

Recharging a Community Through Playa Conservation



PLAYA LAKES
JOINT VENTURE





National Geographic Magazine

“Two-year-old Annalea Garcia is bathed nightly by her mother, Crystal, in a bucket filled with water hauled from town. Their well and the wells of some 30 other families on the outskirts of Clovis, New Mexico, have run dry.”

August 2016



CLOVIS, NEW MEXICO

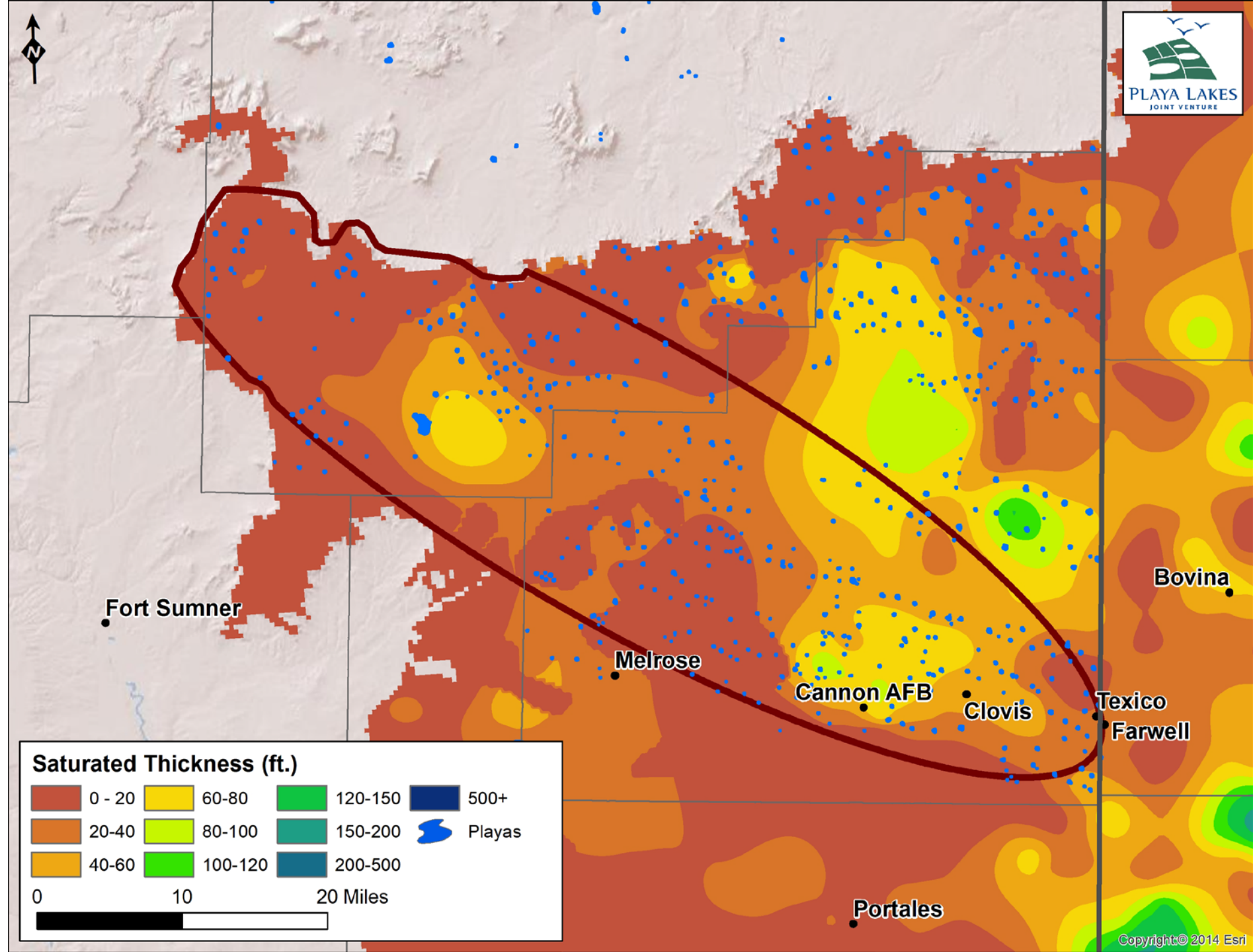
- 40,000 residents
- 40% Hispanic
- Near Cannon Air Force Base
- Farming community
- Sense of place



Remaining
Aquifer
Water

&

Playas Over
the Aquifer



“

*I'm restoring playas
as part of my operation.
But, if our community
is going to be sustainable, the
key is shutting off irrigation wells.*

