

Water and Natural Resources Committee

Strategic Water Reserve: Status, Needs and Reform

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July 25, 2022



STATUTE

NM Interstate Stream Commission (NMISC) may purchase or lease water rights to assist the state in:

1. Complying with interstate stream compacts and court degrees, or
2. Water management efforts for the benefit of threatened or endangered species, or in programs intended to avoid additional listings of species



CURRENT STATUS

Flexibility in the Reserve has allowed it to be applied in various beneficial ways across the state.

SAN JUAN

Up to 20,000 AF/year leased with Jicarilla Apache Nation to support endangered species and interstate issues including the Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan

RIO GRANDE

~1,085 AF/year leased to support endangered species and compact deliveries

PECOS RIVER

~1,649 AF/year purchased,
~621 AF/year donated,
~2,326 AF/year leased

All in support endangered species and/or compact deliveries

CANADIAN RIVER

Up to 5 cubic feet per second (cfs) between Ute Dam and Texas state-line permitted to NMISC to support threatened species

An aerial photograph showing a wide, muddy river on the left side of the frame. To the right of the river, there are several rows of green crops, likely corn, planted in a field. A dirt road or path runs parallel to the river, separating the field from the water. The background shows more greenery and a hilly landscape.

NEEDS

SUSTAINED FUNDING

Sufficient and sustained funding available over prolonged periods to support successful execution of purchases.

FLEXIBILITY

Ability to execute both purchases or leases depending on the needs in individual basins, or the water rights available.

POTENTIAL REFORMS

2005 statute

Given experience, NMISC sees potential improvements that could be achieved through revisiting the statute.

PARTNERSHIPS

Working with communities across the state will continue to strengthen the Reserve.

Questions?

