



A new tool in our fight against climate change

From your Executive Director....

With investment from our donors, this past year New Mexico Wild commissioned a scientific study on climate impacts for New Mexico public lands and how to best adapt to and mitigate coming changes. The study was designed to help us make the best long-term decisions on where we focus our protection efforts and to provide the science behind those choices to Federal land agencies and elected officials. That report has just been completed and our staff is anxious to put it into action. In this Advisory, we'll share with you the broad outline of the study and invite you to take a deeper look at the full document.

Over the past 25 years, we have assembled substantial data on 5.9 million acres of New Mexico's federal land that merits greater protection. The new study will help us focus on which of those lands are of the highest protection priority to maximize climate adaptation and mitigate increasing climate threats.

*Your support makes this work possible.
Thank you!*

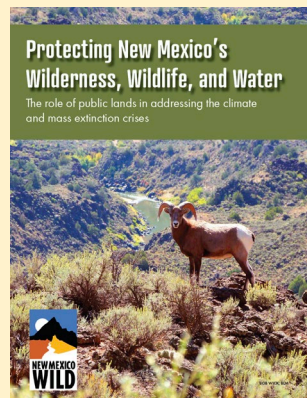


Mark Allison
Executive Director
New Mexico Wild



Using science in the argument for land protection.

We all have different reasons to support public land protection from concern about wildlife, to recreation, to maintaining water resources, to the opportunity for solitude. For many who manage or oversee our public lands, science and data can provide the strongest argument for land protection. For that reason, New Mexico Wild commissioned a research and scientific study to describe (and quantify where possible) the climate adaptation and mitigation benefits of protecting New Mexico federal public lands. The study provides scientific justification for the protection of these areas as part of the federal and state 30x30 initiative. That initiative has the goal of protecting 30% of our lands and waters by the year 2030. New Mexico has remarkable public lands including the first designated Wilderness in the United States. However, we lag behind in protecting lands and waters primarily for



To view the webinar or the new climate adaptation and mitigation report, visit our website at:

www.nmwild.org/ecoadapt

biodiversity. In fact, only 6.1% of land in New Mexico is protected compared to the national average of 12.6%. The study helps our staff, partners, and land managers understand the future climate benefits of land and water protection.

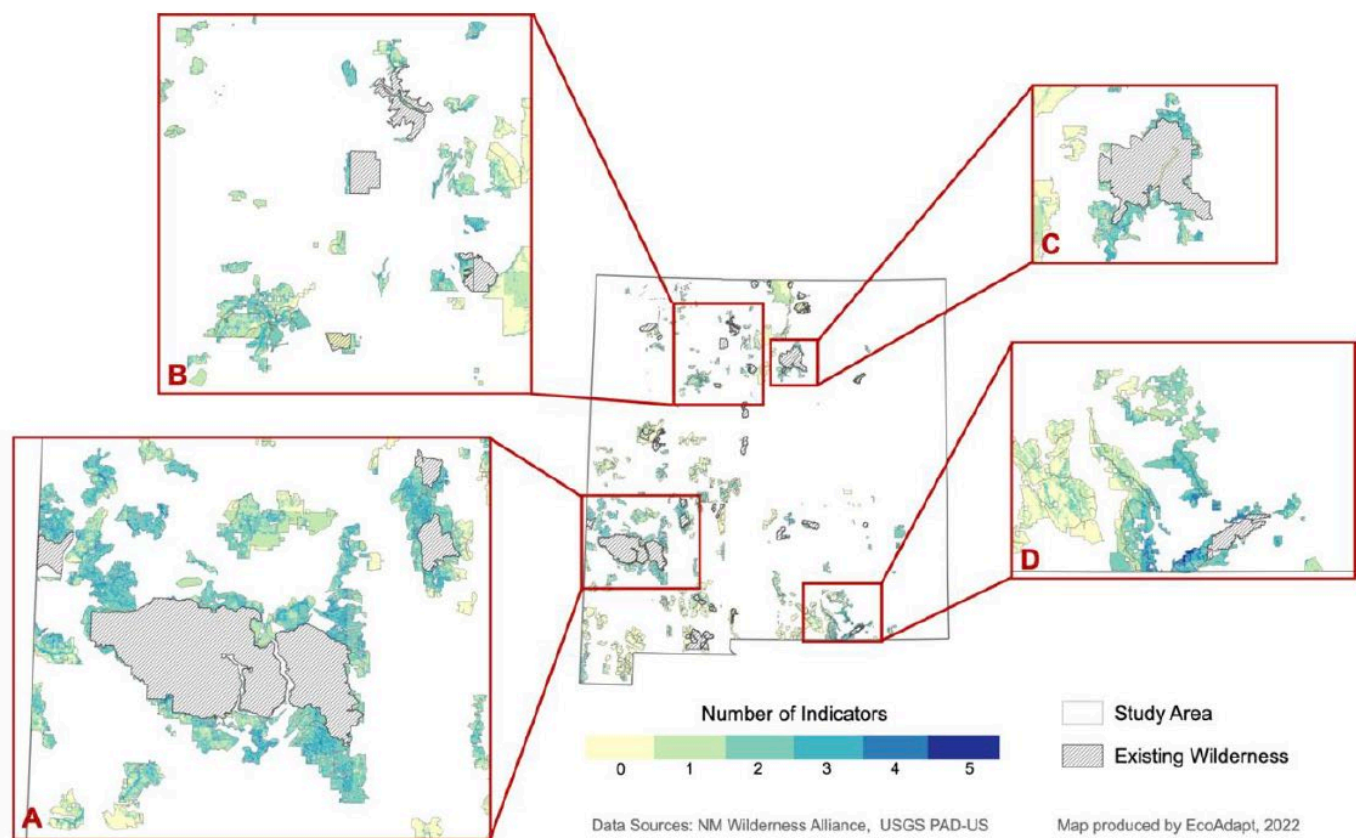
The study offers insights into how to protect wildlife from future climate shifts

Factors assessed included landscape connectivity and resiliency, potential refugia in a more arid climate, water supply protection, carbon sequestration (keeping fossil fuels in the ground and reducing disruption to plants and soils), as well as reducing greenhouse gas emissions. As a baseline for this study, New Mexico Wild provided our current data on 5.9 million acres of public lands drawn from inventoried roadless areas, Wilderness Study Areas, and other lands with Wilderness characteristics.

Conclusions from the study will shape our work for years ahead

Key findings from the study include:

- Protected areas can help us adapt to climate change by maintaining landscape-scale ecological processes.
- Protected areas represent a highly effective strategy to protect existing biodiversity particularly when protections are strategically placed. Targeted protection of sites with rare species and isolated populations can reduce their vulnerability to climate change.
- Protected areas that significantly increase landscape connectivity and represent a range of environmental conditions increase species movement and reduce the risk of species loss.
- Protected areas can also play an important role in climate mitigation by preventing the degradation of ecosystems that store carbon as well as limiting the extraction of fossil fuels.



Detailed data and maps generated by the study will help New Mexico Wild staff, partners, and land managers determine the protection actions that will have the most positive beneficial impact on species and climate adaptation and mitigation.



Your continued support makes a real difference.
Please use the enclosed donation form and envelope
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NMWILD.ORG

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