



**For immediate release:**

September 16, 2009

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## **Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program Open House Planned for September**

**(ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico)** – The Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program invites students, families and nature enthusiasts of all ages to learn and create together at an Open House on Friday and Saturday, September 25 and 26, 2009. The Open House will be held at the Rio Grande Nature Center at 2901 Candelaria Rd NW in Albuquerque from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm each day.

“The Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program recognizes how valuable our young people are and we wanted to create a fun and informative way to teach them about endangered species,” said Executive Committee Chair Estevan López.

There will be poem-writing and art-making areas throughout the open house. The homemade art can be taken home and shared with family and friends.

Nature walks will be conducted for participants to learn about the Rio Grande silvery minnow and the southwestern willow flycatcher and steps that are being taken to preserve and improve their environments.

Posters will be on display to inform participants of the completed projects and ongoing efforts of the Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program and representatives will be on duty to answer questions.

Visitors to the open house are encouraged to bring cameras.

For more information about the open house, please contact Bureau of Reclamation Public Affairs Specialist Mary Carlson at (505) 462-3576 or Interstate Stream Commission Public Relations Specialist Julie Maas (505) 765-2011.

*The Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program is organized to protect and improve the status of endangered species along the Middle Rio Grande of the New Mexico while simultaneously protecting existing and future regional water uses. Two species of particular concern are the Rio Grande silvery minnow and the southwestern willow flycatcher.*

*This partnership involves 20 current signatories of federal, state, and local governmental entities, Indian Tribes and Pueblos, and non-governmental organizations.*

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