

**EDGEWOOD  
SOIL  
&  
WATER  
CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT**

**2014 - 2015  
ANNUAL REPORT**

# Formation of Conservation Districts

- In the early 1930s, along with the great depression, came an equally unparalleled disaster known as the Dust Bowl.
- In 1937, President Roosevelt wrote the governors of all states recommending legislation that would allow local landowners to form soil conservation districts.
- Brown Creek Soil & Water Conservation District in North Carolina was the first district established.

# Organization

- 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 Edgewood Soil & Water Conservation District was established on September 27, 1941.
- 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 399,335 acres of rangeland.

# **Board Members**

David King - Chairman

Lewis Fisher - Vice-Chair

Bill King - Secretary / Treasurer

Mark Anaya – Member

Juan Sanchez - Member

Bill Williams- Member

Art Swenka - Member

## **Staff**

Brenda Smythe – District Manager

Kelly Smith - Technician

Karlyn Bates – Admin. Assistant

## **Contract Staff**

Ben Montoya - Internal Auditor

Jim Frost – Grass Drill Operator

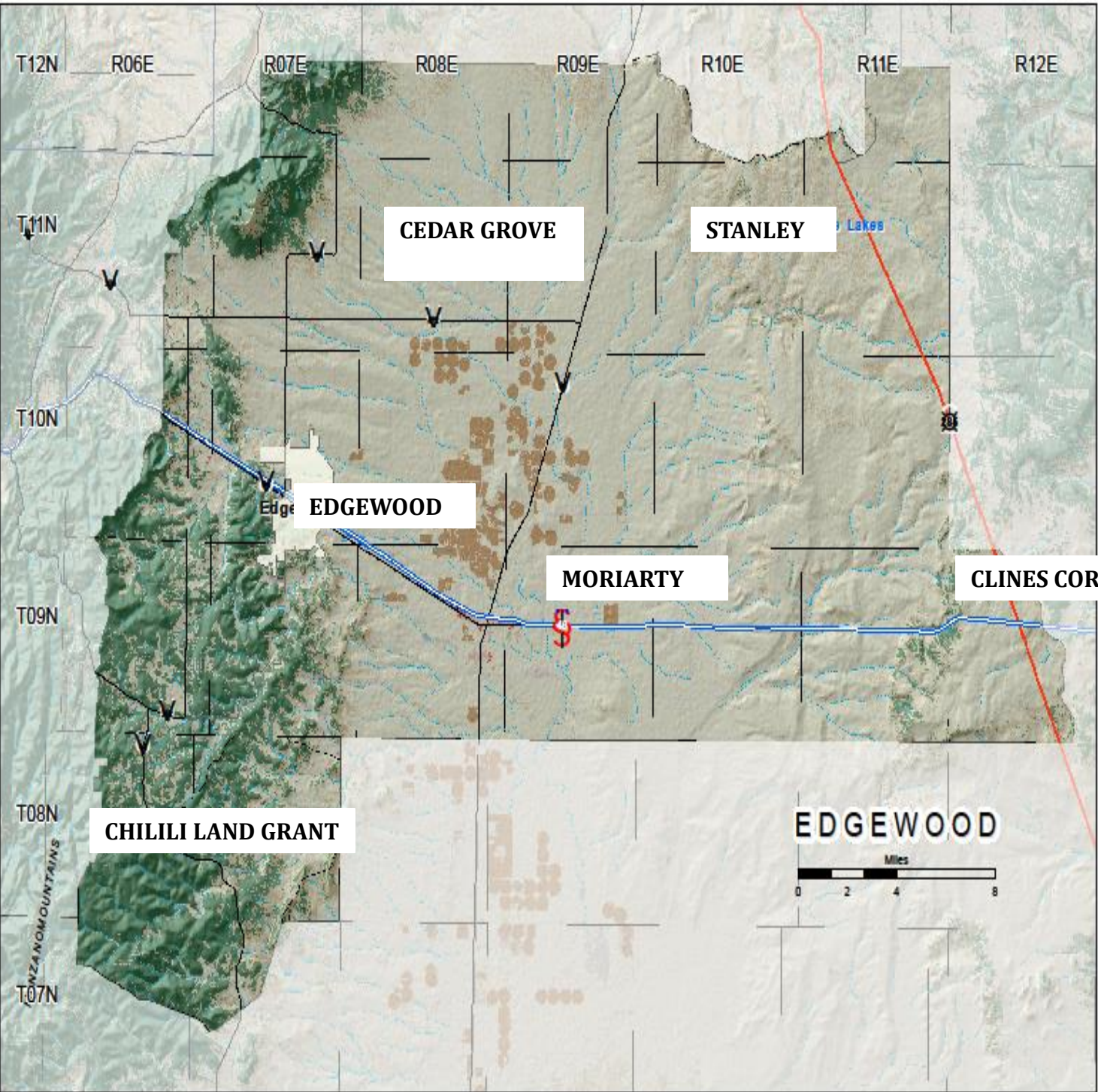
## **Meeting Information**

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 the  
development of projects,  
education of the public, and the  
cooperation of landowners,  
agencies and other  
political subdivisions of the state.**

# District Boundary Map



# Basic Funding

- The District receives \$14,000 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
  - Land Use Plan

# **Programs That Benefit You!**

## **Cost-Share Assistance Program**

The Cost-Share Assistance Program is provided to landowners within the District Boundary (outside of the incorporated areas).

Funding is provided through Mill Levy Collections.

Reimbursements for approved cost-share projects is \$4,500 maximum per year.

# How Does the Cost Share Program Work?

Program runs fiscal year July 1 – June 30

Submit Application

Application Period: March 15<sup>th</sup> – June 1<sup>st</sup>

Provide a county tax bill for proof of land ownership within the District

**IF** approved through ranking–

- Letter sent by Manager announcing approval
- Appointment set up by Technician, for site visit, planning & cost estimate
- Once landowner agrees with estimate, approval to begin (after July 1)
- Project must be completed by June 10<sup>th</sup>, and ready for inspection and reimbursement

# 2014-2015 Projects

The following 22 projects were reimbursed this fiscal year:

- 15 Water Harvesting Structures
- 2 Miles Livestock Pipeline
- 9.7 Acres of Cholla Removal
- 3.5 Acres of Brush Removal
- 3 Erosion Control Structures
- 1 Mile of Cross Fencing
- 3 Acres of Native Grass Re-seeding
- 1 Windbreak
- 1 Drip Irrigation System

# Eligible Practices

- Water Harvesting
- Diversions
- Brush Management
- Critical Area Planting
- Cross Fencing
- Windbreaks
- Windbreak Drip Irrigation Systems
- Forest Stand Improvement
- Irrigation Pipeline
- Livestock Pipeline
- Low Energy Precision Application (LEPA) Conversion
- LEPA Nozzles

# **2016 Cost-Share Assistance Program**

The Edgewood SWCD Board of Supervisors increased the cost-share reimbursement to 75% of actual costs, with a cap of \$4,500.

