

River Management Plan for the Rio Grande Canalization Flood Control Project in the Lower Rio Grande, NM

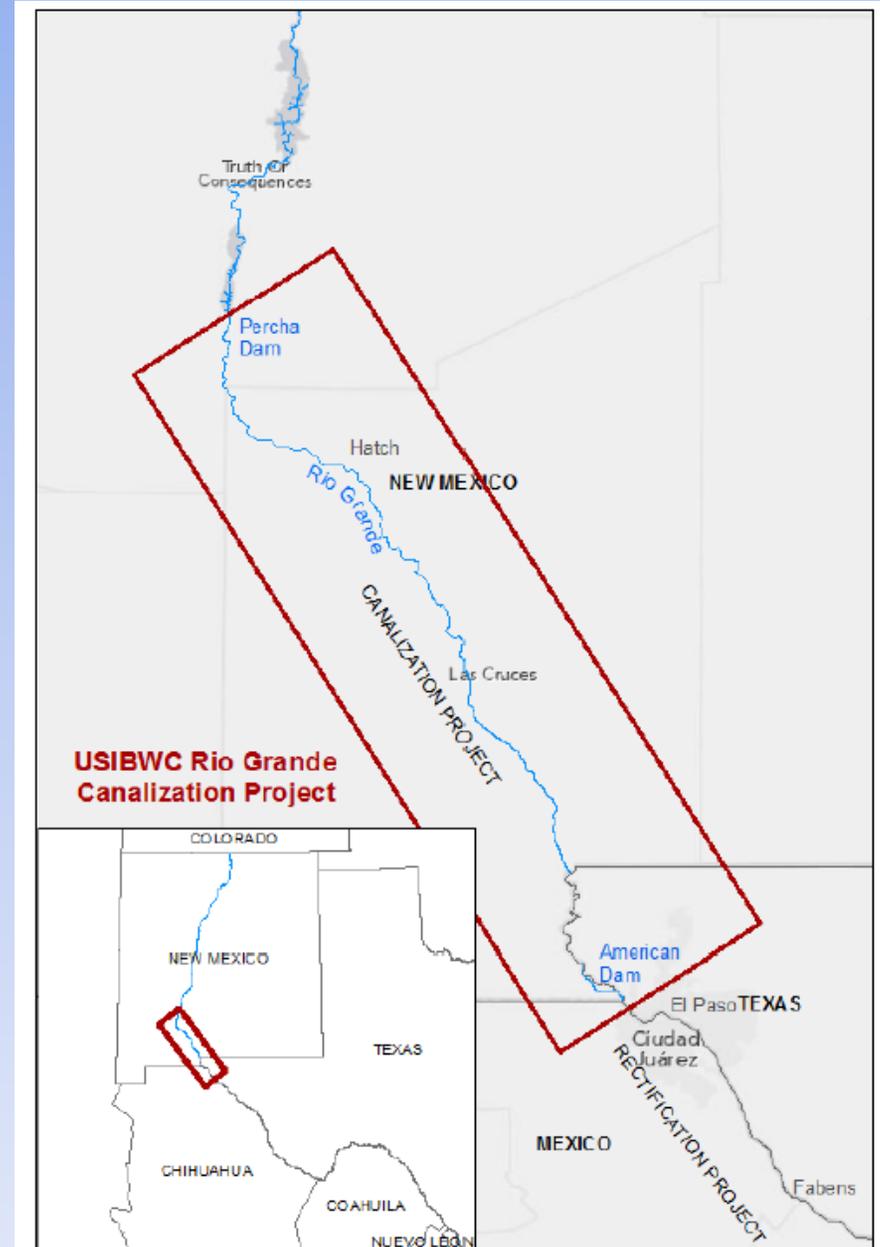


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International Boundary and Water
Commission, U.S. Section
Rio Grande Citizens Forum
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Rio Grande Canalization Flood Control Project

