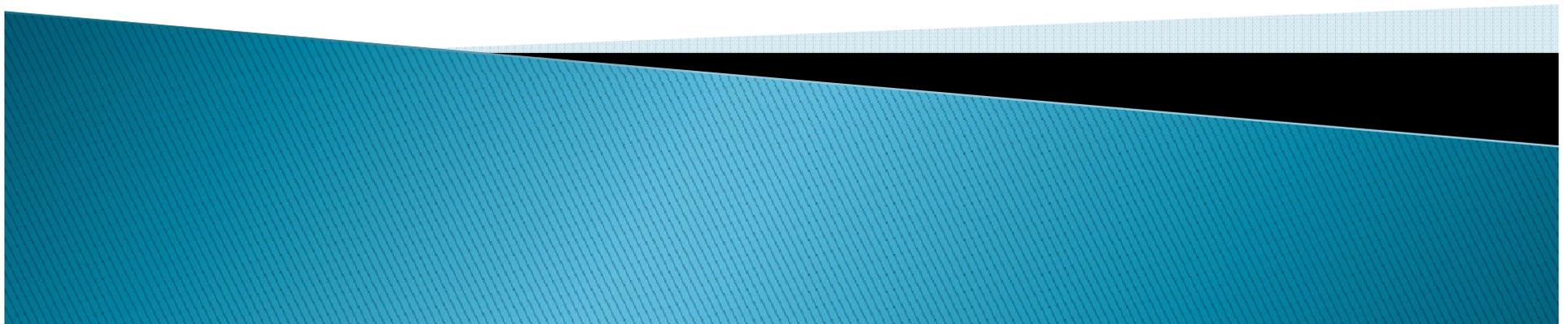


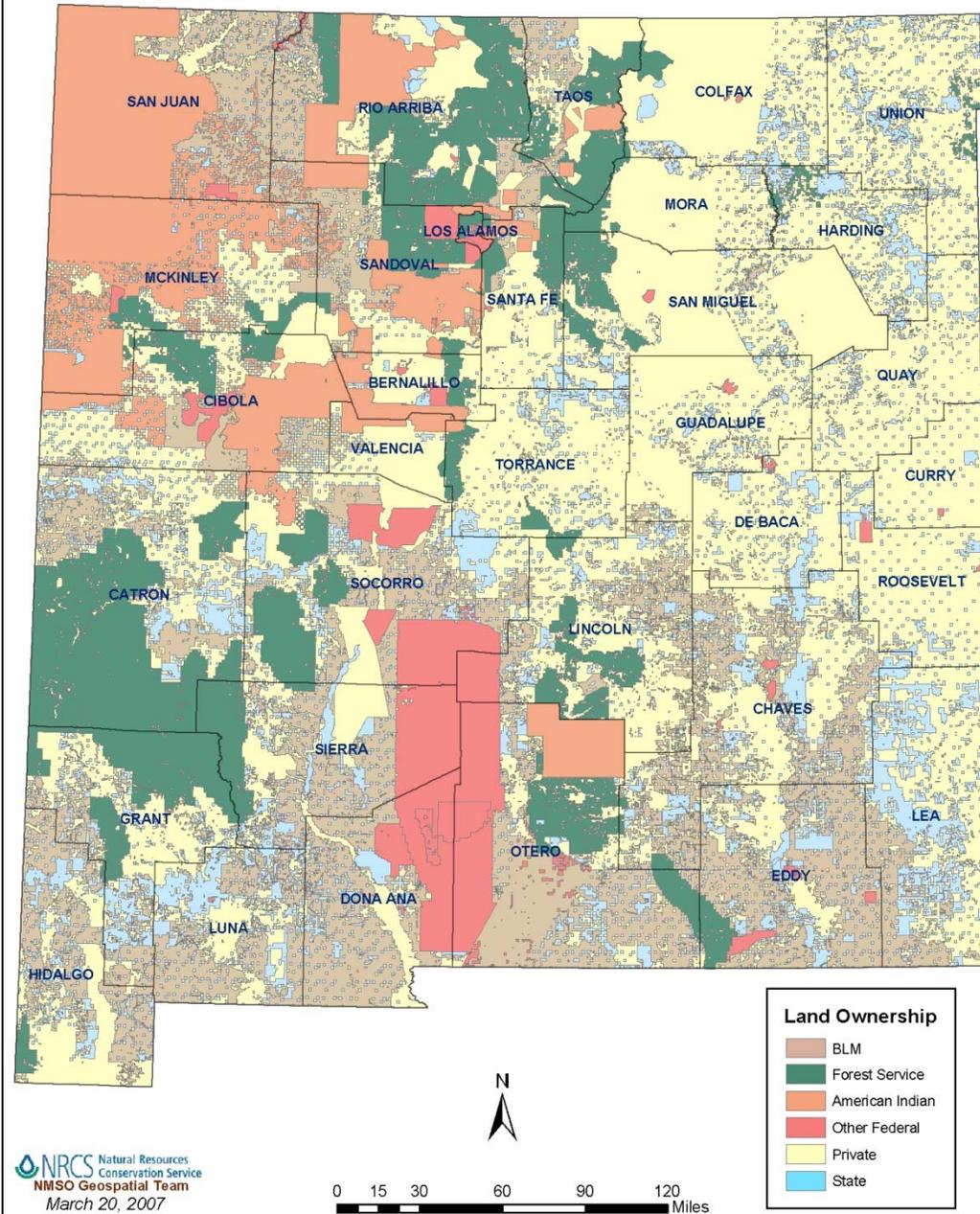


RESTORE NEW MEXICO PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Debbie Hughes, NMACD Executive Director



New Mexico Land Ownership



The Setting

- The Land of Enchantment
- Land Status
 - Fed 40%
 - USFS 20%
 - BLM 17%
 - State 17%
 - Tribal 10%
 - Private 33%
- Rangeland—major land use
- Wildlife Abound
- Oil and Gas Development
- Diverse Land Ownership for most Ranches.
- (Dunes Sagebrush Lizard (DSL) exists on private, state, & BLM)

Improving the habitat of the Dunes Sagebrush Lizard is one of our goals!

