Claunch-Pinto

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

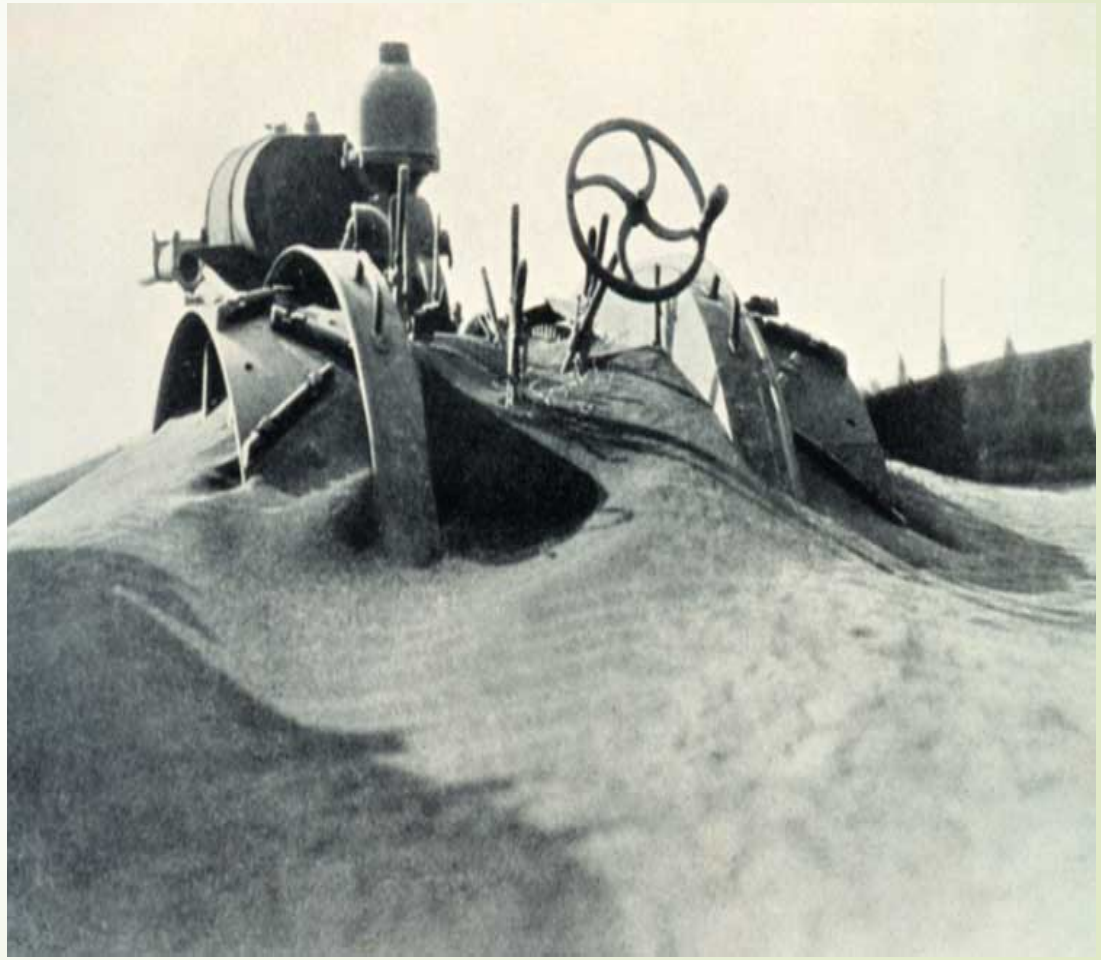
75 YEARS OF CONSERVATION

DUST BOWL
1934 - 1937

- March, 1933 – There were 27 days in Perryton, Tx. that you could not see across Main Street
- School children were compelled to wear gauze masks provided by the Red Cross to prevent “dust pneumonia”.
- May, 1934 – Ships 300 miles offshore in the Atlantic reported dust settling on their decks
- US Weather Bureau reported that the dust at sea blew all the way from the Great Plains, 2,000 miles away

DUST BOWL
1934 - 1937

- April 27, 1935 – President Roosevelt signs H.R. 7054 creating a Soil Conservation Service which is now known as the Natural Resources Conservation Service.
- Public Law 74-46 preamble states "the wastage of soil and moisture resources on farm, grazing, and forest lands of the nation, resulting from soil erosion, is a menace to the national welfare…."
- President Roosevelt asked **ALL** governors to obtain passage "of legislation along the lines" of a model soil conservation law.
- Allowed a group of 25 or more land occupiers to form a conservation district, set up rules for use of land and "compel a uncooperative minority to comply where it is for the public good".



Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District

- **September 17, 1941**
  - Noel Hibler and Benjamin H. Roberts presented an application for a certificate of organization for the Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District signed by Jessie M. Gonzales, Secretary of State
- **First Board of Supervisors**
  - J. W. Garrison (Elected Supervisor) – Chairman
  - Ben H. Roberts (Appointed Supervisor) – Vice-Chairman
  - Noel Hibler (Appointed Supervisor) – Secretary – Treasurer
  - Sam Brown (Elected Supervisor) – Member
  - W. F. Jones (Elected Supervisor) - Member

Claunch-Pinto Soil & Water Conservation District Organized on September 17, 1941

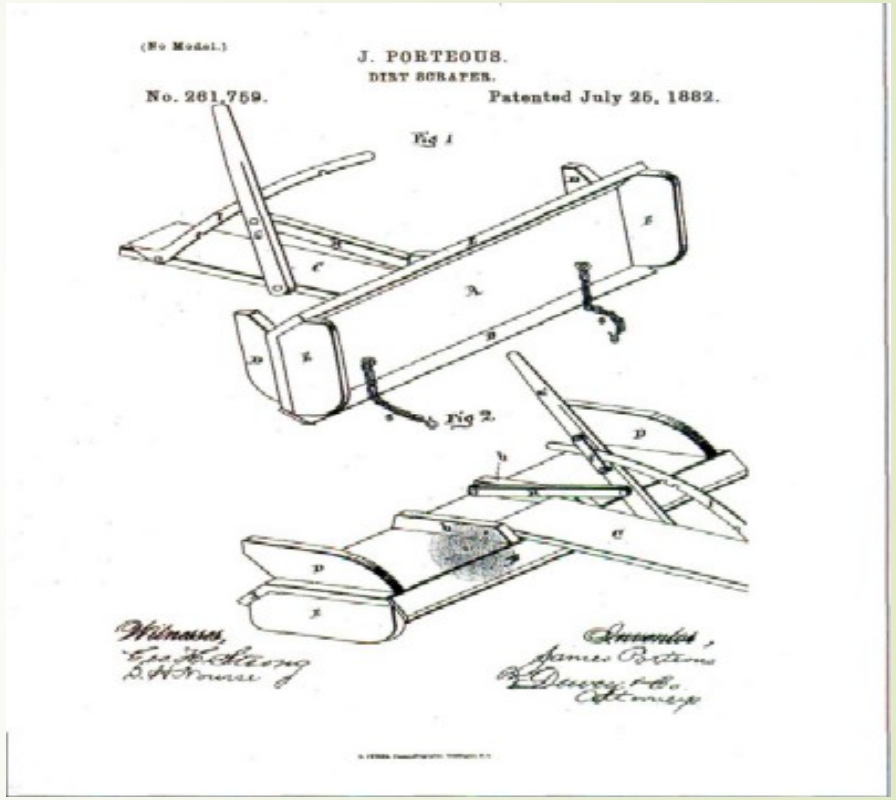
- The District consists of 1,291,779 acres located in the southern part of Torrance County, the northeastern part of Socorro County, the northwestern part of Lincoln County and the southern tip of Valencia County.
- The District is composed of 88% private and State land. The remaining 12% is land administered by the US Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management and US Park Service.
- The District is governed by a board of five elected and two appointed supervisors.
- The District's funding is obtained from four sources:
  - State of New Mexico budget appropriation
  - County mil levy taxation
  - Grants
  - County budget appropriation

DISTRICT PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS FOR NEED
December 8, 1941

- TERRANCING
- WATER SPREADING
- RODENT CONTROL
- CONTOUR FARMING
- BLUE JAY CONTROL
- WATER DEVELOPMENT
- GRASS SEEDING
- TREE PLANTING
- COVER CROP FOR WILD LIFE
- FENCING TO IMPROVEMENT LIVESTOCK DISTRIBUTION
- WEED CONTROL
- CHECK DAMS
- CROP ROTATION
- IMPROVED DAIRY AND BEEF STOCK
- R.E.A. EXTENSION
- TELEPHONE LINE
- STRIP-CROPPING
- DIVERSION DITCHES
- EDUCATION
- TRENCH SILOS
- INCREASED FARM GARDENS
- FARM TO MARKET ROADS

