



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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NEWS RELEASE

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Floyd Erosion Control Underway

ALBUQUERQUE, NM – The first trial of erosion control measures was put in place at Floyd Monday following the range fire that devastated the area in late November. The Floyd School has been particularly hard hit by blowing sand and dust coming off the bared landscape.

“We put together about 1000 years of local experience in working with these soils to come up with a solution,” said Joe Whitehead, Portales district conservationist for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). “The trial came out of some real brainstorming with landowners and government and university officials.”

The problem the landowners and experts faced was holding the highly erodible soils that suddenly had no vegetative cover. All of the soils in the area are technically deemed “highly erodible” but only those that were once plowed and now enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program were suffering from wind erosion. By comparison, little wind erosion has been occurring on the burn area that was never plowed, had better sod formation, and had better soil structure. Whitehead estimates that 2700 to 2800 acres of land within the burned area could be subject to immediate wind erosion.

Alternatives considered for stabilizing the soil and stopping the wind erosion included chiseling to roughen the soil surface and create clods, using manure from dairies, and spreading cotton seed trash. The trial selected uses ten tons of manure and two tons of cotton seed trash per acre, spread to hold the soil in place at an estimated cost of \$110 per acre. This trial was put in place on Monday just west of the Floyd School.

“Now if anyone who has some extra snow or rain would just send it to Floyd immediately,” said Whitehead.

For further information about the erosion control efforts, contact Joe Whitehead at NRCS in Portales (505)356-6629 ext. 3.

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