

PECOS RIVER SUPPLEMENTAL WATER EA FACT SHEET

Purpose and Need for Action

The project is needed to comply with the 2006-2016 Biological Opinion for the Carlsbad Project Water Operations and Water Supply Conservation Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), June 2006. The Biological Opinion and EIS commit Reclamation to operate the Carlsbad Project with a target flow of 35 cubic feet per second (cfs) at the Taiban Gage and to keep the river continuous in order to conserve the federally protected Pecos bluntnose shiner. The purpose of the project is to provide adequate water to keep the river continuous, meet the contracted irrigation needs of the Carlsbad Project, avoid hindering New Mexico delivery requirements to Texas, and to establish partnerships in the basin.

Proposed Action

The US Bureau of Reclamation is proposing to obtain supplemental water to provide the operational ability to release approximately 2,500 acre-feet of water out of Sumner Lake per year to keep the river continuous, while also ensuring that there is enough water at Brantley Reservoir to meet the contracted irrigation needs of the Carlsbad Project. A variety of supplemental water sources may be required to meet this goal.

Potential supplemental water sources include the following:

- Transfer any unused water rights associated with Reclamation's river pumper offset program to Seven Rivers to be pumped into Brantley Reservoir in exchange for being able to store and withdraw water from Santa Rosa Reservoir or Sumner Lake.
- Commit up to 360 acres of ground water rights owned by Reclamation at Seven Rivers Ranch to be pumped into Brantley Reservoir in exchange for being able to store and withdraw up to 1,000 acre-feet of water from Sumner Lake. This exchange will maintain the currently permitted 1,000 acre-foot fish conservation pool at Sumner Lake.
- Transfer any available water rights at Karr Farms near Artesia to Seven Rivers to be pumped into Brantley Reservoir in exchange for being able to store and withdraw water from Santa Rosa Reservoir or Sumner Lake, or to directly use these rights for habitat improvement projects.
- Pursue any other lease or water transfer opportunities from willing sellers.

RECLAMATION
Managing Water in the West

RESOURCES TO BE ANALYZED

SETTING

- Geology
- Climate

SURFACE WATER

- General description of trends, purposes, operational priorities
- Water Operations: Description of operations, reservoirs, streamflows, transportation losses, water deliveries and supplies

GROUNDWATER

- General description, groundwater systems, transport losses, depth to groundwater, groundwater quality, interactions with surface water

WATER QUALITY

- Reservoirs, Pecos River, salinity, mercury

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

- Pecos bluntnose shiner
- Interior least tern, Bald eagle

FISH

- Native riverine species, reservoir fisheries

WILDLIFE AND HABITAT

RECREATION

ECONOMICS/SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY CONDITIONS

- Agriculture, local and regional economies, environmental justice

CULTURAL RESOURCES

- Historic sites, traditional cultural properties, sacred sites

INDIAN TRUST ASSETS