New applications will be available mid March of 2016.

# Benefits of Collecting Rain

During a 1" rainfall – for every 1,000 sq. ft. of roof surface with a 90% roof efficiency, there is a potential to capture 623 Gallons of Water!



The following photos are some water harvesting structures that are capturing that rain!

# 200 Gallon Tank for Landscape Irrigation



# Ultra Violet Water Filtration



# 2,500 Gallon Water Storage Tank



# 3,000 Gallon Water Storage Tank



**The following are  
photos of additional  
projects completed this  
past fiscal year.**

**These projects were  
reimbursed through  
the District's Cost-  
Share Assistance  
Program.**

# Erosion Control & Native Grass Re-seed



# Small Check-Dams to Slow Channel Run-Off



# Livestock Pipeline



This practice distributes water throughout a grazing system for livestock or wildlife use.

# **Watershed Health & Restoration Program**

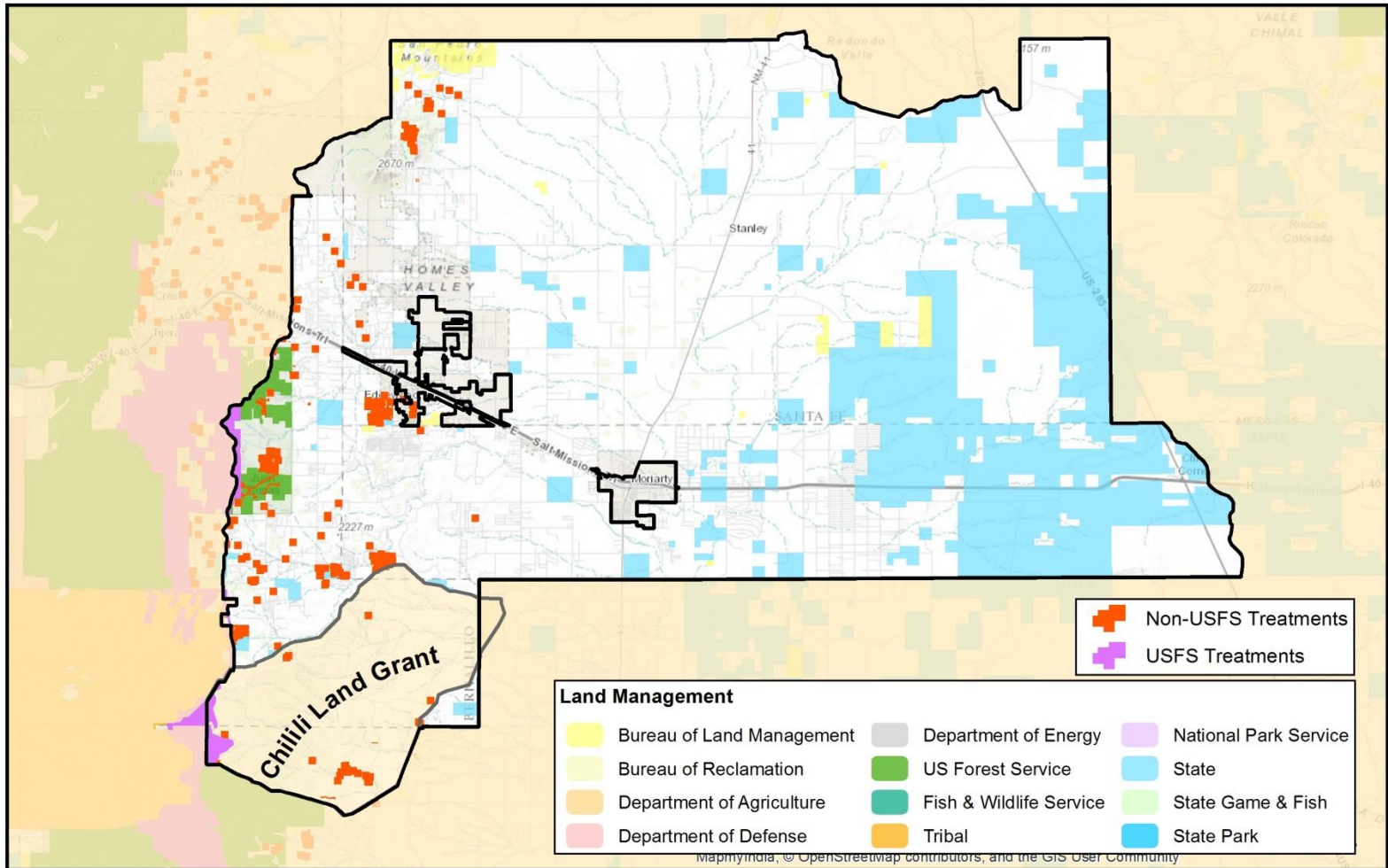
For the last several years, the Edgewood SWCD has received Water Trust Board and New Mexico State Forest Funding for watershed health projects.

During last fiscal year, Edgewood SWCD allocated \$121,155 and completed 12 contracts.

A special thanks to Dee Tarr and Lawrence Crane!

# Thinning Projects within the Edgewood SWCD

## Edgewood SWCD Thinning Projects



Sources:  
 SWCD Boundary: NMDA, 2014.  
 Land management: BLM, 2014.  
 Base map: ESRI Topographic Base Map,  
 ESRI and its data suppliers, 2043.

0 5 10 20  
 Miles

Map by Joe Zebrowski, NMHU GAINS, September 2015.



