

Rio Grande Water Fund 2018-2019 FAQs

Where can I find general information about the Rio Grande Water Fund (RGWF)?

The best sources of information about the Water Fund project goals, current funders, annual accomplishments and more can be found at:

www.nature.org/riogrande

www.riograndewaterfund.org

What are the goals of the Rio Grande Water Fund?

The Water Fund will generate sustainable funding for a 20-year program of large-scale forest and watershed restoration treatments—including thinning overgrown forests, restoring streams and enhancing local capacity for collaboration.

What is the RGWF Executive Committee?

The Executive Committee comprises representatives from the diverse funding agencies and organizations that are signatories to the Rio Grande Wildfire and Water Source Protection Collaborative Charter and providing funding for projects. The Executive Committee has established three Technical Review Panels to review responses to RFPs and recommend projects for funding. The members of the Executive Committee make the final project funding decision according to the terms of the Charter.

Where does the Water Fund money come from?

The Water Fund is a mechanism for businesses, foundations, and federal and state agencies to invest in watershed health and to leverage their monies to protect the water that sustains New Mexico communities. Funding sources are highly varied, from private and corporate foundations to individuals and government agencies.

How much money is in the fund?

Rio Grande Water Fund partners have committed approximately \$30 million dollars to forest restoration since its inception in 2014, that has leveraged \$3.64 million of private funding. New sources of funding are continuously being developed to get closer to the goal of \$21 million per year. As of November 2017, at least \$640,000 will be available for FY 2018 and for three subsequent years through FY 2021 for a total of \$2.7 million over the next four years.

When will projects receive funding?

Projects that are recommended by the technical review panels and approved by the Executive Committee will be notified of their selection for funding and will enter into an agreement with the Nature Conservancy to receive funding. If there are more approved projects than available funding, projects will be put on the Candidate List to await future funding. Since funding is drawn from a variety of sources, the sources may have unique requirements and timelines.

Is there a match requirement?

While matching contributions are expected of all participants, the RGWF has not set a specific required amount. However, to be a viable candidate project, substantial investment by the applicant and partners is important. Funding preference will be given to projects that have cash match from local government. The projected total of match should be reported as cash contributions and in-kind contributions. Budgets and budget narratives should also explain the leveraged dollars from others that you are providing.

Can project funding be used for project management or contract administration?

Yes, provided that the bulk of the funding be used for project implementation.

What if my project is not in a RGWF focal area?

Please consult the focal area map when applying for funding to make sure your project is located within one of the geographies selected for RGWF investment. Projects outside the focal areas will not be considered. If the boundary is unclear or your project area straddles the boundary, please send an email to the address below to verify your project eligibility.