

# 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 our state. 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.

## New Mexico State Laws affecting conservation planning and practice implementation – Animal Feeding Operations AFOs



- Follow the New Mexico Environment Department- Ground Water Quality Bureau (GWQB) requirements for nutrient management plans (NMPs)  
<https://www.srca.nm.gov/parts/title20/20.006.0006.html>
- NRCS Knowledge and Training Requirements for developing Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMPs)  
<https://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/viewerFS.aspx?hid=37789>
- Individuals certified as nutrient management consultants in other States are eligible for certification in New Mexico
- NRCS Certification is valid for three years and can be renewed on or before the expiration date.

## New Mexico State Laws affecting conservation planning and practice implementation

### Pest Management

- New Mexico requires a New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) issued license [Pesticide Compliance \(nmsu.edu\)](https://www.nmsu.edu) for anyone applying or recommending restricted use pesticides.
- NRCS requires that [Windows Pesticide Screening Tool \(WIN-PST\) | Natural Resources Conservation Service \(usda.gov\)](#) 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 New Mexico TSP Coordinator.

# New Mexico State Laws affecting conservation planning and practice implementation

- All planned conservation practices and activities that have the potential to adversely affect threatened and endangered species must be approved by the NRCS New Mexico State Biologist.

## Threatened and Endangered Animal Species in New Mexico

<https://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/download/conservation/threatened-endangered-species/biennial-reviews/2022-Biennial-Review.pdf>

- Mammals 24 species
- Birds 32
- Reptiles 15
- Amphibians 6
- Fishes 22
- Crustaceans 2
- Mollusks 25

## NEW MEXICO STATE ENDANGERED PLANT

**SPECIES(19.21.2.8NMAC)**<https://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/download/conservation/threatened-endangered-species/biennial-reviews/2022-Biennial-Review.pdf>

- 45species

# New Mexico State Laws affecting conservation planning and practice implementation

## Cultural Resources

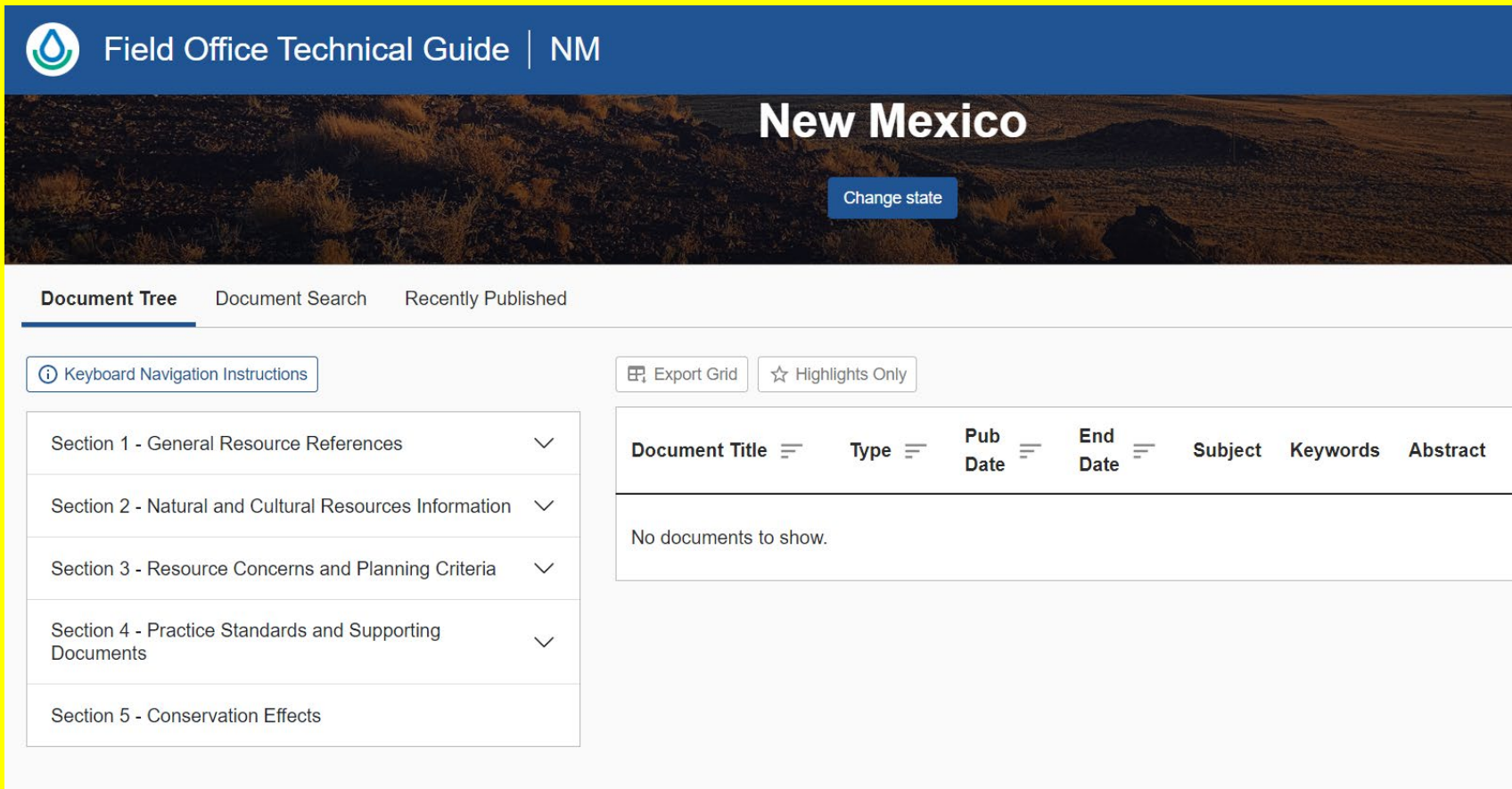
- Any ground disturbing practice must be evaluated by a cultural resource specialist or permitted archaeologist.
- The NM State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) or Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) consultation must be completed prior to ground disturbance (30 days).
- Consultation with Native American Tribes may also be required.
- All planned conservation activities that involve any ground disturbance must be approved by the NRCS New Mexico State Archaeologist.