# **Watershed Health & Restoration Program Defensible Space Thinning**



# Defensible Space After



# **Hazardous Fuels Reduction**

Before Thinning



# After Thinning



# **Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance**

The Edgewood SWCD is a proud member of the Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance. (GRGWA)

This is a collaboration between Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Pueblos, agencies and stakeholders working to restore riparian ecosystems in the Rio Grande Watershed in central and northern New Mexico.

The very north-western portion of the Edgewood District is within the GRGWA.

# Green Waste Events

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

FREE Recycling for East Mountain residents of property green waste.

Chips can be used as mulch or for erosion control

This is  
the 5th  
Year for  
this Free  
Program.



# Native Grass Seed

The District offers native grass seed. Native grass stands are beneficial for ground cover to help prevent soil erosion, and provides food for wildlife.

Native Wildflower seeds are also available.

Native Grass Seed is available for sale year-round and is sold to landowners at cost.



Blue Grama Grass

# Public Entity Partnership

The Edgewood District Board of Supervisors and Staff are committed to Public Service, and strive to provide technical and financial assistance to local public entities.

This year the Edgewood Soil & Water Conservation District provided:

- Funding for Water Supply Storage Tank  
La Madera Fire -  
Station 28 – Sandia Park
- Supplies for Community Greenhouse -  
Moriarty High School

# 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
- District Newsletters
- Water Trust Board Grant Funding
- Project Photos
- Youth Conservation Corp Grant Accomplishments & Photos
- Native Seed & Wildflower Information
- Staff Progress to Date
- Upcoming Board Meeting Agendas
- Partner Links

**Find us on Facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/EdgewoodSoilandWaterConservationDistrict>

The District has utilized Facebook for the last 18 months. Partnership posts, our Annual Meeting and Public Meetings are posted.

Facebook page for Edgewood Soil & Water Conservation District.

**Page Header:** Edgewood Soil & Water Conservation District

**Navigation:** Page, Messages, Notifications, Insights, Publishing Tools, Settings, Help

**Profile Picture:** Edgewood Soil & Water Conservation District logo.

**Cover Photo:** Landscape image of mountains and a cloudy sky.

**Page Name:** Edgewood Soil & Water Conservation District  
**Category:** Government Organization

**Stats:** 295 likes +8 this week, 665 post reach this week.

**Find Customers Near You:** You could reach 280,000 people within 30 miles of Moriarty, New Mexico. [Promote Local Business](#)

**ABOUT:** 2506 Hwy 66, Moriarty, New Mexico. Phone: 505-832-1111 Fax: 505-832-1121. Open Today 9:00AM - 4:30PM.

**Timeline:**

- Status:** Write something...
- Edgewood Soil & Water Conservation District shared American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association (ARCSA)'s photo.** Yesterday at 8:37am -

**Promote:** THIS WEEK, 665 Post Reach, 22 Post Engagement.

**Recent:** 2015, 2014, 1941.

# During the Cibola Forest Plan Revision Public Meetings, our Facebook Page reached 1675 people!



Edgewood Soil & Water Conservation District



Edgewood Soil & Water Con... Home

Page Messages Notifications Insights Publishing Tools Settings Help


REVIEWS


5.0 ★ 5.0 of 5 stars · 4 reviews


 **Matt Page** — 5★  
October 1, 2014 · 8 Reviews ·   
Like · Comment

 **Ryan Brightbill** — 5★  
July 11, 2014 · 15 Reviews ·   
Like · Comment

PEOPLE ALSO LIKE


 **Lisa's Truck Center**  
Food & Restaurant


 **New Mexico State Land Office**  
Government Organization


 **Pizza Barn**  
Pizza Place

See more Government Organizations in Moriarty, New Mexico



LIKED BY THIS PAGE

 **One Green Planet** ✓

 **SimpleReminders.com** ✓




 **The National Audubon Society** ✓

Boosted Post Completed

 **Edgewood Soil & Water Conservation District**  
July 15 · 




Cibola Forest Plan Revision Public Meeting Schedule  
Albuquerque, NM, July 15, 2015—For Immediate Release. The Cibola National Forest and National Grasslands began the process of revising the 1985 Cibola Forest Plan in November 2012.  
As part of the revision process, the Cibola National Forest and National Grasslands has engaged with nearly 30 cooperating agencies to collaborate on developing land management plan direction that will guide future management of the Cibola. These ...  
[Continue Reading](#)


1,675 people reached [View Results](#)

 Like  Comment  Share



Edgewood Soil & Water Conservation District, Erica Smythe, Suzan Stover Bishop, Katra Plowman and 25 others like this.

4 shares


 Write a comment...  

 **Todd Dixon** Loretta Quintana  
Like · Reply · Message · July 29 at 2:38pm

Boosted Post Completed

 **Edgewood Soil & Water Conservation District**  
July 15 · 

CIBOLA FOREST PLAN REVISION PUBLIC MEETING -  
PLACITAS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - JULY 22, 2015



Promote

THIS WEEK

665  
Post Reach

22  
Post Engagement

Recent

2015

2014

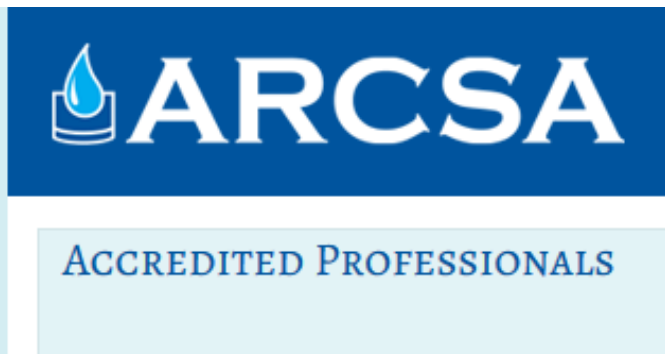
1941

# Staff Accreditation & Licensing

- The District Technician and Manager are both Licensed Public Pesticide Applicators.



- Both are also Rainwater Catchment Systems Accredited Professionals.



# ARCOSA Accreditations

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

Staff will be attending the ARCOSA National Conference this November to retain their accreditation.



**ARCOSA**  
ACCREDITED PROFESSIONAL

# American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association

Founded 1994

The mission of The American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association is to promote sustainable rainwater harvesting practices to help solve potable, non-potable stormwater and energy challenges throughout the world.

