



Legacy Fund Type Projects

Current Projects of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Forest & Watershed Health

- **Otero SWCD** has executed a **Joint Powers Agreement with NM Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department** to complete individual work plans. Ten work plans have been completed treating over 1,297.69 acres and totaling \$1,740,722.67.
- In 2020, **Otero SWCD** entered into a **Memorandum of Agreement to complete projects through the NM State Land Office**. The first project completed was located on the Circle Cross Ranch for 200 acres. In fiscal year 2021 we treated 179.362 acres through the Coleman **Non-Federal Land (NFL)** and 162 acres on the Circle Cross Watershed Health Project. In fiscal year 2023 we treated 25.2 acres within the Two Goats/High Rolls **NFL** Project area and 20.37 acres in the Otero County **Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)** area.
- The **Upper Chama District** applied for a **2021 Hazardous Fuel Reduction Grant**, was awarded \$250,000 and served as the fiscal agent. • The District applied for and submitted applications for the **FY 2022 WUI (Wildland Urban Interface)** and **FY 2022 NFL (Hazardous Forest Fuel Treatments on Non-Federal Lands)** grants.
- **The Claunch-Pinto SWCD** has been the fiscal agent for numerous **State Forestry and Forest Service** Agreements.
- **The East Torrance SWCD** has participated in a **Watershed Thinning** Program for many years as well.

More Forest and Watershed Health

CFRP PROJECT: Field trip to one of the project sites to discuss thinning prescription. Agencies represented: USFS, Center for Biological Diversity and NM State Forestry



- **Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Thinning Project: Grant SWCD** signed a grant agreement with NM State Forestry to complete hazardous fuels reduction projects in Grant County. Grant monies allocated for thinning and treatment for private landowners is **\$188,000**. This project is designed to decrease the wildfire risk on critical pieces of private property within at-risk areas of Grant County.

- **Grant SWCD, in collaboration with the Nature Conservancy**, continues project work for an awarded **CFRP grant** focusing on building collaborative capacity for forest restoration on the Gila National Forest.

- **Salado SWCD** managed a **WUI grant**

San Juan SWCD is just getting started on our area's first ever **RCPP grant** from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

This grant will provide **\$750,000** to address **Russian Olive and Salt Cedar removal**

- **Taos SWCD** completed **17** Forest Health Program projects assisting **16** landowners and benefiting **216.5** woodland acres.
- The District continued to participate in the Taos County **Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)** collaborative.



Salt Cedar & Russian Olive



- **RIO GRANDE RESTORATION FUNDING** The Socorro SWCD used this year's "Plan, Design, Implement and Construct Habitat Restoration on the Rio Grande Socorro County" funding for extraction and mastication of **Salt cedar on a 100-acre tract for \$31,780.00**
- **The Socorro SWCD** contracted with Ferranti Natural Resources to **spray 117.5 acres of Salt cedar** in the Sawtooth mountains near Datil, NM. Public Recreation Areas
- ◆ **Carlsbad SWCD** continued with **BLM - Carlsbad Field Office (CFO)** assistance agreement in hand herbicide treatment of **salt cedar and follow-up maintenance along 22 miles of the Pecos River and 12 combined miles on the Delaware and Black Rivers.**

Tiffany Fire Rehabilitation Plan

In June of 2017, the Tiffany Fire was ignited by a lightning strike near San Marcial, NM. The fire ended up burning 9,200 acres of primarily Tamarisk dominate vegetation. **The Sierra SWCD continued to partner with 9 other entities to restore the burned area** to the historic, productive state on projects started last year. Sierra SWCD contracted with Tetra Tech Inc. out of Albuquerque to develop the **Tiffany Fire Rehabilitation** The district continues to work with project partners to acquire implementation funding to continue work within the Tiffany Basin burn scar. Main activities include managing fire-break restoration area where over 300 native, wildlife-friendly shrubs were planted and continuously watered to ensure establishment, as well as management of noxious weeds: salt cedar, pepper weed, and thistle.

Federal funding from BLM

- **127 WO 20-5 NMACD 2021 Restore NM** -Aerial Herbicide project. Spraying was conducted on **8756 acres**. Spraying was done on October 17th. The total bill was **\$234,424.00** for spraying and \$8352.82 for the tech assistant. Seven clean water retention dams were built. BLM fencing material was delivered to BLM on Nov.1, 2022 in **San Juan SWCD**.



