INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW MEXICO WATER EDUCATION PROGRAM

FROM NEW MEXICO BUREAU OF GEOLOGY AT NEW MEXICO TECH

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NEW MEXICO TECH
SCIENCE • ENGINEERING • RESEARCH UNIVERSITY

New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources
New Mexico Tech
Earth Science for the 21st Century

NEW MEXICO BUREAU OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES

- Research and service division of New Mexico Tech, in Socorro
- Established in 1927
- Non-regulatory, state geologic survey
- Budget is under Higher Education Department

HYDROGEOLOGY PROGRAMS AT NM BUREAU OF GEOLOGY

Aquifer Mapping and Monitoring Program

- Established in 2005
- Regional short and long- term hydrogeology studies and mapping water quantity and quality
- Groundwater level monitoring (currently funded only by philanthropic funds from Healy Foundation)
- $290K annually – plus grants and philanthropic funds

Water Data Initiative

- Began in 2019, after the Water Data Act passed
- Convening the work with multiple state agencies
- Working to make NM water data more accessible and usable
- $250K annually, plus grants and philanthropic funds

New! Water Education Program

- Starting now!
- For legislators, staff and state leaders
- Developed following the model of previous Decision Makers Conferences
- Focusing on increasing awareness and education on critical water issues in NM
- $325K – FY24, one year funding

New Mexico Water Data

New Mexico Water Education

Working to address New Mexico's CRITICAL water issues

NEW MEXICO WATER EDUCATION - WATER LEADERS WORKSHOPS

Annual 3-day Water Leaders Workshops

- Build awareness and understanding of complex water issues of our state
- Expert panels and presentations, with several field trips to see issues on the ground
- Invitations will be sent to all WNRC member to get registered!
- Eligible for in-state event per diem

NEW MEXICO WATER EDUCATION SAVE THE DATES!

Las Cruces: December 6-8, 2023

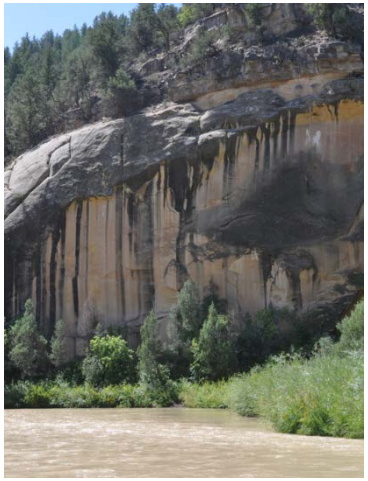
- Lower Rio Grande compact compliance and new decree update
- Changes in water use, deliveries, and data collection
- Local impacts of climate change

Ghost Ranch: May 22-24, 2024

- Dams and diversion infrastructure challenges
- Shortage sharing arrangements
- Groundwater management and potential regionalization projects

RIO CHAMA EXPERIENCES

- Guided, educational river trips
- 3 day, 2 night float and camping along the Wild and Scenic section of the Rio Chama
- Look for opportunities in 2024
- Topics of discussion:
  - Water management in the Chama and Rio Grande basins
  - Dams and infrastructure in the region
  - Geology of the Rio Chama and Rio Grande basins
  - Regional groundwater/surface water interactions
  - Restoration projects, environmental flows, and recreation on the Rio Chama and Rio Grande



FUNDING GOALS TO SUPPORT WATER PROGRAMS AT NMBGMR

Water Education Program

- Goal: $250K annual recurring (currently non-recurring funding)
- 1.5 FTEs, and event costs - hosting, venue, hotels and transportation

Water Data Initiative

- Goal: add $500K to annual recurring (currently at $250K)
- Add 4 new FTEs + operational costs
- Does not include other agency budget needs

Aquifer Mapping and Monitoring

- Goal: add $1,250K to annual recurring (currently at $290K) + substantial non-recurring costs
- Add 10 FTEs to build and maintain state monitoring / mapping program