Riparian Conservation Opportunity Areas
In
New Mexico

Version 3.0

Spatial Layer Attributes and Descriptions for RCOAs, RCOA components, and associated Resource Layers

The following tables provide detailed attribute information for the Riparian Conservation Opportunity Areas (RCOAs) and their associated components. Specifically, you will find: Attributes for RCOAs, Riparian Strongholds (RSs), Other Native Riparian Areas (ORAs), Potential Restoration Areas (PRAs), and Small Primary Riparian Areas (SRAs).

Additionally, we include tables for the Supplemental Conservation Planning Layers designed to complement RCOAs: Inter-Connectivity Zones (IZs), Supplemental Habitat Zones, and Potential Breaks in Connectivity.

Table 1. Riparian Conservation Opportunity Areas (RCOAs) spatial layer attributes and descriptions.

NMRipMap = New Mexico Riparian Habitat Map; ORA = Other Native Riparian Areas; PRA = Potential Restoration Areas; PNRV = Primary Native Riparian Vegetation; RS = Riparian Stronghold; and SRA = Small Primary Riparian Areas.

Attribute Field Name	Description
General Attributes and RCOA rating attributes	
UniqueID	Unique RCOA identifier, links to ORAs, PRAs, and SRAs
Basin	NMRipMap Basin that RCOA falls within.
Subclass	RCOA assigned wetland subclass: Confined, Unconfined, Headwater Complex
HUC12_Name	The name of the Hydrological Unit Code (HUC) 12 that the majority of the RCOA intersects.
MoreThan_1HUC12	Identifies (Yes or No) whether the RCOA is in more than one HUC 12.
RCOA_Rating	RCOA rating based on the RCOA_Average_Score
RCOA_Average_Score	Average of RCOA ratings based on following fields: RCOA_Size_Score, RCOA_PRA_Pct_Score, RCOA_ORA_Pct_Score, RCOA_VegTypeDiversity_Score
RCOA_Size_Score	RCOA rating based on the area of the RCOA in acres. Based on field: RCOA_Area_ac
RCOA_ORA_Pct_Score	RCOA rating based on percent ORA. Based on field: RCOA_ORA_pct.
RCOA_PRA_Pct_score	RCOA rating based on percent PRA. Based on field: RCOA_PRA_pct

Attribute Field Name	Description
RCOA_VegTypeDiversity_Score	Rating based on the Vegetation Type Diversity Index (based on field RCOA_VegTypeDiversityIndex) of Primary Native Riparian Vegetation patches within an RCOA.
RCOA_VegTypeDiversity_Score	
	Rating based on the Vegetation Type Diversity Index (based on field RCOA_VegTypeDiversityIndex) of Primary Native Riparian Vegetation patches within an RCOA.

Additional RCOA Component Attributes

RCOA_Area_ac	
RCOA_RS_Area_ac	Sum of areas in acres of all RSs in an RCOA
RCOA_RS_pct	RS percent of RCOA area
RCOA_ORA_Area_ac	Total area in acres of all ORAs in an RCOA
RCOA_ORA_pct	ORA percent of total RCOA area
RCOA_PRA_Area_ac	Total area in acres of PRAs in an RCOA
RCOA_PRA_pct	PRA percent of total RCOA area
RCOA_SRA_Area_ac	Total area in acres of SRAs in an RCOA
RCOA_SRA_pct	SRA percent of total RCOA area
RCOA_VegTypeDiversityIndex	Shannon Diversity Index of RCOA using PNRV community diversity as a measure of conservation value. PNRV vegetation types are those community types used for building the RSs

