



First Biennial MRGESCP Collaboratory: Outcomes and Next Steps

February 16, 2023

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Collaboratory Overview

- ❖ **Theme: “From Planning to Practice”**
- ❖ **71 participants from 25 different organizations**
- ❖ **Collaboratory Objectives:**
 - Identify potential opportunities to increase management application of current MREGESCP activities
 - Prioritize management needs for the future
 - Identify opportunities and constraints for the future



Webinar Objectives

❖ Clarify expectations and benefits of participating in the MRGESCP

- What you bring to the table
- How Collaborative Program benefits you

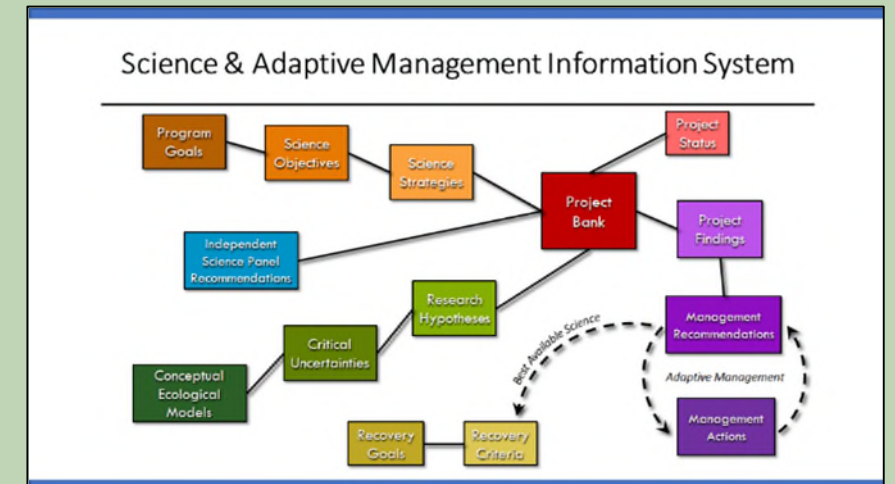
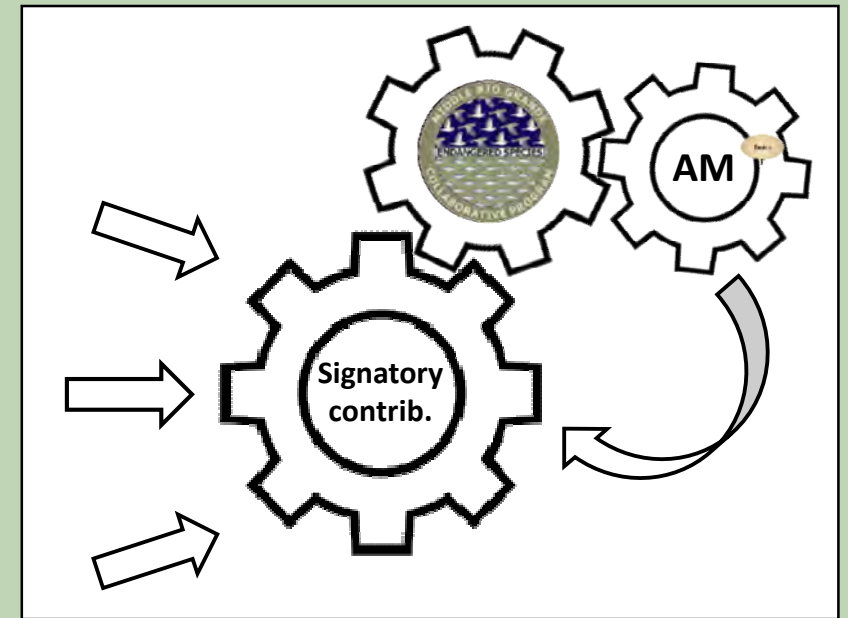
❖ Planning for future MRGESCP activities

