

**New Mexico is in a water crisis and it's time for our elected officials to make solving it a priority.**

### **WATER TERMS GLOSSARY**

**Acre foot of water:** the amount of water needed to cover a football field with a foot of water, which requires 325,851 gallons of water

**Aquifer:** a layer of rock or earth that holds groundwater

**Brackish water:** water that has a high salt content and cannot be used for drinking or household use without treatment

**Desalination:** the process that removes salt from brackish water or seawater

**Effluent:** liquid waste or sewage discharged into water

**Ephemeral waters:** water that flows temporarily in response to rain and snow melt

**Floodplain:** a flat area of land next to a river or stream that is prone to flooding when the river overflows

**Intermittent waters:** water that flows seasonally when they receive water from groundwater, snow melt or rain

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**Perennial waters:** water that flows year-round

**Potable:** water that can be used for bathing, cleaning, or drinking

**Produced “water”:** waste containing water, fluids, and chemicals that is created during oil and gas production

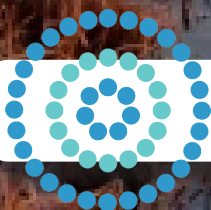
**Water infrastructure:** a system that cleans, gathers, or moves water, including features found in nature like forests, rivers, wetlands and people-made systems like treatment plants, pipes and faucets in homes, reservoirs and more

**Water quality:** measures if our water is clean and healthy

**Water quantity:** the amount of water in our rivers, lakes, and streams

**Watershed:** the area of land that drains water through creeks, streams, and rivers to a common outlet, such as lake, reservoir, or bay

**Wetlands:** areas of land that are either covered with water or saturated with water, such as a marsh, swamp, or both



[watercantwait.org](http://watercantwait.org)

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For our economy & environment.**