

2022 NMACD RESOLUTIONS and POSITION STATEMENTS

RESOLUTION IN THE EVENT THAT A TERM GRAZING PERMIT IS REVOKED BY THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE (USFS) 2022/1

NMACD/NACD supports SWCD's advocating in the event that a "Term Grazing Permit" is cancelled by USFS, without a waiver from the permittee. A new permit recognized with highest priority, shall be issued after the transfer of title in the sale of the base property and/or the authorized livestock, which previously held the use of the grazing allotment.

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING RESTOCKING OF GILA NATIONAL FOREST VACANT ALLOTMENTS AND SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MONITORING OF GRAZING RANGE CONDITIONS 2022/2

NMACD/NACD support SWCD's advocating to re-stock vacant grazing allotments in the National Forests and efforts to develop effective and acceptable range monitoring protocols to be used by the SWCDs to provide defensible range condition data.

EXPEDITE NRCS PAYMENT SCHEDULE REVISION 2022/3

NMACD supports collaborating with NACD to urge NRCS payment schedules be revised as soon as possible to reflect the extreme increase in prices for materials, labor, and equipment costs to complete conservation projects through the Farm Bill programs and continue utilizing CARP to help offset cost increases."

NEW MEXICO MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTION PROGRAM (MPI) 2022/4

NMACD/NACD supports the New Mexico Livestock Board (NMLB) request that legislation be introduced addressing the required statutory authority for the Meat and Poultry Inspection Program (MPI), as statutory authority is required before the USDA FSIS (United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Services (FSIS)) will approve a state MPI.

RANGELAND (privately owned) 92/1 Revised 2022

NMACD supports the management of rangeland ecosystems for maintenance and improvement of vegetation, which is valuable to wildlife and domestic livestock, and the control of aggressive plant species through grazing management, chemical control, mechanical methods or prescribed fire.

WETLANDS 92/2 Revised 2022

NMACD supports compensation to landowners that are restricted by federal regulations from making economic use of wetlands.

USE OF PESTICIDES 92/3 Reaffirmed 2022

NMACD supports continued use of pesticides according to registered labeling for environmentally safe agricultural production.

USDA FARM BILL 92/4 Revised 2022

NMACD supports the purpose of the Farm Bill to requiring best management practices from persons as a condition of receiving benefits from USDA programs.

WILDERNESS AREA DESIGNATION *REPETITIVE* 92/5 Reaffirmed 2022

Lands selected as wilderness should represent unique land and vegetation types. The NMACD believes that adequate lands are presently designated as wilderness. If additional wilderness designations are contemplated, there should be close coordination with local government. NMACD is generally opposed to the public purchase of private land for wilderness purposes.

MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY *REPETITIVE* 92/6 Reaffirmed 2022

NMACD believes that public rights-of-way should be maintained free of invasive vegetation that is considered noxious to the local area. Local SWCDs should work with agencies responsible for maintenance of public rights-of-way and request control of invasive vegetation that is being controlled on adjacent land. Mulch and seed used by public agencies should be certified weed free.

SWCDs and USDA PLANS WITH LANDOWNERS 92/7 Revised 2022

NMACD supports local SWCDs review of conservation plans within their boundaries.

RIPARIAN MANAGEMENT 92/8 Revised 2022

NMACD opposes legislation requiring planting of Phreatophyte vegetation in riparian areas.

PRESCRIBED FIRE 93/2 Reaffirmed 2022

NMACD supports the use of prescribed fire as an integral part of agricultural land improvement.

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ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL

93/3 Revised 2022

NMACD supports public funding of the animal damage control program in areas where there is economic damage to livestock or property or threat to public health or safety.

NRCS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

93/4 Reaffirmed 2022

NMACD urges NRCS to minimize administrative workload and place top priority on providing technical assistance in accord with the current working agreement and Memoranda of Understanding.

SWCDs INVOLVEMENT IN PLANNING ON PUBLIC LANDS

91/3 Reaffirmed 2022

NMACD encourages each SWCD to become involved in planning process on public lands (Cooperating Agency Status) in Districts.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

92/1 Revised 2022

NMACD supports protection of endangered species where there is a need shown and practical plan that can be implemented. NMACD supports renewal of ESA in modified form requiring more local input and consideration of economic impact of protecting a species. Economic impact and practicability of preserving and improving critical habitat must be considered. NMACD supports requirement of local Conservation districts as cooperating agency in reviewing actions taken under the ESA.

