Memorandum

To: URGWOM Technical Team Members

Date: June 14, 2021

Subject: Notes of the June 8, 2021 URGWOM Technical Team Meeting

These notes summarize the items discussed during the June 8, 2021 Upper Rio Grande Water Operations Model (URGWOM) Technical Team meeting. The meeting began at 9:00 am and was conducted as an on-line collaboration hosted by the Corps of Engineers using the Corps' WebEx account. All those participating in the meeting introduced themselves and their names and affiliation are listed on the last page of these meeting notes.

This month's meeting agenda topics include a presentation on an analysis of the Rio Grande at Lobatos streamflow hydrographs, preliminary planning on URGWOM Technical Team field trip site inspections and general updates on ongoing URGWOM related activities from the Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation, the US Geological Survey and the Interstate Stream Commission.

Nick reported to the Team on his review and analysis of the development of streamflow hydrographs for the flow of the Rio Grande at Lobatos, CO for use in the URGWOM models. He reported that this work was being undertaken at the request of the Corps of Engineers. He described the two options for the development of the Lobatos hydrographs for use in the AOP runs; the Colorado disabled and the Colorado enabled options.

The Colorado disabled option hydrograph is based on NRCS runoff forecast volumes which are then compared to the historic flows to determine a year of similar forecast volumes and this year is used as the basis for the hydrograph shape. As the runoff period progresses, historic data are brought into the model and only the time remaining in the forecast period is estimated based on the forecast. Annual forecast volumes for flow at Lobatos are no longer being prepared by the NRCS; only the runoff period forecast is published (usually April – July).

The Colorado enabled option hydrograph uses routed forecasted inflows at the upstream index stations and diversion and return flows are simulated. Local inflows downstream of the index gages are estimated. When the model assumes that the routed inflows will be adequate to meet the delivery obligations, Nick found that the flow routed to Lobatos was less than the Compact delivery schedule.

Nick proposed changes to the model that are based on the Colorado Rio Grande Compact delivery schedule. The local inflows downstream of the index inflow stations are based on the flow at the index stations, but the watershed conditions downstream of the index stations could be drier (or wetter) than in the watershed upstream of the index stations which reduces the reliability of the local inflow estimates. Also, the Lobatos streamflow forecast are no longer

necessary and the related initialization rule for this can be deleted. Changes to the Compact curtailment expression slots would be necessary to ensure that irrigation season (April 1 – October 31) diversions are controlled to ensure stateline deliveries. The proposed changes will ensure that the Colorado Compact delivery requirement is met every year. Diversion outside of the irrigation season, e.g., diversions for groundwater recharge until November 15, would require more extensive changes to the model which are not being proposed at this time.

The flow at the index inflow stations (Lobatos and Mogote) used in Planning Model runs are based on the historic data and multi-year hydrologic sequences are developed for streamflow forecasts. Local inflow below the index stations are based on historic correlations with index station forecasted flow. The proposed changes to the model to improve the AOP run Lobatos hydrograph can be applied to Planning Model runs. The implementation of the changes described by Nick would require update of the URGWOM documentation.

Miller briefed the Team on proposed Technical Team field trips. Two single day trips of the Albuquerque and Belen Divisions of the MRGCD are proposed. Miller will circulate a proposed itinerary to the Technical Team of the potential sites to visit on the field trips. It was also proposed to conduct the field trip as a regularly scheduled meeting of the Technical Team. A representative of the MRGCD would accompany the Tech Team to describe the system operations. Carolyn suggested that the Belen Division tour be conducted first before the available irrigation supply is depleted and the system would not be in full operation.

Lucas reported that he has received an inquiry from a former Reclamation colleague who is pursuing a Master's Degree. The colleague is researching the use of multi-spectral imagery data in vegetation indices to determine if this is a viable way to estimate ground water flux in arid soils. Lucas solicited input from Team members as to whether there is value to estimating losses due to groundwater infiltration and possibly to provide a forecast of groundwater flux using this method for potential use in URGWOM. Lucas requested that Team members contact him if there is any interest from Team members in the effort.

Lucas also reported that he has nearly completed the task of adding the Santa Fe River basin and related water resource infrastructure into the URGWOM model being used in the Rio Grande basin study.

Dave stated that the USGS had nothing to report to the Team at this time.

Phillip reported that a representative of the Interstate Stream Commission was unavailable to attend the meeting. Phillip also reported that the review of groundwater object implementation being prepared by Intera is nearly complete and the results would be presented at the next meeting of the Technical Team.

The next regular meeting of the Technical Team is scheduled for July 13, 2021 at 9:00 am, which will also be an on-line collaboration.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:50 am.

ATTENDANCE LIST URGWOM TECHNICAL TEAM MEETING June 8, 2021

<u>NAME</u> <u>REPRESENTING</u>

Phillip Carrillo USACE

William Miller Southwest Water Design/USACE Contractor

Mike Brown Tetra Tech/USACE Contractor

Dave Moeser
Lucas Barrett
Bureau of Reclamation
Michele Estrada Lopez
Andrew Gelderloos
Jerry Melendez
Andrew Gelderloos
Carolyn Donnelly

US Geological Survey
Bureau of Reclamation

David Neumann CADSWES

Rick Shean Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility
Diane Agnew Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility

Nick Mander Hydros Consulting

Zhuping Sheng Paso del Norte Watershed Council

Suzy Valentine Texas Rio Grande Compact Commission



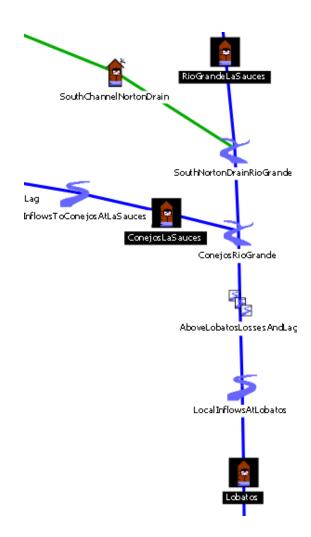
Analysis of Lobatos hydrograph computation in URGWOM

Hydros Consulting Inc. June 8, 2021

Purpose



- USACE requested that Hydros Consulting Inc. do the following:
- 1. Explain the hydrograph that shows up at Lobatos in URGWOM AOP and Planning runs.
- 2. Explain when LocalInflows, other than the values computed by URGWOM, would need to be used in URGWOM AOP and Planning runs.



