



# East Torrance Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Report



## 2021-2022





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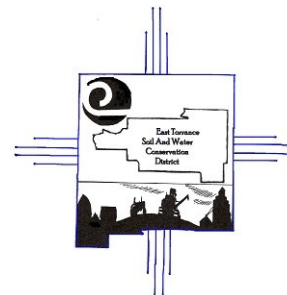
*The East Torrance Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors is very pleased to present their annual report with the District's Accomplishments during the past fiscal year.*

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*East Torrance Soil & Water Conservation District  
715 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street, PO Box 58, Estancia, NM 87016  
505-384-2272 Ext 3296*



# Quick Facts



*The East Torrance Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) has been in existence for 77 years. The Secretary of State issued the Certificate of Organization on June 30, 1943.*

**The District covers 1,142,028 acres in Torrance County which consists of:**

**25,000 acres of irrigated cropland**

**2,000 acres of dry cropland**

**1,059,923 acres of rangeland**

**47,405 acres of forestland**

**7,700 acres of urban land**

A Conservation District is a legal subdivision of the state, similar to County Government or School Districts.

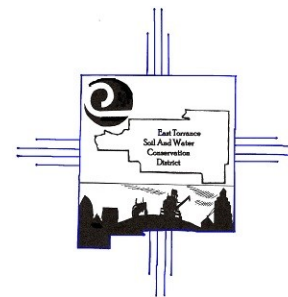
*The Soil & Water Conservation District is responsible under state law for conservation and sustainability of natural resources such as soil, water, air, plants, animals, and people.*

## History and Origins

*In the early 1930s, along with the greatest depression this nation ever experienced, came an equally unparalleled ecological disaster known as the Dust Bowl. On Capital Hill, while testifying about the erosion problem, soil scientist Hugh Hammond Bennett threw back the curtains to reveal a sky blackened by dust. Congress unanimously passed legislation declaring soil and water conservation a national policy and priority. In 1937, President Roosevelt wrote the governors of all the states recommending legislation that would allow local landowners to form Soil Conservation Districts.*

*People are the key to Conservation District's success. Volunteers, whether serving as District officials or participating in a watershed cleanup, are important for local expertise and personal interest regarding the best way to take care of their own natural resources. Effective management of natural resources at the local level reduces the need for outside intervention and regulation.*





If you Fish, bird watch, hike, go boating, camp, eat vegetables, garden, drink water, swim or breath, you already benefit from the work of America's Conservation Districts.

Photo Credit: NRCS Historical Photos

## Soil and Water Conservation Districts

*Soil and Water Conservation Districts have statutory responsibility to comply with several state and federal laws including but not limited to the state procurement code, open meeting act, approved budget through Department of Finance Authority, audits, subdivision act and many more.*

### **A Soil and Water Conservation District is not:**

*A conservancy district, which delivers or supply's water for irrigation or other purposes.*

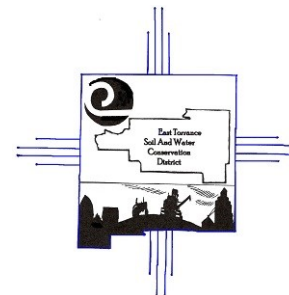
*The Natural Resources Conservation Services (formerly Soil Conservation Service), a federal agency which provides technical assistance to SWCDs and others to implement conservation practices.*

### **The Future of Districts:**

*It is incumbent on each District board of supervisors to look beyond the current events and programs to the probable needs and developments of the years ahead, not only in terms of resources involved, but in terms of Districts as serviceable units of local government. Boards should anticipate future needs, identify potential problems associated with meeting the needs, and chart a locally-directed course most likely to bring about the desired results.*



# The 2021-2022 Board of Supervisors:

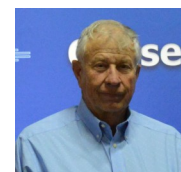


## **Ryan Schwebach, Chairman till December 2021**

*Ryan Schwebach has been on the board since November 2005, making this his 17<sup>th</sup> year on the board. At the end of 2021 he did not run for re-election and came off the board effective December 2021.*

