

# NMACD 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference Album

*Building the Future of Conservation*

October 28-30, 2024

# Thank You Sponsors!



## NMACD 78th Annual Conference



Building the Future of Conservation

October 28-29, 2024  
Sheraton Uptown

**Monday, October 28, 2024**

- 8:30- Noon NMARC&D Meeting (Wurlitzer)
- 10:00-Noon NMACD Board of Directors Meeting (Regal)
- 1:00-3:00 pm District Employees Training (Wurlitzer)
- 1:00- 2:00 pm Soil & Water Conservation Commission (Ambassador/Registry)
- 2:00-2:45 pm NMACD Resolutions Committee (Ambassador/Registry)

**BREAK**

- 3:00-5:00 pm STAR Steering Committee & Science Committee (Ambassador/Registry)
- 3:00-5:00 pm NRCS Meeting (Wurlitzer)
- 6:00-7:00 pm (Dinner on your own)

**Tuesday, October 29, 2024**

- 7:00 am Registration in Hallway & check in Silent Auction Items  
(All meetings Tuesday in Ambassador/Registry Rooms; Social & Dinner) (Regal/Wurlitzer)
- 8:00-8:20 am Memorial- Troy & Linda Hood
- 8:20-9:20 am **NMACD Business Meeting**
- Call to Order Josh Smith, NMACD President (Ambassador/Registry)
- Roll Call Kandi Hutchins, NMACD Vice President
- Minutes & Financials Debbie Hughes & Lisa Runyan
- Resolutions & Position Statements Rebecca Dow, NMACD Deputy Exec Director
- NMACD Annual Report Debbie Hughes, Executive Director
- 9:20-9:40 am STAR program in NM, Caroline Wade- Natl STAR Exec. Director
- 9:40-10:10 am Growing Our Own--As Demand Grows for Next Generation

**Rocky Mountain Youth Corps**, Quinn Mendelson; **Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps**, Chas Robles; **Conservation Corps New Mexico**, Joy Hernandez, Anthony Thomas, and Genevieve Tucker

10:10-11:30 am SWCDs are key in education and engaging our next generation of Conservationists.

**Sierra**- Bureau of Reclamation and Legislative funding; **Dona Ana**- BLM and 5-year forestry project; **Carlsbad**- NFWF grants; **San Francisco**- Whitewater Creek restoration project; **San Juan**- Russian Olive treatment; **Upper Chama**- NFL and WUI funding, Water Trust board; **Tierra y Montes**- HPCC fire recovery-EWP funding; **East Rio Arriba**- YCC; **Grant**- Dusty Hunt- Mule Deer Foundation funding; **Colfax SWCD**“ No mil levy? LOE options do exist.”; **Valencia**- Grants Received

- 11:30-12:45 pm Awards Luncheon  
STAR Signing Ceremony
- 1:00-2:00 pm. Legislative Panel  
Senators: Campos, Brantley, Woods, & Boone  
Representatives: Chatfield, Armstrong, Vincent, & Small

2:00 pm

**NMACD GENERAL SESSION**

- Flag Ceremony Hot Springs High School ROTC
- Pledge of Allegiance Kandy Hutchins
- National Anthem Kiana Towner
- Invocation Rebecca Dow
- Opening Remarks NMACD President, Josh Smith
- Partners in Action Xavier Montoya, NRCS  
Astor Boozer, NRCS  
Jonas Moya, FSA  
Jeff Witte, NMDA  
Gary Blair, NACD President Elect  
Eddie Vigil, NM SWCC  
Peter Vigil & Gerald Romero, Envirothon  
Laura Doth, NM RC&D

3:00-3:45 pm Legacy Fund Panel, State Agencies

**BREAK**

4:00-4:20 pm Managing Habitat for Birds - Peggy- Darr, Defenders of Wildlife

5:30 pm Social (cash bar) (Regal/Wurlitzer)

6:00 pm Dinner (Regal/Wurlitzer)

NMACD Awards and Aldo Leopold Conservation Award

**Wednesday, October 30, 2024**

- 8:00-10:30 am District Supervisor Training (Ambassador)
- 9:00 - 10:00 am Soil & Water Conservation District Employee Meeting (Registry)
- 10:45-1:00 pm TSP Employee Meeting (TSP Luncheon) (Serenade)