—Vincent de Maio, local rancher

*If we manage surface water
better, we can increase recharge
through playas by 50%.*

—Blake Prather, local rancher





“

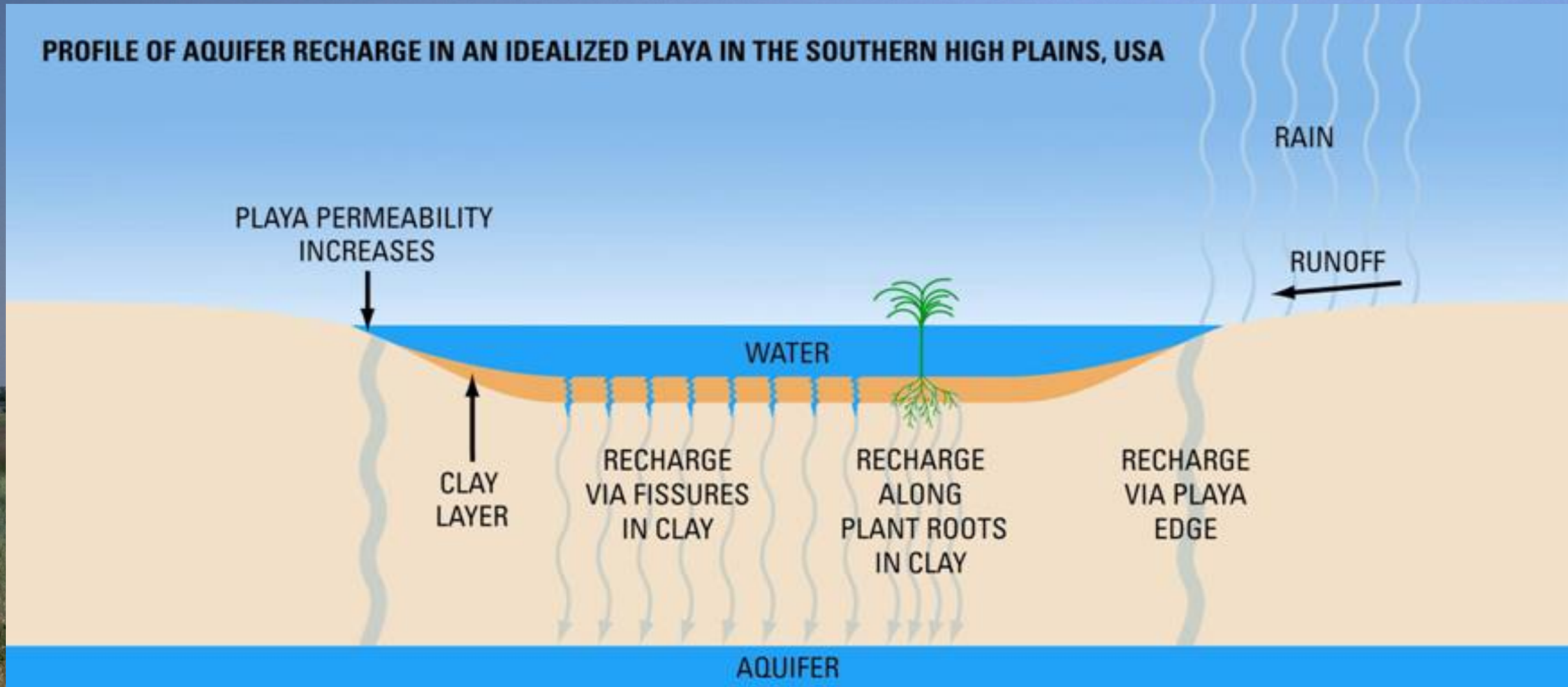
*Water security is
national security,
community security.*

*We will protect
our water through
easements and water
protection zones.*

—David Lansford, Clovis Mayor

PLAYAS

PROFILE OF AQUIFER RECHARGE IN AN IDEALIZED PLAYA IN THE SOUTHERN HIGH PLAINS, USA



ACTION

From Awareness to Action

2004-2013

- 10 years of PLJV capacity grants
- Ongoing playa outreach and education
- An assessment of all playas in the area

2015-2017

- 2 Clovis Water Summits
- Received a NAWCA Small Grant
- City's Water Assurance Plan includes playas