## Beyond the *Garden*

Get smarter with  
your water



**ARCSCA**  
AMERICAN RAINWATER CATCHMENT  
SYSTEMS ASSOCIATION

*2015 ARCSCA Conference Theme*

# ARCSA Facts

- ARCSA is the first organization to create training and certification for professionals in the rainwater harvesting industry
- Members include professionals, government, academia, manufacturers and suppliers of rainwater harvesting equipment, consultants, as well as backyard amateurs and other interested individuals.
- This grass-roots organization is on the leading edge of the rainwater harvesting industry.

# ARCSA Resource Guide

VISIT OUR NEW RESOURCE GUIDE

[Contact Us](#) | [Sign In](#) | [Join Now!](#)



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2015 RAINWATER  
HARVESTING MANUAL

CLICK HERE  
TO ORDER  
YOUR PRESALE  
COPY TODAY!

## The ARCSA Mission

The mission of The American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association is to promote sustainable rainwater harvesting practices to help solve potable, non-potable, stormwater and energy challenges throughout the world.

## Registration Now Open!

The Annual Conference, *Beyond the Garden*, registration is now open. [Click here](#) for registration, location, exhibits and sponsorship details.

SUPPORT ARCSA become a member today!

[JOIN ARCSA!](#)

REGISTER for the 2015 Annual Conference today!

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

DONATE NOW to help sponsor the new ARCSA Rainwater Harvesting Manual, find out more...

[DONATE NOW](#)

ARCSA Member's Resource Library with over 200 rainwater related entries ranging from agriculture to wildlife.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



2015 RAINWATER  
HARVESTING MANUAL

CLICK HERE  
TO ORDER  
YOUR PRESALE  
COPY TODAY!

# Staff Trainings & Meetings

The Edgewood SWCD Board is committed to ensuring staff has the most up-to-date information and trainings available that is beneficial to our landowners.

Some of those trainings this past year included:

- National Association of Conservation District (NACD) Annual Conference
- Think Trees Annual Conference
- NM Conservation District Employee Annual Meeting
- NM Soil & Water Conservation District Day at the Rotunda
- NM AgFest
- NMDA Supervisor Training

# **Staff Trainings & Meetings continued.....**

- Department of Finance Authority (DFA) Budget Conference
- Collaborative Forest Restoration Project (CFRP) Training
- Public Pesticide Certification Training
- NM State Forestry Contractor Training
- NEPA Policy Training
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Local Work Group
- NACD On-Line Webinars
- Chief Procurement Officer Certification
  - Brenda is now certified as the Edgewood SWCD Chief Procurement Officer in accordance to NM State Law.

# Community Garden

The Edgewood SWCD is working with Al Humble, Don Harvey, Moriarty High School, Torrance County Food Shed Project, and the Partnership for a Healthy Torrance County and Presbyterian Health Services on a new Community Garden which is located at Moriarty High School.

The Community Garden is in the early stages.



- The Moriarty High School currently has several students working on some raised garden beds.
- Additional funding is being sought.

# Community Garden Sponsors

Edgewood Soil and Water Conservation District

Hart's Hardware

Smith's Food & Drug

Walmart



# Land Use Plan

- Edgewood SWCD Land Use Plan is an executable policy for natural resource management and land use on the lands within the District and provides a scientifically and culturally sound framework for resource planning objectives.

Edgewood Soil and Water  
Conservation District



*Photo by Brian Resor  
SoarMoriarty.com*

LAND USE PLAN  
OFFICIAL USE

Adopted February 9, 2015

The Plan has been approved by the State of New Mexico, and has been filed with NM Archives.

# Partnerships

Edgewood SWCD is committed to our partners.

We have held several trainings and meetings in cooperation with neighboring Districts, state and federal partners, along with local organizations.

- NM Coalition of Conservation District's Annual Meeting
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program Meetings
- US Forest Service Landscape Meetings
- NM Department of Agriculture Elections Training
- Cooperative Weed Management Meeting

# USFS Cibola Forest Plan

## Revision

- The Edgewood SWCD signed a Cooperating Agency Agreement with the US Forest Service this year.
- Revisions to the Cibola's 1985 Forest Plan are overdue, and a lot has changed on the Forest and surrounding areas.
- The Cibola National Forest is committed to involving the public in a meaningful way to help develop a forest plan that will result in sustainable management.
- The Cibola is currently in Phase II of the Plan Revision process. At this time, we are seeking your comments on [forest-wide desired conditions](#) and [inventory and evaluation of lands that may be suitable for wilderness](#).
- Deadline for comments during this stage of the plan revision was September 25, 2015.
- Comments will be used to develop a draft proposed plan and a range of alternative plans.

# What is a Cooperating Agency?

- It is governmental agency, which have entered into a (MOU) memorandum of understanding with the US Forest Service.
- These cooperating agencies make up our local Landscape Teams.
- The purpose of the MOU is to document cooperation and to define the duties between these agencies and US Forest Service.
- **As a cooperating Agency we agreed to:**
  - Serve on an interdisciplinary team
  - Provide comments to the plan
  - Co-convene and help design the public engagement process
  - Provide USFS with all information related to our respective comprehensive plans in respect to natural resources, economy, and cultural and traditional land uses

# Public Meetings

The District Staff are members of both the Sandia and Mountainair Landscape Teams.

Brenda is the Point of Contact (POC) for the Sandia Team.

All four POCs for the Cibola National Forest Landscape Teams are affiliated with local Soil & Water Conservation Districts!

