



For immediate release:

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NM Interstate Stream Commission to Hold Listening Sessions for a Groundwater Conservation Pilot Program

(LAS CRUCES, New Mexico) – The New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission (NMISC), in cooperation with New Mexico First, will be holding Listening Sessions for an upcoming grant opportunity as part of its Groundwater Conservation Pilot Program (Program) in the Lower Rio Grande. The NMISC is interested in receiving input on the proposed grant Program, which is focused on the conservation of groundwater. Program participants will be awarded grant funds to temporarily stop the use of groundwater so that impact to regional aquifers can be assessed.

“This Groundwater Conservation Pilot Program will assist the State of New Mexico and water right owners to better understand the physical impacts of reduced groundwater pumping. This Program is essential for the future management of the aquifers in the Lower Rio Grande at sustainable levels,” said State Engineer John D’Antonio.

The 2020 State Legislature appropriated \$7 million for the NMISC to develop and fund a Water Management Pilot Project for the Lower Rio Grande for fiscal years 2020 through 2023.

To be eligible for the grant Program, a parcel must be at least 10 acres in size (partial parcels are acceptable) and must have groundwater rights. The parcel must have been irrigated with groundwater only or groundwater and surface water at least four out of the past five years and must satisfy other due diligence contingencies determined by the NMISC.

Applicants may apply for grants in the following five price tiers: \$400/acre, \$500/acre, \$600/acre, \$700/acre or \$800/acre. Applications in the tiers with a lower price per acre will be prioritized over those with a higher proposed price per acre.

New Mexico First will be hosting three online Listening Sessions to answer questions and to gather public input about the program. Potential participants should **SAVE THESE DATES:**

- **Tuesday, October 27, 2020 from Noon – 1:00 p.m.**
- **Tuesday, October 27, 2020 from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.**
- **Thursday, October 29, 2020 from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.**

(MORE)

The public can register for one of these sessions at:
<https://nmf-ose-listening-sessioneventbrite.com>

For more information about the listening session, contact:

Info@NMFirst.org

505.238.9579

More information is also available on the NMISC website at:
<https://www.ose.state.nm.us/LRGPilot/>

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.

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 investigating, conserving and protecting the waters of the State, in addition to water planning.



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