



# NRCS New Mexico Disaster Response

*Soil Water Air  
Plants Animals*

*People Soil  
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*Water Air  
People Soil*

**Helping  
People  
Help the  
Land**



J. Xavier Montoya

State Conservationist

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service



# NRCS Mission

NRCS is an agency committed to “helping people help the land”

Our mission is to provide technical and financial resources to farmers, ranchers and landowners to aid them with their conservation efforts.

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# Emergency Watershed Protection Program



- The EWP Program helps landowners, operators, and individuals implement emergency recovery measures to relieve imminent hazards to life or property created by a natural disaster that causes a sudden impairment of a watershed.
- Assistance must be through eligible project sponsors



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# EWP - Eligibility Measures (What can we do)

## NRCS will only provide assistance for measures that

- Reduce threats to life or property from a watershed impairment, including sediment and debris removal. (Caused by the fire)
- Provide protection from soil erosion by retarding runoff.
- Remove debris deposited by a natural disaster that would affect runoff or erosion. (be aware of preexisting conditions)
- Restore the hydraulic capacity to the natural environment to the maximum extent practical based upon pre-event conditions.
- Are economically, socially, and environmentally defensible and technically sound.
- Be limited to measures or practices that to the greatest extent possible use the least damaging practical construction techniques and equipment that retain as much of the existing characteristics of the landscape and habitat as possible (i.e.: Contour Tree Falling)



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# EWP – Eligible Sites (Where we can do the work)



**NRCS conducts a site assessment that provides a case-by-case investigation of the work necessary to repair or protect a site. The individual site assessment documents EWP program eligibility.**

**It is important to note NRCS will only provide funding for work that is necessary to reduce applicable threats.**

**If the threat cannot not be removed, NRCS is prohibited from providing assistance**



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# EWP – Process

## (How we can get the work done)

Funding is based on the availability of funds (not automatic) usually on a first come first serve basis.

NRCS must request funding from NHQ

The following 5 Steps must be completed prior to funds request

Step 1: Conduct a rapid survey to ensure EWP is possible

Step 2: Submit Electronic Disaster Report (EDR) to NHQ if EWP is anticipated

Step 3: Eligible sponsor willing to assume all responsibilities makes request for EWP within 60 days of gaining access to the site

Step 4: NRCS has 60 days, from date sponsor makes request, to complete Damage Survey Reports (DSRs)

Site Visits, Estimated Quantities, Estimated Costs, Environmental Evaluation, justifications etc.

Step 5: Submit DSR to NHQ (Request for Funding)



# EWP – Process if Funded

- Prior to any work, NRCS and local sponsor would have to complete a cooperative agreement.
- Sponsor will obtain necessary land right, permits etc.
- NRCS will complete survey, design, cultural clearance etc.
- Sponsor will follow their procurement laws for selecting/awarding projects to contractors, labors etc.
- Projects commence
- Upon completion of a project, NRCS preforms final checkout and provides information to sponsor
- Sponsor requests payment from NRCS (not to exceed 75%) and pays contractor.
- All projects must be completed within 220 days from the day NRCS receives funds.



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## USDA – NRCS Conservation Programs

