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The Environmental & Natural Resources Director provides coordination of all departmental programs to protect, monitor and enhance the natural resources and environmental quality of the Pueblo of Laguna.

The Natural Resources Program is responsible for the proper management of the following resource areas: wildlife, fisheries, range, forestry and woodlands, watershed and wetlands, enhancement of water resources, farming and irrigation, the Safety of Dams program, lands and property, minerals and special use.

The Rangeland Management Program is responsible for the proper management of the following resource areas: rangeland health, livestock grazing, non-village agriculture and irrigation.

The mission of the Environmental Program is to monitor and protect the environmental quality of Pueblo air, land, and water for the benefit of Pueblo member health and the future generations; while building capacity and providing comprehensive environmental services.



ARCHERY Hunters Notice: Archery Qualifications

Stop by & Qualify!

Who: First time archery hunters (and those who qualified in 2010 or earlier) will need to qualify before a permit is issued.

Where: Old Rodeo Grounds



Anyone that has qualified within the last two (2) years is automatically qualified for 2013. Archery permits will be issued after successful completion of an archery qualification.

See **2013-14 Big Game Hunting Proclamation, SECTION 2: (6)a** for archery qualifying rules.

Contact the Natural Resources office (Mon-Fri) to schedule a date and time to qualify.

[Note: Late archery hunt qualification deadline → 29th November, 2013]



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Welcome our new additions to ENRD!
- 1st Native American to be awarded the Citizen's Excellence in Community Involvement Award by the EPA
- Drought & Effects Of
- Hunting & Ranch Access
- Fire Damage & Fence Repair at Mt Taylor
- Search for Munition Debris
- Uranium At Jackpile Mine
- Recycling
- Fishing at Paguate Lake

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Director's



We are all also still waiting to see just how badly the federal budget sequester impacts our department.

Please join me in welcoming summer and the summer rains!

ENRD Welcomes Miranda, Cherylin, and John! Our Summer PFS Assistant and New Employees

Miranda Lucas—Partners for Success Summer Assistant for ENRD

Hello, my name is Miranda Lucas and I have been in the Partners for Success program for a month now, and I have been chosen to work for Laguna Environmental and Natural Resources. I enjoy my job and everyone is kind and respectful. I graduated from Laguna Acoma High School this year and I am glad that I had the opportunity to be in the workforce. Work for me will be ending in two weeks and I will miss it. In the future, I hope to become a veterinarian. I know that I will have to strive for it and do my best in the school I plan to attend. I know that I will always keep a positive attitude and be successful.

Environmental Department Introduces Cherylin Atcitty

My name is Cherylin Atcitty and I am the Environmental Technician for the Pueblo of Laguna. I am originally from Bodaway/Gap, Arizona which is located on the western edge of the Navajo Nation. In terms of my educational background I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology with a minor in Chemistry from Oklahoma Panhandle State University in Goodwell, Oklahoma and a Master of Science degree in Environmental Science from West Texas A&M in Canyon, Texas.

My previous employment experiences and responsibilities include:

a renewable energy internship at Sandia National Laboratories, a uranium monitoring internship at the Department of Energy Legacy Management, a global sustainability working group at Cornell University, producing toxicological profiles with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, monitoring endangered species with Arizona Game and Fish Department, evaluating air quality with the Navajo Nation, assisting youth with Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education and working with animals as a veterinary assistant in south Texas.

During my free time, I enjoy reading Larry McMurtry and Jane Austen books,



watching science fiction movies and spending time with my three dogs and two horses. I also like to travel with my husband to ranch rodeos and horse races.

New Rangeland Manager

Gu Wad'zee!!

I am John M. Romero from the village of Casa Blanca and I am honored to be taking the position of Rangeland Program Manager. I come to this position with 18+ years of managerial experience from the Pueblo of Isleta where I was the Realty Office director. My father was Benjamin (Chubby) Romero Jr. from Casa Blanca and my mother was Sophie Romero from Isleta. I am Water clan on my Laguna side and Red-eye clan on my Isleta side.

With the continuing drought that we are dealing with I have been out looking at our rangelands and I am happy to report that although things are dry, the livestock I have seen are faring well and there is forage for them to eat. Although the forage is not the best in quality, there is plenty of it and the growers are supplementing the livestock with mineral blocks and feed tubs. The associations that I have been to are

also busy extending water lines and hauling water for their stock and the wildlife are benefiting as well. With efforts such as these the livestock growers are making progress in utilizing the resources at hand and they should all be commended for their dedication and commitment.

