

APPENDIX 2c - PUBLIC WORKSHOPS & COMMENTS

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Note: The comments contained in this section were collected during the planning process. Comments on the draft plan can be found in the Epilogue.

HOMES

WILDLIFE

You need water to cook, drink, bathe,
Your livestock and wildlife need water,
Your plants, trees, and garden, need water, but
The creek is barely flowing,
The acequia is dry,
Water barely flows from your faucet. WHY?

GARDENS

FIRE SUPPRESSION

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

**ATTEND THE
RIO PUERCO Y RIO JEMEZ
REGIONAL WATER PLAN WORKSHOP
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2003**

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

AGRICULTURE

**Jemez Valley
Community Center
Cañon
9 AM to Noon**

or

**Cuba Senior Center
Cuba
2 PM to 5 PM**

YOUR PARTICIPATION IS CRUCIAL

AT THIS WORKSHOP WE WILL:

1. Review and Accept the Goals and Objectives previously formulated,
2. Discuss, Prioritize and Approve the draft alternatives formulated in October,
3. Form Stakeholder Groups.

WATERSHED PLANNING CONTINUES, BE A PART OF IT:

4. Attend Stakeholder Group meetings to develop strategies that will work for us now and in the future.
5. Attend our final workshop in April.

THE REGIONAL PLAN MUST BE COMPLETED BY FALL 2003

CIVILS

LIVESTOCK

INDUSTRY

GUBA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
PO Box 250
Guba, NM 87013

WHERE WILL YOUR WATER GO?

Farms and Ranches

Rivers and Wildlife

Your Home



Albuquerque

Rio Rancho

Industry

**If you don't plan for your water use someone else will.
And you can bet they think their use is more important than yours.**

WHERE WILL YOUR WATER GO?

Farms and Ranches

RIO PUERCO Y RIO JEMEZ REGIONAL WATER PLAN WORKSHOPS SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2003

GROWTH and DEVELOPMENT

9:00 A. M. - 12:00 P.M.
JEMEZ VALLEY
COMMUNITY CENTER

2:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
CUBA
SENIOR CENTER

AGENDA

- Welcome
- Introduction to Regional Water Planning - Bob Wessely, Chair of Water Assembly
- Why do we need water planning, "the big picture" - Armand Groffman
- What have we done so far? - Mike Wirtz
- Discuss and adopt the previously drafted Mission, Goals & Objectives,
- Review the Alternatives under consideration by the Water Assembly,
- Review and endorse the Alternatives to managing our water, and then prioritize them,
- Discuss why and how to create "Scenarios" (a vision of actions to effect alternatives),
- Form Steering Committees to create "Scenarios" and chose our preferred alternatives.

Rio Rancho

Regional Water Planning is Underway
The plan will be finished this Fall (2003)
Your Participation is Crucial

Your Home

Albuquerque

*If you don't plan for your water use someone else will.
And you can bet they think their use is more important than yours!*

Steering Committees meet monthly
The Final Workshop will be in two months
Please join us as we build a plan together!

INDUSTRY

Rivers and Wildlife

Cuba Soil and Water Conservation District
PO Box 250
Cuba, NM 87013

RIO PUERCO Y RIO JEMEZ Regional Water Plan

February 2003
Río Jemez and Río Puerco Region
Watershed Planning Committees

Interim Results

Based upon public input, the following draft Mission, Goals and Objectives were adopted on July 28, 2001:

A. Mission Statement

The Río Puerco y Río Jemez Steering Committee promotes the enhancement of watershed restoration efforts that will benefit communities and it's residents by increasing water production and improving water quality.

B. Interim Goals and Objectives

1. Manage the watersheds for increased water production and improved water quality
2. Insure that traditional values and use of water is preserved
3. Educate all citizens about the need to use water wisely
4. Provide for reaching public participation in the water planning process
5. Promote the conservation of water and incorporate these concepts in the local schools' curriculum

C. Preliminary Water Management Alternatives

On October 3, 2002, the following preliminary water management alternatives, in no order of priority, were adopted:

1. Manage and Restore our Watersheds.

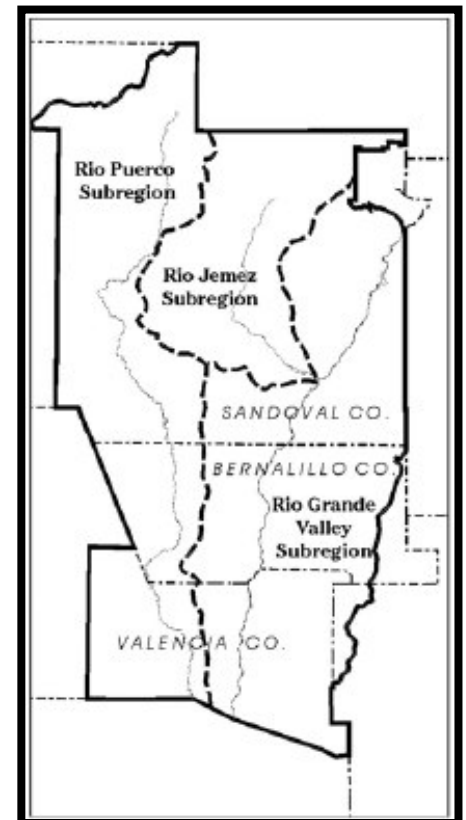
- reduce wildfire hazard
- minimize negative vegetation effects on water quality using Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- improve stream channel health
- create local employment and economic benefits

2. Reduce Water Demand

- every customer (user) has his or her own water budget
- incentive pricing can generate significant water savings
- allow for greater water availability for other users

3. Increase Water Storage Capacity in Rural Areas

- additional storage protects from drought
- adds flexibility in water management
- a regional approach would be beneficial



4. Reduce Water Loss in Acequias

- lining and repairing existing acequias can reduce or eliminate contaminant into groundwater supply
- some of the water savings would otherwise have recharged groundwater

5. Protect Water Rights

- rural communities and their way of life cannot be sacrificed to provide water for growing municipalities
- “acequia and Tribal issues for water use and management should be recognized at all times

6. Use Surface and Groundwater in Combination

- common sense alternative
- use surface water in wet years, groundwater in dry years

7. Manage Growth and Land Use Together

- helps maintain a sustainable community
- it is important to base reasons for growth management or constraints to water availability
- a regional approach is important
- growth management is important to acequias

8. Manage Drought

- drought is a recurring cycle
- planning ahead is important in avoiding crisis management
- proactive planning approach is beneficial to all parties

9. Capture Flood Flows

- reduce and protect against flood flows, manage the hydrograph
- reduce flood damage
- depends of availability of storage and diversion points

10. Reuse Wastewater (Gray)

- reuse for irrigation
- inject as artificial recharge
- reduces demand and eliminates discharge to stream
- two to three times more expensive for small communities than larger urban areas

11. Remove Trace Elements From Water to Increase Supply

- arsenic is the most prevalent and presents the most important concern
- if enacted, more water will be available because water with high concentrations of arsenic and other constituents is not being used

12. Install Domestic Supply Wells

- this involves managing a well field that may consist of one or more well sites
- groundwater generally needs less treatment than surface water
- groundwater will be more reliable during drought periods
- domestic wells may be only alternative in isolate areas

Río Jemez y Río Puerco Regional Water Plan
Saturday, February 22, 2003
Ed Moreno, facilitator

Río Jemez Sub-region
Jemez Valley Community Center, Cañon

Introduction

The Río Jemez and Río Puerco Joint Watershed Steering Committee, with support from the Cuba Soil and Water Conservation District, organized public workshops in the Río Jemez and Río Puerco sub-regions in concert with the regional water planning process that is under way in the Middle Río Grande Region. Invitations were mailed to residents and businesses in the two sub-regions, posters were placed and articles were included in both the *Cuba News* and the *Jemez Thunder*.

Cuba Soil and Water Conservation District has a Joint Powers Agreement with the Mid-Region Council of Governments to carry out the regional water planning program in the Río Jemez and Río Puerco sub-regions. In the first phase of this program, several meetings and workshops were held to identify issues, concerns, values, problems, and goals and objectives related to developing a regional water plan. During Phase II, the region is to hold two workshops in each watershed. The purpose of the first workshop was to present basic information about the regional water plan, review and obtain concurrence on the interim mission statement as well as goals and objectives, then to review and rank the preliminary alternatives to be included in the plan, and finally to form work groups to begin the process of developing scenarios in keeping with the alternatives and goals of the plan. This plan will ultimately become a part of the Middle Río Grande Regional Water Plan.

Welcome

The facilitator invited the participants to introduce themselves and include their community of residence and any relevant affiliations. A sign-up sheet was circulated for participants. A list of those attending the workshop is attached.

Agenda

The agenda was presented as follows:

- Welcome
- Introduction to Regional Water Planning in the Middle Río Grande Region – Bob Wessely, Chair of Water Assembly
- Why do we need water planning? Presentation of “the big picture” of global climate and weather patterns that affect New Mexico – Armand Groffman
- What have we done so far? A report on the activities of the Río Puerco and Río Jemez Regional Water Plan Phase I – Mike Wirtz
- Review and Accept Draft Mission, Goals & Objectives
- Review of Alternatives under Consideration by Water Assembly - Bob Wessely
- Discuss, Prioritize and Approve the draft Alternatives To Managing Our Water
- How to Create Scenarios and Why
- Form Stakeholder Groups to Chose Our Preferred Alternatives (to report back at April Workshop)

General Questions and Discussion

The workshop participants offered general questions and comments during the presentations, as follows:

- The Jemez River region is not fully adjudicated. An adjudication plan has been proposed and all of the non-Indians in the region have accepted it, but final resolution is pending.
- It was reported that legislation is pending to allow cities to condemn land for purposes of claiming water rights. It was also reported that legislation has also been proposed limiting that power.

Mission Statement

The participants were asked to review and suggest changes to the mission statement that had previously been adopted during Phase I of the Río Puerco y Río Jemez RWP, as follows:

Original: *The Río Puerco y Río Jemez Steering Committee promotes the enhancement of watershed restoration efforts that will benefit communities and it's residents by increasing water production and improving water quality.*

The group questioned the emphasis on increasing “production” from improved watershed conditions as well as the intended beneficiaries of the production, and instead to change the word to “retention.” More discussion regarding retaining water occurred later during a discussion of alternatives.

The participants also preferred an emphasis on “wise use and conservation” of water. They also wanted clarity in the wording to make sure that the mission statement applied to the Río Jemez region. Following discussion, the group agreed to the following language for the mission statement:

Revised: *The Río Puerco y Río Jemez promotes the enhancement of watershed restoration efforts that will benefit communities in our sub-region by improving water retention, quality and conservation.*

It was recommended later that the mission statement contain language including the Pueblos of the region as an integral part of regional water planning. The participants agreed to give the steering committee the authority to edit the mission statement.

Goals and Objectives

As presented, the Goals and Objectives were as follows:

1. *Manage the watersheds for increased water production and improved water quality*
2. *Insure that traditional values and use of water is preserved.*
3. *Educate all citizens about the need to use water wisely.*
4. *Provide for reaching public participation in the water planning process.*
5. *Promote the conservation of water and incorporate these concepts in the local schools' curriculum.*

The participants made the following changes:

- Goal 2 should be elevated so that traditional values and use of water is the first priority.
- Goal 2 should be expanded to include reference to cultural and religious values. Additional language should be inserted that recognizes the role of nature and the health of the world in the availability of water. Water may be nature’s way of waking us up. Pueblo people are praying for rain, and spiritual efforts to secure adequate water should be used as well.
- In Goal 4 change “Provide for reaching” to “Promote”
- Goals 3 and 5 overlap on the issue of education. It was recommended that Goal 3 be expanded to include wording from the mission statement on water retention, quality and conservation, and focus on public school curriculum for Goal 5.
- Other regional water plans should be reviewed so that the best language for Goals and Objectives can be considered and possibly used.
- The Steering Committee should be delegated authority to revise the Goals and Objectives as amended and clarified by the workshop participants.

Water Management Alternatives

The workshop participants were asked to review the 12 preliminary water management alternatives, as proposed below, and recommend any changes to the alternatives.

