

## XI. Anglers

### Introduction

As the title of this section indicates, letters included are those from individuals who self-identify as anglers on the San Juan River. Their comments constitute about one-fifth of the total comments received on the DEIS and are summarized below.

### Issues Raised

All the letters expressed concern about potential losses to the trout fishery, tourism, and fishing- and tourism-related business. A few of those who commented also cited potential impacts to water quality and fish and wildlife or expressed concern about the hydrology model, perceived limitations of the Summer Low Flow Test, alternatives formulation, and/ or proposed measures for endangered fish species.

### Individuals Included (by Surname)

Agnoletti	Hinds	Patterson
Arterburn	Jimerson	Prescott
Baclawski	Juliana	Pruitt
Bender	Juvera	Rabb
Bennett	Kanemoto	Ramalbo
Blake	Karaian	Renk
Briscoe	Kelton	Rivera
Broderick	Kirkwood	Robinson
Buckley	Madden	Rutledge
Chaulk	Mallory	Sagara
Crawford	Manzanares	Shewnack
Delaney	Martin	Skillen
Duncan	McChesney	Skillen
Erickson	Mead	Smith
Fatiuk	Metzger	Stecklein
Golding	Mitchell	Stevens
Gordon	Morris	Talus
Hadley	Mosko	Tatern
Hall	Nelson	Terrian
Harrison	O'Connor	Wood
Hastings	Oglesby	Wright
Henry	Osborn	
Herdman	Packwood	

## ANGLERS - Comments and Responses

423

**From:** "john agnoletti" <jagnoletti@hotmail.com>  
**To:** <kbeck@uc.usbr.gov>  
**Date:** 12/4/2002 11:45 AM  
**Subject:** san juan flows

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Please keep the world-class fishery on the san juan below navajo dam as a top priority in your decision making.

Another concerned angler,

John Agnoletti

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the new MSN 8 and get 2 months FREE\*

A1-1 Please see the response to General Comment 11.

>>> "Jeffrey B. Arterburn" <[jarterbu@nmsu.edu](mailto:jarterbu@nmsu.edu)> 11/21/02 09:49AM >>>  
To Whom it may concern,

I am a frequent visitor to the San Juan river site below Navajo Dam, and have strong concerns about the impact of the proposed low flows on the world-class fishery located there. The low flows will reduce trout habitat, increase water temperature on the lower river, and lead to a significant reduction in the trout population. This location attracts anglers from around the world, and reductions in the quality of the trout fishery will lead to visitor cancellations that will immediately hurt the economy of New Mexico and Colorado, and will damage the reputation that will lead to long term losses.

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A2-1 Comment noted.

Jeff Arterburn

Jeffrey B. Arterburn  
Associate Professor  
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry MSC 3C  
New Mexico State University  
P.O. Box 30001  
Las Cruces, NM 88003  
(505) 646-2738  
FAX: (505) 646-2649  
[jarterbu@nmsu.edu](mailto:jarterbu@nmsu.edu)

## ANGLERS - Comments and Responses

425

**From:** "baclaws@ecentral.com" <baclaws@ecentral.com>  
**To:** <kbeck@uc.usbr.gov>  
**Date:** 11/27/02 7:38AM  
**Subject:** San Juan River Basin

Mr. Beck,

I am strongly opposed to the river flow reduction from 500 cfs to 250 cfs.

I discovered this area 4 years ago, and I make an annual trip to the San Juan river below the Navajo Dam every October. This is a pastime that my wife and family hope to enjoy for many years to come. In my opinion the San Juan basin is already experiencing loss of habitat and environmental damage due to the vast oil drilling and natural gas producing wells.

I am a registered republican, but I am sick and tired of destroying our environment for the sake of oil production and urban development. Instead of forsaking our environment at every cross road, lets do something to give back to our environment and the lifestyles we enjoy, i.e. flyfishing.

