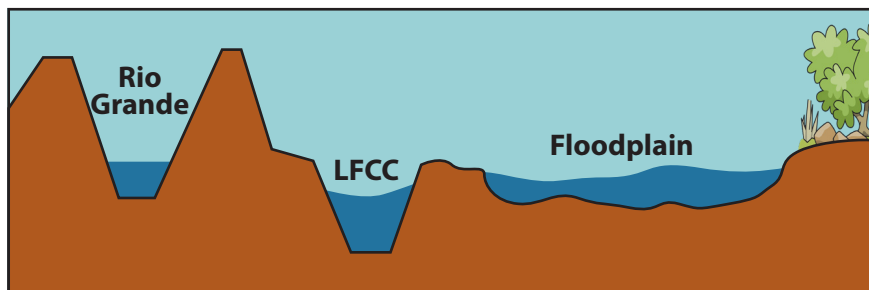
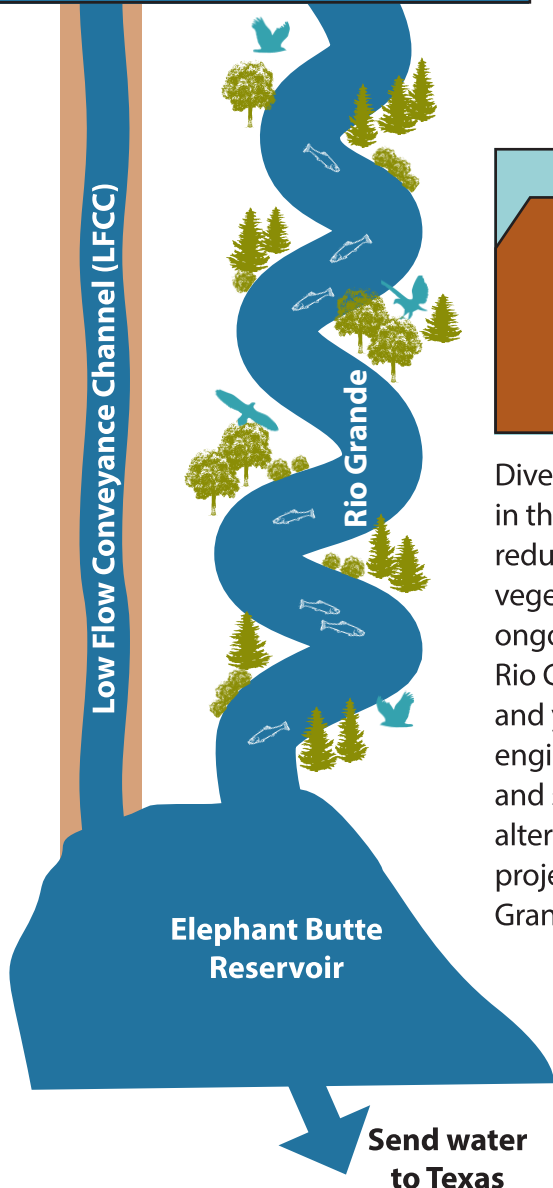


Living Rivers or Dead Ditches? The Choice is Ours.



The Low Flow Conveyance Channel (LFCC) is a 1950s-era ditch designed to bypass over 50 miles of the natural path of the Rio Grande from San Acacia, New Mexico (north of Socorro) to Elephant Butte Reservoir. The Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District and the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer are seeking to resume diverting water into this ditch to help meet New Mexico's obligatory water deliveries to Texas according to the Rio Grande Compact. However, our understanding of the importance of a living river has advanced in recent decades, and further drying of the river is no longer acceptable.



Diverting natural river flows into the LFCC would reduce flows in the Rio Grande and increase river drying. This could also reduce groundwater levels and impact native streamside vegetation. Diverting river water into the LFCC could harm ongoing efforts to protect and recover rare species, such as the Rio Grande silvery minnow, Southwestern willow flycatcher, and yellow-billed cuckoo. Rather than looking back to outdated engineering to solve modern problems, we encourage federal and state agencies to look at more environmentally-friendly alternatives to reoperating the LFCC and consider restoration projects in the San Acacia section that reconnect the Rio Grande with its historic floodplain to help people and wildlife.

For more information, please visit
wildearthguardians.org/rivers/