1. Manage and Restore our Watersheds.

- reduce wildfire hazard
- minimize negative vegetation effects on water quality using Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- improve stream channel health
- create local employment and economic benefits

2. Reduce Water Demand

- every customer (user) has his or her own water budget
- incentive pricing can generate significant water savings
- allow for greater water availability for other users

3. Increase Water Storage Capacity in Rural Areas

- additional storage protects from drought
- adds flexibility in water management
- a regional approach would be beneficial

4. Reduce Water Loss in Acequias

- lining and repairing existing acequias can reduce or eliminate contaminant into groundwater supply
- some of the water savings would otherwise have recharged groundwater

5. Protect Water Rights

- rural communities and their way of life cannot be sacrificed to provide water for growing municipalities
- “acequia” and Tribal issues for water use and management should be recognized at all times

6. Use Surface and Groundwater in Combination

- common sense alternative
- use surface water in wet years, groundwater in dry years

7. Manage Growth and Land Use Together

- helps maintain a sustainable community
- it is important to base reasons for growth management or constraints to water availability
- a regional approach is important
- growth management is important to acequias

8. Manage Drought

- drought is a recurring cycle
- planning ahead is important in avoiding crisis management
- proactive planning approach is beneficial to all parties

9. Capture Flood Flows

- reduce and protect against flood flows, manage the hydrograph
- reduce flood damage
- depends of availability of storage and diversion points

10. Reuse Wastewater (Gray)

- reuse for irrigation
- inject as artificial recharge
- reduces demand and eliminates discharge to stream
- two to three times more expensive for small communities than larger urban areas

11. Remove Trace Elements From Water to Increase Supply

- arsenic is the most prevalent and presents the most important concern
- if enacted, more water will be available because water with high concentrations of arsenic and other constituents is not being used

12. Install Domestic Supply Wells

- this involves managing a well field that may consist of one or more well sites
- groundwater generally needs less treatment than surface water
- groundwater will be more reliable during drought periods
- domestic wells may be only alternative in isolate areas

The workshop participants recommended the following changes:

- Alternative 5 should be amended to emphasize the need of people in the region to work with the Pueblo Tribes on an ongoing basis.
- Representatives of Zia Pueblo reported that it is considering a water storage facility on the Jemez River or perhaps Guadalupe Creek to retain water that it is entitled to use but presently cannot use because of lack of storage.

Discussion, Prioritization and Approval of Alternatives

Following discussion, the workshop participants expressed their preferences for the more important alternatives by voting for their preferences. Using colored dots, the participants ranked the alternatives in the following order:

Alternatives	Ranking by votes
<i>1. Manage and Restore our Watersheds</i>	(3) 15
<i>2. Reduce Water Demand</i>	(4) 8
<i>3. Increase Water Storage Capacity in Rural Areas</i>	(5) 4
<i>4. Reduce Water Loss in Acequias</i>	0
<i>5. Protect Water Rights</i>	(1) 25
<i>6. Use Surface and Groundwater in Combination</i>	0
<i>7. Manage Growth and Land Use Together</i>	(2) 19
<i>8. Manage Drought</i>	0
<i>9. Capture Flood Flows</i>	0
<i>10. Reuse Wastewater (Gray)</i>	3
<i>11. Remove Trace Elements From Water to Increase Supply</i>	0
<i>12. Install Domestic Supply Wells</i>	0

Scenarios and Formation of Groups to Draft Scenarios

Representatives of the Water Assembly and the facilitator discussed the creation of scenarios, which are the preferred method for developing a set of alternatives that will be the basis of the regional water plan. A scenario is a story of the next 50 years that ends up in a desired condition for the sub-region. It would contain a theme or vision of the future and the actions needed to achieve that desired future.

At the conclusion of the meeting, participants were invited to sign up to work on a particular scenario group. The scenarios chosen for study were:

- Ag/Ranching
- Environmental
- Cultural/Religious/Acequia
- Suburban/Exurban

Announcements of Future and Ongoing Meetings

- The Water Assembly has scheduled a March 1 Regional Forum on the regional water plan. The regional forum will concern the alternatives being considered by the Water Assembly for inclusion the regional water plan.
- The Río Jemez Steering Committee meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Center. The next meeting is March 18.
- The joint Río Puerco y Río Jemez Steering Committee meets at least monthly.

Conclusion

The meeting was concluded at the end of the scenario exercise.

Río Jemez y Río Puerco Regional Water Plan
Saturday, February 22, 2003
Ed Moreno, facilitator

Río Puerco Sub-region
Cuba Senior Citizens Center, Cuba

Introduction

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Cuba Soil and Water Conservation District has a Joint Powers Agreement with the Mid-Region Council of Governments to carry out the regional water planning program in the Río Jemez and Río Puerco sub-regions. In the first phase of this program, several meetings and workshops were held to identify issues, concerns, values, problems, and goals and objectives related to developing a regional water plan. During Phase II, the region is to hold two workshops in each watershed. The purpose of the first workshop was to present basic information about the regional water plan, review and obtain concurrence on the interim mission statement as well as goals and objectives, then to review and rank the preliminary alternatives to be included in the plan, and finally to form work groups to begin the process of developing scenarios in keeping with the alternatives and goals of the plan. This plan will ultimately become a part of the Middle Río Grande Regional Water Plan.

Welcome

The facilitator invited the participants to introduce themselves and include their community of residence and any relevant affiliations. Approximately 30 participants attended, a large number of them from the La Jara community north of Cuba who represented traditional acequia interests. A sign-up sheet was made available and a list of those in attendance is attached to this summary.

Agenda

The agenda was presented as follows:

- Welcome
- Introduction to Regional Water Planning in the Middle Río Grande Region – Bob Wessely, Chair of Water Assembly
- Why do we need water planning? A presentation on “the big picture” of global climate and weather patterns that affect New Mexico – Armand Groffman
- What have we done so far? A report on the activities of the Río Puerco and Río Jemez Regional Water Plan Phase I – Mike Wirtz
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- How to Create Scenarios and Why
- Form Stakeholder Groups to Chose Our Preferred Alternatives (to report back at April Workshop)

General Questions and Discussion

The workshop participants offered general questions and comments during the presentations, as follows:

- The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo must be recognized and enforced. A workshop participant said that the Río Puerco is being asked to “share the pain” but that he does not intend to share any water with Albuquerque.
- Indian water rights claims are not addressed; what will be done about that?
- How will the drought affect the deficit? With a current deficit of 55,000 acre feet per year in the Middle Río Grande Region, the deficit could grow to 150,000 acre feet per year, said Bob Wessely.

Mission Statement

The participants were asked to review and suggest changes to the mission statement that had previously been adopted during Phase I of the Río Puerco y Río Jemez RWP, as follows:

Original: *The Río Puerco y Río Jemez Steering Committee promotes the enhancement of watershed restoration efforts that will benefit communities and it's residents by increasing water production and improving water quality.*

The workshop participants asked for a more clear definition of watershed restoration. The participants agreed to change the reference to water “production” to water “retention.” The participants also wanted the mission statement to reflect the status of water as property that cannot be taken without compensation. The participants also agreed that the definition of “communities” should be expanded to focus on rural communities, and specifically their “rural and traditional” nature. The participants agreed to include language in the mission statement that would prohibit the sale of water out of the area. Questions were raised about the legal status of water rights transfers. The group did not complete work on exact wording of the mission statement but agreed to delegate the drafting of the final language to the steering committee.

Goals and Objectives

As presented, the Goals and Objectives were as follows:

1. *Manage the watersheds for increased water production and improved water quality*
2. *Insure that traditional values and use of water is preserved.*
3. *Educate all citizens about the need to use water wisely.*
4. *Provide for reaching public participation in the water planning process.*
5. *Promote the conservation of water and incorporate these concepts in the local schools' curriculum.*

The participants made the following changes:

- Goal 1 should state “retention” instead of “production.”
- Goal 5 should be clarified that it is intended to be education in the public schools and that it include study of the tradition and history of the region and water use.
- There should be mention of implementation in Goal 4.
- Goal 2 should reflect values, culture and lifestyle that must be maintained, preserved and perpetuated.
- The education provisions in Goal 3 and Goal 5 overlap but should be differentiated. Goal 3 refers to general public education about wise water use, whereas Goal 5 refers to public school curriculum that deals with broad water issues and history.
- A goal should be added that emphasizes the need to protect and promote property rights.
- A goal should be added to promote beneficial use, for example that some water users could arrange for the use another's water rights if that person were at risk of losing his or her rights due to non-use.
- The goals should identify what entity or person or committee would be responsible for implementing the plan.

Water Management Alternatives

The workshop participants were asked to review the 12 preliminary water management alternatives, as proposed below, and recommend any changes to the alternatives.

1. **Manage and Restore our Watersheds.**
 - reduce wildfire hazard
 - minimize negative vegetation effects on water quality using Best Management Practices (BMPs)
 - improve stream channel health
 - create local employment and economic benefits
2. **Reduce Water Demand**
 - every customer (user) has his or her own water budget
 - incentive pricing can generate significant water savings
 - allow for greater water availability for other users
3. **Increase Water Storage Capacity in Rural Areas**
 - additional storage protects from drought

- adds flexibility in water management
- a regional approach would be beneficial

4. Reduce Water Loss in Acequias

- lining and repairing existing acequias can reduce or eliminate contaminant into groundwater supply
- some of the water savings would otherwise have recharged groundwater

5. Protect Water Rights

- rural communities and their way of life cannot be sacrificed to provide water for growing municipalities
- “acequia” and Tribal issues for water use and management should be recognized at all times

6. Use Surface and Groundwater in Combination

- common sense alternative
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- helps maintain a sustainable community
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- drought is a recurring cycle
- planning ahead is important in avoiding crisis management
- proactive planning approach is beneficial to all parties

9. Capture Flood Flows

- reduce and protect against flood flows, manage the hydrograph
- reduce flood damage
- depends of availability of storage and diversion points

10. Reuse Wastewater (Gray)

- reuse for irrigation
- inject as artificial recharge
- reduces demand and eliminates discharge to stream
- two to three times more expensive for small communities than larger urban areas

11. Remove Trace Elements From Water to Increase Supply

- arsenic is the most prevalent and presents the most important concern
- if enacted, more water will be available because water with high concentrations of arsenic and other constituents is not being used

12. Install Domestic Supply Wells

- this involves managing a well field that may consist of one or more well sites
- groundwater generally needs less treatment than surface water
- groundwater will be more reliable during drought periods
- domestic wells may be only alternative in isolate areas

The workshop participants made no changes in the alternatives as presented, but agreed on the addition of three new alternatives, subject to review and possible consolidation by the Rio Puerco steering committee. The new alternatives were as follows:

13. Implement a public education program to encourage wise water use

14. Identify sources of water to fight fires, including wildfires

15. Prohibit the sale of water rights outside the sub-region

Discussion, Prioritization and Approval of Alternatives

Following discussion, the workshop participants expressed their preferences for the more important alternatives by voting for their preferences. Using colored dots, the participants ranked the alternatives in the following order:

Alternatives	Ranking by votes
1. <i>Manage and Restore our Watersheds</i>	(2) 11
2. <i>Reduce Water Demand</i>	4
3. <i>Increase Water Storage Capacity in Rural Areas</i>	(5) 6
4. <i>Reduce Water Loss in Acequias</i>	1
5. <i>Protect Water Rights</i>	(1) 17
6. <i>Use Surface and Groundwater in Combination</i>	0
7. <i>Manage Growth and Land Use Together</i>	(4) 7
8. <i>Manage Drought</i>	(3) 9
9. <i>Capture Flood Flows</i>	0
10. <i>Reuse Wastewater (Gray)</i>	2
11. <i>Remove Trace Elements From Water to Increase Supply</i>	0
12. <i>Install Domestic Supply Wells</i>	1
13. <i>Implement Public Education Program</i>	1
14. <i>Identify fire-fighting water</i>	4
15. <i>Prohibit sale of water from region</i>	2

Scenarios and Formation of Groups to Draft Scenarios

Representatives of the Water Assembly and the facilitator discussed the creation of scenarios, which are the preferred method for developing a set of alternatives that will be the basis of the regional water plan. A scenario is a story of the next 50 years that ends up in a desired condition for the sub-region. It would contain a theme or vision of the future and the actions needed to achieve that desired future.

At the conclusion of the meeting, participants were invited to sign up to work on a particular scenario group. The scenarios chosen for study were:

- Agriculture
- Environmental/watershed
- Rural Villages
- Do Nothing

Sample Río Puerco Scenario

Robert Cordova, a participant, related that he had recently worked on a scenario for the La Jara region that could be used as a sample for the sub-region’s scenario building. The scenario is as follows:

La Jara Scenario

- The number of “stems” per acre in the forest is reduced
- Land is laser-leveled
- Clean foods grown in the La Jara area are marketed
- Sediment reaching streams is reduced
- Grasslands are enhanced through management

Announcements of Future and Ongoing Meetings

- The Water Assembly has scheduled a March 1 Regional Forum on the regional water plan. The regional forum will concern the alternatives being considered by the Water Assembly for inclusion the regional water plan.
- The joint Río Puerco y Río Jemez Steering Committee meets as needed.

Conclusion

The meeting was concluded at the end of the scenario exercise.

Where's My Water ?

I may have enough today.
How about tomorrow ?

All experts agree that the future poses serious water problems. The trouble is having enough affordable water to meet future human and environmental needs while maintaining our desired New Mexican lifestyles.

What can I do?

State water planners have asked interested water users to help decide how to manage this precious resource. Residents need to participate in this volunteer, non-profit, grass roots effort. This is the chance for every community, acequia, pueblo, village, chapter, rancher, farmer and family to express their wishes. If you remain silent, it is possible your needs will not be addressed.

OK, so what's next?

Come to the next round of the Río Puerco y Río Jemez Regional Water Plan Workshops. Consider the goals and alternatives selected at February's Workshops, listen to visions for the future, and then help to choose one which meets the goals of the plan. Plus, enjoy refreshments and the company of your neighbors!

