

Socorro SWCD  
Annual Report – FY 2021

Socorro Soil & Water Conservation District  
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Socorro SWCD Board Members:

Eddy Harris, Chairman  
Chris Lopez, Vice-chairman  
Brian Durkin, Secretary/Treasurer  
Jose "Lencho" Vega, Supervisor  
Vernon Leseberg, Supervisor

Staff:

Nyleen Troxel Stowe, District Manager  
Will Kolbensschlag, Assistant District Manager

## SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

The Socorro Soil & Water Conservation District's Cost Share Program continues to be the top priority of the fiscal year. It is designed to assist landowners in implementing water conservation measures on their farms, ranches, and residences. The following is a summary of the available programs and the combined benefits of the District's multifaceted programs:

This year \$43,392.50 was reimbursed to landowners for installing beneficial agricultural and residential conservation projects.

### Agricultural Projects:

Agriculture is the most active segment of our cost share program. This year we assisted landowners with four land leveling projects moving 4,364 cubic yards of dirt on 23 acres; installation of 886 feet of twelve inch irrigation pipeline benefitting 7.8 acres; installation of 167 feet of fifteen inch irrigation pipeline benefitting 2 acres; installation of 1,600 gallons of rain water storage for supplemental orchard irrigation, benefitting 2 acres; drilling of two livestock wells with solar pumps benefitting 647 acres; two 10,000 gallon storage tanks for livestock on 2 ranches, benefitting 645 acres; two Middle Rio Grande Conservancy ditch turnout upgrades from 24" to 30" and 18" to 30"; installation of a greenhouse shade structure benefitting a small organic tomato farm, and removal of Salt cedar re-sprouts on 9.5 acres..



A concrete ditch pour in Socorro. This was an NRCS project, but since they won't work on Saturday, district staff provided technical assistance.

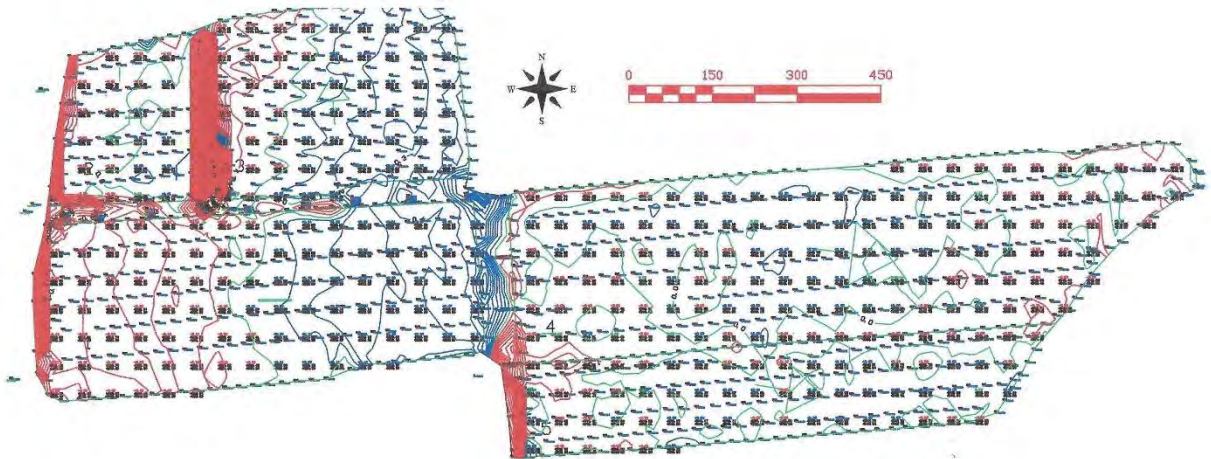
## RIO GRANDE RESTORATION FUNDING

We expect that we will receive funding for FY 2022 and have already signed landowners up for future projects. Following is a summary of the acreage that has been completed to date using the Socorro SWCD Riparian Restoration Funding from the New Mexico State Legislature.

