

Wildlife & Conservation

Water and Natural Resources Committee Meeting September 30, 2026

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What is Conservation?

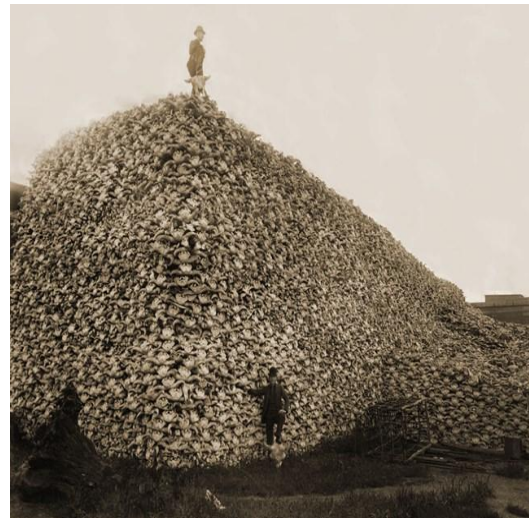
- The protection, preservation, management, or restoration of natural environments and the ecological communities that inhabit them.

Examples of Conservation

- Saving and conserving water during a drought



- Saving a species from extinction



ONE TURNER MISSION:

We sustainably conserve and restore land and biodiversity while inspiring people to do the same.



We are *the* foremost model for conserving wild, *working* landscapes.

Land Operations Group

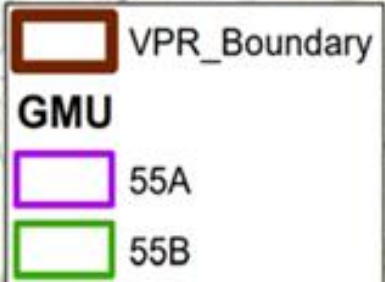
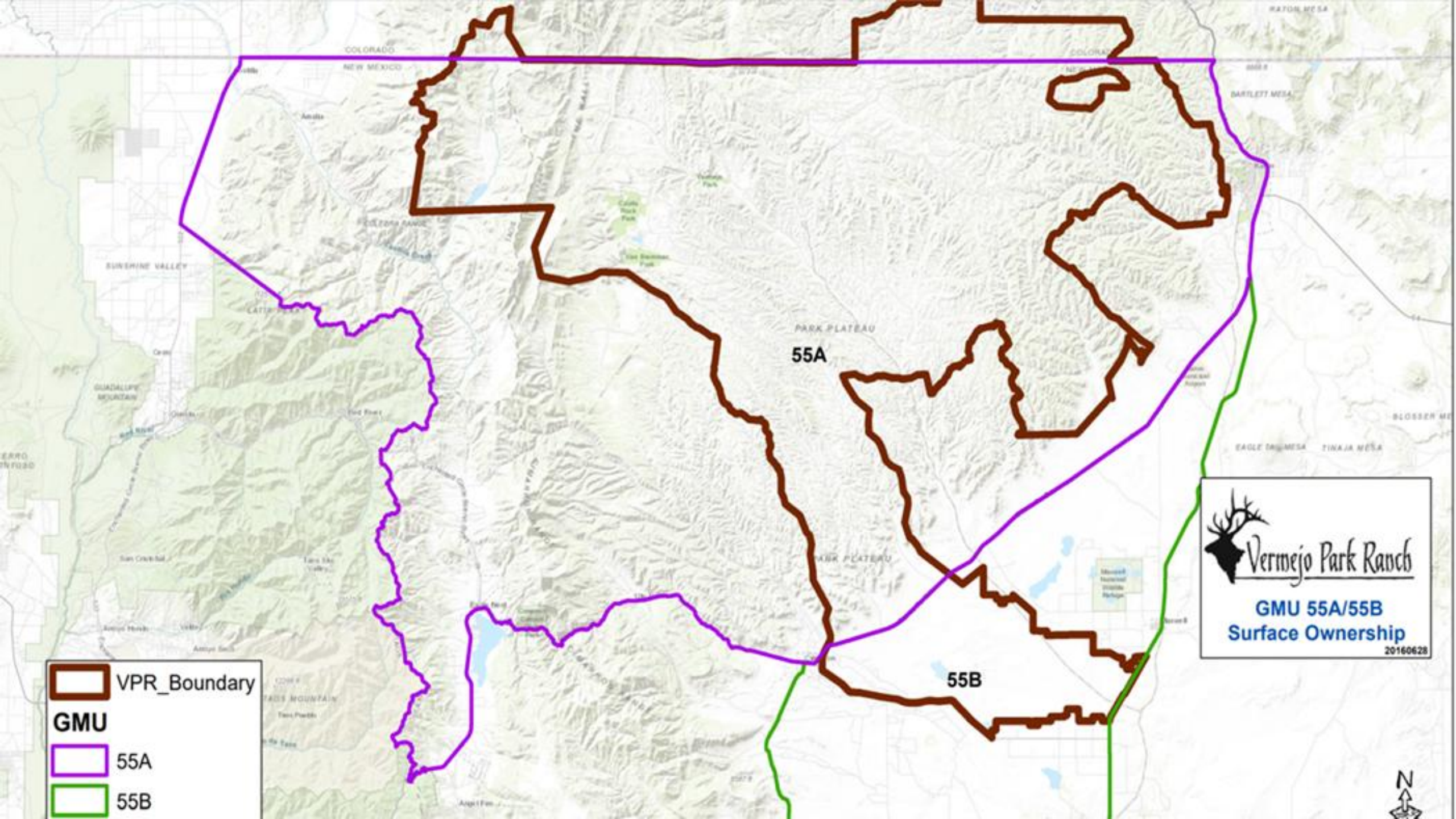
Manage Lands in an economically sustainable and ecologically sensitive manner while promoting the conservation of native species and habitats.

