

ENVIRONMENT

GOAL THREE: *Become a model of responsible environmental practices and programs.*

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE:

Bosque enjoys an exceptional advantage owing to its location along the Rio Grande, one of the most important river systems on the North American continent. As with so many advantages, however, there is a corresponding responsibility to be a good steward of the land and river. Because Bosque is an educational institution, it has been able to integrate the study of its namesake, the bosque, into the curriculum and to create a program that has received national attention. That program, the Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program (BEMP), operated under the auspices of Bosque's Black Institute, not only involves Bosque students in hands-on science but also connects Bosque with thousands of participating public school students and with scientists from the University of New Mexico.

Along with the educational opportunities offered by its location next to the Rio Grande is the beauty of the setting. Albuquerque is a growing metropolitan area with many of the problems that accompany growth, such as congestion, traffic, smog, and noise. Bosque's campus offers a respite; it is a setting that promotes learning. The school has a responsibility to maintain it. Concern for the environment will be a hallmark of the 21st century. Bosque has the opportunity to be a model and a leader.

TO ACHIEVE GOAL THREE, BOSQUE WILL:

- Strengthen the Black Institute financially by qualifying BEMP for state, federal, private, and foundation grants not available to independent schools.
- Build on BEMP's success by making it into a national and international model demonstrating how secondary school students can practice meaningful science and interact with bona fide scientists while learning scientific methodology.
- Increase the integration of the environment, particularly the study of the bosque and the river, into Bosque's curriculum.
- Adopt conservation methods consistent with Bosque's commitment to be a good steward of the environment.
- Employ ecologically sound construction practices.

