International Boundary and Water Commission
United States Section

For immediate release
October 15, 2024

USIBWC Upper Rio Grande Citizens Forum in El Paso, Texas, on October 24

The U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) Upper Rio Grande Citizens Forum board will host an in-person and virtual public meeting on Thursday, **October 24, 2024, from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. MDT.**

David Duran, USIBWC Regional Operations Manager, American Dam Field Office, will present updates on public maintenance requests as well as total sediment removals for Fiscal Years 2022-2024 within the agency's Canalization Project Area.

Gerardo Melendez, Lead Civil Engineer (Hydraulic), U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, will speak about Rio Grande irrigation updates and next session irrigation topics.

The public meeting will be held in person at:

USIBWC Headquarters Building
4191 North Mesa St.
El Paso, Texas 79902

The public meeting will also be held virtually. Click here to join the meeting. If possible, it may be helpful for you to test connectivity on your own prior to the meeting by clicking on the "Join" link and ensuring your camera and microphone are functioning. Or join by phone: Call-in number +1 915-320-4718,,830887077# Phone conference ID: 830 887 077#

For those connecting via phone, the presentations will be available before the start of the meeting. Go to the USIBWC Citizens Forum page at https://www.ibwc.gov/meetings/list/ and look for the links for the Upper Rio Grande Citizen Forum meeting.

If you would like to speak during the public comment period, please sign up ahead of time by contacting Frankie Pinon at frankie.pinon@ibwc.gov or 915-832-4716 by noon on October 18, 2024.

Media Contact:

Frankie Pinon
frankie.pinon@ibwc.gov
915-832-4716

UPPER RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM
Thursday, October 24, 2024, from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. MDT.

USIBWC Headquarters Building
4191 North Mesa St.
El Paso, Texas 79902

And Via Teams

Agenda

- **Welcome and Introductions** – USIBWC Citizens Forum Board Co-Chairs
- **USIBWC Presentation on Field Office –**David Duran, Regional Area Operations Manager, USIBWC American Dam Field Office.
- **Irrigation updates and 2025 outlook –** Gerado Melendez, Lead Civil Engineer (Hydraulic), U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.
- **Public Comment**
- **Board Discussion**
- **Suggested Future Agenda Items**

If you have a disability that you wish to self-identify confidentially that requires accommodation, please advise us ahead of time. For more information call 915-832-4716 or email frankie.pinon@ibwc.gov

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Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device: Click here to join the meeting.

Meeting ID: 230 324 021 222
Passcode: CBSTF8

Download Teams | Join on the web

Or call in (audio only)

+1 915-320-4718,,830887077#

Phone conference ID: 830 887 077#

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION

UNITED STATES SECTION

Addressing Levee Concerns in Las Cruces NM

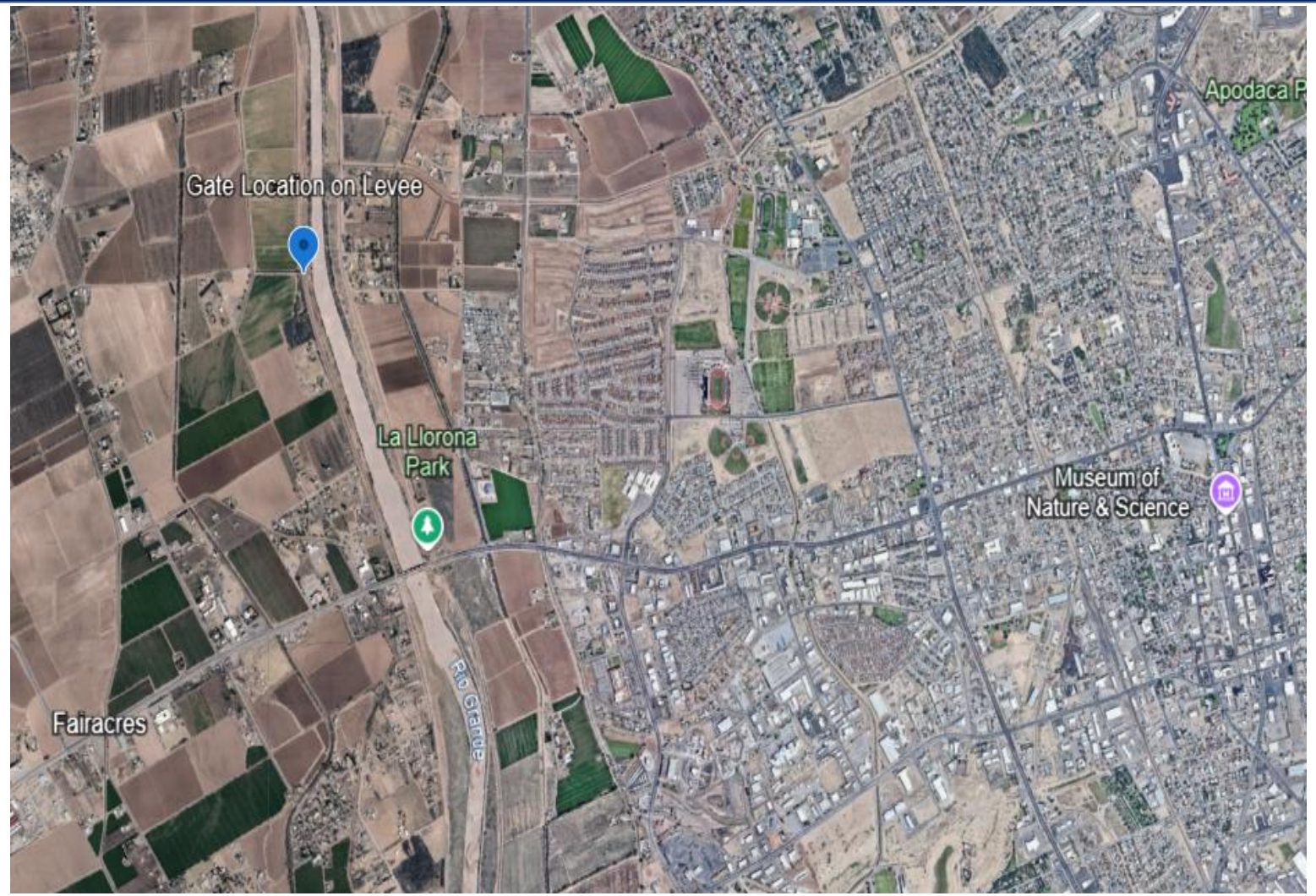
David Duran, Regional Manager

Upper Rio Grande Field Office

Upper Rio Grande Citizens Forum: October 24, 2024

REPAIR OF LEVEE GATE NORTH OF LA LLORONA PARK

Distance from La Llorona Park: 1,472.59 meters (4,831.33 feet), upstream.



IBWC LEVEE SIGN REPAIRS

West levee sign facing resident's front yard:
923.78 meters (3,030.77 feet) North of La Llorona Park

Sign rotated to face Dona Ana County road (Ray Luchini Drive)

Signs aligned to face roadway

IBWC Signs Targeted for Graffiti

Graffiti removed, will purchase replacement sign(s)

WEST LEVEE REPAIRS NORTH OF LA LLORONA PARK

Levee damage from motorized vehicles

Motor grader blading the west levee road slope northbound

West Levee road repair going North

Levee restored

ILLEGAL DUMPING ON FLOOD PLAIN

Residential debris dumped near river bank downstream from La Llorona Park.

Removing residential debris

Tires dumped near river bank downstream from La Llorona Park.

Transporting tires to Las Cruces landfill.

Thank you

NO COST AGREEMENT FOR SEDIMENT REMOVAL

QUESTIONS ?

Sign up for USIBWC Announcements:

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION

UNITED STATES SECTION

Sediment Program Updates

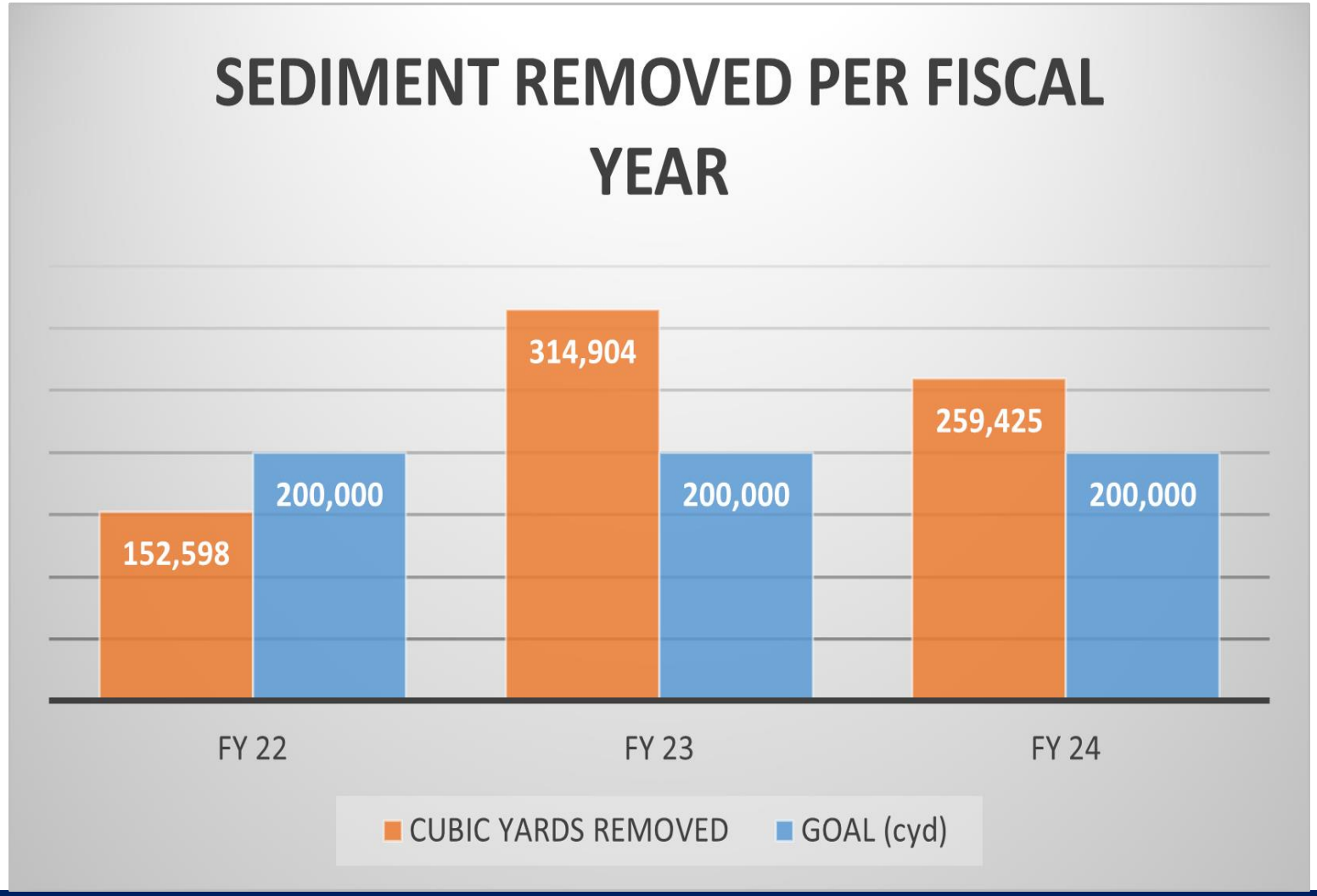
David Duran, Regional Manager

Upper Rio Grande Field Office

Upper Rio Grande Citizens Forum: October 24, 2024

FLOOD CONTROL RESPONSIBILITIES

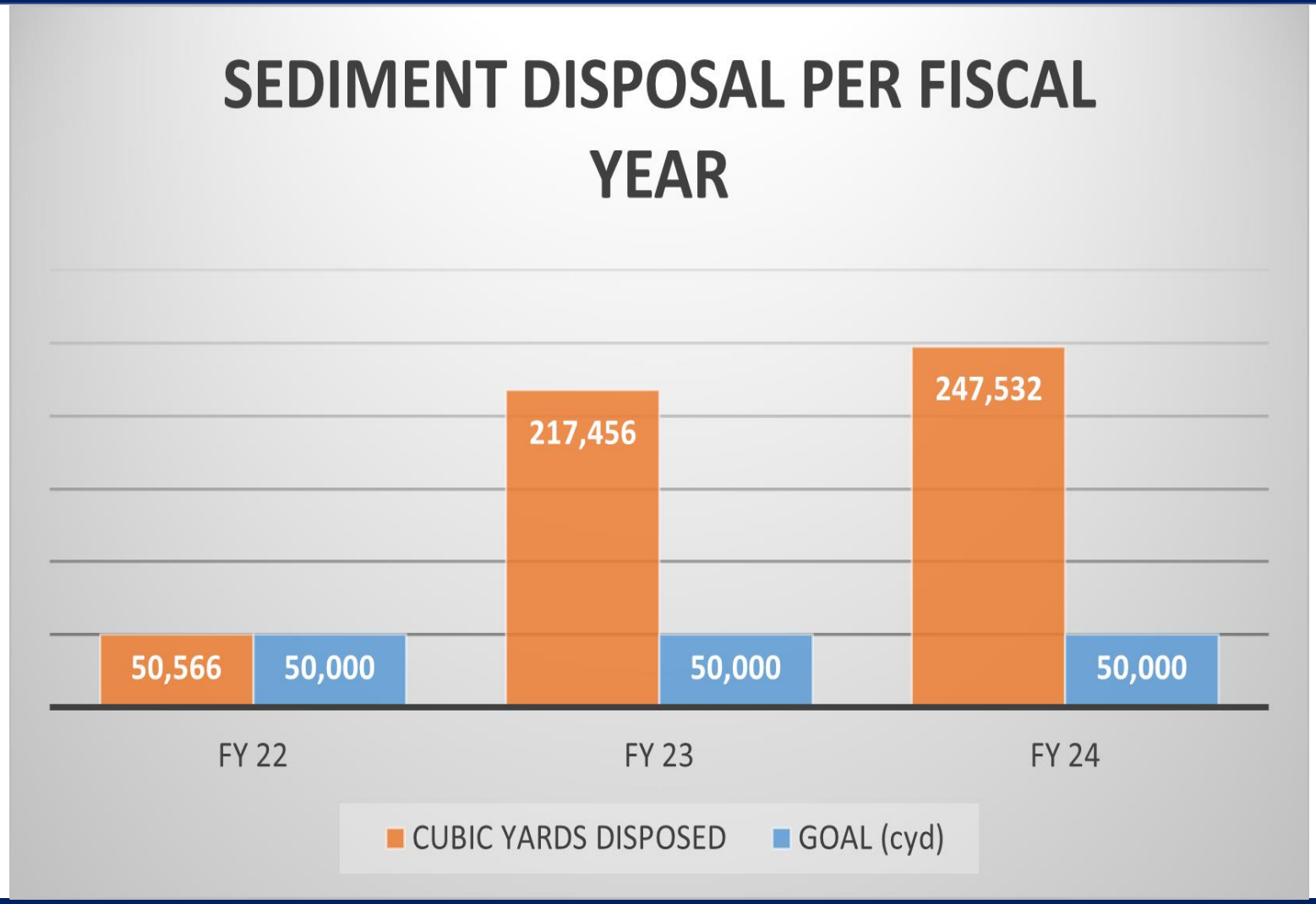
- Inspect and maintain approx. 220 miles of river and levees from below Percha Dam to Little Box Canyon
- Maintain approx. 4,500 acres of river floodplains
- Maintain approx. 18.5 miles of Canals
- Inspect and maintain 210 drainage and irrigation structures
- Inspect and maintain 5 major sediment control dams.
- Operate and maintain 2 major diversion dams- American and International.
- Inspect, monitor & maintain 5 flow gaging stations throughout the entire project.
- Manage a sediment disposal program available free of charge to residents and stake holders

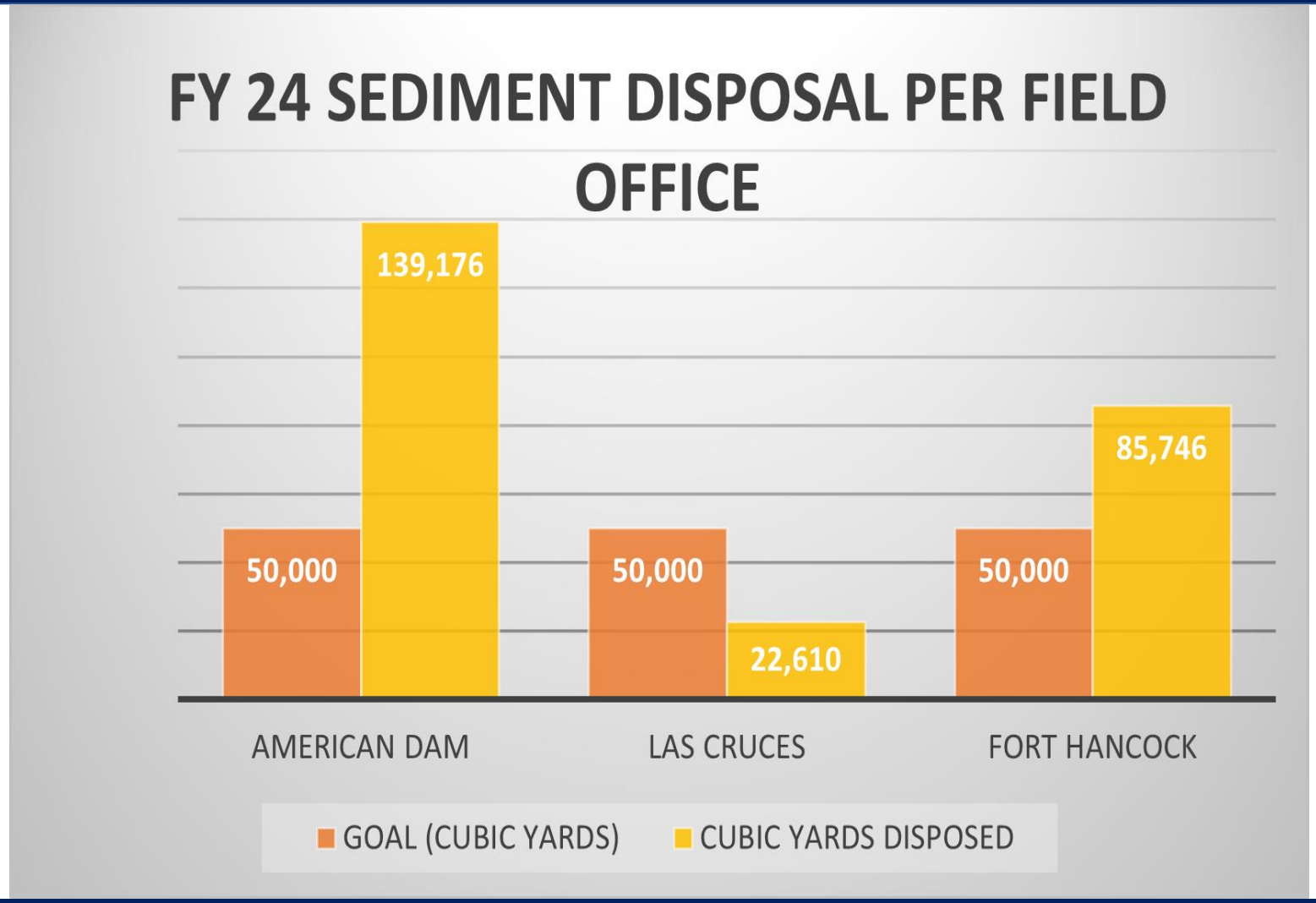

SEDIMENT REMOVED PER FISCAL YEAR
152,598
200,000
314,904
200,000
259,425
200,000
FY 22
FY 23
FY 24
CUBIC YARDS REMOVED
GOAL (cyd)


VOLVO


CAT

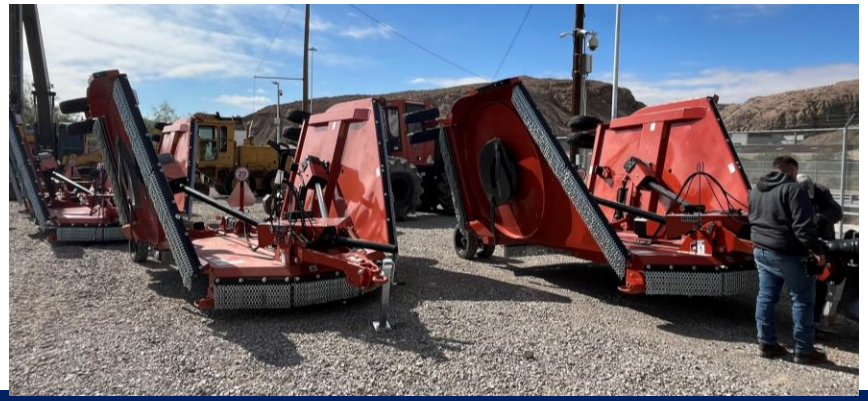

CAT


SEDIMENT DISPOSAL PER FISCAL YEAR
50,566
50,000
217,456
50,000
247,532
50,000
FY 22
FY 23
FY 24
CUBIC YARDS DISPOSED
GOAL (cyd)


FY 24 SEDIMENT DISPOSAL PER FIELD OFFICE
139,176
50,000
50,000
22,610
50,000
85,746
AMERICAN DAM
LAS CRUCES
FORT HANCOCK
GOAL (CUBIC YARDS)
CUBIC YARDS DISPOSED

How was this accomplished?

