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# The National Water Rights Digest

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**February 2004**

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□ **A Ridenbaugh Press publication covering water rights policy, adjudication, sales and transfers nationwide.**

□ [www.ridenbaugh.com/nwrld/](http://www.ridenbaugh.com/nwrld/)

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Inside: New regional water plans in New Mexico; the Army Corps makes a decision on Columbia River management, the San Antonio City Council acts on a critical water matter, and regional water allocations are increased at several locations in the west.

These and many other topics inside.

## Legislation/Policy

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### CO: AG Announces Legislative Agenda

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Attorney General Ken Salazar announced his legislative agenda January 5, and priorities for consideration by the 2004 General Assembly.

The proposals for legislative action again reflect Salazar's priorities of public safety, consumer protection and assistance, and water and environmental issues.

His water agenda includes: Balance benefits of water supplies. Attorney General Salazar will support legislation to be introduced again providing "basin of origin" protections for those communities and residents in areas from which water is proposed to be exported into another river basin; and solutions to urban water needs. Establish a regional water district or authority in the South Metro area to better coordinate and address the water needs of Colorado's fastest growing urban areas of Arapahoe and Douglas Counties.

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Source: Colorado Attorney General Ken Salazar

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### NM: New Regional Water Plans

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**Middle Rio Grande:** The Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly, a nonprofit volunteer group, and the Mid-Region Council of Governments are releasing a 389-page preliminary water plan that covers Bernalillo, Sandoval and Valencia counties. The plan will be submitted to the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission next month

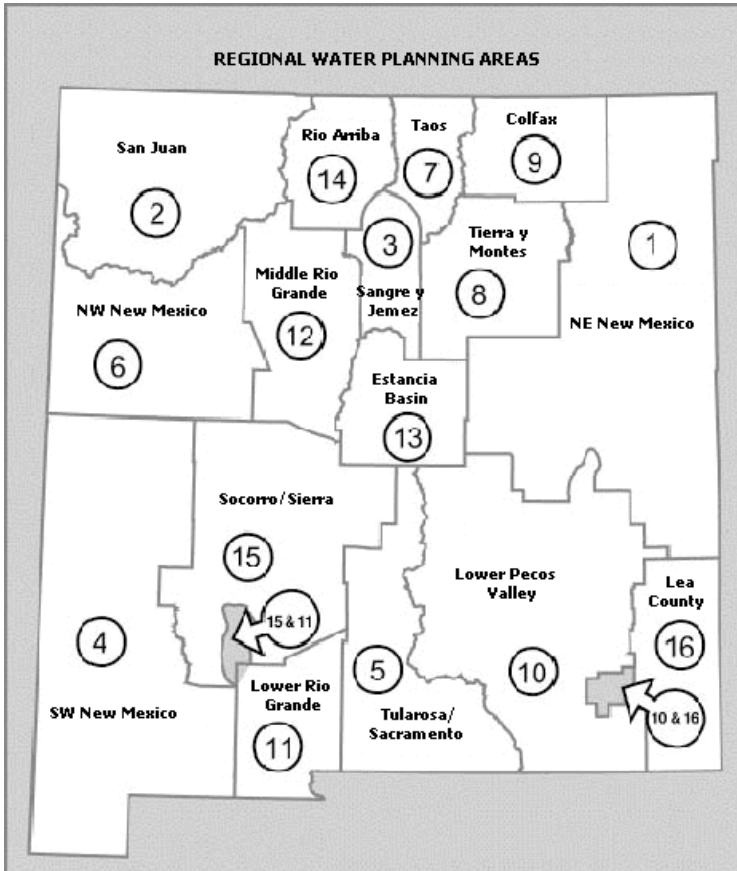
Completed Plans Accepted: The New Mexico Interstate Stream accepted the completed Socorro-Sierra Regional Water Plan; Northwest New Mexico Regional Water Plan; and the San Juan River Basin Regional Water Plan.

Once regional water plans are completed, they must be reviewed and accepted by the Interstate Stream Commission staff.

The **Socorro-Sierra** water-planning region is located on the Rio Grande in south central New Mexico. Most of the water in the region is used for agriculture along the Rio Grande Valley.

Development of the plan was funded by \$375,000 in grants from the Interstate Stream Commission as well as other contributions.

The **Northwest New Mexico Region** includes all of Cibola County and most of McKinley County. The region is mostly a rural area which includes part of the Rio Puerco watershed on the



eastern side and the upper watershed of the Puerco River on the western side.

Many of the region's current and potential water supplies are the subject of unresolved Tribal and federally reserved water rights claims. The plan addresses water reuse and conservation, continued groundwater development, successful construction of renewable water supply projects such as the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project, and adjudication or settlement of unresolved water rights claims.

The **San Juan River Basin Area** is located in the northwest corner of New Mexico and extends into Colorado, Utah, and Arizona. The report evaluates seven of the nine watersheds in the area and takes into account land that is owned privately, by Native Americans, the federal government, and the state. Shallow groundwater development, a drought contingency plan for the Animas Watershed and for all watersheds with agricultural irrigation, crop leasing, and conservation measures were all addressed by the plan.

