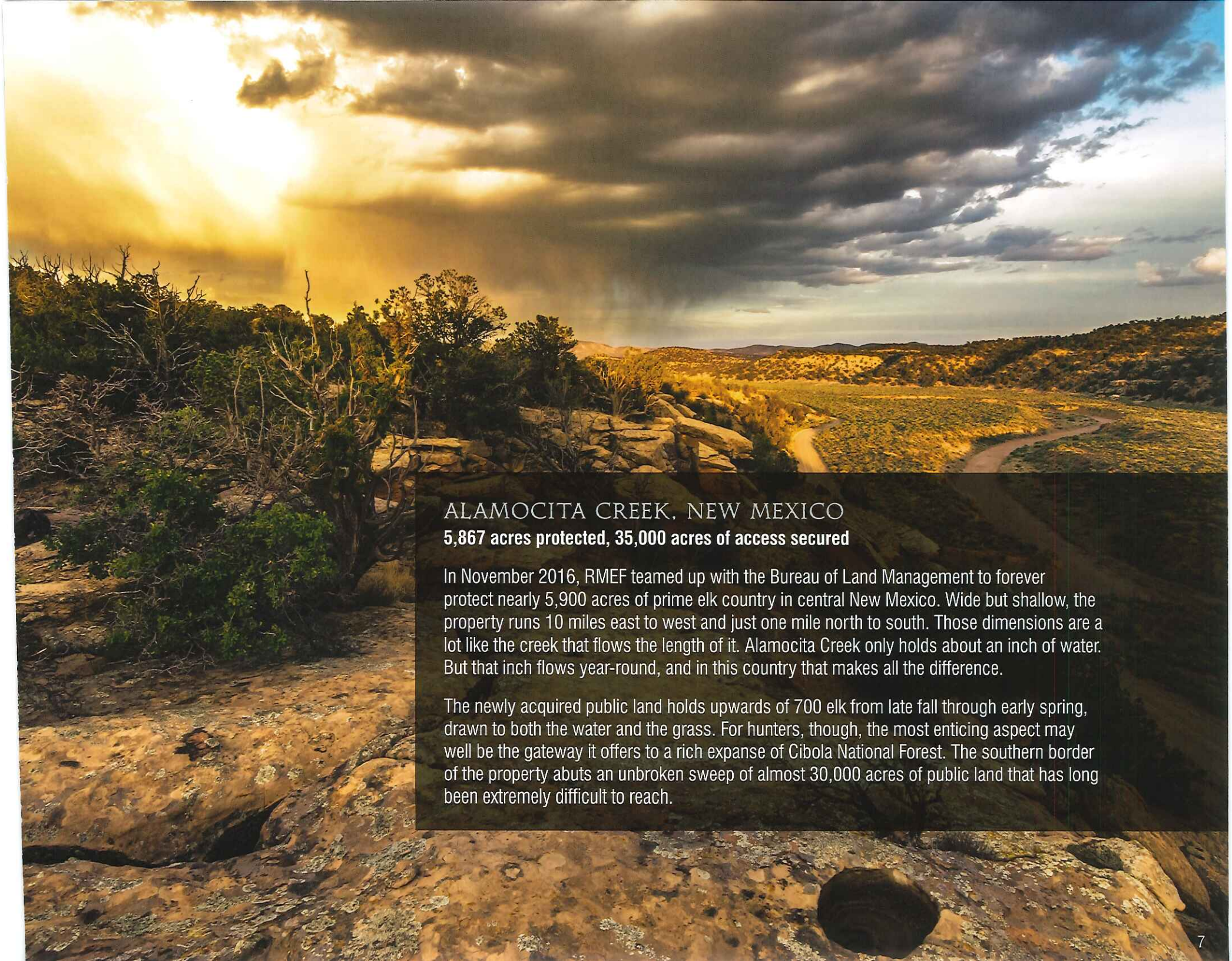
RMEF
ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION

In 1984, four hunters from Northwest Montana recognized a handful of organizations doing great work for species like ducks, turkeys and upland birds. They also recognized there was no group dedicated to North America's grandest big game animal—elk. In May of that year, they pooled their time, talent and resources and created the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, an organization dedicated to elk, elk hunting and the habitat they need to thrive.

