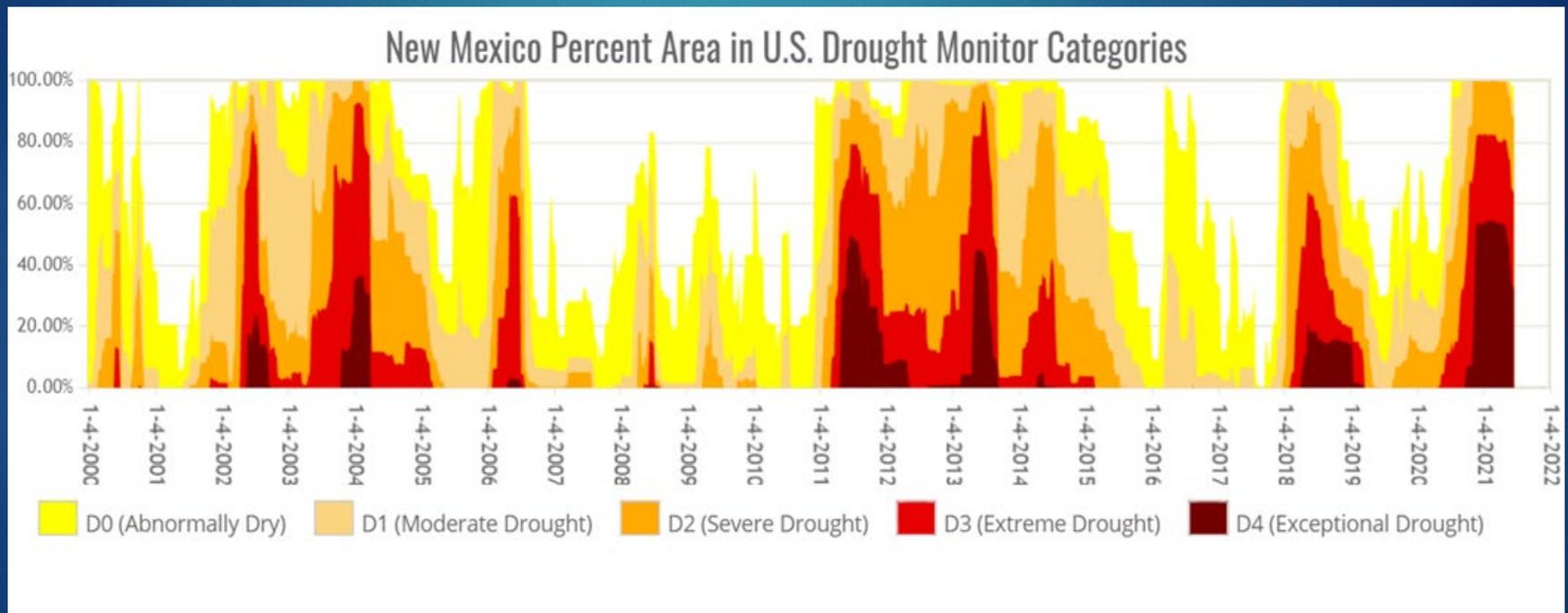


State Water  
Planning in the  
Face of Long-  
Term drought



# Twenty Years of Dry and Drier Conditions (2000-2020)

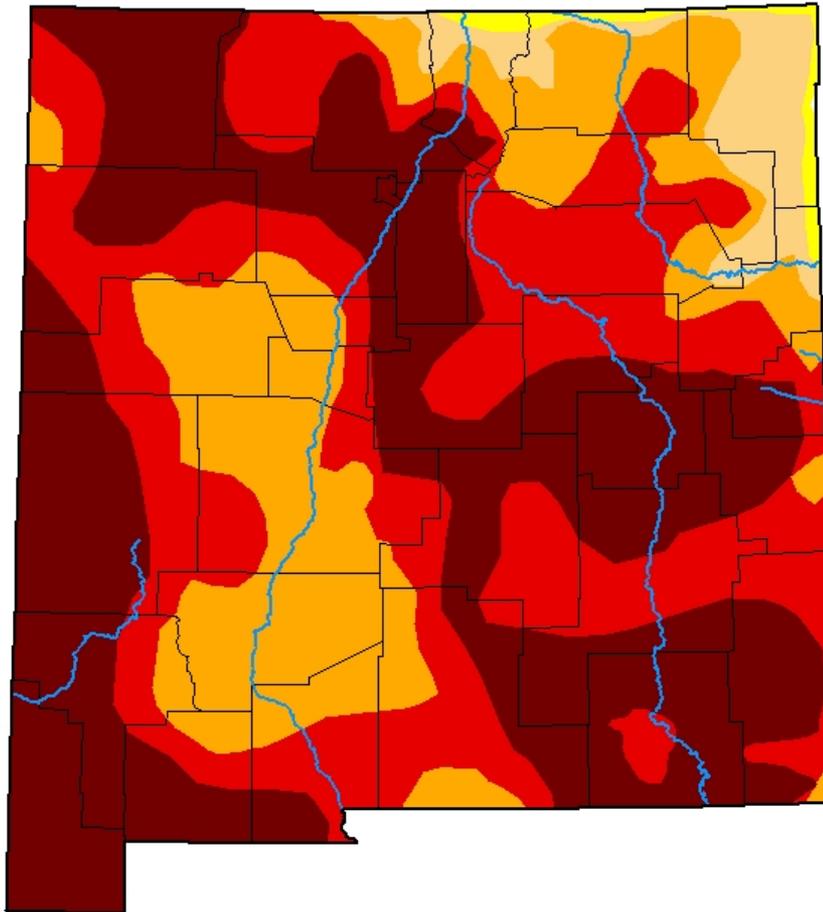
2



# U.S. Drought Monitor New Mexico

**June 1, 2021**  
(Released Thursday, Jun. 3, 2021)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

3



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	0.01	99.99	99.03	94.76	73.97	40.68
<b>Last Week</b> <i>05-25-2021</i>	0.01	99.99	99.47	94.88	74.71	46.72
