



Rio Grande Channel: Conveyance Challenges

New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission

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Climate and Hydrology: New Challenges for River Conveyance

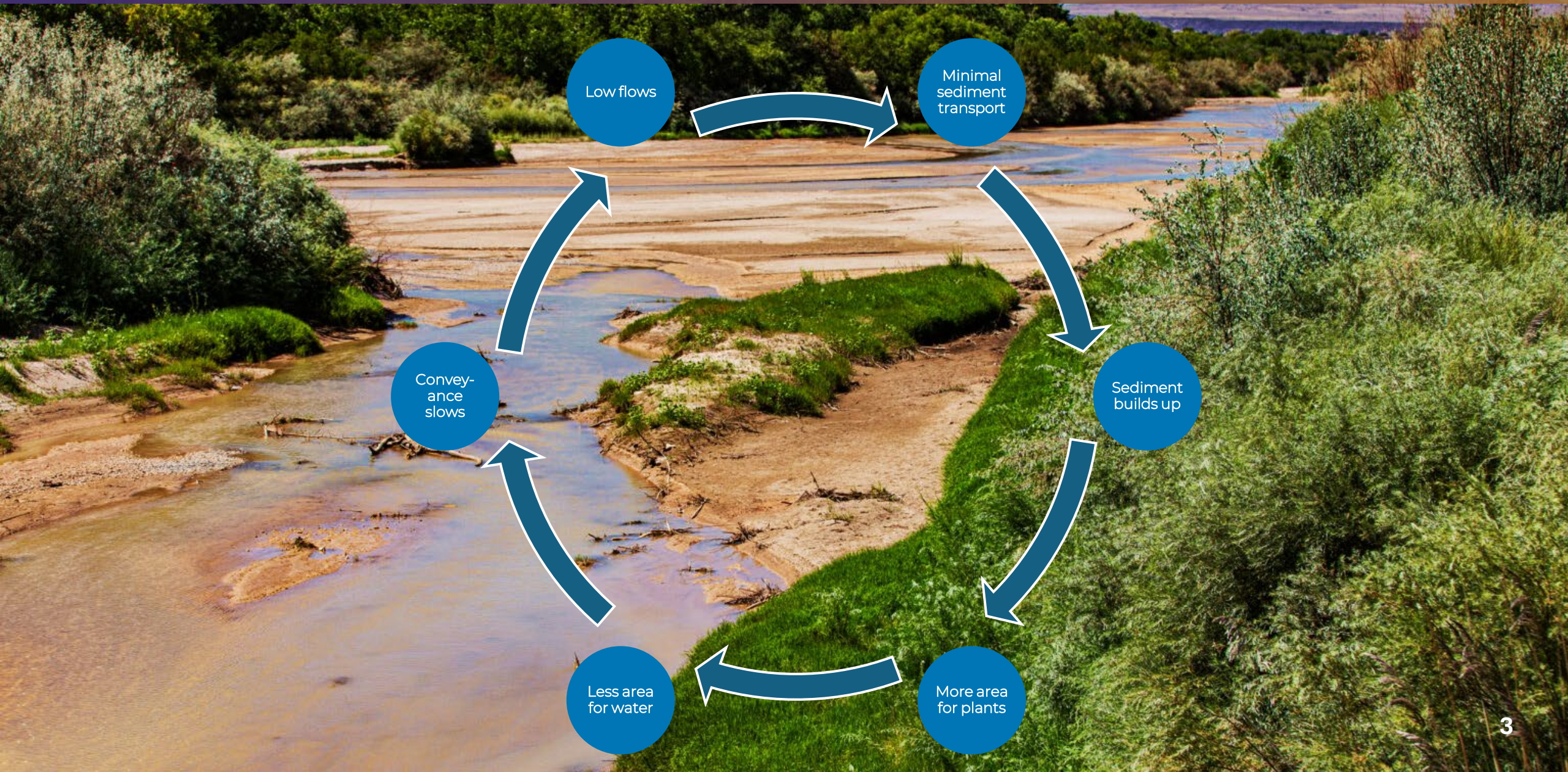
CLIMATE CHANGE TRENDS:

- **Lower snowpack**
- Higher temperatures
- Increased aridification
- **More variable rain/monsoons**
- **Lower stream flows**
- Lower reservoir levels

Preparing for:

- *25-30% less water by 2070*
- *Intense high flow storm events*
- *Up to 2x sediment loads*

Low Flows Reduce Channel Capacity



Restricted Channels: Inefficiencies and Risks



- Water readily leaves the narrow ribbon channel
- Water spreads wide and ponds without a path back
- Water is lost to evaporation
- Water is held against levees, increasing risk of failure/flooding
- Sediment transport slows, increasing risk of plugs

Improved Conveyance: Partnerships



Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District

- Cooperative Agreement for bosque management including vegetation removal
 - \$5M 2023 Capital Appropriations
 - \$7M 2026 Special Appropriations
 - Floodplain adjacent to active river channel, vegetation removal

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

- Technical Services Agreement for channel maintenance
 - \$1M+ Annual Capital Appropriations
 - Within active river channel, sediment and vegetation removal



Improved Conveyance: Successes

Highlight: River Mile 163

- Reclamation: design, construction
- NMISC: cost share, compliance
- MRGCD: post-construction maintenance

NMISC, MRGCD, Reclamation

- Coordinated response
- Leverage resources and expertise
- Contingency planning for emergencies
- Multi-year plan for major projects
 - 1 project per year
- Multi-year plan for monitoring and maintenance

