Prescribed Burns on Carson, Cibola and Santa Fe National Forests

Background Information

- The NMDGF has worked with the fuels management staff on the Carson, Cibola and Santa Fe National Forests to identify areas in need of funding assistance to execute prescribed fire, with the goal of improving the quality of wildlife habitat and restoring forest health.

- In many cases, these prescribed burn areas were made possible because of the pre-burn mechanical treatments that were funded by the NMDGF, including Habitat Stamp Program funds.

- These forests will be burned to promote health and resilience by way of low - moderate intensity fire, which will improve wildlife habitat and reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire in the longterm.

Project Contacts:

Carson	-	Cibola	-	Santa Fe
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Proposed Management Action

- NMDGF, in collaboration with the Cibola, Carson and Santa Fe National Forests, contribute funds to assist with the prescribed burn efforts on approximately 60,000 acres
- This will amount to about $4.00 /acre

Estimated Budget : $250,000

Forest Restoration: Santa Fe, Carson, Cibola National Forests

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Forest Restoration

CHALLENGE?

    A loss of natural fire regimes in fire-adapted forest has decreased forest health and resiliency and coincided with increased risk of catastrophic wildfire, this limits habitat quality and threatens the long-term presence of healthy forests

GOAL?

    Use prescribed fire to return forest wildlife habitat to more natural state with improved fire resiliency and better understory and cover conditions for wildlife
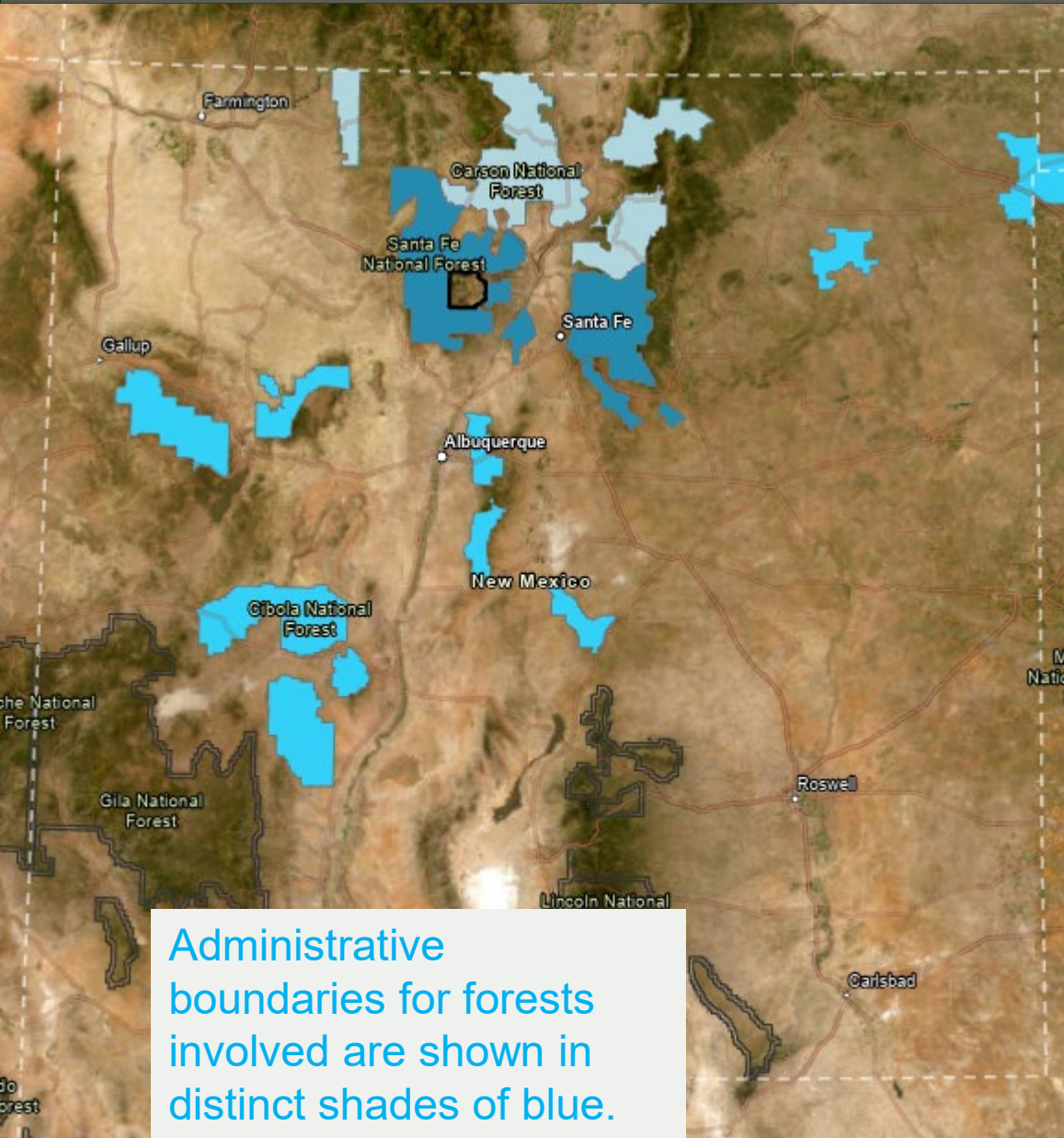
Background Info

