

Rio Grande Compact Updates



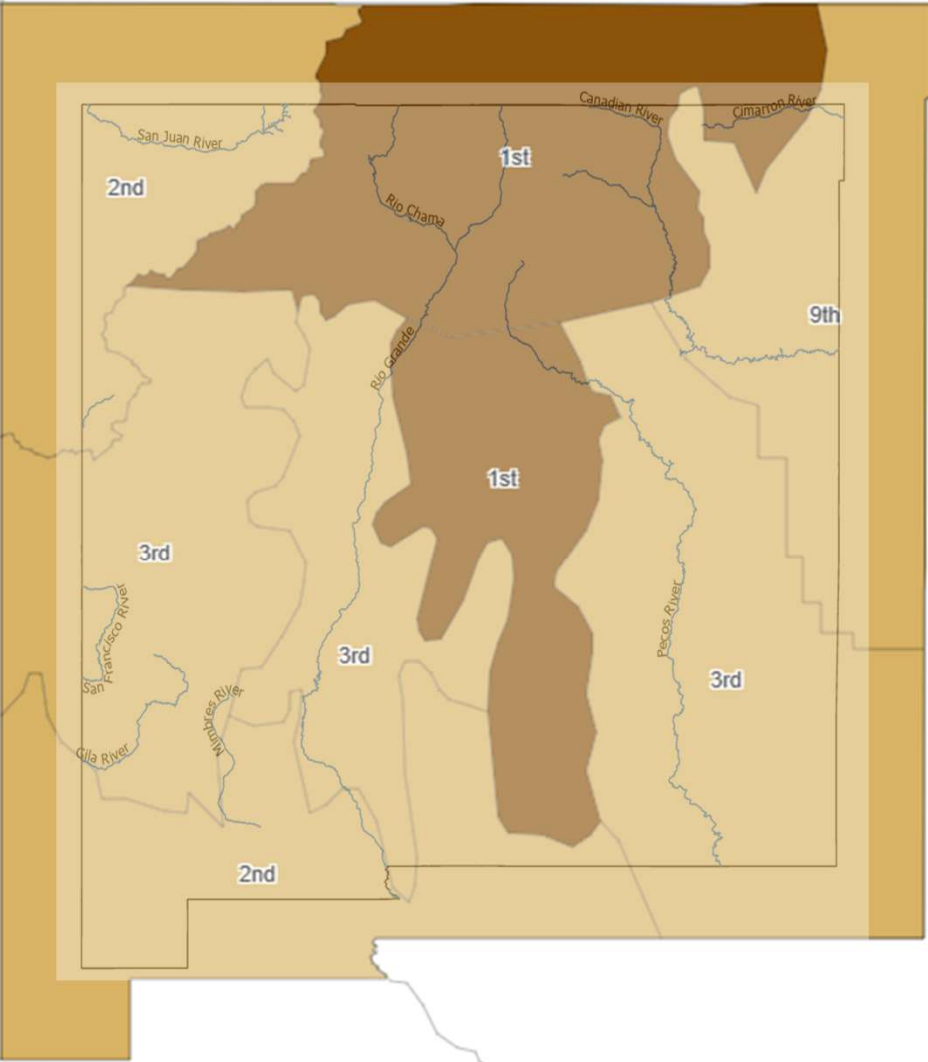
Mid-Region Council of Governments

Hannah Riseley-White, NM Interstate Stream Commission

May 7, 2025

Divisional Precipitation Rank (130 years)

December 2024 - March 2025



Driest Near Normal Wettest

New Mexico (Hover over a Climate Division)

Precip: 0.70in

Anomaly: -2.02in

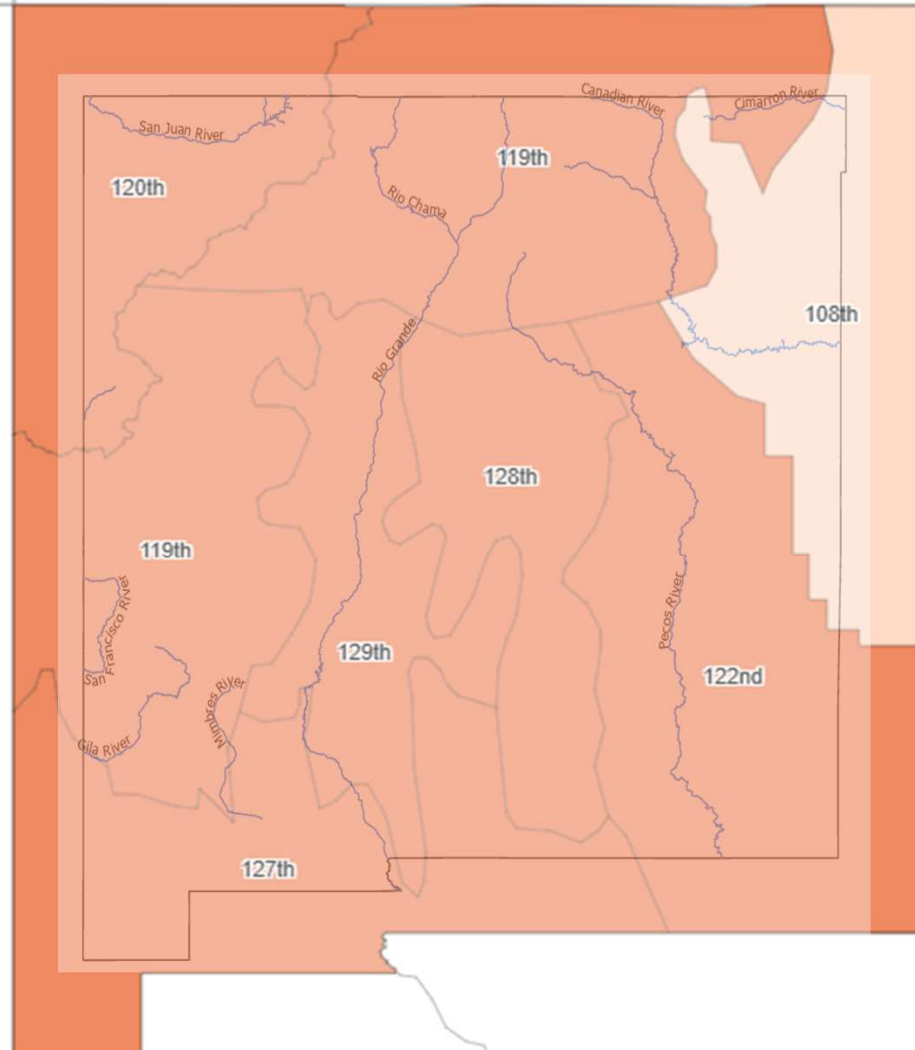
Rank: Driest

Mean: 2.72in



Divisional Average Temperature Rank (130 years)

December 2024 - March 2025



Coldest $\downarrow \frac{1}{10}$ $\downarrow \frac{1}{3}$ Near Normal $\uparrow \frac{1}{3}$ $\uparrow \frac{1}{10}$ Warmest

New Mexico (Hover over a Climate Division)