<b>3 Months Ago</b> <i>03-02-2021</i>	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.91	82.18	54.15
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> <i>12-29-2020</i>	0.00	100.00	99.97	99.59	82.26	53.20
<b>Start of Water Year</b> <i>09-29-2020</i>	0.00	100.00	99.92	73.65	39.88	2.90
<b>One Year Ago</b> <i>06-02-2020</i>	32.02	67.98	44.32	23.31	4.53	0.00

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

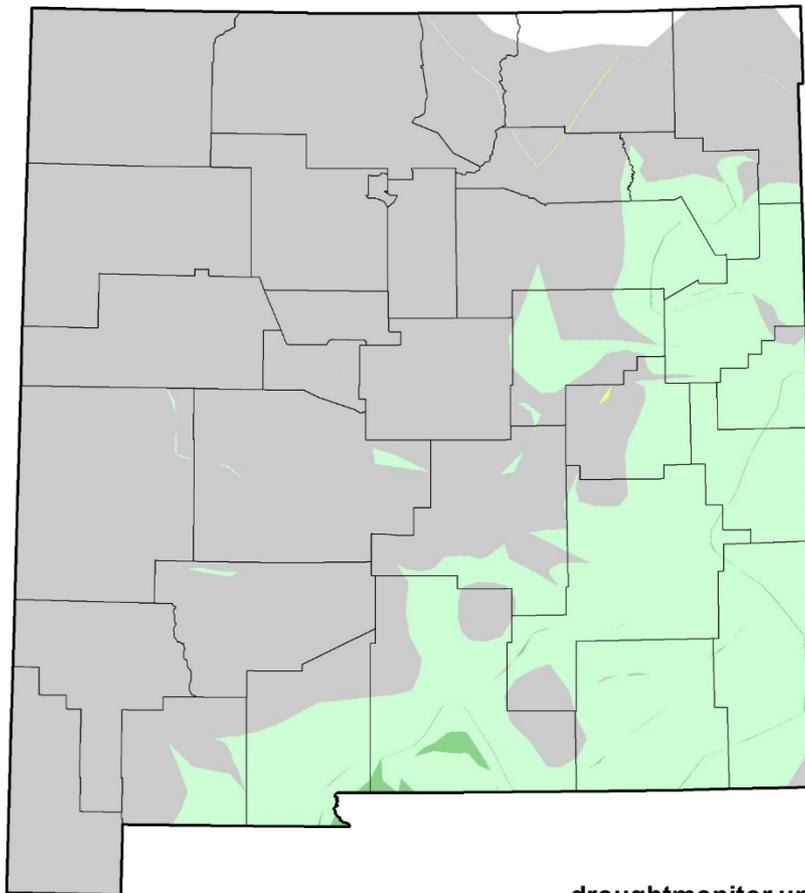
Author:

Brian Fuchs  
National Drought Mitigation Center



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

### U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change - New Mexico 1 Week



July 6, 2021  
compared to  
June 29, 2021

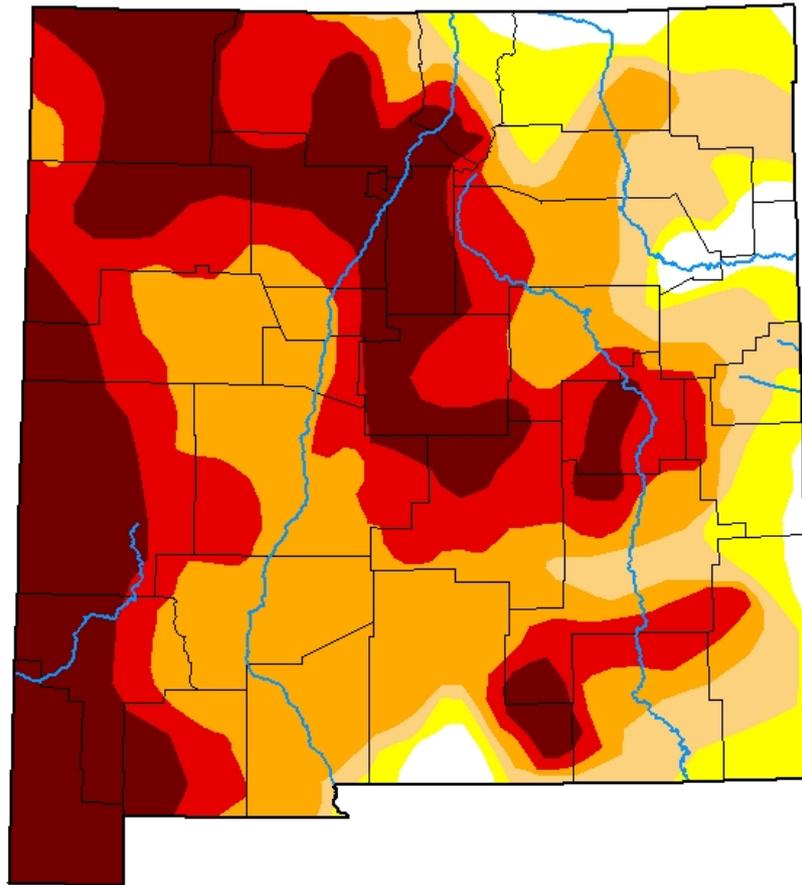


- 5 Class Degradation
- 4 Class Degradation
- 3 Class Degradation
- 2 Class Degradation
- 1 Class Degradation
- No Change
- 1 Class Improvement
- 2 Class Improvement
- 3 Class Improvement
- 4 Class Improvement
- 5 Class Improvement

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# U.S. Drought Monitor New Mexico

**July 6, 2021**  
(Released Thursday, Jul. 8, 2021)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	3.62	96.38	88.20	77.12	49.34	25.67
<b>Last Week</b> <i>06-29-2021</i>	1.04	98.96	92.88	84.87	58.80	30.47
<b>3 Months Ago</b> <i>04-06-2021</i>	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.35	79.88	53.50
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> <i>12-29-2020</i>	0.00	100.00	99.97	99.59	82.26	53.20
<b>Start of Water Year</b> <i>09-29-2020</i>	0.00	100.00	99.92	73.65	39.88	2.90
<b>One Year Ago</b> <i>07-07-2020</i>	17.61	82.39	58.16	40.83	11.17	0.00

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

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Author:

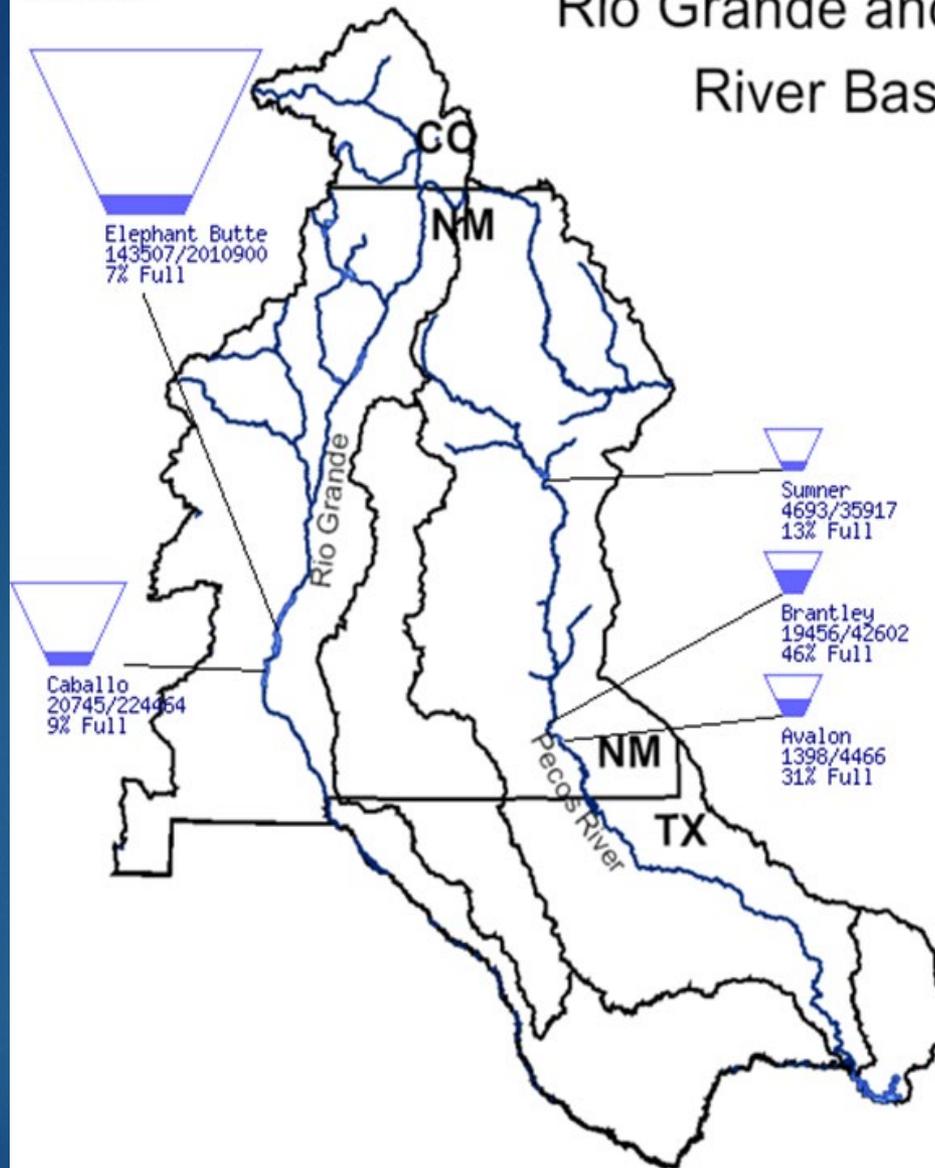
Deborah Bathke  
National Drought Mitigation Center



