

FA FILE

STATE New Mexico

PROJECT 63-L

PRELIMINARY-PROJECT-STATEMENT
LAND ACQUISITION

as required by

FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION ACT

Date April 11, 1951

The Secretary of the Interior,

Washington, D. C.

Sir: The State of New Mexico, pursuant to the provisions of the Act of Congress approved September 2, 1937 (50 Stat. 917), as amended, entitled "An Act to provide that the United States shall aid the States in wildlife-restoration projects, and for other purposes," and to the Rules and Regulations of the Secretary of the Interior made and published thereunder, does hereby submit by its Department of Game and Fish constituting the State Fish and Game Department, this preliminary project statement for the wildlife-restoration project described herein, which it is proposed to carry on under the provisions of said Act and said Rules and Regulations, and for which Federal aid is requested out of the apportionments made to said State by the Secretary of the Interior under the provisions of the said Act.

1. Name: Heart Bar Wildlife Area
2. County: Catron and Grant
3. Nearest Town: Silver City, approximately 36 miles by road, to the south.
4. Needs for the proposed acquisition: The privately owned lands are needed to gain control of and eliminate domestic livestock use from approximately 92,000 acres of National Forest lands known as the "Glenn" allotment all situated in the heart of the "Gila Wilderness Area" adjacent to the Middle and West Forks of the Gila River. These lands are native habitat of mule deer, white-tailed deer, black bear, beaver, Merriam's turkey, grouse, Merriam quail, and Merriam's elk. The native elk were exterminated about 1890; however, a few animals have drifted into the area from a herd established near Mimbres in recent years.

The privately owned lands and the Glenn Allotment are adjacent to approximately 200,000 acres of other forest lands that have been

Handwritten notes:
- "any privately owned lands all elk in this region considered"
- "Glenn" (circled)
- "Heart Bar" (circled)

withdrawn from grazing use, which, with the Glenn Allotment make the major portion of a vast wildlife habitat unit. This unit cannot be expected to function properly and produce satisfactory harvests of big game with the Glenn allotment being exploited by domestic livestock use.

Thus, in fact, the purchase of the Heart Bar lands and rights, is the key to restoring full wildlife benefits to a habitat unit of over 292,000 acres.

5. Planned administration of the area:

(a) It is planned to administer the area as a game management unit open to hunting in regular seasons until a time when it may be determined that hunting must be restricted either by establishing refuges or limiting the number of hunters.

(b) Wildlife will be protected by the department's regular patrol system, predator animal control measures, and by protection of the range from domestic grazing, thereby permitting normal game use.

(c) In addition to game propagation with the production of game feeds, the lands will also be used for general recreation including access to the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument and trout fishing in the Middle and West Forks of the Gila and in Little Creek. It will no doubt be necessary to designate suitable camp and picnic areas for recreational use.

6. The wildlife restoration development planned includes:

(a) The elimination of all domestic grazing, except horses actually required in the administration of the area. This item may require a minimum amount of fence improvement and will result in natural habitat restoration on the watershed as well as in the stream bottoms.

(b) Reseeding, or feed patch plantings in suitable spots along the main streams, to supplement existing food supply and control erosion.

(c) Trail improvement to facilitate fire protection and other administration.

(d) The re-establishment of elk in substantial numbers toward building up a population that will produce a maximum sustained yield in accordance with the range's carrying capacity.

The development of a harvestable elk herd is a major objective that will be made possible through this project. It has been the State's contention for many years, that elk should be re-established in this locality; however, to date the Forest Service has repeatedly refused consent for re-introduction of the species.

This refusal has been based upon the opinion that the restocking of elk would conflict with the livestock industry and be contrary to the program of grazing use reduction toward protecting the watershed. There has been no question of the fact that the locality is native elk habitat where the species can survive and increase in substantial numbers.

The Forest Service has agreed to the restocking of a minimum of fifty (50) elk in the Heart Bar locality at the end of the second growing season after the cattle are removed from the area as a result of the State's purchase. This will make the re-introduction of elk possible in the fall of 1953.

