

## **SOCORRO COUNTY VOLUNTARY NOXIOUS PLANT CONTROL PROGRAM**

### **Background:**

Noxious weeds are plant species that are not indigenous to New Mexico which have been targeted for management or control because of their negative impact on the economy or the environment. The State of New Mexico enacted the Noxious Weed Management Act in 1998. This legislation recognizes the threat noxious weeds pose to the economic and environmental well being of the State of New Mexico but does little to address the problem of a rapidly spreading infestation of harmful non-indigenous plant species throughout the state. Socorro County has not been spared from this invasion. Concerned citizens and personnel from several agencies have formed a volunteer Noxious Weed Control Committee to find a solution to the growing noxious weed problem. Members of the committee and the individuals representing each entity are as follows:

Socorro Soil and Water Conservation District	Nyleen Stowe
Bureau of Land Management	Frank Lewark
NRCS-Socorro Field Office	Darrel Reasner
NM State Forestry	Doug Boykin
Save Our Bosque Task Force	Wes Anderson

The committee recommended that Socorro County form a voluntary Noxious Plant Control Working Group and that a Memo of Understanding be developed between the participating agencies and individuals in order to coordinate the voluntary management of noxious plants which would include development of an education program, identifying and developing a noxious weed plant list, identifying and developing a location map of infested areas, and securing funds for treatment and eradication of identified species which have spread into the county. The committee also recommends that the Socorro SWCD board and the local BLM office act as co-chairman of the Noxious Plant Control Working Group and coordinate development and implementation of the Volunteer Noxious Plant Control Program.

Recommended membership on the Working Group should include but not be limited to the following local entities and individuals:

1. Soil and Water Conservation Districts
2. Socorro County
3. Bureau of Land Management
4. USDA-NRCS
5. NM State Forestry
6. Bureau of Reclamation
7. Middle Rio Grande Conservancy
8. NMSU Cooperative Extension Service
9. Bosque Del Apache National Wildlife Refuge
10. Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge
11. Bernardo State Waterfowl Area
12. NM Highway Department
13. City of Socorro
14. State Land Office
15. State Representative for Socorro County
16. Cibola Forest Magdalena Ranger District

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

Between the:

**CITY OF SOCORRO  
SOCORRO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SOCORRO SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
US DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR-BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
NEW MEXICO HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT  
NEW MEXICO STATE LAND OFFICE  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE**

**AUTHORITY:**

Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-629) (7 U.S.C. 2891 et seq.) as amended by the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990; Section 1453; (Section 15, Management of Undesirable Plants on Federal Lands);

State of New Mexico "Noxious Weed Management Act" 76-7D-2 through 76-7D-6, New Mexico Statutes Annotated (NMSA) 1978 compilation.

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to coordinate the management of Noxious Plants in Socorro County, New Mexico; and to coordinate, encourage and formalize the cooperative relationship necessary for the effective management of Noxious Plants through an integrated management system.

Additional Agency agreements may be developed to outline activities by and between individual work units as needed for specific tasks. Such agreements may provide for the use of facilities, personnel, reimbursement for personnel expenses, cooperative projects, transfer of funds and other activities as appropriate and be subject to the laws and regulations pertaining to the respective agencies.

**THE UNDERSIGNED PARTIES MUTUALLY AGREE TO:**

1. Participate in the Voluntary Noxious Plant Control Working Group created by this agreement. The Working Group (WG) will consist of one representative from the signing agencies as designated by that agency. The WG agrees to meet at least once a month until a voluntary noxious weed control program is developed for Socorro County. An annual meeting will be held each January to review progress and make necessary changes to the memorandum.

2. Assist with the Voluntary Noxious Plant Control Program to foster coordination, cooperation, and implementation on:

Goals and objectives  
Education and training

Action plans and implementation  
Monitoring  
Program assessments  
Applying eradication and/or control treatments

3. Be responsive to the MOU signatories requests for involvement and information for Integrated Pest Management activities on lands or activities within their respective jurisdictions.
4. Provide opportunities to outside interest groups and the public for involvement in carrying out Voluntary Noxious Plant Control activities on lands within Socorro County, New Mexico.
5. Utilize assistance and expertise for the management of Noxious Plants as determined to be appropriate by the signatories.
6. Resolve conflicts arising from preparation or administration of a Noxious Plant Management Plan prepared under the scope of this agreement through the WG. Conflicts with holder's of an agency (New Mexico State Land Office, Forest Service, or Bureau of Land Management) permit/lease will be resolved between that agency and the individual permittee/lessee.

