

Engaging New Communities in Urban Restoration at Valle de Oro NWR



Jennifer Owen-White
Refuge Manager
Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge



NATIONAL
WILDLIFE
REFUGE SYSTEM





Safe Place Policy

Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge strives to create and foster an inclusive experience for all visitors, volunteers, interns, partners and employees. We wish for the Refuge to be a safe and healthy environment for wildlife and people.

We here at Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge will **NOT** discriminate against individuals or groups based upon their race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including pregnancy), gender identity, sexual orientation, abilities, and age. Allegations of discrimination involving refuge representatives should be reported to the Refuge Manager or available Refuge staff as soon as possible. Reports and situations will be handled promptly and professionally.

Just as we strive to accomplish our mission, we must also strive to maintain the trust and confidence of our employees, partners, and the public.

Non-Discrimination and Zero Tolerance Policy

Growing a Safe and Healthy Environment for
Wildlife and People

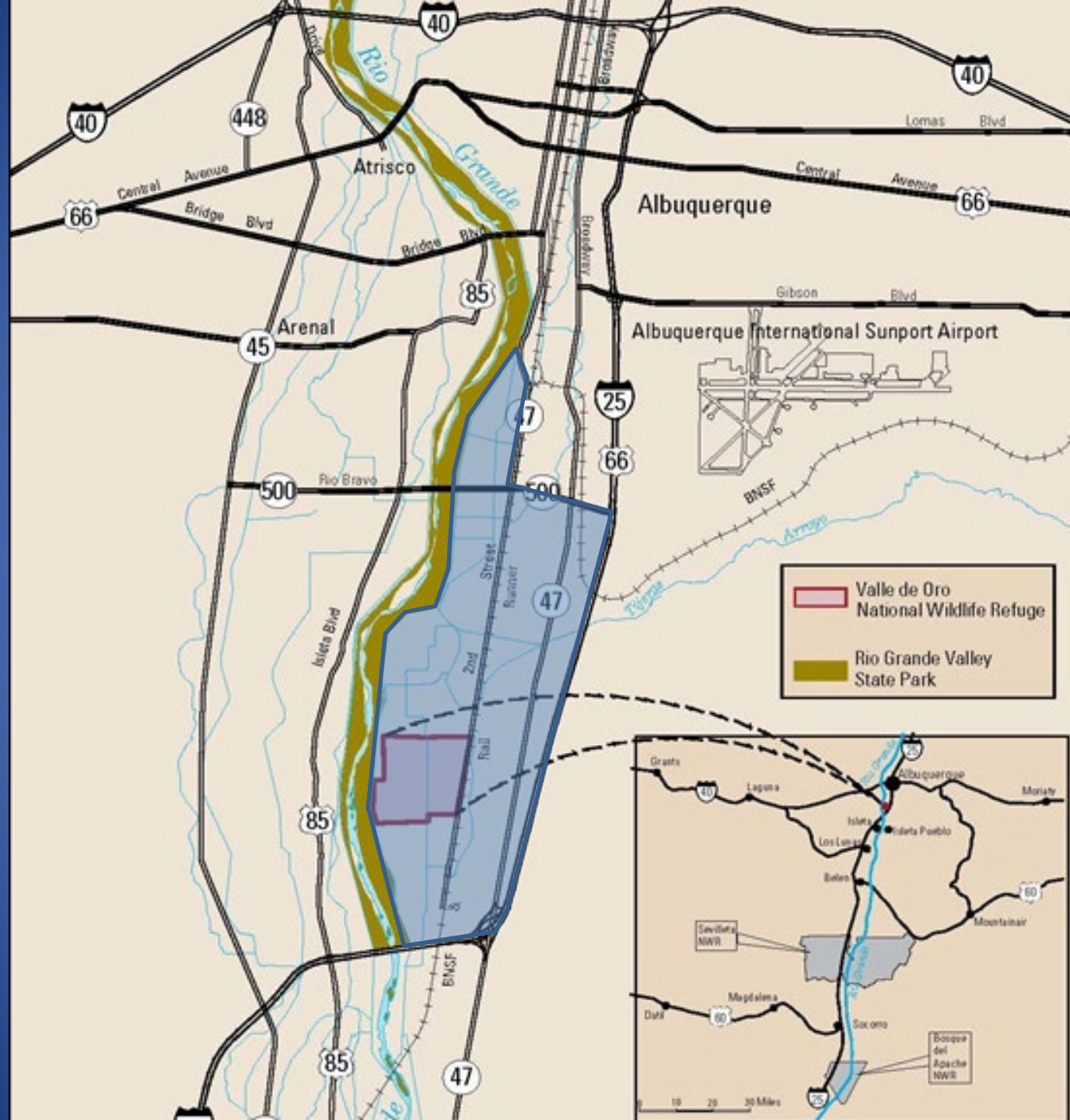




Valle de Oro NWR by the numbers...

- 570-acre Valley Gold Farm (Price's Dairy)
- Established in 2012
- First Urban Refuge in the Southwest and first in the country under the Urban Refuge Standards of Excellence
- Seven miles south of downtown Albuquerque
- 45-70% of NM population lives within 30-90 minutes

