



United States Department of Agriculture



New Mexico State Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

9/18/2025

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center



Agenda

**Welcome/Introductions- Kenneth
State Conservationist- Xavier Montoya
Programs- NRCS Programs Staff**

- 1. Intro to State Technical Advisory Committee/FY 26 Vison- Kenneth**
- 2. Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)- Maggie Gnann**
- 3. Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)- Martin Meairs**
- 4. Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)- Dusty Glidewell**
- 5. Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) and
Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)- Athena Cholas**
- 6. Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)- David Griego**

Resource Technology - Art Ariaz and RTS Staff

- Payment Schedule (Shade Balls)- Jim Armendariz**
- Biology Update- Nick Goodman**

Engineering - Elias Gnann

- Watersheds Programs Update- Merceidez Fabok**

Partner Updates

- Farm Service Agency- Zach Riley/Joilynn Gray**
- Other Partners**

Questions

Responsibilities of the State Technical Advisory Committee

- Provide information, analysis, recommendations to USDA on conservation priorities and criteria for natural resources conservation activities and programs, including application and funding
- Identify emerging natural resource concerns and program needs
- Recommend conservation practice standards and specifications
- Recommend State and national program policy based on resource data

Responsibilities (Cont)

- Review activities of the local working groups to ensure State priorities are being addressed locally
- Make recommendations to the State Conservationist on requests and recommendations from local working groups
- Assist NRCS with public outreach and information efforts and identify educational and producers' training needs

Recommendations Due October 3, 2025



United States Department of Agriculture

FY 26 Program Delivery

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

2026 Programs Vision

- Improving Customer Service to Farmers
 - Reduce program complexity
 - Producer focused and Producer drive strategy
- Restore Program Identify
 - Bring Clarity to Customers
 - Improve Application Management- Reduce Complexity
 - Effective Contract Management
 - EQIP: Focuses on helping farmers address natural resource concerns
 - CSP – Focuses on enhancing a producer's operation to a higher level of stewardship

2026 Programs Vision

- Streamlining Contract Types
 - Consolidated CSP signups
 - Eliminating EQIP/Combining EQIP CIC
 - Removing Unnecessary EQIP contract types
- Simplifying Program Payments
 - CSP existing activity payments (EAP)- \$4,000
 - CSP to use FOTG practice codes
 - Removing complex enhancement codes while maintaining concept of enhancing
 - Overall streamlining of payment schedules

2026 Programs Vision

- Improved Application Management
 - Streamline ranking process for planners
 - Change Advance Payment questions on NRCS CPA 1200- Application
 - CSP Field Verification flexibilities
 - Not continually deferring applications for unresponsive applicants
 - Eliminating nationally required CSP resource concern categories
 - Improving communications by using email correspondence
- Improved Contract Management
 - Reducing Contract Modifications
 - Simplifying Contract Management

Updated Program Deadlines

Program/Initiative	Application Deadline	Ranking	80% Obligation
EQIP Classic**	October 17, 2025	February 27, 2026	May 29, 2026
CSP Classic	October 17, 2025	February 13, 2026	May 29, 2026
2025 CSP Renewals	June 20, 2025*	Combined with CSP Classic	Combined with CSP Classic
CSP- GCI-1	TBA*	TBA*	TBA*
ACEP	October 17, 2025	December 19, 2026	TBA*
CIG	TBA		

Deadlines are subject to change. Second Sign ups may be announced if needed

* NHQ Established Deadline

** ACTNow will be used in the following fund pool categories: NWQI, WaterSMART, Source Water, Organic, Energy and CPA/DIA/CEMA



United States Department of Agriculture

Questions?

Email recommendations to
Kenneth.branch@usda.gov
david.griego@usda.gov
dusty.glidewell@usda.gov
athena.cholas@usda.gov
martin.meairs@usda.gov
maggie.gnann@usda.gov

Due date October 3, 2025



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Overview

- EQIP provides technical and financial assistance to agricultural producers and forest landowners to address natural resource concerns, such as:
 - Improved water and air quality
 - Conserved ground and surface water
 - Increased soil health
 - Reduced soil erosion and sedimentation
 - Improved or created wildlife habitat
 - Mitigation against drought and increasing weather volatility.
 - SWAPA+E (Soil, Water, Air, Plants, Animals, Energy)
- NRCS works one-on-one with producers to develop a conservation plan that outlines conservation practices and activities to help solve on-farm resource issues.
- EQIP is a voluntary program, and the intention of the program is to help producers make conservation work for them.

FY2025- EQIP Wrap Up

- New Mexico was allocated \$23,880,145 through EQIP General
- 158 contracts have been obligated, for a total of \$23,531,883.24.
- 98% of funds utilized.
 - Remaining funds of \$348,262.76 were intentionally set aside in reserve for modifications.

FY2025- EQIP Wrap Up

Closeout of WaterSMART Initiatives:

- Bloomfield Irrigation District (Team 1)
- Arch Hurley Conservancy District (Team 6)
- Carlsbad Irrigation District (Team 10)
- Elephant Butte Irrigation District (Team 9)
- Guadalupe Soil and Water Conservation District (Team 5)
- Middle Rio Grande Conservation District. (Team 8)

- Leaving two active initiatives:
 - Fort Sumner Irrigation District (Team 5)- FY26 will be the final year.
 - The Pueblo of Zia (Team 2)- FY2030 will be the final year.

Updates for FY2026

- FY26 EQIP General Application Deadline: October 17, 2025.
 - Applications are accepted on a continuous basis if the October deadline is missed. Late applications will be processed in the next batching cycle.
- Around 950 EQIP applications will be deferred to FY2026.
 - National is updating the deferral letter. Once the letter is released and we roll over to the new fiscal year (October 1, 2025), the letters will be mailed notifying applicants of their options.

Updates for FY2026

■ National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI)

- NWQI was established in FY2012 as an initiative delivered jointly with state quality agencies and the Environmental Protection Agency to address agricultural sources of water pollution (nutrients, sediment, and pathogens) in priority watersheds
- FY26 will be the same watersheds as FY25.
- Animas River (Implementation Phase- Meaning FA funds provided to obligate contracts)
 - Flora Vista - 140801041005
 - Estes Arroyo- 140801041004
 - Tucker Canyon- 140801041003
- Rio Grande (Planning Phase- Meaning a watershed plan needs to be developed with TA funds.)
 - Alameda Arroyo- 130301020608
 - Anthony Wash- 130301020803

NWQI Map



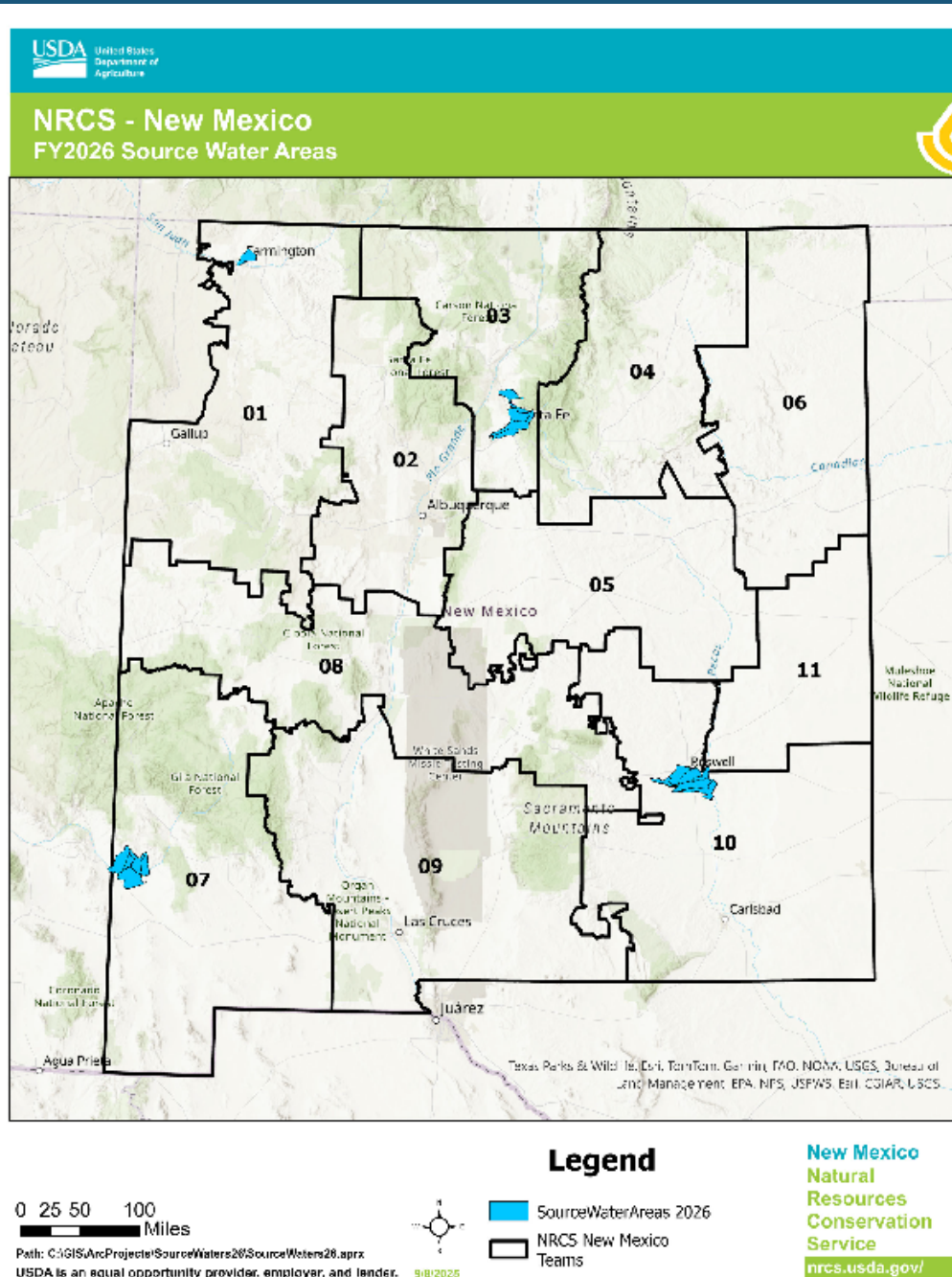
Updates for FY2026

■ Source Water Areas:

- Source Water Protection is focused on protecting sources of drinking water by identifying practices that have a significant water quality or water quantity benefit and implementing those practices in high priority areas.
- FY26 will focus on four different areas located in Team 1, 3, 7, and 10.
 - Change from FY25. The four areas were in Team 3, 6, 9, and 11. The location within Team 3 stayed the same.
- **Team 1:** City of Farmington- Animas River- 140801041006
- **Team 3:** Rio Chupadero-Pojoaque Creek- 130201011204; Headwaters Rio Tesuque- 130201011202; Headwaters Santa Fe River- 130202010102; Arroyo de los Chamisos- 130202010103
- **Team 7:** Moore Canyon- Gila Wash: 15040020709; Riley Canyon- 150400020701; Seep Spring Draw- Blue Creek- 150400020503; Cottonwood Canyon-Gila River- 150400070702; Elliot Canyon- Gila River- 15040020608
- **Team 10:** North Spring River- 130600080704; South Spring River- Rio Hondo- 130600080705; Chain Lakes- Pecos River- 130600070503; Town of Midway- Pecos River- 130600070504; Dimmitt Lake- Pecos River- 130600070507

Updates for FY2026

■ Source Water Areas:



Updates for FY2026

■ Source Water Practices:

- 313- Waste Storage Facility
- 316- Animal Mortality
- 317- Composting Facility
- 329- Residue and Tillage Management, No Till
- 340- Cover Crop
- 359- Waste Treatment Lagoon
- 360- Water Facility Closure
- 362- Diversion
- 366- Anaerobic Digester
- 367- Roofs and Covers
- 386- Field Border
- 391- Riparian Forest Buffer
- 393- Filter Strip
- 395- Stream Habitat Improvement and Management
- 410- Grade Stabilization Structure
- 422- Hedgerow Planting
- 449- Irrigation Water Management.

- 511- Forage Harvest Management
- 528- Prescribed Grazing
- 590- Nutrient Management
- 595- Pest Management Conservation System
- 620- Underground outlet
- 629- Waste Treatment
- 632- Waste Separation Facility
- 633- Waste Recycling
- 634- Waste Transfer
- 635- Vegetated Treatment Area.
- 384- Woody Residue Treatment
- 412- Grassed Waterway
- 550- Range Planting
- 643- Restoration of Range Planting
- 666- Forest Stand Improvement.

*Cost Scenarios are being evaluated and minimized. Depending on what happens, states might not have the option to change these practices for FY26. Looking for State Technical Committee recommendations.

