

The New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission (NMISC) is preparing to invest in water projects in southwest New Mexico, and is collecting input on a proposed Pilot Funding Cycle (Pilot Cycle) to open in 2024.



The New Mexico Unit Fund is administered by the NMISC. The money in this fund can be used to meet water demands in four counties in southwest New Mexico: Catron, Grant, Hidalgo and Luna.

The Pilot Cycle will create, test, and refine an application process for future funding cycles. Funding from the Pilot Cycle is intended to support **planning** or **design** of water utilization projects that accomplish one or more of the following:

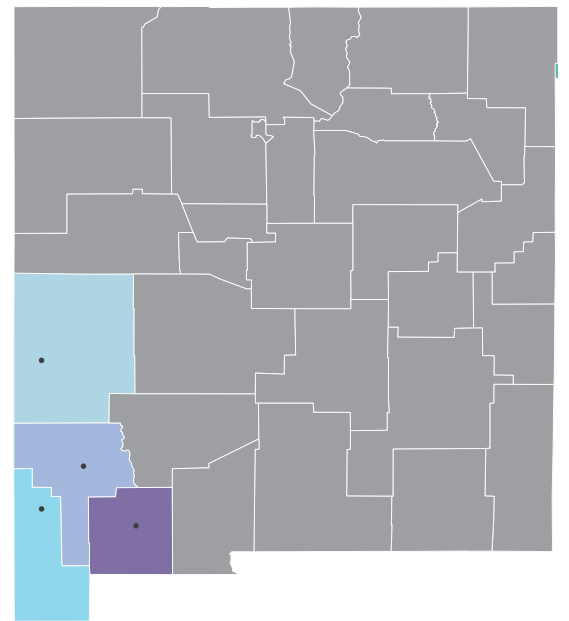
- » Promote conservation and efficient use of limited water supplies.
- » Establish and support water delivery systems or treatment systems that are sustainable and meet regulatory requirements.
- » Support watershed health initiatives that restore riparian ecosystems, improve water quality, or mitigate damage to water resources from wildfire.

Summary of Pilot Cycle Application Process and Eligibility

Who evaluates water project applications?	The Water Trust Board (WTB) will evaluate submitted applications for completeness and eligibility. Based on that evaluation, the WTB will make recommendations to the NMISC on projects for funding
Who makes the decision on which projects are funded?	The NMISC will consider WTB recommendations and letters of support, and decide which projects will be fully or partially funded.
Who is eligible to apply for funding?	Any political subdivision of the state authorized to receive public funds or any entity that has a fiscal agent that is a political subdivision is eligible. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Local governments like villages, cities, towns, and counties » Irrigation districts and acequias » Local community water and utility boards
What types of projects will be considered?	Planning or design projects. These include, but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Planning documents and reports, like technical plans, feasibility plans, or water conservation plans » Plans and specifications for engineering design up to 90%
What information must be included in the application:	At a minimum, the following information is required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » A description of the project/scope of work » Evidence that the project meets water supply demands » The amount of funds requested and disclosure of any available matching funds » Information regarding land ownership, easements, and water rights » Information showing the applicant is an eligible entity » A resolution enacted at public meeting, authorizing the application
When will applicants find out if the projects are funded?	Once the WTB makes recommendations to the NMISC and the NMISC makes a decision, notice will be provided within 30 days.
How much money will be distributed and how many projects will be funded?	The NMISC makes final decisions on funding allocation for projects and the amount of funding for distribution in any funding cycle. Those decisions for the Pilot Cycle have not yet been made.

Proposed projects must demonstrate that they meet water supply demands in the four county region. When selecting projects for funding, the NMISC will also consider whether:

- ✓ The project contributes to regional development;
- ✓ The project contributes to water system resiliency;
- ✓ The project contributes to water security;
- ✓ The project contributes to the economic health of the local community;
- ✓ The project protects, enhances, or maintains cultural lifeways or resources; and
- ✓ The project includes sufficient local community engagement and participation.



To the greatest extent possible, the NMISC will seek to fund efforts that represent project phases that can be completed within 12–24 months.

What type of feedback or input is most useful?

Examples of the type of input the NMISC and WTB may find most useful include, but are not limited to:

- ➔ Input on key considerations for NMISC decision making.
- ➔ Feedback regarding the types of work activities and eligible projects that should be considered “planning and design.”
- ➔ Input on requirements related to project phasing.
- ➔ How the NMISC can support applicants in technical preparation of applications and other support structures needed to encourage applicant success.

The NMISC looks forward to continuing engagement in southwest New Mexico related to this and future funding cycles.



We want to hear from you!

We are accepting input until **August 30, 2024**.

Or scan QR code



Read the draft Pilot Cycle policy here: <https://bit.ly/3ypOsAn>



Provide your feedback on the draft Pilot Cycle policy by emailing us at US-NMISCinformationsessions@wsp.com