

San Juan RC&D

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Animas Watershed Partnership

Stretching from the alpine tundra of the San Juan Mountains to its confluence with the San Juan River at Farmington, New Mexico, the Animas River is under stress from various issues. The Animas Watershed Partnership, a locally lead group of concerned stakeholders have been working on identifying issues affecting the lower Animas watershed since 2002 when a serious algae bloom occurred during the drought of 2002.

Working with the San Juan RC&D, the Animas Watershed Partnership was able to obtain funding to develop a stakeholders group and begin the process of developing a watershed plan that would identify the causes and work to address ways to protect and improve the water quality of the Animas River.

Since their start, the San Juan RC&D has received over \$209,000 in funds for this project from New Mexico's (\$90,912) and Colorado's (\$25,000) Environment Departments, Southern Ute Gaming Funds, cities of Durango and Farmington and most recently Colorado Watershed Protection Funds and Southwestern Water Conservation District. A major part of this project is the construction of a land treatment using Best Management Practices to demonstrate methods that can improve water quality for a watershed. Currently undergoing evaluation and planning is a site on Kiffen Creek where 1300 ft of bank is mass wasting into the stream major parts of a farm field. The AWP is partnering with a willing land owner, the San Juan Watershed Group, Williams Field Service and Conoco-Phillips to get this project installed to redevelop a vegetated flood plan and reduce the sediment and nutrients that are being eroded into the Animas River.



Water sampling in fall of 2009