

Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Wildfires Environmental Impact Statement

Agency/Stakeholder & Public Meeting Summary for March 2025



Prepared by:

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In cooperation with:

USDA-NRCS, NMDFA, Taos SWCD, Tierra y Montes SWCD, and Western Mora SWCD

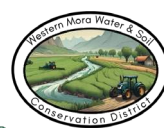
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Introduction

The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) is developing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the burn scar of the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon wildfires that occurred in 2022 and impacted Mora, Colfax, Taos, Rio Arriba, Santa Fe, Guadalupe, and San Miguel counties (Figure 1).

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an EIS is a detailed document prepared to analyze and disclose the potential environmental impacts, both positive and negative, of a proposed project on the natural and human environment, identifying alternatives and mitigation measures to minimize negative effects. The purpose of an EIS is to inform decision-makers and the public about the environmental consequences of a proposed project, allowing for the consideration of potential impacts and mitigation strategies before moving forward with implementation. A key component of the EIS process involves public comment, where the public and project stakeholders can provide feedback.

The Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon EIS will examine resources on private lands affected by the wildfires, including water quality, soils, plants, wetlands, cultural resources, and endangered and threatened species. The EIS will identify and evaluate a range of alternatives to determine the post-fire mitigation and restoration measures needed to protect water resources and minimize the potential for erosion, vegetation loss, sedimentation, buildup of debris, and loss of critical infrastructure in the affected watersheds.

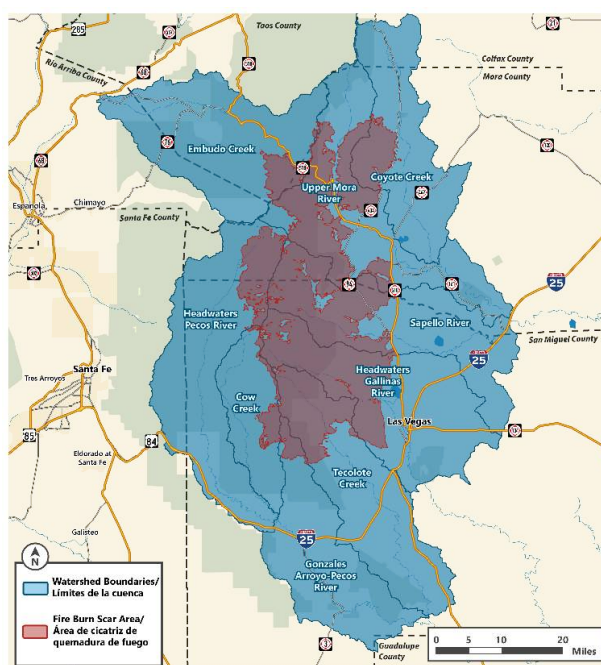


Figure 1: EIS Study Area for the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Wildfires

Agency/Stakeholder Meeting (Virtual)

In collaboration with USDA-NRCS, the EIS study team held a virtual agency/stakeholder meeting on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. via Microsoft Teams. To participate, agencies and stakeholders were invited to log in to the meeting using the Microsoft Teams desktop application, web browser, or via telephone. The meeting was recorded and had a total of 27 attendees. The meeting focused on an overview of the USDA-NRCS process, the study team and key stakeholders, study area, study phases, and next steps. Comments and questions were accepted and answered live following the presentation.

Agency/Stakeholder Meeting Notification

Agency/Stakeholder Meeting Invitation

The EIS study team prepared an email invitation that was sent to agencies, stakeholders, and tribal entities by USDA-NRCS. A copy of the agency/stakeholder meeting invitation is included in *Appendix A, Meeting Notifications*.

Public Meeting (In-Person & Virtual)

The EIS study team, in collaboration with the USDA-NRCS, held an in-person public meeting on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. at New Mexico Highlands University with a virtual meeting option via Zoom. To participate virtually, the public was invited to log in to the meeting using the Zoom application, a web browser, or via telephone. The meeting had a total of 40 attendees - 15 in-person and 25 online. The meeting focused on an overview of the USDA-NRCS EIS process, study team, study area, study phases, and next steps.

Public Meeting Notifications

All public meeting notifications are included in *Appendix A, Meeting Notifications*.

Newspaper Advertisement

The EIS study team developed and distributed three newspaper advertisements, in both English and Spanish, for the in-person/virtual meeting. The newspaper advertisements provided an overview of the EIS, invited the public to attend the in-person public meeting or utilize the virtual meeting option, and provided information on how to provide comments. The advertisements, which also included the date and location of the meetings, were distributed in the following publications:

- *Las Vegas Optic* - February 28, 2025
- *Taos News* - February 27, 2025
- *Santa Fe New Mexican* - February 25, 2025 (English only)

Per NEPA requirements, one legal affidavit was also included in the *Taos News* in addition to the advertisement.

Direct Mailer

A direct mailer was sent to 21,630 addresses in the study area to inform residents and property owners of the in-person public meeting and the virtual meeting option. The mailer



(which was made available in English and Spanish) was distributed on February 28, 2025. The mailers were sent to the following postal codes within the study area:

- 87113 (Chacon)
- 87521 (Chamisal)
- 87552 (Pecos)
- 87565 (San Jose)
- 87573 (Tererro)
- 87701 (Las Vegas)
- 87715 (Cleveland)
- 87723 (Holman)
- 87731 (Montezuma)
- 87732 (Mora)
- 87742 (Rociada)
- 87745 (Sapello)

Radio Advertisement

A radio advertisement was developed and recorded in English and Spanish to inform the public of the in-person public meeting and virtual meeting option, with information including the date, time, location, and link for the meeting. A copy of the radio script in English and Spanish is included in Appendix A, Notifications. The radio advertisement aired on three radio stations within the project area from February 21 to March 11, 2025, including:

- KNCE (Taos)
 - o 131 spots in English and Spanish
- KFVN & KLVF (Las Vegas)
 - o 136 spots in English and Spanish

Study Webpage

The study webpage was updated in February 2025 to include the date, time, location, link, and login instructions for the in-person/virtual public meeting. The webpage also included information on how to provide comments for the EIS.

Study webpage link: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/state-offices/new-mexico/hermits-peak-and-calf-canyon-burn-scar-project>

Social Media

A social media plan with five individual content posts and graphics was created for the USDA-NRCS Facebook page. Within the social media plan, it was proposed to localize popular community Facebook group pages to organically advertise the meeting and the comment period. At the time of posting, NRCS was instructed to refrain from all social media.

Public Meeting Materials

All public meeting materials are included in *Appendix A, Meeting Materials*.

Presentation

A PowerPoint presentation was delivered during the in-person public meeting and online through Zoom. The presentation included information on the project background, NEPA



process, public scoping process, and how public comments contribute to the EIS.

Watershed Maps

Nine printed poster maps were displayed on the walls for attendees to view and discuss with study team members and place sticky notes on them with comments and questions directly related to a specific area.

Fact Sheet

A fact sheet, in both English and Spanish, was printed and distributed to the in-person public meeting attendees. The fact sheet provided information on the EIS, the study purpose, a map of the study area, the study timeline, and details on how the public can participate in the EIS.

Comment Form

A comment form, in both English and Spanish, was made available to the public as printed copies that were distributed during the in-person public meeting. The comment form included four questions regarding impacts from the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Wildfires and five questions about demographics and contact information.

Public Comments

Public comments were received during and after the public meeting, in-person and online, and via email. A total of 11 public comments have been recorded thus far since the public meeting on March 11, 2025, and include issues of concern related to the wildfire and flooding events, in addition to questions regarding financial claims. All comments are captured in *Appendix C, Public Comments*.



Appendix A – Meeting Notifications

Agency/Stakeholder Meeting Invitation



Natural Resources Conservation Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service New Mexico State Office

100 Sun Avenue NE, Suite 602

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109

(505) 761-4400

February 5, 2025

SENT VIA EMAIL

Subject: Public Scoping Meeting Notice for the Programmatic Watershed Plan-Environmental Impact Statement for the Hermit's Peak & Calf Canyon Burn Scar Project, Mora, Colfax, Taos, Rio Arriba, Santa Fe, Guadalupe, and San Miguel Counties, New Mexico

Dear Stakeholder,

Between April and July of 2022, the Hermit's Peak and Calf Canyon wildfires burned over 500 square miles and resulted in severe impairment of multiple watersheds in Northern New Mexico. In partnership with local Sponsors (including the Tierra Y Montes Soil and Water Conservation District, the Western Mora Soil and Water Conservation District, the Taos Soil and Water Conservation District, and the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration), the United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is preparing a Programmatic Watershed Plan-Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the Hermit's Peak & Calf Canyon Burn Scar Project in Mora, Colfax, Taos, Rio Arriba, Santa Fe, Guadalupe, and San Miguel Counties, New Mexico (see enclosed map). The PEIS is being prepared and funded in accordance with the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (PL 83-566), which provides for cooperation between the Federal Government and the States and their political subdivisions to address resource concerns due to erosion, floodwater, and sediment and provide for improved utilization of the land and water resources. Future actions to be considered would address impacts such as: erosion, water quality, sedimentation and debris accumulation, flooding, re-vegetation, and others.

Presently, the NRCS and the Sponsors are initiating a scoping process to provide all stakeholders with an opportunity to comment on issues, potential impacts, or alternatives that you would like to see considered in the PEIS. Currently, technical studies are scheduled to take place during spring and summer 2025, with a Draft PEIS circulated to the public and agencies for review in spring of 2026.

This letter is to invite you to participate in an Agency and Tribal Scoping Meeting that will take place on **Tuesday, March 4th, 2025, at 1:00 PM**. Presentations will be given during the meeting to further describe the PL 83-566 Program, explain the approach to this PEIS, gather feedback from attendees, answer questions, and collect any written comments. Details about the Agency and Tribal Scoping Meeting can be found below.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Virtual Agency and Tribal Scoping Meeting

Link: <https://surl.ms/JAC>

Meeting ID: 288 693 784 093

Passcode: gQ7U3sg2

Dial in by Phone: +1 469-770-0416

Phone Conference ID: 420 930 976#

Comments can be submitted through any one of the methods below. Comments can also be submitted even if you cannot attend the Agency and Tribal Scoping Meeting. However, all comments must be submitted or postmarked by **Friday, April 18th, 2025**.

- Call: 505-357-7327
- Submit comments using the chat option during the Agency and Tribal Scoping Meeting
- Mail written comments to:
Hermit's Peak/ Calf Canyon Burn Scar
c/o: HDR
2155 Louisiana Blvd NE, Ste 3000
Albuquerque, NM 87110
- Email your comments to: hermitspeakcalfcanyoneis@hdrinc.com

The PEIS will identify future actions that provide long-term mitigation to wildfire impacts and post-fire flooding. A website has been created for the project that will be used to provide updates as the PEIS is being developed. The website can be found at the following link: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/watershed-and-flood-prevention-operations-wfpo-program/new-mexico/watershed> or via the QR Code below.



If you have any questions or comments regarding this notice, please contact Merceidez Fabok, Watershed Program Manager, by email at Merceidez.Fabok@usda.gov or via phone at 505.761.4421.

Respectfully,

ELIAS GNANN

Digitally signed by ELIAS
GNANN
Date: 2025.02.05 09:28:30 -07'00'

Elias Gnann

State Conservation Engineer

Enclosure: Figure 1. Project Map

Natural Resources Conservation Service

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

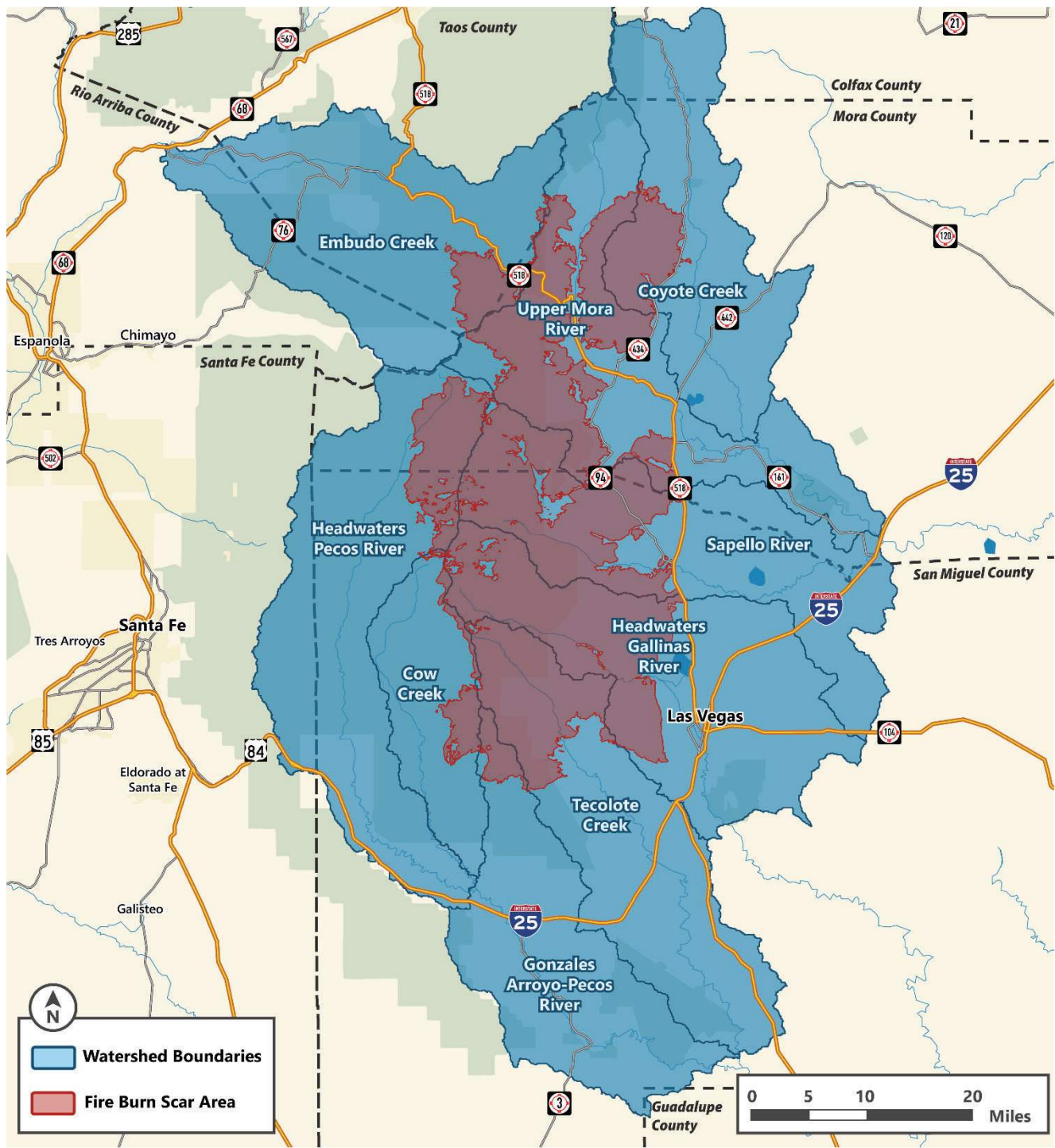


Figure 1. Project Map

Appendix A – Meeting Notifications

Public Meeting Newspaper Advertisement

ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR

Hamas official expresses regrets about Oct. 7 attack

By Adam Rasgon
The New York Times

JERUSALEM — For months, leaders of Hamas have defended the militant group’s decision to launch the Oct. 7, 2023 attack on Israel, even though it ignited a devastating Israeli offensive that has killed tens of thousands of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and reduced the territory to rubble.

