



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

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For Immediate Release

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Governor Announces \$2.3 Million for River Ecosystem Restoration Money Will Help Restore and Improve Rivers and Streams, Proposals Requested by NMED

(Santa Fe, NM) — The administration of Governor Bill Richardson announced today it is seeking proposals to help restore and improve the health of New Mexico's rivers and streams. About \$2.3 million is available from a 2007 legislative appropriation for river ecosystem restoration. This funding is part of the Governor's Year of Water initiatives.

"New Mexico is blessed with world class trout streams and some of the most storied rivers in the west," said Governor Richardson. "This funding will help keep our water clean and our rivers healthy for wildlife and New Mexicans to enjoy."

The New Mexico Environment Department is seeking proposals from those that have a plan to use a portion of this funding on a river ecosystem restoration project. An emphasis will be given to physical projects with the ability to show tangible results and water quality improvements. Proposals must be received by NMED by 3 p.m. June 27.

"We encourage groups with well thought out, sustainable plans for improving our rivers and streams to apply," said NMED Secretary Ron Curry. "Water is New Mexico's most precious resource, and we are proud to partner with groups that want to help make it as clean and healthy as possible."

Activities that may be funded include: physical habitat restoration within a stream; enhancement of environmental flow; improvement of riparian vegetative cover for the purpose of river restoration; reduction of pollutants to rivers; promoting the hydrologic interaction between the river channel and floodplain including bank lowering; and restoring dynamic channel processes such as accretion on new banks, bar building, channel widening, and channel sinuosity. The removal of non-native phreatophytes will not be funded except as part of a more comprehensive river restoration project.

A full set of criteria and instructions on how to apply for funding is available on the department's Web site at: www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb , or by mail upon request.

For more information contact Marissa Stone at (505) 827-0314.