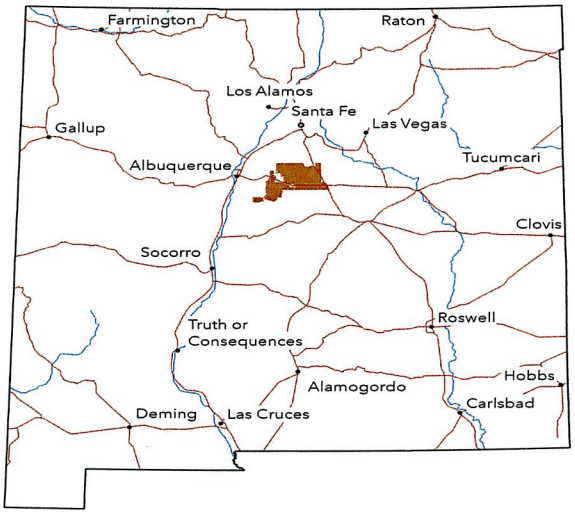
CENTRAL TRI-COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

LAND USE PLAN

AUGUST 2025



Central Tri-County Soil and Water Conservation
District
Location Map



Central Tri-County Soil and Water Conservation District

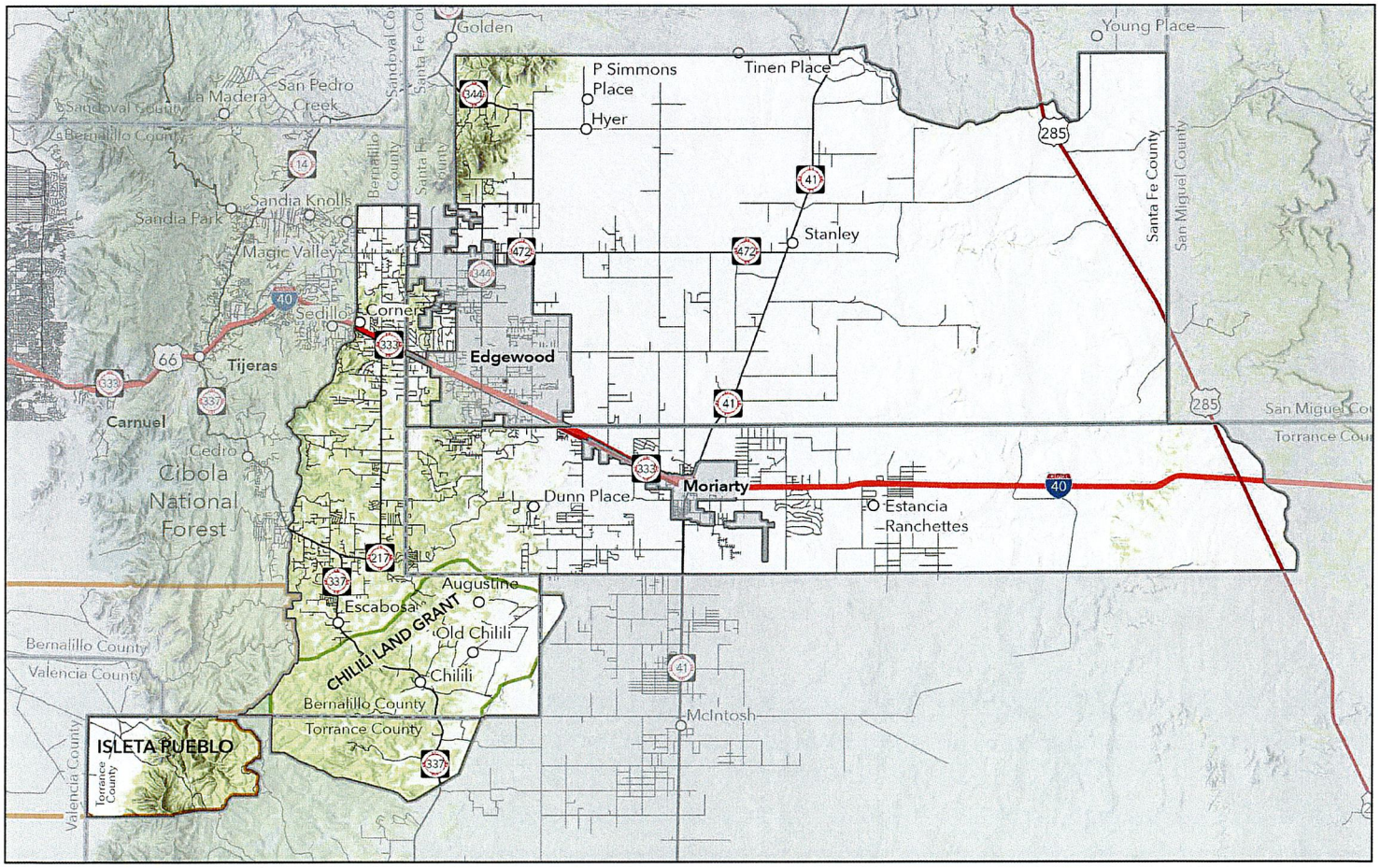


TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION
1.1 Background
1.2 Authority
1.3 Adoption

2.0 PRIMARY PLANNING GUIDANCE
2.1 Plan Definitions
2.2 Annual Action Plan
2.3 Policies and Procedures
2.4 Emergency Plans - dams and structures
2.5 Coordination Agreements - local, state, and federal agencies

3.0 PURPOSE, CUSTOM AND CULTURE, AND GOALS
3.1 Purpose
3.2 Custom and Culture
3.3 Goals

4.0 PRIMARY PLANNING GUIDANCE AND DIRECTIVES (PPGD)
4.1 Objectives
4.2 Resource Concerns

4.2-1 Water Resources
4.2-2 Soil Management
4.2-3 Range and Grassland
4.2-4 Wildlife and Livestock
4.2-5 Threatened and Endangered / Sensitive Species
4.2-6 Predator Control
4.2-7 Invasive Species
4.2-8 Wildfire/Post Fire Response
4.2-9 Flood/Storm Water Management
4.2-10 Watershed and Forest Health
4.2-11 Energy/Renewable Energy
4.2-12 Outreach and Education
4.2-13 Special Land Designation
4.2-14 Visual Resources
4.2-15 Custom and Culture

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The District is a governmental subdivision of the state, a local body politic and corporate. The Board of Supervisors (Board) is charged with matters affecting soil erosion, flood water and sediment damage. As such, the duties of the Board include the coordination of matters of research, investigations, and surveys with government agencies. The results should be published and disseminated along with remedies and measures related to such findings. Sections 73-20-25 through 73-20-48 NMSA 1978 is the summary description of the New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation District Act (Act).

The Central Tri-County Soil and Water Conservation District Policy Plan is an actionable policy for natural resource management and land use within the District. It aligns with the legislative purpose of the Act and aims to conserve and develop natural resources, provide flood control, preserve wildlife, protect the tax base, and promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the people in the District. The plan provides a scientifically and culturally sound framework for resource planning objectives. There is a recognized need to promote public and governmental understanding that land and water are the most important resources within CTCSWCD and must be used sustainably. Emphasis is placed on creating a viable rural and urban interface working landscape.

To achieve this, the District needs a thorough and adaptable Land Use Plan. The Plan is required to take available technical, financial, and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus and coordinate them so they meet the needs of the local land user.

The objectives of the plan are to: (1) protect soil and water resources; (2) facilitate coordination among federal agencies, and state and county land use decisions; and (3) provide strategies and policies for enhancing the conservation, improvement, and management of these resources. The plan does not intend to regulate, zone, or diminish private property rights, but rather seeks to protect private property rights, customs, and culture.

When a species is listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are significant consequences for landowners, businesses, and communities near the habitat in question. ESA regulations are expensive, and a single listing can impact hundreds of thousands of people. Therefore, it is essential that the federal government use the best available objective, peer-reviewed science, to determine if a listing is necessary or if other conservation efforts will suffice.

This plan was developed in part because regulatory decisions that devalue private property or restrict citizens' access to natural resources can have a significant impact on the local economy and community customs and culture.

Federal land decision-making is hindered by an administrative process that unnecessarily complicates and delays actions. For example, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was created to ensure that public decision-makers consider environmental impacts. Similarly, land use planning under the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) and the Federal Lands Policy Management Act (FLPMA) aims to make public land decision-making more informed and rational. While the intentions behind these procedural requirements are appropriate, in practice, these procedures have become obstacles to effective land management.

Federal law establishes national policies that prioritize national interests over local interests. While decisions regarding federal land use and planning may benefit state and national citizens outside of the CTCSWCD, they may also place a disproportionate amount of costs and responsibilities on local communities and citizens.

The Forest Service recognized in its own 2002 study, The Process Predicament, that statutory, regulatory, and administrative requirements hinder the efficient and effective management of the National Forest System.

The CTCSWCD is the administrative body responsible for the dictates of the law in partial areas of Torrance, Bernalillo and Santa Fe, counties. CTCSWCD was established in 1941 and covers approximately 513,860 acres.

1.1 BACKGROUND HISTORY

DISTRICT LOCATION

The District is geographically located in the eastern part of Bernalillo County, southern end of Santa Fe County, and northern Torrance County. Towns and villages located within the District are Moriarty, Stanley, Edgewood, Chilili Land Grant, Cedar Grove, Clines Corners, Yrisarri, and the eastern mountainous section of Isleta Pueblo.

TORRANCE COUNTY HISTORY

Torrance County was established on March 16, 1903. It was named for Francis J. Torrance who was an early builder of commerce in New Mexico. The County was carved from portions of Valencia, Lincoln, Socorro, and Bernalillo counties. Farming, ranching, and orchards have been the traditional economic activities.

Settlement occurred primarily along the eastern foothills of the Sandia and Manzano Mountains. With railroad and roadway crossings, and irrigated agriculture became a major feature in the valley and expansive rangelands, attracted a ranching livelihood.

Water is the most significant issue affecting Torrance County. The County is located within a closed topographic basin containing no major streams or rivers. Recharge is by direct precipitation, which makes it critical to protect this valuable resource.

According to the 2022 Agriculture Census, Torrance County has 1,692,413 acres in farmland, including 49,509 acres in cropland, 1,563,638 acres in pastureland, 71,676 acres in woodlands and 7,590 acres in other categories, creating a market value of $45,619,000 in products sold. This represents a reduction of 1% from 2017 in the market value of products sold. The county has 8,293 irrigated acres. The county is ranked 12th in the state for grains, oilseeds, dry beans, and dry peas production, which is a drop of 7 points since 2012, and 8th for other crops and hay production, which is a drop of 6 points since 2012.

SANTA FE COUNTY HISTORY

The development of Santa Fe as the capital of Spain's vast New Mexico territory dominated the area's history. Founded by Mexico in 1844, the county was reestablished in 1852 as one of New Mexico Territory's first counties. The Rio Grande, which passes through the county's far northwest, and several small, tributary streams are the principal bodies of water.

According to the 2022 Agriculture Census, Santa Fe county has 494,844 acres in farmland, including 13,512 acres in cropland, 1470,927 acres in pastureland, 3,839 acres in woodland and 6,566 acres in other categories, creating a market value of $18,489,000 in products sold. The county has 6,742 irrigated acres. The county is ranked 15th in the state for crop production and 28th for livestock production. Top crops are Forage (hay/haylage) and Corn for silage/greenchop.

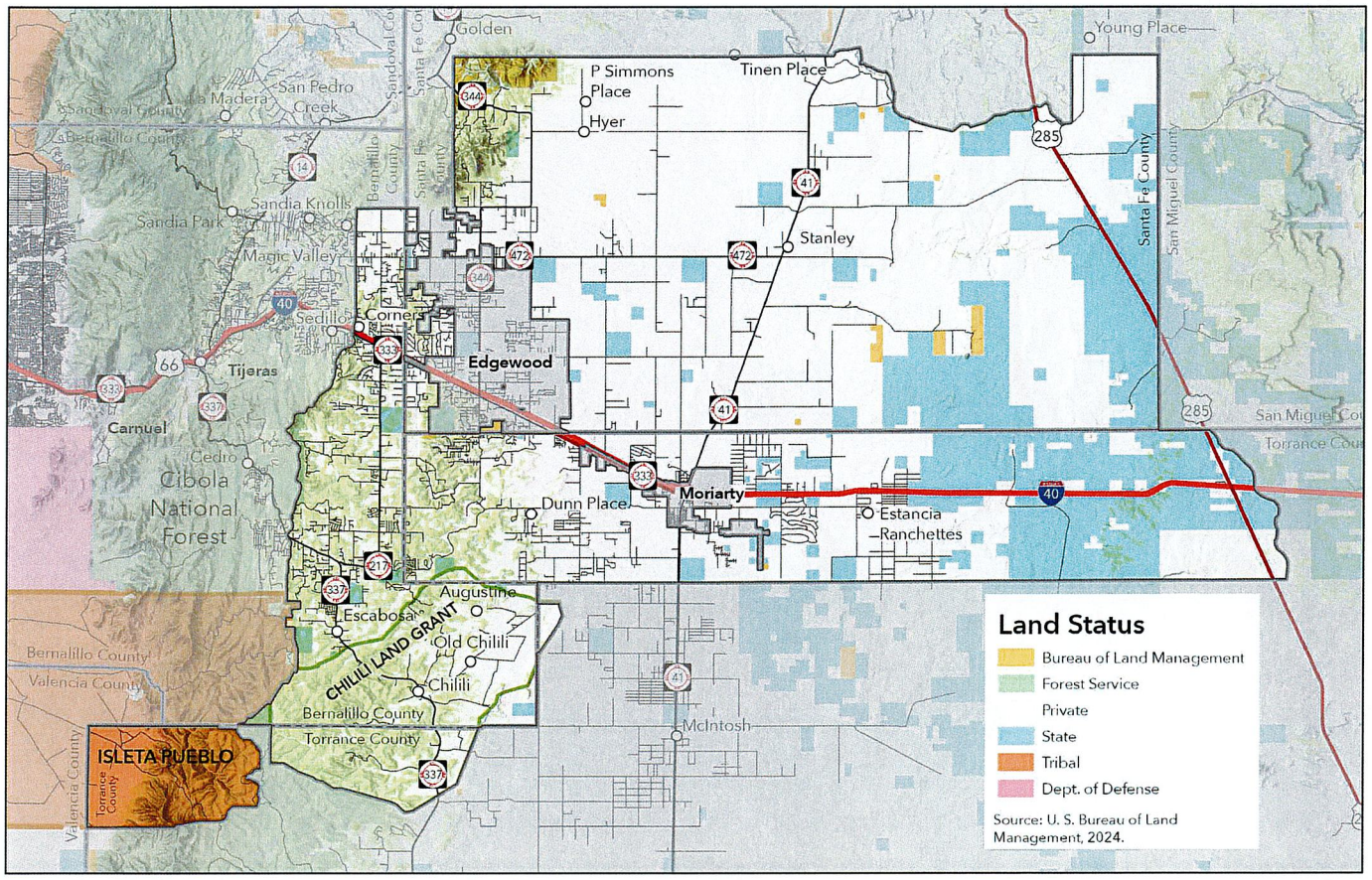
BERNALILLO COUNTY HISTORY

Named after the town of Bernalillo, which was its original county seat and a former Spanish military outpost, Bernalillo County encompasses 1,167 square miles bisected by the Rio Grande. It was one of nine original counties when the New Mexico Territory was created in 1850, and at one point its length extended all the way from Texas to the San Bernardino Valley in California. Albuquerque became the permanent county seat on May 15, 1883. Ancestors of the pueblo Indians first settled the East Mountains about 700 A.D., visible remains of which may be seen at Tijeras Pueblo. Spanish missionaries arrived in the early 1600s, and founded missions at six locations, including Chilili, NM. Spanish colonial settlers built estancias (large farm-ranch centers) between Chilili and Quarai. Drought and Apache raids forced a Spanish retreat about 1670, but settlers returned in 1763 to establish a plaza at Carnuel at the mouth of Tijeras Canyon.

The East Mountain area is composed of several hydrogeologic areas, distinctive in subsurface geology, groundwater flow, and often, water quality. Water-bearing geologic units in the East Mountain area consist of limestone, sandstone, siltstone, and unconsolidated alluvium. In addition, highly varied water availability conditions, variable storage, fractured flow, and aquifer compartmentalization contribute to the complexity of hydrogeology.

According to the 2022 Agriculture Census, Bernalillo County has 964 farms which is a 23% decrease from the 2017 Census. The county has 21,210 acres in farmland, 203,885 acres in pastureland and 21,163 acres in woodland creating a market value of $16,089,000 in products sold. The county has 4,337 irrigated acres. The county is ranked 16th in the state for crop production and 29th for livestock production. Top crops are Forage (hay/haylage), Vegetables harvested and Corn for silage/greenchop.

Central Tri-County Soil and Water Conservation District



CLIMATE

Climate varies according to elevation, but the District's precipitation range is 12" to 28" in the higher elevations; temperatures range from an average 15°F in the winter to 89°F in July. The growing season (frost free days) range 90 days in higher elevations to 200 in lower elevations.

ELEVATIONS

Elevation ranges between 3,800 feet above sea level to 9,600 feet above sea level.

LAND STATUS

CTCSWCD's land status breakdown includes 385,075 acres (81%) of private ownership, 44,586 acres (9.35%) under Land Grant jurisdiction, 61 acres (0.01%) under Tribal jurisdiction, and the remaining acreage under public land management. Federal land managers include Forest Service with 798 acres (0.17%), the Bureau of Land Management with 4,382 acres (1%), and the State Land Office with 86,339 acres (18.14%).

WATERSHEDS

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) has designated twenty-one major regions (river basins) for the nation. Regions are further divided into subregions, and New Mexico contains portions of five regions: Arkansas-White-Red, Texas Gulf, Upper Colorado, Lower Colorado, and the Rio Grande. CTCSWCD is within the Rio Grande basin and Rio Grande subregion as delineated by the US Geological Survey and has four main 8-digit hydrologic unit watersheds: Rio Grande - Santa Fe (NM), Western Estancia (NM), Pecos Headwaters (NM), and Pintada Arroyo (NM).

HYDROLOGY

The District is located within a topographically closed basin, and all water that falls as precipitation within the boundaries of the basin can leave the basin only as evaporation, sublimation, or transpiration from plants. Ground water moves from upland areas down gradient toward the lower parts of the basin. Most ground water represents recharge from precipitation that falls in the Mountains east of the district because precipitation is greater in the mountainous area.

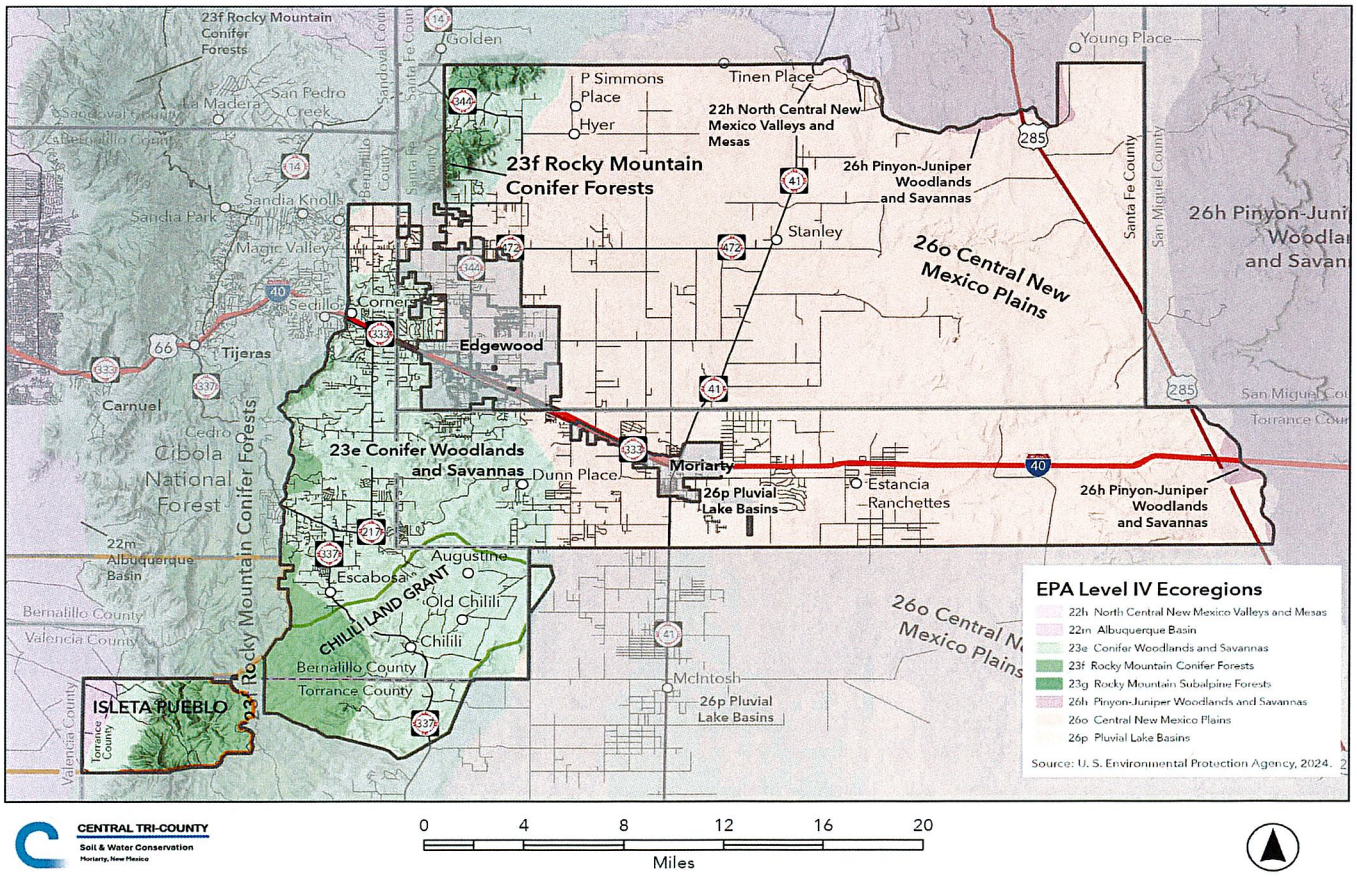
Hydrologically, there is evidence that groundwater from the Estancia Basin moves into the Tularosa Basin from the southeast area of the Estancia Basin (Hawley, 2008). The basin is bowl-shaped. There are no significant perennial streams within the basin, though short reaches of spring-fed drainages exist. Most drainages in the basin are ephemeral and go for prolonged periods with no or limited flow.

Torrance County is the largest spatial area within the boundaries of the Estancia Basin and encompasses approximately 80% of the land area within the hydrographic boundaries of the Estancia Basin. The residents and economy of the Estancia Basin relies solely on the precipitation and groundwater for water supply. Most of the current water supply is derived from the Valley Fill Aquifer system located in the central portion of the Estancia Basin. Santa Fe and Bernalillo Counties also play significant roles in the Estancia Basin due to flourishing residential housing that is expanding eastward into the Estancia Basin.