Hamas has declared “victory” over Israel, and some of its officials have vowed that their fighters will carry out more Oct. 7-style attacks in the future.

But now one of Hamas’ top officials is publicly expressing reservations about the assault, which also touched off a humanitarian crisis that displaced nearly 2 million and led to critical shortages of food and health care.

Mousa Abu Marzouk, the Qatar-based head of Hamas’

foreign relations office, said in an interview with *The New York Times* that he would not have supported the attack if he had known of the havoc it would wreak on Gaza. Knowing of the consequences, he said, would have made it “impossible” for him to back the assault.

Abu Marzouk has said that he was not informed about the specific plans for the Oct. 7 attack, in which roughly 1,200 people were killed and about 250 taken hostage, but that he and other Hamas political leaders had endorsed its overall strategy of attacking Israel militarily.

“If it was expected that what happened would happen, there wouldn’t have been Oct. 7,” as far as he was concerned, he said.

He also suggested that there was some willingness within Hamas to negotiate the future of the group’s weapons in Gaza



SAHER ALGHORRA/THE NEW YORK TIMES
 Hamas fighters escort Eliya Cohen during a public hostage hand-over ceremony Saturday in Nuseirat, in the central Gaza Strip.

— which has been a sticking point in negotiations with Israel — taking a position that other Hamas officials have rejected. A compromise might help Hamas and Israel avoid a renewal of the

war, analysts say. Israel has said that it wants Hamas to dismantle its military capabilities.

Abu Marzouk, 74, the first leader of Hamas’ political office in the 1990s, made the remarks in

a phone interview Friday.

It’s unclear to what extent Abu Marzouk’s views on Oct. 7 are shared by other Hamas leaders, or if they were an attempt to influence negotiations with Israel or put pressure on fellow leaders within the militant group. Other Hamas leaders, especially those closely connected to Iran and the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, have tended to take a harder line.

In a statement posted after publication, Hamas said that the comments the *Times* attributed to Abu Marzouk were “incorrect” and taken out of context. It also said the senior Hamas official called the Oct. 7 attack “an expression of our people’s right to resistance and of its rejection of the siege, occupation and settlement building.”

The statement added that Abu Marzouk affirmed the group’s

position that “the weapons of the resistance” can’t be given up as long as “there is an occupation of our land.”

His comments suggest that there are differences among Hamas officials over the party line on Oct. 7 and its consequences. They also indicate that the frustrations of Palestinians in Gaza who say the attack has made them endure extraordinary suffering are having some impact within the Hamas leadership.

Abu Marzouk’s comments were similar to those made by Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of Hezbollah, in the aftermath of the 2006 war between Israel and Hezbollah. The scale of the destruction in that conflict led Nasrallah to concede that his group would not have kidnapped and killed several Israeli soldiers at the time had it known it would set off such a strong response.

Pa. hospital shooting highlights risks to U.S. health care workers

By Mead Gruver
The Associated Press

A man who took hostages in a Pennsylvania hospital during a shooting that killed a police officer and wounded five other people highlights the rising violence against U.S. health care workers and the challenge of protecting them.

Diogenes Archangel-Ortiz, 49, carried a pistol and zip ties into the intensive care unit at UPMC Memorial Hospital in southern Pennsylvania’s York County and took staff members hostage Saturday before he was killed in a shootout with police, officials said. The attack also left a doctor, nurse, custodian and two other officers wounded.

Officers opened fire as Archangel-Ortiz held at gunpoint a female staff member whose hands had been zip-tied, police said.

The man apparently intentionally targeted the hospital after he

was in contact with the intensive care unit earlier in the week for medical care involving someone else, according to the York County district attorney.

Such violence at hospitals is on the rise, often in emergency departments but also maternity wards and intensive care units, hospital security consultant Dick Sem said.

“Many people are more confrontational, quicker to become angry, quicker to become threatening,” Sem said. “I interview thousands of nurses and hear all the time about how they’re being abused every day.”

Archangel-Ortiz’s motives remained unclear but nurses report increasing harassment from the public, especially following the coronavirus pandemic, said Sem, former director of security and crisis management for Waste Management and vice president at Pinkerton/Securitas.

In hospital attacks, unlike random mass shootings elsewhere, the shooter is often targeting somebody, sometimes resentful about the care given a relative who died, Sem noted.

“It tends to be someone who’s mad at somebody,” Sem said. “It might be a domestic violence situation or employees, ex-employees. There’s all kinds of variables.”

At WellSpan Health, a nearby hospital where some of the victims were taken, Megan Foltz said she has been worried about violence since she began working as a nurse nearly 20 years ago.

“In the critical care environment, of course there’s going to be heightened emotions. People are losing loved ones. There can be gang violence, domestic violence. Inebriated individuals,” Foltz said.

Besides the fear of being hurt themselves, nurses fear leaving their patients unguarded.

SANTA FE+NEW MEXICAN

HOME

SANTA FE REAL ESTATE GUIDE

MARCH 2025

FINDING COMMUNITY IN ALDEA

In RARE Form

Forrest Fyre's Favorite Room

COMING SUN. 3/2

There's a difference between a planned development and a community. And if you're curious as to what that difference is, check out this month's cover house. Located in the New Urbanist-inspired Aldea. Not only is the house itself bright and airy and resplendent with views and openness but the area's residents are just as open and inviting. And for your one-stop real estate shopping needs, there's RARE—the Ralph Alan Real Estate group, an all-inclusive soup-to-nuts realty and everything else venture. And this month's Favorite Room belongs to the ever-entertaining owner of Earthfire Gems Gallery (and sometime actor) Forrest Fyre. Spring has (almost) sprung!

inside the SANTA FE+NEW MEXICAN To Advertise in upcoming issues, Call 505-995-3892

USDA

Natural Resources Conservation Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Your Input Is Important!

Public Invited to Comment on the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Wildfires Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) – March 11, 2025

The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) is developing an EIS for the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon wildfires that occurred in 2022 and impacted Mora, Colfax, Taos, Rio Arriba, Santa Fe, Guadalupe, and San Miguel counties.

In accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) an EIS is a detailed document prepared to analyze and disclose the potential environmental impacts, both positive and negative, of a proposed project on the natural and human environment and identify alternatives and mitigation measures to minimize negative effects. The purpose of an EIS is to inform decision-makers and the public about the environmental consequences of a proposed project, allowing for consideration of potential impacts and mitigation strategies before moving forward with project implementation. A key component of the EIS process involves public comment in which the general public and project stakeholders can provide feedback.

The Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon EIS will examine resources on private and public lands impacted by the wildfires including water quality, soils, plants, wetlands, cultural resources, and endangered and threatened species. The EIS will identify and evaluate a range of alternatives to determine post-fire mitigation and restoration measures needed to protect water resources and minimize the potential for erosion, vegetation loss, sedimentation / buildup of debris, and loss of critical infrastructure in the impacted watersheds.

The EIS will include:

Evaluation of impacts on air, water, wildlife, and more

Public and community feedback

Alternatives to address post-wildlife impacts and reduce long-term effects on local ecosystems

Watershed Boundaries

Fire Burn Scar Area

0

5

10

20

Miles

Embudo Creek

Upper Mora River

Coyote Creek

Headwaters Pecos River

Sapello River

Headwaters Gallinas River

Cow Creek

Tecolote Creek

Gonzales Arroyo-Pecos River

Las Vegas

San Miguel County

Guadalupe County

Santa Fe County

Chimayo

Espartero

Tres Arroyos

Eldorado at Santa Fe

Galisteo

Taos County

Colfax County

Mora County

Rio Arriba County

How to Participate

You’re invited to participate in an in-person public meeting with a virtual option to learn more about the EIS and provide input on the project. This is the time to tell us about the impacts you have seen and share what you would like to see moving forward. Your feedback will be used to develop the EIS document that will contribute to restoring long-term watershed functionality, increasing post-wildfire flood resilience, and sustaining a healthy environment for wildlife, agriculture, and the surrounding communities.

Date & Time
Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

Location & Address
New Mexico Highlands University
Thomas C Donnelly Library
900 University Ave
Las Vegas, NM 87701

Livestream the public meeting online
Link: bit.ly/HPCCSEISPublicMeeting
Meeting/Webinar ID: 993 6237 3611
Join by Phone: 1-346-248-7799

Scan to learn more!

We Want to Hear from You!

March 11 through May 16, 2025.
You can comment in the following ways:

Attend: in-person public meeting or join virtually

Email: hermitspeakcalfcanyoneis@hdrinc.com

Call: 505-357-7327

USPS Mail: Hermit’s Peak/Calf Canyon Burn Scar c/o HDR
2155 Louisiana Blvd NE, Ste 3000
Albuquerque, NM 87110

To request reasonable accommodation or ASL interpretation, please call 505-357-7327 by Tuesday, March 4, 2025.



Natural Resources Conservation Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

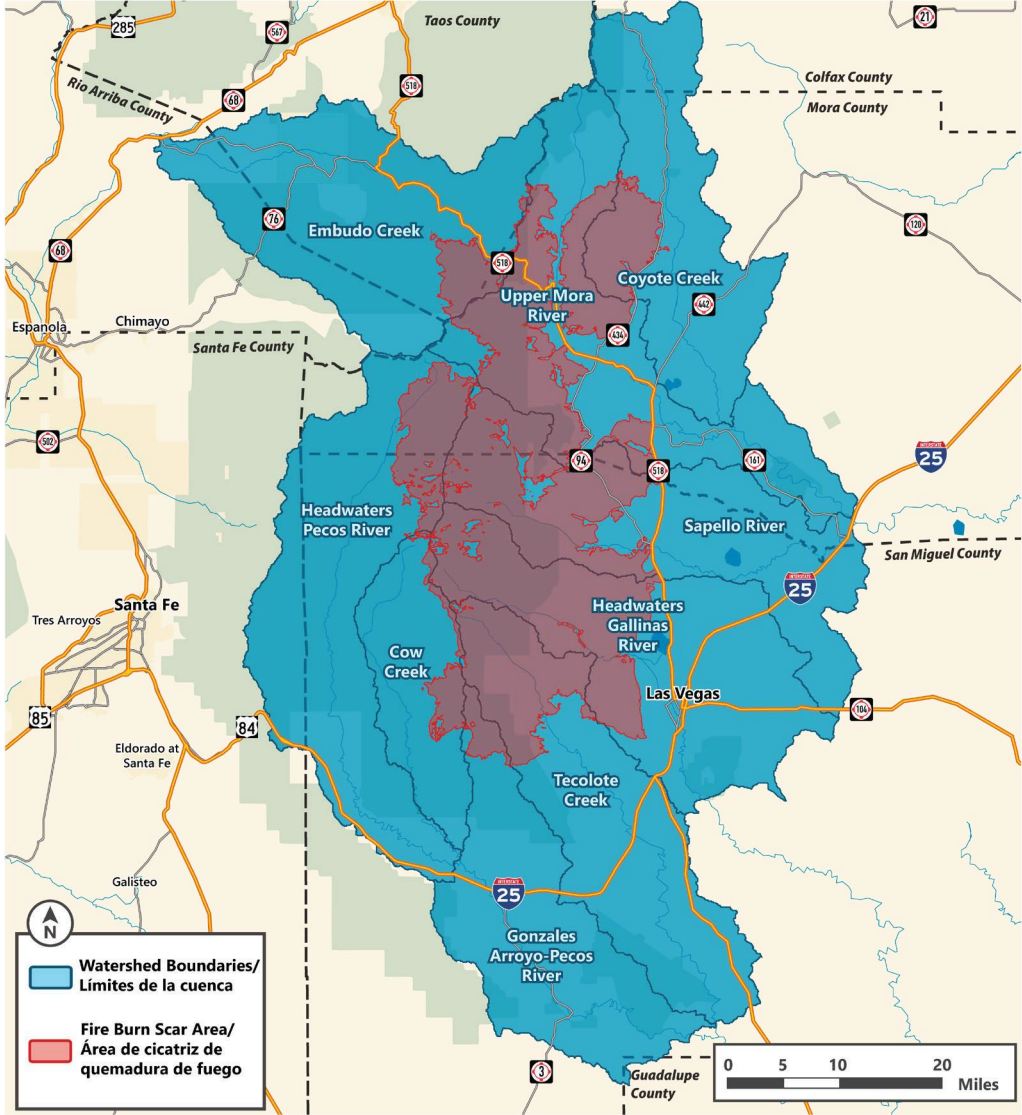
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Evaluation of impacts on air, water, wildlife, and more



Public and community feedback



Alternatives to address post-wildlife impacts and reduce long-term effects on local ecosystems



How to Participate

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Las Vegas, NM 87701

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Link: bit.ly/HPCCEISPublicMeeting
Meeting/Webinar ID: 993 6237 3611
Join by Phone: 1-346-248-7799

We Want to Hear from You!

