



CARLSBAD SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Annual Report

July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

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 Rocky Gonzales, 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, NMDA, as well as private landowners to implement 27,219 acres of aerial brush control.
- ◆ In conjunction with BLM performed caliche pit reclamation totaling approximately 163 acres and reseeded 228 acres
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Completed 301 acres on the Russell Gap Juniper project.
- ◆ Completed 248 acres of brush mastication on BLM.
- ◆ Completed 162 acres on the NFWF Vegetative Restoration of Blue Spring.
- ◆ Completed approximately 4.83 miles of fencing for the NFWF Pronghorn Mule Deer Habitat Restoration project.
- ◆ Continued planning with BLM Recreation team on the Guadalupe Ridge Trail.
- ◆ Facilitated Healthy Soil Program grantee.

District Funding

- ◆ Continued Gopher Tail Bounty Program and collected approximately 3309 tails for a total of \$21,831.
- ◆ Approved \$112,500 in matching funds for vegetation control under the District's vegetation management program for twenty-two brush control and noxious weed treatment projects (2121 acres).
- ◆ Two shade balls cost-share applications for \$1643.



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- ◆ Sponsored three interns for the USFS through the Early College for \$32,400, the NM 4H State Skillathon team to nationals for \$4000, and Early College BPA State Champions to nationals for \$3000, and three participants for NMSU NM Youth Ranch Management Camp for \$900.

Community Collaboration & Coordination

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ 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, the Hackberry Lakes OHV site, Sunset Reef and Chosa campgrounds, Conoco Lake as well as the new Guadalupe Ridge Trail project.
- ◆ Provided assistance for Desert Willow Wildlife Rehabilitation Center.
- ◆ Staff attended a NFWF grantee meeting and served on an advisory panel.
- ◆ Hosted a grant writing workshop with NMACD.
- ◆ Supplemented the CHS RISE program garden project.

Information & Education

- ◆ Held the Children's Water Festival, hosting approximately 614 third graders in Carlsbad.
- ◆ Set up at STEM nights at Loving Elementary, Loving Middle School, Ocotillo Elementary School, and the SENM College.
- ◆ Set up a booth at the Eddy County Fair.
- ◆ Participated in the Artesia Ag Day at the middle school, speaking with approximately 700 students.
- ◆ Set up at the NMSU Extension Rancher's Workshop.
- ◆ Staff participated in continuing education for Healthy Soil Program trainings, Procurement Officer Certification training, NMDFA training, Supervisor training.
- ◆ Staff and board members contacted District Legislators in Santa Fe during the session to discuss issues concerning the District and its producers.
- ◆ Sponsored staff and intern to the NM Women in Agriculture Leadership Conference.

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