Saturday, May 3, 2003
Jemez Valley Community Center
Cañon, New Mexico
**Registration, Information &
Refreshments - 8:00 AM
Workshop - 9 AM to Noon**

OR

Saturday, May 10, 2003
Cuba Senior Center
Cuba, New Mexico
**Registration, Information &
Refreshments - 8:00 AM
Workshop - 9 AM to Noon**

HU'KO = VEN = COME

Environmentalist

Parciante

HOW WILL WE MEET OUR REGIONAL WATER PLAN'S MISSION?

The residents of the Río Puerco y Río Jemez Watersheds promote a sustainable balance between the availability and use of water, promote healthy watersheds, and retention of a rural lifestyle to benefit local communities and residents.

Rancher

IMAGINE

Villager

THE RIO PUERCO Y RIO JEMEZ

IN 2050

Retiree

Student

The February Workshop produced Goals and Prioritized Alternatives. Using those, a volunteer citizens group called the Río Jemez and Río Puerco Joint Watershed Steering Committee drew from previous public meetings to build a vision which incorporated those ideas, together with actions to achieve it. This set of actions, or scenario, will be the framework of our regional water plan.

This next workshop will focus on ensuring that the scenario portrays our collective visions and values. Please come to learn about the draft scenario and provide your input. Only in that way can we make sure that all of our perspectives are reflected in the future of water management in the region.

Manage and Restore our Watersheds
Conservation

Water Quality

Manage Growth and Land Use Together

Which Actions Shall We Choose?

Protect Water Rights

Education

**Will There Be Enough Water To Meet Our Children's Needs?
Can We Maintain Our Rural Lifestyle?
How shall we meet our goals?**

**PLEASE ATTEND
THE REGIONAL WATER PLAN WORKSHOP**

AT THIS WORKSHOP:

1. Presentation of the Mission Statement, and Goals and Alternatives.
2. Review the Draft Vision and Scenario.
3. Accept a preferred Scenario which meets the goals of the plan

YOUR PARTICIPATION IS CRUCIAL

CUBA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
PO Box 250
Cuba, NM 87013

Farms

Your Home

IMAGINE THE RIO PUERCO Y RIO JEMEZ IN 2050

Saturday, May 3, 2003
Jemez Valley Community Center
Cañon, New Mexico
Registration, Information &
Refreshments - 8:00 AM
Workshop - 9 AM to Noon

OR

Saturday, May 10, 2003
Cuba Senior Center
Cuba, New Mexico
Registration, Information &
Refreshments - 8:00 AM
Workshop - 9 AM to Noon

Gardens

THE REGIONAL PLAN Will BE COMPLETED BY FALL 2003

For more information, please contact Peggy Ohler at the Cuba Soil and Water District, (505) 289-3950 or <pegohler@yahoo.com>. As part of Region 12, information about our activities and the regional water planning can be found at www.WaterAssembly.org.

Rivers and Wildlife

Ranches

Commerce

IMAGINE THE RIO PUERCO Y RIO JEMEZ IN 2050

*Will There Be Enough Water To Meet Our Children's Needs?
Will there be a Healthy Ecosystem?
Can We Maintain Our Rural Lifestyle?
How shall we meet our goals?*

Which Actions Shall We Choose?

REGIONAL WATER PLAN WORKSHOP

Saturday, May 3, 2003

Jemez Valley Community Center --OR--
Cañon, New Mexico

Saturday, May 10, 2003

Cuba Senior Center
Cuba, New Mexico

AGENDA

8:00 am to 9:00 am

- Coffee / Registration / Information

9:00 am to 12:00 noon

- Welcome
- A look to the past for insight to the future
- A snapshot of present uses and pressures
- The Mission, Goals and Alternatives
- Draft scenarios
- Discuss and choose a preferred scenario
- Next Steps

Rancher YOUR PARTICIPATION IS CRUCIAL *Villager*

Regional Water Planning needs all of us involved so that the plan truly represents the diversity of our region. Activities will be planned to implement the goals, such as holding topical workshops and educational events. Your assistance is essential! The Steering Committee meets monthly in both watersheds. For more information, please contact Peggy Ohler at the Cuba Soil and Water Conservation District, (505) 289-3950 or <pegohler@yahoo.com>. Information about our activities and the regional water planning can be found at www.WaterAssembly.org then scroll down to "The sub-regions-Rio Puerco y Rio Jemez."

Work Product

Attendees at the February Workshop accepted Goals and Prioritized Alternatives, and gave approval to the Steering Committee to finalize the wording on the Mission Statement as well as the Goals and Alternatives. Below is the final version. The Steering Committee drew from these to build their visions and actions to achieve them.

Mission Statement

The residents of the Río Puerco y Río Jemez Sub-watersheds promote a sustainable balance between the availability and use of water, promote healthy watersheds, and promote retention of a rural lifestyle to benefit local communities and residents.

Non-Prioritized Goals

- Restore and manage the watersheds on public and private land to enhance water production, retention, and quality, to reduce the threat of wildfire, and to preserve natural systems dependent on water.
- Support the cultural and spiritual values of water, and the universal need for and importance of water.
- Ensure treaty, water and acequia rights to preserve and protect local agricultural traditions.
- Retain land use patterns that support and ensure a rural lifestyle and economy.
- Promote the conservation of water.
- Promote education for area residents regarding the connection between land use, water and environmental health, and ways to conserve water. These concepts should be incorporated into the curriculum of area schools.
- Provide for monitoring the implementation of the water plan.

Alternatives

- Protect Water Rights
- Manage and Restore our Watersheds
- Manage Growth and Land Use Together
- Reduce Water Demand
- Increase Water Storage Capacity in Rural Areas
- Manage Drought
- Reuse Wastewater (Gray)
- Identify fire-fighting water
- Prohibit sale of water from region
- Implement Public Education Program
- Install Domestic Supply Wells
- Reduce Water Loss in Acequias
- Capture Flood Flows
- Use Surface and Groundwater in Combination
- Remove Trace Elements From Water to Increase Supply

IMAGINE THE RIO JEMEZ IN 2050

AGRICULTURAL AND RANCHING SCENARIO

Agriculture and ranching is a part of the whole ecosystem. For us, it is both a part of our livelihood and of our culture. We highly value the rural nature of the region. Our group would like to see that agriculture and ranching continue to function as an integral part of our region. As stewards, we recognize the importance of nurturing the land and husbanding the water.

Elements of our vision:

- Maintain the current livestock numbers and the number of acres being tilled.
- Implement management practices that are environmentally friendly and sustainable.
- Maintain diversity of wildlife and livestock.
- Maintain the tradition of acequias, including their priority of right-of-way.
- Utilize new technology to enhance conservation of water and preservation of the land.
- Encourage local farmer markets to benefit our area and to enable future generations to farm and ranch.
- Share our knowledge with folks who are not farmers by trade by creating opportunities, such as community gardens.
- Implement land use management tools to protect the agricultural lands from development.
- To assist future generations in learning about water, partner with the school district to create a Natural Resource Educational Program.

Complete Version

Agriculture and ranching is a part of the whole ecosystem. For us, it is both a part of our livelihood and of our culture. We highly value the rural nature of the region. Our group would like to see that agriculture and ranching continue to function as an integral part of our region. To ensure that, we want to maintain the current livestock numbers and the number of acres being tilled. We want to implement management practices that are environmentally friendly and sustainable. We also want to maintain diversity of wildlife and livestock.

Many acequias exist in our valley, and have been here for several generations. We want to maintain the tradition of acequias, including their priority of right-of-way

Not so long ago, vegetables and fruits were grown throughout the valley. Now, the reality is that many of us have to work off the land in order to maintain it. So that future generations can continue to farm and ranch, we want to encourage local farmer markets. Community gardens could be a way to share our knowledge with folks who are not farmers by trade.

As stewards, we recognize the importance of nurturing the land and husbanding the water. We look forward to new technology to enhance our conservation of water and preserve the land.

Like others in the valley, the paving and building on agricultural lands is of concern. In order to protect the health of the environment and to assure that land stays in agriculture, we would like to see land use management tools implemented to protect the lands from development.

To assist future generations in learning about water, agencies such as Cuba Soil and Water Conservation District will partner with the school district to create a Natural Resource Educational Program.

VISION STATEMENT – ENVIRONMENTAL PERSPECTIVE

The environmental vision reflects a shift in attitude from exploitation of the land to stewardship of forests, rangeland and riparian areas. Our children and their children will have the economic and spiritual benefits of ancient forests, free-flowing rivers, living deserts and the abundance of life flourishing in all these areas. The water plan preserves the greatest amount of biological diversity (domestic and wild) while restoring and maintaining a healthy ecosystem. The water plan protects local history and traditions and our land-based economy (including tourism). We envision keeping people on the land by integrating conservation and environmental issues with best management practices in forestry, ranching and agriculture. In the environmental vision, management of public and private lands includes the following:

- maintains healthy and productive plant and animal communities (including threatened and endangered species)
- controls growth by geographical or numerical limits on population
- ensures a healthy watershed
- guarantees good water quality
- educates citizens in water use/reuse

EXURBAN/SUBURBAN/DEVELOPMENT/GROWTH VISION STATEMENT

In the next 5-10 years one can imagine a vision in which better-planned regional suburban growth occurs in the Jemez and Nacimiento mountain areas to the north of Albuquerque. This plan would try to encourage areas of higher density where there is the most water available, so that water rights need not be transferred. North of Rio Rancho, this growth would gently interact with the existing rural pueblo and ranching lifestyles allowing the area to maintain cultural and religious traditions as well as to maintain the environment. Education of increasing newcomers and tourists will help to minimize conflicts. Water use will be coordinated among the various municipal water systems and the pueblos and conservation practices (industrial, farming, ranching and domestic) will be mandatory.

The vision includes the following elements:

- Immigration of people to this area to work in clean (eco-friendly) industries nearby
- Continuation of full-time and part-time ranches mixed with new residential dwellings (some loss of agricultural land is inevitable)
- Regional growth planning/zoning with rural as well as urban focus and with water as a consideration
- Maintenance of tribal, religious, and cultural traditions partly via education of newcomers and visitors
- Maintenance of ecological and scenic conditions which have attracted us
- Educational packages made available at Pueblo and Forest Service. Seminars/courses at school
- Mandatory water conservation for industry, farming/ranching and residential uses
- Modernized, well-maintained muni water systems cooperating with each other
- Tax breaks for installation of graywater and rainwater roof runoff capture

Looking 50 years ahead is difficult

- We don't want to get into limited choices. Continue uses into the future.
- We want to keep the water so we have flexibility in the future.
- Water should stay with the land.

Río Jemez y Río Puerco Regional Water Plan Workshops
Río Jemez Area
Saturday, May 3, 2003
Jemez Valley Community Center
Cañon, New Mexico

Ed Moreno, facilitator

Welcome

Water Assembly volunteer and officer Bob Prendergast and project coordinator Elaine Hebard welcomed the community members to the Regional Water Plan Workshop. Approximately 19 residents of the region attended the workshop

Look to the Past for Insights to the Future, Present Uses

Gilbert Sandoval of Jemez Springs showed a photograph of a portion of a Peter Hurt mural, and owned by David Lucero, showing a man praying for rain. “Ven lluvia bendita, ven a acariciar la tierra sendienta.” Translated, it says, “Come blessed rain, come and caress the thirsty land.” He interpreted the artwork as demonstrated the never-ending relationship that people must have with the natural and spiritual world in order to assure their sustenance. Participants also were reminded of the comments of Peter Pino of Zia Pueblo in February that the spiritual aspects of water and precipitation should always be taken into account and not taken for granted.

A slide presentation was given indicating the process of the regional water planning so far, and indicating where the process is going into the future. A summary of the present uses of water in the region was also presented.

Mission and Goals

Jennifer Johnson, a member of the Río Jemez y Río Puerco Sub-Region Steering Committee, presented the mission and goals for the area in their final form. At the previous workshop in February, the Jemez area participants had given the Steering Committee the authority to finalize the language of the mission and goals. See attached document for mission, non-prioritized goals and prioritized alternatives.

Special Places

The participants were asked to identify some of the special places in their valley that they treasure, that could be improved or are threatened. Those included:

- Fishing pull-offs
- Los Ojos bar
- Valles Caldera
- Hot springs
- My home
- Way of life and tradition
- Pastures, livestock, wildlife, crops
- Jemez Springs on the Fourth of July, Elk in the meadows

Draft Scenario Presentations

Participants from the Jemez Valley presented three primary scenarios that had been developed, focusing attention on the Agriculture and Ranching, Environmental and Exurban/Suburban/Growth scenarios.

General comments on all of the scenarios from participants were recorded as follows:

- We have to keep water in the valley.
- Agriculture continues, although changes have happened.
- There’s a special feeling when entering San Ysidro.
- The threat of losing water to Rio Rancho is bare hills, no livestock, no trees.
- Environmentalists support agriculture values.
- It’s a wonderful place to come home to.

