

## **2014 Taos Water Quality Sampling Report – Rio Hondo, Rio Fernando and Rio Pueblo de Taos**

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### **Summary:**

Surface water quality sampling was conducted in the Taos NM area in May, June (Rio Fernando grazing sites only), July, and September, 2014. Samples were collected from 4 sites in the Rio Hondo, 5 sites in the Rio Pueblo de Taos, 7 sites in the Rio Fernando de Taos, 4 sites in the Red River, and 1 site in the Rio Lucero. June and July samples were taken for the 3 upper Rio Fernando sites in order to measure *E. coli* levels before and after cattle grazing on the Flechado allotment. All sample sites were monitored for dissolved oxygen, temperature, electrical conductivity, pH, and *E. coli*. Several sites near the Taos Wastewater Treatment Facility were also monitored for nutrients. Sites on the Red River were monitored for hardness and total Aluminum. Water quality standards were exceeded in the Rio Pueblo de Taos, Rio Fernando de Taos, the Rio Hondo, and the Red River. There were no water quality standard exceedances in the single sample on the Rio Lucero.

In May, July and September the Rio Fernando did not meet standards for dissolved oxygen and electrical conductivity. In July, the Rio Fernando did not meet standards for temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen or electrical conductivity. Following grazing in the Flechado allotment, *E. coli* levels in the upper Rio Fernando exceeded standards.

In 2014 we continued to monitor the impact of the Taos wastewater treatment plant on the Rio Pueblo and on a small perennial unnamed stream that flows from the wastewater treatment plant. The results from the perennial unnamed wastewater stream had the highest conductivity readings of all the sites in all rivers sampled (though there is still not an electrical conductivity standard for the unnamed perennial stream, so a standard was not exceeded). There is also no phosphate standard for the lower Rio Pueblo sites. If the standard that applies to all other river systems in the area (including the upper Rio Pueblo) were to apply, there would have been high phosphate exceedances in the unnamed perennial stream.

Sampling from the one site on the Rio Lucero was done in September in order to respond to a land owners concern that illegal dumping was occurring nearby. All water quality standards were met on the Rio Lucero. The NMED also checked this site around the same time and found nothing of concern.

There were very high levels of aluminum in the Red River during July, and one slight pH exceedence during July as well. Aluminum standards are dependent on hardness and are set, however please see the Red River section for more information on aluminum levels.

Sampling results in 2014 confirm the New Mexico Environment Department's previous listing of the lower segment of the Rio Fernando de Taos for electrical conductivity. In addition, 2014 sampling results indicate that the Rio Fernando from the USFS boundary

upstream to Tienditas Creek should also be listed as impaired for electrical conductivity. The 2014 data confirms sampling results from the past 7 years, as well as the New Mexico Environment Department's impairment listing at the Rio Fernando de Taos sampling site at Fred Baca Park, which has had consistently high conductivity and low dissolved oxygen levels.

### **Introduction:**

This sampling project was initiated by Sentinels – Rios de Taos due to a concern that inadequate data were available to accurately assess the health of the Rio Hondo, Rio Fernando, and Rio Pueblo de Taos watersheds. Sentinels- Rios de Taos contacted Amigos Bravos in 2005 with concerns about water quality in local watersheds. Specifically, there was some concern about nutrient loading in the upper Rio Hondo. With Amigos Bravos' assistance Sentinels-Rios de Taos identified sampling locations and developed a monitoring plan. National representatives from Sierra Club's Water Sentinels program traveled to Taos and gave several trainings to the Sentinels-Rios de Taos' volunteers. Sentinels-Rios de Taos initiated sampling first in February of 2007 with assistance from Amigos Bravos. In 2012 four sites in the Red River were also monitored. This year (2014), three sites in the upper Rio Fernando and one on the Rio Lucero were added to our monitoring sites. Seven previous sampling reports have been prepared for sampling that occurred in 2007 - 2013. This report covers the sampling that occurred in 2014.

### **Methods:**

Surface water quality sampling was conducted in the Taos NM area in May, June (Rio Fernando grazing sites only), July, and September, 2014. Samples were collected from 4 sites in the Rio Hondo, 5 sites in the Rio Pueblo de Taos, 7 sites in the Rio Fernando de Taos, 4 sites in the Red River, and 1 site in the Rio Lucero (Appendix A and Appendix C). June samples were taken for the 3 upper Rio Fernando sites in order to measure *E. coli* levels prior to cattle grazing at those sites. All samples were kept on ice until they were processed by Sangre de Cristo labs in Alamosa Colorado. Laboratory samples were collected for, *E. coli*. For some samples nitrates, ammonia, hardness, or aluminum were also analyzed. All laboratory samples were collected and processed within an 8hr holding time. EPA approved methods and holding times were used to analyze the samples (Appendix B). Field measurements for pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen and conductivity were conducted. Field measurements of hardness were collected for all samples for which laboratory samples for aluminum were collected (Appendix B).

