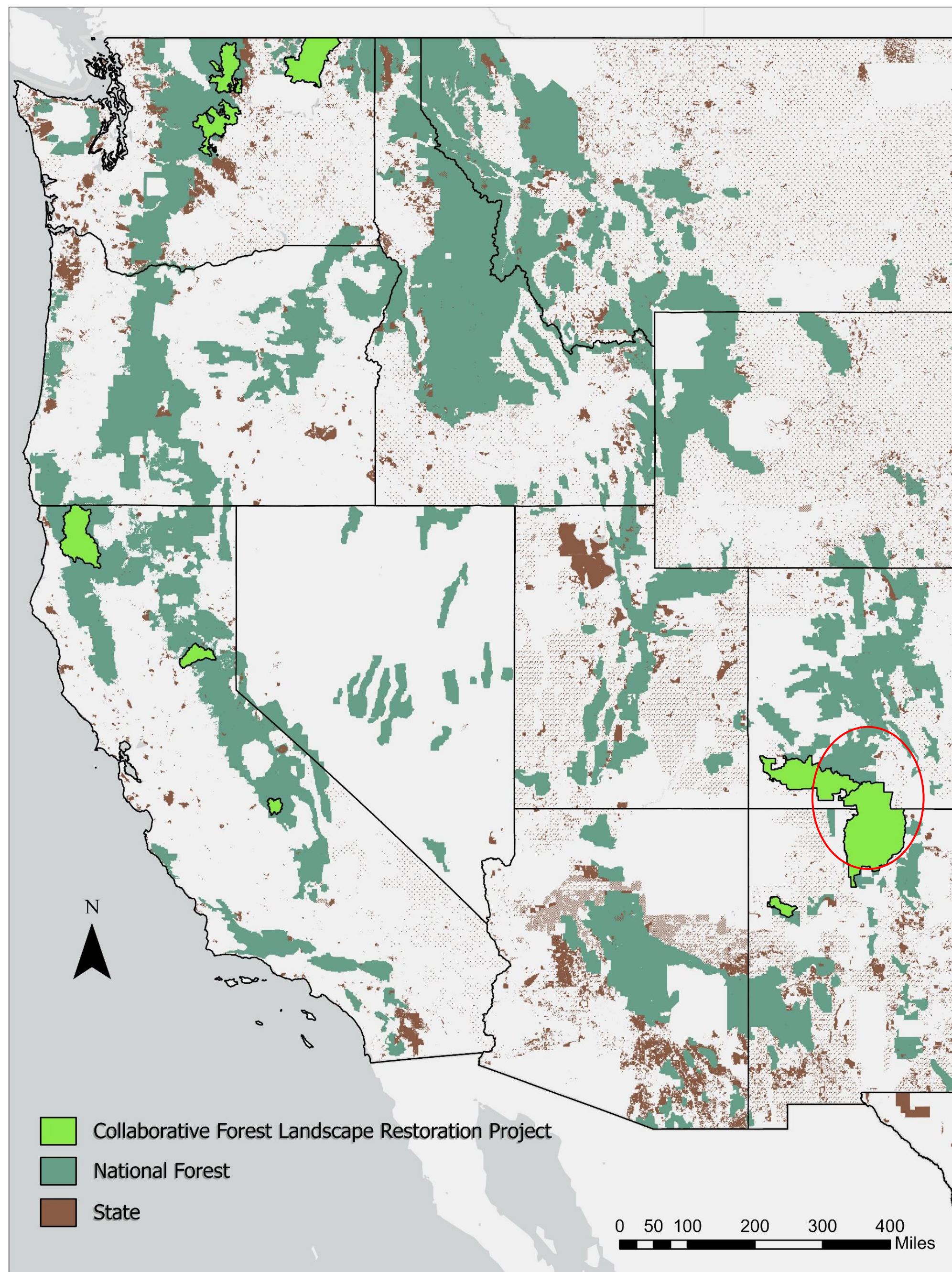


Western CFLRP Timber Processing Capacity and Capability

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CFLRP landscapes under analysis in the West (Rio Chama CFLRP circled)



BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE:

- The Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) was created by Congress to enhance forest and watershed health, reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire, and to benefit rural economies.
- The Forest Industry Research Program is currently analyzing the timber-processing capacity and capability of eight CFLRPs in the West. This poster focuses on the Rio Chama CFLRP in CO and NM.
- The term “capacity” refers to the maximum volume of timber that a timber processor can use annually.
- The term “capability” refers to the volume of trees of a certain size class (measured as dbh) that a timber processor can economically process annually.
- Understanding the timber-processing capacity and capability of the forest products industry surrounding a CFLRP landscape can help managers plan commercial harvests that leverage CFLRP funding toward more restoration and more benefits to rural economies.
- These analyses also serve as a baseline measure of industry capacity. Future analyses can determine if CFLRP investments have impacted timber-processing capacities.

METHODS:

- Data used in these analyses were collected by the Forest Industry Research Program as part of the USDA Forest Service’s Forest Inventory and Analysis program’s Timber Products Output surveys.
- These analyses focus on facilities that exclusively use timber in round form.
- Capacity estimates include the capacity of both active and inactive (idle) facilities.
- Counties containing CFLRP timber lands constitute the Study Area. The counties that receive timber from the Study Area, as well as the Study Area counties themselves, constitute the Timber Processing Area.