Turner Institute of Ecoagriculture

Research, Practice, and Disseminate sustainable strategies and techniques for conserving ecosystems, agriculture and rural communities.

Vermejo Natural Resources

Enhance ecosystem health through Applied Research, Action, and Demonstration.



 **Vermejo Park Ranch**

GMU 55A/55B
Surface Ownership

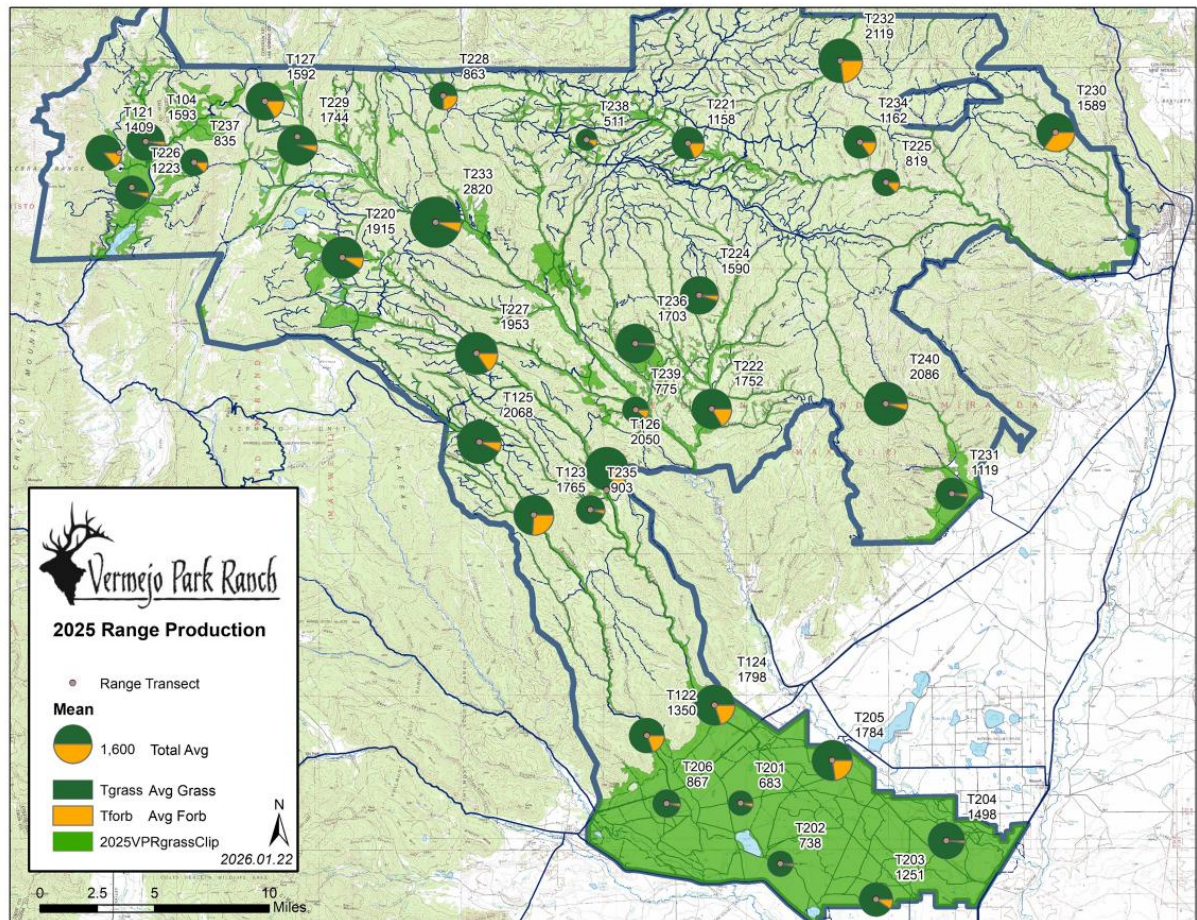
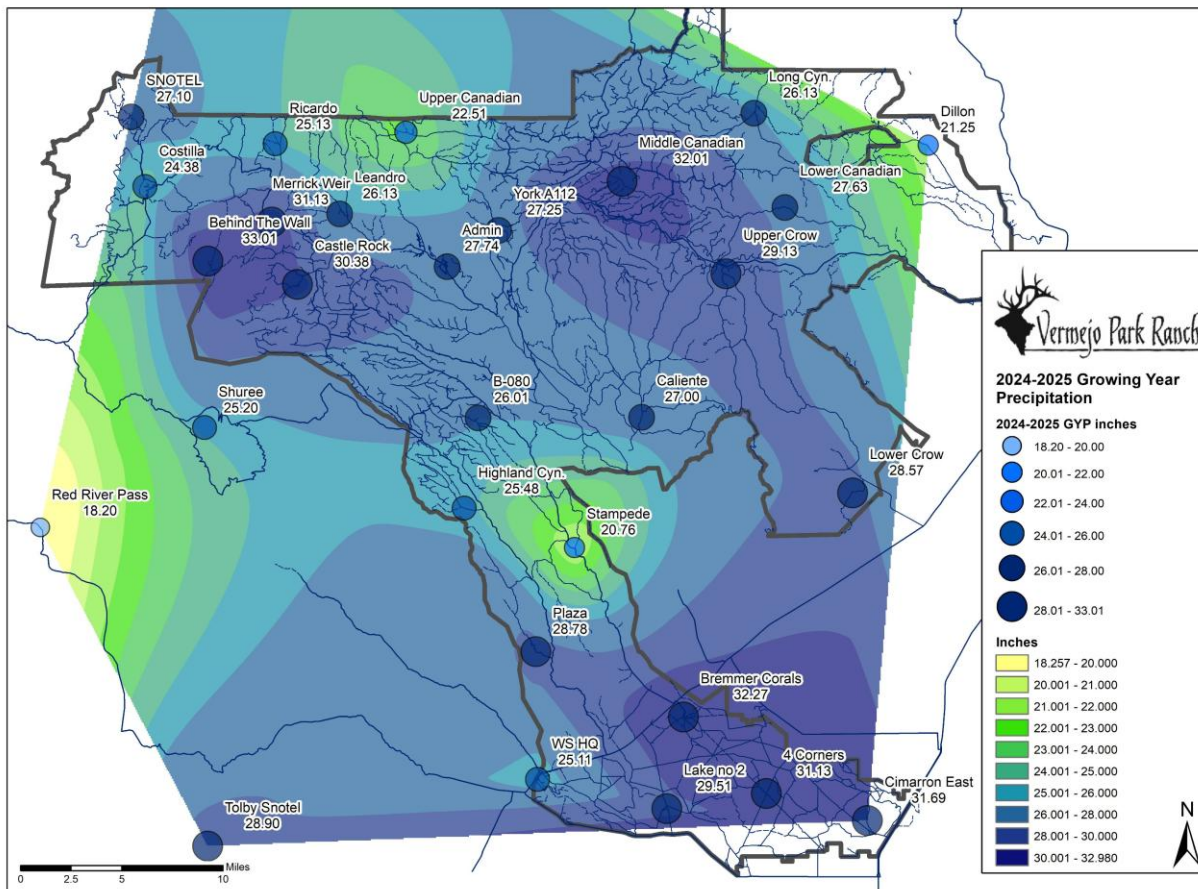
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Land based management by managing for all species for the average dry year