Updates for FY2026

■ High Priority Practices:

- High Priority Practices are eligible for increased payments for conservation practices that:
 - Are underutilized.
 - Address specific causes of ground or surface water impairment related to excessive nutrients.
 - Address the conservation of water and declining aquifers and mitigate drought.
 - Meet other environmental priorities and priority resource concerns identified in habitat or other area restoration plans.
- High Priority Practices can overlap with the Source Water practices, but for High Priority Practices we are limited to 10. High Priority Practices can be used across the state, where Source Water Practices can only be used within the specified watersheds.

Updates for FY2026

■ High Priority Practices:

- 329-Residue and Tillage Management, No Till
 - 338-Prescribed Buring
 - 340-Cover Crop
 - 345-Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till
 - 362-Diversion
 - 410-Grade Stabilization Structure
 - 420-Wildlife Habitat Planting
 - 590-Nutrient Management
 - 645-Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
 - 64- Structures for Wildlife.
-
- Cost Scenarios are being evaluated and minimized. Depending on what happens, states might not have the option to change these practices for FY26. Looking for State Technical Committee recommendations.

Updates for FY2026

Wildlife Habitat:

- The 2018 Farm Bill requires that 10 percent of available financial assistance funds be targeted towards wildlife-related conservation practices.
 - The wildlife calculation includes the following 18 conservation practices:

•327- Conservation Cover			
•390- Riparian Herbaceous Cover			
•391- Riparian Forest Buffer			
•395- Stream Habitat Improvement and Management			
•396- Aquatic Organism Passage			
•420- Wildlife Habitat Planting			
•422- Hedgerow Planting			
•472- Access Control			
•580- Streambank and Shoreline Protection			

•643- Restoration of Rare or Declining Natural Communities			
•644- Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management			
•645- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management			
•646- Shallow Water Development			
•647- Early Successional Habitat Development			
•649- Structures for Wildlife			
•657- Wetland Restoration			
•658- Wetland Creation			
•659- Wetland Enhancement			

- Looking for State Technical Committee recommendations on if changes are needed to our core wildlife practice list.
 - Consider wildlife habitat, wetland wildlife habitat, habitat for threatened and endangered species, fish habitat, habitat on pivot corners and other irregular areas of a field.



Contact Information:

Maggie Gnann- New Mexico EQIP Program Manager

Email: Maggie.Gnann@usda.gov

Office Phone Number: 505-761-4452

Cell Phone Number: 505-718-2046

Non-Discrimination Statement

- In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.
- Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.
- To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.
- USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



United States Department of Agriculture

Conservation Stewardship Program

STC Meeting 9/17/2025

Martin Meairs
Martin.Meairs@usda.gov



Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/



Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

- The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) offers technical and financial assistance to help agricultural and forest producers take their conservation efforts to the next level.
- 5 year contracts with yearly payments
- Minimum Payments for FY26 CSP Classic are \$4,000 per year



FY26 CSP



Changes are coming from a National Level for FY26.

- **The goal of the changes are to streamline the process of applications and to reduce workload on Field Office staff. Expect to see a more neutral planning process between EQIP and CSP going forward, this means a reduction of enhancements and a more geared approach towards base practices for FY26.**
- **National is updating policy, national instructions/bulletins, factsheets, talking points, etc.**



CSP Ranking Pools for FY26



- Agland (range, crop and pasture)
 - Beginning Farmer/Rancher
 - Socially Disadvantaged Farmer/Rancher
- Non-Industrial Private Forestland (NIPF)
 - Beginning Farmer/Rancher
 - Socially Disadvantaged Farmer/Rancher

At Minimum 5% of funds required to be allotted to SD and BFR Applicants





FY 25 Classic CSP

- Total Applications Received - 150
- Funded – 47
- Beginning Farmer Rancher (BFR) - 6
- Socially Disadvantaged (SD) – 20



FY25 CSP Allocated Dollars



Classic CSP Allocation - \$7,570,893

- Agland General - \$4,384,877 – 25 Contracts
- Agland BFR – \$450,224 – 3 Contracts
 - Additional BFR Funded in Agland General- \$447,839 – 5 Applications Selected
- Agland SD – \$206,223 – 12 Applications Selected
 - Additional SD Funded in Agland General - \$499,621 – 3 Applications Selected
- NIPF General - \$311,107 – 4 Applications Selected
- NIPF SD - \$362,448 – 3 Contract Funded
 - Additional SD Funded in NIPF General - \$41,135 – 2 Applications Selected



FY25 CSP Renewal Contracts

FY25 CSP Renewal Obligations

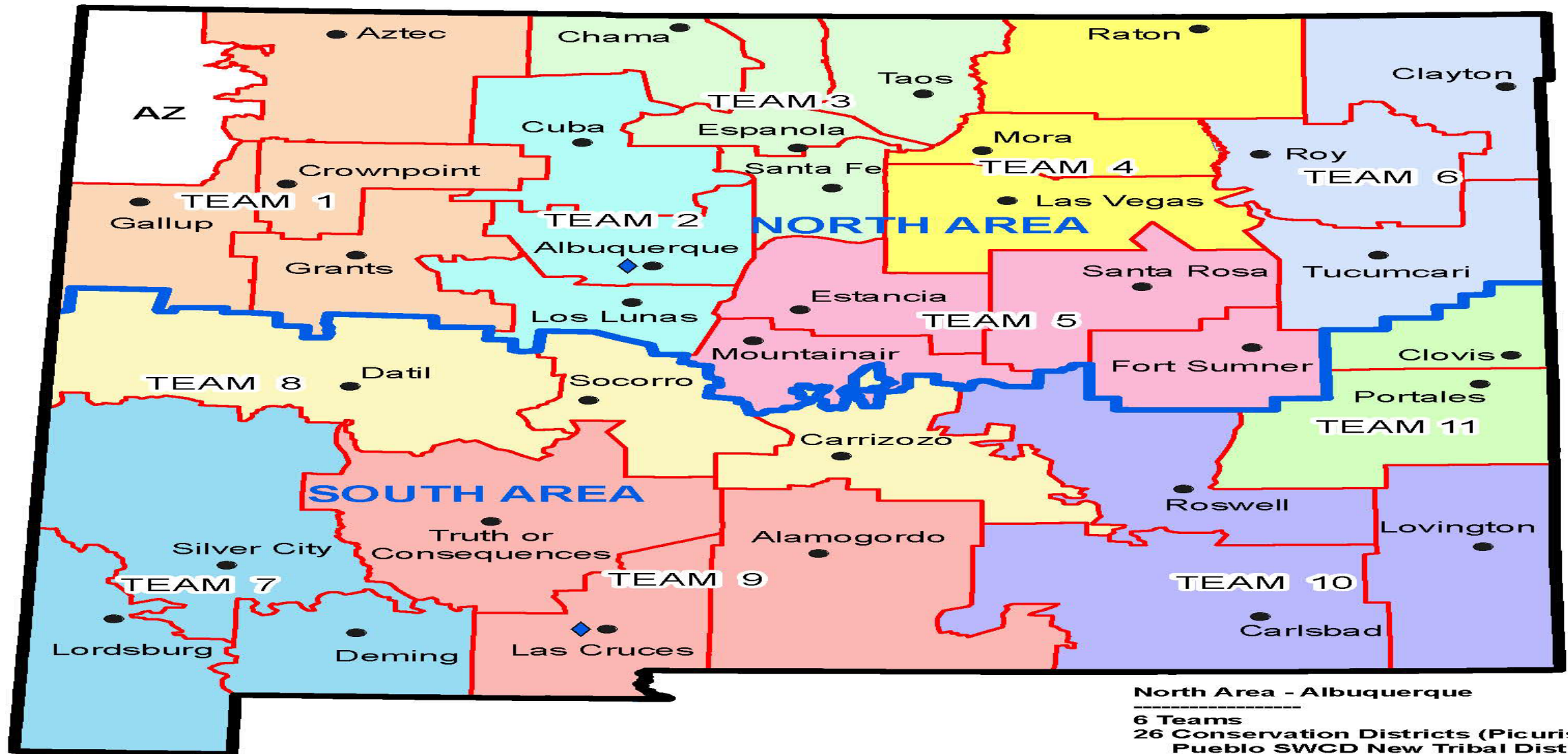
- Total Funds Spent - \$3,674,851 – 15 Contracts
- Agland General - \$2,220,762 – 6 Contracts
- Agland SD – \$1,206,309 – 7 Contracts
- Agland BFR - \$247,780 – 2 Contracts

FY25 IRA-CSP Renewal Obligations

- Total Funds Spent - \$3,883,836 – 15 Contracts
- Agland General - \$1,391,457 – 8 Contracts
- Agland SD – \$2,292,379 – 6 Contracts
- Agland BFR - \$200,000 – 1 Contracts



NRCS - New Mexico Administrative Areas



North Area - Albuquerque

6 Teams

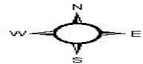
26 Conservation Districts (Picuris
Pueblo SWCD New Tribal District)
23 Nations, Tribes, and Pueblos

South Area - Las Cruces

5 Teams

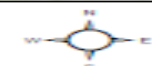
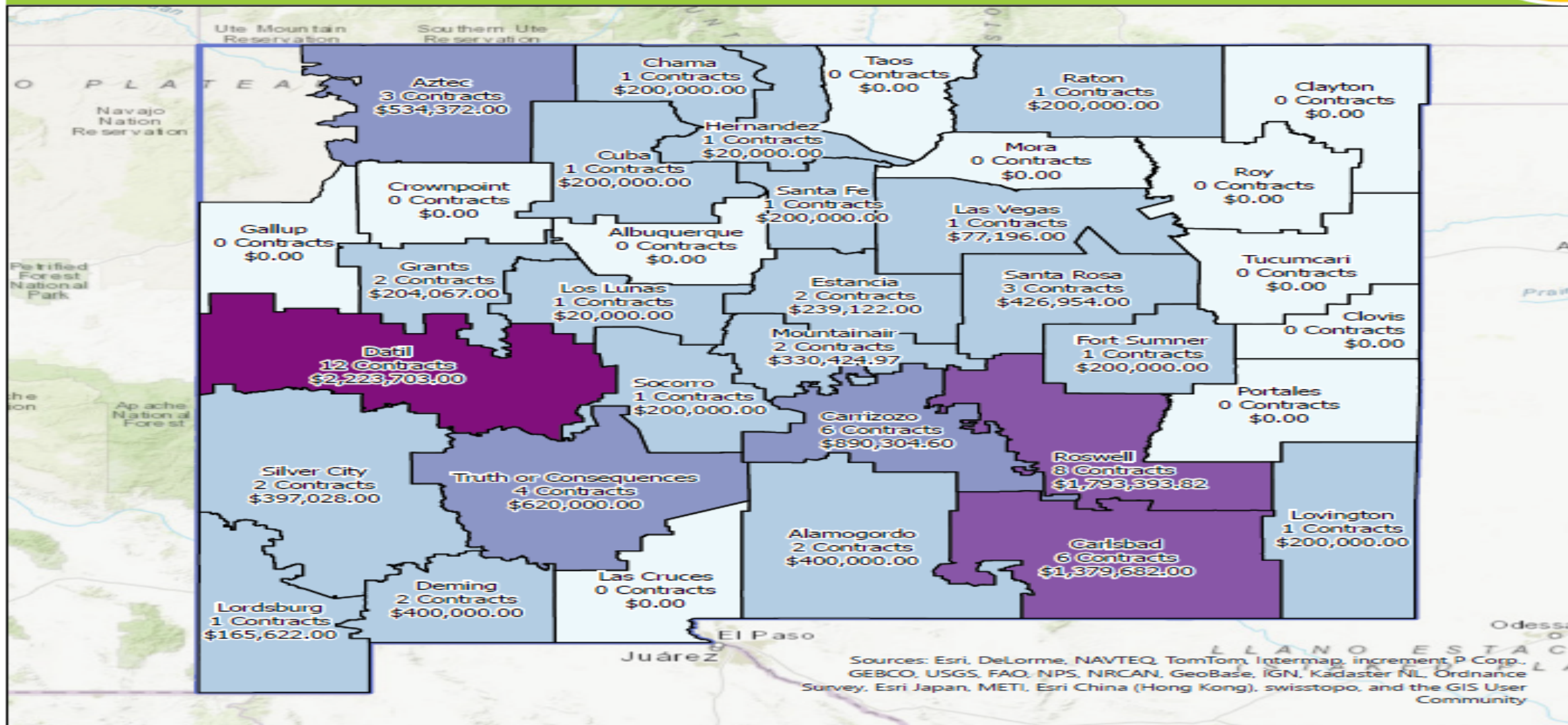
22 Conservation Districts