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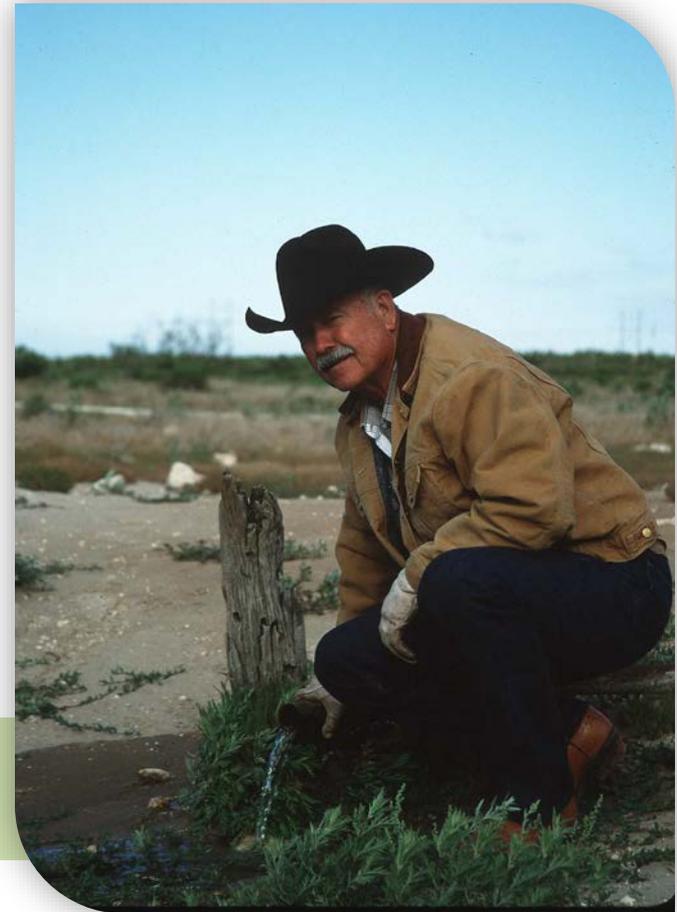
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# NRCS Programs

Three of our programs that can have an affect on a watershed scale;

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)



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# EQIP Initiatives

## National Initiatives

- National Water Quality (NWQI)
- Strike Force\*
- Working Lands For Wildlife
  - Lessor Prairie Chicken
  - SW Willow Fly Catcher
  - Great Plains Grassland (beginning FY 21)
- **Joint Chiefs**
- WaterSMART
- Organic (Certified and Transition)\*
- **Source Water\*\***

## State Initiative

- High Tunnel
- Conservation Activity Plans (CAPS)
- On Farm Energy
- Socially Disadvantaged\*\*\*
- Beginning Farmer and Rancher\*\*\*
- NM Wildlife\*\*
- NM Tribal
- Water Management Entities (WME's)
- **EQIP Incentive (beginning FY 21)**
- Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)

\*Funded with State Allocation

\*\* Required allocation of 10%

\*\*\* Required allocation of 5%

New Mexico Office of the Future



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# Top EQIP Practices Installed

PRACTICE	EXTENT	PROJECTS	FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Brush Management	61,745 ACRES	238	\$3,324,556
Sprinkler System	3,660 ACRES	66	\$3,093,869
Irrigation Pipeline	133,390 FEET	135	\$2,436,349
Watering Facility	413 NO.	413	\$1,773,524
Fence	1,073,235 FEET	189	\$1,930,316
Livestock Pipeline	983,167 FEET	213	\$1,404,275
Forage and Biomass Planting	3,110 ACRES	81	\$738,949
Forest Stand Improvement	2,184 ACRES	143	\$2,228,749

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# NRCS Programs

## CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMS (CSP)

- CSP provides significant financial assistance to manage private land in New Mexico with a total of \$14,498,520 in payments for fiscal year (FY) 2019 allocated to 539 active CSP contracts.
- Contract renewals were not offered in FY 2019, so contracts that expired at the end of the calendar year 2018 were given the opportunity to either extend the contract for a 6th year or apply for a new contract. In 2019 NRCS began rolling out changes to improve conservation planning. The changes will allow NRCS to better communicate the conservation benefits of CSP activities. In 2019 NRCS also created new CSP activities that will provide more options for producers considering CSP.



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# NRCS Programs

## RCPP Provides Flexibility/Range

Working closely with partners, NRCS can provide assistance simultaneously to multiple natural resource projects across the state.



