

New Mexico Office of Natural Resources Trustee

Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration of Chromium-6 Groundwater Contamination at LANL

Radioactive & Hazardous Materials Committee
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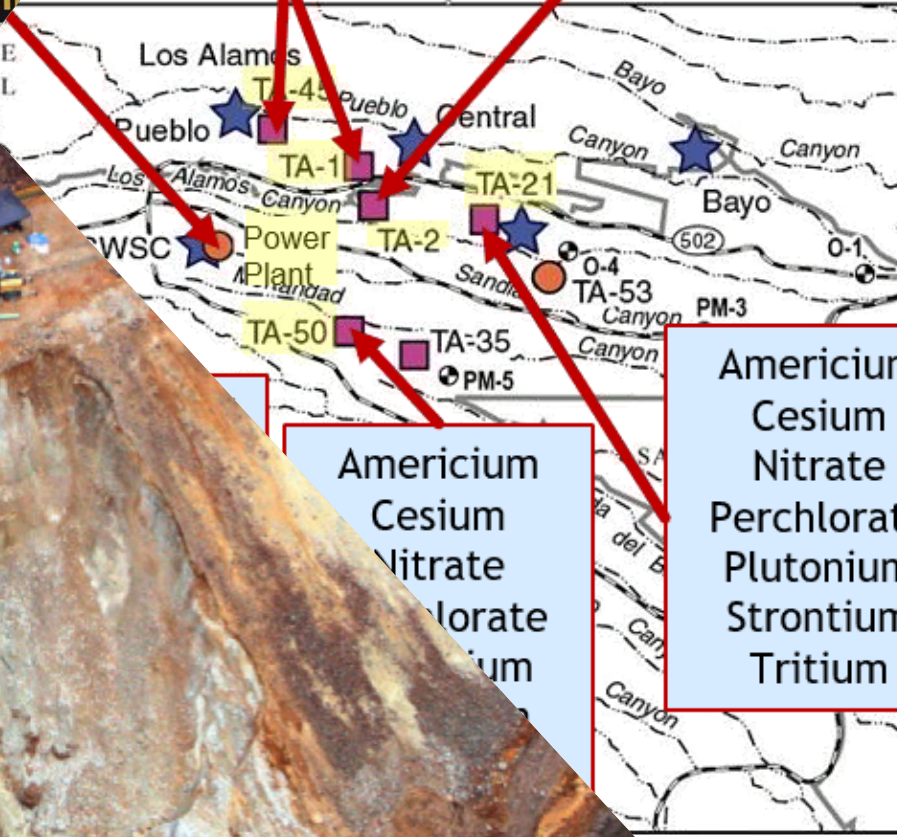
ONRT Mission

Restore natural resources and the services they provide when they have been injured by the release of hazardous substances or oil



Nitrate
Perchlorate
Plutonium
Strontium
Tritium

Tritium



ONRT Mission

Under federal and state law, natural resource restoration is an essential component of the State's authority to hold polluters accountable.

When toxic substances pollute water, wildlife, fish, habitat, soils and other natural resources, laws require the party responsible to:

- clean up contamination to protect public health and the environment,
- restore natural resources to the way they were, pre-contamination, and
- compensate communities for lost natural resources and the services they provide - including cultural services
- ONRT's role established by:
 - New Mexico Natural Resources Trustee Act [NMSA 1978, §§ 75-7-1 et seq]
 - Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) [42 USC §§ 9601 et seq]
 - Oil Pollution Act of 1990 [33 USC §§ 2701 et seq]
 - Federal Water Pollution Control Act or Clean Water Act of 1972 [33 USC §§1321 et seq]

Natural Resources Trustee Role

After hazardous substances are released into the environment, response is shared:



NM Environment Department

Remediation:

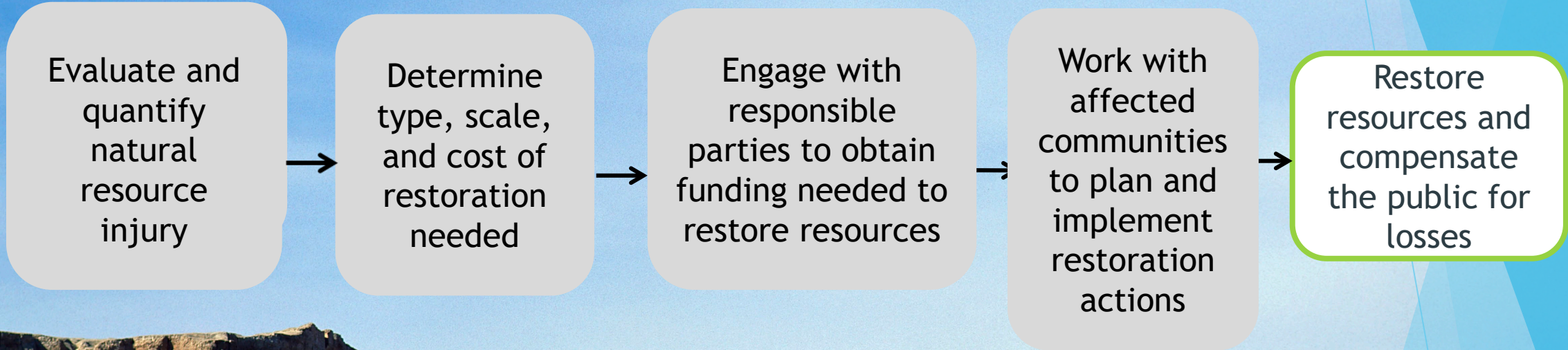
- Identify and characterize the release
- Require responsible party to clean up to protect public health and the environment

NM Natural Resources Trustee

Restoration:

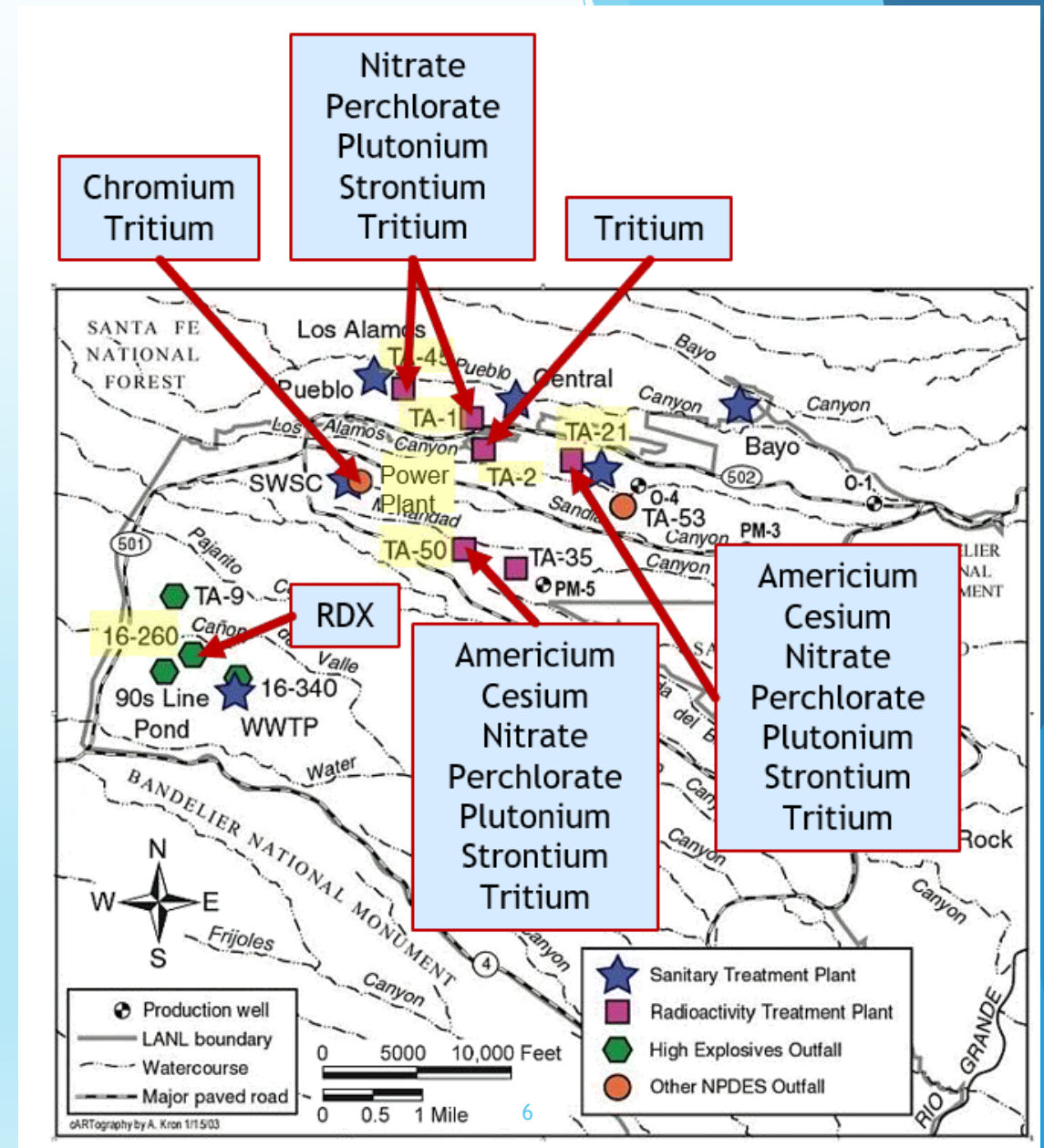
- Returning affected natural resources to pre-contamination condition
- If that's not possible, replacing or acquiring equivalent resources
- Ensuring that communities are compensated for the loss of natural resources AND loss of use of those resources and the services they provide.

Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR)



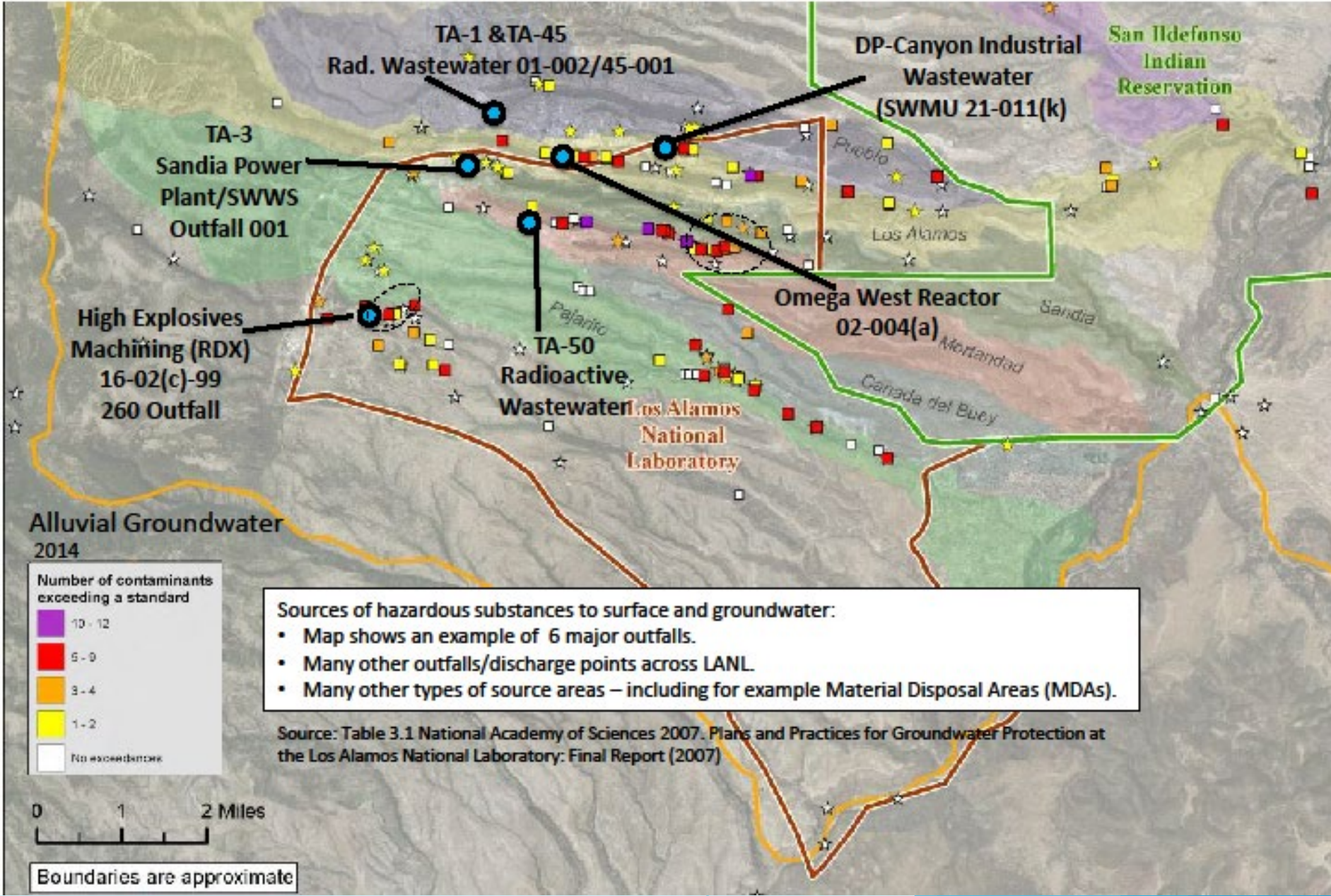
LANL Natural Resource Damage Assessment

- Injuries:
 - **groundwater**, soils, surface water, and sediments contaminated with radiological substances, metals, and organic compounds
 - cultural service losses
- US Department of Energy is Potentially Responsible Party
- Co-Trustees
 - ONRT
 - Pueblo de San Ildefonso
 - Pueblo de Cochiti
 - Pueblo of Jemez
 - Santa Clara Pueblo
 - U.S. Forest Service
 - US DOE
- Status: Cooperative Damage Assessment
 - Cleanup and decommissioning ongoing
 - Damage Assessment Plan was completed in 2014
 - Implementing the assessment activities described in that plan
 - Early restoration working group
- Next steps
 - Complete injury assessment work and estimate damages
 - Begin settlement discussions with DOE