2 Nations, Tribes, and Pueblos



NRCS - New Mexico

2024 CSP Farm Bill Obligated Contracts and Funds per Service Center



0 40 80 160 Miles

Path: C:\data\programs\State_Tech_Committee\State_Tech_Committee.aprx

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. 2/26/2025

CSP Farm Bill

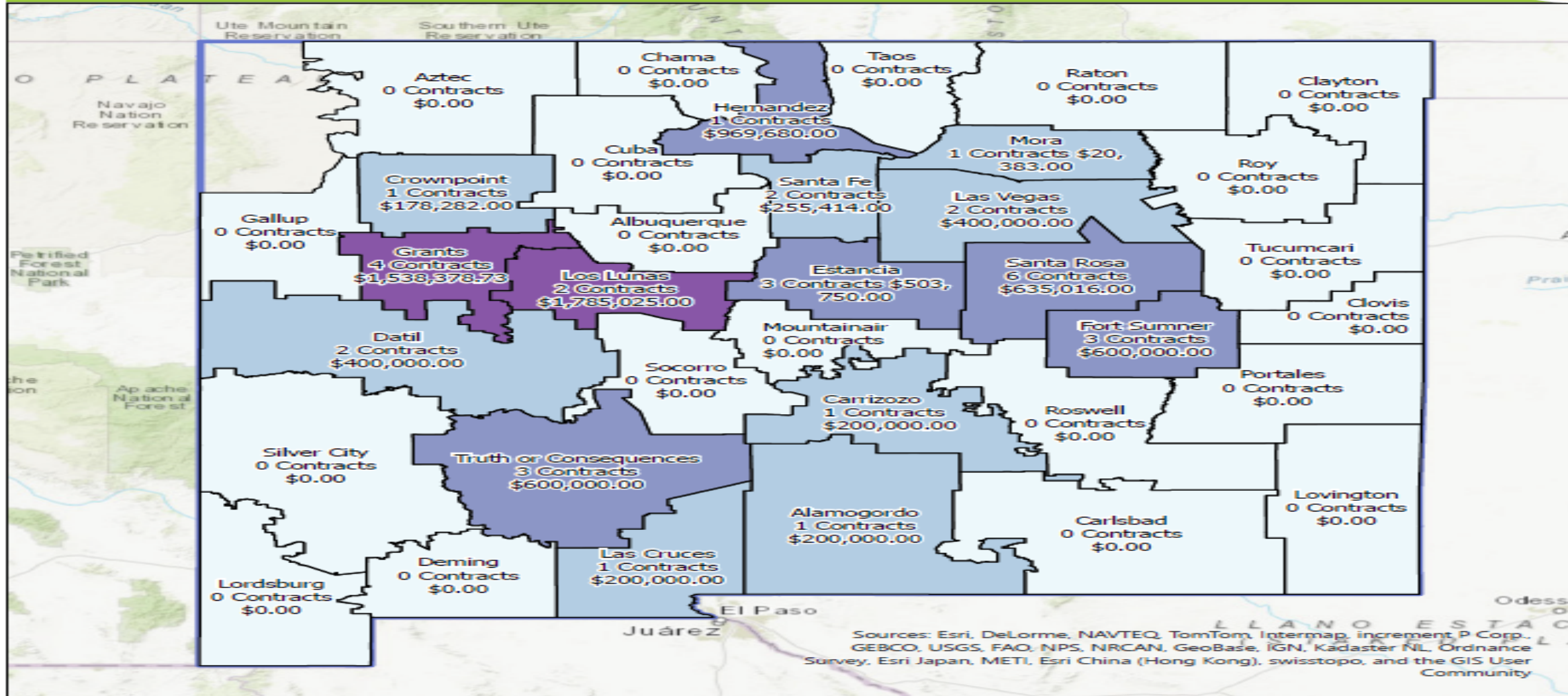
	\$0
	\$1 - \$500,000
	\$500,001 - \$1,000,000
	\$1,000,001 - \$2,000,000
	\$2,000,000 - \$3,000,000

New Mexico
Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/

NRCS - New Mexico

2024 CSP Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Obligated Contracts and Funds per Service Center



0 40 80 160 Miles

Path: C:\data\programs\State_Tech_Committee\State_Tech_Committee.aprx
USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. 2/26/2025

CSP IRA Funds

	\$0
	\$1 - \$500,000
	\$500,001 - \$1,000,000
	\$1,000,001 - \$2,000,000
	\$2,000,001 - \$3,000,000

New Mexico
Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service
nrcs.usda.gov/

FY25 Obligated CSP Contracts Per Service Center

\$0 - \$400,000	Total Contracts
Hernandez	3
Deming	2
Lordsburg	2
Aztec	1
Carlsbad	1
Las Cruces	1
Las Vegas	1
Lovington	1
Mora	1
Roswell	1
Socorro	1
Tucumcari	1
Alamogordo	0
Albuquerque	0
Clayton	0
Crownpoint	0
Clovis	0
Cuba	0
Gallup	0
Raton	0
Roy	0
Santa Fe	0

\$400,001 - \$1,000,000	Total Contracts
Chama	6
Grants	5
Santa Rosa	5
Datil	4
Fort Sumner	3
Taos	3
Truth or Consequences	3

\$1,000,000 - \$1,500,000	Total Contracts
Estancia	12
Mountainair	7
Los Lunas	1

\$1,500,001 - \$2,000,000	Total Contracts
Carrizozo	10
Silver City	8

Resource Priorities



New Mexico Priority Resource Concern Categories	
Agland	Non-Industrial Private Forestland
Wind and Water Erosion	Wind and Water Erosion
Concentrated Erosion	Concentrated Erosion
Degraded Plant Condition	Degraded Plant Condition
Pest Pressure	Pest Pressure
Livestock Production Limitation	Livestock Production Limitation
Terrestrial Habitat	Terrestrial Habitat
Source Water Depletion	Inefficient Energy Use
Soil Quality Limitations	Fire Management

- Other Resource Concern Categories that are not listed as State Priority Resource Concern
 - Air quality emissions, Aquatic habitat, Field pesticide loss, Salt losses to water, Storage and handling of pollutants, Weather resilience
- Ranking considers the number of priority resource concern categories met and addressed.



Ranking Weights By Resource Concern Categories

Categories			
Category	Min %	Default %	Max %
Air quality emissions	0	1	30
Aquatic habitat	0	1	30
Concentrated erosion	0	7	30
Degraded plant condition	0	15	30
Field pesticide loss	0	4	30
Field sediment, nutrient and pathogen loss	0	5	30
Fire management	0	1	30
Inefficient energy use	0	2	30
Livestock production limitation	0	10	30
Pest pressure	0	5	30
Salt losses to water	0	2	30
Soil quality limitations	0	10	30
Source water depletion	0	10	30
Storage and handling of pollutants	0	1	30
Terrestrial habitat	0	13	30



Service

nrcs.usda.gov/

Ranking Question Focus



- Forest
 - Reduce threat of wildfire
 - Reduce pest damage
- Agland
 - Will activities be implemented to increase or benefit soil health
 - Cover Crop/Crop Rotations
 - Will activities be implemented to address water quality degradation





United States Department of Agriculture



QUESTIONS



Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/



In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

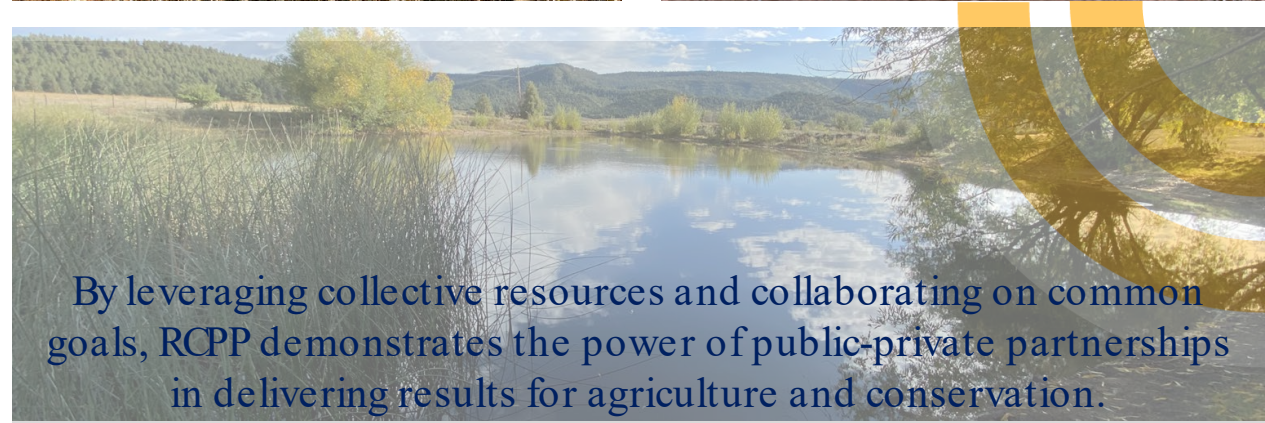




Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

Dusty Glidewell, RCPP Coordinator



By leveraging collective resources and collaborating on common goals, RCPP demonstrates the power of public-private partnerships in delivering results for agriculture and conservation.

State Technical Advisory Committee
September 2025

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

What is RCPP?

A cost sharing program that is designed to be led by partners and implemented on an areawide 5-year-project level basis.

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NFO) on grants.gov
- Requires an eligible “Lead Partner” (is responsible for the project)
- Proposal: Impact, Partner Contributions, and Partnerships/Management Capacity (will be evaluated based on these)
- RCPP Projects: Classic or Alternative Funding Arrangement (AFA)
- Funding Pools: Critical Conservation Area (CCA) and State/Multistate
- Funding Sources: NRCS RCPP Allocation and a match through various Partner Contributions (Non-Federal Funds and/or In-Kind Services)
- Land Management Contracts and Entity-Held Easements used in NM



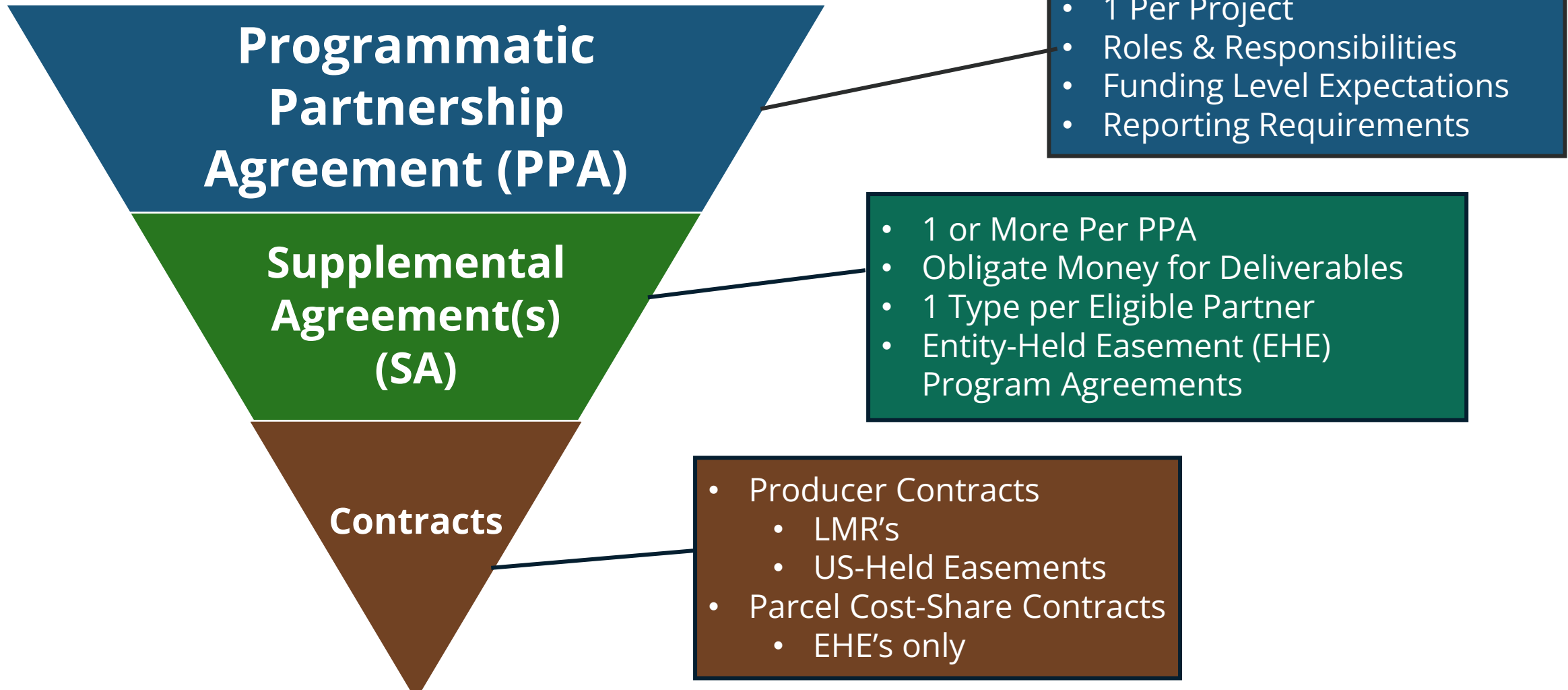
What is in the NFO?

