

New Mexico

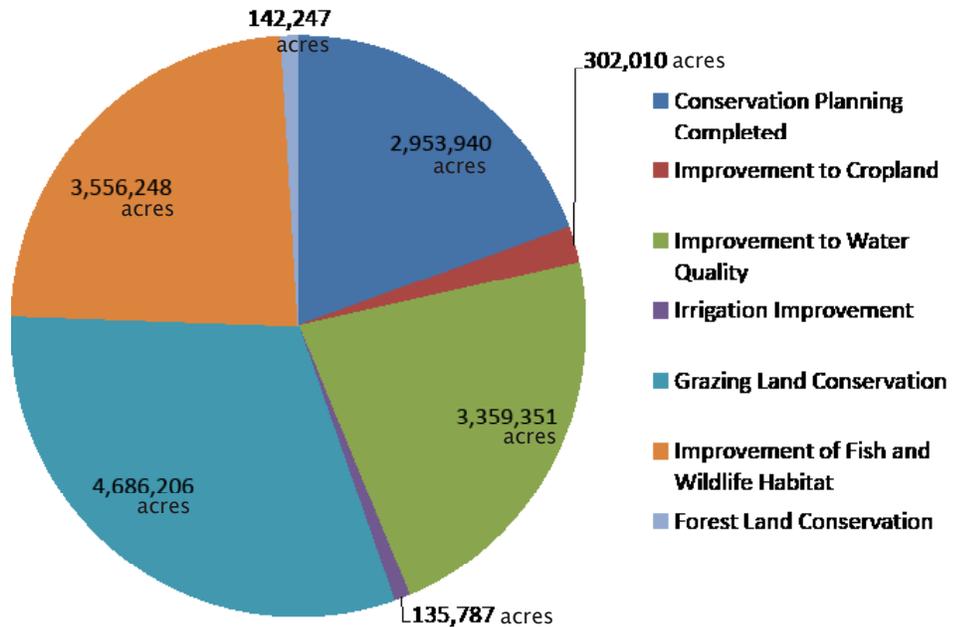
ANNUAL REPORT - 2012



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New Mexico
State Conservationist

Conservation Snapshot

Conservation Applied and Acres Benefitted



Who We Are:

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is a federal agency that works hand-in-hand with the people of New Mexico to improve and protect our natural resources. For more than 75 years, NRCS and its predecessor agency have worked in close partnership with farmers and ranchers, local and state governments, and other federal agencies to maintain healthy and productive working landscapes.

NRCS New Mexico works closely with the local Soil and Water Conservation Districts to ensure conservation is successfully implemented in New Mexico. NRCS assists landowners with conservation planning and implementation by explaining the importance of how natural resources connect to each other. NRCS responds to a broad array of resource concerns such as soil, water, air, plants, energy and human issues (SWAPA+EH) on America's private lands.

While farmers and ranchers remain the primary customers of NRCS, the agency also provides technical assistance to city planners, watershed groups, state, and local governments as well as civic organizations.

Top Five Conservation Practices Across New Mexico

Number	Practice	Projects	Acres	Financial Assistance
1	Irrigation System, Sprinkler	33	2,408	\$1,080,331
2	Irrigation Water Conveyance (Pipeline and concrete ditch lining)	47	55,116	\$525,027
3	Brush Management	45	17,040	\$512,196
4	Structure for Water Control	101		\$230,159
5	Waste Utilization	27		\$216,588

“Helping People Help the Land”



Soil water Air plants
animals Energy humans

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

working lands/stewardship programs

WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES PROGRAM

WHIP is a voluntary conservation program for landowners who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat on private agricultural land, non-industrial private forest land, and Tribal land. WHIP agreements between NRCS and the participant generally last from 5 to 10 years from the date the agreement is signed.



Lesser Prairie Chicken

Congressional District	Contracts	Contracted Acres	Obligation Amount
1	1	12	\$16,200
2	13	161,251	\$542,700
3	2	5,267	\$89,100
Total	16	166,530	\$648,000

Southwestern Willow Flycatcher

WHIP Initiative	Contracts	Obligations	Payments	Contract Acres
	4	\$55,223	\$0.00	125.0

working lands/stewardship initiatives

Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative

Restore New Mexico is an ambitious partnership initiative to restore New Mexico's grasslands, woodlands and riparian areas to a healthy and productive condition. Since the program began in 2005, millions of acres have greatly benefitted from cooperative partnership to restore impaired wildlife habitat and grazing land in southern and eastern New Mexico. Through this partnership initiative New Mexico has seen the return of healthy native grasslands, better wildlife habitat, and grazing land on a broad scale.

2005 to Present

Restore New Mexico	Congressional District	Contracts	Contract Acres	Obligations
	2	124	3,177,777	\$10,104,426
	3	9	135,431	\$239,892
	Total	133	3,313,208	\$10,344,318

Acequias



NRCS conducted construction inspection and certification checkouts on 8 Acequia Construction Projects totaling **\$1,037,890**.

