

Natural Landscapes & Human Habitat: connectivity, restoration, & care



Photo by Sylvia Rains Dennis

Presented by Sylvia Rains Dennis to the Native Plant Society
of New Mexico, Taos Chapter, April 19, 2017



Cattails and needlefrost along an agricultural fence and lindero, off the main acequia, Taos County; photo by Sylvia Rains Dennis



Monarda fistulosa, beebalm/wild bergamot/oregano de la serna; Photo by Mary Pickett

We open with local and regional examples of our native landscapes embracing both biodiversity and restoration concepts, then focus on what it means to live compatibly and sustainably in our natural surroundings.

- **How do our collective habitats depend upon both ecology and community?**
- **What are some perspectives on restoration science and practice?**

Landscapes, Homelands, Habitat

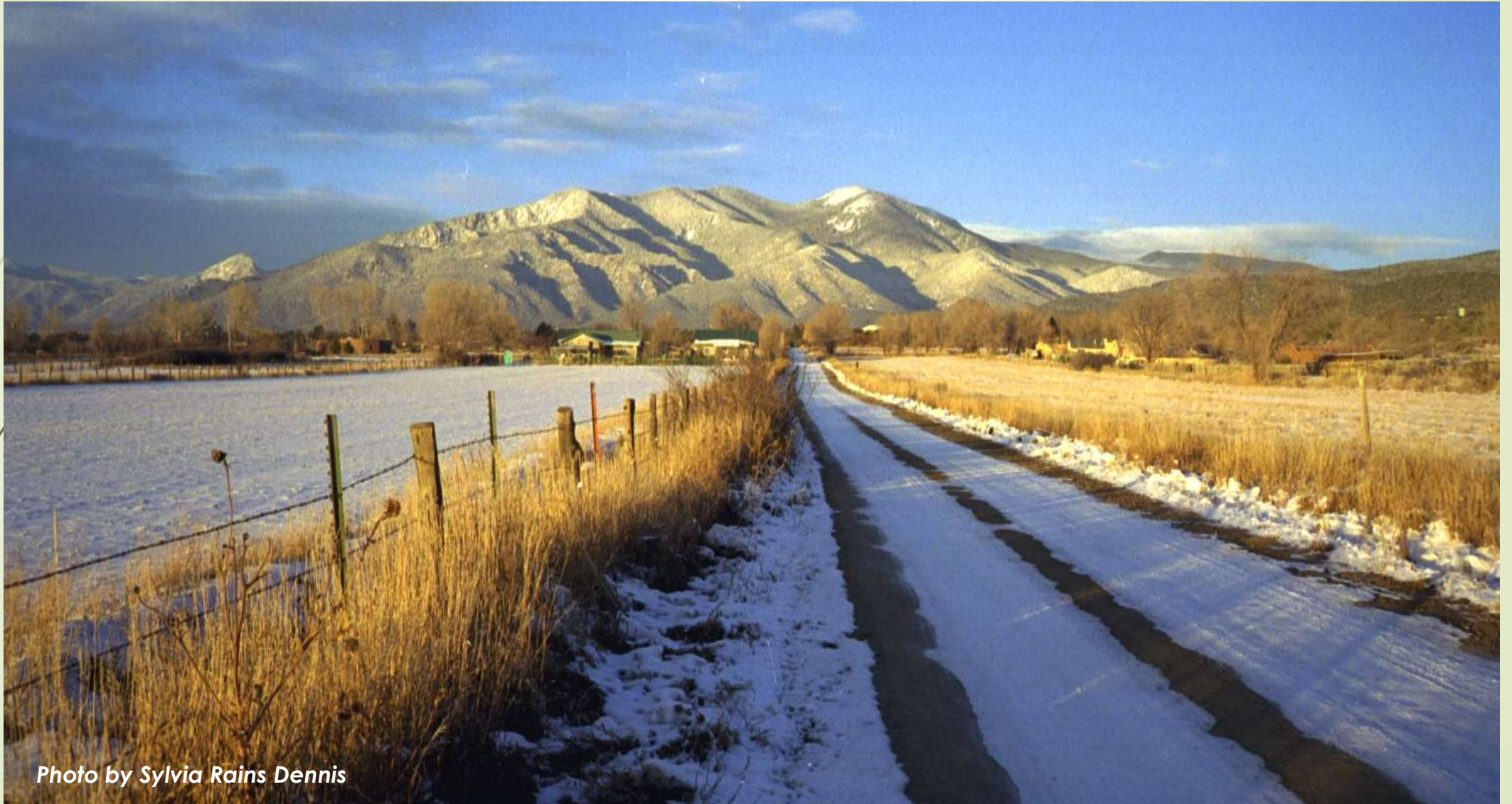
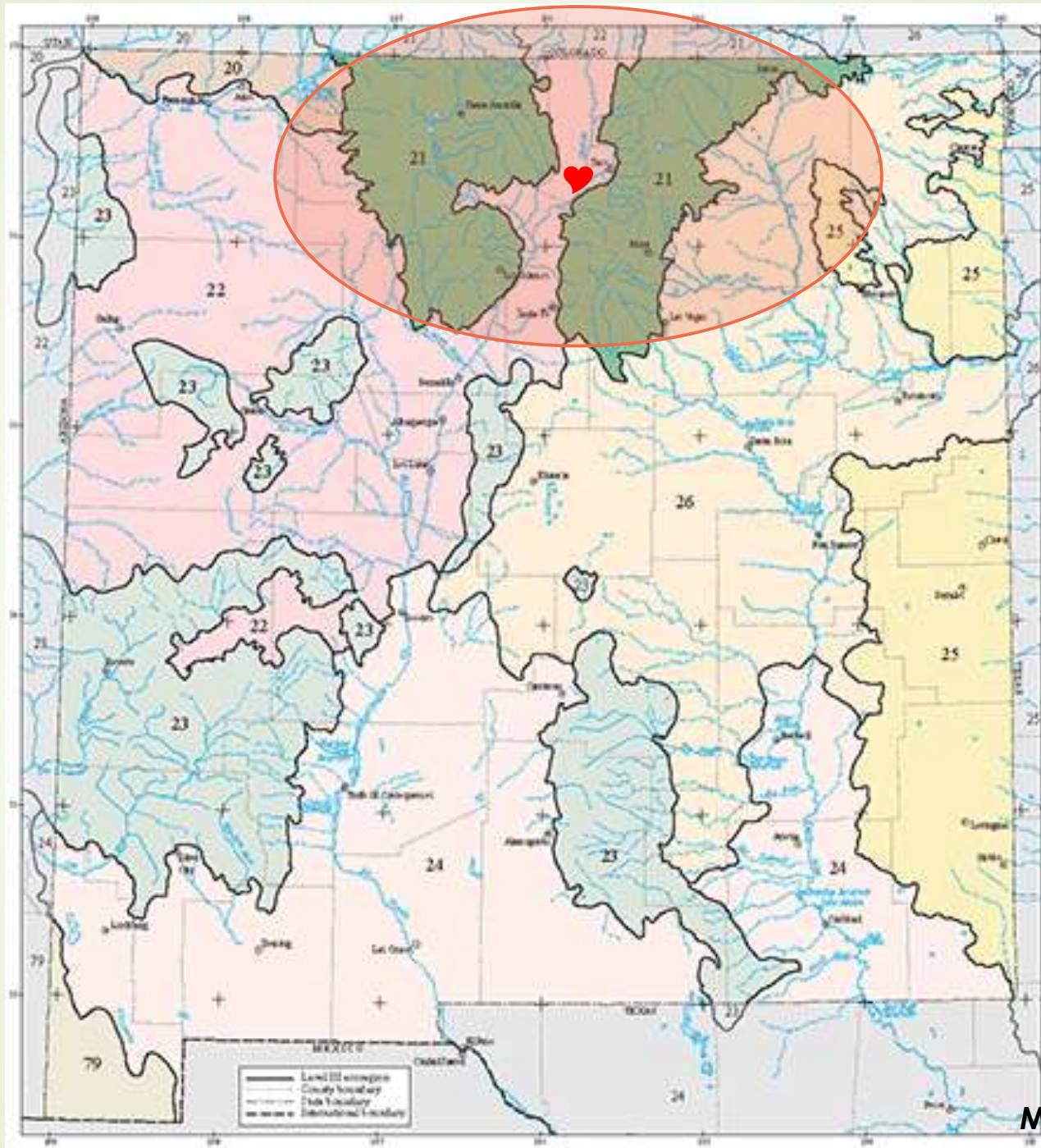


Photo by Sylvia Rains Dennis

Ecoregional Perspectives from the Heart of Home



Level III Ecoregions of New Mexico

- 20 Colorado Plateaus
- 21 Southern Rockies
- 22 Arizona/New Mexico Plateau
- 23 Arizona/New Mexico Mountains
- 24 Chihuahuan Deserts
- 25 High Plains
- 26 Southwestern Tablelands
- 79 Madrean Archipelago

11 20 30
0 10 20 30 mi
0 10 20 30 km
All other equal area projections
Grid of parallels 27° N and 30° N

CITING THIS MAP: Griffith, G.E., Omerik, J.M., McGraw, M.M., Jacobs, G.Z., Casavan, C.M., Schrader, T.S., Mercer, D., Hill, B., and Moran, B.C., 2006. Ecoregions of New Mexico (color poster with map, descriptive text, summary tables, and photographs). Reston, Virginia, U.S. Geological Survey (map scale 1:1,400,000).

