(1) Hydrogeological numerical models are built using geological, physical or chemical boundaries; can they integrate jurisdictional boundaries too? If yes, how? If not, why not?



- Yes → Model codes such as One-Water can perform multiple levels of boundaries for hydrologic budgets that include jurisdictional boundaries. Plus multiple Budgets: "Water-Balance Subregions (WBS)", GW, SW, Land, Climate, & Subbudgets (Wells Crops, etc). Layered approach in One-Water allows multiple levels of analysis. With Surface-water Operations (SWO) (Tightly-coupled Reservoir Operations) in One-Water the supply-and-demand framework also can include external supplies and demands.
- Boundaries are dynamic and can change through time as land ownership, Supply/demand relations change, or jurisdiction boundaries change → In Cuyama Valley example land ownership governed water use(Supply/Demand relations) that evolved (1950 2014) over ten different changes of WBS. Originally Valley was a Spanish Land Grant to the Ruiz family (still live in Santa Barbara Canyon) & was mostly sold to white ranchers with other parts homesteaded, & then progressively dissected into multiple farms & ranches changing the supply-and-demand relations through time.
- <u>Rio Bravo Transboundary model example (RGTIHM)</u> → Southern part of the Rincon Valley-Mesilla Basin-Conejos Medanos (53 of the 71 WBS) includes the Bateria (Wellfield), plus native & urban subregions in Mexico. WBS honored Groundwater/Watersheds plus International, State, and irrigation district and subregions within the irrigation districts that receive different sources of water.



Cuyama Valley Example of Changing Boundaries



and a second second



Shaded relief base created from 30-m digital elevation model from USGS National Elevation Dataset (NED); North America Vertical Datum 1983 (NAVD83). Hydrology sourced from 1:24,000-scale National Hydrography Dataset, 1974-2009. Place names sourced from USGS Geographic Names Information System, 1974-2009. Albers Projection, NAD83.

Native

Farm groundwater ID for 1943 to 1969



See table 1 and figure 2A

EXPLANATION

Farm groundwater ID for 1970 to 2010



10 Kilometers



RGTIHM Transboundary Model

71 Water-Balance Subregions (WBS) needed for Supply-and-Demand Simulation Based on the lands with common supply sources

> Rincon Valley, New Mexico, USA 18 WBS

Mesilla Basin, USA (New Mexico & Texas) & northern Conejos-Medanos Basin, Chihuahua, MX 53 WBS



(Hanson et al., 2020)

(2) Name the top three challenges encountered in building a numerical model of an aquifer shared by two or more countries. Explain your choices.



- Data Sharing → Digital, Georeferenced, <u>accessible data for "Self-Updating Models</u>." Includes <u>Data-sharing Protocols</u> (different agencies are data collectors/compilers) → <u>Linkages</u> → locations, methods, & frequency of data transfers, data QA/QC, <u>automated links</u> to land-based data networks (plus filtering) & remotely sensed data products/analysis.
- Input/Observation Data → Climate, Reservoir Operations, Well Pumpage/Well Info (Muni/Industrial, Domestic, Agricultural), Groundwater use, Streamflow/Diversions, Land Ownership, & LAND USE (monthly-annual), Water use/sources, & Crop Production
- Geochemical Data Conceptual Framework/Transport → Geochemical (Majors, Minors, Halogens (Salinity typing), Stable & Unstable Isotopes, Emerging contaminants (pharmaceuticals, pesticides/herbicides), Natural contaminants (ex As, Cr, nitrate), Field Temperature, EC, TDC, & DO. End-member samples also needed for mixing & transport analysis, as well as source age and movement analysis too.

Layered Hierarchy & Workflow for "Self-Updating Models"



(3) What physical-chemical processes should be modeled that are specific to transboundary aquifers and useful for shared management?



• <u>Coupled Flows</u> → Groundwater-Surface-Water Interactions → Surface-water capture & Delivery interference → <u>Conjunctive Use</u>

One Water

- Land Use → Land ownership, Land Use, Shared Supply (Water, Diversions, Ponds, etc), Formal infrastructure (canals, drains, diversions, wasteways), & Informal Supplies → <u>Water Use & Land Use are Biggest Data GAPs Worldwide</u>!!
- Climate Change/Variability → Effects on Land Use (Agriculture), Surface-Water, Reservoir Operations, & Groundwater Sustainability
- Reservoir Operations → Linkage To Reservoir(s) with tight coupling between supply-and-demand between reservoir releases & keep track of deliveries/carry-over to multiple users and for multiple uses within a Watershed based on multiple operating rules for Agricultural, Municipal, Ecological flows + Flood Protection, Recreation & Off-grid demands. Reservoir connections in IHM models needed for Lower Rio Grande, Colorado (Mexicali/Yuma/Gila/Imperial), Tijuana, & Rio Conchos)
- Salinity (Leaching) → Loss of arable land, reduced productivity, salt accumulation: Model Irrigation as mixture of irrigation waters plus additional water for leaching the soil/root zone for salinity subject to salt tolerance of the crops, salinity of applied waters, salinity of groundwater, & level of leaching efficiency (<u>10 >50% more water needed for leaching</u>!!)

