

Hosted by New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources
at New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology

New Mexico Water Leaders Workshop

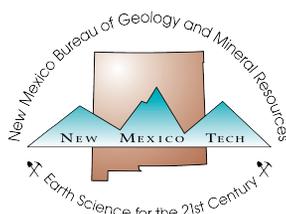
May 22–24, 2024

Ghost Ranch, New Mexico

REFERENCE BOOK

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NEW MEXICO
WATER EDUCATION



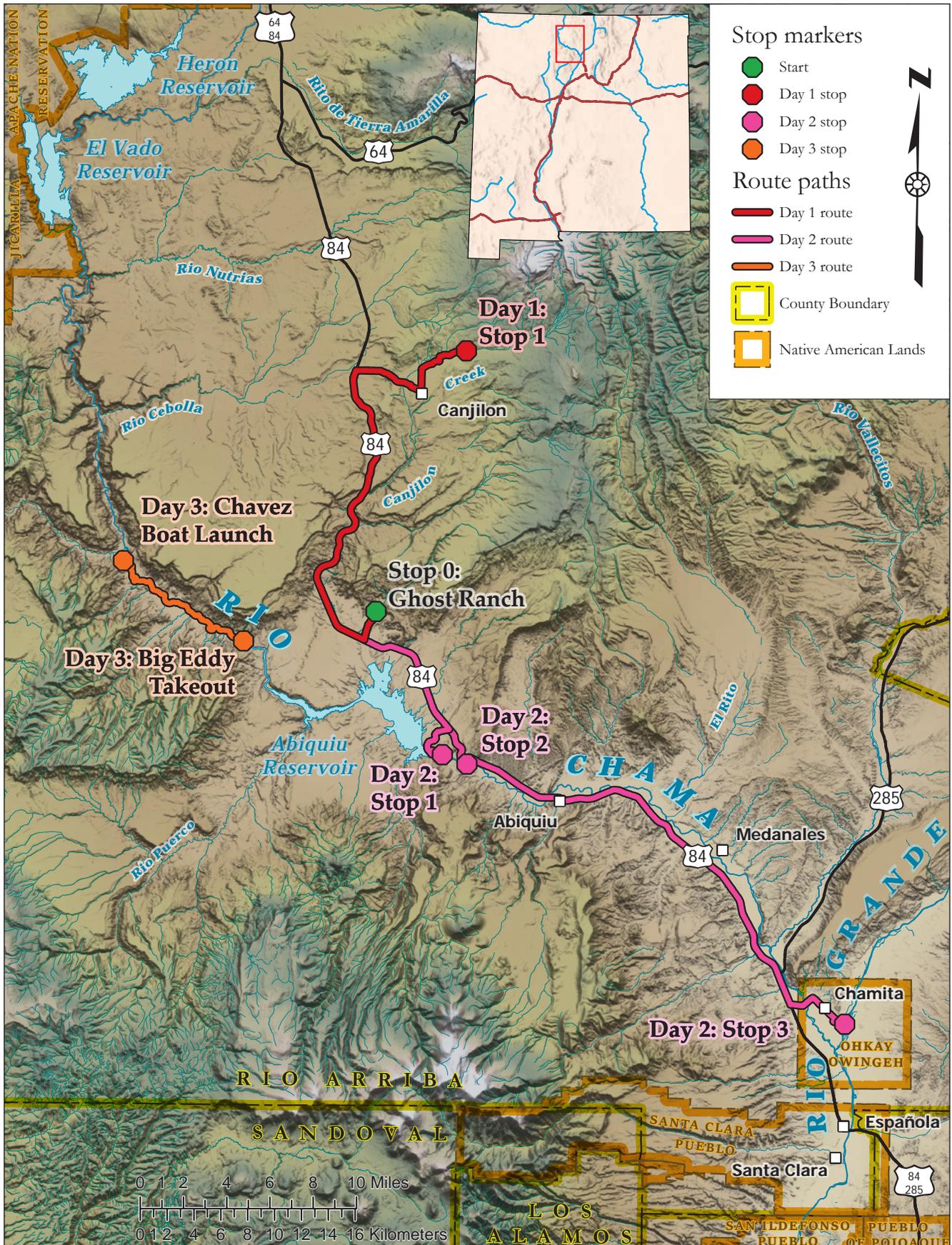
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Cover photo of the lower Rio Chama by Christi Bode

REGIONAL MAP



AGENDA

DAY 1: WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2024

AFTERNOON FIELD SESSION

11:30 am: Arrive at Ghost Ranch; pick up registration packet and board bus

12:00–3:30 pm: Optional field trip, box lunches provided

Drive 35 min to Stop 1: Canjilon River Restoration Project—NM Acequia Association/NM Water Resources Research Institute, *Building Regional Agricultural and Water Resilience Initiative*

On site 12:45–2:30 pm

- Welcome and project background—Paula Garcia, NM Acequia Association
- Community perspectives of challenges and needed approaches—Norman Vigil, Upper Chama Soil and Water Conservation District; and Don Martinez, East Rio Arriba County Extension Agent
- Integrated approaches and collaborations: Acequia Drought Resiliency Project and regional water planning efforts—Serafina Lombardi, NM Acequia Association; and Don Bustos, Santa Cruz Farms, NM Acequia Association, and regional acequia assoc. board member
- The community-based watershed restoration approach—Connie Maxwell, NM Water Resources Research Institute; and Steve Vrooman, Keystone Restoration Ecology, Inc.
- Informing management through science: Monitoring and accessible analysis—Sam Fernald, NM Water Resources Research Institute
- WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects program—Dagmar Llewellyn and Sarah Branum, Bureau of Reclamation
- Q&A

Return to Ghost Ranch

3:30–4:30 pm: Regional water: Info about local studies and updates

- Update from the governor's office: 50-Year Water Plan—Rebecca Roose (invited), Office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham
- Water Security Planning Act update—Andrew Erdmann, NM Interstate Stream Commission
- Rio Grande Basin study—Dagmar Llewellyn, Bureau of Reclamation
- Local groundwater study: Rio Arriba—Stacy Timmons, NM Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources
- Q&A

SOCIAL HOUR AND DINNER

5:30–8:30 pm: Welcome! Hosted social hour and dinner at the lower pavilion, Ghost Ranch

DAY 2: THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2024

BREAKFAST

7:00 am: Breakfast in the dining hall, Ghost Ranch

MORNING SESSION, LOWER PAVILION, GHOST RANCH

8:00–8:10 am: Opening remarks

Thursday, continued

8:10–9:00 am: Statewide perspectives

- State water update—Hannah Riseley-White, NM Interstate Stream Commission; and Mike Hamman, NM Office of the State Engineer
- Forest fires, watersheds, and climate change—Anne Tillery, U.S. Geological Survey
- Tribal water perspectives—Myron Armijo, NM Interstate Stream Commission
- Q&A

9:00–10:00 am: Tribal water rights settlements

- OSE Bureau for Tribes, Pueblos and Nations: Successful settlements—Kelly Brooks Smith, NM Office of the State Engineer
- Ohkay Owingeh Settlement—Larry Phillips, Ohkay Owingeh
- Zia Pueblo Settlement—David Mielke, Attorney for Zia Pueblo
- Highlight funding, water challenges, and opportunities for the six Middle Rio Grande Pueblos—Josh Mann, Mann Water Law
- Q&A

10:00–10:50 am: Regional forest/watershed health and management

- Northern New Mexico watershed management—Jose Carrillo, NM Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
- Watershed atlas for priority areas of thinning—Caleb Stotts, Chama Peak Land Alliance
- Fire and watershed health: Aftermath of the Hermits Peak/Calf Canyon Fire—Phoebe Suina, High Water Mark
- Q&A

10:50–11:30 am: Background information for field trip

- Regional geology overview—Shari Kelley, NM Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources
- Rio Chama system and infrastructure—Carolyn Donnelly, Bureau of Reclamation
- Acequia video and commentary from Tyler Lystash, Water Rights Manager for Ohkay Owingeh
- Q&A

AFTERNOON FIELD SESSION

11:30 am–5:00 pm: Afternoon field trip

Drive 30 min to Stop 1: Below Abiquiu Dam Recreation Area

12:00–1:10 pm: Working lunch (provided) and presentations

- Abiquiu Dam history, operations, and overview—Ryan Gronewold, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Abiquiu/Rio Chama Restoration Projects and Recreation Area—Eric Frey, NM Department of Game and Fish
- Sediment, erosion, and flows on the Rio Chama—Mike Harvey, Rio Chama Flow Project
- Q&A

Drive 20 min to Stop 2: Rio Chama overlook

1:30–2:40 pm

- Rio Chama management and multi-agency coordination—Page Pegram, NM Interstate Stream Commission
- Rio Chama contractors—Mark Kelly, Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority; and Kyle Harwood, Egolf + Ferlic + Martinez + Harwood Law
- Local acequia perspective—Darel Madrid, Rio de Chama Acequia Association
- Q&A

Thursday, continued

Drive 50 min to Stop 3: Ohkay Owingeh Yungeh Farmland overlook

3:30–4:30 pm

- Ohkay Owingeh Settlement, bosque restoration projects, Yungeh Farmland Project—Larry Phillips, Ohkay Owingeh
- Management and shortage sharing measures on the Rio Chama—Tyler Lystash, Water Rights Manager for Ohkay Owingeh
- Local water systems/providers: Challenges and solutions—Heather Himmelberger, Southwest Environmental Finance Center
- Q&A

Return to Ghost Ranch

DINNER AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS

5:30–9:00 pm: Lower pavilion, Ghost Ranch

Dinner served at 6:30 pm

Keynote presentation: Adriel Heisey, *Journey of Water*

DAY 3: FRIDAY, MAY 24, 2024

BREAKFAST

7:00 am: Breakfast in the dining hall, Ghost Ranch

MORNING SESSION, LOWER PAVILION, GHOST RANCH

8:00–8:40 am: Intro to the Rio Chama Recreation Stretch

- NMED surface water sampling program—Shelly Lemon, NM Environment Department
- Rio Chama flow through the region—Adrian Oglesby, Utton Center
- Q&A

8:45 am: Final logistics and workshop survey

9:00 am: Depart for river trip on bus (~50-min drive)

RIVER TRIP: RIO CHAMA DAY STRETCH

Float the river!

Stop 1: Lunch

- Local geology talk—Mike Timmons, NM Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources
- Fires, sediment, and channel processes—Dan Cadol, NM Institute of Mining and Technology
- Perspective from the water-recreation community—Steve Harris, Rio Grande Restoration, Inc.
- Q&A

Stop 2: Riverside stop

- Demonstration: Sampling water quality—Shelly Lemon and Elizabeth Stuffings, NM Environment Department
- Coordination of flow management: Collaboration/flow study done previously—Mike Harvey, Rio Chama Flow Project
- Environmental flows—Anjali Bean, Western Resource Advocates
- Q&A

~4:30 pm: Return to Ghost Ranch, workshop ends

PRESENTER BIOS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



ADRIEL HEISEY

Adriel Heisey is a photographer and filmmaker, now based on Colorado's Western Slope, with a longstanding passion for the American Southwest. With a 24-year career as a professional pilot who flew Navajo leaders from the heart of Four Corners country to destinations across the United States, he observed and engaged firsthand its endlessly varied geographic character. Fascinated by how the forces of weather and geology shape this character, he now explores these relationships with the altered perspectives afforded by aerial, macro, and time-lapse cinematography.

