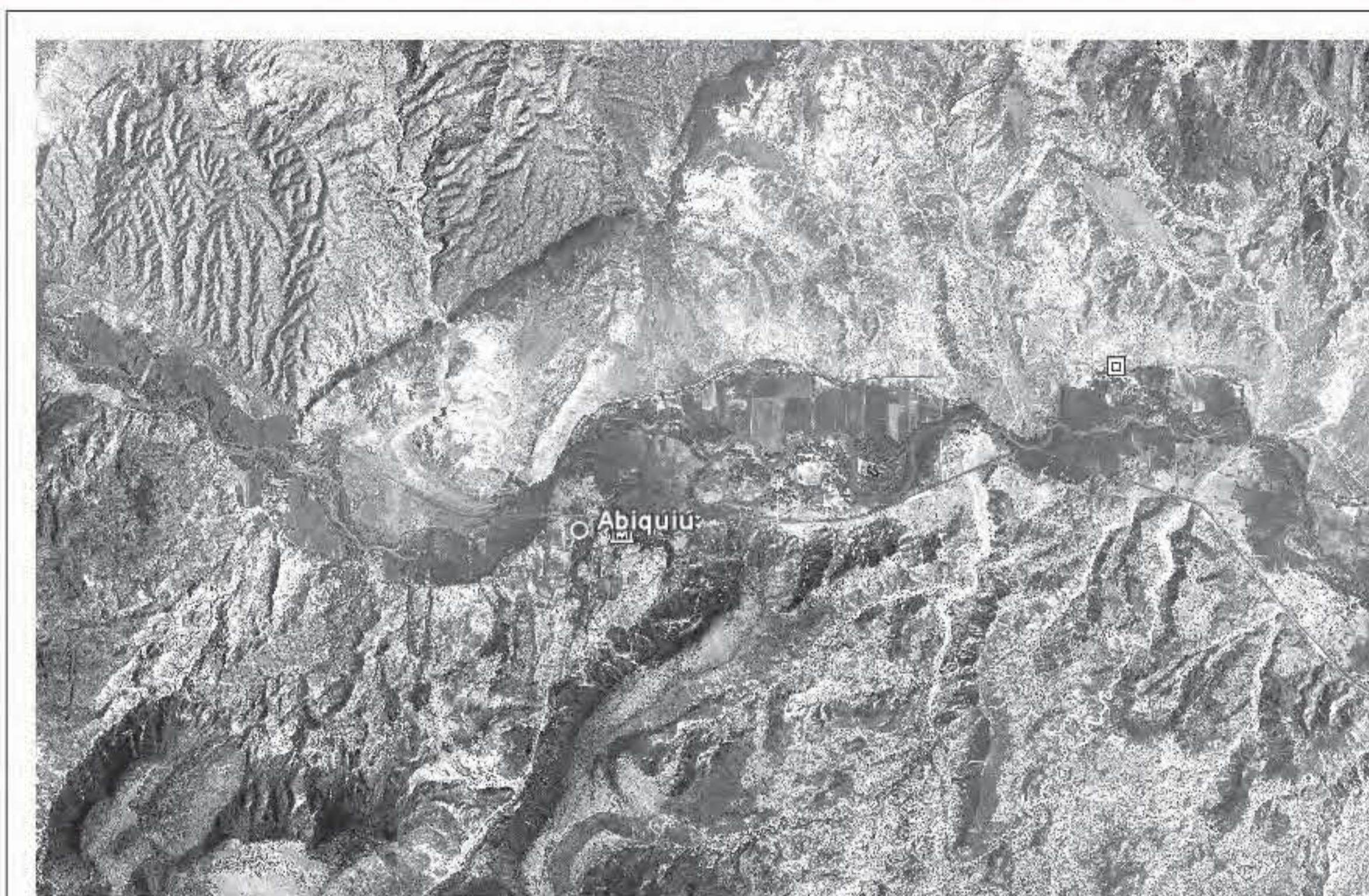


Land, Water, and Community on the Rio Chama, 1200-2010

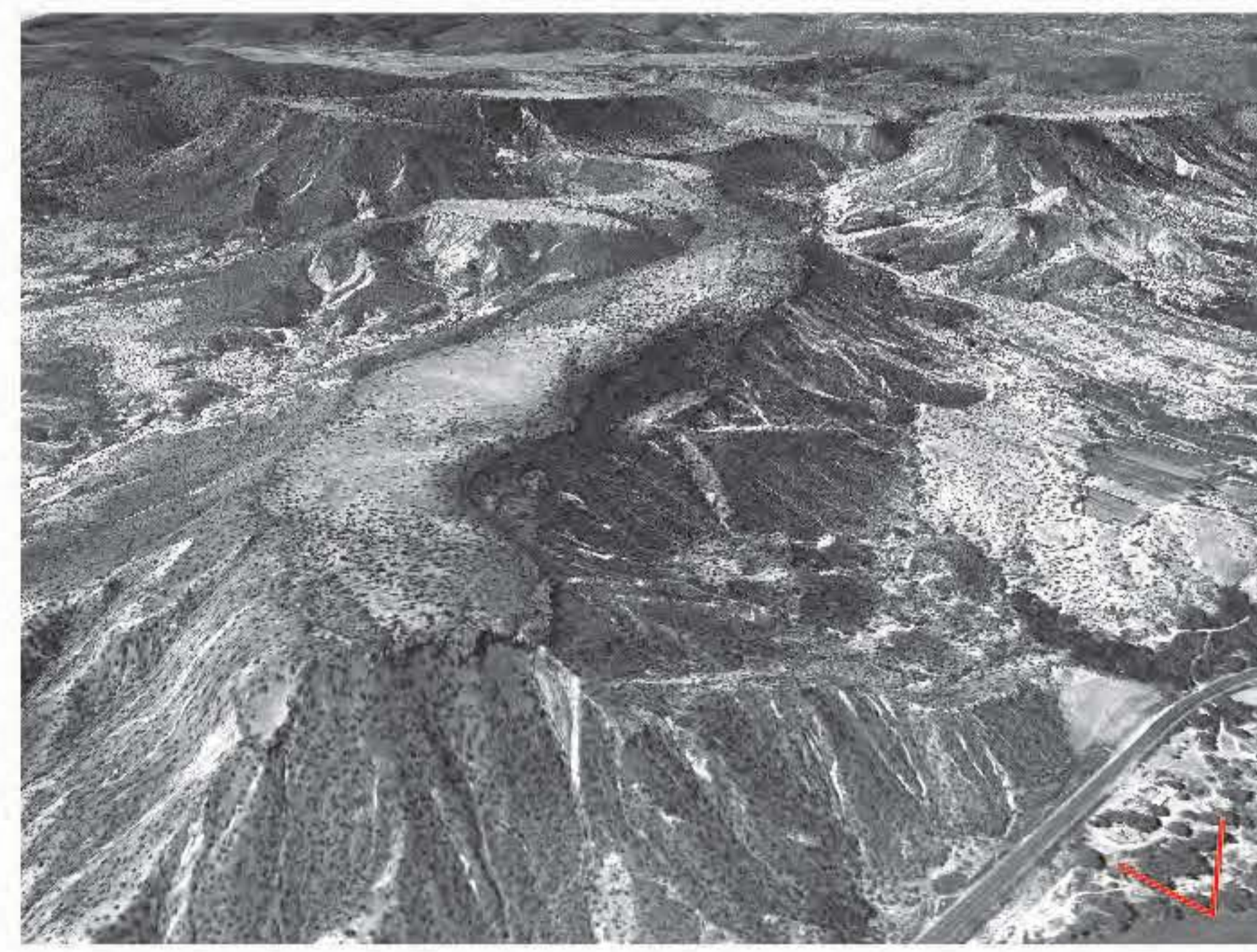
NSF Dynamics of Coupled Natural and Human Systems (CNH). Acequia Water Systems Linking Culture and Nature—Integrating Analysis of Community Resilience to Climate and Land Use Changes Proposed NMSU Sub-award to UNM, Center for Regional Studies, University of New Mexico. UNM Principal Investigator: José A. Rivera, CRS Research Scholar. UNM Graduate Student Research Assistants: Sam Markwell & Jarrett Garcia



Above: 1935 aerial mosaic of lower Chama valley near Abiquiu. Below: 2010 Aerial of same area



Above: 1929 birds-eye aerial image of lower Chama valley near Abiquiu.
Below: 2010 birds-eye aerial of same area (google).
View is looking north-west.



Above: Looking at the Church of Santo Tomás and the main plaza of Abiquiu Pueblo from Moqui (Moque), the palza of the Hopi who built homes on the mesa in the 1740's. Irrigated fields are to the north below the pueblo mesa. (T. Harmon Parkhurst, ca. 1915; courtesy Center for Southwest Research, UNM.

Below: 2011 image of same perspective. Image taken by Jarrett Garcia.



The National Science Foundation is funding this project as part of their Coupled Natural and Human Systems research initiative. The focus is on documenting the changing dynamics of social organization and material technologies of production and subsistence through environmental history and GIS mapping. The acequia landscape of northern New Mexico is one of the richest sites for exploring diverse human-nature interactions.

Case study: Abiquiu has been the site of human developments since the Tewa migrations into the lower Chama during the 13th and 14th centuries. During this period the lower Chama was the site of intensive agricultural development that brought amounts of land into production that are on par with those cultivated today. The region was primarily inhabited by nomadic Ute and Navajo Tribes during the 16th and 17th centuries and did not become the site of the Spanish land grant until the 18th century. Abiquiu was a village that mediated material and cultural exchange on the borderlands of northern New Spain and the vast Ute territories. Abiquiu remains an active acequia village with a rich heritage that has much to teach the modern world.