

NMACD 2018 POSITION STATEMENTS

- RANGELAND (privately owned)** 92/1 Reaffirmed 2016
NMACD supports and encourages the management of rangeland ecosystems for maintenance and improvement of vegetation, which is valuable to wildlife and domestic livestock. We support the control of aggressive plant species, which are of less economic value, through grazing management, chemical control, and mechanical methods or prescribed fire.
- WETLANDS** 92/2 Reaffirmed 2016
NMACD supports the protection of adequate acreage of wetlands needed for waterfowl and other wildlife dependent on wetlands. The definition of wetlands should include only the lands that have both hydrophytic vegetation and hydric soils. NMACD supports compensation to landowners that are restricted by federal regulations from making economic use of wetlands.
- USE OF PESTICIDES** 92/3 Revised 2016
NMACD supports continued use of pesticides according to registered labeling for environmentally safe agricultural production.
- USDA FARM BILL** 92/4 Revised 2016
NMACD supports the purpose of the Farm Bill to require good land stewardship from persons as a condition of receiving benefits from USDA programs, support more flexibility in the implementation of the Farm Bill to allow farmers to plant a broader range of crops that will accomplish economic and conservation objectives of individual farmers, accomplishing the purposes of the Farm Bill.
- WILDERNESS AREA DESIGNATION** 92/5 Revised 2016
Lands selected as wilderness should represent unique land and vegetation types. The NMACD believes that adequate lands are presently designated as wilderness. If additional wilderness designations are contemplated, there should be close coordination with local government. NMACD is generally opposed to the public purchase of private land for wilderness purposes.
- MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY** 92/6 Reaffirmed 2016
NMACD believes that public rights-of-way should be maintained free of invasive vegetation that is considered noxious to the local area. Local SWCDs should work with agencies responsible for maintenance of public rights-of-way and request control of invasive vegetation that is being controlled on adjacent land. Mulch and seed used by public agencies should be certified weed free.
- SWCDs and USDA PLANS WITH LAND OWNERS** 92/7 Revised 2016
SWCDs have responsibility to review and concur with conservation plans pursuant to the implementation of the Farm Bill.
- RIPARIAN MANAGEMENT** 92/8 Reaffirmed 2016
New Mexico has many riparian areas that need special study and management. The NMACD is concerned that planting of Phreatophyte vegetation with high water requirements will in fact appropriate water without a water right.
- PENALTIES FOR PROPERTY DAMAGE** 93/1 Reaffirmed 2016
NMACD supports stronger penalties for stealing or damaging private property and conservation works.
- PRESCRIBED FIRE** 93/2 Reaffirmed 2016
NMACD supports the use of prescribed fire as an integral part of agricultural land improvement.
- ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL** 93/3 Reaffirmed 2016
NMACD supports public funding of the animal damage control program in areas where there is economic damage to livestock or property or threat to public health or safety. NMACD believes that public funding is justified because multiple persons or landowners on intermingled state; public and private lands usually require action.
- NRCS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE** 93/4 Reaffirmed 2016
NMACD urges NRCS to minimize administrative workload and place top priority on providing technical assistance in accord with the current working agreement and Memoranda of Understanding.
- SWCDs INVOLVEMENT IN PLANNING ON PUBLIC LANDS** 91/3 Reaffirmed 2016
NMACD encourages each SWCD to become involved in planning process on public lands (Cooperating Agency Status) in Districts.
- ENDANGERED SPECIES** 92/1 Reaffirmed 2016
NMACD supports protection of endangered species where there is a need shown and practical plan that can be implemented. NMACD supports renewal of ESA in modified form requiring more local input and consideration of economic impact of protecting a species. Economic impact and practicability of preserving and improving critical habitat must be considered. NMACD believes that some past efforts to protect endangered species have been ill advised, improvement needed in process of designating endangered species and critical habitat. Future proposals to designate endangered species or critical habitat should be sent to the affected SWCDs for comment.

NMACD 2018 POSITION STATEMENTS

INTERMINGLED OWNERSHIP

92/2 Reaffirmed 2016

NMACD encourages public land management agencies (USFS, BLM, & NM SLO to work toward better coordination which allow lessees, permittees to implement conservation management systems with minimum red-tape and support multiple uses of public lands.

GRAZING ON PUBLIC LANDS

93/1 Reaffirmed 2016

NMACD supports grazing of domestic livestock on public lands by livestock producers who practice good range management. Grazing fees should be adjusted according to the PRIA formula that considers current economic conditions.

OWNERSHIP OF WATER RIGHTS & IMPROVEMENTS ON PUBLIC LAND

93/2 Reaffirmed 2016

NMACD opposes the federal government's proposed taking of water rights and improvements on public lands that are now owned by the grazing permittees. We support the ownership of all improvements by the permittees in order to encourage conservation practices.

LOCAL MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC LAND

94/5 Revised 2016

NMACD supports management of public land within the state of New Mexico by local governments.

COMPETING BIDS ON STATE LAND

95/2 Reaffirmed 2016

NMACD encourages the State Land Commissioner (SLC) to consider all factors when evaluating bids for state land leases. The SLC is encouraged to verify the validity of competing bid before the current leaseholder is required to match the competing bid.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CLEARANCES

96/1 Reaffirmed 2017

NMACD shall request the Bureau of Land Management and other agencies provide archaeological surveys when they require them or that they accept surveys provided by other agencies such as NRCS.

GLOBAL TREATIES

96/3 Reaffirmed 2017

NMACD opposes Congress considering any further treaties until Economic Analysis by County has determined the impacts of such treaties on the rights of the States and the People by County, State by State. If it is determined that the impacts are adverse, the treaty in question be dropped from consideration.

