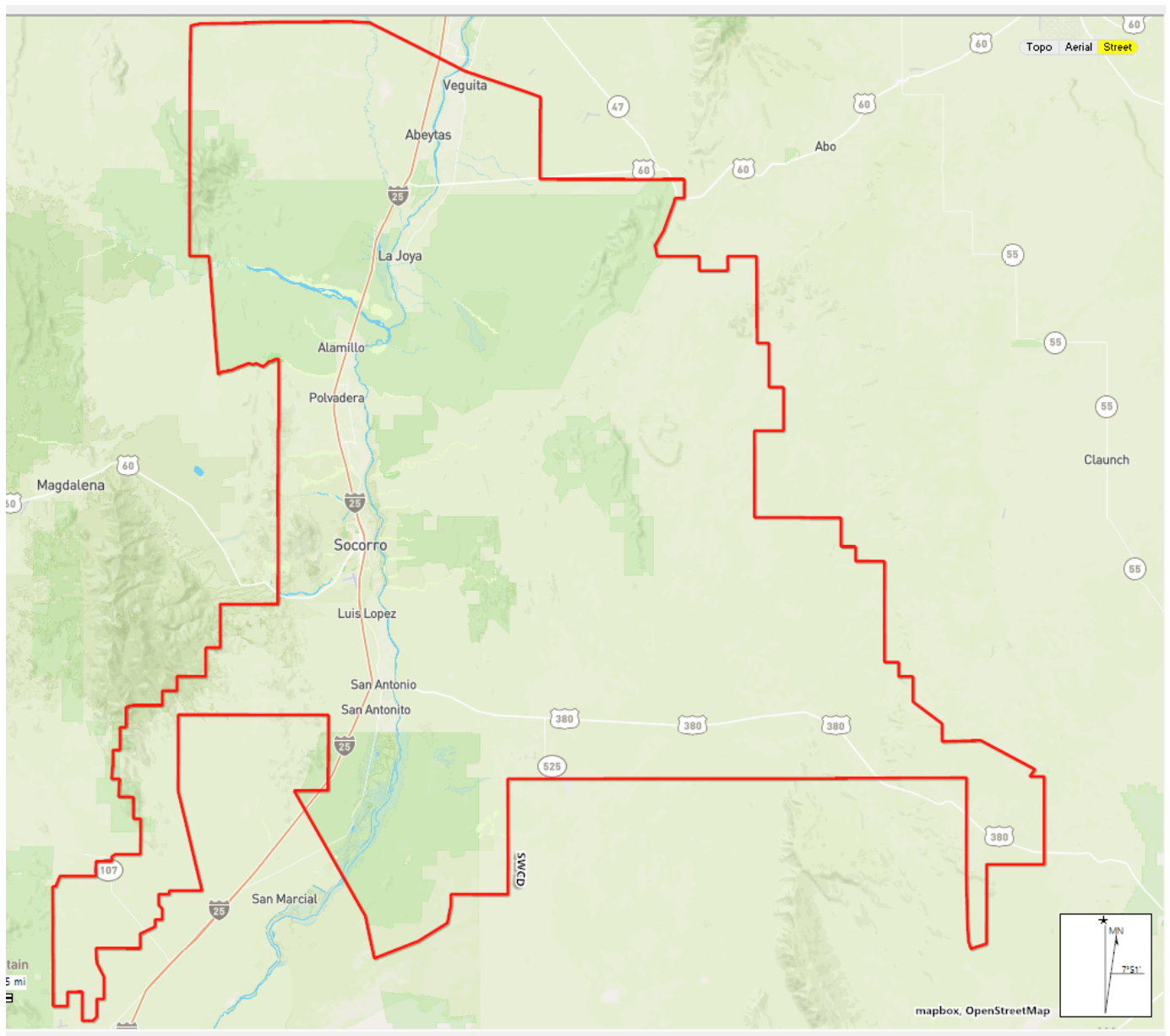




Socorro SWCD District boundary

Socorro SWCD
Annual Report – FY 2026

Socorro Soil & Water Conservation District
1305 Enterprise Rd
Socorro, NM 87801
(575) 838-0078

Socorro SWCD Board Members:

Chris Lopez, Chairman
Eddy Harris , Vice-chairman
Vernon Leseberg, Secretary/Treasurer
Sefie Anaya, Supervisor
Chanda Vigil, Supervisor

Staff:

Will Kolbensschlag, District Manager
Daniela Rivera, Assistant District Manager



SOCORRO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

The Socorro Soil & Water Conservation District's Cost Share Program continues to be the top priority of the fiscal year. It is designed to assist landowners with implementing water conservation measures on their farms, ranches, and residences. The following is a summary of the available programs and the combined benefits of the district's multifaceted programs:

This year \$15,330.56 was reimbursed to landowners for installing beneficial agricultural and residential conservation projects. This year was a scarce water year for the farmers and ranchers because of the major drought.

