

**SIERRA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
Truth or Consequences, New Mexico**

**ANNUAL WORK PLAN  
Fiscal Year 2012**



*Elk in a riparian restoration area*

# *SIERRA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT*

## *PLAN OF ACTION*

The District Board of Supervisors will meet at least once each month during the year. Other special meetings will be held as necessary with the proper public notification being given. The following action items are planned for the year beginning July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012 with the assistance of the USDA-NRCS field office staff:

### **Objectives:**

#### **1. To educate the public on the need for conservation of our natural resources.**

- Action Item #1: Provide conservation education to public school system through tours, presentations, conservation videos, and materials to address conservation in the classroom. Sponsor Hot Springs High School FFA land judging, Homesite, forestry & range/pasture teams to National Finals in Oklahoma. Sponsor team from Hot Springs High School to the New Mexico Envirothon contest. Give presentations to local schools as requested, utilizing instructional aides. Participate and/or sponsor the Annual Ag Day. Sponsor youths and adults to natural resource camps. Provide presentation to local schools in celebration of Earth Day
- Action Item #2: Provide conservation awareness to the public through news articles, district web page, Annual Report, Soil Stewardship week, and District Awards program. Sponsor workshops co-operatively with the County Extension Agent and others. Provide presentations to local groups as requested.
- Action Item #3: Provide support and promotion of legislation at state and local levels by drafting annual resolutions; attend pertinent city and county commission meetings, and attend Region III and NMACD conferences. Co-sponsor with Caballo SWCD & Jornada RC&D a legislative event for area legislative representatives if appropriate. Attend pertinent legislative efforts during interim committee meetings and during the legislative session
- Action Item #4: Support Jornada RC&D Measure proposals and attend Jornada RC&D meetings.
- Action Item #5: Distribute Long Range Plan to conservation partners, area legislators, community, local media and other various methods

**1. To educate the public on the need for conservation of our natural resources (cont.)**

- Action Item #6 Recruit volunteers to enhance the District's public relations program.
- Action Item #7 Promote the use of the Region III Rolling Rivers Trailer
- Action Item #8 Promote the Sierra SWCD web page and keep updated as needed.

**2. Address water quality and quantity concerns on private and public lands.**

- Action Item #1: Conduct planning on ranches in the Sierra SWCD District to promote soil erosion control and vegetative management. Conduct follow-up on existing plans to provide assistance in implementing conservation practices.
- Action Item #2: Work with local government and schools to identify areas of critical erosion needing stabilization, including streambank, gully and construction sites. Assist with seeking adequate funding to address those critical resource needs.
- Action Item #3: Continue to promote the District's cost-share program for the installation of rangeland and irrigated land conservation practices. Provide technical and financial assistance to approved applicants.
- Action Item #4: Promote the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and other applicable Farm Bill programs and to provide technical assistance to approved applicants as appropriate.
- Action Item #5 Search for funding to implement Best Management Practices on watershed plans completed on watersheds within the boundaries of the Sierra SWCD. Search for funding to develop and complete watershed planning on those watersheds that do not have a plan in place.
- Action Item #6 Provide leadership to implement a local Rio Grande riparian vegetative restoration program. Pursue funding sources to implement this program
- Action Item #7 Continue to participate in the Lower Rio Grande Salt Cedar Management Program, along with the Caballo, Socorro and Dona Ana SWCDs and other partners. Search for additional funding to continue the efforts of this program.
- Action item #8 Promote brush management and provide technical assistance and practice follow-up. Encourage use of approved chemical, biological or mechanical methods for control and/or eradication of invasive species