RESTORATION OF NM FORESTS

96/3 Reaffirmed 2017

NMACD supports education about forest densities to all NM citizens. We support reducing tree densities and fuel loads, especially in areas immediately surrounding Wildland/urban interface zones. We support salvage timber sales and thinning to maintain a healthy viable forest & reduce amount of dead wood accumulation within National Forests in NM.

WATER QUALITY

92/1 Reaffirmed 2016

NMACD supports the protection and improvement of water quality. We encourage wise land use and management that will protect quality of the surface and ground waters. We strongly discourage practices that would risk pollution of ground or surface waters. We support voluntary incentive programs that will encourage farmers, ranchers and others to properly dispose of unused chemicals.

WATER CONSERVATION

92/2 Reaffirmed 2016

NMACD encourages water conservation by agricultural & non-Ag users and recognizes brush control as a water conservation practice.

REGIONAL WATER PLANNING

92/3 Reaffirmed 2016

NMACD supports the present regional planning process and believes that water planning should be driven by equal consideration of local water interests and incorporated in the state water plan framework

NON-POINT POLLUTION CONTROL

94/2 Reaffirmed 2016

NMACD believes it more appropriate to have funding & staffing for non-point pollution control under Clean Water Act under USDA-NRCS. NACD should work with local conservation districts to have them local lead for all non-point pollution control activities.

CONSERVATION PROJECTS

95/2 Reaffirmed 2016

NMACD requests that the issuance of 404 permits and other consultation requirements by federal and state agencies be secured in a timely fashion. NMACD will encourage all these land management agencies to work closely with SWCDs.

REGIONAL WATER PLANNING FUNDING

96/4 Reaffirmed 2016

NMACD will work with the NM Interstate Streams Commission to monitor methods for distribution of Region Water Planning funds.

NMACD 2018 POSITION STATEMENTS

NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION	96/5	Reaffirmed 2017
NMACD encourages the New Mexico Environment Department to work with local Conservation Districts as a co-operating agency for all non-point pollution control activities.		
WATER QUALITY & QUANTITY IMPROVEMENT	97/1	Reaffirmed 2015
NMACD encourages New Mexico NRCS to continue and expand efforts in improving the water quality & quantity improvement projects through continual emphasis of all applications of water conservation measures.		
PROTEST TRANSFER OF WATER FROM AGRICULTURE TO INDUSTRY	97/2	Reaffirmed 2015
NMACD supports all SWCDs that are or may resist water transfers that may not be in the public interest or the public welfare of the region. NMACD supports legislation to require the OSE & ISC to use regional and local plans to define the term public welfare in the transfer of water rights. NMACD support legislation enacting the statutory area of origin and limits the distance between point of origin and point of use to protect and/ or reduce the adverse effects of water transfers from rural areas.		
HARD ROCK MINING	97/3	Reaffirmed 2015
NMACD supports the position that "primacy for environmental regulation" is authorized to the states, not the Department of Interior. NMACD will also oppose any efforts to usurp state water rights authorities.		
CONSERVATION PROJECTS REQUIRING 404 PERMITS	97/4	Reaffirmed 2015
NMACD will urge federal & state agencies to work with Conservation Districts to expedite and minimize consultation requirements to facilitate timely implementation of conservation projects and to work with Conservation Districts to carry out these projects expeditiously and reduce invasion of noxious and other undesirable plant species on lands in watershed projects.		
GRAZING MANAGEMENT OF CRP LANDS	97/5	Reaffirmed 2015
NMACD requests NRCS & FSA to include livestock grazing as the tool of choice to manage CRP lands. NMACD supports NRCS supervising the CRP Grazing Management.		
Request public hearings US Fish & Wildlife Serv. Designation of Threatened/Endangered Species NM	98/1	Reaffirmed 2016
NMACD requests U.S Fish and Wildlife Service hold local, public hearings in NM. NMACD supports having data provided on geographical extent and numbers for the proposed designation, and providing objective and meaningful analysis of the effects of listing this species on affected economics of the communities and the human and natural environments.		
DISTRICT LIABILITY	92/1	Reaffirmed 2016
The NMACD believes that the State of New Mexico should provide liability coverage for authorized activities of SWCDs. Also, the State of New Mexico should provide liability coverage for individual supervisors while performing official duties.		
GRANTS FOR CONSERVATION	93/1	Reaffirmed 2016
NMACD encourages each SWCD to aggressively seek grants from private & public sources to accomplish items in the District plan.		
RETAIN LOCAL FSA COUNTY COMMITTEES	97/1	Reaffirmed 2015
NMACD supports reevaluating FSA office closures. Responsibilities and concerns need to be carried out by local citizens who have similar natural resource concerns. The distance producers have to travel for service should be taken into consideration.		
FUNDING FOR SWCDs	97/2	Reaffirmed 2015
NMACD supports that state funding be based on the need of each Conservation District.		
RESOURCE PLANNING	98/1	Reaffirmed 2016
NMACD supports all entities involved with comprehensive planning of natural resources adhere to existing law and encourage the participation of the SWCDs at the beginning.		
CONSERVATION EDUCATION	92/1	Reaffirmed 2016
NMACD encourages conservation / environmental education in schools, the mass media, through special meetings and other means.		
PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS	96/1	Reaffirmed 2017
NMACD is to request that NRCS includes in their Public Service Announcements, "This message brought to you by the Natural Resources Conservation Service and your local Soil & Water Conservation District".		
PL-566 PROGRAMS	94/1	Revised 2016
NMACD will work at the National level for continued funding for the PL-566 program and watershed improvement.		