The Community of Mountain View



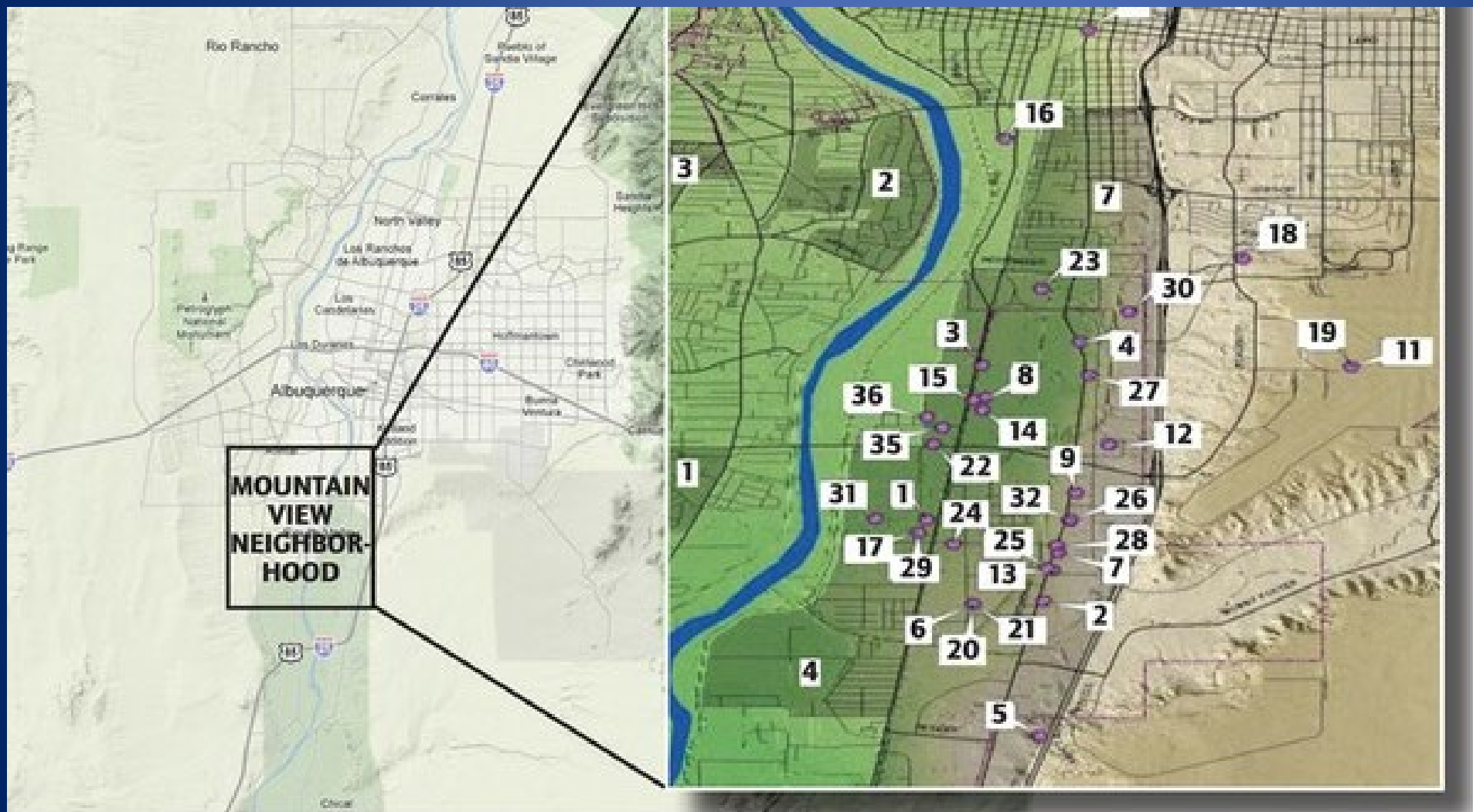




DARTAN CC

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

"Albuquerque prefers not to have these kinds of industrial facilities within city limits," so city officials use zoning to "push everything to Mountain View," - Lauro Silva, President Mountain View Neighborhood Association



- 1 Abq. Liquid Waste
- 3 Abq. Metal Recycling
- 5 Abq. Refined Products
- 7 Approved Oil Service
- 8 AT&SF (Superfund site)
- 9 Conoco Abq. Products
- 23 GE Aircraft engines
- 24 Kinney Brick Co.
- 25 Mesa Oil Inc

The General Electric jet-engine plant, a Superfund site, has contaminated the acequia system that fed the farms of Mountain View.

"Seventy-eight percent of the people in Mountain View are *Chicano/Mexicano*. More than half speak Spanish as their primary language. And nearly 40 percent of the families with children are so poor, they'd have to triple their income to climb above the federal poverty line." – High Country News





The smells and sounds of
Mountain View



Valley Gold

FINE DAIRY PRODUCTS



Los Jardines Institute

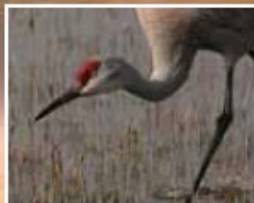
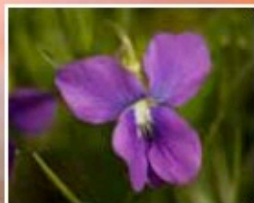
Cultural Literacy • Community
Workshop • Environmental, Economic, and Social Justice
Phone: 520-281-2811, email: [redacted]@losjardines.org, Facebook: [redacted]



e to Los Jard

Conserving the Future

*Wildlife Refuges
and the Next Generation*



Connected Conservation Constituency





A New Refuge
is Established



September
27, 2012



Listen

Facilitate

reflect

grow
-TOGETHER-





NEW MEXICO'S LEADING NEWS SOURCE
**ALBUQUERQUE
JOURNAL**



“Owen-White also hopes to launch scheduled tours soon. But in the meantime, if you want to go see it, give her a call at her Albuquerque office: 505-248-6667. Really. As I mentioned, as the refuge director she’s also its only employee, but she’s happy to give tours and told me she didn’t mind if I put her phone number in the newspaper.”

Encuesta Sobre La Comunidad Mountain View Fuerzas, Asuntos, Ideas Para el Futuro

**Mountain View Community Survey
Strengths, Issues, Ideas For the Future**

init. date ____

Participants perceived age (circle one): Youth Adult Elder
Street: _____

1. How long have you lived in this community?
2. What languages do you speak at home?
3. What do you like about your community?
4. What kind of changes have you noticed in Mt. View over the years?
5. What form/forms of transportation do you use to get around?
6. What health concerns are you aware of in Mountain View?
7. Do you think we need more industry in the Mountain View Community? Why/Why Not?
8. Have you heard about the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge located on south Second? Ye If yes: How did you learn about it?
9. Have you or your family visited the refuge or attended a public meeting or event hosted by th
10. Open Space is undeveloped land that is open to the public. How important is it for you and/or have access to open space?
11. What activities do you and your family enjoy for recreation?
12. What types of activities do you think should be provided within the Valle de Oro Wildlife Refu, View Community?
13. Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge was established 3 years ago in 2012. Have you noticed any changes (good or bad) in your community since the opening of the Refuge?
14. Are there any concerns you have about the development of Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge?

If so: How do you feel these concerns can be addressed?
15. Now is your opportunity to "dream big": What would make your neighborhood better (lighting, safety, public transportation, zoning, parks, etc.)?
16. Ok, now dream big about the Refuge: Knowing what you do now about the Refuge, how can the Refuge make the community better?
17. Have you ever attended a meeting of the Mountain View Neighborhood Association? Yes/No Why or why not?
18. What is the most common thing that keeps you from going to community or public meetings and what would make it easier for you to attend?
19. Where do you most often get your information from when it concerns local community affairs?
20. What is the best way for you to be informed about Refuge, community events, meetings or development plans for Mt. View?
21. How would you suggest that we might reach more people in your community with information like this?
22. Is there anything else you would like to add that we did not cover?



Mountain View Community Survey Strengths, Issues, Ideas for the Future

Listen

Facilitate

reflect

grow
-TOGETHER-

Save the Date!

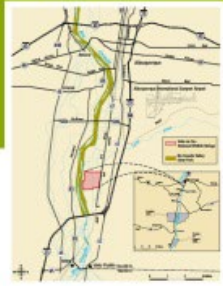
Saturday, September 28, 2013

Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge invites you to join us for National Public Lands Day as together we plan for the future of YOUR public lands!

This community event will be packed with information, activities and fun for the entire family - bring your ideas and be a part of planning for YOUR new urban wildlife refuge!

Join Us!