His aerial photographs have appeared in numerous national and regional publications, including cover features in *National Geographic Magazine* and *Arizona Highways*. Five books of his aerial photographs have been published, including *The Rio Grande: An Eagle's View*. His photographic prints have been exhibited widely, including at the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture in the exhibition *Oblique Views: Aerial Photography and Southwest Archaeology*. *Journey of Water* is his first film.

Journey of Water: Seven Film Canticles on the Hydrologic Cycle

Journey of Water is a cinematic exploration of water's role in the natural world, focusing on its journey of transformation through the hydrologic cycle. Firmly rooted in the reality of physical processes but drawing on the lyrical power of altered modes of perception, *Journey of Water* offers a poetic back channel of emotional connection to the necessary rigors of earth science and water policy.



MYRON ARMIJO

Tribal Liaison, Office of the State Engineer

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Myron Armijo currently serves as governor of the Pueblo of Santa Ana. Prior to his service as governor, he served three terms as the Pueblo's lieutenant governor. While serving his Pueblo, Mr. Armijo also serves as the tribal liaison for the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer, where he has played a central role in water issues for all 23 tribes within New Mexico. Previously, Governor Armijo worked at Los Alamos National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratories. He is married with three sons.



ANJALI BEAN

Senior Policy Advisor, Western Resource Advocates

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Anjali Bean is a senior policy advisor for healthy rivers at Western Resource Advocates. Based in Albuquerque, Anjali works to develop and advocate for state-level policies that protect rivers and improve water resiliency amid the impacts of climate change and drought. Prior to joining WRA in 2022, Anjali held several roles at Santa Fe County, ending as the county's water resources manager. Born and raised in New Mexico, Anjali spent a decade in Washington, D.C., focused on urban development, housing, and access to clean water and basic sanitation in the developing world before moving back to New Mexico in 2016. Anjali holds a bachelor's degree in environmental studies from American University and a master's degree in water resources from the University of New Mexico.



SARAH BRANUM

Project Manager, Albuquerque Area Office Water Management Division,
Bureau of Reclamation

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Sarah Branum is a project manager in the Bureau of Reclamation's Albuquerque Area Office Water Management Division. She has served as a grant officer's technical representative for a dozen WaterSMART grants under various programs. She has extensive prior experience in the Pacific Northwest managing contracts with conservation and irrigation districts, states, tribes, and other entities to achieve holistic habitat and fisheries improvements, including water and soil conservation, river restoration, aquifer recharge, fish hatcheries, research, and monitoring. She also managed the environmental impact statement and other environmental compliance for the Pojoaque Basin Regional Water System, which is currently under construction.



DON BUSTOS

Santa Cruz Farm and Board Member, New Mexico Acequia Association
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Don Bustos is from northern New Mexico, farming land that has been in his family since the Villa de Santa Cruz de la Cañada was established in 1695. He was one of the first farmers in New Mexico to receive organic certification and has been certified for over 20 years. Bustos was a co-director of the American Friends Service Committee's New Mexico Program, where he trained farmers and developed networks throughout the state. He served on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education board and was the chair of the board from 2011 to 2013. He serves on the board of the New Mexico Acequia Association and is a former board member of the Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture. He has received numerous awards, including New Mexico Farmer of the Year in 2006, New Mexico Organic Farmer of the Year in 2012, and New Mexico State University's Leyendecker Agriculturalist of Distinction in 2005. In 2018, Bustos won the James Beard Foundation Leadership Award for creating a sustainable and healthful food system and ensuring all people have access to good, healthful food. He also played a lead role in developing the vision and fundraising for the Santa Fe Farmers' Market Complex.



DANIEL CADOL

Associate Professor, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
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Dan Cadol is an associate professor of hydrology at New Mexico Tech, having joined the faculty in 2012. His doctoral training was in geomorphology. Dan's research in New Mexico has taken three main directions: working to better understand sediment transport and groundwater recharge during flash floods in ephemeral channels (with the Bureau of Reclamation, New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources [NMBGMR], and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), looking at the hydrologic and geomorphic effects of wildfires (working with the City of Santa Fe, Valles Caldera National Preserve, and New Mexico Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research), and using remote sensing products and methods to develop a soil moisture balance model covering New Mexico in order to estimate groundwater recharge (with New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute and NMBGMR). He is currently advising three MS and two PhD students.



JOSE CARRILLO

District Forester, New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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Jose “Joe” Carrillo Jr. has served the New Mexico Forestry Division in the Chama District since 2005. Starting off as the staff forester and then promoted to timber management officer from 2005 through 2022, Joe is now the district forester. Born and raised in Chama, NM, he is a graduate of Escalante High School. He received a bachelor of science degree in environmental science management from New Mexico Highlands University. As district forester, Joe oversees the program functions of the district, including forestry, wildland fire, and district administration. With the invaluable help of his staff, he continues to work with landowners and cooperators to develop and implement fire prevention and hazardous fuel reduction projects throughout the district. Joe strives to promote district-wide collaboration in the interest of landscape scale, natural resource protection, and restoration. He educates landowners on the importance of sustainable forest management, and his focus is to ensure that all operations meet the objectives of the Forestry Division.



