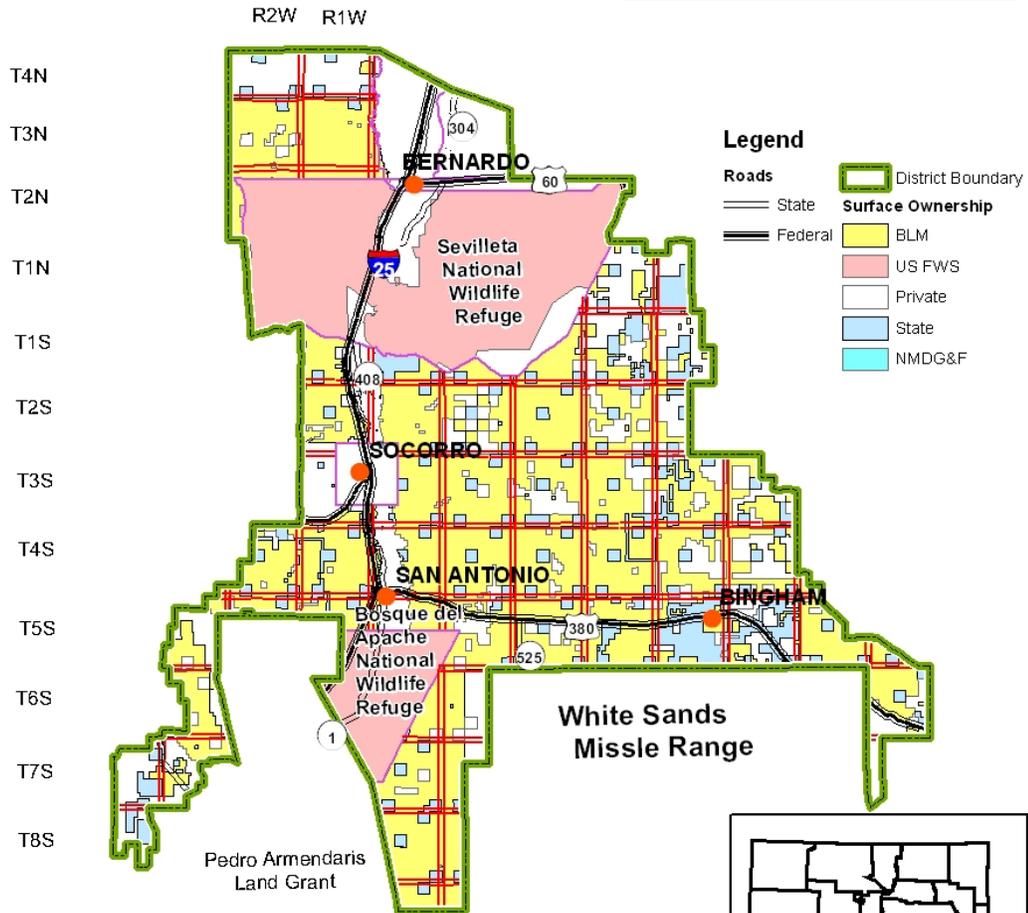
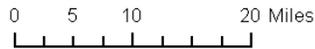


# SOCORRO SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



### Legend

- |              |                          |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Roads</b> | District Boundary        |
| State        | <b>Surface Ownership</b> |
| Federal      | BLM                      |
|              | US FWS                   |
|              | Private                  |
|              | State                    |
|              | NMDG&F                   |



Produced August 27, 2008 - jaf



# **Socorro SWCD Annual Report – FY 2009**

**Socorro Soil & Water Conservation District  
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(575) 838-0078  
(575) 838-0978 (fax)  
Email: [socorroswcd@qwestoffice.net](mailto:socorroswcd@qwestoffice.net)**

## **Socorro SWCD Board Members:**

**Larry Whitefield, Chairman**  
**Rob Bowman, Vice-chairman (February 1999 – June 2009)**  
**Virginia Johnson, Secretary/Treasurer**  
**Richard Ritter, Supervisor**  
**Corky Herkenhoff, Supervisor**  
**Robert Shannon, Supervisor (March 2006 - January 2009)**  
**Eddy Harris, Supervisor**  
**Chris Lopez, Supervisor (February 2009 to present)**

## **Staff:**

**Nyleen Troxel Stowe, Director of Special Projects, Program Manager, Noxious Weed  
Coordinator, Lower Rio Grande Salt Cedar Control Project Manager**  
**Will Kolbensschlag, Range Technician, Noxious Weed Specialist**  
**Jane Farmer, GIS Specialist, Administrative Assistant**

The Socorro Soil & Water Conservation District's Cost Share Program remains the top priority this fiscal year. It is designed to assist landowners implement water conservation measures on their farms, ranches, and urban residences. The following is a summary of the available programs and the combined benefits of the District's multifaceted program.

