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## **Interstate Stream Commission Pecos Bureau is Awarded a Grant from U.S. Bureau of Reclamation**

**(SANTA FE, New Mexico)** – The New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission's Pecos Bureau is one of the first recipients of a grant from the U.S Bureau of Reclamation's *Water 2025 Challenge Grant Program for Western States*

On August 2, 2005, the grant was awarded to the bureau for the proposed project that will enable the Interstate Stream Commission to rehabilitate the USGS streamflow gage on the Pecos River at Red Bluff. Restoration of the gage will provide more accurate high streamflow measurements and improve site accessibility during high flow conditions. The Red Bluff gage is the index station for measuring flows delivered to Texas under the Pecos River Compact.

"The grant was awarded on the basis that the funds would be used to develop ground-breaking projects that reduce the likelihood of conflict over limited water supplies in the region," said Interstate Stream Commission Director Estevan Lopez. "Receipt of this grant is recognition of the great work that the Interstate Stream Commission is doing to improve water management in the State of New Mexico."

The project proposal, which was submitted by Pecos Bureau staff Dr. Ali Elhassan and Peter Burck, received one of the highest ratings among the seventeen western states that applied for the grant.

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The total project will cost \$146,660 with a U.S. Bureau of Reclamation contribution of \$59,480. The Interstate Stream Commission will use the funds to work jointly with U.S. Geological Survey to implement new technology at this site, which will improve the state's ability to comply with the Pecos Compact.

Additional information about the *Water 2025 Challenge Grant Program for Western States* can be obtained at: [www.doi.gov/water2025](http://www.doi.gov/water2025).

The Office of the State Engineer is charged with administering the state's water resources. The State Engineer has power over the supervision, measurement, appropriation, and distribution of all surface and groundwater in New Mexico, including streams and rivers that cross state boundaries. The State Engineer is also Secretary of the Interstate Stream Commission and oversees its staff.

The Interstate Stream Commission is charged with separate duties including protecting New Mexico's right to water under eight interstate stream compacts, ensuring the state complies with each of those compacts, as well as water planning.

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