ECOREGIONS

The District has three Level IV ecoregions: Arizona/New Mexico Plateau (Albuquerque Basin)** - The Arizona/New Mexico Plateau represents a large transitional region between the drier shrublands and wooded higher relief tablelands and the forested mountain ecoregions that border the region.

Central Tri-County Soil and Water Conservation District



Arizona/New Mexico Mountains (Rocky Mountain Conifer Forests and Conifer Woodland Savannas)** - The Arizona/New Mexico Mountains are distinguished from neighboring mountainous ecoregions by their lower elevations and associated vegetation indicative of drier, warmer environments, due in part to the region's more southerly location. Forests of Spruce, Fir, and Douglas-Fir, common in the Southern Rockies are only found in limited areas at the highest elevations in this region. Piñon/Juniper and Oak woodlands are found at lower and middle elevations, and the higher elevations are mostly covered with open to dense Ponderosa Pine forests.

Southwestern Tablelands (Piñon/Juniper Woodlands and Savannas, Central New Mexico Plains, Pluvial Lake Basins)** - Unlike most adjacent Great Plains ecological regions, little of the Southwestern Tablelands is in cropland. Much of this region is in sub-humid grassland and semiarid rangeland. The eastern boundary represents a transition from the more extensive cropland within the High Plains to the more rugged and less arable land within the Southwestern Tablelands. The natural vegetation in this region is mostly Grama-Buffalograss, with some Juniper-Scrub Oak and Grass Savanna on escarpment bluffs. Prairie fires were important in maintaining the grasslands and suppressing the encroachment of shrub and woody species.

PHYSIOGRAPHY/SOILS/GEOLOGY

North Central New Valleys and Mesas (22h) - Physiography: Broad, rolling plains, tablelands, and piedmonts, ephemeral drainages. Geology: Quaternary colluvium with valley-fill alluvium, piedmont alluvium, discontinuous eolian deposits, and some calcretes. Mostly Permian sandstone, siltstone, limestone, dolomite, and shale; minor areas of Triassic sedimentary rocks, and some Tertiary Ogallala Formation sediments. **Soils:** Aridisols (Petrocalcids, Haplocalcids, Calciargids), Mollisols (Calciustolls).

Rocky Mountain Conifer Forest (23f) - Physiography: Open low mountains and high mountains with steep slopes, numerous canyons. Mostly moderate to high gradient intermittent and some perennial streams with bedrock, cobble, and gravel substrates. **Geology:** Quaternary colluvium, block-rubble colluvium, colluvium with valley-fill alluvium. **Soils:** Mollisols (Argiustolls, Paleustolls, Haplustolls), Alfisols (Haplustalfs, Paleustalfs).

Conifer Woodlands and Savannas (23e) - Physiography: High hills and low mountains, numerous canyons. Mostly moderate to high gradient intermittent streams with bedrock, cobble, gravel, and sandy substrates; a few perennial rivers. **Geology:** Quaternary block-rubble colluvium, colluvium with valley-fill alluvium. Permian and Pennsylvanian limestone, sandstone, and shale; some Tertiary volcanics, Tertiary intrusive rocks, small areas of Cretaceous sandstone and shale, and Precambrian granite, granitic gneiss, schist, and quartzite. **Soils:** Alfisols (Haplustalfs, Paleustalfs), Inceptisols (Haplustepts), Entisols (Ustorthents), Mollisols (Argiustolls, Calciustolls).

Piñon/Juniper Woodlands and Savannas (26h) - Physiography: Dissected plains and tablelands with some scattered ridges and hills. Mostly intermittent streams and some perennial streams that are spring-fed or that originate in mountain ecoregions. **Geology:** Quaternary colluvium, piedmont alluvium, and colluvium with valley-fill alluvium. Cretaceous, Jurassic, Triassic, Permian, and Pennsylvanian sandstone, siltstone, shale, limestone, dolomite, mudstone, and conglomerate. Some Tertiary volcanic rocks and Tertiary intrusives. **Soils:** Alfisols (Haplustalfs), Aridisols (Haplargids, Haplocalcids, Calciargids, Haplogypsids, Haplocambids), Mollisols (Calciustolls, Haplustolls, Argiustolls), Inceptisols (Haplustepts), Entisols (Torriorthent).

Central New Mexico Plains (26o) - Physiography: Broad, rolling plains, tablelands, and piedmonts. Ephemeral drainages. **Geology:** Mostly Permian sandstone, siltstone, limestone, dolomite, and shale; minor areas of Triassic sedimentary rocks, and some Tertiary Ogallala Formation sediments. **Soils:** Aridisols (Petrocalcids, Haplocalcids, Calciargids), Mollisols (Calciustolls).

Pluvial Lake Basins (26p) - Physiography: Flat plains, lake basins. **Geology:** Quaternary lacustrine deposits of clay, sand, and pebble gravel. **Soils:** Aridisols (Haplocalcids), Entisols (Torriorthents), Mollisols (Haplustolls).

VEGETATION

The District vegetative type includes Forests of Douglas-Fir, White Fir, Southwestern White Pine, and Aspen and Blue Spruce are occasionally found in cool, moist canyons. Ponderosa Pine, Piñon/Juniper woodlands, Rocky Mountain Juniper, One Seed Juniper, Mountain Mahogany, Four Wing Saltbush, Soapweed, Broom Snakeweed and areas with Gambel Oak. **Grasses:** Mostly shortgrass prairie with Black Grama, Hairy Grama, Western Wheatgrass, Sideoats Grama, Blue Grama, Alkali Sacaton, Giant Sacaton, Mountain Muhly, New Mexico Feathergrass, Threeawns, some Little Bluestem, and Inland Saltgrass may occur in saline areas.

ACEQUIA / COMMUNITY DITCH

Some of the acequias and ditches within the District boundary are among the oldest water management institutions in the United States. These earthen ditches, native engineering works used for irrigation, date back over 1,000 years. When Europeans arrived in northern New Mexico during the late sixteenth century, they quickly appreciated the efficiency of the water irrigation systems already in place.

Acequia irrigation systems in the middle Rio Grande area have supported human subsistence, as well as social, political, and ecological systems in traditional communities throughout the District. The acequia irrigators, known as parcientes, formed their own water democracies operating outside of government in terms of their internal affairs: they elected their own officers, established rules, enforced them, and settled water disputes.

The first water laws adopted by the Territorial Assembly of New Mexico in 1851-52 under United States jurisdiction were the Leyes de las Acequias, which guaranteed the priority of water use for irrigation and the application of existing ditch rules. As in the past, acequia communities today continue to manage their day-to-day governance and collectively maintain their irrigation works and repair their diversion structures when necessary.

CURRENT LAND RESOURCE USE

The District current land use includes recreation, wildlife habitat, some designated wilderness (USDA-FS Cibola National Forest) and tribal land (Isleta). Minuscule timber production, woodlands, ranching, and livestock grazing. Agriculture and cropland in Estancia basin of mostly hay, alfalfa, and some corn. The private land use breakdown is 18,000 acres of irrigated cropland, 200 acres of dry cropland, 100,000 acres of urban interface, and 369,335 acres of rangeland.

1.2 AUTHORITY

Sections 73-20-25 through 73-20-48 of the New Mexico Statutes Annotated (NMSA) 1978, considered and resolved by legislative action, declare that:

1) The land, waters, and other natural resources are basic physical assets of New Mexico, and their preservation and development are necessary to protect and promote the health and general welfare of the people of the state.
2) Improper use of land and related natural resources, soil erosion, and water loss result in economic waste in New Mexico through the deterioration of the state's natural resources.
3) Appropriate corrective and conservation practices and programs must be encouraged and executed in New Mexico to conserve and beneficially develop the soil, water, and other natural resources of the state.

(73-20-25 NMSA 1978) The legislature's policy and the Act's purpose is to:

1) Control and prevent soil erosion.
2) Prevent damage from floodwater and sediment.
3) Further conserve, develop, and effectively use water resources.
4) Promote the use of impounded water for recreational, environmental, agricultural, and industrial purposes.
5) Conserve and develop the state's natural resources, provide flood control, preserve wildlife, protect the tax base, and promote the health, safety, and general welfare of New Mexico residents.

73-20-26. Legislative states "The land, waters, and other natural resources are the basic physical assets of New Mexico, and their preservation and development are necessary to protect and promote the health and general welfare of the people of the state."

73-20-45. Specific powers of districts. (2003) CTCSWCD "by and through its supervisors, is authorized to contract, convey and make and execute other instruments and documents necessary or convenient to the exercise of district powers; as well as act as agent for any instrumentality or agency of the state or the federal government in the acquisition, construction, operation or administration of a natural resource conservation, utilization or development project or program within the district."

73-20-44. Districts; description; general powers of districts. (2003) States that "A "soil and water conservation district," organized under or perpetuated by the provisions of the Soil and Water Conservation District Act is a governmental subdivision of the state, a public body politic and corporate." Districts may conduct a wide array of research, investigations, and surveys to facilitate conservation and development. Included, but not limited to, is the extended authority to develop comprehensive plans for natural resource conservation, development, and utilization including flood prevention, control and prevention of soil erosion and the development, utilization, and disposal of water.

73-20-48. State agencies to cooperate. (2003) "Agencies, instrumentalities and political subdivisions of this state having jurisdiction over or charged with the administration of public lands situated within the defined geographical area of any district shall fully cooperate with the district's supervisors in effecting district projects and programs. Supervisors shall have free access to enter and perform work upon state public lands lying within their districts; provided, however, supervisors shall not have unqualified access to state lands that are subject to private dominion under lease or that are developed for, or devoted to, another public use.

73-20-47. Cooperation between districts. (1965). "The supervisors of two or more soil and water conservation districts may cooperate with each other in the exercise of any district power."

1.3 ADOPTION

By adopting this Plan in accordance with the Act, the District hereby declares its intention to engage in decision-making related to all soil and water resources within its jurisdiction as outlined in the law. The statement of purpose includes the recognition of the duties, statutory requirements, regulations, and court mandates of local, county, state, and federal agencies to comply with plans adopted under the idea and definition of coordination noted herein. This also allows for the coordination of local, county, state, and federal planning efforts with those of the District.

It is the District's policy to improve resource quality, promote multiple uses of resources, and enhance soil and water stability on administered lands. CTCSWCD is dedicated to a collaborative planning process with federal and state agencies as well as local governments. CTCSWCD will fairly consider the best interests of all individuals within its jurisdictional boundary and the State of New Mexico in the utilization of state and federal lands.

CTCSWCD is committed to ensuring that all natural resource decisions impacting the District are guided by the following principles:

- To maintain and revitalize the concept of multiple use on state and federal lands within CTCSWCD's jurisdictional boundary.
- To protect private property rights and private property interests, including investment backed expectations.
- To protect local historical customs and culture.
- To protect the traditional economic structures in the District that form the base for economic stability.
- To facilitate new economic opportunities by relying on free markets.
- To protect the rights to the enjoyment of the natural resources of the District by all citizens.

CTCSWCD believes that making resource and land use management decisions in a coordinated way by federal and state agencies and local government entities will help maintain and revitalize the multiple use of state and federal lands within and affecting the District and will also enhance environmental quality.

2.0 PRIMARY PLANNING GUIDANCE

2.1 PLAN DEFINITIONS

- **Acequia -** Acequias are recognized under New Mexico law as political subdivisions of the state. The acequia associations have the power of eminent domain and are authorized to borrow money and enter into contracts for maintenance and improvements. Acequia associations do not have the power to tax, so the expenses of maintenance and improvements are borne by the individuals served by the irrigation system.
- **Agriculture** – The art and science of growing crops and raising and breeding livestock. As per this Plan, activities which traditionally define agriculture in the District include, but are not limited to cattle ranching, farming of hay, alfalfa, corn, and other small grain crops. Some timber harvest firewood, latillias, vigas and other traditional wood products.
- **Animal Unit Month ("AUM")** – The quantity of forage required by one mature cow and her calf (or equivalent, in sheep or horses, for instance) for one month. The amount of forage needed to sustain one cow, five sheep, or five goats for a month. In the United States, a full AUMs fee is charged for each month of grazing by adult animals if the grazing animal (1) is weaned, (2) is 6 months old or older when entering public land, or (3) will become 12 months old during the period of use.
- **Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)** – Areas within public lands where special management attention is required to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, and scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.
- **Archeological and Historic Preservation Act 1974 –** Provides for "the preservation of historical and archeological data (including relics and specimens) which might otherwise be irreparably lost or destroyed as the result of (1) flooding, the building of access roads, the erection of workmen's communities, the relocation of railroads and highways, and other alterations of the terrain caused by the construction of a dam by any agency of the United States, or by any private person or corporation holding a license issued by any such agency or (2) any alteration of the terrain caused as a result of any Federal construction project or federally licensed activity or program." 16 U.S.C. §469.

- **Burned-Area Rehabilitation** - USFS and DOI agencies define Burned Area Rehabilitation as: Efforts undertaken within 3 years of a wildfire to repair or improve fire-damaged lands unlikely to recover to management-approved conditions, or to repair or replace minor facilities damaged by fire. CTCSWCD's protection priorities of rehabilitation are: (1) To repair or improve land damaged directly or indirectly by wildland fire. (2) Soil and water resources. (3) Rehabilitate or establish a healthy, stable watershed.
- **Burned-Area Restoration** - USFS defines Burned Area Restoration as; The continuation of rehabilitation activities beyond the initial 3 years or the repair or replacement of major facilities damaged by the fire. CTCSWCD's definition is the same and includes coordination with local government.
- **Candidate Conservation Agreement** – The USFWS by policy may enter into an agreement with a state agency, local government, or private landowner to protect or manage habitat for a species that is proposed for listing but is not yet listed. Under the terms of the agreement, an agreed upon amount of land is set aside or earmarked to be conserved for the candidate species. The landowner may also receive compensation and assurances that if the species is listed, the landowner will not be required to adopt additional conservation measures.
- **Ciénega** - A spring that is usually a wet, marshy area at the foot of a mountain, in a canyon or on the edge of a grassland where groundwater bubbles to the surface. Often, a ciénega does not drain into a stream, but evaporates, forming a small playa.
- **Clean Water Act** – The Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) (33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.) is the foundation for surface water quality protection in the United States. Congress gave States and tribes the option of taking primary responsibility for water pollution control.
- **Climate Cycles (Natural)** - Climate varies without human influence, and this natural variation is a backdrop for the human-caused climate change occurring now. These patterns hold important lessons for understanding the magnitude and scope of current and future climate changes. Cyclical variations in the Earth's climate occur at multiple time scales, from years to decades, centuries, and millennia. Cycles at each scale are caused by a variety of physical mechanisms. Climate over any given period is an expression of all these nested mechanisms and cycles operating together.

- **Climate** - Is the average weather over an extended period. Includes information on the average temperature in different seasons. Also, a description of the possible extremes is often included.
- **Climate Change** - Is any systematic change in the long-term statistics of climate variables such as temperature, precipitation, pressure, or wind sustained over several decades or longer. Climate change can be due to natural external forcings (changes in solar emission or changes in the earth's orbit, natural internal processes of the climate system) or it can be human induced.
- **Compensable Property Right** – Is any type of right to specific property, personal or real, tangible, which, when reduced or taken for public purposes, is due just compensation under the Fifth Amendment of the United States Constitution.
- **Conservation** - Management of the human use of natural resources to provide maximum benefit to current generations while maintaining capacity to meet the needs of future generations. Conservation includes both the protection and rational use of natural resources.
- **Consultation** – A conference between two or more people to consider a particular question.
- **Cooperating Agency** – (1) Reference to the partnership agent in the relationship of preparing resource management plans, partnering with Tribes, state, and local governments (intergovernmental partners) before, during, and after plans and EISs are prepared. (2) The agent acting upon and within the framework for intergovernmental efforts in achieving early and consistent partnership involvement, incorporating local customs and cultures as well as state and local land use requirements, addressing intergovernmental issues, avoid duplication of effort, enhance local credibility of plans and EISs, encourage support for management decisions, and build relationships of trust.
- **Cooperation** – Process created to marry the general attempt to blend respective areas of responsibility, authority, and expertise of governing bodies and agencies for creating more effective land planning partnerships.
- **Coordination Process** – a process by which local government engages in a government-to-government dialogue with state and federal agencies in a constructive effort to achieve consistency between state and federal land use plans and actions with local government.

- **Coordination** – (1) Process created by Congress to ensure consistency of federal plans and activities with local government plans and policies. (2) Coordination is defined as the act of coordinating; harmonious adjustment or interaction; one that is equal in importance" (American Heritage Dictionary). Coordination is more than "cooperate" or "consult. The courts have defined the term as well: "The concept of 'coordination' means more than trying to work together with someone else. To 'coordinate' is 'to bring into a common action, movement, or condition; it is synonymous with; harmonize." (California Native Plant Society. v City of Rancho Cordova, 172 Cal. App 4th 603, 91 Cal. Rpt. 3d 571 (Third App. Dist. 2009). (3) Specifically, the National Forest Management Act (16 U.S.C.§§ 1604 (a) requires the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture to: develop, maintain and as appropriate, revise land and resource management plans for units of the National Forest System, coordinated with the land and resource management processes of state and local governments and other federal agencies. (4) Specifically the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C.A. 1712(c)(9) requires the Secretary of the Department of Interior to: (a) Stay apprised of local plans; (b) assure consideration is given to the local plans; (c) assist in resolving inconsistencies with local plans; (d) meaningfully involve local governments in the planning process; and (e) ensure federal land use plans are consistent with local land use plans.
- **Custom** - Custom is a usage or practice of the people, which by long and unvarying habit, has become compulsory and has acquired the force of law with respect to the place or subject-matter to which it relates. Bouvier's Law Dictionary, 417 (1st ed. 1867).
- **de facto Wilderness Management** – Land is managed like designated wilderness areas under the 1964 Wilderness Act, but without congressional approval or directive. The management restrictions and prohibitions include: the prohibition of construction of new roads; restriction or prohibition on reconstruction or maintenance of existing roads; prohibition of mining or mineral development; restrictions on activities that would require permanent structures or facilities, or restrictions on motorized vehicle use or the use of mechanical tools or means of travel.
- **Culture** - The shared beliefs, behaviors, and traits of a group passed down through generations. Webster's New Colligate Dictionary, 227 (1975).

- **Desired Plant Community** – A plant community which produces the kind, proportion, and amount of vegetation necessary for meeting or exceeding the land use plan/activity plan objectives established for an ecological site(s). The desired plant community must be consistent with the site's capability to produce the desired vegetation through management, land treatment, or a combination of the two.
- **Economics** – Pertaining to the development and management of the material wealth of a government or community.
- **Erosion** – (v.) Detachment and movement of soil or rock fragments by water, wind, ice, or gravity. (n.) The land surface worn away by running water, wind, ice, or other geological agents, including such processes as gravitational creep.
- **Federal lands**—All land and associated natural resources owned and managed by the United States. Federal lands include, but are not limited to, public lands, federally reserved lands, federal mineral leases, federal geothermal leases, federal forage leases, federal rights-of-way, but categorically exempted are lands and resources to which private interest or title is attached.
- **Feral** - A domestic animal becomes "feral" simply by fending for itself when left in the wild, without being helped or managed by humans in any way. If it finds others of its own species, reproduces, and the offspring also fend for themselves in the wild, the result is a feral population.
- **Forestland** – Land that is now, or can become, at least 10% stocked with forest trees and that has not been developed for non-timber use ("BLM"). As defined by the USDA Forest Service is land that is at least ten percent covered with trees (Forested Landscapes in Perspective, 1998).
- **Forest Health** – A measure of the robustness of forest ecosystems. Aspects of forest health include biological diversity; air and water productivity; natural disturbances; and the capacity of the forest to provide a sustaining flow of goods and service for people. This term is often used to express a collection of concerns with respect to the alleged deterioration in the forest conditions, including both current problems and (e.g. – insect and disease infestations, wildfires, and related tree mortality) and risks of future problems (e.g. – too many small-diameter trees/overstocking), excess biomass in an unnatural mix of tree species in mixed stands.

- **Forms of Production** – The forms of production component include the things you have or need to produce to retain or attain the desired quality of life. The derived forms of production statement of the District read as follows: "The quality of life we strive for will be achieved by continuing to maintain and enhance sustainable and optimum production of renewable and non-renewable resources and to encourage and support the motive and means to enhance economic opportunity and education."
- **Future Resource Base** – The future resource base component includes the people, land, and community we live in and the services available, and what we will need to sustain and enhance our quality of life and forms of production. The future resource base statement of CTCSWCD reads as follows: "Through the efforts of cooperation and communication among the local people, our community will have a beneficial impact on sustaining a strong and viable multiple-use of our lands, including agricultural, industrial, mineral production, commercial, recreational and historical uses, which together will provide the continued ability to generate wealth and growth and needs of our community."
- **Guidelines (For Grazing Management)** – Guidelines provide for, and guide the development and implementation of, reasonable, responsible, and cost-effective management actions at the allotment and watershed level which move rangelands toward statewide standards or maintain existing desirable conditions. Appropriate guidelines will ensure that the resultant management actions reflect the potential for the watershed, consider other uses and natural influences, and balance resource goals with social, cultural/historic, and economic opportunities to sustain viable local communities. Guidelines, and, therefore, the management actions they engender, are based on sound science, past and present management experience, and public input.
- **Grazing Management Practices** – Grazing management practices include such things as grazing systems (rest-rotation, deferred rotation, etc.), timing and duration of grazing, herding, salting, etc. They do not include physical range improvements.
- **Habitat Conservation Plan** – The FWS will approve a plan to protect habitat for a species listed under the ESA located on private land. The habitat conservation plan allows private landowners to use or develop the land, even though the activities may adversely affect a listed species. The plan will also include a "takings permit" which will permit the incidental loss of habitat or potential harm to a listed species.

- **Habitat Fragmentation** – An event that creates a greater number of habitat patches that are smaller in size than the original contiguous tract(s) of habitat.
- **Healthy Soils** - Soil that enhances its continuing capacity to function as a biological system, increases its organic matter, and improves its structure and water and nutrient-holding capacity. "Soil health principle" is a principle that promotes soil health in a given environment and includes:
    - Keeping soil covered will minimize soil disturbance on cropland and minimize external inputs; maximizing biodiversity; and maintaining a living root.
    - Integrating animals into land management, including grazing animals, birds, beneficial insects, or keystone species, such as earthworms
- **Historical Value** – (1) The collective contributions of objects and values derived and established in recorded history impact on the character of the District and contribute directly to the Customs and Cultures related to the use and protection of natural resources as described in the Act. (2) The primary managed value as set forth in FLPMA that applies to natural resources and the respective resource users as set forth in the Act.
- **Indicator** – An indicator is a component of a system whose characteristics (e.g., presence, absence, quantity, and distribution) can be measured based on sound scientific principles. An indicator can be measured (monitored and evaluated) at a site-or species-specific level. Measurement of an indicator must be able to show change within timeframes acceptable to management and be capable of showing how the health of the ecosystem is changing in response to specific management actions. Selection of the appropriate indicators to be monitored in a particular allotment is a critical aspect of early communication among the interests involved on the ground.
- **Invasive Species** - A non-native species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human, animal, or plant health.
- **Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources** – NEPA requires that each EIS address the resources that will be permanently lost or committed as a result of the project. When oil is produced from a well it is lost or committed and cannot be later developed. Vegetation resources associated with a well pad is not irreversibly committed because the site can be reclaimed.