DISTRICT EQUIPMENT

- One large and two small fresnos purchased in 1942.
  - Rental - 25¢ a day (rain or shine); 75¢ a day if they were used
  - 10 hours was considered a work day
- Caterpillar tractor, bulldozer, rooter plow, tumble bug, with an assortment of parts
  - Leased to Southern Pacific Railroad by the hour
  - Construct dirt tanks - 10¢ a cubic yard
  - Terrace Construction - 4¢ a yard



ANNUAL REPORT
1942

- District originally contained 501,732 acres
- Additional 21,760 acres added in October, 1942
- Major Problems: rubber and gasoline rationing; keeping a set of financial books
- Received 50 written and oral applications for assistance
- Achievements: Seeding of 143 acres; 1,163 acres contour cultivation; 15,600 lineal feet of diversion ditches; constructed 28 stock tanks

- **Annual Financial Report**

Beginning Balance	**.00**
From Cooperators	$2,999.67
Loaned by Supervisors	500.00
Refunds	53.45
Tractor Fuel, oil, greases	419.44
Wages	937.48
Equipment Purchased	700.00
Equipment Maintenance	561.54
Miscellaneous Expenses	9.65
Equipment Rental	1.05
Ending Balance:	**$923.96**

West Torrance Soil Conservation District 1945 - 1967

- **July 28, 1945** – First Meeting
- First Chairman – Glenn Williams
- Major problem – How to control erosion in Abo Watershed
- **1947** - District Calendar for Cooperators
- **1953** – R. L. Chilton selected as Best Rancher Conservationist
- **1955** – Five years of drought

- **February, 1955** – Financial Statement
  - Balance Forward $ 2,877.45
  - Rental of Equipment 13,343.12
  - Sale of 1940 Pickup 40.00
  - Labor -4,425.22
  - Repairs, Fuel, etc. -4,136.38
  - Bookkeeping, Dues, etc - 779.78
  - Purchase of Equipment - 977.75
    - **Balance Forward** **$5,976.44**

TERRACES
1949 - 1950

Terracing – October, 1949

Terraces after ½ inch rain– July, 1950

Erosion Control Structure on D. H. "Doc" Dean Ranch
1971

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS 1941 - 2016

- 1965 – District divided into zones for supervisor representation
- 1967 – Consolidated a large portion of West Torrance SWCD into Claunch-Pinto SWCD
- 1971 – Manzano Community Ditch Group presented the Outstanding Conservation Award
- 1971 – Nora Belle Chilton received the NMASWCD Conservation Education Award
- 1971 – D. H. “Doc” Dean elected NMASWCD First Vice President
- 1973 – Developed resource data for the Torrance County Land Use Plan
- 1975 – District sold district signs for cooperators to place on their property
- 1975 – David King spoke at the Annual Meeting. His speech included topics on working together, more local government – less Santa Fe;
- 1976 – One priority project – pave South Highway 14 now known as Highway 55
- 1976 – Board discussion centered around wind power; solar energy and electricity
- 1978 – Annual Meeting in Cedarvale, NM – 130 attended
- 1982 – Region II meeting – Important issues were: 1)District funds; 2)Grant Program; 3)Conservation Loan Program

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CONTINUED

- 1983 – State Task Force looked into Soil and Water Conservation District problems. Recommendation - State funding should be allocated to individual Districts.
- 1988 – District passed a Mil Levy. This funding was used for District projects and Administrative Support
- 1991 – Milt Fulfer simply described the accomplishments of SCS as “the salvation of the country”.
- 1992 – Tree planting project at Mountainair Grade School
- 1994 – Soil Conservation Service (SCS) changed to Natural Resources Conservation Service
- 1997 – District Board and District Conservationist showed their “faith and trust” in hiring their new Administrative Assistant
- 1997 – 50th Anniversary Grand Award – Goodyear/NACD Conservation Award
- 1999 – Estancia Closed Basin Regional Water Plan accepted by Interstate Stream Commission
- 1999 – NACD Grand Award
- 1999 – National Earth Team Chief’s Field Award
- 2000 – District signs **FIRST** Memorandum of Understanding with the Chief of the US Forest Service