- **Summary of the Funding Opportunity**
 - Classic or AFA
- **Program Description**
 - Overview of RCPP
- **Funding Availability and Pool Selection**
 - CCA vs. State/Multistate
- **Eligibility Information**
 - Partners, producer/landowner, FA activities, land
- **RCPP Project Funding**
 - Describes TA/FA percentage/budget requirements, outlines responsibilities and requirements, explains partner contributions
- **RCPP Proposal Requirements**
 - Format, instructions, content
- **Proposal Review Process**
 - Review criteria, evaluation process, agency priority topics, notifications
- **Project Information and Administration**
 - Discusses PPA, reporting and reimbursement requirements, notifications
- **Submission Information**
- **Agency Contacts**
- **Appendices**
 - Further discusses agreements
 - State RCPP coordinator list

RCPP Process



RCPP Agreements



New Mexico RCPP Active Agreements

San Juan Non-Native Phreatophyte Removal Program (1893)- Classic

- Lead Partner- San Juan SWCD
- Funding Amount- \$1,042,208
- Funding Pool- State
- Reduce wildfire risk by removing non-native Russian olive and Salt Cedar infestations in identified priority riparian areas

Producer Contracts-
10 @ \$707,271 total

Eastern NM Prairie Grassland Initiative (1905)- Classic

- Lead Partner- NMACD
- Funding Amount- \$2,025,974
- Funding Pool- CCA: Prairie Grassland
- Habitat improvements to meet needs of Lesser Prairie-chicken

Producer Contracts-
7 @ \$1,414,280

NM Restoration Initiative for Rangeland, Forestland, and Wildlife on Ranches with Federal Lands (2127)- Classic

- Lead Partner NMACD
- Funding Amount- \$4,000,000
- Funding Pool- State
- Utilize land management contracts with ranches whose operations include federal lands

Producer Contracts-
12 @ \$1,776,647 total

FY25- 1893: 1 application/contract \$109,501 and 1905: 1 application/contract \$213,138



New Mexico RCPP Active Agreements

North Central NM Watershed Restoration Project (2137)- Classic

- Lead Partner- Claunch-Pinto SWCD
- Funding Amount- \$2,313,359
- Funding Pool- State
- Restoration treatments to improve watershed health and mitigate wildfire risk

Producer Contracts-
12 @ \$707,271 total

NM Ogallala Preservation and Conservation (2553)- Classic

- Lead Partner- NMACD
- Funding Amount- \$6,911,311
- Funding Pool- CCA: Prairie Grassland
- Contracts to help farmers convert from irrigated to dryland, pasture, or native grasslands

EHE- 3 @ approx. \$4 mil.
Producer Contracts- pending

North Central NM Watershed Restoration Project (2679)- Classic

- Lead Partner- Claunch-Pinto SWCD
- Funding Amount- \$969,225
- Funding Pool- State
- Restoration treatments to improve watershed health and mitigate wildfire risk

Producer Contracts-
2 @ \$710,877 total



New Mexico RCPP Active Agreements

Establishment of Grassland Strongholds across the Southern High Plains (2764)- Classic

- Lead Partner- The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
- Lead State- Colorado
- Partner States- KS, OK, NM, TX
- Funding Amount- \$10,000,000
- Funding Pool- CCA (Prairie Grasslands Region)
- Easements to create grassland resilience and habitat

Grazing Management and Non-Lethal Predator Risk Mitigation in NM and AZ (3093)- Classic

- Lead Partner- Western Landowners Alliance (WLA)
- Lead State- New Mexico
- Partner State- Arizona
- Funding Amount- \$6,665,854
- Funding Pool- State/Multistate
- Conservation activities to support livestock production in areas with recovering predator populations

Tribal Buffalo Restoration in the Southwest Region (3503)- AFA

- Lead Partner- InterTribal Buffalo Council (ITBC)
- Lead State- New Mexico
- Partner States- AZ, CO, UT
- Funding Amount- \$21,250,000
- Funding Pool- State/Multistate
- Support Tribes in restoring native grasslands for buffalo in the southwest region



Recommendations

Please submit by October 3, 2025.

NM RCPP Coordinator Contact Info:

Dusty Glidewell

575-322-0947 (cell)

505-761-4435 (office)

dusty.glidewell@usda.gov



United States Department of Agriculture

Farmland Classification



Rick Strait, State Soil Scientist

New Mexico
Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service



Farmland Protection Policy Act Manual

523.1 General

A. Purpose

The purpose of the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) is to—

- (i) Minimize the extent to which Federal programs, including technical assistance or financial assistance, contribute to the unnecessary and irreversible conversion of important farmland to nonagricultural uses.
- (ii) Encourage alternative actions, if appropriate, that could lessen the adverse effects on farmland.
- (iii) Assure that Federal programs are operated in a manner that, to the extent practicable, will be compatible with State, local government, and private programs that protect farmland.

B. Source of Authority

(1) Law

- (i) The Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981 (Public Law 97-98, December 22, 1981)
- (ii) Final rules published in the Federal Register on June 17, 1994

(2) Regulation

- (i) Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981 (Public Law 97-98, December 22, 1981)
- (ii) Farmland Protection Policy Act, 7 U.S.C. Part 658, July 5, 1984 (amended June 6, 1994)
- (iii) Prime and Unique Farmlands, 7 U.S.C. Part 657, January 31, 1978 (revised January 1, 2001)
- (iv) Departmental Regulation 9500-3, March 22, 1983
- (v) National Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) Handbook, January 2012

C. Scope

FPPA applies only to Federal assistance and actions that would convert important farmland to nonagricultural uses. It does not authorize the Federal Government in any way to regulate the use of private or non-Federal land or in any way affect the private property rights of owners of private land.

New Mexico
Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service



Farmland Protection Policy Act Manual

Subpart B – Program Activities and Requirements

523.10 Lands Covered by the Act

- A. Lands Subject to Provisions of FPPA Important farmlands, including lands identified with soils that are prime, unique, or statewide or locally important farmland, are subject to the provisions of the Farmland Protection Policy Act.
- B. Lands Not Subject to Provisions of FPPA The following lands are not covered by the act:
 - (i) Lands that receive a combined score of less than 160 points from the Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) criteria
 - (ii) Lands identified as “urbanized area” (UA) on Census Bureau maps
 - (iii) Land with a “tint overprint” on the U.S. Geographical Survey topographical map
 - (iv) Areas shown as white (not farmland) on USDA important farmland maps (these are sites that do not contain prime, unique, statewide important, or locally important farmland)
 - (v) Areas shown as “urban-built up” on USDA important farmland maps (this is consistent with the guidance of the National Resources Inventory (NRI) for mapping urban built-up areas. Note: Areas 10 acres or larger without structures are not considered urban built-up and are subject to FPPA)
 - (vi) Land in water storage, including lands that have been acquired or planned for water storage prior to August 5, 1984 (see section 523.11C)
 - (vii) Lands that are used for national defense purposes during a national emergency (see 7 U.S.C. Section 4208)
 - (viii) Private land where no Federal funds or technical assistance is utilized

New Mexico
Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service



Farmland Protection Policy Act Manual

Designating Prime Farmland Soils

Prime farmland is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops and is also available for these uses. The land could be cropland, pastureland, rangeland, forestland, or other land but not urban built-up land or water. Lists of prime farmland soils will be developed by NRCS according to criteria in USDA Departmental Regulation (DR) 9500-3, dated March 22, 1983, and 7 CFR Section 657.5.

Designating Unique Farmland Soils

Unique farmland is land other than prime farmland that is used for the production of specific high-value food and fiber crops. It has the special combination of soil quality, location, growing season, and moisture supply needed to economically produce sustained high quality or high yields of a specific crop when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods and other conditions, such as nearness to market, that favor the growth of a specific food or fiber crop. Examples of such crops are red tart cherries, citrus, tree nuts, olives, cranberries, fruit, and vegetables. Unique farmland will be created based on criteria outlined in DR 9500-3 and 7 CFR Section 657.5.

Designating Farmland of Statewide Importance

This is land, in addition to prime and unique farmlands, that is of statewide importance for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and oil seed crops (7 CFR Section 657.5). The State government, (i.e., the office of the State Secretary of Agriculture or a higher office) must designate farmland of statewide importance. The NRCS State Conservationist must concur with this designation in order for it to apply to FPPA.

Designating Farmland of Local Importance

In some local areas, certain additional farmlands are important for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops even though these lands are not identified as having national or statewide importance. Where appropriate, these lands are to be identified by the local agency or agencies concerned. Additional farmlands of local importance may include tracts of land that have been designated for agriculture by local ordinance. A local unit of government, as defined in 7 CFR Section 657.5, must designate farmland of local importance. The NRCS State Conservationist must concur with this designation in order for it to apply to FPPA.

New Mexico
Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service



STATE LAW

TITLE 19 NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE

CHAPTER 8 COAL MINING

PART 8 PERMIT APPLICATIONS - MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR INFORMATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

19.8.8.2 SCOPE: All persons subject to the New Mexico Surface Mining Act, NMSA 1978, Sections 69-25A-1 et. Seq. (1979).

[19.8.8.2 NMAC - N, 9-29-2000]

19.8.8.814 PRIME FARMLAND INVESTIGATION:

A. The applicant shall conduct a pre-application investigation of the proposed permit area to determine whether lands within the area may be prime farmland. The director in consultation with U.S. natural resources conservation service shall determine the nature and extent of the required reconnaissance investigation.

B. Land shall not be considered prime farmland where the applicant can demonstrate one of the following:

- (1) the land has not been historically used as cropland;
- (2) the slope of the land is 10 percent or greater;
- (3) the land is not irrigated or naturally subirrigated, has no developed water supply that is dependable or of adequate quality, and the average annual precipitation is 14 inches or less;

(4) other factors exist, such as a very rocky surface, or the land is frequently flooded during the growing season, more often than once in 2 years, and the flooding has reduced crop yields; or

(5) on the basis of a soil survey of lands within the permit area, there are no soil map units that have been designated prime farmland by the U.S. natural resources conservation service.

C. If the investigation establishes that the lands are not prime farmlands, the applicant shall submit with the permit application a request for a negative determination which shows that the land for which the negative determination is sought meets one of the criteria of Subsection B of 19.8.8.814 NMAC.

D. If the investigation indicates that lands within the proposed permit area may be prime farmlands, the applicant shall contact the U.S. natural resources conservation service to determine if a soil survey exists for those lands and whether the applicable soil map units have been designated as prime farmlands. If no soil survey has been made for the lands within the proposed permit area, the applicant shall cause such a survey to be made.

