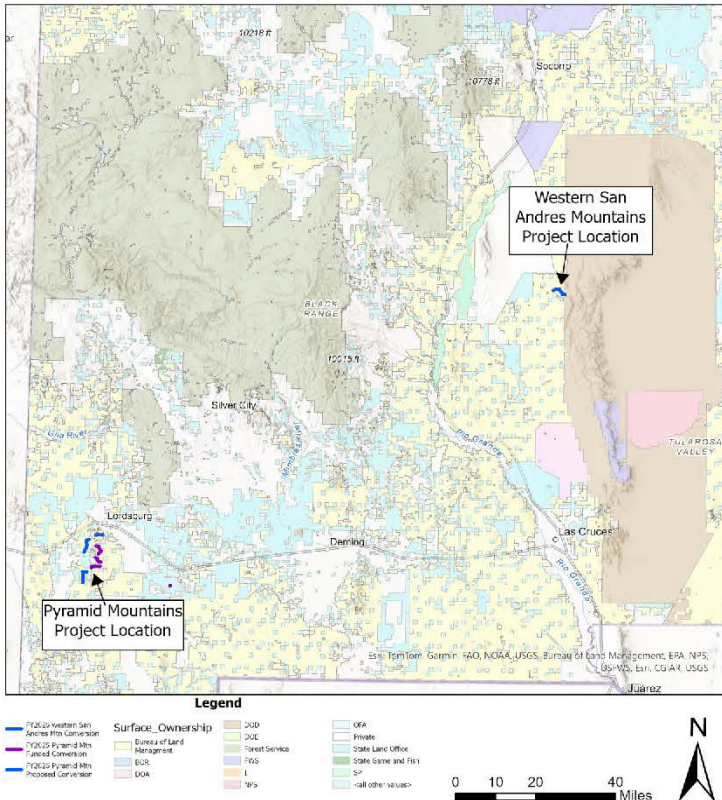




## Southwest New Mexico Wildlife Connectivity Project Locations



# Southwest Wildlife Habitat Connectivity Project

## Background Information

- The Las Cruces BLM has made it a priority to convert relic sheep net-wire fencing to wildlife friendly fencing throughout the district allowing for wildlife to move more freely across the landscape.
- One area of conversion has been taking place in the Bootheel in the Pyramid Mountain Range, south of Lordsburg. Last year the CAC prioritized 7 miles for conversion on BLM lands. The state land office prioritized 2 miles in the same area. Additionally, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers completed 1.25 miles of fence removal in the same reach. There have been an additional 10 miles identified in this mountain range for conversion.
- The second area of conversion proposed is in the western San Andres Mountains, east of Engle. There have been four miles identified for conversion.
- Both of these mountain ranges are popular hunting spots for species such as mule deer, javelina, and quail.

## Proposed Management Action

- NMDGF, along with the BLM, will contract out a construction company to convert 14 miles of net-wire and non wildlife-friendly fence into a four strand wildlife friendly fence.
- Budget Estimate: \$350,000

[Google Earth Link](#)

## Project Contacts

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# SW Wildlife Habitat Connectivity



Photo Credit: Lucas Castro



**Conversion of net-wire and non-wildlife friendly fence into wildlife friendly fence in southwest NM**

# Wildlife Habitat Connectivity

## Project Contacts



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# Challenge?

Fences impact landscape connectivity for wildlife



# Background Info

- The scientific literature has demonstrated that fences, especially net-wire or woven-wire fences, can be a partial or complete barrier to wildlife. Fences that block or impede wildlife movements impact their ability to meet their daily and long term demands for food, water, and cover. The conversion of net-wire fence to wildlife friendly fences improve landscape permeability for all wildlife and especially benefits those species or age classes that avoid or can't jump over the top wire.
  - Additional Challenges:
    - pose an entanglement threat
    - risk separation of young from mother
- Secretarial Order 3362 Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big-Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors repeatedly recommends conversion to wildlife friendly fence
- Collaborative history and trajectory

