

Chapter 5. Consultation and Coordination

In developing the Vegetation Management Program and this environmental documentation, Reclamation consulted and coordinated with:

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Selected sites, funded by the State of New Mexico, would be included for herbicide treatment applied via helicopter. Monitoring and investigations would be performed jointly by Reclamation and CSWCD under a Cooperative Assistance Agreement. A Memorandum of Understanding has been completed and signed by Reclamation and CSWCD (Appendix D).

Reclamation plans to seek additional participation from local, state and federal agencies to coordinate and assist in saltcedar management within the project area and on adjacent lands.

- On May 6 and 7th of 2003 Reclamation, Albuquerque Area Office and Denver Technical

Center, met with Tom Davis of CID and discussed biocontrol, aerial herbicide applications and Revegetation. The Seven Rivers area was visited in search of a location for biocontrol releases and a revegetation project site near Artesia. Tours by CID were given to show areas of saltcedars for possible treatments.

- During the development and finalization of the Brantley and Avalon Reservoirs Resource Management Plan (October 2003) the Comanche, Kiowa, Mescalero Apache and the Bureau of Indian Affairs were contacted concerning the possible presence of ITAs within the Project Area. To date, none have been identified (Reclamation, 2003). This document tiers off the Brantley and Avalon Reservoirs Resource Management Plan (RMP) Final Environmental Assessment, October 2003 in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality (40CFR 1500.4). All alternatives considered in this EA are planned in the same Carlsbad Project Area. Consultation was initially performed for the RMP EA document and used in the development of this EA. This is also true for the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office consultation.
- On March 12, 2004 Reclamation held a meeting in Carlsbad NM on the Biological Control method. Information was provided to the public on proposed Reclamation work to make field releases and conduct monitoring of an approved saltcedar biocontrol beetle. New Mexico State University, New Mexico Department Game and Fish, Carlsbad Irrigation District, Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Carlsbad Soil and Water Conservation District were in attendance as well as the public.
- A field site visit between Reclamation staff and the Carlsbad Irrigation District on July 21 and 22, 2004 was conducted to choose areas for treatment to be included in the Draft EA/BA.
- Reclamation plans to seek opportunities to cooperate with local groups and community projects to promote native vegetation on the riparian corridor, including providing plant materials for plantings on project and adjoining public lands when applicable.
- Public notification of spraying by CSWCD will be done prior to aerial pesticide applications as stated in the Memorandum of Understanding (Appendix C).

The following individuals and their respective agencies were contacted during the preparation of this document. They assisted in developing alternatives and/or identifying potential environmental impacts:

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