

Santa Fe County Open Space and Trails Program

San Pedro Open Space Management Plan

PRELIMINARY REVIEW DRAFT

May 5, 2016



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The San Pedro Open Space (SPOS) Management Plan identifies **three phases**, short-term, mid-term, and long-term priorities for the property. The short-term phase focuses on **ecological restoration**, the **preservation of cultural resource sites**, and **public safety** measures related to mine pits, soil erosion, and conditions on BLM land. Additionally, short-term activities will include fence repair, installation of simple signage, and planning activities to prepare future uses. Santa Fe County will encourage local stakeholders, and particularly youth, to collaborate on **maintenance oriented stewardship** activities. **Maintenance activities** include fence upgrades, erosion control, water and fence improvements for wildlife, and dead wood and brush removal from grasslands and woodlands for wildfire prevention. **Planning activities** focus on preparations for ecological restoration and habitat improvements, community stewardship projects, the future development of trails and recreational facilities, and the development of interpretive education programming.

In the mid- to long-term, Santa Fe County will work with stakeholders, and in coordination with BLM, to develop a **Master Plan for trail hub development and the realization of local recreational facilities**. The Management Plan also identifies the importance of developing an **interpretive education program** at the SPOS to help visitors explore and understand the unique history, geology, and ecology of the area.

The Management Plan for the SPOS property emphasizes the importance of **collaboration regarding stewardship, conservation, and development** of the SPOS. The Plan identifies several opportunities for active public participation in stewardship activities and in the gradual development process toward the implementation of the vision for the SPOS.

1. INTRODUCTION

This Management Plan for the San Pedro Open Space was developed with community members, neighbors, property owners and other stakeholders from San Pedro and the surrounding area. The planning team worked with participants to formulate a vision for the San Pedro Open Space and to verify the final plan components and priorities.

1.1. Management Plan Development Process

The San Pedro Open Space Management Plan was developed between June 2015 and May 2016,. The SPOS Management Plan was developed in response to a recommendation from the County Open Lands, Trails, and Parks Advisory Committee (COLTPAC) and with clear support for enhanced management of open space properties from the Board of County Commissioners (BCC).

The planning process included 3 phases: (1) a scoping and reconnaissance phase, (2) a research phase, and (3) a plan development phase.

Scoping and Reconnaissance Phase:

- Identification and interviews with key stakeholders, community members, and County staff to develop an initial understanding for engaging the community in the management plan process
- Review of relevant Santa Fe County policies, plans and policies
- Site visits to assess and develop preliminary analysis of the site to identify specific research needed for this management plan
- The first public input meeting to develop an initial community vision for the site

Research Phase:

- Follow-up interviews with key stake-holders and community members to refine the approach for the second public input meeting
- Research on topics identified in the Scoping and Reconnaissance phase
- Additional site visits to confirm terrain management units and collect data for a land suitability assessment and the development of management recommendations
- Mapping of findings of the Scoping/Reconnaissance and Research phases

Plan Development Phase:

- The second public input meeting to present research and land suitability findings and formulate ideas for management of the property

- Writing the first draft of the management plan
- Interviews and reviews with County staff to confirm plan coordination and implementation opportunities
- The third public meeting to confirm the draft vision statement and goals and review the major components of the draft management plan
- Writing and submittal of the final draft management plan for official approval

The planning process was informed by the initial goals for the acquisition of the property and on a set of planning principles (Table 1). The planning principles were formulated during the Research Phase based on public input and management conditions within Santa Fe County. An Open Space Management Guidance Plan that accompanies the SPOS Management Plan describes technical planning methods, approaches to County capacity building, best management practices (BMPs), and guidance recommendations for plan implementation.

Table 1. Overview of initial purpose and goals for SPOS acquisition (Source: initial acquisition documents) and planning principles (Source: Santa Fe County staff and planning team).

Initial Goals for Acquisition
Preserve open lands qualities
Develop an open space gateway to southern Santa Fe County by developing trail connections (to BLM land, and regional trail hub) and public recreation
Preserve the scenic, historic, and cultural landscape qualities and develop interpretive outreach
Planning Principles
Adhere to goals and purpose of Open Space program
Ensure public access and safety
Keep maintenance needs to a minimum (commensurate to County capacity and community-based stewardship support)
Minimize needed investments related to master planning
Minimize the disturbance of cultural and ecological resources
Identify and enhance opportunities for agricultural use of Open Space properties
Involve youth and create educational opportunities

During the research phase of the planning process, it was determined that the timeline for the completion of mine rehabilitation on County and BLM land will dictate the timeline for implementation of the SPOS Management Plan. The completion of mine hazard remediation will help determine the timeline for the development of the regional trail hub on the SPOS property.

Significant cultural and historical resources on the SPOS property are related to the historic period of San Pedro mining settlement, beginning around 1900. A comprehensive cultural resource survey for the property has identified historic sites and documented expansion of a

previously known site. These cultural sites compromise approximately 30% of the SPOS land area. All three sites are being recommended for protection under the National Register of Historic Places.

Additionally, BLM staff conducted a mine site reconnaissance survey at the SPOS and identified a small number of mine pits that require rehabilitation or protective measures for public safety. The planning team met several times with BLM and New Mexico Abandoned Mine Lands Program staff to clarify plans and timelines for abandoned mine rehabilitation on the County and BLM lands.

This information provided clarity to the planning team about the timeline for the SPOS management and eventual development activities along with the process for verification of detailed development plans for trails and other activities by the State Historic Preservation Division. The implementation schedule must relate to safety and cultural resource clearances for any proposed activities in the identified cultural resource areas. Based on the data reviewed, the planning team developed two conceptual Master Plan alternatives for future trail and access activities on the SPOS.

1.2. Plan Purpose

The SPOS Management Plan is written for Santa Fe County staff, County policy makers, community stakeholders, and site stewards with the **purpose** to:

- Document the vision, goals, and objectives for the management of the property
- Help staff and the public understand terrain conditions and suitability of the land for different uses of the property
- Clarify priorities for site restoration and maintenance
- Identify projects for future investment and financing mechanisms to fund those projects
- Streamline management protocols within Santa Fe County

The SPOS Management Plan outlines a planning direction and specific action priorities, for short-term, mid-term, and long-term phases. The overarching Open Space Management Guidance Plan describes general management planning methods, procedures, recommendations, and Best Management Practices (BMPs), and guides Santa Fe County staff in implementing the SPOS Management Plan and other open space management plans.

1.3. Property Description

The San Pedro Open Space (SPOS) is a **160-acre County Open Space property in the southern part of Santa Fe County**, located in the northern foothills of the San Pedro Mountains. The SPOS offers highway frontage and access easements to State Road 344, which positions it as a possible trailhead area for regional trails on public lands, such as the adjacent BLM lands to the east of the SPOS (Figure 1).

The SPOS property includes **unique cultural resources** associated with the **historic mining** town of San Pedro, along with impressive views sweeping from the south, to the west and the north, and a quiet, semi-pristine, natural environment that offers valuable wildlife habitat. Local stakeholders have been working with Santa Fe County toward the realization of a regional trail hub at the SPOS and other low intensity recreational facilities for local residents and visitors.

