

# New Mexico Aquifer Characterization and Mapping updates

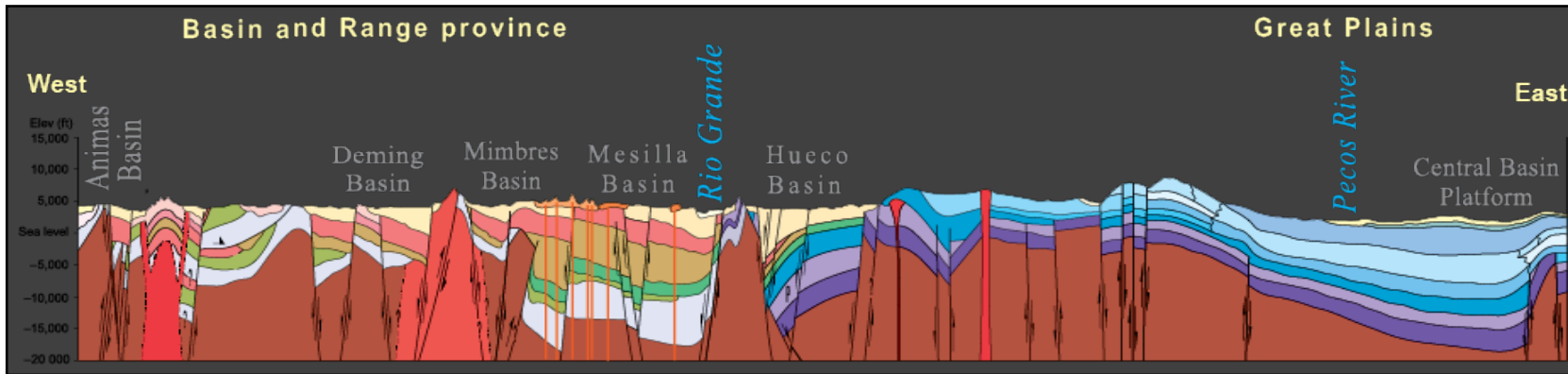
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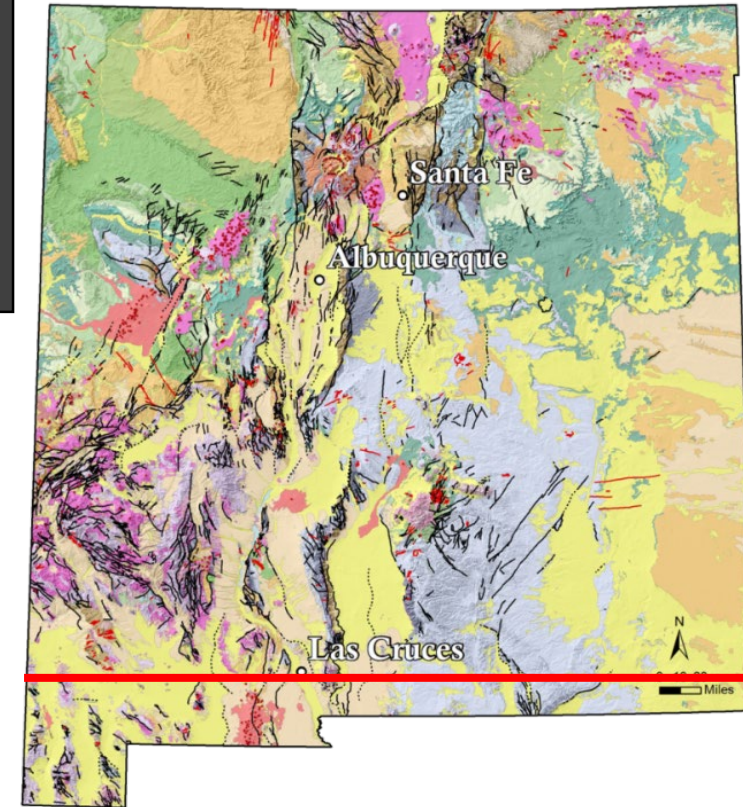