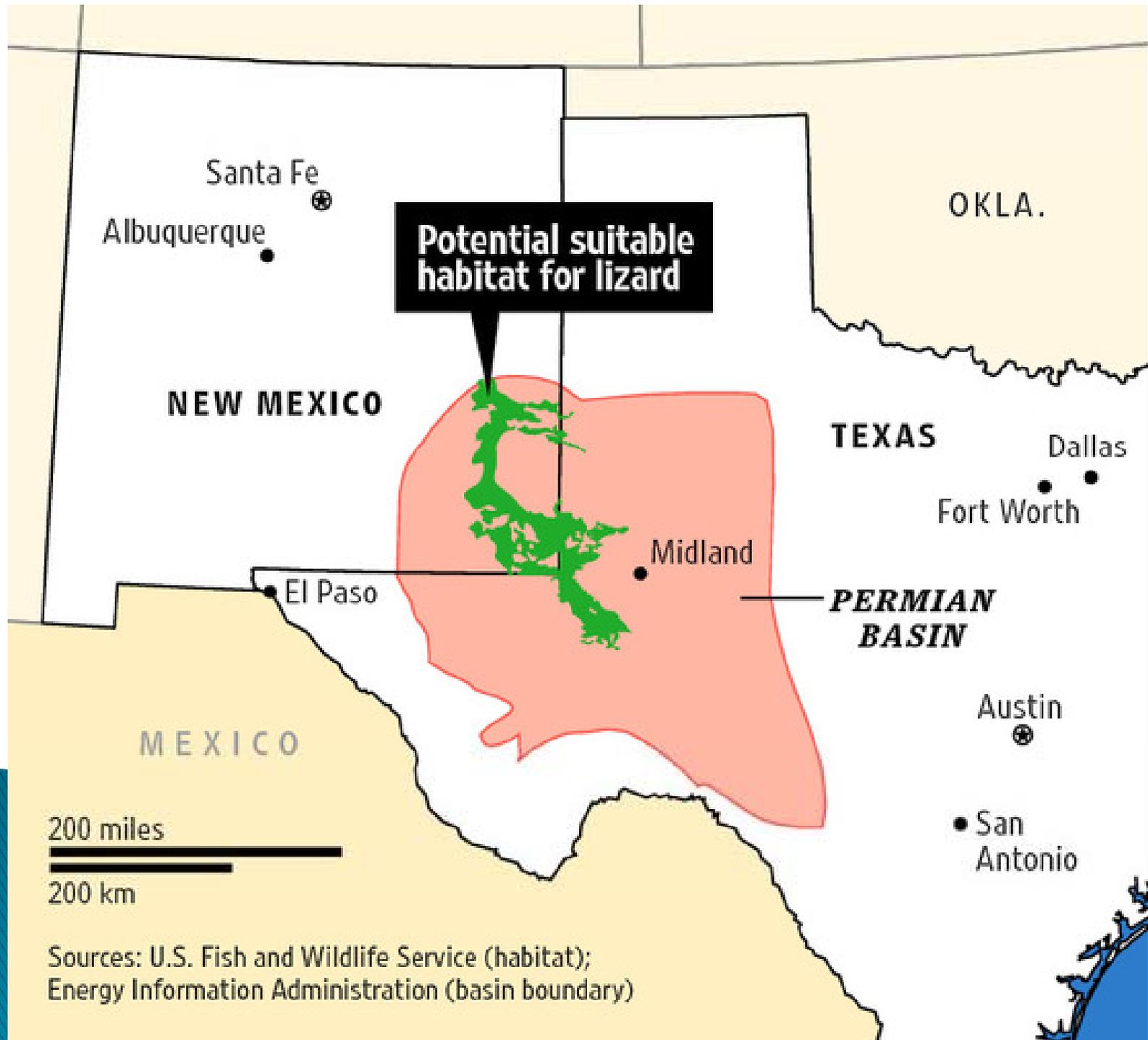




Background



- 1998** F&WS determination
LPC Warranted but precluded
- 2001** DSL Warranted but precluded
- 2003** Collaborative Working Group
begins
- 2004** RMP-A Initiated
- 2008** CCA/CCAA established
- 12/2010** DSL Proposed Rule for Listing

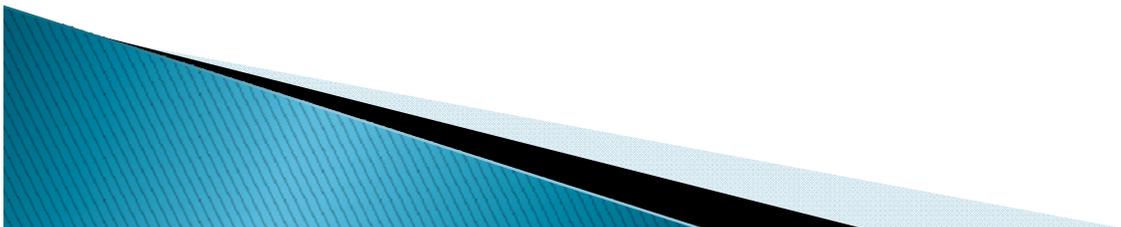


HISTORY- Impetus- 2005

NRCS- EQIP 1.5 million for federal lands

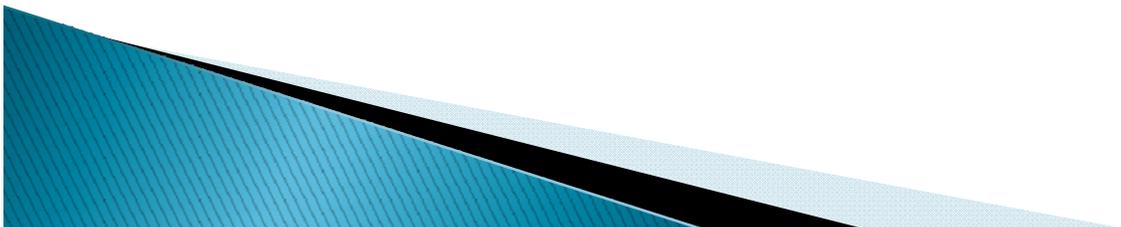
BLM received 1.25 million

NMACD develops Coordinated Resource Management Plans (CRMPs) for all producers participating through EQIP program