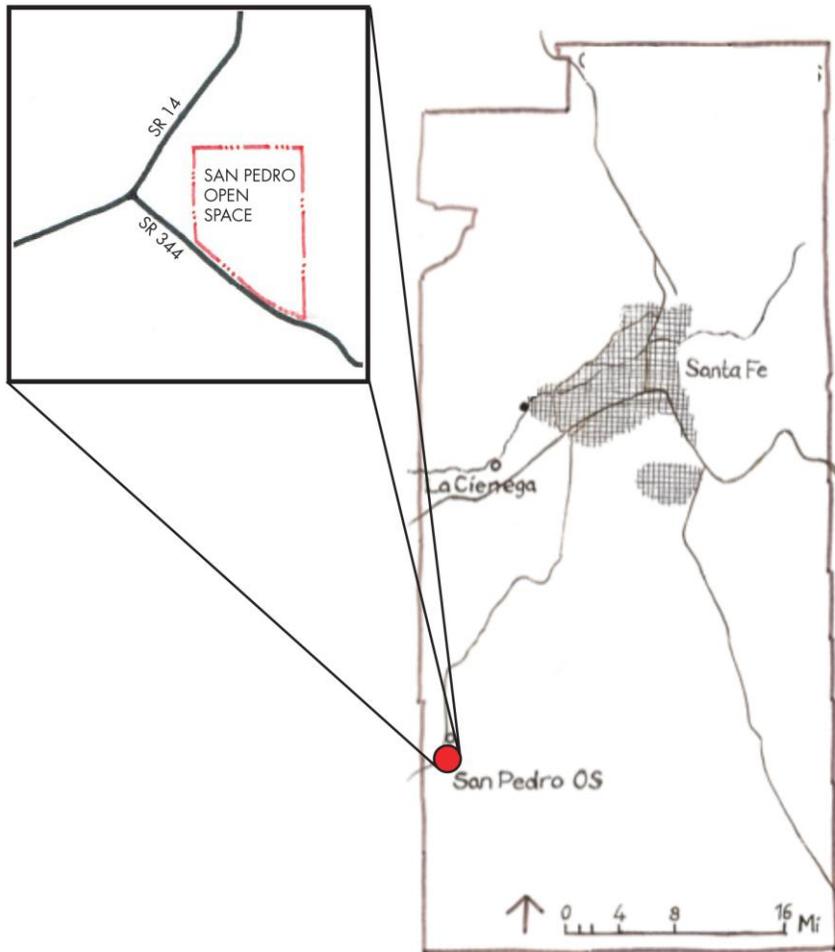


Figure 1. Location Map detailing the location of San Pedro Open Space in Santa Fe County.

For purposes of maintenance and land use suitability, this plan identifies several **Terrain Management Units** (TMUs) (Figure 2). Each TMU encompasses an area with similar landscape features, maintenance requirements, and similar land suitability characteristics (i.e., a unique set of options for land use). The identification of TMUs organizes the spatial management aspects of this plan. Santa Fe County will manage each TMU according to its particular needs and terrain characteristics.

A more in-depth terrain characterization is described in “A Field Characterization for the San Pedro Open Space Property Santa Fe County, New Mexico - An Existing Conditions and Inventory Report” (2016).

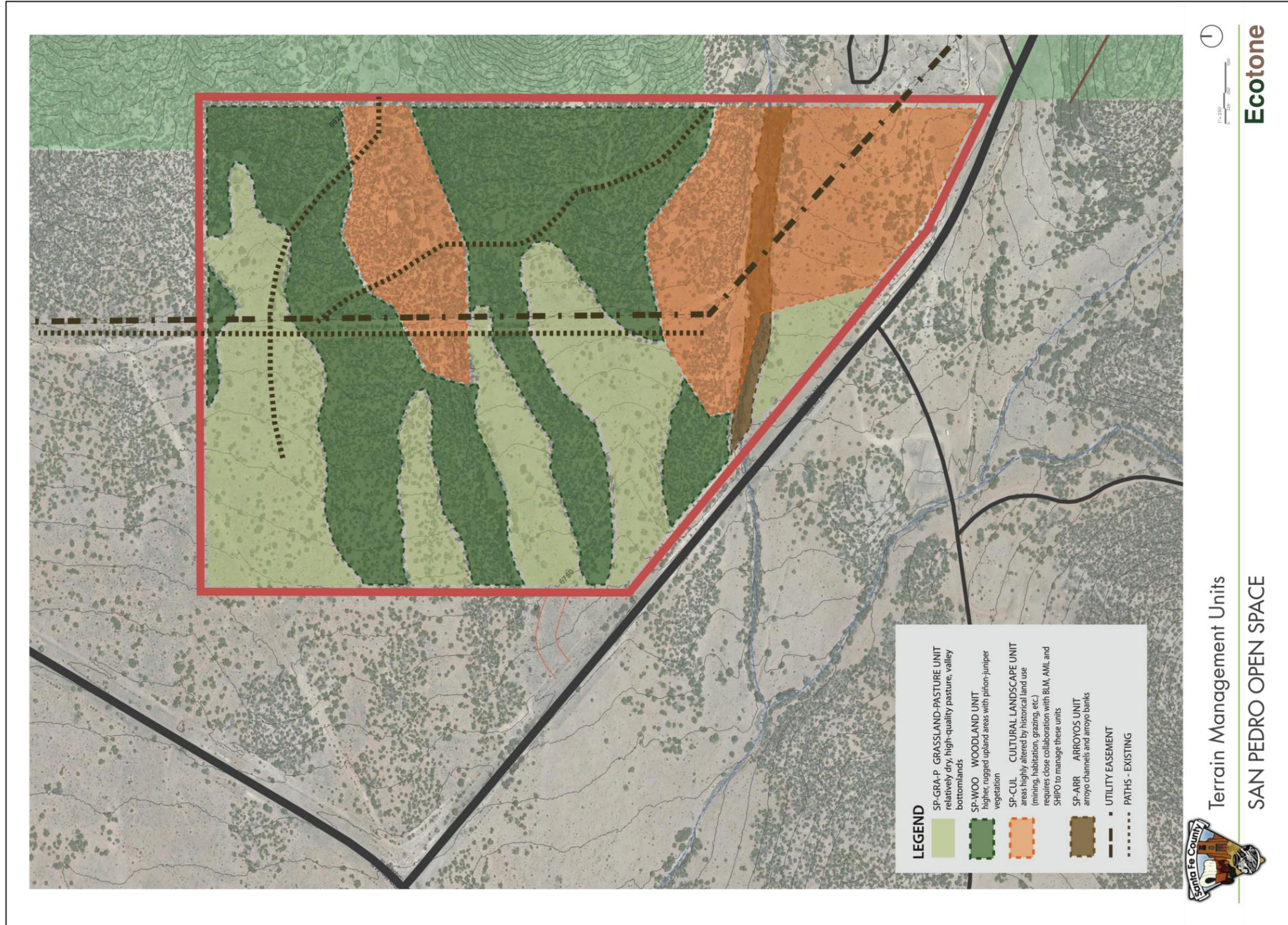


Figure 2. SPOS Terrain Management Unit (TMU) map.

2. THE SAN PEDRO OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT PLAN

2.1. A Vision for San Pedro Open Space

This vision statement is based on responses from community meeting participants to questions that asked “What would “good” look like?”, “What do you want for the future of this place?”, “What might other people think would be good for this site, but you don’t?”, and “What would worry you if it happened on the site?” The draft vision statement was shared and verified with community members at the third community meeting.

*In 2025, the San Pedro Open Space (SPOS) is **a safe and peaceful area for people and wildlife**. The open space includes viewing areas, public access, some primitive trails, and public education about the scenic, historic, and cultural landscape. The open land remains wildlife habitat and a wildlife corridor. Local **residents, especially younger generations, are actively involved** in the maintenance and stewardship.*

*In the longer term, the SPOS **may serve as a regional hub for hikers, mountain bikers, and horseback riders** to access a system of trails through southern Santa Fe County. The area may also include additional space for children’s play or community gatherings.*

The SPOS will not include loud or disruptive activities or overly-developed facilities.

2.2. Goals, Monitoring, and Information Management

This section describes the SPOS’s central management goal and the specific management objectives that originate from the vision. This section also describes the methods for tracking progress toward the goal and objectives as well as systems for managing information.