Outline

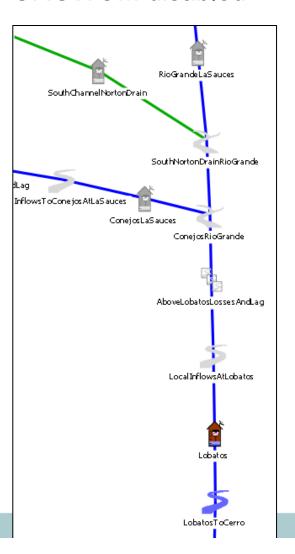


- 1) Lobatos hydrograph in AOP run when Colorado disabled
- 2) Lobatos forecast computation
 - i. Proposed change to Lobatos forecast computation
 - ii. Is Lobatos forecast even needed in model?
- 3) Colorado Compact Curtailment
 - i. Proposed change to Lobatos compact curtailment computation
- 4) Conclusion

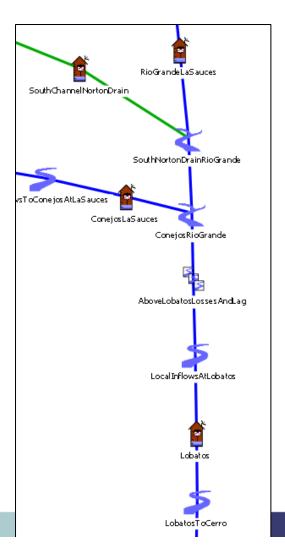
Two types of AOP runs



1) Colorado portion of URGWOM disabled



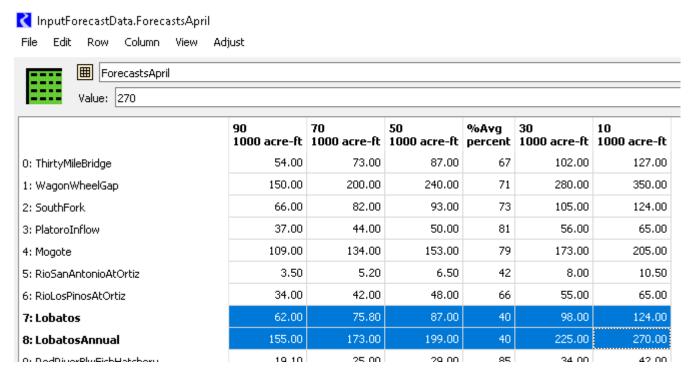
2) Colorado portion of URGWOM enabled

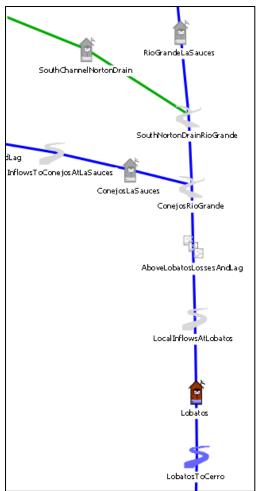






1) The model user must input a Lobatos NRCS forecast for the runoff season (April through July) and for the entire year:

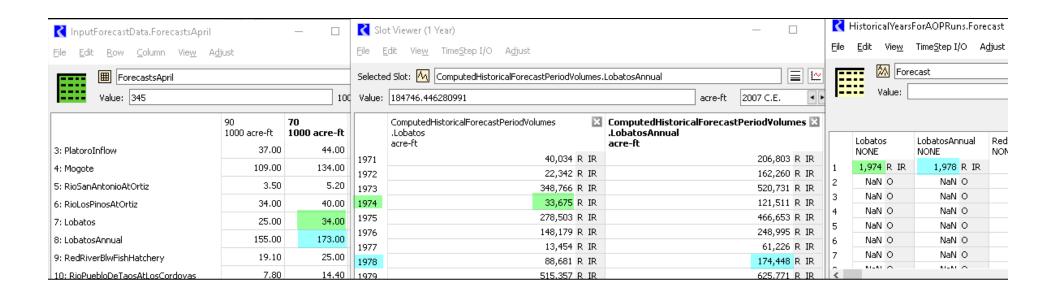






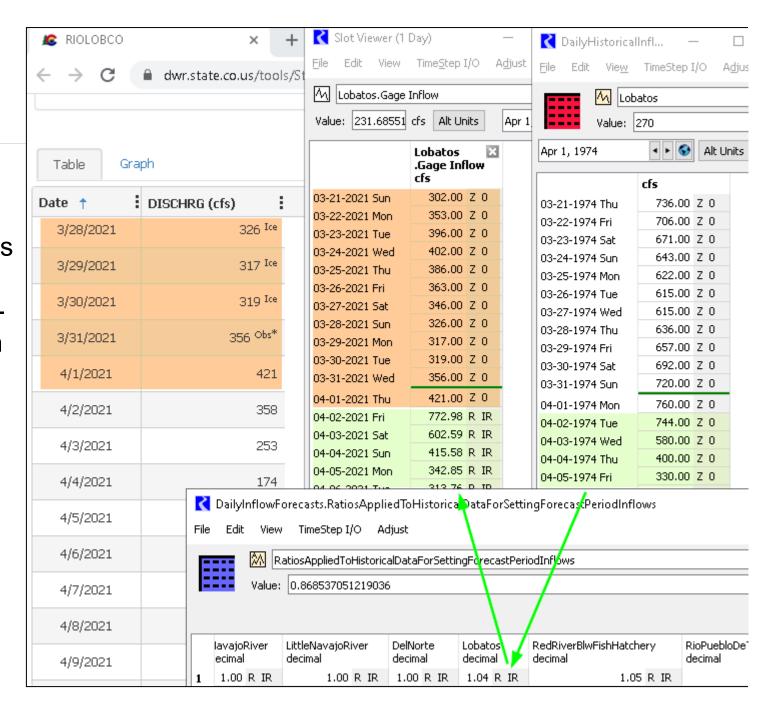
AOP Run with Colorado Disabled

2) The model matches these 2 NRCS forecasts with the closest historical years



AOP Run with Colorado Disabled

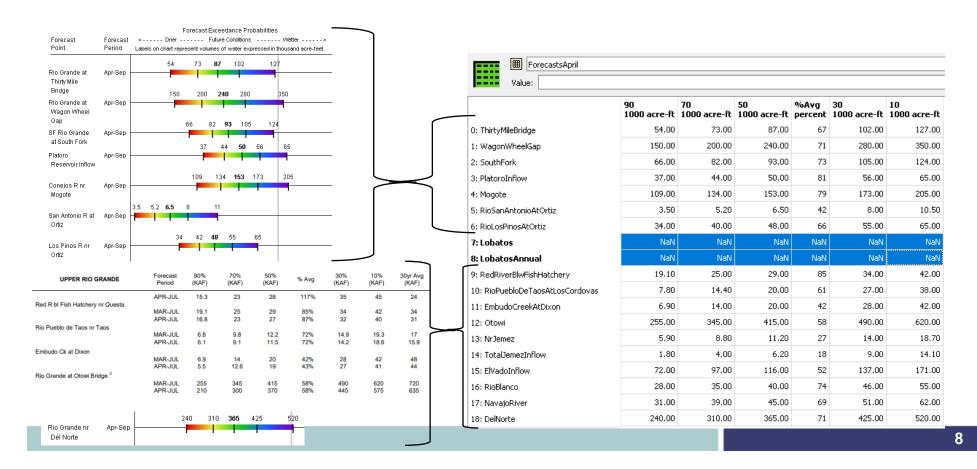
3) The hydrograph that arrives at Lobatos is the gaged hydrograph year-to-date, and then a scaled hydrograph from the matched historical year







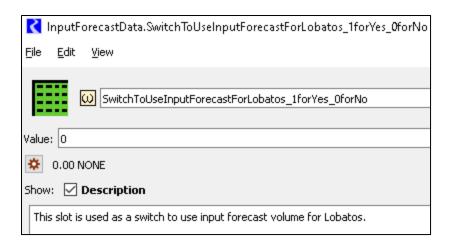
- NRCS doesn't usually release a Lobatos forecast (probably because the flow at Lobatos is dependent on CO diversions). The Forecast I used earlier was made up
- Therefore, running URGWOM with Colorado disabled is often not possible







- With Colorado enabled, the hydrograph at Lobatos is based on Colorado forecasted inflows and the Rio Grande Compact.
- Since NRCS usually doesn't release a Forecast for Lobatos, the following switch is usually set to 0 in AOP runs, and a Lobatos forecast is computed by URGWOM







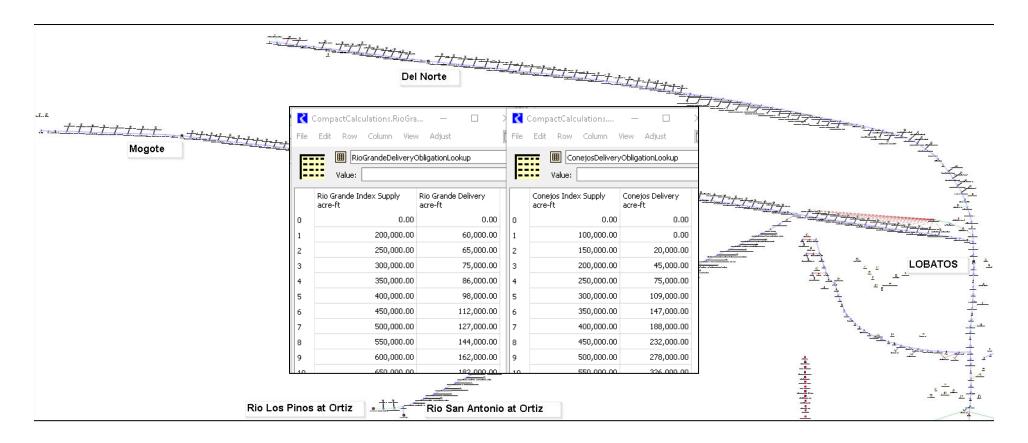
Several Initialization rules compute a Forecast for Lobatos:

I n	itializat	ion Rules Set						
Policy	y & Util	ty Groups Report Groups						
Name	3			Index	Flag	Priority	On	Туре
> [P Re	setForecastedInflowsForInterpolationBetweenFo	precastPeriods - AOP	71-75			/	Policy Group
~ [RecordForecastInflows - AOP and/or RealTime					/	Policy Group	
	\mathbb{R}	RecordForecastedLocalInflows		76	R	IR	/	Rule
	R	RecordRatiosForSettingLocalInflowsForForecas	tPeriod	77	R	IR	/	Rule
	R	RecordForecastedInflows		78	R	IR		Rule
	R	RecordRatiosForSettingInflowsForForecastPeri	od	79	R	IR	/	Rule
	R	RecordRemainingRunoffVolumeForLobatosAnnu	ualForecastPeriod	80	R	IR	/	Rule
	R	RecordRemainingRunoffVolumeForLobatosFore	castPeriod	81	R	IR	/	Rule
	R	RecordReferenceYearsForLobatosMULTIYearRi	uns	82	R	IR	/	Rule
	R	RecordReferenceYearsForLobatosFIRSTYearCl	osestVolume	83	R	IR	/	Rule
	R	Estimate Lobatos Apr-Jul Forecasted Volume		84	R	IR	/	Rule
	R	Estimate Conejos Annual Obligation Volume		85	R	IR	/	Rule
	R	Estimate Rio Grande Annual Obligation Volume		86	R	IR	/	Rule
	R	Estimate Lobatos Annual Forecasted Volume		87	R	IR	/	Rule
	R	RecordForecastedLocalToflowsForColoradoLoca	ations	88	R	IR		Rule



AOP run with Colorado Enabled

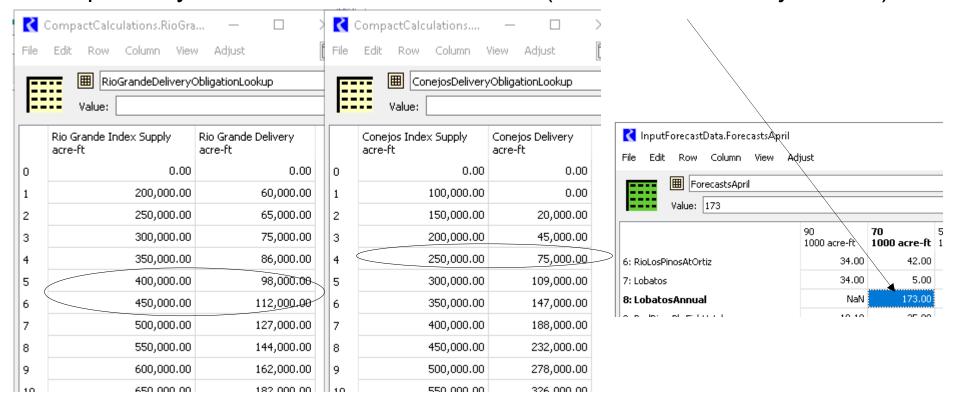
This Lobatos forecast is based on the forecasted flow at: Rio Grande at Del Norte, Conejos at Mogote, Rio Los Pinos at Ortiz, and Rio San Antonio at Ortiz, and the Compact obligation tables





AOP run with Colorado Enabled

E.g., in 2021, the 70% annual forecast for Del Norte is 424 KAF and the 70% annual Forecast for the Conejos is 255 KAF, so the Lobatos Annual forecast computed by URGWOM is 105 + 78 = 183 (minus a 10 KAF adjustment)

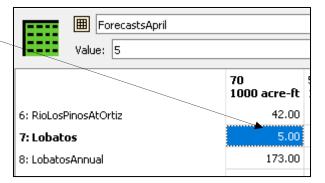


 Therefore, URGWOM forecasts that Colorado will EXACTLY meet its annual Lobatos delivery requirement

April – July Lobatos forecast computation



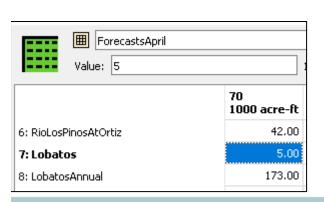
- In 2021, the 70% April to July Lobatos forecast is:
 - The 173 KAF annual forecast
 - Minus the Jan 1 March 31 gaged flow at Del Norte + Mogote + R. Los Pinos + R. San Antonio (118 KAF)
 - Minus the August 1 December 31 forecasted flow at Del Norte + Mogote + R. Los Pinos + R. San Antonio (68 KAF)
 - 173 118 68 = -13 KAF.
- Since we can't have a negative forecast, URGWOM rounds up to 5 KAF:

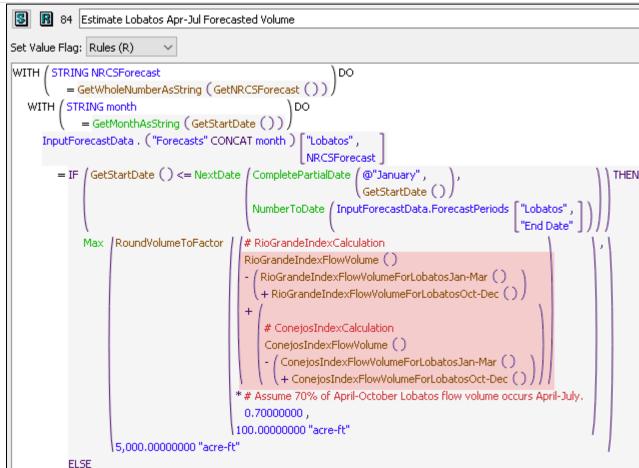


5 KAF is not a realistic Lobatos spring runoff.



Before:

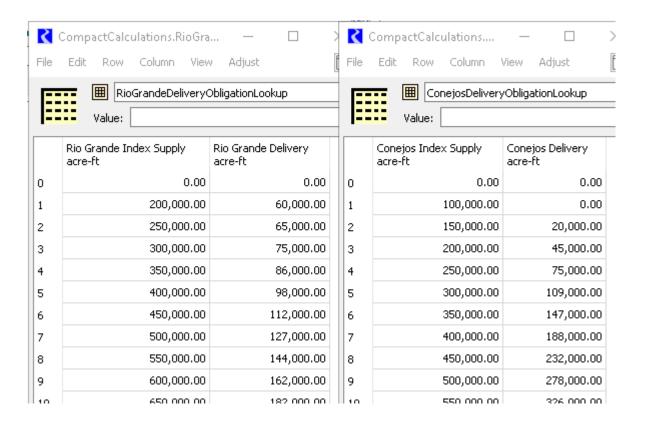








Proposed fix: For the Lobatos forecast, URGWOM needs to convert the Jan 1 – March 31, and August 1 through Dec 31 <u>index supply</u> <u>flows</u> to <u>delivery flows</u>, using the compact tables





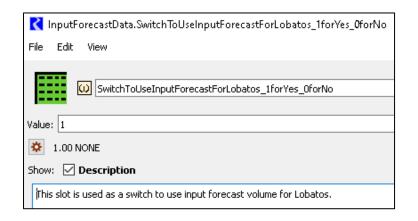


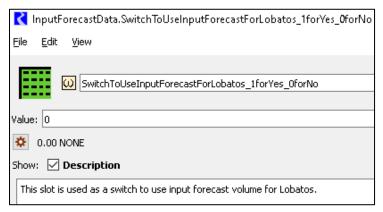
R 84 Estimate Lobatos Apr-Jul Forecasted Volume After: Set Value Flag: Rules (R) WITH / STRING NRCSForecast DO = GetWholeNumberAsString (GetNRCSForecast ()) WITH / STRING month = GetMonthAsString (GetStartDate ()) InputForecastData . ("Forecasts" CONCAT month) ["Lobatos" , NRCSForecast = IF / GetStartDate () <= NextDate / CompletePartialDate / @"January", GetStartDate () NumberToDate / InputForecastData.ForecastPeriods ["Lobatos" , "End Date" # RioGrandeIndexCalculation Max /RoundVolumeToFactor TableInterpolation / CompactCalculations.RioGrandeDeliveryObligationLookup , 0.000000000, 1.000000000, RioGrandeIndexSupplyVolume () - / RioGrandeIndexFlowVolumeForLobatosJan-Mar () + RioGrandeIndexFlowVolumeForLobatosOct-Dec () + # ConejosIndexCalculation TableInterpolation / CompactCalculations. ConejosDeliveryObligationLookup , 0.000000000, 1.000000000, ConejosIndexSupplyVolume () Value: 75.8 1000 acre ConejosIndexFlowVolumeForLobatosJan-Mar + ConejosIndexFlowVolumeForLobatosOct-Dec () 1000 acre-ft * # Assume 70% of April-October Lobatos flow volume occurs April-July. 6: RioLosPinosAtOrtiz 42.00 0.700000000, 75.80 7: Lobatos 100.00000000 "acre-ft" 8: LobatosAnnual 173.00 \$5,000.00000000 "acre-ft"

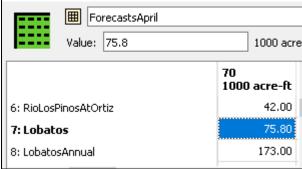




- We need to fix the Lobatos forecast in case it is ever used
- However, whether it's computed or not, the Lobatos forecast isn't currently used (when Colorado is enabled):





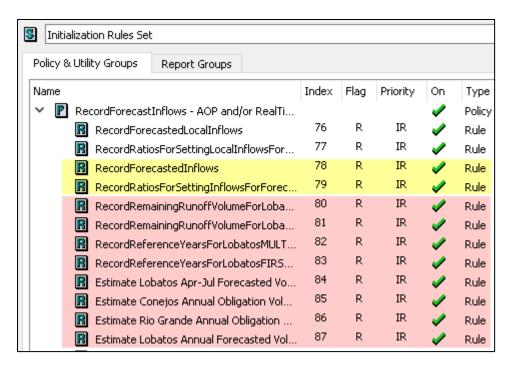


No effect on model results





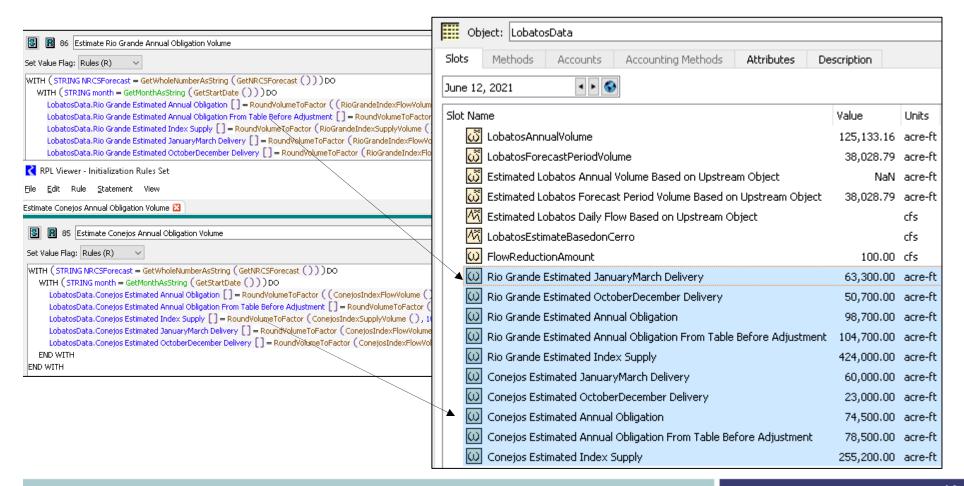
- The red-highlighted initialization rules could be disabled in all model configurations, and the yellow-highlighted rules could be trimmed down.
- However, the Lobatos forecast is a good reference





