

Habitat Stamp Program (HSP) Update

19.34.6 NMAC



November 15, 2021
Albuquerque, NM



Review of Changes made to Program by SGC – Effective April 1, 2021

- Program is now statewide, no regional boundaries
- One Citizen Advisory Committee with 9 members
- Stamp Cost/Program Income
 - Stamp fee increased from \$5 to \$10
- New Requirement: 50% of funding to fish projects (calculated over a five year period)



Renewal Process: Goals

Increase the Scope and Scale of Restoration Efforts

Improve Maintenance of Existing Infrastructure

Development of high quality Fish Habitat Projects



Progress toward Achieving Goals

Increase the Scope and Scale of Restoration Efforts

Improve operational status of HSP infrastructure

Development of high quality Fish Habitat Projects





Fish Projects

- ~\$6M of fisheries projects will be brought to the CAC.
- Developing long-term plans with USFS, BLM, Trout Unlimited and others.



**Valle Vidal Stream and Slope Wetland Restoration
Carson National Forest**

Valle Vidal Restoration – Landscape Scale



Valle Vidal -- Forest, Slope Wetland, and Stream Restoration

Wildlife-Friendly Fence Modifications Macho Pronghorn Reintroduction Landscape

RFO Pronghorn Passes

Agency

- BLM
- NMSLO

Surface Ownership

- Bureau of Land Management
- Forest Service
- Fish & Wildlife Service
- Tribal
- Private
- State Land Office