The concentration of aluminum in natural waters can vary significantly depending on various physicochemical and mineralogical factors. Dissolved aluminum concentrations in waters with near-neutral pH values usually range from 1 - 50  $\mu\text{g/L}$  but rise to 500–1000  $\mu\text{g/L}$  in more acidic waters or water rich in organic matter. At the extreme acidity of waters affected by acid mine drainage, dissolved aluminum concentrations of up to 90,000  $\mu\text{g/L}$  have been measured. The current New Mexico Water Quality Standards provide a table for maximum aluminum values, which are now dependent on hardness following the 2010 updates. They provide values for both acute and chronic criteria (see (2) Table of Numeric Criteria, pg. 41)

Acute criteria is for toxicity involving a stimulus severe enough to induce a response in 96 hours of exposure or less. Compliance with acute water quality criteria is determined from the analytical results of a single grab sample and cannot be exceeded. Chronic criteria effects include, but are not limited to, lethality, growth impairment, behavioral modifications, disease, and reduced reproduction. Compliance with chronic water quality criteria is determined from the arithmetic mean of the analytical results of samples collected using the appropriate protocols. Chronic criteria cannot be exceeded more than once every three years.

Acute Ammonia standards are dependent on pH and the presence or absence of salmonids (species of fish that spawn in fresh water including trout and salmon; See table K of NM water quality standards). Chronic ammonia standards are dependent on pH, temperature, and the presence or absence of salmonids (See table L of NM water quality standards).

**Results:**

A list of the full sampling results for 2014 can be found in Appendix C.

**Rio Hondo:**

May 19, 2014: Laboratory samples were collected from 4 sites in the Rio Hondo. These samples were analyzed for *E. coli*. Field readings for temperature, pH, conductivity, and dissolved oxygen were also taken at these 4 locations. Site H6, about 10 yards upstream from the confluence with Rio Grande exceeded the pH standard (pH was 8.9; standard is 6.6-8.8). No other exceedences were found in these samples (Appendix C).

July 21, 2014: Laboratory samples were collected from 4 sites in the Rio Hondo. These samples were analyzed for *E. coli*. Field readings for temperature, pH, conductivity, and dissolved oxygen were also taken at these 4 locations. No water quality standard exceedences were recorded for the tested parameters during this period (Appendix C). At site H6, pH levels remained high at 8.72 but did not exceed the standard of 6.6-8.8 pH.

September 9, 2014: Laboratory samples were collected from 4 sites in the Rio Hondo. These samples were analyzed for *E. coli*. Field readings for temperature, pH, conductivity, and dissolved oxygen were also taken at these 4 locations. No water quality standard exceedences were recorded for the tested parameters during this period (Appendix C). At site H6, pH levels remained high at 8.66 but did not exceed the standard of 6.6-8.8 pH.

**Rio Pueblo de Taos:**

May 19, 2014: Laboratory samples were collected from 5 sites in Rio Pueblo de Taos and analyzed for *E. coli*. Sites PS2 and PS3 (below the water treatment plant) were also analyzed for aluminum, phosphate and ammonia. Field readings for temperature, pH, DO, and conductivity were taken. At P1A, (culvert that goes under Upper Ranchitos Rd), electrical conductivity was measured at 434 microsiemens/cm which is above the

standard ( $\leq 400$  microsiemens/cm). In addition, pH at PS2 (unnamed perennial stream below wastewater plant) had an electrical conductivity higher than the normal standard and phosphate levels at PS2 were 50 times higher than the allowable standard at other sites (5 compared to  $<0.1$ ). Though it is important to note that there is no standard for phosphate or electrical conductivity at PS2 and PS3. The phosphate levels of 5.14mg/L in 2013 and 5.0mg/L in 2014 found at PS2 are also well above the standard that applies to the other river segments in the sampling project. Electrical conductivity at PS2 was measured at 721 microsiemens/cm, which is above the standard that applies to the other river segments that we sample in this project ( $\leq 400$ microsiemens/cm). No other tested parameters, either in the laboratory samples or field samples, were above water quality standards (Appendix C).

July 21, 2014: Laboratory samples were collected at 5 sites in the Rio Pueblo de Taos and analyzed for *E. coli*. Field readings for temperature, pH, DO, and conductivity were taken. Electrical conductivity remained high at PS2 and was higher at PS3 than the May samples. If the same standards were to apply to this segment as applies to the other segments in this project, both sites would exceed the standards (790 and 582 compared the usual standard of  $\leq 400$  or  $\leq 500$ microsiemens/cm). No other tested parameters, either in the laboratory samples or field samples, were above water quality standards (Appendix C).

September 9, 2014: Laboratory samples were collected at 5 sites in the Rio Pueblo de Taos and analyzed for *E. coli*, phosphate, and ammonia. Field readings for temperature, pH, DO, and conductivity were taken. No tested parameters, either in the laboratory samples or field samples, were above water quality standards (Appendix C). Though it is important to note that there is no standard for phosphate or electrical conductivity at PS2 and PS3. The phosphate level of 2.66 mg/L in 2014 found at PS2 (unnamed perennial stream below the wastewater plant) is well above the standard of 0.1mg/L that applies to the other river segments in the sampling project. Electrical conductivity at PS2 measured at 800 miscrosiemens/cm in 2014 (during September) and 920 in 2014, both of which are above the standard that applies to the other river segments (400-500 microsiemens/cm) that we sample in this project. PS3 also showed high electrical conductivity at 553 this year and was consistently high in previous years.

### **Rio Fernando de Taos:**

May 19, 2014: Laboratory samples were collected at 7 sites in the Rio Fernando and analyzed for *E. coli*. Field readings for temperature, pH, DO, and conductivity were also taken. Dissolved oxygen was measured at 5mg/L at F4, (Fred Baca Park), the applicable water quality standard is  $\geq 6$  mg/L. Electrical conductivity exceeded the standard of 500 microsiemens/cm at F4 and also at F1 (Divisidero trailhead parking lot). No other tested parameters, either in the laboratory samples or field samples, were above water quality standards (Appendix C).