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

Data Current as of:  
06/28/2021

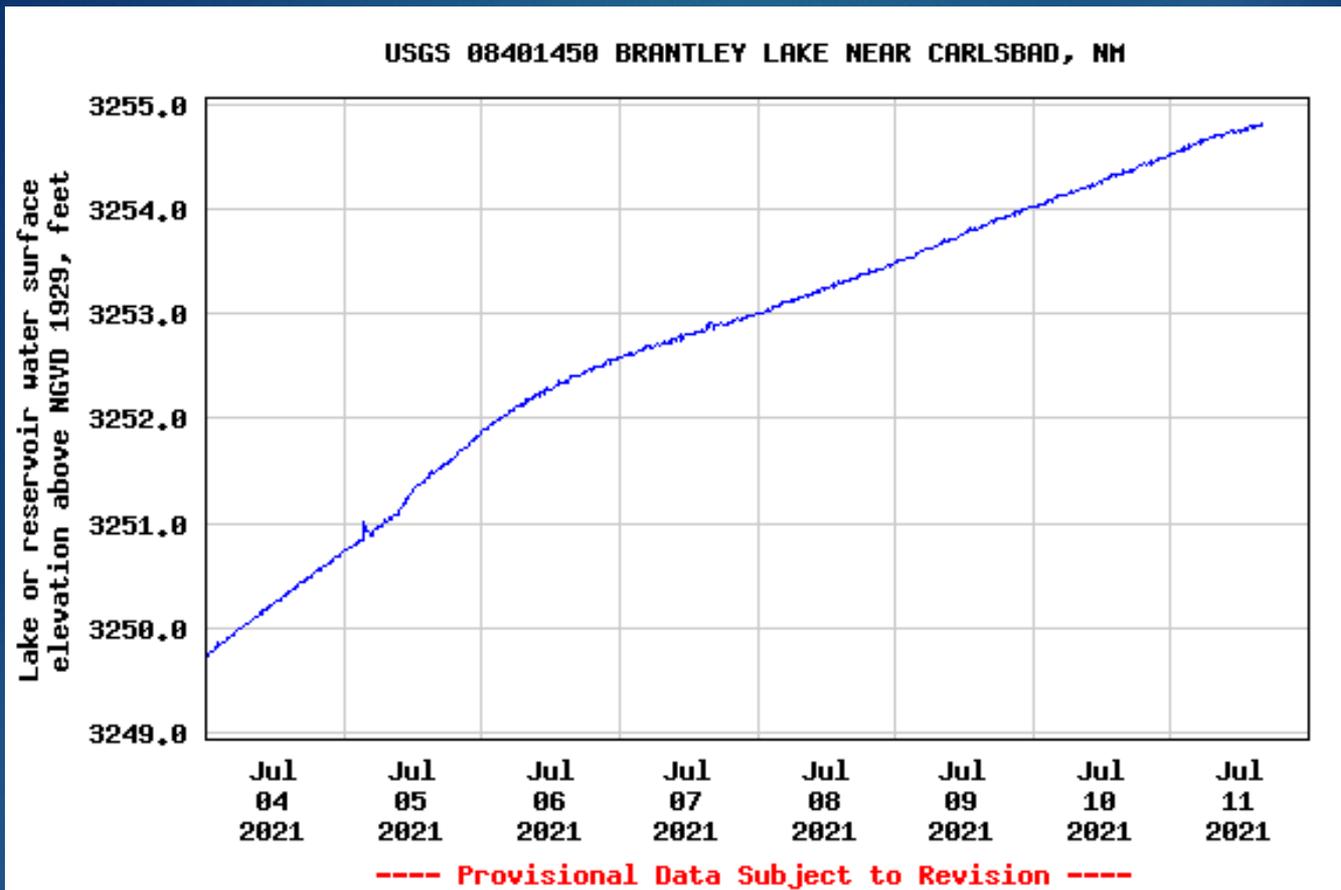
## Rio Grande and Pecos River Basins



# OSE/ISC Severe-Other Exceptional Drought Actions

7

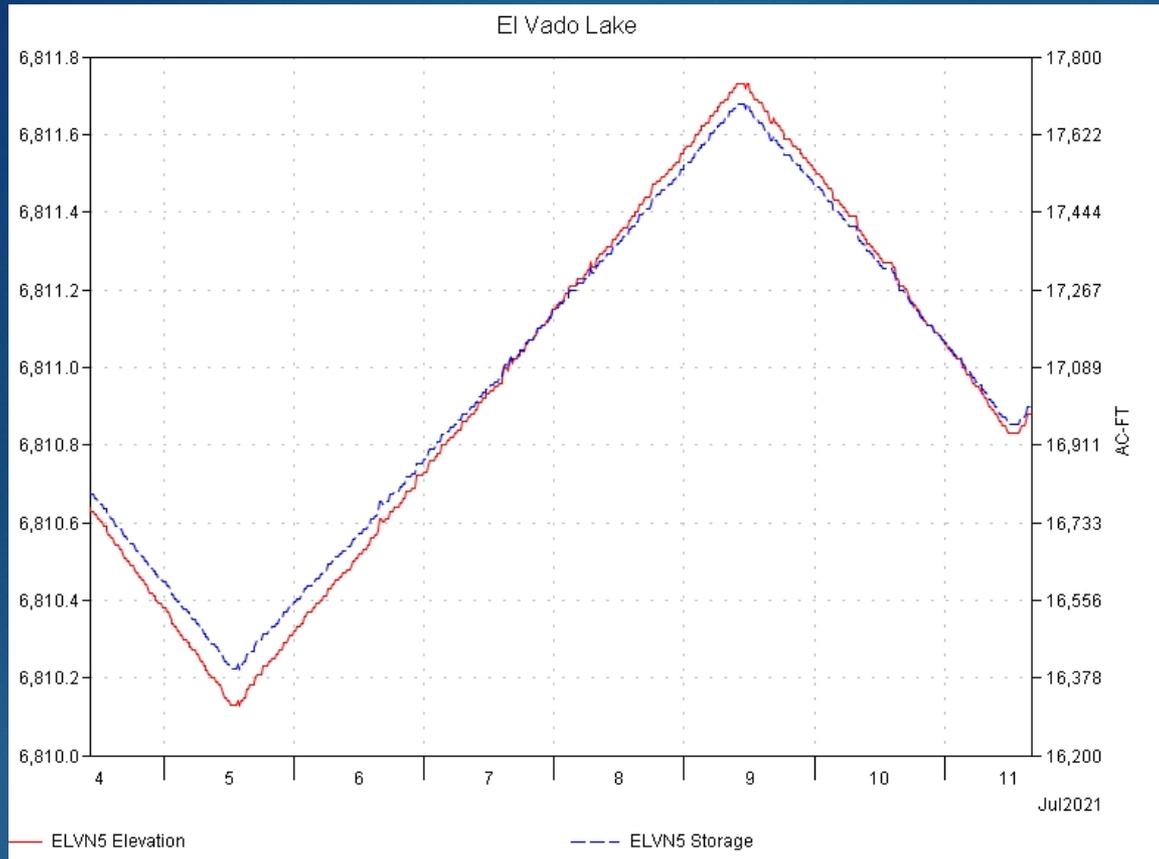
- ▶ **Drought severity has required direct water administration by Agency personnel in Rio Grande, Rio Chama, Pecos, Gallinas, Mimbres, San Juan and Jemez River basins (large vacancy rate requires pulling staff from all programs which slows other work)**
- ▶ **ISC Costilla Creek administration and Los Lunas Silvery Minnow Refugium operations are ramped up.**
- ▶ **Other ISC staff fully booked addressing water related Capital projects, other drought operations, litigation, and longer-term planning.**



## Pecos River At Brantley Reservoir

ISC has been pumping its Pecos River wellfields since November 2020 to provide supply to the Carlsbad Irrigation District – Delivered about 16,000 acre-feet over eight (8) months.