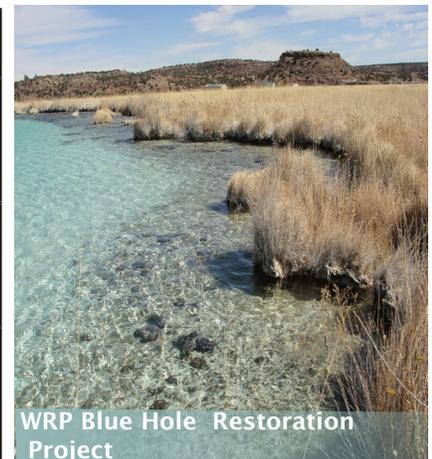
NRCS assisted 21 Acequias in planning, surveys, and designs for irrigation systems and water delivery improvements. NRCS also provided support to another 12 Acequias or Community Ditches to assist in decision making for future improvements.

NRCS provided outreach to more than 50 Acequias and Community Ditches throughout New Mexico. An Acequia history Q&A fact sheet is available to the public at: www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov/news.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

easements

Program	Description	Money Obligated	Contract Acres	Contracts
WRP	The Wetlands Program (WRP) is a voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property. NRCS provides technical and financial support to help landowners with their wetland restoration efforts.	\$926,000	180	4
GRP	The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) is a voluntary program that helps landowners and operators restore and protect grassland, including rangeland, pastureland, and certain other lands, while maintaining the areas as grazing lands.	\$36,000	1,420	1
FRPP	The Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program (FRPP) provides matching funds to help purchase development rights to keep productive farmland and rangeland in agricultural uses. USDA provides up to 50 percent of the fair market easement value of the conservation easement.	\$851,000	15,000	3



WRP Blue Hole Restoration Project

ENGINEERING

- NRCS is currently in the planning stages and making upgrades of Dam Rehabilitation for the Santa Cruz Site #1
- The design for Hatch Valley Site #6 is underway

Hazard Classification of NRCS Assisted Large Dams in New Mexico:

High Hazard	Low Hazard	Significant Hazard
34	47	20

SOILS

SOIL HEALTH

Unlock the Secrets in the Soil

Soil is a living and life-giving substance, without which we would perish. As world population and food production demands rise, keeping our soil healthy and productive is of paramount importance. So much so that we believe improving the health of our Nation's soil is one of the most important endeavors of our time.

By focusing more attention on soil health and by educating our customers and the public about the positive impact healthy soils can have on productivity and conservation, we can help our Nation's farmers and ranchers feed the world more profitably and sustainably—now and for generations to come.

In New Mexico, all soil surveys have been completed on private, Tribal, state, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and Department of Defense lands.

Completed Soil Survey	Acres Mapped
Carlsbad Caverns National Park	147,760
White Sands National Monument	46,762
White Sands Missile Range	2,083,398
Cibola County	500,000
Roosevelt County (updated)	1,570,658

EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM (EWP)

EWP

In 2012, New Mexico had two of the worst fires in its history—the Whitewater Baldy Complex Fire and the Little Bear Fire.

Whitewater Baldy Complex Fire:

This fire was located in the Gila area of southwestern New Mexico where it burned 298,000 acres and 14 structures. Almost the entire fire was on U.S. Forest Service land and wilderness land. The affected watersheds drain into private lands below the burned areas, increasing the threat of serious flooding.

Little Bear Fire: This fire was located north of Ruidoso where 44,000 acres and 252 structures (242 homes) burned. Serious adverse impacts from flooding was a major concern.

NRCS New Mexico quickly responded by installing Early Warning Detection Systems (EWDS) in the burned areas at both fire sites. The EWDS units warn residents of impending floods caused from heavy rain above the watersheds. NRCS New Mexico was the first state to implement this practice using EWP funds.

Early Warning Detection Systems

***\$381,750**

*both fires

Little Bear Fire

Aerial seeding of native grasses applied to private lands

\$113,681

Total dollars expended for New Mexico EWP-2012

\$495,431

CONSERVATION PLANNING INITIATIVE (CPI)

CPI

The 2008 Farm Bill served as the catalyst for the USDA to launch a concerted effort to encourage minority and Under Represented farmers and ranchers to participate in USDA programs. One of the most successful outcomes was the Conservation Planning Initiative Workshop conducted in southern New Mexico. NRCS led the multi-agency effort that provided many of the participants with the opportunity to learn more about the importance of soil health. Attendees also learned how to get the most from their land through the development of a Conservation Plan.

The meeting was well attended by minorities and Under Represented farmers. The meeting even included agricultural producers from northern Mexico.

Comparison of Total & Hispanic Applications Received, Dollar Values & Acreages, Pre- and Post- Conservation Planning Initiative, Dona Ana County, New Mexico

