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## Active Water Resource Management: Tools for Better Water Management

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# Active Water Resource Management: Tools for Better Water Management



presented by

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# What is Active Water Resource Management (AWRM)?

- Proactive, statewide program to ensure a reliable water supply
- Means for keeping control of our water and protecting our water rights and economy
- Set of water management tools customized to each region

# **AWRM Activities**

- **Refers to a broad range of activities including permitting transfers, expediting transfer procedures, monitoring and metering diversions, and limiting diversion of water to the amount authorized by existing water rights**

# Drought Opened Our Eyes



# 2003 Legislature

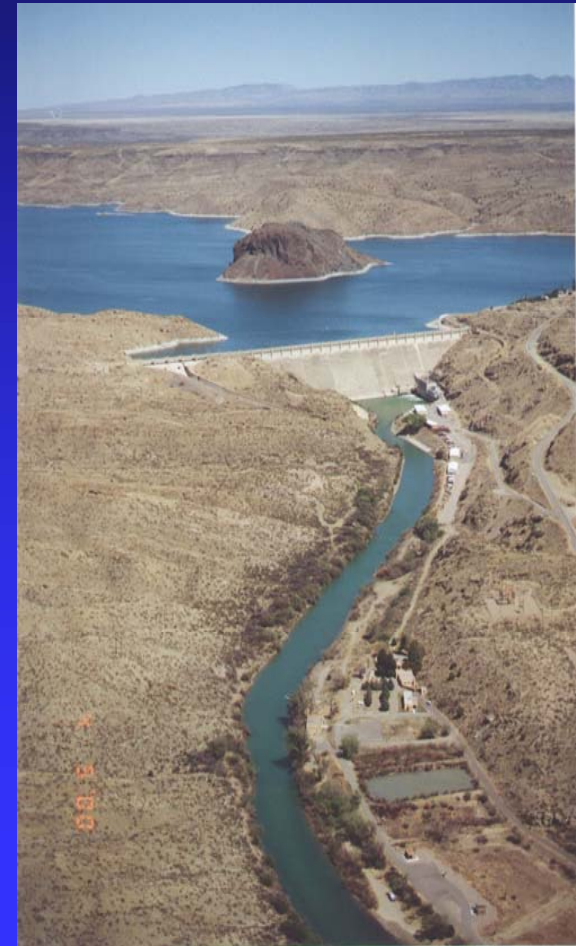
## Section 72-2-9.1

- Administer now law
- Requires the State Engineer to adopt rules for priority administration
- Promote expedited marketing and leasing of water in affected areas



# AWRM Regulations

- Are a tool to help State Engineer --
  - ◆ Protect senior water rights
  - ◆ Assure compliance with interstate water compacts
  - ◆ Curtail illegal diversions and over-diversions



# AWRM Regulations

- Provide a broad framework to conduct water administration
- Bring administration of water in each stream system of the state under one umbrella





# District-Specific Regulations

- District-specific regulations provide the specific forms of priority administration that will be used in each district
- Administration will be conducted by water master



# Priority Administration

- **When supply is adequate, no priority administration is necessary**
- **When supplies are short, junior water right owners are curtailed while seniors receive the full amount of their right**
- **Priority administration is the only method the law provides**

# Alternative Administration

- **Alternative administration is an alternative to strict priority administration**
- **Alternative administration plans are based on agreements among affected water right owners and must be approved by the State Engineer**

# Replacement Plans

- **Short-term leases of water for the purpose of offsetting depletions of out-of-priority juniors**
- **Available only to curtailed junior water right owners**
- **Limited to two years**

# Replacement Plans

- **Renewable only until permanent offset water is obtained**
- **Approval is based on Generalized Hydrologic Analysis**

# Replacement Plans

- Replacement plans provide a “soft landing” for curtailed junior water right owners but they do not provide water for new uses

# Water For New Uses

- **Most stream systems in New Mexico are fully appropriated**
- **No new sources of water available**
- **Water for new uses must come from transfers or leases of existing uses:**
  - ◆ **Willing buyers and sellers**
  - ◆ **Water banking**

# **Water Banking Facilitates Markets**

- **Institutional mechanism to facilitate market exchanges of water**
- **Purpose of water bank is to facilitate movement of water from low-valued to higher-valued uses**



# **Water Banking in New Mexico**

- **Statutory authority for water banking exists**
- **Water banking not widely used in New Mexico to date**
- **Water banking is potential tool to meet growing and changing water demand in New Mexico**

**Office of the State Engineer**



**Interstate Stream Commission**