

New Mexico | Rio Grande Water Fund

Restoring essential forested lands upstream will ensure a continuous supply of clean water downstream



Wood from thinned small trees provides **firewood for winter warmth, materials to build homes, mulch for playgrounds** and other products.



Healthy forests store more snowpack and release more water to streams, leading to **more resilient forests**.



Thinning overdense trees and controlled burns **protect forests from megafires**.



More than 15 **tribal communities** live in the footprint of the Rio Grande Water Fund and several are active participants.



Healthy rivers, forests and mountains benefit New Mexico's **tourism and recreation economy** by attracting visitors and providing experiences for locals to enjoy the state's beautiful outdoors.



The Rio Grande and its tributaries **supply water to nearly half of New Mexico's population**.



Healthy forests and streams provide **habitat for fish and wildlife** and protect them from damaging wildfire, flooding and ash-flows that often follow high-severity burns.



Frequent, **high-severity wildfires and subsequent post-fire flooding** cause extensive soil erosion and debris flows that degrade water quality for communities downstream.

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nature.org/riogrande

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The Nature Conservancy 

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