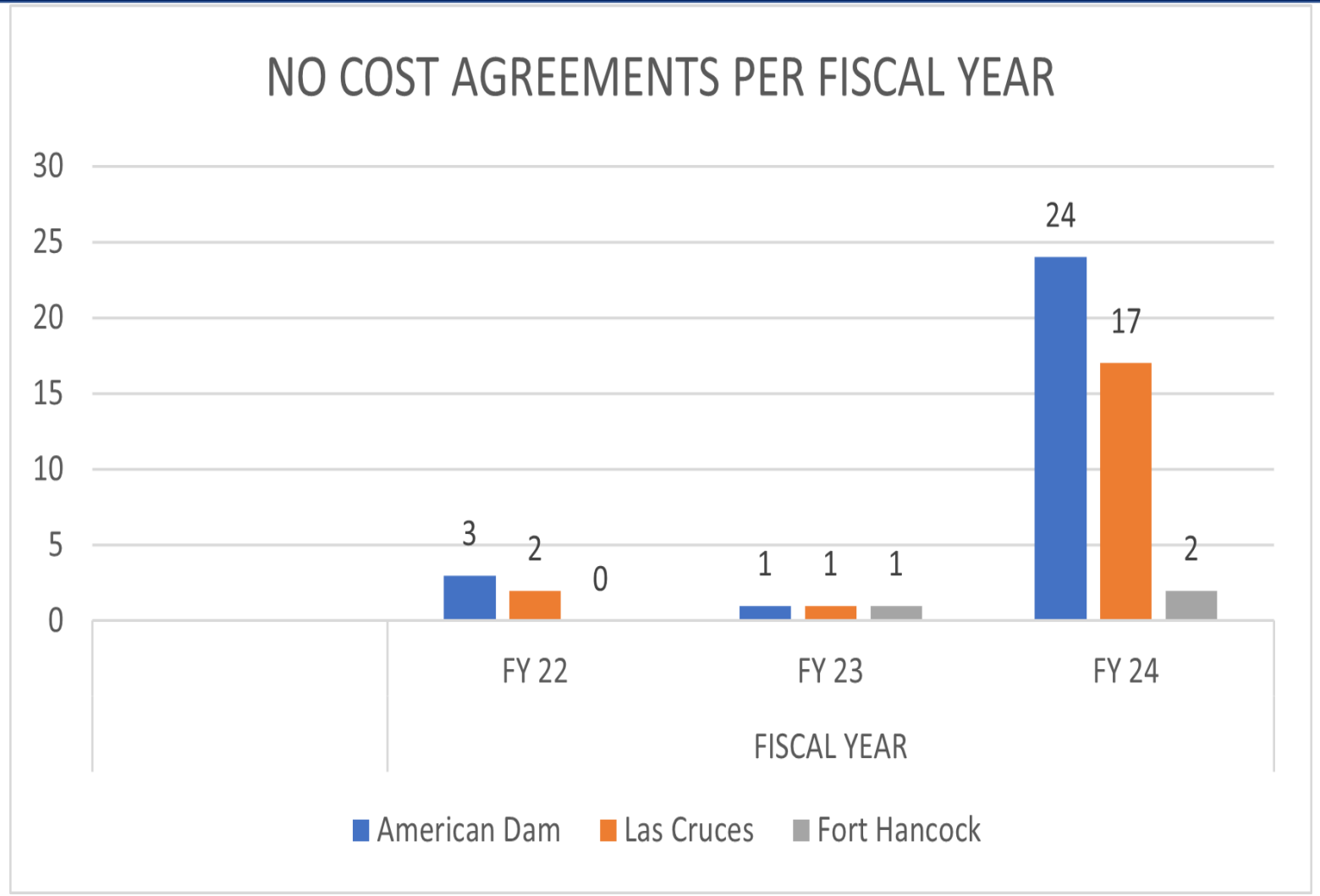

A40G
VOLVO




CAT
621

Sediment Disposal Program

- Pre-existing program required a wet signature from prospective customers.
- New program incorporates technology making it more efficient for potential customers. Also, our record keeping.
- Signs, decals, social media, this forum!


NO COST AGREEMENTS PER FISCAL YEAR
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
3
2
0
1
1
1
24
17
2
FY 22
FY 23
FY 24
FISCAL YEAR
American Dam
Las Cruces
Fort Hancock

Thank you

NO COST AGREEMENT FOR SEDIMENT REMOVAL

QUESTIONS ?

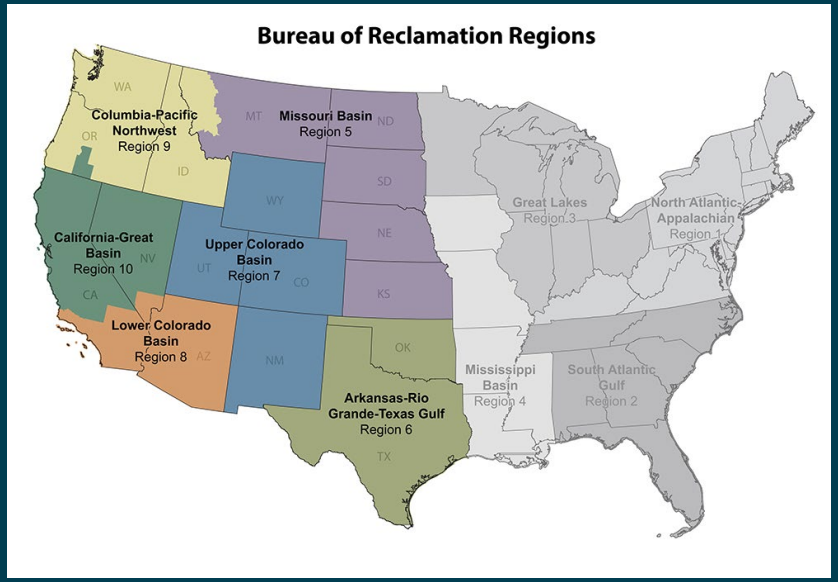
Sign up for USIBWC Announcements:


BUREAU OF
RECLAMATION
Rio Grande Citizens Forum Meeting
2024 Rio Grande Project Irrigation Season Summary & 2025 Expectations
October 24, 2024

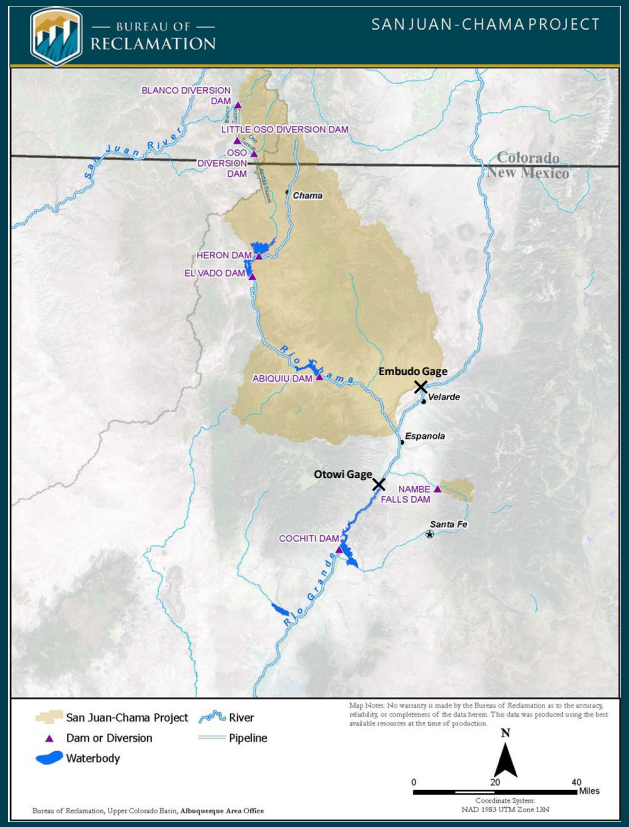
Background

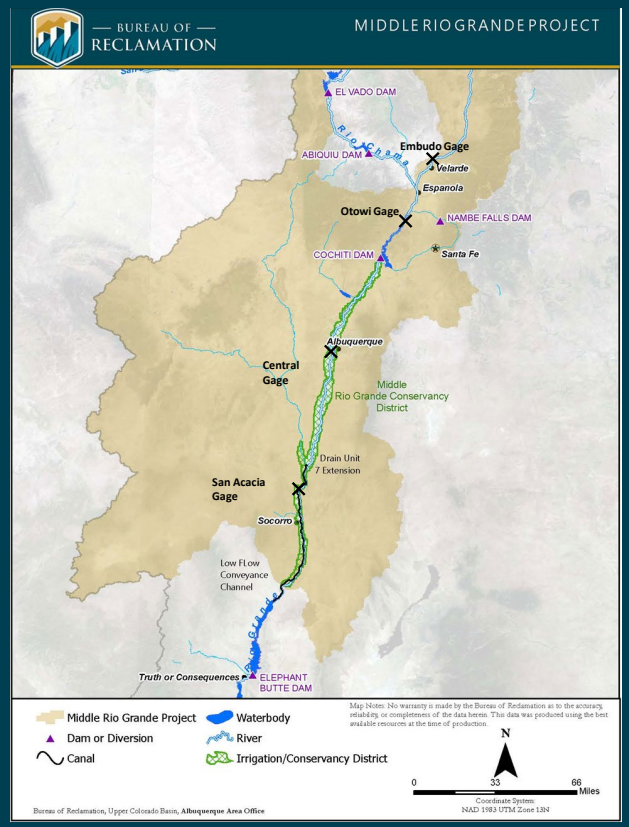
Department of Interior - Bureau of Reclamation

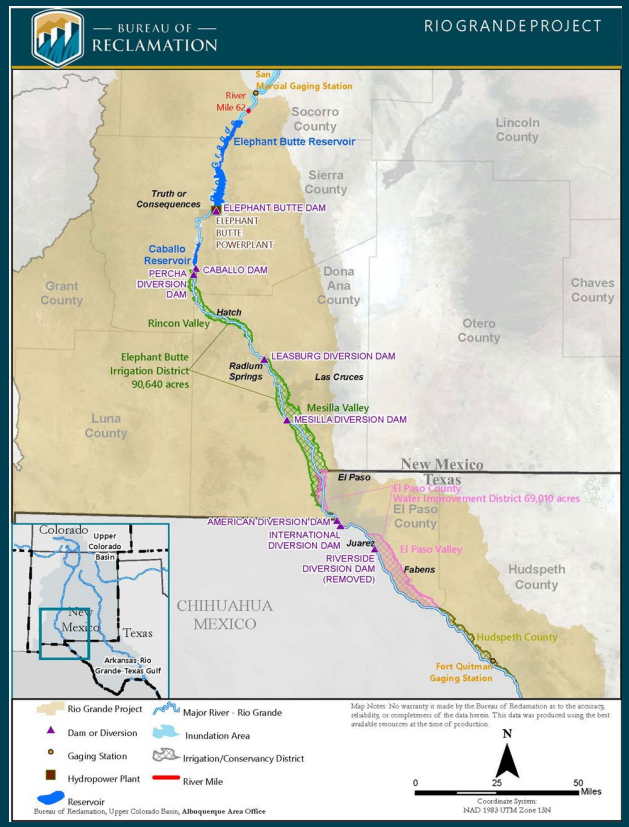
- Established 1902
- Known for the dams, powerplants, and canals it constructed in the 17 western states (Hoover Dam).
- Promote the economic development of the West.
- Largest wholesaler of water in the country.
- Bring water to more than 31 million people, and provide one out of five Western farmers (140,000) with irrigation water for 10 million acres of farmland that produce 60% of the nation's vegetables and 25% of its fruits and nuts.



Maps of San Juan-Chama Project, Middle Rio Grande Project, and Rio Grande Project

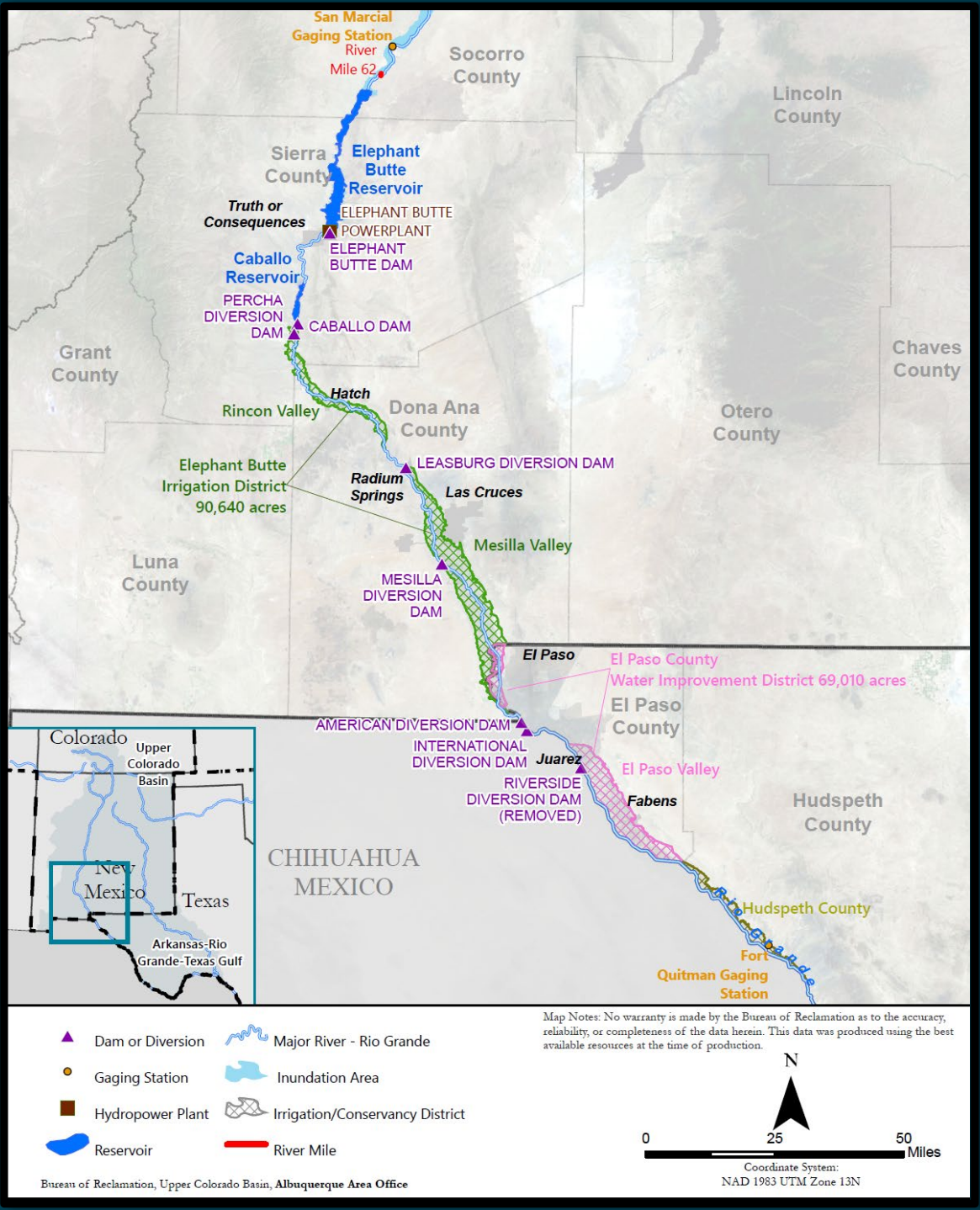






Dam Information

Dam	Agency Owner/Operator		Purposes				
	Reclamation	USACE	Rio Grande Water Supply	San Juan-Chama Water Supply	Recreation	Flood Control	Sediment Control
Heron	✓			✓	✓		
El Vado	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Abiquiu		✓	✓*	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cochiti		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Jemez		✓				✓	✓
Elephant Butte	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Caballo	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓



RIO GRANDE PROJECT

Rio Grande Project Overview:

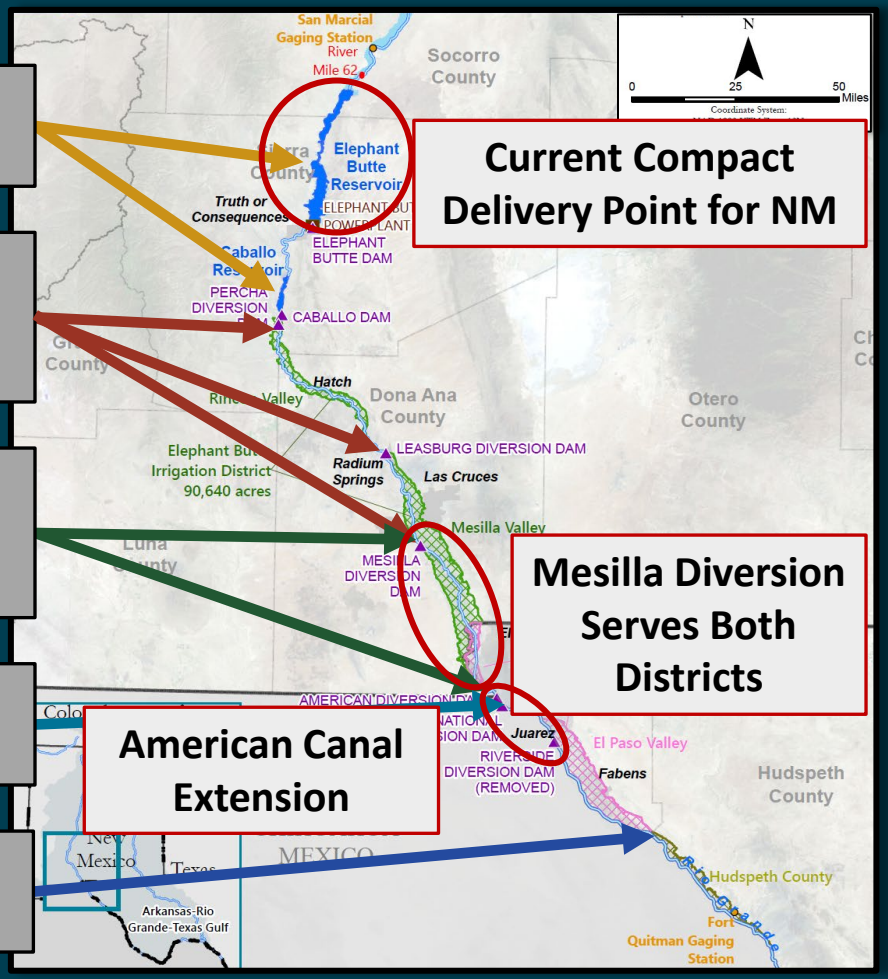
Project Storage
– Approx. 2,350,000 AF –

EBID (NM)
– 90,640 Acres –
– Three Diversion Points –

EPCWID (TX)
– 69,010 Acres –
– Two Diversion Points –

Mexico
– One Diversion Point –

HCCRD (TX)
– Waste / Tailwater Only –

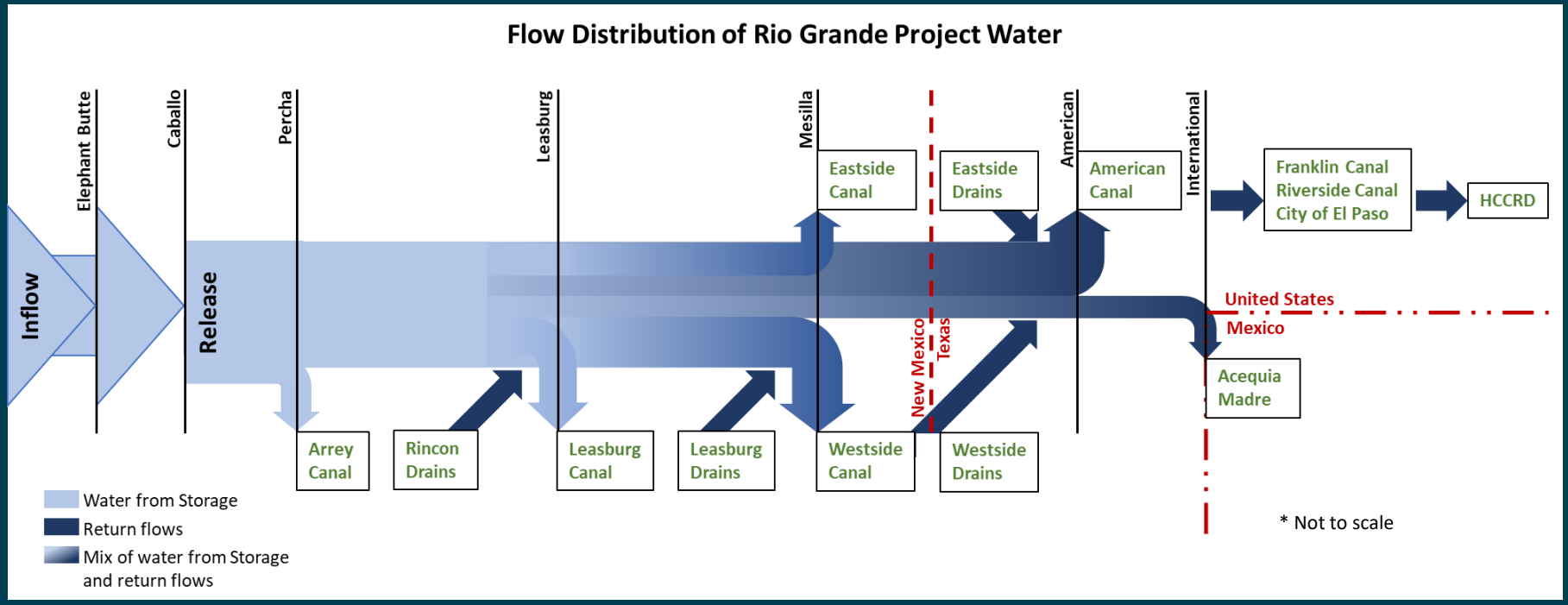


Current Compact Delivery Point for NM

Mesilla Diversion Serves Both Districts

American Canal Extension

Water Schematic:



Three Main Rio Grande Water Sharing Documents

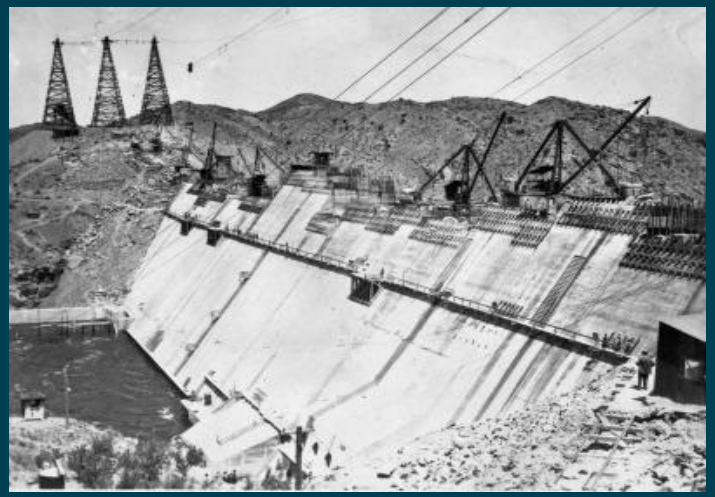
- 1906 Treaty – Distribution of the waters of the Rio Grande between the United States and Mexico above Fort Quitman, Texas to the El Paso-Juárez Valley.

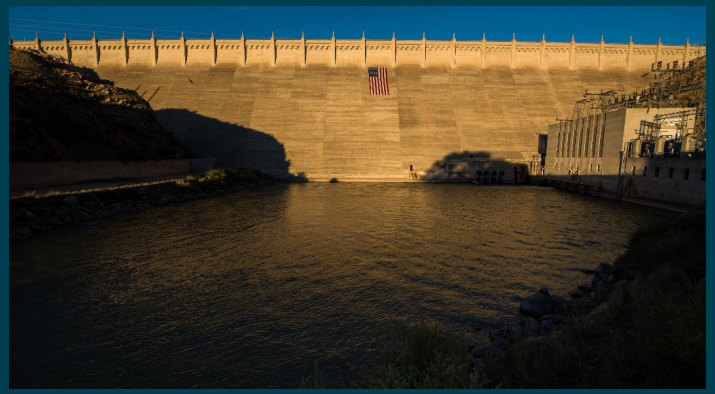
- Rio Grande Compact of 1938 - Determines the distribution of waters between the states of Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas above Ft. Quitman.

- Rio Grande Project Operating Agreement of 2008 (OA) - between Reclamation, Elephant Butte Irrigation District (EBID – NM), and El Paso County Water Improvement District #1 (EP1 – TX)

Project Objectives:

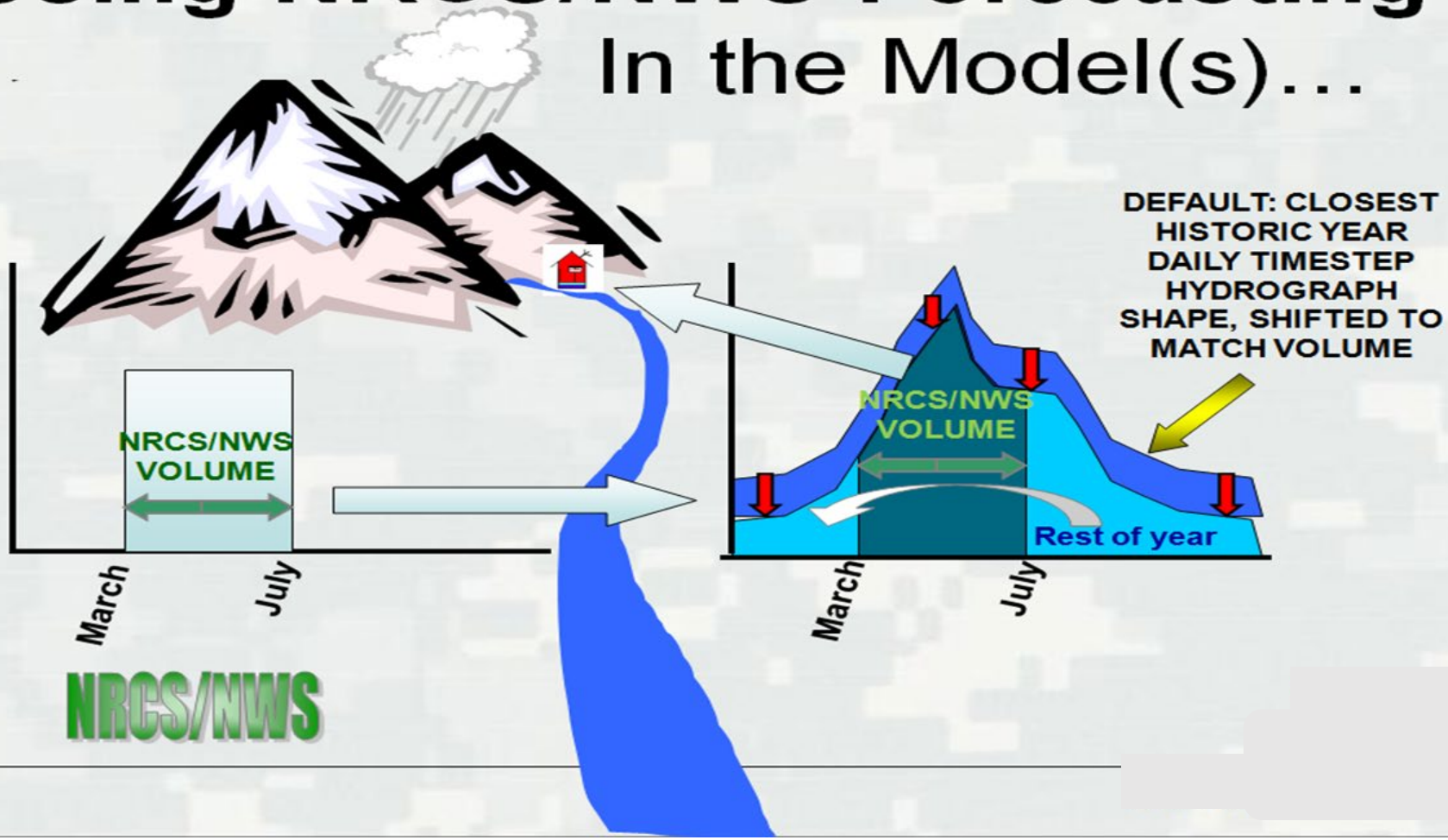
- Water Supply Operations
  - Storage
  - Allocation
  - Release
  - Delivery
  - Water Accounting
- Hydropower
- Flood Control



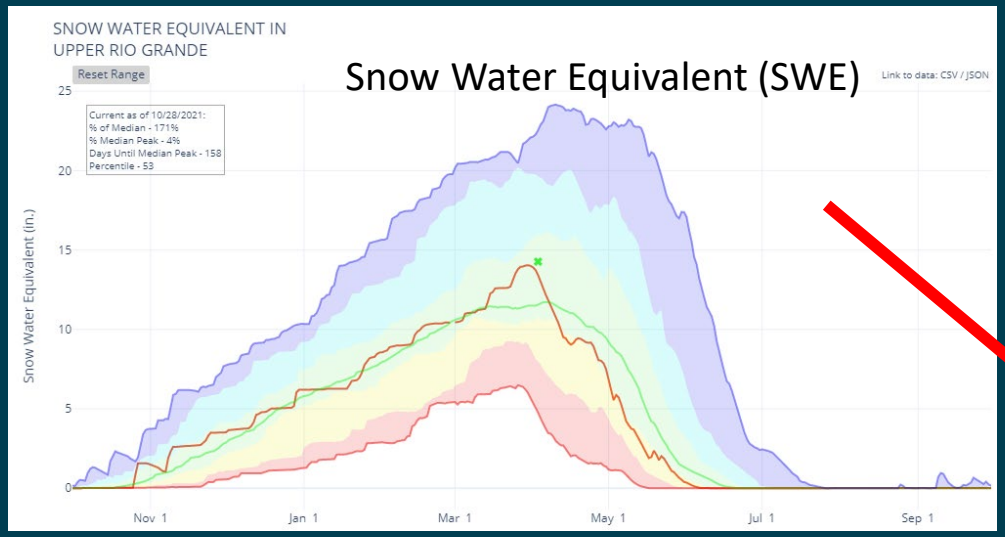


2024 April Annual Operating Plan

Using NRCS/NWS Forecasting In the Model(s)…

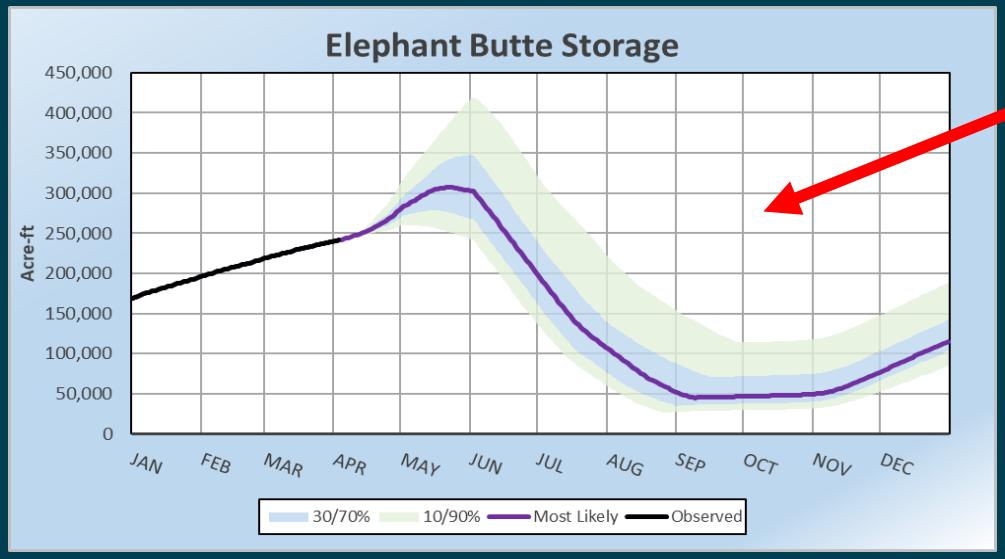


Forecasting Reservoir Operations



Snow Water Equivalent (SWE)