Attribute Field Name	Description
PNRV Composition Percentage by Stratum	
PNRV_Forest_pct	Total percent forested wetland area in RCOA - Western Lowland Native Deciduous Riparian Forest, Montane Native Deciduous Riparian Forest, Montane Native Mixed Evergreen-Deciduous Riparian Forest, Montane Native Evergreen Riparian Forest, Great Plains Lowland Native Deciduous Riparian Forest, Lowland Native Evergreen-Deciduous Riparian Forest, Southwest Desert Native Deciduous Riparian Forest, Southwest Desert Native Dry Deciduous Riparian Woodland
PNRV_Shrub_pct	Total percent riparian shrub wetland area in RCOA - Lowland Wet Riparian Shrubland, Subalpine Montane Riparian Shrubland
PNRV_Herb_pct	Total percent herbaceous wetland area in RCOA- Western Lowland Marsh, Subalpine and Montane Wetland, Arid West Lowland Wet Meadow, Great Plains Lowland Marsh, Great Plains Lowland Wet Meadow
NMRipMap Vegetation Composition Percentages	
GreatPlainsLowlandNativeDeciduousRiparianForest_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
LowlandNativeEvergreenDeciduousRiparianForest_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
MontaneNativeDeciduousRiparianForest_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
MontaneNativeEvergreenDeciduousRiparianForest_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
MontaneNativeEvergreenRiparianForest_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
SouthwestDesertNativeDryDeciduousRiparianWoodland_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
SouthwestWarmDesertNativeDeciduousRiparianForest_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
WesternLowlandNativeDeciduousRiparianForest_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
LowlandWetRiparianShrubland_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
SubalpineMontaneRiparianShrubland_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit

Attribute Field Name	Description
GreatPlainsLowlandMarsh_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
GreatPlainsLowlandWetMeadow_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
SubalpineandMontaneWetland_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
WesternLowlandMarsh_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
LowlandNativeEvergreenDryRiparianForest_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
AridWestLowlandWetMeadow_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
GreatPlainsLowlandSaltMeadowandDryGrassland_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
DesertAlkalineSalineWetShrubland_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
LowlandDryRiparianShrubland_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
MontaneDryRiparianShrubland_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
MontaneDryRiparianMeadowandGrassland_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
RuderalForbMeadow_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
WesternLowlandSaltMeadowandDryGrassland_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
SubalpineandMontaneWetMeadow_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
LowlandMixedWillowRussianOliveRiparianScrub_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
LowlandMixedWillowRussianOliveTamariskRiparianWoodlandandScrub_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
LowlandMixedWillowTamariskRiparianScrub_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
LowlandNativeIntroducedRussianOliveDeciduousRiparianForest_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
LowlandNativeIntroducedRussianOliveTamariskDeciduousRiparianForest_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
LowlandNativeIntroducedTamariskDeciduousRiparianForest_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
MixedIntroducedForestandScrub_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
RussianOliveIntroducedRiparianWoodlandandScrub_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
RussianOliveTamariskIntroducedRiparianWoodlandandScrub_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
TamariskIntroducedRiparianWoodlandandScrub_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit

Attribute Field Name	Description
Land Ownership Attributes – Based on 2024 BLM Land Status Map	
PublicLand_pct	Public ownership percent of RCOA
Private_pct	Private ownership percent of RCOA
TribalLand_pct	Tribal ownership percent of RCOA
BureauofLandManagement_pct	U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) ownership percent of RCOA
CityLand_pct	City land percent of RCOA
CountyLand_pct	County land percent of RCOA
DepartmentofDefense_pct	Department of Defense (DOD) percent of RCOA
NationalParkService_pct	National Park Service (NPS) ownership percent of RCOA
NMDepartmentofGameFish_pct	New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) ownership percent of RCOA
NMStateForestryDivision_pct	NM State Forestry percent of RCOA
NMStateParks_pct	State Park ownership percent of RCOA
StateLandOffice_pct	NM State Land Office (NMSLO) ownership percent of RCOA
StateofNewMexico_pct	Percent of RCOA owned by State of NM
USBureauofReclamation_pct	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) ownership percent of RCOA
USFishandWildlifeService_pct	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) ownership percent of RCOA
USForestService_pct	U.S. Forest Service (USFS) ownership percent of RCOA
Old_RCOA_RecID	For URG basin only. This is the old Unique ID for URG RCOAs Version 2.0 (See Versioning History on RCOA website)
OLD_RCOA_Name	For URG basin only. This is the old Unique RCOA name for URG RCOAs Version 2.0 (See Versioning History on RCOA website)

* Confined = Confined River Valleys and Wetlands; Unconfined = Unconfined River Valleys and Wetlands; Headwater Complex = Headwater Slope Wetlands.