AOP run with Colorado Enabled

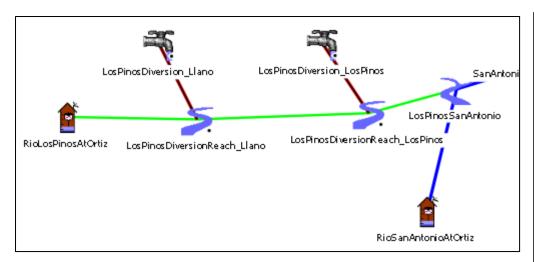
Particularly: Initialization Rules 86 & 85 write to a slot that isn't used by any rules or DMIs, so these rules and slots might be considered for deletion:

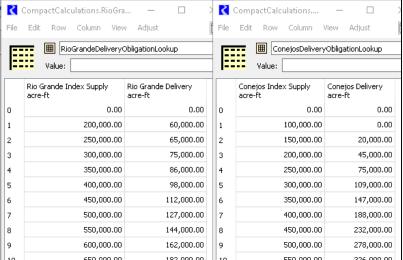






- So if Lobatos hydrograph has nothing to do with Lobatos forecast, how is hydrograph at Lobatos computed in an AOP run?
- The Lobatos hydrograph is based on:
 - Forecasted inflows above Lobatos
 - 2. Compact Tables





1) Forecasted Inflows and Local Inflows in CO

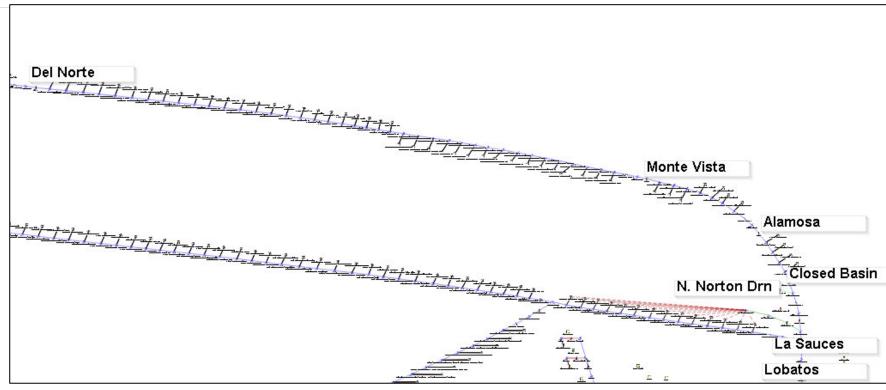


In AOP runs, many local inflow locations in Colorado use the Forecast year from a different location. For instance:

ReferenceYearForOtherURGWOMInp	utLocationsMappedToForecastLocation
	1=Lobatos, 2=LobatosAnnual, 3=RedRiverBlwFishHatchery, 4=RioPuebloDeTaosAtLosCordovas, 5=Otowi, 6=NrJemez, 7=ElVadoInflow, 8=RioBlanco, 9=NavajoRiver, 10=DelNorte, 11=ThirtyMileBridge, 12=WagonWheelGap, 13=Mogote, 14=RioSanAntonioAtOrtiz
0: NorthClearCreekBelowContinentalReservoir	11.00
1: ClosedBasinProjectCanal	10.00
2: NorthChannelNortonDrain	10.00
3: LocalInflowsAtWagonWheelGap	12.00
4: LocalInflowsAtDelNorte	10.00
5: LocalInflowsAtMonteVista	10.00
6: LocalInflowsAtAlamosa	10.00
7: LocalInflowsToRioGrandeAtLaSauces	10.00
8: LocalInflowsAtMogote	13.00
9: LocalInflowsToSanAntonioRiverAtManassa	14.00
10: LocalInflowsToConejosAtLaSauces	10.00
11: LocalInflowsAtLobatos	10.00
12: LittleNavajoRiver	9.00
13: Galisteo	5.00
14: NorthFloodwayChannel	5.00
15: SouthDiversionChannel	5.00
16: RioPuerco	5.00
17. Tit	5.00
	21







- Even though these Local Inflows are downstream (up to 90 river miles) of Del Norte, they use the Del Norte forecast
 - because there is no other option: can't use Lobatos (no NRCS forecast) or Otowi (affected by Rio Chama)

Local Inflows between Del Norte and Lobatos use the Del Norte forecast year



- If the Del Norte forecast is high, this means the Local Inflows between Del Norte and Lobatos will also be high, which means the flow at Lobatos will be high.
- In 2021, Del Norte was flow was forecasted to be 71-78% of average:

	2021 Del Norte				
	forecasts				
	50% (KAF)	% of average			
January	400	78%			
February	400	78%			
March	365	71%			
April	365	71%			

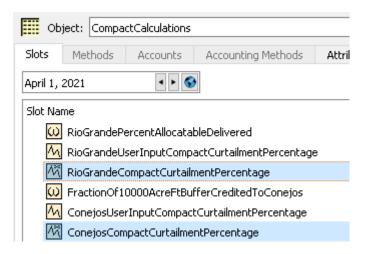
https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/co/snow/waterproducts/basin

