

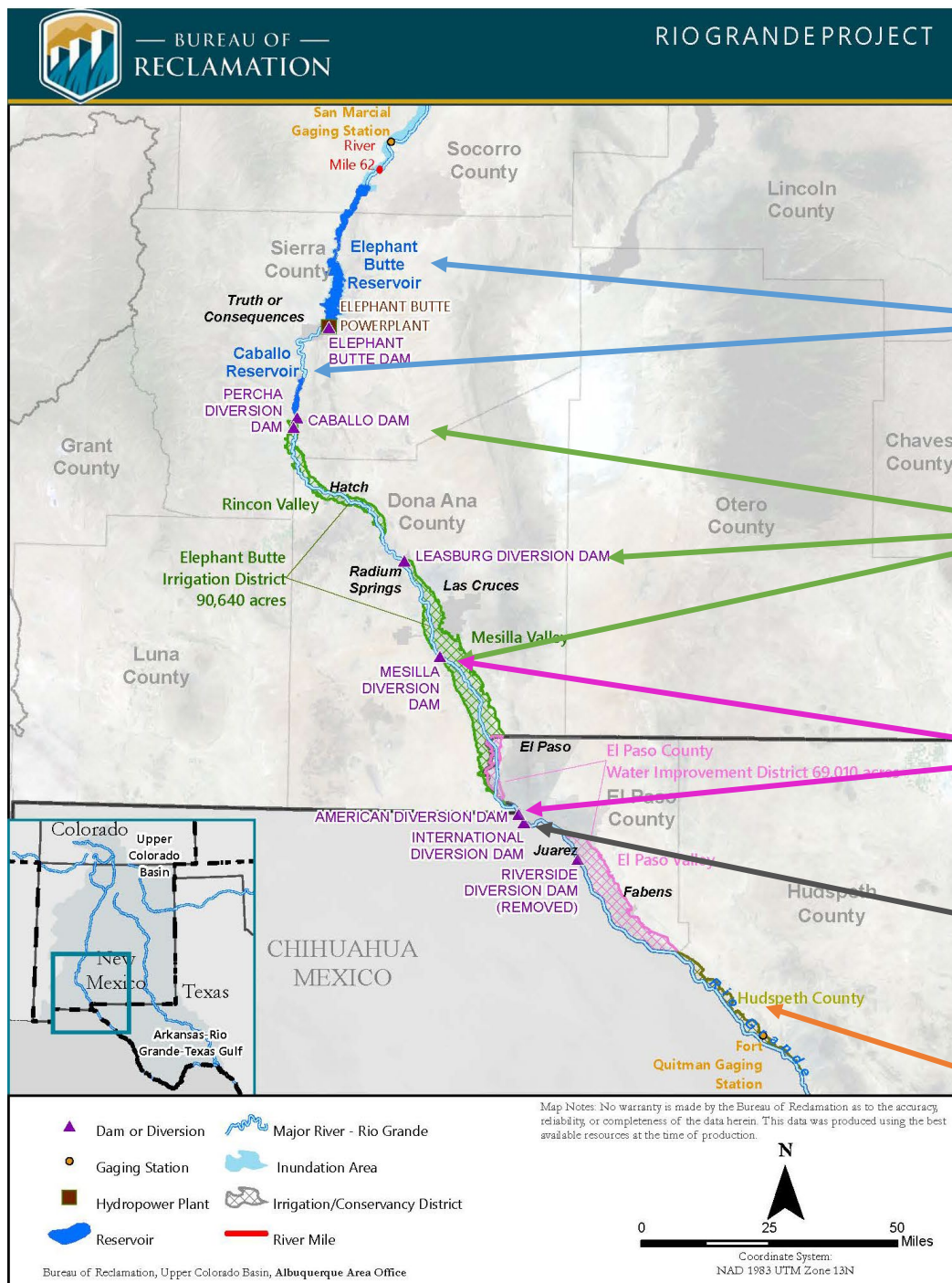


— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Rio Grande Project Water Management

Water Leaders Workshop, Las Cruces, December 7, 2023





Location of Rio Grande Project and Features

Project Storage
– Approx. 2,350,000 AF –

Diversions to EBID (NM)
– 90,640 authorized acres–

Diversions to EP No. 1 (TX)
– 69,010 authorized acres–

Diversions to Mexico

Drainage and waste to HCCRD





Elephant Butte Dam





Caballo Dam





Caballo Gage





Percha Diversion Dam





Leasburg Diversion Dam





Mesilla Diversion Dam



Current Water Management Issues

- Drought
- Groundwater Level Decline
- Industrial Development
- Population Growth
- Aridification