Sincerely,

Jeff Baclawski  
2401 S Humboldt St  
Denver, Co 80210

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A3-1 Please see the response to General Comment 11.

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<http://mail2web.com/>

**BENDER & ASSOCIATES**

1775 Sherman St. #2810 (303) 839-5137  
Denver, Colorado 80203 Fax (303) 832-6417  
1-800-348-6265

FREDRIC H. BENDER  
ANDREW T. AHRENS  
CLAIRE L. YOUNG

October 29, 2002

Ken Beck  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Western Colorado Area Office  
835 East Second Avenue, Suite 400  
Durango, CO 81301

To Ken and the Bureau of Reclamation:

I understand that the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) is proposing changing the flows from Navajo Dam on the San Juan River from a 500 cfs minimum to a 250 cfs minimum. I am an avid fly fisher who has been to the San Juan before and am hoping to do it again in the future. I spend about \$1,000 to fish the San Juan every year. I believe that these types of flows will be detrimental to this great river for several reasons:

- The areas around the San Juan River will be severely economically impacted.
- The habitat of the river will be severely impacted.
- The trout population will also be severely impacted.

I have been lucky enough in my travels to get a chance to experience the beauty of this area and the wonderful fishing it has to offer. I believe that the low flows will impact this area so greatly that my children and their children will not be able to have the same experience in the future. I hope they do. The BOR should do the right thing and keep the flows at a 500 cfs minimum.

Sincerely,



Fredric H. Bender  
Bender & Associates

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A4-1 Please see responses to General Comments 20b, 27, 28, 29, and 30.

# ANGLERS - Comments and Responses

**From:** "C. Scott Bennett" <bennetts@cybermesa.com>  
**To:** <kbeck@uc.usbr.gov>  
**Date:** 11/26/02 6:42PM  
**Subject:** San Juan R. flow rates

Ken Beck  
Bureau of Reclamation

Dear Sir,

As a New Mexico small business owner and fly fisherman with a background in biology, I believe that the flow rate in the San Juan River below Navajo dam should never be allowed to fall below 500 fps. I have fished these quality waters for 25 years and it is obvious to me that such low flows can only be detrimental to the habitat needed to maintain this world class fishery.

It has been my experience as a businessman that a huge number of tourist dollars from around the world are spent in New Mexico each year as a direct result of the fishing opportunity offered by the San Juan. These dollars will dry up along with the river if the trout fishing declines.

Surely a compromise flow rate of 500/5000 fps can be adopted which will meet the needs of downstream species without harming the worldwide attraction of this fine fishery.

Sincerely,

C. Scott Bennett  
5 Rancho Valle  
Española, NM 87532

**CC:** <bschudlich@outsidemag.com>

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A5-1 Please see response to General Comment 5.

A5-2 Please see responses to General Comments 27 and 29.

Walter B. Blake  
34 Mustang Mesa  
Santa Fe, NM 87506  
Phone 505.954.4848 fax 4949  
Email: wbb@cybermesa.com

DEC - 2 2002

Dear Mr. Beck:

I'm a retired person from Santa Fe who loves outdoors activity and fly fishing in particular. I try the best I can to actively support my interests politically and financially. This letter hopefully will encourage you to provide leadership and action in developing options that preserve trout populations by protecting the unique tailwater fishery of the San Juan River in N. New Mexico.

I have read that there are plans to reduce flows to the 250 cfs level. That will produce a very significant reduction in habitat directly below the Navajo Dam-particularly serious in the summer months. Lower flows at the 250 cfs level would also produce unacceptable concentration levels of pollution downstream.

Please reconsider options that would not reduce flows to the above referenced level. Once a quality habit is harmed, the probability it will ever be replenished is slim. Other options must be explored.

Thank you for your favorable consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

*Walter B. Blake*  
Walter B. Blake

Cc: Senators P. Dominici, J. Bingham, US Rep. T. Udall

*November 26, 2002*

A6-1 Please see responses to General Comments 3 and 11.

