


Edgewood Soil & Water Conservation District

**Celebrating
75 Years
of
Conservation**

October 7, 2016

Formation of Conservation Districts


- In the early 1930s, along with the world-wide economic down fall of the Great Depression, came an equally unparalleled disaster known as The Dust Bowl.
 - This disaster was caused by years of drought, over-cultivated farmlands and wind.
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- The federal government paid farmers to plow under fields and butcher livestock.
 - As part of Roosevelt's New Deal, the federal government purchased starving livestock for at least \$1 a head.

Livestock healthy enough to be butchered could fetch as much as \$16 a head, with the meat used to feed homeless people living in Hooverville.

The Dust Bowl





Although the Dust Bowl affected the entire Midwest, the worst of it was concentrated in the Oklahoma panhandle. It also severely affected the northern two-thirds of the Texas Panhandle, the northeastern part of New Mexico, most of southeastern Colorado, and the western third of Kansas.



It covered nearly 100 million acres in an area that was 500 miles by 300 miles.

By 1934, the droughts covered 75% of the country, severely affecting 27 states.

(Source: [The Dust Bowl](#), National Drought Mitigation Center, [The Drought](#), PBS.org.)

<http://www.history.com/topics/dust-bowl/videos/america-black-blizzard>

- The Soil Conservation Service, (SCS) established in 1935, now known as the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) paid farmers to leave fields idle, employ land management techniques such as crop rotation and replant native prairie grasses.
 - The federal government also bought more than 10 million acres and converted them to grasslands, some managed today by the U.S. Forest Service.
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■ **SWCD Role.....**

- In 1933, the U.S. Department of Interior set up a Soil Erosion Service to conduct a nation-wide demonstration program of soil erosion, with Scientist, Hugh Hammond Bennett as it's head.
 - In 1937, President Roosevelt wrote the governors of all states recommending legislation that would allow local landowners to form soil conservation districts.
 - The first Conservation District in New Mexico was formed in 1938.
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SWCDs.....

- Dr. Bennett visualized that if the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) was to be effective, it must have grass-roots support.
 - He laid the foundation for the establishment of the local soil and water conservation districts with locally elected officials to guide the program.
 - Currently there are over 3000 districts in the United States.
 - 48 in New Mexico
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Organization of Edgewood SWCD

- 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.
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STATE OF NEW MEXICO

Office of
THE SECRETARY OF STATE

CERTIFICATE

I, Mrs. Jessie M. Gonzales, Secretary of State of the State of New Mexico, do hereby certify that,

WHEREAS, E. L. Mitchell and W. T. Clark, supervisors of the Edgewood Soil Conservation District, have presented to this office an application, in the form required by law, for a certificate of organization of the Edgewood soil conservation district; and

WHEREAS, the said application was accompanied by a statement, from the State Soil Conservation Committee, in the form required by law; and

WHEREAS, the name proposed for the said district is not identical with that of any other soil conservation district of this State, or so nearly similar as to lead to confusion or uncertainty; and

WHEREAS, the said application and statement have been made, filed and recorded in this office as required by law;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby certified that the Edgewood soil conservation district has been duly organized as a governmental subdivision of this State and a public body corporate and politic.

(SEAL OF STATE OF
NEW MEXICO.)

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Mexico, at the City of Santa Fe, the Capital on this 27th day of September, A.D. 1941.

/s/ Jessie M. Gonzales
Secretary of State

It is certified that this is a true copy of the original.

D. H. Harrison

Past Board Members

W. T. Clark / Herman Dinkle
Paul Simmons / C. W. Dunn
Thomas Godec / R. A. Mc Fall
Tom Horton / E. L. Mitchell
L. G. Ellett / Ernest Hawkins
R. F. Cooper / Elmer Bassett
E. C. Fullingin / E.C. Bassett
Sam King, Sr. / James Chaney
Eugene Foster / Bruce King
Dan Sowle / Carl Bassett
Vern Wood / Richard Tudor
Jim Rea / Frances Bassett
Judy Boutte / Patricia Ayre
Josephine Bassett / Leo Smith

1940s

With the Wind Erosion problems Contour Strip Cropping ~ crops are arranged in strips or bands on the contour at right angles to the natural slope of the land was done in the District on areas where wind erosion may be as serious as water erosion.