With the addition of outside funding sources, the associations will be doing other range improvements such as converting the windmills to solar pumps; crossing fencing to better utilize the water and forage; providing better water storage facilities and other infrastructure. As these improvements are costly, the associations ask that you please not damage them and if you see someone vandalizing them, please report it to the Conservation Officers.

The Rangeland Program will continue our range monitoring efforts as well as providing windmill and other services. We look forward to a successful partnership with the livestock growers as well as any assistance that we can offer to the villages and village members. Our staff is dedicated to providing the highest level of service in the shortest amount of time possible.

Lastly I would like to thank Adam Ringia for giving me this opportunity to work here for the Tribe. I would also like to thank Bob Alexander for laying the foundation for a very successful program. Hats off to Adam and Bob!!!

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call me at 552-7512 or just stop on by and visit a spell.



John M. Romero



2013 Citizen's Excellence in Community Involvement Award

This award has been awarded annually since 2000 and Amy will be the first Native American to receive this award.



Through this annual award, EPA recognizes individuals or a community group for making a significant contribution to a Superfund cleanup. Each spring, EPA's regional offices nominate community members who have demonstrated constructive participation and exceptional dedication and compassion in working with EPA to clean up a Superfund site, and leadership skills, creativity and a results orientation in identifying and helping to implement actions to reduce threats posed by hazardous materials to human health and the environment.

A diverse panel of EPA Headquarters' staff reviews the nominations and selects the most outstanding individual or group for the award. This year, Amy Garcia from the Laguna Environment Program, has been selected for the National award. Ms. Garcia will be presented with the award by an EPA

during the 2013 Tribal Lands Forum which will be held at the Hyatt Regency Tamaya Resort in Santa Ana Pueblo on August 19, 2013. Amy has demonstrated a passion to help the residents of the Pueblo of Laguna. EPA has been involved in residential radiation structural assessment and removal on the pueblo since October 2009. She has helped the EPA obtain access agreements from the residents, develop informational flyers, notified us of village closures due to cultural activities, invited us to participate in informational outreach at the tribal feast days, and made suggestions for points of contacts in the individual villages. She was instrumental in the success of the assessment and the removal activities on the pueblo.

Drought

Dry conditions at Bell Rock RMU



Notes from Ed Lucero/BIA & The NM Drought Workshop: Drought Outlook & Mgmt Consideration for Rangeland Livestock Production

The Society for Range Management (New Mexico section) organized a drought management workshop to which all Native American tribes were invited to attend. The workshop was held in Socorro and many people were there, including a good number of natives from different tribes. The following are key points and commentaries.

Drought should not sneak up on us. That's a fact. We're currently into the 3rd or 4th year of drought. Some producers caught on early and either reduced their herds or completely de-stocked their range units. Thus their range units have adequate amounts of ground cover and when the wind blows, the soil stays in place. If it ever rains again, those units will recover much faster than depleted ranges and there will be less

Fishing at Paguate Lake

By David Bautista, Lake Manager



Some might say fishing is like a box of chocolates...you never know what you'll get! You may catch one fish - or none, it may be hot or cool - cloudy or clear; maybe get rain or see some wildlife (deer/elk) around the lake. Whatever the case may be you will experience some of these things, if you come fishing at Paguate Lake/Dam.

The lake is stocked with rainbow/cutthroat trout and catfish for your fishing pleasure. The lake has been stocked four times with different sizes of rainbow & cutthroat trout and so far this year, the biggest trout caught was 17 1/2 inches and the biggest catfish at 17". There are plenty of big fish (maybe bigger than those recorded) waiting to be caught!

During Father's Day weekend we had our first fishing derby, which had a great participant and spectator turnout! First place went to A. Shields of Acoma, 2nd place to M. Ruben of Laguna, and 3rd place to D. Deutsawe of Encinal. Derbies are always a lot of fun. We are currently planning a Back to School Youth Derby that will be held late July or sometime before school starts. Keep an eye out for this announcement and come join us! The lake is in operation from April to October of each calendar year. Hours are Friday through Sunday (including some holidays) from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm. Fishing prices have not changed, and will remain the same through the season end which is in October.

