



Wildlife Management Division

Update on the Habitat Restoration Project on Colin Neblett WMA

April 5, 2018

**New Mexico State Game Commission Meeting
Clovis, NM**

Habitat Restoration on Colin Neblett WMA

- **Objective:**
 - **Restore wet-mixed conifer forest stands to improve wildlife habitat and increase forest resiliency to wildfire through thinning and prescribed fire.**

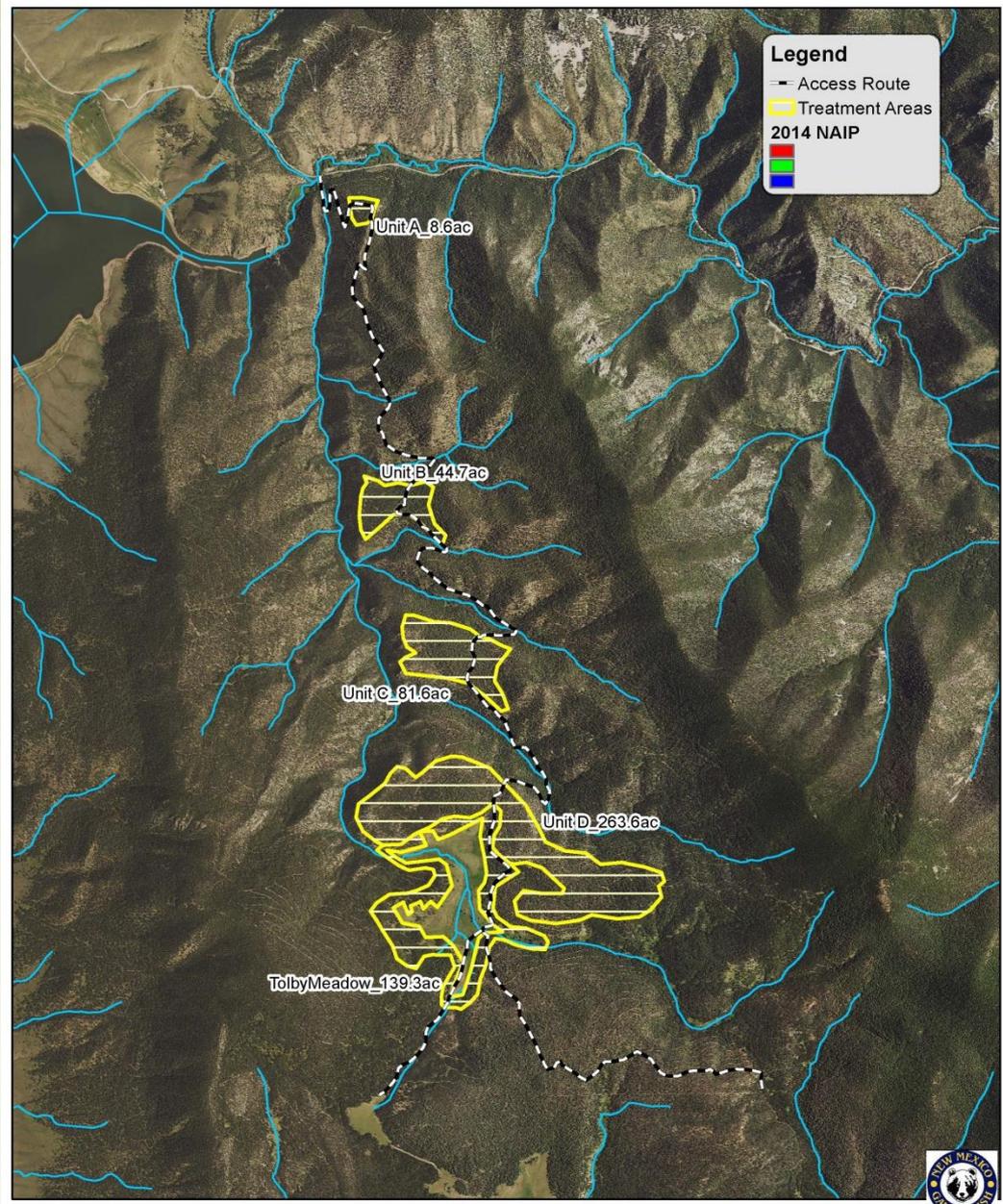
The logo for the Colorado Game & Fish Department is visible in the background. It features a circular emblem with a mountain range and a bear's head in the center. The words "COLORADO" and "GAME & FISH" are written around the perimeter of the circle.

