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San Marcial Burned Area Recovery Project

In 2006 a fire swept through over 5000 acres along the Rio Grande in Socorro County NM. The area included cottonwood/willow galleries, treated and untreated salt cedar stands and eventually the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge (BDA NWR). Funds for restoration were made available through the Burned Area Recovery Program and the Jornada RC&D Council Inc. assisted the Sierra and Socorro SWCDs in a proposal submission. They were awarded the grant and since 2007 1.2 million dollars have been provided by the US Fish and Wildlife Service for restoration efforts on private land adjacent to the BDA NWR. The Jornada RC&D has participated in all aspects of the project including planning, installation, and monitoring of restoration activities over the last 3 years.



San Marcial Fire May 2006

Treated Salt Cedar Stand after San Marcial Fire



Volunteers monitoring Giant Sacaton transplants in burned area



Raptor roosts were installed in an attempt to reduce rodent damage to restoration plantings



Native shrubs planted in artificial swale



By the fall of 2009 over 36,000 native grasses and shrubs had been transplanted, 5000 cottonwood and willow poles had been installed and salt cedar had been treated on 1800 acres in the project area.