From the most humble beginnings in 1984, the RMEF has risen to become one of the most effective and efficient conservation organizations in the United States. Today, working together with members, volunteers, and partners, the RMEF is striving to conserve more of elk country, and to be a strong voice for hunters, access and wildlife management and conservation issues.

HUNTING IS CONSERVATION

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation believes that Hunting Is Conservation. Early American leaders like Theodore Roosevelt shaped a set of ideals now known as the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. They declared that wildlife belongs to all of us and that every citizen is entitled to hunt and fish. And, that science-based, state-regulated hunting would drive wildlife conservation and management. Today, the U.S. has the most successful conservation and wildlife management system in the world. No one does more to fund and uphold this model than hunters.



ALAMOCITA CREEK, NEW MEXICO

5,867 acres protected, 35,000 acres of access secured

In November 2016, RMEF teamed up with the Bureau of Land Management to forever protect nearly 5,900 acres of prime elk country in central New Mexico. Wide but shallow, the property runs 10 miles east to west and just one mile north to south. Those dimensions are a lot like the creek that flows the length of it. Alamocita Creek only holds about an inch of water. But that inch flows year-round, and in this country that makes all the difference.

The newly acquired public land holds upwards of 700 elk from late fall through early spring, drawn to both the water and the grass. For hunters, though, the most enticing aspect may well be the gateway it offers to a rich expanse of Cibola National Forest. The southern border of the property abuts an unbroken sweep of almost 30,000 acres of public land that has long been extremely difficult to reach.

HABITAT STEWARDSHIP

Healthy habitat is essential for elk and other wildlife. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation helps fund and conduct a variety of projects to improve essential forage, water, cover and space for wildlife, and supports research and management efforts to help maintain productive elk herds and habitat.

- **Habitat Stewardship Program Elements:** The RMEF's Habitat Stewardship Program is comprised of three elements: habitat enhancement, wildlife management and research. Primary financial support for the program comes from RMEF volunteers who raise funds through local chapter events for project grants. The RMEF then works with biologists, land managers and other stakeholders to fund quality projects.

- **Habitat Stewardship Projects:** RMEF works with federal and state land managers as well as private landowners to complete a wide array of habitat stewardship projects. By working with partners, RMEF has been able to leverage an average of five dollars of project work for each dollar we spend. Habitat stewardship projects include prescribed burning, water development, aspen regeneration, weed treatment and much more.

- **Volunteers:** Each year hundreds of RMEF volunteers roll up their sleeves to make a difference on the ground. Volunteer projects help remove hazardous fence, install and repair wildlife water sources, seed native vegetation and more.