10/14/02

Bureau of Reclamation  
Western Colorado Area Office  
835 East Second Ave., Suite 400  
Durango, Co. 81301

Re: Draft EIS, Navajo Reservoir Operation

Sirs,

I have just read the draft EIS for the Navajo Reservoir Operations. I am opposed to the 250/5000 Alternative. I would prefer to see the implementation of the 500/5000 Alternative.

The 250/5000 Alternative would harm the existing trout fishery below Navajo Dam. This is a unique world class fishery offering fisherman a diverse opportunity to catch large trout under a variety of conditions. Lowering the flows to 250 CFS will reduce the aquatic habitat by about 1/3 (according to the EIS) and the fishery will suffer as a result. The EIS also notes other impacts to the non-native fishery, electricity generation and possible water pollution problems.

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A7-1 Please see the responses to General Comments 3, 27, and 29.

I fish the San Juan River below Navajo several times a year for two or three days a time. I easily spend \$150 a trip on gas, food, fishing licenses, local lodging, etc. If the quality of the fishery is reduced by the 250/5000 alternative I will likely quit coming to the San Juan River.


I believe that improving water delivery systems for both irrigation uses and domestic uses can make up the difference in water needed by all water users. The 500/5000 alternative, coupled with a water conservation program, seems like the win-win alternative, offering the least impact to the environment, native and non-native fisheries and local economies.

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A7-2 Please see responses to General Comments 20b, 27, 28, 29, and 30.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Best Regards,



Kevin Broderick  
P.O. Box 427  
Placerville, Co. 81430



## ANGLERS - Comments and Responses

430

**From:** FRANK BUCKLEY <fbuck2000@yahoo.com>  
**To:** <kbeck@uc.usbr.gov>  
**Date:** 11/26/02 8:02AM  
**Subject:** San Juan Flows

The 250 cfs option is entirely too low.

It would do major damage to the World Class trout fishery below the dam.

I urge you to maintain a minimum flow of at least 500 cfs.

Sincerely,

Frank Buckley

2005 Fontenelle St.

Las Vegas, NV 89102-3570

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A8-1 Please see response to General Comment 27.

## ANGLERS - Comments and Responses

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September 20, 2002

Alan Chaulk  
2315 Via Cadiz Court NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87104

Ken Beck  
BOR Western Colorado area office  
835 East Second Ave.  
Suite 400  
Durango, CO 81301

**Ref: San Juan River flow rates.**

Mr. Beck:

I recently was informed of the BOR's intention to decrease the water flow in the San Juan River to 250-500cfs during the summer and fall months. I am very much *opposed* to this proposition for the following reasons:

- This will severely effect and possibly devastate the quality of fishing in one of the world's best quality fishing areas.
- The reduced flows would severely impact farming industry further downstream.
- The reduced flow could possibly inflict a fatal blow to small business throughout the San Juan County and Four Corners area.

I personally come up to the San Juan River at least once a month and spend at least \$300.00 on local food, lodging, gas and fishing gear for each trip. My wife and I love the area so much that we purchased land in Aztec at a cost of over \$60,000.00 for our retirement. If the San Juan River is no longer there for fishing then we will not be building on this site and will dump our plans to move to the area and build our new home, thus reducing the local economy even further. I also know of others that intend to move and retire in the Four Corners area that will also change their plans if the San Juan River is destroyed by mismanagement.

I know that on virtually every trip I make to the San Juan River, I will encounter several people that have traveled from foreign countries (Japan/Australia/Europe) to fish this fantastic resource. We all know that there is a lot of money spent to get from these foreign countries to the Four Corners area and more still money to stay in the area for several days or weeks. In my profession as an International Airline Pilot, I frequently have passengers on my flights with fly rods tucked under their arms. When I enquire where they are going (as they just purchased a very expensive ticket on my airline...) most times they tell me to fish the San Juan River.

