# 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

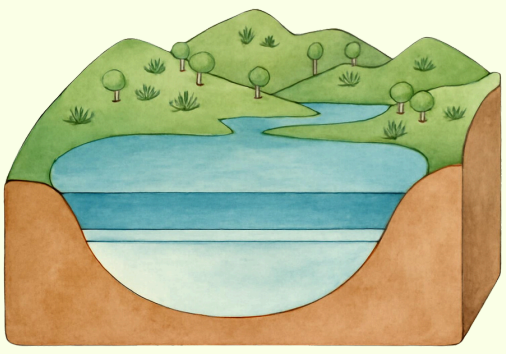
**Main sources of water in New Mexico:**

- **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!**

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