

# Lower Rio Grande Water Management Strategies



Hannah Riseley-White, NMISC Director  
Water and Natural Resources Committee  
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# NM Interstate Stream Commission Lower Rio Grande Major Activities

*Water resources challenges in the Lower Rio Grande require strong partnerships.*

Initiatives underway at NMISC include:

## ***WATER CONSERVATION***

- Groundwater Conservation Program
- Development of a Water Rights Purchase Program

## ***DEVELOPMENT OF ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES***

- Stormwater Capture & Aquifer Recharge
- Supply Augmentation and Importation
- Brackish Water Development

## ***ONGOING DATA COLLECTION, MONITORING AND MODELING***

## ***COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION***



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## Current Program

Two terms - 12 & 24 Month

Applications approved: 126

Acres enrolled: 6,191.17

Funds encumbered: \$6,946,425 from special appropriations and matching grants

## Cover Crop Program

Acres participating: 1,146.25

Financial assistance agreements executed with Dona Ana & Caballo Soil & Water Conservation Districts

## Research

NMISC-NMSU-NMDA Research  
*'LRG Cover Cropping for Soil Health Under Restricted Irrigation'*

NMSU Research Study – new plots incorporated July 2025

# Groundwater Conservation Program



*partnership | Innovate | stewardship*





# Stormwater Capture & Aquifer Recharge

## EBID/NMISC Cooperative Agreement

- Special and capital funding agreements finalized FY25
- FY25 and FY26 combined funding of approximately \$13M
- Goal to increase capture and recharge of stormwater to LRG aquifers

## Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR)

- Current project to evaluate technical feasibility of utilizing existing flood-control / hydraulic structures and water management facilities as components of potential MAR projects

# Brackish Water Development



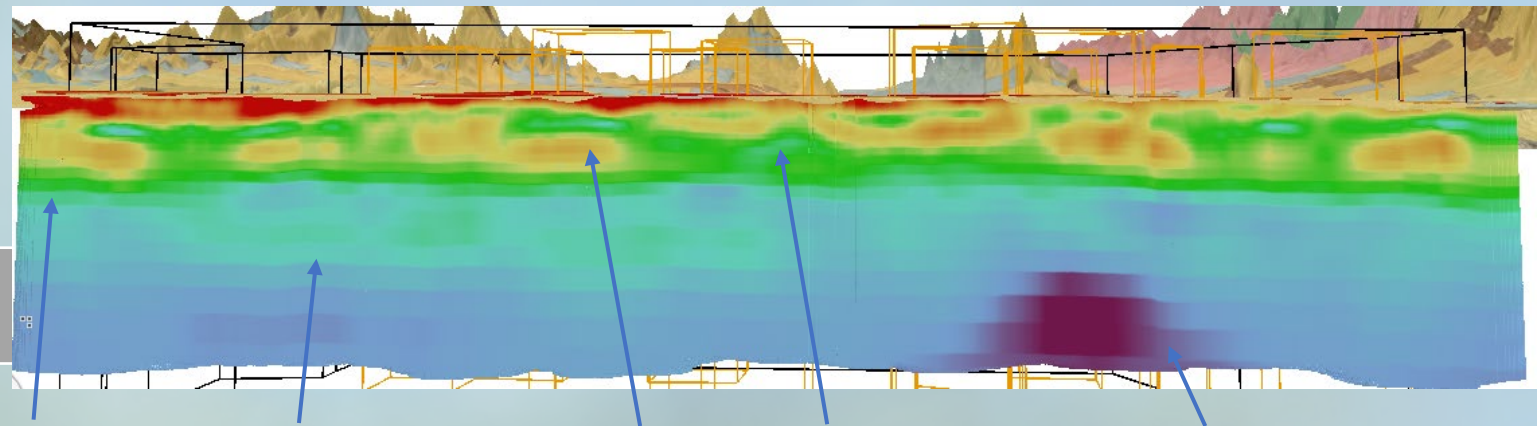
## Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) Survey Phase

- Planning
- Data Collection
- Data Processing & Interpretation

## Drilling Operations

- Planning
- Compliance
- Drilling Operations
- Geophysics & Aquifer Testing

## More to Come!



Water Table  
(400 ft bgs)

Fresh-Brackish  
Contact?  
(675 ft bgs)

Gravels/Sands

Silts/Clays

High TDS/ Low pH



# Community Outreach & Public Engagement

**The Lower Rio Grande  
Water Alliance convenes  
stakeholders to collectively  
craft and coordinate  
implementation of long-  
term water management  
solutions in the Lower Rio  
Grande.**

*Planning for broader public  
engagement underway.  
Stay tuned!*





*partnerships | innovation | stewardship*



*Thank you!*

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