

An obligation to Open Space



Open Space Subcommittee
Presentation to Parks, Recreation and Open Space Board
August 11, 2016

Open Space Subcommittee

- Mike Prime
- John Hogan
- Kevin Holsapple
- Georgia Strickfadden
- Mike Steinzig (PR&OS liason)

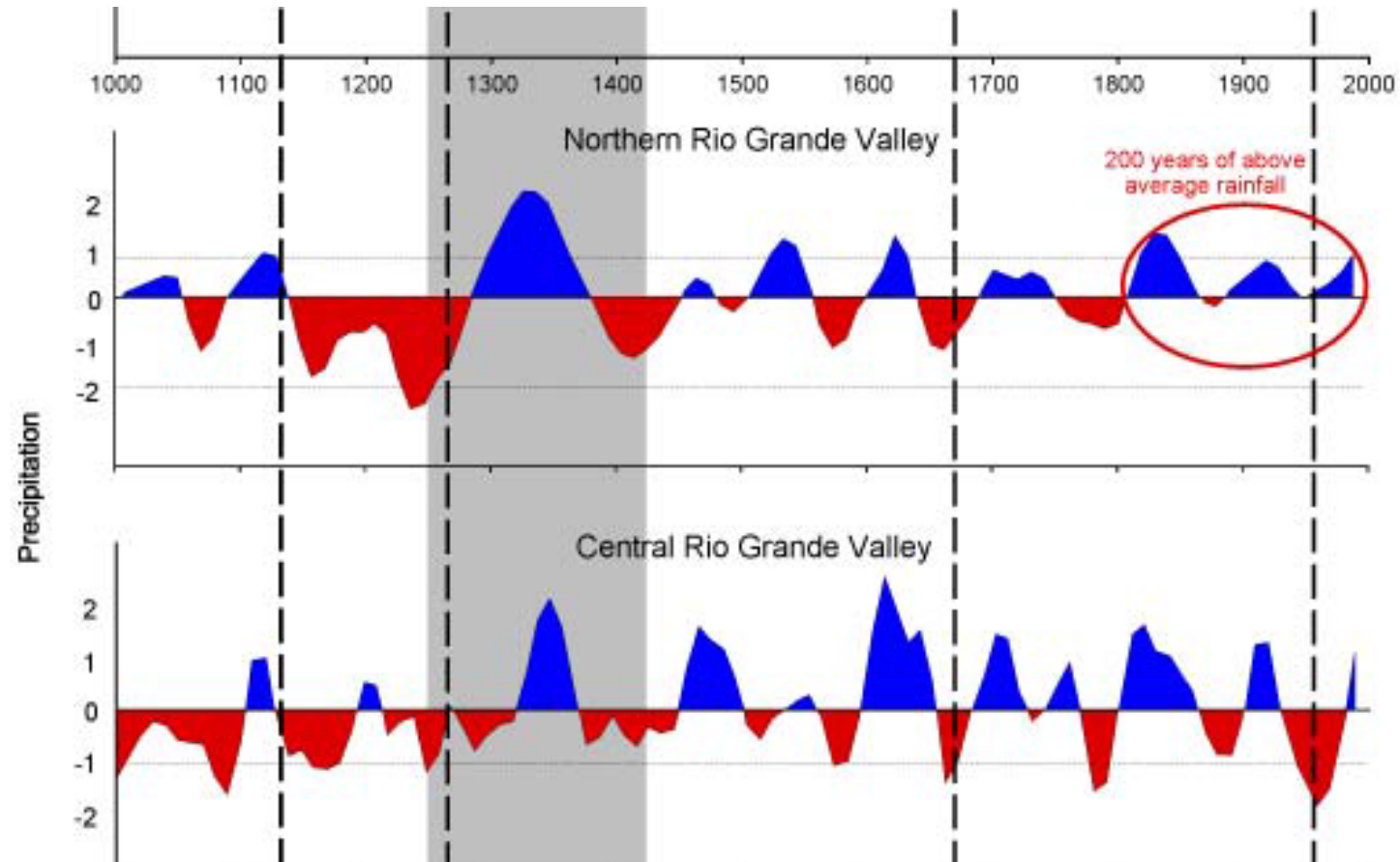
Why devote resources to Open Space?

- Vulnerability
- Aquifer recharge
- Recreation
- Wildlife habitat
- Cumulative damage



Prevention of long term
degradation and
catastrophic events

Plant Resilience/Vulnerability



Negative feedbacks should be considered

Opportunities for improvement?

