# EDGEWOOD SOIL 8 WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2011 – 2012 REPORT

### Organization

- The Edgewood Soil & Water Conservation District covers 487,535 acres in portions of southern Santa Fe, eastern Bernalillo, and northern Torrance counties. This consists of approximately 18,000 acres of irrigated cropland, 200 acres of dry cropland, 70,000 acres of urban land, and close to 400,000 acres of rangeland.
- A referendum for the formation of the District was carried by popular vote of landowners, as provided in the New Mexico Soil & Water Conservation District Law. The Certificate of Organization was issued on September 27, 1941.

#### **Board Members**

David King - Chairman Lewis Fisher - Vice-Chair Bill King - Secretary / Treasurer Mark Anaya – Member Juan Sanchez - Member Leo Smith - Member Art Swenka - Member

#### Staff

Brenda Smythe - Manager Kelly Smith - Technician

#### **Contract Staff**

Jerika Lujan - College Intern Meagan Gallegos – Admin Assistant Erica Smythe – Website & Special Projects Jim Frost – Grass Drill Operator

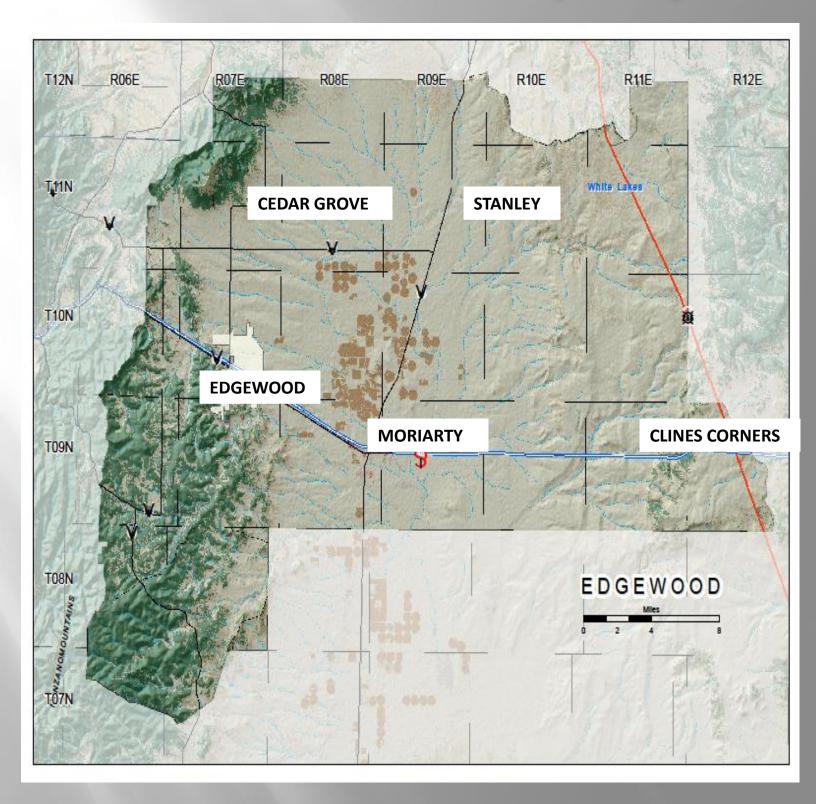
#### **Meeting Information**

The board meets the first Thursday of every month at 10:00 AM at the District office, which is located at 2506 Route 66, Moriarty, NM 87035.

#### **Mission Statement**

The Mission of the Edgewood Soil & Water Conservation District is to protect, restore, enhance, and promote the wise use of natural resources. This will be achieved through development of projects, education of public, the cooperation of landowners/users, agencies and other political subdivisions of the state.

#### **District Boundary Map**



#### Farm Bill Implementation

- Edgewood Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD), along with neighboring East Torrance SWCD is assisted by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).
- Farm Bill funds allocated funding for the Estancia Field Office exceeded \$304,000 which provided assistance to local agricultural producers with conservation measures such as livestock pipelines, water storage facilities, cross fencing, diversion construction and Low Energy Precision Application (LEPA) Conversions.