At this time, I would like to thank those who helped prepare the Lake for Opening Day and those that are still doing their services here at the Lake. A big, "Thank You" to the Paguate Village Officials for opening the Lake this year!

A Day at Paguate Lake

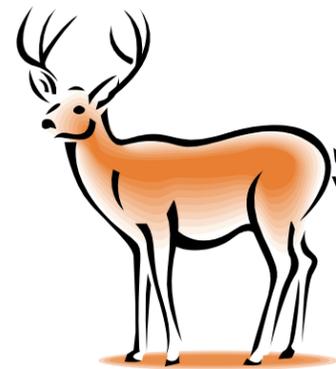
By Frank Ortiz-Cerno, Natural Resources Director, Pueblo of Acoma

The Day was Friday June 21. I had taken the day off to do other stuff but that fell through. I remembered my buddy Aaron had posted some pics of some pretty nice trout he caught at Paguate on facebook, so we decided to go. Diana Marie Ortiz Cerno is the one holding the fish and Elaina Rose Ortiz Cerno is the one in the Cowgirl hat. I had caught a couple of nice ones myself and was putting some fresh bait on my hook when Elaina yelled "sister your pole!!!" Diana grabbed her fishing pole (which was way to big for her because we couldn't find her pole) and wrestled with the fish for a good minute before she got it shore. It put up a good fight on shore but Elaina jumped on it with a rag and they got in the basket! It was very exciting for all of us.



Diana Marie and Elaina Rose Ortiz Cerno

Elaina yelled, "Sister, your pole!!!"



Upcoming HE Classes!

The Pueblo's Conservation officers have scheduled a class on August 3-4, 2013. For more information, contact Alfred Romero at (505) 366-7638 or Jimmy Cheromiah at (505) 681-7220.

The Natural Resources Program will be having a class in October, specific dates and more information will be determined. So, to all you future hunters, see you at the next class!



Uranium at the Jackpile Mine: What we now know.



Author: Chemanji Shu-Nyamboli, POL Environmental Program Manager.

Ever wonder how Uranium from the Jackpile mine is transported and distributed, and how it could impact downstream locations? New research from the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology provides some clues. In a recently completed thesis for her Masters degree in Geochemistry, titled: *Uranium Mobility in Vegetation, Soils and Water below the Jackpile Uranium Mine, New Mexico*, Michaela Gorospe (from Santo Domingo and Laguna Pueblos) takes a look at concentration and distribution of Uranium in plants, water and soil.

Plants, water and soil samples were collected from three locations downstream of the Jackpile uranium mine and two upstream locations. The upstream locations, one on Rio San Jose near Casa Blanca (RSJB) and the other on the Rio Paguete upstream of Paguete village, were used as background locations and as expected, had lower uranium concentrations in plants and soil compared to the sites downstream of the mine.

Analyses of these samples showed large variations in uranium content in plants, but there was a general trend of decreasing uranium concentration in plants with increasing distance downstream from the mine. However, the Rio Paguete Reservoir (RPG04) located downstream of the mine seems to be serving as a trap for uranium particles which later become available to plant life. It is likely that water flowing out of the mine transports uranium-laden sediment, and as it enters into the Rio Paguete Reservoir, the water slows down, causing the uranium-laden sediment to settle out. This creates a pool of uranium, which is available for uptake by plants growing in and around the reservoir. This probably explains why the site just below the mine (RPG03), has lower uranium content in plants than the Rio Paguete Reservoir. During high flows, some of the sediment is flushed to downstream locations as water flows out of the reservoir. The site farthest away from the mine, the Mesita Irrigation Diversion (RPG06), has the lowest uranium concentration in plants.

Most plants did not take up appreciable amounts of uranium. Plants with uranium concentration above 1.0 ppm were located at either RPG04 or RPG03 and included: salt cedar, white clover, cattails, bulrush, milo, prickly lettuce, an unidentified rush and an unidentified underwater grass. However, salt cedars are also among the lowest in uranium concentration at other sites and the Paguete Reservoir. The highest uranium content was found in plant samples growing in flowing water that was downstream of the Paguete Reservoir when its level was quite high behind the dam.

The data gathered suggests that the Rio Paguete at the exit of the mine (RPG03) and the Paguete Reservoir (RPG04) have the highest uranium concentration (above background levels) in plants which can be attributed to higher-than-background uranium content in the soils at these sites. These findings are consistent with results from water quality analysis conducted by the Pueblo of Laguna's Environmental Program in 2012, which showed Uranium concentrations at these two sites to be above the 0.03 ppm threshold set by the USEPA for Safe Drinking Water. Uranium concentrations in the water column also declined further downstream.