Pecos Reservoirs levels have increased enough to allow us to stop pumping and rest the wellfields – Brantley alone gained over 20,000 acre-feet in last few Weeks.



## Rio Grande At El Vado Dam On the Rio Chama

El Vado Reservoir is at about 10% of capacity. All the water in it is being held for possible release/use to meet the 6 MRG Pueblos Prior & Paramount Lands irrigation needs.

The Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District no longer has water stored to meet its farmers irrigation needs

## Very Low Flows Entering Middle Valley

- Many Rio Grande drought actions -

Luckily, late May and June rains have aided Acequias along the Sangre De Cristos continue providing irrigation water.

Rio Chama below Abiquiu just now Starting rotation and experiencing short Supplies.

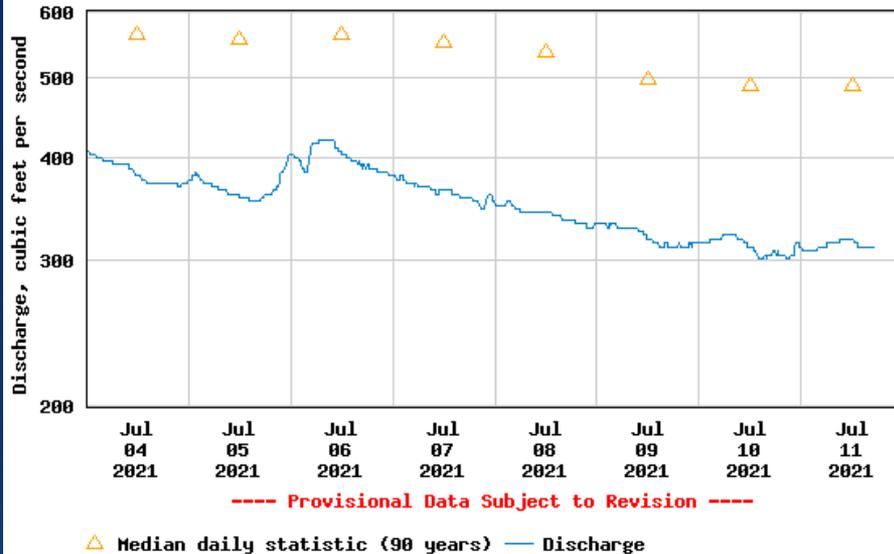
MRG & MRGCD – Used NM Retained Debit Water last summer for farmers, Environment, and pandemic recreation Opportunities in Albuquerque.