❖ Describe collaboration within MRGESCP

- Discomfort is a catalyst for growth

❖ Build on signatory contributions

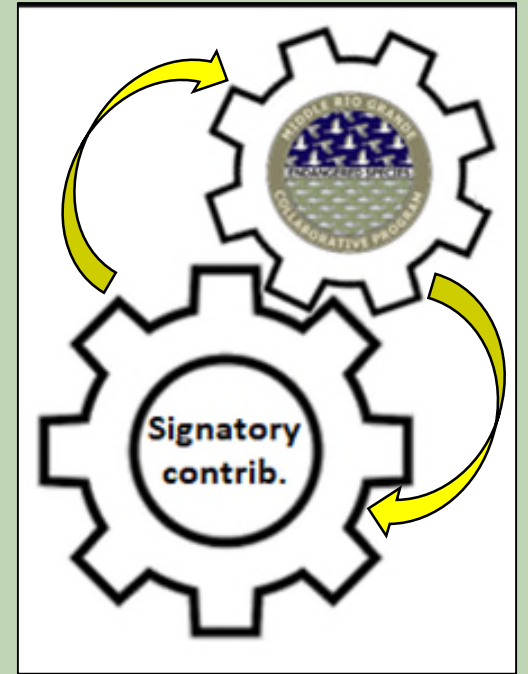
- How developed is the topic?
- How does our process apply?



Expectations and Benefits...

What do you bring to the table?

- Objectives, strategies, and perspectives
- Current/planned projects and findings
- Priorities, questions and uncertainties



How does the Collaborative Program benefit you?

- Relates science to management actions
- Integrates signatory priorities under broader ES conservation context
- Identifies opportunities for partnership and adaptive management
- Translates and disseminates findings and recommendations

