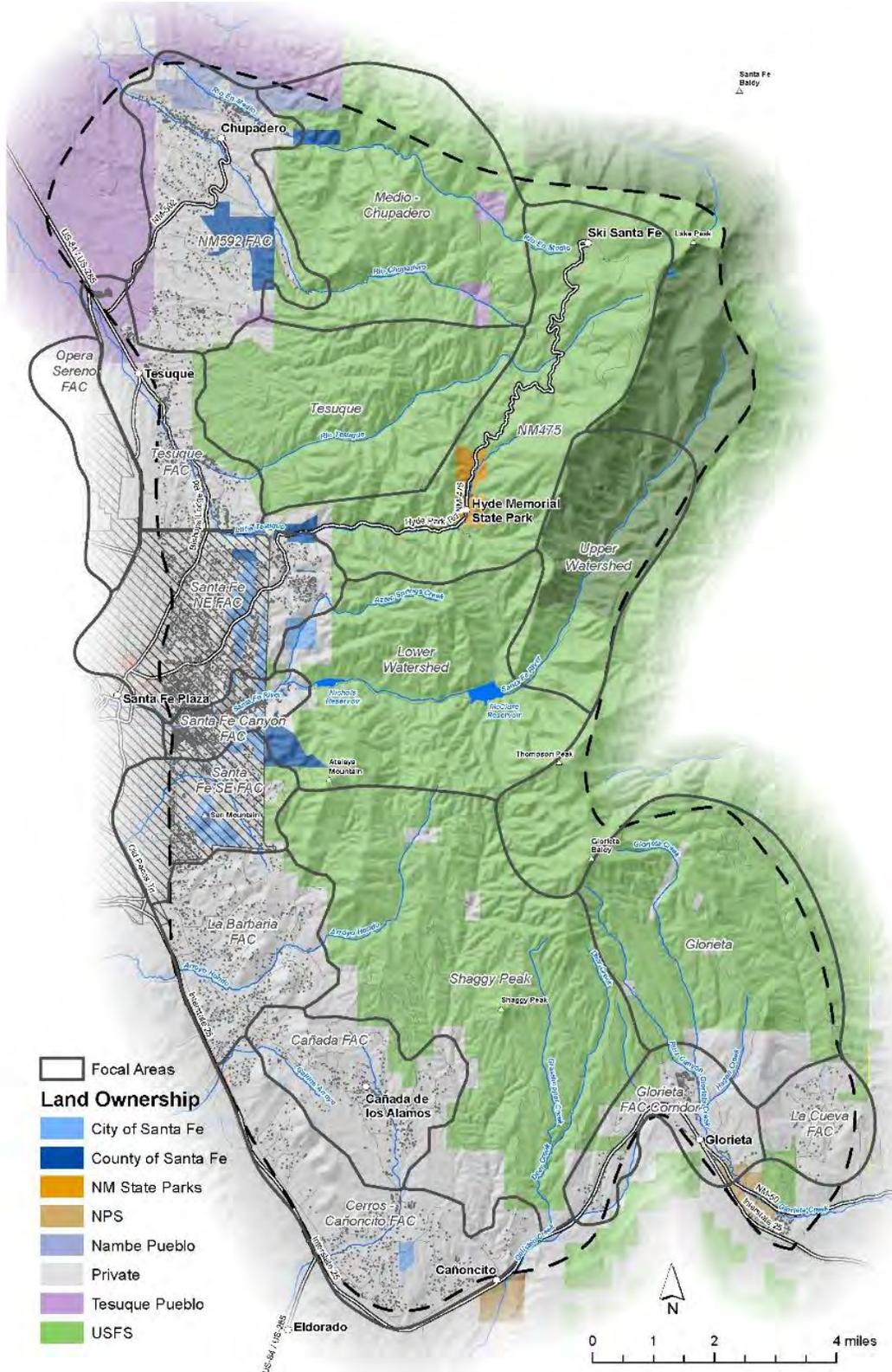


Image: Focal areas within the Greater Santa Fe Fireshed, superimposed over land ownership designation.

North of the City of Santa Fe is the community of Pueblo of Tesuque, which traces its connection to this landscape back more than 700 years. Currently, Pueblo of Tesuque has a population of ~500. Most of the Pueblo's lands are along the Rio Tesuque, but the community also manages higher elevation parcels (Aspen Ranch and Vigil Meadows) which are surrounded by lands managed by the Santa Fe National Forest. Farming using diverted surface water remains a primary activity. The Tesuque people also hunt, collect plants, and use the landscape for cultural ceremonies.

The other small communities throughout the Fireshed are an important part of the overall landscape. In the context of high fire risk, these communities will need to become fire adapted on a landowner-by-landowner or neighborhood-by-neighborhood basis, which can present additional challenges.

The Pecos Wilderness area was designated by Congress in 1964 and covers lands in the northern and eastern portions of the Fireshed landscape. The forests under this designation are dominated by spruce, fir, aspen, and some mixed conifer cover types. The 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule led to the roadless designation of several other areas in the landscape. Currently designated roadless areas include areas of Pacheco Canyon and along the Rio Tesuque, areas south and east of Hyde Memorial State Park in the Little Tesuque drainage, large areas south of the Municipal Watershed near Atalaya Mountain, and Apache Canyon and near the community of Canada de Los Alamos. Santa Fe National Forest is evaluating roadless areas for potential Wilderness designation as part of their Land Management Plan revision process. Local Wilderness advocates have been working since 2009 on a campaign to expand the Pecos Wilderness. Coalition partners will incorporate Wilderness values into their planning if the land protection status changes.

2.3 THE WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT FOR THE FIRESHED

The [Greater Santa Fe Fireshed Wildfire Risk Assessment](#) (Bassett 2018) provides the underlying landscape information and an analysis to help guide Coalition actions. The assessment was conducted using a well-accepted framework (Scott et al. 2013) to evaluate the threat wildfire poses to social and ecological values. Wildfire risk is measured as the damage expected to be caused by future wildfires. Expected damage is highest where there is overlap between three components: expected **likelihood** of a fire occurring, expected **intensity** of a wildfire when one occurs, and **susceptibility** of the burned area to damage from the fire. The full assessment is available on the SantafeFireshed.org website.

How The Fireshed Boundary Was Delineated: Organizations working in the southern Sangre de Cristos broadened their scope of work to delineate a logical landscape that would more accurately encompass the scale of threats and the values at risk from wildland fire. The Forest Stewards Guild worked with collaborators to identify a planning landscape that addressed fuel loads, values at risk, fire potential, and the reality that a large fire could easily span multiple watersheds. The partners attempted to integrate existing agency fire plans, knowledge of probable fire behavior, location of community assets, and how and where defensible spaces could be used if a wildfire were to ignite (e.g., the existing Pacheco Fire burn scar and ridge tops). The City of [Santa Fe's Wildfire Hazard Plan](#) (Hazard Mitigation Plan 2016) and [Santa Fe County's Community Wildfire Protection Plan](#) (Community Wildfire Protection Plan 2020) provided starting points. Next, the locations of existing treatments implemented to reduce the risk of high-intensity wildfire were evaluated for inclusion. These included the Pueblo of Tesuque's Aspen Ranch and Vigil Meadows, the long-term investments in the City of Santa Fe's Municipal Watershed, and work on private parcels supported by NM State Forestry, The Nature Conservancy, and the Forest

Stewards Guild. Outlying neighboring communities that rely on Santa Fe and are themselves at risk were identified and included within the Fireshed boundary. This drew in the communities of Tesuque, Rio en Medio, La Barbaria, Canada de Los Alamos, Glorieta, and La Cueva. Major trail networks, campgrounds, picnic areas, and Ski Santa Fe were important community recreation infrastructure to be included. Partners also considered postfire flood risk to downstream communities and incorporated these values at risk in the boundary designation.

The final Fireshed boundary was broken into logical focal areas where collaborators will work together to address wildfire threats and aid in developing joint actions.

3 DEFINING LANDSCAPE DESIRED CONDITIONS—THE STRATEGY OBJECTIVES

Due to the risk that high-severity wildfire poses to communities, water supply, forest health, and other valued resources in and around the Santa Fe Fireshed, the Coalition came together to identify overarching long-term objectives that align with the Coalition’s mission and vision.

The following objectives were identified to **reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire to the many important values and resources in the Fireshed** and to improve the ecosystem resilience of this priority landscape to future disturbances by restoring forest structure and composition:

Implementation objectives:

1. Restore and maintain watershed health and function.
2. Restore and maintain forest structure, function, and ecological processes to promote forest health and biological diversity.
3. Create conditions that allow for prescribed fire and fire managed for resource benefit to be used as a management tool.
4. Accelerate the pace and scale of forest treatments in the Fireshed.

Communication and community involvement objectives:

5. Improve communication and coordination of restoration activities between Fireshed partners.
6. Improve the public’s understanding of the role of fire in our ecosystems and increase preparedness for wildfire.
7. Offer opportunities for public involvement that match the public’s interests.

4 METHODS FOR BUILDING LANDSCAPE RESILIENCE

Vegetation management, spatial analysis, reducing structural ignitability and building fire adapted communities, and communication both amongst Coalition members and between Coalition members and the public are the tools available to help build resilience in the Fireshed landscape.

4.1 VEGETATION MANAGEMENT METHODS

Tree thinning and controlled burning reduce the risk of intense fires. Tree thinning may be conducted by machine or hand crews and can include outright removal of woody material from a site, piling wood for burning, or masticating wood into small pieces. When it is safe to do so, both thinning and fire may be used in the same area, or controlled burning may be used alone to reduce forest fuels and stimulate understory vegetation. Coalition members will share resources and expertise whenever possible. Reentry into treated areas is expected to occur when initial thinning treatments are insufficient, when combined thinning and fire treatments are needed, and over the long term to re-establish a natural fire return interval across the landscape. Where fuels are reduced sufficiently and conditions are favorable, managing lightning-ignited fires will help build forest resilience. Public engagement in reducing fuels on their own properties, reducing structural ignitability, being prepared for wildfire, and holding support for surrounding agency land management work is critical to the success of the Resilience Strategy.

4.2 SPATIAL ANALYSIS

Spatial analysis can be used to help Coalition members identify priorities for joint work and assist in evaluating efficacy of the work. For example, the GSFFC Risk Assessment used spatial analysis to evaluate the condition of the landscape and wildfire risk in places important to the Coalition and the public. Using spatial analysis and models of fire and water behavior, the Coalition can also evaluate the effectiveness of treatments in reducing wildfire risk. This analysis of treatment effectiveness can be used to adaptively manage and improve future treatments. Partners can use the NM Shared Stewardship mapping portals detailed in the NM Forest Action Plan, including the vegetation treatment database and Opportunity Map.

4.3 REDUCING STRUCTURAL IGNITABILITY AND BUILDING FIRE ADAPTED COMMUNITIES

Landscape resilience and the reintroduction of low-severity fire to fire-adapted landscapes requires that our human communities are prepared for wildfire through a combination of defensible space thinning and reduction of structural ignitability. Since 2005, more than 89,000 structures have been destroyed by wildfires, resulting in an untold number of fatalities, evacuations, and personal losses. Postfire research from Headwaters Economics and the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety tells us that most home ignitions during wildfire are caused by flying embers (Barrett 2020) and homeowners can take steps to drastically reduce structural ignitability and the probability of home loss (Protect Your Property from Wildfire 2019). Through numerous funding avenues and programs, Coalition members are committed to helping Fireshed communities mitigate wildfire risk by reducing their structural ignitability.

4.4 COMMUNICATION, OUTREACH

Clear and effective communication is a critical tool to develop and maintain the Landscape Resilience Strategy. The GSFFC Communications Committee developed a comprehensive Communications Plan, effective September 2017, which addresses functions, desired outcomes, and means for four topics: (1) Internal Communications, (2) Public Relations and Education, (3) Tribal Relations, and (4) Communication with Other Collaboratives. Upon completion, the full Communications Plan will be available for viewing on the GSFFC website in the 'About' section.

The GSFFC Communications Committee consists of partners and advisors who meet regularly to coordinate activities and carry out the goals of the Communications Plan. The Committee facilitates information sharing among GSFFC partners, communicates information about the Coalition to the public, keeps the public informed of partners' activities, maintains ties and shares information with like-minded organizations, coordinates communication with policymakers, and sustains a public presence in Santa Fe Fireshed communities.

The primary purpose of the Communications Committee is to coordinate the activities of GSFFC partners and advisors; however, the Committee also organizes activities carried out by multiple partners and advisors. Examples include public open-house meetings to inform the public of GSFFC activities and accomplishments and community meetings to solicit input from residents and stakeholders on topics.

5 Priority Actions for Landscape Resilience

To achieve the desired conditions and relationships in the Vision and Mission, partners in the Coalition will work together to set joint priorities and leverage resources across the landscape. In working toward the landscape conditions described in the Vision Statement, Coalition members will engage with planning, fundraising, project implementation, resource sharing, and public communication. The Coalition acknowledges that partner organizations have individual missions, opportunities, and constraints and that finding alignment between organizations is a learning process.

To jointly prioritize projects across land ownerships, Coalition partners will begin by identifying the priorities and out-year plans for their organizations within different "focal areas," defined by watershed boundaries, wildland areas, or around concentrations of community assets like housing, water sources, and infrastructure. By communicating early and often about planned activities and priorities, Coalition members will identify areas of mutual interest and understand where interests may not align. The intention of this exercise is to stimulate dialogue about the priorities of organizations that highlight where resources can be focused.

Coalition members have agreed to work together to make the best use of available funds and to increase effectiveness of fire mitigation treatments. Because resources are limited, the best approach is to set priorities where risk, opportunity, and urgency are highest. The Coalition will use the best available science and tools, including the Fireshed Risk Assessment, to ensure that management activities are occurring where risk and opportunity are the highest.

Opportunities to act are highest where there are enabling conditions like funding, new or existing partnerships, or a high level of support from the public. High opportunity projects may be those where fire mitigation treatments can be used strategically to make future treatments easier, accelerating the completion of critical work. Although this Strategy is designed to be implemented over a decade, the Coalition may update goals and priorities as treatments are implemented and effectiveness is evaluated. Progress towards meeting goals will be monitored and discussed on an annual basis through the Resilience Strategy Committee.

To move towards joint priority setting, the Coalition agrees to the following:

- 1) Partner organizations disclose management priorities and out-year plans.
- 2) The Coalition convenes a dialogue among partner organizations to discuss shared interests, priorities, and opportunities for resource sharing.
- 3) Treatment priorities are validated using best available science and knowledge of conditions on the ground.
- 4) The Resilience Strategy is revised to reflect updated goals, management activities, and mutual priorities.

Coalition partners will track activities and success within different “focal areas,” defined by watershed boundaries, in wildland parts of the Fireshed, or around concentrations of community assets like communities, water sources and infrastructure.

5.1 FIRESHED FOCAL AREAS

The Fireshed has been organized into eighteen different focal areas. For each focal area, the strategy includes a general description of the area, current conditions (including vegetation, wildfire, and post-fire hazards), unique values, and resources. Proposed activities in the focal areas may differ based on their current condition, but all activities are designed to contribute to community and ecosystem resilience.

The focal areas are organized by geographic and communal boundaries. The first seven are primarily rural and wildland under the ownership of the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, State of New Mexico, and County of Santa Fe. The last eleven, designated with "FAC" in their name, are in sub-urban and urban areas and represent Fire Adapted Communities primarily under private and tribal ownership.