Temp: 40.7°F

Anomaly: 3.4°F

Rank: 7th Warmest

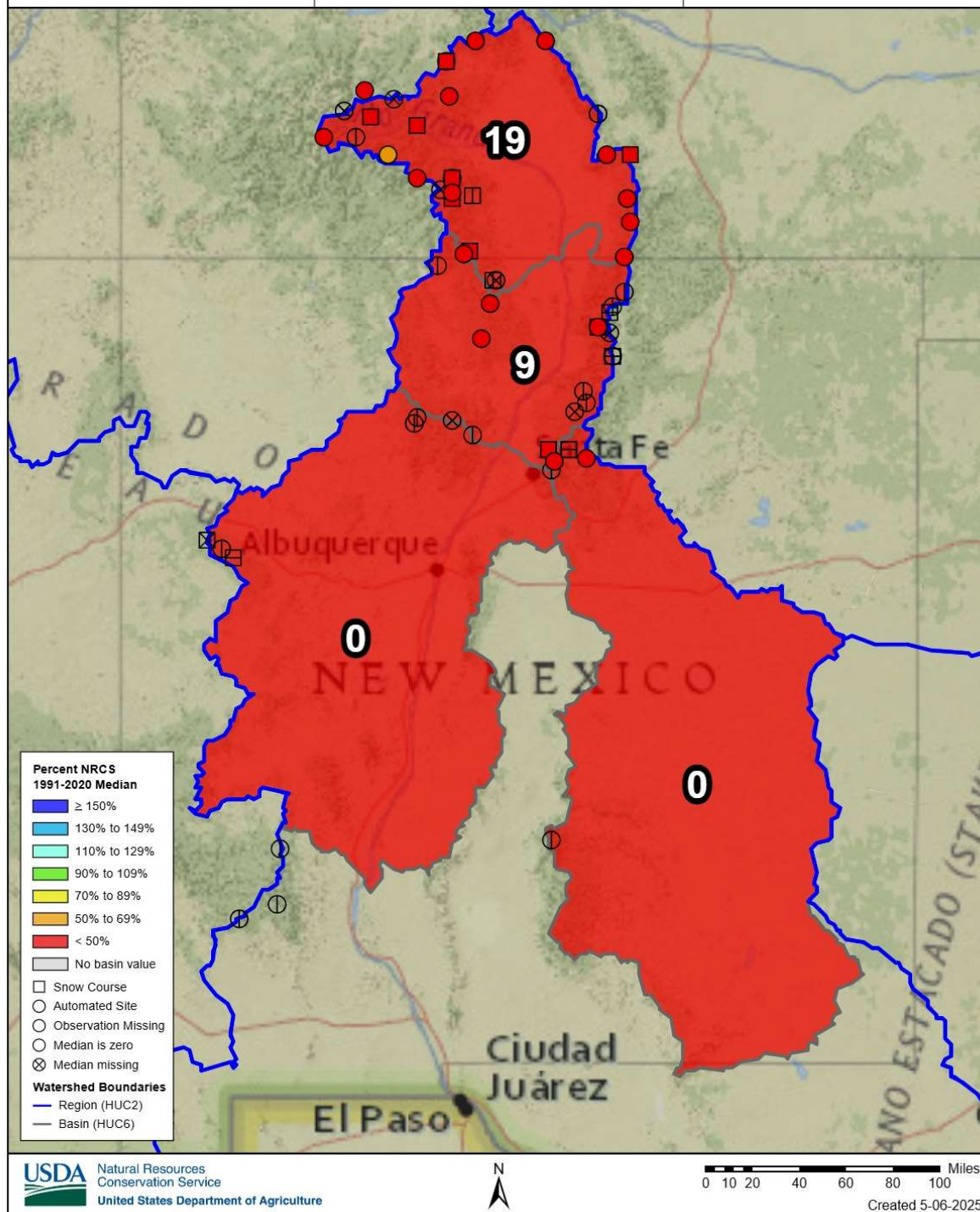
Mean: 37.3°F



Snow Water Equivalent

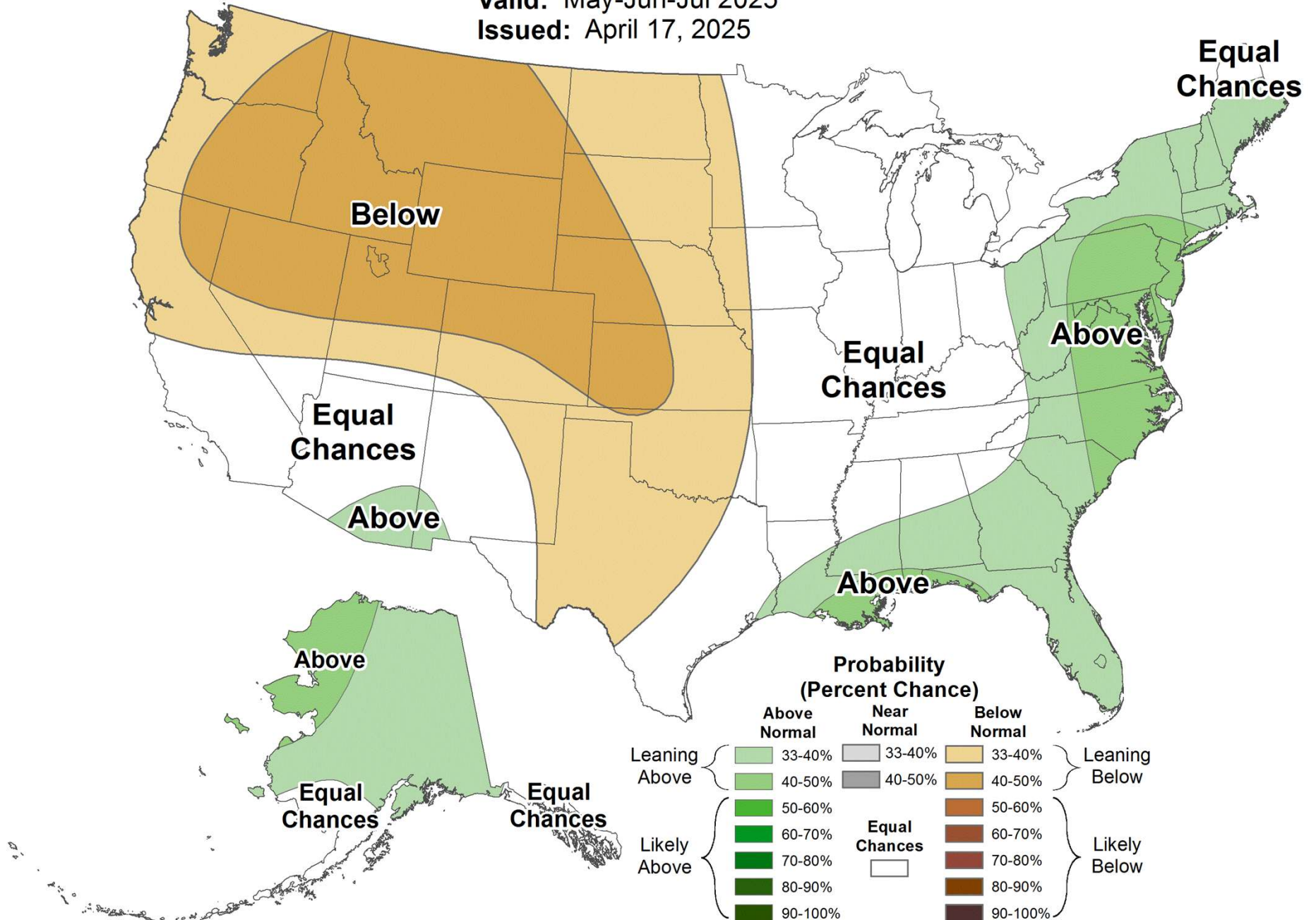
Percent NRCS 1991-2020 Median

End of April, 2025





Issued: April 17, 2025



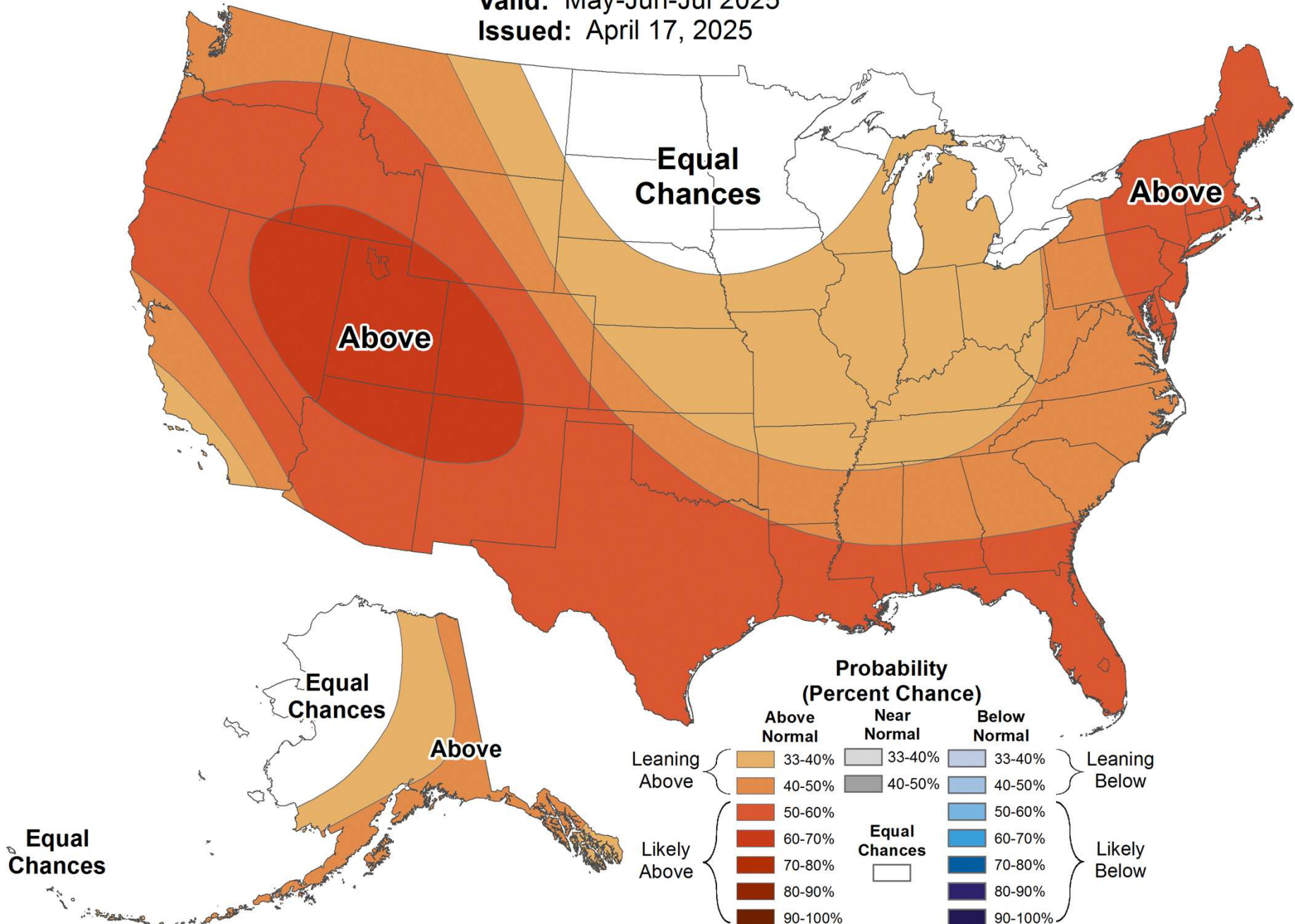