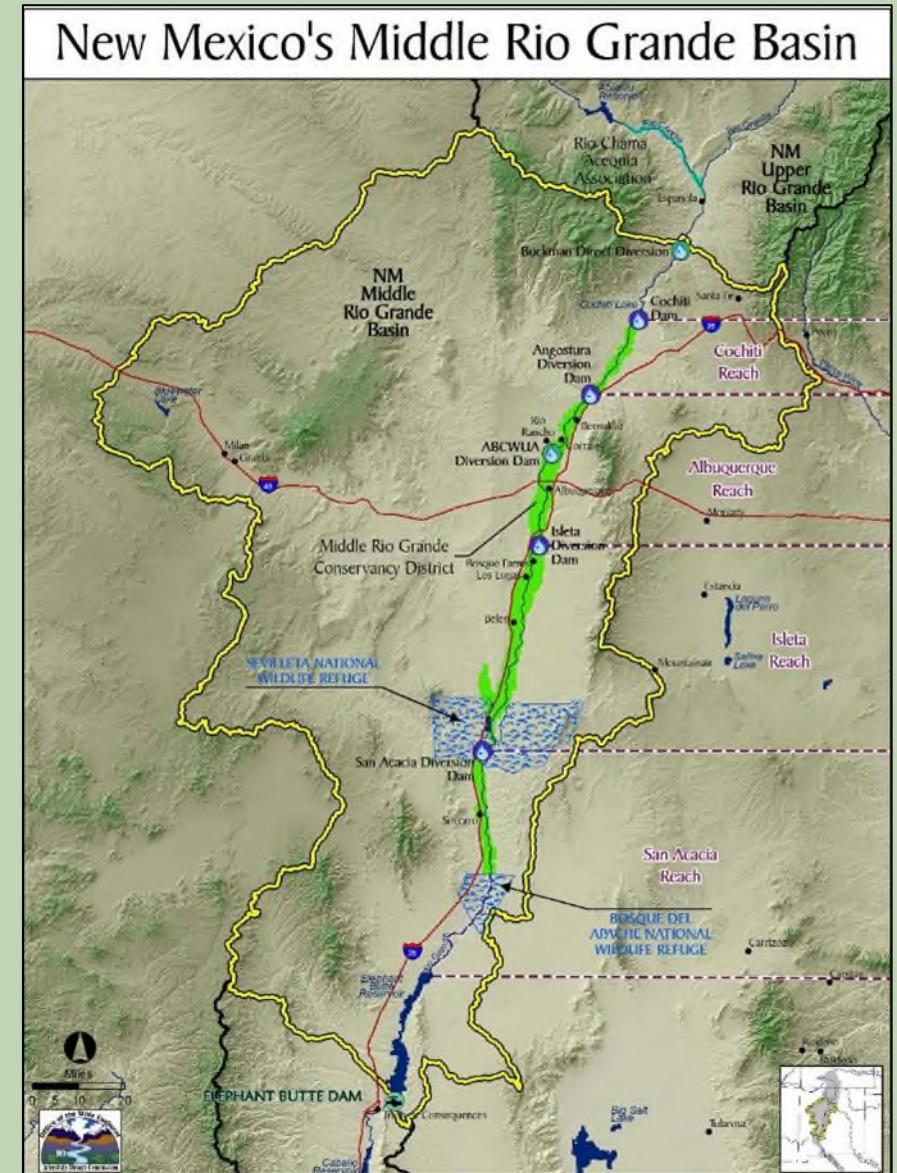
Planning for the Future

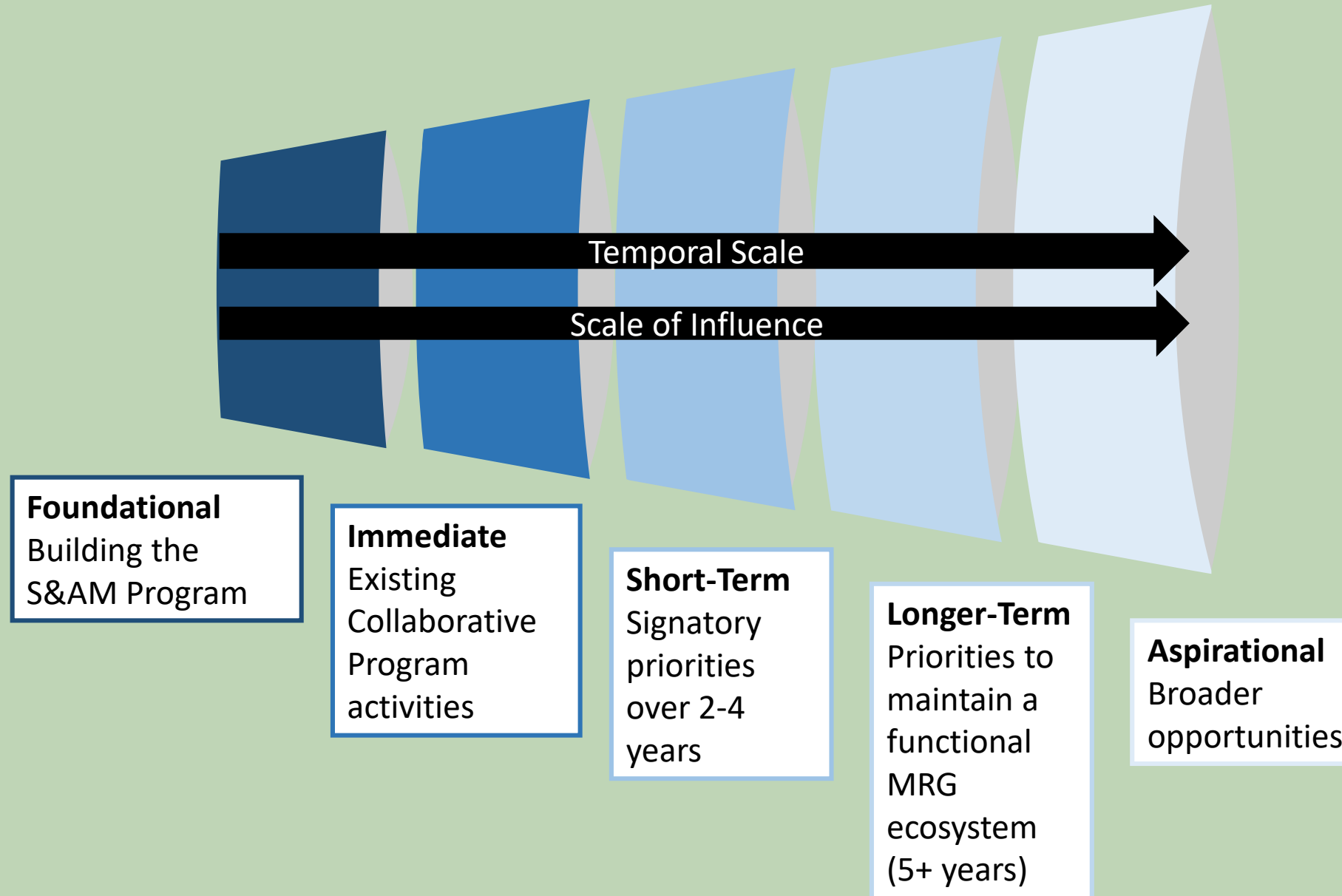
Two overarching frameworks:

- Climate Change
- Ecosystem Approach

Issue Areas:

- Habitat Restoration
- Vegetated Islands and Bank-Attached Bars
- Rio Grande Silvery Minnow
- Water Operations and Flexibility
- Planning for Drying





Climate Change

- **End Goal: Dealing with Uncertainty**
- **2023 Activities:**
 - Climate Scenario Planning Workshop
- **Short-Term Activities:**
 - Identify ecosystem functions vital to listed species that are threatened as a result of the changing climate
 - Develop strategies to maintain ecosystem functions in the future
- **Long-Term:**
 - Refine models and predictions
 - Refine strategies



