

Claunch-Pinto SWCD News

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Associate Supervisor*
- Colvin Connell—
Associate Supervisor*

DISTRICT STAFF

- Dierdre Tarr—
District Manager*
- Melissa Kayser—
Administrative Assistant*
- Vernon Kohler—
Field Technician*

NRCS STAFF

- Louis King—
District Conservationist*
- Kenneth Branch—
Range Management Specialist*
- Janice Anaya—
Farm Bill Program Specialist*

2006/2007 a busy year for Claunch-Pinto

Claunch-Pinto SWCD has had a very busy year. The district has assisted multiple landowners through the Water Trust Grant using approximately \$535,690.00 and covering approximately 735.95 acres.

The Abo Arroyo Watershed project began in the fall of 2005. Claunch-Pinto treated both aerially and mechanically 264.20 acres of Salt Cedar in the Watershed. This years funding exceeds \$350,000

for continued Salt Cedar control both mechanical and aerial treatment, erosion control, re-seeding, and rock products for erosion and diversion control in the Watershed. The Mountainair Middle School Science Class is also monitoring the Abo Arroyo for Claunch-Pinto. The class began monitoring last fall and will continue through this year.

Claunch-Pinto also became the fiscal agent for

the Upper Rio Grande Phreophyte Project. Partners in the Upper Rio Grande Phreophyte Project include, Valencia, Ciudad, Coronado, Santa Fe Pojoaque, East Rio Arriba, Cuba SWCD's, NMDA and Claunch-Pinto SWCD.

Claunch-Pinto has had the opportunity to see dramatic results from the conservation practices on the ground in 2006/2007.



CLEARING PROJECT (before)



CLEARING PROJECT (after)



SPRAYING SALT CEDAR



MONITORING CLASS

EVENTS CLAUNCH-PINTO HAS BEEN INVOLVED WITH THIS PAST YEAR



PLANTING AT OUTDOOR CLASSROOM MHS

District Manager receives star award from NMDA

Claunch Pinto Soil and Water District's Manager Dierdre Tarr was honored with the first ever star award from NMDA at the NMACD fall conference on October 24th, 2007.

This is what the NMDA had to say about Dierdre Tarr:

“ This Star Award winner's soil and water conservation district (swcd) stands out as a leader among New Mexico's 47 soil and water conservation districts. One of the reasons for this soil and water conservation district's success has been the hard work, professionalism and dedication of their employee. With assistance and direction from the soil and water conservation district board, she has worked to form partnerships and the resources they generate, to directly benefit the residents of the district.

This focus on assisting local people to meet local needs exemplifies a successful soil and water conservation district.

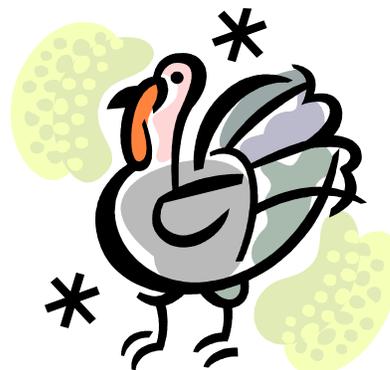
She is a self starter and extremely resourceful. When she identifies a need, she pursues a course to meet that need, whether it is implementing a district programs or obtaining training and education opportunities for herself or for SWCD board members and staff. Her professional abilities are respected by her peers. Often other SWCD employees' will call her for advice on a variety of SWCD operational issues. Two skills she has learned through training and practice have been grant writing and partnership building. These two skills have allowed her to expand the SWCD's budget from a little over \$800,000 in FY 2004 to

almost \$5 million in FY 2008. Using her partnership building skills she has also been able to secure many hours of volunteer time to assist the SWCD in the successful implementation of many of its projects.

Her drive, determination, and community-based conservation leadership have demonstrated the effectiveness of soil and water conservation districts in solving natural resource issues at the local level. The distinctive accomplishments of this employee reflect credit upon herself and soil and water conservation districts statewide.”



Dierdre Tarr district manager accepting the star award from Larry Dominguez of NMDA.

