

Update on Bosque Hazardous Fuels & Restoration Project: Upcoming Meeting

Upcoming Open Meeting: Rio Grande Nature Center, September 3 @ 5:30pm



CANDELARIA NATURE PRESERVE
AUG 27, 2026

Bosque Hazardous Fuels & Restoration: Campbell to Montano Project Area

The Project information, presentations, and maps are presented on the CABQ Rio Grande Projects [website](#). Below is one of the restoration maps showing the recommendation by GeoSystems Analysis Inc. for pole plantings of trees. The map indicates tree willows and cottonwoods would dominate the overstory of the woodland riparian system. Additional maps included on the website indicate shrubs are a high priority in the lower 2/3 of the project area which would range from a mix of riparian to xeroriparian shrubs. The xeroriparian can tolerate drier environments such as those further from the river or water table.

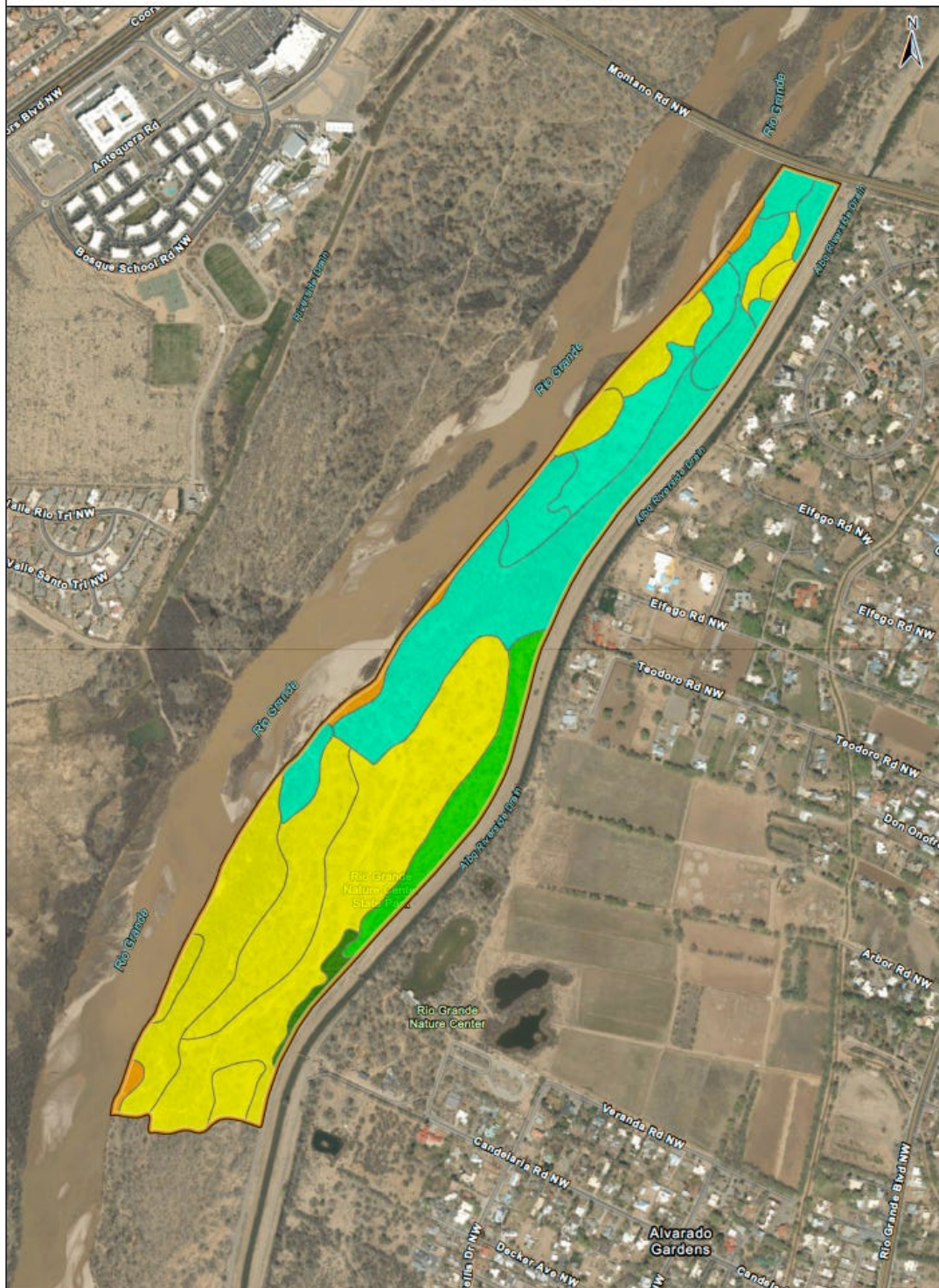
Come Thursday, September 3 @ 5:30pm at the Rio Grande Nature Center. There will be a panel to answer your questions.

