

Paso del Norte

WATERSHED COUNCIL

Council Members

- City of Las Cruces
- El Paso League of Women Voters
- Frontera Land Alliance
- Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park
- New Mexico Department of Agriculture
- New Mexico State University
- New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute
- Rio Grande Council of Governments
- Rio Grande Restoration
- Southwest Environmental Center
- Texas AgriLife Research Center at El Paso
- Universidad Autonoma de Ciudad Juarez
- University of Texas at El Paso
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission
- Ysleta del Sur Pueblo



For more information about the Paso del Norte Watershed Council see our website: <http://www.pdnwc.org>

Paso del Norte

WATERSHED COUNCIL



Promoting **ecosystem health**,
resource preservation
and **economic sustainability**
in the Paso del Norte watershed

The Paso del Norte Watershed

The Paso del Norte Watershed extends along the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo from Elephant Butte Reservoir in New Mexico to the confluence of the Rio Conchos in Presidio, Texas. The watershed lies within the United States and Mexico and includes portions of the states of Texas, New Mexico, and Chihuahua. It contains towns and municipalities, serving over three million people and contains several irrigation districts with approximately 200,000 acres of water righted farmland. Average rainfall in the region is approximately eight inches per year. The primary surface and ground water resources in the watershed are the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo and the Hueco, Mesilla, and Jornada aquifers.

The Paso del Norte Watershed Council

The Paso del Norte Watershed Council (the Council) was established to investigate, develop and recommend options for watershed planning and management, and to explore how water-related resources can best be balanced to benefit the watershed ecosystem and the interests of all stakeholders. The Council is an alliance of private citizens, non-governmental organizations, representatives of federal, state, local and tribal governments and universities dedicated to providing an integrated vision for watershed management. Council members represent diverse regional interests and provide interdisciplinary expertise in many aspects of watershed and natural resource management. More information about the Council, including our membership application, can be found at www.pdnwc.org.



Map of the Paso del Norte Watershed area



Mission

The Council addresses issues related to the establishment and maintenance of a viable watershed, which includes promotion of projects to improve water quality and quantity, ecosystem integrity and economic sustainability in the Paso del Norte region. The Council provides an open and inclusive forum for communication, collaboration and innovative thinking concerning watershed issues for the benefit of agricultural, environmental and municipal interests.



Issues and Challenges

- Population growth and development
- Competing and increasing demands for water
- Water quality
- Nonpoint source pollution
- Soil erosion and sediment control
- Degraded aquatic and riparian habitats
- Stormwater management

Council Goals

- Promote and recommend watershed planning and management
- Support restoration and enhancement projects
- Facilitate communication among stakeholders and within the Council
- Provide education and outreach to the public and Council members
- Support efforts to monitor and improve water quality



Current Projects

U.S. EPA 319(h) Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant

The purpose of this grant is to develop a Watershed Based Plan in New Mexico for addressing and mitigating nonpoint source pollution in the northern portion of the Paso del Norte watershed. The grant supports a wide variety of activities including technical assistance, education and outreach, water quality monitoring, restoration planning, project implementation and monitoring. Support has been provided by the N.M. Department of Agriculture, N.M. Environment Department, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, New Mexico State University and the Elephant Butte Irrigation District.

Water Resources Database & GIS for Watershed Management

The Coordinated Water Resources Database and GIS is designed to coordinate, compile and provide timely Internet access to water resources information for use by water management organizations and stakeholders. It was developed by and continues to be refined



by the Council through the collaboration of university scientists, and cooperation of federal and state agencies, irrigation districts and water management and user organizations. Support has been provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Department of Agriculture, El Paso Water Utilities, Texas AgriLife Research and New Mexico State University.

River Basin Hydrologic Models for Flood Control Planning and Water Operations Planning

The River Basin Hydrologic Models have been developed as part of the Upper Rio Grande Water Operations Model (URGWOM) Project. The URGWOM is a model developed to simulate hydrologic processes and operations in the Rio Grande Basin (<http://www.spa.usace.army.mil/urgwom/default.asp>). The model development has been expanded to simulate the Rio Grande flows within the Paso del Norte Watershed for flood control and water operations planning. Support has been provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Texas AgriLife Research and New Mexico State University.