State Forestry Invasive Plant Management

- **Tierra Y Montes SWCD** received a grant for \$20,037 from **NM State Forestry** to implement Invasive Plant Management practices on private lands in **Mora and San Miguel Counties**. Tierra Y Montes SWCD mapped, applied herbicide treatments, reseeded and monitored 56 acres of private land with 8 landowners receiving assistance during this period. This project utilized **\$11,887.00 of NM State Forestry grant funds**. ■ Tierra Y Montes SWCD received \$19,167.19 in state allocation funding awarded through SWCC in coordination with NMDA.
- **Claunch-Pinto SWCD** Projects
 - **Non-Federal Lands Grant through EMNRD** – Forestry Division for Estancia Basin Watershed Health, Restoration and Monitoring Project
 - **Non-Federal Lands Grant through EMNRD** – Forestry Division for lands within the Claunch-Pinto SWCD
 - **Collaborative Forest Restoration Program** for the Chupadera Mesa Project
 - Continued to work with **FEMA on the hazardous fuel reduction project**.
 - Prepared a new hazardous mitigation project proposal for **FEMA funding**

Healthy Soils Program

- Three **Healthy Soil Program grants** for Individual Applicants, all of which were successfully completed. **Coronado SWCD** was the Eligible Entity and Fiscal Agent in Bernalillo County.
- Two applicants received sponsorship from the **San Juan SWCD**. Each applicant was awarded **\$22,000.00 for their projects..** **NMSU, SJC Extension, SJSWCD and NRCS sponsored a Healthy Soils Grant Writing Workshop.** Soil Health Projects- test soil and in field soil assessments in SW Quay SWCD

Implemented and funded a **soil testing program** with local producers in **De Baca SWCD**.. Soil samples were taken and sent off to the lab. The test was then sent to NMSU for feedback and recommendations. In return producers were asked to submit a survey

During the program's four years, nearly **\$1.7 million** has been awarded to **112 on-the-ground projects** Each project begins and ends with in-field soil assessment and lab testing. The goal is to incentivize behaviors that will improve soil over time.

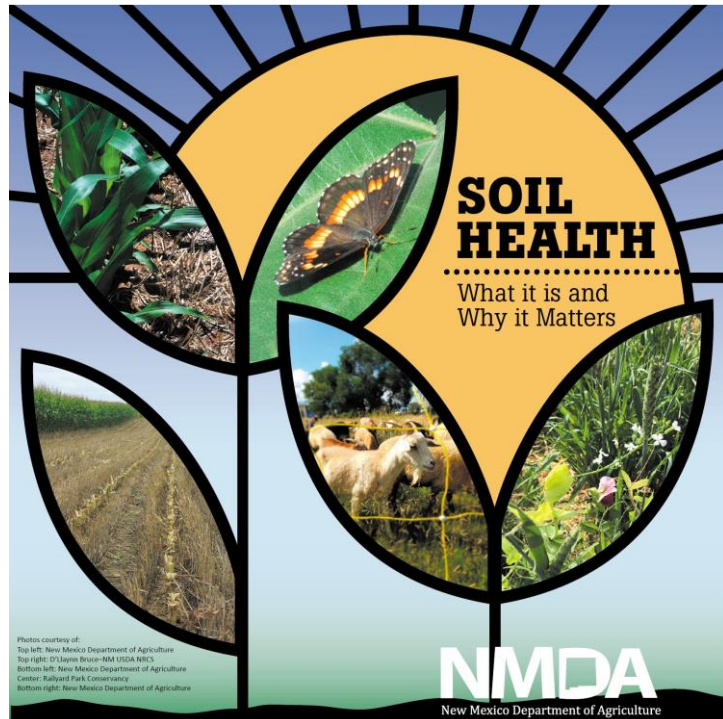


Soil, Water and Tissue Testing Reimbursement

At the East Rio SWCD **Soil Probes** are available to be loaned out or East Rio Arriba SWCD staff are available to go out and provide in the field Soil Sample training to cooperators upon request

- Allocated \$5,000 to assist cooperators with Soil, Water and Tissue
- Testing Reimbursement program. **The Soil, Water & Plant Tissue Testing**
- Reimbursement program helps cooperators by providing a one-time service
- for Soil, Water & Plant Tissue Testing where they may be reimbursed
- up to \$100.00

- The Taos SWCD continued to work with the NM Office of the State Engineer to **monitor ground water levels** in the Sunshine Valley.
- Taos received funding for training as well as **soil sampling funds. 94 soil samples** were analyzed from agriculture cooperators located throughout Taos County. Samples were tested for routine soil parameters as well as organic matter and microbiology. Taos SWCD staff then conducted an outreach event to interpret test results for landowners.



