

CLEARING THE WATERS

A quarterly newsletter by the Surface Water Quality Bureau

Volume 27, No. 4

Special Edition 2022/23

In This Issue: pg

Clean Water Act 50 Celebration	1
Clean Water Act History	2
Governor's Proclamation	3
Importance of the Clean Water Act	3
Highlights by each Week	4

Editor:

Susan j. Styer

susan.styer@state.nm.us

If you would like to receive this newsletter and other agency updates by email, please subscribe at www.env.nm.gov/surface-water-quality

Clearing The Waters is available on our website at: <https://www.env.nm.gov/surface-water-quality/newsletters/>

This newsletter is published quarterly by the New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED) Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB). Funding is provided by a Clean Water Act (CWA) §319(h) grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Clean Water Act 50

Celebrating 50 Years of the Clean Water Act



The New Mexico Environment Department's Surface Water Quality Bureau celebrated the **50th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act (CWA50)** during our "**Month of Clean Water**" which occurred from October 3rd – November 4th of 2022. The FIVE weeks of celebration included;

- **Week 1 – History of the Clean Water Act**
- **Week 2 – Protecting Clean Water**
- **Week 3 – Financing Clean Water**
- **Week 4 – Restoring Clean Water**
- **Week 5 – Looking to the Future**

continued on page 2



NMED Surface Water Quality Bureau

1190 South St. Francis Drive, suite N2050

Santa Fe, NM 87502

www.env.nm.gov/surface-water-quality



Each week was filled with activities including over 30 social media posts with videos, reading recommendations, flyers, educational videos, infographics, images, stories, and outreach events. Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham issued a proclamation designating October 2022 the "**Month of Clean Water**," and Shelly Lemon, the Bureau Chief of the NMED SWQB, kicked off the celebration with an introduction [video](#)!

In this Special Edition of *Clearing the Waters*; a brief historical introduction of the Clean Water Act and a few highlights from those weeks is shared. We encourage you to visit the CWA50 SWQB website to access the full celebration <https://www.env.nm.gov/surface-water-quality/cwa50/>.

HISTORY OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT

The Clean Water Act was born out of the first major law in the U.S. to address water pollution called the **Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1948**. This law was eventually amended in 1972 and became known as the Clean Water Act (CWA). The CWA, now marking fifty years, is the most important law available to protect our nation's waters and since its passage, the levels of pollution in waters of the United States have experienced a dramatic decrease. In New Mexico, in the fiscal year that ended in June 2022, SWQB reduced sediment runoff into rivers and streams by over 800,000 pounds, more than double the target of 400,000 pounds!



The fundamental objective of the CWA is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the Nation's Waters for the use and benefit of every American. The law holds polluters accountable, enhances drinking water quality, protects habitat for fish and other wildlife, and sustains our economy. Because of the CWA, the number of places that meet clean water goals has doubled; the cost to treat our drinking water is lower because our waters are healthier; and as water quality improved, fish and wildlife rebounded.

Over the past 50 years we have made great strides towards achieving a vision of abundant clean water for people to use and to protect the environment to sustain New Mexico's future, but we need to do more to protect our most precious resource. As we look toward the next 50 years, we will need to continue to be environmental leaders and work with communities,

organizations, universities, and industry to adapt, manage, and ensure our water is allocated and used properly, efficiently, and equitably. With the vulnerability of watersheds caused by climate change, we will need to continue to build upon the great accomplishments of the past 50 years and work toward a more resilient ecosystem and more efficient land management and water use.

continued on page 3



STATE OF NEW MEXICO EXECUTIVE OFFICE SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Proclamation

WHEREAS, October 18, 2022 marks the 50th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act, which aims to prevent, reduce, and eliminate pollution in the nation's waters with the goal of restoring and maintaining the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters for the use and benefit of every American; and

WHEREAS, over the past 50 years, we have made great strides towards achieving a vision of abundant clean water for people to use and to protect the environment and sustain New Mexico's future; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of New Mexico are dependent on clean waters to protect public health and the environment; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico's precious lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands provide its citizens with numerous recreational and commercial opportunities and greatly enhance their quality of life; and