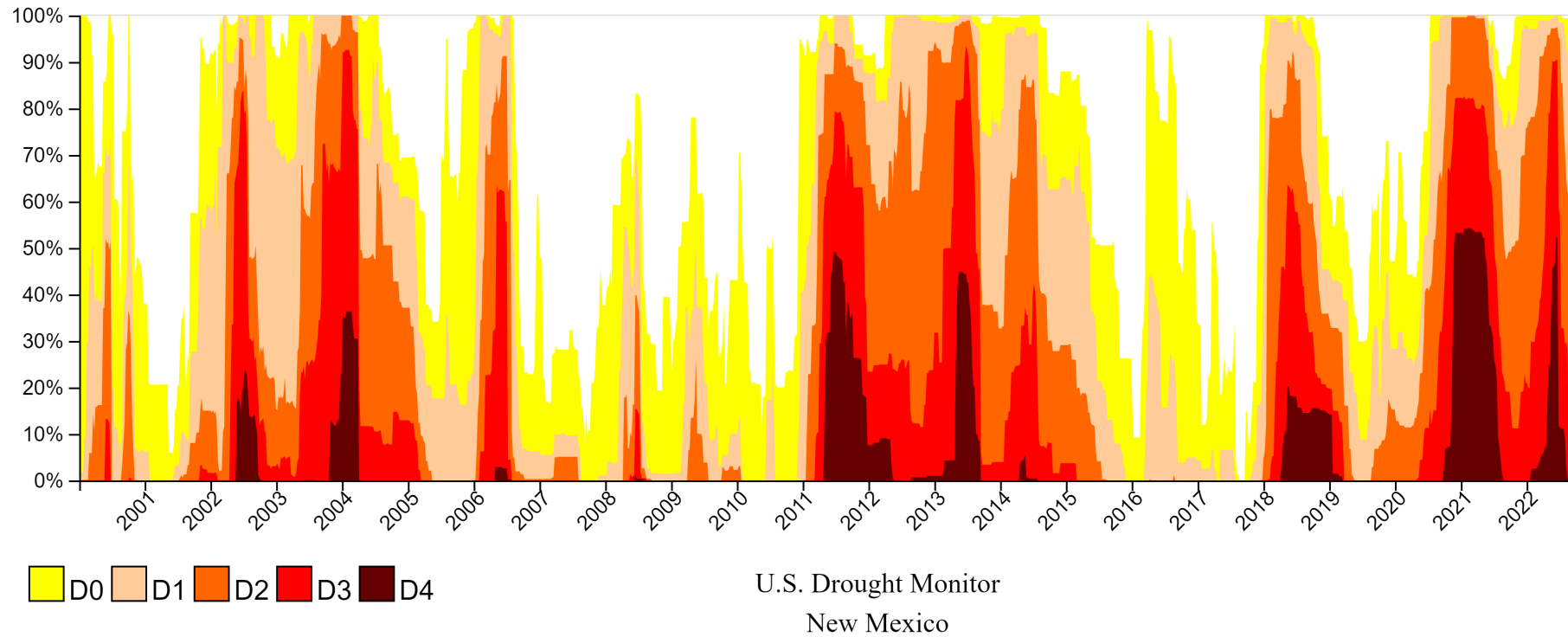
The impact of drought on Elephant Butte Reservoir in Truth or Consequences, NM – courtesy of the USGS.



