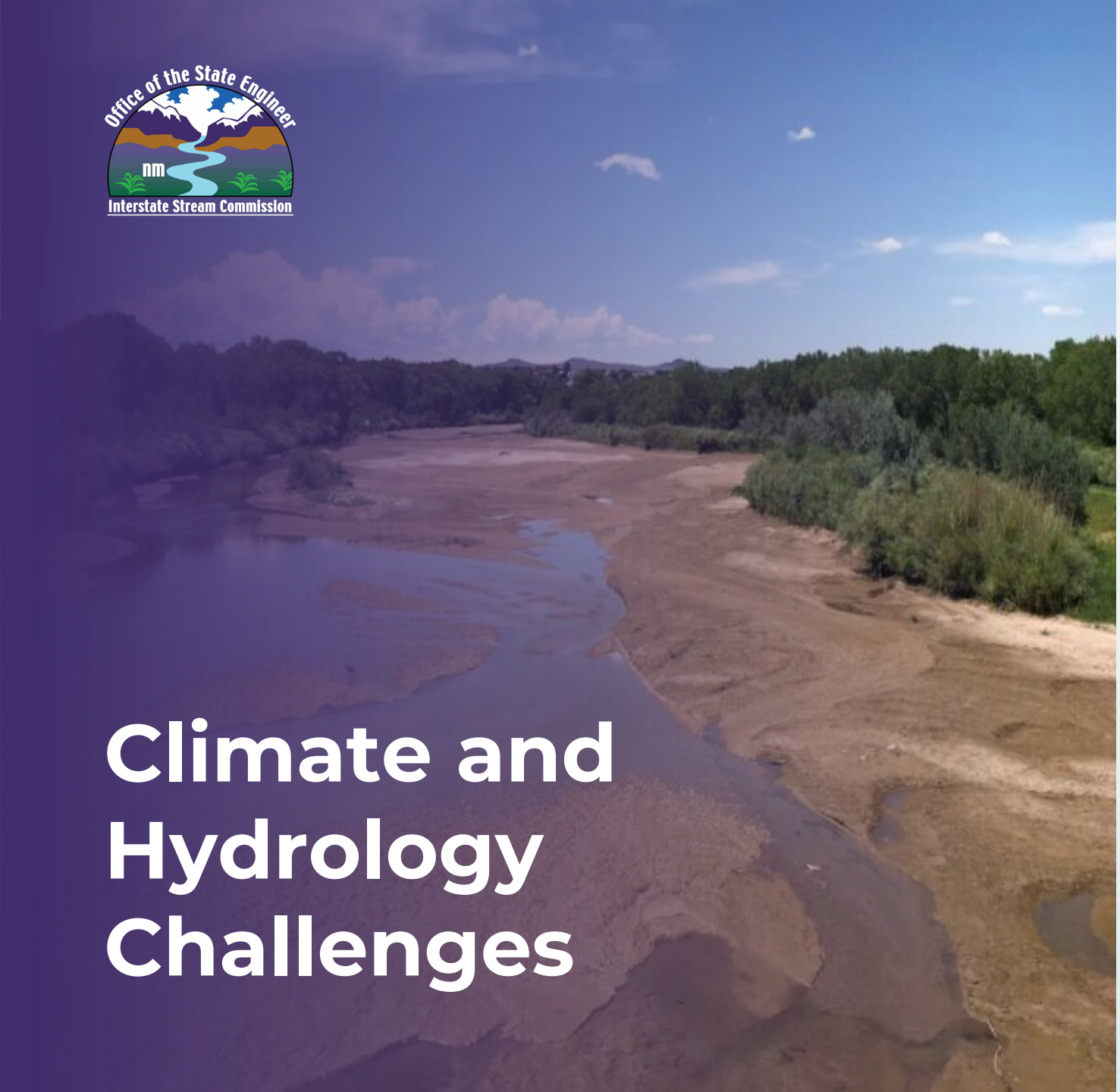
Drought and 50-Year Water Action Plan Implementation Dashboard