## **2. Address water quality and quantity concerns on private and public lands (continued)**

- Action Item #9      Administer the Sierra County Cooperative Weed Management Area. Continue to work with other local, state, and federal agencies to promote this program and participation of landowners. Provide technical and/or financial assistance where applicable and feasible. Assist landowners with on-the-ground treatment of identified weeds when applicable.
- Action Item #10     Administer the BLM Integrated Weed Management five year grant. Expand the current weed inventory area, develop and implement outreach program, develop treatment plans for landowners, produce and distribute a weed "wanted" poster.
- Action Item #11     Search for funding to develop and implement watershed plans identified by Surface Water Quality Bureau as impaired streams
- Action Item #12     Work with Socorro SWCD, Jornada RC&D and the Fish & Wildlife Service, "Partners for Fish & Wildlife" program to continue with monitoring plan on the burned area rehabilitation program on that portion of the Armendaris Ranch directly abutting the Bosque del Apache Game Refuge where salt cedar control has occurred.

## **3. Provide assistance to local farmers to improve irrigation efficiency and protect water quality.**

- Action Item #1:      Emphasize the need for irrigation water management, nutrient & pesticide management, and salinity management to improve crop production, make more efficient use of water, and lessen the potential for water contamination.
- Action Item #2:      Provide technical assistance to increase irrigation efficiency and improve water delivery systems.
- Action Item #3:      Provide financial assistance through the District cost-share program for the installation of irrigation system improvements.

#### **4. Promote wise land use planning in county and city within the district.**

- Action Item #1: Offer assistance to subdividers on Terrain Management plans and assist county and city in reviewing plans submitted. Review and submit comments on Terrain Management portions of subdivision plans submitted to the District.
- Action Item #2: Provide leadership in the continued development and implementation of the Sierra County Community Wildfire Protection Plan and 20 Communities Strategy Initiative. Search for other opportunities for projects and funding identified in the Healthy Forest Restoration Act. Work with the New Mexico Association of Counties on securing wildfire mitigation funding to address priority areas identified in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Continue to work with the County of Sierra to secure funding for a wildland coordinator who would focus on implementation of the action items in the CWPP.
- Action Item #3: Promote the use of the NM State Forestry Forest Re-Leaf program on appropriate community, private or public projects.
- Action Item #4: Work with the Gila National Forest, Black Range District, to promote implementation of a forest stewardship plans.
- Action Item #5: Assist private landowners in the development of a fuelbreak plan on private lands in urban interface areas of the Forest. When funding is available, implement the Wildland-Urban Interface Defensible space cost-share program for private landowners to thin their private land and continue to search for additional funds for completion of this effort.
- Action Item #6: Work with local municipalities to control wind and soil erosion occurring on newly developed commercial and residential properties.
- Action Item #7: Provide leadership in the development of small wood utilization industries within the Sierra SWCD
- Action Item #8: Work with the County of Sierra in oversight of the USFS Secure Rural Schools program. Actively participate in the Resource Advisory Council that provides direction for the funding under this program.
- Action Item #9: Work with partners in identifying projects that would be a viable grant proposal to the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program. Submit a grant if a good collaborative project presents itself.
- Action Item #10: Promote the use of and disseminate information regarding renewable energy sources

## **5. Address resource problems associated with flooding in the district.**

- Action Item #1: Inspect watershed Site 8C and Channel 800. (Mud Springs & Outlet Channel) and Site 3C and Outlet 3 (Morgan Street Dam & outlet)
- Action Item #2: Continue to work with City of Truth or Consequences on the completion of the T or C /Williamsburg Watershed Arroyos Work Plan. Continue duties and responsibilities as a sponsor of this structure. Assist the City of Truth or Consequences with revegetation of identified areas within the project. The remaining items would be a structure and outlet channel near Cook Street
- Action Item #3: Assist landowners in establishing erosion control practices.
- Action Item #4: Participate in the New Mexico Dam Owner's Watershed Alliance to promote adequate funding of new watershed structures and adequate O&M on existing structures.
- Action Item #5: Coordinate with the Sierra County Flood Commission and provide technical assistance as appropriate.
- Action Item #6: Implement a grade stabilizing cost-share program for commercial and private landowners through the utilization of railroad ties.
- Action Item #7: Work with the Jornada RC&D and the Office of the Sierra County Flood Commission to secure funding to implement grade stabilization practices on lands located along major tributaries of the Rio Grande. These practices, such as "jettys" are to be utilized to protect said lands from major storm events and/or severe flooding.

