

State Specific Training Module for New Mexico



Purpose of this Module

This module will provide some general information that TSPs need to conduct conservation planning in New Mexico. This information is general in nature so the TSP may need to follow up with additional reading or training to make sure they have the knowledge, skill, licenses and certifications to conduct conservation planning in this state.

Review of New Mexico State Laws

The New Mexico Ground Water Quality Bureau (GWQB) requires that all nutrient management plans (NMPs)

“shall be developed through utilization of the U.S. department of agriculture natural resources conservation service (USDA-NRCS) national comprehensive nutrient management plan development templates as adopted by the New Mexico office of the USDA-NRCS and in accordance with the USDA-NRCS *conservation practice standard for New Mexico, nutrient management – code 590.*”

see: <http://164.64.110.239/nmac/parts/title20/20.006.0006.pdf>

NRCS Knowledge and Training Requirements for developing Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMPs) are listed here:

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs144p2_067970.pdf

Review of NM State Laws (cont.)

Pest Management

- New Mexico requires anyone applying or recommending restricted use pesticides to be a licensed pesticide applicator.
- New Mexico Department of Agriculture is the issuer of the licenses in Idaho (private and commercial applicator licenses).
- NRCS requires that Win-PST be used to evaluate the risks of the use of pesticides and to address the risk with mitigating practices. To learn more about Win-PST, contact the Idaho TSP Coordinator.

Review of New Mexico State Laws (cont.)

Cultural Resources

- Any ground disturbing practice must be evaluated by a cultural resource specialist or permitted archaeologist.
- The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) or Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) consultation must be completed prior to ground disturbance (30 days).
- Consultation with Native American Tribes may also be required.

Review of NM State Laws (cont.)

Water rights in New Mexico

- New Mexico, like the majority of the western United States operates on the “First in Time, First in Right” rule for water rights.
- When addressing any resource issue involving water, one must inventory water rights.
- Practices that may affect water rights are items such as any irrigation related practices, conversion to dry land crops, spring developments and any water impoundments.

Review of New Mexico FOTG Requirements

All Technical Service Providers should be familiar with and use the State of New Mexico Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG). The FOTG has all of New Mexico's Conservation Practice Standards and Specifications in Section IV. Copy the following link into your web browser to access Idaho's FOTG website:

http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/efotg_locator.aspx?map=NM

Review of Important Resource Issues for Energy

- Energy as a resource concern is often overlooked when planning on farms or ranches.
- Energy conservation opportunities exist in almost every farming or ranching operation.
- Energy conservation should be a major factor in determining when irrigation systems may need to be replaced.

Review of Important Resource Issues Concerning Pollinators

- The Farm Bill has provisions for NRCS to consider pollinator conservation in all planning
- 35% of crops require a pollinator, equaling \$27 billion of crops in the US alone
- Honeybees and native bees are in decline due to a variety of reasons (disease, parasites, habitat loss, pesticides).
- Information on Pollinators in New Mexico can be found at:
<http://aces.nmsu.edu/ipm/pollinator-project.html>

Review of Important Resource Issues Concerning Pollinators

1. Protection from pesticide
 - a) Reduce or eliminate use
 - b) Follow labels
 - c) Beware of drift
2. Providing or conserving nesting sites
 - a) 70% ground nesting, 30% wood cavity nesting
 - b) Manage existing sites or provide artificial nests
3. Providing or conserving floral resources
 - a) Season-long diverse bloom
 - b) Native plant species are best

Review of Cropland Issues in New Mexico(Irrigated, water quantity)

- Irrigation efficiency needs to be addressed (water quantity)
- Typical Conservation Practices that can be used to address this resource concern:
 - 442 - Sprinkler System
 - 441 - Micro Irrigation
 - 449 - Irrigation Water Management
 - 533 - Pumping Plant
 - 587 - Structure for Water Control
 - 443 - Surface Irrigation
 - 436 - Irrigation Reservoir

Review of Cropland Issues in New Mexico for Irrigated Soil Health

- Soil Erosion induced primarily by flood irrigation
- Soil Compaction under irrigation caused by excessive tillage
- Poor Soil Organic content caused by excessive tillage
- Typical Conservation Practices that can be used to address this resource concern:
 - 449 - Irrigation Water Management
 - 340 - Cover Crops
 - 329 - Reduced Tillage

Review of Cropland Issues in New Mexico

Irrigated Grazing systems

- Most cropland is in forage production.
- There is potential for highly productive pastures.
- Small Acreage farms are ideal for small scale livestock production
- Typical Conservation Practices that can be used to address this resource concern:
 - 528 - Prescribed Grazing
 - 512 – Forage and Biomass Planting
 - 511 - Forage Harvest Management