Tanya Trujillo, Deputy State Engineer

May 21, 2026

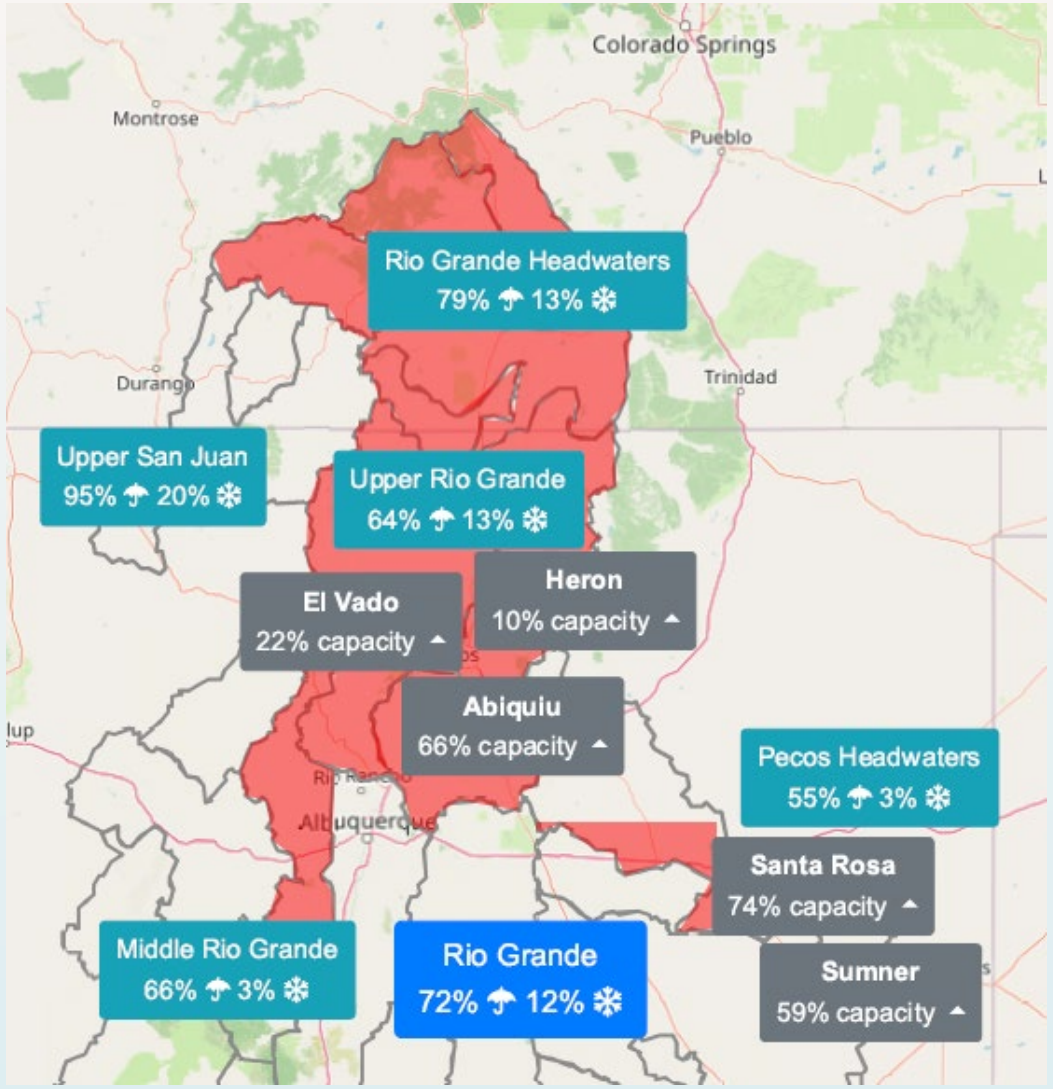


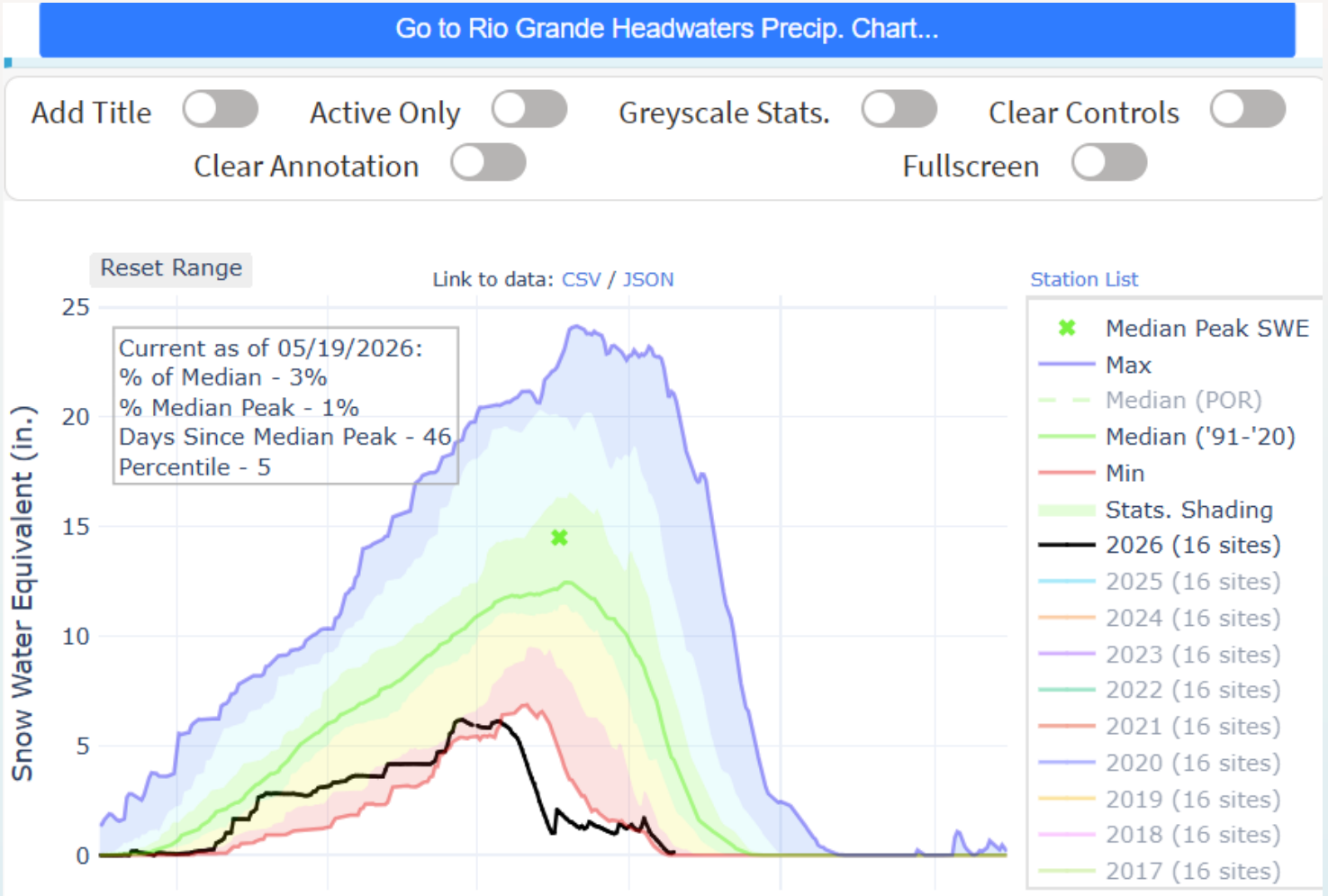
Climate and Hydrology Challenges

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS IN NEW MEXICO THIS YEAR:

- Lowest snowpack
- Highest temperatures
- Lowest runoff levels
- Impacts to New Mexico communities
- Impacts to the environment
- Increased challenges in meeting Compact deliveries
  - Rio Grande streamflow ranges from 7% to 31% of the historical median (1991 - 2020)
  - San Juan streamflow is 60% of the historical median (1991 – 2020)

