

New Mexico Environment Department

River Stewardship Program Samantha Ferguson, River Stewardship Program Coordinator September 26, 2024



River Stewardship Program

Provides funding and technical support for the planning, design, and construction of projects that enhance the health of New Mexico streams and rivers by improving surface water quality and/or river habitat.



Cimarron River Trout Habitat Restoration, Cimarron Watershed Alliance



Program Benefits



Restoration of Gila trout and riparian habitat on Black Canyon Creek, Bat Conservation International (Gila National Forest)

- Addresses water quality problems, including impacts from wildfires, flooding, and drought
 - Engages local stakeholders in water restoration
- Supports small businesses in New Mexico
- Provides the necessary
 match for approximately \$3.2
 million per year in Federal
 Clean Water Act grants



River Stewardship Project Locations

40 projects completed

24 projects in progress

12 new projects starting in 2024





River Stewardship Projects

Project Timeline

- Designs and Permitting
- Construction
- Monitoring

*Projects usually take between 2-3 years to complete





River Stewardship 2024 Projects

- Received over \$10.5 million in requests
- Approximately \$5.8 million available to award over 12 contracts
- All Land of Enchantment Legacy Funds (\$1.25M) are allocated



Cimarron River



River Stewardship Funding

Funding Source	Term
Capital Outlay	4 years
Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund	2 years
ARPA	Allocated and expires December 2026



San Juan River Restoration, San Juan Soil and Water Conservation District



Taos Pueblo Ecological Restoration of Buffalo Pasture and the Rio Lucero Project



What is Next?

- Plan to issue a Request for Proposals in spring 2025 after the legislative session
- Approximately \$1.7 million to \$11.7 million for projects
- NMED will have funding available to communities impacted by fires and flooding



Two Rivers Park River Restoration Phase III, Village of Ruidoso



Questions?





Before and four months after photos from the restoration of Gila trout and riparian habitat on Black Canyon Creek, Bat Conservation International.