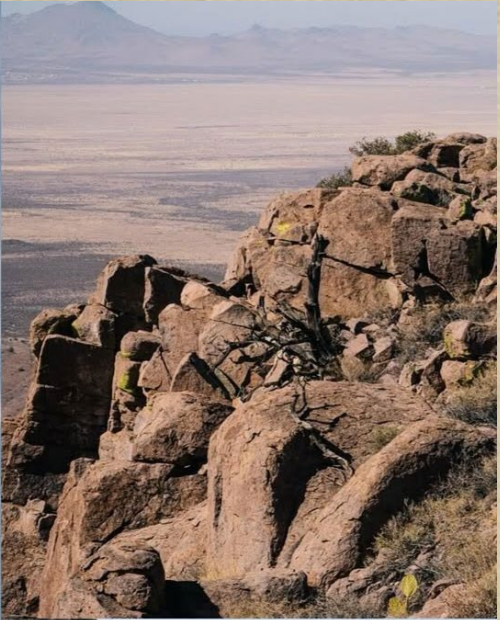


# Background – Southwestern New Mexico rangelands



- Converting net-wire and non-wildlife friendly fence within the Las Cruces BLM district office is a priority for the office
- 10 miles of net-wire and non-wildlife friendly fence have been identified in the Pyramid Mountains, South of Lordsburg
  - Increasing wildlife connectivity in this mountain range has collaborative effort involving the BLM, NMDGF, SLO, and BHA.
  - There are collared pronghorn to the east and north of the Pyramid Mountains.
  - The Pyramids are great habitat for mule deer and javelina
- About 4 miles of net-wire have been identified within the western San Andres mountains, east of Engle, NM
  - These four miles have been identified and are considered a priority
  - Mule deer and other wildlife are in the area
- Improving connectivity to the upland areas in both mountain ranges enhances wildlife access to greater forage, cover, and shade. These uplands often serve as microclimates, offering a refuge from the hotter, drier conditions of the desert lowlands.

# History of Partnership



Last year the CAC prioritized 7 miles of the wildlife connectivity project in the Pyramid Mountains in the Bootheel on BLM lands.

Backcountry hunters & anglers added to the project by removing 1.25 miles of net-wire on Rimrock Mountain, within the Pyramid Mountains. Pictured on the left.

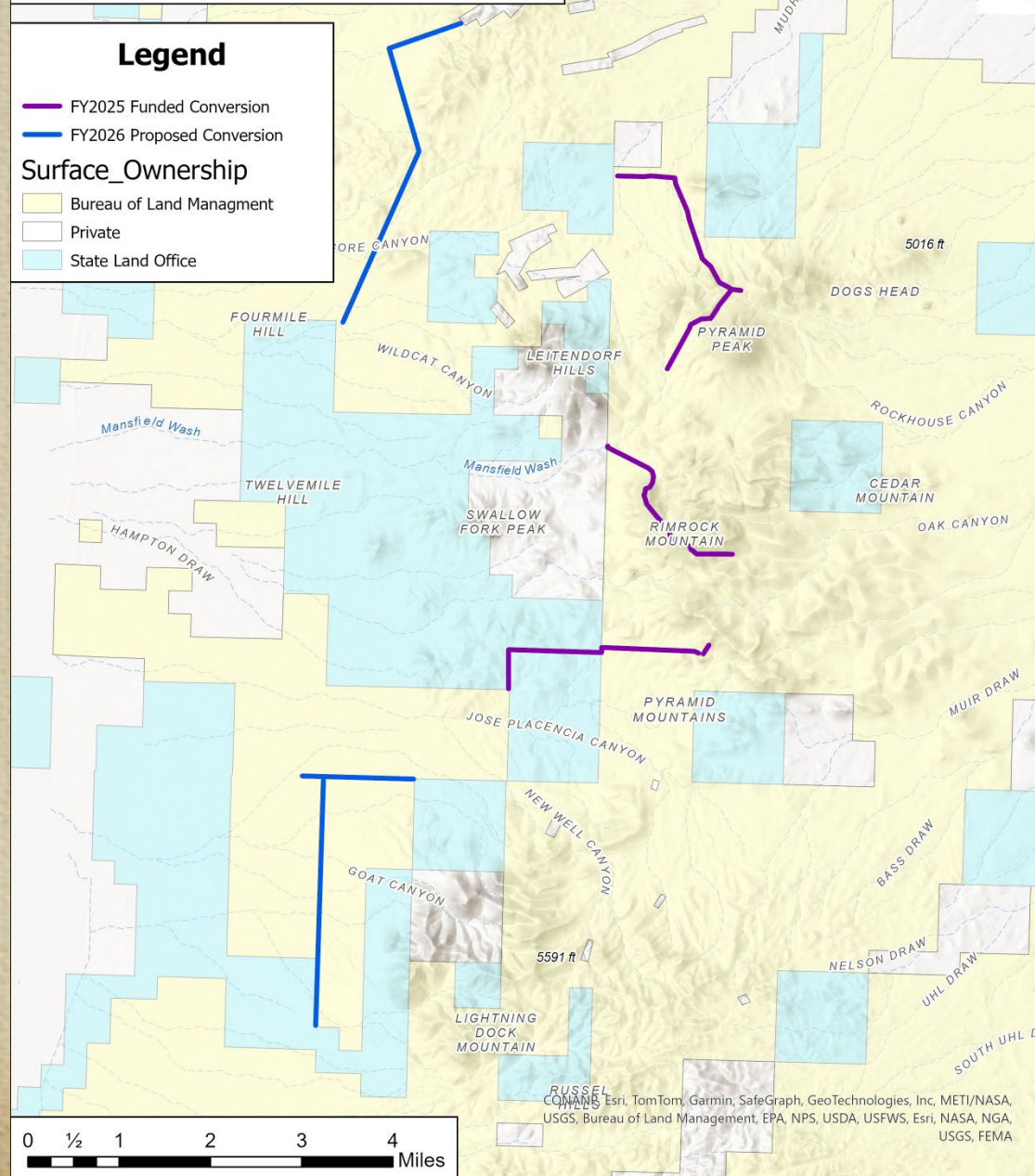
Additionally, the State Land Office approved two more miles in the same mountain range for conversion, helping to improve the connectivity throughout the landscape.

