

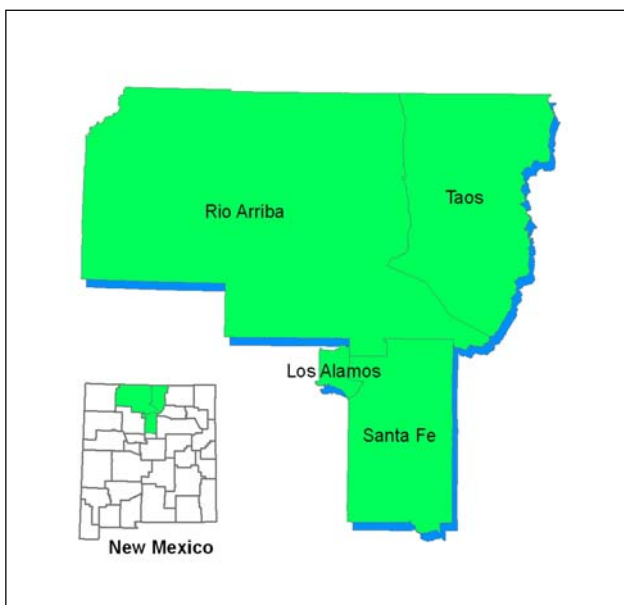
Northern Rio Grande RC&D Resource

Conservation & Development

Partnerships Serving America's Communities



Help our public and private partners to meet their regionally identified resource conservation and economic development needs.



TLCP Partners to Rebuild Decades-old Corrals

The original Taos County Land Project (TCLP) corral was built in the early 1950's by livestock permittees on the TCLP Grazing Allotment of the Tres Piedras Ranger District in the Carson National Forest.

For decades, the old corral held up to the perennial wind, extreme cold and constant sun. Talk of refurbishing or replacing it has been circulating for nearly five years. In 2009, the TCLP was able to secure a 319 (h) grant from the New Mexico Environment Department. The grant is for the purpose of reducing sediment deposition from the allotment into the Rio Grande River.

The TCLP Grazing Association -- partnered with the Northern Rio Grande RC&D Council and the U.S. Forest Service -- to formulate a plan and submitted a funding proposal and secured a 319 (h) grant of \$230,000.

One task of the plan was to remove the old wood/wire corral and replace it with all steel pipe corral that included rubber tire drinking troughs. The new work had to be

built in the same location of the old corral. The steel pipe corral, rubber drinking trough and livestock pipeline cost approximately \$60,000. The TCLP contributed approximately \$40,000 in labor, equipment, supplies, fuel, vehicles, tractors, backhoe work and welders.

The Partners involved and their contributions are:

- **U.S. Forest Service:**
Tres Piedras Ranger District: provided the Environmental Assessment, Archeological Clearance and Project Oversight
 - **TCLP Grazing Permittees:**
Provided all the Designs, Layout and Construction of the Corral
 - **New Mexico Environment Department:**
Provided the 319 (h) Grant and Project Oversight
 - **Northern Rio Grande RC&D Council:**
Provided Fiscal Agent Services to the 319 grant and Project Oversight
- The project duration took five months.



Conejos Watershed Group and RC&D install Rock-Weir Structures

The Northern Rio Grande RC&D Council teamed up with the Conejos Watershed Group to install more than 100 rock/weir structures in the Rio de los Pinos.

The rock/weir structures were needed to reduce active stream bank erosion caused by the high spring runoff.

The Rio de los Pinos has a watershed of approximately 175 square miles, which starts in the southern part of Colorado, goes into New Mexico and spills back into Colorado.

The Rio de los Pinos flows through U.S. Forest Service-managed, Private and State of New Mexico Game & Fish Department-managed lands. The waters are used for irrigation, wildlife, recreation use and domestic livestock use.

This projects' Partners include two private land owners, NRCS-Espanola Field Office, NRCS-State Office Engineers, East Rio Arriba Soil & Water Conservation District, New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts, Northern Rio Grande RC&D Council, Conejos Water-

shed Group, New Mexico Environment Department, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Cumbres Toltec Rail Road, New Mexico State Historic & Preservation Office and a local contractor.

- New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts administers portions of the Legislative Bingaman Bill (for watershed restoration) and will contribute \$20,000 towards the construction phase
- Private landowners will contribute large rock boulders (valued at \$400 each)
- NRCS will contribute surveys, designs, project oversight and final approval
- Northern Rio Grande RC&D will contribute 401 & 404 Permit Application process, Outreach/Education Activities, Project Oversight and assistance with contracting
- East Rio Arriba SWCD will contribute Contracting Services
- Conejos Watershed Group will contribute Outreach/Education activities
- NM Environment Department will contribute the 401 Permit
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will contribute the 404 Permit

- Cumbres & Toltec Railroad will contribute "Access Permission" to the site
- New Mexico State Historic & Preservation Office will contribute Archeological Permit
- Local Contractor will contribute his many years of experience in the construction phase

The survey, designs and permitting phase of the project has taken about 8 months to complete. The construction phase should be around 2-3 weeks (during winter months of January through March-2011).

Currently, we are waiting for the 401 & 404 Permit to begin construction.