

Rio Grande/Rio Bravo Binational Forum

Fostering Collaborative Solutions to Water Scarcity

Date & Location
El Paso, Texas
November 7-8, 2017



Our River, Our Lifeline

Hot and dry. These two words are commonly used to describe the arid region that stretches across the southern United States and northern Mexico. Yet this vast desert teems with life: our cities and economies are growing, our history has deep roots in agriculture, and we bear witness to an incredible range of biodiversity as well as human cultural diversity. All of this life thrives because of one precious ingredient—water.

The Rio Grande/Río Bravo is the lifeline of the region, including the Chihuahuan Desert, supplying drinking water for more than 6 million people, including numerous Native American tribes, and irrigating about 2 million acres of land. The river also forms about 1250 miles of the international border between the United States and Mexico from El Paso/Ciudad Juarez to the Gulf of Mexico.



Recognizing the Challenge

While the river has long supported our communities, economies, and diverse native species, the Rio Grande/Río Bravo and its tributaries are increasingly stressed by growing water demands, invasive species, and alterations that impact its flow and water quality. These stressors are likely to be exacerbated by extreme droughts and floods, which are predicted to increase.

Objectives



Share creative approaches to meet river management and water challenges.



Inspire collaboration by highlighting success stories.



Build relationships and partnerships that will lead to long-term solutions.



Maintain momentum fostered at the Forum by linking promising ideas and partnerships to next steps, funding and basin-wide support.

Seeking Solutions

Fortunately, challenge fosters innovation. Throughout the river basin, collaborative and creative initiatives are underway to conserve water and riverine ecosystems while supporting human needs. These success stories are not widely known and need to be shared and considered for implementation throughout the Rio Grande/Río Bravo Basin. What can we learn from what is working in one place in the basin, or even another river basin, to help address issues at a larger scale? How can we apply lessons learned from these projects to other areas to help address current and future water demands?

To answer these questions, The Rio Grande/Río Bravo Basin Binational Forum will bring together a variety of water users such as farmers, ranchers, city officials, tribal leaders, policymakers, business leaders, conservationists and scientists from both the United States and Mexico. Together, we will highlight and build upon successes to protect the river future generations.

This forum, to be held in El Paso, Texas in the fall of 2017, will be an opportunity to share and discover creative strategies that promote water balance among people and ecosystems, investments in strategies that foster a healthy river that is resilient to changes in weather patterns. Ideas for specific actions and information needs for conservation and management of the Rio Grande/Río Bravo Basin that are identified during the Binational Forum will be summarized and linked to next steps to promote funding for future collaborative actions.



Organizing Committee

For more information about the Forum, please contact the Administrator or one of the members of the Organizing Committee below.

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