

EASTERN NEW MEXICO SENTINEL LANDSCAPE

NEW MEXICO | Est. 2024



In 2024, a coalition of partners created the Eastern New Mexico Sentinel Landscape around a shared vision of protecting the military mission, safeguarding declining water supply, and stewarding rural working lands and the habitat they provide. This region boasts vast expanses of private ranches and farmlands as well as Cannon Air Force Base (AFB), home to the 27th Special Operations Wing (SOW). Cannon AFB SOW encompasses the 26th Special Tactics Squadron, 43rd Intelligence Squadron, and nearly 6,039 active military and civilian personnel. The landscape is also home to Melrose Air Force Range, which provides more than 11,800 annual training hours for Special Operations Forces.

The landscape brings together state, Federal, and local organizations to combat intensifying water scarcity across the region, worsening with extreme heat and aridification. Drought strains the dwindling groundwater reserves of the Ogallala Aquifer, the sole source of domestic water for Cannon AFB and most of the surrounding landscape. Declining groundwater also threatens farm, ranch, and dairy production in the surrounding agricultural community, especially those reliant on irrigation. This threatens livelihoods and the rural community on which the mission depends.

Recognizing the impact of these resilience concerns to both the installation and defense community, the Eastern New Mexico Sentinel Landscape emerged as a voluntary effort to effectively address water availability, agricultural viability, critical species habitat, and natural resource challenges.

Landscape Goals



Advance the overall vision and purpose of the ENMSL partnership by engaging landowners, soil and water conservation districts, communities, and counties in local decision making.



Protect and support the training mission of Cannon Air Force Base and Melrose Air Force Range through water conservation and voluntary mitigation of land use pressures.



Promote and support working agricultural lands and the regional economy.



Promote the conservation of grasslands and playas to benefit wildlife, increase drought resiliency, and increase groundwater recharge for the regional community.



Two members of the U.S. Special Operations Command Para-Commandos salute as the jump out of a MC-130J Commando II aircraft during the Cannon Air Show, Space and Tech Fest at Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Luke Kitterman)

LANDSCAPE DETAIL

Total Sentinel Landscape Area: 2,445,412 acres

Total Protected Acres:

0

From year established through fiscal year 2023

Total Enrolled Acres:

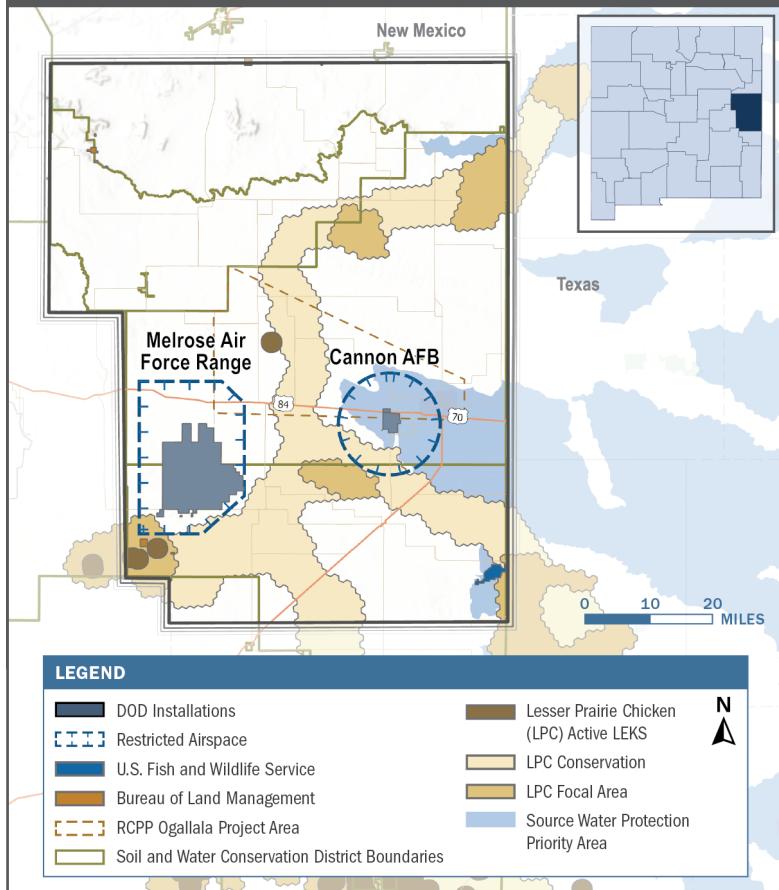
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For fiscal year 2023

Active Base Area Acres:

74,127

Eastern New Mexico Sentinel Landscape Map



Four F-16 Fighting Falcons, assigned to the U.S. Air Force Aerial Demonstration Squadron, perform an aerial stunt during the Cannon Air Force Base Air, Space, and Tech Fest at Cannon AFB, New Mexico. The USAFADS Thunderbirds are stationed at Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas. (U.S. Air Force photo by SSgt Gage Daniel)

Key Partners

- ▶ Cannon Air Force Base and Melrose Air Force Range
- ▶ Central Curry Soil & Water Conservation District
- ▶ City of Clovis, New Mexico
- ▶ New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts
- ▶ New Mexico Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources
- ▶ New Mexico Department of Agriculture
- ▶ New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
- ▶ New Mexico Environment Department
- ▶ New Mexico Environment, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
- ▶ New Mexico Forestry Division
- ▶ New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission
- ▶ New Mexico Natural Resources Conservation Service
- ▶ New Mexico Office of the State Engineer
- ▶ New Mexico State Land Office
- ▶ Ogallala Land & Water Conservancy
- ▶ Playa Lakes Joint Venture
- ▶ Roosevelt Soil & Water Conservation District
- ▶ Soil for Water (National Center for Appropriate Technology)
- ▶ Texas Agricultural Land Trust
- ▶ The Conservation Fund
- ▶ Thornburg Foundation
- ▶ U.S. Air Force
- ▶ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency
- ▶ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- ▶ U.S. Department of Defense, Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration



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