In presenting her thesis to the Environmental and Natural Resources Department, Gorospe noted that she had barely scratched the surface, when it comes to researching uranium mobility in the Jackpile mine and that further research needed to be conducted.

Pueblo of Laguna Environmental Program & PNM Electric join efforts in Recycling



The Environmental Program has teamed up with PNM Electric – Community Relations (Albuquerque-Downtown office) to promote recycling within our community. A total of 60 recycling bins were given to the Environmental Program as an effort to get the Pueblo of Laguna community involved in recycling. As of today, there are 11 recycling bins still available and will be distributed on a first come first serve basis. If your Village, school, program or department is willing to participate in recycling, let me know how many recycling bins your requesting and I will drop them off.



Here is a list of items that can be recycled using the bins: empty water bottles, soda cans, energy drink cans, mail, magazines, Xerox paper and newspaper. When the recycling bins are delivered, the Environmental Program staff will assign photos of what can be recycled onto the bins.

As part of our outreach, the Environmental Program will pick up the recyclables on a 2-3 week basis. If pick up needs to be sooner, please contact me and I will arrange for a pick up.

Amy Garcia Environmental Program Office: (505) 552-5043

Email: cgarcia@lagunapueblo-nsn.GOV

Let's Recycle!

Mixed Recyclables

I would like to thank the following programs/departments/entity for their participation: Tribal Administration Building, Accounting Department, Fitness Center, Tribal Courts, Probation Office, Laguna Fire & Rescue, Laguna Elementary School, Laguna Department of Education, Kawaik'a Senior Center, Laguna Rainbow Elderly Center, Tribal Garage, Laguna Housing Department, Community Health & Wellness, Behavior Health, and the Village of Encinal - Recreation Hall.

Drought - Continued from Page 2

less erosion.

Drought impacts many sectors of society and societal interests. All 4 reservoirs fed by the Pecos River are practically dry. Elephant Butte is filled at only 10 percent of capacity, or about 208,000 acre-feet. The cattle inventory in New Mexico is at about 50 percent of what it was before the current drought. Environmental groups are poised to file litigation for priority use of what little water remains. Farmers are affected by not only a lack of rain, but also by windy weather and high temperatures. Small towns dry up as the overall economy declines because farmers, ranchers, and recreationists are no longer purchasing supplies, groceries, and fuel. For urban dwellers and all, food prices increase as animal and crop production decreases. Fire. Wildlife.

Combinations of ocean temperature, sea level pressure, and cloudiness develop into weather patterns called La Nina and El Nino that are the best predictors of weather for New Mexico. The official NOAA forecast for June, July, and August is a strong likelihood of continued drought. And we may also be in for another dry winter. Well, it might rain one of these days.

Post drought decisions. Herds have got to be managed for the long term. In the past, rangelands recovered from previous droughts because livestock numbers were not as high as they are today; and that was related to consumer demand for beef. Severe defoliation of plants limits recovery of grasses. Because horses can graze grasses closer to the ground than cattle, they do more damage and there is absolutely no reason to be overstocked with horses.

Implications of drought on New Mexico's beef cattle industry. Increase in cattle numbers in the northwest and northern plains (U.S.). Herd reduction in NM happened quickly in 2011. How are we going to start depopulating remaining cattle if the drought doesn't break, its important to determine critical time to sell, every cow has to stay in a productive and marketable condition. Important to recognize water hauling benefits wildlife.

The Effects of Drought

Drought can have serious health, social, economic and political impacts with far reaching consequences.

Water is one of the most essential commodities for human survival, second only to breathable air. So when there is a drought, which by definition means having too little water to meet current demands, conditions can become difficult or dangerous very quickly.

The consequences of drought may include:

Hunger and Famine - Drought conditions often provide too little water to support food crops, through either natural precipitation or irrigation using reserve water supplies. The same problem affects grass and grain used to feed livestock and poultry. When drought undermines or destroys food sources, people go hungry. When the drought is severe and continues over a long period, famine may occur.

Thirst - All living things must have water to survive. People can live for weeks without food, but only a few days without water.