Table 2. Riparian Strongholds (RSs) spatial layer attributes and descriptions.

NMRipMap = New Mexico Riparian Habitat Map; RCOA = Riparian Conservation Opportunity Area; VTDI = Vegetation Type Diversity Index.

Attribute Field Name	Description
Basin	NMRipMap Basin RS is within
Subclass	Subclass of RS: Confined, Unconfined, Headwater Complex
RS_UniqueID	Unique RS identifier
Associated_RCOA_UniqueID	The UniqueID of the RCOA the RS is associated with
Associated_RCOA_Name	The name of the RCOA the RS is associated with
RS_Size_Rating	RS rating (A-D) based on area in acres of RS (Based on field: RS_Area_ac)
	<table><tr><th>Rating</th><th>Acres</th></tr><tr><td>A</td><td>>= 80</td></tr><tr><td>B</td><td>>=40 and < 80</td></tr><tr><td>C</td><td>>20 and <= 40</td></tr><tr><td>D</td><td><= 20</td></tr></table>
RS_Area_ac	Total area of RS in acres
RS_VegTypeDiversity_Rating	RS Vegetation Type Diversity Rating (1-4) based on Vegetation Type Diversity Index Values (Based on field: RS_VegTypeDiversityIndex)
	<table><tr><th>Rating</th><th>VTDI</th></tr><tr><td>A</td><td>>=1.0</td></tr><tr><td>B</td><td>>0.63 and <1.0</td></tr><tr><td>C</td><td>>0.3 and <=0.63</td></tr><tr><td>D</td><td><=0.3</td></tr></table>

Attribute Field Name	Description
RS_VegTypeDiversityIndex	Shannon Diversity Index of Primary Native Riparian Vegetation (PNRV) community diversity as a measure of conservation value. PNRV consists of the community types used to build the RSs
Vegetation Composition Percentage by Stratum	
Forest_pct	Total percent forested wetland area in RCOA - Western Lowland Native Deciduous Riparian Forest, Montane Native Deciduous Riparian Forest, Montane Native Mixed Evergreen-Deciduous Riparian Forest, Montane Native Evergreen Riparian Forest, Great Plains Lowland Native Deciduous Riparian Forest, Lowland Native Evergreen-Deciduous Riparian Forest, Southwest Desert Native Deciduous Riparian Forest, Southwest Desert Native Dry Deciduous Riparian Woodland
Shrub_pct	Total percent riparian shrub wetland area in RCOA - Lowland Wet Riparian Shrubland, Subalpine Montane Riparian Shrubland
Herb_pct	Total percent herbaceous wetland area in RCOA- Western Lowland Marsh, Subalpine and Montane Wetland, Arid West Lowland Wet Meadow, Great Plains Lowland Marsh, Great Plains Lowland Wet Meadow

Table 3. Other Native Riparian Areas (ORAs) spatial layer attributes and descriptions.

NMRipMap = New Mexico Riparian Habitat Map; RCOA = Riparian Conservation Opportunity Area; RS = Riparian Stronghold.

Attribute Field Name	Description
Basin	NMRipMap Basin ORA is within
Subclass	Subclass of ORA: Confined, Unconfined, Headwater Complex
ORA_UniqueID	Unique ORA identifier
Associated_RCOA_UniqueID	The UniqueID of the RCOA the ORA is associated with
Associated_RCOA_Name	The name of the RCOA the ORA is associated with
ORA_Area_ac	Area of the ORA in acres
ORA_DominantType	Dominant vegetation type within the ORA: 1) Meadow/Herbaceous vegetation, 2) Dry Riparian Shrublands, 3) Lowland Native Evergreen Dry Riparian Forests, 4) Bare ground or Rockland
Dominant Vegetation Type Percentages	
Herb_pct	Total percent of ORA occupied by herbaceous grasses and forbs. This includes NMRipMap Units: Subalpine and Montane Wet Meadow, Montane Dry Riparian Meadow and Grassland, Western Lowland Salt Meadow and Dry Grassland, Ruderal Forb Meadow, Great Plains Lowland Salt Meadow and Grassland
DryRipShrub_pct	Total percent of ORA occupied by dry riparian shrublands. This includes NMRipMap Units: Montane Dry Riparian Shrubland, Lowland Dry Riparian Shrubland, and Desert Alkaline-Saline Wet Shrubland.
LowDryEvergreenForest_pct	Total percent of ORA occupied by Lowland Evergreen Native Dry Riparian Forest
BaregroundRockland_pct	Total percent of ORA occupied by NMRipMap Unit: Riparian bare Ground/Rockland [no-channel] (this is rare).