WHEREAS, clean water plays a vital role in the economic prosperity of New Mexico by supporting agriculture, tourism, industry, and wildlife and sustaining important cultural traditions; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government has cooperated with states, tribes, local communities, businesses, and concerned individuals to significantly reduce all forms of water pollution, making our waters better suited for recreation, irrigation, and other pursuits and more hospitable to aquatic life; and

WHEREAS, with the vulnerability of watersheds caused by climate change, all citizens will need to continue to build upon the great accomplishments of the past 50 years and work toward a more resilient ecosystem and more efficient land management and water use.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor of the State of New Mexico, do hereby proclaim October 2022 as:

"Month of Clean Water"

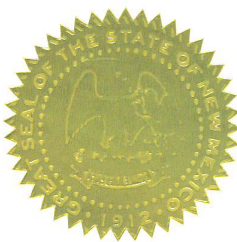
throughout the state of New Mexico.

Attest:


Maggie Toulouse Oliver
Secretary of State

Done at the Executive Office this
20th day of September 2022.

Witness my hand and the Great Seal
of the State of New Mexico.




Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor


continued on page 4











THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT

- Aims to "restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters."
- Provides the basic structure for regulating discharges.
- Makes it unlawful to discharge pollutants from a point source into our Nation's waters without a permit.

Clean Water Act

Before & After





BEFORE CWA	AFTER CWA
 <p>Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1948. Established the first clean water programs. Ran mostly by states.</p>	 <p>Clean Water Act of 1972. Expanded the Federal role for financial assistance, regulatory requirements and enforcement.</p>
 <p>The Cuyahoga River, catches fire on a regular basis due to industrial contamination.</p>	 <p>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, gets created to solve problems such as the Cuyahoga River fire.</p>
 <p>The nation's polluted waters declared a menace to public health.</p>	 <p>CWA established the goals that all waters be both "fishable" and "swimmable".</p>
 <p>No federally required goals, objectives, limits, or guidelines related to water quality to protect public health and the environment.</p>	 <p>National goal to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters.</p>
 <p>Did not prohibit or regulate pollution into our nation's waterways.</p>	 <p>Established a system that regulates pollutant discharges and a pathway to clean up pollutants in our nation's waters.</p>

BE THE CHANGE! There's still work to be done.

Remember properly dispose any contaminants.

Clean up after yourself.

Help clean your community.

- Prevents wetlands from being filled in or paved over without first getting a permit.
- Sets "fishable/swimmable" goals for the Nation's waters.
- Directs states/tribes to adopt water quality standards.
- Requires clean-up plans for waters that don't meet water quality standards (aka TMDLs).
- Funds important grant programs to help States/Tribes maintain, enhance, and restore water quality.
- Helps communities build and upgrade wastewater infrastructure through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan program.
- Provides opportunities for meaningful public engagement.

CWA Infographic - view it - <https://www.env.nm.gov/surface-water-quality/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2022/09/CWA-info-BW-2022.9.21.png>

WEEK 1 - Highlight - SWQB Staff Interview

Interested in learning more about Clean Water Act programs and what they do for New Mexico? Watch an interview [video](#) with Maryann McGraw, New Mexico's SWQB Wetland Program Coordinator. Maryann explains her heartfelt passion of creating New Mexico's sole Environment Department Wetlands program from the ground up in 2003 and her expectations for Clean Water Programs for the next 50 years. She continues to provide vision and guide the program to ensure the program reflects the crucial role of wetlands and riparian areas in the west.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT Highlight

As part of the CWA50 celebration, the New Mexico Environment Department asked members of the public to share their stories about a special stream, river, lake, or wetland in New Mexico. These authored or anonymous stories were showcased during the "Month of Clean Water", and a few were selected to be highlighted in this issue of *Clearing the Waters* and are featured next.

continued on page 5

Author - Katherine Tara

- 1. Contentment, joy, romance**
- 2. The contentment of floating the Rio Grande with the people I love is unparalleled.**
- 3. I celebrated my 26th birthday floating the Middle Rio Grande with the people I love.**

We shared a cherry pie from Sartori's Bakery and the tune of "Happy Birthday" drifted over the river and through the bosque as we paddleboarded in the early morning sun. The cottonwoods turned out, their brilliant green leaves and the egrets followed us from eddy to eddy. I have never had a more perfect birthday.