Monsoon Flooding in Hatch, NM in 2006 – courtesy of EBID



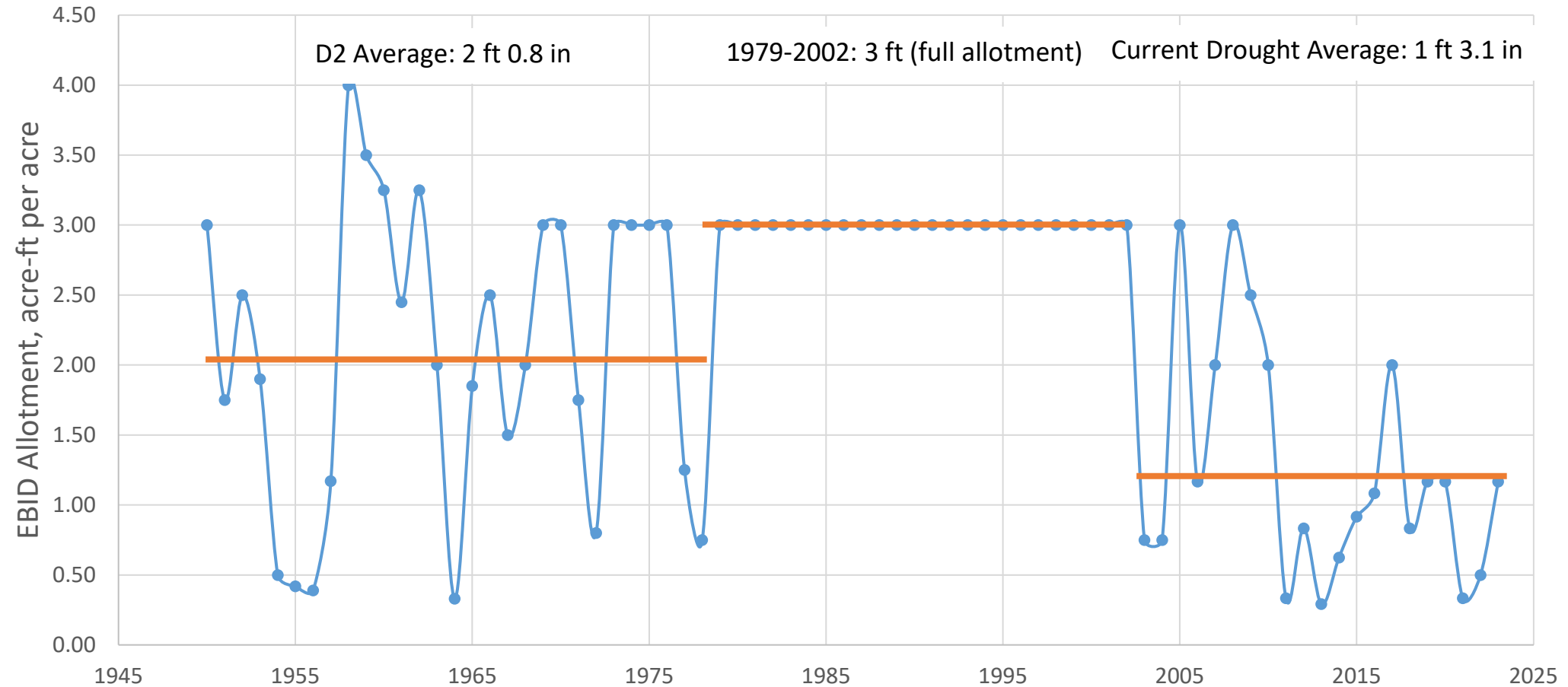
