WATER FACT SHEET

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

NATIONAL WATER-QUALITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM--Water Use in the Rio Grande Valley, 1990

INTRODUCTION

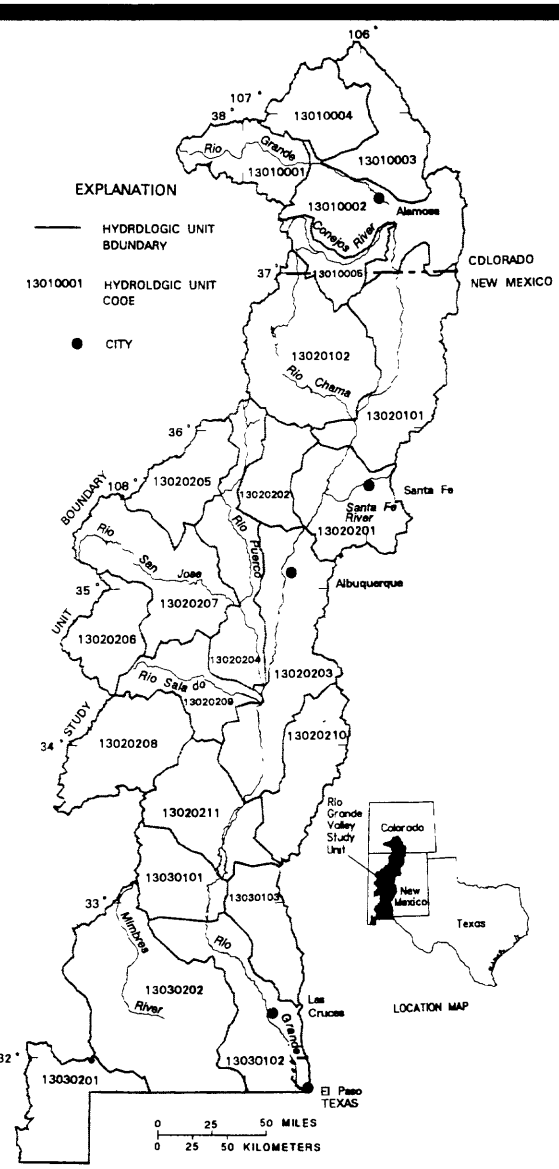
In 1991, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) began implementing a full-scale National Water-Quality Assessment (NAWQA) program. The long-term goals of the NAWQA program are to describe the status of and trends in the quality of a large, representative part of the Nation's surface- and ground-water resources and to provide a sound, scientific understanding of the primary natural and human factors affecting the quality of these resources.

The Rio Grande Valley, one of 60 NAWQA study units nationwide, contains about 45,700 square miles in Colorado, New Mexico, and a small part in Texas. The study unit includes all of Hydrologic Unit Codes (HUC) 1301, 1302, and 1303, which includes the San Luis Closed Basin (HUC's 13010003 and 13010004) in Colorado and five surface-water closed basins (HUC's 13020208, 13030103, 13030201, and 13030202) in New Mexico.

WATER USE

Total water use in the Rio Grande Valley study unit in 1990 was about 3,410,000 acre-feet; of this amount about 1,800,000 acre-feet was estimated to be consumptive use, water not returned to the basin. Water use within the study unit was primarily (59 percent) from surface-water sources. Irrigation was the major water-use category (88 percent) and public supply the second major water-use category (9 percent). Slightly more than one-half (52 percent) of all water use was in the Colorado part of the study unit.

Water use in the Rio Grande Valley study unit is summarized in the table on the reverse side of this sheet. The water-use categories shown are irrigation, public supply, and "other." Other water uses include those for commercial, domestic, industrial, mining, thermoelectric, and livestock needs. The water-use data were obtained from the USGS Aggregated Water-Use Data System (AWUDS).



For further information about water use in the Rio Grande Valley, please write to:

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U.S. Geological Survey
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Open-File Report 93-456

S.F. Richey and
S.R. Ellis, 1993

WATER USE IN THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY STUDY UNIT, 1990

[Values in thousands of acre-feet]

Hydrologic Unit Code	Irrigation			Public Supply			Other[1]			Total Offstream Water Use[2]
	Ground Water	Surface Water	Total	Ground Water	Surface Water	Total	Ground Water	Surface Water	Total	
13010001	2.10	6.54	8.64	0.01	0.09	0.10	0.74	0.08	0.82	9.56
13010002	196.87	492.40	689.27	5.07	.35	5.42	.99	7.92	8.91	703.60
13010003	407.60	160.66	568.26	.40	.12	.52	.48	.16	.64	569.42
13010004	126.26	122.39	248.65	.11	0	.11	.12	.85	.97	249.73
13010005	12.59	173.33	185.92	.19	.18	.37	.58	.21	.79	187.86
13020101	21.90	170.30	192.20	8.43	0	8.43	6.07	1.11	7.18	207.81
13020102	1.05	64.23	65.28	.07	.09	.16	.91	.19	1.10	66.54
13020201	1.04	28.63	29.67	8.25	3.41	11.66	3.21	.10	3.31	44.64
13020202	0	6.31	6.31	0	.09	.09	.62	.05	.67	7.07
13020203	38.97	319.24	358.21	139.63	0	139.63	13.52	.05	13.57	511.41
13020204	1.32	5.07	6.39	.25	0	.25	.74	.04	.78	7.42
13020205	0	0	0	0	0	0	.47	.02	.49	.49
13020206	0	0	0	0	0	0	.12	.02	.14	.14
13020207	1.35	.61	1.96	2.86	0	2.86	17.71	.03	17.74	22.56
13020208	4.87	0	4.87	0	0	0	.14	.08	.22	5.09
13020209	.41	.81	1.22	.15	0	.15	.24	.02	.26	1.63
13020210	0	0	0	0	0	0	.17	.01	.18	.18
13020211	.41	6.13	6.54	0	0	0	.57	.05	.62	7.16
13030101	.14	17.76	25.90	2.05	0	2.05	.38	.03	.41	28.36
13030102	107.04	394.75	501.79	87.21	0	87.21	16.39	.14	16.53	605.53
13030103	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.22	.02	1.24	1.24
13030201	0	0	0	.49	0	.49	4.40	.04	4.44	4.93
13030202	102.16	7.68	109.84	6.56	.12	6.68	20.80	.18	20.98	137.50
TOTAL	1,034.08	1,976.84	3,010.92	262.38	4.45	266.83	89.94	11.40	101.3	3,379.09

[1]Other water uses include commercial, domestic, industrial, mining, thermoelectric, and livestock

[2]Offstream water use is water withdrawn or diverted from a ground- or surface-water source for irrigation, public supply, commercial, domestic, industrial, mining, thermoelectric, and livestock

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U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1993—840-156