



## PUBLIC WELFARE STATEMENT FOR JEMEZ Y SANGRE REGION

Water is the element that interconnects all people and their environment in the Jemez y Sangre region, and the region to the larger environment that is the earth. Every person living in the region expects enough water for basic needs, and every person has the responsibility to protect water resources and use their share wisely. Using the best possible information, water planning and decision making should balance diverse needs and reflect the values of the region.

### Rural and Wildlands Character

Residents of the Jemez y Sangre region place great value and importance on the preservation of the rural character of the region. Urban and rural residents alike appreciate and wish to maintain the historic, agriculture-based communities, rural vistas, wildlife habitat and attributes of natural landscapes including rivers, streams and trees.

### Water Sustainability

Residents understand that the history of the region reflects water scarcity and cycles of drought. It is a high priority of residents of the region to serve current and future human needs without long-term depletion of the available water supply, while maintaining acceptable water quality and healthy interdependent ecological systems. Sustainability requires a combination of efforts, including encouraging conservation and efficiency by all sectors at every scale, discouraging activities that deplete or degrade the water supply, planning for population growth and land use, seeking new water sources that do not impair other regional values, and improving the use of existing water supplies.

### Economic Sustainability

Each sub-region has unique economic needs and conditions that depend on the availability of water. It is important to have quality jobs and a healthy economy in order to maintain a good quality of life in the long term.

### Water Quality

Water quality is a significant consideration in the region's water supply. In many sub-basins, the available groundwater has been compromised by contamination, either human caused or natural. Wastewater treatment and reuse of treated water should be expanded throughout the region. The available water should be protected from potential contamination from the impacts of human activities or natural events.

### Rights and Responsibilities

Water planning must be carried out in a context of respect for water rights and property rights. Like all rights, the right to use water, especially in an arid region, is married to the responsibility to use water efficiently and wisely. The Jemez y Sangre region respects the senior water rights of the pueblos in the region and recognizes pueblos' tribal sovereignty.

### Decision Making

In this demographically and geographically diverse region, it is necessary for all governmental and private entities to work together to achieve the goal of a balanced and sustainable water future. Fostering healthy, vibrant communities requires a commitment to open, inclusive dialogue and decision making.

