



INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION

UNITED STATES SECTION

Upper Rio Grande Citizens Forum

Introduction to the Mission

Rosalba Montes, AOM- Upper Rio Grande Projects
International Boundary and Water Commission
October 22, 2020

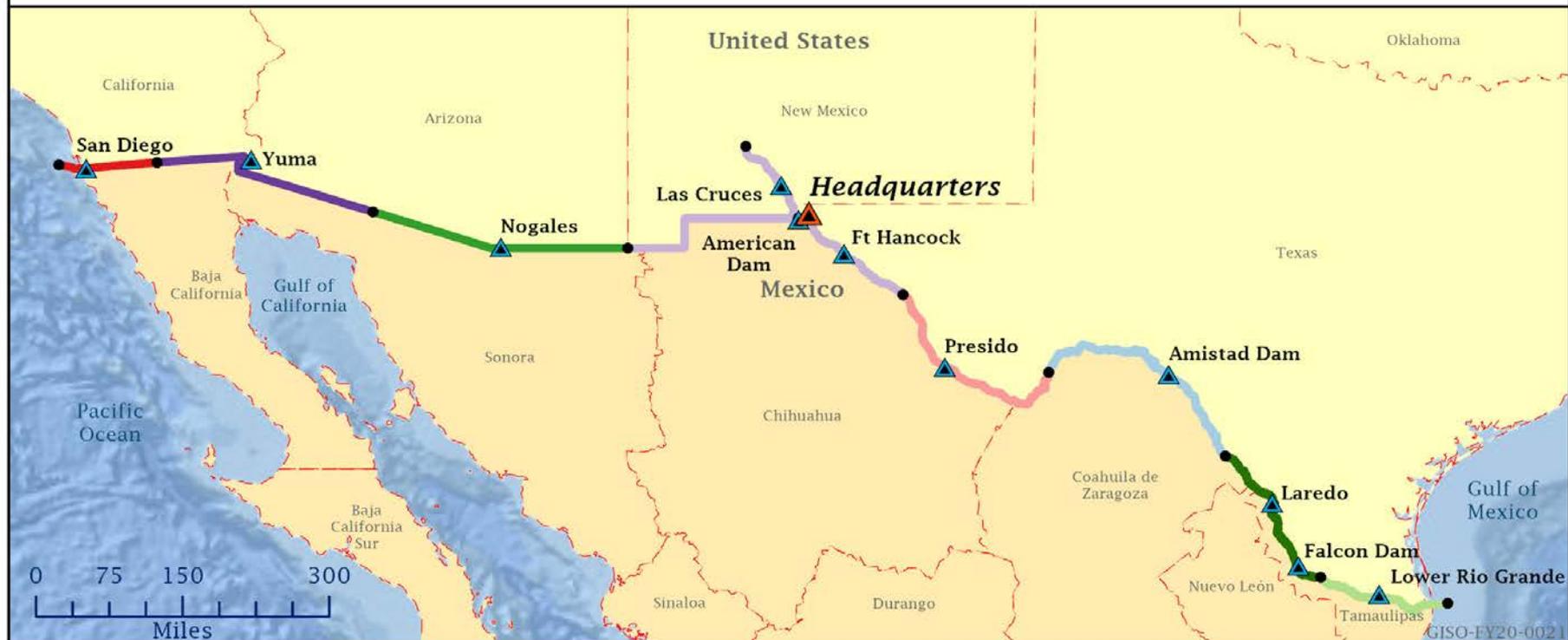
IBWC Mission

The International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, is responsible for applying the boundary and water treaties between the two countries and settling differences that arise in their application.



