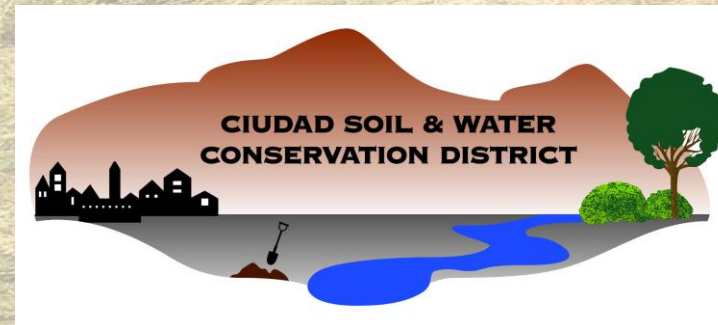
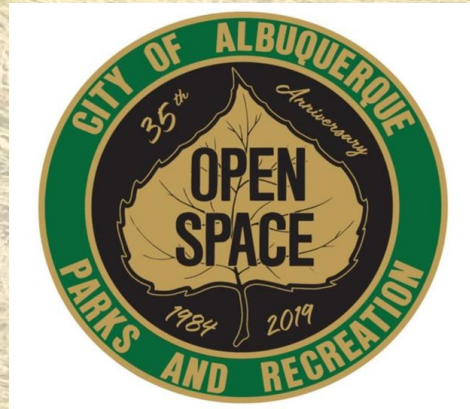


# Candelaria Nature Preserve

## 2021 Operational Report



Sean Ludden, Programs Coordinator  
Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District



# Summer 2021

- Partnered with COA-OSD
- RFP initiated to select contractor
- Assessed site conditions (67.28 acres)
- Soils assessments
- Species present (incl. invasive)
- Important habitat features/areas
- Infrastructure, equip., materials available
- Staging of materials needed
- Evaluated approaches with Habitat Council





# Progress towards target habitats

- Cessation of commercial farming
  - 25 acres managed for wildlife farming
- Plan enacted to limit further growth and dispersal of exotics
- Prioritized fields for irrigation
- Select use of cover crops, cultivation
- Mowing, hand removal, wood chips
- Goat and sheep grazing treatment
- Fallowed fields with target dry soil regimes
- Introduced 1 woody habitat feature
- Planning and design to implement active restoration in field 1B
- Thin hedgerow areas ~10%





100% soil cover, minimal weed pressure  
Diverse cover crops, migratory bird forage





