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When The Water Dries Up
Strategies for Restoration Planning in the Absence of Water

March 5-7, 2024

Rivers Edge West Riparian Restoration Conference

Presenter Information



PRESENTER

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Lead Ecologist

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PRESENTER

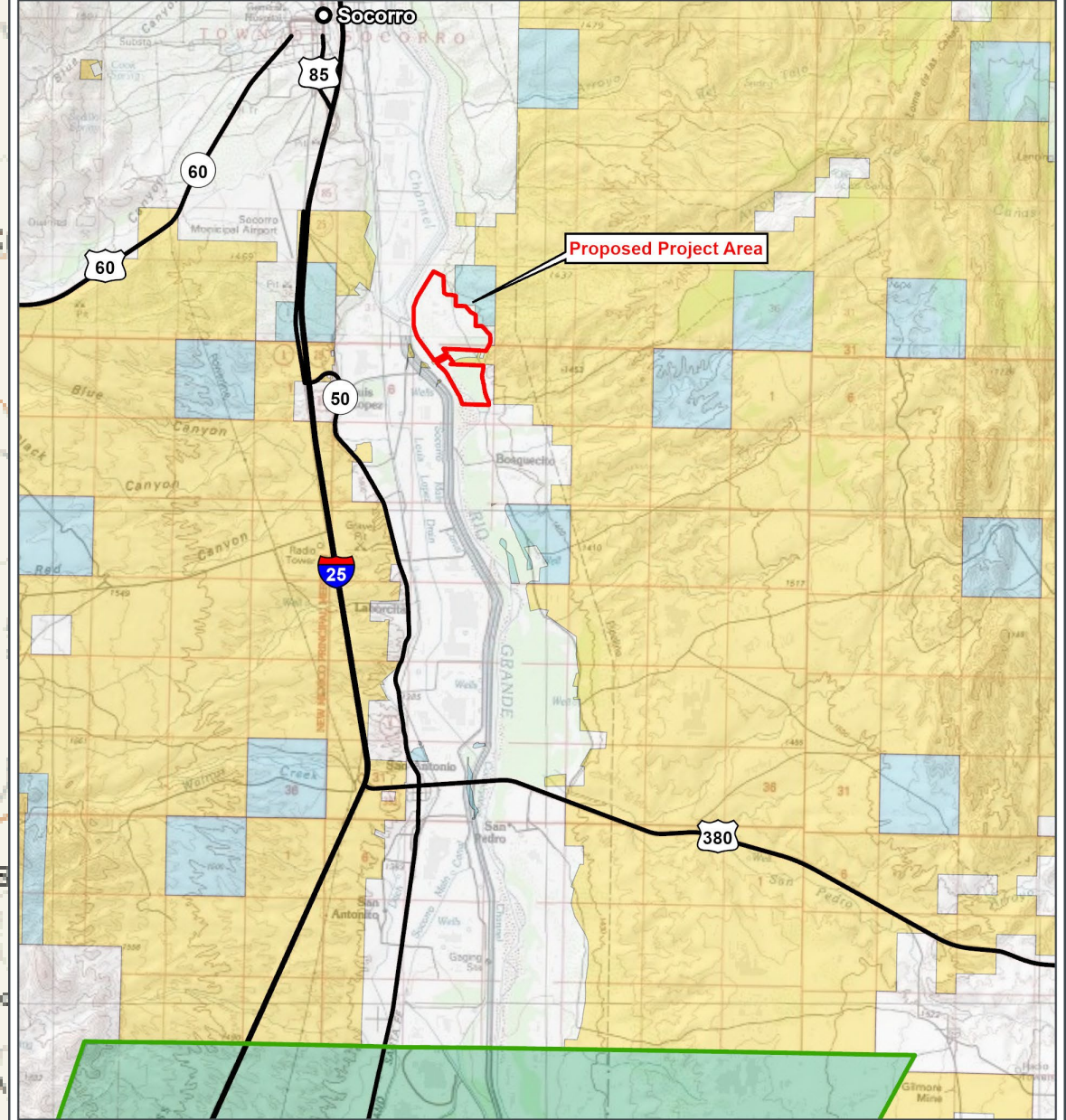
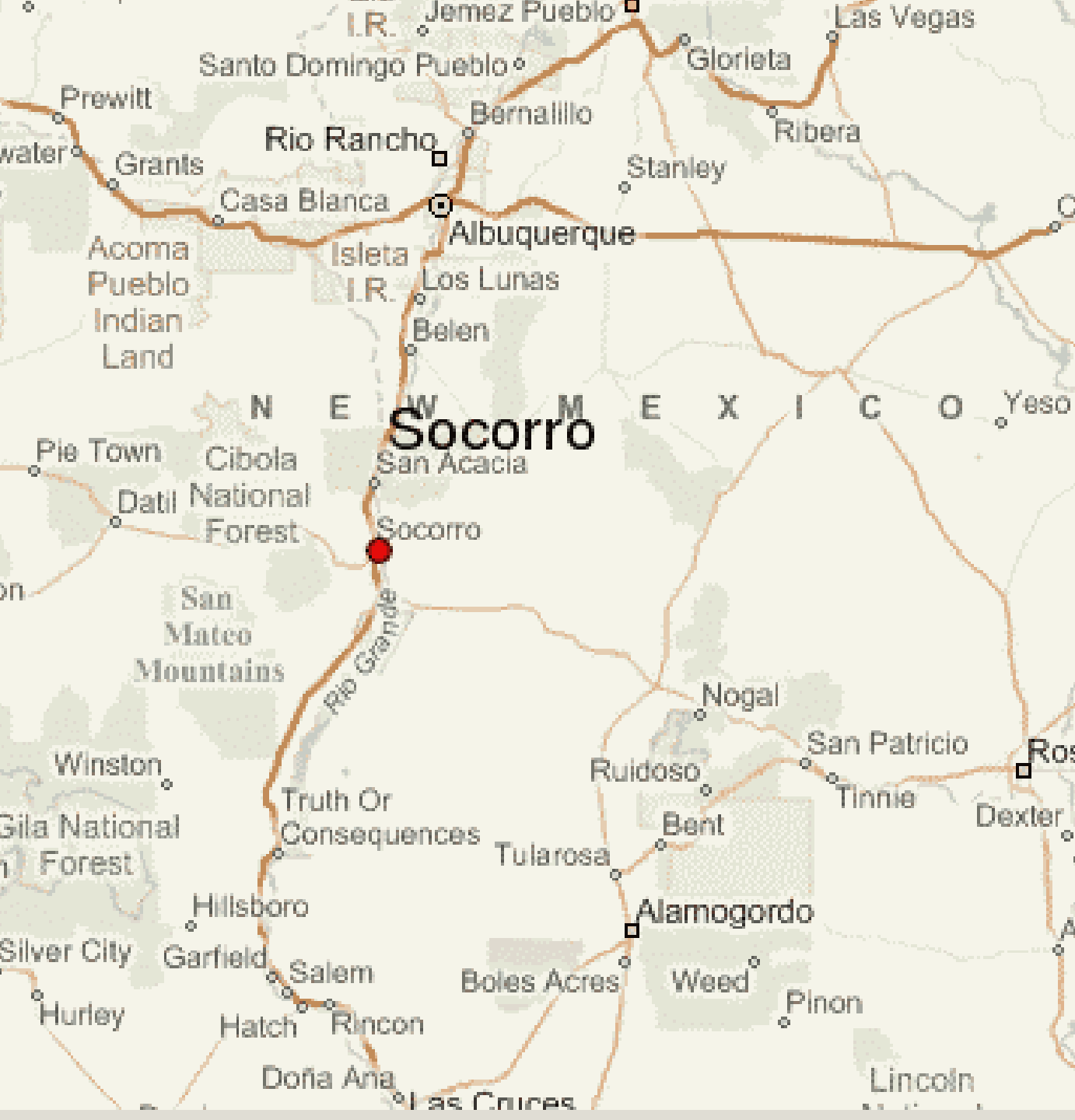
Linnea Spears-Lebrun

Senior Restoration Ecologist

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Albuquerque, New Mexico





- City/Town
- Major Roadway
- Proposed Project Area
- Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge
- Land Ownership**
- BLM
- USFWS
- Private
- State

Socorro County, NM
 NAD 1983 UTM Zone 13N
 33.9595°N 106.8424°W

Project Vicinity

0 5,000 10,000 Feet
 0 1,000 2,000 Meters

1:130,000

Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online,









“...to restore the native plant communities while maximizing the habitat benefit for wetland-dependent wildlife...”