## **Bill Wrye, Vice Chairman till February 2022**

*Bill Wrye was elected to the board and started serving July 2010, making this his 12th year on the board.*



## **Jim Berlier, Secretary-Treasurer**

*Jim Berlier has been serving on the board since 2003, making this his 19th year.*

## **Jason Brumley, Member**

*Jason Brumley has been on the board since January, 2015 making this his 7th year on the board.*



## **Clayton Gardner, Member—Chairman beginning February 2022**



*Clayton Gardner was appointed to the board on July, 2017. Making this his 5th year on the board.*

## **Patrick Pachta, Member—Vice Chairman beginning February 2022**

*Patrick Pachta became an associate member to the board in July 2017 and became a member January 2020, making this his 2nd year as an official member.*



## **Joe Everett, Member**

*Joe Everett ran for the board in 2021 and became a member to the board in January 2022.*

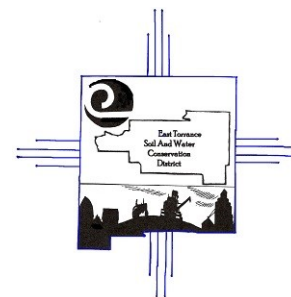
**Supervisors are elected for four year terms, with the requirement that four of the supervisors must be landowners and must reside within the District boundary; the fifth supervisor does have to be a landowner but does not have to be a resident within the District. A Conservation District Supervisor serves his or her community and District voluntarily and without pay.**



These local landowners are committed to working towards goals that achieve resource conservation for all landowners in the District.



# Staff / and more Quick Facts



## **Cheri Lujan, District Manager II**

*Cheri Lujan, District Manager, completed her 18<sup>th</sup> year with the District. She has not been full time this year due to another job with the state but has kept the District moving forward and will be transitioning out with the new District Manager into the next Fiscal year.*



We appreciate your continued support. We look forward in continuing and improving great programs that benefit you!

## **Leonard Howell, District Manager**

*Leonard Howell, Newly hired District Manager; to replace Ms. Lujan was hired on May 15, 2022. He looks forward in learning his new role and serving the landowners of the District.*



ABOUT

US

## **Ken Leiting, Contract Labor**

*Ken Leiting has been under contract with East Torrance SWCD since October, 2009 under a professional service contractor to assist East Torrance SWCD in planning and working with cooperators within the District within the Estancia Basin Watershed Health and Restoration projects.*



## **Natural Resource Conservation Service Staff:**



*The NRCS assists the Districts when time allows. Staff includes: Joshua Archuleta Soil Conservationist, Herman Ortiz farm bill specialist, and Kenneth Lujan, District Conservationist in the Estancia Field Office.*

The Board of Supervisors meets the third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the USDA Building. Location of the USDA Service Center is 715 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Estancia, New Mexico. The board encourages landowner's attendance at these meetings. Contact number is 505-384-2272 ext. 3296

# Funding

***Funding for District operations is obtained from three sources:***

*State of New Mexico Budget appropriation*

*Torrance County Mill Levy Taxation*

*Grants*

***Programs that Benefit You!!!***

## **Cost-Share Program:**

*The District has come to the end of the 22nd year of its cost-share program. This program has continued to be successful since the first year in 1999. Any person addressing a natural resource problem, owning, leasing, or managing land within the ETSWCD boundaries, to include: farmer, rancher, urban development, community groups, etc. can apply for assistance. Up to \$5,000 per person, per year can be paid. East Torrance SWCD follows NRCS cost documents for their programs.*

*This was the 10<sup>h</sup> year the District implemented Cost-Share assistance available for water harvesting, and its 5th year for the \_\_cost share program for Residential or Commercial Drip Irrigation / Low Flow water devices program was started. Cost Share is paid 25% by the resident and 75% by the SWCD. Cost Share is for PARTS only. This cost share program are paid no greater than \$600.00.*

*The District has continued to push and advertise Cost-Share assistance to encourage all of the Cost-Share available to the local landowners.*

*This fiscal year the District paid out more than \$44,300.00 .*

*The District provides cost-share assistance for the following practices:*







# Funding

***Rangeland assistance:*** Cost-Share available for livestock pipelines, water storage facilities, cross fencing and erosion control projects.

