

Collaboration in the Rio Puerco, NM

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The Rio Puerco Watershed



**The Rio Puerco
Watershed encompasses
4.5 million acres in
Northwest New Mexico**



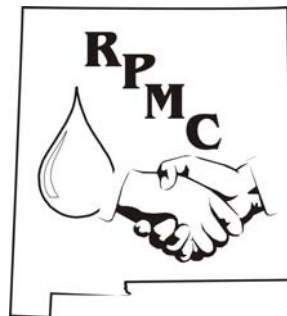
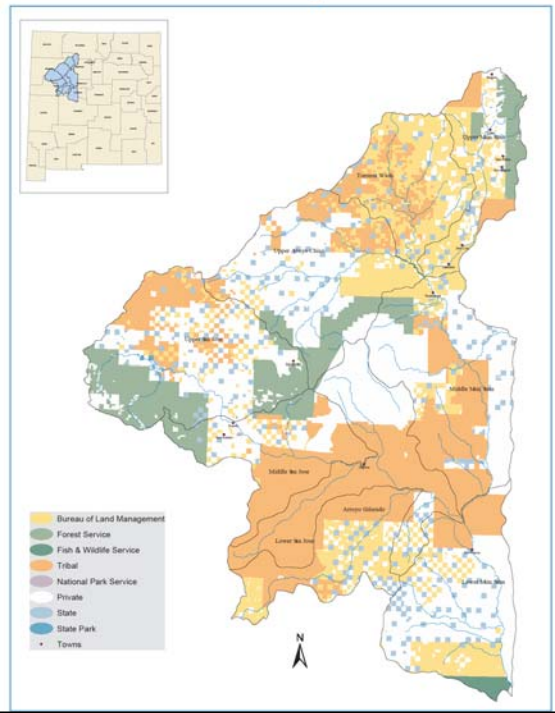
Rio Puerco Basin

Once the
“breadbasket” of
New Mexico

Not just a BLM
problem

Need partners
for effective
restoration

The “watershed
approach”



Rio Puerco Management Committee

Rio Puerco Management Committee

- **Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996**

Section 401(c) of Public Law 104-333

- **Broad-based, collaborative effort to restore and manage**

- **Membership includes:**

State and federal agencies, tribal governments, soil and water conservation districts, rural residents, ranchers, private interest groups, general public.



Goals

- 1. Sediment Reduction**

Goals

2. Vegetation and habitat improvement

- Riparian restoration on Señorito Creek
- Habitat restored through grazing management, native plantings



Goals

3. Support and promotion of



- Interjurisdictional/ interagency cooperation
- Socio-economic benefits
- Recognition and protection of cultural values
- Public awareness/ Education
- Participation

Listening Sessions



Field Trips to Assess Problems





Work Days





Hands-On Workshops



Upland Erosion Control Workshop



Riparian Restoration Workshop



Roads Workshop near Cuba

There are lots of good practices to teach landusers



Low-Stress Livestock Handling Workshop



Land Health & Erosion Board Games



Rangeland Health Kiosk



Publications

An Introduction to Erosion Control

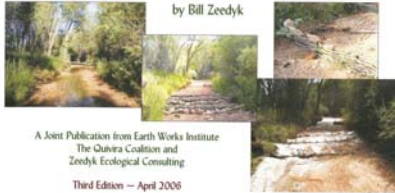
by Bill Zeedyk and Jan-Willern Janssens



A Joint Publication from Earth Works Institute
The Quivira Coalition and
Zeedyk Ecological Consulting
Second Edition March 2006

An Introduction to Induced Meandering: A Method for Restoring Stability to Incised Stream Channels

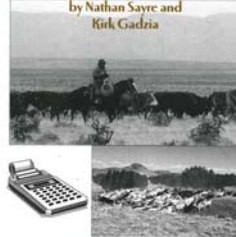
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Third Edition - April 2006

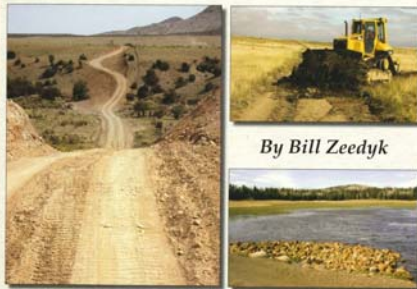
Rangeland Health and Planned Grazing Field Guide

by Nathan Sayre and
Kirk Gadria



July 2004
Second Edition
Earth Works Institute
The Quivira Coalition
Rio Puerco Management
Committee

A Good Road Lies Easy on the Land... *Water Harvesting from Low-Standard Rural Roads*



By Bill Zeedyk

First Edition: April 2004
A Joint Publication of The Quivira Coalition, Zeedyk Ecological Consulting, LLC,
The Rio Puerco Management Committee - Watershed Initiative, and the
New Mexico Environment Department - Surface Water Quality Bureau.



Spring
Summer
2008

RIO PUERCO NEWS

Newsletter of the Rio Puerco Alliance and the Rio Puerco Management Committee

This Year, Springtime is Planting Time in the Rio Puerco Watershed

The Rio Puerco Alliance (RPA), the Rio Puerco Management Committee (RPMC), and WildEarth Guardians coordinated planting events this spring as part of two major projects funded by the EPA and the State of New Mexico.

WildEarth Guardians held a volunteer Soavam Team event for Earth Day for their River Ecosystem Restoration Initiative (REI) Project with over 100 volunteers spending their weekend:

- Planting 2,000 cottonwoods,
- 15,000 willows, and 200 native riparian



1000 Soavam Team volunteers planting cottonwoods, willows, and building an urban... (Photo credit: Dave Fisher)



shrubs including New Mexico olive, shrubbrush sumac, and chokecherry, thus covering over two miles of the Rio Puerco with native vegetation.

- Building 14 enclosures to protect native vegetation.

In addition, the Guardians mechanically removed thousands of salt cedar and Russian olive.

This was part of the REI grant that will help establish a native seed source for the non-riparian areas. (See story on page 2.)

The REI envisions a "string of pearls" of native vegetation on the project site that will enhance longitudinal riparian habitat connectivity by

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