7851 2nd Street SW
Albuquerque, NM 87105

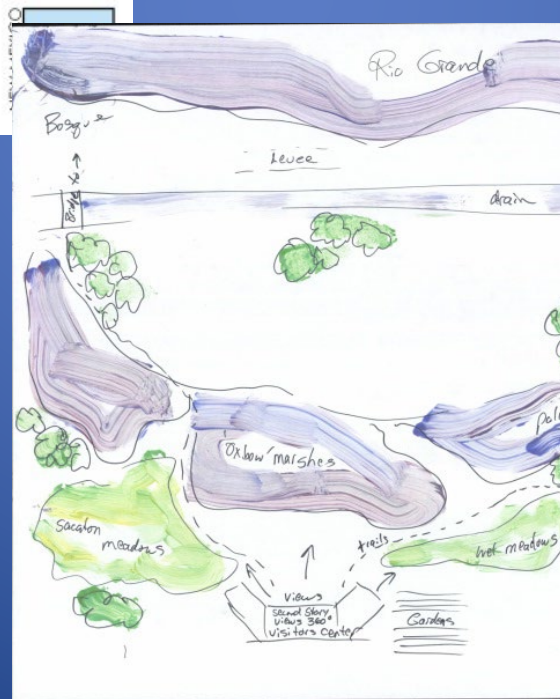


Itinerary

10:00 - 12:00: Activities that Inform

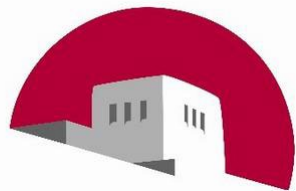
1:00 - 3:00: Collective Visioning

Lunch provided by the Friends of Valle de Oro NWR for full day participants who commit to attending both sessions from 10-3. Please RSVP by Sept. 20th with the number of people in your party to reserve your space: info@newmexicooutdoorscoalition.org



National Public Lands Day





THE UNIVERSITY *of*
NEW MEXICO







Valle de Oro Birthday Party

small actions toward positive change



Saturday,
September
30th

10:00 am
to 2:00 pm



*cake • hayrides
music • food trucks
kids activities
children's book drive*

FREE



at the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge

7851 2nd Street SW, ABQ



for more info contact

teresa_skiba@fws.gov (505) 933-3230

Listen

Facilitate

reflect

grow
-TOGETHER-





Figure 16. Preferred Charrette Plan

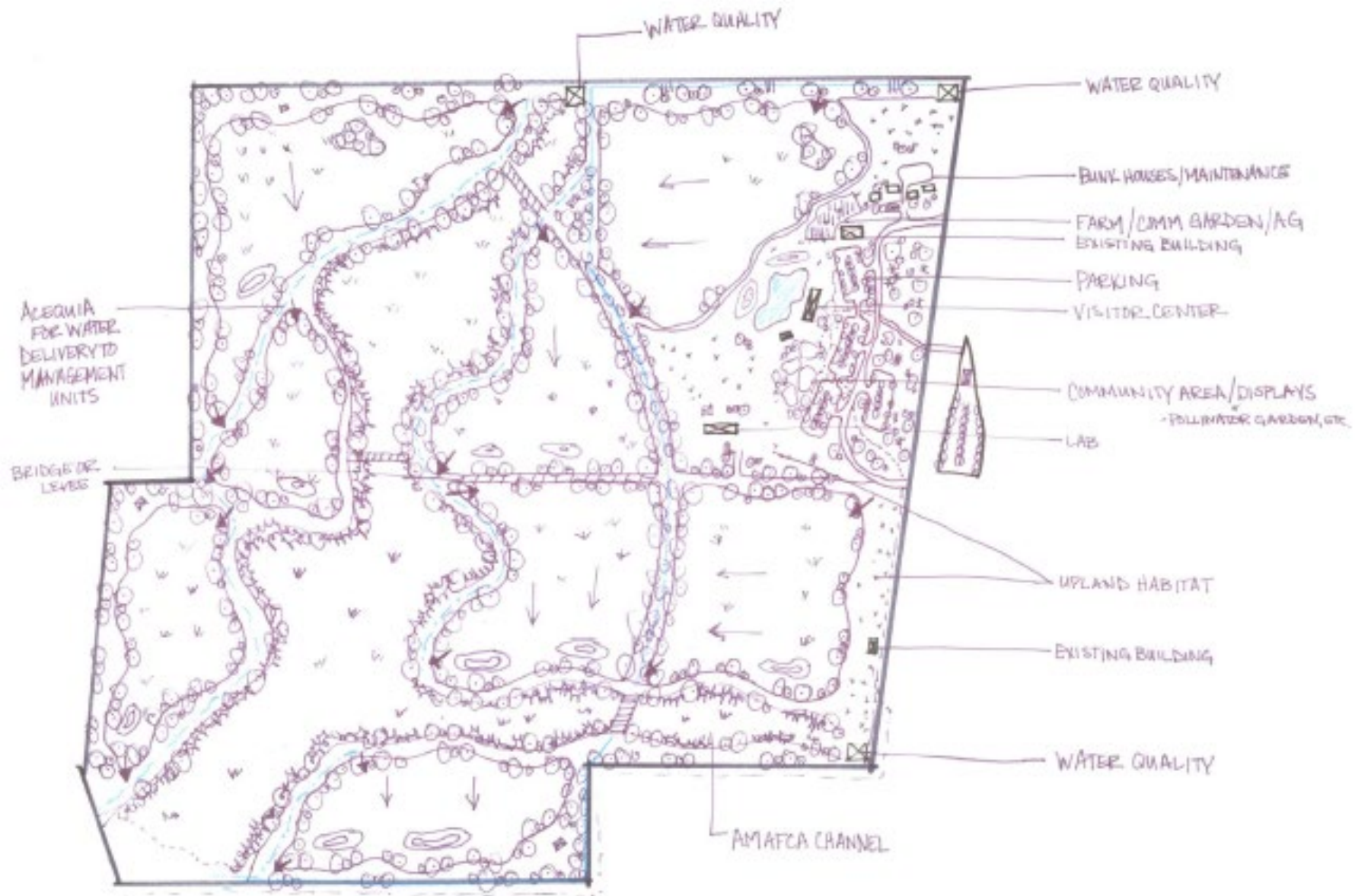


Figure 18. Natural Concept



Figure 19. Historic Oxbow Concept 1

Valle de Oro Site Plan

Concept 2

WATER QUALITY POND
This ponding area will treat intermittent flows of storms and drainage water through Green Infrastructure which includes coyote willows and bioremediation plants. A sediment collection area will separate sediment from water before it enters the refuge.

MRGCD DRAIN
The existing Barr Drain will be buffered from view and visitor interaction via hedgerows of native vegetation. Two land bridges will provide wildlife and visitors access to Valle de Oro's multiple habitats.

TRAILS
Trails will be distributed throughout the site. The hierarchy of trails will include major paved trails and minor soft-surface paths within the refuge to allow visitors to view wildlife from a variety of perspectives. Pedestrian, bike, and equestrian trails along the perimeter of Valle de Oro will provide links between adjacent neighborhoods and the Bosque.

MANAGEMENT UNITS
A collection of diverse wildlife habitats managed to produce conditions ranging from wetland to marshes and mudflats.

PLAYA
Alkali Sacaton, Saltgrass
The Playa will offer a landscape habitat that provides a glimpse into a much drier, but typically southwestern, landform.