Key entities involved in the development of the regional plan include the San Juan Water Commission, the Navajo Nation, the Jicarilla Apache Nation, Interstate Stream Commission, several private consultants, and a steering committee of citizens.

All three plans are posted on the Office of the State Engineer's website located at: <http://www.ose.state.nm.us/>

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Middle Rio Grande: <http://www.waterassembly.org/3WAPUB/CHplan.html> Socorro-Sierra: Karin Stangl  
Public Information Officer Office of the State Engineer/Interstate Stream Commission 505-827-6139

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## SD: Devils Lake Outlet Meets Treaty

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Gov. John Hoeven welcomed a ruling by U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell that the Army Corps of Engineers' outlet at Devils Lake does not violate the Boundary Waters Treaty with Canada.

"Secretary Powell's decision strengthens our effort to move forward with our temporary outlet on Devils Lake," Hoeven said. "He has now provided additional assurance that an outlet would not violate the treaty and that water quality downstream will be protected."

The state has been working on a three-part strategy at Devils Lake, including storing more water in the upper basin; mitigating around Devils Lake and building an outlet, which is already underway, according to Hoeven.

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<http://governor.state.nd.us/media/news-releases/2004/01/040122.html>

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## Columbia River: ACE Signs ROD

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The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on January 9 announced that Major General Carl A. Strock, Director of Civil Works, has signed the Record of Decision for the Columbia River Channel Improvement Project. Construction of the navigation improvements and associated ecosystem restoration features may now proceed after a cost-sharing agreement is signed.

Issuance of the ROD clears the way for the Corps' Portland District to begin work improving the federal navigation channel that stretches 103 miles between the Pacific Ocean and Portland, Ore., and Vancouver, Wash. The project includes deepening the navigation channel by three feet and construction of several ecosystem restoration features.

The Corps has applied for and received water quality certifications and concurrences with its coastal zone management consistency determinations from the states of Oregon and Washington. As a result of the conditions included in the states' approvals, the Corps will not proceed with the Lois-Mott embayment and Miller-Pillar Island ecosystem restoration projects, and instead will take some dredged materials to the ocean. Additionally, the embayment portion of the Martin Island mitigation site will not be constructed.

The result of these changes is a final cost estimate of \$136 million, an increase of about \$2 million from the final Supplemental Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement published in January 2003. The project will return a \$1.66 benefit for every \$1 spent on construction.

The Corps received \$3.5 million as part of the 2004 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act. That funding will be used for ecosystem restoration and to begin preparation of plans and specifications for a construction contract to begin deepening the channel, according to project manager Laura Hicks.

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Contact: David Hewitt 202-761-0289 david.w.hewitt@usace.army.mil Source: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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## Texas: San Antonio Council Ends TIF

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On January 9, after what the *Express-News* called a "dizzying, five-hour debate", a divided San Antonio City Council acted on the recommendations of a joint city-county task force to end tax increment financing in the Aquifer's recharge zone.

The practice of offering tax abatements to lure businesses to the city and county has long been a contentious issue, especially when properties are over the Aquifer.

The new regulations will continue to allow the use of tax increment financing in the Aquifer's contributing zone, which environmentalists had also sought to end. As the Jan. 9 debate proceeded, so many amendments were proposed that observers were uncertain about what exactly the Council had passed. Regarding the contributing zone, staff and the council eventually agreed that since the impact of development has not been well studied, the science did not support banning TIFs there.

Councilman Patti Radle did not agree, saying the council's job was "to be on the safe side." Her motion to ban TIFs on the recharge, contributing, and transition zones failed

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Source: Edwards Aquifer Newsflashes. box1@edwardsaquifer.net

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## **Litigation**

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### Georgia: City Wins Wastewater Permit

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The State's Court of Appeals has ruled in favor of a Georgia Environmental Protection Division decision to issue a permit to a Gwinnett County wastewater treatment plant.

The NPDES permit, which was granted to the F. Wayne Hill Water Resource Center on November 9, 2000, authorizes the facility to discharge up to 40 million gallons per day of highly treated wastewater into Lake Sidney Lanier.

The Court of Appeals ruling last Friday confirmed that EPD had followed applicable laws and regulations during the permitting process. The ruling also emphasized that expert testimony taken during the appeal concluded that the permit protects water quality standards for Lake Lanier.

An association of property owners and two environmental organizations first appealed the permit decision to the Office of State Administrative Hearings, where an Administrative Law Judge ruled in favor of EPD and upheld the permit. The groups then appealed to Hall County Superior Court and last March, a Hall County judge ruled that two elements of the permit should be reconsidered and ordered that it be sent back to the Office of State Administrative Hearings for review. However, EPD chose to appeal the Hall County Superior Court ruling through the state's Court of Appeals.