New Mexico Drought 2000-2023



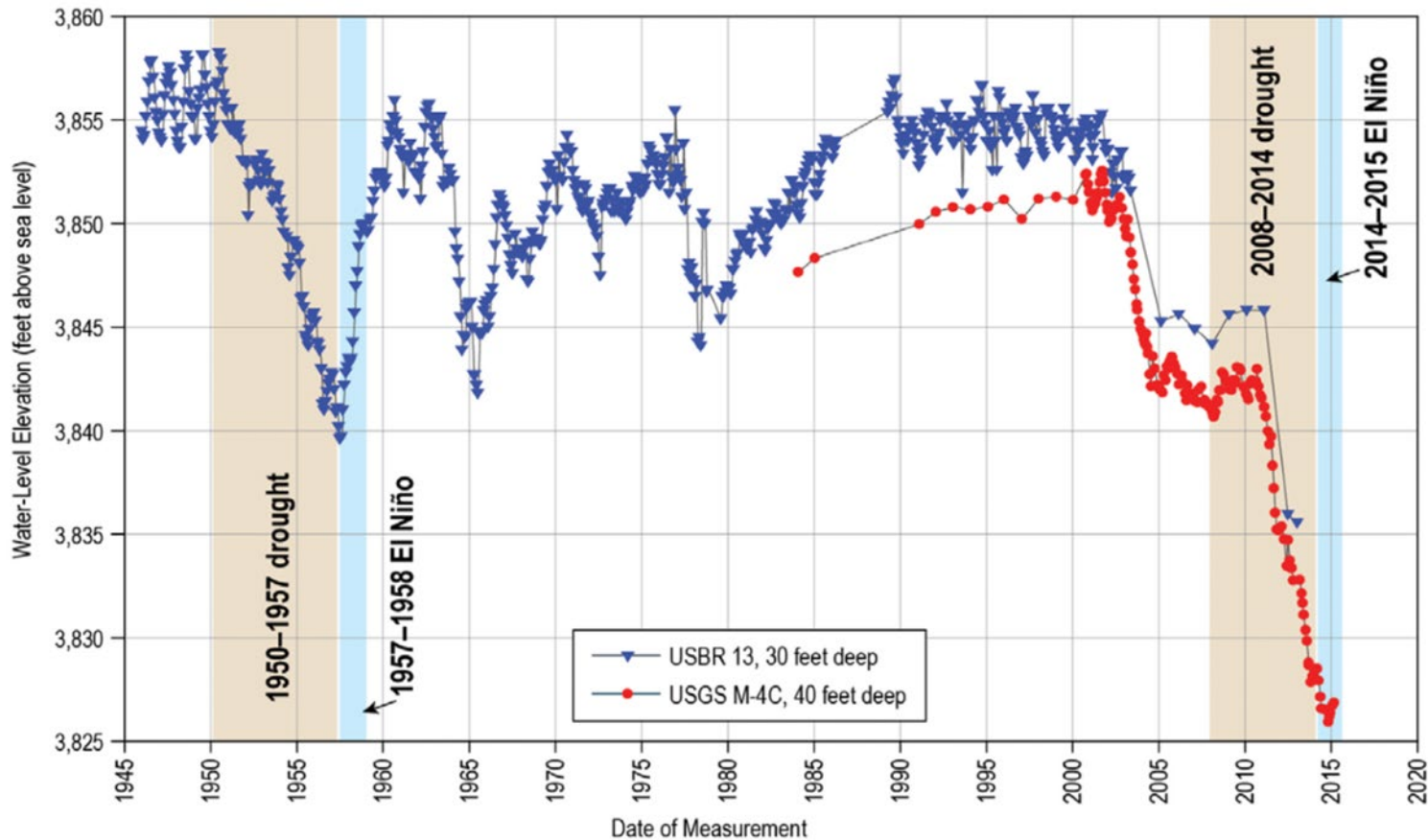
- <https://www.drought.gov/states/New-Mexico>