Agricultural and Ranching Scenario

Jose Garcia presented a summary of the Agricultural and Ranching scenario, as follows:

Vision

Agriculture and ranching is a part of the whole ecosystem. For us, it is both a part of our livelihood and of our culture. We highly value the rural nature of the region. Our group would like to see that agriculture and ranching continue to function as an integral part of our region. As stewards, we recognize the importance of nurturing the land and husbanding the water.

Elements of our vision:

- Maintain the current livestock numbers and the number of acres being tilled.
- Implement management practices that are environmentally friendly and sustainable.
- Maintain diversity of wildlife and livestock.
- Maintain the tradition of acequias, including their priority of right-of-way.
- Utilize new technology to enhance conservation of water and preservation of the land.
- Encourage local farmer markets to benefit our area and to enable future generations to farm and ranch.
- Share our knowledge with folks who are not farmers by trade by creating opportunities, such as community gardens.
- Implement land use management tools to protect the agricultural lands from development.
- To assist future generations in learning about water, partner with the school district to create a Natural Resource Educational Program.
- Zia and Jemez Pueblos, while enjoying their own traditions, also are a part of our community.

Exurban/Suburban/Development/Growth Vision Statement

Larry Rogers presented a summary of the Exurban / Suburban / Development / Growth Scenario, as follows. The scenario was submitted by Larry Rogers and Dennis Smith.

Vision

In the next 5-10 years one can imagine a vision in which better-planned regional suburban growth occurs in the Jemez and Nacimiento mountain areas to the north of Rio Rancho and Albuquerque. This growth would gently interact with the existing rural pueblo and ranching lifestyles allowing the area to maintain cultural and religious traditions as well as to maintain the environment.

The vision includes the following elements:

- Immigration of people to this area to work in clean (eco-friendly) industries nearby
- Continuation of full-time and part-time ranches mixed with new residential dwellings (some loss of agricultural land is inevitable)
- Regional growth planning/zoning with rural as well as urban focus and with water as a consideration
- Maintenance of tribal, religious, and cultural traditions partly via education of newcomers and visitors
- Maintenance of ecological and scenic conditions which have attracted us
- Educational packages made available at Pueblo and Forest Service. Seminars/courses at school
- Mandatory water conservation for industrial, farming/ranching and residential uses
- Modernized, well-maintained, municipal water systems cooperating with each other
- Tax breaks for installation of graywater and rainwater roof runoff capture
- We don't want to get into limited choices. Continue uses into the future.
- We want it so that you don't lose your water if you return it to the river.
- We want to keep the water so we have flexibility in the future.
- Water stays with the land.

Vision Statement – Environmental Perspective

Becky Christman presented the Environmental Perspective scenario, as follows. It was submitted by Becky Christman and Judith Isaacs.

Vision

The environmental vision reflects a shift in attitude from exploitation of the land to stewardship of forests, rangeland and riparian areas. The greatest amount of plant and animal diversity is preserved in a healthy ecosystem.

Key elements will:

- Base its planning for watershed restoration on the entire ecosystem
- Create a forest with a diversity of species and sizes
- Keep people on the land by integrating conservation and environmental issues with best management practices in forestry and ranching
- Tie regional land-use planning to demonstrated availability of water
- Implement treatments that preserve the greatest amount of biological diversity (domestic and wild) while restoring ecosystem integrity
- Institute incentives in both rural and urban areas for water conservation and recycling
- Include cost of environmental damage in assessing alternatives

Areas of Agreement Among the Scenarios

Through a facilitated discussion, the participants identified

Education

All of the scenarios called for ongoing educational programs that would help locals, outsiders and newcomers understand the role of water in the valley. The emphasis was on highlighting wasteful uses of water in downstream areas, and for the Regional Water Plan participants to enter into partnerships with other groups that are conducting educational programs.

Environmental Sustainability

A series of bullets reflecting criteria for environmental sustainability were developed from among the scenarios, as follows:

- Ecological and scenic conditions.
- Healthy, productive plant and wildlife communities.
- Diversity includes livestock and wildlife.
- Best management practices, including adaptive management based on experimentation and learning from mistakes.
- Utilizing resources – depend on the life cycle of the forest. Timing is critical.
- Long-term maintenance programs.
- Ensure environmental and forest health for children and grandchildren.
- Eradication of non-native and noxious weeds.

Development and Land Use

Areas of agreement among the scenarios led to the development of the following issues:

- Zoning and water given consideration together.
- Planning in Sandoval County should focus on all rural areas.
- The effects of wells for new subdivisions on other water users should be known.
- Keep the sense of “rurality” in the area.

Local Traditions

Areas of commonality among the scenarios regarding preserving local traditions were as follows:

- Traditional uses of land and water should remain – livestock, farming, cultural and religious.
- Zoning and lot sizes should encourage rurality, a sense of a rural area.
- This area attracted people, what made it so attractive?
- Crops, specialty crops, farmers' markets, a sale barn.
- Spiritual role of water in prayer and other rituals.

Watershed Improvement

A series of watershed improvements were identified as common among the scenarios, as follows:

- Restoring the watershed to a more historically natural condition.
- Continued use of the watershed by local people.
- Proper management as appropriate.
- Consider small dams for some purposes.

Conservation

Common areas in conservation included:

- Recognize return flows in the equation.
- Tax breaks should be given for conservation.
- Technology exists to improve water systems.
- It's a fairness issue – who uses the water?
- Statewide policy is needed on conservation.

Water Rights

Common areas of the scenarios related to water rights:

- Keep water here in the valley.
- Peoples' water rights can be challenged for non-use.
- Keep water with the land.

Areas of Disagreement Among the Scenarios

The primary difference among the scenarios was over the future of agriculture in the Jemez Valley. While the Agriculture and Ranching scenario calls for maintaining the numbers of livestock and irrigated acres in the valley, other participants indicated that it was unrealistic to expect that to occur. Some years there might be less farming due to drought, or fewer cattle due to market conditions. Others said that the loss of agriculture land is inevitable as people leave the business. It was noted that a preference still remained for not allowing development on agriculture land.

Notes and Miscellaneous Comments

The participants identified watershed health as an important concern, because of the cost of projects that would restore the watershed and restore the role of fire in the ecosystem. It was noted that there is some thinning around campgrounds, and that federal money is available for thinning especially at the urban-wildland interface. A discussion of endangered species was inconclusive. While some advocated for species programs to “not go overboard,” others cautioned that allowing a sensitive species to be listed as threatened or endangered would limit local use of resources.

Individuals were invited to sign up for workshops and other committee work.

The meeting was adjourned shortly after noon.

Questions about this summary? Contact Ed Moreno at 505-466-2006 or edmoreno@newmexico.com

IMAGINE THE RIO PUERCO IN 2050

Agriculture * Village Vitality * Natural Balance * Rural Villages * Do Nothing

AGRICULTURE & RANCHING SCENARIO

The vision of the Cuba area's agricultural community is to perpetuate the area's historical, cultural, agricultural, economic and ecological values by becoming actively involved in strategic planning of natural resources, implementing adaptive, viable, effective, and sustainable management practices, rehabilitating farm and range lands, and reducing, and planning rotation of, fallow acres within the area.

We envision preventing conversion of agricultural land to housing and, despite the increasing demand for water in urban areas, keeping water and agriculture in our area. We envision planning and implementing projects that will improve our lands and help to enhance and sustain the community's agrarian economy into the next century, serving as a role model to adjacent areas in their agrarian and ecological enhancement efforts, providing support to these efforts, and through improved farming and ranching methods, decreasing our contribution of sediment to both the Arroyo San Jose and the Rio Puerco.

We envision implementing feasibility studies for construction of water retention facilities, and development of a local agricultural cooperative. With a perpetual source, and appropriate distribution of water a community agricultural cooperative could promote an interest in traditional crops such as corn, squash, and beans, contemporary crops such as alfalfa, and take advantage of new and emerging crop markets.

Primary Resource Concerns:

1. Topography of cropland prevents the efficient application of water.
2. Construction of a water storage reservoir (facility) to supply an adequate, perpetual supply of water,
3. Need to improve irrigation water delivery systems to prevent: water loss to dirt ditches and from broken flumes and culverts; silting in and erosion of ditches; and reduced flow due to invasion of willows, trees and weeds,
4. Education about new agricultural technologies and techniques,
5. Protection and improved functioning of the watershed to increase water quantity and reduce the risk of catastrophic fire and loss of the watershed.

NATURAL BALANCE SCENARIO

Vision Statement: People living within the watershed will understand and live within the natural constraints of climate, fire, soils, and biological communities. Everyone will benefit from a fire-adapted watershed with enhanced water retention and healthier forests, grasslands and watercourses. The landscape will balance wild and cultivated lands that accommodate drought, fire, wildlife, and limited human populations.

In our climate, a properly functioning watershed will act like a sponge, absorbing precipitation and snowmelt, and storing and gradually releasing water from springs and into streams through seasonal spring droughts. It will also minimize runoff and erosion from summer thundershowers by slowing overland, arroyo, and stream flows. Because these watershed functions are primarily dependent on ecosystem conditions and processes, watershed management requires ecosystem management. Forests, woodlands, and grasslands in our watershed have lost much of their ability to carry surface fires, and forests and woodlands have become vulnerable to crown fire, due to a century of fire suppression. The competition among trees for water and nutrients leaves them all more susceptible to drought, insects, and disease, and reduces the ability of the watershed to feed perennial streams and resist erosion.

Sustainable use of water must recognize the dependence of watershed functions on ecological processes, such as fire, and ecological conditions, which are ultimately dependent on human management and use of natural resources. To sustain those ecosystems, management of natural resources must recognize and respect the limits that define the boundaries of sustainability. For example, fire suppression in ecosystems that were adapted to frequent fires extended fire return intervals far beyond their natural limits, and this has been unsustainable, leading to increasingly larger and more catastrophic fires. Likewise, we must recognize and respect ecological limits in the supply and availability of water for human use. Ecological watershed management can capture, store, and release water, but cannot extend it beyond the limits of providence. Ultimately, we must limit our use of water, and other natural resources, to what is available and excess to the needs of the larger ecological community to which we belong.

RURAL COMMUNITIES SCENARIO

A Rural Community vision foresees a future for the Rio Puerco watershed which reflects its unique prehistoric and historic, natural, cultural, and economic traditions. This vision takes advantage of modern innovation to accommodate a shift to an ethic that upholds respect for land, water, air, and all living things.

In this vision Community would be built through observance of a spring Water Festival linked to the spring equinox (or Earth Day, or Cinco de Mayo) in which the knowledge of water as a sacred gift is restored. Through the blessing of the local acequias, streams, and wetlands by priests and medicine men, a spiritual approach to water is maintained. A fall harvest festival linked to the County Fair would celebrate the perseverance and cohesion of the communities.

This vision would maintain large areas of mostly vacant and predominantly undeveloped land with limited, low-density residential development, home occupations, and agricultural activities. Rural Agricultural Areas would protect and preserve areas presently and historically used for agricultural practices. These areas would be comprised of predominantly irrigated lands for farming and lands for livestock management. Areas that are within flood plains, or which have hydrologic problems such as storm water ponding, poor drainage, or a high water table, and riparian and wetland areas would be protected from development and would have limited residential uses.

This vision would insure maintenance of a rural lifestyle through land use planning, and laws that prevent development of irrigated or non-irrigated farmland, provide for planned rotation of fallow lands and insure continued existence of acequias and other agricultural pursuits. Surface water would be tied to the land and not be separated from it. Innovative ways to preserve water in the area, such as designating in-stream flow as a beneficial use and water banking would help to preserve an agrarian lifestyle. Self-sufficiency for the sub-region would bolster a sustainable economy that would allow those people wanting to live in and preserve the rural lifestyle to stay and do so.

This vision would promote furthering educational pursuits while being able to stay in the area. Education would provide the technological and business skills, and hands on experience needed to create one's own work. Education would be centered on agriculture and natural systems, water and soil conservation, and alternative energy and building.

Río Jemez y Río Puerco Regional Water Plan Workshops

Río Puerco Area
Saturday, May 10, 2003
Cuba Senior Citizen Center
Cuba, New Mexico

Ed Moreno, facilitator

Welcome

Facilitator Ed Moreno and project coordinator Elaine Hebard welcomed the participants to the meeting. Approximately 17 residents of the region attended the workshop.

Cuba City Councilor Lupe Aragon welcomed the participants to the workshop. He related that Cuba is in the process of drafting a comprehensive plan and that the village recognizes it needs to become more involved and active in water issues.

Look to the Past for Insights to the Future, Present Uses

Jennifer Johnson, a member of the Puerco y Jemez Sub-Region steering committee, presented a report on her research into the number of subdivisions that exist in the Cuba vicinity. She reported that the town has just over 300 occupied lots within the city but that there are more than 800 lots in the vicinity of Cuba, La Jara and Regina, which have been approved by Sandoval County. Participant José Montaña indicated that he owned many of those lots in the subdivision but that he intends to sell them in large blocks of lots and that he would impose restrictions on how they would be developed.

Elaine Hebard presented a series of slides about the Río Puerco region and generally about regional water planning. The slides will be available at the Cuba Public Library.