# New Mexico's aquifers are complex and most have insufficient data coverage

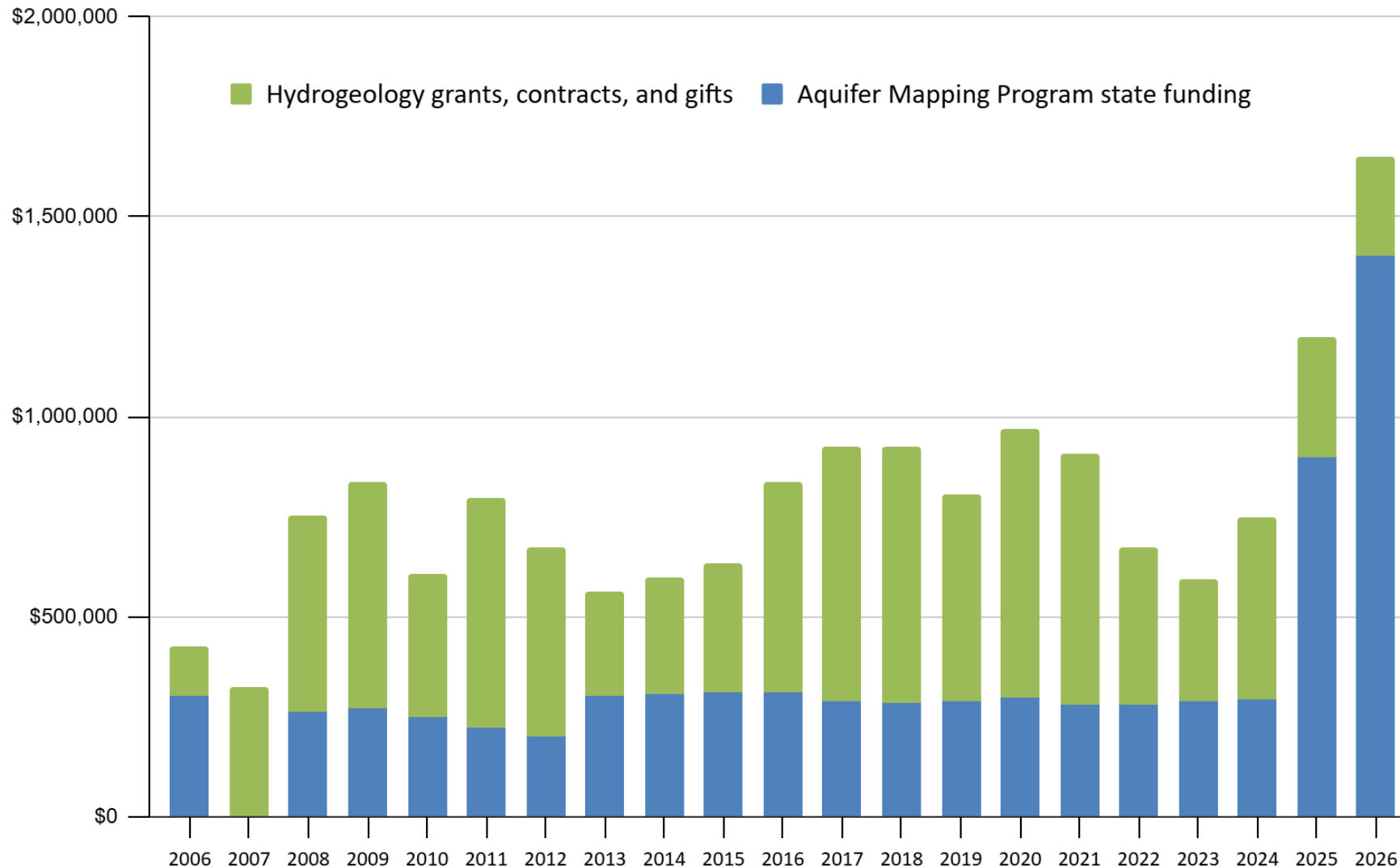


But with complete aquifer maps, we can do more.