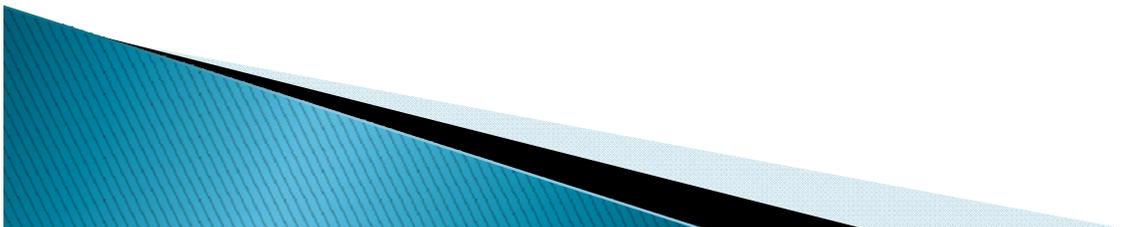
“Do Good for the Land”

- ▶ Linda Rundell, BLM State Director
- ▶ 1. Beneficially impact lands regardless of ownership, across the landscape through vegetative and watershed restoration.
- ▶ 2. Defragmenting habitats by reclaiming abandoned oil and gas infrastructure.
- ▶ Address NEPA differently– Programmatic Ea’s
- ▶ Include all possible partners
- ▶ Restoration projects– not to increase AUMs for grazing
- ▶ Motto “Fatter cows faster”

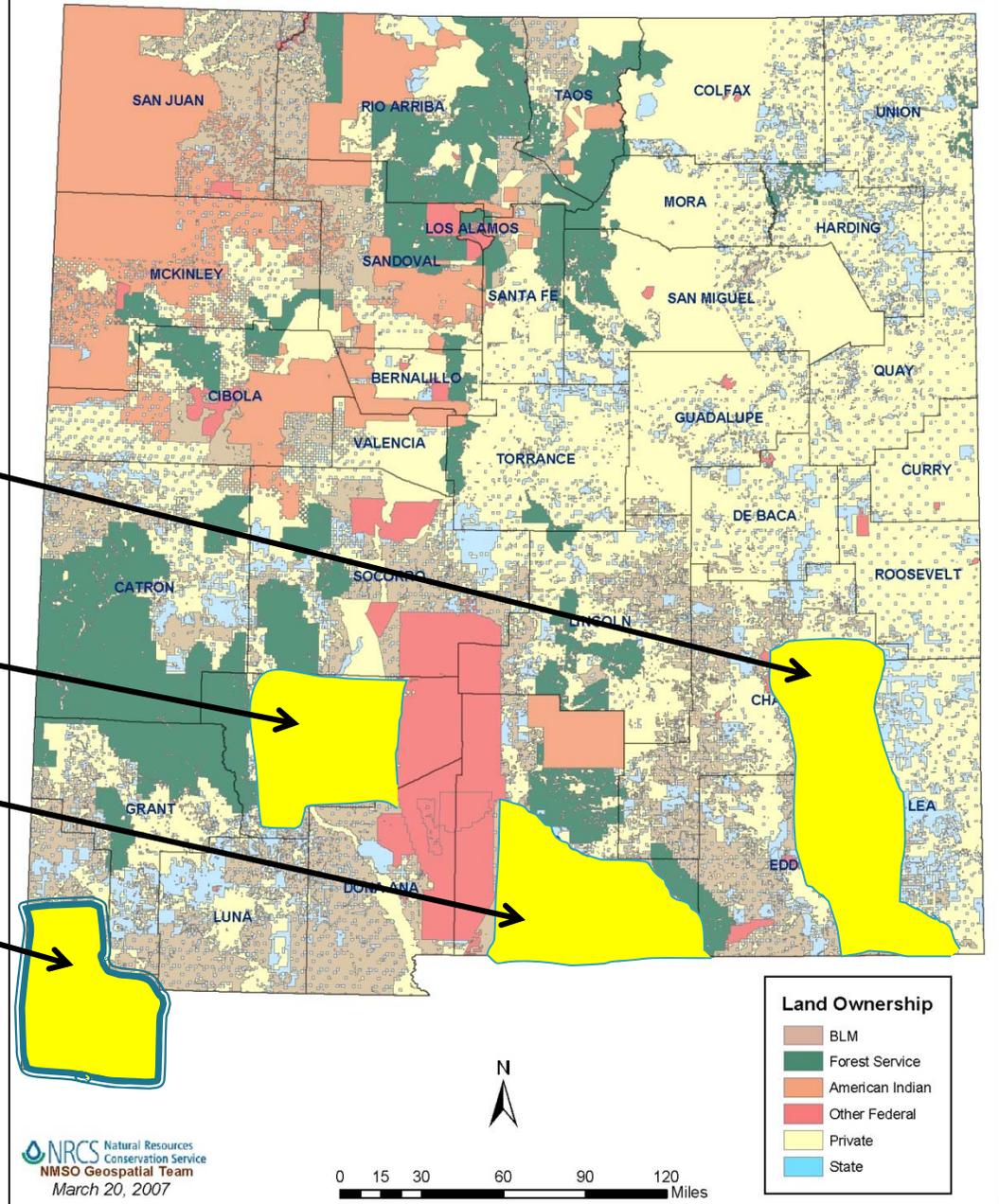


More History

- ▶ 2007– 2008
 - NMACD receives a second grant from BLM for up to \$10m over a 5 year period.
 - BLM identifies priority areas and develops landscape Environmental Assessments for chemical treatment of invasive species.
 - We are off and running!