INTERMINGLED OWNERSHIP

92/2 Reaffirmed 2022

NMACD encourages public land management agencies (USFS, BLM, & NM SLO to work toward better coordination which allow lessees, permittees to implement conservation management systems with minimum bureaucracy and support multiple uses of public lands.

GRAZING ON PUBLIC LANDS

93/1 Reaffirmed 2022

NMACD supports grazing of domestic livestock on public lands by livestock producers who practice good range management with grazing fees adjusted according to the PRIA formula that considers current economic conditions.

OWNERSHIP OF WATER RIGHTS & IMPROVEMENTS ON PUBLIC LAND

93/2 Reaffirmed 2022

NMACD opposes the federal government's proposed taking of water rights and improvements on public lands that are now owned by the grazing permittees. We support the ownership of all improvements by the permittees in order to encourage conservation practices.

LOCAL MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC LAND

94/5 Reaffirmed 2022

NMACD supports management of public land within the state of New Mexico by local governments.

COMPETING BIDS ON STATE LAND

95/2 Reaffirmed 2022

NMACD encourages the State Land Commissioner (SLC) to consider all factors when evaluating bids for state land leases. The SLC is encouraged to verify the validity of competing bid before the current leaseholder is required to match the competing bid.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CLEARANCES

96/1 Reaffirmed 2022

NMACD shall request the Bureau of Land Management and other agencies provide archaeological surveys when they require them or that they accept surveys provided by other agencies such as NRCS.

GLOBAL TREATIES

96/3 Revised 2022

NMACD opposes Congress considering any further treaties until economic analysis by county has determined the impacts of such treaties on the rights of the people by county and state by state.

RESTORATION OF NM FORESTS *REPETITIVE*

96/3 Reaffirmed 2022

NMACD supports education about forest densities to all NM citizens. We support reducing tree densities and fuel loads, especially in areas immediately surrounding Wildland/urban interface zones. We support salvage timber sales and thinning to maintain a healthy viable forest & reduce amount of dead wood accumulation within National Forests in NM.

WATER QUALITY

92/1 Revised 2022

NMACD opposes practices that would risk pollution of ground or surface waters and supports voluntary incentive programs that will encourage farmers, ranchers, and others to properly dispose of unused chemicals.

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WATER CONSERVATION	92/2	Reaffirmed 2022
NMACD encourages water conservation by agricultural and non-agricultural users and recognizes brush control as a water conservation practice.		
REGIONAL WATER PLANNING	92/3	Reaffirmed 2022
NMACD supports the present regional planning process and believes that water planning should be driven by equal consideration of local water interests and incorporated in the state water plan framework.		
CONSERVATION PROJECTS	95/2	Reaffirmed 2022
NMACD supports 404 permits and other consultation requirements by federal and state agencies be secured expediently. NMACD supports land management agencies to work closely with SWCDs.		
REGIONAL WATER PLANNING FUNDING	96/4	Reaffirmed 2022
NMACD will work with the NM Interstate Streams Commission to monitor methods for distribution of Region Water Planning funds.		
Request public hearings US Fish & Wildlife Serv. Designation of Threatened/Endangered Species NM	98/1	Reaffirmed 2022
NMACD requests U.S Fish and Wildlife Service hold local, public hearings in NM. NMACD supports having data provided on geographical extent and numbers for the proposed designation and providing objective and meaningful analysis of the effects of listing this species on affected economics of the communities and the human and natural environments.		
DISTRICT LIABILITY	92/1	Reaffirmed 2022
The NMACD believes that the State of New Mexico should provide liability coverage for authorized activities of SWCDs. Also, the State of New Mexico should provide liability coverage for individual supervisors while performing official duties.		
GRANTS FOR CONSERVATION	93/1	Reaffirmed 2022
NMACD encourages each SWCD to aggressively seek grants from private & public sources to accomplish items in the District plan.		
RESOURCE PLANNING	98/1	Reaffirmed 2022
NMACD supports all entities involved with comprehensive planning of natural resources adhere to existing law and encourage the participation of the SWCDs at the beginning.		
CONSERVATION EDUCATION	92/1	Reaffirmed 2022
NMACD encourages conservation / environmental education in schools, the mass media, through special meetings and other means.		
PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS	96/1	Reaffirmed 2017
NMACD is to request that NRCS includes in their Public Service Announcements, "This message brought to you by the Natural Resources Conservation Service and your local Soil & Water Conservation District".		
PL-566 PROGRAMS	94/1	Reaffirmed 2022
NMACD will work at the National level for continued funding for the PL-566 program and watershed improvement.		
PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS	95/1	Reaffirmed 2022
NMACD urges Congress in the re-authorization of environmental laws to guarantee the rights of private property and the original written words stated within the Constitution of the United States.		
ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT	95/2	Reaffirmed 2022
NMACD supports amendments to the Endangered Species that would... 1) Require compensation to private property, 2) Correct the defects in listing species, 3) Require objective and meaningful (NEPA) analysis of effects of listing, establishing and designating habitats, 4) Eliminate the restrictions and prohibitions against modifications of habitats, and 5) Reform litigation process under the act, and 6) Eliminate sub-species and allow substantive participation by the state & local governments. NMACD supports considering negative impacts on communities and the human and natural environment.		
PROPOSED CHANGES TO NM WATER QUALITY STANDARDS	98/1	Reaffirmed 2022
NMACD requests that the NM Water Quality Control Commission develop a different and more realistic set of standards for standing or impounded runoff water in stock ponds, playas, sediment ponds and other catchments.		