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# NRCS Programs

## Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

- **New Mexico Initiative for Rangeland, Forestland, and Wildlife on Ranches with Federal Lands**
- Canadian River Watershed Restoration Project (CRWRP)
- **North Central New Mexico Watershed Restoration Project**
- San Juan Non-Native Phreatophyte Removal Program
- Eastern New Mexico Prairie Grassland Initiative
- NRCS-NFWF Pecos Partnership
- NM Acequia Revitalization on Historic Lands- (Alternative Funding Arrangement)
- Building Resiliency in the San Juan-Rio Chama Region- (Alternative Funding Arrangement)
- Innovative Tribal Conservation and GHG Management- (Alternative Funding Arrangement)

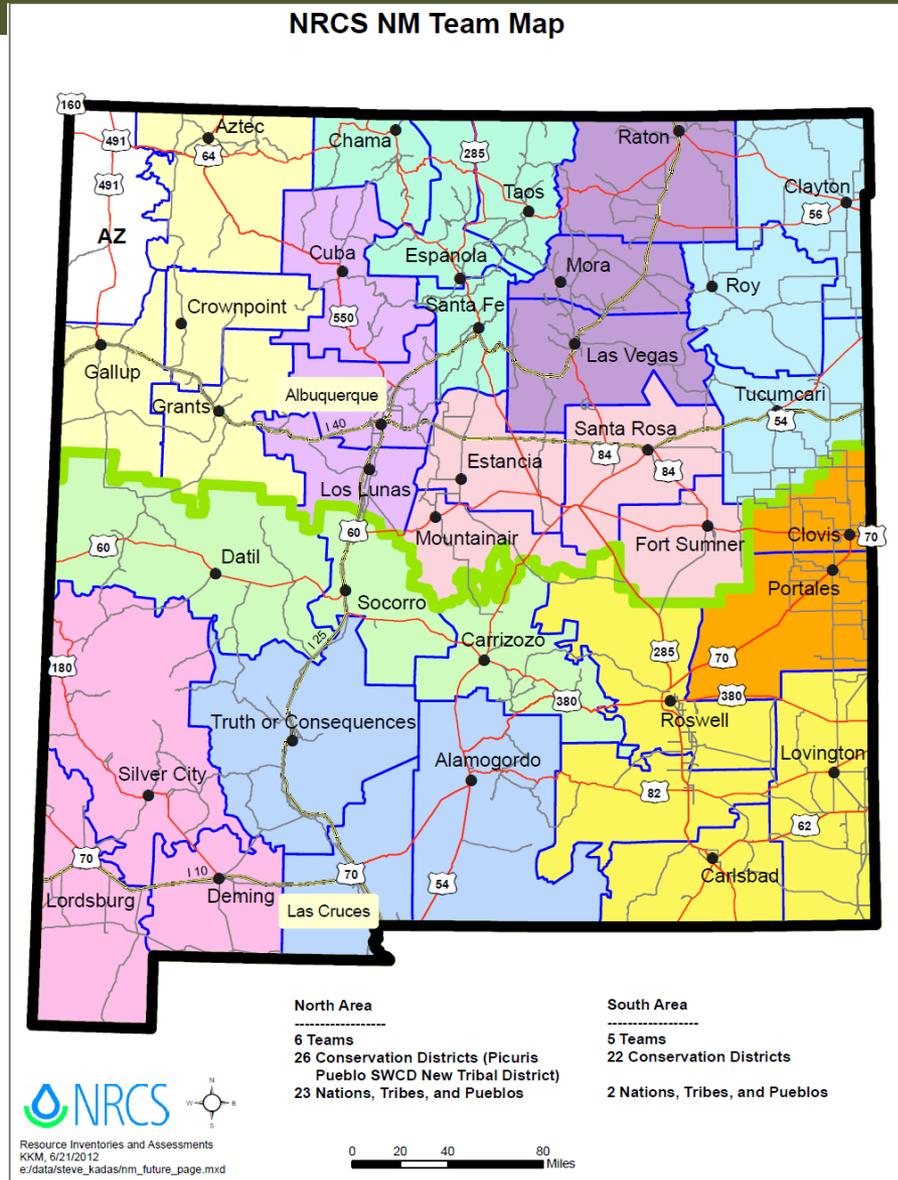


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# Map of NRCS Offices



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# For More Information

[www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov)

Questions?

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