

Historic Vegetation Changes in Lincoln County, New Mexico: The Albuquerque Banquet Presentation

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Abstract—Repeat photography will demonstrate that since European settlement commenced, the native vegetation of Lincoln County, New Mexico has dramatically changed. Numerous historic photographs have been re-taken, demonstrating how landscapes and ecosystems have changed, not just between early European settlement until the present, but also in the intervening years. Photographs will be seen from as early as 1868, as recently as September 2006, and the years in-between. While the program will focus on ecosystems dominated by piñon and juniper and the implications of the increase of these species, other vegetation types will also be examined. An unusual feature of the repeat photography is that some of the specific photo sites include images from the intervening years, with photo sets that are not limited to a single pair of comparison images. Thus, changes in vegetation over time can be observed in order to better understand the timing and possible influences that have resulted in unmistakable changes in the appearance of Lincoln County landscapes.