

Las Huertas Canyon
Watershed Restoration Action Strategy
(WRAS)

Version 2.0

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Prepared by the Las Huertas Watershed Project, Placitas, New Mexico

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Acronyms and Abbreviation

BLM	U.S. Bureau of Land Management
BMP	Best Management Practice
CWA	Clean Water Act
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
GPS	Global Positioning System
HQCWAL	High Quality Cold Water Aquatic Life
HUC	Hydrologic Unit Code
LHWP	Las Huertas Watershed Project
LPA	Las Placitas Association
MAPL	Mid-America Pipeline Company
mL	milliliters
msl	mean sea level
NMED	New Mexico Environment Department
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
ntu	turbidity units
ORV	Off-Road Vehicle
OSD	Open Space Division (City of Albuquerque)
POS	Placitas Open Space
QAP	Quality Assurance Plan
SABs	Suspended and Bedded Sediments
STORET	STOrage and RETrieval (EPA database)
TDS	Total Dissolved Solids
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
UNM	University of New Mexico
USFS	United States Forest Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
VTF	Volunteer Task Force
WQS	Water Quality Standards
WRAS	Watershed Restoration Action Strategy

Background

The Las Huertas Watershed Project (LHWP) is a regional group based in Placitas, New Mexico dedicated to conserving and enhancing the ecological health of the Las Huertas watershed. The LHWP membership is comprised of local citizens, university students, technical professionals and various public agency representatives. The LHWP undertakes various studies, public educational forums and workshops in addition to active restoration projects to involve the Las Huertas community in the stewardship of the watershed.

This Watershed Restoration Action Strategy (WRAS) has been prepared in conjunction with LHWP's work under a Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 319(h) grant for watershed group formation. The CWA 319(h) program was formed to address non-point-source (NPS) pollution issues in the U.S. One objective of the program is the preparation of a WRAS for each priority watershed. Las Huertas Creek is tributary to the Rio Grande, and both are included on the CWA Section 303(d) list of impaired waters.

This initial draft of the WRAS for Las Huertas Watershed is a first step in formulating specific effective measures in support of the long-term ecological health of the watershed, and will undergo periodic revision in response to public comment, internal reviews, and feedback from projects.

This report is organized in two major sections: 1). Watershed Assessment, including background information, water quality, and current watershed outreach, monitoring and assessment activities; and 2). Implementation Opportunities, which detail specific plans for restoration projects in conjunction with monitoring, assessment, and outreach activities. Finally, the section includes an implementation schedule, management targets and success measures, along with potential funding sources.