
New Mexico: Flood Response

By Mary Carlson



The Rio Grande was down to about 55 cfs through Albuquerque (left) on September 8. It was up at about 3000 cfs (right) on September 15.

I always say there's never a dull moment at the Albuquerque Area Office. That was an understatement for the last two weeks. We went through several days of emergency operations on the Rio Grande and Pecos River. We heard Wednesday, September 11th, that the National Weather Service was forecasting a Top 20 rain producer for New Mexico for the rest of the week. And boy, was it!

The Pecos River

On Thursday morning we came in and immediately activated our Emergency Operations Center for Avalon. Assistant Area Manager Ken Rice quickly called a Level 1 Response as Avalon spilled from all three spillways releasing about 5,000 cfs to downstream Carlsbad. Avalon is a very small reservoir below Brantley with a capacity of around 4,000 acre-feet. Channel capacity is 20,000 below Avalon but technical staff watching a gage on Rocky Arroyo warned that the flow into Avalon would be rising. The AAO coordinated closely with Carlsbad Irrigation District Manager Dudley Jones, who was at the Eddy County Emergency Operations Center (EOC).





Avalon Dam Spilling on September 12, 2013. Courtesy CID.

The flow rose to at least 6,300 cfs out of Avalon that day. But as flows diminished on Rocky Arroyo, concerns quickly shifted to Dark Arroyo which meets the Pecos on the southern end of Carlsbad. It was showing flows of above 20,000 cfs. That flow reached the Pecos late Thursday afternoon and caused a brief road closure but otherwise moved safely south. Thankfully things really settled down on the Pecos just in time for waters to rise on the Rio Grande

The Rio Grande

Friday the 13th proved to be an unlucky day for many New Mexicans. At Reclamation, it started out with the forced closure of the Elephant Butte Field Division due to the threat that the road used to reach the office could be washed out or blocked. Sierra County Emergency Managers evacuated people from the Riverside area, Williamsburg, and Las Palomas areas as arroyos that flow into the Rio Grande between Elephant Butte and Caballo Reservoirs flooded. The channel capacity in that stretch of the river is 5,000 cfs and the river was running every bit of that 5,000 cfs for a couple of hours. A large sinkhole on a highway and a fatality caused by the flood were among the issues emergency responders dealt with in the area. However, Elephant Butte and Caballo Reservoirs both had plenty of room to receive and store the water once it arrived. Elephant Butte Field Division Manager James Powell and Resource Management Specialist Brent Tanzy provided eyes on the ground for some of the arroyo flows and coordinated with the County EOC for Reclamation. Things quieted down in that area just in time for more activity further upstream.

It was shortly after noon on Friday the 13th that AAO water managers began watching a 9,000 cfs flow on an arroyo between Cochiti Dam, a dam built to protect Albuquerque from flood waters, and Albuquerque. Water managers from Reclamation, the Middle Rio Grande



Conservancy District, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission had a conference call soon after to discuss what could be expected. They all estimated that flow would attenuate to about 6,000 by the time it reached Albuquerque. The City decided to use caution and close the entire wooded area along the river to the public. The flow peaked at close to 6,000 cfs at a bridge north of Albuquerque and a little more than 4,000 at Central Bridge in Albuquerque early Saturday morning. The Rio Grande was flowing bank to bank through Albuquerque much of Saturday and Sunday. Attention then shifted to the Rio Grande south of Albuquerque.

The flows moved well through Bosque Farms and Isleta Pueblo and headed south. Then focus quickly changed to the Rio Puerco, which meets the Rio Grande at San Acacia Diversion Dam. The flow peaked at more than 7,000 cfs at San Acacia Sunday night.



San Acacia Diversion Dam on the downstream end in 2009 and San Acacia Diversion Dam on Monday September 16, 2013



Flows and debris moving through San Acacia on Monday

Arroyo floods, a potential river plug, and requests for equipment, have kept the AAO's Socorro Field Division busy. The crews had been spread out on at least four projects prior to the floods but quickly mobilized to wherever they were needed for emergency response. They have plugged a non-engineered levee break north of Socorro, a berm break on the Rio Puerco, and are mobilizing a crew to work on a plug forming just south of Cochiti Dam, among other emergency responses. The unique skillset of our Socorro Field Division crews in these emergency situations involving water is in high demand and we certainly see why. It was



amazing to receive reports of problems on the river and receive an e-mail two hours later saying Socorro had mobilized and made the necessary repairs.

Cochiti, an Army Corps of Engineers facility, performed beautifully and is temporarily storing about 20,000 acre-feet in flood waters that would have otherwise headed to Albuquerque.

The storms that moved through New Mexico over the last week paled in comparison to those in Colorado during the same period. Our thoughts go out to those who have lost loved ones, homes and belongings in both states. I'd like to think we'll have a little break in the rain, but we had extreme flooding on the lower Rio Chama last night. Many folks were rescued from their homes as the Rio Chama topped its banks between Abiquiu Reservoir and Espanola.

Sitting back and looking at the big picture, you have to appreciate the difference a storm system can make. On the Rio Grande, we went from a 55 cfs flow at Central Bridge, the lowest since the 80s, to a 4,000 cfs flow - at least temporarily. And on the Pecos, the Carlsbad Irrigation District is the big winner. They have had an extremely rough few years to say the least. CID farmers had the smallest allocation in 100 years this year. But the outlook, at least for next year, is much brighter. CID had 20,000 acre-feet in storage early last week. This week, they have 154,000 acre-feet in storage, and the inflow to Santa Rosa Reservoir continues.

"I am really proud of the teamwork and the amazing effort we saw this week throughout the AAO," said Area Manager Mike Hamman. "It didn't matter if we asked for maps, technical expertise, staff to inspect an area of the river, assistance with call downs or a menu to order lunch _ folks were ready to assist in any way possible."

I personally echo Mike's statement. At one point I walked down the hall looking for a few folks to help in our internal EOC. By the time I got back, the room was full of staff ready to assist. I called and texted water ops folks late at night as media calls came in, they always promptly provided the information I was seeking. I greatly appreciate the efforts of everyone at the AAO and all of the support we received from the Upper Colorado Regional Office, the folks in Denver and Washington D.C.

