
Concrete Projects

The Commission will be responsible for several proposed and current projects. The objective of the organization is to provide structure to these initiatives which benefit the entire basin. Examples of such projects include:

- An **archaeological preservation program** based on the Federal Galisteo Basin Archaeological Sites Protection Act which protects 23 major archaeological sites in the area. The planning is coordinated by the BLM. Citizen input would be very desirable.
- A **wetland restoration, creation and protection program** in collaboration with NMED, landowners and Santo Domingo Pueblo, coordinated by EWI and NMED.
- An **environmentally sound urban development and open space project** at the Thornton Ranch, conceived and managed by Commonwealth Conservancy, in cooperation with other public open space managers in the basin and coordinated with the rail transportation initiatives currently under consideration by the state of New Mexico.
- The San Marcos District Community Plan, working towards the goal to **preserve the rural lifestyle of residents** in the western portion of the basin.
- An inventory of **large ranches** to discuss ways to manage a transition to smaller holdings in the least destructive and most constructive way.
- Santo Domingo Pueblo is conducting a **bosque restoration project** to reduce invasive species and fire hazard.
- Santa Fe Conservation Trust is working on a 5-year strategy to secure **50,000 acres of conservation easements** in the Galisteo watershed. In 2004-2005, the Trust plans to **map all existing and potential open space areas and conservation easement sites** in the watershed.
- The Nature Conservancy's **conservation area**, Ball Ranch tract NW of the Ortiz Mountains. A collaborative between TNC, Santo Domingo, BLM, and private landowners.
- The County Open Space properties and management plans for **preserving public open space and providing managed access to archaeological resources**.
- The Forest Service plan for **forest and fire management** in the upper watershed.
- Possible legislation authorizing the State Engineer to declare residential Critical Management Areas (CMA). Potential community role in assessing the positive and negative impacts of such a designation on water availability, economic development, and property values, **defining of the location, size, and shape of the CMA within the Galisteo Basin** to make it maximally effective and equitable.

Next Steps

Participants in the February 28 and June 19 meetings will continue the dialogue concerning issues in the watershed and the structure of the Commission. As requested, Earth Works Institute (EWI) will continue to coordinate the watershed planning conversations and activities in the interim. An organizing meeting will be held on Thursday September 23 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the National Park Service building at 1100 Old Santa Fe Trail. This will be a public meeting, and all interested parties are invited to attend. The steering committee will prepare a draft MOU for discussion. The agenda for this steering committee meeting includes the following inquires:



Confluence of Initiatives meeting 06-19-04

- Is a MOU the right vehicle to begin a watershed planning initiative?
- What is the purpose of the MOU, who are the right parties to participate in the MOU, and is this the right approach to creating the MOU?
- What kind of commission does the MOU establish and is there a place for any sub-commissions in coordinating different initiatives?
- What are the immediate funding needs to start an organization? What financial assistance from government agencies is available for staffing and administrative needs



Earth Works Institute bosque restoration workshop