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Department of Ecology News Release - Dec. 3, 2003 : contact: Joan Pelley, Public Information Officer, 360-738-6247

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### CO: State Asks Water Court to Approve Gunnison River Agreement

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Interior Secretary Gale Norton applauded her home state of Colorado for its filing asking the Colorado Water Court to approve an innovative agreement to resolve difficult water issues on the Gunnison River while assuring water flows needed by Black Canyon National Park.

“This filing represents a positive change in the way we do business in resolving complicated Western water disputes and hopefully a model for the future,” Norton said. “By working cooperatively in partnership with the state of Colorado, we have reached an agreement that will provide ample water for Black Canyon National Park and meet the needs of upstream communities.”

The agreement, reached last April and approved by the Colorado Water Conservation Board in November, provides a minimum of 300 cubic feet per second of water and periodic spring rises necessary to scour the canyon and remove buildup of sediment and vegetation. This conforms to a plan worked out by the National Park Service, which manages the park, the Bureau of Reclamation, which manages the federal reclamation project on the river, and the state of Colorado.

Meanwhile, the agreement will let the Bureau of Reclamation know how to manage its water facilities each year, while local communities and citizens will be assured their water rights are secure.

“As Colorado Water Conservation Board Chairman Eric Wilkinson said when the board approved the agreement last month, this is a significant day in the history of Colorado,” Norton said. “We have proven that cooperation and collaboration can succeed where litigation and acrimony have failed – the federal government and states that are affected by the federal government’s claim of water rights can reach agreements that work for all parties involved.”

Under the agreement, each spring the Bureau of Reclamation will hold a meeting with the National Park Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the State of Colorado, water users, environmental interests, and the public to discuss the upcoming water year and how to develop a hydrograph for the peak flows to be released in the park.

Rather than focusing on the federal “reserve,” the agreement offers a solution under state water law.

“Normally these disputes get tangled up in prolonged court battles costing millions of taxpayer’s dollars,” Norton said. “While one size doesn’t fit all, we hope this agreement will serve as a model that can be emulated elsewhere in the West.”

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**Contact:** Hugh Vickery 202-501-4633 U.S. Department of the Interior

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## Idaho: SRBA News

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For the latest in the Snake River Basin Adjudication, see the SRBA Digest at: [www.ridenbaugh.com](http://www.ridenbaugh.com)

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## CA: Judge Orders Imperial Irrigation to Pay \$17 Million

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Coachella Valley Water District was awarded approximately \$17 million by a San Bernardino County judge in a lawsuit against Imperial Irrigation District. The litigation charged IID with failing to pay CVWD part of its portion of power-related income associated with a 1934 agreement to share revenue generated by the production of electricity by the IID.

Superior Court Judge Michael A. Smith ruled in a statement of intended decision in October that various IID accounting practices used to determine net proceeds from electricity due CVWD were a breach of the 1934 Compromise Agreement. In January, the judge signed his final judgment.

Terms of the 1934 Compromise Agreement included the provision that CVWD would lease to IID its right to develop power using water from the All-American Canal in exchange for eight percent of the net power proceeds.

When the canal was completed in the 1940s IID began paying CVWD, but Imperial's accounting practices since the 1950s were challenged by Coachella in court in 1994.

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Coachella Valley Water District Press Release, January 14, 2004. Judgment specifics: Dean Dennis, Hill, Farrer & Burriel LLP 213-620-0460; CVWD: Dennis Mahr [dmahr@cvwd.org](mailto:dmahr@cvwd.org)

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## **Supply**

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## Glen Canyon Dam Continues Water Releases

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The Bureau of Reclamation has begun a second year of experimental water releases from Glen Canyon Dam on the Colorado River to benefit endangered species of fish within Grand Canyon National Park. The daily high fluctuating releases will run from January through March.

The experimental flows are designed to benefit humpback chub, a fish species native to the Grand Canyon. The experiment will evaluate whether non-native trout are negatively impacting the endangered humpback chubs by competing for key habitat space and by preying upon the chubs. Additionally, the flows are anticipated to benefit the trout upstream in the 16-mile stretch from the dam to Lee Ferry by reducing the overpopulation of trout, thus increasing the viability and size of the fish. That stretch is within the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and is managed



for the sport fishery. The downstream river through Grand Canyon National Park is managed to benefit native fish species.

Releases will range between a daily high of 20,000 cubic-feet-per-second to a low of 5,000 cfs. Researchers have discovered that since 1991, when such significant fluctuations were ended, the trout population dramatically grew at the probable expense of the native humpback chub population. Scientists are trying to determine if the fluctuating flows can keep the trout population in check by impacting their spawning and other aspects of their lifecycle.

Additionally, another ongoing experiment since last year has been the mechanical removal of non-native fish, primarily trout, near the confluence of the Little Colorado River and the mainstem Colorado River. The area is prime humpback chub habitat as the endangered fish move between both rivers. The removal effort, using electro-fishing techniques, reduces competition by physically removing trout. Early indicators from last summer's work have shown positive results.