March 11 through May 16, 2025

You can comment in the following ways:

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- Email:** hermitspeakcalfcanyoneis@hdrinc.com
- Call:** 505-357-7327
- USPS Mail:** Hermit’s Peak/Calf Canyon Burn Scar
c/o HDR
2155 Louisiana Blvd NE, Ste 3000
Albuquerque, NM 87110



Scan to learn more!



To request reasonable accommodation or ASL interpretation, please call 505-357-7327 by Tuesday, March 4, 2025.

¡Su opinión es importante!

Se invita al público a comentar sobre la Declaración de Impacto Ambiental (EIS) de los incendios forestales de Hermit’s Peak/Calf Canyon - 11 de marzo de 2025

El Servicio de Conservación de Recursos Naturales del Departamento de Agricultura de Estados Unidos (USDA-NRCS) está elaborando una Declaración de Impacto Ambiental (EIS) por los incendios forestales de Hermit’s Peak/Calf Canyon que ocurrieron en 2022 y afectaron a los condados de Mora, Colfax, Taos, Río Arriba, Santa Fe, Guadalupe y San Miguel, en Nuevo México.

De acuerdo con los requisitos de la Ley de Política Ambiental Nacional (NEPA), un EIS es un documento detallado preparado para analizar y divulgar los posibles impactos ambientales, tanto positivos como negativos, de un proyecto propuesto en el entorno natural y humano e identificar alternativas y medidas de mitigación para minimizar los efectos negativos. El propósito de una EIS es informar a los tomadores de decisiones y al público sobre las consecuencias ambientales de un proyecto propuesto, lo que permite considerar los impactos potenciales y las estrategias de mitigación antes de avanzar con la implementación del proyecto. Un componente clave del proceso de EIS es el comentario público, en el que el público en general y las partes interesadas en el proyecto pueden aportar sus opiniones.

El EIS de Hermit’s Peak/Calf Canyon examinará los recursos en tierras privadas y públicas afectadas por los incendios forestales, incluida la calidad del agua, los suelos, las plantas, los humedales, los recursos culturales y las especies en peligro de extinción y amenazadas. El EIS identificará y evaluará una variedad de alternativas para determinar las medidas de mitigación y restauración post-incendio necesarias para proteger los recursos hídricos y minimizar el potencial de erosión, pérdida de vegetación, sedimentación/acumulación de escombros y pérdida de infraestructura crítica en las cuencas hidrográficas afectadas.

El EIS incluirá:

- Evaluación de los impactos sobre el aire, el agua, la fauna, etc.
- Comentarios del público y la comunidad
- Alternativas para abordar los impactos posteriores a la vida silvestre y reducir los efectos a largo plazo en los ecosistemas locales

Cómo puede participar

Le invitamos a participar en una reunión pública presencial con opción virtual para obtener más información sobre el EIS y aportar su opinión sobre el proyecto. Este es el momento de contarnos sobre los impactos que han visto y compartir lo que les gustaría ver en el futuro. Sus comentarios se utilizarán para elaborar el documento EIS que contribuirá a restaurar la funcionalidad de las cuencas hidrográficas a largo plazo, aumentar la resiliencia a las inundaciones posteriores a los incendios forestales y mantener un entorno saludable para la vida silvestre, la agricultura y las comunidades circundantes.

Fecha y hora

Martes, 11 de marzo de 2025, a las 5:30 p.m.

Ubicación y dirección

New Mexico Highlands University | Thomas C Donnelly Library
900 University Ave
Las Vegas, NM 87701

Transmita la reunión pública en línea

Enlace: bit.ly/HPCCEISPublicMeeting
ID de la reunión/webinar: 993 6237 3611
Únase por teléfono: 1-346-248-7799

¡Queremos saber lo que piensa!

Del 11 de marzo al 16 de mayo de 2025.

Puede hacer comentarios de las siguientes maneras:

- Asista:** a la reunión pública presencial o únase virtualmente
- Correo electrónico:** hermitspeakcalfcanyoneis@hdrinc.com
- Llame al:** 505-357-7327
- Correo USPS:** Hermit’s Peak/Calf Canyon Burn Scar
c/o HDR
2155 Louisiana Blvd NE, Ste 3000
Albuquerque, NM 87110



¡Escanee para obtener más información!

Para solicitar adaptaciones razonables o interpretación de ASL, llame al 505-357-7327 antes del martes 4 de marzo de 2025.



Natural Resources Conservation Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

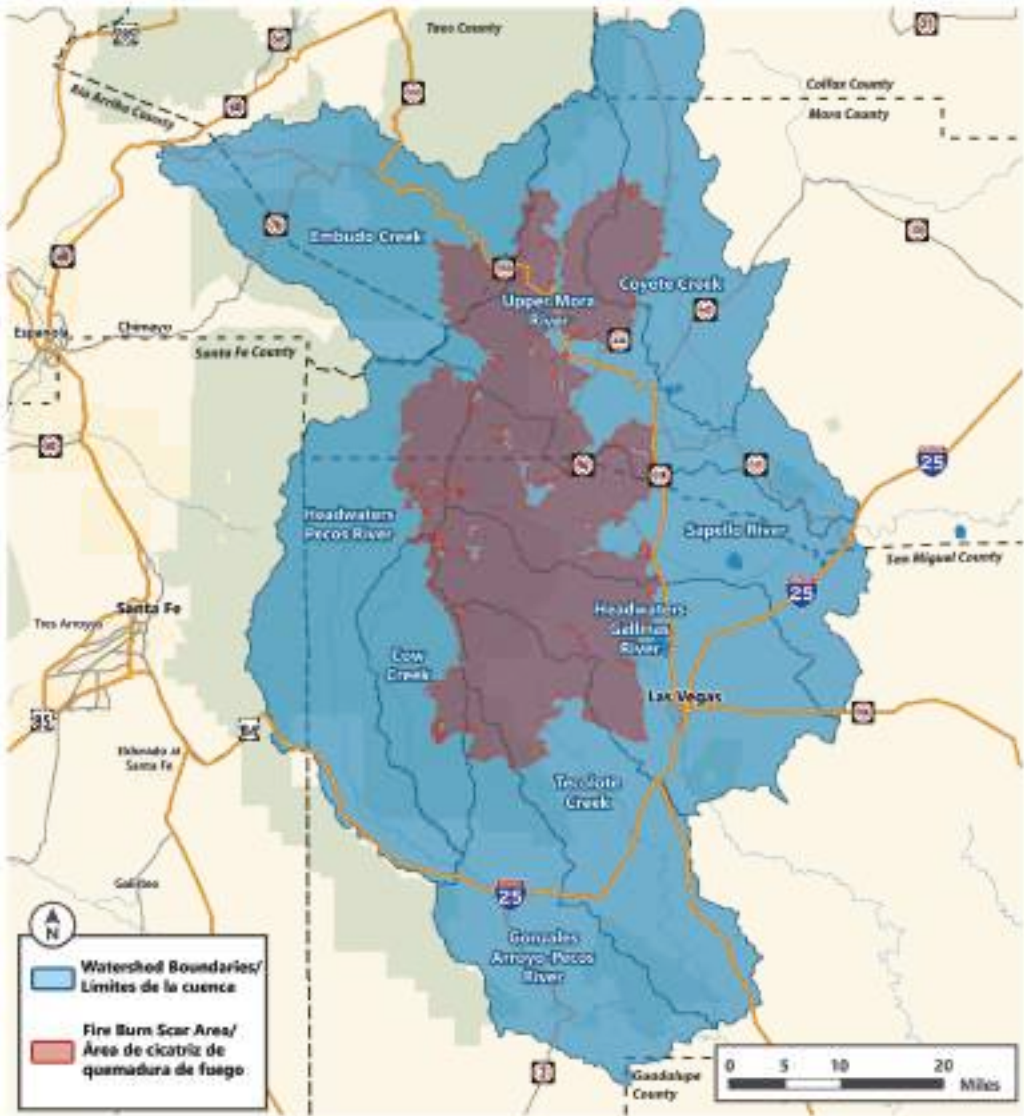
Your Input Is Important!

Public Invited to Comment on the Hermit’s Peak/Calf Canyon Wildfires Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) March 11, 2025

The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) is developing an EIS for the Hermit’s Peak/Calf Canyon wildfires that occurred in 2022 and impacted Mora, Colfax, Taos, Rio Arriba, Santa Fe, Guadalupe, and San Miguel counties.

In accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) an EIS is a detailed document prepared to analyze and disclose the potential environmental impacts, both positive and negative, of a proposed project on the natural and human environment and identify alternatives and mitigation measures to minimize negative effects. The purpose of an EIS is to inform decision-makers and the public about the environmental consequences of a proposed project, allowing for consideration of potential impacts and mitigation strategies before moving forward with project implementation. A key component of the EIS process involves public comment in which the general public and project stakeholders can provide feedback.

The Hermit’s Peak/Calf Canyon EIS will examine resources on private and public lands impacted by the wildfires including water quality, soils, plants, wetlands, cultural resources, and endangered and threatened species. The EIS will identify and evaluate a range of alternatives to determine post-fire mitigation and restoration measures needed to protect water resources and minimize the potential for erosion, vegetation loss, sedimentation / buildup of debris, and loss of critical infrastructure in the impacted watersheds. The EIS will include:



Evaluation of impacts on air, water, wildlife, and more



Public and community feedback



Alternatives to address post-wildlife impacts and reduce long-term effects on local ecosystems



How to Participate

You’re invited to participate in an in-person public meeting with a virtual option to learn more about the EIS and provide input on the project. This is the time to tell us about the impacts you have seen and share what you would like to see moving forward. Your feedback will be used to develop the EIS document that will contribute to restoring long-term watershed functionality, increasing post-wildfire flood resilience, and sustaining a healthy environment for wildlife, agriculture, and the surrounding communities.

Date & Time

Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

Location & Address

New Mexico Highlands University | Thomas C Donnelly Library
900 University Ave
Las Vegas, NM 87701

Livestream the public meeting online

Link: bit.ly/HPCCEISPublicMeeting
Meeting/Webinar ID: 993 6237 3611
Join by Phone: 1-346-248-7799

We Want to Hear from You!

March 11 through May 16, 2025

You can comment in the following ways:

Attend: in-person public meeting or join virtually

Email: hermitspeakcalfcanyoneis@hdrinc.com

Call: 505-357-7327

USPS Mail: Hermit’s Peak/Calf Canyon Burn Scar
c/o HDR
2155 Louisiana Blvd NE, Ste 3000
Albuquerque, NM 87110



Scan to learn more!



To request reasonable accommodation or ASL interpretation, please call **505-357-7327** by **Tuesday, March 4, 2025**.

¡Su opinión es importante!

Se invita al público a comentar sobre la Declaración de Impacto Ambiental (EIS) de los incendios forestales de Hermit’s Peak/Calf Canyon - 11 de marzo de 2025

El Servicio de Conservación de Recursos Naturales del Departamento de Agricultura de Estados Unidos (USDA-NRCS) está elaborando una Declaración de Impacto Ambiental (EIS) por los incendios forestales de Hermit’s Peak/Calf Canyon que ocurrieron en 2022 y afectaron a los condados de Mora, Colfax, Taos, Rio Arriba, Santa Fe, Guadalupe y San Miguel, en Nuevo México.

De acuerdo con los requisitos de la Ley de Política Ambiental Nacional (NEPA), un EIS es un documento detallado preparado para analizar y divulgar los posibles impactos ambientales, tanto positivos como negativos, de un proyecto propuesto en el entorno natural y humano e identificar alternativas y medidas de mitigación para minimizar los efectos negativos. El propósito de una EIS es informar a los tomadores de decisiones y al público sobre las consecuencias ambientales de un proyecto propuesto, lo que permite considerar los impactos potenciales y las estrategias de mitigación antes de avanzar con la implementación del proyecto. Un componente clave del proceso de EIS es el comentario público, en el que el público en general y las partes interesadas en el proyecto pueden aportar sus opiniones.

El EIS de Hermit’s Peak/Calf Canyon examinará los recursos en tierras privadas y públicas afectadas por los incendios forestales, incluida la calidad del agua, los suelos, las plantas, los humedales, los recursos culturales y las especies en peligro de extinción y amenazadas. El EIS identificará y evaluará una variedad de alternativas para determinar las medidas de mitigación y restauración post-incendio necesarias para proteger los recursos hídricos y minimizar el potencial de erosión, pérdida de vegetación, sedimentación/acumulación de escombros y pérdida de infraestructura crítica en las cuencas hidrográficas afectadas.

