



CONSERVATION FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

NEW MEXICO ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR- DEBBIE HUGHES

73-20-44. Districts; description; general powers of districts.

A "soil and water conservation district", organized under or perpetuated by the provisions of the Soil and Water Conservation District Act [73-20-25 NMSA 1978], is a governmental subdivision of the state,

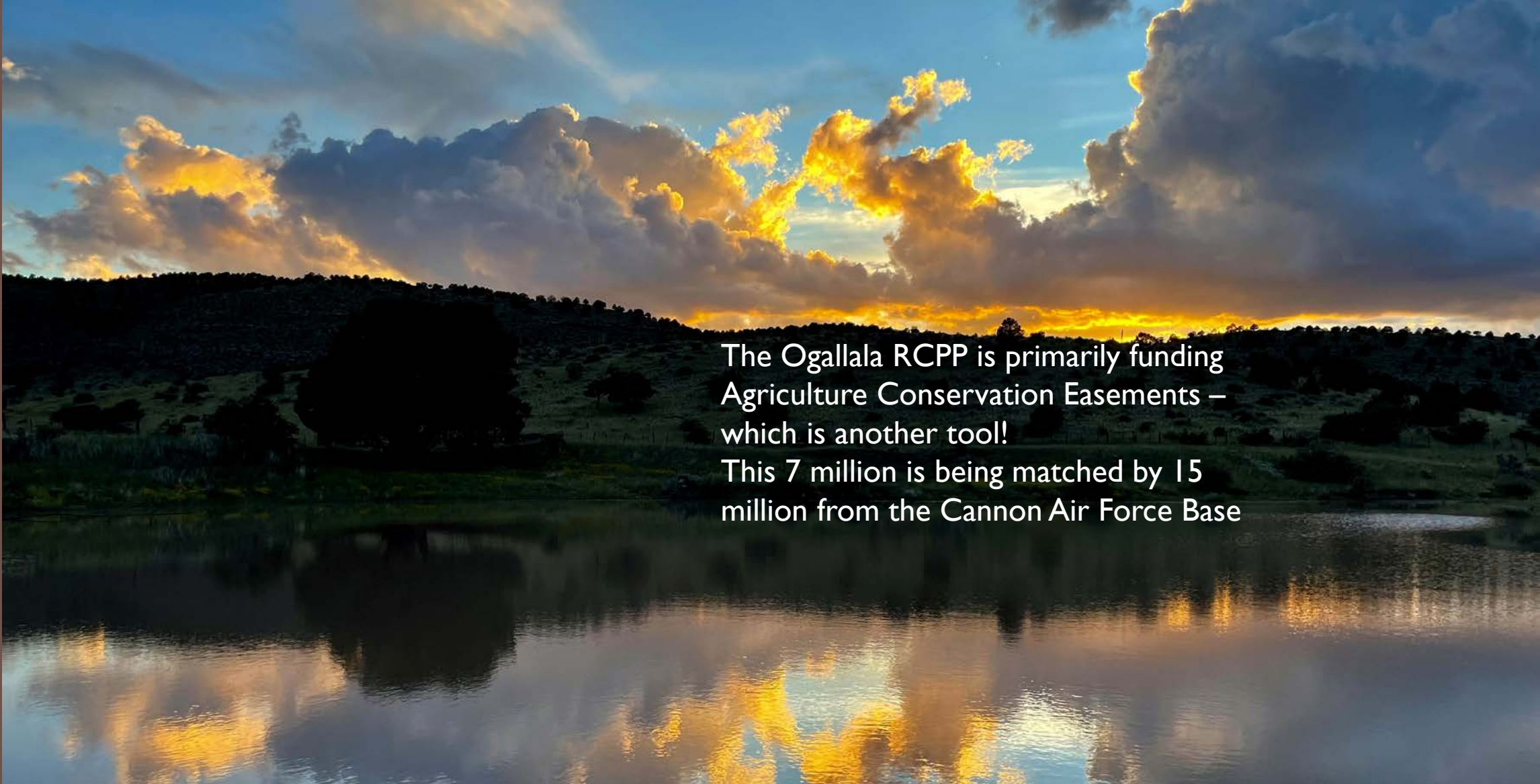
- ❑ **assist, contract with and render financial aid to district landowners** and state or federal agencies administering land within the district
- ❑ **make available to district landowners, on such terms as the supervisors may prescribe, tools, machinery, equipment, fertilizer, seeds and other materials to assist the landowners in initiating and developing natural resource conservation and development projects;**
- ❑ **acquire or administer the project of any other governmental agency undertaken to provide for the conservation, development and utilization of natural resources within the district;**
- ❑ **act as agent for any instrumentality or agency of the state or of the federal government in the acquisition, construction, operation or administration of a natural resource conservation, utilization or development project or program within the district;**
- ❑ **SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS ARE THE ONLY ENTITY THAT CAN ACTUALLY DO WORK ON AN ENTIRE WATERSHED!**



Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) in NM

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	Completed	NMACD	4,000,000	7,600,000
North Central	2015	Completed	Claunch-Pinto SWCD	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	Completed	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	9,320,000m
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
				52,141,311 M	109,302,925 Million





The Ogallala RCPP is primarily funding
Agriculture Conservation Easements –
which is another tool!
This 7 million is being matched by 15
million from the Cannon Air Force Base

GRASSLAND RESTORATION PROJECTS



SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS BRING FEDERAL \$ TO NM- RESTORE NM

