

WETLANDS PROGRAM PLAN FOR NEW MEXICO

(11.29.2012) Updated 2.25.2015

Since 2003, the New Mexico Environment Department Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB) Wetlands Program and its partners have made substantial progress in the development of a robust program that focuses on measures that will restore and protect New Mexico wetlands. This updated Wetlands Program Plan describes the achievements made since this Plan was approved in 2010 by EPA and previously updated in 2012. It also lays out a pathway to continue program development for the next five years. Through this updated 5-year Wetlands Program Plan we hope to continue progress towards a comprehensive and sustainable Wetlands Program for New Mexico.

WETLANDS PROGRAM GOALS

The Mission of the SWQB Wetlands Program is to protect, restore and increase self-sustaining and naturally functioning wetlands and riparian areas. The Wetlands Program emphasizes the role of wetlands in preventing and reducing water quality impairments and providing habitat and life requirements for wildlife. To this end the Wetlands Program has formulated the following long-term objectives:

1. Promote wetland protection and restoration as a goal of established watershed groups.
2. Increase wetland area (no net loss) as well as restore wetland functions and ecological services, and develop a system for tracking gains and losses by wetland type.
3. Assist communities, agencies, tribes, stakeholders, local governments and others with wetlands technical information, project design and planning, training and other guidance.
4. Develop protection, adaptation and mitigation strategies for wetland resources threatened by climate change effects in the west, including loss of mountain snowpack, increased catastrophic fires and increased flooding, scour and sediment delivery.
5. Develop and refine narrative water quality standards for wetlands and for specific wetland types, and use these standards to promote more effective CWA §401 Certification.

6. Develop a toolbox of successful restoration techniques that are specific to wetland types and ecoregions.

PARTNERSHIP GOALS

The principal goal which informs the work of the SWQB Wetlands Program and its many public and private partners is a desire to restore and maintain wetlands, allowing them to fully function as natural systems. This goal can be accomplished through collaborative partnerships that contribute to completing large-scale major restoration projects, and to restoring numerous wetlands within a watershed an acre at a time.

A second overarching goal is to create a sustainable wetlands plan of action by developing sustainable funding sources. SWQB Wetlands Program and its partners are considering ways to achieve sustainability through potential funding, programs, and management activities such as wetlands banks, in lieu fee programs, state-sponsored programs such as the River Stewardship Program through partnerships associated with our New Mexico Mapping Consortium and our NGO and Agency Wetlands Roundtables, by continuing to obtain matching grants through foundations, by organizing and assisting voluntary programs, and by obtaining in-kind resources and assistance through the efforts of watershed groups, NGOs and their volunteers.

The priority technical goals within the next five years are to identify and maintain simple, effective and efficient methods for monitoring wetlands, and to work with our partners towards a complete inventory and baseline assessment of New Mexico's wetland resources.

SWQB WETLANDS PROGRAM EFFORTS

Currently SWQB Wetlands Program development is primarily supported by EPA Wetlands Program Development Grants competitively awarded by EPA Region 6 under the CWA §104(b)(3). The State of New Mexico provides a portion of funding for Wetlands Program Staff through the Corrective Action Fund Program. The SWQB Wetlands Program and its core elements are included in the comprehensive update to the Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) and Continuing Planning Process (CPP) which was approved by the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission and EPA Region 6 in 2011.

In 2003, the SWQB Wetlands Program began the development of a wetland restoration program (Wetlands Action Plan Program), which is part of a larger mission to improve and protect the state's watersheds and water quality. Through the CWA §319(h)

Nonpoint Source Management Program, SWQB provides funding for watershed groups to develop Watershed Based Plans to reduce pollutants in their watersheds. The Wetlands Action Plan Program provides an opportunity and support for these established watershed groups to broaden their planning and resource improvement efforts to include wetlands, riparian and buffer areas within their watersheds. To this end, the SWQB Wetlands Program is incorporated into the Nonpoint Source Management Plan for New Mexico. The State has incorporated wetlands assessment and monitoring into SWQB's Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Program and wetlands assessment into the 10-year Monitoring Strategy. The SWQB Wetlands Program has focused its efforts on establishing wetlands assessment and monitoring that can be implemented with the assistance of its many partners. The assessment and monitoring goals of the SWQB Wetlands Program include:

- Continue to expand an inventory and classification of wetlands resources statewide;
- Develop and utilize assessment protocols to verify wetland condition, degradation, impacts and the causes of stress, and recovery;
- Document wetland gains and losses;
- Identify vulnerable wetland types, develop strategies to anticipate potential sources of stress and to create/maintain resilience of these wetland/riparian systems in the face of climate change;
- Document results of wetland restoration projects and innovative techniques for restoration;
- Assess wetland resources to determine potential strategies for recovery of wildlife habitat and wildlife corridors;
- Use information generated by wetlands assessment to prioritize wetlands projects and protection within specific watersheds or regions;
- Use information generated by wetlands assessment to assist the Department of the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) in developing meaningful Before-After Mitigation Impact (BAMI) documentation of wetland compensatory mitigation and to use these data to establish mitigation credits and ratios;
- Monitor Outstanding National Resource Waters (ONRW) wetlands to identify pollution and degradation, and to use these data to ensure that degradation is prevented and sources of pollution are abated;
- Identify ecologically important and high quality wetlands for future ONRW nomination and protection.

The State's regulatory program applies to all surface waters of the State including wetlands. These regulations provide for certification of CWA §402 NPDES permits, and CWA §404 dredge and fill permits under CWA §401, establishing water quality

standards under CWA §303 (c) and reporting under CWA §§303(d) and 305(b). The Wetlands Program is currently working with the ACOE, Albuquerque District to develop a regulatory module of the New Mexico Rapid Assessment Method (NMRAM) to assist and improve evaluation of compensatory mitigation through the Before-After Mitigation Impact (BAMI) procedures. Overall, New Mexico is making progress towards establishing a baseline for wetlands in the state to provide a picture of wetland types and condition. A rapid assessment protocol for the State's wetland resources is under development and use, which focuses on vulnerable and threatened wetland types. The protocol will be used consistently by the SWQB Wetlands Program and participating partners. Mapping and classifying wetlands in the state is progressing through partnerships and projects by SWQB Wetlands Program and others, and numerous demonstration restoration efforts using innovative techniques are in progress or in place.

New Mexico's wetlands including isolated wetlands are incorporated within the water quality standards definitions and are considered "surface waters of the State" (20.6.4.7 NMAC). Isolated and ephemeral wetlands (such as playas) are included in the definition. The interests of the state are critically linked both economically, ecologically and culturally to good water quality in all of the state's waters including isolated wetlands. Non-perennial waters make up over 80% of the state's waters, and are expressly protected by the State's standards. Currently, the SWQB Wetlands Program is working to protect and restore vulnerable isolated wetlands and plans to develop water quality standards specific to wetland types including isolated and ephemeral wetlands.

The SWQB nominated and the Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) adopted all naturally occurring wetlands within US Forest Service Wilderness Areas in New Mexico as Outstanding National Resource Waters (ONRW). Although wetlands have been included in previous ONRW nominations in the Valle Vidal and the Rio Santa Barbara areas, the more recent action is New Mexico's first success in applying Best Management Practices and improved anti-degradation policy to ONRW wetlands. The SWQB Wetlands Program will continue to identify ecologically important wetlands in other parts of the State. Updating and expanding a directory of Reference Standard Wetlands (best condition) to which ONRW status or other protective measures should apply will help aid in these efforts.

WETLANDS PROGRAM PROGRESS

Since the Wetlands Program Plan was developed in 2010 and updated in 2012, progress has been made on activities that expand the capacity of the Wetlands Program. Below is a list that highlights some of these accomplishments.