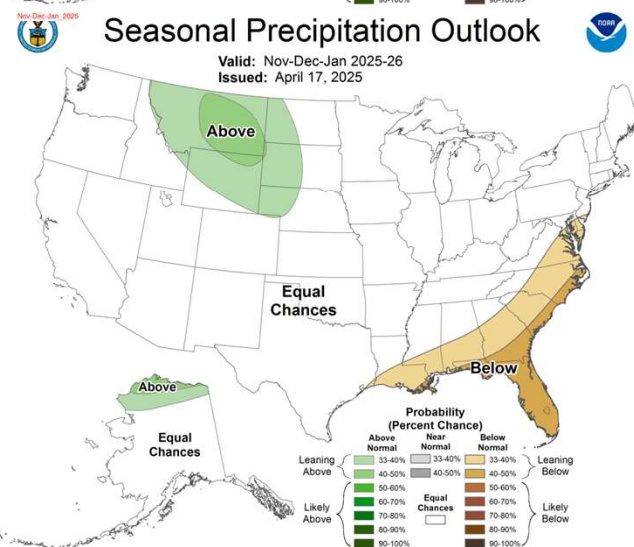
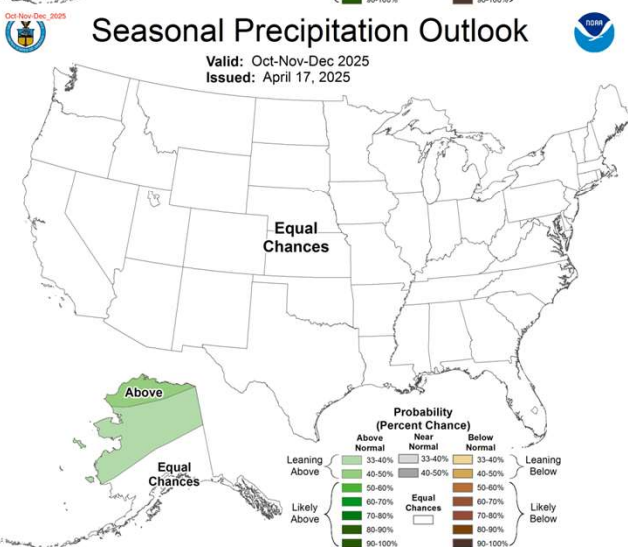
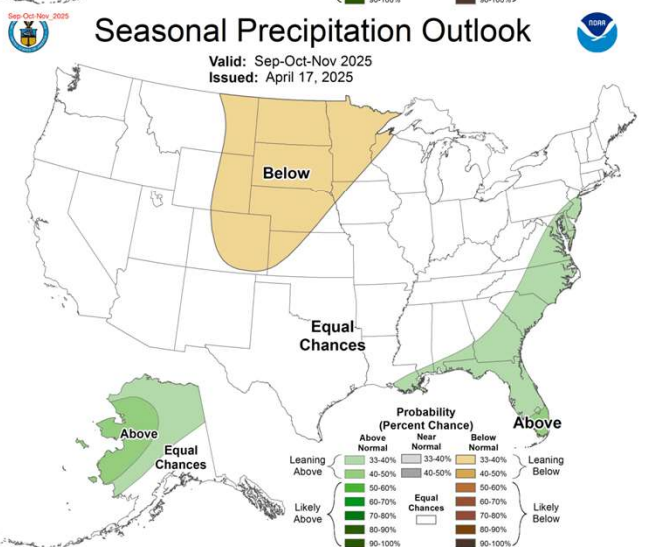
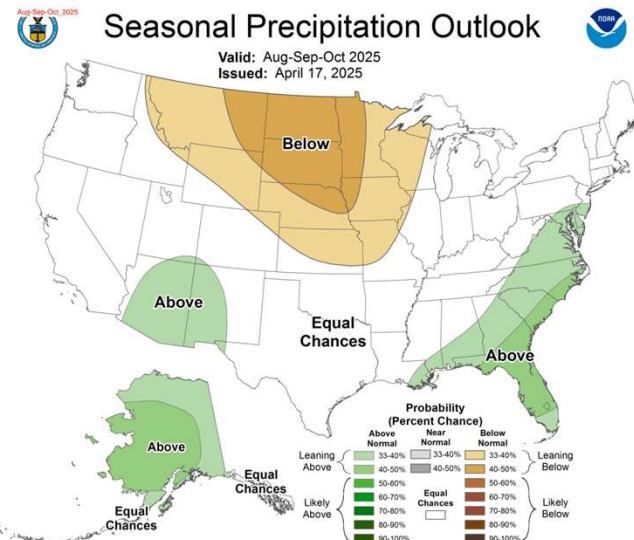
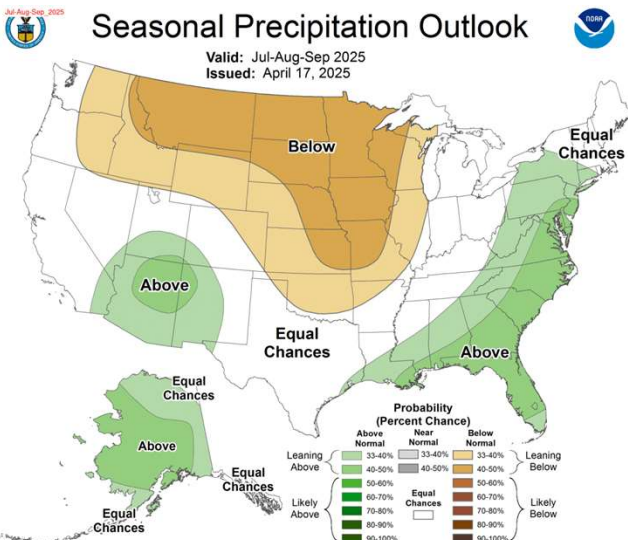
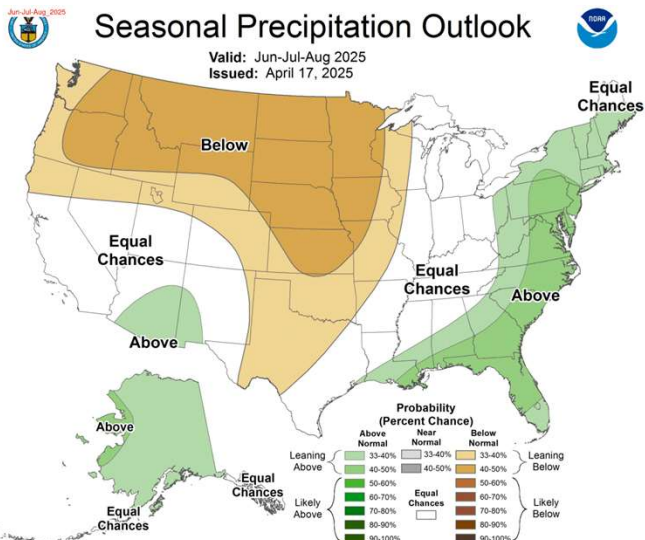
Seasonal Temperature Outlook