***Cropland assistance:*** Cost-Share available for irrigation pipelines, valves, flow meters, laser leveling, low energy sprinkler nozzles, and back-flow prevention valves.

***Brush-Management & Weed Management:*** Both practices are paid at a set rate from NRCs cost document. Brush Management and Weed Management are a major concern of the District and the Estancia Basin.

***Water Harvesting:*** Cost-Share available for completed working systems to provide an additional source of water for landscape irrigation and other applications such as fire protection, indoor plant irrigation, vegetable garden watering and livestock watering.

***Group Project Assistance:*** the District will fund portions of conservation projects submitted by community groups, such as schools, senior citizens' centers, churches, home owner associations, or other organizations, for projects such as windbreaks, natural trails, xeric plantings, and water harvesting projects which provide widespread benefit. Past group projects included \$60,000 towards purchase of a brush hog to the Torreon Fire Department and \$5000.00 to the Town of Estancia for the community pool. Money has been set aside and earmarked for help with funding in the amount of \$100,000.00 partnering with the Town of Estancia for Flood control to help landowners get out of the flood zone .

***District Cost-Share financial assistance to landowners funding for these programs is received through mill levy collections.***



# Funding

## Grants

### Watershed Health Funding

The District continues to cooperate with Claunch-Pinto, Ciudad, and Edgewood SWCD on the Water Trust Board Grant funding and other funding sources. Over 93 Acres of land was contracted to be thinned and was completed this fiscal year, totaling over \$98,000 within the District Boundaries. Funding is used in priority areas with Cost-Share assistance for tree thinning, diversions.



Before

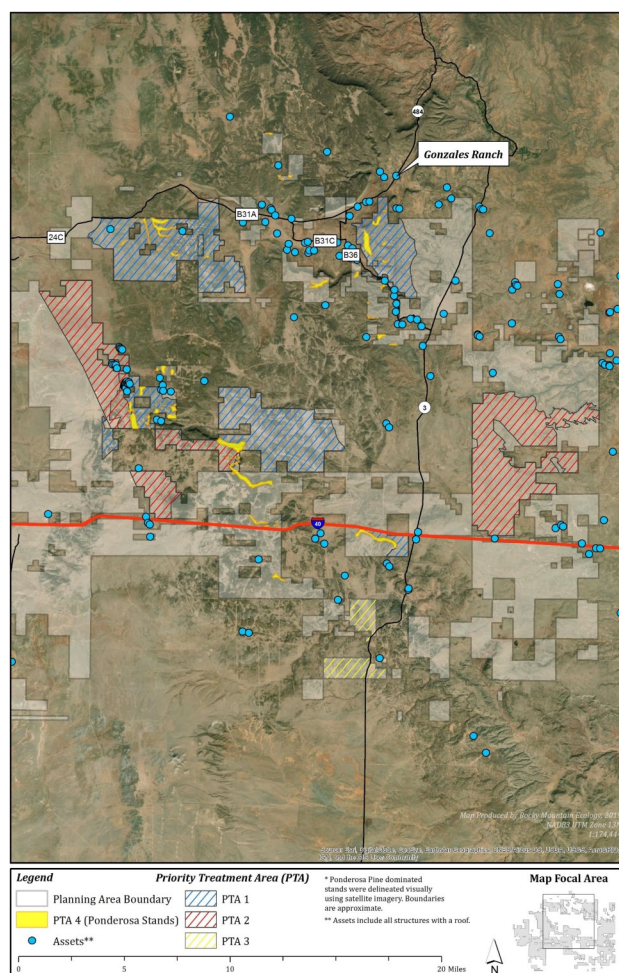


After



### USDA / Forest Service / CFRP Planning Grant

The District was awarded a planning grant to complete a resource analysis for a 221,000 acre planning area, which is a model landscape in the "Crossroads" area of Central NM. The planning area, located near/ surrounding Clines Corners, includes large tracts of NM State Land office, and Bureau of Land Management lands. The area exhibits opportunity for landscape-scale management, as it is adjacent to at-risk communities and WUI area, includes high priority treatment areas outlined in the Torrance County CWPP (2009), and has high potential to create long-term forest product utilization. 20-21 is the 3rd year of the project and coming to the end of the project fall of 2022





