



DRAFT Citizen Advisory Committee 2022 Prioritized Project Tracking

Public Land User Stamp 19.34.6

In August of 2022, the Citizen Advisory Committee prioritized restoration projects for the expenditure of \$1,500,000 of HSP funds. Based on initial cost estimates, these funds would be exhausted after the completion of projects ranked 1-13 (see Table 1). However, some projects were canceled as a result of key staff departures at the federal agencies, unexpected cost escalation, and contractor availability following the prioritization meeting. In the case of the Reserve Ranger District Firescape project, HSP funds resulted in the contracting of an initial draft of an Environmental Assessment, however the project was ultimately canceled due to key staff departures on the Gila NF. Project cost savings and canceled projects allowed for completion of thinning efforts for the Black Mesa Habitat Restoration Project, and the rollover of the remaining balance to future CAC prioritization budgets.

Wetland and spring restoration and protection work completed from this prioritization list includes work on the La Jara Wetland Restoration, Bear Wallow Park Springs, and Shush Ken Fen projects. The Conoco Lake Habitat Improvement Project was completed, resulting in enhanced shoreline, access, and vegetative structure. Key projects that came in significantly below cost estimates included the initial designs for the instream work and stream access projects on Whitewater Creek and Rio Bonito. In fact, final engineered designs for both projects were also accomplished under this prioritization due to lower costs. Projects in this prioritization improved wildlife habitat connectivity in the Little Hatchet Mountains, the Brokeoff Mountains, the Macho Landscape, and the Taos Plateau through fence removal and conversion to wildlife-friendly fence.

The Statewide Water renovations project was the subject of considerable debate during the August 2022 prioritization meeting and was modified by formal CAC vote in a number of ways, primarily the reduction of the total number of renovations that would be performed as part of the project. Further logistical complications with contracting the work and increasing costs arose following the meeting. The project did result in completion of two water renovations in areas of the state with limited surface water: Candy Well Trick Tank on the Quemado Ranger District, and the Fort Stanton BLM Wildlife Water. The Candy Well Trick Tank was renovated through a contractor, while HSP funds were used to purchase and deliver all of the necessary materials to the Roswell BLM who conducted the rebuild of the Fort Stanton Wildlife Water.





Table 1. FY23 Habitat Stamp Projects and budget expenditures. The surplus will carryover for future projects that are prioritized by the CAC. (F) or (W) in the Project Name column indicates if the project was designated as a Fish Project (F) or a Wildlife Project (W). In FY23, the initial budget for Habitat Stamp funds was \$1,500,000. FY24 numbers pending final Department audit approval.

Project Name	CAC Rank	Federal Partner	Initial Estimate	FY23 Expenditures	FY24 Expenditures	Remaining Budget (\$1,500,000 Initial)	Status
Whitewater Creek Designs (F)	1	Gila NF	\$100,000	\$12,154.22	\$27,003.48	\$1,460,842.30	Complete
Rio Bonito Designs (F)	2	Roswell BLM	\$100,000	\$11,971.00	\$33,635.70	\$1,415,235.60	Complete
La Jara Wetland Restoration (W)	3	Santa Fe NF	\$300,000	\$167,526.42	\$54,483.76	\$1,193,225.42	Complete
Little Hatchet Mountains Habitat Connectivity (W)	4	Las Cruces BLM	\$43,000	\$45,112.70	\$0.00	\$1,148,112.72	Complete
Grindstone Riparian Habitat Improvement (W)	5	Lincoln NF	\$30,000	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,148,112.72	Cancelled by USFS
Bear Wallow Park Springs (W)	6	Gila NF	\$100,000	\$92,135.73	\$0.00	\$1,055,976.99	Complete
Carlsbad Natural Springs (W)	7	Carlsbad BLM	\$125,000	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,055,976.99	Cancelled by BLM
Statewide Water Renovaitons (W)	8	BLM/USFS	\$120,000	\$14,500.81	\$110,861.83	\$930,614.35	Complete
Conoco Lake Habitat Improvement (F)	9	Carlsbad BLM	\$34,000	\$33,800.00	\$0.00	\$896,814.35	Complete
Brokeoff Mountain Habitat Connectivity (W)	10	Las Cruces BLM	\$100,000	\$108,039.92	\$0.00	\$788,774.43	Complete
Macho Landscape Habitat Connectivity (W)	11	Roswell BLM	\$125,000	\$154,300.53	\$0.00	\$634,473.90	Complete
Taos Plateau Habitat Connectivity (W)	12	Taos BLM	\$120,000	\$131,737.92	\$0.00	\$502,735.98	Complete
Shush Ken Fen Habitat Conservation (W)	13	Cibola NF	\$136,000	\$75,785.63	\$0.00	\$426,950.35	Complete
Mertz Ranch Ponderosa Thinning (W)	14	Rio Puerco BLM	\$150,000	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$426,950.35	Cancelled by BLM
Reserve Ranger District Firescape Planning (W)	15	Gila NF	\$150,000	\$26,748.14	\$6,681.49	\$393,520.72	Cancelled by USFS
Black Mesa Habitat Restoration (W)	16	Cibola NF	\$150,000	\$59,023.40	\$0.00	\$334,497.32	Complete
IC Grant Conservation (W)	17	Rio Puerco BLM	\$125,000	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$334,497.32	Cancelled by BLM
Seven Springs Restoration (W)	18	Santa Fe NF	\$150,000	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$334,497.32	Cancelled by USFS
Cebolla Creek Habitat Conservation (W)	x	Rio Puerco BLM	\$150,000	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$334,497.32	Consideration by CAC Vote
				\$932,836.42	\$232,666.26		