

Stop the Attack on New Mexico's Drinking Water

Stop the attacks on America's drinking water. 1 in 3 Americans' drinking water sources are at risk now. That includes the drinking water for more than 1 in every 10 New Mexico residents. **The Administration has a strong, commonsense plan to make clean water a priority by protecting the sources that feed the drinking water for more than 117 million Americans, including 280,000 New Mexico residents.** If Congress blocks the proposal to protect clean water, at least 53% of New Mexico's streams and 20 million acres of wetlands nationwide will continue to be at risk from pollution and destruction from development, oil and gas production, and other industrial activities. Stopping this proposal imperils drinking water sources, as well as the small businesses and communities that rely on clean water.

Black River in New Mexico



Credit: Joel Deluxe on

- **13% of New Mexico residents** get their drinking water from sources that rely on small streams currently vulnerable to pollution.
- **Nearly 2,000 miles of streams** that feed into New Mexico's drinking water sources are at risk. The Clean Water Rule would clarify protections for 67% of the stream miles in NM's Source Water Protection Areas, including intermittent, ephemeral, and headwater streams.
- **Thousands of acres of wetlands** that provide flood protection, recharge groundwater supplies, filter pollution, and provide essential wildlife habitat are at risk.

Rule Provides More Economic Benefits than Costs

- **This commonsense proposal restores, but does not expand, the historic coverage of the Clean Water Act.** EPA estimates that the proposed rule would provide **\$388 million to \$514 million annually in benefits** to the public, including reducing flooding, filtering pollution, providing wildlife habitat, supporting hunting and fishing, and recharging groundwater.
- **Protecting small streams and wetlands supports fish and wildlife and New Mexico's vibrant recreational industry.** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports that in 2011, close to \$1 billion was spent on wildlife recreation in New Mexico, including \$418 million on fishing, and more than three-quarters of a million people participated in these recreational activities in New Mexico.
- **New Mexico's thriving brewing industry relies on clean water.** New Mexico breweries contribute more than \$260 million to our economy every year and support more than 3,500 jobs.

New Mexico Clean Water Rule Supporters

- **More than 5,500 New Mexico residents, out of more than 800,000 Americans, expressed support for the rule.**
- Groups like Communities for Clean Water, the National Latino Farmers and Ranchers Trade Association, and Los Jardines Institute (The Gardens Institute), support protections for clean water.
- New Mexico joined 34 other states in 2006 to urge the Supreme Court to uphold strong federal clean water protections.

For more information, please visit protectcleanwater.org.