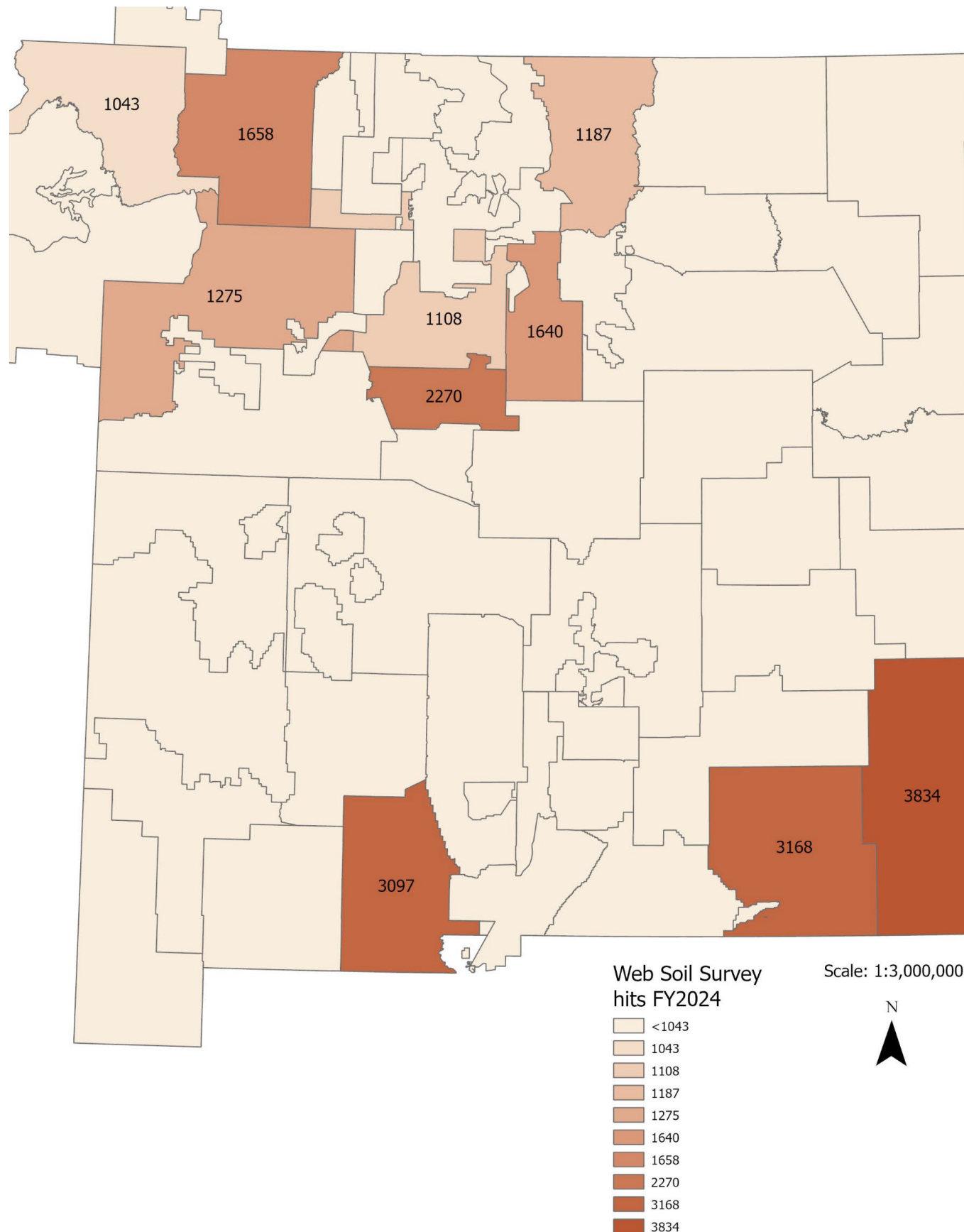
(1) When a soil survey of lands within the proposed permit area contains soil map units which have been designated as prime farmlands, the applicant shall submit an application, in accordance with 19.8.10.1004 NMAC for such designated land.

(2) When a soil survey for lands within the proposed permit area contains soil map units which have not been designated as prime farmland after review by the U.S. natural resources conservation service; the applicant shall submit a request for negative determination for non-designated land with the permit application establishing compliance with Subsection B of 19.8.8.814 NMAC.

[11-29-97; 19.8.8.814 NMAC - Rn, 19 NMAC 8.2.8.814, 9-29-2000; A, 12-31-2007]

New Mexico
Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service





Soil Data Usage is highest in oil/gas and urban areas

New Mexico
Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

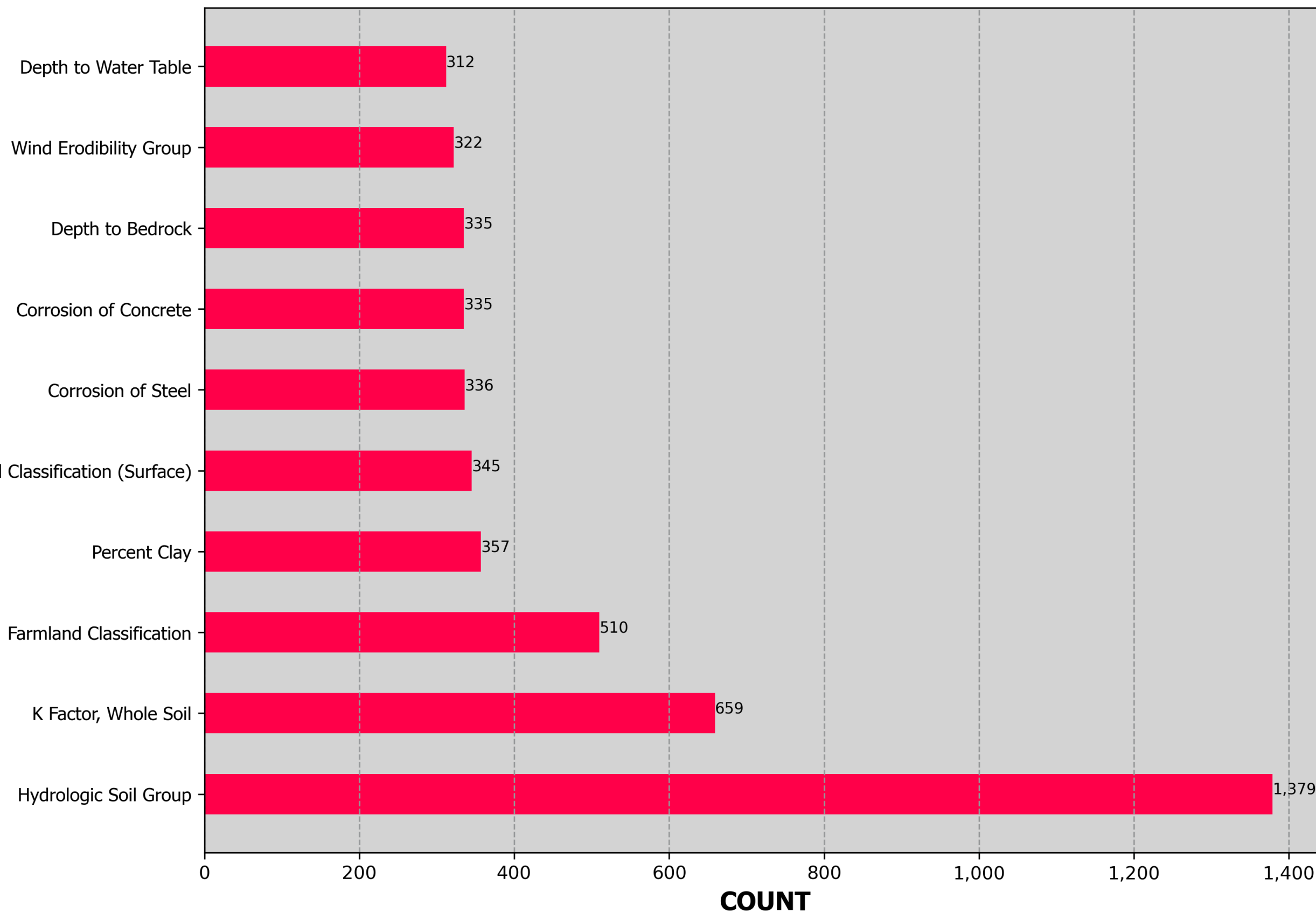




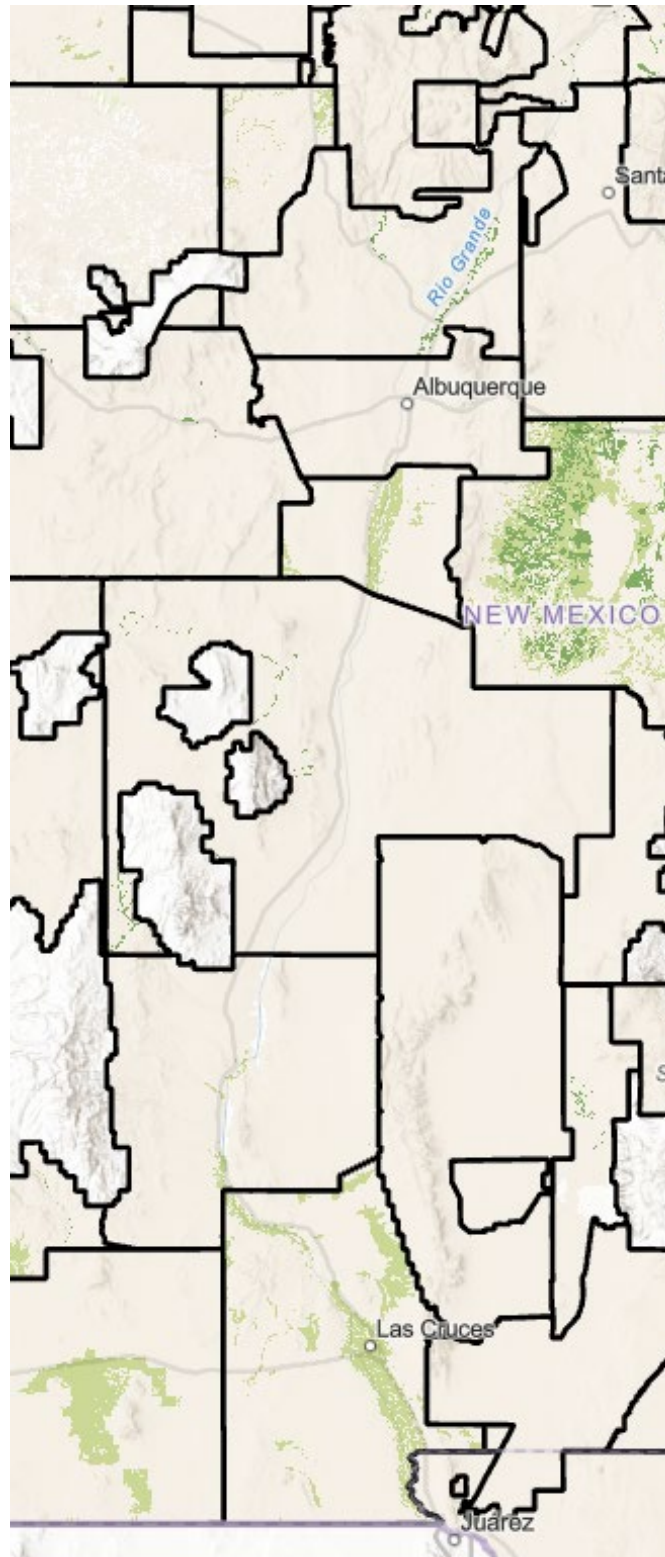
Top 10 Web Soil Survey Ratings Fiscal Year 2024 New Mexico



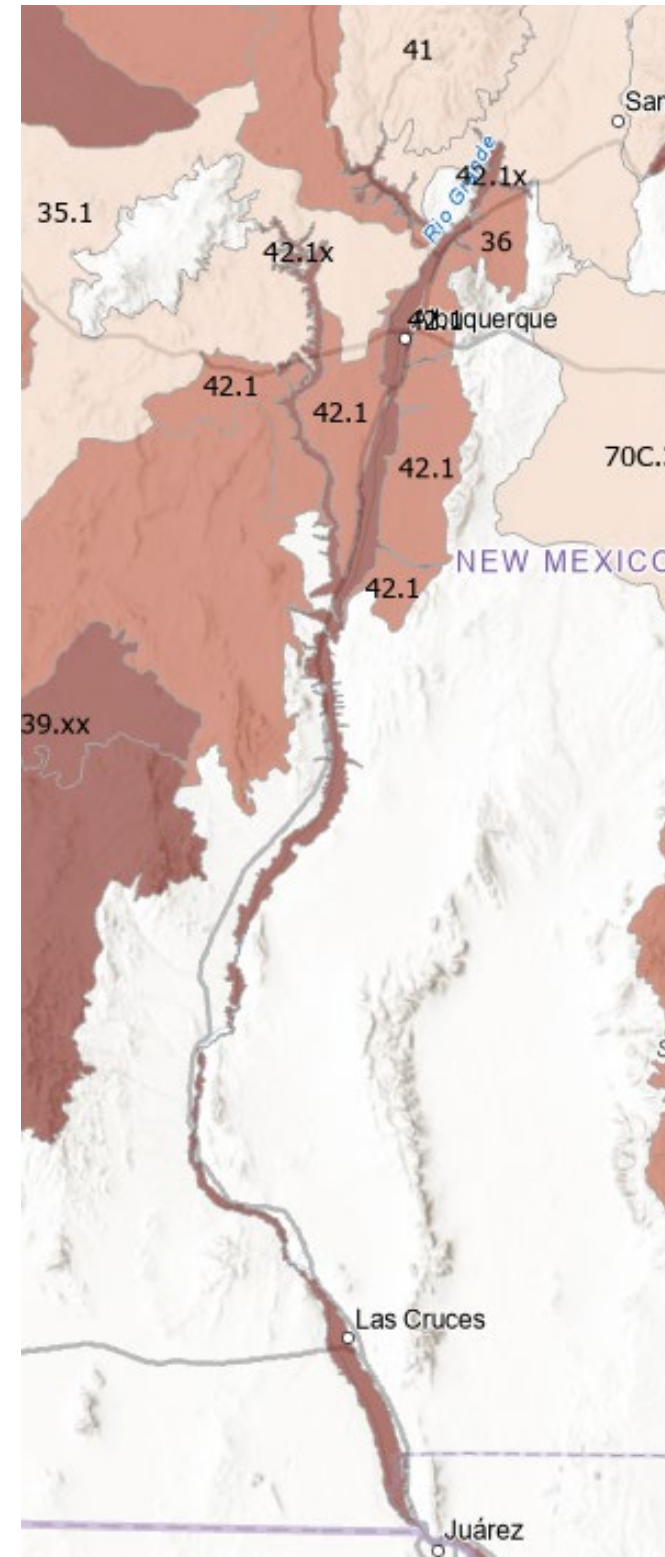
WSS Rating



Changes in Inventory Methodology



Initial, by Soil Survey Area



Update, by Land Resource Unit

New Mexico
Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service



Moving Foreword

***Develop defensible technical criteria based upon resource data from which
Statewide Importance and, if needed, Local Importance may be derived.***



State Technical Committee Meeting
September 18, 2025

2025 ACEP Summary



- 1 RCPP entity-held agricultural parcel funded.
- 3 ACEP-ALE funded totaling 5,770 acres, \$5,061,420.
- 2 ALE easements closed.
- Applications and contracts with 5 land trusts.