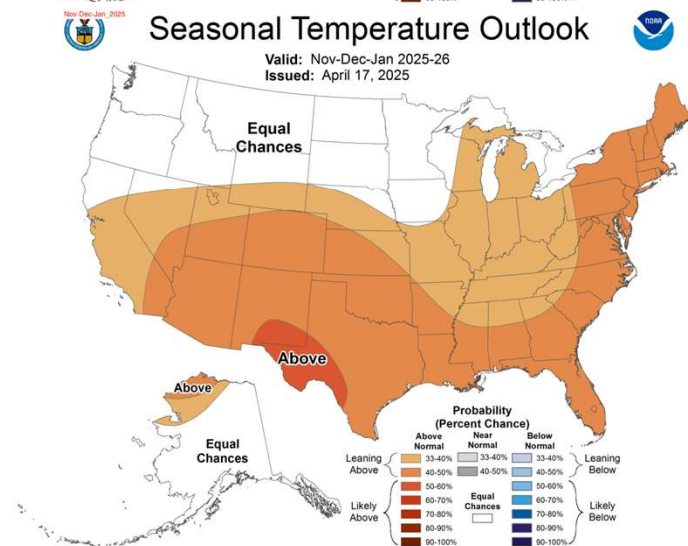
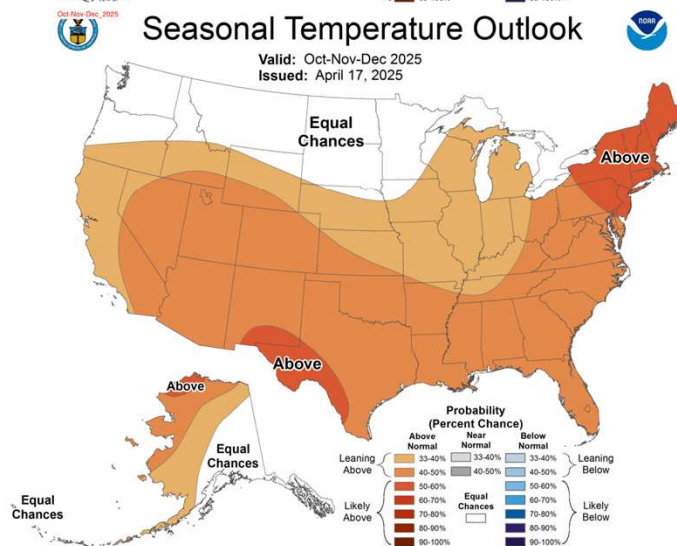
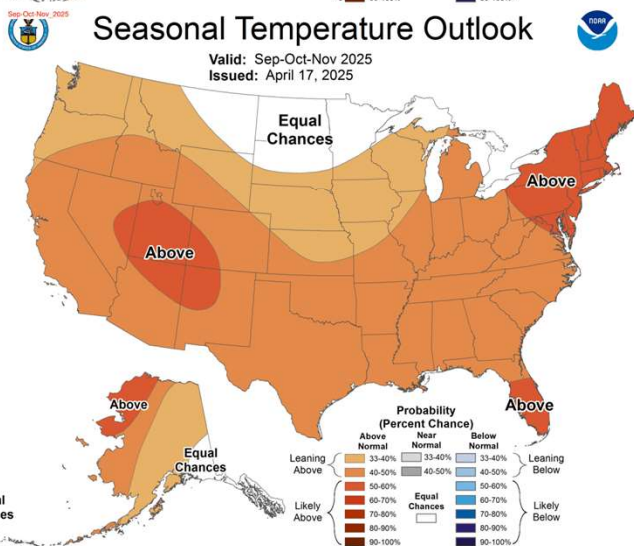
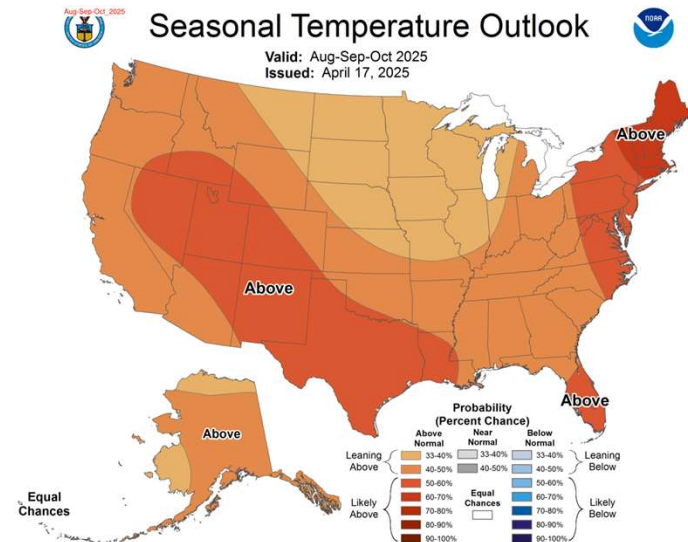
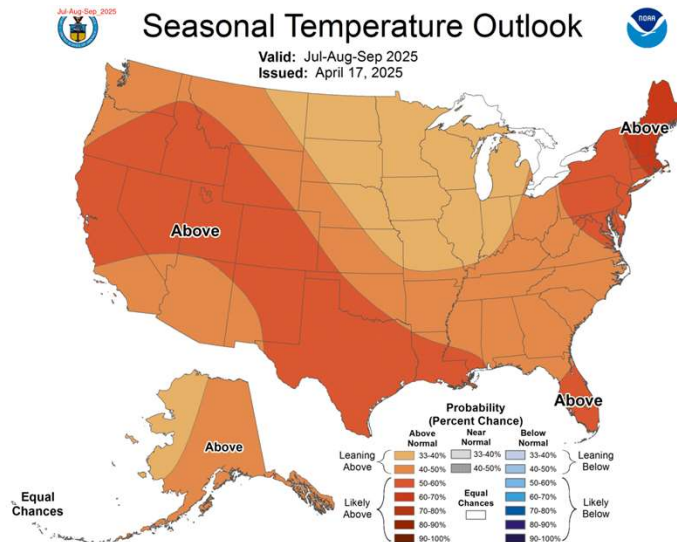
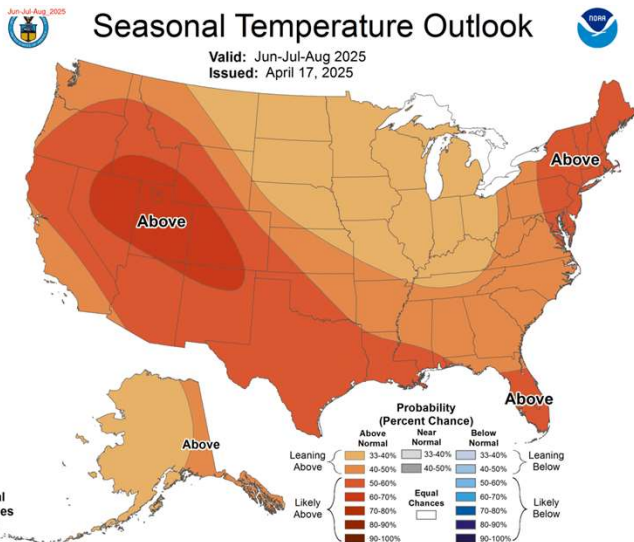