# Business Meeting

October 29, 2024



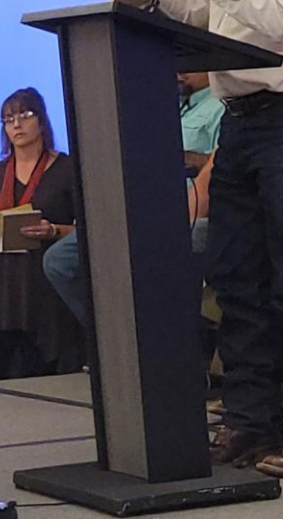
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CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

ancing Conservation at the Local Level





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## PROGRAM GRANT PROJECTS



- BLM Noxious and Invasive Weeds (2019-present)
- NACD Urban Community Garden (2019)
- NM NRCS - NRCS101 (2020)
- NMDA Health Soil Program (2020, 2022-2024)
- NMDA WQ&C - Master Watershed Conservationist Program (2021)
- BLM Rangeland Program (2024-2028)
- US Forestry Service DASWCD Neighborwoods (2024-2028)

PROGRAM PARTNERS:

- Western Land Management - Weed Treatment Specialist
- Cheeks' Closures / Backyard Farms / La Sierra
- City of Los Olivos
- Tree New Mexico
- Soil Geographic
- NMDC Water Resources
- J and M Global
- High Conservation Value



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A woman with short reddish hair and glasses, wearing a patterned green and white top and black pants, stands at a dark wooden podium. She is speaking into a microphone and gesturing with her right hand. She has a name tag on her chest.

A woman with dark hair, wearing a black top and a red lanyard, sits on the far left of the panel. She is looking towards the speaker and has a name tag.

A man with short dark hair, wearing a light-colored button-down shirt and blue jeans, sits in the second chair from the left. He is looking towards the speaker.

A man with short dark hair, wearing a dark polo shirt and blue jeans, sits in the third chair from the left. He is looking towards the speaker.

A man with short grey hair, wearing a dark jacket over a blue shirt and blue jeans, sits in the fourth chair from the left. He is looking towards the speaker.

A woman with grey hair and glasses, wearing a colorful floral patterned top and blue jeans, sits in the fifth chair from the left. She is looking towards the speaker.

A man with a grey beard and short grey hair, wearing a light blue button-down shirt and blue jeans, sits in the sixth chair from the left. He is looking towards the speaker.



Doña Ana  
Soil and Water Conservation District

## PROGRAM PARTNERS:

- Western Land Management – Weed Treatment Specialist
- Cruces Creatives / Backyard Farms / La Semilla
- City of Las Cruces
- Tree New Mexico
- Bell Geographic
- NMSU Water Resources Research Institute
- J and M Global
- High Desert Native Plants
- City of Sunland Park
- Interstate Stream Commission





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## Private Land Portion of the Willow Creek Restoration

- The \$986,430 funding was obtained from a New Mexico Environment Department Watershed Improvement Grant.
- Improvement of fish and riparian habitat in and along the Private Lands Reach of Willow Creek in Catron County, New Mexico including willow plantings, bank sloping, cross vein weirs, channel realignment, brush revetment, and J-hook vanes.
- Partners included U.S. Forest Service and San Francisco Soil & Water Conservation District.
- Natural Channel Design provided the watershed restoration plan funded by the New Mexico Environment Department and contracting the restoration work.



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## Russian olive and salt cedar program





1. NM DIVISION OF STATE FORESTRY
2. ERASWCD
3. CHAMA PEAK LAND ALLIANCE
4. NMACD
5. SWCC
6. CWMA -TAOS, SANTA FE, ERASWCD
7. NM WATER RESEARCH INSTITUTE
8. OUTDOOR EQUITY GRANT
9. NMDA
10. LEGISLATURE
11. NRCS



- NFL 2024 \$182,106
- NFL 2022 \$75,000
- SWCC 2023 \$750,000
- WUI 2022 \$250,000
- CWDF 2024 \$7.2 MILLION
- NMACD \$50,000
- WRI 2023 \$570,000
- OUTDOOR EQUITY GRANT 2024 \$28,756
- HEALTHY SOIL GRANT 2024 \$18,828
- CAPITAL OUTLAY 2024 \$50,000
- NRCS – Watershed –LWG \$1.5-2 Mil





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# Awards Luncheon and STAR Signing Ceremony

October 29, 2024








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NMACD 2024 OUTSTANDING CONSERVATIONIST  
Audrey McQueen  
LEADING THE PATH  
OF CONSERVATION