As you can see, this reduction in flow rate on the San Juan River would be a serious mistake to the local economy and should *not* be implemented.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely:

  
Alan Chaulk

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A9-1 Please see responses to General Comments 20b, 27, 28 29, and 30.

**JAMES W. CRAWFORD, Jr.**  
7383 South Fillmore Circle  
Littleton CO 80122-1942  
Voice: 303-220-5450  
Fax: 303-220-5462  
jwcrawfor@juno.com

November 6, 2002

Mr. Kenneth Beck  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Western Colorado Area Office  
835 East Second Ave., Ste. 400  
Durango CO 81301

Dear Mr. Beck

I am writing about the proposal of the Bureau of Reclamation to reduce the volume of water released from Navajo Dam into the San Juan River from the present 500 cfs minimum to a 250 cfs minimum. I urge you not to make this change, which will significantly impact the river's aquatic life and the tourism industry of the Four Corners region.

I am among a group of anglers who for several years have fished the San Juan's high quality trout habitat just downstream of the dam. I would estimate that our annual expenditure for airfare, food, lodging, guide services, gasoline and fishing licenses contributes \$3,800 to the economies of New Mexico and Colorado.

This amount, although small compared to your agency's budget, can be multiplied by the many thousands of annual visits by other anglers, whose future recreational spending in the Four Corners area will depend on your agency's assurance of continued adequate stream flow of the San Juan River.

A BOR decision to reduce by half the dam's current 500 cfs minimum streamflow cannot help but adversely impact the extraordinary quality of this trout fishery, as increased sedimentation and decreased oxygen content of the water damage trout spawning beds and curtail the rich aquatic life on which the San Juan's famous rainbows and brown trout now thrive.

I urge the Bureau of Reclamation not to adopt a policy so clearly harmful to one of the nation's premier trout fisheries, and to the regional economy it helps to sustain. Please include my comments in the formal record of your proceeding on this matter.

Very truly yours,



Copies to:  
Senators Wayne Allard, Ben Nighthorse Campbell, Jeff Bingaman, Pete Domenici  
Representatives Scott McInnis, Joel Hefley, Tom Tancredo, Tom Udall

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A10-1 Please see responses to General Comments 20b, 27, 28, 29, and 30.

ANGLERS - Comments and Responses

5464 Raritan Place  
Boulder, CO 80303-4116  
Phone: (h) 303-494-8583, (w) 303-492-7476  
FAX: 303-492-5185  
E-mail: [Michael.Delaney@colorado.edu](mailto:Michael.Delaney@colorado.edu)

RE: San Juan EIS

26 November 2002

Mr. Ken Beck  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Western Colorado Area Office  
835 East Second Avenue, Suite 400  
Durango, CO 81301


Dear Mr. Beck:

I write to comment on the draft Environmental Impact Statement on water releases from Navajo Dam. The preferred option, "250/5000" cfs flows would seriously degrade the tailwater trout fishery below the dam. My understanding is that more than a third of the current trout habitat would be dry in a flow regime of only 250 cfs. Additionally, such low flow particularly in summer would impede water quality both in the tailwater itself and in riverine habitat below the tailwater (particularly upstream of Farmington) by raising water temperatures. Both results are unacceptable.

Because of the importance of the trout fishery to the local economy, because the proposed preferred option is primarily to accommodate water uses that may not come on line for a number of years, and because I use and enjoy this extraordinarily productive tailwater fishery, I hope that the final EIS would identify as the preferred option a flow rate of 500/5000 cfs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Michael Delaney

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A11-1 Please see responses to General Comments 23 and 28.

A11-2 Please see the responses to General Comments 3 and 11.

