

July 20, 2015

For Immediate Release

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## Local Children Get Wild about Watersheds

**[ALBUQUERQUE]** One hundred children – grades 5 through 8 – are getting a wild lesson in watersheds, which play a critical role in the water we drink. As part of the Rio Grande Water Fund, The Nature Conservancy and its partners will educate young people about the connection between forests and water. The Rio Grande Water Fund is designed to leverage public/private funding to increase the scale and scope of forest restoration along the Rio Grande and its tributaries from Taos to Albuquerque. Healthy forests help prevent catastrophic fires and subsequent damaging floods, protecting water, people and wildlife.

Media members are invited to cover the hands-on “Wild about Watersheds” program, led by Krista Bonfantine of Arid Land Innovation, LLC.

<b>WHO</b>	100 children in grades 5 <sup>th</sup> through 8 <sup>th</sup>
<b>WHAT</b>	Interactive lessons about watersheds and how they connect people, plants and animals. Healthy watersheds and forests protect our water and quality of life
<b>WHEN</b>	Tuesday, July 21, from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
<b>WHERE</b>	Paradise Hills Community Center 5901 Paradise Blvd, Albuquerque, NM 87114
<b>WHY</b>	To teach children about the connection between forests, watersheds and the water we drink. Healthy watersheds and forests help soak up storm water and prevent soil erosion and pollutants from making their way to waterways. The more children know about nature, the more they’ll care.
<b>VISUALS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rolling River trailer with watershed including urban area, a farm &amp; more</li> <li>• Children manipulating the Rolling River model</li> <li>• Children using models to explore the components of the water cycle</li> <li>• Children observing tree samples to understand the relationship between forests and water</li> </ul>
<b>DETAILS</b>	Rio Grande Water Fund goals, plans, graphics, photos and stories can be found at <a href="http://nature.org/riogrande">nature.org/riogrande</a>
<b>PARTNERS</b>	Arid Land Innovation, LLC, Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District

Media interested in covering the education program, please RSVP Tracey Stone at [tstone@tnc.org](mailto:tstone@tnc.org)

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