1. Increase native riparian vegetation
2. Reduce encroachment of invasive plants
3. Restore uplands to native plant communities



Restoration Planning Strategies

Establish Goals and Objectives



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Identify Opportunities & Constraints



Dig into Existing Data



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Collect Field Data



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Run Models



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Dream Palette



Consider Phased Approach



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Qualified Contractors

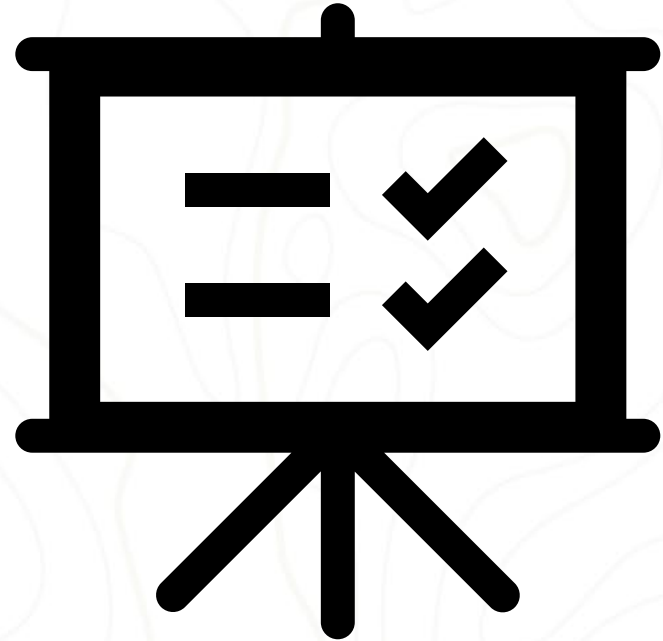


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Monitor



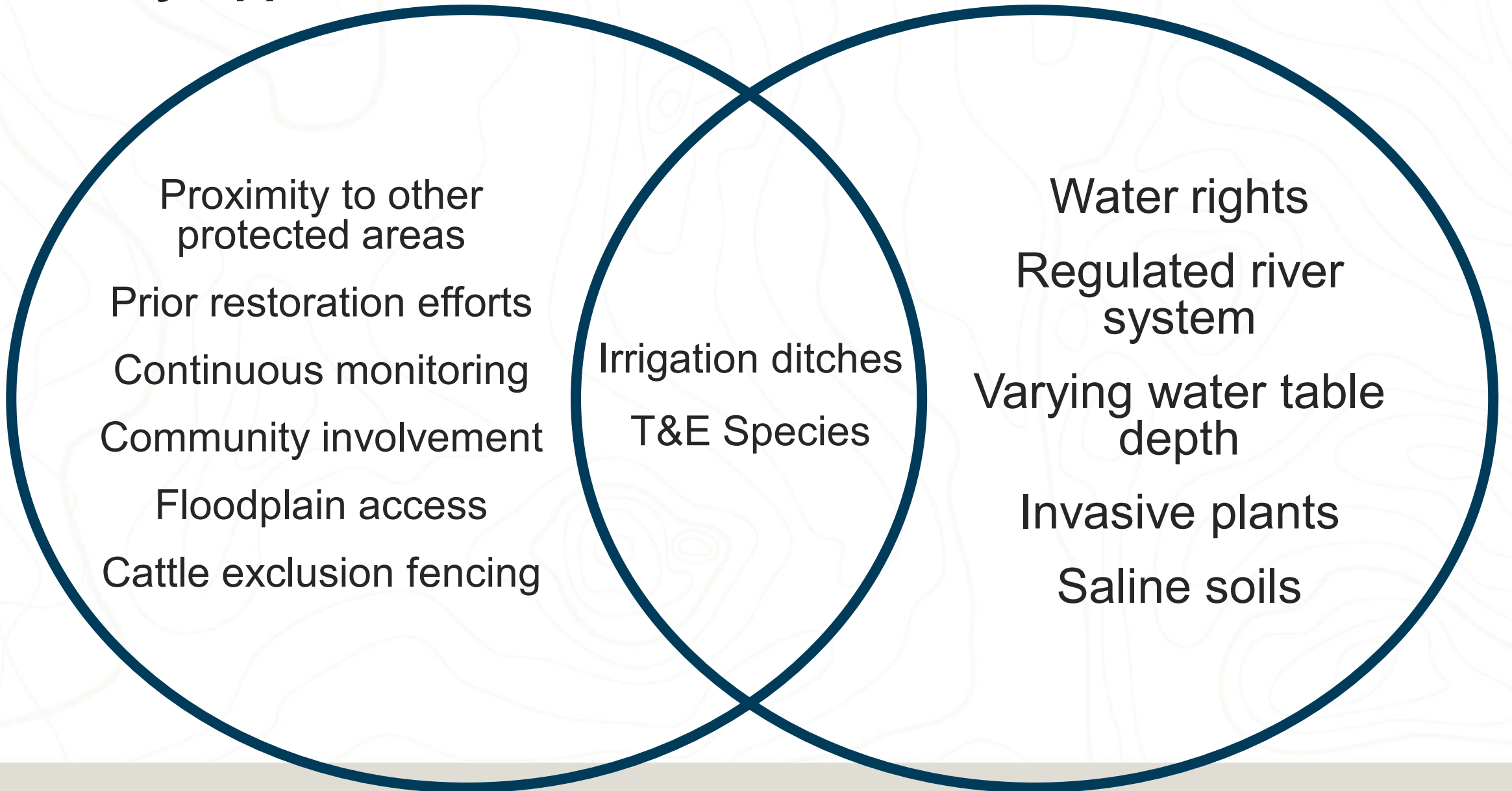
Establish Goals and Objectives



Identify Opportunities & Constraints



Identify Opportunities & Constraints



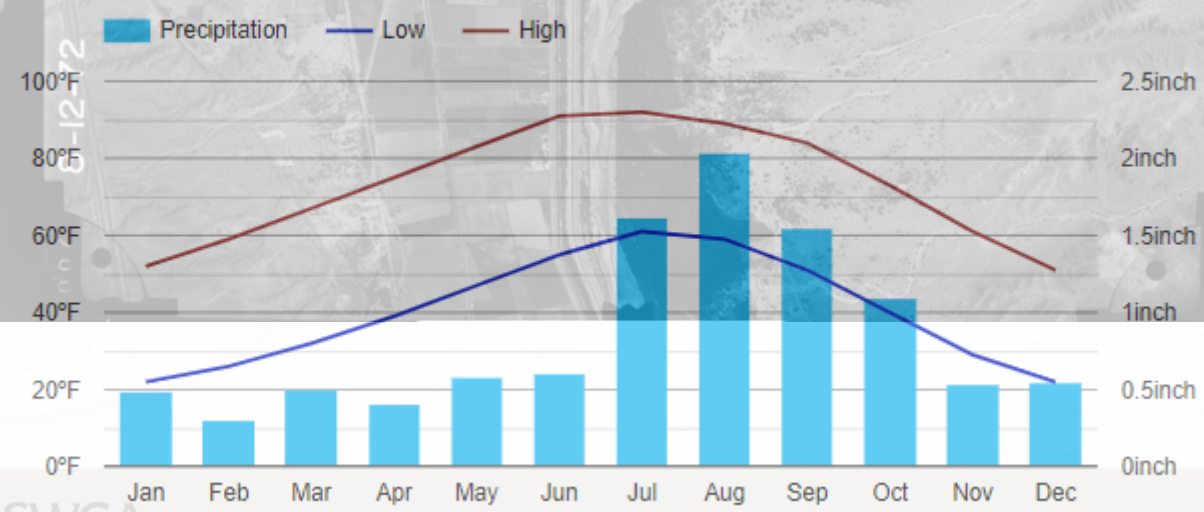
Dig into Existing Data



GS-VCXM

I-8

Socorro Climate Graph - New Mexico Climate Chart



Stream Site

DESCRIPTION:

Latitude 34°07'15", Longitude 106°53'13" NAD83
 Socorro County, New Mexico, Hydrologic Unit 13020203
 Drainage area: 28,068 square miles
 Contributing drainage area: 23,872 square miles,
 Datum of gage: 4,619 feet above NAVD88.