New Mexico Land Ownership



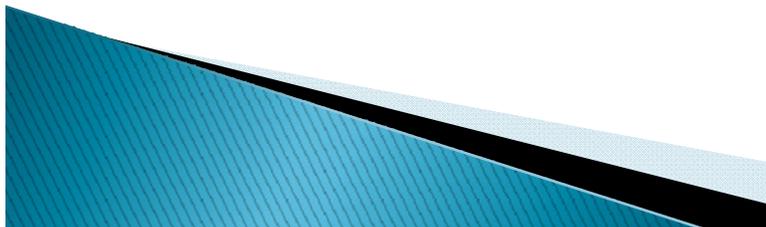
BLM Priority Areas

Lesser Prairie Chicken-
Dunes Sagebrush Lizard

Jornada - ECE

Otero Mesa

Bootheel



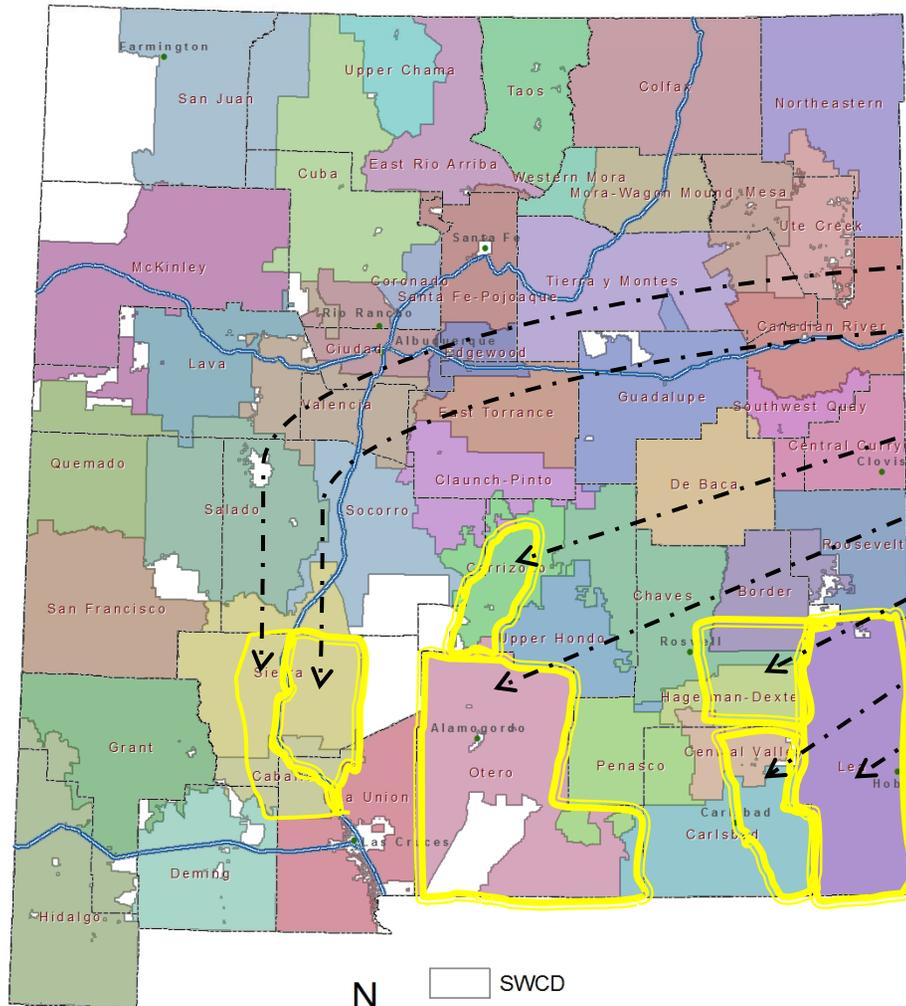
Restore NM expands Statewide

- ▶ 2009
- ▶ NM & Arizona CCPI
- ▶ Borderlands Restoration Project
- ▶ NRCS 1,250,000 per year
- ▶ BLM NM \$750,000 per year
- ▶ BLM AZ \$500,000 per year
- ▶ NMACD Financial Assistance Agreement with BLM.
- ▶ NMACD utilizes retired BLM & NRCS contractors for technical assistance.

8million from BLM and 8 million from NRCS over next 5 years

NMACD contracts with local SWCD's for large projects.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts New Mexico Department of Agriculture



Approved CCPIs

- ECE
- Jornada
- Tularosa Basin
- Otero County
- Turkey Track
- Avalon
- Lea County



- SWCD
- Counties
- Roads
- Cities

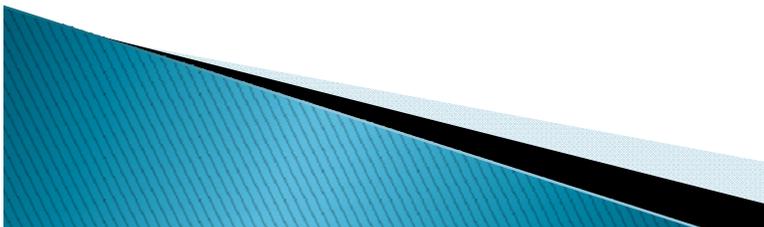
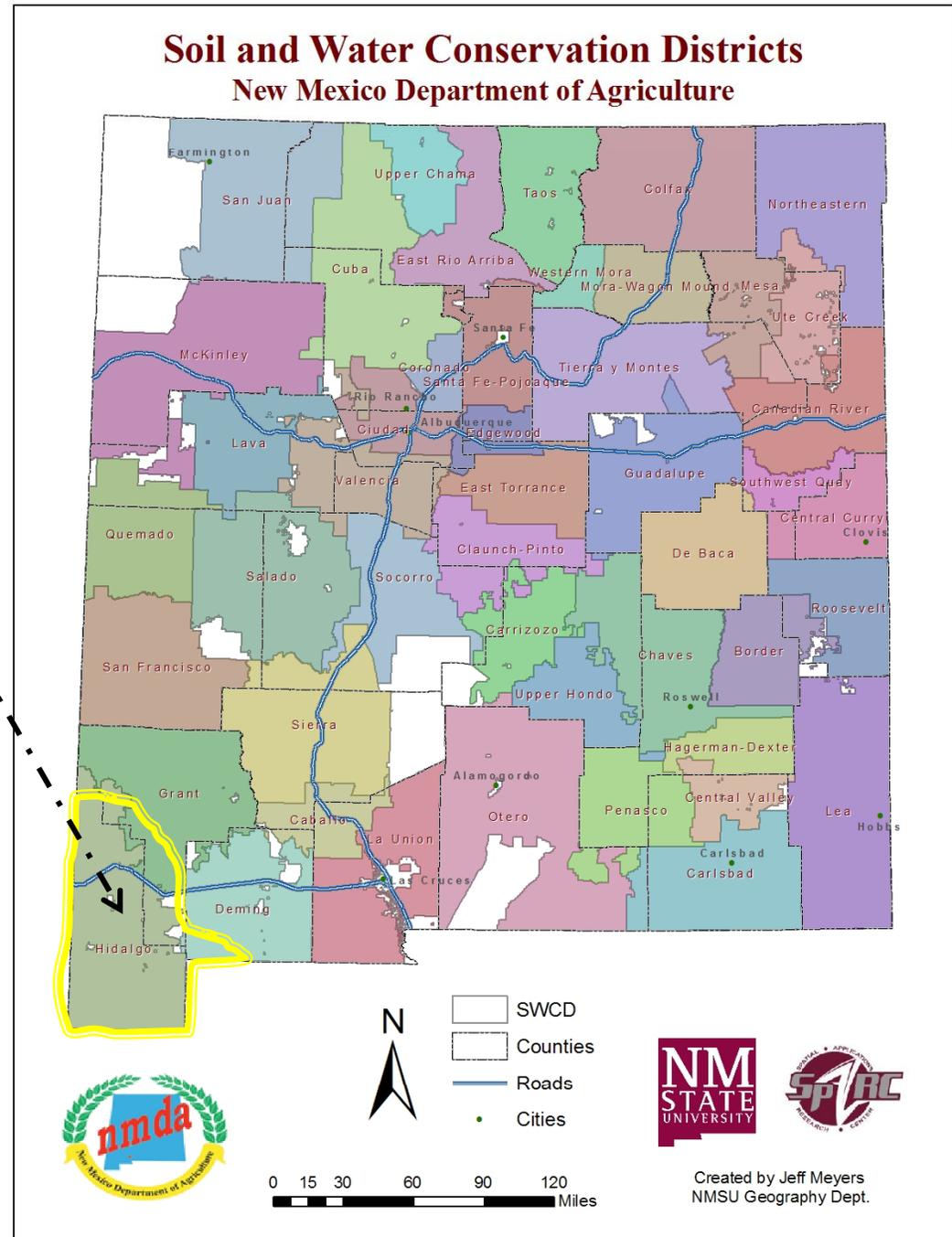