June 13, 2014: Laboratory samples were collected at 3 sites in the Flechado Allotment section of the Rio Fernando and analyzed for *E. coli* (Sites FLJ, FRE and FAP1). These samples were taken before cattle grazing in the Allotment in order for comparison with the July 21 samples taken after cattle grazing in that area. Field readings for temperature, pH, DO, and conductivity were also taken. There were no exceedences and *E. coli* levels were 0 colonies/100ml at FLJ, 2 colonies/100ml at FRE, and 0 colonies/100ml at FAP1.

July 21, 2014: Laboratory samples were collected at the same 7 sites in the Rio Fernando and analyzed for *E. coli*. Field readings for temperature, pH, DO, and conductivity were also taken. Temperature, pH, and electrical conductivity at F4 (Fred Baca Park) exceeded standards. Electrical conductivity readings exceeded the standard of 500 microsiemens/cm at F1 (Divisidero trailhead parking lot) and F1B (near Shadybrook campground). The pH at F1A (by road to Valle Escondito) also exceeded standards. *E. coli* at FLJ (La Jara Canyon) was measured at 365 colonies/100ml which above the standard of 235 colonies/100ml. *E. coli* at FRE had risen to 98 colonies/100ml. Dissolved oxygen was tested at 5 and 3.5-4ppm at FLJ and FRE respectively. These are both below the standard of >=6ppm. No other tested parameters, either in the laboratory samples or field samples, were above water quality standards (Appendix C). It is important to note that FAP1 did not have any flow to be tested this day.

September 9, 2014: Laboratory samples were collected at 4 sites in the Rio Fernando (F1, F1A, F1B and F4) and analyzed for *E. coli*. Field readings for temperature, pH, DO, and conductivity were also taken. Water quality standards for dissolved oxygen and conductivity were not met at F1 (the Divisidero trailhead). Electrical conductivity levels were also above standards at F1B and F4. No other tested parameters, either in the laboratory samples or field samples, were above water quality standards (Appendix C).

### **Red River:**

On May 19, July 21 and September 9 2014, samples were collected from 4 sites (RR1, RR2, RR3 and RR4) on the Red River. Some of these sites were tested for *E. coli* and all of the sites were tested for hardness, aluminum, dissolved oxygen, electrical conductivity, pH and temperature.

May 19, 2014: Site RR1 (Junebug Campground) exceeded the standard of 6.6-8.8 for pH with a testing of 9. Site RR4 exceeded phosphate levels with a high value of 5mg/L. Ammonia samples were tested but none was detected at any of the Red River sites. Aluminum levels were: 100 $\mu$ g/L at RR1 (Hardness of 100mg/L), 300 $\mu$ g/L at RR2 (hardness of 120mg/L), and 840 $\mu$ g/L at RR4 (hardness of 120mg/L). The current (2010) Water Quality Standards table provided for Aluminum gives Acute and Chronic results for Hardness of 100mg/L and 200mg/L but not values in between. The standard for Hardness of 100 is 3,421 $\mu$ g/L (Acute) and 1,370 $\mu$ g/L (Chronic). Tested levels were below standards for both Acute and Chronic criteria. However, it is important to note that RR4 was above the previous, pre-2010 aluminum standard of 750 $\mu$ g/L for acute criteria and 87 $\mu$ g/L for chronic criteria.

July 21, 2014: Site RR1 again exceeded standards for pH with a testing of 9. The ammonia results were at detectable levels, but did not exceed standards. Ammonia values ranged from <0.02-0.31mg/L. These levels are well below the current standards. For aluminum however, the samples on July 21 showed much higher levels of aluminum than what was found during the May or September samples. This is very similar to the middle sampling period in 2013 (August 14, 2013), which showed much higher levels of aluminum than the earlier and later sampling dates as well. July 21, 2014 Aluminum levels were: 2,010 $\mu$ g/L at RR1 (Hardness of 80mg/L), 3,368 $\mu$ g/L at RR2 (Hardness of 80mg/L), 4,731 $\mu$ g/L at RR3 (Hardness of 80mg/L), and 3,735 $\mu$ g/L at RR4 (Hardness of 80mg/L). For a hardness of 80mg/L, the Acute criteria standard is 2,520 $\mu$ g/L and 1,010 $\mu$ g/L for chronic criteria. RR2, RR3 and RR4 were all in exceedences of acute criteria standards for aluminum. All 4 Red River sites exceeded levels for chronic criteria aluminum standards. The levels found on August 14, 2013 fell in the range of 1781-2306 $\mu$ g/L, exceeding chronic criteria standards as well.

September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014: None of the Red River sites exceeded pH standards during this sampling event. Ammonia was not tested for. Aluminum levels were: 663 $\mu$ g/L at RR1 (Hardness of 140mg/L), 731 $\mu$ g/L at RR2 (Hardness of 160mg/L), 1,110 $\mu$ g/L at RR3 (Hardness of 140mg/L) and 319 $\mu$ g/L at RR4 (Hardness of 180mg/L). The current (2010) Water Quality Standards table provided for Aluminum gives Acute and Chronic results for Hardness of 100mg/L and 200mg/L but not values in between. For a hardness of 100mg/L, the Acute criteria standard is 3,241 $\mu$ g/L and for chronic criteria it is 1,370 $\mu$ g/L. Using those values and the fact that the aluminum standards get higher as hardness gets higher, the aluminum standards were not exceeded during this sampling event.

