



EDUCATION, AWARENESS, & TECHNOLOGY

NEW MEXICO GROUNDWATER CONFERENCE

July 15 & 16, 2025
State Bar of New Mexico
5121 Masthead NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109

PROGRAM

Groundwater Champions



Welcome to the 2025 New Mexico Groundwater Conference!

The objective of American Ground Water Trust conferences is to showcase topical and/or controversial groundwater issues and to facilitate information sharing among landowners, groundwater end-users, regulators, management agencies, scientists, engineers, lawyers, and citizens who have economic or environmental interests in water resources.

Continuing Education

Approved by NMED for New Mexico Water and Wastewater Utility Operators/Board Members: Day 1 (6.75 Training Credits), Day 2 (5.75 Training Credits), Both Days (12.5 Training Credits)

Approved by the State Bar of NM for NM Attorneys (9.7 G, Course ID: 236823-32750)

Certificates are available for all attendees upon completion of CE Form

Conference Sponsors



Tuesday, July 15

7:30-8:20 am **Registration & Refreshments**

8:20-8:30 am **Welcome**

Sara Chudnoff, PG, Executive Director, American Ground Water Trust, Pinetop, AZ

8:30-10:00 am **Groundwater Resilience in New Mexico: What it Means, What it Takes**

Moderator: Maurice Hall, PhD, PE, Senior Advisor, Climate Resilient Water Systems, EDF, Santa Fe, NM

The New Mexico Groundwater Alliance is a growing, statewide network of stakeholders formed in response to escalating concerns over groundwater depletion and the lack of meaningful, coordinated policy action. Building on the recommendations of the 2022 Water Policy and Infrastructure Task Force, the Alliance brings together diverse voices—from science, policy, agriculture, local communities, and others—to advance equitable, sustainable groundwater management in New Mexico.

Recognizing groundwater as a critical and limited resource, the Alliance works to build public awareness and catalyze policy and conservation strategies that protect long-term sustainability, safeguard cultural and community values, and ensure fair adaptation to the state's growing aridity.

In July 2025, the Groundwater Alliance will release a landmark report characterizing groundwater resilience in New Mexico. This report will combine scientific analysis, policy review, and the lived experiences of communities that depend on this diminishing resource. It will also highlight promising management and conservation options—designed to align with New Mexico's diverse values and landscapes—while confronting the hard realities of an uncertain groundwater future.

Panelists:

- Phil King, Principal Engineer, King Engineering & Associates, Las Cruces, NM
- Adrian Oglesby, Director, Utton Transboundary Resources Center, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM
- Ramon Lucero, Regional Field Manager, Rural Community Assistance Corporation, Santa Fe, NM
- Aron Balok, Superintendent, Pecos Valley Artesian District, Roswell, NM

10:00-10:30 am **Break and Exhibitor Introductions**

Moderator

Sara Chudnoff, PG, Executive Director, American Ground Water Trust, Pinetop, AZ

10:30-11:00 am **Keynote**

Water: A Precious Resource in the High Desert

Deb Haaland, New Mexico Gubernatorial Candidate & Former Secretary of the Interior

11:00-11:30 am **A Scalable Groundwater Conservation Model for New Mexico: Lessons from the Ogallala Land & Water Conservancy**

Ladona K. Clayton, PhD, Executive Director, Ogallala Land & Water Conservancy, Clovis, NM

11:30-12:00 pm **Water-Level Monitoring and Water-Level Trends in the Estancia Basin**

Erwin Melis, PhD, PG, Principal Hydrogeologist, John Shomaker and Associates, Inc., Albuquerque, NM