AMAFCA WATER QUALITY POND
This wide, shallow pond will collect trash and other stormwater debris before it enters Valle de Oro.

RIPARIAN EDGE VEGETATION
Coyote Willow, Alkali Sacaton, Cattails, Sedges, Bulrushes
Vegetation along the edges of Management Units will range from dense stands of willow communities to wetland sedges and bulrushes.

AMAFCA SALTGRASS MEADOW
Coyote Willow, Seepwillow, Sunflower, Saltgrass
This dual-use drainage swale and habitat management unit will be an exemplary model of a Rio Grande Saltgrass Meadow.

COTTONWOOD BOSQUE
Cottonwood, Black Willow, NM Olive, Silver Buffaloberry, False Indigo, Coyote Willow, Sunflower, Saltgrass
Dense stands of cottonwood forest with native understory shrubs, groundcovers, and grasses.

OPEN COTTONWOOD WOODLAND
Cottonwood, NM Olive, Fourwing Saltbush, Grama Grass, Saltgrass
Open cottonwood forest with some native understory shrubs, groundcovers, and grasses.

SUCCESSIONAL FOREST
Cottonwood, Oneseed Juniper, Arizona Ash, Arizona Sycamore, etc.
This forest area will recreate the Rio Grande Bosque as it once was, borrowing from a time that the forest included hardwoods like Ash, Sycamore and Juniper, in addition to Cottonwoods.

OUTFLOW CULVERTS
Design yet to be determined



AMAFCA WATER QUALITY STRUCTURE
This baffle device is planned to collect trash and other stormwater debris before it enters Valle de Oro.

LOWLAND MESA HABITAT
Saltbush, Apache Plume, Seepwillow, Sunflower, Sand Dropseed, Ricegrass, Black Grama Grass, Blue Grama Grass
Habitats similar to those surrounding the Rio Grande Valley Bosque will create a transition from the upper Chihuahuan Desert landscape to the wetter habitats of Valle de Oro.

ARROYO RIPARIAN HABITAT
Desert Willow, Threeleaf Sumac, Apache Plume, etc.
These arroyo habitats, similar to existing native arroyo landscapes, will highlight the environments in and around typical arroyos within the Rio Grande Valley.

VISITOR CENTER
The Visitor Center for Valle de Oro could include community gardens, such as a Rio Grande Heritage Garden, a Pollinator Garden, Farmland Remnants, and a Camino Real Historic Site. The parking lots will be hard- and soft-surfaced, with water harvesting to irrigate the surrounding landscape. Treatment Wetlands could be utilized to treat sewage as a demonstration and to add habitat value. An area will be set aside for volunteers and short term stays at the refuge.

CHIHUAHUAN DESERT HABITAT
Ocotillo, Creosote Bush, Little Leaf Sumac, Ricegrass, Dropseed, etc.
The landscape habitats of the upper Chihuahuan Desert could be represented at Valle de Oro, particularly near the site of the historic Camino Real.

GENERAL LEGEND

Property Lines, Easements & Right-of-Way

- Refuge Property Line
- MRGCD & Bernalillo County Easements / ROW

Trails & Pathways

- Perimeter Trail
- 2nd Street Trail
- El Camino Real Trail
- Bosque Trail
- Refuge Main Trail
- Minor Interior Trails (Soft-Surface)
- Major Interior Trails (Hard-Surface)
- Bridges / Boardwalks

Water Delivery Systems & Acequias

- Drains and acequias

General

- Controlled Maintenance Access Gates
- Site Buildings
- Treehouse Observation Point
- Highpoint Observation Point



Rio Grande

Connection to Bosque Trail

Proposed Overflow Culverts

Connection to Bosque Trail

Rio Metro - Rail Runner Express

Salida Sandia SW





U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge
Alternative B

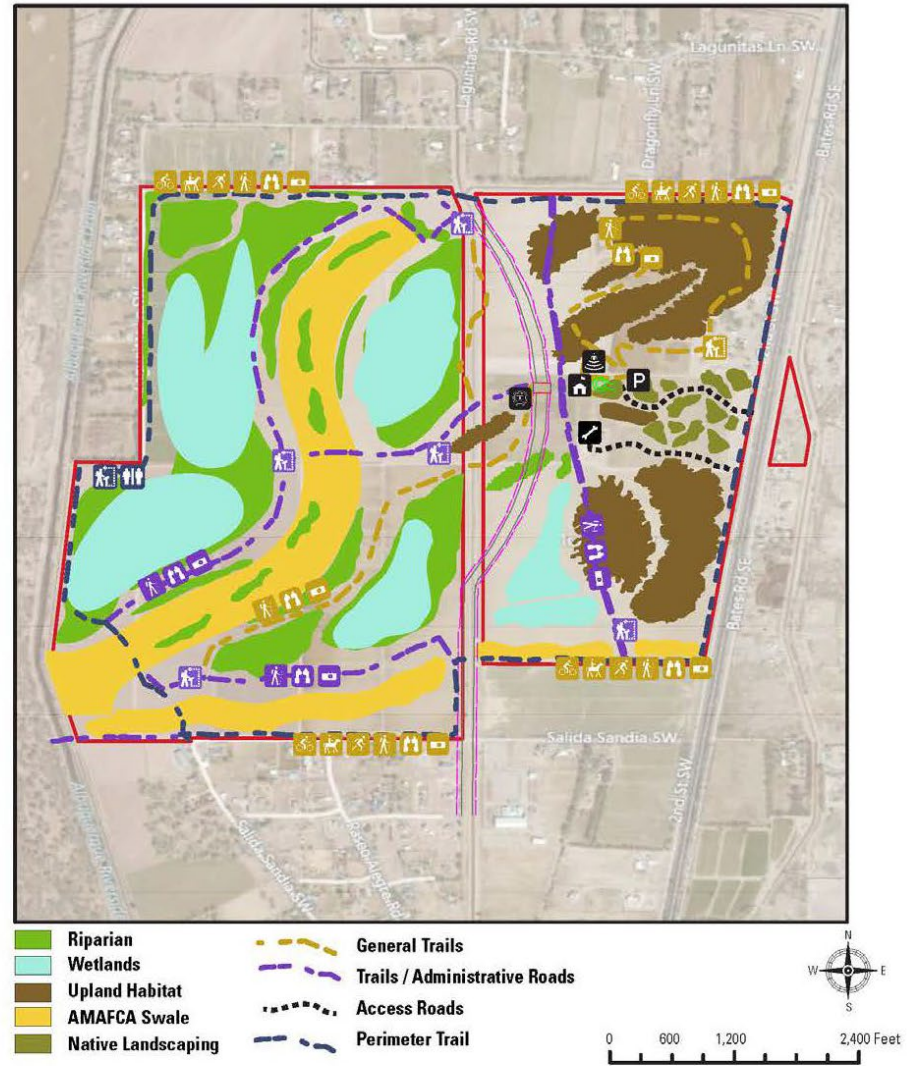


Figure 8. Map of Alternative B—Proposed Action.

