

MAKING THE MOST OF NEW MEXICO'S WATER RESOURCES
THROUGH RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

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The citizens of New Mexico need to understand the water problems with which we are faced. It is the responsibility of research and education to keep the citizens informed on the problems and possible solutions.

Within any political boundary, like our own state, there are certain resources and specific ways we might deal with these resources. This could be visualized in the following formula.

$$\frac{F \neq M \neq I - O - W}{\text{Number of People}} = \text{Potential Standard of living}$$

F = Find -- What do we Find or have.

M = Make -- What can or do we Make.

I = Into -- What do we bring Into.

O = Out -- What do we take Out.

W = Waste-- What do we Waste.

If the resource in the top part of the formula is water, then most of the factors are not fixed. Through research and education, most of these can be adjusted. Some real opportunities are offered for decreasing waste.

We are interested in increasing the number of people, but only if it does not lower our present or potential standard of living. Perhaps, more water should be used for industrial and recreational purposes. We must keep in mind that the water eventually will be used for the purpose for which people are willing to pay the highest price.

The facilities for living in a particular region determine greatly the population growth which may be expected. In facing this problem, the people of New Mexico should provide research and investigators to keep in very close touch with the desires and thinking of the people with respect to living facilities and resource requirements likely to be demanded by the population growth.

Questions concerning coordination of research were raised and it was the expressed opinion of the speaker that research is not something you can coordinate. It amounts to creative efforts and the results will depend upon the kind of environment that has been provided for the conducting of research and the facilities available. Beyond that the society which employs the investigator cannot direct production, recognizing of course, that an institution has a natural sphere of influence and therefore, can direct its destiny somewhat by the kind of people it employs, but once employed, we must depend upon ability of investigators working in the environment we create for them.

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