

Restoring Forests to Protect Water at its Source

New Mexico's forested mountains serve as our water towers, providing freshwater for towns, communities and cities downstream. As well, mountain forests significantly contribute to air quality, provide firewood and timber for community use, and serve as an important destination for those who love recreating in the Land of Enchantment.

However, wildfires - followed by post-fire flooding - threaten New Mexico's forests and water security. And those fires have been increasing in size and number. The Rio Grande Water Fund, launched in 2014, is a solution to securing clean water by restoring forests to a healthy state.

Working Together to Create Healthy Forests

Large-scale, proactive steps are necessary to protect 1.7 million acres of forests in the Rio Grande Watershed. That's why nearly 90 organizations have come together in a collaborative partnership—the Rio Grande Water Fund—to generate sustainable funding for large-scale forest and watershed restoration treatments, educating youth about the connections between forests and water, providing research to policy makers, and creating forestry and wood products jobs.

Long-term Conservation Goals

- Restore 600,000 acres of the forested watershed to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire and subsequent contamination of the Rio Grande.
- Secure clean water for wildlife and 1 million New Mexicans.
- Offer economic opportunity by creating jobs in the Water Fund area, approximately 20 jobs for every \$1,000,000 invested.
- Reach hundreds of students and youth each year through educational programs focusing on the connection between forest health and water supplies.

**RIO GRANDE
WATER FUND**
A Wildfire and Water Source
Protection Project

The Nature Conservancy, New Mexico Chapter
1613 Paseo de Peralta, Suite 200
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501
505-946-2021

nature.org/riogrande



OUR VISION

Our vision is of healthy forests and watersheds that provide a reliable supply of high-quality Rio Grande water and other benefits for New Mexico for generations to come. With your support, we can continue this critical conservation work!



RIO GRANDE WATER FUND PROJECTS