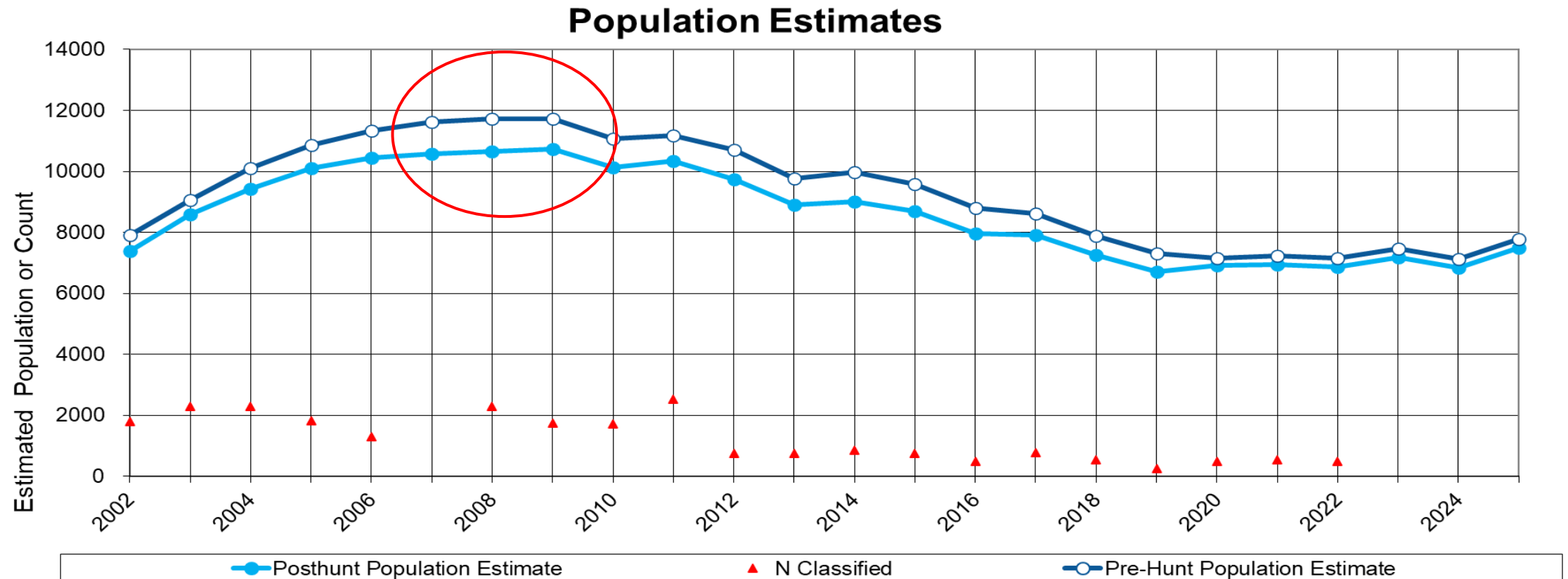


		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total observed		556	256	504	582	475	577	404	671
TOTAL CLASSIFIED		539	253	485	550	475	518	404	659
Calf:Cow		21.0	21.0	27.9	23.4	21.8	29.6	18.8	36.3
TotalBull:Cow		54.1	30.1	85.7	74.5	55.2	42.3	39.2	57.0
Spike:Cow		0.02950	0.02238	0.04780	0.07554	0.04980	0.061	0.036	0.064
2yrBull:Cow		0.10491	0.17164	0.07569	0.08633	0.14559	0.0824	0.08	0.131
3yrs+Bull:Co w		0.44262	0.48507	0.52988	0.65827	0.40613	0.34	0.312	0.451
300+Bull:Cow		0.252459	0.268657	0.250996	0.255396	0.218391	0.182	0.14	0.286

Valle Vidal	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Calf:Cow	22	22	19	12	9	27	30
Bull:Cow	28	44	20	N/A	27	43	71
Spike:Co w	3	5	N/A	N/A	5	8	19
Total Observed :	451	171	643	N/A	324	196	345

