

Bureau of Reclamation
WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management
Grant Proposal FY-2016

Upper Rio Grande Watershed District-
Watershed Group Development



Submitted by

Jessica Johnston, Project Manager

Upper Rio Grande Watershed District

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2. Background Data

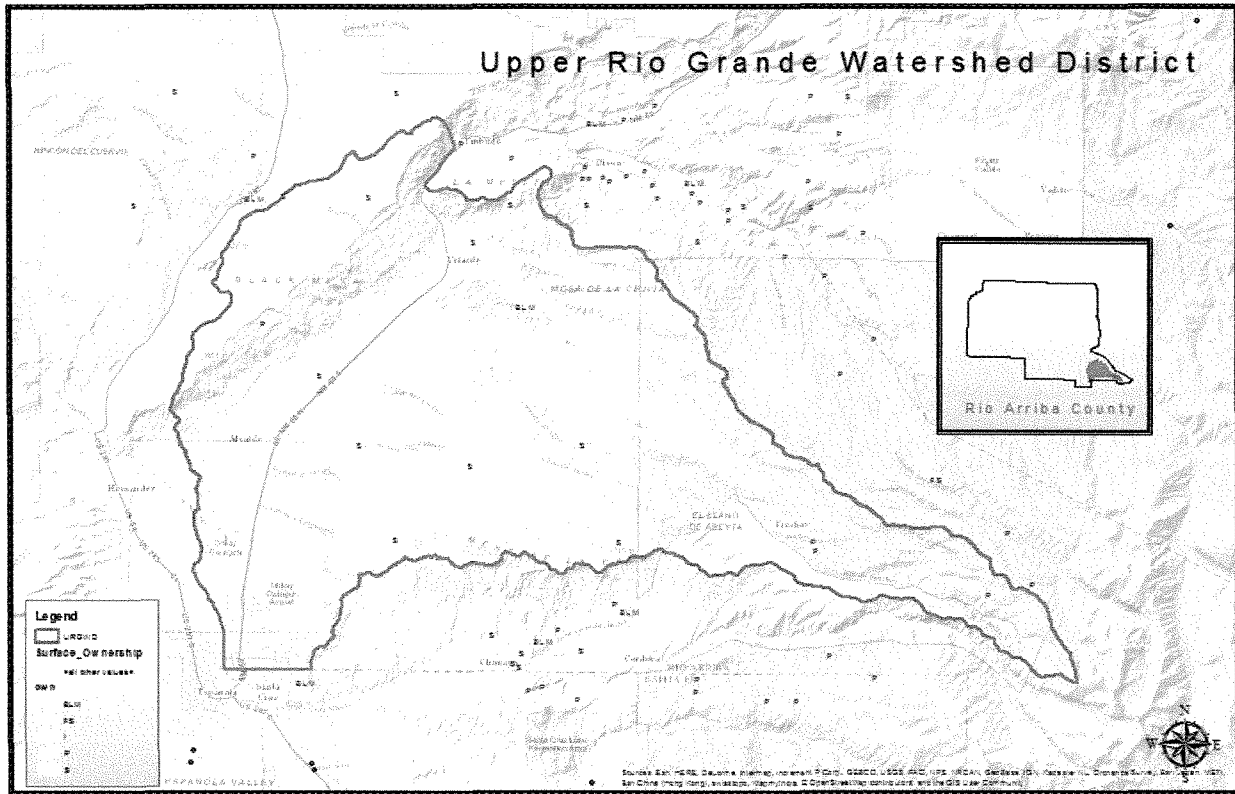


Figure 1 Map of URGWD Boundary

The Upper Rio Grande Watershed District is located in within Rio Arriba County, New Mexico. The District begins in the town of Espanola, just south of the confluence with the Rio Chama. It includes an approximately 15-mile segment of the Rio Grande, that ends at the Rio Grande gorge. The District covers approximately 161 square miles.

The project area is multi-jurisdictional land base including US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, State, Pueblo and private lands. Land uses within the district boundary include Urban, Rural, Agricultural, Rangeland and Forest.

Surface water irrigation within the District is diverted from the Rio Grande, the Rio Chama and the Rio Santa Cruz via the Santa Cruz Dam. There is approximately 10,000 acres of irrigated land in the district, or 30,000 acre feet of surface water rights. Water right seniority dates vary between 1698 and 1730. Irrigation is managed locally through irrigation districts and acequias.

