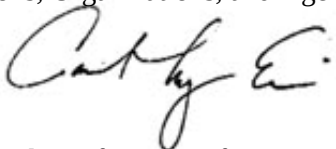


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MEMORANDUM

To: All Interested Persons, Organizations, and Agencies

From: Carol Lynn Erwin 
Area Manager

Subject: Decision Record/Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for Native Fish Restoration in Bonita Creek, Arizona

The Bureau of Reclamation and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have determined that construction and operation of a fish barrier and other proposed efforts to restore a native fishery in Bonita Creek will not be a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. The proposed action will facilitate the reintroduction and perpetuation of federally listed fish species in the upper 13.7 miles of Bonita Creek in the Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area. Also included in the proposal is the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding and associated 10-year plan, between the City of Safford and the BLM, which will govern continued operation of municipal water supply facilities in the lower 3.5 miles of Bonita Creek. Implementation of the proposed action, including fish barrier construction, is tentatively scheduled to start September 2007, subject to the BLM appeal process. A copy of the BLM Decision Record/FONSI and Reclamation FONSI are attached.

A draft Environmental Assessment (EA) was mailed to more than 170 addressees for a 30-day public review and comment period on February 21, 2007. The EA was also posted on Reclamation's Phoenix Area Office website (www.usbr.gov/lc/phoenix) during the public review period. Two letters were received in response to the draft EA. Reclamation's FONSI provides clarification for topics which were referenced in the comments.

The BLM decision is subject to a 30-day appeal period in accordance with 43 Code of Federal Regulations Part 4, General Appeal Procedures, and may not be implemented until conditions under this regulation have been met. Please contact Mr. Jeff Wilbanks for information concerning the appeal process at 928-348-4573 or Bureau of Land Management, Safford Field Office, 711 14th Avenue, Safford, Arizona 85546.

All other information requests concerning this matter should be directed to Mr. John McGlothlen at 623-773-6256 (email: jwmcglothlen@lc.usbr.gov).

Attachments - 2

WBR:JMcGlothlen:rjk:07/13/2007
NEPA * M-bcfb_fonsi (JM).doc
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