-Wind Strip Cropping: strips are uniform in width; usually straight and plowed out across the direction of the prevailing winds.

slope

contour



1940s

In 1946, the first Forestry Agreement with the Chilili Land Grant was signed for grazing and woodland management.



1950s & 1960s

Main funding source to the Edgewood District was drawn from equipment rentals such as Grass Seed Drill, Whirlwind Terracer, Pull Grader, Tractor and Dozer to local cooperators.



**To restore the dryland farms,
terracing was installed and
followed by reseeding of native
grasses.**

1970s – 1980s
The Edgewood District
signed their first
Agreement with NM
State Land Office.
An agreement we still
have in place!



1970s – 1980s

**Farmers in Torrance &
Santa Fe counties use
center pivot irrigation.**

**Low Energy Precision
Application (LEPA)**

**drops are used with drag
hoses or bubblers that
deposit the water directly
on the ground between
crops, which saves water.**




Low Energy Precision Application (LEPA)

The 1990s – Early 2000s

**The District began
Sub-Division Reviews,
and began their activity
on the Estancia Basin
Water Planning
Committee.**





**In early 2004, the
Edgewood SWCD
began their Cost-Share
Assistance Program.**


**To date, the District has
funded \$600,000
in landowner
conservation projects**



2016

When Soil & Water Conservation Districts were first established in the Dust Bowl era, they mostly worked with farmers, ranchers, and forest owners.

But landscapes have changed, and become more urbanized and districts have adapted.



Close to 70 percent of the nation's Soil & Water Conservation districts are involved in some form of urban and/or community conservation.

Today, the Edgewood District is assisting local land managers with such measures as tree planting, invasive species management, and rain-water harvesting.

2016

Edgewood SWCD Programs

- **Cost-Share
Assistance Program**
 - **Estancia Basin Watershed
Health, Restoration &
Monitoring Project**
 - **Dog Head (CFRP)
Collaborative Forest
Restoration Project**
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2016

Edgewood SWCD Programs

- **Tree & Shrub Sales**
 - **Native Grass & Wildflower Sales**
 - **Dog Head
Fire Restoration Project**
 - **Assisting the US Forest
Service with the Cibola's
1985 Forest Plan
Revision**
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Noxious Weed Management Program



Russian Knapweed

Water Harvesting



3000' Gallon Rain Water Harvesting Units



1600' Gallon Gravity-Fed Rainwater Harvesting Units



06/29/2016

Erosion Control & Native Grass Re-seed



Erosion Control Structure



Irrigation Pipeline



Estancia Basin Watershed Health, Restoration & Monitoring Project



After Thinning



Before.....



Private Land Fuel Break to National Forest Boundary for Firefighting Access



**Edgewood Soil and Water
Conservation District**



*Photo by Brian Resor
SoarMoriarty.com*


**LAND USE PLAN
OFFICIAL USE**

Adopted February 9, 2015

The District's Land Use Plan has been approved by the State of New Mexico and has been filed with New Mexico Archives.



**The American
Rainwater Catchment
Systems Association
(ARCSEA) was created to
promote sustainable
rainwater harvesting
practices throughout the
United States and the
world.**



**The Edgewood SWCD
remains the only Soil &
Water Conservation
District in the state of
New Mexico to have
staff that are Rainwater
Catchment Systems
Accredited Professionals,
which they received in
2009.**

Kelly Smith & Brenda Smythe hold Public Pesticide Applicators Licensing.



The District also has a secure pesticide storage facility that is certified by the NM Department of Ag.