AVAILABLE DATA:

Data Type	Begin Date	End Date	Co
Current / Historical Observations (availability statement)	2005-10-01	2024-02-23	
Daily Data			
Discharge, cubic feet per second	2005-09-30	2024-02-22	66
Daily Statistics			
Discharge, cubic feet per second	2005-09-30	2021-02-01	56
Monthly Statistics			
Discharge, cubic feet per second	2005-09	2021-02	
Annual Statistics			
Discharge, cubic feet per second	2005	2021	
Peak streamflow	2006-08-01	2019-12-01	
Field measurements	2005-06-23	2024-02-01	2
Field/Lab water-quality samples	2005-07-14	2011-03-28	
Water-Year Summary	2006	2020	
Revisions	Available (site:0) (timeseries:)		

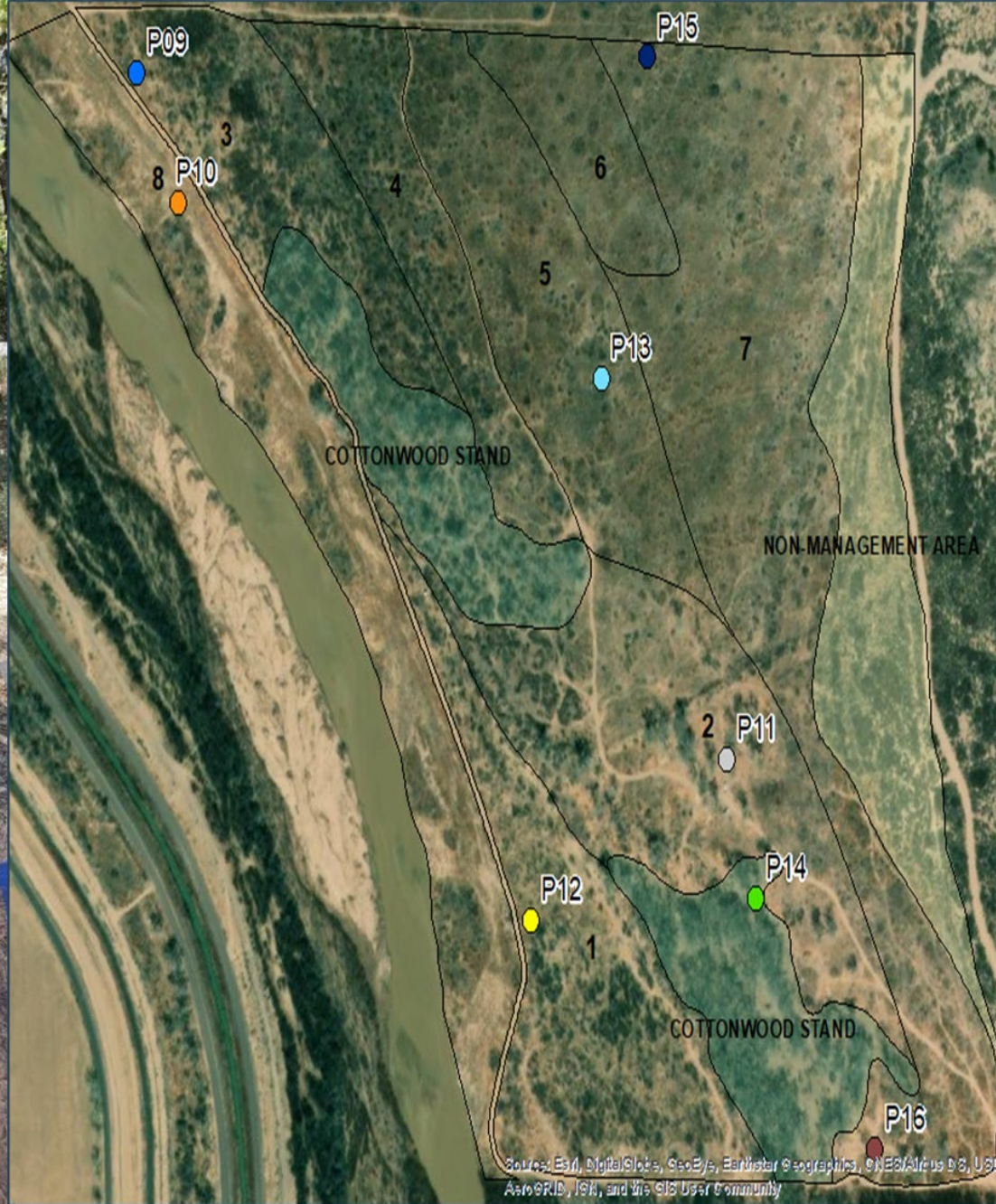
OPERATION:

Record for this site is maintained by the USGS New Mexico Water Science Center
 Email questions about this site to [New Mexico Water Science Center Water-Data Inquiry](#)

