United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Phoenix Area Office
6150 West Thunderbird Road
Glendale, Arizona 85306-4001

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

PXAO-1500
ENV-6.00

MEMORANDUM

To: All Interested Persons, Organizations, and Agencies

From: Carol Lynn Erwin
Area Manager

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for Native Fish Restoration in Bonita Creek (Action by March 23, 2007)

Reclamation and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have prepared a draft EA on a proposal to construct a fish barrier in lower Bonita Creek on the Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area in Graham County, Arizona. The proposed barrier would facilitate chemical treatment of the lower Bonita Creek to remove nonnative fishes and to stock four species of imperiled native fishes in upper and lower reaches of the stream, in cooperation with the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The proposed action also includes implementation of a Memorandum of Understanding between BLM and the City of Safford that would govern future operation and possible capacity upgrade of an existing municipal water collection and distribution system in lower Bonita Creek. Bonita Creek is a significant source of potable water for the City of Safford and other Gila Valley water customers.

The draft EA is provided on the attached CD-ROM. A paper copy of the draft EA can be obtained by calling the Environmental Resource Management Division at 623-773-6251, or by e-mailing rkonst@lc.usbr.gov. The EA may also be viewed on the Phoenix Area Office website at http://www.usbr.gov/lc/phoenix/.

Comments should be submitted to Mr. John McGlothlen at the Bureau of Reclamation, Phoenix Area Office, 6150 West Thunderbird Road, Glendale, Arizona 85306-4001, faxed to 623-773-6481, or emailed to jwmcglothlen@lc.usbr.gov, no later than March 23, 2007. Written comments received by Reclamation become part of the public record associated with the EA. Accordingly, such comments will be available to requestors of information pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act.

For additional information regarding this matter, please contact Mr. McGlothlen at jwmcglothlen@lc.usbr.gov or by calling 623-773-6256.

Attachment