Both experiments were analyzed in 2002 by an Environmental Assessment in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and were found to pose no significant environmental effects. The Bureau of Reclamation, the National Park Service, and the U.S. Geological Survey jointly prepared the study and are involved in the work. The experiments were proposed as a result of ongoing studies by the agencies and were recommended in 2002 by the Adaptive Management Work Group, a federal advisory committee to the Secretary of the Interior.

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Barry Wirth (801) 524-3774 E-mail: [bwirth@uc.usbr.gov](mailto:bwirth@uc.usbr.gov)

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## CA: DWR Increases Water Allocation

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The Department of Water Resources announced an increase in the 2004 allocation for water delivery to the State Water Project Contractors.

The increased allocation is 50 percent of the Contractors' requested amounts, and could continue to increase during the winter months. At this time last year, the allocation was 45 percent. The initial allocation for 2004, announced in December, was 35 percent of requested amounts.

In addition to this allocation, many SWP Contractors are carrying over water from their 2003 allocation. SWP Contractors benefited from a final 2003 allocation of 90 percent of requested amounts, of which they are continuing to take delivery of about 400,000 acre-feet.

The Department will revise the allocation as the year's hydrologic and water supply conditions develop.

A Notice to SWP Contractors appears on the DWR's State Water Project Analysis Office Web site at:  
<http://www.swpao.water.ca.gov/notices.html>.

**Contacts:** [Craig Trombly](#), Chief, Project Water Contracts Branch, (916) 653-6250 [Ted Thomas](#), Information Officer, (916) 653-9712

## Western Snowpack

SNOW - PRECIPITATION UPDATE Based On Mountain Data  
 From NRCS SNOTEL Sites SATURDAY: FEBRUARY 7, 2004

State	River Basin	Number of Sites	Snow Water Equivalent	Percent Of Average Accum Precip
<b>Alaska</b>				
	Anchorage/Ship Creek Basin .....	1 of 2	87	98
	Susitna Basin .....	1 of 2	55	84
	Northern Kenai Mountains ....	5 of 6	103	111
	Southern Kenai .....	1 of 3	*	*
	Chena Basin .....	4 of 6	100	23
	Upper Tanana .....	1 of 1	106	115
	Koyukuk Basin .....	1 of 3	*	128
	Central Yukon Basin .....	0 of 2	*	54
	Seward Peninsula .....	0 of 3	*	*
	Kuparuk River Basin .....	0 of 1	*	*
	Southeast Alaska Basin .....	0 of 1	*	*
<b>Arizona</b>				
	Salt River Basin .....	8 of 8	86	81
	Verde River Basin .....	5 of 5	67	65
	Central Mogollon Rim ....	3 of 3	69	73
	Little Colorado - Southern Headwaters ...	4 of 4	70	76
	San Francisco River Basin ...	5 of 5	77	82
	Gila River Basin .....	3 of 3	63	71
<b>California</b>				
	Northern Great Basin ....	4 of 4	129	111
	Truckee River .....	6 of 7	107	92
	Lake Tahoe .....	8 of 8	115	90
	Carson River .....	4 of 7	111	92
	Walker River .....	5 of 6	107	94
	Klamath .....	10 of 11	127	96
<b>Colorado</b>				
	Gunnison River Basin .....	11 of 12	101	93
	Upper Colorado River Basin .....	24 of 28	86	82
	South Platte River Basin .....	14 of 15	69	72
	Laramie And North Platte River Basins ....	11 of 13	84	86
	Yampa And White River Basins .....	14 of 14	91	90
	Arkansas River Basin .....	6 of 6	84	80
	Upper Rio Grande Basin .....	9 of 10	106	100
	San Miguel, Dolores, Animas and San Juan River Basins .....	13 of 15	101	92