El EIS incluirá:

- Evaluación de los impactos sobre el aire, el agua, la fauna, etc.
- Comentarios del público y la comunidad
- Alternativas para abordar los impactos posteriores a la vida silvestre y reducir los efectos a largo plazo en los ecosistemas locales

Cómo puede participar

Le invitamos a participar en una reunión pública presencial con opción virtual para obtener más información sobre el EIS y aportar su opinión sobre el proyecto. Este es el momento de contarnos sobre los impactos que han visto y compartir lo que les gustaría ver en el futuro. Sus comentarios se utilizarán para elaborar el documento EIS que contribuirá a restaurar la funcionalidad de las cuencas hidrográficas a largo plazo, aumentar la resiliencia a las inundaciones posteriores a los incendios forestales y mantener un entorno saludable para la vida silvestre, la agricultura y las comunidades circundantes.

Fecha y hora

Martes, 11 de marzo de 2025, a las 5:30 p.m.

Ubicación y dirección

New Mexico Highlands University | Thomas C Donnelly Library
900 University Ave
Las Vegas, NM 87701

Transmita la reunión pública en línea

Enlace: bit.ly/HPCCEISPublicMeeting
ID de la reunión/webinar: 993 6237 3611
Únase por teléfono: 1-346-248-7799

¡Queremos saber lo que piensa!

Del 11 de marzo al 16 de mayo de 2025.

Puede hacer comentarios de las siguientes maneras:

Asista: a la reunión pública presencial o únase virtualmente

Correo electrónico: hermitspeakcalfcanyoneis@hdrinc.com

Llame al: 505-357-7327

Correo USPS: Hermit’s Peak/Calf Canyon Burn Scar
c/o HDR
2155 Louisiana Blvd NE, Ste 3000
Albuquerque, NM 87110



¡Escanee para obtener más información!

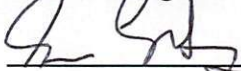
Para solicitar adaptaciones razonables o interpretación de ASL, llame al **505-357-7327** antes del **martes 4 de marzo de 2025**.

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

I, Sean Linton declare and state that I am the Assistant Business Manager of the TAOS NEWS, a weekly newspaper with general circulation, printed and published in Taos County, Colfax County, and Rio Arriba County, New Mexico. I confirm that the advertisement, a copy of which is displayed below, was published on the following dates:

02/27/25

The undersigned had personal knowledge of the matters and things set forth in this affidavit.


Sean Linton, Assistant Business Manager

Client Information:
RJH CONSULTANTS
9800 Mount Pyramid Ct, Ste. 330
Englewood, CO 80112-5999

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Your Input is Important!
Public Input to Comment on the Hornet's Peak/Calf Canyon Wildlife Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
March 11, 2025

The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) is developing an EIS for the Hornet's Peak/Calf Canyon Wildlife that occurred in 2022 and impacted Mora, Colfax, Sandoz, Rio Arriba, Santa Fe, Guadalupe, and San Miguel counties.

In accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) an EIS is a detailed document prepared to analyze and disclose the potential environmental impacts, both positive and negative, of a proposed project on the natural and human environment and identify alternatives and mitigation measures to minimize negative effects. The purpose of an EIS is to inform decision makers and the public about the environmental consequences of a proposed project, allowing for consideration of potential impacts and mitigation strategies before moving forward with project implementation. A key component of the EIS process involves public comment in which the general public and project stakeholders can provide feedback.

The Hornet's Peak/Calf Canyon EIS will examine resources on private and public lands impacted by the wildfire including water quality, soils, plants, wetlands, cultural resources, and endangered and threatened species. The EIS will identify and evaluate a range of alternatives to determine potential mitigation and restoration measures needed to protect water resources, and consider the potential for erosion, vegetation loss, sedimentation / buildup of debris, and loss of critical infrastructure in the impacted watersheds. The EIS will include:

- Evaluation of impacts on air, water, wildlife, and noise
- Public and community feedback
- Alternatives to address potential impacts and reduce long-term effects on local ecosystems

How to Participate
You're invited to participate in an in-person public meeting with a Q&A session to learn more about the EIS and provide input on the project. This is the time to tell us about the impacts you have seen and share what you would like to see moving forward. Your feedback will be used to develop the EIS document that will contribute to restoring long-term watershed functionality, increasing post-wildfire forest resilience, and sustaining a healthy environment for wildlife, agriculture, and the surrounding communities.

Date & Time
Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

Location & Address
Rosa Menes Highschool University Thomas C. Donnelly Library
500 University Ave
Las Vegas, NM 87701

Streamline the public meeting session
Link: bit.ly/NRCSPublicMeeting
Meeting Address: 500 University Ave, Ste. 3000
Join by Phone: 1-800-245-7799

We Want to Hear from You!
March 11 through May 16, 2025
You can comment on the EIS in the following ways:

- Attend in-person public meeting or via virtually
- Email: hornetspeakcalfcanyon@usda.gov
- Call: 505-357-7327
- USPS Mail: Hornet's Peak/Calf Canyon Burn Scar EIS EIS
2755 University Blvd NE, Ste. 3000
Albuquerque, NM 87110

¡Su opinión es importante!
Se invita al público a comentar sobre la Declaración de Impacto Ambiental (DIA) de las iniciativas de restauración de Hornet's Peak/Calf Canyon - 11 de marzo de 2025

El Servicio de Conservación de Recursos Naturales del Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos (USDA-NRCS) está elaborando una Declaración de Impacto Ambiental (DIA) por los incendios forestales de Hornet's Peak/Calf Canyon que ocurrieron en 2022 y afectaron a las condados de Mora, Colfax, Sandoz, Rio Arriba, Santa Fe, Guadalupe y San Miguel en Nuevo México.

De acuerdo con los requisitos de la Ley de Política Ambiental Nacional (NEPA), un EIS es un documento detallado preparado para analizar y divulgar los posibles impactos ambientales, tanto positivos como negativos, de un proyecto propuesto en el entorno natural y humano y evaluar alternativas y medidas de mitigación para minimizar los efectos negativos. El propósito de una EIS es informar a los tomadores de decisiones y al público sobre los consecuencias ambientales de un proyecto propuesto, lo que permite considerar los impactos potenciales y las estrategias de mitigación antes de avanzar con la implementación del proyecto. Un componente clave del proceso de EIS es el comentario público en el que el público en general y las partes interesadas en el proyecto pueden expresar sus opiniones.

El EIS de Hornet's Peak/Calf Canyon examinará los recursos en tierras privadas y públicas afectadas por los incendios forestales, incluida la calidad del agua, los suelos, los ríos, los humedales, los recursos culturales y los especies en peligro de extinción y amenazadas. El EIS identificará y evaluará una variedad de alternativas para determinar las medidas de mitigación y restauración post-incendio necesarias para proteger los recursos hídricos y mejorar el potencial de resiliencia forestal, y considerar el potencial de erosión, pérdida de vegetación, sedimentación / acumulación de escombros y pérdida de infraestructura crítica en las cuencas hidrográficas afectadas.

EIS include
Evaluación de los impactos sobre el aire, el agua, la fauna, etc.
Comentarios del público y la comunidad.
Alternativas para abordar los impactos potenciales y reducir los efectos a largo plazo en los ecosistemas locales.

¿Queremos saber lo que piensa!
Del 11 de marzo al 16 de mayo de 2025
Puede hacer comentarios de las siguientes maneras:

- Asistir a la reunión pública presencial o verse virtualmente
- Correo electrónico: hornetspeakcalfcanyon@usda.gov
- Llamar al 505-357-7327
- Correo USPS: Hornet's Peak/Calf Canyon Burn Scar EIS EIS
2755 University Blvd NE, Ste. 3000
Albuquerque, NM 87110

Para solicitar adaptaciones razonables o interpretación de ASL, llame al 505-357-7327 antes del martes 4 de marzo de 2025.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this

27th

day of Feb, A.D.

Mary Chavez, Notary Public
My Commission Expires April 03, 2029



Appendix A – Meeting Notifications

Public Meeting Direct Mailer

Your Input Is Important!

The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) is developing an Environmental Impact Statement for the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon wildfires that occurred in 2022 and impacted Mora, Colfax, Taos, Rio Arriba, Santa Fe, Guadalupe, and San Miguel counties. You're invited to participate in an in-person public meeting with a virtual option.

Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

New Mexico Highlands University | Thomas C Donnelly Library
900 University Ave
Las Vegas, NM 87701

Livestream the public meeting online

Link: bit.ly/HPCCEISPublicMeeting

Meeting/Webinar ID: 993 6237 3611

Join by Phone: 1-346-248-7799

We Want to Hear from You!

March 11 through May 16, 2025.

You can comment in the following ways:

Attend: the in-person public meeting or join virtually

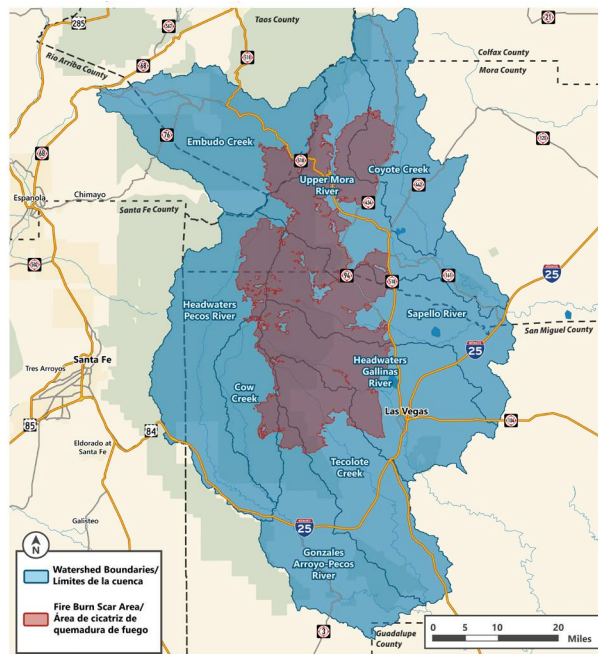
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USPS Mail: Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Burn Scar c/o HDR
2155 Louisiana Blvd NE, Ste 3000, Albuquerque, NM 87110



**Scan to
learn more!**



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Natural Resources Conservation Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Indicia
clearance area

¡Su opinión es importante!

El Servicio de Conservación de Recursos Naturales del Departamento de Agricultura de Estados Unidos (USDA-NRCS) está elaborando una Declaración de Impacto Ambiental (EIS) por los incendios forestales de Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon que ocurrieron en 2022 y afectaron a los condados de Mora, Colfax, Taos, Rio Arriba, Santa Fe, Guadalupe y San Miguel. Le invitamos a participar en una reunión pública presencial con opción virtual.

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Las Vegas, NM 87701

Transmita la reunión pública en línea

Enlace: bit.ly/HPCCCEISPublicMeeting

ID de la reunión/webinar: 993 6237 3611

Únase por teléfono: 1-346-248-7799

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Del 11 de marzo al 16 de mayo de 2025.

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 **Asista a:** la reunión pública presencial o únase virtualmente

 **Correo electrónico:** hermitspeakcalfcanyoneis@hdrinc.com

 **Llame al:** 505-357-7327

 **Correo USPS:** Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Burn Scar c/o HDR
2155 Louisiana Blvd NE, Ste 3000, Albuquerque, NM 87110



**¡Escanee para obtener
más información!**

Address and barcode
clearance area

Para solicitar adaptaciones razonables o interpretación de ASL, llame al 505-357-7327 antes del martes 4 de marzo de 2025.

Appendix A – Meeting Notifications

Public Meeting Radio Advertisement



Radio Advertisement/PSA

1:00 MINUTE:

THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE IS DEVELOPING AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE HERMIT'S PEAK/CALF CANYON WILDFIRES THAT OCCURRED IN 2022 IN THE NEW MEXICO COUNTIES OF MORA, COLFAX, TAOS, RIO ARRIBA, SANTA FE, GUADALUPE, AND SAN MIGUEL.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE AND COMMENT AT AN IN-PERSON PUBLIC MEETING WITH A VIRTUAL OPTION ON TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025, AT 5:30 P.M. AT NEW MEXICO HIGHLANDS UNIVERSITY IN THE THOMAS C DONNELLEY LIBRARY LOCATED AT 900 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, LAS VEGAS, NEW MEXICO. COMMENTS WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AIMING TO RESTORE WATERSHED FUNCTIONALITY BY INCREASING POST-WILDFIRE FLOOD RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINING A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT FOR WILDLIFE, AGRICULTURE, AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES.

THIS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT WILL PRIORITIZE CULTURAL VALUES AND ENCOURAGE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT. WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU. SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTS.



Radio Advertisement/PSA (Spanish)

1:00 MINUTE:

EL SERVICIO DE CONSERVACIÓN DE RECURSOS NATURALES DEL DEPARTAMENTO DE AGRICULTURA DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS ESTÁ ELABORANDO UNA DECLARACIÓN DE IMPACTO AMBIENTAL POR LOS INCENDIOS FORESTALES DE HERMIT'S PEAK/CALF CANYON, QUE OCURRIERON EN 2022 EN LOS CONDADOS DE MORA, COLFAX, TAOS, RÍO ARRIBA, SANTA FE, GUADALUPE Y SAN MIGUEL, EN NUEVO MÉXICO.