- Estimate groundwater storage
- Examine groundwater flow directions
- Evaluate recharge processes and interaction with surface water
- Summarize known current water quality and future impacts
- Alternative water options and waste disposal



# Thank you for your support this year!



And!  
\$7.5M  
non-  
recurring  
for FY2026

# Full characterization of aquifers requires substantial new subsurface information

## GENERAL WORKFLOW (Approximately 2-3 years per region)

### 1. Compile existing data

- a. Information from existing wells
- b. Geologic mapping, hydrologic mapping/testing results
- c. Geophysical and other survey data
- d. Geochemical sampling results

### 2. Build initial draft maps/model

- a. Evaluate data gaps

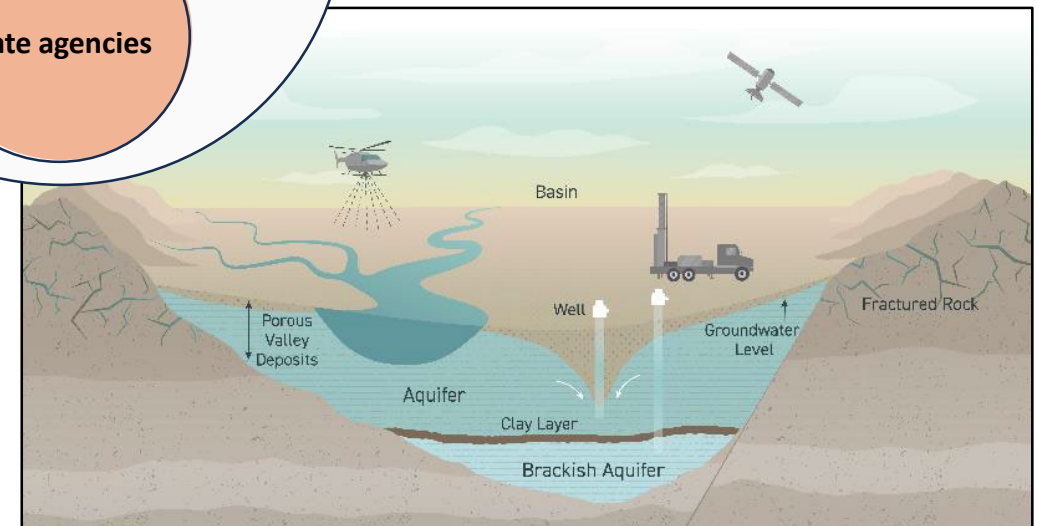
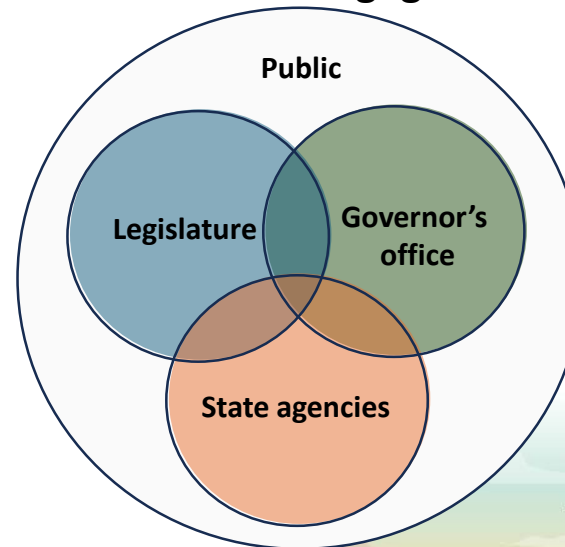
### 3. Fill data gaps

- a. Drill wells
- b. Collect geophysics
- c. Geologic mapping
- d. Measure groundwater depths / changes
- e. Geochemical sampling