The Espanola Basin provides the ground water resources throughout the District. Domestic wells supply the majority of the drinking water. It is approximated that there are 3,000 domestic wells in the District.

There is a well-documented interaction between the surface water and ground water resources in this valley. The arroyos, acequias and rivers lose water to the aquifer and replenish the local ground water resources.

The watershed ranges in elevation from 11,600 ft. to around 5,000 ft., mixed Conifer forests are found only in the highest elevations of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains to the East. Ponderosa Pine forests are found between elevations of 7,000 and 11,600 feet. Piñon and Juniper woodlands are found between elevations of 5,000 and 7,000 feet. Agricultural lands including pasture, row crops, orchards and riparian bosque are found at lowest elevations of the watershed, along the river valley.

This valley was once part of the Sebastian Martin Land Grant, a Spanish land grant that was eventually converted to public and private lands. The area has a rich cultural history, the Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo has been continually settled since approximately 1,300 AD, and the first Spanish settlement and capital of the New World "San Gabriel" was established in 1598. This fertile river valley has been cultivated and sustained life for centuries and is still an important agricultural land base.

The district is home to valuable riparian and wetland areas. This area is designated as critical habitat for the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and is identified as an important birding area. The valley is also potential habitat for federally threatened meadow jumping mouse, and a breeding range for federal species of concern the Yellow-Billed Cuckoo. The Bald Eagle also inhabits the area.

Sediment and erosion have been an issue in this stretch of the Rio Grande for some time. There are multiple large arroyos that originate to the East of the Rio Grande in the USFS lands, as these arroyos reach the BLM lands, the highly erodible soils are literally being washed away and the sediments are being deposited into the Rio Grande and the valley lands. There is evidence

of conservation work being done to curb some of the erosion by the conservation corps in the 1940's including small rock dams and contour terracing.

This area of the Rio Grande was channelized in 1952 by the Bureau of Reclamation. In many areas, the river is completely separated from the floodplain, and in other areas, it has been completely blocked from the floodplain by a large berm. The bosque has suffered a lack of water from periodic flooding events and riparian ecosystem has been altered, and subsequently inundated by a large number of invasive species, including salt cedar.

In 1962, the community formed the URGWD to respond to repeated flooding and sediment damages to agricultural lands and irrigation infrastructure. A preliminary investigation report was completed by the Soil Conservation Service to determine the nature and extent of the watershed problems, the works of improvements that had been installed and the additional works of improvement necessary to fulfill the objectives and desires of the local people.

In 1967, a work plan for Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Sebastian Martin- Black Mesa Watershed was prepared by the East Rio Arriba Soil and Water Conservation District and the URGWD with assistance from the USFS and the BLM. The work plan was the product of extensive investigations of the watershed. The recommendations included many structural and non-structural measures including an extensive list of land improvements to reduce sediment detachment and transport into the Rio Grande.

Of the recommended projects, seven large floodwater retarding structures were built and are currently maintained by the URGWD. These structure hold back sediment and flood waters from the valley below. Six of the structures are on the West side of the Rio Grande, one is on the East side. It is unclear why the other structural and non-structural measures were not implemented.

3. Technical Project Description

3.1 Description of Applicant

The Upper Rio Grande Watershed District will create a watershed group that will be comprised of representatives of the affected stakeholders within the watershed and will incorporate the perspectives of a diverse array of stakeholders including livestock production, land development, recreation, irrigated agriculture production, environmental interests, private property owners, mutual domestics, waste water organizations, any Federal, State or local agency that has authority with respect to the watershed, any Indian tribe who owns land in the watershed

The watershed group will be a grassroots non regulatory entity that addresses water availability and water quality issues within the relevant watershed and makes decisions on a consensus basis.

3.2 Eligibility of Applicant

The Upper Rio Grande Watershed District is an eligible applicant for *establishment of a watershed group* as a special district. The District was formed with the purpose of developing and executing plans and programs relating to any phase of conservation of water, or of water usage, including water-based recreation, flood prevention, flood control, erosion prevention and control of erosion, and floodwater and sediment damages.

The District is significantly affected by the quantity and quality of water in the watershed, is capable of promoting sustainable use of water and is located within the western United States in the State of New Mexico.

The Upper Rio Grande Watershed district was created in 1962, by landowners in the areas to address ongoing flooding and erosion issues that were damaging farmlands and the irrigation systems. The flooding that has continually plagued this community is now flooding homes and

causing severe damages to infrastructure. The District has responded to these issues by creating a watershed improvement project to begin to address the issues that are causing multiple and critical problems in the valley.