Agricultural Projects:

Agriculture is the most active segment of our cost share program. We assisted landowners with two land leveling projects moving 4,928.27 cubic yards of dirt on 20.96 acres; Settlement Pond .20 of an acre to help sediment deposition to water a Chile field and the installation of a drip irrigation system on an inground garden as well as garden beds and fruit trees.

For FY2026 we added Ranch bot to our Cost share program. Ranch bot is a water monitoring system that senses water levels in a stock tank. Ranch bot shows up on an app and will let you know when stock tanks are low. This fiscal year two Ranchbot systems were funded through our cost share program.

We also provided conservation technical assistance (CTA) to landowners on 310.71 acres of cropland, including 80,774.29 cubic yards of dirt moving for land leveling projects, and 3000ft of livestock pipeline installation. This year our Staff surveyed 98 acres of fallowed land and 70 acres of an old salt cedar forest that landowners would like to restore back to farmland.



Staff Surveying old salt cedar Forrest that farmers would like to put into production



Ranch Bot monitor system



**Freshly lasered
field**

Residential projects:

This year we assisted residential landowners with cost share assistance with one drip irrigation system, two rainwater harvesting barrels, and six low flow toilets.



Rain Barrel



**LOW FLOW
TOILET**

**Drip Irrigation for garden
(veggies sold at the farmers
market)**



HEALTHY SOILS PROGRAM

The Socorro SWCD assisted two landowners with the Healthy Soils Program in FY2026.

The SWCD board decided to implement more stringent requirements for Healthy Soil applications going forward: projects may not be on raised beds, must be on a minimum of 1 acre, and must include cover crops.

Both of our FY2026 HSP projects were successful. One project consisted of incorporating chickens on 0.10 of an acre as well as breaking up roots of Bermuda grass to incorporate cover crops. The other project incorporated cover crop and flail mowing (mulch and retain organic matter) cover crop, which was left to decompose, adding organic matter back in the soil for 30-60 days on 2.72 acres.



**Chicken Integration
prior to cover crop.**



Broad forking



Aggregate stability test



**Cover crop
Funded by HSP**



**Flail mowing the field
To incorporate crops
it into the soil**

RIO GRANDE RESTORATION FUNDING

The Socorro SWCD used this year's "Plan, Design, Implement and Construct Habitat Restoration on the Rio Grande Socorro County" funding for extraction and mastication of Salt cedar on riparian land owned by Rudy Gonzales in Contreras, New Mexico.

The property Mr. Gonzales owns was originally owned by his ancestors dating back to the mid-1800s. Like many of the farms in the area, when the men were called to war in the early 1940's, the farm fell fallow and was subsequently infested with Salt Cedar when overbank flooding of the Rio Grande occurred. Mr. Gonzales has been working for many years to rehabilitate the land, with eventual goal of farming a portion of it and restoring the rest to native habitat. As we assist him in his mission, we are also establishing a large fire break in an area of the Bosque that has been prone to large, fast-spreading wildfires in recent years. This has been a multi-year 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. A total of 13.7 acres were completed this fiscal year.

A staked-out boundary survey was also part of this process to ensure boundaries before completing the work.

The New Mexico Statewide Purchasing Agreement for Vegetation Management Services was utilized and the district contracted with Lanford Excavation, LLC for extraction of 13.7 acres of Salt Cedar resprouts, for a total cost of \$31,780.00.