- **Jeopardy Review** – The FWS, pursuant to the ESA, must evaluate all federal actions that may adversely affect a species that is listed under the ESA to determine whether the proposed action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the species. 16 U.S.C. §1536. As part of the jeopardy review, which is also called a "Section 7 review," FWS prepares a biological opinion, makes a determination regarding jeopardy, and recommends additional conservation measures that would mitigate the impacts on the species.
- **Lands With Wilderness Characteristics** – lands that fit the strict definition of wilderness as set forth in the Wilderness Act, e.g., '5000 contiguous acres', etc. and are allowed by strict inventory methods as defined by FLPMA.
    - **Managed Values -** Values attached to the management of federal lands as set forth in FLPMA. Such values were identified to protect the quality of management, preserve certain lands in their natural condition, provide food and habitat for fish, wildlife, and domestic animals, and provide for outdoor recreation, human occupancy, and use. The eight identified managed values are scientific, scenic, historical, ecological, air and atmospheric, water resources, and archeological.
- **Multiple Use** –
    1) Balanced and diversified management of federal lands and their various public resources to best meet present and future economic and resource needs of the American people.
    2) Management of lands and their various resource values so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the citizenry and the American people.
    3) A combination of balanced and diverse resource uses that include managed values as set forth in FLPMA.

Multiple uses of the national forests means the "harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources, each with the other, without impairment of the productivity of the land, with consideration being given to the relative values of the various resources, and not necessarily the combination of uses that will give the greatest dollar return or the greatest unit output." Multiple Use and Sustained Yield Act of 1960 (P.L. 86-517, June 12, 1960) as amended.

Multiple use implies a sustained yield of outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed and wildlife and fish values.

Multiple use of the public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management means: "the management of the public lands and their various resource values so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people; making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources or related services over areas large enough to provide sufficient latitude for periodic adjustments in use to conform to changing needs and conditions; the use of some land for less than all of the resources; a combination of balanced and diverse resource uses that takes into account the long-term needs of future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources, including, but not limited to, recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, wildlife and fish, and natural scenic, scientific and historical values; and harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources without permanent impairment of the productivity of the land and the quality of the environment with consideration being given to the relative values of the resources and not necessarily to the combination of uses that will give the greatest economic return or the greatest unit output." Federal Land Policy and Management Act, 43 U.S.C. §1702(c).

- **Non-impairment management** – The standard for determining whether to allow actions or activities on public lands that have been classified as wilderness study areas either by Congress or the Bureau of Land Management. The action or activity may be allowed so long as the impacts will not impair the areas suitability for wilderness or will not degrade the wilderness values to preclude its inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.
- **Natural resources** – As used in this Plan, all renewable and nonrenewable material in its native state which when extracted has economic value as it pertains to the protection and beneficial use of soil and water. Natural resources may be commercial or non-commercial in nature.
- **Objective Peer-Review** - A third party review by experts of similar competence to the producers of the work, outside of the organization or entity making the claim.

To ensure it meets specific criteria and to prevent dissemination of irrelevant findings, unwarranted claims, unacceptable interpretations, and personal views. Objective Peer-Review will ensure consistent and transparent decisions.

- **Objective** – An objective is a site-specific statement of a desired rangeland condition. Although it may include qualitative aspects, it must also have measurable quantitative elements. Objectives frequently speak to change. They may measure the avoidance of negative changes or the accomplishment of positive changes. They are the focus of monitoring and evaluation activities at the local level. Objectives may measure the products of an area rather than their ability to produce them, but if they do so, it must be kept in mind that the lack of a product may not mean that the standards have not been met. Instead, the lack of a particular product may reflect other factors such as political or social constraints. Objectives often focus on indicators of greatest interest for the area in question.
- **Occupied Range (Territory)** - To constitute an occupied range (territory) a pair, a male and female, of any identified species must be present for at least one life cycle, including the successful production of viable offspring. The appearance of a single individual in an area does not constitute occupied range (territory).
- **Playa** - (geography) Playas are defined as, "shallow depressional recharge wetlands similar to prairie potholes, characterized by annual or multiyear cycles of drydown and filling" (Smith 2003).
- **Post-fire Watershed Stabilization** - Watershed stabilization includes those emergency stabilization treatments necessary to protect life, property, and watershed values (soil productivity and water quality and quantity).
- **Private Property** – A legal designation for the ownership of property by non-governmental legal entities.
- **Public Lands** – Is property that is dedicated to public use and is a subset of federal or state property. The term may be used either to describe the use to which the property is put, or to describe the character of its ownership (owned collectively by the population of a state or United States of America).
- **Rainwater Harvesting** - The accumulation and deposition of rainwater for reuse on-site, rather than allowing it to run off. Uses include water for garden, water for livestock, water for irrigation and water for drinking.

- **Rights-of-Way** – This term refers to "an easement, lease, permit, or license to occupy, use, or traverse lands" and such right may be created by federal or state statute, deed, contract or agreement, or permit.

A right-of-way may also include any road, trail, access, or way upon which construction has been carried out to the standard in which public rights-of-way were built within historic context. These rights-of-way may include, but not be limited to, horse paths, cattle trails, irrigation canals, waterways, ditches, pipelines or other means of water transmission and their attendant access for maintenance, wagon roads, jeep trails, logging roads, homestead roads, mine to market roads, and all other ways.

- **RS2477 Rights of Way** – RS2477 was a self-executing law. When the conditions were met, the right-of-way grant was made. No further action by the grantee or by Congress was necessary to validate it.
- **Range** – Rangelands, forests, woodlands, and riparian zones that support and understory or periodic cover of herbaceous or shrubby vegetation amenable to rangeland management principals or practices. Land on which the principal natural plant cover is composed of native grasses, forbs, and shrubs that are valuable as forage for livestock and big game. Any land supporting vegetation suitable for wildlife or domestic livestock grazing, including grasslands, woodlands, shrublands and forest lands.
- **Range Condition** – The current productivity of a rangeland relative to what the land could naturally produce based on the site's soil type, precipitation, geographic location, and climate.
- **Range Improvements** – Range improvements include such things as corrals, fences, water developments (reservoirs, spring developments, pipelines, wells, etc.) and land treatments (prescribed fire, herbicide treatments, mechanical treatments, etc.).
- **Range Management** – Ensure a sustained yield of rangeland products while protecting and improving the basic range resources of soil, water, and plant and animal life. Besides producing forage for livestock and wildlife, a range can provide timber, minerals, and recreational opportunities. CTCSWCD subscribes to the concept of multiple use, which requires that all the resources of a rangeland be managed simultaneously, using constant monitoring and adjustments to provide a mix of material products and intangible assets that best satisfy the needs of both landowners and the general public.

- **Rangeland Preservation Area** – A conceptual federal land designation that balances access and land uses and is in the process of being defined.
- **Recharge** - The addition of water to an aquifer by infiltration, either directly into the aquifer or indirectly by way of another rock formation. Recharge may be natural, as when precipitation infiltrates to the water table, or artificial, as when water is injected through wells or spread over permeable surfaces for the purpose of recharging an aquifer.
- **Reintroduction Plan** – Under the ESA, a reintroduction plan is a specialized recovery plan designed to restore a threatened or endangered species to its historical habitat. A reintroduction plan will document the habitat area to be occupied and specific management actions to ensure the successful reintroduction of the listed species. A reintroduction plan by a state wildlife agency will return fish, game, or other wildlife to an area where they have been extirpated.
- **Recovery Plan** – The ESA requires the USFWS to prepare a plan to improve the status of a listed species to the point where the species need no longer be listed. A recovery plan typically sets population goals, identifies tasks to reverse or arrest the decline of a species and criteria for delisting the species.
- **Research Natural Area ("RNA")** – A type of area of critical environmental concern or ACEC under BLM land use planning process where natural ecological and physical processes are allowed to occur, and human activities are prohibited if they will interfere with the natural processes. Under Forest Service land use policy, RNA is an area identified as a reference area to evaluate the impacts of management in similar environments, including areas for research and areas to be protected for biodiversity or threatened, endangered and sensitive species.
- **Riparian** – An area of land directly influenced by permanent water. It has visible vegetation or physical characteristics reflective of permanent water influence. Lake shores and stream banks are typical riparian areas.
- **Riparian Zone** - A riparian zone or riparian area is the interface between land and a river, lake, or stream. Plant habitats and communities along the river margins and banks are called riparian vegetation, characterized by hydrophilic plants. Riparian zones are important in ecology and environmental management, because of their role in soil conservation, and their habitat biodiversity.

They also influence fauna and aquatic ecosystems, including grasslands, woodlands, wetlands, or even non-vegetative areas.

- **Runoff** - Water not absorbed by soil or landscape to which it is applied. Runoff occurs when water is applied too quickly (application rate exceeds infiltration rate), particularly if there is a severe slope. Storm water runoff is created by natural precipitation rather than human caused or applied water use. The part of the precipitation that appears in surface streams.
- **Senior Water Rights** - Have earlier priority date and claimants who hold them have higher priority to divert water from a stream or water body than those with more junior rights. However, in times of scarcity, when there is not enough water to meet demand in a basin, those who need water for domestic and livestock use have first right to water, regardless of one's priority date.
- **Soil** – A mixture of minerals, dead and living organisms (organic materials), air, and water. These four ingredients react with one another making soil one of our planet's most dynamic and important natural resources. Another definition is: The surface mineral and/or organic layer of the earth that has experienced some degree of physical, biological, and chemical weathering.
- **Species of Concern or Special Status Species** – This term includes species that have been proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act or have already been listed as threatened or endangered, as well as species that are on the candidate list published in the Federal Register. The term also includes any state-listed species, or any "sensitive species" identified by the BLM State Director, which includes the above categories and might also include species undergoing downward trends due to changes in habitat capability or populations or which occupy specialized habitats.
- **Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)** - Species considered for inclusion had to occur within the state of New Mexico and meet at least one of the following conditions:
    - Declining: Species that have experienced substantial long-term declines in habitat or numbers.
    - Disjunct: Species that have populations geographically isolated from other populations of the same species and are thereby disproportionately susceptible to local decline or extirpation.

  - Endemic: Species that are limited to New Mexico.
  - Vulnerable: Species in which some aspects of their life history and ecology make them disproportionately susceptible to decline within the next 10 years. Factors include concentration to small areas during migration or hibernation, low reproductive rates, susceptibility to disease, inability to respond to changing climate conditions, habitat loss, wildfire, and overexploitation for anthropogenic purposes.
  - Keystone: Species that are crucial to the integrity and the functioning of their ecosystems. These species may represent more value to conservation of biological diversity than the size.

- **Special Land Use Designations** – Refers to the classification or designation tracts of land by Congress or a federal agency to recognize and protect distinctive or unique characteristics. Designations by Congress are permanent and may include national monuments, national parks, national park preserves, national wildlife refuges, national recreation areas, national seashores, wild, scenic or recreation rivers, national forests, and wilderness. The President may also establish national monuments, which are permanent unless modified by another President or Congress. Federal law may delegate authority to various federal agencies to make special land use designations. The Interior Department Secretary may designate wildlife refuges; the Bureau of Land Management through its land use plans may establish special recreation areas, areas of critical environmental concern, resource natural areas, and until 1991, wilderness study areas. The Forest Service through its land use plans establishes special interest areas and research natural areas.
- **Spill Over** – This term is the movement of introduced/ reintroduced wildlife into areas where they were not intended to be. The presence of such species will limit land use, especially when the species is protected under the ESA or other federal and state laws.
- **Standards** – Standards are synonymous with goals and are observed on a landscape scale. Standards apply to rangeland health and not to the important by-products of healthy rangelands. Standards relate to the current capability or realistic potential of a specific site to produce these by- products, not to the presence or absence of the products themselves. It is the sustainability of the processes, or rangeland health, which produces these by-products.

- **Sustained Yield** – A "high-level" output of renewable resources that does not impair the productivity of the land. The continuation of a healthy desired plant community.
- **Takings in Context of Endangered Species Act** – Includes harm to a protected species when an act kills or injures wildlife. Such act may include significant habitat modification or degradation where it kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding, or sheltering. 50 C.F.R. §17.3.
- **Takings in Context of property and Right to Compensation** – A 'taking' of property is defined as to deprivation of the right of use and enjoyment of the property. The ownership of property is often described as a "bundle of sticks" which includes mineral rights, rights of access, rights to use the surface, and rights to use the fruits raised from the surface, such as crops or grass.

  When land use regulation by federal, state, or local government interferes with one of those rights in the bundle of sticks, a taking occurs only if it deprives the owner of all his bundle of sticks or "investment-backed expectations."

  More recent decisions will find a taking when the deprivation is total but temporary or when the deprivation precludes an essential element of the property right, such as the right to exclude others. Federal land agencies enjoy a much greater presumption of authority to limit the exercise of private property rights and successful taking cases more often involve disputes with a local government or state agency.

- **Title V of FLPMA** – In 1976, Congress repealed almost all laws granting rights-of-way for various purposes and established a single title under which rights-of-way would be granted across public lands for any purpose, including power transmission lines, roads, and pipelines.
- **Unintended consequences** – (1) Impact or damages that do not directly and immediately flow from the act or the policy implementation. (2) The result of unforeseen circumstances that are not predictable or immediately apparent to the casual observer without local input.
- **Viewshed** – The geographic area surrounding the visual area to be inventoried and managed.

- **Visibility or Visibility Impairment** – Visibility refers to amount or lack of haze that obscures the ability to see great distances. Visibility impairment measures the extent of haze composed of various air pollutants which manifest as a white or brown haze. This is a major issue with respect to national parks and wilderness areas, which are Class I air quality areas and are given the highest level of protection.
- **Visual Condition Class –** The Clean Air Act recognizes four air quality classes with Class I applying to national parks and wilderness areas and Class II applying to all other federal land areas, such as National Forests, National Wildlife Refuges, and public lands. Visual conditions are affected by particulates, emissions including ozone, sulfur oxide, nitrogen oxide, carbon dioxide and the chemical reactions caused by humidity and sunshine.
- **Visual Resources** - Visual resources in the District are a composite of landforms, human and animal life forms, water features, cultural features, terrain, geologic features, and vegetative patterns which create the visual environment. These visible physical features are important to the landscape and the scenic quality of the County.
- **Visual Resource Management ("VRM")** – The designation of BLM surface lands for visual resource protection and management as part of the land use planning process. The VRM classification considers scenic values, sensitivity based on land use permitted and distance or remoteness. See BLM H8410-1.
- **Water** – To supply with water. Irrigate, sub-irrigate, dampen, vaporize, humidify, hose, spray, douse, drench, submerge, immerse, saturate, plunge, dip, splash, sprinkle, moisten, wet, and soak. In all forms, i.e., subterranean, surface, captured, recaptured, processed or wild. All waters (subterranean, ponds, pools, stream, river, wild and or contained arroyos) within the footprint of CTCSWCD.
    - **Water Conservation** - Reducing the use of water through technological or social methods. It includes policies, practices, and education that promote the efficient use of water such as minimizing losses, reducing waste, minimizing use, and protecting availability for future uses. These policies and practices can range from more efficient practices in farm, home, and industry to capturing water for use through water storage or land-use practices.

The Office of State Engineer defines water conservation as "any action or technology that reduces the amount of water withdrawn from water-supply sources, reduces consumptive use, reduces the loss or waste of water, improves the efficiency of water use, increase recycling and reuse of water, or prevents the pollution of water.

- **Water Right** - Legal rights to use a specific quantity of water, on a specific time schedule, at a specific place, and for a specific purpose.
- **Watershed** – The total land area, above a given point on a waterway that contributes runoff water to the flow at that point. It is a major subdivision of a drainage basin. The United States is divided into 18 major drainage areas and 160 principal river drainage basins containing about 12,700 smaller watersheds. The entire region or land area that contributes water to a drainage system or stream, collects and drains water into a stream or stream system or is drained by a waterway (or into a lake or reservoir). A watershed is an area of land above a given point on a stream that contributes water to the streamflow at that point. A region or area where surface runs off and groundwater drains to a common body of water. The area drained by a river or river system enclosed by drainage divides. An area of land that drains to a single water outlet. A watershed is also known as a sub-basin.
- **Weed** - In the broadest sense, it is any plant growing where it is not wanted. Weeds can be native or non-native, invasive or noninvasive, and noxious or not noxious. Legally, a noxious weed is any plant designated by a Federal, State or county government as injurious to public health, agriculture, recreation, wildlife, or property. (Sheley, Petroff, and Borman,1999) A noxious weed is also commonly defined as a plant that grows out of place and is "competitive, persistent, and pernicious." (James, et al, 1991).
- **Wilderness Act of 1964** - Congress established the National Wilderness Preservation System to protect and preserve those areas deemed to be wilderness, which is defined as: A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.
    - An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this chapter an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed to preserve its natural conditions and which:

1) Generally, appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

2) Has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

3) Possesses at least 5000 acres of land or is large enough to allow its preservation and use without impairment; and

4) May include ecological, geological, or other features that hold scientific, educational, scenic, or historical significance. 16 U.S.C. §1131(a)."

- **Wilderness Area** – Tracts of land designated by an act of Congress to be part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.
- **Wildlife** – Populations, variety, and distribution of nondomestic birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates, and plants.
- **Woodland Products** – Harvestable items from Piñon/Juniper woodlands. These include fuel wood, posts, pine nuts and Christmas trees.
- **Woody** – Consisting of wood plants such as trees or bushed.

2.2 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

The District develops annual work plans to advance the objectives of the Land Use Plan.

2.3 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

It is the policy of this District to pursue and participate in projects that protect the health, welfare, and safety of the community in general and its stakeholders in particular. The defining expectation is that the federal, state, and other local governments engage in methods to enhance agriculture … not underwrite its removal from the landscape.

The District wants to ensure that local, state, and federal agencies respect procedural due process rights, by providing adequate public notice and the opportunity for a hearing, including an evidentiary hearing, when granted by statute. Regulatory actions, such as designation of critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act or denial of surface access across federal land, operate to inversely condemn private property without providing just compensation.

The District supports providing legal remedies when federal or state governmental action operates to take property rights or some portion of the property right and seeking just compensation.

2.4 EMERGENY PLANS – FOR DAMS AND STRUCTURES

2.5 COORDINATED AGREEMENTS – PARTICIPATING, COOPERATING AND STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENTS WITH LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL AGENCIES, AS WELL AS NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.

3.0 PURPOSE, CUSTOM AND CULTURE GOALS

3.1 PURPOSE

The CTCSWCD will address the use and management of natural resources, specifically watersheds, rangeland, soil, water conservation, and farmland within the political jurisdiction of CTCSWCD as the focal point of its comprehensive planning efforts. The closer decision-making is to the land and to the people who utilize the land, the more informed it will be about the conditions of the land and the needs and desires of those who live, work, and recreate there. The purpose of the Plan is to guide policy regarding the conservation and enhancement of soil and water natural resources as needed. It is intended to provide a framework for local, county, state, and federal agencies in land use planning that affects the resource universe in the District. The Plan is meant to protect the historic, traditional, conceptual, and future conservation measures of these resources against all encroachments that may threaten their sanctity and beneficial use. This plan is designed to safeguard the production and preservation of legitimate and valuable agricultural products, ensure private rights, allow, and promote the expansion of resource supplies, and uphold the active involvement of public safety for District residents influenced by the presence and absence of water supplies.

3.2 CUSTOMS AND CULTURE

The historical and contemporary influence of agriculture forms the basis of the District's customs and culture. Farms, ranches, and support businesses have played and continue to play a vital role in the local social and economic well-being. CTCSWCD is becoming increasingly concerned about the rising regulations and changes in land use within federal land ownership, which are undermining the viability of farms and ranches.

To reverse these trends, CTCSWCD supports, encourages, and promotes policies that will lead to long-term economic strength and the protection of natural resources, while also reflecting the community's customs and culture.

Protecting the customs and culture of CTCSWCD necessitates safeguarding the tax base, including their responsibility to conserve, protect, encourage, develop, and improve agricultural land to produce agricultural products, as well as reducing the loss of the state's agricultural resources.

Federal Lands Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) Section 102 outlines 8 values: Scientific, Scenic, Ecological, Environmental, History, Archeological, Air and Atmospheric, and Water. Among these values, History is the only one that reflects customs and culture. However, modern agency management focuses solely on scientific, scenic, archeological, ecological, environmental, air and atmospheric, and water values.

Federal land management plans often overlook historical features. CTCSWCD strongly believes in the importance of elevating historical values and ensuring that all 8 values are given equal consideration in any decision made by land management agencies.

Continued balance must be attained through District collaboration with local, state, and federal agencies to develop and implement plans that address evolving conditions and needs. This collaboration is crucial for the District and its ability to adapt to future requirements. The District is dedicated to preserving current rights and fostering future protection to maintain a conducive environment for creating opportunities for future generations.

3.3 GOALS OF THE PLAN

The goals of the plan are to maintain and improve the soil, vegetation, and watershed resources in a way that preserves, sustains, and expands the beneficial uses of these resources while also ensuring the health of ecosystems, supporting public safety, upholding the customs and economic stability of our industries, and promoting the general welfare of the citizens of the District.

The plan aims to provide the necessary direction and policies for the CTCSWCD to collaborate with local, state, and federal bodies and agencies in planning, coordinating, scheduling, mapping, facilitating, conceptualizing, formulating, designing, plotting, and strategizing land use plans that will impact the soil, water, and other resources of the District both now and in the future.

Additionally, the plan involves working with federal, state, and local government agencies to fulfill the District's primary legal responsibility to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of its constituents. Efforts will also be made to prevent any unintended negative consequences of decisions and actions taken by agencies and entities that could harm the District, its economy, tax base, and the people it serves. Overall, the goal is to minimize any unintended negative effects on local land users from ongoing governmental actions.

4.0 PRIMARY PLANNING GUIDANCE AND DIRECTIVES

- The state of New Mexico has authorized the creation of CTCSWCD with powers and duties to accomplish the legislative determination of the act.
- Congress has mandated stabilization of soil and water through the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act. It is recognized that the arrangements under which the Federal Government cooperates through conservation districts, with other local units of government and land users, have effectively aided in the protection and improvement of the Nation's basic resources. The United States policy is to use cooperative arrangements whenever possible.
- Congress has also mandated that federal agencies shall coordinate with local and state agencies to develop comprehensive solutions to prevent, reduce, and eliminate pollution in concert with programs for managing water resources.

- With District coordinated actions, federal agencies must be consistent with officially approved and adopted local land use plans, if such plans are consistent with federal law and regulations.
- It is important to work with all federal agencies to ensure resource management plans or management framework plans list known inconsistencies between their plans and district plans and submit those inconsistencies to the Governor of New Mexico.

