



For immediate release:

February 4, 2010

For more information, contact:

Julie Maas, Public Relations Specialist
(505) 383-4095

Award Presented to the Interstate Stream Commission/ Roswell District Office of the State Engineer

(ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico) – The Interstate Stream Commission Pecos Bureau and the Office of the State Engineer District II-Roswell office staff were recipients of the Bureau of Reclamation's 2009 John W. Keys III Award. The awards are in recognition of efforts to promote cooperative partnerships aimed at conserving and improving water resources.

The award was established to recognize employees and nongovernmental customers and stakeholders that make exceptional contributions in building partnerships and strengthening relationships. Overall, this award recognizes outstanding business practices, communication, collaboration, and partnering achievement.

Bureau of Reclamation Deputy Area Manager Lisa Croft and Water Management Division Manager Leann Towne explained that the John W. Keys III Award nomination was for collaborative brainstorming, creative thinking, long hours, and immediate response put forth to find a solution that prevented the Pecos River from going intermittent during the summer of 2009. Also, Collaborative efforts between the Bureau of Reclamation, Office of the State Engineer/Interstate Stream Commission, Carlsbad Irrigation District, and Fort Sumner Irrigation District, improved communications in the Pecos Basin and fostered great working relationships for the greater good of all stakeholders and has provided not only a short-term solution for water needs on the Pecos, but a long-term solution as well.

Towne and Bureau of Reclamation Civil Engineer Todd Tillman presented the award plaques at the Interstate Stream Commission's meeting in Albuquerque on December 16, 2009.

The award honors the memory of former Reclamation Commissioner John W. Keys III who lost his life in a plane crash on May 30, 2008. Keys was well respected for his 36 years of federal service that focused on finding solutions to the complex issues involving managing water resources. Prior to serving as Commissioner, he was the Regional Director of Reclamation's Pacific Northwest Region for many years.

Photos of the award ceremony are available upon request.

(MORE)

The Office of the State Engineer is charged with administering the state's water resources. The State Engineer has the responsibility to allocate, measure, administer, and oversee the 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.

The nine-member 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.

#