



Natural Resources Conservation Service
6200 Jefferson NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109

Estancia, NM- The East Torrance Soil and Water Conservation District hosted your “not usual Earth Day tree planting” in recognition of Earth Day at the Glen and Peggy Jones place Friday, April 21, 2006. It offered sixth graders from Mrs. Blackburn’s class hands-on learning experiences in conservation techniques utilized by the conservation district and USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in rehabilitation of New Mexico’s working range and farm lands.

Yes, there was the usual tree planting, but along a riparian area where water could be slowed so it would not erode the land. At the same site, student built rock jetties to again slow water and prevent erosion. The sixth graders used straw bales as part of a gully restoration, and pulled musk thistle to manage noxious weeds at a third site. In addition, the group was offered a lesson about healthy forests by the U.S. Forest Service.

Encouraging the class were Callie Gnkowski, field representative from U.S. Senator Pete V. Domenici’s office; Sarah Braasch, west region assistant chief from the NRCS in Washington, D.C.; and Dennis Alexander, NRCS New Mexico state conservationist.

For further information about such presentations please contact Cheri Lujan at(505)384-2272.

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