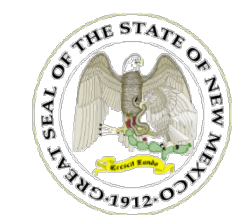


# Overview of New Mexico's **50-Year Water Action Plan**

**Rebecca Roose**  
Office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham

**Hannah Riseley-White**  
NM Interstate Stream Commission / Office of the  
State Engineer

**Legislative Finance Committee**  
Water Subcommittee – June 11, 2024  
Carlsbad, NM



# 50YWAP: Science and Policy Underpinnings

Read or download the 50-Year Water Action Plan at

<https://www.nm.gov/water-security-in-new-mexico/> or scan below.



## NEW MEXICO'S WATER FUTURE:

Scientists predict over the next 50 years...



New Mexico will have approximately 25% less water available in rivers and aquifers



New Mexico will be hotter and drier



Historical weather patterns, including precipitation, will change significantly



There will be more significant weather events, such as fires, flooding and drought

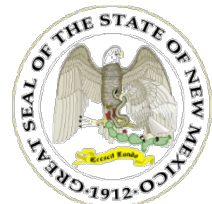


Without action, New Mexico will not have enough water to meet our needs

Within the next 50 years New Mexico will have a shortage of

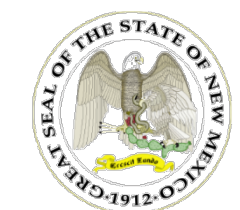
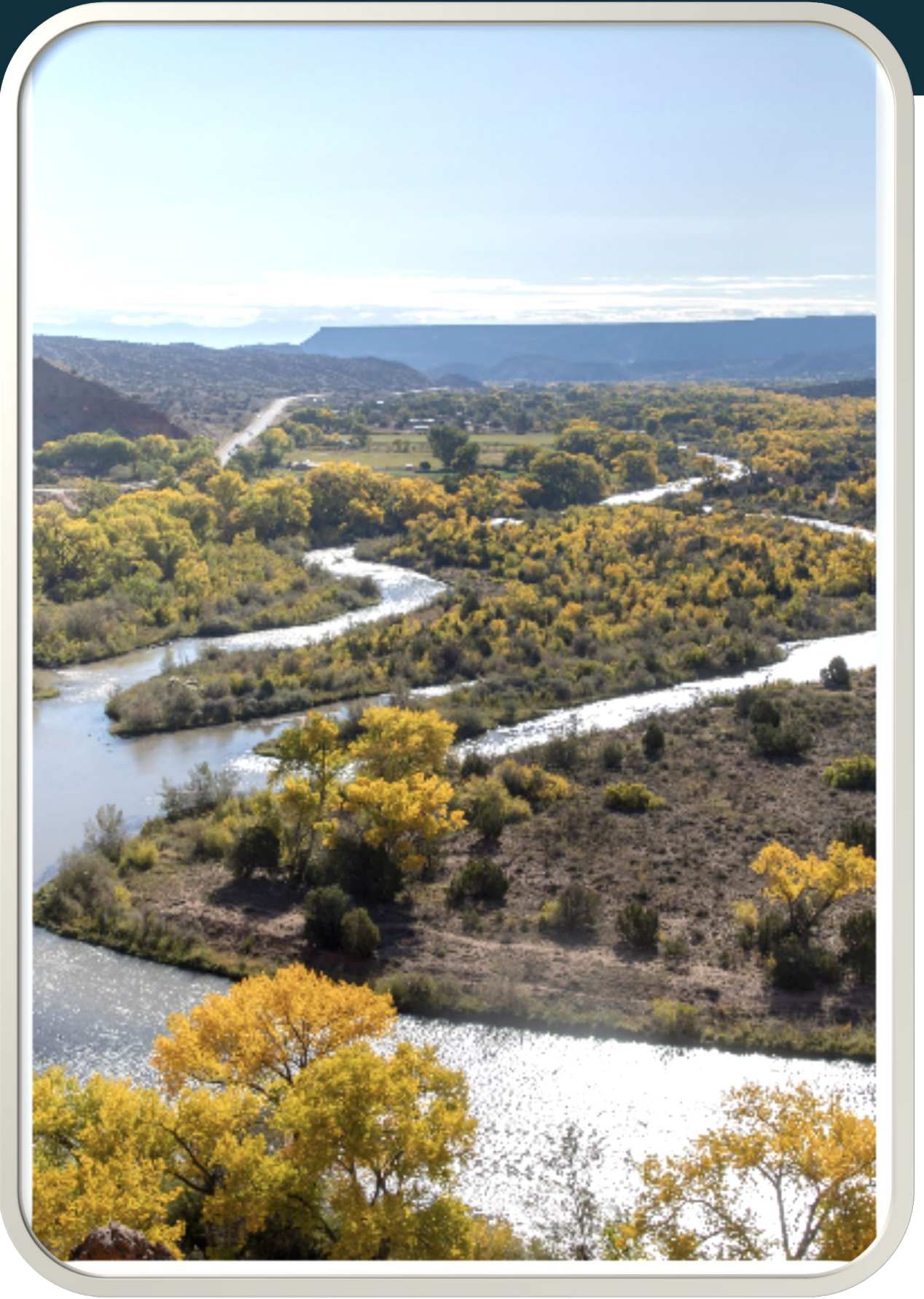
- 750,000 acre feet of water

Conservation, protection of existing water resources and development of new water resources will be required to meet this shortfall



# 50YWAP: Built on Foundation of Ongoing Efforts

- Advancing **Indian water rights settlements** to build on the strong progress made in recent years to negotiate and implement agreements that resolve outstanding claims and secure water supplies for more communities;
- Robust regional water planning to implement the **Water Security Planning Act** of 2023;
- Implementing the **Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund**;
- Continued funding and reforms for the **Water Trust Board**;
- Improving opportunities for communities to leverage **capital outlay funding to complete water projects**;
- Advancing regionalization approaches that increase critical capacity for managing drinking water and wastewater systems, including through the **Regional Water System Resiliency Act** of 2023;
- Implementing the **New Mexico Water Data Initiative**; and
- Broader investments in **local capacity building and the water workforce**.



