



BUREAU OF
RECLAMATION

2026 Rio Grande Annual Operating Plan

April 16, 2026



Agencies & Major Users

- Reclamation: Bureau of Reclamation
- USACE/Corps: US Army Corps of Engineers
- IBWC: US Section International Boundary and Water Commission
- NRCS: Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Santa Fe: City of Santa Fe
- Water Authority: Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (ABCWUA)
- MRGCD: Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District
- EBID: Elephant Butte Irrigation District
- EP1: El Paso County Water Improvement District (includes City of El Paso)



Operating Rules

- **Treaty/1906 Convention:** between the U.S. and Mexico, signed 1906
- **Rio Grande Compact:** agreement between Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas apportioning Rio Grande water between the three states
- **Article VII restrictions:** restricts storage of Rio Grande water in post 1929 reservoirs (El Vado) when usable storage in Elephant Butte and Caballo is less than 400,000 ac-ft, with some exceptions
- **Project Authorizations:** each Project (Dam) has its own set of federal laws that apply to its storage and release of water
- **Operating Agreement:** between EBID, EP1, Reclamation, signed in 2008



Types of Water

- **Native/natural Rio Grande water:** water from the Rio Grande Basin, includes Rio Chama
- **San Juan-Chama water:** water imported from San Juan Basin of Colorado River into Rio Grande Basin through the San Juan-Chama Project
- **Supplemental water:** water leased by Reclamation to augment flows in support of Rio Grande Silvery Minnow
- **P&P water:** water for the Prior & Paramount lands of the Six Middle Rio Grande Pueblos






Hydrology Terms




- cfs: cubic feet per second (flowrate)
- ac-ft: acre-feet (volume), amount of water needed to cover one acre to depth of one foot
- Hydrograph: graph of flowrate over time
- Runoff forecast: predicted streamflow volumes for March through July provided by Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- SNOTEL: Snow Telemetry (SNOTEL) network composed of automated data collection sites located in remote, high-elevation mountain watersheds used to monitor snowpack, precipitation, temperature, and other climatic conditions



Assets of Interest

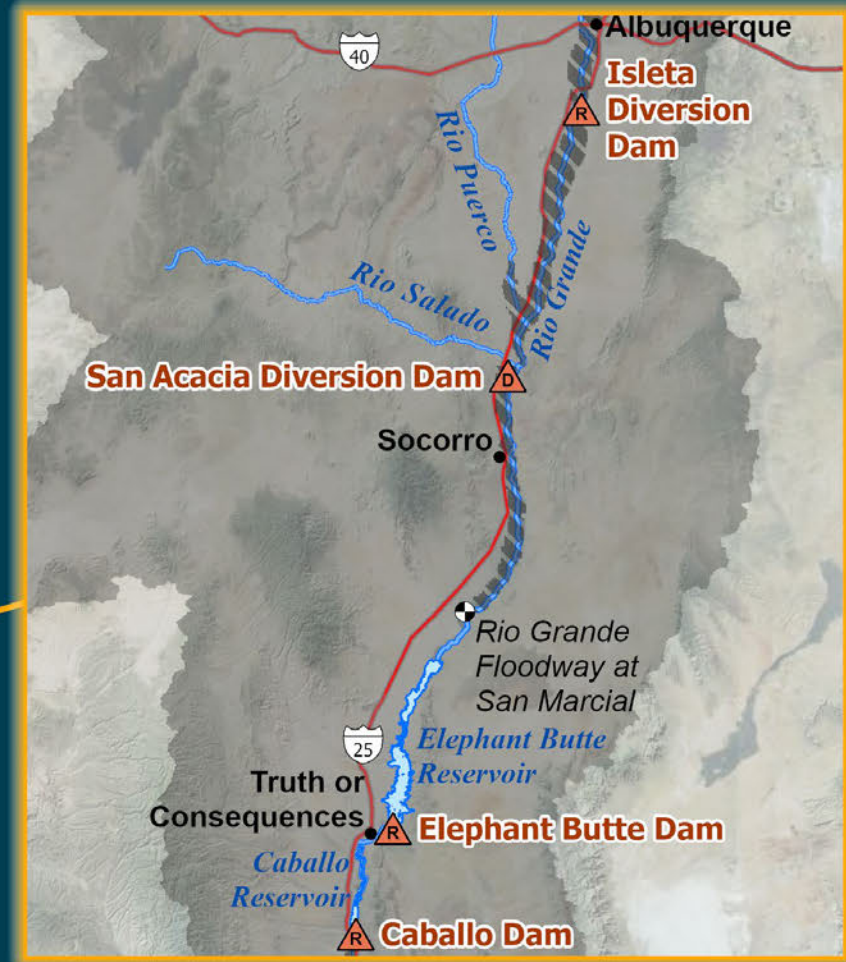
-  U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Dam
-  U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Dam
-  Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District Dam
-  Reservoir

Other Features of Interest






















-  Streamgage
-  River or Major Tributary
-  Tributary
-  Benefitted Land
-  Rio Grand Watershed (HUC 6)



Data Attribution: USCB, USGS, USDA, and Esri's Living Atlas



Dam Information

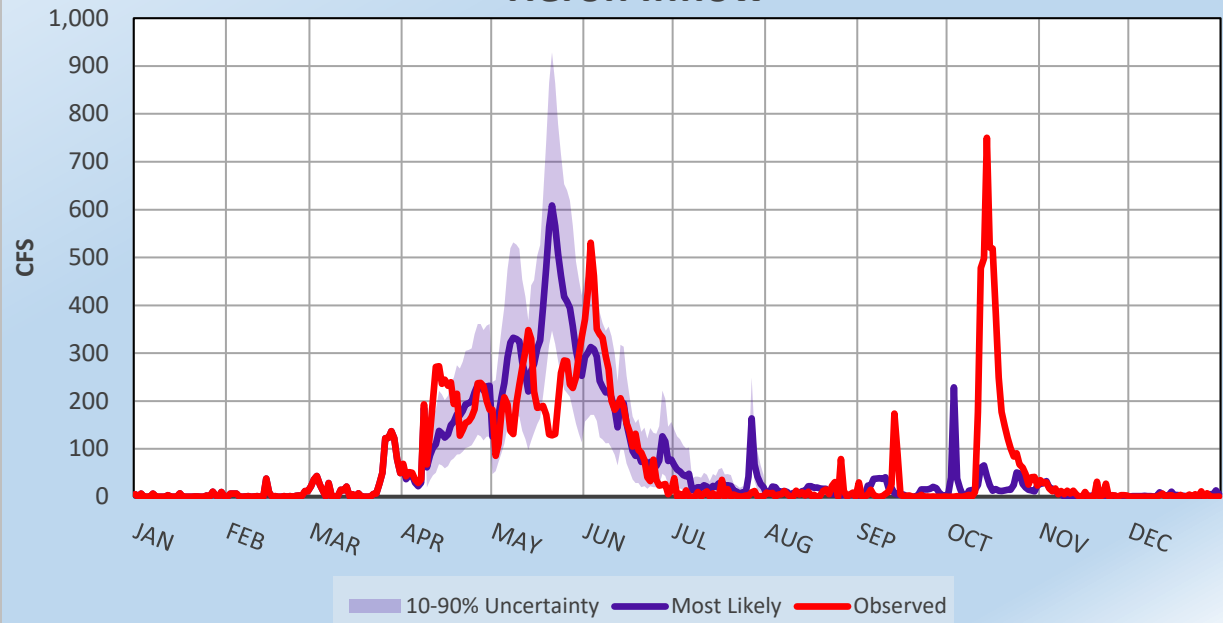
Dam	Agency Owner/Operator		Authorized Purposes				
	Reclamation	USACE	Rio Grande Water Supply	San Juan-Chama Water Supply	Recreation	Flood Control	Sediment Control
Heron							
El Vado							
Abiquiu						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cochiti						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jemez						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Elephant Butte						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Caballo						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



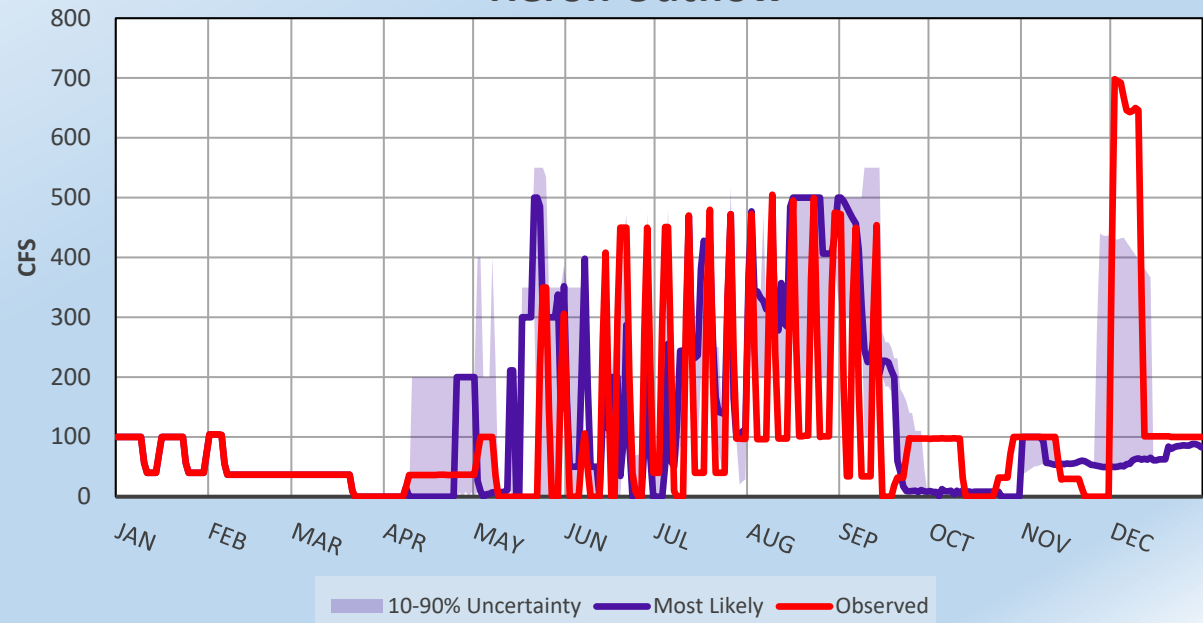
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2025: The Year in Review

