

2021 NMACD UPDATED POLICY STATEMENTS AND RESOLUTIONS

OPPOSITION TO EXECUTIVE ORDERS AND LAWS IN REGARD TO LAND DESIGNATIONS

2021/1

NMACD opposes executive orders and/or laws that designates land or property interests for recreational and/or preservation and/or prohibits agricultural uses on private, state, or federal lands.

WILD AND SCENIC RIVER DESIGNATION

2021/2

NMACD recognizes that designation of wild and scenic rivers transfers jurisdiction of water rights from Western States administered under the prior appropriation doctrine to federally designated river managers. NMACD also recognizes that wild and scenic river designations have resulted in judicial transfer of private property rights to non-governmental organizations and forced local governments to impose onerous zoning, depriving private property owners use of their land and water without just compensation. NMACD opposes designation of wild and scenic rivers on Bureau of Land Management lands and National Forests in the Western States with prior appropriation water rights.

WATER QUALITY & QUANTITY IMPROVEMENT

97/1 Reaffirmed 2018/2021

NMACD encourages New Mexico NRCS to continue and expand efforts in improving the water quality & quantity improvement projects through continual emphasis of all applications of water conservation measures.

PROTEST TRANSFER OF WATER FROM AGRICULTURE TO INDUSTRY

97/2 Reaffirmed 2018/2021

NMACD supports all SWCDs that are or may resist water transfers that may not be in the public interest or the public welfare of the region. NMACD supports legislation to require the OSE & ISC to use regional and local plans to define the term public welfare in the transfer of water rights. NMACD support legislation enacting the statutory area of origin and limits the distance between point of origin and point of use to protect and/ or reduce the adverse effects of water transfers from rural areas.

HARD ROCK MINING

97/3

Revised 2021

NMACD supports the position that "primary for environmental regulation" is authorized to the states, not the Department of Interior. NMACD will also oppose any efforts to usurp (take away/seize) state water rights authorities.

CONSERVATION PROJECTS REQUIRING 404 PERMITS

97/4

Reaffirmed 2018/2021

NMACD will urge federal & state agencies to work with Conservation Districts to expedite and minimize consultation requirements to facilitate timely implementation of conservation projects and to work with Conservation Districts to carry out these projects expeditiously and reduce invasion of noxious and other undesirable plant species on lands in watershed projects.

GRAZING MANAGEMENT OF CRP LANDS

97/5

Reaffirmed 2018/2021

NMACD requests NRCS & FSA to include livestock grazing as the tool of choice to manage CRP lands. NMACD supports NRCS supervising the CRP Grazing Management.

RETAIN LOCAL FSA COUNTY COMMITTEES

97/1

Reaffirmed 2018/2021

NMACD supports reevaluating FSA office closures. Responsibilities and concerns need to be carried out by local citizens who have similar natural resource concerns. The distance producers have to travel for service should be taken into consideration.

FUNDING FOR SWCDs

97/2

Reaffirmed 2018/2021

NMACD supports that state funding be based on the need of each Conservation District.

OIL & GAS DEVELOPMENT & USE OF SITES LESS ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE

97/5 Reaffirmed 2018/2021

NMACD requests that federal & state agencies & development companies utilize less productive and less sensitive sites where possible to decrease ecological and production losses.

SUPPORT OF WEATHER MODIFICATION OF METHODS

97/8 Revised 2021

NMACD supports efforts to educate the public about the benefits of weather modification. NMACD seeks funding for expansion of weather modification as a means of developing an untapped, renewable source of water.

WATERSHED FUNDING

2000/1 Reaffirmed 2018/2021

NMACD encourages Congress & federal agencies to recognize that SWCDs are local delivery systems to receive and manage project funds for fire prevention and watershed enhancement programs. NMACD encourages Congress and federal agencies to direct resources to Soil and Water Conservation Districts within New Mexico to enable better watershed management and restoration programs and enable districts to take the lead in working with rural communities affected by declining watershed conditions.

BOR WATER CONSERVATION FIELD SERVICES PROGRAM

2000/3 Reaffirmed 2018/2021

NMACD encourages Congress to continue support funding for BOR Water Conservation Field Services Program as an incentive-based program of technical and financial assistance for voluntary federal-state-local partnerships to encourage water conservation.

FOREST HEALTH AND RESTORATION

2000/5 Revised 2021

NMACD encourages Congress to pass legislation that directs the federal agencies to take aggressive action to restore the western forests without size restrictions on cut trees and promotes a policy of private enterprise.

SUPPORT EFFORTS OF WATER RECLAMATION COMMITTEE

2000/1 Revised 2021

NMACD appeals to the New Mexico State Legislature and /or the proper departments within State of New Mexico for direction and implementation of said directives, in the continuance of efforts to convert oil & gas produced water to usable water.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)

2003/3 Reaffirmed 2018/2021

NMACD will encourage the USDA to craft rules that will provide adequate financial incentives for owners of CRP land unsuited for sustained cropping to keep the land in CRP, and that native vegetation be utilized in accomplishing the purposes of CRP

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

2003/4 Revised 2021

NMACD encourages the State and local agencies to develop policies, statutes and regulation that will include Urban Development as to its impact on agriculture waters and their historical, cultural and beneficial use.

