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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**SFNF, NM Forestry Division Implement
Restoration Project on Cuba District**
Residents, visitors advised to use caution around large machinery

SANTA FE, NM – The New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) [Forestry Division](#) and the [Santa Fe National Forest](#) (SFNF) are implementing a forest restoration project near the small community of Deer Lake off NM State Highway 126 on the Cuba Ranger District. Residents and visitors are urged to use extreme caution around crews and equipment, including heavy machinery.

The Deer Lake project is an example of the collaborative partnership between the USDA Forest Service and the state of New Mexico to manage wildfire and other risks to forest health at a landscape scale across jurisdictional boundaries. The [shared stewardship agreement](#) signed in November 2019 established a framework for setting forest restoration priorities and combining resources to implement treatments effectively and efficiently.

The ENMRD Forestry Division will administer the Deer Lake project on SFNF lands. The project is funded by the state out of a \$4 million capital outlay for watershed restoration and community wildfire protection statewide. Residents of Deer Lake were involved in the planning of the project. Work will include hand thinning, piling and mastication to reduce fuel loads in forested areas near the community in advance of the 2022 wildfire season. The project will treat at least 250 acres on the SFNF, including 199 acres of mastication and 95.5 acres of cut and pile.

Crews have begun cutting and piling in the project area. Machine mastication is expected to start later this month. Masticators, which grind, shred or chop vegetation and downed materials into small chunks, can throw materials a minimum of 300 feet front and back. Please keep your distance from equipment and crews, and never approach machinery. Expect to hear noise from machinery, including the masticator and chainsaws.

The project is designed to reduce risks to life and property from wildfire in the Deer Lake area. By treating surface fuels, the Deer Lake project will reduce ladder fuels that can reach the forest canopy and provide a fire break for the community.

Under the shared stewardship agreement, the USDA Forest Service and ENMRD collaborate to manage New Mexico forests for a changing climate, including the risks posed by prolonged drought and the potential for high-severity wildfire.

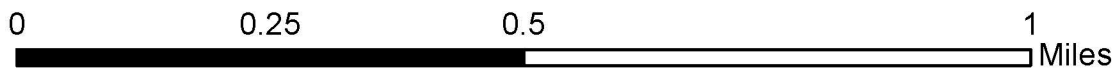
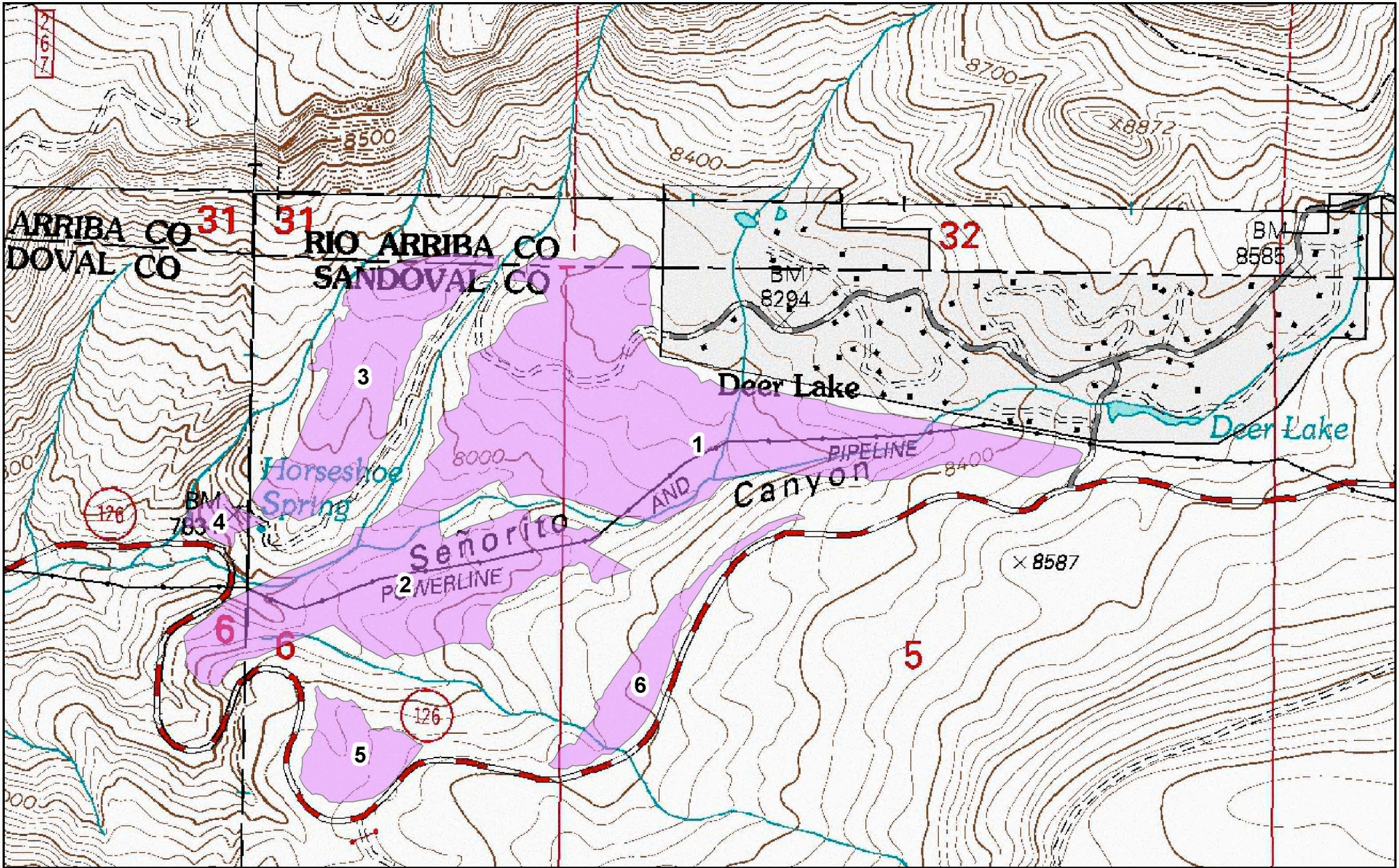
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The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.

