



## The Clean Water Restoration Act Help Restore Clean Water Act Protections Our Waters

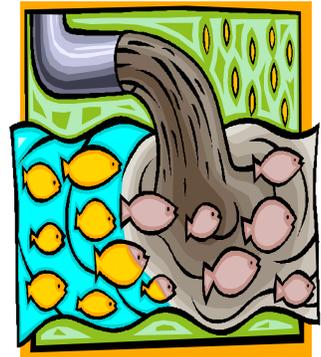
*Recent Supreme Court decisions and EPA and Army Corps policies have put our nation's waters at risk. Waters in the arid Southwest are especially at risk!*

### Restoring protection to Our Nation's Waters

Since the passage of the Clean Water Act in 1972, we have made great progress in cleaning up our Nation's waters. However, after Supreme Court rulings in 2001 and 2006, polluters have argued that the Clean Water Act no longer protects numerous wetlands, streams, rivers, lakes, and other waters historically covered by the Act. The Clean Water Restoration Act of 2007 is needed to restore the longstanding protections originally intended by Congress and that were in place for almost 30 years from 1975-2001.

### The Arid Southwest is Especially at Risk

- *As much as 94% of New Mexico's waters (rivers, streams, lakes) are at risk* of not receiving Clean Water Act protections
- *As much as 96% of Arizona's waters are listed as non-perennial and are at risk* of not receiving Clean Water Act Protections. This is approximately 122,000 miles of rivers and streams
- *All closed basins could lose protection* and be exposed to unregulated dumping. In New Mexico alone, more than 20% of the land area of the state is in closed basins
- *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
- *20,000 playa lakes in the Texas Panhandle encompassing 200,000 acres are at risk.* The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department estimates that between 30,000 and 500,000 waterfowl winter on the Texas playas
- *Over half of Nevada's wetlands are at risk* because they are found in playa lakes
- *The Arid Southwest could 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 state water quality standards. An industry could discharge pollutants without concern for public health and safety



*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](http://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 nation that were protected prior to 2001 would once again receive protection under the Clean Water Act.

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 this important legislation. Please call or fax your Senators and Representative and ask them to support the Clean Water Restoration Act. ( HR. 2421 and S.1870)



## Congressional Delegation Contact Information

Arizona		New Mexico	
Senator John McCain Phone: (202) 224-2235 Fax: (202) 228-2862	Senator John Kyl Phone: (202) 224-4521 Fax: (202) 224-2207	Senator Pete Domenici Phone: (202) 224-6621 Fax: (202) 228-0900	Senator Jeff Bingaman Phone: (202) 224-5521 Fax: (202) 224-2852
Rep. Rick Renzi Phone: (202) 225-2315 Fax: (202) 226-9739	Rep. Trent Franks Phone: (202) 225-4576 Fax: (202) 225-6328	Rep. Heather Wilson Phone: (202) 225-6316 Fax: (202) 225-4975	Rep. Tom Udall Phone: (202) 225-6190 Fax: (202) 226-1331
Rep. John Shadegg Phone: (202) 225-3361 Fax: (202) 225-3462	Rep. Ed Pastor Phone: (202) 225-4065 Fax: (202) 225-1655	Rep. Steve Pearce Phone: (202) 225-2365 Fax: (202) 225-9599	
Rep. Harry Mitchell Phone: (202) 225-2190 Fax: (202) 225-3263	Rep. Jeff Flake Phone: (202) 225-2635 Fax: (202) 226-4386		
Raul Grjalva Phone: (202) 225-2435 Fax: (202) 226-6846	Rep. Gabrielle Giffords Phone: (202) 225-2542 Fax: (202) 225-0378		

### For more information

Rachel Conn (Taos) 505-758.3874  
Michael Jensen (ABQ) 505-362.1063  
Lucy Sanchez (ABQ) 505-6885458

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