Northern Trust Securities, Inc.  
50 South La Salle Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60675  
(312) 557-2000



Northern Trust

Ken Beck  
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
Western Colorado Area Office  
835 E. 2nd Avenue Suite #400  
Durango, Co 81301

Mr. Beck:

The San Juan River is like no other place in the world. I know of no other place with such prolific trout fishing. From my yearly (past seven years) trip to San Juan, I have come to visit Durango and fish other rivers as well. This year, I even bought an annual CO fishing license.

As a frequent tourist to your region, I would BEG you not to reduce San Juan river flows to below 500 cfs. You will destroy a fine fishery - I don't care what your "research" says.

There has to be another way! I spend about \$1200 per year fishing San Juan! Sincerely,

Jim Duncan  
981 LA COSTA AVENUE  
Bartlett, IL 60103

Jim Duncan

A12-1 Please see responses to General Comments 3, 11, and 27.

Mr. Ken Beck  
Bureau of Reclamation

Dear Mr. Beck,

I am writing to comment on the proposed flows from Navajo Dam of 250-5000 CFS. There has already been a noticeable decrease in the quality of fishing in the San Juan since the low flows of two years ago, and a regular occurrence of 250 cfs for extended periods of time would undoubtedly decimate this fine, although non-native fishery. I'm not sure if this is the object of the proposal, but if it is, I would appreciate your reconsideration. The economic blow to the area would be disastrous. My husband and I alone contribute approximately \$400-\$500 each time we go to the area, currently twice a year. I don't know the number of fishermen that would continue to tolerate a less than first rate experience, but I think it would be very few. Please adopt the option of 500 CFS minimum flow.

Thanks for your time,

Karen and Bob Erickson  
1055 Jasmine  
Las Cruces, NM 88005

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A13-1 Please see the responses to General Comments 3, 11, 27, and 29.

## ANGLERS - Comments and Responses

436

**From:** "Mike Fatiuk" <mikes4club@mybluelight.com>  
**To:** <kbeck@uc.usbr.gov>  
**Date:** 11/26/02 10:59AM  
**Subject:** San Juan Flow

Dear Mr. Beck:

I am a fly fisherman and belong to Trout Unlimited. Dave Nickum of TU recently released an Action Alert regarding an EIS about proposed changes to the flows out of Navajo Dam into the San Juan River. He outlined the disastrous effects on the fishery, as well as the adverse economic impact it would have.

I fish the San Juan only once or twice a year, but would like to voice my opposition to the propose flow changes with a time-worn expression:

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it"

Thank you for your attention.  
Mike Fatiuk  
Colorado Springs

Sign up for Internet Service under \$10 dollars a month, at <http://isp.BlueLight.com>

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A14-1 Comment noted.

>>> "Dennis L. Golding" <dgolding@jeffco.k12.co.us> 01/07/03 07:30AM >>>  
Dear Bureau,

As a Cutthroat Trout Unlimited life member and avid fly fisherman I urge you to reconsider changing the minimum flows on the San Juan River. I as others feel further study should be undertaken to determine the impact of a reduced flow on the trout habitat. I have enjoyed fly fishing the San Juan River for many years and do not want to see this great fishery damaged for the future. A fishery of this quality is too valuable to lose!!

Thank you for your consideration to this matter.

Sincerely,

Dennis Golding

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A15-1 Please see the response to General Comment 16.



John Gordon  
6916 Suerte Place  
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Ken Beck  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Western Colorado Area Office  
835 East Second Avenue, Suite 400  
Durango, Colorado 81301

Ken,

I'm writing this letter regarding the proposed flows for the San Juan River. I'm concerned that the proposed flows of 250 CFS would as the EIS states "significantly impact" the trout fishery below Navajo Dam. I would like to submit my belief that the flows be no less than 500 CFS to help protect this wonderful resource.

Not only would this world famous trout fishery be "significantly impacted" but also the revenue lost to the state of NM and the local San Juan businesses would be substantial. I have no holdings or financial interest personally in the San Juan area only as a concerned fly fisherman. I fish the San Juan 20-25 days a year and contribute over \$2,000 annually to the local economy. Hotel stays, gas, food, fishing supplies, ect.