Management Goal and Objectives

Based on the vision statement, the central management goal for SPOS is:

*Santa Fe County and community members of the area **collaboratively** maintain and enhance the **open land qualities** of SPOS and its wildlife habitat and corridors; its scenic, historic, and cultural resources; and its local and regional recreation opportunities. SPOS management aims for the **gradual development** of a **regional trail hub** to public land and to trails in the wider region, including some simple trailhead and interpretive education facilities, at a scale that requires little maintenance, encourages local community stewardship, and respects the area’s significant cultural resources.*

Specific management objectives in support of this vision and central goal are:

1. **Holistic & Inclusive.** Manage the property in a way that the different values and objectives are balanced as a whole, and that improvements and changes are introduced in a gradual way; seek and maintain optimal working relationships with neighbors and other local stakeholders, and encourage the involvement of people from younger generations
2. **Public Safety.** Enhance public safety by prohibiting motorized vehicles, open fire pits, and the use of fire arms, and by protecting the public from any potential harm associated with old mine sites
3. **Access.** Control access by managing easements, roads, trails, fences, gates, stiles, drainage crossings, and signage
4. **Natural appearance.** Maintain the area’s natural appearance and sweeping scenic views, and keep maintenance limited; maintain a rural, natural visual quality by using natural design principles and natural materials, and by allowing natural processes to assist in management activities when possible
5. **Education.** Provide and maintain interpretive education, and encourage educational and research opportunities
6. **Cultural Resources.** Protect the area’s cultural and historic resources
7. **Ecological Health.** Maintain the ecological health, resilience, and productivity of the SPOS, and maintain wildlife habitat qualities and connectivity across the landscape
8. **Grazing.** Explore and use – when appropriate – managed, restorative grazing practices (and rest periods) as a way to improve grassland health and examine options to develop agricultural uses on the site
9. **Infrastructure.** Develop basic infrastructure such as space for parking, benches at viewing areas, and community spaces that serve the vision for SPOS.

Santa Fe County acquired the SPOS to serve in part as a trailhead and gateway to landlocked BLM lands to the east of the SPOS. Another purpose of the SPOS is the preservation of cultural resources associated with the historic San Pedro mining settlement and of connective wildlife pathways across the larger landscape. Santa Fe County, the BLM, and many local stakeholders acknowledge the integrity of the SPOS and the surrounding properties as part of the San Pedro Mountain landscape and beyond. As a result, Management Objective #1 regarding Holistic & Inclusive management extends beyond the SPOS parcels, and management of the SPOS property will need to take place in coordination with management activities and conditions on the adjacent properties. Therefore, the long-term success of the plan implementation will require coordination and collaboration with adjacent property owners, community stakeholders, BLM, open space initiatives in Bernalillo County, and other neighbors.

Monitoring

In order to ascertain that progress is made toward achieving the goals and to identify critical issues that are important to address, County staff together with local community partners will periodically monitor certain indicators of progress.

A basic set of monitoring activities for SPOS includes a first tier of measurements for which a baseline of data was established during the management planning process (Table 2), and a second tier consisting of additional monitoring activities that Santa Fe County staff may conduct in the future as staff time and budget allow (Table 3). The proposed monitoring activities are numbered and their locations are indicated by number on a TMU map (Figure 3).

Based on the monitoring overview described below, and as part of implementing this plan, Santa Fe County staff will develop a detailed **monitoring plan** for each consecutive year to enable staff and stakeholders to track progress made toward specific goals and objectives. Ideally, the monitoring plan will be updated annually with community members and stakeholders.

A monitoring plan specifies how the indicators will be measured or documented, when and where this will be done, who will do this, and what equipment or supplies are needed. Additionally, a monitoring plan will establish or estimate numerical thresholds or qualitative (descriptive or visual/photographic) conditions that serve to indicate whether corrective action will need to be taken if monitoring results show exceedance of the threshold conditions.

For example, if Santa Fe County wants to reduce fire hazard and juniper encroachment on a grassland area, a simple threshold could be the visual presence of junipers, dead wood, and brush scattered in the selected grassland area as established in photo documentation in 2015 or in any other monitoring year. If the monitoring indicates the new conditions do not show a reduction of juniper encroachment, dead wood and brush scattered in the grassland area, causes for the impairment need to be identified and addressed (e.g., lack of fire, thinning, grazing, or natural die back). This might mean for example that thinning activities need to be intensified or directed to the area where the impairment was observed.

Base-line methods and findings are described in “A Field Characterization for the San Pedro Open Space Property Santa Fe County, New Mexico - An Existing Conditions and Inventory Report” (2016). Methods for additional monitoring activities are referenced in a list of BMPs in the Open Space Management Guidance Plan.

Table 2. Monitoring overview for existing baseline monitoring conducted for specific landscape conditions in 2015.

Nr.	Conditions Monitored	Mgmt. Objectives	Indicators and Monitoring Method	Monitoring Frequency and Season
1	Grassland vegetation cover and richness, and potential forage quality of grasslands	Ecological Health / Grazing	Species richness and plant cover assessments in 10 sample plots along a transect; literature review of forage quality quantity of plants found in transects	Once in 2-3 years (in the fall)
2	Fuel load of grassland and woodland units	Ecological Health	“Brown’s Line” transects for fuel load estimates	Every 3 years in spring or fall
3	Dead & down wood in woodland and grassland units	Ecological Health	Visual observation during walk-through and photo point documentation; tally number of stems	Every 3 years in spring or fall
4	Fence conditions	Access	Visual observation during walk-through and photo point and GPS/Avenza PDF Map documentation of fence conditions for people and wildlife	Annually
5	Erosion and headcut features	Public Safety / Ecological Health	Visual observation during walk-through and photo point and GPS/Avenza PDF Map documentation of erosion features	Annually or at least every 5 years

Table 3. Monitoring overview for additional monitoring activities and field inspections.

Nr.	Conditions Monitored	Mgmt. Objectives	Indicators and Monitoring Method	Monitoring Frequency and Season
6	Neighbor and stakeholder stewardship, relations	Holistic & Inclusive	Public participation and initiative; public feedback and expressions of support	Annually
7	Scenic quality	Natural appearance / Education	Visual observation during walk through and photo point documentation	Annually or at least every 5 years
8	Liability and public	Holistic &	Visual observation during walk	Quarterly or at

	safety risks (also in connection with BLM land)	Inclusive / Public Safety	through and photo point documentation	least Annually
9	Preservation of cultural resources	Cultural Resources	Visual observation during walk-through and photo point and GPS/Avenza PDF Map documentation of any cultural resource disturbances	Annually or at least every 3 years
10	Infrastructure and signage conditions	Infrastructure	Visual observation during walk-through and photo point and GPS/Avenza PDF Map documentation of any infrastructure damage	Once installed bi-annually or at least annually

Information Management and Plan Updating

Santa Fe County will gradually streamline and enrich the systems and procedures that help staff **acquire, store, and share knowledge that is essential for effective resource management** of the SPOS property. Recommendations about County capacity building, knowledge development, information management, plan updates and community involvement methods are described in the Open Space Management Guidance Plan.

This plan is a living document which will be updated and amended when necessary. The timeline scope of the plan is approximately 15-20 years. Plan information is specific for the short-term (years 1-5), descriptive for the mid-term (years 6-10), and preliminary for the long-term (year 11 and beyond).

Changing community needs, terrain conditions, and County management capacity and approaches will inevitably lead to the need for plan adjustments. Priorities and timelines may shift, and objectives for planned projects, maintenance activities, and community relations may change, expand or be canceled. Following completion and assessment of actions beyond the mid-term span of this plan (10-15 years), this plan may need to be revisited and renewed.