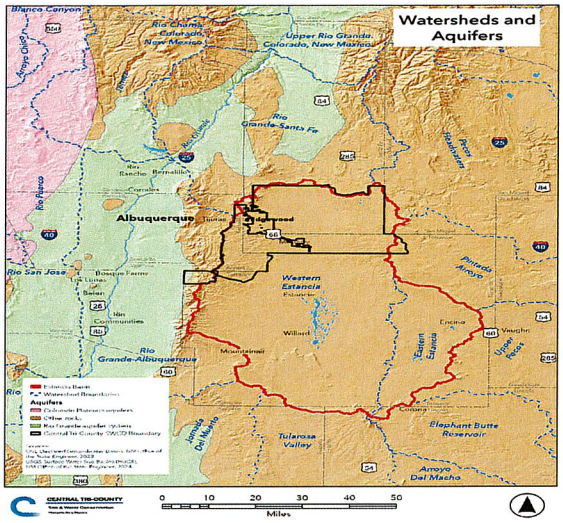
- Agencies are obligated to take all practical measures to resolve conflicts between federal and local government land use plans.
- Federal agencies are also obligated to submit a notice of intent to prepare, amend, or revise a resource management plan to state agencies, consistent with state procedures for coordination of federal activities. The District land must be managed in a manner that will protect the quality and balance of resources.

4.1 OBJECTIVES

To establish a coordinated working relationship with agencies and the public to protect and improve local natural resources, safety, and well-being for everyone, the District must have a regulatory environment that benefits them and minimizes any negative impact on land users. This regulatory framework should enhance quality of life, safety, and resources, as well as boost the economy without imposing unreasonable costs.

All regulatory policies should acknowledge that the private sector and private markets are key drivers of economic growth. New regulatory approaches should respect the roles of local and state governments and implement regulations that are effective, consistent, practical, and easy to understand. Therefore, it is crucial to establish planning guidance for land and resource management in the District.

4.2 RESOURCE CONCERNS - No priority ranking has been established for the following resource concerns. The District will focus on each concern as needed.



1. Water resources
2. Soil
3. Range and Grassland
4. Wildlife and Livestock
5. Threatened & Endangered Species
6. Predator Control
7. Invasive Species
8. Wildfire/Post Fire Response
9. Flood/Storm Water Management
10. Watershed and Forest Health
11. Energy/Renewable Energy
12. Outreach and Education
13. Special Land Designations
14. Customs and Culture

4.2-1 WATER RESOURCES

Under New Mexico's state constitution, all water is managed by the state of New Mexico. In 1931, the New Mexico Legislature passed the state's Groundwater Code, which gave the State Engineer control over groundwater administration. There are 39 underground water basins in New Mexico, and the District is located in the Middle Rio Grande and Estancia Basins.

In the Estancia Basin, groundwater originates in the surrounding mountains as rainfall and snowmelt, then flows downslope to the east to the center part of the basin. In the drier bedrock of Chupadera Mesa, the Pedernal Hills, and the northeastern mesa, groundwater occurs much deeper in fractured bedrock aquifers.

Based on the water table elevations in the Estancia basin, groundwater flows toward the playa lakes at the center and southeastern ends of the basin.

This flow direction is to be expected, as groundwater naturally flows from recharge areas to discharge areas. The playa lakes are natural discharge points, where groundwater returns to the surface to evaporate back into the atmosphere. Groundwater flows through sediment aquifers occurring along stream channels and the valley floor, although some groundwater flows through fractured bedrocks, particularly the Pennsylvanian limestones.

The Estancia Basin is experiencing a decline with minimal rainfall in the valley (~14 inches per year) and slightly more precipitation falling on neighboring highlands, limiting recharge to the aquifer. Due to the lack of rainwater replenishing the aquifer, the extensive reliance on groundwater has negatively impacted the resource. Groundwater levels in certain areas of the central basin have dropped over 80 feet since the 1950s, leading to an estimated decrease in stored water volume of more than a million acre-feet. (data source: adapted from results of the statewide water assessment).

According to Bulletin 164: Climate Change in New Mexico Over The Next 50 Years: Impacts On Water Resources, surface-water supply shortages induced by climate change will drive both agricultural and municipal/industrial water users to rely more heavily on groundwater. The decrease in surface water will result in lower recharge to some groundwater aquifers.
All water users in the state will experience reduced water availability as the climate warms and aridification occurs. This permanent shift towards a more arid climate will disrupt the hydrologic balance that has endured cyclical droughts.

The diminishing means and increasing variability in the surface-water supply are not cyclical, and recovery periods will be less frequent. This will necessitate challenging and divisive policy and management decisions, undoubtedly accompanied by an increase in conflicts and litigation.

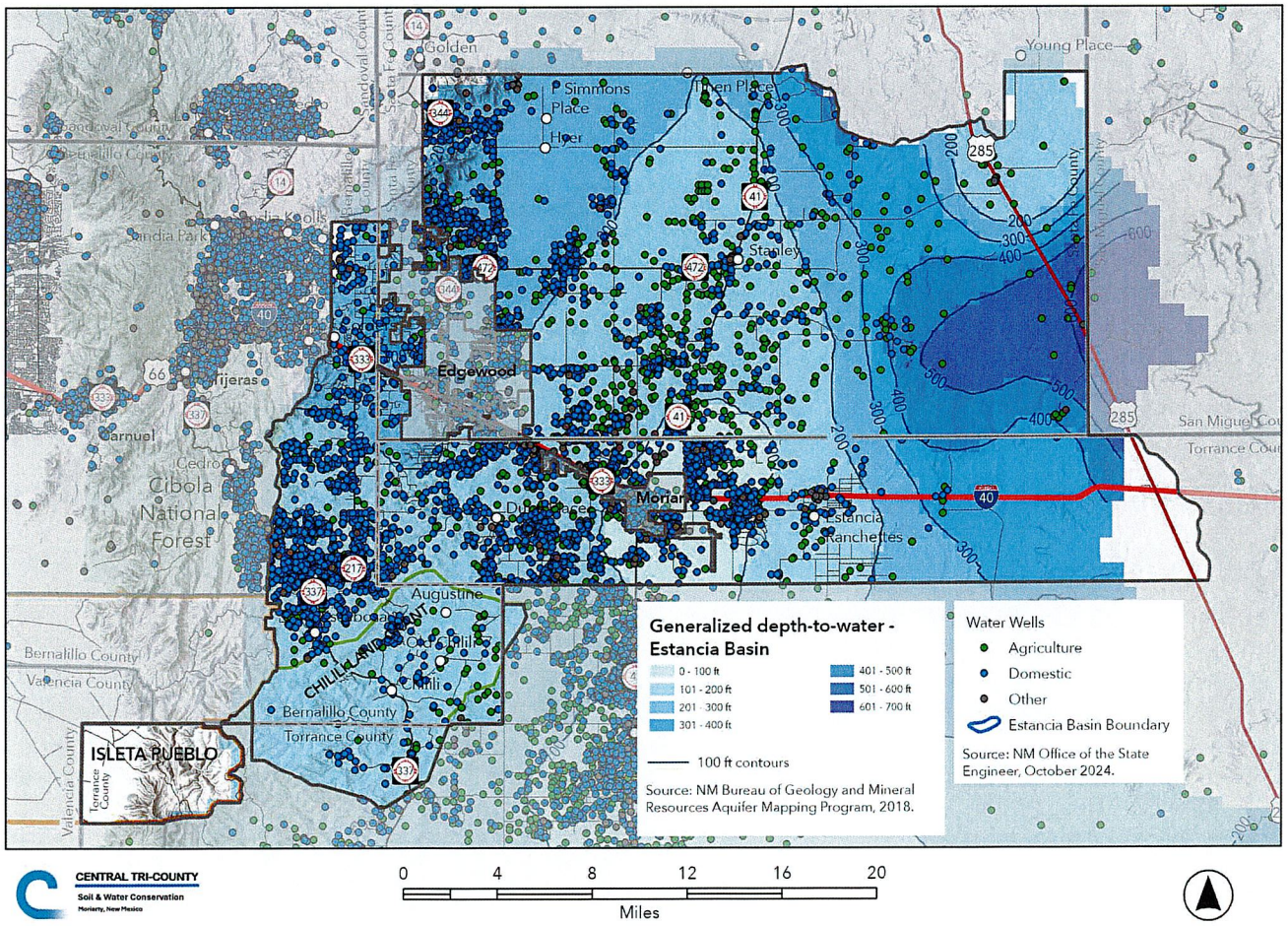
New Mexico has two main agencies responsible for managing water in the state: the Office of the State Engineer (OSE) and the Interstate Stream Commission (ISC). The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) oversees water quality. The state follows a water law known as the "prior appropriation" system, commonly found in Western states. This system prioritizes water rights with the oldest priority dates during water shortages. The priority date of a water right is when the water was first used for beneficial purposes on the land.

Currently, the Office of the State Engineer (OSE) maintains an administrative policy regarding water rights, in which the user must use the water for a "beneficial" purpose. Water rights must be used continuously for the holder to keep control of those rights.

In the past, water conservation was not considered a "beneficial use," leading to a situation where holders of water rights were unable to save water during times of abundance to use during periods of extended scarcity. In 2003, the legislature changed New Mexico's laws to include provisions that promote water conservation without the risk of losing rights due to lack of use.

Furthermore, **NMSA 1978 72-5-28 (G)** specifies that periods of nonuse will not count towards the four-year period of forfeiture when water rights are acquired and entered into a state engineer-approved conservation program by individuals or entities with water rights, conservancy districts, soil and water conservation districts, acequias or community ditch associations, irrigation districts, or the interstate stream commission.

Central Tri-County Soil and Water Conservation District



NMSA 1978, Section 3-27-2 (2009) was amended to prevent municipalities from condemning water sources used by or owned by acequias, community ditches, irrigation districts, conservancy districts, or political subdivisions of the state. New Mexico laws mandate that all new water appropriations and transfers must align with the public welfare of the state. CTCSWCD asserts that regions without a sustainable surface water supply deserve to keep some water in reserve for their economic and cultural well-being.

The State Water Plan Act NMSA §72-14-3.1 (C)(6) states that a water plan should "include a drought management plan designed to address drought emergencies and promote strategies for the prevention of drought-related emergencies in the future. The Plan should include the following:

- Support the use of recycled water or alternative sources of water in place of potable water when economically feasible.
- Encourage agricultural water conservation methods that do not increase consumptive use and advance soil health.
- Encourage water conservation measures to be developed in local and regional water plans and in building codes.
- Coordinate efforts to promote conservation among local, state, federal, and tribal governments.

Federal Reservation: The doctrine of federally reserved water rights was developed over the course of the 20th Century. Simply stated, federally reserved rights are created when the United States sets aside land for specific purposes, thereby withdrawing the land from the public domain. In doing so, there is an implied, if not expressed, intent to reserve the amount of water necessary to fulfill the purpose for which the land was set aside. Federally reserved water rights are not created, or limited, by State law. Federally reserved land within the District includes Forest Service Lands and Bureau of Land Management Lands.

Waters of the United States - Regulation of pollution and water quality for the Nation's waters has been achieved through a partnership between the state and federal government.

This relationship has been successful because of the recognition that not all waters need to be subject to federal jurisdiction and that states have the primary responsibility of regulating waters within their individual boundaries. This federal-state partnership was established under the 1972 Clean Water Act (CWA).

On August 29, 2023, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of the Army announced a final rule amending the 2023 definition of "waters of the United States." The amendments conform to the U.S. Supreme Court's May 25, 2023, decision in the case of Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency.

While the EPA's and Army's 2023 rule defining "waters of the United States" was not directly before the Supreme Court, the decision in Sackett made clear that certain aspects of the 2023 rule are invalid.

The agencies have amended key components of the nation's waters consistent with the Supreme Court's decision while advancing infrastructure projects, economic opportunities, and agricultural activities.

Exclusions from "Waters of the United States": The amendments to the January 2023 Rule does not change the eight exclusions from the definition of "waters of the United States." The exclusions are:

1) Prior converted cropland, adopting USDA's definition and excluding wetlands that were converted to cropland prior to December 23, 1985.
2) Waste treatment systems, including treatment ponds or lagoons that are designed to meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act.
3) Ditches (including roadside ditches), excavated in and draining only dry land, and that do not carry a permanent flow of water.
4) Artificially irrigated areas that would revert to dry land if the irrigation ceased.
5) Artificial lakes or ponds, created by excavating or diking dry land that are used exclusively for purposes such as stock watering, irrigation, settling basins, or rice growing.

6) Artificial reflecting pools or swimming pools and other small ornamental bodies of water created by excavating or diking dry land.
7) Water-filled depressions created in dry land incidental to construction activity and pits excavated in dry land for the purpose of obtaining fill, sand, or gravel unless and until the construction operation is abandoned and the resulting body of water meets the definition of "waters of the United States."
8) Swales and erosional features (e.g., gullies, small washes) that are characterized by low volume, infrequent, or short duration flow.

- **Goal:** CTCSWCD asserts that water is the most significant resource within its boundaries and believes it is necessary for life as well as essential for promoting economic well-being. Ensuring water quality and quantity is an investment that provides a high return. Water is critical for agriculture, residents, industry, and many service activities. CTCSWCD will provide proactive support for corrective and conservation practices and programs to protect the public and conserve, expand, extend, and develop the water resources of the District.
- CTCSWCD will ensure that the policies and actions of the local, state, and federal government regarding water resources protection fully take effect for the benefit of that resource.
- **Guidance:** All New Mexico water laws and State and federal laws that regulate water quality regarding point and nonpoint sources of water pollution.
- **Objectives:**
  1) Coordinate with partners, local governments, federal agencies, and organizations to ensure the District's policies are considered and consistency achieved to resolve water resources issues.
  2) Promote investment in rainwater harvesting systems to capture, divert, and store precipitation for landscape irrigation, domestic use, and aquifer recharge. Rainwater Harvesting remains a top priority for the District.
  3) Continue with the District's Cost-Share Program that assists landowners with water management improvements and technologies.

4) OSE will consult and coordinate with the District to ensure historical water uses for farming and ranching are secure within CTCSWCD boundaries and not transferred outside of the District boundaries.
5) Follow the 50-Year Water Action Plan (Action B3) - "Fully fund and implement the Aquifer Mapping and Monitoring Program at the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources and establish an integrated statewide groundwater monitoring network in order to better understand complex aquifers and track changes" in order to ensure CTCSWCD has the information needed for its water supply issues.
6) Water reuse can extend water supplies, but it requires additional infrastructure and more sophisticated systems. To stay current with this effort the District will track the 50-Year Water Action Plan (Action B1) "create a program framework and guidelines for desalination and wastewater treatment/reuse" and (Action B2) "Develop and implement comprehensive water reuse rules for potable and non-potable reuse of treated wastewater." This could be an additional solution for the water shortages within CTCSWCD boundaries.
7) Promote research that helps cooperators transition to lower water requiring crops or livestock-based forage systems.
8) Coordinate with local and state agencies on the transfer of irrigation water rights to meet present and future agriculture, domestic and industrial water requirements, and the resulting erosion from the abandoned lands.
9) Promote and provide technical assistance to CTCSWCD agriculture producers with conservation related programs, both state and federal, that implement agricultural water enhancement activities on agricultural land for the purposes of conserving ground water and improving water quality.

4.2-2 SOIL

Soil is not just an inert growing medium; it is a living and life-giving natural resource. It teems with billions of bacteria, fungi, and other microbes that form the basis of a sophisticated symbiotic ecosystem. Healthy soil provides us with clean air and water, abundant crops and forests, productive grazing lands, diverse wildlife, and stunning landscapes.

Soil quality is the ability of soil to continue functioning as a vital ecosystem that supports plants, animals, and humans.

Determining healthy soil goes beyond measuring one single outcome, therefore indicators are used. Indicators are measurable traits of soil or plants that give insight into how well the soil functions. These indicators can be physical, chemical, and biological properties, processes, or characteristics of soils. They can also include morphological or visual features of plants.

Dynamic soil quality refers to how soil changes based on its management. Management choices impact the level of soil organic matter, soil structure, soil depth, and water and nutrient retention capacity.

Soil reacts differently to management based on their inherent properties and the surrounding landscape.

The Soil Health Foundation is based on five principles:

1) Keeping soil covered.
2) Minimizing soil disturbance.
3) Maximizing biodiversity.
4) Maintaining a living root.
5) Integrating animals into land management, including grazing animals, birds, beneficial insects, or keystone species (like earthworms). Soil plays a significant role in determining how New Mexico's diverse landscapes will respond to climate change. Soil cover acts as a sponge, retaining water from rainfall or snow.

Soil also enhances processes such as water infiltration and aquifer recharge. Loss of vegetation due to warmer climates can lead to increased erosion, often caused by wind, and especially affects poorly developed soils.

In the Eastern Plains, large amounts of dust can be produced (Bulletin 164 - Impacts on Water Resources).

- **Goal:** Provide proactive support for corrective and conservation practices and programs aimed at conserving, protecting, and beneficially developing the soil resources of the District. Additionally, CTCSWCD aims to institute and manage vegetation and landscape projects that will help mitigate blowing dust. Windblown dust in this area originates from both natural and man-made sources.
- **Objectives:**
    1) Ensure the policies and actions of the local, state, and federal government regarding soil resource protection meet the standards set by the District for the benefit of the resource.
    2) Encourage land managers and landowners to seek technical assistance to mitigate surface disturbance and to facilitate soil and water conservation.
    3) Promote District's Cost-Share Program to reestablish native or other desired vegetation. Further the progress of the establishment of permanent vegetative cover on poor quality cropland from which water rights have been removed.
    4) Accelerate projects such as brush control which supports the natural replenishment of our grass base.
    5) Provide vital and necessary technical information to utility companies, Torrance, Bernalillo, Santa Fe Counties, and district cooperators on layout, design, and maintenance to reduce erosion and how to implement drainage structures on county, private, and energy companies' access roads.
    6) Provide technical information on native grass reseeding of any disturbed soils including, but not limited to transmission, pipeline, and wind energy pads.
    7) Coordinate with renewable energy companies and Torrance, Bernalillo, and Santa Fe counties. The purpose will be to remind all parties of their responsibility for natural resource best management practices within District boundaries, which include soils, erosion control, invasive species, and stormwater management.

4.2.3 RANGE AND GRASSLAND

The East Mountains and Estancia Valley regions are experiencing an increased number of individuals who are seeking a rural lifestyle.

Due to this increased number of new landowners in the area, the District has developed a **"Small Acreage Grazing Brochure."** This resource aims to assist landowners overseeing parcels ranging from 1 to 10 acres, as well as those managing larger properties of 40 acres or more. Effective management of vegetation composition, cover, and productivity is crucial for achieving sustainable rangeland management. It is important for a landowner to determine which information is scientifically accurate and which methods are feasible to apply on their property.

The District recommends that small landowners can adopt 5 range management principles as a starting point to determine which management methods will be most effective for their property:

- **Adaptive Management** - Always be ready to adjust to environmental changes and monitor rangelands throughout the year.
- **Implementing a Grazing Plan -** Requires following a grazing system throughout the season to ensure rangeland is properly grazed (at the right time, for the correct duration, with the proper number of animals) and receives an adequate recovery period to promote the native plant community.
- **Implement Ecosystem Biodiversity -** Biodiversity is defined as the variability among living organisms.
- **Residual Forage -** Is a critical part of the ecosystem. It protects soil from water and wind erosion, promotes water infiltration, reduces water loss from evaporation, maintains soil temperature, increases soil nutrients, and helps sequester carbon dioxide in the soil.
- **Climate Ready -** Have a plan in place for the "what if" scenarios.

The diversity of grass provides a wider range of nutrients for grazers, promotes a variety of soil microorganisms, and enhances the resilience of the grasses to drought. Carbon levels in the soil can be increased by at least 25 percent. With each one percent increase, the soil can hold an additional 60,000 gallons of water per acre. Some of this water returns to the water table, while about 70 percent enters the aquifer. Improved water retention also leads to cooler soil, which is crucial in a dry climate.

- **Goal:** Support and facilitate the continued use of private and state lands for livestock production. Work to increase the productivity of rangeland while also maintaining and enhancing desired plant communities for the benefit of watershed, wildlife, water quality, and livestock grazing.
- **Guidance:** The mixed ownership of rangelands leads to differences in management objectives and practices. The District has responsibility to collaborate with private, state, and federal land managers to address soil erosion, flood control, and other natural resource concerns. Coordination of management practices between public and private land managers with the District is important.

Land management plans, programs, and initiatives should ensure that the amount of domestic livestock forage, measured in animal unit months, for permitted, active use and wildlife forage, is not less than the maximum sustainable amount based on range conditions in grazing allotments. This should be determined through on-the-ground observations and scientific analysis to ensure the proper operation of the District. Livestock producers contribute to the economic stability of the community, which benefits the District, and they are key in implementing the District's programs. Any reductions in domestic livestock animal unit months must be based on scientific assessments of rangeland conditions.

- **Objective**:

1) Support management of rangelands to maintain and enhance desired plant communities for the benefit of watersheds, wildlife, water quality, and livestock grazing.
2) Promote CTCSWCD Small Landowner programs for grazing.
3) Encourage the use of coordinated range management plans (allotment management plans or coordinated activity plans) for each grazing allotment that allow for the flexibility and updating of management during the ten-year term of the grazing permit. (i.e., water development, brush control, reseeding, cross fencing, salting plans, herding plans, and grazing systems).

4) Coordinate with federal and state agencies on any new federal and state land acquisition within CTCSWCD boundaries. Encourage federal and state land management agencies to focus on land currently under its responsibility.
5) Work collaboratively with local, state, and federal agencies to identify areas requiring brush management and control, taking into consideration wildlife habitat needs while maintaining overall productivity of rangeland vegetation. Support and implement treatment projects for brush management on lands affected by invasive species such as but not limited to; Juniper, Mesquite, Salt Cedar, Russian Olive, Cocklebur, Mustards, Nettles, Thistles, Cholla and Prickly Pear.

4.2.4 WILDLIFE AND LIVESTOCK

The production of livestock in Torrance, Santa Fe, and Bernalillo counties contributes to the local economy, tax base, and supports ranching, farming businesses, and related industries. It also plays a role in the management and health of natural resources on federal, state, and private lands.

CTCSWCD shall strive to protect the ranching / farming heritage, as it is a primary foundation of the custom and culture of the District.

District Goals to implement and oversee vegetation and landscape projects that will:

1) Enhance grassland development for both livestock and wildlife.
2) Improve water supplies and systems to support these populations sustainably.
3) Promote research to explore the benefits of more complex grazing practices.
4) Educate the public on the benefits and interdependence of livestock and wildlife in arid environments.
5) Encourage wildlife management practices that protect wildlife resources and habitats while minimizing any negative impact on other land-use activities and private property rights.

CTCSWCD will also advocate for land management agencies to compensate livestock permittees for any remaining improvements upon termination of grazing permits or allow for the removal of such improvements.

They will work with these agencies to adjust grazing allocations based on changes in available forage, proportionate to the dietary needs of livestock and wildlife.

Furthermore, CTCSWCD must be notified of any suspension of grazing or reduction in grazing on federal lands within the district's boundaries, believing that permittees should be given a chance to adjust their operations to comply with agency directives rather than halting grazing immediately.

Guidance: In various laws and grazing guidelines, Congress has often-mandated stabilization of the local livestock industry by providing for the orderly use, improvement, and development of the range in a manner which adequately safeguards vested grazing and water rights, and in a manner that will not impair the value of a grazing unit when such a right is pledged as a debt security by the permittee.

