

Report to New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation Districts

*New Mexico Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Programs and Resources
Division*

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<https://nmdeptag.nmsu.edu/apr/soil-and-water-districts.html>

April 2024

March 1 – May 3	Land of Enchantment Fund grant application period
April	Pass annual mill levy rate resolution and submit to the SWCC for approval.
April	Submit Appointed Supervisor recommendations to the SWCC
April 5	2024 Water Quality & Conservation Grant proposals due
April 30	WQ&C grant 3rd quarterly report and budget due to SWCC and NMDA Specialist
April 30	SWCD's 3rd quarterly budget report due to DFA-LGD (cc: SWCC, SWCC Region Commissioner, and NMDA Specialist)
May 15th or July 1st	Independent Public Accountant (IPA) Recommendation Form and the Agreed Upon Procedures (AUP) contract must be signed and submitted to the State Auditor. This applies to Tiers 3-7.
June	Finalize annual work plan for coming fiscal year and submit to the SWCC.
June 1	Budget and budget resolution for the coming fiscal year due to DFA-LGD by June 1st, (cc: SWCC and SWCC Region Commissioner). Option: submit preliminary budget by June 1st; final budget with budget resolution by July 31st.
July 15	Point System Worksheet due to SWCC and NMDA Specialist

OMA Notification Requirements

Remember that if you have to hold a district board meeting at a date, time or location that deviates from the information you advertised in your Open Meetings Act resolution, you must advertise it accordingly. Here are the guidelines:

Regular Meeting – 10 Days Prior

Special Meeting – 3 Days Prior

Emergency Meeting – 24 Hours Prior

1. Land of Enchantment Fund-LOE

The Land of Enchantment application is now open to SWCDs to apply! The application period opened Friday, March 1st and will close noon on Friday, May 3rd. For more information, please see the attached PDF on the Land of Enchantment application and funding opportunities. To apply, please visit: <https://grants.nmda.nmsu.edu>.

2. Mill Levy Rate Resolutions and Appointed Supervisor Nominations

Please submit your Mill Levy Rate Resolutions and Appointed Supervisor Nominations to the SWCC by June 1st. Appointed Supervisor nominations should be submitted for **each** supervisor in positions 6 and 7. Attached is the Appointed Supervisor Form, to be filled out for both Appointed Supervisor positions and submitted to the SWCC.

3. NMDA's Healthy Soil Program grants: Register for March 5 webinars; apply for a grant by April 26

Between February 23 and April 26, NMDA will accept Healthy Soil Program grant applications from SWCDs and other Eligible Entities, as well as from Individual Applicants whose projects are sponsored by their SWCD or tribal government. Projects submitted for funding consideration must address 1+ identified [soil health-related resource concerns](#) by implementing 1+ of the 5 soil health principles. Project activities cannot start earlier than August 1, 2024 or end later than May 24, 2025.

Eligible Entities: Register to attend the March 5, 2024 (1:30 to 3 p.m.) outreach webinar for Eligible Entities: <http://tinyurl.com/2f6u7vrj>. NMDA will walk through the application and supplemental documents, as well as answer related questions. Learn more about the application process for Eligible Entities: <https://nmdeptag.nmsu.edu/hsp/requirements-for-eligible-entities.html>

Individual Applicants: Register to attend the March 5, 2024 (5:30 to 7 p.m.) outreach webinar for Individual Applicants and their Project Sponsors (SWCDs and tribal governments): <http://tinyurl.com/3n9r4nnj>. NMDA will walk through the application and supplemental documents, as well as answer related questions. Individual Applicants have until March 22 at 5 p.m. Mountain Time to complete conservation planning with NRCS. Learn more about the application process for Individual Applicants: <https://nmdeptag.nmsu.edu/hsp/requirements-for-individual-applicants.html>

Stay informed about NMDA's Healthy Soil Program by subscribing to **our weekly Healthy Soil Program e-newsletter** using the form at the bottom of the program's website: <https://nmdeptag.nmsu.edu/healthy-soil-program.html>.

4. 2024 Water Quality & Conservation Grant

The New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC) annually receive a legislative appropriation from the State of New Mexico to be used for special projects relating to water quality and conservation. These funds are awarded by the SWCC through the Water Quality and Conservation (WQ&C) Grant Program. The goal of the grant program is to promote the health of New Mexico's watersheds and conserve the water resources they produce. A limited number of projects addressing one or more of the following areas will be funded over the next fiscal year:

1. Watershed Improvement/Management
2. Irrigation Efficiency
3. Riparian Restoration

4. Natural Resource Information and Education
5. Ground Water Protection/Conservation
6. Noxious Weeds

The RFP for the WQ&C grant was sent out to all SWCDs the beginning of February. All proposals are due **Friday, April 5th by 5:00 pm**. The proposal needs to be in **Microsoft Word formatted** version and emailed to: swcc@nmda.nmsu.edu. Faxed copies will not be accepted.

5. NMDA Seeking Feedback from each SWCD on who has GIS mapping

Specifically, we want to know if any SWCDs have GIS mapping for noxious weeds. If the district has noxious weed mapping of their area, or are in the process of developing one, please email Max Henkels at: mhenkels@nmda.nmsu.edu, so that the map can be incorporated into our statewide noxious weed map we'll be developing.

6. NM Association of Conservation District Employees Enrollment

Please see the attached NMACDE enrollment brochure for more information on the organization and how your district can benefit. If your district is new to NMACDE or needs to renew membership, please fill out the attached brochure and return it to Brenda Smythe.

7. NM Department of Finance and Administration LGBMS Training

The Department of Finance and Administration will be holding a **virtual training Thursday, April 25th, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** The invitation for the training will be emailed two weeks prior to the training. If your SWCD is interested in attending, **email your assigned analyst with your current email address and contact number to ensure you receive the training invitation, and the analyst can reach out.**

Attached is a copy of the Budget Preparation Submission Guidelines with the upcoming budget deadlines, that was emailed to the Special Districts.

In the meantime, please contact your assigned analyst for any assistance. Analysts can provide SWCDs assistance virtually or by phone. Please see the Special District Analyst contact information below.

1. **Theresa Perraglio-theresad.perraglio@dfa.nm.gov 505-269-6011**
2. **Jeanell Sanchez-jeanell.sanchez@dfa.nm.gov 505-477-1151**

The following are additional trainings that are helpful in navigating LGBMS:

1. LGBMS handbook; it is a friendly user guide. (attached)
2. YouTube recorded video trainings on our website at the following link:
<https://www.nmdfa.state.nm.us/local-government/budget-finance-bureau/>;
Scroll down the page to the Special District trainings

8. Review 2024 state legislation enacted by Gov. Lujan-Grisham

If you're interested to learn which bills passed by the 2024 New Mexico Legislature were enacted by Gov. Michelle Lujan-Grisham, please visit <https://www.governor.state.nm.us/about-the-governor/signed-legislation/>. Once there, you'll see bills listed in order of when the Governor signed them into law, from least to most recently.

Clicking on one of the bills listed under "2024 Signed Legislation" will take you to the corresponding page on the New Mexico Legislature's website (www.nmlegis.gov). Once on the legislative website, look for a gray button with the text "**Final Version**"; this represents what the Governor actually signed into law. Avoid clicking on other gray buttons (such as those that say "Introduced (PDF)" and "Introduced (HTML)"), as those versions are outdated and, thus, could be vastly different from what is now state law.

NMDA offers this annotated screenshot of a randomly selected bill to help guide you:



9. SWCD Zoning

Districts who might be considering zoning their SWCD, please see the relevant section of the District Act, linked below. If you have any questions, please contact your SWCD specialist.

[73-20-39. Election of supervisors; district zones.](#)

In adopting and publishing rules for the election of supervisors and the registration of district voters, the commission may, to ensure proper representation of district voters and to facilitate district functions, provide for the geographic zoning of a district. The commission shall

provide for the proper and equitable representation for each faction geographically zoned in the district. If a district is divided, or if two or more districts are consolidated, the commission shall provide for the geographic zoning of the resulting district or districts within thirty days after the secretary of state issues the certificate of organization for each new district.

History: 1953 Comp., § 45-5-54, enacted by Laws 1965, ch. 137, § 13; 1973, ch. 324, § 8; 1977, ch. 254, § 69; [2003, ch. 88, § 12](#).

ANNOTATIONS

The 2003 amendment, effective June 20, 2003, deleted "district" from the section heading; substituted "publishing" for "promulgating" near the beginning of the section, deleted "district" following "election of" near the beginning of the section and substituted "voters" for "landowners" near the middle of the section.

