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Water Authority Collaboration with Bureau of Reclamation

October 20, 2021

Who is the Bureau of Reclamation?

- Reclamation is:
 - Nation's largest wholesale water supplier, providing water to over 31 million people and 1 out of 5 western farmers (60% of vegetables and 25% of fruits and nuts)
 - Nation's second largest producer of hydropower
- Mission: *To manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.*



The Albuquerque Area Office

- Manages 5 water projects in the Rio Grande and Pecos River watersheds in NM, CO & TX
- Has jurisdiction over 9 significant high hazard dams in CO and NM, with a combined reservoir capacity of more than 3,551,000 acre-feet



The Albuquerque Area Office

- Indian Water Rights Settlements
 - Aamodt = Pojoaque Basin Regional Water System Project
 - Taos = Mutual Benefits Projects
 - Participate in IWRS teams (Kerr-McGhee, Abousleman, Ohkay Owingeh)
- Rio Grande Pueblo Irrigation Infrastructure Project
- Rural Water Program
 - Eastern New Mexico Water Rural Water System
- WaterSMART (≈ 45 active projects)
 - Basin Studies (Rio Grande, Santa Fe, Pecos)
 - Title XVI (Albuquerque, El Paso, Santa Fe?)
- US-Mexico Border Issues



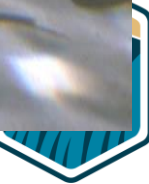
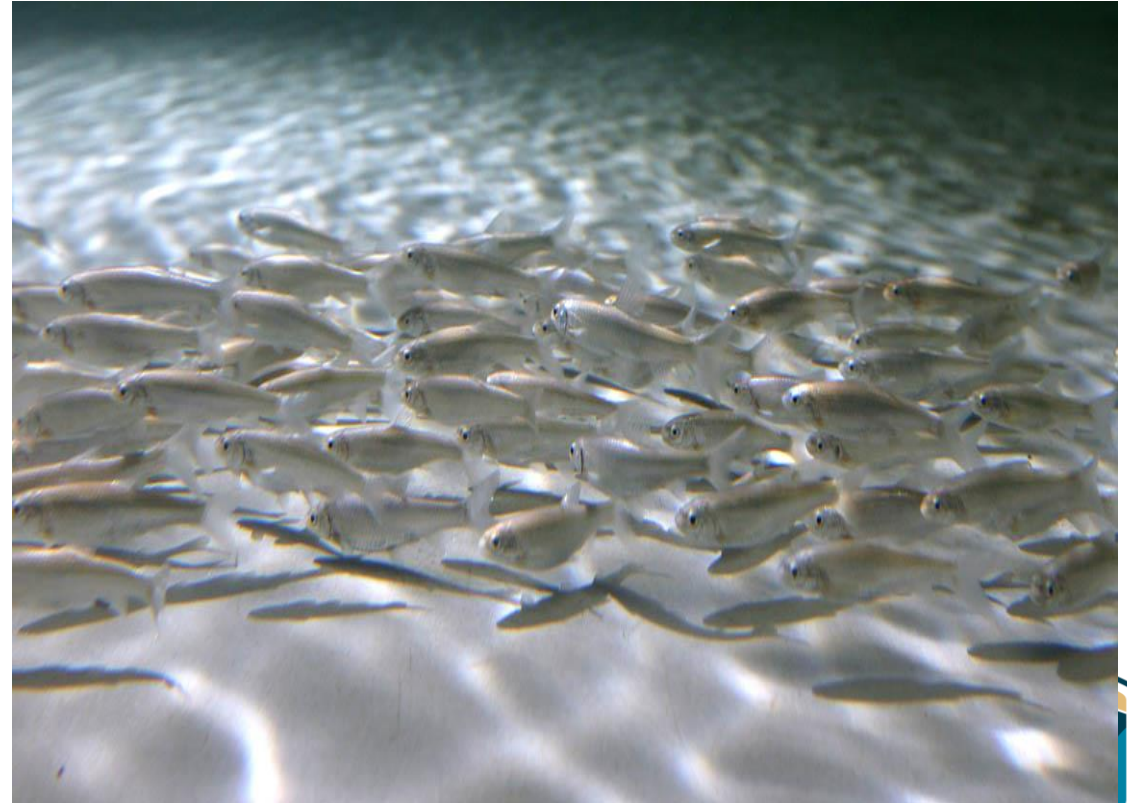
Area Office Priorities

