

Ute Lake Timeline



- In 1950, the states of Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico entered into the Canadian River Compact to govern the building of dams on the Canadian River. Under the compact, New Mexico could store 200,000-acre feet of water below Conchas Dam west of the Texas state line.
- Ute Dam was completed in May 1963. At that time the lake had a capacity of 109,600-acre feet.
- Prior to the dam completion in 1963, the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission (ISC) entered into a contract with the New Mexico Game Commission that prohibited the ISC from letting the lake be pumped below 3,741 feet above sea level. The purpose of the restriction is to maintain the wildlife ecosystem.
- In 1984, the ISC raised the spillway of the dam 27 feet, substantially increasing the size of the lake. At that time, Ute Lake could hold 272,000-acre feet of water.
- In 1990, Texas and Oklahoma sued New Mexico in the United States Supreme Court for violating the 200,000-acre foot limitation in the Canadian River Compact. New Mexico lost and was required to pay those states back water from 1993 thru 2002. *Oklahoma v New Mexico* 510 U.S. 126 (1991).
- In 1994, John Whipple a staff engineer with the ISC did a yield study on the Ute Reservoir. Based upon a review of flow in the Canadian River from 1943-1993 he determined that the firm annual yield of water in Ute Lake was between 18,000-to-22,500-acre feet of water annually.
- In 1995, Clovis, Tucumcari, Portales, San Jon, Logan, Texico, Melrose, Elida, Grady, and Curry, Quay and Roosevelt counties entered into a joint powers agreement creating the Ute Reservoir Water Commission to acquire water from Ute Lake.
- In 1997, the ISC entered into an option agreement with the Ute Reservoir Water Commission that would allow it to purchase a total of 24,000-acre feet of water annually from Ute reservoir.
- The 1995 agreement between the communities identified how much of the 24,000-acre feet of water each community reserved.
- After planning of the Ute Pipeline began Tucumcari, Logan, San Jon, and Quay County withdrew from the pipeline project because they did not believe Ute Lake was a sustainable source of water. Although these entities withdrew, they maintained their share of the Ute water reservation in the amount of 7,550-acre feet, leaving the Curry and Roosevelt entities with 16, 450-acre feet of water reserved.

- In 2010, the New Mexico Legislature created the Eastern New Mexico Water Utility Authority (ENMWUA) NMSA 73-27-1. The Original authority members were Clovis, Portales, Melrose, Texico, Grady, Elida, and Curry County.
- Since its initial creation, Melrose, Grady, and Curry County have withdrawn from the ENMWUA.
- In 2016, the ENMWUA completed an intake structure at Ute Lake costing \$14 million.
- In 2020, ENMWUA received \$25,500,000 from the New Mexico Water Trust Board, US Bureau of Reclamation, and NM capital outlay for construction of the Fresh Water 3 pipeline.
- In 2022, the ENMWUA received \$160,000,000 from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, \$17,400,000 from US Bureau of Reclamation, \$30,000,000 from the NM legislature, and \$14,500,000 from the NM Water Trust Board.
- In 2023, the ENMWUA received \$94,140,000 from the US Bureau of Reclamation.
- In June of 2024, the ENMWUA received \$20,000,000 from the New Mexico Water Trust Board.
- All funding received as of July 15, 2024, has been spend building freshwater pipelines in and around Clovis, Portales, and Cannon Air Force Base. All Fresh water pipelines can be used to convey ground water.
- None of the raw water pipeline covering over 50 miles from Logan to the site of the water treatment facility in Curry County has gone out for Bid.