Participants offered general comments on the slides, including the following:

- Meters are being put in the Regina area and it will allow more homes to be put on the water system.
- The Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo is the source of water rights in the region and will be cited in the regional plan.
- Water usage numbers for Albuquerque are higher per capita because they include industrial uses.
- An acequia bringing water from the Jemez watershed to the Puerco watershed was not included in the adjudication of the Jemez, leaving the owners without recourse.
- Wise water use is always needed.

Mission and Goals

Elaine Hebard presented the mission and goals for the area in their final form. At the previous workshop in February, the Río Puerco participants had given the Steering Committee the authority to finalize the language of the mission and goals. See attached document for mission, non-prioritized goals and prioritized alternatives.

Draft Scenario Presentations

The participants presented three scenarios:

- Agriculture / Ranching
- Natural Balance
- Rural Communities

Two other suggested scenarios were also discussed: Village Vitality, which centered around the village of Cuba, and a “do nothing” scenario maintaining current policies and practices.

Agriculture / Ranching

Robert Cordova presented the scenario.

Rural Villages

Fatou Gueye presented the scenario.

Natural Balance

Terry Johnson presented the scenario.

Areas of Agreement Among the Scenarios

Through a facilitated discussion, the participants agreed that all of the scenarios shared the following elements:

Water Rights

All of the scenarios expressed a priority position to preserve water rights in the region. However, *there was no overall agreement* on how that would be accomplished. Some of the specific provisions that were mentioned related to this issue were:

- A committee should be developed to preserve water rights.
- Legislation should be adopted to assure the preservation of water rights.
- Connecting the water to the land.

Keeping Water Local

The participants identified some common areas among the scenarios in the category of keeping water in local uses and control. Among those:

- Helping the watershed retain water naturally and in an ecologically realistic way.
- Thinning and fire should be reintroduced into the ecosystem to restore the natural balances.
- The Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo is a good weapon to keep water locally.

Rural Villages

The workshop participants identified various similarities and consistent elements among the scenarios, as follows:

- Rural villages depend on rural people having a way to make a living – a rural livelihood.
- Appealing to individuals' self-interest would be the best way to encourage the strength of communities such as Cuba. A survey was suggested to hear from people about what kinds of services and goods they wanted.
- A sustainable economy would be based on local resources.
- The area should remain relatively low density and rural-agrarian based.
- An agriculture cooperatives or similar organization would help build collaboration among producers and businesses. Cuba needs to “use some imagination” to strengthen its role as the commercial center of northwest Sandoval County.
- Agriculture is the foundation of the economy and should be supported by villages.
- A livestock marketing program in Cuba would strengthen the village.
- Cuba should grow, but not too much.

Natural Balance

The participants agreed that without a natural ecological balance, none of the other scenarios would work. Other areas of commonality among the scenarios as follows:

- The soils have changed over time.
- Keeping water in the sub-region and in rural uses would aid the maintenance of a natural balance.
- Phased / prescribed burns are important, but have to be better coordinated, focused on communities and blocks of land that are manageable.
- Homes built in public forest inholdings will continue to be a problem.
- It should be recognized that people have to live within their means.
- Adaptive management can aid in the restoration of a natural balance – experiment and learn.

Areas of Disagreement Among the Scenarios

Storage of Water

Some workshop participants said they thought building a dam for storage of water would be a way to help agriculture and bring some small-scale recreation to the area. Others said building dams for storage of water was not efficient and that storage should be done underground. Others said the complicated process to get State Engineer approval for a dam was unlikely to succeed because of Rio Grande Compact implications.

Questions about this summary? Contact Ed Moreno at 505-466-2006 or edmoreno@newmexico.com

COMMENTS & RESPONSES

Note: These were comments collected during the planning process. Comments on the draft plan can be found in the Epilogue.

COMMENTS: WORKSHOP FEBRUARY 22, 2003

Rio Jemez

>Legislation is pending to allow cities to condemn land for purposes of claiming water rights, however legislation is also being proposed to limit that power.

Response: This idea was also discussed at the RP workshop. Mention was made that the plan should reflect the status of water as property that cannot be taken without compensation. This was brought up again at the March 5 Steering Committee meeting in Cuba (“Reference upholding water as a property right”).

>There should be language including the Pueblos as an integral part of regional water planning.

Response:

Rio Puerco

>The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo must be recognized and enforced.

Response: This was discussed at the Rio Puerco Steering Committee Meeting, March 5, 2003 in Cuba. The conclusion was that it would be better to broaden the scope and reference “treaty rights” in order to NOT limit ourselves to one specific treaty. This conclusion was approved by the Rio Jemez Steering Committee on March 14, 2003, and the Rio Puerco Steering Committee on March 26, 2003.

The issue was again addressed at the combined RPyRJ Steering Committee meeting August 16, 2003 in Cañon. Numerous people objected to referencing only one treaty since there were many treaties with various entities in both subregions. The idea of inclusion rather than exclusion was emphasized. Peter Pino, Tribal Administrator for Zia Pueblo, stated he would not like to see it specified in this document and cautioned us, again, about mentioning only one treaty and about using the adjective “senior” when discussing water rights. It was also noted that the Goals had already been finalized and presented to the public and approved by them. To make changes the Goals as they have already been formulated would totally violate any semblance of process and disregard all the public input we have gotten through that process. Also, the Goals shouldn’t be amended without more public input. Mr. Cordova admitted that at the March 5th meeting he had agreed with the goals as they now stand. The group felt comfortable with leaving the language as written rather than running the risk of omitting a treaty.

Further Response: Wording was amended in the Final Plan under the Objective of “Keep the Water with the Land”:
“Promote customary laws & practices in existence prior to the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo that promote agriculture and communal property.”

>The plan should prohibit the sale of water out of the area. Ernie Torrez stated that though the Rio Puerco is being asked to “share the pain”, he does not intend to share any water with Albuquerque. However, Ernie Torrez brought up his **opposition** to the idea of not selling water rights out of the area, as it appears in the Draft Plan, at the August 19 combined Steering Committee meeting in Cañon. He called this a taking since if he wants to sell his water rights to Rio Rancho he should be able to do so. Jennifer asked him then what about the Acequia? How could the Ditch Association come up with say a million dollars to purchase his water rights? She noted the sale of San Ysidro land to Rio Rancho for its water. She also noted that when people start selling water rights away from an acequia then the others remaining find it harder and harder to maintain the ditch. Ernie stated that the acequia could borrow the money. Jennifer was appalled and asked him how he expected that 100 parcientes could borrow money like that. She also wondered how he could claim to be representing the parcientes while at the same time talking about being able to sell ditch rights away from the ditch.

Response: The sentiment to keep local water local was voiced by many. It was added as an Alternative (15. Prohibit sale of water rights from region, Don't Sell Water Out of the Area). It was also felt this was protected in Alternative 5 (Protect Water Rights). This was stressed again at the May workshops as (Keep the water in the subregions).

>The definition of “communities” should be expanded to focus on rural communities, and specifically their “rural and traditional” nature.

Response: This was discussed at the March 14 Steering Committee meeting. The idea of the “rural lifestyle” etc. in #4 was questioned in regards to someplace like Cuba. Would the Village Council really like to have a rural lifestyle as a goal and objective? Jennifer felt this probably would reflect Cuba residents’ desires and, linked with rural economy, was really getting at the idea of not wanting industry introduced into the area. Also, not wanting Cuba to become a suburb or bedroom community for Albuquerque and Rio Rancho.

>Indian water rights claims are not addressed; what will be done about that?

Response: Indian water rights are not in the scope of this planning.

>Questions were raised about the legal status of water rights transfers.

Response: Water rights are not in the scope of this planning.

>A clear definition of watershed restoration is needed.

Response: It is agreed that these and probably other terms need defining. The members of the Steering Committee and any body else may present definitions for discussion.

Regarding GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

>Goals and Objectives (from Phase I):

Manage the watersheds for increased water production and improved water quality

Insure that traditional values and use of water is preserved.

Educate all citizens about the need to use water wisely.

Provide for reaching public participation in the water planning process.

Promote the conservation of water and incorporate these concepts in the local schools’ curriculum.

Rio Jemez participants made the following changes:

Goal 2 should be elevated so that traditional values and use of water is the first priority.

Goal 2 should be expanded to include reference to cultural and religious values. Additional language should be inserted that recognizes the role of nature and the health of the world in the availability of water. Water may be nature’s way of waking us up. Pueblo people are praying for rain, and spiritual efforts to secure adequate water should be used as well.

Goal 4 language should be changed from “Provide for reaching” to “Promote”

Goals 3 and 5 overlap on the issue of education. It was recommended that Goal 3 be expanded to include wording from the mission statement on water retention, quality and conservation, and focus on public school curriculum for Goal 5.

Other regional water plans should be reviewed so that the best language for Goals and Objectives can be considered and possibly used.

Rio Puerco participants made the following changes:

Goal 1 should state “retention” instead of “production.”

Goal 2 should reflect values, culture and lifestyle that must be maintained, preserved and perpetuated.

Goal 4 should mention implementation.

Goal 5 should be clarified that it is intended to be education in the public schools and that it include study of the tradition and history of the region and water use.

The education provisions in Goal 3 and Goal 5 overlap but should be differentiated. Goal 3 refers to general public education about wise water use, whereas Goal 5 refers to public school curriculum that deals with broad water issues and history.

A goal should be added that emphasizes the need to protect and promote property rights.

A goal should be added to promote beneficial use, for example that some water users could arrange for the use another’s water rights if that person were at risk of losing his or her rights due to non-use.

The goals should identify what entity or person or committee would be responsible for implementing the plan.

Both subregions gave the Steering Committee authority to revise the Mission Statement, and Goals and Objectives as amended and clarified by the workshop participants.

The Finals Goals became:

Restore and manage the watersheds on public and private land to enhance water production, retention, and quality, to reduce the threat of wildfire, and to preserve natural systems dependent on water
Support the cultural and spiritual values of water, and the universal need for and importance of water
Ensure treaty, water and acequia rights to preserve and protect local agricultural traditions
Retain land use patterns that support and ensure a rural lifestyle and economy
Promote the conservation of water
Promote education for area residents regarding the connection between land use, water and environmental health, and ways to conserve water. These concepts should be incorporated into the curriculum of area schools
Provide for monitoring the implementation of the water plan

The Final Goals were accepted by Rio Jemez on March 14, and Rio Puerco on March 26, 2003.

Regarding ALTERNATIVES

>Twelve (12) Water Management Alternatives (from Phase I)

Rio Jemez participants suggested Alternative 5 should be amended to emphasize the need of people in the region to work with the Pueblo Tribes on an ongoing basis.

Rio Puerco participants made no changes to the alternatives, but did add three alternatives (subject to review and possible consolidation by the steering committee) as follows:

- 13. Implement a public education program to encourage wise water use
- 14. Identify sources of water to fight fires, including wildfires
- 15. Prohibit the sale of water rights outside the sub-region

The Alternatives were prioritized and approved at the workshops. Parenthesis () show ranking. The last column lists where they are located in the Plan.

Alternatives as Presented	RP Votes	RJ Votes	Total	Found
1. Manage and Restore our Watersheds	(2) 11	(3) 15	26	Goal 1
2. Reduce Water Demand	4	(4) 8	12	In Mission
3. Increase Water Storage Capacity (in Rural Areas)	(5) 6	(5) 4	10	In Goal 4
4. Reduce Water Loss in Acequias	1	0	1	In Goal 5
5. Protect Water Rights	(1) 17	(1) 25	42	Goal 3
6. Use Surface and Groundwater (in Combination)	0	0	0	In Goal 4
7. Manage Growth and Land Use (Together)	(4) 7	(2) 19	26	In Goal 4
8. Manage Drought	(3) 9	0 9		In Goals 1, 3, 4, 5
9. Capture Flood Flows	0	0	0	In Goal 5
10. Reuse Wastewater (Gray)	2	3	5	In Goal 5
11. Remove Trace Elements From Water (to Increase Supply)	0	0	0	In Goal 4
12. Install Domestic Supply Wells	1	0	1	In Goal 4
13. Implement Public Education Program	1		1	Goal 6
14. Identify fire-fighting water (Provide for Residential Fire Protection)	4		4	In Goal 4
15. Prohibit sale of water from region (Don't Sell Water Out of the Area)	2		2	In Goal 3

COMMENTS: RIO PUERCO STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING, MARCH 5, 2003, IN CUBA

>Remove "Rio Jemez" from the Mission Statement and sever ties with that group.

The watersheds are different in many aspects.

We need to stay united because we have interests in common, “maintain unity”.

We need to share funding and there would be competition for funding if split.

A united approach is needed since S&WCD serves for pass-thru funding.

We need to stay combined in order to have a larger voice to be heard.

We need to keep as numerous a voice as possible.

Don’t include the southern portion of the Rio Puerco watershed and plan only for the “North Zone”.

We need to contact residents of the southern RP watershed before including them.

They need to be included so they will have some protection from being lumped in with the urban MRG region.