Multiple Use and Sustained Yield Act of 1960 (P.L. 86-517, June 12, 1960) as amended. Multiple use implies a sustained yield of outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed and wildlife and fish values. FLPMA sets forth the policy that federal lands be managed in a manner that will protect the quality of multiple resources, will provide food and habitat for fish and wildlife as well as domestic animals and will provide for outdoor recreation and human occupancy and use.

- **Objectives:**
    1) Promote and coordinate water distribution system installation and infrastructure improvements to benefit all wildlife and livestock health and welfare within the CTCSWCD.
    2) Coordinate with federal land management agencies to ensure federal management activities regarding wildlife and livestock grazing do not negatively impact the Districts activities designed to prevent soil erosion and ensure flood prevention. Grazing management decisions can trigger future erosion and flood issues if not carefully coordinated with the District's plans.

3) Encourage private landowners to plan, develop, and implement resource management plans that meet the standards of grazing management systems through proper stocking, deferred and rotational grazing, erosion control, control of poisonous and noxious plants, water development and distribution, and fencing.

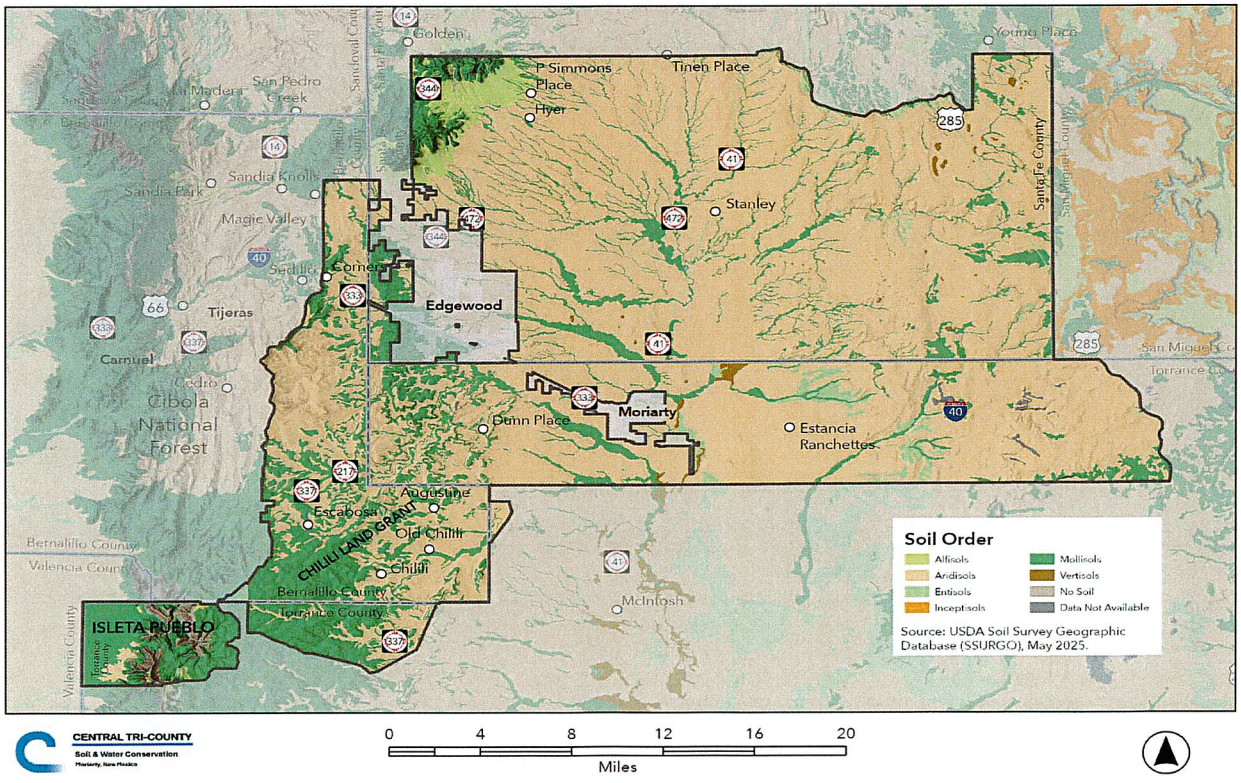
4) Recommend that crucial or critical habitat designations consider economic impacts to the human environment, conflicts with other land uses, and protection of private property rights.

5) Coordinate with federal agencies on the redistribution of wildlife so that it does not impact private land.

4.2.5 Threatened and Endangered Species

The foundation of effective environmental stewardship is a healthy resource base. Endangered and threatened species, along with all plants and animals, rely on the delicate balance of stable ecological, economic, and social functions within the local community.

Central Tri-County Soil and Water Conservation District



The Endangered Species Act ("ESA"), [Addendum Tab No. 12 at 37-59, 16 U.S.C. §§1531-1541], protects individual species of plants and animals wherever they occur when it is determined that the continued existence is threatened or endangered. [Addendum Tab No. 12a at 37, 16 U.S.C. §1533]. ESA allows for species to be listed through rule making and for critical habitats to be identified within a year after listing.

Before determining if a species is threatened or endangered, federal agencies must consider efforts made by states, foreign nations, or political subdivisions to protect the species. This includes a thorough review of district plans, policies, and projects.

Federal agencies are required to cooperate with state and local agencies to resolve water resource issues while conserving endangered species. The CTCSWCD holds specific authority to manage water resources within its jurisdiction, and therefore, all actions carried out under the Endangered Species Act must be coordinated with the District to resolve any water resource issues that may arise.

When making decisions about listing, agencies must consider scientific peer reviews, as well as economic and social impacts. [Addendum Tab No. 12a at 38, 16 U.S.C. §1533(a)(3)(A).]
Critical habitat designations must consider local socioeconomic impacts and areas may be excluded based on economic impacts unless their exclusion would lead to the extinction of the species.

Once a species is listed, it cannot be harmed or harassed. Landowners on private land must obtain permits under the ESA if a 'take' is likely to occur, often through a habitat conservation plan that complies with NEPA.

The Natural Heritage New Mexico Program; Gathers, organizes, and disseminates information on unique, rare, threatened, and endangered species. These plans and agreements require some form of NEPA process, which provides an opportunity for public involvement. The ESA is the basis for several planning mechanisms:

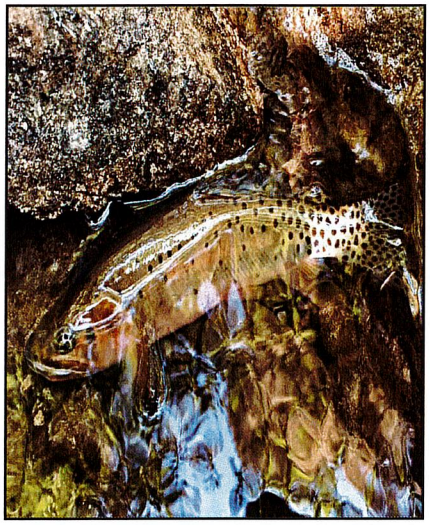
- Recovery plans for listed species that set population and viability goals and define when a species might be eligible for delisting.
- Reintroduction plans, which govern introductions of listed species as part of a recovery effort.
- Habitat conservation plans which allow land uses on private lands to go forward even when a 'take' of a listed species may occur; mitigation of adverse effects is usually part of the plan.
- Conservation plans or agreements, often between states and FWS, adopt management actions to avoid listing the species.
- Candidate conservation agreements, under which a landowner commits private land to management for the species, may also have 'safe harbor' provisions that assure that the landowner need not take any additional mitigation measures if the species is listed.

The listed species are found in New Mexico counties that fall within the jurisdictional boundaries of CTCSWCD. The status of any listed species must be known, and all additions or removals must be coordinated with the District.



Yellow Billed Cuckoo (T) - Torrance, Santa Fe, and Bernalillo counties - The yellow-billed cuckoo is protected as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. Only the western population beyond the Pecos River drainage has been listed as threatened under the ESA, NM largest cuckoo population occurs in the Rio Grande and Gila Rivers with smaller populations scattered throughout the state. Breeds in and migrates through riparian habitat and associated drainages, springs, wells, and earthen ponds supporting mesic vegetation, and deciduous woodlands with cottonwoods and willows. The western, yellow-billed cuckoo is a migratory bird species, traveling between its wintering grounds in Central and South America and its breeding grounds in 12 western U.S. States and six states in Mexico. The final listing rule became effective November 3, 2014. FWS's next step is the designation of critical habitat for the species and development of a recovery plan.

Comment/Expectations: To meet the District's statutory responsibilities, CTCSWCD must be notified and coordinated with on all decisions.



Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout - Oncorhynchus clarkii virginalis Santa Fe County - According to the FWS, the historic range of Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout (RGCT) cannot be known with certainty, but it is probable the subspecies occupied the colder reaches of streams in the mountainous portions of the Rio Grande, Canadian, and Pecos River drainages in New Mexico and Colorado. The RGCT is designated as a species of greatest conservation need by New Mexico Game and Fish Department accord unintended consequences to the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (NMDGF 2006) and is managed as a protected species under Chapter 17 NMSA.

The introductions of nonnative trout species have been identified as the biggest factor in the decline of RGCT in New Mexico. Species such as Brook Trout and Brown Trout often compete with RGCT for food. Additionally, Rainbow Trout can hybridize with RGCT leading to the loss of genetically pure RGCT populations. Other serious threats to the conservation status of RGCT include wildfire and drought. In 2008 the US Fish and Wildlife Service was petitioned to list RGCT under the Endangered Species Act, but their listing was deemed unwarranted in 2014. This decision showed how successful projects led by the Department and other partners have improved the conservation status of this iconic fish.

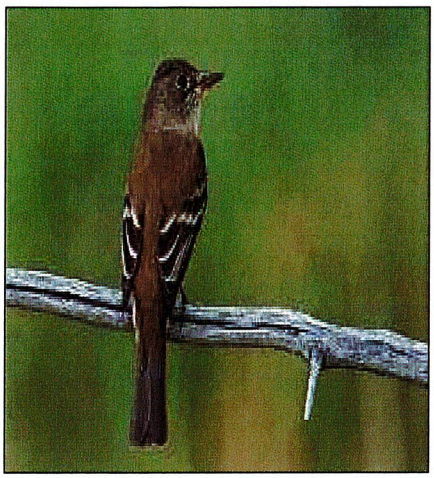


Mexican Spotted Owl - Torrance, Santa Fe, and Bernalillo counties - In 1993 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) listed the Mexican spotted owl (Strix occidentalis lucida; "owl") as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Critical habitat for the Mexican spotted owl was designated in 2004, comprising approximately 8.6 million acres on Federal lands in the four corner states. Within the critical habitat boundaries, critical habitat includes protected and restricted habitats as defined in the original Mexican Spotted Owl Recovery Plan, completed in 1995. The species 'recovery priority number is 9C.

Two primary reasons were cited for the original listing of the Mexican spotted owl in 1993: historical alteration of its habitat as the result of timber-management practices; and the threat of these practices continuing as evidenced in existing national forest plans. The danger of stand-replacing wildland fire was also cited as a threat at that time. Since publication of the 1995 Recovery Plan, FWS has acquired new information on the biology, threats, and habitat needs of the spotted owl.

The primary threats to its population in the U.S. have transitioned from timber harvest to an increased risk of stand-replacing wildland fire. New Mexican forests have experienced larger and more severe wildland fires since 1995. If work must take place during Mexican spotted owl breeding and nesting season is from March 1 to August 31, nesting surveys must be conducted by a permitted biologist prior to project implementation to identify any occupied nests and establish avoidance buffers until the young have fledged.

Comment/Expectations: To meet the District's statutory responsibilities, CTCSWCD must be notified and coordinated with to ensure the District's policies are considered to achieve a balance of health, safety, and economics of the local communities within the BRE EMU while FWS enhances owl habitat across the landscape.



<u>Southwest Willow flycatcher</u> (E) - Bernalillo and Santa Fe Counties Small; usually a little less than 6 inches in length, including tail. The species historical range included Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, Utah. In 2017 the Service announced a finding on a petition to delist (remove The southwestern willow flycatcher (Empidonax traillii extimus) from the List of Threatened and Endangered Species).

This finding also constitutes a 5-year review for the southwestern willow flycatcher. After reviewing the best available scientific and commercial information, the Service decided delisting the southwestern willow flycatcher is not warranted at that time. To conserve the flycatcher in areas of its breeding range, the subspecies and its habitat remain susceptible to various water and land management and other related threats.

Comment/Expectations: The CTCSWCD understands that the flycatcher currently benefits from the presence of tamarisks, especially in areas where tamarisks thrive due to landscape stressors affecting native vegetation. The FWS believes that current eradication practices by water and land managers are misguided, creating opportunities for the flycatcher to recover in areas where dam operations, agricultural practices, and other actions have led to the growth of large stands of tamarisk.

CTCSWCD also understands that tamarisk is currently considered a class C noxious weed by the New Mexico Department of Agriculture. To fulfill the District's statutory responsibilities, CTCSWCD must be notified and will coordinate with other agencies to ensure that the District's policies are taken into consideration to achieve a balance between the health, safety, and economics of local communities.



<u>NM Meadow Jumping Mouse (Mouse) (E)</u> - *Bernalillo county* - The New Mexico meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius luteus*) was made a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act in 2008. The FWS received a petition to list the jumping mouse, which was already on the candidate list, and published its petition finding on December 10, 2008. Because the Mouse was previously identified through FWS candidate assessment process, the species had already received the equivalent of a substantial 90-day finding and a warranted, but precluded, 12-month finding.

The rule became effective July 10, 2014. FWS assigns priority numbers ranging from 1 – 18 based upon degree of threats, recovery potential, and taxonomic distinctiveness (48 FR 43098) for each species.

FWS assigned a priority number of 3C which indicates a high degree of threat, with a high recovery potential. The Mouse is a subspecies, and conflict exists. The threats are high due to ongoing sources of habitat loss, degradation, and modification, including grazing pressure, water management and use (which causes vegetation loss from mowing and drying of soil), lack of water due to drought, and wildfires.

The jumping mouse is active only during the growing season of the grasses and forbs on which it depends. During the growing season, the jumping mouse accumulates fat reserves by consuming seeds. Preparation for hibernation (weight gain, nest building) seems to be triggered by day length. The jumping mouse hibernates about nine months out of the year, longer than most other mammals (Morrison 1990, p. 141; VanPelt 1993, p. 1; Frey 2005a, p. 59). r, longer than most other mammals (Morrison 1990, p. 141; VanPelt 1993, p. 1; Frey 2005a, p. 59).

Comment/Expectations: To meet the District's statutory responsibilities, CTCSWCD must be notified and coordinated with to ensure the District's policies are considered to achieve a balance to health, safety, and economics of the local communities.

New Mexico Species of Greatest Conservation Need/Threatened or Endangered are listed by the NM State Game Commission: New Mexico silverspot butterfly (Speyeria nokomis nitocris), San Juan checkerspot butterfly (Euphydryas anicia chuskae), American peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus anatum) delisted due to recovery, Black tern (Childonias niger), Mountain plover (Charadrius montanus), Northern goshawk (Accipiter gentilis), Western burrowing owl (Athene cunicularia hypugaea), Acoma fleabane (Erigeron acomanus), Parish's alkali grass (Puccinellia parishii), Sivinski's fleabane (Erigeron sivinskii). Brown Pelican (Pelicans occidentalis), Common Black Hawk (Buteogallus anthracinus), Bald Eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus), Peregrine Falcon (Falco peregrinus), Arctic Peregrine Falcon (Falco peregrinus tundrius), Gray Vireo (Bireo vicinior), Pale Townsend's Big-eared Bat (Corynorhinus townsendii), Yuma Myotis (Myotis yumanensis), Ringtail (BassariscLasiurus borealis) usastutus), Broad-billed Hummingbird (Cynanthus latirostris), Fringed Myotis (Myotis thysanodes), Long-eared Myotis (Myotis evotis), Western Small-footed Myotis (Myotis ciliolabrum), Loggerhead Shrike (Lanius ludovicianus), Baird's Sparrow (Ammodramus bairdii), Oscura Mountains Colorado Chipmunk (Tamisa quadrivittatus oscuraensis), Penasco Least Chipmunk (Tamias minimus atristriatus), Southwestern Fence Lizard (Sceloporus cowlesi), Rio Grande Chub (Gila pandora), Sacramento Mtn. Salamander (Aneides hardii), White Sands Pupfish (Cyprinodon tularosa), Burrowing Owl (Athene cunicularia), Spotted Bat (Euderma maculatum), Gunnison's prairie dog [prairie subspecies] (Cynomys gunnisoni zuniensis), Reddish Egret (Egretta rufescens), Neotropic Cormorant (Phalacrocorax brasilianus), Common Ground-dove (Columvina passerina), Bell's Vireo (Vireo bellii), Sprague's Pipit (Anthus spragueii), Rio Grande Silvery Minnow (Hybognathus amarus), Black Tern (Chilidonias niger), and Socorro Mountainsnail (Oreohelix neomexicana)

- **Goal:** Participate in all decisions and proposed actions, including NEPA procedures for an Environmental Assessment ("EA") or Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS"), that impact the District regarding sensitive, threatened, or endangered species recovery plans, introductions or reintroductions, habitat conservation plans, conservation agreements or plans, or candidate conservation agreements. Listing or removal of endangered species must occur in active coordination with the District.

- Coordinate with all stakeholders to develop alternatives to listing, such as conservation plans and related agreements with local, state, and federal agencies, to address potential threats to species and their habitat and prevent official listing.

- **Guidance:** The District will work to consistently coordinate with the USFWS for the purposes of (1) being aware of all matters pertaining to listing that impact its administrative boundaries and (2) allowing the district to assess the impact of all decisions on its water resources, economic impact, and conservation measures.

- **Objectives:**
  1) Advocate management of the entire ecosystem, recognizing the full array of interactions within an ecosystem, including humans, rather than considering single issues, species, or ecosystem services in isolation.
  2) Promote critical habitat improvement. However, there must be allowances for traditional uses such as but not limited to grazing, irrigation, and wood cutting. The actions must benefit both the endangered species and the other user's customs and culture.
  3) Oppose the introduction or transplant of threatened and endangered species within the boundaries of CTCSWCD, unless the District consents and it is done pursuant to specific terms and conditions that avoid disrupting existing land uses.
  4) Address the impact of all actions with the statutory requirements of the ESA including the impact to the managed value of History.
  5) Call for proponents of protection, recovery activities, and other threatened and endangered and sensitive species programs finance the activities, including public involvement and compensation to the affected landowners.
  6) Support delisting of species once population goals set out in recovery plans are achieved.
  7) Participate in appropriate legislation and regulations directing management of threatened and endangered species and state sensitive species.
  8) Expect that federal agencies respect distinctions between special status species (Species of Greatest Conservation Need, etc.) and those listed under the ESA.

4.2-6 PREDATOR CONTROL

Goal: Encourage the management of predatory animals to minimize damage to private property and wildlife, and to protect the local economy and tax base to maximize the viability of the agricultural community

Guidance: Federal agencies are required to coordinate their planning processes with local government land use plans, as outlined in 43 C.F.R. §1610.3-1(a).

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) mandates that federal agencies must consider any inconsistencies between proposed actions and approved State or local plans and laws, regardless of federal sanctioning.

Congress intended for NEPA to apply to any action that significantly impacts the quality of the human environment, with local expertise being the best guide for observing and measuring local conditions. Given the current climate conditions in New Mexico, it is crucial to consider how the effects on the population dynamics of fauna and flora may impact the community, including endangered species.

Objective:

1) Support control of predators, rodents, and insects, which are disease-bearing vectors that are a recognized threat to public health.
2) Reintroduction and introduction plans should provide for compensation to livestock operators for actual value of loss, including replacement cost, including direct and incidental expenses relating to the loss, and prompt payment thereof.
3) Support predator control based on a balance between the best objective peer reviewed science available, economics, and logistics, evaluated on a case-by-case basis utilizing currently recognized methods of predator control that remain as viable options for predator control, until such time that new and better technology offers new options.

4.2-7 INVASIVE SPECIES

INVASIVE OR NOXIOUS PLANT MANAGEMENT

Invasive and noxious species are recognized as one of the main threats to biodiversity and cause significant costs to agriculture, including rangeland and farmland productivity, as well as to other human activities and human health.

The District considers plants invasive or noxious if they have been introduced into an environment where they did not evolve. As a result, they typically have no natural enemies to control their reproduction and spread. Some invasive plants can cause significant changes to vegetation, composition, structure, or ecosystem function.

- **Goal:** Provide a basis for management decisions that address invasive or noxious plant populations.
- **Guidance:** New Mexico Harmful Plant Act 76-7A-11 NMSA 1978; Noxious Weed Control Act 76-7-1 to 76-7-22 NMSA 1978
- **Objectives**:
  1) Cooperate in noxious weed control to improve the productivity of all jurisdictional rangelands consistent with local, state, and federal law and policies to eradicate noxious and invasive weeds, and to enhance native vegetation.
  2) Given that early detection and rapid response is becoming a crucial aspect of CTCSWCD approach to the invasive species threat. Prevention is the first line of defense; it is the most cost-effective approach. CTCSWCD will continue to implement this approach by distributing best management practices to CTCSWCD landowners to prevent or mitigate invasive species establishment or movement.
  3) Coordinate with the NM Department of Transportation's local District concerning invasive species management on highway right-of-ways.
  4) CTCSWCD will continue to search for funding to map and monitor invasive species within its boundaries.

4.2-8 WILDFIRE

The 2020 New Mexico State Forest Action Plan recognizes that New Mexico faces continued and urgent threats from catastrophic wildfire. The State Forest Action Plan includes a resource assessment to identify threats to resources, including wildfire, post-wildfire flooding, erosion and debris flow, disease and insects, climate changes, development, and fragmentation, and use and forest management activities. The NM State Forest Action Plan then provides strategies to protect these resources over the next decade.

CTCSWCD contains a considerable portion of wildfire-prone land. Vegetation types across the District consist of grassland with patches of shrublands, which transition to Piñon/Juniper woodlands and Ponderosa pine forests to mixed conifer at higher elevations.
Fires are a natural part of the disturbance cycle for most of the vegetation types, but recent fires have been more likely to occur in Piñon/Juniper woodlands and Ponderosa pine forests.

Multiple factors have combined to increase forest susceptibility to wildfire; including frequent drought, fire suppression–based forest management tactics which have led to a buildup of fuels and changes to vegetation composition, insects, diseases, and climate change (Goodwin et al. 2021). These forest changes have been shown to increase the risk of uncharacteristically large high-severity fires (Goodwin et al. 2021; Schoennagel et al. 2017)

Goal: It is the goal of CTCSWCD where appropriate, to encourage limited utilization of fire and, otherwise, encourage fire suppression in areas that threaten communities and private infrastructure, to support and expand multiple uses and to achieve vegetation management goals.

The Districts long term plans, policies and projects rely upon proper vegetative management on all lands, private, state, and federal. Therefore, it is imperative that when the District identifies lands with excessive vegetation that increase the opportunity for wildfires, that it will coordinate with those agencies and landowners to assist in reducing the potential hazard.

- **Guidance:** The District recognizes wildfire is a function of fuel loads and drought. Both issues are part of the resource management aims and obligations of the District's responsibilities.