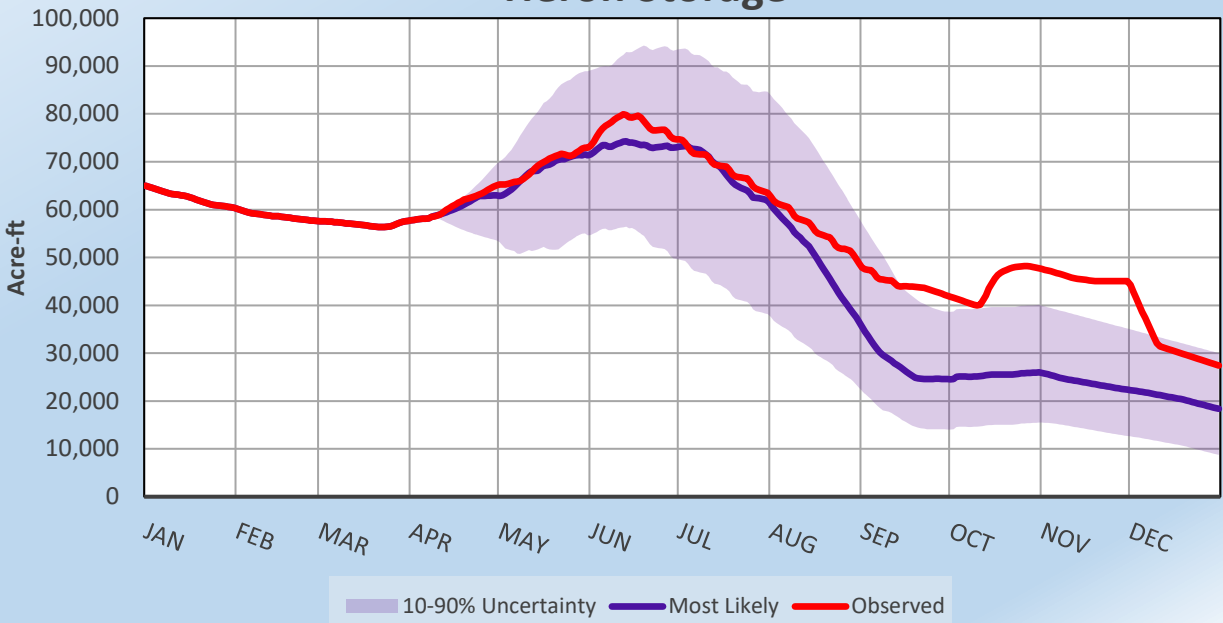
Heron Inflow



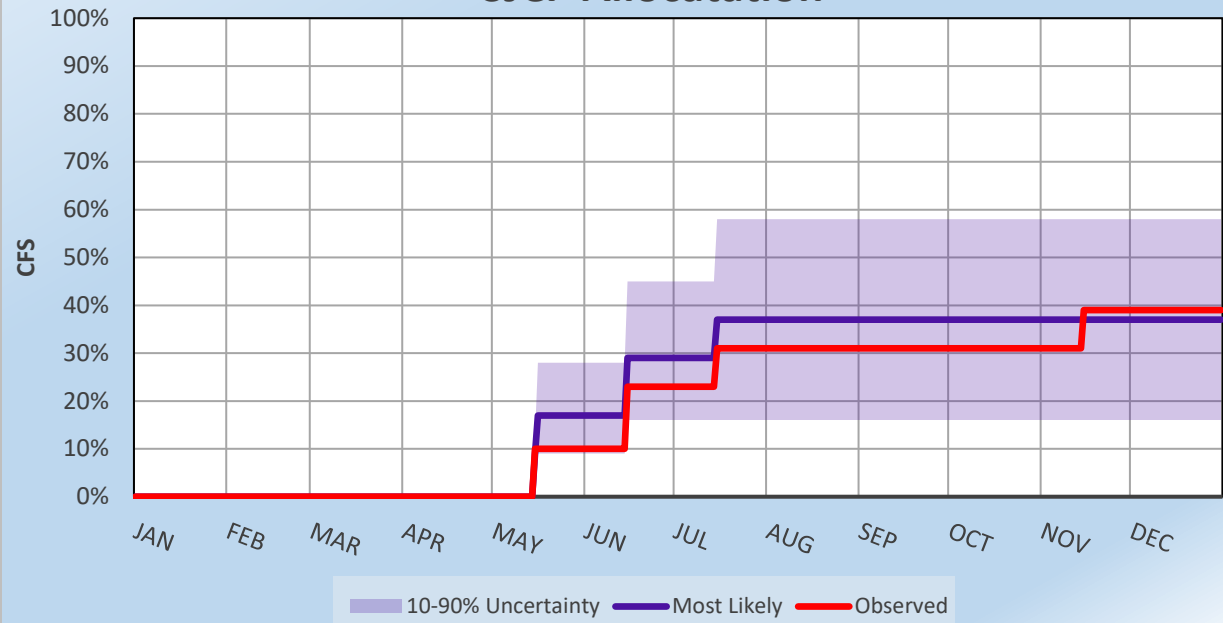
Heron Outflow



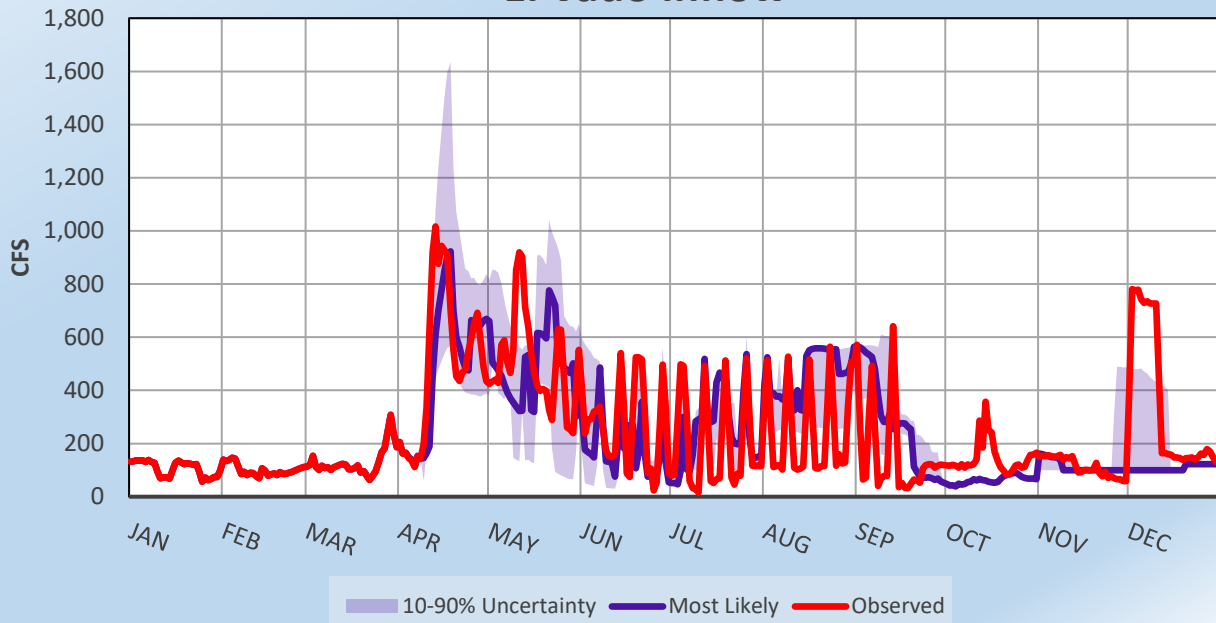
Heron Storage



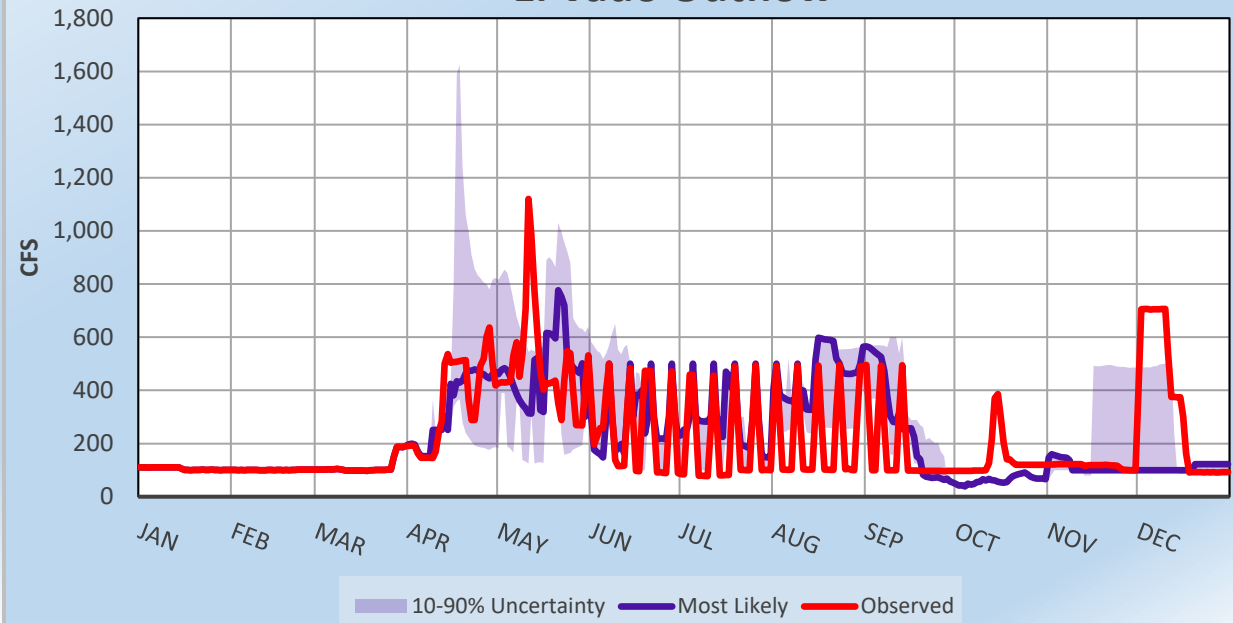
SJCP Allocation



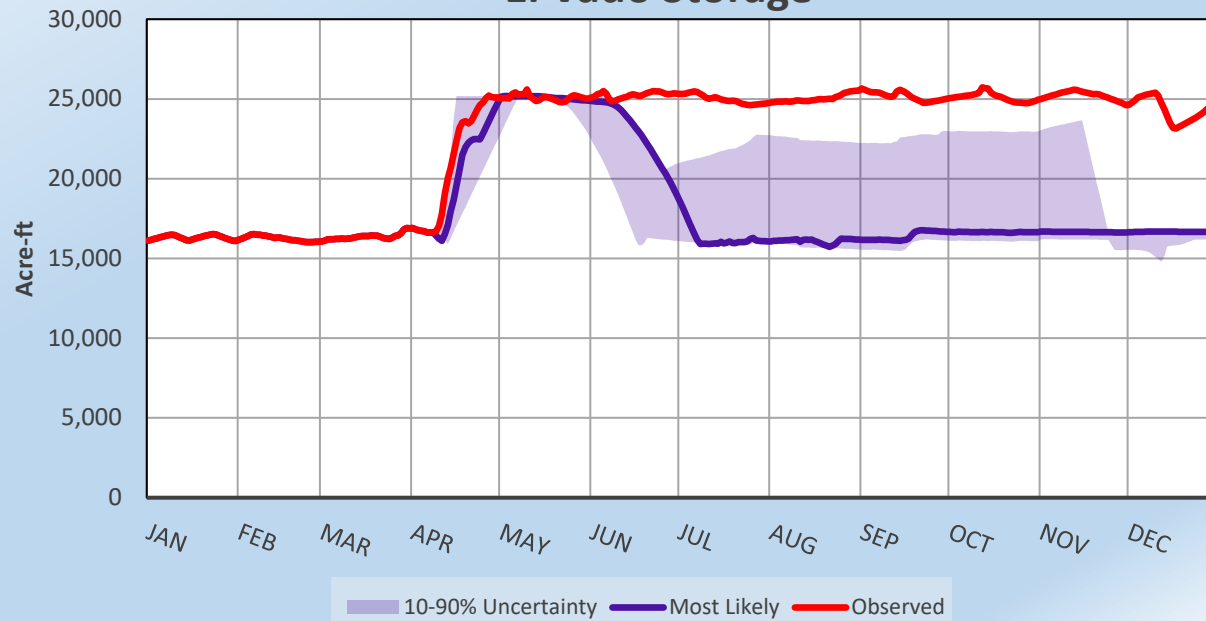
El Vado Inflow



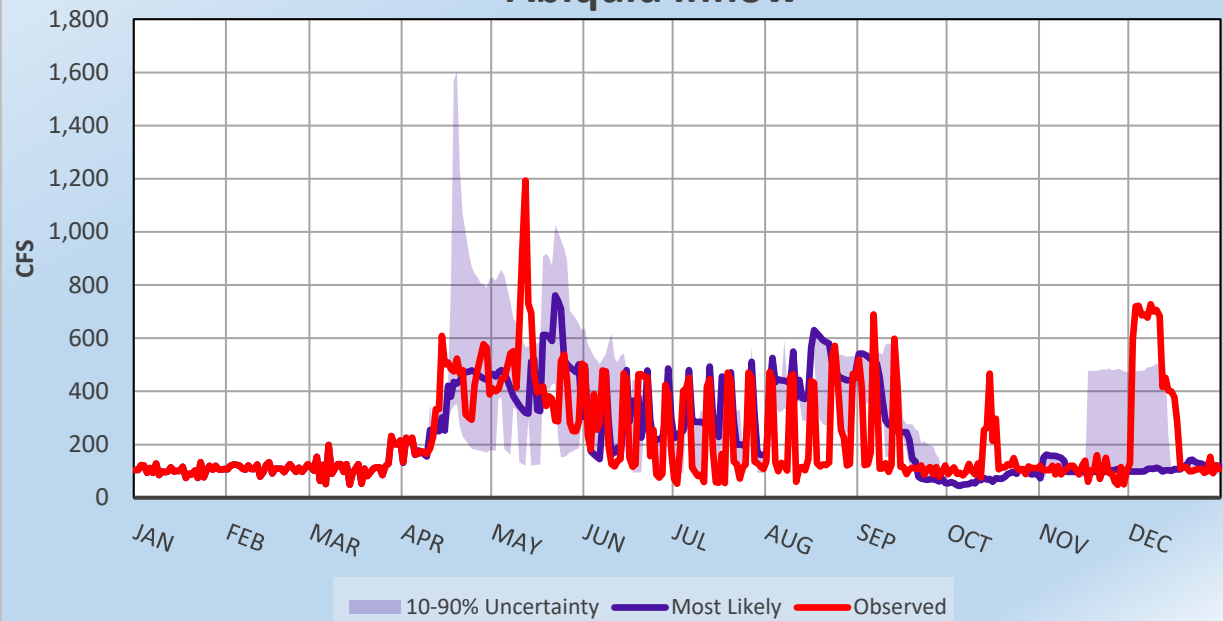
El Vado Outflow



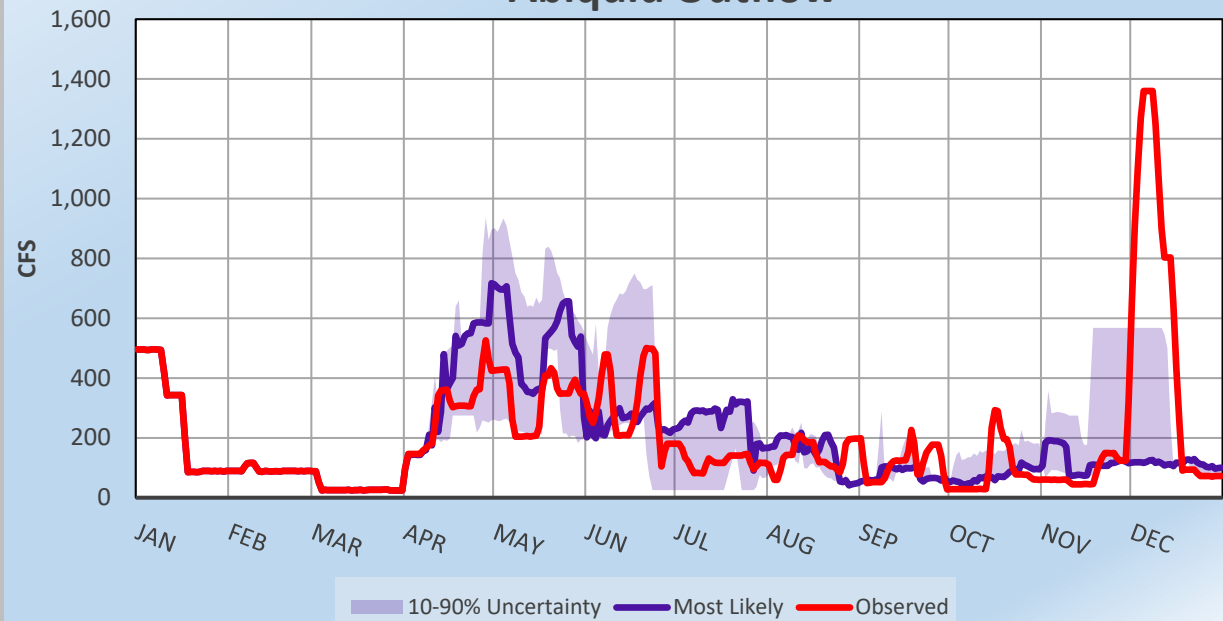
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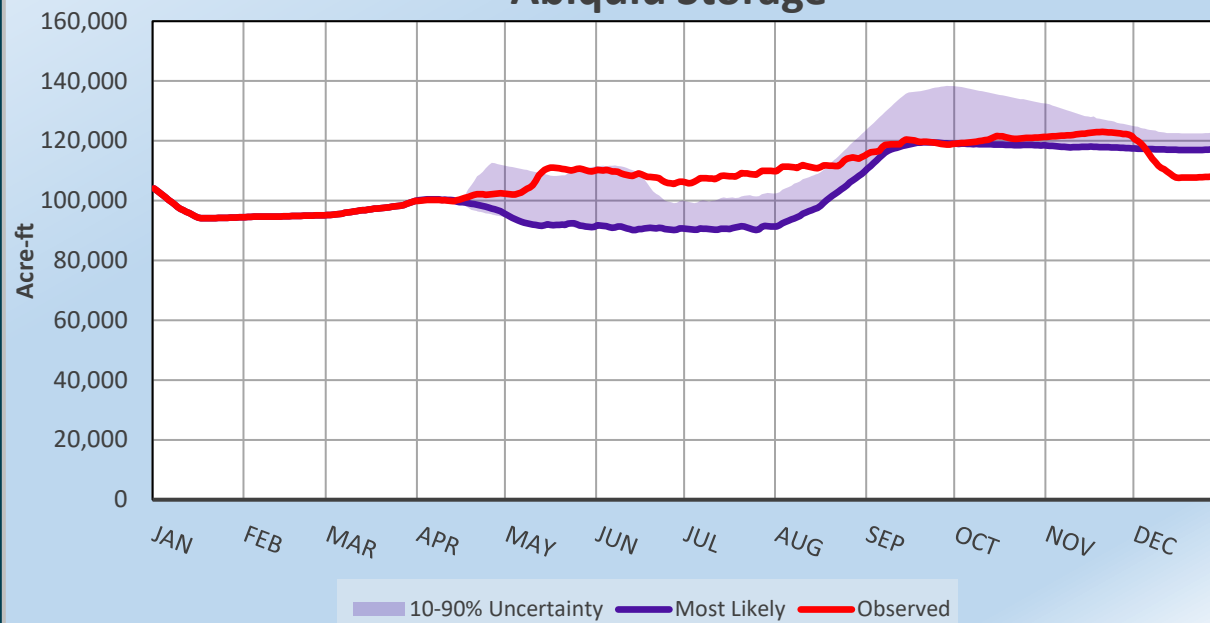
Abiquiu Inflow



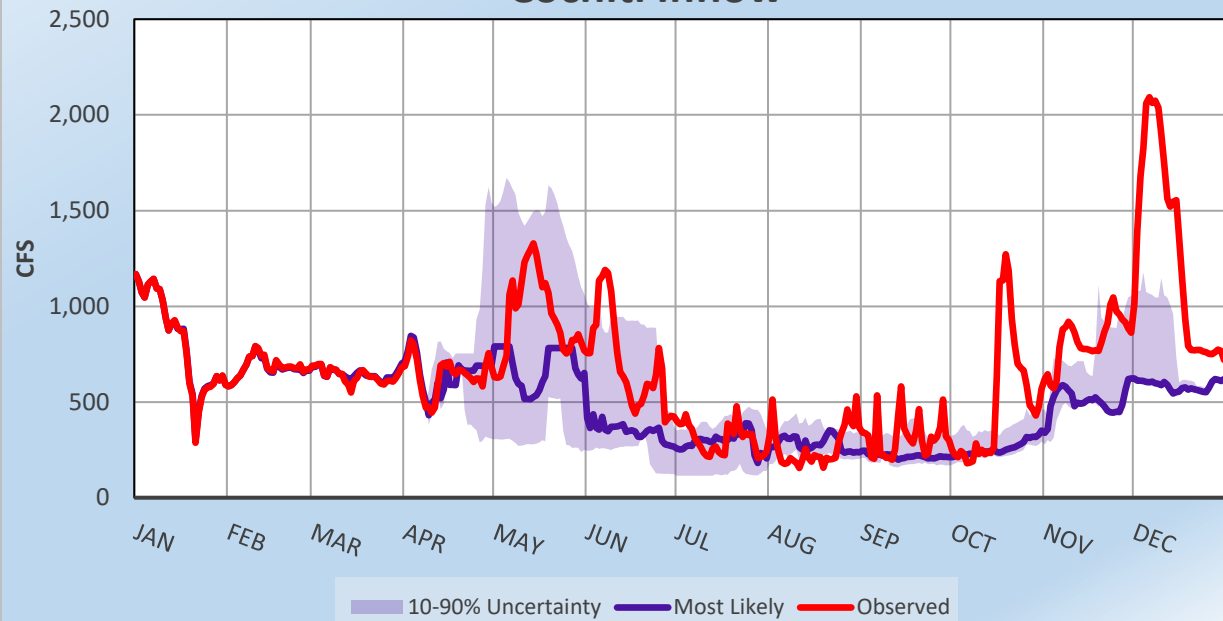
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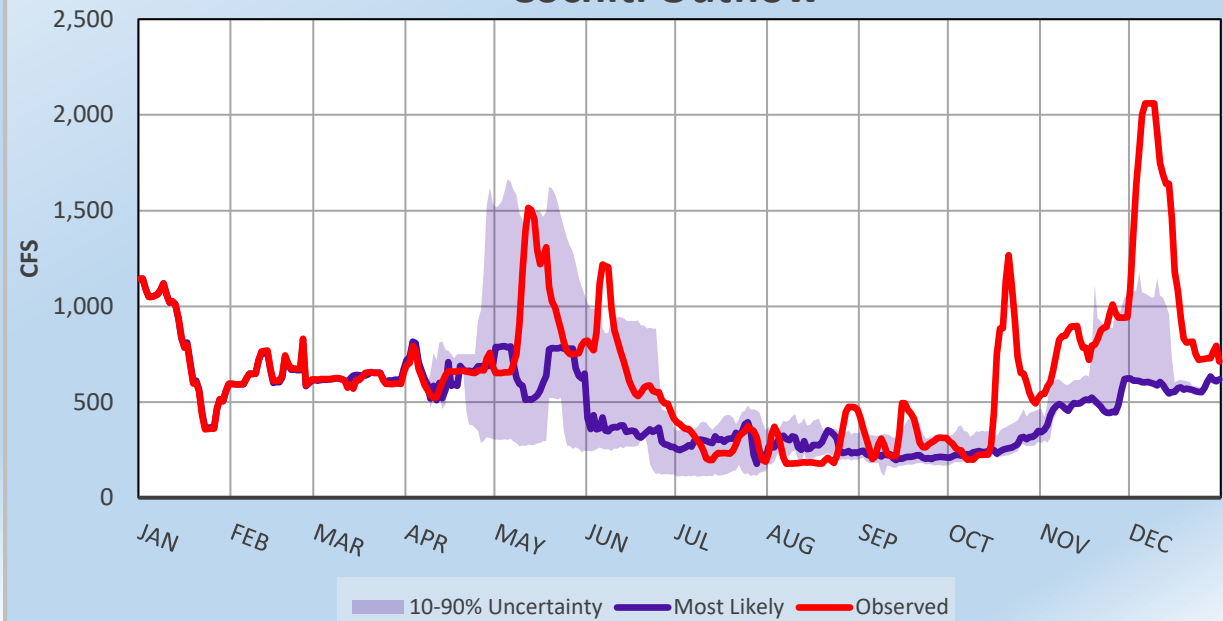
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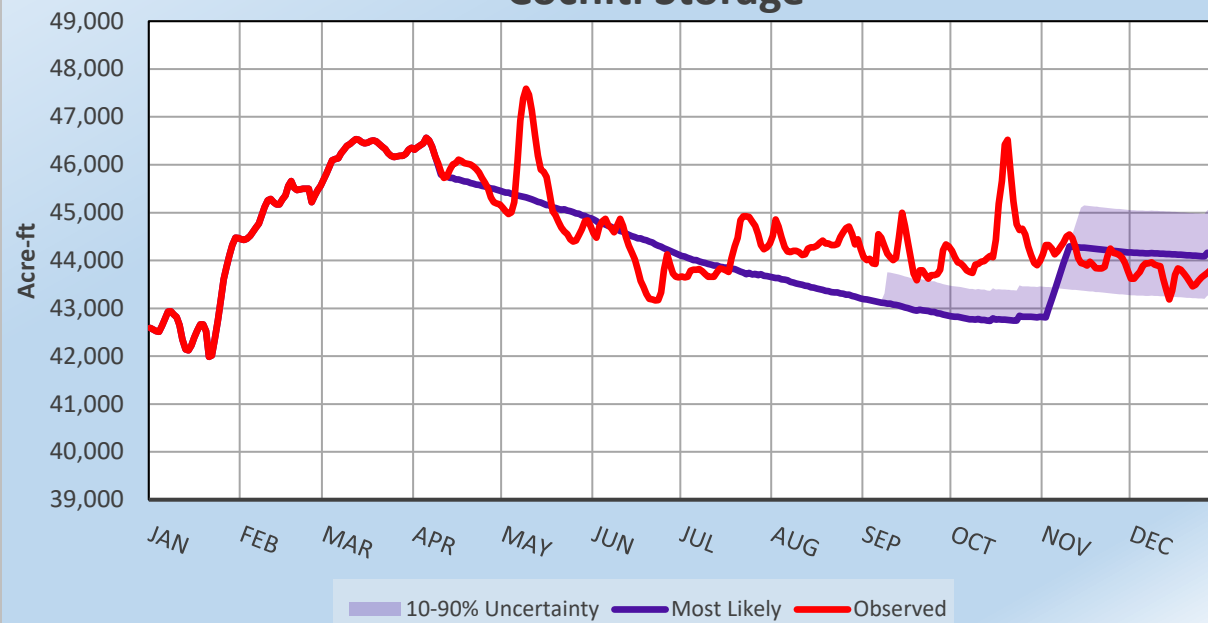
Cochiti Inflow