Response: It was decided that the MRG Regional plan defines the subregions. Changing the boundaries of the subregions is not in the scope of this planning. Also, The Bylaws and Cooperative Agreement call for a combined Steering Committee with representatives from both subregions. Changing the process of water planning for the subregions is not in the scope of this planning.

>Reference the beneficial use of water.

Response: This was later discussed at the March 18 Steering Committee meeting in Cañon. It was felt that this idea should be broadened to include in-stream-flow in order to aid acequia members whose fields are fallow, or are not presently irrigated, so they could claim their water right is being beneficially used as water left in a river or stream. Ernest Torrez brought up his **opposition** to the idea of in-stream flow, as it appears in the Draft Plan, at the August 19 combined Steering Committee meeting in Cañon. He called this a taking. Terry Johnson tried to explain the concept of in-stream flow to him. He noted that in all discussions of it, the purpose was to provide a water right owner another way to maintain his water right if he could not use it on his land. Ernie said that that was okay if it meant that Forest Guardians would pay him for his water to leave it in the stream.

Elaine Hebard noted that the State Engineer had told Ernie that in-stream flow was a reality already, and the Attorney General had issued an opinion supporting it. Of course, without someone selling or leasing her/his rights to such a use, it's not going to happen -- but Ernie is convinced there is a taking, saying he would have to report back to his people that they had been shut out again.

The High Country News (newspaper) dated October 11, 1999, contains an article by Greg Hanscom and Bruce Selcraig entitled “Acequia culture feels under the gun”. In it they reference Nicasio Romero an artist and scholar who has traveled the world looking at water-efficient desert irrigation systems. Romero lives in the village of El Ancon between Santa Fe and Las Vegas. In 1986, he helped found the New Mexico Acequia Association, and has been an advocate of instream-flow rights in a culture that rejects the idea as an attempt by environmentalists to steal its historic water rights.

Further Response: The wording was amended in the Final Plan omitting the term In-Stream Flow and inserting instead under the Objective of “Keep the Water with the Land”:

“Develop mechanisms to ensure water rights are not lost if water is kept in or returned to a waterway”

(also, see Comments August 30, 2003 below).

>List specific items in the Mission Statement.

It should be viewed as a broad umbrella.

It should give a vision rather than a specific listing of important items.

It is better to keep the Mission Statement as concise as possible.

Specific items or details should be included in the Goals and Objectives.

Response: Final Mission Statement

The residents of the Río Puerco y Río Jemez Sub-watersheds promote a sustainable balance between the availability and use of water, promote healthy watersheds, and promote retention of a rural lifestyle to benefit local communities and residents.

>The local acequias should have a meeting and form an Acequia Association. Robert and Ernie said they would write up a letter and send it out.

Response: On Monday, March 24, 2003 Jennifer Johnson got the ditch Association list from Peggy. Though possibly out of date and not complete, she typed it up and made an address list from it which included both the Jemez and Puerco. She then made a package up for both Ernie and Robert and sent it off to them. At that time she reiterated to Elaine that if the Steering Committee makes special efforts to outreach to one specific user group they really need to do so to all user groups (ranchers, both subregions and the south, pueblos, tribes-Navajo and Jicarilla and ?),

environmentalists, rural water users, villages...). She also noted that though it would be nice if the "Committee" had the time, money and energy to outreach meetings to each entity she just couldn't see how they can do that.

COMMENTS RIO JEMEZ STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING, MARCH 18, 2003 IN CAÑON

>Expand plant removal to include noxious weeds. This was also discussed in Cuba with reference to sagebrush, juniper, Russian olive, and any other water hogging plants.

Response: The following was added to the plan:

Goal: Restore and manage the watersheds on public and private land to enhance water retention and quality and to reduce the threat of wildfire, and to preserve natural systems dependent on water.

Objective: Increase the bio-diversity and production on public and private lands including wild and domestic species

Actions: Manage sagebrush monocultures and reduce numbers of juniper trees

Remove non-native vegetation from riparian areas

Control noxious, invasive, and non-native weed species (A-1)

Seed with native grasses, and plants

>In regards to the MRG Alternative concerning Infill/Density the question was asked, "How can this be stated to reflect the desire to maintain a rural atmosphere"?

Response: The following was added to the plan:

Goal: Retain Land Use Patterns That Support And Ensure A Rural Lifestyle And Economy

(see: Objective: Base regional growth, planning, and zoning on retaining the health of the entire ecosystem)

(see: Objective: Protect agricultural lands from development)

E-MAIL COMMENT, MARCH 27, 2003

Regarding WATERSHED RESTORATION

Terry Johnson raised the question that the discussion in the MRG alternative analysis summary raises the possibility that water yield is dominated by spring runoff, which may in turn be dominated by high elevation areas. However, increasing base flow even just a little may have significant ecological and groundwater recharge benefits, even if those increased flows never add much inflow to reservoirs. Moreover, it may not be ecologically advisable or possible to thin high elevation forests because tree ring studies indicate that high elevation forests (especially spruce-fir) were never thinned by fire, but burned in crown fires at very long intervals. How would omission of those areas affect the calculated benefits of thinning? However, areas from 7000-9000' were thinned by frequent fires, and in the Jemez Mountains those areas are much more extensive than areas over 9000'. How would addition of thinning from 7000-9000' affect water yield?

Response: Broaden the definitions in the MRG forest thinning alternative and other alternatives. For example, with bosque management (A-1), the definition is "restore Bosque habitat and manage vegetation in the Bosque to reduce evapotranspiration by selectively removing vegetation and promoting native plants." Though not having bosque as is defined in the write-up, RPyRJ does have non-native species, so that if the definition were to include "riparian" then perhaps the analysis could be used for costs, water saved, and so forth.

COMMENTS, JULY 31, 2003

Regarding ADDITIONS TO GOALS

>On July 31, 2003, Robert Cordova (as Cuba Village representative to the MRG Water Resources Board) requested addition of the following Goals (taken from the Middle Rio Grande Regional Water Plan Mission Statement, Goals and Objectives) to the RPyRJ Goals.

Goal D: Manage Preserve water for economic and urban vitality.

D. 1 Develop goals for economic development that are consistent with the subregion's water supply.

D. 3 Provide water for existing residents, businesses and institutions

Goal E:Manage Preserve water for the qualities of life valued by residents

E. 1 Ensure an adequate supply of water for indoor uses.

E. 3 Consider water-related impacts of plan recommendations on the ability to make future choices.

E. 5 Preserve water for community parks and sports fields.

E. 6 Preserve water for riparian and open space areas.

E. 7 Consider the geological and structural integrity of the watershed to protect residents from aquifer depletion and land subsidence.

Goal G:Conserve water.

G. 1 Optimize water conservation in all sectors

G. 2 Improved water use efficiencies

G. 3 Implement technological innovations

G. 6 Develop and implement economic incentives

G. 7 Encourage efficiencies for irrigated turf, recreation, and landscaping

G. 8 Promote recycling and re-use of water

G. 9 Encourage metering and measuring.

Goal I:Provide appropriate water quality for each use.

I. 1 Ensure compliance with water quality standards.

I. 2 Establish criteria and a management plan(s) to control water quality degradation from upstream activities.

I. 3 Ensure proper well construction and plugging of abandoned wells.

I. 4 Limit use of septic systems and private wells where the health of the aquifer is a concern.

Response: Though we have had outreach to Cuba Village for some time (with presentations at three or more of their council meetings) they have failed to avail themselves of all the help that has been offered. Since the Goals had already been finalized, presented to the public, and approved by them, to make changes would totally violate any semblance of process and disregard all the public input we had gotten through that process. Also, the Goals shouldn't be amended without more public input. It was suggested that we look at Robert's request at the August 19th meeting in the context of adding them as Alternatives or Actions. The questions would be 1) which do we want to use, and 2) where would they go? Mayor Maharg did attend the August 19th meeting in San Ysidro at which the addition of the Goals could have been discussed. Due to disruptions of the agenda, the matter was not discussed.

COMMENTS RPvRJ JOINT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING, AUGUST 19, 2003, IN SAN YSIDRO

Regarding DRAFT PLAN

>RW Johnson commented that he didn't like the idea of limiting the ability to drill a well to parcels of land over 40 acres in size. He felt this would really limit people in the future and not allow them to do what they wanted with their land. Terry replied that that idea was taken from Colorado, which has had a law like that in place for probably 20 years and limits the acreage to 35 acres. It has help to reduce the number of subdivisions in rural areas. He also mentioned the problems with subdividing properties in rural areas. The problem is not only access to water but at some point, depending on soil and weather, water quality becomes an issue due to the number of septic systems (this is happening in Espanola). Jennifer noted that right now there is a subdivision in Regina (San Pedro Estates) with over 800 lots, no authorized access to water, and the Regina system doesn't have enough water to service it. RW noted that he had not participated in the public planning process, concluded that it was not worth trying to change the draft plan now, and recommended that complainers just go to the state, where things finally get done anyway.

Response: The wording of the Action was amended, under the Objective "Provide for increased, consistent and sustainable sources of both domestic and agricultural water", to "Limit domestic wells to 16 per section". This would allow some wells to be drilled on small parcels, but limit the overall density. This Objective also contains an Action "Limit wells that could impair surface or groundwater".

>Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

>Hage v United States (Nevada)

Response: Where Possible the writers have included copies of the items mentioned (see Appendix 12- Miscellaneous).

August 19, 2003
Robert Cordova

Comments on Agriculture and Ranching Scenario chart (sent out on 6/16/03):

I. Goals

* no changes except to insert "Guadalupe Hidalgo" prior to "treaty" so it reads:

Ensure Guadalupe Hidalgo treaty, water and acequia rights to preserve and protect local agricultural traditions.

II. Objectives

1. Under the Goal, Restore and manage the watersheds on public and private land to enhance water production, retention, and quality, to reduce the threat of wildfire, and to preserve natural systems dependent on water:

A. delete "environmentally" and substitute "culturally" so it reads:

Implement management practices that are ~~environmentally~~ culturally friendly and sustainable

b. add the phrase "use by" so it reads:

Maintain diversity of use by wildlife and livestock

2. Under the Goal, Support the cultural and spiritual values of water, and the universal need for and importance of water:

a. Add new Objective:

Institutionalize local control and discretionary authority.

3. Under the Goal, Ensure treaty, water and acequia rights to preserve and protect local agricultural traditions:

To the first two Objectives

a. Maintain agriculture and ranching as a part of both our livelihood and our culture

b. Maintain the traditions of Zia and Jemez Pueblos while including them in the greater Rio Jemez community

- add the phrase: recognize and implement USDA Forest Service Region 3 Policy (Wm D. Hurst 1972)

III. Actions:

1. First Goal

a. implement local management plans

b. maintain customary law and practice

c. implement rotation grazing practices

2. Second Goal

a. implement and apply right of self-determination and local governance of water issues

3. Third Goal (Retain land use patterns that support and ensure a rural lifestyle and economy)

a. "Who determines this?" was next to the Action of Maintain the system of acequias, including their priority of right-of-way, that have existed in the valley for several generations

b. To third Objective, added the Action to "establish ag coops"

c. To fourth Objective, added the Action to "marketing"

4. Fourth Goal

a. to the Objective, Maintain agriculture and ranching as a part of both our livelihood and our culture, add the Action

- implement customary law and practices in existence prior to Act of 1866 and 1848

Treaty G&H, (with arrow to) 1866 Act Right of Way, 1848 Treaty

b. to the Action for Objective, Maintain the system of acequias, including their priority of right-of-way, that have existed in the valley for several generations, add the Action

- 1866 Act Right of Way, 1848 Treaty

c. to the Action for Objective, Protect agricultural lands from development, reduce paving over and building on agricultural lands, insert the words "local and customary" so it reads:

- Implement local and customary land use management tools

Additional Comments:

Region 3 Policy

dealt with Pueblo and Spanish American cultures of Northern New Mexico as a unique resource in the National System.

Act of 1866 Right of Way for Highway Act

prior to 1891 ditches were allowed to be constructed across public domain without permit or authorization once constructed they were accorded easement status by local custom. 1971 memo FS HQ DC status legally recognized under act of 1866.

1848 Treaty G/H article 8 -- "property of every kind ... present owners, ... hiers (sic) ... and all "Mexicans" who ... may acquire ... property by contract shall enjoy with respect to its guarantees equally ample as if belong to US citizen.

COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM ROBERT CORDOVA AUGUST 19, 2003

Regarding RIO JEMEZ AGRICULTURE AND RANCHING SCENARIO CHART (6/16/03)

>The following comments were received from Robert Cordova. Though by that date they were supposed to be comments on the Draft Rio Puerco Subregional Scenario: 2003-2050, they were in fact comments made, and written on the Rio Jemez Agriculture and Ranching Scenario chart sent out on 6/16/03.

On Thursday, September 18, 2003 Jennifer Johnson entered the comments from Robert Cordova into the original Jemez Ag/Ranch scenario chart, then put those comments into the 6/20 chart, then combined that with Judith Isaac's 8/27 Rio Jemez Subregion chart, then added that to the Draft Combined Rio Puerco y Rio Jemez Subregional Scenario: 2003-2050 (9-17-03) chart.

