

Middle Rio Grande Water Use Operational and Environmental Connections Fact Sharing and Listening

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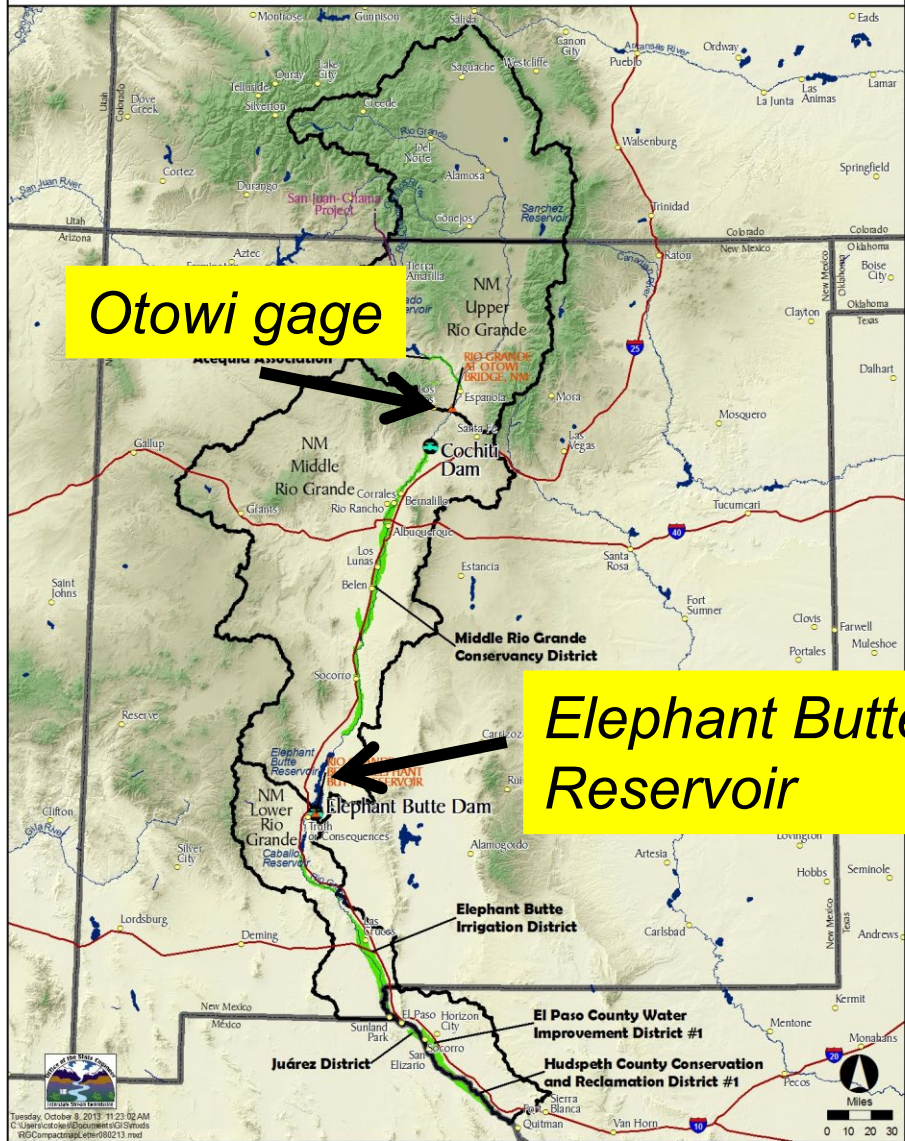
Hannah Riseley-White, Deputy Director
Interstate Stream Commission