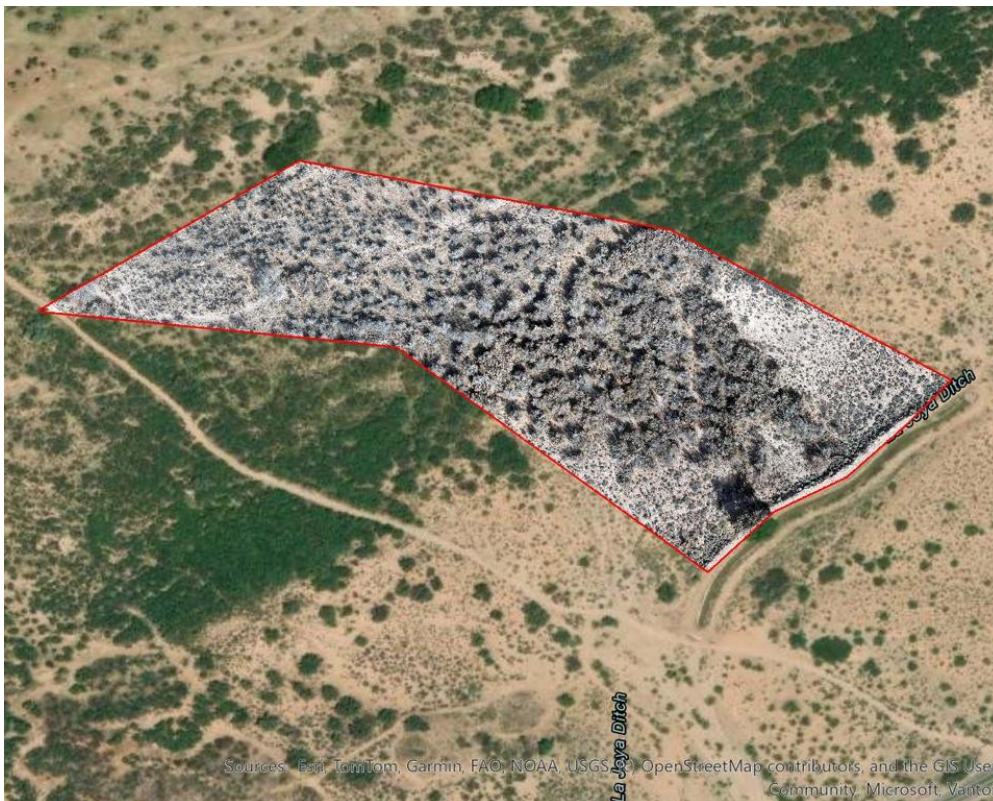
Salt cedar being extracted on the Gonzales Property by Lanford Excavation.



Masticating



Happy landowner



Mapping of project
area(13.7ac)

The following table shows our legislative appropriations for Non-Native Phreatophyte removal:

Summary: Tract and Practices	Acreage	Funding Year	Funding Amount
Thomas tract, Whitaker tract, Lawrence tract/extraction and mulching	17.17 acres	FY 2008	\$42,000
NM Department of Game & Fish Extraction and mulching.	26 acres	FY 2009	\$42,000
Valdez tract, Pepplar tract Root plowing/raking into burn piles	73.1 acres	FY 2010	\$38,558
NM Department of Game and Fish-Ladd S Gordon Refuge Extraction, piling, seeding	102 acres	FY 2011	\$36,549
Carangelo tract Root plowing/raking followed with reveg planting Herkenhoff tract-Paddle scraping	119.1 acres	FY 2012	\$34,720
Bourne/Babcock tract Extraction and piling, grass seeding	23 acres	FY 2013	\$34,720
Armijo tract Extraction/windrowing	51.8 acres	FY 2014	\$34,720
Bruton tract Root plowing/raking Armijo/Gonzales and Bourne/Babcock tracts Fencing and Noxious weed treatment	101 acres	FY 2015	\$34,625
Gonzales tract Root plowing/raking Shrub purchase for follow up plantings	31.2 acres	FY 2016	34,417.25
Dean tracts Extraction/root plow and raking into piles for burning	35 acres	FY 2017	\$31,375
BLM (Rhodes) tract Bulldoze above ground vegetation	3.625 acres (10 acres total)	FY 2017	\$725
Rudy Gonzales tract	26 acres	FY 2018	\$25,500
Chavez and Tafoya tracts	35.5 acres	FY 2019	\$30,975
Extraction of Rudy Gonzales, Bobby Contreras and Michael Thom tracts	33.2 acres	FY 2022	\$32,965.98 (\$31,780 State funding)
Monica Davis tract-now owned by Rudy Gonzales-Extract and mastication	12.7 acres	FY 2023	\$31,780
Monica Davis tract-now owned by Rudy Gonzales-Extract and mastication	14.96 acres	FY2024	\$31,780
Monica Davis tract-now owned by Rudy Gonzales-extraction and mastication Rudy Gonzales tract-resprout extraction	26.35 acres	FY2025	\$7,000
Monica Davis tract-now owned by Rudy Gonzales-extraction and mastication Rudy Gonzales tract-resprout extraction	11.66 acres	FY2025	\$24,780
Rudy Gonzales tract – survey of property, extraction and mastication	13.7	FY2026	\$31,780



Other grants

NMDA Capacity Building Grant

The Socorro SWCD was awarded the Capacity Building grant to cover staff dollars for our district. Because our district has 2 employees our objective over the next 2.50 years that funding is available is to maintain our current level of capacity to function and assist our cooperators, both with our cost share program, technical support and educating youth.



