

GREATER RIO GRANDE WATERSHED ALLIANCE (GRGWA)

Mission Definition

Coordination and collaboration across jurisdictions to facilitate landscape scale watershed restoration in the geographic area of focus.

Geographic Area

The GRGWA's geographical area of focus encompasses the entire upper Rio Grande Watershed from the Colorado border south to Bernardo, New Mexico. (see map)

Goal

GRWA's long term goal is restoring the Rio Grande watershed to a sustainable landscape that provides vital economic and ecological services to riverside communities in central and northern New Mexico.

OBJECTIVES

- Develop management and native vegetation restoration plans;
- Conduct hearings within the local conservation districts to receive public input into the plans;
- Use all applicable management practices in compliance with Federal and State laws;
- Monitor and evaluate the effects of control on wildlife, habitat, water quality, vegetation and soil health;
- If control affects threatened or endangered species, the project proponents will take action to ensure compliance with applicable Federal law and conform to any duly enacted recovery plan, and;
- Provide project management, supplies, equipment, and other administrative services as required to complete the project.
- Comply with the Statewide Non-Native Phreatophyte Plan, www.nmda.nmsu.edu.

Organization Structure

Membership Roles and Responsibilities

Steering Committee:

The Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance Steering Committee will be composed of the following soil and water conservation districts: Valencia, Ciudad, Coronado, Santa Fe-Pojoaque, East Rio Arriba, Claunch-Pinto, Cuba, Edgewood, McKinley, Lava, Upper Chama, and Taos. The steering committee makes decisions related to watershed health, restoration, and monitoring with input and advice from Ex-officio members. The steering committee shall operate on a consensus/or vote basis. In the case of a quorum of the committee is not present; business can

still be conducted as long as there is 50% plus 1 of the CORE committee present. Members of the Steering Committee may withdraw their membership at any time with written notice to the GRGWA subject to the following: All ongoing projects must be completed within terms of the original contract. Re-instatement will be allowed upon a majority vote of the CORE Steering Committee.

CORE Steering Committee:

This is a subset of the Steering Committee.

The CORE Steering Committee will be composed of the six original founding Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) of the GRGWA. The original six SWCDs are: Valencia, Ciudad, Coronado, Santa Fe-Pojoaque, East Rio Arriba, and Claunch-Pinto.

Ex-Officio Committee:

The Ex-Officio Committee will be composed of the following: New Mexico Department of Agriculture, New Mexico State Forestry, New Mexico Environment Department, and New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. One to three additional expert members may be selected by these agencies to serve on this committee as needed. The Ex-officio's responsibility is to provide technical support to the GRGWA on project design, implementation and any scientifically related topics concerning the projects. The Ex-officio committee will act as the technical committee as well. The Technical Committee will review and make recommendations to the Steering Committee on proposals for funding.

PARTNERS OF THE GRGWA

The partners will include tribes, non-Government Organizations (NGOs), special interest groups, New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute, New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts, and public schools within the geographic area of the GRGWA. Partners coordinate and collaborate with the SWCD's, Ex-Officio members and others to strengthen the collective efforts of all parties with restoration projects, landscape scale and local, by providing input and assistance related to their unique expertise.

FISCAL AGENT

The official fiscal agent will be Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District. The fiscal agent has the final authority and responsibility to administer the funds according to the present, past, and future grant agreements for all funds. Each participating agency/entity shall operate under agreement with the fiscal agent for continuity of expenditure of all funds.