Several common *Values at Risk*, *Hazards*, and *Risk Mitigation Goals* may be identified for the entirety of this ecologically and culturally diverse Fireshed:

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| <i>Values at risk</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The built environment, including roads, powerlines, public structures, private dwellings, and historic and archeological buildings • Watershed water yield, including potable water, water for agriculture, and acequia infrastructure • Wildlife habitat and vulnerable plant and wildlife communities • Recreation and cultural use of the land, including trails and public spaces |
|-----------------------|--|

| | |
|----------------|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human lives, especially in areas where individuals do not or cannot evacuate due to egress complications, blocked evacuation routes, or inadequate evacuation time in the face of a fast-moving wildfire |
| <i>Hazards</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildfire hazards: landscape-scale tree and plant mortality, structures burning within wilderness, WUI, and in urban centers Post-fire hazards: soil erosion, debris flows and flash flooding, roads washing out, interruption of water availability, demolition of built structures |
| <i>Goals</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete thinning and other forest management projects to increase forest fire resiliency Improve forest health and stand conditions, especially in high-risk areas Increase community involvement and buy-in for Fire Adapted Communities Maintain funding for land management projects and community outreach and education Reinforce wildfire response infrastructure, emergency alert systems, hazard mitigation programs, and working relationships with communities and individuals |

Larger-scale actions that progress toward reaching the goals of multiple focal areas which were initiated in 2019 and 2020 include:

- The Santa Fe National Forest initiated a NEPA process for the Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project to assess effects of forest treatments across 50,566 acres within the Fireshed. A draft Environmental Assessment is expected to be released to the public in March 2022. Although potential treatment priorities are identified below, the details and timelines for this project are subject to change pending a decision, which may lead to the preparation of additional documentation in an Environmental Impact Statement.
- The NRCS and the Santa Fe National Forest received a Joint Chiefs’ Award for \$561,104 to expedite treatments on both public and private lands.
- The New Mexico Division of Forestry continued implementation of a Landscape Scale Restoration project that is passed through the Santa Fe Pojoaque Soil and Water Conservation District to provide cost share funding for private homeowners who are implementing thinning projects.
- The Agreement for Shared Stewardship between the State of New Mexico and USDA Forest Service established the Forest Action Plan as the primary tool to coordinate forest and watershed management in the state. The State Forest Action Plan identifies the Greater Santa Fe Fireshed as a priority landscape for restoration.

Maps of the delineated focal areas, land ownership and risk profile are included in *Appendix B*. *Appendix C* shows the vegetation types included in the focal areas. Full descriptions of, risks to, stakeholders within, and the current status of each focal area may be found in *Appendix D*. You may also view the Fireshed website to learn more about the progress and future of each Focal Area.

To ensure that the strategy is moving the Coalition towards reaching its goals, the Resilience Strategy Committee will meet annually to review progress and update *Appendix D* and activity summary as needed. Input from the Monitoring, Communications and other Committees may be called upon to update applicable sections of the Strategy. The recommended updates and changes will be presented to the Coalition annually at quarterly Coalition meetings.

5.2 MONITORING AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

This collaborative strategy is expected to be implemented over approximately 10 years. To track success and determine when adjustments need to be made in programs or projects, Fireshed Coalition members will report on results of projects planned and implemented on an annual basis and answer the set of monitoring and adaptive management questions below. Necessary changes in activities or methods will be determined and adjustments will be made and documented.

Implementation Monitoring:

| Strategy Objective | Question | Metric | Goal | Who is responsible? |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| Reduce the threats from wildfire to the many important values and resources in the Fireshed. | Are treatments going into high-risk areas? | Percent of treatments in areas in the top 50 th percentile of risk identified in the risk map. | An increase in the % of treatments occurring in the top 50 th percentile of risk. | The Implementation and Monitoring Committees, individual partners, the U.S. Forest Service |
| Accelerate the pace and scale of forest treatments in the Fireshed and inform management based on risk to build adaptive capacity to changing climate and maintain the climate regulation benefits of forests (Krofchek et al. 2019). | Is the number of acres being treated or acres available for treatment trending upward? Are management prioritizing treatment areas based on the chance of stand-replacing wildfires and | Annual trends of area treated to mitigate fire risk and restore ecological resilience. Treatment acres placed in identified high-risk areas from the Fireshed’s Wildfire Risk Assessment. | Area treated to mitigate fire risk and restore ecological resilience increases annually; acres treated in high-risk areas are prioritized and percentage of high-risk areas receiving treatment | Implementation Committee, Coalition Partners, U.S. Forest Service, State Forestry, Pueblo of Tesuque |

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| | optimizing treatment for carbon storage? | | increases exponentially relative to low or medium risk areas in the Fireshed. | |
| Create conditions that allow for prescribed fire and fire managed for resource benefit to be used as management tools. | Are treatments improving the Vegetation Condition Class (VCC) rating of the Fireshed? | Fire regime (through prescribed fire or wildfire) matches the established regime for treatment units within the Fireshed. | Percent of the Fireshed has been brought to within a range of the appropriate forest type reference fire return interval. | Partners track and report back to Coalition |
| | Fuel loads are reduced to allow use of multiple-objective managed wildfire when weather, smoke lift and socio-political conditions allow. | Number and acres of wildfires managed for resource benefit. | Increase in the number and acres of wildfires managed for resource benefit. | The U.S. Forest Service, the All Hands All Lands Burn Team |
| | Are we building and maintaining capacity to conduct prescribed fire? | Land managers and other partners prioritize building Rx capacity, number of multi-organizational prescribed burns and firefighter training opportunities, proportion of planned treatments that have adequate | Rx capacity is an agenda item at a quarterly Coalition meeting at least 1x per year, number of multi-organizational prescribed burns and firefighter training opportunities held per year increases every year, adequate resources | All Land Managers in the Fireshed |

| | | | | |
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| | | resources to be implemented | available to implement all planned treatments. | |
| Restore and maintain forest structure, function, and ecological processes to promote forest health and biological diversity. | Is forest structure being restored to a state that promotes healthy forests and biological diversity? | Forest structure surrounding priority values at risk is returned to a resilient framework (Bryant et al. 2019). | Documented fire effects and/or post treatment monitoring show improvement in the FRCC. | Partners track and report back to Coalition |
| | Are treatments mitigating the spread of high-severity wildfire? | Percent of high-severity wildfires mitigated by implemented treatments. | An increase in the percent of high-severity wildfires that are mitigated by treatments in the Fireshed, either by effectively changing wildfire behavior or by providing an opportunity to aid in wildfire suppression. | Partners track and report back to Coalition |
| Restore and maintain watershed health and function. | Is the risk of post-fire debris flow being reduced over time? | Modeled post-fire debris flow volume in the Santa Fe Watershed. | Modeled post-fire debris flow volume in the Santa Fe Watershed is less than 1,000,000 cubic meters. | City of Santa Fe |

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| | Are post fire hazards to the watershed being considered in management plans? | Inclusion of post-fire hazards in CWPPs and other hazard mitigation plans and reference to CWPPs in source water protection plans. | Post-fire hazards are included in all new CWPPs and other hazard mitigation plans, and CWPPs should be coordinated with any new source water protection plans. | Partners where applicable, City of Santa Fe Water Division |
| | Is watershed health in the Fireshed increasing in functionality? | Nutrient levels, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, heavy metals, chlorophyll levels, and aquatic biodiversity. | Water quality data shows increased watershed health over time. | City of Santa Fe, the Watershed Association, Monitoring Committee |

Communication and Community Involvement Monitoring:

| Strategy Objective | Question | Metric | Goal | Who is responsible? |
|---|--|---|---|--------------------------|
| Improve communication and coordination of restoration activities between Fireshed partners. | Are treatments being effectively coordinated across boundaries to function at a landscape scale? | Number of agencies and organizations participating in and helping fund each implementation project. | At least three agencies participate in each implementation project. | Implementation Committee |

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|---|--|---|---|---|
| | Are Fireshed partners communicating to coordinate work? | Quarterly meeting occurrence and attendance, committee meeting occurrence and attendance, committee efficacy. | Fireshed Coalition meetings occur four times a year and are attended by at least 10 coalition member organizations, each committee meets bi-annually at a minimum and are attended by at least 5 Fireshed Coalition member entities, and committees are setting goals and meeting or exceeding identified goals for the year. | All Coalition Partners and Advisors, Coalition Chair and Co-chair, and the Fireshed Manager |
| | Are partners coordinating to improve overall capacity where resource gaps to perform necessary work exist? | Treatments are funded using an integrated financing approach – where funding or capacity gaps exist, other Coalition partners contribute to treatments. | If funding for planned treatments is not sufficient, at least one other Coalition partner will contribute funding, or the Fundraising Committee will aid in obtaining necessary funds to get the project to a stable condition. | Coalition Partners, Fundraising Committee |
| Improve the public’s understanding of the role of fire in our ecosystems and increase | Is the public well prepared for and informed about potential smoke events? | Smoke Impact and HEPA filter loan program outreach occurs with every smoke incident (news articles, press | The public is well prepared for and informed about all smoke events (wildfire or prescribed burn) in the Fireshed | Communications Committee |

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|--|
| preparedness for wildfire. | | releases, Fireshed newsletter website and blogs). | and can borrow HEPA filter if needed. | |
| | Are more communities and residents informed about how to mitigate their fire risk and engage in building a fire adapted community? | Number of community awareness events scheduled with the public, number of email contacts, number of home fire risk assessments completed, number of Fireshed Ambassadors and events led by Ambassadors. | At least five events held annually to raise community awareness, email contacts trending upward, home hazard assessments trending upward, at least one Ambassador per FAC focal area, Ambassadors hold at least 1 event in their community annually. | The Communications and Monitoring Committees, individual partners, the U.S. Forest Service, the Fireshed Manager |
| | Are communities and governments better prepared to respond to risks of postfire flooding and debris flows? | Number of post-fire flooding and debris flow risk documents and other communications materials disseminated. | The coalition produces and shares informational post-fire risk documents annually to be disseminated within the community. | The Communications and Monitoring Committees, individual partners, the U.S. Forest Service, the Fireshed Manager |
| Offer opportunities for public involvement that match the public’s interests and maintain the Fireshed | Are there opportunities for members of the public to engage in community science around topics of interest, including becoming a Fireshed | Number of community science engagement opportunities in the Fireshed. | At least 1 community science project(s) would be coordinated with the Monitoring Committee, if there is interest, and at least 1 Ambassador | Monitoring Committee, Ambassador Program |

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|--|---|--|
| <p>Ambassador Program.</p> | <p>Ambassador or engaging with an existing Ambassador in their community?</p> | | <p>training per year. Ambassador are requested to put on at least 1 event in their community for the public per year.</p> | |
|----------------------------|---|--|---|--|

6 CONCLUSION

With an understanding that environmental conditions change over time and the best available science will be refined and improved, the Coalition is committed to updating this strategy as needed. Ongoing Implementation of the strategy will be communicated through regular meetings and sharing of agency and organizational annual operating plans. The strategy and/or implementation plans will be adjusted as needed. A more comprehensive look at the landscape outcomes will be conducted five years from the signing of the strategy by Coalition members. This adaptive process will allow for the framework developed here to be used well into the future.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This Strategy would not be complete without the help from many contributors, namely Anne Bradley and Steve Bassett of The Nature Conservancy; Esmé Cadiante, Eytan Krasilovsky, and Rachel Bean of the Forest Stewards Guild; Alan Hook of City of Santa Fe City Water; Alan Barton of New Mexico Forest and Water Restoration Institute; Hannah Bergemann and Sandy Hurlocker of the Espanola Ranger District, USFS; Porfirio Chavarria of the City of Santa Fe Fire Department; Michael Fuelner of the Santa Fe County Fire Department; Teresa Seamster of the Sierra Club; Marlita Reddy- Hjelmfelt of The Red Elm; and everyone on the Fireshed Coalition’s Monitoring, Resilience Strategy, and Communications Committees.