People come from all over the world to fish this incredible resource of ours. I realize that the BOR has a complex decision before them but Please consider the impact that your decision will make to not only this generation but also future generations to follow.

Respectfully submitted,



John Gordon  
6916 Suerte Place NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87113  
(505) 797-9940

A16-1 Please see responses to General Comments 3, 11, 27, and 29.

## ANGLERS - Comments and Responses

439

**From:** "Harry C. Hall" <hchall@ix.netcom.com>  
**To:** <kbeck@uc.usbr.gov>  
**Date:** 11/26/02 11:26AM  
**Subject:** DEIS Re Minimum San Juan Flows

Mr. Beck:

Please be advised that I object to the subject proposal on the basis that the resultant habitat reduction of 34% would be a serious blow to the economically and recreationally important San Juan trout fishery, one of the finest in the country. It is my position that more study should be given to alternatives between the proposed 250 cfs minimum and the current 500 cfs minimum. I would also also point out that the proposed water developments that the Bureau is trying to accommodate may not come on line for years - if ever- and that it would be a serious mistake to make operational changes now based on not yet certain future requirements.

Harry Hall  
61 Golden Eagle Road  
Greenwood Village, CO 80121

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A17-1 Please see responses to General Comments 3, 11, 27, and 29.

November 29, 2002

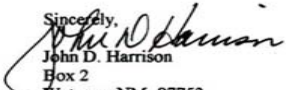
Mr. Ken Beck  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Western Colorado Area Office  
835 East Second Ave. Suite 400  
Durango, CO 81301

Dear Mr. Beck,

I am writing to you to ask that you reconsider the options available to maintain a minimum flow in the San Juan of 500 cfs. The damage of lower flows could be huge to this World Class Fishery. Many of the proposed water developments that you are trying to accommodate may not become a reality in the near future if ever. Certainly the preservation of some endangered species is most important however it appears that you have not looked at a full range of options for this protection without resorting to drastically reduced summer and winter dam releases. It is imperative that you consider minimum flows between 250 cfs and 500 cfs and most important that these lower flows occur during winter months when irrigation will not exacerbate the low flow conditions.

Thank you for your time and consideration of maintaining the San Juan as the World-Class Fishery that it has become, I would hope that my Grandchildren would have the opportunity to enjoy this river as I have.

Sincerely,

  
John D. Harrison  
Box 2  
Watrous, NM 87753

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A18-1 Please see responses to General Comments 5, 9, and 11.

## ANGLERS - Comments and Responses

441

**From:** "Fuse E-Mail #1" <shastings@fuse.net>  
**To:** <kbeck@uc.usbr.gov>  
**Date:** 11/26/02 5:10PM  
**Subject:** San Juan Trout fishing

Dear Mr. Beck,

I am sure you are aware of the FFF position on trout water below Navajo Dam. I am just writing to let you know that as a Kentucky angler, I have made 3 trips to the San Juan to participate in this spectacular fishery. It is my hope to someday take my Son. It is disappointing to see that once again the interests of thousands of recreational fishermen are secondary to the concerns of a few ranching interests in the valley. Surely you can find a compromise that will not sacrifice the fishing for the farms. More of us are affected than you realize, we are just used to being ignored and have about given up on the process.

Stanley Hastings DVM  
shastings@fuse.net  
799 Mt. Zion Rd.  
Florence, KY 41042

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A19-1 Please see the responses to General Comment 11.

## ANGLERS - Comments and Responses

442

**From:** Kendall Henry <kendall@sopris.net>  
**To:** <kbeck@uc.usbr.gov>  
**Date:** 12/1/02 6:05PM  
**Subject:** San Juan Minimum Flows

Dear Ken Beck: Please keep the minimum flows at 500cfs for the San Juan. It is a world class fishery and lowering the flows would greatly harm the the fish and therefore the tourism. Take a look at the Dolores River below the McFee Dam! Kendall Henry

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A20-1 Please see the responses to General Comments 3, 11, and 27.

