

**Socorro Soil & Water Conservation District
Annual Work Plan
FY-2003**

DISTRICT PRIORITIES:

- Lead SWCDs along Rio Grande in Salt cedar eradication program funded by the NM State Legislature.
- Improve irrigation system efficiency on farmland within Socorro SWCD utilizing Cost Share program.
- Begin management/eradication program for noxious weeds on private land.
- Continue to administer and coordinate Noxious Weed program.
- Continue to educate public with emphasis on schools about the importance of soil and water conservation.
- Develop a water-quality monitoring program.
- Develop federally authorized Conservation Program.
- Assist local entities with Conservation Needs.
- Promote proper drainage and treatment of high water table and related problems.
- Improve management on irrigated pastures in District.
- Administer Loan Program.
- Update Regional Water Plan as agreed upon in contract with ISC.
- Reduce erosion and increase productivity of rangeland within the Socorro SWCD.
- Improve management on irrigated cropland in District.
- Promote Soil and Water Conservation District publicly with media.
- Pursue lead role in water rights and declaration processes.
- Actively pursue grants to accomplish conservation programs.

PRIORITY: Lead SWCDs along Rio Grande in Salt cedar eradication program funded by the NM State Legislature.

Goal- Remove as much Salt cedar as possible with \$2.5 million from the New Mexico State Legislature.

Action:

1. Reach agreement with SWCDs along the Rio Grande on breakdown of money per stretch of the Rio Grande.
2. Develop and sign MOU/JPA to administer this program with the other Districts.
3. Develop and sign MOU with other agencies to help with monitoring of project-especially National Wildlife Refuges.
4. Advertise RFQ for helicopter/hand crew work.
5. Select Contractor.
6. Treat Salt cedar.
7. Begin developing restoration plan.
8. Seek more funding.

PRIORITY: Improve Irrigation System Efficiency on farmland within the Socorro SWCD utilizing Cost Share program.

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

Action:

1. Administer Cost Share program.
2. Advertise Cost Share program in local newspapers.
3. Publicize in annual report the total amount of water saved and secondary benefits derived due to district activities in the Socorro SWCD.
4. Administer and publicize BOR Water Conservation alfalfa drip irrigation project. Investigate potential use of low-volume well.

PRIORITY: Begin management/eradication program for noxious weeds on private land.

Goal- Educate the public on noxious weeds. Eradicate small populations and control larger infestations.

Action:

1. Begin control/eradication program with local landowners.

2. Expand noxious weed program into Catron County and investigate disturbed sites. Give data to other SWCDs so that they can develop and administer control/eradication program.
3. Educate public with seminars, newspaper articles, and brochures.
4. Pursue funding sources for herbicide 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 on their land.

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. Continue to publish quarterly newsletter with soil and water conservation issues and topics.
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. Set up and man booth at Socorro County Fair.
7. Participate in Sevilleta/La Joya open house.
8. Participate in Bosque Del Apache Conservation Day.
9. Develop and host Ag Day for the 4th grade in Socorro County.
10. Attend education training.
11. 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. Contact City and other entities as needed and offer applicable technical and planning assistance.
2. Assist Save Our Bosque Task Force with education and public benefit programs.
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. Special Emphasis 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: Improve Management on Irrigated Pastures in District.

Goal- Encourage landowners manage irrigated pasture.

Action:

1. Encourage landowners to level fields and re-establish pasture to be more efficient and productive.
2. 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: Complete Regional Water Plan as agreed upon in contract signed with ISC.

Goal- Use Interstate Stream Commission funds to complete 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. Present completed Regional Water Plan to the ISC.
5. Publish Regional Water Plan Reports and make available at City, County, Libraries, etc.
6. Seek funding for implementation of Regional Water Plan.

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.
3. Continue Velpar sale program.

Approved:

Chairman

Date