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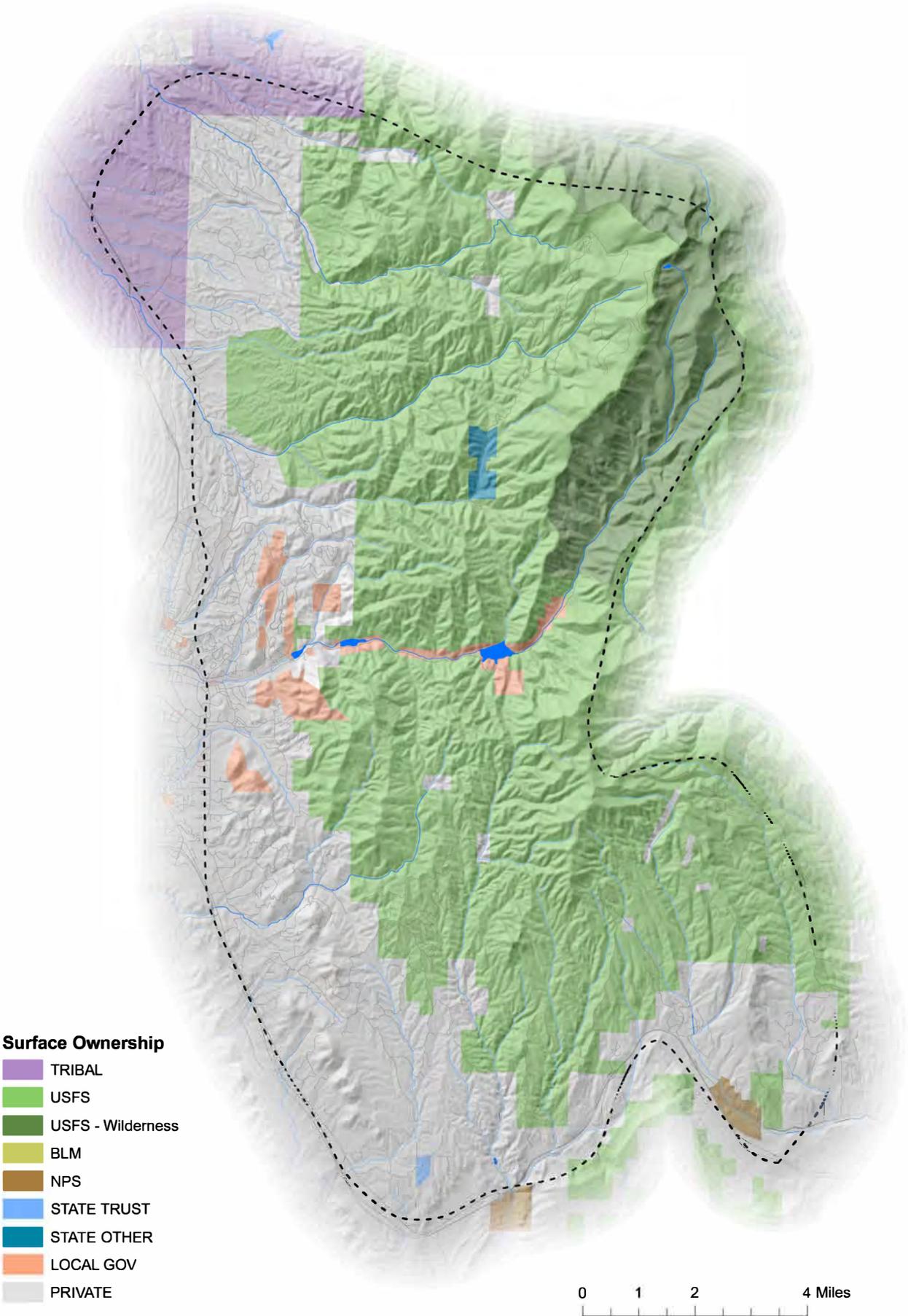
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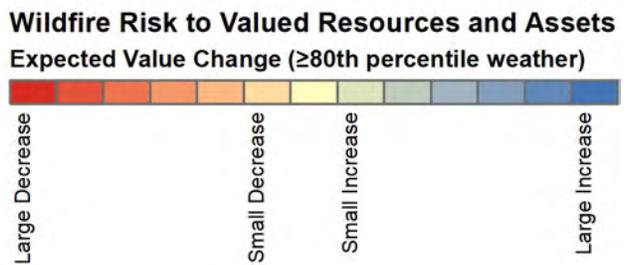
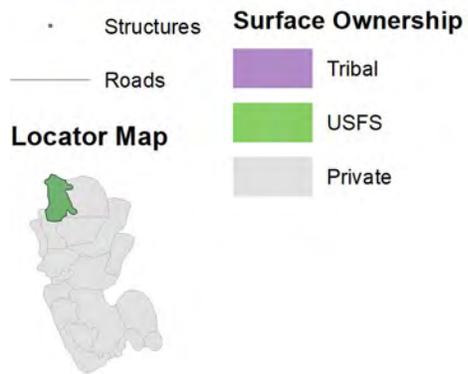
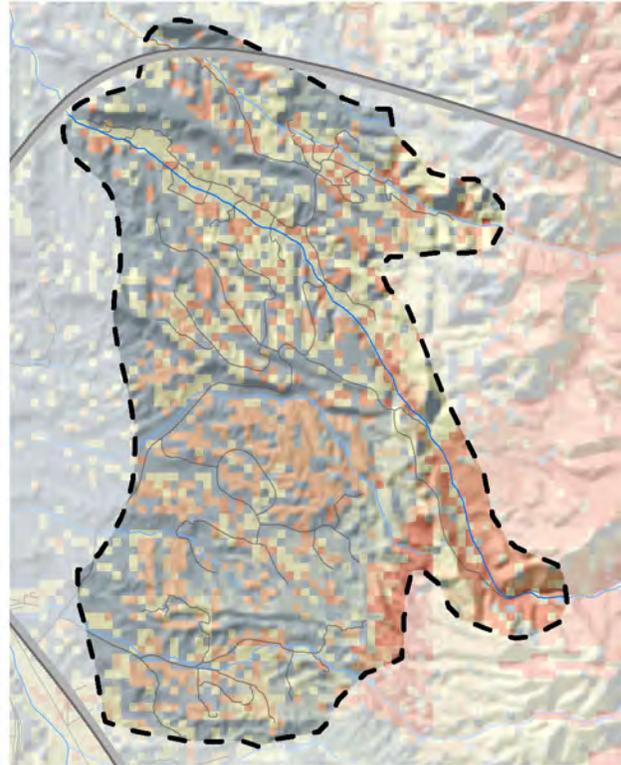
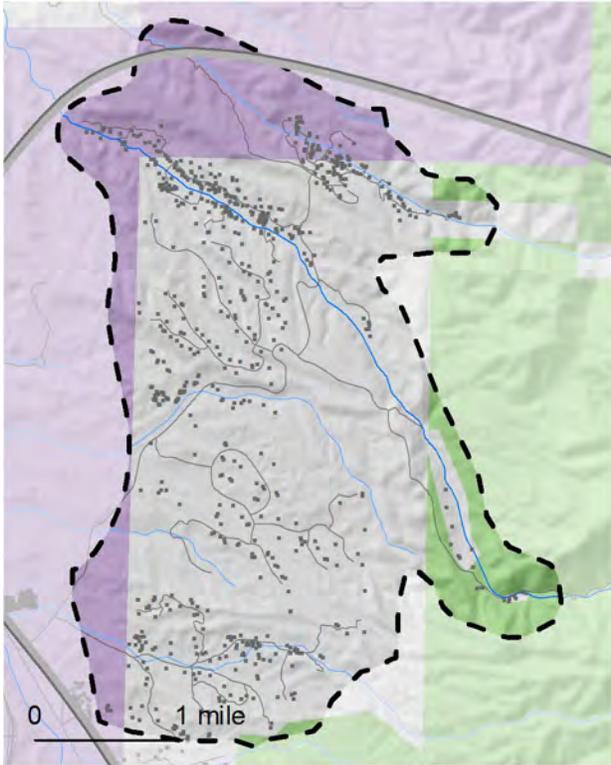
Appendix A: Fireshed Land Ownership Map



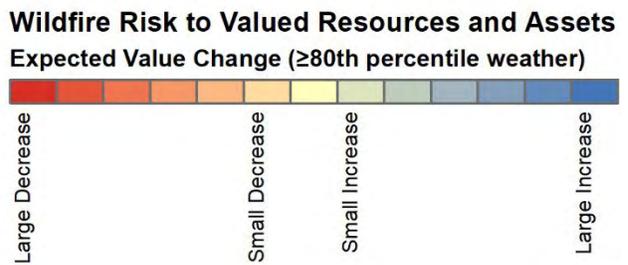
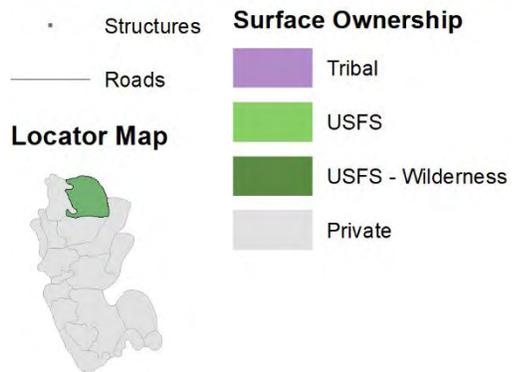
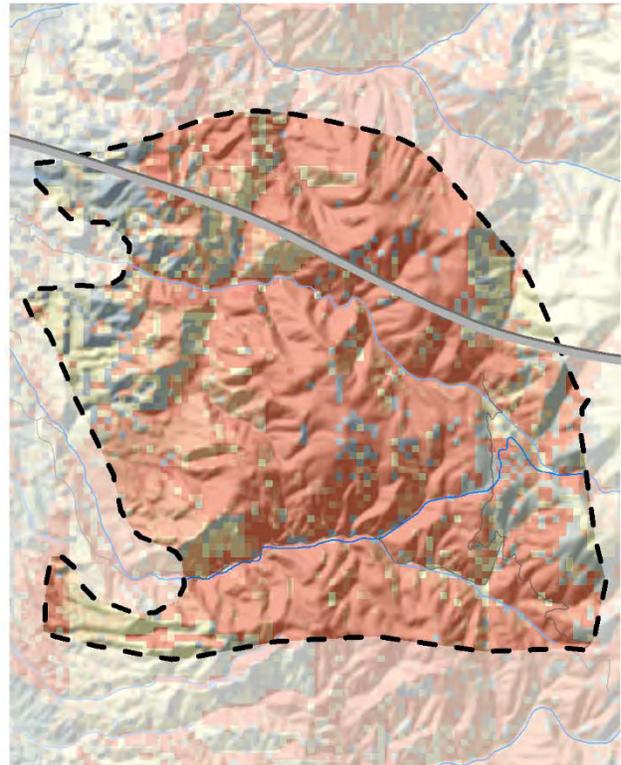
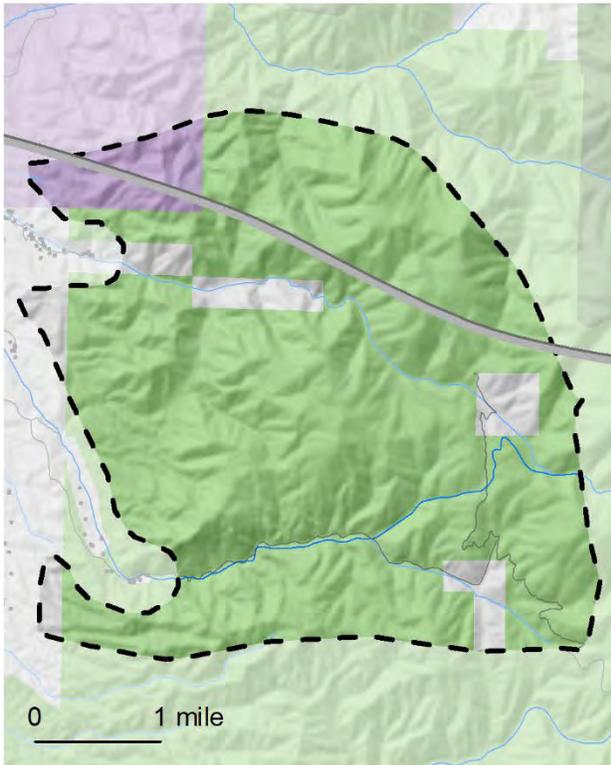
Appendix B: Focal Area Maps

The following maps depict the risk to resources in each focal area. A land ownership map including roads and structures allow readers to orient themselves. The risk that is depicted is relative fire risk at under weather conditions that are equal to or exceed the 80th percentile conditions, determined using the energy release component (ERC) fire weather hazard indicator.

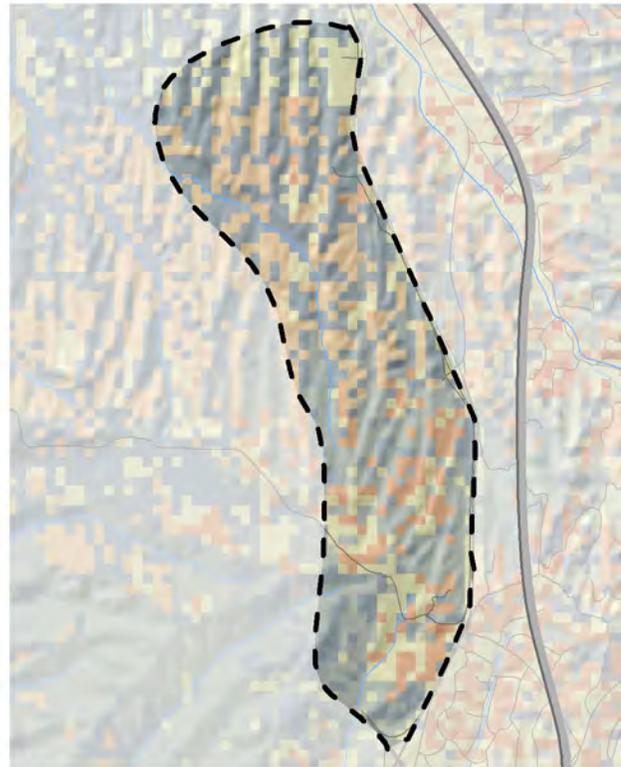
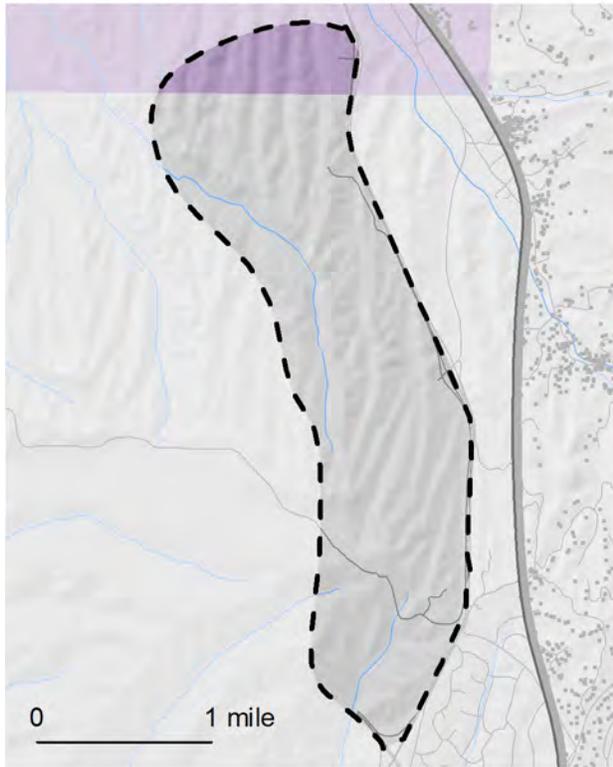
NM592 FAC



Medio - Chupadero



Opera Sereno FAC



- Structures
 - Roads
- Surface Ownership**
- Tribal
 - Private

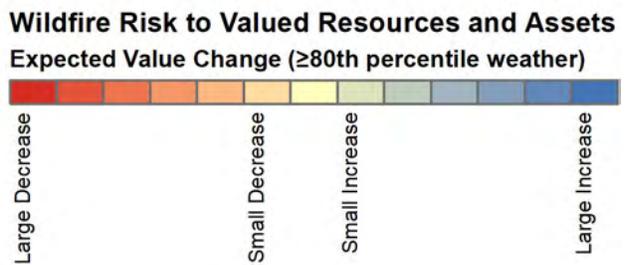
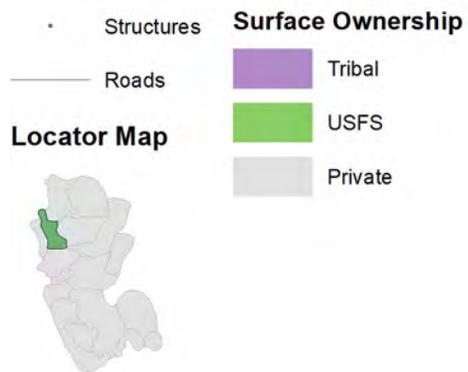
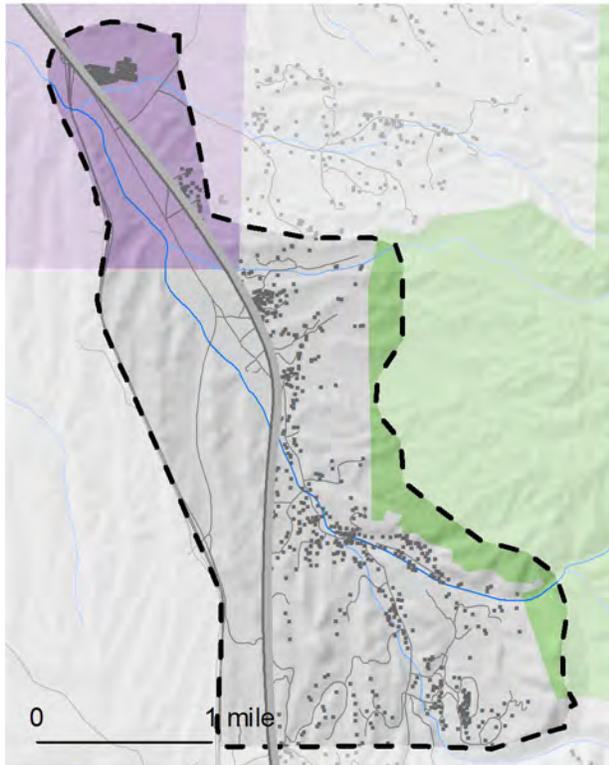
Locator Map