Table 4. Potential Restoration Areas (PRAs) spatial layer attributes and descriptions.

RCOA = Riparian Conservation Opportunity Area; RS = Riparian Stronghold.

Attribute Field Names	Descriptions
Basin	NMRipMap Basin PRA is within
Subclass	Subclass of PRA: Confined, Unconfined, Headwater Complex
PRA_UniqueID	Unique PRA identifier
Associated_RCOA_UniqueID	The UniqueID of the RCOA the PRA is associated with
Associated_RCOA_Name	The name of the RCOA the PRA is associated with
PRA_Area_ac	Area of PRA in acres
PRA_DominantType	Dominant map unit type in PRA; vegetation type (Operational Subgroup type) with the highest percentage in PRA: I-1) Mixed Native-Exotic Shrubland, I-2) Mixed Native-Exotic Forest, I-3) Exotic Woodland
Dominant Vegetation Type Percentages	
MixedNativeExoticShrubland_pct	Total percent of PRA occupied by mixed native exotic shrubland map unit types (Operational Subgroub, I-1). This includes the following Map Units: Lowland Native-Introduced Russian Olive Riparian Scrub, Lowland Native-Introduced Tamarisk Riparian Scrub, Lowland Native-Introduced Russian Olive-Tamarisk Riparian Woodland and Scrub
MixedNativeExoticForest_pct	Total percent of PRA occupied by mixed native-exotic forest map unit types (Operational Subgroup, I-2). This includes the following Map Units: Lowland Native-Introduced Russian Olive Deciduous Riparian Forest, Lowland Native-Introduced Tamarisk Deciduous, Lowland Native-Introduced Russian Olive - Tamarisk Deciduous Riparian Forest
ExoticWoodland_pct	Total percent of PRA occupied by exotic woodland map unit types (Operational Subgroup, I-3). This includes the following Map Units: Russian Olive Introduced Riparian Woodland and Scrub, Tamarisk Introduced Riparian Woodland and Scrub, Russian Olive-Tamarisk Introduced Riparian Woodland and Scrub, Mixed Introduced Forest and Scrub

Table 5. Small Primary Riparian Areas (SRA) spatial layer attributes and descriptions.

PNRV = Primary Native Riparian Vegetation; RCOA = Riparian Conservation Opportunity Area; RS = Riparian Stronghold.

Attribute Field Name	Description
Basin	NMRipMap Basin SRA is within
Subclass	Subclass of SRA: Confined, Unconfined, Headwater Complex
SRA_UnqiueID	Unique SRA identifier
Associated_RCOA_UniqueID	The UniqueID of the RCOA the SRA is associated with
Associated_RCOA_Name	The name of the RCOA the SRA is associated with
SRA_Area_ac	Area of SRA in acres
SRA_VegTypeDiversityIndex	Shannon Diversity Index of PNRV community diversity as a measure of conservation value. PNRV types consist of the community types used to build the RSs

Vegetation Composition Percentage by Stratum	
Forest_pct	Total percent forested wetland area in RCOA - Western Lowland Native Deciduous Riparian Forest, Montane Native Deciduous Riparian Forest, Montane Native Mixed Evergreen-Deciduous Riparian Forest, Montane Native Evergreen Riparian Forest, Great Plains Lowland Native Deciduous Riparian Forest, Lowland Native Evergreen-Deciduous Riparian Forest, Southwest Desert Native Deciduous Riparian Forest, Southwest Desert Native Dry Deciduous Riparian Woodland
Shrub_pct	Total percent riparian shrub wetland area in RCOA - Lowland Wet Riparian Shrubland, Subalpine Montane Riparian Shrubland
Herb_pct	Total percent herbaceous wetland area in RCOA- Western Lowland Marsh, Subalpine and Montane Wetland, Arid West Lowland Wet Meadow, Great Plains Lowland Marsh, Great Plains Lowland Wet Meadow

Table 6. Inter-connectivity Zones (IZs) spatial layer attributes and descriptions.

