

Report to New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation Districts

*New Mexico Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Programs and Resources
Division*

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<http://www.nmda.nmsu.edu/apr/soil-and-water-conservation-districts/>

September 2017

September 1	Annual report of activities for the past fiscal year due to SWCC, SWCC region commissioner, and NMDA Specialist
October 30	1 st quarterly budget report due to DFA-LGD (cc: to SWCC, SWCC region commissioner, and NMDA Specialist)
October 31	Water Quality and Conservation Grant 1 st quarterly report and budget due to the SWCC and NMDA Specialist
OMA Notification Requirements	
Remember that if you have to hold a district board meeting at a place, time or location that deviates from the information you advertised in your open meetings act resolution, you must advertise it accordingly. Here are the guidelines:	
Regular Meeting – 10 Days Prior	
Special Meeting – 3 Days Prior	
Emergency Meeting – 24 Hours Prior	

1. Planning a Referendum?

Districts wishing to hold referendums need to obtain approval of the SWCC with sufficient lead time for county clerks to be notified in a timely manner. Referendums require that county clerks be notified at least 120 days prior to the referendum. Boundary modification actions may also require petitions signed by landowners or registered voters prior to SWCC approval.

SWCDs preparing for a referendum in spring of 2018 should obtain any required petitions, pass a resolution of the board, and submit the documentation to the SWCC for approval in the fall of 2017.

2. NMCCD Annual Meeting

The NM Coalition of Conservation Districts will hold this year's annual meeting on October 10 at the Bodega Burger restaurant in Socorro, NM. Lunch will be provided.

Each member district is invited to give a short verbal or written update of their activities over the past year; likewise our partner agencies and organizations. In addition to several agenda items pertaining to SWCD operations and roles, elections for board positions will be held. More details will be forthcoming when the agenda is finalized.

Please submit any items of business for the board's consideration or action as soon as possible.

Please forward this information to board supervisors and discuss during board meetings this month. RSVP by email to info@nmccd.org with a number of attendees from your district, agency or organization.

3. NMACD Annual Meeting

NMACD has booked the Sage Brush Inn and Conference Center in Taos, NM for their Annual meeting from October 24-25, 2017. NMACD Board meeting and Resolutions Committee meeting will be held on October 23rd. The agenda and registration information is attached.

4. FY18 Point System Worksheet Available

The new 2018 Point System Worksheet is now available on the NMDA website: <http://www.nmda.nmsu.edu/apr/soil-and-water-conservation-districts/references-and-resources-for-swcd-supervisors-staff/> . If you have any questions, please contact your NMDA Specialist.

NMDA would like to remind all SWCDs that copies of the district's budget and quarterly reports must to be sent to the SWCC email at swcc@nmda.nmsu.edu, to receive full funding from the new Point System Worksheet. You can also cc your Specialist and SWCC Region Commissioner. If the SWCC does not have record of these documents when the FY18 Point System Worksheets are scored, your Specialist will not be able to award points for that item.

5. Soil and Water Conservation District Operations Funding

Each year the legislature provides appropriations for soil and water conservation district operations. The appropriation available for distribution this year is \$629,410.00. Due to recent budget cuts and revenue forecasts, NMDA will withhold from disbursement ten percent of the funds, approximately \$62,941.00, herein until after the 2018 regular legislative session. These funds are general appropriations which are subject to budget reduction.

The funding allocation is determined annually by a point system under which districts, depending on how active they are, receive a certain dollar amount per point earned. The first

SWCD operations checks have been sent. If there are questions regarding the district's funding amount or if the district has not yet received their operation check, please contact your NMDA Specialist.

6. WUI Grant Program

The NM Forestry Division is seeking applications for planning and implementation of hazardous fuels mitigation projects that will reduce fire threat in Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas. The announcement and additional information are available for download at nmforestry.com under the link: <http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SFD/RFPs/RFPMain.html> . Applications are due no later than **September 5th at 4:30 pm MDT**.

Please share with the 47 SWCDs and encourage them to work with their District Forester to develop a competitive proposal. To view a map showing the boundaries and contact information for each State Forestry District Office visit: <http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SFD/contact.html> .