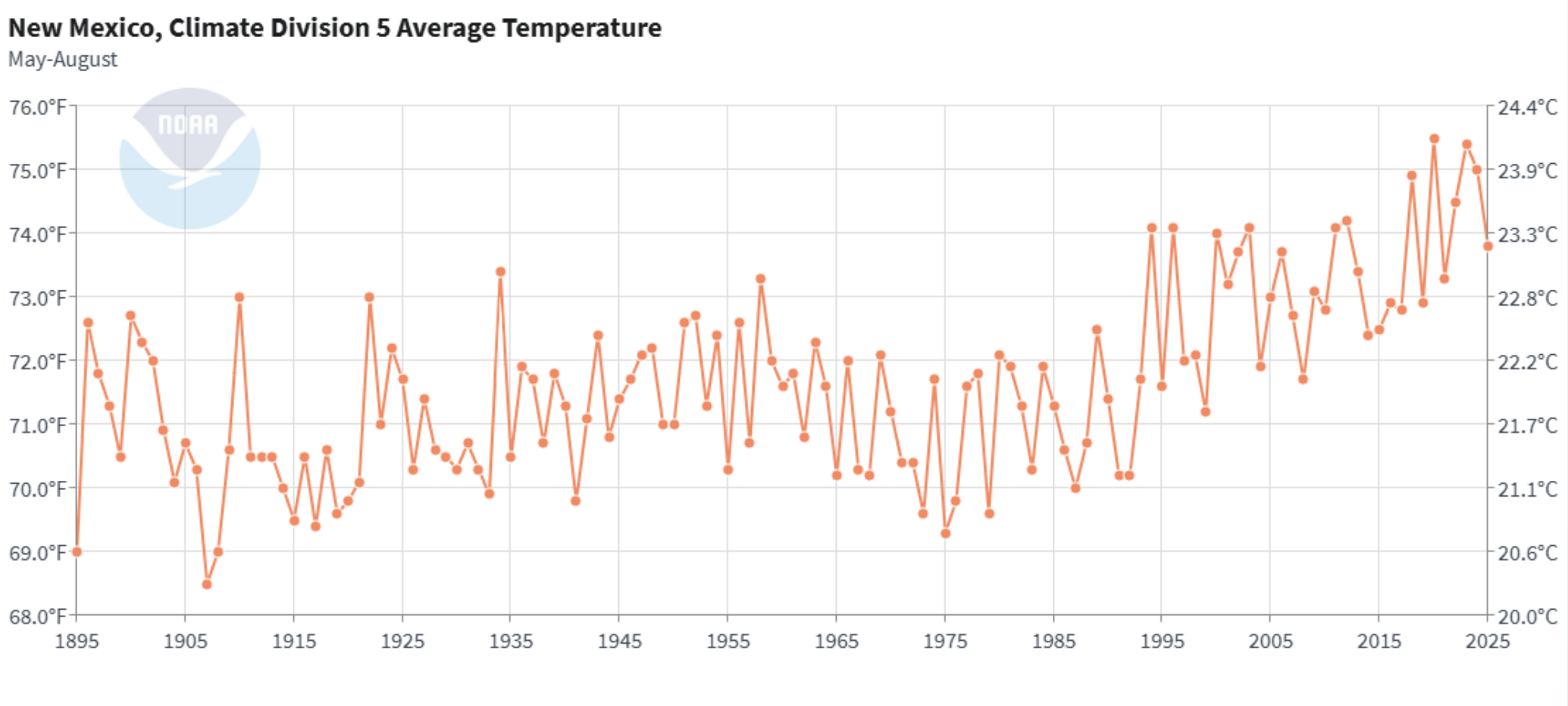
Record Low Snowpack





usbr.gov/uc/water/hydrodata/status_maps/rg_status.html

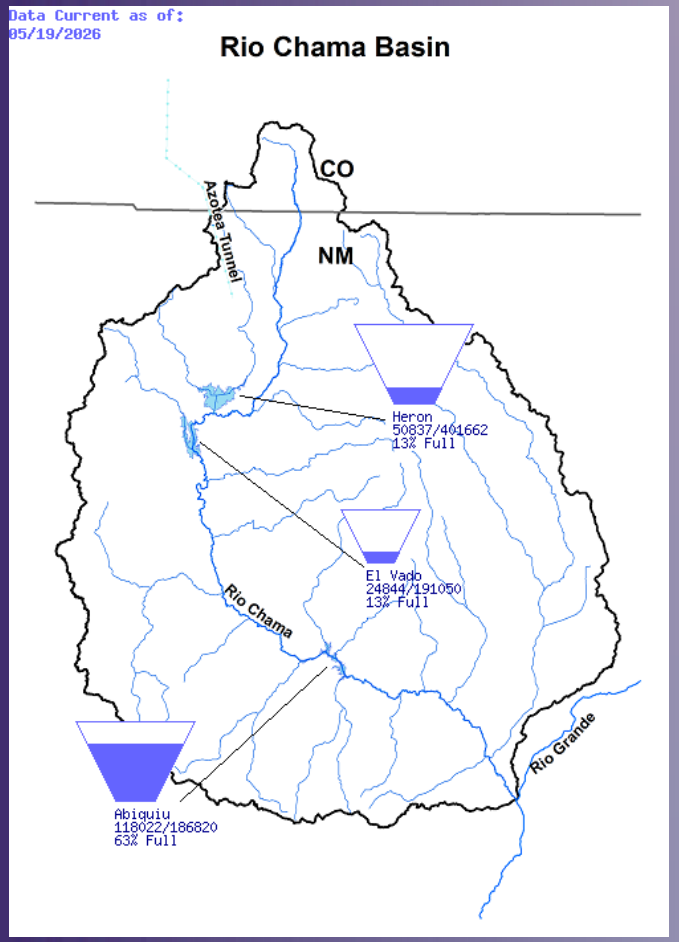
Record High Temperatures

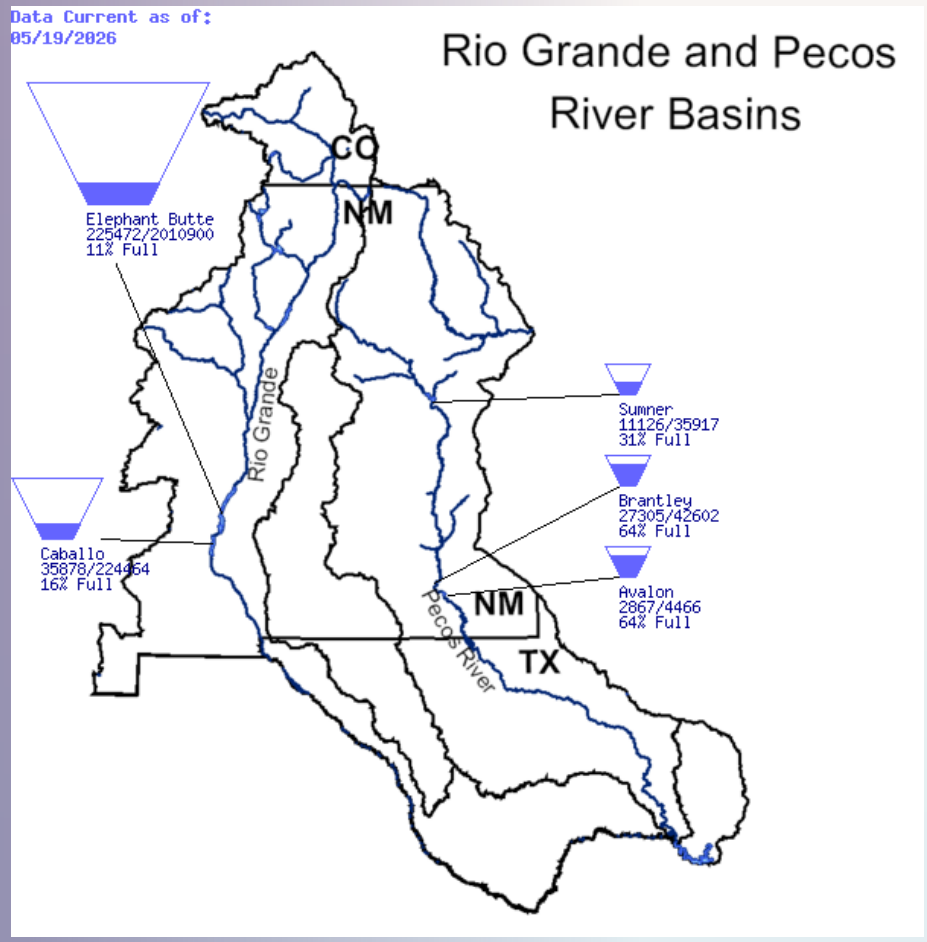


- 2026 had the warmest March in the period of record
- ***Top 5 warmest summers on record have occurred in last 8 years***