1. Operate & maintain facilities associated with our Middle Rio Grande, Rio Grande, San Juan-Chama, and San Luis Valley-Closed Basin projects
2. Coordinated water operations and accounting for Rio Chama, Rio Grande, and Pecos River
3. Implement the 2016 Middle Rio Grande Biological Opinion
4. Implement Indian Water Rights and Pueblo Irrigation projects
5. Support water management planning efforts



Maintaining ESA Compliance

- Reclamation, MRGCD & ISC - 2016 Biological Opinion
 - Supplemental Water Program
 - Environmental Conservation Storage

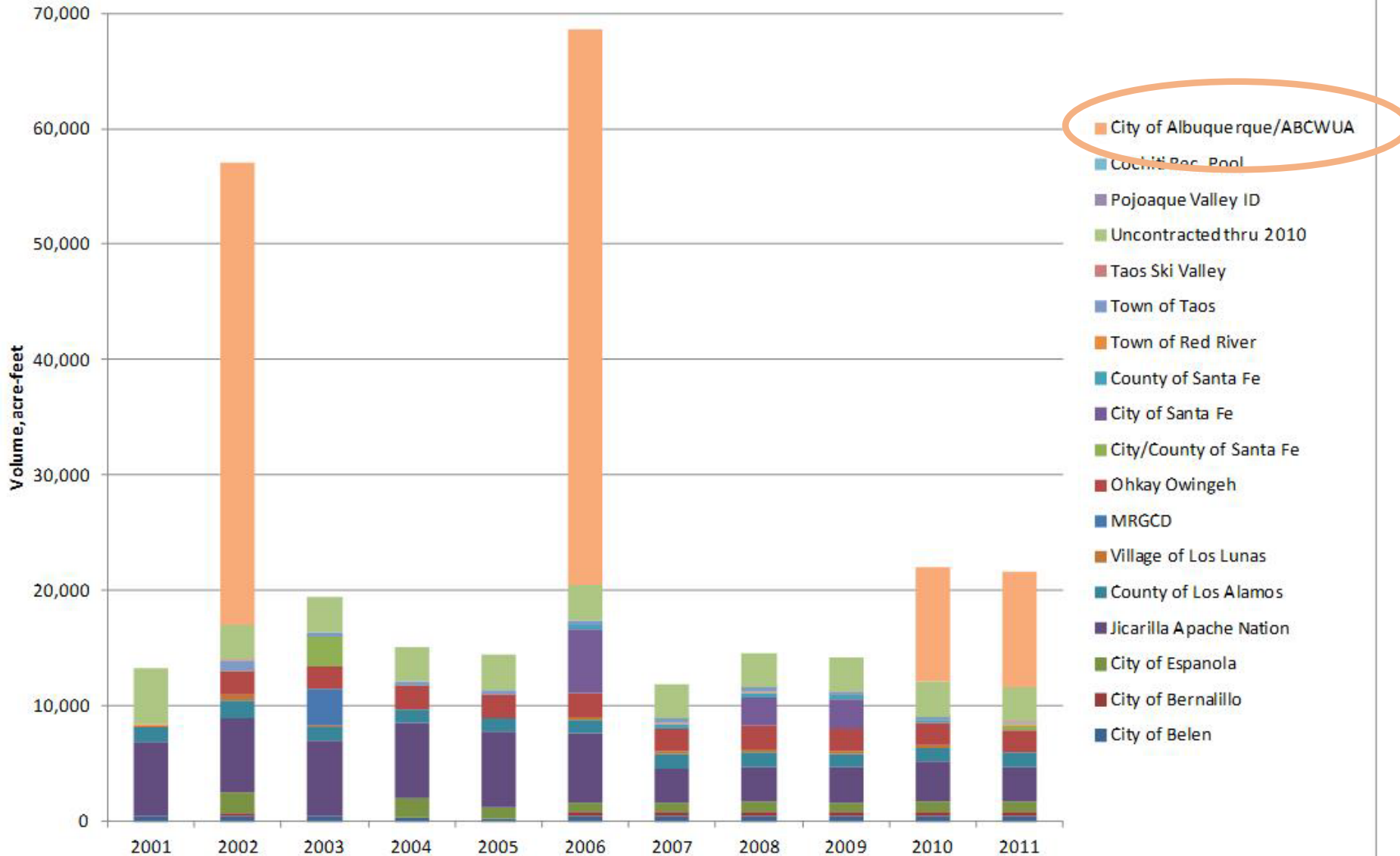


Reclamation's Supplemental Water Program

- Supplemental water program initiated in 1996 to support water needs of the ESA-listed species in the MRG
- Program has included the following:
 - Lease from contractors and storage of SJC Project water
 - Heron Reservoir release waivers
 - Acquisition and storage of relinquished credit water from State
 - Release of Supplemental Water to meet needs of listed species
 - Pumping from LFCC to Rio Grande in San Acacia reach



Supplemental Water Acquired



**SJCP water
leased to
Reclamation's
Supplemental
Water
Program,
2001 - 2011**



Historic Supplemental Water Program

Year	Supplemental Water, AF	LFCC Pumping, AF	Costs
1996	47,547	n/a	
1997	14,418	n/a	\$200,000
1998	47,033	n/a	\$300,000
1999	19,485	n/a	\$650,000
2000	171,395	Unknown	\$4,090,610
2001	42,469	25,197	\$2,124,200
2002	80,844	32,481	\$8,079,230
2003	29,230	20,928	\$4,436,000
2004	27,153	13,835	\$3,152,000
2005	7780	4,761	\$1,770,700
2006	40,451	16,784	\$7,025,310
2007	11,362	6,439	\$4,552,177
2008	33,441	30	\$2,592,178
2009	22,113	8,075	\$3,231,140
2010	19,837	6,956	\$6,123,010
2011	20,415	14,475	
2012	56,144	12,277	
		TOTAL	\$60,326,555



Supplemental Water Release, 2006 - 2021

Year	Total Supplemental Released (ac-ft)	LFCC Water Pumped (ac-ft)	Total Released from Storage (ac-ft)	Leased San Juan - Chama Released from Storage (ac-ft) ¹	Relinquishment Credit Water Released from Storage (ac-ft)