Office of Natural Resources Trustee Funding

- ORNT San Juan Valley Healthy Soils – The project’s original focus involved four farmers for planting a total of thirty-six acres. **By February 2023, an additional five more farmers from San Juan Chapter area and five farmers from the Upper Fruitland area were added for a total of fourteen farmers and the total acreage involved went up to 225 acres.** Farm planting plans were formulated, 167 yards of compost was spread, and seed was in the ground by the March 1st deadline. FY- 2022-2023 Expenditures \$50,582.86. Pending Grant **\$642,696.86**

ONRT Ditch Diversion

Construct new diversions and replace
ditch head gates

\$1.6 Million

- The Grant SWCD has also managed projects funded by the ONRT because of a settlement in Grant County.



Water Trust Board Funding

- Water Trust Board 2022 – Russian Olive removal and restoration on private lands in **San Juan Soil and Water Conservation District**.
- **The Ute Creek SWCD** has been working on the Canadian River Riparian Restoration Program funded by **Water Trust Board, NM Game & Fish & NRCS RCPP** program for almost 20 years.
- **Claunch-Pinto SWCD** prepared Water Trust Board proposals for the Estancia Basin Watershed Health, Restoration and Monitoring Project and the Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance for **1.2 mil per year**.
- **The Guadalupe SWCD** has been funded **\$650,000** to restore areas invaded by Pinon/Juniper for 2 projects
- **The Upper Chama SWCD** received **WTB funding for Forest Thinning and Riparian Restoration**.
- **The East Rio Arriba SWCD** was awarded a **\$1 million grant** from Water Trust Board (WTB).

River Stewardship Funding

- **San Francisco SWCD** in Catron County worked with engineers in Flagstaff on a **River Stewardship grant** for the landowner section of the Willow Creek restoration project
- Watershed Restoration through removal of junipers at the Los Olmos. San Francisco SWCD continued to work on the Willow Creek Restoration project with the **Water Trust Board and River Stewardship.**
- **The Taos SWCD** and partners have applied for and received **River Stewardship Funding**



Range Monitoring

- **San Francisco SWCD** attended a training on range monitoring with people from **Sierra, Grant and San Francisco SWCDs**. Howard also attended **Public Lands Council on National Level** and signed an **MOU** with the USFS and BLM to help with monitoring and gathering data.
- NMACD has received a grant for \$150,000 from the **National Assn of Conservation Districts** to pay for interns to do the monitoring on the **Gila National Forest** for the 3 SWCDs and 2 SWCDs in the north.
- Rio Lucero Watershed Restoration project: **Taos SWCD**, in partnership with **Rocky Mountain Youth Corps and the Cerro Negro Forest Council**, hired **6 student forest monitors during the summer/fall of 2020**. The student monitors began an assessment of ecological changes resulting from forest thinning treatments on a **191-acre** watershed restoration project in **Taos County**.



Acequia Programs

- Coronado is still expending a **\$109,350 capital outlay grant** from 2020 for acequia reservoir improvements
- A capital outlay grant from the 2023 Legislature of **\$200,000** to continue acequia reservoir improvements in Bernalillo County.
- The Upper Chama District continued to provide Water Management Funding for Acequia Infrastructure Repairs. Acequia projects must be a group governed by a board and must contribute in-kind or monetary cost-share. Acequias are also encouraged to apply for funding through NMACD Statewide **Acequia RCPP, ISC construction program and NRCS.**
- Coronado SWCD project in partnership with Las Huertas Community Ditch, restoring a reservoir in **Cibola National Forest**, was completed. This makes their acequia much more efficient and will conserve much water.
- Cuba SWCD **Rio Salado Watershed Restoration**
- The project consisted of the treatment of noxious weeds, salt cedar and Russian olive. The goal of the project is to start the restoration of riparian areas and promote native species and improve wildlife habitat. In addition, this project will serve to minimize hazardous fuels within the project area.
- NMACD brought **7.2 million to NM through the USDA Regional Conservation Partners Program** which was leveraged with NM ISSC, NM Acequia Assn and several SWCDs.

