

PREFACE

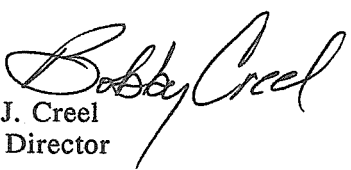
To complement last year's conference which focused on managing the surface water of the Rio Grande, this year we explored the topic of ground water management. The management of New Mexico's ground water reflects the growing concern for the quality of the water in our aquifers and private wells that provide over 1,200,000 New Mexicans with their water supply. Augmenting our water supply by recycling water for recharge into aquifers is proving to be one way to provide an adequate supply of water for future use. Also, we need to better understand the legal and administrative implications involved in water planning activities. With these concerns in mind, the 32nd Annual New Mexico Water Conference dealt with the topic of "Ground Water Management."

The first session of the conference highlighted ground water quality programs at the federal, state, and local levels. In addition, we learned about the 1986 Arizona Environmental Quality Act, a model for establishing an aquifer protection program. Governor Carruthers, during his luncheon address, set priorities for the state of New Mexico in ground water and emphasized the need to identify and clean up contaminated sites.

Ground water recharge was the topic of session II with several speakers describing ongoing recharge demonstration projects as well as research in the area of recharge. The last session dealt with strategies for protecting ground water quality for current and future users. The effects and interrelationships of federal and state laws upon water management were examined.

This year's water conference confirmed the need for careful, comprehensive planning for the future use of ground water in our state. As in the past, the conference provided a forum for water experts, policy makers and interested citizens to come together and discuss the current and future state of water in New Mexico. This year, Governor Carruthers asked for guidance and advice from the attendants for protecting New Mexico's water resources.

Special thanks should go to the Water Conference Advisory Committee for suggesting the theme of this conference and providing the support to make it a success.


Bobby J. Creel
Acting Director

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