Photo Credit: BHA NM

# Map- Pyramid Mountains



## Bootheel - Pyramid Mountains Wildlife Connectivity Project Location





# Map- western San Andres Mountains

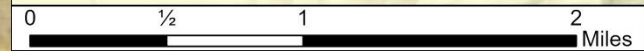
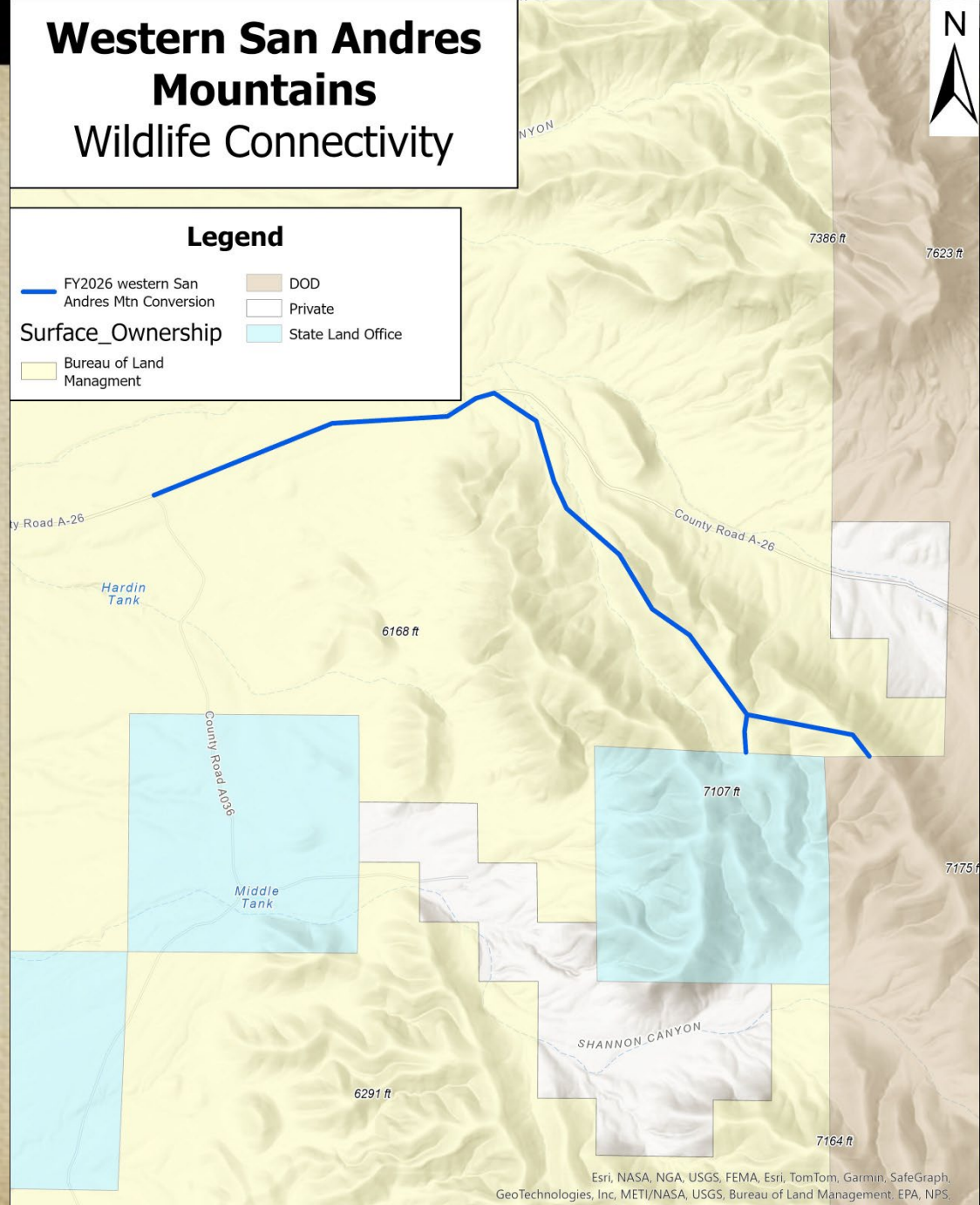