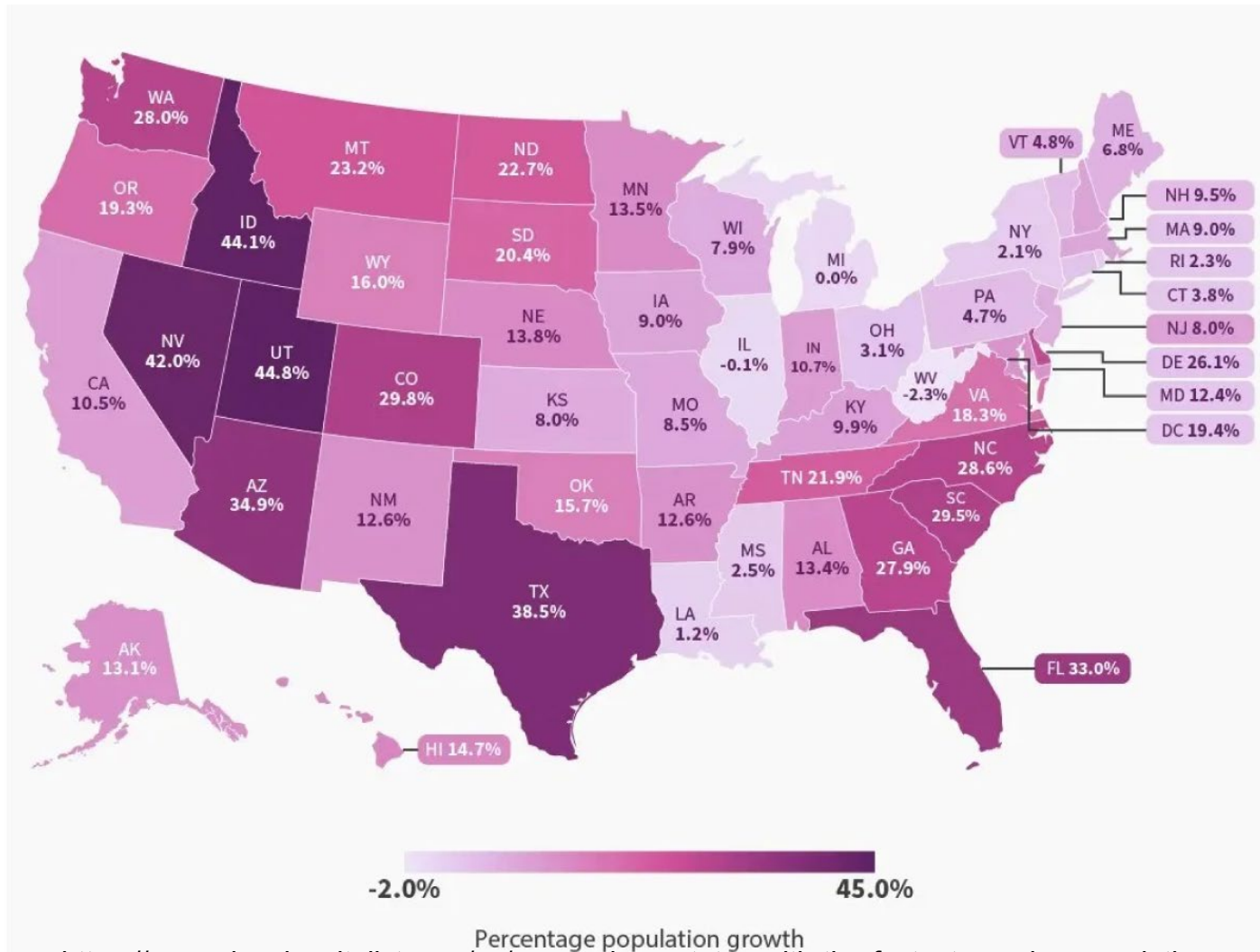
Agricultural Land Easements State Ranking Pools

General
Cropland Pasture

Grasslands of special significance
Range

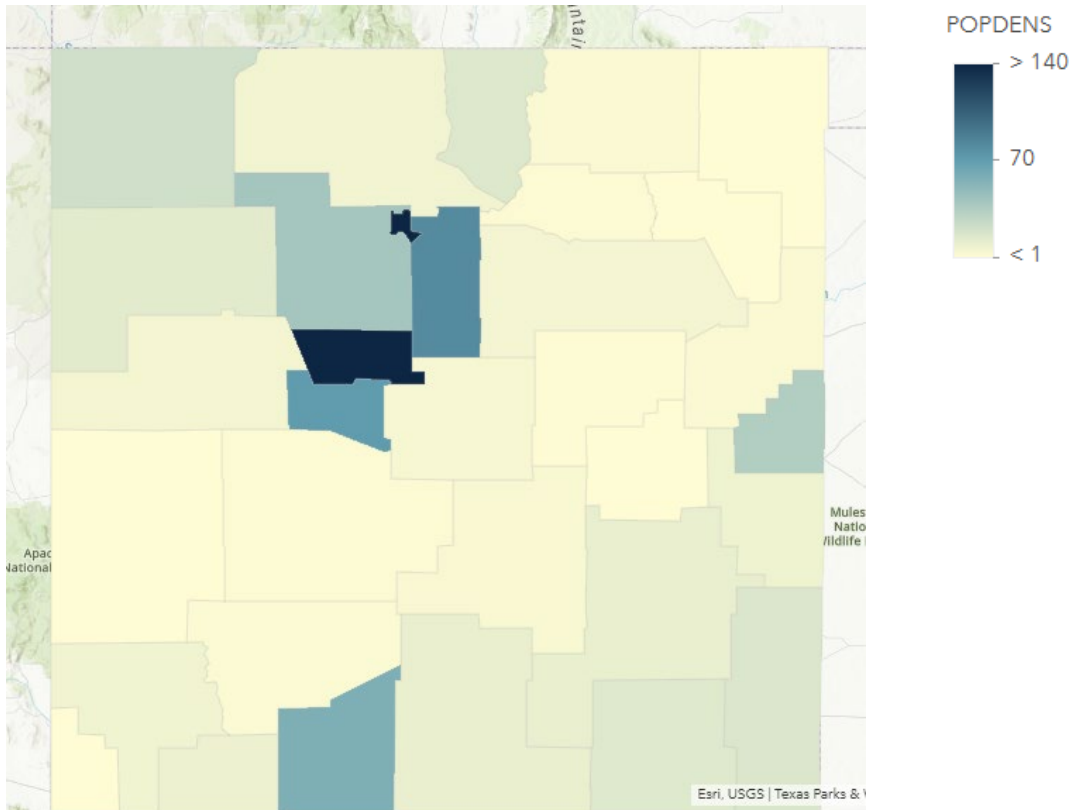
Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

Percentage of population growth from U.S. Census Bureau from 2003 to 2023



ALE General Ranking Priorities

- Prioritize areas with “medium” level of development threat such as median of population density, population growth, and loss of farmland



Population Density-Max weight of 4

What is the population density (population per square mile) as documented by the 2010 U.S. Census (**County Quick Facts**)?

More than 20- 80 (San Juan, Curry, Sandoval, Dona Ana, Valencia, Santa Fe)
10 Points

Between 6 and 20 (Cibola, San Miguel, Grant, Roosevelt, Luna, Otero, Chaves, Eddy, McKinley, Lea, Taos)
5 Points

Less than 6 and more than 80 (Harding, Catron, De Baca, Union, Hidalgo, Guadalupe, Mora, Socorro, Sierra, Quay, Colfax, Lincoln, Torrance, Los Alamos, Bernalillo)
0 Points

Population Growth- Max weight of 6



What is the percent population growth in the county as documented by the U.S. Census (**County Quick Facts**)?

0-5% (Dona Ana, Valencia, Santa Fe, **Bernalillo**)

15 Points

More than 5% (Los Alamos, Eddy, Lea, **San Juan**) and negative growth (all others including **Curry, Sandoval**)

0 Points



Size of Farm- Max weight 4

What is the ratio of the total acres of land in the parcel to be protected to MEDIAN farm size in the county according to the USDA NASS - 2022 Census, State Report, Table 1, County Data?

More than 2: 10 Points

1-2: 5 Points

236 New Mexico

2022 Census of Agriculture - County Data

USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service

Table 1. County Summary Highlights: 2022 (continued)

[For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see introductory text.]

Item	Santa Fe	Sierra	Socorro	Taos	Torrance	Union	Valencia
Farmsnumber	591	269	453	622	577	343	978
Land in farmsacres	494,844	1,070,677	1,345,407	229,129	1,692,413	1,925,764	450,426
Average size of farmacres	837	3,980	2,970	368	2,933	5,614	461
Median size of farmacres	10	79	47	15	283	1,583	5
Estimated market value of land and buildings:							
Average per farmdollars	1,042,437	1,616,781	2,280,417	771,857	2,299,610	4,786,197	485,848
Average per acredollars	1,245	406	768	2,095	784	852	1,055
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment\$1,000	34,650	22,597	31,908	29,558	42,896	46,490	55,276
Average per farmdollars	58,630	84,003	70,438	47,522	74,343	135,541	56,520
Farms by size:							
1 to 9 acres	260	39	89	217	24	8	657
10 to 49 acres	142	62	144	241	62	11	216
50 to 179 acres	86	70	72	86	145	47	69
180 to 499 acres	45	25	35	37	116	36	13
500 to 999 acres	13	14	16	10	74	47	5
1,000 acres or more	45	59	97	31	156	194	18



ural
ources
iservation
vice

s.usda.gov/

Landcape Connectivity- Max weight 20

Does the proposed easement area is near other protected land, such as compatible military installations; land owned in fee title by the United States or an Indian Tribe, State or local government, or by a nongovernmental organization whose purpose is to protect agricultural use and related conservation values; or land that is already subject to an easement or deed restriction that limits the conversion of the land to nonagricultural use or protects grazing uses and related conservation values?

Proposed easement area **contains a cropland or pasture** field that is directly adjacent to a protected area.

50 Points

Proposed easement area **contains a cropland or pasture** field within a 0.5-mile radius of a protected land boundary or within 1-mile of at least two different protected areas.

40 Points

Proposed easement area **contains a cropland or pasture** that is greater than a 1-mile radius and less than a 5-mile radius of one other protected land boundary or has a rangeland field that is within 1-mile from other protected land.

25 Points

Not applicable- 0 Points

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service



Habitat Areas- Max weight 20

Does the parcel have habitat areas associated **with cropland or pasture** with at least 51% cover of native plants that provide conservation benefits ~~for at-risk species?~~

One or more habitat areas are present at the ratio of at least 0.5 contiguous acres for every 40 acres of enrolled area.

40 Points

One or more contiguous habitat areas are present, but the ratio is 0.5 contiguous acres for every 41-60 acres of enrolled area.