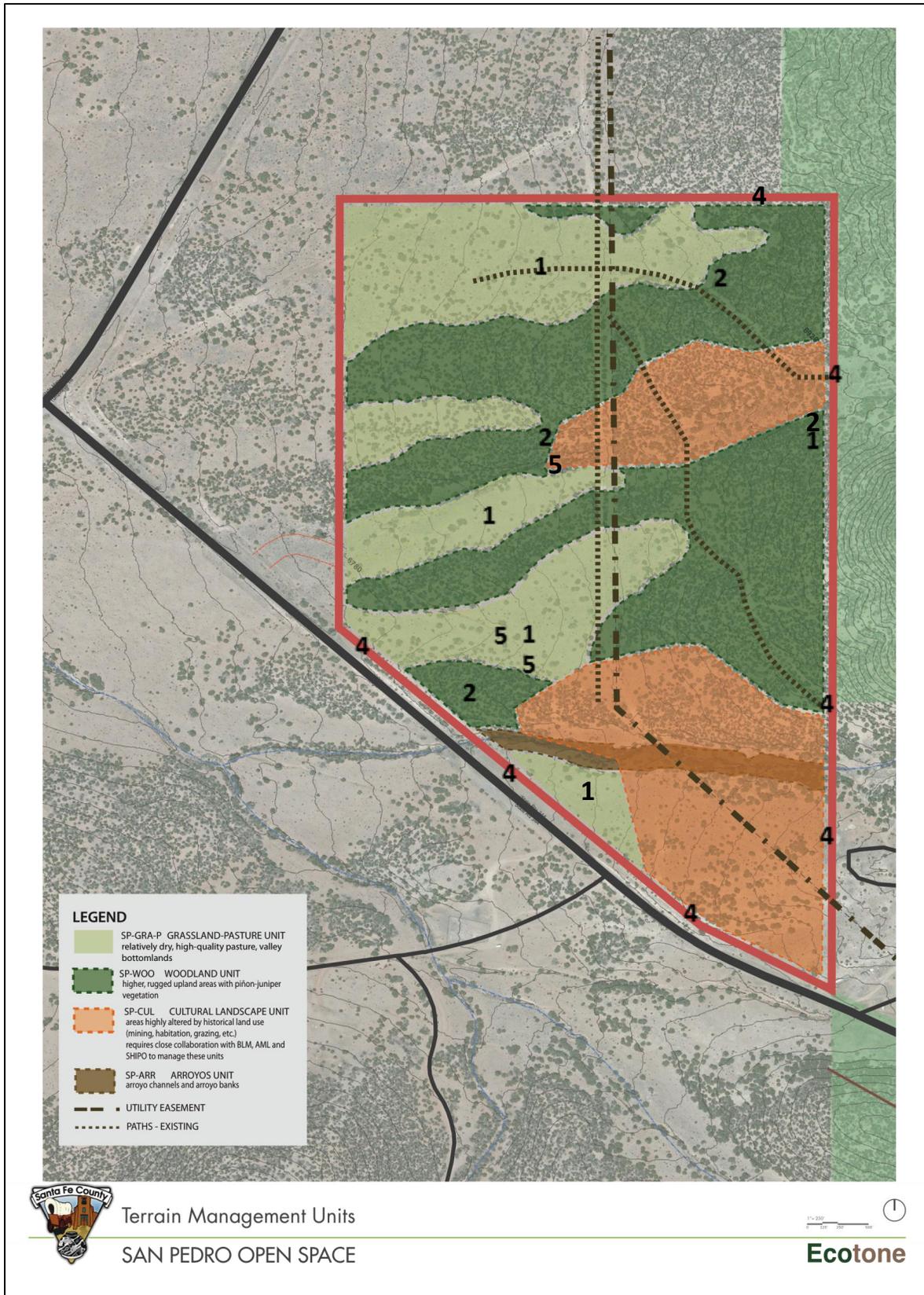


Figure 3. SPOS map of recommended monitoring locations in relation to TMUs.

2.3. Conceptual Master Plan

The Conceptual Master Plan for SPOS lists and describes proposed land improvement projects and associated investments that are deemed necessary to meet the central management goals and the SPOS vision. The proposed projects result from stakeholder wishes and planning opportunities, within the limiting conditions set by the suitability of the land and the cultural resource sites. The Conceptual Master Plan describes alternative options for projects, the specific locations of projects, their purpose, priority, and a suggested timeline for implementation.

Land Use and Development Plan

The SPOS Conceptual Master Plan conserves scenic beauty and integrity, wildlife habitat, and preserves the unique historic and cultural resources of the property. The conceptual master plan envisions **recreational and interpretive facilities** for a regional trail hub, local recreational uses, and interpretive educational programming.

Land conservation is already the *de facto* land use. As a result, this plan does not propose any changes. However, within the context of land conservation, gradual improvements will be made toward recreational and interpretive uses.

Recreational uses and trail development will be scaled and timed in relation to hazard mitigation on the adjacent BLM property and SPOS property, and within the conditions of the required preservation of historic and cultural resources. Other uses in support of the vision, such as managed grazing and construction of wildlife habitat conservation facilities, will take place gradually during and after the short-term maintenance and restoration phase.

The proposed projects include

- installing **fencing around hazardous mine sites**
- installing a bulletin board and simple signage acknowledging the property,
- improving exterior fencing conditions for **wildlife access and water supply for wildlife**
- possible future managed grazing.

Improvements will also focus **on grassland health, wildfire prevention, and soil conservation** in the grassland units especially in arroyos. Short-term recreational improvements may include the construction of some stiles, a simple, unimproved trail, benches, and some interpretive signage. Longer-term improvements may include gates, parking areas, trails, trailhead facilities, and more expansive interpretive education facilities (Table 4).

Prioritization and phasing for SPOS is based on the terrain conditions of early 2016 including archaeological resources and abandoned mine hazards. Baseline site conditions include needed maintenance fences, juniper encroachment and gully erosion in the grasslands, and the need

for dead wood removal in woodland units. Archaeological sites and a few hazardous abandoned mine pits require additional planning steps for any proposed soil disturbing activities in the Cultural Resources TMU. All proposed activities that would have a potential soil disturbing effect need to receive approval from the State Historic Preservation Office. Additionally, all hazardous mine sites will need to be mitigated. The proposed Conceptual Master Plan activities follow the prioritization criteria outlined in the Open Space Management Guidance Plan.

➤ Short-term:

- All activities focus on **land restoration, maintenance, and the improvement of wildlife habitat** to address conditions caused by deferred maintenance
- Install notification signage
- Research and planning activities for longer-term land health improvements and the implementation of projects in support of recreational development

➤ Mid-term:

- Fence improvements
- Grassland and woodland restoration activities, including possibly the introduction of **managed, restorative grazing** practices
- Possible construction of a **simple, unimproved trail loop** within the SPOS property

➤ Long-term:

- Ongoing annual grassland and woodland restoration activities
- Conceptual Master Plan components, such as and the **possible development of facilities for a regional trail hub**, including connections to trails on BLM land
- **Establishment of interpretive signage**

A graphic display of proposed activities in the short term and mid to long terms is included in Figure 5.

Table 4. List of proposed Master Plan projects for SPOS. Short-term projects are listed in category 1 (1.1, etc.), Mid-term projects in category 2 (2.1, etc.), and Long-term projects in category 3 (3.1, etc.).