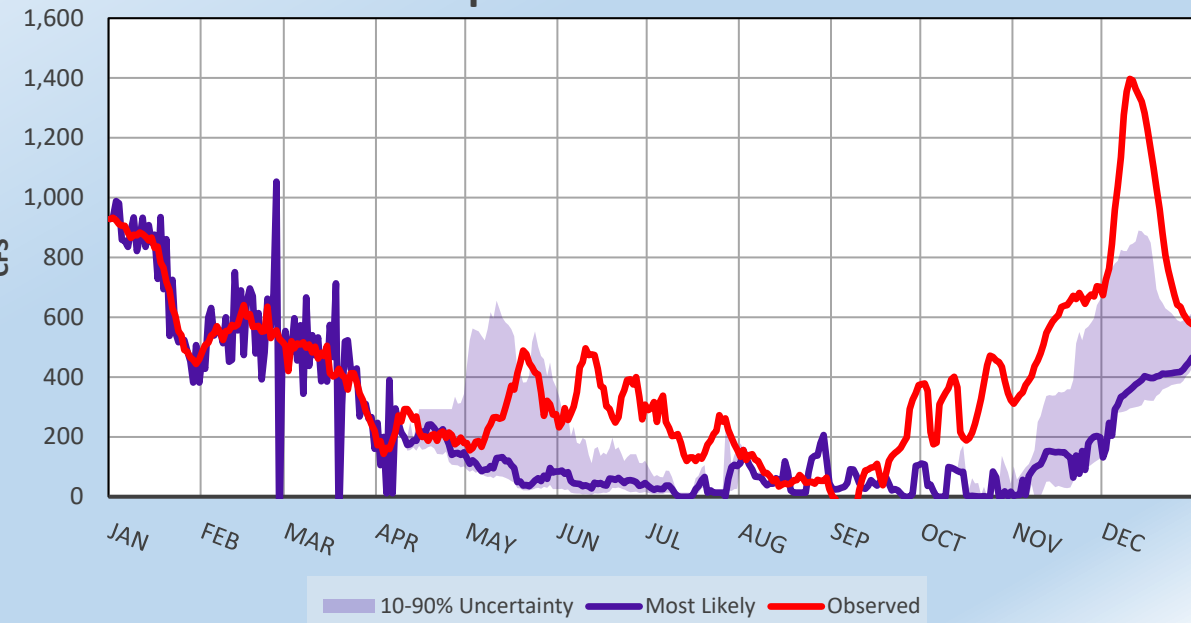
Cochiti Outflow



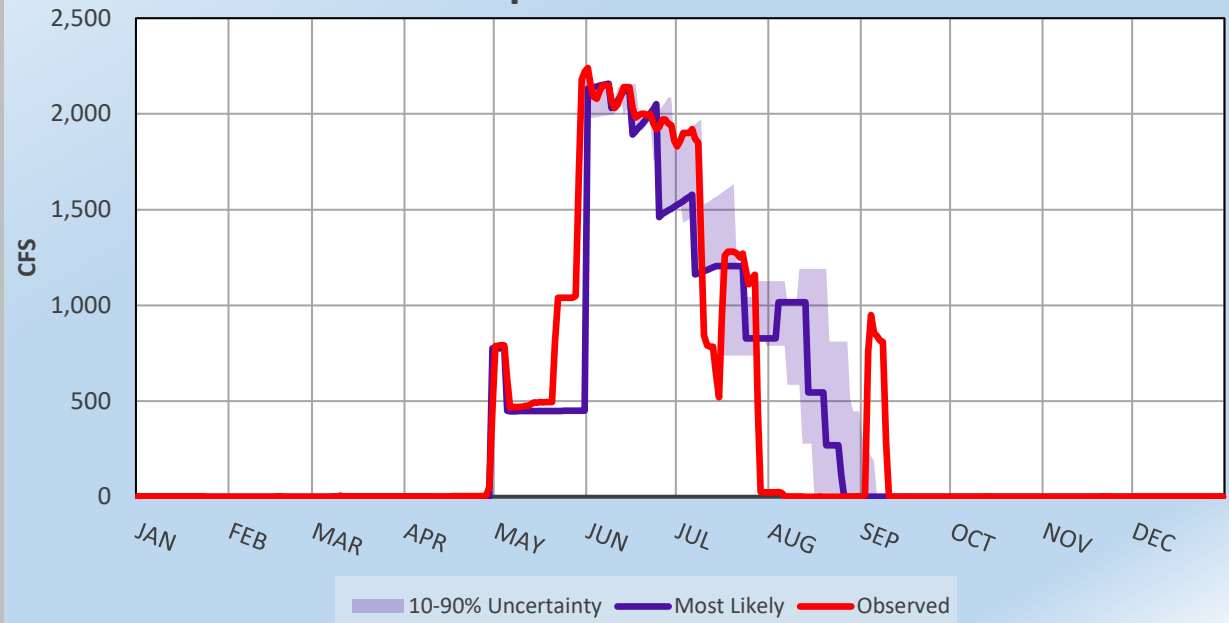
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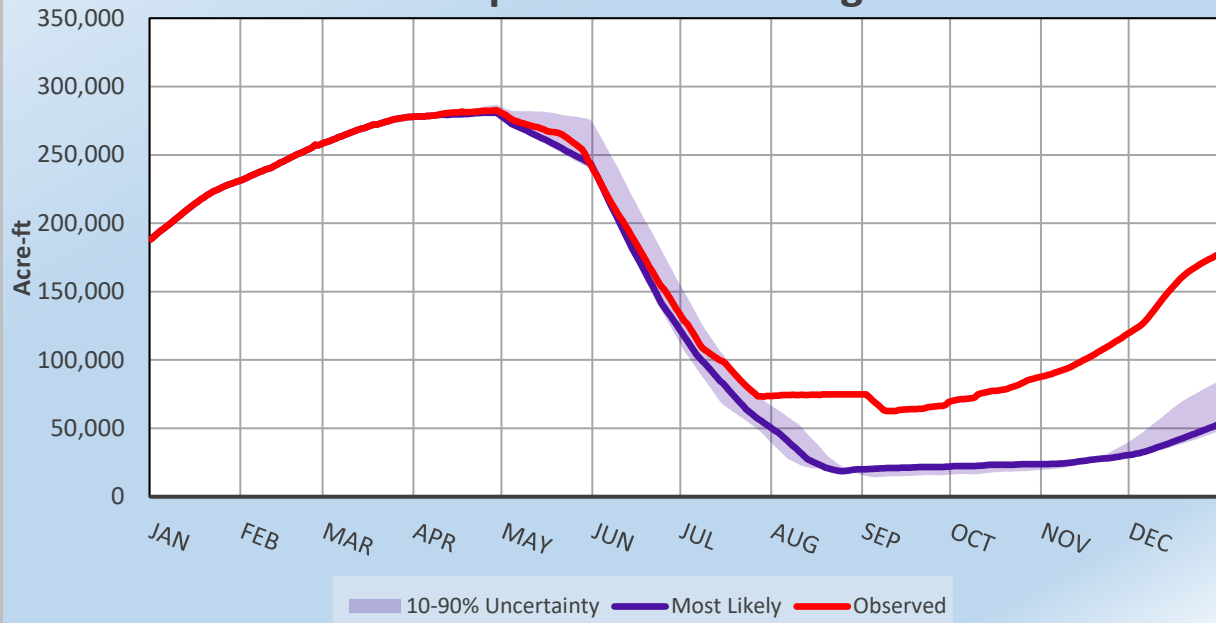
Elephant Butte Inflow