USIBWC Field Offices

USIBWC Jurisdictional Map and Offices



- ▲ USIBWC Headquarters
- ▲ USIBWC Offices
- Jurisdictional Boundary

- San Diego Jurisdiction
- Yuma Jurisdiction
- Nogales Jurisdiction
- Upper Rio Grande Jurisdiction
- Presidio Jurisdiction
- Amistad Dam Jurisdiction
- Falcon Dam Jurisdiction
- Lower Rio Grande Jurisdiction

Upper Rio Grande Field Office

- The Upper Rio Grande Field Office (URGFO) reports directly to the USIBWC Headquarters in El Paso, Texas.
- The URGFO oversees three facilities: Las Cruces (LCF), Carlos Marin/American Dam in El Paso, Tx (ADF), and Zacarias Dominguez/Fort Hancock in Hudspeth County (ZDF).
- Facilities: Staffed with a field supervisor, administrative assistant, heavy equipment operators, tractor operators (mowers), mechanics, and motor vehicle operators (servicer).
- URGFO: Area Operation Manager and assistant, administrative assistant, supply tech, and office manager.

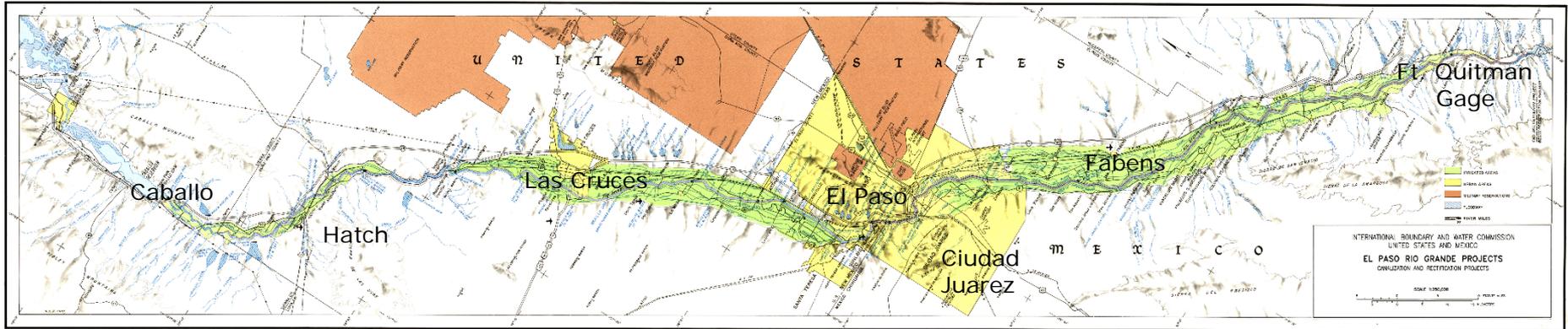


Mission Responsibilities

- Flood Control.
- Water deliveries to Mexico and El Paso County Water Improvement District #1.
- Operation & maintenance of American Dam, American Canal, American Canal Weir, International Dam, levee gates, and related flood control structures.
- Maintenance of American Canal Extension, channels, arroyos, seven sediment basins in NM, Ft Hancock International Bridge, the Bridge of the Americas (Cordova International Bridge), and the river and land boundary. Mowing of levee slopes and floodplains.
- Inspection of all facilities and structures. Bird nesting surveys.
- Coordination with affected agencies and stakeholders.



