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**San Francisco Soil and Water Conservation District**

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**Annual Report 2024/2025**

The District Provided representation at the 2025 New Mexico legislative session, the regular meetings of the Border Conservation Districts, and the Southwestern New Mexico Council of Governments.

**July-** Working with the NM Environment Dept and the Water Trust Board to finish paperwork regarding paperwork for the Willow Creek Restoration Project. Howard attended a meeting of the Water Trust Board regarding applications for the Central Arizona Water Fund.

**August-** Bill continues with range monitoring and investigated grant funding to place cages around monitoring sites. Howard took part in discussions regarding amendments for Forest Service Policy regarding old growth and mature forests and contributed at a Interstate Stream Commission meeting regarding the state regional water planning proposal.

**September** – Frank spoke to a USFS representative regarding an MOU with SFSWCD. Howard gave a report at the Catron County Commission meeting regarding the proposed Forest Service policy for old growth and mature forests.

**October-** Howard submitted comments on the proposed Old Growth and Mature Forest Amendment and is working with cooperating agencies on composing objections. Howard also submitted an objection to the Forest Service's final Gila National Forest plan and planned to meet with the Deputy Regional Forester with other objectors. Howard attended a Join SWCD Local Work Group meeting in Deming.

**November-** Frank, and Howard attended the NMACD meeting in Albuquerque. Howard presented a report on the Willow Creek Restoration Project at the NMACD meeting. Howard submitted an application to National Fish and Wildlife regarding a restoration project along Tularosa Creek.

**December** – Howard took part in meetings opposing the Old Growth and Mature Forest amendment.

**January-** Gary reported on a new weather station through NMSU that is active in Pleasanton and reported his work seeking maintenance of the Pleasanton Ditch. Clay spoke to a potential Board member. Bill attended a Cattlemen's meeting where they discussed the importance of monitoring wells to have a record of data regarding water levels, in case new infrastructure such as wind farms causes any changes. Howard reported that the Old Growth and Mature Forest amendment has been postponed indefinitely. Howard met with representatives from the Administrative Conference of the United States, which is compiling a report on the relations between tribal governments, local government bodies, and state government. Howard attended the objection meeting with a representative from Region 3 and Supervisor Camille Howes on objections to the Gila National Forest Plan.

**February-** Gary reported on progress repairing and maintaining the Pleasanton Ditch. Frank and Howard took part in a virtual conference intended to assist in the drafting of a Resource Development Plan. Howard reported on his involvement with the State Legislative Session, and spoke at the session on behalf of increasing recurring funding for SWCDs throughout the state. Howard submitted a report to the Administrative Conference of the United States on the district's interaction with other government bodies.

**March-** Howard and Jan reported the state Legislative Session. Howard worked with Tetra Tech on developing plans for the Spurgeon Ditch Project. Gary reported on progressing maintenance work for the Pleasanton Ditch.

**April-** Bill attended a Cattlemen's meeting and a county meeting regarding the Mexican Gray Wolves. Howard traveled to Washington DC and took part in meetings with Staff and Members of the House, as well as four Congressmen, to bring forth issues facing New Mexico in regards to conservation and forest management.

**May-** Howard, Frank, and Gary represented the District at Ranch Days, teaching elementary students about healthy soil and habitats. Howard submitted a request for regulation changes to Forest Service 219 Regulations, asking they remove reference to Indigenous Knowledge and revert to earlier language.