2006	57,632	16,784	40,848	25,141	15,707
2007	17,801	6,439	11,362	11,353	9
2008	33,471	30	33,441	33,441	0
2009	30,188	8,075	22,113	22,113	0
2010	26,793	6,956	19,837	19,837	0
2011	34,892	14,477	20,415	20,415	0
2012	68,421	12,277	56,144	37,542	18,602
2013	60,906	14,926	45,980	45,980	0
2014	37,055	12,941	24,114	16,126	7,988
2015	28,045	5,790	22,255	12,661	9,594
2016	30,142	7,200	22,942	21,804	1,138
2017	17,891	4,478	13,413	13,413	0
2018	56,690	19,989	36,701	36,701	0
2019	11,486	1,817	9,669	9,669	0
2020	36,679	6,538	30,141	29,779	362
2021	10,800*	0	10,800	10,800	0

*2021 estimated release

¹ 2016, 2018, 2020, 2021 include water leased by Audubon NM



Recent Release of Authority-leased Water

Year	Authority-leased water released, ac-ft	Reclamation's total SJCP supp water release, ac-ft
2011	5,819	20,415
2012	15,689	37,542
2013	36,340	45,980
2014	16,126	16,126
2015	0	12,661
2016	3,781	21,020
2017	0	13,413
2018	15,549	35,739
2019	2,071	9,669
2020	7,000	29,267
2021	~1,000	~10,500

- Partnership with Authority crucial during poor hydrologic years
- Additional leased water helps maintain wetted habitat and silvery minnow population



Future of Supplemental Water Program

- Volume available has continued to decrease
 - Contractors putting water to other uses
 - SJCP supply shortages
- Reclamation depending on increased coordination with partners – ABCWUA, City of SF, MRGCD, NMISC, Audubon NM
 - Native waters rights
 - Strategic releases from wasteways
 - Water leasing program with MRGCD farmers
- River drying and fish numbers have remained consistent considering hydrologic conditions



Environmental Conservation Storage

- Native Storage in Abiquiu
- Environmental Conservation Storage Account
- USACE Water Control Plan
- Reclamation is fully behind this initiative – let us know how we can help



Jennifer Faler, Area Manager
jfaler@usbr.gov



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