

Active Water Resource Management: Tools for Better Water Management



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What is Active Water Resource Management (AWRM)?

- Proactive, statewide program to ensure a reliable water supply
- Means for keeping control of our water and protecting our water rights and economy
- Set of water management tools customized to each region

AWRM Activities

- **Refers to a broad range of activities including permitting transfers, expediting transfer procedures, monitoring and metering diversions, and limiting diversion of water to the amount authorized by existing water rights**

Drought Opened Our Eyes



2003 Legislature

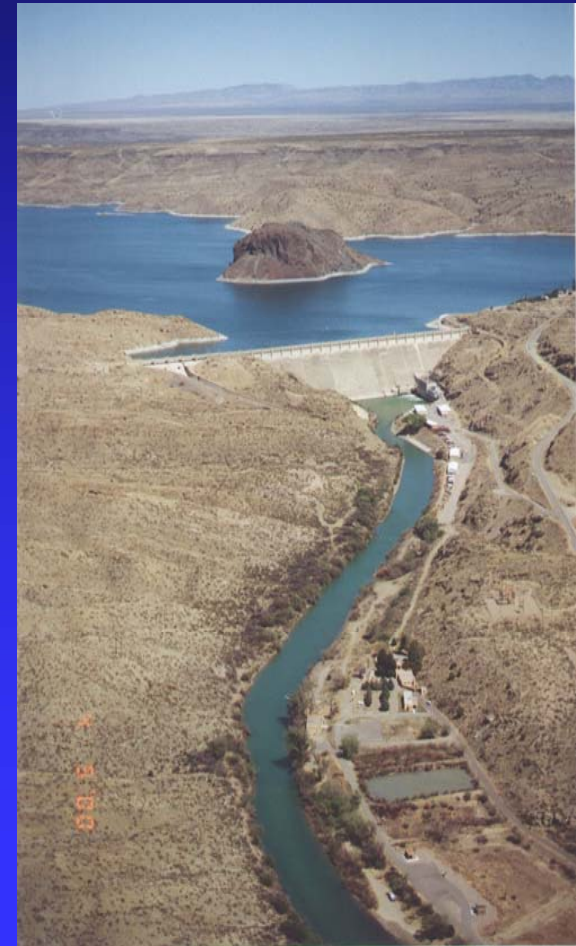
Section 72-2-9.1

- Administer now law
- Requires the State Engineer to adopt rules for priority administration
- Promote expedited marketing and leasing of water in affected areas



AWRM Regulations

- Are a tool to help State Engineer --
 - ◆ Protect senior water rights
 - ◆ Assure compliance with interstate water compacts
 - ◆ Curtail illegal diversions and over-diversions



AWRM Regulations

- Provide a broad framework to conduct water administration
- Bring administration of water in each stream system of the state under one umbrella



District-Specific Regulations

- District-specific regulations provide the specific forms of priority administration that will be used in each district
- Administration will be conducted by water master



Priority Administration

- **When supply is adequate, no priority administration is necessary**
- **When supplies are short, junior water right owners are curtailed while seniors receive the full amount of their right**
- **Priority administration is the only method the law provides**

Alternative Administration

- **Alternative administration is an alternative to strict priority administration**
- **Alternative administration plans are based on agreements among affected water right owners and must be approved by the State Engineer**

Replacement Plans

- **Short-term leases of water for the purpose of offsetting depletions of out-of-priority juniors**
- **Available only to curtailed junior water right owners**
- **Limited to two years**

Replacement Plans

- **Renewable only until permanent offset water is obtained**
- **Approval is based on Generalized Hydrologic Analysis**

Replacement Plans

- Replacement plans provide a “soft landing” for curtailed junior water right owners but they do not provide water for new uses

Water For New Uses

- **Most stream systems in New Mexico are fully appropriated**
- **No new sources of water available**
- **Water for new uses must come from transfers or leases of existing uses:**
 - ◆ **Willing buyers and sellers**
 - ◆ **Water banking**

Water Banking Facilitates Markets

- **Institutional mechanism to facilitate market exchanges of water**
- **Purpose of water bank is to facilitate movement of water from low-valued to higher-valued uses**

Water Banking in New Mexico

- **Statutory authority for water banking exists**
- **Water banking not widely used in New Mexico to date**
- **Water banking is potential tool to meet growing and changing water demand in New Mexico**

Office of the State Engineer



Interstate Stream Commission