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NMACD 2024 OUTSTANDING CONSERVATIONIST  
Audrey McQueen  
LEADING THE PATH

NMACD 2024  
Outstanding  
Conservationist  
Audrey McQueen

# Legislative Panel

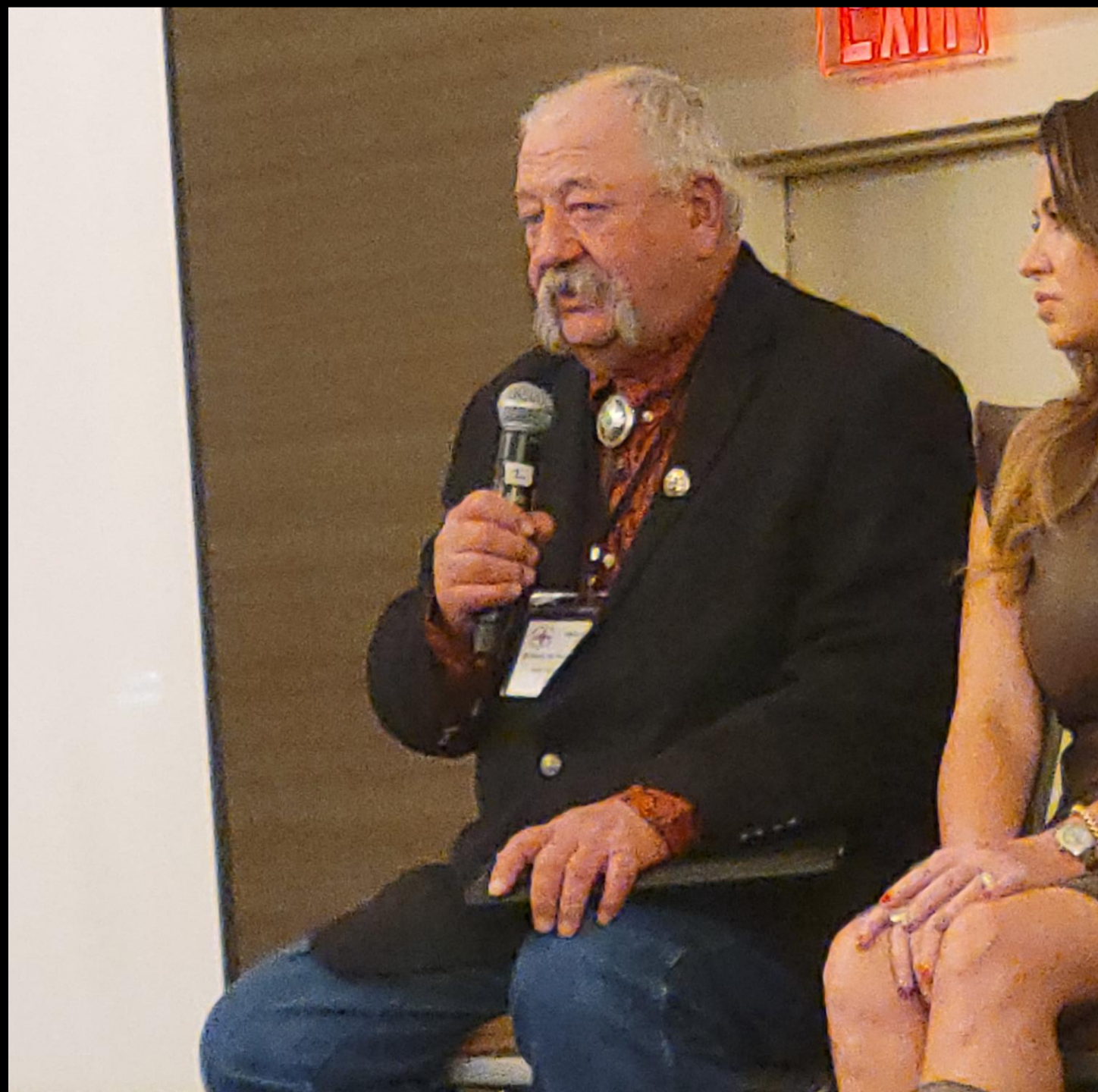
Senators: Brantley, Woods & Maestas

Representatives: Chatfield & Armstrong



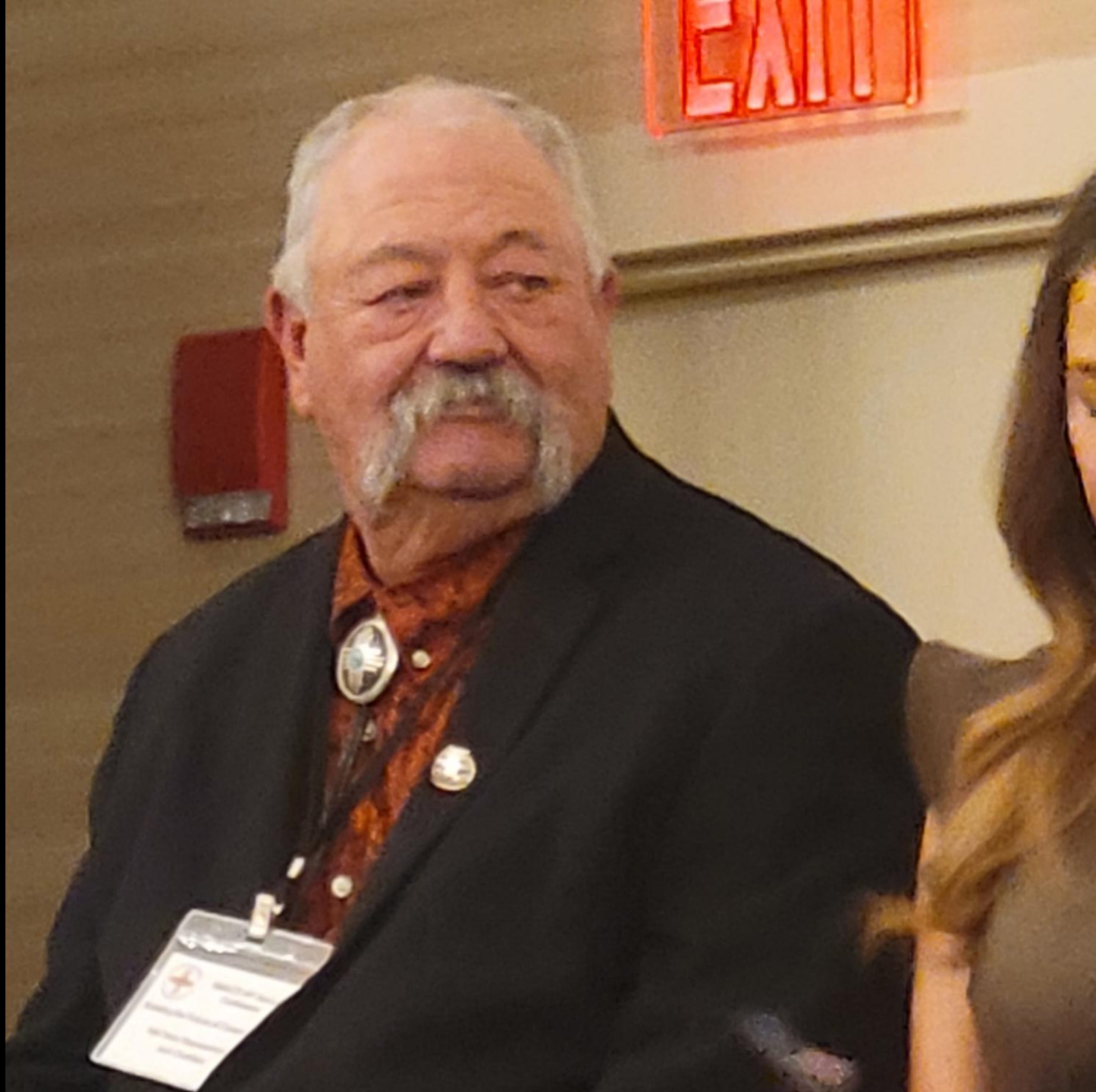
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Enhancing C



A woman with shoulder-length, wavy blonde hair and dark-rimmed glasses is the central focus. She is wearing a light-colored plaid blazer over a white top and a thin necklace. The background is a white wall with the word "Enhancing" partially visible in black text. To the left, there are vertical orange and yellow stripes. The image is framed by black bars on the left and right sides.