Election of soil and water conservation district's board of supervisors must comply with principle of "one person, one vote". — Where petitioner filed a petition for writ of mandamus in the district court objecting to the adoption of geographic voting zones with significantly unequal population for the election of the Dona Ana County Soil and Water Conservation District's board of supervisors, arguing that the voting zones, as drawn, violated the United States Constitution's "one person, one vote" requirement, diluting the voting power of petitioner and the other residents of the zone that includes the City of Las Cruces, and where the district court found that the soil and water conservation commission's approval of the voting zones was not authorized by the legislature, was inconsistent with the commission's statutory duty under [73-20-39](#) NMSA 1978 of the New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation District Act to ensure proper and equitable representation of district voters, and was in violation of the "one person, one vote" mandate of the United States Constitution, the district court did not err in granting the petition for writ of mandamus, because the inequality in population of the zones conflicted with both [73-20-39](#) NMSA 1978 and with the equal protection clause of the United States Constitution. *Price v. N.M. Soil & Water Conservation Comm'n*, [2023-NMCA-011](#).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — 94 C.J.S. Waters § 320.

10. Reminder to Renew Chief Procurement Officer Certificate every Two Years

Your CPO Certification expires EVERY two years and it is your responsibility to renew your certificate. Please take time to add this to your calendar and other devices to help remind you.

Per NM EDGE

- Chief Procurement Officers are required to re-certify ("per § 13-1-95.2 (D) NMSA 1978") every and within 2 years (based on the month of initial certification).
- It is the responsibility of the CPO to re-certify before their current certification lapses.
- NM EDGE offers Foundation and Recertification classes every quarter.

For more information and to register for classes, visit: <https://nmedge.nmsu.edu/public.html>

The items below might be of interest to SWCDs. These items were retrieved from various sources outside of NMDA.

11.NMSU Extension Hosts NM Youth Ranch Management Camp

The 2024 New Mexico Youth Ranch Camp will be held June 9-14. This year the camp will be held at the CS Ranch near Cimarron, NM.

The camp, designed for New Mexico youth ages 15-19, is an effort to reverse the aging trend in ranching. Nationally, the average age in the ranching community continues to increase as more young people are opting to leave the ranch for careers outside of production agriculture. As a result, the fabric of rural economies, as well as ranching tradition and cultures, are in jeopardy. In a rural state like New Mexico, the situation has significant implications.

For more information or to apply visit: <http://nmyrm.nmsu.edu> . If application is accepted, there is a \$400 camp fee.

12. Office of Agriculture and Rural Affairs

The new Office of Agriculture and Rural Affairs will be led by Rod Snyder, who has served as Administrator Regan's Senior Advisor for Agriculture since October 2021. The new office will expand on the work of the Ag Advisor and increase coordination with a network of existing agriculture policy advisors located in all ten EPA regional offices across the country.

In close coordination with EPA's program offices and regions, the office will forge practical, science-based solutions that protect the environment while ensuring a vibrant and productive agricultural system. In support of the Biden-Harris Administration's Rural Partners Network, the new office will also collaborate with small, underserved towns and rural communities that are seeking federal investments in infrastructure upgrades and other community improvement opportunities.

Additionally, the new office will facilitate closer coordination with relevant federal and state partners such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and state departments of agriculture. The office will also house EPA's existing Farm, Ranch and Rural Communities Federal Advisory Committee (FRRCC). The Committee provides independent policy recommendations to Administrator Regan on a range of policies that impact agriculture and rural communities.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-launches-new-office-strengthen-engagement-agricultural-and-rural-communities>

13. Information on NM's 50 Year Water Action Plan

On January 30, 2024, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham unveiled a water action plan at the State Capitol with the goal of ensuring New Mexicans will have access to clean water for the next five decades.

As one of the driest states in the west, New Mexico is no stranger to drought. Almost three-fourths of the state is currently experiencing severe to exceptional drought conditions. In 50 years, water experts predict the state will have 25 percent less water to use. Without decisive action, New Mexicans would have to dramatically adjust their way of life to adjust to a bleak water reality.

Understanding this fact, the Lujan Grisham administration — with the help of leading scientists, hydrologists, geologists, and researchers — created a 50-Year Water Action Plan to safeguard the state’s most precious resource for future generations.

Key provisions of the 50-Year Water Plan include:

- A water education campaign to reduce community water consumption by 10%.
- Expanding water conservation by incentivizing modern irrigation technology to reduce agricultural water use by 20%.
- Deploying cutting-edge technology to complete a statewide water loss inventory.
- Creating billions of gallons of new water for use for clean energy manufacturing via the Strategic Water Supply.
- A new surface water discharge permitting program to keep rivers, streams, and lakes clean.
- Investing in reforestation and managing forests to protect water supplies and reduce the threat of wildfires.

The full plan can be accessed here: <https://www.nm.gov/water-security-in-new-mexico/>

14. NM Mexico Forestry Division Spring 2024 Conservation Seedling Sale

Ordering for seedlings from the NM Forestry Division Conservation seedling program for Spring 2024 begins December 4, 2023, and orders will be accepted through April 19, 2024. Distribution of seedlings begins March 11, 2024, and ends on April 26, 2024.

You may order on-line at: <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/seedlings/>. The cost of seedlings is \$90.00 per 49 small container seedlings, \$64.00 per 50 bareroot seedlings. Also available: Rocky Mountain juniper available in 16 cubic inch containers for \$57.00 per 20 seedlings and Prairie Sky poplar available in 40 cubic inch containers for \$90.00 per 20 seedlings. Please note there is a \$5.00 handling fee per order and for each lot of seedlings ordered that are shipped UPS there is a \$20.00 shipping fee.

15. Certified Burn Manager Training from New Mexico Forest Division now available online

New Mexico Forestry Division’s free Certified Burn Manager Training online nine-element training is now live and available on our Canvas platform at

<https://nmforestryrx.instructure.com/login/canvas>. You also can find the link to this training on the New Mexico Forestry Division website at <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/prescribed-burning/>. This training is one of the key elements to becoming a certified burn manager and one or all elements of the nine-element training are mandatory to be a certified burn manager whether seeking pile burn certification or broadcast burn certification. All users will need to create an account on the Canvas platform in order successfully enroll into the nine-element training whether you are seeking pile burn certification or broadcast burn certification. This training is self-paced, and all interested are highly encouraged to enroll. If you encounter any technical or content issues, please contact coordinator Brian Filip at Brian.Filip@emnrd.nm.gov or by cell phone (505) 470-2210. New Mexico Forestry Division highly encourages you to spread this information to all individuals interested in participating in the Certified Manager Program.

16. NM Fire Information: Stay Informed about Fires & Post-Fire Recovery Efforts

New Mexico Fire Information (<https://nmfireinfo.com/information/>) is an interagency effort by federal and state agencies in New Mexico to provide timely, accurate, fire and restriction information for the entire state. The agencies that support the site are the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, State of New Mexico, and U.S. Forest Service. The site is updated as often as new information is available from the Southwest Coordination Center, individual forests, national parks, state lands, tribal lands and BLM offices. The aim is to provide one website where the best available information and links related to wildfire and restrictions can be accessed.

17. Assistance Programs posted on NMDA's Website

NMDA has compiled a list of all state and federal assistance programs available. Please look over these assistance programs and feel free to pass along any of this information that might be beneficial to individuals or groups within your SWCD.

Please visit: <https://nmdeptag.nmsu.edu/assistance-programs.html>

LEGACY FUNDING: LAND OF ENCHANTMENT FUND

WHAT IS IT, WHO CAN APPLY, AND WHEN/HOW TO APPLY FOR FUNDING

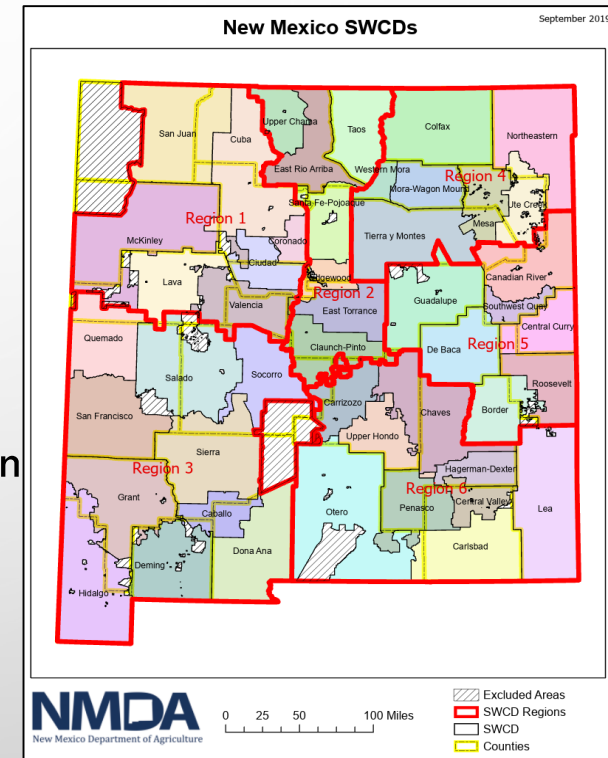
BY: **NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Agricultural Programs & Resources Division

Soil & Water Conservation District Staff

Welcome and Housekeeping

- The intended audience for this presentation is Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) and Watershed Districts (WDs)
 - Individuals can not apply for this funding
- Please mute your microphone and keep your video off until the end of the presentation to save bandwidth
- These slides will be sent out to the SWCDs after this presentation
- Please enter questions into the chat
 - Questions will be answered at the end



What will be Covered in this Presentation?

