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*Preserving New Mexico's land  
heritage by helping people  
conserve the places they love.*

## NEW MEXICO LAND CONSERVANCY

Conserving Land. Preserving Heritage.

August 23, 2017

Jim Crosswhite  
EC Bar Ranch  
P.O. Box 32017  
Tucson, AZ 85751

Dear Jim,

This letter is to document New Mexico Land Conservancy's annual monitoring visit to your EC Bar Ranch conservation easement. I visited your property on August 1, 2017 during some dark skies featuring rain and some serious thunder! You have a very beautiful place, the riparian zone you've protected is quite spectacular. I saw no elk in the flesh within the fencing, but I believe I saw some signs of them passing through. I am happy to report I observed no issues regarding the terms of the conservation easement.

I've attached a copy of the completed monitoring report for your records. Let me know if you would like a paper copy as well. We look forward to visiting again next year.

Best,



Jack Steele  
Stewardship Intern

# New Mexico Land Conservancy Monitoring Report 2017



## I. PROPERTY INFORMATION

- NAME OF PROPERTY: EC Bar Ranch
- PROPERTY ACREAGE: 94.2 acres
- DATE EASEMENT GRANTED: November 20, 2009
- DATE OF ANY EASEMENT AMENDMENT(S): None
- EASEMENT CO-HOLDERS / THIRD PARTY ENFORCERS: None
- OWNER/REPRESENTATIVE CONTACT INFORMATION

	Owner	Manager/Representative
Name(s)	EC Bar Ranch LLC James Wayne Crosswhite, LLC	Jim W. Crosswhite
Address	P.O. Box 32017	
City, State, Zip	Tucson, AZ 85751	
Phone	Ranch: (928) 339-4840 Cell: (520) 760-3711	
Email	Jim@ecbarranch.com	

- GENERAL PROPERTY LOCATION AND DIRECTIONS FROM SANTA FE:  
The Easement Property is located along U.S. Highway 180/191 in Apache County, Arizona approximately 13 west of the Arizona/New Mexico border, 15 miles south of the town of Springerville, and just north of the settlement of Nutrioso.

From Santa Fe, take I-25 south for approximately 56 miles to the exit for I-40 west. After 70 miles, take Exit 89 toward Quemado on NM 117. After 57 miles, take a left onto NM 36. After 21.5 miles, arrive at the village of Quemado. Here, take a right on U.S. 60 and continue west for 48 miles to the town of Springerville. At Springerville, turn left at the US 180/191 junction and follow it south for 15.5 miles. Turn right on Apache County Road 2112 for ¼ mile then turn right into EC Bar Ranch headquarters at #20 County Road 2112. Approximate driving distance from Santa Fe is 267 miles and will take at least 5 hours.

- **PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:**  
The Easement Property consists of 94.2 acres of deeded land along 2.9 miles of Nutrioso Creek, a tributary of the Little Colorado River. Included in the acreage are the 100-year FEMA flood plain and an additional 100 feet on each side of the flood plain boundary. Nutrioso Creek is considered semi-perennial and contributes significant natural habitat values to the ecosystem along with limited cattle grazing.
- **DESCRIPTION OF AREAS OF SPECIAL CONCERN, FEATURES OR RESTRICTIONS:**  
No building envelopes exist on the Easement Property. Nutrioso Creek and its sensitive riparian area runs through the length of the property. Access/utility easements associated with the property include a burial plot, an irrigation ditch, and easements for three adjoining parcels for utilities.

## **II. MONITORING INFORMATION**

- **DATE(S) OF INSPECTION:** August 1, 2017
- **GENERAL WEATHER CONDITIONS (temp, cloud cover, precip):** Cloudy and rainy, some thunder, 60's
- **ROAD CONDITIONS IF APPLICABLE (describe problem areas):** Not applicable
- **IF AVAILABLE, APPROXIMATE PRECIPITATION TOTAL FOR PREVIOUS YEAR:** Not available
- **LIST ALL PERSONS ATTENDING INSPECTION:** Jack Steele
- **TIME SPENT ON INSPECTION:** 3 hours
- **WAS THE OWNER/REPRESENTATIVE CONTACTED PRIOR TO INSPECTION?** Y N
- **DID THE OWNER/REPRESENTATIVE ACCOMPANY MONITOR?** Y N
- **WAS THE EASEMENT REVIEWED PRIOR TO INSPECTION?** Y N
- **WAS THE PROPERTY TRANSFERRED SINCE THE LAST REPORT?** Y N
 

o	IF YES:	DEED FROM:	DEED TO:
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- **IS THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY FOR SALE?** Y N