NMACD 2018 POSITION STATEMENTS

- PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS** 95/1 Reaffirmed 2016
NMACD urges Congress in the re-authorization of environmental laws to guarantee the rights of private property and the original written words stated within the Constitution of the United States.
- ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT** 95/2 Reaffirmed 2016
NMACD supports amendments to the Endangered Species that would... 1) Require compensation to private property, 2) Correct the defects in listing species, 3) Require objective and meaningful (NEPA) analysis of effects of listing, establishing and designating habitats, 4) Eliminate the restrictions and prohibitions against modifications of habitats, and 5) Reform litigation process under the act, and 6) Eliminate sub-species and allow substantive participation by the state & local governments. NMACD supports considering negative impacts on communities and the human and natural environment.
- OIL & GAS DEVELOPMENT & USE OF SITES LESS ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE** 97/5 Reaffirmed 2015
NMACD requests that federal & state agencies & development companies utilize less productive and less sensitive sites where possible to decrease ecological and production losses.
- SUPPORT OF WEATHER MODIFICATION OF METHODS** 97/8 Reaffirmed 2015
NMACD aggressively support efforts to educate the public about the benefits of weather modification. NMACD aggressively seek funding for expansion of weather modification as a means of developing an untapped, renewable source of water.
- CONTROL OF NOXIOUS WEEDS** 97/9 Reaffirmed 2017
NMACD shall pursue funding from the state and encourage the control of noxious weeds.
- PROPOSED CHANGES TO NM WATER QUALITY STANDARDS** 98/1 Reaffirmed 2016
NMACD requests that the NM Water Quality Control Commission develop a different and more realistic set of standards for standing or impounded runoff water in stock ponds, playas, sediment ponds and other catchments.
- SECTION 319, CLEAN WATER ACT FUNDING** 98/3 Reaffirmed 2016
NMACD supports funding for all non-point source control projects be administered through the local Soil & Water Conservation District, with allowance for a percentage of the grant to be used for administrative costs.
- NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL ALONG HIGHWAY RIGHT OF WAYS** 98/3 Reaffirmed 2016
NMACD supports efforts to work with the NMDA, the NM Highway Dept. and other agencies to increase coordination for noxious plant control along the highway rights of way in coordination with local noxious plant control programs.
- FUNDING FOR EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROGRAM** 98/4 Revised 2016
NMACD supports increased funding for the Emergency Watershed Program.
- URBAN CONSERVATION** 93/1 Revised 2016
NMACD supports programs promoting wise land use, conservation in non-Ag areas. Storm water management, erosion controls are important considerations in developing areas. Supports use of noninvasive native plants, xeriscaping, synthetic turf in landscaping.
- CONTROL OF NOXIOUS WEEDS ON STATE LAND** 99/1 Reaffirmed 2017
NMACD requests that State Land Commissioner (SLO) establish a permitting process for noxious weed control that will meet the control methods and timing of application and urge SLO to encourage lessees and permittees to control noxious weeds on leases or permits on a voluntary basis, using financial and technical assistance available, including that through the State Land Office.
- EFFICIENCY IN CONSERVATION PRACTICE PERMITS** 99/2 Reaffirmed 2017
NMACD requests that the State Land Commissioner establish procedure and policy for acceptance of environmental evaluations or clearance completed by other qualified personnel to enable the most efficient permitting process.
- LOCATING, CAPPING OR SEALING ABANDONED WELLS IN NEW MEXICO** 99/3 Reaffirmed 2017
NMACD requests that the New Mexico State Engineer, in conjunction with NMACD and the New Mexico Environment Department, develop a program to locate, cap and/or seal; as applicable, abandoned wells in New Mexico.
- STATE FUNDING EQUALITY RECOMMENDATION FOR SWCDs** 99/4 Reaffirmed 2017
State appropriations are the primary source of operating funds for many NM Soil and Water Districts. NMACD believes that no SWCD following all rules and guidelines set forth by the NM Soil & Water Conservation Commission and the Department of Ag should be excluded from state funding by the New Mexico Legislature, without just cause and due process.
- NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL OPPONENTS MUST PROVIDE SUITABLE ALTERNATIVE** 99/6 Reaffirmed 2017
NMACD strongly supports noxious weed control and believes groups or individuals, state or federal agencies, opposing integrated noxious weed management programs, should be required to provide practical, economically feasible, effective alternatives.

