

NM
STATE

Alumni
ASSOCIATION

FALL 2020

Outstanding Graduate



GRADUATE SCHOOL -
DOCTORATE PROGRAM

Connie Maxwell

Connie is a Ph.D. candidate for the Water Science and Management Department in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences. Previously, she completed a Master's degree in Community and Regional Planning with an emphasis in Natural Resources at UNM and a Bachelor's of Arts in English and Architecture from Columbia University.

Working to restore our watershed health and supporting the communities that rely upon them, Connie is an ecological planner at local and regional levels, and serves as co-chair of the Watershed Restoration Committee of the South Central NM Stormwater Management Coalition. Her most recent work as a graduate research assistant with New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute (NM WRRRI) is a collaboration with a broad cross-section of stakeholders in the South Central NM Stormwater Management Coalition to design and conduct watershed restoration within the Hatch/Rincon and Mesilla valleys (Dona Ana Soil and Water Conservation District, NMSU Extension, Elephant Butte Irrigation District, and Dona Ana Flood Commission).

Building on this collaboration, she spearheaded the recently formed NMWRRRI Water and Community Collaboration Lab (WCC-Lab), which fosters links between the best science, communities, stakeholders and students to inform decision-making and education on water and the environment. Connie also served as an instructor at a New Mexico Agriculture Ambassadorship class, which she entitled "Agricultural communities are key to managing our landscapes for water and resource sustainability."

The Alamosa Land Institute (ALI) was co-founded by Connie during her masters studies in 2010 to engage in ecological planning and restoration with farmers and ranchers, and has been collaboratively introducing and testing innovative land management practices, which focus upon restoring arroyos, riparian and agricultural valleys to slow and keep stormwater in watersheds, reduce sediment transport, and recharge aquifers.

Connie was successful in obtaining four grant proposals, which will extend her collaborative research as a postdoctoral researcher at the NM WRRRI after the completion of her Ph.D.