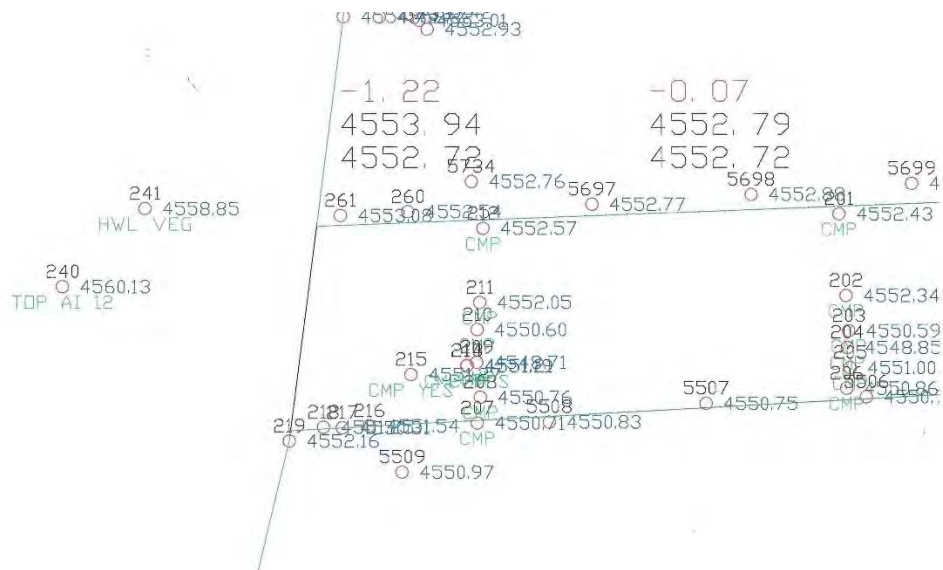
Tract and Practices	Acreage	Funding Year	Funding Amount
Thomas tract, Whitaker tract, Lawrence tract/extraction and mulching	17.17 acres	FY 2008	\$42,000
NM Department of Game & Fish Extraction and mulching.	26 acres	FY 2009	\$42,000
Valdez tract, Pepplar tract Root plowing/raking into burn piles	73.1 acres	FY 2010	\$38,558
NM Department of Game and Fish-Ladd S Gordon Refuge Extraction, piling, seeding	102 acres	FY 2011	\$36,549
Carangelo tract Root plowing/raking followed with reveg planting Herkenhoff tract-Paddle scraping	119.1 acres	FY 2012	\$34,720
Bourne/Babcock tract Extraction and piling, grass seeding	23 acres	FY 2013	\$34,720
Armijo tract Extraction/windrowing	51.8 acres	FY 2014	\$34,720
Bruton tract Root plowing/raking Armijo/Gonzales and Bourne/Babcock tracts Fencing and Noxious weed treatment	101 acres	FY 2015	\$34,625
Gonzales tract Root plowing/raking Shrub purchase for follow up plantings	31.2 acres	FY 2016	34,417.25
Dean tracts Extraction/root plow and raking into piles for burning	35 acres	FY 2017	\$31,375
BLM (Rhodes) tract Bulldoze above ground vegetation	3.625 acres (10 acres total)	FY 2017	\$725
Rudy Gonzales tract	26 acres	FY 2018	\$25,500
Chavez and Tafoya tracts	35.5 acres	FY 2019	\$31,780
Gonzales, Hart and Esquibel tracts	17 acres	FY 2020	\$31,780

The Socorro SWCD received a grant from the New Mexico Soil & Water Conservation Commission in the amount of \$2,226.21 in 2021, which we used to purchase an upgraded software package for our cost share program. AgStar 2021 is the latest version of the Carlson Software release, and we use it to generate cut/fill maps for laser leveling, for measuring and evaluating concrete ditches and irrigation pipelines. The new version also has a hydrology component that will provide us with more accurate tools to assist our landowners.