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SECTION 319, CLEAN WATER ACT FUNDING

98/3 Reaffirmed 2022

NMACD supports funding for all non-point source control projects be administered through the local Soil & Water Conservation District, with allowance for a percentage of the grant to be used for administrative costs.

NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL ALONG HIGHWAY RIGHT OF WAYS

98/3 Reaffirmed 2022

NMACD supports efforts to work with the NMDA, the NM Highway Dept. and other agencies to increase coordination for noxious plant control along the highway rights of way in coordination with local noxious plant control programs.

FUNDING FOR EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROGRAM

98/4 Revised 2019

NMACD supports increased funding for the Emergency Watershed Program.

URBAN CONSERVATION

93/1 Reaffirmed 2022

NMACD supports programs promoting wise land use, conservation in non-Ag areas. Storm water management, erosion controls are important considerations in developing areas. Supports use of noninvasive native plants, xeriscaping, synthetic turf in landscaping.

WATERSHED RESTORATION FUNDING

2001/1 Reaffirmed 2022

NMACD seeks multi-year funding for watershed and riparian restoration projects.

SUPPORT TRAINED NRCS PERSONNEL COMPLETE CULTURAL RESOURCES CLEARANCES ON STATE LAND

2001/2 Reaffirmed 2022

NMACD petitions Cultural Properties Review Committee to reconsider their decision stating NRCS trained personnel would no longer be authorized to complete cultural resource clearances on land of the State of New Mexico and that planned improvements to those State lands would have to be cleared by a private consultant /archaeologist firm.

OPPOSITION TO LEGISLATION REQUIRING PERMITS FOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL MINING

2001/3 Reaffirmed 2022

NMACD strongly opposes at the NM Legislature, legislation requiring permits for construction material mining.

INCENTIVES FOR LANDOWNERS' REMOVAL OF SALT CEDAR ON PRIVATE LANDS

2001/4 Reaffirmed 2022

NMACD strongly urges the State Engineers Office, the Legislative and Executive branches of New Mexico State Government to investigate the possibility of enacting legislation to create incentives or compensations for the removal of salt cedar.

STATE PURCHASE OF LAND AND WATER RIGHTS

2004/3 Reaffirmed 2022

NMACD supports protection of the prior appropriation doctrine and retention of land and water rights in individual ownership.

INCENTIVES FOR CONSERVATION OF WATER

2004/4 Reaffirmed 2022

NMACD strongly urges the Office of the State Engineer, Legislative and Executive branches of NM State Government investigate possibility of enacting legislation creating incentives or compensation for conservation of use and source of waters that results in additional water being made available for other uses.