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CONTINUED

- 2002 – District signs **FIRST** Cooperative Agreement with the Cibola National Forest
- 2003 – District and partners sponsored Education Tour on the J. Brian Greene Ranch – 102 people attended including US Representative Heather Wilson and Lt. Governor Diane Denish
- 2004 – District awarded a Water Trust Board Grant for the Estancia Basin Watershed Health, Restoration and Monitoring Project. Watershed restoration work to be completed in the Ciudad, East Torrance, Edgewood and Claunch-Pinto SWCD areas.
- 2004 – District selected as the Region II and State Outstanding Soil and Water Conservation District
- 2005 – District with partners (Mountainair Ranger District, NM State Highway Dept., Youth Conservation Corp, and Racher Resource Management, LLC) reseed the Sanchez Ranch after the Lookout fire.
- 2006 – District selected as the fiscal agent for Special Water Trust Board Funding of $1.2 Million for Watershed Restoration – 1,664 acres salt cedar; 422 acres ponderosa pine/pinyon/juniper restoration in DeBaca, Edgewood, East Torrance and Claunch-Pinto SWCD areas

Shredding Burned BioMass After Reseeding
On the Lookout Fire – July, 2005

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CONTINUED

- 2007 – 2008 – Ojo Peak, Trigo and Big Springs Wildfires – Burn over 26,000 acres
- 2007 – 2008 – Received Capital Outlay funding for the Natural Resource Conservation Center
- 2008 – District is a partner in the Isleta Project
- 2009 – District receives Ojo Peak Collaborative Forest Restoration Program funding; also the fiscal agent and project manager for the Red Canyon Collaborative Forest Restoration Project
- 2010 – District was selected the Region II and State Outstanding Soil and Water Conservation District – **THANK YOU**, Mary Podoll
- 2010 – 2011 – Sponsored local gardening workshop during the winter season
- 2011 – District signed a participating agreement with the Cibola National Forest
- 2011 – District joined with their partners to form the NM Coalition of Conservation Districts
- 2012 – Completed the building shell for the Natural Resource Conservation Center
- 2013 – 2014 – Completed the Natural Resource Conservation Center building
- 2014 – The District and NRCS move into their new office space

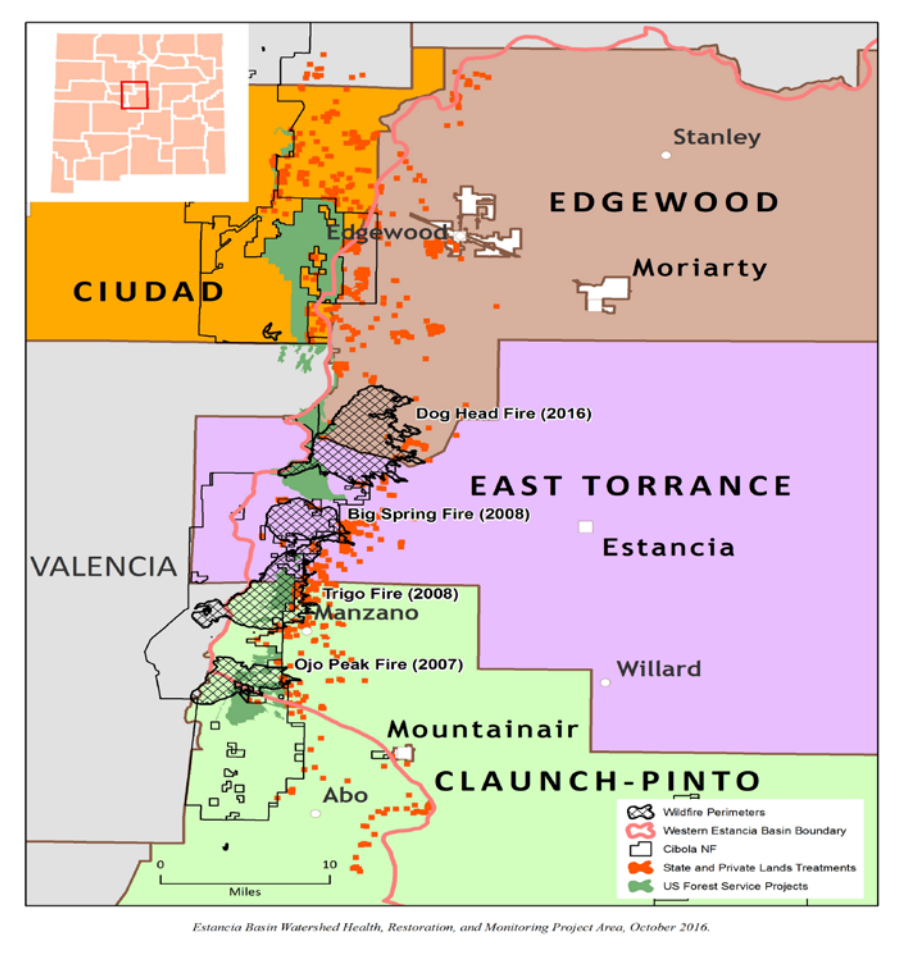
MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CONTINUED

