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NEWS RELEASE

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NMED Sponsors Water Conservation Workshop in Columbus *Noted Hydro-Geologist to Speak on the Mimbres Aquifer*

(Santa Fe) – The New Mexico Environment Department is proud to announce a water conservation workshop on the Mimbres Aquifer. The geology of the Mimbres groundwater basin, a cross-border aquifer that provides water for communities in New Mexico and Chihuahua, is the subject of a presentation scheduled September 28 in Columbus, NM.

New Mexico hydrologist Dr. John Hawley of Albuquerque, a noted expert on U.S.-Mexico cross-border groundwater supplies, is scheduled to talk at 10:00 a.m. in the Recreation Hall at Pancho Villa State Park on the history and geologic characteristics of the Mimbres Basin. The basin is the primary water source for Columbus, NM and Palomas, Chihuahua.

Dr. Hawley's talk is part of a day long workshop for residents of Columbus and Palomas on how to reduce household water use and lower a family's monthly water bill. Other speakers include Alfredo Granados-Olivas, a professor at Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez; Erin Ward, Project Manager for the New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute; and Denise Smith, director of the Office of Sustainability for Silver City, NM. Albert "A.J." Sandoval of Deming will offer free in-home testing for water leaks for Columbus homeowners.

The talk and workshop are part of an effort by the New Mexico Environment Department to address issues in New Mexico's border region. The workshop is funded under a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Border Program.

For more information, please contact Jim Winchester, NMED Communications Director, or Mary Rose, Operational Support Division Director at (505) 827-2855.

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