



Water Security Planning Act Implementation Update

Water Leaders Workshop
December 6 – 8, 2023

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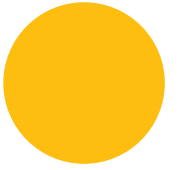
Senior Water Planner

Amanda Nezzie

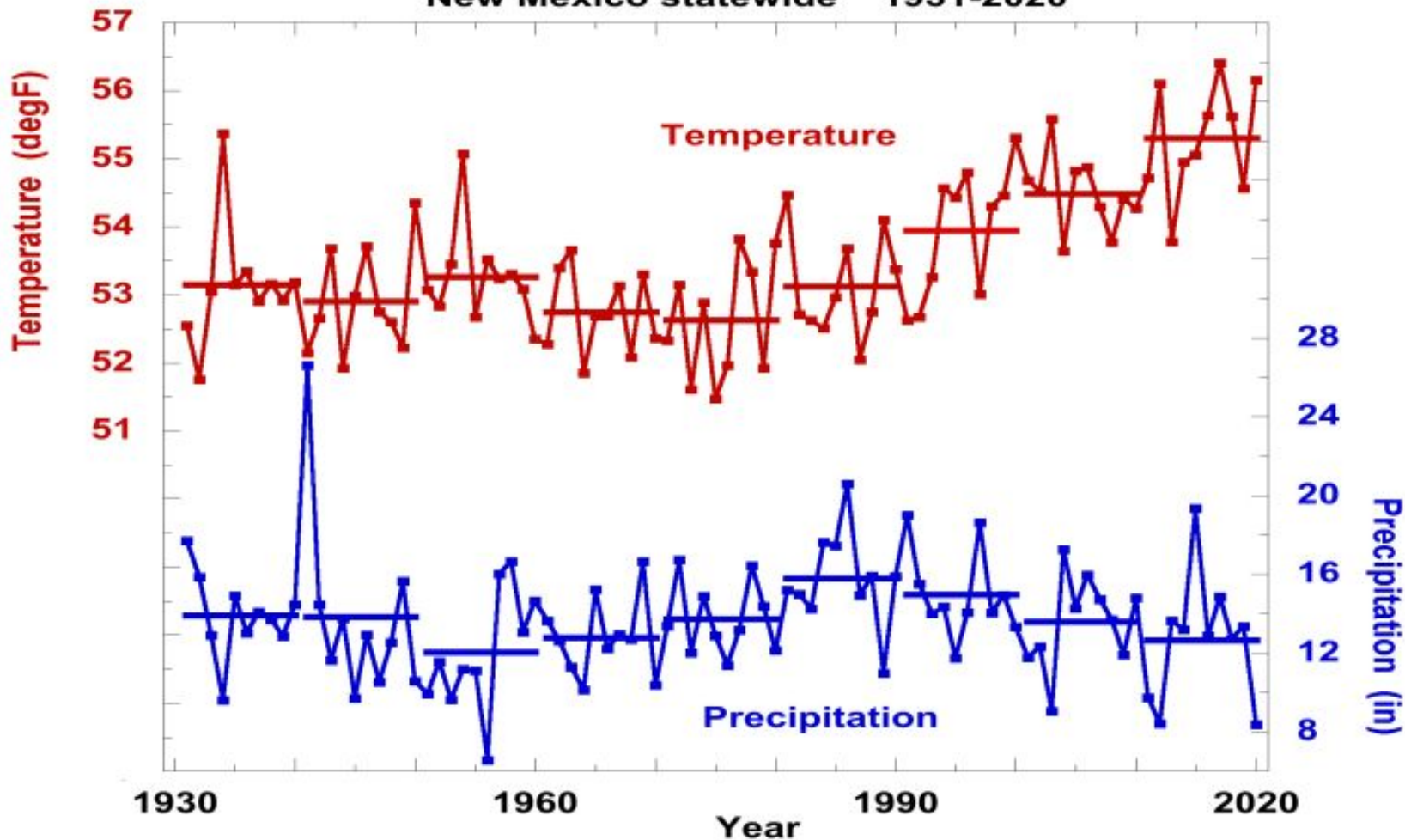
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Water Planner

New Mexico's water future = Drier/More Variable



Annual Average Observed Temperature and Precipitation
New Mexico statewide 1931-2020



- Lower streamflow and aquifer recharge
- Hotter, more severe droughts
- Decreasing snowpack, earlier and diminishing runoff
- Greater demands on dwindling groundwater
- Increasing catastrophic forest fire frequency resulting from heat and dryness
- Increasing flooding and sediment transport due to more intense storm events and fires
- Irreversible damage to soils through loss of vegetation and erosion
- Degraded quality of surface waters

Passed unanimously. Will transform and reinvigorate regional water planning in New Mexico.

New statute requires that regional water planning will:

- **Ensure scientific integrity through the best available data, science and models**
- **Support implementation through prioritization of projects and activities, and reporting mechanisms for decision-makers**
- **Build on and incorporate existing planning efforts, and not be redundant**
- **Be grounded in state water law, including respecting existing water rights and the doctrine of prior appropriation**
- **Develop local capacity through increased and more consistent support**
- **Involve robust public engagement every step of the way**

Implementation of effective solutions requires engagement with local communities.