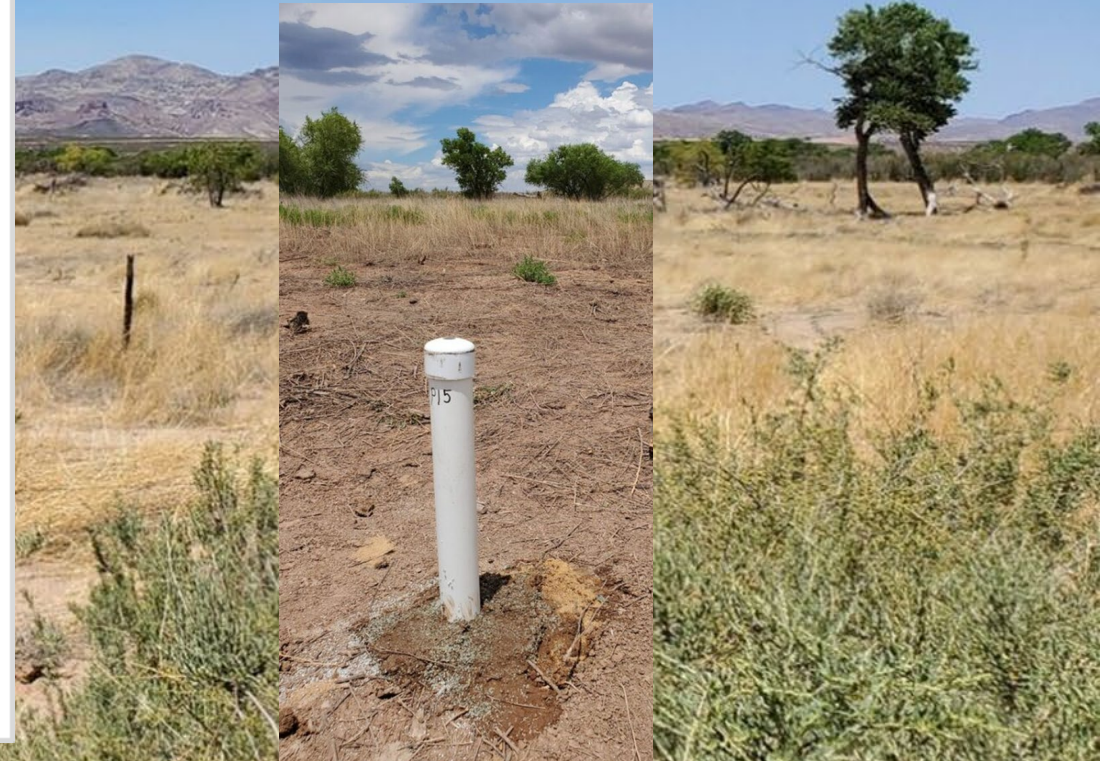
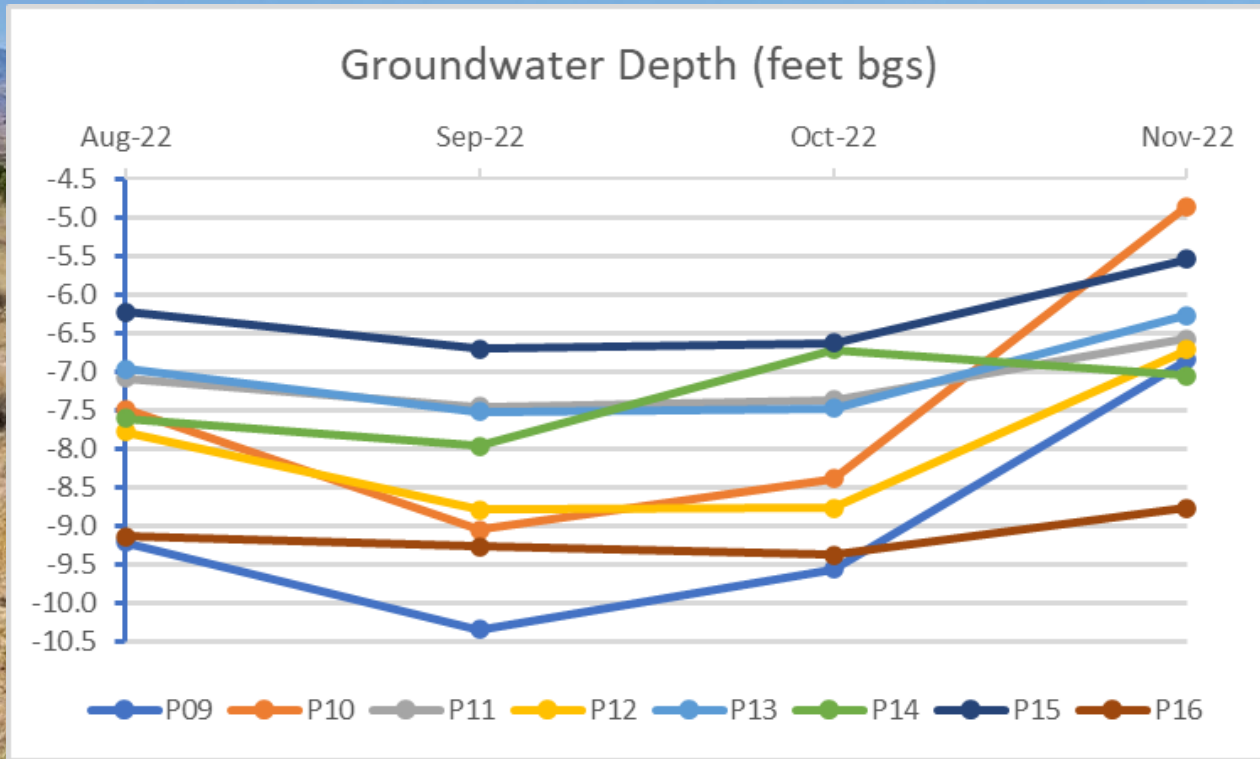
Collect Field Data

