



February 2012

Coordinator's WATERSHED CORNER

A note to the Clean Water Committee, Paso del Norte
Watershed Council and Stakeholder Group from the 319(h) Grant
Watershed Coordinator, *Brian Hanson*



The watershed coordinator attended a Conservation Planning Field Day in February sponsored by the NRCS and Dona Ana Soil and Water Conservation District.

A healthy watershed will protect water quality in the river.

Did you know that Glomalin is a beneficial fungus that acts as a glue that holds soil particles together and protects microorganisms which in turn is beneficial to plants?

The NRCS staff summarized the plan that results in a conservation plan for your land.

9 POINT PLANNING PROCESS

1. Identify problems
2. Define objectives
3. Inventory resources
4. Analyze information
5. Formulate alternatives
6. Evaluate alternatives
7. Make decisions
8. Implement the plan
9. Evaluate the plan.

The planning process is found at <http://policy.nrcs.usda.gov/RollupViewer.aspx?hid=17088>



Dr. King and Dr. Smith summarize the *E. coli* data gathered in the Rio Grande . . .

At the last stakeholder meeting, February 16th, Dr. King summarized the *E. coli* data gathered in the Rio Grande from 2008 through 2011. Dr. Smith also presented a summary of findings of his source tracking study. There are exceedences of state water quality standards with a consistent exceedence in the fall. The major species that contributed *E. coli* bacteria was avian, at least 20% of the samples from each site were from avian sources. The complex interaction of where the samples were taken, the time of year, the stream or drain flow and the concentration will be examined and explained by Dr. Smith and Dr. King in their final reports.

WATERSHED TIP

Green Scapes

We can save money, time, and help the environment by Green Scaping. It improves the health of your lawn and garden while protecting and preserving natural resources.

SAVE MONEY: Eliminate unnecessary water and chemical use

SAVE TIME: Landscape with plants that require less care

PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT:
Conserve water supplies

Use chemicals properly and only when necessary to keep waterways and drinking water clean

Reduce yard waste by recycling yard trimmings into free fertilizer and mulch

For more information on green scapes go to <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserv/rrr/greenscapes/owners.htm>



New Mexico Non Government Officials Wetlands Roundtable

During the New Mexico Non Government Officials Wetlands Roundtable meeting on March 1 (in Santa Fe) various groups and agencies explained their wetland programs and interaction. Talks included why springs were drying up, how to restore wetlands, how to prioritize work and how to monitor changes. Wetlands and riparian areas can prevent *E. coli* from entering a river.

The next 319 stakeholder meeting is March 28, 9 am to 11 am

at Frank O'Brien Papen Community Center, 304 Bell Avenue, Las Cruces.

We will discuss how we will address sources of *E. coli* in the Watershed Based Plan.

See you next month!

319(H) GRANT TEAM • www.pdnwc.org

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