PROJECT	FUNDING NEEDED	LAUNCH DATE	COMPLETED
<i>Action Plan #1</i> Effluent Water Reuse Project (City of Clovis) Study indirect potable reuse concept (EPCOR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$11 Million to complete (grant submitted to complete Phase II-1C) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In progress • City of Clovis has completed Phase I 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 2019 • 6 months
<i>Action Plan #2</i> Paleochannel Water Banking (approximately 70 wells)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$2.4 Million Y1 • Perpetual lease of water rights begins Y2 • \$40 Million Total 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 1, 2018 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 2021
<i>Action Plan #3</i> Playa Lake Restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3.5 Million provided through grant (matching dollars derived from water banking project) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 2018 submit grant • Begin restoration July 2018 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December 2021
<i>Action Plan #4</i> Conservation Land & Water Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stacking the Benefits (TBD) • Water-Surface-Air • Tax Credits • Enhanced land and water management area • In perpetuity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 2017 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December 2017
<i>Action Plan #5</i> Ute Water Pipeline Project (CAFB to Portales and Clovis)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 2019 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 2024 (1st pipeline)

PLAYA FIELD TRIP

- Mayor and city officials
- County commissioners
- Soil and water conservation districts
- Local landowners and dairy farmers
- State and federal agencies
- Nonprofit conservation organizations

Water Potential from Playas

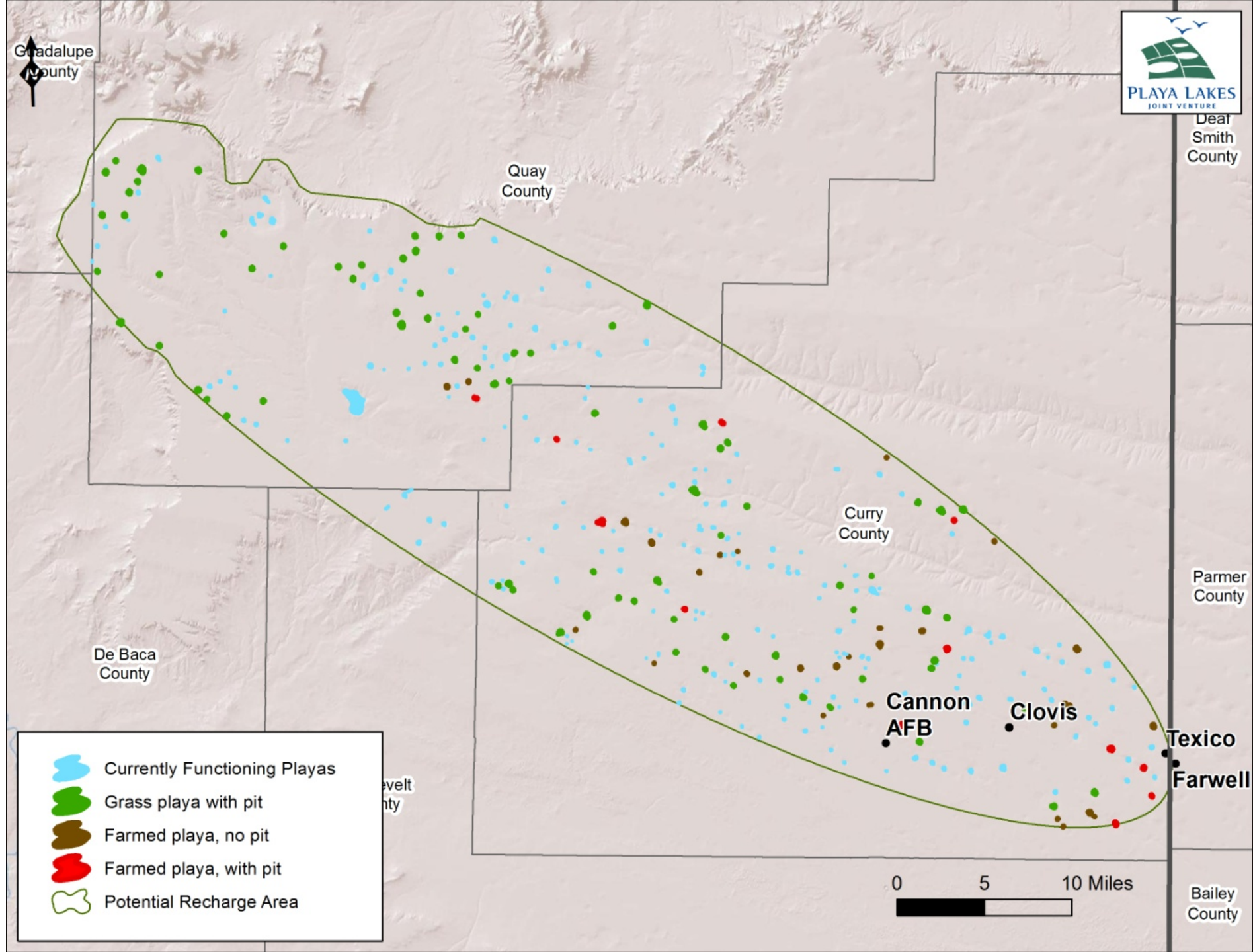
TODAY

2,752 functional
playa-acres recharge about
225 million gallons
(15% of municipal use)

