

## **Mayordomos and Parciantes: Some Guidelines for using ashy water:**

**If there is enough ash (and/or debris) in the water to damage infrastructure, the water should probably be excluded from the acequia.** However, the likelihood of the Rio Embudo having very high concentrations of ash or other debris is mitigated by at least two factors: (1) There is at least 25 miles of river between the burned areas and the first Dixon acequia. (2) The Rio Pueblo provides less than half of the Rio Embudo water, so the concentration is already more than halved from whatever the Rio Pueblo concentration is (the other "half" of the water comes from the Rio Santa Barbara and the Rio de las Trampas, both surface and sub-surface flows). [This exclusion would also prevent the radionuclide effects noted with "directly applying ash or muck to soils".]

**If the concentration of ash is low, then it is probably fine to use it normally.**

**If the concentration is moderate, perhaps it is not a problem to have it in the acequia and let parciantes decide whether to use it based on the style of irrigation and the crop involved.** Use of moderate concentrations may foul pumps, ponds and/or drip irrigation equipment. Seems like this just gets into the realm of a mayordomo/parciante judgement call.

**Finally, if there is an intense flash flood on the burn scar, mayordomos may want to shut down acequias just to be safe until the actual resulting conditions can be determined by observation.** It may be possible to use the USGS gage on the Rio Pueblo above Picuris as an early warning system. If it appears to be raining on the east slope of Jicarita Peak and the gage rises precipitously, mayordomos may want to close their acequia as a preventative measure. Link to that gage:

[https://waterdata.usgs.gov/nm/nwis/uv/?site\\_no=08277470&PARAMeter\\_cd=00060](https://waterdata.usgs.gov/nm/nwis/uv/?site_no=08277470&PARAMeter_cd=00060)