



## A Century of Service to New Mexico is Celebrated

At a news conference held on January 3 to celebrate "A Century of Service to New Mexico," State Engineer John D'Antonio said the negotiation and execution of interstate stream compacts, the many years that Steve Reynolds served as the New Mexico State Engineer, and the adoption of rules and regulations for the Active Water Resource Management initiative are key milestones in effective water management in New Mexico.



John D'Antonio speaks in front of a backdrop of award-winning student posters related to conservation of water at a press conference commemorating 100 years of effective water management in New Mexico.

Lt. Governor Diane Denish, Interstate Stream Commissioners, as well as the Chairman of the All Indian Pueblo Council were present for the ceremonies in Albuquerque. "Today the most important initiative we have is Active Water Resource Management, which will give us the tools to manage highly variable water supplies," said D'Antonio. "In coming years, we also hope to make progress in implementing Indian water rights settlements and the regionalization of water projects." During the news conference an

updated logo for the agency was presented that features the year



Lt. Governor Diane Denish makes remarks at the news conference.

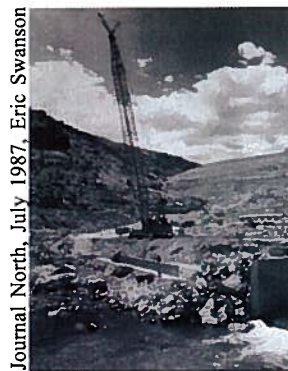
when the territorial water code was enacted -- in 1907-- as well as the current year -- 2007. Then a proclamation signed by Governor Bill Richardson was read by the Governor's Planning and Policy Director Bill Hume to kick off the Century of Service activities for the coming year. ♦

## A Hundred Years of Service: A Retrospective Look

by Martha Franks

One hundred years ago, in 1907, the Territorial Legislature of New Mexico passed New Mexico's Territorial Water Code. This visionary law assigned to courts the task of adjudicating New Mexico's water rights, and created the office of the Territorial Engineer to have general supervision over the measurement, appropriation and distribution of New Mexico's water.

When New Mexico became a state in 1912, the new constitution adopted the water doctrine of prior appropriation that is embodied in the Code and, through Article XXII, Section 4, made the Territorial Water Code the State



Workmen at Abiquiu Dam during construction.



Abiquiu Dam completed

Water Code. In the century that has followed, New Mexico's water history has included the creation of water projects, the establishment of water compacts between New

Mexico and its neighbors, floods, droughts, new hydrologic insights, negotiations with Native American groups, lawsuits over the claims of endangered species, and a commitment to an approach to water management that preserves water rights while also allowing for growth and change in the state. The foresight shown by the creators of the 1907 Water Code, together with the continuing work of many New Mexico citizens over the last hundred years, has given us the framework through which that challenge can be met.

In the early part of the century, (continued on page 3)

# Field Trip to View River Habitat Restoration

by Anders Lundahl

In early December, Anders Lundahl, Amy Louise, and Douglas Tave of the Interstate Stream Commission Rio Grande Bureau participated in a field trip to view a habitat restoration project by the



Amy Louise, Douglas Tave and Anders Lundahl during a river habitat restoration field trip.

Bureau of Reclamation. The project involves the strategic modification of a point bar, a geomor-

phic river feature, intended to create improved habitat to benefit the Rio Grande silvery minnow. The project design included multiple restoration techniques. High flow channels were cut through the point bar to produce additional channel habitat and large shelves were excavated to encourage overbank flooding at lower river stages. Berms were constructed with the excavated materials to encourage sediment redistribution. Native vegetation was planted in an attempt to discour-



Interstate Stream Commission staff members join with Bureau of Reclamation, City of Albuquerque, and New Mexico Game and Fish employees to view habitat restoration.

age invasive species encroachment. Monitoring the effects of this project, as well as the restoration projects being conducted by the Interstate Stream Commission in Albuquerque, will indicate the most effective techniques for improving the river's ecosystem. ♠

## Refugium Manager Hired



**Douglas Tave**, Ph.D, an aquaculturist since 1975, has been hired as the manager of the new Los Lunas Silvery

Minnow Refugium.

This cutting-edge facility will help protect the Rio Grande silvery minnow from extinction by providing a place for the fish to spawn and grow in captivity in an environment that closely resembles its natural habitat.

Fish produced at the refugium will be stocked into the Rio Grande and will recolonize stretches of the river where the fish no longer exist. If successful, the program will enable the silvery minnow to recover so that it can be removed from the endangered species list.

The new facility groundbreaking is scheduled for April 12, 2007. ♠

## Lower Rio Grande Listening Sessions

The State Engineer held several listening sessions throughout the Lower Rio Grande basin. The purpose was to obtain public input on water issues including the Active Water Resource Management initiative. The listening sessions will help the agency better understand the needs of the community associated with water management in the Lower Rio Grande.

The sessions were held March 13, 14, and 15 in Sunland Park, Elephant Butte State Park, and Las Cruces, respectively.

A series of public workshops is also planned to educate the public about water issues in the Lower Rio Grande in similar locations April 23, 24 and 25. For more information go to [www.ose.state.nm.us](http://www.ose.state.nm.us) and click on "Lower Rio Grande Public Outreach" under "Hot Topics". ♠

## Irrigation Maintenance DVD Now Available

An instructional DVD called "Irrigation 101" is now available from the Water Use and Conservation Bureau for government employees who are responsible for maintaining public landscapes.



Training for state and city workers currently happens on the job and is not uniform. "Irrigation 101" provides standardized information about effective irrigation techniques that will help conserve water resources.