I am really proud to be a member of this team.

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Reclamation Collaborates with Colorado River Basin Tribes Partnership in Tribally-Focused Water Study



Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Anne Castle and T. Darryl Vigil, chairman of the Ten Tribes Partnership

Media Contact:
Nell Zeitzmann
202-513-0568

Released On: September 18, 2013

In-depth research will be a next step following the Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study and will help Indian Country communities prepare for future water challenges

ALBUQUERQUE – U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Anne Castle announced today a collaborative agreement for the Bureau of Reclamation to work with the Colorado River Basin Tribes Partnership (Ten Tribes Partnership) in a tribally-focused effort to address projected water supply and demand imbalances in the Colorado River Basin.

This effort, implementing commitments identified in the Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study published last December, will focus specifically on issues facing the tribal communities in the basin and their water resources.

"The Colorado River is the essential foundation for the physical, economic and cultural sustenance of the tribes in the Ten Tribes Partnership, and it is critical that we work together to address existing and future threats to the adequacy of supplies and the River itself," said Castle. "A hallmark of success and progress on difficult Colorado River issues has been collaborative efforts among various parties with vested interests in the River, and the agreement announced today is an excellent example."



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"The Colorado River Basin Tribes Partnership is an important stakeholder in water use for multiple purposes including irrigation, recreation, wildlife and habitat restoration, municipal, industrial, mining, power generation, as well as cultural and religious activities," said T. Darryl Vigil, chairman of the Ten Tribes Partnership.

Castle announced the agreement today at a joint event with key representatives of the Ten Tribes Partnership in Albuquerque. Reclamation and the Ten Tribes Partnership will collaborate on the study on the role of tribal water rights that is expected to be completed by December 2015. Castle says Interior and the Partnership will allocate financial resources and technical expertise for the effort – including today's commitment by Reclamation to provide \$100,000 to jump start the study effort. Reclamation Commissioner Michael L. Connor says ensuring meaningful tribal participation with financial assistance from the agency's Basin Study Program will only help to improve the effort.

"I am pleased that we have been able to build upon our work with the Ten Tribes Partnership to ensure tribal issues continue to be addressed in Colorado River Basin Study activities," Connor said. "Reclamation's commitment to meet the nation's obligations to Indian Country continues to be strong and unwavering."

The 2012 Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study, the most comprehensive study of future supplies and demands on the Colorado River ever developed, was produced collaboratively with a wide array of stakeholders including the Ten Tribes Partnership. The study's findings projected significant shortfalls between expected water supplies and demands in the Colorado River Basin in coming decades. The study is widely acknowledged as a call to action for all who rely on the Colorado River. Building upon recent successful efforts to improve water management in the Basin, recent efforts have focused on enhancing the resiliency and sustainability of the Basin's limited resources.

The Colorado River Basin Tribes Partnership began in 1992 and is made up of ten tribes: the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe, Cocopah Indian Community, Colorado River Indian Tribes, Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, Jicarilla Apache Nation, Navajo Nation, Quechan Indian Tribe, Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribe and Ute Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation. For more information on the Partnership visit: <http://www.crwua.org/colorado-river/ten-tribes>.

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Thoughts from the Front Office

Have you ever felt like time goes by faster the older you get? Often when I arrive at work on Monday morning I will see one of my colleagues and I will ask how their weekend went. Usually they respond that it was good but it went by way to fast. Days, weeks, and months seem to pass by at an accelerated pace the older I get. Does this ring a bell with you? Seasons blow by, years stack up, and that mandatory training – seems like I just took it last week and it is due again. What's up with that? I turned to the source of all knowledge – I googled the question. Wouldn't you know it – there have been several studies on the question, "Why does time go faster the older you get?" Here are a few summarizing paragraphs:

In short, your brain is wired to catalogue and remember new experiences. When you are young, most of what you are doing is learning. Even when you aren't realizing it, you are constantly observing new things, having new interactions, and learning new things about the world and how it works. However, as you get older, you have fewer and fewer "original" experiences so your brain tends to gloss over them, storing them as groups instead of individual moments.

The effect is that during childhood you are remembering and cataloging many more experiences and so time seems to pass slower. It isn't actually passing slower of course, you are just remembering more specific incidents between two points, which skews your perception of time. As you get older, your brain groups like experiences and you remember fewer instances between two points, so time seems to pass faster.

It's also why people can usually clearly remember events like their wedding, their first day on the job, the birth of their child, etc, because those things are rare and unique events, but they have trouble telling you what happened at work last Thursday because unless something unique happened that day it was just like 1000 other Thursdays at work that they've experienced. The brain just kind of glosses over it as a common experience.

This information was a bit of a "Good News Bad News Scenario" for me. The good news is that I am not alone I have many friends with similar feelings and experiences – the bad news is that we may be stuck in a rut and not realize what is going on around us. So my challenge to each of us is to take time and smell the roses, break the routine, recognize the uniqueness of what we are doing, and look to the future with optimism. Reclamation is, has been, and will continue to be an agency that gets things done. This is especially true with us in the Upper Colorado.

To help with my challenge – take a minute – let your mind clear – consider what you and your colleagues have accomplished this past fiscal year. Now, take a second minute – clear your mind again – consider what you will accomplish this coming year. Don't rush the experiment - I promise you that if you take these two minutes thoughts will come to you of the many good things you have done and will do in the coming days. Keep up the good work and thanks for your efforts. I am looking forward to a slower year.

Brent

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ELEPHANT BUTTE C.A.S.T. FOR KIDS



The 14th Annual Elephant Butte C.A.S.T. for Kids event took place on Saturday, September 7th with 33 kids participating. This is one of dozens of similar events nationwide sponsored by the “Catch A Special Thrill” (C.A.S.T.) for Kids Foundation and the Bureau of Reclamation. C.A.S.T. was formed in 1991 to join volunteers who love to fish with populations with special needs for a day of fishing in the outdoors. Participants also included 7 boat captains, including two employees of Marina Del Sur, 15 dockside volunteers, including our own Albuquerque Area Manager Mike Hamman who was kept busy baiting hooks, and half a dozen New Mexico State Parks employees and boating officers. The 1st place fishing trophy went to a little girl who caught 11 fish.