### **III. MONITOR OBSERVATIONS**

- **NATURAL AND/OR AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITIES OBSERVED.** *Note any rare species.*  
Riparian vegetation including sedges, rushes, and willows dominate along Nutrioso Creek. Planted alder and cottonwood trees also flank the creek bottom. The grassland portion of the Property consists of native grasses, including blue grama and western wheatgrass, as well as shrubs such as rabbitbrush and skunkbush. Numerous wildflower species were noted during this year's visit, including extensive showy milkweed. Fresh elk tracks were present on the Property, and other species observed include Monarch butterflies, coyote, Northern flicker, mountain bluebird, chipping sparrows, scrub jay, magpie, cottontail, American kestrel, several unidentified warblers (possibly Wilson's) among others. Some areas of weedy forbs exist, but otherwise the vegetation is in incredible shape with high diversity and good biomass.
  
- **DESCRIBE CURRENT MANAGEMENT AND LAND USE WITHIN THE EASEMENT:**  
The Property is used for cattle/horse grazing when conditions allow. The landowner also works with the state and federal agencies to increase the Property's wildlife habitat value through restoration projects like willow and cottonwood plantings. Musk thistle is removed, although still prevalent. These efforts are aimed at increasing habitat for threatened and endangered species like the New Mexico Meadow Jumping Mouse, the Little Colorado River Spinedace and the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher.
  
- **LIST AND DESCRIBE ANY MANAGEMENT CHANGES SINCE LAST INSPECTION.** *Describe the activity or alteration. Note location and extent. Document with maps, photos, and/or illustrations.*
  - ◆ \_\_\_\_\_ AGRICULTURAL/OPERATIONAL CHANGES:
  - ◆ \_\_\_\_\_ LAND USE CHANGES:
  - ◆ \_\_\_\_\_ ECOSYSTEM/SPECIES PRESERVATION:
  - ◆ \_\_\_\_\_ SCIENTIFIC (research, surveys, etc.):
  - ◆ \_\_\_\_\_ RECREATIONAL OR EDUCATIONAL:
  - ◆ \_\_\_\_\_ WILDLIFE OR HABITAT MANAGEMENT/RESTORATION:
  - ◆ \_\_\_\_\_ EXOTICS OR DISEASE CONTROL:
  - ◆ \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER:
  
- **LIST AND DESCRIBE ANY MAN-INDUCED ALTERATIONS SINCE LAST INSPECTION.** *Describe the activity or alteration. Note location and extent. Document with maps, photos, and/or illustrations.*
  - ◆ \_\_\_\_\_ CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS, STRUCTURES OR ANY OTHER IMPROVEMENTS:

◆ \_\_\_\_\_ EROSION OR OTHER SOIL DISTURBANCE:

◆ \_\_\_\_\_ OHV/ORV USE:

◆ \_\_\_\_\_ FERAL ANIMALS AND/OR EXOTIC PLANTS:

◆  X  TRESPASSING AND/OR BOUNDARY ENCROACHMENT: We found during our visit that there was evidence of recent elk activity within the wildlife corridor, gaining passage to Nutrioso Creek.

◆ \_\_\_\_\_ TRASH DUMPING AND/OR VANDALISM:

◆ \_\_\_\_\_ CONTINUAL OVERUSE:

◆ \_\_\_\_\_ DISEASE (plant or animal):

◆ \_\_\_\_\_ POLLUTION:

◆ \_\_\_\_\_ DEFERRED REQUIRED MAINTENANCE:

◆ \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER:

◆ LIST AND DESCRIBE ANY SIGNIFICANT NATURAL ALTERATIONS SINCE LAST INSPECTION. *Describe the alteration. Note location and extent. Document with maps, photos, and/or illustrations.*

◆ \_\_\_\_\_ EFFECTS OF DROUGHT:

◆ \_\_\_\_\_ FLOOD:

◆ \_\_\_\_\_ FIRE:

◆ \_\_\_\_\_ WIND:

◆ \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER:

• DESCRIBE ANY CHANGES AND/OR ACTIVITIES **PERMITTED UNDER** THE TERMS OF THE EASEMENT. *Such as construction of buildings, facilities, general improvements, roads, water infrastructure. Include all reserved rights exercised since last inspection. Note location and extent and any changes and/or activities and attach maps, photos, and/or illustrations as necessary.*

A viewing tower along Nutrioso Creek (photo point 9) has been removed. All that remains is the concrete pad foundation.

• DESCRIBE ANY CHANGES AND/OR ACTIVITIES **WHICH MAY BE INCONSISTENT WITH** THE TERMS OF THE EASEMENT. *Such as construction of buildings, facilities, general improvements, roads, water infrastructure. Note location and extent and any changes and/or activities and attach maps, photos, and/or illustrations as necessary.*

None noted.

- NOTE ANY OBSERVED CHANGES IN ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERSHIP OR CONDITION. NOTE ANY CONTACT WITH NEIGHBORING LANDOWNERS.

None noted.

- LANDOWNER/REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS. *Include any landowner/representative comments specifically related to the terms of the conservation easement and changes in land use or management.*

Jim was unavailable to meet us for this year's visit, but over the phone he reported there were no major changes on the property in the past year.

Links to Jim's photo and video monitoring of the creek:

<http://www.ecbarranch.com/monitoring/8-27-14/start.htm>

[http://www.ecbarranch.com/monitoring/8-27-14/Videos\\_2014.htm](http://www.ecbarranch.com/monitoring/8-27-14/Videos_2014.htm)

#### **IV. SUMMARY, STATUS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- SUMMARY. *Provide a brief narrative. Information from previous reports must be incorporated if available. Include impressions of long-term trends and conditions of the site.*

The property is in a much similar condition to that noted in the 2016 monitoring report. The creek seemed to be at a stable level, and vegetation has clearly been benefitting from the recent moisture. The property is providing important wildlife habitat and water quality benefits to the Nutrioso Creek watershed. The wildlife corridor is working as designed in allowing passage to Nutrioso Creek. There were no signs of large game within 8 foot fences. The terms of the easement are being met by the landowner.

- STATUS OF COMPLIANCE.

- NO VIOLATION(S) OF EASEMENT TERMS OBSERVED
- UNSURE DUE TO THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR EVALUATION
- SOME EVIDENCE OR ACTIVITIES WERE OBSERVED WHICH MAY BE IN VIOLATION OF THE EASEMENT

- SUGGEST ANY ACTIONS THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN AS A RESULT OF THIS SITE MONITORING VISIT:  
None noted.

- INFORMATION AND SUGGESTIONS FOR 2018 MONITORING VISIT:

- Make sure to coordinate with the landowner beforehand; he may be able to provide ATV transportation if conditions are appropriate. Do not drive the truck on the easement property.
- Future reports may mention, in addition to LC spinedace and SW willow flycatcher, the endangered New Mexico meadow jumping mouse has 225 acres of critical habitat on the Property.

- DESCRIBE LOCKED GATES, COMBOS AND/OR KEYS NEEDED, OR OTHER RELEVANT ACCESS INFORMATION:

Some gates are locked, but contact Jim for up-to-date access advice.

**V. MONITOR CONTACT INFORMATION**

NAME: Jack Steele

TITLE: Stewardship Intern

ADDRESS: PO Box 6759, Santa Fe, NM 87502

PHONE: 505-986-3801

EMAIL: [jsteele@nmlandconservancy.org](mailto:jsteele@nmlandconservancy.org)

SIGNATURE OF MONITOR: Jack Steele DATE: 8/23/2017

\*This report is a record of one person's observations during one visit. It is not intended to be a statement of landowner compliance of the conservation easement.