NMACD SUPPORTS THE NM SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

2007/1 Reaffirmed 2022

The Membership of the NMACD supports the NM SWCC original intent to address the annual appropriation of funding to districts in promulgating rules to carry out the provisions of the SWCD Act, including management and distribution of any funding provided by the state legislature for soil and water conservation districts projects and operations.

PERMANENT FUNDING MIL LEVY AUTHORITY

2007/2 Reaffirmed 2022

The NMACD will work with the New Mexico State Legislature to create permanent authority for a mil district tax for all SWCDs.

SUPERVISOR CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING

2010/1 Reaffirmed 2022

Supervisors of NM SWCDs are elected officials and have duties and powers according to the SWCD Act (73-20-41 NMSA 1978); and the NM SWCC has powers and duties according to SWCD Act (73-20-31 to 73-20-32 NMSA 1978) and accomplishes its duties through cooperation with NM Dept. of Ag (NMDA); the advocacy association which works on behalf of Districts nationwide, known as the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD); advocacy assn. which works on behalf of Districts statewide, known as NMACD; and National Assn. of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA) assn. advocates for NMDA at the national level; NACD and NASCA

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collaborated, established training modules for knowledge, responsibilities in performing as a conservation district official. NMACD supports supervisor certification and training process in partnership with NMDA, in line with NACD, NASCA collaborative program.

NMACD STRATEGIC PLANNING

2010/2 Reaffirmed 2022

The New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts has a need for strategic planning on an as needed basis. The NMACD does hereby support revision of the strategic planning process by involving the Soil and Water Conservation Districts at the beginning of the planning process by NMACD sending out a questionnaire to each NM Soil and Water Conservation District to assess their common needs; involving all agency partners and the NM Soil and Water Conservation Commission in the planning process. The “draft” strategic plan should be sent to the NM Soil and Water Conservation Districts for their review.

DISTRICT FINANCIAL REPORTING

2010/3 Reaffirmed 2022

NM Soil & Water Conservation Districts are required by the State of New Mexico to track their finances according to their budgets and report this information to the Department of Finance and Administration. It would be advantageous to summarize the overall performance and accomplishments of Conservation Districts from a financial perspective within the State of New Mexico. NMACD does hereby support the establishment of a uniform year-end financial statement format that would distinguish between administrative costs versus real “on the ground” project costs and be incorporated in each District end of year report.

NMACD NACD DUES

2010/4 Reaffirmed 2022

NMACD works on behalf of the Districts statewide, the advocacy association which works on behalf of Districts nationwide is the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD). Each association has different dues structures and membership criteria; and each District within New Mexico is a separate client of these respective advocacy associations. Each District may determine the extent of support for each respective advocacy association according to established dues structures and their financial means and such financial support should fall between a range containing a minimum as well as a maximum. Each individual District will be responsible for paying their respective national dues at an amount that they shall determine, and NACD dues will go directly to NACD.

APPOINTMENT TO NM SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

2010/5 Reaffirmed 2022

NMACD and the NM SWCC have collaborated and established partnerships and working relationships for supporting all conservation districts in New Mexico. NMACD has submitted names from all of the districts for commission appointments for approximately 40 years fairly, honestly, and successfully; and the current statute designates the NMACD president as the person to submit the 3 names from each region to the newly elected Governor; and the current law and current process adequately and fairly allows all districts to participate in the nomination process. The members of the NMACD do hereby support the current language in statute as it relates to the NMACD president submitting names to the Governor for the appointment of the NM SWCC9

NMACD LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

2010/6 Reaffirmed 2022

The New Mexico state budget is currently in a deficit situation. Keeping the current funding level protected without reductions for the district operations, the district water conservation grant program as well as the TSP matching funds should be the top priority in the current budget year; and NMACD has been very successful in helping and representing all of the districts in the state at the legislature. The members of the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts do hereby support the NMACD Board of Directors and the Executive Director in working with the NM State Legislature to pass laws that will benefit the entire membership of NMACD.

WATER RIGHTS RESOLUTION

2010/7 Reaffirmed 2022

The office of the state engineer (OSE) continues to develop guidelines and policies in effect taking private property rights by reducing access to adjudicated water rights of property owners. The change in application evaluation by the OSE in reduction of original water right is taking of private property, diminishing value of the land. The active water right management policy adversely affects acequias long term survival. NMACD opposes active water resource management policy and readjudication of all existing water rights.

