



State of New Mexico
**Office of the State Engineer
Interstate Stream Commission**

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**Statement from New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission,
Jicarilla Apache Nation and The Nature Conservancy in response
to America the Beautiful Award Announcement**

SANTA FE – Today, the [National Fish and Wildlife Foundation awarded the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission a \\$4,000,000 grant through the America the Beautiful Challenge](#) for their partnership on the San Juan water lease agreement with the Jicarilla Apache Nation and The Nature Conservancy.

The following is a statement released by the [project partners](#):

“We are thrilled to receive this award from NFWF for our partnership on San Juan River water sharing. This funding will help pay for the water orders provided through our lease agreement that are designed to benefit threatened and endangered fish and increase water security for New Mexico.

“Programs like the America the Beautiful Challenge help bolster unique projects like ours and allow us to think outside the box to develop solutions that benefit multiple interests, while also helping address the drought we have been experiencing for two decades in the Colorado River Basin.

“We are grateful to NFWF for recognizing the benefits of our project, the collaborative partnership, and the successes it can bring in helping fish and wildlife and the future of our river.

“The Colorado River Basin’s Tribal Nations are important leaders and partners in crafting transformative water solutions across the West. This water sharing agreement truly demonstrates how Tribal Nations and state governments can work on a sovereign-to-sovereign basis--with support from conservation organizations – to find collaborative solutions to benefit the river, while also serving as a model for working together throughout the west and beyond.”

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The Office of the State Engineer is charged with administering the state’s water resources. The State Engineer has power over the supervision, measurement, appropriation, and distribution of all surface and groundwater in New Mexico, including streams and rivers that cross state boundaries. The State Engineer is also Secretary of the Interstate Stream Commission.

The nine-member Interstate Stream Commission is charged with separate duties including protecting New Mexico’s right to water under eight interstate stream compacts, ensuring the state complies with each of those compacts as well as investigating, conserving and protecting the waters of the State, in addition to water planning.

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