# Funding Partnerships



## ***USDA / Forest Service / Tajique Land Grant***

*The District has been working with the Tajique Land Grant and the Forest Service in spending funds in repairing fence that have been destroyed by fire in the Perro-Tajique allotment. Although there are not enough funds to get all of the fence lines repaired that are needed in this FY a total of more than \$44,000 was spent and another contract signed with on going work into September 2022.*



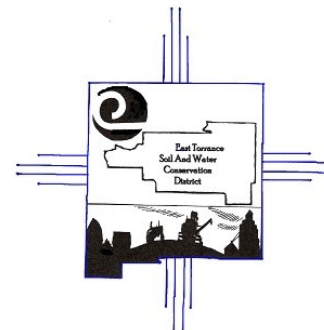
# Education/ Outreach

*The District staff and supervisors continue to work hard to strengthen our information, education campaign. We promote District activities through our quarterly newsletter, news releases, and information brochures focusing on current programs. This past FY quarterly newsletters were not sent out due to Covid restrictions on getting out and working from home for and have full time staff. We are able to assist landowners with information on proper grazing techniques, water harvesting techniques, as well as proper reclamation seed mixtures for critical planting. Staff works with the local school children to promote soil and water conservation through hands on demonstrations such as the rolling rivers trailer, information booths and floats. The District could not be very active throughout the year handing out educational conservation material and promoting the District with activities at our normal local and state events this past year. District owned Educational Complex built in 2009 has been used by many state and local non-profit agencies this year holding annual and monthly meetings, public meetings, workshops and trainings.*

Year round reclamation seed sales and bi-annual tree program to landowners at minimal cost. Information about proper tree planting techniques and irrigation methods also available.



# Education / Outreach




## County Fair / Old Timers/ Pumpkin Chuckin

*The District could not do its annual Family Fun Kids Day events and Old Timers due to short staffed but we look forward to FY 2022-2023. It would have been its 16th annual Family Fun Kids day events at the local Torrance County Fair.*




*The annual Pumpkin Chuckin festival was a go this past year with East Torrance SWCD being part of the annual event.*

*East Torrance SWCD also worked closely with Torrance County and secured a spot at the Fair Grounds and created and started up a Community Garden late spring of 2022. With the help of many who donated supplies and their time the garden is growing strong. We look forward to the fall benefits in 2022. LOOK for more info in next years annual report.*



### The Estancia Rotary 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Punkin' Chunkin' October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021



Kiddy Carnival Rides, Games for Kids, Food Booths, Pumpkin and Bean Vendors, Arts and Crafts, Competition, Pie Eating Contest

**LOCATION:** 1.5 Miles West on Hwy 55 From NMSH 41 in Estancia. Or Approx. 8 Miles East from NM 337 & 55 Junction

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:**

8:00 AM	Gates Open at Punkin' Chunkin' Field (Vendor Setup)
10:00 am	Carnival Opens (Kiddy Carnival)
10:30 am	Parade - Main Street (sign up at 9:30 courthouse)
NOON	Launcher Registrations and Practice Launching
12:30 PM	National Anthem
12:35 PM	"OPENING" LAUNCH
1:30 PM	Official Launching Begins
3:00 PM	Pie Eating Contest
3:00 PM	Exhibition Launching
4:00 PM	Final Launching Results & Awards

5:00 - 9:00 P.M. DANCE AT ARTHUR PARK - Music by DJ, Melanie Gallegos - Sponsored by the Torrance County DWI Prevention Program. - NO CHARGE, FREE HOTDOGS & CHIPS while supplies last!!!!

