

April 22, 2008
Earth Day

Statements of support from affected parties in support of Governor Richardson's announcement that he will move to protect over 5,000 miles of New Mexico's headwaters.

"Today Governor Richardson has sealed his water protection legacy; with the outstanding title these waters will remain pristine for wildlife and downstream users forever. We thank the governor for this bold and visionary move to assert the state's authority over its source of water during times of climate change and uncertainty."

-Bryan Bird, WildEarth Guardians

"New Mexico Trout commends Governor Bill Richardson for proposing the headwater streams of New Mexico as Outstanding Waters. Our more than 400 volunteer members are deeply concerned about the health of streams and riparian areas in the State. This proposal recognizes the importance of the headwater streams to all of New Mexico and, once enacted, it will ensure they remain as resources for clean water, recreation, and wildlife habitat."

-Dr. Ron Loehman, Conservation Chairman, New Mexico Trout

"We commend Governor Richardson's initiative to protect Outstanding Natural Resource Waters in New Mexico. Given recent predictions by climatologists and the ever-increasing pressure on limited high quality fresh water supplies in New Mexico, protection of pristine wilderness water ways is crucial to the long-term quality of life in our State. Congratulations on taking this crucial step in protecting the quality of life for generations of New Mexicans to come."

-Dr. Reid F. Bandeen, President of the Las Placitas Watershed Association, one of several dozen watershed groups funded through the EPA/NMED Section 319(h) watershed restoration funding program

"The Governor's announcement today to protect our headwater streams in perpetuity by designating them as "outstanding waters" ensures that our headwaters--our very waters of life--will be protected for all New Mexicans. We are thankful for the Governor's leadership and believe that this initiative helps meet our collective moral obligation to ensure that future generations inherit a better planet and a better New Mexico than the one that we inherited from our parents."

-Reverend Dr. Barbara Dua, Executive Director, New Mexico Conference of Churches