Below is a cut/fill map produced by AgStar 2021. There are both numerical labels for cuts and fills as well as a topographic cut/fill map, which presents the data in an easily understandable way.



Below is a zoomed in area of the map that shows the details of the survey points, notes, and cut/fill points.



## NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL

This year the Socorro SWCD continued its long-standing partnership with the BLM by treating noxious weeds on public land, on both recreation and rangeland sites. Keeping the recreation sites weed free and attractive to the public users of the land is a key component of our partnership. There is an expectation that trails, benches, and other public areas should be kept weed free, both as an aesthetic and to prevent wildlife, such as rattlesnakes, hiding amongst them. This includes the Socorro Nature Area, Box Canyon, Ft. Craig, and the Datil Well Campground. Equally as important is the treatment on range land.

While maintaining the above-mentioned areas, the area of continuing interest this spring was on the Chupadera Mesa; specifically in Taylor Canyon, Lutz Canyon, and Lobo Canyon. This area is badly infested with Spiny Cocklebur, an aggressive annual weed that will occupy any clear area it can find. In this case, its seeds find their way into the earthen retention dams in the area (used to hold water for cattle) and take hold. A combination of herbicide treatments and cultivation were used to attempt to control this noxious weed. Over 25 acres of Spiny Cocklebur were treated in this area before the weed set seed.

Treatment of Salt cedar has become a difficult issue in New Mexico. The “Salt cedar Bug” is now fully distributed throughout the state, and the infestation level is high. The bugs appear to go through 2-3 generations per growing season, causing the trees to turn brown and then green again with each generation. Of course, spraying is only effective when the tree is growing and healthy, i.e. green. This change can happen quickly, and I often reach a destination to spray the Salt cedar, only to find out that is brown. Due to the tremendous scope of Salt cedar in the valley, timing is equally important and difficult.



Treated weeds at the Socorro Nature Area



Treated Salt cedar on the Armijo Ranch



African rue on the Pound Ranch. A-1 Ready Mix is absolutely infested with African Rue, and they use this road heavily. They are distributing the plant throughout the county, and refuse to treat it.



Cascading retention dams with treated Spiny cocklebur on the Chupadera Mesa.

Following is a spreadsheet showing areas that were treated.