The following Public Meetings were held:

## **Sandia Landscape Team**

7/22/15 ~ Placitas ~ 50 Attendees

8/5/15 ~ Albuquerque ~ 120 Attendees

8/12/15 ~ Tijeras ~ 149 Attendees

## **Mountainair Landscape Team**

7/28/15 ~ Corona ~ 35 Attendees

8/6/15 ~ Mountainair ~ 20 Attendees

8/18/15 ~ Torreon ~ 55 Attendees

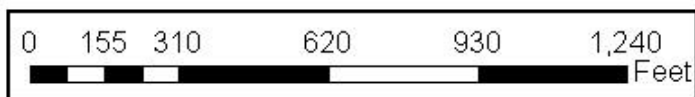
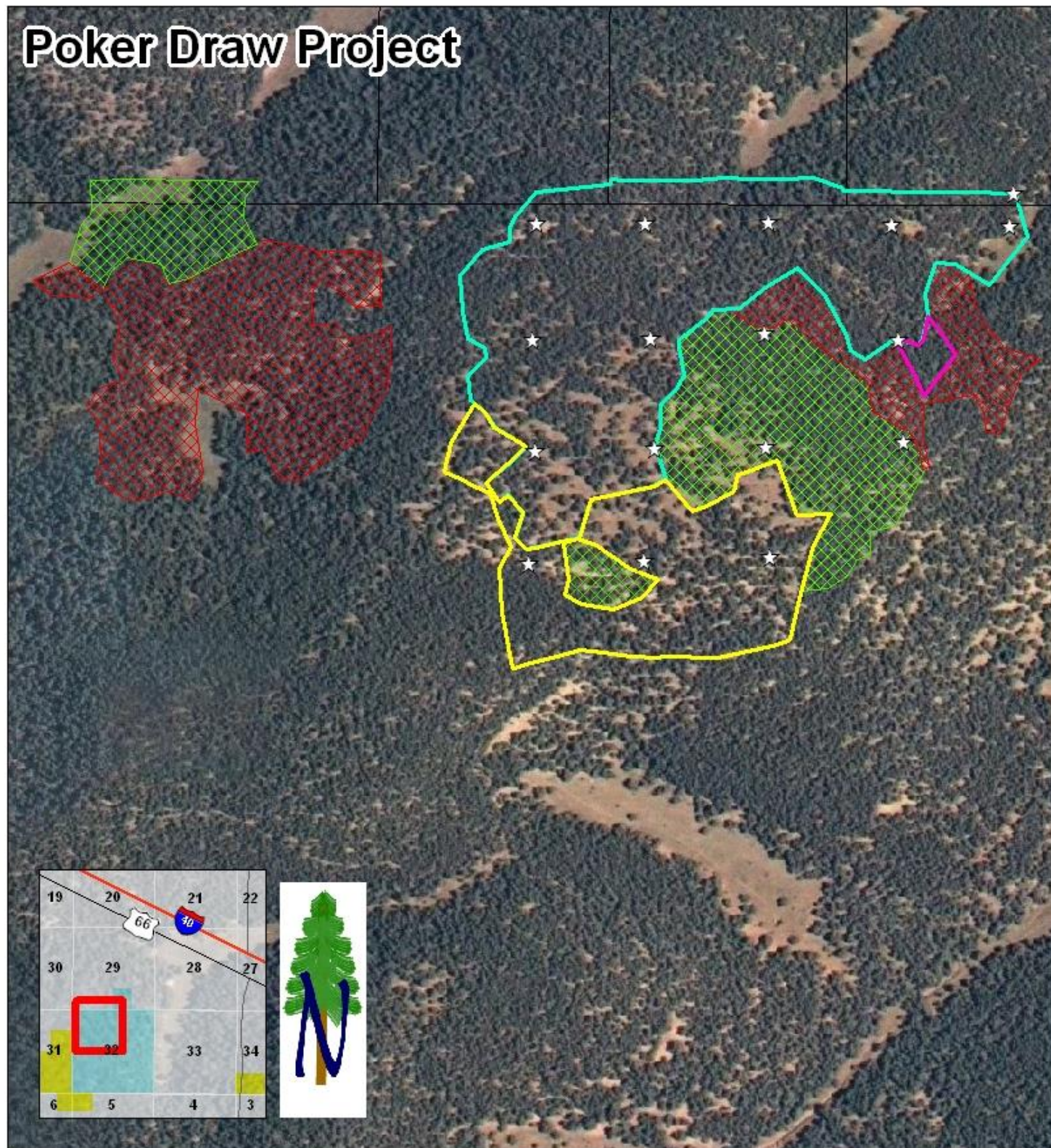
Public Comments from each meeting were gathered and submitted to US Forest Service.

# NM State Land Office

## Partnership Projects

- The District has been working together with the NM State Land Office on two hazardous fuels reduction projects.
- **Poker Draw Project**
- Located on Highway 333 & Barton Road
- A 3-phase mastication project beginning in 2012. The project was completed the end of 2014.
- A total of 116 Acres were treated.