**VI. DESCRIPTION OF ENCLOSURES AND ATTACHMENTS**

Indicate the number of the following items accompanying this report:

- Aerial photos
- 19   Ground photos
- 1    Maps and Illustrations
- Additional documentation

Other \_\_\_\_\_

If attachments are separated from this report, note their location:

### **VIII. PHOTODOCUMENTATION LIST**

*Fill in the table below for all photos taken during the monitoring site visit. Also attach a map showing the location where the photo(s) were taken.*

<b>Photo #</b>	<b>Photo Description</b>	<b>UTM Northing (meters)</b>	<b>UTM Easting (meters)</b>
1-1	View of Nutrioso Creek and headgate from bridge along County Road 2112	3767122	111205
1-2	View of neighboring property and Nutrioso Creek from bridge along County Road 2112	3767122	111205
2-1	View of gate that accesses the Burlal Plot Access Easement area	3767219	111199
3-1	View of Irrigation Ditch Access Easement from Nutrioso Creek Road	3767456	111346
4-1	View of Parcel 1 Access and Utility Easement area	3767230	111328
4-2	View of ranch headquarters and access area to the Parcel 1 Access and Utility Easement area	3767230	111328
5-1	View of existing water infrastructure within the Parcel 1 Access and Utility Easement area	3767250	111359
6-1	View of Nutrioso Creek at juncture of Reach 1 and 2 from established vegetation monitoring photopoint JC3	3767420	111474
7-1	View south of Nutrioso Creek at juncture of Reach 2 and 3 from established vegetation monitoring photopoint JC2	3767792	111712
7-2	View north of Nutrioso Creek at juncture of Reach 2 and 3 from established vegetation monitoring photopoint JC2	3767792	111712
8-1	View of Parcel 2 Water Utility Easement area	3768222	112059
9-1	View of existing tower along Nutrioso Creek	3768282	112050
10-1	View south of Nutrioso Creek and Property from tower. Reach 3 to Reach 4.	3768304	112047
10-2	View north of Nutrioso Creek and Property from tower. Reach 3 to Reach 4.	3768304	112047
11-1	View of livestock/wildlife crossing bridge	3768704	111975
12-1	View of bridge from where Reach 4 transitions into Reach 5	3768743	111959
13-1	View of Nutrioso Creek from northernmost point of Property (formerly photopoint 14)	3769491	112224
14-1	View of potential access point to northern Property (formerly photopoint 15)	3768661	112177



PHOTODOCUMENTATION:



Photo 1-1: View of Nutrioso Creek and headgate from bridge along County Road 2112



**Photo 1-2: View of neighboring property and Nutrioso Creek from bridge along County Road 2112**



**Photo 2-1: View of gate that accesses the Burial Plot Access Easement area**



**Photo 3-1: View of Irrigation Ditch Access Easement from Nutrioso Creek Road**



**Photo 4-1: View of Parcel 1 Access and Utility Easement area**





**Photo 4-2: View of ranch headquarters and access area to the Parcel 1 Access and Utility Easement area**



**Photo 5-1: View of existing water infrastructure within the Parcel 1 Access and Utility Easement area**



**Photo 6-1: View of Nutrioso Creek at juncture of Reach 1 and 2 from established vegetation monitoring photopoint JC3**



**Photo 7-1: View south of Nutrioso Creek at juncture of Reach 2 and 3 from established vegetation monitoring photopoint JC2**



**Photo 7-2: View north of Nutrioso Creek at juncture of Reach 2 and 3 from established vegetation monitoring photopoint JC2**



