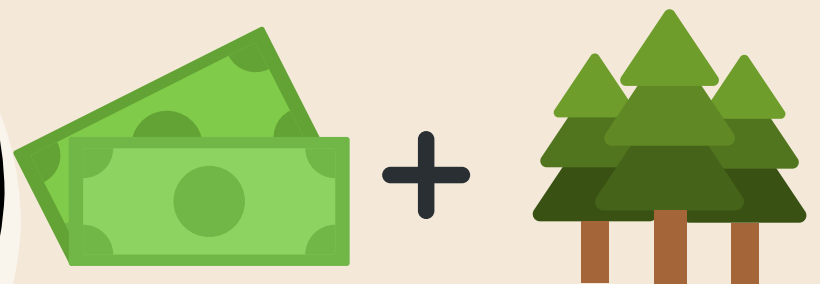


SWERI's Role in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

The three Southwest Ecological Restoration Institutes are receiving \$20 million in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

What does this mean for SWERI and our Western Forests?



Who is receiving the \$20 million?

The Southwest Ecological Restoration Institutes (SWERI)

1. **Colorado Forest Restoration Institute** (Colorado State University)
2. **New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute** (New Mexico Highlands University)
3. **Ecological Restoration Institute** (Northern Arizona University)

Why are the SWERI getting this money?

The SWERI support managers, planners, and policy makers as they work to improve forest resilience and reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire in the west.

SWERIs are uniquely positioned to turn **scientific data into actionable knowledge**. We have the capacity for cross-boundary data management, and we help managers use science for more effective **hazardous fuels reduction, forest restoration, and wildfire management**.

Three funding objectives:

1. Develop a national database of existing data on fuel treatments and wildfires
2. Work with managers, planners, and policymakers to facilitate use and applications of the data
3. Research outcomes of forest management and wildfires to learn what works



“The work we’re charged with developing under the Infrastructure measure will create opportunities for land and fire managers, scientists and community stakeholders to co-produce actionable knowledge to lessen the harmful effects of wildfire events to people and the environment.”

-Tony Cheng, Director of CFRI

Why do we need to improve forest resilience?

For the safety of our forests and our people

We will never eliminate fire—our forests evolved with fire and need this disturbance! We *do* need **actionable plans for fire mitigation** to protect forests and communities, as fire activity and fire season length have increased, and development in the wildland-urban interface puts more homes and people at risk. When a fire leaves large patches of high-severity burn area, or interacts with other forest disturbances like insects and disease, we're left with questions about how and when forests will recover.

How will more data protect our forests?

The SWERI don't just collect data, we work collaboratively to make it useable for...

1. Land and Fire Managers
2. Scientists
3. Policymakers
4. Community stakeholders

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act specifically calls out the importance of using data in forest management decision-making!

“Congress is committed to the database, and I think people in forestry see the value of this. It will be a really valuable tool once it’s up and running. We have an opportunity to make a huge difference in the work that we’re doing.”



-Alan Barton, Director of NMFWRI

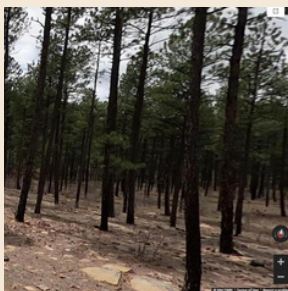
Why is understanding past forest management important?

Understanding the research outcomes that past forest management had on our forests can help advise future forest management decisions.

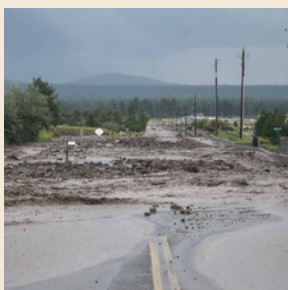
To learn more about how **past management can influence future decisions** check out...



CFRI's podcast about the Forests to Faucets Partnership



NMFWRI's Virtual Forest Tours using 360-degree Cameras and Google Street View



ERI's Full-Cost Accounting Remeasurement of the 2010 Schultz Fire: Understanding the Long-term Socio-Economic Implications of High-Severity Wildfire and Post-Wildfire Flooding

“This is a unique opportunity for the SWVERIs, being asked directly by Congress to help track and quantify the effect that fuels reduction treatments are having on large wildfires and forest health. Being able to increase our understanding of how fuel reduction treatments can mitigate potential wildfire effects – across jurisdictions, ecosystem types and considering anticipated climate change – is an important endeavor and one that the SWVERI and ERI are well-suited to undertake.”



-Andrew Sánchez Meador, Director of ERI

Quotes and info from this post can be found in the article cited below, written by Nikki Martinez of the CSU Warner College of Natural Resources



Martinez, Nikki. (2022). CSU's Colorado Forest Restoration Institute to co-lead \$20 million infrastructure project to address wildfire risk challenges .

CSU's Colorado Forest Restoration Institute to co-lead \$20 million infrastructure project to address wildfire risk challenges

11 Feb, 2022
By [Nikki Martinez](#)



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