12:00-1:00 pm **Lunch (provided)**

Moderator

Phillip Rust, PG, LHG, Senior Hydrogeologist, NV5, Albuquerque, NM

1:00-1:30 pm **The Future of MAR/ASR is Here: Insights from AEM Surveys**

Colby Lubanowski: Regional Sales Manager – US Groundwater, Denver, CO

- 1:30-2:00 pm **Santa Cruz Watershed Restoration Plan - Dream Big - Start Small**
Steve Finch, CPG, PG, Principal Hydrogeologist-Geochemist, John Shomaker and Associates, Inc., Albuquerque, NM
- 2:00-2:30 pm **Santa Teresa Brackish Groundwater Exploration Using Airborne Electromagnetic Data**
Oscar Esparza Jr., Lower Rio Grande Water Projects Specialist, NMISC, Las Cruces, NM Co-Authors: Austin Hanson, Senior Geologist and Erick Fox, Water Resources Planner and GIS Analyst, INTERA Inc., Albuquerque, NM
- 2:30-3:00 pm **Break**
- Moderator** Rocio Mancillas, Staff Hydrogeologist, John Shomaker & Associates, Inc., Albuquerque, NM
- 3:00-3:30 pm **Implications of Senate Bill 21 for Groundwater Contamination Liability**
Dalva L. Moellenberg, Shareholder, Gallagher & Kennedy, P.A., Santa Fe, NM
- 3:30-4:00 pm **Monitoring Efforts in the Gallinas Creek Watershed Post Hermit Peak-Calf Canyon Wildfire**
Justin R. Nichols, PhD, Hydrologist, USGS - New Mexico Water Science Center, Albuquerque, NM
- 4:00-4:30 pm **The Environmental Microbiome of the North Avenue Railroad (NRAP) Superfund Site in Española, NM**
Rebecca Reiss, Ph.D., Emeritus Professor of Biology, New Mexico Tech, Socorro and Peter Guerra, PE, Principal Environmental Engineer, Lynker, Socorro, NM
- 4:30-5:00 pm **Groundwater Modeling for a LANL Low-Level Waste Disposal Area: Updating Simulated Steady-State Aqueous Infiltration Rates and Assessing Their Influence on Projected Radiological Dose**
Amy K. Rice, Ph.D., Hydrogeologist and Numerical Modeler, Neptune and Company, Los Alamos, NM
- 5:00-6:00 pm **Reception & Networking Sponsored by INTERA Inc.**

Wednesday, July 16

- 7:30-8:20 am **Registration and Refreshments**
- 8:20-8:30 am **Welcome and Summary of July 15 Presentations**
Jeremy Kuhn, AGWT Executive Board Member/Director-North American, Roscoe Moss, Phoenix, AZ
- Moderator** Meghan Hodgins, Senior Consultant, Glorieta Geoscience, A Division of GZA Geoenvironmental, Inc., Santa Fe, NM
- 8:30-9:00 am **Current and Planned Aquifer Characterization in the Carrizozo, Tularosa and Jornada del Muerto Basins**
Laila Sturgis, Aquifer Mapping Program Manager, NM Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources, Socorro, NM
- 9:00-9:45 am **A Two-Part Review of How Recent Advances in Seismic Technology and Petrophysical Analysis are Improving our Ability to Quantify Hydraulic Properties and Groundwater Quality in Bedrock Aquifers**
Theodore Stieglitz, PhD, PG, Senior Geophysicist and James Roberts, PG, Principal Hydrogeologist, Collier Geophysics, Lakewood, CO