URGFO Projects



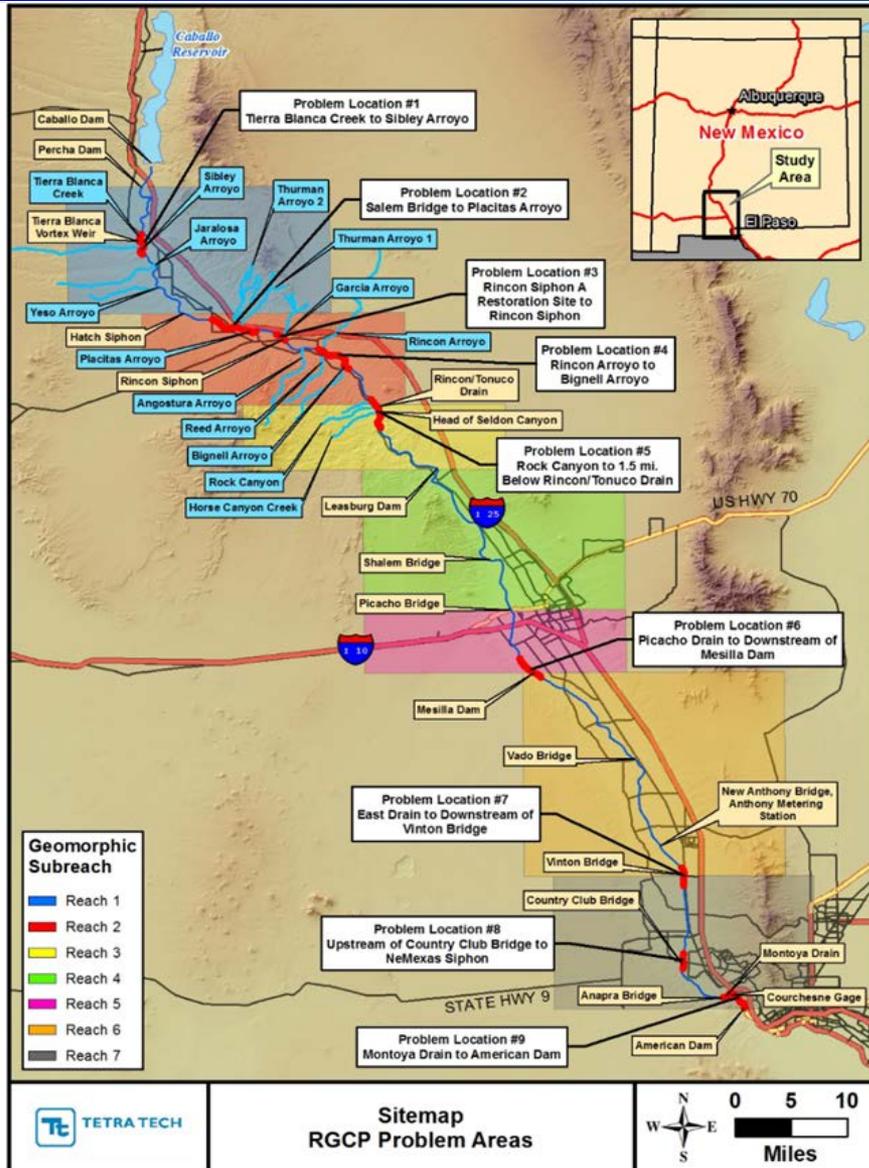
- Canalization
- Chamizal
- Rectification
- Boundary Preservation



Overall approximately:
220 miles of river and levees along the river,
4,500 acres of river floodplains,
18.5 miles of canals,
210 drainage and irrigation structures.



