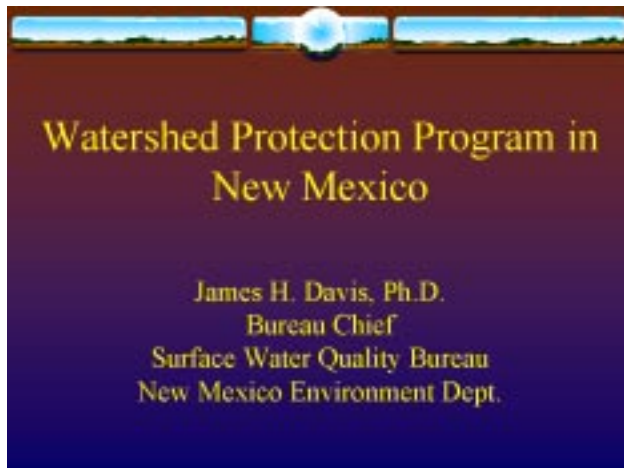



Jim Davis is an Over-educated DWM, Ph.D. NMSU, M.S. U of U, B.S. UNM, all in Biology. Claims to be Responsible. Has held only two jobs in the last 22 years. Currently BC of SWQB, NMED. Enjoys public meetings. ISO interested audience to hear short presentation on Water Quality Issues in New Mexico.



NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM

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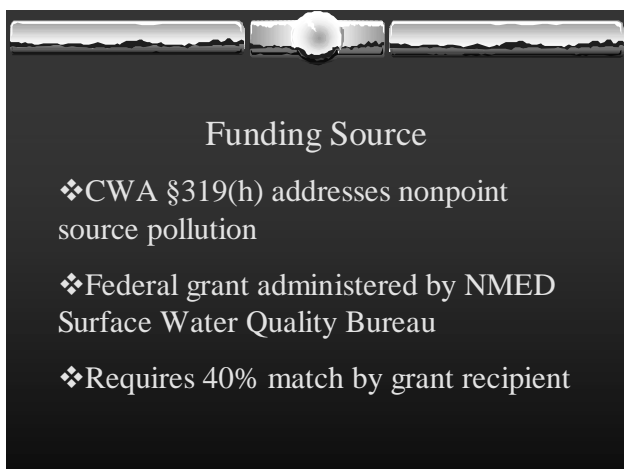
Discussion Points

- ❖ What is the funding source and process?
- ❖ How are funds distributed?
- ❖ How are proposals evaluated and ranked?
- ❖ What type of work do we fund?
- ❖ How much funding is available?
- ❖ Examples of funding over the last few years, and highlights of a few specific projects in more detail.



This is an example of nonpoint source pollution. The East Fork of the Gila River (shown on the right) is carrying ash and sediments flushed into it as a result of a large forest fire in the watershed. The West Fork of the Gila was not affected.


Projects funded under Section 319(h) of the federal Clean Water Act are the primary tool available to address such nonpoint sources of pollution.



Funding Source

- ❖ CWA §319(h) addresses nonpoint source pollution
- ❖ Federal grant administered by NMED Surface Water Quality Bureau
- ❖ Requires 40% match by grant recipient


The bureau administers this program for New Mexico. We are interested in both “dirt work” projects, such as fence building, tree planting etc., as well as public education and outreach projects. The 40% match requirement is met by the project proponent (for example, a watershed group, soil and water conservation district etc.), which gives “ownership” of the project, and leads to a better outcome. The match requirement can be met with actual dollars, or by “in-kind” match of volunteer labor, etc.



Distribution of Funds

- ❖ “RFP” to distribute §319(h) monies
- ❖ Published once each year (July-August)
- ❖ Follows State procurement code
- ❖ All entities eligible (local governments, NGOs, private citizens)


This slide outlines the process we follow. In fact, we have an RFP out right now. It opened July 15 and will close September 15. We follow the State of New Mexico Procurement Code, and all entities are eligible.



RFP Requirements

Proposals shall describe:

- ❖ the impaired surface water body and preventive action(s) to be taken to sustain water quality and aquatic resources;
- ❖ relationship of project to a Watershed-wide Restoration Action Strategy;



RFP Requirements (cont.)

- ❖ inclusion of water body in a UWA category I watershed, on CWA § 303(d) list or TMDL document, if applicable;
- ❖ the stressor(s) causing the impact(s);
- ❖ the project implementation plan;

RFP Requirements (cont.)

- ❖ specific solutions to be implemented;
- ❖ details of how improvements will be measured;
- ❖ time required to demonstrate effectiveness or water quality improvement; and
- ❖ cooperating entities involved in the project.

Project Evaluation and Ranking


- ❖ Project proposals ranked by diverse review committee
- ❖ Final funding decision made by NMED and EPA

We have a review committee that helps us evaluate the proposals, and then the final funding decisions are made by the bureau and EPA.

Project Evaluation and Ranking (cont.)

- ❖ Cooperation between several stakeholders in watershed important
- ❖ Grant period is nominally 3 years; can be extended to 5 years
- ❖ Projects funded to implement TMDL load reductions


The involvement and cooperation of the stakeholders in the watershed is the most important aspect if we are going to achieve success. Implementation of these projects takes time, so the grant period runs for a minimum of three years, and usually is extended to five years.