7. Boundaries: (See map)

(a) Privately owned lands -

The SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 22, T. 11 S., R. 15 W.; the S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 24, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, the S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 25, the S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 26 and the N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 36, T. 12 S., R. 14 W.; the S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, and the S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 31, T. 12 S., R. 13 W.; the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 6, T. 13 S., R. 13 W.; all N. M. P. M.

(b) National Forest grazing rights based upon the above lands.

The "Glenn" grazing allotment consisting of approximately 92,000 acres as shown on the map is entitled "Heart Bar Wildlife Area," in T. 11 S., Ranges 14 and 15 W., T. 12 S., Ranges 13, 14 and 15 W., T. 13 S., Ranges 13, 14 and 15 W., and T. 14 S., Ranges 14 and 15 W. of N. M. P. M.

8. Cover type per cent: (approximations)

1) Privately owned lands.

a. Agricultural 1%

b. Grazing, including the headquarters area,
river and other types, 99%

Total area from U. S. Forest Service information
which may not conform with G.L.O. figures, 836.92 acres

2) U. S. National Forest grazing rights. No attempt
has been made to segregate types, 92,000 acres

9. Land Improvements:

The improvements on the Heart Bar Ranch are, as a whole, much superior to those found on the average ranch. This applies to the improvements on privately owned lands as well as the improvements made on National Forest lands at the expense of the ranch owner.

(a) The building and contingent improvements all on privately owned lands, consist of: a guest house, ranch residence, bunk and utility house, hay barn, log cabin and log barn, yard fences and corrals with a water and electric utility system. These items are described in more detail in a separate report submitted

herewith entitled "Appraised Values Heart Bar Ranch" which indicates a minimum total value of \$46,407.00 for the above items.

(b) The farm lands development consisting of a direct diversion system to approximately 70 acres of irrigated lands, and substantial field fences in good repair have been appraised as a part of the farm land value.

(c) The grazing lands including National Forest and privately owned lands are bounded by natural barriers and substantial fences. No attempt has been made to segregate the grazing land fence value from the total grazing values.

(d) Improvements on Forest lands constructed by the rancher. The rancher has at his own expense, constructed 17 earthen tanks and developed 3 other livestock watering places at a cost of \$14,000.00. This development is very beneficial to big game in distributing the range use.

10. Present land uses:

The principal use of the land is as a farm and ranch unit with minor use as a hunting lodge and guest ranch.

(a) Farming.

The irrigated farm lands are used to produce alfalfa and other feeds for ranch use. There are also additional tillable spots now used for grazing land that have produced good crops of oat hay and grain sorghums. In the past the feed produced has been used on the ranch; however, any surplus would be in demand for use on neighboring ranches.

(b) Grazing.

The area is primarily a cattle ranch, with a Forest Service grazing permit for 467 cows and annual increase. The increase of 50% or more, according to the operator is usually marketed in the late fall for shipment to feed lots.

(c) Trapping.

Beaver are present; however, their food supply and numbers have been limited by intensive livestock use of the stream banks. Coyotes, bobcats, fox and other fur bearers are present, but due to market conditions have little or no value.

(d) Logging.

The present owners have cut lumber for development of the area. There has been no commercial logging either on the private tracts or Forest lands, and the Forest lands are not open for timber sales.

(e) Hunting and Fishing.

The Heart Bar is at the end of the road, giving access to the Gila Wilderness area from the south and east. With the ever increasing hunting pressure on more accessible hunting and fishing area, this "pack in" territory is rapidly gaining popularity with big game hunters and trout fishermen. The entire

area is deer, turkey, bear and mountain lion habitat and the forks of the Gila river and Little Creek provide trout fishing.