Disease - Drought often creates a lack of clean water for drinking, public sanitation and personal hygiene, which can lead to a wide range of life-threatening diseases.

Wildfires - The low moisture and precipitation that often characterize droughts can quickly create hazardous conditions in forests and across range lands, setting the stage for wildfires that may cause injuries or deaths as well as extensive damage to property and already shrinking food supplies.

Social Conflict and War - When a precious commodity like water is in short supply due to drought, and the lack of water creates a corresponding lack of food, people will compete—an eventually fight and kill—to secure water to survive.

Migration or Relocation - Faced with the other impacts of drought, many people will flee a drought-stricken area in search of a new home with a better supply of water, enough food, and without the disease and conflict that were present in the place they are leaving.



Hunter Education

By: Alisha Antonio



May 2012 - HE Class Game Trail Exercise

On June 1-2, 2013, a two-day Hunter Education (HE) class was held at the Public Works conference room. As a first-time Lead Instructor, I can say that the class was a success! Seven out of ten students who pre-registered showed up for the course. We had a few local students from Laguna, Acoma, Grants and some who traveled from Albuquerque and Rio Rancho.

The first day of class consisted of a pre-test, instruction on early firearms, safe firearm handling, wildlife conservation, hunting ethics and overall responsible hunting. The day ended with students practicing for the proficiency test which included: firearm carries, shooting positions, and fence crossing exercises. The final day included: an intro to bow hunting, basic survival and first aid tips, game care, and a game trail was set up to test the students on basic tracking skills. The proficiency and written exams concluded the course. Goody bags were given out and HE patches were awarded to the students upon their successful completion of the class. In addition, students were also rewarded with door prizes throughout the course. Congratulations to all the participants! They are on their way to becoming safe, responsible, and ethical hunters!

A big thank you to: Pat Romero and Frank Ortiz-Cerno (former Natural Resources Program employees), Alvin Poncho, and NM Department of Game and Fish Officers Darrell Cole and Jordan Mitchell, for assisting with the class curriculum as dedicated HE Instructors. I also want to thank Public Works for granting use of the conference room and kitchen, the Natural Resources Program for providing lunch and snacks for both days, and most of all, the parents and guardians of the students for their support by attending the class with them.

Coming Soon - The 2013-14 Pueblo of Laguna Big Game Hunting Season! By: Alisha Antonio

Greetings fellow hunters! It's about that time again to sight in rifles, repair bows, sharpen knives, and maybe treat yourself to purchasing new hunting gear for this year's hunting season. Once the hunting applications came in, before we knew it, we had over 200 applications!

On June 13th, the Natural Resources Program held the public hunt draw in front of a small crowd who waited quietly for their chance to be drawn. Congratulations to all Pueblo and Non-Pueblo hunters that were successfully drawn for the Pueblo hunts! See *Table 1* for the hunting draw results.

Table 1. Number of Applicants drawn for hunts

Type of Hunt	No. of Tags	No. of Applicants
Bear	3	7
Pronghorn Antelope (Buck)	10	45
Big Game – Elderly/Disabled	6	15
Mule Deer (Buck) - General	6	82
Mule Deer (Buck) - Youth	6	8
Barbary Sheep	2	4
Himalayan Tahr	2	5
Total Pueblo	35	166
Elk (Cow)	20	22
Barbary Sheep	2	5
Himalayan Tahr	2	13
Total Non-Pueblo	24	40
Total Pueblo and Non-Pueblo	56	206

The rest of applicants are not reflected in this table because the hunts did not go to a draw. For several of the hunts, there were enough tags for each applicant. The list of applicants for the 2013-2014 Hunting Season was published in the July 2013 issue of the *Kukadze'eta* Town-crier newsletter and posted at the Tribal Building, and the Natural Resources office. An email was also sent out to Pueblo employees.

On June 27th, very few tags were leftover from the hunting draw and available over-the-counter. Currently, only two (2) leftover draw tags remain: one (1) fall turkey and one (1) spring turkey. As for the over-the-counter Open Hunt tags, look for an update in the next issue of the newsletter.

Thanks to Noreen Graham, ENRD Administrative Assistant, for the long hours of logging in data, we now have a hunting database that simplifies the permitting process. Speaking of permits, seventy-seven were mailed to Pueblo hunters on July 1st. Several permits are pending for a few first-time archery hunters who need to qualify. Please call to schedule an archery qualification prior to your hunt. Regular archery hunters, who have qualified within the last two (2) years, do not need to qualify this year. For more information on the hunts, please contact the Natural Resources Program at (505) 552-7512, stop by our office, or email us at info.nr@lagunapueblo-nsn.gov. Thank you!