Habitat Restoration on Colin Neblett WMA

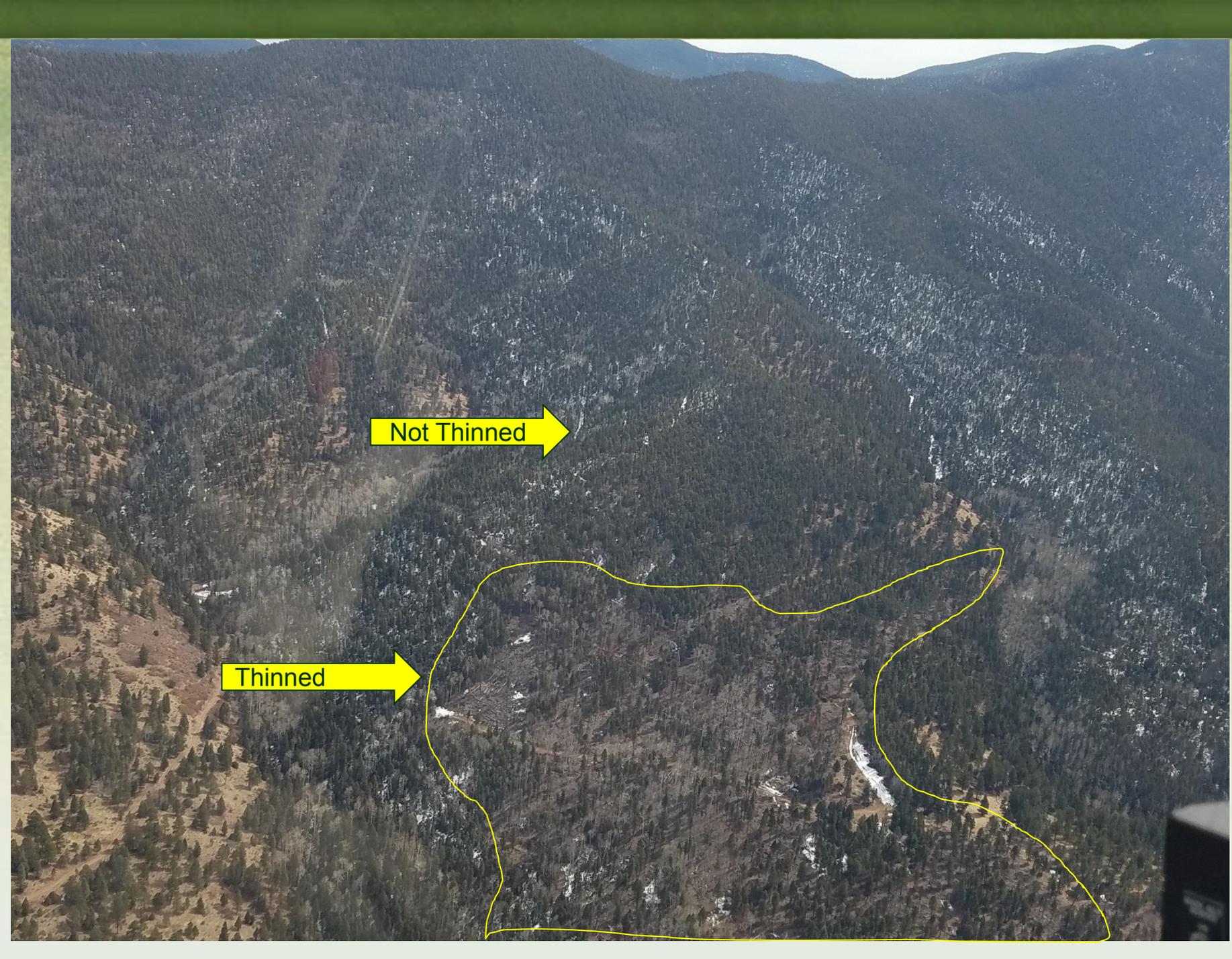
- **2016—Hand thinned 538 acres to reduce forest fuels and promote aspen regeneration**
- **2017—Hand piled 41 acres of forest thinning slash for prescribed fire**
- **2018—Implemented prescribed fire to consume hand piles**