- Warmer temperatures = greater water lost to evaporation and transpiration

https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/monitoring/climate-at-a-glance/divisional/time-series

Climate and Hydrology Challenges





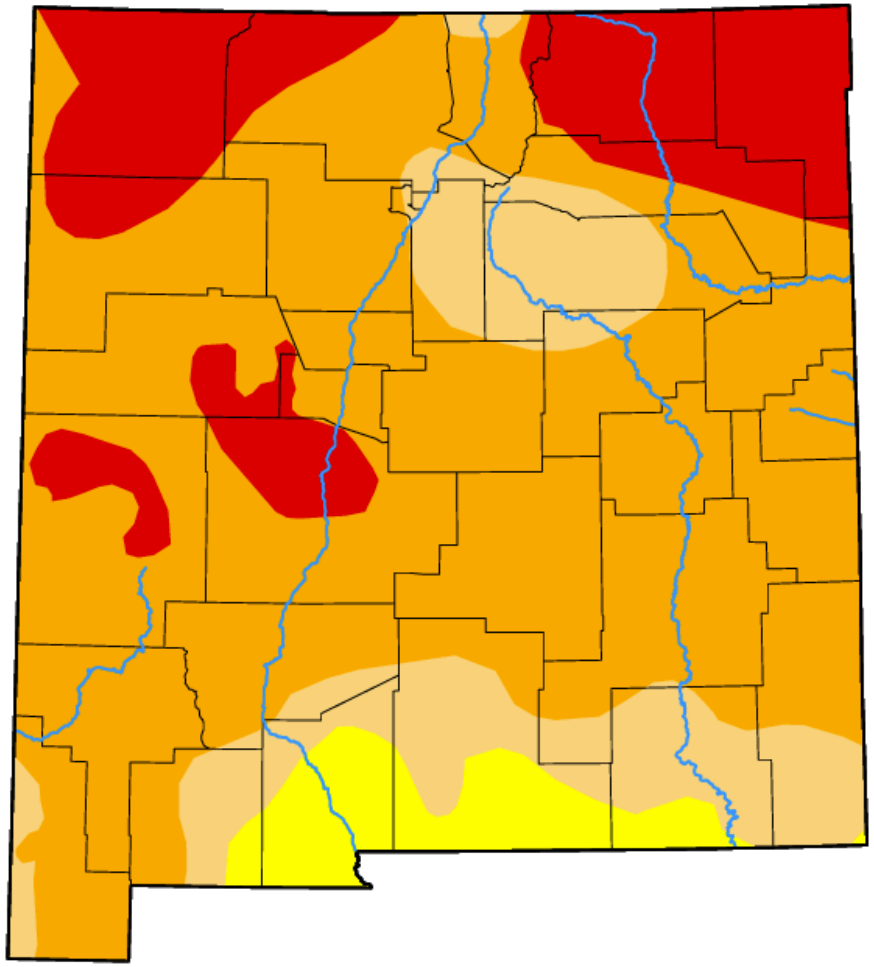
RESERVOIR LEVELS THROUGHOUT THE RIO GRANDE ARE AMONG LOWEST ON RECORD

- Heron, **13% Capacity** (SJCP water; no authorization to store native Rio Grande water)
- El Vado, **13% Capacity** (SJCP and P&P, safety of dams operations restrict storage to 25KAF)
- Abiquiu, **63% Capacity** (SJCP and P&P, no permit to store native Rio Grande water)
- Elephant Butte, **11% Capacity**