**PLEASE NOTE:** Due to COVID-19. This Event is subject to re-scheduling and possible cancellation due to Governmental Restrictions and the safety of our community. Please check Facebook prior to the event for updates. Thank you.

**DOOR PRIZES- ANNOUNCED EVERY HOUR !! (MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN!!)**

Punkin' Chunkin' is a sport of hurling a pumpkin by mechanical means for distance and in some contests accuracy. The devices used include slingshots, catapults, centrifugal, trebuchets and pneumatic air cannons, and Special Unique Cannon's in a Class of their own. For Information and Updates, visit us on Facebook.

**CONTACTS**  
President: Johnny Perez #505-615-7059  
Stella L. Chavez - General Information 505-238-3821  
Angela Coburn - General Information and Vendors 505-705-5310

**Free Parking - Admission at the gate - \$5.00 per person**  
See our Facebook Page for information  
"5 and under Free!"

**Thank You for your continuous support of our Annual NON-PROFIT event for our Youth Scholarship Fund.**

One of the major objectives of the East Torrance SWCD is conservation education. With participating in many activities that promote education in natural resources, we hope to educate our youth and families of the valley to help better understand who we are, what we can provide, and what we can and cannot do.





# Trainings / Committee's

## ***Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee***

*East Torrance Soil and Water Conservation District actively supports the efforts of the Estancia Basin Regional Water Planning Committee. The committee presented a updated regional water plan in 2016 and has been very active in submitting comments into the ISC on the State Water Plan. The District recognized the importance of water planning to ensure future sustainability of this precious natural resource. The Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee performs in an advisory role to various governments on matters concerning the water resources of the estancia Basin.*



## ***Local Work Group***

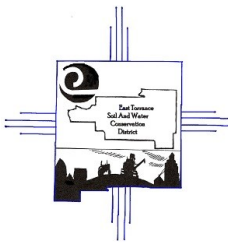
*2021 the local group meeting was held virtual.*

*It is the responsibility of the local working group to ensure that a conservation needs assessment is developed using community stakeholder input, utilize the conservation needs assessment to identify funding needs, identify priority resource concerns that can be addressed by USDA programs.*

*Recommendations are sent to the NRCS conservationist.*

*Local working group membership should be diverse and focus on agricultural interests and natural resource issue existing in the local community.*



9/22  
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# Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual

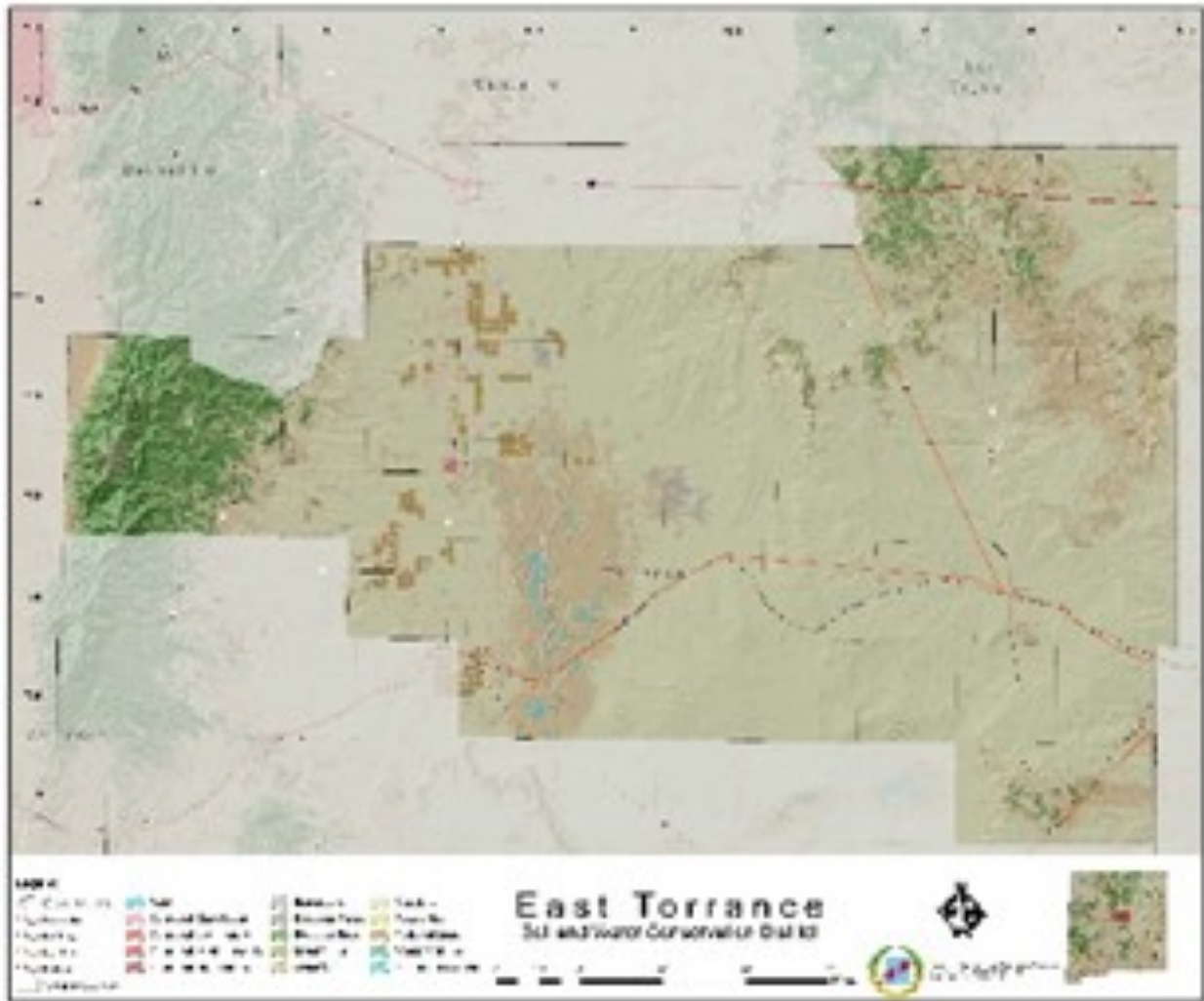
## July 2021 through June 2022

	Jul '21 - Jun 22	Budget	\$ Over Budget
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
CFRP	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interest earned	771.80	0.00	771.80
NM Allocation	17,434.26	15,690.00	1,744.26
NMACDE Training	0.00	150.00	-150.00
Reimbursements / Donations	38.27	800.00	-761.73
Sales	0.00	300.00	-300.00
State General Funding HB JR.	11,360.98	51,607.00	-40,246.02
Torrance County Mill Levy	165,757.23	143,000.00	22,757.23
Tree & Seed Sales	208.92	0.00	208.92
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>195,571.46</b>	<b>211,547.00</b>	<b>-15,975.54</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
Advertisements	936.16	4,000.00	-3,063.84
BLM Agreement Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Building construction / equip	0.00	5,000.00	-5,000.00
Building expenses	5,354.22	5,000.00	354.22
Contract Labor			
Audit contract	3,524.22	4,200.00	-675.78
Contract Labor - Other	10,062.50	19,500.00	-9,437.50
<b>Total Contract Labor</b>	<b>13,586.72</b>	<b>23,700.00</b>	<b>-10,113.28</b>
Cost Share Payment	44,319.85	383,279.00	-338,959.15
Dues and Subscriptions	4,352.36	3,800.00	552.36
Equipment			
Repairs			
Equipment Repairs	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Repairs</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Equipment - Other	0.00	10,000.00	-10,000.00
<b>Total Equipment</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>	<b>-10,000.00</b>
Health Insurance	0.00	13,037.00	-13,037.00
Insurance Bond	162.00	175.00	-13.00
Lea SWCD Loan	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lea SWCD Loan payment	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mileage & Per Diem			
Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mileage & Per Diem - Other	0.00	5,000.00	-5,000.00
<b>Total Mileage &amp; Per Diem</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>5,000.00</b>	<b>-5,000.00</b>
NM Envirothon	500.00	250.00	250.00
NM Risk Management	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00
NMACD Annual Meeting	0.00	4,000.00	-4,000.00
Office Expenses			
Bank Service Charges	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interest Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00
Printing and Reproduction	0.00	0.00	0.00
Office Expenses - Other	1,744.82	8,000.00	-6,255.18
<b>Total Office Expenses</b>	<b>1,744.82</b>	<b>8,000.00</b>	<b>-6,255.18</b>
<b>Pavroll</b>	<b>22,510.59</b>	<b>60,000.00</b>	<b>-37,489.41</b>
<b>Payroll Taxes</b>			
Electronic Federal Tax payment	2,649.38	0.00	2,649.38
Federal With holding expense	-1,498.00	0.00	-1,498.00
Medicare Empty Contribution	-653.94	0.00	-653.94
Medicare Match	326.97	0.00	326.97
Pera-employee contribution	0.00	0.00	0.00
Social Security Contribution	-2,791.38	0.00	-2,791.38
Social Security Match	1,395.69	0.00	1,395.69
state with holding tax	-493.40	0.00	-493.40
tax & Rev CRS state payment	353.13	0.00	353.13
Un-employment taxes	46.46	0.00	46.46