Led to Increased Compact debit

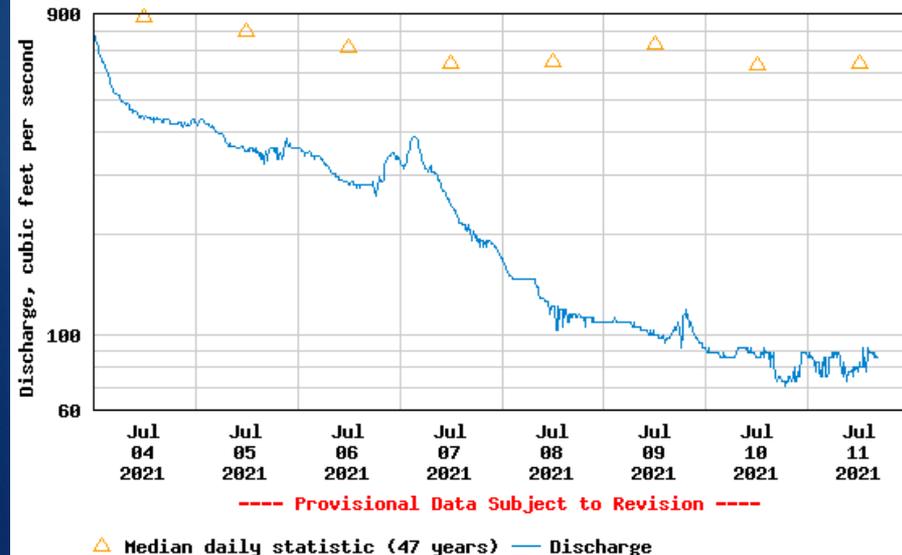
Retained Debit Water Release in January

MRGCD Operations changes to Repay the 34,000 acre-feet used in 2020.

USGS 08279500 RIO GRANDE AT EMBUDO, NM



USGS 08330000 RIO GRANDE AT ALBUQUERQUE, NM



# Elephant Butte Reservoir At about 7.5 Percent of Capacity

As per the 2008 Operating Agreement

EBID has used all the stored water  
available to its farmers

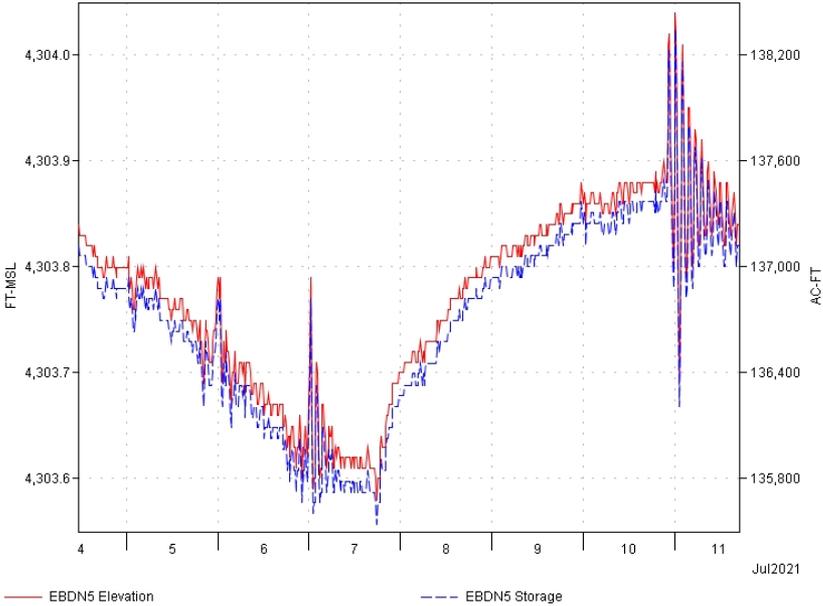
The majority of the remaining stored  
water is being held by Reclamation  
for release to EP No.1 (The Texas  
Irrigation District)

The water being released now is  
destined for EP No. 1 farmers, the City  
of El Paso, and Mexico

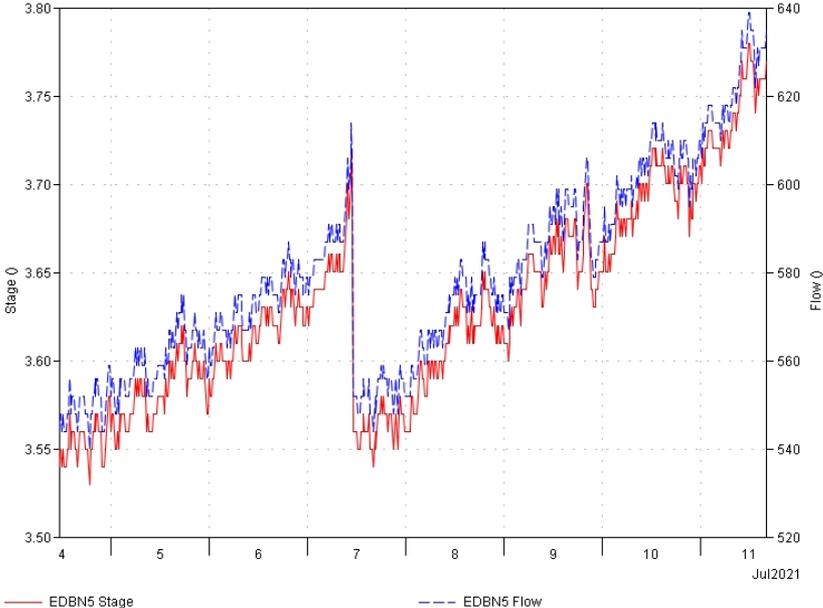
EBID farmers and our LRG cities are using  
Pumped groundwater.