11. Timber:
The timber (Ponderosa Pine) on the privately owned lands has been cut over to provide lumber for local use. The National Forest timber is virgin, to a large extent inaccessible, and is closed to all sales.
12. Tracts in unit:
The unit is made up of six tracts totaling approximately 836 acres and grazing rights to approximately 92,000 acres all under one ownership.
13. Tract Ownership:
(a) Private, - Taber, Coleman and Hooker, a partnership, . 836 acres
(b) Federal, National Forest grazing rights, 92,000 acres

14. Land rentals:
No information has been obtained on going rental rates of comparable lands; however, a "minimum" "cow home" value of \$164.14 has been calculated from comparative sales cited in the "Appraised Values" submitted herewith.

15. Purchase possibilities:
The State now holds an option from Taber, Coleman and Hooker, a partnership, which is effective until June 6, 1951. This option covers all of the privately owned lands in the project together with complete relinquishment of grazing rights and improvements on the adjacent National Forest land known as the "Glenn Allotment".

The National Forest Service has agreed to the transfer of grazing rights to the state with all domestic livestock other than horses required for administration to be excluded for a minimum period of twenty five (25) years. The Forest Service has further agreed that the State may stock a minimum of fifty (50) elk at the end of the second growing season following the removal of cattle.

16. Estimated acquisition costs:
This will be a single unit purchase including the land, improvements and rights for a lump sum as specified in the option dated April 6, 1951.

Lands, improvements and rights, - - - - -	\$139,000.00
Rental, lands in consideration for use	
until Oct. 31, 1951, - - - - -	<u>4,000.00</u>
Net cost, lands, improvements and rights, - -	\$135,000.00

17. Estimated acquisition costs:
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| (a) Land examination, | None |
| (b) Negotiations, | None |
| (c) Boundary surveys, | None |
| (d) Title, abstracting and vesting, | \$250.00 |
| (e) Contingency, - - - - - | <u>250.00</u> |
| Total - - - - - | <u>500.00</u> |
18. Total estimated cost of Project, - - - - - \$135,500.00

19. It is estimated that the project can be completed by June 30, 1952.
20. Funds for maintenance to be provided by the State and by Federal Aid projects.
21. State Game Warden, Elliott S. Barker, Assistant State Game Warden, Homer C. Pickens and Director of Wildlife Restoration, Paul Russell are familiar with this area. Paul Russell inspected the privately owned lands and improvements on March 16, 1951 and has prepared a report entitled "Appraised Values, Heart Bar Ranch" including (1) an appraisal summary (2) Appraisal Report, which is submitted herewith.
22. This statement covers all of the work contemplated under the entire land-acquisition program for this area.

Assurance is given that the foregoing information concerning the project herein described is presented to the best ability of the State Game and Fish Department, and that all of the provisions of the State laws affecting the power and authority of the State Game and Fish Department to cooperate with the Federal Government in relation to this project have been fully complied with.

Respectfully submitted: New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

By: *Elliott S. Barker*
Elliott S. Barker, State Game Warden

Approved: Date APR 17 1951

Approved: Date APR 24 1951

John L. Gattin
(Regional Director)

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

By: *R. M. Rutherford*
Acting Director, Fish and Wildlife Service

FA FILE

New Mexico Project - L. Heart Bar Wildlife Area.

Deeded lands - [] and the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 22, T. 11 S., R. 15 W.,
at Prior Cabin which can not be shown on this plat.