#### **Basic Funding**

- The District receives \$10,000 from the New Mexico Department of Agriculture which provides partial funding for administration. In order to receive this funding the district must follow a base schedule of required items such as:
  - An Approved Budget
  - An Annual Plan of Work
  - An Annual Action Plan
  - Following Open Meetings Act
  - Board Member Attendance at Meetings
  - District Sponsored Conservation Information
  - Cost-Share Assistance to Landowners

#### **Programs That Benefit You!**

#### **COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

- The Cost-Share Assistance Program is provided to landowners within the District Boundary (outside incorporated areas)
- Funding is provided through Mill Levy Collections.
- Reimbursement for projects is available for up to \$3500 per person/per year.
- During the 2011 2012 fiscal year:
  - 6 Essential use (potable) and non-essential use (outdoor use) Water Harvesting Structures were constructed
  - B 3 Windbreaks were planted
  - B 3 Drip Irrigation Systems were installed
  - I Storage Facility was constructed

#### How Does the Cost Share Program Work?

- 1. Fill out application
- Submit with tax bill for proof of ownership within the District
- IF approved through ranking—
- Letter sent by Manager announcing approval
- 5. Appointment set up by Technician, Kelly Smith for planning & cost estimate
- Once landowner agrees with costestimate, approval to begin (after July 1<sup>st</sup>)
- 7. Project Complete by June 10<sup>th</sup>, and ready for inspection and reimbursement

#### Reimbursements

 Example 1
2,000 sq. ft home
Essential Use Water Harvesting System
Average cost-\$12,000
Reimbursement –

Maximum \$3500.

 Example 2
2,000 sq. ft home
Non-essential use Water Harvesting System
Average Cost- \$3500
Reimbursement – 50% \$1700 Under Ground Water Harvesting System Constructed with Cost-Share Assistance Funding

#### 2 - 1700 Gallon Underground Water Harvesting Tanks



### **Buried Underground Tank**



### Water Harvesting System Pressure Tank



## Simple Above Ground Water Harvesting Tank Directly Connected to Gutters

#### **305 Gallon Bushman Tank**

This tank provides reasonable storage capacity in narrow space confines.



# Leading by Example

Edgewood Soil & Water Conservation District Administrative Office Water Harvesting System

## 1600 Gallon Water Harvesting Tank North-West Side of Building



#### 1-1600 Gallon Tank & 2-3000 Gallon Tanks South Side of Building



During a 1" Rainfall the catchment yield from our building with a 90% roof efficiency, we have the potential to catch 4,849 Gallons of Water!

With the average annual rainfall in the Estancia Basin of 12", we have the potential to collect approximately 57,222 gallons of water per year!

This water is used for all landscape.

# Hazardous Fuels Reduction Projects

#### Watershed Health & Restoration Program

 Edgewood, along with Claunch-Pinto, Ciudad & East Torrance Soil & Water Conservation Districts, received Water Trust Board and NM State Forest Funding for watershed health projects. During last fiscal year, Edgewood SWCD allocated \$96,666.67 for 8 projects.

#### **Before Thinning**



### **After Thinning**



## Hazardous Fuels Reduction Before Thinning



### **After Thinning**



## **Fuel Breaks**

This next photo will show a 300-foot fuel break.

A fuel break is a wide opening in vegetation created as a barrier to slow or stop the progress of a wildfire. Private Land Fuel Break to National Forest Boundary for Firefighting Access



#### **Fuel Break**



#### **South Mountain Project**

The Edgewood SWCD owns 373 acres on the top of South Mountain.

Hazardous fuels reduction for watershed health along with fire suppression has been addressed.

### SOUTH MOUNTAIN PROJECT

IN COOPERATION WITH NM STATE FORESTRY & SANTA FE COUNTY WILDLAND FIREFIRGHTERS.

THIS PROJECT PROVIDES WATERSHED PROTECTION & FIREFIGHTING ACCESS.