Enhancing







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the Local Level





Wildlife Habitat  
RESTORATION

Water Quality/  
Restoration

Forest and  
Watershed  
RESTORATION

HMACT 10th Annual  
Conference

# NMACD General Session

October 29, 2024

# Hot Springs High School ROTC









**Kiana Towner, National Anthem**













MEXICO ASSOCIATION OF  
REGIONAL DISTRICTS

at the Local Level

## Your NACD Leadership



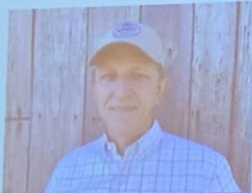
President  
Kim LaFleur  
Massachusetts



First Vice-President  
Gary Blair  
Mississippi



Second Vice-President  
Bill Simshauser  
Kansas



Secretary-Treasurer  
Mark Masters  
Georgia



Immediate Past President  
Michael Crowder  
Washington



Chief Executive Officer  
Jeremy Peters  
Washington, D.C.





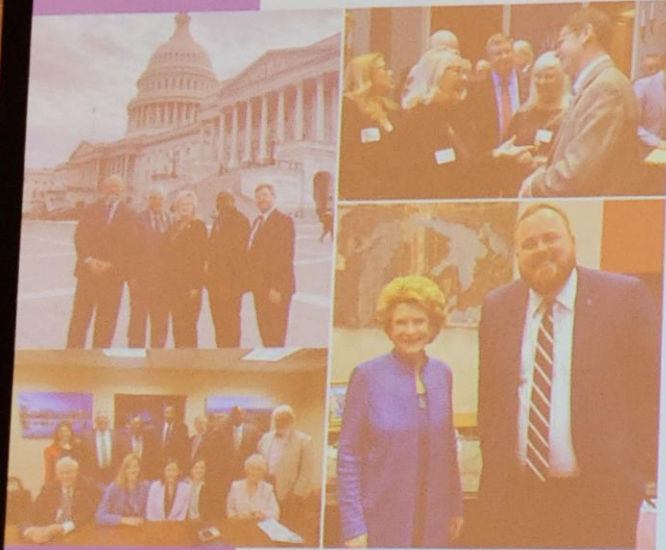


ASSOCIATION OF DISTRICTS

the Local Level

# Advocacy

and what it means for you



- NACD speaks on behalf of conservation districts with *one voice*
- NACD's Legislative Committee and Government Affairs Team develops and supports policy requests
- NACD's Spring Fly-In provides an opportunity for members to meet with their legislators on Capitol Hill





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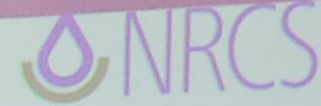
ASSOCIATION OF  
DISTRICTS

the Local Level

# CORE PARTNERS



N C F  
NATIONAL CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

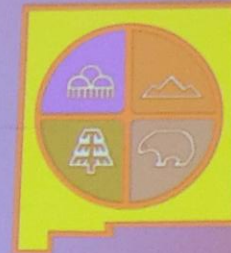
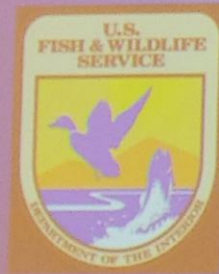


United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service



New Mexico  
Association of  
Conservation  
Districts

NMDA  
New Mexico Department of Agriculture









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ELECTION DISTRICTS



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# River Stewardship Benefits



Restoration of Gila trout and riparian habitat on Black Canyon Creek, Bat Conservation International (Gila National Forest)

- Addresses water quality problems, including impacts from wildfires, flooding, and drought
- Engages local stakeholders in water restoration
- Supports small businesses in New Mexico
- Provides the necessary match for approximately \$2.3 million per year in Federal Clean Water Act grants







# LOE Fund Agency FY25 Distributions

Agency	Program	Target Fund or Program	Agency Allocation	Program Allocations	Agency Distribution (\$M)
EMNRD	Forest & Watershed Restoration Act (FAWRA)	Forest Land Protection Revolving Fund	22.50%	50%	\$2.81
	Natural Heritage Conservation Act (NHCA)	Natural Heritage Conservation Fund		50%	
NMDA	Soil & Water Conservation Districts	NM Board of Regents	22.50%	NA	\$2.81
	Healthy Soils	NM Board of Regents		NA	
	Noxious Weed Management	NM Board of Regents		NA	
NMED	River Stewardship	General Fund	10.00%	100%	\$1.25
EDD	Outdoor Equity Fund	Outdoor Equity Fund	15.00%	25%	\$1.88
	Outdoor Recreation Trails+ Grant	Special Projects & Outdoor Infra. Fund		75%	
DCA	Prehistoric & Historic Sites Preservation Act	GOB Fund 478	8.00%	100%	\$1.00
DGF	Game & Fish Outdoor Recreation Act/Wildlife Conservation Act	Game Protection Fund	22.00%	100%	\$2.75
			100.00%		\$ 12.50