- Socorro SWCD Cost Share Program-This year \$24,305.83 was funded to assist cooperators in moving 10,014.75 cubic yards of soil for land leveling benefiting 49.63 acres; installation of drip irrigation on one vineyard-400 emitters on one acre of land; one livestock well rehabilitation with the installation of a new pump and forty feet of casing; installation of 360 lineal feet of concrete ditch servicing six acres; one irrigation well rehabilitation with the installation of a new pump and 84 feet of casing; installation of 3,560 feet of livestock pipeline with a 500 gallon water storage tank; 280 lineal feet of eighteen inch irrigation pipeline with one twelve inch alfalfa valve to service nine acres; 6 drip irrigation systems installed with \$2,860.15 in cost share assistance; 1 soil test analysis with cost share assistance in the amount of \$9.50; and replacement of 8 standard toilets with low-flow toilets with \$415.44 in cost share assistance. The Socorro SWCD spent a grand total of \$27,590.92 on cost share with our cooperators.
- Conservation Technical Assistance with numerous other individuals resulted in many practices being applied on the agricultural land within our District.

The application of resource management systems in conjunction with the benefits of this versatile program has resulted in significant water and soil savings in the Socorro SWCD this fiscal year. Other benefits derived from the application of these conservation practices include improved water quality in the irrigated valley as well as the grazing lands in the District, improved wildlife habitat, improved watershed health and an overall improvement in the quality of life for the residents in our area. The soil analysis program is implemented with help from our Cooperative Extension Office and our Extension Agent, Mr. Tom Dean. He advises cooperators on the proper fertilizer and crop rotation to improve the soil quality. The drip irrigation cost share program and the low flow water device replacement program offer our urban water conservation cooperators an opportunity to implement water savings.

This year, Will Kolbenschlag wrote a grant to the Soil & Water Conservation Commission that was awarded for the purchase of our own cost share equipment. We received \$10,028.00 in funding. The District spent an additional \$2,133.15 in general funding. With this a Topcon Total Station, tripod, wireless Topcon field controller, two rods, two prisms, Topcon laser level, one rod for the level and Carlson AgStar software were purchased for the design of the irrigation improvement practices.

The Socorro SWCD hosted the Rolling River Water Trailer at Kids, Kows, and More held at the Socorro County Fairgrounds. The Socorro SWCD worked with the Socorro County Extension Office to host and sponsor this event. The Socorro SWCD hosted an informational booth at the Socorro County Fair to inform the general public about programs including Cost Share assistance for irrigation improvements, brush control, soil testing, noxious weeds, drip irrigation, low flow water device installation, Salt cedar control, monitoring, revegetation and restoration. The Socorro SWCD provided soil stewardship materials for the K-5<sup>th</sup> grades in Socorro (Parkview Elementary, Zimmerly Elementary, San Antonio Elementary, Midway Elementary, Cottonwood Charter School,

and La Promesa Elementary). The Socorro SWCD also had a weed identification contest at the Bosque Conservation day held at the Socorro Nature Area. The students had to gather as many weeds as they could and identify them using weed packets put together by the Socorro SWCD staff.

The Socorro SWCD continued project management for the Lower Rio Grande Salt Cedar Control Project. The Bingaman funding project was completed with 186 acres on the Lack tract being mulched, 8.7 acres being extracted on the Fielke tract, 2.1 acres being extracted on the Kreger tract, and 94.8 acres of previously treated Salt cedar that burned shortly after treatment on the Pack tract. Also, 2,500 plants were planted on the Bottomly and Rhodes tracts from the Plant Materials Center. These plants included NM olive, Wolfberry, Galleta, Four-wing saltbush, Giant sacaton, False indigo, Golden currant, and Skunkbush sumac. These are all doing very well on the sites where planted. The final project with Bingaman funding was fence installation on the Hunter tract to keep cattle in for selective weed grazing. FY 2005 State Legislature funding set aside for revegetation was used for fence installation on the Mandeville/Pack tract, mulching on the Lack tract, and gas powered augers and bits for the Socorro SWCD to plant native species on tracts where the Salt cedar has been removed.