NRCS Streamflow Forecast from SWE

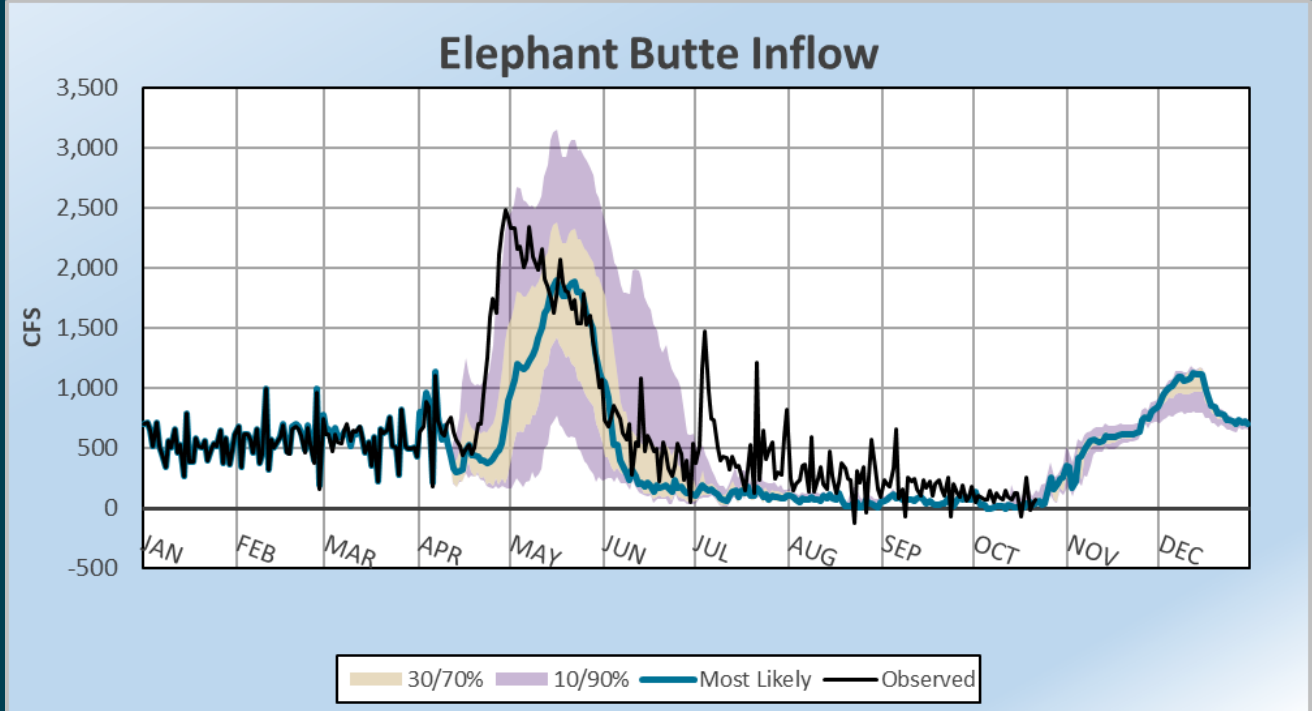


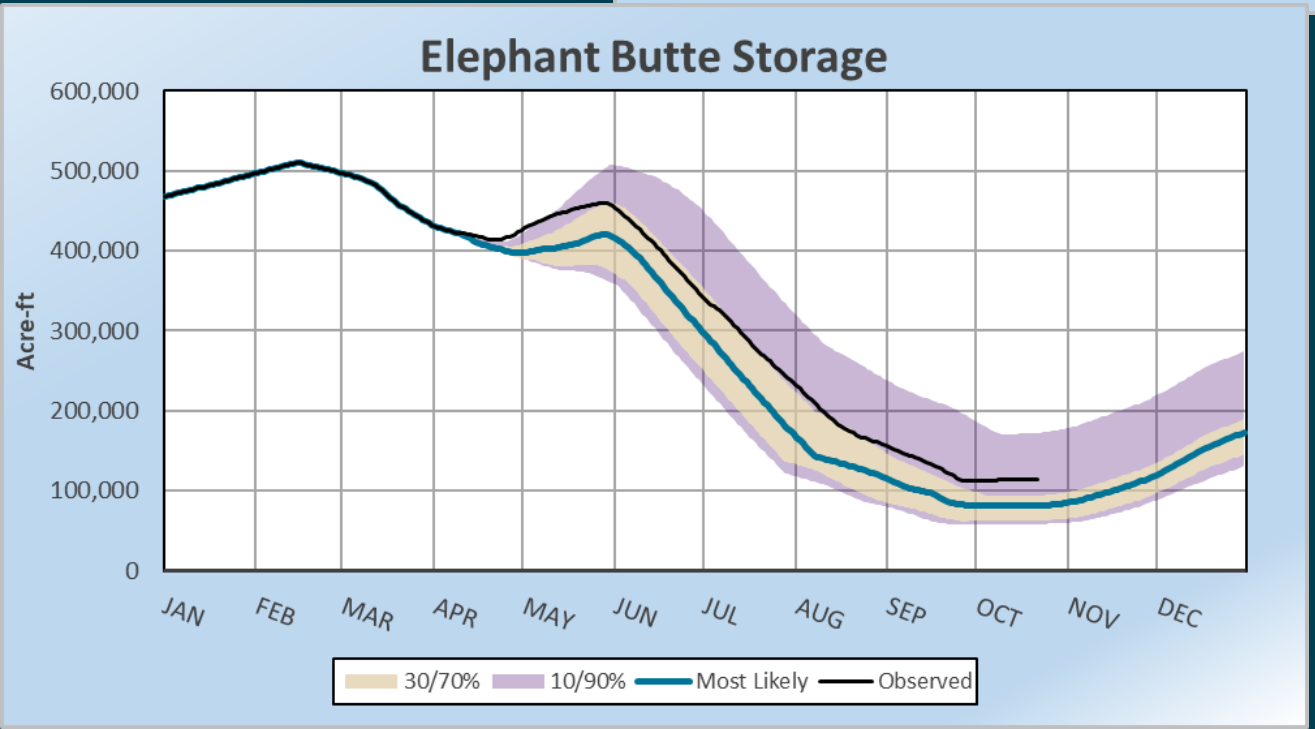
This combination results in a high probability for well below average runoff across much of the basin.

Location	period	50%, KAF	% of avg	70%, KAF	95%, KAF
Rio Grande nr Lobatos Obs	Apr - Jul	55	28	42	27
	May - Jul	35	21	26	15.4
El Vado Reservoir Inflow	Mar - Jul	113	50	105	93
	Apr - Jul	107	52	96	82
	May - Jul	70	46	62	50
Rio Grande at Otowi	Mar - Jul	315	44	280	235
	May - Jul	205	42	170	127
Rio Grande at San Marcial	Mar - Jul	104	20	48	-34
	May - Jul	54	16	-1.75	-84
Rio Blanco at Blanco Diversion	Apr - Jul	34	63	31	26
	May - Jul	26	58	23	18.8
Navajo R at Oso Diversion	Apr - Jul	40	62	36	31
	May - Jul	31	57	28	23
Santa Rosa Lake inflow	Mar - Jul	15.1	26	12.2	8.9
	May - Jul	9.5	21	6.6	3.3

2024 Elephant Butte Projections

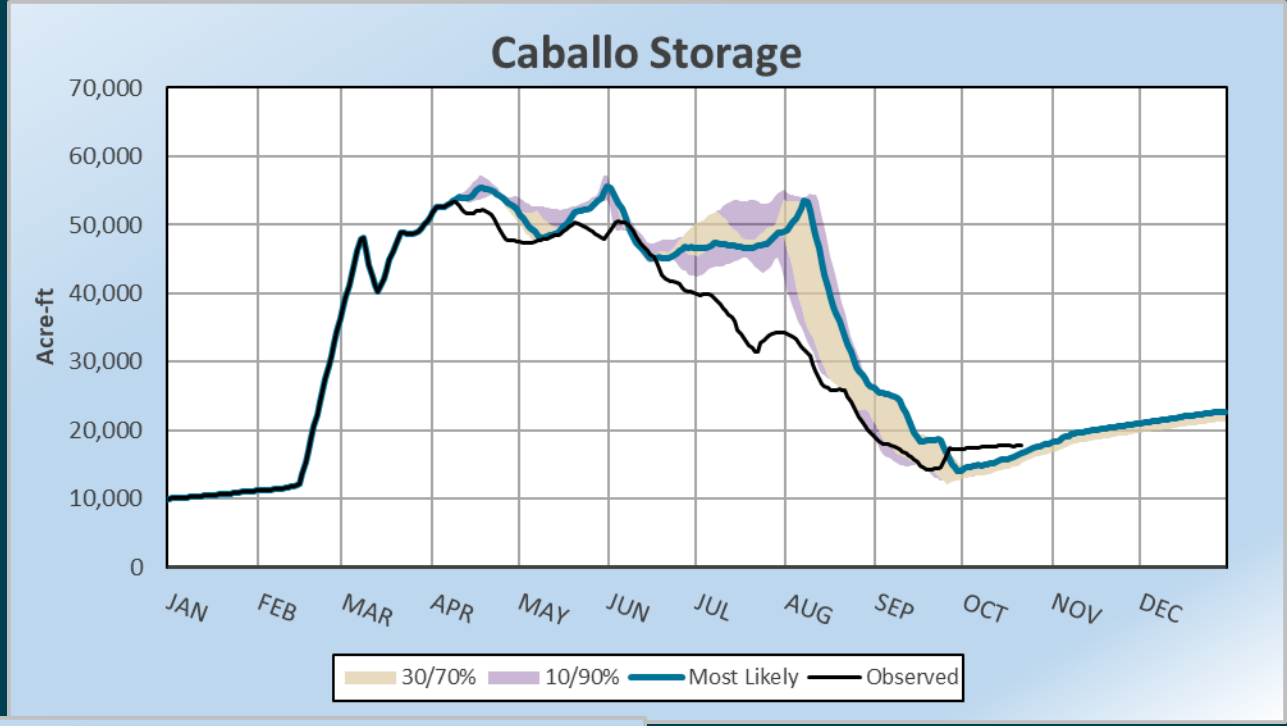
(Provisional)

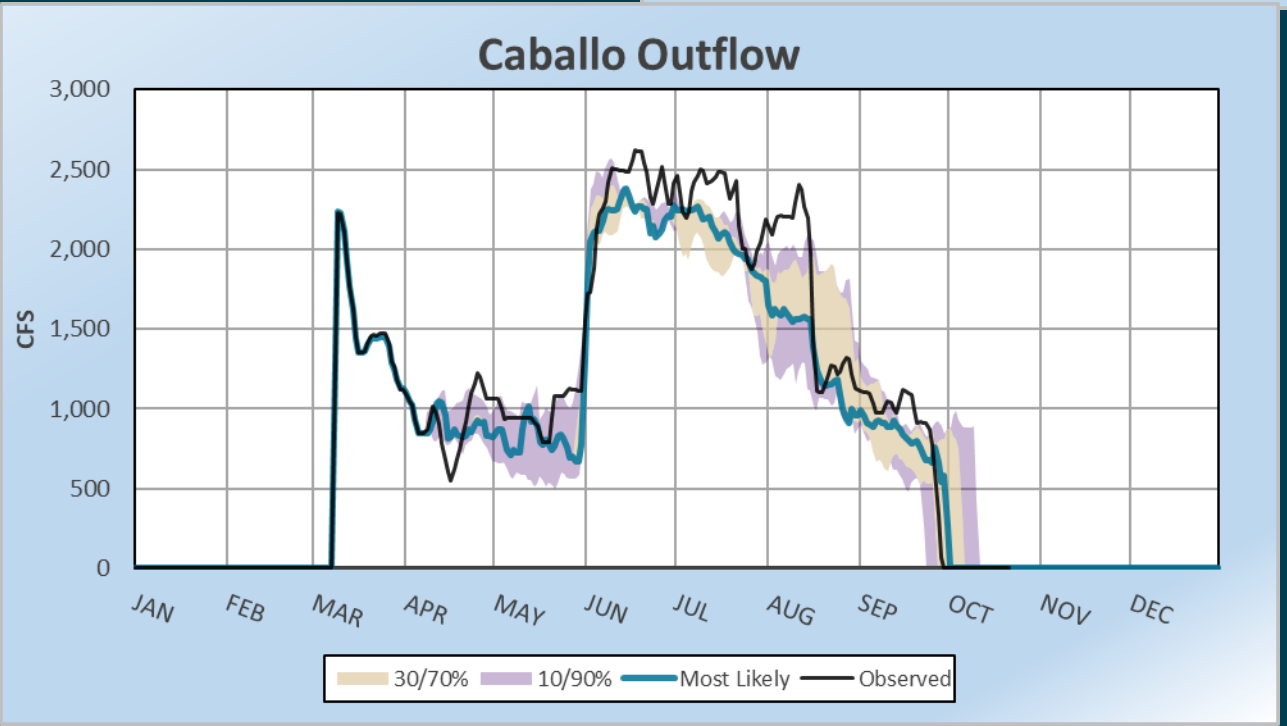




2024 Caballo Reservoir Projections

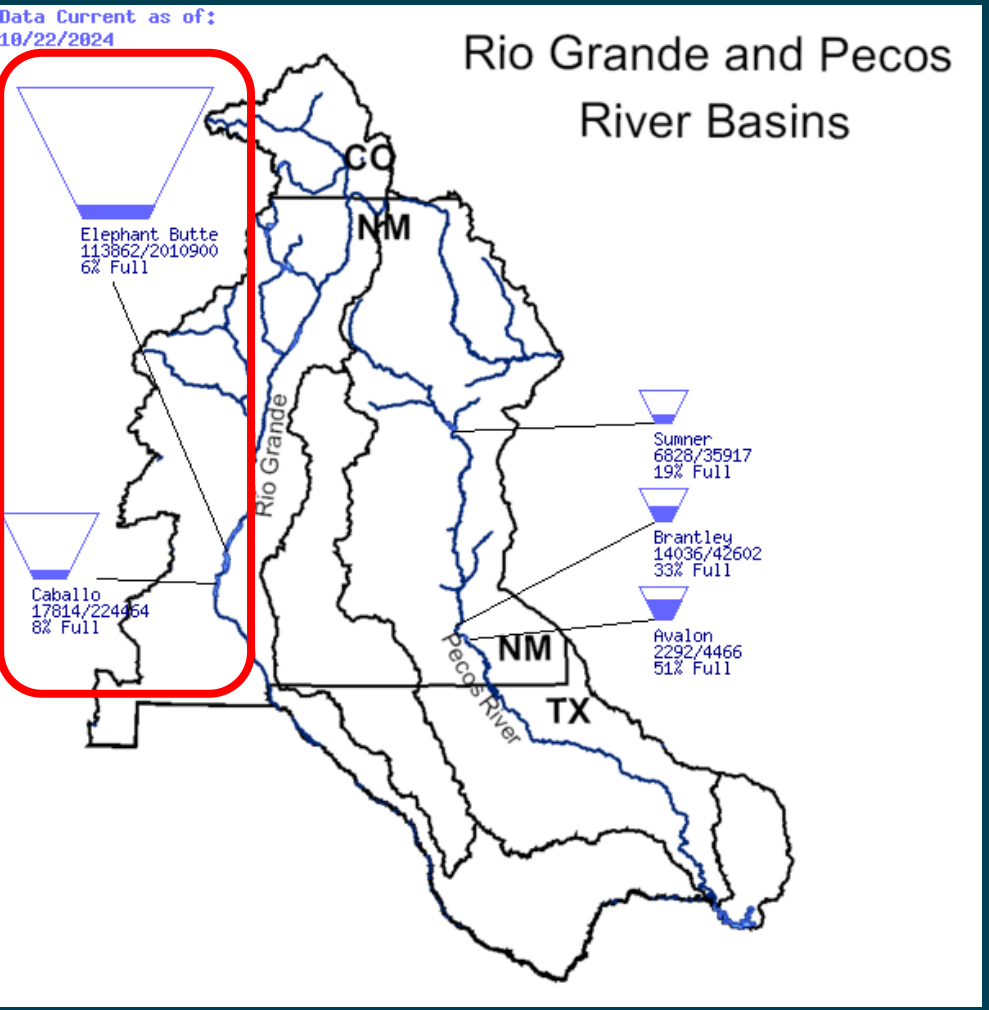
(Provisional)





Water Supply

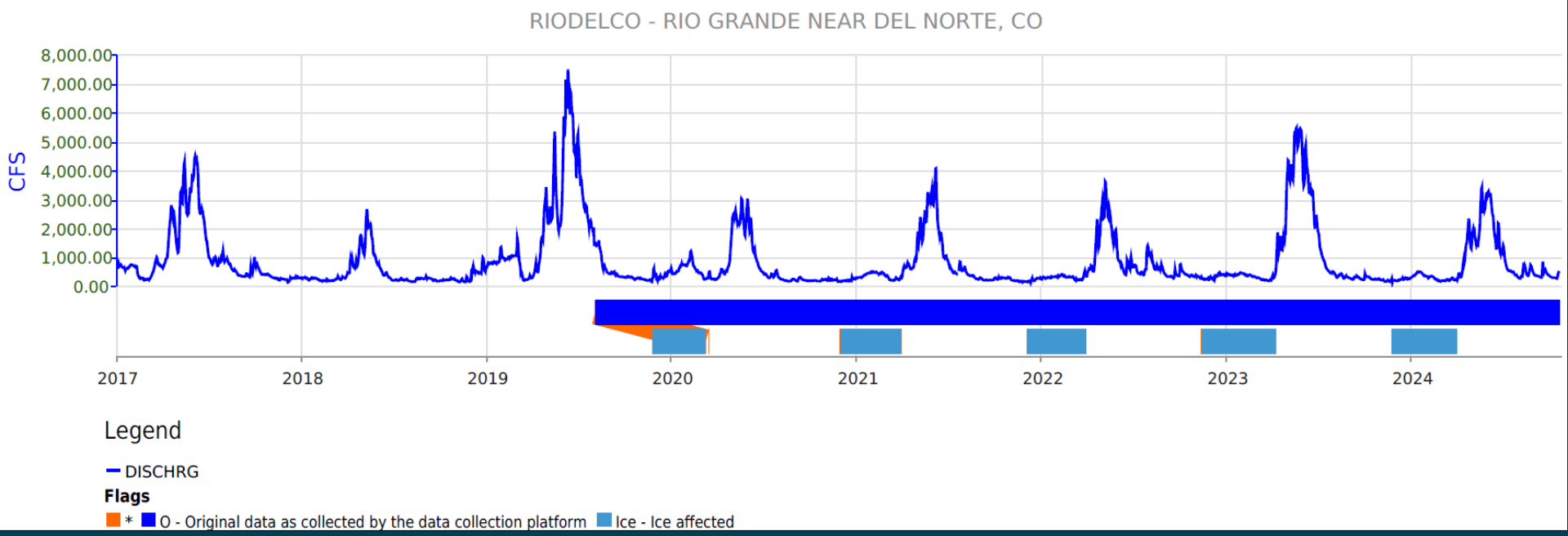
Current Project Storage Conditions



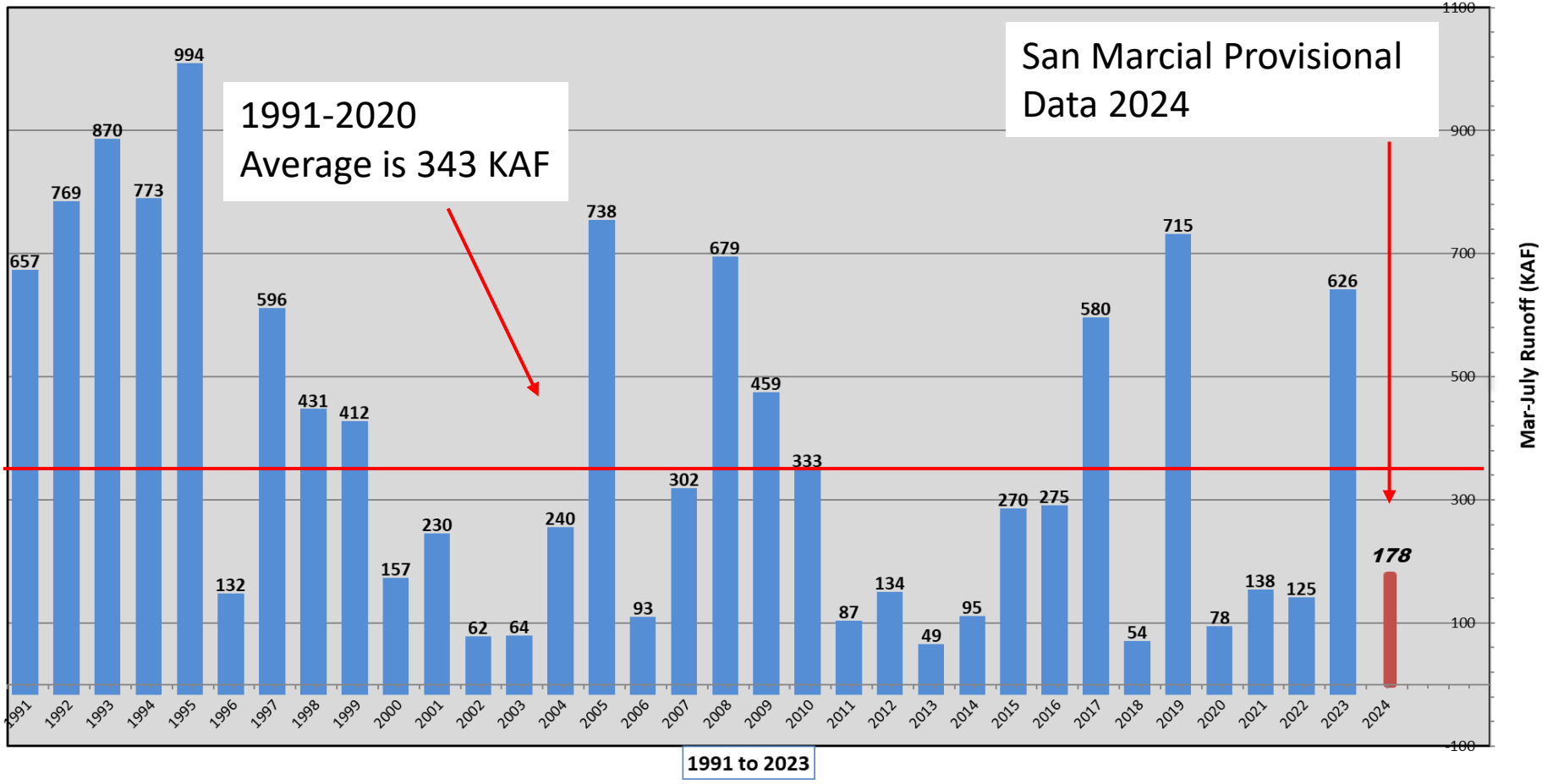
As of 10/22/2024	2024 STORAGE		2023 STORAGE	
	Acre-ft	**TCM**	Acre-ft	TCM
Elephant Butte Reservoir	**113,862**	**140,447**	335,036	413,262
Caballo Reservoir	**17,814**	**21,973**	6,501	8,019
Total Rio Grande Project Storage	**131,676**	**162,421**	341,537	421,281
Rio Grande Compact Credit Water	**0**	**0**	162	200
San Juan - Chama Water	**4,624**	**5,704**	0	0
RGP Usable Water	**127,052**	**156,717**	341,375	421,082

https://www.usbr.gov/uc/water/basin/

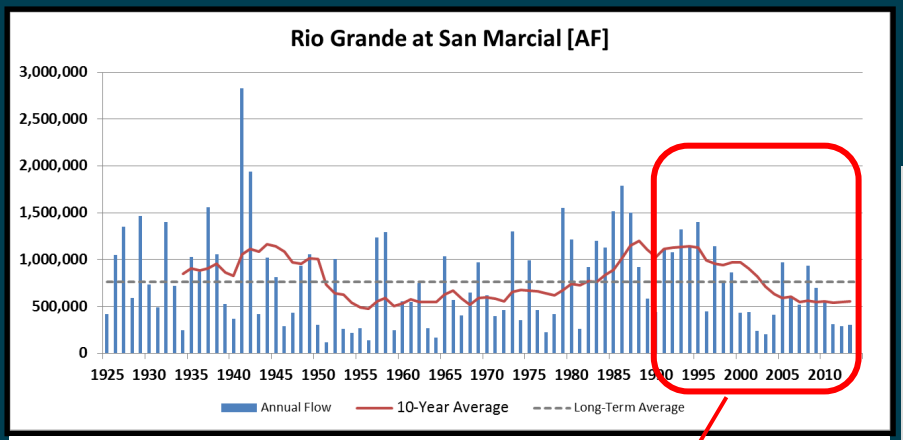
Rio Grande Flows at Headwaters 2017-2024

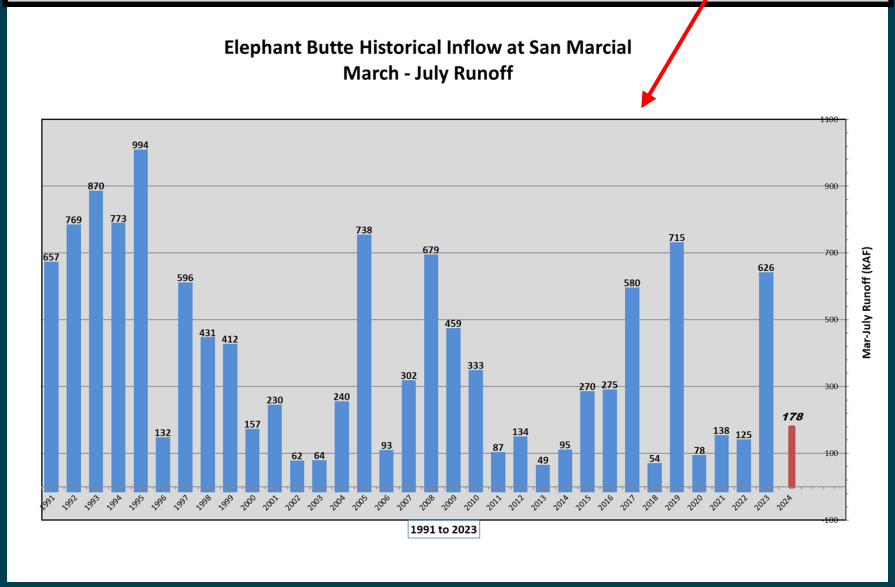


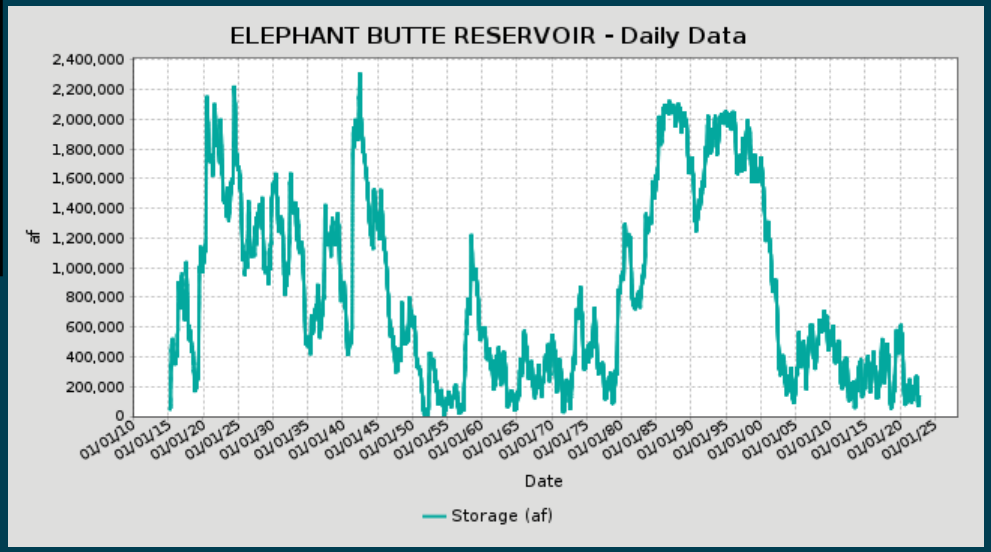
Elephant Butte Historical Inflow at San Marcial
March - July Runoff

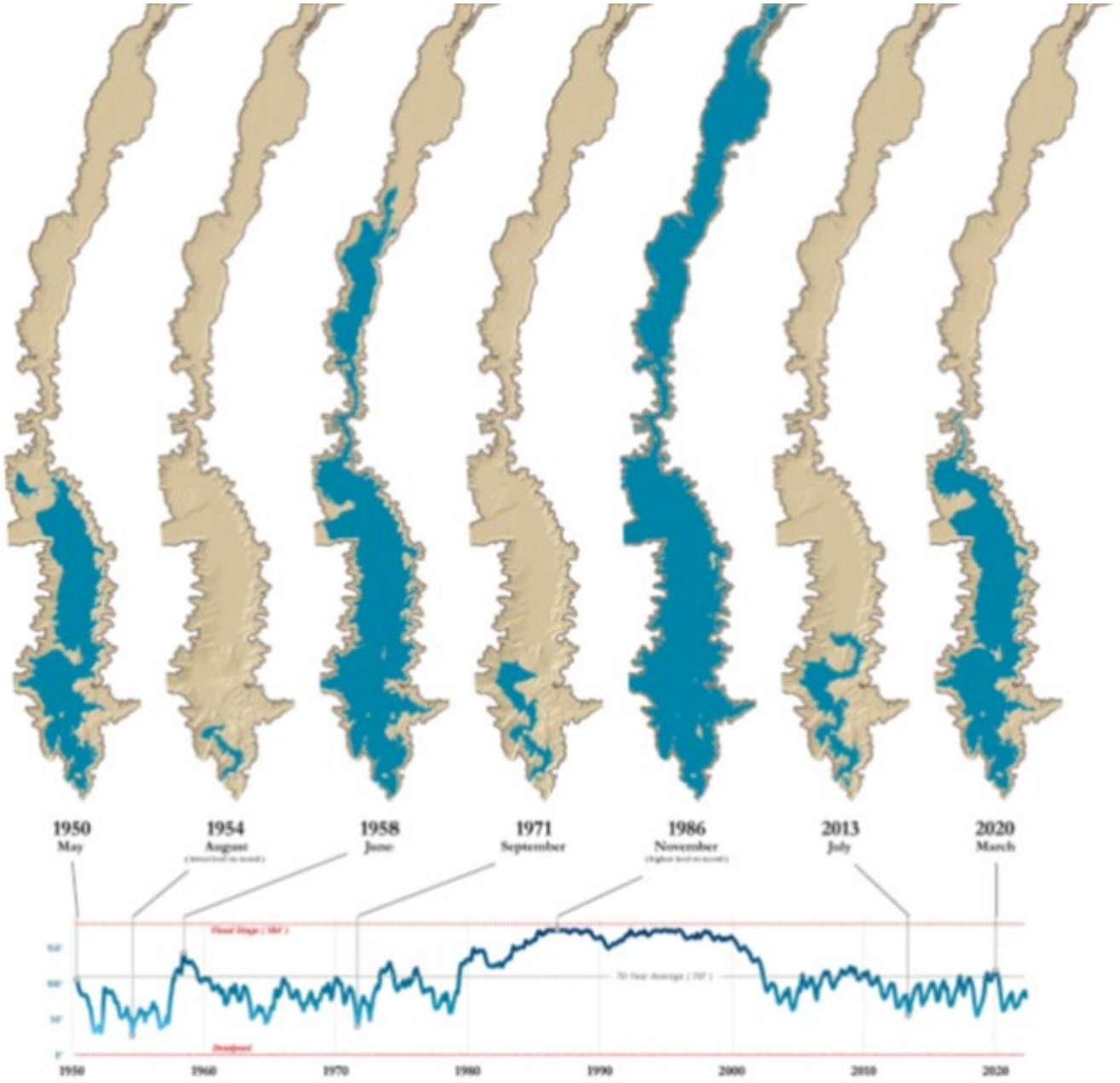


Water Supply Fluctuations









70 Years of Reservoir-Level Fluctuation

2024 Rio Grande Project Operations

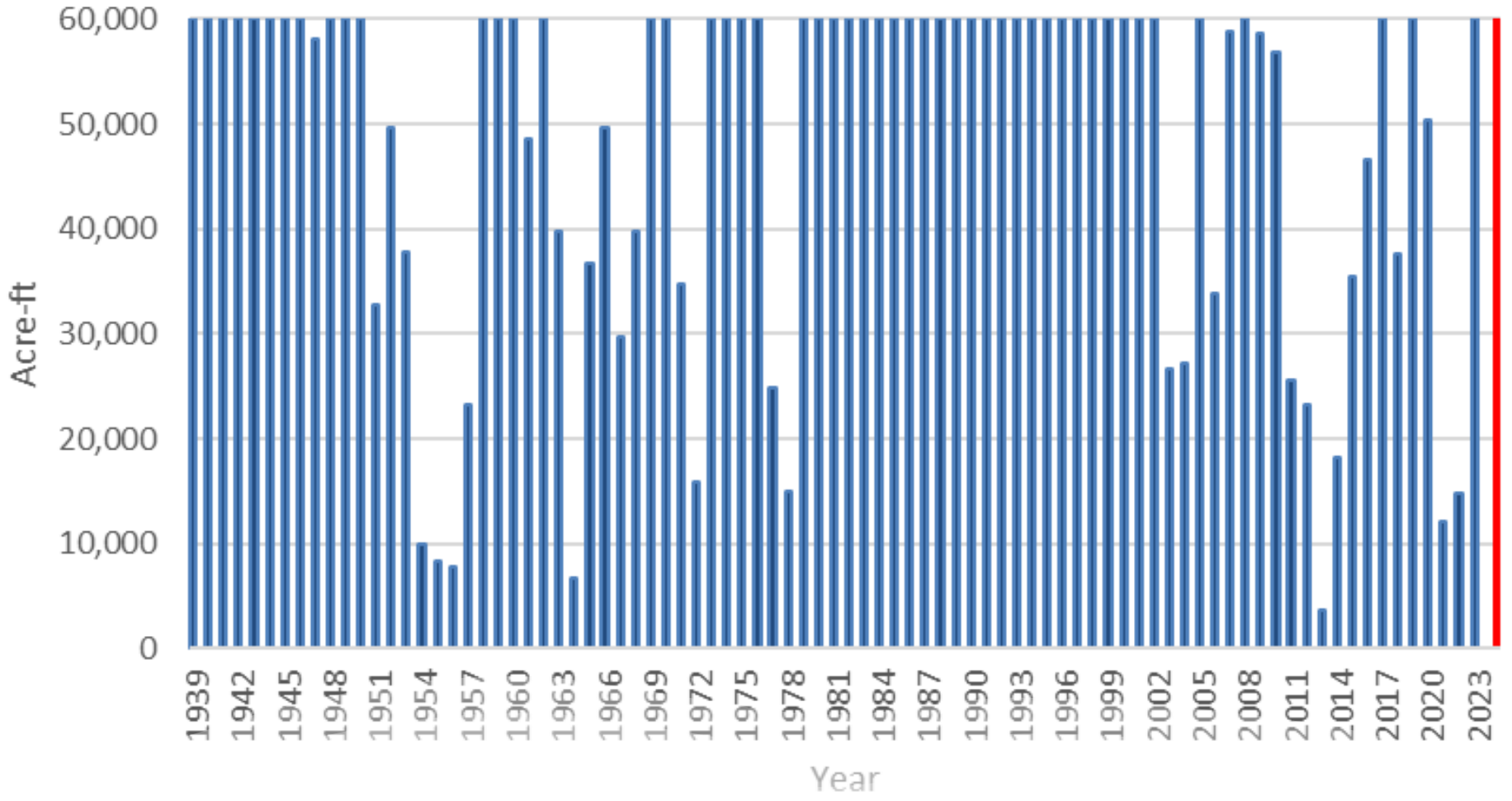
MAY 12, 2024	ALLOCATION	
	Acre-ft	TCM
EBID	174,785	215,595
EP1	283,891	350,176
Mexico	60,000	74,009

May 12 allocation

- Total – 518,676 acre-ft (639,780 TCM)
- Full allocation for Mexico

Irrigation season

- Releases started on March 8 for EP1 and Mexico
- EBID started May 31 and ended August 16
- Mexico ended September 20
- EP1 ended on September 28


Mexico Allocations
60,000
50,000
40,000
30,000
20,000
10,000
0
Acre-ft
1939
1942
1945
1948
1951
1954
1957
1960
1963
1966
1969
1972
1975
1978
1981
1984
1987
1990
1993
1996
1999
2002
2005
2008
2011
2014
2017
2020
2023
Year

Climate Discussion

EL NIÑO/SOUTHERN OSCILLATION (ENSO)

DIAGNOSTIC DISCUSSION

October 10, 2024

ENSO Alert System Status: La Niña Watch

Synopsis: La Niña is favored to emerge in September-November (60% chance) and is expected to persist through January-March 2025.

- **Below-average subsurface temperatures persisted across the east-central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean.**
- **Model forecasts predict a weak and a short duration La Niña. A weaker La Niña implies that it would be less likely to result in conventional winter impacts, though predictable signals could still influence the forecast guidance.**

Ocean Temperatures

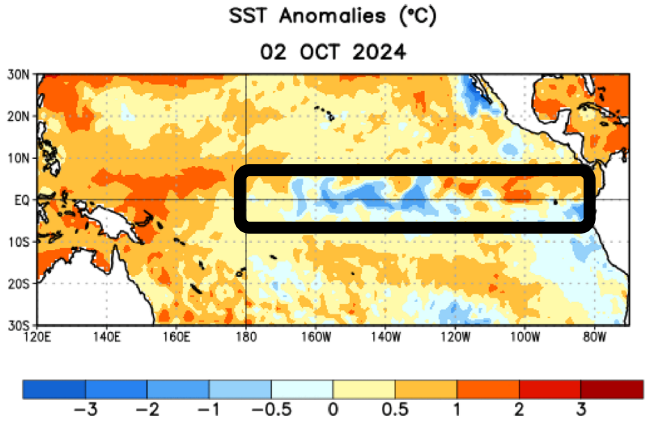
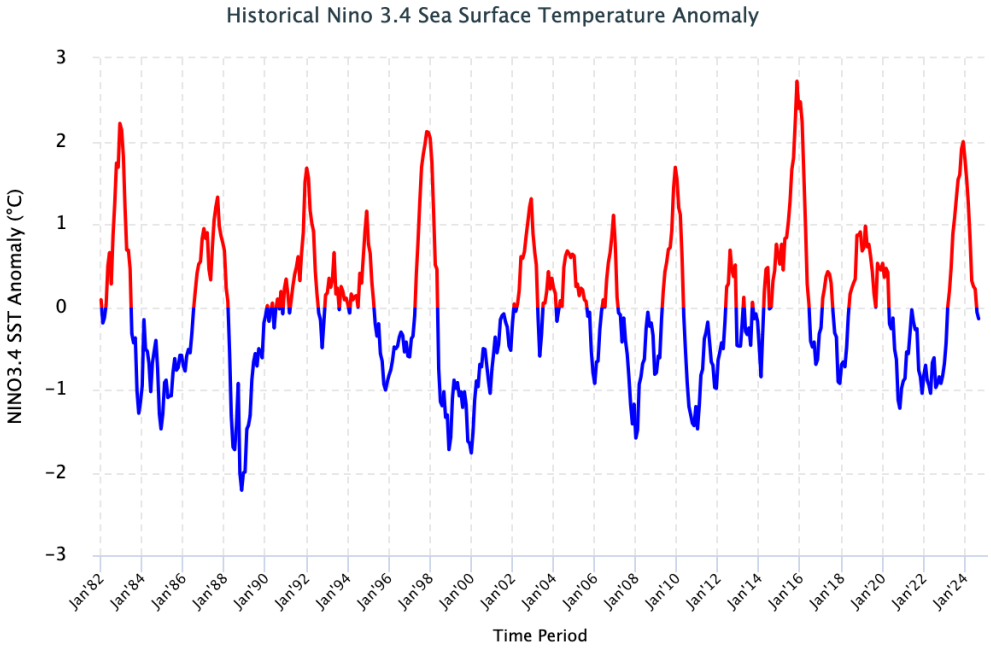
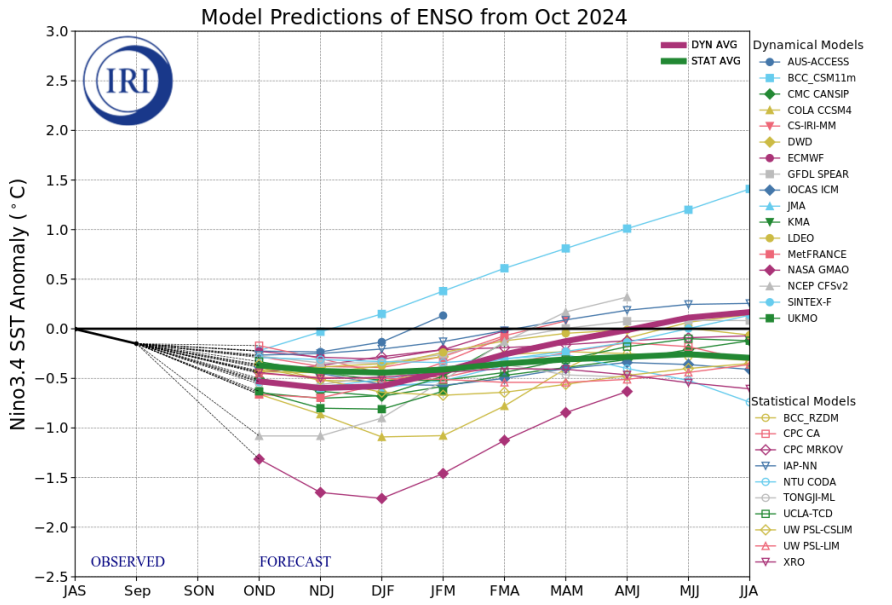
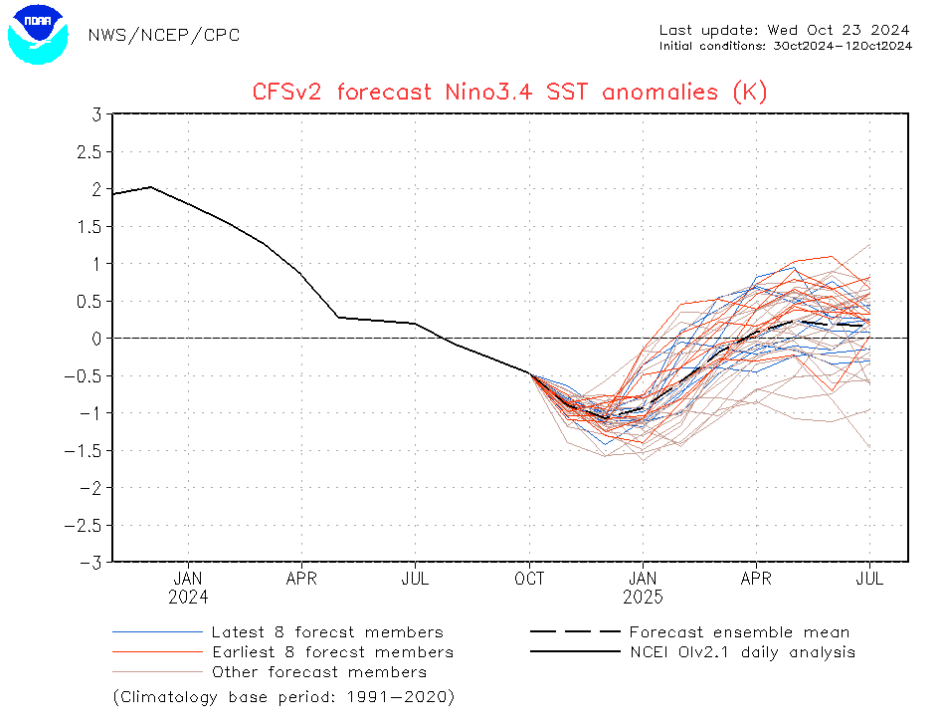