Attribute Name	Description
IZ_UniqueID	Unique IZ identification number
IZ_Area_ac	Area of IZ in acres
Connecting_RCOA_count	Count of the RCOAs the IZ touches or connects – Not all IZ's touch an RCOA, but all are within 545m of an RCOA
Associated_RCOA_UniqueIDs	The unique IDs of the RCOAs the IZ touches or connects (if an IZ touches an RCOA)
Generalized Vegetation Composition Percentage	
PNRV_pct	Total percent Primary Native Riparian Vegetation in IZ
DMRV_pct	Total percent Dry-Mesic Riparian Vegetation in IZ
IRV_pct	Total percent Introduced Riparian Vegetation in IZ
NMRipMap Vegetation Composition Percentages	
GreatPlainsLowlandNativeDeciduousRiparianForest_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
LowlandNativeEvergreenDeciduousRiparianForest_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
MontaneNativeDeciduousRiparianForest_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
MontaneNativeEvergreenDeciduousRiparianForest_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
MontaneNativeEvergreenRiparianForest_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
SouthwestDesertNativeDryDeciduousRiparianWoodland_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
SouthwestWarmDesertNativeDeciduousRiparianForest_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
WesternLowlandNativeDeciduousRiparianForest_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
LowlandWetRiparianShrubland_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
SubalpineMontaneRiparianShrubland_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit

Attribute Name	Description
GreatPlainsLowlandMarsh_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
GreatPlainsLowlandWetMeadow_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
SubalpineandMontaneWetland_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
WesternLowlandMarsh_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
LowlandNativeEvergreenDryRiparianForest_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
AridWestLowlandWetMeadow_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
GreatPlainsLowlandSaltMeadowandDryGrassland_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
DesertAlkalineSalineWetShrubland_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
LowlandDryRiparianShrubland_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
MontaneDryRiparianShrubland_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
MontaneDryRiparianMeadowandGrassland_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
RuderalForbMeadow_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
WesternLowlandSaltMeadowandDryGrassland_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
SubalpineandMontaneWetMeadow_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
LowlandMixedWillowRussianOliveRiparianScrub_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
LowlandMixedWillowRussianOliveTamariskRiparianWoodlandandScrub_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
LowlandMixedWillowTamariskRiparianScrub_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
LowlandNativeIntroducedRussianOliveDeciduousRiparianForest_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
LowlandNativeIntroducedRussianOliveTamariskDeciduousRiparianForest_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
LowlandNativeIntroducedTamariskDeciduousRiparianForest_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
MixedIntroducedForestandScrub_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
RussianOliveIntroducedRiparianWoodlandandScrub_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit
RussianOliveTamariskIntroducedRiparianWoodlandandScrub_pct	Percent of this NMRipMap Unit

Table 7. Supplemental Habitat Zones spatial layer attributes and descriptions.

Attribute Field Name	Description
SuppHab_UniqueID	Unique Supplemental Habitat Zone identifier
SuppHab_Area_ac	Area of Supplemental Habitat Zone in acres
SuppHabTier	Tier of Supplemental Habitat Zone • Tier 1 – Semi-Natural Riparian Habitat or Pasture with Wetlands • Tier 2 – Cultivated Agriculture or Hay/Pasture
MapUnit_Name	NMRipMap Level 3 map unit that polygon is classified as

Table 8. Potential Breaks in Connectivity spatial layer attributes and descriptions.

Attribute Field Name	Description
PotBreak_UniqueID	Unique Potential Connectivity Break identification number
PotBreak_Area_ac	Area of Potential Connectivity Break in acres
MapUnit_Name	NMRipMap Level 3 map unit that polygon is classified as: Developed/Urban Or Roads