CAROLYN DONNELLY

Supervisory Civil Engineer, Bureau of Reclamation

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Carolyn Donnelly is a supervisory civil engineer for the Bureau of Reclamation in Albuquerque. She holds degrees in civil engineering from the University of New Mexico. She began as a consulting engineer, then moved to Reclamation in 2006. She is responsible for water operations on three Reclamation projects—San Juan-Chama, Middle Rio Grande, and Carlsbad—and has duties related to the Rio Grande Project. She is a licensed professional engineer in the state of New Mexico and a native New Mexican, and spends much of her time outside of work exploring wild places.



ANDREW ERDMANN

Water Planning Program Manager, New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission

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Andrew Erdmann is the manager of the State Water Planning Program at the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission. The responsibilities of the State Water Planning Program include the 50-Year Water Plan, the State Water Plan, and regional water plans. Andrew has over 15 years of experience working with water management in New Mexico, including work for the U.S. Forest Service, the Office of the State Engineer, the City of Santa Fe, and now the Interstate Stream Commission.



SAM FERNALD

Professor of Watershed Management and Director, New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute

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Alexander “Sam” G. Fernald was appointed director of the New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute in July 2013 after having served as interim director since January 2011. As director, he leads the institute in its mission to develop and disseminate knowledge that will assist the state, region, and nation in solving water resources problems. Dr. Fernald is also the program chair of New Mexico State University’s water science and management graduate degree program, where he establishes, initiates, and leads all academic and instructional aspects of the program. Additionally, he is a professor of watershed management in the Department of Animal and Range Sciences at New Mexico State University.



ERIC FREY

Sportfish Program Manager, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

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Eric Frey was born and raised in Raton, NM, into a multigenerational New Mexico family. His family was very focused on outdoor recreation, giving him an appreciation and passion for fisheries and water resources. Eric attended Eastern New Mexico University and earned a bachelor of science degree in wildlife and fisheries sciences in 1998. Eric has worked for the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish for more than 25 years, where he has served as a conservation officer, regional fisheries manager, and sportfish program manager. His primary responsibilities include recreational fish population management, angling regulations and law, aquatic habitat improvements, analyzing the effectiveness of stocked fish species, and increasing and protecting angling opportunities.



PAULA GARCIA

Executive Director, New Mexico Acequia Association

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Paula Garcia is executive director of the New Mexico Acequia Association. In her years of service, acequias have built a movement around the principle that *el agua es vida*—water is life—with an emphasis on water policy, water governance, and local food systems. Paula formerly served as chair of the Mora County Commission, New Mexico Counties, and USDA Minority Farmers Advisory Committee. She currently serves as a member of the Interstate Stream Commission and the State Land Trust Advisory Board. Most recently, her focus has been on disaster recovery following the Hermits Peak/Calf Canyon Fire, the largest wildfire in New Mexico history. She lives in Mora, where she continues to operate an intergenerational ranch with her family.



EMILY GEERY

Water Planning Consultant to the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources, Water + Planning

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Emily Geery is a water planning consultant with a versatile background in water resources, community, and regional planning and communications. Prior to consulting, she worked in a range of roles for the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission, Office of the State Engineer, and Environment Department for eight years. She has contributed to numerous water projects, from regional water plans to state water plans, the Water Data Initiative, source water protection plans, and water conservation plans. Holding two master's degrees in water resources and community and regional planning from the University of New Mexico, she combines her academic knowledge with practical experience to design events and educational opportunities dedicated to the discourse of present and future water challenges and solutions. Beyond her professional pursuits, her personal passion for rafting reflects her genuine enthusiasm for rivers and adventures.



RYAN GRONEWOLD

Chief of Planning, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District

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Ryan Gronewold is the chief of planning for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District. He has been with the Albuquerque District for more than 20 years and is currently responsible for their civil works planning program, identifying water resources problems and needs in the region and potential USACE authorities to address these needs through coordination with the general public and federal, state, and local agencies. Prior to becoming chief of planning, Mr. Gronewold was chief of water management and was responsible for flood control operations of the nine USACE dams within the Albuquerque District. Mr. Gronewold holds a bachelor of science in civil engineering from the University of New Mexico and is a registered professional engineer in New Mexico.



MIKE HAMMAN

State Engineer, Office of the State Engineer

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Mike Hamman served as the governor's state water advisor prior to being appointed as the state engineer. Hamman served as the chief engineer and chief executive officer for the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, overseeing river flood control, drainage, and irrigation, including managing 30,000 acres of bosque lands and coordinating with multiple jurisdictions at the local, state, and tribal levels to deliver water to 60,000 acres of irrigated farmlands. Prior to that, he worked for 17 years at the Bureau of Reclamation, ending his tenure there managing multiple federal water projects from the San Luis Valley in Colorado to Fort Quitman in Texas. He also worked for the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission, the City of Santa Fe, and the Jicarilla Apache Nation, where he was instrumental in the development of the Nation's \$45 million water and wastewater treatment and delivery systems project. Hamman has served on the Interstate Stream Commission since 2019. He was raised in Taos, NM, and is a registered professional engineer with a civil engineering degree from the University of New Mexico.



STEVE HARRIS

Executive Director, Rio Grande Restoration, Inc.

