

Socorro Soil & Water Conservation District
Annual Work Plan
FY-2002

DISTRICT PRIORITIES:

- Improve irrigation system efficiency.
- Administer Noxious Weed program.
- Continue to educate public with emphasis on schools about the importance of soil and water conservation.
- Develop federally authorized Conservation Program.
- Assist local entities with Conservation Needs.
- Promote proper drainage and treatment of high water table and related problems.
- Complete revision of Long Range Plan.
- Improve management on irrigated pastures in District.
- Administer Loan Program.
- Implement and improve Cost Share Program.
- Update Regional Water Plan as agreed upon in contract with ISC.
- Reduce erosion and increase productivity of rangeland within the Socorro SWCD.
- Pursue funding sources for Noxious Weed program.
- Improve management on irrigated cropland in District.
- Promote Soil and Water Conservation District publicly with newspaper, radio, and television media.
- Pursue lead role in water rights and declaration processes.
- Actively pursue grants to accomplish conservation programs.

PRIORITY – Improve Irrigation System Efficiency.

Goal – Save 1500 acre-feet of irrigation water in District.

Action:

1. Evaluate Irrigation Water Plan management of selected farms in District and invite local farmers to attend.
2. Publicize annual report the total amount of water saved and secondary benefits derived due to district activities in the Socorro SWCD.
3. Administer and publicize BOR Water Conservation alfalfa drip irrigation project.
4. Research chemicals to decrease gopher problems encountered on drip irrigation project.

PRIORITY – Administer Noxious Weed Program

Goal – Educate the public on noxious weeds. Eradicate small populations and manage larger infestations.

Action:

1. Finish mapping noxious weed population in Socorro County.
2. Expand noxious weed program into Catron County and investigate disturbed sites.
3. Educate public with seminars, newspaper articles, and brochures.
4. Pursue funding sources for noxious weed program.
5. Offer training seminar on noxious weeds with CEU's.
6. Continue writing management plans with local entities.
7. Coordinate noxious weed treatments with all government entities.
8. Develop cost share program for private landowners.

PRIORITY – Continue to Educate Public with Emphasis on Schools about the Importance of Soil and Water Conservation.

Goal - Reach at least 2000 people first hand demonstrating benefits of Soil and Water conservation.

Action:

1. Assist with Food, Land & People education program development.
2. Publish in depth newspaper article on Soil and Water Conservation.
3. Participate in talks at each of the grade schools in the district.
4. Sponsor youth to summer youth conservation camp.
5. Provide Soil Stewardship materials to grade schools for Soil Stewardship Week.
6. Participate in Bosque Del Apache Conservation Day.
7. Publish Quarterly District Newsletter.
8. Attend education training.
9. Continue to work with School Administration to develop education program in schools.

PRIORITY – Develop federally authorized Conservation Program

Goal – Update criteria for Socorro County Irrigated Valley, Lower Rio Grande Geographic Priority Area, and the Yellow Dog Canyon Geographic Priority Area.

Action:

1. Coordinate and hold Local WORK Group Meetings as needed.

PRIORITY – Assist Local Entities with Conservation Needs

Goal – Assist County, City, and Schools with at least one Conservation Related Project each.

Action:

1. Assist Save Our Bosque Task Force with education and public benefit programs.

2. Contact City and other entities as needed and offer applicable technical and planning assistance.
3. Follow up as needed.

PRIORITY – Promote Proper Drainage and Treatment of High Water Table and Related Problems

Goal – Attain minimum of 4-foot water table depth on all irrigated lands in district.

Action:

1. Meet with MRGCD at least once during year to express district concerns over problems.
2. Publicize detrimental effects caused by high water tables including salinity problems.
3. Emphasize special areas of concern.
 - a. San Juan drain and diversion from Rt. 60 to the river.
 - b. High water tables North of Bosque Del Apache.

PRIORITY – Complete Revision of District Long Range Plan

Goal – Long range Plan that reflects current resource problems and a plan of action to treat those problems.

Action:

1. Finish revision of Long Range Plan.
2. Publish and distribute Long Range Plan.

PRIORITY – Improve Management on Irrigated Pastures in District.

Goal - Apply intensive rotation grazing management on 150 acres in District.

Action:

1. Publicize benefits of intensive pasture rotation and management with local media.

PRIORITY - Administer Loan Program

Goal - Enhance District's loan program.

Action:

1. Obtain reauthorization from Interstate Stream Commission - request \$50,000.00 for new loans.
2. Publicize availability of Program through local media.

PRIORITY - Implement and Improve Cost Share Programs as needed.

Goal - Create Cost Share Program that encourages and promotes Soil and Water Conservation.

Action:

1. Develop and administer program.
2. Publicize program with local media.
3. Evaluate and revise District Cost Share Policy if necessary.

PRIORITY - Update Regional Water Plan as agreed upon in contract signed with ISC.

Goal - Use Interstate Stream Commission funds to update Regional Water Plan.

Action:

1. Meet with hired contractor monthly to oversee Regional Water Plan update.
2. Inform ISC of progress with monthly and quarterly reports.
3. Complete Regional Water Plan Update.
4. Publish Regional Water Plan Reports and make available at City, County, Libraries, etc.

PRIORITY – Reduce erosion and increase productivity of rangeland within the Socorro SWCD.

Goal - Treat 1000 acres of brush

Action:

1. Publicize benefits of controlling woody species on rangeland.
2. Monitor range improvement on previously treated acres.

Approved:

Chairman

Date