•2016—Hand thinning locations



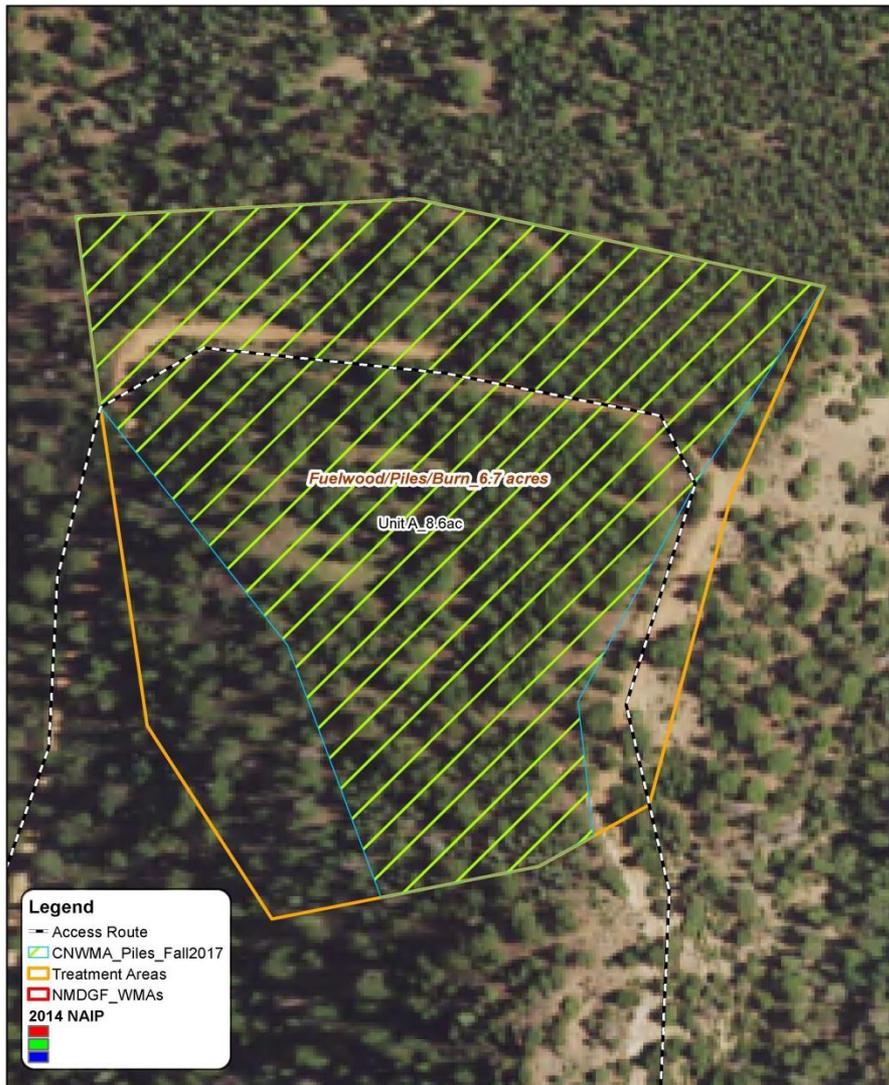
NMDF provides spatial data as a courtesy for general location purposes only. NMDF makes no warranty and assumes no responsibility or liability for the accuracy, timeliness, completeness, or suitability of this data for any particular use.