### 4. Update maps/model

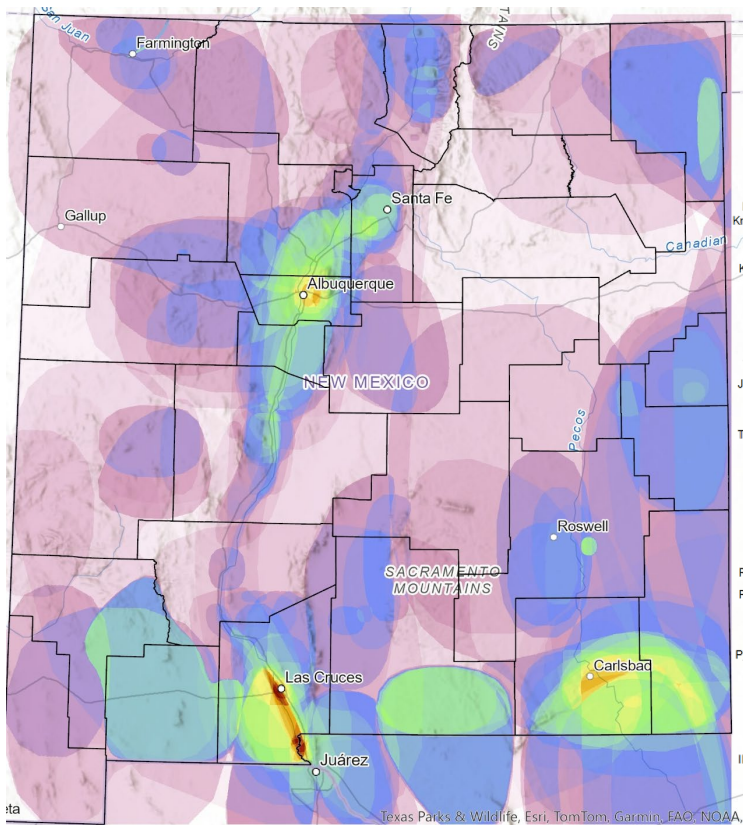
### 5. Long term monitoring for change

#### Stakeholder engagement

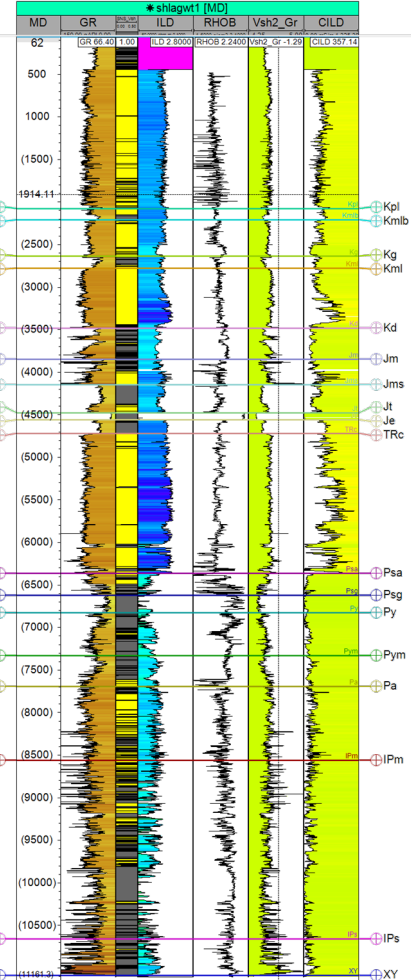




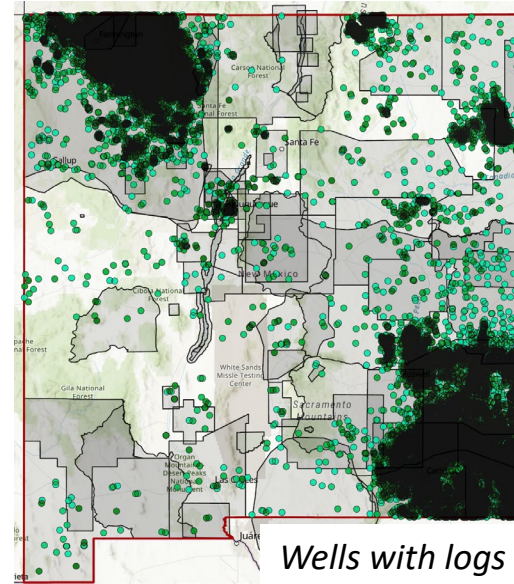
# Getting a jump start – Data compilation underway now!