20 Points

No habitat areas are present, or the amount of contiguous habitat is at a ratio of 0.5 contiguous acres for every 61 or more of enrolled area. **0 Points**

Water Protection- Max weight 30 points

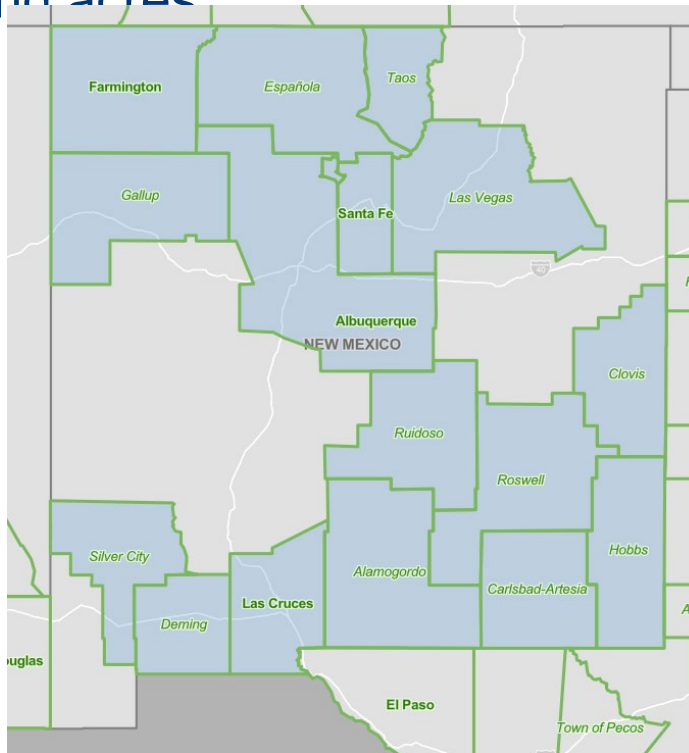
Does the proposed easement protect water rights that if not protected could be sold and transferred for non-agricultural uses?

60 Points

Threat of Development



Remove question related to metropolitan and micropolitan areas.
Threat of development is better captured in the US Census questions related to population density, population growth and change in farmland acres



Metropolitan/Micropolitan Statistical Area (OMB July 2023 2022 Economic Census)
Geographies from data.census.gov/map

Other Social or Environmental Factors

Remove question about historically underserved due to administration change in priorities.

What other social or environmental factors are important to preserve in New Mexico?

Will a portion of the easement acquisition cost be covered by funds from another government agency?

35 points





Wetland Reserve Easements



Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE) Geographic area rate cap (GARC)

New Mexico will compensate landowners up to 90% of the appraised fair market value with the following not-to-exceed rates:

No water rights	Not to exceed \$5,000
Land with water rights	Not to exceed \$13,000 per acre.



Wetland Restoration Criteria Guidelines

New Mexico NRCS recognizes the financial burden of invasive species removal.

NRCS will provide financial assistance to remove invasive species without a limit on the number of treatments.

Financial assistance provided will be determined on a case-by-case basis where control of invasive species is possible.





Conservation Innovation Grants

Natural Resources Conservation Service

CLG State priorities



- Increased reliance on biodiversity to control pests.
- Soil health management systems.
- Water conservation.
- Fish and wildlife habitat.



State CIG



- Last notice of funding (NOF) was for FY2023. Search for “CIG NRCS NM” for Notice of Funding:

[Conservation Innovation Grants Program \(CIG\) - New Mexico | Natural Resources Conservation Service \(usda.gov\)](#)

- In 2024 and 2025 a request for proposals was not issued.
- In 2024 New Mexico received a waiver to exempt tribes from the match requirement and that reduces the match from historically underserved applicants.
- **NM typically allocates \$50,000 per year.**



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Emergency Watershed Protection
David Griego –State EWP Program Manager

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

NRCS New Mexico

- **11 Active Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Projects around the State.**
- **3 have been closed out this FY**
- **1 Pending**

Hondo Valley Flood EWP (Closed Out)

- Disaster Date: 5/31/2021
- Sponsor: Lincoln County
- Total Project Amount: \$1,154,810.71
- Estimated Percent Completed: 100 %



Corn Ranch / Roswell Flooding EWP (Closed Out)

- **Disaster Date: 5/30/2021**
- **Sponsor: Chaves County**
- **Total Project Amount: \$ 3,727,935.23**
- **Estimated Percent Completed: 100 %**



Blue 2 2.0 EWP –Amendment (Closed Out)

- **Disaster Date: May 16, 2024**
- **Sponsor: City of Alamogordo**
- **Total Project Amount: \$1,250,000.00 original award
\$310,500.00 additional work**
- **Estimated Percent Completed: 100%**



McBride Fire and Windstorm EWP

- **Disaster Date: 4/12/2022**
- **Sponsor: Lincoln County**
- **Total Project Amount: \$1,804,760.00**
- **Estimated Percent Completed: 90%**
- **Priorities changed due to the South Fork and the Salt Fire**
- **Remaining project is large acequia diversion dam**



Hermits Peak / Calf Canyon EWP 2 Agreements

- **Disaster Date: 4/22/2022**
- **Sponsor: NM Department of Finance and Administration**
- **Total Project Amount: \$268,669,180.00 (added 42 Million)**
- **Estimated Percent Completed: ? %**
- **Still getting new requests**



Cerro Pelado EWP

- **Disaster Date: 7/23/2023**
- **Sponsor: Sandoval County**
- **Total Project Amount: \$4,070,000.00**
- **Estimated Percent Completed: 50%**
- **We have the designs completed and sponsor is trying to get a contractor**



Gila and Mimbres Flood EWP - 1 (Grant County)

- **Disaster Date: 8/18/2022**
- **Sponsor: Grant County**
- **Total Project Amount: \$ 10,703,524.00**
- **Estimated Percent Completed: 10%**
- **Most of the designs are completed**
- **We have 2 large projects that are currently in construction**



Gila and Mimbres Flood EWP - 2 (Hidalgo County)

- **Disaster Date: 8/18/2022**
- **Sponsor: Hidalgo County**
- **Total Project Amount: \$319,770.00**
- **Estimated Percent Completed: 10%**
- **The engineers are in the process of completing the designs, then will be ready for contracting**



Gila and Mimbres Flood EWP - 3 (Luna County)

- **Disaster Date: 8/18/2022**
- **Sponsor: Hidalgo County**
- **Total Project Amount: \$652,700.00**
- **Estimated Percent Completed: 50%**
- **The design is being updated and should be ready for contracting sometime in May**



South Fork and Salt Fire EWP - 1

- **Disaster Date: 6/16/2024**
- **Sponsors: Mescalero Apache Tribe**
- **Total Project Amount: 24 Million**
- **Estimated Percent Completed: 75%**
- **They have asked for additional money to expand the project**



South Fork and Salt Fire EWP - 2

- **Disaster Date: 6/16/2024**
- **Sponsors: Lincoln County**
- **Total Project Amount: \$64 Million (added 12 million)**
- **Estimated Percent Completed: 50%**
- **Large acequia projects that will require major engineering**



Ruidoso EWP Program Buyout

NRCS NM and Lincoln County are in discussions to possibly purchase homes in the floodplain.

- Another type of treatment measure for EWPP
- Used to protect lives and property from imminent threat from flooding or erosion, caused by a sudden watershed impairment
- Provide FA/TA to purchase property
- Sponsor places deed restrictions
- Structures are removed or relocated and parcels restored to open space
- Landowners paid fair market value to move out of hazard area
- Maintain open floodway, minimize runoff
- Protect people and property from future imminent threat

Rio En Medio EWP

- **Disaster Date: 10/07/2022**
- **Sponsor: Santa Fe County**
- **Total Project Amount: \$680,290.37 (added 330,285.37)**
- **Estimated Percent Completed: 60%**
- **Smaller designs are completed and are ready to implement flood prevention measures**



Rio Arriba Flooding EWP

- **Disaster Date: July 2024**
- **Sponsor: East Rio Arriba SWCD**
- **Total Project Amount: \$3,000,000.00**
- **Estimated Percent Completed: 15%**
- **Funded in FY 2025**
- **Ready for contracting phase I**



Chaves County Flood EWP

- **Disaster Date: 10/17/2024**
- **Sponsor: Chaves County**
- **Total Project Amount: \$15,285,968.75**
- **Estimated Percent Completed: 10 %**
- **High hazard PL566 Dams –They require OSE approval and 3rd party review of designs**



Trout Fire EWP

Potential Project

- **Disaster Date: 10/17/2024**
- **Sponsor: Grant County**
- **Total Project Amount: \$7.5 Million**
- **Estimated Percent Completed: 0 %**





Questions



- In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.
- Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.
- To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.
- USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



United States Department of Agriculture



NRCS 2025 Biology update

Nick Goodman-State Biologist

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/

Advancing Markets for Producers (AMP) initiative

- Formerly known as Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities program.
- The AMP initiative is built to advance the priorities of today's American Farmer.



This farmer first initiative :

- Prioritize Producers over NGOs by requiring at least 65% of a project's funds to flow to Farmers and Ranchers.
- Assisting famers by developing new markets, premiums, and value-added agricultural products.
- Streamlines reporting metrics to lower the paperwork burden on both producers and partners.



Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/



Awards were evaluated using three Farmer First priorities:

- Producer Funding: Did the project provide at least 65% percent of the funding directly to producers?
- Producer Sign Up: Was at least one producer signed up by 12/31/24?
- Producer Payments: Was a producer farmer paid money by 12/31/24?

Based on the evaluation criteria, partners had options and were determined to be in 3 categories:

- Category 1: Agreements met all criteria and had the option to modify their existing agreement to improve their program to the benefit of producers.
- Category 2: Agreements met the 65% Producer Funding priority but failed to meet either the Sign Up or Payment priority were required to submit a modified agreement by June 20, 2025. These awardees have until September 30 to enroll and pay a producer.
- Category 3: Agreements failing to meet any of the priorities had the option to submit a modification to the agreement by June 20, 2025 or be terminated.



Next Steps for AMP partners:

- Reach out to state point of contact.
- Submit CPA-52s through the SharePoint portal.





In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender



Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/





United States Department of Agriculture

Questions?



nickolas.goodman@usda.gov

505-280-0826



Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Watershed Programs Update

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

The “NRCS Watershed Umbrella”

WFPO

- Watershed & Flood Prevention Operations Program
- Helps units of Federal, State, and Tribal Governments (project sponsors) to protect and restore watersheds

Rehab

- Rehabilitation Program
- Helps project sponsors rehabilitate aging dams that are reaching the end of their design life and/or no longer meet Federal or State Safety Criteria or performance standards

EWP

- Emergency Watershed Protection Program
- Helps people reduce imminent hazards to life and property threatened by excessive erosion and flooding caused by a natural disaster



Watershed vs. Farm Bill Programs

- Agreements are with Local Sponsor Authorities rather than an individual landowner.
- Viable Sponsors can include:
 - Any entity legally organized under state law
 - State
 - County
 - Town
 - Soil and Water Conservation District
 - Natural Resources District
 - Irrigation Districts
 - Any Indian Tribe organization

Active Watershed Projects

■ Rehab (6 Total)

- Santa Cruz Dam Sites 1 & 4
- Tortugas Dam Site 1
- Upper Rio Penasco Dam Sites 1, 2, & 3A

■ WFPO (4 Total)

- (CO) Marble Wash-San Juan River
- Belen Watershed
- Rincon Arroyo Watershed
- Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Burn Scar



