



Active Water Resources Management in New Mexico

Implementing AWRM in the Lower Rio Grande

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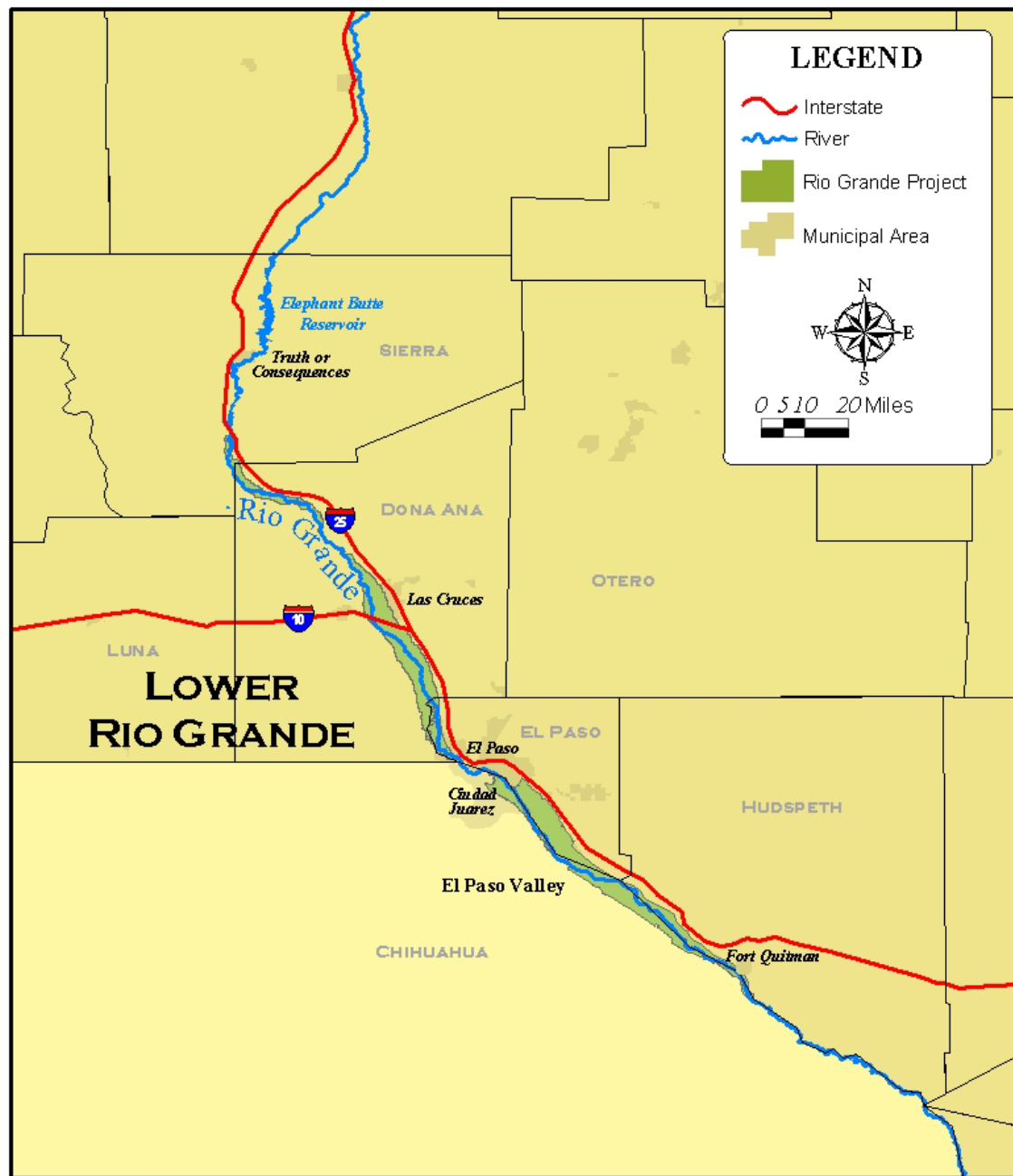


Map of the Upper Rio Grande Basin of Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas





The Rio Grande Project in New Mexico and Texas





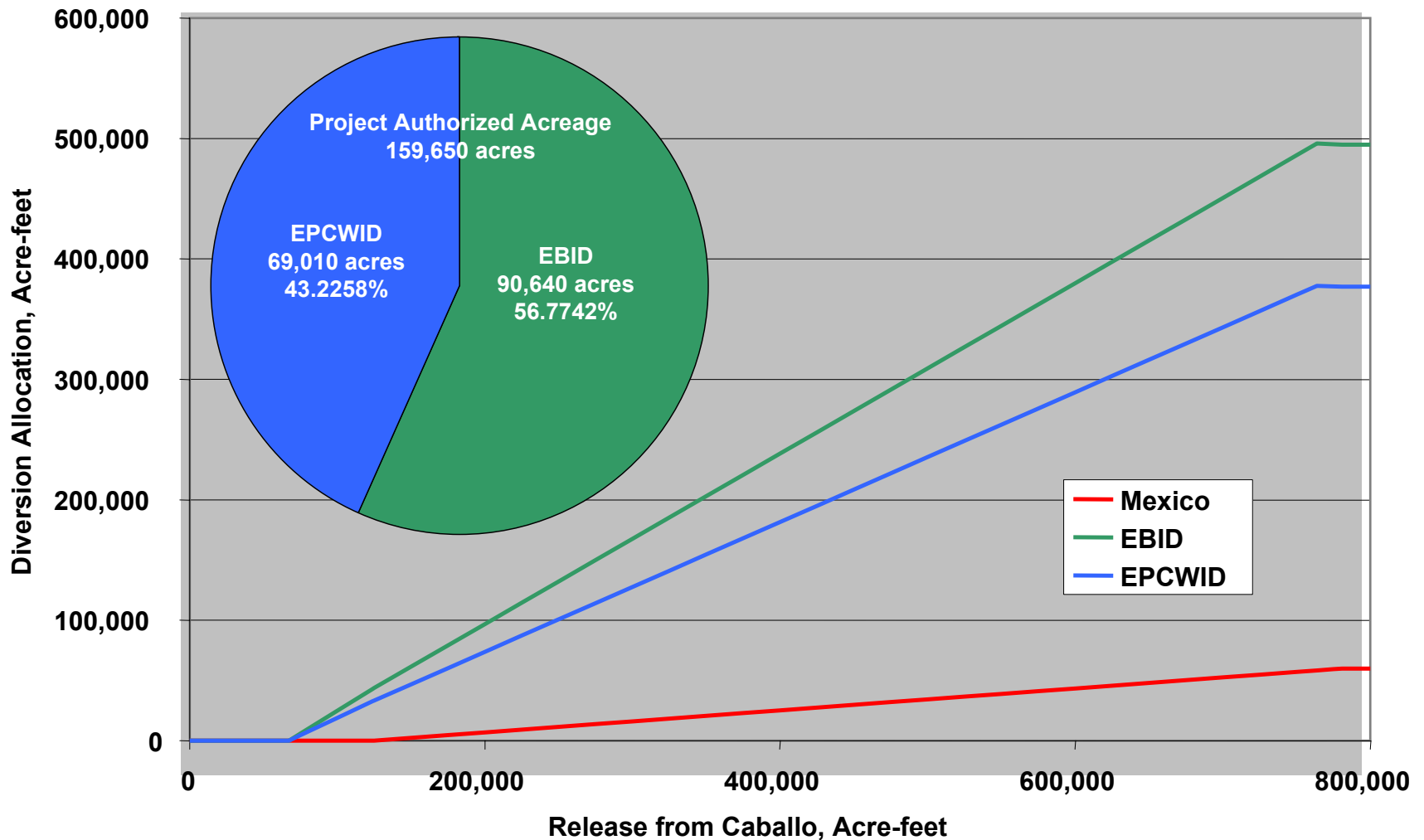
The Rio Grande Project

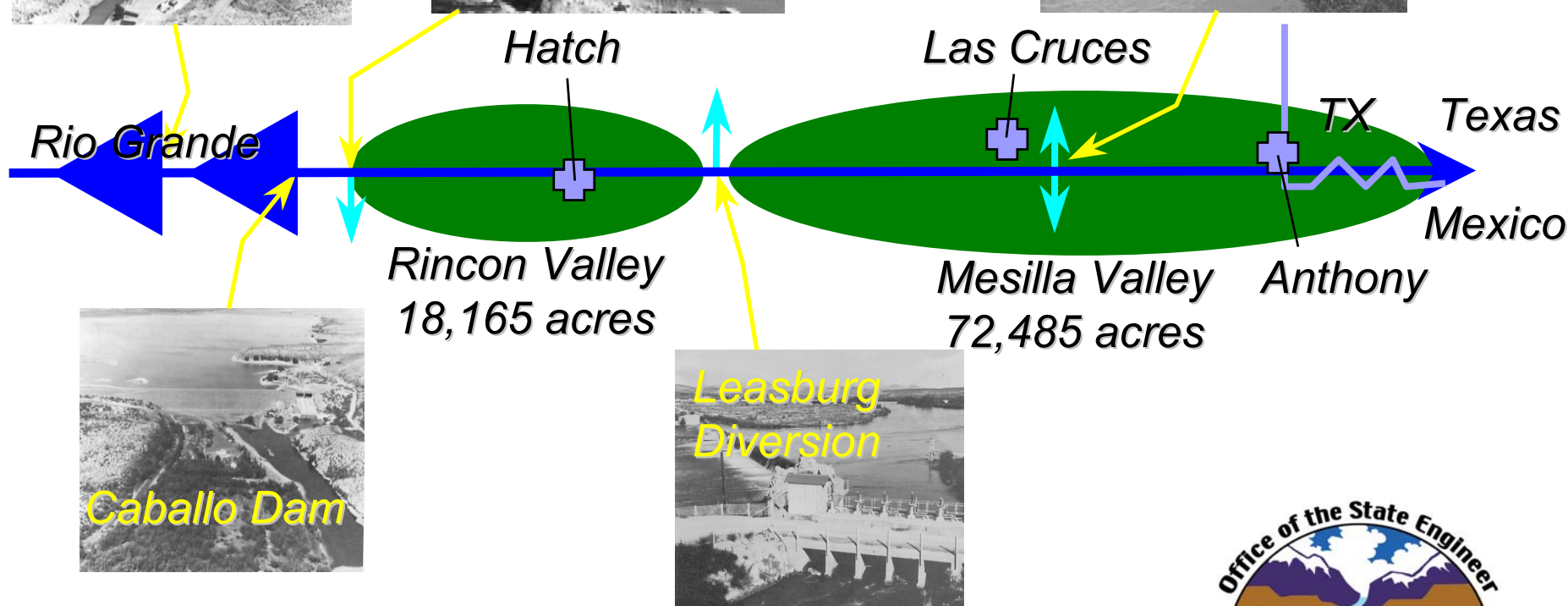
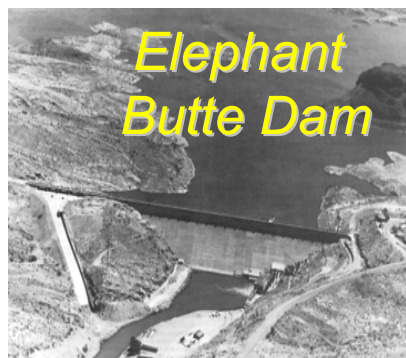
✓ *How Much Water?*

- ✓ 159,000 acres of irrigated land in New Mexico and Texas
 - ✓ 57% in New Mexico
 - ✓ 43% in Texas
