

Sierra County Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update

The Jornada RC&D was the applicant and recipient of a grant from the New Mexico Association of Counties for an update to the Sierra County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. (CWPP). The Jornada RC&D has been a part of the Sierra County CWPP since its initial meeting in 2002. They have participated in all the updates since 2005. In 2018 the Jornada RC&D received funding from the New Mexico Association of Counties to update the existing Sierra County Plan which had been approved in 2012.

Jornada conducted 12 monthly CWPP meetings, attended five Sierra County Volunteer Fire Department meetings and met with local civic organizations, gathering input for their concerns regarding wildfire preparedness. Jornada also assisted in hosting three community assessment meetings. The purpose of the meeting was to collaborate with landowners within the community and get their thoughts on how to determine the wildfire risk assessment within the community based on a national recognized ranking system. Information was gathered from local utility companies on their concerns. Discussions were held with the local Sheriff's office and the Sierra County Emergency Services office. Key participation was held with the US Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the NM State Forestry. The plan was adopted by the Sierra County Commission in July of 2019.



Stormwater Coalition grant

The Jornada RC&D was asked to serve as the fiscal agent and the applicant for a grant to the Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMart program. The grant was to assist in the formalization of a group that has been meeting for approximately eight years to assist in finding ways to secure funding in addressing the operation and maintenance of the over 100 watershed structures in Dona Ana County, New Mexico. The South-Central Stormwater Coalition would like to be recognized as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, create a website that will provide educational outreach to interested general public and to create a watershed plan for the Rincon Arroyo system. The Jornada just received notification from the Bureau of Reclamation that their grant proposal was accepted and will begin moving forward in developing and implementing the grant.