#### **Rio Lucero:**

On September 9, 2014 samples were collected from 1 site on the Rio Lucero and analyzed for ammonia, *E. coli*, dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature and electrical conductivity. This test was done at the request of a landowner who was worried about discharges to the water upstream. No tested parameters, either in the laboratory samples or field samples, were above water quality standards (Appendix C).

#### **Discussion:**

##### *Rio Hondo*

In 2014 The Rio Hondo continued to have good water quality. One exceedence of pH was found at site H6 (near confluence with Rio Grande) in 2014 and no water quality standard exceedences were observed during 2013. 2014 results are similar to the previous four years (2009-2013) of sampling in the Rio Hondo, which have showed little to no exceedences of water quality standards. In 2007 and 2008 we did observe some high levels of *E. coli* in the lower sections of the Rio Hondo but these high *E. coli* levels have not been observed since 2008.

##### *Rio Fernando*

Amigos Bravos and Sentinels Rios de Taos have been collaborating to collect water quality samples and prepare the attached reports for rivers in the Taos area, including the Rio Fernando de Taos, for the past 8 years. Our sampling results show numerous *E. coli* water criteria exceedences in the Rio Fernando. The water quality standard for *E. coli* is 235 cfu/100ml. This year, for the first time, no exceedences of *E. coli* were found in the lower Rio Fernando (Fred Baca Park). The site was impaired for temperature, pH and electrical conductivity however. The upper Rio Fernando again showed elevated levels of *E. coli* following the use of the La Jara canyon grazing pasture. The New Mexico Environment Department and the USFS both conducted a special study of *E. coli* levels in the upper Rio Fernando that also demonstrated high and in some cases extremely high levels of *E. coli* in the upper Rio Fernando.<sup>1</sup> In 2010 NMED/USFS sampling showed *E. coli* concentrations at 461 cfu/100ml (about twice the allowable level) in the La Jara Pasture, 921 cfu/100ml (about 4 times the allowable level) in the Riparian exclosure, and >2419 cfu/100ml (more than 10 times the allowable level) in the Gathering Pasture in the Upper Rio Fernando.<sup>2</sup> Sampling in 2007 and 2009 also found levels of *E. coli* above water quality standards in all three pastures.<sup>3</sup>

Samples taken in June and July, 2014<sup>4</sup> on the Rio Fernando at the mouth of La Jara Canyon (The Flechado Allotment- sites FLJ, FRE, FAP1) indicate a substantial impact from cattle to the stream. Samples taken on June 13, 2014 prior to the seasonal release of cattle into La Jara Canyon showed *E. coli* at 0-2 colonies/100ml. However, samples taken on July 21, 2 days after the cows were removed after grazing for 26 days in La Jara Canyon, showed elevated levels of *E. coli* at 365 CFUs per 100 mls, or over 1.5 times higher than the allowable water quality standard of 235 colonies/100ml.

The contamination in the Rio Fernando is a threat to the public health and safety of the Taos Community and is unacceptable. The US Forest Service, the New Mexico Environment Department and our local decision makers must take action to restore the water quality of the Rio Fernando watershed and stop on-going pollution. Amigos Bravos is currently working with these entities and other stakeholders to take action on this issue.

#### *Rio Pueblo de Taos*

While there is no standard electrical conductivity standard for the lower Rio Pueblo de Taos and therefore no exceedences of standards, the electrical conductivity readings in the lower Rio

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<sup>1</sup>Carson National Forest *E. coli* Sampling Summaries for Apache Canyon and Rio Fernando de Taos, USFS 2007, 2009, and 2010.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid (2010 Report)

<sup>3</sup>Sampling in the La Jara Exclosure in 2007 showed levels of *E. coli* at 1986 cfu/100ml (about 8.5 times the allowable level) and 1732 cfu/100ml (7.4 times the allowable level) in 2009. Sampling in 2007 showed levels of *E. coli* in the riparian exclosure to be as high as 1732 cfu/100ml (7.4 times the allowable level) and >802 cfu/100ml (more than 3.4 times the allowable level) in 2009. No sampling was conducted in these pastures in 2008, 2011, 2012 or 2013.

Pueblo continue to be some of the highest recorded in the four river systems sampled. The levels were well above the standards that apply to similar river systems such as the Rio Hondo and Red River where the electrical conductivity standard is <=400 microsiemens/cm. Site P1A (culvert that goes under Upper Ranchitos Rd about 200 feet from intersection with Ranchitos Rd) exceeded official standards for electrical conductivity, measuring at 434 with a standard of <=400 microsiemens/cm.

There is also no phosphate standard in the lower Rio Pueblo sites, yet the phosphate levels recorded are well above the standard of 0.1mg/L that applies to all the other river segments in the sampling project. PS2, the waste water treatment plant arroyo, measured at 5mg/L in May and 2.66mg/L in September. High levels of nutrients can lead to multiple issues in receiving waters such as algae blooms and low dissolved oxygen levels, which in turn can negatively impact aquatic life. The most effective way to measure dissolved oxygen is to deploy a continuous monitoring device that is left in the stream and monitors levels of DO periodically, such as every 30 minutes or 1 hour. The one DO data point that we collect during our sampling events is not effective at assessing whether or not there are DO impairments in the sampled streams because DO levels can change drastically over a 24 hour period and often plummet during the night, when we do not take samples. It would be useful to deploy continuous DO monitoring devices in all waterbodies in which we record high nutrient levels.