#	Project	Location	Purpose	Priority	Time Line
1.1	Placement of boundary signs and other property recognition signs and a bulletin board	Along property boundary along Hwy 344	Identification of SPOS as open space property and for community outreach purposes	Very high	Short Term
1.2	Fencing of hazardous mine pits; flagging of cultural sites	Throughout entire property (where needed)	Public safety and protection of the cultural resources	Very high	Short Term
1.3	Fence upgrades, incl. closure of gaps on east boundary and perimeter fence improvements	Around entire property	Improving wildlife roaming opportunities; property delineation; anticipation of future managed grazing practices	Very high	Short Term
1.4	Water harvesting and wildlife drinkers	Select locations on eastern side of property at edges of woodland	Improving wildlife habitat conditions and roaming opportunities	High	Short Term
1.5	Erosion control and headcut and arroyo bank stabilization	Selected area in grasslands and along arroyos	Soil and water conservation and improving overall ecological health	High	Short Tem
2.1	Ongoing fence upgrades and fencing for managed grazing	Around grasslands	Grassland improvement	Medium	Mid Term
2.2	Simple trail loop development, including stiles and benches	Selected locations and mostly on established old trail alignments in wooded areas	Improvement of access and recreational uses	Medium	Mid Term
2.3	Mine site protection and rehabilitation	Entire property	Public safety and cultural resource protection	Medium	Mid + Long Term
2.4	Cultural resource protection measures	Entire property	Cultural resource preservation	Medium	Mid+ Long Term
3.1	Installation of interpretive education signs	Selected locations	Improve public, awareness, understanding, appreciation, and care	Low	Long Term
3.2	Development of trail hub facilities, including parking, gates, trails, signage	Selected locations	Development of a regional trail hub and local recreational opportunities	Low	Long Term

Planning and preparation is required for all Conceptual Master Plan improvements listed above. Implementation of improvements will be based on maintenance and repair activities. The following section describes key projects for planning, research and development that are required to prepare maintenance activities and proposed improvements.

Community involvement is essential for many of the listed, proposed Master Plan projects. Public involvement may include feedback on proposed project details during future planning and design sessions and active engagement in the planning and implementation of the projects. Several maintenance activities will be suitable for community or volunteer participation, which will facilitate community stewardship for open space care and maintenance.

A comprehensive overview of planning activities along with maintenance activities, Master Plan projects, and community stewardship activities is included in Table 5. The activities are listed by functional group (planning, maintenance, community services, and projects/improvements) relative to Santa Fe County's organization of departments, and split over short-term, mid-term, and long-term phases.

Two alternatives, besides a No Action Alternative, were developed for the roll-out of proposed SPOS Master Plan projects in response to the cultural resource preservation goals (Figure 4). Other alternatives may need to be developed during the planning process for each individual project. In general, alternatives vary between (1) No Action, (2) Preferred Solution, and (3) Alternative Solution(s).

The two alternative approaches for SPOS Master Plan roll-out include development of a trailhead, parking, trails, and recreational facilities in the:

- A. **Southeastern corner** of the property, with access from State Road 344 on the south side (across from a parking pullout along the south side of State Road 344)
- B. **Southwestern corner** of the property with access from State Road 344 at the southwestern corner across an Easement Corridor on private land to the western boundary of the SPOS

Alternative O: No Action

Alternative O has been the default alternative from the time of purchase of the SPOS property. This alternative will likely be ended during the Short Term phase of the Management Plan. Santa Fe County and local stakeholders prefer an action alternative that begins to prepare the property for the development of access, recreational activities, and a proposed regional trailhead.

No Action will help preserve the significant cultural resources of the property and the semi-pristine natural character. However, this alternative would preclude investments in desired ecological terrain improvements, safety improvements, and signage.

Alternative A: Development at the Southeastern Corner

Alternative A is the preferred option and will be developed first for review and approval by the State Historic Preservation Office. If this alternative is met with serious cultural resource protection concerns that delay implementation, seriously limit development options, or significantly increase implementation costs, alternative B will be explored. Alternative A includes an entrance point to the north into the property across from the eastern end of the pullout strip along the south side of State Road 344. The proposed access road would loop eastward up the hill out of sight from State Road 344, offering parking opportunities on higher ground, and avoiding sheetflow and viewshed impacts on the lower part of the slopes. From there, a trailhead area would be developed on solid terrain south of a large arroyo that crosses the SPOS from east to west. A trail would run at a suitable point across the arroyo to give access to connections for trails northward on the SPOS and potentially eastward onto BLM land.

Advantages of this alternative are that the improvements are all on solid, mostly gravelly and rocky, substrate with minimal needs for drainage management and erosion control features. This alternative would also offer the least total square footage of ground disturbance for the improvements, have the least impacts on the area's predominant views to the west, and connect best to existing historical trail alignments and to future trails on BLM land.

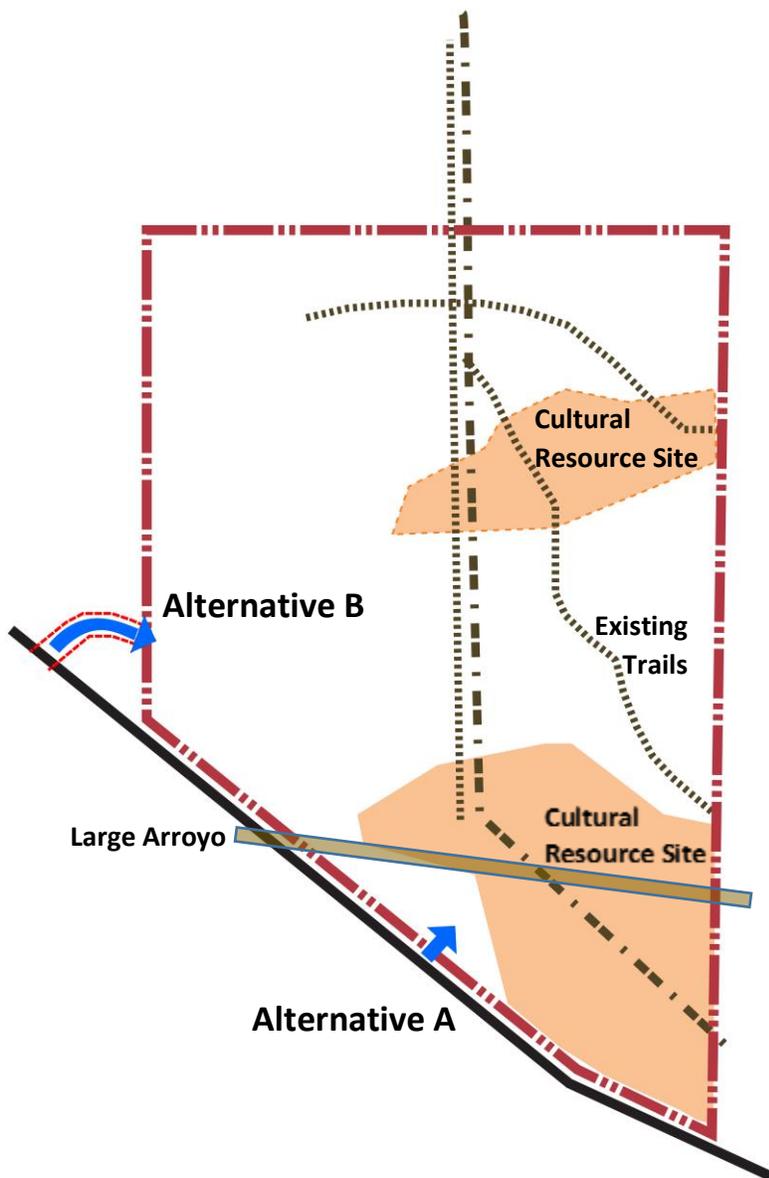
Disadvantages of this alternative are that the improvements will take place on an official cultural resource site and proposed national historic site, and that the potential impacts of the improvements will need to be evaluated and cleared with the State Historic Preservation Office. This may constitute a costly and time-consuming, iterative planning process. Additionally, this alternative would require a well-designed trail crossing across the large arroyo that dominates the southern part of the SPOS property.

Alternative B: Development at the Southwestern Corner (across Easement Corridor)

Alternative B includes an entrance point on the southwest side of the property via an access easement from State Road 344 across the private property located on the west side of the SPOS. The proposed access road across the easement would curve eastward across the lower end of a grassland swale and ending at the western tip of a woodland area on gravelly soils. Parking and a trailhead area would be developed in the woodland strip, and cars would be partly concealed from view by the remaining juniper and piñon trees. Trails would run eastward through the woodland strip and northeast through the grasslands to such points on the eastern part of the SPOS property that would allow trail connections to existing old trail alignments that run northward on the SPOS and trail connections onto BLM land to the east.