- This presentation will go over:
 - budget considerations
 - guidelines and other considerations
 - submission of proposals
 - the review, selection, and notification process
 - requirements for project implementation
 - different types of funding pools available

NM Land of Enchantment Funding Zoom Work Sessions

- Ray Ledgerwood will conduct the workshops to facilitate development of project ideas for SWCDs or WDs.
- Each SWCD will develop a rough draft of projects to submit to NMDA for the NM Land of Enchantment funding.
- Meetings will be held via Zoom by each district's respective region. If a SWCD or WD's Board and staff are unable to attend their own region's meeting, they will be able to attend the other Zoom Work Sessions.
- Districts are encouraged to have all Board members and staff present together in one room to work on project ideas for the Zoom work sessions. It is advised to post a notice of a possible quorum.



NM Land of Enchantment Zoom Sessions Links

- Region I work session will be held Monday, March 11, from 8 am – noon:
 - <https://nmsu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMvdu2rpjkgG9E3pxxO7FEM4Wq03rpBsN-J>
- Region II work session will be held Tuesday, March 12, from 8 am - noon:
 - https://nmsu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYkduyorTkoG9NoM_xRMrAmzrqb49_SqRHca
- Region III work session will be held on Wednesday, March 13, from 8 am - noon:
 - https://nmsu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYkcuypzgpHtAnoK7rNs9NvTeDFZ_zNEVw
- Region IV work session will be held on Tuesday, March 19 from 8 am - noon:
 - <https://nmsu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUqd-6vrzkrHt0GJXHr-Uj9yBtE-Vem4pNa>
- Region V work session will be held on Wednesday, March 20 from 8 am - noon:
 - https://nmsu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0ldemspzkrHNObrUx_oNeRQHUEPA_WJG1
- Region VI work session will be held on Thursday, March 21 from 8 am - noon:
 - https://nmsu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAqcuugrzkuG9SyiMbiZrF-2D_aWzVa6z_M



Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund (LOE fund): Background Information

- LOE was created as a part of a permanent fund
 - For several state agencies
 - Senate Bill 9 (SB9) passed – 2023 legislative session
- July 1, 2024 and each year thereafter an annual distribution shall be made from the LOE Fund; NMDA's share is 22.5%



LOE Fund Background Information Continued...

The LOE Fund will support

- **Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) and Watershed District programs (WDs)**
- NMDA's Noxious Weed Program
- NMDA's Healthy Soil Program
- **ALERT:** This pilot project funding for NMDA's share of LOE Fund grants **only pertains to SWCDs and WDs.** Not individual applicants.

Four Types of Project Applications Available

- Capacity-Building Projects
- Conservation Planning and Land Use Planning
- Landscape-Scale Restoration Projects
- Community Outreach and Education Projects

SWCDs can apply for LOE fund grants for all of the following types of projects:

Amount of Grant	Type of Grant	Who can apply?	How often?
Up to \$20,000	Capacity-Building Project	SWCDs and WDs	Every other year
Up to \$25,000	Conservation Planning & Land Use Plans	SWCDs only	Once
Up to \$250,000	Landscape-Scale Restoration Project	SWCDs and WDs	Annually
Up to \$15,000	Community Outreach and Education Project	SWCDs only	Annually

- SWCDs and WDs may submit one or more applications, for one or more types of projects.



When can SWCDs and WDs Apply?

Application period will open:

12 p.m. (NOON) Mountain Standard Time on Friday, March 1, 2024

All applications are due by:

12 p.m. (NOON) Mountain Standard Time on Friday, May 3, 2024

LATE OR INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!



LOE Funding – Compliance with Reporting Requirements

- **SWCDs and WDs must be in compliance with reporting requirements from**
 - Department of Finance & Administration
 - Office of the State Auditor
 - SWCC reporting requirements with quarterly budget reports, annual budget, and mil levy resolutions
- **If not, do not proceed with applying**

New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration

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New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration

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New Mexico STATE AGENCIES

- New Mexico Legislature
- NM State Personnel Office
- Governor of New Mexico

Before applying, please do the following:

- SWCDs and WDs applying for Landscape-Scale Restoration projects must have:
 - An up-to-date Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)
 - UEIs replaced DUNS numbers in April 2022
 - SWCDs lacking a UEI can apply at sam.gov
 - This process is free, but can take 6 weeks or more, to receive a UEI.

Budget Considerations

- The value of **each durable good in the budget must not exceed \$4,999.99.**
 - Such as computers, office equipment, field equipment, **and other long-lived tangible items**

Budget Considerations Continued...

- In addition to the budget required to implement the project,
 - The SWCD or WD implementing the project will be granted an **administrative fee of**
 - **10, 15, or 20% of the project budget; if the requested administrative fee is more than 10%, a justification must be provided.**
- Capacity-Building projects will not be allocated an administrative fee.

SWCD Guidelines and Considerations

- Projects should fit within the purpose of Soil and Water Conservation Districts as defined in the Soil and Water Conservation District Act:
 - control and prevent soil erosion;
 - prevent floodwater and sediment damage;
 - Further the conservation, development, beneficial application and proper disposal of water;
 - Promote the use of impounded water for recreation, propagation of fish and wildlife, irrigation and for urban and industrial needs; and
 - By the application of these measures, conserve and develop the natural resources of the state, provide for flood control, preserve wildlife, protect the tax base and promote the health, safety and general welfare of the people of New Mexico

WD Guidelines and Considerations

- **Watershed Districts must obtain a letter of support from the local SWCD** that oversees the watershed district
- Projects should fit within the purpose as defined in the Watershed District Act:
 - Develop and execute plans and programs relating to any phase of conservation of water, or of water usage, including:
 - Water-based recreation
 - Flood prevention
 - Flood control
 - Erosion prevention and control of erosion
 - Floodwater and sediment damages

Guidelines and Considerations for SWCDs and WDs

Proposals that are for project planning under **capacity-building** and do not have an immediate on-the-ground component:

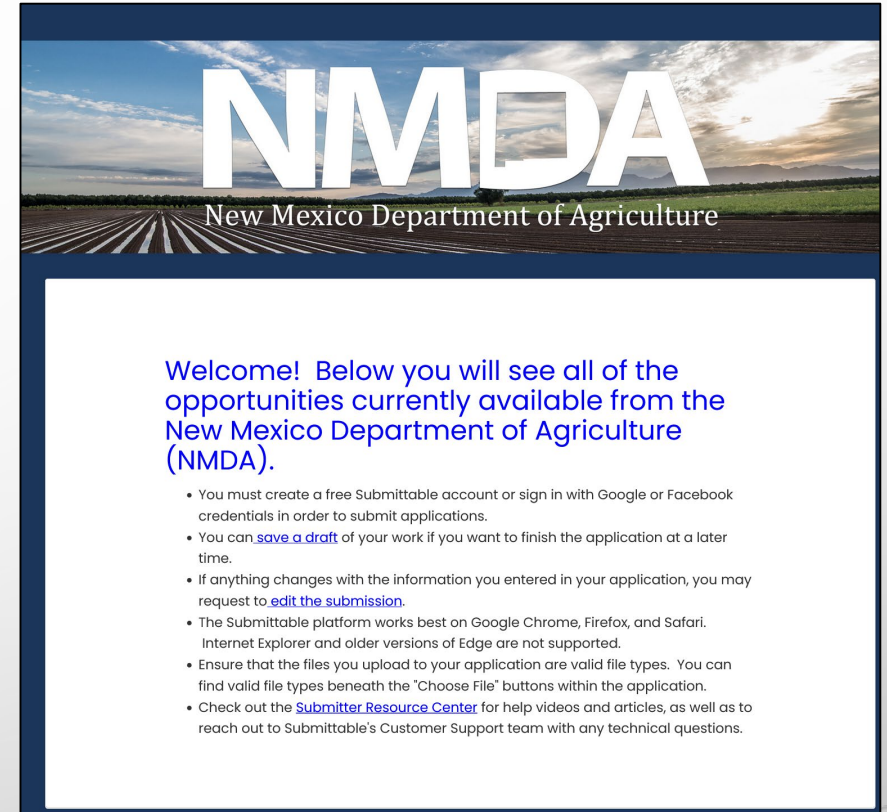
- Must explain how the project planning will assist the district in implementing on-the-ground projects
- There must be a clear explanation of how the district plans to implement their project plan, once completed.
- Project planning budgets for capacity building cannot exceed \$20,000.