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Albuquerque Open Space - Montano - Bosque Revegetation Plan

A# - Recommended Tree Pole Mix



Project Boundary

Recommended Tree Pole Mix

- All Cottonwood
- Mostly Cottonwood
- Even Mix Cottonwood and Tree Willow
- Mostly Tree Willow
- All Tree Willow

Miles 0 0.1 0.2 0.4

June 2026 CNP Was Filled with Flowering Plants in the Arroyo Systems



From Plains coreopsis (*Coreopsis tinctoria*) to Indian blanket (*Gaillardia pulchella*) and wolfberry (*Lycium* spp.) the arroyo bottoms were filled with blooms and pollinators. Photos by Teri Neville.

The cottonwoods of Woodward House were home for a time in June for a young porcupine.



Photo by Niya Sandoval

Community, Learning, and Nature

Last weekend a variety of events from free guided bird walks from the bosque to the foothills and montane springs of the Sandia Mountains. There were workshops and presentations to deepen our understanding of hummingbirds, pinyon jay, badgers, and habitat restoration. The best way to not miss out on these opportunities is to sign up for newsletters —Yikes! We are already saturated with emails, but believe me you don't want to miss these opportunities of positive interactions with community in nature while gaining greater understanding and skills.

New Mexico Backyard Refuge Program regularly provides information on local activities, events, workshops, and volunteer opportunities. Consider subscribing. Below are short summaries of two of the presentations that occurred this last week.

The Feminist Bird Club Albuquerque-Santa Fe & Cathy Wise of Audubon Southwest gave a presentation on Pinyon Jays at Bow & Arrow Brewing Company on Saturday August 22.

Sawyer Bennett, a Senior at Sandia High School attended the event and reports back to the FCNP her experience at the event, below.

The Feminist Bird Club Albuquerque-Santa Fe has bird-watching events around Albuquerque and Santa Fe. They have weekly meetings and special events, and they welcome people with different levels of bird-watching experience. They also have flyers and a website with information about their events. Pinyon Jay populations are decreasing, and scientists have seen a major decline in their numbers over the past several decades. Some of the main reasons for this decline are wildfires, grassland treatments, drought, and less nut production. Pinyon Jays can be found across ten states, and fall through winter is a good time to see them in the Sandia Mountain foothills because they are often together in flocks. They usually nest from February through late April. As a young person, I liked that they showed videos and sounds of the birds and had fun activities, like pop quizzes, to get everyone involved. They also asked questions during the slides, which made it easier to pay attention and be part of the presentation.

Cameron Weber, Habitat Conservation Program Director at Rio Grande Return (RGR), Candelaria Nature Preserve (CNP) presented on Sunday, August 23 at the Central Unser Library. The American Birding Association hosted this event.

From mountains to valleys, Rio Grande Return provides valuable restoration work throughout New Mexico. They began in 2020 with five employees and have grown to over 40 employees by 2026. The work is often performed at extreme remote locations that hold the scars of an earlier, historic landscape created by horse and cart or wagons. These earlier wounds in the landscape were often followed by farming or

livestock, creating vast landscapes of lost hydrologic connections and increasing aridification.

Reading the landscape ... some of the solutions employed by RGR include restoring hydrologic connectivity by slowing the movement of water and diverting it from narrow, incised landscapes to broader, slower flows. A variety of low tech solutions using rocks and/or logs within the incised areas return the natural, hydrologic connections that in turn bring back native vegetation and wildlife.

Both Valle de Oro and CNP were formerly wetlands prior to mechanized, commercial farming. Restoration at both sites are moving relatively homogenized landscapes into an array of different habitats. Each restored habitat has different requirements, but many were represented in the pre-cropped landscapes.

Bird surveys are conducted weekly at CNP by volunteers and wildlife cameras assist in identifying some of the larger mammals, such as bobcat, coyotes, badgers, porcupines, and coyotes. By August of 2026 159 species of birds have been identified and logged into eBird at CNP. The number is impressive due to the drought conditions and only receiving 2 irrigation releases earlier in the season. The drought has not affected bird diversity, but bird numbers are down. Bird observation data is also being collected by field. This will enable CNP to understand species assemblage preferences.

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