



2023-2024 Annual Report Ute Creek Soil & Water Conservation District

Mission of the Ute Creek Soil & Water Conservation District

Provide leadership in a partnership effort to educate people to conserve, maintain and improve our natural resources and environment.

Farm Bill Implementation:

- Ute Creek currently has ten existing EQIP contract totaling over \$1,400,000.00



Basic Funding:

- Received \$18,372.42 from NMSU for annual funding.
 - Received \$2,000.00 from Harding County Board of Commissioners.
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SWCC Grant

- Was awarded a SWCC Grant, in the amount of \$10,654.33, to continue a ground water study that was started in previous years. Water levels were measured in the winter and summer months and compiled for landowners who are participating in the study.
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Watershed Conservation/Habitat Restoration:

- The district applied for and received a \$1,000,000.00 Water Trust Board Grant to continue to remove salt cedar along the Canadian River.



Collaboration and Coordination:

- Ute Creek SWCD co-sponsored an EQIP Local Workgroup meeting along with the Mesa Soil & Water Conservation District.
 - Ute Creek SWCD, Mesa SWCD, and the NRCS share an administrative assistant; which reduces the cost of many workshops, mileage and other items for both districts.
 - Ongoing collaboration with Canadian River Riparian Restoration Project on the spraying of salt cedar along the Ute Creek; which has totaled approximately 75 miles.
 - Ongoing collaboration with NMSU including the mapping of the progress of the spraying of the salt cedar, as well as ongoing research of resprouts and total kill on the salt cedar.
 - Ongoing collaboration with the United States Forest Service treating musk thistle in Mills Canyon and installing a new habitat crossing on the Canadian River.
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Information and Education:

- The district set up an educational booth and had a float in the parade at the Harding County Fair in August 2023.
 - The district co-hosted a Soil and Water Dinner Celebration with Mesa SWCD and had Representative Jack Chatfield as a keynote speaker for those in attendance.
 - The district set up an educational booth at the Soil and Water Conservation Day at the Legislative Session.
 - The district donated towards the New Mexico Envirothon.
 - The district went to the Roy School on Earth Day and gave a Soils presentation to Kindergarten through 6th grade students where they learned about different layers of soil.
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Conservation Projects:

- Collaborated with the Forest Service on treating Musk Thistle in Mills Canyon.

