

Water and Natural Resources Committee

Ute Reservoir and Pipeline

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Overview

Ute Reservoir Water Contract



Ute Reservoir and Spillway – October 2017

- ◆ Ute Reservoir is owned and operated by the NMISC
- ◆ Built in the early 1960's as a source for municipal and industrial use for the communities in Eastern New Mexico that are currently relying on a declining water supply (Ogallala Aquifer)
- ◆ Spillway was raised to increase storage capacity in the 1980's
- ◆ NMISC can store approximately 193,000 acre-feet of conservation storage per the 1950 Canadian River Compact

Overview

Ute Reservoir Water Contract

- ◆ Ute Reservoir Water Contract (December 2020)
 - ◆ Bulk Water Sales Contract between the NMISC and the Ute Reservoir Water Commission for the option to purchase and the purchase of water from Ute Reservoir
- ◆ Ute Reservoir Water Commission, established by JPA, is comprised of 12 members (Cities of Clovis, Portales, Tucumcari, and Texico; Villages of Grady, Logan, Melrose, and San Jon; Town of Elida; and Curry, Roosevelt, and Quay Counties)
- ◆ Provides up to 24,000 acre-feet annually to the Ute Reservoir Water Commission
 - ◆ Allocations of water amongst members was determined by the Ute Reservoir Water Commission and not the NMISC.



Ute Reservoir Spill – October 2017

Overview

Ute Reservoir Water Contract

◆ Water Allocations (24,000 acre-feet):

- ◆ Clovis – 12,532 acre-feet (af)
- ◆ Melrose – 0 af
- ◆ Texico – 250 af
- ◆ Grady – 35 af
- ◆ Curry County – 0 af
- ◆ Elida – 50 af
- ◆ Portales – 3,583 af
- ◆ Roosevelt County – 0 af
- ◆ San Jon – 150 af
- ◆ Tucumcari – 6,000 af
- ◆ Quay County – 1,000 af
- ◆ Logan – 400 af

Overview

Ute Reservoir Water Contract

- ◆ Option Period Term – Expires December 31, 2030 for any portion of the 24,000 acre-feet that has NOT been purchased
- ◆ Contract Term – Expires January 1, 2060 for any portion of the 24,000 acre-feet that has been purchased
 - ◆ Only Tucumcari has exercised their option to purchase 500 acre-feet annually
- ◆ Water Rates
 - ◆ Option Price - \$1.50/acre-foot per calendar year
 - ◆ Purchase Price - \$25.00/acre-foot per calendar year
 - ◆ Operation and Maintenance Price – O&M Fee assessed annually on all water (currently \$2.60/acre-foot per calendar year)

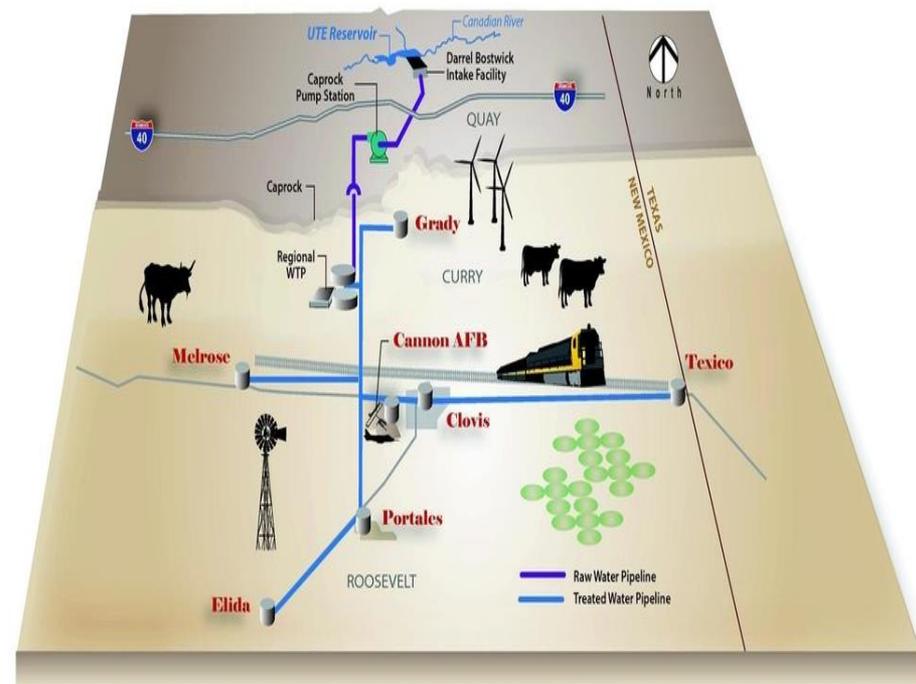


Intake Facility at Ute Reservoir

Overview

Ute Reservoir Water Contract

- ◆ Eastern New Mexico Rural Water System (ENMRWS), also known as the Ute Pipeline Project, was federally authorized in 2009 which allows the Eastern New Mexico Water Utility Authority (ENMWUA) to receive federal funding for the project.
 - ◆ 75% Federal
 - ◆ 15% State
 - ◆ 10% Local
- ◆ ENMWUA consisted of the Cities of Clovis, Portales, and Texico; Villages of Grady, and Melrose; Town of Elida; and Curry and Roosevelt Counties.
 - ◆ Grady, Melrose, Curry County, and Roosevelt County are no longer part of the ENMWUA



Schematic of ENMRWS Project

Overview

Ogallala Land & Water Conservancy

Groundwater Reduction and Land Conservation Project

- ❖ In August 2021, the Central Curry Soil and Water Conservation District (CCSWCD) elected to serve as the eligible entity for the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program and Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), while also contracting with the newly created Ogallala Land & Water Conservancy (OLWC) as the execution arm of the CCSWCD.
- ❖ The OLWC was established in August 2021 to administer the REPI and RCPP grants with goals and objectives to recapture surface water to recharge the Ogallala Aquifer through playa restorations, create a natural habitat for wildlife, and conserve groundwater for long-term use through conservation easements and sustainable management practices.
- ❖ The Office of the State Engineer is providing bridge funding of up to \$3.6M for the Drought Mitigation Fund to assist with groundwater leasing contracts for 10 producers for 10,800 acres. This will allow for Ogallala Aquifer recovery in the paleochannel area in the Cannon AFB area.