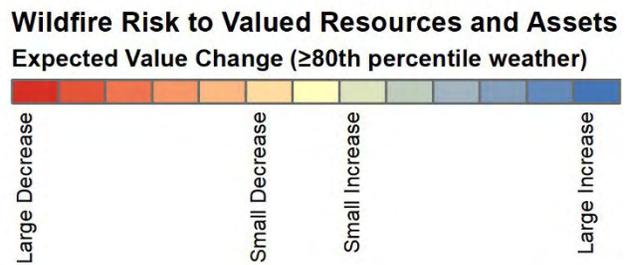
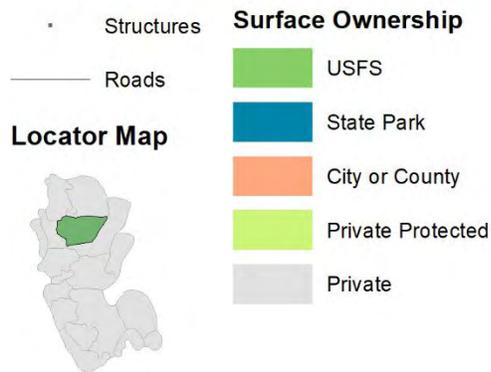
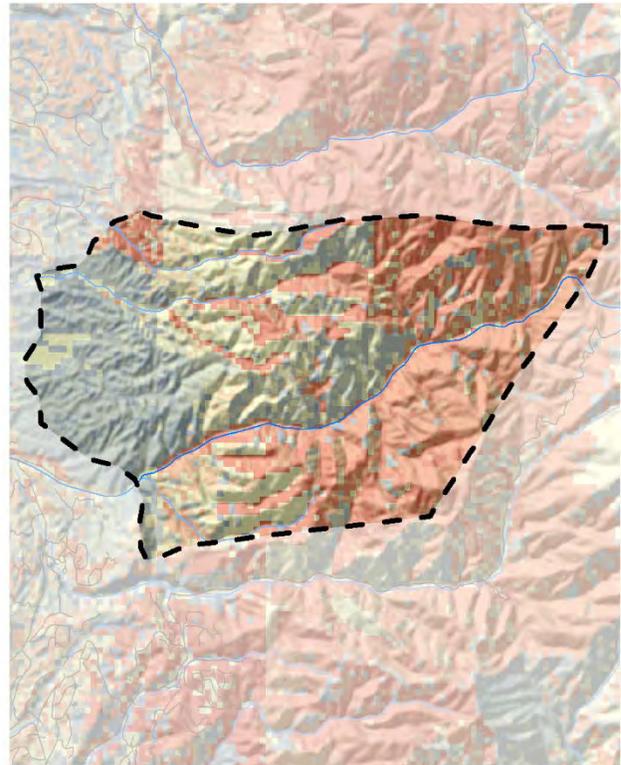
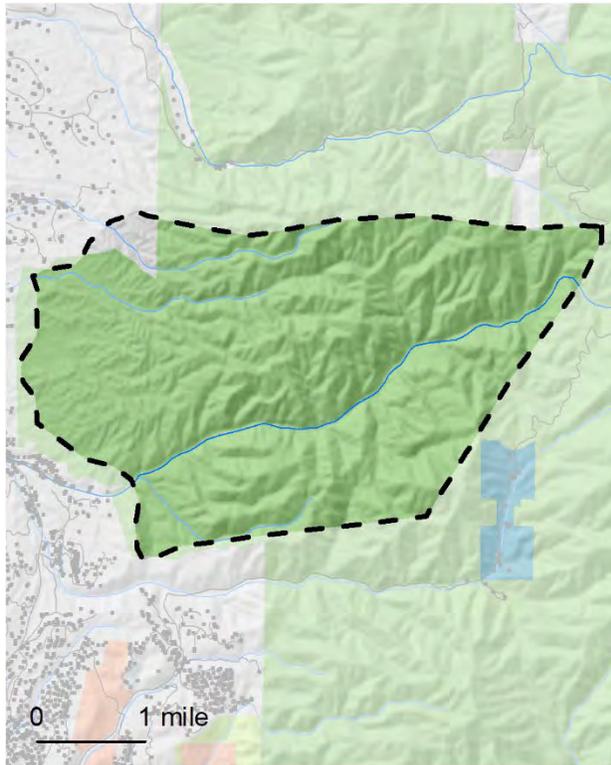
Wildfire Risk to Valued Resources and Assets Expected Value Change (≥80th percentile weather)



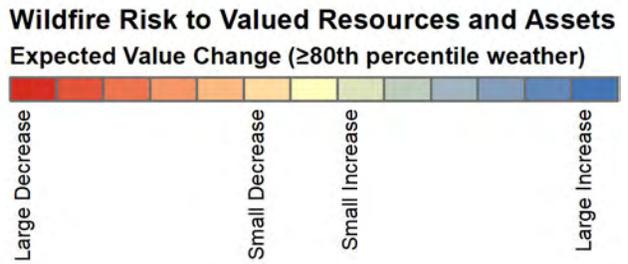
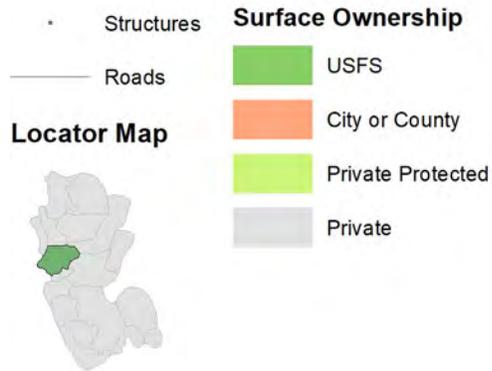
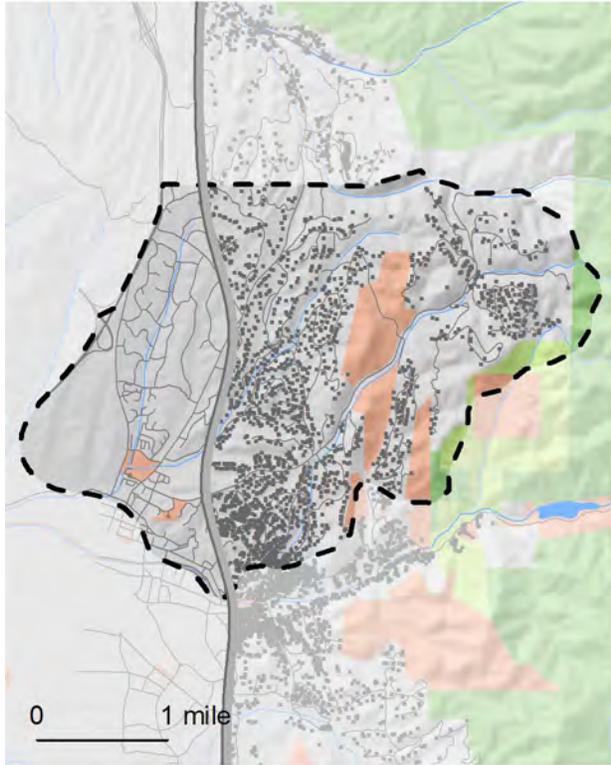
Tesuque FAC



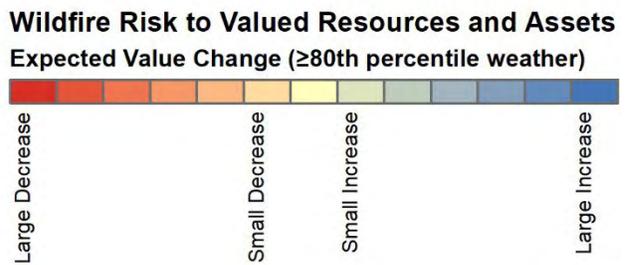
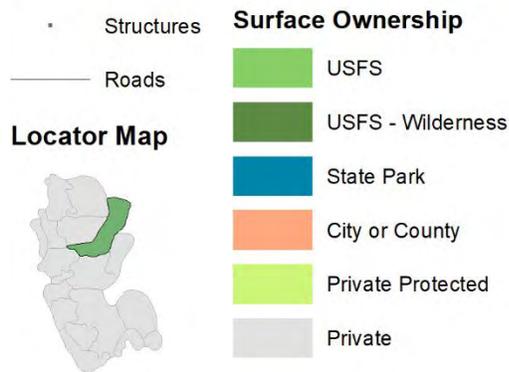
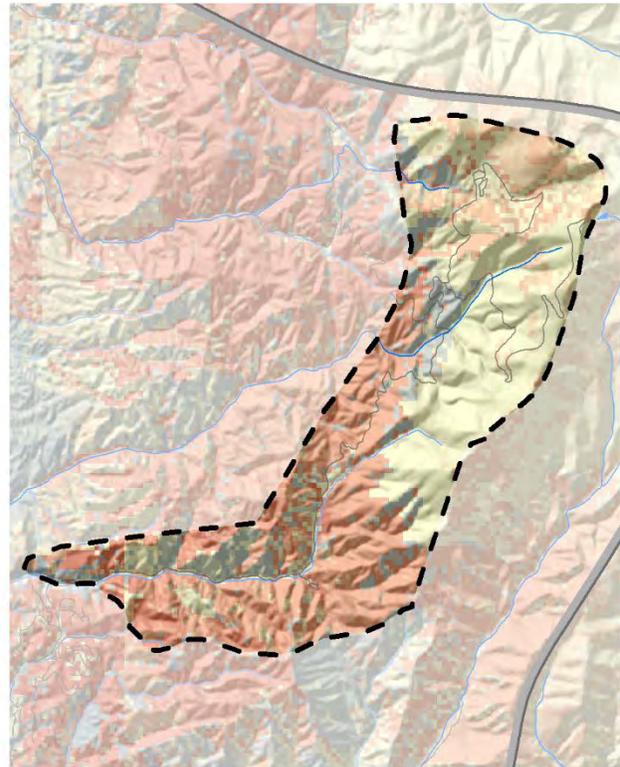
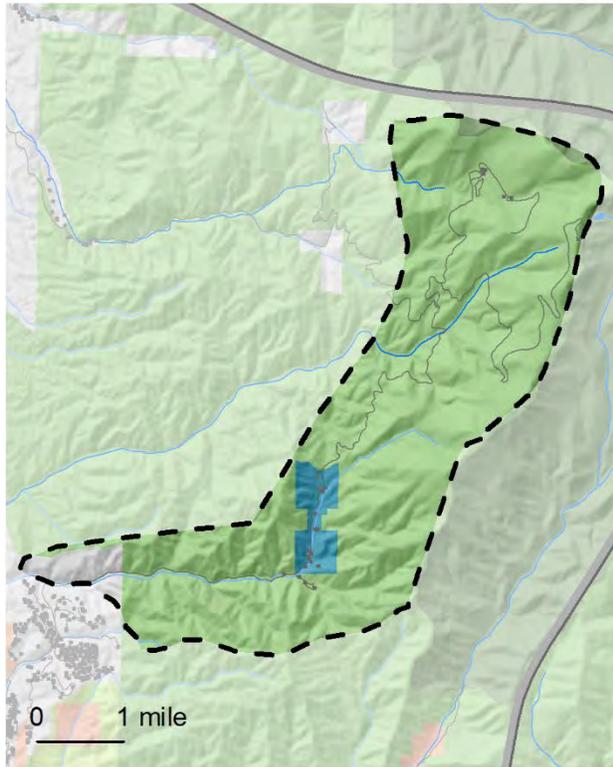
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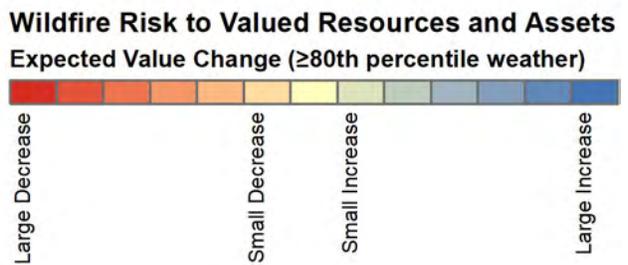
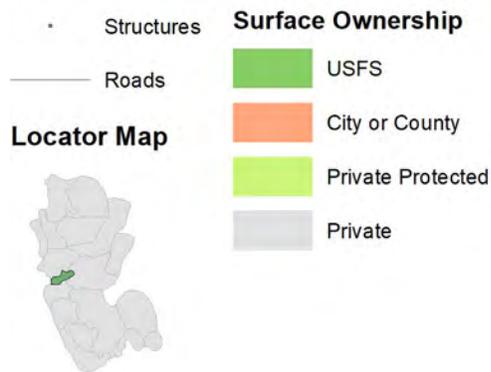
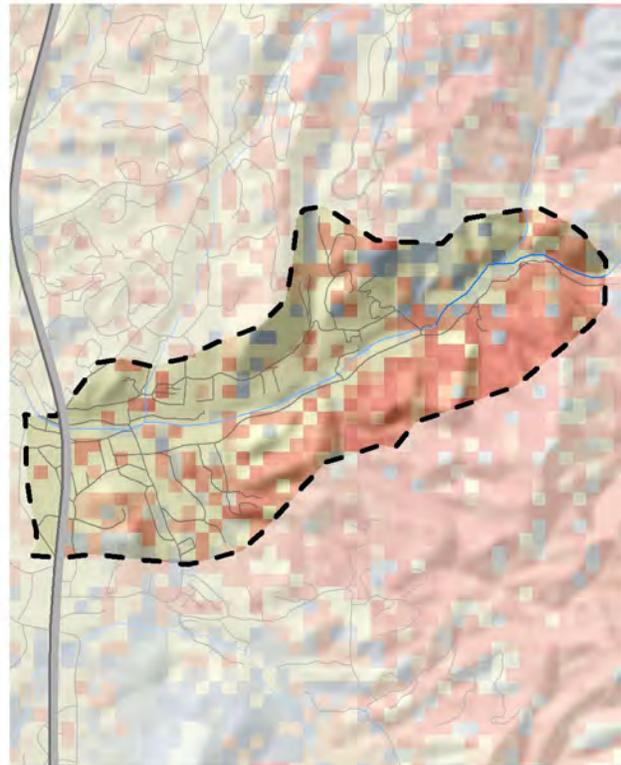
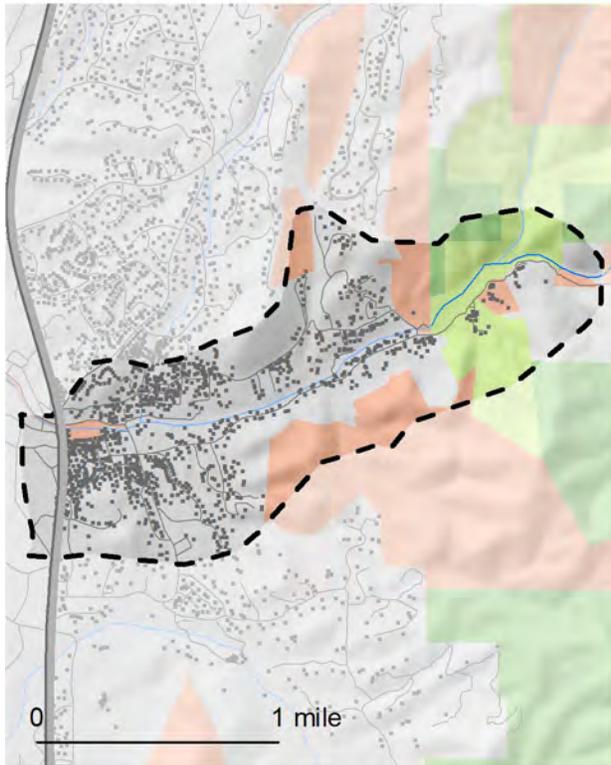
Santa Fe NE FAC