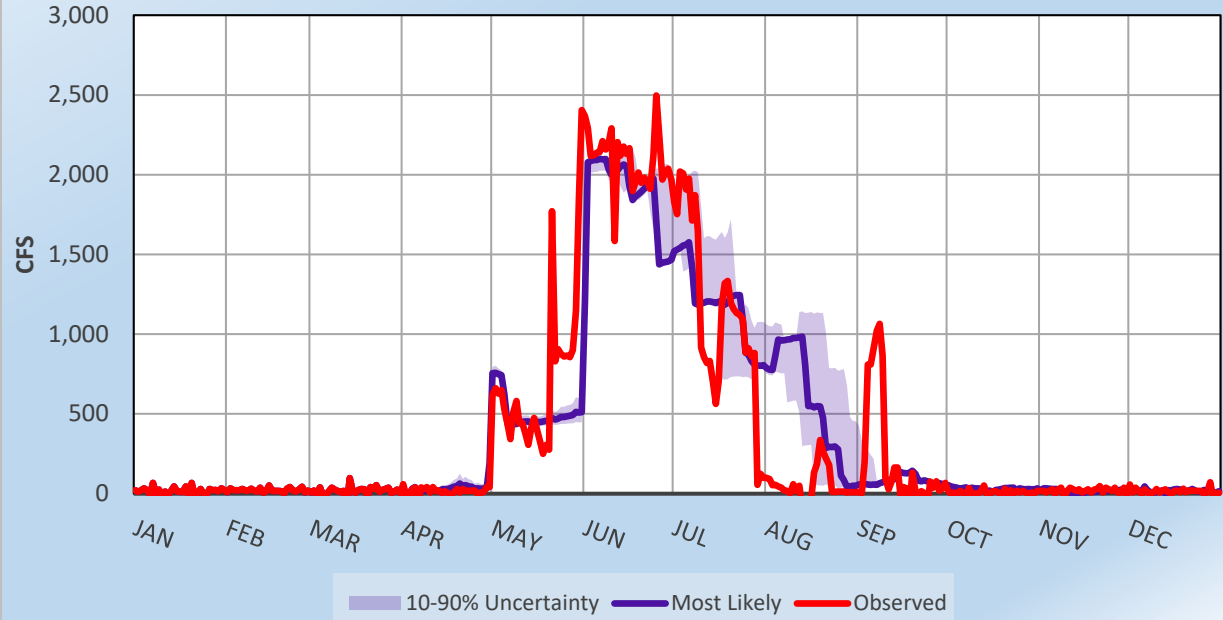
Elephant Butte Outflow



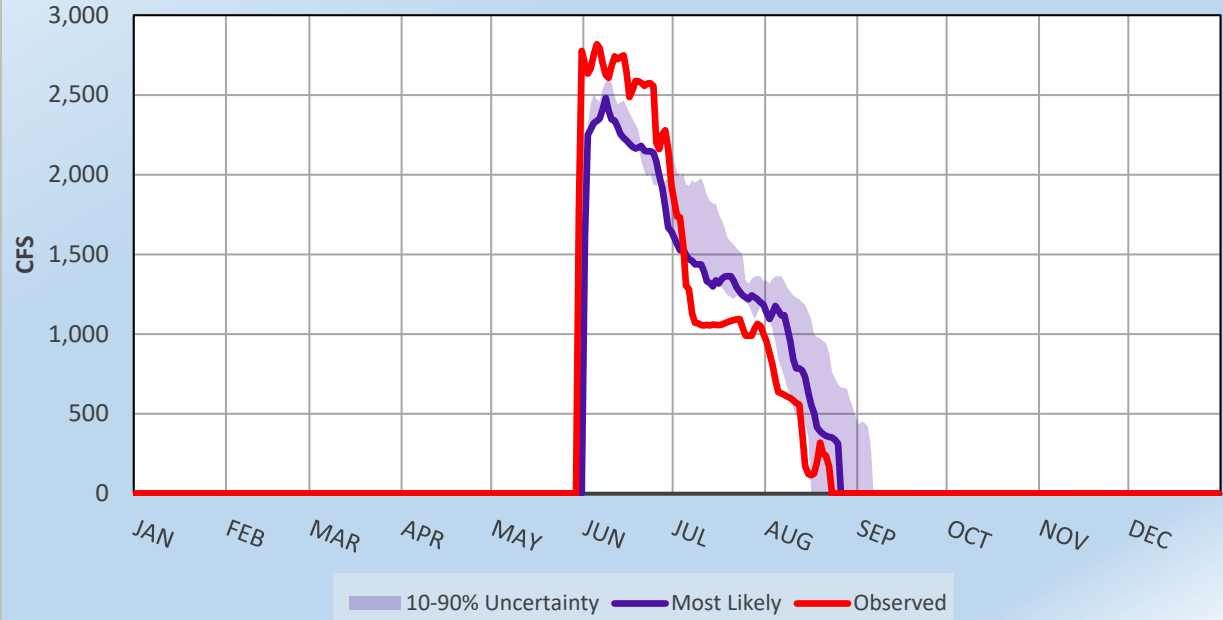
Elephant Butte Storage



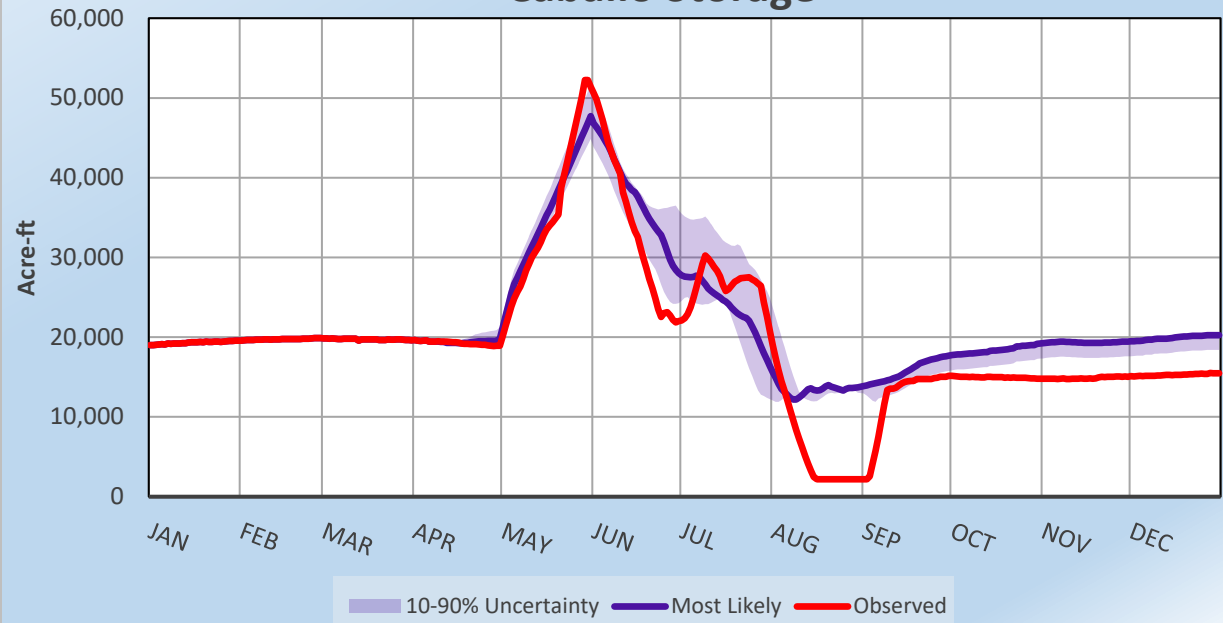
Caballo Inflow



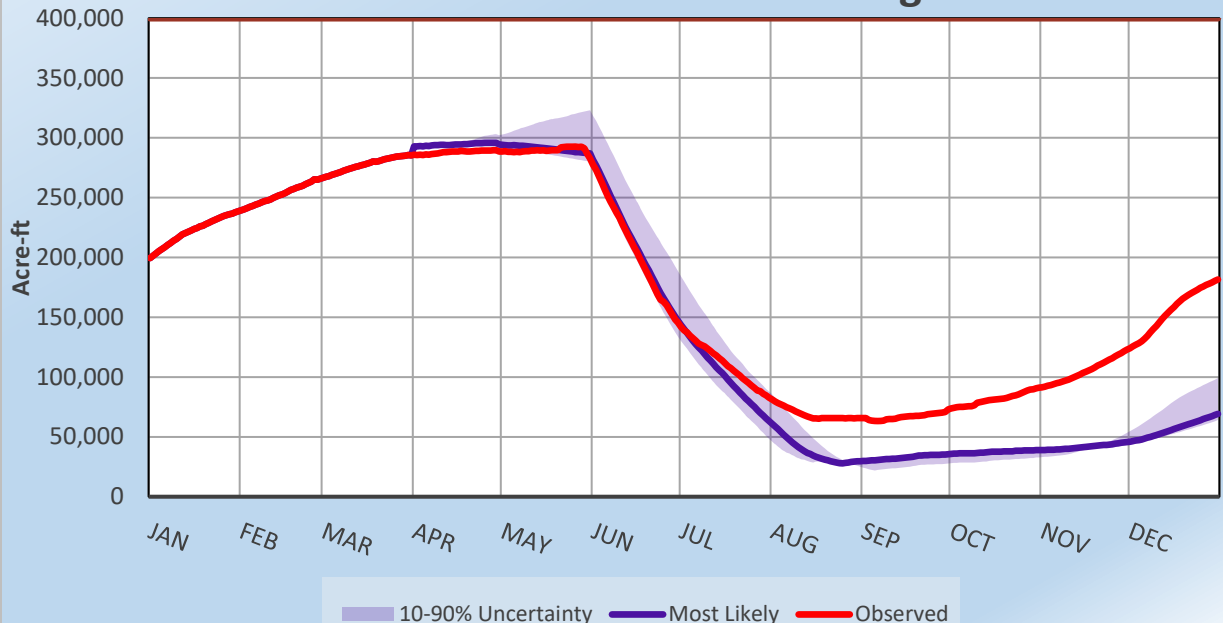
Caballo Outflow



Caballo Storage



Rio Grande Usable Storage



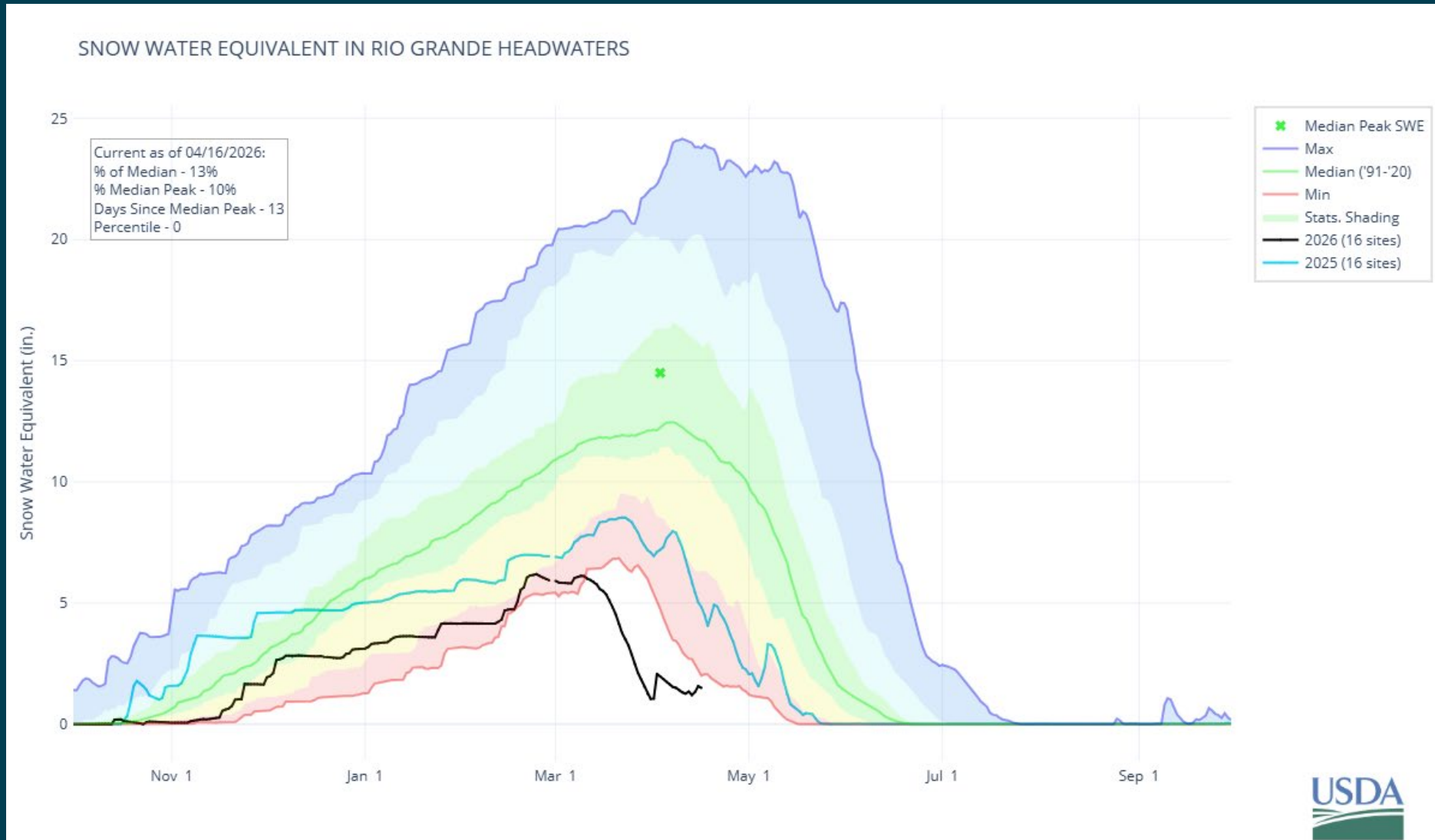


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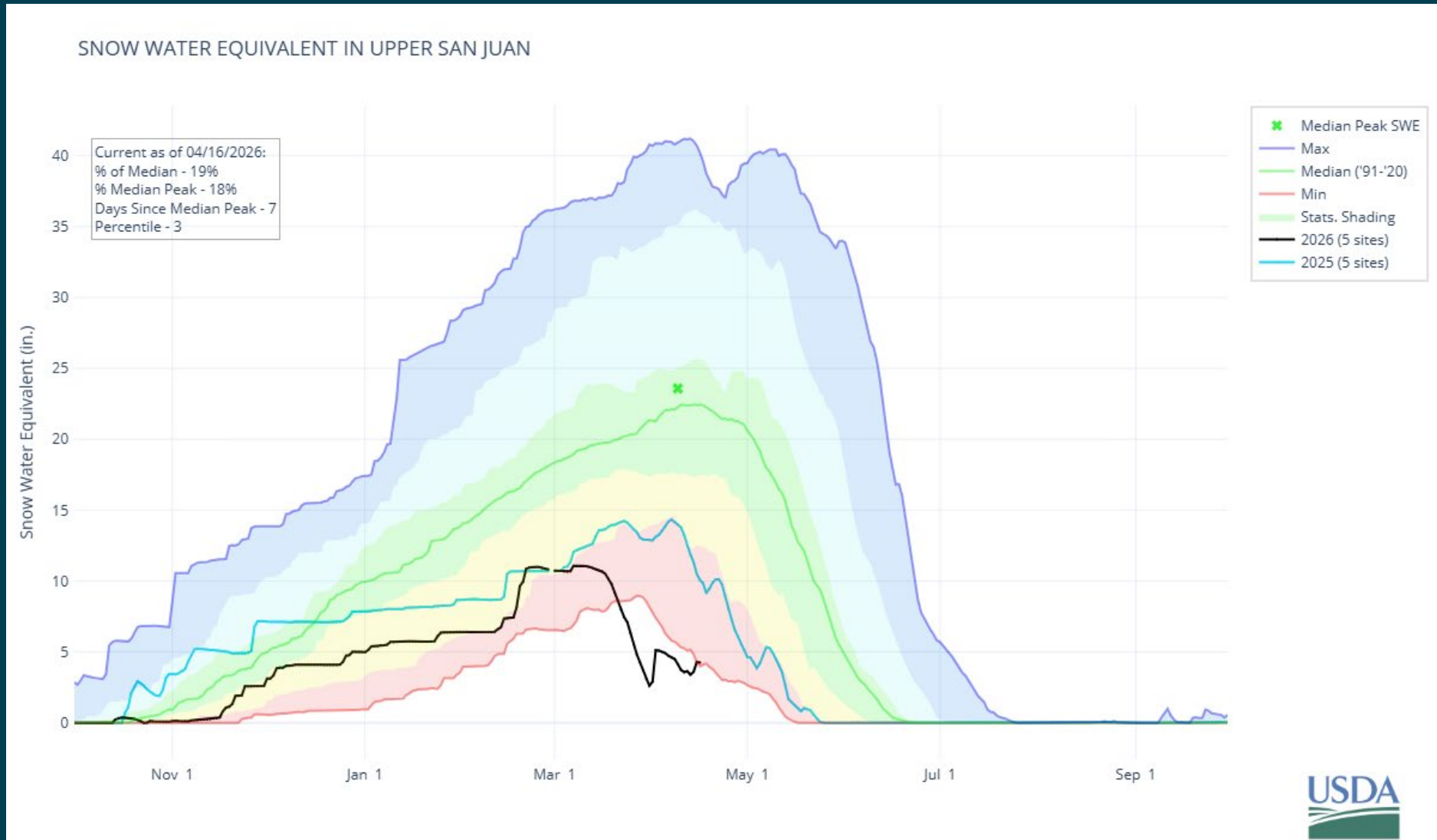
Current Snow Conditions



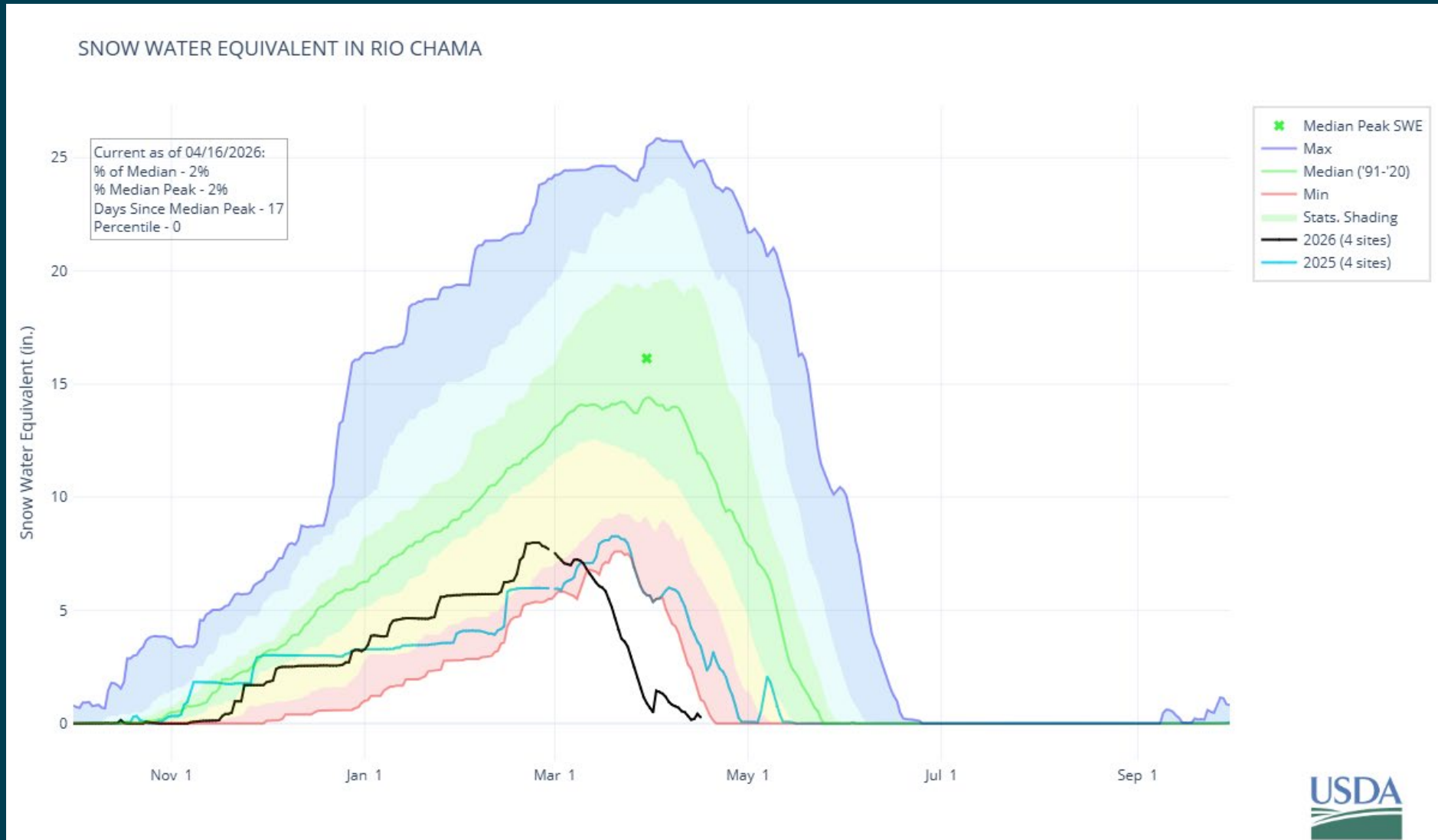
Rio Grande Headwaters



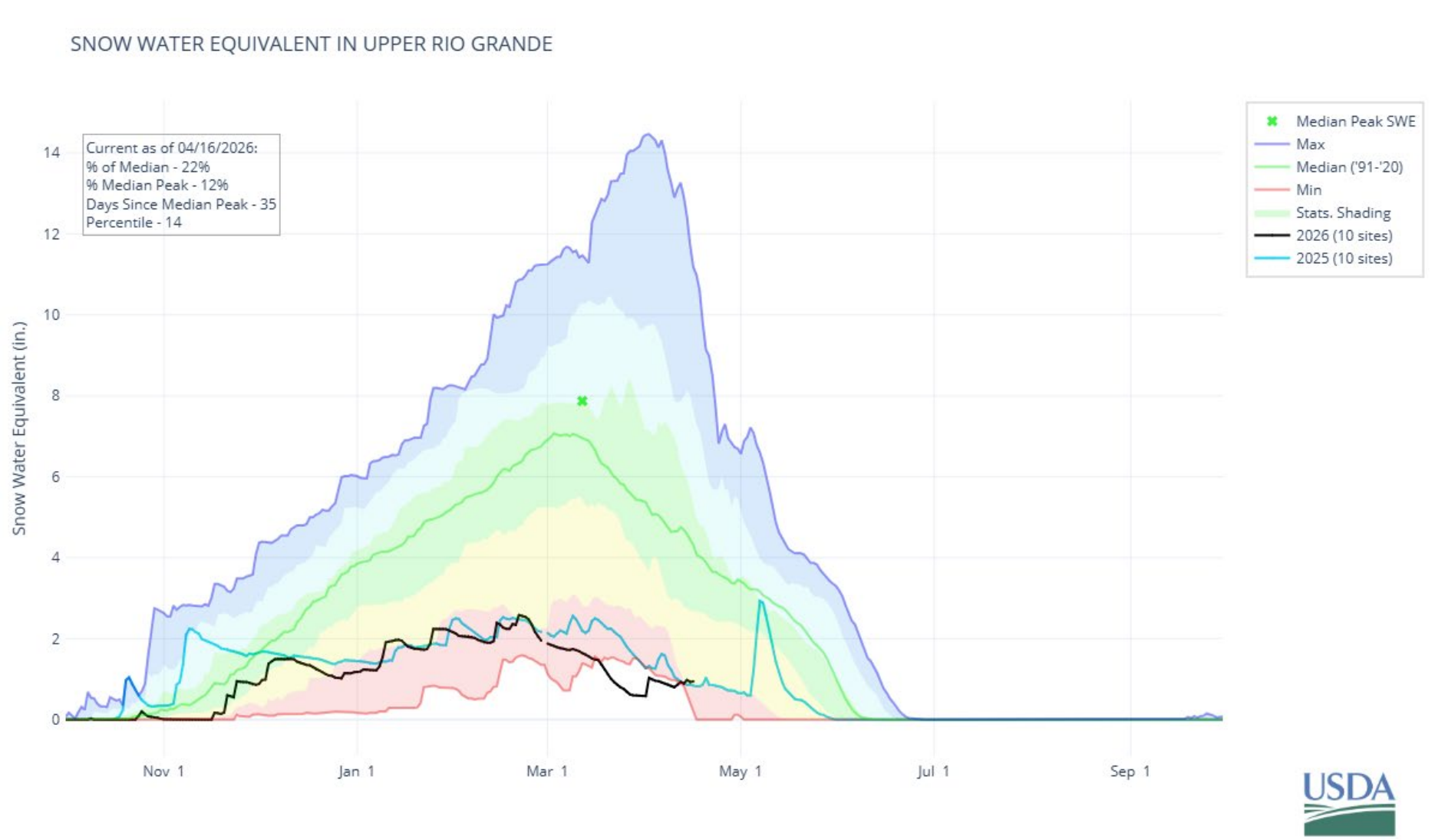
Upper San Juan



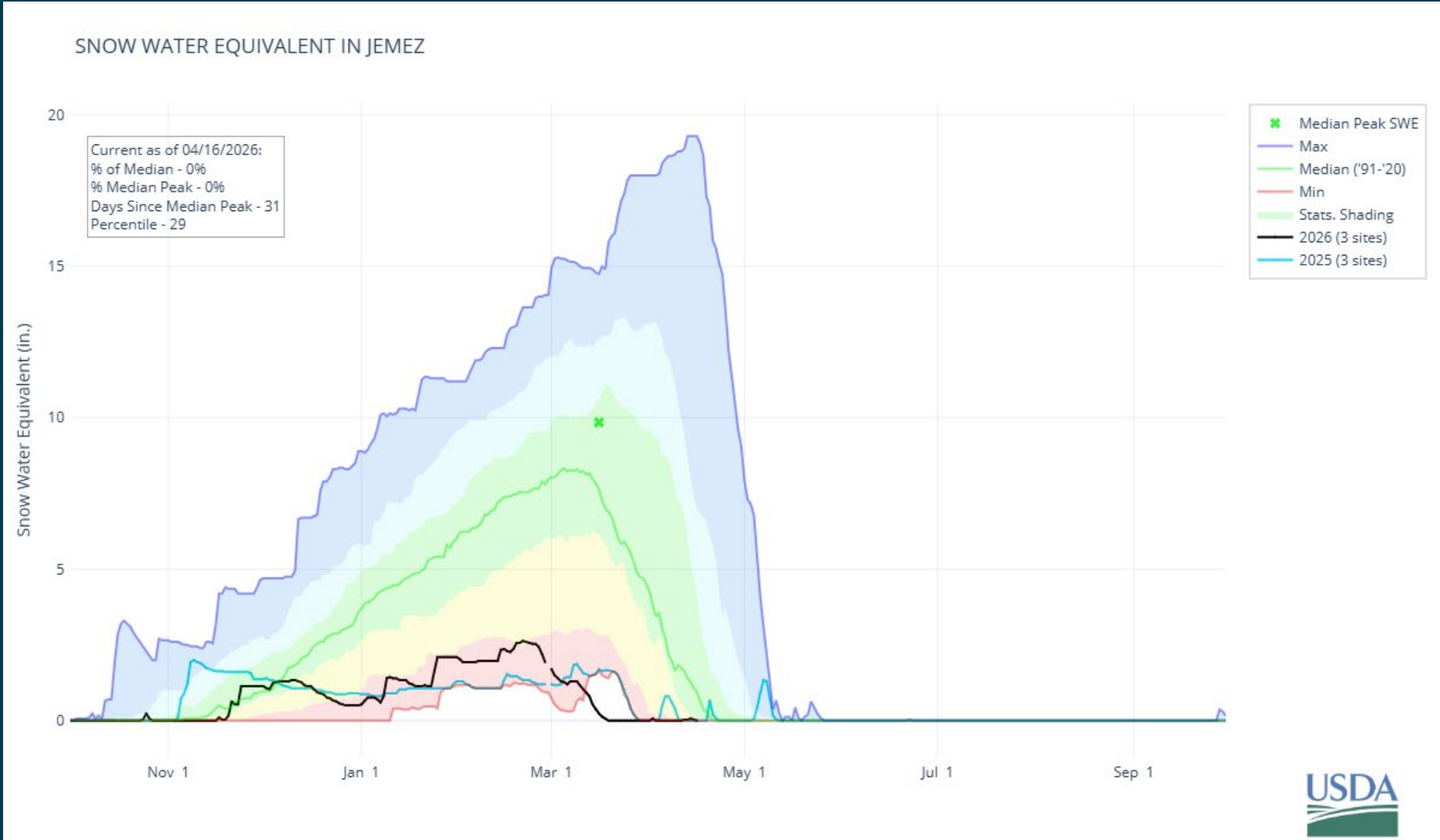
Rio Chama



Sangre de Cristos



Jemez





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2026 Projected Water Operations