<https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/>

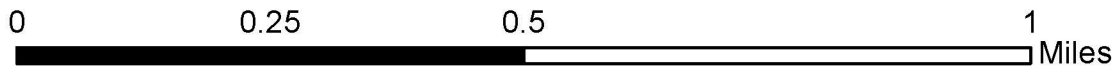
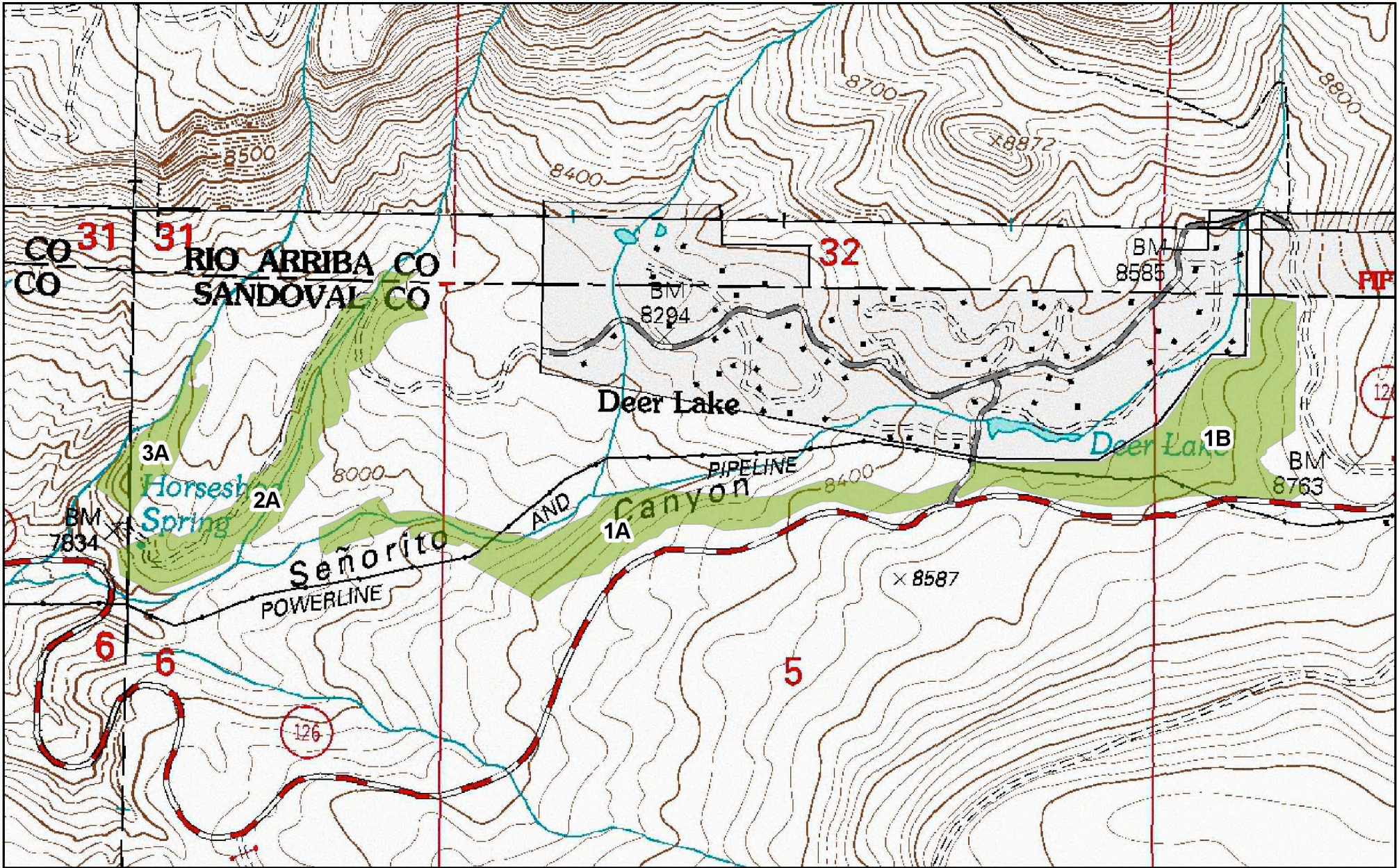


Deer Lake Mastication - 199 Acres
Township 20N Range 1E Sections 5 and 6
Township 21N Range 1E Sections 31 and 32





Deer Lake Manual Thinning/Piling - 96 Acres Township 20N Range 1E Sections 4, 5 and 6





Deer Lake Mastication - 199 acres
 Township 20N Range 1E Sections 5 and 6
 Township 21N Range 1E Sections 31 and 32
 Deer Lake Manual Thinning/Manual Piling - 96 acres
 Township 20N Range 1E Sections 4, 5 and 6
 Township 21N Range 1E Sections 31