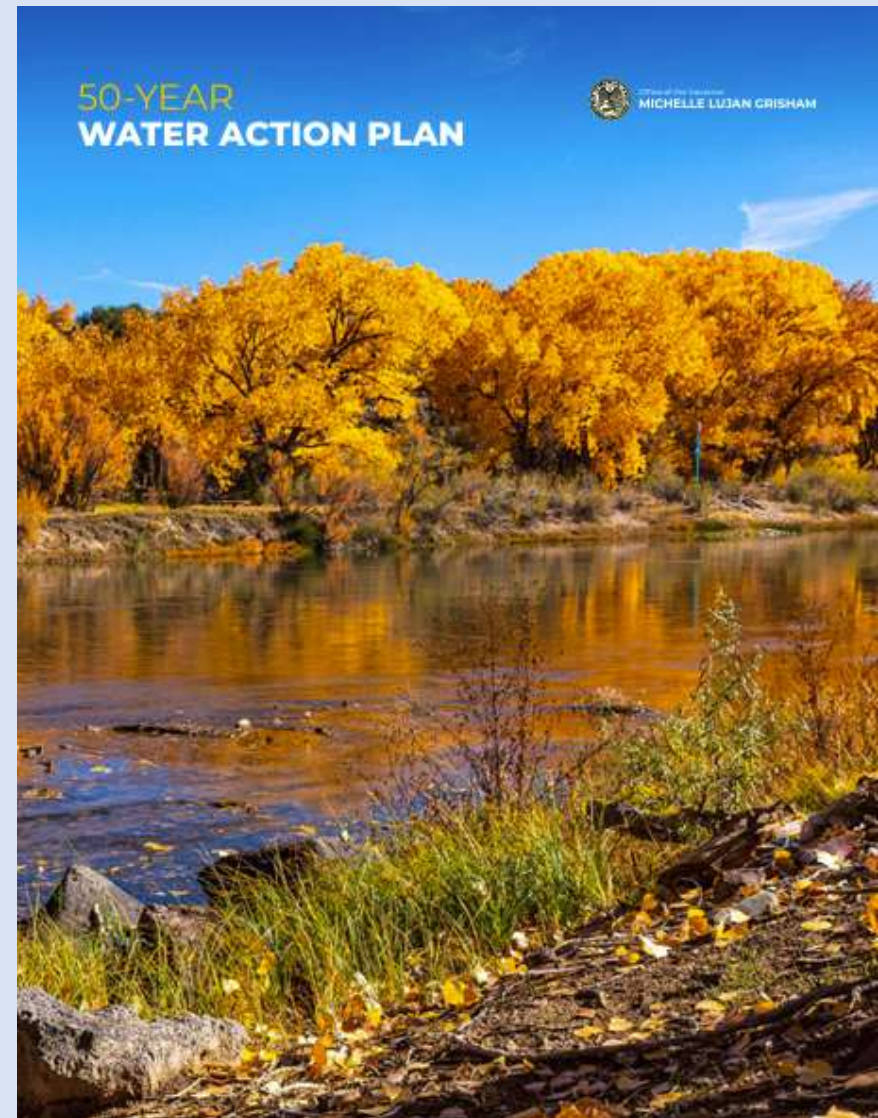
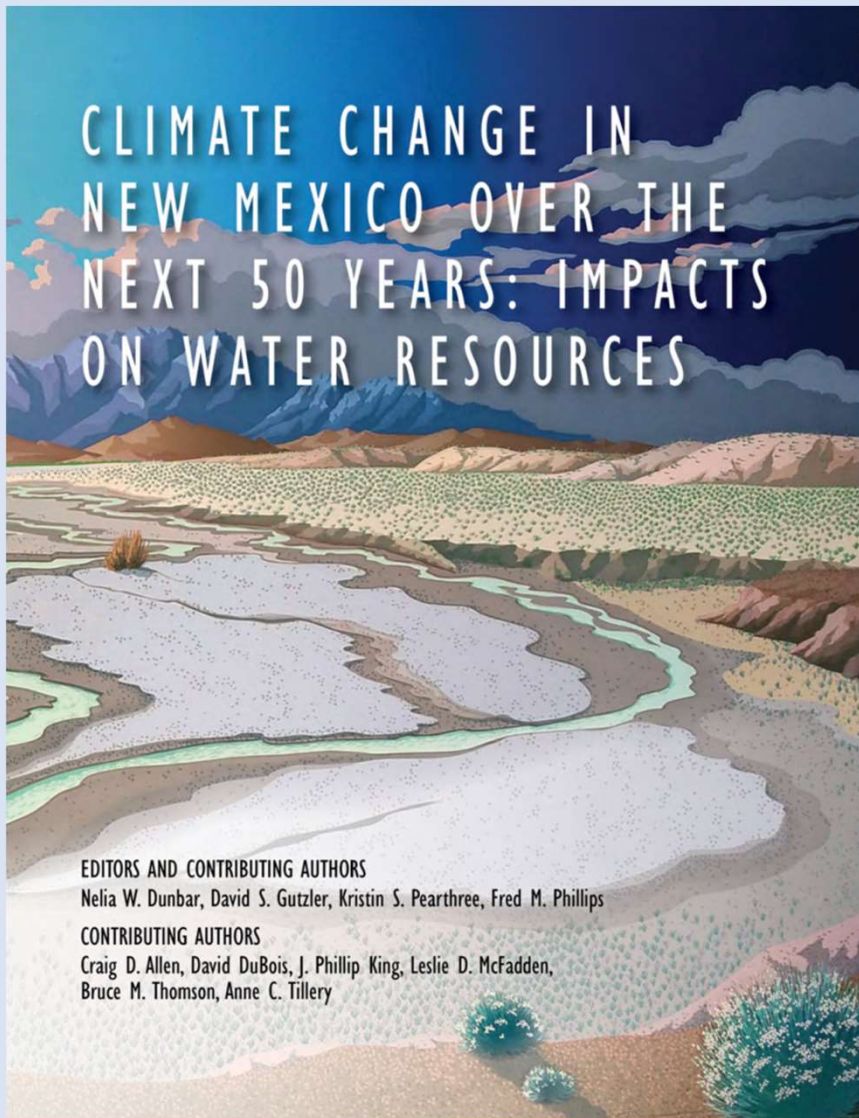
Valid: May-Jun-Jul 2025