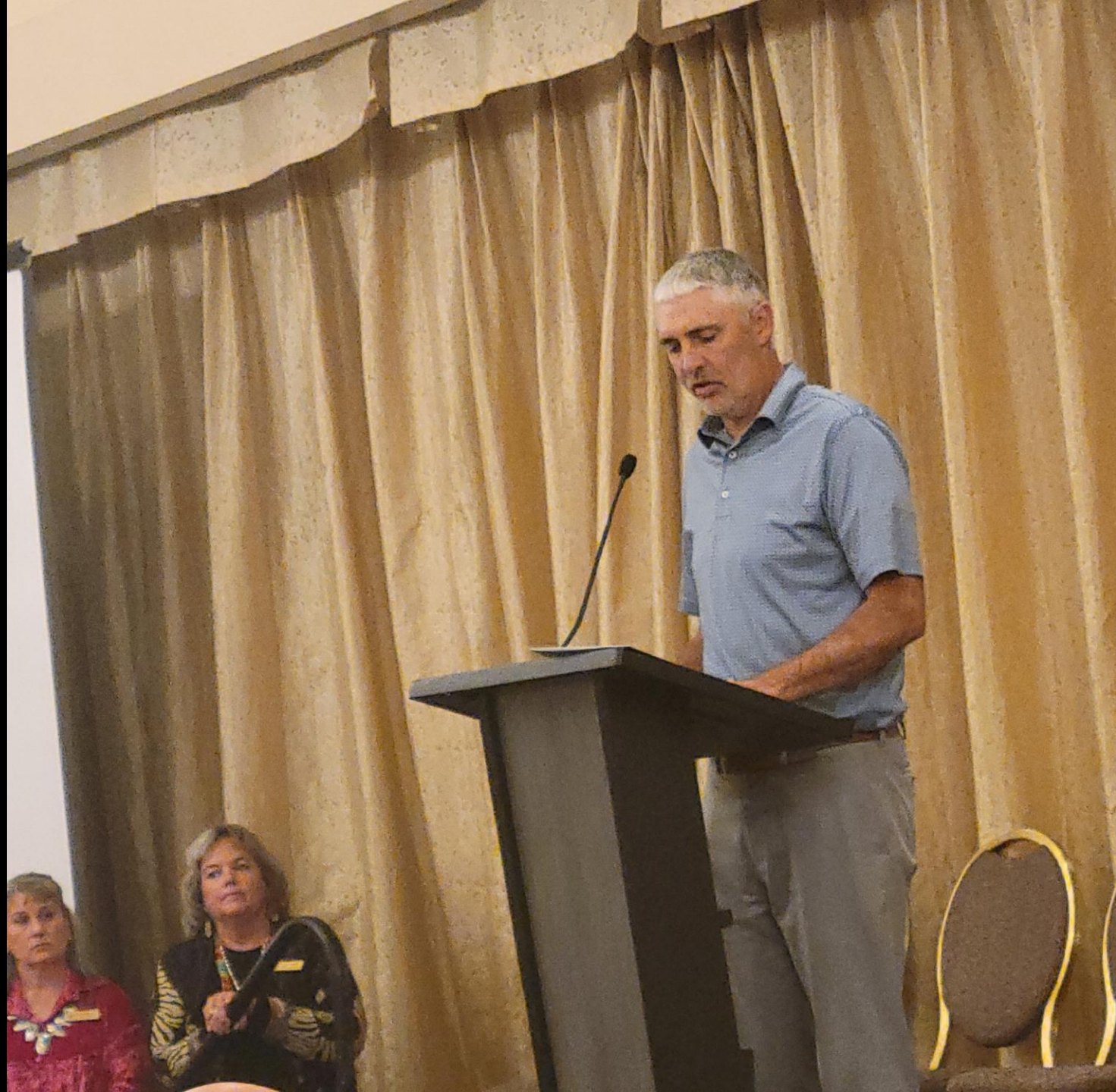






# NMACD Dinner and Aldo Leopold Conservation Award

October 29, 2024











2024  
LEOPOLD  
CONSERVATION  
AWARD  
LANFORD LIVESTOCK