ELK RESTORATION ZONE, WISCONSIN

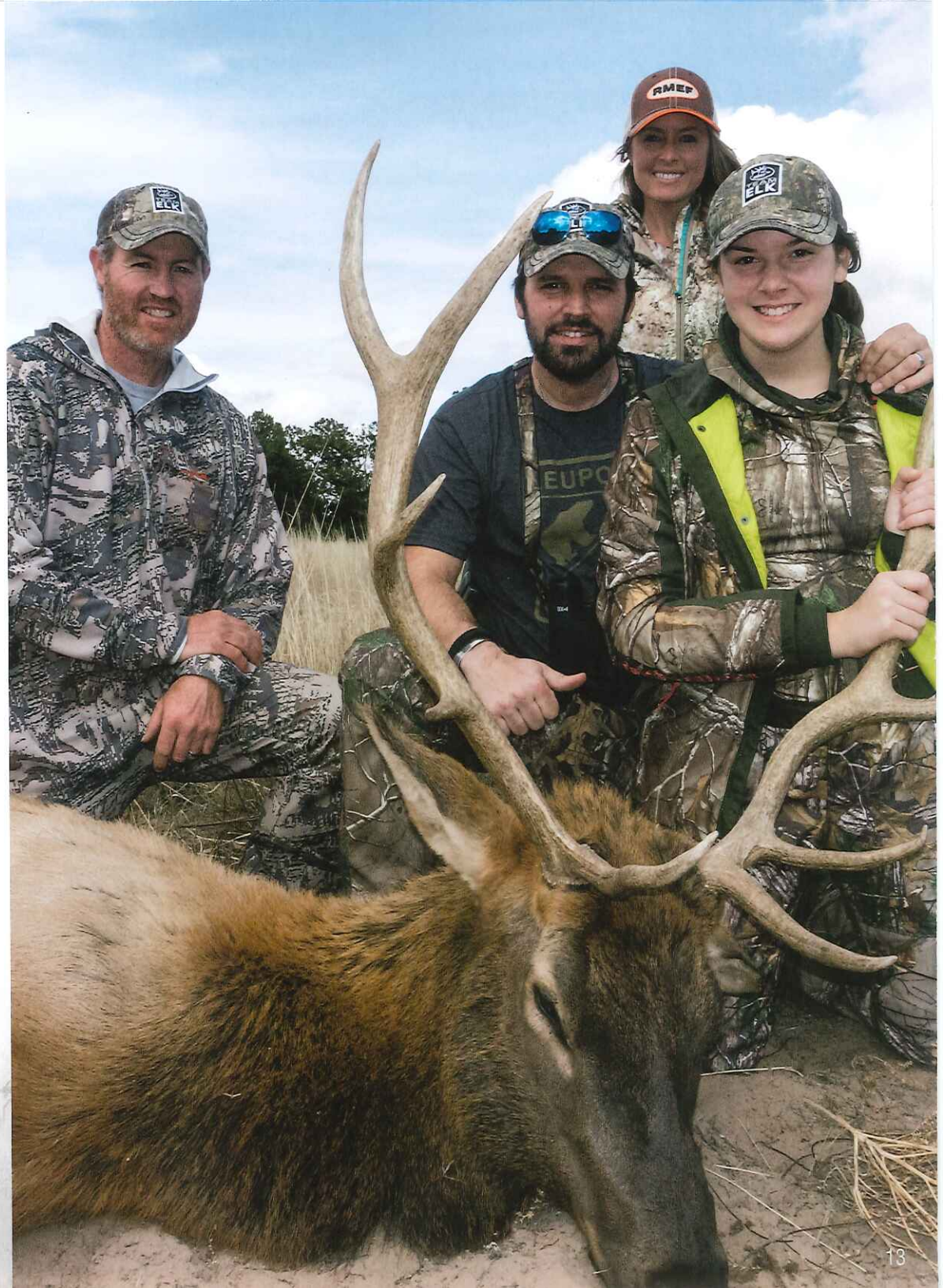
More wild, free-ranging elk are back on their native Wisconsin range thanks to a team effort involving RMEF, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife. RMEF will provide $300,000 over a period of three to five years to augment Wisconsin's original elk herd near Clam Lake and start a new herd in Jackson County. Wildlife officials plan to introduce 150 elk with an eventual population goal of 1,800 statewide.

HUNTING HERITAGE

Hunters were the first conservationists and remain the mightiest force the conservation world has ever known. RMEF has several outreach programs to help people learn more about our hunting heritage and the role hunters play in conserving wildlife and their habitat.

- **State Grants:** The RMEF State Grants program provides funding to numerous local, state and regional Hunting Heritage programs, such as Becoming an Outdoors Woman, National Archery in the Schools Program, 4-H Shooting Sports and much more.

- **The Wildlife Leadership Awards (WLA):** Established to recognize, encourage and promote leadership among future wildlife management professionals, the program awards scholarships to college juniors and seniors chosen for their leadership ability, dedication to wildlife conservation and scholastic achievements.



MISSION

The mission of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation is to ensure the future of elk, other wildlife, their habitat and our hunting heritage.

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