Important Model Assumptions

2002 hydrograph runoff shape

Most likely = Average Precipitation

10% - 90% Uncertainty Shading = Below Average to Above Average Precipitation

El Vado Reservoir

- Maximum elevation of 6,820.5 ft
- Plan to stay above 6,810 ft to avoid clogging issues of outlet works

Caballo operations

- EBID, EP1, and Mexico expected start date of May 29
- EBID expected end date around late June and EP1 and Mexico expected end date of around late July
- Most recent similar year for expected irrigation supply was last year (2025)
- Total release expected to be around 200,000 acre-ft



2026 April Forecast vs 2025 Observed

Location	2026 50% Forecast			2025 Observed	
	af	%*	↑or↓ 26vs25	af	%*
Rio Grande @ Del Norte	172,000	36%	↓	293,000	61%
Rio Blanco @ diversion	11,500	24%	↓	23,000	48%
Navajo River @ diversion	12,300	22%	↓	28,000	41%
El Vado Inflow	40,000	24%	↓	60,000	36%
Nambe Falls Inflow	1,200	24%	↓	3,100	63%
Rio Grande @ Otowi	68,000	14%	↓	157,000	33%
Jemez River @ Jemez	2,700	16%	↑	2,600	15%
Rio Grande @ San Marcial	-120,000	-43%	↓	36,000	13%

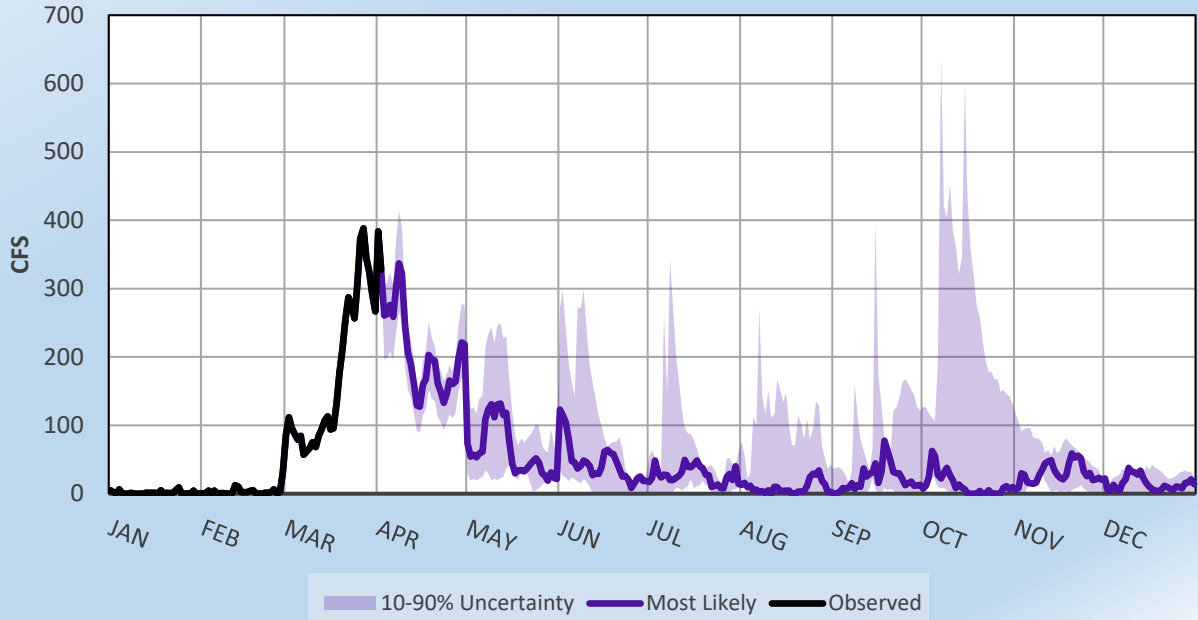
*Percentage based on the 1991-2020 Median



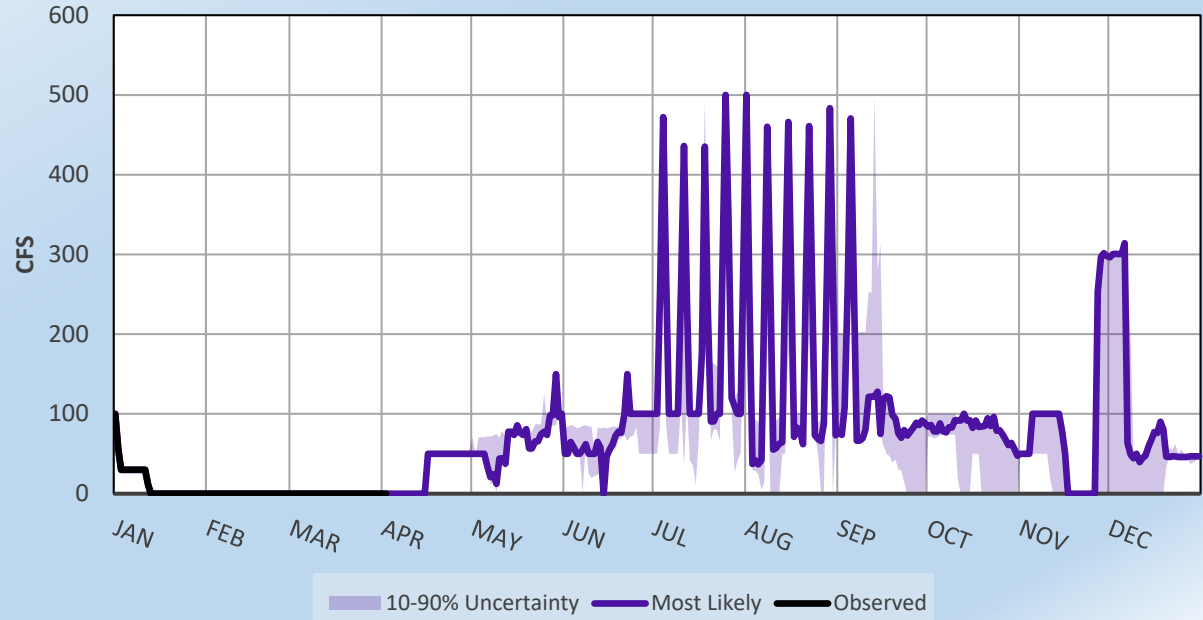
Heron Dam



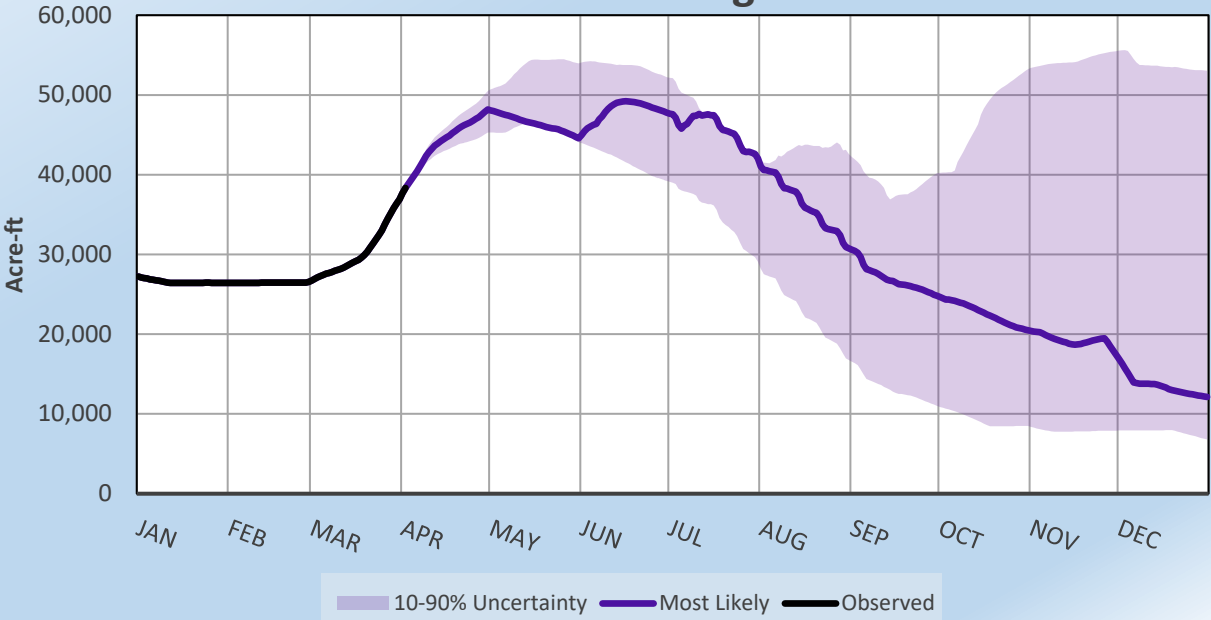
Heron Inflow



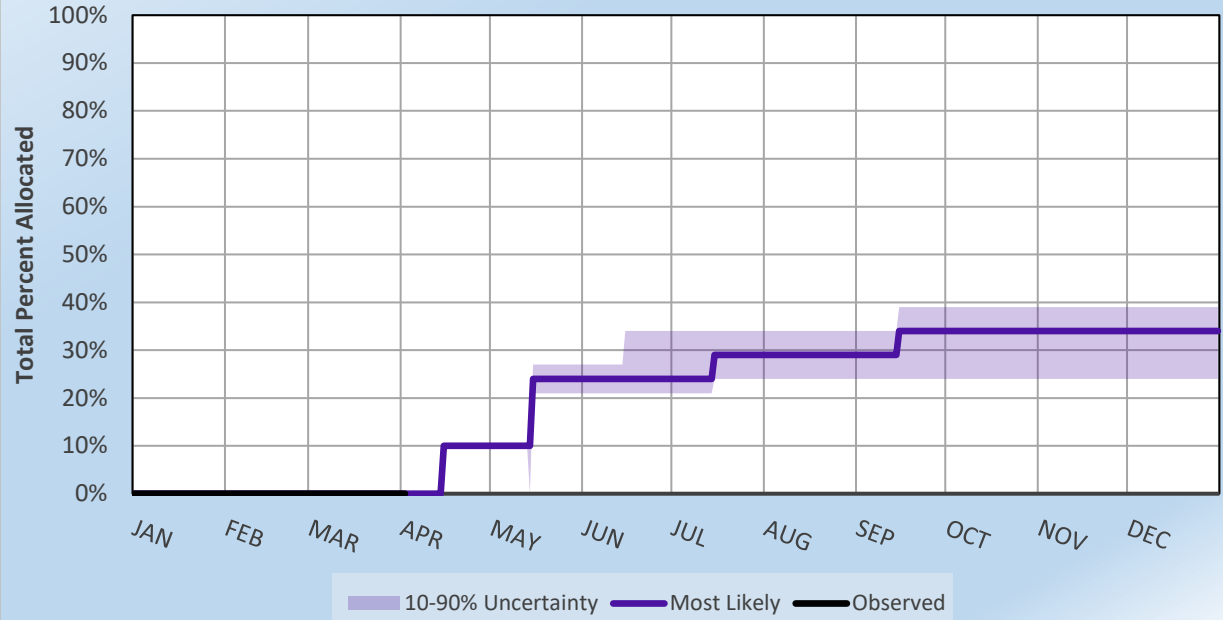
Heron Outflow



Heron Storage



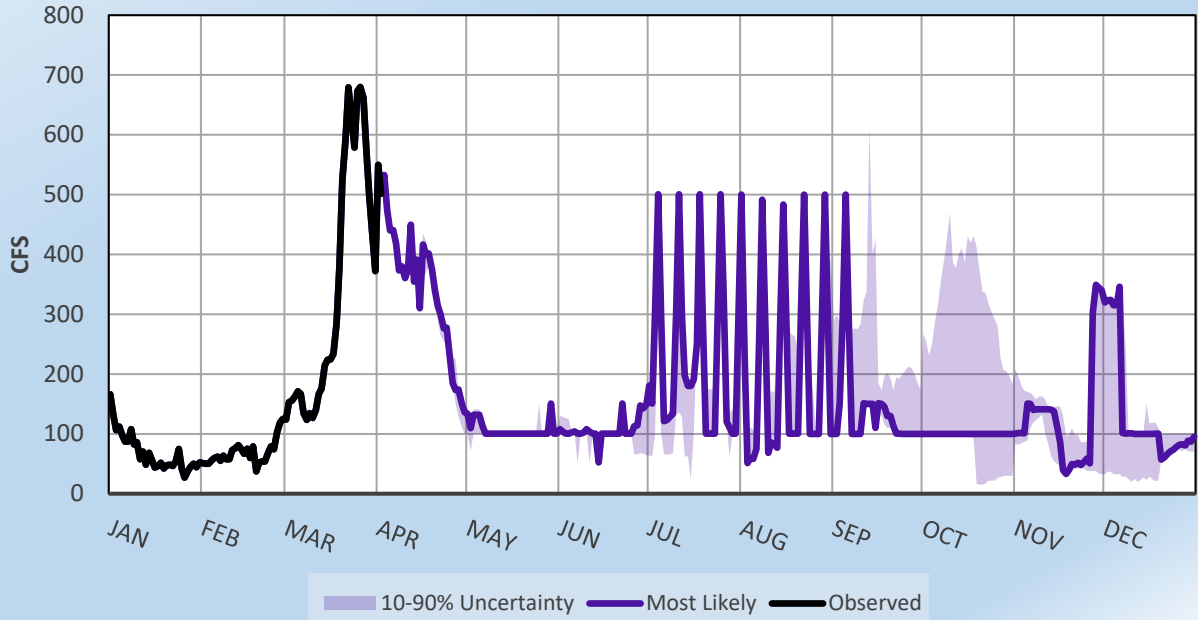
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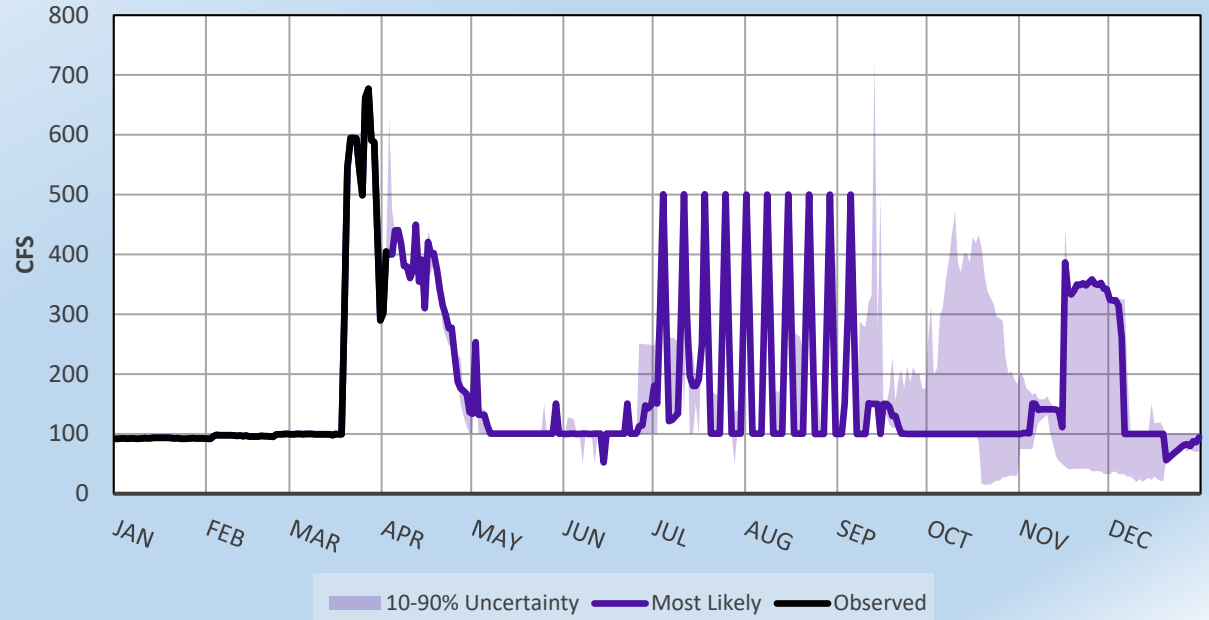
El Vado Dam