Wetlands Program Plan for New Mexico

Updated 2.25.2015

- Since 2010, the Wetlands Program has expanded its Wetlands Roundtable to include a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Roundtable that is exclusively geared towards NGO issues and needs. The NGO Wetlands Roundtable meets semiannually. In addition, a Wetlands Roundtable is now conducted in the southern part of New Mexico in Las Cruces to include those partners more proactively and to address wetlands issues unique to the more arid conditions of southern New Mexico.
- Mapping and classification of 166 USGS quadrangles in the Canadian River basin, Upper Rio Grande and adjacent areas is complete and included in the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) database and on-line mapper. Mapping of an additional 165 USGS quadrangles in the Dry Cimarron watershed and Jemez Mountains region is ongoing, and quadrangles covering the Sacramento Mountain region in the southeastern portion of the state are being added to the effort. In addition to mapping, the landscape position, landform, water body type, water flow path classification and descriptors (LLWW) are being applied to all wetlands mapped, and wetland functions are being identified and ranked. The wetlands are also being classified according to the Hydrogeomorphic (HGM) classification in order to prepare for NIMRAM assessment. Participation in the New Mexico Geospatial Advisory Committee and the New Mexico Wetlands Roundtables assists in coordination of wetlands mapping throughout the State.
- The Wetlands Program has completed its first New Mexico Rapid Assessment Method (NIMRAM) for Mid-Montane Riverine Wetlands Manual and Field Guide at www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swab/Wetlands/NIMRAM. The SWQB Wetlands Program and its partners have taken the method to mid-montane riverine wetlands in the Gila and are now preparing Version 2.0 for data collection in the Canadian and Dry Cimarron watersheds. In addition, development of NIMRAM versions for lowland riverine, Southern High Plains playas, and springs assessment are underway.
- A Statewide database for NIMRAM data, the New Mexico Wetlands Rapid Assessment Database (NIMWRAD) has been transferred to NMED and is nearly ready for data input and on-line access for mid-montane riverine, lowland, and playas NIMRAM data. The features of NIMWRAD have been expanded to produce electronic data collection sheets and Sample Area reports. NIMWRAD is currently being integrated with other water quality databases (SQUID) at NMED.
- A Wetlands Vegetation Index of Biotic Integrity (VIBI) for mid-montane riverine wetlands is complete. The results of this project demonstrate the use of detailed vegetation data to assess the ecological condition of Mid-Montane Riverine

wetlands. Wetlands restoration and management can then be improved to prevent disturbance and provide protection to suites of plants known to correlate with the lowest levels of human disturbance (reference sites). In turn, the VIBI can also be used to improve management of wetlands based on vegetation attributes and habitat characteristics. VIBI is another important tool that improves the State's ability to protect, manage, and restore its wetlands resources.

- Our 10-year Strategy for Wetlands Assessment and Monitoring is complete and available at SWQB.
- Thirteen Wetlands Action Plans have been completed since the program started in 2003. They are currently being uploaded to the SWQB Wetlands Program website at www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb/Wetlands/planning. They will also be provided along with other watershed plans at www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb/wps/WPB (currently in development). Progress toward implementing WAPs in priority watersheds is reported in the NPS Annual Report to EPA.
- Four Wetlands Demonstration Restoration Projects were completed by SWQB Wetlands Program since 2012. These are: 1) Comprehensive Restoration and Protection in Santa Fe County, 2) La Cienega de San Vicente Wetland Project, 3) Restoring and Protecting Wetlands in Cebolla Canyon Closed Basin, and 4) Curry County Playas Restoration and Protection. These projects involved new partnerships and demonstrated new methods. Other projects around the state are reported by our partners at the New Mexico Wetlands Roundtables and special projects by our partners are featured as the "NGO Spotlight".
- Three Technical Reports were completed: 1) "Exploring Springs and Wetlands and their Relationship with Surface Flows, Geology, and Groundwater in the La Cienega Area, Santa Fe County, New Mexico" www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb/Wetlands/projects/LaCienega; 2) "New Mexico Wetlands Technical Guide: Wetland Functions" www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb/Wetlands/TechnicalGuides/01/WetlandsTechnicalGuides01-WetlandFunctions.pdf and; 3) "Characterization and Restoration of Slope Wetlands in New Mexico" www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb/Wetlands/TechnicalGuides/02/SlopeWetlandTechnicalGuide02.pdf. These Technical Reports are also available in hard copy from SWQB.
- In addition to our Wetlands Roundtables, a number of workshops and training sessions were completed. These workshops and trainings engage and inform partners, train partners to be proactive monitoring and restoring wetlands, influence stakeholders to be more involved in wetland issues, and increase the role and capacity of the Wetlands Program. These include annual NMRAM trainings available to watershed groups, agencies, contractors, tribes and others. As a supplement to