# New Mexico State Laws affecting conservation planning and practice implementation

## Water Rights in New Mexico

- New Mexico, 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. Contact the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer for more information <https://www.ose.state.nm.us/WRAB/index.php>
- Practices that may affect water rights are irrigation related practices, conversion of dry land to irrigated crop land, spring developments, water catchments and any water impoundments.

All Technical Service Providers must use the New Mexico Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG). <https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/> for all conservation activities



Field Office Technical Guide | NM

## New Mexico

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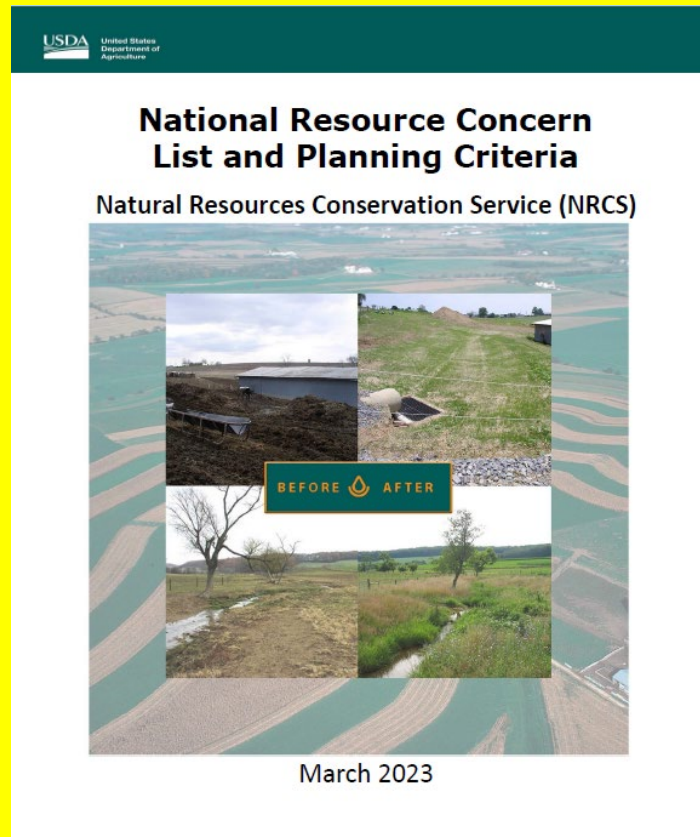
Document Title	Type	Pub Date	End Date	Subject	Keywords	Abstract
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## New Mexico Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG)