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Steve Harris is the executive director of Rio Grande Restoration, Inc., a nonprofit New Mexico river advocacy organization whose goal is to see the Rio Grande restored as a great river with a healthy ecosystem. He is also the co-founder, principal owner, and executive officer of Far Flung Adventures, Inc., a river-touring business based in Taos that facilitates rafting adventures on the Rio Grande and Rio Chama. In his work at Rio Grande Restoration, Steve fills many roles: technical expert, motivated journalist, skilled educator, and passionate river advocate. He works tirelessly to change our perspectives and influence priorities and policies for the responsible use and protection of the state's water resources, and he underscores the profound importance of healthy riparian ecosystems.



MIKE HARVEY

Fluvial Geomorphologist

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Mike Harvey, PhD, is a retired fluvial geomorphologist who has contributed to the analysis and management of the rivers of New Mexico, including the Rio Chama, Rio Grande, and Pecos, Gila, and San Juan Rivers, for the last 30 years. Although retired, he is an active member of the Rio Chama Flow Project that he helped found, and he recently compiled the RCFP's work and outcomes for the Bureau of Reclamation's Reservoir Operations Pilot program. He also recently authored the chapter on rivers in the New Mexico Bureau of Geology's 2022 study titled *Climate Change in New Mexico Over the Next 50 Years: Impacts on Water Resources*.



KYLE HARWOOD

Attorney, Egolf + Ferlic + Martinez + Harwood, LLC

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Kyle Harwood is an attorney and water resources professional who, prior to becoming a partner at Egolf + Ferlic + Martinez + Harwood, was owner of Harwood Consulting, PC, which provided legal and interdisciplinary water resource consulting services in New Mexico. Kyle has advised clients on land and water law regulation and policy issues, and he litigates these issues in courts throughout the state. Kyle also drafts regulations and policy for clients and has authored numerous articles on water resource issues and lectured on land use and water law. Kyle represents public, private, nonprofit, and governmental clients in water and natural resource issues, including special master assignments and expert witness services. Kyle is also certified as an instructor for the New Mexico Real Estate Commission, and hundreds of real estate professionals have benefited from the classes he teaches in water law.



JOANNE HILTON

Water Consultant to the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources, Global Hydrologic Solutions

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Joanne Hilton is a registered professional geologist, has BS and MS degrees in hydrology, and has more than 30 years of experience conducting water resource investigations. Her experience includes water supply planning, surface and groundwater hydrology investigations, small water system regionalization, regional water planning, drought mitigation and water conservation planning, analysis of water policy and water rights, water quality investigations, and design and implementation of surface and groundwater monitoring programs. Ms. Hilton has extensive experience in technical water resource issues and legal and institutional constraints to water use. She has provided presentations on water issues and assisted with agenda planning, materials, and facilitation for hundreds of meetings on diverse water issues. She has also worked on local water resource planning efforts for Pueblos, municipalities, and counties throughout New Mexico.



HEATHER HIMMELBERGER

Director, Southwest Environmental Finance Center

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Heather Himmelberger is the director of the Southwest Environmental Finance Center, a position she has held for the past 28 years. For the past 37 years, she has worked with water and wastewater utilities of all sizes on a variety of issues, including but not limited to capacity development, asset management, water loss control, rate setting, regionalization/partnering, access to funding, infrastructure development, and regulatory compliance. She is a registered professional engineer in New Mexico and Pennsylvania, with a BS in environmental engineering from Penn State University and an MS in environmental engineering from Johns Hopkins University.



SHARI KELLEY

Senior Geophysicist and Field Geologist, New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources

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Shari Kelley works as a geophysicist and field geologist at the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources, a research and service division of the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology in Socorro. She is responsible for the geothermal program at the bureau. In recent years, she has evaluated the geothermal potential of the Raton Basin, the Acoma Basin, southwestern New Mexico, and the San Juan Basin. She serves as faculty for the Summer of Applied Geophysical Experience (SAGE) field program, teaching undergraduate and graduate students about geothermal exploration methods. She has also made geologic maps of the Jemez Mountains volcanic field, Mt. Taylor, the northeastern Tularosa Basin, and, most recently, the southern Jornada del Muerto near Las Cruces.



MARK KELLY

Water Resources Division Manager, Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority

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Mark Kelly is the Water Resources Division manager at the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority. He has been at the Water Authority for over 13 years, holding positions in the Compliance and Water Resources Divisions. Mr. Kelly is a licensed professional engineer in the state of New Mexico and has a degree in environmental engineering from New Mexico Tech. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with family, camping, and refereeing rugby.



KATE LEARY

Water Education Program Manager, New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources

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Dr. Kate Leary is the Water Education Program manager at the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources. Kate has a BA in geology and religion from Whitman College and a PhD in geology from Arizona State University. Before joining NMBGMR, Kate was an assistant professor of hydrology at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology. Kate's passion is rivers—both the processes of how rivers evolve through time as well as how society interacts with and utilizes river systems. As an assistant professor, Kate studied the nitty gritty details of sediment transport in sand-bedded river systems such as the Rio Grande. As manager of the Water Education Program, Kate is dedicated to building educational experiences for New Mexico water policy and decision makers to explore, digest, and discuss present and future water challenges facing our state.



SHELLY LEMON

Surface Water Quality Bureau Chief, New Mexico Environment Department
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Shelly Lemon has worked for the Surface Water Quality Bureau of the New Mexico Environment Department for over 19 years. The mission of the SWQB is to preserve, protect, and improve New Mexico's surface water quality for present and future generations. As bureau chief, Ms. Lemon currently manages and oversees three technical teams that fulfill the state's responsibilities under both the federal Clean Water Act and state Water Quality Act, such as developing and revising water quality standards, collecting and assessing water quality data, managing and reducing nonpoint source pollution, protecting and restoring wetlands, and implementing surface water protection regulations related to point source discharges. Ms. Lemon also represents EPA Region 6 states (AR, LA, NM, OK, TX) as a board member for the Association of Clean Water Administrators. Prior to joining NMED, Ms. Lemon was a science teacher, outdoor educator, and dive master. She earned a bachelor's degree in biology and a master's degree in hydrology from the University of Arizona.



