

NEW MEXICO STATE LAND OFFICE

Surface Resources Division



**Rio Grande Bosque:
Ecological Restoration Project Plan**

SLO Project 20-029

Albuquerque District

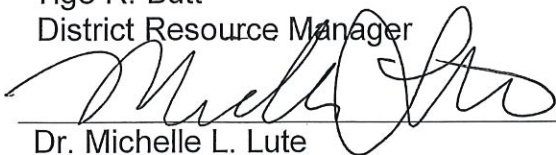
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AUTHORIZATION PAGE

This plan has been reviewed and approved by the following individuals.

Project Coordinators:

Tige R. Butt
District Resource Manager



Dr. Michelle L. Lute
Biologist

Date

2/21/20
Date

State Land Office Approval:



Will Barnes, Deputy Division Director
Surface Resources

2/24/20
Date




Dana Vackar Strang, Division Director
Surface Resources

2/24/2020
Date



Howard Gross, Assistant Commissioner
Surface Resources

2/25/20
Date



Stephanie Garcia Richard,
Commissioner of Public Lands

3.2.20
Date

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

Name: *Rio Grande Bosque: Ecological Restoration Project Plan*

District: Albuquerque

Directions: From I-25 exit on Rio Bravo Blvd heading west. Take Rio Bravo to 2nd street, turn left (south) on Isleta Blvd/NM-314 to Durand Open Space, turn left (east) and continue through the gate (requires key from ABQ Open Space). Cross the bridge over the Atrisco Riverside Drain/Padillas Acequia and take the access road south approximately 2.5 miles.

Target Acres: 20.4 Acres (West side of the river)

Legal Description:

Sections: 36
Township: 09N
Range: 02E
County: Bernalillo

Current Leasing Information:

Agricultural/Grazing: None
Rights of Ways: None
Commercial: None
Mining and Minerals: None
Oil/Gas: None
Water Developments: None
Other: None

Beneficiary Information: Common Schools (100%)

Project Coordinator: Michelle Lute
Phone: 505-827-5096
Email: mlute@slo.state.nm.us

Project Coordinator: Tige Butt
Phone: 505-539-5763
Email: tbutt@slo.state.nm.us

STATEMENT OF NEED

The urban Rio Grande riparian habitat in Albuquerque is of critical importance as habitat for several threatened and endangered species including the Southwest willow flycatcher and the silvery minnow. The proposed project would continue, maintain and enhance work previously started on the west side of the river by increasing native flora and removing re-sprouting non-native vegetation. This project also adds broader societal value by improving public wildlife and watershed conservation experiences in the greater Albuquerque area. The loss of overbank flooding over the past 75 years and the introduction of invasive species has altered the disturbance regime, created a fire hazard and choked out native habitat. The transformation of these riparian edges back into wetlands and productive habitat for wildlife aligns with the ecological conservation objectives of the NMSLO and will expand and complement adjacent efforts by project partners, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, and Rio Grande Return. Furthermore, the proposal creates an opportunity for project partners to strengthen and create opportunities for public engagement and stewardship of the watershed and wildlife.

PARTNERS

Rio Grande Return is a key partner, represented by Alan Hamilton Executive Director, and Reid Whittlesey Restoration Director.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives for the *Rio Grande Bosque Restoration Project* are as follows:

1. Provide safety for all SLO personnel, project partners, contractors, and visitors during project activities.
2. Restore desired conditions in riparian forests and floodplains within the project area.
3. Remove all non-native tree species within the project area and restore native willow and cottonwood.
4. Increase resiliency of forest and watershed to fire disturbance, disease, drought, pathogens, insects and other climate change related impacts.
5. Protect wildland-urban interface from fire risks.
6. Conduct monitoring to determine treatment effectiveness and adapt management accordingly for future treatments.

DESIRED OUTCOMES

This effort will remove non-native species and plant native riparian species to enhance the ecological, educational and recreational values of the area.

PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

The prescription for this up to 20.4 acre project in the riparian bosque vegetation type, may require several treatment methods, including mechanical and non-mechanical.

Minimum allowable practice standards are the New Mexico State Forestry Division's New Mexico Forest Practices Guidelines and Water Quality Protection Guidelines for Forestry Operations in New Mexico, attached as Exhibit A. (<http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SFD/ForestMgt/documents/ForestPracticesGuidelines2008.pdf>) In particular the contractor will comply with the fire equipment standards established in NMAC 19.20.4.9(Q):

- **The contractor shall:**
 - **have a long-handled shovel; pulaski, McLeod or combitool; and a five-pound capacity ABC dry chemical fire extinguisher available at the harvest location when harvesting is occurring;**
 - **ensure that each skidder, feller-buncher, delimber, dozer, log truck, etc. are equipped with a long-handled shovel and a five-pound capacity ABC dry chemical fire extinguisher; and**
 - **ensure each passenger vehicle, light truck or medium truck up to 40,000 GVW is equipped with a long-handled shovel and a two and one half pound capacity ABC dry chemical fire extinguisher.**
- **The contractor shall ensure that the tools and fire extinguishers are in good working condition.**

Treatments may include mechanical and non-mechanical. Target species include tree of heaven, saltcedar, Siberian elm and Russian olive.