NMACD 2018 POSITION STATEMENTS

- OPPOSITION TO GOVERNMENT LAND ACQUISITION PROPOSALS** 99/7 **Reaffirmed 2017**
NMACD opposes the proposals before Congress to create dedicated funds for federal and state agencies to buy private land. We urge the New Mexico Congressional Delegation to oppose these measures.
- REFORM OR REPEAL ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT** 99/8 **Reaffirmed 2017**
NMACD supports entering into an educational campaign for public benefit to point out inequities of the Endangered Species Act and to propose alternative methods of management of endangered species.
- WATERSHED FUNDING** 2000/1 **Reaffirmed 2015**
NMACD encourages Congress & federal agencies to recognize that SWCDs are local delivery systems to receive and manage project funds for fire prevention and watershed enhancement programs. NMACD encourages Congress and federal agencies to direct resources to Soil and Water Conservation Districts within New Mexico to enable better watershed management and restoration programs and enable districts to take the lead in working with rural communities affected by declining watershed conditions.
- BOR WATER CONSERVATION FIELD SERVICES PROGRAM** 2000/3 **Reaffirmed 2015**
NMACD encourages Congress to continue support funding for BOR Water Conservation Field Services Program as an incentive-based program of technical and financial assistance for voluntary federal-state-local partnerships to encourage water conservation.
- PERMANENT VEGETATION COVER ON CRP** 2000/4 **Reaffirmed 2015**
NM SWCDs have extensive acreages of land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and the USDA policy requires the CRP contract administration be delegated to the USDA/Farm Services Agency (FSA) after three (3) years regardless of adequate permanent cover establishment. USDA/FSA does not have the technical expertise or staff to address the conservation needs of the acres that have not been established to permanent vegetative cover. In order to ensure that the CRP is carried out as intended by law, the NMACD petitions USDA to extend USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service technical responsibility until permanent vegetative cover is adequately established and to provide funding to carry out that responsibility
- FOREST HEALTH AND RESTORATION** 2000/5 **Reaffirmed 2015**
NMACD encourages Congress to pass legislation that commands the federal agencies to take aggressive action to restore the western forests without size restrictions on cut trees and promotes a policy of private enterprise.
- WATERSHED RESTORATION FUNDING** 2001/1 **Reaffirmed 2016**
NMACD seeks multi-year funding for watershed and riparian restoration projects.
- SUPPORT TRAINED NRCS PERSONNEL COMPLETE CULTURAL RESOURCES CLEARANCES ON STATE LAND** 2001/2 **Reaffirmed 2016**
NMACD petitions Cultural Properties Review Committee to reconsider their decision stating NRCS trained personnel would no longer be authorized to complete cultural resource clearances on land of the State of New Mexico and that planned improvements to those State lands would have to be cleared by a private consultant /archaeologist firm.
- OPPOSITION TO LEGISLATION REQUIRING PERMITS FOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL MINING** 2001/3 **Reaffirmed 2016**
NMACD strongly opposes at the NM Legislature, legislation requiring permits for construction material mining.
- INCENTIVES FOR LANDOWNERS REMOVAL OF SALT CEDAR ON PRIVATE LANDS** 2001/4 **Reaffirmed 2016**
NMACD strongly urges the State Engineers Office, the Legislative and Executive branches of New Mexico State Government to investigate the possibility of enacting legislation to create incentives or compensations for the removal of salt cedar.
- DROUGHT LIVESTOCK GRAZING PERMIT COST ADJUSTMENT STATE-OWNED LAND** 2001/6 **Reaffirmed 2017**
NMACD requests the NM State Land Office create consultation between lessees and the SLO when resource management must be adjusted due to drought conditions.
- WEATHER INDUCED GRAZING ADJUSTMENTS ON STATE OWNED LANDS** 2002/1 **Reaffirmed 2017**
NMACD will request that the New Mexico State Land Office create a voluntary program that will reduce fees when lessees reduce grazing due to drought or compliance with federal requirements.
- SUPPORT EFFORTS OF WATER RECLAMATION COMMITTEE** 2003/1 **Reaffirmed 2015**
NMACD supports Water Reclamation Committee and encourages its endeavor to find answers to multitude of questions that must be answered for proper implementation of countywide water conversion & implementation project to benefit agricultural industry in Lea County and beyond. NMACD appeals to the New Mexico State Legislature and /or the proper departments within State of New Mexico for direction and implementation of said directives, in the continuance of efforts to convert oil & gas produced water to usable water.

NMACD 2018 POSITION STATEMENTS

INCENTIVES FOR LANDOWNERS FOR REMOVAL OF SALT CEDAR ON PRIVATE LANDS 2003/2 Reaffirmed 2015

NMACD will strongly urge State Engineer's office and legislative & executive branches of NM State government to investigate possibility of enacting legislation to create incentives or compensations at a rate proportional and in direct correlation to amount of water expected to be recovered from removal of salt cedar from respective land to that land, and respective landowner be required to maintain the land in a state that is devoid of salt cedar or other noxious weeds to continue receiving the incentive or compensation.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)

2003/3 Reaffirmed 2015

NMACD will encourage the USDA to craft rules that will provide adequate financial incentives for owners of CRP land unsuited for sustained cropping to keep the land in CRP, and that native vegetation be utilized in accomplishing the purposes of CRP

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

2003/4 Reaffirmed 2015

NMACD, (in cooperation with & with the support of NM Soil & Water Conservation Commission & New Mexico Department of Agriculture), update & develop new policy and guidelines for Conservation Districts in carrying out their duties in conservation, development and management of soil & water resources, & work with the State Engineer to develop policies, statutes and regulation that will include Urban Development as to its impact on agriculture waters and their historical, cultural and beneficial use.

TAX INCENTIVES FOR PRIVATE LANDOWNERS MANAGING NOXIOUS WEED INFESTATIONS 2003/6 Reaffirmed 2015

Noxious weed infestations are increasingly invading both public and private lands within New Mexico, and these infestations pose a real threat to the economic and cultural fabric of local communities within NM, and NMACD provides local SWCDs with a unified voice regarding common natural resource issues. NMACD will continue to pursue legislation that provides for tax deductions for private landowners who participate in noxious weed management programs on their own property and that those individuals who qualify for said tax deductions must participate in a local SWCD noxious weed management program.

REVISION OF NM NRCS EQIP POLICY LAND ELIGIBILITY FOR NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION 2003/7 Reaffirmed 2015

With the water adjudication process looming in the future and consideration for state and regional water planning and the Texas/New Mexico water compact issue, protection of water rights needs to be a top priority for SWCDs within their district and EQIP funding should be able to assist, the NMACD will seek and request a revision to the New Mexico NRCS EQIP policy in regards to surface water irrigation by removing restrictive and prohibitive language from the policy and aligning the New Mexico NRCS EQIP policy with national regulation for protecting natural resource concerns.

COMMUNICATION

2003/8 Reaffirmed 2015

NMACD encourages input from local SWCDs, through Region Chairs, for decisions made by NMACD board regarding projects, programs, policy, and future direction. NMACD recognizes two-way communications with local SWCDs, NMDA and NRCS to meet common needs of NM citizens for natural resource conservation management is vitally important. To foster and continue two-way communication, NMACD and the forty-seven, local soil and water conservation districts, NMDA and NRCS will convene a workgroup to develop a communication plan including more electronic exchange of information such as minutes, meeting notices, budgets, financial reports, progress reports, etc.

STATE PURCHASE OF LAND AND WATER RIGHTS

2004/3 Reaffirmed 2016

NMACD supports protection of the prior appropriation doctrine and retention of land and water rights in individual ownership.