**Photo 8-1: View of Parcel 2 Water Utility Easement area**





**Photo 9-1: View of existing tower along Nutrioso Creek (tower has been removed)**

**Tower removed**

**Photo 10-1: View south of Nutrioso Creek and Property from tower Reach 3 to Reach 4.**

**Tower Removed**

**Photo 10-2: View north of Nutrioso Creek and Property from tower Reach 3 to Reach 4.**



**Photo 11-1: View of livestock/wildlife crossing bridge**

**Photo Missed**

**Photo 12-1: View of bridge from where Reach 4 transitions into Reach 5**

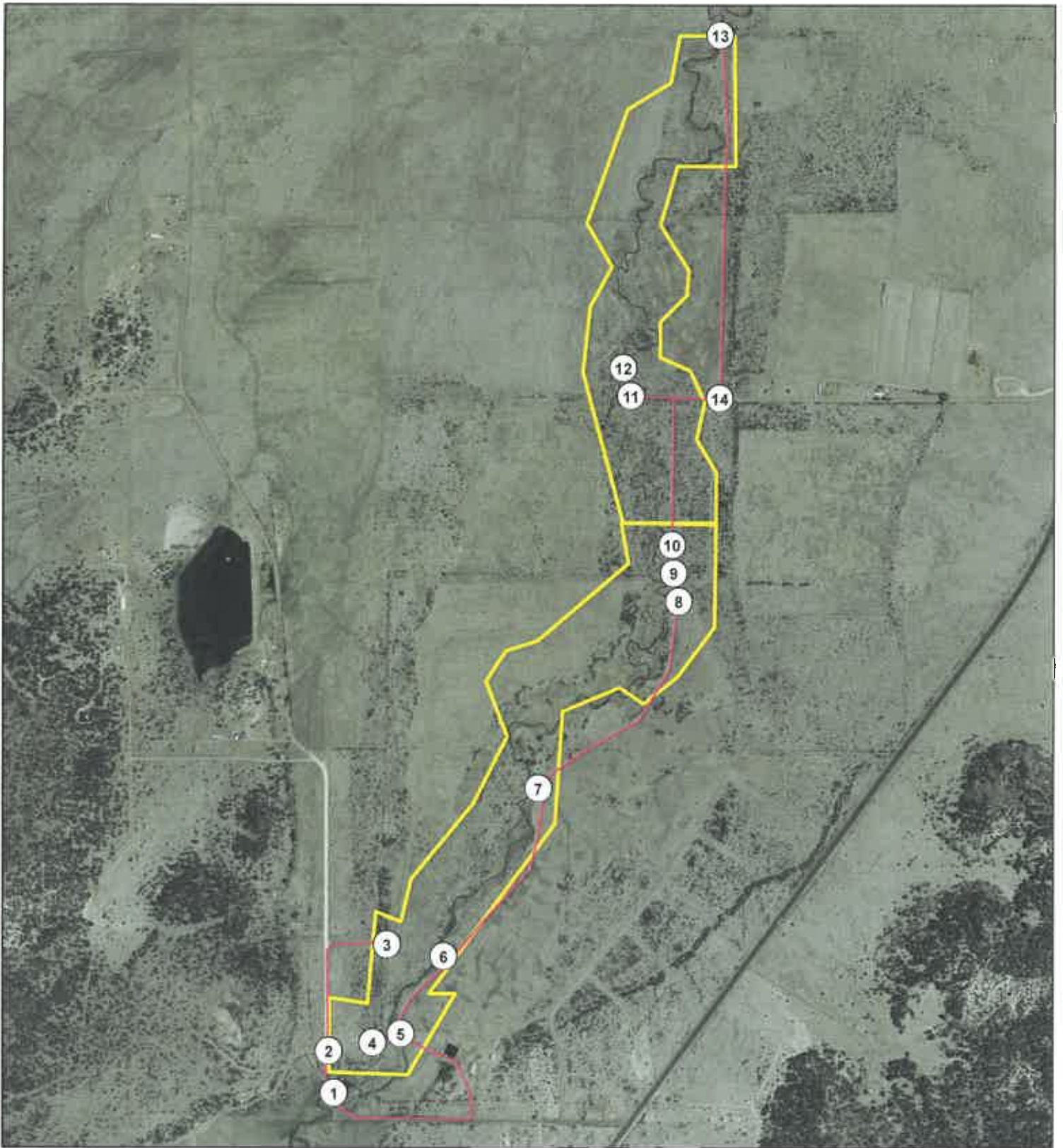




**Photo 13-1: View of Nutrioso Creek from northernmost point of Property  
(Formerly photopoint 14)**






**Photo 14-1: View of potential access point to northern Property  
(Formerly photopoint 15)**



# EC Bar Ranch Conservation Easement 2017 Monitoring Map

Date monitored: August 1, 2017



-  Easement Boundary
-  Monitoring Path
-  Photo-points



**NEW MEXICO**  
**LAND CONSERVANCY**

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UTM Zone 12N  
Data Sources: NAIP (2013), NMLC  
7/7/2015 Forest Replogle

