

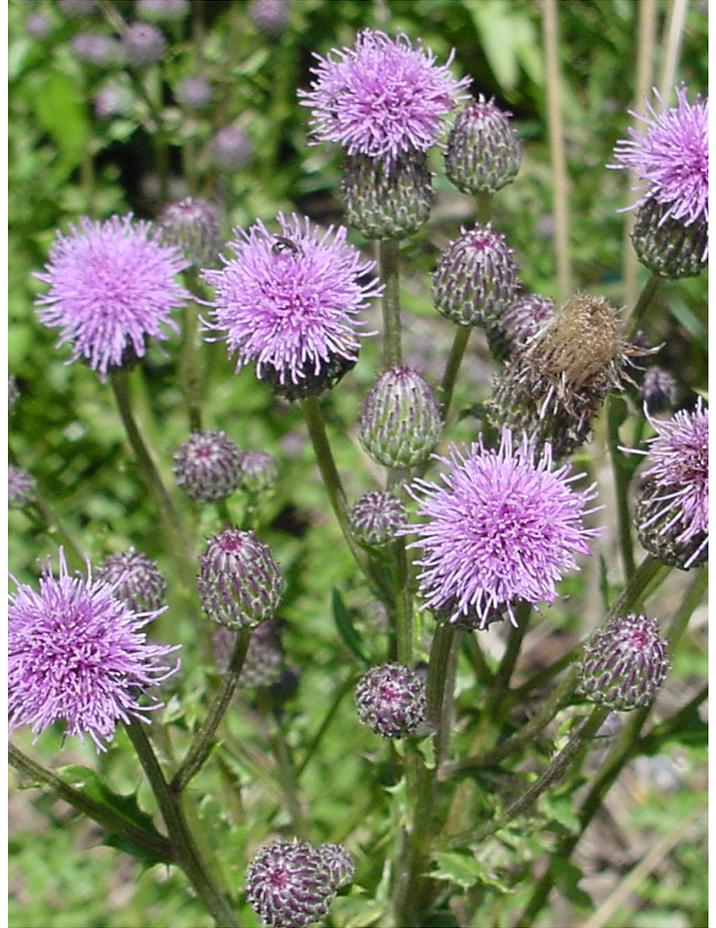
SWCD and RC&D Team to Fight Noxious Weeds

The Tierra y Montes Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) and Adelante Resource Conservation & Development Council (RC&D) in Las Vegas, New Mexico have teamed up to support a Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) for San Miguel and Mora counties. Their efforts are a reflection of the good job the Adelante RC&D did in helping the Colfax CWMA manage funding from the State Forestry Division in the Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources Department.

Like many areas of New Mexico San Miguel and Mora counties have been plagued with noxious weed infestations. Particularly bothersome species in the area include hoary cress, purple starthistle, musk thistle, diffuse knapweed, Scotch thistle, Canada thistle, spotted knapweed, and bull thistle.

After a slow start, the project gained momentum in 2006 when State Forestry approached Adelante and Tierra y Montes in hopes of energizing the CWMA efforts for San Miguel county, and after some discussion Tierra y Montes agreed to be the lead organization on the project. It was also agreed that Mora county should be included in the CWMA, giving coverage of weed control efforts from the Colorado state line to the southern tip of San Miguel county.

The project now enjoys completion of organizational work and receipt of funding for mapping, equipment, manpower, education, and treatment. The organizations have launched and have underway publicity to inform area residents about who to contact to report noxious weed infestations along county



roads. A demonstration site that was infested with spotted and diffuse knapweed has been treated, and some 2,500 acres of private and public lands have been mapped.

Tierra y Montes is administering all grants, hiring contractors, buying supplies, and performing other duties necessary as part of its leadership role - in another great example of how New Mexico's soil and water conservation districts benefit our local communities.