#### *Red River*

Aluminum results from immediately below the Chevron mine were well above standards during the July 21, 2014 sample. This is similar to past years results, where the middle sample (mid July to early August) showed levels above standards. In addition to the mine there is also a lot of natural scaring in the drainages that feed into the Red River in this section of the river. The high aluminum levels could be coming from either or both of these sources.

#### **Conclusion/Recommendations:**

- Sampling done in the Rio Hondo for the past six years has not shown water quality exceedances. Perhaps the problem observed in 2007 and 2008 has been fixed or our sampling events are not occurring at the times when levels are high.
- The lower Rio Fernando (Fred Baca Park) exceedences of *E. coli* were found again in 2014, and the site was impaired for temperature, pH and electrical conductivity. Over the 8 years of sampling conducted in the project, this site has consistently had serious water quality problems with *E. coli*, dissolved oxygen and electrical conductivity. Efforts should be made to further identify sources and restore water quality at the Fred Baca site.
- The upper Rio Fernando continues to be impacted by elevated levels of *E. coli* following the use of the La Jara canyon grazing pasture. Cattle grazing and wildlife use on Forest Service land has been suggested as a source of

contamination. Efforts to improve land management and grazing practices should be made.

- Electrical conductivity readings in the lower Rio Pueblo de Taos continue to be high in 2014. Though standards are not exceeded since there is no standard applied to this section of the Rio Pueblo, similar river systems such as the Rio Hondo and Red River have an electrical conductivity standard of <=400 microsiemens/cm. An electrical conductivity standard should be considered for the lower stretch of the Rio Pueblo de Taos during the next Triennial Review process.
- Phosphate levels in the lower Rio Pueblo de Taos were high in 2013, though standards are not exceeded since there is no standard applied to this section of the Rio Pueblo. Similar river systems such as the Rio Hondo and Red River have a phosphate standard of .1mg/L. An electrical conductivity standard should be considered for the lower stretch of the Rio Pueblo de Taos during the next Triennial Review process.
- While some aspects of water quality have improved since 2011 in the perennial arroyo to the Rio Pueblo, which receives flow from the Taos wastewater treatment plant, electrical conductivity and phosphate continue to greatly exceed the standards given to neighboring waterways. A continuous DO monitoring device should be deployed to assess whether or not the high levels of nutrients are leading to low DO levels. In addition, a phosphate standard such as the one that applies to other segments in the Rio Pueblo de Taos watershed should be adopted for this unnamed perennial waterbody.
- The huge difference between the Aluminum standard that applied to the Red River prior to 2010 and the current standard continues to be of concern. Especially since many samples in 2013 and 2014 were above the 2010 standard and below the 2013 standard. More investigation should be done to determine if the current 2013 standard is actually protective of designated uses in the Red River. Amigos Bravos fought for more protective standards during the 2015 New Mexico Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards. Results of this hearing are expected in the spring of 2016.

## APPENDIX A

### SENTINELS-RIOS de TAOS WATER SAMPLING SITES *-2014 sites are in **BOLD***

#### ON THE RIO FERNANDO

<b>FLJ</b>	<b>La Jara Canyon, about 200 meters upstream from HWY 64.</b> <b>N 36 25.160</b> <b>W 105 20.592</b>
<b>FRE</b>	<b>Rio Fernando Riparian Exclosure, Taos Canyon Riparian Exclosure</b> <b>N 36 24.231</b> <b>W 105 20.706</b>
<b>F1A</b>	<b>Above Shadybrook Development, about 5 miles east of Taos, by bridge on road to Valle Escondido</b> <b>N 36 22' 19.76"</b> <b>W 105 23' 07.75" (GE)</b>
<b>F1B</b>	<b>About 200 meters downstream from Shadybrook, by NF La Sombra campground.</b> <b>N 36 22' 10.45"</b> <b>W 105 28' 08.51" (GE)</b>
<b>F 1</b>	<b>About 10 yards downstream from the west bridge by the USFS parking lot at the Divisidero/South Boundary trailhead. On the north bank.</b> <b>N 36 22' 32.56"</b> <b>W 105 32' 49.92"</b>
<b>F2</b>	About 10 yards upstream from Paseo del Pueblo Sur, across street from ABC Lock. On the north bank. We'll usually use this site only when a storm is in progress. <b>N 36 23' 54.99"</b> <b>W 105 34' 38.76" (GE)</b>
<b>F3</b>	About 25 yards downstream from Paseo del Pueblo Sur, by ABC Lock. On the south bank, by a concrete bar. <b>N 36 23' 55.02"</b> <b>W 105 34' 39.25" (GE)</b>
<b>F4</b>	<b>Fred Baca Park, about 50 yards downstream from the footbridge at the bend. On northwest side. of stream.</b> <b>N36 23' 56.8"</b> <b>W105 35' 23.2"</b>
<b>FAP1</b>	<b>Small stream . Sample upstream of Apache Canyon Road about 15 feet below fence line.</b> <b>N 36 23' 08.09"</b> <b>W 105 19' 33.43"</b>