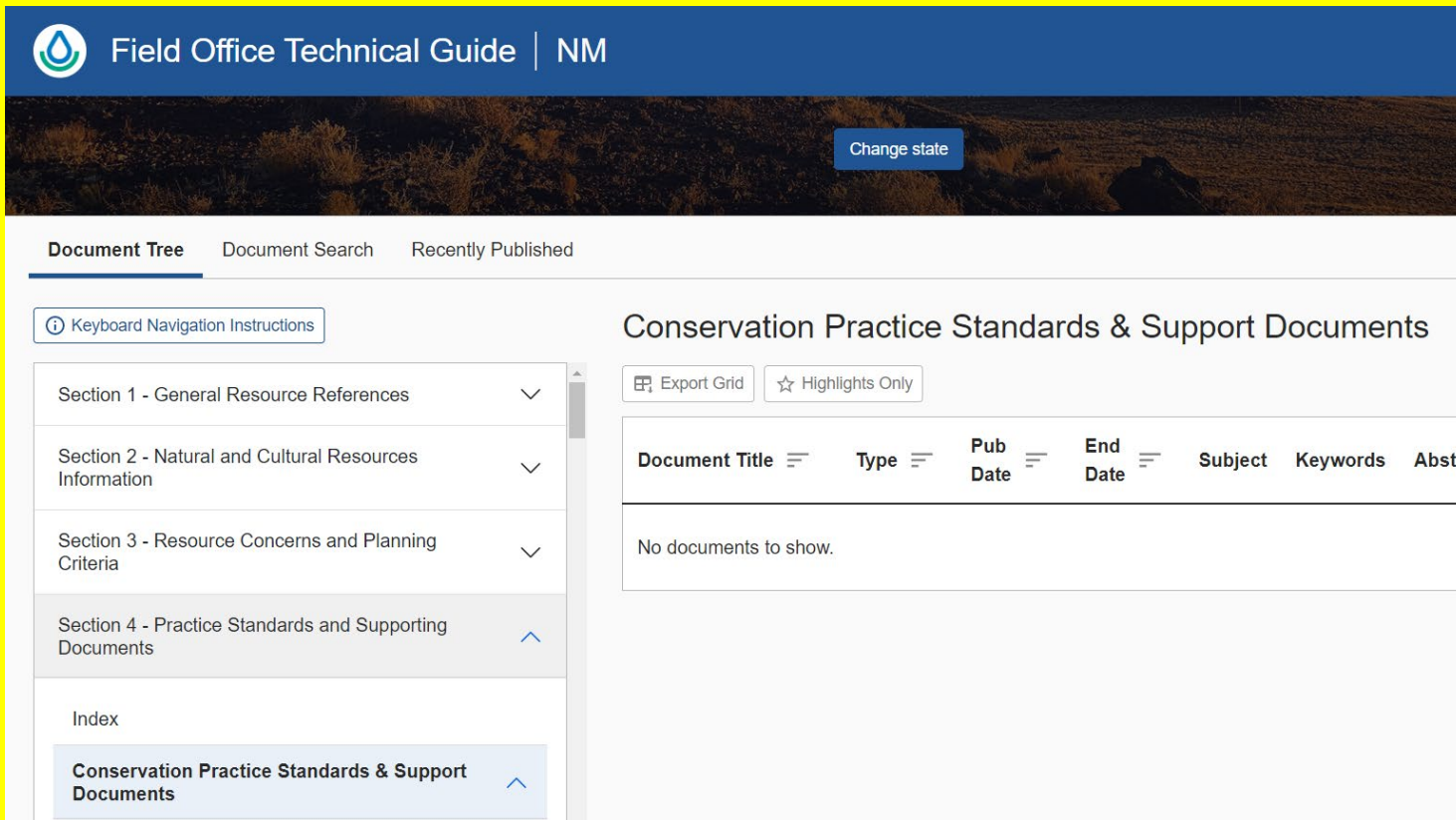
TSPs must use the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Resource Concern List and Planning Criteria in Section 3 of the New Mexico FOTG to identify resource concerns and plan/implement alternative treatments.