FUTURE

4,137 functional
playa-acres recharge about
337 million gallons
(23% of municipal use)

= 8% INCREASE



Playa Restoration Costs and Benefits

PLAYA CONDITION	PLAYAS	ACRES	RESTORATION COSTS	AVERAGE BENEFIT	% GOAL BCR 18 NM	
				DUDs	Wet year	“Average” Year
Functional Now, Not in 2040	181	1,411	\$243,000	189k	5.7%	0.57%
Grass, Pit	83	1,039	\$415,000	139k	4.2 %	0.42%
Farmed, No Pit	31	196	\$1,390,000*	26k	0.8%	0.08%
Farmed, Pit	12	149	\$1,100,000*	20k	0.6%	0.06%
Total	307	2,795	\$3,148,000	373k	11.3%	1.13%

* Restoration estimate for farmed playas does not include easement or offset for lost revenue

SUCCESS

You know you're succeeding when...

THEY

- ✓ Call you
- ✓ Offer funds and resources
- ✓ Offer their time and effort
- ✓ Are your ambassador

YOU

- ✓ Support rather than lead
- ✓ Push rather than pull
- ✓ Are challenged to keep up with them
- ✓ Are their ambassador

YOU ALL

- ✓ Talk about similarities rather than differences
- ✓ Involve community segments
- ✓ Debate about how rather than what



OUR HUMAN DIMENSIONS JOURNEY

2006

- Survey to 1,800 farmers/ranchers
- Ogallala Aquifer #1 conservation concern
- 50% didn't know if playas recharge

2007

- Started promoting role of playas in groundwater recharge
- Literature review, film, website, radio, fact sheet

2013

- 13 focus groups with landowners
- Majority would conserve playas to help aquifer, if convinced
- Fewer conserve playas for wildlife
- Need more info from credible source