TAX INCENTIVES FOR PRIVATE LANDOWNERS MANAGING NOXIOUS WEED INFESTATIONS

2003/6 Revised 2021

NMACD will encourage legislation that provides for tax deductions for private landowners who participate in noxious weed management programs on their own property and that those individuals who qualify for said tax deductions must participate in a local SWCD noxious weed management program.

COMMUNICATION

2003/8 Revised 2021

NMACD encourages the local conservation districts to work with NMDA and NRCS in improving communications, including more electronic exchange of information such as minutes, meeting notices, budgets, financial reports, progress reports, etc.

CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP)

2006/5 Reaffirmed 2018/2021

NMACD supports the addition of CREP as a voluntary program available to producers in New Mexico and will work with New Mexico state agencies to coordinate CREP projects with existing Riparian Restoration projects.

OPPOSE ESTABLISHMENT OF JAGUAR CRITICAL HABITAT IN U.S. 2006/7 Reaffirmed 2018/2021
NMACD will request the US Fish & Wildlife Service to find that, according to best available science and commercial information, the need for Jaguar critical habitat does not exist in the US. and withhold any and all funding for this proposal.

MANDATORY OIL AND GAS SITE RECLAMATION 2006/9 Revised 2021
NMACD supports mandatory reclamation of pipelines, roads & abandoned oil & gas well pads and oil and gas companies set aside monies prior to exploration drilling for proper reclamation of pipeline, roads and abandoned oil and gas well pads or be fined for non-compliance.

MANDATORY CAPPING OF ABANDONED OIL AND GAS WELLS 2006/10 Revised 2021
NMACD supports policy of mandatory well-capping of abandoned oil and gas wells and that oil and gas companies set aside monies for proper capping and/or plugging fees.

GRANTS AND FUNDING 2009/2 Revised 2021

The New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts will adopt the following policies:
NMACD will notify Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) of any grants or funding opportunities in a timely manner.

NMACD will administer funding targeted for distribution to all SWCDs that cannot be efficiently allocated to individual SWCDs.

NMACD will encourage and support all individual SWCD who are able to seek and administer funding. NMACD will support direct funding between the SWCDs and the granting agency/agencies.

NMACD will, when necessary, act as a pass through for funds between granting agency/agencies and the SWCDs. NMACD and the SWCDs hosting the project will enter into an agreement to equitably share the administration fees.

PROTECT WATERSHED DISTRICTS FROM LOSS OF MONETARY & ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT 2012/2 Revised 2021

NMACD will support legislation to amend the Small Watershed Act (73-20-1 through 73-20-24) in such a way that project cannot be deleted from a watershed district and a watershed district cannot be discontinued.

NMACD / NEPA 2012/3 Reaffirmed 2018/2021

NMACD shall encourage SWCDs to become cooperating agencies to initiate coordination efforts with appropriate federal agencies. NMACD shall assist SWCDs in preparing local land use plans to provide a basis to evaluate federal NEPA decisions. NMACD shall consider a process for “consistency review” to allow a response to federal NEPA based decisions.

NOTIFICATION REGARDING FEDERAL LAND LEASE 2012/5 Revised 2021

The NMACD shall encourage land management agencies to use sound science to provide the setting of the land-lease carry-capacity and an acceptable workable timeframe for lessee in reducing numbers or increasing grazing fees when, and if allotment animal numbers must be changed.

SUPPORT FOR GROUNDWATER STUDIES AND ACTIONS Revised & Reaffirmed 2021

NMACD and local SWCDs shall encourage funding for studies of groundwater resources including mapping, monitoring, recharge sources and to identify future development for Ag and Municipal uses and projects that reduce evapotranspiration and that increase recharge of groundwater including forest thinning, Acequia recharge, storm water runoff and infiltration galleries.

OPPOSITION TO RE-INJECTION OF GEOTHERMAL WATER INTO ANY SHALLOW AQUIFER Reaffirmed 2018/2021

NMACD is opposed to the re-injection of geothermal water into any shallow aquifer which could cause contamination to that shallow aquifer. NMACD requests the appropriate state agency become actively involved in physical monitoring and assurance that the shallow aquifer water level and quality be unaffected by re-injection of geothermal water into any shallow aquifer.

AGRICULTURE PROPERTY TAX DEFINITIONS

Revised & Reaffirmed 2021

NMACD shall work with NMDA, NM Tax and Revenue and NM Legislature to update and clarify the data and regulations for agricultural tax definitions.

INCLUSION OF ACEQUIAS AS AN ADEQUATE WATER SUPPLY OR SOURCE FOR IRRIGATION

2018/1

Revised 2021

NMACD supports inclusion of acequias as an adequate water supply or source for irrigation in the guidelines listed in FSA's Handbook and shall send a copy of this resolution to State FSA Officials, National FSA Officials and the NM Congressional Delegation.

OPPOSE NEW SPECIAL METHOD OF NON-AG LAND VALUATION 2018/2 Reaffirmed 2018/2021

Property tax-based mil levy revenues are determined by land valuation, a reduction in valuation would decrease tax revenues received by entities including soil & water conservation districts and local school districts. New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts OPPOSE the creation of any additional state-wide special use land valuation, unless there is a maximum cap of no more than 160 acres and taxed at a value of no less than 40% of current and