

Tierra Y Montes SWCD

Annual Accomplishment Report FY22-23

Local Funding

- Approximately \$550,000 in Mill Levy funding was received by the District. This funding is used to leverage and provide landowners with technical assistance on any natural resource conservation issue they may have. It is also used to leverage educational programs provided to the public and all students throughout the area schools.
- District Cost-Share projects have been underway for several years. \$130,000 of Mill Levy funding is provided for landowners, per fiscal year, to assist with acequia requests (headgates, etc.), riparian restoration, erosion control problems and rainwater harvesting programs. A total of 9 landowners were assisted this fiscal year with \$21,588.93 spent on this program.
- Technical advice is provided to landowner and various stakeholders.

Watershed Conservation/Habitat Restoration

- The District received funding in the amount of \$90,000 from Partner's for Fish and Wildlife for at least 4 USFWS private landowner projects, 26 other landowners have been assisted and closed out within the past seven years. This grant will enable the landowners to complete wildlife habitat development activities such as follows: rock structures, fencing, critical area planting, masticating juniper encroached areas, and installation of wildlife drinkers. Tierra Y Montes SWCD implemented projects with 2 landowners utilizing \$24,518.80 in USFWS grant funds.

State Funding

- **Tierra Y Montes SWCD received a grant for \$20,037 from NM State Forestry to implement Invasive Plant Management practices on private lands in Mora and San Miguel Counties. Tierra Y Montes SWCD mapped, applied herbicide treatments, reseeded and monitored 56 acres of private land with 8 landowners receiving assistance during this period. This project utilized \$11,887.00 of NM State Forestry grant funds.**
- **Tierra Y Montes SWCD received \$19,167.19 in state allocation funding awarded through SWCC in coordination with NMDA.**

Community Collaboration & Coordination

- **TyM continues to work with the Las Vegas Tree Board. The committee, volunteers & TyM also worked on the “Thistle Massacre” on the Gallinas Riverwalk. TyM also assisted volunteers and members of the Tree Board in conducting a tree inventory of City of Las Vegas owned trees. TyM also assisted the members of the Tree Board in small pruning operations.**
- **Partnership with Hermits Peak Watershed Alliance and the Gallinas River Park Collaborative has been formed to revitalize the Gallinas Riverwalk.**
- **The Noxious Weed program continues within Mora-San Miguel counties. Our District has a full-time coordinator and work continues on this project assisting landowners with mapping and treatment of noxious weeds. Rehabilitation of treated areas are also being implemented. The communities within San Miguel County and Mora County have united to form a Cooperative Weed Management Area. The noxious weed program assisted approximately 35 landowners in FY 22-23 with approximately 382 acres mapped, 302 acres treated and 45.5 acres reseeded. The coordinator also assisted landowners with educational outreach, noxious weed identification, to The CWMA was not able to conduct the usual outreach activities due to pandemic restrictions. The noxious weed committee consists of representatives from: San Miguel and Mora Counties, City of Las Vegas, NM State Highway Dept., San Miguel and Mora County Extension Office, US Fish and Wildlife, USDA Forest Service, NM State Forestry, Mora-Wagon Mound SWCD, Western Mora SWCD, USDA-NRCS, NM State Land Office, NM Highlands University, and NMDA.**

Education & Community Outreach

- At all Riparian Restoration and Erosion Control project sites, training is provided to volunteers on installation of structures, rolling dips, purpose of reseeding, fencing out riparian areas, or anything else that project consists of. Landowners and their volunteers are required to assist at all projects implemented.
- 06/08/2023 Highlands STEM Camp – Provided education to high school students regarding what SWCD's do and the how we conduct assessments for private landowners.
- 06/14/2023 Highlands Stem Camp
- 06/20/2023 Compost training- Ocate
- 06/13/2023 Community Forum with NRCS and FEMA - San Miguel County
- 06/15/2023 Community Forum with NRCS and FEMA – Mora County
- 05/19/2023 Virtual Fence and Cover Crop training – Taos, NM
- 05/08/2023 Arawaka Partners for Fish and Wildlife workshop – Workshop to provide education on how to install in-channel rock structures
- 03/24/2023 Envirothon – Co-hosted a regional Envirothon to prepare teams for statewide competition.
- 03/15/2023 FFA Forestry team training – assisted FFA with tree identification in preparation for District and State Competitions.
- 02/16/2023 AgFest
- 02/17/2023 SWCD @ the Roundhouse
- 12/09/2022 Congreso De las Acequias – Las Vegas
- 12/06/2022 Prairie Partner's Meeting - Tucumcari
- 10/28/2022 Sol Ranch Healthy Soils Training
- 10/13-15/2022 NM Highlands University STEM Presentations
- 8/10/12/2022 San Miguel/Mora County Fair Noxious Weed and Cost-Share Informational
- 7/28/2022 Reseeding after wildfire workshop Mineral Hill

The District hosted, co-hosted and attended over 30 workshops and community forums throughout the year that provided information about post-fire recovery programs associated with the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire and subsequent flooding. There are too many to list individually.

Special Projects

Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP)

- **Tierra Y Montes SWCD partnered with NRCS and the New Mexico Department of Finance & Administration to co-sponsor the Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) to assist landowners to mitigate imminent threats to life and property.**
- **To date, we have received over 550 request for assistance forms for EWP in our District alone, and over 1,000 for the Mora and San Miguel Counties Combined.**
- **As a co-sponsor for EWP, the District is tasked with securing the request for assistance forms, verifying landownership, securing permissions to install the recommended practices, coordinating with NRCS and DFA to get construction on the ground, periodic inspections of construction activities for DFA, monitoring and serving as a mediator in the event there are conflicts.**
- **As part of EWP, an aerial seeding and mulching operation is being conducted to help stabilize soils in the upper portions of the watersheds in an effort to lessen the flooding impact and loss of soils downstream. The District is involved in securing landowner permissions for the operation, coordinating and planning with NRCS and the aerial companies to ensure project success. To date, the aerial seeding and mulching operation has seeding 29,577.43 acres and mulched 22,801.69 acres utilizing \$90,158,015.50 in NRCS EWP Funding.**
- **The second portion of EWP involves installation of practices intended to mitigate imminent threats to life and property following the HPCC Fire. Common installed practices include flood-barrier bags, earthen diversions, contour felling, critical area planting, trash racks, etc. To date, 87 sites have received practice installation utilizing \$6,752,041.14 in NRCS funding.**
- **This astronomical increase in work load is occurring simultaneously while still fulfilling our normal work load.**
- **Tierra Y Montes SWCD is seeking other partnerships to assist in long-term recovery efforts.**