STATE AUDITS

2013/1 Reaffirmed 2022

SWCDs are required to abide by the State of New Mexico Audit Rule. The tiered system reporting implemented by the Office of the State Auditor (OSA) still makes it necessary for many SWCDs to have annual, every other year or every two-year audit. Many rural districts have difficulty finding auditors to bid on the work required by the OSA and some audits cost almost 50% of SWCD’s funding allotment from NMDA and a significant percentage of their total budget. NMACD will work with the OSA to improve the tiered system requirements for SWCDs. If changes are not a possibility, NMACD will work with the OSA to develop some potential cost-saving methods for SWCDs regarding the audit requirements. If the audit requirements and cost-saving methods do not improve to help the SWCDs, NMACD will pursue funding assistance or statute changes through the legislative process.

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ASTRAY HORSES

2013/2 Reaffirmed 2022

NMACD shall provide assistance in working cooperatively with SWCDs, NMDA and the NM Livestock Board to manage free-roaming astray horses to prevent natural resources' damage throughout the State. NMACD shall participate in the formation of any policies concerning free-roaming astray horses in NM.

ELK OVERPOPULATION

2013/3 Reaffirmed 2022

Grazing lands of the State's ranches, the hayfields of the state farmers and public domain are a vital economic and environmental force in America. Grazing lands need to be improved in an ecologically and economically sound manner in order to meet national needs for food, fiber, wildlife, outdoor recreation, water and environmental quality. Hayfields need to be protected and improved in order for the state farmers to harvest hay for their livestock winter use. NMACD advocates a continued program for grazing land improvement on all federal, state and private grazing lands. Big game animal populations are steadily increasing, particularly elk, and elk have devastated grazing lands and hayfields due to their large numbers. NMACD shall seek assistance from NM Dept. of Game and Fish in working with private land owners through their cost share and other programs to protect the land and natural resources, including but not limited to erecting game fences around effected properties and/or by increasing land owner permits in the affected units.

ARIZONA WATER SETTLEMENTS ACT (AWSA) SUPPORT

2013/4 Reaffirmed 2022

New Mexico is entitled to divert up to 14,000 acre-feet of water from the Gila & San Francisco Rivers under AWSA for the benefit of the 4-county SW NM Water Planning Region (SWNMWPR) (Catron, Grant, Hidalgo, & Luna Counties) & receives federal funds to finance local projects to develop these water resources. AWSA water is the only source of new water supply to the 4-county region. NMACD supports the revised application for the SW NM Regional Water Supply Project and intergovernmental cooperation in development of this project & protection of this water supply for benefit of the region. NMACD shall request that technical work provided by the Bureau of Reclamation be consistent with conceptual framework presented by applicants for funding under the AWSA and approved by ISC. NMACD opposes exportation or conveyance of AWSA water outside the 4-county region.

BORDER FENCE ISSUE

Reaffirmed 2022

NMACD requests the New Mexico Livestock Board, the Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, the Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and NM Congressional Delegation do contact and request the Secretary of the US Department of Agriculture, US Department of Interior, NM State Land Office and US Department of Homeland Security to immediately address the border fence issue by developing and implementing a plan to maintain existing fence, replace ineffective fences and fence the remaining miles of border between New Mexico and Mexico; and request these actions be made in order to protect the United States economy from foreign animal disease exposure.

OBJECT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PESTICIDE FREE ZONES WITHOUT LOCAL INPUT Reaffirmed 2022

The disclosure that the Department of Interior (DOI) is contemplating a massive pesticide free zone for enhancing the Monarch Butterfly population has been announced. NMACD opposes these zones until further study, discussion, and review has been accomplished including input from local communities involved. NMACD shall cause a copy of the resolution to be transmitted to the Governor of NM, US Department of Interior, the NM Congressional Delegation, and New Mexico Department of Ag (NMDA).

INCLUSION of LANGUAGE 2018 FARM BILL FOR ACEQUIAS EQIP FUNDING SAME AS TRIBAL Reaffirmed 2022

NMACD supports the inclusion of language in the 2018 Farm Bill that will provide eligibility to acequias/irrigation canals emulating Tribal entities when it comes to seeking EQIP funding from NRCS.