- **Objectives**
  1) CTCSWCD strongly supports training for all volunteer fire department members in the basics of wild land fire fighting. To accomplish this, the District will support New Mexico State Forestry Division and any other land management agency with suppression responsibilities in the training of VFD and RFD fire departments.
  2) Promote programs that assist private landowners with defensible space such as Firewise Communities; Ready, Set, Go! and Living With Fire.
  3) The District will coordinate with federal agencies to assist in developing policies for grazing rest prescriptions related to either wildfires or prescribed burns on a site-specific basis taking into account the needs of the vegetation and flexibility to meet the needs of the landowner, and to protect excessive soil erosion vegetative treatments and use of livestock grazing can be utilized to keep fuel loads within appropriate limits.
  4) Post-fire grazing will not be limited when monitoring and evaluation produces relevant, accurate data that demonstrates grazing will not unduly harm the range.
  5) The District will promote developing plans and projects that strike a balance of beneficial use of fire and the detrimental effects of intense wildfire. Advocate that fire should not be used to replace proper timber harvest as the primary forest management tool.
  6) Encourage development of vegetation treatments and use of livestock grazing to keep fuel loads within appropriate limits.
  7) Continue to support area Community Wildfire Protection Plans; Torrance, Bernalillo and Santa Fe county Fire Departments and RFDs; and organizations like the East Mountain Wildfire Preparedness Association and the Bernalillo, Santa Fe, and Torrance County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC).

FIRE RESTORATION OBJECTIVES:

1) Coordinate existing programs in New Mexico that can help communities and landowners implement post-fire response e.g., fire rehabilitation and weed control, on private, municipal, and other lands that do not qualify for a local, regional, or national Burn Area Emergency Response (BAER).
2) Coordinate with Farm Service Agency (FSA) to assist landowners with post natural disaster losses e.g., drought, flood, fire, freeze, tornadoes, pest infestation. For example, FSA provides various program assistance; Livestock Forage Program which compensates eligible livestock producers for grazing losses due to fire or the Emergency Conservation Program which provides emergency funding and technical assistance to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters.
3) Coordinate with NRCS with the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program following natural disasters.
4) Coordinate with the NRCS NM Burned Area Initiative which is part of the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The Burned Area Initiative is designed to help restore conservation practices destroyed in fires or by off-site fire impacts.
5) Coordinate with New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED) with free testing of private domestic wells to check for contamination after a wildfire.
6) Coordinate federal land management agencies with emergency stabilization assessments of fire damage that produces hazards to life or property as needed in accordance with BAER policy (FSM 2523 and FSH 2509.13).
7) Assist private landowners who decide to harvest trees killed by fire. Any remaining trees post-fire can be instrumental for soil and wildlife habitat recovery. Furthermore, burned soils are especially susceptible to soil compaction and erosion, so promote timber salvage to be performed by professionals. Several programs assist landowners with timber salvage, including the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

4.2-9 FLOOD AND STORMWATER CONTROL

Effective stormwater management requires a holistic approach to ensure system-wide efficiency and cost-effectiveness. County managers and subdivision developers should consider the performance and cost of each stormwater practice collectively, rather than isolating individual best management practices (BMPs). In New Mexico, stormwater runoff during construction is regulated to protect water quality and the environment, primarily under the guidance of the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) and the Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC).

- **Goals to Develop BMPs**

  Reduce Post-Construction Runoff: Construction activities disturbing one acre or more require a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, also known as the General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activities.
  This permit mandates the creation and implementation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), covering activities such as clearing, grading, excavation, and other actions that may generate pollutants.

  Preventing Stormwater Pollution: Individual behaviors that can contribute to stormwater pollution include littering, improper disposal of trash, oil and grease, sediment, phosphorus, nitrogen, construction chemicals, and debris.
  In New Mexico, stormwater runoff during construction is regulated to protect water quality and the environment, primarily under the guidance of the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) and the Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC).

- **Guidance:** The NPDES Stormwater Program, established under Section 402(p) of the Clean Water Act (CWA), aims to protect surface water quality by regulating point-source discharges of pollutants. The U.S. EPA is the regulatory authority for stormwater permitting in New Mexico, with the NM Environment Department's Surface Water Quality Bureau conducting inspections on behalf of the EPA. Per NMSA 46-6-11(F)(4).

"In determining whether a subdivider can fulfill the requirements of Subsections B and C, the board of county commissioners shall, within ten days after the preliminary plat is complete, request input from the soil and water conservation district to determine: (a) the adequacy of terrain management to protect against flooding, drainage issues, and erosion; (b) the subdivider's ability to implement terrain management proposals outlined in their disclosure statement.

- **Objectives:**
  1) Coordinate with Counties: Work with counties within the District's jurisdiction to fulfill statutory responsibilities [46-6-11(F)(4) NMSA] in subdivision reviews.
  2) Promote Knowledge and Stewardship: Facilitate education in floodplain management, erosion control, and watershed stewardship.
  3) Support Federal and State Mapping Efforts: Recommend and support federal and state agencies in updating and maintaining accurate debris flow models, floodplain models, and hydrology models within the CTCSWCD.
  4) Enhance Floodwater Capture: Collaborate with relevant agencies to support the capture and reuse of floodwaters within CTCSWCD for beneficial purposes.
  5) Encourage Responsible Septic System Management: Promote practices for managing septic systems responsibly to protect water quality.
  6) Subdivision Review Recommendations: For proposed subdivisions, recommend defining historical arroyos as open space, avoid placing lots within arroyos, and prevent the redirection of arroyos over roads.

4.2-10 WATERSHED AND FOREST MANAGEMENT

Many of New Mexico's Watershed are in an unhealthy state. This condition has reached a critical state in many watersheds, including (1) unnaturally high density of woody vegetation in some forest types, in woodlands and grasslands, and in riparian communities, (2) a degradation of biodiversity, including an increase of invasive species and noxious weeds such as salt cedar and thistles, and (3) fragmentation and deterioration of wildlife habitat.

Results of these trends include susceptibility to catastrophic wildfire, compromised watersheds and decreased water supply, accelerated erosion, desertification, and other unwanted symptoms of ecological degradation. These unhealthy conditions have been created over time by factors including changes in settlement patterns, disruption by human intervention of natural processes such as fire and flooding, unsustainable use, and natural climatic variations.

Healthy watersheds provide many ecosystem functions including, but not limited to erosion and sedimentation control, increased biodiversity, soil formation, wildlife habitat, water storage and filtration, flood control, food production, timber, recreation, nutrient cycling, and carbon storage. These resources are crucial for our social, environmental, and economic well-being.

Watersheds are frequently not considered in land use planning due to the complexity of natural systems and the challenges in assigning economic value to their ecosystem services. There is extensive research and evidence supporting the idea that maintaining healthy watersheds can prevent costly restoration efforts and create long-term economic opportunities and employment.

In CTCSWCD's forested watersheds, there has been a disruption in normal fire patterns and return intervals due to effective fire suppression, limited forest management, and potentially climatic influences.

Ponderosa pine stands now experience more intense, stand-replacing fires compared to lower-intensity fires in the past, leading to ecosystem component losses such as water quality. In some areas, mechanical treatments are necessary to reduce fuel loads and manage fire intensity before fire can be safely reintroduced. Mechanical treatment is necessary to reduce fuels to help control fire intensity.

While there is no commercial logging in CTCSWCD, timber is cut for firewood, post and poles, and other traditional uses of woody products.

CTCSWCD fully supports thinning projects and knows that the current science supports reducing fuel loads and that thinning projects are warranted. The forest and woodlands within the District boundaries are primarily Piñon/Juniper, Ponderosa pine and some dry mixed conifer.

- **Goal:** CTCSWCD strongly supports the critical need for healthy forests and watersheds that provide a reliable supply of high-quality water and other benefits for New Mexico by implementing long term, collaborative, comprehensive watershed-scale restoration projects that foster ecosystem function and resilience as well as maintain multiple use and sustained yield of forested land for forest uses.

- **Guidance: Support**
  1) Community-based collaboration with stakeholders.
  2) Expedited implementation of watershed and landscape restoration and enhancement projects at the site-specific and landscape levels.
  3) Management should be directed towards achieving desired future conditions e.g., promoting active forest management on suitable lands across all jurisdictional lands to achieve an appropriate age class and structural stage distribution following established silvicultural science.
  4) Integration of Best Management Practices that incorporate peer-reviewed science.
  5) Flexibility in authorities and programming.

- **Objective:**
  1) Promote legislative action that will increase investments in forest restoration.
  2) Seek opportunities to collaborate with partners to secure funding for watershed scale forest treatments.
  3) Implement forest and watershed restoration projects that restore watershed function within CTCSWCD boundaries and work with neighboring SWCDs on watershed scale restoration projects.
  4) Promote active management of suitable lands to achieve structurally diverse, healthy forests to develop more resilient forest landscapes.

5) Continue its participation with working groups like the Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance and Estancia Basin Watershed Health, Restoration & Monitoring Project.
6) Support the forest products industry use of wood by-products from forest hazardous fuel reduction projects, forest restorations projects and post fire salvage treatments.
7) Advocate management plans and budgets that result in a consistent supply of forest products.
8) Promote and support multiple entries for maintenance work in previously treated areas.
9) Coordinate with the US Forest Service in the designation/management of areas that may require single-use or restrictive-use on public lands. Single use or restrictive use creates issues such as the right to access, enter, inspect, repair, and maintain interests within the designated area.
10) Support the maximum area of land possible to be excluded from single-use or restrictive-use designations, so that excluded land is available for active and sound management on public lands.
11) CTCSWCD will promote and support collaborative efforts that are essential for forest, wildlife, and wildfire management. Cross jurisdictional collaboration is essential to achieve landscape scale restoration.

4.2-11 ENERGY/RENEWABLE ENERGY/UTILITES

All energy sources have some effect on our environment. Energy resources occur without regard to whether the land is private, state, or federal ownership. These resources have, and continue to, provide economic benefits for the citizens within the jurisdictional boundaries of the District.

- **Goal:** CTCSWCD will coordinate with energy companies of planned, developed, or updated energy/renewable energy projects within the District's jurisdictional boundaries. CTCSWCD expectations are that all energy projects will not cause direct or indirect harm to rangeland, soil, air quality, and water resources as well as wildlife habitat.

Protect the rights of landowners and surface owners so that mineral development can continue consistently with the District's mandate to conserve soil and water resources.

- **Guidance: Sections 73-20-25 through 73-20-48 NMSA 1978,** related to … considered and resolved by legislative action, the purpose of the Act declared that (1) the land, waters and other natural resources are the basic physical assets of New Mexico, and their preservation and development are necessary to protect and promote the health and general welfare of the people of the state; (2) the improper use of land and related natural resources, soil erosion, and water loss result in economic waste in New Mexico through the deterioration of the state's natural resources, and (3) appropriate corrective and conservation practices and programs must be encouraged and executed in New Mexico to conserve and develop beneficially the soil, water and other natural resources of the state.

- **Objectives**
  1) Impart vital and necessary information to renewable energy companies to avoid unnecessary new roads and minimize fragmentation.
  2) Coordinate with renewable energy companies. This will ensure the companies understand their responsibility for natural resource best management practices within the District boundaries. They should have a plan that includes soils, erosion control, water usage/conservation, range disturbance, invasive species, and wildfire suppression.
  3) Coordinate with the appropriate agencies and energy developers to avoid locating energy facilities/transmission lines in areas with increased risk to fire, wildlife, water resources, historical sites, and agriculture land.
  4) Ensure that disturbed sites are immediately stabilized to conserve soil. Interim vegetation may be planted to stabilize soils, including the use of sterile non-native seeds. Final reclamation on disturbed areas can involve seeding or planting native species.
  5) For abandoned energy sites or any construction conducted by the energy company, the District will be notified in a reasonable amount of time prior to the company leaving, and a plan will be needed by the District to ensure best management practices occur.

6) Energy companies will not introduce or spread non-native invasive species. To avoid this, contractors will follow CTCSWCD policies for non-native invasive/noxious plant control. Contractors should inspect and clean their vehicles and equipment arriving from areas with known invasive species issues. Contractors should also use locally sourced topsoil when applicable and monitor for and rapidly remove non-native invasive/noxious weeds at least annually.

4.2-12 OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

- **Goal**: It is the goal of CTCSWCD is to garner the support, understanding, and backing of our community and partner agencies.
- **Guidance:** Participate, foster, and have a more active role in local, state, and federal relationships and understanding
- **Objectives:**
    1) Promote cooperation with CTCSWCD cooperators, organizational partners, and entities such as town councils, county commissions, state, and federal agencies.
    2) Continue promoting CTCSWCD programs through Social media, website, newsletters, and articles, and informational brochures.
    3) Disseminate and promote partner agencies programs through above listed avenues.
    4) Work with area elementary and charter Schools as well as homeschooled children to continue conservation programs directed towards 4th grade level.
    5) Support CTCSWCD partners with their educational programs.
    6) Support and promote CTCSWCD programs at County Fairs, Soil and Water Day during the Legislative session, Ag Fest, and any other local, state, or national activity pertinent to the CTCSWCD.

4.2-13 SPECIAL LAND DESIGNATIONS

Special Land Use designations can prevent the District from carrying out necessary soil erosion and flood control projects, among other duties, which are necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the people within and outside our jurisdiction.

It is imperative that prior to any federal, state, or local agency making special land use designation that they first coordinate with the District to resolve conflicts with District plans, reach consistency between the plans, and develop mitigation measures where appropriate.

It is critical that the District is not prevented today or in the future from implementing essential projects that will protect the growing population within and surrounding the District.

Especially those changes that are done beyond congressional action produce unintended consequences and affect the threat to and net sum loss of multiple use lands, must be known and discussed with the District and be a matter of public record in District meeting minutes.

Wilderness designation will prohibit or hinder needed vegetation and watershed treatment. Wilderness management prohibits the use of mechanical equipment as well as motorized equipment of any kind.

Vegetation and watershed treatments are more effectively performed using modern day equipment. Wilderness areas are not intensively managed, so fire suppression is rarely undertaken.

While livestock grazing may continue, grazing management is difficult and expensive due to limits on access and use of motorized equipment and agency resistance to range improvements or increases in livestock numbers.

- **Goal: Coordinate with federal agencies on all efforts to inventory and / or change land use classifications.** These include, but are not limited to Wilderness Characteristics, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, National Monuments and Historical Site recommendations.

Only those areas that meet the specific definition of wilderness as set forth in the Wilderness Act shall be considered as having Wilderness Characteristics in the inventory process.

Areas contiguous with lands that already have been identified as having wilderness potential or are set aside for conservation through conservation easements or other such instruments will not be considered as candidates for special designation because such designations would create too large of an area inaccessible for future soil erosion and flood control measures. Such areas include:

1) Designated Wilderness
2) BLM Wilderness Study Areas
3) USFWS areas proposed for Wilderness Designation
4) USFS Wilderness Study Areas or areas of Recommended Wilderness
5) National Park Service areas Recommended or proposed for Designation.
6) Lands with Conservation Easements or similar restrictive devices
7) Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
8) National Monuments
9) Lands with Formal Critical Habitat
10) Any roadless island of the public lands.

As a part of the inventory process, a multiple use check list will be developed to document all productive uses of the areas being considered. This includes livestock grazing, mining, timber production, recreation, hunting, and other uses of the lands that fulfill the multiple use objective required of Congress in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

These multiple uses contribute to the economic well-being of the District. The producers that utilize these lands are essential to the District to help implement soil erosion and flood control projects. Without these producers, the District will be unable to put in place the necessary programs to protect the communities' water resources.

As a result, it is the policy of the CTCSWCD that where an area exhibits significant "multiple use" characteristics, they will be excluded from consideration of special land use designation.

- **Guidance**: Federal law, particularly FLPMA, requires federal agencies to coordinate plans, programs, and management activities with local governmental entities. Natural resource management as set forth in the Act dictates protections for local customs and culture through the tax base.
- **Objectives**:
  1) Maintain integrity of federal land designations as set forth in organic legislation.
  2) Uphold the legal requirements and qualifications set forth in FLPMA, including those providing for the continuation of existing uses in wilderness study areas.
  3) Review current wilderness recommendations in relation to the impacts on natural resource-based industries, the economic stability, the custom, and culture of the citizens of CTCSWCD, the ability to develop water resources and to intensively manage rangeland resources.
  4) Ensure that a wilderness designation does not affect state authority over water resources and that New Mexico's substantive and procedural laws controlling appropriation and allocation of water resources remain the primary authorities governing the waters in Torrance, Bernalillo, and Santa Fe Counties regardless of wilderness designation. Enforce determination that wilderness designation does not create a reserved water right.
  5) Reaffirm that the rights to access, enter, inspect, repair, and maintain those interests are not affected by any future wilderness designation, including the use of mechanized vehicles and equipment for repairs and maintenance of such facilities.
  6) The CTCSWCD supports resolution of the wilderness issue by Congress and release of the remaining wilderness study areas to multiple-use management. The CTCSWCD also supports not allowing federal agencies to engage in endless and repetitive wilderness reviews or studies that expand lands managed as wilderness or as de facto wilderness while reducing the land base available for multiple uses.

4.2-14 CUSTOMS AND CULTURE

The future of water supply, population growth, and the ongoing needs for soil resources pose many unanswered questions, particularly regarding the sustainability, renewal, enhancement, protection, and expansion of our farmland and rangeland.

The residents of Torrance, Bernalillo and Santa Fe counties have historically relied on activities tied to natural resources for their livelihoods. The area's economy, both past and present, hinges on the availability and effective use of these resources. It is essential to ensure that this sustainability process is upheld to the highest standard, representing the interests of all citizens. Together, the past and future shape the customs and culture of the District.

- **Goal**: Coordinate all efforts in a way that preserves the diversity and quality of customs and culture derived from historical and environmental land use values. Where feasible, all lands will be utilized and safeguarded to promote land health, thereby contributing to the community's economic freedom and security. The District will pursue these goals with a commitment to high ethical standards and impartial leadership that serves all citizens.
- **Guidance:** The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) facilitates the effective use of agency-administered lands by ensuring continuity in the use of roads, power, water, grasslands, and natural gas. FLPMA also requires a multipurpose approach to the use of these lands, along with ongoing inventory and classification reviews.

Compliance with federal, state, and local laws governing these matters is mandatory, aligning with the values established in the Act's Declaration of Policy, which serves as the foundational framework for managing federal lands in the West. Additionally, the National Forest Management Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 1604 (a) mandates that the Secretary of Agriculture develop, maintain, and revise land and resource management plans for National Forest System units in coordination with state, local, and federal land, and resource management processes. The Central New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation District (CTCSWCD) is committed to collaborating in a manner that respects and elevates all values equally, without bias. This approach encompasses the integration of historical and environmental values, recognizing that human presence plays a vital role in this landscape.

Objectives:

1) Maintain balance within the actions of the Board itself as well as the actions of federal and state government in land use planning within the District.
2) Maintain such a balance in the face of federal and state management policies that are often driven by forces outside of the jurisdiction of the District.

Due Process and Protection of Private Property - The U.S. Constitution created a form of government characterized by:

- Limited powers granted to the federal government, with all unenumerated powers being reserved to the respective states.
- Separation of those limited powers into legislative, judicial, and executive branches.
- Creation of a process where the branches act to check and balance the power of the other branches.
- Guarantee rights of due process and just compensation when private property is taken for public use.
- Grant of authority to Congress to make rules and regulations governing federal property.

A CONTINUING PROCESS…

The District recognizes that this Plan is dynamic and adaptive and will be updated as needed. It will require the cooperation, work and dedication of District residents and partners. The ongoing planning will include consideration of historic, current, and future land uses in CTCSWCD. This Land Use Plan shall be the basis for enforcing FLPMA and NFMA consistency requirements for public land management.

Land and natural resources are essential to local industry and residents. It is the policy of the District that the design and development of all federal and state land dispositions and acquisitions, including boundary adjustments or land exchanges, be conducted for the benefit of individual property owners and to the benefit of the citizens within the boundary of CTCSWCD.

APA REFERENCE LIST:

1. **Soil and Water Conservation District Act (2009)**

   Soil and Water Conservation District Act, N.M. Stat. Ann. §§ 73-20-25 to 73-20-48 (2009).

2. **Desert Land Act of 1877**

   Desert Land Act of 1877, 43 U.S.C. § 321 (1877).

3. **Carey Act of 1894**

   Carey Act of 1894, 43 U.S.C. §§ 641-646 (1894).

4. **National Irrigation Act of 1902**

   National Reclamation Act of 1902, 43 U.S.C. §§ 391-413 (1902).

5. **The Reclamation Act of 1905**

   Reclamation Act Amendments, 43 U.S.C. § 431 (1905).

6. **Antiquities Act of 1906**

   Antiquities Act of 1906, 16 U.S.C. §§ 431-433 (1906).

7. **Stock-Raising Homestead Act of 1916**

   Stock-Raising Homestead Act of 1916, 43 U.S.C. §§ 291-302 (1916).

8. **General Exchange Act of 1922**

   General Exchange Act of 1922, 16 U.S.C. §§ 485, 486 (1922).

9. **Recreation and Public Purposes Act of 1926**

   Recreation and Public Purposes Act of 1926, 43 U.S.C. §§ 869-869-4 (1926).

10. **Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1934**

    Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1934, 16 U.S.C. §§ 661-667e (1934).

11. **Taylor Grazing Act of 1934**

    Taylor Grazing Act of 1934, 43 U.S.C. §§ 315-316o (1934).

12. **Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act of 1935**

    Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act of 1935, 16 U.S.C. §§ 590a-590q (1935).

13. **Bankhead-Jones Act of 1937**

    Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act of 1937, 7 U.S.C. §§ 1000-1031 (1937).

14. **Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands of 1947**

    Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands of 1947, 30 U.S.C. §§ 351-359 (1947).

15. **Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954**

    Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1001-1008 (1954).

16. **Townsite Act of 1958**

    Townsite Act of 1958, 43 U.S.C. § 682a (1958).

17. **Multiple-Use, Sustained Yield Act of 1960**

    Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960, 16 U.S.C. §§ 528-531 (1960).

18. **Food and Agriculture Act of 1962**

    Food and Agriculture Act of 1962, Pub. L. No. 87-703, 76 Stat. 605 (1962).

19. **Wilderness Act of 1964**

    Wilderness Act of 1964, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1131-1136 (1964).

20. **Land and Water Conservation Act of 1965**

    Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 16 U.S.C. §§ 460l-4 to 460l-11 (1965).

21. **Water Resources Planning Act of 1965**

    Water Resources Planning Act of 1965, 42 U.S.C. §§ 1962-1962d-5 (1965).

22. **Community Planning and Resource Development - Soil Surveys (1966)**

    Community Planning and Resource Development Act, N.M. Stat. Ann. § 73-20-45 (1966).

23. **Noxious Plant Control Act of 1968**

    Noxious Weed Control Act, N.M. Stat. Ann. § 76-7-1 to 76-7-30 (1968).

24. **National Environmental Policy Act of 1969**

    National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321-4370h (1969).

25. **Environmental Quality Improvement Act of 1970**

    Environmental Quality Improvement Act of 1970, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4371-4375 (1970).