3.3 Goals

The District seeks to establish a watershed group to integrate Federal, State and local land and water management agencies with the representatives of *acequias* (irrigated agriculture), ranchers, landowners and other interests in the watershed.

The District seeks to create a watershed group that can create consensus and build on commonalities to promote watershed health through a shared interest.

The District seeks to create a watershed restoration plan to address ecological resiliency in the face of drought and climate change.

The District seeks to create a defined and realistic roadmap to describe how these plans are put into action.

3.4 Approach

The District will use the following approaches to address each objective;

- Conducting outreach to establish watershed group including efforts to ensure diversity of the group

We will engage the public by reaching out to the acequia commissions, mutual domestics, land owners, ranchers and other interested parties within the watershed.

We will create a brochure about the project and send out a biannual newsletter to update residents within the District of our activities. We will create a simple webpage for sharing information. We will create a presentation about the project and present when requested at other events. We will attend agency stakeholder meetings to promote collaboration. We will

announce activities by posting flyers, maintaining an email list serve and publishing notifications in the Rio Grande Sun.

Sharing information and knowledge promotes understanding and builds consensus.

Empowering stakeholders with the information and the resources they need to make their own decisions on community watershed management issues will lead to successful long term and well supported projects, **this is the most critical element of the project**. The stakeholders have a vested interest in this watershed and the success of this project. The land and water resources provide the social, cultural and economic fabric of this community.

- Developing a mission statement

The watershed group coordinator will assist the group in forming a mission statement to set the intent and guide the actions of the group into the future.

- Identifying problem and needs in the watershed

We will review and summarize any currently available data or previous studies to assist in identifying and locating critical issues within the watershed.

We will complete site visits with the stakeholders; those having an intimate relationship with their landscape will likely already know where the areas of concerns are located.

We will conduct field visits to ground truth, document and locate problem areas. We will document problem areas with photographs, a GPS location, and by taking a measurement if possible ie. headcut, or estimating the size of the problem area, acres of eroded rangeland, or miles of denuded riparian area.

- Developing a watershed restoration plan, including establishing goals and identifying and evaluating potential watershed management projects

Planning meetings will be held quarterly at a location within the District. We anticipate having selected speakers who can share ideas, techniques and experiences with the group. The presentations will be decided by the needs of the group. Project participants will actively participate in the planning process

The process used to identify the most appropriate management measures will be a multi-step process that will include a systematic review of each option by reviewing each of the following factors; which measures have been implemented in the watershed previously, what is the effectiveness of the previously used measures, is the measure socially acceptable based on willingness of individual stakeholders to implement, the financial and technical difficulty of selected measure, the estimated load reduction, the ease of installation and maintenance, the applicability to the landscape and legal or regulatory issues on Federal or State owned lands.

The stakeholders and technical specialists will work together to estimate the costs and technical needs of implementation of the selected watershed management measures. As part of the project, the amounts of financial assistance, special equipment and/or specialized assistance needed will be included in the plan.

The watershed group will develop a schedule for implementing the selected management measures based on funding availability, project timeframe, technical support needed and project prioritization.

- Approximate time for implementing the following 4 activities
 1. Establishment of a watershed group – Completed by March 01, 2017
 2. Development of a mission statement for the group- Completed by March 01, 2017
 3. Development of watershed management project concepts- Completed by January 01, 2018
 4. Development of a watershed restoration plan- Completed by August 01, 2018

- Final report

The District will create a final report that will demonstrate successful completion of the following; establishment of a watershed group, development of a mission statement for the group, development of watershed management project concepts and development of a watershed restoration plan.

The timeframe for this project is 2 years and estimated completion date of the project is September 30, 2018.

4. Evaluation Criteria

A. Watershed Group Diversity and Geographic Scope

A 1. Watershed Group Diversity

Description of affected stakeholders that could be involved

The following affected stakeholders could be involved with the watershed group; local irrigation cooperatives, acequias, farmers, private landowners, livestock producers, civic groups, mutual domestics and waste water organizations. All Federal, State and local land management and regulatory agencies that have a stake in the watershed.

Description of affected stakeholders that support the project

The District has established a Watershed Improvement and Flood Mitigation Interagency Task Force. This Task Force is made up of Federal, State and local agencies, the Task Force began meeting in June of 2015 and has continued to meet quarterly. Several members of this task force have pledged their support and offered donation of outreach services, technical assistance and meeting space.

