**SAN FRANCISCO SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**ANNUAL WORK PLAN**

**FISCAL YEAR:**

**2024-2025**

***Board of Supervisors***

## Howard Hutchinson Chairman

## Bill Powell Vice-Chairman

## Janet Porter Carrejo Secretary/Treasurer

**Frank Christensen Supervisor**

**Clay Atwood Supervisor**

**Gary Clauss Supervisor**

**RESOURCES**

The San Francisco Soil and Water Conservation District was organized April 14, 1942. It covers 2,161,715 acres in southern Catron County.

Elevations range from below 5,000 feet to over 10,000 feet. The District consists of rugged mountains, plateaus and plains, mountain streams, pine and fir, pinyon and juniper, mountain meadows and grama grass, of rabbitbrush and cactus. It is a land of small-irrigated farms and sizable ranches, timber and small communities. There are approximately 314,227 acres of private and state lands lying within the district boundary, 106,010 acres of Bureau of Land Management lands and 1,734,983 acres of National Forest. The district is approximately 85% federal land intermingled with private and state lands.

The climate varies considerably between localities within the district because of extremes in elevation and topography. Average annual precipitation ranges from about 9 inches in the drier localities to 30 inches or more in the high mountains. About half of the annual average precipitation falls from July through September.

Soils are extremely variable and complex. They range from deep loamy soils in the two major river valleys and on the alluvial slopes to shallow and rocky in the foothills and mountains.

The present economy of the district is based on agriculture, and although the logging industry has played an important role in the past, logging sales have diminished in recent decades. We will monitor for timber sales activities. With funding gained through EQUIP, RCPP and other grant and funding programs we are looking for increases in new cattle pair numbers based on improved pastures, water sources and fenced pastures.

**PLANNED ACTIONS:**

The proposed Wild and Scenic Rivers Act implementation within our county by NM U.S. Senators will be a continuing action item. Special interest groups are working to eliminate irrigation, water retention and allowing the water in the San Francisco River that was made available to use to flow into Arizona.

1. **Rangeland**
   1. To restore native grasslandspromote the application of planned grazing systems, brush management and improved rangeland management to prevent or control erosion and maintain or improve forage production.
   2. Recruit EQIP projects.
   3. Promote more accurate elk counts and improve grazing management.
   4. Implement cattle grazing systems in riparian areas, i.e. elk fence out.
   5. Set up Range Monitoring
   6. Obtain Air Burners
2. **Water Conservation**
3. Improve the delivery and application efficiency of water used in agriculture.
4. Pursue Invasive Species Eradication projects in our District.
5. Partnering for watershed improvement and educational outreach.
6. Pursue Erosion Control projects on the Tularosa River.
7. Willow Creek Private Lands and Forest Service Restoration Project.
8. **Information and Education**
   1. Continue to improve and strengthen the information program within the district. Promote conservation education within the local schools.
   2. Continue to promote and network for participation in NM Range Camp, NM Water Camp, NM Forestry Camp, New Mexico Envirathon and Soil Stewardship Camp.
   3. Continue participation in Ranch Days in Alma.
   4. Have a presence at Catron County Fair.
9. **Cooperation With Other Organizations**
10. Continue working with the Jornada RC&D and the Southwest New Mexico Council of Governments on developing projects and possible funding for the projects within the district.
11. Cooperate with Catron County in the updating of Catron County Land & Water Plan.
12. Cooperate with Public meeting process for 4,000-acre ft of CAP water.
13. Development and execution of agreement between NRCS, FS and SFSWCD for conducting snow surveying and ground truth verification at the state line, Frisco Divide, Silver Creek Divide, Mogollon Baldy and Hummingbird snow tell sites.
14. Cooperate with Catron County Fair Board for water conservation and erosion control and native plant restoration and education.
15. Assume a high profile in response to State/Federal agencies requests on NEPA documents and proposed regulations.
16. Cooperate with Catron County, USFS and District residents to promote recreation in the District and to create and improve recreational opportunities and facilities where possible.
17. Focus USDA on their purposes of multiple use sustained yield of natural resources. Range and timber management improved conditions benefit wildlife.
18. **Water Development**
    1. Coordinate with Reserve, Quemado-Luna and Glenwood Ranger Districts to implement watershed treatments.
    2. Assist development of water storage facilities on ditch systems.
19. **Noxious Weeds**
20. Follow up implementation of a Noxious Weed Management Program within the District.
21. Establish a better working arrangement with USFS to identify and treat invasive noxious weeds.
22. **Water Quantity**
    1. Assist in establishing baseline water delivery prior to restoration projects.
23. **Land Use Planning**
    1. Update San Francisco SWCD Land Use Plan.

