

Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance Project Proposal

Ciudad Soil & Water Conservation District

June 30, 2012

Project name: Albuquerque Open Space River & Canopy Loop Project

Project type(s): Initial treatments of, 1) herbicide application/cut stump treatment and removal of non-native invasives (primarily Russian olive and Tamarisk); 2) hand clearing and/or mastication of dead and down under Cottonwood forest canopy; 3) strategic removal of vegetation to create three 20 ft. "windows" along the river bank, followed by grass mixed/herbaceous seeding; 4) re-treatment of long stem deep planting of 200 native trees and shrubs, followed by grass mix/herbaceous seeding; and, 5) erosion control, using mastication/chipping where possible (following state-recommended chip depths). Woody Biomass can also be hauled to the OS Visitor's Center, which they will use for mulch and landscaping around the VC.

Project proponent : Ciudad SWCD, 6200 Jefferson Blvd. NE, Room 125, Albuquerque, NM 87109.

Project location: Within Bernalillo County, the City of Albuquerque, behind the Open Space Visitor Center at 6500 Coors Blvd. NW, Albuquerque, NM (Sector 9), just north of I-40. (*See map #1*)

Landowner(s): The City of Albuquerque Open Space Division asked for assistance on this site and supports the implementation of the treatments and activities outlined in this proposal.

How is this site accessed? The proposed site is not controlled, and is accessible for vehicles via the MRGCD maintained road leading into the area. (*See maps #1, #2*) There is not a gate. There are four partial rows of jetty jacks on site near the river bank- they may minimally inhibit access to certain areas of the site, but should not pose any major problems.

Project objective(s): To remove and control all Tamarisk and Russian olive from within project boundary, reduce hazardous fuels to a natural level, increase the health and vigor within the proposed project area of the Bosque, provide natural resource interpretive education for visitors, and to offer a safe, aesthetically pleasing outdoor area for local wildlife, city volunteers and visitors to the site.

Size of project: The site will be approximately 5 acres of treatment of non-native invasives. The initial development of three wildlife 'windows' along the river bank will be on approximately 1 acre of the site. The removal of heavy accumulation of dead and down materials will take place under 1 acre of Cottonwood canopy along west side of Canopy Trail. Initial longstem deep planting in 2-3 acres of an area that burned in 2002. (*See map #2*)

Current site description: Riparian woodland and riparian meadowland. The site contains a mature cottonwood gallery forest, primarily along the western section of the Canopy Loop trail, with the previously burned area remaining a meadow containing a mixture of native and non-native trees shrubs. Invasive non-natives line the river banks, and are steadily working in to the open areas west to the cottonwood forest.

Vegetation, apart from non-natives, include cottonwood, willow, locust, NM olive and native shrubs.

Please see maps/attached data (#3-7) included with this proposal for drainage and soils information. Four rows of varying lengths of jetty jacks run east/west along the eastern side of the site.

Wildlife species observed in this site include, but are not limited to, Bald eagle, Sand Hill crane, Blue heron, Great-Horned owl, porcupine, beaver and coyote. The entire Rio Grande is a wildlife corridor for predator and prey species and migratory birds. With respect to the Migratory Bird Act, any mechanical activity/treatment will not be implemented during the months of April through August. Benches installed with future funding at the wildlife 'windows' proposed to be created as a part of this project will offer wildlife viewing opportunities for visitors throughout the year.

Areas of concern are aggressive, invasive non-native vegetation encroaching throughout the site, heavy loads of hazardous fuels both living and dead and down (under canopy), erosion issues within the central area of the site (previously burned area) due to the lack of biological activity in the soils, loss of wildlife habitat, and safety issues for visitors.

If this is a re-treatment or re-vegetation project, describe work that has been done previously and when it was completed:

There was a 25 acre fire in this area and to the north in 2002. Staff and volunteers at the Open Space Visitor's Center planted native vegetation afterwards, however none of the plants survived. Goats were also used previously on 2 acres along the northernmost section of the site in an attempt to reduce the non-native encroachment, but funding ran out and the invasives are thriving once again.

Desired site condition :

Restoration of natural riparian forest. Healthy native vegetation and active soils. Established trails safe for hiking that provide a natural respite within a large metropolitan area. Three "windows" along the Rio Grande to sit and watch the water and wildlife without disturbing their surroundings. Interpretive and educational opportunities for visitors and workshops. Erosion issues addressed and the site maintained over time.

Justification:

This area is a highly visible, well-used recreation site along the west bank of the Bosque. The Visitor's Center host's hundreds of people year round. Signs encourage those visitors to walk the trails. Interpretive signs about the history of the area, treatments, wildlife, maintenance projects and riparian and wetland ecology are planned for the future. Workshops for adults and school children are hosted at the center and within the site.