A2. Geographic Scope

The Upper Rio Grande Watershed District is located within the HUC 8- Upper Rio Grande Watershed – 13020101. The District boundaries cover the following 12 digit HUC's;

Rio Truchas-Rio Grande 30,131 acres- 130201011104

Rio Truchas 21,503 acres - 130201011103

Arroyo Palacio-Rio Grande 35,053 acres -130201011105

Part of Rio Chama- Rio Grande 31,509 acres -130201011107

The limited size of this watershed will allow for maximum and effective participation.

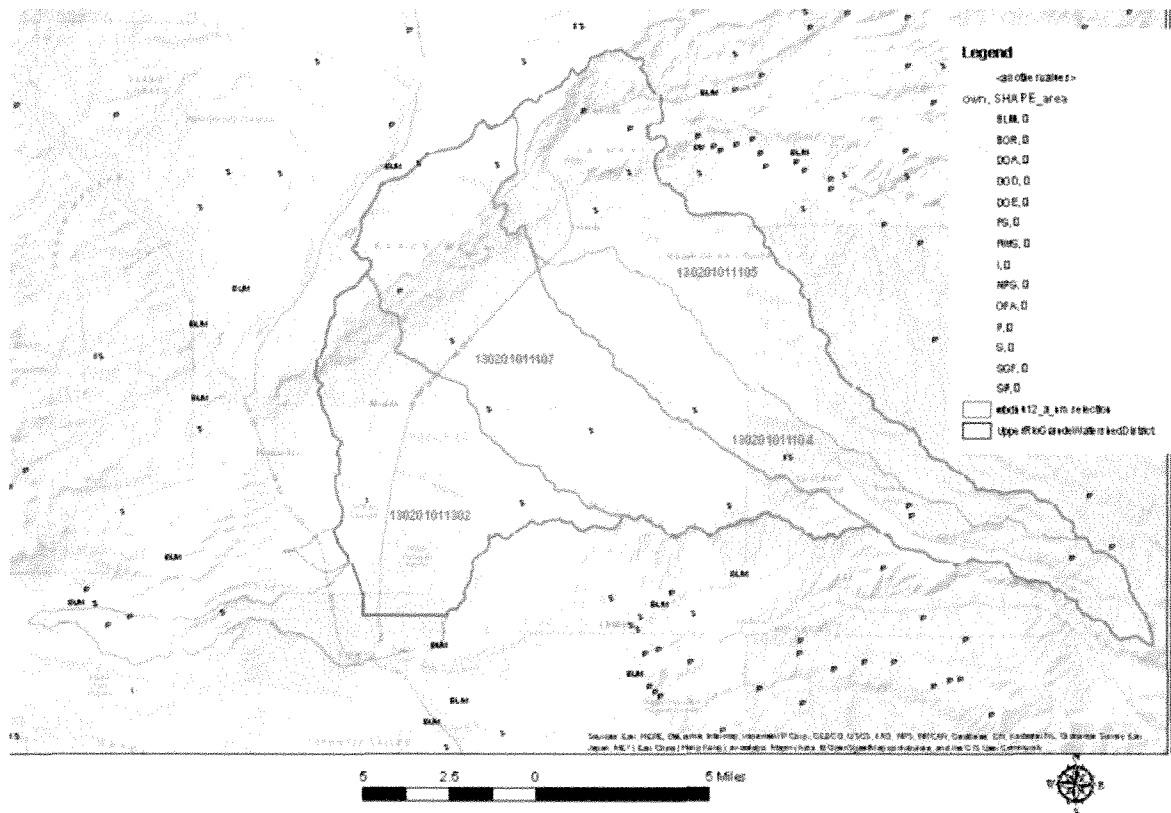


Figure 2 Map of URGWD HUC 12

B. Addressing Critical Needs in the Watershed

B1. Critical Needs Within the Watershed

Flooding and Erosion- This valley has been experiencing ongoing flooding events that occur during monsoon season. Intense Summer storms in the higher elevations of the watershed drain storm waters through multiple large arroyos that bisect roadways and other infrastructure. The storm water carries sediments that deposit into the Rio Grande. These events are causing property and infrastructure damages, as well as causing environmental damages.

