

APPENDIX N

Other Consultation

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OTHER CONSULTATION



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
 ALBUQUERQUE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
 4101 JEFFERSON PLAZA NE
 ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87109-3435
 FAX (505) 342-3498

ALBUQUERQUE AREA OFFICE

MAR 31 2000

REPLY TO
 ATTENTION OF:

Operations Division
 Regulatory Branch

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Classification		
Project		
Control No.		
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Subject		
DATE	INITIALS	CODE
3/31	FB	18
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Mr. Michael R. Gabaldon
 Area Manager
 U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
 505 Marquette NW, Suite 1313
 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102-2162

Dear Mr. Gabaldon:

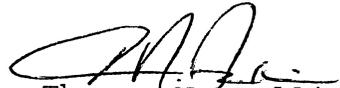
This replies to your March 22, 2000, letter requesting our participation as a cooperating agency in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Albuquerque Drinking Water Project. The project will include diversion of surface water in the Rio Grande near Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, New Mexico. Our tracking number for this project is Action No. 2000 00138. Waters of the United States which may be affected by the project include the Rio Grande, wetlands adjacent to river, and other minor waterways.

We request that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) be included as a cooperating agency in this EIS. Our participation will satisfy the procedural and statutory requirements of the Corps (33 CFR 325, App. B, Sec. 230.16) and allow our review for adoption of the document in accordance with 40 CFR 1506.3 for a permit decision under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. However, the extent of our participation will be limited to providing available information, routine coordination and review.

The Corps area of expertise or jurisdiction by law is generally flood control, navigation, hydropower, and Corps regulatory responsibilities. We will provide comments on the draft EIS within our areas of expertise or jurisdiction. As a cooperating agency, we expect to receive invitations to meetings and field reviews, to be consulted on technical studies, to be provided study results and draft documents, and to have our comments appropriately included in the EIS. When design specifics are available, we will review the project for Section 404 permit requirements. The New Mexico Environment Department and/or the Sandia Pueblo must certify that the project complies with the applicable effluent limitations and with State or tribal water quality standards prior to our permit issuance.

Our contact for this project is Ms. Jean E. Manger of the Regulatory Branch, telephone (505) 342-3216, e-mail at jean.e.manger@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,



Thomas N. Fallin
Lieutenant Colonel, EN
District Engineer



ORIGINAL
United States Department of the Interior

Dave Connelly

ALBUQUERQUE

0157
AUG 20 1998

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
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Subject	SPLIT 2
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(ask 2.1)

August 18, 1998

Cons. #2-27-98-286-ML 153

Memorandum

To: Area Manager, Albuquerque Area Office, Bureau of Reclamation, Albuquerque, New Mexico

From: Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Subject: Planning Aid Memorandum for the City of Albuquerque, Water Resources Management Strategy, Bernalillo County, New Mexico

The City of Albuquerque, Water Resources Management Strategy, is a proposed project to supply potable water to water customers in the Albuquerque metropolitan area from the Rio Grande. This Planning Aid Memorandum (PAM) provides general fishery information for the upstream reservoirs that could be affected by the proposed project. Other fish and wildlife resources that may be affected by the project will be addressed in future correspondence and coordination. Coordination will include the preparation of a Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The proposed project may affect natural resources associated with Heron, El Vado, Abiquiu, and Cochiti reservoirs, especially fishery resources. The management of water through storage and release at these reservoirs greatly influences the aquatic and terrestrial resources that are dependent upon these reservoirs and the Rio Grande downstream. Therefore, it is important that the effects of hydrologic manipulations on the fishery within the reservoirs be evaluated. We encourage the Bureau of Reclamation to take an active role in determining and implementing optimum water management during and following the completion of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this project.

Cochiti Reservoir is currently managed as a warm water recreational fishery by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF), while Heron, El Vado, and Abiquiu reservoirs are managed as both warm and cold water fisheries. All four reservoirs are stocked several times a year with rainbow trout. Heron and El Vado reservoirs also receive kokanee salmon and cutthroat trout. Abiquiu Reservoir is occasionally stocked with Snake River cutthroat, kokanee salmon, and channel catfish.

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Cochiti receives largemouth bass, walleye, channel catfish, and white bass. Other recreational and non-game species are also present (Table 1).

Fluctuation in water surface elevation from reservoir releases may reduce the reproductive success of some fishes by causing egg mortality, interrupting the spawning sequence, or destroying shoreline shelter. For the NMDGF to properly manage the fishery, the water surface elevation of the reservoir needs to be stable, at least during spawning, and the reservoir stage should be set to maximize the area [extent] of the littoral zone. Reservoir pool levels should be stable, or rising, during early spring and summer to benefit spring-spawning fishes.

We look forward to continued coordination with the Bureau of Reclamation concerning fish and wildlife resources. If we can be of further assistance, please contact Denise Smith of my staff at (505) 346-2525, ext. 146.



Jennifer Fowler-Propst

cc:

Director, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Santa Fe, New Mexico
Director, New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, Forestry
and Resources Conservation Division, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Table 1. List of fish species in Heron, El Vado, Abiquiu and Cochiti reservoirs including species of recreational importance.

Species	Heron	El Vado	Abiquiu	Cochiti
Recreational sport fish				
rainbow trout (<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>)		X	X	X
kokanee salmon (<i>Oncorhynchus nerka kennerlei</i>)	X	X	X	X
northern pike (<i>Esox lucius</i>)			X	X
channel catfish (<i>Ictalurus punctatus</i>)				X
white bass (<i>Morone chrysops</i>)				X
green sunfish (<i>Lepomis cyanellus</i>)			X	X
bluegill (<i>Lepomis macrochirus</i>)			X	X
largemouth bass (<i>Micropterus salmoides</i>)			X	X
smallmouth bass (<i>Micropterus dolomieu</i>)			X	X
white crappie (<i>Pomoxis annularis</i>)				X
black crappie (<i>Pomoxis nigromaculatus</i>)				X
yellow perch (<i>Perca flavescens</i>)			X	X
walleye (<i>Stizostedion vitreum</i>)	X	X	X	X
lake trout (<i>Salvelinus namaycush</i>)	X	X	X	X
brown trout (<i>Salmo trutta</i>)	X	X	X	X
Snake River cutthroat (<i>Oncorhynchus clarki</i>)	X	X	X	X

Table 1. Continued.

Species	Heron	El Vado	Abiquiu	Cochiti
Non-game and forage fish				
threadfin shad (<i>Dorosoma petenense</i>)				X
gizzard shad (<i>Dorosoma cepedianum</i>)				X
red shiner (<i>Cyprinella lutrensis</i>)			X	X
common carp (<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>)	X	X	X	X
Rio Grande chub (<i>Gila pandora</i>)	X			X
river carpsucker (<i>Carpiondes carpio</i>)				X
fathead minnow (<i>Pimephales promelas</i>)	X	X	X	X
western mosquitofish (<i>Gambusia affinis</i>)	X	X	X	X
white sucker (<i>Catostomus commersoni</i>)	X	X	X	X