Rio Grande Water Fund

(including the Jemez Mountains)

The Rio Grande Water Fund landscape is characterized by a wide array of land ownerships, working together.

Developing a Comprehensive Plan for the Rio Grande Water Fund, and Initiation of a Burned Area Learning Network for the Southwest

What Works Here

A powerful tool for us is the realization by many people in New Mexico that forests and water are interdependent. Making this connection helps urban audiences understand the value of forests distant from their community.

The Water Fund Makes Us Think Big

We're developing new and non-traditional partnerships. The Rio Grande Water Fund engages businesses, community leaders, scientists and land and water managers across 1.7 million acres. Many are sitting together at the table together for the first time—and the relationships will prove valuable for addressing other issues.

What We've Learned

We've found that we need to engage the private sector more in our work. Shrinking budgets and national politics can be counterbalanced by broad-based local partnerships.

Recent Highlights

We're scaling up: the Rio Grande Water Fund—which includes the Jemez Mountains—expands forest and fire restoration partnerships to a much larger landscape, including two more national forests.

Sharing the science of fire in the Jemez Mountains has resulted in the inclusion of the threat of uncharacteristic crown fires, and the need for acceleration of forest restoration is a necessary conservation strategy, in the USFWS listing package for the Jemez Mountains salamander. We continue to work on best management practices for Jemez Mountains salamander habitat during forest restoration.

The Rio Grande and its tributaries supply water to nearly half of New Mexico's two million people. Forest watershed restoration to help keep the Rio flowing is a key goal of the Rio Grande Water Fund. *Rio Grande (left) © Harold Malde; East Fork Jemez River (right) © Alan Eckert*

Looking Ahead

We'll implement the comprehensive plan and start work on large post-fire landscapes. We'll gather people and information to find options for the large severely-burned areas, now too common in the Southwest, through a new burned-area learning network.

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Partner Agencies & Organizations

Jemez Mountains Partners

Albuquerque Wildlife Federation
Forest Guild
National Park Service—Bandelier National Monument
New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
New Mexico Division of Forestry
New Mexico Forest Industry Association
New Mexico Trout
Northern Arizona University
Pueblo of Jemez
Pueblo of Santa Clara
Southwest Fire Science Consortium
The Nature Conservancy—New Mexico
Trout Unlimited
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
U.S. Geological Survey—Jemez Mountains Field Station
University of Arizona—Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research
University of Washington—Conservation Canines Program
USDA Forest Service—Cibola NF; Santa Fe NF
Valles Caldera Trust

Rio Grande Water Fund Advisory Board

Acequia del Monte del Rio Chiquito, Taos
Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Authority
Albuquerque Metro Arroyo Flood Control Authority
Association of Commerce and Industry
Bernalillo County
Bohannan Huston Civil Engineering
Bosque Environmental Management Program
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Bureau of Land Management
Chama Peak Land Alliance
City of Albuquerque
City of Santa Fe—Water Division
Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District
Dekker/Perich/Sabatini Architects
Easterling Consulting
Intel Corporation
Lautman Economic Architecture
Lowe's Home Improvement
Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District
Motiva Corporation
New Mexico Association of Counties
New Mexico Department of Insurance
New Mexico Farm Bureau
New Mexico Forest Industry Association
New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission
New Mexico Land Grant Council
New Mexico Minerals, Energy and Natural Resources Department
New Mexico Museum of Science and Natural History
New Mexico Office of the State Engineer
New Mexico Soil & Water Conservation Commission
New Mexico State Land Office
New Mexico Water Business Task Force
New Mexico Watershed and Dam Owners Coalition
PNM Resources
Sandia National Laboratory
Santa Fe Chamber of Commerce
Santa Fe Indian School
SAYAK Natural Resource Consulting
Sierra Club—Northern group
The Forest Guild
Trout Unlimited
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
U.S. Geological Survey—Water Science Center
University of New Mexico—Center for Water and Environment; Department of Economics
USDA Forest Service— Carson NF; Cibola NF
USDA Forest Service— Southwest Region
Watershed Dynamics, LCC
Wells-Fargo
Western Landowners Alliance

The Fire Learning Network is supported by Promoting Ecosystem Resiliency through Collaboration: Landscapes, Learning and Restoration, a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior. For more information, contact Lynn Decker at ldecker@tnc.org or (801) 320-0524.

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v. 27 May 14