Water Quality - The Rio Grande (Ohkay Owingeh bound to Embudo Creek) NM-2111_10 is currently listed on the NMED 2014-2016 Clean Water Act Integrated 303(d)/305(b) List of Assessed Surface Waters. The 303(d) list identified the Rio Grande as impaired by turbidity. Supported designated uses include irrigation, livestock watering, primary contact and wildlife habitat; unsupported uses are marginal high quality coldwater aquatic life and warmwater aquatic life. According to the 2005 TMDL, for the Upper Rio Grande Watershed, probable sources of impairment include Loss of Riparian Habitat, Natural Sources, Highway/Road/Bridge Runoff (non-construction related), Irrigated Crop Production and Rangeland Grazing.

Endangered Species – As mentioned previously, the watershed is home to several threatened and endangered species. Maintaining high quality habitat can benefit multiple environmental objectives within the watershed and will promote ecological resilience.

Wetlands and Riparian Systems- Alteration of the original river channel has caused severe degradation of the streambanks, uneven distribution of the water's energy flow, and loss of riparian vegetation. Extensive study of the river channel needs to be done in order to determine the possibility of restoration of river hydrology. The introduction of invasive species, many as a means of erosion control, has severely degraded the function of wetland and riparian areas. Invasive species alter the makeup of the soils, increase the risk of wildfire, choke native species, provide poor habitat, and are difficult to remove or control effectively.

Range Conditions- Unrestricted access to the rangeland including excessive Off Road Vehicle (ORV) use has damaged the vegetative cover on the range lands. Many of the roads in the area are badly deteriorated and contributing to erosion problems. There are also several illegal dump sites. The rangeland is in need of management projects such as brush control, water sources, erosion control, water sources and fencing.

Forest Conditions- The forests in the watershed are in similar condition to many forests in the Southwest. After many years of fire suppression, the forests are overgrown and when coupled with the ongoing drought they have become a major fire hazard. Thinning and prescribe burns will be necessary to restore the forests to their normal condition.

B2. How Will the Watershed Group Address the Critical Issues?

The watershed has a broad and complicated set of issues that cross jurisdiction and regulatory boundaries. There is not any one agency that can solve these problems independently. Many land managers and landowners are making efforts independent of the holistic interaction of elements within the watershed, many of the efforts brought forth only are reactive to emergency situations that are symptomatic issues of larger watershed conditions. It is imperative that all of the stakeholders participate in a coordinated fashion in order to meet the multiple objective nature of the watershed improvement program.

Developing a watershed group and a restoration plan will create communication between all of the affected parties. It will allow us to build consensus on the priority of the needed restoration projects and leverage our resources and collective capacity to solve the critical issues.

C. Implementation and Results

C1. Understanding and ability to meet program requirements

Project Tasks	Milestones	Costs	Dates
Conducting outreach to establish watershed group	Establishment of watershed group - completed mission statement	\$9,000	March 01, 2017
Identifying problem and needs in the watershed	Needs and problems with maps -section of watershed plan	\$9,000	July 01, 2017
Developing a watershed restoration plan	Watershed restoration concepts-section of watershed plan	\$9,000	January 01, 2018
Developing a watershed restoration plan	Cost and technical assistance associated with each concept-section of watershed plan	\$9,000	April 01, 2018
Developing a watershed restoration plan	An implementation schedule- section of watershed plan	\$9,000	July 01, 2018
Project and fiscal reporting	Quarterly and final report	\$5,000	Each quarter, and final- September 2018

An estimated schedule of tasks, milestones, costs and dates.

The District will not contribute cost share to this proposal because it is not required. There will be various voluntary non-documented contributions from partnerships with Federal, State and local agencies. Their time and specialized expertise will be contributed towards the formation of the watershed restoration plan.

We do not anticipate any problems or major difficulties in accomplishing the work in this proposal.

Previous activities that relate to implementing the proposed scope of work- The URGWD has organized an Interagency Task Force to address watershed improvements and flood control issues. The URGWD Task force has met throughout 2015 to identify the main issues within the watershed and discuss collaborative measures that can be taken to improve watershed conditions. Current members on the Task Force include; East Rio Arriba Soil and Water Conservation District, USDA NRCS Espanola, Bureau of Land Management, USFS Camino Real and Espanola Districts, NM Department of Transportation, NM Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, US Army Corp of Engineers, NM Environment Department, NM State Lands Office, Pueblo of Ohkay Owingeh, NMSU Agricultural Science Center, New Mexico Department of Agriculture, US Partners for Fish and Wildlife, US Bureau of Reclamation, Rio Arriba County- Planning and Zoning, Emergency Management, Public Works and Assessors Office.