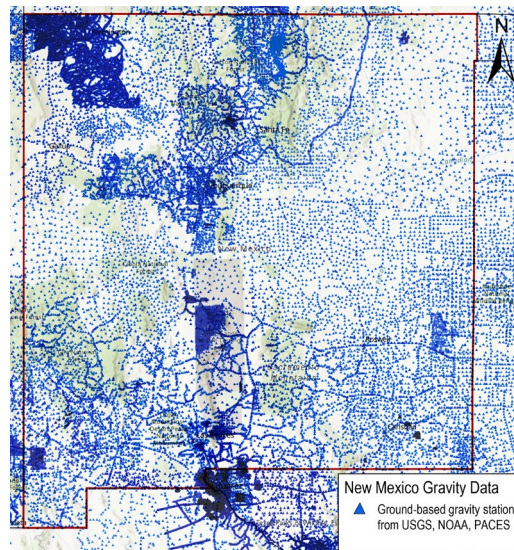
Regions with hydrogeologic studies (darker red – more studies to faint pink – few studies)



Example well log with geology



Wells with logs



## Water Data Act (2019)

- Coordinating effort of NMBGMR, OSE, ISC, NMED and EMNRD
- Multiple agencies data now available and integrated together for efficient use on aquifer studies.

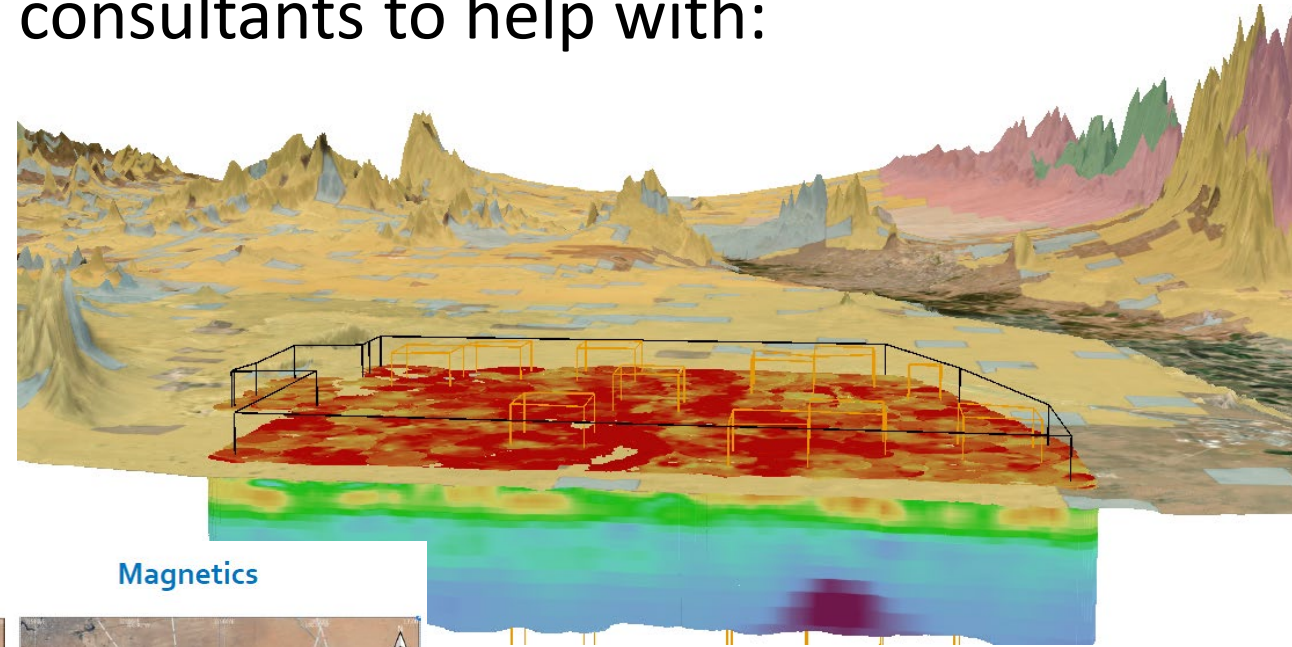




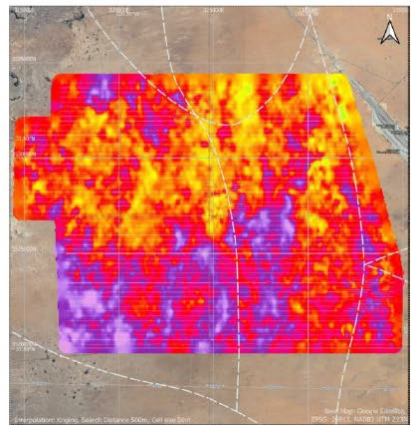
# New data collection and work ahead

Working on RFPs to procure vendors / consultants to help with:

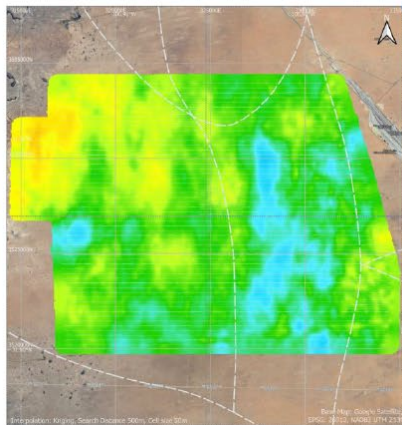
- Geophysical data collection
- Hydrogeologic characterization
- Data development
- Model development
- Well drilling



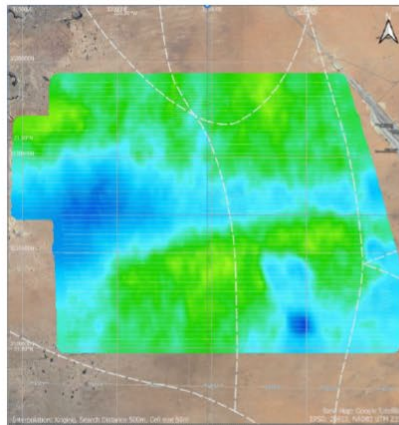
Shallow EM



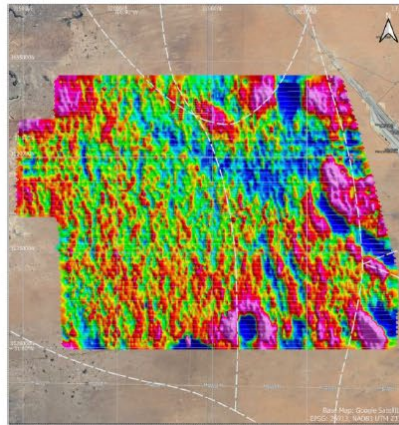
Medium EM



Deep EM



Magnetics



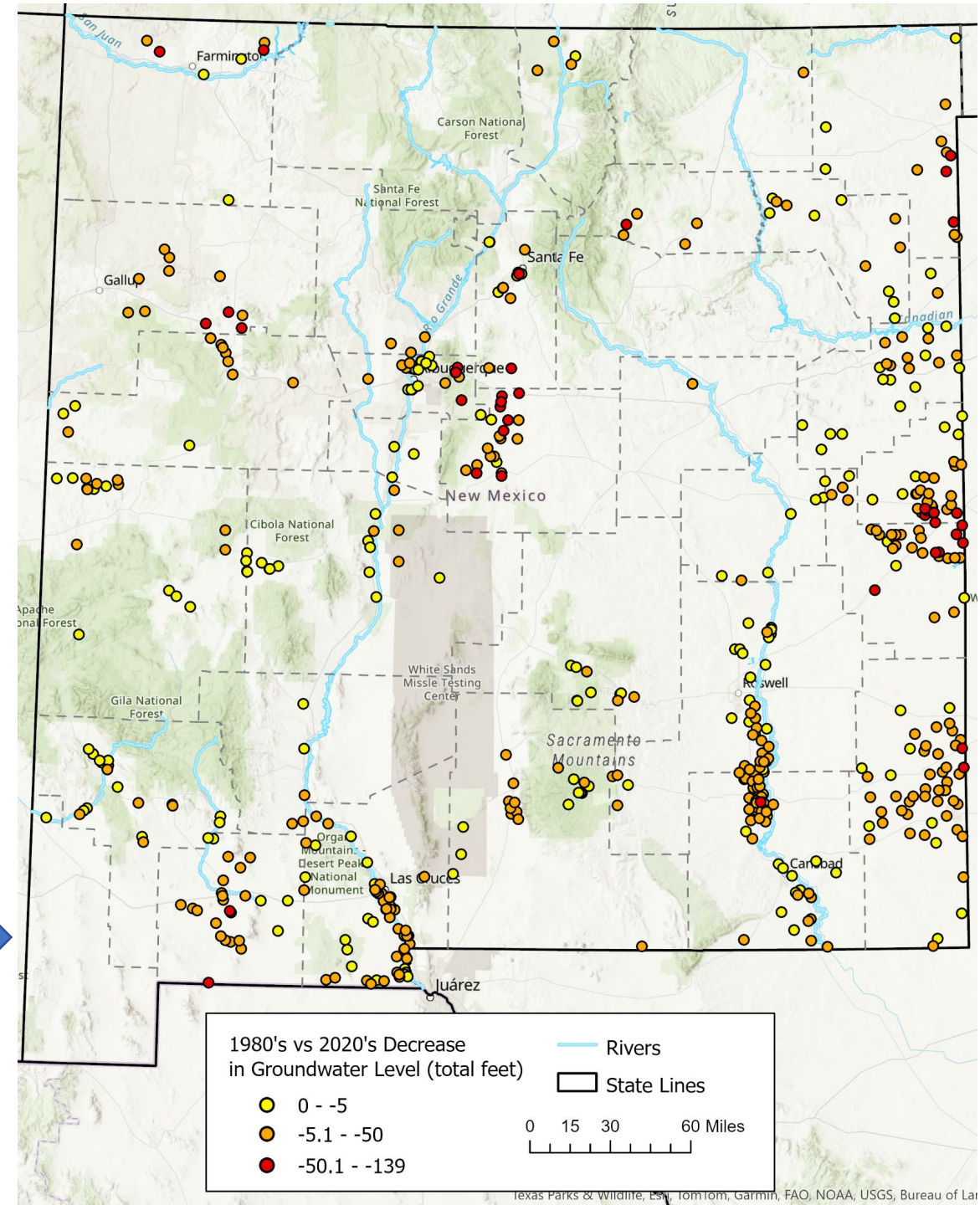
*Santa Teresa NM Project –  
Preliminary, example data acquired by the  
NM ISC, not for redistribution*