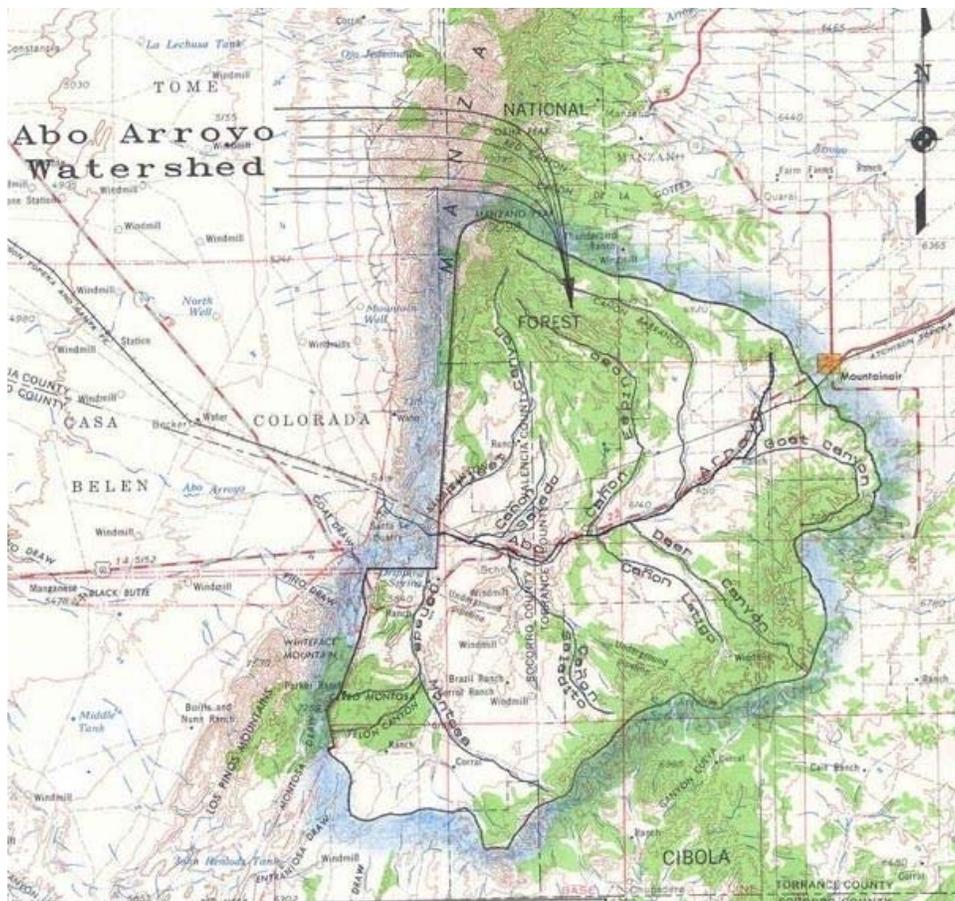


It's not Just Salt Cedar!! written by *Louis King, District Conservationist*

The Abo Arroyo Project is not only salt cedar. If your place is basically west or south west of Mountainair, you're probably in the Abo Arroyo Watershed, and you may have a bigger part than you think. The NRCS is working with the Claunch-Pinto SWCD on a **total watershed approach**, and salt cedar removal in the main channel and tributaries is only one aspect of helping Abo Arroyo function properly. All the upland sites that drain into the Arroyo are adding to the problem by harboring too many Pinion/Juniper trees and not enough grasses and forbs to slow down and hold water before it gets to the arroyo. We can assist private landowners with conservation work like tree removal,

thinning, erosion control structures and grazing management. The best possible means to decrease erosion in the Abo Arroyo is to slow down and capture water into the soil profile, as high up in the watershed as possible. Strategically placed rock and brush structures will slow down the water. Coupled with a brush control plan to reduce the number of invasive Pinion/Juniper trees in the upland sites, we should, with proper grazing management, increase the amount of desirable grass, forbs and shrub production. And thereby "capture" more water into the soil profile and let any excess water to slowly filter through the soil profile instead of cascading across the surface, picking up speed

and soil as it goes. Landowners can participate in EQIP and we can cost share on such items as brush control, rock and brush structures, fencing and water development if needed to help implement a planned grazing system. Fire is a concern on many peoples minds, and being pro-active about fuel load and tree density is the best way to protect your investments and the resource base. Stop by the office and lets talk about what we can do to help heal Abo Arroyo and the Watershed that feeds it.





Senator Domenici and District Manager Dierdre Tarr discuss the progress of the Arroyo.



Senator Domenici meeting with landowners Koldo and Melinda Gonzales and family.

U.S. Senator Pete Domenici visits Abo Arroyo Watershed

U.S. Senator Pete Domenici visited the Abo Arroyo Salt Cedar Project on August 20th, 2007. Felipe Lovato Jr. lead the Senator on a tour of the site project.

The Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District began the project in 2005. The District is currently mechanically pulling salt cedar in the arroyo on the last phase of the project. The District is also stock piling rock products for

erosion control and diversions. The district has planted willow whips and other plantings to help with getting the arroyo back to its natural state.

The District will be looking to obtain funding in the future to continue mechanical and aerial treatment of salt cedar in the upper tributaries, erosion control, re-seeding and rock products for erosion and diversion control in the Abo Arroyo.

Domenici told the gathering:

“I am so impressed with the cooperation that has gone into this project. It is gratifying to witness firsthand the positive results of this collaboration.”