https://webapps.usgs.gov/mrgeoapp/hydrology/usbr-tea-cup-diagrams

Climate and Hydrology Challenges

U.S. Drought Monitor
New Mexico



May 12, 2026

(Released Thursday, May. 14, 2026)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	94.42	78.97	17.57	0.00
Last Week 05-05-2026	0.00	100.00	94.42	79.05	17.57	0.00
3 Months Ago 02-10-2026	1.01	98.99	71.50	36.57	1.99	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-06-2026	0.01	99.99	71.71	51.89	2.59	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-30-2025	19.91	80.09	68.67	47.53	14.45	2.41
One Year Ago 05-13-2025	3.79	96.21	86.55	73.69	48.20	7.51

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

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NCEI/NOAA

droughtmonitor.unl.edu

https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/data/png/20260512/20260512_nm_text.png

PERSISTENT DROUGHT CONDITIONS (2026)

Drought Executive Order – Issued May 20, 2026

- Declares drought and severe fire conditions statewide.
- Urges communities to increase water education resources and implement water conservation measures
- Directs state agencies to take coordinated action to ensure communities receive timely information, technical assistance and resources.
- **New Webite: Drought.nm.gov**
  - Information on current conditions, drought monitoring tools, and partner resources used to track drought in New Mexico.

State of New Mexico

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2026-026

DECLARING A DROUGHT AND SEVERE FIRE CONDITIONS THROUGHOUT THE STATE AND URGING MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENTS TO IMPOSE WATER USE RESTRICTIONS AND FIREWORK BANS

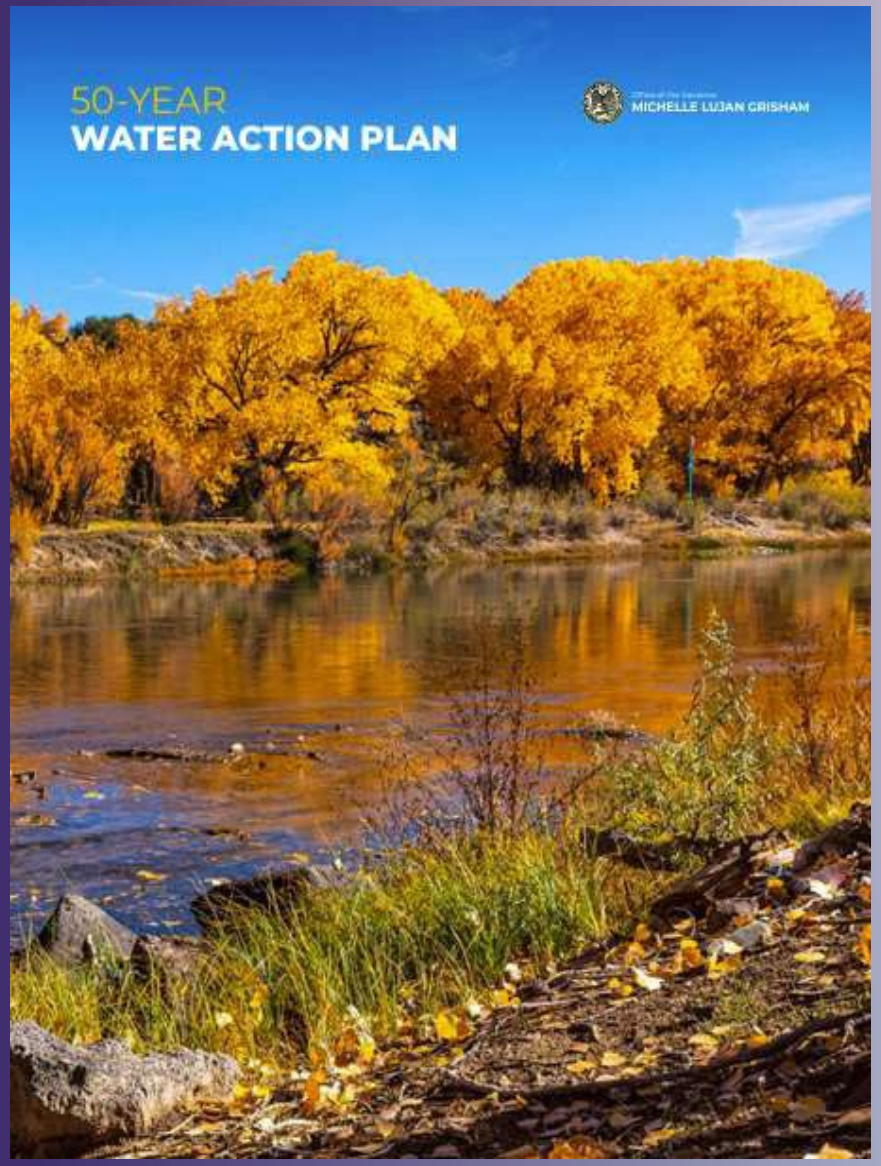
WHEREAS, during the winter of 2025-2026, New Mexico experienced the lowest snowpack, highest temperatures and lowest runoff levels in recorded history;