The ISC Pilot LRG Groundwater  
Conservation Program is on-going.

Elephant Butte Reservoir



Rio Grande below Elephant Butte Dam

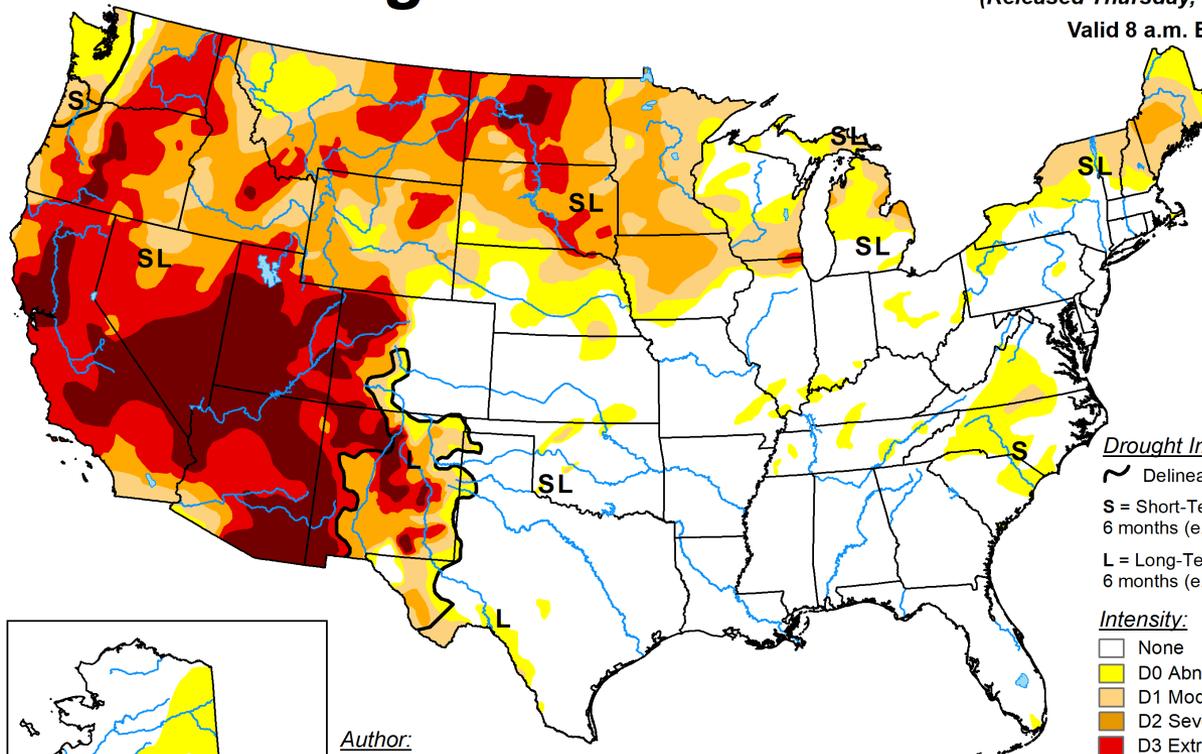


# U.S. Drought Monitor

July 6, 2021

(Released Thursday, Jul. 8, 2021)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

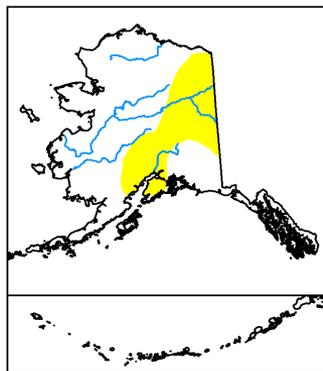


**Drought Impact Types:**

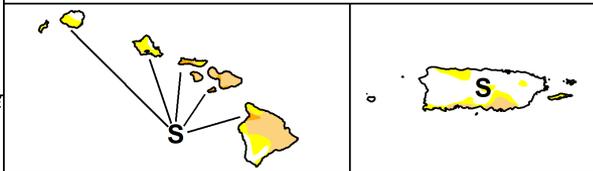
- ~ Delineates dominant impacts
- S = Short-Term, typically less than 6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
- L = Long-Term, typically greater than 6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

