

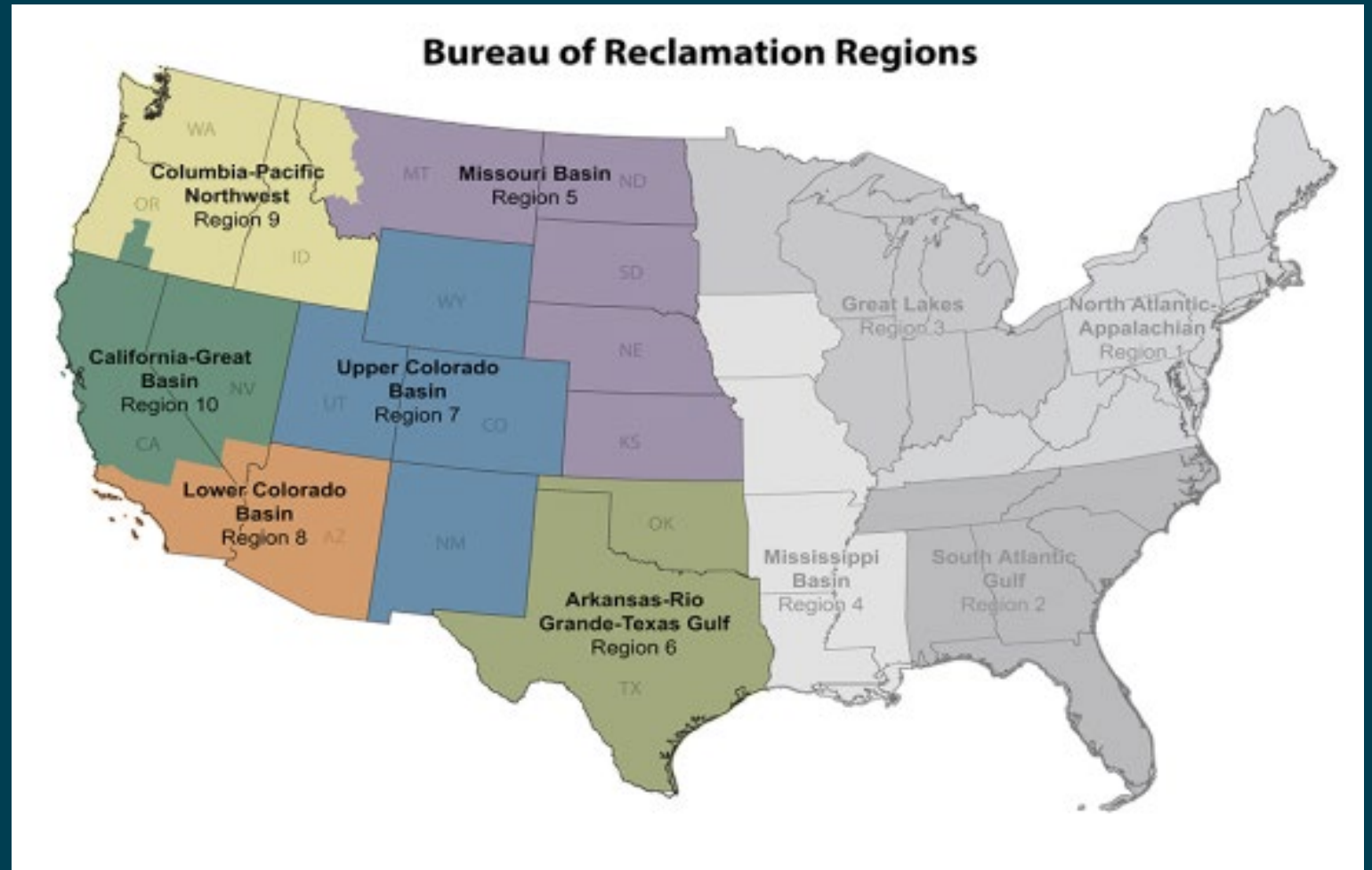


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Federal Water Management Facilities and Interactions in New Mexico

December 1, 2022

The Bureau of Reclamation is the nation's largest wholesale water supplier, providing water to 1 out of 5 western farmers