the NMRAM trainings, two Botany Booster trainings were held to improve the technical expertise of participants to collect biotic data. A Wetlands and Beaver workshop was conducted in May, 2013, recognizing the watershed health benefits of North American beaver populations. A two and a half day workshop targeting New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT), tribal and county roads staff provided the principals of geomorphology and natural channel design. The workshop updated the participants on new techniques, best management practices and construction specifications for successful stream and riparian restoration integrated with road design and maintenance techniques. The workshop demonstrated that highway construction projects have the potential to not only “do no harm” but even to improve the health of the watercourse, introducing a new paradigm of road design and maintenance. In 2014, the SWQB Wetlands Program partnered with the Quivira Coalition to conduct a one-day pre-conference workshop that introduced over 200 participants to the characterization and restoration of slope wetlands in New Mexico.

- Review of our current Water Quality Standards to identify ways to improve and update regulations to be more applicable to wetlands and wetland subclasses is underway. Completing a review of other State’s wetland regulations and participating with the Association of State Wetland Managers (ASWM) in a wetlands water quality standards project has augmented this effort. Currently, the Wetlands Program is participating with The Association of Clean Water Administrators (ACWA) in developing templates for wetlands water quality standards. The Wetlands Program will use data generated through assessment and monitoring to develop and refine narrative water quality standards to be more applicable to subclasses of wetlands.

OVERVIEW OF FIVE-YEAR GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

To effectively develop basic program functions that form the foundation of wetlands management and protection, the following outlines core elements, actions and activities to protect and restore New Mexico’s wetlands over the next five-year period. The completion of these activities is dependent on financial, staffing and other resources available to the Wetlands Program and its partners.

Program Development Activities for BUILDING AND MAINTAINING PARTNERSHIPS

Overall Objective: The SWQB Wetlands Program relies on a substantial number of partners to implement the work on the ground. A core function of the five year plan is to continue building and maintaining partnerships to implement the Wetlands Program Plan, and to train and inform partners at all levels.

Action: Continue to build and maintain partnerships							
Activity	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Partners	Activity Lead
Maintain a State Wetlands Roundtable (presently in its 9th year) composed of governmental and tribal partners to address challenges to New Mexico's wetlands resources.	X	X	X	X	X	State, federal, and tribal government partners on Roundtable	SWQB Wetlands Program
Maintain the NGO Roundtable meetings to provide training, and discuss resources for developing and maintaining initiatives, and addressing challenges to restoring and protecting New Mexico's wetlands.	X	X	X	X	X	Non-governmental partners on NGO Roundtable	SWQB Wetlands Program NGO co-sponsorship
Maintain the Southern Wetlands Roundtable to discuss regulations, restoration, monitoring, challenges and partnerships unique to the southern part of the state.	X	X	X	X	X	Governmental, tribal and NGO partners on Roundtable	SWQB Wetlands Program
Work with Roundtables to ensure cooperation to achieve Wetlands Program Plan goals. Develop annual actions to further the goals of this Plan.	X	X	X	X	X	Wetlands Roundtables, NGO Roundtable	SWQB Wetlands Program
Action: Identify and maintain simple, effective and efficient methods for monitoring wetlands through partnerships							
Activity	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Partners	Activity Lead
Identify a long-term sustainable wetlands monitoring strategy for watershed wetlands that can be maintained by local government or watershed groups.	X	X	X	X	X	Local governments and Watershed Groups, NGO	NGO Roundtable, WAP