# Plant Materials

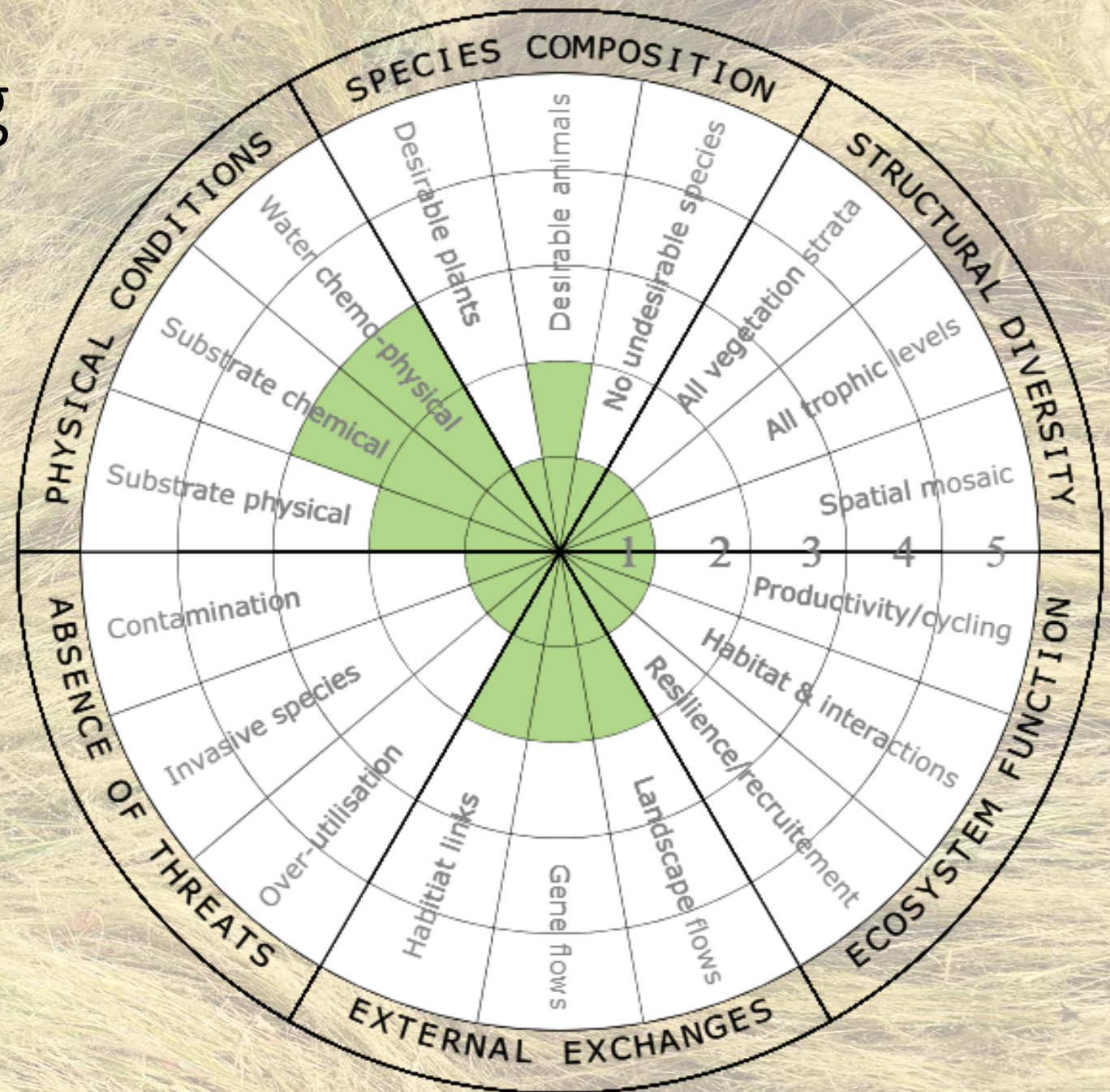
- Early start on developing on-site nursery
- ~4000 seedlings purchased
- Primarily shrub species from local provenance
- Volunteer assistance to set up nursery space and to pot up plant materials
- Expanding nursery and seed on hand to facilitate restoration
- Direct engagement and site of learning
- Partner-building and planning





# Next Steps: monitoring

- Build on BEMP monitoring to evaluate species richness, abundance
- Evaluate plant mortality and vegetation analysis
  - Exotic species presence
- Monitor for soil changes
  - Compaction, aggregate stability
- Photos and documentation ongoing





# Into 2022

- CSWCD awarded \$38,000 in additional funds in FY21
- ~40 hours of volunteer effort
- 2 interpretive tours provided in winter
- Active restoration planned
  - Field 1B towards salt-shrubland habitat
- Limited water deliveries possible
- Management of fields 1C, 4A
- Attention towards education and outreach opportunities
- Greater inclusion of Friends of CNP for projects, tours, and monitoring





# Thank you!

Sean Ludden, Programs Coordinator

Ciudad Soil & Water Conservation District

(505) 510-DIRT

[ciudadprograms@gmail.com](mailto:ciudadprograms@gmail.com)

Physical Address - 100 Sun Ave. NE, Suite 160, Albuquerque, NM 87109

Mailing Address - PO Box 93463, Albuquerque, NM 87199