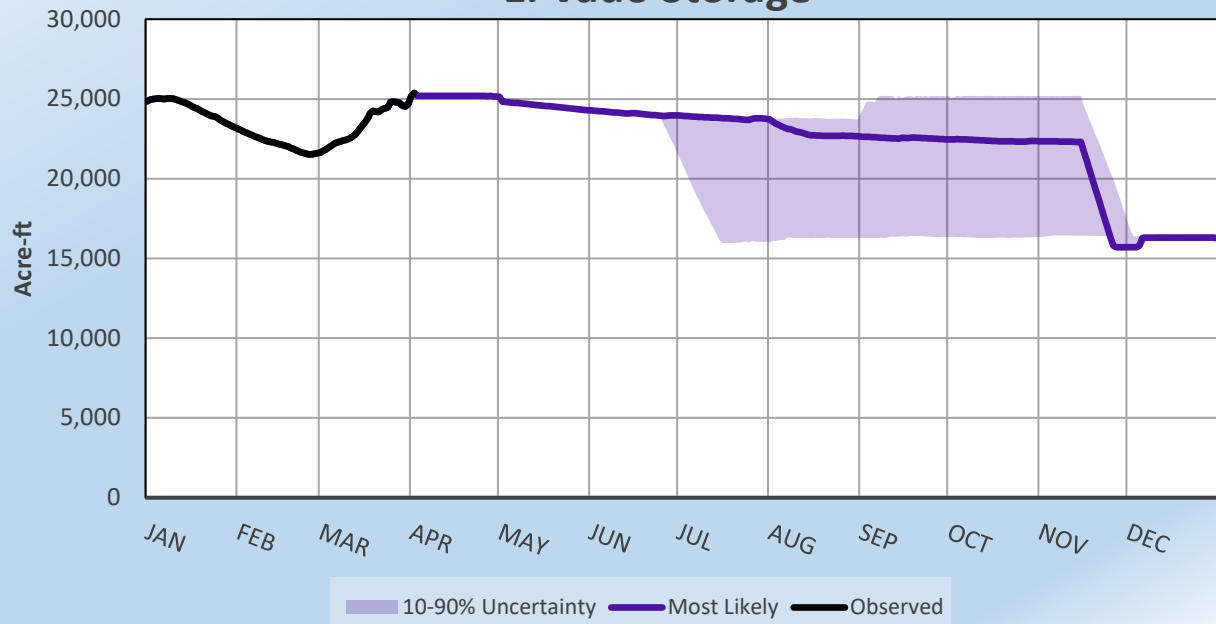
El Vado Inflow



El Vado Outflow



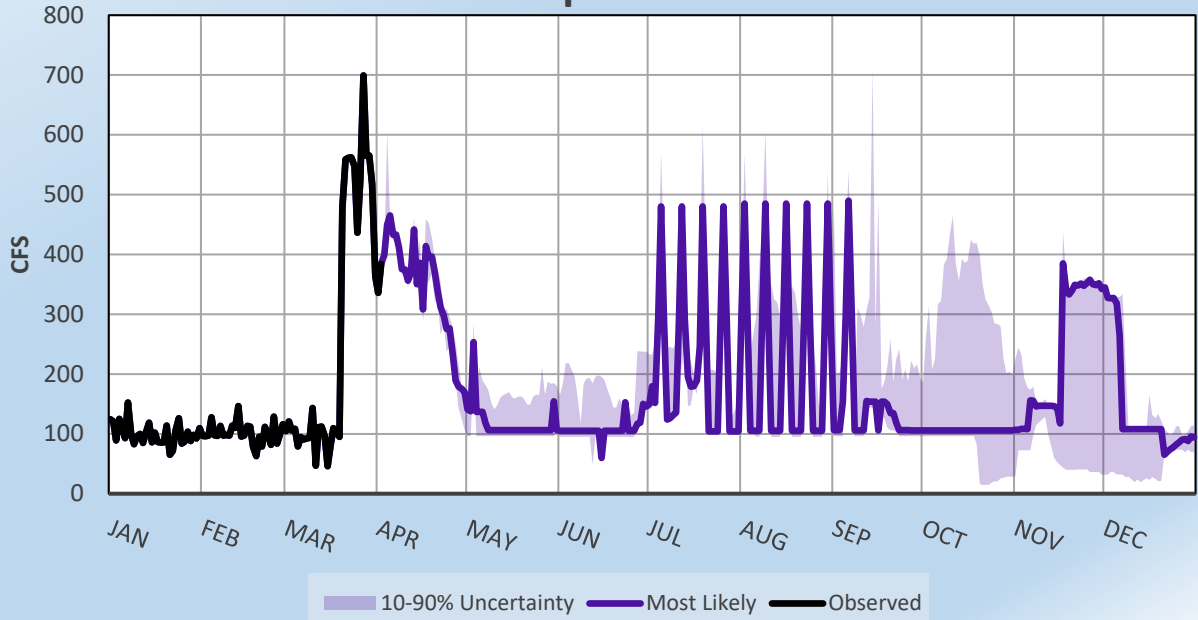
El Vado Storage



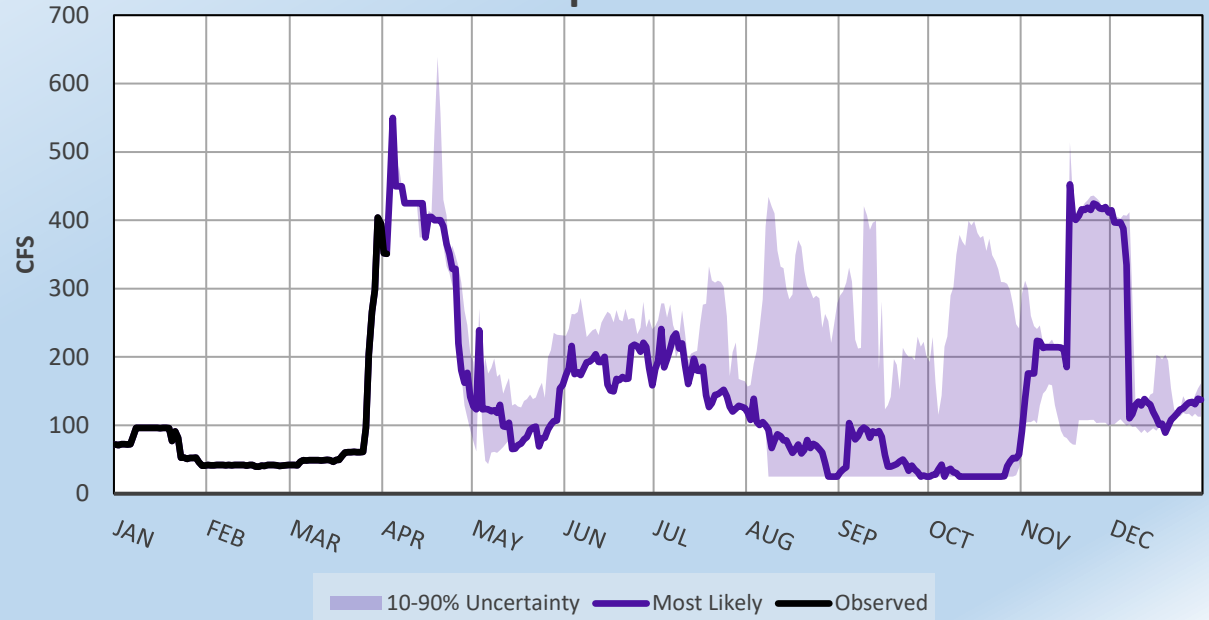
Abiquiu Dam



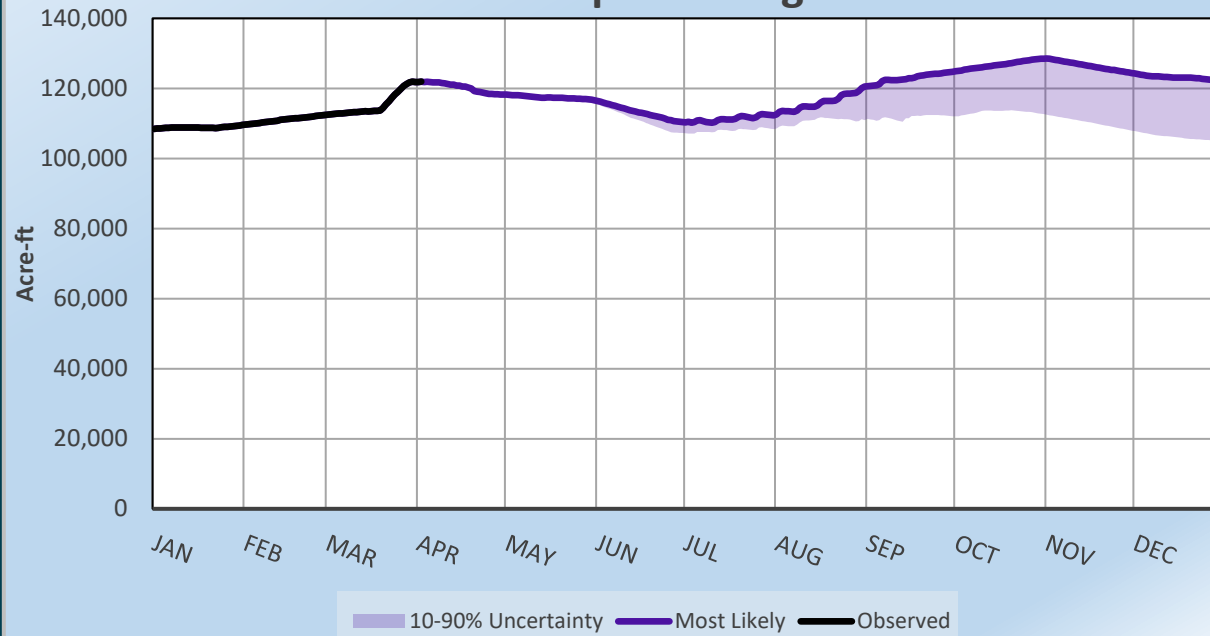
Abiquiu Inflow



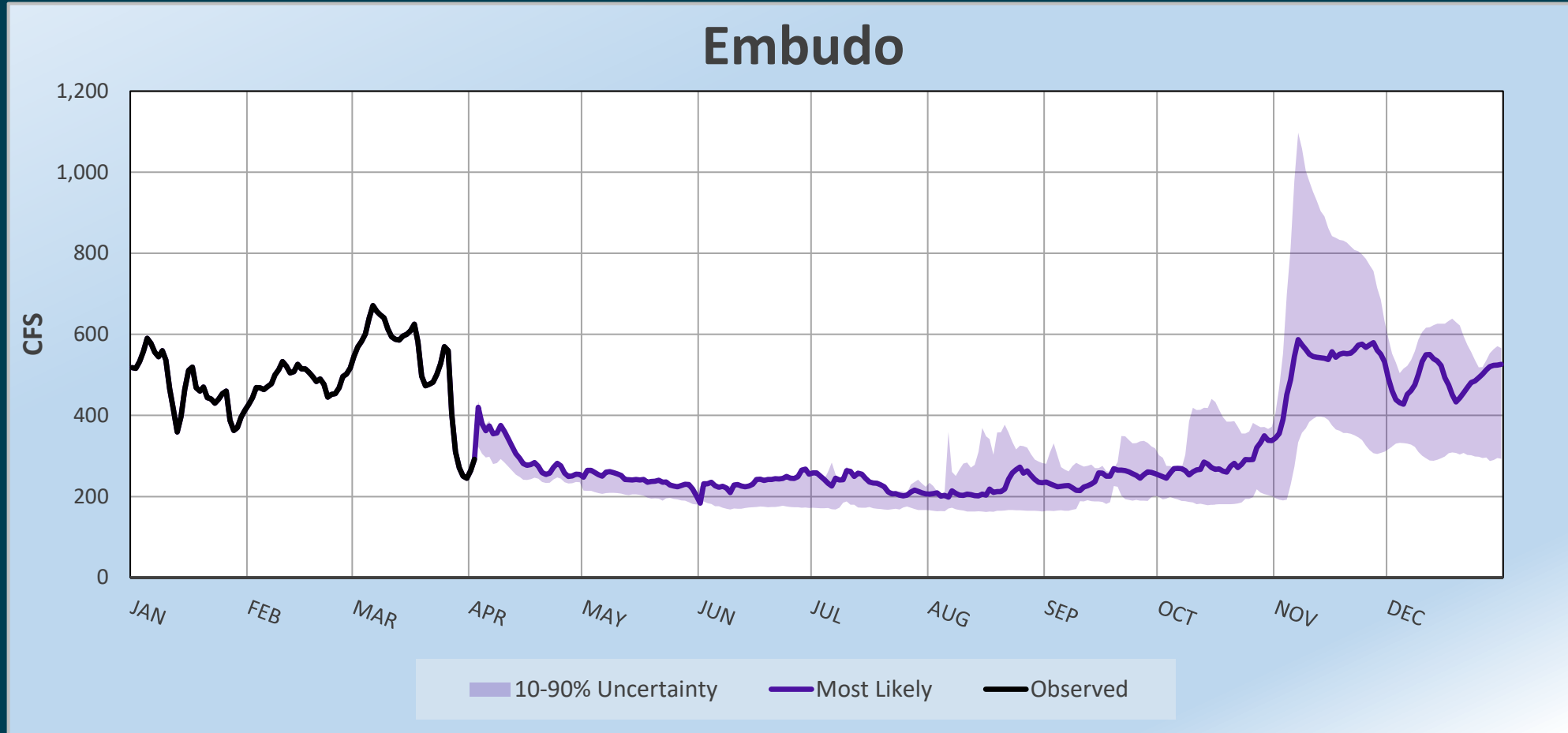
Abiquiu Outflow



Abiquiu Storage



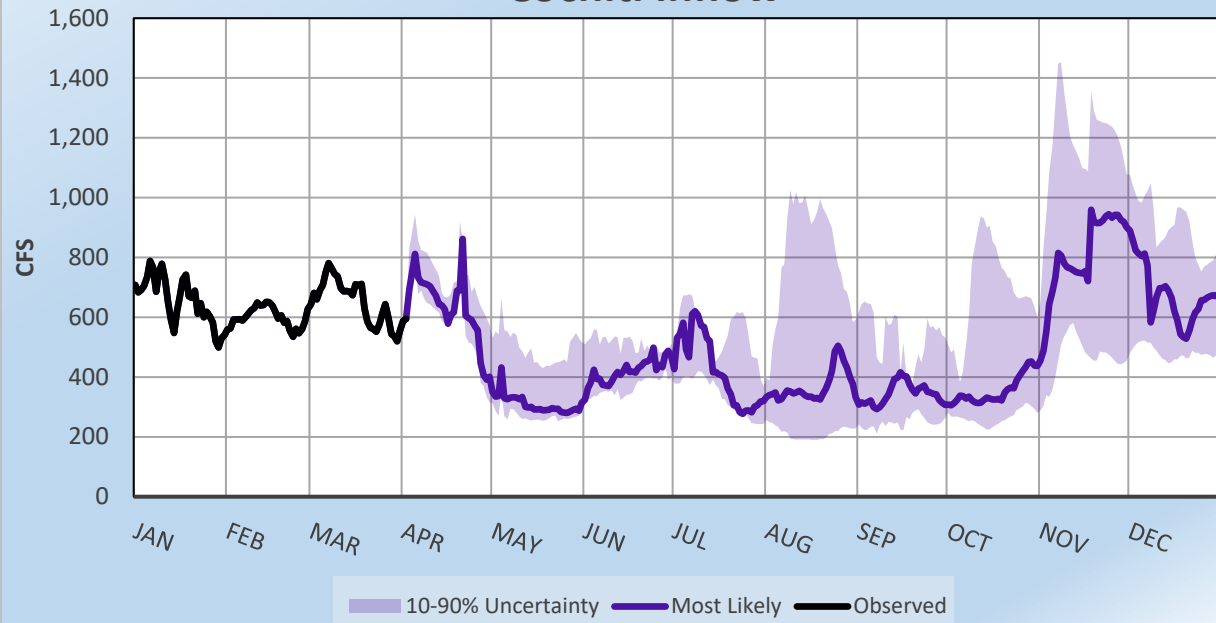
Estimated 2026 Flows at Embudo



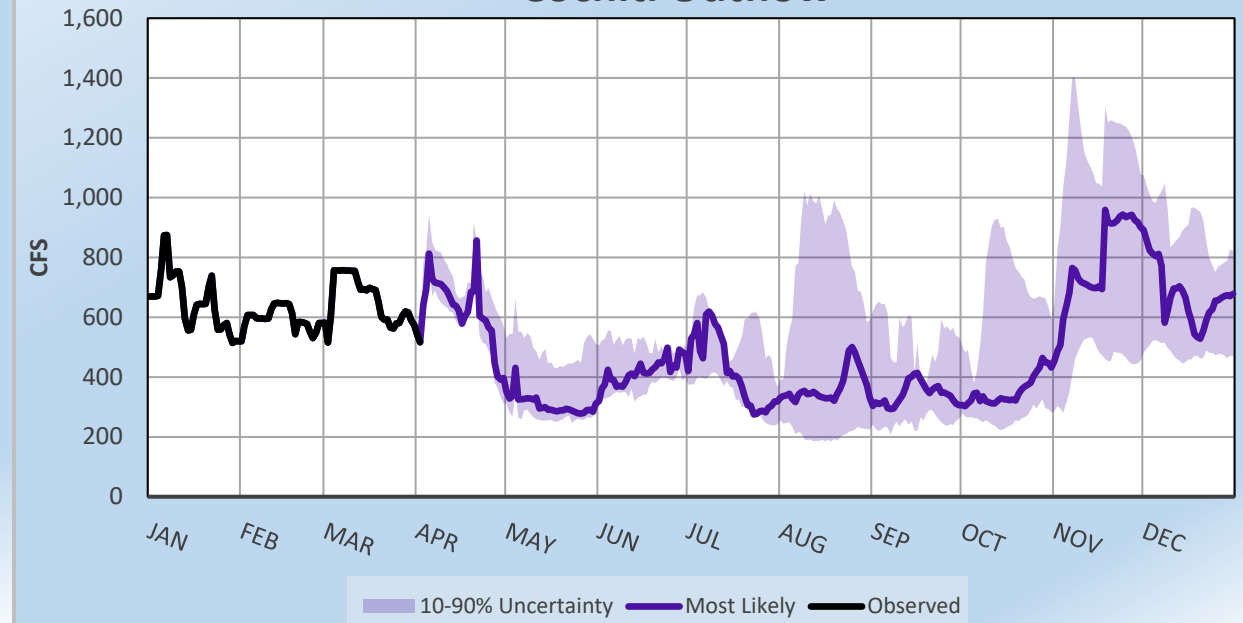
Cochiti Dam



Cochiti Inflow



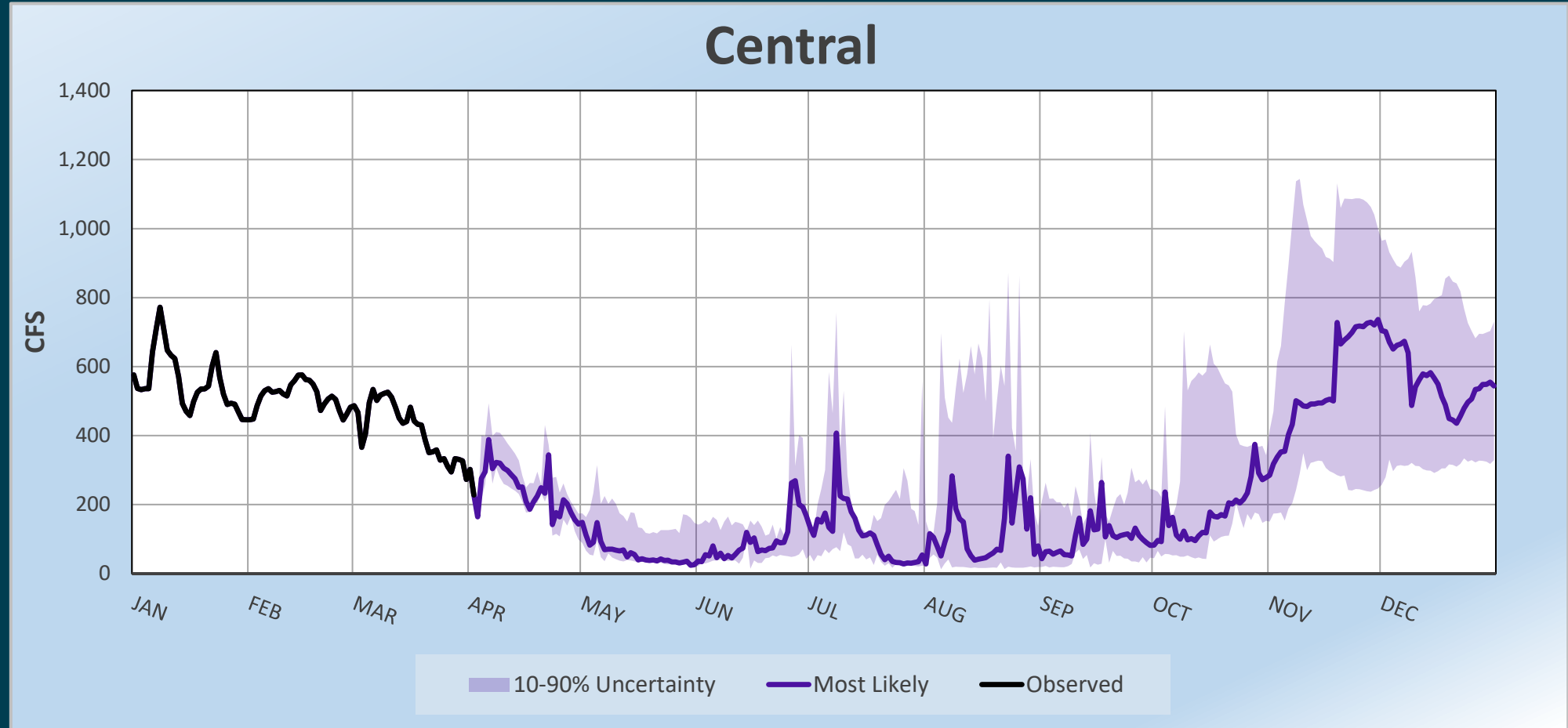
Cochiti Outflow



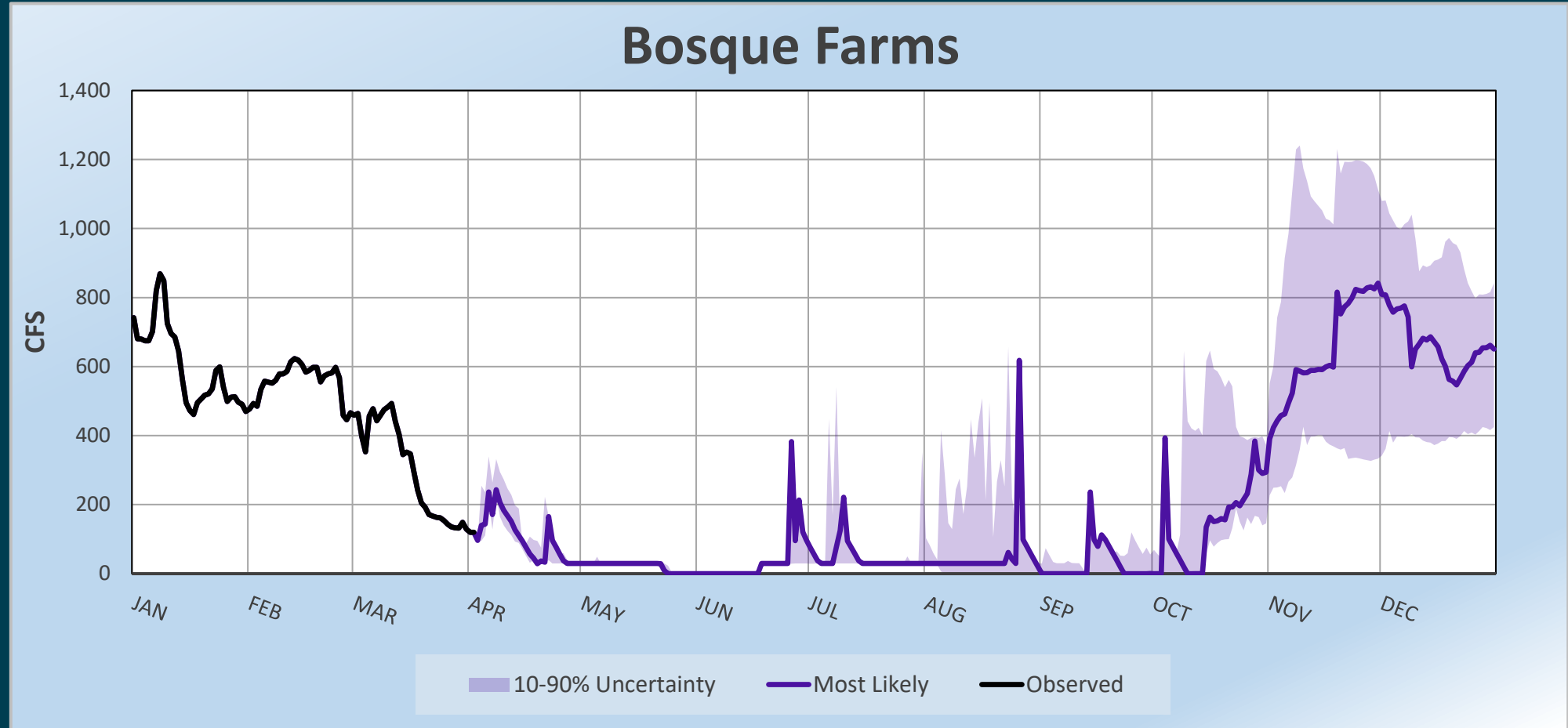
Cochiti Storage



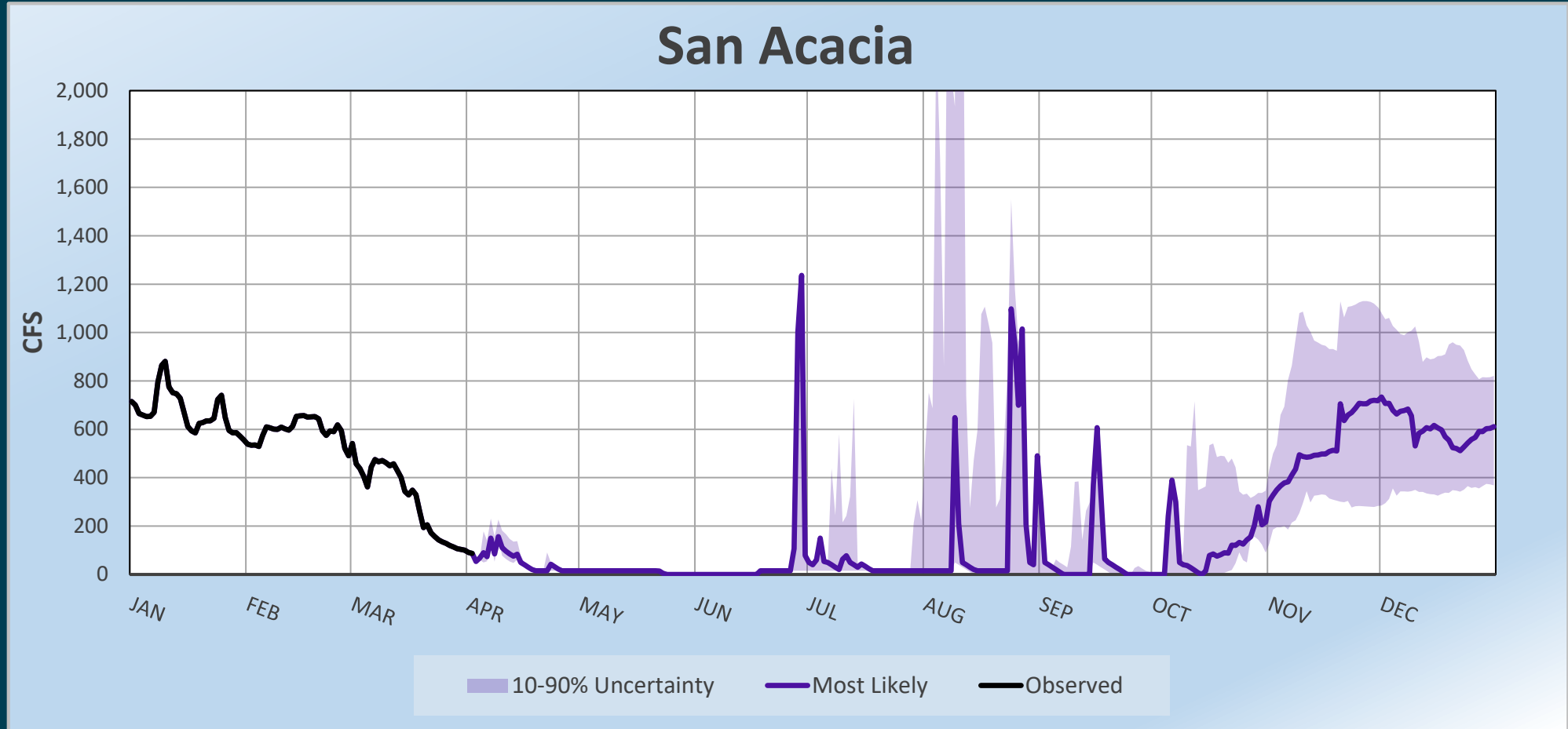
Estimated 2026 Flows at Central



Estimated 2026 Flows at Bosque Farms



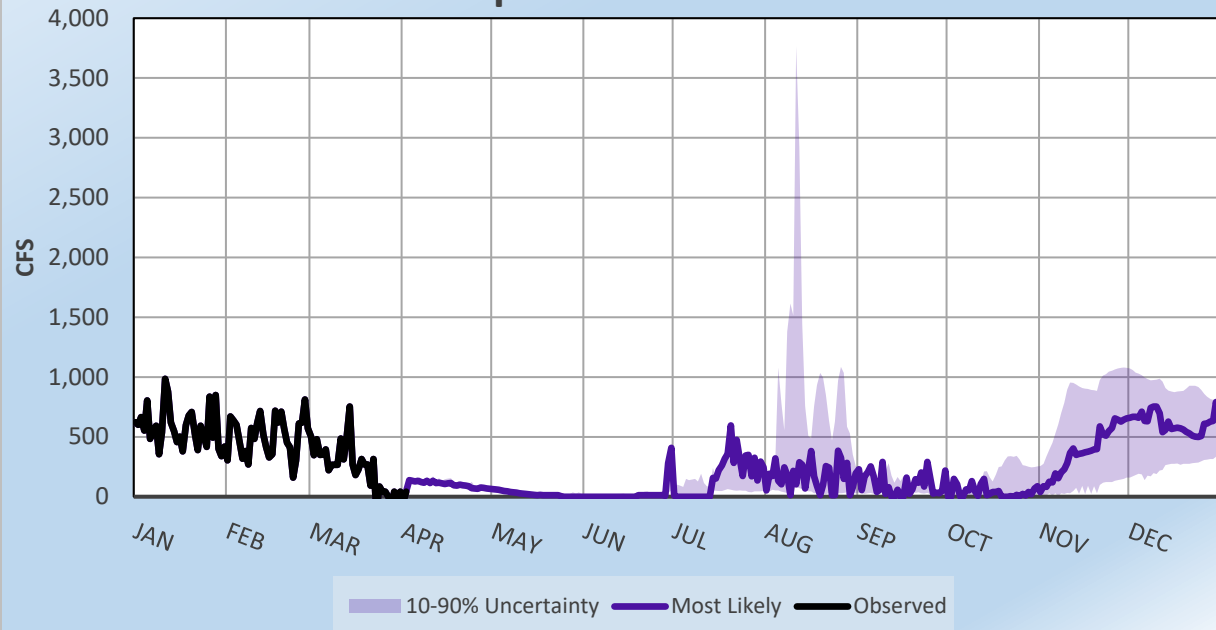
Estimated 2026 Flows at San Acacia



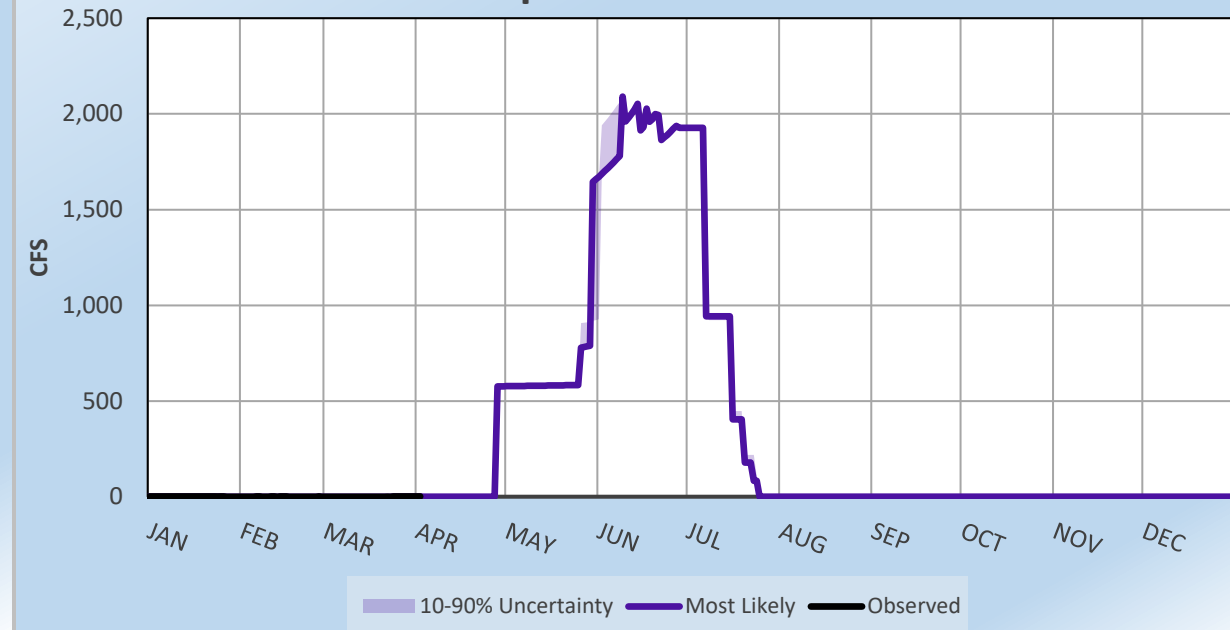
