



**Doña Ana
Soil and Water Conservation District**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dona Ana SWCD
760 Stern Drive, Ste. 118
Las Cruces, NM 88005

Master Watershed Conservationist (MWC) Program Forum 2: Weather, Climate, Droughts and Flooding

The Master Watershed Conservationist (MWC) program continues with the next Forum: *Weather, Climate, Droughts and Flooding*. The Forum will be via Zoom on October 26, 2021, at 6:30pm MDT. The September 9 event will be via ZOOM (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83473366813> --- PW: MWCP). All those interested in attending the event can go to <https://daswcd.org/master-watershed-conservation-program/> for a copy of the ZOOM link, and to register.

The forum will feature a flood and meteorological experts who will engage in discussions with the audience on evidence of current and future weather events and how they affect the watersheds. Through the Master Watershed Conservationist series scheduled over the next eight months, the program will also engage volunteers in making decisions and implementing conservation projects in New Mexico's southern Rio Grande watershed. John Gwynne, Dona Ana County Flood Commissioner will lead the forum, which includes a presentation from Dave Dubois, New Mexico State Climatologist.

Eleven community organizations have come together under the leadership of the Doña Ana Soil and Water Conservation District (DASWCD) to organize the Master Watershed Conservationist volunteer program, including the Caballo Soil and Water Conservation District, City of Las Cruces, Doña Ana County Flood Commission, Elephant Butte Irrigation District, Natural Resource Conservation Service, New Mexico State University Extension, New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute, Paso del Norte Watershed Council, Rio Grande Theater, and Spring Rains Consulting. The goal of the program is to promote the stewardship of southern New Mexico's Rio Grande watershed through equipping citizens with the knowledge and skills to make informed decisions in the planning and management of the watershed, and engaging and empowering volunteers to play leadership roles, organize educational efforts, and implement conservation projects that address one or more critical conservation issues.

The MWC program is open to all persons in high school and older. The MWC program is particularly intent on recruiting persons interested in committing to volunteer to do conservation work in the Rio Grande valley. At this time, in support of local health guidelines the forums will be held via ZOOM. Registrants will be updated regularly when conditions allow future forums to be in person. For more information: <https://daswcd.org/master-watershed-conservation-program/>.

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