

Otero Soil and Water Conservation District 3501 Mesa Village Dr. Alamogordo, NM 88310 (575) 437-3100 ext.3

Current SWCD Board of Supervisors:

- Bill Mershon, Chairman
- Rick Baish, Vice Chairman
- Eddie Vigil, Secretary/Treasurer
- Bob Nichols, Supervisor
- Clyde Davis Jr., Supervisor
- James Evrage, Supervisor
- Jeff Rabon, Supervisor

NRCS Staff:

- John Hartung, District Conservationist
- Mary Sanchez, Rangeland Management Specialist
- Sam Gutierrez, Soil Conservation Technician
- Rita Stone, Farm Bill Specialist

FSA Staff:

- Lynn Muncy, County Executive Director
- Carol Ruiz, Program Technician

District Employees:

- Victoria Milne, District Manager
- Leslie Tiley, Field Technician

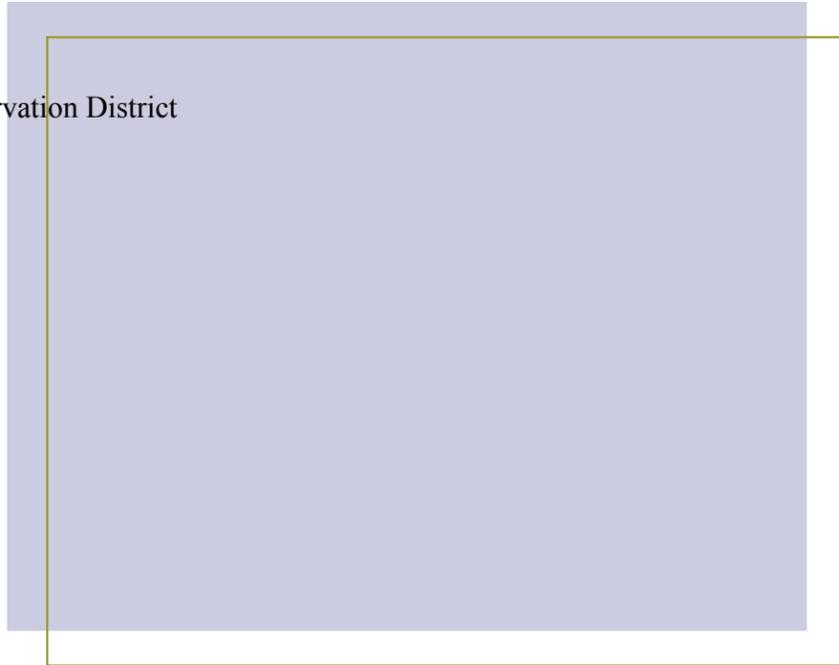
The Otero SWCD is an equal opportunity employer.



District board meetings are generally, the first Wednesday of each month at 9:30 am. The meetings are held in the same building, in the Forest Service's conference room located at 3463 Las Palomas Dr.

The USDA Alamogordo Service Center will be closed:
January 20th - Martin Luther King Jr. Day; February 17th - President's Day

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2014
Winter

Otero SWCD Annual Legislative Luncheon

The Otero SWCD hosted its Annual Awards Luncheon on December 4th, 2013. Bill Mershon presented the annual report. NRCS District



Conservationist John Hartung talked about the successful year of conservation in Otero County.

The field office paid out \$699,091.54 to Otero County Producers who completed their projects this year. John then presented Bryan Prather and his family with the Outstanding Land Stewardship award.

Talon Newton from the NM Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources reviewed the progress of the Sacramento Mountains Watershed Study and answered questions

regarding the status of the Tularosa Basin Hydrogeology Study. The Sacramento Mountains Hydrogeology Study Final Report is online @ ftp://geoinfo.nmt.edu/Open_file_Reports/OFR500-599/526-550/543.

The Tularosa Basin Hydrogeology Study Report is available on our Website: oteroswcd.org.

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2013 Outstanding Land Stewardship

Bryan Prather
“For your commitment to making Land Stewardship a priority.”

Otero SWCD Annual Legislative Luncheon Continued...

Chairman Bill Mershon presented Lane Hauser and Lisa Phillips with our Partners in Conservation Award and thanked them for the great success we have had working with our partners in the Bureau of Land Management to combat invasive species, brush species and provide needed livestock water developments to area ranchers.

In conclusion, Bill Mershon thanked everyone for their continued support of the Otero SWCD.