The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

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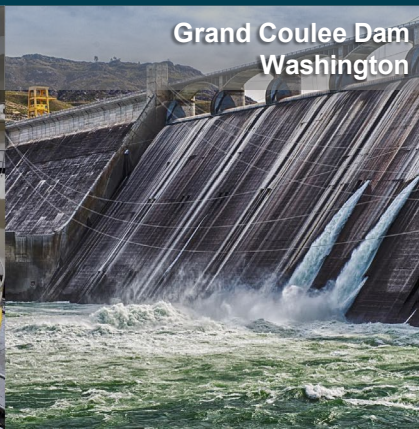
Elephant Butte Dam
New Mexico



Reclamation in the West

Reclamation's budget addresses water supply challenges in the West by prioritizing funding to ensure water reliability and efficient generation of energy by:

- Maintaining and modernizing infrastructure, including dam safety
- Creating resilience to drought and climate change
- Supporting underserved communities and Tribal programs
- Conserving natural resources and environmental responsibilities
- Using science and research to inform decision-making



Albuquerque Area Office Projects and Service Area

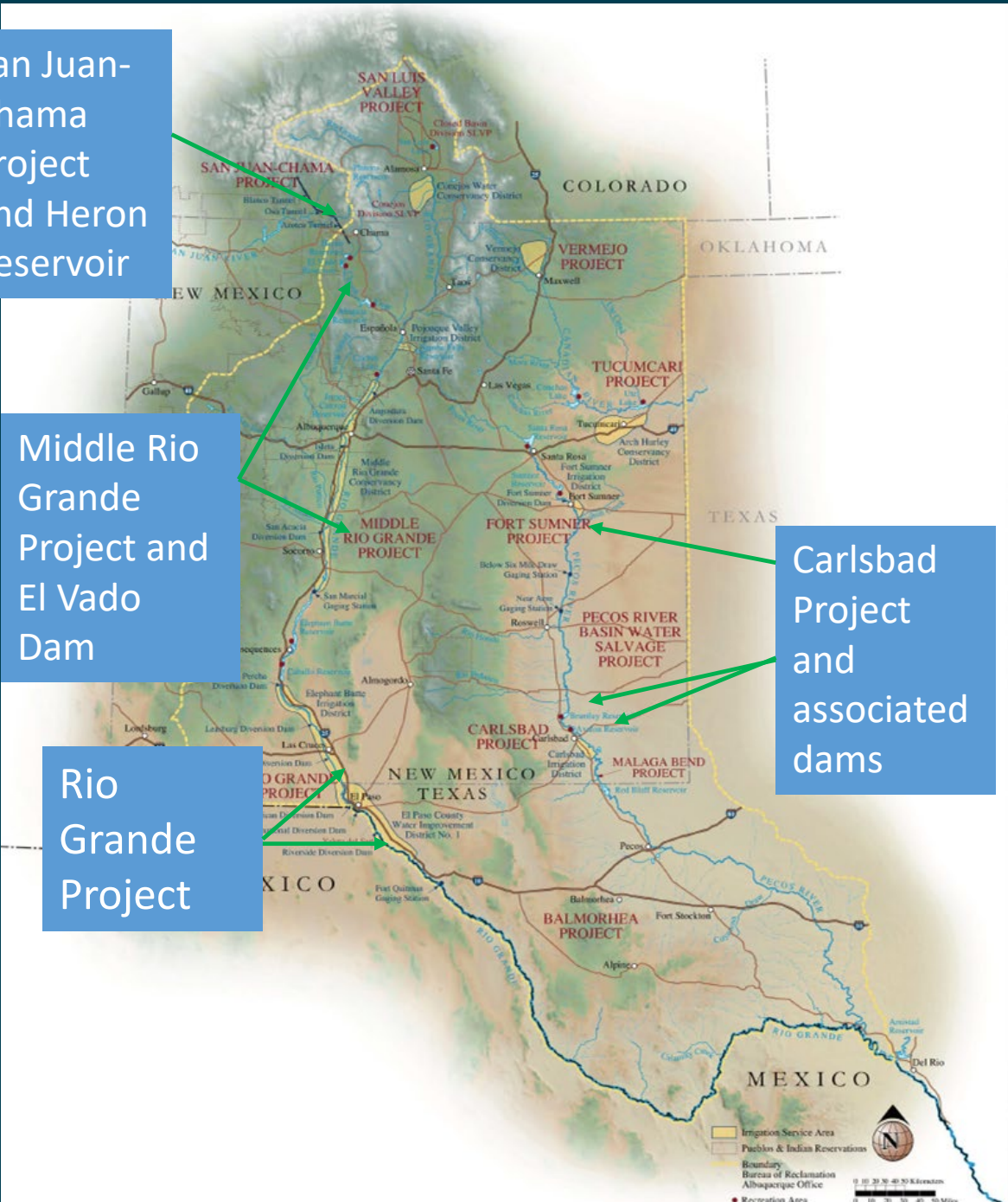
- Manage 5 major water projects in the Rio Grande and Pecos River watersheds in NM, CO, & TX
- Jurisdiction over 9 significant high hazard dams* in CO and NM, with a combined reservoir capacity of more than 3.5 million acre-feet (1 ac-ft = 326,000 gallons)