Eligible Types of Projects
Both “dirt work” and outreach projects funded


- ❖ Implementation/demonstration of BMPs;
- ❖ Post wildfire rehabilitation;
- ❖ Prevention of catastrophic wildfires;
- ❖ Reduction of erosion/sedimentation from rural roads, agricultural practices;
- ❖ Rehabilitation of riparian vegetation;

There are 286 stream and river reaches listed as impaired on the 2000-2002 303(d) list. According to the National Water Quality Inventory, wind and water erosion annually generates an estimated 73 million tons of soil from farms, ranches, and urban areas. The subsequent loading to streams, rivers, and reservoirs is one of the primary pollutants associated with improper management in many areas of New Mexico. NMED has identified the principal sources of surface water nonpoint source pollution as rangeland erosion, agriculture, construction activities, silviculture, resource extraction, waste disposal, unsurfaced roads, and recreation.



Eligible Types of Projects (cont.)

- ❖ Improved management of urban runoff;
- ❖ Improvements in livestock management;
- ❖ Restoration of floodplain function;
- ❖ Restoration of natural stream channel morphology;
- ❖ Streambank stabilization.



Amount of Funding

❖FY02	20 proposals requested	\$3.3 m
	available approx.	\$2.1 m*
❖FY01	51 proposals requested	\$7.5 m
	17 projects funded for	\$1.9 m*
❖FY00	10 projects funded for	\$1.6 m*
❖FY99	18 projects funded for	\$1.6 m*
❖FY98	10 projects funded for	\$1.3 m*
Five year total grant funds =		\$8.5 m*

\$ 8.5 million is the grant total – when the 40% required match is added, the value of the projects totals approximately \$14.2 million



Specific Examples of Watershed Protection Projects

- ❖ Spur Ranch Centerfire Creek
- ❖ Valle Grande GRASSBANK™
- ❖ Rio Puerco/Hwy 44




Spur Ranch/Centerfire Creek

- ❖ A main tributary to the San Francisco River
- ❖ Listed for Plant Nutrients and Conductivity Impairment (TMDLs)
- ❖ BMP implementation
- ❖ Sediment Retention Structure
- ❖ \$232,000 in §319 funds and \$180,000 match




Project Partners include:

Landowner
Ducks Unlimited
National Wild Turkey Federation
USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service,
NM Forestry Division
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
San Francisco Soil & Water Conservation District
Gila National Forest
EPA and
NMED SWQB



Valle Grande GRASSBANK™
Rowe Mesa

- ❖ 5 other §319 projects using Grassbank™
- ❖ \$463,084 in §319 funds to The Conservation Fund (TCF), Santa Fe National Forest (SFNF) and Carson National Forest (CNF)



Valle Grande GRASSBANK™ (cont.)

- ❖ \$562,967 match provided by TCF, Ford Foundation, McCune Foundation, Thaw Charitable Trust, Santa Fe Community Foundation, Stokes Foundation, individual donors, donated labor and NM General Fund \$
- ❖ At least \$94,667 additional funding provided by TCF, USFS, NRCS,



Valle Grande GRASSBANK™ (cont.)

Other partners include grazing permittees, Northern New Mexico Stockman's Association, NMSU Cooperative Extension Service, Santa Fe County, and BLM



Valle Grande GRASSBANK™
Accomplishments

- ❖ 6-8 participating USFS allotments in 4 watersheds (directly benefiting at least seven impaired streams) + statewide outreach by Quivira Coalition
- ❖ 2,891 acres piñon/juniper and ponderosa thinned (531 ac complete)
- ❖ 10,415 acres Rx burned (2,088 complete)




Valle Grande GRASSBANK™
Accomplishments (cont)

- ❖ 16150 AUM's of rest provided (4450 AUM's complete)
- ❖ 23 mile pipeline (18 miles complete)
- ❖ 6.25 miles fencing (0.25 mi complete)
- ❖ \$20K flexible range restoration package including above elements




Valle Grande GRASSBANK™
Accomplishments (cont)

- ❖ 5 dirt watering tanks, 4 round trips cattle shipping (3 complete), 9 mi trail improvements, one water gap, range rider (2 seasons), road improvements
- ❖ Monitoring & Watershed Restoration Action Strategy for Rowe Mesa
- ❖ 2 conferences, 2 newsletters, 10 outdoor workshops (by Quivira Coalition)




Rio Puerco/Highway 44 Project

- ❖ 1965 - Highway 44 Project constructed a straight 20' X 20' "ditch" to reroute Rio Puerco channel
- ❖ Accelerated erosion (incision, channel widening) moved a net *14.1 million cubic feet* of soil downstream



Rio Puerco/Highway 44 Project

- ❖ Extremely high sediment load and turbidity
- ❖ Lowering of local and regional water table
- ❖ Adjacent uplands erosion in response to base level lowering



Rio Puerco/Highway 44 Project

§319 (h) grant has provided \$\$ for

- ❖ Environmental, Geomorphology and Engineering feasibility and design work
- ❖ Rio Puerco Implementation Construction Phase
- ❖ Monitoring and Enhancement

\$660,000 has leveraged \$4M+ in additional project expenditures