Prepared by P.R. 4/11/51

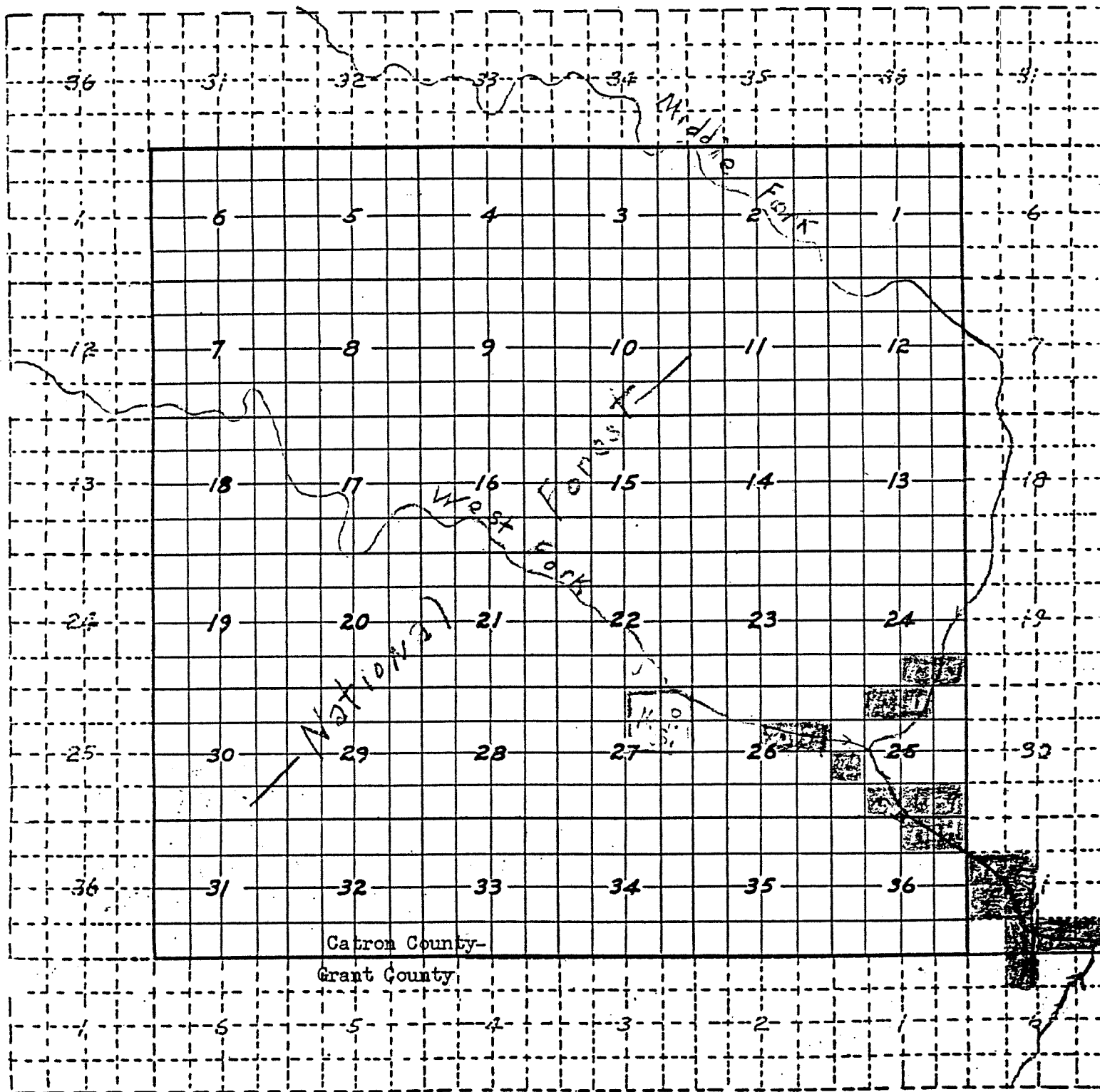
COUNTY Catron and Grant

STATE New Mexico

TOWNSHIP 12 and 13 S.

RANGE 13 and 14 W.

444-2M



PR

STATE New Mexico

PROJECT NO. 63-L

PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS, AND ESTIMATES
FOR

LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT
as required by
FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION ACT

Date June 22, 1951

Conrardy
St. John RS
W. J. JW
B. J. B
C. J. AB
C. J. AB
File

The Secretary of the Interior,

Washington, D. C.

