



Socorro SWCD Newsletter (FY26)



This year Socorro SWCD staff surveyed 98 acres of fallowed land that landowners would like to restore back to farmland as well as 70 acres of an old salt cedar forest that was once farmland.

Our agricultural cost share program is our district's highest priority, and we pride ourselves on helping landowners improve irrigation efficiency and restore fallow/abandoned land back to productive farmland. Our goal is to have as much land as possible in agricultural production in our district that complies



with the one acre per hour irrigation goal or even just to cut down on how long it takes to water.

Salt Cedar clearing along the Rio Grande

This fiscal year, the Socorro SWCD completed extraction and mastication on 13.7 acres in Contreras, NM. This has been a multiyear project that is intended to both perform native habitat restoration and to create a large fire break in this fire prone area of the Bosque.

This area has been subjected to multiple wildfires in recent years, and there is more than sufficient fuel load to carry a large fire north to more populated areas, including as far as Belen. Creating a fire break here will also limit the possibility of a fire causing damage at the adjacent Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge.





Every day is Earth Day



Facts about the Earth that you may not know

- It's not a perfect sphere: Earth is an oblate spheroid. Because it spins, it bulges at the equator and is slightly flattened at the poles.
- Squishy interior: The mantle underneath the crust is not completely solid, but behaves like slow-moving melted rock, driving tectonic plates.
- Tilted for seasons: Earth is tilted (23.4 degrees) on its axis, causing different parts of the globe to receive more direct sunlight at different times, creating season



How to help Earth:

Soil

- Incorporate organic matter in the soil.
- Reduce Tillage
- Reduce compaction
- Keep soil covered

Water

- Collect rainwater (plants will thrive with rainwater)
- Use low flow water devices
- Replace grass/turf with drought-tolerant or native plants
- Laser level farm fields.
- Use shade balls in stock tanks
- Use Wet Stake water sensors in farm fields when flood irrigating





The Socorro Soil & Water Conservation District offers a Cost Share Program to all residents within our district.

The program offers up to \$6,000 in cost share assistance for agricultural soil and water conservation practices such as laser leveling, livestock pipeline, conversion of wells, livestock wells, water storage tanks, irrigation pipeline, and concrete ditches.

Residential urban soil and water conservation practices eligible for up to \$600 cost share assistance are drip irrigation, rainwater harvesting systems and low flow toilets.

The maximum paid to any individual per fiscal year is \$6,000. Our fiscal year is July 1 through June 30. Applications are approved on a first come, first served basis.

The Socorro Soil & Water Conservation District has a Soil Testing Assistance Program in which we will cost share 50% of the cost of macro-nutrient soil testing.

If you have any questions on any of the guidelines, applications, or forms, please contact our office.

The Socorro SWCD cost shares on Ranch bots for stock tanks on ranches , Wetstakes for flood irrigation and low flow toilets and much more to help conserve water.



Contact our office today!



Important Dates

April

14th Board meeting

May

12th Board Meeting

25th Memorial Day (office
closed)

June

9th Board Meeting

July

14th Board Meeting