

RIVER STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT (NMED)

THE NMED SURFACE WATER QUALITY BUREAU’S MISSION IS “TO PRESERVE, PROTECT, AND IMPROVE NEW MEXICO’S SURFACE WATER QUALITY FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS.”

PROGRAM GOAL

The goal of the River Stewardship Program is to enhance the natural functioning of New Mexico’s streams and rivers by providing state funding to plan, design, and construct projects that improve surface water quality or river habitat statewide.

RIVER STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM BENEFITS

This effort addresses water quality problems including impacts from wildfires, floods, and drought; engages local stakeholders in restoration of their waters; supports New Mexico small business both directly for those contracted to do restoration work and indirectly via increased tourism and recreational opportunities; and ensures the necessary match for approximately \$2.3 million per year in federal Clean Water Act funding for New Mexico.

ELIGIBILITY

Local and tribal governments, for-profit organizations, and non-profit organizations.

FUNDING CONDITIONS

The Legislature appropriates funding for the River Stewardship Program. Depending on how appropriation is made, other rules for use of funds may apply (e.g., Bond Project Disbursement, 2.61.2 NMAC; or bond sales conditions). Funding is awarded via cooperative agreements or service contracts to eligible entities through a competitive Request for Proposals process, conducted annually or as funding availability permits.

Successful River Stewardship Program proposals will:

- Describe projects located in-stream, on the stream banks or river floodplain, and/or within the riparian area along streams and rivers that improve surface water quality and/or river habitat;
- Demonstrate a clear need for restoration actions based on a local, regional, state, or federal planning document;
- Demonstrate the support and commitment of the community and applicable stakeholders including local governments, natural resource agencies, and landowners or land managers;
- Describe a scientifically sound and sustainable project;
- Provide clear, measurable, and achievable objectives; and
- Propose a budget that is justified, fair, and provides good value for project work.

Funding may be used to support implementation as approved in project work plans in the following ways:

- Itemized hourly wages for work on the project, supplies that are permanently affixed to the project, equipment rentals, administrative costs such as project management, travel, and subcontractor services at fair market rates.
- Implementation of on-the-ground measures to improve surface water quality and river habitat, such as earthmoving, construction of in-stream rock and log structures, non-native plant removal, planting, and fencing.
- Planning and partner coordination exclusively within the context of the project.
- Pre-implementation surveys of on-site conditions.
- Post-construction verification of completion and validation of environmental results within the agreement/contract period.
- Costs to prepare permit applications, clearances, and surveys that are required by law.
- Gross receipts tax.



At a Glance

Appropriations

Fiscal Year	Amount	Expenditure
2015	\$2,300,000	\$2,274,744
2016	\$500,000	\$494,200
2016	\$500,000	\$484,303
2017	\$1,500,000	\$1,276,330
2019	\$500,000	\$499,994
2020	\$1,500,000	\$1,337,156
2021	\$252,613*	\$232,411
2021	\$1,250,000	\$347,242*
2022	\$1,500,000	\$33,312*
2022	\$10,000,000	\$239,824*
2023	\$1,500,000	\$0*
2024	\$1,500,000	\$0*
TOTAL	\$22,550,000	\$7,219,516

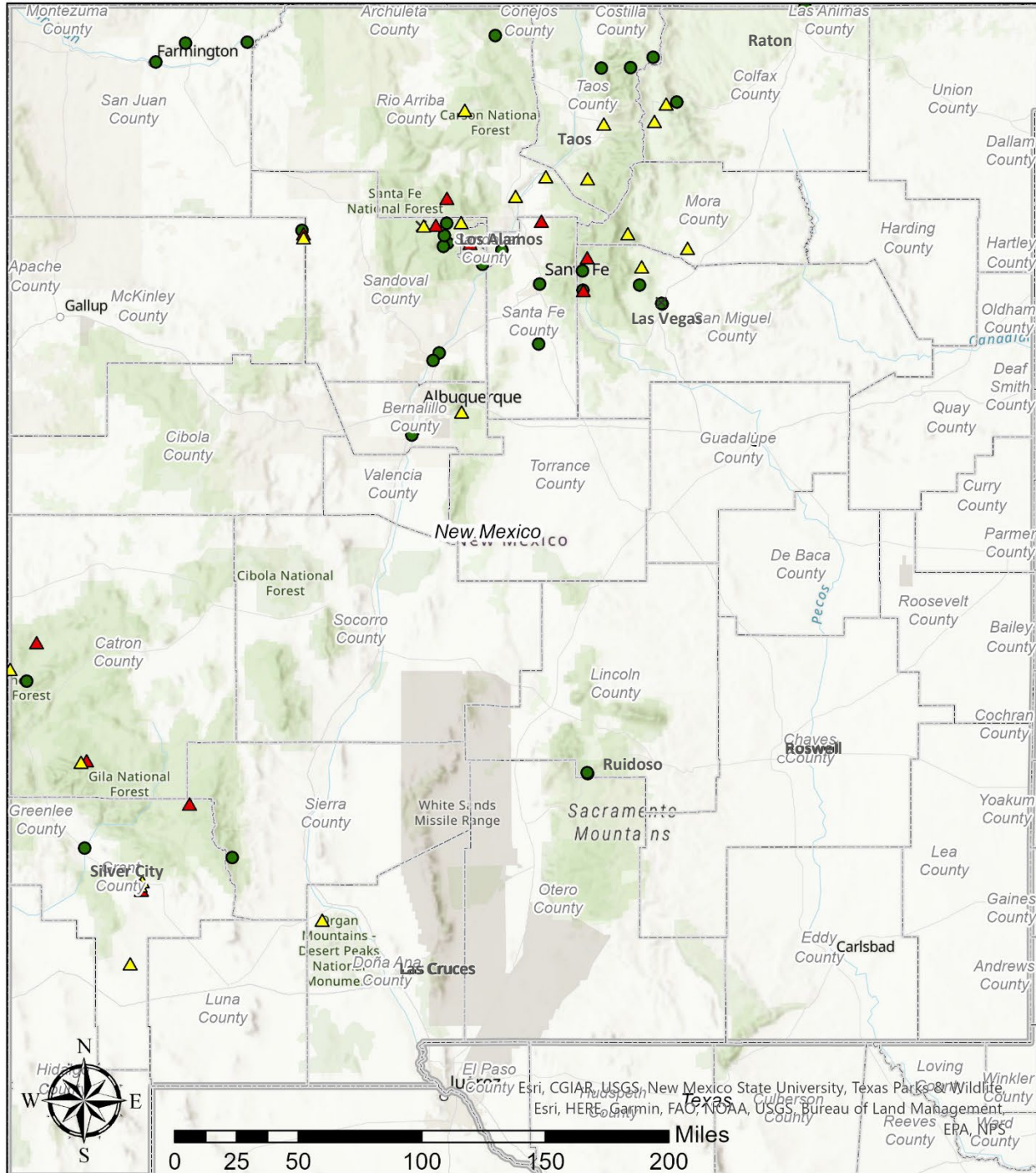
+ Reauthorized funds from FY2017, not included in total.

