



CARLSBAD SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Annual Report

July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010

The Carlsbad Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) presents this annual report of the activities within the District during the past fiscal year, to inform those interested in our efforts to conserve our natural resources.

Mission Statement

To facilitate programs that conserve our district's natural resources for all citizens and future generations by utilizing any available funding technical and educational resources and through voluntary efforts.

The governing Board of Supervisors:

Ridley Gardner, Chairman

Nathan Jurva, Vice-Chairman

Ron Head, Secretary/Treasurer

Jimmie Cisneros, Member

James Walterscheid, Member

Ray Nance, Member

Tyson Mahaffey, Member

District Staff:

Judy Bock

Judith McCollaum-Ortego

Nancy Painter

District Manager

Information & Education Specialist

Administrative Assistant

During the year, the following Natural Resources Conservation Service Staff assisted the Carlsbad SWCD:

Garth Grizzle

Raquel Miller

Tracy Hughes

John Fajardo

District Conservationist

Soil Conservationist

Technician

FT Civil Engineering Tech

Community Collaboration & Coordination

- ◆ Eddy County Coordinated Weed Management Group: Conducted four quarterly meetings; coordinated approximately 1,600 acres in treatment (i.e., African rue, Malta Star thistle); collaborated with oil and gas companies to assist them with noxious weed control
- ◆ Coordinated and presented an Irrigation Maintenance workshop for area farmers to discuss different methods of solving system maintenance issues
- ◆ Hackberry Draw Watershed District: administrative oversight; coordinate dam structure and drainage maintenance
- ◆ Provide low-flow showerheads: Chamber of Commerce "Welcome to Carlsbad" bags; City of Carlsbad - Hazardous Waste Day; general public
- ◆ Local work group participation: setting priorities for EQIP, WHIP, etc.

- ◆ Lower Pecos River Watershed Alliance (LPRWA) and the Pecos River Non-Native Phreatophyte Management Program: Lead agency; participation
- ◆ Bureau of Land Management (BLM) - Restore New Mexico program: administrative assistance; contract management; contractor coordination

Information/Education

- ◆ District's booth participation: Eddy County Fair; NMSU Ag Science Days; NM State Parks Earth Day
- ◆ Rolling Rivers Trailer: Children's Water Festival - Carlsbad and Artesia; Guadalupe Ranger District's National Environmental Science Education Week; US Park Service-Park Kids Summer Camp; Brantley Lake State Park-Fishing Clinic and Summer Speaking Series; New Mexico State Parks Earth Day
- ◆ Informational talks: Leadership Carlsbad; Carlsbad Downtown Farmers Market; Yucca Cowbells; Living Desert Zoo and Gardens State Park-Xeric Landscape Workshop; local television and radio stations
- ◆ Local school support: 3,000 book covers (middle schools); Soil Stewardship Week materials and poster contest (elementary schools); Arbor Day Fourth Grade Foresters USA Tree Seedlings Program (520-4th grade students)
- ◆ District information: web site; information pamphlets; 7,500 annual newspaper inserts; 500 quarterly newsletters

Watershed Conservation/Habitat Restoration Projects

Federal Funding

- ◆ Bureau of Reclamation (BOR): revegetation demonstration plots; installing catchment berms and planting sorghum alnum within the lake bed and monitoring
- ◆ New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts (NMACD) and the BLM - Pecos District: cooperative agreement to implement oil and gas reclamation (141 acres seeded, 142 acres reclaimed, and 158 well markers removed)
- ◆ BLM - Carlsbad Field Office(CFO): assistance agreement in assisting with riparian restoration work (extraction of 208 acres of saltcedar)
- ◆ National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant in conjunction with BLM: provide oversight of bird and soil moisture monitoring (Avalon/Alacran watershed)
- ◆ Bingaman Riparian Restoration Program - Delaware River: a collaborated effort with the BLM-CFO on a riparian restoration project to further promote stream bank stability (125 pole plantings); improve water quality (upland gulley reseeding); and to enhance watershed and rangeland health (install two solar watering stations)

State Funding

- ◆ New Mexico Capital Outlay Funding - Avalon-Alacran Watershed Improvement and Management Project: installed approximately 2000 feet of mesh wire diversions; treated; received engineering construction designs, structure placement, and specifications for three earthen structures in the Avalon watershed
- ◆ New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation Commission grant - Richardson Restoration Project: Extracted and burned 50 acres of treated saltcedar

District Funding

- ◆ Gopher Tail Bounty Program in conjunction with the Carlsbad Irrigation District – collected 1500 tails
- ◆ Vegetation Management Program: \$37,100 in matching funds-brush and noxious weed control (280 acres) and \$10,000 for a 50/50 match with BLM-brush control (385 acres Avalon/Alacran watershed)
- ◆ Xeric Landscape Designs: Eddy County Field Health Office; Carlsbad Youth Sports Complex; Riverside Country Club (also provided funds for plants and watering system)

The Carlsbad SWCD Board of Supervisors submits this report and hereby acknowledges the work done by all cooperating agencies and their contributions to the Districts overall programs. With continued support, this District will carry on a strong conservation program throughout the coming years.

Ridley Gardner, Chairman

Ron Head, Secretary/Treasurer