Canalization Project constructed in early 1940s

- ~ 105 miles
- Percha Dam to American Dam
- Rectified river channel within a leveed floodway
- To facilitate deliveries under the 1906 Convention with Mexico
- To control floods





**October 1938 - Canalization Project.
Looking upstream on Rio Grande at Picacho Bridge
(U.S. 80) near Las Cruces, New Mexico, prior to levee
construction and channel stabilization.**



**October 1942 - Same scene after levee construction
and at start of channel stabilization works.**



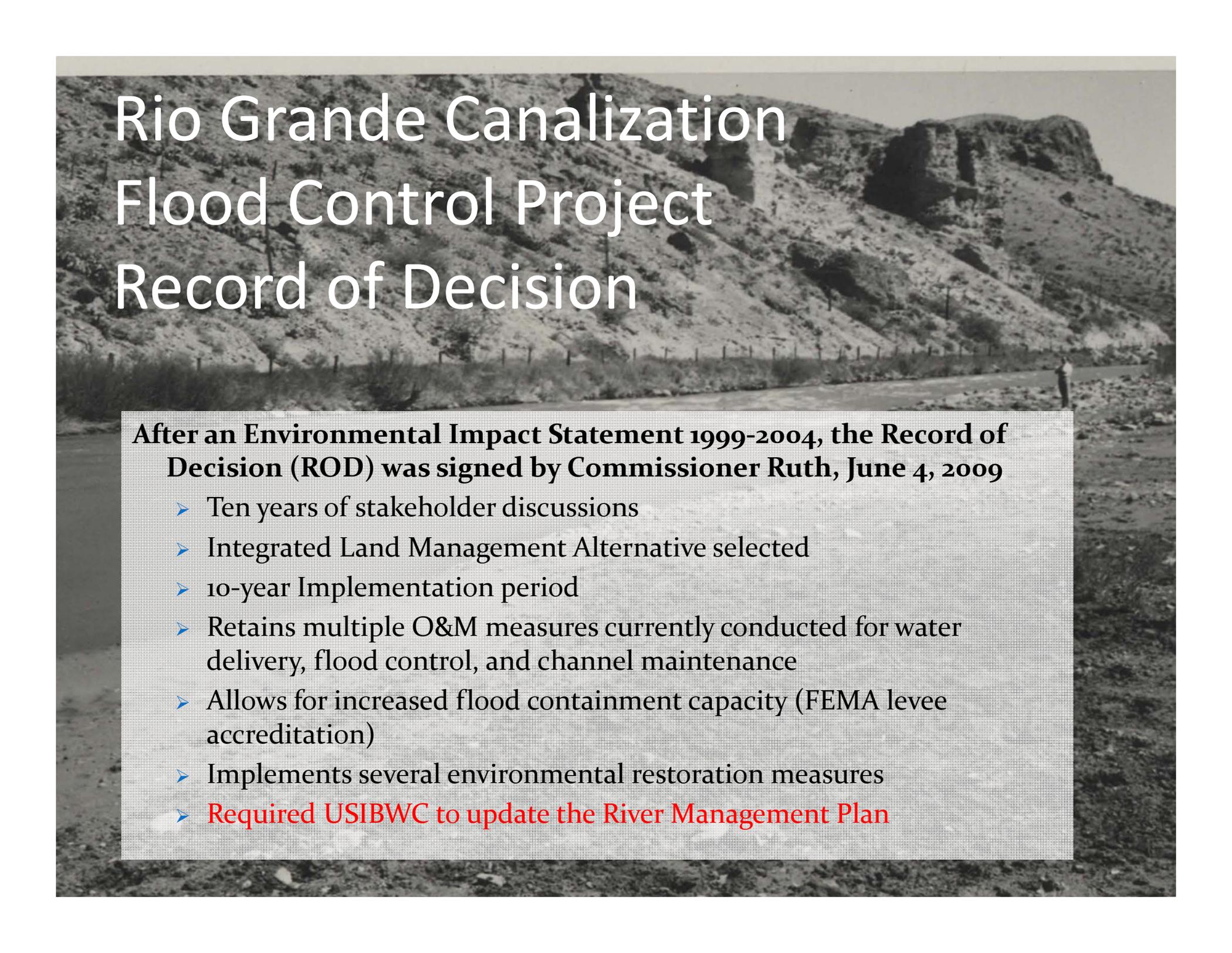
**August 1956 - Same scene after channel stabilization
completion.**