- 9:45-10:15 am **Delineation of the Pecos Valley Alluvial Aquifer in the Monument Draw Trough (Permian Basin), Southeastern New Mexico: Water Resource Management for Municipal Drinking Water within an Active Oil and Gas Field**
Paul Drakos, PG, Associate Principal, Co-Authors: Jim Riesterer, PG, Senior Consultant, and Meghan Hodgins, Senior Consultant, Glorieta Geoscience, A Division of GZA Geoenvironmental, Inc., Santa Fe, NM
- 10:15-10:45 am **Break**
- Moderator** Jessica Rogers, PhD, Senior Project Hydrogeologist, S.S. Papadopoulos & Associates, Inc., Boulder, CO
- 10:45-11:15 am **Update on Produced Water Reuse Regulations in New Mexico, the West, and in the US**
Zachary Stoll, Assistant Director - NM Produced Water Research Consortium, NMSU, Las Cruces, NM
- 11:15-11:30 am **Climate Change and Groundwater Appropriation: A Brief Summary of Aquifer Science, LLC v. Verhines**
Lauren Hewitt, JD, Albuquerque, NM
- 11:30-12:00 pm **Keynote**
Update from the State Engineer
Elizabeth K. Anderson, PE, State Engineer, NMOSE, Santa Fe, NM
- 12:00-1:15 pm **Lunch (provided)**
- Moderator** Corbin Carsrud, PG, County Hydrogeologist, Bernalillo County, Albuquerque, NM
- 1:15-1:30 pm **Surface-Groundwater Interactions in the San Acacia Reach of the Rio Grande**
Racha Berjaoui, New Mexico Tech Hydrology Graduate Student, Socorro, NM
- 1:30-2:00 pm **Riparian Surface Water-Groundwater Exchanges in Heavily Managed Floodplains: The Rio Grande and Low Flow Conveyance Channel**
Daniel Cadol, PhD, Associate Professor of Hydrology - EES, NMT, Socorro, NM
- 2:00-2:30 pm **Borehole Velocity Methods Theory and Application: Point Velocity Probe and Profile Dilution Tests**
Peter Guerra, PE, Principal Environmental Engineer Co-Authors: Justin Clark, Senior Hydrogeologist and Jim McCord, PhD, PE, Principal Hydrogeologist/Water Resources Engineer Lynker Corporation, Albuquerque, NM and Michael Verreault, Hydro Ressources Inc., Indio, CA
- 2:30-3:00 pm **Developing a Statewide Analytical-Solution Tool for Rapidly Estimating and Visualizing Groundwater Pumping Effects on Stream Networks**
Jessica Rogers, PhD, Senior Project Hydrogeologist, Doug Hayes, Senior Technology Specialist and Gilbert Barth, PhD, Principal/Boulder Office Manager, S.S. Papadopoulos & Associates, Inc., Boulder, CO
- 3:00-3:30 pm **Analysis of Historical and Future Water Balances in the Transboundary Rio Grande, including Water Deliveries From New Mexico to Texas and Mexico**
Kevin Perez, Hydrologist, Neptune and Company, Inc., Denver, CO
- 3:30-4:00 pm **Balancing Environment and Economy in an Agricultural Basin: Moving Beyond Scenarios With Multi-Objective Optimization**
Katherine Markovich, PhD, Senior Hydrogeologist, INTERA Inc., Albuquerque, NM

Conference Exhibitors

Airburst Technology
Ceterra Subsurface Imaging
Cotey Chemical
Custom Pipe
Daniel B. Stephens and Associates, Inc. (a Geo-Logic Company)
Halliburton - Baroid IDP
Hydro Resources
INTERA Inc.
Johnson Screens
Mt. Sopris Instruments
Neptune and Company
Roscoe Moss Company
Stewart Brothers Drilling Company

Registration Information

2025 New Mexico Groundwater Conference - Albuquerque, NM
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Register online at agwt.org/events

Registration Overview

General Registration

2 Day Registration	\$330.00
2 Day Full-Time Student	\$100.00
1 Day Registration (Day 1 or Day 2)	\$175.00
1 Day Full-Time Student (Day 1 or Day 2)	\$ 50.00

Speaker Registration

Speaker (Day 1 or Day 2)	\$ 0.00
Attend - Not Speaker (Day 1 or Day 2)	\$100.00

Moderator Registration

2 Day Registration	\$280.00
1 Day Registration	\$140.00

Download of Presentations in PDF - attendees	\$ 30.00
Download of Presentations in PDF - non-attendees	\$100.00

New Mexico Water Well Workshop

NM GW Conf Attendee Discount Reg. (please register through NM Water Well Workshop event page)	\$125.00
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Sponsor and Exhibit Opportunities - See our event webpage for more information or choose options(s) during on-line registration

Checks should be made payable to AGWT
Mail to: American Ground Water Trust
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Concord, NH 03301

For questions please call: (603) 228-5444