Guidelines and Considerations for SWCDs and WDs continued...

- Consideration of landscape-scale restoration projects wherein multiple SWCDs participate regionally to accomplish projects will be considered high priority
- Landscape-scale projects are encouraged to leverage additional funding
 - state, federal, or private
- Capacity-building, conservation planning, and community outreach and education projects are encouraged to demonstrate collaboration

Submission of Proposals

- Application period opens at 12 p.m. (NOON) Mountain Standard Time on **Friday, March 1, 2024**.
- All proposals must be received by 12 p.m. (NOON) Mountain Standard Time on **Friday, May 3, 2024**
 - Via Submittable, which is NMDA's grant-application portal <https://grants.nmda.nmsu.edu/>
 - Faxed or emailed copies will not be accepted
 - Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted



NMDA
New Mexico Department of Agriculture

Welcome! Below you will see all of the opportunities currently available from the New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA).

- You must create a free Submittable account or sign in with Google or Facebook credentials in order to submit applications.
- You can [save a draft](#) of your work if you want to finish the application at a later time.
- If anything changes with the information you entered in your application, you may request to [edit the submission](#).
- The Submittable platform works best on Google Chrome, Firefox, and Safari. Internet Explorer and older versions of Edge are not supported.
- Ensure that the files you upload to your application are valid file types. You can find valid file types beneath the "Choose File" buttons within the application.
- Check out the [Submitter Resource Center](#) for help videos and articles, as well as to reach out to Submittable's Customer Support team with any technical questions.



Review, Selection, and Notification Process

- A subcommittee of NMDA staff selected by the SWCC will review the proposals
- Subcommittee's funding recommendations will be submitted to the SWCC for approval
- NMDA's director/secretary will make final project selections and funding determinations based on SWCC review and approval
- SWCDs and WDs will be notified whether their project is selected for funding, by email on or about June 30, 2024
- **SWCDs and WDs can't begin work until a Memorandum of Agreement and Purchase Order are in place with NMDA**



Requirements for Project Implementation

- Invoices must be submitted on a monthly basis
 - SWCDs and WDs without any expenses in a given month are required to send an email to the SWCC stating such
- SWCD/WD Project Coordinators will be required to attend a minimum of one regularly scheduled SWCC meeting
 - to present project updates and discuss project status

Requirements for Project Implementation Continued...

- Detailed quarterly reports including project updates and budget must be submitted to the SWCC
- Projects must be completed and completely invoiced by 5 p.m. Mountain Standard Time on *May 15, 2025*.
- A final project report must be submitted to the SWCC within 30 days of project completion.

Four Types of Project Applications Available

- Capacity-Building Projects
- Conservation Planning and Land Use Planning
- Landscape-Scale Restoration Projects
- Community Outreach and Education Projects

Tell us more about the Capacity-Building Projects

- SWCDs and WDs can apply for these projects every other year.
- Up to \$20,000
- Includes but is not limited to:
 - Developing an Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) in order to pursue Capital Outlay funding from the state; <https://www.nmdfa.state.nm.us/local-government/icip/>
 - WDs (project design or preliminary professional review/assessment of dam or infrastructure conditions)
 - Or projects that enable SWCDs and WDs to meet their long-range plan and mission



Picture on top right is from businesswire.com

Picture on bottom right is from peritumagri.com

2/5/2024

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Tell us more about Conservation Planning and Land Use Planning

- SWCDs may apply for this funding once.
- Up to \$25,000
- SWCDs can write their own conservation plan or land use plan with clear goals for implementation.
- SWCDs can seek assistance for conservation planning or land use planning from
 - USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - a contractor



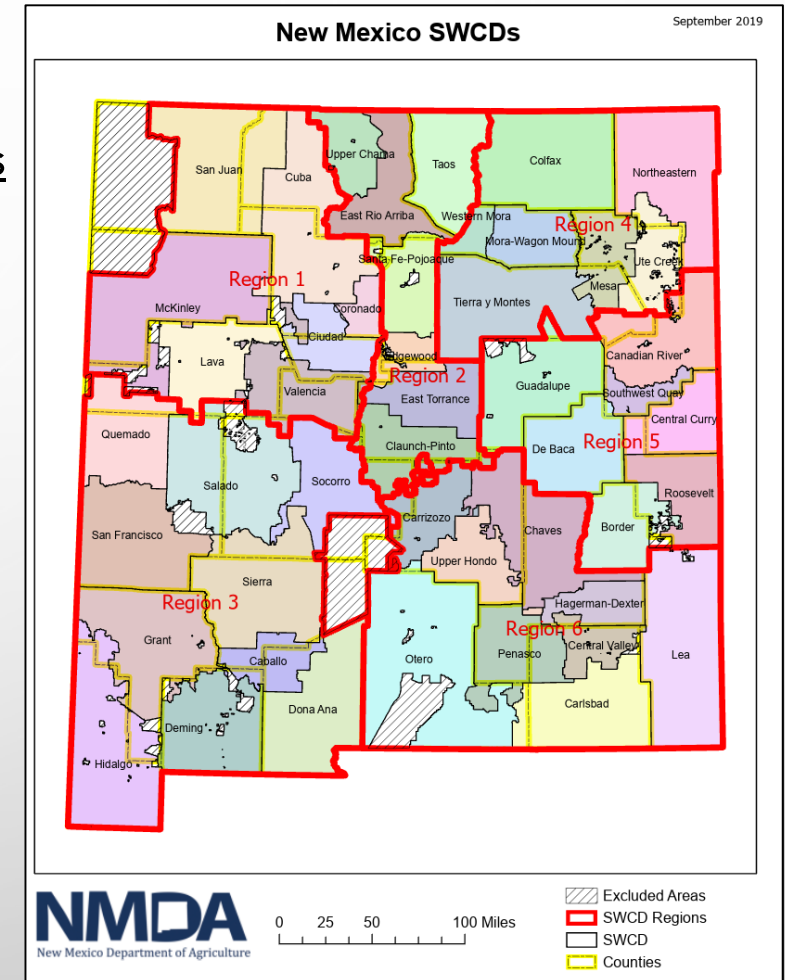
Tell us more about Landscape-Scale Restoration Projects

- SWCDs and WDs can apply for this funding every year.
- Up to \$250,000 per Landscape-Scale Restoration Project
- Includes but is not limited to:
 - Fire Mitigation
 - Post Fire Restoration
 - Watershed Restoration etc.



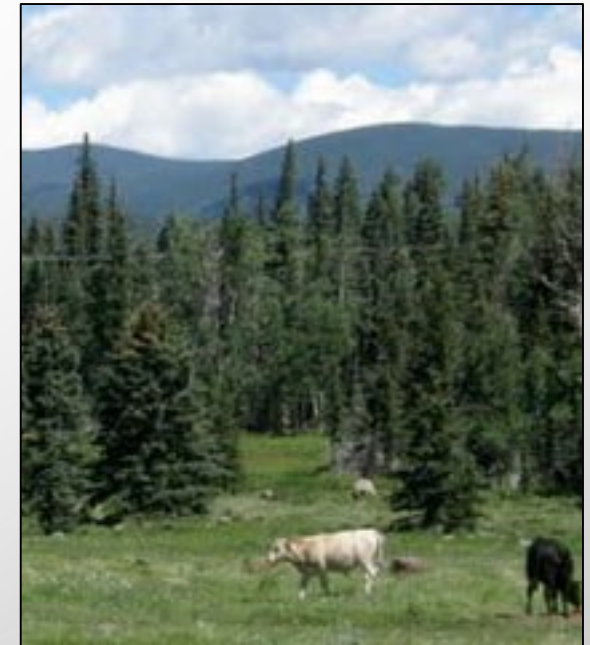
Landscape-Scale Restoration Projects Continued...

- **Landscape-scale restoration/conservation means** projects that effectively leverage federal and non-federal dollars to restore healthy and resilient landscapes and communities across multi-jurisdictions
- Projects are encouraged to match and leverage federal funding with a 1:1 match
 - if your district is unable to provide match, there will be an opportunity to explain in the application
 - *The collaboration and multi-jurisdictional projects are emphasized over the 1:1 match*
- **Must include an education and outreach component**



Landscape-Scale Restoration Projects Continued...

- **Noxious weed projects must be a follow-up to restoration**
- Vegetation and noxious weed management activities will be considered for funding only if:
 - they have a direct relationship with other proposed or completed restoration activities and objectives related to the restoration project that is being applied for
- **Only SWCDs and WDs are eligible for these funds; Cooperative Weed Management Areas are not eligible for these funds!**
- Important: produced water, brackish water, and saline water projects are not eligible for funding!



