

*Leland D. Tillman has been Executive Director of the Eastern Plains Council of Governments, which serves a seven-county area in Northeastern New Mexico, since 1975. EPCOG is headquartered in Clovis, but serves an 18,000 square-mile region including Union, Harding, Quay, Guadalupe, DeBaca, Roosevelt and Curry counties. Lee was appointed U.S. Commissioner and Chair of the Canadian River Compact Commission in April 1995. He has been actively involved in other water-related organizations and currently serves on the Board of Directors of the New Mexico Water Dialogue, Inc., a non-profit organization which sponsors periodic statewide forums to facilitate citizen involvement in water resources issues. As an early proponent of regional water planning in New Mexico, he served on the Interstate Stream Commission's "template committee," which established the broad framework for regional water plans. A native New Mexican, Lee graduated from Eastern New Mexico University in 1971.*



Northeastern New Mexico Regional Water Plan  
Presentation Outline

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**The Water Planning Region**

Approximately 20,000 Square Miles  
Three major surface water basins:  
    Southern High Plains  
    Canadian River Basin  
    Pecos River Basin  
Six declared groundwater basins  
Large undeclared groundwater areas  
    Union County  
    Roosevelt County

**Region Also Includes**

Four major reservoirs:  
    Ute  
    Conchas  
    Santa Rosa  
    Ft. Sumner  
Arch Hurley Conservancy District  
Fort Sumner Irrigation District  
Eight Soil & Water Conservation Districts  
Eleven Acequias in Guadalupe County  
Ute Water Commission Service Area

**Regional Water Use**

Withdrawals: 801,760 AFY  
Depletions: 580,729 AFY  
(SEO Technical Report 49)

**Issues and Concerns**

Serious groundwater depletions  
Water quality protection  
Condition of watersheds  
Water conservation incentives  
Limited groundwater monitoring  
Drought planning  
Precipitation enhancement needed  
Maintaining recreation uses

**Local/Regional Strategies**

Cooperative planning  
Future municipal and industrial supply  
Infrastructure development  
Water conservation  
Water quality protection  
Special programs and projects

**Cooperative Planning**

Local water security plans

**Special districts:**

- Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Special Groundwater Conservation Areas

Public information/education

Citizen participation

Ute Reservoir Area Master Plan

**Infrastructure Finance: The 80-10-10 Strategy**

Based on the South Dakota Model  
Supports large regional projects  
Requires unified local effort  
Specific authorization requirements  
State Water Trust Fund needed  
New Mexico Finance Authority supports local capital costs  
All operations and maintenance costs become local responsibility

**Water Conservation**

More must be done at all levels  
Public education and awareness  
Agricultural water conservation  
Rangeland/watershed improvements  
Conservation incentives needed

**Water Quality Protection**

Water quality source protection  
Municipal wellhead protection  
Watershed improvement programs  
Best management practices  
Public education and involvement  
Requires on-going monitoring effort

**Special Programs/Projects**

Drought contingency planning:

- Local plans and policies

- Coordination with State Drought Plan

Expanded groundwater monitoring:

- Increased state and federal funding

- Active involvement of counties

- Increased SWCD Role

Precipitation enhancement

**Federal Policy Initiatives**

Authorization of the Eastern New Mexico Water Supply Project

Improved groundwater monitoring, modeling and mapping

Designation of groundwater conservation areas

Establishment of Groundwater Conservation Reserve Program

Agricultural Water Conservation Cost-Share Assistance Program

**Comments on the Plan**

Regional Water Plan Input

c/o Eastern Plains COG

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