

# *A Brief Overview of the Rio Grande Compact*

04/26/06



# *The New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission*

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- Investigate, Protect, Conserve, and Develop the State's Waters and Stream Systems
  - Negotiate and Administer Interstate Compacts
  - Oversee Development of Regional Water Plans & State-Wide Water Plan
  - Federal Issues Management (Endangered Species Act water issues)
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# The Upper Rio Grande Basin



# Background

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- Late 1800's – Drought and Increased Irrigation Diversion in Colorado
  - 1896 – Federal Embargo on Water Development
  - 1906 – Treaty of 1906
  - 1916 – Elephant Butte Reservoir Operational
  - Early 1920's – Federal Water Development Embargo Lifted
  - Late 1920's – Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District
    - Construct the MRGCD diversion dams, canals, drains, and El Vado Reservoir
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# *Background (Continued)*

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- 1929 – Interim Rio Grande Compact
    - Sets limits on depletions of water
  - 1935 – El Vado Reservoir Completed
    - Supreme Court Lawsuit by Texas
  - 1935-1937 – Rio Grande Joint Investigation
  - 1938 – Rio Grande Compact Signed,
    - Supreme Court Lawsuit dismissed
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# *The Rio Grande Compact*

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- Signed in 1938 in Santa Fe following those four decades of controversy to:
    - Effect an equitable apportionment of the waters of the Rio Grande above Ft. Quitman, Texas
    - Remove all causes of present and future controversy
    - Promote interstate comity
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# *The Rio Grande Compact*

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- The Compact apportions the waters of the Upper Rio Grande Basin amongst the three States
  - The Compact does not affect the obligations of the United States to Indian Tribes or impair their Rights
  - San Juan-Chama Project Water is not subject to Compact apportionment
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# *The Rio Grande Compact - Colorado*

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- Colorado is Required to Deliver Water to New Mexico at the Stateline
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# The Rio Grande Compact - Colorado