Marina Del Sur provided the entire marina for the event, along with 3 party boats, while Arrey Café catered the event. “The C.A.S.T. for Kids event was an outstanding day,” said Albuquerque Area Manager, Mike Hamman, “I saw lots of smiling faces of children enjoying their outing. Outstanding work by our volunteers, led by Brant Tanzy, in providing this opportunity to the children of the Elephant Butte area.”

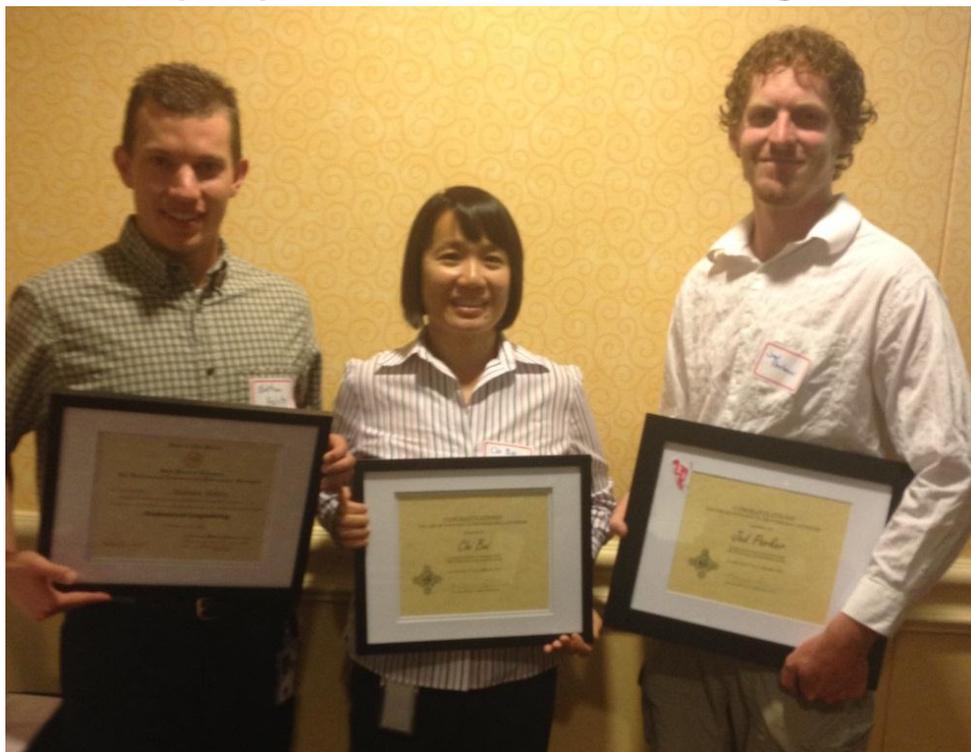


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Albuquerque's Newest Professional Engineers



At a luncheon on Monday, September 16th, the Albuquerque Chapter of the New Mexico Society of Professional Engineers honored three AAO employees, all civil engineers from TSD! They were recognized, along with others, for successfully passing their professional engineer (PE) exam. These employees are:

- **Nathan Holste, P.E.:** Nathan also received his PE license as he has met all the requirements for licensure.
- **Jed Parker:** Jed, like Nathan, has met all the requirements for licensure and is expected to receive his license very soon.
- **Chi Bui:** Chi is expected to receive her license once she completes one more year of service.

Please join me in congratulating these individuals for achieving this tremendous accomplishment that is considered extremely important in the field of engineering and in our agency.

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Life - The Do-it Yourself Project

Submitted by Dick Jorgenson
Human Resources Specialist
Upper Colorado Region

This week I've heard much about "the Millennial" generation. I'm told they are a discouraged and unhappy bunch. As I understood the discussions, they are plagued by high costs of education, a lack of jobs, too much debt, and their inability to marry, have children or even buy a home. They worry that they "are the first generation who will not live as well as their parents did."

I also heard this week that the Baby Boomers are fearful about the costs of retirement and health care, while Gen X'ers worry about job and income security, and "boomerang" kids who won't leave home,

What struck me is that, for all of us, life is hard and there are many reasons to worry, to be discouraged and even give up.

But then I thought about an earlier generation. My father was born in 1923 and I suspect that during the Great Depression and World War II, his generation--the group Tom Brokaw termed The Greatest Generation--may have feared many of the same things. Instead of jobs, they had soup kitchens and Hoovervilles. The Dust Bowl put millions of starving people on the road to California, and so-called "bank holidays" wiped out the life savings of entire communities.

After a decade of deprivation, when the jobs finally arrived, they put women to work as "Rosie the Riveter," building Liberty ships, and millions of poor Southerners migrated to Chicago and Detroit, where they built bombers in converted Ford plants. Millions of men got jobs in exotic locations like Guadalcanal in the South Pacific and Omaha Beach in France. And when the war was over and the survivors came home, they built the greatest industrial, military and economic power the world has ever seen. Then, to celebrate, they went to the moon.

Not bad for a bunch of "Depression Babies," millions of whom grew up without shoes, without any of today's conveniences, and often, without enough food. Not bad at all.

And yet today, with more education, more technology, more travel, more freedom, more money and certainly more options than that "Greatest Generation" could have imagined, we have a variety of exotically-named generations that struggle with discouragement.

Here's the thing. I've come to believe that it is normal and ordinary for humans to be complacent, ignorant, lazy and a bit depressed. It's perfectly routine to go about our lives, not expect too much, do our jobs (or look for a job), complain a little, watch sports or movies, and rely on wishful thinking to make things better. Millions do it every day.

The problem is that, "hope is not a strategy." Left to themselves, over time, things tend to break down, wear out, fall apart, get old, or worse. Rarely do things magically "get better" on their own.

Generally, it is only with specific, focused, energized human effort that things change for the better. And when they do get better, they tend to get better in small, specific, individual ways for individual people. Rarely does life, in



general, get better for millions of people all at once. For most of us, most of the time, life is a "do it yourself" project!