DAGMAR LLEWELLYN

Hydrologist, Bureau of Reclamation
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Dagmar Llewellyn has consulted on and managed water resource projects across the United States and abroad for 37 years. For the past 22 years, her work, for Reclamation and as a contractor to the state of New Mexico, has focused on water, river, and environmental management in the Rio Grande Basin of Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas, with emphasis on working with partners to develop adaptations to changing hydroclimatic conditions.



SERAFINA LOMBARDI

Program Director, New Mexico Acequia Association
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Serafina Lombardi has worked with the New Mexico Acequia Association for the past 11 years and currently serves as program director. In this role, she has worked with hundreds of acequias across the state to navigate the challenges they encounter, grounded in traditional knowledge and adapting to modern demands, while helping to build the acequia movement. Her workplace passion is collaborating to support acequias in adapting to climate change. She is a board member of the Rio Quemado, Rio en Medio, Rio Frijoles, and Rio Santa Cruz Stream Systems Acequia Associations; a commissioner on the Acequia de los Martinez Arriba in Chimayó; and a previous president of the Santa Fe Farmers' Market. She comes from an unbroken line of subsistence farmers and is honored to keep her family's land-based traditions alive within the four walls of the Tewa church.



TYLER LYSTASH

Water Rights Manager, Ohkay Owingeh

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Tyler Lystash, a water rights manager for Ohkay Owingeh, has worked on northern New Mexico water management issues since 2019 as the Rio Chama water master and basin manager for the Office of the State Engineer. Before moving to Santa Fe, Tyler worked as a hydrologist for the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and as a water rights specialist for the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. Tyler is a University of Virginia graduate, with a BS in environmental sciences and a BA in history. He loves spending time playing in and around the rivers and mountains of New Mexico with his wife and son.



DAREL MADRID

President, Rio de Chama Acequia Association, and Board Member,
New Mexico Acequia Association

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As a lifelong Norteño, I was born and raised in northern New Mexico. Acequias have always been a part of my life, going back to my early childhood days tagging along with my grandfather as he irrigated his alfalfa and hay fields in Los Ojos, NM. I currently live in El Guache, NM, on property belonging to my wife's family. We are parciantes of Acequia de los Salazares, priority date 1598. Over the last 15 years, I have served as treasurer for our acequia and have served on the board of our local mutual domestic water association, Agua Sana. I am currently president of the Rio de Chama Acequia Association, and I serve as a board member of the New Mexico Acequia Association and as a member of the Acequia Drought Resilience Project advisory committee. Our land, water, and youth are our most precious assets. I have committed myself to taking an active role in protecting and developing new ways to adapt to the chronic drought we have been experiencing. I recognize, for the sake of our youth, the importance of protecting these precious resources in order to ensure that future generations can enjoy clean water and continue the traditional ways of *repartimiento*—water sharing.



JOSHUA MANN

Attorney/Owner, Mann Water Law

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Josh Mann is a water lawyer with over 17 years of experience working on complex water issues involving tribal, federal, state, and local governments, with a strong focus on the negotiation and implementation of tribal water right settlements. He worked for the U.S. Department of the Interior in various capacities for 11 years and for the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission for four years. He recently began a private practice, representing Pueblos, tribes, and local governments.



DONALD MARTINEZ

East Rio Arriba County Extension Agent, New Mexico State University
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Donald Martinez Jr. was born and raised in El Rito, NM, on a farm and ranch. Along with two younger brothers, he currently owns and operates a seventh-generation cow/calf operation. Donald received a bachelor's degree in animal science from Oklahoma Panhandle State University and a master's degree in education from New Mexico Highlands University. Today, he and his family market their beef, lamb, and mutton on his father's owned and operated USDA meat processing facility. In today's economy, Donald and his family strive to sustain their deep agricultural roots and their passion for agriculture. Helping others—and especially teaching youth—to use better farming and ranching techniques in his current position as Rio Arriba County Cooperative Extension Service Agricultural Agent has been a career highlight. As an NMSU agricultural agent, Donald assists people with field visits, stewardship, seed recommendations, and soil sampling, regardless of their farm or yard size. In his free time, Donald joins his two daughters and wife on many wild adventures—horse shows, lamb jackpots, flamenco dances, and auctioneering round off his busy life schedule.



CONNIE MAXWELL

Research Scientist, New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute
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Connie Maxwell is an ecological planner and water scientist who works with communities on local and regional levels. At the New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute, she founded the Water and Community Collaboration Lab (WCC-Lab), which links communities to the best science to inform decision-making on water and the environment and support transformations toward resilience. Most recently, she has been working with communities in regions around New Mexico on watershed restoration and long-term planning frameworks that can mitigate climate challenges, including with the South Central New Mexico Stormwater Management Coalition and the New Mexico Acequia Association and their key partners on a Building Agricultural and Water Resilience Initiative.



