

# Candelaria Nature Preserve Annual Presentation

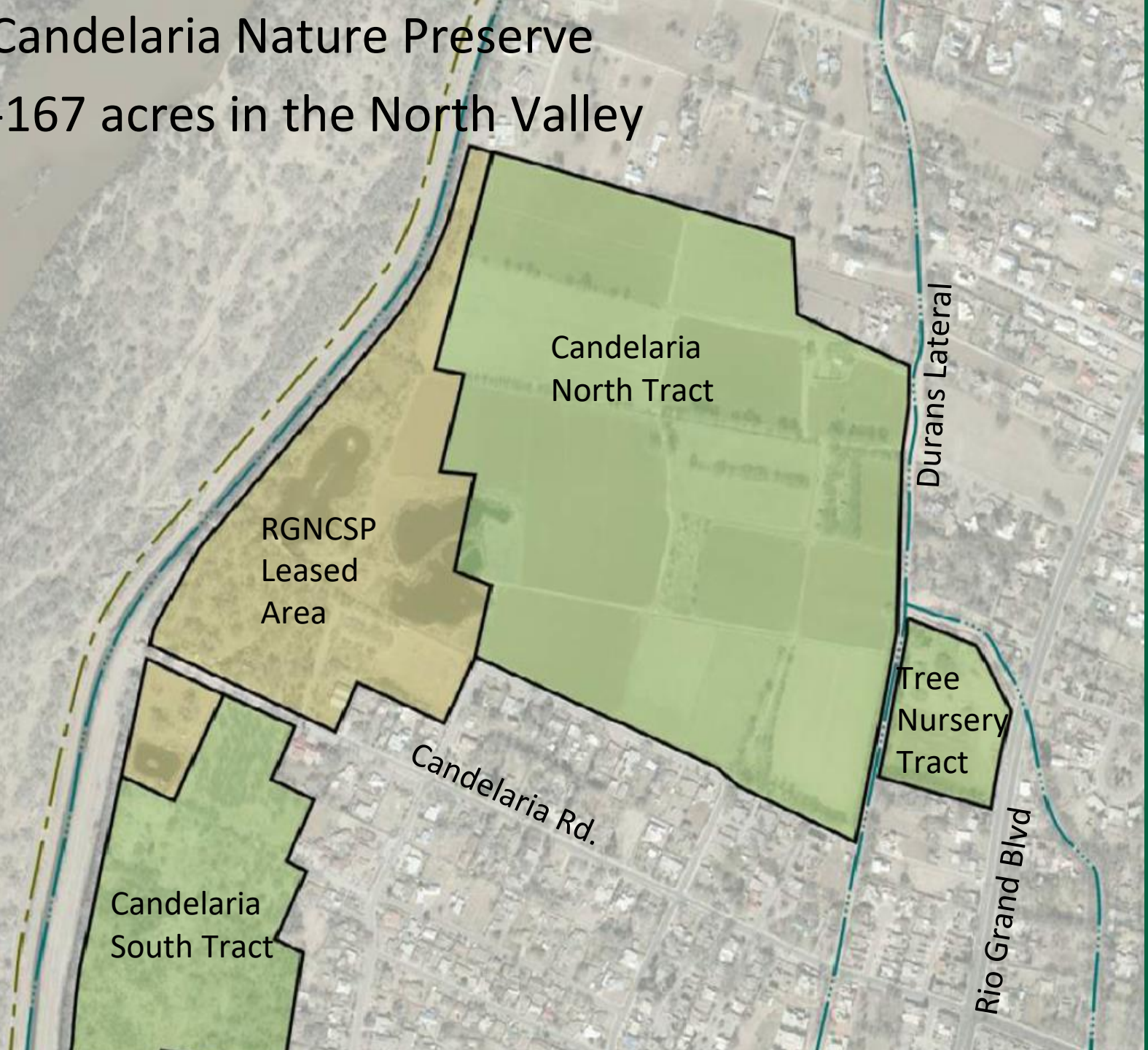


**ONE  
ALBUQUE  
RQUE** parks &  
recreation



# Candelaria Nature Preserve

-167 acres in the North Valley



# 2024 Accomplishments

- Initiated active restoration on seven additional acres, continued restoration maintenance on 19 acres, and wildlife farming on 50 acres
- TNT: contractor completed construction drawings
- CST: wildlife monitoring
- Friends of Candelaria
  - 125 members & 850 hrs. worked
  - Lead Monthly Tours, hosted Speaker Series
  - Leading CNP Interpretive Plan
- Youth conservation and volunteer involvement
  - Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps assisted in elm removal and care of 2B basins
  - Rocky Mountain Youth Core engaged in planting and weed removal in 1A over a two week period
  - RiverXchange students helped plant native species in 2B Sandbar habitat
  - Cottonwood Gulch students participated in weed removal, mulching, planting, vegetation monitoring and watering throughout the property over seven days
  - SOL Forest School helped water nursery plants
- Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District was awarded \$74,000 in funds from NM Healthy Soil Program (HSP) towards CNT restoration. They also submitted a LWCF Grant for \$788,000 (will require a 50% Match)
