

Purgatoire Watershed Partnership Group

The Purgatoire Watershed Partnership, a group that has been in the works for more than two years, is making strides in its effort to becoming an established watershed group. The group is comprised of stakeholders with diverse interests who have come together to form a cooperative partnership to work towards the conservation, protection and enhancement of their water resources.

The top focus of the group is the protection of Purgatoire watershed health. Other issues and topics the group seeks to bring light to are improved water quantity and quality, water education, forest health, local industry, invasive species, aesthetic and recreational values, land development, agriculture, aquatic and wildlife habitat, and stream and riparian restoration — which all play a significant role in the health and enhancement of the watershed.

The group has received a Bureau of Reclamation Cooperative Watershed Management Grant. This grant was offered to 17 states located in the western United States. The funding awarded will allow the partnership to hire a watershed coordinator and a watershed consultant to carry out the group's objectives and goals, beginning with creating a group mission statement, determining watershed management project concepts, and ultimately working to create a watershed restoration plan. The Spanish Peaks/ Purgatoire River Conservation District has taken the responsibility of acting as the fiscal agent for this grant. The conservation district works in partnership with the NRCS to implement conservation practices and information and education activities. Work is primarily carried out in forestland, native rangeland, and irrigated cropland to benefit and address local resource concerns such as soil, water, animal health, and plant health.

“Bringing together people, policies, priorities and resources through a watershed approach blends science and regulatory responsibilities with social and economic considerations” said Levi Montoya, the district conservationist at the Trinidad Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Field Office. Watershed planning is often too complex to be tackled by one interest group alone, and by weaving together partnerships, the process can be strengthened with an end result of new ideas and resources that work to increase public understanding and communities committed to finding solutions.

As the group continues to grow, it is important that no local stakeholders are excluded, and that as many of the voices in the watershed are heard, so people are encouraged to join this community effort to protect water.

For more information about the group or to become a member, please contact:

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