



Cooperative Extension Service

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The Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) Program at New Mexico State University, FY 2008

The Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) program funds allocated to New Mexico State University (NMSU) are utilized by the University's Cooperative Extension Service to initiate and enhance education efforts that assist New Mexico landowners and governmental agency personnel in more effectively managing the state's natural resources on forest and rangelands.

The primary use of RREA dollars has been to educate youth and adult leaders, agents, and teachers about the wildlife and range management contests in 4-H and FFA, and to demonstrate the benefits of controlling invasive weeds and brush species on native rangeland. RREA funding has also augmented investigative efforts in examining the effects of forestry practices and prescribed fire on wildlife habitat. RREA monies are leveraged with approximately \$500,000 of state, county, and private funds. RREA funding has allowed the Cooperative Extension Service at New Mexico State University to accomplish the following:

Conduct the 4-H and FFA wildlife habitat evaluation contests at the county, state, and national levels.

Develop and conduct extensive resource monitoring along riparian restoration corridors associated with non-native phreatophyte control on the Middle Rio Grande, Pecos, Ute Creek, and Canadian river watersheds.

Conduct a basic range management course (Range 101) for producers and agency personnel in Southwest New Mexico.

Examine the response of upland and riparian habitats to timber harvest treatments and fuel management practices.

Provide factual information to counselors at the Philmont Scout Ranch for their educational programs affecting more than 20,000 scouts during 2008.

Publish the "Rangeland Evaluation for New Mexico" manual used by 4-H and FFA youth.

*"Educational programs such as Range 101 have been invaluable to the Forest Service and the grazing permittees on the Gila National Forest. **District Ranger, Gila National Forest***

*"The faculty and staff of the Cooperative Extension Service have improved our understanding and cooperation with our federal partners." **Otero County Commissioner***

*"Cooperative Extension Specialists have had a large positive impact on our natural resource education efforts for the Boy Scouts of America" **Philmont Scout Ranch Superintendent***

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