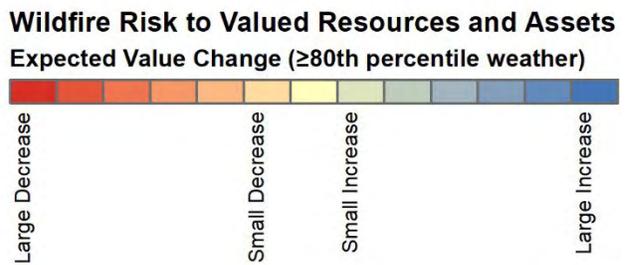
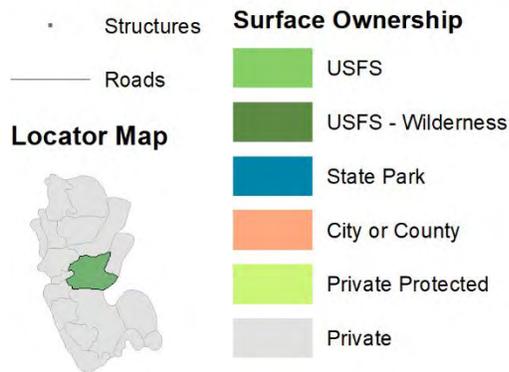
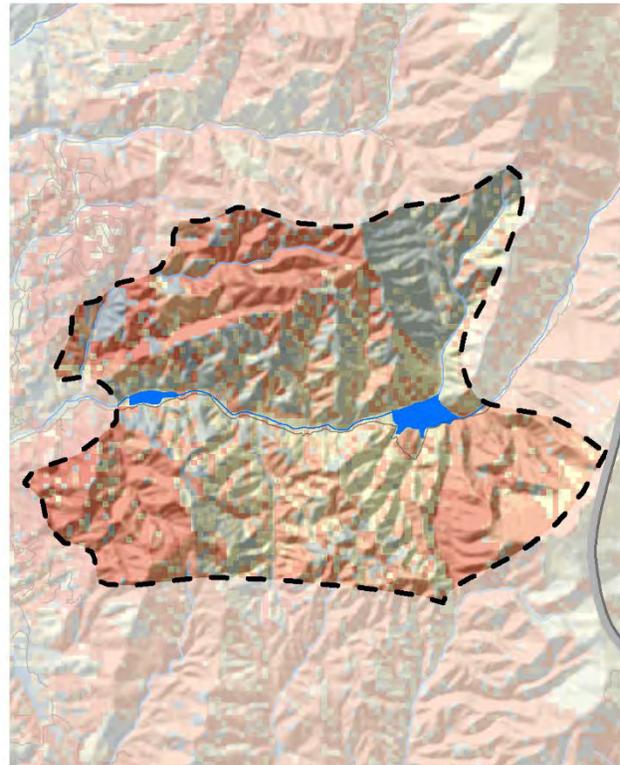
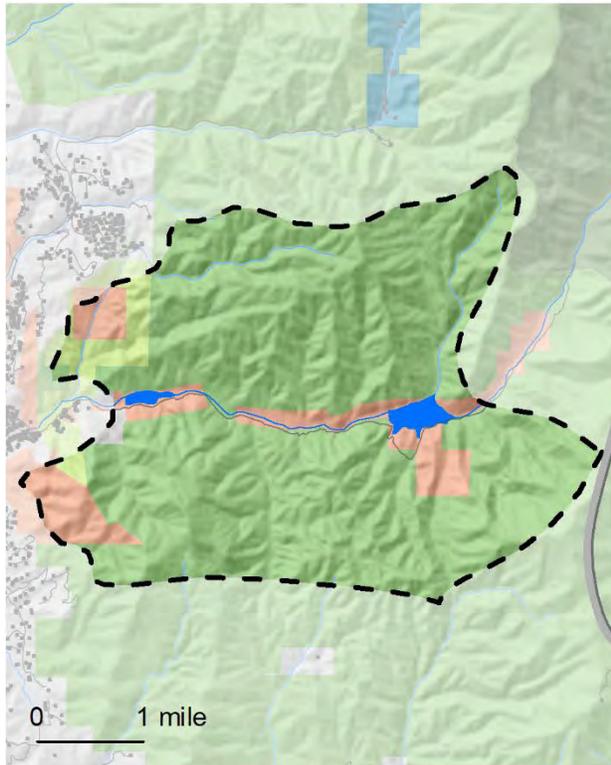
NM475



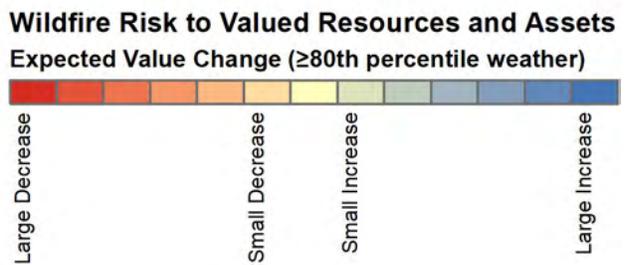
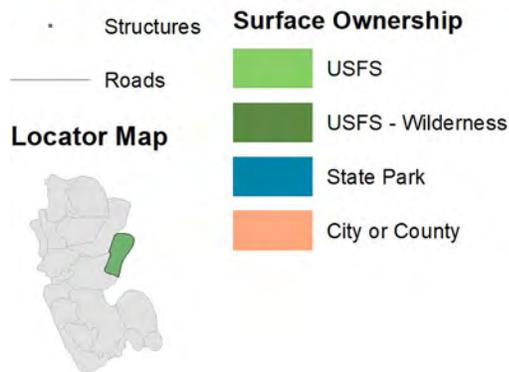
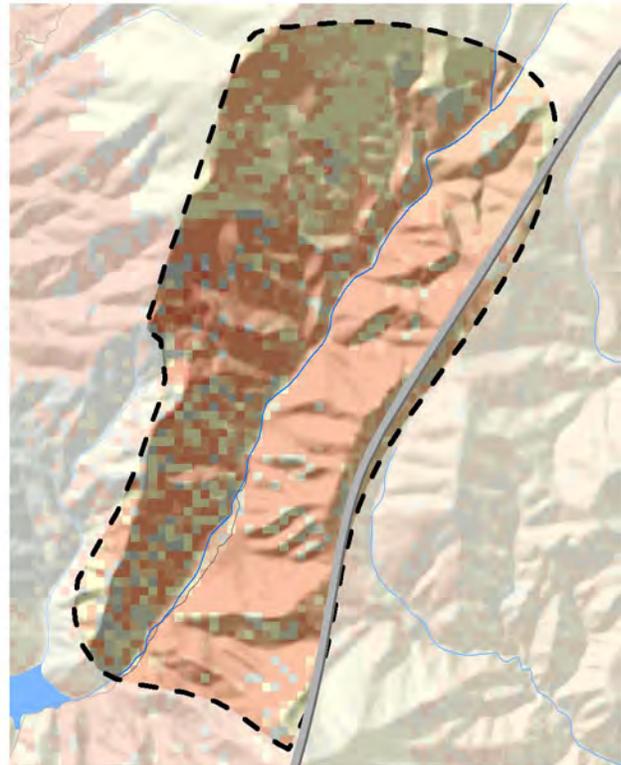
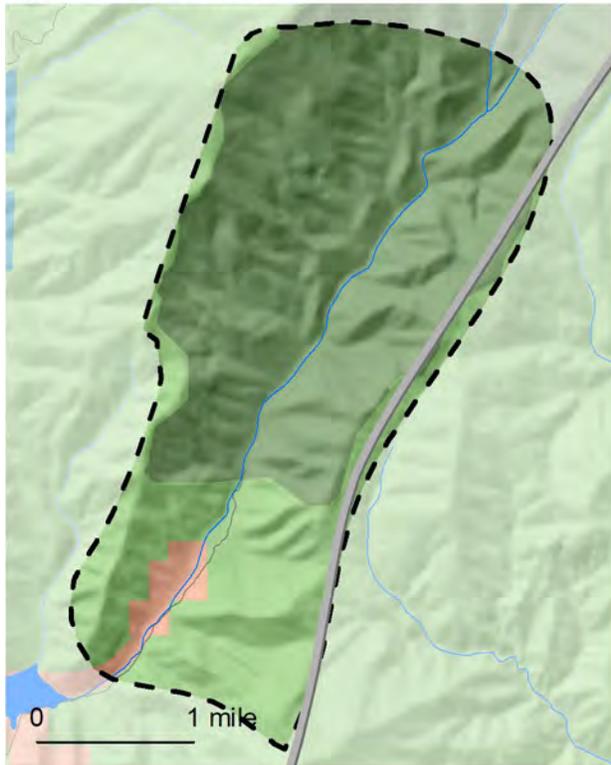
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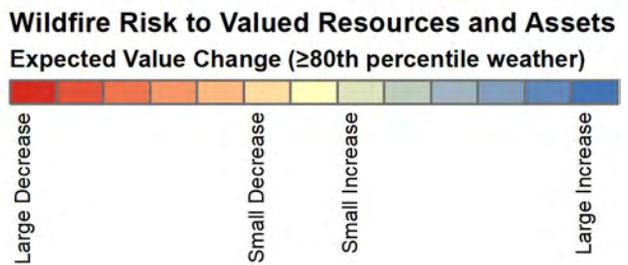
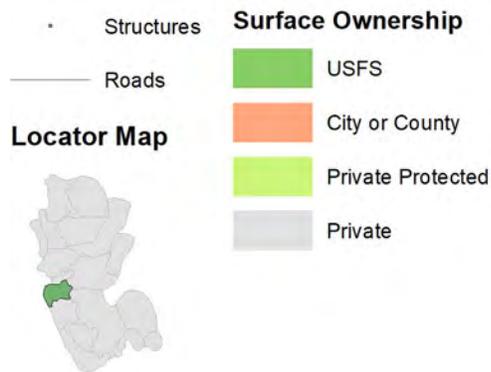
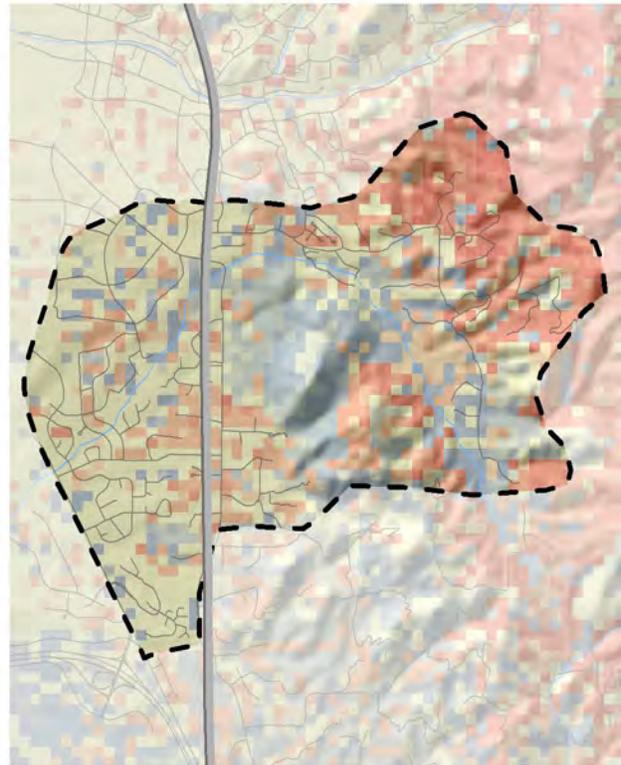
Lower Watershed



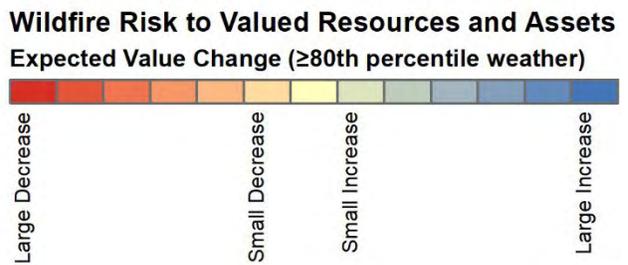
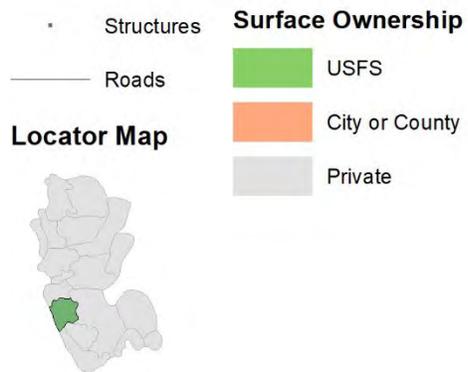
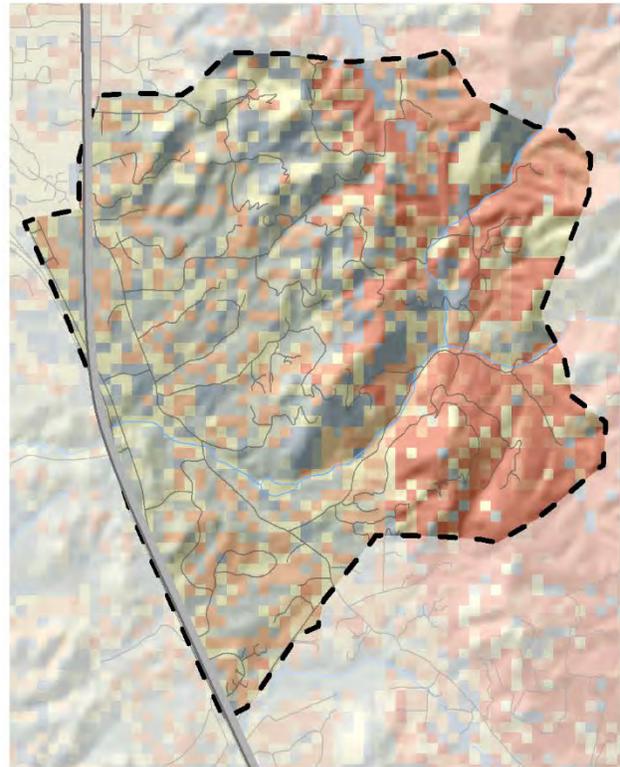
Upper Watershed



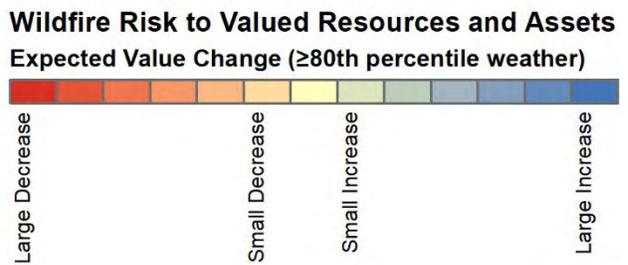
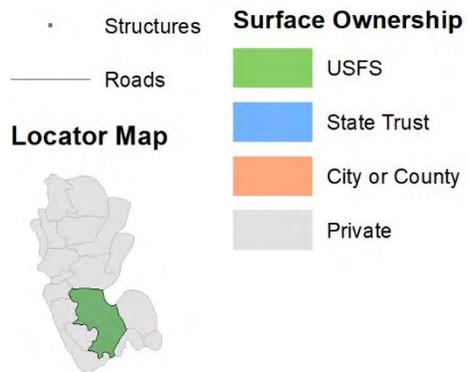
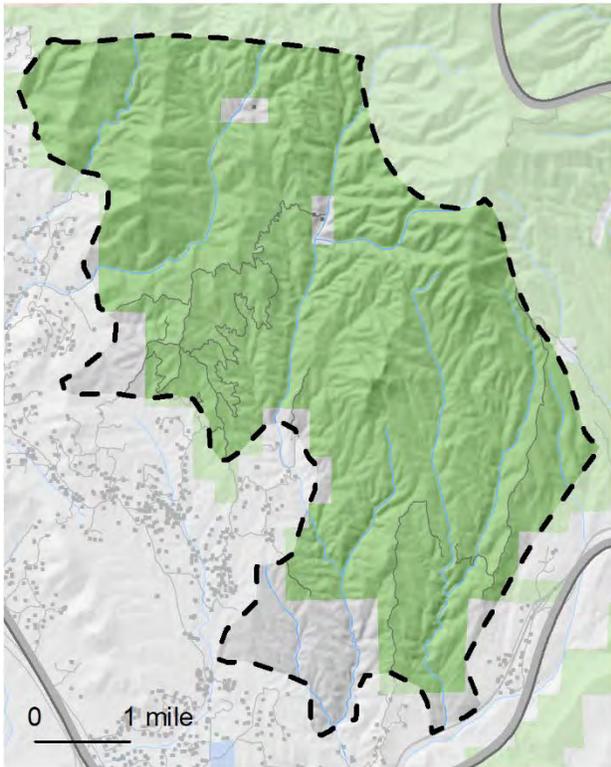
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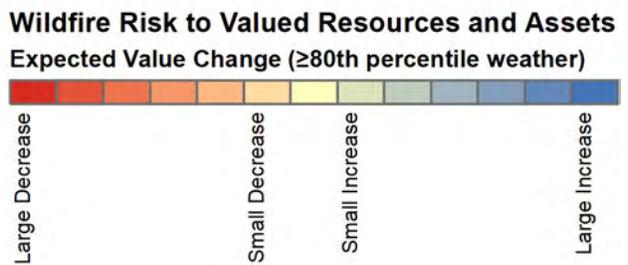
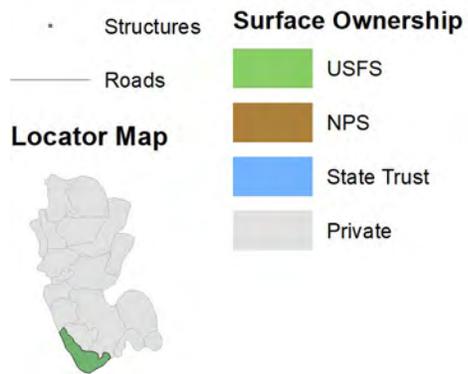
La Barberia FAC



