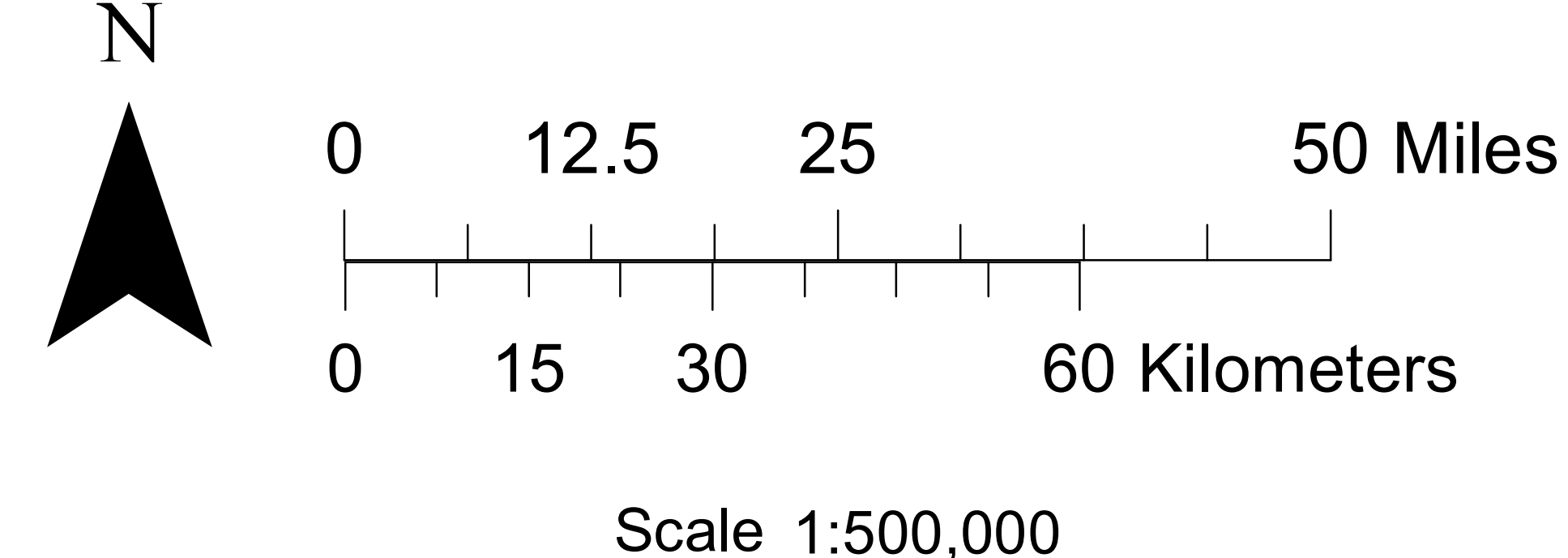
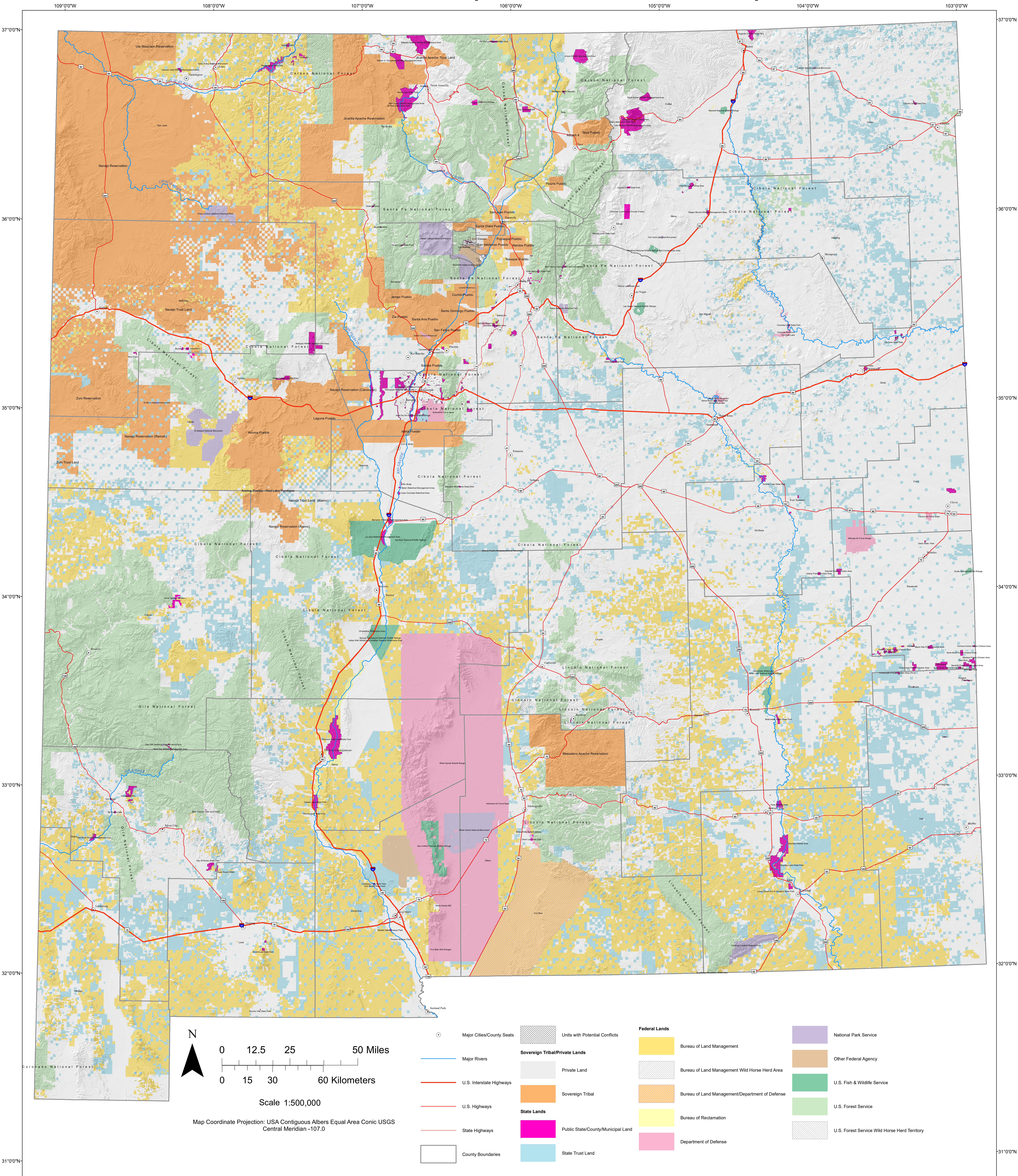


Examination of New Mexico Public Lands in regards to the Wild Horse Act (NMSA 77-18-5, 2007)



Map Coordinate Projection: USA Contiguous Albers Equal Area Conic USGS