# Poker Draw Project



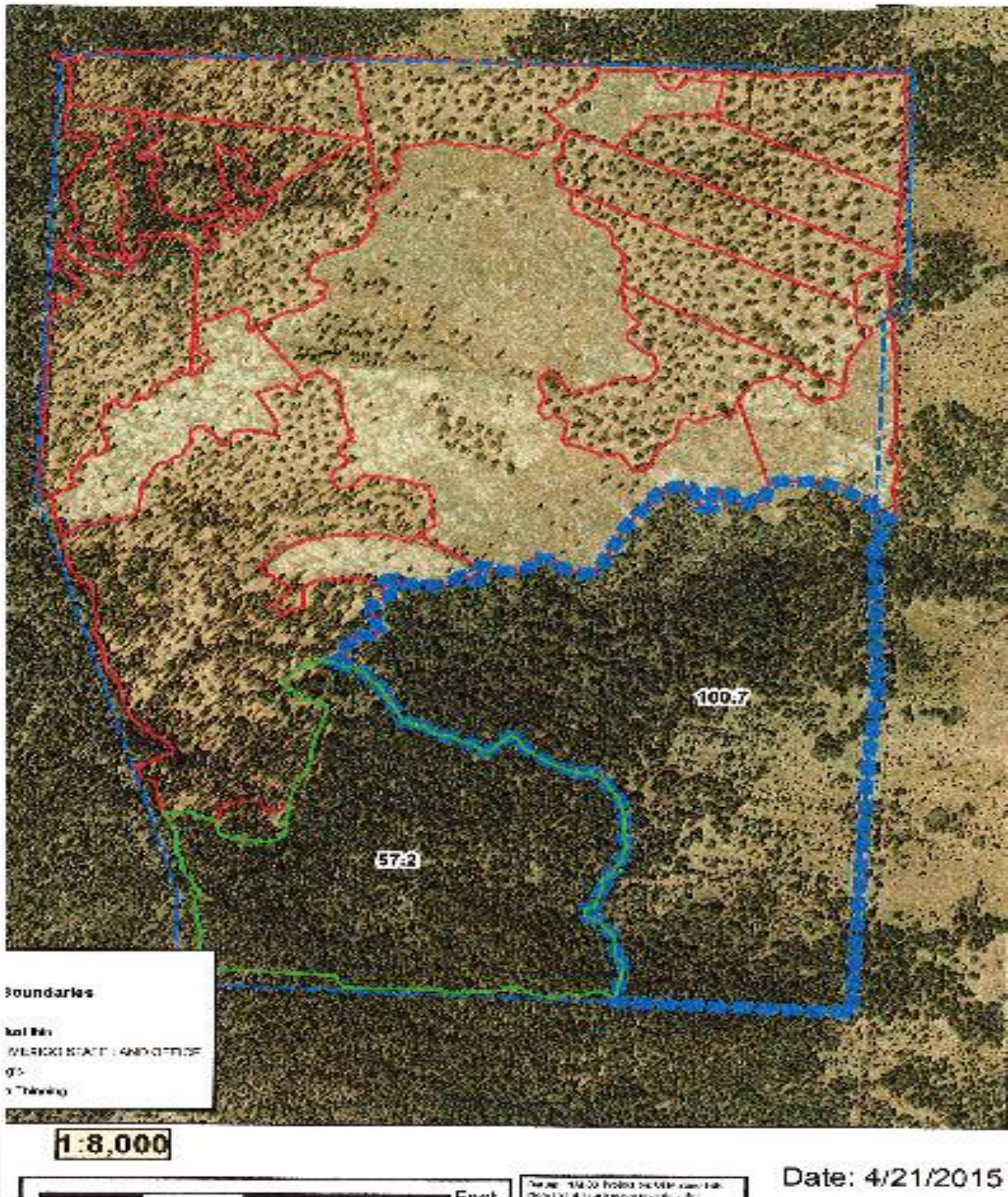
# NM State Land Office

## Partnership Projects

- **Escabosa Project**

- Located on S337, west of Escabosa on the eastern boundary of the Pueblo of Isleta.
- 57.2 acres were thinned in 2014, and the final 100 acres will be completed in the next few weeks.
- These are both large landscape thinning projects to improve watershed health and for fire mitigation.

# Escabosa Project



# David Canyon CFRP

## Collaborative Forest Restoration Project

Arid Land Innovation, LLC, was awarded \$360,000 to restore 625 acres of the Cibola National Forest Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) located in Bernalillo County, NM.

Key partners include:

- Arid Land Innovation
- Edgewood SWCD
- Ciudad SWCD
- US Forest Service
- SWCA Environmental Consultants
- Chilili Land Grant
- Pueblo of Isleta
- Forest Fitness

This CFRP is located at the southern end of the Sandia Ranger District, which borders the Pueblo of Isleta and the US Department of Defense.

The Key Role in this CFRP for the Edgewood SWCD is education.

# David Canyon CFRP Pre-Treatment



# David Canyon CFRP Post-Treatment



# **Doghead CFRP**

## **Collaborative Forest Restoration Project**

Edgewood SWCD was awarded a 2014 Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP) Grant for \$360,000 for the area known as the Doghead.

Key Partners include:

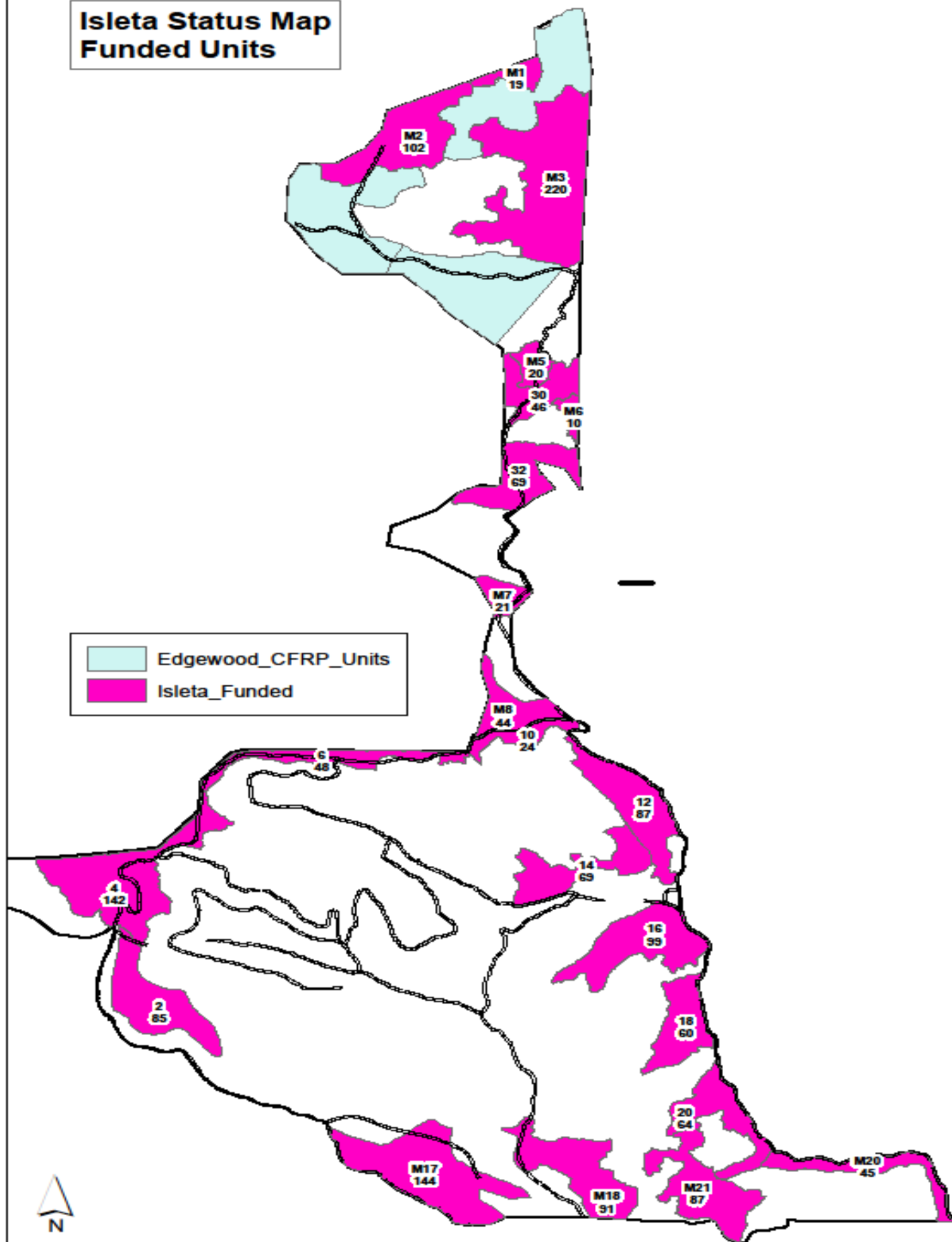
- US Forest Service
- Pueblo of Isleta
- Chilili Land Grant
- Edgewood SWCD
- Claunch-Pinto SWCD
- Forest Fitness
- SWCA Environmental Consultants
- Estrada Environmental Consultants

