

Stop the Attack on the Clean Water Rule

Protect New Mexico's Drinking Water

The Clean Water Rule was recently finalized by the Obama administration after years of planning, 400 stakeholder meetings, and more than a million public comments. It safeguards our water and restores protections to the drinking water sources for 1 in 3 Americans. This includes the drinking water for more than 1 in every 10 New Mexico residents. **The Clean Water Rule is a strong, commonsense policy that makes clean water a priority throughout the nation.** If Congress blocks the Clean Water Rule, at least 88% of New Mexico's stream miles and millions of acres of wetlands nationwide will again be at risk from pollution and destruction from development, oil and gas production, and other industrial activities. Blocking this rule would imperil drinking water sources, as well as the small businesses and communities that rely on clean water.

Black River in New Mexico



Credit: Joel Deluxe on

- **14% of New Mexico residents** get their drinking water from sources that rely on small streams that are protected by the Clean Water Rule.
- **Protections were restored to nearly 2,000 miles of streams** that feed into New Mexico's drinking water sources.
- **Thousands of acres of wetlands** that provide flood protection, recharge groundwater supplies, filter pollution, and provide essential wildlife habitat are safeguarded.

Rule Provides More Economic Benefits than Costs

- **This commonsense proposal restores, but does not expand, the historic coverage of the Clean Water Act.** EPA estimates that the rule will provide at least \$339 million and up to \$572 million annually in benefits to the public, including reducing flooding, filtering pollution, providing wildlife habitat, supporting hunting and fishing, and recharging groundwater.
- **Protecting small streams and wetlands supports fish and wildlife and New Mexico's vibrant recreational industry.** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports that in 2011, close to \$1 billion was spent on wildlife recreation in New Mexico, including \$418 million on fishing, and more than three-quarters of a million people participated in these recreational activities in New Mexico.
- **New Mexico's thriving brewing industry relies on clean water.** New Mexico breweries contribute more than \$260 million to our economy every year and support more than 3,500 jobs.

New Mexico Clean Water Rule Supporters

- **More than 5,500 New Mexico residents, out of more than 800,000 Americans, support the rule.**
- Groups like Communities for Clean Water, the National Latino Farmers and Ranchers Trade Association, and Los Jardines Institute (The Gardens Institute), support protections for clean water.
- New Mexico joined 34 other states in 2006 to urge the Supreme Court to uphold strong federal clean water protections.
- Recent polling shows that 79% of Americans want Congress to let EPA implement the Rule.

For more information, please visit www.protectcleanwater.org