

Groundwater Monitoring in New Mexico

The Case for a Statewide Monitoring Network



“You can tell a lot about a country by the way it manages its water”

- Shimon Tal, former head of the Israel Water Commission

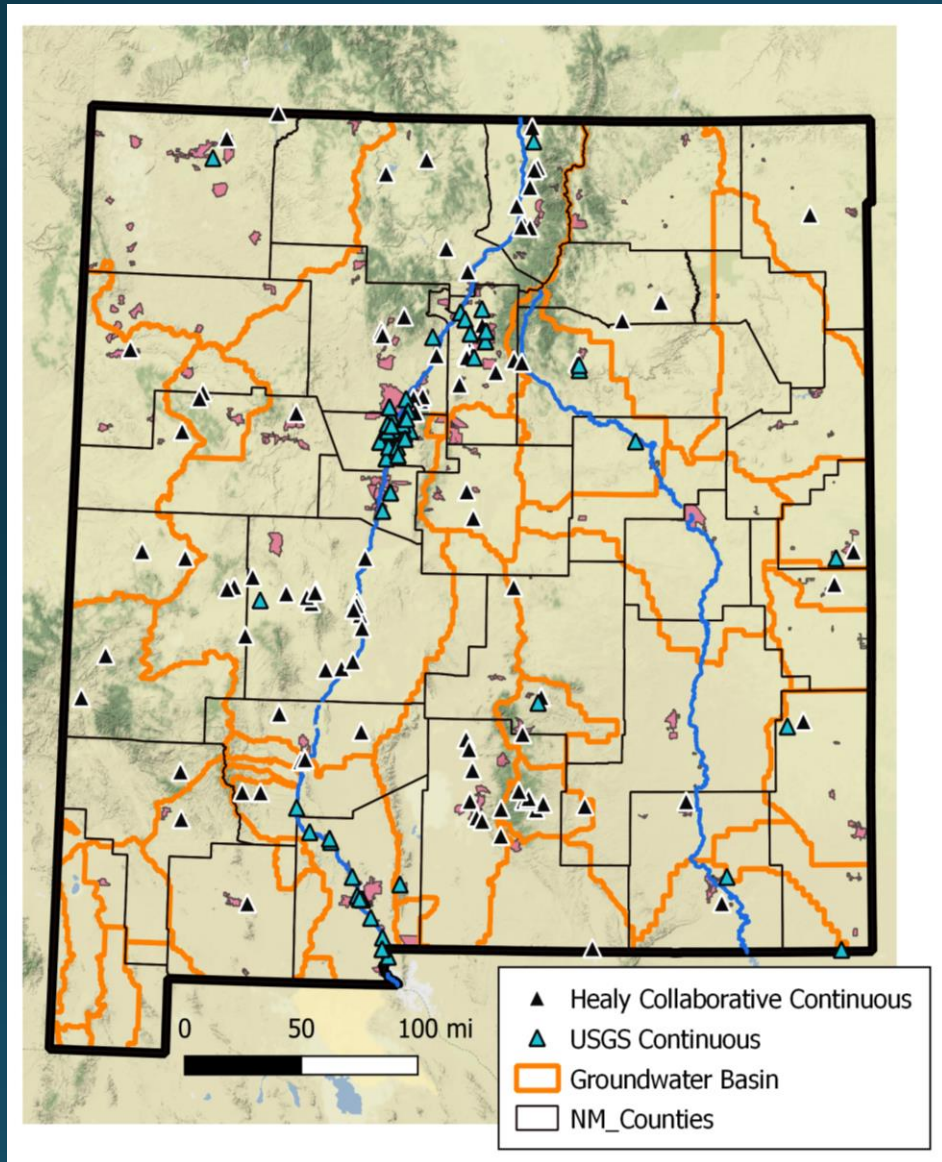
Why Do We Need Groundwater Monitoring?