Idaho			
Idaho Panhandle Region .....	12 of 17	101	94
Clearwater Basin .....	14 of 15	106	97
Salmon Basin .....	20 of 22	97	88
Weiser Basin .....	3 of 4	101	89
Payette Basin .....	9 of 11	104	92
Boise Basin .....	8 of 11	98	94
Big Wood Basin .....	8 of 9	90	85
Little Wood Basin .....	4 of 5	99	91
Big Lost Basin .....	4 of 5	96	87
Little Lost, Birch Basins ...	4 of 4	87	81
Medicine Lodge, Beaver, Camas Basins ....	6 of 6	111	95
Henry's Fork, Teton Basins ...	8 of 9	115	103
SNAKE BASIN ABOVE PALISADES .....	17 of 19	98	91
Willow, Blackfoot, Portneuf Basins ..	5 of 5	108	98
Oakley Basin .....	3 of 3	116	106
Salmon Falls Basin .....	5 of 5	117	108
Bruneau Basin .....	5 of 5	119	103
Owyhee Basin .....	7 of 8	136	111
Bear River Basin .....	14 of 15	89	88
Montana			
Kootenai River Basin ....	8 of 8	104	98
Flathead River Basin ....	15 of 15	94	92
Upper Clark Fork River Basin .....	15 of 15	100	89
Bitterroot River Basin .....	7 of 7	101	94
Lower Clark Fork River Basin ....	7 of 8	98	90
Jefferson River Basin .....	19 of 19	95	88
Madison River Basin .....	11 of 11	104	95
Gallatin River Basin ....	7 of 7	92	86
Missouri Headwaters .....	31 of 31	98	90
Headwaters Missouri Mainstem ....	5 of 5	95	91
Smith, Judith, And Musselshell River Basins ..	8 of 9	105	100
Sun, Teton And Marias River Basins ..	6 of 6	92	92
Missouri Mainstem River Basin ....	19 of 20	98	95
St. Mary And Milk River Basins ..	3 of 3	92	100
Upper Yellowstone River Basin ....	22 of 23	85	87
Wind River Basin (Wyoming) .....	12 of 12	77	79
Shoshone River Basin (Wyoming) ..	6 of 6	79	90
Bighorn River Basin (Wyoming) ....	16 of 16	80	84
Tongue River Basin (Wyoming) ....	6 of 6	80	80
Powder River Basin (Wyoming) ....	6 of 6	96	77
Lower Yellowstone River Basin ....	32 of 32	81	82
Nevada			
Northern Great Basin ....	4 of 4	129	111
Truckee River .....	6 of 7	107	92
Lake Tahoe .....	8 of 8	115	90
Carson River .....	4 of 4	111	92
Walker River .....	5 of 5	107	94
Snake River .....	3 of 3	113	103
Owyhee River .....	5 of 6	137	106
Upper Humboldt River ....	5 of 5	115	104
Lower Humboldt River ....	4 of 5	121	97
Clover Valley .....	1 of 1	94	100
Eastern Nevada .....	3 of 3	92	75

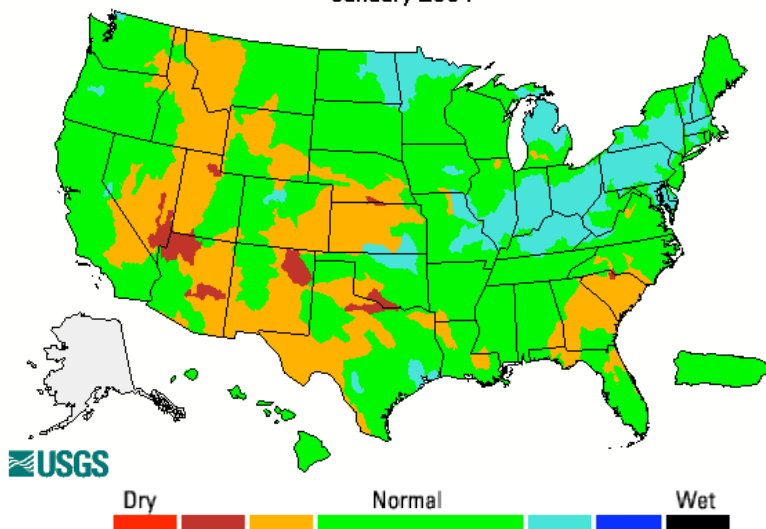
New Mexico			
Rio Chama River Basin .....	4 of 4	104	81
Sangre De Cristo Mountain Range Basins ..	9 of 9	75	77
Jemez River Basin .....	3 of 3	62	65
San Francisco River Basin ...	3 of 3	62	74
Gila River Basin .....	3 of 3	63	71
Mimbres River Basin.....	2 of 2	45	75
Pecos River Basin .....	1 of 1	61	60
San Juan River Headwaters ...	4 of 5	111	105
Animas River Basin .....	6 of 7	98	89
Cimarron River Basin ....	2 of 2	80	74
Zuni/Bluewater River Basin .....	1 of 1	78	86
Rio Hondo Basin .....	1 of 1	57	92
Oregon			
Owyhee .....	7 of 7	136	111
Malheur .....	3 of 3	126	108
Grand Ronde, Powder, Burnt, Imnaha ...	13 of 14	115	105
Umatilla, Walla Walla, Willow ...	7 of 9	113	110
John Day .....	9 of 10	118	102
Deschutes, Crooked .....	11 of 11	126	105
Lower Columbia, Hood River .....	7 of 7	134	103
Coast Range .....	2 of 2	4	83
Willamette .....	18 of 18	125	103
Rogue, Umpqua .....	8 of 10	133	97
Klamath .....	10 of 14	127	96
Lake County, Goose Lake .....	7 of 9	128	98
Harney .....	7 of 7	123	101
Utah			
Bear River .....	8 of 9	90	90
Weber-Ogden Rivers .....	14 of 15	101	95
Provo R.-Utah Lake-Jordan R. ....	13 of 15	105	100
Tooele Valley-Vernon Creek .....	3 of 3	116	100
Green River .....	5 of 6	95	95
Duchesne River .....	11 of 12	100	93
Price-San Rafael .....	5 of 5	90	93
Dirty Devil .....	3 of 3	91	96
South Eastern Utah .....	3 of 3	109	82
Sevier River .....	14 of 15	101	94
Beaver River .....	2 of 2	97	106
Escalante River .....	2 of 3	68	88
Virgin River .....	6 of 7	85	78
Washington			
Priest, Coeur D'alene, St. Joe, Spokane, Palouse Basins .....	11 of 13	103	96
Columbia Above Methow .....	4 of 5	83	87
Chelan, Entiat, Wenatchee ...	7 of 8	75	97
Upper Yakima .....	4 of 5	95	103
Lower Yakima .....	7 of 7	109	99
Walla Walla, Touchet ....	2 of 4	116	110
Lewis, Cowlitz .....	7 of 10	112	100
White, Green, Puyallup .....	5 of 8	104	97
Cedar, Snoqualmie, Skykomish, Tolt ..	6 of 9	119	103
Baker, Skagit, Nooksack .....	5 of 9	98	115
Olympic .....	1 of 3	*	*

