



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
RIVER STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM
2014 Appropriation



The 2014 New Mexico Legislature appropriated \$2.3 million in capital outlay funds for the River Stewardship Pro-gram "to design and construct projects that improve surface water quality or river habitat statewide and to provide state matching funds required by the terms of any federal grant under the Clean Water Act." NMED working with the State Purchasing Division conducted a request for proposals in summer 2014. A committee of six subject matter experts from NMED, the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluated the thirty-nine submitted proposals. The committee's recommendations led to selection of twelve river restoration projects which are listed below. Agreements with local governments, soil and water conservation districts, non-profit organizations, and for-profit organizations to implement these projects were approved in April 2015, and these projects are now underway.

El Rito Creek Habitat Enhancement and Bank Stabilization Project

The City of Santa Rosa will improve in-stream fish habitat, stabilize creek banks, and remove invasive trees along a 0.35 mile stretch of El Rito Creek.

Gallinas Village River and Floodplain Restoration

The Hermit's Peak Watershed Alliance will implement this project, which entails significant instream restoration, creating side channel wetlands, rerouting floodwaters to a currently inaccessible floodplain, and building a flood water detention area.

Middle Jaramillo Creek Water Quality Improvement and Riparian Restoration Project

The WildEarth Guardians will improve water quality and riparian functionality in Jaramillo Creek, on the Valles Caldera National Preserve. Providing direct shade over the stream surface will moderate and reduce water temperatures, while constructed exclosures will protect the re-established and planted streambank vegetation from grazing by cattle and elk.

Middle Percha Creek Silver Fire Rehabilitation Project

The Sierra Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) will implement rehabilitation efforts on Middle Percha Creek within the burn scar of the Silver Fire of the summer of 2013.

Pecos River In-stream and Riparian Restoration

The Upper Pecos Watershed Association will perform stream geomorphology restoration to address post-Tres Lagunas Fire and flood impacts, increasing sinuosity and water depth, thereby reducing water temperature and improving fish habitat.

Post-Fire Restoration of the Rito de los Frijoles at the Bandelier National Monument Visitors' Center

Keystone Restoration Ecology will perform channel and floodplain restoration on the Rito de los Frijoles to improve stream function, stabilize the stream channel, create an accessible floodplain and increase habitat diversity with riparian plantings.

Red River Town Park Restoration Project

The Town of Red River will restore a half mile of the Red River in the heart of downtown. Objectives include measurably restoring the balance of erosion and sedimentation, improving the riparian corridor for terrestrial and avian species, increasing fish-holding capacity, and increasing recreational opportunities.

Restoring Hydrologic Functioning to the Rito de los Indios, Valles Caldera National Preserve

Los Amigos de Valles Caldera will restore channel form and function, lower temperature, and reduce sediment on the Rito de los Indios and tributaries burned by the Las Conchas Fire in the Valles Caldera National Preserve.

Rio Grande Corridor at Buckman Phase II

Rio Grande Return will implement Phase II of the "Habitat Restoration and Specification Plan for the Rio Grande Corridor at Buckman." Eight acres of riparian area will be restored along 0.75 river miles.

San Juan River Restoration Project

The San Juan SWCD will restore areas along the San Juan River below Navajo Dam by removing nonnative trees such as Russian olive and salt cedar, and restoring the river's riparian areas by planting willows, cotton-woods, and native grasses.

Track Fire Burn Area Perennial Stream Restoration Project

The City of Raton will rehabilitate Segerstrom Creek, a perennial stream located within the Track Fire Burn Area. The project goals are to restore the creek to its proper geomorphology and restore the floodplain while mitigating head cutting and the resulting adverse effects on the surrounding floodplain and to decrease sediment transport into Lake Maloya.

Anyone can access much of the information on these and other projects in the online *Grants Reporting and Tracking System* (GRTS). Just follow the instructions at www.env.nm.gov/swqb/wps/GRTS. The River Stewardship Program projects are currently listed under the 2014 grant for New Mexico, and are indicated with "RSP" in their titles. More general updates on the River Stewardship Program will be provided at www.env.nm.gov/swqb/RiverStewards.

For more information, please contact Karen Menetrey, the River Stewardship Program coordinator **505-827-0194** or Karen.Menetrey@state.nm.us.