Mission Statement
To facilitate programs that conserve our district's natural resources for all citizens and future generations by utilizing any available funding, technical, and educational resources and through voluntary efforts.
One of the primary objectives for the Carlsbad Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is to improve watershed health using proven conservation practices to assist in these efforts. Working with various federal and state agencies, local businesses, regional partnerships, conservation organizations, and individual landowners an effort is put forward to provide a landscape approach towards establishing a healthy watershed. The following practices represent the efforts put forward in the past year.

Federal funding is provided by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and passed through the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts (NMACD). These funds are transferred to the Carlsbad SWCD for use on projects within district boundaries. Projects include brush control, oilfield reclamation, and noxious weed treatment.

Working together with the BLM Pecos District and NMACD through cooperative agreements, Carlsbad SWCD has been able to implement conservation efforts throughout our District and surrounding areas: Brush control of mesquite, catclaw, creosote and juniper; Riparian restoration along the Pecos River, the Delaware and Black Rivers; and wildlife habitat improvement as well.

In addition to the work performed with the BLM, Carlsbad SWCD works with other agencies toward the betterment of our environment. The District provided additional funding needed by Eastern New Mexico University to complete their second year studying the Western River Cooter turtle on the Delaware River.

Riparian Restoration
Riparian restoration is performed along the Pecos River, its local tributaries and playa lakes within the District. The Carlsbad BLM fire crews perform clean-up and burn the piles as time allows. Follow up chemical treatment of re-sprouts is performed by BLM hand crews during the winter. This year approximately 22 miles of the Pecos River were hand treated with herbicide on saltcedar and approximately 12 miles along the Delaware and Black Rivers were also treated. In addition to yearly...
maintenance on re-sprouts along the river, this year approximately 463 acres of saltcedar was extracted at Brantley Lake and in Red Bluff Draw.

**Brush Control**
Efforts were put forward to treat brush in several areas. This helps to remove unwanted brush and restore the landscape to its historically correct state of grasses and shrub populations. A joint effort between the Carlsbad SWCD, Carlsbad BLM, NM State Land Office, NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service) and the NMACD was put together in the treatment of 14,438 acres of creosote (greasewood), acacia (cat claw), and juniper in the fall of 2016. In addition, approximately 42,968 acres of mesquite were aerially treated in the spring of 2017.

### 2017 Funds Distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Information &amp; Education</td>
<td>$27,611</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Projects</td>
<td>$42,838</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetation/Brush Control</td>
<td>$64,747</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative</td>
<td>$30,038</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watershed Projects</td>
<td>$913,790</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Community Collaboration and Coordination

**Low-Flow Showerheads**
These are provided for the local Chamber of Commerce to put in their "Welcome to Carlsbad" bags, to the City of Carlsbad for Hazardous Waste Day and to individual households within the area. Please feel welcome to stop by the District office at any time to pick one up.

**Rain Gauges**
These are a popular item at the Eddy County Fair in July, area residents are sure to stop by our booth to pick up several rain gauges to replace the old ones. These are also available at our office.

**African Rue**
*Peganum harmala*
African Rue is one of the primary species that is targeted by the Eddy County CWMA. Rue is a toxic perennial that has invaded the county. It can be found along roads and in disturbed areas.

**Watershed Projects**

---

Eddy County Coordinated Weed Management Area

Conducted quarterly meetings and coordinated approximately 1413 acres in treatment (i.e., African rue, Malta Star thistle) as lead agency for the Eddy County CWMA; collaborated with various oil and gas companies and private companies within the county to assist them with noxious weed control.

Treatment this year included: African rue (694 acres) and Malta Star-thistle (719 acres) as the primary species of concern. Along with these, Goldenrod and Camelthorn are also on the treatment list. A major source of matching funds was provided by local oil and gas companies. These companies continue to be supportive of the Eddy County Coordinated Weed Management group and their activities.
Hackberry Draw Watershed District

District Staff assists Hackberry Draw Watershed District with administrative management and technical support on maintaining the flood control structures and drainage west of Carlsbad. These structures help to protect primarily the Happy Valley and Standpipe area from flash flood events. Maintenance includes the removal of woody vegetation to prevent the deterioration of the structures and eliminate a food source for burroing animals.

Vegetation Management

This project is a 50/50 cost share match of up to $5,000 from the District. The match can either be cash or in-kind labor. Matching funds of $64,747 were provided for 1,258 acres of brush and noxious weed treatment this past year.

Vegetation Management

CARC INC
GREENHOUSE PROJECT

This year the District continued a project with CARC, Inc. to install low water use irrigation systems in existing greenhouses. A new watering system will be installed with individual plant emitters. This will reduce water consumption as well as man hours used to water plants. Phase Two of the project is proposed for FY 2018.

Gopher Tail Bounty

The District’s Gopher Tail Bounty Program continues to be in full swing. The local newspaper as well as television stations all had features on our very unique program to help with water conservation. Approximately 6,271 tails for a total of $37,626 were collected in FY 2017. Bounty remains $6.00 per tail for gophers trapped within the Carlsbad SWCD district boundaries. The monthly turn in day is the first Monday of the month (the following Tuesday if Monday is a state/federal holiday.

