



# CARLSBAD SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## Annual Report

July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022

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	
Jim Carr, Secretary/Treasurer	Charles Goodwin, Member	
Lupe Carrasco, Member	Fred Beard, Member	Henry Vasquez, Member

District Staff:

Sandi Wilkie, District Manager	Riki Lopez, Business Administrator
Ray Keller, Natural Resource Specialist	

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

Raquel Chacon, District Conservationist    Timsan Bricker, Rangeland Management Specialist  
Rocky Gonzales, Soil Conservationist, Kyle Walker, Rangeland Management Specialist,  
Mariah Bates, Soil 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 20,532 acres of aerial brush control.
- ◆ In conjunction with NMDA, NMACD, and BLM performed caliche pit reclamation and reseeding with ground treatments on 22 caliche pits totaling approximately 306.5 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.
- ◆ Completed 163 acres on the Russell Gap Juniper Mastication project.
- ◆ Completed first year on the NFWF Vegetative Restoration of Blue Spring.
- ◆ Completed the 2021 NFWF Pronghorn Mule Deer Restoration.
- ◆ Continued planning with BLM Recreation team on the Guadalupe Ridge Trail.

#### District Funding

- ◆ Continued Gopher Tail Bounty Program and collected approximately 2319 tails for a total of \$13,914.
- ◆ Provided \$57,850 in matching funds for vegetation control under the District's vegetation management program for sixteen brush control and noxious weed treatment projects (492 acres).
- ◆ With the help of Roosevelt SWCD began a Shade Ball cost share program.
- ◆ Sponsored two interns for the USFS through the Early College for \$20,000, the NM 4H State Champion Parliamentary Procedure team to nationals for \$3000., and Early College BPA State Champions to nationals for \$3000.



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### Community Collaboration & Coordination

- ◆ Coordinated approximately 3427 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.
- ◆ Staff met with multiple agencies to coordinate mesquite treatment.
- ◆ Staff met with multiple BLM departments to coordinate reclamation projects.
- ◆ 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, developing the Six Mile Dam Area, the Cottonwood Day Use and Black River areas as well as the new Guadalupe Ridge Trail project.
- ◆ Coordinated with BLM and Chevron for a clean-up and planting day at Cottonwood Day Use Area.
- ◆ Provides assistance for Desert Willow Wildlife Rehabilitation Center.
- ◆ Staff attended a seminar on produced water by the NMPWRC.
- ◆ Hosted a Healthy Soils workshop with Quivira Coalition, NMACD, Healthy Soil Working Group, NMDA, NRCS, BLM, and John Ballard Farms.

### Information & Education

- ◆ Held the Children's Water Festival, hosting approximately 580 third graders in Carlsbad.
- ◆ Provided Loving middle school Science classes with Healthy Soil Curriculum.
- ◆ Set up a booth at the Eddy County Fair and won Best Educational Booth.
- ◆ Participated in the Artesia Ag Day at the middle school, speaking with approximately 700 students.
- ◆ Set up at the NMSU Extension Rancher's Workshop.
- ◆ Set up at the NMSU ASC Field Day and did demonstrations.
- ◆ Produced and distributed newsletter about District activities.
- ◆ Staff participated in continuing education for Healthy Soils Academy workshops, Healthy Soil Program trainings, Procurement Officer Certification training, NMDFA training, Supervisor training.
- ◆ Staff and board members contacted District Legislators in Santa Fe during session to discuss issues concerning the District and its producers.

The Carlsbad SWCD Board of Supervisors submits this report and hereby acknowledges the work done by all cooperating agencies and their contributions to the District's 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