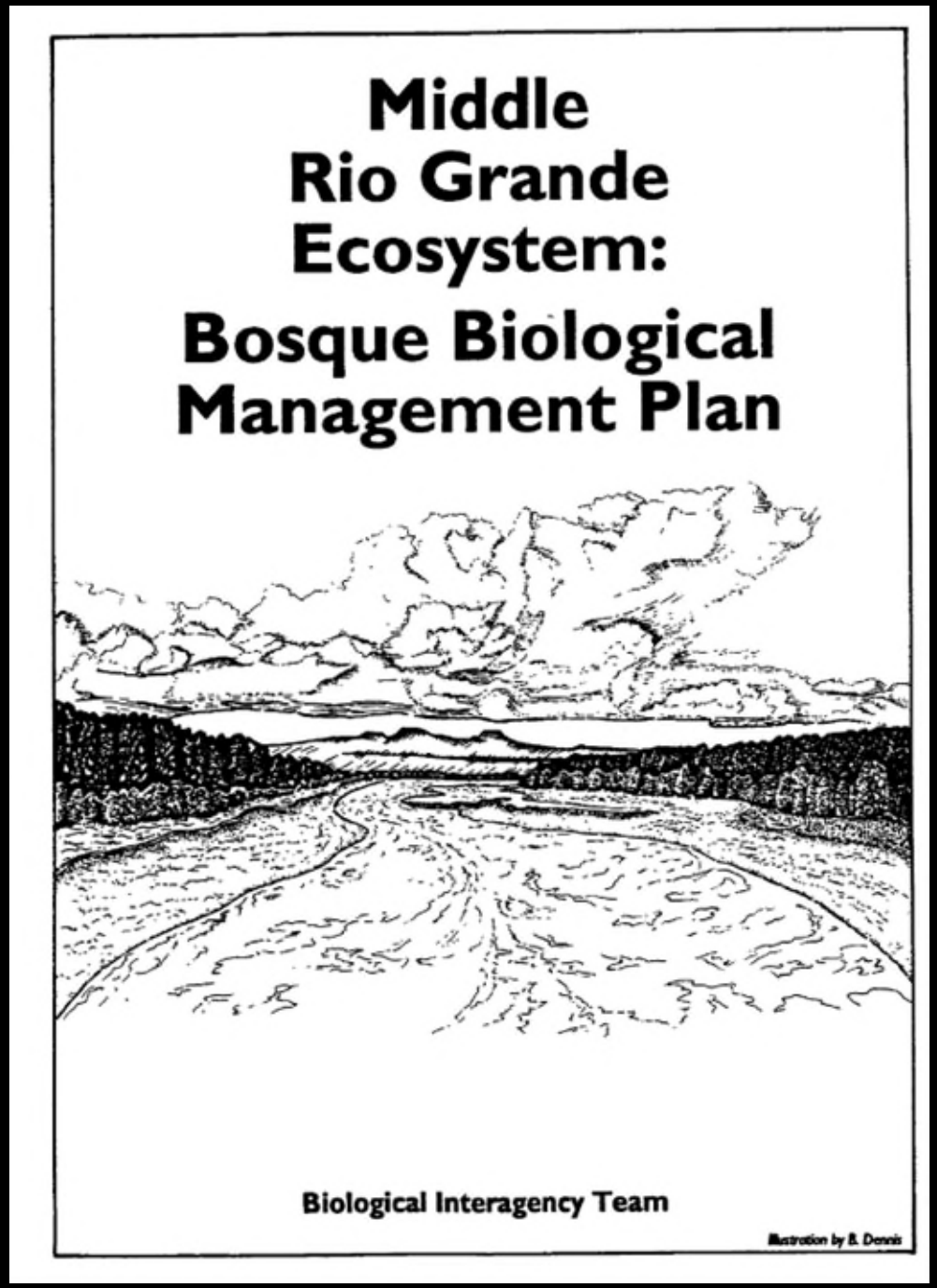


The plan's goals are as follows.

