

# *Restore New Mexico*



**Restoring  
landscapes of the  
American West**

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## ***What is Restore New Mexico?***

Large-scale restoration efforts  
to restore our state's  
grasslands, woodlands, and  
riparian areas to a healthy and  
productive condition.



## ***Why 'Restore' New Mexico?***

Historic overuse has  
degraded our landscapes in  
the past 150 years.





# *So What's the Problem?*



Invasive species have disrupted fragile ecosystems, replacing native plants and wildlife, and depleting water supplies.



Open forests have become thick and overgrown, reducing habitat for wildlife and greatly increasing the danger of wildfire.



Desert grasslands have transformed into virtual wastelands.

# *Results so Far*

- Since 2005 Restore New Mexico partners have restored more than one million acres of degraded landscapes to healthy ecological states.
- The BLM and partners have targeted close to five million acres across the state for restoration (about the size of New Hampshire).





# *Landscapes out of Balance: Mesquite*



Mesquite and other  
invasive brush species  
deplete soil moisture  
and groundwater,  
reduce native plants  
and wildlife, and  
increase erosion.



# *Landscapes out of Balance: Creosote*



Landscapes dominated by invasive creosote feature 'hardpan' soil which results from a loss of top soil; grassland birds have declined as have antelope and mule deer.



# *Landscapes out of Balance: Juniper*



Juniper has encroached into grasslands and multiplied in open woodlands, sharply decreasing biological diversity and increasing the risk of wildfire.



# *Landscapes out of Balance: Salt Cedar*



Salt cedar is an exotic species invading riparian ecosystems. Trees consume 200-300 gallons of water a day, removing water from streams and greatly reducing the diversity of fish and wildlife.



# *Landscapes out of Balance: Sagebrush*



Sagebrush is important as forage for native game but has eliminated other plants in some landscapes.

Restore New Mexico partners will restore sagebrush to its natural levels in the ecosystem (10-20%).



# *Landscapes out of Balance: Historic Oil and Gas Development*

Historic oil and gas operations from the days when there were few or no regulations disrupt wildlife habitats.





# *Restore New Mexico Results:*

## *Over 900,000 Acres Restored Since 2005!*

a creosote landscape before treatment



Invasive creosote is being replaced with healthy native grasses, benefitting wildlife and increasing groundwater supplies.

a creosote landscape after treatment



In areas north and west of Las Cruces, over 134,000 acres of creosote were treated in 2008.



# *Restore New Mexico Results:*

## *Salt Cedar Treatments*



the Delaware River before salt cedar treatment



the Delaware River after salt cedar treatment

Restore New Mexico partners are removing noxious salt cedar from streams and restoring native cottonwood-willow bosques.

After removing nine miles of invasive salt cedar, the Delaware River is now a healthy, year-round water source, where fish and wildlife are returning and thriving.



# *Restore New Mexico Results:*

## *Sagebrush Treatments*

a sagebrush-dominated landscape



Reducing sagebrush to historic levels in northern New Mexico helps restore native grasses, benefitting elk, deer and antelope.

a sagebrush area four years after treatment





# *Restore New Mexico Results:*

## *Woodland Treatments*

Overgrown forests are being restored with abundant grasses and 'browse species' that beckon herds of mule deer and elk.