An * denotes Judith Isaacs additions. *Italics* denote Robert Cordova's input. The comments he had on the back of his sheets were placed at the end of the Rio Jemez charts. (see the charts below).

AGRICULTURAL AND RANCHING SCENARIO (6/17/03) GUADALUPE BABY!		
Goals	Objectives	Actions
Restore and manage the watersheds on public and private land to enhance water production, retention, and quality, to reduce the threat of wildfire, and to preserve natural systems dependent on water	Maintain agriculture and ranching as a part of the whole ecosystem	<i>Implement local Mgnt plans.</i>
	Implement management practices that are environmentally friendly and sustainable	<i>Maintain Customary Law and Practice.</i>
	Maintain diversity of <i>use by</i> wildlife and livestock	<i>Implement rotation grazing practices.</i>
Support the cultural and spiritual values of water, and the universal need for and importance of water	<i>Institutionalize local control & discretionary authority.</i>	<i>Implement & apply right of self-determination & local governance of water issues.</i>
Ensure treaty of <i>Guadalupe Hidalgo</i> , water and acequia rights to preserve and protect local agricultural traditions	Maintain agriculture and ranching as a part of both our livelihood and our culture	<i>Implement customary Law & practices in existence prior to the Act of 1866 & 1848 Treaty of GH. Recognize & implement USDAFS Reg 3 policy (Wm D Hurst 1972).</i>
	Maintain the traditions of Zia and Jemez Pueblos while including them in the greater Rio Jemez community	<i>Recognize & implement USDAFS Reg 3 policy (Wm D Hurst 1972).</i>
	Maintain the tradition of acequias	Acequia water banking
	Maintain the system of acequias, including their priority of right-of-way, that have existed in the valley for several generations	<i>1866 Act Right-of-Way. 1848 Treaty.</i>
	Protect agricultural lands from development, reduce paving over and building on agricultural lands	Implement <i>local and customary</i> land use management tools
Retain land use patterns that support and ensure a rural lifestyle and economy	Maintain the rural nature of the sub-region with agriculture and ranching as an integral part	Maintain the numbers of livestock and tilled acres that best benefits the environment and economy together

AGRICULTURAL AND RANCHING SCENARIO (6/17/03) <i>GUADALUPE BABY!</i>		
Goals	Objectives	Actions
	Maintain the growing of vegetables and fruits throughout the valley	Encourage local farmer markets
	Create an economy which would not require us to work off the land in order to maintain it	<i>Establish Agricultural co-ops</i>
	Create an economy which would enable future generations to farm and ranch.	<i>Marketing</i>
Promote the conservation of water	Enhance conservation of water and preservation of the land	Utilize new technologies
Promote education for area residents regarding the connection between land use, water and environmental health, and ways to conserve water. These concepts should be incorporated into the curriculum of area schools	Share local knowledge concerning the importance of stewardship as nurturing the land and husbanding the water	
	Share local agriculture knowledge with folks who are not farmers by trade	Create Community Gardens
	Assist future generations in learning about water	Create a Natural Resource Educational Program [partner the school district with agencies such as Cuba Soil and Water Conservation District]
Provide for monitoring the implementation of the water plan		

REGION 3 POLICY

Dealt with pueblo and Spanish American cultures of Northern NM as a unique resource in the National System.

Act of 1866- Right-of-Way from Highway Act

Prior to 1891 ditches were allowed to be constructed across public domain without permit or authorization, once constructed they were accorded easement status by local custom. 1971 memo FS HQ DC states legally recognized under Act of 1866.

1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, Article 8-

Property of every kind... present owners, heirs... and all Mexicans who (word?) acquire... property by contract shall enjoy with respect to its guarantees equally ample(?) as if belong to US citizen.

AGRICULTURAL AND RANCHING SCENARIO (6/20/03)		
Goals	Objectives	Actions
Restore and manage the watersheds on public and private land to enhance water production, retention, and quality, to reduce the threat of wildfire, and to preserve natural systems dependent on water	Maintain agriculture and ranching as a part of the whole ecosystem	<i>>Implement local Mgmt plans. Maintain Customary Law and Practice. Implement rotation grazing practices.</i>
	Implement management practices that are environmentally friendly and sustainable	<i>>Maintain diversity of use by wildlife and livestock</i>
Support the cultural and spiritual values of water, and the universal need for and importance of water	<i>>Institutionalize local control & discretionary authority.</i>	<i>>Implement & apply right of self-determination & local governance of water issues.</i>
Ensure treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, water and acequia rights to preserve and protect local	Maintain tribal traditions while including them in the greater sub-regional communities	<i>>Recognize & implement USD-AFS Reg. 3 policy (Wm D Hurst 1972).</i>

AGRICULTURAL AND RANCHING SCENARIO (6/20/03)		
Goals	Objectives	Actions
agricultural traditions	Maintain agriculture and ranching as a part of both our livelihood and our culture	Form lobbying group/local Acequia Assoc/Ag Assoc >Implement customary Law & practices in existence prior to the Act of 1866 & 1848 Treaty of GH. >Recognize & implement USDA-FS Reg. 3 policy (Wm D Hurst 1972).
	Maintain the tradition of acequias	Acequia water banking
	Maintain the integrity of acequias systems that have existed for several generations	Protect acequia priority of right-of-way. Assessment fee if land removed from system. >1866 Act Right-of-Way. >1848 Treaty.
	Protect agricultural lands from development	Implement land use management tools that prevent paving over and building on agricultural lands. >Implement local and customary land use management tools
Retain land use patterns that support and ensure a rural lifestyle and economy	Maintain the rural nature of the sub-region with agriculture and ranching as an integral part	Maintain the numbers of livestock and tilled acres that best benefits the environment and economy together
	Maintain a wide diversity of crops throughout the sub-regions	Create and maintain local farmer markets. Promote and encourage use of local crops.
	Create an economy which would not require us to work away from the land in order to maintain it	>Establish Agricultural co-ops
	Create an economy which would enable future generations to farm and ranch.	>Marketing
Promote the conservation of water	Enhance conservation of water and preservation of the land	Utilize new technologies
Promote education for area residents regarding the connection between land use, water and environmental health, and ways to conserve water. These concepts should be incorporated into the curriculum of area schools	Assist future generations in learning about water	Create a Natural Resource Educational Program [partner the school district with agencies such as Cuba Soil and Water Conservation District]
	Educate folks who are not farmers by trade	Share local agriculture knowledge
	Educate folks about the importance of land and water stewardship	Share local knowledge about stewardship as nurturing the land and husbanding the water
		Create Community Gardens
Provide for monitoring the implementation of the water plan		

REGION 3 POLICY

Dealt with pueblo and Spanish American cultures of Northern NM as a unique resource in the National System.

Act of 1866- Right-of-Way from Highway Act

Prior to 1891 ditches were allowed to be constructed across public domain without permit or authorization, once constructed they were accorded easement status by local custom. 1971 memo FS HQ DC states legally recognized under Act of 1866.

1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, Article 8-
Property of every kind... present owners, heirs... and all Mexicans who (word?) acquire... property by contract shall enjoy with respect to its guarantees equally ample(?) as if belong to US citizen.

DRAFT RIO JEMEZ SUB-REGIONAL COMBINED SCENARIO: 2003-2050 (8/27/03)

Goal: restore and manage the watersheds on public and private land to enhance water production, retention, and quality, to reduce the threat of wildfire, and to preserve natural systems dependent on water.	
Objectives	Actions
Maintain agriculture and ranching as a part of the whole ecosystem	Implement management practices that are environmentally friendly and sustainable <i>Implement local Mgmt plans.</i> <i>Maintain Customary Law and Practice.</i> <i>Implement rotation grazing practices.</i> Maintain diversity of use by wildlife and livestock. Promote an attitude of stewardship of the ecosystems' integrity
Maintain the scenic and ecological conditions which attracted us here	Ensure good water quality Include forests/forestry, rangelands/ranching and wetland/riparian areas
Preserve the greatest amount of biological diversity	Maintain healthy and productive plant and animal communities by creating an ecosystem with a diversity of species, size, classes, and ages

Goal: support the cultural and spiritual values of water, and the universal need for and importance of water	
Objectives	Actions
Realize the spiritual benefits of ancient forests, free-flowing rivers, living deserts and the abundance of life flourishing in all these areas, aside from the economic benefits.	Maintain the local cultural and religious traditions.
<i>Institutionalize local control & discretionary authority.</i>	<i>Implement & apply right of self-determination & local governance of water issues.</i>

Goal: ensure treaty of <i>guadalupe hidalgo</i>, water and acequia rights to preserve and protect local agricultural traditions	
Objectives	Actions
Respect existing rural, tribal and farming/ranching lifestyles.	Form lobbying group/local Acequia Assoc/Ag Assoc <i>Implement customary Law & practices in existence prior to the Act of 1866 & 1848 Treaty of GH.</i> <i>Recognize & implement USDA-FS Reg. 3 policy (Wm D Hurst 1972).</i>
Maintain the integrity of traditional acequias systems that have existed for several generations	Acequia water banking <i>1866 Act Right-of-Way.</i> <i>1848 Treaty.</i> Protect acequia priority of right-of-way.
Protect agricultural lands from development	Implement land use management tools that prevent paving over and building on agricultural lands Require planning for growth to consider impacts on traditional cultures and lifestyles Protect the option to pursue farming/ranching full or part-time Implement <i>local and customary</i> land use management tools

Keep water with the land.	Assessment fee if land removed from system. Water rights are not lost if water is kept in or returned to the river
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Goal: retain land use patterns that support and ensure a rural lifestyle and economy	
Objectives	Actions
Maintain the rural nature of the sub-region with agriculture and ranching as an integral part	Maintain the numbers of livestock and tilled acres that best benefits the environment and economy together Maintain a wide diversity of crops throughout the sub-regions Create and maintain local farmer markets Promote and encourage use of local crops
Base regional growth/planning/zoning on entire ecosystem	Implement land use plans that preserve both rural and urban areas. Manage growth by putting geographical or numerical limits on the population Tie land-use to demonstrated availability of water. Encourage areas of higher density with clean, eco-friendly, nearby businesses/industries. Prevent planning that requires commuting. Create an economy which would not require us to work away from the land in order to maintain it and enable future generations to farm and ranch <i>Establish Agricultural co-ops</i> <i>Marketing</i> Include the cost of environmental damage when assessing alternatives

Goal: promote the conservation of water	
Objectives	Actions
Enhance conservation of water and preservation of the land	Utilize new technologies Institute incentives for water conservation and recycling Create an inter-water-systems board Coordination/cooperation of water use among area water systems Ensure modernized, well-maintained water systems

Goal: promote education for area residents regarding the connection between land use, water and environmental health, and ways to conserve water. these concepts should be incorporated into the curriculum of area schools	
Objectives	Actions
Assist future generations in learning about water	Create a Natural Resource Educational Program (partner the school district with agencies such as Cuba Soil and Water Conservation District) Educate about ways to wisely use and reuse water. Provide seminars/courses at local school
Educate folks who are not farmers by trade about the importance of land and water stewardship	Share local agriculture knowledge Share local knowledge about stewardship as nurturing the land and husbanding the water Make educational packages available at Pueblo and Forest Service offices.
Minimize misunderstandings between newcomers/tourists and long time residents.	Educate newcomers and visitors about local traditions and lifestyles.

Goal: provide for monitoring the implementation of the water plan	
Objectives	Actions
None	None

REGION 3 POLICY

Dealt with pueblo and Spanish American cultures of Northern NM as a unique resource in the National System.

Act of 1866- Right-of-Way from Highway Act

Prior to 1891 ditches were allowed to be constructed across public domain without permit or authorization, once constructed they were accorded easement status by local custom. 1971 memo FS HQ DC states legally recognized under Act of 1866.

1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, Article 8-

Property of every kind... present owners, heirs... and all Mexicans who (word?) acquire... property by contract shall enjoy with respect to its guarantees equally ample(?) as if belong to US citizen.

MIDDLE RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER PLAN

MISSION STATEMENT, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal D: Manage ~~Preserve~~ water for economic and urban vitality.

D.1 Develop goals for economic development that are consistent with the subregion's water supply.

D.3 Provide water for existing residents, businesses and institutions

Goal E: Manage ~~Preserve~~ water for the qualities of life valued by residents

E.1 Ensure an adequate supply of water for indoor uses.

E.3 Consider water-related impacts of plan recommendations on the ability to make future choices.

E.5 Preserve water for community parks and sports fields.

E.6 Preserve water for riparian and open space areas.

E.7 Consider the geological and structural integrity of the watershed to protect residents from aquifer depletion and land subsidence.

Goal G: Conserve water.

G.1 Optimize water conservation in all sectors

G.2. Improved water use efficiencies

G.3. Implement technological innovations

G.6 Develop and implement economic incentives

G.7 Encourage efficiencies for irrigated turf, recreation, and landscaping

G.8 Promote recycling and re-use of water

G.9 Encourage metering and measuring.