- A. Mechanical Cutting/Extraction: Using an extractor or other similar mechanical tool, extract, cut, and remove all non-native tree species including tree of heaven, saltcedar, Siberian elm, and Russian olive, including re-sprouts of these species that have regenerated since the previous treatment, and mature trees that the previous treatment was unable to reach because of timing restrictions. Trees shall be removed with roots intact. Rootwads shall be placed on high ground to inhibit regeneration and to create habitat structure.

- B. Manual Cutting/Extraction: All woody material (target species) greater than 3 inches in diameter will be limbed and laid flat on the ground. All woody material (target species) less than 3 inches will be lopped and scattered in piles not to exceed a height of 8 inches.
- C. Manual Plant Material Collection: Identify appropriate sources of native species, mechanically collect poles and other plant materials and transport to site.
- D. Mechanical Broadcast Mulching: Existing woody material within the site will either be redistributed or chipped to decrease woody material depths and allow vegetative growth. Any chipped material will be scattered to a depth of 3 inches or less. Redistributed material depths may vary across the project area.
- E. Manual and Mechanical Planting: Using manual and mechanical methods, the project area will be planted with tree poles and juvenile shrubs of native species, predominately willow and cottonwood.
- F. Field Supervision of Revegetation: Provide field supervision of all revegetation activities.
- G. Project Management: Provide oversight and planning to meet objectives.

Specifications

- 1. Cutting/Extraction. Approximate acreage: 20.4 acres
- 2. Manual Plant Material Collection. Approximate acreage: 20.4 acres
- 3. Mechanical Broadcast Mulching. Approximate acreage: 20.4 acres
- 4. Manual Planting. Approximate acreage: 20.4 acres
- 5. Mechanical Planting. Approximate acreage: 20.4 acres
- 6. Field Supervision of Revegetation. Approximate acreage: 20.4 acres
- 7. Project Management. Approximate acreage: 20.4 acres

Note: Project area totals 20.4 acres. Some treatments overlap within the project boundary.

The services described above and to be performed by the Contractor on state trust lands shall conform to all applicable state and local laws and regulations.

PROJECT TIMING

Start Date: March 18, 2020
Completion Date: April 15, 2020

BIOLOGICAL and CULTURAL CLEARANCE

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This project area has a CHAT rank of 1 for the potential presence of two species of concern: Rio Grande silvery minnow, southwestern willow flycatcher. Because all activities will cease at the start of bird breeding season, no significant, negative biological impacts are anticipated as a result of this project.

NMSLO ARMS review indicates that the entire area of potential effect has not been surveyed. Because proposed activities occur within the active flood plain, which is already disturbed, there is no need to conduct an archaeological survey.

PURCHASING PROCESS

The contractor will provide an itemized written bid to the NMSLO. Quotes shall be based on the terms and conditions within the **Price Agreement No. 70-516-17-05424 for Ecological Restoration Projects** and at a price equal to or less than the amount in the vendors' current contract which meets the same standards and specifications as the project to be procured.

1. Cutting/Extraction. Approximate acreage: 20.4 acres
2. Manual Plant Material Collection. Approximate acreage: 20.4 acres
3. Mechanical Broadcast Mulching. Approximate acreage: 20.4 acres
4. Manual Planting. Approximate acreage: 20.4 acres
5. Mechanical Planting. Approximate acreage: 20.4 acres
6. Field Supervision of Revegetation. Approximate acreage: 20.4 acres
7. Project Management. Approximate acreage: 20.4 acres

The bid should be presented in table form as shown in the example below:

Each contractor will provide an all-inclusive, fully loaded written bid detailing costs for each line item. Line items may be broken out into further subdivisions so long as each line item has a total cost associated with that item.

Specification Item No.	Description	Hours	Unit Price	Total
1	Tree/shrub mechanical extraction			
2	Mechanical broadcast mulching			
3	Plant materials sourcing, manual collection, transport and storage			0
4	Manual planting of tree and shrub poles			
5	Mechanical planting of tree and shrub poles			

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6	Field supervision of revegetation activities			
7	Project management			
8	NM GRT			
TOTAL				

Invoices may only be paid after inspection and approval by the NMSLO project coordinator.

The project area will be treated according to the prescription.

- A. New Mexico State Procurement Code will be followed.

Bids will be due on Friday, March 13, 2020 by 5:00 pm via hand delivery, email or postal mail.

Questions and all bids should be delivered to:
David Padilla, Administrative Services Division
New Mexico State Land Office
310 Old Santa Fe Trail
Santa Fe, NM 87501
Phone: 505-827-5709
dpadilla@slo.state.nm.us

Vendor selection will take place within a reasonable time after the quote due date. Contractors will be selected based on Best Value: 1) responsiveness, 2) capability, 3) total cost to complete project, 4) time frame to complete project, 5) work history on NMSLO projects, 6) work history with other land management agencies and/or 7) ability to complete project within the required timeline.