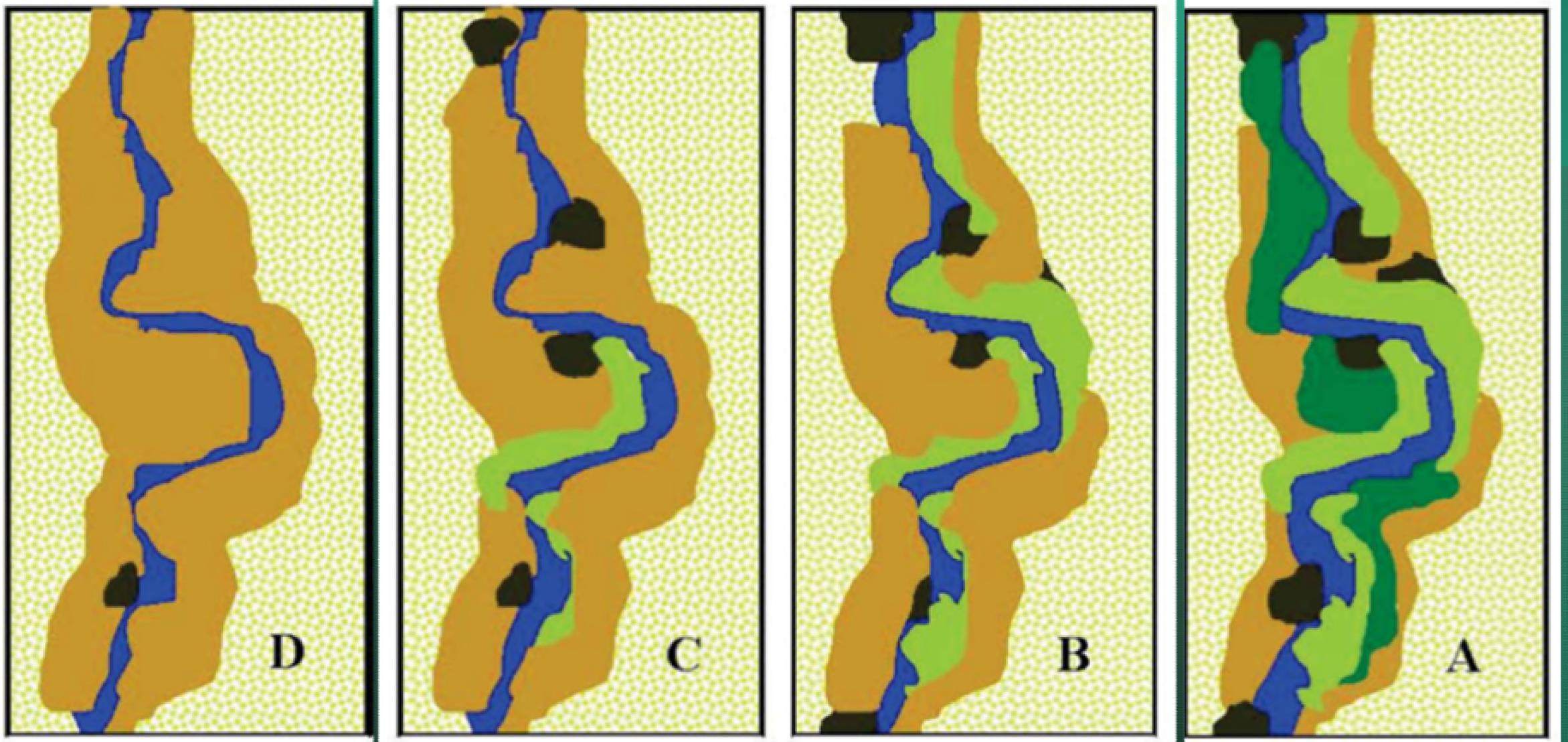
(1) Synthesize past and present available information about the ecosystem.

(2) Identify key species, communities, and ecological processes essential to sustaining the ecosystem's biological quality and integrity.

(3) Recommend methods for establishing and maintaining these species, communities, and processes.

(4) Recommend procedures for monitoring, conducting research, and managing the ecosystem.

(5) Identify procedures for incorporating new information and recommendations into the management plan.



Middle Rio Grande Conservation Action Plan

Framework and Status Assessment

Final Report

April 2015

MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Colorado Natural Heritage Program
Connecting Conservation and Science

NATURAL HERITAGE NEW MEXICO

Museum of Southwestern Biology

UNM

Middle Rio Grande Conservation Action Plan Update!

Middle Rio Grande Conservation Action Plan

Conservation Action Planning is an adaptive management planning process developed by the Conservation Measures Partnership and embraced worldwide as the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation.

The CAP process facilitates open, multi-institutional collaboration on a common conservation agenda through organized actions and quantified results.

It has been developed, tested, and continuously refined by conservation leaders across the world—provide a clear, systematic approach to managing, monitoring, planning, and learning from past conservation efforts.