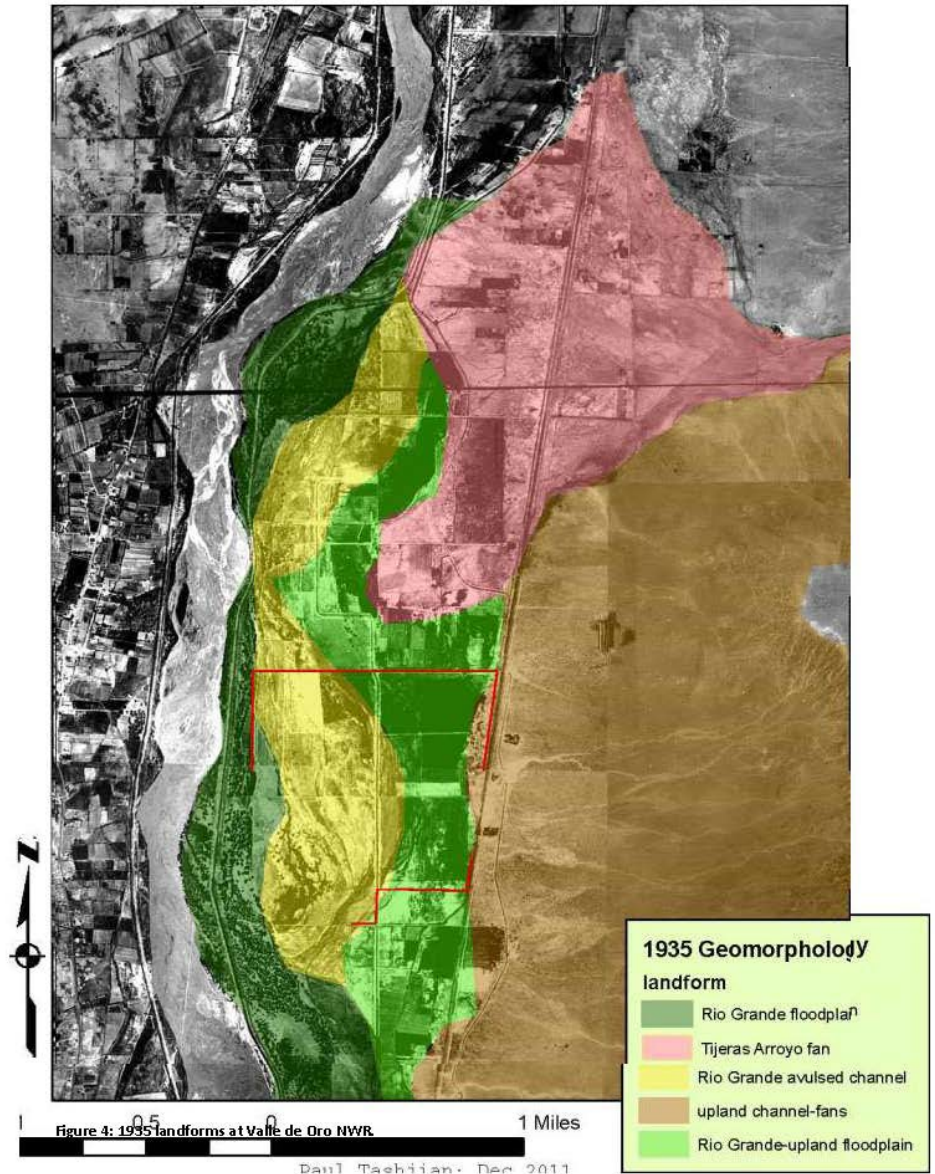
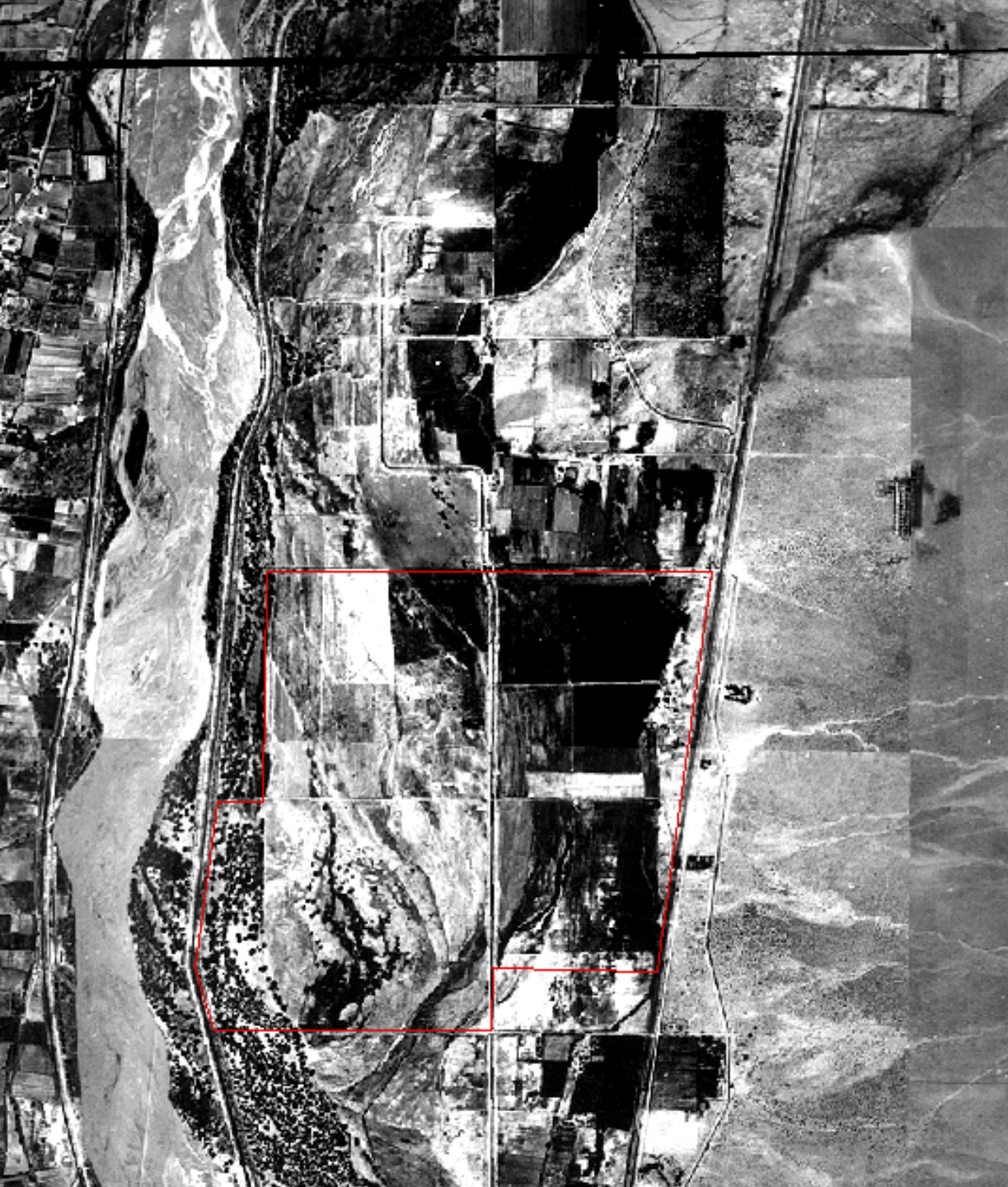


