



January 2012

# Coordinator's WATERSHED CORNER

A note to the Clean Water Committee, Paso del Norte  
Watershed Council and Stakeholder Group from the 319(h) Grant  
Watershed Coordinator, *Brian Hanson*



Hello Stakeholders!

Thus far, the stakeholder group has met 7 times. We had a great meeting January 20. Peter Bennett with the City of Las Cruces summarized his water quality program, and Steve Baumgarn from the New Mexico Environment Department described his point source program (waste water treatment plants). We also discussed the 319 grant website and the Watershed Based Plan (WBP). At the meeting I asked for the agencies to summarize their water quality activities so I can include it in the final plan. I plan to have maps of the various sources of *E. coli* bacteria and if a stakeholder has a good map I would appreciate getting it for the plan. I want to complete a final draft plan by June 1 and then have it reviewed internally and have photos and graphics added. My target for a final document is August 15.

On January 19, Chris Canavan and myself presented a powerpoint summary of the 319 Project to the Rio Grande Citizen Forum in Las Cruces. The presentation included what we have done and provided suggestions that would reduce or eliminate *E. coli* from entering the Rio Grande.

## Dr. King and Dr. Smith will present their summary of *E. coli* concentrations . . .

The next meeting of the 319 stakeholder group is February 16 from 9:00 to 11:00 am (Mesilla Park Recreation Center, 304 Bell Avenue Las Cruces 88005). At the next meeting Dr. King and Dr. Smith will present their summary of *E. coli* concentrations in the Rio Grande and the animal species that were identified as sources of *E. coli* (warm-blooded animals). We may also talk about the Watershed Based Plan that is planned for completion August 2012. Thanks for your support and participation.





## WATERSHED TIP

### Source of *E. coli* – Rangeland Grazing

Many effective management practices have been developed for rangeland grazing that protects the watershed. Some of these practices can be found in: “Grazing Best Management Practices, Wyoming Nonpoint Source Management Plan” March 1997. [www.deq.state.wy.us/wqd/watershed/Downloads/.../92602.pdf](http://www.deq.state.wy.us/wqd/watershed/Downloads/.../92602.pdf)

Best Management Practices (bmps) can address grazing management and associated activities like range improvements for livestock and wildlife. The Wyoming document addresses seven practices; *fencing, livestock herding, access roads, water development (instream and offstream), land treatment (biological, mechanical), weed and pest management, and windbreaks.*

One of the nine possible sources of *E. coli* is addressed as the Watershed Tip in each monthly edition of the “Coordinator’s Watershed Corner”.

## Nine possible sources of bacteria in the lower Rio Grande

1. Impervious surface/parking lot runoff
2. Municipal point source discharges
3. Urbanized high density areas
4. On-site treatment systems
5. Runoff from confined animal feeding operations (CAFO)
6. Rangeland grazing
7. Pet waste
8. Waterfowl waste
9. Wildlife waste, other than waterfowl

*See you next month!*

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Brian Hanson: [bhanson@nmda.nmsu.edu](mailto:bhanson@nmda.nmsu.edu) 575-646-2642 or cell at 505-235-0427

Chris Canavan: [chris.canavan@state.nm.us](mailto:chris.canavan@state.nm.us) 575-647-7926