SE INVITA AL PÚBLICO A PARTICIPAR Y HACER COMENTARIOS EN UNA REUNIÓN PÚBLICA PRESENCIAL CON OPCIÓN VIRTUAL EL MARTES 11 DE MARZO DE 2025 A LAS 5:30 P.M. EN LA UNIVERSIDAD HIGHLANDS DE NUEVO MÉXICO EN LA BIBLIOTECA THOMAS C DONNELLEY UBICADA EN EL 900 DE LA AVENIDA UNIVERSITY, LAS VEGAS, NUEVO MÉXICO. LOS COMENTARIOS CONTRIBUIRÁN AL DESARROLLO DE UNA DECLARACIÓN DE IMPACTO AMBIENTAL CON EL OBJETIVO DE RESTAURAR LA FUNCIONALIDAD DE LA CUENCA HIDROGRÁFICA MEDIANTE EL AUMENTO DE LA RESILIENCIA A LAS INUNDACIONES POSTERIORES A LOS INCENDIOS FORESTALES Y EL MANTENIMIENTO DE UN MEDIO AMBIENTE SALUDABLE PARA LA VIDA SILVESTRE, LA AGRICULTURA Y LAS COMUNIDADES CIRCUNDANTES.

ESTA DECLARACIÓN DE IMPACTO AMBIENTAL DARÁ PRIORIDAD A LOS VALORES CULTURALES Y FOMENTARÁ LA PARTICIPACIÓN DE LA COMUNIDAD. QUEREMOS CONOCER SU OPINIÓN. ENVÍE SUS COMENTARIOS.

Appendix B – Meeting Materials

Public Meeting Presentation



Hermit's Peak & Calf Canyon Wildfire Watershed Restoration Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

Public Scoping Meeting
March 11, 2025



Public Scoping Meeting Agenda

- 01** Welcome & Introductions
- 02** Project Background
- 03** Review of the NEPA process
- 04** Public Scoping & Providing Feedback



01 Welcome & Introductions



Housekeeping

- **This meeting is being recorded.**
- **If online, please place yourself on mute during the presentation.**
- **The attendee list from Zoom will be utilized as the online sign-in sheet. There is also a sign-in sheet here in the room.**

Agency Team

**Eli Gnann: NRCS State
Conservation Engineer**

**Merceidez Fabok: NRCS
Watershed Program Manager**

Cooperating Agencies

- **USDA Forest Service – Santa Fe
National Forest**

Sponsoring Local Organizations

- **Taos SWCD**
- **Tierra Y Montes SWCD**
- **Western Mora SWCD**
- **NM Dept. of Finance and
Administration**

Consultant Core Team

RJH Consultants, Inc.

- **Tom MacDougall: Project PM**

Ayres Associates Inc.

- **Mary Huisenga: Ayres PM**
- **Dusty Robinson: H&H Lead**

HDR Engineering, Inc.

- **Gabe Alvarado: HDR PM**
- **Brad Johnson: Technical Lead**
- **Marisa Maez: Strat Comm Lead**

Meeting Purpose

- Introduce the project.
- Provide an overview of NEPA.
- Solicit public feedback.





02 Project Background

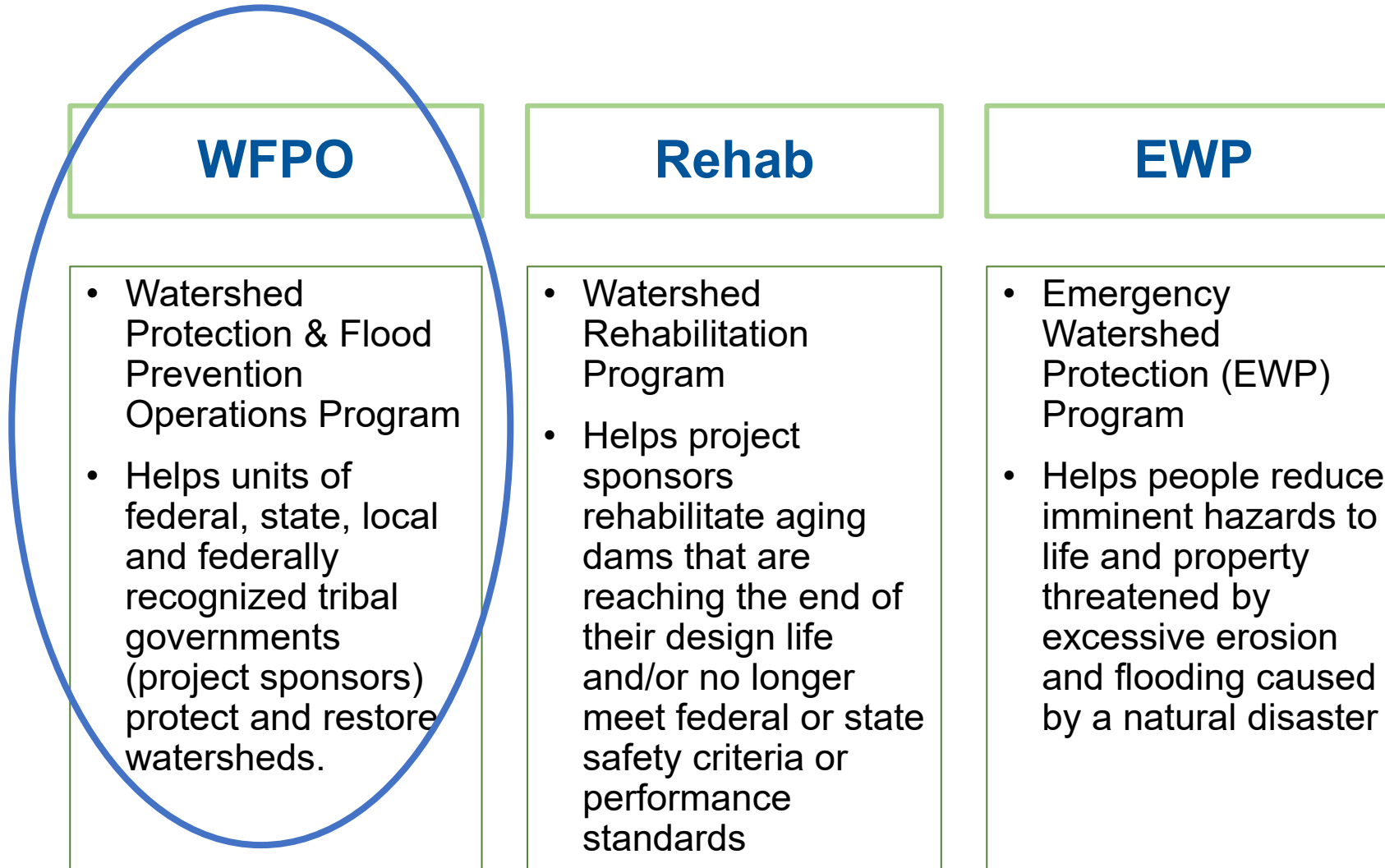


Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) Program

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov

The “NRCS Watershed Umbrella”



Authorized Project Purposes

- 1) Flood Prevention (Flood Damage Reduction)**
- 2) Watershed Protection**
- 3) Public Recreation**
- 4) Public Fish and Wildlife**
- 5) Agricultural Water Management**
- 6) Municipal and Industrial Water Supply**
- 7) Water Quality Management**

Purpose and Need for the NEPA process begins here.

WFPO Program Steps

1. Preliminary Investigation and Feasibility Report

- Typically funded and completed by NRCS
- Duration to complete is approx. 6 months

2. Watershed Planning

- Normally fully funded by NRCS
- Multiple options for who completes / creates the Watershed Plan
- Duration to complete is approx. 18-24 months (+ or -)

3. Design

- Funding driven by the Project Purpose(s)
- Multiple options for who completes the design(s)
- Duration is approx. 1-2 years

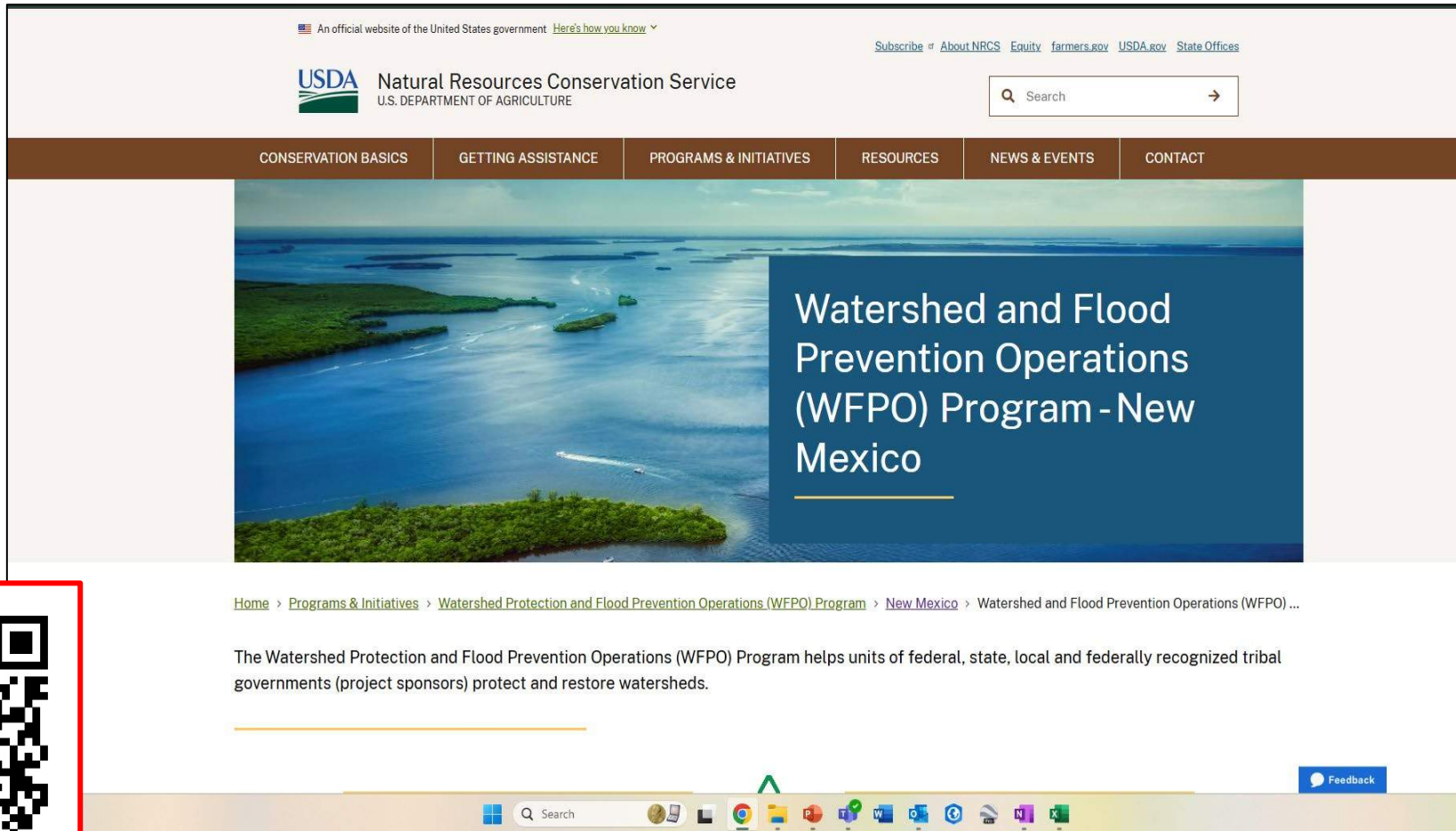
4. Construction

- Funding driven by the Project Purpose(s)
- Duration ranges from 2 years to 5 years due to:
 - Acquisition of easements and or land rights
 - Permits
 - Funding (both NRCS and Sponsor)