## BLM Spraying & Monitoring 2020

10.1.19-9.30.20

Agreement#: L14AC00274

Applicator License# 54016

Location	Primary Species	Acres Treated	Acres Monitored	Date	Notes
Socorro Nature Area	Kochia, R.Thistle	2.40		4.30, 5.6	Tumbleweed is prevalent this year
Box Canyon Recreation Area	Siberian Elm		0.10	4.8.20	Erradicated, last year on spreadsheet
Fort Craig	Tumbleweed, etc	3.92			Host did not call for another treatment
Datil Well Campground	Russian Thistle	5.30		5.4.20	Closed/sprayed all sites & commons
Datil Well Campground	Russian Thistle	0.50		6.30.20	Closed/sprayed all sites & commons
El Camino Real Trailheads	Hog Potatoweed				Closed
Bernardo Area Dirt Tanks	Salt Cedar	4.36		9.17.20	
Bernardo Area Dirt Tanks	Salt Cedar	4.96		9.24.20	
Caleb Kerr Allotment	African Rue	0.30		4.8.20	
Caleb Kerr Allotment	Salt Cedar		2.00	4.8.20	
Taylor Canyon	Spiny Cocklebur	9.50		4.9.20	ATV disc on seedlings
Taylor Canyon	Spiny Cocklebur	4.98		6.2.20	Mostly boom spraying, some spot
Taylor Canyon	Spiny Cocklebur	8.06		6.3.20	Mostly boom spraying, some spot
Taylor Canyon	Spiny Cocklebur	1.77		6.4.20	Mostly boom spraying, some spot
Lobo Canyon	Spiny Cocklebur	10.90		6.1.20	Mostly boom spraying, some spot
Lobo Canyon	Spiny Cocklebur	2.55		6.16.20	Mostly boom spraying, some spot
Lutz Canyon	Spiny Cocklebur	3.00		6.5.20	Acreage is approximate - GPS failed
Cat Mountain Ranch	Tree of Heaven		2.00	6.17.20	Erradicated
Dale Muncy Dirt Tanks	Salt Cedar		2.70	9.29.20	Appears to be dead
Arroyo del Tajo (bosq rd & 380)	Salt Cedar	3.10	2.50	9.29.20	Treated 31 trees
Rhodes Ranch	Salt Cedar	5.14		5.12.20	IPT on resprouts, Boom sprayed roads
Rhodes Ranch	Salt Cedar	17.80		5.26.20	Finished spraying resprouts
Rhodes Ranch	Salt Cedar	5.60		9.15.20	Resprouts/new plants
Rhodes Ranch	Russian Knapweed	0.95		9.15.20	Finished spraying resprouts
Harliss Ranch	Salt Cedar	75.21		8.27-9.3	<b>About 50% overall kill on public lands</b>
Quebradas Backcountry	Salt Cedar		1.50	9.8.20	No live trees found
Arroyo de Las Canas (n of Rhodes)	Salt Cedar	2.20		9.16.20	Stopped by new fence halfway through
William Armijo Allotment	Salt Cedar				Will spray first week in October
MRGCD Yard	Malta Starthistle	6.25		5.13,5.27	First spray killed most, resprayed live
Socorro County Fairgrounds	African Rue	0.14		5.13.20	6 Individual Plants, part of parking lot
Lemitar Livestock Sale Barn	African Rue	0.97		5.20.20	7 Individual Plants, part of parking lot
Pound Ranch	African Rue	0.60		5.27.20	Couple dozen plants in/near dirt tank
Gonzales Property	Salt Cedar	9.00		3.13.20	BLM Adjacent, mechanical removal
Gonzales Property	Salt Cedar	3.52		9.29.20	BLM Adjacent, mechanical removal
Hart Property	Salt Cedar	6.50		3.16.20	BLM Adjacent, mechanical removal
Gonzales, Phillip	Salt Cedar	15.00		4.15.20	Mechanical resprout removal after root plow
VLA	Downy Brome				Waiting for permission from VLA to treat
		214.48	10.70		

## FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET:

FY 2020 - 2021 Budget  
Socorro SWCD

Fund	Department	Object Code	Original Budget	Adjusted Budget	1st Q.	2nd Q.	3rd Q.	4th Q.	YTD
11000 General Operating	0001 No Department	10101 Unrestricted Cash	187,961.22						
11000 General Operating	0001 No Department	10102 Restricted Cash	1,583.62						
11000 General Operating	0001 No Department	41500 Property Tax - Current	150,000.00		6,534.70	47,379.87	61,791.69	40,581.50	156,287.76
11000 General Operating	0001 No Department	41510 Property Tax - Prior Year	12,000.00		3,784.95	2,554.09	5,369.11	3,137.88	14,846.03
11000 General Operating	0001 No Department	46030 Interest Income	150.00		18.22	14.86	20.09	20.16	73.16
11000 General Operating	0001 No Department	44990 Other Charges for Services	60,000.00		17,500.00	17,500.00	17,500.00	17,500.00	70,000.00
11000 General Operating	0001 No Department	44010 Administrative Fees	10,300.00		5,790.20	5,550.00			11,340.20
11000 General Operating	0001 No Department	47190 State Allotment to Soil & Water Conservation Districts	14,000.00		15,690.83			1,743.43	17,434.26
11000 General Operating	0001 No Department	47398 Other State Distributions (operational)	34,000.00		50.00	560.00		2,226.21	2,836.21
		46060 Reimbursements-Remainder of BLM Quebradas Project-Gravel/Road purchase	57,000.00			56,492.00			56,492.00
11000 General Operating	0001 No Department	46091 Sale of Fixed Assets		34,000.00	370.50	30,947.00	200.56	1,386.56	32,904.62
11000 General Operating	0001 No Department	46300 Loan Proceeds	1,600.00		3,102.22				3,102.22
		Total Income:	339,050.00	373,050.00	52,841.62	160,997.65	84,881.45	66,595.74	365,316.46
11000 General Operating	2002 General Administ	51020 Salaries - Full-Time Positions	108,000.00		29,046.93	24,899.01	28,838.25	25,077.56	107,861.75
11000 General Operating	2002 General Administ	52010 FICA - Regular	8,300.00		2,114.39	1,829.67	2,117.36	1,829.67	7,891.09
11000 General Operating	2002 General Administ	52020 Retirement	11,000.00		2,845.08	2,438.64	2,845.08	2,438.64	10,567.44
11000 General Operating	2002 General Administ	52030 Health and Medical Premiums	11,000.00		2,679.92	2,706.60	2,706.60	2,706.60	10,799.72
11000 General Operating	2002 General Administ	52100 Workers' Compensation Premium	950.00				639.00		639.00
11000 General Operating	2002 General Administ	52110 Workers' Compensation Employer's Fee	35.00		8.60	8.60	8.60	8.60	34.40
11000 General Operating	2002 General Administ	54010 Maintenance & Repairs - Building/Structure	2,000.00			743.91			743.91
11000 General Operating	2002 General Administ	55010 Contract - Audit	2,500.00		1,711.98		769.15		2,481.13
11000 General Operating	2002 General Administ	55999 Contract - Other Services-gravel purchase, HSP, Nox we	91,000.00		2,285.45	57,802.00		7,100.73	67,188.18
11000 General Operating	2002 General Administ	56020 Supplies - General Office	10,000.00		2,005.22	674.98	378.03	1,065.75	4,123.98
11000 General Operating	2002 General Administ	56120 Supplies - Vehicle Fuel	3,000.00		519.31	335.97	366.49	410.06	1,631.83
11000 General Operating	2002 General Administ	56121 Supplies - Vehicle Lubricants/Anti-Freeze	1,500.00		73.76	13.44	25.79	1,392.18	1,505.17
11000 General Operating	2002 General Administ	56122 Supplies - Vehicle Tires	2,000.00						0.00
11000 General Operating	2002 General Administ	57050 Employee Training	200.00		55.00		150.00		205.00
11000 General Operating	2002 General Administ	57060 Grants to Sub-recipients	42,000.00		8,378.82	6,480.63	20,000.00	8,533.05	43,392.50
11000 General Operating	2002 General Administ	57070 Insurance - General Liability/Property	7,500.00		900.00		2,870.00	2,237.00	6,007.00
11000 General Operating	2002 General Administ	57080 Postage	500.00		77.50	159.75	31.20	157.60	426.05
11000 General Operating	2002 General Administ	57150 Subscriptions & Dues	4,500.00		1,949.47	893.32	399.02	1,029.02	4,270.83
11000 General Operating	2002 General Administ	57140 Rent of Land/Building	7,500.00		1,800.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	7,200.00
11000 General Operating	2002 General Administ	57160 Telecommunications	4,500.00		1,627.72	1,188.89	1,189.91	1,240.03	5,246.49
11000 General Operating	2002 General Administ	57170 Utilities - Electricity	2,000.00		371.14	279.23	250.63	251.23	1,152.23
11000 General Operating	2002 General Administ	57173 Utilities - Water	2,000.00		303.85	316.84	861.89	870.39	2,352.97
11000 General Operating	2002 General Administ	59010 Debt Service - Principal Payments	1,490.00		1,490.00				1,490.00
11000 General Operating	2002 General Administ	59020 Debt Service - Interest Payments	114.00		113.68				113.68
		Total Expenditures:	323,589.00		60,357.82	102,571.42	66,247.00	58,148.11	287,324.35
		2nd Q. Interest should have been \$14.75 (14.62 - .11)							
		Correcting 0.04 with interest on 4th Q Budget report							