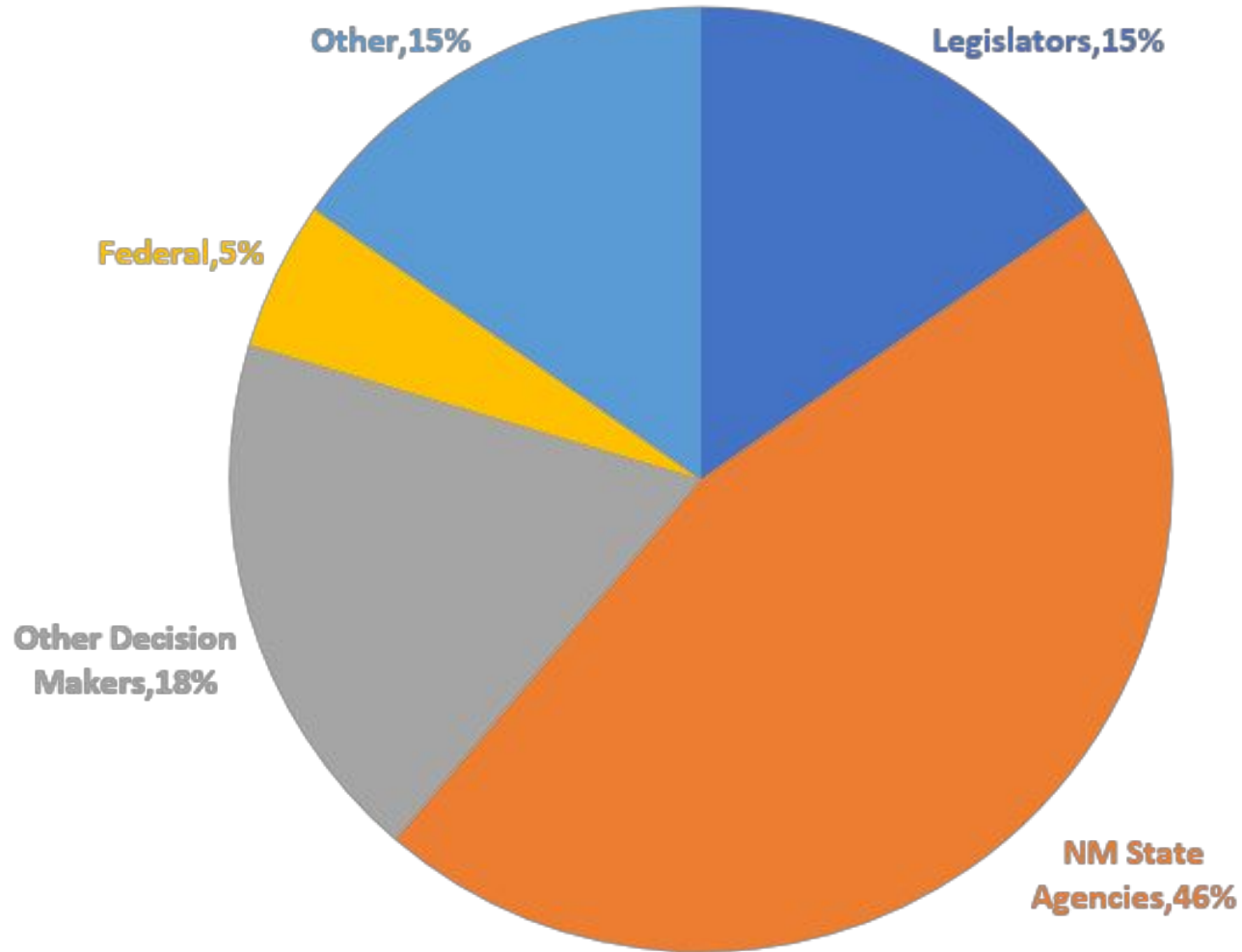# Water Leaders Workshop

Summary of Findings & Observations

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Water Leaders Workshop 2023 - Participants

PARTICIPANTS

Legislators	15
Federal Agencies	5
Other Decision Makers	18
NM State Agencies	45
Other	15
TOTAL	**98**

Presentations	42
Field trips sites	7

Challenges

1. **Complex problem:** Science/Policy/Execution

2. **Competing needs:** Agriculture, population water supply, industry, ecosystems, Compact compliance

3. **Growing pressures:** Decrease in water availability, growing population, wildfires, climate change,

4. **Uncertainty:** Inaccurate weather forecasts

5. **Incomplete knowledge:** Limited statewide (and transboundary) understanding of aquifers, lack of localized and regional data

6. **Under-Utilized Tools:** Water Data Initiative, self-reporting apps

Opportunities

1. Focus on **storage** as a key management tool

2. Explore **stormwater collection** to recharge aquifers

3. Re-invent and re-purpose existing **infrastructure**

4. Explore **water use-reduction/re-use** strategies (optimization)

5. Leverage **successful stories/practices** from across NM and other States/countries (e.g., California, Australia)

6. Increase **collaboration** across agencies and districts

Opportunities (cont'd)

7. **Regionalize** governance, administration & operations

8. Use **systems approach** to finding solutions

9. Improve **outreach** (communities need to be part of solution)

10. Improve **translation** of data/science into accessible and actionable knowledge

11. Involve **Private Sector**

12. Build **trust**

Observations

- A lot of energy is spent on reactive efforts and less on proactive efforts
- Perceived lack of statewide unified strategy to build a resilient water system
- Is there a common vision?

Where are we?

How do we get there?

Success & Impact Metrics

Where do we want to be?

Questions:

What is preventing us from solving the water problems in NM and the Southwest?

1. Is this a science problem?

   ❖ Are we missing the knowledge required to support policy and decision making?

2. It this a policy problem?

3. What is driving the process?

Resources

DATA, TOOLS & INFORMATION

- **National Climate Assessment (Fifth):** https://nca2023.globalchange.gov/

- **U.S. Government Open Data:** data.gov (122,954 datasets found for "water")

- **Five Steps to Resilience:**
  https://toolkit.climate.gov/steps-to-resilience/steps-resilience-overview

- **U.S. Climate Resilience Tool:** https://toolkit.climate.gov/

- **CalAdapt:** https://cal-adapt.org/

- **Bluedot Observatory:** https://www.blue-dot-observatory.com/

- **Amazon Sustainability Data Initiative (ASDI):** https://registry.opendata.aws/collab/asdi/

- **Google Earth Engine:** https://earthengine.google.com/

- **Microsoft Planetary Computer:** https://planetarycomputer.microsoft.com/

Thank you!

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