Cross-Boundary Wildfire Planning Efforts
Northern NM

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Overview:

- ► Potential Operational Delineations (PODs)
- ► Implementation on federal, state and private lands
  - ► USFS perspective
  - ► BLM perspective
- ► Research & Development

- ► Speakers:
  - ► Rich Sack (USFS)
  - ► Kyle Sahd (BLM)
  - ► Ben Gannon (CSU/RMRS)

Credits: Kit O'Connor, Dave Calkin, Matt Thompson (RMRS), Rick Stratton (FAM), Chris Dunn (OSU)
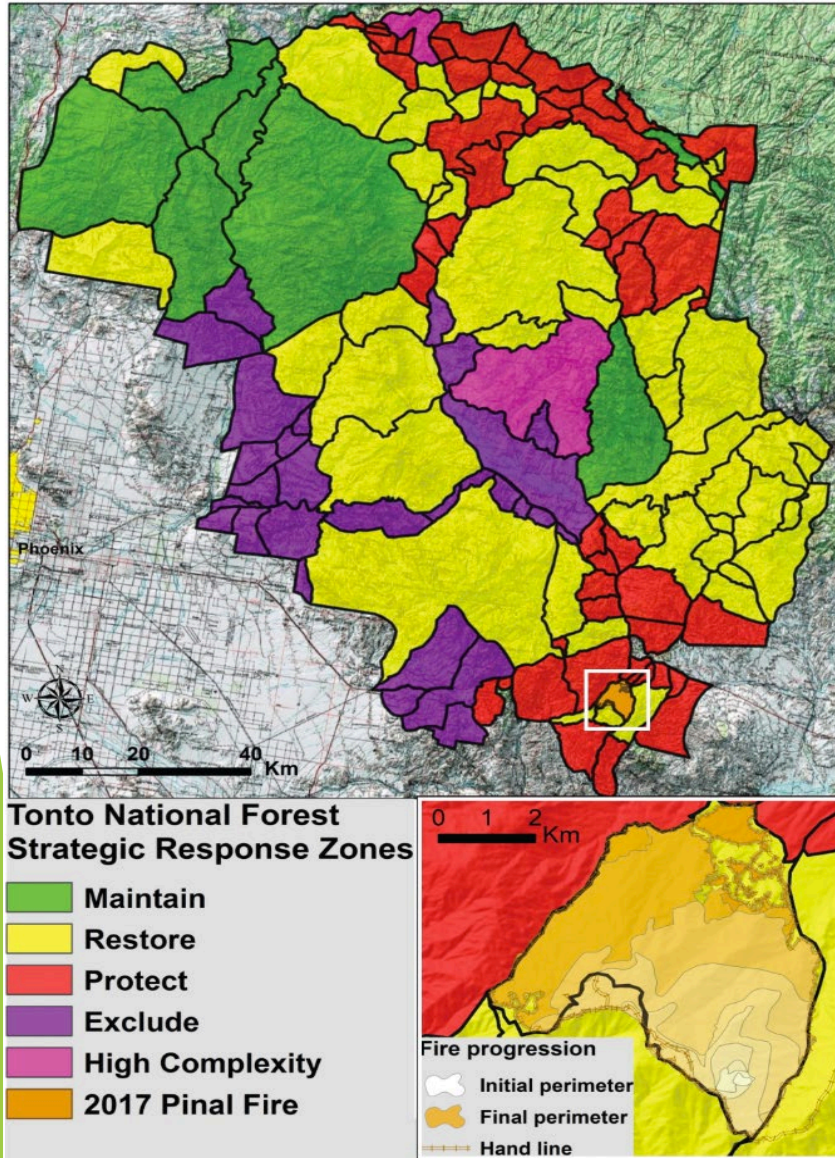
PODs: Take home points

▶ **Engage the fire before it starts:** proactive, anticipatory, cross-boundary, collaborative

▶ **Best practices**: co-management, institutionalizing expert knowledge, infusing planning with analytics, communication

▶ **On the ground**: supporting decisions, improving outcomes, enhancing partnerships

PODs: 101

Tonto National Forest Strategic Response Zones
- Maintain (green)
- Restore (yellow)
- Protect (red)
- Exclude (purple)
- High Complexity (magenta)
- 2017 Pinal Fire (orange)

