



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Upper Colorado Region
Albuquerque Area Office
555 Broadway NE, Suite 100
Albuquerque, NM 87102-2352

IN REPLY REFER TO:

ALB-172
ENV-7.00

SEP 17 2012

MEMORANDUM

To: Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office
2105 Osuna Road NE, Albuquerque, NM 87113
Attn: Mr. Wally Murphy

From: Mike Hamman
Area Manager

Subject: Submission of Updated Conservation Measures for Middle Rio Grande Water-
Management and Maintenance Biological Assessment (BA).

The attached information is being provided to inform the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) of the continued development of conservation measures to support Reclamation's subject BA and the formation of a Recovery Implementation Program (RIP) for silvery minnow and willow flycatcher within the Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program.

Bureau of Reclamation in coordination with the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission, the Office of the State Engineer and the New Mexico Attorney General's Office (collectively the State) and Reclamation in coordination with the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (ABCWUA) is providing these conservation measures which are in addition to those measures from Reclamation and the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD) that were submitted with the July 31 BA submission. These measures together with additional water management tools and strategies will be part of the Water Management Plan for the Middle Rio Grande, which is in development and will be provided to the Service before the end of this calendar year. Also included for consideration are updated versions of the RIP Program Document and the Action Plan.

It is the intention that the RIP will provide regulatory certainty under the ESA for the actions referenced in the Proposed Action of this BA and any future supplements. The final RIP Action Plan will include activities for which there is commitment from the responsible entities and which are based on recovery actions of the silvery minnow and flycatcher recovery plans. To provide certainty of occurrence of the above, each entity seeking coverage under the new BO through the RIP will sign a Cooperative Agreement with the Service prior to the final issuance of the BO.

The State Supplement to Reclamation's BA with some clarifying information is also being re-submitted with the State conservation measures. Reclamation would like to re-iterate that the proposed actions as described in the State Supplement were included in the modeling that was done for the analysis of the Proposed Action and do not substantially change the aggregate determination of effects that were previously described in the July 31 BA.

We appreciate the Service's continued cooperation with this ESA consultation process.

Any questions may be directed to Mr. Jim Wilber of my staff at 505-462-3548.

Attachments – 4

cc: Mr. Estevan Lopez
NM Interstate Stream Commission
Bataan Memorial Building, Room 101,
P. O. Box 25102,
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Mr. John Stomp
Albuquerque- Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority
P. O. Box 1293
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