

Water Quality along the Middle Rio Grande of New Mexico

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PURPOSE OF STUDY

There is very little data about water quality along the Middle Rio Grande. Agriculture and urbanization impact the water quality along the river. The role of various nutrients is of growing concern within and along the river. The researchers will assess water quality along the Rio Grande from Cochiti to Elephant Butte.

STUDY UNDERWAY

- The researchers will employ continuous measuring probes and instruments to measure dissolved oxygen, temperature, conductivity, pH, and turbidity at four different sites along the river for one year.
- Synoptic samples will be taken at 50 sites, building upon a synoptic survey taken in 2004. Samples will be measured for nitrate, ammonium, phosphate, dissolved organic and inorganic carbon, major cations, major anions, and chlorophyll a.
- Discrete sampling of river water will be done on a monthly basis at four different sites for a total of 25 samples monthly.

BENEFITS

- This project will contribute to the development of viable river restoration strategies and will improve water quality monitoring in urban and agricultural areas of the Middle Rio Grande.



Confluence of the Albuquerque wastewater treatment plant and the Rio Grande.



Sampling in the Rio Grande, Bosc del Apache National Wildlife Refuge.

The Rio Grande in late winter.



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