Fire progression
- Initial perimeter
- Final perimeter
- Hand line

- Pre-identify potential control lines with the highest likelihood of success

- Summarize wildfire risk and suppression opportunities/challenges

- Help develop strategic response strategies

- Facilitate cross-boundary planning, communication, fuel and vegetation treatment prioritization
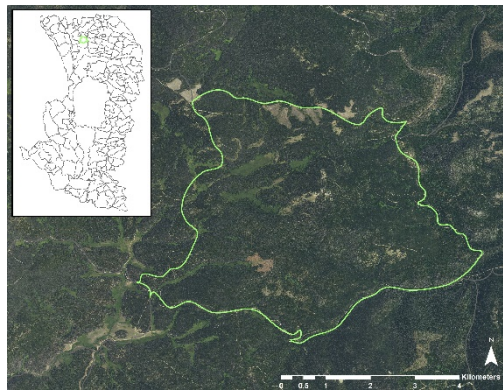
PODs: USFS perspective
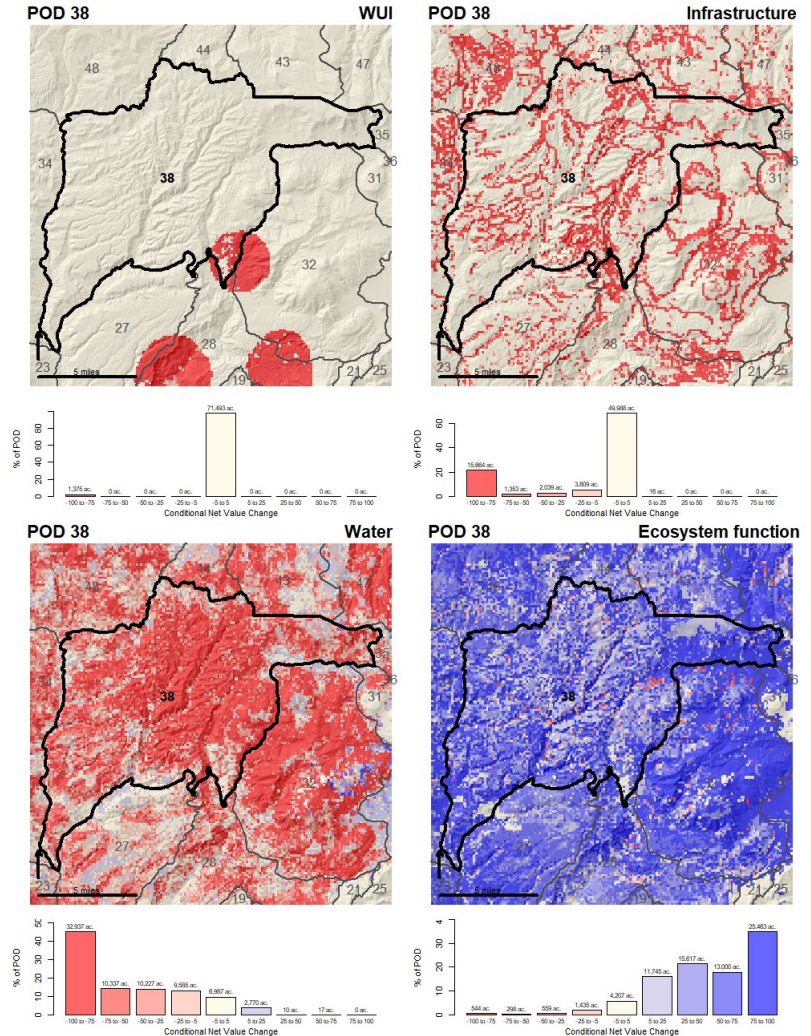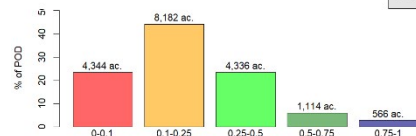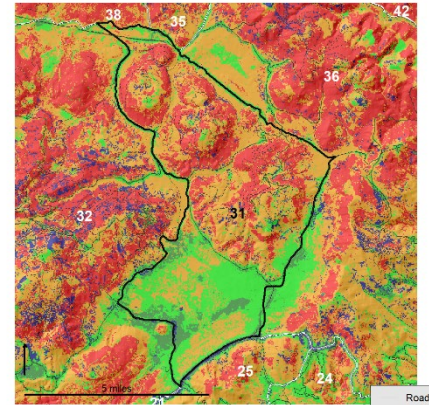## *POD planning tools*