However, NRCS predicted that Lobatos flow would be approximately 40% of average*



3) Agricultural diversions in Colorado

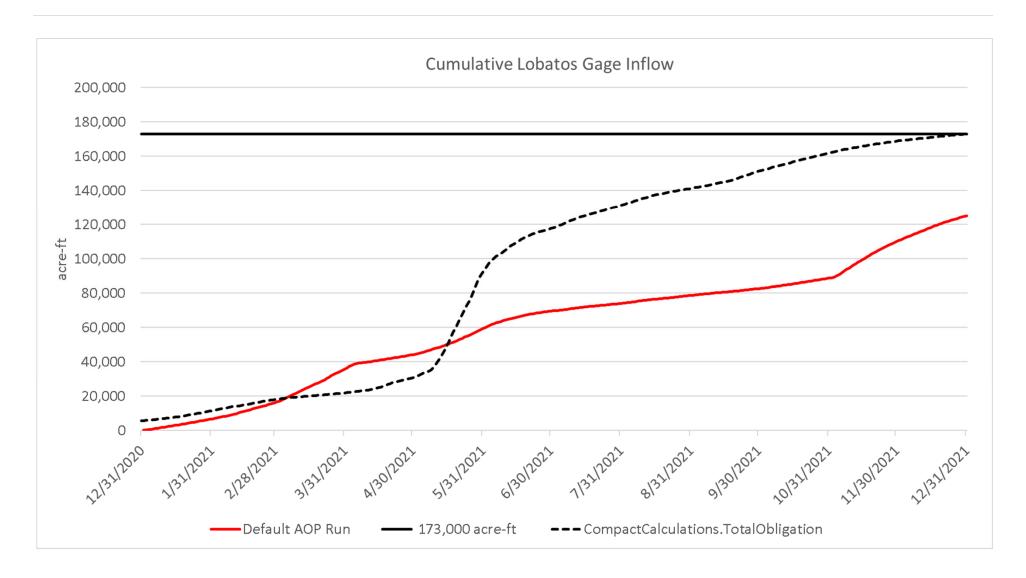
The CO agricultural curtailment percentage mentioned earlier ensures that Colorado exactly meets annual Lobatos delivery obligation



 However, in recent AOP runs, annual delivery obligation not being met, even while CO ditches diverting



3) Agricultural diversions in Colorado

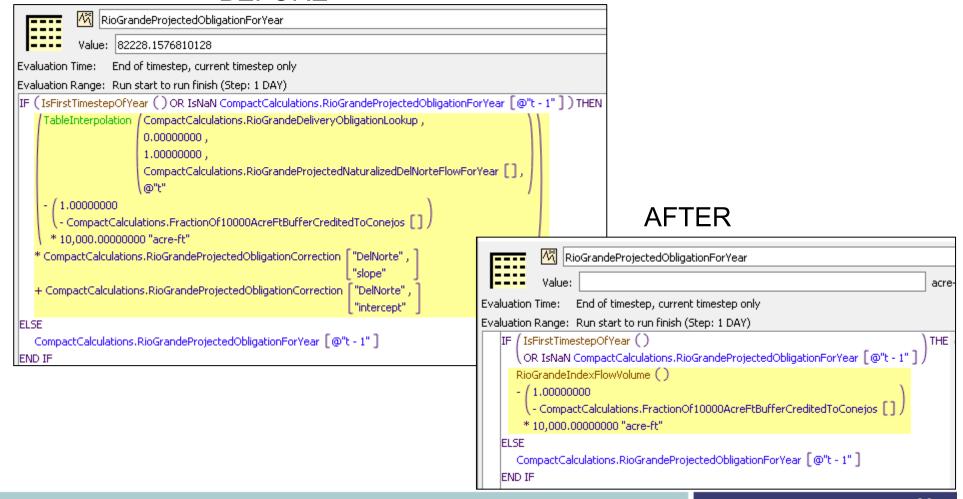






Propose the following changes:

BEFORE

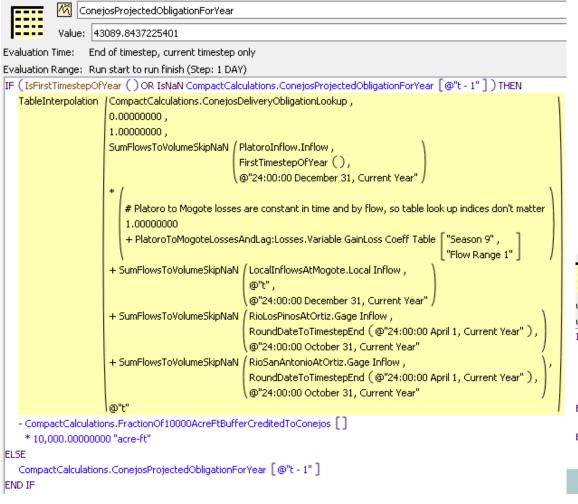






Propose the following changes:

BEFORE

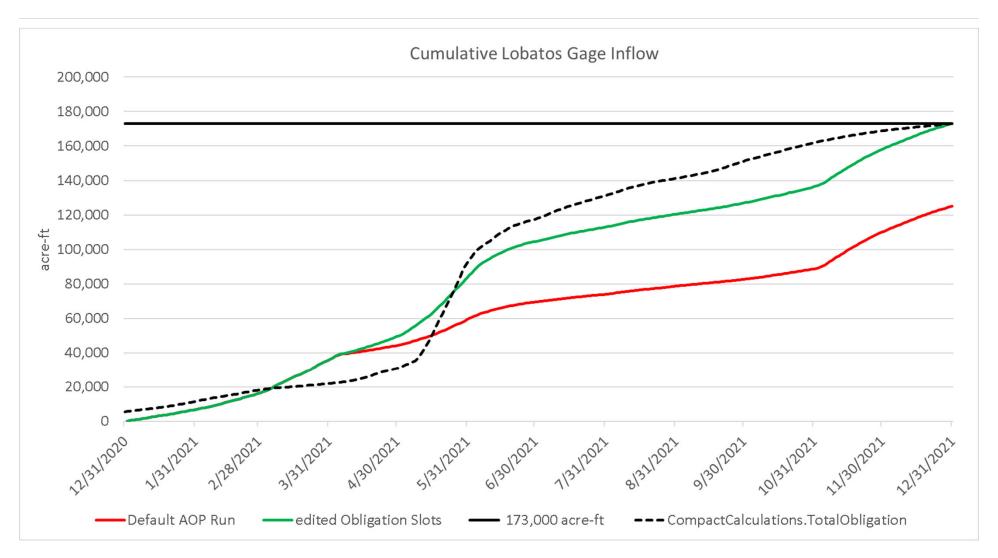


AFTER

ConejosProjectedObligationForYear
Value: acre
uation Time: End of timestep, current timestep only
uation Range: Run start to run finish (Step: 1 DAY)
IF (IsFirstTimestepOfYear () OR IsNaN CompactCalculations.ConejosProjectedObligationForYear [@"t - 1"]) ConejosIndexFlowVolume () - CompactCalculations.FractionOf10000AcreFtBufferCreditedToConejos [] * 10,000.00000000 "acre-ft"
ELSE
CompactCalculations.ConejosProjectedObligationForYear [@"t - 1"]
END IF

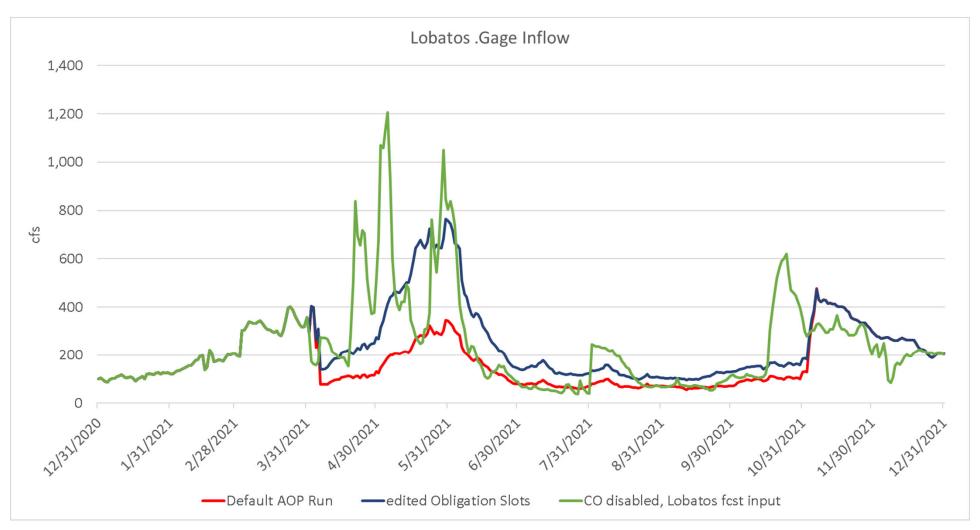


3) Agricultural diversions in Colorado





3) Agricultural diversions in Colorado



AOP Run Conclusion

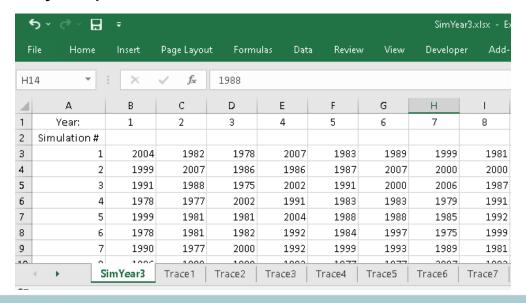


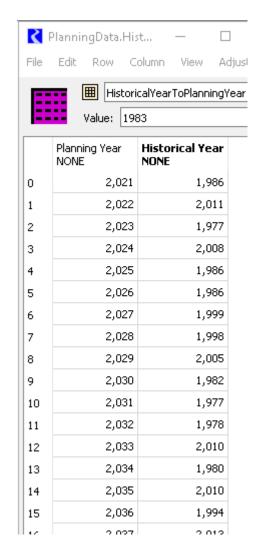
- Once all of these proposed changes are made, the Annual Compact Obligation will arrive at Lobatos, as Marc had mentioned.
- URGWOM seems to model everything as accurately as possible, given data availability
- However, the model user may choose to manually input their own inflow hydrographs, for many reasons, e.g.,
 - They don't agree with the timing of the URGWOM-computed hydrograph, since the pattern is based on a historical year
 - They don't agree with URGWOM's assumptions that CO will meet the compact requirement. They may want smaller Inflows.
 - 3) They many not agree with URGWOM's assumptions that many of the Colorado local inflows are based on the upstream Del Norte forecast
 - 4) They many not agree with URGWOM's assumption that all CO diverters try to divert 100% of their water right from April 1 – Oct 31 (except when curtailed by compact restrictions)





- Marc was also interested in how the Lobatos hydrograph is computed in Planning Runs
- Same as the two types of AOP runs, except that instead of using Forecast years, CO inflows are based on a user-input table:
- These year-sequences can be randomly generated, and 1000s of long-term planning runs can be run to evaluate a variety of possible futures.





Questions?