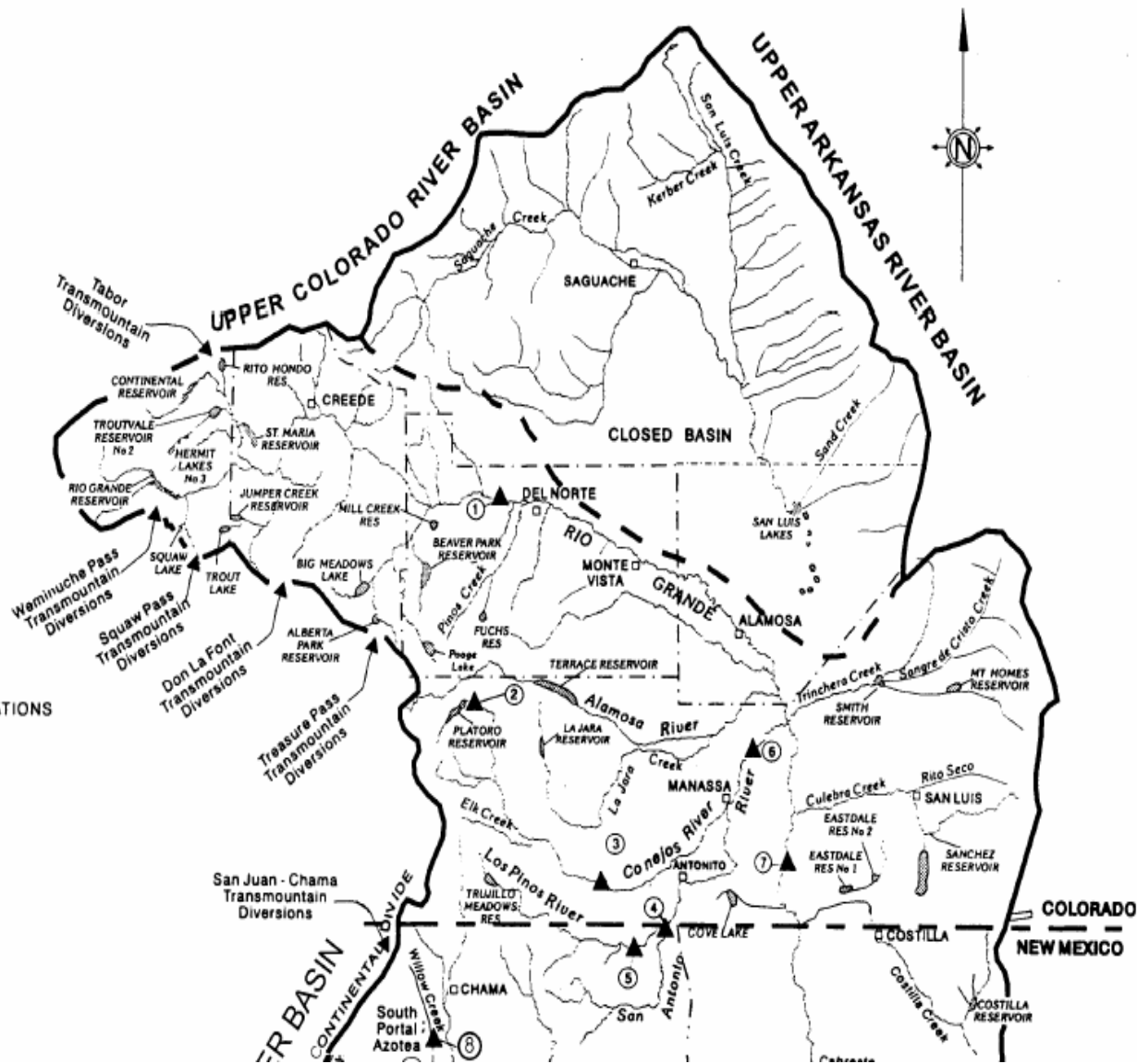
## LEGEND

- ▲ STREAM-GAGING STATION
- CITY OR TOWN
- BASIN BOUNDARY
- - - COUNTY LINE
- ▬ CLOSED BASIN BOUNDARY
- TABOR TRANSMOUNTAIN DIVERSION

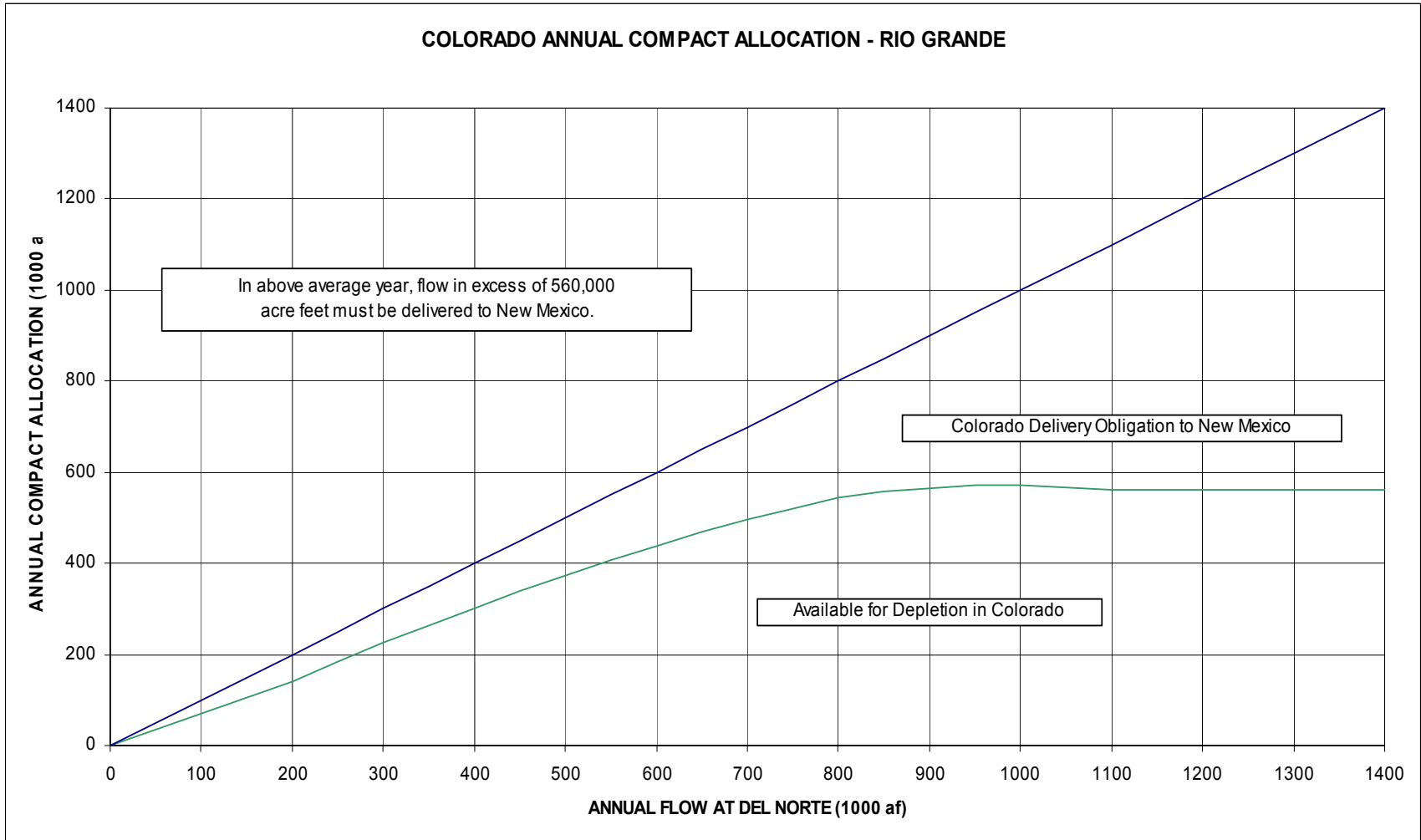
## EXPLANATION

### RIO GRANDE COMPACT STREAM-GAGING STATIONS

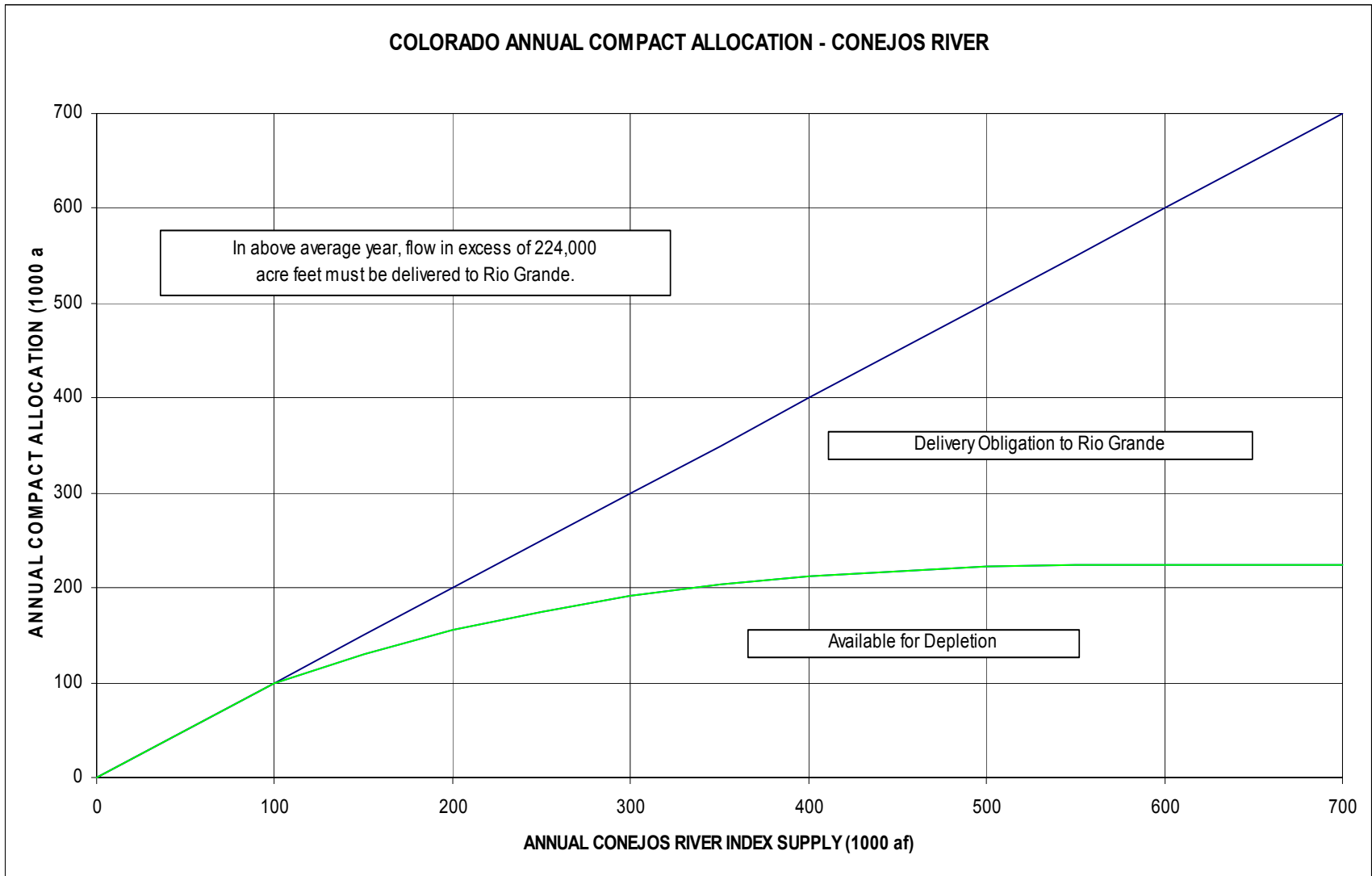
- ① Rio Grande near Del Norte
- ② Conejos River below Platoro Reservoir
- ③ Conejos River near Mogote
- ④ San Antonio River at Ortiz
- ⑤ Los Pinos River near Ortiz
- ⑥ Conejos River near Lasasues
- ⑦ Rio Grande near Lobatos
- ⑧ Azotea Tunnel at South Portal
- ⑨ Willow Creek above Heron Reservoir



# The Rio Grande Compact - Colorado



# The Rio Grande Compact - Colorado

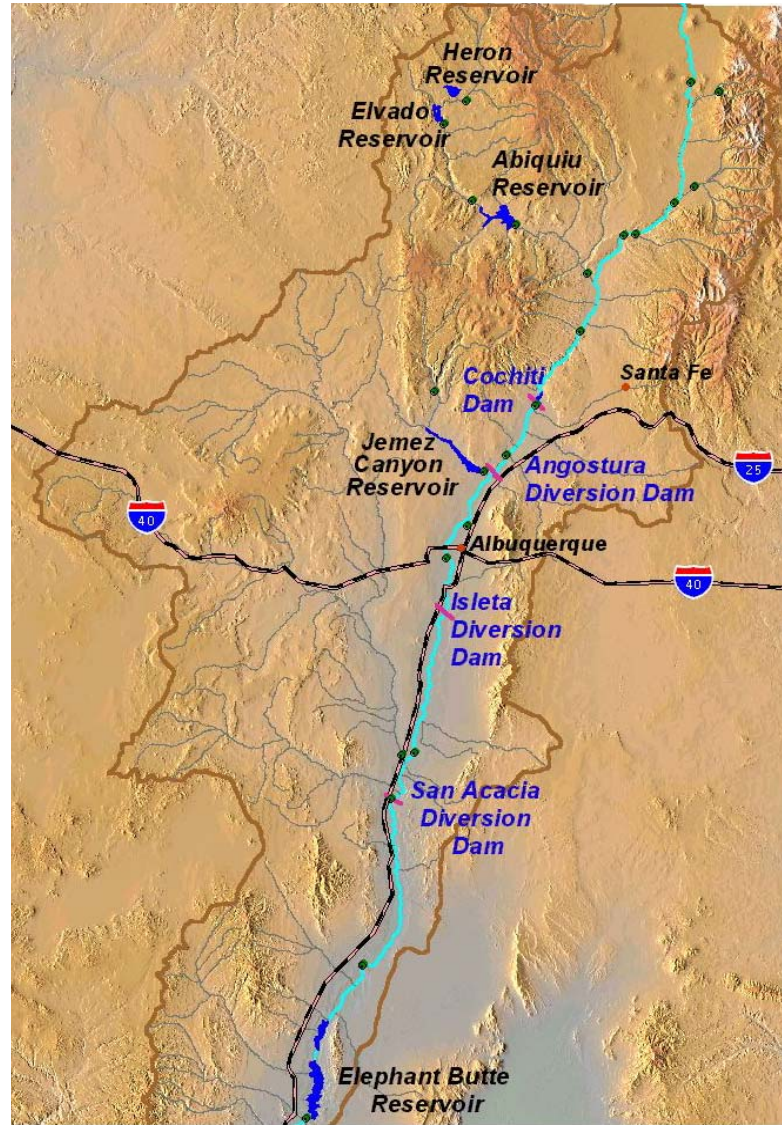


# *The Rio Grande Compact – New Mexico*

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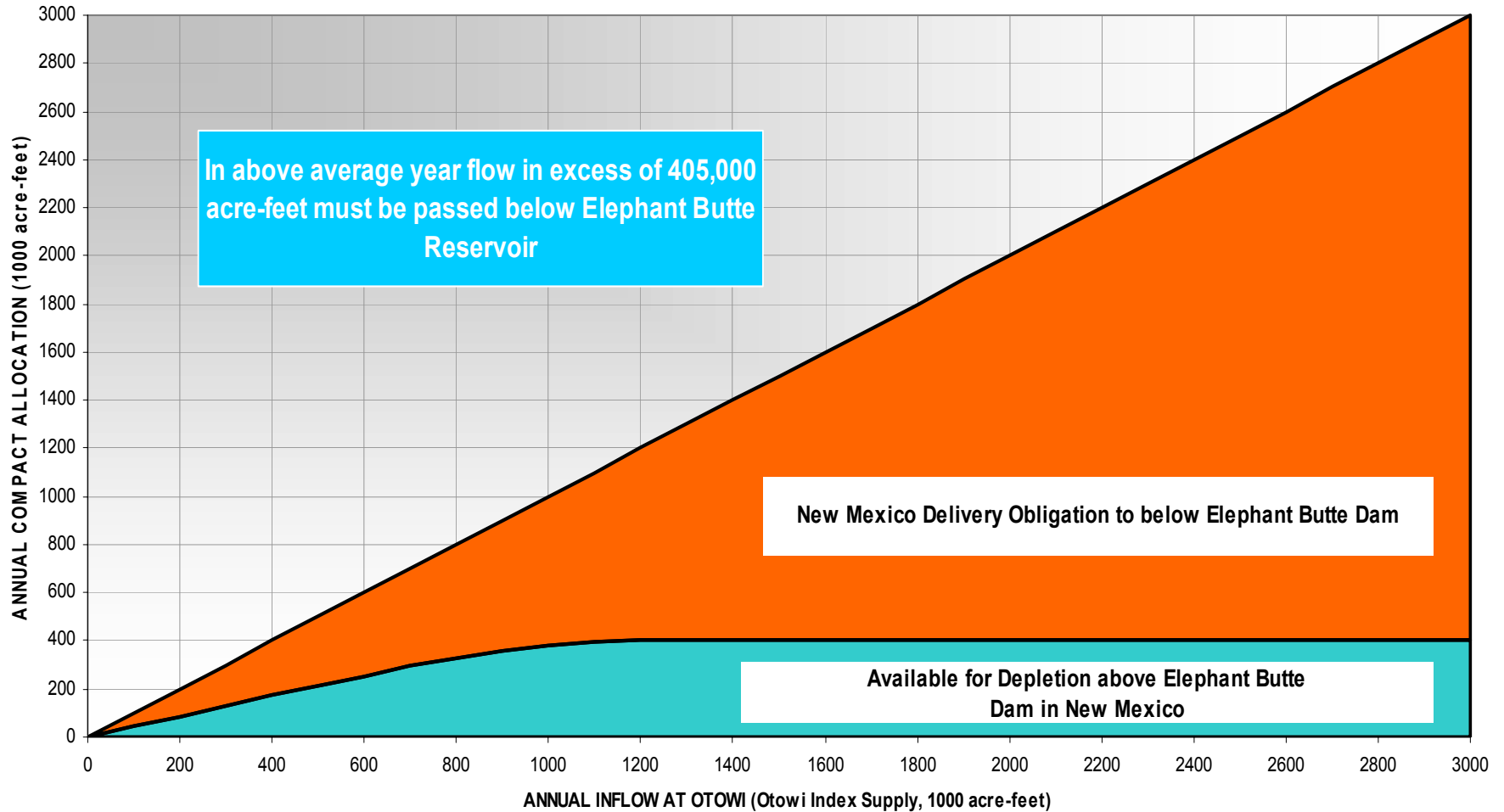
- New Mexico is Required to Deliver Water to Texas at Elephant Butte Reservoir based upon flow at Otowi Bridge
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# *The Rio Grande Compact – New Mexico*