Elephant Butte Dam



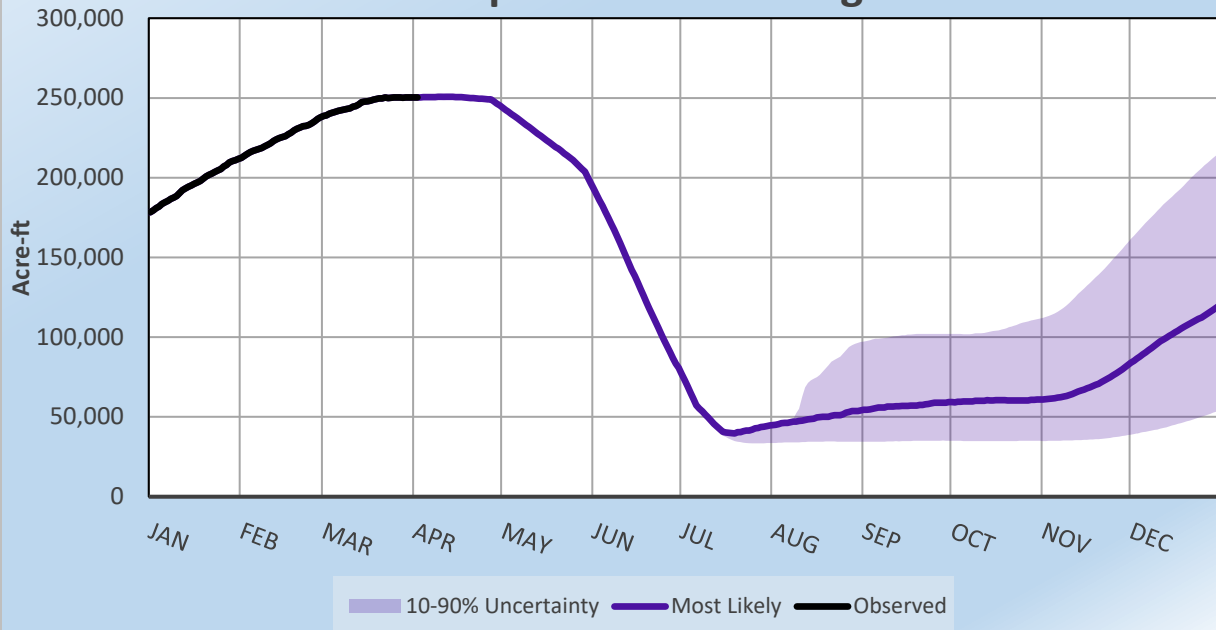
Elephant Butte Inflow



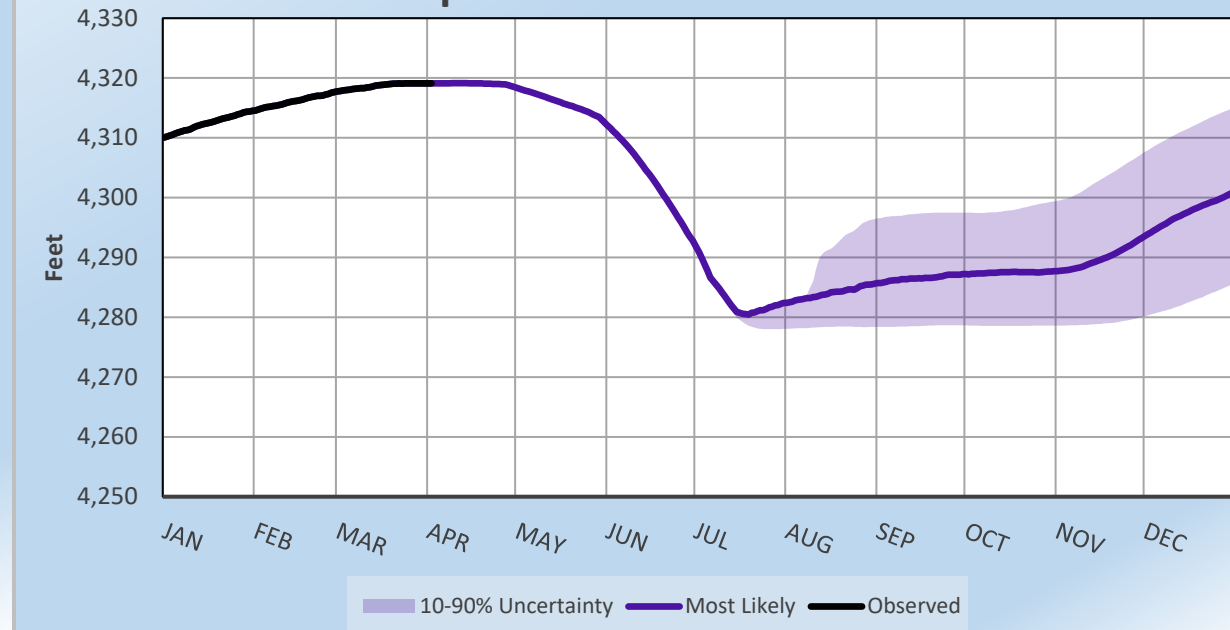
Elephant Butte Outflow



Elephant Butte Storage



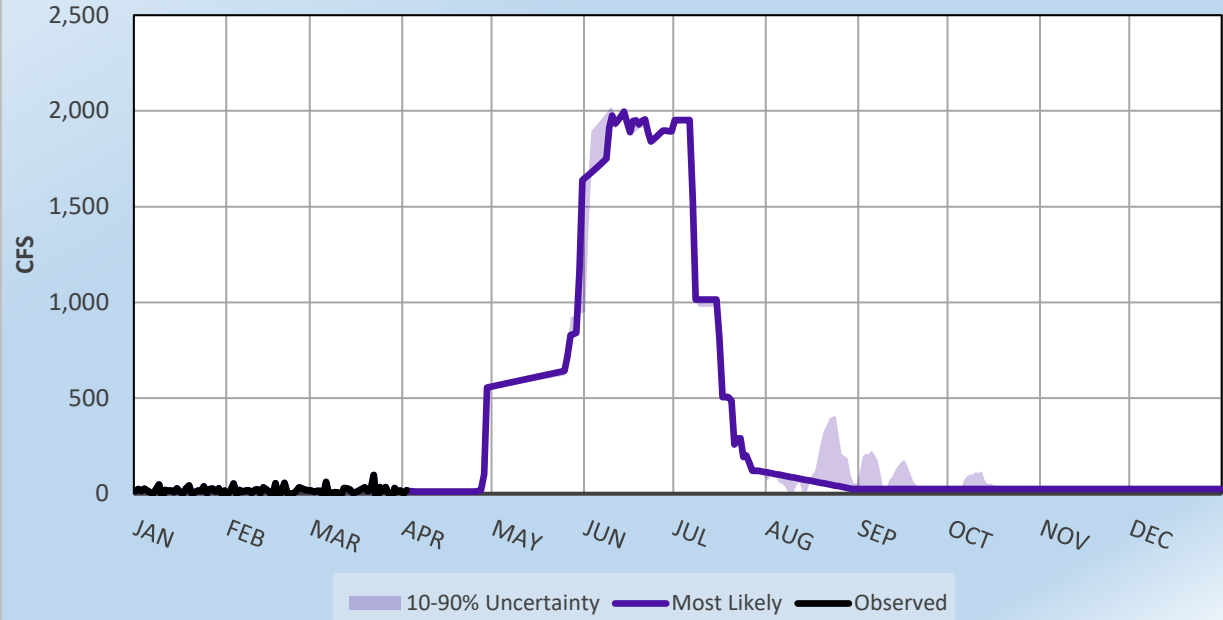
Elephant Butte Pool Elevation



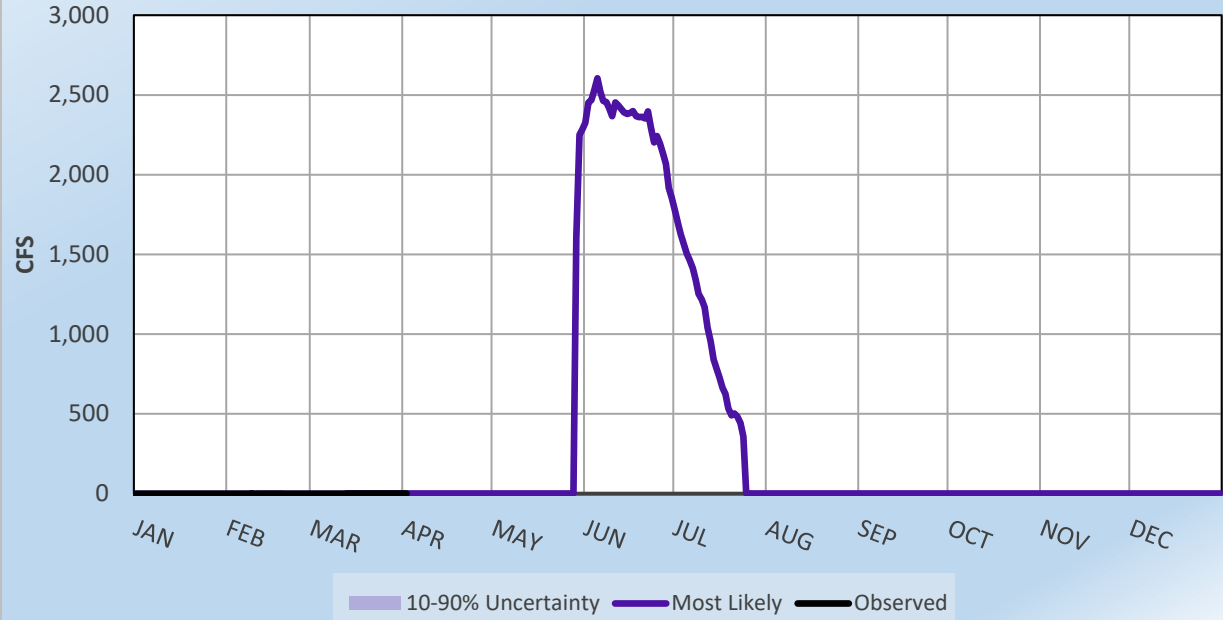
Caballo Dam



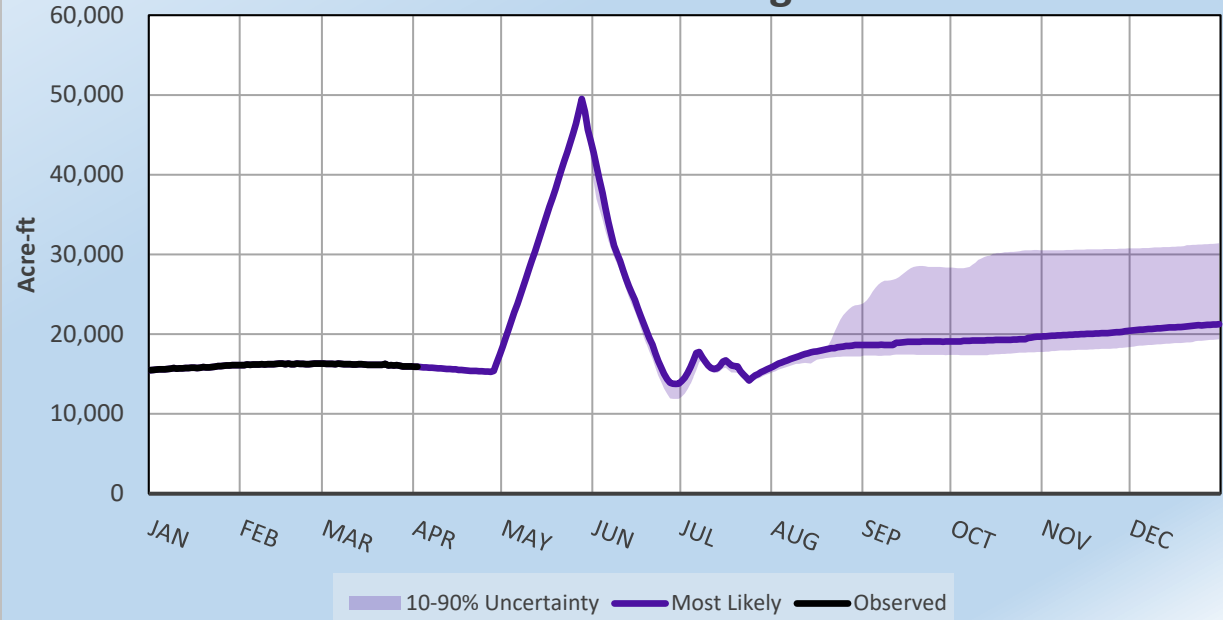
Caballo Inflow



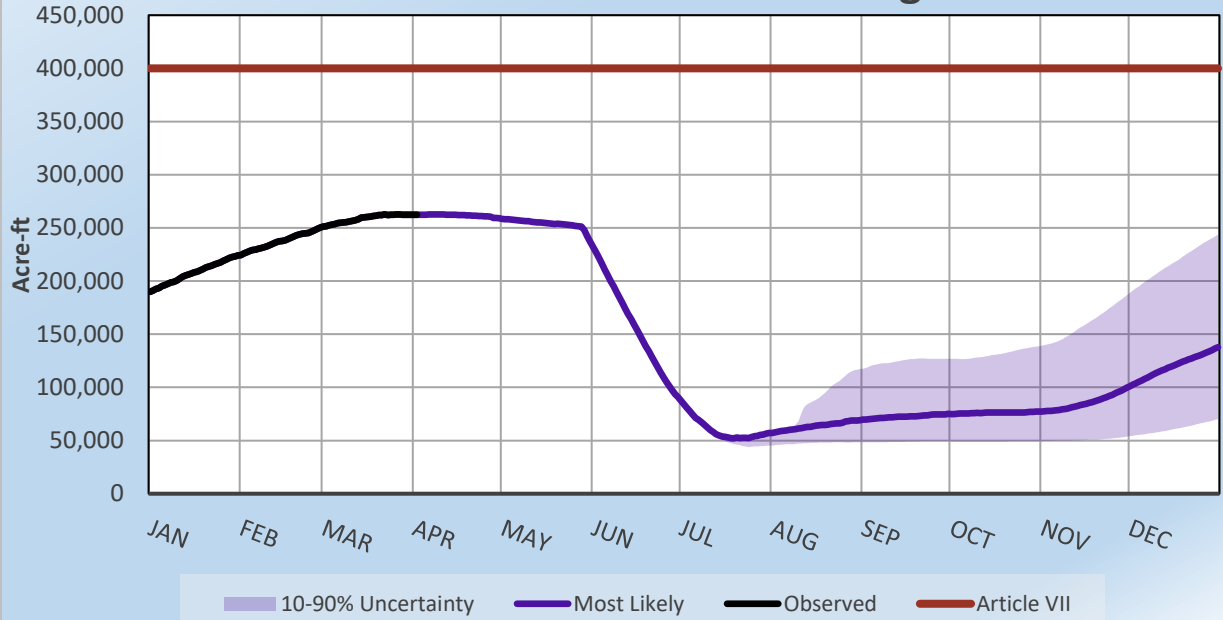
Caballo Outflow



Caballo Storage



Rio Grande Usable Storage



Rio Grande AOP Dashboard



<https://www.usbr.gov/uc/albuq/water/index.html>

Albuquerque Water Operations

Data

HydroData

Reservoir Data (storage, inflow, releases, elevation & more)
Gage Data (flow, flow volume & side inflows.)

Tools and Dashboards

Middle Rio Grande Water Management Toolbox
Water Operations Dashboard