Page Pegram, Rio Grande Basin Manager
Interstate Stream Commission

February 1, 2023



Upper Rio Grande Basin



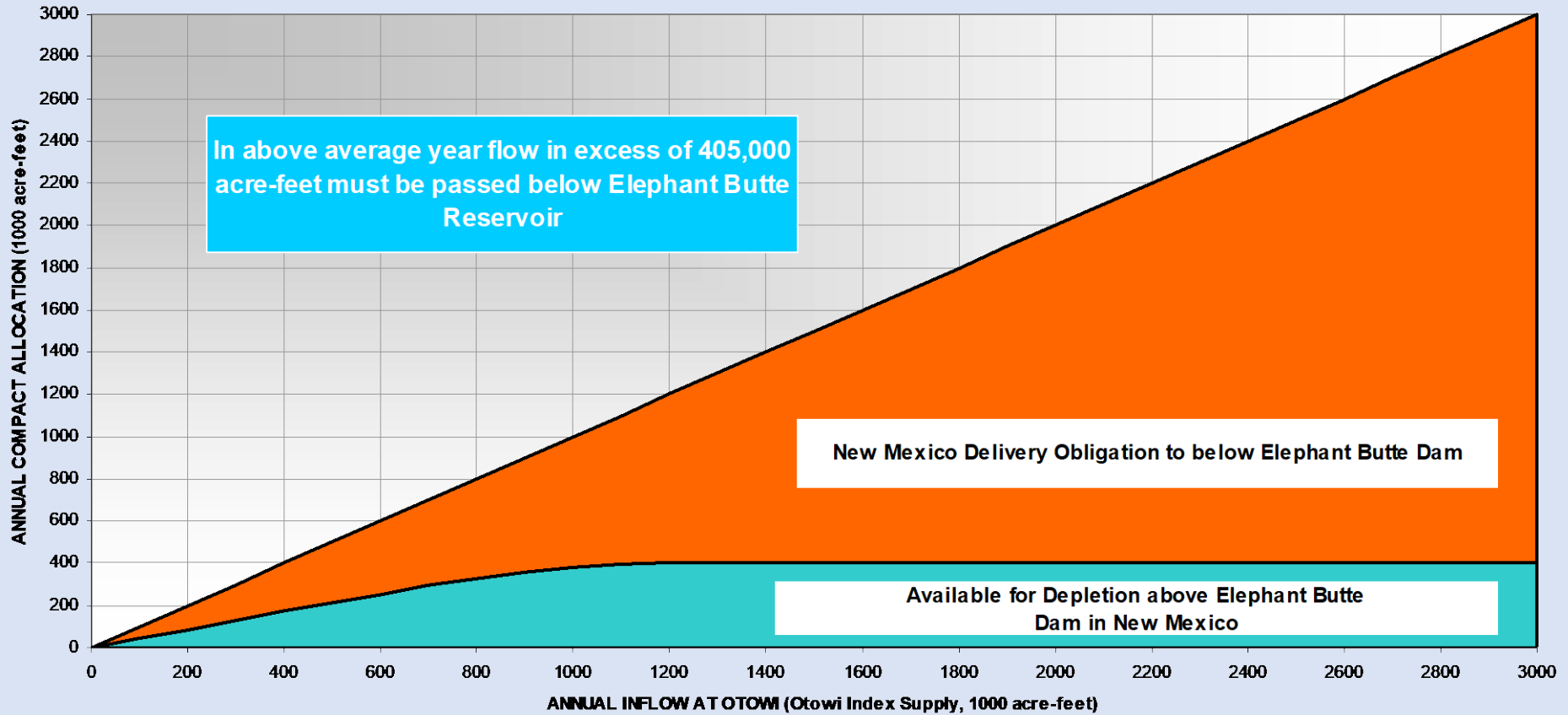
Rio Grande Compact

New Mexico is Required to Deliver Water to Texas at Elephant Butte Reservoir (the Rio Grande Project):