INCENTIVES FOR CONSERVATION OF WATER

2004/4 Reaffirmed 2016

NMACD strongly urges the Office of the State Engineer, Legislative and Executive branches of NM State Government investigate possibility of enacting legislation creating incentives or compensation for conservation of use and source of waters that results in additional water being made available for other uses.

FEDERAL AGENCIES USE OF SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS - TECHNICAL DATA

2005/2 Reaffirmed 2017

NMACD requests federal land managing agencies use organizations with a neutral>(*unbiased) view of the program objective when out-sourcing data gathering & preparation of technical data, & all data be scientifically based with adequate supporting documentation.

DISTRICT PERMANENT MIL LEVY AUTHORITY

2005/3 Reaffirmed 2017

NMACD will seek legislation authorizing Districts, by resolution of the Board of Directors, to allow Districts authority of permanent mil levy with sunset or indebtedness and that funds generated within the District be used to carry out conservation activities.

CREATION OF STATE, LOCAL GOV. REVERSAL US SUPREME COURT DECISION *KELO V. CITY OF NEW LONDON* (Taking of Private Property)

2005/4 Revised 2017

NMACD supports Fed., State legislation, city & county ordinances prohibiting taking personal property for private interest benefit.

NMACD 2018 POSITION STATEMENTS

- CONTINUOUS CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM AMENDMENT** **2006/1 Reaffirmed 2015**
NMACD will seek legislative and administrative action to amend current federal regulations to directly address these pertinent critical issues: 1) Modify FSA lease payment limitation imposed by arbitrary 180 ft. width limits for Zones 1, 2 & 3. 2) Increase allowable vegetative buffer width (Zone 3) from current 20 ft. limitation to area sufficient to meet demands of the site. 3) That decision must be solely determined by the professional judgment of the technical agency overseeing the project area.
- CCRP BIOLOGICAL RENOVATION** **2006/2 Reaffirmed 2015**
NMACD will seek an amendment to current federal regulations to approve use of biological renovation utilizing grazing animals as an appropriate renovation/conservation practice as may be determined by the technical agency, in consultation with the landowner.
- CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP)** **2006/5 Reaffirmed 2015**
NMACD supports the addition of CREP as a voluntary program available to producers in New Mexico and will work with New Mexico state agencies to coordinate CREP projects with existing Riparian Restoration projects.
- OPPOSE ESTABLISHMENT OF JAGUAR CRITICAL HABITAT IN U.S.** **2006/7 Reaffirmed 2015**
NMACD will request the US Fish & Wildlife Service to find that, according to best available science and commercial information, the need for Jaguar critical habitat does not exist in the US. and withhold any and all funding for this proposal.
- MANDATORY OIL AND GAS SITE RECLAMATION** **2006/9 Reaffirmed 2015**
NMACD will seek legislation instituting a policy of mandatory reclamation of pipelines, roads & abandoned oil & gas well pads and oil and gas companies set aside monies prior to exploration drilling for proper reclamation of pipeline, roads and abandoned oil and gas well pads or be fined for non-compliance.
- MANDATORY CAPPING OF ABANDONED OIL AND GAS WELLS** **2006/10 Reaffirmed 2015**
NMACD will seek legislation instituting a policy of mandatory well-capping of abandoned oil and gas wells and that oil and gas companies set aside monies for proper capping and/or plugging fees.
- NMACD SUPPORTS THE NM SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION** **2007/1 Reaffirmed 2016**
The Membership of the NMACD supports the NM SWCC original intent to address the annual appropriation of funding to districts in promulgating rules to carry out the provisions of the SWCD Act, including management and distribution of any funding provided by the state legislature for soil and water conservation districts projects and operations.
- PERMANENT FUNDING MIL LEVY AUTHORITY** **2007/2 Revised 2016**
The NMACD will work with the New Mexico State Legislature to create permanent authority for a mil district tax for all SWCDs.
- OPPOSITION TO THE MEXICAN WOLF PROGRAM** **2008/3 Reaffirmed 2017**
NMACD oppose any rule or proposed rule related to the reintroduction of the Mexican gray wolf that does not provide adequate protective measures for our families and children or that does not provide adequate protective measures and compensation to pets and livestock that are threatened, injured or kill by depredating wolves.
- SWCDs COOPERATING AGENCIES, MEXICAN WOLF PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT PROCESS** **2008/5 Reaffirmed 2017**
NMACD encourages member districts to enter into Cooperating Agency agreements, pursuant to NEPA, to ensure that the impacts are fully disclosed to the public and to participate with the federal and state agencies in developing new rules that reduce and eliminate the negative effects to the human environment; and to foster proper coordination with conservation districts. NMACD request technical assistance and participation by New Mexico State University in the Environmental Impact Statement process, especially regarding the interdisciplinary impact analyses on human environment. NMACD requests coordination with New Mexico Association of Counties, currently assisting in facilitation of counties as cooperating agencies in EIS planning process.
- GAME AND FISH DEPREDAATION** **2008/6 Reaffirmed 2017**
The NMACD will work with the New Mexico Game and Fish Department and the New Mexico State Legislature to improve the processes afforded landowners for protecting their property such as crops, grazing pastures and livestock. NMACD will seek avenues for the state to compensate landowners for their financial losses and/or provide management alternatives of the offending game animal population to a level that diminishes the financial losses to a minimal level.
- GRANTS AND FUNDING** **2009/2 Reaffirmed 2015**
The New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts will adopt the following policies:
1. NMACD will notify Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) of any grants or funding opportunities in a timely manner.
 2. NMACD will administer funding targeted for distribution to all SWCDs that cannot be efficiently allocated to individual SWCDs.
 3. NMACD will encourage and support all individual SWCD who are able to seek and administer funding. NMACD will support direct funding between the SWCDs and the granting agency/agencies.

NMACD 2018 POSITION STATEMENTS

4. NMACD will, when necessary, act as a pass through for funds between granting agency/agencies and the SWCDs. NMACD and the SWCDs hosting the project will enter into an agreement to equitably share the administration fees.