So here are some broad generalizations that seem helpful:

1. Waiting or hoping for large, general shifts in culture, the economy, the government or society to make things better is probably a foolish expectation.
2. Problems are normal and ordinary. Get used to them. In fact, solving problems is the road to wealth, joy and success. If you can solve a problem or provide a useful service, the world will first applaud, and then it will gladly throw money at you!
3. The key to solving your own problems is Enlightened Selfishness. Not petty, small-minded selfishness, but intelligent, thoughtful Selfishness that asks smart questions about what will make things better for you and others. Ask yourself, What can I do right now to make my life easier, healthier, happier and richer? Answer that and take action! Be smart, intentional and Selfish about this.
4. Start where you are, with what you have, to make things better. Think long and hard about the problems you face, and solve them! The problems you and I face are not unique--millions of other people face them, too. How have other people solved them? What steps, solutions, or experiments have worked? Read, ask questions, beg, borrow or steal good ideas and put them to work!

In the end, life is a do it yourself, for yourself (and for your loved ones) campaign. The Greatest Generation overcame obstacles we can hardly imagine. If they could do it, and then go to the moon as a bonus, imagine what we can do!

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Regional Office BOREA Annual Picnic



With the weather forecast giving a high chance of rain, the regional office was able to pull off their annual BOREA picnic without the need for umbrellas. The event had already been postponed so it was determined that rain or shine the event would go on. The location for attendees was at Liberty Park under a covered pavilion, but if it had rained, only those doing the grilling would have gotten wet. The main course of burgers (regular and veggie) and hotdogs was provided by BOREA while the rest of the food was provided by the employees as a pot luck event. Everyone who attended seemed to have an enjoyable time. Those of you who missed the festivities can look forward to next year's event.

Photos below





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How Does Your Retirement Stack Up Against a Former President's?

By [Tammy Flanagan](#) National Institute of Transition Planning
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Seeing President Obama standing with former presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton on Wednesday at the rally commemorating the 1963 March on Washington made me think back on the many great events in the history of our country. But I also thought of the future, and for me that always raises the subject of retirement.

As it turns out, there's a connection here. Earlier this year, the Congressional Research Service issued a report called *Former Presidents: Pensions, Office Allowances, and Other Federal Benefits*. Now, if you have your own retirement numbers handy, you can see how your benefits stack up against those that former presidents receive.

For 55 years, since the passage of the Former Presidents Act, our former leaders have received pensions and other benefits. The law resulted from the perception that Harry Truman had endured financial difficulties after he left office, with an income based heavily on the sale of his father's farm and proceeds from the publication of his memoirs.

That problem seems to have gone away. According to CRS, no current former president has claimed publicly to have significant financial concerns. Recent presidents, such as Clinton and George W. Bush, seem to generate a nice income through writing books, giving speeches and other activities.

Unlike the average federal employee, the amount of a former president's retirement has little to do with his length of service or highest three years of average salary. The FPA provides that upon leaving office ex-presidents receive a pension equal to the pay of the head of an executive department (Executive Level I). In 2013, that is \$199,700. Widows of former president are authorized to receive pensions of \$20,000. That actually falls well short of what they would get if they were eligible for the standard maximum spousal survivor annuity under the Civil Service Retirement System (55 percent) or the Federal Employees Retirement System (50 percent). Nancy Reagan, the only surviving widow of a former president, has declined the \$20,000 benefit.

Former presidents and first ladies also get lifetime Secret Service protection. Widows of former presidents lose this protection if they remarry. (And contrary to urban myth, children of past presidents only receive Secret Service protection if they are under 16.)

Most federal employees know that to continue Federal Employees Health Benefits coverage into retirement, you must have five years of coverage immediately prior to leaving government. The same requirement apparently applies to former presidents. So, for example, Carter does not qualify for FEHBP, having served only one four-year-term in office. George H. W. Bush also only served one term, but had enough other federal service to qualify for health benefits. (He chooses not to accept them, however.)

In fiscal 2012, the total cost of pensions and benefits provided to former presidents totaled \$3,671,000. That's down from 10 years before, when the total was \$4,079,000. During that time, former presidents Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan have died, as have former first ladies Lady Bird Johnson and Betty Ford.

How long do former Presidents survive after leaving office? Like the rest of us, some don't make it very long (James K. Polk lived only 103 days) and some live longer than many federal careers (Carter has been out of office for 32 years and is still going strong).

The final benefits afforded former presidents are arrangements for a proper funeral. All U.S. flags must be flown at half-staff for 30 days following the announcement of a former president's death. The incumbent president must notify Congress that the former president has requested a state funeral, and then set a date for the ceremony. The former president's remains lie in repose for one day, and then are moved to the Capitol Rotunda to lie in state for an additional 24 hours.

Even if you don't find these details as fascinating as I do, I hope this summary of former presidents' benefits gives you something to talk about around the water cooler. Or did sequestration take the water coolers away, too?

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Oral History Spotlight

The UC Regional Library has a collection of 110 oral history interviews conducted by Historians, with various Reclamation employees throughout the years. The oral histories capture candid “in their own voice” memories of employees and their experiences working for Reclamation. The oral histories preserve information about Reclamation that would not normally appear in Reclamation’s official records. Contents of the oral histories range from the humorous to reflective of the situation at the time, and all are informative!

Oral History Interview
J. Neil Stessman
Bureau of Reclamation
1961-2000

Mr. Stessman was named Regional Director for the Great Plans Region in Billings, Montana, in May 1992, after 31 years with Reclamation. What follows are excerpts from Mr. Stessman’s oral history book:

“...I was going through some real sort of life decision processes...”

Well, I think that Reclamation's always been a place, for me, where I could air my views fairly comfortably. I wasn't running the ship, but on the other hand, I think I could ask questions and get answers and I could have my own view safely. But I think I was somewhat judicious, but, you know, for myself I needed—it really gave me an opportunity to see what our various missions were, and to some extent I think we could have been making better decisions on a lot of things, and I thought that at the time.