Workers Compensation quarterly	25.80	0.00	25.80
Payroll Taxes - Other	1,236.00	13,500.00	-12,264.00
<b>Total Payroll Taxes</b>	<b>596.71</b>	<b>13,500.00</b>	<b>-12,903.29</b>
Pera	1,482.46	6,500.00	-5,017.54
Postage and Delivery	0.00	4,000.00	-4,000.00
Professional Development	313.91	6,000.00	-5,686.09
Soil Stewardship	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00
Special Project Fees	5,273.70	367,126.70	-361,853.00
SWCD Annual Meeting	0.00	5,000.00	-5,000.00
Tree & Seed Cost	98.83	500.00	-401.17
Water Fair	0.00	500.00	-500.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>101,232.33</b>	<b>930,367.70</b>	<b>-829,135.37</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>94,339.13</b>	<b>-718,820.70</b>	<b>813,159.83</b>
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>			
<b>Other Income</b>			
CFRP Rembursments	96,496.75	90,000.00	6,496.75
US Forest Service	12,296.00	106,000.00	-93,704.00
US Game and Fish	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>108,792.75</b>	<b>196,000.00</b>	<b>-87,207.25</b>
<b>Other Expense</b>			
CFRP grant	109,364.75	100,000.00	9,364.75
US Forest Service expenses	12,296.00	130,000.00	-117,704.00
US Game and Fish Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Other Expense</b>	<b>121,660.75</b>	<b>230,000.00</b>	<b>-108,339.25</b>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>-12,868.00</b>	<b>-34,000.00</b>	<b>21,132.00</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>81,471.13</b>	<b>-752,820.70</b>	<b>834,291.83</b>



***Meetings—All meetings were attended by virtual meetings due to COVID restrictions and early 2022 moved back to in person meetings.***

*Staff and Supervisors attended variety of State, County and Federal meetings via some sort of virtual meeting set ups to stay informed of activities throughout the state. Some meetings included the Soil & Water Commission meetings, Neighborhood SWCD, Torrance county Commission meetings.*



Respectfully submitted,

*Cheri Lujan*

ETSWCD District Manager II

**East Torrance Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors is very proud of their accomplishments for the past fiscal year and hope to continue moving forward for the betterment of the landowners that watch over the land within the District.**



*Missing :Ryan Schwebach, Bill Wrye, Joe Everett and new manger Leonard Howell.*

**The East Torrance Soil and Water Conservation District Promotes Stewardship of Natural Resources by Providing Leadership, Education, Technical and Financial Assistance to the citizens of the district.**

**715 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street, PO Box 58, Estancia, NM 87016**  
**505-384-2272 Ext 3296**

*The East Torrance Soil and Water Conservation District (ETSWCD) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, marital status, familial status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information and political beliefs. ETSWCD is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*