

Welcome to the 2026 Water Leaders Workshop

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Land Acknowledgement

We respectfully acknowledge our presence on the ancestral and perpetual lands of Indigenous Nations. The Inn of the Mountain Gods is located on the sovereign lands of the Mescalero Apache Tribe. This place serves as a living tribute to the sacred heritage of the Lipan, Warm Springs Chiricahua, and Mescalero people, who have resided on these lands since time immemorial.

We acknowledge that we have significant responsibility to honor the ancestral stewards of this land and to celebrate their past, present, and future.

About the New Mexico Bureau of Geology

- Established in 1927 through state legislation.
- As a non-regulatory governmental agency (the state's geological survey), we conduct scientific investigations that lead to responsible economic development of the state's mineral, water, and energy resources.
- We currently have 86 staff members at approximately 79 FTEs, consisting of research scientists, professionals, permanent support staff, and emeritus staff. We also mentor and employ students, and in FY25, we hired 58 full- and part-time undergraduate and graduate students.
- Our office is located on the New Mexico Tech Campus in Socorro (65 staff) and remote personnel (5 staff).
- In FY25, our total budget was approximately 60% from state appropriations and 40% from external contract funding.

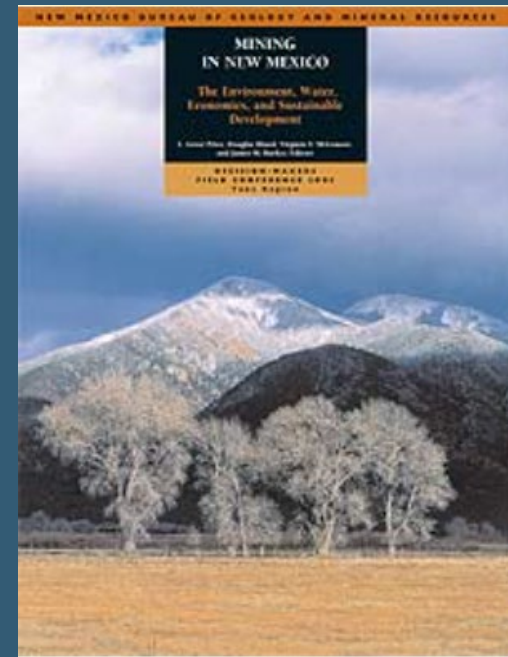
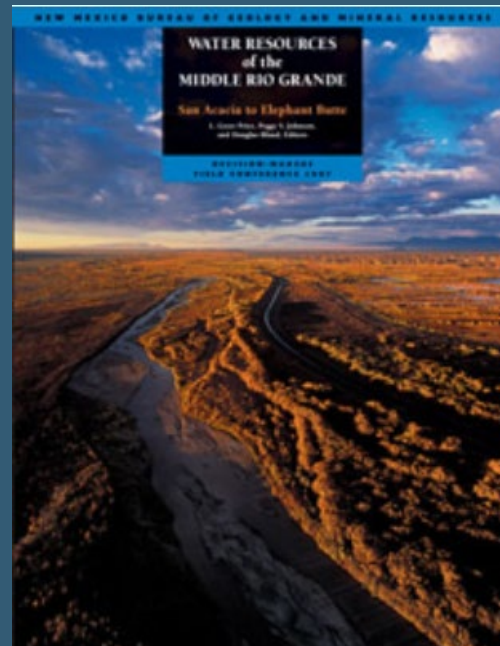


New Mexico Bureau of Geology's Mission

- **Conduct research** and interact with state/federal agencies and industry to facilitate the responsible development of the state's energy, mineral, and water resources.
- **Distribute accurate information** to the New Mexico public.
- **Create accurate, up-to-date maps** of the state's geology and resources.
- **Provide timely information on potential geologic hazards**, including earthquakes, volcanic events, soil- and subsidence-related problems, and flooding.
- **Act as a repository of geological data**, including cores, well cuttings, and geophysical logs. Provide convenient physical and online access to these resources for New Mexicans.
- **Provide public education and outreach** through publications, our Mineral Museum, college teaching and advising, and teacher and student training programs.



