

2022-2023 Report of Accomplishments East Rio Arriba Soil & Water Conservation District



The East Rio Arriba SWCD Board of Supervisors and Staff operate all district conservation programs with integrity and accountability. We believe that it is essential to earn and maintain the trust of the public that we serve. All district programs are available to eligible landowners. East Rio Arriba SWCD prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and martial or family status.

Natural Resource Improvements in 2022-2023 Summary

- Provided financial assistance with small scale conservation practices as part of our Acequia Cost Share Program. Examples of conservation practices include irrigation improvement projects such as the installation of gated pipe, underground pipe, concrete, valves, bonnets, and head gates. Since the program began in 2010 the district has spent \$730,472.16 on over 303 acequia projects.
- Provided farm equipment for the low fee rental program for local and neighboring district cooperators.
- The district was awarded a Water Quality and Conservation (WQ&C) grant for Acequia Cost Share Supplemental funding in the amount of \$26,750.



Soil, Water and Tissue Testing Reimbursement

- Allocated \$5,000 to assist cooperators with Soil, Water and Tissue Testing Reimbursement program. The Soil Testing Reimbursement program helps cooperators by providing a one-time service for Soil Testing where they may be reimbursed up to \$100.00(original receipts must be provided to the district office).
 - Soil Probes are available to be loaned out or East Rio Arriba SWCD staff are available to go out and provide in the field Soil Sample training to cooperators upon request.
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Noxious & Invasive Weeds

- The District offers continued support of Northern New Mexico Cooperative Weed Management Area (NNMCWMA) which currently has employees to perform the Weed Coordinator duties as outlined in the contract for East Rio Arriba (Dennis Martinez) and Upper Chama (Kenny Baca) Districts
- The Northern NM Cooperative Weed Management Program with the coordinators is running successfully and the program has shown great interest from the public.
- The district was awarded a Soil and Water Conservation Commission(SWCC) Grant for a collaborative effort between East Rio Arriba SWCD, Upper Chama SWCD, Taos SWCD, and Santa Fe-Pojoaque SWCD to manage Noxious and Invasive Weeds in the amount of \$270,000.

Watershed Conservation/Habitat Restoration

- The East Rio Arriba SWCD applied for Water Trust Board funding to do bosque restoration projects along the Rio Chama and Rio Grande. The district has been awarded \$500,000 and is planning to start implementing projects in the Fall of 2023.
- District supervisors are continuously mapping numerous properties for conservation planning of future projects to apply for additional funding opportunities

Local Funding

- Used proceeds from the mil levy to develop soil and water conservation projects, information, education, and natural resource management initiatives and the administrative support for these different areas. The East Rio Arriba SWCD completed a \$1 million grant from Water Trust Board (WTB) which was used for Forest Stand Improvement, Irrigation, and Grazing projects.

Other Federal Funds such as Collaborative Forestry Restoration

- The East Rio Arriba SWCD works with other federal agencies to obtain funding to complete projects for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) in the amount of \$2.5 million. The district will complete the grant in the early winter of 2024.

Community Collaboration & Coordination

- The East Rio Arriba SWCD assists the Upper Rio Grande Watershed District, which lies within the boundaries of the East Rio Arriba SWCD but operates as a separate entity, which was authorized by the Watershed District Act of 1957.

Information & Education

- Using a grant from the Youth Conservation Corp (YCC), the district provides summer jobs for students to gain valuable work experience through the mapping project. They use GPS and GIS technology to accurately map the main ditches in our extensive acequia network.
- 55 Acequias in the East Rio Arriba SWCD have been surveyed since the program's start in 2016.
- 13 Illegal Dumpsites have also been inventoried.
- The district provided Rolling Rivers Trailer presentations to provide knowledge on erosion and water conservation.
- Sponsored Rio Arriba County Fair and 2022 "All Around Fair Participant" Buckle Award.



Mission

To focus on the needs of Soil, Water, and other Natural Resource conservation for the use of future generations, and to assist local landowners with technical, financial, and educational resources to make improvements to the land.