Created by Jeff Meyers
NMSU Geography Dept.

- 2010

The Borderland Conservation Initiative

– approved as a nationally funded CCPI. Initiative include 3 SWCDs in New Mexico and 3 in Arizona. Funded for \$8m EQIP funds over 5 years. BLM match is for \$8m over 5 years.

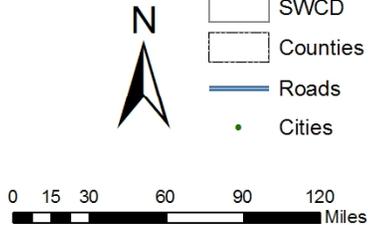
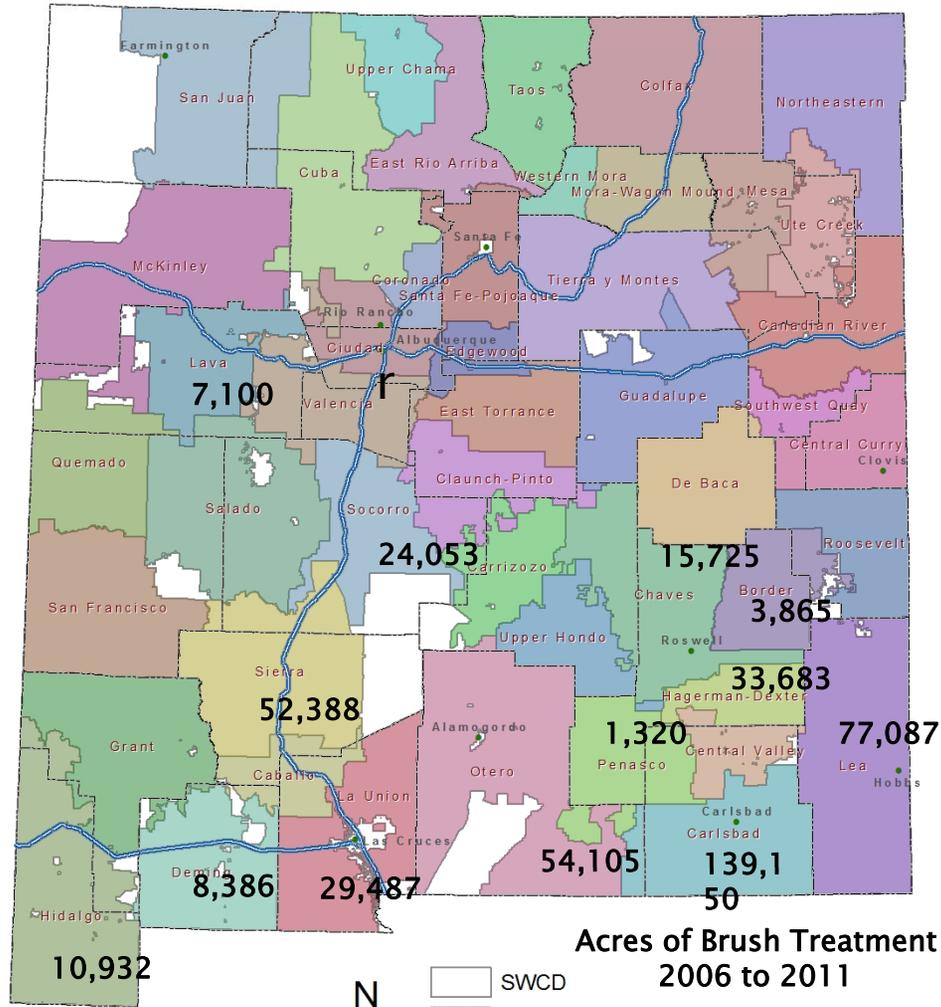


- ▶ To date, more than 1.4 million acres of impaired habitat treated
- ▶ Transitioning to healthy ecological sites
- ▶ Commitment to science
- ▶ BLM– Intensive monitoring

Decisions based on best scientific data

Partners– Federal & state agencies
with ranchers, oil & gas, sportsman's
and conservation groups

Soil and Water Conservation Districts New Mexico Department of Agriculture



Created by Jeff Meyers
NMSU Geography Dept.

