

Water for Arizona Coalition: Notes from a Neighbor's Work in Progress

2022 New Mexico Water Dialogue

Kevin Moran

Senior Director, Water Policy & State Affairs

Environmental Defense Fund

Water for Arizona Coalition



Water for Arizona Coalition 2025 Goals

A black-necked stilt stands in shallow, rippling water. The bird has a long, thin black beak, a white head and neck, and dark brown wings and back. Its legs are a vibrant pinkish-red. The water is a murky brown color, and the background is a soft, out-of-focus brown.

Goal #1: Transform the last open-access holdout to sustainable GW management

Communities from rural regions request and obtain new tools, resources, or authorities from the state that directly reduce groundwater depletion

A large, deep blue reservoir is nestled between steep, rocky mountains. The mountains are a mix of brown and grey rock, with some patches of green vegetation. The sky is a clear, bright blue. The water in the reservoir is a deep blue, reflecting the sky and the surrounding landscape.

Goal #2: Enable successful adaptation to less Colorado River water

Arizona water management enables Colorado River operating guidelines that are developed in an inclusive process and include ecosystem protections

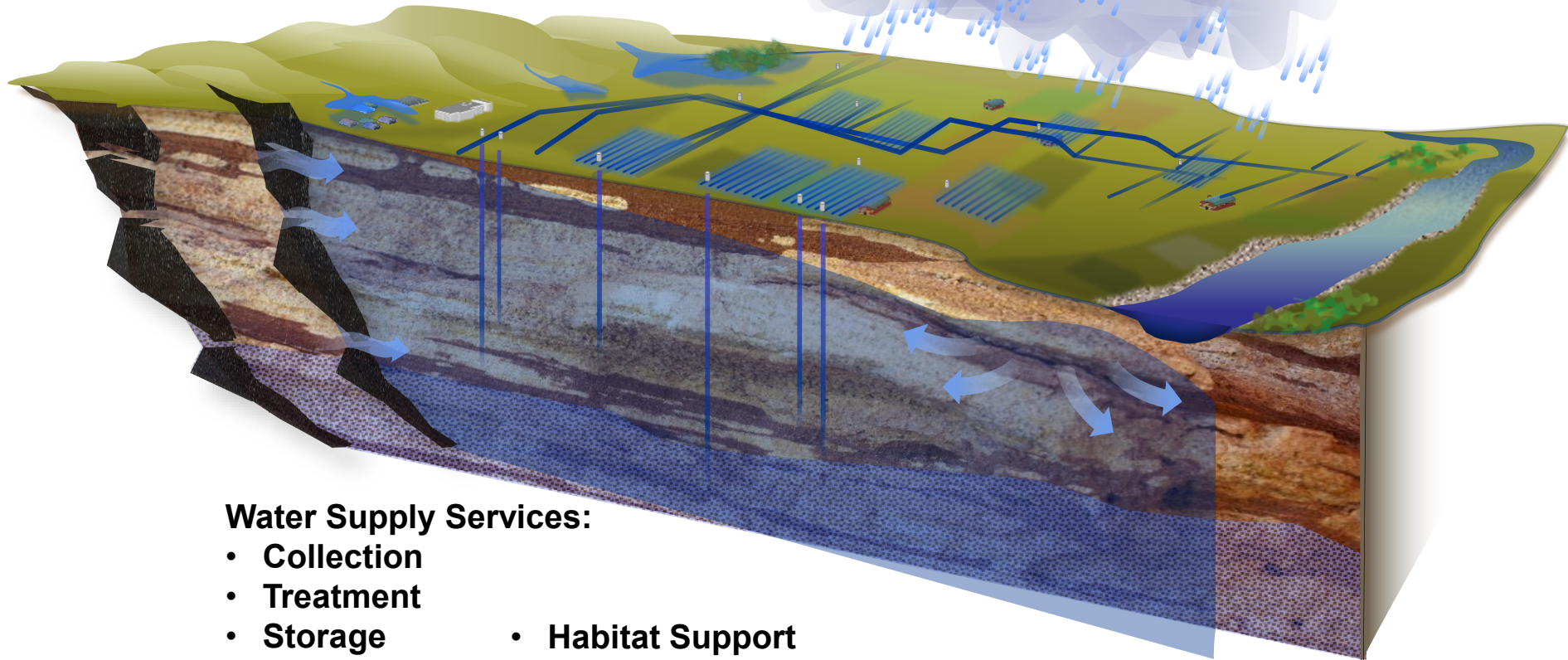


2022 Agenda

- Authorize and fund locally driven rural groundwater management
- Include enviro standards and multi-benefit projects in water infrastructure bill
- Fund additional water management staff at ADWR and AZ Dept. of Enviro Quality
- Extend 5th Management Plan and authorize 6th Plan for Active Management Areas
- Participate in Arizona Re-consultation Committee (re: 2026 CR Operating Guidelines)



Resilience from Below: Groundwater Basins as Natural Infrastructure



Water Supply Services:

- Collection
- Treatment
- Storage
- Conveyance
- Habitat Support
- Streamflow Support

*Illustrative
cross section,
not to scale*

Strategies for Proactive Groundwater Management

- Community engagement
- Data and accountability tools
- Managed recharge
- Reducing demand in all sectors (e.g., drought-tolerant landscaping, incentives for strategic land repurposing)

Questions for New Mexico

- *How will NM define the state's groundwater management needs?*
- *Who will commit to collectively develop durable solutions?*
- *What is the right balance between local and state roles, standards and resources?*
- *How will solutions be authorized, implemented and funded?*

Thank you!

Kevin Moran
Senior Director, Water Policy & State Affairs
Environmental Defense Fund
kmoran@edf.org