2015

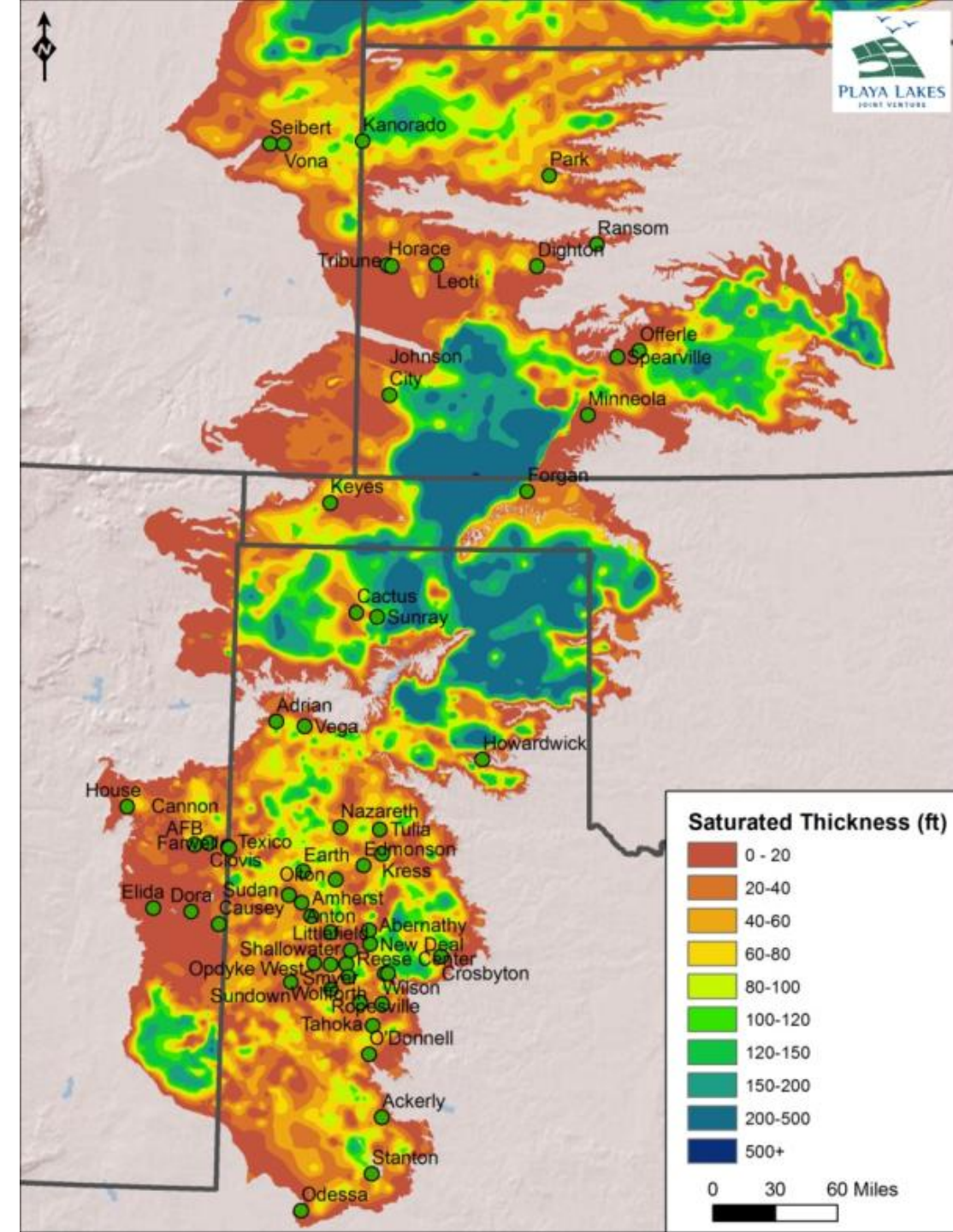
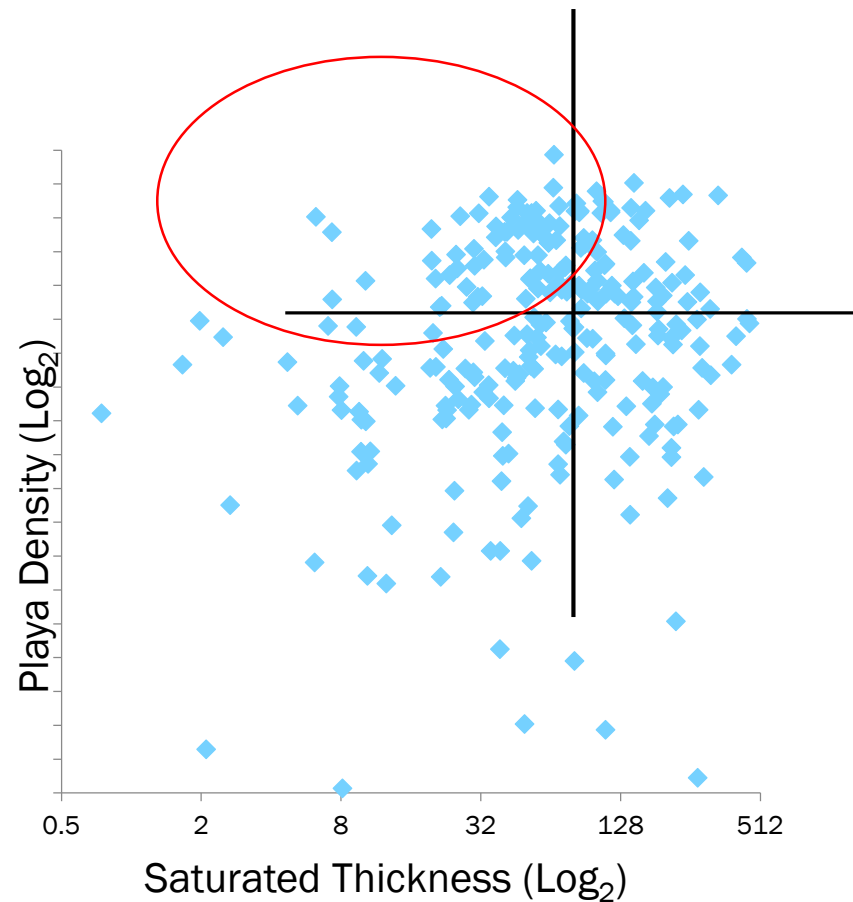
- Asked the experts at Playa Summit what we could say about playas and recharge
- Recharge averages 3" per year & is cleaner
- You can't save irrigators but enough for towns

2016

- Early meetings with Clovis leadership
- City of Clovis asked us to participate in their Water Conservation Summit and talk about playas

FUTURE

56 Towns Like Clovis



OUR MISSION

*“Conserve playas, prairies
and landscapes
of the western Great Plains
for the benefit of
birds, other wildlife,
and PEOPLE.”*