- 2014 – Memorandum of Understanding with Bureau of Land Management to be at the table for discussions on the CO2 pipeline
- 2014 - The Isleta Project is funded through Joint Chief's Watershed Restoration Grant
- 2015 – District awarded $2.3 Million from NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program Grant
- 2015 – District is a Cooperating Partner with the Cibola National Forest Plan on their Forest Plan Revision process.
- 2016 – District awarded the Governor's Environmental Excellence Award for Wildlife and Ecosystem Stewardship
- 2016 – District awarded $500,000 from NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program Grant

- District owns the following:
  - 2002 Ford F150 4WD Pickup
  - 2004 Ford F350 4WD Pickup
  - 1400 Vermeer Chipper
  - 1500 Vermeer Chipper
  - 2012 Kubota Utility Vehicle
  - 2012 Multi-Purpose Hydraulic Dump Trailer
  - 42.2 Acres
  - Office building and separate Shop Building

Estancia Basin Watershed Health, Restoration and Monitoring Project



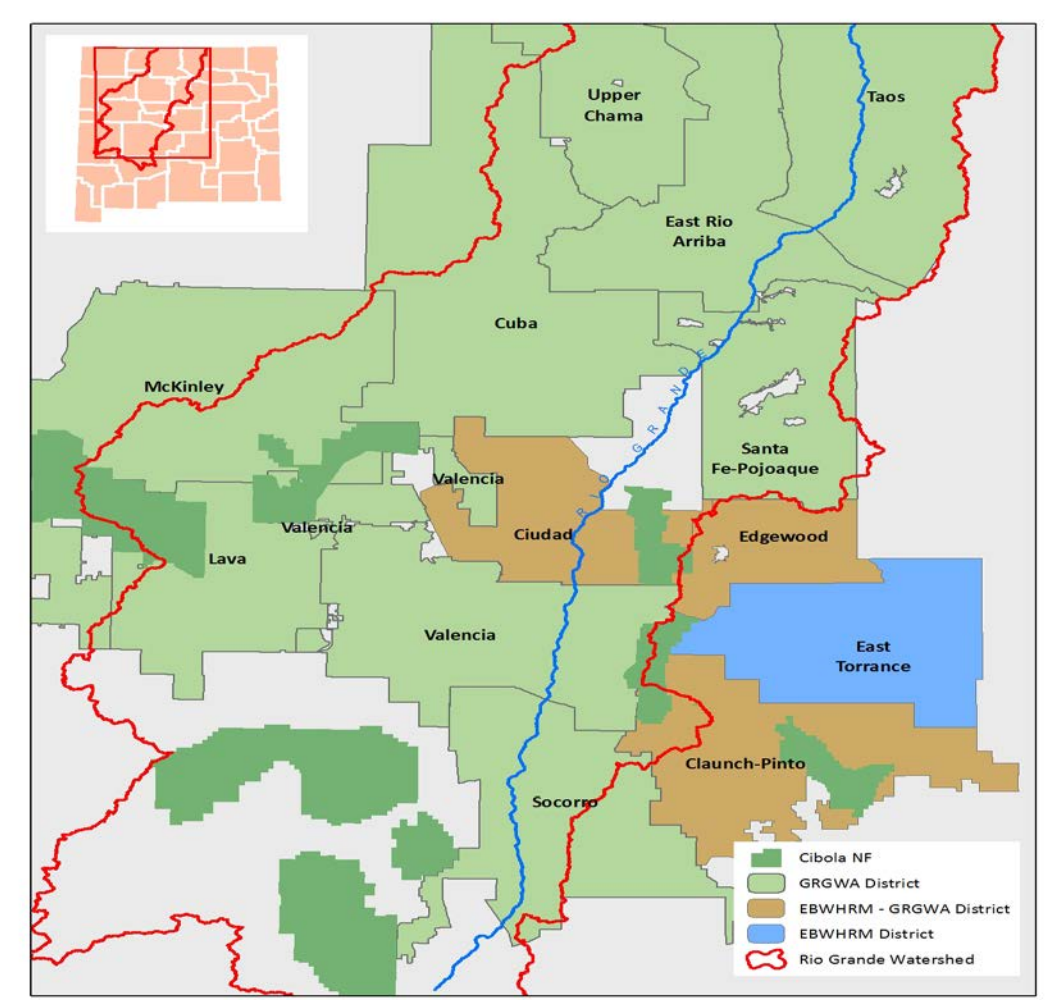
Estancia Basin Watershed Health, Restoration, and Monitoring Project Area, October 2016.