## ON THE RIO PUEBLO

- 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**
- P1B**      **Ranchitos Rd. Near bridge by Callegon Rd and SR 240 (near Hacienda de los Martinez). Mile Marker 4.**  
**N 36 24' 1.30"**  
**W 105 36' 25.71"**
- P1C**      Ranchitos Rd near mile marker 13 go down dirt road to the left by road to Blackstone Ranch.  
**N36 23' 34.6"**  
**W 105 37' 26.4"**
- P 2**      About 15 yards downstream from bridge (right near turn to Los Cordovos Rd) at Ranchitos Road and Culebra Road. On north side of stream by survey sign.  
**N 36 23' 23.74**  
**W105 37' 50.46"**
- P2A**      Brad Hockmeyer and Janet Gauthier's property on the Rio Pueblo de Taos. Take Los Cordovas Rd. south towards the wastewater treatment facility. Take a right at number 118C. Take this drive all the way to the end making a sharp right at the Webber's property to continue onto the geodesic domes. Park at the domes and walk down to the river from here.  
**N 36 23'11.78"**  
**W 105 39'03.37"**
- PS1**      mainstem of Rio Pueblo de Taos about 200 yards upstream from the town of Taos wastewater effluent discharge arroyo. Valerie Graves is the property owner. Sample on rocky point bar in the middle of her property.  
**N 36 22' 50.47"**  
**W105 39' 44.30"**
- 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"**
- P 3** About 10 yards upstream from the road barrier from the parking lot on the northeast corner of Taos Junction Bridge area. On east bank of stream.  
**N 36 20' 19.63"**  
**W 105 43' 47.36" (GE)**
- ON THE RIO HONDO**
- H 1** Above Phoenix Restaurant, which is upstream from the Bavarian Inn  
**N 36 34' 30.67"**  
**W 105 26' 20.47" (GE)**
- H 2A** Rio Hondo just upstream from where the branch coming from Bavarian Inn (after going through the culvert under the trail) empties into the Rio Hondo.  
**N 36 34' 41.38"**  
**W 105 26' 25.62 (GE)**
- 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)**
- H 2C** **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)**
- H2B2** **Across from Phoenix switch back @ culvert between two dirt roads.**  
**N 36 34' 33.14'**  
**W 105 26' 21.31" (GE)**
- H2C2** Directly above Taos Ski Valley Effluent Pipe  
**N 36 35' 46.85"**  
**W 105 27' 41.76" (GE)**
- H2D** Just above the Riverside property, about 175 yards downstream from the stop sign at the intersection of the Village of TSV maintenance road and Route 150. North bank.  
**N 36 35' 41.78"**  
**W 105 28 16.37" (GE)**

H2E	<b>Rio Hondo directly downstream of effluent pipe</b> <b>N36 35' 47"</b> <b>W105 27' 43"</b>
H2F	Taos Ski Valley effluent pipe N 36 35' 46.77" W 105 27' 42.29" (GE)
H 3	Cuchilla Campground, just downstream from entrance road. North bank. N 36 32' 32.08 W 105 33' 22.90 (GE)
H 4	Kaufman Property. About 20 yards downstream from footbridge. South bank. N 36 32' 14.8" W 105 38' 43.4"
H4A	Just downstream from Route 522 Bridge, north bank. N 36 32' 07.1" W 105 40' 02.7"
H 5	About 20 yards upstream from bridge in Lower Arroyo Hondo, just before the road crosses the Rio Hondo and goes uphill towards New Buffalo. North bank N 36 31' 58.62" W 105 40' 55.43"
<b>H 6</b>	<b>About 10 yards upstream from confluence with Rio Grande.</b> <b>N 26 32' 02.12</b> <b>W 105 42'27.26" (GE)</b>
HVB	N 36 31' 58.5" W 105 35' 04.0"
HVG	5 M downstream from bridge on lane to Jackie Garcia property N 36 32' 07.6" W 105 34' 12.2".

#### ON THE RED RIVER

<b>RR1</b>	<b>Junebug Campground, approximately 10 miles east of Questa on HWY 38.</b> <b>N 36 42' 28.25"</b> <b>W105 26' 04.92</b>
<b>RR2</b>	<b>Goat Hill Campground, approximately 3 miles east of Questa on Hwy 38.</b> <b>N 36 41' 20.65"</b> <b>W105 32' 27.73</b>

- RR3**      **By the bridge at Hwy 522 in Questa.**  
**N 36 41' 33.69**  
**W105 36' 44.50**
- RR4**      **Below Red River Fish Hatchery, approximately 0.5 miles down the foot trail.**  
**N 36 40' 57.14"**  
**W 105 39' 19.11"**

ON THE RIO GRANDE DEL RANCHO

**RGDR1**      Right above bridge on Partrick Larkin's property.

# APPENDIX B

## SENTINELS--RIOS de TAOS

### QUALITY ASSURANCE PROJECT PLAN (QAPP)

#### **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 Rio Hondo, Rio Fernando, and Rio Pueblo de Taos watersheds. 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
- Total Dissolved Solids
- E. Coli
- pH
- Conductivity
- Dissolved Oxygen
- Temperature
- Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD)
- Aluminum
- Hardness
- Residual Chlorine
- Ammonia

#### **Sampling Locations**

Sampling sites may change in attempt to identify sources of pollution. Some identified sampling sites include:

#### **SENTINELS-RIOS de TAOS WATER SAMPLING SITES**

ON THE RIO FERNANDO

- F1A            Above Shadybrook Development, about 5 miles east of Taos, by bridge on road to Valle Escondido  
                   N 36 22' 19.76"  
                   W 105 23' 07.75" (GE)
- F1B            About 200 meters downstream from Shadybrook, by NF La Sombra campground.  
                   N 36 22' 10.45"  
                   W 105 28' 08.51" (GE)
- 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"
- F2            About 10 yards upstream from Paseo del Pueblo Sur, across street from ABC Lock.  
                   On the north bank. We'll usually use this site only when a storm is in progress.  
                   N 36 23' 54.99"  
                   W 105 34' 38.76" (GE)
- F3            About 25 yards downstream from Paseo del Pueblo Sur, by ABC Lock. On the south bank, by a concrete bar.  
                   N 36 23' 55.02"  
                   W 105 34' 39.25" (GE)
- 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"
- F4G
- ON THE RIO PUEBLO
- 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
- P1B            Ranchitos Rd. Near bridge by Callegon Rd and SR 240 (near Hacienda de los Martinez). Mile Marker 4.  
                   N 36 24' 1.30"  
                   W 105 36' 25.71"

- P1C Ranchitos Rd near mile marker 13 go down dirt road to the left by road to Blackstone Ranch.  
 N36 23' 34.6"  
 W105 37' 26.4"
- P 2 About 15 yards downstream from bridge (right near turn to Los Cordovos Rd) at Ranchitos Road and Culebra Road. On north side of stream by survey sign.  
 N 36 23' 23.74  
 W105 37' 50.46"
- P2A Brad Hockmeyer and Janet Gauthier's property on the Rio Pueblo de Taos. Take Los Cordovas Rd. south towards the wastewater treatment facility. Take a right at number 118C. Take this drive all the way to the end making a sharp right at the Webber's property to continue onto the geodesic domes. Park at the domes and walk down to the river from here.  
 N 36 23'11.78"  
 W 105 39'03.37"
- PS1 mainstem of Rio Pueblo de Taos about 200 yards upstream from the town of Taos wastewater effluent discharge arroyo. Valerie Graves is the property owner. Sample on rocky point bar in the middle of her property.  
 N 36 22' 50.47"  
 W105 39' 44.30"
- 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"
- P 3 About 10 yards upstream from the road barrier from the parking lot on the northeast corner of Taos Junction Bridge area. On east bank of stream.  
 N 36 20' 19.63"  
 W 105 43' 47.36" (GE)

#### ON THE RIO HONDO

- H 1 Above Phoenix Restaurant, which is upstream from the Bavarian Inn  
 N 36 34' 30.67"

- W 105 26' 20.47" (GE)
- H 2A            Rio Hondo just upstream from where the branch coming from Bavarian Inn (after going through the culvert under the trail) empties into the Rio Hondo.  
                   N 36 34' 41.38"  
                   W 105 26' 25.62 (GE)
- 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)
- H 2C            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)
- H2C2            Directly above Taos Ski Valley Effluent Pipe  
                   N 36 35' 46.85"  
                   W 105 27' 41.76" (GE)
- H2D            Just above the Riverside property, about 175 yards downstream from the stop sign at the intersection of the Village of TSV maintenance road and Route 150. North bank.  
                   N 36 35' 41.78"  
                   W 105 28 16.37" (GE)
- H2E            Rio Hondo directly downstream of effluent pipe  
                   N36 35' 47"  
                   W105 27' 43"
- H2F            Taos Ski Valley effluent pipe  
                   N 36 35' 46.77"  
                   W 105 27' 42.29" (GE)
- H 3            Cuchilla Campground, just downstream from entrance road. North bank.  
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                   W 105 33' 22.90 (GE)
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                   N 36 32' 14.8"  
                   W 105 38' 43.4"
- H4A            Just downstream from Route 522 Bridge, north bank.  
                   N 36 32' 07.1"  
                   W 105 40' 02.7"
- H 5            About 20 yards upstream from bridge in Lower Arroyo Hondo, just before the road crosses the Rio Hondo and goes uphill towards New Buffalo. North ban  
                   N 36 31' 58.62"  
                   W 105 40' 55.43"

H 6	About 10 yards upstream from confluence with Rio Grande. N 26 32' 02.12 W 105 42'27.26" (GE)
HVB	N 36 31' 58.5" W 105 35' 04.0"
HVG	5 M downstream from bridge on lane to Jackie Garcia property N 36 32' 07.6" W 105 34' 12.2".

#### 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 DEL RANCHO

RGDR1	Right above bridge on Partrick Larkin's property.
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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.

#### Project Organization

##### *Project Coordinator Contact information:*

Eric E. Patterson  
 Box 334  
 Valdez, NM 87580  
 575-776-2833  
 eepatt@gmail.com

The project coordinator ensures all components of the project identified by this QAPP are completed in an efficient and timely manner. This includes oversight on sample collection, delivery, analysis, and reporting.

