

**2004-2007 Strategic Plan
for the
Paso del Norte Watershed Council
(As Approved October 6, 2004)**

MISSION

The mission of the Paso del Norte Watershed Council (Council) is 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 Rio Grande ecosystem and the interests of all watershed stakeholders. The Council's focus is the Paso del Norte Watershed (Watershed), defined as the Rio Grande basin between Elephant Butte Dam/Reservoir in southern New Mexico and Fort Quitman, Hudspeth County, Texas. The Council provides an open forum for the encouragement and development of activities that promote a healthy watershed.

GOALS and OBJECTIVES

Seek and evaluate funding methods to attain the following goals and objectives plus Council administrative expenses:

- A. Promote watershed planning and management and provide recommendations**
 - 1. Identify water quality issues of salinity control and salinity management techniques.
 - 2. Compile existing information about natural resources.
 - 3. Develop modeling tools for Watershed planning and management.
 - 4. Provide official input to sponsors of activities that affect the Watershed and recommendations for watershed planning and management.

- B. Support restoration and enhancement projects in the Watershed**
 - 1. Create and prioritize recommendations for Watershed restoration and enhancement.
 - 2. Review, provide recommendations, and perform other tasks as authorized for restoration, mitigation, and enhancement projects related to the El Paso-Las Cruces Regional Sustainable Water Project or other regional watershed agencies or groups.

- C. Facilitate communication among stakeholders and within the Council**
 - 1. Provide opportunities for improving communication among Watershed stakeholders.
 - 2. Provide opportunities for improving communication among Council members.
 - 3. Provide opportunities for communication with watershed councils outside the region.

- D. Provide education and outreach to the public and to Council members**
 - 1. Develop a drought education program.
 - 2. Develop an agriculture outreach program.

Specific projects and activities with timelines to achieve these goals and objectives are provided in the Paso del Norte Watershed Council Business/Work Plan.