Art added by editor

Author - JOHN BARTLIT

New Mexico Citizens for Clean Air & Water

This sketch of Myra McCormick of Grant County, NM, was first published in 1991. She passed away in 1999, and her legacy grows. As her lasting gift to The Nature Conservancy, this sturdy friend of the environment left to them the guest ranch she owned and operated for 41 years with the stipulation that they continue to operate it for a minimum of ten years. As soon as the Nature Conservancy closed the Lodge in 2009, the present owners began hatching plans to purchase and reopen this exquisite jewel on the edge of the Gila Wilderness. A visit to www.bearmountainlodge.com shows the lodge as it shines anew. Read its history.

This month, 2022, is the 50th Anniversary of the Federal Clean Water Act. To celebrate the event, the New Mexico Environment Department invited stories remembering those earlier times, leaders, and successes. We send our story of Myra McCormick. She remains a poster for that unforgeable veracity that finds a way.

Myra McCormick Turned the Tables With Knowledge of Whitewater Creek

Today we praise Myra McCormick. In a world of all sorts, she would sit in the section reserved for the good and the strong, when she took time to sit at all.

Ageless but not young, McCormick ran a guest ranch outside of Silver City. She was a busy citizen environmentalist before the concept existed. By the early 1970's, she was pulling water samples out of Whitewater Creek near the Kennecott smelter and sending them to state agencies in Santa Fe for pollution tests.

She was part Miss Marple, part Margaret Thatcher, and part Thelma Ritter, that old-time player in Western movies. And a master bird-watcher in the bargain. She was among the first to join and to speak for our citizens group, New Mexico Citizens for Clean Air & Water, in a corner of New Mexico where the big employer was the big polluter. Such feats mark the intrepid.

That's Myra.

Among the great treats of my life in the green cause are the three or four week ends spent at Myra's Bear Mountain Ranch when environmental work took us her way. It is a five-star outing for anyone of like mind.

By the 1990's, twists of law and circumstances made her a prominent figure in our group's water pollution lawsuit against her hometown copper company. The clean water laws say citizen groups have no rights in court unless they have a member harmed directly by proximity to the pollution violations. McCormick was such a member. Our chance to get into court hung by this thread for a year.

Believing her to be key, armies of corporate lawyers set out to prove her a fabrication, a mere puppet turned by foreign winds. This would take some doing. They might easier prove the first Navajo were carpetbaggers and the Apache were peddlers of band instruments.

The harsh legal interrogations she withstood led to my all-time favorite story about her. A few days after her ordeal, three leaders of our group found ourselves with McCormick in the dwindling light

continued on page 7

in front of her great stone fireplace. The topic was Whitewater Creek—a popular bird hangout and the site of the pollution that forced our lawsuit. McCormick ticked off three or four prized species found there. In our chat, their vivid names struck us as precise and catching. In court, the names struck the opposing force as brutal and baffling.

Imagine: Two or three defense lawyers sit behind a grand table and quiz McCormick about her alleged use of the creek. Taking her sprightly lead, they are soon entangled with “...the chestnut-collared longspur, the horned lark, and the long-eared owl, maybe the sage thrasher.”

At rates near \$150 an hour (equating now to ~\$300 an hour), the fancy questioners confer in a hush and scratch on pads, naked as jaybirds on McCormick’s turf. The court reporter struggles to spell the exotic names and keep a straight face. Thus, by a longspur was our arduous quest for legal standing won.

I laugh in waves. First, at the big team hunkered down against a rush of bird life. I howl at the dangers of overreach that lurk in the rote v. the real.

With rare simplicity, Myra McCormick showed us how to disentrall ourselves. She did our species proud.