CARC INC
GREENHOUSE PROJECT

This year the District continued a project with CARC, Inc. to install low water use irrigation systems in existing greenhouses. A new watering system will be installed with individual plant emitters. This will reduce water consumption as well as man hours used to water plants. Phase Two of the project is proposed for FY 2018.

Gopher Tail Bounty

The District’s Gopher Tail Bounty Program continues to be in full swing. The local newspaper as well as television stations all had features on our very unique program to help with water conservation. Approximately 6,271 tails for a total of $37,626 were collected in FY 2017. Bounty remains $6.00 per tail for gophers trapped within the Carlsbad SWCD district boundaries. The monthly turn in day is the first Monday of the month (the following Tuesday if Monday is a state/federal holiday.

Watershed Projects

BLM/NMACD
NM State Land Office
Administration

Brush Control
Noxious Weed Treatment
Carlsbad SWCD Local Funds
CARC Inc.
Gopher Tail Bounty Program
Vegetation Management
Noxious Weed Support from Eddy County and Oil & Gas
Every year the District makes education a top priority. We feel that learning about conservation early can make it a life-long practice for our citizens. Outreach to our community is key to promoting conservation both in our urban areas and with our rural neighbors. The District’s booth displayed at the following: Eddy County Fair; March for Parks and NM State Parks Earth Day. District staff is on hand at events to speak with participants about the various programs and projects the District is involved in and how they benefit the community.

Local School Support:
Provide Soil Stewardship materials and poster contest for elementary schools. A ream of paper is provided to each elementary school for the poster contest. Winners from the classes that participate are awarded custom T-Shirts.

The District sponsored Children’s Water Festival at the Pecos River Conference Center for all the District’s 3rd Grade students. Approximately 550 students from Carlsbad and Loving Schools participated. Presenters from agencies across southeast New Mexico gave demonstrations on topics from water conservation, ground water resources, job opportunities in conservation to wildlife and water use.

Rolling Rivers Trailer (hands on demonstration of watershed activities) provided at the following events:
◊ Carlsbad 5th grade students-Guadalupe Ranger District’s NM Environmental Science Education Week
◊ Local elementary schools/Science Night (at their request)
◊ New Mexico State Parks Earth Day
◊ Dora Schools STEM program students at Black River Center for Learning
◊ NM State Parks Living Desert Zoo Camp
◊ Artesia Public Schools 8th Grade Science classes
◊ Nana’s Fire and Safety School summer camp
◊ Demonstrations are tailored to the group requesting the talk. Topics from how rivers are formed, the effects of erosion on a waterway, to watershed restoration can be discussed in a hands on environment.

Staff participated in continuing education for:
★ NM Pesticide Applicators
★ Department of Finance Budget Workshop
★ Procurement Officer Certification
The Carlsbad SWCD operates for the benefit of the landowners, land users, the state, and the nation. We hereby outline our objectives to conserve and protect our natural resources.

1. Work with local landowners on improving rangelands through better management systems and practices.
2. Work on priority water conservation projects for improved irrigation systems and for preserving agriculture lands from urban sprawl by working through local leaders (Eddy County Commissioners and City Council Members).
3. Continue involvement of schools and youth organizations through conservation education programs.
4. Reduce erosion to acceptable rates in areas of critical concern and importance.
5. Continue efforts to restore healthy conditions in the Pecos River watershed through grants, legislative funding, and education.
6. Work with local landowners to accomplish proper irrigation water management.
7. Serve in an advisory capacity with community and landowner groups in installing needed drainage projects through upstream land treatments to reduce flood damages.
8. Encourage development companies (mining, gas and oil, etc.) to use conservation practices that will protect surrounding lands and maintain the integrity of the development sites.
9. Work with federal, state, county, and local agencies and landowners in the controlling of noxious and invasive species.
10. Continue utilizing our partnerships with supporting agencies to benefit the district and focus on new projects.
11. Continue the support and involvement of local, federal, and state legislative representatives on concerns and projects within the district.

Function of the District
To utilize available technical, financial and educational resources and focus or coordinate them to meet the needs of all those who benefit from the local soil, water, and related natural resources.

SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Information Assistance On
- Certified compost facility operator
- Xeric planning and irrigation use
- Licensed public pesticide applicators
- Vegetation identification
- Small scale terrain management
- Subdivision reviews

Equipment
- Poinjar – posthole digger
- Solo backpack sprayer – pellets and granules
- Well depth measure – measure water well depths
- Camel pitter seeder - disc revegetation

Gopher Tail Bounty
- First Monday of month is turn in day

Low-Flow Showerheads
- One per household

Water Testing
- Irrigation wells, surface water, and Carlsbad Irrigation District irrigation water

Cost-Share Program for Brush Control

Provides funds for a Cost-Share Vegetation Management program. The funds are limited to a 50/50 cost share match, up to $5,000 per individual.
The Carlsbad Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) presents this newspaper release to inform those interested in our efforts to conserve our natural resources and improve our community for all to enjoy. The Carlsbad SWCD holds their monthly board meetings on the 2nd Monday evening of each month in the conference room at the district building located at 3219 S. Canal. The public is welcome to attend these meetings.