Accomplishments

Brush Treatments:

1.4 million Acres Since 2006

Species treated include:

- Mesquite
- Creosote
- Tarbrush
- Catclaw

101 miles of Fence

103 miles of

Pipelines, storage,

Wells, troughs,

conversion to solar

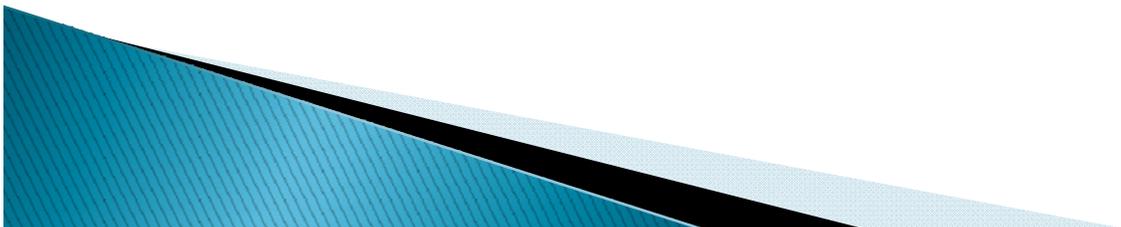
2000 acres oilfield

reclamation

The map shows acres of Brush Treatment as part of CRMPs and Watershed Scale Project with NMACD. BLM and other Agencies contracted acres are not shown.

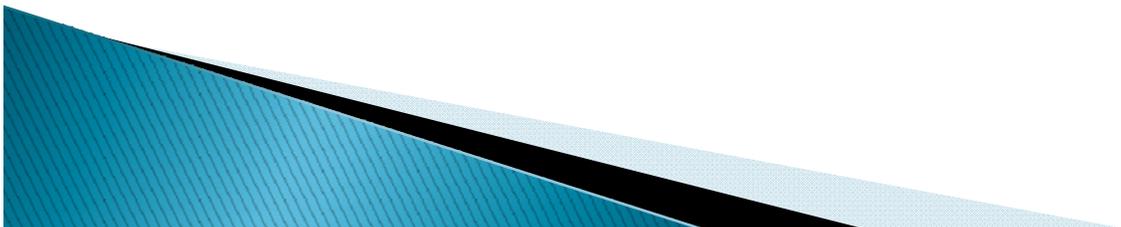
RESTORE NEW MEXICO FUNDING

- ▶ 1,411,277 acres of grassland restored (2006–2010)
- ▶ BLM obligated \$11,000,000
- ▶ NRCS \$9,000,000
- ▶ Other partners including private ranchers contributing approximately \$9,000,000
- ▶ a GRAND total of \$29,000,000 for the
- ▶ NM Restore Partnership



Best Science

- ▶ 1] Not all shinnery oak communities are DSL habitat.
- ▶ DSL have a habitat range within the shinnery oak dune ecosystem; however, they have very specialized habitat requirements and can only occupy a small percentage of that range. They occupy the sand dunes, specifically the blowouts with medium sand grain size. These areas are identified as sandhills ecological sites.
- ▶ *Note:* The shinnery oak flats are only used for movement; primarily by the females when looking for nesting sites. Females may use several dunes during the nesting season.

