



ABOUT NASF

The mission of the National Association of State Foresters is to represent state and territorial forester interests by influencing forest policy and leading efforts to promote healthy and sustainable trees and forests.

ABOUT USFS

The U.S. Forest Service mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

Learn More:

www.stateforesters.org

www.fs.fed.us

www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SFD/

www.forestactionplans.org



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Protecting Communities from Harm of Wildfire with the New Mexico State Forestry Division



With support from the USDA Forest Service State & Private Forestry competitive grant program, the New Mexico State Forestry Division is achieving goals outlined in its Forest Action Plan.

The 'After Wildfire' Guide offers New Mexicans help navigating the often difficult process of rebuilding after a major wildfire. The guide has already become a model for other states.

In addition to local assistance, the guide and website have been reproduced by other state and federal agencies.

On-the-ground partners include the USDA Forest Service, United States Army Corps of Engineers, New Mexico State University, Natural Resources Conservation Service and New Mexico Association of Counties.

The devastation experienced following a destructive wildfire can be felt long after the flames have died down and the fire crews have left the scene. New Mexico experienced this first hand in recent years following several large-scale damaging wildfires. For those affected by wildfire, there are many things to take into consideration before cleanup even begins.

New Mexico State Forestry and partners developed the 'After Wildfire' guide (www.afterwildfirenm.org) to help New Mexicans navigate their way through the difficult post-fire recovery process. The website includes advice on how to mobilize your community, a list of resources for assistance available to communities and to individuals, and a technical guide with information about post-fire treatments to mitigate the effects of wildfire on the land and to prepare for potential flooding.

The 'After Wildfire' guide provides a well-organized, central repository of easily accessible, up-to-date information for individuals and communities impacted by wildfire. The idea for this project grew out of a direct request from communities that experienced destructive wildfires, including the Las Conchas and Little Bear Fires. In the aftermath of those events, people from the affected areas had to figure out how to find their way through a confusing array of programs that might or might not apply to their situation. 'After Wildfire' was created to guide residents and local leaders through the complex steps to take as they help their communities and landscapes along the road to recovery.

"This is the best website I have seen for post-fire recovery. It is an excellent resource that will help communities, home owners, and incident managers. I will recommend it to everyone that needs assistance after a wildfire," said Richard Schwab, National Coordinator for Post-Fire Programs for the National Park Service.

In 2014 the team received a \$40,000 grant from the US Army Corps of Engineers' Institute for Water Resources through the NM Silver Jackets, an interagency group focused on flood issues, to enhance and build on the guide.

Sections in the 'After Wildfire' guide help users take specific actions that implement National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy goals for resilient landscapes, fire-adapted communities, and wildfire response.

The guide has already been used nationally by Oregon, Idaho and federal agencies such as the National Park Service, and visitors to the guide have come from all regions of the United States.