



## **USDA-CSREES 2006 National Water Quality Conference**

### [Public Perception of Water Quality in New Mexico](#)

New Mexicans feel that having clean water for drinking, rivers, and lakes is an extremely important issue. From a statewide public opinion survey conducted in the Spring/Summer of 2005 through collaboration of the Pacific Northwest and Southern Regional Water Programs, New Mexico was able to determine the level of understanding and general perceptions citizens have of water quality. The survey, which has been conducted in 22 states, shows that water quality is a priority issue to New Mexico residents. Results from the survey show that a high number of residents who receive their water from a municipality feel that their water is safe to drink (82%). However, when asked to rate the quality of their water, those surveyed responded by stating that it was good but deteriorating.

Author: Leeann DeMouche

Coauthor(s): Craig Runyan, NMSU, Water Quality Coordinator Robert Mahler, UI, Water Quality Coordinator