SUPERVISOR CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING

2010/1

Reaffirmed 2016

Supervisors of NM SWCDs are elected officials and have duties and powers according to the SWCD Act (73-20-41 NMSA 1978); and the NM SWCC has powers and duties according to SWCD Act (73-20-31 to 73-20-32 NMSA 1978) and accomplishes its duties through cooperation with NM Dept. of Ag (NMDA); the advocacy association which works on behalf of Districts nationwide, known as the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD); advocacy assn. which works on behalf of Districts statewide, known as NMACD; and National Assn. of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA) assn. advocates for NMDA at the national level; NACD and NASCA collaborated, established training modules for knowledge, responsibilities in performing as a conservation district official. NMACD supports supervisor certification and training process in partnership with NMDA, in line with NACD, NASCA collaborative program.

NMACD STRATEGIC PLANNING

2010/2

Reaffirmed 2016

The New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts has a need for strategic planning on an as needed basis. The NMACD does hereby support revision of the strategic planning process by involving the Soil and Water Conservation Districts at the beginning of the planning process by NMACD sending out a questionnaire to each NM Soil and Water Conservation District to assess their common needs; involving all agency partners and the NM Soil and Water Conservation Commission in the planning process. The "draft" strategic plan should be sent to the NM Soil and Water Conservation Districts for their review.

DISTRICT FINANCIAL REPORTING

2010/3

Reaffirmed 2016

NM Soil & Water Conservation Districts are required by the State of New Mexico to track their finances according to their budgets and report this information to the Department of Finance and Administration. It would be advantageous to summarize the overall performance and accomplishments of Conservation Districts from a financial perspective within the State of New Mexico. NMACD does hereby support the establishment of a uniform year-end financial statement format that would distinguish between administrative costs versus real "on the ground" project costs and be incorporated in each District end of year report.

NMACD NACD DUES

2010/4

Reaffirmed 2016

NMACD works on behalf of the Districts statewide, the advocacy association which works on behalf of Districts nationwide is the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD). Each association has different dues structures and membership criteria; and each District within New Mexico is a separate client of these respective advocacy associations. Each District may determine the extent of support for each respective advocacy association according to established dues structures and their financial means and such financial support should fall between a range containing a minimum as well as a maximum. Each individual District will be responsible for paying their respective national dues at an amount that they shall determine, and NACD dues will go directly to NACD.

APPOINTMENT TO NM SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

2010/5

Reaffirmed 2016

NMACD and the NM SWCC have collaborated and established partnerships and working relationships for supporting all conservation districts in New Mexico. NMACD has submitted names from all of the districts for commission appointments for approximately 40 years fairly, honestly, and successfully; and the current statute designates the NMACD president as the person to submit the 3names from each region to the newly elected Governor; and the current law and current process adequately and fairly allows all districts to participate in the nomination process. The members of the NMACD do hereby support the current language in statute as it relates to the NMACD president submitting names to the Governor for the appointment of the NM SWCC.

NMACD LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

2010/6

Reaffirmed 2016

The New Mexico state budget is currently in a deficit situation. Keeping the current funding level protected without reductions for the district operations, the district water conservation grant program as well as the TSP matching funds should be the top priority in the current budget year; and NMACD has been very successful in helping and representing all of the districts in the state at the legislature. The members of the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts do hereby support the NMACD Board of Directors and the Executive Director in working with the NM State Legislature to pass laws that will benefit the entire membership of NMACD.

WATER RIGHTS RESOLUTION

2010/7

Reaffirmed 2016

The office of the state engineer (OSE) continues to develop guidelines and policies in effect taking private property rights by reducing access to adjudicated water rights of property owners. The change in application evaluation by the OSE in reduction of original water right is taking of private property, diminishing value of the land. The active water right management policy adversely affects acequias long term survival. NMACD opposes active water resource management policy and readjudication of all existing water rights.