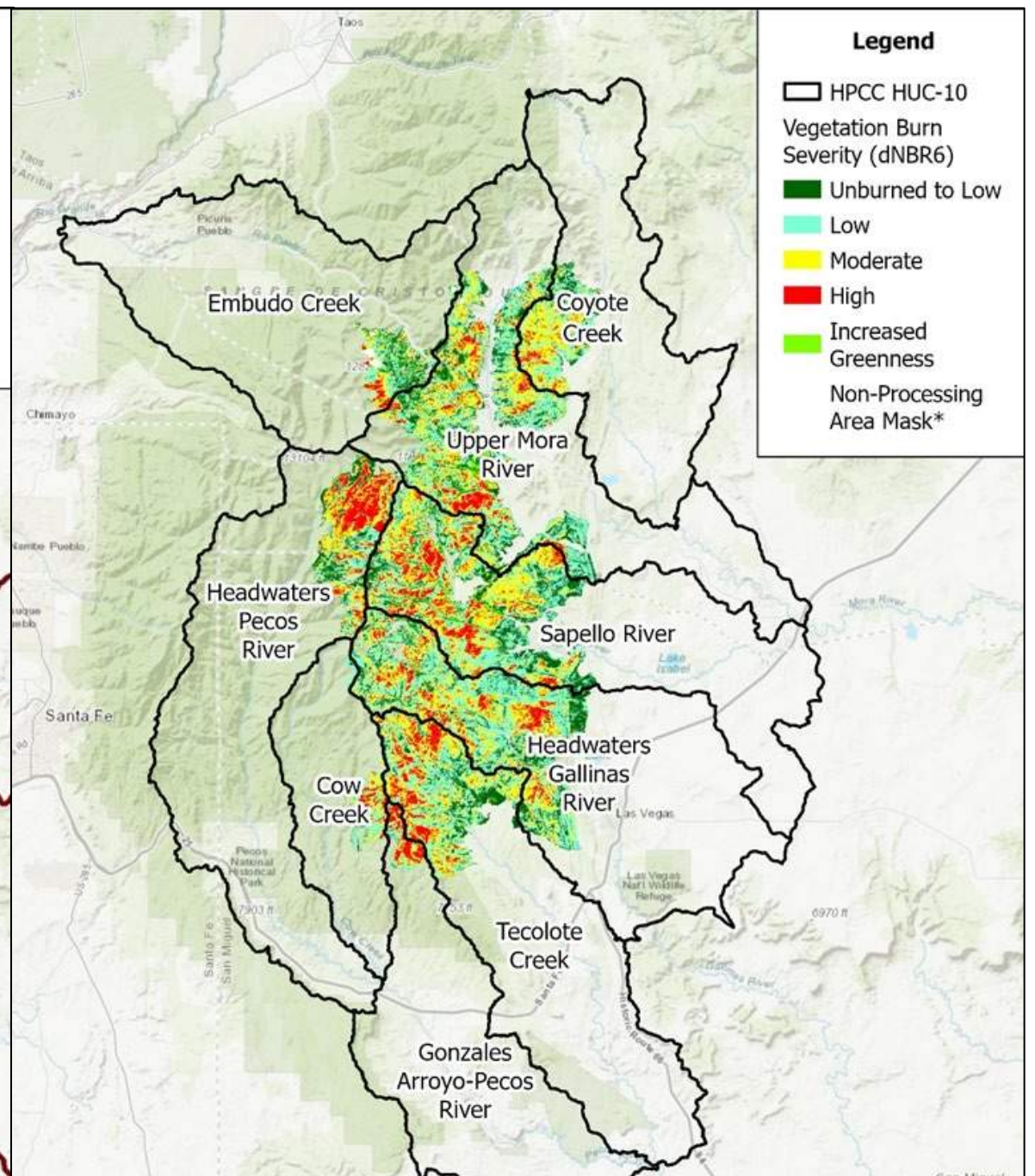
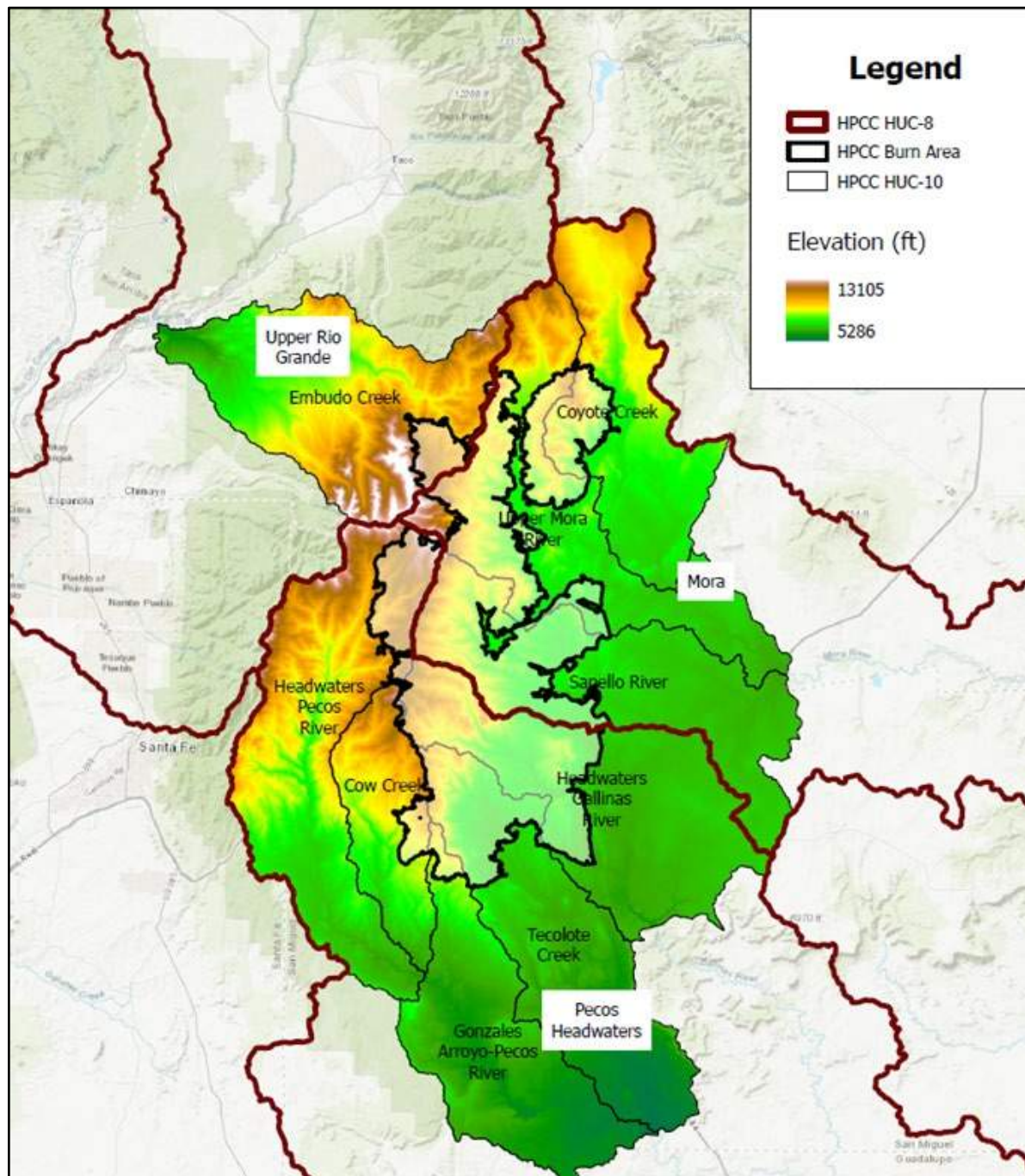
Sponsor Responsibilities

- **Power of Eminent Domain**
- **Land Rights / Easements**
- **Permits and Licenses**
- **Authority to Levy Taxes**
- **Financial Capability to Perform Operation and Maintenance**
- **Watershed Management (easements, regulations, etc.)**
- **Land Treatments above Reservoirs**

Link to NRCS WFPO Program Web Page:



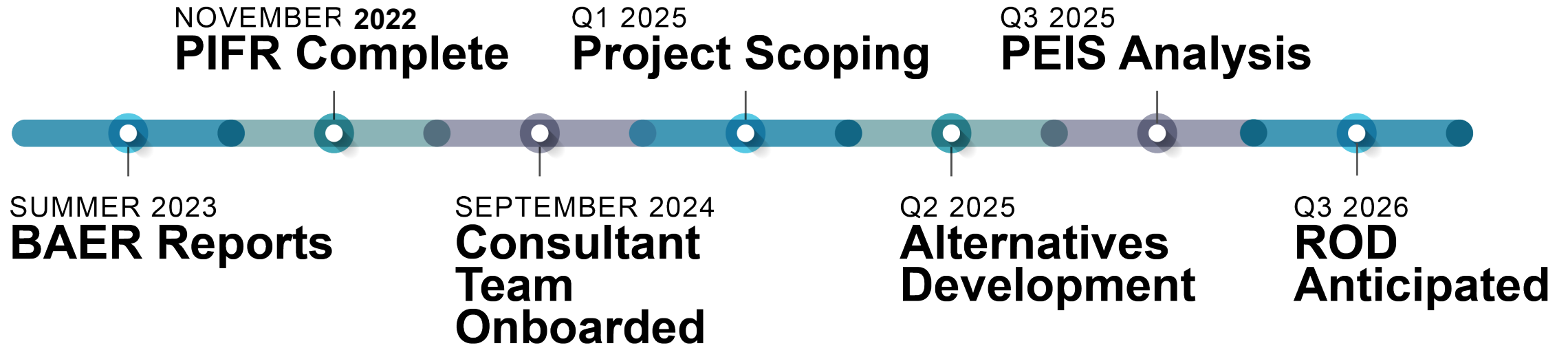
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/watershed-and-flood-prevention-operations-wfpo-program/new-mexico/watershed>





03 NEPA Process

Project Timeline



Parallel Efforts

- **USDA Forest Service:**
Environmental Assessment
- **FEMA:** Programmatic
Environmental Assessment

What is NEPA?

NEPA requires federal agencies to:

1. Assess the impacts associated with proposed activities.
2. Analyze impacts to alternatives.
3. Disclose impacts to the public.
4. Provide opportunities for public review and input.

NEPA Process

- Gather relevant information.
- Prepare draft EIS
 - Develop alternatives
 - Analyze impacts
- EIS public comment period
- Revise EIS based on comments.
- Finalize with Record of Decision (ROD).

Existing Conditions Reports

- Air Quality
- Aquatics Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Erosion & Sedimentation
- Geology & Soils
- Hydrology
- Prime & Unique Farmlands
- Socioeconomics
- Vegetation
- Threatened & Endangered Species
- Water Quality
- Wetlands
- Wildfire Ecology (Fire & Fuels)



Alternatives Development

One “No Action” alternative

Three action different alternatives

- **Will consist of bundled activities**
- **Forthcoming**



04 Public Scoping



Public Scoping Timeline

- **NOI Published in Federal Register**
 - **TBD**
- **Scoping Comment Period**
 - **3/4 to end date TBD**
- **Public Scoping Meeting**
 - **3/11/2025**
 - **Location: New Mexico Highlands University, Las Vegas, NM**
- **Additional scoping meetings - TBD**

How to Provide Comments Later

**We Want to Hear from You! March 11 through May 16, 2025.
You can comment in the following ways:**

-  **Attend: the in-person Public Scoping Meeting or join virtually**
-  **Email: hermitspeakcalfcanyoneis@hdrinc.com**
-  **Call: 505-357-7327**
-  **USPS Mail: Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Burn Scar
c/o HDR
2155 Louisiana Blvd NE, Ste 3000
Albuquerque, NM 87110**

Thank you!



Appendix B – Meeting Materials

Public Meeting Fact Sheet



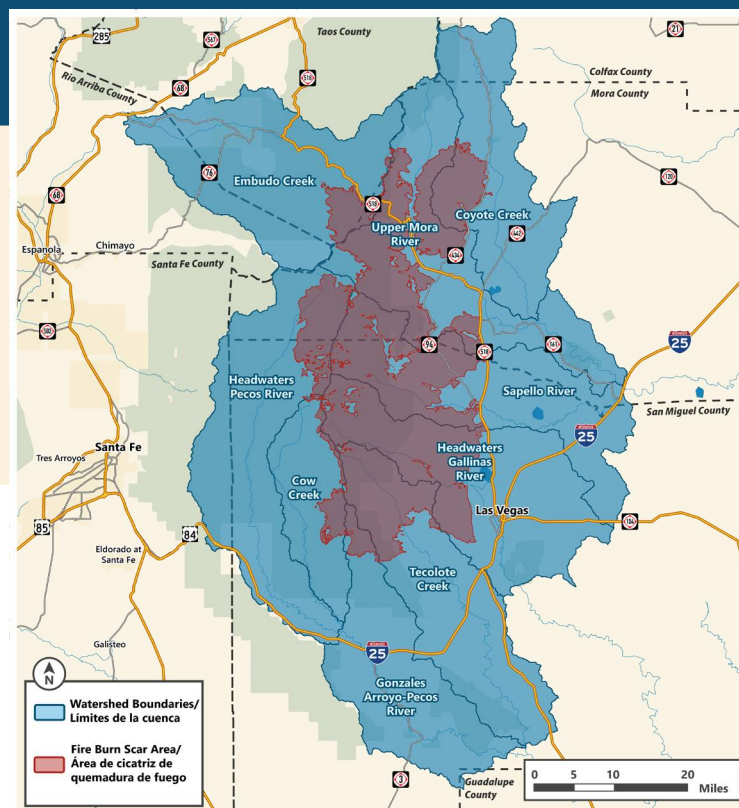
Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Wildfires Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Project Background

The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) is developing an EIS for the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon wildfires that occurred in 2022 and impacted Mora, Colfax, Taos, Rio Arriba, Santa Fe, Guadalupe, and San Miguel counties.

What is an EIS?

An EIS is a detailed document that fulfills the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The document analyzes potential environmental impacts, both positive and negative, of a proposed project on the natural and human environment and is required when significant impacts are anticipated.



What is the purpose of an EIS?

The EIS informs decision-makers and the public about the environmental consequences of a proposed project, allowing for consideration of potential impacts and mitigation strategies before moving forward with project implementation.

A key component of the EIS process involves public involvement in which the public and project stakeholders can provide input and feedback.

What will the EIS do?

The Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon EIS will examine resources on private and public lands impacted by the wildfires, including water quality, soil, plants, wetlands, cultural resources, and endangered and threatened species.

The EIS will identify and evaluate a range of alternatives to determine post-fire mitigation and restoration measures needed to protect water resources and minimize the potential for erosion, vegetation loss, sedimentation/buildup of debris, and loss of critical infrastructure in the impacted watersheds.