#### **ADMINISTRATION:**

1. This MOU will become effective upon signature by all parties and shall continue in force for a period of five (5) years, at which time it will expire unless extended or renewed. Any signatory may withdraw from this agreement at any time by providing 90 days written notice to all other signatories.
2. Any signatory may propose changes to this MOU. Such changes will be in the form of an amendment and may be negotiated at any time after 30 days notice to the other signatories. Changes will become effective upon signature of all parties.
3. Nothing in this MOU will be construed as effecting the authority of the signatories, or as binding beyond their respective authority, or to require any of the signatories to obligate or expend funds in excess of available appropriations.
4. During the performance of this MOU, the signatories agree to abide by the terms of Executive Order 11246 on non-discrimination and will not discriminate against any person because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. The signatories will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed without regard to their race, color religion, sex, or national origin.
5. No member or delegate to Congress or resident Commissioner shall be admitted to any share of this MOU, or to any benefit that may arise therefrom; but this provision shall not be construed to extend to this Memorandum of Agreement if made with a corporation for its general benefit.

The program or activities conducted under this agreement will be in compliance with the nondiscrimination provisions as contained in the Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (Public Law 100-259) and other

nondiscrimination statutes, namely, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and the American's With Disabilities Act of 1990. They will also be in accordance with regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture (7 CFR-15, Subparts A and B) which provide that no person in the United States shall on the grounds of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture or any agency thereof.

SIGNATORIES

1. John F. Carangelo Socorro Soil & Water Conservation District  
John Carangelo, Chairman *by N. Deane Stowe*

2. Genevie Baca Socorro County  
Genevie Baca, County Manager

3. Kate Padilla Bureau of Land Management  
Kate Padilla, Area Manager

Rosendo Trevino USDA-NRCS  
Rosendo Trevino, State Conservationist

5. Doug Boykin NM State Forestry  
Doug Boykin, District Forester

6. Jeremia N. Rivera Bureau of Reclamation  
Jeremia Rivera

7. Stthas K. Shah Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District  
Stthas K. Shah, Chief Engineer


8. Jack R. Valentine NMSU Cooperative Extension Service  
Jack Valentine, County Extension Agent

9. Phil Norton Bosque del Apache National Refuge  
Phil Norton, Refuge Manager

10. Terry Tadano Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge  
Terry Tadano, Refuge Manager

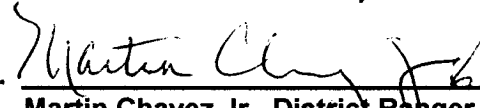
11. Jerry Maracchini Bernardo State Waterfowl Area  
Jerry Maracchini, Director


12. Rick Bouvet NM Highway Department  
Rick Bouvet, Herbicide Specialist

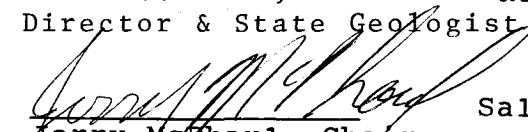
13.  City of Socorro  
Ravi Bhasker, Mayor

14.  HAZLETT State Land Office  
~~FOR~~ Ray Powell, State Land Commissioner

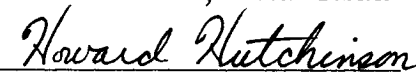
15.  State Representative for Socorro County  
Don Tripp

16.  Magdalena Ranger District  
Martin Chavez Jr., District Ranger

17.  New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral  
Resources  
Peter Scholle,  
Director & State Geologist

18.  Salado SWCD  
Jerry McPhaul, Chairman

19.  Quemado SWCD  
Burl Adams, Chairman

20.  San Francisco SWCD  
Howard Hutchinson