

# NEW MEXICO'S WATER



## WHY WATER MATTERS IN NM

### Water supports:



- Drinking water for communities
- Farming and food production
- Wildlife and ecosystems
- Cultural traditions and Indigenous communities
- Local economies and energy production

## WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM

### Main sources of water in New Mexico:

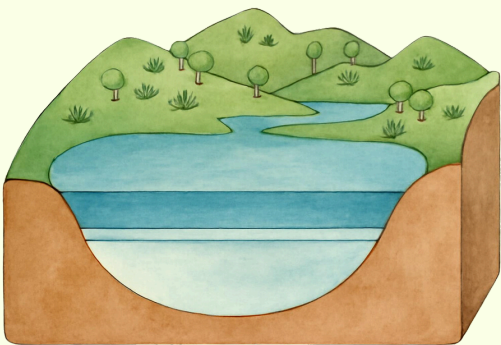
- **Groundwater** – Most of our drinking water comes from underground aquifers.
- **Rivers & reservoirs** – Like the Rio Grande, which supplies cities and farms.
- **Snowpack** – Mountain snow melts in spring and feeds rivers.
- **Rainfall** – Limited but important, especially during monsoon season.



Because New Mexico is a dry state, every drop matters!

## THE HIDDEN WATER UNDERGROUND

This underground water is called groundwater.



- It fills tiny spaces in rocks and soil.
- Stored in natural underground layers called aquifers.
- Wells pump groundwater for homes, farms, and businesses.
- It can take hundreds to thousands of years to refill.

Groundwater is our most important water source in New Mexico!

## QUICK FACTS

- New Mexico is one of the driest states in the U.S.
- About 85–90% of drinking water comes from groundwater.
- Agriculture uses the largest share of water.
- Climate change is making droughts longer and hotter.
- Water supply depends heavily on snow in the mountains.

## WATER CONSERVATION

### Ways we can protect our water:

- Fix leaks quickly
- Turn off the tap while brushing teeth
- Use drought-tolerant landscaping
- Water plants early morning or evening
- Take shorter showers
- Reuse water when possible

Small actions = big impact!