7. SWCD Boundary Description Project

NMDA would like to remind SWCDs to please review the materials that were sent to individual SWCDs in regards to the Mapping Project.

If you have received approval from the SWCC, you will need to file the materials with the Secretary of State's Office. Please notify the SWCC (swcc@nmda.nmsu.edu) and your NMDA Specialist when this is done.

If you have received the draft legal description and maps from NMDA, NMDA is waiting for the Board's approval. Please email the SWCC and your NMDA Specialist the signed resolution once the board approves the updated legal description and map. This must be done by the Board's September meeting so that it is on the SWCC's agenda for their next meeting in October.

Whatever stage your SWCD is at in this process, please try to complete the requested information from NMDA as quickly as possible. NMDA is trying to get everything finalized no later than the end of September. If you have questions regarding where your description is in the process, please contact your NMDA Specialist.

8. RFP Training

The RFP training is an intensive, "hands-on" exercise based class designed to teach students how to manage a RFP based procurement from inception to completion of the protest period. This class is detailed in nature and DOES address specific day-to-day operating procedures necessary to manage a RFP based procurement to a successful completion. Following a RFP based procurement roughly chronologically, the class includes developing the initial requirements, developing the RFP document itself (with specific focus on the requirements and evaluation criteria), issuing the RFP, managing proposals received, evaluating proposals

received, selecting finalists and the “Best and Final Offer” process, awarding the contract(s), managing the protest process and properly documenting everything to comply with all legal and practical requirements. The next three day class is from: September 19-21 and November 7-9.

For more information, please contact Susan Inman at (505) 827-0294 or susan.inman@state.nm.us. The online registration and training schedule is available at: <http://www.generalservices.state.nm.us/statepurchasing/trainingregistration.aspx> .

9. CWMA Grant Opportunity

Pre-Proposal Due Date: **Wednesday, July 12 by 11:59 PM Eastern Time**

Full Proposal Due Date: **Tuesday, September 19 by 11:59 PM Eastern Time**

The Pulling Together Initiative program is inviting applications for competitive grant funding to promote the conservation of natural habitats by preventing, managing or eradicating invasive and noxious plant species. In 2017, the program will award grants to develop or advance Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs) and Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMAs).

Approximately \$850,000 is expected to be available for grant awards in 2017. The program is a partnership between the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Forest Service.

For more information, please see visit: <http://www.nfwf.org/pti/Pages/2017rfp.aspx> .

10. Sunshine Law (OMA & IPRA) Trainings

The Office of New Mexico Attorney General is conducting educational workshops on the "Sunshine Laws" (OMA & IPRA) throughout the state.

The purpose of the workshops are to educate and assist New Mexicans regarding the importance of transparency and compliance as well as the rights of the public under New Mexico's Sunshine Laws, the Open Meetings Act and Inspection of Public Records Act. These events are open to interested members of state and local governments, school boards, commissions, and the general public.

Though the trainings are offered at NO CHARGE, we do ask that you RSVP to Patricia Salazar at roadshows@nmag.gov or by telephone at (505) 490-4863.

The training dates are below. For location information, check at <http://www.nmag.gov/oma-and-ipra-nm-sunshine-laws.aspx> to see if a location has been updated. You can also call (505) 490-4863 to request more information.

City	Date	Time	Location
Carlsbad	Wednesday, September 13, 2017	9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Carlsbad City Hall Meeting Room #201 101 N. Halagueno St. Carlsbad, NM 88220
Albuquerque	Thursday, October 19, 2017	9:00 am - 12:00 pm	TBA
Tierra Amarilla	Thursday, November 16, 2017	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	TBA
Santa Fe	Thursday, December 14, 2017	9:00 am - 12:00 pm	TBA

11. Meetings and Comments on National Forests in NM

All five of the National Forests in New Mexico are in various stages of completing their Forest Plan Revisions. For updates, please visit the National Forests' websites below for meeting times and comment opportunities.