Above photo, Kennecott Copper Smelter, Main Street Hurley in the late 1960's - photo added by editor.



Left photo, Bear Mountain Lodge - current day photo - added by editor.

Author - Maxine McReynolds

McReynolds Family Recent Water Memory: Sitting Bull Falls

1. Cleansing, togetherness, renewal.

2. Our busy modern lives -- dual career parents, soccer, music, school, Covid, animal tending, elder care, special needs -- stretch our family out so tight sometimes that our souls cry out for renewal, and this renewal we find in small still moments like those when we sit together under a refreshing waterfall carried from a natural spring to the top of our heads.

3. Ours is a multicultural family with deep ties and connection to the land and the water of New Mexico. For example, most of us are connected as members of Powohgeh Owingeh which name is inextricably tied to the water as it means "where the water cuts through." Others of us have farmed or been parciantes on historic acequias. Sayah tells our children about when she was small and the Rio Grande ran clear, without silts and turbidity, and it was safe to wade through the river because she could see her feet and the bottom clearly. Like the river, life changes and grows more complex and we can lose clarity along the way.

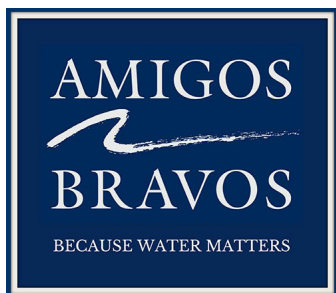
Today, we spend much of our time going to school, at our jobs, pursuing our sports or other activities, engaging in community, and supporting each other and family as best we can -- balancing all the demands of life. In the midst of this, we are together so much of the time yet somehow, so often, not really **together.** So we seek out family adventures that bring us cleansing, togetherness, and renewal. As is the case for so many families, most often the cleansing, togetherness, and renewal happens where there is clean, refreshing, lovely New Mexico water.



Our most recent family adventure was a visit to Sitting Bull Falls. The day is perfect. It is warm enough to make the pool at the bottom of the falls and cascading water falling from above both inviting and refreshing. It is clear enough to make the water gleam and glisten. We swim out to under the falls, sitting together as the water from above falls onto our heads and bodies. Some of us also hike above to find still, quiet wetlands to savor. The spring water, filtered through pools, wetlands, and other falls, is deeply refreshing in a way that is nearly impossible to describe. It makes our souls sing. ***Together--really together--we are renewed.***

WEEK 2 - Highlights - Protecting Clean Water

Outstanding National Resource Waters (ONRWs) were the main focus of Week 2 – Protecting Clean Water. ONRWs are streams, lakes and wetlands that receive enhanced protection against degradation under the State of New Mexico's Standards for Interstate and Intrastate Surface Waters ("Water Quality Standards") and the CWA. An ONRW designation is the highest level of protection against degradation that can be afforded for a waterbody under the State of New Mexico's Water Quality Standards (20.6.4 NMAC).



Amigos Bravos is a statewide water conservation organization (based in Taos, NM) guided by social justice principles and dedicated to preserving and restoring the ecological and cultural integrity of New Mexico's water and the communities that depend on it. Their long-term commitment to clean water for the last 30+ years shows the dedication and success that can be celebrated as part of CWA50. During Week 2, we shared an ONRW video Amigos Bravos created about the Upper Pecos River titled, *These Rivers Carry Our Stories: Outstanding Waters Protections in Pecos*.

The content description for this video; *The Pecos is an iconic river in northern New Mexico, deserving of the highest protections. In New Mexico, these are Outstanding Waters protections. Hear about why the designation is a good fit for the Pecos River, the town and Pueblo of Pecos and our future.*

Follow this link, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ahUFrQPO7Q8&t=3s>, to view *These Rivers Carry Our Stories: Outstanding Waters Protections in Pecos*.



continued on page 10



Commitment to the CWA was also recognized by the past and ongoing devoted work by the Sierra Club, Rio Grande Chapter – New Mexico & El Paso and its volunteers. This Chapter of the Sierra Club actively monitors the environment through their program, *Water Sentinels – Protecting America's Waters*.

