



Socorro SWCD Annual Plan FY 2021 (July 2020 - June 2021)



**Mission of the Socorro Soil & Water Conservation District:
To lead beneficial conservation efforts and wise use of the natural resources.**

Natural Resource Conservation

- Improve irrigation system efficiency on farmland while reducing soil erosion and increasing water conservation.
- Increase energy efficiency and consistency by converting windmill and generator powered livestock wells to solar power.
- Increase productivity of rangeland with reduction of monotypic plant stands with various methods of brush control.
- Provide surveying and design assistance as well as financial assistance with our Cost Share Program for agricultural practices for landowners within the District.
- Provide design assistance as well as financial assistance through our Cost Share Program for Residential practices including drip irrigation, low flow toilet installation and rain water harvesting system installation for landowners within the District.

Noxious Weed Treatment and Outreach

- Treat, monitor and re-treat as necessary Class A noxious weeds on Bureau of Land Management tracts.
- Assist landowners with weed identification. Create a weed identification guide for the most common weeds seen in Socorro SWCD on the socorrowswcd.org website.
- Provide assistance to landowners who seek to obtain a pesticide applicator's license from the New Mexico Department of Agriculture or who need to hire a commercial applicator for noxious weed treatment on their land.

Salt Cedar/Russian Olive/Siberian Elm Treatment and Re-vegetation

- Develop treatment and restoration plan(s) with individual landowner(s). Implement plan(s) when funding from the NM State Legislature is available.
- Treat Salt cedar, Russian olive, Siberian elm, and Tree of Heaven on BLM land, with consideration given to *Diorhabda* spp. (Salt cedar bug) populations.

Community Collaboration, Information and Education.

- Update and publish information on the website: www.socorrowswcd.org.
- Publish and post on website quarterly newsletter with soil and water conservation issues and topics.
- Sponsor and/or participate in Kids, Kows and More, Ag Literacy Day, Bosque Conservation Day, New Mexico Envirothon, 4-H and FFA State Competitions.
- Assist the Socorro County Extension Office and NRCS with informational and training events on soil health, weed identification, etc.

- Participate when requested by schools for Earth Day, Water Festivals, Harvest Festival, etc. Emphasize agriculture, watershed issues, and other environmental issues.

Grants and Supplemental Funding:

- Complete the following Bureau of Land Management Projects with funding being administered by the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts:
 - Two wildlife watering ex-closures with drinkers and shade structures.
 - Seven miles of pasture fencing on the Torreon allotment.
 - Treat 3,265 acres of Cholla cactus infested BLM land electrostatically with BLM approved herbicide.
 - Purchase gravel meeting BLM specifications to stockpile for continued maintenance on the Quebradas Backcountry Byway.