

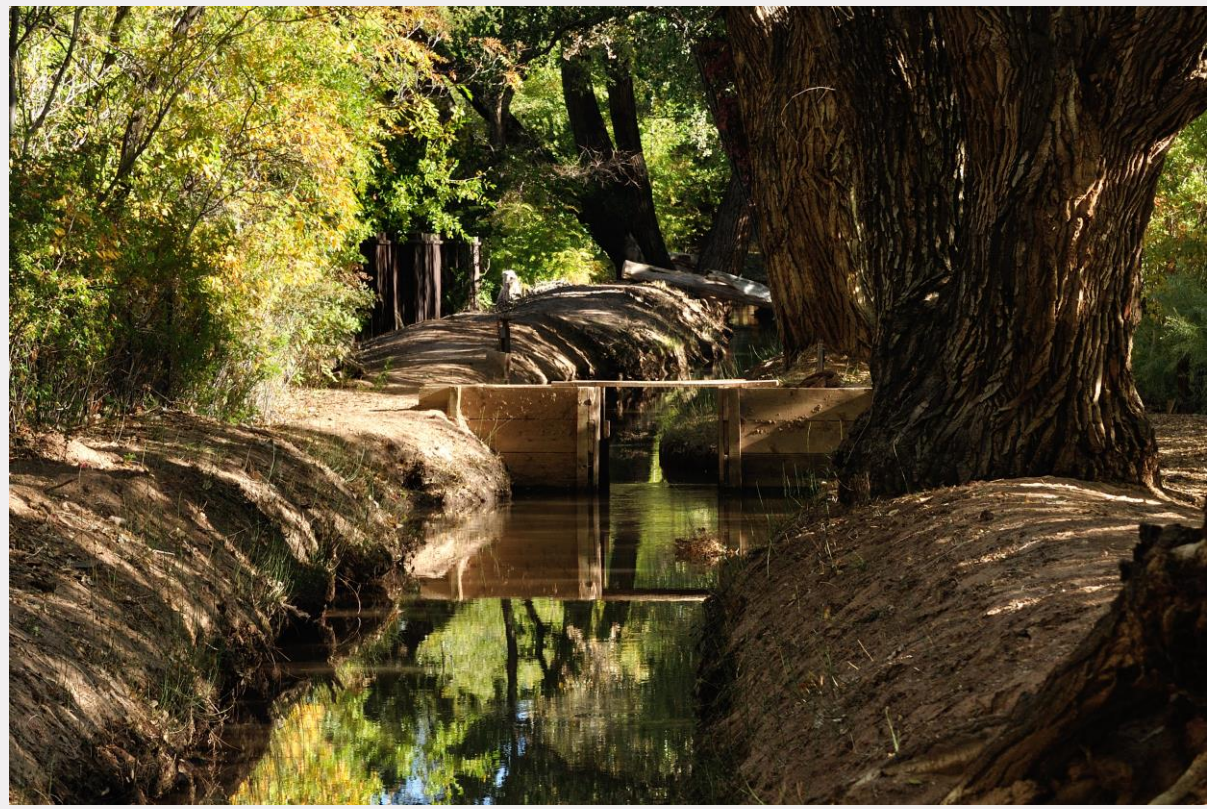
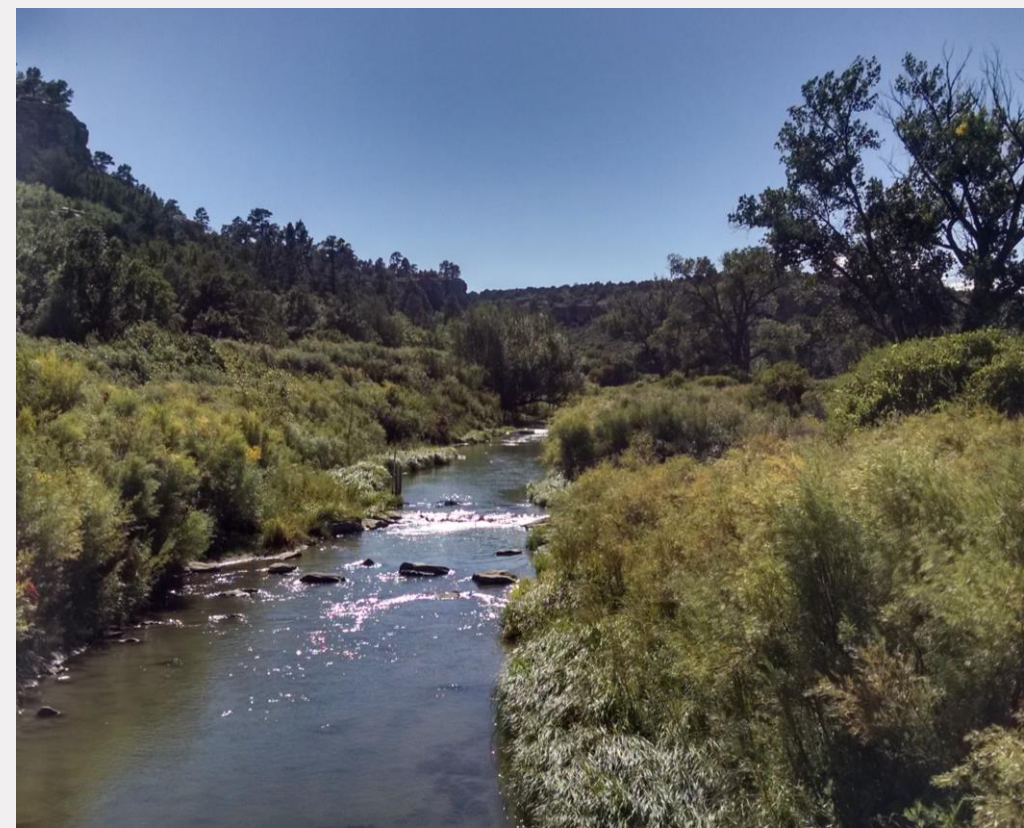
Compact Compliance and Healthy Rivers