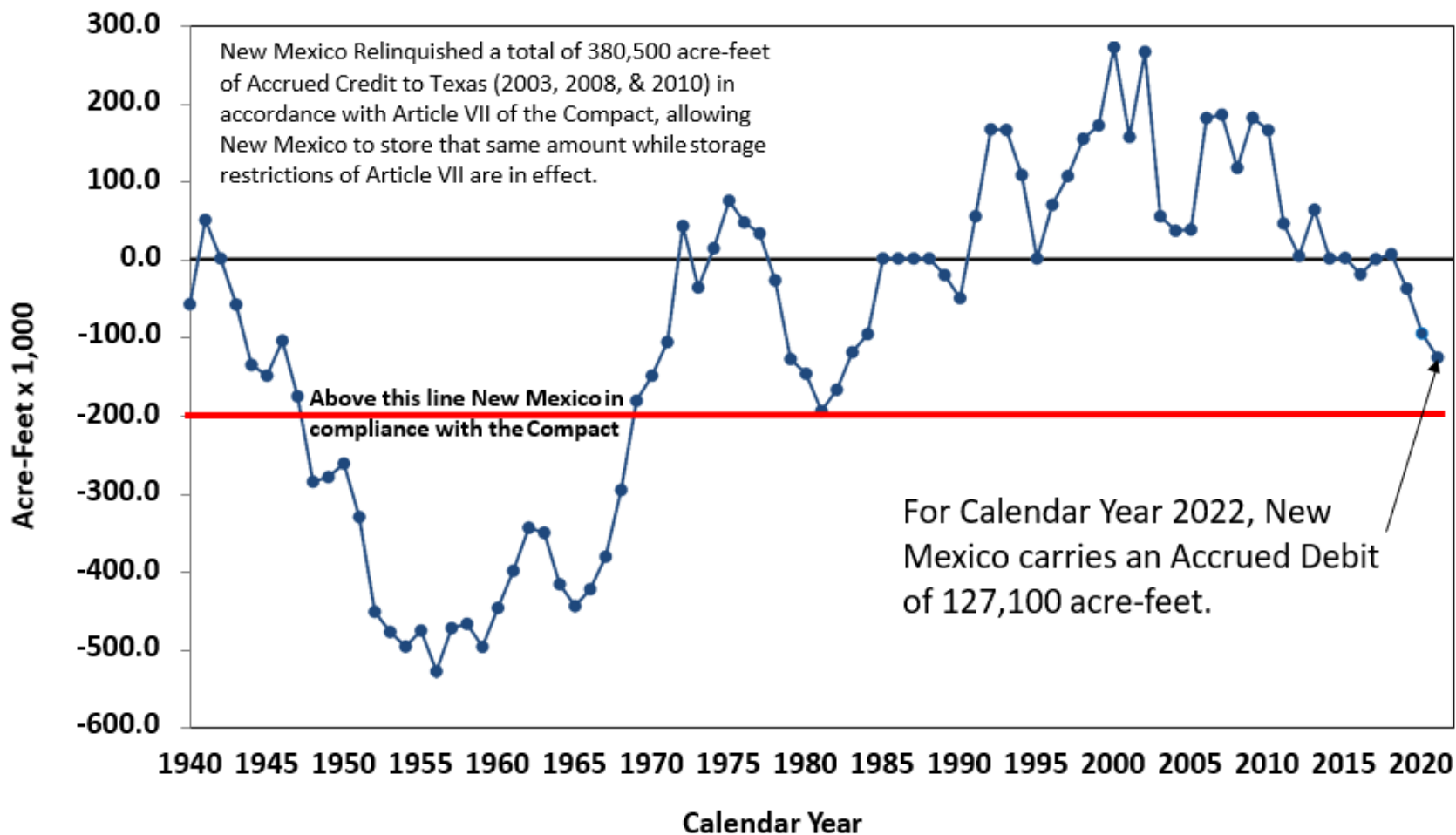
- If depletions change between the Stateline with Colorado and Otowi Bridge, modify Middle Rio Grande allocation
- An explicit Middle Rio Grande allocation and delivery
- 57% of the Rio Grande Project Supply used in New Mexico