Is this project adjacent or near previous restoration projects?

Not specifically, however Albuquerque Open Space is continuously implementing projects along the Rio Grande. This proposed project would benefit the riparian areas to the north and south by the reduction of invasive non-native vegetation and hazardous fuels.


Is there any baseline data (vegetation, ground water monitoring, etc.) available for this site?

There was a 25 acre fire in this area and to the north in 2002. Staff and volunteers at the Open Space Visitor's Center planted native vegetation afterwards, however none of the plants survived. Goats were also used previously on 2 acres along the northernmost section of the site in an attempt to reduce the non-native encroachment, but funding ran out and the invasives are thriving once again.

The Bosque Ecological Monitoring Program will be notified of this project before implementation for the purpose of tracking water table levels, before and after treatment(s) for several years if recommended. AMAFCA maintains and monitors water levels and quality at the La Orilla Outlet on the southern boundary of the proposed project.

How and by whom will the project be maintained?

This site has and will continue to be maintained and monitored for native/non-native growth and mortality of plantings by Open Space staff and volunteers. All sites managed by Albuquerque Open Space along the Rio Grande are monitored in various ways all year round using various methods and partnering agencies.



SWCD board member/representative signature

6.29.12

date

[illegible]

Manuscript by Benjamin C. Coker; GIS 2012

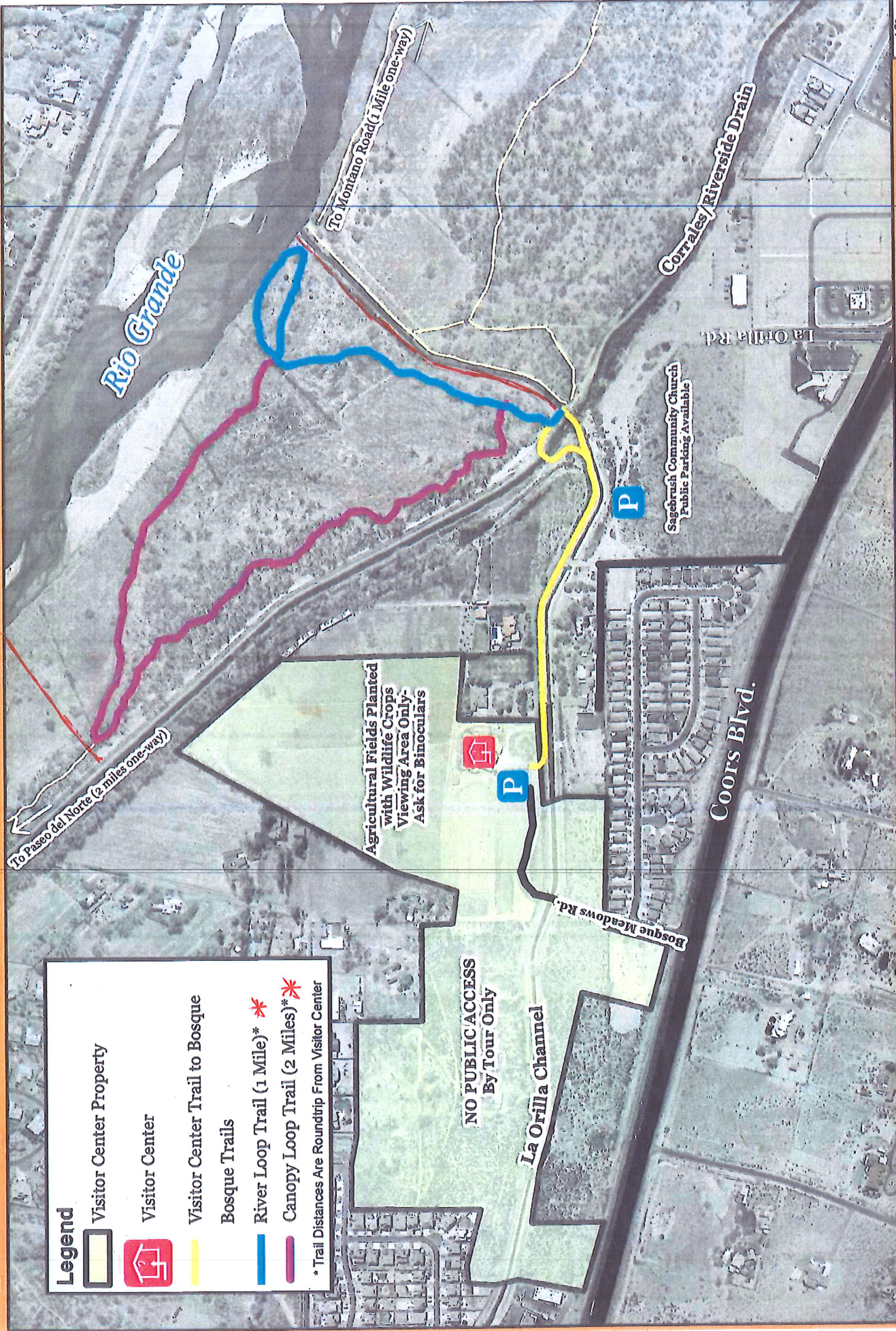


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GIS Program
Albuquerque, NM
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Open Space Visitor Center and Bosque Trail Access