Typical Historical Maintenance Activities

- Levee Maintenance
- Floodway mowing
- Bank mowing
- Channel work (ex: sediment and island removal)





Rio Grande Canalization Flood Control Project Record of Decision

After an Environmental Impact Statement 1999-2004, the Record of Decision (ROD) was signed by Commissioner Ruth, June 4, 2009

- Ten years of stakeholder discussions
- Integrated Land Management Alternative selected
- 10-year Implementation period
- Retains multiple O&M measures currently conducted for water delivery, flood control, and channel maintenance
- Allows for increased flood containment capacity (FEMA levee accreditation)
- Implements several environmental restoration measures
- **Required USIBWC to update the River Management Plan**

Record of Decision Environmental Measures

Environmental improvements

- Grazing Leases discontinued
- 30 restoration sites (550 acres) targeting 12 riparian habitats
- Floodway vegetation management, including ~2,000 acres of No-Mow Zones
- Environmental Water Rights



Endangered Species Act - SWWF

- Conducted Section 7 Consultation with USFWS 2011-2012 for southwestern willow flycatcher
- **Biological Opinion August 2012**
- Must establish minimum acreage of flycatcher habitat
- Must create a Flycatcher Management Plan





River Management Plan

- Updating River Management Plan:
 - Floodplain Management
 - Flycatcher Management Plan
 - Channel Maintenance Plan
 - Maps of No-Mow Zones

Floodplain Management Plan

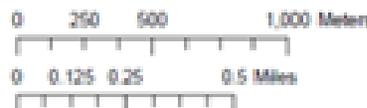
- Defines:
 - Levee maintenance
 - Areas that will be mowed
 - Procedures involved with mowing activities
 - Protocol for surveying bird nests to comply with Migratory Bird Treaty Act, if areas must be mowed during bird nesting season
 - Areas that will not be mowed “No Mow Zones”



USIBWC Rio Grande Canalization Project
 Operations and Maintenance NO-MOW Zones, DRAFT 2, September 24, 2012



- █ NoMow Zones - GreenZones from 1999 MOU
- ▨ NoMow Zones COMBINED Draft DEPT2012
- ▨ NoMowZones Pre-ROD
- ▭ Map Index 1000m grid
- ▬ USIBWC ROW
- ▭ NM State Parks
- ▬ Restoration Sites



Floodplain Management Plan

- Defines:
 - Management of Invasive Species
 - Procedures for implementation of Habitat Restoration Sites



Endangered Species Plan

- Includes Flycatcher Management Plan
- Defines protocols and procedures for conservation of flycatcher habitat
 - Surveys
 - Creation of habitat
 - Quantifying habitat created
 - USFWS requirements and recommendations
 - Internal procedures, incl. permitting



Draft Channel Maintenance Plan

- Working Preliminary Draft; Currently being reviewed
- Provides authority and agency objectives for channel maintenance
- States objectives of key stakeholders
- Describes environmental impacts of channel work
- Describes ROD requirements for channel work (ex: data collection plan)
- Defines:
 - Dam maintenance work
 - Areas that are priority areas for sediment removal/bank work
 - Procedures for implementing channel work, incl. permits
 - Data collection/ documentation
 - cross sections and Lidar
 - modeling
 - Possible alternatives that will be evaluated



Draft Channel Maintenance Plan

- Plan divided into phases for implementation
- Will evaluate alternatives
- Update Channel Maintenance Plan with results of studies and stakeholder discussions



Website

http://www.ibwc.gov/EMD/canalization_eis.html

Contact

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QUESTIONS?