Ecosystem Approach

- **End Goal: Adopt an ecosystem approach to management of listed species and their habitat**
- **2023 Activities:**
 - Identify data availability and data gaps to develop a hydrological-biological model
 - Identify ecosystem functions vital to listed species that are threatened as a result of the changing climate
- **Short-Term Activities:**
 - Build integrated hydrological-biological model
 - Incorporate ecosystem approach into Collaborative Program initiatives
- **Long-Term Activities:**
 - Update models and ecosystem predictions
 - Integrated multi-year management



Habitat Restoration

- **End Goals:**
 - HR to maintain ecosystem function
 - Planning for HR success
- **2023 Activities:**
 - Framework for planning, implementing, and monitoring HR projects
- **Short-Term Activities:**
 - Update RioRestore
 - Develop HR strategies to manage native and non-native vegetation given climate change predictions
 - Develop strategies to increase HR success
- **Long-Term Activities:**
 - Refine strategies



Vegetated Islands and Bank-Attached Bars

- **End Goal: Adapting to the new paradigm of islands and bars in the MRG**
- **2023 Activities:**
 - Identify data availability and data gaps to develop a hydrological-biological model
 - Begin developing map of islands and bars
- **Short-Term Activities:**
 - Build integrated hydrological-biological model
 - Link management of islands and bars to HR strategies
- **Long-Term Activities:**
 - Revise model and map
 - Revise strategies



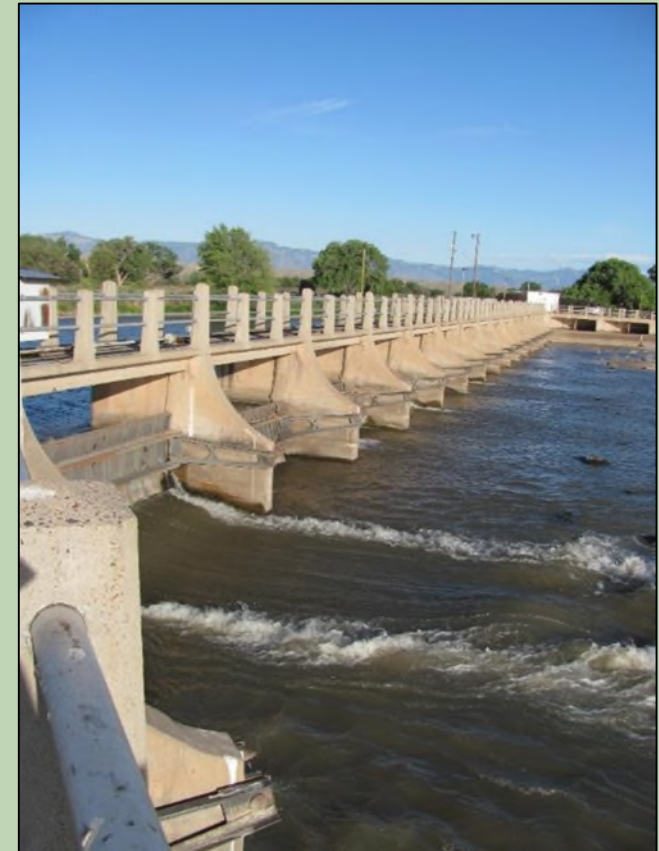
Rio Grande Silvery Minnow



- **End Goal: Multi-year management strategy**
- **2023 Activities:**
 - Complete RGSM conceptual ecological model revisions and review
 - Integrate different RGSM population models and use them
- **Short-Term Activities:**
 - Forecast RGSM impacts based on climate change predictions
 - Develop management strategies to respond to future pressures
- **Long-Term Activities:**
 - Refine models
 - Test continued benefit of RGSM management actions

Water Operations and Flexibility

- **End Goal: Plan for water future for all users & ecosystem functions**
- **2023 Activities:**
 - Survey of water managers
 - Forecast how new hydrography will impact water operations
- **Short-Term Activities:**
 - Identify opportunities for coordination and flexibility
 - Tie into external planning efforts
 - Public outreach opportunities
- **Long-Term Activities:**
 - Scientifically-justified recs for changes to water operations
 - Recommendations for efficiencies and/or new technology



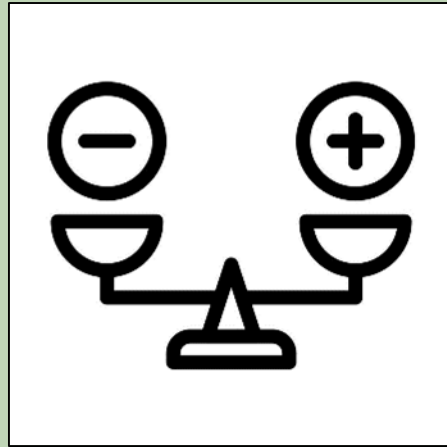
Planning for Drying

- **End Goal: Multi-year planning**
- **2023 Activities:**
 - Survey of water managers
 - Document management and decisions related to drying
 - Develop public outreach strategies
- **Short-Term Activities:**
 - Continually learn and refine drying plan
- **Long-Term Activities:**
 - Recommendations for changes to actions related to drying



Collaboration can seem...

