New Mexico | Rio Grande Water Fund

Restoring essential forested lands upstream will ensure a continuous supply of clean water downstream.

Healthy forests store more snowpack and release more water to streams, leading to **more resilient forests** and possibly increased stream flows.

Frequent, **high-severity wildfires and subsequent post-fire flooding** increasingly threaten the Rio Grande’s water security and cause extensive soil erosion and debris flows that degrade water quality for communities downstream.

A sustainable supply of trees removed by forest thinning could be used to generate electricity, heat buildings and produce liquid fuels—**creating new jobs and uses** for New Mexico’s abundant, overgrown trees.

Healthy forests and streams provide a **habitat for fish and wildlife** and protect them from damaging wildfire, flooding and ash-flows that often follow high-severity burns.

Healthy and scenic rivers, forests and mountains benefit New Mexico’s **tourism and recreation economy** by attracting visitors who seek to experience the state’s beautiful outdoors.

The Rio Grande and its tributaries supply water to nearly half of New Mexico’s population, including Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Pueblos and other communities.

Learn More or Donate

**Laura McCarthy**
Director of Conservation
lmccarthy@tnc.org
(505) 946-2024

**Jacquelyn Hall**
Philanthropy Director
jacquelyn_hall@tnc.org
(505) 946-2021

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