Edgewood SWCD serves as the fiscal agent.

This is a 3 year implementation grant which will include:

- Treatment of 414 acres on the Cibola National Forest
- Treatment of 441 acres on the Pueblo of Isleta adjacent to USFS

# Isleta Status Map Funded Units

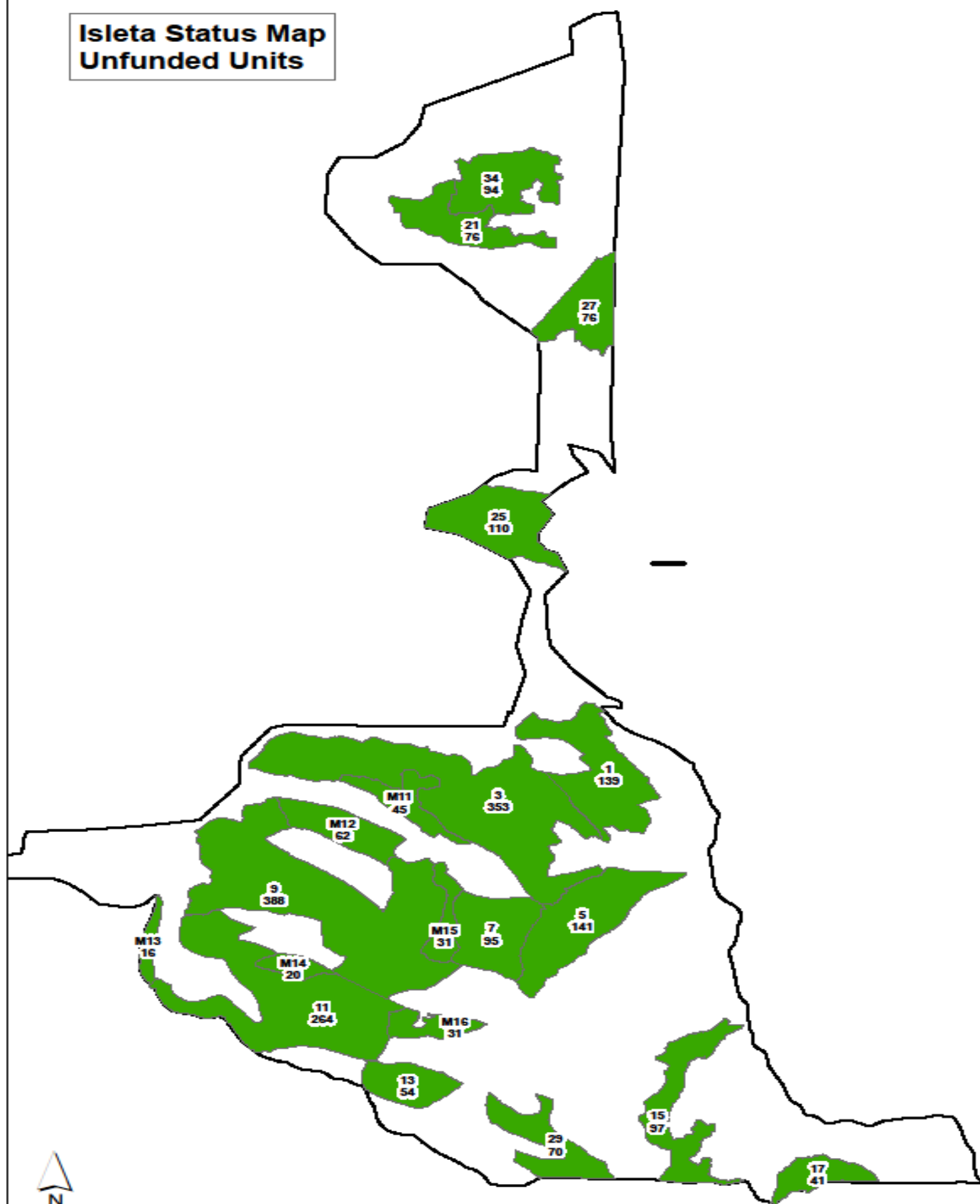


Scale 1:40000

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

Map by Aaron Johnson  
10/8/2014

# Isleta Status Map Unfunded Units



Scale 1:40000

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

Map by Aaron Johnson  
9/17/2014

# Joint Chiefs Award

The US Forest Service Chief together with the Natural Resources Conservation Service Chief funded the **“Isleta Project on the Sandia and Mountainair Ranger Districts”** was selected as out of 40 Nationwide!

This project will fund restoration treatment on 10,420 acres within the Cibola National Forest, Pueblo of Isleta and Chilili Land Grant

This year US Forest Service was awarded \$800,000 and Natural Resource Conservation Service was awarded \$600,000.

Work has begun on the Pueblo of Isleta.

