



*The New Mexico Wood Industry Summit Steering Committee*

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For Immediate Release

### **“New Mexico Wood Industry Summit Coming to Ruidoso”**

The first state-wide wood industry summit is coming to Ruidoso. The Summit is set for Friday and Saturday, November 16-17 at the Ruidoso Convention Center. The Greater Ruidoso Area WUI and Otero Working Groups will stage the event in collaboration with New Mexico State Forestry, the Lincoln National Forest, the Little Bear Forest Reform Coalition, Mescalero Forestry, the Village of Ruidoso, and local wood industry representatives. Summit sponsors include the Village of Ruidoso, Otero County Electric Cooperative, the Upper Hondo Soil and Water Conservation District, and Boss Reclamation.

The event is part of a larger effort to help revitalize the New Mexico wood products industry, including contractors, agency personnel, and users of wood products, to expand local economic development, as well as to focus attention on state/national issues facing the industry.

“We hosted a similar regional event a couple of years ago, and recently decided to expand state-wide, bringing together industry representatives and ideas from across New Mexico and the region”, stated organizer Rick Merrick. Merrick, the Lincoln/Otero County Rural community Forester, “also noted that this event will include a major industry key note speaker, workshops, an industry trade show and wood workers selling their products.

The free event is open to the general public, to anyone with an interest in the forest products industry, and to State, Tribal and Federal agencies. On-line registration and additional event information are available at <https://www.ruidoso.enmu.edu/index.php/new-page/350-wood-summit>

Again, save this date and plan to attend this free event. For more information, contact Rick Merrick at 575.937.1789 or via email at [rmerrick@scmrtd.org](mailto:rmerrick@scmrtd.org).