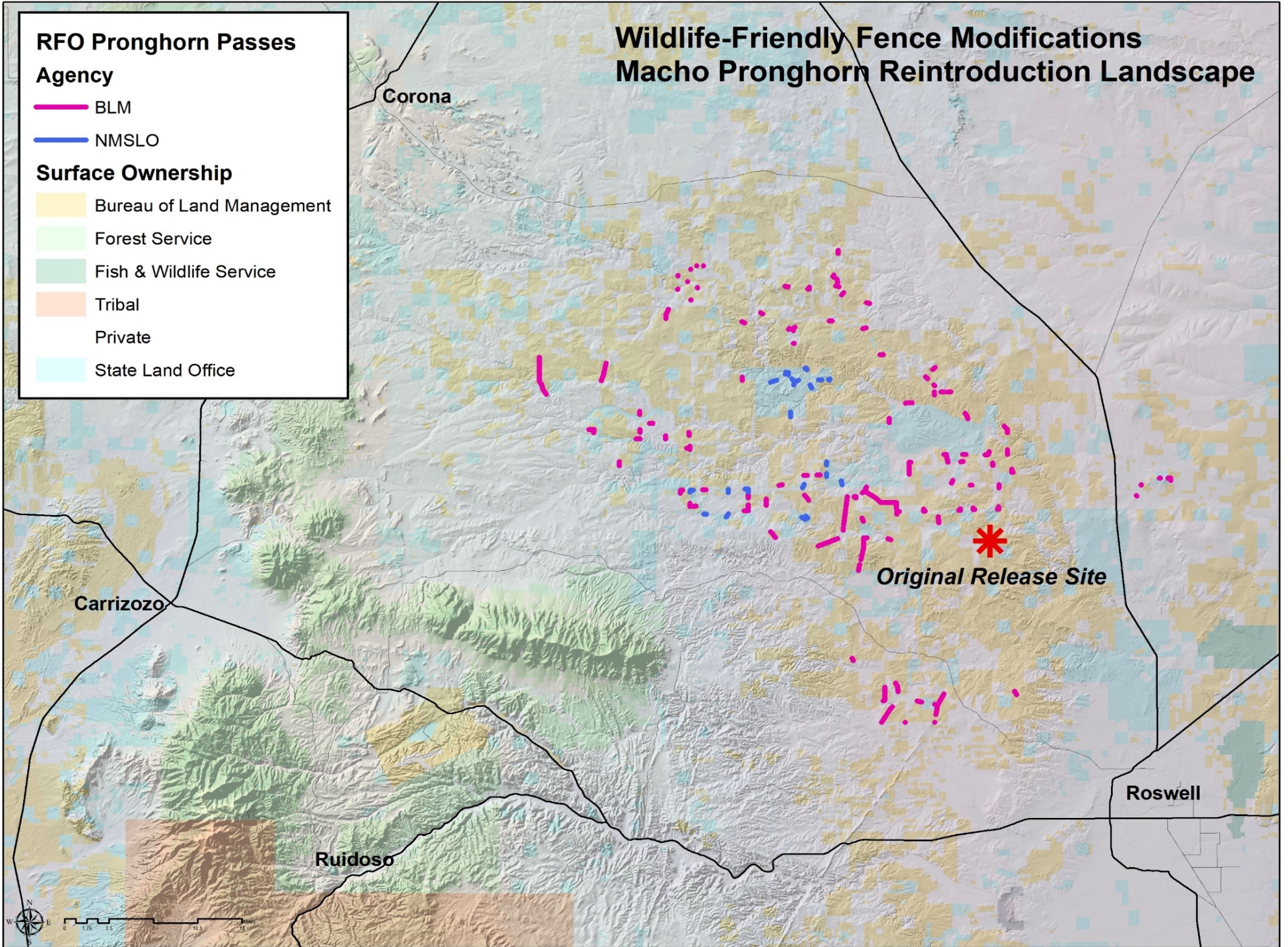
Corona

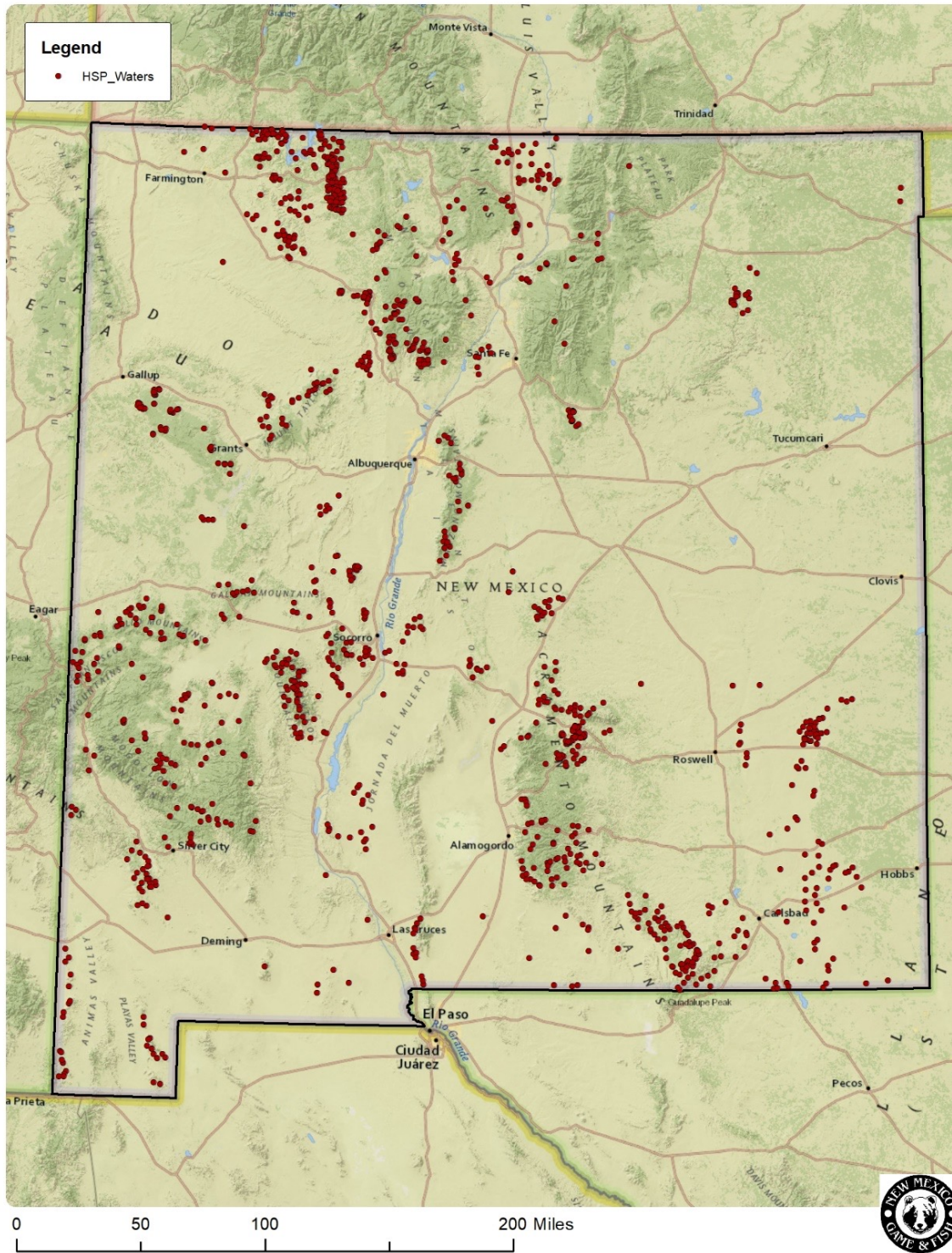
Carrizozo

Ruidoso

Roswell

Original Release Site





QUESTIONS





Gila National Forest RX Burn
Forest Restoration

Prescribed Fire -- Forest Restoration Statewide

- Fire is a key ecological process across most forest types in NM
- Thinning is often needed pre-RX fire
- Goal to return landscapes to a Natural Range of Variability = diverse/productive wildlife habitat
- In FY22, HSP funds (matched to federal PR funds) are supporting thinning/prescribed fire activities on national forests and BLM lands across tens of thousands of acres.

Stewart Meadows/San Antonio Creek Restoration/Conservation

- Partner with land management agencies, NGOs, and other entities to prioritize landscape-scale restoration projects on a *STATEWIDE* level and coordinate financial and material restoration resources to support these projects.
- Position the Department at the forefront of the prioritization, planning, and implementation of habitat and watershed restoration projects in important habitats for wildlife.
- Concentrate available financial and material resources over multiple years within priority habitat types and landscape areas.



Valle Vidal Stream and Slope Wetland Restoration
Carson National Forest

Citizen Advisory Committee Activities Since Early Spring Appointment

6 public meetings since this CAC was appointed

4/12 and 4/13 project opportunities presented to CAC

5/21 prioritization meeting

6/15 meeting to discuss maintenance projects

7/27 establishment of maintenance sub committee

9/2 meeting to modify funded project

11/29 prioritization meeting for fish HSP projects (*scheduled*)

Maintenance sub committee has met to discuss maintenance of infrastructure on federal property since it was established. The Committee has made several data requests from the department---all requests have been satisfied.



HSP Project Types

- **Prescribed Fire**
- **Forest Thinning**
- **Aquatic and Riparian Restoration**
- **Grassland Restoration**
- **Maintenance and installation of wildlife water structures**