San Juan-Chama Project and Heron Reservoir

Middle Rio Grande Project and El Vado Dam

Rio Grande Project

Carlsbad Project and associated dams



*Dams assigned the high hazard potential classification are those where failure or mis-operation will probably cause loss of human life.



Ownership of Large Dams in New Mexico



- Bureau of Reclamation
 - San Juan – Chama Project: Heron and Nambé Falls Dams
 - Middle Rio Grande Project: El Vado Dam
 - Rio Grande Project: Elephant Butte and Caballo Dams
 - Carlsbad Project: Sumner, Brantley, Avalon Dams
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
 - Abiquiu Dam
 - Cochiti, Galisteo, Jemez Canyon Dams
 - Santa Rosa Dam
 - Conchas Dam



Federal Water Management Responsibilities

- Legislation authorizing and funding the facility specifies its purpose
- Agency may not act outside that authorization without Congressional approval
- **Bureau of Reclamation**
 - Water supply for irrigation, municipal and industrial
 - Hydropower generation (Elephant Butte, El Vado)
 - Flood control (Elephant Butte, Caballo, Sumner, Brantley)
- **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**
 - Flood and sediment control
 - Water supply (Abiquiu, Santa Rosa)
 - Recreation
 - Hydropower generation (Abiquiu)



Reclamation Considerations

- Rio Grande, Carlsbad Projects authorized in 1905 before statehood
- New Mexico reserved special rights and powers for Reclamation
- Reclamation meets treaty obligations to Mexico through Rio Grande Project deliveries in compliance with Convention of 1906
- Reclamation has trust responsibilities to tribal nations
- Reclamation's flood control role is generally in conjunction with another agency
 - USACE at Sumner and Brantley Dams
 - International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) at Caballo Dam
- Recreation is not a primary purpose
- Reclamation responds to calls from project beneficiaries for water releases unless there are safety concerns



Federal Agencies: Regulatory vs. Service

- **Regulatory** – implements and enforces laws passed by Congress and signed into law by the President
 - FWS – implements, enforces Endangered Species Act
 - USACE – implements, enforces Clean Water Act
- **Service** – works to achieve mission-oriented functions
 - Reclamation – mission is to manage, develop, protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public
 - USACE – civil works program provides quality, responsive service to the nation in peace and war; includes water resources development



Compliance with Federal Law

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to assess environmental effects of proposed federal actions prior to making decisions or taking action
- Endangered Species Act (ESA) gives federally-listed species special protections
- Federal actions are defined as federally funded and/or permitted activities
- If a federal action might affect a listed species, agency must consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service
- Reclamation projects are federal actions, must comply with ESA
- ESA compliance allows project to legally continue operation



Agency Coordination

- Water operations at Reclamation and USACE facilities affect each other
- Agencies interact daily to ensure coordinated operations
- Also interact frequently with NMISC, NMOSE, irrigation districts, municipal water utilities, and many other entities
- Important interactions with other DOI agencies (FWS, BIA, USGS, BLM), Department of State (IBWC), USDA (NRCS)



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