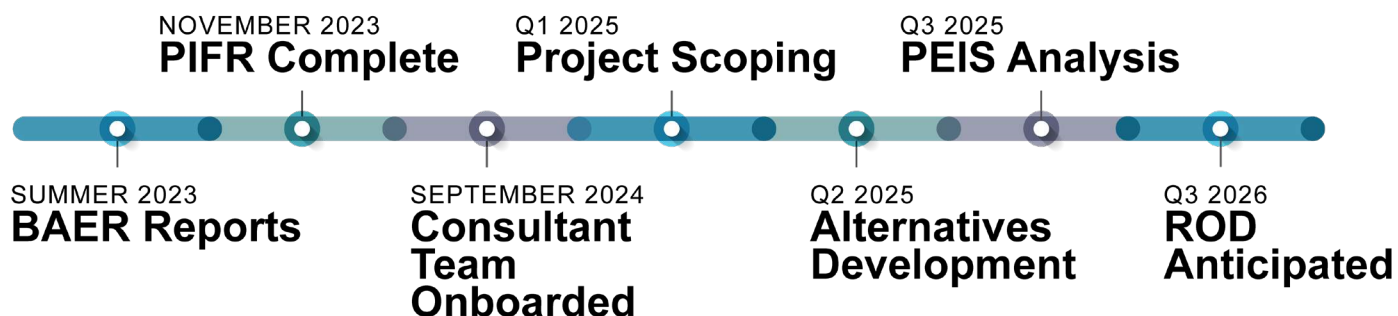




Project Purposes

- Watershed Protection & Restoration
- Flood Prevention (Flood Damage Reduction)
- Public Recreation
- Restore Fish & Wildlife Habitat
- Agricultural Water Management
- Municipal & Industrial Water Supply
- Water Quality Management

Project Timeline



How to Participate – What USAD NRCS Needs from the Public

Tell us about the environmental impacts you have seen and share what you would like to see moving forward. Your feedback will be used to develop the EIS document that will contribute to restoring long-term watershed functionality, increasing post-wildfire flood resilience, and sustaining a healthy environment for wildlife, agriculture, and the surrounding communities. Please include the following information in your comment:

- Types of Environmental Impacts
- Specific Locations of Noted Environmental Impacts
- Potential Solutions to Address Ongoing Environmental Impacts

How to Provide Comments

We want to hear from you! **March 11 through May 16, 2025.**
You can comment in the following ways:

Email: hermitspeakcalfcanyoneis@hdrinc.com

Call: 505-357-7327

USPS Mail: Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Burn Scar
c/o HDR
2155 Louisiana Blvd NE, Ste 3000
Albuquerque, NM 87110



**Scan to
learn more!**





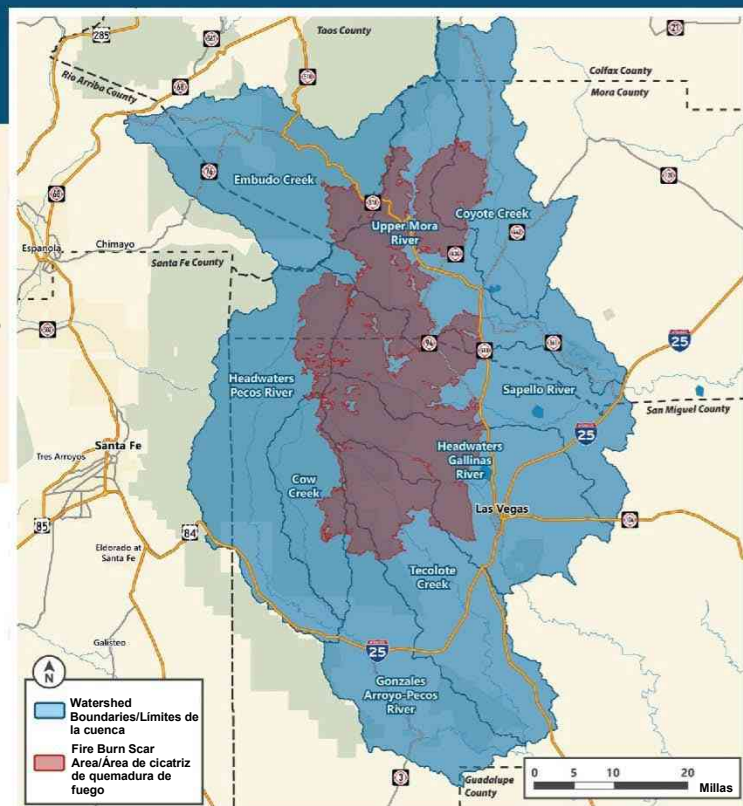
Declaración de impacto medioambiental (EIS) de los incendios forestales en Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon

Antecedentes del proyecto

El Servicio de Conservación de Recursos Naturales del Departamento de Agricultura de Estados Unidos (United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA-NRCS) está desarrollando una EIS para los incendios forestales de Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon que se produjeron en 2022 y afectaron a los condados de Mora, Colfax, Taos, Rio Arriba, Santa Fe, Guadalupe y San Miguel.

¿Qué es una EIS?

Una EIS es un documento detallado que cumple con los requisitos de la Ley Nacional de Política Ambiental (National Environmental Policy Act, NEPA). El documento analiza los posibles impactos ambientales, tanto positivos como negativos, en el medio ambiente natural y humano que puede tener un proyecto propuesto, y es necesario cuando se prevén impactos significativos.



¿Cuál es el propósito de una EIS?

La declaración de impacto medioambiental (Environmental Impact Statement, EIS) informa al público y a los responsables de la toma de decisiones sobre las consecuencias ambientales de un proyecto propuesto, lo que permite considerar los posibles impactos y las estrategias de mitigación antes de avanzar con la implementación del proyecto.

Un componente clave del proceso de EIS implica la participación pública en la que el público y las partes interesadas del proyecto pueden brindar aportes y comentarios.

¿Qué hará la EIS?

La EIS de Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon examinará los recursos en tierras privadas y públicas afectadas por los incendios forestales, lo que incluye evaluar la calidad del agua, el suelo, las plantas, los humedales, los recursos culturales y las especies en peligro de extinción y amenazadas.

La EIS identificará y evaluará una gama de alternativas para determinar las medidas de mitigación y restauración posteriores al incendio necesarias para proteger los recursos hídricos y minimizar la posibilidad de erosión, pérdida de vegetación, sedimentación/acumulación de residuos y pérdida de infraestructura crítica en las cuencas afectadas.



Nuevo México
Departamento de
Finanzas y
Administración

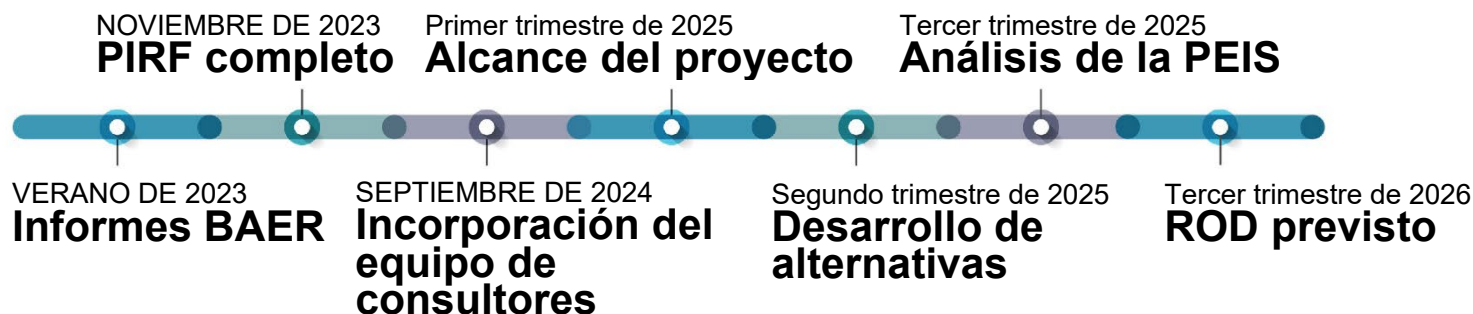




Propósito del proyecto

- Protección y restauración de cuencas
- Prevención de inundaciones (reducción de daños por inundación)
- Recreación pública
- Restauración del hábitat de peces y vida silvestre
- Gestión del agua para uso agrícola
- Suministro de agua municipal e industrial
- Gestión de la calidad del agua

Cronograma del proyecto



Cómo participar: lo que el USDA-NRCS necesita del público

Cuéntenos sobre los impactos ambientales que ha notado y comparta lo que le gustaría ver en el futuro. Sus comentarios se utilizarán para desarrollar el documento de EIS que contribuirá a restaurar la funcionalidad de la cuenca a largo plazo, reforzar la resiliencia ante inundaciones posteriores a incendios forestales y mantener un entorno saludable para la vida silvestre, la agricultura y las comunidades circundantes. Incluya la siguiente información en su comentario:

- Tipos de impactos ambientales
- Ubicaciones específicas de los impactos ambientales informados
- Soluciones potenciales para abordar los impactos ambientales continuos

Cómo proporcionar comentarios

¡Queremos saber qué opina! **Del 11 de marzo al 16 de mayo de 2025**,
Puede proporcionar sus comentarios de las siguientes maneras:

Correo electrónico: hermitspeakcalfcanyoneis@hdrinc.com

Teléfono: 505-357-7327

Correo postal de USPS: Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Burn Scar
c/o HDR
2155 Louisiana Blvd NE, Ste 3000
Albuquerque, NM 87110



¡Escanee el
código para
obtener más
información!



Appendix B – Meeting Materials

Public Meeting Comment Form



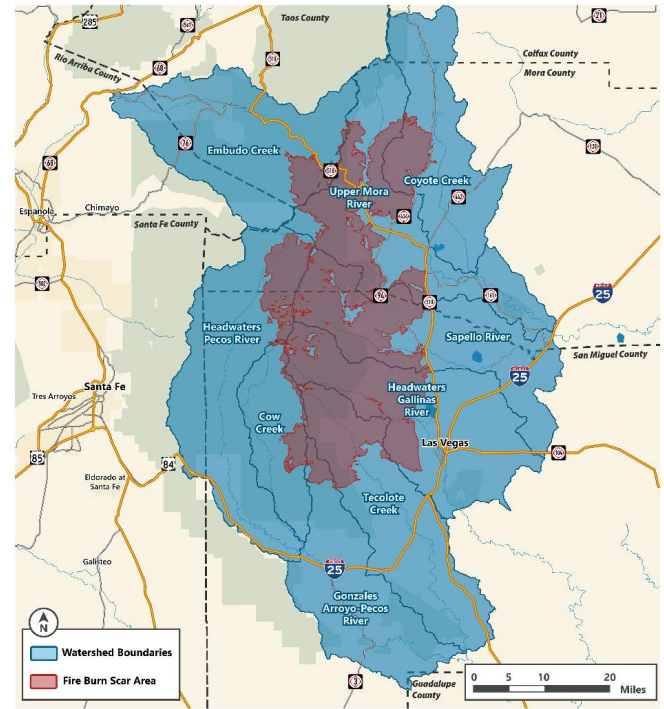
Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Wildfires Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Comment Form

We need your input on issues and concerns related to flooding and other impacts to natural resources such as wildlife, vegetation, farmlands, and natural/scenic areas surrounding the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Burn Scar Area and Watersheds. Your comments will help our team identify problem areas as well as potential alternatives that could be implemented in the future to address and mitigate these issues. **Please complete this comment form by May 16, 2025, to be included in the official summary of comments.**

Please select which describes you. Please mark all that apply.

- ☐ Resident
- ☐ Landowner
- ☐ Other (please explain):



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email Address: _____

What are some existing issues or concerns (economic, environmental, or social) related to flooding events/hazards in the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Burn Scar area that have impacted water, wildlife, agriculture, or other natural resources?





Natural Resources Conservation Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

When did these issues or concerns occur and to what extent?

Please identify any specific locations where you have experienced issues or feel future issues may occur.

Please provide any other information or comments you feel would be helpful to the study team regarding the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Burn Scar.

How to Provide Comments Later

We want to hear from you! From **March 11 through May 16, 2025**, you can comment in the following ways:

Email: hermitspeakcalfcanyoneis@hdrinc.com

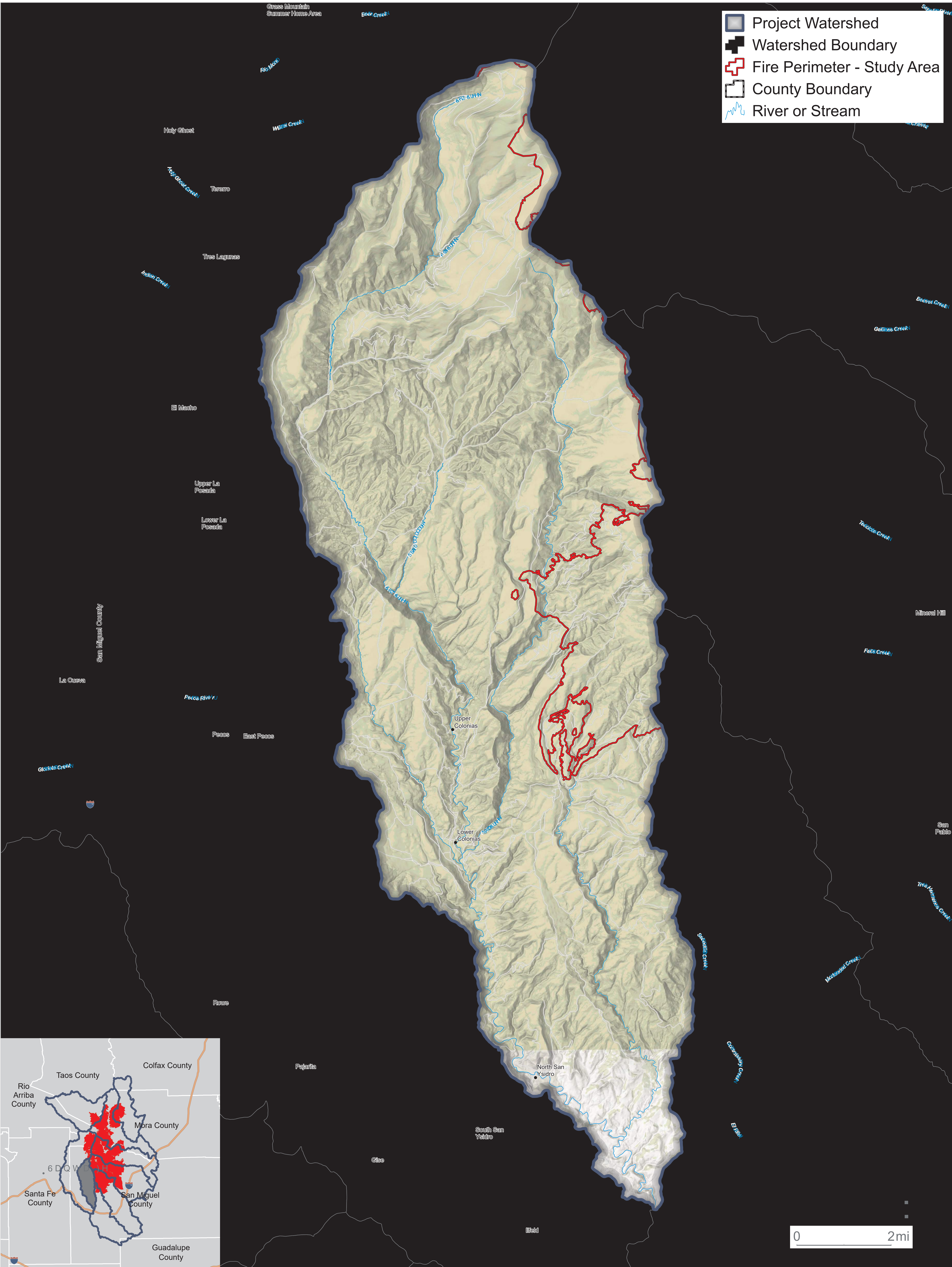
Call: 505-357-7327

USPS Mail: Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Burn Scar
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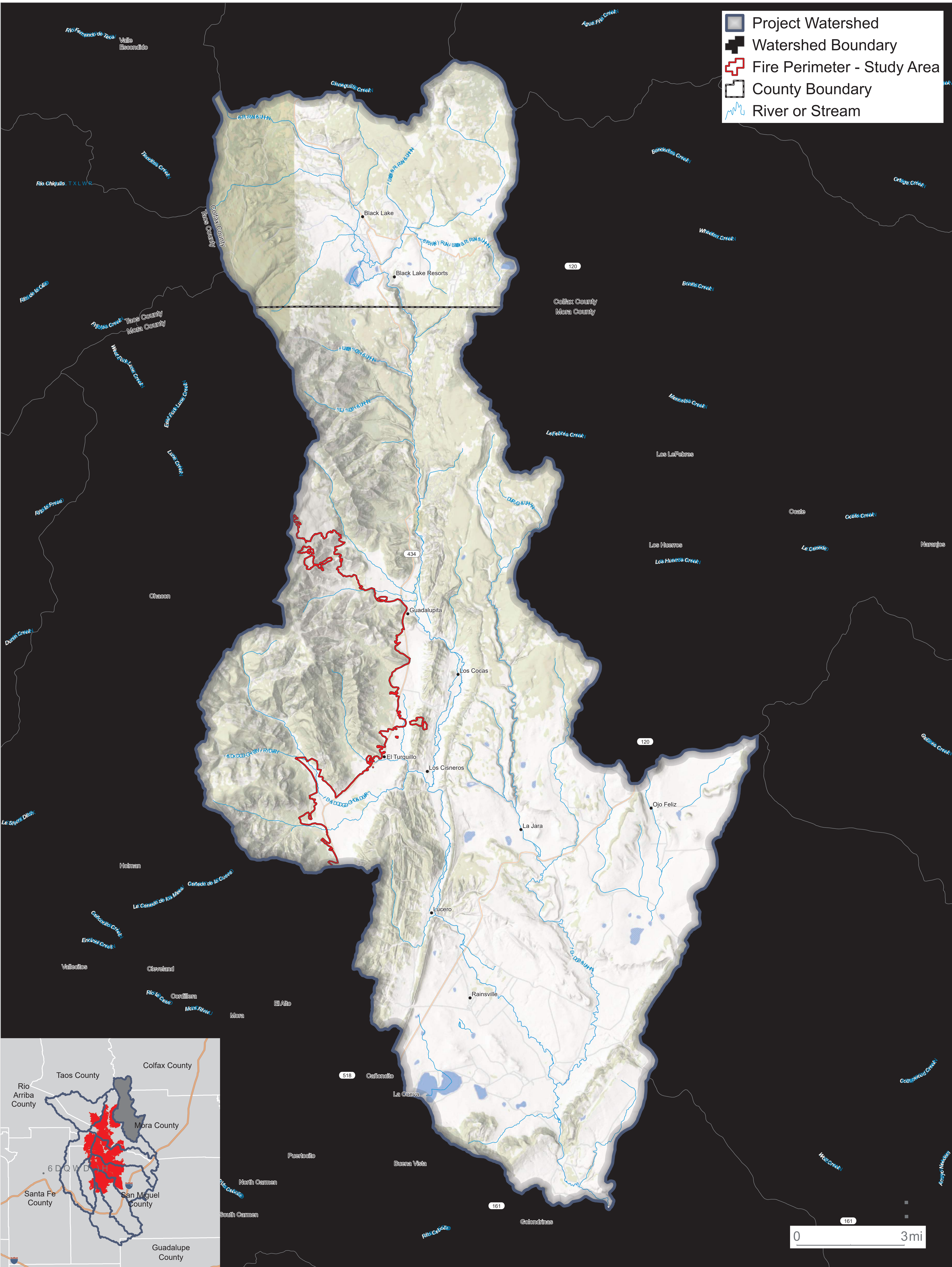


Appendix B – Meeting Materials

Public Meeting Watershed Maps



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Appendix C – Public Comments

Public Comments (In-Person/Virtual Meeting & Post Meeting)

Public Comments (In-Person/Virtual Meeting & Post Meeting)

#	Comment Source	Comment Date	Comment
1	Public Meeting Comment (Comment Form)	3/11/2025	<p><i>What are some existing issues or concerns (economic, environmental, or social) related to flooding events/hazards in the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Burn Scar area that have impacted water, wildlife, agriculture, or other natural resources?</i></p> <p>Economic: Costs of restoration projects have skyrocketed - \$50 per hour for tree planting; \$14.50 per foot for fencing (barbed wire); \$100 to take down each burnt tree.</p> <p><i>When did these issues or concerns occur, and to what extent?</i></p> <p>I have already spent \$100,000 (about) for contour cutting of burnt trees (NRCS money) and about \$95,000 for erosion control projects through HPWA (Hermit's Peak Watershed Alliance) - COSTS ARE SO HIGH and finding workers is difficult</p>
2	Public Meeting Comment (Online Comment)	3/11/2025	We can hear you on Zoom
3	Public Meeting Comment (Online Comment)	3/11/2025	Is this program for residents or municipalities? I own a small ranch on the Sapello River and I'm not sure if this program relates to my property.



4	Public Meeting Comment (Online Comment)	3/11/2025	For those of us on the phone, could you post a link to more information online?
5	Public Meeting Comment (Online Comment)	3/11/2025	When do you expect to start?
6	Email Comment	3/11/2025	<p>To Whom it may concern,</p> <p>My husband [REDACTED] and I have filled out the necessary forms for our claim regarding the ways we were affected by this terrible fire so I'm not going to repeat all the things we've noted in our claim [REDACTED]. We have repeatedly filled out those forms necessary to receive our reimbursement for our losses and evacuation.</p> <p>Though we have not yet received this reimbursement We know we will.</p> <p>This Email is to inform the USDA of the terrible quality of our water since the fires.</p> <p>For short periods of time the City of Las Vegas has given out bottled water to it's citizens since this fire. However the water has never been safe to drink as is often documented in letters we receive from our water dept and the warnings we receive in our local paper 'The Optic'.</p> <p>My husband and I often complained of stomach cramps and bad tasting water. Because of this we have purchased water from local stores for the better part of the last, almost three years. IT HAS BECOME QUITE EXPENSIVE! And therefore I believe drinking water should continue to be given to the citizens of Las Vegas NM at no charge. The USDA or FEMA needs to consider this as a very important health and financial issue for the Citizens of Las Vegas NM.</p>



			I do hope to receive an Email response regarding this matter. Thank you for your consideration.
7	Email Comment	3/11/2025	.. so I am listening by phone. Voice quality is challenging. And they keep referring to the screen or slides, none of which I can see. If you have a zoom link that works, please send it asap. Thank you. (This is the link that is not working for me: bit.ly/HPCCEISPublicMeeting)
8	Email Comment	3/11/2025	I attended the Zoom session, but the presentation was difficult to hear and understand. Is this program for residents or municipalities? I own a small ranch on the Sapello River and I'm not sure if this program relates to my property.
9	Email Comment	3/12/2025	<p>Greetings,</p> <p>My name is [REDACTED] and I am a reporter with the Las Vegas Optic, the newspaper here in Las Vegas, New Mexico.</p> <p>I am reaching out because unfortunately, we missed the Hermits Peak/Calf Canyon Fire EIS meeting that took place yesterday, March 11, on the NMHU campus.</p> <p>I was wondering if by chance there is a recording of the meeting that we can have access to? Also, is there anyone we can speak to about this meeting and the effort behind the EIS?</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter!</p>



			Sincerely,
10	Email Comment	3/16/2025	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>My property is [REDACTED]. My FEMA case number is: [REDACTED]. My NRCS Conservation and Restoration Plan is: [REDACTED]. One problem is that water has saturated the ground in our area so much that it is almost impossible to move about on our property without our vehicles sinking to the axles when we try to bring hay or water to our animals. After the fire all the ground cover, pine needles, leaves and trees are gone to the point that the ground saturates quickly and has nowhere to go. There's nothing to slow the run-off or absorption of the water into the ground. Our area has a layer of Very hard dirt or clay that limits absorption. This layer is about 3 feet under the surface and because of this the water being absorbed is staying in that first 3 or 4 feet of the surface and this can lead to liquification of the soil because the water stays in that layer. For instance, groundhog holes are filled with water, and I have an old well that was dry for decades, but it now has water almost to the top.</p> <p>I think this situation will call for specific management of the water saturation by channeling, putting in drainage trenches to allow the water to run to the Coyote Arroyo at the back of the property. I would add that the water is even in my backyard, and I am worried it could compromise my foundation. I already see cracks in the cement slabs in and around the home that were not previously there. I have a French drain around my home and my Barn and I've been able to hear and see the water running through those drains. Although it has subsided some, my concern is that</p>



when the Monsoon returns it will get worse. It already floods during heavy rain.

Also of concern is our water quality. I noticed that since this started many of the trees in the areas where the water comes out of the ground are dying. What's killing the trees? See attached pictures of trees. On my property the water literally comes out of the ground in several areas, it is turning several areas into swamp. My neighbors and I will probably be inundated with mosquitoes and other bugs that I previously had no problems with.

The wind. Without the forest around my home, I have had trees just snap mid-way up. I can do nothing about the wind, but my wind block is gone. This could also lead to damage to my home. I can dust and clean the house daily but when I wipe the counters and furniture it comes up filthy black. Are we breathing this? What will be the long-term effect? It is concerning!

And my property value. If I decided to sell, which I have not, who would want to live in a swamp with a bad well and wind that could rip a roof off. I am very concerned that this will continue to affect my property value for years to come.



			Please confirm you received this email.
11	Email Comment	3/23/2025	<p>To whom it may Concern:</p> <p>I've written to all the representatives, City Officials and the County commissioners of the Dirt Pollution and Water Pollution to the Las Vegas Water Supply.</p> <p>The Country Acres Subdivision is 1/16 of a mile west of Storrie Lake on the North road North of Las Vegas by 5 miles used for the City of Las Vegas Water reservoir during the drought.</p> <p>The area had a paving and drainage project started in 2016 that was ceased. This would have alleviated the residence of about 300 home of dust and flooding and the pollution of Storrie Lake.</p> <p>How does the fire play into this. When it rains an overabundance of water floods out the subdivision from the West and North. As the rain falls, the water is not being detained any longer by the vegetation and trees that have been burned out. On the North subdivision, a 4-foot drainage pipe was put under the Jones road that allows water to drain straight into the subdivision from the grass land that is flooded when the rain falls on the mountain and flows down into the subdivision. The flood water does not only bring elements and dangerous minerals but any oil, gas or other chemicals that are left out in residence yards. Combined with the dangerous minerals and the other dangerous chemicals on residence yards</p>



are drained into the dike that feeds the Storrie Lake inlet that fills Storrie Lake.

All of this pollution could have been avoided if the paving and drainage system would have been completed for the subdivision. The necessary drainage ponds could have diverted the water from the Storrie Lake dike feeding the lake. Yes the fire has created more issues, and the county shortage of manpower does not keep up with the maintenance of the roads currently. But no one seems to have a plan in place to stop the erosion of the roads and catching the excess water to be retained and cleaned.

I attached a letter so you could see my complaint to Federal, State, County and City leaders. Now I am bringing it to your attention. Just follow the roads down to Benjie and Comache to the end you will see where the water runs off into the dike. There is one other road that also is involved.

If we had a terrorist attack, all they would have to do is spill arsenic or other chemicals that would damage that reservoir down one of those down flowing roads and it would make the Storrie Lake water not only undrinkable by humans, but livestock as well. That Storrie Lake also is released all the way down to Santa Rosa, Bottom lakes and on down to Texas that could kill humans and livestock.

You as a federal agency should join teams with the County, City and State to resolve this issue. Yes, two roads on the entrance to the Subdivision were paved for low-income residents but the major project was never continued for the rest of the subdivision and now that water feeds the flooding area.