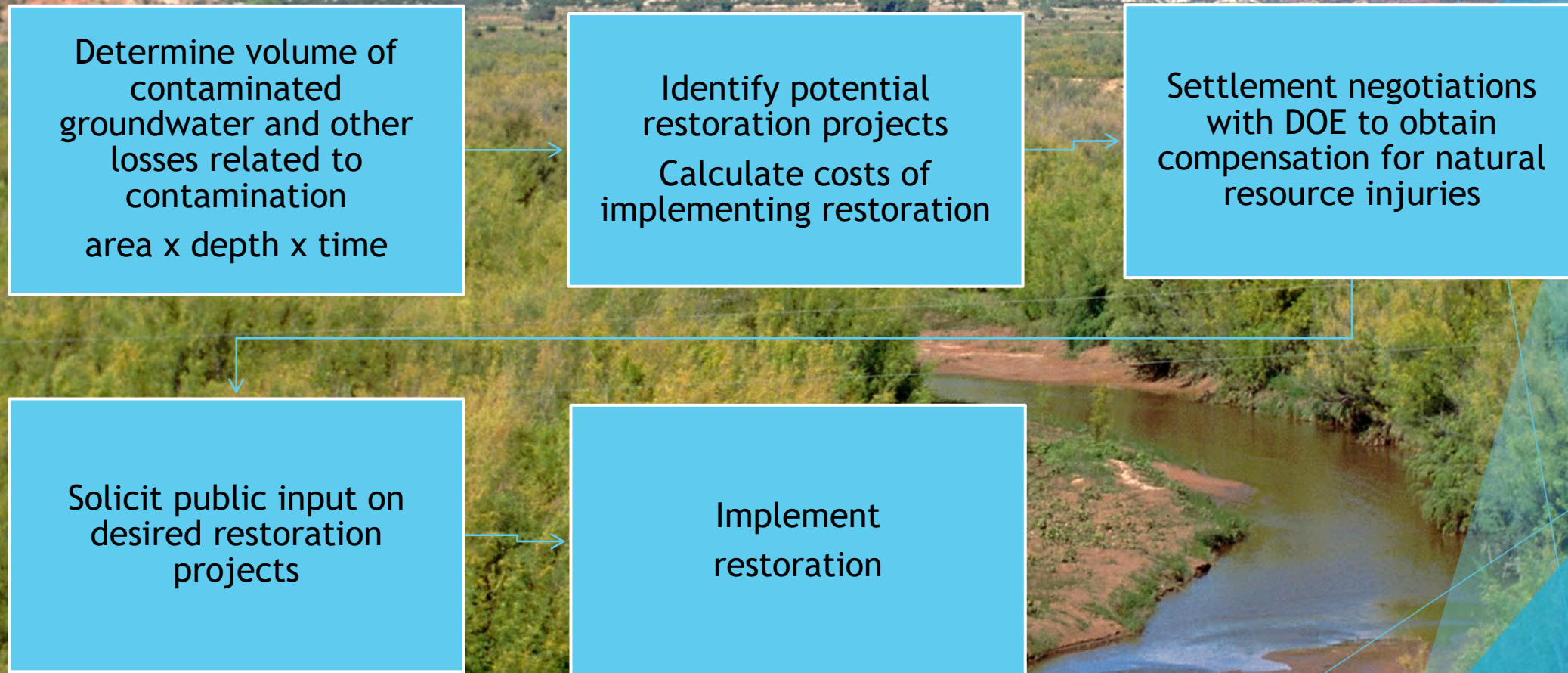


Sources Example: Historic & Current Outfalls

Hazardous Substances Released at LANL



LANL Groundwater NRDAR



Groundwater Damage Assessment

Injuries

- Groundwater contamination
- Loss of use of water
- Cultural losses associated with water use
- Impact on drinking water wells

Restoration Options

- Groundwater
 - Protection
 - Recharge/enhancement
 - Conservation
 - Enhanced cleanup to pre-spill condition

Early Restoration

- LANL NRD Trustee Council identified early restoration as a priority objective
- LANL established an early restoration study group to identify and evaluate early restoration opportunities
- Benefits include:
 - timely restoration of resources
 - timely restoration of use of resources
 - cost savings



Questions?

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