**CALENDAR**

JULY Recommendations for appointed supervisors

Report to NMDA the name, address, telephone number of all board

members and indicate officers of the board. (i.e. chairman, vice chairman, secretary, treasurer etc.)

Submit travel claims

4th Quarter Budget Report due to NMDA

for the past fiscal year.

Report to: NMDA. Send financial report for the past fiscal year including: 1) cash assets at beginning of year, 2) total receivables by source, 3) total expenditures by budget item, 4) cash assets at end of year.

Consider Project Proposals

Present Proposals

AUGUST Recommendations for appointed supervisors

Submit travel claims

Consider Project Proposals

Present Proposals

Send any additional resolutions to NMACD

File for Supervisor Elections

SEPTEMBER Recommendations for appointed supervisors

Submit travel claims

Consider Project Proposals

Present Proposals

OCTOBER Recommendations for appointed supervisors

1st Quarterly budget report due to NMDA

Submit travel claims

Participate in NMACD Annual Meeting

Seek Capital Outlay Funds

Consider Project Proposals

Present Proposals

NOVEMBER Recommendations for appointed supervisors

Submit travel claims

Seek Capital Outlay Funds

Supervisor Elections

Consider Project Proposals

Present Proposals

DECEMBER Recommendations for appointed supervisors

Notification to the State Auditor on Audit Status

Submit Travel Claims

Open Meetings Act resolution for the following calendar year

Seek Capital Outlay Funds

Consider Project Proposals

Present Proposals

JANUARY Recommendations for appointed supervisors

Reorganization of Board

Conduct Mid-Year Budget Review

2nd Quarter budget report due to NMDA

Submit travel claims

Review Memorandum of Agreement with NRCS/USDA and the District

Publish Public Meeting Notice

Consider Project Proposals

Present Proposals

FEBRUARY Recommendations for appointed supervisors

Nomination for NMACD Annual Awards

Submit travel claims

Review and select materials for Soil Stewardship

Review Annual Work Plan for following year

Consider Project Proposals

Present Proposals

MARCH Recommendations for appointed supervisors

Submit travel claims

Prepare budget request/county commissioners

NMACD awards to Region Chair

Consider Project Proposals

Present Proposals

APRIL Recommendations for appointed supervisors

Prepare preliminary budget

NACD Conservation Education Award entries due to the state judging committee

Prepare SWCD Accomplishments for presentation at Region meeting

Attend Region III Annual Meeting

Submit travel claims

3rd Quarter budget report due to NMDA

Make Fair Booth Reservations

Finalize nominations for NMACD Annual Awards

Finalize Annual Work Plan for following year

Participate in Ranch Days

Consider Resolutions to submit to Regional Chair

Consider Project Proposals

Present Proposals

MAY Recommendations for appointed supervisors

Yearly Contractor Evaluation

Finalize Annual Report

Submit travel claims

Consider Project Proposals

Present Proposals

JUNE Recommendations for appointed supervisors

Annual report of activities for the past fiscal year due to the NMDA and NRCS. Annual report may be sent to legislators and local officials.

Final budget for coming fiscal year due to the NMDA and S & W Commission along with a copy of Budget Resolution

Submit travel claims

Consider Project Proposals

Present Proposals

Fiscal Year ends June 30th

Complete Point System Submission