*Active projects incurring expenditures

35 projects completed.

29 projects in progress.

See link below for project details:
<https://tinyurl.com/RSP-and-319-Project-List>



River Stewardship Program Projects

Project Status

- × Cancelled
- Completed
- ▲ Construction
- ▲ Planning

2023 RIVER STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM UPDATES

- The next River Stewardship Program Request for Proposals will be issued in Fall 2023. There will be approximately \$3 million to \$8 million available. These funds include capital outlay from FY23, remaining American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF), Land of Enchantment Legacy Funds, and will include any capital outlay funds for the River Stewardship Program appropriated during the 2024 Legislative Session. Contracts are expected to be awarded to start in July 2024.
- 18 New River Stewardship Program Projects awarded in June 2023! Request for proposals totaled \$10,361,209 in new projects. The table below describes the new projects in 2023:

Title of Project	Contractor	County where Project is Located	Cost
Restoration of Tijeras Creek Floodplain, Streambed and Riparian Habitat	Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District	Bernalillo	\$824,351.63
Stream and Riparian Restoration on Stone Creek, Quemado Ranger District, Gila National Forest	Bat Conservation International	Catron	\$291,173.54
Willow Creek Watershed Restoration Project	San Francisco Soil and Water Conservation District	Catron	\$598,980.00
Restoration of Trout Habitat on the Cimarron River Phase II	Cimarron Watershed Alliance	Colfax	\$471,935.31
Wetland and Stream Restoration in the Moreno Valley	Cimarron Watershed Alliance	Colfax	\$95,736.64
Expanding Riparian and Wetland Resilience in Burro Ciénaga, New Mexico	A.T. Cole	Grant	\$416,875.00
Reimagining San Vicente Creek and the Silver City Watershed – Phase 2	Gila Resources Information Project	Grant	\$297,846.17
Curb Cuts and County Roads: Greening Urban Infrastructure to Improve Water Quality in San Vicente Creek	Stream Dynamics	Grant	\$302,658.00
Mora River Restoration Phase II	Hermit’s Peak Watershed Alliance	Mora	\$439,980.62
Calf Canyon and Hermit’s Peak Rapid-Response Post-Fire Planning, Design, Ecological Mitigation and Protection of Acequias within Mora County	Rio Grande Return	Mora	\$515,905.69
Sapello River Restoration – Pritzlaff Ranch	Hermit’s Peak Watershed Alliance	Mora	\$415,719.71
Stream and Wetland Restoration along the Arroyo La Mina in the Lower Embudo Valley	Ecotone Landscape Planning	Rio Arriba	\$310,799.89
Improving Watershed Hydrologic Function to Restore Health of River Ecosystems alongside Farming and Rangeland Communities of the Rio Grande basin in New Mexico	New Mexico State University, Water Resources Research Institute	Rio Arriba and Doña Ana	\$2,449,436.55
Santa Clara Creek Restoration Project	Natural Channel Design	Sandoval	\$1,031,352.00
San Antonio Creek Riparian and Beaver Habitat Restoration Project	Rio Grande Return	Sandoval	\$211,377.44
Adapting and Improving River Stewardship in the Torreon Wash Watershed, in the Face of Climate Change	Rio Puerco Alliance	Sandoval and McKinley	\$221,660.00
Taos Pueblo Ecological Restoration of Buffalo Pasture and the Rio Lucero Project	Keystone Restoration Ecology	Taos	676,858.94
Rio Pueblo Restoration Project	Taos Soil and Water Conservation District	Taos	\$788,562.00