## **6. Promote wildlife and recreational potential in the district.**

- Action Item #1: Assist landowners in applying conservation measures and management for developing wildlife habitat.
- Action Item #2: Distribute educational material related to recreational use and integration of wildlife development into land use.
- Action Item #3: Promote establishment of quality fishing water along the Rio Grande River within the boundaries of the Sierra SWCD.
- Action Item #4: Work with community leaders on the development of wildlife viewing sites and associated industry
- Action Item #5: Work with NM State Parks and the Energy Minerals & Natural Resources Department on the planning effort of a multi-use recreational trail along the Rio Grande.

## **7. Promote conservation efforts on urbanland within the District**

Action Item #1: Seek funds to construct a resource learning facility to be located somewhere within the SWCD.

Action Item #2: Assist in the planning of windbreaks with local landowners to control wind erosion by promoting the District's tree and shrub seedling program.

## **7. Promote conservation efforts on urbanland within the District (continued)**

Action Item #3: Encourage participation in the residential erosion control cost-share program for the installation of drip irrigation systems for windbreaks and water conservation practices on tree and shrub plantings.

Action Item #4: Work with the Jornada RC& D and the Healing Waters Trail steering committee to secure funds and provide technical assistance on a nature trail and beautification effort at the Geronimo Springs Museum plaza. Seek financial and design assistance on the implementation of the Healing Waters Trail along the Rio Grande and wetland restoration at Jack Baker Rotary Park.

Action Item #5: Provide assistance in planning vegetative and structural practices to reduce soil erosion and aid in water conservation.

Action Item #6: Assist in the planning and the installation of erosion control and beautification efforts at the Veteran's Memorial Park. Pursue funding efforts to complete the beautification efforts at the Park.

## DISTRICT CALENDAR

### Regular scheduled meetings:

*Jornada RC&D  
Sierra County CWPP*

*3<sup>rd</sup> Friday, 10:00, every other odd month  
3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, 10:00, SWCD office, monthly*

### July

Item	Who	Completion Date
Draft Annual report	Staff	08/11
Finalize District Financial Report	Randy, District Manager, Fiscal Officer	07/11
Complete Travel Vouchers	Board	07/11
Attend steering committee meetings of the Lower Rio Grande Salt Cedar Program	Board, District Staff	Ongoing
Update grant in-kind docket	District clerk	08/11
Complete fiscal reports for active grants	District Manager, Fiscal Officer	07/11
Complete Oath of Office for Appointed Supervisors/designate RC&D representative	Board	07/11
Complete Board Reorganization	Board	07/11
Treat salt cedar re-sprouts on areas treated by SWCD from Lower Rio Grande Salt Cedar control project	District Staff	09/11

## August

Item	Who	Completion Date
Finalize & Distribute Annual Report	District Manager	08/11
Continue to seek funding to implement WUI projects	District Manager, WUI planner	Ongoing
Treat salt cedar re-sprouts on areas treated by SWCD from Lower Rio Grande Salt Cedar control project	District Staff	09/11
Treat re-sprouts and perennial pepperweed on approximately 750 at the Armendaris BAR project site	District staff	09/11
Ag Cost-share committee to meet and prioritize applications	Cost-share committee, NRCS, District staff	09/11

## September

Item	Who	Completion Date
Invite USFS to October meeting to review current MOU	Board	10/11
Order conservation curriculum for schools	District Clerk	10/11
Tour SWCD projects	Board, Staff	10/11
Implement awareness program for web page	District Manager	10/11
Plan to attend NMACD & NMARCD conference	Board, Staff	10/11
Complete treatment of re-sprouts on project area funded through NMAC grant	District Staff	09/11
Begin developing the "monthly" noxious weed poster for submission to the newspapers	District Staff	10/11
Review report from Ag cost-share committee and take necessary action	Board	10/11