How He Got His First Job as Assistant Center Director at Collbran

I had made contacts with the chief of the Youth Programs in Washington when I was there and had expressed an interest. They were looking for ambitious people, I guess. So I'd become acquainted with people in the Salt Lake regional office, which was over that Job Corps Center. So, no, I'd made contacts for myself and expressed an interest. I think they even arranged for me to—they had a vacancy as assistant center director at the Collbran Job Corps Center, and they arranged for me to go over there, I think, for a week or two weeks—anyway, a short period of time—to kind of decide if I really was interested in that.



“There were some cases of really extraordinary success, people going off and getting good jobs, or being apprentices . . .”

There were some cases of really extraordinary success, people going off and getting good jobs, or being apprentices on the way to real good jobs in building trades and that kind of thing.

“On the other hand, we had lots of disciplinary and other problems, and it was quite challenging and unique . . .”

On the other hand, we had lots of disciplinary and other problems, and it was quite challenging and unique, and something that was somewhat of an oddity within Reclamation to be able to be exposed to that kind of program. I identified with it, and I also sort of appreciated the chance that I had to sort of utilize and develop management

Failure of Teton Dam

“ . . . it was amazing, the number of people around the Bureau who were willing and interested in coming and making themselves available to detail into that area to work either on claims or reconstruction activities that the Bureau was involved in. . . .”

I want to comment, too, that it was amazing, the number of people around the Bureau who were willing and interested in coming and making themselves available to detail into that area to work either on claims or reconstruction activities that the Bureau was involved in. That was a kind of a rally-around-the-flag attitude among a lot of people. Some people saw it as an opportunity to sort of experience or experiment with a different role, so some people did it for growth purposes. But there were a lot of people who did that because they felt sort of an allegiance— almost in away like people volunteered for the draft when the Second World War broke out sort of thing. Sort of, "I'm a piece of this agency and therefore I'm willing to be on detail away from home for several months at a time." In a lot of cases, people who did that didn't get home very much for quite a while.

To read the full interview of [J. Neil Stessman](#) click here, or contact [Chantel Bouchard](#), Regional Office Library Coordinator if you prefer a hard copy.

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10 Terrific Self Motivating Tips

By [Mike Moore: The Master of Laughter](#)

No one can motivate anyone to do anything. All a person can do for another is provide them with incentives to motivate themselves. Here are ten very effective strategies to help you get up and get moving toward actualizing your enormous, untapped potential.

* Be willing to leave your comfort zone. The greatest barrier to achieving your potential is your comfort zone. Great things happen when you make friends with your discomfort zone.

* Don't be afraid to make mistakes. Wisdom helps us avoid making mistakes and comes from making a million of them.

* Don't indulge in self-limiting thinking. Think empowering, expansive thoughts.

* Choose to be happy. Happy people are easily motivated. Happiness is your birthright so don't settle for anything else.

* Spend at least one hour a day in self-development. Read good books or listen to inspiring tapes. Driving to and from work provides an excellent opportunity to listen to self-improvement tapes.

* Train yourself to finish what you start. So many of us become scattered as we try to accomplish a task. Finish one task before you begin another.

* Live fully in the present moment. When you live in the past or the future you aren't able to make things happen in the present.

* Commit yourself to joy. C.S. Lewis once said, "Joy is the serious business of heaven."

* Never quit when you experience a setback or frustration. Success could be just around the corner.

* Dare to dream big dreams. If there is anything to the law of expectation then we are moving in the direction of our dreams, goals and expectations.

The real tragedy in life is not in how much we suffer, but rather in how much we miss, so don't miss a thing.

Charles Dubois once said, "We must be prepared, at any moment, to sacrifice who we are for who we are capable of becoming."

Mike Moore is an international speaker/writer on the role of appreciation, praise and humor in performance motivation and human potential. You can check out his books, tapes and manuals at www.motivationalplus.com

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News.

BisonConnect "Do Not Delete" Policy: Deleted!

Great news. We are pleased to announce that the "do not delete" policy has been deleted! You can **now delete email messages in BisonConnect!**

As a reminder, employees still need to retain emails that are subject to litigation/preservation holds. Employees should also comply with records requirements prior to the deletion of any email.

The original do not delete request was issued as a precautionary measure while the Department addressed certain document retention issues related to migration.

If you're ready to delete unwanted email from your BisonConnect account, there are multiple ways to do so, including: 1) deleting all emails in a specific label, 2) deleting an individual email, and 3) deleting emails in conversation view. Please refer to these [instructions](#) to learn how to delete messages from BisonConnect.

Please note that deleted messages will remain in your Trash for 30 days before being removed.

Don't forget to visit the [BisonConnect Resources site](#) to learn more and check out the [FAQs](#). If you have additional questions, please contact your [help desk](#).

Again, thank you for your patience as we worked to ensure that the Department complies with all records management and archiving policy requirements. We look forward to providing you with continued support of the BisonConnect system.

Thank you,

The BisonConnect Team



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
P.O. Box 25007
Denver, CO 80225-0007

IN REPLY REFER TO:

84-27722
FIN-10.10

September 18, 2013

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

MEMORANDUM

To: All Bureau of Reclamation Employees

From: Deborah Nicholson /s/
Manager, Finance and Accounting Division

Subject: Discontinuance of Limited and Unlimited Open Travel Authorizations in Concur Government Edition (CGE)