- Frustrating
- Tedious
- Risky
- Challenging



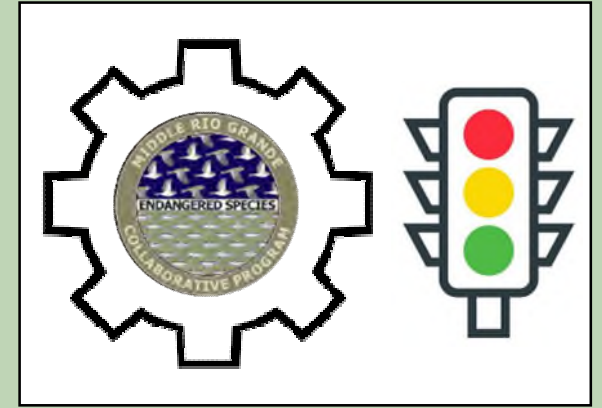
depending on...

- Trade-offs
- Complexity
- Urgency

- Rewarding
- Deliberate
- Revealing
- Mutually beneficial

depending on...

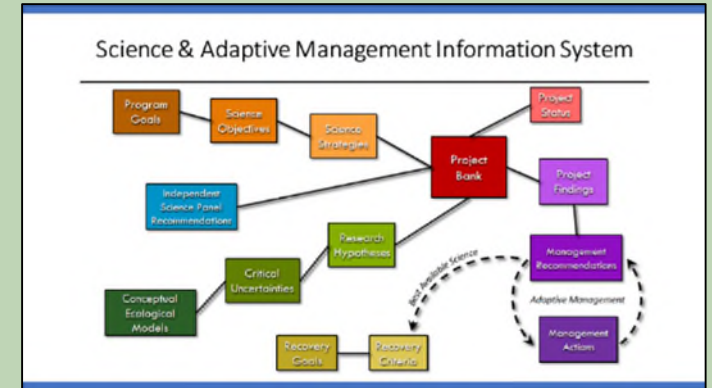
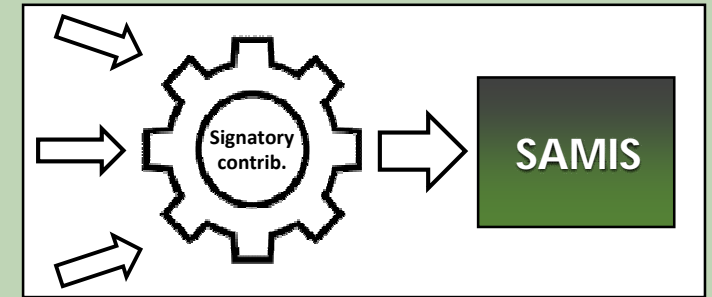
- Shared interests
- Flexibility
- Engagement



Building on contributions...

How developed is the topic?

- Is this a question, strategy, project update, etc.?
- What was the motivation or origin?
- Is Collaborative Program input appropriate?



How does our process apply?

- Link information and track adaptive management in SAMIS
- Route through committee, ad hoc group, workshop, etc.
- Peer review, expert elicitation, data analysis, etc.
- Information sharing and coordination

Needed Engagement

- ✓ Findings
- ✓ Questions
- ✓ Changing priorities
- ✓ Technical expertise
- ✓ Participation
 - 2023 Climate Scenario Planning Workshop
 - 2023 Science Symposium
 - Committees and Ad Hoc Groups
- ✓ Review and update plans



Summary Slide

➤ **Overarching:**

- Planning for Climate Change
- Taking an Ecosystem Approach

➤ **Topical Areas:**

- Habitat Restoration
- Vegetated Islands and Bank-Attached Bars
- Rio Grande Silvery Minnow
- Water Operations and Flexibility
- Planning for Drying

➤ **Timeline:**

- Immediate: This year (2023)
- Short-Term: 2-4 years (2024-2027)
- Long-Term: 5+ years (2028 on)