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Interstate Stream Commission Hires New Pecos Bureau Chief

(SANTA FE, New Mexico) – The New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission has hired **Greg Lewis** to be the new Pecos Bureau Chief following the retirement of Dr. Bhasker Rao at the end of March.

Lewis has experience working on water-resource issues, primarily in New Mexico, for more than 20 years. He has been at the Interstate Stream Commission as the Lower Rio Grande Basin Manager for five and a half years. Lewis served as a Division Director at the New Mexico Environment Department from 1999 to 2002. Previously, he spent 10 years as a hydrologist and technical manager in private consulting. Lewis began his water-resource career as a hydrologist with the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Division in 1985.

Lewis will be responsible for managing all aspects of bureau operations, including the Pecos River Compact accounting, implementing the terms of the Pecos Settlement, working with the Bureau of Reclamation to ensure that the terms of the Biological Opinion for the Pecos bluntnose shiner are complied with, and supervising Bureau staff.

"Dr. Rao has done an extraordinary job of managing the Interstate Stream Commission's efforts in the Pecos Basin," said the Interstate Stream Commission Director Estevan López. "Still, many challenges remain ahead. I look forward to working with Greg in his new capacity as Pecos Bureau Chief to meet the challenges we face. Greg brings extensive management and technical expertise to the Bureau, and I am confident he will excel in his new role."

Lewis possesses a Bachelor of Arts degree in geology from the University of California at Santa Barbara, and a Master of Science degree in hydrology from New Mexico Tech in Socorro.

(MORE)

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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