Advantages of this alternative are that it largely avoids the cultural resource sites and would be able to proceed with fewer regulatory oversight procedures. Much of the improvements would be on solid gravelly soil with limited needs for any drainage and erosion control features. There would also not be a need to construct an arroyo crossing for the main trail in to the SPOS.

Disadvantages of this alternative include that it would require the use of the access easement on the private property to the west, which might require additional legal and planning activities. Road construction across this easement will need to be supported with engineered drainage and erosion control features, because the access road would cross a wide, grassy drainage swale that is expected to carry considerable sheet flows after rain storms. This alternative would require a greater square footage of soil disturbance and a longer total trail length to be built to reach connection points to trails going north and east on BLM land. The alternative would also involve greater impacts of the predominant views to the west from higher vantage points on the eastern parts of the property.



Other **implementation-level alternatives** will occur in relation to choices regarding locations of improvements, the use of materials, and the selection of implementation techniques for specific projects. For example this would include alternative trail alignments, selection of the type and location of wildlife drinkers, or alternative approaches and techniques for headcut stabilization. Review and selection of alternatives for individual projects will be addressed during the Detailed Master Plan phase and the design process for each project.

Figure 4. Locations of Alternatives A and B.

List of Key Projects for Planning, Research, and Development

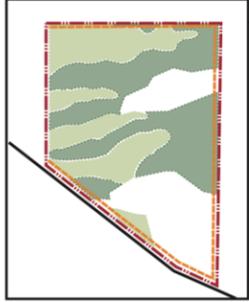
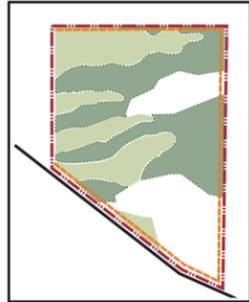
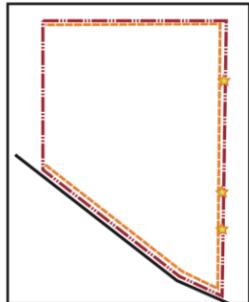
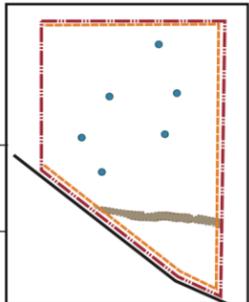
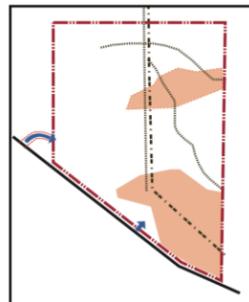
The Conceptual Master Plan projects require preliminary work through a series of planning and research projects. In the short term such projects include:

1. Develop protocols for communication and verification about maintenance and land restoration work, mapping, monitoring, and team coordination
2. Development and implementation of a monitoring plan to develop base-line data for all scheduled activities and associated terrain conditions
3. Develop a basic signage plan with signs for boundary marking and/or acknowledgement of the SPOS and acknowledgement of any relevant access easement, along with a bulletin board that will serve to post flyers and announcements; it will be useful if signage address public safety rules, leave-no-trace principles, and Santa Fe County contact information; signage design that has a natural appearance and is simple and unobtrusive will best meet the vision for the SPOS
4. Identify hazardous mine sites
5. Select appropriate fencing and appropriate boundary demarcation of the cultural resource sites
6. Plan a community stewardship structure and specific stewardship events
7. Research and plan a construction project for water harvesting-based wildlife drinkers
8. Develop a grassland management plan, including removal of encroached juniper and brush, wildfire prevention, weed management, and developing, testing and evaluating a restorative grazing pilot program
9. Develop a woodland management plan based on rotational woodland treatment over a 20-year rotation period
10. Plan an erosion control project including arroyo bank stabilization and headcut stabilization at various locations
11. Plan fence upgrades and property fencing projects
12. Plan the implementation of preliminary, small-scale trail development
13. Identify funding and financing of all identified projects

Mid-term and long-term research and planning projects would include:

14. Ongoing development of the community stewardship structure
15. Develop educational and research opportunities
16. Plan Recreational and Regional Trail Hub Master Plan for the future use of the SPOS
17. Plan a comprehensive interpretive education program for the SPOS
18. Plan the implementation of the Recreational and Regional Trail Hub Master Plan.

MAINTENANCE / IMPROVEMENT / PLANNING

	SHORT TERM	MID-LONG TERM
MAINTENANCE	 <p>ANNUAL / BIENNIAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate tree removal in grassland areas Begin in 15 to 20 acre sections Continue annually across site Initiate woodland thinning dead wood clearing Begin in approx. 5 acre sections Continue annually across site Spread dead wood as bare soil cover, surface erosion control Maintain and repair fencing 	 <p>ANNUAL / BIENNIAL CONTINUED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue rotational grassland tree removal program Continue rotational woodland thinning, dead wood management Continue fence maintenance and repair <p>RESTORATIVE GRAZING MANAGEMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement restorative grazing program in cleared grasslands Manage as per restorative grazing plan
IMPROVEMENTS	 <p>FENCING IMPROVEMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close gaps in fencing on east side Upgrade overall perimeter fence  <p>WILDLIFE IMPROVEMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildlife friendly fencing Wildlife drinkers <p>EROSION CONTROL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Headcut stabilization Arroyo bank stabilization 	 <p>CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install fencing if needed for restorative grazing plan Interpretive and signage improvements <p>COORDINATED IMPROVEMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural resources protection Hazard protection Trails improvements Access improvements
PLANNING	<p>HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLANNING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop woodland management plan Rotational plan (15 to 20 year cycle) Treatment scale (4 to 5 acres per year) Study and plan restorative grazing program Design program Conduct test Evaluate results <p>EROSION CONTROL PLANNING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan and design headcut and arroyo stabilization <p>INTERPRETIVE PLANNING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research and design interpretive plan <p>COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize community stewardship group Community maintenance events Wildlife improvements <p>COUNTY-BLM-SHPO COORDINATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination with BLM and SHPO needed Begin plans when appropriate Hazard mitigation Cultural resource protection Public access of site Trails and connectivity 	<p>TRAIL + SITE PLANNING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create master trails and site plan Fund trails and site projects (in phases) Implement trails and site projects (in phases) <p>INTERPRETIVE PLANNING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund interpretive projects (in phases) Implement interpretive projects (in phases) <p>COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen community stewardship group Continue community events Develop educational and research opportunities



MAINTENANCE / IMPROVEMENTS / PLANNING

SAN PEDRO OPEN SPACE

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Figure 5. Graphic display of phased management activities for SPOS relative to functional activity groups.

Table 5. Overview of phased management activities for SPOS relative to functional activity groups.

