



The Clean Water Restoration Act

Help Restore Clean Water Act Protections to New Mexico's Water

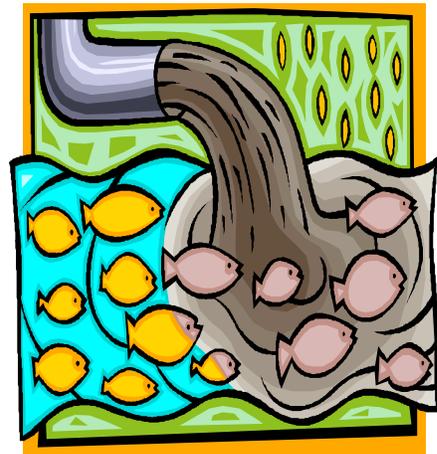
Recent Supreme Court decisions and EPA and Army Corps policies have put our state's waters at risk. As much as 94% of New Mexico's waters are at risk of unregulated dumping!

Restoring protection to New Mexico's Waters

Since the passage of the Clean Water Act in 1972, we have made great progress in cleaning up New Mexico's waters. However, after Supreme Court rulings in 2001 and 2006, polluters have argued that the law no longer protects numerous wetlands, streams, rivers, lakes, and other waters historically covered by the Act. The Clean Water Authority Restoration Act of 2007 is needed to restore the longstanding protections originally intended by Congress.

What Is At Stake?

- **Up to 94% of New Mexico's waters (rivers, streams, lakes) are at risk** of not receiving Clean Water Act protections
- **New Mexico would become a dumping ground.** If waters lose Clean Water Act protection, they are no longer protected from filling and dredging operations, pollution dumping, oil spills, and weakening water quality standards by the state. An industry could be able to discharge contaminated water without concern for public health and safety.
- **All closed basins in New Mexico (20% of land area) could lose protection** and be exposed to unregulated dumping
- **Public health is at risk** as many communities rely on water in closed basins for drinking, recreation and irrigation
- **Playa lakes are threatened** under this policy. Playa lakes help to recharge groundwater, store irrigation return flows, and provide habitat and cover for wildlife and livestock
- **Over 1/3 of New Mexico's wetlands have already been destroyed** and now the remaining 2/3 are at increased risk



Amigos Bravos is a statewide river conservation organization dedicated to protecting and restoring the ecological and cultural health of the Rio Grande and other wild rivers in New Mexico. To learn more about Amigos Bravos, visit our website at www.amigosbravos.org

Legislation is the Best Solution

The Clean Water Restoration Act of 2007 would restore the traditional scope of protection intended by Congress. This means that all waters in the New Mexico that were protected prior to 2001 would once again receive protection under the Clean Water Act. New Mexicans need these safeguards to achieve the goal of restoring and maintaining the chemical, physical and biological integrity of state's waters.



This legislation would restore the regulatory status quo prior to the Supreme Court rulings and Bush administration policies; it does not create “new” Clean Water Act requirements. To have a chance of passing the bill needs sponsors from both sides of the aisle. We are asking you to join us in convincing our congressional delegation to sponsor and support the Clean Water Restoration Act (HR. 2421, S.1870)

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