26. **Water Bank Act of 1970**

    Water Bank Act of 1970, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1301-1311 (1970).

27. **Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970**

    Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970, 30 U.S.C. § 21a (1970).

28. **Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act of 1971**

    Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, 7 U.S.C. §§ 136-136y (1971).

29. **Rural Development Act of 1972**

    Rural Development Act of 1972, 7 U.S.C. §§ 1921-1995 (1972).

30. **Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973**

    Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973, Pub. L. No. 93-86, 87 Stat. 221 (1973).

31. **Endangered Species Act of 1973**

    Endangered Species Act of 1973, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1531-1544 (1973).

32. **Disaster Relief Act of 1973**

    Disaster Relief Act of 1973, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207 (1973).

33. **Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976**

    Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. §§ 1701-1787 (1976).

34. **Payment in Lieu of Taxes Act (1976)**

Payment in Lieu of Taxes Act, 31 U.S.C. §§ 6901-6907 (1976).

35. **Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976**

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, 42 U.S.C. §§ 6901-6992k (1976).

36. **Energy Research and Development Administration Act of 1977**

Energy Research and Development Administration Act of 1977, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5801-5891 (1977).

37. **Food and Agriculture Act of 1977**

Food and Agriculture Act of 1977, Pub. L. No. 95-113, 91 Stat. 913 (1977).

38. **Soil and Water Conservation Act of 1977**

Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act of 1977, 16 U.S.C. §§ 2001-2009 (1977).

39. **Clean Water Act of 1977**

Clean Water Act Amendments of 1977, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1251-1387 (1977).

40. **Renewable Resources Extension Act of 1978**

Renewable Resources Extension Act of 1978, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1671-1676 (1978).

41. **Water Research and Development Act of 1978**

Water Research and Development Act of 1978, Pub. L. No. 95-467, 92 Stat. 1305 (1978).

42. **Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978**

Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978, 43 U.S.C. §§ 1901-1908 (1978).

43. **Executive Order 13563**

    a. Exec. Order No. 13,563, 3C.F.R 215

44. **National Forest Management Act of 1976**

    a. National Forest Management Act of 1976, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1600-1614 (1976).

45. **UDA 2022 Census of Agriculture**

    a. U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2023). 2022 Census of Agriculture. National Agricultural Statistics Service. https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2022/index.php

46. **Webster's New Colligate Dictionary, 227 (1975).**

    a. Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary (9th ed.). (1975). Merriam-Webster.

47. **Bouvier's Law Dictionary, 417 (1st ed. 1867).**

    a. Bouvier, J. (1867). Bouvier's law dictionary (1st ed.). Author.

48. **Forested Landscapes in Perspective, 1998**

    a. National Research Council. (1998). Forested landscapes in perspective: Prospects and opportunities for sustainable management of America's nonfederal forests. National Academy Press.

49. **RS2477 Rights of Way**
    a. U.S. Congress. (1866). Revised Statutes of the United States, Section 2477. Statutes at Large, 14 Stat. 251.
50. **Sheley, Petroff, and Borman, 1999**
    a. Sheley, R., J. Petroff, M. Borman, 1999. Introduction to Biology and Management of Noxious Rangeland Weeds, Corvallis, OR.
51. **NMSA 1978, Section 3-27-2 (2009)**
    a. New Mexico Statutes Annotated. (2009). Section 3-27-2. NMSA 1978.
52. **State Water Plan Act NMSA**
    a. New Mexico Statutes Annotated. (n.d.). State Water Plan Act, NMSA § 72-14-3.1 (C)(6).
53. **New Mexico Harmful Plant Act 76-7A-11 NMSA 1978**
    a. New Mexico Statutes Annotated. (n.d.). New Mexico Harmful Plant Act, 76-7A-11 NMSA 1978.
54. **The Process Predicament**: How Statutory Regulatory and Administrative Factors Affect National Forest Management, 2002
55. **Johnson, R. R., & Jones, D. A. (1977).** Importance, preservation, and management of riparian habitat: A symposium; Tucson, Arizona; July 9, 1977 (RM 43; General Technical Report, p. 225). Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, Forest Service, USDA. https://www.fs.usda.gov/rm/pubs_rm/rm_gtr043.pdf

CENTRAL TRI-COUNTY
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
LAND USE PLAN

Update August 2025

Original signed by: David King
David King, Chairman

Original signed by: Juan Sanchez
Juan Sanchez, Vice-Chair

Original signed by: Bill King
Bill King
Secretary/Treasurer

Original signed by: Robert Coburn
Robert Coburn
Board Member

Original signed by: Wendy Lossing
Wendy Lossing
Board Member

Original signed by: Mark B. Anaya
Mark Anaya
Board Member

Original signed by: D. Johnston
Danielle Johnston
Board Member

BRENDA R. SMYTHE
Notary Public - State of New Mexico
Commission # 1033914
My Comm. Expires Dec 8, 2025

State of New Mexico County of Torrance

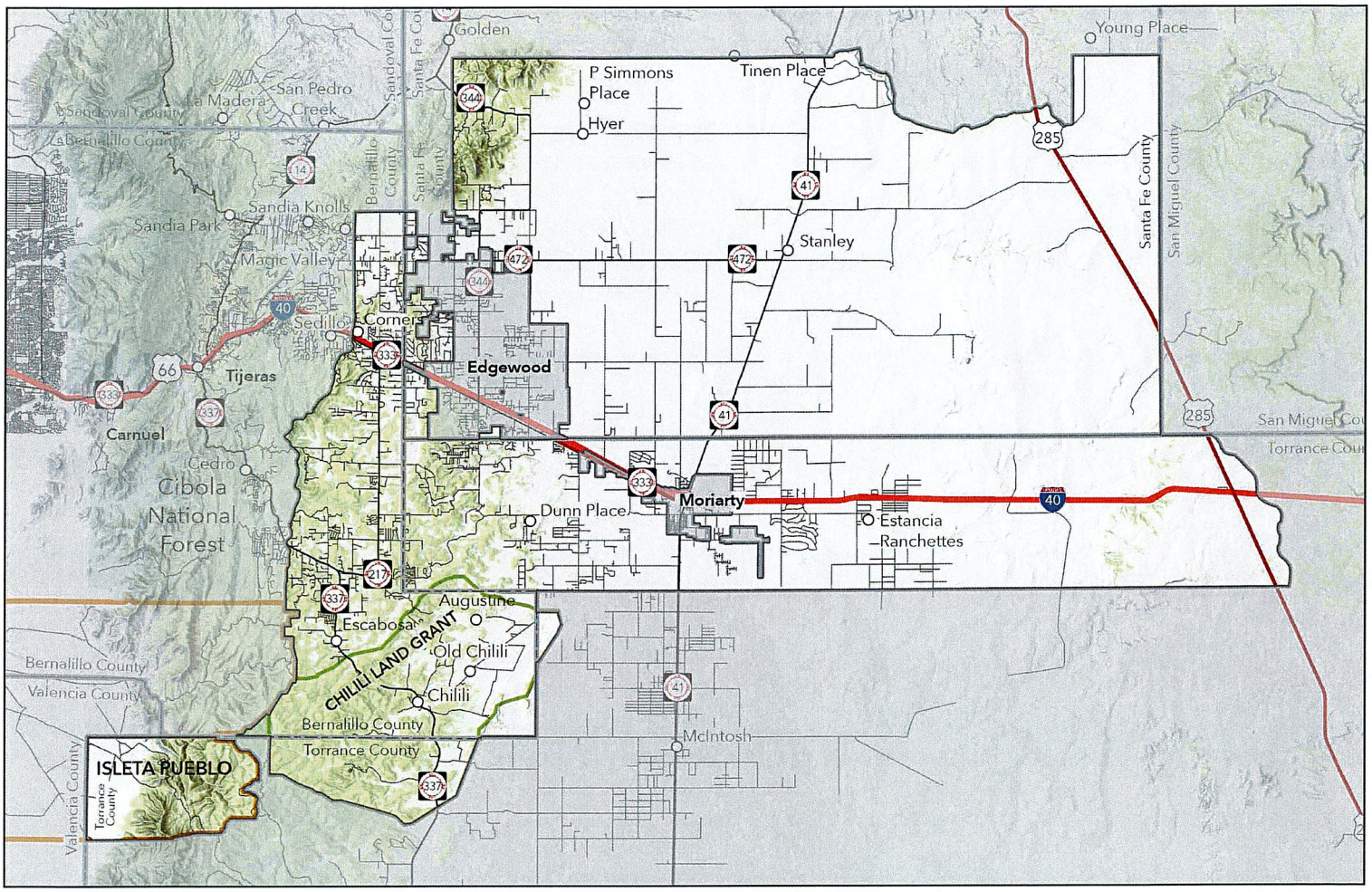
This instrument was acknowledged before me on August 17th, 2025 by David King, Juan Sanchez, Bill King, Mark Anaya, Robert Coburn, Wendy Lossing and Danielle Johnston as Board of Supervisors of the Central Tri-County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Brenda R. Smythe Seal Signature of notarial officer

My Commission expires: December 8, 2025

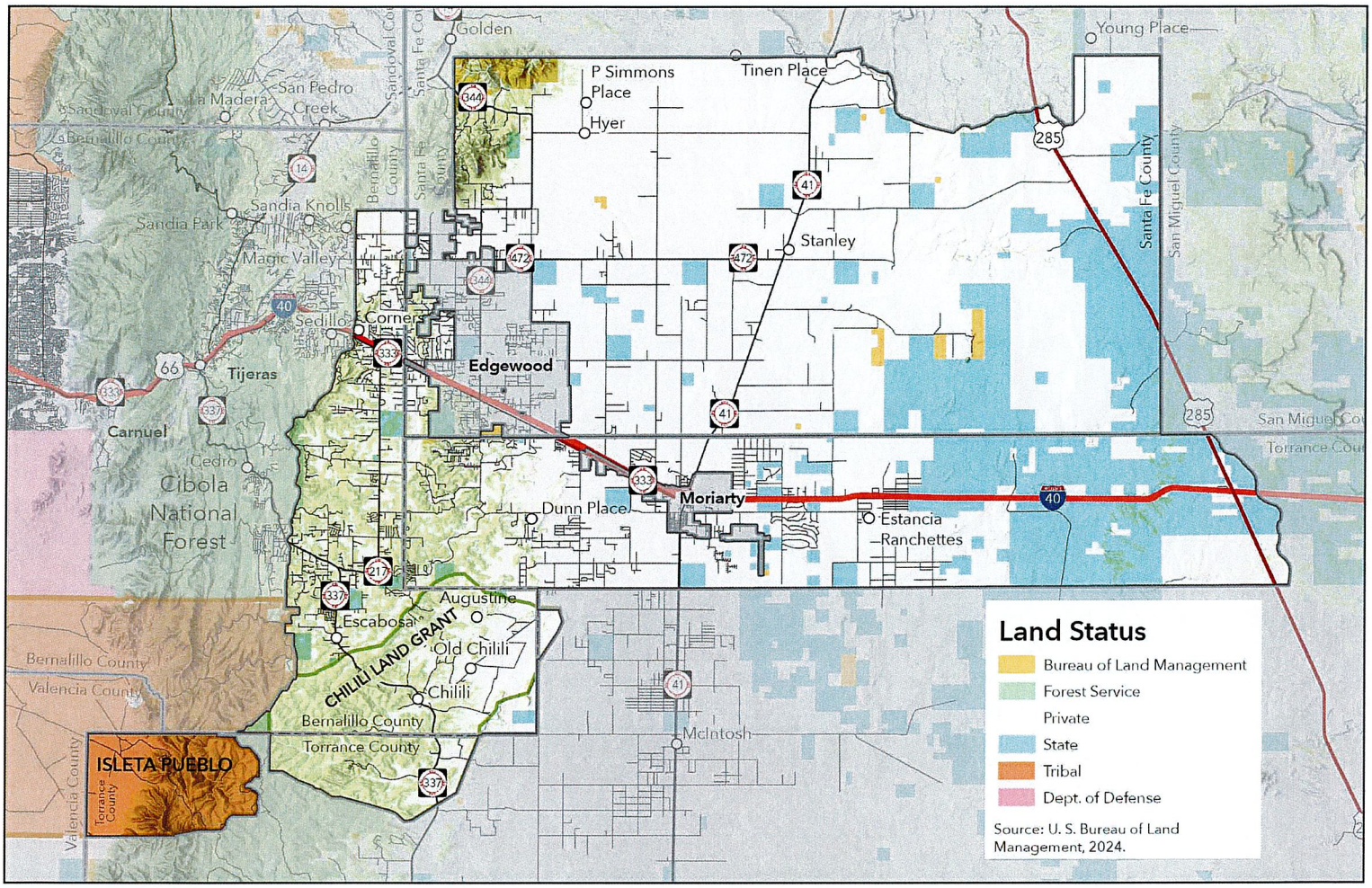
APPENDIX A

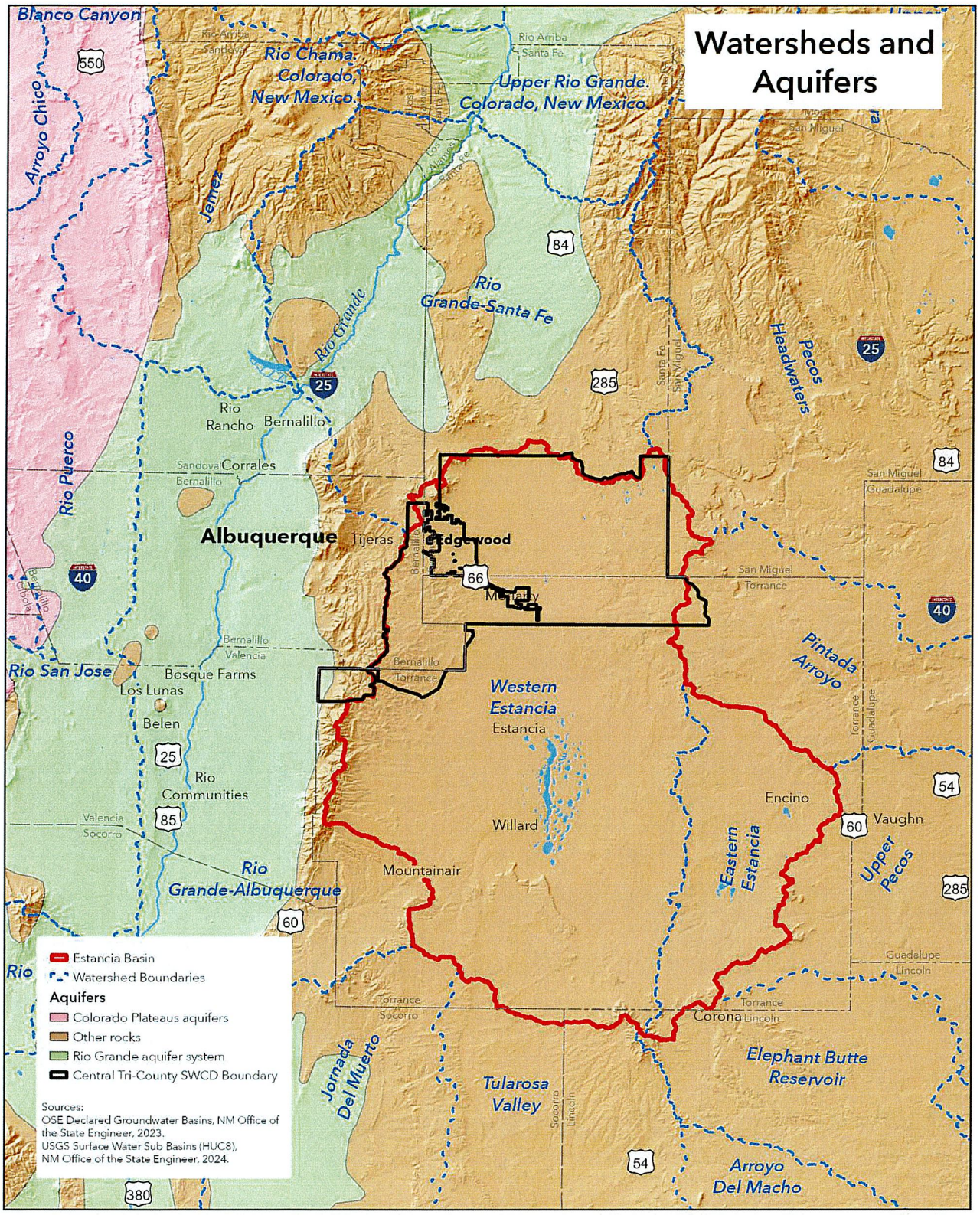
Central Tri-County Soil and Water Conservation District



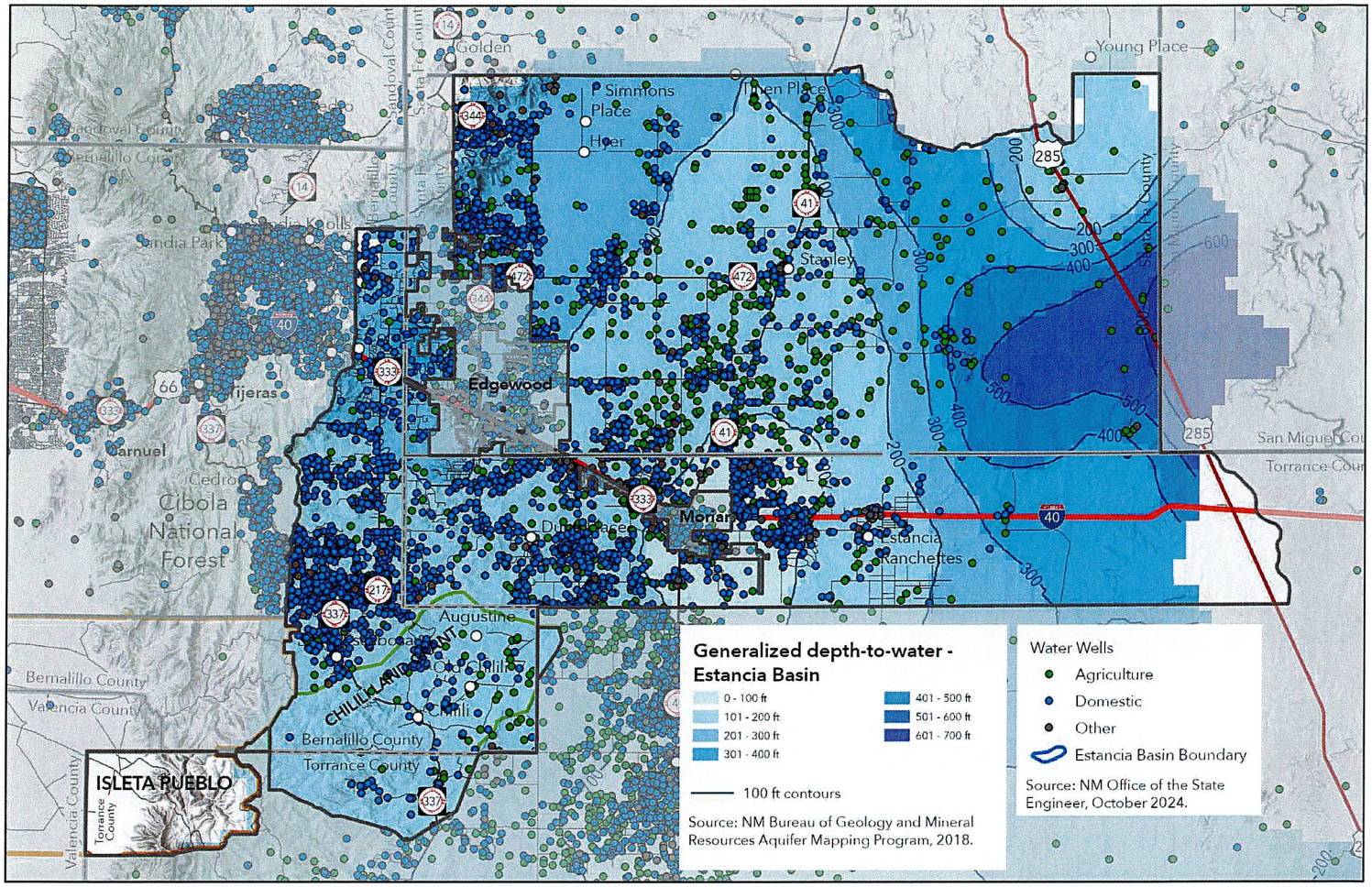
Bureau of Land Management	4,382	1
U. S. Forest Service	798	0
Tribal	61	0
Private	385,075	81
State	86,339	18

Central Tri-County Soil and Water Conservation District

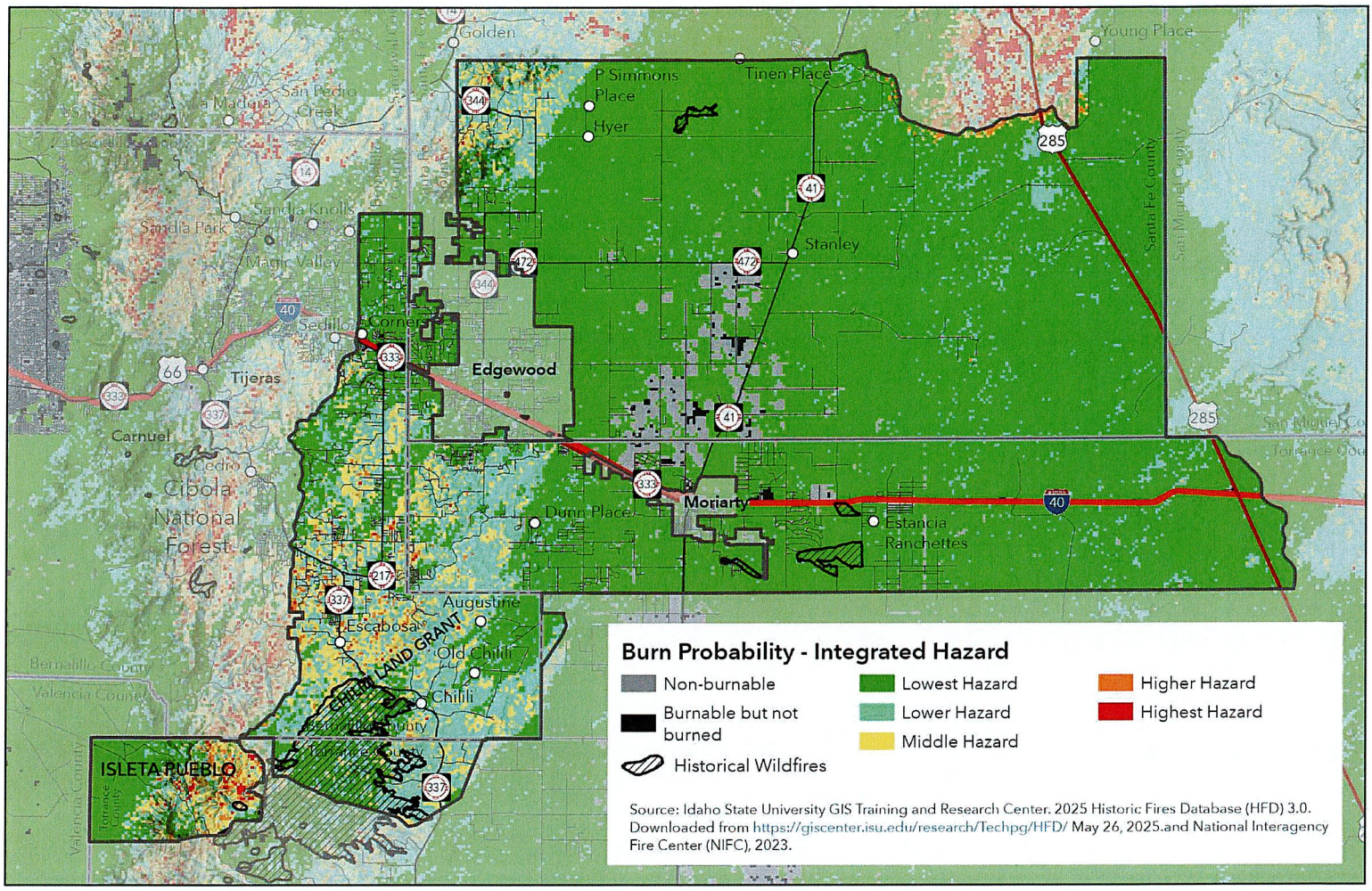



Watersheds and Aquifers
Blanco Canyon
Arroyo Chico
Rio Chama, Colorado, New Mexico
Upper Rio Grande, Colorado, New Mexico
Jemez
Rio Grande-Santa Fe
Rio Grande
Pecos Headwaters
Rio Rancho
Bernalillo
Rio Puerco
Albuquerque
Tijeras
Edgewood
Moriarty
Rio San Jose
Bosque Farms
Los Lunas
Belen
Rio Communities
Western Estancia
Estancia
Willard
Mountainair
Encino
Vaughn
Eastern Estancia
Upper Pecos
Pintada Arroyo
Rio Grande-Albuquerque
Corona
Elephant Butte Reservoir
Tularosa Valley
Jornada Del Muerto
Arroyo Del Macho
Estancia Basin
Watershed Boundaries
Aquifers
Colorado Plateaus aquifers
Other rocks
Rio Grande aquifer system
Central Tri-County SWCD Boundary
Sources:
OSE Declared Groundwater Basins, NM Office of the State Engineer, 2023.
USGS Surface Water Sub Basins (HUC8), NM Office of the State Engineer, 2024.
CENTRAL TRI-COUNTY
Soil & Water Conservation
Moriarty, New Mexico
0 10 20 30 40 50
Miles