DAVE MIELKE

Attorney for Zia Pueblo
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Dave Mielke is a partner in the law firm of Sonosky, Chambers, a firm that exclusively represents tribes and tribal organizations throughout the country. He moved to New Mexico from Maryland in 1998. Over the past 26 years, he has represented the Pueblos of Sandia, Isleta, Zia, and Zuni on water issues, and he currently serves as counsel to the Pueblos of Isleta, Zia, and Zuni and to the Mescalero Apache Tribe. He also represents the Santa Clara Development Corporation and San Felipe Enterprises. Prior to joining Sonosky, Dave was a partner in the Albuquerque law firm of Ussery & Parrish. Dave received his BA from the University of Maryland and his JD from Georgetown University Law Center.



ADRIAN OGLESBY

Director, Utton Transboundary Resources Center

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Adrian Oglesby is the director of the Utton Transboundary Resources Center at the University of New Mexico. He is a graduate of the UNM School of Law and has practiced water law since 2000. Adrian's legal career has been focused on river and riparian restoration, agricultural preservation, efficient water management, governmental accountability, and fish and wildlife conservation. He has advised irrigation districts, acequias, Pueblo and tribal governments, farmers, environmental organizations, and local water providers. He is a past vice chair of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District and past chair of the Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program. He is currently on the board of Rio Grande Return and is a commissioner on the Acequia del Llano.



PAGE PEGRAM

Rio Grande Basin Manager, New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission

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Page Pegram is a hydrogeologist with 25 years of experience in groundwater and surface water management in both the private sector and state government. She is currently the Rio Grande Basin manager for the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission and coordinates all aspects of Rio Grande Compact and Endangered Species Act compliance in the Rio Grande Basin for the state of New Mexico. She is also New Mexico's engineer advisor for the Rio Grande Compact. She has a BS in geology from Brown University and an MS in hydrology from New Mexico Tech.

LARRY M. PHILLIPS JR.

Governor, Ohkay Owingeh

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Larry Phillips was born and raised in Ohkay Owingeh, a Tewa-speaking Pueblo Tribe located at the confluence of the Rio Chama and Rio Grande in northern New Mexico. Larry attended San Juan Elementary and St. Catherine's and Santa Fe Indian Schools. It was during this time that he developed an appreciation for tribal governments and the challenges they face, but he also began to appreciate the opportunities tribes can foster and develop. In 1996, Larry began his career in tribal businesses at Ohkay Owingeh, Tsay Corporation, where he worked in the retail division. He quickly advanced to management and was recruited to manage the retail operations of a sister Pueblo. In 2007, Larry was recruited back home to Ohkay Owingeh to head up the Pueblo's realty office. For the last 10 years, Larry has been Ohkay Owingeh's lead in settling water rights on the Rio Chama, a 60-year lawsuit filed by state of New Mexico. In late 2022, when Ohkay Owingeh leaders had to identify a new governor to lead Ohkay Owingeh for the next two years, Mr. Phillips was the natural choice.



HANNAH RISELEY-WHITE

Director, New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission

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Hannah Riseley-White serves as director of the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission (NMISC). Previously, she served as NMISC deputy director and chief of the Pecos River Bureau. The NMISC works to support New Mexico in complying with eight interstate compacts, as well as federal environmental regulations, including the Endangered Species Act. In addition, NMISC conducts statewide and regional water planning. Hannah holds a master's degree in environmental science and management from the University of California–Santa Barbara. She is a native New Mexican and enjoys spending time with family and exploring our beautiful outdoor landscapes.



REBECCA ROOSE

Infrastructure Advisor, Office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham

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In October 2023, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham appointed Rebecca Roose to serve as New Mexico's infrastructure advisor. In this role, Rebecca provides strategic leadership for federal and state infrastructure programs to support resilient communities across New Mexico. In her former role as deputy cabinet secretary for the New Mexico Environment Department, Rebecca oversaw New Mexico environmental and public health initiatives across all NMED programs and served as the agency's lead on infrastructure, tribal relations, and water policy. In 2022, Rebecca was one of four executive committee members providing leadership for the New Mexico Water Policy and Infrastructure Task Force. Rebecca also served the state as NMED's Water Protection Division director for two years. Prior to joining state government in 2019, Rebecca led national environmental programs at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C., over her 13-year federal career. Rebecca received her law degree from the University of New Mexico School of Law and her undergraduate degree in geography from Valparaiso University.



KELLY BROOKS SMITH

Deputy General Counsel, Bureau for Pueblos, Tribes and Nations, Office of the State Engineer

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Kelly Brooks Smith is currently a deputy general counsel for the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer, managing the Bureau for Pueblos, Tribes and Nations. She received her undergraduate degree from Louisiana State University, her law degree from the University of New Mexico, and an LLM degree in ocean and coastal law from the University of Miami. She clerked for the Honorable Oliver Seth, a judge with the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals in Santa Fe, and served as an attorney for the New Mexico State Land Office for over six years. She moved to Florida in 2000 and spent over 10 years representing the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians on environmental issues affecting their homeland in the Florida Everglades with the law firm of Lehtinen, Riedi, Brooks, Moncarz, PA. She moved back to Santa Fe in 2014 and has been with the Office of the State Engineer since 2015, starting as a staff attorney for the Pecos Adjudication Bureau. Kelly then served as managing attorney for the northern New Mexico and Pecos water rights adjudications before her current position overseeing the Bureau for Pueblos, Tribes and Nations.



CALEB STOTTS

Executive Director, Chama Peak Land Alliance

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As the executive director of Chama Peak Land Alliance, Caleb Stotts works with private landowners in the Chama region of northern New Mexico and southwestern Colorado. The mission of the Chama Peak Land Alliance is to practice and promote conservation for the benefit of land, water, wildlife, and people. Prior to working with Chama Peak Land Alliance, Caleb spent more than a decade in private lands conservation, managing a family ranch and working as a forestry operations contractor. Caleb's career also includes wildland firefighting work throughout the West and working as a program coordinator for the Ecological Restoration Institute in Arizona.