More Acequia Programs

- Taos SWCD completed **25** *Acequia* projects (2 group & 23 individual) assisting **152** landowners and benefiting **372** irrigated acres.
- Taos SWCD also provided professional engineering support to five acequia associations. This technical assistance benefited **377** landowners and **1,712** irrigated acres in Taos County

04/12/2021

- **2018 RCPP Agreement**
- **Area of Participation - Statewide**
- **Awarded – 2,907,614**
- **Expended – \$1,439,753.21FA & TA**
- **Financial Assistance – expended \$1,242,049.76 of \$2,180,483.00 (\$938433.24 remain)**
- **Technical Assistance – expended \$461,277.18 of \$581.500.00 (\$120,222.82 remain)**
- **Applications received – 87**
- **Initial Partner Contribution commitment – \$11,983,326**
- **Core Partners-**
- **Interstate Stream Commission**
- **New Mexico Acequia Association**
- **New Mexico Department of Agriculture**
- **East Rio Arriba SWCD, Upper Chama SWCD, Tierra Y Montes SWCD, Taos SWCD**
- **New Mexico Acequia Commission**
- **Lower Bull Creek**
- **Los Trigos Ditch**
- **Cuarteles Djitch Association**
- **Acequia del Cano**



- **12 projects completed**
 - **Acequia de la Canova at Velarde –**
 - **Heredia Ditch at Mimbres -Second phase**
 - **Acequia del La Joya at Socorro– Completed (ACOE & ISC)**
 - **Heredia Ditch at Mimbres – completed, second phase**
 - **Acequia del Llano – Canjilon**
 - **Acequia del Brazito – Canjilon**
 - **Acequia de Rio Chama – Rio Chama/Medanales**
 - **Luna Community Ditch at Luna**
 - **Abeyta-Trujillo, Abiquiu – completed phase one under usfws**
 - **Acequia de Santa Cruz – Completed, designed through RCPP, funded by ISC & Capital**
 - **Outlay**
 - **Acequia de Rainsville Norte, Rainsville**
 - **Acequia de las Joyas, Pojoaque**
- **In Construction**
 - **Acequia Madre de Costilla**
 - **Pending**
 - **Acequia de Anton Chico**
 - **Acequia de las Canovas**



More Noxious Weeds

- Leveraging the county funds with federal funding we partner with other agencies to expand the program. Since 2007 the **Bureau of Land Management** has awarded us **\$527,000** to treat noxious plants primarily on BLM administered lands in Otero County.
- **Otero SWCD** was contracted to treat **497 acres of African rue on county rights-of-way** in conjunction with treatments on Otero County properties and BLM lands. A new award treated **1600 acres of BLM lands for invasive plants on BLM lands** with the potential to be renewed annually for four years. Working with NM Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department we have treated private lands in the Sacramento Mountains for noxious plants such as Musk thistle in 2022 and again in 2023. Utilizing our memorandum of agreement with the **NM State Land Office** we were again able to treat **60 acres of African rue at the Tuli Motocross**.
- **Roosevelt, Chaves, Border, and Central Curry SWCDs** conducted a meeting with the *High Plains Cooperative Weed Management Area*. We have been awarded funding for next year through a *SWCC WQ&C Grant* and the *County of Chaves* for controlling noxious weeds.
- **San Juan SWCD** Priority areas to be sprayed include the gravel pits for halogen, then Middle Mesa for leafy spurge, then on to Rosa, Middle Mesa, Pump Canyon, Glade area and Upper La Plata area for Russian Knapweed and thistle. Any remaining funds will be utilized to spray halogen where it has been previously mapped.
- **Border SWCD & Roosevelt SWCD (RSWCD)** continues to help facilitate the High Plains Weed Management Group (CWMA) targeting African Rue. The group is mapping areas, providing spray to landowners and spraying the weed.

Noxious Weeds- Coordinated Weed Management Areas (CWMA)

- **Carlsbad SWCD** Coordinated approximately **2368 acres in treatment** (i.e., African rue, Malta Star thistle, saltcedar, etc.) as lead agency for the Eddy County CWMA; collaborated with various oil and gas companies and private companies within the county to assist them with noxious weed control.
- **Chaves SWCD** working with **BLM** on Noxious Weed Grant for Noxious Weeds- Chemical application, Contract Labor for Hand Application and Monitoring in Chaves County. Water Quality Grant to continue treatment of Russian Knapweed along Hagerman Canal
- **Coronado SWCD** received **\$125,000 for improvements to a Placitas arroyo**—to clear invasive species and improve drainage, etc
- The **Deming SWCD with the Cooperative Extension Service and Luna County** received a grant for \$40,000 to treat African Rue. They ordered chemical and sprayed a large amount of acreage including roadways, ranches, farms and, public use areas such as the Luna County Fairgrounds. The District distributed chemical to the County, City and local ranchers and farmers. In May- June they will treat African Rue again and will treat it again in September. Additionally, a weed control contractor has been used to increase the coverage area.
- This year, the **Socorro SWCD** used our **BLM noxious weed funding to treat over 212 acres of land**