Central Meridian -107.0

- Major Cities/County Seats
- Major Rivers
- U.S. Interstate Highways
- U.S. Highways
- State Highways
- County Boundaries
- Units with Potential Conflicts
- Sovereign Tribal/Private Lands**
- Private Land
- Sovereign Tribal
- State Lands**
- Public State/County/Municipal Land
- State Trust Land
- Federal Lands**
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Land Management Wild Horse Herd Area
- Bureau of Land Management/Department of Defense
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Department of Defense
- National Park Service
- Other Federal Agency
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Forest Service Wild Horse Herd Territory

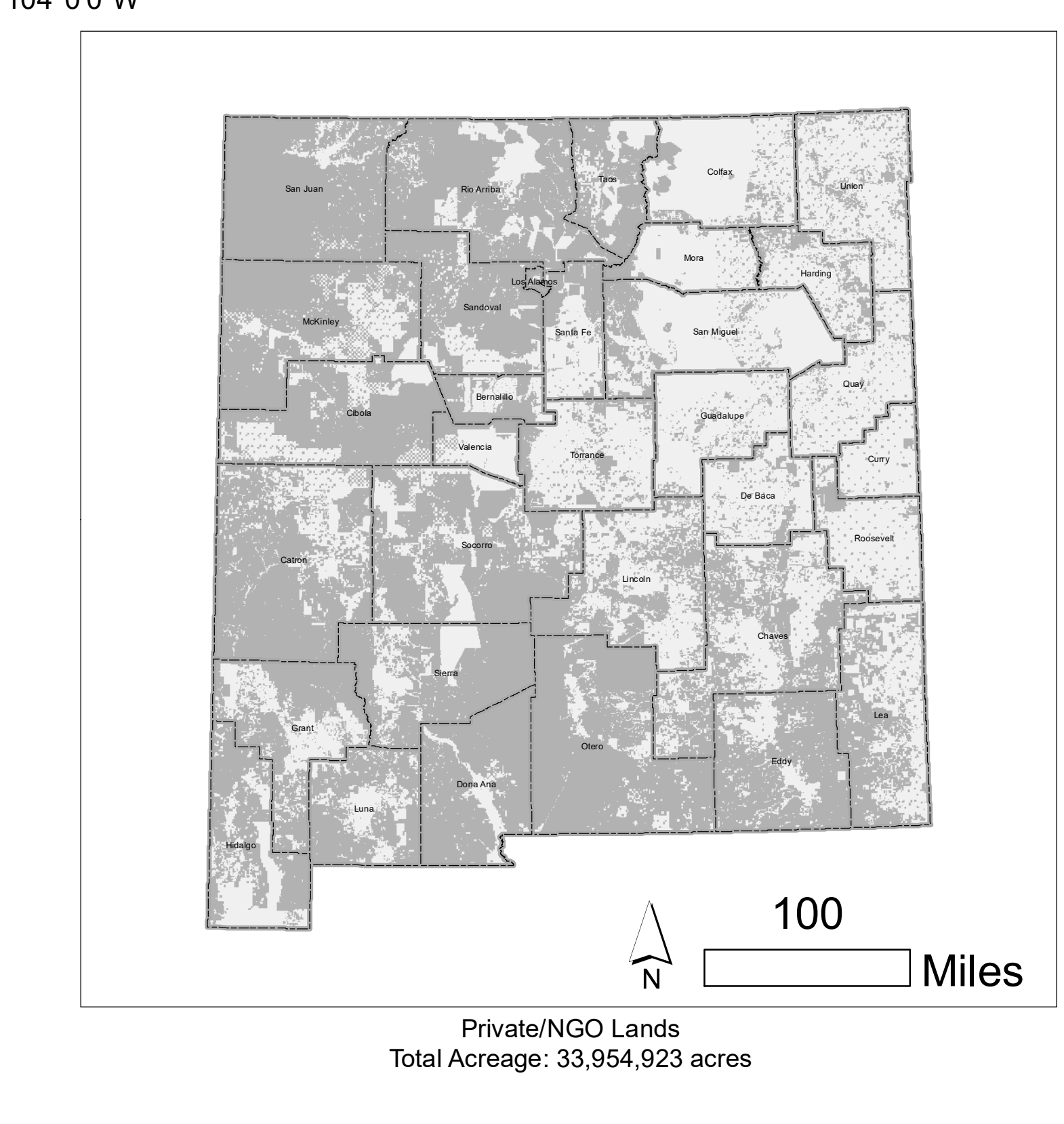
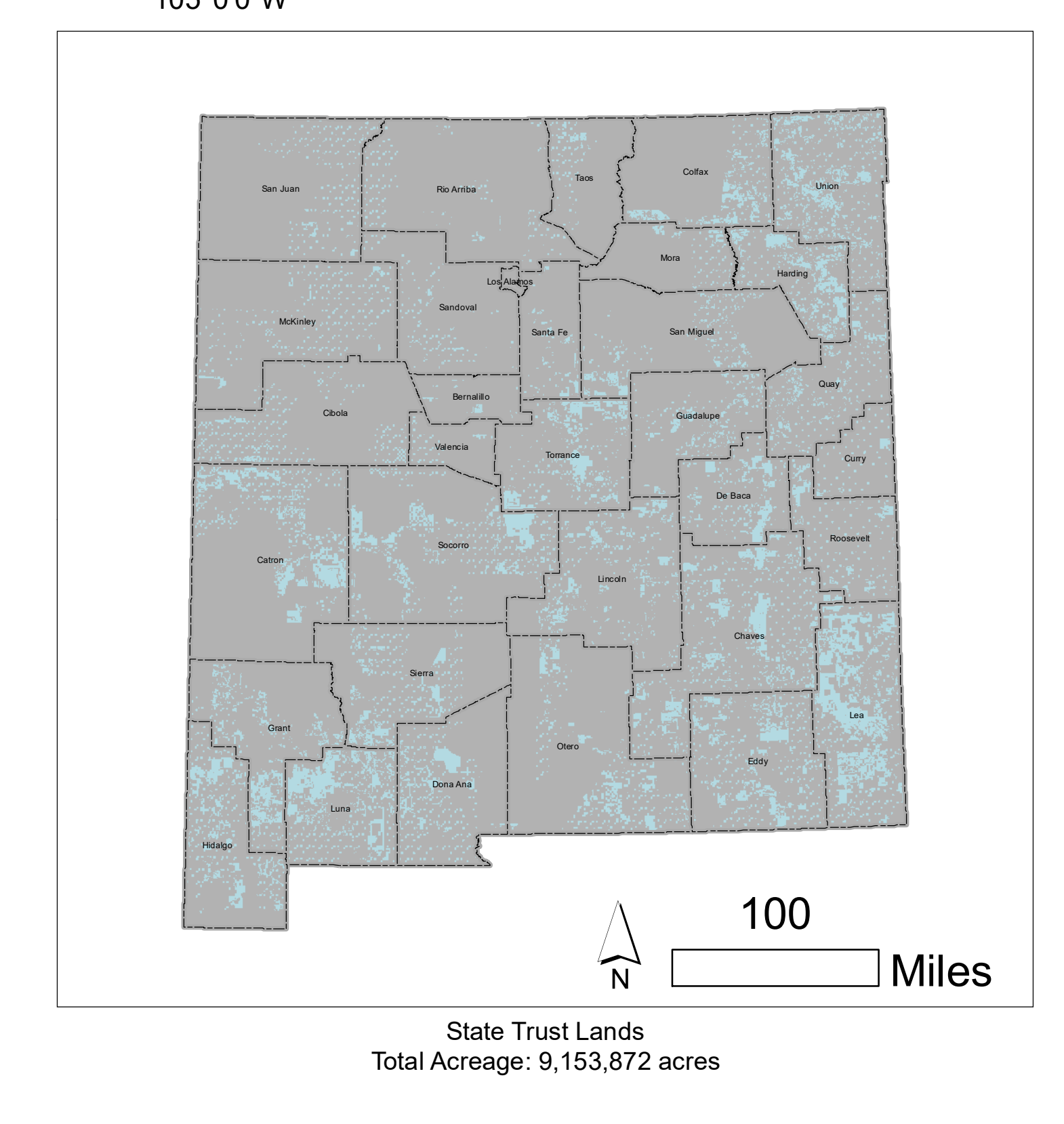
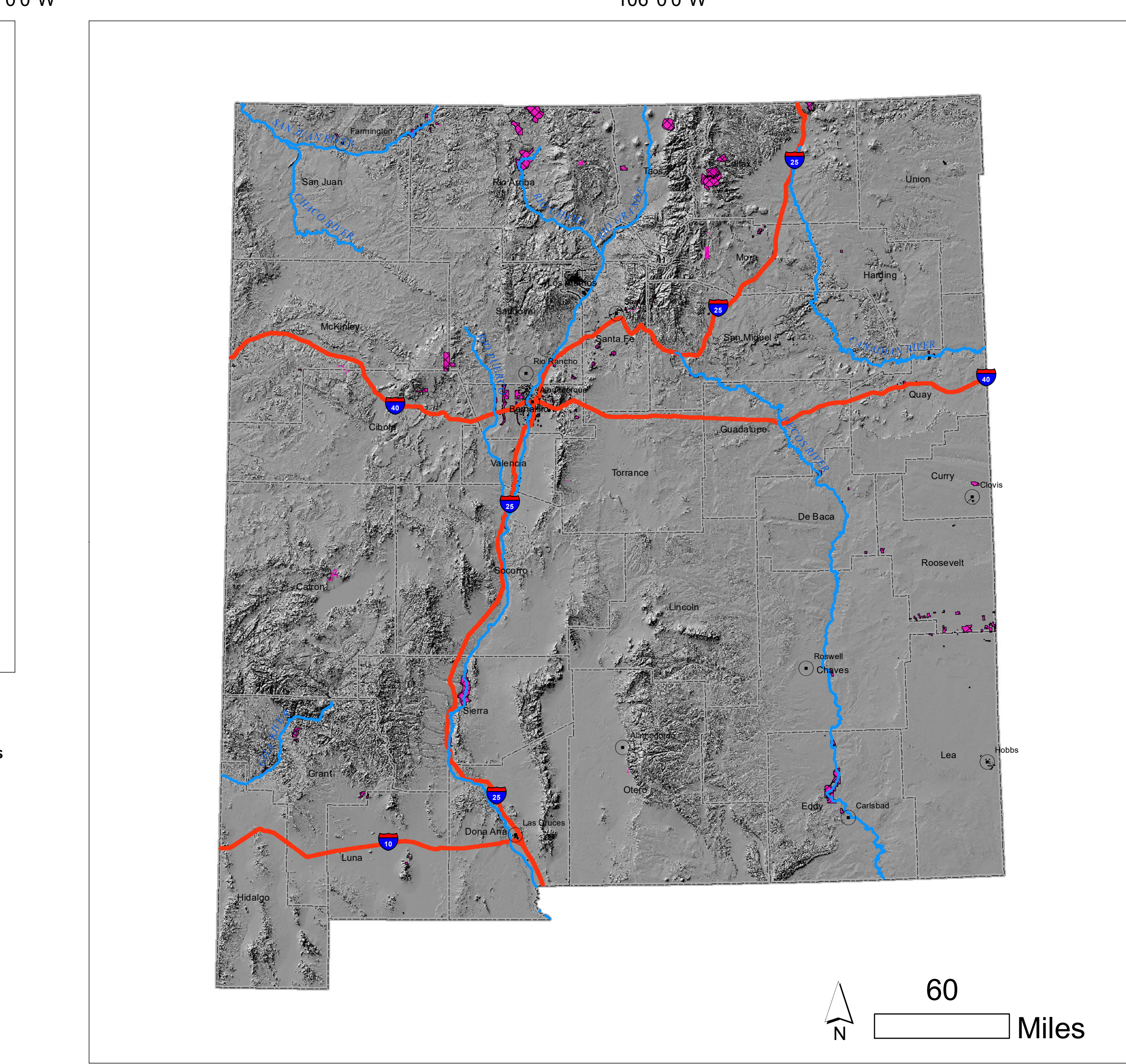
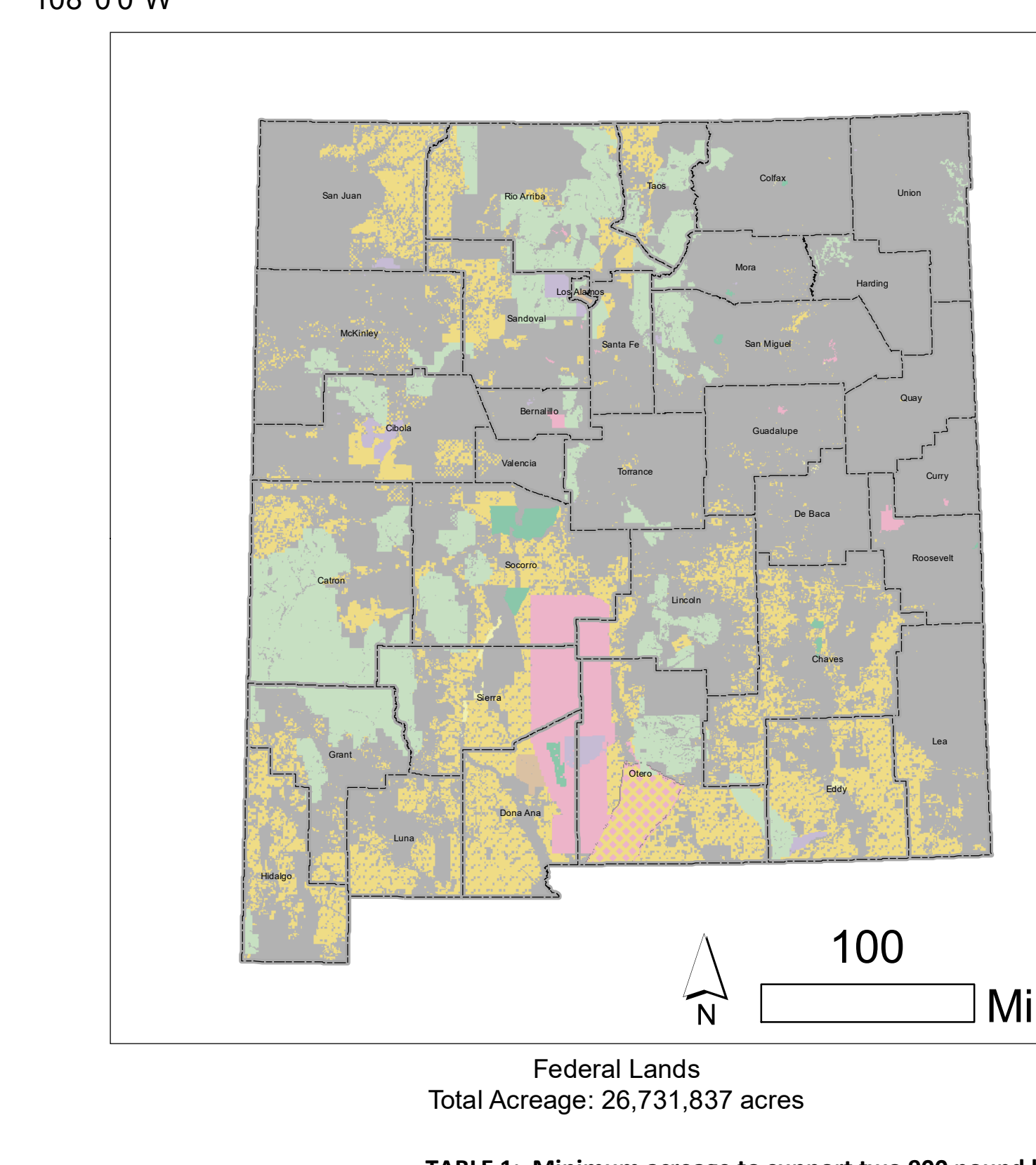