Tell us more about Community Outreach and Education Projects

- Up to \$15,000 per project
- SWCDs may apply for this funding every year
- SWCDs may propose projects for outreach and education activities that are not tied to a landscape-scale restoration project
- These types of projects are intended for, but not limited to, educational post-restoration project videos and other forms of outreach

Questions?

- These slides will be sent out to the districts.
- For questions after today's webinar, ask your Specialist.
- For help on project ideas, register to attend one of the NM Land of Enchantment Funding Zoom Work Sessions in March.

All pictures in this presentation are from the NMDA website, except for slide 24, where credits are posted for those pictures.



Directions for completing this project activity budget template to apply for Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund Grants for SWCDs and WDs:

1. **Note that there are two tabs below.** If you are providing matching funds please separate your **requested grant funds** and **provided match funds** into **Tab 2** and **Tab 3**, respectively.
2. **Be brief but specific.** Columns in which you likely will enter a fair amount of text -- such as the descriptions of project activities, as well as descriptions of budget items -- are programmed to expand as you type. Be brief but specific in your descriptions. Utilize your Objectives, Approach, and Evaluation Methods template to explain line items as appropriate.
3. **Complete the template chronologically based on when activities and associated purchases will occur.**
4. **Upload your completed budget** where noted in the online application.

Note: Tab 3 asks you to specify whether your provided match is a dollar or in-kind match (hard or soft match). A brief explanation of each follows:

Dollar Match - A direct cash contribution made by your district to complete the project.

Examples: Cash pledged specifically as match, project supplies purchased for the completion of the project, etc.

In-Kind Match - The value of goods, services, and equipment contributed by your district to complete the project.

Examples: Partners' volunteer time, equipment used for the project, etc.

FISCAL YEAR 2025 (FY 25) BUDGET: **GRANT FUNDS REQUESTED** FOR YOUR LAND OF ENCHANTMENT LEGACY FUND GRANT PROJECT

NMDA will **not** reimburse actual expenses in excess of line-item totals. Thus, you should account for any applicable taxes, shipping and handling charges, etc. in each line-item's *cost per unit*.

<p>TIMELINE</p> <p>Please list the month(s) and year in which you will complete the corresponding project activity.</p> <p>Project activities cannot occur sooner than July 15th* and must be completely finished by May 15th.</p> <p>*subject to Memorandum of Agreement and Purchase Order completion</p>	<p>PROJECT ACTIVITIES</p> <p>Do use verbs and important details to describe what you plan to do. These should align with the actions listed in your Approach & Methods document</p> <p>Example: <i>Install one-rock dams along the contours of 3 high-erosion-risk slopes</i></p> <p>Do not list only what you plan to buy. (That information will already appear in one of the columns to the right.)</p> <p>Example: <i>Riprap and wooden stakes</i></p>	<p>DEFINITIONS</p> <p>A. Non-Durable Goods (tangible, <i>short-lived</i> items like live seedlings, compost, etc.)</p> <p>B. Durable Goods (tangible, long-lived items like PVC pipe, T-posts, wire, etc.) The value of each durable good in the budget must not exceed \$4,999.99</p> <p>C. Services (specialized work performed by a business)</p>						
		<p>Indicate whether line item is a Durable Good, Non-Durable Good, or Service.</p>	<p>Name of Good or Brief Description of Service.</p>	<p>If Service: Name of Business that will Perform this Service</p>	<p># of Units</p>	<p>Unit of Measure (<i>lbs., tons, linear feet, posts, hrs., days, etc.</i>)</p> <p>Do not use vague measures like <i>packets, bags, bundles, truckloads, bales, consults, etc.</i></p>	<p>Cost per Unit</p>	<p>Line-item Total</p>
Jan. 2025	Objective 2 Action 1 - We will order rip rap from a local quarry to use in the installation of one-rock dams on 3 high-erosion-risk slopes	Non-Durable Good	Limestone Riprap		1	ton	x \$75.00	= \$75.00
							x	\$0.00
							x	\$0.00
							x	\$0.00
							x	\$0.00
							x	\$0.00
							x	\$0.00
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							x	\$0.00
							x	\$0.00

<p>TOTAL PROJECT FUNDS</p> <p>USE THIS NUMBER IF APPLYING FOR A CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT GRANT</p>	<p>\$0.00</p>
--	---------------

FISCAL YEAR 2025 (FY 25) BUDGET: MATCHING FUNDS PROVIDED FOR YOUR LAND OF ENCHANTMENT LEGACY FUND GRANT PROJECT

For those projects providing matching funds in their application

PROJECT ACTIVITIES <small>As applicable, align your matching funds to a project activity specified in tab 2. Requested Funds Budget.</small>	PARTNER <small>Who is contributing the match?</small>	Indicate whether line item is a Durable Good, Non-Durable Good, or Service .	Name of Good or Brief Description of Service	Dollar Match (Hard Match) or In-Kind Match (Soft Match)?	# of Units	Unit of Measure (<i>lbs., tons, linear feet, posts, hrs., days, etc.)</i> Do not use vague measures like <i>packets, bags, bundles, truckloads, bales, consults, etc.</i>	Cost per Unit			Dollar Match Total	In-Kind Match Total
<i>Objective 2 Action 1- Installing 1-rock dams in XYZ Basin.</i>	<i>Lower Example SWCD</i>	<i>Non-Durable Good</i>	<i>Limestone Riprap.</i>	<i>Dollar Match</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>ton</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>=</i>	<i>\$75.00</i>	<i>\$75.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
<i>Objective 2 Action 1- Installing 1-rock dams in XYZ Basin.</i>	<i>Lower Example SWCD</i>	<i>Service</i>	<i>Staff and volunteer labor to install 1-rock dams in XYZ Basin. Approx. 10 people over 2 days.</i>	<i>In-Kind Match</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>hours</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>=</i>	<i>\$18.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$2,880.00</i>
							x	=	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
							x	=	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
							x	=	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
							x	=	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
							x	=	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
							x	=	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
							x	=	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
							x	=	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
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							x	=	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
							x	=	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
							x	=	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
							x	=	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
							x	=	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
							x	=	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
							Sub-Totals			\$0.00	\$0.00

TOTAL MATCHING FUNDS PROVIDED	\$0.00
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Objectives, Approach & Methods, and Evaluation Template

Use the list format below to explain your objectives, approach & methods, and evaluation. Decreasing and increasing the indent will toggle between Objectives, Actions, and Evaluation Methods. A short explanation of each has been included, along with examples below, to be replaced by districts as they complete the template. Wherever practical, please connect actions and evaluation methods to the expenses included in your budget.

After reading the following examples, replace the text with your project's Objectives, Actions, & Evaluation Methods:

Objective 1. The objectives you list here should identify one or more conservation needs as defined in the Soil and Water Conservation District Act

Action 1. Your actions should explain the steps to be taken to meet the project objectives. Together, they should constitute a plan of work, a project timetable, and, for relevant project types, a stakeholder outreach plan.

Evaluation Method 1. Your evaluation methods should describe how the project's success and effectiveness will be evaluated. Methods of data collection should be described, as well as how this data will be used to determine project success.

Objective 2. EXAMPLE: Control and prevent soil erosion in the XYZ Basin

Action 1. EXAMPLE: Lower Example SWCD will install one-rock dams along the contours of 3 high-erosion-risk slopes within XYZ basin. We will be ordering 2 tons of riprap from a local quarry, one ton of which will be purchased by the district as match. District staff will convene volunteers to install dams over 2 days in February 2025.

Evaluation Method 1. EXAMPLE: Photos will be taken at 3-month intervals to compare and assess for visual signs of erosion.

FY25 Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund Grants for Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Watershed Districts

Evaluation Method 2. EXAMPLE: Erosion pins will be installed up- and down-slope from one-rock dams and measured at the same time as photos are taken. An erosion rate lower than N quarter inches per 3 months will be considered a success.

Objective 3. EXAMPLE: Educate the public about soil erosion in the XYZ Basin.

Action 1. EXAMPLE: In October 2025, Lower Example SWCD will partner with Neighbor Example SWCD to host an event at the Example County Fair where we will distribute pamphlets and classroom materials to parents and interested constituents.

Evaluation Method 1. We will track how many copies of pamphlets and other materials were distributed.

Evaluation Method 2. We will have an email list signup sheet that will directly reflect how many participants engaged with our event.

WATER PLANNING OPEN HOUSES

Now is the time to get involved and voice what matters!
2024 open houses are listed below.