Wetlands Program Plan for New Mexico
Updated 2.25.2015

							Roundtable	Participating watershed groups
Work collectively with all partners towards a long-term solution to wetlands monitoring, particularly the funding of long-term monitoring.		X	X	X	X	X	Agency, NGO and Southern Roundtables	NGO, Agency and Southern Roundtables
Create a toolbox of wetlands monitoring metrics and protocols for partners to determine restoration success and adaptive management that can be scalable to support both large scale and small scale projects.		X	X	X	X	X	Roundtables, Project Contractors	Watershed Groups
Engage group participation through a demonstration "All Hands" monitoring effort to collect NMRAM data. Continue effort each year at select sites.		X	X	X	X	X	Agency, NGO and Southern Roundtables, trained technicians	SWQB Wetland Program
Action: Identify opportunities to create sustainable ways to fund and accomplish wetlands restoration and protection work								
Activity	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Partners	Activity Lead	
Investigate the feasibility of creating a "short term funding source" that will support funding of small scale restoration projects. This source could make funds available up front to land owners who receive grants as reimbursement for expense incurred.	X	X	X	X	X	NGO Roundtable, Foundations, Banks, State Revolving Fund (SRF), River Stewardship Program	NGO Roundtable	
Create Strategy to coordinate and leverage multiple funding sources. Encourage partners to work towards a large scale project with a large impact supported by numerous funding sources, such as accomplished in the Bitter Lakes area. eg. Middle Rio Grande - Inter-Mountain West Joint Venture	X	X	X	X	X	Agency Roundtable, NGO Roundtable, Southern Roundtable	Agency and NGO Roundtables	

Program Development Activities for MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT Core Element

Overall Objective: Develop a full and complete wetlands assessment and monitoring strategy consistent with *Elements of a State Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Program for Wetlands* (EPA, 2006) that the State can use to inform management decisions and achieve goals that protect and restore wetlands resources.

Action: Continue to develop Elements of a State Water Quality Assessment and Monitoring Strategy for Wetlands						
Activity	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Activity Lead
Continue to develop monitoring design and sample sites that best serve the State's assessment and wetland management objectives.	X	X	X	X	X	SWQB MASS and Wetlands Program
Participate in National Wetlands Monitoring and Assessment Work Group (NWMWAG) to stay abreast of new developments in wetland monitoring and assessment, and data analysis. Participate in 2016 NWCA.	X	X	X	X	X	SWQB Wetlands Program
Update the State of New Mexico Wetlands Assessment and Monitoring Strategy			X	X	X	SWQB Wetlands Program
Action: Assess and monitor wetland resources by the development and use of landscape, Rapid Assessment and Intensive Monitoring tools						
Activities						
Participate in the State Mapping Consortium and National Wetlands Mapping Consortium, and on the NHD update representing wetlands until New Mexico has, at a minimum, National Wetlands Inventory coverage, classification and functional descriptors of all wetlands resources.	X	X	X	X	X	SWQB Wetlands Program (Geospatial Advisory Committee)

Wetlands Program Plan for New Mexico
Updated 2.25.2015

Complete mapping and classification of the Canadian River drainage and northeastern New Mexico, the Upper Rio Grande, the Rio Chama, wetlands in the Jemez Mountains and surrounding areas, wetlands in the Sacramento Mountain area, and the Pecos main stem and Black Rivers watersheds, the Rio Puerco Watershed and tributaries, southern New Mexico.	X	X	X	X	X	ASWM	USFWS, SLO, NMBGMR, Department Homeland Security, ACOE, ASWM, USFS, BLM, USFWS, private stakeholders and counties	SWQB Wetlands Program, mapping contractors
Identify and complete other parts of the state that need to be mapped and classified, including USFS areas adjacent to USFS Wilderness areas. Collaborate with tribes and include new areas not mapped.	X	X	X	X	X	USFS, USFWS NWI, Mapping Consortium, Mapping Advisory Committees	SWQB Wetlands Program through Mapping Consortium	
Continue to develop and promote the use of the New Mexico Rapid Assessment Method (NMRAM) for other wetlands subclasses through training and other venues. (Conduct one training per year) Organize one "all hands" data collection by trained partners each year.	X	X	X	X	X	UNM Natural Heritage, ACOE, NIMDOT, EPA, NMDGF, Consultants, Watershed Groups, Tribes, Others.	SWQB Wetlands Program	
Revise and apply NMRAM to other wetland types and to other parts of the State. Continue to collect NMRAM data following the SWQB Water Quality Assessment Rotational Schedule every other year. See schedule of NMRAM development below.	X	X	X		X	SWQB Wetlands Program, UNM Natural Heritage, NMRAM Advisory Committees, consultants, others.	SWQB Wetlands Program	
Verify and validate NMRAM methods through the use of				X	X	UNM Natural	SWQB	

Wetlands Program Plan for New Mexico
Updated 2.25.2015

Indicators of Ecological Integrity:							Heritage	Wetlands Program
Update and expand database of reference standard wetlands using newly mapped wetland areas and classification as a basis for preliminary selection.	X	X	X			UNM Natural Heritage and mapping contractors	SWQB Wetlands Program	
Update the State's Quality Assurance Project Plan to include common wetland monitoring methods and protocols.			X	X		SWQB and EPA quality assurance officers	SWQB Wetlands Program	
Action: Track Monitoring data in a system that is accessible, updated on a timely basis, and integrated with other water quality data								
Activity	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Partners	Activity Lead	
Continue development of web-based database for wetlands coordinated with other SWQB databases and data.	X	X	X	X	X	NMED OIT, UNM Natural Heritage	SWQB Wetlands Program and NMED OIT	
Develop a system for geo-referencing data and displaying data collection sites for reporting and analysis.	X	X	X			NMED OIT and geospatial staff	SWQB Wetlands Program and NMED OIT	

Program Development Activities for WETLANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM Core Element

Overall Objective: Promote the use of new and proven methods to protect and restore wetlands by regulated project proponents.

Action: Adopt procedures and strengthen processes that protect wetlands through regulatory measures							
Activity	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Partners	Activity Lead
Maintain and improve the State's wetlands resources	X	X	X			ACOE	ACOE

Wetlands Program Plan for New Mexico
Updated 2.25.2015

through development of sufficient mitigation ratios when mitigation is the only option. Include "no net loss" of function.									
Improve regulatory programs like the certification of Dredge and Fill under CWA § 401 that provide mechanisms for regulation of wetlands activities. Work more closely with the Corps provide input from §404/401 public interest reviews.	X	X	X	X	X	X	ACOE	SWQB 401 Cert Program and SWQB Wetlands Program	
Explore the feasibility, find sites and sponsors of In Lieu Fee Programs, and Mitigation Banks	X	X	X	X	X	X	ACOE, Agency and NGO Roundtables, NMDOT	ACOE	
Expand the activities and content reported for wetlands in the combined CWA §§303(d) and 305(b) report.		X	X	X	X	X	Agency Wetlands Roundtable	SWQB and SWQB Wetlands Program	
Develop and improve ordinances and jurisdiction that protect wetlands/riparian areas/ buffer at the local level, and that ensure that vulnerable and isolated wetlands are protected from impacts.	X	X			X	X	Santa Fe County, County governments, local governments, watershed groups with WAPs	SWQB Wetlands Program, NGO Roundtable	
Develop a tracking process to track wetlands gains and losses from a variety of activities that either impact or restore wetlands.					X	X	ACOE, NRCS	SWQB Wetlands Program	
Continue development and use of USACE NWRAM in BAMl procedures.	X	X	X	X	X		ACOE, Wetlands Program, UNM Natural Heritage	ACOE, SWQB Wetlands Program	

Program Development Activities for VOLUNTARY RESTORATION AND PROTECTION Core Element

Wetlands Program Plan for New Mexico
Updated 2.25.2015

Overall Objective: Meet the wetlands goals in the watershed restoration activities established in the State's Non-Point Source Management Plan.