Water Sentinels - Protecting America's Waters

The Water Sentinels Program as described by the Sierra Club; *The Clean Water Act* clearly defines our lakes, rivers, and streams as 'waters of the United States' – as invaluable resources belonging to all Americans. *Water Sentinels* envision a country where all communities have access to clean drinking water and where the quality and quantities of water in our rivers, streams, lakes and aquifers are protected and managed to sustain the ecosystems on which all life depends. The Sierra Club is engaged on a wide range of water issues at the group and chapter level across the country because waterways are easily impacted by pollution, climate, and development. These issues are not isolated to one or two locales but affect communities and people from coast to coast.

To gain more information about the program and to get involved visit: <https://www.riograndesierraclub.org/water-sentinels/>. The Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club details below two Water Sentinel monitoring project locations in New Mexico with ongoing success.

Central Rio Grande – Bosque Sentinels

"In the Central Rio Grande area there is the Bosque Sentinels Program. Select a part of the Bosque that you'd like to monitor: get to know the terrain and report to Open Space if there are litter, fire or vandalism problems. You'll get to know the different projects that the Army Corps of Engineers, Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District or the city are carrying out and be able to interpret those projects to other users."

Taos – Tiger Salamanders

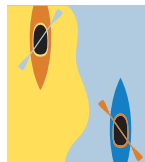
"Water Sentinels — Rios de Taos has been awarded a grant to encourage student participation in water-monitoring activities and the general environmental activities of the Sierra Club. We will continue to work with Taos High School students — the Tiger Salamanders — and will be contacting other high schools to initiate more student environmental programs. Our long-term goal is to have more student environmental organizations and more young Sierra Club members."



Did You Know?



NMED has funding available for many types of Clean Water Projects from habitat improvements to drinking water systems!



Outdoor Recreation Trails + Grants

Economic development, prosperity & wellness grants for New Mexicans.

Water Quality Management Planning

Clean Water Act 604 (B) Grant Program



Nonpoint Source Program

Planning & implementation of Watershed-based plans

Clean Water State Revolving Fund

Wastewater facilities & more



Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

Drinking water systems or other drinking water projects

Enhance the health of rivers

River Stewardship Program



Click on each box for more information!

WEEK 4 - Highlights - Restoring Clean Water

During Week 4, we highlighted a PBS Terra educational video that discusses the value of using beavers as restoration partners. *"Beaver should be our national climate action plan, because connected floodplains store water, store carbon, improve water quality, improve the resilience to wild-fire, and what beaver do play an enormous role in controlling the dynamics of those systems."*

Want to Solve Wildfires and Drought? Leave it to BEAVERS! PBS Terra. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6lT5W32xRN4&t=69s>.



The content description for this video; *More and more scientists are starting to ask the question: Could beavers be the ally we've been waiting for when it comes to saving the environment? Travel with host Joe Hanson to Central Oregon where a group of scientists set up a kind of beaver laboratory to learn more about the crepuscular creatures. We'll also speak with a scientist who studies how beavers help to mitigate wildfire and drought.*

Want to Solve Wildfires and Drought? Leave it to BEAVERS!



