



Socorro Soil & Water Conservation District
FY 2004 Annual Work Plan

**Socorro Soil & Water Conservation District
Annual Work Plan
FY-2005**

DISTRICT PRIORITIES:

- Lead SWCDs along Lower Rio Grande in Salt cedar management program funded by the NM State Legislature.
- Survey land for Salt cedar management prior to treatment; set up monitoring areas.
- Seek funds to conduct revegetation work on land that has been treated for Salt cedar infestation
- Improve irrigation system efficiency on farmland within Socorro SWCD utilizing Cost Share program.
- Continue 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 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.
- 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.



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FY 2004 Annual Work Plan

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 \$400,000 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. Continue to work on agreements with NWRs to implement treatment and revegetation.
3. Treat Salt cedar.
4. Develop monitoring protocol. Recruit volunteer organizations to help with monitoring.
5. Set up monitoring sites.
6. Begin developing restoration plan.
7. Seek more funding for continued management and for revegetation.

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. Develop Conservation Plans with landowners, especially those applying for Cost Share assistance.

PRIORITY: Continue 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. Continue 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 and a computerized truck for treatment of noxious weeds.



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FY 2004 Annual Work Plan

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.
8. Request FRIF funds-for Spike (Tebuthiron pellets).

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. Build conservation education center at Bravo Farms on donated land.
2. Assist with Food, Land & People education program development.
3. Advertise Website: www.socorroswcd.com
4. Continue to publish quarterly newsletter with soil and water conservation issues and topics.
5. Participate in talks at each of the grade schools in the district.
6. Sponsor youth to summer youth conservation camp.
7. Provide Soil Stewardship materials to grade schools for Soil Stewardship Week.
8. Set up and man booth at Socorro County Fair.
9. Participate in Sevilleta/La Joya open house.
10. Participate in Bosque Del Apache Conservation Day.
11. Develop and host Ag Day for the 4th grade in Socorro County.
12. Attend education training.
13. 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:



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FY 2004 Annual Work Plan

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. Continue to work with Interstate Stream Commission to develop acceptable standards for loan program.
2. Obtain reauthorization from Interstate Stream Commission – request \$50,000.00 for new loans.
3. Publicize availability of Program through local media.

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



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Goal- Treat 1000 acres of brush

Action:

1. Develop cost share brush program with use of Velpar in stock.
2. Publicize benefits of controlling woody species on rangeland.
3. Monitor range improvement on previously treated acres.

Approved:

Chairman

John J. Carangelo

8/13/04

Date

Socorro SWCD									
Annual Work Plan									
FY 2005									
	Task						Complete		Completion Date
July									
	1 Finalize Budget for new fiscal year-submit to DFA, NMDA, & SWCC								
	2 Complete 4th quarter and end of year reports								
	3 Complete annual report and distribute								
	4 Make loan payment to ISC								
	5 Place order for materials for County Fair								
	6 Write contract for Salt cedar treatment								
	7 Contact landowners on treatment plan for Salt cedar								
	8 Send out quarterly newsletter								
August									
	1 Contact schools to begin conservation education								
	2 Provide FLP training to Socorro Public School Teachers								
	3 Meet with School Administration about Ag Day								
	4 Host booth at County Fair								
September									
	1 Set up and man booth at Socorro County Fair								
	2 Aerial treatment of salt cedar								
October									
	1 Complete first quarter report								
	2 Contact speaker for annual meeting								
	3 Attend Jornada RC&D tour								

February										
	1	Order soil stewardship materials								
	2	Evaluate annual workplan								
	3	Approve summer camp scholarships								
	4	Judge science fairs, award savings bonds								
	5	Planning for Ag Day								
March										
	1	Advertise summer camp scholarships								
	2	Host public information session on noxious weeds								
	3	Ag Day planning/Ag Day								
	4	Request FRIF funds from County								
April										
	1	Complete third quarter report								
	2	Budget subcommittee meeting to develop preliminary budget								
	3	Complete award nominations for Region/NMACD Summer meeting								
	4	Request loan money from ISC								
	5	Submit paperwork for summer camp scholarship winners								
	6	Ag Day								
	7	Send out quarterly newsletter								
May										
	1	Deliver soil stewardship materials to schools								
	2	Draft annual workplan for FY 2004								
	3	Submit budget to DFA, NMDA & SWCC								
	4	Draft annual report								
	5	Attend Career Day at Sevilleta NWR								

