



# Investing in the Strategic Water Reserve

Healthy rivers are at the heart of New Mexico's environment, communities, culture, and economy. **But the state is expecting a 25% reduction in streamflow over the next 50 years.** Without swift action, rivers like the Rio Grande, the San Juan, and the Pecos could be forever changed.

By funding the Strategic Water Reserve, we can help protect New Mexico's rivers for future generations.

## THE STRATEGIC WATER RESERVE

In 2005, an overwhelming majority of New Mexico legislators voted to create the Strategic Water Reserve to secure the future of the state's water supplies. The Interstate Stream Commission administers the Reserve and may buy, lease, or accept donated water rights from willing sellers, lessors, or donors for it. That water can then be used to help the state comply with interstate compacts, support aquifer recharge, benefit threatened or endangered species, or prevent future species listings.

## INVESTING IN OUR RIVERS & COMMUNITIES

The Interstate Stream Commission (ISC) expects all of the Reserve's current funding to be obligated to projects by the end of the fiscal year. **Without new funding, the Reserve will be out of money by 2027.**

ISC staff have identified numerous new acquisition opportunities for the Reserve and estimate that there could be at least \$20 million in transactions just in the Rio Grande and San Juan basins alone over the next five years. These investments would protect wildlife while also supporting outdoor recreation, helping deliver water to our farms and communities, and sustaining cultural and religious uses of water.

## FUNDING RECOMMENDATION

In January 2026, the **Legislative Finance Committee recommended allocating \$15.5 million to the Reserve.** By following this recommendation, we can ensure the state has the resources needed to acquire water to keep New Mexico's rivers flowing.



### For More Information

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## Funding for the Strategic Water Reserve is Supported by:

