



**Innovative, Long-Term Outreach Project Helps
New Mexico Students Learn About Their
Watershed and River Ecosystem**

Presented to the New Mexico Watershed Forum

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September 28, 2010

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Experiential EE, LLC

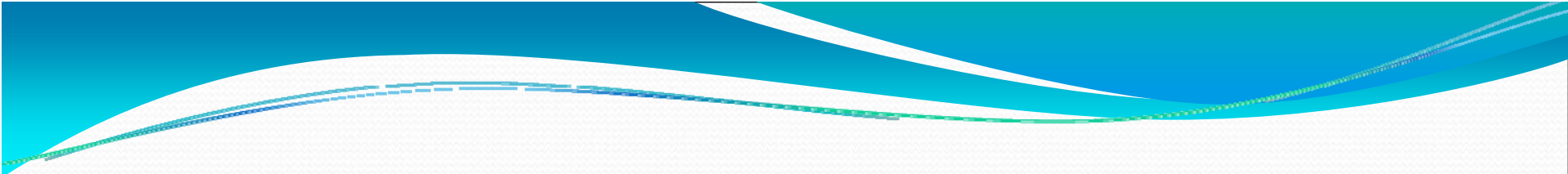


- New Mexico consulting firm owned by Katie Babuska
 - K-12 water resource education program development and management
 - teacher professional development
 - water resources outreach consulting
- Since 2006, we have produced water resources programs that have educated over 50,000 students and 2,500 teachers.

RiverXchange



- Innovative, long-term outreach project combines:
 - hands-on curriculum
 - guest presenters
 - computer technology
 - “high tech pen pal” partnership
- Uses local river as a focal point to teach about key water resources issues.
- Targets **New Mexico fifth** grade classes.

- 
- Inquiry-based curriculum emphasizes critical thinking and writing skills.
 - Runs full school year.
 - Requires field trip to the river.
 - Specific, measurable goals.
 - On-line student and teacher assessments.
 - Free of charge.
 - Low cost, high impact.
 - Created in 2007-2008.



Project Goals

- Deepen teachers' and students' understanding of and appreciation for their local river ecosystem and watershed.
- Motivate participants to protect local water resources by conserving water and keeping source water clean.
- Provide low cost, high impact water resources outreach opportunity for partner organizations.

Funding Partners

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

- 15 ABQ/RR partnerships

Southern Sandoval County Arroyo and Flood Control Authority (SSCAFCA)

- 10 RR partnerships (on-going commitment)

Middle Rio Grande Stormwater Quality Team (MRG SQT)

- 10 ABQ partnerships (on-going commitment)

Santa Fe County

- 10 SF partnerships (two year commitment)

In-kind Partners

- Classroom guest speakers
- Field trip docents
- Resource materials
- Technology support

Albuquerque

ABCWUA
Bernalillo Co. Cooperative
Extension
Bernalillo Co. Office of
Environ. Health
Bernalillo Co. Open Space
Bernalillo Co. Public Works
Ciudad Soil & Water
Conserv. District
MRG SQT
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Rio Rancho

CH₂M Hill OMI
City of Rio Rancho
Keep Rio Rancho
Beautiful
Friends of Rio Rancho
Open Space
New Mexico Museum of
Natural History &
Science
SSCAFCA
Sandoval Co. Cooperative
Extension

Santa Fe

Santa Fe County
Santa Fe Co. Cooperative
Extension
Santa Fe Watershed
Association
NMSU Small Farm Task
Force/Alcalde Science
Center
NM Environment
Department/SWQB
NM State Land Office

NM Participants (45)

- Albuquerque – 22
- Rio Rancho – 13
- Santa Fe County – 10

Partner Classes (45)

- Canada: Calgary, Alberta
- Canada: Salt Spring Island, British Columbia
- Canada: Selkirk, Manitoba
- Italy: Aviano
- Italy: Sicily
- CT: Simsbury
- GA: Milledgeville
- ID: Garden City
- ID: Kuna
- IL: Glen Carbon
- KY: Lexington
- KY: Louisville
- KY: Richmond
- MA: Holden
- MA: Millis
- MA: Needham
- NC: Cherokee
- NC: Gastonia
- NC: Jacksonville
- NC: Sparta
- NH: Milan
- OH: Cardington
- OR: Canyon City
- OR: Redmond
- VA: Charlottesville
- VA: Washington
- WA: Bellevue
- WA: Camas
- WA: Leavenworth
- WA: Vancouver

Curriculum

Combines...

- existing public domain, hands-on activities and resources
- local guest speakers
- field trip/service learning experience
- student-to-student pen pal partnerships
- reinforcement of learning through writing
- *Big Water Questions* as outcomes
- On-line student and teacher assessments



Outcomes: *The Big Water Questions*

- Why is water so important to life?
- How do all living things depend on each other?
- What is the water cycle?
- What is a watershed?
- Where does my drinking water come from?
- Where does my wastewater go?
- What makes water dirty?
- How much water does my family use each day?
- Who are the other water users in our society?
- Who owns our water?
- How can I protect our water?

Unit 1: Understanding a Watershed

- What is a watershed/where is my watershed?
- What makes water dirty?
- What is the water cycle?
- How can I protect our water?
 - State geography, climate, flora, fauna, timing of precipitation, location of tributaries
 - Upstream/downstream
 - Nonpoint source pollution
 - Infiltration, runoff
 - Stormwater
 - Pollution prevention



Unit 2: Water in Our Society

- Where does our drinking water come from?
- Where does our wastewater go?
- How much water does my family use each day?
- Who are the other water users in our society?
- How can I protect our water?
 - Water issues in other parts of the world
 - Ground water
 - Surface water
 - Wastewater vs. stormwater treatment
 - Rivers and human settlements/culture
 - Prior Appropriation vs. Riparian water rights
 - Agriculture and irrigation

Unit 3: River Ecosystem

- Why is water so important to life?
- How do all living things depend on each other?
- Who are the other water users in our society?
- How can I protect our water?
 - Food webs
 - Macroinvertebrates
 - Natural vs. constructed wetlands
 - Erosion



Field Trip/Service Learning

- Albuquerque
 - Sanchez Farms
 - Open Space Visitors Center
 - Tingley Beach
- Rio Rancho
 - Willow Creek Open Space
- Santa Fe County
 - San Ysidro Park
 - NMSU Alcalde Sustainable Agriculture Science Center



Assessment

On-line teacher surveys

- NM and partner

On-line student surveys

- Units 1, 2, 3

Wiki content review

- Class activity information
- Student pages

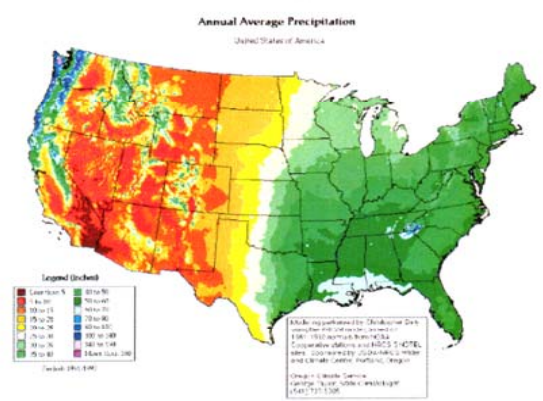
Student Survey

Unit 1

Greetings, RiverXchange students!

1. Try out your map skills ...

Answer the questions below by clicking on the picture.



What part of the U.S. gets the MOST rain each year?

Skip

Value: 0

Re-start

2. Do you know these *water words*?

Condensation

Delta

Desert

Evaporation

Headwaters

Pollution

Precipitation

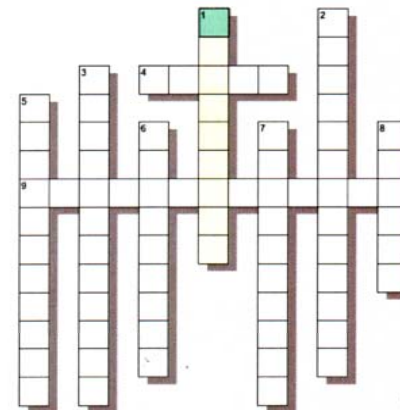
Runoff

Transpiration

Tributary

Watershed

Solve the crossword puzzle.



Across

4.) The mouth of a river, which is triangle-shaped like a Greek capital letter Delta

9.) All the water that falls from the sky, in solid or liquid, such as rain, snow or hail.

Down

1.) Dirt or poison in the environment.

2.) The process by which water comes out of the leaves of plants, primarily through openings in the leaves, and goes into the air.

3.) The process by which water changes from vapor

Finish

3. Now **test your knowledge** about Watersheds!

4. If you have time, you can play this fun game... **Water Showdown!**

Student Survey

Unit 2

Greetings, RiverXchange students!

1. Watch this great cartoon - [The Story of Groundwater](#)!
2. Play this fun [WaterSense](#) game!
3. Do you know these *water words*?

Acequia

Aquifer

Arroyo

Conservation

Dam

Infiltration

Levee

Locks

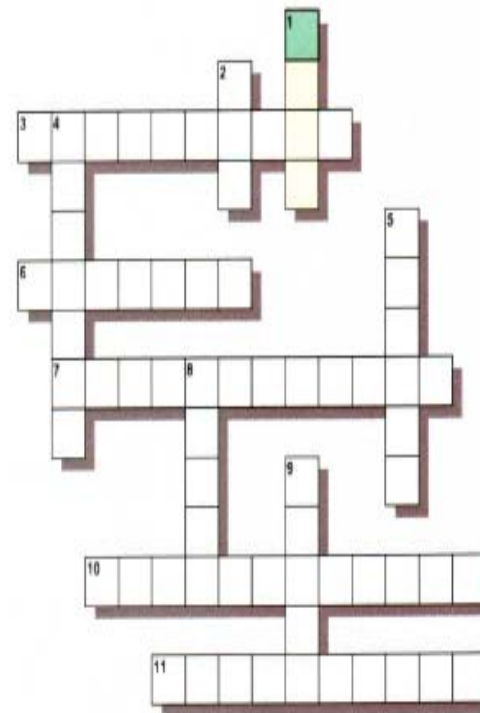
Wastewater

Water Table

Well



Solve the crossword puzzle.



Across

3.) The top surface of an aquifer (how far you have to dig down to find water).

6.) The place underground where water is (a layer of permeable rock, sand, or gravel saturated with water)

7.) The process of water sinking down into the

Down

1.) A deep hole that goes down to the water table for people to get water from underground.

2.) Barrier built across a river to hold water back, sometimes used to generate electricity.

4.) A name for ditches used in New Mexico to

Finish

4. Now test your knowledge about Water in Our Society!

Student Survey

Unit 3

Greetings RiverXchange students! Test your River Ecosystem knowledge:

1. Watch Frogline News to learn about how frogs are affected by watersheds.



2. Do you know these *Water Words*?

Bosque

Ecosystem

Erosion

Exotic Species

Floodplain

Habitat

Native Species

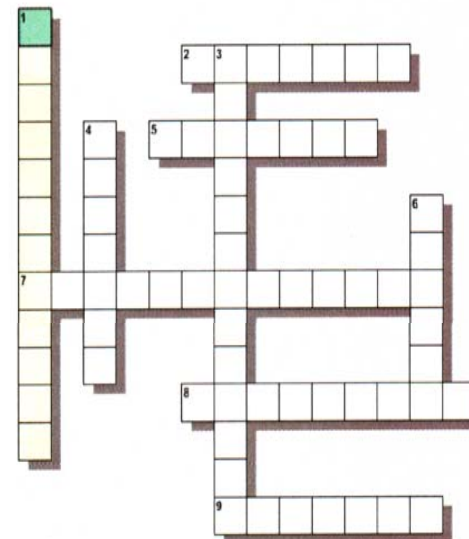
Riparian Zone

Sandbar

Wetland



Solve the crossword puzzle.



Across

- 2.) Area such as a marsh or swamp that is covered with shallow water or where the soil is very wet all the time.
- 5.) The process in which a material (such as a river bank) is worn away by water or wind.
- 7.) A species that naturally

Down

- 1.) The area around the banks of a natural body of fresh water.
- 3.) A plant or animal introduced from a different area that competes with native species. They sometimes become invasive and take over an area.

Finish

3. Now test your knowledge about River Ecosystems!

Wiki Samples

My PBworks Workspaces mcrackenoverby Upgrade Now! katie@experientiale.com account log out help

Wiki Pages & Files Users Settings Search this workspace

VIEW EDIT

FrontPage

last edited by koverby@... 3 mos ago Page history

Welcome to RiverXchange 2010!

Mr. McCracken's and Mrs. Overby's classes are excited to learn all about our rivers! We will be doing water-related activities throughout the semester, and sharing what we learn with our partner class each week. The three units we will be studying are listed below, with links to the pages where we will post photos of our classes doing each activity. All our students will follow the [Student Behavior Guidelines](#) for how to behave on our wiki.

In the Navigator bar are folders where important documents or pages are organized. The Starred Pages section is a good place to highlight excellent student work or documents you want all students to be able to find, such as the Student Behavior Guidelines. To make a page appear in this section, go to that page and click the little star to the left of the title.

On the Sidebar are links to each student's page where they will write about what they learned. Each week, each student will post something on their page about what they are learning. As the semester goes on, they continue adding to the same page, so at the end each student will have a record of everything they did! Each student can be assigned a partner in the other class (these individual partnerships can be for the semester, or change every week) - partners will read and comment on each other's pages.

Our Watershed

Mr. McCracken's class [Test Yourself!](#) Ms. Overby's class--NC

River Maps and Photos - NM	River Maps and Photos
Tributary Role Play - NM	Tributary Role Play
Watershed Model - NM	Watershed Model

Water in Our Society

Mr. McCracken's class [Test Yourself!](#) Ms. Overby's class--NC

Drinking Water Presentation - NM	Drinking Water
Pass the Jug - NM	Pass the Jug
Waste Water - NM	Waste Water
Commercial Uses of the River - NM	Commercial Uses of the River
Every Drop Counts - NM	Every Drop Counts

River Ecosystem

Mr. McCracken's class [Test Yourself!](#) Ms. Overby's class--NC

Macroinvertebrate Mayhem - NM	Macroinvertebrate Mayhem
Food Webs - NM	Food Webs
If I Owned the Ecosystem - NM	If I Owned the Ecosystem

Comments (1)

Navigator

- Starred Pages
 - Andrea
 - Company Policies
 - Course
 - Directory
 - Document Repository

Sidebar

Ms. Overby's Student Pages

- NC-Ben B
- NC-Levente
- NC-Hannah C
- NC-Erica
- NC-Slooban
- NC-Joe
- NC-Jared G
- NC-Bailey
- NC-JC
- NC-Joy
- NC-Megan
- NC-Sarah O
- NC-Sofia
- NC-Natalie
- NC-Matthew
- NC-Alexandra
- NC-Conner
- NC-Melissa
- NC-Jackson
- NC-Ernoy
- NC-Sarah T
- NC-Izzy
- NC-Mentl
- NC-Katya

Mr. McCracken's Student Pages

- NM - Keith
- NM - Emma
- NM - Chris
- NM - Billy
- NM - Pamela
- NM - Harry
- NM - Matt
- NM - Andrew
- NM - Rachel
- NM - Kristin
- NM - Stetson

My PBworks Workspaces mcrackenoverby Upgrade Now! katie@experientiale.com account log out help

Wiki Pages & Files Users Settings Search this workspace

VIEW EDIT

NM - Rachel

last edited by NM - Rachel 1 mo ago Page history

Hello, my name is Rachel. I can't wait to learn all about the river in North Carolina. I love to read. I don't play any sports but I love to be outside. I'm so sorry that we haven't been responding to your messages we have been very busy with testing and field trips.

Sewage

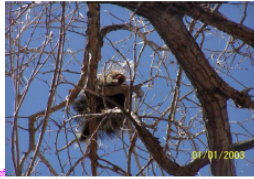
On March 22nd we had a guest speaker come from the Water Reclamation Plant come and talk to us about waste that goes in the water and how to keep it out. We made dirty water and then learned how to filter it. We learned that they clean the water at the plant by putting it through different filters. They have a big thing of water with little bugs that eat the left over waste in the water before it goes into our river, the Rio Grande. This keeps the water cleaner for all the animals that drink from the water and us too.

Commercial Uses of the River


On March 29th we had two guest speakers come to talk to us about the commercial use of the river. They talked to use about farming and how the crops get watered. They brought containers with sand and we got to make a farm with our table group. We used lima beans as our crops. We had to put the lima beans in the containers. then we watered them using each of the methods of watering plants. The three ways we used were 1. flooding, this is were you just dump some water in the middle of the field and let it water the plants. 2. sprinkle, this is were you use a sprinkler and water the plants. 3. drip, this is were you let drips of water water the plants. my group came up with that drip method kills the least plants.

Bosque Field Trip

We went on a field trip to the Bosque on March 28th. We went on a hike through the Bosque and we saw a lot of different plants, like the salt-cedar and even some wild life, like a porcupine. We also checked the ground water wells that they have put in the Bosque. The ground water level was different for most of the wells, the north well was 143cm to the water and the south well was 156cm



to the water. This is one of the amazing wild life



here in New Mexico. This is our lovely Rio Grande!

Candelaria Farms

On friday we went on a field trip to Candelaria farms. Candelaria farms is a place near the Bosque that helps saves trees and other plants and animals in the Bosque. We even got to help

Navigator

- Starred Pages

Sidebar

Ms. Overby's Student Pages

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- NM - Harry
- NM - Matt
- NM - Andrew
- NM - Rachel
- NM - Kristin
- NM - Stetson

VIEW EDIT

NC-Sarah O

last edited by NC-Sarah O 1 wk ago Page history

Hi! I am Sarah. I am 11 years old, and my favorite color is teal. I live near the Yadkin- Pee Dee Watershed, in NC. But I am happy that we can learn about rivers from across the country in such a fun and interesting way. I am looking forward to meeting you guys. I CAN'T WAIT TO GET STARTED ON THIS PROJECT!

Water for People Reflection:

Today, (February, 18, 2010) we had a quest speaker come to our class who spent a week in Malawi. She has been doing this for one week a year for four years. She is an environmental engineer. An environmental engineer is someone who works on a problem, having to do with the environment. She studies and tries to give people in Malawi, Africa, the best drinking water that they can get. They do not have as much knowledge, money, and materials to have safer, healthier drinking water compared to us.

She also talked with our class about their bathrooms. Some people in the country of Malawi use a hole in the ground for a bathroom. Some use more sophisticated systems with some privacy. There are very little flushing toilets in this country. We are very fortunate to have what we have.

She told us about many problems going on with their drinking water. Lots of people get their water by scooping it out of a nearby river. This is bad because if people upstream pollute or put trash into this river, the person at the end of the river, when they drink the water, could be drinking water with bits of trash and unwanted chemicals in it. People can die from drinking contaminated water, or at least get diseases. Malawi's life expectancy is 42 years. Many people die young because of contaminated water. Another bad problem is that the average income per year per working person is \$600. On average, each person living in Malawi can only have about 3 gallons of water in order for ever person to have the same amount of water. There are places where you can pump and buy your water. For 20 liters of water, it would cost you about 10 cents. This is a lot of money to wash your hands, bathe, cook, clean and wash clothes. Because this is so expensive, people go to nonpublic places to get free water that is very unsafe.

The only water besides little places where about 50 families would come (which I just talked about) is in a purifier system that uses the same system that we do to clean water. It is very complicated. The basics is that people get water and empty it into a big bucket that is a little bit bigger than a large pool. Then, a certain chemical is released that makes the particles clump together. The water goes through a filter which extracts these clumps. Chlorine is then added to decrease the amount of bacteria. Then there is a few more minor steps to finish. I just named the major ones because I can't remember all of them and the guest speaker didn't name them all. I think. Here in Winston-Salem, we have three of those type of water plants. It produces more than 10 times the amount that the one in Malawi does and we have over 1/2 a million less people to supply water to. In Malawi, if there is no water that is purified or it is all being used up, people will sometimes have to wait up to multiple weeks to get a drop of water!

Most men work official jobs and women work in the fields. It was mostly the children's job to get/buy water for the family. They had to carry 20 liter buckets of water on their heads and had to walk many miles to get home for some families.

I learned a lot from our guest speaker! I hope you did too!

I was not here on March 3, for the **Tributary Role Play**. I was sick and couldn't make up the activity.

Storm Water Guest Speaker

Yesterday, (April 8, 2010) a lady came to our school as a special guest. She informed us that she worked for a company called StormWater. She, along with many other workers, help our drinking water stay clean.

- Create a page
- Upload files
- Invite more people

- Share this page
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Navigator

- ★ Starred Pages
- Andrea
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Pages Files options

Pages Files options

Sidebar

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- NM - Harry
- NM - Madi
- NM - Andrew
- NM - Rachel
- NM - Kristin
- NM - Stetson

What is it?

Did you know that the purified water that we use from our toilets, showers, sinks, and everywhere else all goes to one place.

Where does it go?

That one place is the sewer. First it flows through our piping system then the neighborhood's piping and keeps flowing until it reaches a place that it is sloshed into a huge bucket. All the chunky lumps, if you know what I mean, are sorted out and the rest keeps going further into the purification system.

Her model

One of the things that she brought with her was a model showing an average town with a normal river flowing alongside of it. She demonstrated how people can pollute water. She also tied in one or two erosion issues. I can't remember all of it but she started off with a guy who lived in a small house with a giant dog that had some pooping problems. He pooped everywhere on the man's yard. You might think that this is not a problem because we use cow manure to fertilize our land. Dog poop kills the land because dogs are carnivores. Cows don't eat meat so herbivore poop has minerals in it that are different to a dog's. Dog poop contains a harmful chemical that will give you stomach aches or diarrhea if you enter water with dog poop in it. This substance is called E coli. So to symbolize dog poop she squirted some watered-down brown paint onto the man's yard.

The poop was sitting and killing the grass beneath it while another guy in town decided to change the oil in his car. Instead of taking it to a recycling center, he disposed of 4 quarts of oil into the river nearby. Just one gallon of oil can pollute more than a million gallons of water. See how much one man's carelessness can affect so much water?!

The ground is getting pretty bare now, and the water is getting grosser, but the world doesn't seem to notice, much less, care about our own drinking water. A farmer planted corn nearby but it looked like it couldn't grow very well so he decided to add some fertilizer and pesticides. The ground can only absorb a certain amount of those so the rest just sits on the topsoil. The watered down paint was used to show the pesticides and excess fertilizer.

So now, the poop and the fertilizer are just laying there while someone decided to build a school beside the river. (UGH! A school!! Why couldn't it be like a video game store or something!) But when they dug up the soil, some got sloshed around everywhere, outside the construction site. This was also represented by brown dots.

Although there is a law that you can't pour toxic chemicals into water, a nearby factory did it anyways. Sometimes, too much of it can turn the water pure BLACK! So the lady squirted some more of that brown paint on the factory's yard.

Now, you have noticed that there has been a terrible drought in this town. Finally it rained and washed away everything in its path towards the lowest elevation in town; the river. Also, this rain was so heavy that the steep slopes of the river caved in leaving the water muddy and dirty. That must taste really bad! I'm glad they try to purify it! But, the rain washes the pesticides, fertilizer, the dog poop and the soil from the school. All of that plus more things to pollute the water are rushed into the river, picking up even more things on its way. Not only can pollution kill us but it can kill the aquatic life trying to survive.

Her example was a great way to learn about pollution.

The Cuyahoga River.

She also showed us three photos of the Cuyahoga River in Ohio about 50 years ago and it is flammable! In one of the pictures, some of the river was on fire because of all different types of pollution. In another picture a man put his hand in the water and when he took it out, it was black and covered with mud and polluted water. Nothing could live in that water pretty much. The last picture showed a sign that originally said Cuyahoga River but after the fire happened, they added another sign above it that said "Flammable". I am really glad the Yadkin River isn't like that because that is where we get all our drinking water.

Us

All our water and unfortunately runs into Muddy Creek, the lowest point of elevation. But everyone knows that actions speak louder than words! I can't believe how much pollution is going on! And to think, the model was shown of an every-day town. If we all just don't dump a gallon of oil into a river, that is more than a million gallons not polluted saved by you! If each person does their part, we can all enjoy a tall glass of non-polluted water! So let's get helping our water rather than talking about ways to pollute it.

- NM - Andrea
- NM - Brandon
- NM - Julia
- NM - Abbie
- NM - Jacob
- NM - Jude
- NM - Megan
- NM - Jared
- NM - Mark
- NM - Mason
- NM - Kyle
- NM - Megan W.

Edit the sidebar

Share this workspace

Add a new writer to the workspace.

user@email.com

User settings

Recent Activity

NC Emory edited by NC-Emory

NC Matthew edited by NC-Matthew

NC-Sarah O edited by NC-Sarah O

NC Melissa edited by NC-Melissa

NC Meryl edited by NC-Meryl

NC Meryl edited by NC-Meryl

NC Izzy edited by NC-Izzy

More activity...

1000000000

2010 News Coverage

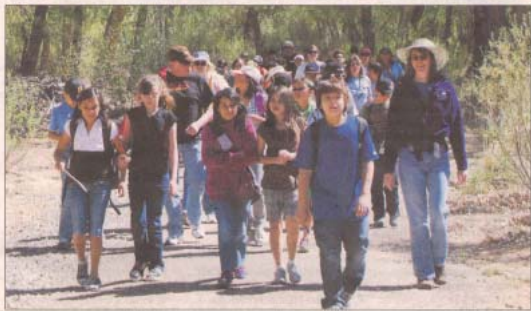
RIO RANCHO OBSERVER • RROBSERVER.COM

Community

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RIO RANCHO OBSERVER — GARY HERRON PHOTOS



Bosque bound

Two fifth-grade classes from Maggie Cordova Elementary headed to the bosque last Friday to learn about the watershed, wildlife and more. At upper left, Marian Wragge, an environmental programs manager with the city, points out an owl's nest. Above, Joel Fullerton jots down a few notes. At left, students walk along a path, enjoying a day outdoors.

BOSQUE FIELD TRIP



MARLA BROSE/JOURNAL

Under the shade of an umbrella, Susan McGrady and Ramona Hallum hike in the bosque during a field trip with their classmates from Maggie Cordova Elementary School on Friday.

Hiking in the Habitat

About 49 fifth-grade students spent Friday morning walking through the Willow Creek Open Space along the Rio Grande near the Rivers Edge neighborhoods.

The walk was part of Rio Rancho's RiverXchange program, a collaboration between the city's Water Conservation office and Keep Rio Rancho Beautiful.

It gave students an opportunity to learn about the bosque habitat and ongoing efforts to monitor the groundwater. Students will share what they learned about the river with students in other states via the Internet.



Josiah Castandeda, center, raises his hand while on a field trip to the bosque. Casteneda and Josh Foley were among the Rio Rancho students who participated in the program.

Next Steps

- Identify more local field trip/service learning locations.
- Expand local guest speaker pool.
- Improve technical support for all teachers.
- Expand classroom resources (e.g., age appropriate DVDs, exhibits, lesson plans).
- More support for partner classes, such as funding to cover the cost of their field trip transportation.

Don't Trash Our Rio!

Water-math activity created using info from 9/7/10 article

Albuquerque Journal
Sept. 7, 2010

Water Sifted CLEAN

Structures remove debris from storm drains before it gets into the river

By John Fleck
Journal Staff Writer

You can tell the Albuquerque flood control channels that lie downstream from golf courses by the little white balls heading downstream in a storm. Plastic water bottles, though, know no geographic boundaries. They show up everywhere.

It happens every time the flood control system gets what its engineers call the "first flush," the rush of water across the metro area in the first rain after any sizable dry spell.

Anything that can float, and some things that don't, gets washed off the city's streets, parking lots and driveways and into the 211 miles of channels and pipes built to carry floodwater out of the city and into the Rio Grande without washing our houses away.

TRASH IN THE ARROYOS



Chris Cordova, center, and Herman Gavaldon, right, clean up debris captured in one of the trash traps dotting Albuquerque's flood control system.



The channels, owned by the Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority (AMAFCA) and a host of other agencies, are primarily intended to get floodwaters safely out of the city.

But in recent years, the system's managers have become increasingly involved in a second mission — catching trash and other pollutants before they can reach the Rio Grande.

"You can see that it's working," said Kurt Wagener recently as he peered into one of the system's latest trash-catching structures, a Rube Goldberg-looking contraption on the edge of Albuquerque's Balloon Fiesta Park.

The La Cueva Water Quality Feature sits at the end of a concrete arroyo that catches water from a broad area of Albuquerque's north side, and it held the contents of a "first flush" from a recent thunderstorm that had swept across Albuquerque after a weeks-long dry spell.

Upstream, a concrete wall catches storm flows and diverts them into the trash trap, where a maze of concrete walls has been designed to capture the what Wagener and his colleagues call "floatables" while the water flows on into the North Diversion Channel.

A survey now under way by AMAFCA, required by the metro area's stormwater permit, is attempting to quantify how much trash ends up in the system, and what kind.

The "how much" is enormous.

Last year, AMAFCA crews fished 26,000 cubic yards of trash from the flood control system — somewhere between 800 and 1,000 garbage truck loads, depending on the size of the truck.

Kevin Daggett, AMAFCA's stormwater quality engineer, is still totalling up the numbers from his ongoing trash study, but his initial take on the problem is that disposable plastic water bottles are the biggest current culprit.

"The vast majority of the floatables were plastic water bottles," Daggett said. "You buy your plastic water bottle and it ends up in the Rio Grande."

Or, if we're lucky, Daggett and his colleagues can stop it and fish it out before it gets to the river.



Water from a summer thunderstorm streams into a trap intended to keep empty water bottles and other trash from reaching the Rio Grande.



Trash left behind after floodwaters subside shows how much of what we throw away ends up heading toward the river. The structure was built near Balloon Fiesta Park to capture debris floating down the arroyos.



A steel screen in northeast Albuquerque allows stormwater to filter through while diverting floating trash so Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority workers can keep it from reaching the Rio Grande.



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