

Socorro SWCD Annual Plan FY 2020 (July 2019 - June 2020)



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 a Cost Share Program for agricultural practices to landowners within the District.
- Provide design assistance as well as a Cost Share Program for Residential practices including drip irrigation, low flow toilet installation and rain harvesting system installation to 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 socorrosxcd.org website.
- Provide cost share assistance for noxious weed treatment on non-cropland. Treatment must be completed by a licensed commercial pesticide applicator.

Salt Cedar/Russian Olive 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 elongata* (Salt cedar bug) populations.
- Use excavator for re-sprout treatment on previously treated sites.
- Harvest and plant poles in February/March on treated sites.
- Continue to harvest and start native shrubs to grow out in greenhouse for future plantings.

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 participate in Kids, Kows and More, Ag Literacy Day, Bosque Conservation Day.
- 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.