

A Forum on the Rio Grande Compact, 2006

How will the requirements of the Rio Grande Compact affect life in the Middle Rio Grande in this water-short year?

What: Rio Grande Compact Forum

When: Wednesday, April 26, 2006 from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Where: Science and Technology Park at the University of New Mexico, 801 University Boulevard SE, Albuquerque, NM

Cost: Free

Sponsored by: Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly, UNM Water Resources Program and the New Mexico Water Dialogue

The winter of 2005-2006 was one of the driest on record in the desert southwest. With little or no snowpack in the watersheds of the Rio Grande, a seriously inadequate runoff is expected. How will New Mexico's most populated region fare in the year ahead? What governs the sharing of scarce water in a time of crippling drought?

On Wednesday, April 26, 2006, the Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly, the University of New Mexico Water Resources Program and the New Mexico Water Dialogue will sponsor a free public forum on the Rio Grande Compact, the interstate agreement that determines the amount of river water that Colorado, New Mexico and Texas will receive over the coming months. The forum will be held at the Science and Technology Park at the University of New Mexico, 801 University Boulevard SE, Albuquerque, NM from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

New Mexico is party to eight interstate compacts that govern surface water flowing across its borders. One of those agreements, the Rio Grande Compact, guarantees a portion of the annual flow of the Rio Grande to Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas, and establishes a limit on the amount of water we may use in the middle basin.

The Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly, in partnership with the University of New Mexico's Water Resources Program and the New Mexico Water Dialogue, is sponsoring a public forum on this all-important agreement. The Interstate Stream Commission, which oversees New Mexico's compact compliance, is ultimately responsible for the distribution of a very limited water supply to a myriad of middle basin water users, with consideration for a host of federal, state and local mandates. How will that huge task be accomplished in 2006? Featured speakers include Estevan López, Director of the Interstate Stream Commission, who will offer an overall outline of Compact issues, and ISC Rio Grande Basin Manager Rolf Schmidt Petersen, will address the specific requirements for 2006. Through questions and public discussion, learn why the Rio Grande Compact is important to *you*, and how this year's drought-driven decisions affect *all* basin residents.

For further information, contact Ed Payne, 797-4306 or visit the Water Assembly's website at www.WaterAssembly.org.