CUT-STUMP TREATMENT ON OAK BRUSH FOR WILDLAND FIRE-FIGHTER ACCESS AND CREATING THE SAFETY ZONE

#### ROAD WIDENED TO ALLOW ACCESS TO FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT

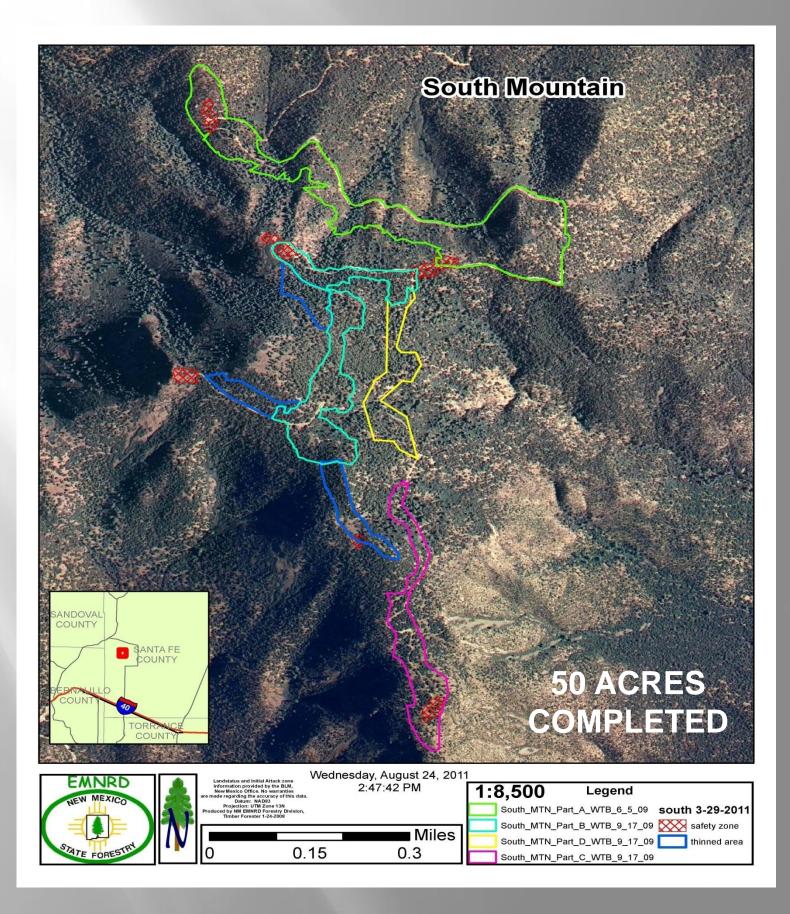


### South Mountain Fire Safety Zones

Fire Safety Zones are created for the protection of our firefighters and equipment. This is also used as a staging area in the event of a fire. In cooperation with the Santa Fe County Fire Department, the District has 6 strategically designed safety zones on South Mountain.