- Wildfire
- Erosion
- Wildlife habitat
- Invasive species
- Native plants
- Aquifer recharge
- Plant resilience



Synergies exist when addressing these concerns

Wildfire hardiness



Science based tree thinning
Eventual broadcast burning

Soil improvement
Habitat improvement

Erosion

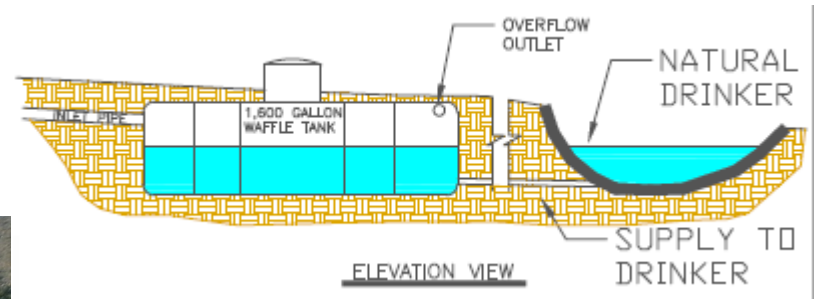


Some brush piles could stay as habitat

Erosion control could provide water for drinkers

Synergy with runoff control requirements

Wildlife habitat



Brush piles from thinning could be habitat

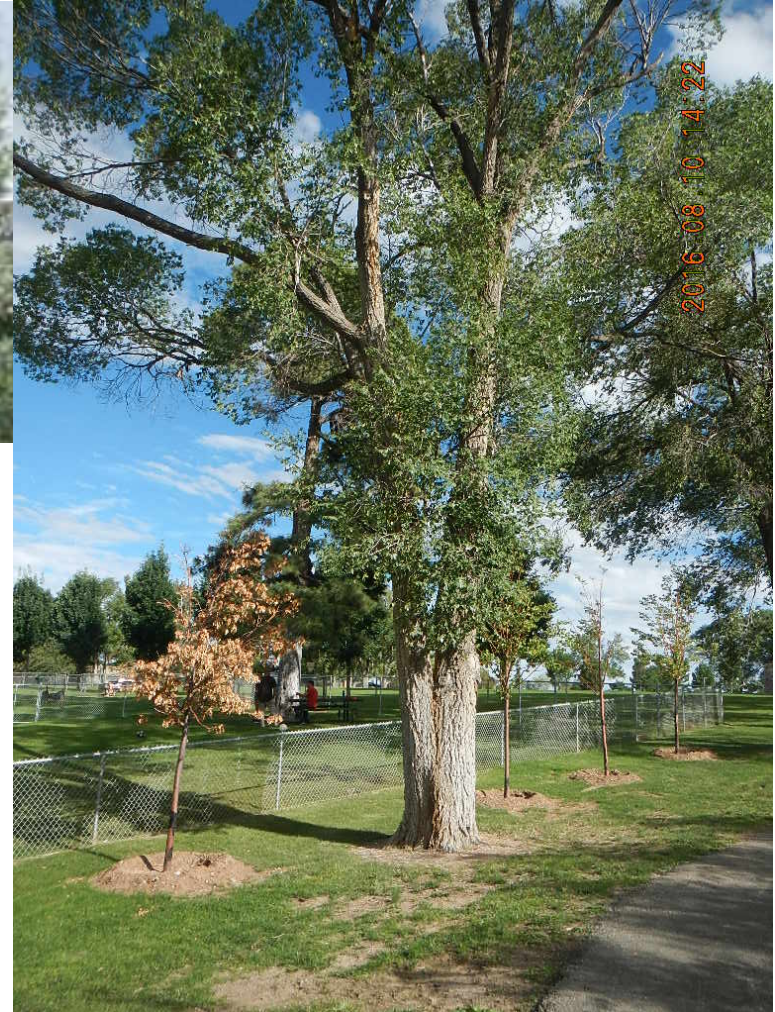
Erosion control could provide water for drinkers

Runoff Management



Runoff water is valuable for plants/wildlife
Better use of flood events
Allows revegetation, wildfire hardiness enhanced

Invasive Species Reduction



Invasive can be removed with during CWPP implementation

Native Species Reintroduction



Native species provide better habitat and nutrition

Re-seeding can be done after pile burns; improves habitat, reduces runoff

Synergies

- Thinning leaves healthier fauna
- Healthier forests resist drought, fire resistant
- Chip spread holds moisture and improves health
- Wildlife habitat can be constructed from slash
- Erosion control structures can be constructed from thinned trees
- Fire crews can remove invasive species
- Native species more resilient to local weather

Resources

- Wildfire
 - NNNMC-Wildfire Science Program
 - LANL wildfire (Rod Linn)
 - County Fire department (Ramon Garcia)
- Wildlife habitat/general projects
 - Existing: Retired, PEEC, YCC
 - Community action groups “adopt a canyon”
- Invasive Species
 - Master Gardeners, County Extension agent
- Water flow/aquifer recharge
 - LANL hydrologists
 - Rio Grande Water Fund (TNC)
- Recreation
 - Parks, Rec and Open Space
- Forest Service, BIA, BLM