BEAVER

NO BEAVER

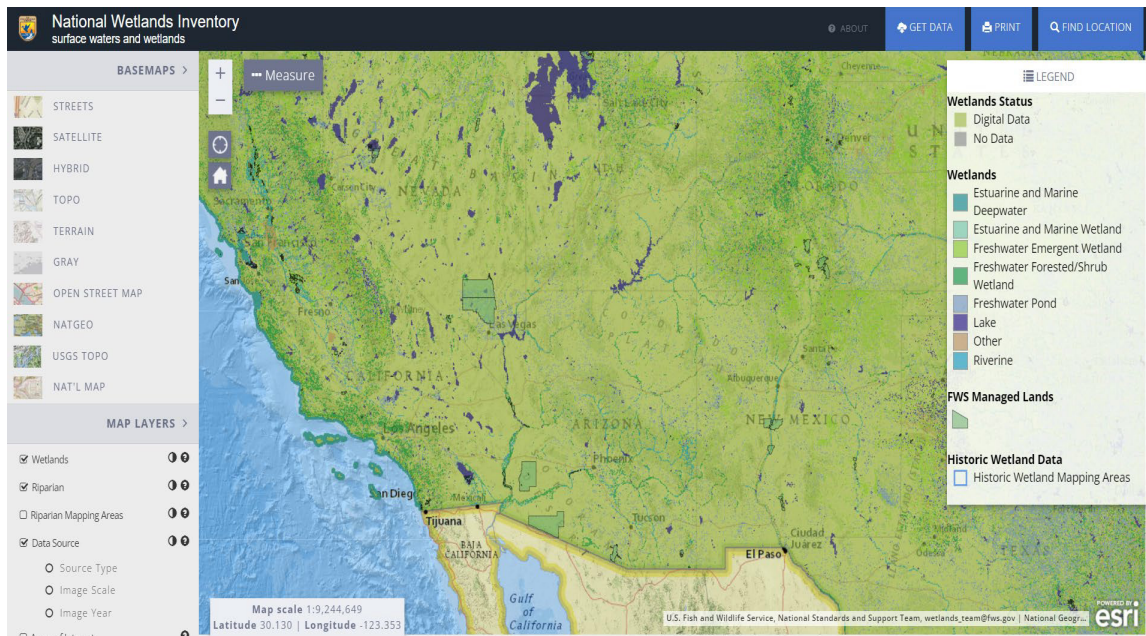


Also in Week 4, we shared an important online mapping tool to aid in conservation efforts for wetlands called the ***Wetlands Mapper***. This easy to use resource is produced by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Wetlands Inventory Program. The Wetlands Mapper *"integrates digital map data and other resource information to produce current information on the status, extent, characteristics and functions of wetlands, riparian and deepwater habitats. The wetlands that*

continued on page 13

are displayed on the Wetlands Mapper show wetland type and extent using a biological definition of wetlands." NMED SWQB Wetlands team has been working with St. Mary's University GeoSpatial Services, based in Minnesota, and the USFWS to identify all of the wetlands in New Mexico. You can see the team's work in the National Wetlands Inventory Wetlands Mapper! See if you can find a wetland near your house... you might be surprised!

More information about the USFWS National Wetlands Inventory program and the Wetlands Mapper can be accessed by visiting; <https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory/wetlands-mapper>.



WEEK 5 - Highlights - Looking to the Future

The Clean Water pledge - share it with the future generations, family, friends, and others. Download it here; <https://www.env.nm.gov/surface-water-quality/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2022/10/lean-water-pledge-final.jpg>.

I pledge to love and care for the water in my community and guard it for future generations.

I PLEDGE TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING CHOICES AT HOME:

- ✓ REPAIR LEAKING FAUCETS, PIPES, AND TOILETS
- ✓ SHORTEN MY SHOWER TIME, USE LOW-FLOW DEVICES AND TURN OFF THE TAP
- ✓ WASH ONLY FULL LOADS OF LAUNDRY AND DISHES
- ✓ POWER DOWN TO SAVE ELECTRICITY

I PLEDGE TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING CHOICES IN MY DAILY LIFE:

- ✓ WASTE LESS FOOD (SAVE A CROP, SAVE A DROP!)
- ✓ USE REUSABLE SHOPPING BAGS
- ✓ USE A REFILLABLE BOTTLE OR CUP
- ✓ SAY NO TO PLASTIC STRAWS AND ONE-USE PLASTIC

I PLEDGE TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING CHOICES IN MY YARD:

- ✓ BEAUTIFY WITH CLIMATE-APPROPRIATE PLANTS
- ✓ TURN OFF SPRINKLERS WHEN IT RAINS
- ✓ USE SPRINKLERS ON MINIMAL SETTINGS BEFORE 8 AM
- ✓ SWEEP INSTEAD OF HOSE

I PLEDGE TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING CHOICES FOR MY COMMUNITY:

- ✓ SCOOP UP MY PET'S WASTE
- ✓ DISPOSE OF WASTE SAFELY (DON'T FLUSH CHEMICALS)
- ✓ WALK, BIKE OR BUS MORE OFTEN
- ✓ RECYCLE BATTERIES AND ELECTRONICS
- ✓ RECYCLE CLEAN PAPER, CARDBOARD, ALUMINUM AND GLASS

continued on page 14


Looking to the Future - International and Local

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the international body for assessing the science related to climate change. The IPCC was set up in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to provide policymakers with regular assessments of the scientific basis of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation.