Current 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

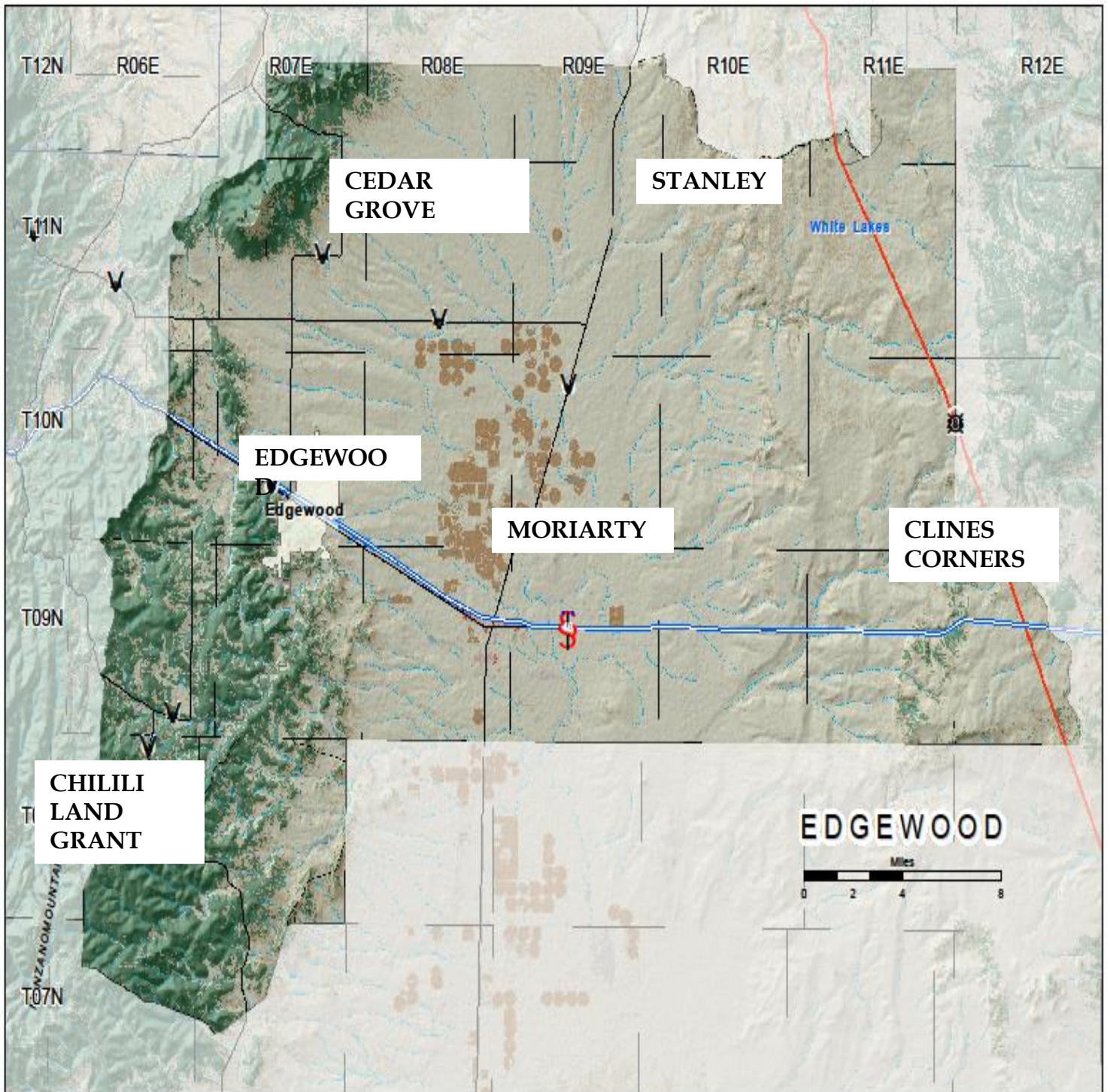
Meeting Information

First Thursday of every month at 10:00 AM

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





Project Funding

2015-2016 Grant Funding

\$6,000

Dog Head Rehabilitation

\$85,000

WTB Funding

\$161,867

**USFS Collaborative Forest
Restoration Program Funding
(Year 2)**



Project Funding

2016-2017

Grant Funding to date

\$42,826

**NM Homeland Security
Disaster Assistance**

\$270,952.50

**Emergency Watershed
Protection Funding**

\$150,000

**NM Board of Finance
Emergency Funding Grant**

**Since 2005 staff has
acquired
\$ 2,727,056.50
of federal, state and
private foundation
funding that
directly benefit
landowners in the
Edgewood SWCD.**