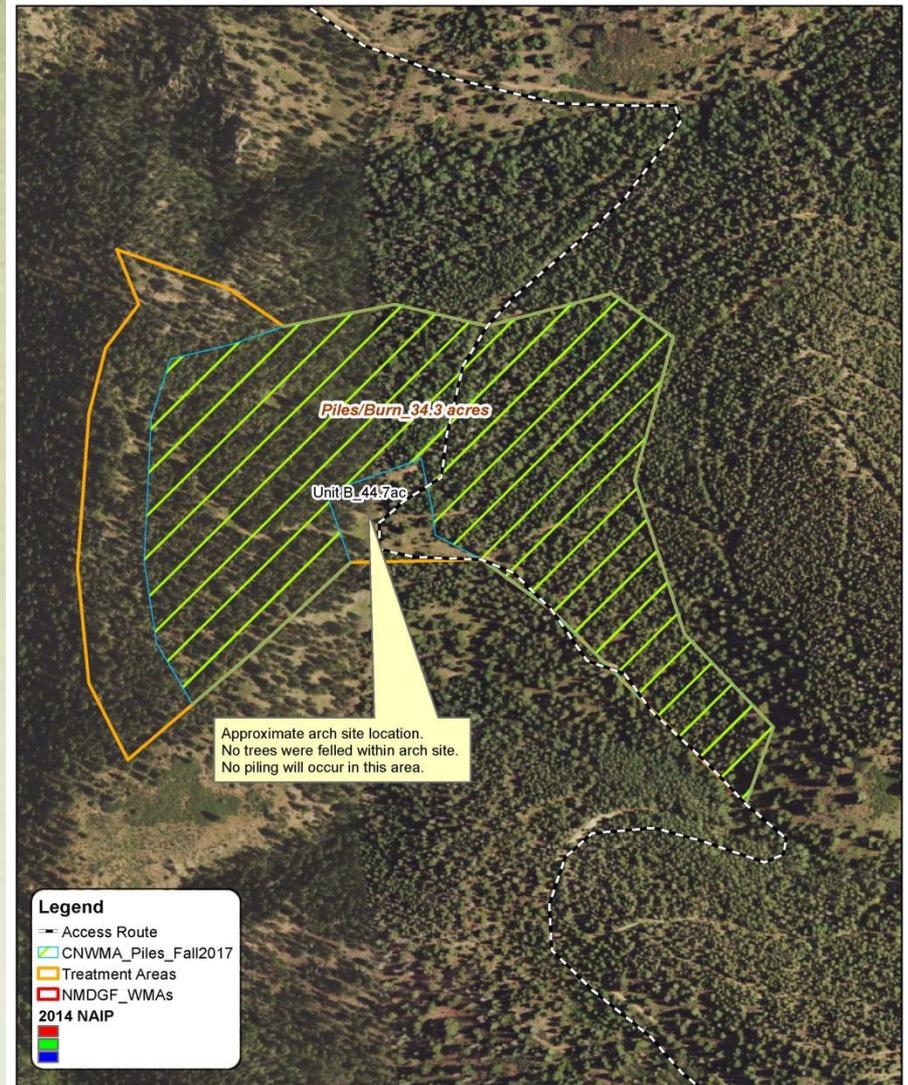
Not Thinned

Thinned

•2017/18—Hand piling locations and Rx Burn Locations



NMDGF provides spatial data as a courtesy for general location purposes only. NMDGF makes no warranty and assumes no responsibility or liability for the accuracy, timeliness, completeness, or suitability of this data for any particular use.



NMDGF provides spatial data as a courtesy for general location purposes only. NMDGF makes no warranty and assumes no responsibility or liability for the accuracy, timeliness, completeness, or suitability of this data for any particular use.

Prescribed Burn Planning and Compliance

- **Contracted National Wildfire Coordination Group (NWCG) Burn Boss to develop burn plan**
- **Partnered with Forest Stewards Guild to develop public meeting in Eagles Nest**
- **Obtained necessary State (NMENV) and Colfax County Air Quality and burn permits**

Public Meeting

- **Presented the RX Burn plan/objectives to public**
- **Provided burn plan copies to interested parties**
- **Public was supportive of the plan and hopeful that additional habitat work continues on Neblett WMA**

PUBLIC MEETING



COLIN NEBLETT PILE BURN

Monday, January 22nd, 2018 | 6:00-7:30 pm
Eagle Nest Community Center
151 Willow Creek Drive
Eagle Nest, NM



The New Mexico Department of Game & Fish is planning a 53 acre pile burn to reduce hazardous fuel loads in the Colin Neblett Wildlife Management Area east of Eagle Nest. The burn window opens on January 29th and is dependent upon weather.

**JOIN US TO LEARN WHAT TO EXPECT
FROM THE BURN AND LEARN WHAT YOU
CAN DO TO REDUCE YOUR WILDFIRE RISK**

For more information please contact habitat manager Jacob Davidson, 505-476-8112



Burn Operations

- **Burned February 14 & 15**
- **Ignited ~1,100 piles**

- **FFT2s:**
- **6 – NMDGF**
- **2 – Forest Stewards Guild**
- **2 – Philmont Scout Ranch**
- **1 – Forest Fitness**



Mop Up

- **Burn Unit visited daily, then weekly, by Department FFT2s for 3 weeks to ensure all smoldering ceased**
- **Forecasted cold temperatures and precipitation assisted**



What's Next...

- **There are an additional 497 acres of thinned material on the Colin Neblett WMA that can be piled and burned**
- **Additional WMA properties have existing burn plans and are undergoing similar thinning treatments**
- **Increase in the number of Department staff with Burn Qualifications**
- **Department is currently funding Rx burn operations on USFS and BLM lands throughout New Mexico**



Questions?

NWCG Burn Plan

- **Burn plan reviewed by additional NWCG Burn Boss and approved by Director**
- **Burn complexity rating = LOW**

Element 1: Signature Page

PRESCRIBED FIRE PLAN

ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT NAME(S): New Mexico Game and Fish

PRESCRIBED FIRE NAME: Colin Neblett Burn Plan

PREPARED BY:

Name (print): Don Kearney Qualification/Currency: (RXB1)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

TECHNICAL REVIEW BY:

Name (print): David Lasky Qualification/Currency: RXB2

Signature: David S. Lasky Date: 01/08/18

COMPLEXITY RATING: Low

MINIMUM BURN BOSS QUALIFICATION: (RXB3)

APPROVED BY:

Name - Agency Administrator (print): Alexandra Sandoval

Signature - Agency Administrator: Alexandra Sandoval Date: 2/12/18

Test Burn

- **Requisite weather met
February 14, 2018**
 - 2-6 inches of snow
 - 35-50 Degrees
 - 20-50% Relative Humidity
 - S-NW Winds, 0-15 mph
- **Weather forecast called for additional precip**
- **Weather supported good ventilation for Air Quality**
- **Test burn results support 'GO' decision**