[Rio Grande Annual Operating Plan \(AOP\) Projections](#)

Basin Overview

HydroData Rio Grande Basin Map (current reservoir capacity & current and historical snow and precipitation charts)
HydroData Upper Colorado Basin Maps
Weekly Hydrology Summary
Teacup Diagrams

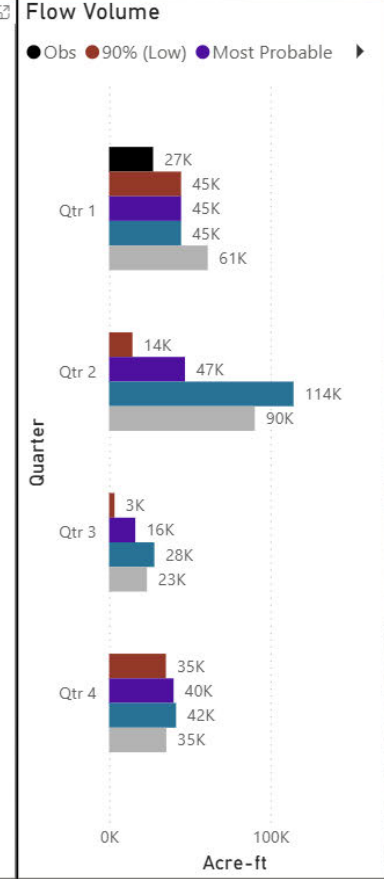
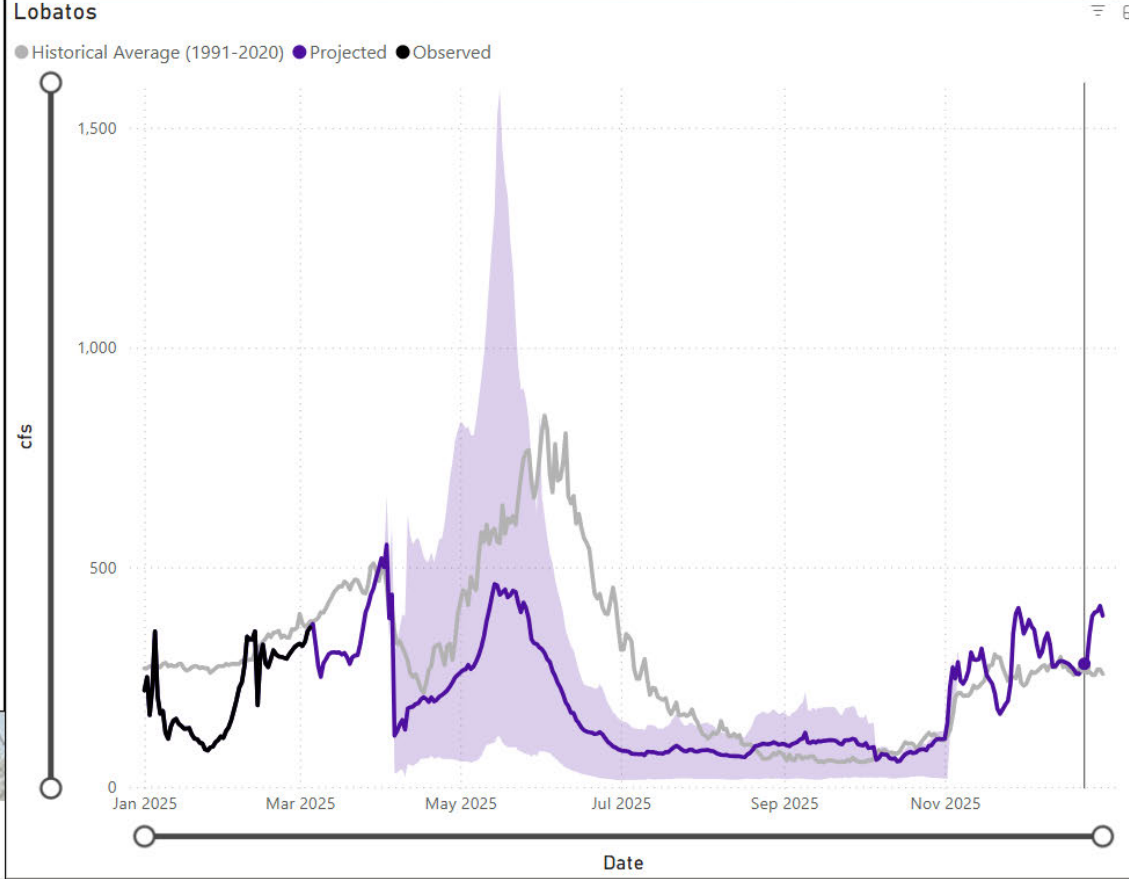
Real-Time-Data Text Files:

Rio Grande AOP - Gages

- Inputs
- Gages**
- Reservoirs
- Other Results
- Read Me



- Gage
- Lobatos
 - Embudo
 - Azotea Tunnel
 - El Vado Local Inflow
 - Below El Vado
 - Below Abiquiu
 - Otowi
 - Below Cochiti
 - Below Jemez
 - Central
 - Bosque Farms
 - San Acacia Floodway
 - US Hwy 380
 - San Marcial Floodway
 - Below Elephant Butte
 - Below Caballo



NOTE: Results are subject to change

Questions / Comments



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