NMACD 2018 POSITION STATEMENTS

- FLOODWATER AND WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLANNING** 2011/1 Reaffirmed 2017
The SWCDs are dependent on the NRCS for most floodwater and watershed planning and management programs. The NMACD will request the NRCS prepare a request to the USDA for a new budget line item to be added within Title VI of the Farm Bill, "Rural Development; Infrastructure and Development" in support of New Mexico's state NRCS budget specifically for floodwater and watershed planning and management programs at district level.
- FERAL HOGS** 2011/2 Reaffirmed 2017
NMACD supports development of education & incentive programs to assist landowners with control or eradication of feral hogs. NMACD encourages NM Game & Fish Commissions/Agencies, Forest Service & Dept. of Interior to encourage measures to eradicate feral hogs on state, federal & private lands. NMACD urges the regulation of transportation and uncontrolled release of feral hogs.
- REQUEST FOR COORDINATING STATUS** 2011/3 Reaffirmed 2017
The NM SWCDs request the Secretary of Interior and BLM recognize and accept them as entities of local government duly elected by NM citizens with mandated responsibilities to its constituents; keep apprised of local needs, land use plans and invite NM SWCDs as Coordinating Agents in deliberating designation changes to all lands within the administrative boundaries of the district and that Congress act on the matter of executive authority in all actions pertaining to federal land designations and define and place limits on sweeping, administratively-driven actions that materially affect rural communities without adequate representation.
- WATER WELL METER RESOLUTION** 2011/4 Reaffirmed 2017
The Office of the State Engineer (OSE) developed Basin Guidelines for the Review of Water Rights Applications ("Guidelines") which are used in evaluating well applications affecting New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation Districts (NM SWCDs). The Guidelines state that "water supply wells permitted after the adoption of these guidelines shall be metered" and "all new permits issued for supplemental wells, or other points of diversion, shall be conditioned to require metering of each point of diversion (existing and new) covered under the permit.". This requirement is for the purpose of measuring actual water use. This requirement is overly burdensome on well-owners as many supplemental wells feed water to the same end point. Having a single meter at the end point of use or pivot will accomplish the same measurement of actual water pumped for a water right and should be allowed by the OSE.
- TAKING BACK OF WATER RIGHTS** 2011/5 Reaffirmed 2017
Domestic, agricultural and commercial development of land requires advanced planning and investment of time and finances. Development for personal, agricultural or commercial use is of great interest for the economies of the state of New Mexico and the USA. Agreements regarding allocation of surface water along said lands are imperative for economic development. NMACD supports the inviolability of all established water rights and will view any take back of water rights as hostile. We support existing settlements allocating surface water and are opposed to the hostile and/or litigious taking of water rights explicitly stated in existing settlements.
- PROTECT WATERSHED DISTRICTS FROM LOSS OF MONETARY & ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT** 2012/2 Reaffirmed 2017
NMACD will carry a bill in the next legislative session which will change the Small Watershed Act (73-20-1 through 73-20-24) in such a way that property cannot be deleted from a watershed district and a watershed district cannot be discontinued.
- NMACD / NEPA** 2012/3 Reaffirmed 2015
NMACD shall encourage SWCDs to become cooperating agencies to initiate coordination efforts with appropriate federal agencies. NMACD shall assist SWCDs in preparing local land use plans to provide a basis to evaluate federal NEPA decisions. NMACD shall consider a process for "consistency review" to allow a response to federal NEPA based decisions.
- DISABLED VETERANS EXEMPTION** 2012/4 Reaffirmed 2015
The state legislature has enacted the "*disabled veteran exemption, as part of the Property Tax Code -NMSA 1978, 7-37-5.1 (2004)*". The exemption from property taxation for veterans with disabilities, like all constitutional limitations on and exemptions from taxation, applies only to "taxes" as that term is used in the constitution. NMACD shall strive to amend the Property Tax code to clarify confusion within NM asking for a waiver for 100% service-connected disability be granted re: SWCDs Mill Levy collected by County Assessors.
- NOTIFICATION REGARDING FEDERAL LAND LEASE** 2012/5 Reaffirmed 2015
The federal government gives inadequate notice regarding decreasing allotment or increasing fees to the lessee thereby disallowing adequate time for the proper disposition of animals who inhabit federal lands, and raising grazing fees without due notice can have devastating consequences to the ranchers and agricultural sector. The NMACD shall call for evaluation to be based on sound science and proven conservation practices, and acceptance of an agreement between lessee and lessor with regards to time frame for

NMACD 2018 POSITION STATEMENTS

grazing reduction or fee increases. The NMACD shall support that adequate notice be encouraged and communication to occur immediately upon conclusion of the setting of the land-lease carry-capacity. The NMACD shall call upon the government to

dialogue with the lessee to coordinate a workable time-frame in which the lessee is required to reduce animal numbers or increase grazing fees. The NMACD endorses that the reduction in grazing numbers are mandated to occur in a time period of not less than twelve months.

STATE AUDITS

2013/1 Reaffirmed 2016

SWCDs are required to abide by the State of New Mexico Audit Rule. The tiered system reporting implemented by the Office of the State Auditor (OSA) still makes it necessary for many SWCDs to have annual, every other year or every two-year audits. Many rural districts have difficulty finding auditors to bid on the work required by the OSA and some audits cost almost 50% of SWCD's funding allotment from NMDA and a significant percentage of their total budget. NMACD will work with the OSA to improve the tiered system requirements for SWCDs. If changes are not a possibility, NMACD will work with the OSA to develop some potential cost-saving methods for SWCDs regarding the audit requirements. If the audit requirements and cost-saving methods do not improve to help the SWCDs, NMACD will pursue funding assistance or statute changes through the legislative process.

ASTRAY HORSES

2013/2 Reaffirmed 2016

There are free-roaming astray horses throughout the State of NM SWCDs. The free-roaming astray horses continue to multiply to the point whereby the land cannot sustain them. These free-roaming astray horses continue to devastate the natural resources, cause erosion on private and public property throughout the State. The free-roaming astray horses create safety problems in residential areas and on the public highways throughout the State. NMACD shall provide assistance as soon as feasible in working cooperatively with SWCDs, NMDA and the NM Livestock Board to manage these free-roaming astray horses to prevent further natural resources damage throughout the State. NMACD shall participate in the formation of any policies concerning free-roaming astray horses in NM.

ELK OVERPOPULATION

2013/3 Reaffirmed 2016

Grazing lands of the State's ranches, the hayfields of the state farmers and public domain are a vital economic and environmental force in America. Grazing lands need to be improved in an ecologically and economically sound manner in order to meet national needs for food, fiber, wildlife, outdoor recreation, water and environmental quality. Hayfields need to be protected and improved in order for the state farmers to harvest hay for their livestock winter use. NMACD advocates a continued program for grazing land improvement on all federal, state and private grazing lands. Big game animal populations are steadily increasing, particularly elk, and elk have devastated grazing lands and hayfields due to their large numbers. NMACD shall seek assistance from NM Dept. of Game and Fish in working with private land owners through their cost share and other programs to protect the land and natural resources, including but not limited to erecting game fences around effected properties and/or by increasing land owner permits in the affected units.

ARIZONA WATER SETTLEMENTS ACT (AWSA) SUPPORT

2013/4 Reaffirmed 2016

New Mexico is entitled to divert up to 14,000 acre-feet of water from the Gila & San Francisco Rivers under AWSA for the benefit of the 4-county SW NM Water Planning Region (SWNMWPR) (Catron, Grant, Hidalgo, & Luna Counties) & receives federal funds to finance local projects to develop these water resources. AWSA water is the only source of new water supply to the 4-county region. NMACD supports the revised application for the SW NM Regional Water Supply Project and intergovernmental cooperation in development of this project & protection of this water supply for benefit of the region. NMACD shall request that technical work provided by the Bureau of Reclamation be consistent with conceptual framework presented by applicants for funding under the AWSA and approved by ISC. NMACD opposes exportation or conveyance of AWSA water outside the 4-county region.