Issued: April 17, 2025









Looking into the future:

- We need to plan and prepare for 25% less water in our rivers and recharging our aquifers by 2070

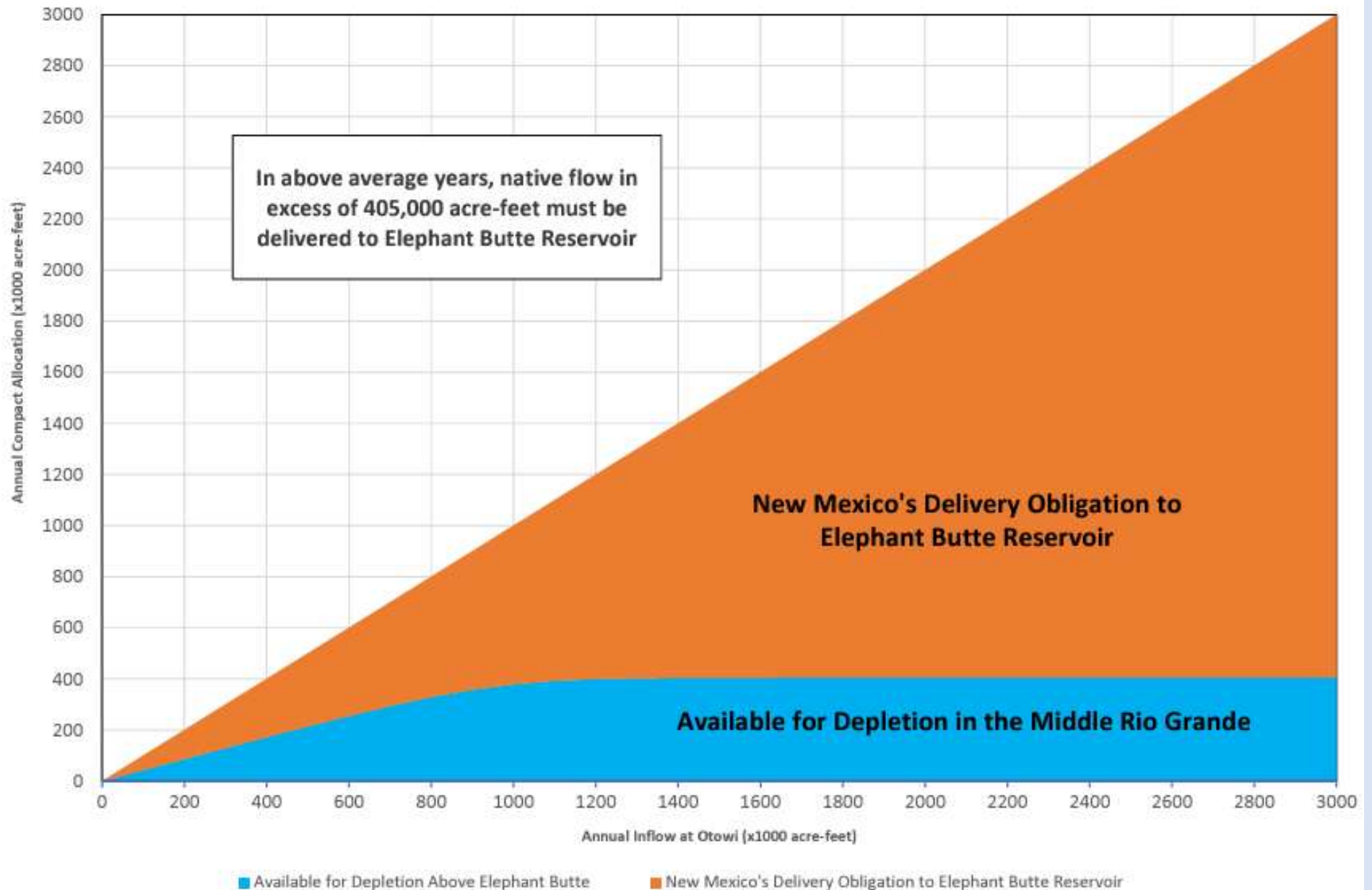


Why is NM's Compact status important?

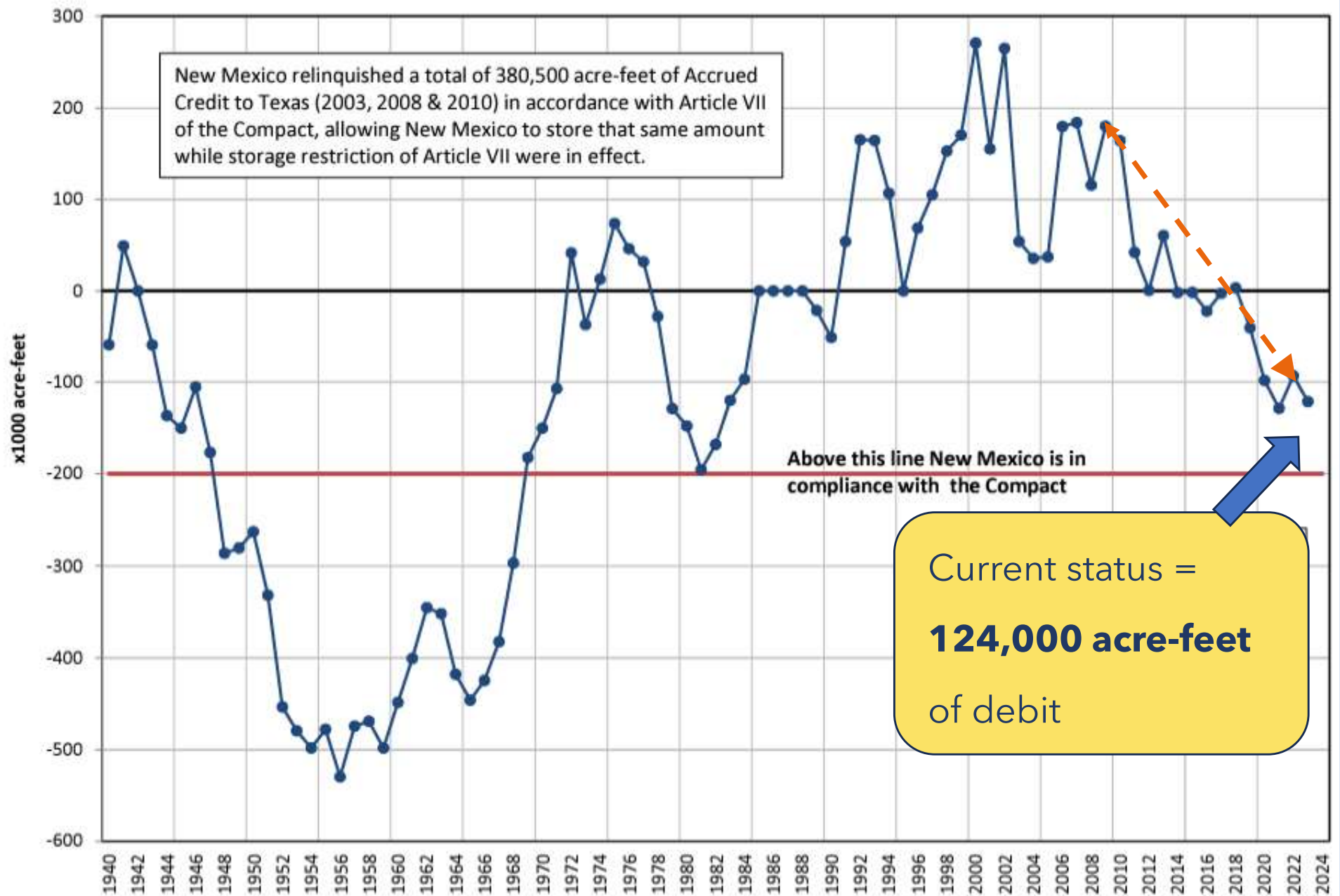
- State water law is subordinate to a state's obligations under an interstate compact
 - *US Supreme Court, Hinderlider v. La Plata Riv. & Cherry Creek Ditch Co., 304 U.S. 92 (U.S. 1938)*
- Upstream storage of native Rio Grande water for middle valley water users is dependent on compact status
 - *Rio Grande Compact Articles VI and VII*