C2. Building on relevant plans

The watershed restoration plan will build on previous studies in watershed planning and will complement existing plans. The following planning documents address watershed health and flood conditions within the project area;

Rio Arriba County Comprehensive Plan, 2014

Upper Rio Grande Watershed Management Plan, 2007

Alcalde/Velarde Wetlands and Riparian Management Plan, 2011

Rio Arriba County Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2015

New Mexico Environment Department -TMDL Upper Rio Grande, 2005

D. Building Resiliency to Drought

Northern New Mexico and specifically Rio Arriba County has consistently been in varying state of drought for the last 15 years. The drought was exceptionally bad in 2013 and 2014. This area is extremely susceptible to the effects of drought. When the grasses and land cover do not grow, the storm water runoff from high mountain monsoon storms are exaggerated. The arroyos become swollen and overflow their banks damaging irrigation infrastructure, transportation infrastructure and housing. These flood waters are carrying large amounts of sediments that are depositing into the Rio Grande or sometimes creating sediment plugs at their outlet creating additional flooding. Some of the worst floods experienced recently concurred with the extreme drought years.

The conditions of the forested lands in the highest elevations of the watershed are currently overgrown and when coupled with drought, these forests become an extreme fire hazard. If a fire were to ignite on these lands the subsequent flooding and erosion could be catastrophic to the downstream communities and the river valley.

Information on drought conditions in Rio Arriba County was obtained from Drought Monitor found at <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>.

The watershed group will use ecological resiliency as a factor when developing watershed restoration projects and will build drought resistance into projects concepts.

5. Letters of Support for Establishing a Watershed Group
Please see Appendix A. for letters of support.

6. Required Permits or approvals

Permits or approvals will not be required for this project.

7. Official Resolution

Please see Appendix B. for Official Resolution.

8. Project Budget

Budget Proposal

Table 1. Summary of Non-Federal and Federal Funding Sources

Funding Sources	Funding Amounts
BOR WaterSMART	\$50,000
Other Federal	
Subtotal	
Requested Reclamation	\$50,000
Amount	
Total Study	\$50,000
Funding	

Table 2. Project Budget

Budget Item Description	
Contract Services	\$50,000

Budget Narrative

A contractor will provide services to complete all tasks under this proposal. All other services in support of this project will be voluntary undocumented support.

Project Tasks	Milestones	Costs	Breakdown of Costs
Conducting outreach to establish watershed group	Establishment of watershed group - completed mission statement	\$9,000	175 hrs@45/hr. \$7,875 881 miles @.55/mi. \$485 \$640.00 NM gross receipts tax
Identifying problem and needs in the watershed	Needs and problems with maps -section of watershed plan	\$9,000	175 hrs@45/hr. \$7,875 881 miles @.55/mi. \$485 \$640.00 NM gross receipts tax
Developing a watershed restoration plan	Watershed restoration concepts-section of watershed plan	\$9,000	175 hrs@45/hr. \$7,875 881 miles @.55/mi. \$485 \$640.00 NM gross receipts tax
Developing a watershed restoration plan	Cost and technical assistance associated with each concept-section of watershed plan	\$9,000	175 hrs@45/hr. \$7,875 881 miles @.55/mi. \$485

			\$640.00 NM gross receipts tax
Developing a watershed restoration plan	An implementation schedule- section of watershed plan	\$9,000	175 hrs@45/hr. \$7,875 881 miles @.55/mi. \$485 \$640.00 NM gross receipts tax
Project and fiscal reporting	Quarterly and final report	\$5,000	104 hrs@45/hr. \$4,644 \$365 NM gross receipts tax

Appendix A. Letters of Support for Establishing a Watershed Group



April 27, 2016

To: Bureau of Reclamation
Water Resources and Planning
PO Box 25007
Denver, CO 80225

Subject: Letter of Support for the Upper Rio Grande Watershed District

To whom it may concern,

This letter is in support of the efforts of the Upper Rio Grande Watershed District (URGWD) in their efforts in applying for the the Bureau of Reclamation Water SMART: Cooperative Watershed Management Program Grants for FY 2016.