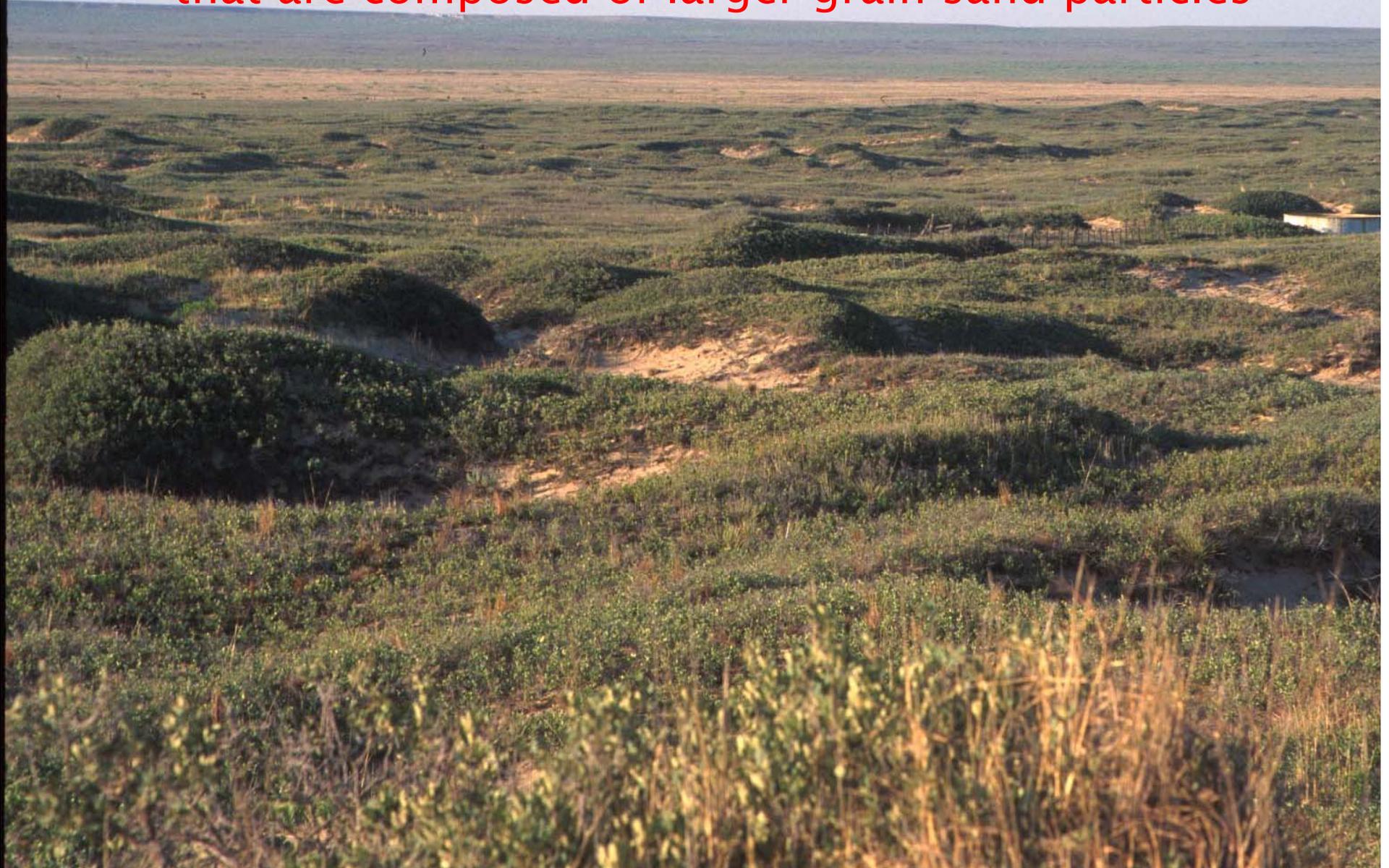


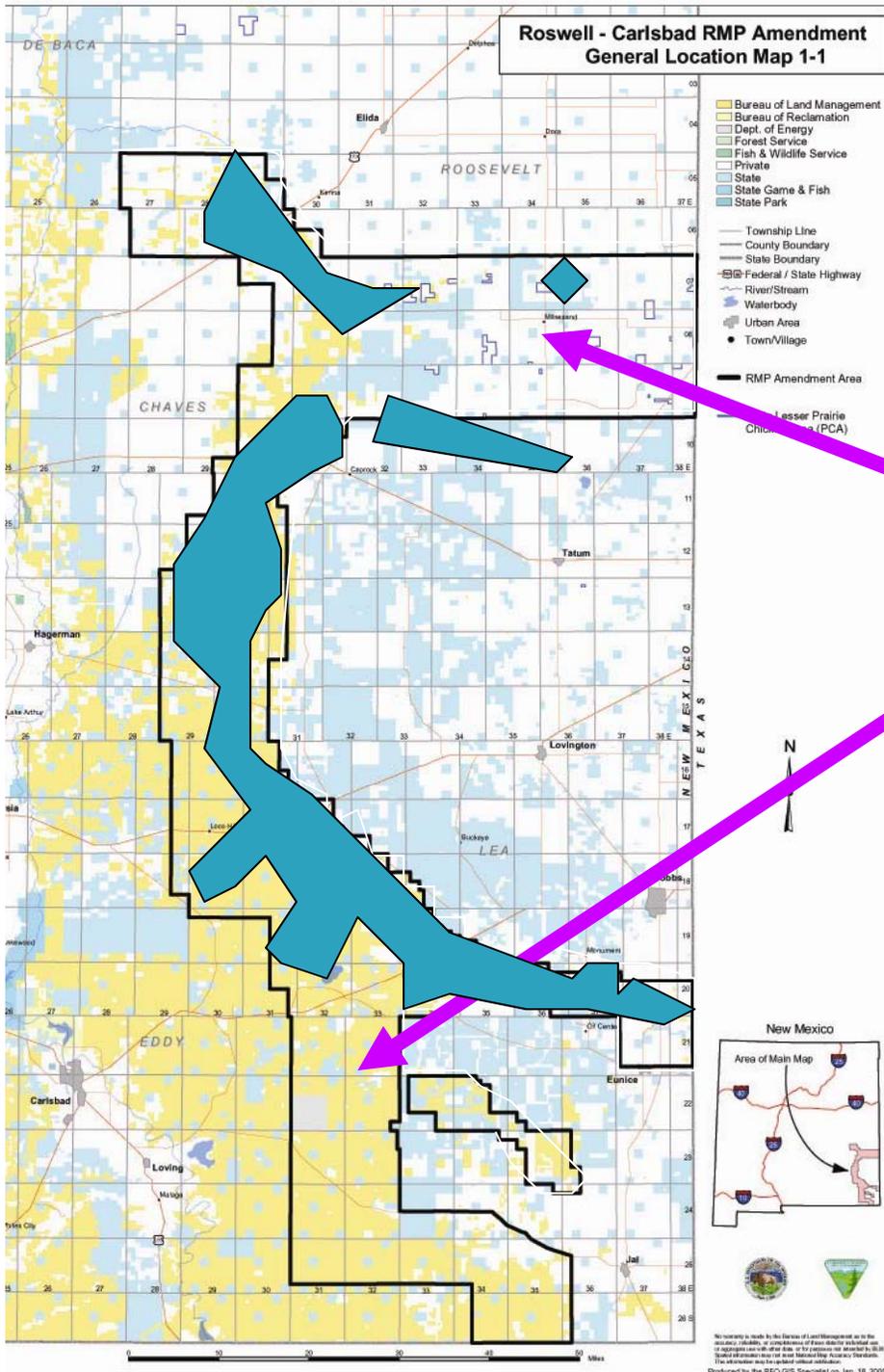
US F&W Data shows primary listing reason is Tebuthiron Treatments

- ▶ New Mexico NRCS records show that shinnery oak management on DSL habitat (sand hill site) have not been implemented by USDA programs within the last 10 years.
- ▶ NRCS protocol prescribes the buffering and avoidance of sand dunes, as agreed upon in a MOU signed in 2000.
- ▶ Spraying tebuthiron in DSL habitat area has NOT taken place since 2000.



The dunes sagebrush lizard is an extreme habitat specialist which is only found in shinnery oak sand dunes that are composed of larger grain sand particles