### *Sample Collector Contact Information*

Eric E. Patterson, contact person (see above)

Mary Pickett	Nora Patterson	Rachel Conn
Gary Grief	Dorothy Wells	Betsy Wolf
Annouk Ellis	Jeanne Green	Moira O'Hanlon
Roberta Salazar	Flowers Espinosa	Shannon Romeling

Sample collectors will conduct sample collection activities according to the methods identified by this QAPP. Responsibilities include:

- Calibration, maintenance and utilization of field equipment for analysis of dissolved oxygen (DO), temperature, pH, and conductivity.
- Obtaining needed sample containers and preservatives for sampling events.
- Following quality assurance procedures for sample collection identified by this QAPP.
- Filling out chain of custody (COC) forms.

### *Sample Transport Contact Information*

Eric E. Patterson (see above)

Sample Transport will ensure that water samples are delivered to Sangre de Cristo Laboratory, Inc., Alamosa, CO, or another EPA certified laboratory, in a secure and timely manner. Responsibilities include:

- Keeping samples secure between sampling site and the laboratory.
- Maintaining COC document according to procedures identified.
- Delivering samples within specified holding times.

### *Sample Analysis/Laboratory Contact Information:*

Sangre de Cristo Laboratory, Inc., an EPA certified laboratory  
Tierra del Sol Industrial Park  
2329 Lava Lane  
Alamosa, CO 81101

Sample Analysis Staff will ensure that samples are analyzed in a manner that provides the most accurate data possible. Responsibilities include:

- Analyzing samples according the methods identified in Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).
- Analyzing samples within established holding times.
- Reporting results to Project Coordinator

#### *Data Reporting Contact Information*

Rachel Conn, Amigos Bravos Projects Director  
Box 238  
Taos, NM 87571  
575-758-3874  
[rconn@amigosbravos.org](mailto:rconn@amigosbravos.org)

Data reporting will ensure the data collected by the project is stored appropriately and disseminated to interested parties. Responsibilities include:

- Organization of final report on data collected by the project.
- Dissemination of report to specified local, state and federal agencies.
- Dissemination of report to newspapers and other local news media and presentation of project information to the public upon request.
- Entering data into Sierra Club's Water Sentinel database.

#### **Quality Assurance of Field Analysis**

Measurements will be made using the following equipment:

- CHEMets Dissolved Oxygen Kit, Model K-7512 – tested dissolved oxygen
- Euteck Instruments PCTestr 35 from Oakton – tested pH, temperature, and electrical conductivity
- Hach Model 5-EP MG/L #1454-01 test kit – tests hardness (calcium carbonate)

PARAMETER	DETECTION LIMIT	ACCURACY
Dissolved Oxygen	1 to 12 mg/L	+/- 1 ppm
Temperature	0° to 50° C	+/- 0.5° C
Conductivity	0 to 1999 µS/cm	+/-10 µS/cm
pH	0.00 to 14.00 ph units	+/- .001 pH units
Hardness	0 to 400 mg/L calcium carbonate	+/- 20 mg/L

Field instruments will be calibrated according to manufacturers' instructions <24 hours prior to each sampling event. Chemicals used for dissolved oxygen will be replaced according to expiration dates provided by the manufacturer. Samples will be collected using the containers, preservatives, volumes and holding times identified in Appendix A.

### **Field Sample Collection Procedures**

Samples will be collected:

- Midstream just below the water's surface.
- Facing upstream to avoid disturbances caused by the sample collector.
- Upstream of minor temporal or spatial impacts, such as bridges and campsites.
- Free of floating debris.
- Using appropriate sample containers and preservatives specified in Appendix A.

Samples will be tagged appropriately with identifying number/information and delivered to appropriate laboratory personnel accompanied by appropriately completed and signed Chain of Custody (COC) forms.

### **Quality Assurance of Laboratory Analysis**

Quality assurance of laboratory methods is the sole responsibility of the sample analysis/laboratory coordinator previously identified. Samples with high turbidity (>30 NTU) are filtered through a 10um filter before being analyzed for Aluminum. Samples will be analyzed using methods contained in the laboratory's Standard Operating Procedures. These are located at

Sangre de Cristo Laboratory, Inc. and can be obtained from the sample analysis coordinator upon request.

<b>METHODS FOR LABORATORY ANALYSIS</b>		
MATRIX	PARAMETER	METHOD
Nonpotable water	Total Dissolved Solids	EPA 160.1
Nonpotable water	Nitrates	EPA 300.0
Nonpotable water	Total Phosphorus	EPA 365.2
Nonpotable water	E. Coli	EPA 10030
Nonpotable water	BOD	SM 5210B
Nonpotable water	Ammonia	4500NH3D
Nonpotable water	Residual Chlorine	300.5
Nonpotable water	Phosphate	420.1
Nonpotable water	Aluminum	200.9

Containers, Volumes, Preservatives, and Holding Times

Parameter	Optimum Volume	Container Type	Preservation Method	Holding Time
Total Nitrogen (Calculation: TKN + (NO <sub>2</sub> + NO <sub>3</sub> as N))	250 mL	Plastic, Glass	Cool	<b>48 Hours</b>
Total Phosphorus	250 mL	Plastic, Glass	Cool	<b>24 Hours</b>
Total Suspended Solids (also called Non Filterable Residue)	500 mL	Plastic, Glass	Cool	<b>24 Hours</b>
E. coli or Fecal Coliform	150 mL	Sterile Bottle	Cool	<b>8 Hours</b>
Dissolved Oxygen	Determined On-Site			<b>None</b>
Temperature	Determined On-Site			<b>None</b>
Conductivity	Determined On-Site			<b>None</b>