Use of Silver Dollar and Mt Taylor Properties:

This year ENRD is working to increase the use of the Silver Dollar property by the public with some options available now and hopefully more in the future. Like last year there are fourteen campgrounds available for use by the public with beautiful views of Mt Taylor and a short walk to a scenic overlook into Bear Canyon. We hope that later in the summer four of those sites will become more suitable for day picnics for the whole family with picnic tables and a nearby port-o-potty. Tribal programs looking for a location can make arrangements to use the *Guest House* for youth and the *Silver Dollar Lodge* for adult retreats. The corresponding departments must simply agree to assume responsibility for the building and contents. Noreen Graham has been designated as the *Facilities Coordinator* so contact her to get a copy of the policy and visit the buildings or campgrounds to discuss arrangements. Lastly, we are investigating the feasibility of managing the Trout Pond which is a short half mile away, and have begun excavating earth. Sufficient water availability will be the challenge there – but with some luck maybe sometime it too will become a must-visit picnic and recreation option for Laguna families looking to beat the summer heat!



The Lodge at Silver Dollar



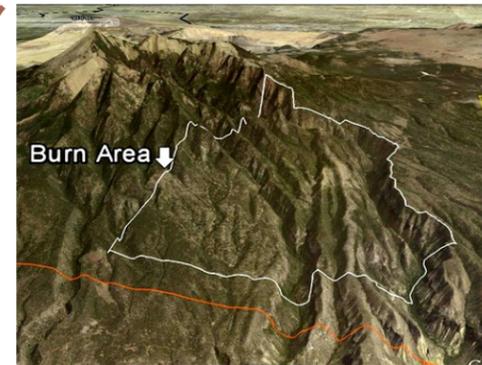
Guest House



Mt Taylor

Note on the Mt. Taylor Property:

Water is not available at the Mt. Taylor facility, so the lodges will not be open this season. Access will be permitted for outdoor events only. You will need to provide your own water and make arrangements with the UA to have portable restroom facilities available for your guests use.



Mt. Taylor Fence Repair -Robert Natseway

The Natural Resource Program is working on repairing fence on the west side of Mt. Taylor where the Garley fire went through back in May 2006. In the satellite photo you can see how it swept up and over the ridge from Forest Service lands and can even see the orange fire retardant that helped contain the blaze. Almost all the trees in the area are down and many fell onto the boundary fence. Since many of the wood fence posts also burnt the fence was in bad shape and required a lot of work. The work is that much harder because of long ride, rough terrain and the difficulty of getting materials to the work-site. Several days were spent cutting the toppled trees lying on the fence and also on road work through the rocky area so it can be accessed by ATV to bring materials.

Long metal fence posts were hauled up by truck and ATVs and pounded into the rocky ground to support some of the original wood posts before fence wire could be tightened. New wire was strung and portions of the fencing mended. On June 14 the repair job of quarter mile of downed fence line was finally completed.

Also, this past winter water running down from a tributary to water cannon was freezing over part of the road in front of the main gate to Mt. Taylor property making access to Laguna property impossible. New Mexico Game and Fish Department responded to our request with heavy equipment to help drain the area making it easier for those that needed access to gather materials.



N.A.L.E.M.P. Update ~By Sabin Chavez, NALEMP Specialist

Greetings again!! POL NALEMP has been busy these past weeks with Site Investigation field work at Eidson Ranch and JATO 1 & 2 sites. The ARCADIS field team conducted soil sampling and visual surveys of portions of the 1, 660-acre portion of Sedillo. This area was investigated to determine if additional munitions items could be located and if other evidence of munitions use existed that could provide additional insight into the use of the JATO #1 and JATO #2 sites. Remedial Investigation (RI) field work has begun in the Montano area at Practice Bombing Range N-9. Thirty-One 100'X100' grids have been set up based on anomaly density from previous aerial data collected. The data collected within the 31 grids will be used to confirm the anomaly density from the aerial data, as well as determine the presence or absence of Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) and/or Munitions Debris (MD) on the surface and within the subsurface. Once the RI has been completed, a Feasibility Study (FS) will be developed to recommend remedial actions for the site.

