

ENCINO VISTA LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PROJECT (EVLRP) PROPOSED ACTION

Below is a summary of the cutting/burning treatments the Forest Service proposes to implement during the 10-15 year project, with sentences taken directly from of the EVLRP environmental assessment. The project area is located within the Santa Fe National Forest, northwest of Los Alamos, New Mexico.

THINNING

- Pre commercial thinning may be conducted up to approximately 26,700 acres.
- Mechanical fuels treatments or mastication is categorized as pre commercial thinning and may be conducted up to 4,500 acres.
- Commercial logging may be conducted on up to 7,202 acres
- All trees greater than 24" in DBH would be retained regardless of health or condition. This means they can cut trees up to 24" diameter at chest height.
- Target residual basal area (BA) by vegetation type.
 - Ponderosa pine 20-80 BA
 - Dry Mixed Conifer 30-100 BA
 - Wet Mixed Conifer 60-150 BA
 - Spruce Fir 80-150 BA

(Note these target ranges are very broad. The lower end of the Ponderosa pine and Dry Mixed Conifer ranges are extremely aggressive thinning.)
- Pre commercial thinning treatment are expected to take 10-15 years to complete and realistic feasibly of accomplishing up to 2000 acres of PCT maximum annually (means a whole lot of pile burning).
- Treatments will focus on primarily small diameter thinning and prescribed fire to reduce fuel loading, remove excess slash from silvicultural treatments, and reintroduce fire to frequent fire ERUs and reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire.
- Piñon-Juniper ERUs desired conditions are for the sole purpose of protecting the wildland urban interface.

PRESCRIBED BURNING

- Prescribed burning may be conducted on up to approximately 74,600 acres over the life of the project and up to 8,000 acres per year.
- Prescribed fires may be ignited either by hand or by aerial ignition (using helicopters or drones) carrying specialized equipment to ignite surface fuels or a combination of both ignition methods.

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREAS

- The project area includes three designated Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRA); Cañones Creek, Youngsville and Puebla Mesa IRAs.

FOREST ROADS

- Treatments proposed for the EVLRP are aimed at facilitating restoration activities and improving watershed resiliency through maintenance of roads/ road segments. Up to 362 miles of open MVUM roads, of the 761 total miles of existing National Forest System Roads (NFSRs), would serve as the primary access for restoration activities.
- No permanent or new NFS roads would be constructed as part of this project, though up to 8 miles of temporary roads may be utilized to accommodate silviculture treatments. Opportunity to utilize known unclassified/unauthorized routes would be preferred. In order to minimize new disturbance, as well as decommissioning of all temporary roads will occur upon implementation completion. (This sentence is not clear, but comes directly from the EA. The Forest Advocate is skeptical such decommissioning will occur and be successful).
- All the watersheds in the project are functioning at-risk or impaired. Road maintenance will focus on reducing sedimentation, erosion and adjacent resource damage within these watersheds. In order to create resiliency and improve watershed function up to approximately 55 miles of the 281 miles are proposed for drainage and road surface improvements to reduce the sedimentation and adjacent resource damage.

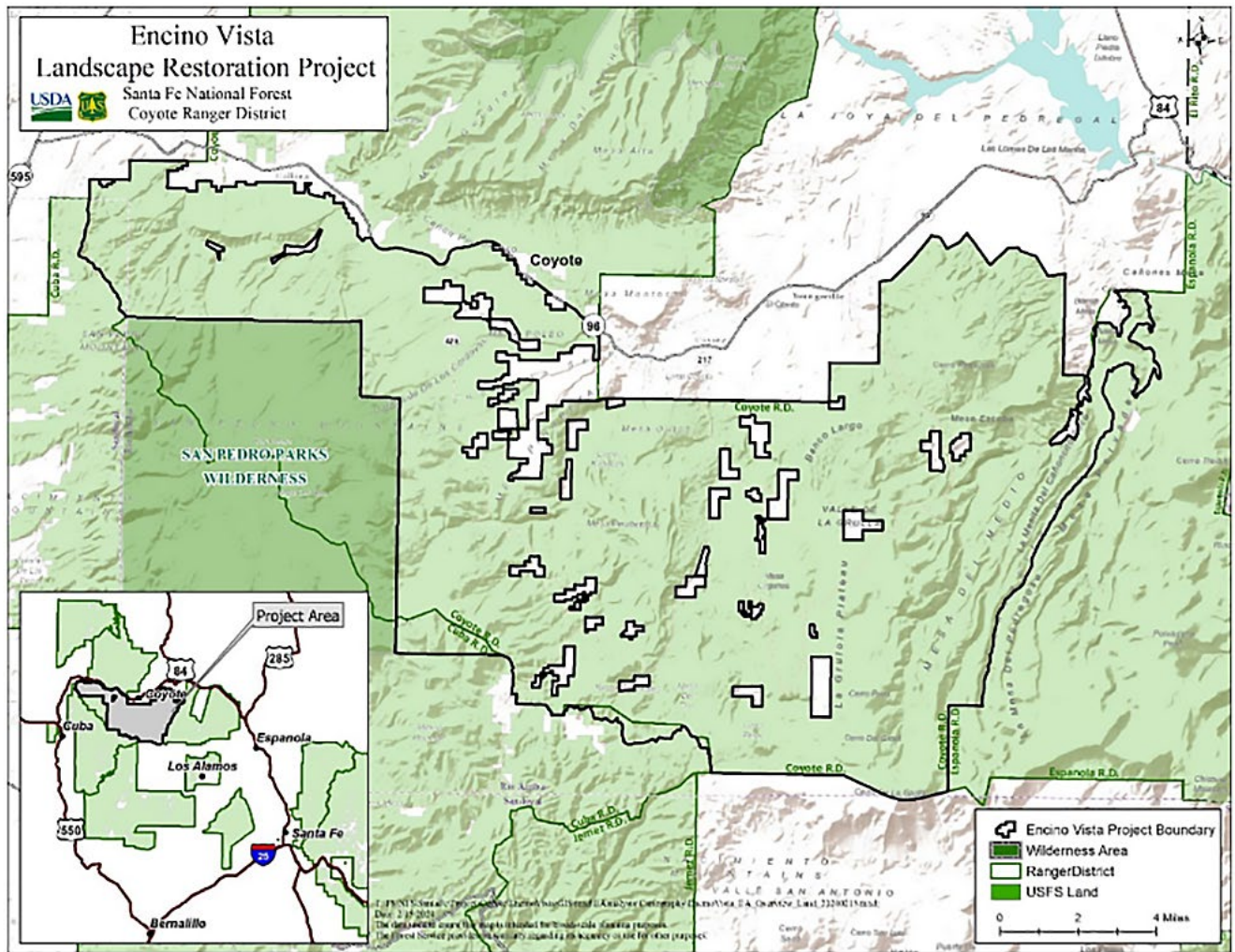


Figure 1 Project Map