

Draft Environmental Assessment
for Integrated Pest Management
San Luis Valley Project, CO
Bureau of Reclamation
Albuquerque Area Office
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

The Bureau of Reclamation has completed a draft environmental assessment (EA) and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for Integrated Pest Management - San Luis Valley Project, CO. The EA was prepared under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et. Seq.) and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR 1500).

This Environmental Assessment (EA) documents an analysis conducted by Reclamation to evaluate the effects of a proposal to (1) use manual, mechanical, and herbicide methods to control undesirable terrestrial and aquatic weeds; (2) use toxicants, shooting, and non-lethal methods to control problem/nuisance burrowing mammals; and (3) manual and commercially available pesticides and baits to control rodents and spiders in facilities and on lands managed by Reclamation's Alamosa Field Division. The purpose of the proposed action is to protect structures and facilities, provide for public safety, and enhance the health and safety of Reclamation employees, contractors, and cooperators. Proposed pest management objectives, strategies, methods, mitigations and best management practices, and an herbicide safety and spill plan, standing operating procedures for hantavirus, and control requirements for problem/nuisance burrowing mammals are documented in an Integrated Pest Management Plan.

The potential environmental effects and risks associated with the proposed use of manual, mechanical, and pesticide methods for humans and the environment were considered. Based on this environmental analysis, Reclamation has determined the proposed use of manual and mechanical methods and pesticides is not a major federal action that will significantly affect the quality of the human environment; therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

A copy of the EA may be obtained at <http://www.usbr.gov/uc.albuq/envdoc> or at the Alamosa Field Division Office located at 10900 Highway 160 East, Alamosa, CO. Comments need to be provided in writing by 01/02/09 to Nancy Umbreit at numbreit@uc.usbr.gov or 555 Broadway NE, Ste. 100; Albuquerque, NM 87102.