1 (CO) Marble Wash-San Juan River

2 Belen Watershed

3 Rincon Arroyo Watershed

4 HPCC Burn Scar

WFPO Design

WFPO Construction

Rehab - Assessments/Inspections

50 Santa Cruz Site 4

Rehab Planning - EAs

60 Tortugas Site 1

70 Upper Rio Penasco Site 1

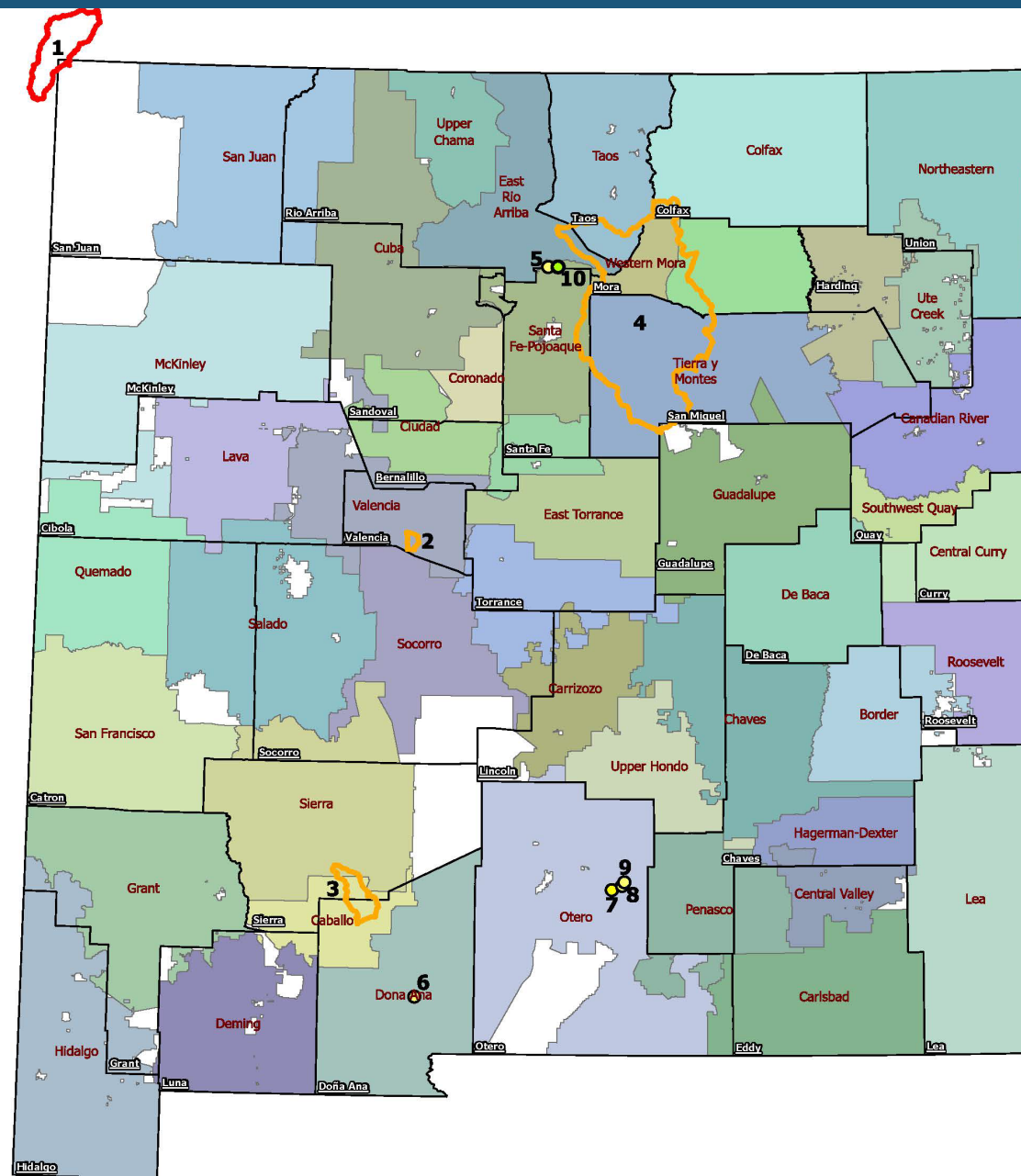
80 Upper Rio Penasco Site 2

90 Upper Rio Penasco Site 3A

Rehab Design

100 Santa Cruz Site 1

Rehab Construction





Watershed Program Expectations for FY26

- As funding allows, these are the goals for the upcoming years:
 - Funding of 18 new dam assessments
 - Funding of 1 new Rehab Plan
 - Funding for design phase of 2 active WFPO Projects
 - Funding for construction phase for 1 active Rehab Project
 - Bring on new projects as Sponsors submit new requests

Questions????

- Watershed POCs
 - Elias Gnann – State Conservation Engineer
 - *Email:* elias.gnann@usda.gov
 - *Phone:* (505) 761-4490
 - Merceidez Fabok – Watershed Program Manger
 - *Email:* merceidez.fabok@usda.gov
 - *Phone:* (505) 761-4421





Non-Discrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



United States Department of Agriculture



New Mexico State Technical Committee Meeting

4/30/2024

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center



Agenda

Welcome/Introductions- Kenneth

State Conservationist- Xavier Montoya

Programs- NRCS Programs Staff

- 1. Intro to State Tech Committee/IRA- Kenneth**
- 2. Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)- Maggie Gnann**
- 3. Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)- Martin Meairs**
- 4. Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)- Dusty Glidewell**
- 5. Payment Schedule- Athena Cholas**
- 6. Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) and Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)- Athena Cholas**
- 7. Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)- David Griego**

Resource Technology - Art Ariaz and RTS Staff

- Conservation Assessment Ranking Tool/Conservation Desktop- Ana Gomes**

Engineering - Elias Gnann

Partner Updates

- Farm Service Agency**
- Other Partners**

Questions

Responsibilities of the STC

- Provide information, analysis, recommendations to USDA on conservation priorities and criteria for natural resources conservation activities and programs, including application and funding
- Identify emerging natural resource concerns and program needs
- Recommend conservation practice standards and specifications
- Recommend State and national program policy based on resource data

Responsibilities (Cont)

- Review activities of the local working groups to ensure State priorities are being addressed locally
- Make recommendations to the State Conservationist on requests and recommendations from local working groups
- Assist NRCS with public outreach and information efforts and identify educational and producers' training needs

Recommendations Due Date will be set at next STC Meeting

Updated Program Deadlines

Program/Initiative	Application Deadline	Ranking	80% Obligation
EQIP Classic	November 3, 2023	March 1, 2024	May 31, 2024
EQIP CIC	November 3, 2023	March 1, 2024	May 31, 2024
EQIP IRA	April 26, 2024	TBA***	May 31, 2024
CSP IRA	Jan 5, 2024	March 1, 2024	May 31, 2024
CSP Classic****	November 3, 2023	March 1, 2024	May 31, 2024
2024 CSP Renewals (Includes IRA)	TBA**	November 17, 2023	December 22, 2023
2025 CSP Renewals	May 3, 2024**	TBA	TBA
CSP- GCI-1	TBA**	TBA**	TBA**
ACEP	November 3, 2023*	TBA	Sept 30, 2024
ACEP IRA	November 13, 2023	December 8, 2023	TBA**
CIG	TBA	TBA	Sept 30, 2024

*High Priority Applications. Second Sign up may be announce if needed

** NHQ Established Deadline

*** IRA Fund Pools will use ACTnow and Ranking Deadlines are different for each fund code

**** CSP Classic BFR and NIPF and CSP IRA BFR and NIPF Fund Pools will use ACTnow and ranking will ASAP after app is accepted

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov



United States Department of Agriculture

Inflation Reduction Act IRA

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

- Signed into law in August 2022
- Investment in climate and clean energy
- Promote climate-smart agriculture and forestry greenhouse gas mitigation activities

Natural Resources Conservation Service				
Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry (CSAF) Mitigation Activities List ⁽¹⁾ FY2023				
				
Climate Change Mitigation Practice Categories	Code	Conservation Practice Standard Name ⁽²⁾ (units)	CSP Enhancement Code	Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Bundle and Enhancement Activity
Soil Health			B000BFF1	Buffer Bundle#1*
			B000CPL24	Cropland soil health management system*
			B000CPL25	Climate smart advanced soil health*
	327	Conservation Cover (acres)	E327A	Conservation cover for pollinators and beneficial insects
	328	Conservation Crop Rotation (acres)	E327B	Establish Monarch butterfly habitat
			E328A	Resource conserving crop rotation
			E328B	Improved resource conserving crop rotation
			E328E	Soil health crop rotation
			E328F	Modifications to improve soil health and increase soil organic matter
			E328G	Crop rotation on recently converted CRP grass/legume cover for soil organic matter improvement
	329	Residue and Tillage Management, No Till (acres)	E328N	Intercropping to improve soil health
			E328O	Perennial grain crop conservation rotation
			E329A	No till to reduce soil erosion
			E329B	No till to reduce tillage induced particulate matter
			E329C	No till to increase plant-available moisture
	332	Contour Buffer Strips (acres)	E329D	No till system to increase soil health and soil organic matter content
			E329E	No till to reduce energy
	340	Cover Crop (acres)	None Available	
			E340A	Cover crop to reduce soil erosion
			E340B	Intensive cover cropping to increase soil health and soil organic matter content
			E340C	Use of multi-species cover crops to improve soil health and increase soil organic matter
			E340D	Intensive orchard/vineyard floor cover cropping to increase soil health
			E340F	Cover crop to minimize soil compaction
			E340G	Cover crop to reduce water quality degradation by utilizing excess soil nutrients
			E340H	Cover crop to suppress excessive weed pressures and break pest cycles
			E340I	Using cover crops for biological strip till
			E345A	Reduced tillage to reduce soil erosion
	345	Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till (acres)	E345B	Reduced tillage to reduce tillage induced particulate matter
			E345C	Reduced tillage to increase plant-available moisture
			E345D	Reduced tillage to increase soil health and soil organic matter content
			E345E	Reduced tillage to reduce energy use
			E386A	Enhanced field borders to reduce soil erosion along the edge(s) of a field
	386	Field Border (acres)	E386B	Enhanced field borders to increase carbon storage along the edge(s) of the field
			E386C	Enhanced field borders to decrease particulate emissions along the edge(s) of the field
			E386D	Enhanced field borders to increase food for pollinators along the edge(s) of a field
			E386E	Enhanced field borders to increase wildlife food and habitat along the edge(s) of a field
	393	Filter Strips (acres)	E393A	Extend existing filter strip to reduce water quality impacts
	412	Grassed Waterways (acres)	E412A	Enhance a grassed waterway
			E484A	Mulching to improve soil health
	484	Mulching (acres)	E484B	Reduce particulate matter emissions by using orchard or vineyard generated woody materials as mulch
			E484C	Reduce particulate matter emissions by using orchard or vineyard generated woody materials as mulch
	585	Stripcropping (acres)	None Available	
	601	Vegetative Barriers (feet)		
	603	Herbaceous Wind Barriers (feet)		

IRA Requirements

CSP & EQIP Use of Funds:

*The funds shall **only** be available for 1 or more agricultural conservation practices, enhancements, or bundles that the Secretary determines directly improve soil carbon, reduce nitrogen losses, or reduce, capture, avoid, or sequester carbon dioxide, methane, or nitrous oxide emissions, associated with agricultural production;*

IRA Requirements

CONDITIONS.--The funds made available under subsection (a) are subject to the conditions that the Secretary shall not--

(1) Enter into any agreement--

(A) that is for a term extending beyond September 30, 2031;
or

(B) under which any payment could be outlaid or funds
disbursed after September 30, 2031; or

(2) Use any other funds available to the Secretary to
satisfy obligations initially made under this section.



United States Department of Agriculture

New Mexico

FY 2023 IRA

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

FY 2023 IRA Contract Types

Eligible IRA contract types:

- CSP Classic
- CSP Renewals
- EQIP Classic

Available Funding: \$39,143,000

- CSP – \$8,524,000
- EQIP – \$30,619,000

IRA Funding Period

- Participants will not/did not need to submit a separate application.
- Application Deadlines for IRA
 - CSP Jan 5th
 - EQIP was April 26th
- **Utilized ACTNow to process IRA applications**

IRA Requirements

“IMPORTANT”

IRA funds:

- Cannot be combined with any other USDA program funding within a contract.
- Payments will count toward program-specific payment limitations

Application Processing

Cannot not use application types:

- Organic
 - Plan-Organic
 - OTI
-
- These application types have specific funding requirements that conflict with IRA funding requirements.



United States Department of Agriculture

IRA Core Practices



Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry (CSAF) Mitigation Activity List

- FY24 list of NRCS climate-smart mitigation activities: nrcs.usda.gov/mitigation-activities.pdf

Authorized IRA Conservation Practices

- **EQIP and CSP**
- One or more core Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry (CSAF) conservation practice or activity identify by NHQ.
- Facilitating practices and activities may be included if needed to implement the core practice.
 - Must provide IRA benefits
 - Meet NPPH definition
 - **Document the need**
 - Directly tie to the core practice

Facilitating Practices Enable Mitigation

EXAMPLES

Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

Tree Shrub Site Preparation (490)
Access Control (472)

Conservation Crop Rotation (328)

Cover Crops (340)
Irrigation Water Management (449)
Pest Management Conservation System (595)

Brush Management (314)

Fence (382)

Prescribed Grazing (528)

Watering Facility (614)
Stream Crossing (578)
Fence (382)
Livestock Shelter Structure (576)

Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)

Brush Management (314)
Herbaceous Weed Treatment (315)
Prescribed Grazing (528)

- IRA funding can also be used for practices needed to *facilitate a mitigation practice*.
- Here are some examples of conservation systems that include mitigation practices and the practices that may be needed to facilitate them.



Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov

Key Points

- One or more core practices or activities must be planned in a contract.
- Facilitating practices and activities can receive payment but must directly support a core practice addressing climate change in the contract.
- IRA and non-IRA funds cannot be combined in a contract.
- Practices and activities must be implemented, and payments completed prior to September 30, 2031.

Projected IRA Allocations???

EQIP

FY 24: **\$19,742,359**

FY 25: \$34,199,102

FY 26: \$39,403,529

CSP

FY 24: **\$7,560,705**

FY 25: \$15,221,485

FY 26: \$22,882,265

ACEP

FY 24: **\$7,616,055**

FY 25: \$9,139,266





United States Department of Agriculture

Questions?

Email recommendations to
Kenneth.branch@usda.gov
aaron.Reynolds@usda.gov
athena.cholas@usda.gov
martin.meairs@usda.gov
maggie.gnann@usda.gov

**Due date will be provided at next
STC Meeting (August)**