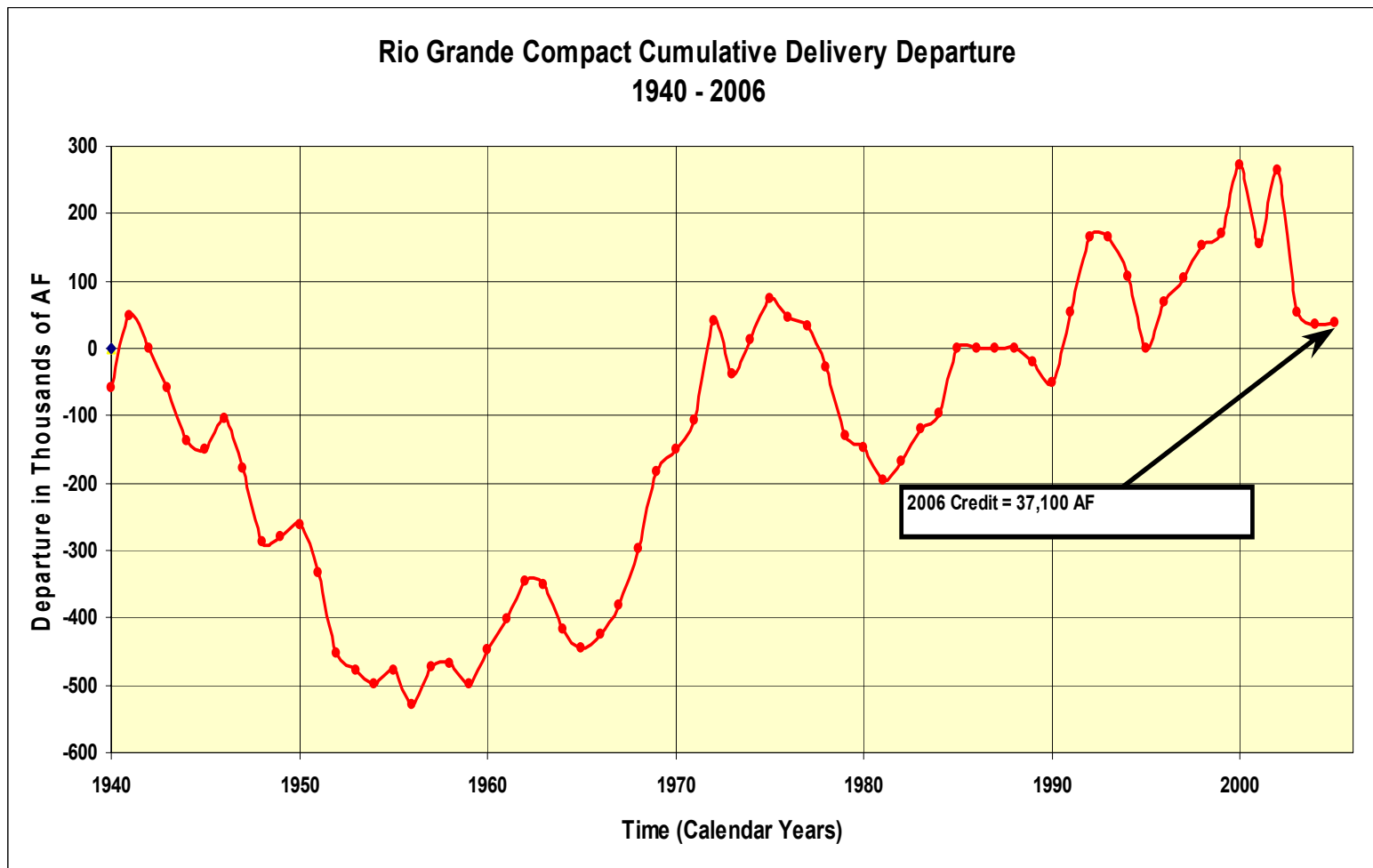


# Middle Rio Grande Compact Allocation and Obligation

ANNUAL COMPACT ALLOCATION CHART



# *New Mexico's Compact Compliance*



# *New Mexico's Compact Compliance*

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- NMISC Goal – Maintain compliance while allowing for efficient and effective use of the available supply
  - Status – in Compliance since the late 1960's
  - Activities –
    - Middle Rio Grande Project
    - Operations of the Low Flow Conveyance Channel
    - ISC/Reclamation Coop Agreements – River System Maintenance
    - Metering and Modeling
    - Pilot Channel Work
  - Other
    - SJC Water Depletion Offset and Municipal Pumping
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# *Rio Grande Floodway in 1952*

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Looking downstream from south boundary of Bosque del Apache  
(courtesy of Reclamation)

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# *Compact Storage Restrictions*

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- If We Accrue Deliveries to Texas:
    - Water Must be Retained in Storage in Post-1929 reservoirs to the extent of the debits and cannot be used
  - If Usable Storage in Rio Grande Project Reservoirs is low:
    - cannot increase the amount of native water stored in post-1929 reservoirs
      - An accepted Relinquishment allows for some upstream storage
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# *The Compact and Elephant Butte Reservoir*

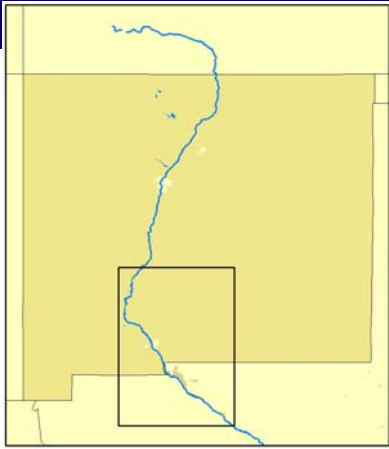
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- Colorado and New Mexico Credit Water is held in Elephant Butte Reservoir
  - Spills from Elephant Butte Reservoir eliminate credits and debits
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# *The Rio Grande Compact - Texas*

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- From Elephant Butte Reservoir to Fort Quitman, Texas
  - 57% of the Rio Grande Project Supply delivered to New Mexican's



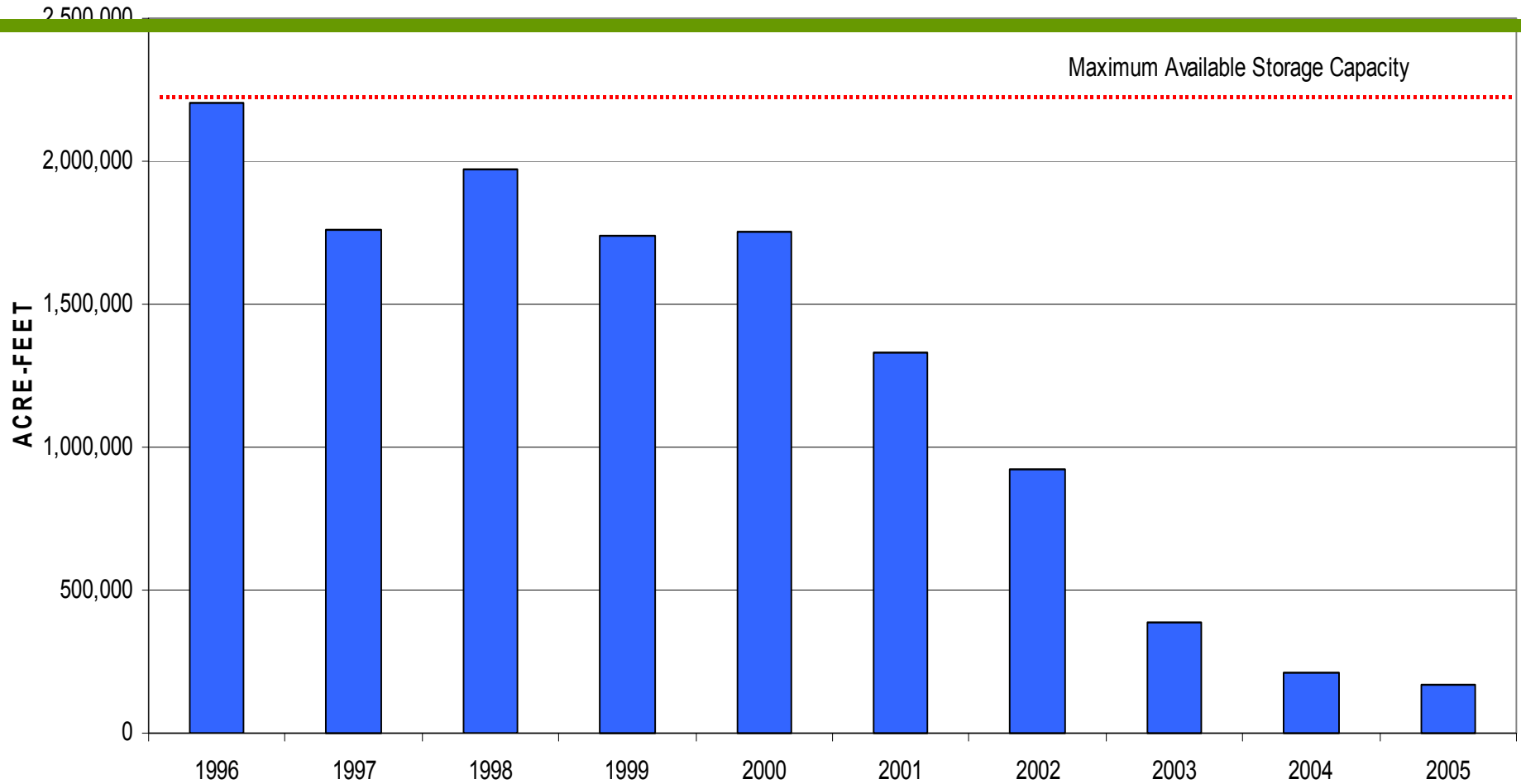
# The Rio Grande Project

# *The Rio Grande Project*

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- Delivers water to the Republic of Mexico and irrigable lands in New Mexico and Texas
  - During full allocation years, Reclamation delivers about 931,800 AF at diversion dam canal headings with a reservoir release of 790,000 AF
  - Hudspeth County Irrigation District is not part of the Rio Grande Project
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# *RIO GRANDE PROJECT STORAGE*



Note: Storage values as of Jan 1 each year. Elephant Butte and Caballo Reservoirs included in analysis. Value for Jan 1, 2005 is estimated