A collaborative effort with the Office of the State Engineer, City of Santa Fe and the Film Technician's training program at Santa Fe Community College, "Irrigation 101" can be obtained by visiting the website at [www.ose.state.nm.us](http://www.ose.state.nm.us).

For more information, or to receive a free copy, contact Patti Bushee at (505) 827-3838. ♠

# The Santa Fe Children's Water Festival

The Santa Fe Children's Water Festival on February 7 and 8 provided a fun and interactive atmosphere for fourth-grade students and their teachers to learn about water and its relationship to humans and the earth's natural resources.

The Santa Fe Children's Water Festival provided hands-on learning activities that incorporated water science, history, geography, and the future of water. Students tested their water knowledge in lively games of Water Jeopardy, experienced the perils and challenges in the life of the Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout, and learned how to determine the purity of a stream by identifying which "bugs" live there. They gained appreciation for running water as they hauled enough gallons to flush the toilet or brush their teeth. They learned how native vegetation along the river's edge keeps the water

cleaner. Most importantly, they learned how they can take action to conserve.

Funders and volunteers, many from the Office of the State Engineer, made the event possible, which was held at the Santa Fe Community College.

Howard Pakin, Property Manager and Safety Officer of the Office of the State Engineer was one such volunteer this year. He donned the colorful blue and aqua robe and conical wizard hat decorated with water drops rather than the usual wizardly star and moon shapes. He took on his role guiding the children through the hallways from one classroom session to another with enthusiasm, pointing the way with his official magic wand, quizzing the students with water-related questions along the way.



Howard Pakin, Property Manager and Safety Officer for the Office of the State Engineer, made a guest appearance as The Water Wizard at the Santa Fe Children's Water Festival.

"What a thrill it was to see these kids so excited about participating in these water activities," said Pakin. "Early education and involvement with water issues is definitely the way to go." 💧

*(A Hundred Years of Service -- continued from page 1)*

the milestones of water history evolved around creating the physical and legal infrastructure through which water could reach an efficient use. Irrigation projects on both the Rio Grande and Pecos Rivers were built, and compacts among New Mexico and its neighboring states were negotiated. A groundwater code was added to the State Water Code, and the State Engineer's authority to regulate groundwater was affirmed. The Interstate Stream Commission was created to investigate, protect, conserve and develop New Mexico's waters.

The mid-century was marked by natural events that showed the power and importance of water. The massive floods of 1941 brought forward a need to improve the science of flood management. This was followed by severe droughts in the 1950s, which, together with advances in pumping technology, created a new emphasis on groundwater use.

These experiences, and New Mexico's continuing growth, stepped up interest in both the adjudication

and the administration of water through the State Water Code. Adjudication lawsuits were filed on various rivers throughout the state. At the same time, State Engineer Steve Reynolds asserted the administrative authority to recognize the hydrologic reality that ground and surface water were interconnected, and should be conjunctively managed whether or not an adjudication of the water rights involved had been completed. After a hard legal fight, the New Mexico Supreme Court agreed, and a new era of water administration began.

The last part of the century has seen demands for water increase greatly, giving rise to conflict. Lawsuits under New Mexico's compacts have been filed, such as the one by the State of Texas claiming that New Mexico had under-delivered under the Pecos River Compact. In addition, through the adjudication lawsuits, many claims to water have been asserted, including, for example, the claims of Native American groups. Environmental groups have sued to make sure that

water would be available to preserve endangered species in New Mexico's rivers and wetlands.

Recently, these calls on New Mexico's water have been addressed through a program of planning, negotiation and compromise. A coalition of interested people throughout the state came together in 2003 to create the State Water Plan to set priorities for water and to ensure that all voices were heard. New Mexico can now point to a proud tradition of settlement of water issues. The Pecos River settlement was recently upheld by the New Mexico Court of Appeals. A variety of Native American water rights settlements have been signed and await ratification. Extensive work was done to bring interested parties together to protect New Mexico's environment without interfering with established water rights.

New Mexico's water future is best assured by learning from all of the experiences of the last century and listening to the voices of all the stakeholders. 💧

## "The Year of Water" is Recognized at the State Legislature

"Celebrating a Century of Service to New Mexico" was the theme of booths manned by staff from the Office of the State Engineer and Interstate Stream Commission to celebrate "The Year of Water" proclaimed by Governor Bill Richardson during the 2007 State



Office of the State Engineer employees Mike Recker of the Hydrographic Survey Bureau and Marilyn Lopez of the Water Use and Conservation Bureau answer a question of a visitor to the booth at Earth Science Day at the Legislature.

Legislative Session in Santa Fe.

Hundreds of visitors to the Roundhouse enjoyed the informational displays and handouts set up for "Environment Day at the Legislature," which was on January 22, and for "Earth Science Day," which was celebrated on January 26.

The agency's Native American Water Liaison Myron Armijo assisted the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department with "Indian Day at the Legislature" on February 2. All 22 nations, tribes, and pueblos were honored with either a ceremonial water jar or certificate from the State of New Mexico recognizing their progress made on water issues, especially three Native American water settlements, over the past year. The three settlements involve the Navajo Nation and the Pueblo of Taos as well as the Aamodt Settle-



Native American Water Liaison Myron Armijo presents a ceremonial water jar to Governor George Rivera in his office at the Pueblo of Pojoaque for Indian Day at the Legislature.

ment (which involves the Pueblos of Nambé, Pojoache, Tesuque and San Idelfonso). All are awaiting federal authorizing legislation and implementation funding.

"Rio Grande Day at the Legislature" was celebrated March 10 to highlight the need for conservation and restoration of our state's river ecosystems. 💧

### Water Wise Community Brief



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