IPCC assessments provide a scientific basis for governments at all levels to develop climate related policies, and they underlie negotiations at the UN Climate Conference – the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The assessments are policy-relevant but not policy prescriptive: they may present projections of future climate change based on different scenarios and the risks that climate change poses and discuss the implications of response options, but they do not tell policymakers what actions to take.

The IPCC embodies a unique opportunity to provide rigorous and balanced scientific information to decision-makers because of its scientific and intergovernmental nature. Participation in the IPCC is open to all member countries of the WMO and United Nations. The Panel, made up of representatives of the member states, meets in Plenary Sessions to take major decisions. The IPCC Bureau, elected by member governments, provides guidance to the Panel on the scientific and technical aspects of the Panel's work and advises the Panel on related management and strategic issues.


IPCC assessments are written by hundreds of leading scientists who volunteer their time and expertise as Coordinating Lead Authors and Lead Authors of the reports. They enlist hundreds of other experts as Contributing Authors to provide complementary expertise in specific areas.



SYNTHESIS REPORT
AR6 Synthesis Report: Climate Change 2023
March 2023
[EXPLORE](#)



REPORT
AR6 Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change
April 2022
[EXPLORE](#)



WORKING GROUP REPORT
AR6 Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability
February 2022
[EXPLORE](#)

IPCC reports undergo multiple rounds of drafting and review to ensure they are comprehensive and objective and produced in an open and transparent way. Thousands of other experts contribute to the reports by acting as reviewers, ensuring the reports reflect the full range of views in the scientific community. Teams of Review Editors provide a thorough monitoring mechanism for making sure that review comments are addressed.

The above was taken from the *IPCC Factsheet*. For access to the IPCC website visit: <https://ipcc.ch/about/>.

Click on each report - **Explore** buttons to access the each of the most recent reports.

SWQB STAFF Highlights

SWQB Education and Outreach Events included a NMED SWQB Meet and Greet at Patrick Smith Park in Santa Fe during Week 2, *Protecting Clean Water*. During this event employees answered questions about

their Clean Water Act work, including permitting, watershed restoration, and water quality sampling. The monitoring staff demonstrated water quality techniques and equipment.

Left photo, Meet and Greet event - SWQB staff on October 15, 2022 at Patrick Smith Park, Santa Fe.

During Week 5, *Looking into the Future*, SWQB participated in the Children's Water Festival in Rio Rancho. The Rio Rancho Children's Water Festival was

developed to educate fourth graders to improve the understanding of good water management principles. It focuses on water and its relationship to human and other natural resources in an interactive and fun atmosphere for the children.