- Duranes Pedestrian Bridge: contractor completed construction drawings





# CNT: Wildlife Farming Activities



- Methods employed are no-till drill
- Increasing diversity in cover crops and native species seeded
- 680 native perennials were planted
- Wildlife crops planted in 1E, 1D, 2D, 2C, 4A, 4B, and 4C included wheat, barley, rye, millet, daikon radish, and native pollinator species
- HSP funding was used to provide vegetation for field 2C, including coyote willow, globemallow, and native grass plugs





Continued  
maintenance of  
wildlife crop  
throughout property

- irrigation
- soil amendments
- planting native  
species in fields  
and along  
hedgerows



# CNT: Field 2B Design and Implementation



## Designated Sandbar habitat in RMP

- Includes arroyo channel for water conveyance
- Raised bar topography
- Coyote willow, globe mallow grass plugs

# CNT: Field 2B and 2C Design and Implementation



Construction complete by  
OSD Maintenance crew  
with skid steer, grader,  
water truck, and dump  
truck.









# CNT: Front Entrance Gate



# Public Programs

## Public Programs included

- Wing in the New Year
- Learn to Birdwatch
- Learn to Photograph Wildlife
- Guided Tours
- Thursday Birders
- Weekly Volunteer Days
- Wildlife Drinker Workshop







Student groups included

- RiverXchange
- Holy Ghost Catholic School
- Cottonwood Gulch
- SOL Forest School