Dates

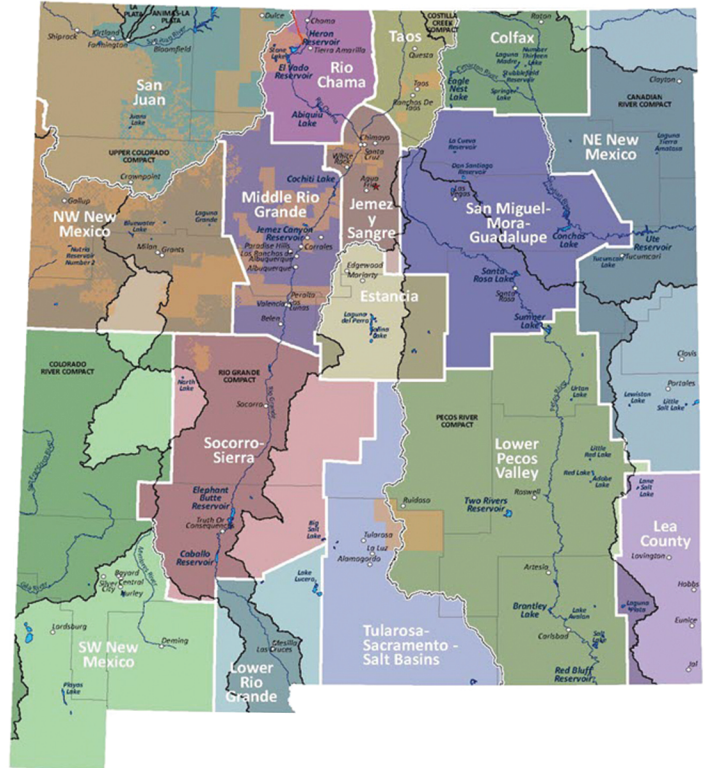
- April 22** Region 13 - Estancia
- April 23** Region 1 - Northeast New Mexico
- April 24** Region 8 - San Miguel-Mora

- May 13** Region 9 - Colfax
- May 14** Region 14 - Rio Chama
- May 15** Region 3 - Jemez y Sangre
- May 16** Region 7 - Taos

- June 10** Region 16 - Lea County
- June 11** Region 10 - Lower Pecos
- June 12** Region 5 - Tularosa-Sacramento

- July 22** Region 15 - Socorro-Sierra
- July 23** Region 4 - Southwest New Mexico
- July 24** Region 11 - Lower Rio Grande

- August 5** Region 6 - Northwest New Mexico
- August 6** Region 2 - San Juan
- August 7** Region 12 - Middle Rio Grande



- Water Planning Region
- San Juan - Chama Project
- Water body
- Major Cities & Towns
- State Capitol
- NM Compact Boundaries
- Native Nation Lands & Pueblos
- County Boundary
- Major Stream



Visit MainStreamNM.org/get-involved for more information.

Or scan:





NM Land of Enchantment Funding Work Session

March 2024 | 8:00 am – Noon

Zoom Work Session



Opening Comments

- Opening comments by NMDA | Katie Kruthaupt

Work Session Objective

- Each SWCD will develop a rough draft of project(s) to submit to NMDA for the NM Land of Enchantment funding.





Introductions

- Introductions of SWCD Meetings





Agenda

- Opening Comments, Introductions, Session Objective, Agenda
- Land of Enchantment Funding Available for SWCDs
- SWCD Natural Resource Issues
- Natural Resource Accomplishments – Next Three Years
- Accomplishments – Each Land of Enchantment Category
- SWCD Powers & Authorities
- Project Application Drafting
- Sharing SWCD Project Proposals & Questions Answered
- Closing Comments & Adjourn



Logistics

- Each SWCD Special Meeting
- Work Session at each SWCD | Mute line
- Someone to take notes at each SWCD | in writing or on computer
- Someone to give report
- Short presentations | time for work at each SWCD
- Chat for questions as they arise
- Chat when activity is completed
- SWCD presentations
- Individuals participating
- If meeting is interrupted | go back on-line | email for update



Worksheet for Notes

Worksheet

New Mexico Land of Enchantment Funding Zoom Work Session

March 11, 12, 13, 19, 20, 21, 2024 | 8:00 am – noon

Work Session Objective:

- Each SWCD will develop a rough draft of project(s) to submit to NMDA for the NM Land of Enchantment funding.

Opening Comments, Introductions, Session Objective & Agenda

NMDA Rep provide opening comments
Introduction of Districts participating from the region
Ledgerwood review of workshop objective, agenda, and logistics for the work session

Land of Enchantment Funding Available for SWCDs

NMDA Rep presentation on Land of Enchantment Funding categories available for SWCDs and timeline for applications

SWCD Natural Resource Issues

Individuals in each district identify the two highest priority natural resource issues needing worked on in their district
Share issues at SWCD and district team lists the top four natural resource issues to be addressed



Land of Enchantment Funding Available for SWCDs

- Katie Kruthaupt | NMDA presentation on Land of Enchantment Funding categories available for SWCDs and timeline for applications

LEGACY FUNDING: LAND OF ENCHANTMENT FUND

VERY BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE FOUR FUNDING POOLS

BY: NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Programs & Resources Division

Soil & Water Conservation District Staff

SWCDs can apply for LOE fund grants for all of the following types of projects:

Amount of Grant	Type of Grant	Who can apply?	How often?
Up to \$20,000	Capacity-Building Project	SWCDs and WDs	Every other year
Up to \$25,000	Conservation Planning & Land Use Plans	SWCDs only	Once
Up to \$250,000	Landscape-Scale Restoration Project	SWCDs and WDs	Annually
Up to \$15,000	Community Outreach and Education Project	SWCDs only	Annually

- SWCDs and WDs may submit one or more applications, for one or more types of projects at: <https://grants.nmda.nmsu.edu>



First, tell us more about the Capacity-Building Projects

- SWCDs and WDs can apply for these projects every other year.
- Up to \$20,000
- Includes but is not limited to:
 - Developing an Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) in order to pursue Capital Outlay funding from the state; <https://www.nmdfa.state.nm.us/local-government/icip/>
 - WDs (project design or preliminary professional review/assessment of dam or infrastructure conditions)
 - Or projects that enable SWCDs and WDs to meet their long-range plan and mission



Second, tell us more about Conservation Planning and Land Use Planning

- SWCDs may apply for this funding once.
- Up to \$25,000
- SWCDs can write their own conservation plan or land use plan with clear goals for implementation.
- SWCDs can seek assistance for conservation planning or land use planning from
 - USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - a contractor



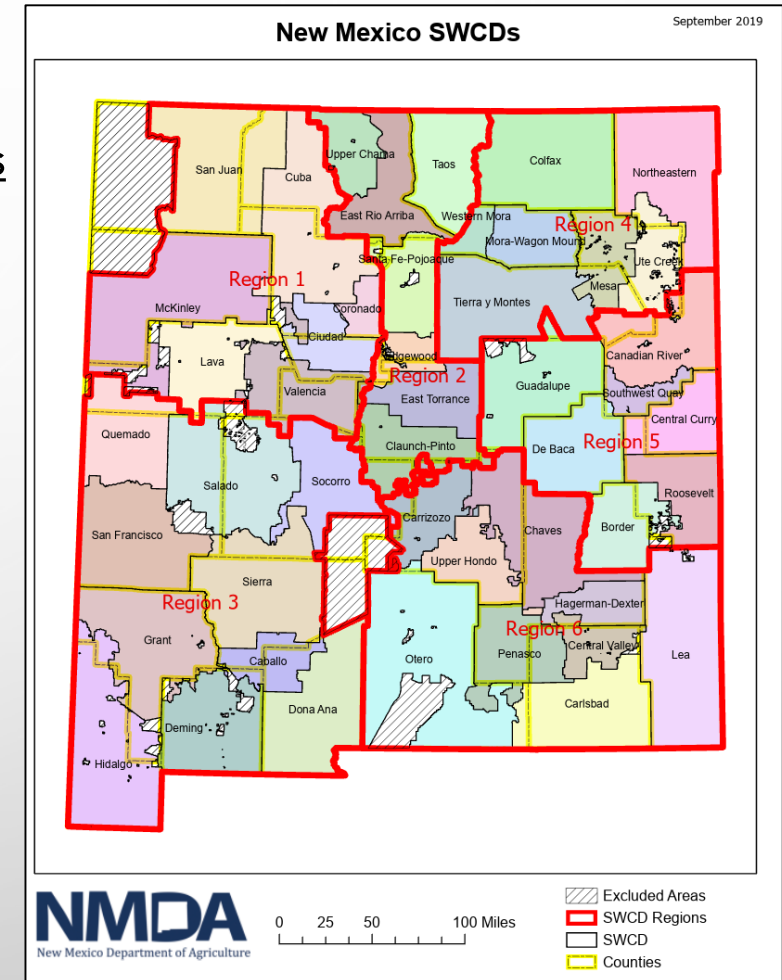
• Third, tell us more about Landscape-Scale Restoration Projects

- SWCDs and WDs can apply for this funding every year.
- Up to \$250,000 per Landscape-Scale Restoration Project
- Includes but is not limited to:
 - Fire Mitigation
 - Post Fire Restoration
 - Watershed Restoration etc.