MIDDLE RIO GRANDE ALLOCATION

ANNUAL COMPACT ALLOCATION CHART



Rio Grande Compact Cumulative Departures 1940 to 2021



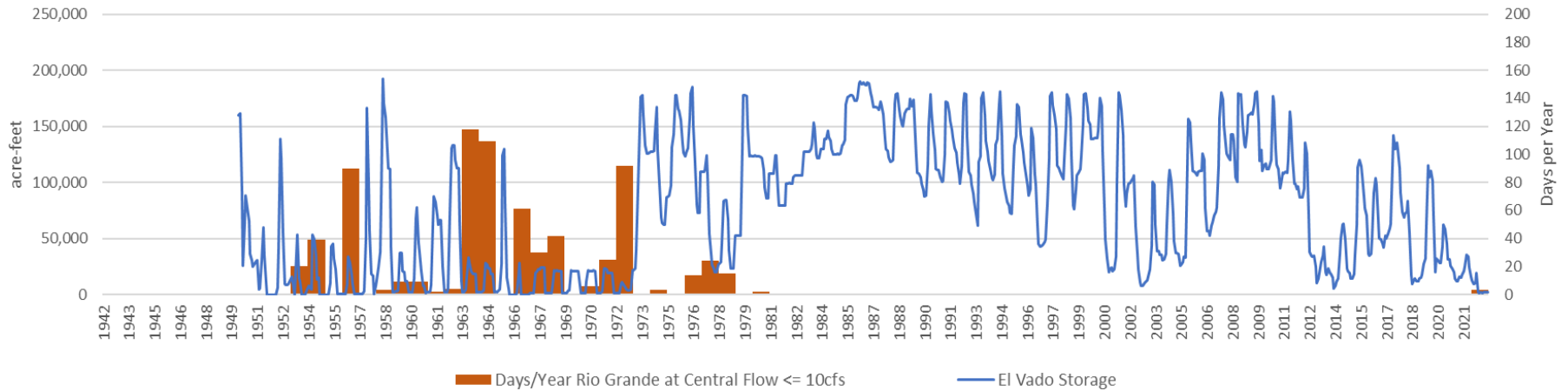
Notes: 1) The Compact Commission has not approved annual accounting since 2011. Values in the chart since that time are those calculated and proposed by the New Mexico Engineer Adviser as described in annual reports to the Compact Commission.

Article VII of the Compact

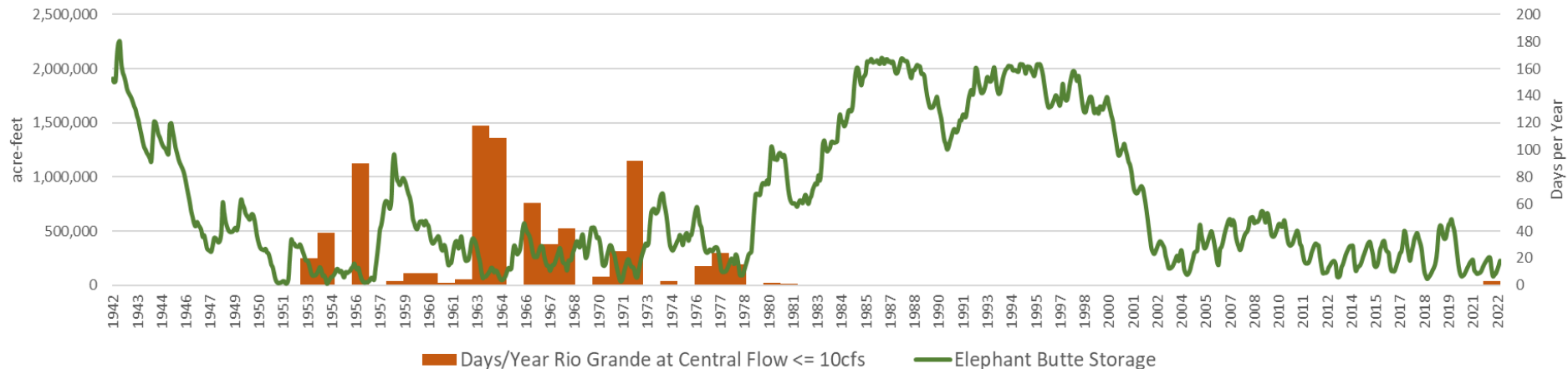
- Whenever Usable Water in Rio Grande Project Storage is less than 400,000 acre-feet (AF), New Mexico is prohibited from increasing storage of native Rio Grande water in reservoirs constructed after 1929 upstream of Elephant Butte Reservoir.
- When the Article VII storage restriction is in effect, native water storage can only occur in upstream post-1929 reservoirs if New Mexico proposes to relinquish Credit Water and Texas accepts.

