



REPORT 2005

Conservation Planning
SMARTER FARMERS
WISER RANCHERS



*For a Fresh Look at
Your Farm or Ranch*

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

NRCS NEW MEXICO

Every farmer and rancher knows they are at the whim of weather, markets, and many other variables. However, ranchers can control intensity, frequency, and timing of grazing which greatly affect forage production and quality - and protect the land. Farmers can manage irrigation water and nutrients.

It's not your granddad's ranch, or your dad's farm. It may be the same property but times have changed. It takes smarter farmers and wiser ranchers.

Get a grip on your bottomline. For a fresh look at your farm or ranch, call your local NRCS field office today for conservation planning.

Operations Summary

State Conservation Report:

A brief overview of conservation planning and application achievements.

New Mexico NRCS achieved 534% of its annual goals due to the dedication and hard work of its employees.

1. Cropland Plans Written = 113,100 acres
2. Cropland Plans Applied = 110,800 acres
3. Soil Erosion Reduced = 4,064,700 tons
4. Grazing Land Plans Written = 3,212,900 acres
5. Grazing Land Plans Applied = 2,148,300 acres
6. Wildlife Habitat Planning = 1,193,000 acres
7. Watershed Plans Written = 5 on 26,200 acres
8. Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans Written = 26
9. Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans Applied = 28

Resources Conservation and Development Program RC&D

1. New Projects (number) = 20
2. Completed Projects (number) = 12
3. On-going Projects (number) = 200
4. Leveraged funds = \$5,793,400
5. Businesses Created = 14
6. Jobs Created = 156
7. Training Workshops = 67
8. Citizens Served = 309,400

Farm Bill Programs Summary
Summary of Accomplishments - FY2005

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

1,410 Applications Received
632 Contracts Signed
\$24,167,503 Allocated
\$24,134,372 Obligated (Dollars are obligated when contract is signed)
2,755,264 Acres under contract

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

45 Applications Received
20 Contracts Signed
\$242,860 Allocated
\$224,204 Obligated (dollars are obligated when contract is signed)

Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)

56 Applications Received
1 Permanent Easement on 4,066 acres in McKinley County (\$813,200 est. cost)
1 30 year Rental Agreement on 1,760 acres in Union County (\$316,800)

Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)

Permanent Easement obtained on 94 acres in Valencia County

Conservation Security Program (CSP)

137 Applications Received (\$2,115,233 est. cost)
Figures do not include Texas portion of watersheds

Summary by Watershed

Watershed	Applications	Contracts	FY 2005 Cost
Arroyo del Macho	13	11	\$236,855
Carrizo	15	8	\$176,971
Gallo Arroyo	6	2	\$ 49,142
Mimbres	17	9	\$ 43,723
Punta de Agua	2	1	\$ 1,210
Taiban	9	6	\$162,873
Upper Pecos	34	28	\$465,853
Ute	24	14	\$227,401
Total	120	79	\$1,364,037

Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP)

6 Easements closed on 174 acres
1 New Application Funded
Rio Grande Ag Land Trust (\$532,608)

Resource Technology Staff Activities

Streamline and Implement Conservation Programs.

1. In support of the Conservation Security Program (CSP) we developed Enhancement Practices for grazing lands, wildlife, crop, and riparian areas, reviewed and updated Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) Quality Criteria, assisted in the update of the CSP Self Assessment Workbook, provided 5 weeks of training on CSP planning in Carrizozo, Clovis, Deming, and Ft. Sumner, developed 3 land used based Wildlife Habitat Assessment Guides and completed all riparian evaluations for CSP watersheds.
2. Developed numerical Conservation Practice Physical Effects for EQIP ranking tool.
3. Coordinated development of Non-Insured Ag. Producers (NAP) drought indexes for Farm Services Agency State Committee.
4. Provided technical assistance related to Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program in 7 Field Offices.
5. Finalized Coordinated Resource Management Memorandum of Understanding and provided support to NM Soil and Water Conservation Commission on implementation.
6. Worked with Inter-agency Weed Action Group to publish NM Strategy for Mgt of Exotic Trees
7. Worked with the Ecological Site Description Core Group to update Business Plan.
8. Conducted 5% New Mexico Farm Bill compliance review.
9. Worked with the State Historic Preservation Officer to develop and implement a cultural resources search agreement (ARMS) to streamline cultural resource clearances, let cultural resource clearance contracts on 30 EQIP projects totaling \$344,909.00, tracked to completion a total of 360 Section 106 cultural resource consultations & 30 contract reports and developed four cultural resource clearance information booklets.

Enable Conservation Delivery by Modernization and Expansion of Technical Capacity.

1. Conducted training on Conservation Planning, Range Inventory, Prescribed Burning Certification, Forestland Ecological Site Descriptions, Nutrient and Pest Management, RUSLE II Soil Erosion, and Comprehensive Nutrient Management Planning (CNMP) for producers and consultants.
2. Worked with agencies & Cooperative Extension Service to update Chemical Weed Guide.
3. Updated 20% of FOTG Standards and Specifications and posted on NM Web site and lead the development of Conservation System Guides (CSG's) for all land uses.
4. Updated NRCS Environmental Assessment format to comply with NEPA and Initiated Conservation Compliance Agreement with Assurances for the Lesser Prairie Chicken.
5. Updated all cropland consumptive use numbers for NM.
6. Provided coordination assistance and review in the completion of ten CNMP's, revised the CNMP pond sizing tool and developed a white paper on hay storage runoff & solicited a response from EPA through New Mexico AFO/CAFO group.
7. Updated all riparian related standards and specifications and ESD's in response to congressional line item and HB2.
8. Completed and field tested Stream Visual Protocol tool, worked with the Salinity Development Team to develop & test pilot of a national Salinity Course and Developed a chapter on P sinks, training exercise, materials etc. for the NRCS Environment Course.
9. Nine riparian area evaluation and restoration projects were completed and provided technical assistance on 8 Stream bank restoration projects and 30 well developments.
10. Alkali Muhley was released from the Los Lunas Plant Materials Center for use on riparian areas and 13 Plant Materials publications were released.