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# 50YWAP: 11 Priority Actions

## WHAT WE ARE DOING TO INCREASE WATER SECURITY:

### 50-Year Water Action Plan.

The Water Plan actions will help address the reality of a reduced supply in the future.

#### Water Conservation

EST. IMPACT:  
660,000 AF PER YEAR

- A1** Develop a public education campaign
- A2** Incentivise agricultural water conservation
- A3** Reduce leaks in drinking water infrastructure and increase municipal conservation
- A4** Improve water storage and delivery systems

#### New Water Supplies

EST. IMPACT:  
150,000 AF PER YEAR

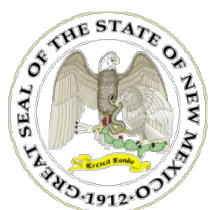
- B1** Establish a \$500M strategic water supply to spur investments in desalination and wastewater treatment
- B2** Adopt policies to expand potable and nonpotable water reuse
- B3** Improve groundwater mapping and monitoring

#### Water and Watershed Protection

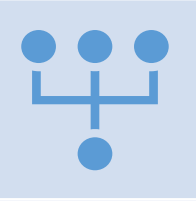
- C1** Cleanup contaminated groundwater sites
- C2** Protect surface water by controlling pollution through a discharge permitting program
- C3** Modernize wastewater treatment plants and stormwater infrastructure
- C4** Protect and restore watersheds

Each action includes:

- brief description
- immediate next steps
- measurable target  
Return on Investment



# 50YWAP: Implementation Activities



Coordination among 5 agencies that own priority action(s):  
OSE/ISC; NMED; EMNRD; NMDA; and Bureau of Geology

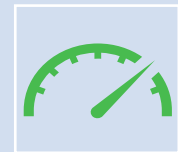
*Also coordinating with partners at  
IAD, EDD, NMDA and others*



Active program implementation activities (new and ongoing)



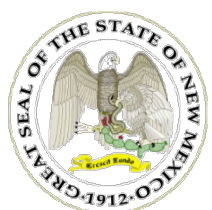
Funding analysis and budget requests for 50YWAP implementation



Develop dashboard to engage the public and show progress



Ongoing discussions with stakeholders, legislators and other partners



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# 50YWAP Implementation Highlight

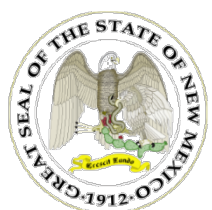


## Action A1: Develop and implement NM's Water Education Template (WET), a statewide water education campaign

- Immediate Next Steps Underway:
  - Convening a Water Education Roundtable to establish WET (with UNM's Utton Center and NM Tech/Bureau of Geology)
    - Gathering information relating to ongoing programs to enhance student and public understanding of water issues
  - Implementing the Water Security Planning Act of 2023 (track and engage in the work at [mainstreamnm.org](https://mainstreamnm.org))
    - Open Houses in 16 regions throughout the state / web version live (April – August 2024)
    - Establish the Water Security Tribal Advisory Council (Kickoff June 2024)

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# 50YWAP Implementation Highlight

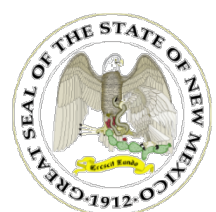


Scan to access NM's Forest Action Plan

## Action C4: Accelerate Watershed Restoration Projects

Immediate Next Steps Underway:

- Implementing the 2020 Forest Action Plan
- Leveraging state and federal funding to increase conservation work
  - 76,868 acres treated 2019 through May 2024 in watersheds with the highest risk of damaging wildfire
- Establishing the New Mexico Reforestation Center in Mora
  - State funding \$22.5M; USDA funding \$20M for construction
  - Seed collection underway; facility design underway; groundbreaking summer 2025



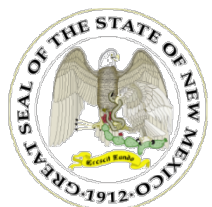
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# 50YWAP: Funding Analysis

 Funding analysis and budget requests for 50YWAP implementation

50YWAP Bucket	Examples of Recent State Funding	Examples of Unfunded 2024/2025 Requests
A. Water Conservation	\$25.5 million (adjudication and Indian water rights settlements)	\$30 million
B. New Water Supply	\$0.6 million (aquifer mapping)	\$263 million
C. Water and Watershed Protection	\$7.6 million (surface water) \$300 million infusion to Land of Enchantment Permanent Fund	\$3 million



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# Contact Information

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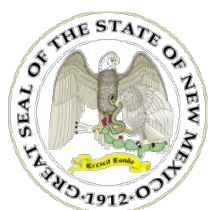
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