Decision makers events of the past (2001-2009)



The NEW Water Education Program

- Focused on increasing awareness and education on critical water issues in NM
- Workshops and events are intended for legislators, staff, and state and tribal leaders
- Developed following the model of previous Decision Makers Conferences.



Review the
agenda packet

New Mexico Water Leaders Workshop

April 20–22, 2026

Ruidoso, New Mexico

REFERENCE BOOK

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



Plans for the next two days



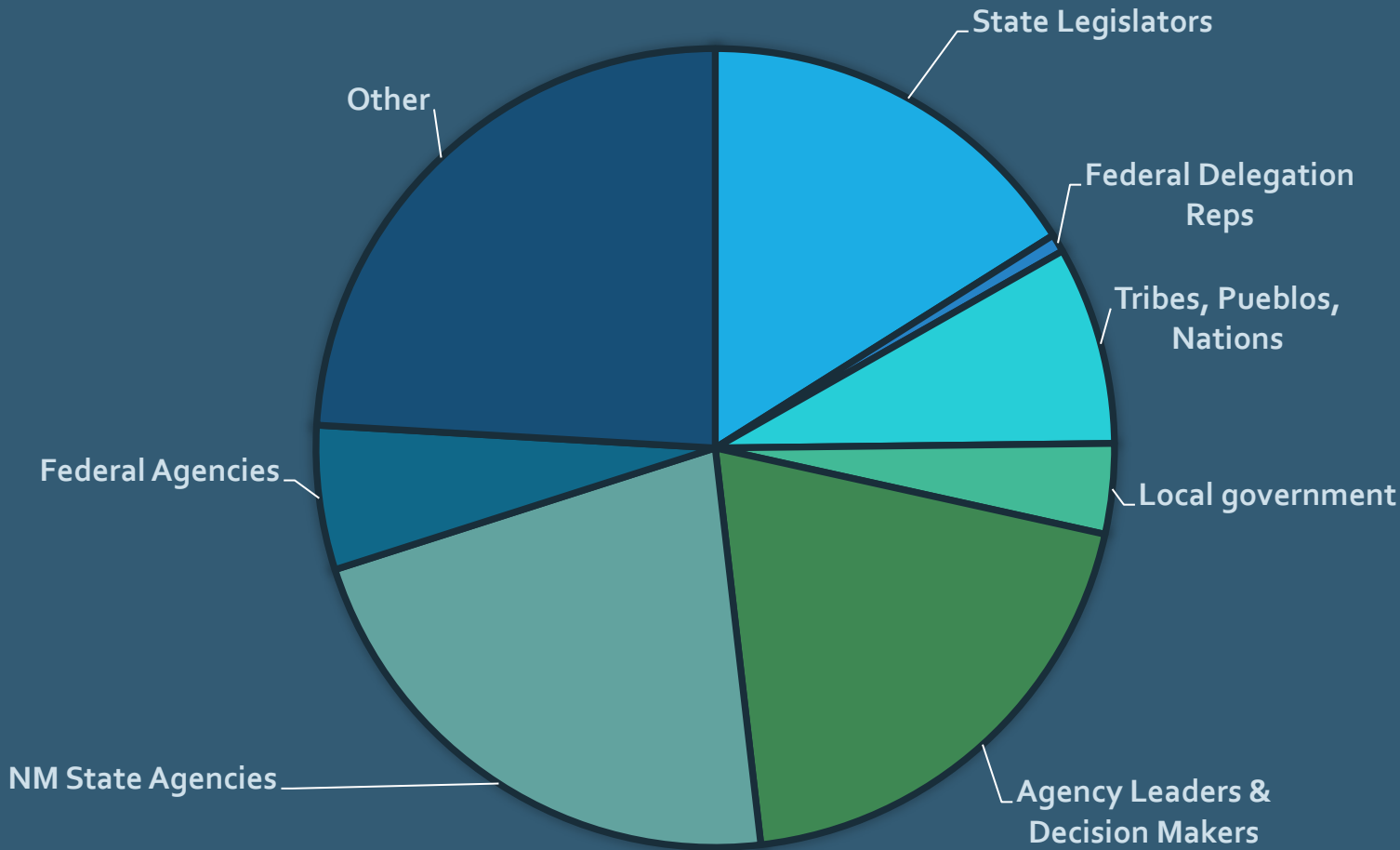
TUESDAY

- Morning – Panel presentations followed by Q&A
- 12:00 to 5:00pm – afternoon field trip with lunch and field presentations, travel by bus
- 5:30pm – Social hour, dinner and keynote presentation at Inn of the Mountain Gods