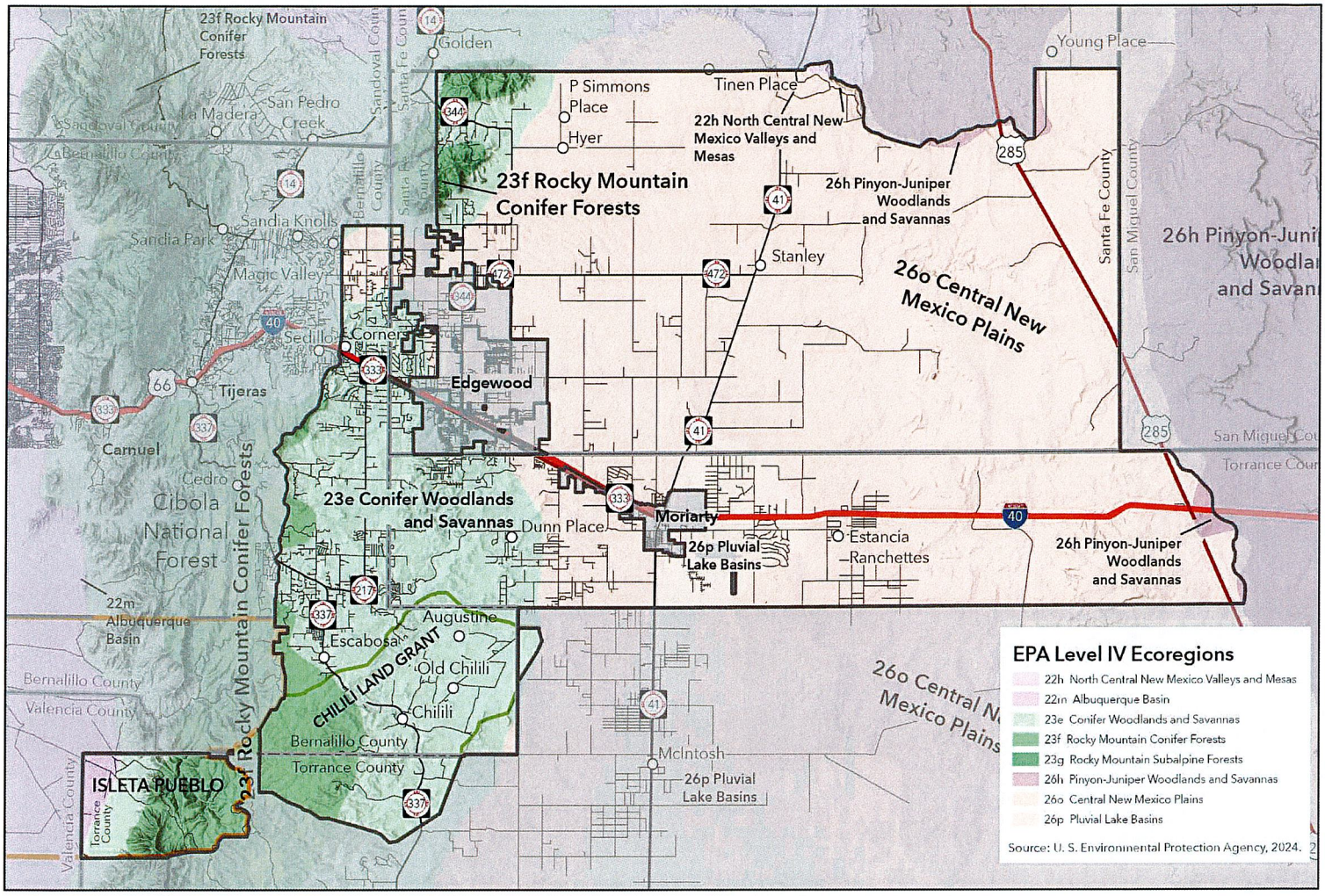
Central Tri-County Soil and Water Conservation District



Central Tri-County Soil and Water Conservation District

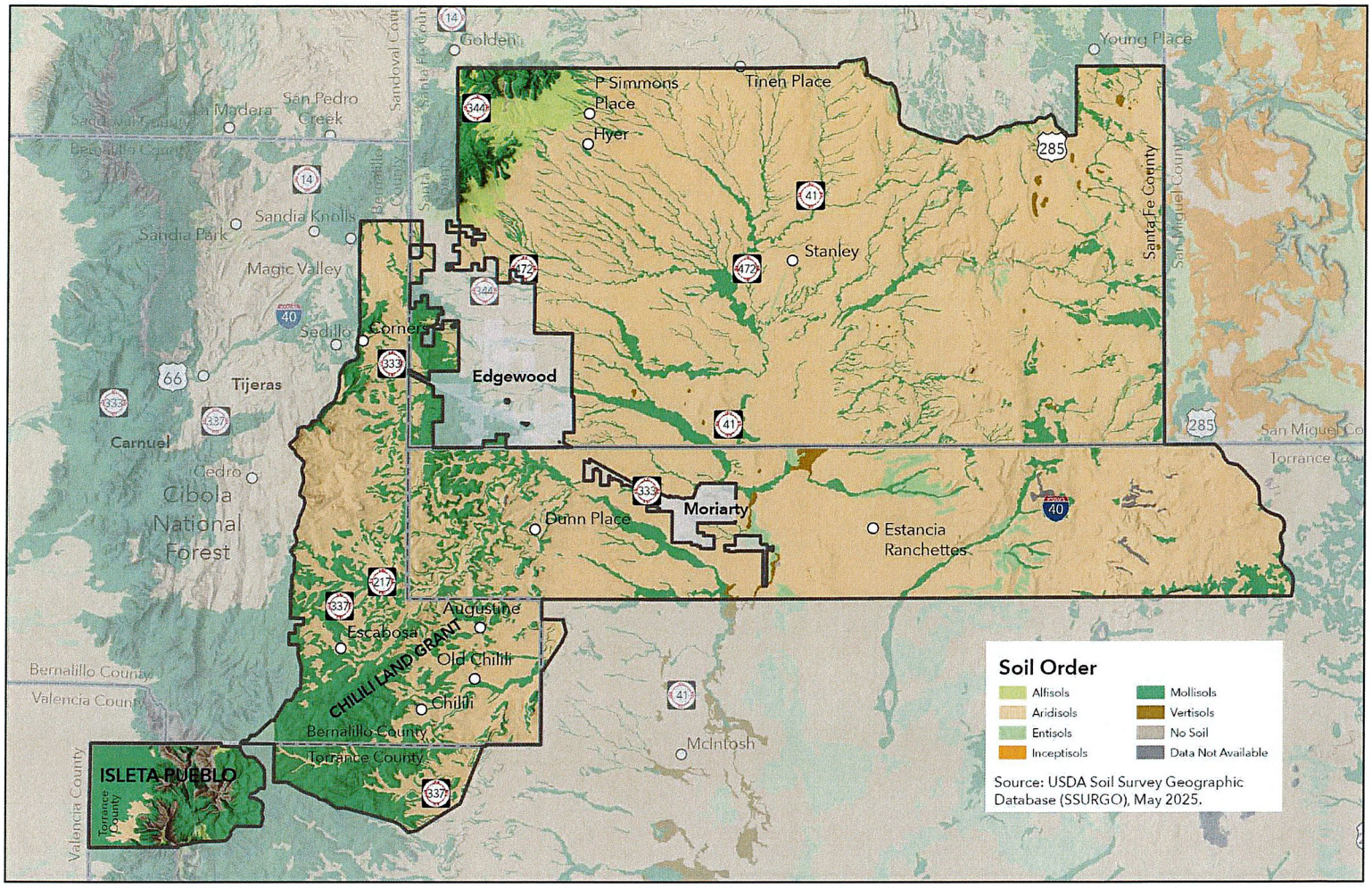


Central Tri-County Soil and Water Conservation District



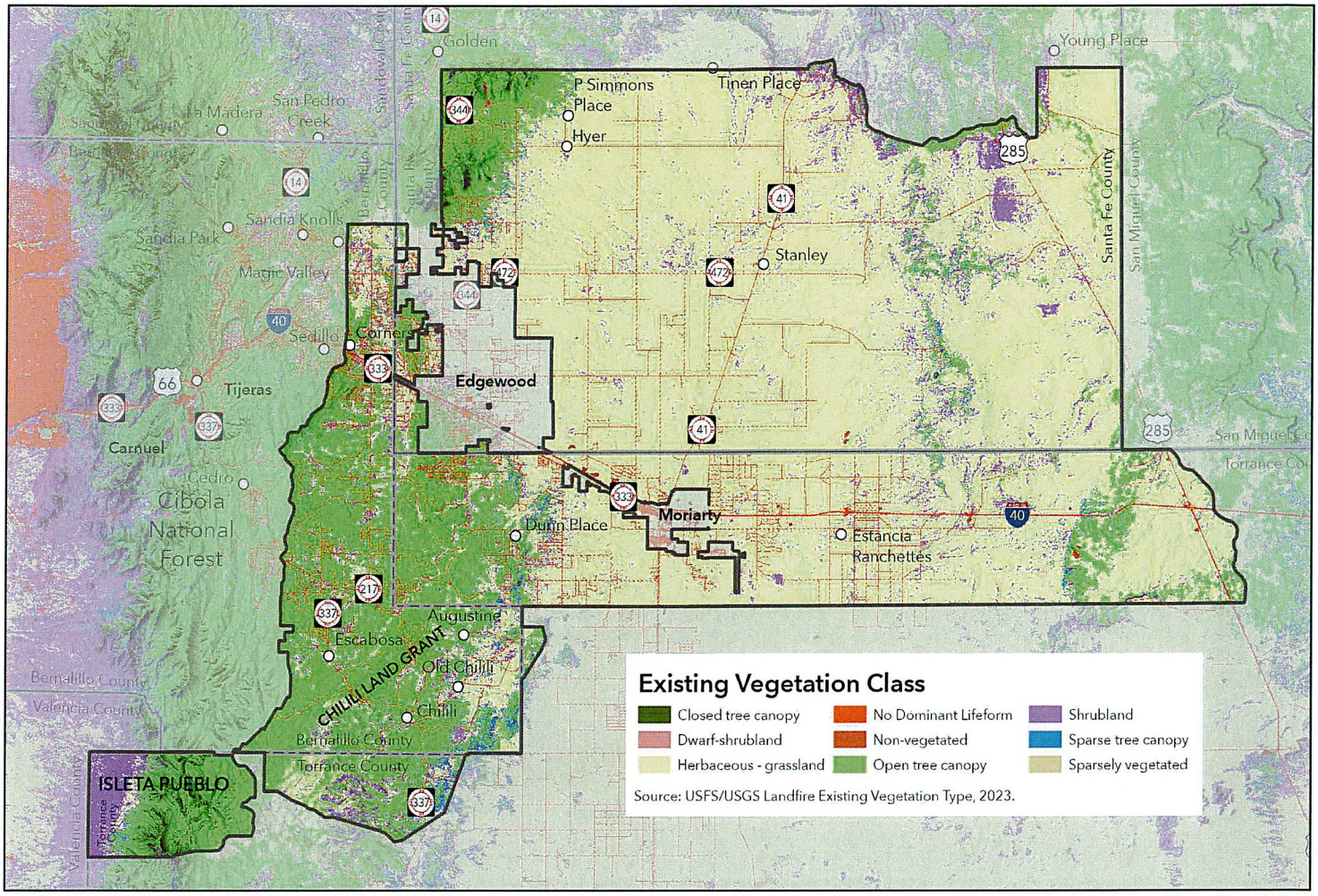
CENTRAL TRI-COUNTY
Soil & Water Conservation
Moriarty, New Mexico

Central Tri-County Soil and Water Conservation District



CENTRAL TRI-COUNTY
Soil & Water Conservation
Moriarty, New Mexico

Central Tri-County Soil and Water Conservation District



CENTRAL TRI-COUNTY
Soil & Water Conservation
Moriarty, New Mexico

0 4 8 12 16 20
Miles

Appendix B

CENTRAL TRI-COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
AKA Edgewood Soil & Water Conservation District
PO BOX 3450, MORIARTY, NEW MEXICO 87035
505-832-1111 / FAX: 505-832-1121
NAME CHANGE RESOLUTION 4.2024

WHEREAS, the Edgewood Soil & Water Conservation District was formed and certified on the 27th day of September, 1941; and

WHEREAS, this resolution for the change in name subject to approval of New Mexico Soil & Water Conservation Commission; and

WHEREAS, the approval of said name change will be submitted to the New Mexico Soil & Water Conservation Commission and is hereby changed from "Edgewood Soil & Water Conservation District " to "Tri-County Soil & Water Conservation District" .

RESOLVED FURTHER, District Manager; Brenda R. Smythe, be and is hereby authorized to send the notice of the meeting to all Local, State and Federal Government authorities, as well as members of all communities the persons entitled to the notice.

NOW THEREFORE, on this 4th Day of April, 2024 the Board of Supervisors of the Tri-County Soil & Water Conservation District (AKA - Edgewood Soil & Water Conservation District) being in session in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, a quorum being present, and following public discussion does hereby resolve to change the name effective immediately.

David W. King
Chair, Board of Supervisors

This resolution was passed on a motion by Bill King and second by Robert Coburn.
Vote as follows (enter yea or nay):

David King, Chair	__X__yea _____nay
Juan Sanchez, Vice-Chair	__X__yea _____nay
Bill King, Sec/Treasurer	__X__yea _____nay
Bill Williams, Member	__X__yea _____nay
Robert Coburn, Member	__X__yea _____nay
Jim Frost, Member	__X__yea _____nay
Wendy Lossing, Member	__X__yea _____nay

State of New Mexico, County of Torrance

Signed before me this 4th day of April, 2024.

By Brenda R. Smythe

My Commission Expires December 8, 2025.

BRENDA R. SMYTHE
Notary Public - State of New Mexico
Commission # 1033914
My Comm. Expires Dec 8, 2025

Notary Signature

COMMISSIONERS
Steve Glass, Region I
Ross Garcia, Region II
Vacant, Region III
Boe Lopez, Region IV
Vacant, Region V
Eddie Vigil, Region VI
Cyle Sharp, At-Large

Soil and Water Conservation Commission
MSC APR
P. O. Box 30005
Las Cruces NM 88003-8005
Telephone (575) 646-2642
SWCC@nmda.nmsu.edu

June 19, 2024

MEMORANDUM

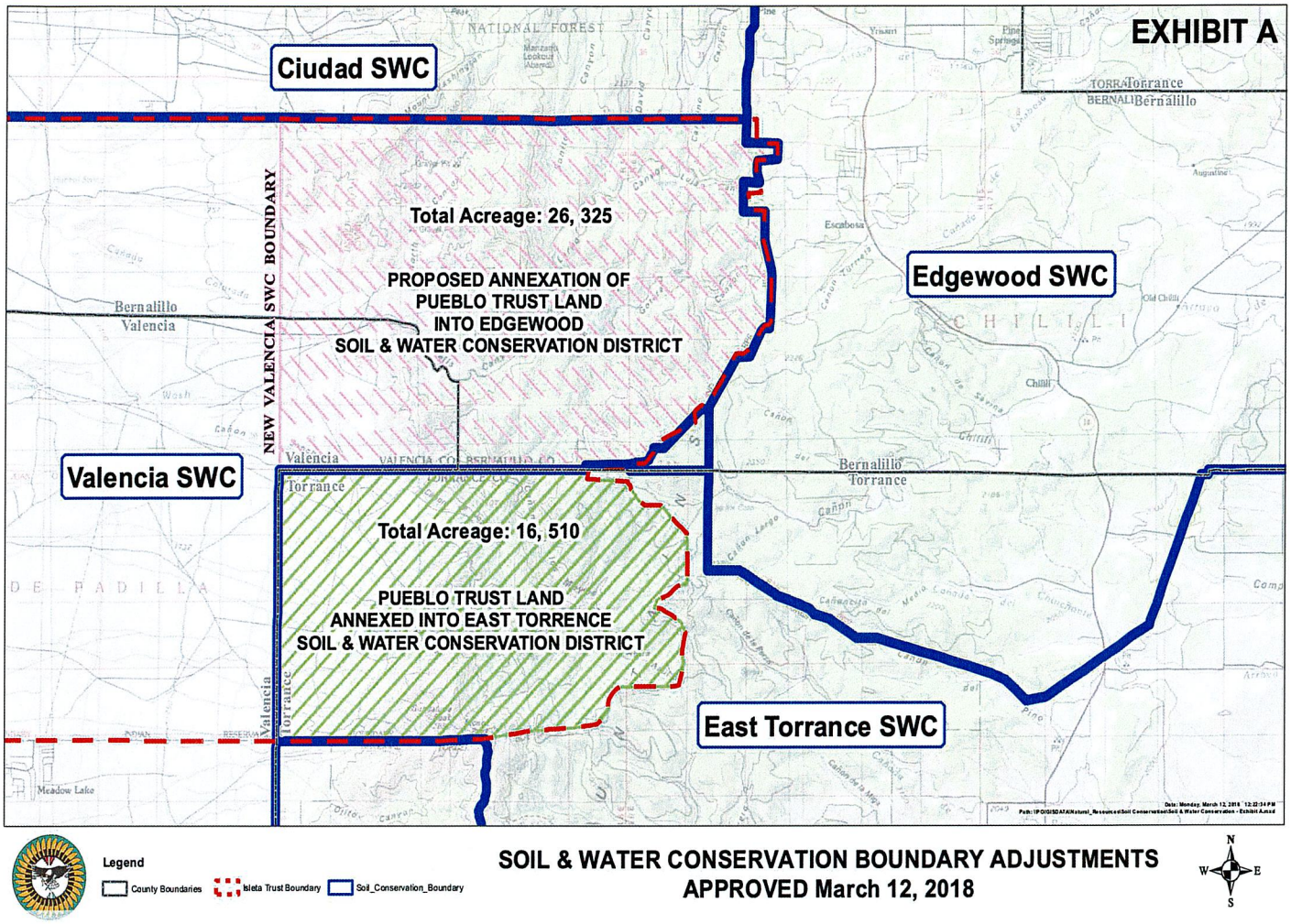
TO: Central Tri-County Soil and Water Conservation District

FROM: New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation Commission

SUBJECT: Name change

At the June 18, 2024, meeting the Soil and Water Conservation Commission (commission) approved the name change from Edgewood to Central Tri-County. Please let us know if the commission can be of further service.

Name Change Resolution, SWCC Approval, NM Secretary of State Acknowledgment



Appendix C

Isleta Pueblo Annexation Boundaries, Isleta Pueblo Resolution

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Certificate Of Amendment

The undersigned Secretary of State for the State of New Mexico has hereby amended the business previously registered and granted authority to transact business in the state of New Mexico to

Tri-County Soil & Water Conservation District

0008018359

Domestic Special District

New Mexico

The business after amendment is subject to and governed by

Effective in the State of New Mexico on June 18, 2024

Maggie Toulouse Oliver

MAGGIE TOULOUSE OLIVER

Secretary of State

TRIBAL COUNCIL OFFICE

PHONE: 505-869-9746
FAX: 505-869-5276

PUEBLO OF ISLETA
P.O. BOX 1270
ISLETA, NM 87022

PUEBLO OF ISLETA
Resolution No. 2018-025

AUTHORIZATION AND APPROVING THE DE-ANNEXATION OF A PORTION OF THE PUEBLO OF ISLETA TRUST LAND FROM THE VALENCIA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BOUNDARY AND RE-ANNEXATION OF A PORTION OF THE PUEBLO OF ISLETA TRUST LAND INTO THE EDGEWOOD SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOUNDARY

At a duly called meeting of the Pueblo of Isleta Tribal Council held on the 12TH day of March 2018, the following resolution was passed:

WHEREAS, the Pueblo of Isleta is a federally recognized Indian tribe with a written Constitution adopted pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act and with inherent powers of self-government; and,

WHEREAS, Article V, Section 2(l), of the Pueblo of Isleta Constitution authorizes the Tribal Council to "manage and control the lands and resources of the pueblo for the best interest of the pueblo;" and,

WHEREAS, the Pueblo of Isleta Tribal Council is a Legislative Branch of the Pueblo of Isleta Tribal Government pursuant to the Pueblo of Isleta Constitution, Article V, Section 2(e), which authorizes it "To enact ordinances, subject to approval by the Sectary of the Interior, to protect the peace, safety, property, health, and general welfare of the members of the Pueblo of Isleta…:' and,

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council believes it is in the best interest to protect the health, stability, and future of the Pueblo's Natural Resources by annexing a portion of the Pueblo's Trust Land within the Edgewood Soil & Water Conservation District (ESWCD); and,

WHEREAS, the ESWCD is a governmental subdivision of the State authorized under the New Mexico Soil & Water Conservation District Act Sections 7-20-25 through 73-20-48; and,