

**NM WRRI Student Water Research Grant Progress Report Form**  
**Progress Report due Friday October 1, 2021**  
**Draft Final Report due Friday, April 22, 2022**  
**Final Report due Thursday May 19, 2022**

1. **Student Researcher:** Stephen D. Earsom  
**Faculty Advisor:** Adrian Oglesby

2. **Project title:**

A Comparative Overview of Legal Frameworks and Conflict Resolution Mechanisms in the Nile and Rio Grande Basins

3. **Description of research problem and research objectives.**

The research problem was to compare legal frameworks and conflict resolution mechanisms in the two river basins to determine whether solutions employed in one river basin could be used in the other basin to reduce conflict and deal with climate change.

4. **Description of methodology employed.**

I conducted online research and analyzed court cases, governance structures, international treaties, legal journals, news articles and other documents. This research culminated in the attached final report.

5. **Description of results; include findings, conclusions, and recommendations for further research.**

I conclude that many policy and technical solutions are available that can help Rio Grande managers make more water available and that can help future-proof the basin against climate change. As with any policy solutions, however, winners and losers will be created and policy makers will reap the rewards or the blame. Details are found within the report.

6. **Provide a paragraph on who will benefit from your research results. Include any water agency that could use your results.**

The report could be of value to the state legislature and the NM Office of the State Engineer in considering changes in how to manage water in the state.

7. **Describe how you have spent your grant funds. Also provide your budget balance and how you will use any remaining funds. If you anticipate any funds remaining after May 19, 2022, please contact Carolina Mijares immediately. (575-646-7991; [mijares@nmsu.edu](mailto:mijares@nmsu.edu))**

I used the funds toward payment of tuition for my law degree at UNM. All funds have been expended.

8. **List presentations you have made related to the project.**

October 2021: Poster presentation at WRRI New Mexico Water Conference

March 2022: Powerpoint presentation for interagency Hydrology and Aquatic Resource Conservation Webinar Series

**9. List publications or reports, if any, that you are preparing. For all publications/reports and posters resulting from this award, please attribute the funding to NM WRRI and the New Mexico State Legislature by including the account number: NMWRRI-SG-2021.**

The attached final report is the only document anticipated.

**10. List any other students or faculty members who have assisted you with your project.**

UNM SOL student Atherton Phleger provided a copy of his manuscript on legal personhood and shared management approaches. UNM SOL student John Stomp provided a copy of his manuscript dealing with the status of Pueblo water rights in New Mexico.

**11. Provide special recognition awards or notable achievements as a result of the research including any publicity such as newspaper articles, or similar.**

None to date.

**12. Provide information on degree completion and future career plans. Funding for student grants comes from the New Mexico Legislature and legislators are interested in whether recipients of these grants go on to complete academic degrees and work in a water-related field in New Mexico or elsewhere.**

I plan to complete my law degree at UNM in Summer 2023. I hope to work in water law after graduation.