- Understand aquifer response to production and recharge
- Detect trends (time series)
- Build groundwater models
- Groundwater quality
- Track water-levels targets for aquifer management
- Determine flow direction
- Monitor groundwater – surface water interaction
- Determine aquifer properties

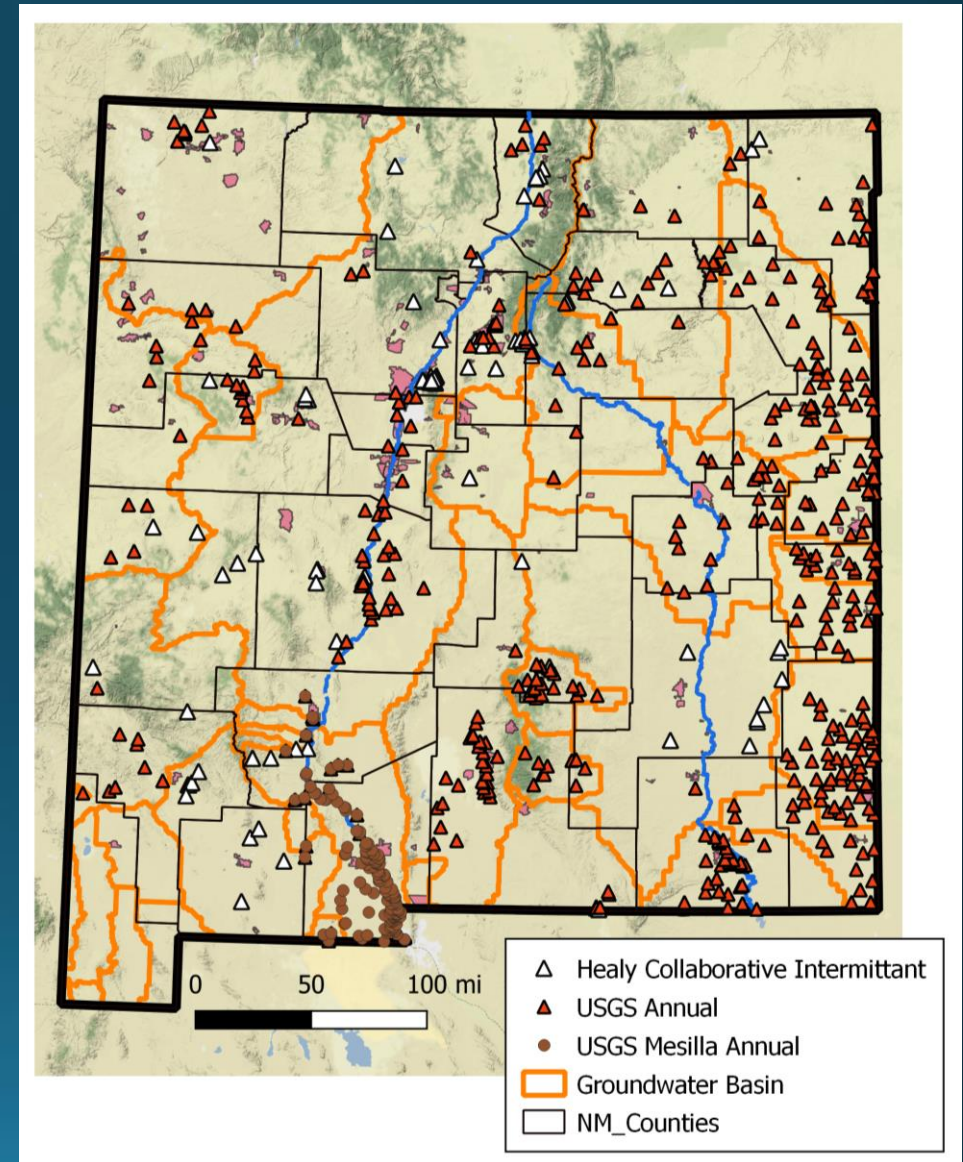
Current Monitoring

- Monitor wells come and go
 - Access issues
 - Lack of funding
- Majority of active wells only monitored annually
- Many areas have little or no regular monitoring
 - e.g., Taos area, Animas Basin, Nutt-Hocket Basin, Southern Lea County
- 25% of USGS annual wells are “depth unknown”
- Data may be hard to get or in problematic format