Senator Domenici meeting with landowner Susan Brazil.

SWCA Environmental Consultants : our Monitoring Source

SWCA Environmental Consultants purpose is to determine the effects of Estancia Basin forest thinning practices on hydrology, soils, vegetation & native animals overtime following forest thinning treatments.

SWCA Environmental Consultants experimental approach

includes implementing current forest thinning treatments on specific study plots.

SWCA Environment Consultants partners include David Lightfoot, Leif Bang, Chris Garrett, Victoria Williams, and Duncan Wadsworth.

If you have any further question please contact Dierdre

Tarr at Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District (505) 847-2243.

“The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired, in value. “
Theodore Roosevelt

Claunch-Pinto SWCD accepting applications for Water Trust Board 2007/2008 Projects

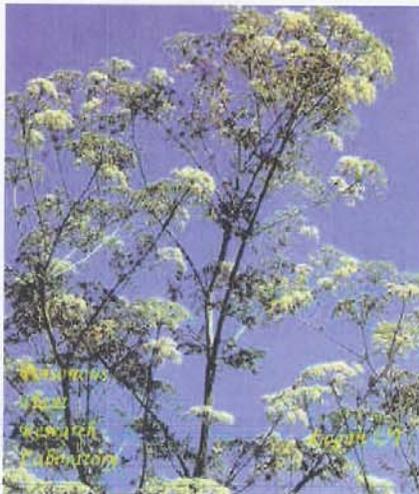
Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District is accepting applications for 2007/2008 Water Trust Board projects in our office. Applicants can come into the office and see Vernon Kohler to receive an application and plan a project on their individual property for the upcoming

funding year.

Claunch-Pinto has had prior projects for the past five (5) years in the surrounding area. If you have any questions please contact Vernon Kohler Field Technician at (505) 847-2243.



Poison Hemlock Alert



Poison Hemlock has been found in the Abo Arroyo.

If you find this plant Please Contact

Claunch-Pinto SWCD

505-847-2243

505-847-2941

Poison Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*)

Habitat: wet sites, gardens, roadsides, wastelands.

Life cycle: biennial

First Year Growth Habit: basal rosette of finely divided leaves with a pungent odor

Second-Year Growth Habit: 2-7 feet tall, branched plant with flowers

Leaves: alternate, pinnately compound, finely divided and toothed

Stems: branched, waxy with purple blotches; hollow between nodes

Inflorescence: June - August (second year). White flowers with five petals borne in large terminal compound umbels, 2-8 inches across.

Root: fleshy taproot

Similar plants: During the first year, poison hemlock resembles wild carrot, but has a strong pungent odor; young leaves of wild carrot are more finely divided and its stem is grooved. Look for purple blotches on the stem to identify poison hemlock.

The problem is....this plant is **highly poisonous** to both humans and animals. Poison hemlock is a large and impressive plant which has been planted as an ornamental in some areas. It grows quickly in fertile soils.



All parts of this plant are highly toxic.



The stems of poison hemlock are typically covered with purplish blotches.

For More Information contact Claunch-Pinto SWCD at 505-847-2243/2241

Or visit our Web site at WWW.claunchpinto.org

Spiny cocklebur

Xanthium spinosum L.

Aster Family

Key identifying traits

Flowers are small, inconspicuous, and creamy green

Plants grow up to 3' tall

1" spines are found in leaf axils & at stem nodes

Leaves are bright to dark green & hairy on the upper surface; mostly three-lobed with the center lobe much longer than the other two; up to 3" long with a prominent white mid-vain

Fruits are oval burs up to 1/2" long with hooked spines & contain 2 seeds per bur

Biology and ecology

An annual reproducing by seed

It is native to Chile but now widespread in Europe, Asia, North and South Africa, North and South America, and Australia

The hooked spines of the fruit enable it to adhere to animals and be transported long distances

The seeds and young cotyledon plants are toxic to livestock

It grows in a wide variety of soil types and most frequently found in disturbed areas and barnyards but has also invaded pastures & fields

Control

Prevention – Learn to identify plants; start monitoring early in the season; do not allow plants to produce seed

Biological – There have been biological agents found in California, Texas and Kansas

Cultural – Plant competitive grass or other cover crop

Mechanical – Cultivation is effective on seedlings; mowing can also help if done before burs develop