ELIZABETH STUFFINGS

Environmental Scientist, New Mexico Environment Department

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Elizabeth Stuffings joined the Surface Water Quality Bureau of the New Mexico Environment Department in 2021 and is currently a project manager for the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) and Assessment Team. Her work includes coordinating multijurisdictional sampling efforts, leading the bureau's probabilistic monitoring program, managing the New Mexico Fish Consumption Advisory program, and writing TMDLs. Before joining the TMDL and Assessment Team, Elizabeth was a member of the bureau's Monitoring Team and conducted surface water quality monitoring throughout the state. Elizabeth has previously worked as the executive director of a watershed conservation nonprofit, an outdoor educator, and a rangeland manager with the U.S. Forest Service.



PHOEBE SUINA

Owner, Project Manager, and Hydrologist, High Water Mark
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With a background in environmental engineering and management, Phoebe Suina has managed multi-million-dollar emergency and disaster assistance projects for the Federal Emergency Management Agency. In her previous career at the U.S. Department of Energy and Los Alamos National Laboratory, she focused on post-Cerro Grande Fire erosion, sediment control, debris flow, and flood hazard mitigation and led environmental compliance and environmental remediation efforts for over 10 years. Ms. Suina has also worked for the Bureau of Reclamation, where she completed water resources engineering project design, operation, and maintenance on the nation's rivers and waterways. Ms. Suina currently manages emergency and disaster assistance projects for High Water Mark's clients. She earned bachelor's degrees in environmental engineering and engineering sciences and a graduate degree in engineering management, all from the Thayer School of Engineering at Dartmouth College. Ms. Suina is from the Pueblos of San Felipe and Cochiti and is very active in the traditional culture of her respective Pueblos. She continues to assist and share her knowledge and skills with the Pueblo communities.



ANNE TILLERY

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Anne Tillery is a hydrologist and the program officer for the USGS New Mexico Water Science Center, working to connect partners throughout New Mexico and the Colorado River Basin with USGS science. During her 17 years with USGS, she has authored dozens of publications on subjects related to desert geomorphic and hydrologic processes, including post-wildfire hazards, with some winning national awards. Anne strives for clear communication of science and the preservation of scientific integrity. Outside work, you can find her refurbishing a 1986 travel trailer or working on her ukulele calluses.



MIKE TIMMONS

Director and State Geologist, New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources

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Dr. J. Michael Timmons is the director and state geologist at the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources. Mike received a BS in geology from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, followed by an MSc and PhD in geology from the University of New Mexico. In 2004, Mike was hired as a field geologist and manager of the bureau's Geologic Mapping Program, where he was tasked with leading one of the nation's most successful mapping programs. During the first 18 years of Mike's leadership, the program expanded, bringing in soft money contracts and additional staff. The New Mexico Bureau of Geology continues to secure more funding from the National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program at the USGS than any other state survey. As director and state geologist, Mike sees that the bureau has a critical role to play in the future health and prosperity of the state. Whether it is understanding the quality, quantity, and distribution of the state's fresh and brackish water resources; understanding the availability and potential economic value of critical and strategic minerals; or understanding the geologic framework for natural storage of carbon and hydrogen in a low-carbon energy future, the bureau has the institutional knowledge, data, and research skills for evaluating all of these resources.



STACY TIMMONS

Associate Director of Hydrogeology Programs, New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources

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Stacy Timmons is an associate director of hydrogeology programs at the state geological survey—the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources in Socorro. As a hydrogeologist working with the Bureau of Geology since 2004, Stacy's experience has grown from collecting water data and reporting on a wide range of hydrogeologic research to working toward building programs and applied science projects to respond to the state's greatest hydrogeologic science needs. Building from the bureau's Aquifer Mapping and Monitoring Program, Stacy launched the implementation of the Water Data Initiative in 2019 and the Water Leaders Education Program in 2022. Additionally, since 2019, Stacy's service to the state of New Mexico has broadened to include appointments as a commissioner on the Interstate Stream Commission (2020–present) and the Water Quality Control Commission (2019–2022).



NORMAN VIGIL

Chairman, Upper Chama Soil and Water Conservation District

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Normal Vigil was born and raised on a small ranch in Canjilon, NM. He earned a BS from New Mexico State University in range science in 1979. He began his career with the Soil Conservation Service (now Natural Resources Conservation Service) in 1977 before moving to Baggs, WY, in 1982 to become the district conservationist with SCS. He returned to New Mexico in 2000 and retired from NRCS in 2013 after 36 years of federal service. In 2020, he was elected to the Upper Chama Soil and Water Conservation District and was reelected in 2024. He has also held positions with the Acequia Madre del Llano (president) and Acequia del Brazito (secretary/treasurer).



STEVE VROOMAN

Owner, Keystone Restoration Ecology, Inc.

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Steve Vrooman currently lives in Santa Fe and is the owner of Keystone Restoration Ecology, Inc. He has an MS in biology (plant community ecology) from the University of Nevada–Las Vegas. For the last 25 years, Steve has been a restoration ecologist and designer of riparian and wetland restoration projects. Steve is a practitioner of “induced meandering,” a restoration technique based on the philosophy of “let the water do the work.” Steve’s work focuses on the interaction between the ecology of the site and the geomorphology of the stream or wetland.



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