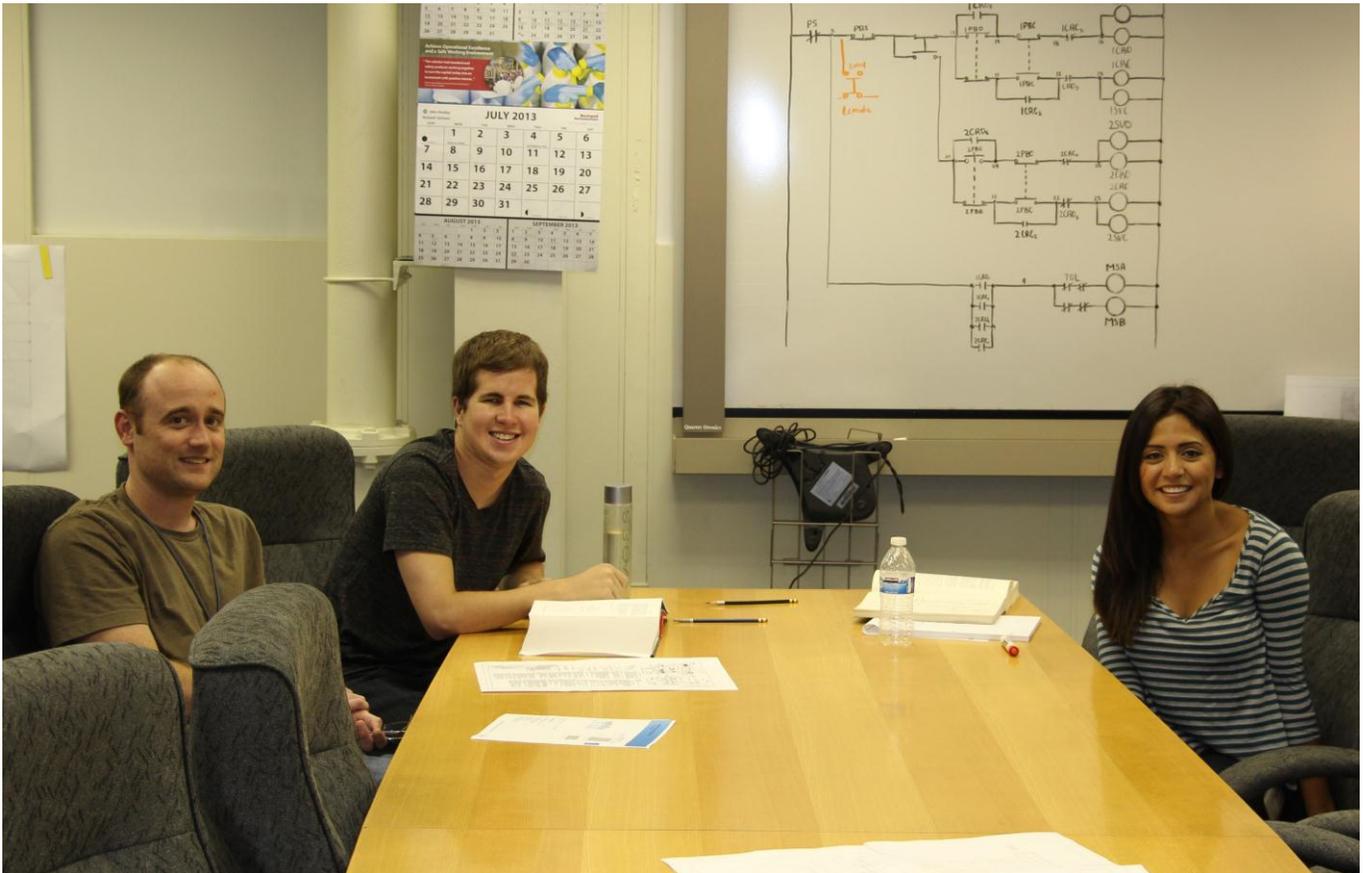
The Office of Inspector General (OIG), Department of the Interior, published the *Notification of Potential Findings and Recommendations, Audit of GovTrip and the Travel Process by the Department, NO. WR-IN-MOA-00602011*. In the report, the OIG recommended and the Department concurred to rescind “self-approval” functionality (also known as, Limited Open or Unlimited Open), for Travel Authorizations for non-emergency travel in CGE.

This business process change results in the discontinuance of “self-approval” travel authorizations, and the new requirement for the approving official to approve travel authorizations on a trip by trip basis.

If you have any questions regarding this memorandum or need further assistance, please contact Mark Sinkiewicz at 303-445-3453 or via e-mail at msinkiewicz@usbr.gov.

Distribution E

Life as a Minion!



Jarrod Cole, Nick Burnett, and Jacqueline Ureña

By Jacqueline Ureña
Electrical Engineer Intern
Power Office

This summer I had the great opportunity to work in the Glen Canyon Dam as an Electrical Engineer intern. From the first day there was nothing boring about working in Glen Canyon. There was always a new project at hand and terminology to get acquainted with; given that in the public sector using acronyms is the cool thing to do! Due to my lack of knowledge on equipment, drawings, and other engineering components feeling overwhelmed became a common feeling. Regardless of how much I did/didn't understand there was always someone willing to share their knowledge and mentor me through the process. One particular person that



took pride in taking the interns under his wing was Brad Osburn. Brad being close to retiring became extremely enthusiastic about passing all his acquired knowledge to his new interns. It was not to long before all the interns obtained a new name, BRAD's Minions!

During my internship I learned how to work in AutoCad, read diagrams, and how the power plant equipment worked. This internship challenged me and helped me understand the hydro-power industry. Luckily it was not all work, I got to meet great individuals and miss the lunch hour conversations. During the lunch hour conversations we covered topics such as:

- *why people hunt*
- *how to tame feral cats*
- *Not everyone knows Rihanna*
- *how to make a lifetime supply of plum wine*
- *why there should be someone assigned to make fried rice once a month*
- *Word puzzles are very difficult*
- *How to "Pull-a-Brad"*
- *And why remote cities are better than metropolitan cities (I still disagree!)*

The majority of these topics are inside jokes so if anyone gets the chance to go to the Glen Canyon Dam 9th floor ask about these topics I am sure someone will love to give the details. The Glen Canyon group is extremely friendly and love to have a good time. Working in Glen Canyon has given me a lot of tools that will help me in my career and taking this internship with BOR has been a life changing experience. I am grateful to work for such a great organization.