<u>Salt Load</u>: Applying 1 ac-ft of water with a total dissolved salt concentration of 735 ppm would potentially add 1 ton of salt to an acre of crops (Cahn and Bali, 2015)

- Lost Productivity: Estimates of reduced productivity ranged from 6 to 17 percent with about 42 percent of 122,000 measured locations over a 9-year period exceeding the salinity threshold for the agricultural lands of the Lower Arkansas River Valley; Colorado intensively farmed for over 120 years (Morway and Gates, 2012).
- Secondary Effects: Perched aquifer water of the Oxnard Plain saltier than seawater from accumulation of Irrigation percolation (Failed wells & Aquifer cross contamination)

Salinity in US-Mexico Transboundary -> Lower Rio Grande, Hueco Bolson, Mimbres Basin, Colorado River & TJ

<u>Groundwater-Surface-Water Interactions</u> Lower Rio Grande Problem: Release to diversion hydrology altered by groundwater pumping in New Mexico





Climate Change/Variability – Rio Conchos

Climate variability and evaluation of transboundary reservoir supply for water sustainability in Chihuahua, Mexico By Dra. Marusia Renteria Villalobos & R.T. Hanson (2020, In Review, Journal of Hydrology)







YUMA US-Mexico Colorado River Optimization – Saline GW Replacement



USBR → Replacing Colorado River Water Deliveries with Saline Groundwater from Yuma and Gila River Valleys (4) Provide a real example of a transboundary aquifer model anywhere in the world that has been successful as a management tool, an information tool, or a data-integration and harmonization tool. Or all of the above.



<u>**RGTIHM</u>**: Rio Grande (Rio Bravo) Transboundary IHM (Hanson et al., 2020) & previous LRGFMP2011 model (Hanson et al., 2013)</u>

(1) <u>USBR Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)</u> of Lower Rio Grande Operations & related operating Transboundary agreement (USBR, EBID, & EP1) (USBR, 2016; Ferguson et al. 2015),

(2) <u>Developed by TAAP</u> to demonstrate transboundary application (Hanson et al., 2013)

(3) <u>Developed for future USBR Operations and litigation support</u> for two U.S. Supreme Court Cases (NM vs USBR & TX vs NM) and mitigation analysis/future operations

(4) <u>No data cooperation from JCAS, JMAS, CILA, or CONAGUA even with TAAP (IBWC/CILA)</u> data-share agreement.

(5) <u>USDA Water-Use Project</u> could use this modern model...stay tuned?

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation - Rio Grande Project









Increased Total Farm Delivery Requirement (TFDR) & Groundwater use in dry years with less surfacewater allocations from Reservoir (Hanson et al., 2020)

Increased Water Demand & "Hardening of Demand" with shift to more Pecan Orchards



Year EXPLANATION

Mexico

Total annual surface-water allotment

Elephant Butte Irrigation District (EBID)

El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1 (EPCWID1)

GROUNDWATER BUDGET: Storage Depletion & Streamflow Capture: cyclic and sustained 2003-2014







(Hanson et al., 2020)

Rio Grande Transboundary Integrated Hydrologic Flow Model

El Paso Valley

Diversion, TX

Mexico

"A day River System

Texas

Acequia Madre

Diversion, Mexico

RGTIHM's Valley SFR Network Stream Flow Routing (SFR):

• 478 Segments (main river network)

Reservoir

New Mexico

- 6,344 reaches
- 16 Inflow locations (red dots)
- 71 Diversion Points (green dots)
- 20 to 30% Water Reuse as part of the operating agreement between Districts within the Reservoir Project

Annual sum of observed and Rio Grande Transboundary integrated hydrologic model (RGTIHM) simulated diversions at the Percha Lateral and Arrey, Leasburg, Eastside, and Westside Canals and divertible for Texas (Rio Grande streamflow at Courchesne Bridge at El Paso, 314809106322810) compared to the annual release from Caballo Reservoir





Operational Flows vs Divertible Water: Approximates reported relation → Deliveries>Releases (Reuse of Surface Water)

EXPLANATION

Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) observed flows

RGTIHM simulated flows

Annual sum of observed and Rio Grande Transboundary integrated hydrologic model (RGTIHM) simulated diversions at the Percha Lateral and Arrey, Leasburg, Eastside, and Westside Canals and divertible for Texas (Rio Grande streamflow at Courchesne Bridge at El Paso, 314809106322810) compared to the annual release from Caballo Reservoir





Operational Flows vs Divertible Water: Approximates reported relation → Deliveries>Releases (Reuse of Surface Water)

EXPLANATION

Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) observed flows

RGTIHM simulated flows

Annual Rio Grande Transboundary integrated hydrologic model (RGTIHM) simulated diversions at the International Diversion Dam (Acequia Madre) compared to annual diversion allocation to Mexico



Generally honors or exceeds all deliveries



Streamflow below Cabllo Reservoir (Release), in acre-feet per year