

Watershed Plan Summary

Lower Animas River Watershed Based Plan (2016)

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

San Juan Watershed Group Mountain Studies Institute
San Juan Soil and Water Animas Watershed Partnership
Conservation District

PLAN COVERAGE

The Lower Animas Watershed Based Plan focuses on the Animas River from the Colorado/New Mexico border south to the confluence with the San Juan River at Farmington, New Mexico. The plan was accepted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on August 9, 2016.

PLAN GOALS

The stated objective of the LAWBP is to “combine water quality trends with land use data and the practical experience of local stakeholders to make informed decisions on how best to improve water quality on the Animas River.” Completed and proposed projects and outreach efforts including the following categories:

- Septic, sewer, and wastewater management
- Agricultural best management practices (BMPs)
- Upland restoration and best management practices
- Urban stormwater projects
- Riparian restoration
- Streambank, wetland, and floodplain restoration
- Irrigation infrastructure improvements

The stated long-term goal of the plan “is to restore the Animas River to an unimpaired condition such that it meets all its designated uses.”

CONSIDERATIONS

Completed and planned projects listed below are based solely on the information provided in the plan. The plan indicates that projects with a start date of 2016 “have either already begun, or funding sources have been secured and projects are set to begin within the year.” These projects were considered to be complete, and all other projects in the plan were categorized as “to be done.”

COMPLETED PROJECTS

Project Type	Description	Planned Completion Date	Cost	Additional Information
Septic, sewer, and wastewater treatment	Utility bill mailing: outreach flier on proper septic care, permitting, and stopping illegal dumping	Annually	\$2,500	None
	Illegal dumping outreach and enforcement campaign	Ongoing	\$5,000	None
	RV waste disposal signage and outreach campaign	2016–2017	\$5,000	None
	Sewer line from Farmington to Flora Vista	2016–2020	\$9,000,000	None
Agricultural best management practices (BMPs)	Installation of riparian fence, alternative water source, and filter strip at top three riparian pasture priority sites	2016–2019	\$88,518	None
	Irrigated cropland BMPs within Animas Valley	2016	Not available	None
	Soil health and agricultural BMP workshops	Annually from 2016 to 2020	\$2,000	None
	Ongoing outreach to agricultural producers to identify needs and project opportunities	Ongoing	Not available	None
Upland erosion control and revegetation	Sagebrush aerial treatment in Arch Rock Canyon and Cox Canyon	2016–2018	\$28,000	None
	Road unit erosion control in Hart Canyon	Ongoing	Not available	None
Urban stormwater	Municipal separate stormwater system (MS4) stormwater outreach campaign	Ongoing	Not available	None
	Current MS4 detention ponds—Porter Arroyo detention pond, Villa View detention pond	2016–2017	Not available	None
	City of Aztec arroyo study and future stormwater infrastructure	2016–2017	Not available	None
Riparian restoration	Revegetation of 13.3 miles of river, including pasture areas and areas cleared of Russian olive and salt cedar	Ongoing	\$140,587	Project cost with overlap with agricultural BMP projects
	City of Aztec streambank and river restoration	2016–2021	Not available	None
Irrigation infrastructure improvement projects	Irrigation ditch system needs assessment	2016	Not available	None

PLANNED PROJECTS

Project Type	Description	Planned Completion Date	Cost	Additional Information
Septic, sewer, and wastewater treatment	Updates to Durango Wastewater Treatment Plant	2017–2021	\$20,000,000	None
	Onsite treatment utility for Villa de Animas subdivision	Not available	Not available	Pending New Mexico Environment Department enforcement of liquid waste permit regulations
	Septic tank inspection and repair campaign	2018	\$100,000	None
	Cost-share funds for individual septic tank repair/replacement; lobby state legislature to fund the Liquid Waste Indigent Fund	2019	Not available	None
Agricultural BMPs	Pasture BMPs education and outreach campaign	2017, 2019, and 2021	\$500	None
	Installation of riparian fence, alternative water source, and filter strip at Ditch and Tucker riparian pasture priority sites	2018–2021	\$116,488	None
	Installation of riparian fence, alternative water source, and filter strip at remaining Estes and Flora Vista riparian pasture priority sites	2018–2021	\$36,652	None
Upland erosion control and revegetation	Invasive removal, native planting, and small erosion control structures in Cox Canyon	2019	\$30,000	None
	Sediment fences in Cox Canyon	2019	\$38,000	None
	Pipeline erosion control in Cox and Kiffen Canyons	Not available	Not available	Unknown timeline, outreach to be conducted in 2017
	Piñon–juniper thinning in Cox Canyon	2020	\$500,000	None
	Piñon–juniper thinning in Ditch Canyon	2020	\$1,750,000	None
	1,500 acres of piñon–juniper thinning in Flora Vista hydrologic unit code (HUC)	2020	\$750,000	None
	Salt cedar removal, 84.4 acres	2017	\$168,820	None
	Lower Animas Ditch siphon erosion control at Knowlton Canyon crossing	2019	\$22,000	None
	Lower Animas Ditch siphon erosion control at Hart Valley crossing	2019	\$12,000	None

PLANNED PROJECTS *(continued)*

Project Type	Description	Planned Completion Date	Cost	Additional Information
Upland erosion control and revegetation	Dry sediment basin in Flora Vista HUC	2021	Not available	None
Urban stormwater	Future MS4 detention ponds	2018–2020	Not available	None
	Green infrastructure/low impact development workshop	2018	\$16,000	None
Riparian restoration	Animas River riparian restoration, Tucker Canyon HUC	2017–2020	\$41,264	Project cost overlap with agricultural BMP projects
	Flora Vista river and riparian restoration	2017-2022	Not available	None
	Farmington Animas Rock Garden	2017	Not available	None
	Farmington Anesi Park	2019-2022	\$515,318	None
Irrigation infrastructure improvement projects	Cedar Ditch diversion improvement	Not available	Not available	None
	Kello-Blancett diversion improvement	Not available	Not available	None
	Ranchmans-Terrell diversion improvement	Not available	Not available	None

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The watershed plan is available [online](#).