Water and Natural Resources Committee
August 26th 2024

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westernresourceadvocates.org

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Convenance

- ❖ Natural Benefits
- ❖ Challenges with Alteration



Source: NM in Depth

Convenance

- ❖ Natural Benefits
- ❖ Challenges with Alteration



Source: Santa Fe New Mexican



LOCAL & REGION

Officials: Rio Chama flooding repairs are underway

Many Medanales residents are still recovering from June's heavy rainfall

By Nicholas Gilmore
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State and federal agencies are still working to direct the Rio Chama back to its natural course more than a month after the Northern New Mexico river jumped its banks and flooded several residential properties and farm fields in Medanales.

Amid sustained heavy rainfall throughout the region in June, sand and silt from surrounding arroyos washed into the Rio Chama and plugged it, causing the river to jump its banks and flow into properties in Medanales, flooding farmland, pastures, driveways and even homes.

The State Engineer's Office and the Interstate

Stream Commission have provided about \$300,000 so far to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to excavate the river with the federal agency's "specialized equipment and operators," Maggie Fitzgerald, a spokeswoman for the state engineer, wrote in an email.

The Bureau of Reclamation began moving its equipment into place June 25, and the excavation of a channel through the sediment plug started July 3, she wrote. More than 150,000 cubic yards of material initially was excavated, a mile-long channel 40 feet wide and 5 feet deep.

Workers have excavated another 100,000 cubic yards "to shore up or excavate problem areas," Fitzgerald wrote.

While state and federal agencies are collaborating to fix the river, some residents say they've been on their own to deal with the damage to

their homes and farms.

The river has been flowing in its normal course for a few weeks, Medanales resident and rancher Eric Martinez said this week, but properties in the community remain flooded.

Martinez said his ranch still has about 12 acres covered in 18 inches of mud and standing water that won't drain because the excavation work has raised the height of the riverbank.

Five excavators were working in the river Wednesday evening to scoop out more sand and silt, Martinez said, adding the workers deposit the material on the sides of the river, so flooded properties aren't able to drain into it.

Martinez is keeping his cattle in the Carson National Forest while his pasture is flooded, he said. While several government agencies have



COURTESY PHOTO/ERIC MARTINEZ

Excavators dig sand and silt from the Rio Chama as the river flows in its original course again. Summer rainfall led the river to overflow into homes and farms. Workers have to excavate 100,000 cubic yards to restore much of the remaining problem areas.

[Please see story on Page A-8](#)

Other Issues

- ❖ A dry river is an inefficient river
- ❖ ESA compliance

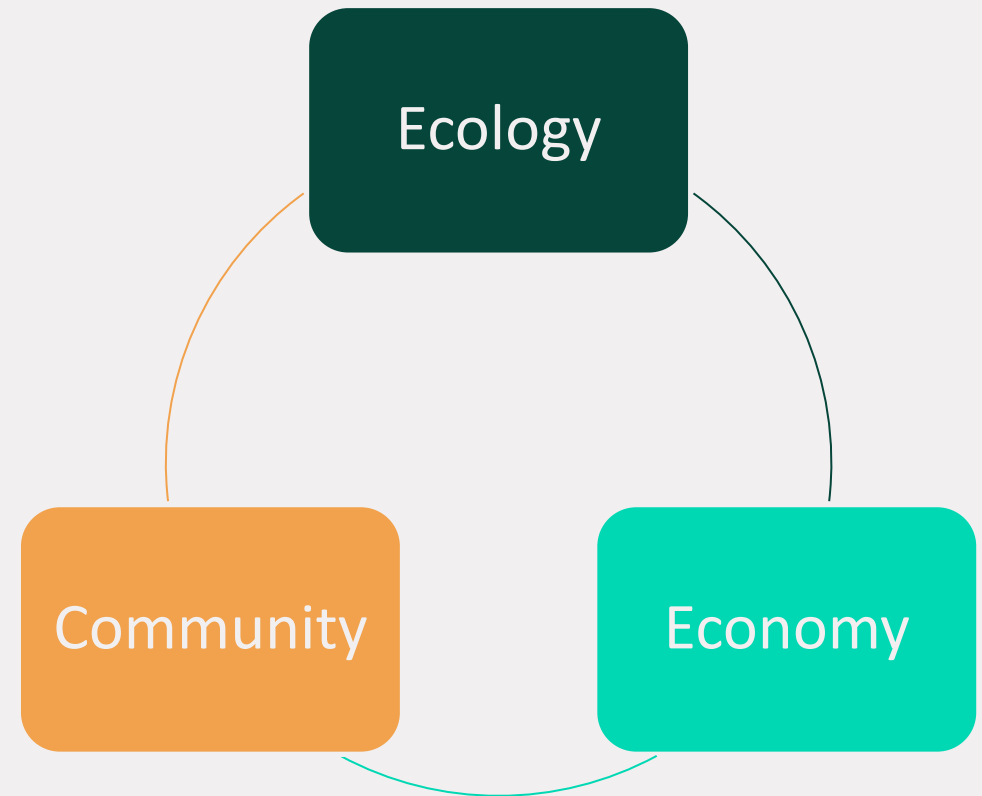


Source New Mexico



The Only Way Forward

- ❖ Multi-Benefit Tools
- ❖ Maximize Every Drop



Thank You!

The logo for Western Resources Advocates (wra) is a teal circle containing the lowercase letters 'wra' in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

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