PLANNING

Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term
Establish protocols for maintenance work and team coordination	Update and manage the grazing program	Update and manage the grazing program
Develop a monitoring plan and gathering base-line data	Guide and coordinate headcut stabilization and erosion control work on the grasslands	Update and manage the grassland and woodland management program
Develop a basic signage plan	Oversee ongoing woodland thinning and removal of trees that encroached on the grasslands	Guide the implementation of phase-1 of an interpretive education program
Plan fencing for hazardous mine sites and boundary demarcation for cultural resource sites	Coordinate (for SF County) the mine sites rehabilitation and protection program	Guide the implementation of phase-1 of the Trail Hub and Recreation Master Plan, incl. parking, trails, signage, etc.
Plan community stewardship structure and events	Trail Hub and Recreation Master Plan process	Guide ongoing woodland thinning and removal of trees that are encroaching on the grasslands
Research and plan water harvesting techniques and wildlife drinkers	Identify and secure funding for Trail Hub and Recreation plan implementation	
Develop a grassland management plan (including a plan for fencing, weed control, juniper management, managed grazing, and revegetation)	Coordinate the implementation of a pilot project of simple trails	
Develop a woodland stewardship plan	Oversee a process for an interpretive plan	
Managed grazing pilot program		
Design headcut stabilization and erosion control in the grasslands		
Preliminary trail alignment to check cultural resource concerns		
Oversee the managed grazing program		
Develop an interpretive education program		

COMMUNITY AND COUNTY

Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term
Community organizing (a local stewardship team) for maintenance work, such as fencing and perhaps wood removal	Community organizing for maintenance work and for community-input on planning the trail hub and recreation plan	Community organizing for maintenance and recreation plan implementation

MAINTENANCE

Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term
Remove junipers encroaching on grasslands	Remove junipers encroaching on grasslands	Remove junipers encroaching on grasslands
Remove dead wood and lop and scatter for erosion control on grasslands	Remove dead wood and lop and scatter for erosion control on grasslands	Remove dead wood and lop and scatter for erosion control on grasslands
Implement annual woodland thinning and lop & scatter of slash	Implement annual woodland thinning and lop & scatter of slash	Implementn annual woodland thinning and lop & scatter of slash
Inspect and repair fences, for people and wildlife	Inspect and repair fences, stiles and gates for people and wildlife	Inspect and repair fences, stiles and gates for people and wildlife
Control erosion and stabilize slope in the large arroyo	Control erosion and stabilize slope in the large arroyo	Control erosion and stabilize slope in the large arroyo
Thin and remove juniper and brush in a drainage in the NE sector of the property		

PROJECTS / IMPROVEMENTS

Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term
Repair and improve all fences for people and wildlife; closing gates to BLM land	Repair and improve all fences when needed	Repair and improve all fences when needed
Grassland Improvement Pilot project launch and evaluation: Managed, restorative grazing	Control erosion and stabilize slope on grassland	Trail heads, trails, parking area, arroyo crossing(s), recreation facilities, and interpretive signage
	Mine site rehabilitation and protection	Ongoing implementation of mine site rehabilitation and protection work
	Water harvesting facilities & wildlife drinkers	Build a road across the SW easement strip – if necessary
Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term
	Implement a pilot project for simple trails; construct of stiles and /or simple gates, benches	Weed management when needed
	Grassland improvement implementation: managed, restorative grazing	Grassland improvement implementation: managed, restorative grazing
	Weed management when needed	

2.4. Community Relations

Santa Fe County intends to develop and maintain productive, neighborly and collaborative relations with the San Pedro community and other stakeholders in the area regarding the implementation of the SPOS Management Plan. This section highlights some specific aspects of the community relations between SPOS stakeholders and Santa Fe County. General guidelines for community relations are described in the Open Space Management Guidance Plan.

Information Exchange

In the short term, Santa Fe County plans to expand and develop several methods for information exchange with community members and stakeholders.

Signage

Santa Fe County will install **simple signage** to indicate the presence of the Open Space property. Signage will also inform the public about safety aspects, leave-no-trace principles, suggestions for general care and stewardship behavior, and contact information for Santa Fe County. Santa Fe County will also install some kind of signage, flagging, and/or fencing to keep people and pets away from hazardous mine sites and sensitive cultural resource sites. boundary markers will be installed to define the property boundary for maintenance and access control. A **bulletin board** will be placed on the SPOS property along State Road 344 for public notices, such as specific events, meetings, and terrain management activities.

Website

Santa Fe County will maintain the **website pages** dedicated to the County Open Space program, which may be expanded with a specific webpage describing the SPOS landscape and history, management plan information and activities, and planned events at the SPOS.

Community Contact

Santa Fe County will work with the community to identify a communication structure with the community who are available to field comments and questions and contact County staff for follow-up actions. Communication will address signage, cultural resource management and site protection, public safety measures, grassland management, wildfire prevention, and collaboration on fencing and wood removal projects, among other initiatives especially in the initial phase of plan implementation.

Education, Coordination and Collaboration

Santa Fe County and community members understand it is important to **cultivate educational and research activities** at SPOS to raise awareness about the area's unique mining history, cultural resources, and ecology and to mobilize support for future stewardship. Santa Fe County

and community members encourage youth engagement and include school groups in educational activities and site maintenance.

A significant portion of the community relations will revolve around maintenance of the open space property, both to announce maintenance work done by Santa Fe County and its contractors and to plan and **coordinate maintenance work done in collaboration with community members**. All maintenance and restoration activities will be reviewed with affected neighbors and stakeholders prior to implementation, or discussed and coordinated in community meetings. **Maintenance activities** that are suitable for (small) groups of volunteer stewards include:

- Maintenance of stiles, fence repair and fence adjustments for wildlife
- Removal of dead wood and woody debris in grasslands
- Trail maintenance, drainage management, and erosion control around old and new trails (if/when established)

Maintenance activities can provide **benefits for the community**. Such benefits may include the distribution of dead wood as firewood to community members and sharing of information about cultural resources or wildlife in the area.

There is a diverse group of community stakeholders that Santa Fe County intends to include in volunteer stewardship work. These **stakeholder groups** include:

- Immediate neighbors and members of the San Pedro Neighborhood Association
- Local youth, Boy Scouts, area schools and their students (e.g., East Mountain High School or San Antonio Elementary School in Sandoval County)
- Camp Oro Quay
- The East Mountain Regional Trails Alliance
- The Turquoise Trail Preservation Trust
- The Turquoise Trail Regional Conservation Alliance
- Equestrian groups in the area
- Local livestock owners
- Local mining and prospecting groups and individuals
- Pueblos, such as San Felipe, Santo Domingo Pueblo, and others
- Any regional conservation groups, hiking and outdoor organizations, and other entities that could become interested in the SPOS

Collaboration on maintenance activities will be effective if it starts with organizing community partners around **specific, tangible projects** to foster communication patterns trust, and generate additional objectives, priorities, and creative new ideas for problem solving.

Such **projects** will support the development of communication between Santa Fe County and interested community members. The following topics are of interest in the community and may serve as pilot projects for implementation of this plan:

- Fencing upgrades for wildlife and construction of stiles to access the property
- Wildlife habitat conservation
- Wood harvesting
- Trail building and stewardship
- Interpretive programming, including recording oral history narratives
- Public and youth education

A more detailed list of community involvement is included in section 2.6 about short-term Plan implementation activities.

2.5. Terrain Management

Terrain management activities are described in detail in a separate Maintenance Plan for SPOS. The following sections summarize terrain management in the context of the SPOS Management Plan. The proposed terrain management activities also reference specific Best Management Practices (BMPs), which are described in the Open Space Management Guidance Plan.

Summary Overview

Terrain management includes land restoration, maintenance, and community stewardship. Terrain management activities are specific for each different Terrain Management Unit (TMU). Each TMU requires a discrete set of management activities to maintain their ecological and community functions in support of the central management goal for the SPOS. An overview of terrain management activities is included in Table 6. Detailed lists of short term terrain management activities are included in Tables 7 and 8.

Table 6. Overview of Terrain Management Units and anticipated regular maintenance activities related to the management objectives for the property.