<https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/state/NM/documents/section=3&folder=10101>



# New Mexico Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG)

TSPs must use the Conservation Practice Standards and Supporting Documents in Section 4 of the [New Mexico | Field Office Technical Guide | NRCS – USDA](#) in Section 4 of the New Mexico FOTG to treat resource concerns.



The screenshot shows the 'Field Office Technical Guide | NM' website. The navigation bar includes 'Document Tree', 'Document Search', and 'Recently Published'. The 'Document Tree' is expanded to show 'Section 4 - Practice Standards and Supporting Documents'. The main content area is titled 'Conservation Practice Standards & Support Documents' and includes a table with columns for 'Document Title', 'Type', 'Pub Date', 'End Date', 'Subject', 'Keywords', and 'Abstract'. The table currently displays 'No documents to show.'

Field Office Technical Guide | NM

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Keyboard Navigation Instructions

Section 1 - General Resource References

Section 2 - Natural and Cultural Resources Information

Section 3 - Resource Concerns and Planning Criteria

Section 4 - Practice Standards and Supporting Documents

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Conservation Practice Standards & Support Documents

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Document Title	Type	Pub Date	End Date	Subject	Keywords	Abstract
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# New Mexico Major Land Uses or Agronomic Practices

- Approximately 93% of agricultural acres reported in New Mexico are in grasslands. The native rangeland in this state is primarily short grass species. The primary grazers are cattle. [USDA/NASS 2022 State Agriculture Overview for New Mexico](#)
- Alfalfa, Corn, Forage Sorghum, Sorghum, mixed Forages, Cotton and Wheat are planted on most of the remaining 7 % of crop acres. Other crops include vegetables, Pecans, Pistachios and grapes. [USDA/NASS 2022 State Agriculture Overview for New Mexico](#)
- Approximately 750,000 pasture and crop lands are irrigated in New Mexico, 51% flood, 45% by sprinklers and 5% by drip systems [PowerPoint Presentation \(unm.edu\)](#)

## Common Cropland Resource Concerns in New Mexico

- Soil Erosion by wind is a primary concern especially when dealing with dry Land farming.
- Use Wind Erosion Prediction Software(WEPS) [WEPS Main page \(usda.gov\)](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soil/weeps/) to assess resource concerns
- 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
  - 340 Cover Crops



## Common Cropland Resource Concerns in New Mexico

- Water Quantity - Irrigation efficiency is a common resource concern in New Mexico. Conservation Practices that can be used to address this are:
  - 442 - Sprinkler System
  - 441 - Micro Irrigation
  - 449 - Irrigation Water Management
  - 533 - Pumping Plant
  - 587 - Structure for Water Control
  - 443 - Surface Irrigation
  - 436 - Irrigation Reservoir



## Common Pasture Resource Concerns in New Mexico

- 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

## Common Pasture/Rangeland Resource Issues in New Mexico



### Animal Resource Concerns:

- Inadequate Habitat for Fish & Wildlife, Livestock Production Limitation, Inadequate livestock water.
- 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

## Common Pasture/Rangeland Resource Issues in New Mexico

- Soil Quality Degradation - Tools used to determine erosion on pasture & rangeland are in Section 4 [New Mexico | Field Office Technical Guide | NRCS – USDA](#):
  - Pasture Conditioning Score sheet
  - Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health
- Typical Conservation Practices that can be used to address this resource concern:
  - 528 – Prescribed Grazing
  - 511 – Forage Harvest Management
  - 548 – Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment





## Common Pasture/Rangeland Resource Issues in New Mexico

### 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, found in the New Mexico Field Office Technical Guide Section 4 Ecological Science Tools
- 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 New Mexico Wildlife Resource Issues

## Threatened & Endangered species Issues:

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



Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Animal Species in New Mexico

<https://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/download/conservation/threatened-endangered-species/biennial-reviews/2022-Biennial-Review.pdf>

- 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.