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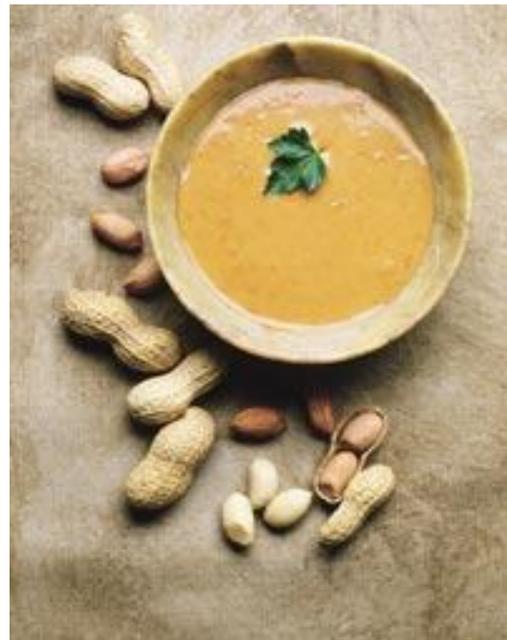


U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

Sharing Our Diversity by Sharing Your Recipes

From the kitchen of **Roger Hansen – Peanut Soup**

1-1/2 cups dry unsalted peanuts
3 cups chicken stock
1 large onion, finely chopped
1 tsp. hot pepper sauce
salt
1 tsp. soy sauce
1-1/2 cups milk,
scalded croutons



In a blender or food processor, combine the peanuts and some chicken stock. Puree. In a saucepan, combine the pureed peanuts, the remainder of the chicken stock, onion, hot pepper sauce and salt to taste. Cook over low heat for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Stir in the soy sauce and milk, and continue cooking over low heat for another five minutes. Garnish with croutons and serve hot. Yields six appetizer-size servings.

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In Transition

Ex-top Bureau of Reclamation official Rinne dies at 68



William Rinne started as a fisheries biologist for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and rose to serve as acting commissioner for the agency. Along the way, he helped craft a sweeping, multistate program to protect both endangered species and the use of the Colorado River for water and power generation.

He died Aug. 31 in Norwell, Mass., at age 68.



Rinne grew up in Nebraska. He received a bachelor's degree from Peru State College in Peru, Neb., and a master's degree in zoology from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

He spent 30 years with the Bureau of Reclamation, most of it in Boulder City, where he worked as a biologist, area manager and environmental officer for the Lower Colorado River region.

It was there that he served as one of the architects for the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, which was signed in 2005 and provides protections for sensitive plants and animals along more than 400 miles of the river, from the western end of the Grand Canyon to the U.S.-Mexico border.

At the same time, the pact among local, state and federal stakeholders keeps the river free from conflict so water and power can continue to flow to Nevada, Arizona and California.

"It's probably one of the most innovative, proactive agreements anywhere in the U.S., and Bill worked on that from the very get-go," said Bob Snow, an attorney for the U.S. Department of Interior who had worked with Rinne since 1996.

"He was a real hero on the river," said Kip White, spokesman for the Bureau of Reclamation.

Rinne was eventually called to Washington, D.C., to serve as the bureau's deputy commissioner for operations and, eventually, acting commissioner for the entire agency until his retirement in 2006.

"I bet he was the first deputy director in bureau history who was a fisheries biologist," Snow said.

After that, Rinne spent several years as director of water operations for the Southern Nevada Water Authority and then moved to Massachusetts with his wife to be closer to their children and grandchildren.

In a written statement, water authority General Manager Pat Mulroy said Rinne's work on the river "left a legacy that will live on for generations."

"While his knowledge of Colorado River issues was unsurpassed, it was Bill's determination and calm demeanor that made him so successful," Mulroy said.

He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Janice; his son, Jeramie Rinne, and his wife, Jennifer; his daughter, Jill Stutz, and her husband, Chad; his mother, Mary; four siblings, Don, Russell, Jack and Rosemary; and seven grandchildren.

Services were scheduled for Saturday in Massachusetts.

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U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

Former GP Region Employee Paul Richard Meyerle dies

Paul Richard Meyerle, 87, of Cambridge, Nebraska passed away September 12, 2013 in McCook, NE. Paul was born northwest of Holbrook, NE on April 3, 1926 to Charles Meyerle, and Delia Weyenberg Meyerle. The 2nd of four children, Paul had one older brother Felix (Bud) now deceased, and is survived by his younger sister Lois Bradshaw of Kingsville, TX, and brother Gerald (Jerry) of Holbrook, NE.

Paul graduated from Holbrook High School in 1943, and then entered the Army in April of 1945 at Fort Logan in Denver, CO. After completing boot camp in Texas, Paul served in 2 posts in the US before being deployed to South Korea in October, 1945. He returned to the US to be honorably discharged in December of 1946.

Paul married his wife Betty Ogorzolka Meyerle on July 28, 1951 in St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Cambridge and went to work for the Bureau of Reclamation soon after. Paul worked with the Bureau in Nebraska until his job took the family to Pueblo, Colorado in 1967. In 1979 Paul and Betty returned to Southwest Nebraska, where Paul continued his work with the Bureau. He retired from the federal government in 1984.

Paul and Betty have 4 children, Paula Davis (married to Charles Davis) of Pueblo, CO, Ron Meyerle (married to Danelle Meyerle) of Monument, CO, Susan Meyerle (deceased), and Marilyn Eisenhart (married to Mark Eisenhart) of St. Louis, MO. They have 4 grandchildren, Skyler Davis, a student at the Colorado School of Mines, Colton Davis, a student at Pueblo Centennial High School, and Ethan and Everett Eisenhart attending school in St. Louis.

Paul and Betty have been committed members of their Catholic faith and church and enjoyed travel in North America and Europe together.

Funeral services will be held at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Cambridge on September 21, 2013 with Stations of the Cross at 9:30 am and Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 am. Inurnment will be held following at the St. John's Catholic Cemetery in Cambridge. A military committal will be held at graveside.

Lockenour-Jones Mortuary in charge of services. Friends may leave on-line condolences at lockenour.com

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U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation



Reclamation Trivia

Here's this week's set of questions:

1. U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Water and Science ___ announced today a collaborative agreement for the Bureau of Reclamation to work with the Colorado River Basin Tribes Partnership (_____) in a tribally-focused effort to address projected water supply and demand imbalances in the Colorado River Basin.
2. Who are Albuquerque Area Office's newest Professional Engineers?
3. The _____ is located on the Green River 24 miles southeast of La Barge, Wyoming.