WHEREAS, according to the United States Drought Monitor, 94% of New Mexico is experiencing various levels of drought conditions;

WHEREAS, current water storage in New Mexico's reservoirs reflect some of the lowest levels on record, and the current conditions mean reduced water supplies for New Mexico's communities, farms, ranchlands, and forests and reduced flows in New Mexico's rivers and streams;

WHEREAS, New Mexico is increasing our drought tracking and response capabilities through the New Mexico Drought Information Portal at www.drought.nm.gov to provide a one-stop-shop for New Mexico communities and residents navigating drought conditions and risks;

WHEREAS, New Mexico's 50-Year Water Action Plan and Implementation Dashboard, available at www.nm.gov/water-security-in-new-mexico, are a direct and tailored response to New Mexico scientists' prediction that we will have up to 25 percent less water in 50 years, steering state resources toward water education, water conservation, development of new water supplies,



50-YEAR WATER ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION DASHBOARD: Water-Dashboard.nm.gov

- Launched by the Governor's Office in late April
- Shows progress toward implementation of 11 action items to conserve water, develop new water sources and protect water quality and watersheds
- Goal to address potential shortfall of up to 750,000 acre-feet over the next 50 years
- OSE & ISC, NMED, NMT, NMDA & NMSU, ENMRD/ Forestry Division have particular areas of responsibility that are complementary to other ongoing work
- Site will be updated quarterly to track progress

Water Conservation

- A1 Develop a water education program
- A2 Incentivize agricultural water conservation
- A3 Reduce leaks in drinking water infrastructure/ increase municipal conservation
- A4 Improve water storage and delivery systems

New Water Supplies

- B1 Develop treated brackish water - initial appropriation of $40M
- B2 Adopt policies to expand potable and non-potable water reuse
- B3 Improve groundwater mapping and monitoring

Water Quality and Watershed Protection

- C1 Clean up contaminated groundwater sites
- C2 Develop a surface water discharge permitting program
- C3 Modernize wastewater treatment plants and stormwater infrastructure
- C4 Protect and restore watersheds

Water Wins in 2026 Legislative Session – THANK YOU!

$277 million of new funding in 2026

Adds $100M to water projects fund in 2026 *and builds upon appropriations of close to $400M in 2025*

Not including recurring agency funding, capital outlay bill, and Public Project Revolving Fund appropriations.

Water Conservation & Infrastructure ($164M)

- $15M for Indian Water Rights Settlements
- $22.5 M for Lower Rio Grande Settlement
- $13M for Strategic Water Reserve + $2.5M for water planning and education
- $11M for ag water conservation projects

New Water Supplies ($59M)

- $35M for strategic water supply
- $22M for aquifer monitoring and mapping
- $2M for weather modification

Water Quality & Watershed Protection ($53.75M)

- $27.5M to clean up contaminated sites
- $10M for River Stewardship Program + $1.5M for surface water permitting program
- $10.75M for rural infrastructure and wastewater funding
- $4M for drinking water systems