Figure 4: 1935 landforms at Valle de Oro NWR

Designed wetlands

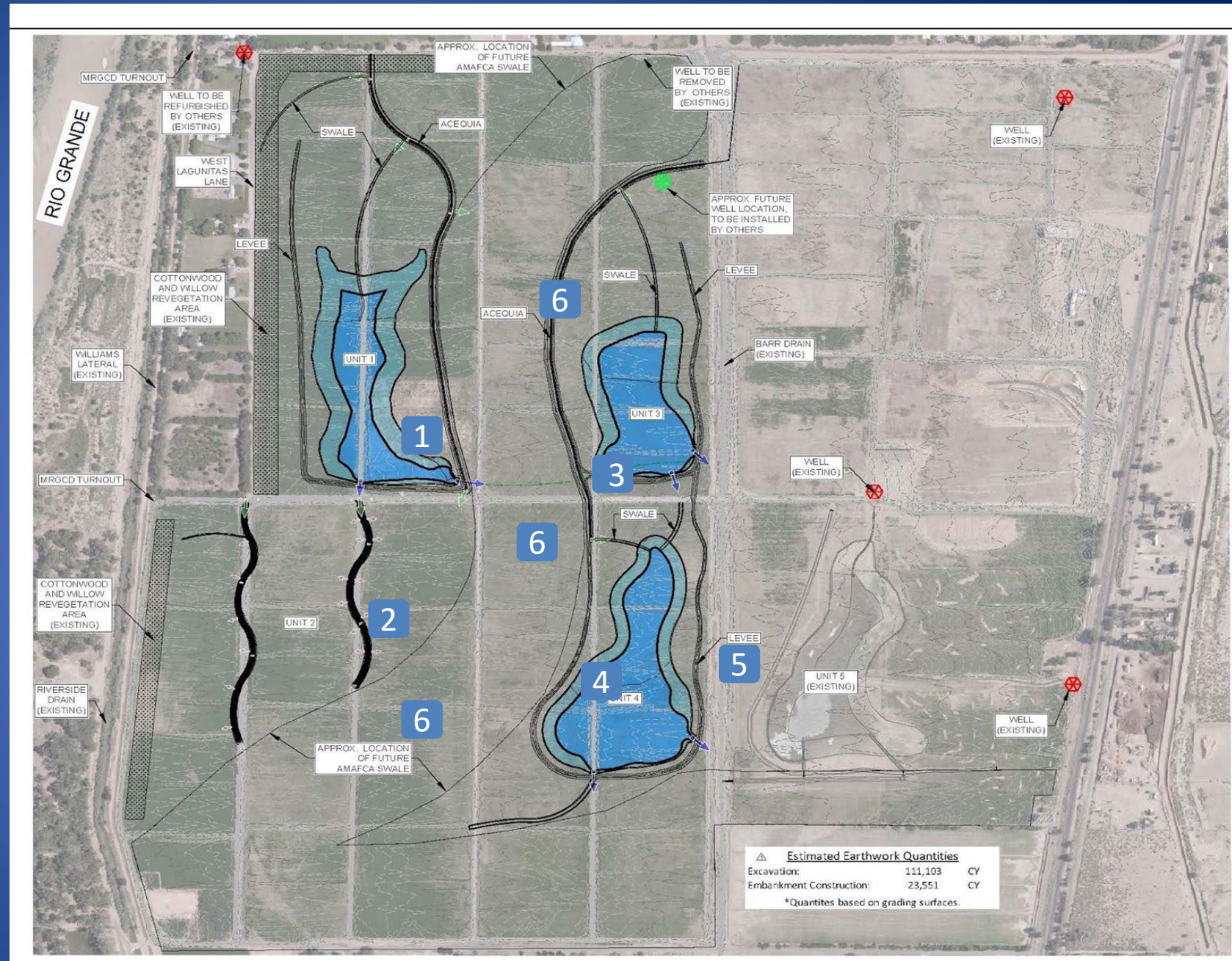
1: seasonal wetland, 2020

2: wet meadow, 2020

3 & 4: seasonal wetlands, future

5: playa, constructed 2018

6: AMAFCA swale: late 2020



¡Vengan y aprenden como sus comentarios influyeron nuestras decisiones!

Come learn how your comments influenced our decisions.

Public comments welcome!

Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge Environmental Assessment Community Update

This is your opportunity to learn about and comment on Valle de Oro NWR's draft environmental assessment for the refuge's restoration and site plan.

Wednesday, August 2
5:30pm – 7:00pm
Free dinner and kids' activities!

Spanish and
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 www.fws.gov/n
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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge Restoration, Activities, and Site Plan Environmental Assessment Bernalillo County, New Mexico

Public Comment Period
 July 18 to August 18, 2017
 Let Your Voice Be Heard!

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Valle de Oro NWR
 EA Public Comment How-to

Your Voice Matters!
 Since September 2013, Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge and its partners have been gathering public input about a vision for the Southwest's first Urban Wildlife Refuge. Public meetings, charrettes and meetings with various stakeholders have helped shape ideas about habitat restoration, refuge layout, facility design, and potential activities at Valle de Oro NWR. The draft Environmental Assessment of the Restoration, Activities and Site Plan for Valle de Oro NWR (EA) is now ready for your review and comment.

What is an Environmental Assessment?
 Management actions undertaken by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are subject to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review and evaluation. NEPA is intended to ensure that information about the environmental impacts of an agency's proposed and alternative actions are available to agency decision-makers and the public. The Service's NEPA goal is "to make better environmental decisions in an efficient manner to further our mission to conserve, protect, and enhance fish and wildlife and their habitats for the continued benefit of the American people."

alternative is analyzed to determine its environmental impact. You can find a summary table of the alternatives here.
 The EA also includes: the history of the refuge; a discussion of the scoping meetings with summaries of earlier public and stakeholder comments; and maps and diagrams illustrating trail and building placement and design, water management plans, bird airstrike hazard issues, and more! Along with the EA there are Compatibility Determinations that spell out the circumstance under which refuge activities would be allowed (like horseback riding or wildlife observation; found here).
Where to Find a Copy of the EA: You can find an electronic copy of the EA at www.fws.gov/refuge/Valle_de_Oro/Environmental_Assessment.html. At that site you can also find short summaries of the alternatives, and the proposed refuge activities. Paper copies are available for review during the comment period at Valle de Oro NWR, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
How to Write a Public Comment: Comments are an important part of the EA process. When writing your comment, be clear about the change you want to see, why you think something is a good or bad idea or if you have a solution to a problem you have identified. (cont...)



¡Comentarios públicos bienvenidos!

Valle de Oro Refugio Nacional de Vida Silvestre

Evaluación ambiental: actualización para la comunidad

Esta es su oportunidad de revisar ayudar en la planificación para la evaluación ambiental y restauración del refugio.

el miércoles, 2 de agosto de 5:30 a 7:00 de la tarde

¡Cena gratuita y actividades para niños!

