



CARLSBAD SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Annual Report

July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

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 60,594 acres of aerial brush control.
- ◆ In conjunction with BLM performed caliche pit reclamation totaling approximately 170 acres and reseeded 192 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 355 acres of hand cut & pile Juniper removal at Ft Stanton.
- ◆ Completed 102 acres of brush mastication on BLM.
- ◆ Completed 515 acres on the NFWF Vegetative Restoration project.
- ◆ Continued planning and trail-building with BLM Recreation team on the La Cueva Ridge Trail.

District Funding

- ◆ Continued Gopher Tail Bounty Program and collected approximately 3997 tails for a total of \$27,979.
- ◆ Approved \$89,500 in matching funds for vegetation control under the District's vegetation management program for twenty-three brush control and noxious weed treatment projects (1267 acres).
- ◆ Approved shade balls cost-share applications for 37,650 shade balls.
- ◆ Sponsored three interns for the USFS through the Early College for \$30,600, the Eddy County 4H for \$5000, and Early College BPA for \$5000, and Loving FFA for \$5000.



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Community Collaboration & Coordination

- ◆ Coordinated approximately 2000 acres in treatment (i.e., African rue, Malta Star thistle, salt cedar, 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 La Cueva Trail project.
- ◆ Provided assistance for Desert Willow Wildlife Rehabilitation Center.
- ◆ Provided assistance for the Bitter Lakes National Refuge vegetation restoration project.
- ◆ Hosted a Rocky Mountain Farmers Union informational meeting.

Information & Education

- ◆ Set up at STEAM nights at Loving Elementary and Loving Middle Schools.
- ◆ Took the Rolling Rivers trailer to Artesia High and Carlsbad Prep Academy for demonstrations.
- ◆ Set up the Topobox at Artesia High and Carlsbad High schools for demonstrations for science classes.
- ◆ Did water cycle, cloud building, and world water distribution presentations at Loving Elementary School and Carlsbad Prep Academy.
- ◆ Participated at Carlsbad Prep Academy's Ag Day with the Topobox and the Tree Jeopardy game.
- ◆ Set up a booth at the Eddy County Fair and won Best Educational Booth plaque.
- ◆ Participated in the Artesia Ag Day at the middle school, speaking with approximately 400 students.
- ◆ Staff participated in continuing education for Healthy Soil Program trainings, Procurement Officer Certification training, NMDFA training, Supervisor training, Ag in the Classroom training and grant writing trainings.
- ◆ Staff and board members contacted District Legislators to discuss issues concerning the District and its producers. Staff participated at the Soil & Water Conservation District Day during the legislative session in Santa Fe and visited numerous legislators in person.
- ◆ Staff attended the New Mexico Hay Conference, the NM Veg Management Association Conference, the NM Produced Water Research Consortium annual meeting, the NM Coalition to Enhance Working Lands annual meeting, and the NM Association of Conservation Districts regional meeting.

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