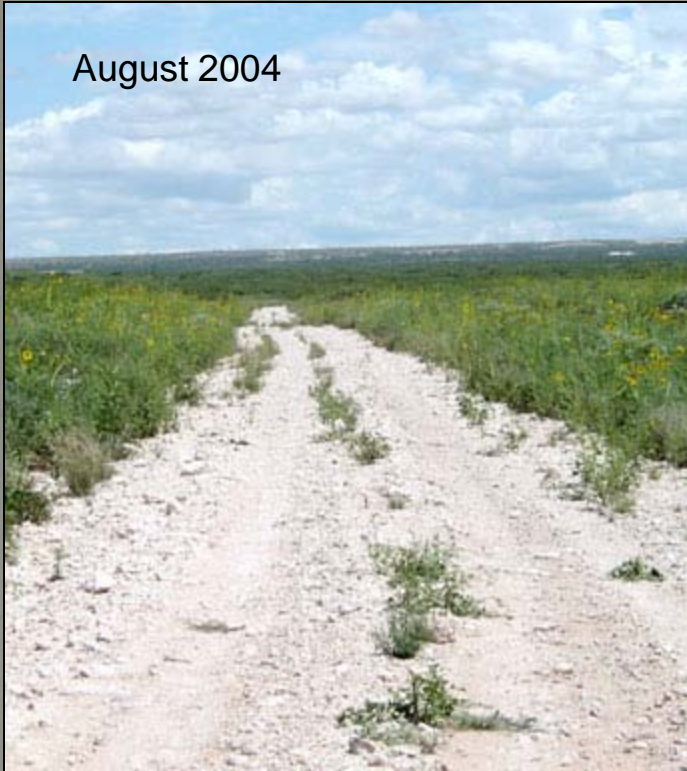




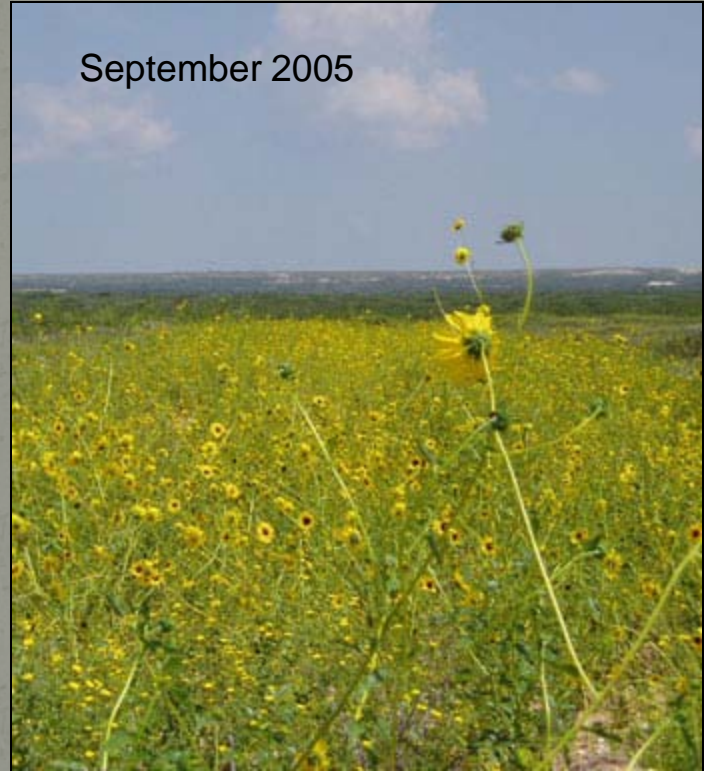
# *Restore New Mexico Results:*

## *Oil and Gas Reclamation*

August 2004



September 2005



Restore New Mexico partners are working with the oil and gas industry to reclaim lands impacted by historic oil and gas development. One treatment focuses on removing caliche from roads so that native grasslands and other vegetation can return.

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# *Restore New Mexico Results:*

## *Habitat Restoration for Bighorn Sheep and Mule Deer*



On Ladron Peak, north of Socorro, 8,500 acres of thick stands of invasive juniper have been thinned in prescribed burns, resulting in the return of healthy open woodlands and grasslands.

Restoration efforts have helped desert bighorn sheep and mule deer.



“As we restore the environment, wildlife will thank us simply by their presence.”

– Bonnie Shulte

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# *Reintroduction of Wildlife:*

## *Antelope*



Grassland restoration allows for the expansion of pronghorn antelope. The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish reintroduced antelope to an area south of Carlsbad that hadn't seen pronghorns for 50 years.





# *Reintroduction of Wildlife:*

## *Aplomado Falcons*



In southern New Mexico restored landscapes will be used for reintroductions of Aplomado falcons and other wildlife .



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# *Reintroduction of Wildlife:*

## *Turkey*

Turkeys are being reintroduced to restored riparian areas in southeast New Mexico.





# *Restoring Wildlife Habitat:*

## *Lesser Prairie Chickens and Sand Dune Lizards*



The lesser prairie chicken and sand dune lizard, candidates for listing under the Endangered Species Act, are benefitting from Restore New Mexico habitat restoration.



# *Restore New Mexico:*

## *Groundbreaking Partnerships*

The BLM in New Mexico has emerged as a national leader in pioneering collaborative partnerships, breaking barriers to bring together government, ranchers, industry, and non-profit organizations to restore landscapes and wildlife habitats.

### A few of our partners

- Natural Resources Conservation Service (EQIP Program)
- NM Association of Conservation Districts
- NM Department of Game & Fish
- NM Land Office
- Energy Companies
- Ranchers and other landowners
- Conservation Groups:
  - Quail Unlimited
  - Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife
  - National Wild Turkey Federation
  - Safari Club International
  - Doña Ana County Associated Sportsmen
  - Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
  - Mule Deer Foundation
  - National Fish and Wildlife Foundation



# *Restore New Mexico*

## *Restoring Landscapes of the American West*



“The Restore New Mexico partnership is becoming a model for restoring landscapes across the nation. Won’t you join us?”

- Linda Rundell, BLM-New Mexico State Director

For more information, please go to [www.blm.gov/nm](http://www.blm.gov/nm)  
click on “Restore New Mexico”

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