Photo: Martin Perea

Grassland & Shrubland Restoration

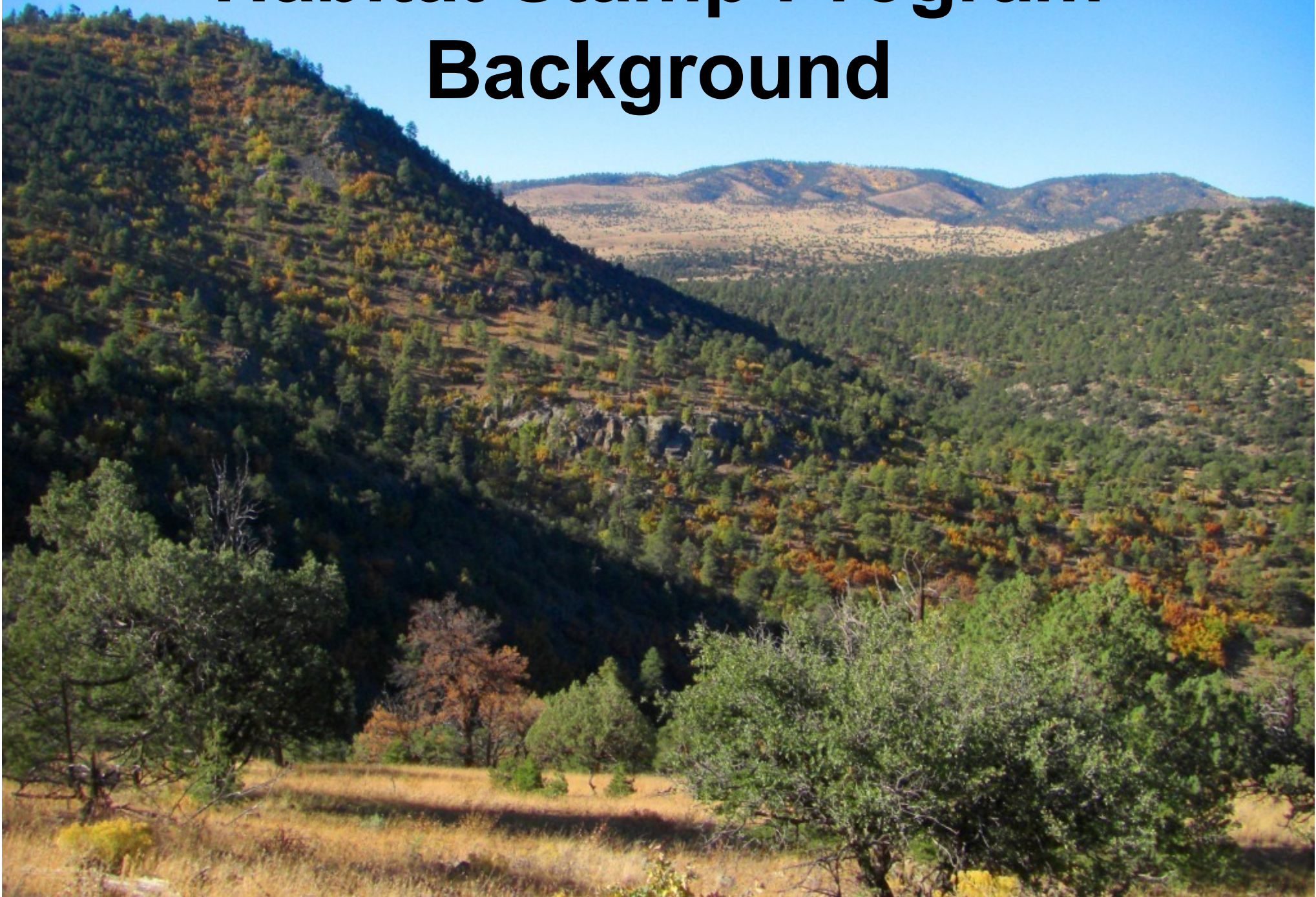
- Maintain species diversity
- Increase connectivity
- Reduce shrub density for specific wildlife objectives (i.e. mesquite and LPC)
- Reinvigorate grassland habitats with RX Fire

Wetland & Riparian Habitat Restoration

- Wetlands make up only ~0.6% of land area in New Mexico; however, up to 85% of all species depend upon wetland habitats at some point during their life span.
- Game & Fish works with partners to increase scope and scale of wetland restoration across the state.

Valle Vidal Stream & Wetland Restoration

Habitat Stamp Program Background





Dry Mixed Conifer Forest Restoration

Carson National Forest and surrounding areas

Game & Fish collaborates with National Forests, BLM, NM State Land Office and others to increase the scope and scale of forest restoration throughout New Mexico.



Recent HSP Project Examples



Sand Ranch Prescribed Burn – Bureau of Land Management
Ongoing Habitat Restoration – pronghorn, mule deer, quail, LPC