0

0.25

0.5 Miles

1 inch equals 550 feet

Soils Map

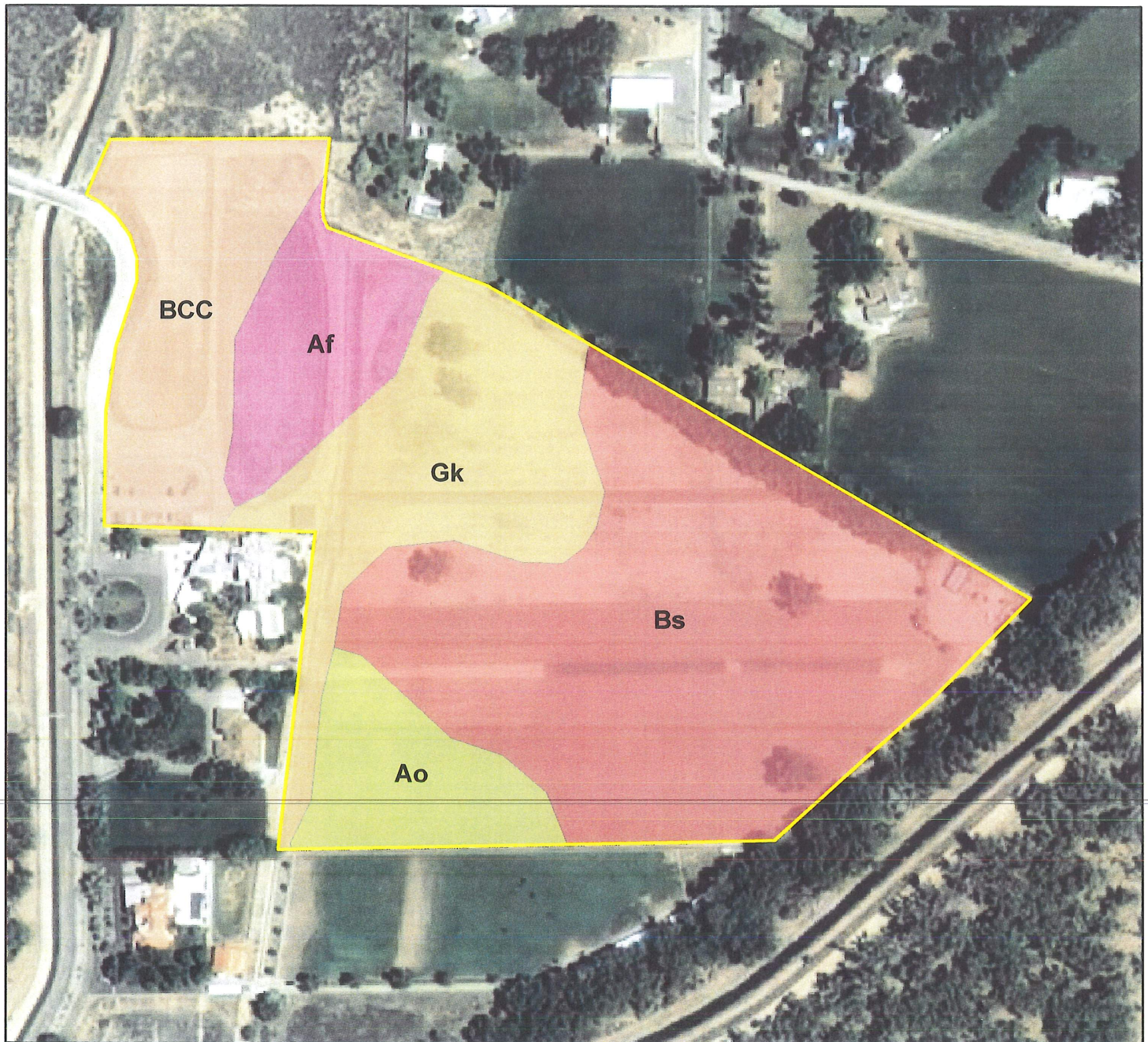
Date: 4/11/2011

Customer(s): ALBUQUERQUE OPEN SPACE

Field Office: ALBUQUERQUE SERVICE CENTER

Agency: USDA-NRCS

Assisted By: AMBER RIORDAN



0 190 380 570 760
Feet

1 inch equals 250 feet


Legend

 Consplan7

Soils Map

musym, muname

 Af, Agua loam

 Ao, Anapra silty clay loam

 BCC, Bluepoint loamy fine sand, 1 to 9 percent slopes

 Bs, Brazito silty clay loam

 Gk, Glendale loam



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Soils Inventory Report

AMBER RIORDAN

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres	Percent
Af	Agua loam	2.2	9%
Ao	Anapra silty clay loam	2	9%
BCC	Bluepoint loamy fine sand, 1 to 9 percent slopes	3.5	15%
Bs	Brazito silty clay loam	11.3	48%
Gk	Glendale loam	4.5	19%
Total:		23.5	100%

Map Unit Description (Brief, Generated)

Bernalillo County and Parts of Sandoval and Valencia Counties, New Mexico

[Minor map unit components are excluded from this report]

Map unit: Af - Agua loam

Component: Agua (90%)

The Agua component makes up 90 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 1 percent. This component is on flood plains, valleys. The parent material consists of recent alluvium derived from igneous and sedimentary rock. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is well drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches is moderate. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. There is no zone of water saturation within a depth of 72 inches. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 1 percent. This component is in the R042XA057NM Bottomland ecological site. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 7s. Irrigated land capability classification is 2s. This soil does not meet hydric criteria. The calcium carbonate equivalent within 40 inches, typically, does not exceed 5 percent. The soil has a slightly sodic horizon within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Map unit: Ao - Anapra silty clay loam

Component: Anapra (90%)

The Anapra component makes up 90 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 1 percent. This component is on valleys, flood plains. The parent material consists of recent alluvium derived from igneous and sedimentary rock. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is well drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches is moderate. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. There is no zone of water saturation within a depth of 72 inches. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 1 percent. This component is in the R042XA057NM Bottomland ecological site. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 7s. Irrigated land capability classification is 2s. This soil does not meet hydric criteria. The calcium carbonate equivalent within 40 inches, typically, does not exceed 5 percent. The soil has a slightly saline horizon within 30 inches of the soil surface. The soil has a slightly sodic horizon within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Map unit: BCC - Bluepoint loamy fine sand, 1 to 9 percent slopes

Component: Bluepoint (85%)

