

San Luis Valley – Taos Plateau Landscape Assessment

Table 1. Recommended List of Conservation Elements

A. Ecological Systems (aggregated by macrogroup)¹		
	MACROGROUP	Percent of Ecoregion
A.1	Montane and Subalpine Conifer Forest	35.2%
A.2	Basin Grassland and Shrubland	27.6%
A.3	Pinyon-Juniper Woodland	10.2%
A.4	Riparian and Wetland Systems (playa, marsh, open water, wetland)	8.6%
B. Focal Species		
B.1	Native fish assemblage (Rio Grande cutthroat trout and Rio Grande sucker)	
B.2	Brewer's sparrow (representative migratory bird species)	
B.3	Ferruginous hawk	
B.4	Northern goshawk (representative montane species)	
B.5	Gunnison sage-grouse	
B.6	Waterfowl/shorebird assemblage	
B.7	Mexican free-tailed bat (representative bat species)	
B.8	Bighorn sheep	
B.9	Grassland fauna assemblage (burrowing owl, mountain plover, and Gunnison's prairie dog)	
B.10	Mountain lion	
B.11	Pronghorn	
B.12	Elk-mule deer assemblage	
B.13	Big game ranges (including winter range, fawning, lambing, and calving areas, and migration corridors)	
C. Sites of Conservation Concern		
C.1	Sites of Conservation Concern Assemblage (see Table 2)	
D. Ecosystem Functions		
D.1	Soil systems of concern (including coarse-textured, calcic, saline, sodic, and shallow soils; salt crusts; low water holding capacity soils; soils susceptible to wind erosion; and biological soil crusts)	
D.2	Aquatic systems (including streams, lake, ponds, reservoirs, wetlands/playas, ponds livestock and wildlife watering tanks, springs, wells, diversions, ditches, canals and other artificial water bodies)	
D.3	Riparian areas (includes data from various sources and scales, such as CPW, NWI, and species-specific data on willow and cottonwood, if available)	
D.4	Hydrologic systems (includes snowpack level, runoff [timing], rainfall patterns, high quality waters, impaired waters, ephemeral drainages, groundwater and aquifers related to	

D.5	quantity (recharge and discharge) and quality (contaminant transport and groundwater pollution) Species Richness / Biodiversity Assemblage (rare/at risk species summed by Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) HUC10 hydrologic reporting unit)
E. Cultural and Historic Conservation Elements	
Cultural historic CEs will be determined through separate Cultural Landscape Assessment effort.	
¹ Macrogroups determined from LandFire EVT associations and compliant with BLM vegetation mapping standards (IM 2013-111 : http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/info/regulations/Instruction_Memos_and_Bulletins/national_instruction/2013/im_2013-111_the_national.htm)	

Table 2. Sites of Conservation Concern

Sites of High Biodiversity	
1	TNC portfolio sites
2	Important bird areas (Audubon)
3	Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV) Key Sites
4	Areas recognized by State Wildlife Action Plans
Sites of High Ecological and/or Cultural Value	
5	Historic and Nationally Designated Historic and Scenic Trails
6	Wilderness Areas
7	Wilderness Study Areas
8	National Wildlife Refuges
9	National Monuments
10	National and State Parks
11	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)
12	Forest Service Research Natural Areas
13	State Wildlife Management Areas
14	Wild and Scenic Rivers
15	Designated Recreation Management Areas (including SRMAs)
16	National Historic Landmarks and National Natural Landmarks
17	National Heritage Areas
18	Designated and proposed critical habitat sites for ESA-listed species
19	Rio Grande Natural Area
20	FWS Focal Areas
21	Outstanding National Resource Waters in New Mexico
22	Class I Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) areas