Compact Article VII Restrictions Impact Flow in the ABQ Reach

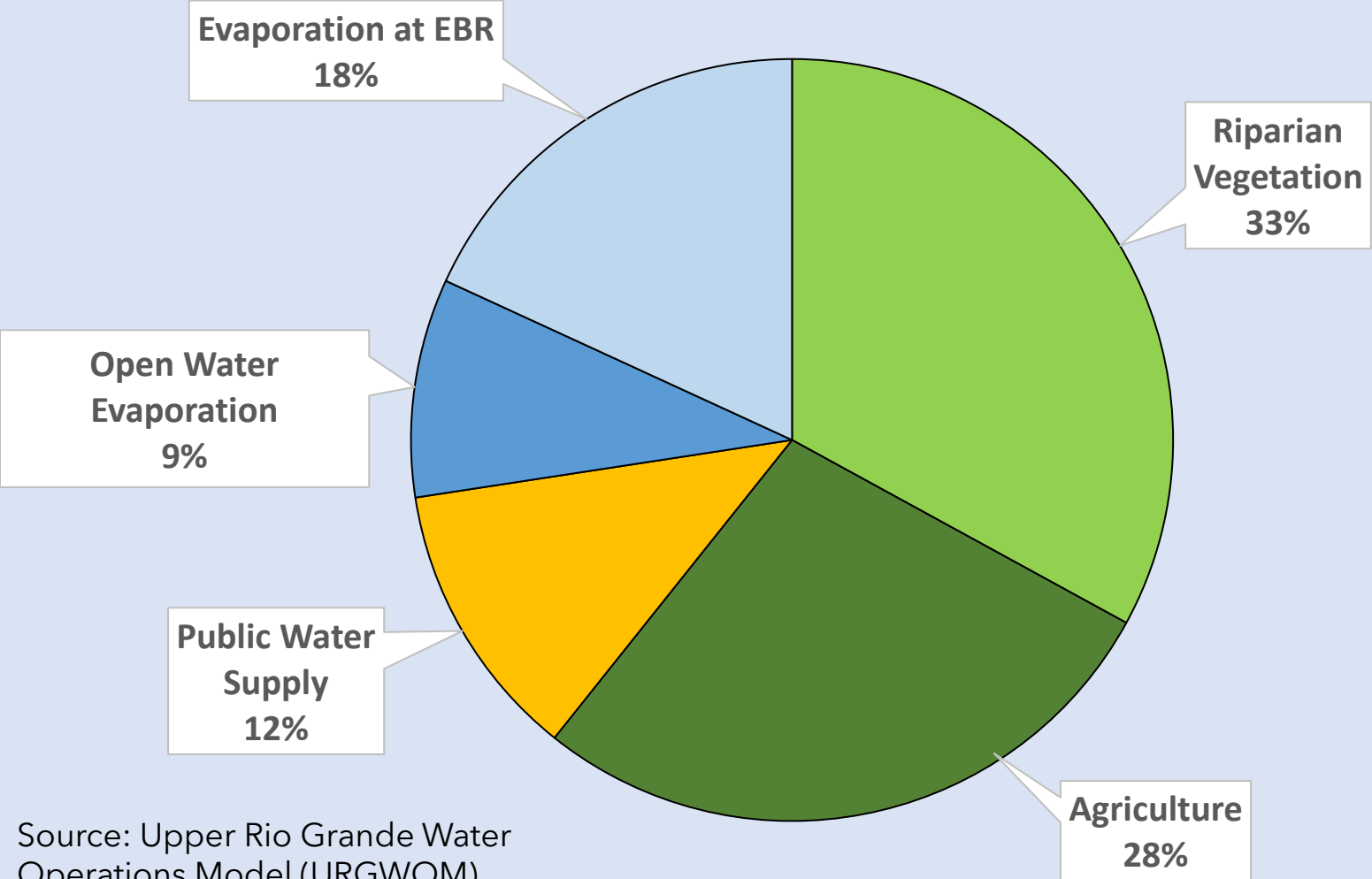
El Vado Reservoir Storage vs. Drying at Albuquerque Gage



Elephant Butte Reservoir Storage vs. Drying at Albuquerque Gage



AVERAGE MIDDLE RIO GRANDE WATER USE BY SECTOR, 2000-2014



Source: Upper Rio Grande Water Operations Model (URGWOM)

FY24 Special Appropriation Request

San Acacia reach of the Rio Grande Improvements

FY23-28 \$30,000,000

To conduct river channel maintenance, habitat restoration, low flow conveyance channel maintenance, and flood control projects in the San Acacia reach of the Rio Grande to improve flood protection and water deliveries and benefit species and native riparian areas, which all can contribute to New Mexico's compacts compliance and its Endangered Species Act biological opinion commitments, for expenditure in fiscal years 2023 through 2028

Need to Balance the Functions of the River System

- Water Delivery

Storage = Critical

- Ecosystem

- Flood Control

QUESTIONS?

