

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Preliminary Decision Record and Finding of No Significant Impact

Proposed Action: Re-construction and improvements to Arroyo Hondo and Lone Juniper Campgrounds. Improvements and construction for both campgrounds would include: landscaping, and definition and hardening of sites and pathways. An additional toilet with benches, boat ramp, and bus and trailer parking would be installed at Lone Juniper. The purpose of re-construction is to improve traffic flow, increase visual aesthetics, increase universal access, limit user conflicts, and define sites and pathways making campgrounds more user friendly. Site hardening, erosion control techniques, and riparian reclamation will limit existing vegetative disturbance, erosion, and sedimentation.

Decision: It is my preliminary decision to implement the above referenced re-construction activities for Lone Juniper and Arroyo Hondo campgrounds within the Orilla Verde Recreation Area. In addition, I am adopting the mitigation measures described throughout the Environmental Assessment and summarized below.

The Orilla Verde Recreation Area (OVRA) is managed by the Taos Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management. The proposed re-construction area is located within T24N, R11E, Sections 28 and 21.

Analysis determined that the following stipulations would be required.

- Avoidance of a cultural site at Lone Juniper by fencing off the perimeter of the site during campground construction which would be monitored by a BLM engineer.
- Compliance with the conditions as outlined in the New Mexico Environment Department 401 Permit File #2000-025
- Closure of Corp of Engineers jurisdictional area during construction in Arroyo Hondo which would be monitored by a BLM engineer.
- Reseeding of disturbed areas with native grass seed and transplanting of trees that are likely to survive. This will be monitored by a BLM engineer on an annual basis until successfully established.
- Cleaning of heavy equipment prior to construction to prevent spread of noxious weeds as stipulated in the construction contract.
- Use of natural or natural looking materials and colors. Colors to be submitted for BLM approval.
- Planting one acre of riparian vegetation at Taos Junction Bridge to replace the .6 acre lost at Lone Juniper.
- Installation of an interpretive sign at a Orilla Verde Recreation Area entrance to educate visitors of the value of endangered species and habitat. This work will be conducted by OVRA staff or seasonal interns.

Finding of No Significant Impacts: Based on the analysis, I have determined that impacts are not expected to be significant and an environmental impact statement is not required.

Rationale for the Decision: The decision to implement the above referenced re-construction activities within Lone Juniper and Arroyo Hondo campgrounds is consistent with the Rio Grande Corridor Final Plan (2000). Further:

- The major resource issues as identified in planning documents for the Taos Field Office have been adequately considered and no significant impacts to those major resources will occur as a result of this decision.
- Impacts of the activity are considered insignificant.
- There are no adverse impacts to threatened or endangered plant or animal species or cultural resources.
- The proposed action to rebuild campgrounds improves accessibility, defines and limits activity thereby limiting vegetative loss, erosion, and sedimentation, and improves traffic flow and visual quality of the campgrounds.

_____ Ron Huntsinger, Field Office Manager _____ Date