Conservation Action Plans Around the World

Middle Rio Grande Conservation Action Plan
Some of Our Incredible Partners

Grace Haggerty NMISC	Esteban Muldavin Natural Heritage NM, UNM	Elizabeth Milford Natural Heritage NM, UNM	Eric Gonzales Bureau of Reclamation	Tom Turner UNM	Mick Porter USACE	Rich Valdez SWCA
Kathy Granillo Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge	Joan Hashimoto Corrales Bosque Advisory Commission	Trevor Fetz Hawks Aloft	Meaghan Conway NM DGF	Katie McVey USFWS Valle del Oro	Yasmeen Najmi MRGCD	Chuck Hayes USFWS
Amy Erickson Audubon	Ondrea Hummel Tetra Tech	Elizabeth Milford Natural Heritage NM, UNM	Kim Eichhorst BEMP	Colleen McRoberts COA, Open Space	Gina Dello Russo Save Our Bosque Task Force	Dagmar Llewellyn Bureau of Reclamation
Emma Kelly Bureau of Reclamation	Cameron Weber Rio Grande Return	Todd Caplan GeoSystems Analysis, Inc.	Johnathan Tyrrell Utton Center			

Middle Rio Grande Conservation Action Plan
Conservation Targets: Riparian & Wetland Vegetation Communities

Middle Rio Grande Conservation Action Plan
Conservation Targets: Riparian & Wetland Vegetation Communities

Category	Key Attribute	Indicator	Current Status	Goal
Landscape Context	Hydrologic regime - surface water	[1] Floodplain connectivity	Fair	Good
		[2] Spring flood frequency	Fair	Good
	Hydrologic regime - groundwater	[3] Groundwater depth and duration	Fair	Good
	Channel mobility	[4] Bank stabilization extent	Poor	Good
Condition	Dynamic Patch Mosaic (DPM) - Vegetation	[5] Relative abundance of riparian vegetation types (woodland, shrubland, meadow, or marsh)	Fair	Very Good
		[6] Upland vegetation encroachment	Fair	Very Good
		[7] Cottonwood age classes	Poor	Good
	Species composition / abundance	[8] Percent cover invasive herbaceous species	Fair	Good
		[9] Percent exotic woody cover	Poor	Good

Middle Rio Grande Conservation Action Plan
Conservation Targets: Native Bird and Wildlife Corridors

Middle Rio Grande Conservation Action Plan
Conservation Targets: Native Bird and Wildlife Corridors

C	Key Attribute	Indicator	Current Status	Goal
Condition	Vegetation Structure	[1] Woody Vegetation Structure Complexity	Good	Very Good
	Dynamic Patch Mosaic (DPM) - Birds	[2] Channel morphology diversity	Fair	Good
		[3] Sandbar extent	Fair	Good
		[4] Overhanging and bank-edge shrub cover	Good	Good
	Abundance of food resources	[5] Forest and shrubland berry forage, desirable seed plants, and insect production	Fair	Good
	Species composition / abundance	[6] Native bird diversity and Population Trends	Fair	Good

Middle Rio Grande Conservation Action Plan
Conservation Targets: Native Fish Communities

Middle Rio Grande Conservation Action Plan
Conservation Targets: Native Fish Communities

Category	Key Attribute	Indicator	Current Status	Goal
Landscape Context	Hydrologic regime - surface water	[1] Spring runoff	Poor	Good
		[2] Year-round Flows	Poor	Good
	Channel stability	[3] Channel riverbed status	Fair	Good
Condition	Dynamic Patch Mosaic (DPM) - fish	[4] Fish habitat complexity	Fair	Good
	Connectivity among sub reaches	[5] Channel longitudinal connectivity	Poor	Good
	Species composition / abundance	[6] Fish community species richness and dynamics	Poor	Good

Middle Rio Grande Conservation Action Plan
Conservation Targets: Ditch & Drain Habitat

Middle Rio Grande Conservation Action Plan
Conservation Targets: Ditch & Drain Habitat

Category	Key Attribute	Indicator	Current Status	Goal
Condition	Vegetation composition and structure	[1] Ditch and drains % cover of perennial vegetation	Fair	Good
		[2] Ditch ROW woody vegetation	Fair	Good
		[3] Exotic woody cover	Good	Very Good
		[4] Ditch noxious weeds	Good	Good
		[5] Range of nectar and pollen-providing pollinator plants	Poor**	Good
		[6] Tall tree canopy to subcanopy balance	Fair	Good

Middle Rio Grande Conservation Action Plan
Conservation Targets: Ditch & Drain Habitat

Indicators

Example: % Cover of Perennial Vegetation

Status Summary 

For each Indicator:

- Definition
- Rationale
- Scoring & Status
- Source & Protocols
- Action Items
- Comments

Poor	*Fair*	*Good*	*Very Good*	*Current*	*Trend*	*Future*
<25% of ROW with perennial vegetation.	25-50% of ROW with perennial vegetation.	50-75% of ROW with perennial vegetation.	>75% of ROW with perennial vegetation.	*Overall: P* *R1:F* *R2:F* *R3:F* *R4:F*	*UP* *R1:UP* *R2:UP* *R3:FL* *R4:FL*	*Overall: F* *R1:G* *R2:G* *R3:G* *R4:G*

Implementation!