The Bluepoint component makes up 85 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 1 to 9 percent. This component is on valleys, flood plains. The parent material consists of sandy alluvium and/or eolian sands. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is somewhat excessively drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches is low. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. There is no zone of water saturation within a depth of 72 inches. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 0 percent. This component is in the R042XA054NM Deep Sand ecological site. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 7s. Irrigated land capability classification is 3s. This soil does not meet hydric criteria. The calcium carbonate equivalent within 40 inches, typically, does not exceed 1 percent. The soil has a slightly sodic horizon within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Map unit: Bs - Brazito silty clay loam

Component: Brazito (85%)

The Brazito component makes up 85 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 1 percent. This component is on valleys, flood plains. The parent material consists of residuum weathered from igneous and sedimentary rock. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is well drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches is low. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 60 inches during March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 0 percent. This component is in the R042XA057NM Bottomland ecological site. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 7s. Irrigated land capability classification is 3s. This soil does not meet hydric criteria. The calcium carbonate equivalent within 40 inches, typically, does not exceed 1 percent. The soil has a slightly sodic horizon within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Map Unit Description (Brief, Generated)

Bernalillo County and Parts of Sandoval and Valencia Counties, New Mexico

Map unit: Gk - Glendale loam

Component: Glendale (90%)

The Glendale component makes up 90 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 1 percent. This component is on valleys, flood plains. The parent material consists of alluvium derived from igneous and sedimentary rock. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is well drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches is high. Shrink-swell potential is moderate. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. There is no zone of water saturation within a depth of 72 inches. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 1 percent. This component is in the R042XA057NM Bottomland ecological site. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 7c. Irrigated land capability classification is 1. This soil does not meet hydric criteria. The calcium carbonate equivalent within 40 inches, typically, does not exceed 5 percent. The soil has a very slightly saline horizon within 30 inches of the soil surface. The soil has a slightly sodic horizon within 30 inches of the soil surface.



ABQ OS VS
River + Canopy
Loop Site



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