



CARLSBAD SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Annual Report

July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020

The Carlsbad Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) presents this annual report of the activities within the District during the past fiscal year, to inform those interested in our efforts to conserve our natural resources.

Mission Statement

To facilitate programs that conserve the District's natural resources for all citizens and future generations by utilizing any available funding, technical and educational resources and through voluntary efforts.

The governing Board of Supervisors:

Nathan Jurva, Chairman

Kristin Pope, Vice-Chairman

Charles Goodwin, Member

Fred Beard, Member

Jim Carr, Secretary/Treasurer

Henry Vasquez, Member

Lupe Carrasco, Member

District Staff:

Sandi Wilkie

Riki Lopez

Ray Keller

Judy Bock

Judith McCollaum

District Manager

Business Administrator

Natural Resource Specialist

Consultant

Information & Education Specialist

During the year, the following Natural Resources Conservation Service Staff assisted the Carlsbad SWCD:

Raquel Chacon

District Conservationist

Watershed Conservation/Habitat Restoration Projects

Federal and State Funding

- ◆ Continued cooperative agreement with the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts (NMACD) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) - Pecos Valley District, NM State Land Office, National Fish and Wildlife Federation, NM Game and Fish, NMDA as well as private landowners to implement 60,057 acres of aerial brush control.
- ◆ In conjunction with NMACD performed caliche pit reclamation and reseeding on 15 caliche pits totaling approximately 150.5 acres.
- ◆ Continued with BLM - Carlsbad Field Office (CFO) assistance agreement in hand herbicide treatment of saltcedar and follow-up maintenance along 22 miles of the Pecos River and 12 combined miles on the Delaware and Black Rivers.
- ◆ Conducted hazardous fuel reduction on 261 acres using mastication, hand spraying, and a combination of both.
- ◆ Partnered with NFWF to build 1.3 miles of pipe fence for protection of Gypsum Wild Buckwheat plants, and to build 6.2 miles of fence to restore landscape permeability for pronghorn across healthy grasslands in Eddy County.



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District Funding

- ◆ Continued Gopher Tail Bounty Program and collected approximately 2539 tails for a total of \$15,234.
- ◆ Provided \$83,206 in matching funds for vegetation control under the District's vegetation management program for thirty brush control and noxious weed treatment projects (2,148 acres).
- ◆ Sponsored \$500 toward BLM Public Lands Day project - trash pickup and removal around Cottonwood Day Use Area and continued erosion control project at "Ladder Hole".

Community Collaboration & Coordination

- ◆ Coordinated approximately 2,115 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.
- ◆ Provided administrative oversight to Hackberry Draw Watershed District as well as oversight of structure and drainage maintenance.
- ◆ Working with BLM Recreation and multiple oil and gas industry representatives to improve recreation areas within the District, concentrating on the new Sunset Reef Campground.
- ◆ Worked with applicants for the Healthy Soils Program Pilot Grant. Began overseeing of the successful applicants' project.


Information & Education

- ◆ Participated at the following events with the District's booth: Eddy County Fair and Carlsbad Mayors Energy Summit.
- ◆ Produced and distributed annual newsletter about District activities.
- ◆ Staff participated in continuing education for NM Pesticide Applicators, Healthy Soils Academy workshop, and Procurement Officer Certification.
- ◆ Staff attended Ag Fest and helped to man the NM Coalition of Conservation District's booth.
- ◆ Staff and board members visited with District Legislators in Santa Fe during session to discuss issues concerning the District.
- ◆ Staff and board members met with representatives at the State Land Office during legislative session.

The Carlsbad SWCD Board of Supervisors submits this report and hereby acknowledges the work done by all cooperating agencies and their contributions to the Districts overall programs. With continued support, this District will carry on a strong conservation program throughout the coming years.



Nathan Jurva, Chairman



Jim Carr, Secretary/Treasurer