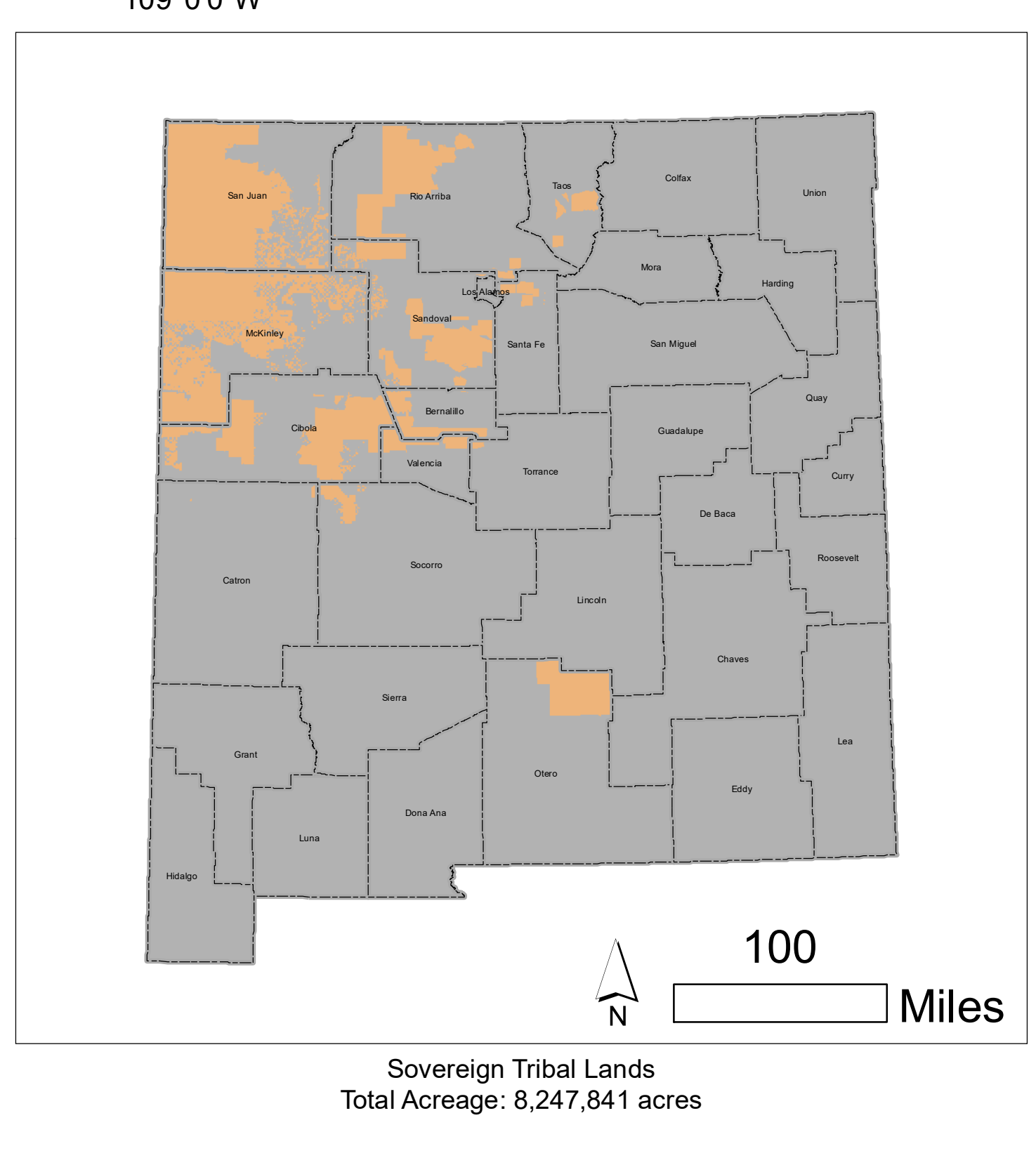


TABLE 1: Minimum acreage to support two 900 pound horses based on estimated forage production levels and percent use of forages associated with ecologically sustainable use.

Lbs/Acre ¹	25% use ²	40% use ²
443 ± 26	176	110
3109 ± 69	70	44

¹Estimated annual forage production was based on available data and not a random sample and may not accurately represent production for specific New Mexico ecological habitats. Estimates represent average low and high forage production across all habitats in the state and therefore annual variability in forage production. Forage production is highly variable based on timing and amount of precipitation.

²Researcher relative grazing use levels of about 20% to 40% are ecologically sustainable in well-regulated habitats. We used these values to develop a range of carrying capacities that generally encompasses the number of horses needed to support 2 horses.

The New Mexico Wild Horse Act (NMSA 77-18-5, 2007) defines a wild horse as an unclaimed horse on public land that is not an estray. The statute indicates New Mexico public lands do not include federal lands controlled by the Bureau of Land Management, USDA Forest Service or New Mexico State Trust Lands. Further, the statute requires certain New Mexico-designated wild horses be placed on state or private preserves, related to New Mexico public lands or held for adoption. Knowing spatial distribution and extent of NM public lands is one important step in implementation of the NM wild horse statute. We used criteria to identify NM public lands that identified all lands managed by a state agency or local government. All federal lands were removed from consideration as NM public lands. New Mexico public land units of less than 100 potential horses falling within or abutting municipalities were classified as representing potential conflicts for ecological and human health and safety purposes. State agencies responsible for management of remaining available NM public land units were contacted to identify potential opportunities or conflicts to implementation of the NM wild horse statute for specific NM public land units. Of a total of 921 sites identified as New Mexico public land, 14 units had no expressed potential for conflict in implementing the NM wild horse statute. Potential conflicts with implementation of the NM wild horse statute included units below the minimum 100 acre minimum (766), units not owned or only partially owned by the state/county agency (85), units within or abutting municipalities (40), units with high human and horse recreational use (8), and units with other potential conflicts (28).

This map is the second in a series of maps being developed for New Mexico Livestock Board to estimate New Mexico public lands potentially under the purview of the New Mexico wild horse act (NMSA 77-18-5 Wild Horses, conformation, history and deoxyribonucleic acid testing, Spanish colonial horses, birth control, 2007). The map may not represent accurately specific and may be subject to the statute. No endorsement by New Mexico State University or any state agency listed or identified on the map is implied. Exact and additional digital data sets are being reviewed to ensure accurate surface ownership representation across the state of New Mexico. Accuracy based on data sets and limitations defined within appropriate metadata.

Map Authors: Product of New Mexico State University's Range Improvement Task Force (RITF) and Center for Applied Spatial Ecology (CASE). For further information contact Dr. Samuel T. Smallage (875-646-9944; ssmallage@nmsu.edu). Data Sources: Data were downloaded from National Geo-Analysis Project (GNAP), Protected Areas Database of the United States (PAD-US 1.4) (<http://spatial.usgs.gov/protectedareas/>), The New Mexico Resource Geographic System (RGIS) (<http://rgis.nmsu.edu/>), New Mexico State Land Office (<http://improvement.nmsu.edu/landoffice/>), New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (<http://www.enr.state.nm.us/ENR/ENRMainPage.html>), Data.gov (<http://www.data.gov/>), and ESRI data (<http://www.esri.com/>).