Resource Inventories and Assessments Section

Summary of Accomplishments - FY2005

Soil Survey Program

1. Mapping has been completed and digitizing underway on Santa Fe Area soil survey update.
2. Two soil survey reports were printed in 2005. These are the Chaco Culture National Historical Park and Jicarilla Apache Nation.
3. The soil survey manuscript of McKinley County has been submitted for printing.
4. The soil survey update of White Sands Missile Range and surrounding private and public lands is underway. The area includes parts of Dona Ana, Otero, Sierra, Lincoln, Socorro, and Torrance County.
5. We will begin the soil map updating work in Torrance County this year.
6. Since October 1, 2004, we have hired 2 new soil scientists.
7. The Soil Data Mart has been populated with 37 survey areas to date. We will be adding digital maps for Curry, southwest Quay, and eastern San Juan counties soon.
8. Web Soil Survey released; <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov>

GIS Program

1. Soil Survey map compilation was completed all soil survey areas of New Mexico this year and soil survey digitizing is underway on 3 additional survey areas.
2. Digital map finishing completed for the publication maps of McKinley County Area soil survey.
3. We completed installation and training of the new Customer Service Toolkit using ArcGIS 8.3. The Customer Service Toolkit is the primary tool used to develop conservation plans, maps, and contracts.
4. Geospatial data is being kept current in all field offices.
5. Work on the Watershed Boundary Digitizing completed. Is under review for national certification at this
6. New aerial photo flight has been conducted and expect delivery of new digital maps for all counties soon.

NRI Program

1. Completed the FY2004 field inventory on 170 primary sampling units (PSUs) and begun the 168 PSUs for 2005-2006 Rangeland Health Study.
2. Supported the NRI-Conservation Effects Analysis Project (CEAP) to determine the effectiveness of conservation practices in achieving conservation program objectives.

Engineering Activities

Summary of Accomplishments - FY2005

1. Construction was completed on Phase IV of the Truth or Consequences Flood Control project, in April 2005, a \$2.4 million contract.
2. Funds were procured and design completed to perform grouting repair at Caballo #4, Wardy-Hedgecock Dam. Repair to be performed under contract in late 2005.
3. Designs were completed on wastewater facilities for nine dairies under the EQIP program. Design work is in progress on several additional dairies. It is expected that 8 additional dairies will require NRCS design assistance in FY 2006.
4. Design work on ditch improvements on the acequia project, East Puerto de Luna is now 95% complete.
5. Updates of 115 Engineering Conservation Practice Standards, Specifications, and New Mexico job sheets were performed.
6. Direct assistance and policy guidance were provided to NRCS field engineers and technicians in the development of numerous design and construction projects for acequia improvements and agricultural waste projects.
7. Geological and Geotechnical investigations were provided to support engineering work on numerous projects through a variety of NRCS programs.
8. In addition to serving New Mexico, design assistance was provided to the states of Arizona and Utah through the Southwest Multi-State Design Team, including assistance provided to Arizona on White Tanks #3 Watershed rehabilitation project, Florence FRS repair design, seismic assessment studies for Utah NRCS dams, and EWP assistance for Utah and Arizona projects.

Personnel Actions Since July 2005

STUDENTS BACK IN SCHOOL:

Art Ariaz, Jr., Range Science, Las Vegas
Lewis Beck, Soil Conservationist, Deming
Thomas Casados, Range Science, Los Lunas
Nathan Combs, Range Science, Ft Sumner
Chambliss Lantana, Soil Conservationist, Portales
Brian Schwebke, Civil Engineer, Las Cruces
Marcy Torres, Taos
Kristi Wright, Soil Conservationist, Clovis

REASSIGNMENT:

Justin Riggs, Student Trainee (Soil Scientist), Las Cruces

PROMOTION TO ANOTHER AGENCY

Liz Reisinger, Human Resources Manager to Department of Energy, Alb., NM
Jim Parr, Contract Specialist, to Department of Energy, Alb., NM

PROMOTION:

Kelly Mullen, Secretary, State Office
Guy Blackwolf, Rangeland Management Specialist, Grants
Michael Shivers, District Conservationist, Socorro
Santiago Miguez, Area Resource Conservationist, Socorro
Rosabeth Garcia-Sais, from NRCS-Madison, WI, to State Administrative Officer,
State Office
Dan Murray, Hydraulic Engineer, State Office to NRCS Beltsville, MD

NEW HIRES:

J. Mike Jones, Soil Conservationist, Las Vegas

RESIGNATIONS:

Andrea Romero-Yepes, Soil Conservationist, Estancia

TRANSFER TO ANOTHER STATE:

Bill Ellis, State Administrative Officer to NRCS, Temple, TX