WHAT WE DISCOVERED:

- Just over 50 percent of the timber-processing capacity of the Rio Chama CFLRP’s timber processing area was used in 2020/21.
- Unused capacity to process logs up to 9.9 inches dbh was 27 percent of the total unused capacity in 2020/21.

WHAT IT MEANS:

- Seeing that only 5 percent (2.8 MMBF Scribner) of unused milling capacity is in the <7 in. dbh size class, managers can plan treatments accordingly, understanding their local industry’s limited ability to purchase and use more of this small-diameter material.
- Over 100 MMBF Scribner (73 percent) of the unused milling capacity is for trees >10-inch dbh, indicating substantial opportunities for industry to purchase and use additional sawlog-sized material and for managers to use revenue from sawtimber to offset costs of treating less- or non-merchantable material.

Annual timber-processing capacity and capability of facilities within the Rio Chama CFLRP Timber Processing Area, by dbh size class.

Tree dbh	Thousand board feet, Scribner (MBF)	Hundred cubic feet (CCF)	Percent
<7 in.	6,604	24,666	5%
7 - 9.9 in.	45,228	113,323	23%
≥10 in.	172,120	364,944	73%
Total capacity	223,952	502,934	100%

Source: BBER mill censuses for Colorado 2020 and New Mexico 2021.

Annual timber consumption within the Rio Chama CFLRP Timber Processing Area, by dbh size class.

Tree dbh	Thousand board feet, Scribner (MBF)	Hundred cubic feet (CCF)	Percent
<7 in.	2,839	12,419	5%
7 - 9.9 in.	20,495	58,246	23%
≥10 in.	85,533	184,851	72%
Total timber use	108,867	255,516	100%

Source: BBER mill censuses for Colorado 2020 and New Mexico 2021.

Annual unused timber-processing capacity within the Rio Chama CFLRP Timber Processing Area, by dbh size class.

Tree dbh	Thousand board feet, Scribner (MBF)	Hundred cubic feet (CCF)	Percent
<7 in.	2,800	12,248	5%
7 - 9.9 in.	19,393	55,077	22%
≥10 in.	83,376	180,093	73%
Total unused timber-processing capacity	105,569	247,418	100%

Source: BBER mill censuses for Colorado 2020 and New Mexico 2021.

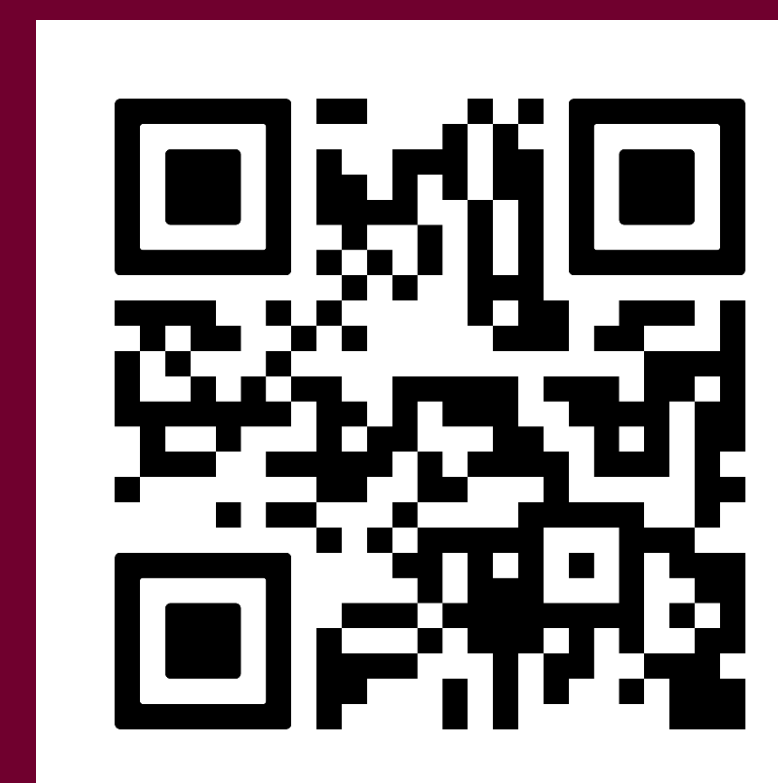
Additional capacity and capability work:

- SW CO, Zuni Mountain, Dinkey, N Yuba, Klamath, NE WA, and NC WA CFLRPs
- Western Wildfire Crisis Strategy Landscapes
- Region 1 National Forests: Lolo and Bitterroot, Custer-Gallatin, Helena-Lewis & Clark, and Flathead
- Region 2 National Forests: Black Hills, Shoshone, Bighorn, Arapaho & Roosevelt, San Juan, White River, Pike-San Isabel



FIRP peer-reviewed literature on timber-processing capacity and capability.

Simmons, Eric A., Todd A. Morgan, Steven W. Hayes, Kawa Ng, Erik C. Berg. *Journal of Forestry*, Volume 118, Issue 3, May 2020, Pages 233-243.



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