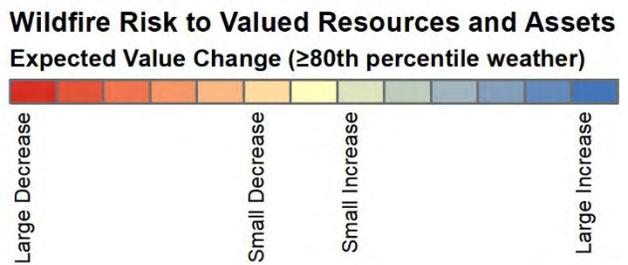
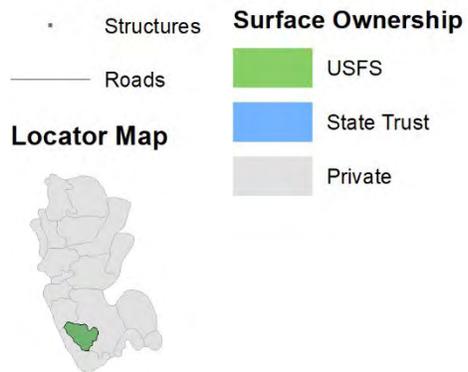
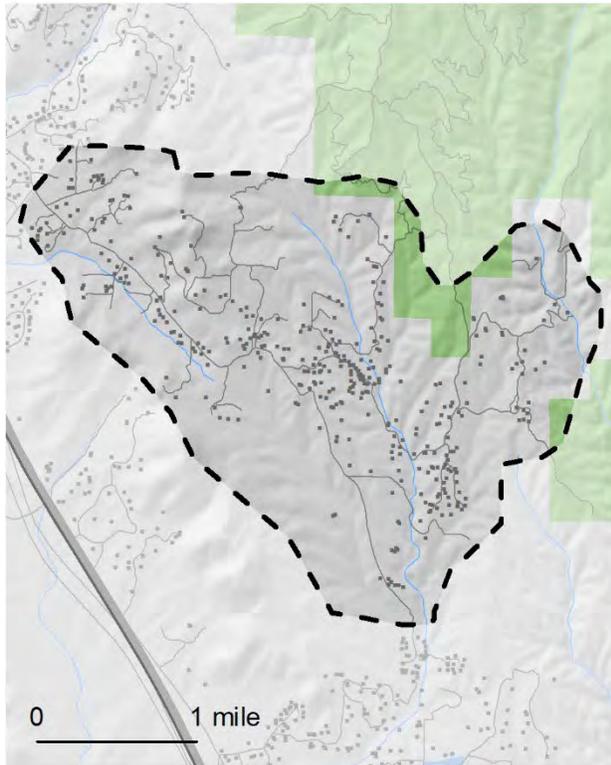
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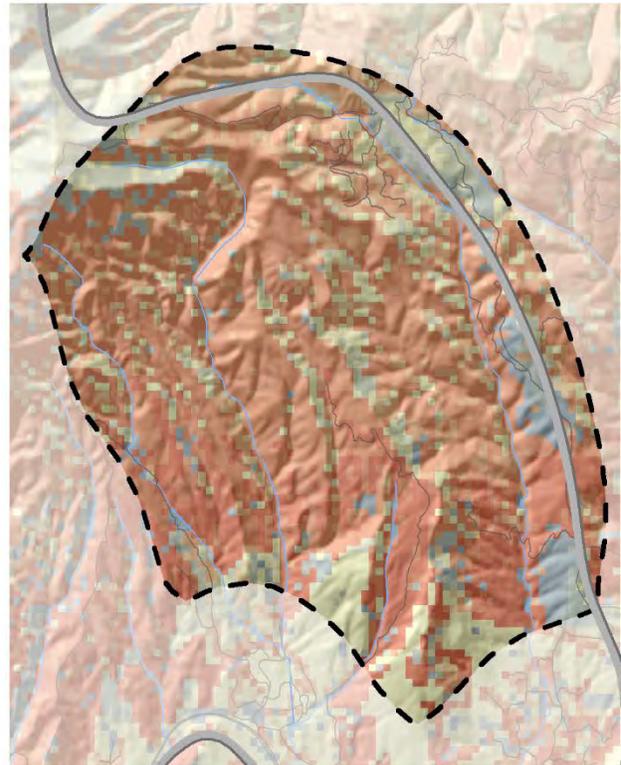
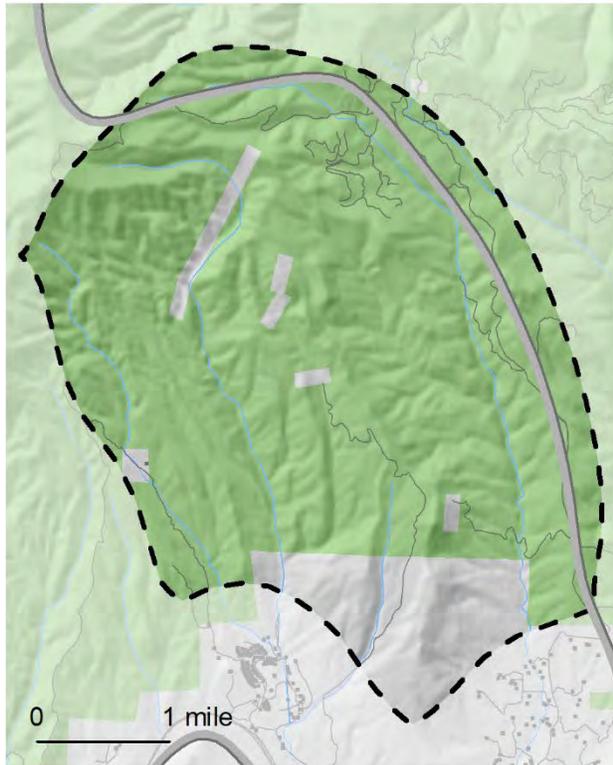
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Cañada FAC



Glorieta

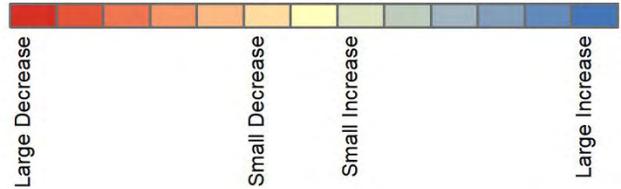


- Structures
 - Roads
- Surface Ownership**
- USFS
 - Private

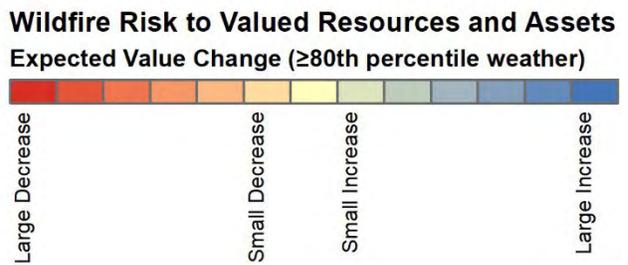
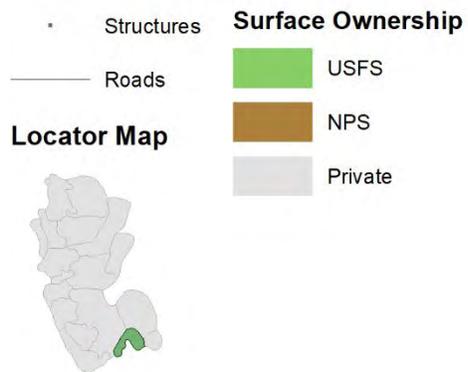
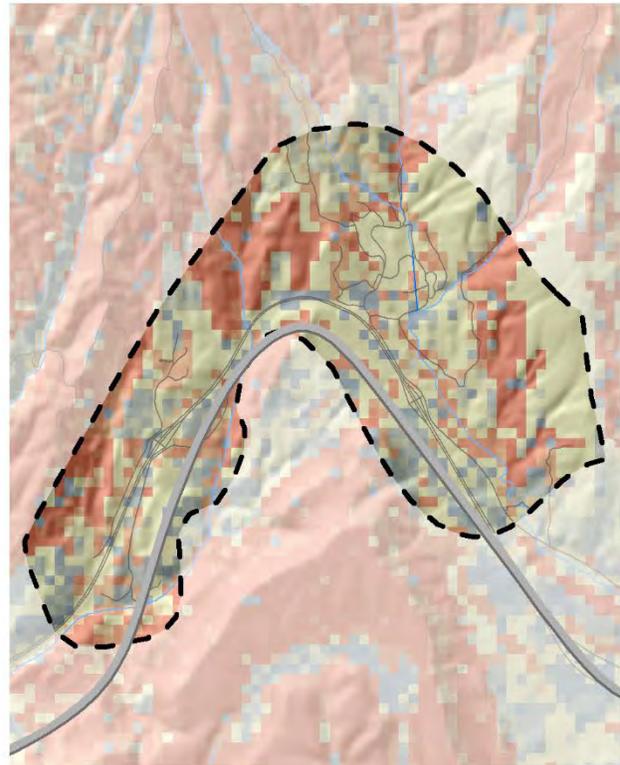
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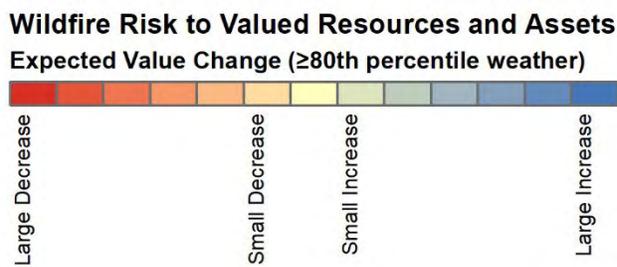
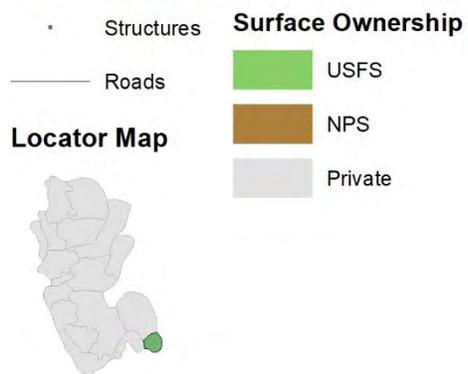
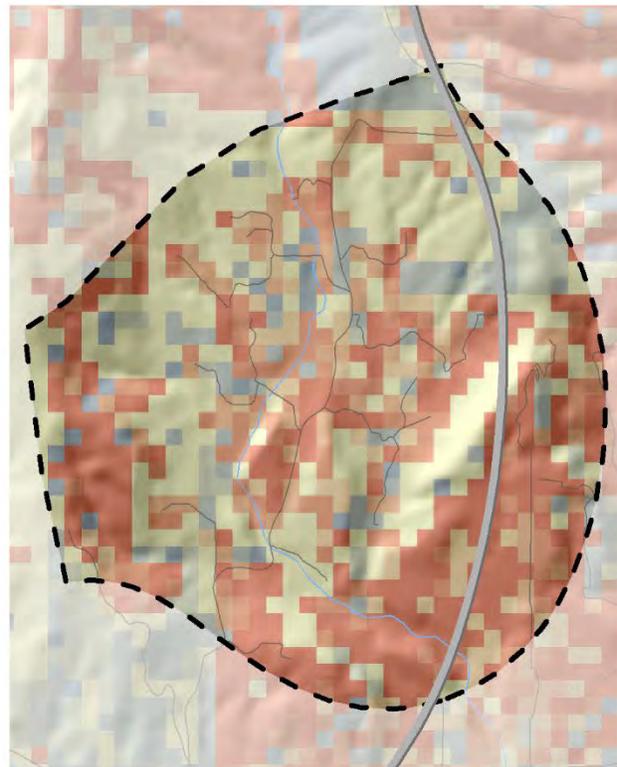
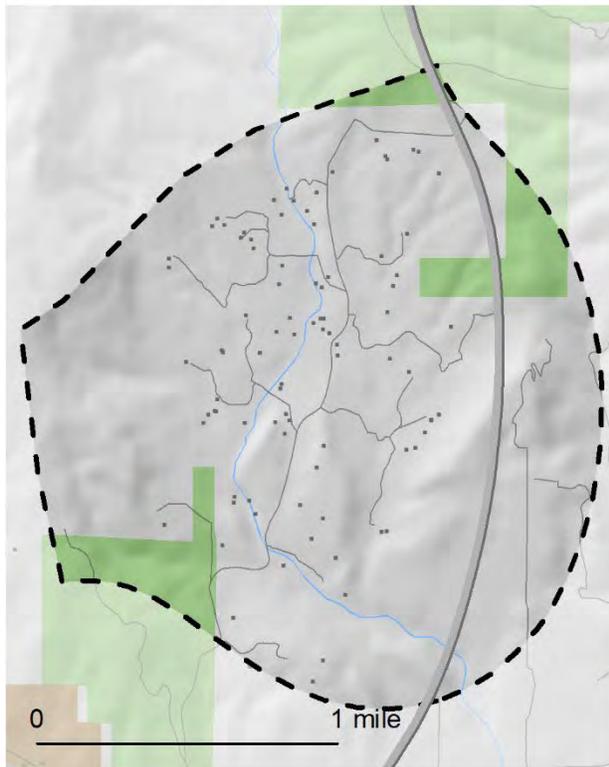
Wildfire Risk to Valued Resources and Assets Expected Value Change (≥80th percentile weather)