Review of Cropland Issues in New Mexico for Irrigated Plant Productivity

- Plans should be developed to control plant pests
- Resistance to pesticides needs to be evaluated
- Typical Conservation Practices that can be used to address this resource concern:
 - 595 - Integrated Pest Management
 - 315 - Herbaceous Weed Control (corner and waste areas)
 - 328 - Conservation Crop Rotation

Review of Cropland Issues in New Mexico Irrigated Economics

- Special Attention should be paid to economic returns on investments when expensive irrigation infrastructure is being considered as a conservation alternative.
- Analysis sheets and runs should be done

Review of Cropland Issues in New Mexico

Dry Land Soil Health

- Soil Erosion is a primary concern when dealing with Dry Land farming.
- Principally Wind induced erosion (know WEPS)
- Declining Fertility over time should be evaluated
- Typical Conservation Practices that can be used to address this resource concern:
 - Reduced Tillage – includes 329 Residue Tillage Management – no till and 345 Residue Tillage Management – mulch till
 - 328 - Conservation Crop Rotation

Review of Important Pasture/Rangeland Resource Issues in New Mexico, Cont.

Pasture/Rangeland Issues – Continued

- Soil Quality Degradation - Tools used to determine erosion on pasture & rangeland: Pasture Conditioning Score sheet, RUSLE2 or WEPS.
- Typical Conservation Practices that can be used to address this resource concern:
 - 528 – Prescribed Grazing
 - 511 – Forage Harvest Management
 - 548 – Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment

Review of Important Pasture/Rangeland Resource Issues in New Mexico, Cont.

Pasture/Rangeland Issues – Continued

- Water Resources – Water Quality and Quantity – see irrigation concerns – usually related to pasture.

Review of Important Pasture/Rangeland Resource Issues in New Mexico, Cont.

Pasture/Rangeland Issues (Cont.)

Plant Resource Concerns:

- Degraded plant condition – tools to use to determine plant condition: Pasture Conditioning Score sheet, Tech Note 19 (range sheet), Rangeland Health Assessment, Rangeland Trend worksheet, Similarity Index.
- Typical Conservation Practices that can be used to address this resource concern:
 - 528 – Prescribed Grazing
 - 382 – Fencing
 - 512 – Forage and Biomass Planting
 - 550 – Range Planting

Review of Important Pasture/Rangeland Resource Issues in New Mexico, Cont.

Pasture/Rangeland Issues (Cont.)

Animal Resource Concerns:

- Inadequate Habitat for Fish & Wildlife, Livestock Production Limitation, Inadequate livestock water. Tools to determine: SVAP2, TN19, TN32, Habitat Suitability Index, Feed/Forage Balance worksheet,
- Typical Conservation Practices that can be used to address this resource concern:
 - 645 – Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
 - 528 – Prescribed Grazing
 - 614 – Watering Facility
 - 649 – Structures for Wildlife
 - 382 - Fence
 - 550 – Range Planting
 - 512 – Forage and Biomass Planting

Review of Important Wildlife Resource Issues

Threatened & Endangered species Issues:

- Habitat Degradation
- Imbalances among populations
- Habitat fragmentation
- Human disturbances
- Livestock impacts
- Human encroachment

New Mexico's list of threatened and endangered species are at the following link:

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/nm/technical/ecoscience/bio/?cid=nrcs144p2_068853

- Typical Conservation Practices that can be used to address this resource concern include:
 - 645 - Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
 - 314 - Brush Management
 - 550 - Range Planting
 - 512 – Forage and Biomass Planting
 - 612 - Tree and Shrub Establishment.

Riparian concerns

- Stream bank stability, water quality, erosion control, temperature, turbidity, species composition along stream bank. (319 list on State of Idaho website.) Tools to use to determine status: SVAP2.