The Natural Resource Conservation Service has worked with the URGWD to build 7 flood control dams that were built in the 1970's and 80's and have supported their efforts to present day on the operation and maintenance of these flood control dams. The intent of these structures was to reduce impact of flooding and sedimentation into Acequias and farmland. With recent flooding events the URGWB has still seen flooding issues and would like to develop a plan that looks at a comprehensive approach to address the entire watershed and what measures can be implemented to reduce flooding and sedimentation issues.

This letter is to affirm that the Natural Resource Conservation Service supports and is committed to participating in the planning process and any technical assistance that may be needed in the efforts to develop a useful plan that can improve the water quality of this area. Once plan has been completed there may be other funding opportunities through USDA-NRCS that can be applied for to assist in addressing the resource concerns identified.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact us at 505-753-3508 Ext. 3.

Respectfully,

Thomas Gonzales
Soil Conservationist
Hernandez Field Office



SUSANA MARTINEZ
Governor

JOHN A. SANCHEZ
Lt. Governor

NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Harold Runnels Building
1190 South St. Francis Drive (87505)
P.O. Box 5469, Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469
Phone (505) 827-0187 Fax (505) 827-0160
www.env.nm.gov



RYAN FLYNN
Cabinet Secretary
BUTCH TONGATE
Deputy Secretary

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Water Resources and Planning
PO Box 25007
Denver, CO 80225

RE: Letter of Support for Aguas Nortefias

To Whom it May Concern:

The Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB) of the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is pleased to support the Upper Rio Grande Watershed District in forming a watershed group to create a comprehensive Watershed –Based Plan for the upper Rio Grande. SWQB's support will be in the form of technical expertise and professional consultation, as we do with other watershed groups in New Mexico. SWQB staff will provide planning advice, available GIS data, site visits/assessments, engagement with local stakeholders, as well as assistance in identifying and applying for grant funded programs. We anticipate that the group will develop solutions for critical issues that have been identified in the upper Rio Grande watershed, including but not limited to flooding, erosion, surface water quality, wetland/riparian restoration, range condition/management, illegal dumping and/or ecological resiliency.

Support of this effort will have no fiscal impact on the NMED budget apart from staff hours which are used to support local watershed groups. Estimated use of staff hours on this project include up to 10 hrs/month.

SWQB believes that partnerships between many state and local organizations, including the Natural Resource Conservation Service, Pueblo Governments, the Bureau of Reclamation, and SWQB, will allow each organization to leverage their collective resources to provide meaningful initiatives for soil and water conservation in our state.

Sincerely,

James Hogan
Bureau Chief, Surface Water Quality Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department



EAST RIO ARRIBA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

19283 US Hwy 84/285 Suite 112

Hernandez, New Mexico 87537

(505) 753-0477

SUPERVISORS

Kenneth V. Salazar

Ross Garcia, Jr.

Ted Salazar

Leroy J. Salazar

J. Lucas Cordova

April 26, 2016

Bureau of Reclamation
Water Resources and Planning
PO Box 25007
Denver, CO 80225

The East Rio Arriba Soil and Water Conservation District strongly supports the goals of the Upper Rio Grande Watershed District and the Interagency Taskforce toward improving water quality and watershed health. The East Rio Arriba SWCD will continue to offer technical assistance, participate in meetings and offer support as needed toward forming and participating in a diverse group which can address the critical issues affecting the watershed.

Please accept this letter as a formal recognition of the value of the Upper Rio Grande Watershed District's efforts. If you have any questions, please contact our office at 505-753-0477.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kenny Salazar', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kenny Salazar
ERASWCD Chairman

April 25, 2016

Bureau of Reclamation

PO BOX 25007

Denver, Colorado 80225

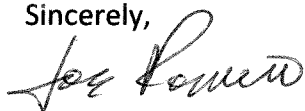
My name is Joe A. Romero. Born and raised in Lyden, New Mexico. My private property is located adjacent to the Black Mesa mountain. This mountain has a lot of drainages that flood some of the properties in the communities known as Lyden, La Canova, Uncon and El Guique which are located in the Upper Rio Grande Watershed District. I'm also a grazing permittee in the San Bastin Martin BLM Allotment also located in the Upper Rio Grande Watershed District. The San Bastin Martin BLM Allotment drainages flow into the Rio Grande River. These drainages when they flood, affect private properties in the communities located between Velarde and Alcalde, New Mexico.

