



Building Economic Opportunity through Forest Restoration:

A Partnership between the Alamo Navajo School Board, Inc. and the New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute

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The sustainability of forest restoration efforts, including the CFRP, depends, in part, on the development of a trained and productive forestry sector workforce and viable markets for small-diameter thinnings.



THE PARTNERSHIP. In the Fall, 2010, a formal partnership was signed by the ANSBI and the NMFWRI to develop a model for business and job creation related to forest restoration by providing training in restoration monitoring, forest worker safety, harvesting processes, firewood processing, and lumber manufacturing. In addition, the partnership involved siting NMFWRI equipment with the ANSBI, including firewood processors, a 30-foot in-woods self-loading trailer; and a portable sawmill.



OBJECTIVES. Key objectives of the partnership include:

- The development of economic opportunity in forest restoration in the Alamo Navajo Community;
- The establishment of a model for restoration-based economies; and
- The extension of lessons learned to other communities and individuals.



OUTREACH. As part of the partnership, the ANSBI and the NMFWRI will collaborate on two workshops each year on some aspect(s) of restoration-based business development, including: firewood processing; forest products marketing; utilization of small-diameter thinnings; harvest system safety and efficiency; and capacity building in forest restoration.

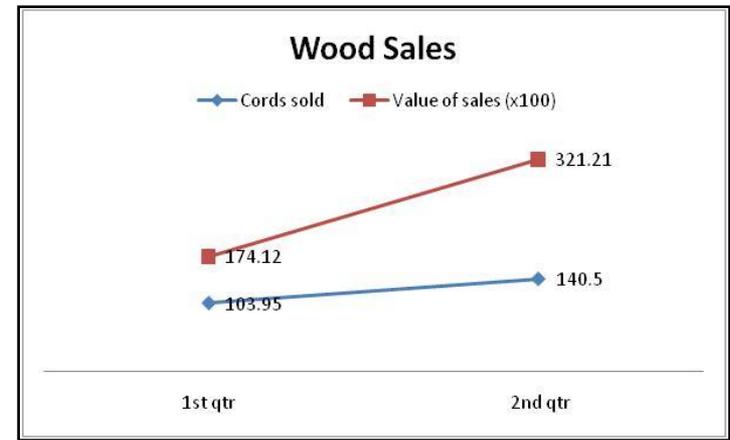


Figure 1. Comparison of wood sales during the first and second quarters.

PROGRESS. During the first quarter all wood was cut, brought to the wood yard, cut to length and split. The wood yard was maintained by a six-person crew with two splitters. All loading was done by hand.

During the second quarter, additional NMFWRI equipment was available in the field and in the wood yard. Learning to use the new equipment has taken some time, but productivity has already increased, with approximately 40% more cord wood being shipped during the second quarter of production (Figure 1).



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