Wyoming			
Snake River .....	13 of 14	100	92
Upper Yellowstone-Madison ....	13 of 13	96	91
Wind River .....	9 of 9	83	81
Bighorn Basin .....	16 of 16	80	84
Shoshone River .....	7 of 7	76	89
Powder-Tongue .....	12 of 12	87	79
Belle Fourche .....	3 of 3	66	71
Upper N. Platte River .....	11 of 11	90	92
Lower N. Platte - Sweetwater - Laramie ..	9 of 10	80	81
Little Snake River .....	4 of 5	103	94
Upper Green River .....	11 of 11	88	86
Lower Green River .....	6 of 7	85	81
Upper Bear River .....	7 of 7	86	85

The Snow Water Equivalent Percent of Average represents the snow water equivalent found at selected SNOTEL sites in or near the basin compared to the average value for those sites on this day. The Accumulated Precipitation Percent of Average represents the total precipitation (beginning October 1st) found at selected SNOTEL sites in or near the basin compared to the average value for those sites on this day.

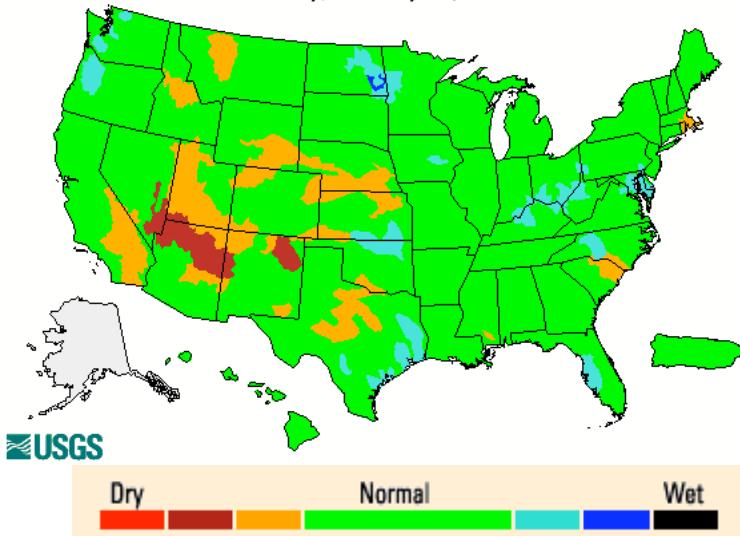
#### Monthly-average streamflow for the month of the year

January 2004



Map of 7-day median streamflow compared to historical streamflow for the week of the year

Friday, February 06, 2004




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## Lewis & Clark Engineering Report Submitted

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The Bureau of Reclamation's Great Plains Regional Director Maryanne Bach announced that the Final Engineering Report for the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System has been submitted to Congress. Public Law 106-246 requires that before funds appropriated for construction can be obligated, the engineering report must be submitted to Congress for a period of 90 days.

The Lewis and Clark Rural Water System was authorized by Public Law 106-246 on July 13, 2000. The project will provide safe drinking water to about 200,000 residents in portions of rural Iowa, Minnesota and South Dakota. The system will take water from a series of wells constructed in alluvial materials adjacent to the Missouri River near Vermillion, S.D. Treated water would then be conveyed throughout the project area by more than 385 miles of buried pipeline.

The engineering report was prepared by the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System, Inc., with the assistance of a private consulting firm.

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Great Plains Region Billings, MT Mark Andersen (406) 247-7609

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## Resources

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## Idaho: Aquifer Petition Website

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A special Internet web site has been created containing a wealth of information regarding the petition asking the state to impose a moratorium and other restrictions on the Moscow area groundwater aquifer. The site can be accessed at

[www.idwr.state.id.us/Moscow](http://www.idwr.state.id.us/Moscow) .

The site contains the petition and a summary of the supporting documents filed with the petition, the City of Moscow's response, and information on how residents can comment.