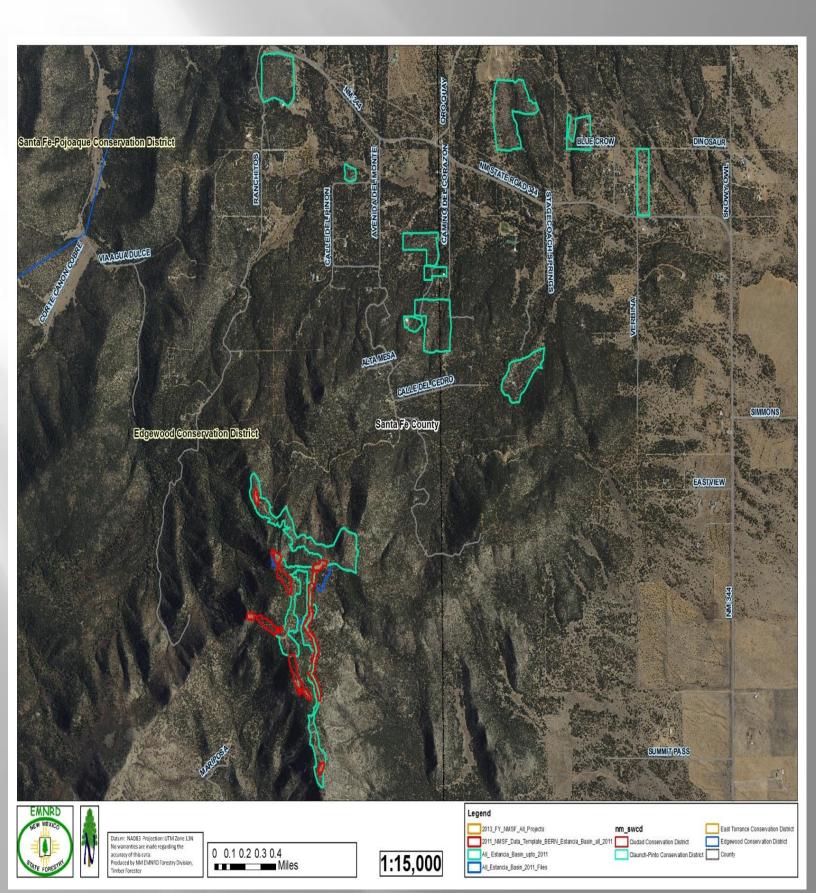


#### SOUTH MOUNTAIN PROJECT

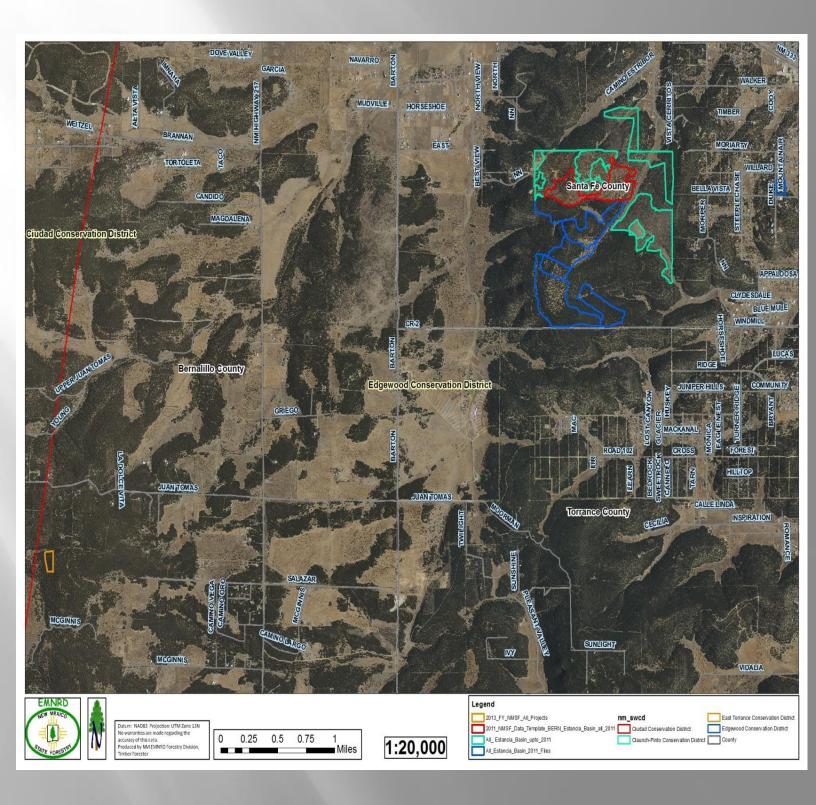


# Highlighted Hazardous Fuels Reduction Projects

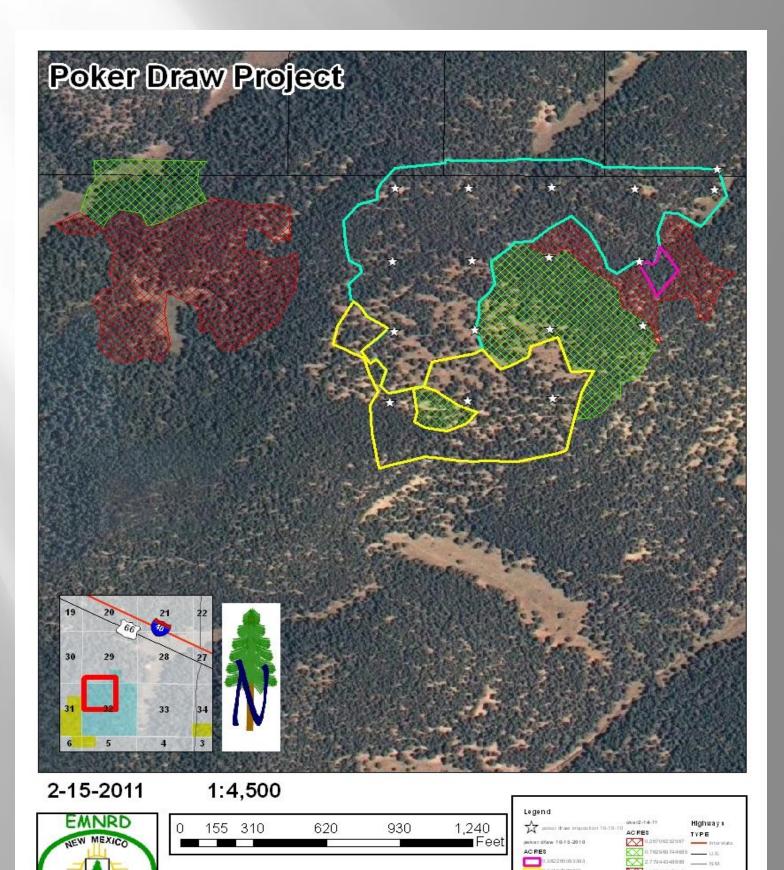
#### San Pedro Area



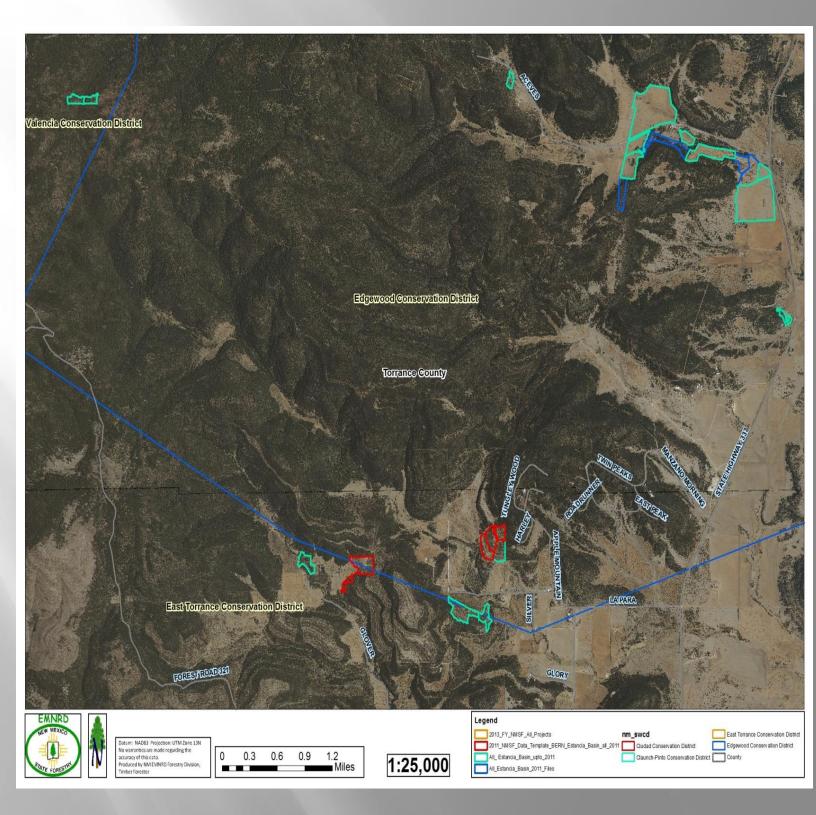
#### **Poker Draw** Highway 333/Barton Near Edgewood



## Edgewood SWCD/State Land Office Partner Project



#### South of Chilili



# Native Grass Reseeding Project

Included with our native grass seed sale program, the District owns and operates a compact native grass seed drill. Projects are planned by the District Technician, and planted by the District Drill Operator. Costs depend on types of grass and acreages.



#### **Drill Operator, Jim Frost**

On land areas that cannot be stabilized by ordinary conservation treatment or management, and in effort to reestablish permanent native grasses, Edgewood SWCD has both cool and warm season native grass seed available for small property lots and large acreages.

On critical land areas including rangelands, pastures, and forests, Edgewood SWCD can drill native grasses with our tractor and specialized, compact native grass seed drill where desirable vegetation is below the level for natural reseeding to occur.