## 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



## Common Riparian Resource Concerns In New Mexico

- Stream bank stability, water quality, erosion control, temperature, turbidity, species composition along stream bank. (NM 319 list [New Mexico Environment Department](#))

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

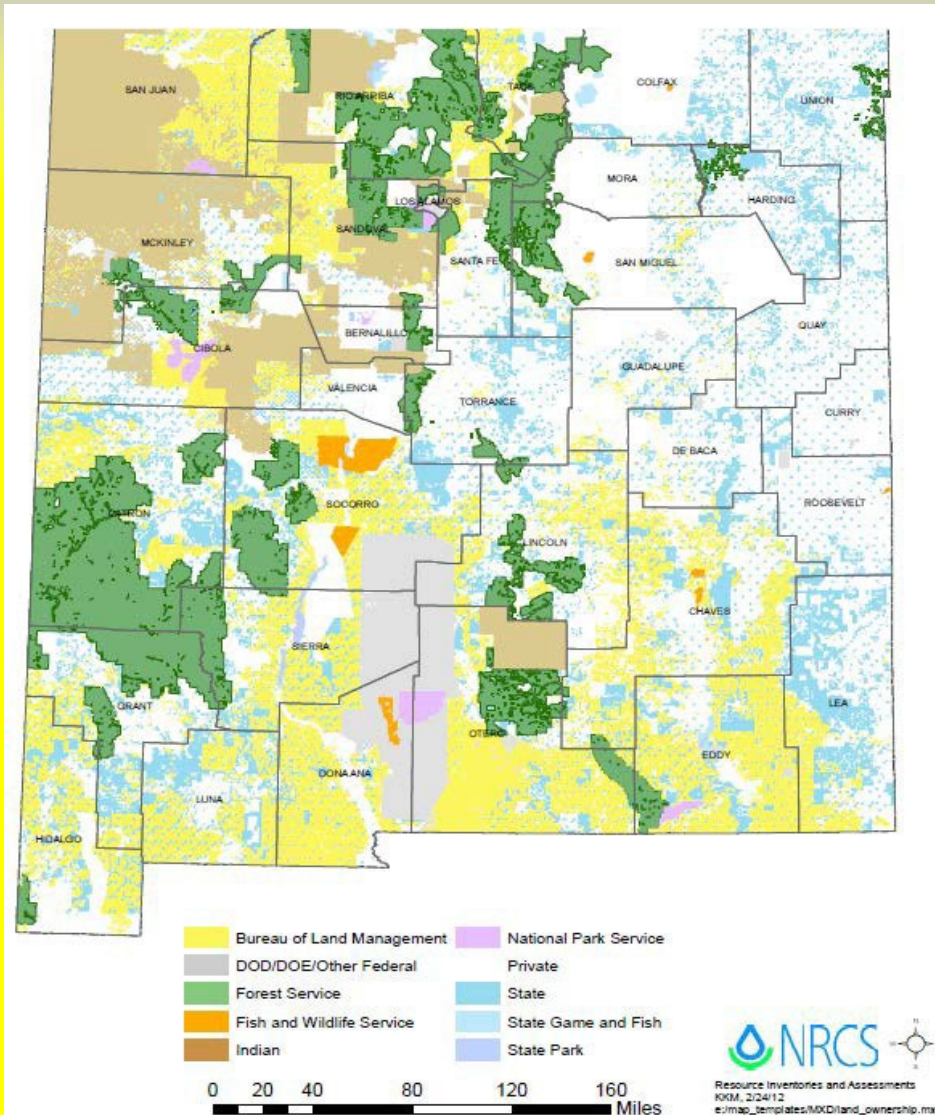
## Common Wetland Resource Concerns in New Mexico

- Any sort of hydrologic or vegetative modification which will affect the proper functioning condition of the wetland. All National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations regarding wetlands must be followed.
- Producers Must comply with the Wetland Provisions of the 1985 Food Security Act to remain eligible for USDA financial assistance. 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.