Intérpretes en español estarán presentes

Escuela Primaria Mountain View, en la Cafetería
 5317 2nd St SW, Albuquerque, NM 87105

Período de comentarios: 18 de julio - 18 de agosto

Leer el borrador de evaluación ambiental en:

www.fws.gov/refuge/Valle_de_Oro/Environmental_Assessment.html

Envíe sus comentarios a vdolistens@fws.gov, (505) 248-7409,

7851 2nd St. SW, Albuquerque, NM 87105, o en persona el 2 de agosto



August 2017

Come Join Us!

VALLE DE ORO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE COMMUNITY UPDATE MEETING SERIES



5:30 TO 7 PM MT, VIEW COMMUNITY CENTER*
FEB 1, AUG 2 & NOV 1, 2018

*201 PROSPERITY AVE SE, ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87105

Learn about what's new with Valle de Oro
NWR Projects & associated local
community projects.

Topics may include, but not limited to:
Habitat Restoration
2nd Street Construction
Refuge Visitor Center Construction
Completed Environmental Assessment

Bring your questions & comments.

For more information: www.fws.gov/refuge/valle_de_oro/



Spanish translation, sign language & children's
activities will be available. Light refreshment
provided by:



NATIONAL
WILDLIFE
REFUGE SYSTEM

Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge wants to hear from you!

Community Update Open House

Thursday
May 18th

5:30pm - 7:00pm
at Valle de Oro NWR
7851 2nd Street SW
Albuquerque, NM 87105

Bring the
whole family
for free food
& kid's
activities

Spanish and
American Sign
Language
Interpretation
provided

Come learn about and
share your thoughts on:

Valle de Oro
Perimeter Trail 2nd Street Corridor
Improvements
El Camino Real Stories
Refuge Nature Play Area and more!

Photo by David Buckley

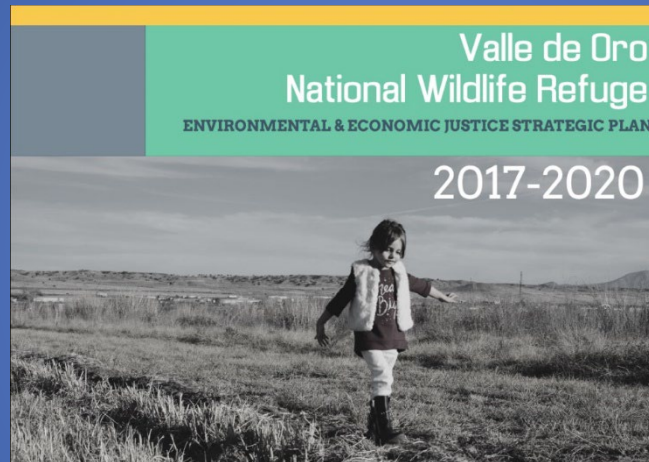
For More Information: 505-248-6667 or valledeoro@fws.gov



NATIONAL
WILDLIFE
REFUGE SYSTEM



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
STRATEGIC PLAN



Mountain
View
Neighborhood
Association

First Site-
Specific Public
Land and
Economic
Justice Strategic
Plan

Environmental Justice COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

"Connecting Through Our Roots"

VALLE DE ORO NATIONAL WILDLIFE
REFUGE & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2024

Join us this April as we gather across the valley, reconnecting with Mother Earth and her diverse inhabitants. Enjoy free activities and educational opportunities throughout the month, culminating in our EJ Day Celebration on April 20th at the refuge. #EJDays2024 #ConnectingThroughOurRoots.

For more information: call 505.248.6667 or email ValledeOro@fws.gov

SCAN w/Phone



April 13th @ 11a - 2p

803 La Vega Dr. SW 87105

Rooting and nurturing through movement and music with iLAND.

Join us @ Los Jardines Institute to dance and explore how we sense and create with the creatures and plants of Los Jardines. Experience the farm's restoration and healing from industrial history and contamination. Family-friendly workshops promote intergenerational exchange, complemented by live music from Jah Truebadoors.

April 13th @ 11a - 1p

7851 2nd Street SW 87105

Botanical Sun Printing

Join artist Anna Rotty and Ranger Giessell for a sun printing workshop (cyanotype) and nature walk for a creative blend of nature, art and learning about environmental justice. All ages welcomed, materials provided.

April 14th @ 9a - 12p

7851 2nd Street SW 87105

South Valley EJ Paddle Day

Meet at the Valle de Oro NWR early for set-up and make sure to pre-register for full details! Be ready for a day of fun and learning on water! **Registration is required.**

April 16th @ 7p - 8:30p

7851 2nd Street SW 87105

AfroMundo Festival: Conservation Visionaries

Join us at the Refuge for a 35-minute screening of the documentary "Sonic Forest" by Stand for Trees, 2020. Discover the conservation efforts of Afro and Indigenous communities in the Americas, particularly two Colombian communities risking their lives to preserve the earth.

After the screening, participate in a panel discussion featuring Jose Luis Rengifo from Rights & Resources and Procesos de Comunidades Negras, and Yineth Balanta Mina from Asomuafrayo, a grassroots women's group in Colombia.

April 20th @ 11a - 1p

7851 2nd Street SW 87105

ALMA Community Tile Making Workshop

Join ALMA for a tile making workshop to go towards the new mosaics sculptures at the refuge.

April 20th @ 12:30-1:30p

7851 2nd Street SW 87105

Toxic Tour

Take a toxic tour with the Environmental Justice Leadership Team. The tour begins at the refuge and highlights the environmental justice advocacy work happening in the South Valley.

April 27th @ 8p-10:30p

7851 2nd Street SW 87105

Star Party

In partnership with the Albuquerque Astronomical Society, join us to look at the stars, identify the constellations and learn how dark skies and environmental justice are connected.

Environmental Justice Day 2024 Community Celebration

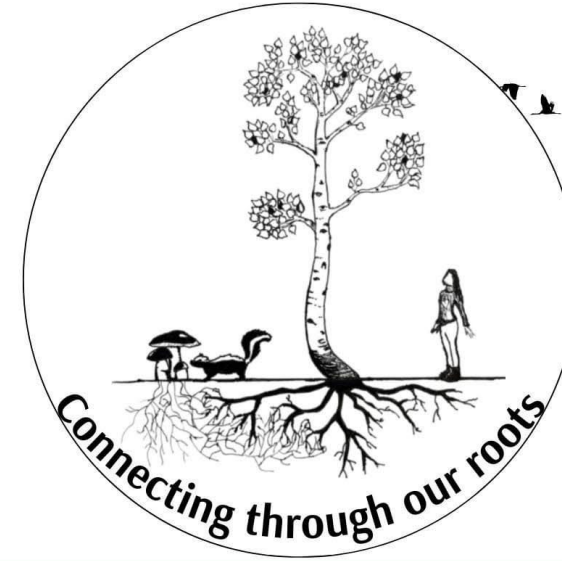
APRIL 20th @ 11a - 2p

Join us at the Refuge for this culminating event with
MUSIC • DANCE • FOOD • EJ TOXIC TOUR • WILDLIFE VIEWING • ART • YOGA

Registration not required.