POD 107 North Fork Hill
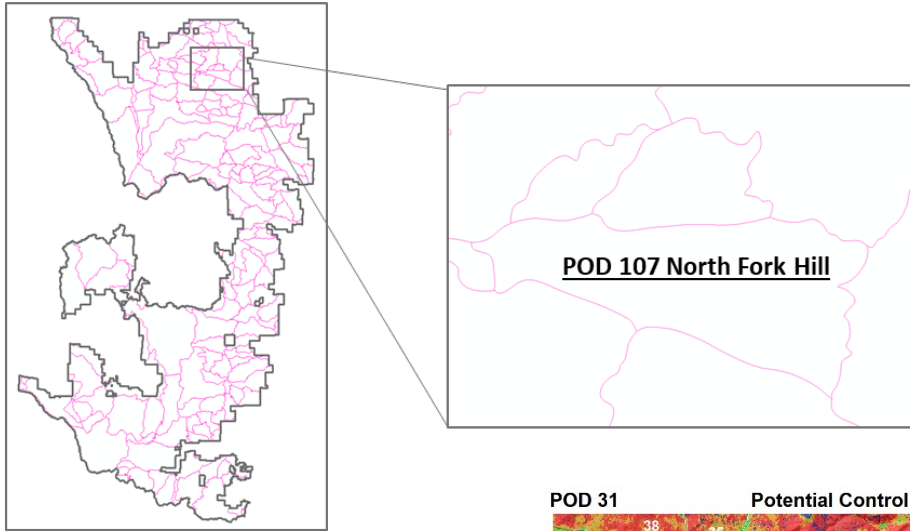
POD 107 North Fork Hill

POD Attribute Summary
- *Ecology*
- *Fire behavior*
- *Wildland-urban interface*
- *Critical habitat*
- *Utility infrastructure*
- *Land ownership*
- *Firefighter hazards*
- *Control line characteristics*
- *Strategic response*