## **Partners Include:**

- US Forest Service
- Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Pueblo of Isleta
- Chilili Land Grant
- Edgewood SWCD
- Claunch-Pinto SWCD
- New Mexico State Forestry
- Private Businesses
- Grazing Permittees
- Private Landowners

# Outreach

- Web Site
- Facebook
- Partnerships with:
  - Chilili Land Grant
  - Pueblo of Isleta
  - US Forest Service
  - NM State Forestry
  - Natural Resources Conservation Service
  - Moriarty High School
  - NM State Land Office
  - Neighboring Districts
  - Bi-Monthly E-Newsletters
  - Information Pamphlets
  - Newspaper Articles
  - Newspaper Advertisements

# Committees

- Estancia Basin Watershed Restoration & Monitoring
- Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance
- New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts
- East Mountain EMIFPA
- NM Water Fund
- Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments
- Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance
- Torrance County Wildfire Protection Committee
- Santa Fe County Wildfire Protection Committee
- Collaborative Forest Restoration Program – David Canyon
- Collaborative Forest Restoration Program – Doghead
- Isleta Project (Sandia & Mountainair Ranger Districts)
- RCPP Technical Committee
- Sandia Landscape Team (USFS)
- Mountainair Landscape Team (USFS)

# Project Funding

## **2014-2015 Funding**

\$121,155 WTB Funding

\$360,000 USFS Collaborative Forest Restoration  
Program Funding (3 year phase)

## **Previous Funding Amounts & Sources**

\$200,000 Legislative funding (Building & Equipment)

\$450,000 NM Finance Authority (Building)

\$65,071 NM State Forestry Special Funding

\$15,000 NM State Forestry Funding

\$41,475 SWCC Grant Funding

\$86,343 Youth Conservation Corps Funding

\$140,000 WTB Special Funding

\$860,332 WTB Funding

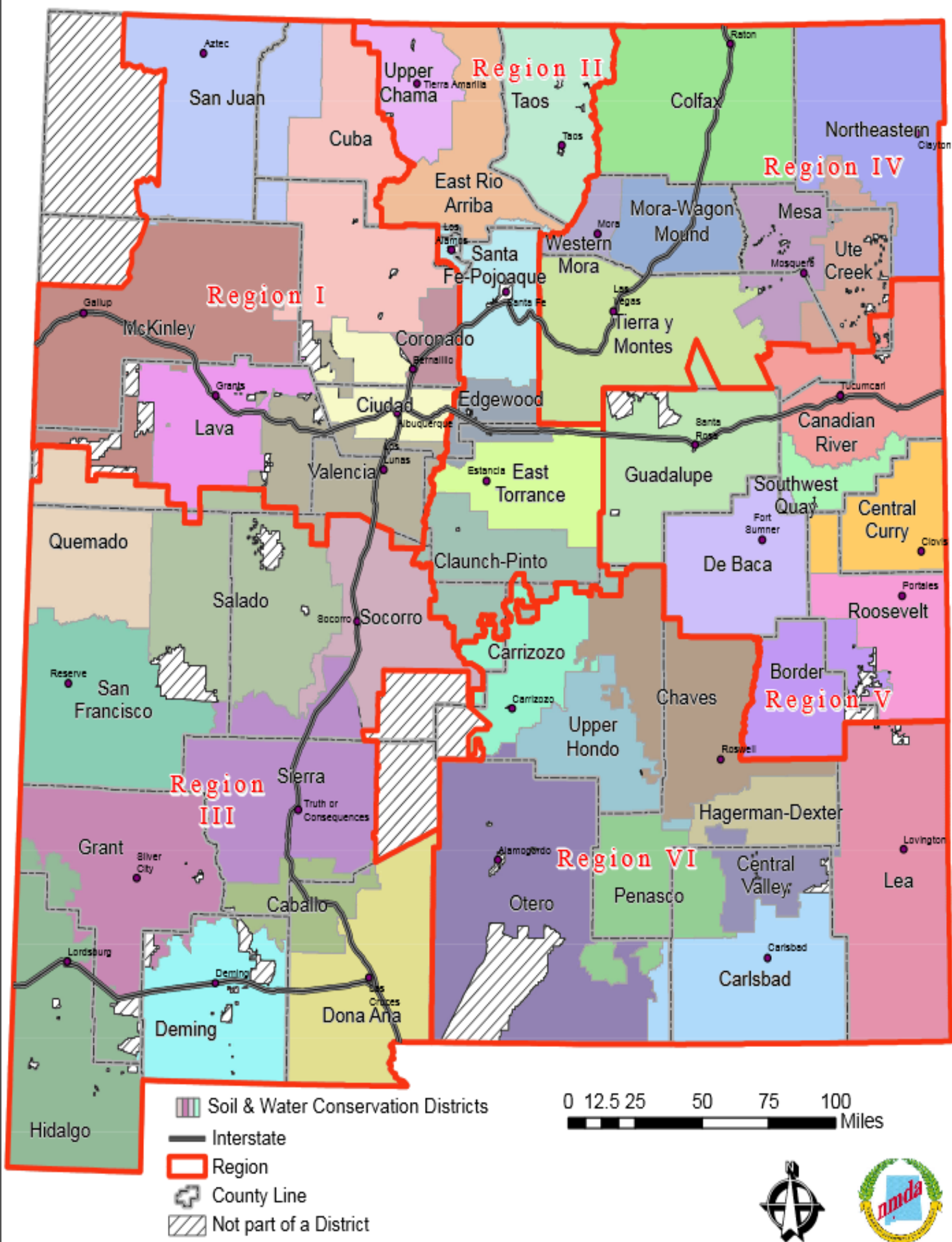
\$110,000 Wild-land Urban Interface Funding

\$5,833 NM State Forestry Funding

\$1700 Presbyterian Health Services (Garden)

**Since 2005 staff has  
acquired  
\$2,456,910  
of federal, state and  
private foundation  
funding that directly  
benefits you!**

# New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation Districts



**There are 48  
Districts in NM.**

**Edgewood SWCD  
ranks in the Top 8  
for on-the-ground  
funding ~ and in  
the Top 2 for cost-  
share assistance  
directly to our  
landowners!**

**On behalf of the  
Edgewood SWCD Board of  
Supervisors & Staff**

**Thank you  
for your continued  
support and participation  
in our programs.**

**We are here not only as  
public servants, but as  
your friend.**

**We hope you feel  
welcome and at home  
when you are here!**

A person in a grey hoodie stands on a balcony with a metal railing, looking out over a vast, dense green forest. The scene is captured from a slightly elevated angle, showing the person's back and the railing. The forest fills the background, with various shades of green and some bare branches visible in the foreground.

“Working hard  
for something we  
don't care about  
is called stress;  
working hard for  
something we love  
is called passion.”

**Simon Sinek**