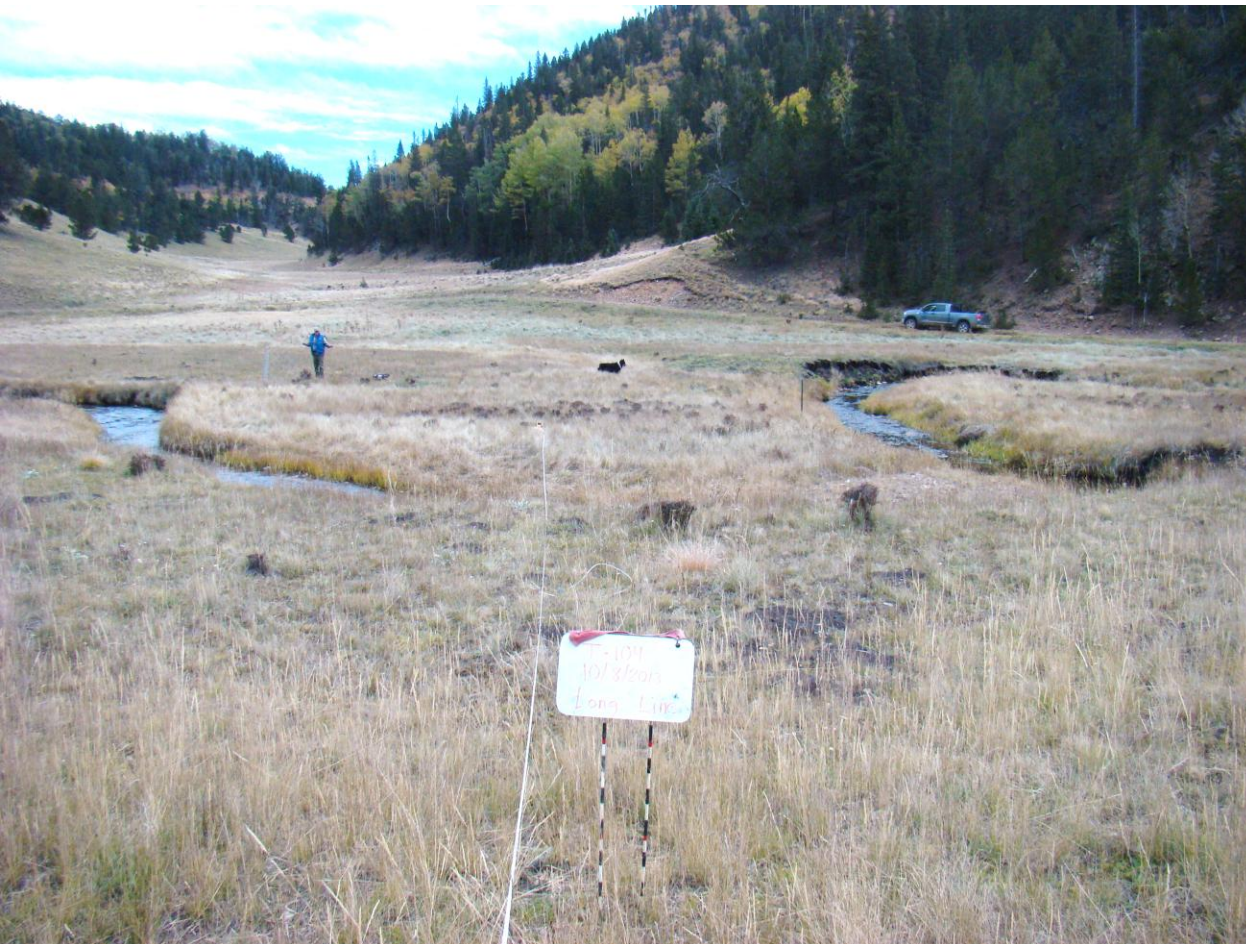
Elk Population

- Vermejo's data set goes back 40+years
- 7000-7500
 - Based on the 2025 fall survey ratios: Mature Bull:Cow, 45:100; Calf:Cow. 36:100



Changes in Range Condition

October 2013



October 2025



Change in Riparian Woody Vegetation in 10 years.

2011

2021



2013 Exc. D



2022 Exc. D



Forestry



Rain Catchment/Wildlife Guzzler

➡ Since 2022 VPR's Natural Resources Department along with the Bison Department and Maintenance have placed 3 Rain Catchments on the southern portions of VPR



Veterans Hunt Experience

- For 20+ years, Vermejo has hosted Veteran's hunts (~20 Veteran Hunters, over 400 veterans over that time period)



NMDOW – Hunter Education Youth Hunting Experiences

- 20+ years partnership
- Youth Cow Elk Hunt-In 2025, 7 youth, ages 13-17, 5 boys and 2 girls. There was also a female Hunter Education Instructor from Taos that was drawn for this cow hunt as well.
- Youth Duck Hunt- In 2025, 5 youth and 5 adults participated (replaced the youth doe pronghorn hunt)





Interested Vermejo Employees are given one antlerless elk authorization that can be used personally, or be given to family or friends





EPLUS Conservation Outcomes & Impacts on Hunting and Wildlife in New Mexico

Hear directly from New Mexico landowners about how **EPLUS** is shaping ranching operations, conservation practices, and elk management.

Explore how the program supports **working lands, healthy elk populations, and hunting opportunities across New Mexico.**

Scan the QR code to register.
Everyone is welcome to join this FREE webinar!



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