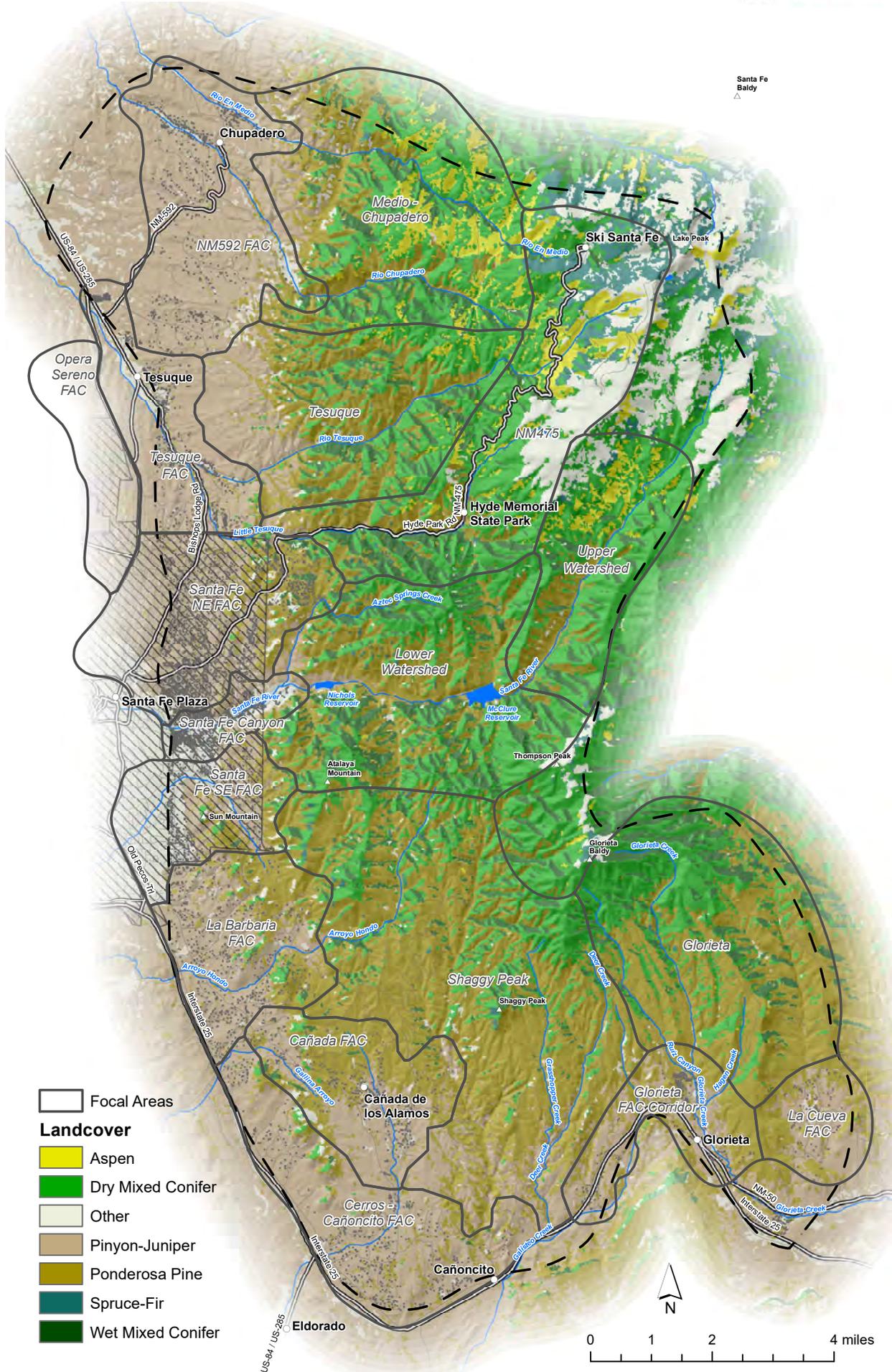
Glorieta FAC Corridor



La Cueva FAC



Appendix C: Focal Area Vegetation



Appendix D: Focal Area Descriptions

The following sections contain details on the description, goals, relevant projects, community groups and stakeholders, values at risk, and wildfire hazards particular to each focal area. This appendix may be used by community members and stakeholders to assess risk for their area, connect with other stakeholders, and access resources for education and risk mitigation.

Medio-Chupadero

Community Groups and Stakeholders:

- Rio en Medio
- Chupadero
- Tesuque Pueblo
- Santa Fe National Forest
- County of Santa Fe

Description:

The 9,740-acre Medio-Chupadero focal area is located along the far northeastern portion of the Fireshed. The NM592 FAC focal area is located downstream of Medio-Chupadero; as a result, this focal area is of particular importance to those communities due to the potential for post-wildfire impacts. Medio-Chupadero is primarily under the ownership of the Santa Fe National Forest, although it also includes Aspen Ranch, a tribal inholding owned by the Pueblo of Tesuque which is surrounded by national forest, as well as some County of Santa Fe land. The vegetation in this area is diverse, dominated by ponderosa pine forest and mixed conifer with some piñon-juniper at low elevation and some spruce-fir and aspen at high elevation.

The goals for this focal area include:

1. The Forest Service will fully fund and complete 550 additional acres of thinning treatments for the Pacheco Canyon Forest Resiliency Project by 2023.
2. Complete 550 Acres of Broadcast Burning on the NW Pacheco Unit FY21.
3. Complete scoping and release a decision on NEPA analysis for the Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project by March 2022. This NEPA decision may allow treatment of a majority of Santa Fe National Forest lands in this focal area.
4. Pueblo of Tesuque will continue to implement additional treatments on Vigil Meadows and Aspen Ranch, adjacent to Pacheco Canyon.

Relevant Projects and Available Community Involvement:

- Pacheco Canyon Forest Resiliency Project (split between the Medio-Chupadero and Tesuque focal areas)
- Vigil Meadows
- Aspen Ranch

Values at Risk and Areas of Concern:

- Built environment downstream within NM592 FAC and Tesuque FAC
- Private lands
- Watershed water yield and clean water for agriculture
- Recreation and cultural use, including trails such as the popular Rio en Medio Trail
- Roads
- Biological diversity and wildlife habitat

Hazards:

| Wildfire Hazards -----> | Post-Fire Hazards |
|---|--|
| Landscape-scale mortality of vegetation within forested areas; structures within WUI and tribal land burning. | Moderate soil erosion Debris flows and flash flooding |

NM475

Community Groups and Stakeholders:

- Ski Santa Fe
- NM State Parks
- Forestry Division
- Santa Fe National Forest
- Santa Fe County
- City of Santa Fe

Description:

At 9,550 acres, the NM475 focal area encompasses State Highway 475, a heavily used corridor connecting downtown Santa Fe to Ski Santa Fe, bordering the upper and lower Santa Fe Watershed and Tesuque. NM 475 includes some of the most popular recreation areas on the Santa Fe National Forest and is frequently used by community members and visitors. Landowners include Santa Fe National Forest, State of New Mexico (State Forestry), and Private owners, including several neighborhoods such as Estancia Primera and Summit that border the national forest along NM-475. The vegetation in this area consists of low elevation Ponderosa pine forest, transitioning to mixed conifer at mid elevation and spruce-fir and aspen at high elevation.

Due to its location at the heart of the Fireshed, the high concentration of values and resources, and the high wildfire risk, NM-475 is a high priority focal area for vegetation management, coordination, and communication and outreach.

The goals for this focal area include:

1. The Forest Service will fully fund and complete 700 acres of additional thinning treatments for the Hyde Park WUI Project by 2023.
2. Complete scoping and release a decision on NEPA analysis for the Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project by March 2022. This NEPA decision may allow treatment of a majority of Santa Fe National Forest lands in this focal area.
3. The Forest Service would identify funding and begin broadcast burning approximately 500 acres a year for 2022, and 2023 adjacent to the Hyde Park WUI Project.

Relevant Projects and Available Community Involvement:

- Hyde Park WUI Project (planned or ongoing)

- Hyde Memorial State Park thinning (planned burning)
- County Open Space thinning and pile burning on Little Tesuque Creek

Values at Risk and Areas of Concern:

- Private land and structures
- Economic and recreational draws – Ski Santa Fe
- Water availability
- Recreation and cultural use, including hiking and biking trails
- Roads and powerlines
- Biological diversity and wildlife habitat

Hazards:

| Wildfire Hazards -----> | Post-Fire Hazards |
|---|---|
| Landscape-scale mortality of vegetation within forested areas; structures and homes within WUI burning. | Severe to moderate soil erosion Debris flows and flash flooding; washing out of roads and structures |

Tesuque

Community Groups and Stakeholders:

- Tesuque Pueblo
- Santa Fe National Forest

Description:

Comprising 7,650 acres, the Tesuque focal area is located to the north of NM-475 and south of Medio-Chupadero. This focal area is almost entirely comprised of National Forest System lands under the ownership of Santa Fe National Forest, although a small portion of private land is located in the northwest corner. Notable landscape features within Tesuque include Tesuque Creek, Rio Tesuque, and the Winsor National Recreation Trail which is popular with mountain bikers and hikers. The vegetation in this area consists of low elevation piñon-juniper and Ponderosa pine forest, transitioning to mixed conifer and spruce-fir at high elevation.

The Tesuque focal area represents a key strategic opportunity to build off existing treatments and create a wide band of treated area, reducing risk for values both downstream and uphill. Wildfire risk and post-fire hazard for this focal area are high. In addition, the ongoing Pacheco Canyon Forest Resiliency Project can be used as a demonstration site to share the outcomes of management activities with the public. As a result, Tesuque is a high priority focal area for vegetation management and outreach activities.

The goals for this focal area include:

1. The Forest Service will fully fund and complete 550 additional acres of thinning treatments for the Pacheco Canyon Forest Resiliency Project by 2023.

2. Complete 550 Acres of Broadcast Burning on the NW Pacheco Unit FY21.
3. Complete scoping and release a decision on NEPA analysis for the Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project by March 2022. This NEPA decision may allow treatment of a majority of Santa Fe National Forest lands in this focal area.
4. The Forest Service would identify funding and begin thinning approximately 250 acres a year for 2021, 2022, and 2023 adjacent to the Pacheco Canyon Project.
5. The Forest Service would identify funding and begin broadcast burning approximately 1,000 acres a year for 2022, and 2023 adjacent to the Pacheco Canyon Project.
6. Pueblo of Tesuque continues to implement additional treatments on Vigil Meadows and Aspen Ranch, adjacent to Pacheco Canyon.

Relevant Projects and Available Community Involvement:

- Pacheco Canyon Forest Resiliency Project (split between the Medio-Chupadero and Tesuque focal areas)
- Vigil Meadows
- Aspen Ranch

Values at Risk / Areas of Concern:

- Water availability and downstream water rights
- Recreation and cultural use, including hiking and biking trails
- Biological diversity and wildlife habitat

Hazards:

| Wildfire Hazards -----> | Post-Fire Hazards |
|---|---|
| Landscape-scale mortality of vegetation within forested areas | Moderate soil erosion Debris flows and flash flooding; washing out of trails |

Lower Watershed

Community Groups and Stakeholders:

- Santa Fe National Forest
- City of Santa Fe
- The Nature Conservancy
- Randall Davey Audubon Center
- Santa Fe Watershed Association

Description:

The focal area includes the two municipal reservoirs, Nichols and McClure, and the watershed downstream to the city limits. Spread over 9,120 acres, ownership includes the Santa Fe National Forest, the City of Santa Fe surrounding the reservoirs and infrastructure, and private lands including the Randall Davey Audubon Center and The Nature Conservancy Santa Fe Canyon Preserve. The City of Santa Fe and the

Santa Fe National Forest have shared costs to reduce fire risk around the two reservoirs for over a decade. The area is an important recreational area and includes a major trail head for the Dale Ball trail system. The vegetation in this area consists of low elevation piñon-juniper and Ponderosa pine forest, transitioning to mixed conifer at high elevation.

In combination with the Upper Santa Fe Watershed, this area is critically important because it provides approximately 40% drinking water to the City of Santa Fe. Flood and debris flow mitigation would be extremely beneficial in this focal area, given the hazard of post-fire flooding.

The goals for this focal area include:

1. The Forest Service will continue maintenance burning approximately 1,000 acres annually as part of the Santa Fe Watershed Protection Project.

Relevant Projects and Available Community Involvement:

- The Nature Conservancy wildfire mitigation and burn plan
- Aztec Springs pile burns and wildfire mitigation

Values at Risk and Areas of Concern:

- Watershed water yield and storage; drinking water for City of Santa Fe
- Water infrastructure
- Roads and powerlines
- Biological diversity and wildlife habitat

Hazards:

| Wildfire Hazards -----> | Post-Fire Hazards |
|--|--|
| Landscape-scale mortality of vegetation within forested areas (ponderosa pine and mixed conifer) | Severe to moderate soil erosion Debris flows and flash flooding |

Upper Watershed

Community Groups and Stakeholders:

- Santa Fe National Forest
- City of Santa Fe
- Santa Fe Watershed Association

Description:

Consisting of 5,070 acres, the Upper Santa Fe Watershed is predominantly managed by the Santa Fe National Forest, with some City of Santa Fe lands included above McClure Reservoir. The vegetation in this area consists of low elevation Ponderosa pine forest, transitioning to mixed conifer at mid-elevation and spruce-fir and aspen forest at high elevation. Over half of the focal area is managed as wilderness. An EIS was completed to permit prescribed fire treatments in approximately 2,900 acres of mid-elevation mixed

conifer, ponderosa pine and Gambel oak vegetation in the lower portion of the Wilderness Area above McClure.

In combination with the lower Santa Fe Watershed, this area is critically important because it provides approximately 40% of the drinking water to the City of Santa Fe. Flood and debris flow mitigation would be extremely beneficial in this focal area, given the hazard of post-fire flooding.

The goals for this focal area include:

1. Complete scoping and release a decision on NEPA analysis for the Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project by March 2022. This NEPA decision may allow treatment of a majority of Santa Fe National Forest lands in this focal area.

Relevant Projects and Available Community Involvement:

- Ongoing and maintenance prescribed burning above McClure Reservoir
- Wilderness prescribed burns approved in previous NEPA decision
- Robust education programs with Santa Fe Watershed Association

Values at Risk and Areas of Concern:

- Water yield; drinking water
- Roads
- Biological diversity and wildlife habitat
- Snow retention capability

Hazards:

| Wildfire Hazards -----> | Post-Fire Hazards |
|---|--|
| Landscape-scale mortality of vegetation within forested areas (wilderness and non-wilderness) | Moderate soil erosion Debris flows and flash flooding |

Shaggy Peak

Community Groups and Stakeholders:

- Santa Fe National Forest
- Private landowners
- Santa Fe Conservation Trust

Description:

The Shaggy Peak focal area is located in the south-central part of the Fireshed and is one of the largest focal areas at 15,500 acres. The landownership is primarily Forest Service, although there are several private inholdings and parcels in the southwest corner. This focal area is located to the south of the Lower Watershed, to the east of La Barbaria FAC and Cañada FAC, and west of Glorieta FAC Corridor. There are

several popular hiking trails located within this focal area. There is little road access other than Forest Road 79, which creates a challenge for treatment implementation. The vegetation in this area consists of low elevation piñon-juniper and Ponderosa pine forest, transitioning to mixed conifer and spruce-fir at mid- and high-elevation.

The goals for this focal area include:

1. The Forest Service would identify funding and begin broadcast burning approximately 1,000 acres a year for 2022, and 2023 adjacent to the Santa Fe Watershed.

Relevant Projects and Available Community Involvement:

- To be updated as appropriate.

Values at Risk and Areas of Concern:

- Private land and built structures (homes, businesses, etc.), SE and SW portions
- Hiking and biking trails and other recreational sites, including the popular Atalaya Trail
- Roads
- Watershed availability (Deer Creek, Grasshopper Creek, Arroyo Hondo)
- Biological diversity and wildlife habitat

Hazards:

| Wildfire Hazards -----> | Post-Fire Hazards |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Landscape-scale mortality of vegetation within forested areas | Debris flows and flash flooding |

Glorieta

Community Groups and Stakeholders:

- Community of Glorieta
- Community of La Cueva
- Glorieta Camps
- Santa Fe County
- Forest Stewards Guild's All Hands All Lands Burn Team

Description:

The Glorieta focal area is located in the southeastern portion of the Fireshed, to the east of Shaggy Peak and to the north of the communities of Glorieta and La Cueva. The area totals 9,420 acres with landownership primarily belonging to the Santa Fe National Forest and a few small private land inholdings. There is little road access which creates a challenge for treatment implementation. The vegetation in this area consists of low and mid elevation Ponderosa pine forest, transitioning to mixed conifer and spruce-fir at high elevation.