# Wildlife Support

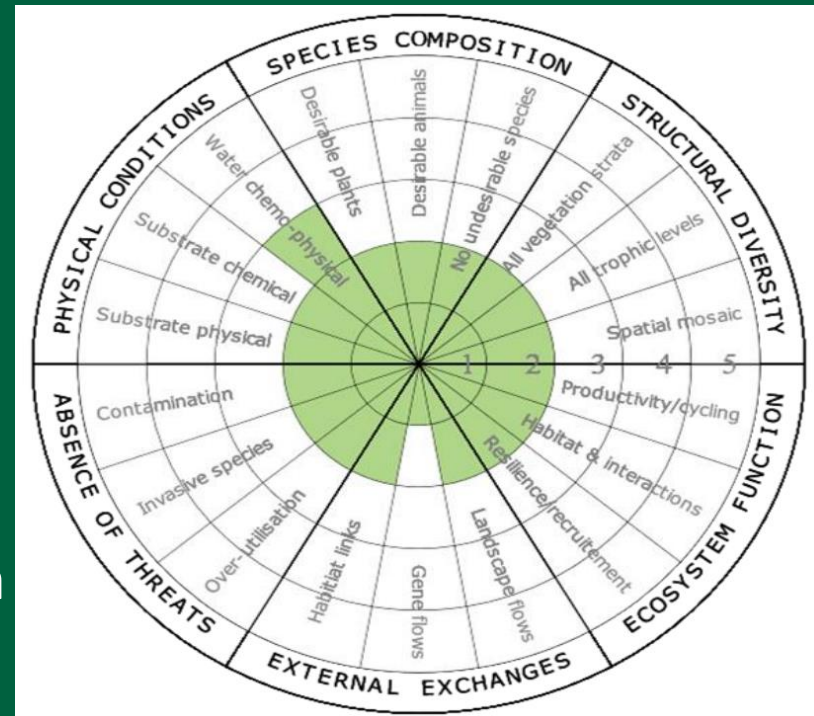






# CNT: Ecological Monitoring

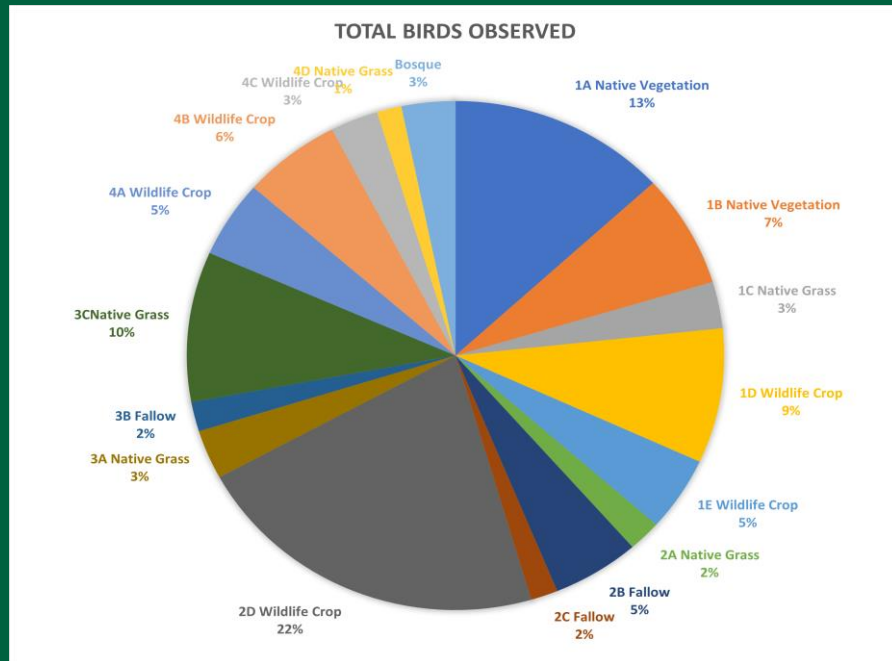
- Ecological models in process to better anticipate and plan outcomes
  - SER recovery wheel utilized
- Evaluation of plant mortality into 2023
- Exotic species presence, “hotspots”
- Monitoring ongoing for soil changes (Lab tests, compaction, aggregate stability, soil cover)
- Photos and documentation ongoing of processes, lessons learned
- Observations inform models and crop/restoration planning and design
- Fields 1A, 1B, 1C, 1E, 3B, 4A, and 4C by RGR in December
- Overall assessment results shown on graph





# CNT: Ecological Monitoring

## 2024 Bird Survey Results by Field



## Soil Sample Collection



# CNT: Wildlife Monitoring

## Photo Points and Wildlife Cameras

Eleven photo points throughout the CNP looking over each farm field plot. Monitoring happening on an seasonal basis during the year. Nine wildlife cameras are currently installed throughout the property to better monitor the wildlife on the property and the corridors they use. This will allow us to better enhance the preserve and decrease any fragmentation occurring to wildlife mobility.

## Avian Survey

Weekly bird surveys are conducted by a crew of volunteers from the RGNC. Two groups monitor the property through a wetland survey and a field survey. Surveyors identified 148 unique species and a total of 16,001 individual birds on the north tract.



# CNT: Wildlife Monitoring



# IPM Planning

## IPM draft is out to partners for review

- Invasive removal has consisted of mechanical, manual, and drought methods
- No chemical treatment has been used in the absence of a directive document
- Current species of concern include Johnson grass, Kochia, Tumbleweed, Bindweed, Siberian elm, and Russian olive
- IPM will focus on monitoring, implementing early treatment to stop spread, and immediate revegetation with native species for competition





# Tree Nursery Tract

## Refined Concept



Construction plans completed. Working on phased construction with limited funding. Priority will include irrigation and basic infrastructure.

# Year 3 to 4 Activities

- Contract
  - Update and renew Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District
  - Rio Grande Return; Ancestral Lands Conservation
- Monitoring
  - Bird surveys, bird banding, bird nest monitoring, bird box installation, vegetation surveys, soil surveys, community science events
- Education
  - Wing in the New Year, Learn to Bird Watch, Learn to Photograph Wildlife, Outdoor Field School, Family Nature Club, City Nature Challenge, Urban Bird Coalition, New Mexico Community Planting





# Questions, Comments, and Recognition



<https://www.cabq.gov/candelaria-nature-preserve>