2013 Partners in Conservation

Lane Hauser & Lisa Phillips

“For your perseverance in making conservation a priority.”

Tom Dominguez CEA-Ag.



I have had the pleasure of working in Otero County now for a few months. I am enjoying the diversity Otero County has to offer, both in its terrain and agricultural industry. I am excited to be here and be a part of the Otero County Extension family. Everyone has been more than accommodating and helpful.

I would like to introduce myself to you and hope that I can meet all of you on a personal basis. I am originally from West Texas, grew up in the Pecos area, for those of you not familiar with that part of Texas you are not missing much. The country is mostly flat with mesquite brush. I grew up on a cow calf operation plus we usually hired out to day work many of the area ranches during spring and fall works. I still occasionally like to get out and help neighbors in such times. We also raised a few goats and horses.

I was an active FFA member and enjoyed my time showing sheep. It was my FFA agriculture teacher that had a big impact on me in my youth; he along with an exceptional chemistry teacher in high school took me under wing and influenced my career path. My agriculture experience ranges from cow calf operations, sometimes managed yearlings on grazing leases, scouting pecan orchards, cotton, alfalfa, onion and melon fields for damaging pests.

I attended Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas, with a Bachelor of Science and Masters in Agriculture Education. I have been the Ag. Extension agent in Quay County (Tucumcari) for the past seven years. I enjoyed my time there and the many good folks I came to know and remain friends with today. I look forward to what Otero County has in store and I hope that you come by the office and say hello. The best part of this job is meeting the many people and listening to the stories of “Salt of the Earth” folks that provide America’s food and fiber and hold our inherent values true to the core.



New Mexico Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources
A DIVISION OF
NEW MEXICO INSTITUTE OF MINING & TECHNOLOGY
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**Tularosa Basin Hydrogeology Study/ Sacramento Mountains Watershed Study
Progress Report, January 2014**

This report summarizes progress on the Tularosa Basin Hydrogeology Study since the quarterly project report of October 2013. The project is divided into three portions: Geologic mapping, regional hydrogeologic studies, and detailed watershed studies on the Coleman Ranch property. On December 4th 2013, NMBGMR researchers attended the Otero SWCD annual luncheon where Talon Newton presented preliminary results for the Tularosa Basin Hydrogeology Study and the Sacramento Mountain Watershed Study.

1. Geologic Mapping

The geologic compilation maps for the Tularosa Basin study area will be broken into 2 map areas - northern and southern. Final cartography for these maps is still underway. Final map production, ready for printing, is near completion. Geo-referenced shape files of both geologic maps have been completed. We are on schedule to have the final maps completed by June 2014.

2. Regional Hydrogeologic Studies

Data analysis for the Tularosa Basin hydrogeology study is still underway. We are in the final stages of writing a first draft of the final report, which will then be reviewed, both internally and externally. Water level and geochemical data are being interpreted in the context of the local and regional geologic framework. This study focuses on the aquifers within the mountain block on the eastern margin of the basin in more detail than most previous studies. Recharge, which dominantly originates as summer precipitation, occurs over a large range of elevations in the mountains. Water infiltrates through mountain soils and makes its way into perennial and ephemeral streams, where water likely recharges the groundwater system through fractures in the bedrock. Unlike the other side of the mountains to the south, where we conducted the Sacramento Mountains Hydrogeology Study, flow paths that convey groundwater from high elevations to low elevations are not interconnected, but rather isolated from one another. Water chemistry data largely reflects the complex geology, but also indicates the presence of high-chloride brines. The volcanic rocks in the northern section of the study area result in slightly fresher water with higher silica concentrations than is observed in groundwater to the south. However, the dissolution of gypsum, limestone, and dolomite in the underlying sedimentary rocks result in similar relative abundances of major ions. Calcium and Sulfate are the dominant ions in solution for most groundwater in the study area. We continue to analyze geochemical data and are on schedule to complete the final report in June 2014.

3. Sacramento Mountain Watershed Study

Trevor Kludt and a field assistant went into the field to download data and maintain instrumentation during the month of November. Data that was downloaded includes groundwater levels, spring discharge, soil moisture, precipitation, and other climate data. The data was processed and entered into the database. We are in the process of analyzing the large data set that we have acquired over the last five years.

If there any questions or comments please contact Talon Newton at 835-6668 or talon@nmbg.nmt.edu.

Find the most current reports online at:

<http://geoinfo.nmt.edu/resources/water/projects/SouthernSacramentos.html>