



# CARLSBAD SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## Annual Report

July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

The Carlsbad Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) presents this annual report of the activities within the district during the past fiscal year, to inform those interested in our efforts to conserve our natural resources.

### Mission Statement

To facilitate programs that conserve the District's natural resources for all citizens and future generations by utilizing any available funding, technical and educational resources and through voluntary efforts.

### The governing Board of Supervisors:

Nathan Jurva, Chairman Kristin Pope, Vice-Chairman Jim Carr, Secretary/Treasurer  
Members: Charles Goodwin, Lupe Carrasco, Fred Beard, Henry Vasquez

### District Staff:

Sandi Wilkie, District Manager Riki Lopez, Business Administrator  
Ray Keller, Natural Resource Specialist Ria Jarquin-Lewis- Noxious Weed Coordinator  
Emily Metcalf- GIS Specialist

District is aided throughout the year by staff from the BLM, NM State Land Office and the NRCS.

### Watershed Conservation/Habitat Restoration Projects

#### Federal and State Funding

- ◆ Continued cooperative agreement with the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts (NMACD) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) – Pecos Valley District, NM State Land Office, National Fish and Wildlife Federation, NMDA, as well as private landowners to implement 59,082 acres of aerial brush control.
- ◆ In conjunction with BLM performed 16 caliche pit reclamations totaling approximately 124 acres and reseeded 235 acres
- ◆ Continued with BLM – Carlsbad Field Office (CFO) assistance agreement in hand herbicide treatment of salt cedar and follow-up maintenance along 22 miles of the Pecos River and 12 combined miles on the Delaware and Black Rivers.
- ◆ Completed 307 acres of hand cut & pile Juniper removal at Ft Stanton.
- ◆ Completed 444 acres of brush mastication on BLM.
- ◆ Completed 11 miles of fence work on the NFWF Pronghorn Habitat Restoration project.
- ◆ Continued planning and trail-building with BLM Recreation team on the La Cueva Ridge Trail.
- ◆ Applied for and received a Land of Enchantment grant for an education trailer.
- ◆ Sponsored a Healthy Soil Project grant for a local applicant.
- ◆ Celebrated over 2 million acres treated under the Restore New Mexico project.

#### District Funding

- ◆ Continued Gopher Tail Bounty Program and collected approximately 2435 tails for a total of \$17,045.
- ◆ Approved \$82,500 in matching funds for vegetation control under the district's vegetation management program for eighteen brush control and noxious weed treatment projects (1028 acres).
- ◆ Approved shade balls cost-share applications for 20,500 shade balls.
- ◆ Sponsored four interns for the BLM through the Early College for \$40,000, the Eddy County 4H Parliamentary Procedure team for \$8000, Eddy County YHEC for \$5000, Loving Middle School FFA for \$10,800, the NM Envirothon for \$1,000, and donated a cargo trailer to Eddy County 4H.



# CARLSBAD SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## Annual Report

July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

- ◆ Hired a new Noxious Weed Coordinator and GIS Specialist.

### Community Collaboration & Coordination

- ◆ Coordinated approximately 1264 acres in treatment (i.e., African rue, Malta Star thistle, salt cedar, etc.) as lead agency for the Eddy County CWMA; collaborated with various oil and gas companies and private companies within the county to assist them with noxious weed control.
- ◆ Staff met with multiple agencies to coordinate mesquite treatment.
- ◆ Staff met with multiple BLM departments to coordinate reclamation projects.
- ◆ Provided administrative oversight to Hackberry Draw Watershed District as well as oversight of structure and drainage maintenance.
- ◆ Working with BLM Recreation and multiple oil and gas industry representatives to improve recreation areas within the district, developing the Six Mile Dam Area, the Cottonwood Day Use and Black River areas, the Hackberry Lakes OHV site, Sunset Reef and Chosa campgrounds, Loco Lagoon, as well as the La Cueva Trail project.
- ◆ Provided assistance for the Bitter Lakes National Refuge vegetation restoration project.

### Information & Education

- ◆ Set up at STEAM events at The Carlsbad Public Library, AAUW event, and Loving Middle School.
- ◆ Took the Rolling Rivers trailer to Artesia High, Carlsbad Prep Academy, Carlsbad Public Library and the Living Desert State Park for demonstrations.
- ◆ Set up multiple days at Artesia High and Carlsbad High schools for demonstrations for science classes.
- ◆ Did water cycle, cloud building, and world water distribution presentations at Loving Elementary School and at the Carlsbad Public Library.
- ◆ Participated at Carlsbad Prep Academy's Ag Day with the Rolling Rivers trailer.
- ◆ Set up a booth at the Eddy County Fair.
- ◆ Participated in the Artesia Ag Day at the middle school, speaking with approximately 600 students.
- ◆ Staff participated in continuing education for Healthy Soil Program trainings, Procurement Officer Certification training, NMDFA training, Supervisor training, Ag in the Classroom training and grant writing trainings.
- ◆ Staff and board members contacted District Legislators to discuss issues concerning the district and its producers. Staff participated at the Soil & Water Conservation District Day during the legislative session in Santa Fe and visited numerous legislators in person.
- ◆ Staff attended the New Mexico Hay Conference, the NM Veg Management Association Conference, the NM Coalition to Enhance Working Lands annual meeting, and the NM Association of Conservation Districts regional and annual meetings.
- ◆ Awarded the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts' Outstanding District 2024
- ◆ Received the Thrive Award for Carlsbad Department of Development.

The Carlsbad SWCD Board of Supervisors submits this report and hereby acknowledges the work done by all cooperating agencies and their contributions to the district's overall programs. With continued support, this District will carry on a strong conservation program throughout the coming years.

Nathan Jurva, Chairman

Jim Carr, Secretary/Treasurer