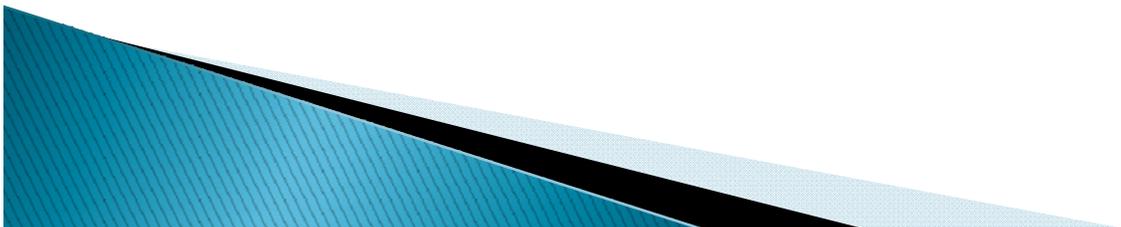
The Planning Area Boundary

Lesser Prairie Chicken

Dunes Sagebrush Lizard

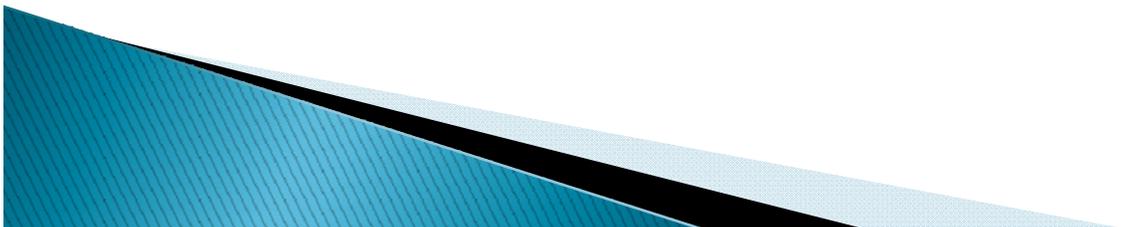
Progress to date

- ❖ 24 Ranchers enrolled 945,029 acres combine in CCA & CCAA
- ❖ Another 4 Ranchers totaling 250,530 acres being reviewed
- ❖ State Land Office considering un-leased lands in CCAA
- ❖ 6 Oil & Gas companies with combined acreage of 131,641
- ❖ (48,361 acres are within dunes sagebrush lizard habitat of oil and gas leases are signed up on approved Certificates of Participation)
- ❖ 5 Companies pending approval of mineral enrollment packages with 134,232 acres
- ❖ 14 companies in early stages of CCA enrollment
- ❖ These voluntary agreements have resulted in \$1.7 million being contributed by industry to fund on-the-ground habitat improvement projects such as reclamation of man-made infrastructure (well pads and roads), removal of powerlines, and vegetation (mesquite) treatments.



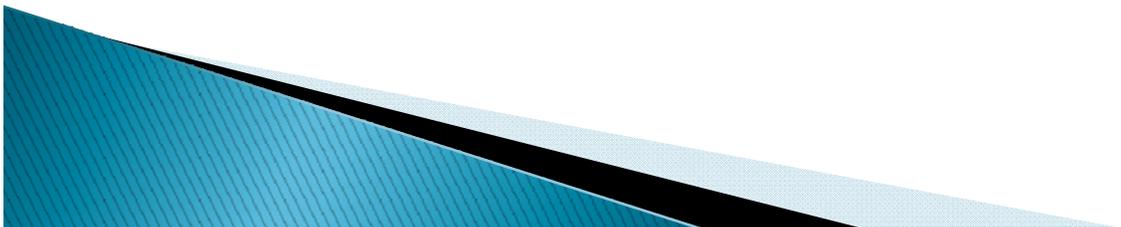
CCA/CCAA's with US F & W

- ▶ The initiation of CCA/CCAAs with local producers and oil and gas companies to conduct habitat restoration for the lesser prairie chicken and the sand dune lizard are historic in their approach and acceptance by ranchers and oil and gas companies. The CCA is for Federal lands (cooperators receive “a high degree of certainty that additional measures would not be required...” for their operations if the species is listed). CCAA is for state and private lands (these agreements get “Assurances”).



Significant Accomplishments?

- ▶ One of the most significant accomplishments of the CCAA is the protection achieved for dunes sagebrush lizard (and lesser prairie chicken) on State and private lands. Currently, State oil and gas leases contain no protection for dunes sagebrush lizard or lesser prairie chicken. However, when companies sign up under a Certificate of Inclusion, they commit to conservation measures which have never been imposed before, and would likely never be imposed in the future since the New Mexico State oil and gas lease instrument is a legislated form. This is a significant milestone since participating companies voluntarily commit to conducting conservation measures (like those used on BLM lands) that otherwise would not be in place to protect dunes sagebrush lizard or lesser prairie chicken habitat. In the same manner, private leases rarely contain stipulations to protect habitat, but when oil and gas companies sign up under the CCAA, they also will have to commit to the same habitat protections provided on BLM lands.



National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)

- ▶ Because of the success of partners to restore habitat in southeast New Mexico, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is establishing a “Short Grass Prairie Conservation Fund” to leverage with CCA/CCAA funds being contributed by the oil and gas industry. The NFWF’s goal is to build “upon the success of existing efforts to restore the short grass prairie in New Mexico . . . aimed at reclaiming the sand dune and lesser prairie chicken habitat within the short grass prairie,.” The NFWF’s funds, when matched with contributions from the CCA/CCAA will significantly increase restoration of dunes sagebrush lizard habitat that otherwise may not occur if it were not for the CCA initiative.



NRCS Strategic Watershed Action Teams

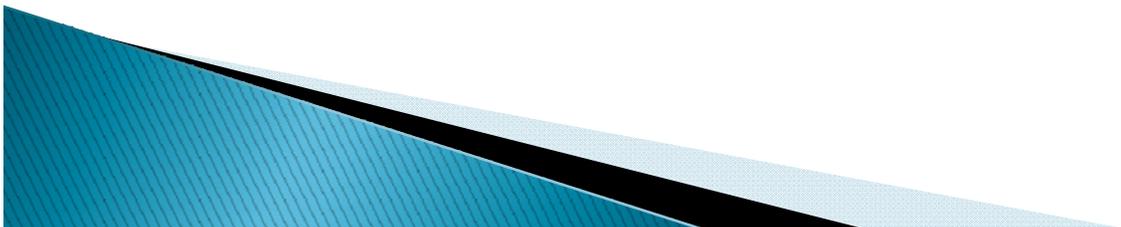
- ▶ NMACD and NRCS have been, and plan to continue to be, actively involved with the recovery of the lesser prairie chicken; which includes and benefits conservation of the DSL habitat range.
- ▶ New initiative with NFWF– focused on & Lesser Prairie Chicken
 - ▶ 1 Biologist
 - ▶ 2 Range Conservationists
- ▶ To assist Ranchers with Conservation Practices

Focus on Habitat

Focus on Conservation

FUTURE PARTNERSHIP

- ▶ 2011
- ▶ NMACD awarded new grant by BLM for to Up to 20 million dollars over next 5 years.
- ▶ NRCS, BLM & NMACD committed to continuing watershed based landscape scale projects to benefit New Mexico Natural
- ▶ Resources.



We can live & Work together

- ▶ Agriculture, Oil & Gas and Species thriving together