Will Kolbenschlag & Darrel Reasner planting Cottonwood poles in La Joya

The Socorro SWCD received \$65,000 in Severance Tax funding through NMEMNRD State Forestry, Socorro Division for extraction and mulching of Salt cedar. This was done on 32.828 acres of NM Department of Game and Fish property in Pueblito. NM Department of Game and Fish did the archeological survey and submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office where it was cleared for this work. Our price was \$1,980.00 per acre for the extraction and mulching. This work completed half of the NMDGF tract.

The Socorro SWCD received another \$150,000 from NMEMNRD State Forestry. This is under a Joint Powers Agreement using severance tax funding. This is to continue Salt cedar treatment and revegetation on the Rhodes tract in Bosquecito, on the east side of the Rio Grande. We have started the project with 65 acres of extraction of Salt cedar resprouts in the cottonwood gallery. This tract burned in 2006 and the majority of cottonwoods did not survive the fire. Salt cedar then moved into the area. \$37,554.00 was spent on the extraction which comes to \$577.75/acre

The Socorro SWCD received Capitol Outlay funding in the amount of \$42,000 to work on the habitat restoration along the Rio Grande. A total of 26 acres was extracted and mulched with this funding. This funding allowed for completion of work on the NM Department of Game and Fish tract in Pueblito.



Mechanical Salt Cedar removal equipment



NM Game & Fish tract before treatment



NM Game & Fish tract after treatment

The Socorro SWCD also received funding from the Bureau of Land Management-Rio Puerco, Socorro, and Las Cruces Field Offices, in the amount of \$123,000 for aerial helicopter herbicide application to Salt cedar on 615 acres. The Socorro SWCD continues to work with Holloman Air Force Base to complete their aerial Salt cedar treatment that was funded in FY 2006. The Socorro SWCD staff completed ground spraying on Salt cedar and African Rue for Holloman Air Force Base this year.



Aerial Salt Cedar Spraying, September 2008

The Socorro SWCD has received \$35,000 in Bingaman funding for revegetation on the Tinnin tract. Extraction on 21 acres was completed at a cost of \$10,887.04. The Socorro SWCD then issued a Request for Proposal for the burning of the piles on this tract and the 65 acres of extracted materials on the Rhodes tract. This will be done in FY 2010. The Socorro SWCD assisted with the planting of another 1,000 Gooding's black willows on the Seville National Wildlife Refuge. To date 5,000 trees have been planted.

The Socorro SWCD moved into a new office in April 2008. It is located just west of the Chevron station with the carwash on California Street at the north end of town, 103 Francisco de Avondo. We have been busy upgrading the building and landscaping.



A quarterly newsletter is sent to all of our cooperators. It comes out in January, April, July, and October. We offer new program information, water conservation tips, website information, etc. in this newsletter.

The Socorro SWCDs Noxious Weed Program continues to treat noxious weeds on primarily private land our County. The Socorro SWCD staff treated 19 acres of Russian knapweed, 2 acres of Silver leaf nightshade, 22.25 acres of Perennial pepperweed, 22.35 acres of African rue and 132.98 acres of Salt cedar.



Spraying African Rue at Holloman Air Force Base

Our Vice-chairman, Dr. Robert Bowman who was also a Hydrology professor at NM Tech passed away on June 6, 2009 at his home in Lemitar, New Mexico after a long battle with cancer. His expertise on water issues and his passion for conservation will be sorely missed by us all.

**FY 2009**

Item	Amount
Income:	
State funding	10,750
Lower Rio Grande Salt Cedar Control Project	470,144
Mil levy	85,292
Sevilleta Restoration Grant	5,432
Miscellaneous Grant Income	19,170
Loan repayment	8,491
Total:	599,279
Expenditures:	
Lower Rio Grande Salt Cedar Control Project	616,253
Program manager	53,316
Range Technician	43,394
Program Assistant/GIS Specialist	30,903
Cost share program	18,874
Office supplies, postage, meetings, dues, telephone, travel	35,590
Auto	5,598
Conservation activities	29,206
Loan repayment to ISC	8,018
Total:	841,152