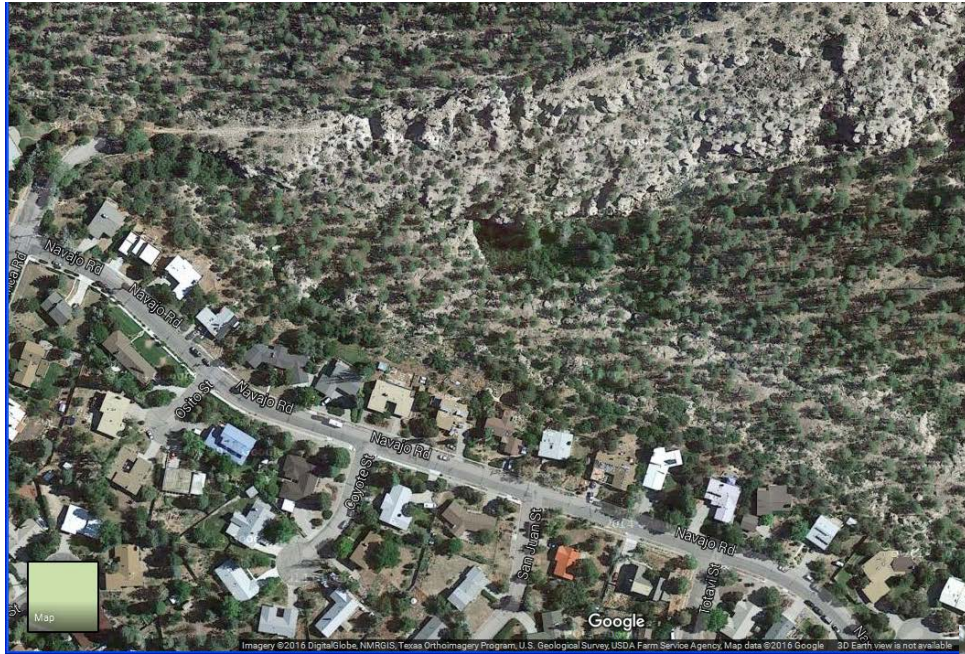
Supporting Documents

- Open Space Plan adopted 2015
- LA Community Wildfire Protection Plan
 - Brush burning/thinning/broadcast burning
- LA County Invasive Species Plan
- DB Stephens Water report

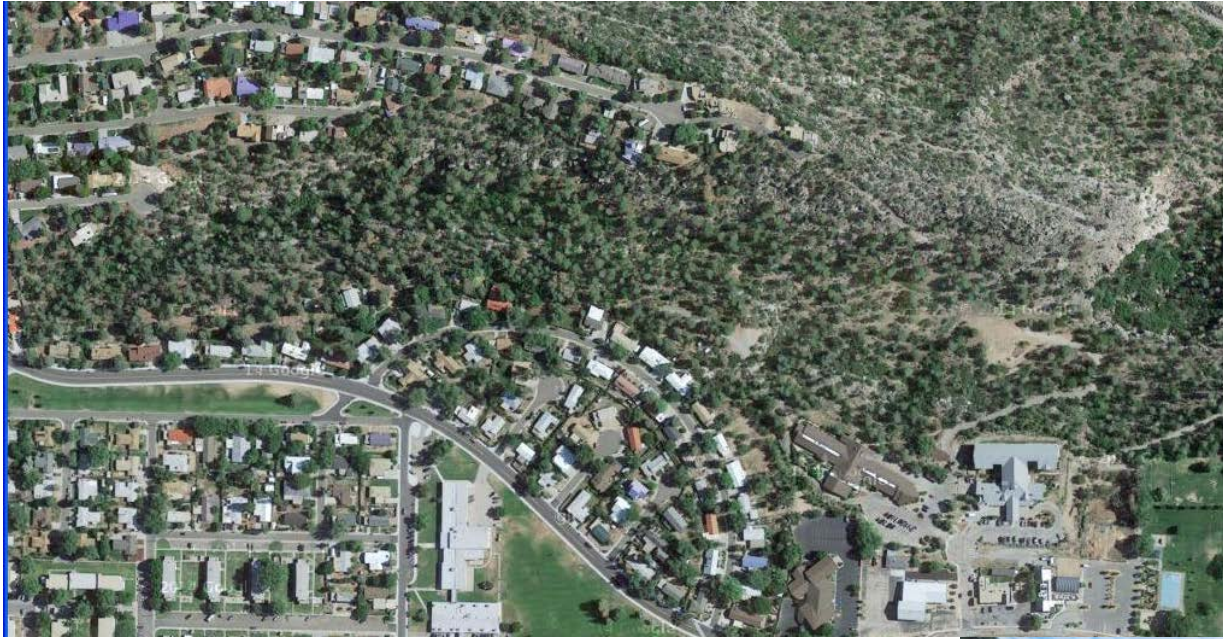
Proposal

- Pilot Project
 - Survey (summer student hired by county)
 - Identify high risk/high reward canyon for project
- Proposal to County Council
 - Led by Open Space subcommittee
- Fund Sharing
 - LA County
 - TNC
 - Forest Service (Cal Joyner, Southwestern Regional Forester, www.fs.usda.gov/goto/r3/cfrp)

Deer Trap Mesa/Barranca Canyon



Graduation Canyon



A goal