# Regional approach to statewide challenge

Steering Committee helping to prioritize regions. Considerations include:

1. Highly studied areas with many reports / data vs. less studied areas with few previous reports / data
2. Regions most dependent on groundwater
3. Cooperation, interest, and capacity to participate
4. Declining groundwater levels
5. Areas of current research or recent projects with Aquifer Mapping Program



# We'll be back for additional funding requests

Goal: Map all aquifers by 2037 with 100+ new monitoring wells for tracking change

*(Example budget below)*

Year	FY	Wells	Surveys	Contracts/ Collaborators	Sample analyses	Annual estimate	Major costs
1	2026	\$4,020,000	\$2,500,000	\$600,000	\$150,000	\$7,270,000	2-4 wells; 2 surveys
2	2027	\$10,050,000	\$5,300,000	\$800,000	\$210,000	\$16,360,000	10-12 wells; 6-8 surveys
3	2028	\$10,050,000	\$5,300,000	\$800,000	\$210,000	\$16,360,000	10-12 wells; 6-8 surveys
4	2029	\$10,050,000	\$5,300,000	\$800,000	\$210,000	\$16,360,000	10-12 wells; 6-8 surveys
5	2030	\$10,050,000	\$5,300,000	\$800,000	\$210,000	\$16,360,000	10-12 wells; 6-8 surveys
6	2031	\$10,050,000	\$5,300,000	\$800,000	\$210,000	\$16,360,000	10-12 wells; 6-8 surveys
7	2032	\$10,050,000	\$5,300,000	\$800,000	\$210,000	\$16,360,000	10-12 wells; 6-8 surveys
8	2033	\$10,050,000	\$5,300,000	\$800,000	\$210,000	\$16,360,000	10-12 wells; 6-8 surveys
9	2034	\$10,050,000	\$5,300,000	\$800,000	\$210,000	\$16,360,000	10-12 wells; 6-8 surveys
10	2035	\$10,050,000	\$5,300,000	\$800,000	\$210,000	\$16,360,000	10-12 wells; 6-8 surveys
11	2036	\$10,050,000	\$5,300,000	\$800,000	\$210,000	\$16,360,000	10-12 wells; 6-8 surveys
12	2037	\$2,000,000	\$2,100,000			\$4,100,000	1-2 wells; 2 surveys
		\$106,520,000	\$57,600,000	\$8,600,000	\$2,250,000	<b>\$174,970,000</b>	100+ wells tracking fresh and brackish water; major and minor aquifers mapped