Goal I: Provide appropriate water quality for each use.

- I.1 Ensure compliance with water quality standards.
- I.2 Establish criteria and a management plan(s) to control water quality degradation from upstream activities.
- I.3 Ensure proper well construction and plugging of abandoned wells.
- I.4 Limit use of septic systems and private wells where the health of the aquifer is a concern.

**Comments from Ernie Torrez
Received August 30, 2003
Return Receipt Requested**

Draft Rio Puerco Sub Regional Scenario: 2003-2050

Page 9 Rio Puerco Rio Jemez Sub Region Water Plan Public Involvement Program - Phase II

Prioritized Water Management Alternatives (Actions)

Protect Water Rights total for Cuba and Cañon was 46. Clearly and overwhelmingly this item was priority. It puzzles me to see "in stream flow" identified as action on page 5 of Draft Rio Puerco Sub Regional Scenario: 2003-2005.

Since in-stream flow is not beneficial use it does not match up with or under the goal of ensure treaty and acequia rights goal. page 5.

In-stream flow does not have the support of irrigators in this subregion. To couple instream flow under the goal of ensuring acequia rights does not make sense.

The writers of the subregion scenario list a number of items and terms with beg for definition such as

1. sustainable ecosystem
2. overgrazing
3. biodiversity
4. low density housing
5. sustained supply
6. higher density communities

It would be helpful to develop a glossary of terms in English and Spanish and most important to give a legal definition of instream flow.

Finally, page 5 Goal: Ensure treaty rights including but not limited to the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

The idea of introducing things not grounded in law compromises the integrity of this plan. People of the acequias tend to be more sophisticated about water law than you may want to give them credit for.

Later

Ernie Torrez

P.O. Box 4

Las Jara, NM 87027

cc: David Montoya, Pres. La Jara, Acequia
Robert Cordova, La Jara, Acequia
Luis Lucero, La Jara Acequia
Doug Alvin La Jara Acequia
Jeff Gurule, Los Pinos Acequia
Arthur Gurule, La Jara Acequia
Garcia-Lucero Acequia
Mark Martinez, Nacimiento Acequia

COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM ERNIE TORREZ AUGUST 30, 2003
(with a return receipt requested)

Regarding DRAFT RIO PUERCO SUBREGIONAL SCENARIO: 2003-2050

>Page 9 Rio Puerco Rio Jemez Sub Region Water Plan Public Involvement Program - Phase II, Prioritized Water Management Alternatives (Actions), Protect Water Rights: total for Cuba and Cañon was 46.

Response: No, the total was 42 (see the list above).

>Clearly and overwhelmingly this item was priority. It puzzles me to see "in stream flow" identified as action on page 5 of Draft Rio Puerco Sub Regional Scenario: 2003-2005. Since in-stream flow is not beneficial use it does not match up with or under the goal of ensure treaty and acequia rights goal. page 5. In-stream flow does not have the support of irrigators in this subregion. To couple instream flow under the goal of ensuring acequia rights does not make sense.

Response: In-stream flow has been addressed at various times throughout the planning process (see above). Possibly in-stream flow does not have the support of irrigators in the subregion however, it does have support by others. It was felt that an important aspect to the continuation of agriculture in the area is the concept of keeping water with the land. Therefore, various methods were suggested as means of doing so. They include:
Establishing a severance fee to discourage removal of water and land from an acequia system,
Developing mechanisms to ensure water rights are not lost if water is kept in or returned to a waterway,
Developing mechanisms to prevent transfer of surface and ground water rights from their locality,
Preventing the sale of water out of the subregions,
Promoting customary laws & practices in existence prior to the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo that promote agriculture and communal property,
Further, the plan suggests that over the next 50 years individuals and groups work with relevant agencies, non-profit organizations, legislators and local officials to develop mechanisms and legislation which integrates and expands on ways to maintain traditional communal concepts.
The plan maintains that the benefits of such things would be a link to the customary laws and practices of historic and prehistoric cultures and traditions, and increase options for the use of agricultural water without loss of water rights.

New Mexico law recognizes in-stream flow as a beneficial use of water. The 1998 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 98-01, relates to guaranteeing NM's water delivery obligations to Texas under the Pecos River Compact, and allowing New Mexico to purchase water rights from appropriators on the Pecos River. Rather than being used for irrigation, these purchased in-stream flow rights remain in the river for delivery to Texas to satisfy New Mexico's Compact requirements.

>It would be helpful and most important to give a legal definition of instream flow. Elaine Hebard has requested definitions from the Acequia Association and the Public Law Institute. In-stream flow language is contained in the Water Assembly alternative analysis (A-63) on in-stream flow. The Technical and Physical Feasibility Fact Sheet - Alternative 63 states: In-stream Flow - "'In-stream flow' and 'in-stream use' refer to the concept of leaving water in a streambed where it is used by way of providing aquatic and riparian environments for fish and wildlife, and providing for recreational and aesthetic uses.

We continued discussion of the comments.

>The writers of the subregion scenario list a number of items and terms with beg for definition such as

1. sustainable ecosystem
2. overgrazing
3. biodiversity
4. low density housing
5. sustained supply
6. higher density communities

Response: It is agreed that these and probably other terms need defining. The members of the Steering Committee and any body else may present definitions for discussion.

>It would be helpful to develop a glossary of terms in English and Spanish.

Response: The writers agree that a bilingual glossary would be helpful. However, the subregion planning is only a portion of the larger planning for the whole MRG region. Also, funding and scope of the planning comes from the State. Therefore, it should be the responsibility of the Mid Region and/or the State to translate and foot the bill of publishing the plan in two (or more) languages. Bilingual translation is not within the scope of planning for the subregion. However, if someone wants to volunteer to undertake this effort there would be no problem with doing so.

>Page 5 Goal: Ensure treaty rights including but not limited to the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

Response: The concept of specifying the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in either the Mission Statement of the Goals has been discussed numerous times throughout the planning process (see above). Since this plan is meant to be broad in its concept and coverage, and is meant to reflect the desires and needs of many and various individuals, groups, ethnicities, cultures, and practices, it must remain broad in its language. Specifics can be dealt with at the Action level and would best be dealt with in Water Conservation plans developed by groups, associations and others.

>The idea of introducing things not grounded in law compromises the integrity of this plan. People of the acequias tend to be more sophisticated about water law than you may want to give them credit for.

Response: In an interview in the Christian Science Monitor (newspaper) dated September 15, 2003, the Attorney General of New York, Eliot Spitzer stated "The law is a dynamic entity". It "is designed to evolve over time and reflect changing economic realities, and changing social values". Further, as can be read in a standard dictionary definition of the word "plan," a plan formulates a course of action, and therefore is not based on what IS but rather is based on WHAT COULD BE. The whole idea of a plan is to project into the future the vision of what is attainable. A plan should not be static, rather it should be adaptive and flexible. Actions in a plan should direct, where needed, changes in laws, statutes and the status quo. They should create mechanisms to reach the desired vision.

COMMENTS RPvRJ JOINT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING SEPTEMBER 16, 2003, SAN YSIDRO

>Robert Cordova's and Ernie Torrez's comments were the only ones received after the August Steering Committee meeting. Elaine summarized them as:

- * define in-stream flow
- * prepare definitions in English and Spanish
- * Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo: specifically mention the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo as a goal (as opposed to the language as it now stands: ("Goal: Ensure treaty, water and acequia rights to preserve and protect local agricultural traditions").
- * add language to implement Forest Service Region 3 Policy from 1972
- * add language to implement customary laws and practices in existence prior to the Right of Way Act of 1866.

We discussed the comments at the Steering Committee meeting (see Responses above). Also,

>add language to implement Forest Service Region 3 Policy from 1972 and Right of Way Act of 1866:

Response: Since this plan is meant to be broad in its concept and coverage, and is meant to reflect the desires and needs of many and various individual, groups, ethnicities, cultures, and practices, it must remain broad in its language. Specifics can be dealt with at the Action level and would best be dealt with in Water Conservation plans developed by groups, associations and others (for instance, the villages, local domestic water associations, acequias, the Forest Service). The definition of conservation for each may not even be the same, and each will have to plan in accord with its mission. The role of the regional water plan should be to create a space whereby the implementers discuss how to ensure that this water conservation happens throughout the watershed, while allowing the flexibility necessary to each entity. The regional plan, like the State Water Plan, should include a suite of tools, and concepts to utilize.

A concern was raised with respect to the Endangered Species Act, which prohibits federal agencies from carrying out actions that jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered species. In the past, that has meant being able to purchase water to be kept in the river as a beneficial use.

Response: Where Possible the writers have included copies of the items mentioned (see Appendix 12-Miscellaneous).

La Jara Acequia Association

P.O. Box 173
La Jara, New Mexico 87027

September 17, 2003

Ms Elaine Hebard
1513 Escalante S.W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87104

RE: State Water Plan/Rio Puerco Sub-regional Plan

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the La Jara Acequia Association does not agree with some contents of the draft sub-regional plan and how it is being prepared. We object to the inclusion or the mention of the Community of La Jara or the La Jara Geographical Area in the sub-regional plan without the express written permission of the La Jara Acequia Association. Furthermore, we understand that the individual that has been hired to assist you in the preparation of the sub-regional plan lives in the La Jara area; however you are hereby advised that this individual does not represent our interests.

La Jara has been included in the Rio Puerco sub-basin which is hydrologically separated from the main stem of the Rio Grande. Since the Water Assembly recognizes that we are hydrologically separated, that causes us to question why we are part of that region. We will continue to pursue the possibility of creating a completely separate region to address the unique aspects of our community and geographical area.

The farmers, ranchers, and residents of La Jara are very interested and determined to improve and conserve the irrigated cropland, non-irrigated rangeland, and the preservation of our water shed. Our long-term goal is to continue to perpetuate the historical, cultural, agricultural, economic, and ecological values that the people of La Jara have enjoyed for over a century.

The La Jara Acequia Association meets regularly to discuss and implement the numerous issues that are of a concern to all the members. The residents of La Jara have taken a very active role and much expense for many years to maintain our acequia system and domestic water system.

We developed a Geographical Priority Area (GPA) water management plan in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service for the La Jara geographical area. We understand this GPA will be integrated into the State Water Plan. Through our attorney, Mr. Dan Dolan, we wrote ISC a letter, dated May 7, 2003, (attached) in which we informed the ISC of our efforts.

Response: The La Jara GPA proposal is not a possession of the La Jara Acequia Association. It was in fact, created with community input gathered by the U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service to request Federal funding, which makes it public information.

Jennifer A. Johnson
PO Box 63
La Jara, NM 87027

Response to Comments from Ernie Torrez
Re: Draft Rio Puerco Sub Regional Scenario: 2003-2050

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Ernie Torrez
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Prioritized Water Management Alternatives (Actions)

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Discussion, Prioritization and Approval of Alternatives- Rio Jemez
Saturday, February 22, 2003
Ed Moreno, facilitator

Following discussion, the workshop participants expressed their preferences for the more important alternatives by voting for their preferences. Using colored dots, the participants ranked the alternatives in the following order:

Alternatives	Ranking by votes
<i>1. Manage and Restore our Watersheds</i>	(3) 15
<i>2. Reduce Water Demand</i>	(4) 8
<i>3. Increase Water Storage Capacity in Rural Areas</i>	(5) 4
<i>4. Reduce Water Loss in Acequias</i>	0
<i>5. Protect Water Rights</i>	(1) 25
<i>6. Use Surface and Groundwater in Combination</i>	0
<i>7. Manage Growth and Land Use Together</i>	(2) 19
<i>8. Manage Drought</i>	0
<i>9. Capture Flood Flows</i>	0
<i>10. Reuse Wastewater (Gray)</i>	3
<i>11. Remove Trace Elements From Water to Increase Supply</i>	0
<i>12. Install Domestic Supply Wells</i>	0

Discussion, Prioritization and Approval of Alternatives- Rio Puerco
Saturday, February 22, 2003
Ed Moreno, facilitator

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Alternatives	Ranking by votes
<i>1. Manage and Restore our Watersheds</i>	(2) 11
<i>2. Reduce Water Demand</i>	4
<i>3. Increase Water Storage Capacity in Rural Areas</i>	(5) 6
<i>4. Reduce Water Loss in Acequias</i>	1
<i>5. Protect Water Rights</i>	(1) 17
<i>6. Use Surface and Groundwater in Combination</i>	0
<i>7. Manage Growth and Land Use Together</i>	(4) 7
<i>8. Manage Drought</i>	(3) 9
<i>9. Capture Flood Flows</i>	0
<i>10. Reuse Wastewater (Gray)</i>	2
<i>11. Remove Trace Elements From Water to Increase Supply</i>	0
<i>12. Install Domestic Supply Wells</i>	1
<i>13. Implement Public Education Program</i>	1
<i>14. Identify fire-fighting water</i>	4
<i>15. Prohibit sale of water from region</i>	2

page 5 Goal: Ensure treaty rights including but not limited to the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

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Jennifer A. Johnson

Editor- DRAFT Rio Puerco y Rio Jemez Public Involvement Phase II Report