

Second Annual Rio Grande Compact Forum

April 19, 2007

What is the Rio Grande Compact and how does it affect life in the Middle Rio Grande?

What: Rio Grande Compact Forum
When: Thursday, April 19, 2006 from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Where: University of New Mexico Continuing Education Center
1634 University Blvd NE
Albuquerque, NM
Cost: Free

Sponsored by: Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly and the UNM Water Resources Program

The Rio Grande Compact is the interstate agreement that allocates the amount of river water that Colorado, New Mexico and Texas receive. According to weather conditions, the Compact specifies the amount of water that New Mexico must deliver across Elephant Butte dam each year. As such, it constrains our water usage in the middle Rio Grande so that citizens in three states may enjoy the river's benefits. Annually in March, a determination is made as to whether New Mexico complied with its obligations. Protracted failures would have severe consequences. How did we fare last year and what does the upcoming year portend?

On Thursday, April 19, 2006, the Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly and the University of New Mexico Water Resources Program will sponsor a free public forum on the Compact. The forum will be held in the Continuing Education Center, 1634 University Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm.

New Mexico's Interstate Stream Commission (ISC), which oversees New Mexico's compact compliance, is ultimately responsible for our meeting the Compact, while recognizing the needs to distribute a limited water supply to a myriad of middle basin water users, with consideration for a host of federal, state and local mandates.

Featured speakers include ISC Rio Grande Basin Manager Rolf Schmidt Petersen, who will offer an overall outline of Compact issues and will cover the accounting for 2006 as well as what 2007 looks like at this time. Em Hall, professor of water law at UNM's Law School, will speak to some of the upcoming issues. Through questions and public discussion, learn why the Rio Grande Compact is important to you.

For further information, contact Ed Payne, 797-4306 or <ed.payne@comcast.net>, or contact Bruce Thomson, <bthomson@unm.edu>. For more information about the Water Assembly, check out www.WaterAssembly.org, and for more information about the Water Resources Program, check out www.unm.edu/~wrp.