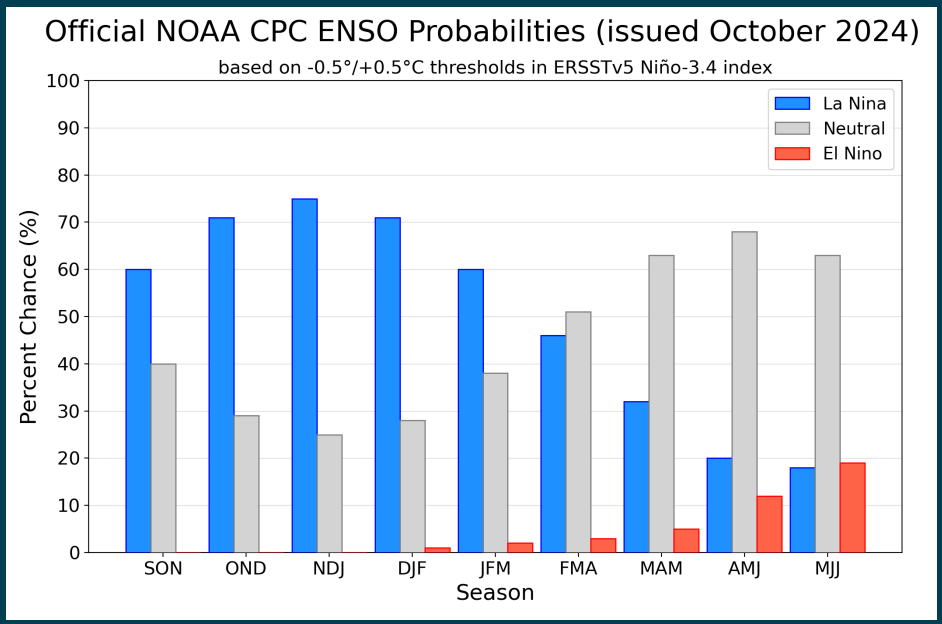
Figure 1. Average sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies (°C) for the week centered on 2 October 2024. Anomalies are computed with respect to the 1991-2020 base period weekly means. Data credit: UKMet OSTIA.



Climate Model Forecasts

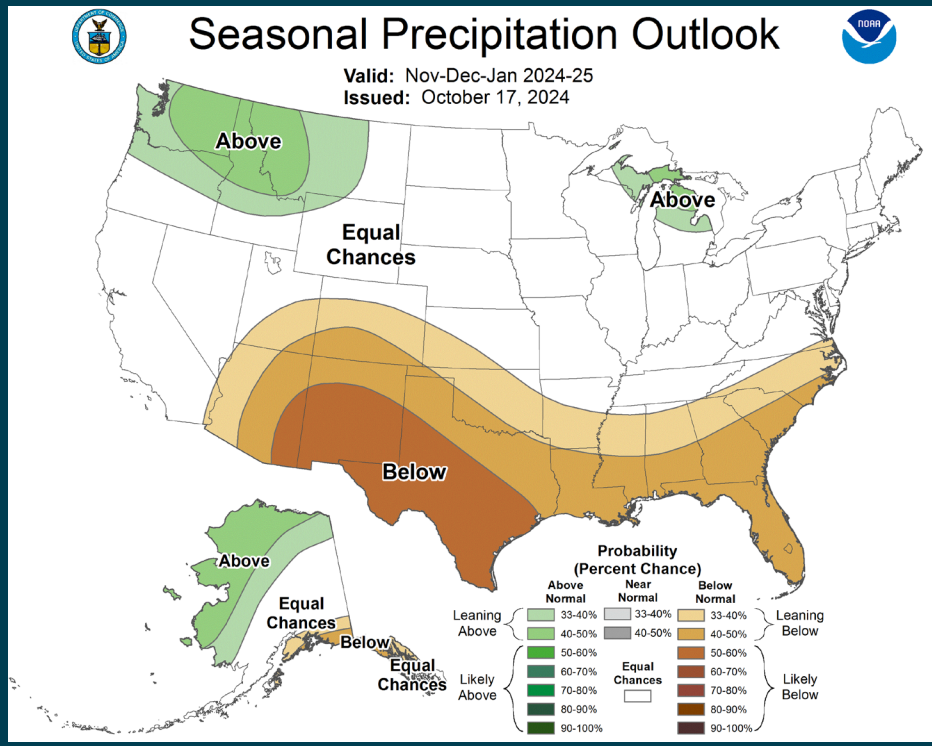




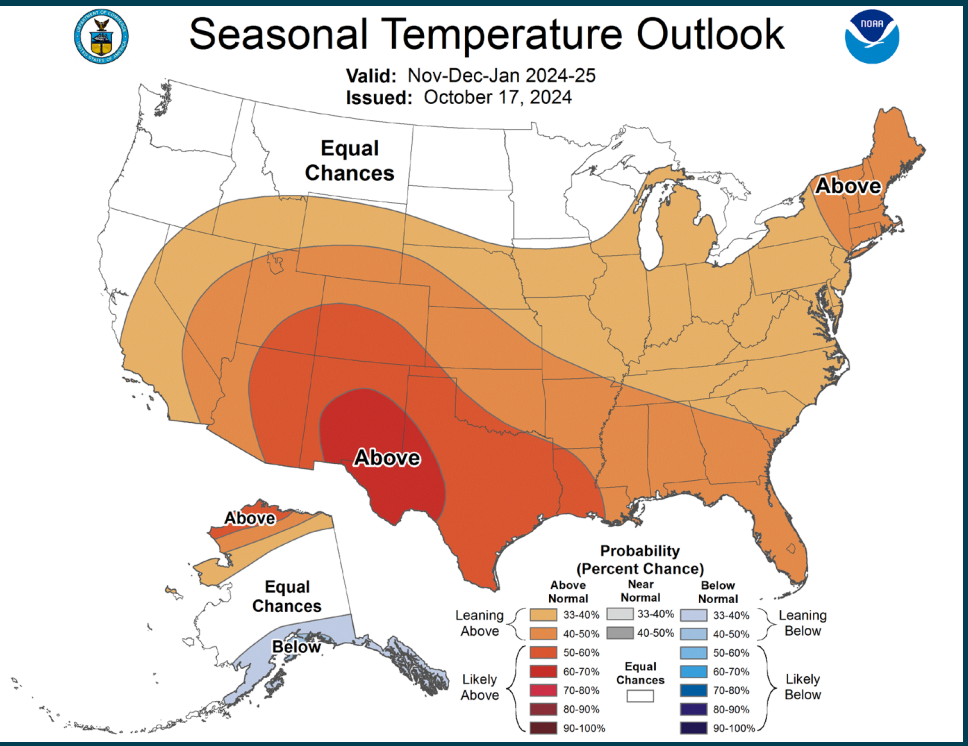


Seasonal Climate Forecast

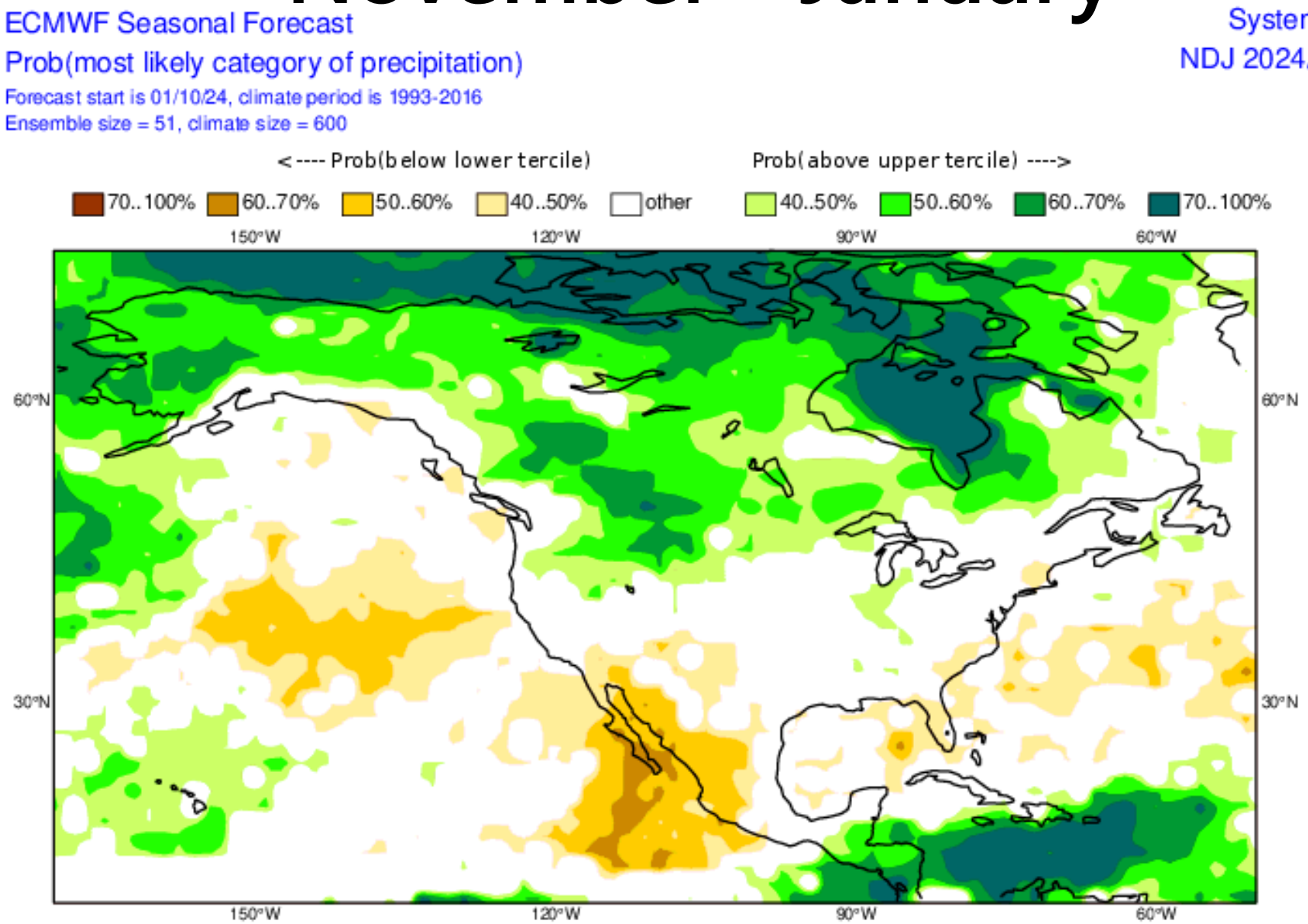
Precipitation



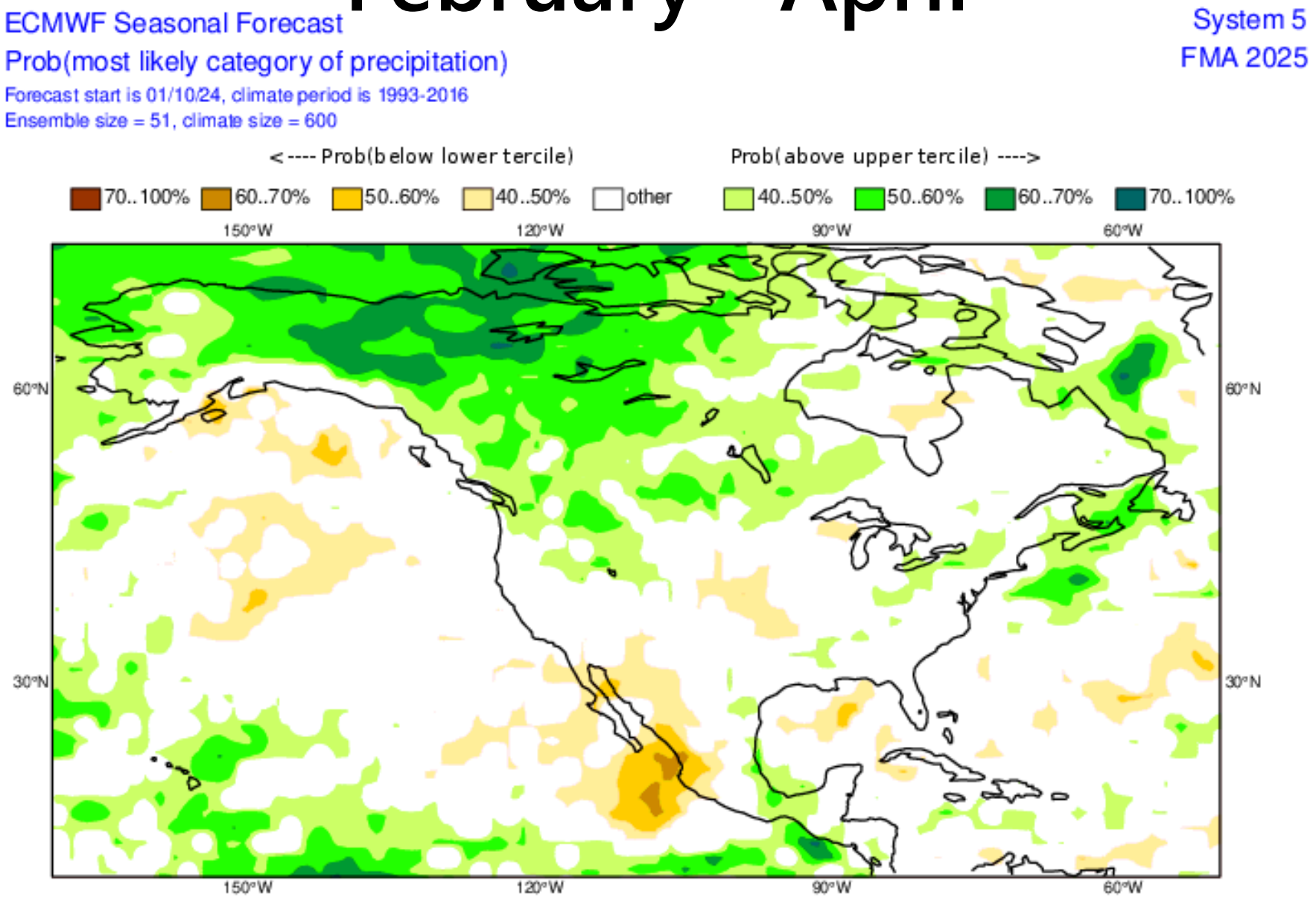
Temperature



Seasonal Precipitation Forecast November - January



Seasonal Precipitation Forecast February - April

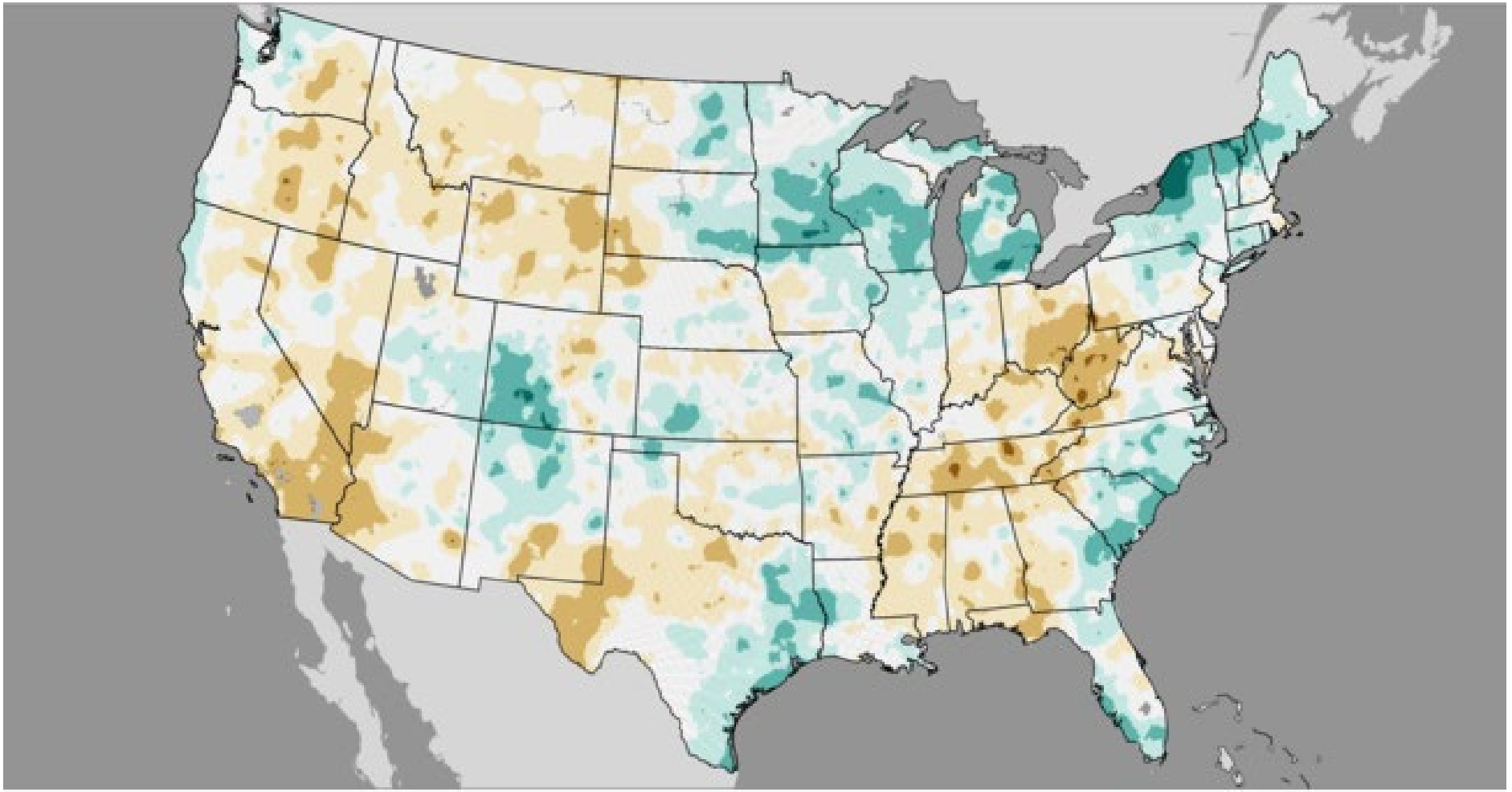


Total Precipitation Percentiles

June-August 2024

Ranking Period: 1895-2024

NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information



Record Driest (Tie 0.00) | Record Driest | Much Below Average | Below Average | Near Average | Above Average | Much Above Average | Record Wettest