**Intensity:**

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought



**Author:**  
Deborah Bathke  
National Drought Mitigation Center



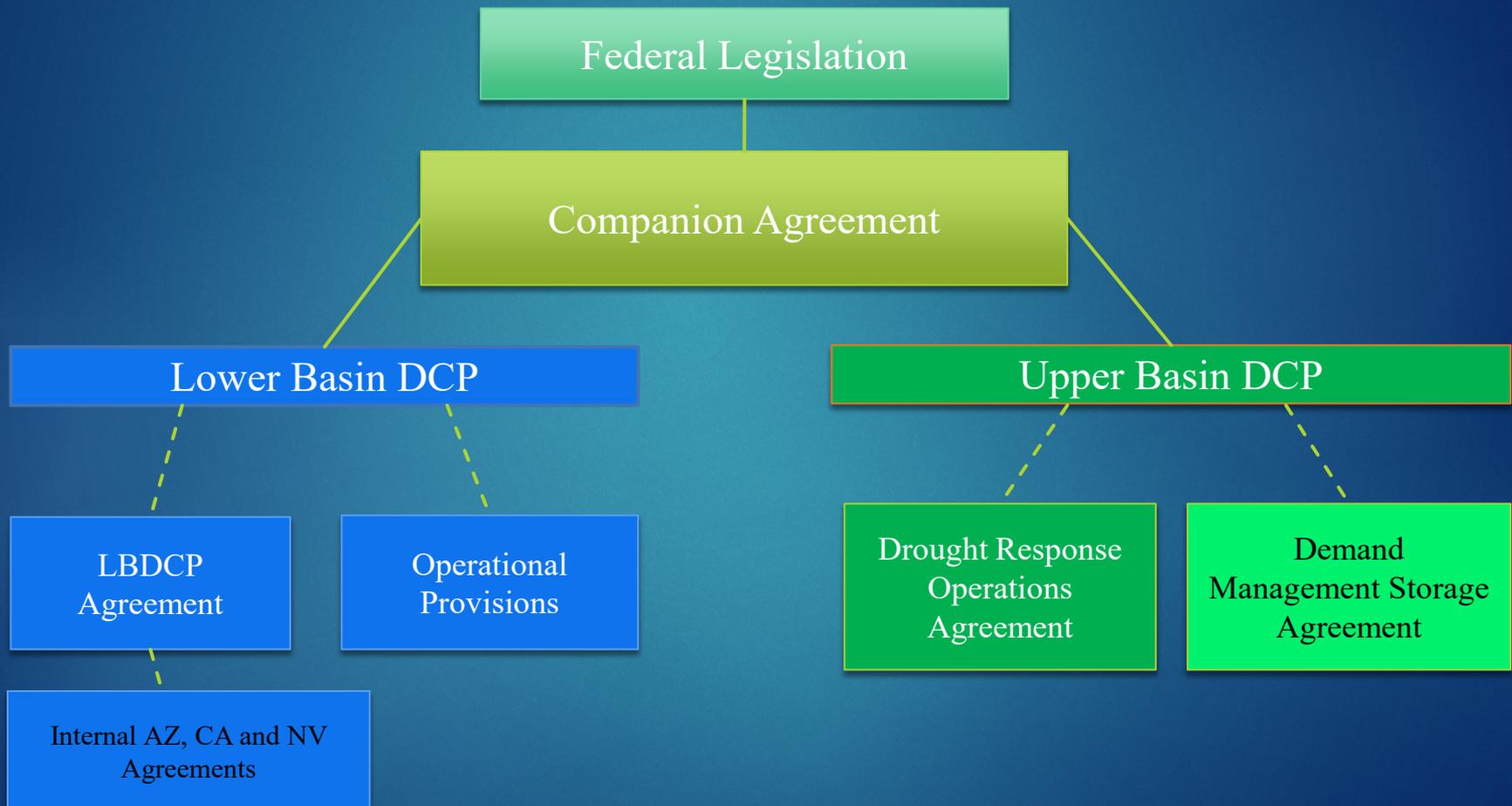
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[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

# DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLANS (DCPs)

13



# NM Water Planning

14

The ISC is engaged in significant efforts to prepare for anticipated continued impacts to New Mexico's water resources associated with climate change induced increasing temperature.

Much Work has been done/started:

- ▶ New Mexican's have a long history of drought and being resilient to drought
  - ▶ Acequias, Pueblos, Tribes, etc
- ▶ Municipalities are already planning for drier and more variable times: ABCWUA 100-Year Plan, City of Santa Fe Long-Range Plan, San Juan Water Commission Animas-La Plata Project Plans, Eastern New Mexico Pipeline Project
- ▶ Irrigated Agriculture has been responding
  - ▶ Conservancy and Irrigation District System Improvements and Conservation
  - ▶ \$16 M to Acequias construction projects
- ▶ Indian Water Rights Settlement Projects: Navajo Gallup, Aamodt, Taos etc.
- ▶ Implementing Active Water Resources Management
- ▶ Strategic Water Reserve Implementation
- ▶ Basin Studies – Pecos, Santa Fe, San Juan, Rio Grande (in progress)

# 50-Year Water Plan & Schedule

- 4 Phases in 16 months -

Phase	Date
Phase 1: Planning Approach and Coordination	Project Start – Feb 28, 2021
Phase 2: Leap Ahead Analysis (assessment of current and future water resource conditions and risk)	March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2021
Phase 3: Outreach, Assessment, and Creation of Strategies to Achieve Resilience	July 1, 2021 – November 30, 2021
Phase 4: Produce, Review and Finalize Plan	December 1, 2021 – March 30, 2022

# Major Activities Supporting Development of the 50-Yr Water Plan

16

- ▶ **Incorporate Governor Lujan Grisham's water resilience vision as well as numerous on-going efforts initiated by the Lujan Grisham administration into the relevant portions of the 2018 State Water Plan**
  - ▶ Water Data Act Implementation (per 2019 HB 651)
  - ▶ The Forest and Watershed Advisory Board (per 2019 HB 266)
  - ▶ The Climate Change Task Force
  - ▶ The Drought Task Force
  - ▶ The Tribal Water Summit

# WEBINAR EVENT

JULY 21, 2021

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM

17

**CLIMATE CHANGE LEAP AHEAD  
ANALYSIS RESULTS OVERVIEW**

**AND 50-YEAR WATER PLAN  
DEVELOPMENT STEPS**

<https://www.gotomeet.me/NMISC/50-year-water-plan-4>