RESTORE NM

- Restore NM -Aerial Herbicide project for **BLM**. Spraying was conducted on 8756 acres. Spraying was done on October 17th. The total bill was **\$234,424.00** for spraying and \$8352.82 for the tech assistant in San Juan SWCD.
- Working with BLM Recreation and multiple oil and gas industry representatives to improve recreation areas within the District, developing the Six Mile Dam Area, the Cottonwood Day Use and Black River areas, the Hackberry Lakes OHV site, Sunset Reef and Chosa campgrounds, Conoco Lake as well as the new Guadalupe Ridge Trail project in the Carlsbad SWCD.
- **NMACD has brought over 40 million to NM through grants with BLM for the Restore NM which has been matched/leveraged with Over 60 million from NRCS and Landowners.**



Playa Lake Restoration Projects

- ***Roosevelt SWCD signed an MOA with NM Game & Fish to work with them on the Playa Restoration Project.***
- **SW Quay SWCD- Restoring Playa Lakes- Funding from NM Game & Fish & Play Lakes Joint Venture**
- **Central Curry SWCD participates in the Playa Lake Restoration which is funded by the NM Game & Fish.**



Local Cost Share Programs

- **The Deming SWCD** funding to complete a cost share program with local producers to replace aging drip tape. The district was able to fund 11 projects totaling **\$300,000** to aid producers in replacing their aging systems.
- **The Northeastern district** in Clayton, NM sold trees and drip supplies to **11 districts in 3 states** as well as the districts constituents. During the District's Annual Tree Program, 1,783 trees (533 more than last year), 6,500-ft. drip tubing, 38,000- Sq. ft. of landscape fabric, along with other drip accessories, were distributed. Drip supplies and fabric are available all year!
- **Cost Share Program in Sierra SWCD** includes fencing, water development, brush management, land leveling. They also have an Urban Cost Share- Low flow toilets and shower heads, drip irrigation.
- **The Chaves SWCFD Cost-share, Brush control cost-share, Noxious weed & Irrigation Loan Programs** -Includes Linear, Center pivot & Solid Set sprinklers for greater efficiency in irrigation and Brush control on grazing lands for improvement of pastureland
- **The LEA District** has a no-till drill, grain drill, conservation seed drill, skid steer loader with attachments, for rent by Lea County producers. Brush control products are available for purchase as well.



Local District Equipment



- **Provided farm equipment** for the low fee rental program for local and neighboring district cooperators at the **East Rio Arriba SWCD**

Examples of conservation practices include irrigation improvement projects such as the installation of gated pipe, underground pipe, concrete, valves, bonnets and head gates. Since the program began in 2010 the district has spent **\$630,889.64** on over **276 acequia projects**.

Lava SWCD purchased a **poly pipe welder** for use by cooperators.



Equipment Rentals for Conservation

- **Western Mora SWCD** district currently owns a **John Deer tractor, discs, plow, skid-steer, chipper, no till drill, reg-drill, auger, brush hog, ditcher, broadcaster/fertilizer spreader and rotary tiller**. The district rents out the equipment assisting producers with prepping fields, planting and more.
 - Through Capital Outlay, the district purchased a **420 07A CAT Backhoe Loader** that will be rented out for larger/acequia projects.
 - **A two-wheel tractor was purchased as well as a rear tine triller** to assist smaller projects/gardens.
 - Capital Outlay Funding FY22/23 **\$225,000-purchased backhoe & utility truck**
 - **Lease agreement for NRCS \$66,420/annual for 10-year lease for office space.**
- The **Upper Chama SWCD** has an equipment/implement rental program for all landowners. The landowner provides seed, fuel and general daily maintenance of equipment/implements. The **District provides the equipment to the landowners** for 3 days with a maintenance fee and deposit fee which is refundable once equipment is returned. This year over 30 landowners utilized the equipment

Flood Control Dams

- **Otero SWCD** sponsored construction of the Upper Penasco Watershed Project, which included constructing **three floodwater-retarding dams**.
- An **Emergency Action Plan** has been approved by the Office of the State Engineer/Dam Safety Bureau for the three dams in **Otero SWCD**.
- Provided administrative oversight to **Hackberry Draw Watershed District** as well as oversight of structure and drainage maintenance.
- **The Grant SWCD is the sponsor of 12 Flood Control Dams.**
- **The Caballo SWCD is the sponsor of 19 Flood Control Dams.**