As a life time Resident of Lyden and a ditch commissioner for thirty eight years, I have seen the damage these drainages have done in the past sixty years. Some flood control dams have been built in the past and have helped considerably but there are other drainages that need flood control dams or other means of slowing the water flow so that the erosion can be minimized. On the San Bastin Martin BLM Allotment erosion is the main concern. On the main drainages you can see how much erosion has taken place since US 68 was built around the year 1976. All the sediment ends up in the Rio Grande River and sometimes in private properties and affects the water quality locally and downstream. One of the drainage known as the Truchas drainage has a riparian and every time this drainage floods, the riparian gets damaged and it takes time for it to recuperate. I know that flood control dams work, but I also know that they are very expensive.

This is why I feel that is very important for the Upper Rio Grande Watershed District to form a watershed group not only of Federal, State and Local government entities but also include other stakeholders within the district such as Acequia groups, farmers, private landowners range permittees, civic groups, mutual domestics and water organizations. Once this watershed group is formed the group can develop a comprehensive plan and develop solutions on how to mitigate the problems these drainages cause.

Your consideration for this application is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Romero". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "R".

Joe A. Romero

Member of Upper Rio Grande Watershed District



Rio Arriba County
Planning and Zoning Department

April 27, 2016

Bureau of Reclamation
c/o Water Resources and Planning
PO Box 25007 Denver, CO 80225

RE: Upper Rio Grande Watershed District Letter of Support for WaterSMART 2016 Grant Application

To Whom it May Concern:

Please accept this letter of support and commitment from Rio Arriba County for the Upper Rio Grande Watershed District's (URGWD) 2016 application for program funds of the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program 2016 grant cycle.

The County is appreciative of the time commitment and support that the URGWD is providing to ensure that we have the capacity and expertise to build the URGWD Task Force which is currently made of entirely of Federal, State and Local government entities and begin to actively engage other stakeholders in the region including the local acequia groups, farmers, private landowners, range permittees, civic groups, mutual domestics and waste water organizations.

The URGWD's work to expand the outreach efforts by building a website, creating a newsletter, expanding the database of stakeholders, conducting site visits with landowners and attending other organizational meetings is timely and much needed. The tools they aim to build for outreach will serve as essential tools to drive on-the-ground flood and erosion mitigation, improvements to surface water quality, wetland and riparian restoration and range condition improvements. Furthermore, the expansion of the stakeholder database will allow for better tailored site visits between landowners and government entities.

Rio Arriba County has identified the following roles, responsibilities, and cost sharing arrangement for the project:

- Partner with the URGWD on outreach to the local community
 - ✓ (in-kind staff time estimated value: \$3,000)
- GIS and technical staff support to assist with mapping tools
 - ✓ (in-kind staff time estimated value: \$1,500)
- 3 NM Certified Floodplain Manager's will provide technical support
 - ✓ (in-kind specific staff time \$1,000)
- Use of the county facilities to host stakeholder meetings
 - ✓ (estimated value: \$500)

As such, our total in-kind match is a \$6,000 commitment. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions about our commitment, leadership, and support by email at LFSanchez@rio-arriba.org or by phone at 505-753-7774.

Sincerely,

Lucia F. Sanchez

Appendix B. Official Resolution of the URGWD

UPPER RIO GRANDE WATERSHED DISTRICT

DIRECTORS:

Alfredo L. Montoya
Jose Benito Chavez
Michael Sanchez
Joseph Martinez
Joe Romero

19283 US Hwy 84/285 Suite 112

Hernandez, New Mexico 87537

505-367-0070

upperriograndewatershed@gmail.com

UPPER RIO GRANDE WATERSHED DISTRICT
RESOLUTION 2016-1

WATERSMART GRANT FY 2016

WHEREAS, THE UPPER RIO GRANDE WATERSHED DISTRICT IS SEEKING FUNDING UNDER THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION WATERSMART COOPERATIVE WATERSHED PROGRAM GRANT FOR FY 2016.

WHEREAS, ALFREDO MONTOYA, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, HAS THE LEGAL AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO A FUNDING AGREEMENT.

WHEREAS, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAVE REVIEWED AND SUPPORT THE APPLICATION BEING SUBMITTED.

WHEREAS, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL WORK WITH THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION TO MEET ESTABLISHED DEADLINES FOR ENTERING INTO A FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: IN SESSION THIS 8TH DAY OF APRIL, 2016.



ALFREDO MONTOYA, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

4/8/16
DATE

BENITO CHAVEZ 

MICHAEL SANCHEZ _____

JOSEPH MARTINEZ 

JOE ROMERO 