Ecoregion maps, publications, GIS files, and contact information are available at www.epa.gov/wed/pages/ecoregions.htm

Map details available at epa.gov

The Great Rift Valley Upper Río Grande Province



Photo by Mary Pickett



Southern
Rocky
Mountain
Seasonality



Photo by Sylvia Rains Dennis



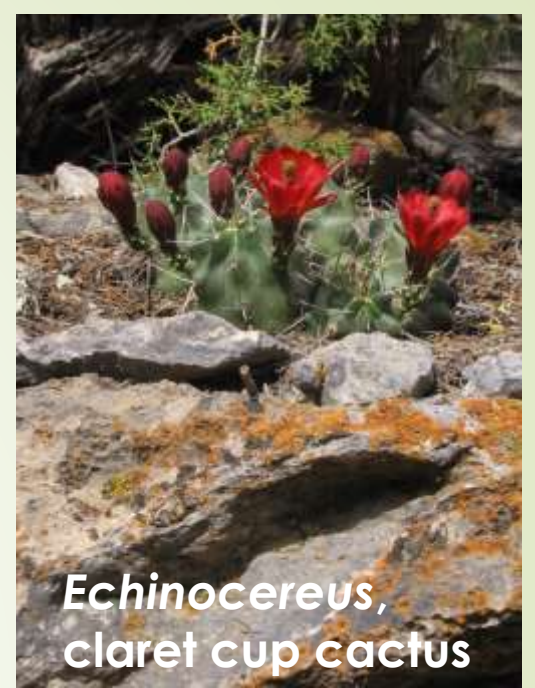
Photo by Mary Pickett

Yucca



Photos by Mary Pickett

Upper Río Grande Habitats



Echinocereus,
claret cup cactus



Oryzopsis (aka Stipa) hymenoides,
Indian Ricegrass



Piñón-Juniper & Grassland Mosaic

above the Río Pueblo Gorge



Photo by Mary Pickett

Some examples of
Colorado Plateau Flora



Photos by Sylvia Rains Dennis

Populus spp.,
native
cottonwoods
in our
ecoregional
overlap!



Photos by Sylvia Rains Dennis

Restoration for habitat & mutual sustainability



Photos by Sylvia Rains Dennis



Cleome serrulata, Rocky Mtn beeplant

Improved botanical diversity and habitat restoration at Comanche Creek, Valle Vidal



Photo by Sylvia Rains Dennis

A photograph of a Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) showing a snowy hillside with dense vegetation and a house in the background. The scene is captured from a low angle, looking up the slope. In the foreground, a wire fence runs across the frame, supported by black posts. The ground is covered in dry, brownish vegetation and patches of snow. The middle ground is dominated by a dense forest of evergreen trees, with snow patches visible between them. In the background, a large, multi-story house with a brown roof is situated on the crest of the hill. The sky is clear and blue. The overall scene illustrates the intersection of natural wildland and human development.

Wildland-Urban Interface

Photo by Sylvia Rains Dennis

Why worry about cheatgrass?