- Cibola NF: http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/cibola/landmanagement/planning/?cid=FSBDEV3_065627
- Carson NF: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/carson/landmanagement/planning/?cid=stelprdb5443166>
- Santa Fe NF: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/santafe/landmanagement/planning/?cid=stelprd3791442>
- Gila NF: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/gila/home/?cid=STELPRD3828671>
- Lincoln NF: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/lincoln/home/?cid=stelprd3814307>

NMDA encourages all SWCDs to stay active in the Forest Plan Revision process for all five national forests. We also encourage SWCDs to provide information as requested to make sure that SWCD information is included in the process.

12. New Mexico State Forestry Conservation Seedling Program

Orders for the Fall 2017 Conservation Seedling Sale will be taken starting July 10, 2017. Distribution will be September 12, 2017 through October 13, 2017.

For more than forty years, the Division has offered low-cost seedlings to landowners to plant for reforestation, erosion control, windbreaks, or Christmas tree plantations. Since 1960, more than four million trees have been planted throughout New Mexico that were purchased through this program.

The Forestry Division offers over sixty different species for sale over the course of the fall and spring sales. These seedlings are sold in small containers, large containers, and bare root. Please note all containerized species are offered in the fall and bare root species and any remaining containerized species are offered in the spring. It has been shown that fall is a highly successful time to plant containerized seedlings. Plants have time to establish roots over the winter while dormant before putting on top growth in the spring and as an added

bonus the weather is better for planting! Select your shipping or pickup date so that you can plant your seedlings five to six weeks before your area of the state starts having hard freeze days. For questions about prices and minimum order size, refer to ordering information by visiting: <http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SFD/treepublic/ConservationSeedlings.html> .

13. New Mexico State Fairs

NM State Fair

Date: September 7-17, 2017

Location: 6613 Central Ave NE Expo New Mexico (formerly the New Mexico State Fairgrounds)

Contact: (505)-222-9700

Southern New Mexico State Fair & Rodeo

Date: September 27-October 1, 2017

Location: Southern New Mexico State Fairgrounds.

Contact: (575) 524-8602

Eastern New Mexico State Fair

Date: October 2-7, 2017

Location: 2500 SE Main St Roswell, NM 88203

Contact: (575) 623-9411

14. NACD Southwest and Pacific Regions Meeting and 2018 Annual Meeting

The Southwest/Pacific joint region meeting will be held September 11 – 14 in Tucson, Arizona, in conjunction with the Arizona Association of Conservation Districts' annual meeting. Pre-registration is \$225, which includes all conference meetings, trainings, materials and meals, registration after September 1st is \$275. For more information and to view the agenda visit: <http://www.aacd1944.com/meetings/> . You can also contact the Arizona Association of Conservation Districts at contact@aacd1944.com or by phone (480) 452-6895.

The meeting will be held at Tucson University Park Hotel, 880 E 2nd St., Tucson, AZ, 85719. For more information or to make reservations call (520) 792-4100 or visit: <http://www.tucsonuniversityhotel.com/> .

15. NM Rapid Assessment Method Training for Playa Wetlands

You are invited to sign up for New Mexico Rapid Assessment Method Training for Playa Wetlands. This training will be conducted in Clovis New Mexico on September 27 through September 29, 2017. The training will take place at the Clovis Library with field time at local playas. There is no cost to attend. Please contact Elizabeth Milford (emilford2@gmail.com) if you are interested in attending. We will send out the training agenda soon.

We are also conducting our “*Second Wetlands Across Borders Meeting – Playas of the Southern High Plains*” at the Clovis Community College, in Clovis, New Mexico starting

Tuesday October 31 through November 3, 2017. The meeting will consist of one and one half days of presentations and panel discussions about playa ecology, conservation, restoration and other important topics about playas. The meeting will be followed by three track options – *New Mexico Rapid Assessment Method Training for Playa Wetlands, a Playas and Roads workshop, or a half-day field trip to look at local playas*. We will be sending out more information, a draft agenda, and an invitation to sign up for the meeting and the track options soon. If you would like to be a presenter or bring a poster to the event, please let Elizabeth Milford know as the agenda will fill up fast. There is no cost to attend but for planning purposes and limited seating for the track options, you will have to register on-line through Evite as soon as we have it available. Note that Wetlands Across Borders Meetings are for participants from neighboring states as well as New Mexico. We will be reaching out to Texas, Oklahoma, and Colorado as well. If you know of anyone interested in playas, please pass on this information.

16. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Office in Albuquerque Relocated

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service State Conservationist, J. Xavier Montoya, announced that the agency is moving from its current location of 6200 Jefferson St. NE to **100 Sun Avenue, NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109**. All phone numbers and emails will remain the same. The NRCS State Office, North Area and Field Office, Farm Service Agency, Rural Development, and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service-Veterinary Services (APHIS-VS) will be moved to the new location.

17. Tri-National Agricultural Accord

The Colorado Department of Agriculture and the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) are honored to co-host the 26th Tri-National Accord in Denver, Colorado from October 17-19, 2017. This annual meeting of the chief state and provincial agricultural officials of Canada, the United States, and Mexico is a unique opportunity to discuss and collaborate on a host of agriculture, trade, and development issues that impact the farmers, ranchers and rural communities across North America.

For more information, go to <http://www.cvent.com/events/2017-tri-national-agricultural-accord-meeting/event-summary-41bd0e5221164c098b0f644a75019bc3.aspx> .

18. Listening Session for Farmers and Ranchers to Share Ideas with Top NM Agricultural Officials

Farmers and ranchers in New Mexico shared their ideas and concerns with top New Mexico agricultural officials during two out of the three listening sessions. The third listening session will be in the Dona Ana County administration building on Motel Drive in Las Cruces on November 2nd.

Some of the topics that were discussed at the previous listening sessions included: the public's perception of agriculture, the national Farm Bill, agricultural resources for middle

school students, genetically modified organisms, and the status of the college's Agricultural Experiment Station, which leads the research activity for the college. For more information, please go to: <http://newscenter.nmsu.edu/Articles/view/12437/nmda-nmsu-college-of-aces-leaders-look-for-input-from-agricultural-producers> .

19. Request for Applications for Invasive Plant Management in Forested Areas

The New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, Forestry Division is seeking applications to address management of invasive plants on state, private, and public non-federal lands from Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs) where noxious weeds threaten forested acres. Eligible applicants are non-federal governmental entities involved with a CWMA, including tribes and pueblos (as long as other federal money is not involved). Successful applicants shall be required to provide 50% matching funds.

This Request for Application's (RFA) primary goal is to increase local capacity to manage and prevent invasions of noxious weeds in forested areas. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (Forest Service) has provided these funds specifically to address areas where invasive plants threaten forested acres. Projects must emphasize prevention and treatment of invasive plants. Projects that do not specifically target invasive plants threatening forested areas are not eligible for this funding. Locally-driven CWMAs have been shown to be the best vehicles for implementing weed management programs. Therefore, this program emphasizes the use of existing CWMAs or the creation of new CWMAs.

Applications are available on the Forestry Division website, <http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SFD/RFPs/RFPMain.html> , under the "Grants/RFPs" tab.

Questions regarding this RFA shall be addressed to:

Shannon Atencio,

Timber Management Officer/New Mexico Invasive Plants Program Manager

EMNRD, Forestry Division/Las Vegas District

HC 33 Box 109-4

Las Vegas, New Mexico 87701

Telephone: (505) 425-7472

Applicants must submit one original completed, signed application packet and five identical hard copies to Mrs. Atencio or her designee at the address above, no later than 4 p.m., MDT, Friday October 27, 2017. Mailed documents must be physically received at EMNRD by this date and time. EMNRD shall make absolutely no exceptions for applications not received at the above location by the appointed time. Applications MAY NOT be sent by facsimile or e-mail.

20. New Mexico Vegetation Management Association Conference

This year's conference is titled "Weed Smack Down 2017." The conference will be hosted at the Route 66 Casino Hotel, 14500 Central Ave., Albuquerque, NM 87121, (866) 711-7829. The conference will begin at 12:00 pm on Wednesday, November 15 and conclude on Thursday, November 16 at 3:00 pm. Due to construction issues at Route 66 Hotel Casino this year, the conference will be in the Bingo Hall, on the other side of the casino from the conference rooms.

This year's topics include plant identification, insect control, herbicide resistance, aquatics, integrated pest management, brush control, roadside vegetations, aerial treatments, NMDA pesticide regulation update, and surfactants/adjuvants. The agenda and registration packet is attached.