SENTINELS--RIOS de TAOS
Water Quality and Monitoring Guide

Introduction:

Please consider the following information a guide for developing a water quality monitoring program. For help in developing a water quality monitoring program in your community, please contact us. For more a brief description of each report and a link to the full reports, please visit our On-The-Ground Restoration page.

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) does not have capacity to monitor the state's water on an adequate basis. They are limited to testing each segment approximately every 7-8 years. They will investigate specific sites if they receive sufficient evidence that there might be a problem. NMED will accept third party community monitoring results and include them in their own surface water quality reporting if they are confident that the outside party has followed proper sampling protocols and that the laboratory used for analysis has proper quality assurance methods in place.

Project Description

The goal of the Sentinels--Rios de Taos water monitoring project is to provide additional water quality data to local, state, and federal decision makers, as well as the public at large. This project was initiated due to a concern that inadequate data was available to accurately assess the health of the upper Rio Grande watershed. The cumulative impact of point and nonpoint sources of pollution will be characterized by collecting data on those parameters that are basic indicators of water quality and watershed health. Surface water samples collected by volunteer monitors will be analyzed for some or all of the following constituents:

- Nitrates
- Phosphorous
- *E. coli*
- pH
- Conductivity
- Dissolved Oxygen
- Temperature
- Aluminum
- Hardness

SENTINELS-RIOS de TAOS WATER SAMPLING SITES –

Sampling sites may change in attempt to identify sources of pollution. All sites will be sampled for *E. coli* at Amigos Bravos NMED approved lab. Some identified sampling sites include:

ON THE RIO FERNANDO (Nitrates, phosphates, aluminum)

FLJ	La Jara Canyon, about 200 meters upstream from HWY 64. N 36 25.160 W 105 20.592

FRE	Rio Fernando Riparian Exclosure, Taos Canyon Riparian Exclosure N 36 24.231 W 105 20.706
F 1	About 10 yards downstream from the west bridge by the USFS parking lot at the Divisidero/South Boundary trailhead. On the north bank. N 36 22' 32.56" W 105 32' 49.92"
F4	Fred Baca Park, about 50 yards downstream from the footbridge at the bend. On northwest side of stream. N36 23' 56.8" W105 35' 23.2"

ON THE RIO PUEBLO (Nitrates, phosphates and ammonia)

P 1	About 27 yards downstream from the stop sign on Upper Ranchitos Road at Paseo del Pueblo Norte. On north side of stream by the car wash. N36 25' 13" W105 34' 23"
P1A	Perennial spring about 100 feet from where it feeds into Rio Pueblo de Taos. Right where spring comes out of culvert that goes under Upper Ranchitos Rd about 200 feet from intersection with Ranchitos Rd. N 36 24' 16.01" W 105 35' 53.35
PS2	Perennial effluent dependent arroyo (town of Taos wastewater discharge). Turn right onto Thomas Romero Rd and then an immediate right onto Paintbrush Rd. Sample immediately after the gate (which is usually left open) in the arroyo. N 36 22' 32.05" W 105 39' 25.36"
PS3	Rio Pueblo de Taos about a quarter mile downstream from the confluence of the town of Taos wastewater arroyo and the Rio Pueblo. Drive on Thomas Romero Rd, past the open gravel pit on right until you reach the small subdivision. The road is usually gated past this point. Take a right at the subdivision and then your first right (on small dirt road) at the large map sign then take your first right again onto a small two track that crosses a couple of rough patches and then winds down to the river. Park on grassy open area upstream from the gazebo. N 36 22' 41.26" W 105 40' 05.63"
P4	Keith and Cathy Black property. Just upstream from P2 (bridge by Los Cordovas)

ON THE RIO HONDO (Nitrates and phosphate just at H2C and H2E)

H2B	Branch coming from Bavarian Inn just before it empties into the main Rio Hondo.

	N 36 34’ 41.90” W 105 26’ 25.88” (GE)
H2B3	Sutton Place Bridge, downstream by about 25 yards. This bridge is near the Stray Dog Cantina. GPS location not taken yet- new site to 2017
H2C	About 10 yards upstream from the bridge near the day care center in the Ski Village. On the north bank. N 36 35’ 47.23 W 105 27’ 15.19” (GE)
H2E	Rio Hondo directly downstream of effluent pipe N36 35’ 47” W105 27’ 43”
H 6	About 10 yards upstream from confluence with Rio Grande. N 26 32’ 02.12” W 105 42’ 27.26” (GE)

ON THE RED RIVER

RR1	Junebug Campground
RR2	Goat Hill Campground
RR3	By the bridge at Hwy 522
RR4	Below hatchery

ON THE RIO GRANDE (no Sangre de Christo Lab test for this one)

RG2	Just above the confluence of the Rio Grande and the Rio Hondo, near H6. – The Hondo Group does this one.

Testing results will be sent to Region 6 of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the State of New Mexico Environmental Department's Surface Water Quality Bureau, Amigos Bravos, and local newspapers and publications. Sampling results will be stored in the Sierra Club Sentinels--Rios de Taos database.