Federal Funding Leveraged in Otero County

FEDERAL GRANTS		
USFS - Hazardous Fuels (Match)	Residents utilize to reduce wildfire risk	387,475.00
BLM - Noxious Weed Control (Match)	Treat noxious weeds on BLM and ROW	81,800.00
BLM - Range Improvements	Remove brush and address erosion on BLM Lands	245,454.45
USFS - Noxious Weed Control (Match)	Residents sign up for private land treatments	16,217.00
EMNRD - Rural Community Forester	Provides funds to RC&D for Forester Position	50,000.00
Contractual Services SCM RC&D	Partner administrative fees for haz. fuels	30,998.00
LOCAL GRANTS;		
National Park Foundation	Reimburse schools for field trips	6,104.94
Otero County Program	Noxious weed control	55,500.00
	Watershed Health	30,000.00
	Education and Outreach	14,500.00

Ground Water Monitoring

- **Northeastern conservation district** has completed the 2022 phase of the multi-year **Union County Hydrology Study** Project. During the 2022-2023 fiscal year, ZGC measured static water level in 73 wells and collected samples for analyses from six wells. The geochemistry illustrates the complexity of the geology in the subsurface that controls the distribution of groundwater resources within the district and is being coupled to the geologic mapping information as that aspect of the project progresses.
- ***The Roosevelt SWCD continued with our WellIntel device installed on our well for a well-monitoring program.***
- **Border District** began water table monitoring. This practice will be used for training and to encourage water well monitoring.
- **Ground Water Well Monitoring-35** plus wells since 2017- Zeigler Geologic Consulting in the SW Quay SWCD.
- **Mora-Wagon mound SWCD** Presented update on **water monitoring project to the Village of Wagon Mound**
- Provided (underwater monitoring project) assistance to 32 landowners with collecting and
- providing various data to landowners on their private wells and **measuring static water levels. NM Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources has completed the following studies to address this issue in Otero SWCD**
- **2012 Southern Sacramento Mountains Hydrogeology Study 2014 Northeastern Tularosa Basin Regional Hydrogeology Study**
 - **2014 Hydrologic Investigation at White Sands National Monument**
 - **2015 Sacramento Mountains Watershed Study**
 - **2016 Brackish Water Assessment in the Eastern Tularosa Basin**

Ogalalla Ground and Water Conservancy- Central Curry SWCD

- Another key partner in this RCPP is the **Department of Defense (DoD) Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) program**. DoD and the air force are providing the majority of funding for this project. Currently, funding awarded is **\$4,895,200**. In January 2023, the air force contracted with the **New Mexico Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources to conduct an aquifer mapping study inside and outside of the two paleochannel areas**. The USAF paid for this study, which was \$97,501. All research and data have been gathered, analyzed, and validated, with the draft report due the end of August 2023, and a published written report and oral presentation available in early 2023.

- At present, most of the landowners in the paleochannel, who are generational irrigation farmers, participated with REPI to cease irrigation farming under a 3-year Water Right Lease Agreement. To determine how much wet water remained in the paleochannel, NRCS metered 53 wells using an ultrasonic wrap-around meter on center pivots. The estimated water production in the paleochannel in 2017 was 12,000 gallons per minute (GPM), or 19,300-acre feet. **Currently, the actual production after metering 53 irrigation wells (10 landowners) is 7,559 GPM or 12,193-acre feet. By paying landowners to turn off wells in 2022, we saved 12,193-acre feet year one, or 3,973,010,400 gallons.**



WILDLIFE HABITAT RESTORATION

- **Chaves SWCD** is constructing antelope friendly fences in the 5 Mile Draw area west of Carlsbad with funding from **BLM & NM Game & Fish**. This consists of removing stretches of old net wire and replacing it with 3 strand barbed wire and a slick bottom wire. The antelope use these areas to move from pasture to pasture.
- **Ciudad SWCD** planted and irrigated 7 acres in diverse cover crop, pollinator and wildlife mix at **Candelaria Nature Preserve**
- **Management of 67 Acres of Habitat Restoration** activities, with volunteerism and outreach components
- **Valencia SWCDs Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area** is a wildlife conservation area comprised of **almost 100 acres managed for the purpose of habitat restoration** and public recreation and education. Usually, we host an annual Desert Willow Festival at Whitfield



