



Socorro Soil and Water Conservation District



Photo by: Will K

Newsletter Summer 2023

Over the past years, New Mexico has been in a drought. Farmers across New Mexico were terrified that they couldn't get any water to grow crops. As of spring 2023 New Mexico has been receiving lots of water from Colorado snowpack melts. Farmers across the state are glad to be getting multiple waterings this year to irrigate crops, compared to only a couple of waterings from the previous years. Today Elephant Butte lake is over 550,000 acre feet plus. Elephant butte is a reservoir to store water for farmers down south. In 2019 Elephant Butte lake topped out at 253,000 acre feet. This is the lowest it has been in recent years. In 2018, it was reduced to 3 percent capacity. Elephant Butte can hold about 1.96 million acre-feet of water. It is fortunate that farmers down south are getting water early this year and it is also being sent to Texas to pay off our debt.



How we help conserve water Here at the SWCD we try to help conserve water by surveying the fields, inputting the data in to our survey software to make a topographic map to show where the cuts of the field need to be and the fills of field need to be. Our agricultural cost share program is our district's highest priority, and we pride ourselves on helping landowners improve irrigation efficiency, and to restore fallow land back to productive farmland when water is available and or leased. Our goal is to have as much land as possible in agricultural production in our district that also coincides with MRGCD's one acre per hour goal to help conserve water.



Photo by: nmploticalreport.com

These photos show Kettle Top in Elephant Butte. Above is the year 2019 and below is this year, 2023.



Photo by: Will K

2023 high flowing river and dam





Upcoming Board Meetings

July 10th 2023

August 14th 2023

September 11th 2023