- ✓ 1906 Treaty requires 60,000 ac-ft delivered each year to Mexico
- ✓ “Normal” project supply over 930,000 ac-ft with a reservoir release of 760,000 sc-ft.



Rio Grande Project Water Allocation





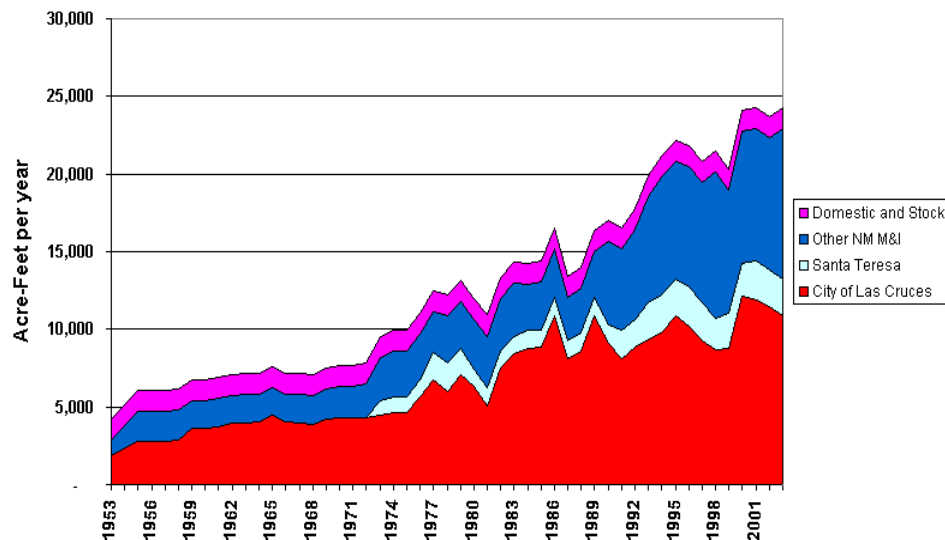
The Rio Grande Project in New Mexico

What Is the Problem?



