

Restore

re store, vt, 1. to return something to its proper owner or place; 2. to bring something back to an earlier and better condition; 3. to give somebody new strength or vigor; 4. to reestablish or put back something that was once but is no longer there. Encarta® World English Dictionary® 1999

Energy...what else is there?

Oil and gas isn't the only kind of energy being produced in southeastern New Mexico. **Page 1**

Partner's Corner.

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"Large scale habitat manipulation and restoration projects can only be accomplished when all interests come together in good faith for a common goal."

- Rand French, Marbob Energy



Lands Worth Protecting

Oil and gas isn't the only kind of energy being produced in southeastern New Mexico. What started as a great concept a couple of years ago has been energized into a full-blown restoration and reclamation program involving numerous agencies, organizations, ranchers and companies. Regardless of differing opinions on how lands should be used and managed, everyone agrees that we need to look at the land differently than we have in the past – not pasture by pasture or ranch by ranch, but as a whole landscape. It's amazing what can happen

when folks have a shared vision. The partnerships that have been forged with the common goal of restoring and reclaiming our state's rangelands and wildlife habitat are creating quite a buzz in our nation's capitol.

The Restore New Mexico vision has provided the template for a larger West-wide program sponsored by the Secretary of the Interior, which has been dubbed the Healthy Lands Initiative. Federal funding that BLM New Mexico gets will be used as a match for contributions from our

partners in other state and federal agencies, private organizations, individuals, and companies.

History has not always been kind to our New Mexico landscapes. The challenge of restoring our landscapes to the condition they were in prior to the settlement of the West is daunting, but we believe we can do it as partners on the land.

Indeed, if not us – who?





The series of photos above show the beginning of reclamation for this road by the removal of caliche which was used as surfacing material. Caliche is known to inhibit the growth of desirable plant species. The overall objective of this project is to perform surface reclamation of disturbed lands associated with plugged and abandoned wells, access roads, and other auxiliary sites.

“The view of the brush control from the highway made the landscape aesthetically pleasing.”

- Rancher Gary Lovelady

- surface ripping and re-contouring
- seed bed preparation and drilling
- fencing of selected sites

resulted in the ‘defragmenting’ of about 1,400 acres of important wildlife habitat, which will benefit prairie chickens, sand dune lizards and mule deer.

Partner’s Corner

BLM’s Roswell Field Office recently completed surface reclamation on 30 oil, gas and water injection wells with help from seven different partners – New Mexico Tech, Sandia Labs, Central Valley Electric, Carlsbad Soil and Water Conservation District, Duke Energy, Chevron Oil and local ranchers. This work focused on disturbed lands associated with plugged and abandoned wells, access roads, and auxiliary facility sites within the 1,500-acre Sulimar Queen Unit, about 22 miles east of Hagerman, New Mexico.

We saved money by having the work performed by the Bureau’s Force Account Crew and it included:

- caliche removal on pads and access roads

Sandia Labs provided funding to pay for the Force Account Crew. Central Valley Electric arranged for the removal of power poles, and road blading was done by Duke Energy and Chevron Oil. The work has

Wildlife News!

A key benefit of restoring and reclaiming New Mexico is that agencies and their partners can reintroduce wildlife to areas



BLM New Mexico State Director Linda Rundell checks out one of the Aplomado falcon chicks ready to be moved to BLM managed land.



“...We’re experiencing increased interest from surrounding states in New Mexico’s cooperative conservation approach on a landscape scale. We tell them there’s no magic behind it; rather it depends on agencies and people with common goals.”

- Norman Vigil, Natural Resources Conservation Service

where they’ve disappeared. On July 6, the Peregrine Fund placed Aplomado Falcon chicks in hacking boxes on BLM, White Sands Missile Range and State lands just east of Ted Turner’s Armendaris Ranch. This is the second year of falcon reintroductions; biologists from the Peregrine Fund have confirmed that a pair of chicks released last year has

successfully nested and fledged new chicks!

This fall, watch for reintroductions of river otters and bighorn sheep on the Rio Grande near Taos, and perhaps antelope on restored areas near Carlsbad by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish.

- bring back into original existence, use, or function.

These dictionary definitions of ‘restore’ fit right into Restore New Mexico. BLM

Acres restored and reclaimed so far this year

[95,281]

So, You Want to Restore Something?

Jesse Juen, BLM New Mexico, Associate State Director

Well, what do we mean by the word ‘restore?’

- return something to its original and functioning condition;
- return to life; give new life or energy; regenerate;
- repair by putting together what’s missing or broken;

employees and our partners have provided the leadership for what’s becoming a West-wide restoration of landscapes. In fiscal years 2005 and 2006, the Bureau treated or reclaimed 735,000 acres nationwide. New Mexico was responsible for nearly a quarter of those acres treated and more than 29 percent of the BLM’s FY06 total!



Photo courtesy of The Peregrine Fund

Eleven falcon chicks were put into ‘hack’ boxes that are raised off the ground to protect them from predators.

This year we hope to reach 200,000 acres of treatment in conjunction with our private and state partners. (We've completed our planning efforts on these acres and are ready to go!) So far we've treated almost 95,000 acres of land statewide, which includes over 63,000 acres of mesquite treated in southeastern New Mexico in June.

Are our efforts paying off? You bet. In addition to the wonderful partnerships we've built with the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts, Natural Resources Conservation Service,

ranchers, energy companies, counties, and communities, we have seen a bushel full of others approach us with desire to partner and help achieve restoration goals. This includes the New Mexico Department

"Are you ready to get involved? I hope so, because this work won't get done by sitting around reading about it. Come join us and help us build a better 'land of enchantment' for all!"

- Linda Rundell, State Director, BLM-New Mexico
(from Op-Ed column in Albuquerque Journal, 4/22/07)

of Game and Fish, Quail Unlimited, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Public Service Company of New Mexico, the

State Land Office, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, The Sonoran Institute, and more.

The Secretary of the Interior has identified an additional \$3.5 million for New Mexico next year as part of the Department's Healthy Lands Initiative to focus on reclamation and defragmentation of habitat affected by energy development in the Permian and San Juan Basins. Once again, our partners are already on the leading edge by working toward these goals in the basins this year.