- **New Mexico Accomplishments Since 2006**

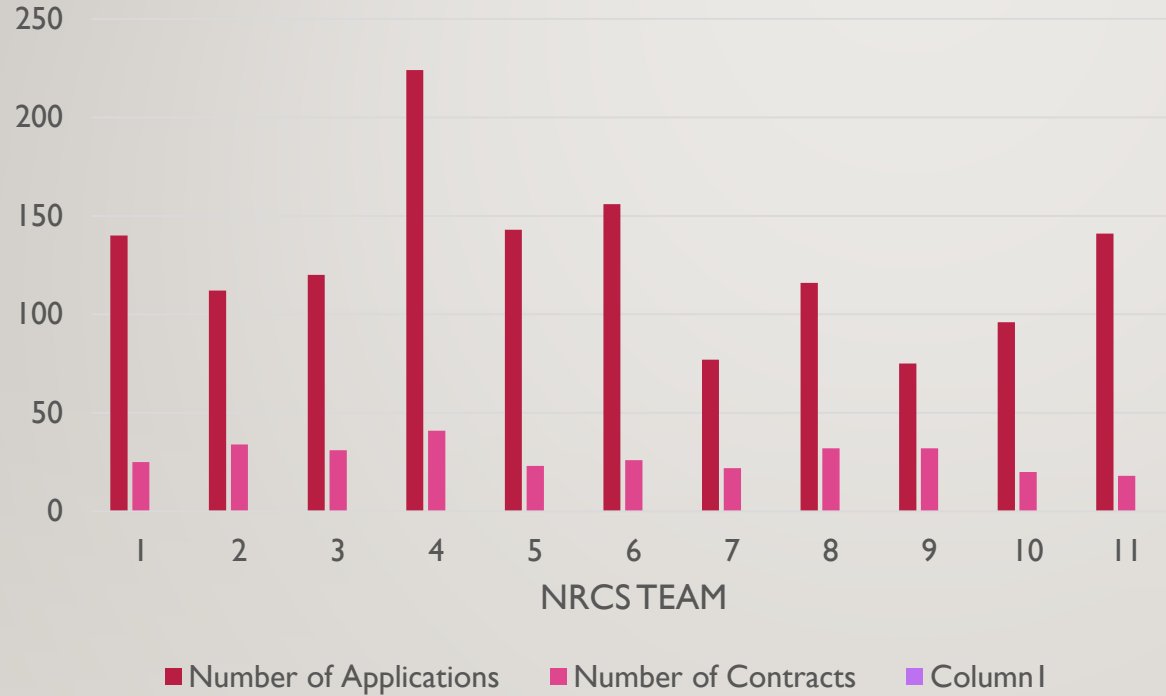
- Over **250** partners and growing.
- Cooperative relationship between landowners and agencies.
- Growth and engagement of local soil and water conservation districts in helping landowners with rangeland restoration and agricultural production.
- New job creation for restoration industry within the private sector.
- **Nearly 4 million acres of rangeland, riparian areas, and forest habitat restored on private, state and federal lands.** BLM has directly helped to fund 404 projects.
- **Collective partnership funding between NRCS and BLM of \$56 million.** Eighty five percent went to on-the-ground management and improvements and 15% for technical assistance and project administration.
- Partners contributed additional funding and resources (millions) from USFS, BOR, Border Patrol, landowners, NGO's, Conservation Groups, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, multiple state agencies, irrigation districts, businesses and corporations.
- **We are in our fifth agreement with BLM. We have spent 40.5 million from BLM.**
- **We are on our third USDA-NRCS RCPP agreement for ranchers with federal lands. Total amount committed is 15 million- matched by ranchers.**
- As a result of our efforts the agencies are working together and the programs, RCPP, EQIP now have expanded to include ranchers on federal lands.



WILDLIFE HABITAT & MIGRATION



FY 21 EQIP Applications and Contracts



Team	Apps	Contract
1	140	25
2	112	34
3	120	31
4	224	41
5	143	23
6	156	26
7	77	22
8	116	32
9	75	32
10	96	20
11	141	18
Total	1400	304

FY 2021 EQIP Applications and Contracts
Per Team

INFLATION REDUCTION ACT

6.9 BILLION JUST
FOR USDA-NRCS
RCPP PROGRAM!

- The chamber approved the more than \$430 billion package
- The plan includes a record \$369 billion in spending on climate and energy policies
- \$4bn to help the western US cope with severe drought.

2022 APPROPRIATION HEALTHY SOILS-1.4 MILLION

- 1 Million Non-Reoccurring
- 227,000 Reoccurring
- 173,000 USDA-NRCS
- **77 Grant Applications**
- 62 by individuals
- they have project support from an SWCD (or pueblo, tribe, or nation)
- 15 were submitted by Eligible Entities
 - These are “local governmental entities with proven land management capacity to support healthy soil”
 - 2 Eligible Entity applicants did not qualify because they’re not true Eligible Entities (one was a church; one was an individual)
 - 7 SWCDS, 2 pueblos, 2 acequias, 1 NMSU Ag Science Center, and 1 conservancy district applied.

2022 3 MILLION DOLLAR APPROPRIATION FOR SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

- ***Almost 13 Million Dollars in Requests***
- Forest Health/Soil Health/Riparian Health
- Invasive Species Control
- Dam Rehabilitation- Flood Protection
- Irrigation Improvement/ Acequia
- Rainwater Catchments/Seed Bank
- Water Quality & Quantity
- Final Funding will only fund 3 Million Dollars of these statewide needs
- **10-20 Million Appropriation Needed for SWCD Projects**



COALITION EFFORTS

- Ag & Natural Resource Trust Fund
- The Climate and Conservation Fund
- The Land of Enchantment GO Bond
- We continue to run and push and try to educate that this funding is Critical, and the Massive Forest Fires are the Best Indicator that we are NOT working fast enough or being heard!



WE CAN NOT BRING THESE FEDERAL FUNDS TO NEW MEXICO WITHOUT A SUSTAINABLE STATE FUND OR CONSISTENT INVESTMENT BY THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO!