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Peer Review Report

Peer review report 3 on "Economic Effects of a Reservoir Re-operation Policy in the Rio Grande/Bravo for Integrated Human and Environmental Water Management"

1. Original Submission

1.1. Recommendation

Minor Revision

2. Comments to Author:

First, the most important impression is related to the potential practice of reservoir re-operation and hydro-economic analysis to improve management of water resources and consequently, to promote environmental health, and the elaboration of a more comprehensive water allocation policy for the Big Bend Reach of the Rio Grande/Bravo.

Second, I read with great interest the manuscript drawn up by the authors and have had the impression that the main proposed idea is part of a larger research project, or of a research team project. This aspect can be exemplified by the reduced literature review related to the topics: 1) water availability in the region, 2) reservoir re-operation, and 3) the feasibility of providing EFs and adapting and/or adopting a policy mechanism. There is absolutely nothing wrong here! However, it is important to mention this aspect in the document so one can better understand the rationale and research objectives of the manuscript.

Next, if this research complements a bigger research project as mentioned above, it would be great to continue working on this issue and elaborate an EFs policy to be replicable in some others RGB study areas, and in different geographical contexts.

Finally, the notion of transboundary region is put aside and not addressed in a sufficient manner. I would highly recommend to include this level of analysis in future studies the authors want to explore.

Specific comments and suggestions for the authors are provided in the attached document.

Research Scholar Luzma Fabiola Nava (Ph.D.) IIASA — International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Water Program, Schlossplatz 1, Laxenburg, Austria

A-2361, Austria