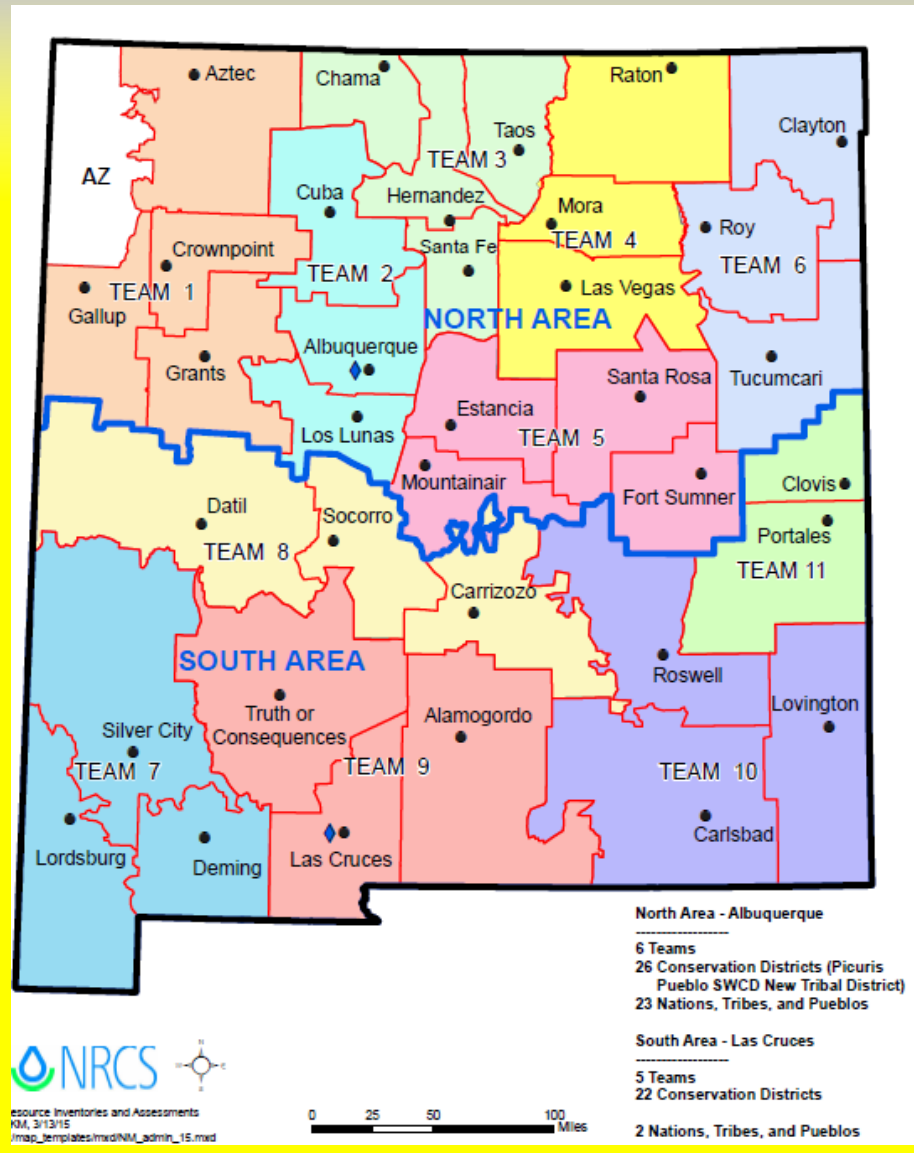


## New Mexico Land Ownership

- Approximately 40% of this state is public lands. Most of the public land is managed for multiple use, and leases by individual ranchers is common.
- Conservation planning on private land may include a public component, but the opportunity for private individuals to construct permanent conservation practices on public lands is limited.
- Native American Indian lands are not public lands and require Tribal/Nation/Pueblo approval for all conservation practices



# NRCS Field Offices and administrative Areas



## Expected TSP Workflow

- The State Resource Conservationist (SRC) will be responsible for reviewing TSP conservation planning for the National Planner Designation.
- 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 designation renewals.
- TSPs will work with the local District Conservationist to make sure the proper environmental evaluations (NRCS.CPA.52) are completed.



## Additional References or Training

- New Mexico NRCS CNMP Training for CNMPs
- New Mexico State University Nutrient Management Guide
- A Professional Engineering (PE) license is required for all engineering Practices involving a TSP  
<https://www.sblpes.state.nm.us/engineering/>

### Non-Discrimination Statement

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## 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.

Within your NRCS Registry profile, enter the training and upload the signed certificate to verify completion.

## STATE SPECIFIC TRAINING MODULE COMPLETION CERTIFICATE

I, \_\_\_\_\_ hereby verify I have viewed and understand the content of *[enter state name]* State  
TSP Name  
Specific Training Module and affirm I have the knowledge, skills, and ability to conduct conservation planning  
services in this state.

\_\_\_\_\_  
TSP Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date