Last week, We asked,

1. The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President [Lyndon Johnson](#) and was expanded by President [Ronald Reagan](#) in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15.
2. [Choke Canyon](#) Dam is founded entirely on Catahoula Formation except for the deeper excavations which encountered the uppermost portion of the underlying Frio Formation.
3. Trust develops by moving through the 5 waves of trust: [self, relationship, organization, market, and societal](#).

Last winner was – [N/A](#)

Please use this [link to send your answers](#). To be fair we will draw names from the winners and one person will receive a prize. We will reach into the prize bin for something suitable for the winner...as long as supplies last.

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What Is the Media Saying About Reclamation This Week?

[Tribes Chart Collaborative Future for Colorado River](#)

[Don't Let the Colorado River Run Dry!](#)

[Reclamation Collaborates with Colorado River Basin Tribes Partnership in Tribally-Focused Water Study - CW15 - OMAHA](#)

[Chama River floods homes](#)

[Reclamation Collaborates with Colorado River Basin Tribes Partnership in Tribally-Focused Water Study](#)

[Agency OKs reservoir for irrigation district](#)

[Report connects decline in property values to projected drop in Colorado River level](#)

[USU and BYU Scientists Win Grant to Study Effects of Climate Change in Northern Utah](#)

[Tribes, feds partner on Colorado River water study - Chicago News and Weather | FOX 32 News](#)

[Feds begin Colorado River drought action](#)

[Opinion: Tribes develop roadmap for future of Colorado River](#)

[Holm: Drought and disaster in Colorado](#)

[Flooding shuts down nearly 2,000 oil wells in Colorado](#)

[Filling Elephant Butte, or not](#)

[Monsoons brighten prospects for New Mexico pecan grower](#)

[Historic Rainfall In N.M. Damages Infrastructure Yet Eases Drought](#)

[State agencies continue assistance to Coloradans in flooded areas](#)

[Pecos River rising as evacuations increase](#)

[Heavy rain filling Pecos reservoirs fast](#)

[Colorado Floods Could Bring Recharged Soil to Farms](#)

[NM man nominated for deputy Interior secretary sails through Senate hearing](#)

[Does A Fracking Disaster Lurk Under Colorado's Floodwaters?](#)

[Albuquerque withdraws controversial water rights transfer application](#)

[Connor: expect middle Rio Grande water leasing pilot program by 2014](#)

[Floods' silver lining: lake levels rising](#)

[New Mexican sails through hearing for Interior post](#)

[Udall lauds Interior Department nominee from Las Cruces](#)

[Buckmaster: Feds tighten screws on overtaxed Colorado River](#)

[SLIDESHOW: Deadly Colorado Flooding Continues to Devastate](#)

[Eight dead, 1,600 homes destroyed in Colorado floods](#)

[New Mexico Flooding Update: Residents Keep An Eye on Rivers, Dams](#)

[Colo.'s receding waters reveal more heartbreak](#)

['Historic rainfall'](#)

[Colorado Floods Prompt Water Concerns, Advisories](#)

[Rising waters force thousands more to evacuate in Colo.](#)

[Big flood flow headed Albuquerque's way](#)

[Rain continues to soak southern New Mexico; many La Union residents without services](#)

[Rio Grande doesn't flood after massive rain](#)

[Storm has little effect on Albuquerque metro](#)

[Western Colorado: Front Range should go elsewhere for water](#)

[Colorado Under Water](#)

[Flash flood watch in effect in much of New Mexico](#)

[New Mexico Flood: Flash Flood Emergency Issued](#)



[Drought drowned? That depends ...](#)

[City planning for Rio Grande flooding](#)

[Rising Waters Force Evacuations Of NM Homes](#)

[Rising waters expected on the Rio Grande tonight in Socorro County](#)

[Flood weary New Mexico keeps eyes on rivers, dams as cleanup begins](#)

[Flood passes safely through Albuquerque reach of the Rio Grande](#)

[A Dam, Dying Fish, and a Farmer](#)

[Weld health officials offer safety tips for flood damage](#)

[Officials brace for next round of flooding in southeastern New Mexico](#)

[Flood threat eases in New Mexico; 1 dead](#)

[More Colorado flooding fatalities feared as towns evacuated](#)

[Flood warning issued for Bernalillo, Valencia counties](#)

[Rio Grande Valley prepares for possible flooding](#)

[City prepares for possible flooding in the Rio Grande
Albuquerque flood warning continues](#)

[Record rainfall soaks New Mexico, prompts rescues near Carlsbad](#)

[Eddy County History: Water, water everywhere](#)

[Heavy rain filling Pecos reservoirs fast](#)

[Long-Term Viability Of Ute Reservoir Questioned By Water
Commission](#)

[Feds begin Colorado River drought action](#)

[Forecast for Colorado River Basin: Dry with chance of shortage](#)

[Our Elysium: Matt Damon, Robert Redford, and the Colorado River](#)

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[San Juan County reserve deputies expanding force](#)

[Ute water board questions old study](#)

[Governor should heed public opinion on diversion](#)

[Biologists inspect Utah lakes for invasive mussels species](#)

[Group petitions Utah to study climate change impacts on supplies](#)

[Fires not affecting Rio Grande trout](#)

[Actor Robert Redford visits Valley to push Colorado River's revival](#)

[U.S. extends transformer bidding for 1,312-MW Glen Canyon Dam](#)

[Fracking Away Our Water Supply](#)

[Continuing drought, river restoration projects subject of public meeting](#)

[One River Supplies Water To 36 Million People. That's Not Real Smart. Especially When It Hasn't Rained For Over 5 Years And The River Is Drying Up.](#)

[Endangered Rio Grande silvery minnow use constructed floodplain habitat](#)

[US Sen. Tom Udall highlights NM water scarcity as big challenge](#)

[Get 5 facts about water use](#)

[N.M. senator convenes experts in bid to thwart supply shortages in West](#)

[Conservationists say Glen Canyon coming to life again](#)

[Worried about water, Colorado businesses urge 25 percent cut](#)

[Unclog the spigot on Colorado water projects](#)

[Udall highlights water scarcity as big challenge](#)

[Drought conditions persist across Texas](#)