Where	What	Why	When
TMU	Anticipated Regular Maintenance Activities	Objective	Maintenance Frequency*
All TMUs	Communication and outreach with neighbors and stakeholders and integrate feedback in planning	Holistic & Inclusive	Annually
All TMUs	Inspect and mark property boundary markers	Public Safety	One time (year-1) and when needed
All TMUs	Inspect and repair of: a. Fences, gates and stiles b. Roads and trails c. Signage	Public Safety / Access / Education	a. Annually b. Annually c. Annually
All TMUs	a. Change fencing to be wildlife friendly	Ecological Health	a. Year 1 and annual inspection
All TMUs	a. Maintain trails, stiles, signs, benches, drainage crossings, and trash cans	Infrastructure	a. Annually (after completion of improvements)
3. Cultural resource areas	a. Install and maintain signage	Education / Cultural Resources	a. Annually

Where	What	Why	When
TMU	Anticipated Regular Maintenance Activities	Objective	Maintenance Frequency*
1. Grasslands	a. Thin juniper that encroached on grassland, spread branches to cover soil, limit erosion, protect artifacts	Ecological Health	a. Years 1+2; and then once in 10 years
1. Grasslands	a. Thin juniper and pinon encroaching on grassland b. Spread branches to cover soil and reduce erosion c. Check and remove any noxious weeds d. Headcut stabilization and erosion control in rills	Ecological Health	a. Annually (14 ac/yr) b. Annually (14 ac/yr) c. Annually d. When needed (after year 2)
1. Grasslands	a. Inspect and repair fences b. Develop and manage restorative, managed grazing (limited acreage/year) c. Deliberately rest selected acres	Ecological Health / Grazing	a. Annually b. Annually (after year 3) c. Annually
2. Woodlands – esp. in area of cultural resources	a. Remove of dead and leaning trees b. Thin trees and spread branches (lop & scatter) to cover soil against erosion and to protect artifacts	Cultural Resources / Ecological Health	a. Every 5 years b. Annually: 5 ac/y (esp. in first 5 y)
2. Woodlands	a. Thin woodlands based on stewardship plan b. Spread branches to cover soil and reduce erosion	Ecological Health	a. Annually (5 ac/yr) (20-yr rotations) b. Annually (5 ac/yr) (20-yr rotations)
4. Arroyo & Embankments	a. Inspect and remove brush that inhibits flow and causes bank erosion b. Erosion control and bank stabilization	Ecological Health	a. Annually b. When needed (once in 5 y)

*** Note:** The table indicates the minimum suggested frequency. In some circumstances frequencies may need to be increased if/when staff time and funds allow or if maintenance activities can be conducted by community volunteers.

Restoration Projects

Table 7. List of Terrain Management project activities for year-1 aimed at land health restoration.

Location Code	Management Activity	Location	Staff Prep	Volunteer Activity	SF County-M (Crew)	Contractor	Labor & Cost Items
SP-GRA	Thinning out juniper and other shrubs that have encroached into grassland; and spreading branches for soil cover and erosion control	Grasslands	One time to establish protocols and methods				3-5 days/year for 1 sawyer and a swamper
SP-GRA + SP-WOO	Cutting and removal of shrubs that have overgrown grassland in central-northeastern area alongside cultural site	Woodland/grassland	One time to establish protocols and methods				3 days/year for 1 sawyer and a swamper
SP-WOO	Cutting and removal of dead, dying, leaning, and low-vigor trees; and spreading branches for soil cover and erosion control	Woodlands	One time to establish standards and prescription				5 days/year for one sawyer and one swamper
SP-ARR	Bank erosion stabilization	Arroyo and embankments	One time to establish standards and prescription				TBD: dependent on proposal

Maintenance and Stewardship Activities

Table 8. List of Terrain Management maintenance and stewardship activities for year-1 aimed at land health maintenance

Location Code	Management Activity	Location	Staff Prep	Volunteer Activity	SF County-M (Crew)	Contractor	Labor & Cost Items
SP-all TMUs	Fence inspection and repair	Entire property (N, E, and S sides only): approx. 7,500 lf (1.44 miles)	One time to establish standards and prescription				Annually: 3 days for 2-person crew
SP-all TMUs	Fence closures on East side	3 or 4 openings on east boundary: 20-25 lf	One time to establish standards and prescription and to choose form of labor source				One-time investment in posts and wire: possibly around \$500 in material and 2 days for 2-person crew
SP-all TMUs	Fence adjustments for wildlife	Entire property (N, E, and S sides only): approx. 7,500 lf (1.44 miles)	One time to formulate standards				5 days for 2-person crew; Costs TBD: Based on proposal (one-time investment); possibly around \$5,000
SP-ARR	Inspection of arroyo banks for woody debris and bank erosion	Arroyo and embankments	One time to establish standards and prescription				1/2 day for one person

2.6. Plan Implementation and Financing Mechanisms

Plan implementation will start with internal allocation of tasks, priorities, and timelines among staff for activities regarding maintenance, planning and project preparation, community outreach, and community stewardship involvement. This allocation will be based on the recommended tasks at hand and the staff and funding available to accomplish the tasks. This section lists planned activities with suggested funding mechanisms for each activity.

Roll-out of the SPOS Management Plan

Implementation of this plan will start upon approval of the plan by the Santa Fe County Board of Commissioners

Recommended implementation activities include:

1. **Periodic community meetings** to explain and work through the planned implementation activities, with an emphasis on:
 - a. Clarifications about the protection of cultural resource sites and the rehabilitation of and public safety measures around abandoned mine sites on SPOS and BLM lands, as well as update on completion timelines
 - b. Terrain inspections, base-line data collection, priority maintenance activities, and planning activities for a few, short-term key projects for community activities (“3 things people can do”), repairs and improvements (see below)
 - c. Identifying community interest and capacity to assist with the planned activities
 - d. Developing outlines (as specific as possible) and timelines for collaborative community activities (“3 things people can do”) between Santa Fe County and neighbors and other local stakeholders
 - e. Coordinating specific community involvement with the selected projects, and
 - f. At the end of plan-year-1, evaluating year-1 activities and establishing priorities for year-2.

2. Implementation of selected **terrain inspections, base-line data collection** (for future monitoring), **and maintenance activities** by County maintenance staff, assisted by neighbors and local volunteers; Inspections, data gathering and priority maintenance will include:
 - a. Fencing of hazardous mine sites
 - b. Delineating and marking cultural resource site boundaries
 - c. Inspecting and repairing any and all exterior fence conditions
 - d. Removing dead wood, dead brush, and live and dead junipers in the grasslands
 - e. Inspecting arroyo banks to assess whether ongoing erosion and woody debris in arroyos could lead to more bank erosion

3. Planning, collaboration, and **community organizing** to implement priority projects and community activities (“3 things people can do”)which may include:
 - a. Enlarging the group of interested people and involving more youth
 - b. Development and placement of signs and a bulletin board and marking cultural resource areas
 - c. Counting animals to support fence repair and readjustments
 - d. Identifying feasible entry points and future trail alignments
 - e. Juniper cutting and removal dead wood removal in grasslands
 -
 - f. Installation of wildlife drinkers and their water-harvesting systems
 - g. Collecting stories and historical information for future interpretive programming
 - h. Collecting botanical and ecological information for future interpretive programming

4. **Research and planning activities for the preparation of larger initiatives** that are planned to be implemented at a later date, including:
 - a. Development of protocols and methods of information management, staff development, and coordination
 - b. Completion of a signage plan and site specific signs and public outreach and communication strategies
 - c. Grassland management planning and the development of a managed, restorative grazing program
 - d. Development of a woodland stewardship program
 - e. Planning for headcut stabilization
 - f. Preliminary interpretive planning
 - g. Evaluation of the roll-out phase and adaptive planning for subsequent years.

Financing Mechanisms, Funding Sources, and Partners

Santa Fe County owns and manages more than 6,600 acres of open space properties and park areas, but it has insufficient funding and staff resources to meet the acquisition and management goals for the properties. Santa Fe County will be able to implement this plan and other property plans if it successfully continues to develop new funding mechanisms, identify new funding sources, and cultivate collaborative relationships with neighbors, local stakeholders, and other interest groups.

To implement this plan, Santa Fe County will include neighbors, stakeholders and other partners for monitoring, planning, and implementation of specific projects. This collaborative approach will reduce the need for outside funding for property management and it will help build neighborly relationships and increase buy-in from and stewardship by the people with the greatest interest in the property.

APPENDICES (TBD)

- A. Planning Team and Participants
- B. Site Characterization Reports
- C. Maintenance Plans
- D. Community Meeting Notices and Summaries of Meetings (To be included later)
- E. Public Comments