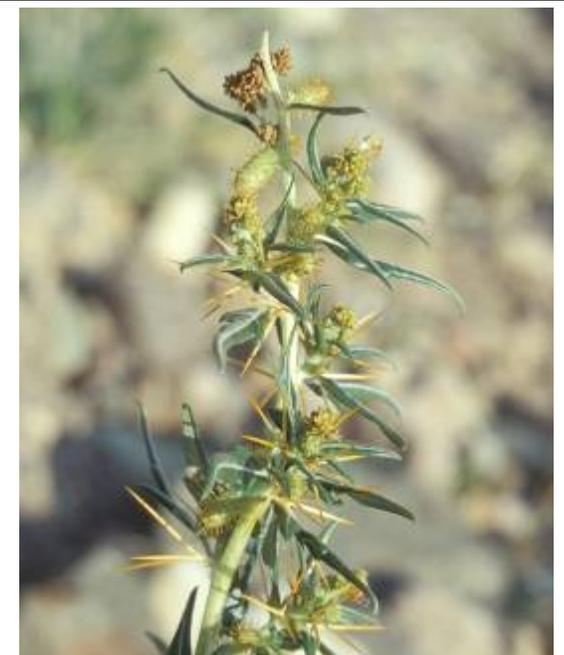
Chemical – Herbicides with dicamba, mecoprop, plus 2,4-D are said to control spiny cocklebur.



Photo © 2003 Kurt Stueber



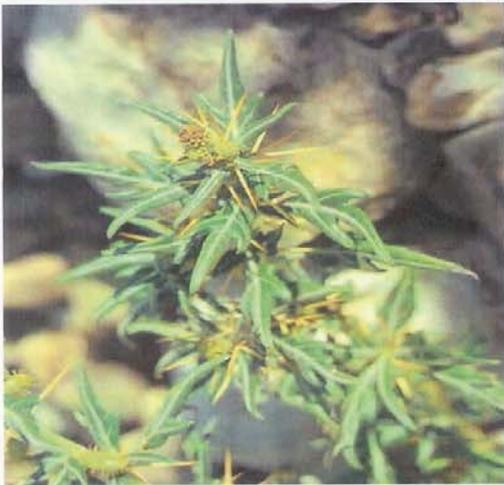
Photo © 2006 OSU



John M Randall, The Nature Conservancy

Spiny Cocklebur

For more information call Claunch-Pinto SWCD
At
505-847-2243/2941



Claunch-Pinto and Mountainair Ranger District work together to tackle Salt Cedar

Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water District and the USDA, Forest Service, Southwest Region, Cibola National Forest, Mountainair Ranger District have a Participating Agreement to remove and treat salt cedar along the Abo Arroyo.

The Forest Service Crew was able to turn a 10 acre project into a 62 acre project. Claunch-Pinto SWCD recently presented the crew with awards at its annual meeting for all the

hard work they did on this project. Crew members are: Lance Elmore, Fire Management Officer, Arlene Perea, Mark Bernal, Eric Chavez, Louis Castillo, George Gallegos, Terrance Gallegos, and Adrian Padilla.

The Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors would like to thank the Forest Service Crew for their hard work on this project and look forward

to more cooperative work in the future.



Lawrence Crane Timber Management Officer

Lawrence Crane is the Timber Management Officer for the New Mexico State Forestry Division. Mr. Crane works very closely with the Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District.

Mr. Crane is involved in the steering committee, planning, procedures, and check outs of

the projects. Claunch-Pinto SWCD recently awarded Mr. Crane with the Conservationist Award.



Lawrence Crane accepting his award from Chairman Felipe Lovato Jr.



Anna Marie Nunez head of the Ultima BioMass CFRP Monitoring

Anna Marie Nunez has been the head of our monitoring portion of the CFRP grant funded to PNM Signs owned by Phil Archuleta for the past couple of years. The program runs through the summer and employs students from the area to monitor the effects of our clearing projects. The youth set

up plots and get baselines to monitor stem density, canopy closure, height from ground to tree crown, surface fuels cover and depth, effects on thinning oaks, and species re-vegetation. The Claunch-Pinto SWCD Board of Supervisors is very proud of the work that Anna

Marie and the students have been able to accomplish. Felipe Lovato Jr. Chairman of the Board recently presented Anna Marie with an award at the annual meeting for all of her hard work. Thank you Anna Marie!!!!.



Claunch-Pinto Soil & Water Conservation District

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Claunch-Pinto SWCD Annual Meeting

Claunch-Pinto held its annual meeting on September 27th, 2007 at the Dr. Saul Community Building in Mountainair. The meeting began at 10:00 a.m. with the annual business meeting followed by a tour of a few Estancia Basin Watershed projects, lunch, then a tour of the Abo Arroyo Watershed Project.

There were approximately 60 people in attendance, an abundance of door prizes, several well deserved awards, and a wonderful lunch provided. The Claunch-Pinto SWCD staff would like to thank everyone for attending and we hope to see you next year!!!

For more information contact Dierdre Tarr at Claunch-Pinto SWCD 847-2243 or 847-



The annual meeting in progress. At the Dr. Saul Community Building.



The Mountainair Fire Crew after receiving an award from the district.