Photo by Mary Pickett

*Seeps
along the
Río Grande:
What's
wrong with
this picture?*

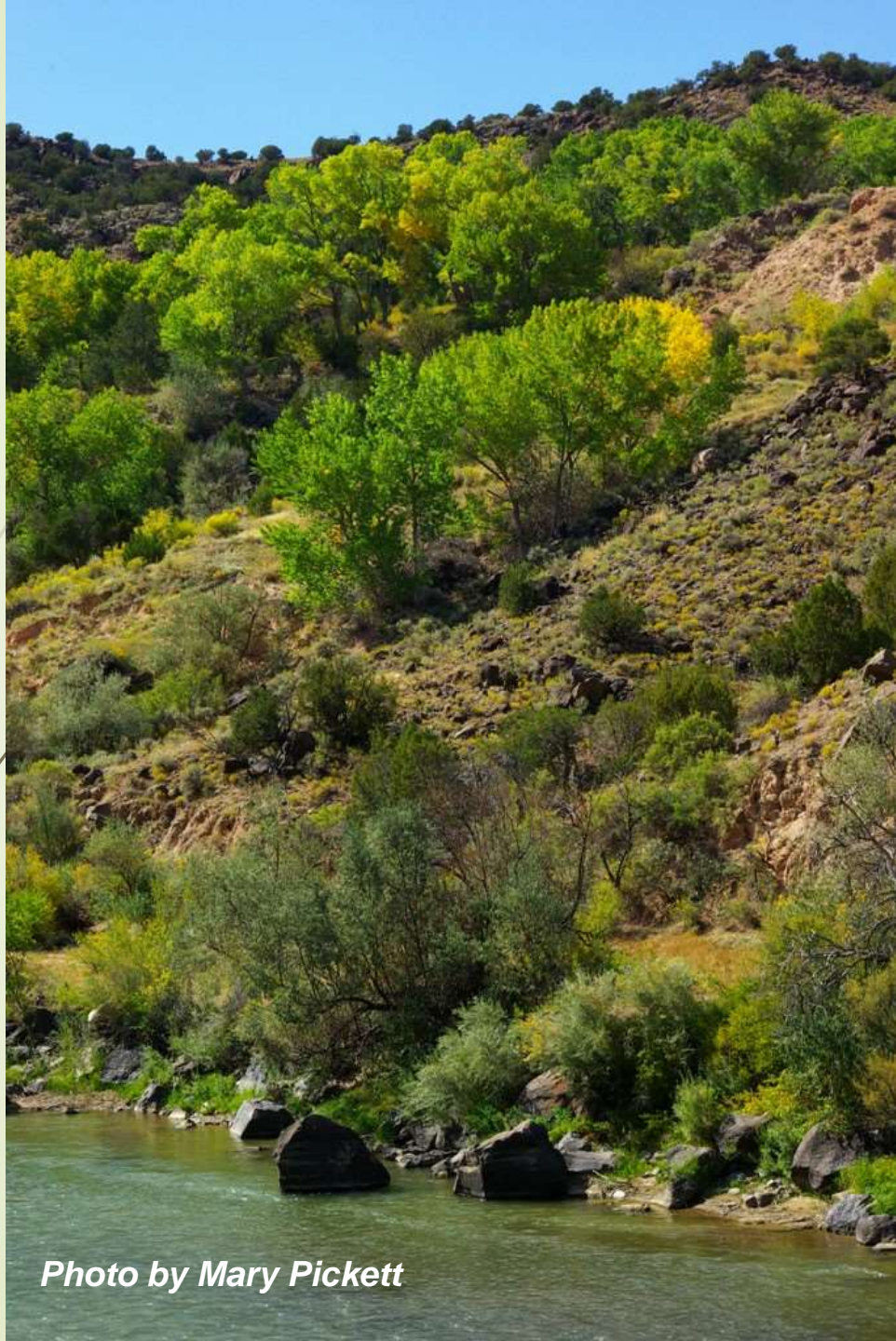


Photo by Mary Pickett

Hint: The leading cause of biodiversity loss worldwide is in action here...

Connectivity: links,
passages, flows...



Photos by Mary Pickett



pollinator-friendly native wildflower, herbs
and garden plants, including buffers and
habitat plantings!



Asclepias, milkweed



Gaura, whirling butterflies




Penstemon, beardtongue



Echinacea, purple coneflower

Photos by Sylvia Rains Dennis



Ribes, one of many
Rocky Mountain
currant species, our
native fruit friendly
to all habitats, wild
and settled




Photo by Sylvia Rains Dennis

Tell me about this tree ...



Photos by Sylvia Rains Dennis

Restoration seedlings, native trees & shrubs



Photo by Sylvia Rains Dennis

Human habits, habitation, and habitat

- *Ecological footprint analysis is widely used around the Earth as an indicator of environmental sustainability. It can be used to measure and manage the use of resources throughout the economy and explore the sustainability of individual lifestyles, goods and services, organizations, industry sectors, neighborhoods, cities, regions and nations*

(source, Wikipedia, 4/14/17, re. Matthis Wackernagel)

[Latin, habitare: to dwell] **Dwelling** inheres needs, interactions, contributions, & waste, existing along a continuum, with everything in our natural surroundings

- How aware are we of our **footprints** upon our shared home?



Photo by Mary Pickett



Care: our ecological context and mutual sustainability

- Some land-based sustainability concepts in Northern New Mexico
- traditional agriculture, agroforestry, permaculture, habitat/site improvement and restoration
- What examples do you have?



Photos by Sylvia Rains Dennis

Inspiration from native resilience!



Photo by Sylvia Rains Dennis

Thank you for being here!



More information available at: www.wildlandance.net or email Sylvia at rains@wildlandance.net