The La Cueva Fuelbreak Project, a 1,100-acre thinning and prescribed burning project that began in 2005, is located within this focal area. The thinning portion of this project was completed in 2019 but burning and maintenance still remain.

The goals for this focal area include:

1. Complete scoping and release a decision on NEPA analysis for the Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project by March 2022. This NEPA decision may allow treatment of a majority of Santa Fe National Forest lands in this focal area.
2. The Forest Service would identify funding and begin thinning approximately 250 acres a year for 2021, 2022, and 2023 adjacent to the La Cueva Thinning Project.
3. The Forest Service would identify funding and begin thinning approximately 250 acres a year for 2021, 2022, and 2023 adjacent to the community of Glorieta.
4. The Forest Service would identify funding and begin broadcast burning approximately 1,000 acres a year for 2022, and 2023 adjacent to the La Cueva Project and the community of Glorieta.

Relevant Projects and Available Community Involvement:

- La Cueva Fuelbreak maintenance
- Glorieta Camps ongoing thinning and burning

Values at Risk and Areas of Concern:

- Private land and built structures; Glorieta Baldy fire lookout
- Hiking and biking trails and recreation sites
- Roads
- Biological diversity and wildlife habitat

Hazards:

| Wildfire Hazards -----> | Post-Fire Hazards |
|--|--|
| Landscape-scale mortality of vegetation within forested areas and burning of structures and homes within WUI | Moderate soil erosion Debris flows and flash flooding |

Fire Adapted Communities (FAC) Focal Areas.

The following Focal Areas include “FAC”, or Fire Adapted Communities, in their title to reflect the desire of the Coalition to promote activities that will best prepare communities for fire. Fire adapted communities acknowledge and take responsibility for their wildfire risk, and take actions to protect residents, homes, neighborhoods, businesses, infrastructure, forests and open spaces. This designation is aligned with the National Cohesive Wildland Strategy and other efforts such as Fire Adapted Communities New Mexico Learning Network. These focal

areas have neighborhoods at-risk and varying degrees of individual and community involvement in fire risk mitigation. As noted in section 6 of the Resiliency Strategy, one major value at risk for FAC focal areas is the potential for loss of life in the event of wildfire and post-fire hazards.

All FAC Focal Areas have the following programs available for community involvement:

- Ready, Set, Go! Brochure
- Wildfire Hazard Assessments – by appointment
- Wildfire Mitigation (i.e. Defensible Space projects) through P-SF SWCD
- Open invitation for Fireshed Ambassadors
- WiRē social science study area

Learn more on the Greater Santa Fe Fireshed website: <http://www.santafefireshed.org/coalition-partner-projects>

NM592 FAC

Community Groups and Stakeholders:

- Communities of Chupadero, Rio en Medio, and Pacheco Canyon
- County of Santa Fe
- Santa Fe National Forest

Description:

The NM592 FAC focal area covers 6,710 acres in the NW corner of the Fireshed. It consists primarily of private lands, but also includes a portion of Nambe Pueblo land, County of Santa Fe, and the Santa Fe National Forest. It includes the community of Chupadero, Rio En Medio, and Pacheco Canyon. The area is dominated by piñon-juniper woodlands and grasslands with small pockets of riparian vegetation, ponderosa pine, and mixed conifer. The Santa Fe County Fire Department is the primary jurisdiction and, in most cases, the first responding agency, while ultimate responsibility may lie with State and Federal agencies for wildland fire starts.

The goals for this focal area include:

1. Build working relationships with individuals and community groups to raise awareness about fire adapted communities, wildfire risk, wildfire mitigation actions, and emergency response.
2. Implement a robust mitigation program that includes wildfire hazard assessments, defensible space projects, and home hardening resources.
3. Increase emergency alert notification registration.
4. Communicate emergency response preparedness.

Values at Risk / Areas of Concern:

- Private land and built structures (homes, businesses, etc.) in the communities of Chupadero and Rio en Medio
- Water availability (downstream from Rio en Medio, Rio Chupadero, and Rio Tesuque), acequia infrastructure, and clean water for agriculture
- Roads (NM-592 is the sole egress route for included communities)

- Trailheads (Rio en Medio Trailhead)

Hazards:

| Wildfire Hazards -----> | Post-Fire Hazards |
|--|---|
| Landscape-scale mortality of vegetation within forested areas and burning of structures and homes within WUI Potential block of single egress route and community burn-over | Flash flooding Interruption of water availability for irrigation and well recharge |

Tesuque FAC

Community Groups and Stakeholders:

- Pueblo of Tesuque
- Village of Tesuque
- County of Santa Fe
- Santa Fe National Forest

Description:

The Tesuque FAC focal area comprises 3,740 acres in the northwest portion of the Fireshed and includes the Pueblo of Tesuque, the Village of Tesuque, and a small corner of the Santa Fe National Forest. The area is dominated by piñon-juniper woodlands. The Santa Fe County Fire Department is the primary jurisdiction and, in most cases, the first responding agency, while ultimate responsibility may lie with State and Federal agencies for wildland fire starts.

The goals for this focal area include:

1. Build working relationships with individuals and community groups to raise awareness about fire adapted communities, wildfire risk, wildfire mitigation actions, and emergency response.
2. Implement a robust mitigation program that includes wildfire hazard assessments, defensible space projects, and home hardening resources.
3. Increase emergency alert notification registration.
4. Communicate emergency response preparedness.

Values at Risk and Areas of Concern:

- Private land and built structures (homes, businesses, etc.) in the communities of Tesuque Pueblo, Village of Tesuque, and Bishops Lodge
- Water availability (downstream from Rio Tesuque and Little Tesuque Creek), clean water for agriculture, and acequia infrastructure.
- Roads and narrow egress routes
- Trailheads such as the Winsor Trailhead

Hazards:

| Wildfire Hazards -----> | Post-Fire Hazards |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
|-------------------------|-------------------|

| | |
|--|--|
| Landscape-scale mortality of vegetation within forested areas and dispersed burning of structures and homes within WUI | Flash flooding and flood demolition of built structures Interruption of water availability for irrigation and well recharge |
|--|--|

Opera Sereno FAC

Community Groups and Stakeholders:

- Monte Sereno Firewise Fire Prevention Committee
- Tesuque Pueblo
- Santa Fe Opera

Description:

Opera Sereno FAC lies in the west-central part of the Fireshed, along US-285 west of Tesuque. It covers 2,310 acres and is mostly made up of private lands, with a small section in the north owned by Tesuque Pueblo. The area is primarily piñon-juniper woodlands and sagebrush/grassland. Positioned west of the highway relief route, this area is at low risk of post-fire flooding and debris flows but the land and structures are at risk from wildfire hazards.

Values at Risk and Areas of Concern:

- Private land and built structures (homes, businesses, etc.)
- Roads and powerlines (narrow egress routes)
- Santa Fe Opera House

Hazards:

| Wildfire Hazards -----> | Post-Fire Hazards |
|---|--|
| Widespread burning of structures and homes within WUI and mortality of vegetation within forested areas | Severe soil erosion Flash flooding and flood demolition of built structures |

Santa Fe NE FAC

Community Groups and Stakeholders:

- Sierra Del Norte HOA
- HOAMCO – Home Owners Association Management Company
- City of Santa Fe
- Cerros Colorados
- Santa Fe Public Schools
- National Park Service
- Santa Fe Watershed Association
- County of Santa Fe

Description:

Santa Fe NE FAC lies in the west-central part of the Fireshed, encompassing the intersection of NM-475 and Bishops Loop Rd, just north of the Plaza. It covers 5,760 acres and is almost entirely privately owned, with several small sections managed by the City and County of Santa Fe. The vegetation cover is primarily piñon-juniper woodlands and sagebrush/grassland, transitioning to ponderosa pine interspersed with dry mixed conifer woodland in the higher-elevation northeastern block. Positioned along NM-475 in the wilderness-urban interface (WUI), the land and structures are at risk from wildfire hazards; flood and debris flow mitigation would be beneficial in this focal area given the hazard of post-fire flooding.

Values at Risk and Areas of Concern:

- Private land and built structures (homes, businesses, etc.) in historic downtown Santa Fe and foothill communities
- Roads, powerlines, and other grey infrastructure
- City and County infrastructure
- Recreation sites such as the Dale Ball trail system

Hazards:

| Wildfire Hazards -----> | Post-Fire Hazards |
|---|--|
| Widespread burning of structures and homes within WUI and mortality of vegetation within forested areas Potential block of single egress route and community burn-over | Severe soil erosion Flash flooding and flood demolition of built structures |

Santa Fe Canyon FAC

Community Groups and Stakeholders:

- HOAMCO – Home Owners Association Management Company
- City of Santa Fe
- Canyon Road Neighborhood Association
- Santa Fe Watershed Association
- Santa Fe National Forest

Description:

The 1,190-acre Santa Fe Canyon FAC focal area, while relatively small, encompasses an area of ecological and communal import. Situated on either side of the Santa Fe River where it feeds into the city and below both the Lower and Upper Watershed, flood and debris flow mitigation would be extremely beneficial in this focal area given the hazard of post-fire flooding to communities and values at risk. The land is predominately privately owned, with some small areas under the management of City of Santa Fe and the US Forest Service. Land cover is grassland and piñon-juniper woodlands with pockets of ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forest.

Values at Risk and Areas of Concern:

- Private land and built structures (homes, businesses, etc.) in historic downtown and old town Santa Fe
- Roads, powerlines, and other grey infrastructure
- Drinking water (water yields from Upper and Lower Santa Fe focal areas)
- Recreation and cultural use, including hiking and biking trails

Hazards:

| Wildfire Hazards -----> | Post-Fire Hazards |
|---|--|
| Widespread burning of structures and homes within WUI and mortality of vegetation within forested areas | Severe soil erosion Flash flooding and flood demolition of built structures |

Santa Fe SE FAC

Community Groups and Stakeholders:

- HOAMCO – Home Owners Association Management Company
- City of Santa Fe
- Westgate Properties
- Santa Fe Public Schools
- St. Johns College
- Wilderness Gate HOA
- Ponderosa HOA
- Santa Fe Estates HOA
- Santa Fe Watershed Association
- Santa Fe National Forest

Description:

Santa Fe SE FAC lies in the west-central part of the Fireshed, along Old Pecos Trail and below the Plaza. It covers 3,180 acres and is mostly made up of private lands, with some acreage managed by the City of Santa Fe and a small eastern section owned by Santa Fe National Forest. The area is primarily sagebrush/grassland and piñon-juniper woodlands with pockets of ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forest. Positioned south of the Santa Fe River and both watershed focal areas, flood and debris flow mitigation would be beneficial in this focal area given the hazard of post-fire flooding.

Values at Risk and Areas of Concern:

- Private land and built structures (homes, businesses, etc.)
- Roads and powerlines
- Drinking water (water yield and availability from Upper and Lower Santa Fe focal areas)
- Recreation resources such as trails and trailheads

Hazards:

| Wildfire Hazards -----> | | Post-Fire Hazards |
|---|---------------------|---|
| Widespread burning of structures and homes within WUI and mortality of vegetation within forested areas | Severe soil erosion | Flash flooding and flood demolition of built structures |

La Barbaria FAC

Community Groups and Stakeholders:

- Santa Fe National Forest
- Private landowners

Description:

The La Barbaria FAC focal area is in the SW portion of the Fireshed north and south of Old Santa Fe Trail from Camp Stoney cutoff and is dominated by private lands with multiple neighborhoods including Cloudstone, La Vista, Coyote Hills, Mercer, Double Arrow Road, La Barbaria, and Overlook I and II. There are small portions to on the north and east edges which are owned by Santa Fe National Forest. This 4,420-acre focal area is dominated by piñon-juniper woodlands and grasslands with some ponderosa pine forest and pockets of mixed conifer.

Values at Risk and Areas of Concern:

- Private land and built structures (homes, businesses, etc.)
- Roads
- Water availability (downstream from Arroyo Hondo and Shaggy Peak focal area)

Hazards:

| Wildfire Hazards -----> | | Post-Fire Hazards |
|---|---------------------|---|
| Widespread burning of structures and homes within WUI | Severe soil erosion | Flash flooding and flood demolition of built structures |

Cañada FAC

Community Groups and Stakeholders:

- To be updated as appropriate

Description:

4,040 acres located in the southwest corner of the fireshed, below La Barbaria FAC and nestled into Shaggy Peak focal area, this focal area is dominated by private landownership with small portions abutting Santa Fe National Forest. The vegetation is split between piñon-juniper woodland and ponderosa pine forest.

Values at Risk and Areas of Concern:

- Private land and built structures (homes, businesses, etc.)
- Roads
- Water availability (downstream of Shaggy Peak focal area)
- Trailhead access

Hazards:

| Wildfire Hazards -----> | Post-Fire Hazards | |
|---|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Widespread burning of structures and homes within WUI | Severe soil erosion | Flooding and debris flows |

Cerros- Cañoncito FAC

Community Groups and Stakeholders:

- Santa Fe County
- City of Santa Fe

Description:

The 5,760-acre Cerros-Cañoncito FAC focal area is located in the southernmost tip of the fireshed, south of Cañada FAC and west of Deer Creek, dominated by private landownership and a small area owned by the City of Santa Fe. The area is predominately piñon-juniper woodland and grassland with some pockets of Ponderosa pine and mixed conifer.

Values at Risk and Areas of Concern:

- Private land and built structures (homes, businesses, etc.)
- Roads
- Water availability (downstream of Cañada FAC)

Hazards:

| Wildfire Hazards -----> | Post-Fire Hazards | |
|---|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Widespread burning of structures and homes within WUI | Severe soil erosion | Flooding and debris flows |

Glorieta FAC Corridor

Community Groups and Stakeholders:

- Community of Glorieta

- Glorieta Camps
- National Park Service
- Santa Fe National Forest

Description:

The 3,020-acre Glorieta FAC focal area is in the furthest southeast portion of the Fireshed. Landownership is predominantly Santa Fe National Forest with private lands and many homes backing up to National Forest System and National Park Service lands between the forest and I-25. The vegetation is primarily piñon-juniper woodland, grassland, and ponderosa pine.

Values at Risk and Areas of Concern:

- Private land and built structures (homes, businesses, etc.)
- Roads, including the major thoroughfare of Interstate 25
- Cañada FAC Ruiz Canyon, Glorieta Creek, and Hagen Creek)
- Trailheads and hiking and biking trails.

Hazards:

| Wildfire Hazards -----> | Post-Fire Hazards |
|--|--|
| Dispersed burning of structures and homes within WUI | Flash flooding and flood demolition of built structures, such as homes |

La Cueva FAC

Community Groups and Stakeholders:

- Community of La Cueva
- Private landowners and residents
- Heart and Soul Animal Sanctuary

Description:

La Cueva FAC is located to the east of the Glorieta focal area, encompassing 1,900 acres. The majority of the La Cueva FAC focal area is under private ownership and includes the unincorporated community of La Cueva. A small section of the focal area is owned by Santa Fe National Forest. The vegetation is primarily piñon-juniper woodland and grassland with some pockets of Ponderosa pine and mixed conifer.

Values at Risk / Areas of Concern:

- Private land and built structures (homes, businesses, etc.)
- Roads and powerlines
- Animal shelter occupants and staff
- Ingress and egress limitations

Hazards:

| Wildfire Hazards -----> | Post-Fire Hazards |
|--|--|
| Dispersed burning of structures and homes within WUI and mortality of vegetation within low-elevation forested environments Block of egress routes and potential for community burn-over | Flash flooding and flood demolition of built structures |