## Western San Andres Mountains Wildlife Connectivity



**Legend**

FY2026 western San Andres Mtn Conversion	DOD
Surface_Ownership	Private
Bureau of Land Management	State Land Office



Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, USFWS

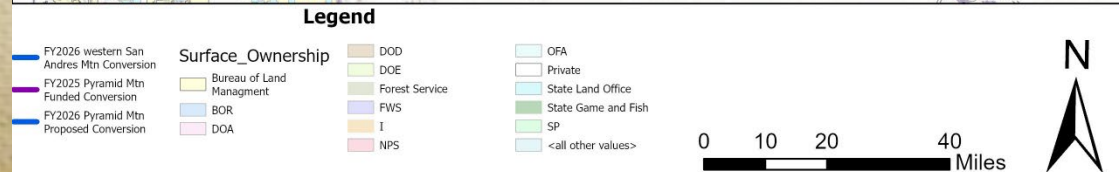
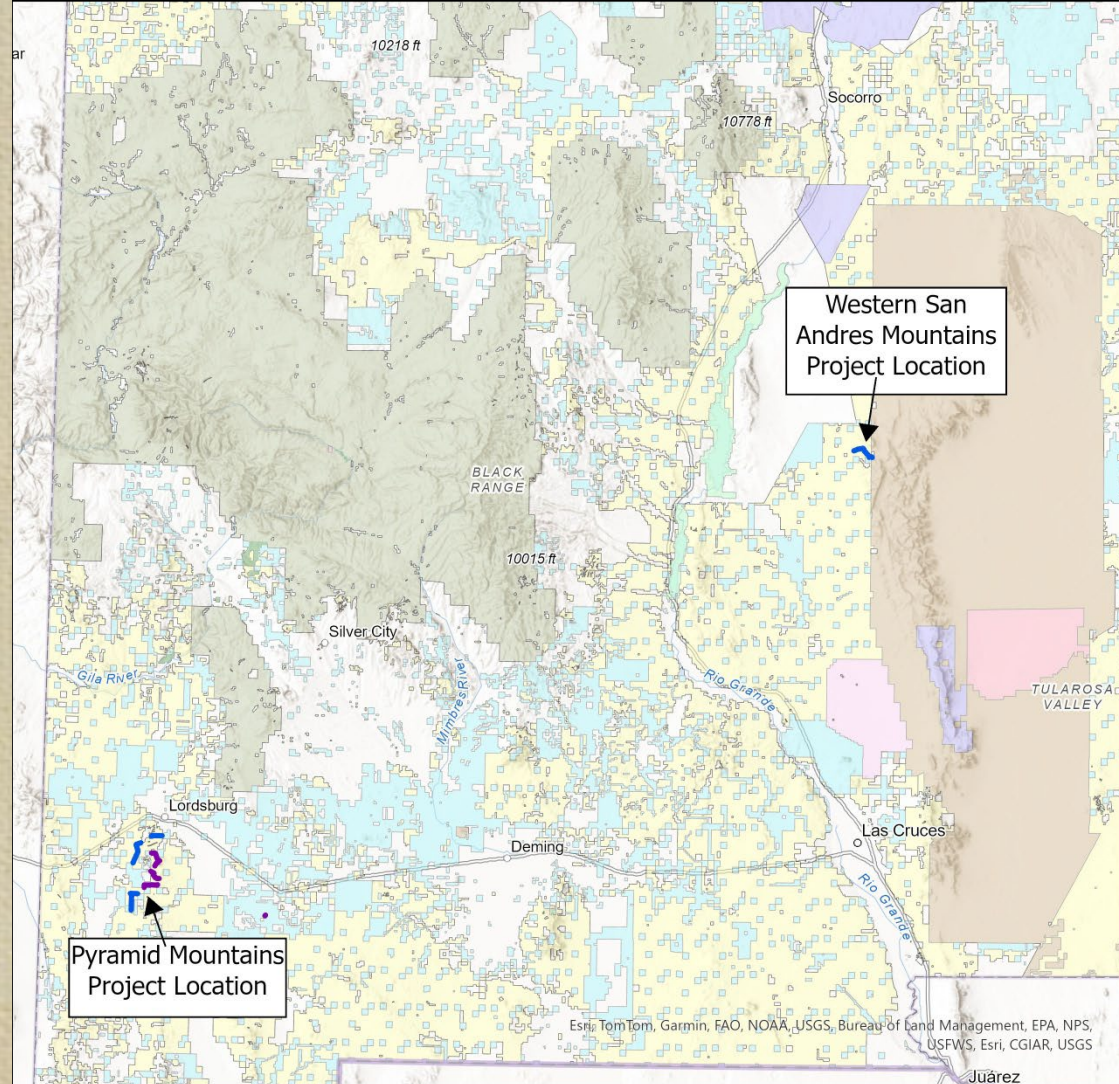
# Summary of Project