Action: Expand and improve Wetlands Action Plan Program							
Activity	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Partners	Activity Lead
Work with other agencies and organizations to coordinate wetlands restoration, activities and funding through development of Wetlands Action Plans. Integrate Wetland Action Plans and watershed-based plans intended to implement NPS TMDLs, and incorporate wetlands objectives in NPS pollution abatement. Incorporate potential mitigation sites into Wetlands Action Plans.	x	x	x	x	x	Watershed groups, NGO Roundtable, Agency Roundtable, SWQB Watershed Protection Section	SWQB Wetlands Program and Watershed Groups
Develop and demonstrate innovative designs and techniques for restoring wetlands. Seek out, develop and demonstrate improved methods for protecting wetlands: i.e. headwaters, slope, alluvial fans, high elevation wetlands and playas as high priority areas.	x	x	x	x	x	NGOs, Consultants, BLM, USFS, SLO, NMDGF, USFWS, NRCS, private landowners, watershed groups, local government, others.	SWQB Wetlands Program, Roundtables
Research, develop and demonstrate re-establishment techniques and innovative designs for lentic wetlands around lakeshores, ponds and man-made tanks.	x	x	x	x	x	NGOs, Consultants, BLM, USFS, SLO, NMDGF, USFWS, NRCS, Universities, Plant Materials Center	SWQB Wetlands Program, BUR, NRCS
Encourage WAP partners to locate and protect slope	x	x	x	x	x	NGOs, Watershed	SWQB

Wetlands Program Plan for New Mexico
Updated 2.25.2015

wetlands (seeps and springs) and depositional wetlands in their watersheds and include information in WAPs.								groups.	Wetlands Program
Update and improve SWQB Wetlands Website to augment communication with WAP partners, provide technical transfer of restoration techniques and guidance, display new WAPs, create links, and update with relevant activities of Wetlands Program		X	X	X	X	X		Watershed groups, agencies, stakeholders, project contractors.	SWQB Wetlands Program
Integrate mapping and classification products into existing and future WAPs. Encourage watershed groups to include NMRAM data in WAPs. Provide Mapping, classification and NMRAM training at least once per year to partners creating WAPs.	X	X	X	X	X	X		Watershed groups, consultants, NGO and Agency Roundtables, Tribes	SWQB Wetlands Program and mapping contractors
Action: Create strategies that build capacity on public lands in New Mexico									
Activity:	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Partners	Activity Lead		
Develop strategies that shape policy for land and water use on public lands to promote restoration of wetlands.	X	X	X	X	X	Agencies, USFS, BLM, BOR, SLO.	SWQB Wetlands Program		
Promote the preservation of wildlife habitat, wildlife corridors, and keystone species habitat related to wetlands and consistent with the State Wildlife Action Plan.	X	X	X	X	X	Agencies, NM DGF, Local Governments	SWQB Wetlands Program		
Develop demonstration projects that emphasize proactive climate change activities including restoration and protection of wetlands and riparian corridors on federal lands.			X	X	X	SWQB Wetlands Program, USFS, BLM	SWQB Wetlands Program,		
Encourage federal agencies to monitor and protect ONRW wetlands	X	X	X	X	X	Government Agencies, Agency Roundtables	SWQB Wetlands Program		
Action: Create strategies that build capacity at the local level									

Wetlands Program Plan for New Mexico
Updated 2.25.2015

Activity	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Partners	Activity Lead
Develop strategies for working with private land owners and develop incentives for private landowners through watershed groups to restore, protect wetlands.	X	X	X	X	X	NRCS, NGOs, Agencies, Consultants	NGO and Agency Roundtables, Watershed Groups
Create technical materials and disseminate information to private land owners, tribes and others on incentives, methods and trainings to restore and protect wetlands.	X	X	X	X	X	NRCS, NGOs, Agencies, Consultants, Tribes, Roundtables.	SWQB Wetlands Program
Continue to refine information that provides economic justification and other value, including cultural/traditional and aesthetic for restoring wetlands.	X	X	X			ASWM, Tribes, watershed groups and others	SWQB Wetlands Program
Develop avenues for outreach to different groups who could be involved in wetlands as part of Wetlands Roundtable, Quivira Coalition Conference or other venue. Conduct a Texas/New Mexico Border Wetlands workshop. Reach out to new partners, new opportunities, at new venues.		X	X		X	SWQB Watershed Protection Section, Quivira Coalition, Roundtables, irrigation districts, Prairie Partnerships, others.	SWQB Wetlands Program
Assist partners by building their volunteer labor base and creating match opportunities. Train volunteer crew leaders in restoration techniques so that more volunteers are accommodated and are more productive on-site.		X	X	X		NGOs, Agencies, watershed groups.	SWQB Wetlands Program
Assist partners in finding match opportunities by participating in development and organization of large-scale wetland restoration/protection projects.	X	X	X	X	X	Local Governments, IWJV, NIM Wildlife	SWQB Wetlands Program