## GREEN WASTE EVENTS

Green Waste Events are a partnership between Bernalillo County, Ciudad Soil & Water Conservation District, New Mexico Association of Counties, and the Edgewood Soil & Water Conservation District

- FREE Recycling for Bernalillo County residents of property green waste.
  - Green Waste is the product remaining after tree thinning and/or pruning
- After green waste is chipped, the product is available for landowners to use as mulch or for erosion control
- The next event will be held at the East Mountain Transfer Station

October 13<sup>th</sup> – October 21<sup>st</sup> & November 24<sup>th</sup> – December 2<sup>nd</sup> 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM



# Native Grass Seed & Tree Sales

### **Popular Sale Items**



**Russian Sage** 

#### Black Chokeberry



Blue Grama Grass



Native Grass Seed is available year-round for sale.

Low Cost plants are typically available March & October.

## **Information & Education**

Find us on the web - - WWW.ESWCD.ORG

On the site you can find information regarding:

- District Background
- District Cost-Share Assistance Program
- Water Trust Board Grant Funding
- Project Photos
- YCC Grant Accomplishments & Photos
- Native Seed & Tree Information
- Staff Progress to Date
- Partner Links



## Partnerships

The Edgewood SWCD is committed to our partners. Several trainings and meetings have been held in cooperation with neighboring Districts, as well as state and federal partners.

- Rainwater Catchment Systems Accreditation Workshops
- Erosion Control & Mulch Utilization Workshop
- Windbreak & Drip Irrigation Training
- Pest Management Training
- Reseeding Workshop
- Water Harvesting Workshop
- Cooperative Weed Management Training

#### Many other affiliates have utilized our conference facilities for their meetings and or trainings.

- American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association
- Estancia Basin Watershed Health & Restoration Project
- Estancia Valley Classical Academy
- Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance
- Indian Hills Water Association
- Moriarty Garden Club Meetings
- Natural Resources Conservation Service Partnership Meetings
- New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts
- New Mexico Conservation Districts Employees
- New Mexico Department of Agriculture
- New Mexico Department of Transportation
- New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute
- New Mexico Public Regulations Commission
- New Mexico State Land Office
- New Mexico Soil & Water Conservation Commission
- Rural Conservation & Development
- Torrance County Extension Service

## ACCREDITATIONS

The Edgewood District Board is committed to providing staff with the most up-to-date information and trainings available that will benefit our landowners.

The Edgewood SWCD remains the only Conservation District in New Mexico to have staff that are Rainwater Catchment Systems Accredited (ARCSA) Professionals.





Staff Members also hold a New Mexico Public Pesticide Applicator License

## **Outreach & Funding**

#### **Outreach**

- Web Site
- Partnership with Chilili Land Grant
- Partnership with neighboring districts
- Bi-Monthly E-Newsletters to landowners and partners
- Information Pamphlets constructed and distributed
- Newspaper Articles and advertisements

#### **Committees**

- Estancia Basin Watershed Restoration & Monitoring
- New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts
- NM Conservation District Employees
- Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance
- Central NM Weed Management Area
- Torrance County Wildfire Protection Committee
- Santa Fe County Wildfire Protection Committee

#### **Prior Year Funding Sources**

- Received \$100,000 Legislative funding for reseeding equipment
- Received \$100,000 Legislative funding for building
- Received \$450,000 NMFA funding for building
- Received \$65,071 NM State Forestry Special Funding
- Received \$15,000 NM State Forestry Funding
- Received \$41,475 SWCC Grant Funding
- Received \$86,343 Youth Conservation Corps Funding
- Received \$140,000 WTB Special Funding
- Received \$133,000 WTB Funding
- Received \$109,000 WTB Funding
- Received \$150,000 WTB Funding
- Received \$165,000 WTB Funding
- Received \$110,000 WTB Funding

#### <u> 2011 – 2012 FUNDING</u>

- Received \$96,666 WTB Funding
- Received \$90,000 Non-Federal Lands Funding
- Received \$110,000 Wild-land Urban Interface Funding
- Received \$5,833 NM State Forestry Funding

## Since 2006 the Edgewood District Staff has acquired \$1,778,388 in additional grant funding that directly benefits landowners!

 We continually search for state, federal and private grant funding sources.

Edgewood Soil & Water **Conservation District** Assisting with **Natural Resource Concerns**.

# Thank you for your support!