



For immediate release:

November 16, 2007

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Kids In Discovery (KIDS) Booklet Released

(SANTA FE, New Mexico) -- The New Mexico Office of the State Engineer has released a new educational booklet titled, *Discover the Waters of New Mexico: Kids in Discovery Series* (KIDS). The free booklet is aimed at students eight to twelve years old and is now available through the Office of the State Engineer and our financial partners.

The goal of the booklet is to provide a complete picture of New Mexico's water. There are sections on water uses, water availability, water law, the history and culture of water in New Mexico, water distribution and treatment, nature's need for water, and water conservation.

The booklet can be used in the classroom or sent home with the students to share with their families.

Project WET, a national non-profit organization specializing in water education, was hired by the Office of the State Engineer to produce the booklet. Project WET worked with a leadership team comprised of Office of the State Engineer staff, teachers, utility companies, and other state agencies. The team worked together to develop activities, pilot-test the booklet in twelve classrooms, and secure drawings and photographs for the booklet.

"A review committee checked facts for accuracy and provided comments on design layout. It was a true statewide, multi-tiered approach," said Water Use and Conservation Bureau Chief John Longworth. "The result of the effort is a well-rounded, multi-faceted booklet."

(MORE)

The design approaches to each section are slightly varied to account for multiple learning styles as well as multiple subject matters. For example, maps and graphs contribute to the logic and math skill sets, water stories present content on history and social issues, and various games address interpersonal or intrapersonal skills, depending on the teachers' needs. The final layout of the booklet expands on the knowledge gained and sets the students on a path of action through water conservation.

Financial partners of the Office of the State Engineer in this effort include: Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority, the County of Los Alamos, the cities of Santa Fe, Rio Rancho and Gallup, New Mexico State University Water Resources and Research Institute, and New Mexico Water Conservation Alliance.

To order free copies of *Discover the Waters of New Mexico: Kids in Discovery Series* (KIDS), please contact your local sponsor or the Office of the State Engineer. The NMOSE orders can be placed through 1-800-WATERNM or e-mail waternm@state.nm.us. Please leave name, mailing address, phone number and number of booklets desired.

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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