EBID Farm Allotments- Surface Water



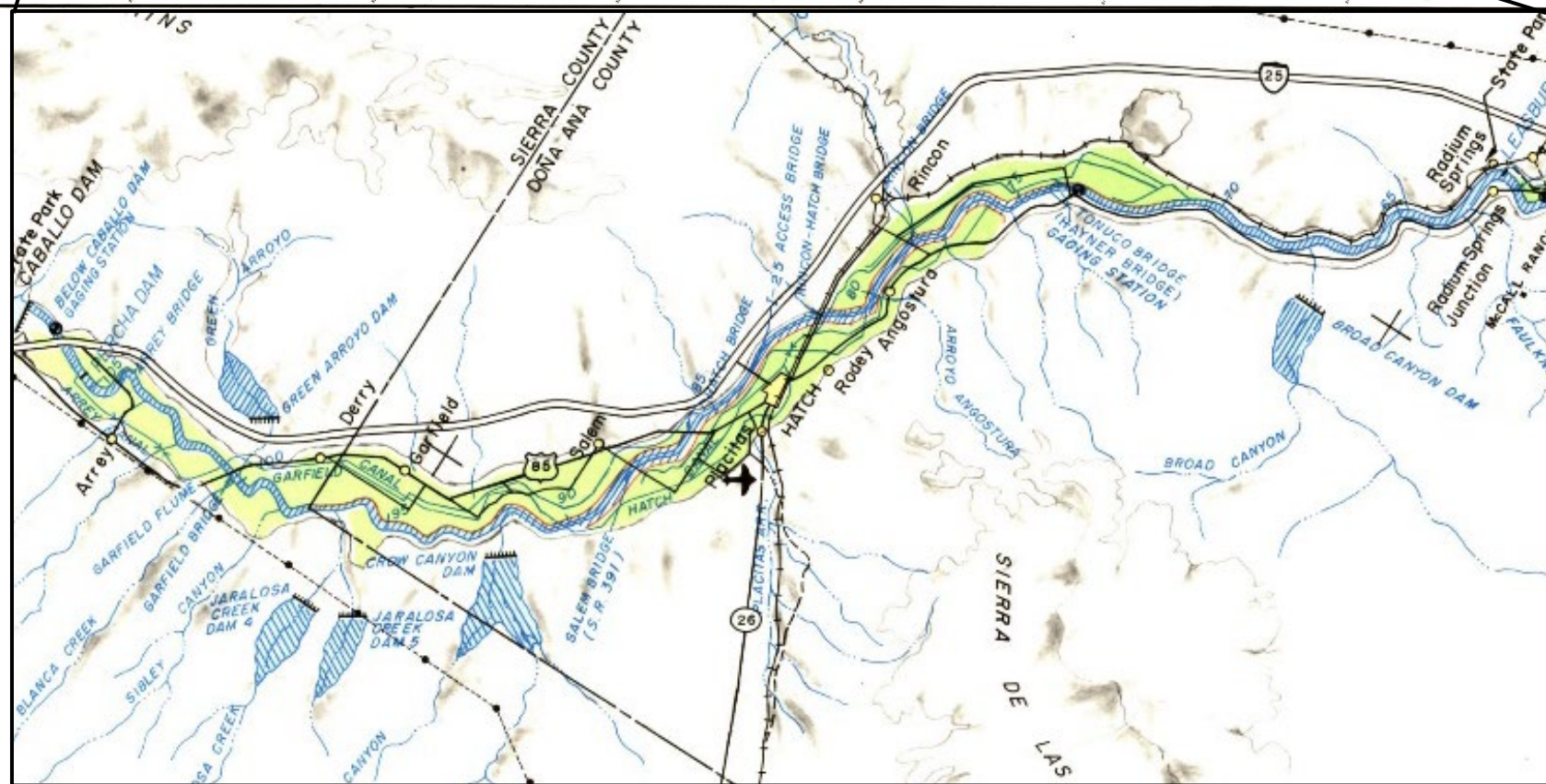
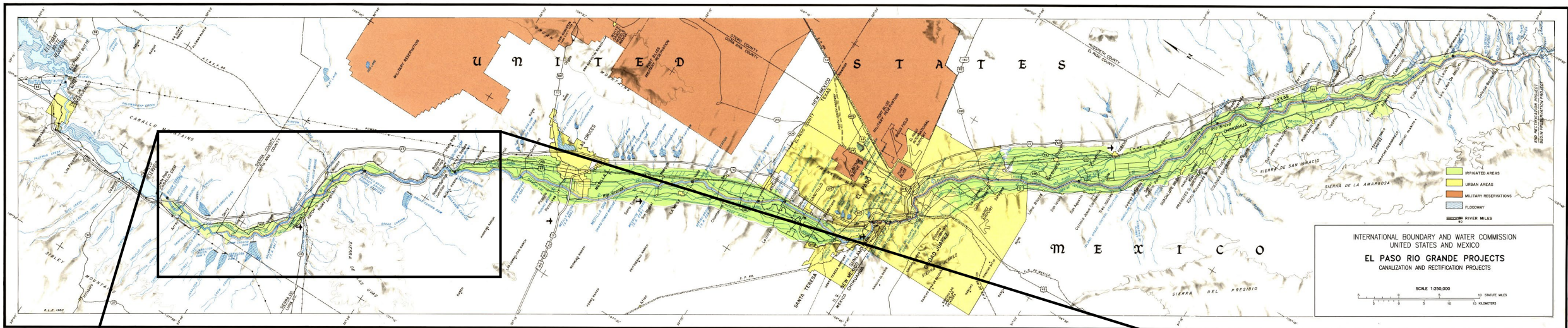
Rincon-Mesilla Groundwater Levels



Collaboration for the Future

- NMISC Financial Assistance Agreement for Salt Basin Pipeline Alignment Study
- NMISC Cooperative Agreement
 - 2 Full Time Employees to work on projects with Reclamation in the LRG
 - Flood control dam assessment for possible storm water capture projects
 - Exploring importation and brackish groundwater opportunities
 - Demand management programs
- NFWF Cooperative Agreement
 - up to \$75M 2023-2028
 - Supplemental water projects with habitat nexus and demand management
 - EBID grant to help with projects





Example Infrastructure Improvement Project

- Proposed Rincon Lateral Piping Project
 - Multi-benefit project where floodwater is captured for sediment management, groundwater recharge, and watershed and habitat restoration
 - Annual water savings: ~2,927 AF/year.



LRG WaterSMART Projects



- **EBID**
 - Williams Lateral Piping
 - Picacho W-H-E-N Project
 - Renovating Efficient Access to Rio Grande Project Surface Water for the Mesilla Valley
 - Leasburg Canal Gate Actuators and Metering Station
 - Watershed Scale Stormwater Monitoring and Capture
- **City of Las Cruces**
 - Better Managing Water Supplies with Neutral Output Discharge Elimination System (NO-DES)
 - Smart Irrigation Technology Water Supply Reliability Project
 - Water Conservation in the City of Las Cruces: Installing SMART Irrigation Technology for the Efficient Use of Water Supplies (CLC)
- **New Mexico Jornada Resource Conservation & Development Council- Furthering Watershed Restoration Planning**
- **NMISC- Literature Review of Brackish Groundwater in LRG Valley of New Mexico**

Contacts

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