

Arroyo La Mina Wetland Restoration

State Trust Land Parcel Section 32,
Dixon, New Mexico

2022-2025

A Project in the Context of the Watershed Plan for the Lower Rio Embudo Watershed (2020-2030) and the Wetlands Action Plan for the Lower Rio Embudo Watershed (2023-2032)

Partners: NMED Surface Water Quality Bureau, New Mexico State Land Office, Embudo Valley Regional Acequia Association

Funding: \$310,800, from State of New Mexico, River Stewardship Program, NMED

Contractors: William J. Miller Engineers, San Isidro Permaculture, Wood Sharks

Goal: Regenerating resilient wetland conditions in the channel and on the streambanks and terraces

Current Conditions: The Arroyo La Mina is an old wetland area supported by springs in the sandstone cliffs south of Dixon. The arroyo runs through a fault zone in the geologic landscape and carries a rich cultural history treasured by Native American communities and the Embudo Valley community. The arroyo used to be a vibrant wetland as can be seen from the many cottonwood trees and willows and some remaining wet spots. The arroyo wetland has suffered damage from utility infrastructure, recreational uses, and erosive flash flooding. The channel has in places degraded more than 8 feet and the wetland vegetation is dwindling. The wetland ecosystem is losing its value as wildlife habitat and as a buffer area for water storage and flood control. As a result, its scenic and recreational values are gradually diminishing also.

Restoration Work: In 2023-2024, a series of sills will be built with wooden posts and boulders to stabilize the grade of the arroyo channel, and a few high banks will be excavated to allow high flood waters to flow more frequently on the old flood plain with the cottonwoods. Over time, the structures in the channel will retain sediment and water and allow the native wetland plants to thrive across a wider area. Water will have a chance to flow more frequently over the banks. The higher water levels will sustain the cottonwoods and willows. In the spring of 2024, several side gullies will be stabilized during public workdays with the community.



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