The petition seeks to have IDWR impose a moratorium on the processing and approval of all pending and new applications for water rights from both the shallow and deep aquifer systems serving the Latah County and Moscow-Pullman region. The petition also asks IDWR to establish a critical ground water management area for the Grande Ronde Aquifer, the deep regional aquifer that serves the Moscow/Latah County area; and that it designate the Wanapum and shallow level aquifer as a ground water management area.

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Contact: IDWR, Dick Larsen 208-327-7933 [www.idwr.state.id.us](http://www.idwr.state.id.us)

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## Interior Challenge Grants

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Interior Secretary Gale Norton announced a \$4 million Challenge Grant Program that will help areas of the West hard hit by chronic water supply shortages to develop conservation and water efficiency projects.

"Because of growing populations and heightened competition for limited water supplies, the chronic shortages in many of the West's watersheds are likely to worsen," Secretary Norton said. "The goal of these challenge grants is to support realistic, cooperative approaches and tools that have the most likelihood of successfully addressing water challenges in the basins facing the greatest risk."

The grants program is being funded under the Western Water Initiative, which was proposed by President George W. Bush in his Fiscal Year 2004 budget request. The Western Water Initiative was the initial step towards Water 2025: Preventing Crises and Conflict in the West, which was announced by Secretary Norton in June 2003.

The Bureau of Reclamation will be accepting proposals for matching challenge grants from irrigation and water districts that seek to leverage their money and resources to create water markets and make more efficient use of existing water supplies through water conservation and efficiency projects. By law,

proposals must have matching non-federal funds of at least 50 percent.

The grants should focus on achieving the goals identified in Water 2025. The selection process will emphasize projects that can be completed within 24 months and that can reduce future conflicts.

The grants will be awarded in the current fiscal year - Fiscal Year 2004 - which ends September 30, 2004. Notice of the criteria, processes, and deadlines for applications will be published in mid to late February at <http://www.grants.gov/>.

[FY04 Challenge Grant Program - Frequently Asked Questions:](http://www.doi.gov/water2025/grantFAQ.html)  
<http://www.doi.gov/water2025/grantFAQ.html>

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**Contact:** Trudy Harlow 202-513-0574 Source: U.S. Department of the Interior

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## FL: Alternative Water Supply Grants

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The St. Johns River Water Management District's Governing Board on January 14 approved \$1 million in cost-sharing funding for 12 alternative water supply construction projects.

The District's Alternative Water Supply Construction Cost-Sharing Program is designed to assist with funding new capital and infrastructure costs associated with developing water systems that use reclaimed water, storm water, brackish water, or saltwater that has been treated to the required standards for the intended use.

Cost-sharing funds were awarded to the Putnam County Extension Service, Seminole County, MerryGro Farms in Lake County, the Canaveral Port Authority, cities of Cocoa, Titusville, Apopka and Ormond Beach, Deerwood Country Club in Jacksonville, Gateway Gardens in Oviedo, Padgett subdivision in Vero Beach, and Agri-Starts, Inc. in Apopka.

Since 1996, the District's Alternative Water Supply Construction Cost-Sharing Program has awarded more than \$6.5 million to fund 116 projects.

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St. Johns River Water Management District LINDA BURNETTE, Communications and Governmental Affairs Director (386) 329-4289 Area 2: MALISSA DILLON (386) 329-4571 (Office)

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## LA: New Mississippi River Delta Scale Model

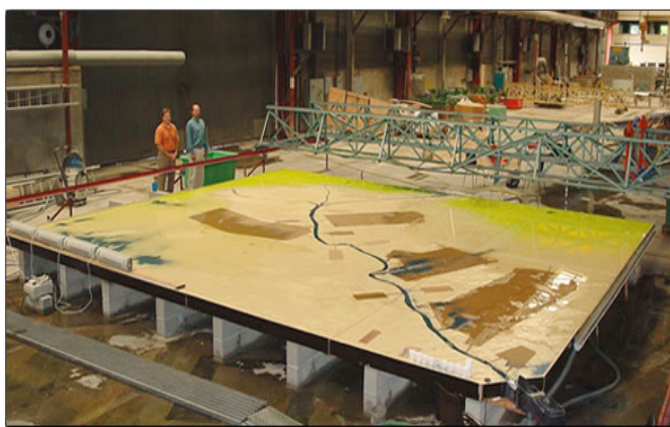
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A small scale physical model of the Mississippi River Delta was unveiled in December 2003 by DNR and LSU officials. The model was constructed in Grenoble, France and shipped to the state for re-assembly. LSU will house and maintain the model.



DNR Assistant Secretary of the Office of Coastal Restoration and Management Randy Hanchey said the model is able to give faster results and is particularly useful in predicting how freshwater and sediment diversions can help restore the marshes.

The project was sponsored by DNR and LSU's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering in collaboration with engineering consultants Brown, Cummingham and Gannuch, Inc. and Coastal Restoration Consultants.