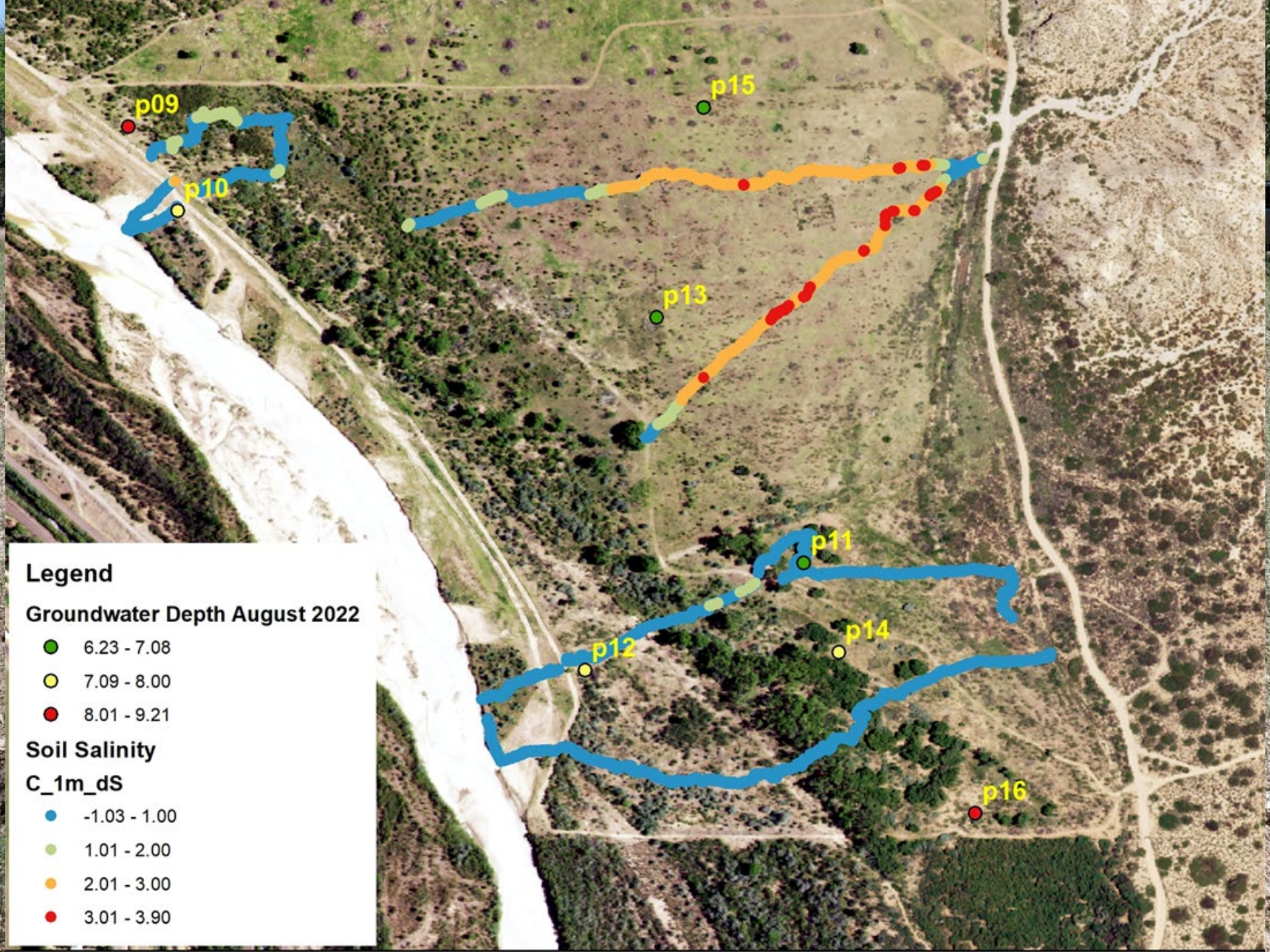






GROUNDWATER WELL DATA





Legend

Groundwater Depth August 2022

- 6.23 - 7.08
- 7.09 - 8.00
- 8.01 - 9.21

Soil Salinity

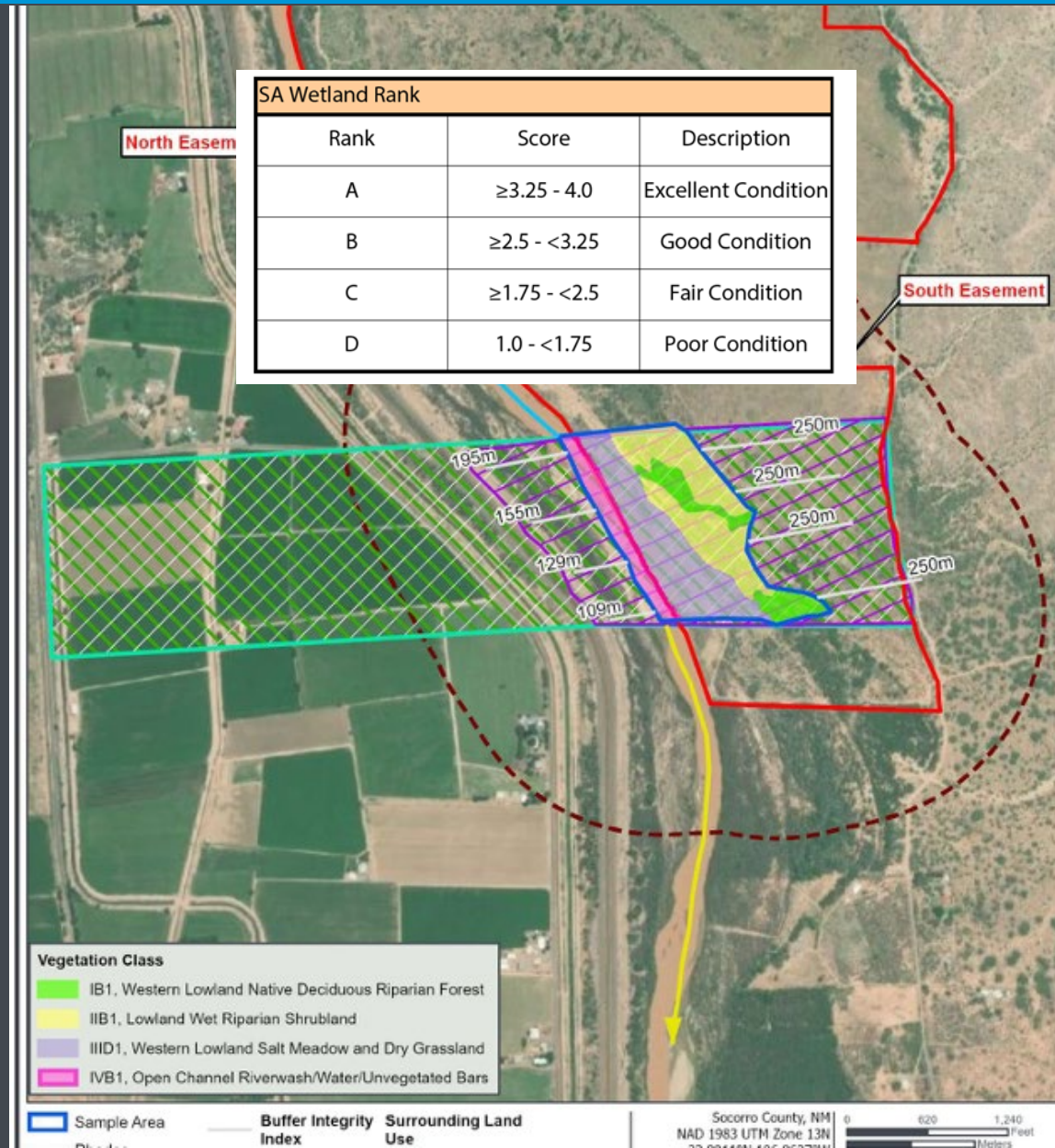
C_1m_dS

- -1.03 - 1.00
- 1.01 - 2.00
- 2.01 - 3.00
- 3.01 - 3.90

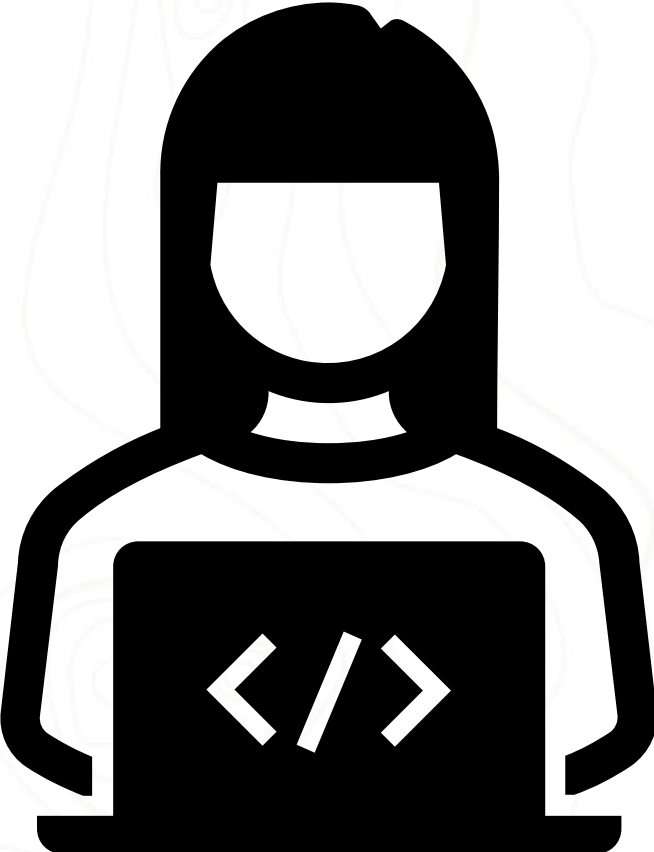
NEW MEXICO RAPID ASSESSMENT METHOD

Table 3-1. Rhodes Easement SA Baseline NMRAM Scores

Metric Description	Rating	Weight	Final Score
Landscape Context Attribute			3
L1. Buffer Integrity Index	4	0.25	1
L2. Riparian Corridor Connectivity	4	0.25	1
L3. Relative Wetland Size	2	0.25	0.5
L4. Surrounding Land Use	2	0.25	0.5
Biotic Attribute			1.8
B1. Relative Native Plant Community Composition	2	0.2	0.4
B2. Vegetation Horizontal Patch Structure	3	0.2	0.6
B3. Vegetation Vertical Structure	1	0.2	0.2
B4. Native Riparian Tree Regeneration	2	0.2	0.4
B5. Invasive Exotic Plant Species Cover	1	0.2	0.2
Abiotic Attribute			2.6
A1. Floodplain Hydrologic Complexity	1	0.2	0.2
A2. Physical Patch Complexity	2	0.2	0.4
A5. Soil Surface Condition	3	0.2	0.6
A6. Channel Mobility	3	0.2	0.6
A11. Groundwater Index	4	0.2	0.8
SA Conditions Scoring Summary			
Major Attribute	Score	Weight	Weighted Score
Landscape Context	3	0.3	0.9
Biotic	1.8	0.35	0.63
Abiotic	2.6	0.35	0.91
SA Wetland Condition Score			2.44
SA Wetland Rank			C



Run Models



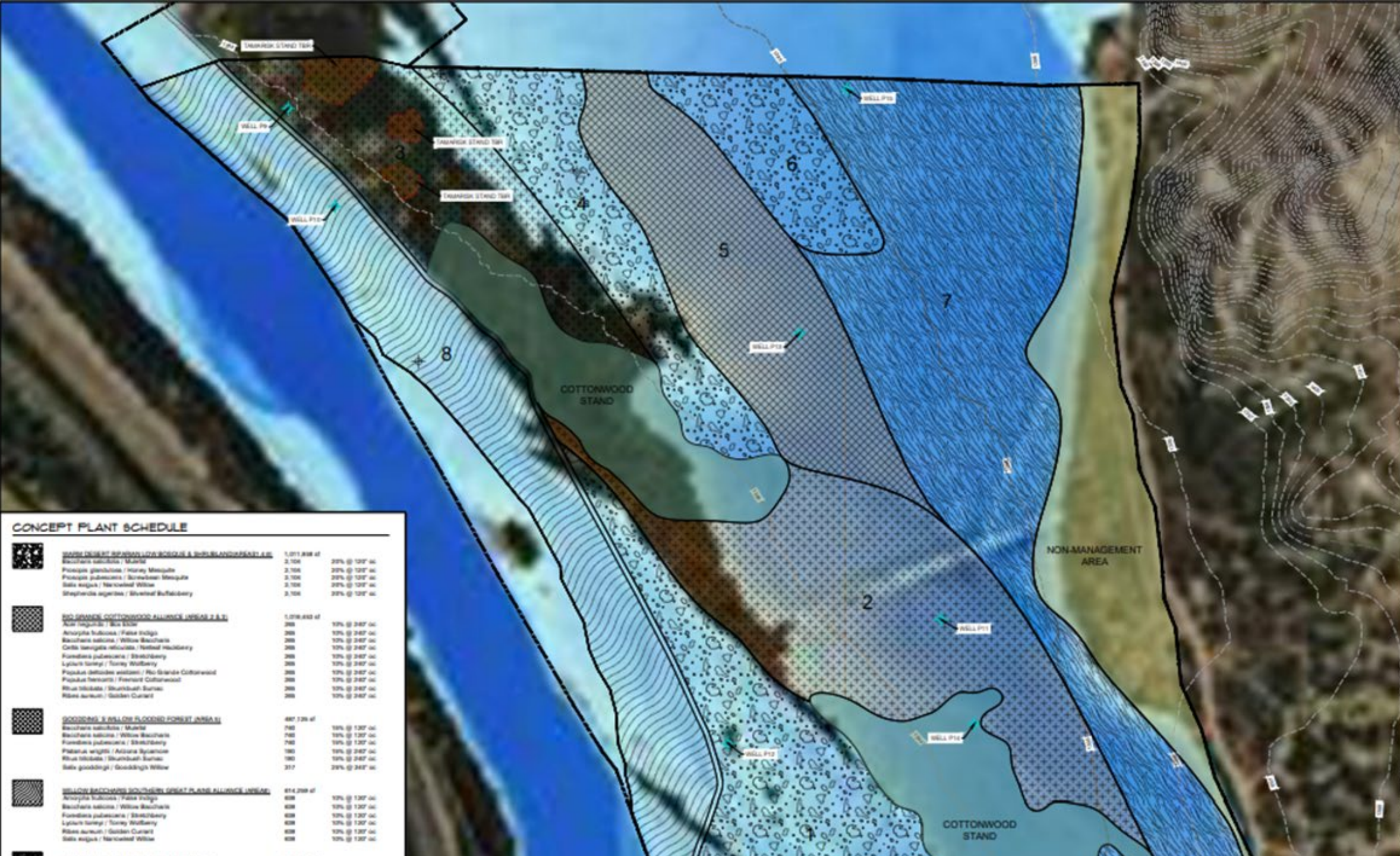


DRAFT

PROJECT TITLE
 RICHES PROPERTY
 RESTORATION

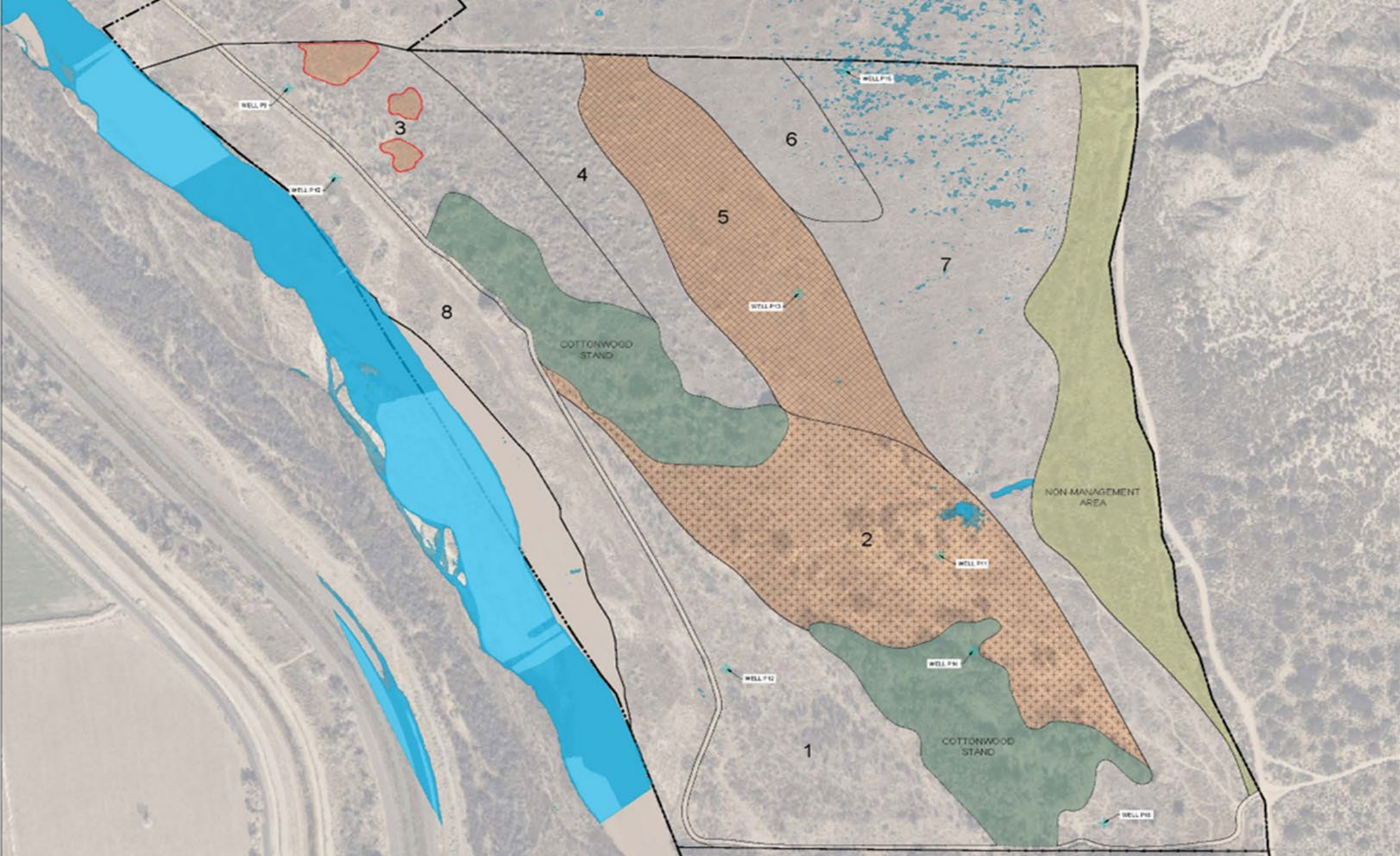
DATE
 01/20/20

Date	01/20/20	
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Drawn by	TS	
Checked by	MS	
File #	00000113	
REVISIONS		
NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION



CONCEPT PLANT SCHEDULE

	WATER DESERT RIPARIAN LOW SHRUB & SUB-SHRUBLAND PLANT E.C.	1,071,898 sf	
	Baccharis salicifolia / Muttie	2,106	20% @ 120' ac
	Prosopis juliflora / Honey Mesquite	2,106	20% @ 120' ac
	Prosopis pubescens / Sonoran Mesquite	2,106	20% @ 120' ac
	Salix exigua / Narrowleaf Willow	2,106	20% @ 120' ac
	Shepherdia argentea / Silvered Buffaloberry	2,106	20% @ 120' ac
	NO SPRUCE COTTONWOOD ALLIANCE UPLAND P.E.C.	1,076,632 sf	
	Aster leucoides / Six O'Clock	200	10% @ 240' ac
	Amygdala subulosa / False Indigo	200	10% @ 240' ac
	Baccharis salicifolia / Willow Baccharis	200	10% @ 240' ac
	Celtis tenuigloba / Nuttall Honeysuckle	200	10% @ 240' ac
	Fumaria pubescens / Strawberry	200	10% @ 240' ac
	Lycium ferocissimum / Torrey Wolfberry	200	10% @ 240' ac
	Populus deltoides var. wislizeni / Rio Grande Cottonwood	200	10% @ 240' ac
	Populus fremontii / Fremont Cottonwood	200	10% @ 240' ac
	Rhus trilobata / Shrubleaf Sumac	200	10% @ 240' ac
	Ribes aureum / Golden Currant	200	10% @ 240' ac
	GOODDING & WILLOW FLOODED FOREST AREA U.	487,126 sf	
	Baccharis salicifolia / Muttie	740	10% @ 120' ac
	Baccharis salicifolia / Willow Baccharis	740	10% @ 120' ac
	Fumaria pubescens / Strawberry	740	10% @ 120' ac
	Indigofera spicata / Arizona Sycamore	740	10% @ 120' ac
	Rhus trilobata / Shrubleaf Sumac	740	10% @ 120' ac
	Salix gooddingii / Goodding's Willow	317	20% @ 240' ac
	WILLOW BACKWASH RIPARIAN GREAT PLAINS ALLIANCE UPLAND	614,268 sf	
	Amygdala subulosa / False Indigo	608	10% @ 120' ac
	Baccharis salicifolia / Willow Baccharis	608	10% @ 120' ac
	Fumaria pubescens / Strawberry	608	10% @ 120' ac
	Lycium ferocissimum / Torrey Wolfberry	608	10% @ 120' ac
	Ribes aureum / Golden Currant	608	10% @ 120' ac
	Salix exigua / Narrowleaf Willow	608	10% @ 120' ac



LEGEND

[Symbol]	FIELD BOUNDARY
[Symbol]	CONCRETE WALL
[Symbol]	ROADWAY
[Symbol]	WATER BODY
[Symbol]	WATER BODY - FRESH WATER
[Symbol]	WATER BODY - SALT WATER
[Symbol]	WATER BODY - UNKNOWN



DRAFT

PROJECT:
 RYDGE'S PROPERTY
 RESTORATION

DATE:
 HYDROLOGIC
 MODELING

Date:	11/20/20
Scale:	AS SHOWN
Drawn By:	TR
Checked By:	SW
File #:	2020-017

REVISIONS		
Date:	By:	Notes:

Dream Palette



PLANT PALETTE

Goodding's Willow Flooded Forest (Area 5)	Baccharis salicina	willow baccharis
	Baccharis salicifolia	mulefat
	Forestiera pubescens	New Mexico olive (stretchberry)
	Platanus wrightii	Arizona sycamore
	Rhus trilobata	skunkbush sumac
Warm Desert Riparian Low Bosque & Shrubland (Areas 1, 4, & 6)	Salix gooddingii	Goodding's willow
	Baccharis salicifolia	mulefat
	Prosopis glandulosa	honey mesquite
	Prosopis pubescens	screwbean mesquite
	Salix exigua	narrowleaf willow
	Shepherdia argentea	silverleaf buffaloberry
	Acer negundo	box elder
Rio Grande Cottonwood Alliance (Areas 2 and 3)	Amorpha fruticosa	false indigobush
	Baccharis salicina	willow baccharis
	Celtis laevigata var. reticulata	Netleaf hackberry
	Forestiera pubescens	New Mexico olive (stretchberry)
	Fraxinus velutina	velvet ash
	Lycium torreyi	Torrey's wolfberry
	Populus deltoides ssp. wislizeni	Rio Grande cottonwood
	Populus fremontii	Fremont cottonwood
	Rhus trilobata	skunkbush sumac
	Ribes aureum	golden currant
	Willow Baccharis Southern Great Plains Wash Scrub Alliance (Area 8)	Amorpha fruticosa
Baccharis salicina		willow baccharis
Forestiera pubescens		New Mexico olive (stretchberry)
Lycium torreyi		Torrey's wolfberry
Ribes aureum		golden currant
	Salix exigua	narrowleaf willow

Chihuahuan Semi-desert Grassland (Area 7)	Asclepias speciosa	showy milkweed
	Atriplex canescens	Fourwing saltbush
	Bouteloua curtipendula	Sideoats Grama
	Digitaria californica	Arizona Cottontop
	Distichlis spicata	Inland saltgrass
	Eriogonum annuum	Annual Buckwheat
	Fallugia paradoxa	Apache plume
	Flourensia cernua	American tarwort
	Gutierrezia sarothrae	Broom snakeweed
	Muhlenbergia asperifolia	scratchgrass
	Muhlenbergia emersleyi	bullgrass
	Panicum obtusum	Vine Mesquite
	Pleuraphis mutica	tobosagrass
	Rhus microphylla	littleleaf sumac
	Sphaeralcea coccinea	Scarlet globemallow
Sporobolus airoides	Alkali Sacaton	
Sporobolus wrightii	Giant Sacaton	

Consider Phased Approach



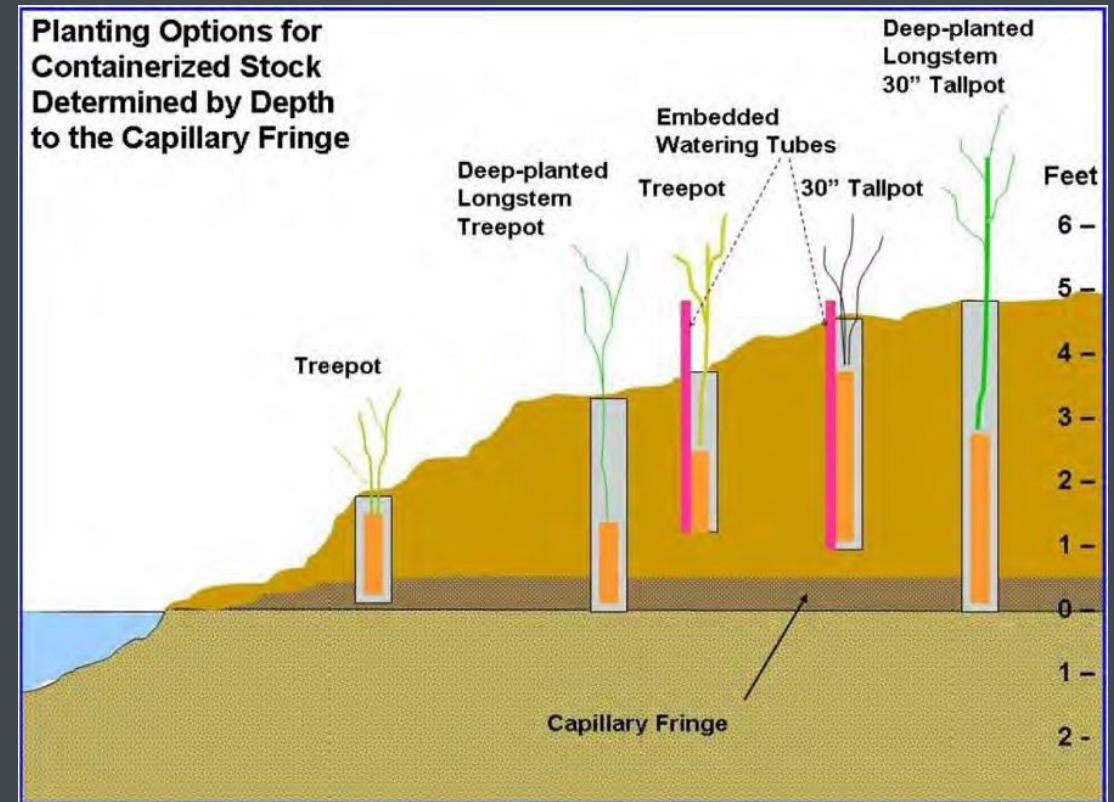
PHASE 1: PLANT PALETTE

Table 2. Prescriptions followed for riparian species plantings on the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Socorro, NM, from 1989 to 1993.

Species	Soil type	Soil salinity ^a	Depth to water table
Cottonwood	sand-loam	< 3.0	1.8-3.6
Black willow	sand-clayloam	< 4.0	1.2-2.4
New Mexico olive	sand-loam	< 3.0	< 1.2
Skunkbush sumac	sand-loam	< 3.0	< 1.2
Silver buffaloberry	loam-clayloam	< 3.0	< 1.2
Screwbean mesquite	clay-loam	3-8	< 1.2
Wolfberry	sand-loam	3-8	< 1.2
Fourwing saltbush	sand-loam	8-14	< 2.0

^a Based on experience, the NWR has modified acceptable salinity levels for plantings downward as follows: cottonwood, 1.0 to 2.0 dS/m; black willow, New Mexico olive, skunkbush sumac, and silver buffaloberry, 1.0 to 2.5 dS/m (B. W. Anderson, personal communication).

(Taylor and McDaniel 1988)



(Fenchel et al.)

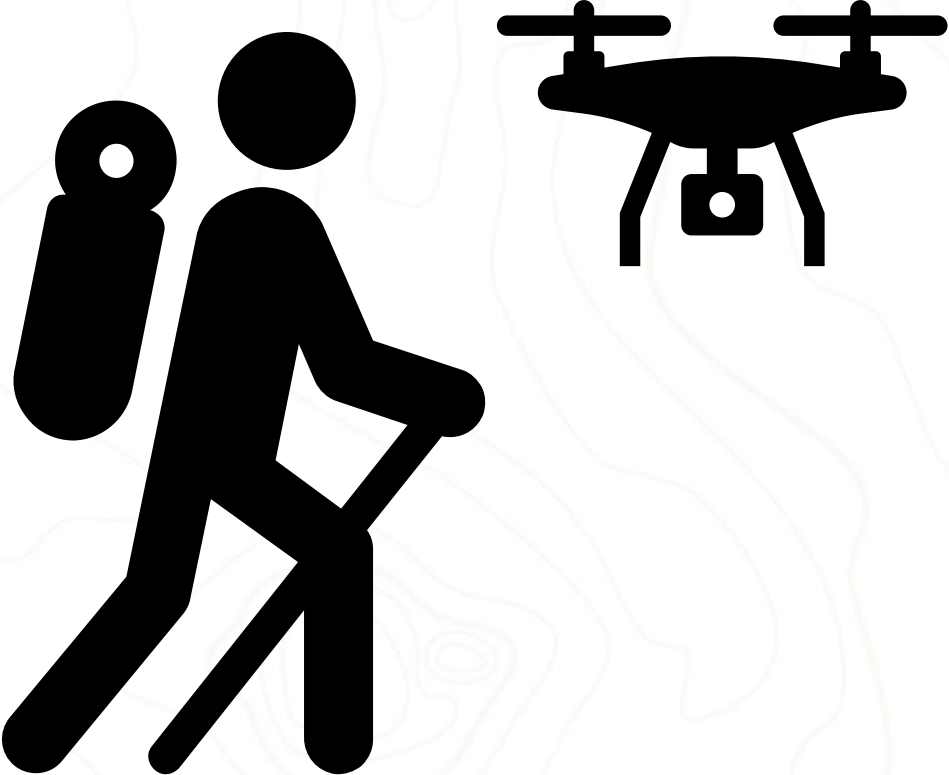
Qualified Contractors





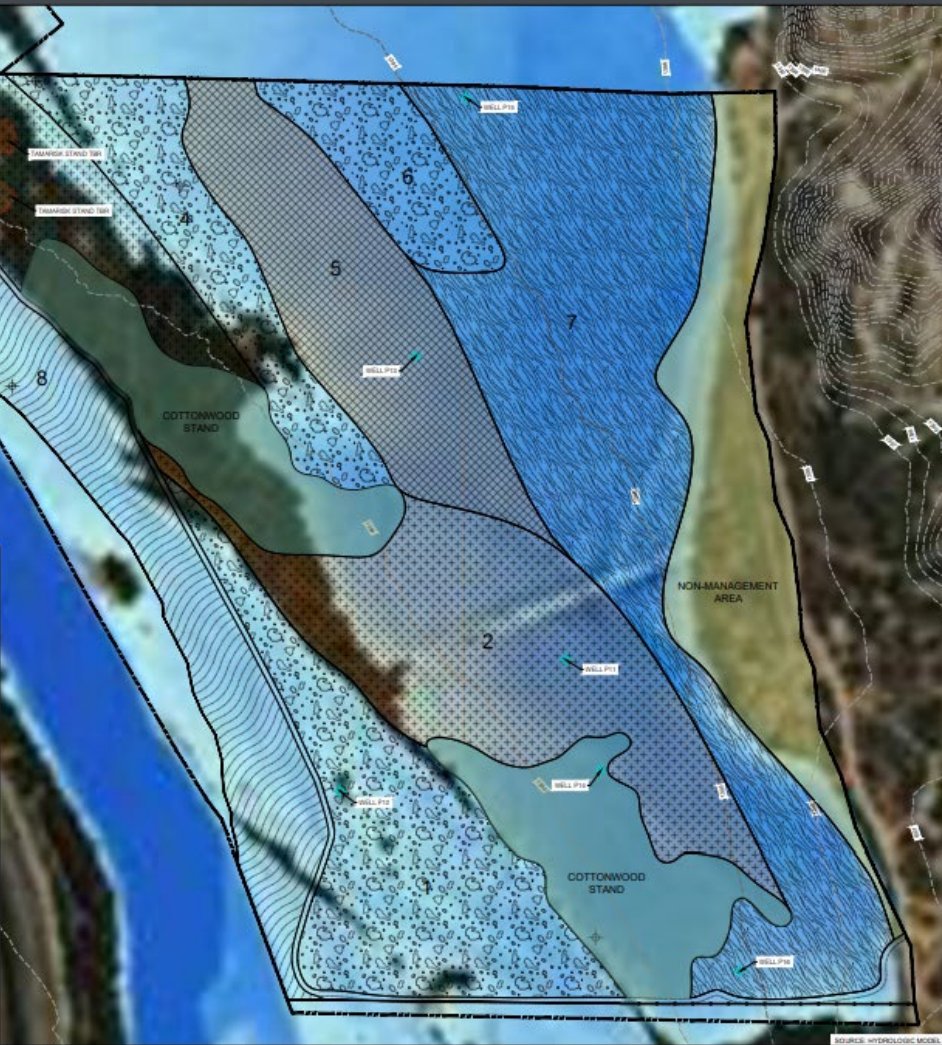


Monitor













SUMMARY

- Have a clear goal but adapt
- Plan for extreme conditions
- Collect both desktop and field data
 - Use your field data to calibrate your models
- Start with your “dream” then scale back
 - Phased approach
 - Funding or material constraints
- Use the resources on site
 - Seed collection/ cuttings/ transplants
- Consider engineering
- Select a qualified contractor
- Monitor

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