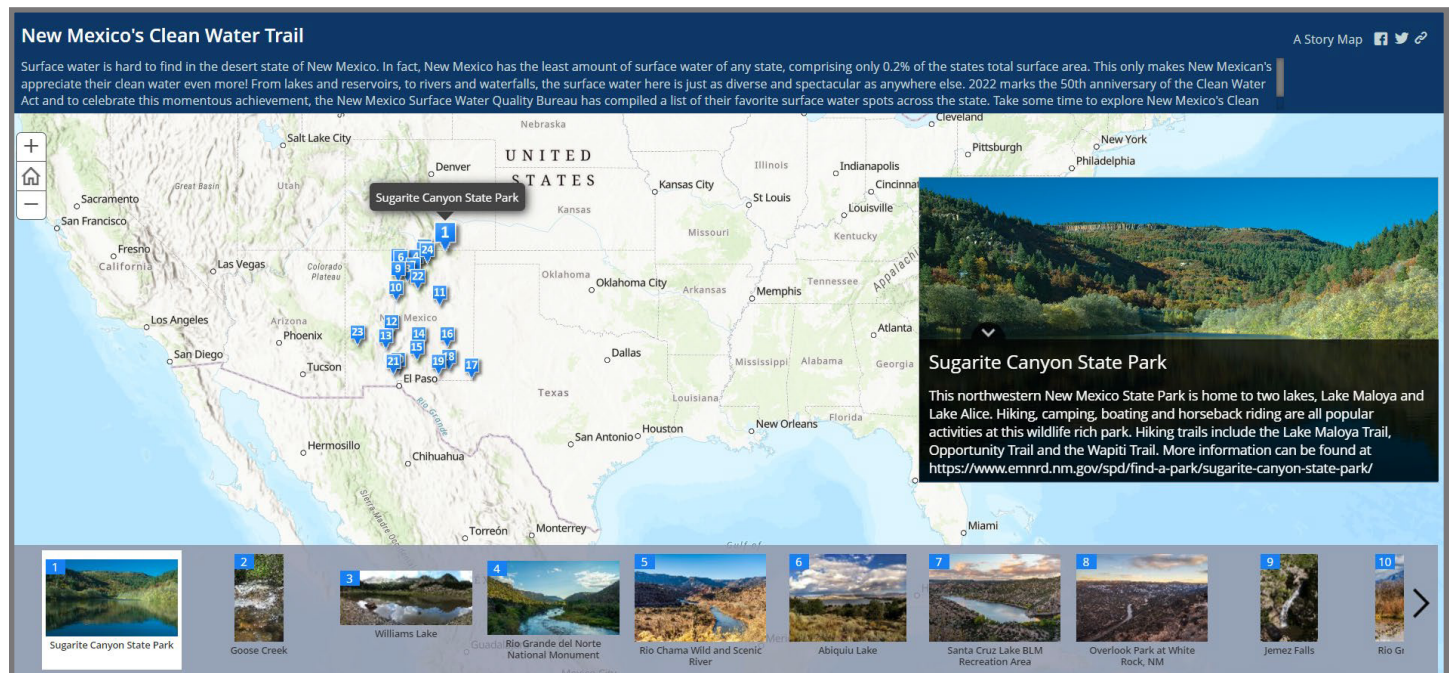
Bottom left and below photo, SWQB staff interacting with eager to learn fourth graders at the Rio Rancho Children's Water Festival on October 24-25, 2022.



NEW MEXICO'S CLEAN WATER TRAIL - GIS STORY MAP

Surface water is hard to find in the desert state of New Mexico. In fact, New Mexico has the least amount of surface water of any state, comprising only 0.2% of the state's total surface area. This only makes New Mexicans appreciate their clean water even more! From lakes and reservoirs, to rivers and waterfalls, the surface water here is just as diverse and spectacular as anywhere else. SWQB staff compiled a list of their ***favorite surface water spots across the state***. Take some time to explore New Mexico's Clean Water Trail and discover some great water across the Land of Enchantment! Trails mentioned below can be found in the AllTrails app which is available for download for IOS and Android phones.

To access this fun tool visit, <https://nmenv.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapTour/index.html?appid=a8ed0a8d93224e21aba5cee5d6ed1911>.



NMED does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age or sex in the administration of its programs or activities, as required by applicable laws and regulations. NMED is responsible for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries concerning non-discrimination requirements implemented by 40 C.F.R. Part 7, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 13 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972. If you have any questions about this notice or any of NMED's non-discrimination programs, policies or procedures, you may contact:

Kathryn Becker, Non-Discrimination Coordinator (505) 827-2855
New Mexico Environment Department
1190 St. Francis Dr., Suite N4050
P.O. Box 5469
Santa Fe, NM 87502
nd.coordinator@state.nm.us

If you believe that you have been discriminated against with respect to a NMED program or activity, you may contact the Non-Discrimination Coordinator identified above or visit our website at <https://www.env.nm.gov/non-employee-discrimination-complaint-page> to learn how and where to file a complaint of discrimination.