- B. No work shall occur until a purchase order is in place.

MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND INVOICING

The NMSLO project coordinator will review contractor activities to ensure prescription is adhered to. Evaluation of work will continue throughout the project.

- A. Invoice Approval Process: Invoices should be delivered to the Project Coordinator and will be routed through the Surface Resources Division and Commissioner of Public Lands for review and approval. Invoices will not be paid without a project inspection and approval by the project coordinator.

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- B. Billing Frequency: Contractors may bill the State Land Office at the completion of the project, or in increments only to the percentage that the project has been completed, inspected and approved by the Project Coordinator.
- C. Contractor and Project Evaluations will be conducted upon project completion.



Photo 1. *Example of vegetation type and density – Russian olive.*



Photo 2. *Example of Vegetation type and density.*



Photo 3. *Example of Vegetation type and density.*



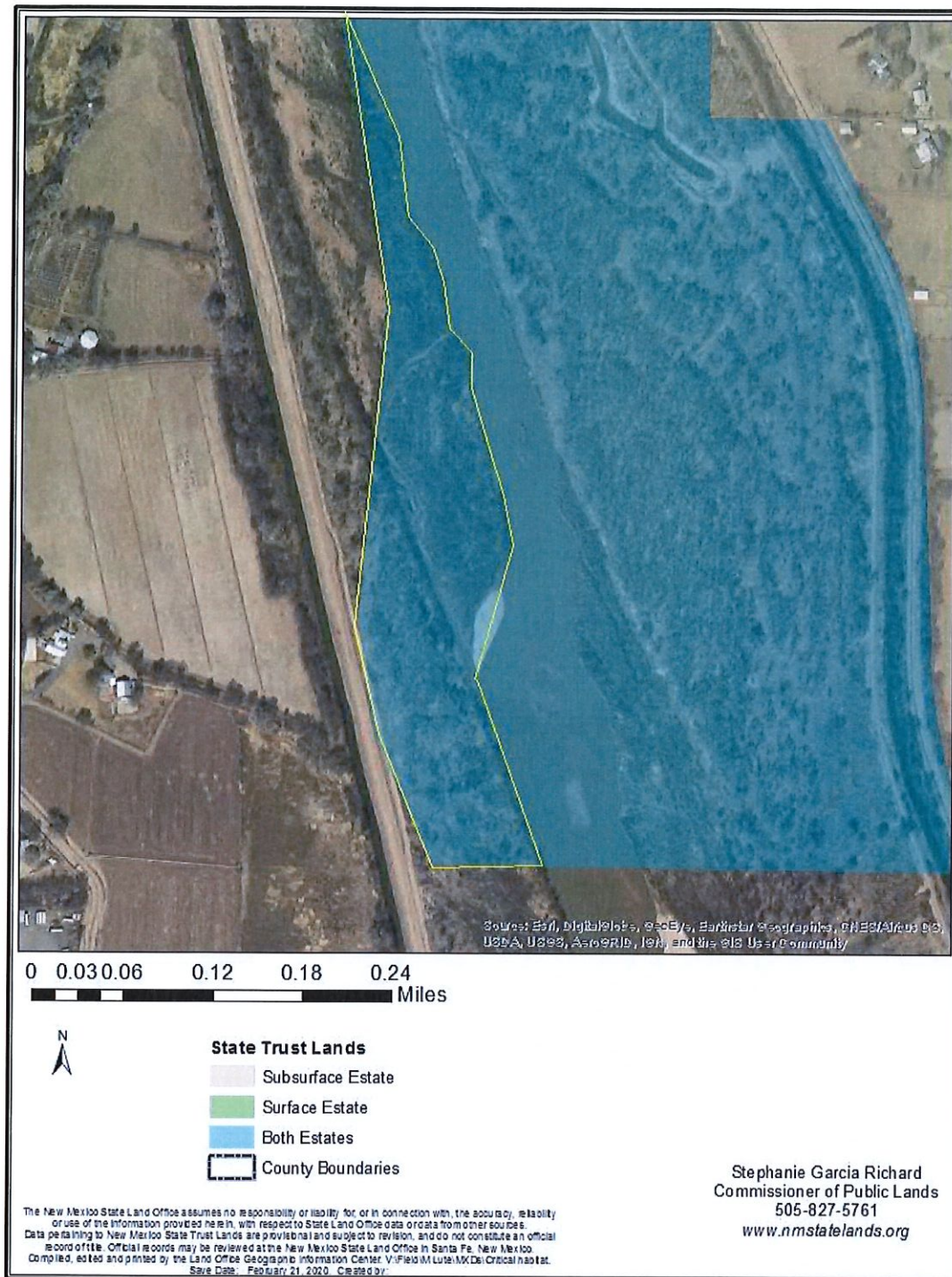
Photo 4. *Example of Vegetation type and density.*

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Map 1. Project Area and Location.

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Map 2. Close-up view of project area with treatment areas delineated.