

# The RNA Climate-Change Monitoring Network Database Summary

RNAs offer a network of monitoring sites distributed across a broad array of ecosystem types and geographies (Fig. 1). RNAs can play an important role in understanding and monitoring alterations in ecosystem conditions due to climate change. RNAs by design exclude the interacting effects of grazing, woodcutting, and other human activities, they can provide long-term and reliable reference points for detecting ecosystem change against the backdrop of climate and other environmental factors. Natural Heritage New Mexico (NHNM) worked with the USFS Region 3 to locate all files and photographs on 51 RNAs in the region and we have made them available to the public through a [GIS web viewer](#) to support the research in ecosystem change in the Southwest (see [RNA Project Report](#) for details).

Southwest Research Natural Areas (RNAs)

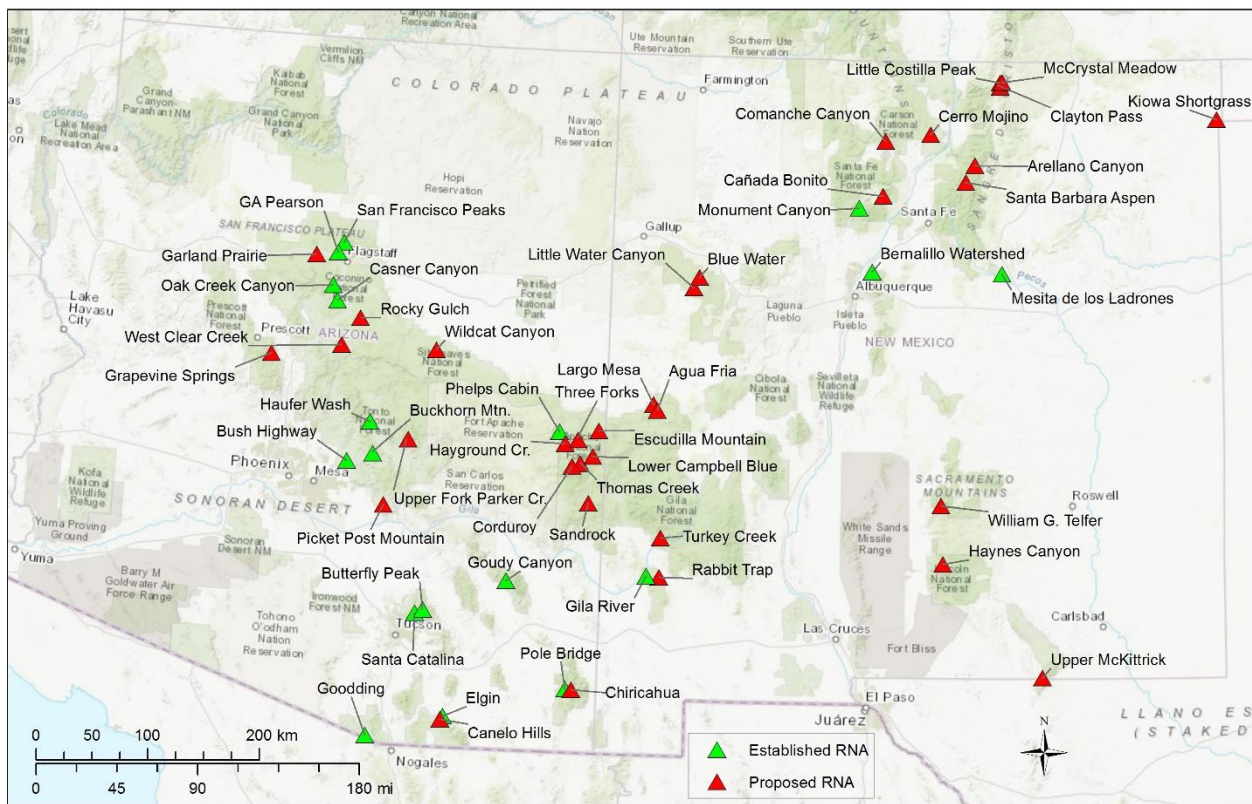


Figure 1. Distribution of Research Natural Areas (RNAs) in the southwest US (USFS Region 3). Green triangles are statutorily designated as established; red triangles are proposed for establishment.