Upper Rio Grande System Sediment Problem



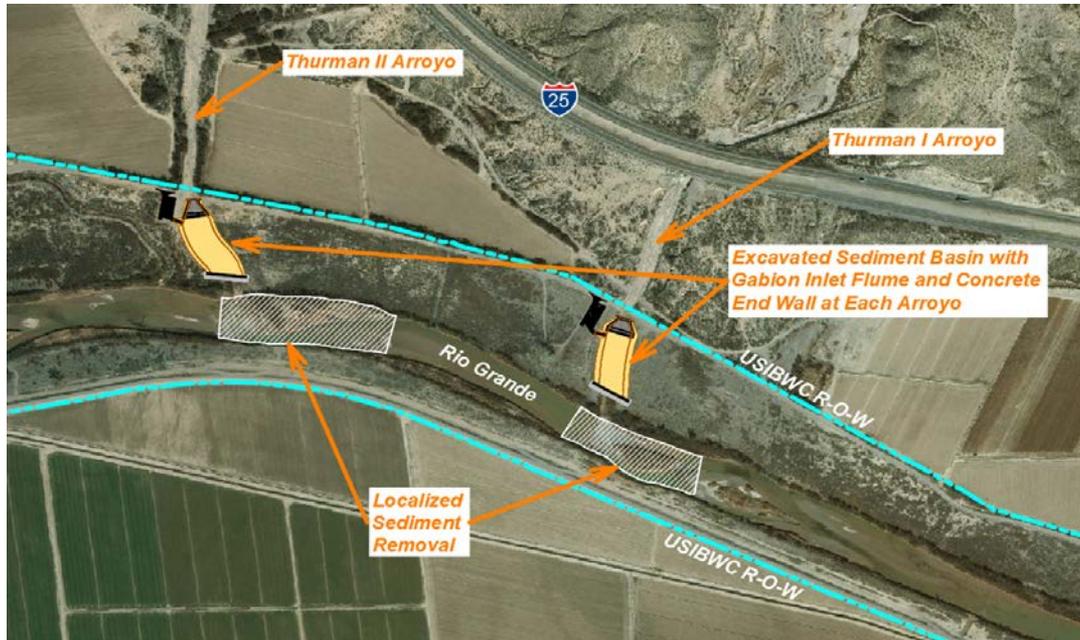
- Estimated 450,000 – 490,000 cubic yards of silt enters the Canalization reach annually.
- Resulting In:
 - Sediment Plugs
 - Island Formations
 - Raising of River Beds
 - Increases in Water Surface Elevations
 - Increased Flooding Risk to Adjoining Communities
 - Sediment Accumulation Prevents Draining of Irrigation Return Flows

**Rio Grande Canalization Project
Channel Maintenance Alternative
and Sediment Transport Study
identified nine problem locations.**



RGCP Channel Maintenance Alternatives

- In FY18 two pilot sediment basins were awarded. Construction was completed in FY19:
 - Thurman Arroyo 1 Sediment Basin
 - Thurman Arroyo 2 Sediment Basin



Upper Rio Grande

Desilting Efforts for Canalization & Rectification

- FY18 – Removed approx. 502,000 cubic yards (cy) from river channel.
 - Canalization 182,521 cy (13 Bridge Crossings and Montana Drain intersection)
 - Rectification 320, 111 cy (Alamo & Guayuco Arroyos, Ft. Quitman and downstream)
- FY19 – Removed approx. 372,000 cy from river channel. Government shut down affected progress.
- FY20 – Removed approx. 20,000 cy from river channel. Transported over 260,00 cy from flood plains.
- Annually maintained 5 New Mexico sediment control dam/basins.
 - Green Arroyo
 - Crow Canyon
 - Broad Canyon
 - Jalarosa Arroyo 1 & 2
 - Berrenda Dam

Berrenda Dam



Canalization Sediment Removal by IBWC Workforce 2018/2019



Canutillo before and after silt removal



Shalem before and after silt removal



Chamizal Sediment Removal by IBWC Workforce 2018/2019/2020



Chamizal – Chihuahuita Area



Guayuco Arroyo



Contracted Sediment Removal

- 5 contracts awarded at end of FY19. Option years available for award for following years.
- Combined award= approximately \$5.3 million
- Total volume, base year= 1,188,000 cy
- Canalization volume, base year= 788,000 cy
- Rectification volume, base year = 400,000 cy
- Focus was on areas from the River Management Plan
- All five projects are now completed.
- URGFO disposed of sediment that contractors excavated from the river channels.
- Sediment continues to be deposited on private properties with “No Cost Agreements” in place and sediment is still available with an approved application.



Contracted Sediment Removal

Sierra County, NM:

- Sierra Valley Contractors, LLC
- Excavated Quantity: 176,000 cy
- Tipton Arroyo
- Trujillo Arroyo
- Montoya Arroyo
- Holguin Arroyo
- Tierra Blanca Creek to Sibley Arroyo



Doña Ana County – North:

- Smithco Construction, Inc.
- Excavated Quantity: 100,000 cy
- Hatch Siphon
- Salem Bridge to Highway 187 Bridge
- Rincon Siphon



Contracted Sediment Removal

Doña Ana County Middle:

- Smithco Construction, Inc.
- Excavated Quantity: 268,000 cy
- Rincon Arroyo to Bignell Arroyo
- Hersey Arroyo
- Rock Canyon to Rincon/Tonuco Drain
- Mesilla Bridge to Mesilla Dam



Doña Ana and El Paso County:

- Smithco Construction, Inc.
- Excavated Quantity: 244,000 cy
- East Drain to Vinton Bridge
- Canutillo Area
- Country Club Bridge
- Sunland Park Bridge to Montoya Drain



Contracted Sediment Removal

Hudspeth County:

- Smithco Construction, Inc.
- Excavated Quantity: 400,000 cy
- McClintock Arroyo to Little Box Canyon (approximately 10 miles)



New Contracted Work from the Option Years

Awarded September 2020 -Pending Notice to Proceed

- Sierra County: Sierra Valley Contractors, LLC, 100,000 cy
- Doña Ana County (North): Smithco Construction, 100,000 cy
- Doña Ana & El Paso Counties: Smithco Construction, 100,000 cy
- Hudspeth County: Smithco Construction, 100,000 cy

IBWC workforce will dispose of sediment removed and deliver to the public under an approved “No Cost Agreement”.



Water Delivery Mission Convention of 1906

- Distribution between Mexico and the United States (U.S.) of the waters of the Rio Grande in El Paso-Juarez
- U.S. to deliver 60,000 acre-feet/year.
- 2020 irrigation season
 - Release date from Caballo Dam— March 13, 2020. Delivery to Mexico commenced on March 17th and ended on September 10, 2020. The 2020 computed delivery was approximately 50,340 acre-feet.
 - EPCWID#1 ended September 25th
 - EBID ended August 29th.



American Dam



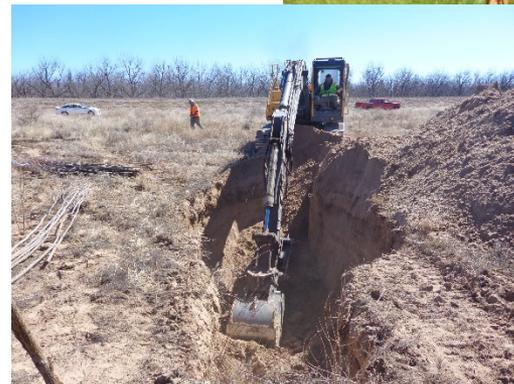
Canalization River Management Plan

- RMP was updated in Nov 2018 and distributed for stakeholder review.
- RMP was used in the 2019 Environmental Assessment.
- Final RMP is pending completion of a hydraulic modeling that is in progress.
- RMP covers:
 - Floodplain Management
 - Endangered Species Management
 - Channel Maintenance
 - USIBWC's 2009 Record of Decision (ROD) expired in June 2019. Comments incorporated in RMP.
 - Environmental Assessments (EA).
 - RMP and EA superseded the ROD.
 - O&M and EMD working closely on environmental issues during the sediment removal process.

Levee Maintenance



Mow Areas



Restoration Efforts



Other Contracted Construction Projects

- American Canal Upper Reach - Contract completion this year.
 - Replaced old concrete with new in entire upper reach.
- American Canal Weir - Construction completed 2019.
 - Replaced wooden catwalk with steel. Replaced old metal structure with new.
- Sunland Park West Levee - Construction end date June 2021.
 - Repair levee on west side of river.
- Rehabilitation of Waste Ways 1 and 2 – Contract closed December 2019.
 - Rehabilitation of structure.
- Thurman I and II Sediment Basins - Construction completed 2019.
 - Two new sediment catch basins.
- Canalization Signs – In progress.
 - Install warning signs throughout Canalization (i.e. No Trespassing)



Challenges

- Lack of funds and resources: personnel and equipment.
- Lack of funds for more sediment removal (channel maintenance) alternatives, structure repairs, and equipment repairs/replacement
- Accumulation of sediment.
- The current pandemic has increased illegal activities and destruction of levee system and structures.



Challenges





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THANK YOU!

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