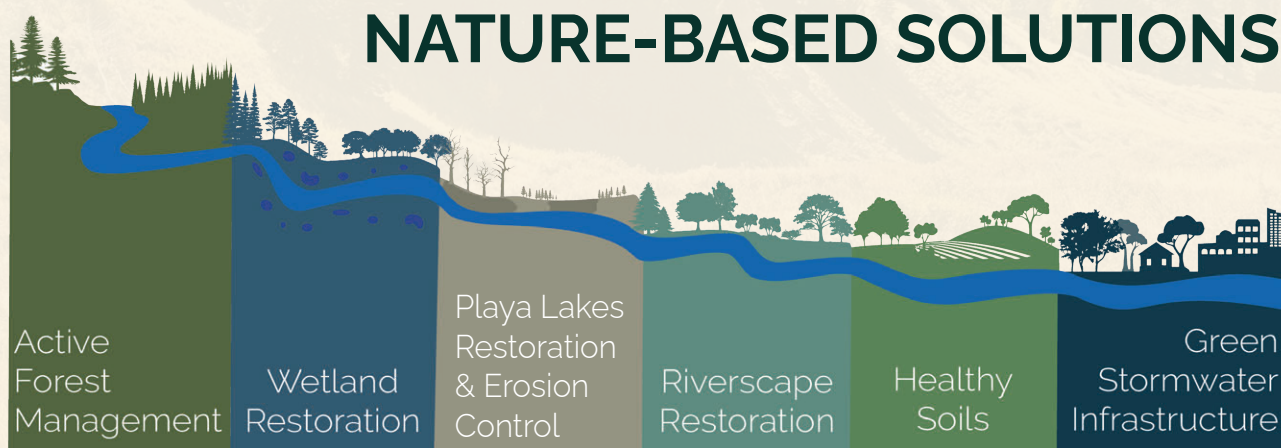


SECURING NEW MEXICO'S WATER FUTURE THROUGH NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

PROBLEM

- New Mexico will have **25% less water in 50 years.**
- New Mexico is experiencing **catastrophic wildfires, flooding, drought.**
- **Local government budgets** are being strained.
- Residents are facing **higher insurance premiums, water, and utility bills.**
- **Acequias, Tribal communities and rural areas** are being hit hard.
- Traditional infrastructure **cannot meet these challenges alone.**

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS



BENEFITS

PUBLIC SAFETY BENEFITS



- Reduces wildfire, flood & drought risks.
- Provides open space & floodplains to protect communities from natural disasters.
- Reduces emergency response costs for local governments.



ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- Sustains agricultural, outdoor recreation & tourism economies.
- Helps grow rural and Tribal economies.
- Supports job creation and workforce development.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

- Conserves land for farmers and ranchers.
- Protects water resources.
- Protects wildlife.
- Better prepares us for extreme weather events.



Zuni Bowl



Beaver Dam Analog



Forest Thinning



Urban Green Stormwater Infrastructure

CHALLENGES

- No common language or terminology.
- Inconsistent requirements among siloed agency programs.
- Limited agency staffing capacity.
- Funding shortfalls despite high demand from communities.
- Reactive vs. proactive responses to natural disasters.
- Perception issues limit contracting opportunities.
- Shortages in N.M. workforce.



RECOMMENDATIONS



LEGISLATIVE

- Continue and expand funding, including for workforce development.
- Recognize as a proactive strategy to tackle the increase in natural disasters.
- Develop a shared vocabulary and consistent terminology.
- Provide legal clarity in state statutes and programs.



EXECUTIVE

- Update grant/contract requests & evaluation criteria.
- Integrate NBS into state planning documents.
- Update building codes and development rules.



NGOS

- Increase outreach to state agencies, local governments & Tribal communities.
- Help address capacity gaps and partner on workforce development & job training.



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