

RIO GRANDE AGRICULTURAL LAND TRUST

*Our mission is to protect land
and water for people and wildlife
in New Mexico – forever.*



*Water & Natural Resources Committee
August 31, 2026*

Building and Strengthening Partnerships in the Middle Rio Grande

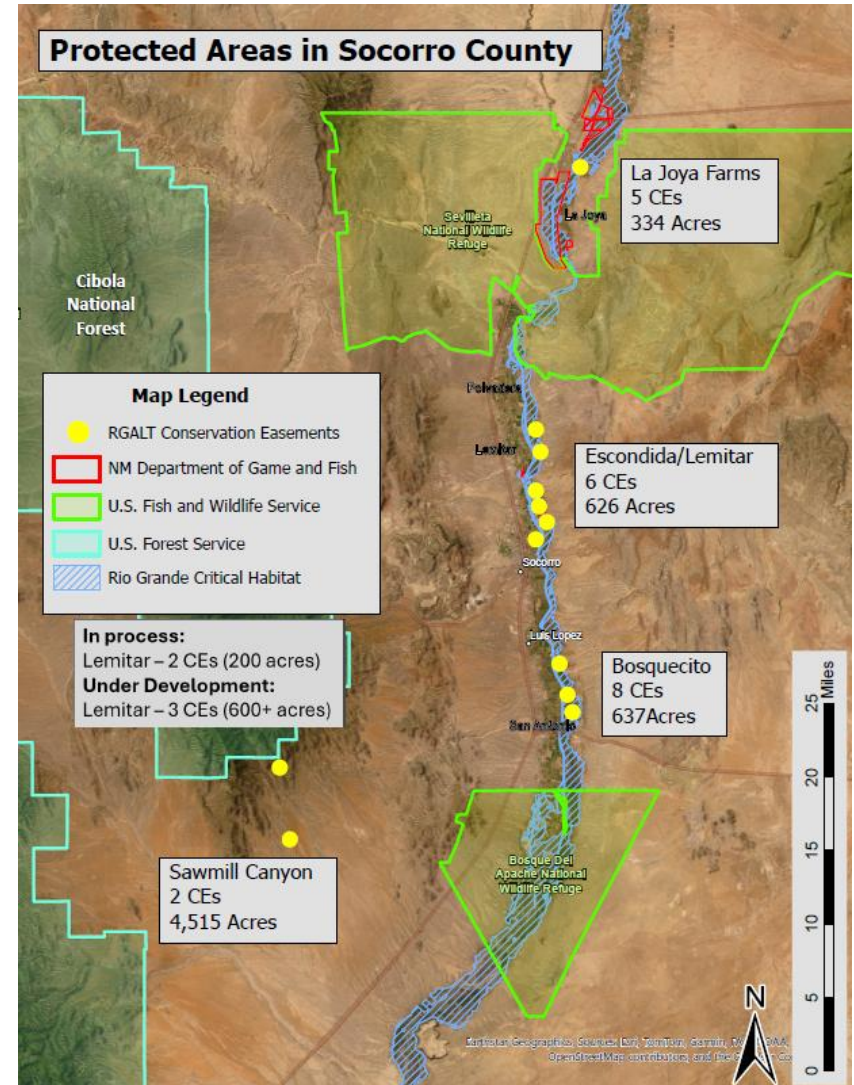
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RGALT's work is focused on conveying conservation easements. A conservation easement protects land from development, limits or prevents subdivision, and keeps water rights tied to the land. We achieve our work by partnering with private landowners, government agencies, conservation nonprofits, and community stakeholders.

Much of the riparian area south of San Acacia is privately owned and not confined behind a levee. Natural river processes such as overbank flooding can still occur here. Socorro County has no zoning restrictions – development can happen anywhere.



The Rio Grande in 2023 near Bosquecito. RGALT conservation easements protect over 700 acres of riparian habitat on the east side of the river.





The bosque contains a large amount of non-native Saltcedar and Russian olive trees that choke out native plants, prevent access, and are prone to wildfires.

This area is home to:

- Southwestern willow-flycatcher
- Western yellow-billed cuckoo
- Pecos sunflower
- Rio Grande silvery minnow

Our goals:

- Protect land in the floodplain from development
- Restore protected lands
- Let the river act naturally
- Reduce wildfire threats

Some of our local partners:

- Private landowners
- MRGCD
- Socorro SWCD
- Socorro County
- SOBTF
- State of New Mexico (EMNRD / State Forestry)
- Conservation nonprofits (World Wildlife Fund, Audubon Southwest)



Ongoing saltcedar removal and restoration of native saltgrass meadows on RGALT's conservation easement properties in Bosquecito.

- Socorro County
- Socorro SWCD
- Save Our Bosque Task Force
- Private landowners



Completing a conservation easement is not the end of RGALT's involvement – it's just the beginning!

RGALT oversees the long-term stewardship of conserved properties and helps connect landowners with technical and financial assistance opportunities for restoration and wildlife habitat improvement.



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