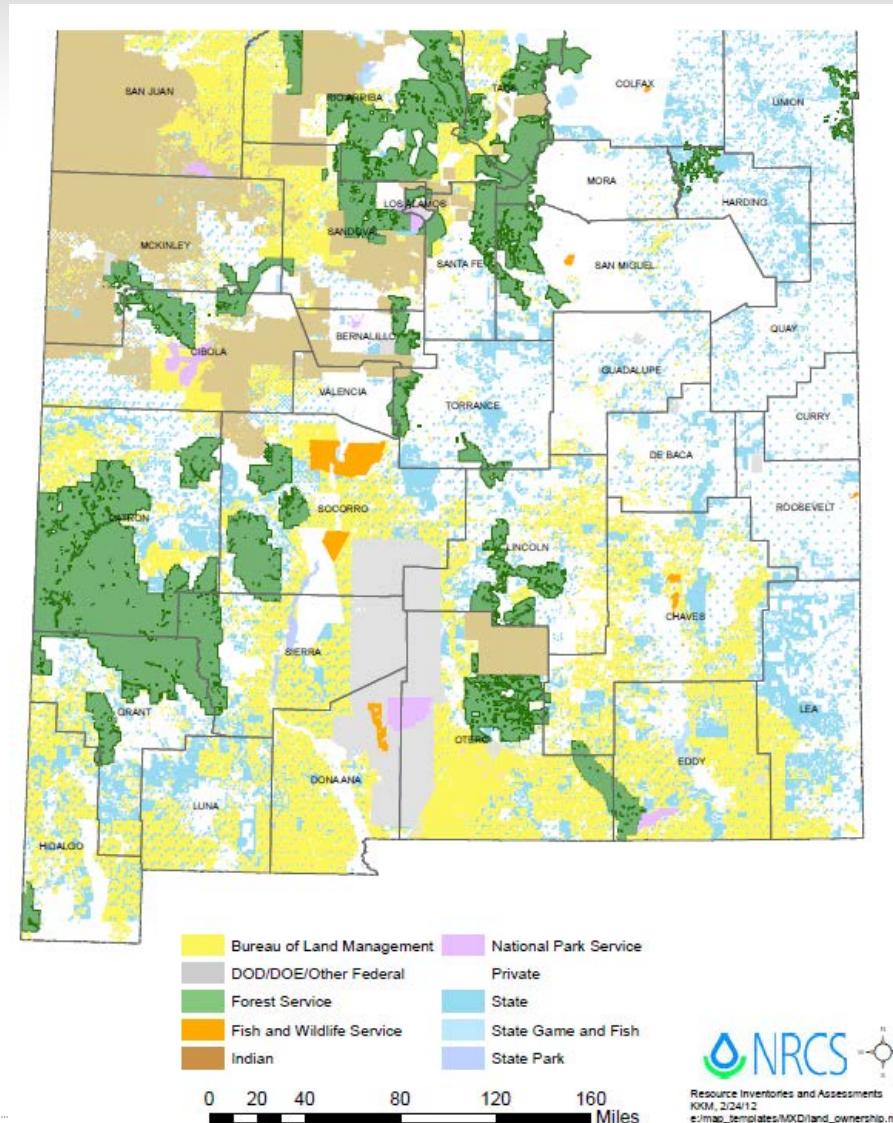
Typical conservation practices that can be used to address this concern:

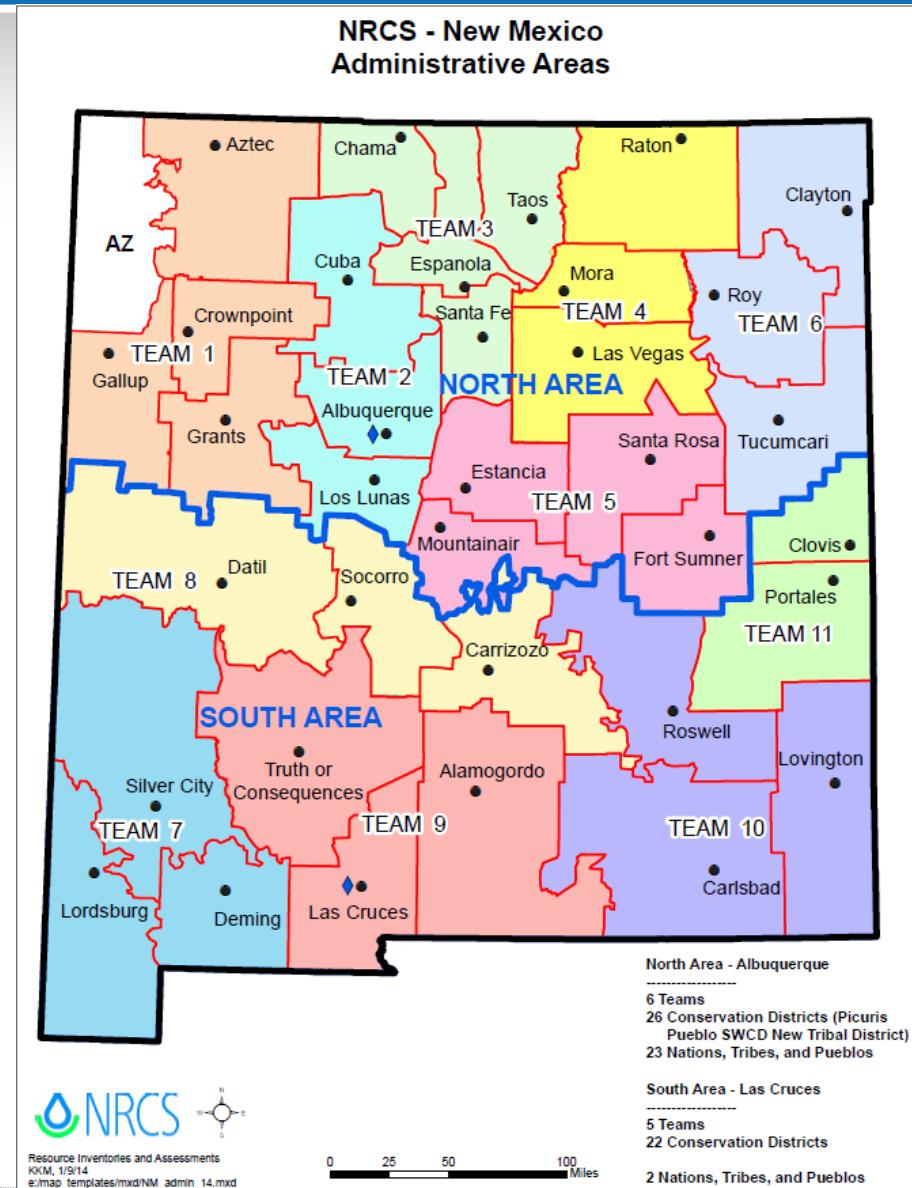
- 580 – Stream bank & shoreline protection
- 395 - Stream habitat improvement management
- 528 - Prescribed grazing
- 472 – Access control (use exclusion)
- 612 - Tree and shrub establishment

Wetland concerns – Any sort of hydrologic or vegetative modification (see below) which will affect the proper functioning condition of the wetland.

- Wetland guidance comes from the 1985 Food Security Act. Producers will comply with this act so that they are eligible for farm subsidies. Producers work with FSA and file form AD1026 if they plan to modify any land, such as draining, land leveling, filling, dredging, land clearing or excavation that has not been evaluated for the presence of wetlands by NRCS. A list of certified wetland delineators can be found on EFOTG, Section III, Legislated Programs and Job Approval Authority.

New Mexico Land Ownership





Expected TSP Workflow

- The State Resource Conservationist (SRC) will be responsible for reviewing TSP conservation planning for the National Planner Certification.
- Subsequent conservation plans will be reviewed by the District Conservationist (DC) at the local USDA Service Center.
- The SRC will conduct plan reviews for TSP planner certification renewals.
- TSPs will work with the local District Conservationist to make sure the proper environmental evaluations (NRCS.CPA.52) are completed.

Certificate of Completion

After viewing the State Specific Training module, please print and sign the completion certificate on the following slide.

The certificate is your acknowledgement that based on the information provided in this module, you have the proper knowledge, skills and ability to conduct planning in this state.

Send the signed certificate to the State TSP Coordinator. Copy the below link to your browser for a list of State TSP Coordinators.

<https://techreg.sc.egov.usda.gov/RptStateContact4Admin.aspx>

STATE SPECIFIC TRAINING MODULE COMPLETION CERTIFICATE

I, _____, hereby verify I have viewed and understand the
TSP Name
content of the New Mexico State Specific Training Module and affirm I have
the knowledge, skills and ability to conduct conservation planning services in
that state.

TSP signature

Date

Non-Discrimination Statement

Non-Discrimination Policy

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

To File an Employment Complaint

If you wish to file an employment complaint, you must contact your agency's EEO Counselor within 45 days of the date of the alleged discriminatory act, event, or in the case of a personnel action. Additional information can be found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_file.html

To File a Program Complaint

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9419, by fax at (202) 690-7442, or email at program.intake@usda.gov

Persons with Disabilities

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities and you wish to file either an EEO or program complaint please contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish).

Persons with disabilities, who wish to file a program complaint, please see information above on how to contact us by mail or by email. If you require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.), please contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

For any other information dealing with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) issues, persons should either contact the USDA SNAP Hotline Number at (800) 221-5689, which is also in Spanish, or call the State Information/Hotline Numbers.

All Other Inquiries

For any other information not pertaining to civil rights, please refer to the listing of the USDA Agencies and Offices.