PARTNERSHIPS work with SWCDs

USDA-NRCS

NM Department of Agriculture

Bureau of Land Management

Bureau of Reclamation

Forest Service

US F & Wildlife Partners Program

State Forestry

NMED- River Stewards

NM Game & Fish

NM Office of State Engineer- Dam Safety

NM Interstate Streams Commission

Outdoor Recreation Division

FEMA

DFA

Canon Airforce Base- REPI

National Fish & Wildlife Foundation

Nature Conservancy

National Assn of Conservation Districts

Forest Service Foundation

Park Service Foundation

Thornburg Foundation

WRRRI & NMSU

Private Contractors such as Archeologists

Rocky Mountain Youth Corps

Cerro Negro Forest Council

National Environmental Education Assn

White Sands National Park



Black Willow Harvesting for BOR by Sierra SWCD

ZiaMet Weather Stations

- *A ZiaMet Weather Station is currently on our property. There are other Weather Stations being installed throughout the State*
- *Several soil and water conservation districts have the ZiaMet Weather Stations on their land.*
- ***NMACD worked with NMSU to find locations across the state on ranches to install the ZiaMet Weather Stations.***



Shade Ball Water Conservation Project

- **Roosevelt SWCD** continued with our Shade Ball Water Conservation District Project. We provided a cost-share program with profits from our Water Quality & Control Grant that we received last year. SW Quay & **Central Curry SWCDs** also sponsored their own cost-share program. To date, we have ***sold approximately 390,000 shade balls***

SW Quay SWCD has a Cost Share for landowners for grassland restoration & shade balls to conserve water.

The Carlsbad SWCD also has a Cost Share program that includes the shade balls.

- **Border SWCD** cost-share awarded
- for water catchment system, shade balls
- and trees for erosion control and wind break.



US F & W Partners Program

- The **Chaves SWCD** received funding in the amount of \$90,000 from US Fish & Wildlife **Partner's for Fish and Wildlife** for at least 4 USFWS private landowner projects, 26 other landowners have been assisted and closed out within the past seven years. This grant will enable the landowners to complete wildlife habitat development activities such as follows: rock structures, fencing, critical area planting, masticating juniper encroached areas, and installation of wildlife drinkers.
- **Tierra Y Montes SWCD** implemented projects with 2 landowners utilizing \$24,518.80 in USFWS grant funds.



Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP)

- **Tierra Y Montes SWCD partnered with NRCS and the New Mexico Department of Finance & Administration to co-sponsor the Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) to assist landowners to mitigate imminent threats to life and property. ▪ To date, we have received over 550 request for assistance forms for EWP in our District alone, and over 1,000 for the Mora and San Miguel Counties Combined. ▪ As a co-sponsor for EWP, the District is tasked with securing the request for assistance forms, verifying landownership, securing permissions to install the recommended practices, coordinating with NRCS and DFA to get construction on the ground, periodic inspections of construction activities for DFA, monitoring and serving as a mediator in the event there are conflicts. ▪**
- **Western Mora SWCD is a Co-sponsorship Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire. Mora/San Miguel Long Term recovery Group-Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire**
- Collaboration with all state/federal/local/private entities regarding Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire

EWP Continued

- As part of EWP, an aerial seeding and mulching operation is being conducted to help stabilize soils in the upper portions of the watersheds in an effort to lessen the flooding impact and loss of soils downstream. The District is involved in securing landowner permissions for the operation, coordinating and planning with **NRCS and the aerial companies** to ensure project success. To date, the aerial seeding and mulching operation has seeded 29,577.43 acres and mulched 22,801.69 acres utilizing \$90,158,015.50 in NRCS EWP Funding. ▪ The second portion of EWP involves installation of practices intended to mitigate imminent threats to life and property following the HPCC Fire. Common installed practices include flood-barrier bags, earthen diversions, contour felling, critical area planting, trash racks, etc. **To date, 87 sites have received practice installation utilizing \$6,752,041.14 in NRCS funding.** ▪ **This astronomical increase in workload is occurring simultaneously while still fulfilling our normal workload.**

Fire & Flood Rehab

- With the destruction of the **Black Fire** in spring of 2022, many producers within the
 - **Sierra District** suffered significant damages to their operations. An above average surge of monsoonal moisture (while much needed) combined with the effects of the fire to create a perfect storm of catastrophic flooding in the area. **Sierra SWCD has worked to partner with landowners and agencies offering assistance**, in effort to streamline recovery efforts.
 - **Grant SWCD and San Francisco SWCD** also suffered flood damage