Environmental Justice COMMUNITY CELEBRATION



APRIL 2024 - FREE EVENTS

FUN EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR
FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Kayaking + Farming + Music + Dance
Food + EJ Toxic Tour + Wildlife Viewing
Art + More!



Listen

Facilitate

reflect

grow
-TOGETHER-

VALLE DE ORO NATIONAL
WILDLIFE REFUGE

VISION
- WHAT WE STRIVE TO BE -

Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge uses an innovative and collaborative approach to connect people with wildlife, plants and the land by providing equitable and just ways to deepen personal relationships with nature. The refuge balances healthy natural habitat management with opportunities for education, visitor engagement, youth employment, community involvement and stewardship.



VALLE DE ORO NATIONAL WILDLIFE
REFUGE

-VALUE STATEMENTS-

Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge staff, interns and volunteers are committed to the following values as fundamental and foundational principles of the refuge. *These values guide how we work and interact with one another, our partners and our greater community.*

**ACCESSIBLE
AND JUST**

Providing equitable and inclusive opportunities and meaningful connection to nature for people of diverse backgrounds, economic standings, abilities and ages.

**INTENTIONAL AND
ADAPTABLE**

Consciously working toward a shared vision and goals and continuously reflecting and sharing successes, mistakes and lessons learned.

RESPECTFUL AND KIND

Honoring the knowledge of our mission, staff, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, stakeholders, community and surrounding cultures. Refuge staff are approachable, respectful, kind, and actively listen to the needs and concerns of others (colleagues, volunteers, partners and community members) and respond appropriately in thoughtful ways.

COLLABORATIVE

Intentionally and collaboratively working with colleagues, partners, volunteers and community members to make decisions and take action. We believe that our combined effect is greater when we work together and have many voices at the table.

**INNOVATIVE AND
CONTINUALLY LEARNING**

Taking risks to broaden the scope and depth of work accomplished in the field of conservation to include: community engagement, art, culture, technology, social and environmental justice. Committing to continuously learn from each other, community members, partners and stakeholders to keep approaches fresh and relevant.

CREDIBLE

Building and maintaining trust in the community, working to be transparent, realistic and patient with staff, partners and community members as the refuge grows and changes.



#TransformationThursday



VdOListens@fws.gov




Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge

DÍA PARA CONSTRUIR SU REFUGIO


Venga a ser parte de su comunidad orgullosamente y ayúdenos a crecer



 **construye el primer camino en el refugio, todos los entrenamientos y herramientas provistas**

exprese sus idea en educación y programas de interpretación



 **contribuye al diseño del centro de visitantes y entrada**

¡Evento gratis!

Familiar

Recorra el Refugio

Actividades para niños

Camiones de comida (Loncheras)

Música

Aguas Frescas Gratis



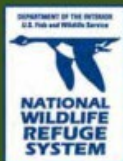
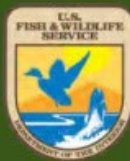
Use zapatos cerrados para la construcción de senderos

Sábado, 29 de septiembre, de 10 am a 2 pm

Construcción de camino de 10 am a 1 pm

7851 2nd St. SW, ABQ, NM 87105

Grupos organizados de más de 10 personas, por favor confirme su asistencia a valledeoro@fws.gov




Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge's

BUILD YOUR REFUGE DAY

come be a proud part of your community and help us grow



 **build the first trail on the refuge, all training and tools provided**

voice ideas for education and interpretation programs



 **contribute to the design of the visitor center and entrance way**

FREE EVENT!

family friendly refuge tours kid's activities food trucks music free aguas frescas



please wear closed toed shoes for trail building

Saturday, September 29th, 10am to 2pm

Trail Building 10am to 1pm

7851 2nd St. SW, ABQ, NM 87105

Organized groups larger than 10, please RSVP to valledeoro@fws.gov



Build Your Refuge Day
Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge

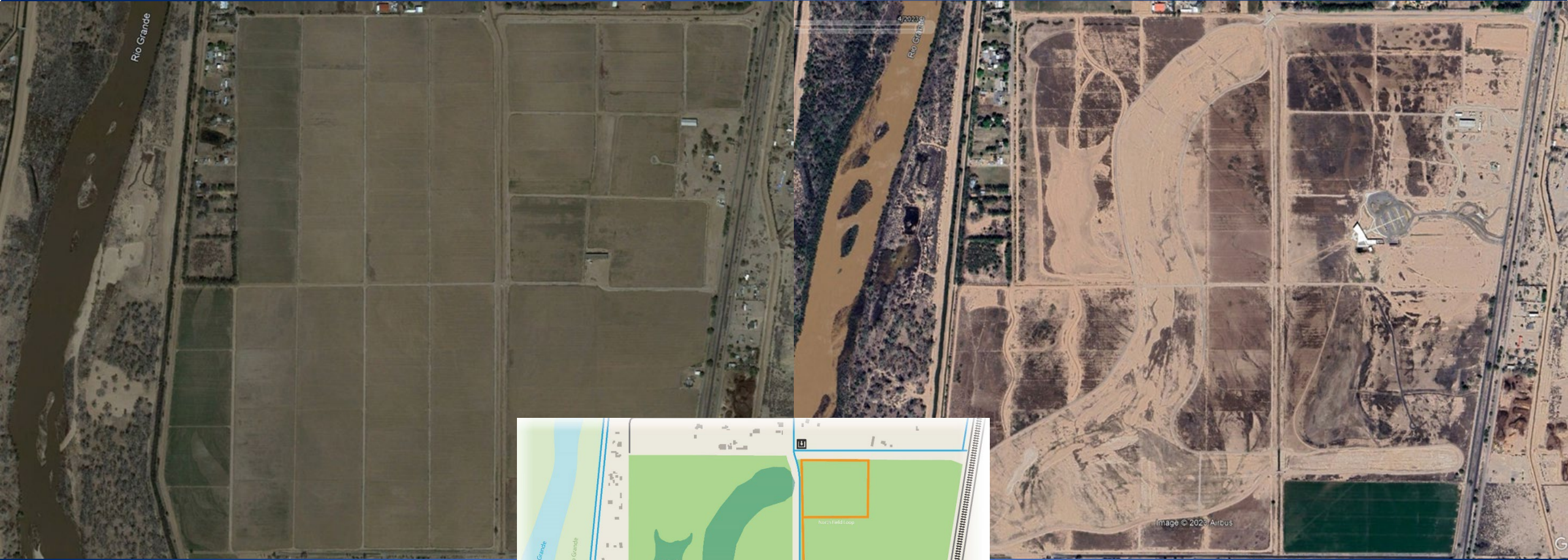


Image © 2023 Airbus







2029

2022

2021

2030

2025

2024

2023

2028

ABQ Backyard Refuge

CONNECTING HABITAT

www.ABQbackyardrefuge.org



FRIENDS OF
VALLE DE ORO
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

8202

Jennifer Owen-White
505-933-2708
Jennifer_owenwhite@fws.gov

