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2127 NM Restoration Initiative for Rangeland, Forestland and Wildlife on Ranches with Federal Lands Initiative Project

2127 New Mexico Restoration Initiative for Rangeland, Forestland and Wildlife on Ranches with Federal Lands Initiative Projects

This Initiative will utilize RCPP contracts with landowners whose operations include federal lands. Additional agreements submitted by partners will add funds and leverage RCPP funds to extend projects. This will increase the scope of practices implemented, and encourage additional practices treating critical resource concerns.

Projects will treat private, tribal, state, and federal lands while maintaining agricultural and energy production, supporting operation sustainability and maintaining cultural traditions, and addressing social and environmental justice issues will be emphasized. This project will be modeled after the "Restore New Mexico" and "RCPP 2017 Soil" projects. Funds from NRCS, BLM, USFS, NMDA, NMED, NMACD, tribes, and private industry will be combined to accomplish treatment on over 250,000 acres of brush-invaded range lands and dense forest land. Approximately 30 ranchers in 47 Soil and Water Conservation Districts will develop Coordinated Resource Management Plans that are essential to effective agency coordination and land treatment. An example of the cost-effectiveness of this proposed approach is that "Restore New Mexico" was nationally recognized for wildlife habitat restoration when it received the Presidential Migratory Bird Federal Stewardship Award on May 30, 2012, in Washington, DC.

Past approaches where ranchers and land management agencies independently apply restoration projects can be inefficient, fragmented, unfocused, small-scaled, and not cost-effective.

Independently applied isolated projects have not addressed resource concerns on a landscape/watershed scale. Larger scale projects address critical issues of habitat connectivity essential for wildlife adaptation to climate variability. Due to historic settlement patterns, private lands are largely located in the lower portions of a watershed. Upper watersheds are mostly managed by BLM or USFS. This initiative will facilitate broad-scale treatments.

Lead Partner Organization: New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts

Other Partners: Bureau of Land Management

Eligibility: Projects must be located in the Geographic Priority Area. (see attached map)

Start Date: 5/25/22
End Date: 12/31/27

Resource Concerns: Degraded Plant Condition, Soil Quality Limitations, Terrestrial Habitat

Activity Types: Land Management

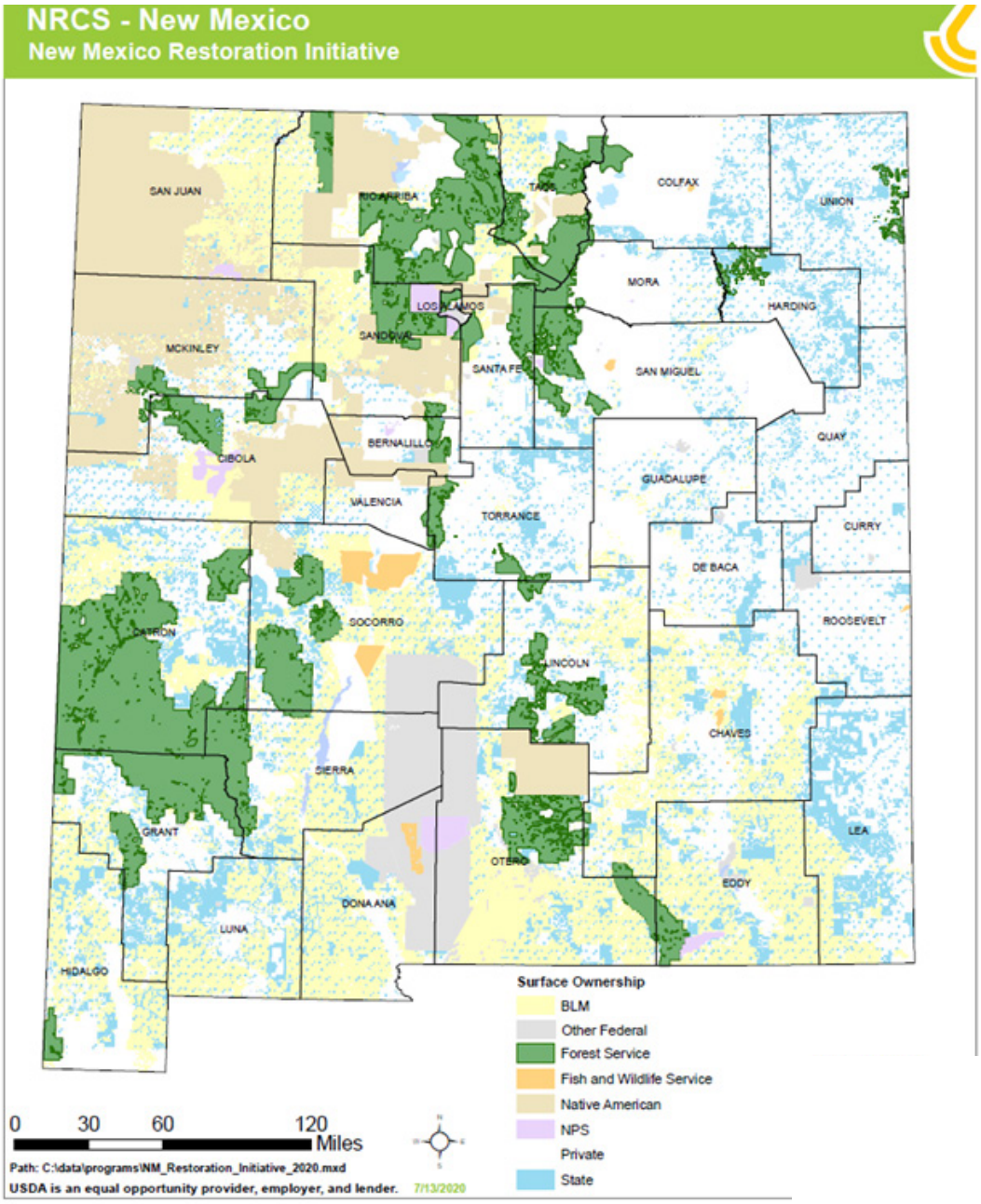
Eligible Practices: Forest Stand Improvement (666) Woody Residue Treatment (384) Brush Management (314) other facilitating practices may be used.

Financial Assistance Available: $3,080,000

Deadlines: November 18, 2022

Ranking Deadline: March 10, 2023

100% Obligations: June 2, 2023



New Mexico

Natural Resources Conservation Service

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