Sir: The State of New Mexico, pursuant to the provisions of the Act of Congress approved September 2, 1937 (50 Stat. 917), as amended, entitled "An Act to provide that the United States shall aid the States in wildlife-restoration projects, and for other purposes," and to the Rules and Regulations of the Secretary of the Interior made and published thereunder, does hereby submit by its Department of Game and Fish constituting the State Fish and Game Department, these plans, specifications, and estimates for the wildlife-restoration project described herein which it is proposed to carry on under the provisions of said Act and said Rules and Regulations, and for which Federal aid is requested out of the apportionments made to said State by the Secretary of the Interior under the provisions of the said Act.

1. Name of project: Heart Bar Wildlife Area.
2. County: Catron and Grant.
3. Nearest Town: Silver City, approximately 36 miles by road to the south.
4. Wildlife species to be primarily benefited: Mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk and Merriam's turkey.
5. Planned administration of the area.
 - (a) Portion of area to be set aside as a refuge: It is planned to administer the area as a game management unit open to hunting in regular seasons until a time when it may be determined that hunting must be restricted by establishing refuges or limiting the numbers of hunters.
 - (b) Wildlife will be protected by the Department's regular patrol system and a resident area manager together with the control of predatory species.
 - (c) The lands are to be used only for game propagation and general recreation including fishing for a minimum of twenty-five (25) years.
6. Wildlife restoration developments planned:
 - (a) The elimination of all domestic grazing, except horses actually required in the administration of the area. This item may require a minimum amount of fence improvement.

- (b) Reseeding and feed patch planting in suitable spots to supplement the existing food supplies and control erosion.
 - (c) Trail improvement to facilitate fire protection and other administration
 - (d) The re-establishment of elk in substantial numbers toward producing a maximum sustained yield in accordance with the ranges carrying capacity for a balanced game population.
 - (e) Additional development of wildlife water supplies away from the main streams if it is later found that wildlife utilization of the range can be improved thereby.
7. One executed and one plain copy of the option to purchase is included herewith, and in accordance with this agreement written notice of determination to purchase was mailed to the Sellers May 31, 1951. This notice has been acknowledged and the abstracts of title are now in the hands of the Attorney General for examination.
8. Salient facts:

OWNERS	: Appraised Value		:	Option Price
	Acres	: per a. : Total		
Taber, Coleman & Hooker, a partnership (The above includes "location value" giving priority to utilization of 92,000 acres of National Forest)	336.32	: \$188.68 : \$157,911.78	:	\$139,000.00
Totals - - 6 tracts	336.32	: : \$157,911.78	:	\$139,000.00

Less rental for sellers use of lands until October 31, 1951 - - - - - \$4000.00
(See section 6, item (e) of Option)

Net cost, lands improvements and rights - - - - - \$135,000.00

9. The elements of value which were appraised by the Fish and Wildlife Service when the lands were evaluated have not diminished since that time.
10. Acquisition overhead costs incurred and estimated incident to satisfactory project completion:
- (a) Land examination \$ none
 - (b) Purchase negotiations "
 - (c) Boundary surveys "
 - (d) Title abstracting and vesting \$250.00
 - (e) Total \$250.00

11. Summary of estimated costs:

(a) Lands, net cost from item 8	\$135,000.00
(b) Other	250.00
(c) Total	\$135,250.00
Contingency fund,	250.00
Total estimated cost of project	\$135,500.00

12. Surveys:

Not applicable.

13. This is the entire and final purchase planned under this project.

Assurance is given that the foregoing information concerning the project herein described is presented to the best ability of the State fish and game department, and that all of the provisions of the State laws affecting the power and authority of the State fish and game department to cooperate with the Federal Government in relation to this project have been fully complied with, and that where this submission covers part of a restoration unit, the State fish and game department gives assurance that the acquisition will be continued to completion within a reasonable time as funds are available from future Federal and/or State funds.

Respectfully submitted: New Mexico Dept. of Game &
(Official title of Game Depar

By: *Charles H. Mark*
State Game Warden
(Title of Officer)

Approved: Date JUN 27 1951

Approved: Date JUN 22 1951

John C. Gathin
Regional Director

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

By: O. H. Johnson
Acting Director, Fish and Wildlife Service