Created: Fri Sep 06 2024

Source: nClimGrid-Monthly

El Paso TX - 2024

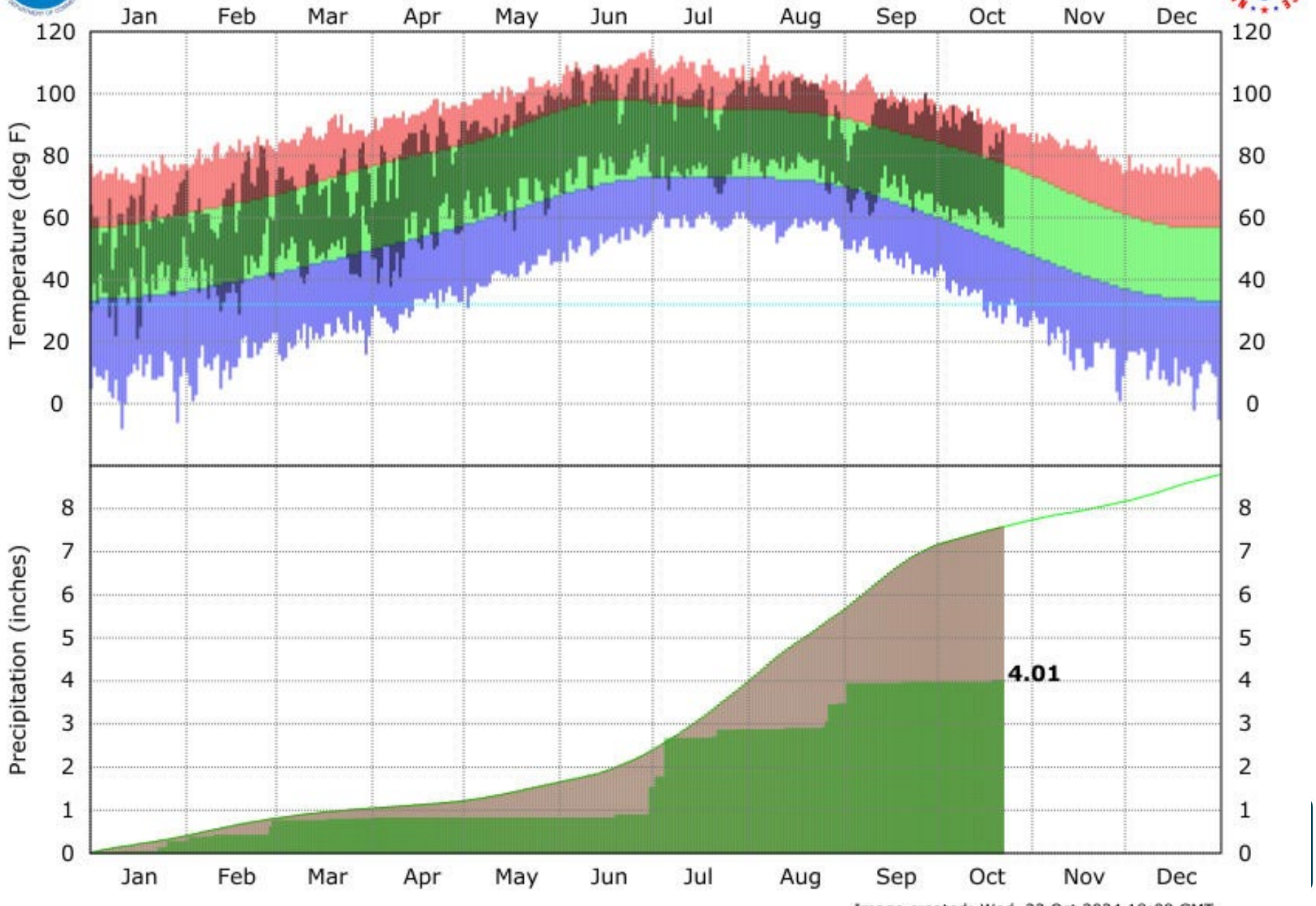


Image created: Wed, 23 Oct 2024 18:08 GMT

North American Drought Monitor

September 30, 2024

(Released Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2024)

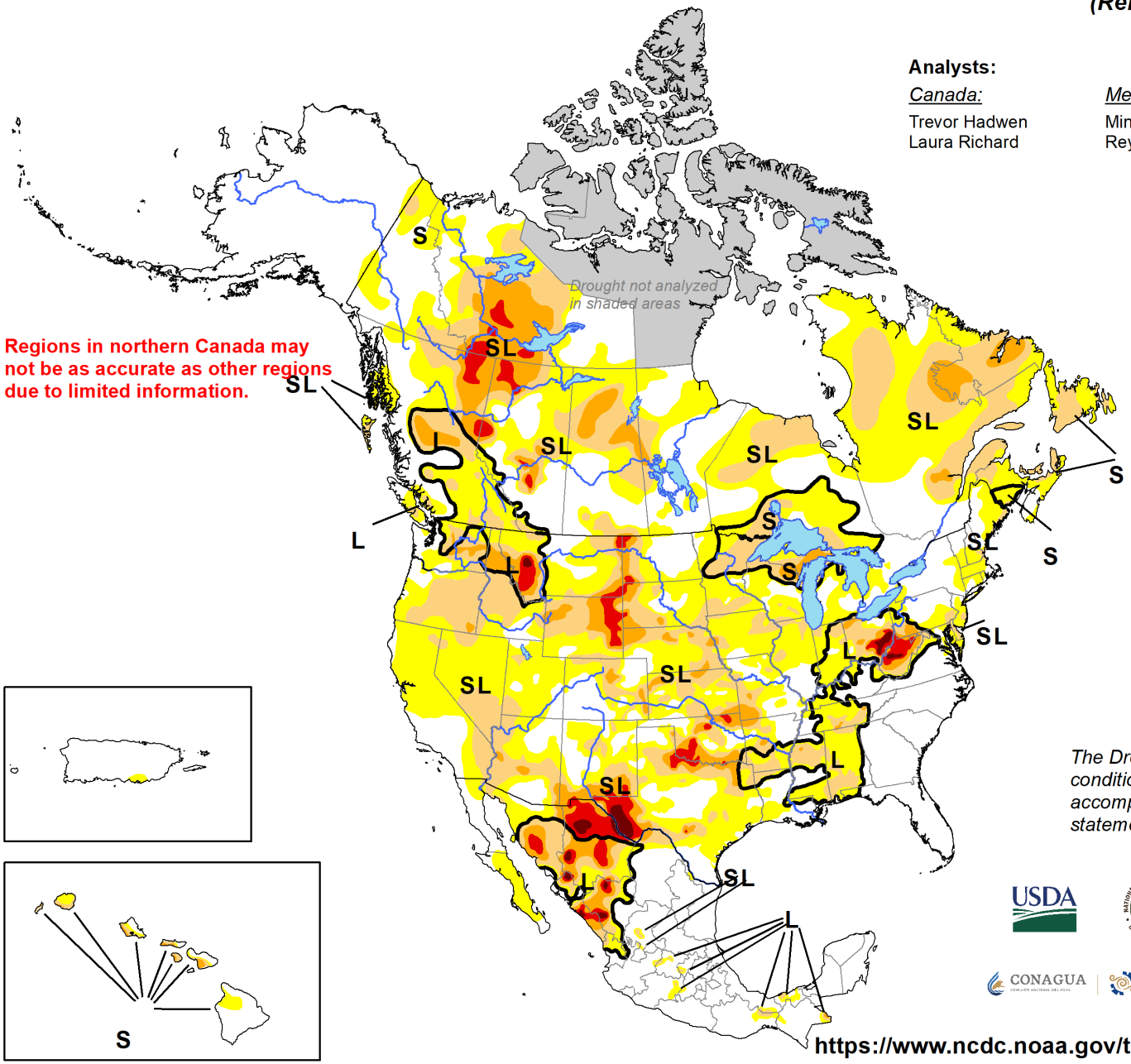
Analysts:

Canada:
Trevor Hadwen
Laura Richard

Mexico:
Minerva Lopez
Reynaldo Pascual

USA:
Richard Heim*
Richard Tinker

(Responsible for collecting analysts' input & assembling the NA-DM map)*



Intensity

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

Drought Impact Types:

~ Delineates dominant impacts

S = Short-Term, typically less than 6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)

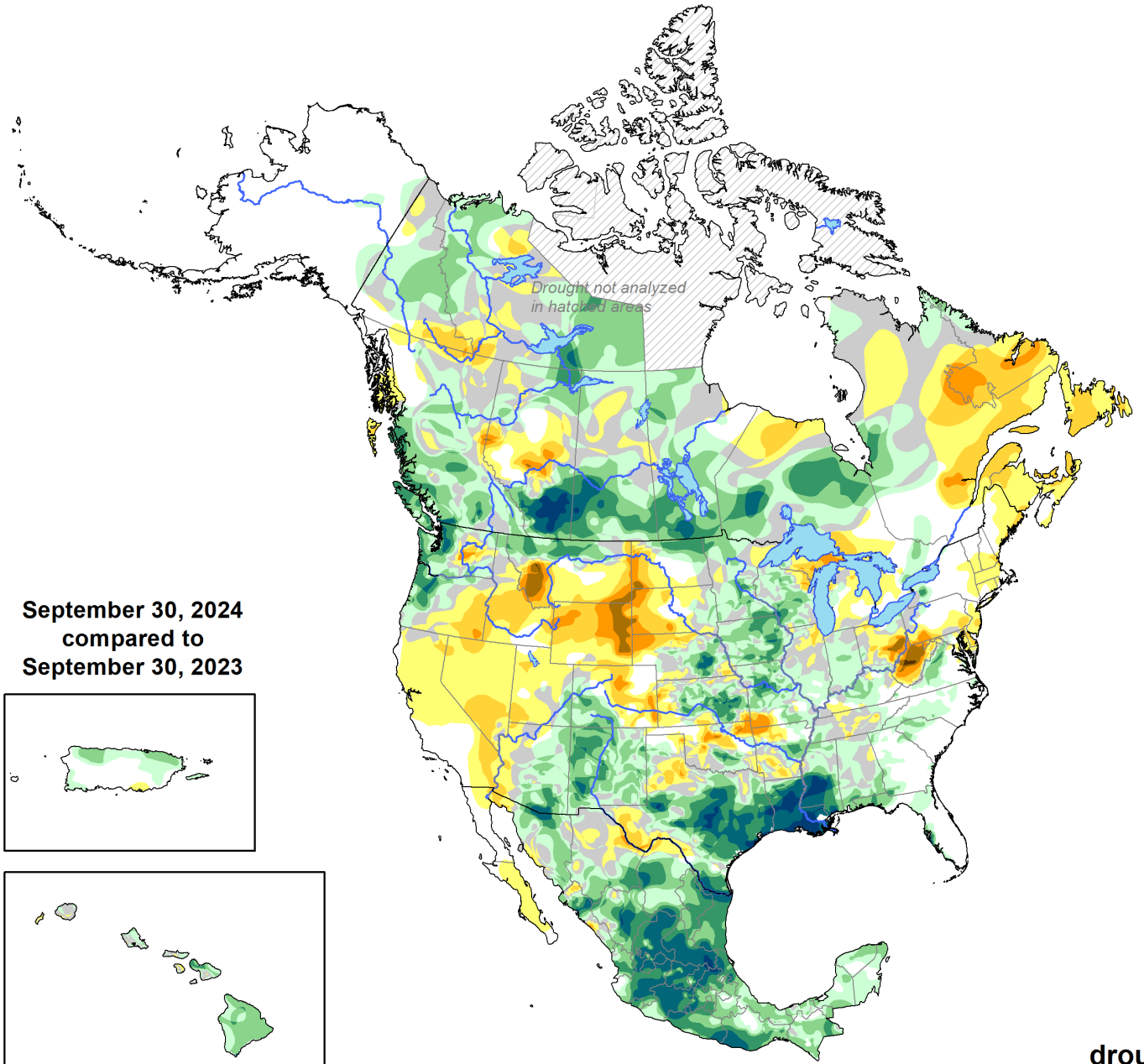
L = Long-Term, typically greater than 6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/temp-and-precip/drought/nadm/

North American Drought Monitor Class Change

1 Year



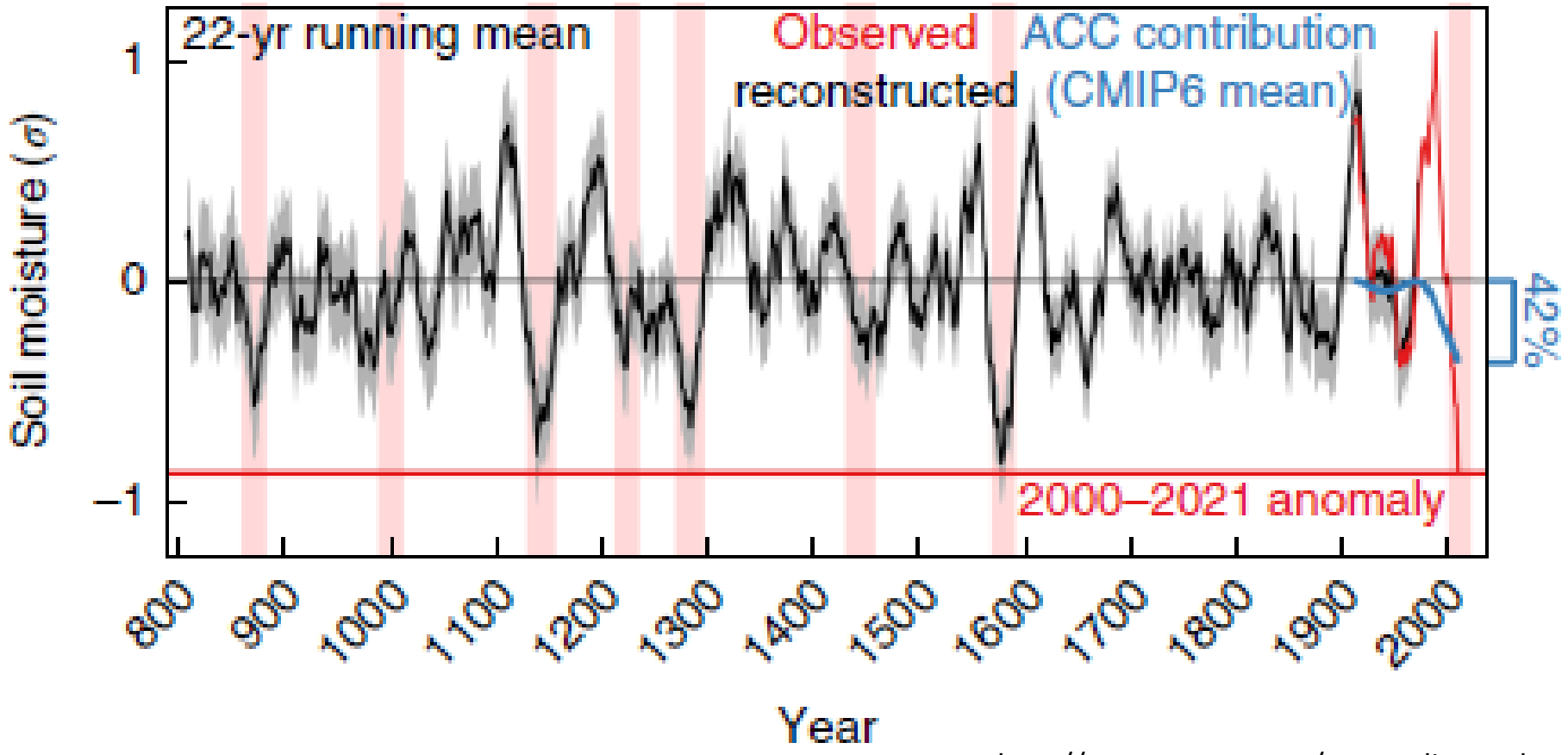
September 30, 2024
compared to
September 30, 2023

NATIONAL DROUGHT MITIGATION CENTER
NDMC
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