1909

1979

Photos:
https://www.swfireconsortium.org/

"Southwestern US ponderosa pine forests generally evolved with low-severity, high-frequency, surface fire regimes occurring ...5-25 years..." *

*Haffey, C., Sisk, T.D., Allen, C.D. *et al.* Limits to Ponderosa Pine Regeneration following Large High-Severity Forest Fires in the United States Southwest. *fire ecol* **14**, 143–163 (2018). https://doi.org/10.4996/fireecology.140114316

Background Info

Administrative boundaries for forests involved are shown in distinct shades of blue.
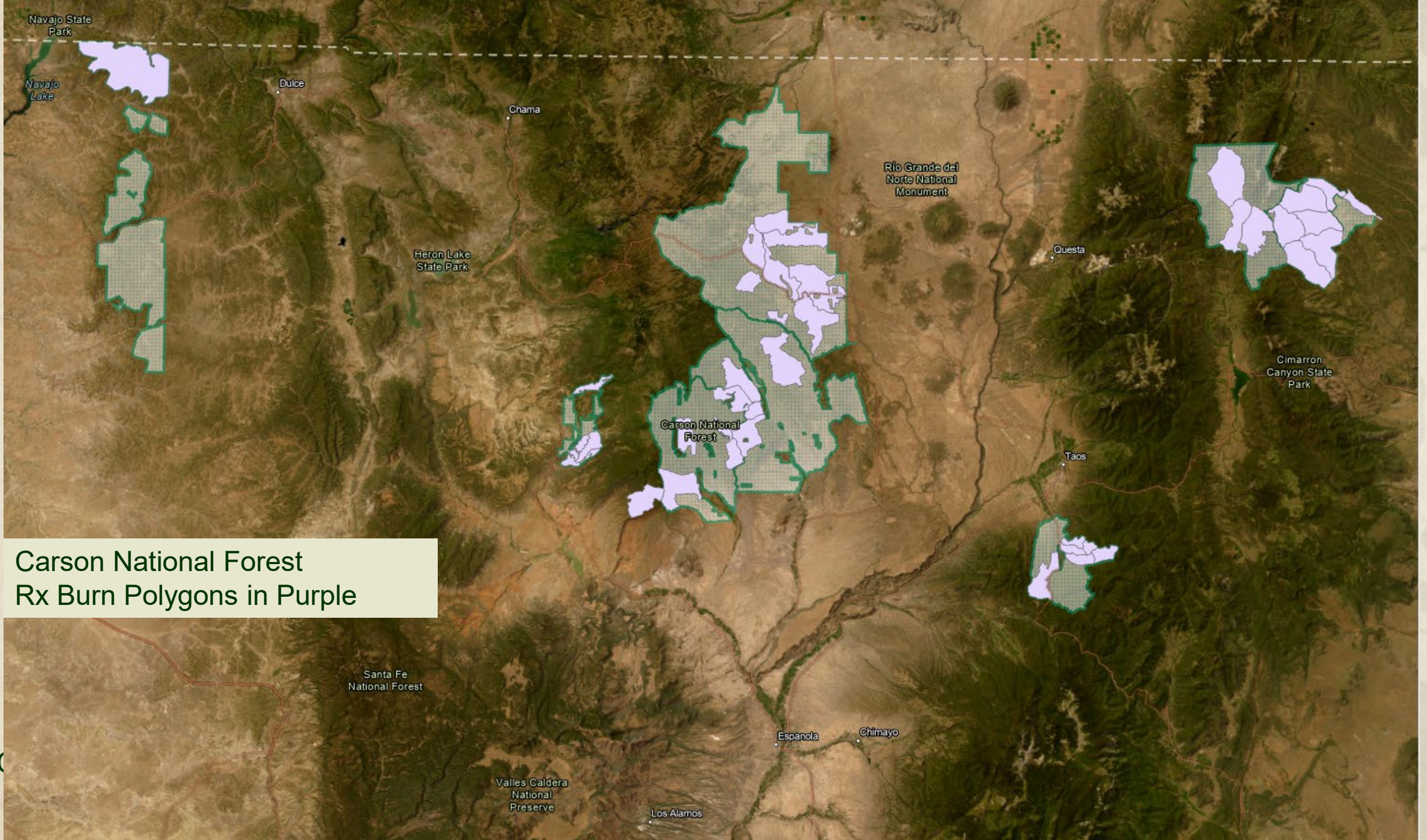
- Prescribed fire plans have been collaboratively developed for multiple forests in NM (Carson, Santa Fe, Cibola)

- Numerous units identified within each forest aimed at landscape approach

- Plans meet objectives of both agencies.

Details

- Available acres to accomplish :
    - 10,000 acres Cibola
    - 25,000 acres Carson
    - 25,000 acres Santa Fe

    - If prioritized, Habitat Stamp funds would be used to assist with these efforts.

Carson National Forest
Rx Burn Polygons in Purple

Cibola National Forest
Rx Burn Polygons

Santa Fe National Forest
Rx Burn Polygons

Project Summary

- Total estimate $250,000
  - To contribute to prescribed burn operations on 60,000 acres

Project Name: Prescribed Fire on Carson, Cibola and Santa Fe National Forests

Project relation to CAC advice or prioties:

This effort is across multi jurisdictions and is a complement to previous work funded by Habitat Stamp as well as other hunting and fishing organizations. Prescribed fire is one of the most beneficial tools we can use to restore and enhance wildlife habitat.

Project Specific Details:

This effort will make available funds to contribute toward the implementation of prescribed fire across 60,000 acres.

Historical Data:

Historically, these forests would have expereienced wildfires on the order of every 2-25 years. The longterm suppression of wildfires along with other land management decisions have resulted in a situation where extreme fire behavior is possible without any management interventions.

Itemized Use of Funds:

Cibola National Forest - $50,000
Santa Fe National Forest - $100,000
Carson National Forest - $100,000

Comprehensive Project Analysis:

Monitoring Plan/ Strategy:

The USFS has a longterm strategy and approach to monitor forest health and has created a schedule to rotate prescribed fire through established blocks, and to identify areas in need of prescribed fire and take management actions necessary to get to a stage where prescribed fire can be implemented.

Project Emphasis Species:

Elk, Deer, Turkey