



News Release



The Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District

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River Flows Less than Expected

Albuquerque – The Rio Grande is running considerably lower than normal for this time of the year.

Temperatures in the northern mountains of the state remain cool which is equating to a low runoff, though snow melt and rising water levels are expected to increase in the coming days.

The Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District is diverting water at all four of its diversion dams on the Rio Grande, but there is barely enough, and much less runoff to meet the current irrigation demands of farmers.

“Many of our canals are still dry.” says District Hydrologist David Gensler. “We are operating on a strict schedule for all irrigators. If you don’t schedule the water, you won’t get it.” adds Gensler

With the higher runoff comes higher demand, not only from the farmers but nature as well.

Currently the Federal Government is also releasing 200 cubic feet per second of water per day into the river to meet ESA requirements of the Rio Grande Silvery Minnow

“At the height of summer, the bosque can account for more than 600 cubic feet per second of water consumption per day. If it weren’t for the water released by the District or other agencies, much of the riverbed would be bone dry, potentially as far north as Bernalillo.” notes Gensler.

Farmers can now check the diversion flow at each diversion on the MRGCD website. These numbers will be updated daily so farmers will have an idea where and how much water is being channeled.

The Middle Rio Grande Website can be found at www.mrgcd.com. Mobile users will be redirected to our mobile site or you can get that site by scanning this code.



About the MRGCD: The Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District has been promoting sustainable agriculture for the past 85 years. The District delivers water to about 70,000 acres of cropland in the Middle Rio Grande Valley. That water is reused time and time again to irrigate crops, sustains the cottonwood bosque along the Rio Grande, helps create and maintain habitat for

the endangered Rio Grande silvery minnow and recharges the aquifer. The District owns 30,000 acres of bosque in the valley, the largest continuous cottonwood forest in the world, and a stretch of land that provides unprecedented recreational opportunities and an irreplaceable swath of greenbelt in New Mexico's largest metropolitan area. The District was formed in 1925 to alleviate flooding and to reclaim farmland in the valley. Its boundaries stretch 150 miles from Cochiti on the north to the boundary of the Bosque Del Apache National Wildlife Refuge on the south, running through Sandoval, Bernalillo, Valencia and Socorro Counties. It operates more than 1,200 miles of canals, laterals and drains, which are used to convey water to and from cropland. The District is funded by water service charges and property assessments on the benefited lands within its boundaries.

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