



San Francisco Soil and Water Conservation District

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Annual Report 2023/2024

The District Provided representation at the 2024 New Mexico legislative session, all of the monthly meetings of the New Mexico CAP Entity seeking additional water for southwestern New Mexico Counties, the regular meetings of the Border Conservation Districts, and the Southwestern New Mexico Council of Governments.

July- Howard attended a meeting with Camille Howe from the USFS and spoke about juniper removal, timber sales, and allowing the District to contract for NEPAs.

August- Final payment issue on the Apache Creek Project. District is continuing to work with Water Trust Board and Natural Channel Design on the Willow Creek Restoration Project. Howard and Jan attended the Catron County Fair with a booth.

September – Bill set up equipment to do range monitoring on his allotment. Frank has been working with the Pleasanton Ditch on repairs and seeking funding. Howard Attended the Catron County Fair and has been communicating with the State Director of the BLM regarding changes in management rules.

October- Carolyn talked to the USFS about placing roadside monuments referencing retention of mineral lands. Howard is working with a landowner to research options for repairing the Alma Ditch.

November- Bill, Jan, Frank, and Howard attended the NMACD meeting in Albuquerque.

December – Bill reported that virtual fences have not been working well. Cattle can be driven through them. Howard attended the NM Farm and Livestock Annual Convention.

January- Finalizing the Work Plan with Natural Channel Design for the Willow Creek Restoration Project. Beginning discussions with Natural Channel Design for a project in Tularosa Creek.

February- Frank continues his discussion with people at Air Burner. Howard requested \$90,000 for an Air Burner through Capital Outlay. Howard also attended the legislative session and testified to committees.

March- Frank reported that the Pleasanton Ditch received \$150,000 from Field and Stream but they continue to seek further funding. Estimate they will need \$500,000. Howard is working out a contract with New Mexico Game and Fish so that Water Trust Board to pay directly for Willow Creek work.

April- Frank attended meeting with Forest Service. Bill also attended the Forest Service Meeting, as well as a hearing on the water lawsuit regarding San Augustin Plains. Howard traveled to Washington, DC and met with house members and staff as well at two members of the senate to discuss private property rights, forest management, grazing rights, energy choice, and the Farm Bill.

May- Frank, Gary, and Howard attended and presented at Ranch Days. Howard has been participating in virtual calls regarding BLM rules and USFS policies on old growth forests. He also visited and photographed the Centerfire worksite to see how the erosion control structures were working.