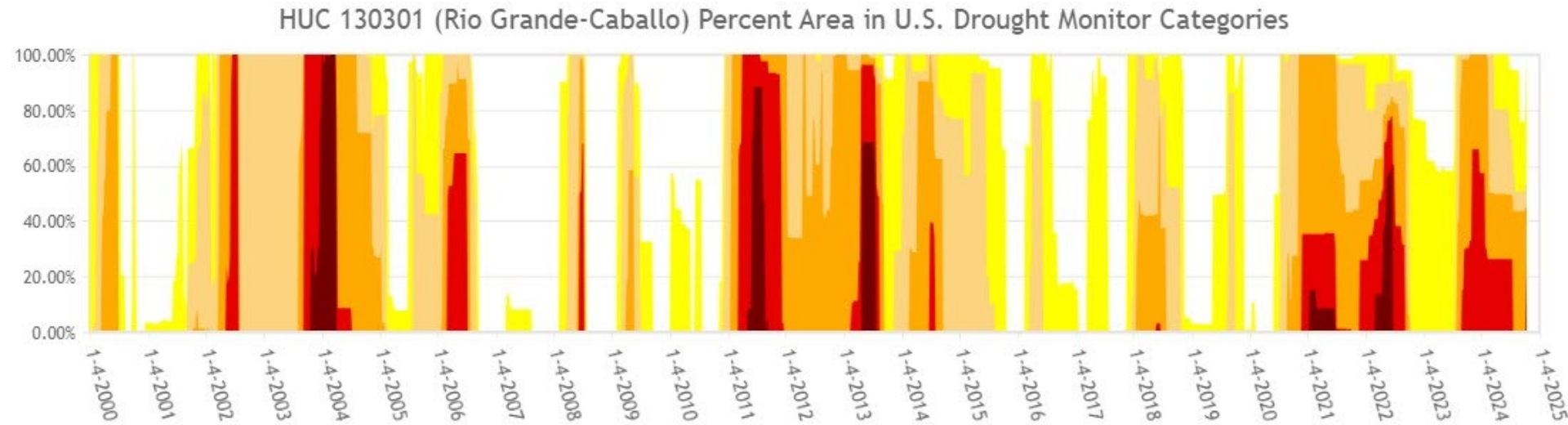
- 5 Class Degradation
- 4 Class Degradation
- 3 Class Degradation
- 2 Class Degradation
- 1 Class Degradation
- No Change
- 1 Class Improvement
- 2 Class Improvement
- 3 Class Improvement
- 4 Class Improvement
- 5 Class Improvement

droughtmonitor.unl.edu/nadm/

Southwest North American Megadrought (Tree Ring Data)



http://www.nature.com/natureclimatechange



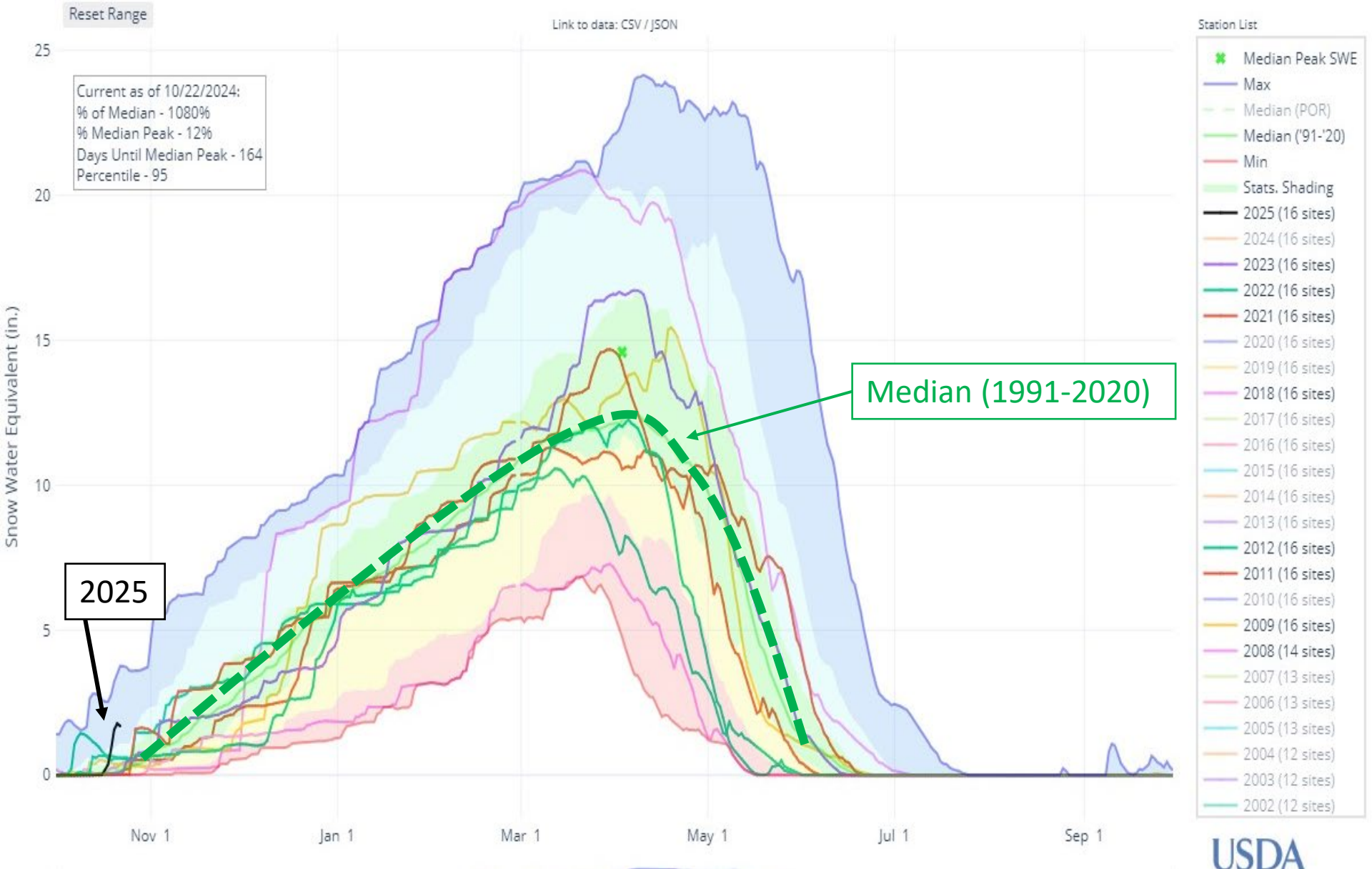
From the U.S. Drought Monitor website, https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/DmData/TimeSeries.aspx, 10-23-2024

2025 Probable Operating Plan

2025 Considerations

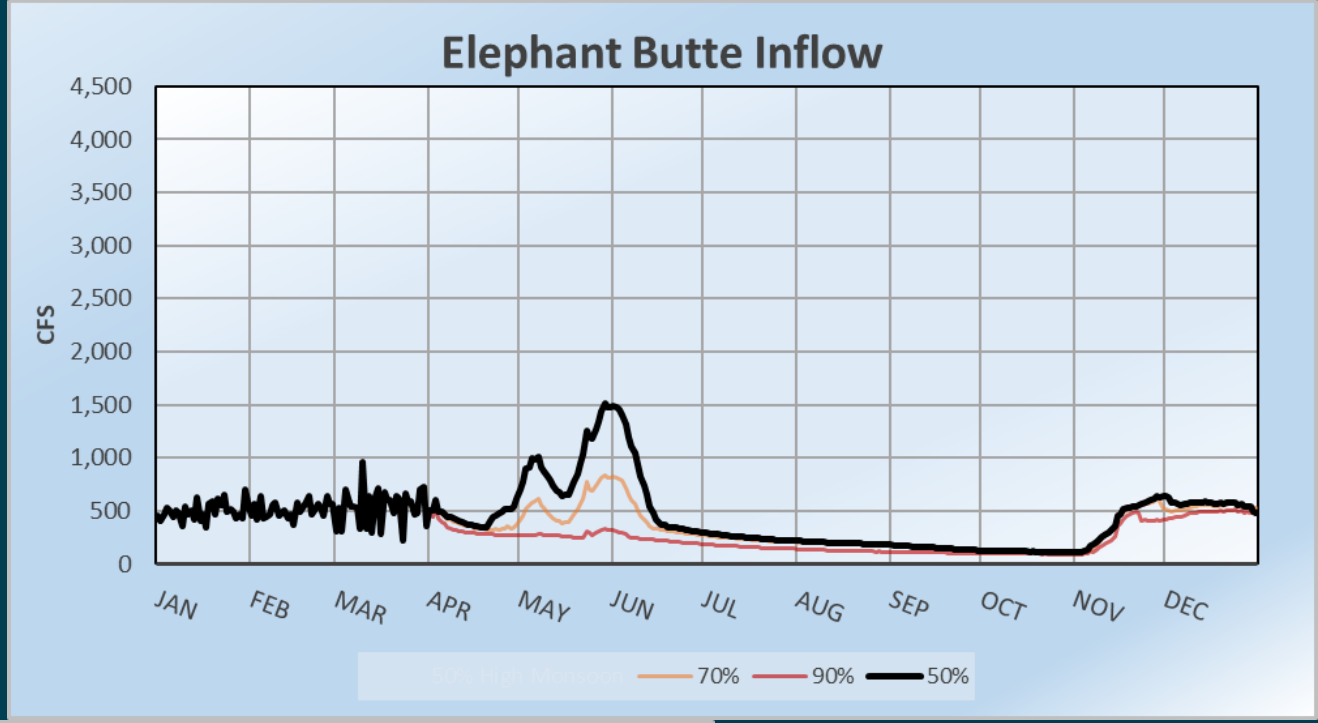
- Low beginning-of-year storage
- La Nina conditions could bring low to average headwaters snowpack and spring runoff

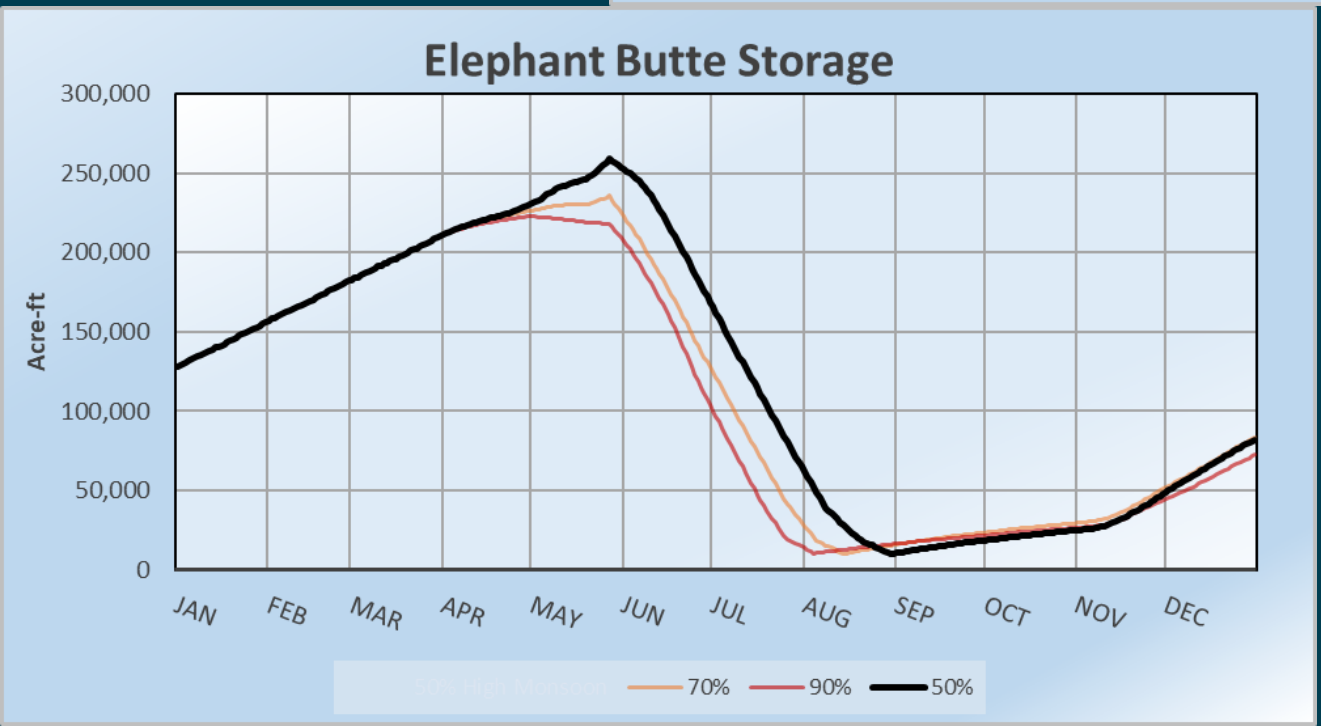
La Nina Snowpacks in Southern Colorado



2025 Elephant Butte Projections (2021 AOP)

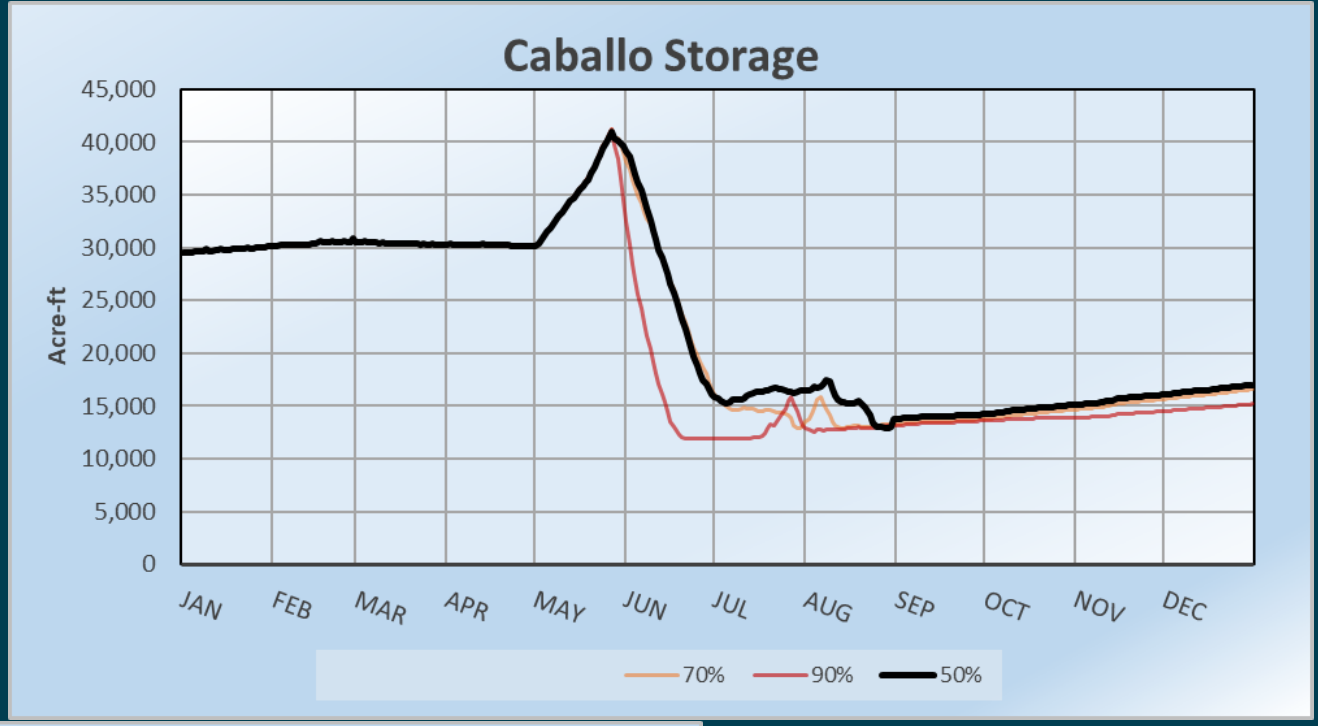
(Provisional)

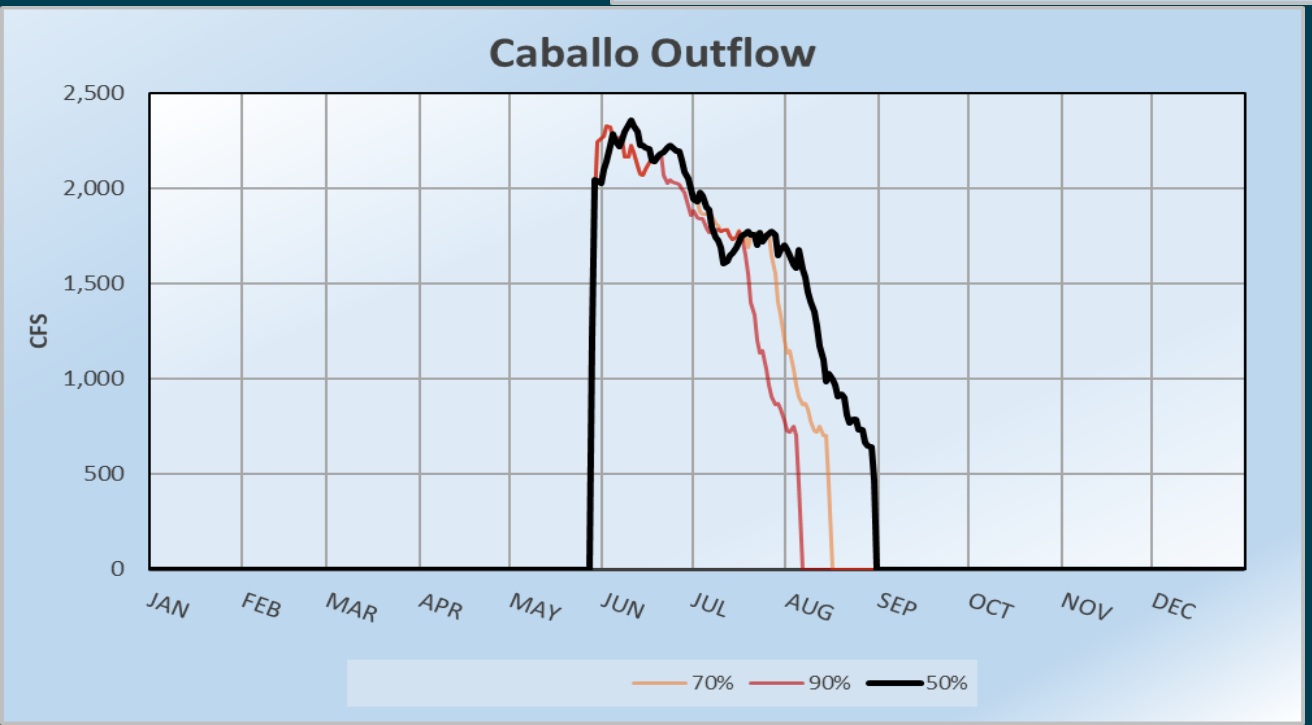




2025 Caballo Reservoir Projections (2021 AOP)

(Provisional)





Summary

- **Current Project supply is at ~ 127 KAF. There is ~214 KAF less in storage than this time last year.**
- **We are in a La Nina Watch, and weather forecasters are saying we will be in a weak and short La Nina this winter.**
- **Provisional 2024 Elephant Butte inflow at San Marcial, March through July runoff, is ~178 KAF (52 % of median).**
- **2024 Season lasted March through September (7 months), but 2025 could start late and end early.**

Questions?