



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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November 9, 2009

NEW MEXICO BULLETIN NO. 460-10-1

SUBJECT: WQP – Water Quality – 303(d) List and NMED Priority Watersheds

TO: All Offices

Purpose. To advise all offices of updated 303(d) List and NMED Priority Watersheds.

Expiration Date. October 30, 2010.

The water quality planning process will be greatly improved by incorporating the 303(d) list and NMED Priority Watersheds into toolkit. Both of these water quality status files will be used for conservation planning and in the EQIP ranking process.

The .shp files for 303d listed waters (2008_listed_waters_7-30-09) and for NMED Priority Watersheds (NMED_priority_watersheds_090809) have been loaded on all the servers in the field. You will find the files on F:\geodata\hydrography.

Under Section 303(d)(1) of the Clean Water Act (CWA), states are required to develop a list of waters within a state that are not in compliance with water quality standards and establish a total maximum daily load (TMDL) for each pollutant. The 2008-2010 303(d) listed waters are the most current - these are updated every two years. Attached are also the current map and summary, which are posted on our website, FOTG, Section 1, Maps.

NMED has replaced Category 1 watersheds with Priority Watersheds. NMED Priority Watersheds are sixth-level watersheds (which have 12-digit hydrologic unit codes) which contain or drain directly to impaired waters. Attached is the priority watershed map, which is also posted on our website, FOTG, Section 1, Maps. Attached is also Appendix A from the New Mexico Nonpoint Source Management Program which shows, in table form, the New Mexico Impaired Streams (a subset of the 303(d) list) and NMED Priority Watersheds. This is also placed in the FOTG, Section 1, Maps, under the priority watershed map.

Please contact Linda Branch, GIS Coordinator at (505) 761-4438 if you have any problems loading the file into your Toolkit projects or Linda Scheffe, State Water Quality Specialist at (505) 761-4448 for water quality questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Alexander".

ACTING FOR

DENNIS ALEXANDER
State Conservationist

Attachments:

New Mexico Impaired Waters and NMED Priority Watersheds July 2009.doc
303(d) list 2008-2010 summary with category explanation.xls
NMED_priority_watersheds102209.pdf

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