

## NM Wood Products Information Forest Guild



Wood use and forest based businesses have changed dramatically in recent decades. The forests of northern New Mexico have generally moved away from timber production. At the same time, the increase of large catastrophic wildfires and the resulting national and state policies and directives indicate that wildfire and forest health are major concerns to both land management entities and forest dependent communities that require management action. The social and economic capacity to implement this management action varies widely. As part of the North-Central New Mexico Landscape Assessment (NCNMLA), Forest Guild ([www.forestguild.org](http://www.forestguild.org)) recognized the link between forest restoration and the economic capacity needed to implement and subsidize these activities. In response to this need, Forest Guild developed a wood user and processor map in coordination with ForestERA ([www.forestera.nau.edu](http://www.forestera.nau.edu)) for use in landscape-level planning and prioritization of forest management in the North-Central New Mexico Landscape Assessment area.

This map is intended to help develop the small-wood based industry generated from forest restoration or hazardous fuels reduction projects by increasing the knowledge and awareness of where these businesses are located and what production capabilities or specialties they have in relation to forest resources. The distribution of these wood businesses across the landscape may highlight the potential networking and collaboration opportunities. The map contains information of wood related businesses that currently or potentially use wood from public and private forested land within 60 miles of the North-Central New Mexico Landscape Assessment boundary. This map is based on a source map developed by USDA FS Region 3 titled Infrastructure Interest in the Southwestern Region, May 2005. Forest Guild took the source map data and implemented a search for additional businesses that utilize or process local wood.

The locations of wood related businesses were collected from public sources including US Forest Service maps, phone directories, and the internet (see also "The Four Corners Timber Harvest and Forest Products Industry, 2002" USDA Forest Service RMRS-RB-7). All wood related businesses were contacted by phone and, if reachable, were asked: Number of years in business, the types of wood they use, current area of supply, and their interest in local sources of wood. Their responses are listed in the attribute table. This map is not complete and should be considered preliminary in scope and content. This map should ideally be expanded to include the whole state, include wood harvesting businesses. It is not complete and should be updated annually.

This spatial data layer is a first step for examining the economic capacity for wood utilization in the context of, and to potentially supplement the costs associated with, landscape scale forest restoration. Hopefully this map will encourage workshop participants to begin to address the link between forest restoration and the economic capacity to carry out, supplement the costs, and perhaps capitalize on the by-products of restoration.

Over the course of the NCNMLA workshop in October 2006, the Forest Guild received feedback about this data layer. These comments were constructive and indicate the next steps needed in refining and expanding the accuracy and utility of this GIS map. Comments provided suggested:

- The use of the 60 mile buffer from the NCNMLA project area is too small when considering higher value wood products.
- The annual wood volume each business can process was not provided in the data table and this information could be used to strategically connect harvest volumes with the capacity for local businesses to process these volumes; giving an indication as to capacity targets for wood business at the landscape scale.
- Coverage across the state would greatly benefit state and federal agencies, private land owners, municipalities, and non-governmental organizations.

Forest Guild is interested in partnering with other entities to refining the existing GIS map extend its coverage in New Mexico with the goal of covering the whole state by 2008, and increase the accuracy and utility of the wood processor data in the attached data table to increase the maps utility to a wide array of users.

Please contact Eytan Krasilovsky, Community Forestry Coordinator at (505)983-8992 ext. 16 ([eytan@forestguild.org](mailto:eytan@forestguild.org)) for more information about this map-based information.