

New Mexico

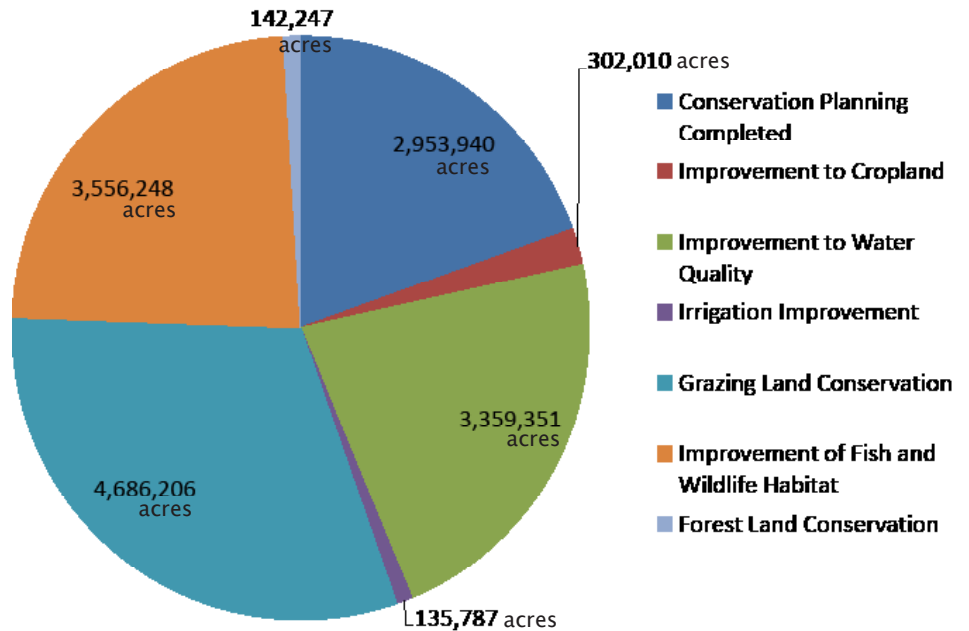
ANNUAL REPORT - 2012



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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

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program that provides technical and financial assistance to agricultural producers through contract agreements that can be up to ten years in length. These contracts provide financial assistance to help plan and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns on private agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland.

Congressional District	Contracts	Contracted Acres	Obligation Amount
1	26	76,585	\$852,939
2	238	2,060,203	\$12,683,425
3	263	469,095	\$8,477,712
Total	527	2,605,883	\$22,014,076



Organic Vegetable Farm in Nambe

Lesser Prairie Chicken

EQIP Initiative	Contracts	Obligations	Payments	Contract Acres
	8	\$1,105,951	\$14,067	78,150

Certified Organic

EQIP Initiative	Contracts	Obligations	Payments	Contract Acres
	2	\$30,350	\$0	1,694

Seasonal High Tunnel-Hoop Houses

EQIP Initiative	Contracts	Obligations	Payments	Contract Acres
	20	\$110,259	\$17,057	91

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

CSP is a voluntary conservation program that provides incentives to agricultural producers to maintain, enhance, and manage existing conservation practices. CSP is available on Tribal and private agricultural lands and non-industrial private forest land. The program provides equitable access to all producers, regardless of operation size, crops produced or geographic location.

Congressional District	Contracts	Contracted Acres	Obligation Amount
1	7	59,069	\$139,800
2	77	774,112	\$3,418,864
3	38	256,821	\$831,389
Total	122	1,090,002	\$4,390,053



Cement water trough

Estimated Range of Annual Payments		
	Cropland	\$12 to \$22 per acre
	Non Industrial Private Forest Land	\$6 to \$12 per acre
	Pastureland	\$7 to \$14 per acre
	Rangeland	\$5 to \$10 per acre

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

S O I L S

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