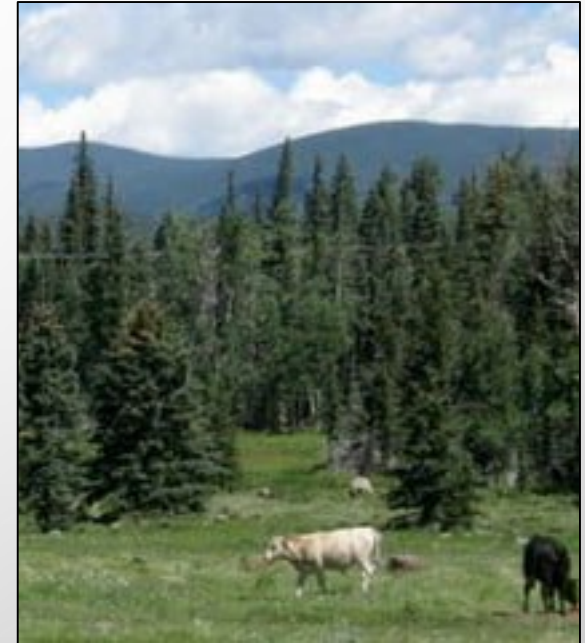
Landscape-Scale Restoration Projects Continued...

- **Landscape-scale restoration/conservation means** projects that effectively leverage federal and non-federal dollars to restore healthy and resilient landscapes and communities across multi-jurisdictions
- Projects must match and leverage federal funding with a 1:1 match
 - if your district is unable to provide match, there will be an opportunity to explain in the application
 - *The collaboration and multi-jurisdictional projects are emphasized over the 1:1 match*
- **Must include an outreach and education component**



Landscape-Scale Restoration Projects Continued...

- **Noxious weed projects must be a follow-up to restoration,** otherwise SWCDs and WDs must apply for such funding through other grants
 - Vegetation and noxious weed management activities will be considered for funding only if:
 - they have a direct relationship with other proposed or completed restoration activities and objectives related to the restoration project that is being applied for
- **Only SWCDs and WDs are eligible for these funds;** Cooperative Weed Management Areas are not eligible for these funds!
- Important: produced water, brackish water, and saline water projects are not eligible for funding!



Last, but not least, tell us more about Community Outreach and Education Projects

- Up to \$15,000 per project
- SWCDs may apply for this funding every year
- SWCDs may propose projects for outreach and education activities that are not tied to a landscape-scale restoration project
- These types of projects are intended for, but not limited to, educational post-restoration project videos and other forms of outreach
 - Other outreach and educational activities are welcome

Guidelines and Considerations for SWCDs and WDs

Proposals that are for project planning under capacity-building and do not have an immediate on-the-ground component:

- Must explain how the project planning will assist the district in implementing on-the-ground projects
- There must be a clear explanation of how the district plans to implement their project plan, once completed.
- Project planning budgets for capacity building cannot exceed \$20,000.

Guidelines and Considerations for SWCDs and WDs continued...

- Consideration of landscape-scale restoration projects wherein multiple SWCDs participate regionally to accomplish projects will be considered high priority
- **Landscape-scale projects must leverage additional funding**
 - state, federal, or private
 - If unable, then there'll be an opportunity to provide a justification for why not
- Capacity-building, conservation planning, and community outreach and education projects are encouraged to
 - demonstrate collaboration
 - leverage additional funding

Questions?

- For further questions about LOE, ask your specialist, or reach out to us at LOE@nmda.nmsu.edu.
- Apply at: <https://grants.nmda.nmsu.edu>

Timeline for Applications

- Start | March 1, 2024
- End | Friday, May 3, 2024
- Complete your SWCD application early!!!



SWCD Natural Resource Issues

- Individuals in each district identify the two highest priority natural resource issues needing worked on in their district
- Share issues at SWCD and district team lists the top four natural resource issues to be addressed





Natural Resource Accomplishments – Next Three Years

- Individuals in each district identify accomplishments they forecast for the next three years for each of the high priority natural resource issues | **Format By**
{date} the xx SWCD will {accomplish}
- Share accomplishments at SWCD and district team lists next to each high priority natural resource issue



Accomplishments - Each LOE Category

- Individuals in each district identify accomplishments they forecast within the next three years for their SWCD in each LOE Category | **Format By {date} the xx SWCD will {accomplish}**
- Share accomplishments at SWCD and district team lists next to LOE category
 - Capacity Building
 - Land-scape Scale Restoration Projects
 - Community Outreach
 - Conservation Planning/Land Use Planning



Powers of Districts

- Governmental subdivision of the state politic & corporate
- Conduct research, investigations and surveys...
- Publish & disseminate research findings
- Conduct projects with consent & cooperation - landowner, state or federal agency
- Assist, contract with and render financial aid to district landowners and state or federal agencies



Powers of Districts

- Make available tools, machinery, equipment, other materials
- Comprehensive plans
- Publish & promote natural resource development plans
- Acquire or administer the project of any other governmental agency
- Act as agent for any instrumentality or agency of state or federal government - projects or programs



Powers of Districts

- Construct, improve, operate projects and structures
- Sue or be sued
- Adopt an official seal
- Contract, convey, make & execute instruments & documents
- Borrow money
- Option and acquire real and personal property or any right or interest

Powers of Districts

- Improve, rent, lease and sell property or interest
- Accept contributions, gifts & donations
- District Assessments





Supervisor Powers & Duties

- District proceedings & resolutions, rules
- Annual audit
- Furnish commission report(s)
- Regular meetings
- Supervisors and employees are public employees - insurance, tort claims



Break

~~Common to start~~



Project Application Drafting for NM Land of Enchantment Funding

- Katie Kruthaupt | NMDA short review of project proposal template and categories of funding available, timeline, contact information for questions, separate programs for soil health, noxious weeds, other partnerships available



Example Project Application(s)

- Example Project Application(s)



Example Project Application(s)

- Example Project Application(s)



Project Application Drafting for NM Land of Enchantment Funding

- Each SWCD begins drafting project proposals using template for NM Land of Enchantment funding, knowledge of categories available, and work done early in the session
- LOE Categories
 - Capacity Building
 - Land-scape Scale Restoration Projects
 - Community Outreach
 - Conservation Planning/Land Use Planning



Sharing SWCD Project Proposals

- Brief report by each district on proposed projects for the LOE funding categories



Questions Answered

- SWCD's questions on Land of Enchantment Funding categories available for SWCDs and timeline for applications

Timeline for Applications

- Start | March 1, 2024
- End | Friday, May 3, 2024
- Complete your SWCD application early!!!





Closing Comments

- Closing comments by Katie Kruthaupt | NMDA including encouragement to start immediately with funding proposals

**Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) PILOT: Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund
Grants for Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Watershed Districts
Frequently Asked Questions**

1. What is the Land of Enchantment Fund?

The Land of Enchantment Fund (LOE Fund) was created as part of a permanent fund for several state agencies through Senate Bill 9 passed in the 2023 legislative session; on July 1, 2024 and each year thereafter, an annual distribution shall be made from the LOE Fund to recipient agencies.

New Mexico Department of Agriculture's share of the LOE Fund distributions will support Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Watershed District programs, NMDA's Noxious Weed Program, and Healthy Soil Program.

2. Which agencies is the Land of Enchantment funding available through?

The permanent fund was created for several state agencies, but this particular Land of Enchantment Fund is specifically for Soil and Water Conservation Districts through the New Mexico Department of Agriculture.

3. When is the grant application available?

Friday, March 1, 2024 at noon until Friday, May 3, 2024 at noon.

4. What is the term/length of the grant?

Projects funded through NMDA's Land of Enchantment grants will last approximately 10 months. Project activities cannot start until the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and Purchase Order agreement (PO) have been signed and sent back to NMDA, and NMDA has given you written authorization to begin. Project activities must be completed and completely invoiced by 5 p.m. Mountain Time on May 15, 2025.

5. Will we know if our project is selecting for funding before we have to turn in our budgets for FY25?

All applicants should be informed by June 30 if their project was funded or not.

6. How/where does a soil and water conservation district apply?

- a. Via Submittable, which is NMDA's grant-application portal
<https://grants.nmda.nmsu.edu/>
- b. Faxed or emailed copies will not be accepted
- c. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted

7. What are some examples of projects for the different pools of funding?

Think outside of the box, be creative, and apply! Only your district knows what the needs of the district are.

Capacity Building

Some project ideas could include, but are not limited to: developing an Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) in order to pursue capital outlay funding; hire a contractor or staff to build capacity; project design or preliminary professional review/assessment of dam or infrastructure conditions; or projects that will enable SWCDs and WDs to meet their long-range plan and mission.

**Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) PILOT: Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund
Grants for Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Watershed Districts
Frequently Asked Questions**

Conservation Planning or a Land Use Plan

This funding pool is exactly as it reads. For more information on what a conservation plan is, visit: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/getting-assistance/conservation-technical-assistance/conservation-planning>

For more information on what a Land Use Plan is, visit:

<https://nmdeptag.nmsu.edu/apr/saw/references-and-resources-for-swcd.html>

Landscape-Scale Restoration

Landscape scale restoration/conservation means projects that effectively leverage federal and non-federal dollars to **restore healthy and resilient landscapes** and communities across **multi-jurisdictions**.

Examples include: fire mitigation, post-fire restoration, and watershed restoration, etc. Other ideas are welcome. Be able to explain how/why a project is restorative. How will it restore healthy and resilient landscapes? If it's a conservation project, rather than a restoration project, then explain how it'll help maintain healthy and resilient landscapes and how it'll benefit multi-jurisdictions.

Noxious weed projects must be a follow-up to restoration; otherwise SWCDs and WDs must apply for such funding through other grants. Vegetation and noxious weed management activities will be considered for funding only if they have a direct relationship with other proposed or completed restoration activities and objectives related to the restoration project that is being applied for.

Community Outreach and Education

What projects for outreach and education activities does the district have in mind, that are not tied to a landscape-scale restoration project? Educational videos on district projects and other forms of outreach are welcome. Think of project ideas the district has successfully completed through other grants that were education and outreach. That can help spur ideas on possible future projects. What does the district want their community to know? What does the district want to educate their community about?

8. We're not sure what types of projects are considered restoration. What if it's more of a conservation project, does that qualify?

Districts are strongly encouraged to flesh out their project ideas to have a better idea if it would fit under one of the four pools of funding.

We encourage the SWCDs and WDs to apply for funding, and if a project isn't funded through the LOE Fund, then the district has potential projects ready to submit for other funding opportunities.

Refer to the previous question for guidance, to see if the district's restoration/conservation project ideas might qualify.

**Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) PILOT: Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund
Grants for Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Watershed Districts
Frequently Asked Questions**

9. Please provide more information on the different funding pools.

Amount of Grant	Type of Grant	Who can apply?	How often?
Up to \$20,000	Capacity-Building Project	SWCDs and WDs	Every other year
Up to \$25,000	Conservation Planning & Land Use Plans	SWCDs only	Once
Up to \$250,000	Landscape-Scale Restoration Project	SWCDs and WDs	Annually
Up to \$15,000	Community Outreach and Education Project	SWCDs only	Annually

10. Must landscape-scale restoration projects specifically match and leverage federal funding?

NMDA requires that projects match and leverage federal funding with a 1:1 match, but if there is other match, please include that in the budget template.

11. What if we don't have federal 1:1 match for landscape-scale restoration projects?

You will be able to provide a justification for why not. Your application won't be automatically excluded.

12. Can the LOE Funding be matched with other state funds?

Yes, local, state, or federal match. But, priority is given to federal 1:1 match.

13. Is the funding match a "match" or "leverage?"

Both, it's one and the same. Be specific about your match/leverage in the budget template.

14. Can landscape-scale restoration be done on public land?

Yes, it can be done on any type of land, as long as there is authorization to perform the work on that land.

15. Do education projects require a match?

No, only the Landscape-Scale Restoration category requires match, but it's encouraged for the other three categories, if possible. If match can't be met in the Landscape-Scale Restoration category, then explain in the justification. Your project won't be automatically excluded .

16. Could the capacity-building be supplemented by a different grant from a municipality, the county, or the state?

Yes, but Landscape-Scale Restoration Projects is the only funding pool requiring federal 1:1 match at this time. If match can't be met in the Land-Scale Restoration category, then explain in the justification. Your project won't be automatically excluded.

17. Can our match be from the previous fiscal year?

It can, but only if it's a multi-year project into the fiscal year for which you're awarded LOE monies.

**Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) PILOT: Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund
Grants for Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Watershed Districts
Frequently Asked Questions**

- 18. If a current project is being completed on the eastern side of the district, and we want to apply for LOE funding to expand the project to the western side of the district, can we consider that match?**

If it's the same exact project, then there's no issue with counting it as match, so long as it's a current project.

- 19. How is the grant funding going to be administered?**

Funding is distributed on a cost-reimbursement basis, meaning that the SWCD or WD must first incur the cost of an approved budget item. The SWCD or WD then must invoice NMDA with corresponding receipts in order to be reimbursed. NMDA strongly encourages SWCDs and WDs to invoice NMDA early and often. Do not wait until the end of the grant term to submit all of your project invoices and corresponding receipts.

- 20. What if our entire district is in a Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA)? Does that disqualify us from applying for the LOE Fund restoration funding?**

No, but CWMAs can't apply for funding.

- 21. What if our CWMA is a partner on the restoration project, does that disqualify us from funding?**

No. The criteria listed, states that CWMAs can't apply for funding.

- 22. Where can we find out more about Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan?**

For more information, visit: <https://www.nmdfa.state.nm.us/local-government/icip/>

- 23. Where can I learn more about NMDA's Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund grants for SWCDs and WDs?**

For more information, please contact the NMDA staff member assigned as your SWCD specialist. You can also email LOE@nmda.nmsu.edu.

Worksheet

New Mexico Land of Enchantment Funding Zoom Work Session

March 11, 12, 13, 19, 20, 21, 2024 | 8:00 am – noon

Work Session Objective:

- Each SWCD will develop a rough draft of project(s) to submit to NMDA for the NM Land of Enchantment funding.

Opening Comments, Introductions, Session Objective & Agenda

NMDA Rep provide opening comments

Introduction of Districts participating from the region

Ledgerwood review of workshop objective, agenda, and logistics for the work session

Land of Enchantment Funding Available for SWCDs

NMDA Rep presentation on Land of Enchantment Funding categories available for SWCDs and timeline for applications

SWCD Natural Resource Issues

Individuals in each district identify the two highest priority natural resource issues needing worked on in their district

Share issues at SWCD and district team lists the top four natural resource issues to be addressed

Natural Resource Accomplishments – Next Three Years

Individuals in each district identify accomplishments they forecast for the next three years for each of the high priority natural resource issues | Format By {date} the xx SWCD will {accomplish}

Share accomplishments at SWCD and district team lists next to each high priority natural resource issue

Natural Resource Issue	Accomplishments – Next 3 Years Format By {date} the xx SWCD will {accomplish}

Accomplishments by LOE Category

Individuals in each district identify accomplishments they forecast for the next three years for their SWCD
Share accomplishments at SWCD and district team lists next to the LOE category | SWCD Capacity Building, Land-scape Scale Restoration Projects, Community Outreach, and Conservation Planning/Land Use Planning

Land of Enchantment Category	Accomplishments – Next 3 Years Format By {date} the xx SWCD will {accomplish}
SWCD Capacity Building	
Land-scape Scale Restoration Projects	
Community Outreach	
Conservation Planning/Land Use Planning	

SWCD Powers & Authorities

Short presentation on SWCD Powers & Authorities to develop and carry out projects, receive funding from multiple sources, partner with other agencies, organizations, private landowners

Project Application Drafting for NM Land of Enchantment Funding

NMDA Rep short review of project proposal template and categories of funding available, timeline, contact information for questions, separate programs for soil health, noxious weeds, other partnerships available

Each SWCD begins drafting project proposals using template for NM Land of Enchantment funding, knowledge of categories available, and work done early in the session

Sharing SWCD Project Proposals & Questions Answered

Brief report by each district on proposed projects for the funding categories

SWCD's questions on Land of Enchantment Funding categories available for SWCDs and timeline for applications

Closing Comments

Display funding application timeline

Closing comments by NMDA Rep including encouragement to start immediately with funding proposals

Materials

- agenda and meeting design printing & copies (each SWCD)
- templates printed & copies for use (each SWCD)

Equipment

- large screen (each SWCD)
- projector for PowerPoint and templates (each SWCD)
- one flipchart with paper (each SWCD)
- laptop computer (each SWCD)

Zoom Meeting Information

Region I work session on March 11. Please register at:

<https://nmsu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMvdu2rpjkpG9E3pxxO7FEM4Wq03rpBsN-J>

Region II work session on March 12. Please register at:

https://nmsu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYkduyorTkoG9NoM_xRMrAmzrqb49_SqRHa

Region III work session on March 13. Please register at:

https://nmsu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYkcuypzgpHtAnoK7rNs9NvTeDFZ_zNEVw

Region IV work session on March 19. Please register at:

<https://nmsu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUqd-6vrzkrHt0GJXHr-Uj9yBtE-Vem4pNa>

Region V work session on March 20. Please register at:

https://nmsu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0ldemspzkrHNObrUx_oNeRQHUEPA_WJG1

Region VI work session on March 21. Please register at:

https://nmsu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAqcuugrzkG9SyiMbiZrF-2D_aWzVa6z_M