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DNR project manager Shannon Dupont and Coastal Engineering Division Director Christopher Knotts review the model of river in Sogreah's laboratory in Grenoble, France in July 2003. From the LA DNR website.

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## Job Opening

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The Upper Colorado River Commission is accepting applications from qualified individuals for the position of Secretary and Executive Director of the Upper Colorado River Commission.

Qualified candidates must have significant experience in the legal, political, public and technical activities undertaken to coordinate operations of a major river system similar to the Colorado River. They must also have excellent leadership, organizational, management and interpersonal skills to coordinate the activities and political positions of the four states, as well as representing the Commission at high-level public meetings and congressional hearings including presentations at such meetings.

Qualified candidates must possess at least a college degree in engineering, natural resources or law. They must also have a minimum of 12 years of significant experience in the management

and technical aspects of operation of a major river basin. Experience in or understanding of runoff forecasting, river operations modeling, reservoir system operations, river mechanics, advice in interstate water matters and environmental compliance programs will be important qualifications.

The salary range for this position is \$75,000 - \$85,000 annually, depending on experience. The Commission also has an excellent benefits package which includes medical and dental insurance as well as 401k savings opportunities. Resumes must be received by February 22, 2004 at the office of the Upper Colorado River Commission, 355 South 400 East, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111. Phone: (801) 531-1150 Fax: (801) 531-9705

## CA: DWR Seeking RFPs

The California Department of Water Resources is soliciting proposals concerning energy requirements for the State Water Project (SWP) for 2005 and beyond. The RFP solicits proposals for four separate energy transaction types: **Purchase** of energy to meet portions of its power requirements for the State Water Project (SWP) during the off-peak and shoulder hours. **Sale** of energy that is surplus to SWP operational needs during the super-peak hours. **Exchange** of energy that is surplus to SWP operational needs during the super-peak periods, for return during off-peak and/or shoulder hours. **Power Purchase Call Option** for potential energy needs, and **Power Sale Put Option** for potential surplus SWP energy.

Proposals will be accepted for one, two, three or all four of the transaction types. Bidders may propose alternate products and bids in addition to those specified in this RFP.

The term for Proposals solicited by this RFP is for one calendar year or for three calendar years, both beginning January 1, 2005. This solicitation package is also available on the web site [http://www.swpao.water.ca.gov/rfp\\_2005/rfp\\_2005.html](http://www.swpao.water.ca.gov/rfp_2005/rfp_2005.html).

Proposals deadline is February 9, 2004.

DWR's contact person for this solicitation is Gurdip Rehal, who can be reached as follows: Phone: (916) 574-0612 Fax: (916) 574-0660 Email: [grehal@water.ca.gov](mailto:grehal@water.ca.gov)

## Meetings/events

- **February 24-25** 2nd Loxahatchee River Watershed Science Symposium, Jupiter Community Center. Contact: Florida Department of Environmental Protection

- **March 4:** Salinity Drainage Program: Annual Meeting, Sacramento, CA; University Of California Center For Water Resources <http://www.waterresources.ucr.edu/>

- **March 11-2** Water Education Foundation Executive Briefing: New Directions on the Water Front. Sacramento [www.watereducation.org](http://www.watereducation.org) 916-444-6240
- **March 24 -- 26**, National Water Resources Association: Federal Water Seminar, Washington, DC; Contact [nwra@nwra.org](mailto:nwra@nwra.org) 703-524-1544;
- **March 31 – April 2** – Western States Water Council 143<sup>rd</sup> Meeting; Las Vegas, NV; Cheryl Redding, 801-561-5300 [credding@wswc.state.ut.us](mailto:credding@wswc.state.ut.us)
- **May 5-7** ACWA Spring Conference, Monterey, CA 916-441-4545
- **May 17-19** AWRA Spring Specialty Conference, GIS & Water Resources; Nashville, TN [info@awra.org](mailto:info@awra.org), 540-687-8390
- **June 13 – 17** AWWA Annual Conference, Orlando, FL [www.awwa.org/ace2004](http://www.awwa.org/ace2004)
- **June 28-30** 2004 Summer Specialty Conference: Riparian Ecosystems And Buffers; AWRA; Resort At Squaw Creek, Olympic Valley, CA [info@awra.org](mailto:info@awra.org), 540-687-8390
- **July 14 – 16** Western States Water Council; Summer Meeting; Newport, OR
- **July 15-16** Water Education Foundation: Water Law & Policy Briefing, San Diego, CA [www.watereducation.org](http://www.watereducation.org) 916-444-6240
- **July 28 – 31** NWRA: Western Water Seminar, Santa Ana Pueblo, NM 703-524-1544
- **August 25 – 27** Urban Water Institute: 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Urban Water Conference, San Diego, CA 949-679-9676
- **Aug. 29 – Sept. 1** AWRA International Specialty Conference, Dundee, Scotland [info@awra.org](mailto:info@awra.org), 540-687-8390



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