

Laura Paskus, Senior Producer, NMPBS  
lpaskus@nmpbs.org – laura.paskus@gmail.com



# OUR LAND

New Mexico's Environmental Past, Present and Future

# Public health threats include:

---

- Illnesses, including asthma and respiratory disease, from smoke and poor air quality
- Rise in diseases like Valley Fever, West Nile, Zika, dengue, etc.
- Physical and mental health impacts from fires, floods, and heat waves
- Prisons, schools, athletic fields, pet shelters, are all getting hotter
- People who work outside suffer and sometimes die
- Certain common medications make people more vulnerable to heat-related illnesses.
- Unbearable pressure on unhoused populations
- Strain on hospitals, clinics, and emergency workers (including wildland firefighters)
- Heat waves make us madder, sadder, unhappier



# **Economic impacts include:**

- **Crop losses (across scale & including tribal economies)**
- **Real estate and small business losses**
- **Increased costs of homeowners insurance (or loss of coverage)**
- **Infrastructure losses**
- **Medical costs, public health costs, lost work and wages**
- **Losses to tourism**
- **Disasters and disaster response**



Las Conchas burn scar more than ten years after the fire.



NMPBS/A. Lostetter



Rio Grande, Albuquerque, July 28, 2022



Photos by Jerry Redfern, Capital & Main

