

2024 End of Year Report

City of Albuquerque-Open Space Division

Visitor Center (VC)

Fields 3, 4, & 5 (12.21 ac.)

Submitted by: Southwest Soil Health, LLC

- **Report on whether you followed or modified the crop plan, and if so, how and why.**
 - No changes were made to the crop plan this year. However, strategic adaptations were implemented in response to unstable water delivery from MRGCD. Alternative land management practices were employed to uphold and prioritize soil health principles.

- **Specify how you achieved the following goals** (refer to the attached Request for Expressions of Interest for more information on each of these goals):
 - **Regenerative Agriculture**
 - Ecologic: Applied out-of-the-box management strategies to address adaptive management of the VC.
 - The VC fields irrigate West-East. In order to increase biodiversity in the existing alfalfa stand, Fields 3 and 4 were no-till drilled West-East with Sugargraze II (sorghum/sudan) to create alternating stands of annual/perennial forage. Field 5 was no-till drilled with yellow pea and buckwheat.
 - These outcomes highlight the need for more intensive field preparation, including ripping, discing, leveling, and ditch improvements, to support successful crop establishment in future growing seasons.
 - Economic: Provided over 121 hours of work to the active farm management of VC and \$5,190 in agricultural workforce development to implement a practical soil health management program for a 1-year lease agreement
 - Community support:

- Schedules water for all OSD VC Fields 1-5, plus the wildlife pond. I do this by communicating and coordinating with other VC irrigators, neighboring private landowners, and MRGCD.
 - September 3-7th, Prioritized late-season irrigation to the OSD wildlife pond over other VC fields
 - Provided tillage, custom Spring no-till planting services, mowing, and Fall no-till planting to Habitat Collective Farms for 1 ac. of Field 2 in partial trade for ditch cleaning.
- **Soil Health and Restoration**
 - Integrated all 5 soil health principles during the implementation of the 2024 Crop Plan
 - Collected field data during the growing season to support adaptive management planning efforts.
 - Spring 2024 soil samples were collected—both Routine Soil Tests and Soil Health Analysis.
 - Soil health trends over the past 2 years indicate high organic matter but phosphorus is limited.
 - Steps will be taken Spring 2025 to address nutrient deficiencies using cover crop planting through the NMDA Healthy Soil Grant program.
- **Drought-tolerant and wildlife crops**
 - Allowed VC alfalfa field to go to bloom, providing shoulder season forage for pollinators, keeping soil covered for longer during peak summer temperatures.
 - Wildlife field was planted with yellowpea and buckwheat.
 - Sourced local spent grains and applied to the VC during the Crane Festival
- **Integrative Pest Management**
 - Conducted a visual weed survey on VC. Prevalent weeds are plantain, Johnson grass and bindweed.
 - Fields were cut and baled for cow hay, removing this year's flush of weeds.
 - In the absence of chemical interventions, invasive species will need to be addressed via tillage. For the past 2 seasons I have no-tilled into existing stands of alfalfa and invasive species, with the invasives outcompeting every year.

- **Programming**

Report on community/education engagement including numbers of people and youth served during education events.

- Sourced spent grains from a local brewery and applied to the VC with OSD staff during the Crane Festival

- Financial report on how much you spent at the farm and how much you gained from crops or other commercial operations. Also, report on any grants you received.

- No grants were received during this year.
 - Beginning in FY25, NMDA's Healthy Soil Program will be extending the length of projects from 9 months to 1.5 years. With this news, I intend to apply for funds to support the ongoing cover crop trials planted across the OSD wildlife fields.

Please see the below financial reports for the VC.

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|----------------|---|------------------|--------------|-------|--------------------|------------|
| | | | | | | |
| VISITOR CENTER | | | | | SW SOIL HEALTH LLC | |
| | | | | | EOY REPORT 2024 | |
| | | | | | | |
| TOTAL HOURS | TOTAL EXPENSES | TOTAL INCOME | TOTAL PROFIT | | | |
| 121 | 6,075.40 | 6,360.00 | 284.6 | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| DATE(S) | ACTIVITY | LOCATION | HOURS | ACRES | RATE | TOTAL |
| Mar-24 | DITCH CLEANING | VC | 6 | | \$40.00 | \$240.00 |
| 4/15/24 | PLANTING (NO-TILL) | VC FIELD 3, 4, 5 | | 12.21 | \$100.00 | \$1,221.00 |
| 4/17/24 | IRRIGATION | VC Field 3, 4, 5 | 28 | | \$15.00 | \$420.00 |
| 4/20/24 | IRRIGATION | Wetland/Field 2 | 10 | | \$15.00 | \$150.00 |
| 5/1/24 | IRRIGATION | Field 2 | 10 | | \$15.00 | \$150.00 |
| 5/14/24 | IRRIGATION | VC Field 3, 4, 5 | 18 | | \$15.00 | \$270.00 |
| Jun-24 | MOWING/RESIDUE MGMT | VC FIELD 3, 4, 5 | | 12.21 | \$70.00 | \$854.70 |
| 6/11/24 | IRRIGATION | VC Field 3, 4, 5 | 27 | | \$15.00 | \$405.00 |
| 8/1/24 | MOWING/RESIDUE MGMT | VC FIELD 3, 4, 5 | | 12.21 | \$70.00 | \$854.70 |
| Jul-24 | DITCH CLEANING | VC FIELD 3, 4, 5 | 6 | | \$40.00 | \$240.00 |
| 9/3/24 | IRRIGATION | Wetland/Field 2 | 10 | | \$15.00 | \$150.00 |
| Dec-24 | MOWING/RESIDUE MGMT | | | | | \$0.00 |
| 12/1/24 | DITCH CLEANING | VC Field 3, 4, 5 | 6 | | \$40.00 | \$240.00 |
| LABOR | | | 121 | | | \$5,195.40 |
| | | | | | | |
| PURCHASES | | | LBS SEED | AC. | RATE | \$440.00 |
| | SUGAR GRAZE II | VC | 400 | 12.21 | \$1.10 | \$440.00 |
| | GRAIN FOR CRANE FEST (55 GAL SPENT GRAINS DONATED BY LOCAL BREWERY) | VC | | 5 | SWSH IN-KIND | \$0.00 |

| | | | | | | |
|---------------|-----------|-----------------|----------------|--|------------|-------------------|
| | | | | | | |
| INCOME | | | | | | \$6,360.00 |
| 7/10/24 | FIRST CUT | ALFALFA/SORGHUM | 36 ROUND BALES | | \$120/BALE | \$5,400.00 |
| 9/3/24 | 2ND CUT | ALFALFA/SORGHUM | 8 ROUND BALES | | \$150/BALE | \$960.00 |
| NO WATER | 3RD CUT | ALFALFA/SORGHUM | | | | |
| NO WATER | 4TH CUT | ALFALFA/SORGHUM | | | | |
| | | | | | | |



Visitor Center

Sandhill cranes, geese, ducks, and other wildlife occupy hay fields at the Visitor Center



Visitor Center

Spent brewery grains were scattered across VC Fields with OSD staff for the Crane Festival



Visitor Center

Alfalfa and sorghum roundbales were produced on Fields 2, 3, and 4.



Visitor Center

View looking SE from the observation deck at the VC during irrigation.