- **Collaborating Partnership:**
  - 4 Soil & Water Conservation Districts
  - EMNRD Forest Division
  - NM Environment Department
  - NM Forest & Watershed Restoration Institute
  - Highlands University
  - NM State Land Office
  - Natural Resources Conservation Service
  - US Forest Service
  - Pueblo of Isleta
  - Chilili Land Grant
  - Nature Conservancy
  - US Fish and Wildlife Service
  - Local Land Owners

Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance

- Collaborating Partners:
  - 12 Soil & Water Conservation Districts
  - EMNRD Forestry Division
  - NM Environment Department
  - NM State Land Office
  - NM Department of Agriculture
  - NM Forest & Watershed Restoration Institute
  - New Mexico Highlands University
  - Nature Conservancy
  - 4 Pueblos
  - Natural Resources Conservation Service
  - US Army Corp of Engineers
  - Albuquerque Open Space

North Central New Mexico Watershed Restoration Project



Estancia Basin Watershed Health, Restoration, and Monitoring and Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance Participating Soil and Water Conservation Districts

- **Collaborating Partnership**

13 Soil & Water Conservation Districts
Chilili Land Grant
Santo Domingo Pueblo
NM Department of Agriculture
EMNRD – Forestry Division
NM State Land Office
Pueblo of Sandia
Pueblo of Isleta
Pueblo of Acoma
NM Environment Department
NM Game and Fish
US Forest Service
NM Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute
Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District
Bureau of Land Management
US Army Corps of Engineers
Natural Resources Conservation Service
New Mexico Highlands University
New Mexico Forest Industry Association
Forest Guild
New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts
The Nature Conservancy
SWCA Environmental Consultants

Claunch-Pinto SWCD and Partners 2015-2016 Funding for Restoration

	Dollars	Acres
North Central NM Watershed Restoration Project (NCNMWRP)	$1,627,381	81,409
Cultural Clearances for NCNMWRP Projects	234,363	
North Central NM Watershed Restoration Project – FY2016	500,000	
Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance Projects	658,992	432
Estancia Basin Watershed Health, Restoration and Monitoring Project – FY2014	329,584	327
Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance Project - FY2016	897,748	862
Estancia Basin Watershed Health, Restoration and Monitoring Project - FY 2016	330,000	To Be Determined
Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance Monitoring Project – FY2015-2017	178,000	
Estancia Basin Watershed Health, Restoration and Monitoring – Monitoring Project – FY2015 -2017	378,000	
US Forest Service – Participating Agreement for Zuni Project	120,000	275
EMNRD – Forestry Division	285,000	To be Determined
Two (2) Collaborative Forest Restoration Project Grants	542,000	To Complete NEPA
TOTAL:	**$6,081,068**	

THANK YOU!

What we are told as children is that people when they walk on the land leave their breath wherever they go. So wherever we walk, that particular spot on the earth never forgets us, and when we go back to these places, we know that the people who lived there are in some way still there, and that we can actually partake of their breath and of their spirit.

Rina Swentzel, Santa Clara Pueblo