WEDNESDAY

- 7:00am Breakfast in the Mescalero Room
- 8am to 12:00pm – Panel presentations followed by Q&A
- 12:00-3:30pm – afternoon field trip, travel by bus (lunch provided)

2026 WATER LEADERS WORKSHOP ATTENDEES



PARTICIPANTS

State Legislators	22
Federal Delegation Reps	1
Tribes, Pueblos, Nations	11
Local Government	5
Agency Leaders & Decision Makers	27
NM State Agencies	30
Federal Agencies	8
Other	36

TOTAL **140**

Presentations 48

Field Trip Sites 8

Thank you!

We are blown away by the interest in these workshops!

Keep an eye out this fall and early spring for information about the 2027 workshop and **SIGN UP EARLY!**

Photos

- We will be taking photos at times on the field trips or during presentations
- Please let Stacy or Kate know if you DO NOT want to be included in these materials.

Please complete surveys

PRE-WORKSHOP SURVEY

1. Rank your level of understanding of New Mexico's changing climate and impacts to water resources.

Very poor Poor Fair Good Excellent

2. Rank your level of understanding of groundwater resources in New Mexico (fresh water, brackish water, and alternative management options).

Very poor Poor Fair Good Excellent

3. Rank your level of understanding of the groundwater and surface water interactions and management in the Lower Rio Grande region.

Very poor Poor Fair Good Excellent

4. Rank your familiarity with the Rio Grande Compact and the water administration agencies involved.

Not at all familiar Slightly familiar Moderately familiar Very familiar Extremely familiar

5. Rank your level of understanding of water management, water conservation efforts, and regional collaborations among water users and organizations in the Lower Rio Grande region.

Very poor Poor Fair Good Excellent

6. Rank your familiarity with New Mexico's surface water quality regulations.

Not at all familiar Slightly familiar Moderately familiar Very familiar Extremely familiar

POST-WORKSHOP SURVEY

1. Rank your level of understanding of New Mexico's changing climate and impacts to water resources.

Very poor Poor Fair Good Excellent

2. Rank your level of understanding of groundwater resources in New Mexico (fresh water, brackish water, and alternative management options).

Very poor Poor Fair Good Excellent

3. Rank your level of understanding of the groundwater and surface water interactions and management in the Lower Rio Grande region.

Very poor Poor Fair Good Excellent

4. Rank your familiarity with the Rio Grande Compact and the water administration agencies involved.

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5. Rank your level of understanding of water management, water conservation efforts, and regional collaborations among water users and organizations in the Lower Rio Grande region.

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7. For future workshops, please list any water topics you would like to learn more about.

- Surveys to help us evaluate learning + note any feedback
- After workshop, we'll send an electronic packet of presentation materials

Rio Chama Experiences

- Guided, educational river trips
- 3 day, 2 night float and camping along the Wild and Scenic section of the Rio Chama
- Openings for July 10-12, 2026
 - Limited seats!
 - Cost: \$75/person
- Please fill out this brief survey if you're interested in joining us!



Thank you

- NMBGMR Director Dr. Mike Timmons and NMBGMR Associate Director for Hydrology Programs Stacy Timmons
- Workshop coordinating team members, Emily Geery & Alison Elder
- Mark Fischer (Lincoln Co. commissioner) & Jason Burns (Lincoln Co. Manager)
- Robert Fowlie (Jacobs)
- Malynda Cappelle (BGNDRF, Bureau of Reclamation)
- Mescalero Apache Tribe – President Thora Padilla and East Padilla
- All presenters and subject matter experts for contributing their time to this effort
- Our sponsors: The New Mexico Wild Action Fund, The Water Foundation, Thornburg Foundation, and New Mexico Tech Foundation