Continuous



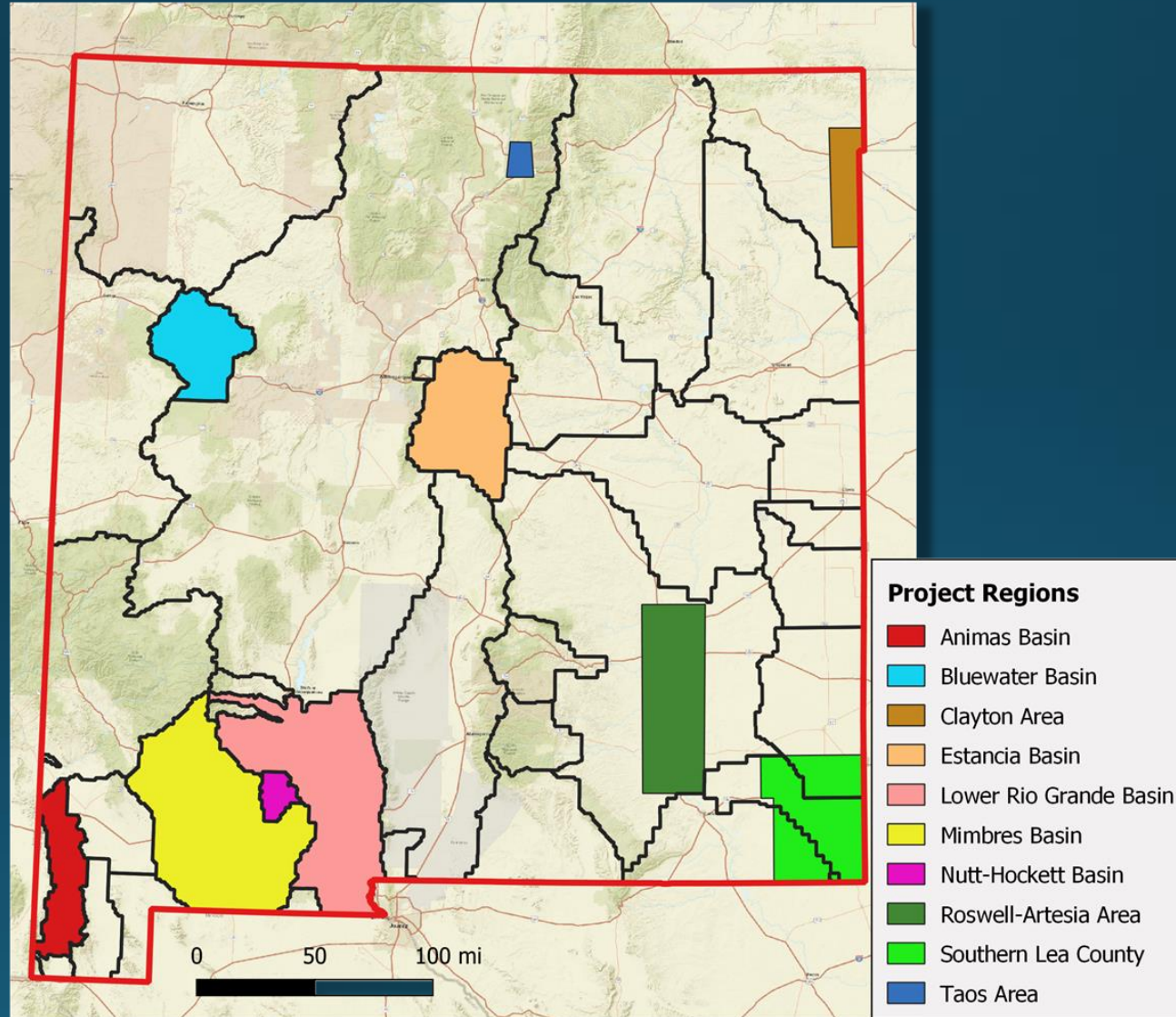
Annual



Statewide Groundwater Monitoring Network

- Wells owned and managed by the state
- Located on public land for long-term access
- Continuous monitoring
- Location and design satisfy specific monitoring goals
- Wells professionally logged and aquifer tested
- Data readily and rapidly available online
- Does not replace current monitoring

Project Phase 1



Work Products

- Detailed report with recommended monitor well locations and cost estimates for each of the 10 regions.
- Interactive website hosted by NMBGMR