Rio Grande Compact Obligation

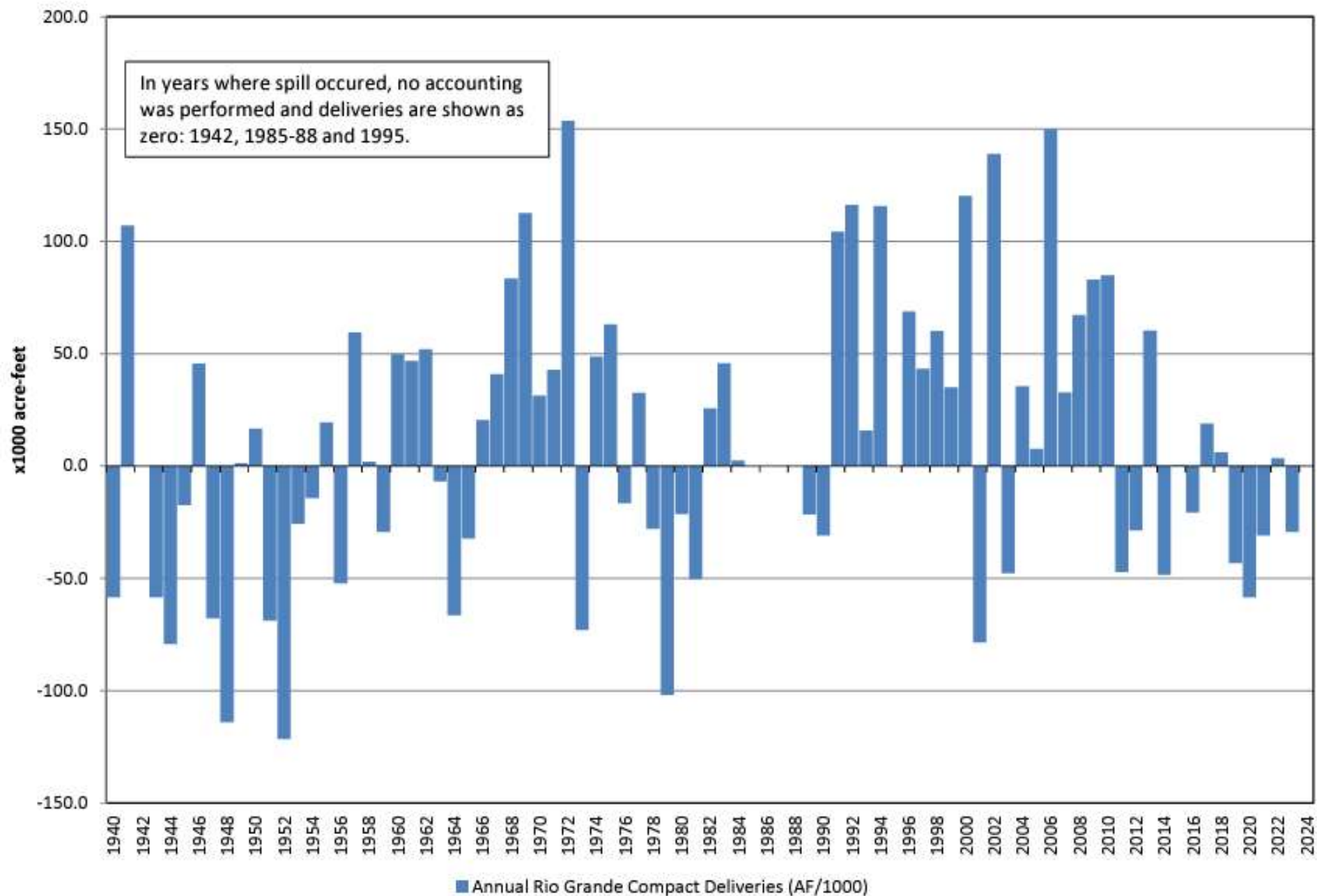
New Mexico's Annual Middle Rio Grande Allocation Chart



Rio Grande Compact Cumulative Departures 1940 through 2024



Annual Rio Grande Compact Deliveries 1940 through 2023



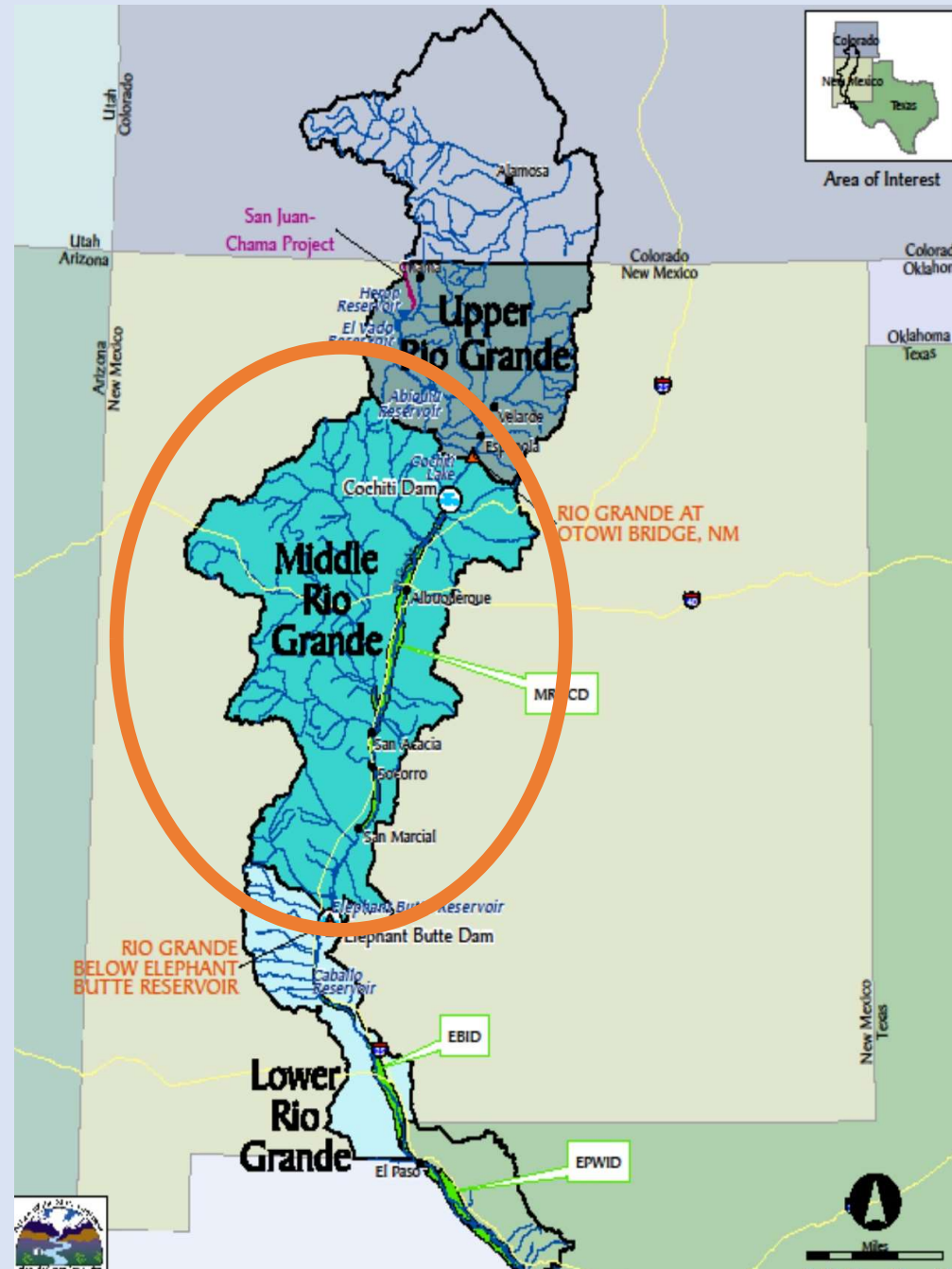
Middle Rio Grande Investments

\$45M in 2023-2025 Legislative Sessions is supporting:

- Active Channel Management for Multiple Purposes
 - Conveyance and Habitat
 - Critical Partnerships with Federal Agencies: Reclamation and Army Corps of Engineers
 - Cooperative Agreement with Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD)
- MRGCD's Voluntary Depletion Reduction Program
- Ongoing Delta Channel Maintenance and Sediment Plug Mitigation
- Data, Modeling and Development of Various Management Tools
 - Low Flow Conveyance Channel

***Need to prepare for:
More Active Depletions Management***

***Six Middle Rio Grande Pueblos Water Rights
Negotiations and Settlement***



Lower Rio Grande – TX v NM No. 141

The three compacting states proposed a Consent Decree that contained an index obligation quantifying the volume of water to be delivered to Texas as a proportion of releases from Caballo Reservoir. The US opposed the Consent Decree on the grounds that it would dispose of the US' claims without its consent.

- April 20, 2024 – TX and NM presented oral argument at the US Supreme Court
- June 21, 2024 – Court issued a 5-4 decision against the states
- June 9, 2025 – Trial date
- Mediation and effort toward settlement ongoing

NM continues to take action and collaborate with state, federal and local partners to identify and implement solutions

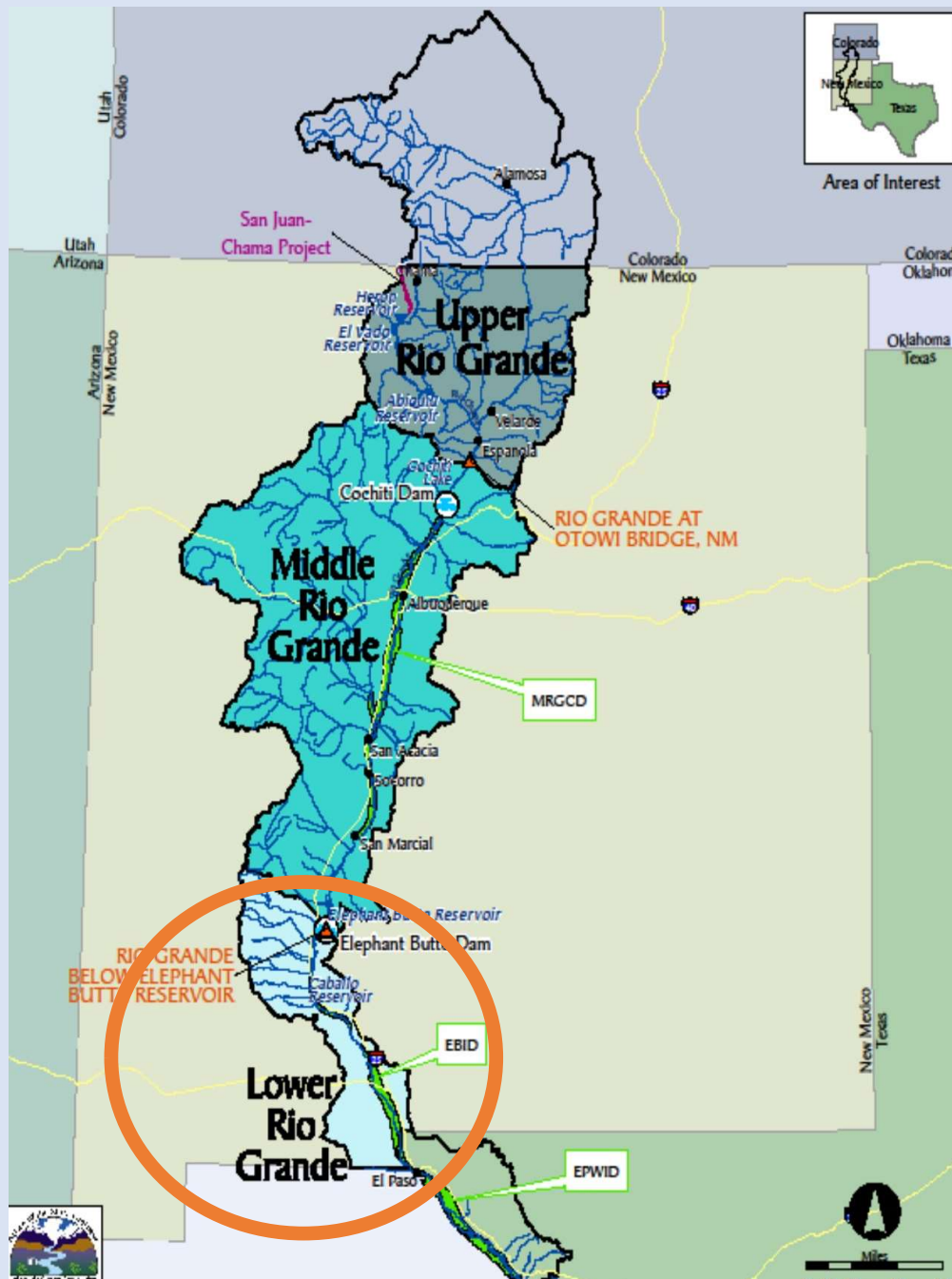


Lower Rio Grande Investments

\$60M+ in 2023 and 2024 Legislative Session is supporting:

- Depletions Management
 - Groundwater Conservation Program in 2025 includes ~6,170 acres enrolled as part of a longer-term groundwater leasing program
 - Development of a purchase program with community input underway
- Implement special projects – aquifer recharge, brackish water, water importation, stormwater management
- Engage with local stakeholders to develop suite of long-term solutions
- Cooperative Agreement with Elephant Butte Irrigation District (EBID)
- Building the NMISC/NMOSE Team

Leverages Federal Funding and Partnerships



What Does this Mean?



- Commitment to holistic management and a multipronged approach
- Need for planning and capacity development at all levels
- Build on legislative wins from 2023 and 2024 legislative session

NM's Regulatory Framework is Prepared to Tackle the Challenges Ahead

Conjunctive Management of Surface and Groundwater

- NM has the oldest regulatory regime for conjunctive management in the US - since 1956. NM courts recognize the State Engineer's ability to conjunctively manage surface and groundwater rights to ensure compact compliance, including Rio Grande offset requirements.

City of Albuquerque v. Reynolds, 1962-NMSC-173, 71 N.M. 428

Active Water Resource Management (AWRM)

- The State Engineer can enforce all laws related to use of water even in the absence of a complete adjudication.
- In addition, the State Engineer can administer based on agreed upon alternative management plans, which can provide for better win-wins.

Strategic Water Reserve

- NM Interstate Stream Commission has ability to support river flows for Compact and species purposes, including owning and leasing water and storage rights.

NMSA 1978, § 72-14-3.3

Water Security Planning Act

*Senate Bill 337 - Passed unanimously.
Will transform and reinvigorate regional
water planning in New Mexico.*

Ensures Regional Water Planning:

- Involves Robust Public Involvement – including from Major Water Rights Holders
 - Is Grounded in the Best Available Data, Science and Models
 - Ties to Implementation through Prioritization of Projects for Funding
 - Builds Local Capacity
-
- *Recommendation of the 2022 Water Policy and Infrastructure Task Force, implementation called for by the 50-Year Water Action Plan*



TIME TO WORK TOGETHER