## October

Item	Who	Completion Date
Schedule inspections of PL-566 structures	Board, NRCS	10/11
Complete travel vouchers	Board	10/11
Review current MOU with USFS	Board	10/11
Review report from Ag cost-share committee and take necessary action	Board	10/11
Attend the NMACD & NMARCD winter conference	Board, Staff	10/11

## November

Item	Who	Completion Date
Schedule Annual Awards Dinner	District Manager	11/11
Review NMACD & NMARCD conference	Board, Staff	11/11
Work with City to dredge Rotary Park wetland area to remove sediment build up	District Staff, City of T or C	11/11
Develop noxious weed informational brochure; secure funding sources for publication	District staff	12/11

## December

Item	Who	Completion Date
Host Awards Dinner	Board	12/11
Review MOU with NRCS	Board, NRCS	12/11
Approve Open Meetings Act Resolution	Board	12/11
Begin developing proposal for the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program	District Manager	03/2012
Conduct Sierra County Coordinate Weed Management Area meeting to review status	Weed Technician	12/11

## January

Item	Who	Completion Date
Complete travel vouchers	Board	01/2012
Invite BLM to attend February meeting to review current MOU	Board	02/2012
Schedule supervisor/staff to attend pertinent legislative sessions	Board, District staff	01/2012
Begin working with Cooperative Extension for plans for Ag Day	District staff, Board	04/2012
Conduct mid-year budget review	District Board, Fiscal Officer	01/2012
Begin working with HSHS to get a Envirothon team started	District Staff	03/2012
Develop a Professional Services Contract for a Natural Resources Coach for the local FFA chapter	Board	02/2012

## February

Item	Who	Completion Date
Promote Sierra County Cooperative Weed Management area, continue inventory efforts, search for funding for a long-term position for noxious weed technician	Noxious Weed Technician, District Manager	03/2012
Review current MOU with BLM	Board	02/2012
Plant poles of native Cottonwood and Goodings Willows for interested partners	District Staff	02/2012
Treat perennial pepperweed on approximately 750 at the Armendaris BAR project site	District staff	09/11

## March

<b>Item</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
Plan for soil stewardship week; order handouts, submit article to media	District Manager	04/2012
Order curriculum for Ag Day and 4 <sup>th</sup> grade natural resource day	District Manager	04/2012
Schedule a day for tree presentations to the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> grade students	District Staff	03/2012

## April

<b>Item</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
Locate auditor for contracting to complete agreed-to-procedures per OSA	District Manager, Fiscal Officer	04/2012
Submit proposal to NMAC for new projects	District Manager	04/2012
Submit travel vouchers	Board	04/2012
Begin drafting proposed budget	Budget committee, staff	05/2012
Adopt mil levy rate resolution & submit to SWCC	Board	04/2012
Participate in Ag Day	Board, Staff	04/2012

## May

<b>Item</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
Sponsor HSHS FFA natural resources teams to National Finals, if qualified	Board	05/2012
Select & complete narratives for NMACD awards program	Awards committee	05/2012
Prepare for Region III meeting: resolutions, attendance, etc	Board	05/2012
Begin drafting Annual Work Plan for next FY	Annual Work Plan committee	06/2012
Review & adopt proposed budgets	Board	06/2012
Review status of Ag cost-share program	Board	06/2012

## June

<b>Item</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
Finalize District Budget & Annual Plan of Work	Board	06/2012
Attend Region III meeting	Board, Staff	06/2012
Finalize plans for NMACD summer conference	Board, Staff	07/2012
Review performance plans of District staff and make recommendations to budget committee for final budget	Personnel committee, District Manager	07/2012
Submit letters to County Assessor's regarding mil levy rates	District Manager	07/2012