										Federation, USFWS, others.	
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Program Development Activities for WATER QUALITY STANDARDS FOR WETLANDS Core Element

Overall Objective: Prepare for the future adoption of water quality standards for specific wetlands and ensure that ONRW wetlands are appropriately protected.

Action: Develop water quality standards for wetlands											
Activity	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Partners	Activity Lead				
Review wetlands data to identify criteria that define physical, chemical and biological condition that is expected in wetlands.	X					ASWM, WQS Team, EPA	SWQB Wetlands Program				
Assess results of riverine NMRAM data and other current state resources, data and information to develop and substantiate draft wetlands narrative standards by subclass (mid-montane riverine, lowland riverine, playas).	X	X	X	X		ASWM, SWQB Staff, NMIDGF, EPA, others.	SWQB Wetlands Program				
Develop appropriate wetland specific designated uses for one wetland subclass (riverine).	X	X	X			WQS Team, EPA, NMIDGF	SWQB WQS, EPA, SWQB Wetlands Program				
Draft narrative criteria that qualitatively describe the condition that must be achieved to support the designated uses. Use data from reference standard sites (best obtainable) for the mid-montane, lowland riverine and playas subclasses.	X	X	X	X		EPA, SWQB Staff, others	SWQB WQS, EPA, SWQB Wetlands Program				
Draft water quality standards for wetlands for subclasses - mid-montane and lowland riverine, playas.	X	X	X	X	X	WQS Team, EPA.	SWQB WQS, EPA, SWQB Wetlands				

Wetlands Program Plan for New Mexico
Updated 2.25.2015

Action: Apply anti-degradation policies for ONRW wetlands							Program
Activity	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Partners	Activity Lead
Develop strategies to appropriately protect and maintain condition and functions of ONRW wetlands	x	x	x	x	x	SWQB Staff, USFS	SWQB Wetlands Program
Review Anti-Degradation Implementation Policy to determine if additional language related to wetlands functions, condition and hydrologic regime is appropriate.			x	x	x	SWQB Staff	SWQB Standards and Wetlands Program

ACRONYMS

ACOE	Department of the Army Corps of Engineers
ACWA	Association of Clean water Administrators
ASWM	Association of State Wetland Managers
BAMI	Before-After Mitigation Impact
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BOR	Bureau of Reclamation
CPP	Continuing Planning Process
CWA	Clean Water Act
OIT	New Mexico Department of Information Technology
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
HGM	Hydrogeomorphic
IWJV	Intermountain West Joint Venture
LLWW	Landscape position, landform, water body type, water source
MASS	Monitoring and Assessment Section
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NHD	National Hydrologic Dataset
NIMAC	New Mexico Administrative Code
NIMBGMR	New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources
NMDGF	New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
NMDOT	New Mexico Department of Transportation
NMED	New Mexico Environment Department
NMRAM	New Mexico Rapid Assessment Method
NMWRAD	New Mexico Wetlands Rapid Assessment Database
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPS	Nonpoint Source
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory
NWMAWG	National Wetlands Monitoring and Assessment Work Group
OIT	Office of Information Technology
ONRW	Outstanding National Resource Waters
SLO	New Mexico State Land Office
SQUID	Surface Water Quality Information Database

SRF	State Revolving Fund
SWQB	Surface Water Quality Bureau
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
UNM	University of New Mexico
US	United States
USFS	US Forest Service
USFWS	US Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	US Geological survey
VIBI	Vegetation Index of Biotic Integrity
WAP	Wetlands Action Plan
WPP	Wetlands Program Plan
WQCC	Water Quality Control Commission
WQMP	Water Quality Management Plan
WQS	Water Quality Standards