RELEASE OF WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS (WSAs) IN NEW MEXICO POLICY STATEMENT 2014-1 Reaffirmed 2017

Many WSAs in NM did not fit the wilderness definition nor contain wilderness characteristics according to wilderness criteria as defined by the Wilderness Act of 1964. These areas were not recommended to US Congress as suitable for Wilderness Areas (WSAs). NMACD shall petition their NM Delegation to act on this resolution by releasing areas that did not fit wilderness definition from their status as WSAs and be removed from National Preservation System and National Landscape Conservation System to benefit citizens of NM. NMACD shall have this Resolution transmitted to the Governor of NM and US Congressional Delegation.

AGRICULTURE LANDS VALUATION

2014-3 Revised 2017

Agricultural land assessment is one of the single most important public policies in keeping agriculture, and all its positive environmental, economic and aesthetic attributes, alive and well in New Mexico. NMACD shall support accurate and fair appraisal of land for agricultural usage.

NMACD 2018 POSITION STATEMENTS

WATERSHED FUNDING FOR WATERSHED HEALTH

2014-4 Reaffirmed 2017

NMACD advocates for local SWCDs to be included as full partners in efforts to complete forest thinning projects on lands in their boundaries and shall encourage the NM Legislature and federal, state and local government agencies to support this endeavor.

FSA MODIFY LIP PROGRAM ALLOW SELF CERTIFICATION OF MEXICAN WOLF LIVESTOCK LOSSES 2014-5 **Reaffirmed 2017**

NMACD still stands in opposition to the Mexican Wolf Program. NMACD shall request that the adjusted FSA LIP wolf-caused livestock loss compensation program confirmation criteria be based on annual livestock mortality records similar to other LIP reimbursements for Adverse Weather Condition losses allowing for livestock losses reports to be self-certified by producers without confirmation by a certified biologist. NMACD shall request NM State FSA Committee petition USDA FSA remedy the problems of inadequate compensation for livestock losses due to Mexican Gray wolves; and seek advice from NMDA and NMACD for improving this important component of the FSA LIP compensation program. NMACD shall request FSA consult with and involve NMDA, affected SW SWCDs and affected livestock producers in improving the LIP wolf-related compensation program.

SUPPORT FOR GROUNDWATER STUDIES AND ACTIONS

2015-1

NMACD and local SWCDs shall encourage funding for 1) Studies of groundwater resources including mapping, monitoring, recharge sources and to identify future development for Ag and Municipal uses and 2) Projects that reduce evapotranspiration and that increase recharge of groundwater including forest thinning, Acequia recharge, storm water runoff and infiltration galleries.

OPPOSITION TO RE-INJECTION OF GEOTHERMAL WATER INTO ANY SHALLOW AQUIFER 2015-2

NMACD is opposed to the re-injection of geothermal water into any shallow aquifer which could cause contamination to that shallow aquifer. NMACD requests the appropriate state agency become actively involved in physical monitoring and assurance that the shallow aquifer water level and quality be unaffected by re-injection of geothermal water into any shallow aquifer.

AGRICULTURE PROPERTY TAX DEFINITIONS

2015-3

Some NM counties have experienced Ag lands being removed from Ag classification due to lack of recent production, regulations require this type of review statewide. NM Right to Farm Act, Sections 47-9-1 through 47-9-4 (NMSA 1978), declares the purpose "to conserve, protect, encourage, develop and improve agricultural land...and reduce the loss to the state of its agricultural resources". NM Property Tax Code, Section 7-36-20 (NMSA 1978), provides for tax relief for ag properties through a special method of valuation of land used primarily for ag purposes. NMACD shall work with NMDA, NM Tax and Revenue and NM Legislature to update and clarify the data and regulations for agricultural tax definitions.

BORDER FENCE ISSUE

2016-1

NMACD requests the New Mexico Livestock Board, the Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, the Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and NM Congressional Delegation do contact and request the Secretary of the US Department of Agriculture, US Department of Interior, NM State Land Office and US Department of Homeland Security to immediately address the border fence issue by developing and implementing a plan to maintain existing fence, replace ineffective fences and fence the remaining miles of border between New Mexico and Mexico; and request these actions be made in order to protect the United States economy from foreign animal disease exposure.

OBJECT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PESTICIDE FREE ZONES WITHOUT LOCAL INPUT 2016-2

The disclosure that the Department of Interior (DOI) is contemplating a massive pesticide free zone for enhancing the Monarch Butterfly population has been announced. NMACD opposes these zones until further study, discussion, and review has been accomplished including input from local communities involved. NMACD shall cause a copy of the resolution to be transmitted to the Governor of NM, US Department of Interior, the NM Congressional Delegation, and New Mexico Department of Ag (NMDA).

INCLUSION of LANGUAGE 2018 FARM BILL FOR ACEQUIAS EQIP FUNDING SAME AS TRIBAL 2016-3

NMACD supports the inclusion of language in the 2018 Farm Bill that will provide eligibility to acequias/irrigation canals emulating Tribal entities when it comes to seeking EQIP funding from NRCS.

SOIL HEALTH

2017-1

NMACD will join NACD in working with SWCDs to encourage and support a Champions for Soil Health Initiative to further advance soil health in New Mexico.

CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT

2017-2

NMACD shall request that the NM Dept. of Finance Authority allow SWCDs with an operating budget less than \$20,000 be exempt from the New Mexico DFA Chief Procurement Officer (CPO) Certification requirement.

SUPPORT FOR THE RESTORE NEW MEXICO PROGRAM

2017-3

NMACD will work with BLM NM to provide SWCDs on-going reports in implementing the Restore New Mexico Program.