Retirement of 28 years

In 1998 Nyleen Troxel-Stowe started at the Socorro SWCD as a District Manager. She dedicated her time to our district for 28 years, accomplishing milestone achievements. The Socorro SWCD would like to congratulate her on her retirement.

Below is our operating budget summary for FY2026.

Quarterly Reporting Summary - Socorro SWCD - FY2026 Q4M3 - Entity printed from LGBMS on 2026-07-06 08:29:47

State of New Mexico Local Government Budget Management System (LGBMS)
Quarterly Reporting Summary - Socorro SWCD - FY2026 Q4M3 - Entity
Summary Report Sorted by Fund and Department

11000 General Operating Fund

10000 Assets

0001 No Department

	Original	Adjustments	Adjusted	Year-to-Date	Balance	% Realized
10100 Cash Assets	108,589.86	0.00	108,589.86	108,589.86	0.00	100.00
0001 Totals	108,589.86	0.00	108,589.86	108,589.86	0.00	100.00
10000 Totals	108,589.86	0.00	108,589.86	108,589.86	0.00	100.00

40000 Revenues

0001 No Department

	Original	Adjustments	Adjusted	Year-to-Date	Balance	% Realized
41000 Taxes Local Effort	245,000.00	0.00	245,000.00	256,818.88	-11,818.88	104.82
44000 Charges for Services	1,585.00	0.00	1,585.00	1,135.52	449.48	71.64
46000 Miscellaneous Revenues	5,100.00	111,892.68	116,992.68	117,588.23	-595.55	100.51
47000 Intergovernmental Grants (Distributions)	123,608.00	0.00	123,608.00	123,013.44	594.56	99.52
0001 Totals	375,293.00	111,892.68	487,185.68	498,556.07	-11,370.39	102.33
40000 Totals	375,293.00	111,892.68	487,185.68	498,556.07	-11,370.39	102.33

50000 Expenditures

2002 General Administration

	Original	Adjustments	Adjusted	Year-to-Date	Balance	% Realized
51000 Salary & Wages (FTE required)	160,000.00	5,000.00	165,000.00	166,266.60	-1,266.60	100.77
52000 Employee Benefits	64,174.00	-9,000.00	55,174.00	54,131.32	1,042.68	98.11
54000 Purchased Property Services	7,500.00	0.00	7,500.00	354.46	7,145.54	4.73
55000 Contractual Services	63,587.00	0.00	63,587.00	61,149.13	2,437.87	96.17
56000 Supplies	16,100.00	4,000.00	20,100.00	14,040.25	6,059.75	69.85
57000 Operating Costs	80,772.00	0.00	80,772.00	49,152.39	31,619.61	60.85
58000 Capital Purchases	34,694.00	0.00	34,694.00	484.01	34,209.99	1.40
59000 Debt Service	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00	9,814.34	185.66	98.14
2002 Totals	436,827.00	0.00	436,827.00	355,392.50	81,434.50	81.36
50000 Totals	436,827.00	0.00	436,827.00	355,392.50	81,434.50	81.36

ALL FUNDS	Original	Adjustments	Adjusted	YTD	Balance	% Realized
10000 Assets	108,589.86	0.00	108,589.86	108,589.86	0.00	100.00
40000 Revenues	375,293.00	111,892.68	487,185.68	498,556.07	-11,370.39	102.33
50000 Expenditures	436,827.00	0.00	436,827.00	355,392.50	81,434.50	81.36



New Office Building

In September of 2025, the Socorro SWCD officially moved to our new office building, located at 1305 Enterprise Road in Socorro. The construction of the building and subsequent claim on a performance bond due to improper construction was a long and time-consuming endeavor, but the process has concluded and we can now make the necessary repairs to the building. The Socorro SWCD now owns our office building for the first time since being chartered in 1944.

