

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20510

June 18, 2013

Mr. Jason Weller  
Acting Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service  
United States Department of Agriculture  
South Agriculture Building, Room 5105A  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Mr. Weller:

New Mexico is continuing to suffer from one of the worst state-wide droughts in modern times. According to the recent drought monitor, over 80 percent of the state is now under category 3 (extreme) or 4 (exceptional) drought conditions. Unfortunately, along with the ongoing drought our state is also suffering this year through a series of very serious wildfires that have burned over 60,000 acres. Recent major fires have included the Tres Lagunas Fire in Pecos, the Thompson Ridge Fire near Jemez Springs, Jemez Pueblo and the Valles Caldera, the Jaroso Fire north of Santa Fe, the Silver Fire near Kingston, and the Whites Peak Fire in Colfax County.

The Tres Lagunas Fire has impacted critical watersheds on private lands. With the summer monsoon season rapidly approaching, it is critical that recovery work begin immediately to help keep ash and other debris from damaging threatened water resources. There are similar needs associated with critical watersheds and flood prevention on private lands in many other communities in New Mexico affected by the recent series of fires.

We respectfully request your assistance in responding quickly to applications for federal funding from NRCS's Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program that can be made available immediately to help mitigate the damage to critical watersheds in New Mexico that have been hit this year by wildfires. Thank you for your prompt consideration of our request.

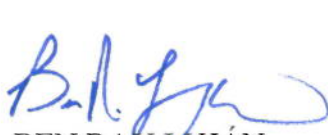
Sincerely,



TOM UDALL  
United States Senator



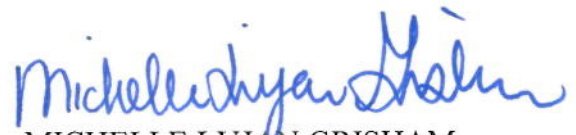
MARTIN HEINRICH  
United States Senator



BEN RAY LUJÁN  
United States Representative



STEVE PEARCE  
United States Representative



MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM  
United States Representative