Estimated Cost: \$ 350,000

~ 14 miles of conversion across two mountain ranges in the Southwest region of NM



## Southwest New Mexico Wildlife Connectivity Project Locations





Project Name: **Southwest Habitat Connectivity Project**

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Project relation to CAC advice or priorities:

This project benefits a variety of wildlife, such as mule deer, and javelina. By removing 14 miles of sheep fence that restrict wildlife movement in the mountains wildlife will be able to move throughout the landscape easier and reach areas where forage and cover are still thriving. They will be able to escape predators more easily, have less risk of entanglement in the fence, and family groups will be able to stay together.

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Project Specific Details:

This project is a priority for the Las Cruces BLM District Office, as well as for the Department of Wildlife. 10 miles of relic sheep fencing will be converted into wildlife friendly fence in the Pyramid Mountains, one of the important areas for javelina and deer hunting. An additional four miles will be converted in the western San Andres Mountains, as well. Both of these fence conversion areas are in the mountains, which have increased forage and water availability than the lower rangeland desert.

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Historical Data:

Sheep fencing, or net-wire fencing, is a relic of previous sheep grazing that use to occur in the state. However, sheep grazing no longer exists in many areas but these fences are still up and creating wildlife barriers. Las Cruces BLM District Office has made converting the sheep fencing into wildlife friendly a priority for the area. Last year, in this same mountain range, the CAC prioritized 7 miles of conversion, the State Land Office prioritized 2 miles of conversion, and Backcountry Hunters and Anglers removed 1.25 miles.

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Itemized Use of Funds:

Net-wire Fence removal and disposal off-site - \$50,000  
Wildlife Friendly Fence installation (wire, braces, labor, etc) - \$300,000  
Mobilization - \$5,000  
Total: \$350,000 for 14 miles of conversion

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Comprehensive Project Analysis:

The scientific literature has demonstrated that fences, especially net-wire or woven-wire fences, can be a partial or complete barrier to wildlife. Fences that block or impede wildlife movements impact their ability to meet their daily and long term demands for food, water, and cover. The conversion of net-wire fence to wildlife friendly fences improve landscape permeability for all wildlife and especially benefits those species or age classes that avoid or can't jump over the top wire.

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Monitoring Plan/ Strategy:

The Las Cruces BLM District Office is committed to converting these old sheep fences into wildlife friendly fences. The range staff, along with the wildlife staff, have been working with permittees to ensure that they are supportive of the projects and will ensure that any fence conversion will continue to be wildlife friendly. Additionally, Las Cruces BLM office and NMSU are currently collaborating on research project that is looking at identifying problematic barriers for pronghorn around Lordsburg and Hatchita. This could help inform projects in the future.

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Project Emphasis Species:

Mule Deer and Javelina

