

**NEWS RELEASE***For Immediate Release***June 2, 2022**

The Environment Department's mission is to protect and restore the environment and to foster a healthy and prosperous New Mexico for present and future generations.

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River Stewardship Program Request for Proposals is now open

Over \$8 million in funding available to State and local governments, tribal governments, and non-governmental entities

SANTA FE —The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the River Stewardship Program seeking proposals for projects that improve surface water quality and river habitats and minimize wildfire risks statewide. State and local agencies (including cities, counties, state governments, and Soil and Water Conservation Districts), for-profit and not-for-profit organizations, and tribal governments are eligible applicants for \$8,333,000 of funding available through the River Stewardship Program.

The goal of the River Stewardship Program is to enhance the natural functioning of New Mexico's streams and rivers by providing state funding to plan, design, and construct projects to improve the health of rivers by addressing the root causes of poor water quality and stream habitat. This effort addresses water quality and river habitat issues; engages local stakeholders in restoration of their waters; and supports New Mexico's economy both directly for those contracted to perform restoration work and indirectly via increased tourism and recreational opportunities.

In December 2021, the River Stewardship Program received a \$10,000,000 appropriation from the New Mexico State Legislature during the 2021 Second Special Session. This funding comes to NMED from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) as State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to support local economic recovery related to the pandemic. The ARPA funds will be awarded to multiple restoration projects selected through this RFP and utilized by NMED to administer the program over a three-year period. These funds have an expiration date of June 30, 2025, and applicants should plan to complete proposed projects by this date.

Eligible projects occur in and around surface waters of the state (as defined in [NMAC 20.6.4.7](#)) such as rivers, streams, wetlands and playa lakes on public, tribal and/or private lands that provide a public benefit by improving surface water quality and habitat within the state of New Mexico. Many funded projects reduce flood risks and remove non-native species that can contribute to fire risks along waterways. Projects are collaborative and include land management agencies, contractors, and other stakeholders committed to restoration and ensuring long-term success of the projects. Examples of current and former River Stewardship Program projects can be found [here](#).

Successful River Stewardship Program proposals will demonstrate a clear need for restoration actions based on a planning document; demonstrate the support and commitment of the community and applicable stakeholders; describe a scientifically sound and sustainable project; provide clear,

measurable and achievable goals and objectives; and propose a budget that is justified, fair and provides good value for project work.

The RFP is available at <https://www.env.nm.gov/requests-for-proposals/>. **Proposals are due no later than 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 26, 2022.** Offerors may submit their completed proposals electronically to the General Services Department State Purchasing Division's electronic procurement system at: <https://bids.sciquest.com/apps/Router/PublicEvent?CustomerOrg=StateOfNewMexico>.

Projects are selected on a competitive basis where an evaluation committee reviews and scores each proposal. Successful offerors will be offered a service contract or cooperative agreement, as applicable. Projects will have a start date in or around February 2023 and be completed by June 30, 2025. The River Stewardship Program furthers our goal of investing tens of millions of dollars in communities each fiscal year. This is one of our economic performance measures as discussed in our [Quarterly Performance Assessment Report](#).

For more information about the River Stewardship Program and eligibility requirements, contact Kate Lacey at kathryn.lacey@state.nm.us.

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