



Socorro SWCD Annual Plan FY 2023 (July 2022 - June 2023)



**Mission of the Socorro Soil & Water Conservation District:
To lead beneficial conservation efforts and the wise use of 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 toilets and rain water harvesting systems for landowners within the District.
- Assist landowners with their Soil Health Grant Projects.

Noxious Weed Treatment and Outreach

- Treat, monitor and re-treat as necessary Class A noxious weeds on Bureau of Land Management recreation tracts.
- Contract for Salt cedar retreatment in the Sawtooth area for the Bureau of Land Management.
- Contract for treatment of Spiny cocklebur in the Chupadera Mesa area for the Bureau of Land Management.
- Assist landowners with weed identification. Create a weed identification page for the most common weeds seen in Socorro 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.socorroswcd.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 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:

- NM Finance Authority Loan for new office building. Loan has been secured in FY 2021.
 - Issue a RFB for construction of new office building. Select contractor. Oversee construction of new office building.

Staffing:

- Hire a Natural Resource Specialist and train on surveying, design, checkout practices for the Cost Share Program. Train person on noxious weed identification. Train person on basic Socorro SWCD program and necessary documentation.