POD 31   Potential Control Lines

POD 38   WUI

POD 38   Infrastructure

POD 38   Water

POD 38   Ecosystem function

PODs: USFS perspective
Translating Plans into Actions

|	Fire Name	Jurisdiction	Date	Size (acres)	POD	Strategic Response Zone	POD Use
1	Amole	Carson NF: Camino Real District	8/29/2019	1,956	D4 11	Restore	The Western and Northeast perimeter control lines and planning area followed the POD boundary.
2	Conejos	Santa Fe NF: Jemez District	7/29/2019	778	West 12	Restore	POD boundary was used as primarily as the control feature on North, West, and East sides. Resources at risk required modification of control perimeter to exclude fire and deviate from POD boundary. Southern POD boundary was not used due to crossing jurisdictions (Pueblo of Jemez Lands). The fire was kept on the responsible agency's land to reduce incident complexity (Joint delegation of authority, cost-share etc) and potential management disagreements.
3	Cueva	Santa Fe NF: Coyote District	8/6/2019	1,176	West 29	Restore	This POD is very large in size and the fire perimeter was located near the center of the POD. No Boundaries were used in perimeter control. Instead, control lines were constructed and improved mainly using existing roads and or trails.
4	Francisquito	Carson NF: El Rito District	7/13/2019	2,021	WZ 28	Restore	POD boundary was used as an initial starting point for developing WFDSS Planning Area.
5	Gurule	Carson NF: El Rito District	6/7/2019	2,260	WZ 20	Restore	The western fire perimeter and control lined largely followed the POD boundary. The POD was used as an initial outline for developing a WFDSS Planning Area which was later refined to follow the outline of the western half of the POD.
6	Montoyo	Carson NF: Canjilon District	8/29/2019	2950	WZ 26	Restore	POD boundary was used as an initial starting point for developing WFDSS Planning Area.
7	Naranjo	Santa Fe NF: Cuba Ranger District	7/3/2019	1,010	West 22	High Complexity	This POD is very large in size and the fire perimeter was located near the center of the POD. No Boundaries were used in perimeter control. Instead, control lines were constructed and improved mainly using existing roads and or trails.
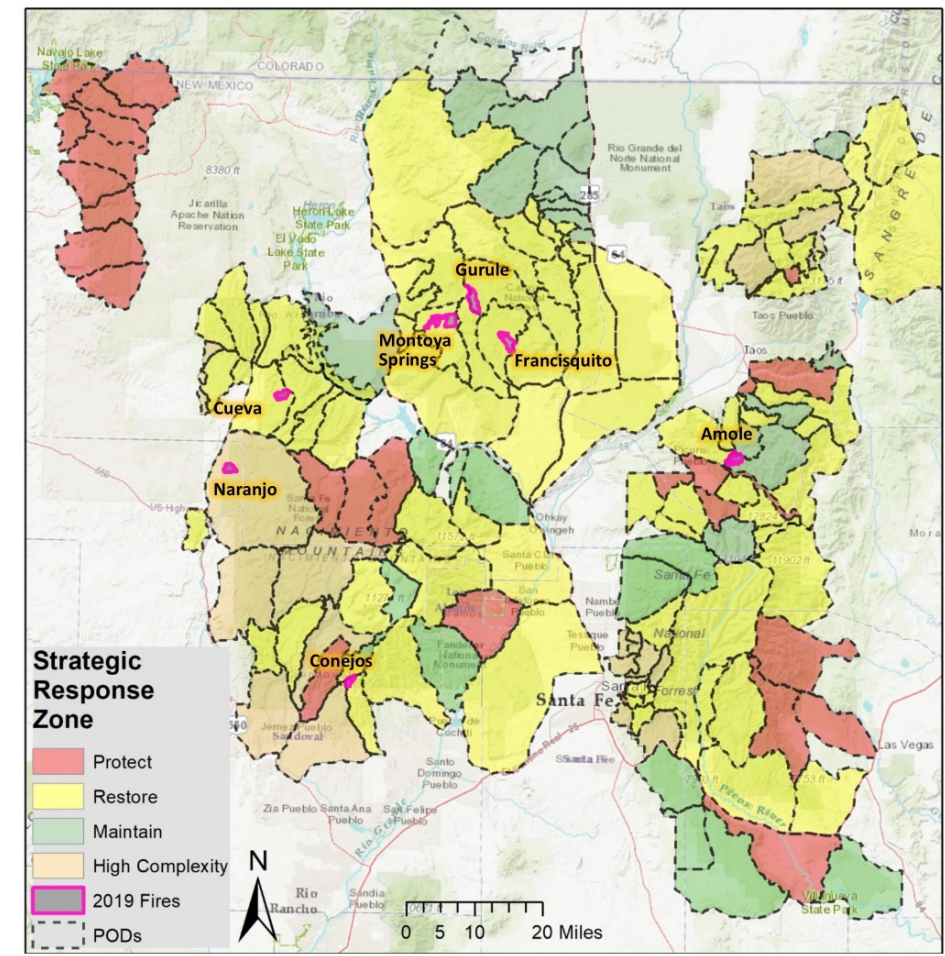
PODs: BLM perspective
Cross boundary planning
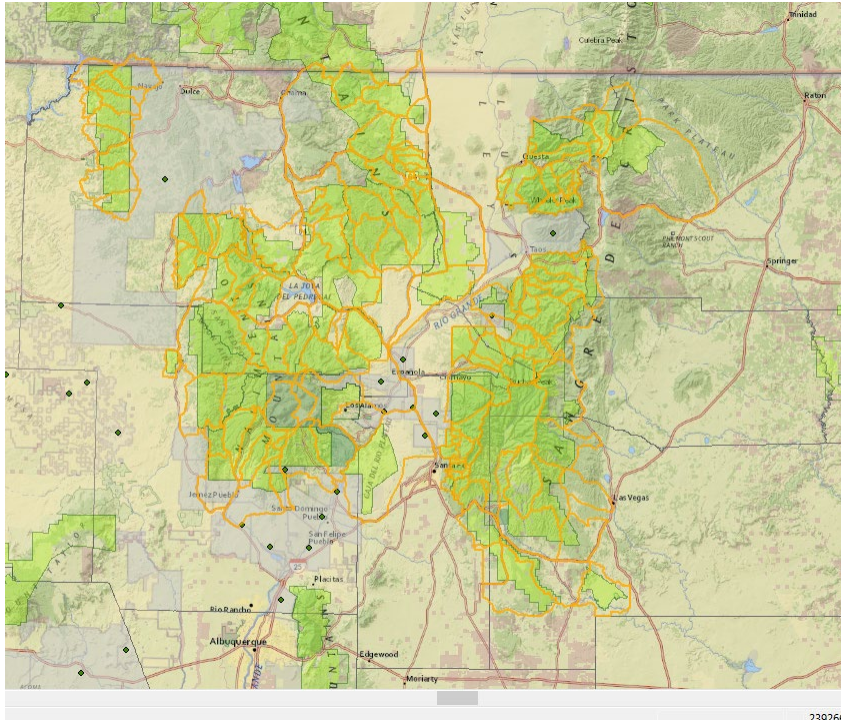
Expanding the POD network
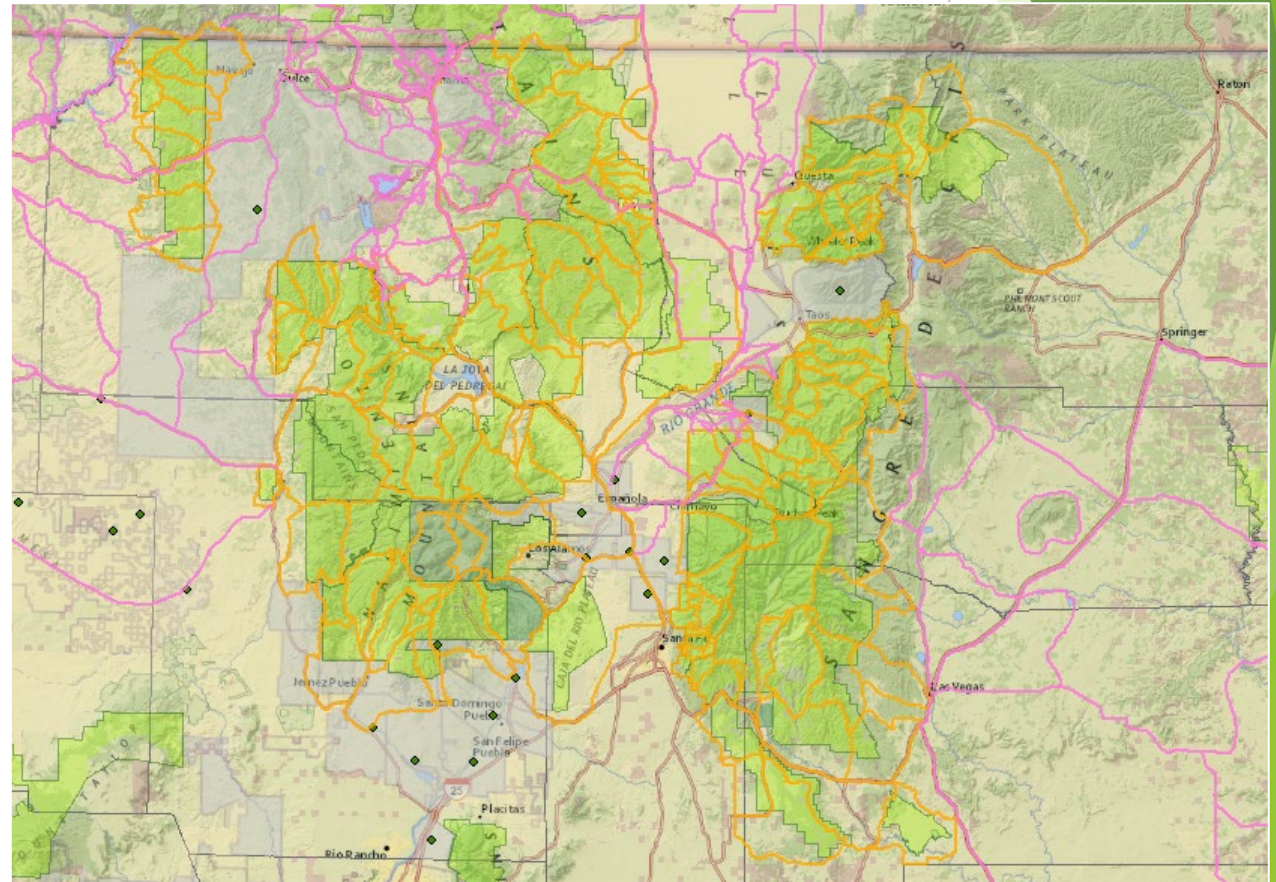
Engaging interagency cooperators