Conservation Education

- **Otero SWCD** has partnered with the **US Forest Service** “Take It Outside NM!” (TIONM!) Program to fund opportunities to connect school children with the natural environment. Utilizing grants from the **US Forest Service, National Park Foundation and the National Environmental Education foundation** \$21,000 has been spent to pay for busses to transport elementary school students to **White Sands National Park**, local water festivals and various locations in the **Lincoln National Forest**. There is \$6,000 remaining to continue this project.
- **Ranch Days** at the McKeen Ranch are hosted by the **San Francisco SWCD**.
- Conservation Education in **Sierra SWCD** Envirothon Team state winners & 5th National- **National Land Judging**
- **The Upper Chama SWCD** was the fiscal agent for the **FY22 Outdoor Recreation/Outdoor Equity Fund grant (\$20,000) from the New Mexico Department of Economic Division**.
- **14 SWCDs own a NM Mobile River Study Center (Rolling River Trailer)**. The Rolling River is a five by ten-foot utility trailer with a six-inch deep trailer bed that is filled with sand (actually recycled plastic granules). A meandering river or two is scooped out running from one end to the other. Small figures of cows, horses, houses, a barn, corral and a parking lot with cars and farm equipment placed on top, form a simulated village. Trees, foliage and a few rocks line the riverbank. When water is turned on at the top of the watershed, it flows through the river and can be used to demonstrate a variety of water lessons. Paid for with BOR Grants
- The **Taos District** sponsored **2** teams from Taos County to compete in both the Taos Regional Envirothon and NM Envirothon competitions. This was the **14th** year that the **District has assisted Taos County youth in participating in the world's largest environmental stewardship education program**.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)- USDA NRCS Farm Bill Program

RCPP Projects in New Mexico						
RCPP	Program	Expiration	Lead Partner	Fed Funds	Partner Contribution	
Canadian River	2015	Completed	Canadian River SWCD/NMACD	2,000,000	5,650,000	
Acequia	2015	Completed	NMACD AFA	1,200,000	9,600,000	
Restoration	2015	4/30/2021	NMACD	4,000,000	7,600,000	
North Central	2015	Completed	Claunch-Pinto SWCD	2,400,000	2,400,000	
Acequia	2016	Completed	NMACD AFA	3,000,000	15,200,000	
North Central	2016	Completed	Claunch-Pinto SWCD	500,000	500,000	
Soil Health	2017	9/30/2022	NMACD	7,000,000	10,700,000	
Chama	2017	2/28/2023	East Rio Arriba SWCD	3,420,000	9,510,600	
Canadian River	2017	9/30/2022	Ute Creek SWCD/NMACD	3,600,000	4,233,125	
Acequia	2017	2/28/2023	NMACD AFA	2,900,000	10,300,000	
North Central	2017	9/30/2022	Claunch-Pinto SWCD	970,000	970,000	
NFWF	2018	8/31/2023	NFWF/NMACD	1,350,000	1,350,000	
North Central	2018	8/31/2023	Claunch-Pinto SWCD	3,420,000	3,420,000	
Restoration	2019	Renewal	NMACD	4,000,000	9,320,000	
North Central	2019	Renewal	Claunch-Pinto SWCD	2,400,000	2,400,000	
Eastern Plains	2019	New	NMACD	2,030,000	10,369,200	
San Juan	2019	New	San Juan SWCD	1,040,000	2,500,000	
Ogalalla	2020	New	NMACD	6,911,311	15,000,000	
TOTALS				52,141,311	121,022,925	

All of these projects can apply for additional phases of work for conservation and restoration of Acequias, Canadian River Riparian, Northern Rio Grande, Eastern Plains Grasslands, San Juan Riparian, Soil Health & Federal Lands Ranches.

SWCDs furnish USDA offices across the state



**SWCDs furnish office space to USDA in ,
Lea, Mora, Roosevelt, San Juan, Cuba, East Rio Arriba,
Sierra, Caballo, & Claunch- Pinto SWCD.**

The rent stays in the local community

Helping to support our rural communities

**Taos, Upper Chama, Western Mora, Tierra Y Montes,
Valencia, Penasco & Central Valley, Chaves, & Socorro**

Have their own offices without USDA.

**For the 3 million dollars appropriated to SWCDs
For projects, we estimate is about \$2,141,000.00
In matching from other federal, state and private
sources**



NM Team 5th Place in National Competition

A young boy wearing a black cowboy hat, a blue and white plaid shirt, and tan chaps stands in a grassy field. He is holding a coiled lasso. Behind him are several horses, including a brown one and a tan one. The background shows a hilly landscape under a cloudy sky.

Soil & Water Conservation Districts are Political Sub-Divisions of State Government

- **ALL SWCDS HAVE BUDGETS APPROVED BY DFA, AUDITS APPROVED BY STATE AUDITOR, COMPLY WITH OPEN MEETINGS ACT, HAVE CERTIFIED PROCUREMENT OFFICERS**
- **Elected on General Ballots- work with County Clerks and Secretary of State**