Water Security Planning Act

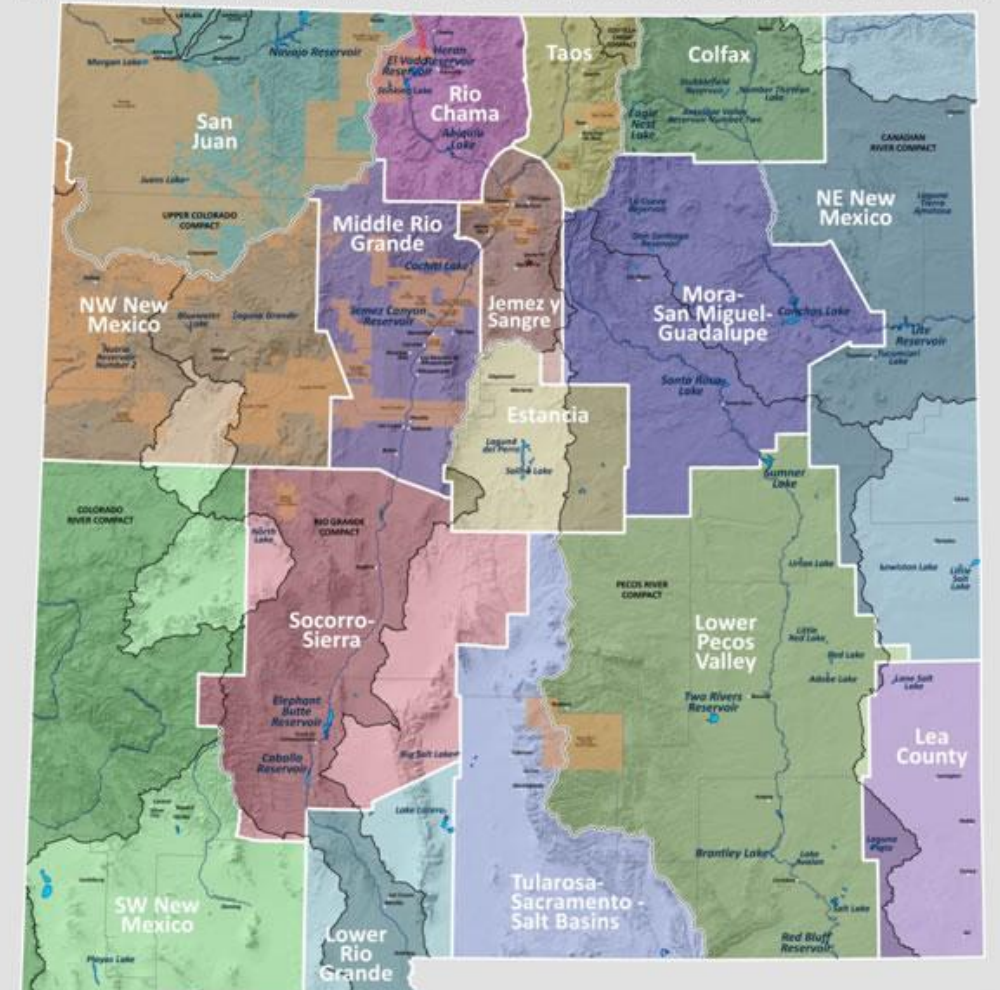
Regional Water Planning in NM



- Original Statute Passed in 1987
- Existing 16 Water Planning Regions
- Combination of Administrative and Hydrologic Boundaries
- Two Full Rounds of Regional Plans Completed between 1999 and 2017
 - Challenges in implementation - no prioritization within plans
- Meetings to be Held in Each Region in 2023 for Water Security Act Implementation
 - Legislator engagement welcome

New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission WATER PLANNING REGIONS

with Native Nation Lands, Pueblos and Interstate Compact Boundaries



WSPA Implementation Schedule

WSPA Implementation Requires:

- **NMISC to complete rulemaking and guidelines adoption**
- **Formation of a Tribal Advisory Council**
- **Robust public involvement - all-hands-on-deck moment**



Complete and On-going

1

- Bill Drafting & Passage: **Jan – Apr '23**
- Strategy & Contracts for Public Engagement in 2024: **Mar – Sep '23**
- Communications, Data Visualization, Outreach & Input Process: **Aug '23 – Mar '24**

Upcoming

2

- WSPA Website Launch with Initial Survey: **Dec '23**
- Conduct Public Meetings & Web-Based Input to Inform Rules and Guidelines: **Mar – Sep '24**
- Rule & Guideline Development Based on Input Received: **Sep – Dec '24**
- Promulgate Rules & Adopt Guidelines: **Dec '24 – Mar '25**

Future

3

- WSPA Schedule - Determine Intervals for Plans & Support Needed: **Jan– Aug '25**
- Development & Implementation of Regional Water Plans: **July '25 - ongoing**

Please check back soon
for more updates at
www.mainstreamnm.org

Main Stream New Mexico is your guide to revitalized regional water planning under New Mexico's Water Security Planning Act of 2023 (SB337). It is a campaign of the Interstate Stream Commission Water Planning Program.

**Plan.
Conserve.
Thrive.**

Despite the water shortages and challenges we will face

We want to hear from you:

TAKE THE SURVEY

(Coming Soon)