- Drought
- Demand is increasing; supply is not
- Both surface water and groundwater are fully appropriated
- Downstream users claim New Mexico groundwater pumping is taking their water

LRG: Increase in M&I Net Depletions with Time





The Supreme Court Could Take Control

- Interstate disputes are decided by the US Supreme Court
- The Court could dictate management through a River Master
 - The Pecos example





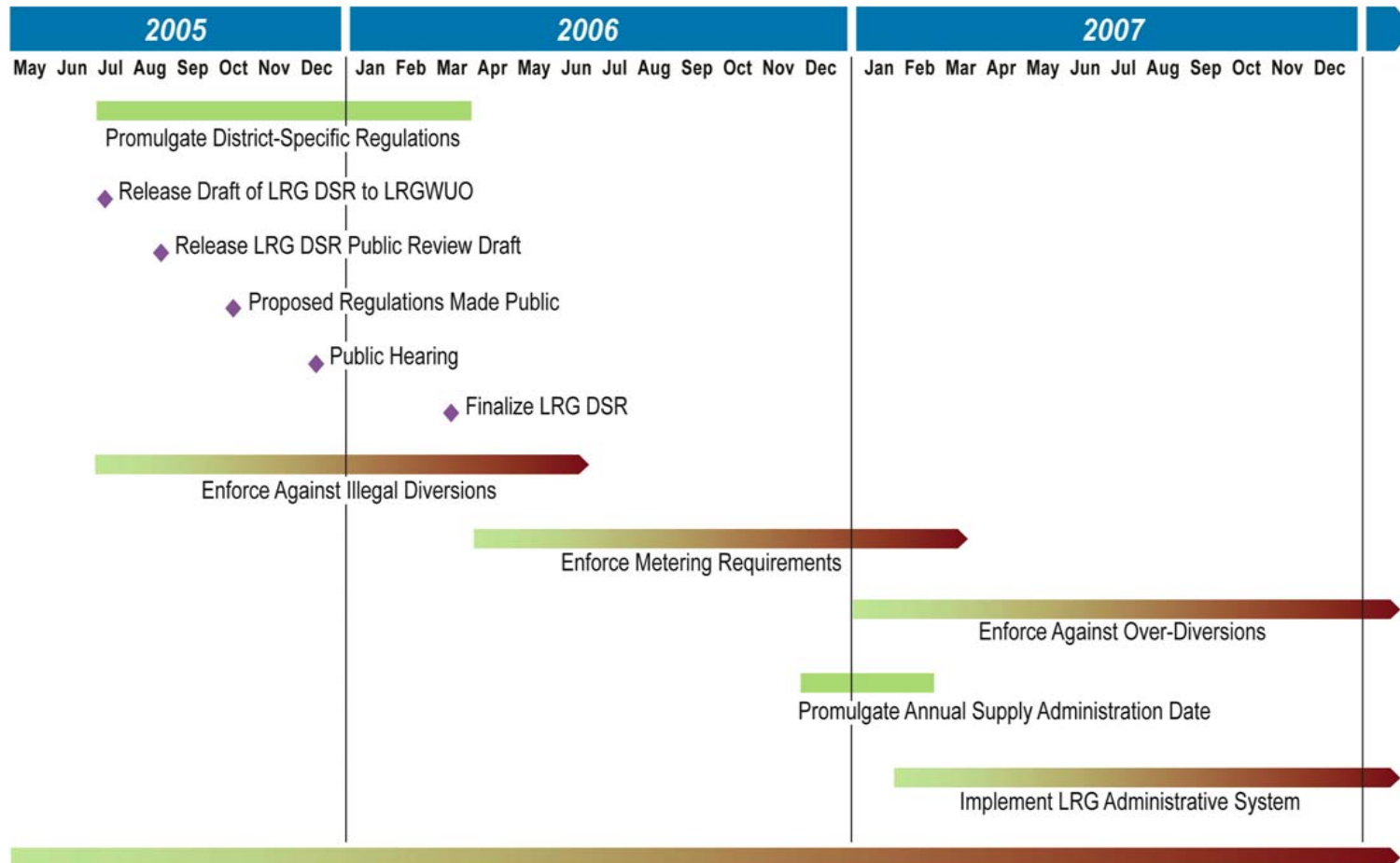
What The OSE/ISC Is Doing

- Hiring water masters
 - ☐ Monitoring and metering groundwater use
 - ☐ Stop illegal uses & overuse
- Issue district-specific regulations
- *Involve Basin Stakeholders*
- Develop water master manual
- Administer by seniority unless an acceptable alternative is agreed to by local users

We Are Taking It Step by Step



AWRM Implementation Timeline – Lower Rio Grande



- Public Communications
- Work with LRGWUO on Alternative Administration
- Continue Negotiations with Texas and Reclamation
- Support Operating Agreement Negotiations



Priority Administration Is Core of AWRM

- Seniors get a FULL supply before juniors get ANY
- All uses are considered equal, only seniority counts
- Groundwater uses are generally junior
- The burden imposed by drought is not shared

The State Engineer will impose Priority Administration if no alternative is developed

Alternative Management Solutions

- Stakeholder participation in development of district-specific regulations
 - ☐ Develop alternatives to priority administration
 - ☐ Work toward cooperative agreements for shortage sharing
- Strengthen water leasing mechanisms through implementation of Special Water User Associations