PODs: BLM perspective #2?
Cross boundary planning

>>Insert image of BLM PODs

Cross boundary, need to work with NMSF, NMSLO

PODs: Bridging the gap between pre-season analysis and incident management

>>Ben to talk about upcoming developments

>>Get slide(s) from Ben

Could talk about:
1. assessing POD usage for 2020 fire season, (If and how PODs were used)

2. improving expert elicitation at POD workshops

3. Whats in the pipeline, spotting index, PODSUM, etc…

PODs: Next steps

- *"Immediately, **there was a disconnect between what I was seeing and what a rural fire department representative was seeing**...If we could overcome those kinds of hurdles then we can actually engage at the table and decide what are the values at risk in this area, what are opportunities to contain the fire, and then come out of that with a desired end state of how we want to react to the fire."* (Forest Service Staff)

- *"[There's] huge **opportunity here to look at the landscape as a whole** and not just stop at boundaries and ownership"* (External Stakeholder).

- *"There's real potential to bring multi-agency, diverse partners together to **come to some agreement ahead of wildfire season...It may streamline some decision making**."* (External Stakeholder).

- "Part of the value of PODs is **getting the stuff that is in our FMO's head on something we can all see**, and that we can all **communicate**." (Forest Service Staff)

- "I think the big value is using PODs to **generate conversation with our partners** and to be able to make a case for some of the work we want to do." (Forest Service Staff)