

## **Targeted Watershed Restoration Initiative in Torreon Wash Hub RC&D, New Mexico**

The Targeted Watershed Restoration Initiative in Torreon Wash is a large-scale, water quality/sediment reduction project totaling almost \$1.3 million (all sources combined). The project covers a large (35,000 acres), remote area in west-central New Mexico in the "checkerboard area" of mixed land ownership within the outer bounds of the Navajo Nation. Funds are being used to repair roads, reduce sediment flows, restore riparian areas, improve feral horse management, clean-up several illegal dumps, develop legal dump sites & start a recycling program. Hub RC&D sits on the TWG Steering Committee and has been involved with efforts to improve solid waste management. Project partners include Ojo Encino Ranchers Committee, the Ojo Encino and Torreon Chapters of the Navajo Nation, the Rio Puerco Alliance, the Rio Puerco Management Committee, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Navajo Nation Solid Waste Management Program.

Some accomplishments during 2008-early 2010:

- 1) Erosion Control
  - a) 20 summer youth workers installed 105 sediment structures,
  - b) erosion control training course held
- 2) Roads
  - a) Area roads accessed
  - b) 30+ miles remediated & 25 miles closed in 2008
  - c) 30 miles closed or remediated in 2009
- 3) Riparian vegetation
  - a) 300 cottonwoods planted in 2008
  - b) 340 cottonwoods along with willow and riparian shrubs planted in 2009, willow cuttings collected in the field also
- 4) Grazing Management & Feral Horse Program
  - a) Grazing & monitoring workshop held
  - b) livestock grazing plans evaluated/developed
  - c) rang riders hired
  - d) 700 feral horses counted in surveys, 50 mares vaccinated with PZP contraceptive vaccine, gelding training also held
  - e) 4-H program also started at Ojo Encino Chapter (Navajo Nation) with 175 children & 175 horses, also 2-day horse training held
- 5) Trash
  - a) 6 illegal dump sites cleaned, using 30 volunteers (residents, Sierra Club, others) and contractors (heavy equipment operator, trash hauler)
  - b) Trash bin now on site (2010) at Ojo Encino chapter house (National Association RC&D Councils Diversity Outreach Grant)
- 6) Education and Outreach
  - a) Outreach to neighboring communities
  - b) ongoing newsletter, website under construction
- 7) Monitoring
  - a) model developed to estimate sediment availability & movement
  - b) 4-6 sites surveyed to collect baseline conditions & channel sediment transport
- 8) Administration
  - a) 9 Steering Committee meetings convened
  - b) General project administration & related tasks

