



---

**A monthly snapshot of how your support protects  
New Mexico's air, land, water and communities  
January 2020**

---

**Correction**

The link to the Santa Fe New Mexican article apparently was corrupted and would not open. That has been fixed. You can click on that link below in the article.

---

**Trump Rule Threatens New Mexico Waters**



*A pipe discharges into a stream in New Mexico; photo: NM Environment Department*

The Trump Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers have released the anticipated change to the rule that defines what waters are protected by the federal Clean Water Act. The revised “Waters of the United States” (WOTUS) rule will exclude from protection all “ephemeral” bodies of water that flow with variable volume and sometimes go dry.

These changes will be devastating for New Mexico!

Because of our highly variable snow-pack melts and occasional bursts of rain, New Mexico is rich in ephemeral flows. These include precious wetlands,

streams and small rivers - including the Santa Fe, Gallinas, San Fernando, and Tijeras. Many streams and wetlands on Tribal lands would also lose Clean Water Act protections.

Unlike federal rollbacks in areas of environmental protection that affect other natural resources, our vulnerable waters do not have any state protections to fall back on. New Mexico is one of just three states that does not have delegated authority from the EPA to regulate our waters.

We rely on the EPA to protect our surface waters. But the revised rule does not meet the mandate of the Clean Water Act to protect the interests of the public who rely on clean water for drinking, agriculture, recreation, and simple aesthetics.

In September, the Law Center, with our client Amigos Bravos, [submitted comments](#) on the proposed change that outline the risks to New Mexico waters if the rule went through. The final rule is somewhat different from the proposed rule and we will review it closely. We and our clients have the option to challenge the ruling in federal District Court.

The [Santa Fe New Mexican has a good article](#), with quotes from Rachel Conn, Projects Director for Amigos Bravos, our client in the WOTUS case, and from Charles de Saillan, the Law Center Staff Attorney who helped draft extensive comments on the proposed changes to WOTUS.

---

## Environment Day 2020 at the Legislature



*Photo of the Roundhouse*

It's here again, on **Tuesday January 28th**: Your annual chance to join hundreds of other environmental activists, talk to your legislators and learn

about important environmental legislation.

**RSVP [here](#)** to attend Environment Day 2020. The Sierra Club is coordinating the event and will have lobbying trainings so you know how to make an impact on your legislators, information on top bills, a rally in the Rotunda, snacks and lots of fun.

You'll be glad you came. See below for the schedule, and **[stop by and visit the Law Center table on Tuesday!](#)**

**What:** Environment Day at the New Mexico Legislature

**When:** 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 28

**Where:** New Mexico Capitol building, Santa Fe

**Sign-in:** Check in at the Sierra Club table to get your Climate Crisis sticker and participant packet. You can check in all day.

### **Attend a Committee Hearing**

Hearing times can vary so when you walk in the Roundhouse you'll find daily committee schedules with a list of bills that will be heard. These two environmental committees are scheduled for Tuesday:

- 8 a.m. House Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee, Room 317
- 8:30 a.m. Senate Conservation Committee, Room 311

### **Action Opportunities**

- 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.: There will be 46 informational tables up and down the Halls of History
- 9:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m.: Sierra Club lobbying training and then head to Senate and House floors in groups to meet with legislators
- 10:30 a.m.: House session starts: Visit legislators on the floor before session starts
- 10:30 a.m.: Senate session starts: Visit legislators on the floor before session starts
- 10:45 a.m.: Panel session on the Sierra Club's priority environmental bills
- Noon: Rally in the Rotunda: Hear from youth, tribal and community partners about priority bills

- 1:15 p.m.: Lobbying training then head out in groups to lobby

**RSVP** for more details!

**Thank you for everything you do to fight for  
New Mexico's land, air, water and communities!**

[donate now](#)

## Thank You! to our 2020 Green Business Partners





---

### **Our Contact Information**

New Mexico Environmental Law Center

1405 Luisa Street

Suite 5

Santa Fe, NM 87505

505-989-9022

[www.nmelc.org](http://www.nmelc.org)

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Manage email preferences](#)