

Water and Natural Resources Committee

Strategic Water Reserve Updates

Hannah Riseley-White, Director
NM Interstate Stream Commission
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STATUTE

NM Interstate Stream Commission (NMISC) may purchase or lease water rights to assist the state in:

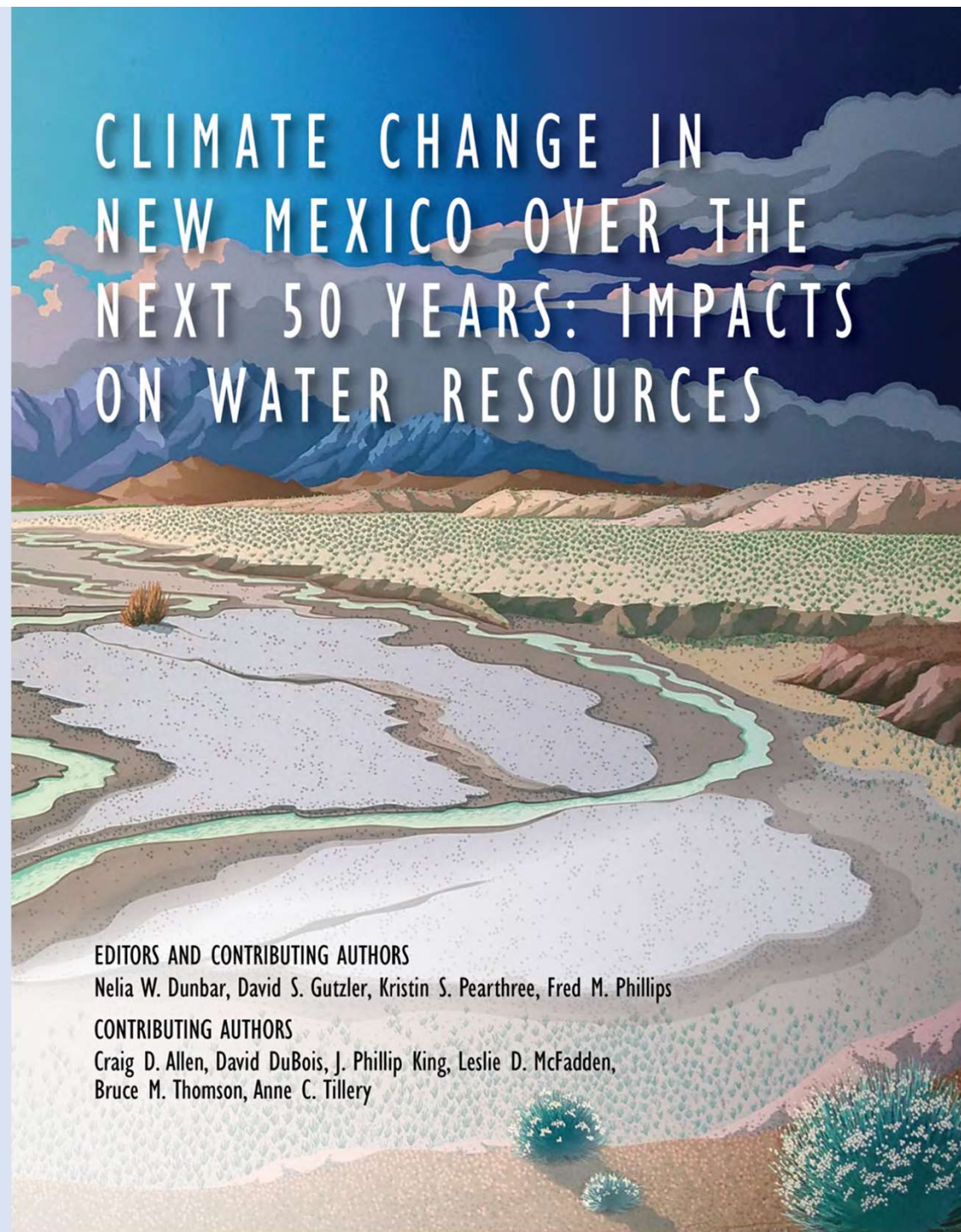
1. Complying with interstate stream compacts and court degrees, or
2. Water management efforts for the benefit of threatened or endangered species, or in programs intended to avoid additional listings of species



Looking into the future:

- We need to plan and prepare for 25% less water in our rivers and recharging our aquifers by 2070

The Reserve will be increasingly critical to support stream flows.



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CURRENT STATUS

Flexibility in the Reserve has allowed it to be applied in various beneficial ways across the State.

UPDATES: *\$7.5 M received in the 2023 Legislative Session, expires end of FY28.
NMISC is currently hiring a Strategic Water Reserve Coordinator.*

SAN JUAN

Up to 20,000 AF/year leased from Jicarilla Apache Nation to support endangered species activities and interstate issues

PECOS RIVER

~1,649 AF/year purchased,
~621 AF/year donated,
~2,326 AF/year leased
All in support endangered species and/or compact deliveries

RIO GRANDE

~1,085 AF/year leased to support endangered species and compact deliveries

CANADIAN RIVER

Up to 5 cubic feet per second (cfs) between Ute Dam and Texas state-line permitted to NMISC to support threatened species

An aerial photograph showing a wide, muddy river on the left side of the frame. The river flows from the top left towards the bottom left. To the right of the river, there are several rows of green crops, likely corn, planted in a field. A dirt road or path runs parallel to the river, separating it from the agricultural fields. The background shows more greenery and some brownish soil, suggesting a rural or agricultural landscape.

NEEDS

SUSTAINED FUNDING

Sufficient and sustained funding available over prolonged periods to support successful purchases

FLEXIBILITY

Ability to pursue purchases or leases depending on the needs in individual basins, or the water rights available

NEXT STEPS

Preparing for a 20-year review of the 2005 statute. Where has the Reserve worked well? What's needed looking into the future?

PARTNERSHIPS

Working with communities across the State will continue to strengthen the Reserve

Questions?