## ANGLERS - Comments and Responses

443

**From:** "Frank T Herdman" <fherdman@rksar.com>  
**To:** <kbeck@uc.usbr.gov>  
**Date:** 12/4/02 10:01AM  
**Subject:** San Juan River

Dear Mr. Beck

I offer the following comments regarding the proposal to reduce the flow of the San Juan River:

I oppose the option put forth by the Bureau of Reclamation of 250/5000 cfs flow regime on the grounds that it will disrupt and adversely affect the trout fishery below the dam. Instead, I support a 500/5000 cfs flow regime, which would maximize the habitat for endangered species downstream and maintain the trout fishery.

The San Juan River has become an increasingly valuable and dependable resource for trout fishing given the drought that has drastically reduced flows on smaller New Mexico streams to the point that has rendered them unfishable. I believe it is imperative to maintain the San Juan River as a viable trout fishery, and believe that the flow regime put forth the Bureau is contrary to the goal.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Frank Herdman  
1913 Kiva Road  
Santa Fe, New Mexico

**CC:** "Bill Schudlich" <bill\_s@outsidemag.com>

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A21-1 Please see responses to General Comments 3, 11, and 27.

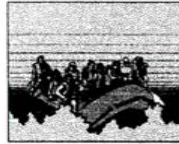
ANGLERS - Comments and Responses



**David S. & E. Annette  
Hinds**

10,900 Enger St., Bakersfield, CA 93312  
661-589-5678  
555 "D" River Rd., Bliss, Idaho 83314  
208-837-9145

Dhinds@csubak.edu Ahalpern@csubak.edu



October 30, 2002

Mr. Ken Beck  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Western Colorado Area Office  
835 East Second Ave., Ste. 400  
Durango CO 81301

Dear Mr. Beck:

I urge that the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) keep minimum flows from Navajo Dam on the San Juan River at 500 cfs. I understand that BOR is proposing reducing the minimum flow to 250 cfs. I believe that this flow is too low and it will detrimental to this great river for several reasons:

- Habitat of river for aquatic life, as well as for wildlife that uses river, will be decreased by 34%.
- Trout population that is considered to be one of healthiest in US will be decreased by 20-30%.
- Lack of water flowing through river will increase sedimentation, thus decreasing habitat even further.
- Low flows, especially in summer months, will allow for more pollution and poorer water quality.
- Areas around San Juan River will be economically impacted severely and jobs and businesses will be lost.

I am an avid fly fisher who has been to the San Juan before and am hoping to do it again in the future. I spend at least \$700/trip in the San Juan area to fish the San Juan River. Many other fishermen also do the same, and undoubtedly many of them spend even more in the area. Given the predictions on the fishery of reducing the water flow, and the other fisherman, would not return to the area again. Thus, the area would suffer a severe reduction in the amount of money spent there. From studies done in other fisheries the amount of moneys lost by the reduction in sportsman visitors would far exceed whatever moneys gained by reducing the water flow. Thus, it does not seem economically feasible to reduce the flows. And, surely, anyone would expect that it would have an adverse biological affect.

I have been lucky enough in my travels to get a chance to experience the beauty of this area and the wonderful fishing it has to offer. I hope that my children and I can continue to do so. The BOR should do the economically and biologically correct thing and keep the flows at a minimum of 500 cfs.

*Sincerely*

A22-1 Please see responses to General Comments 20b, 27, 28, 29, and 30.

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Tim "TJ"  
Jimerson  
PO Box 6322  
Navajo Dam  
NM 87419

December 4, 2002

Ed Warner  
Resources Division Manager  
BOR – Western Colorado Area Office  
2764 Compass Drive, Suite 106  
Grand Junction, CO 81506

Dear Mr. Warner:

These are a few of my concerns about the DEIS, for the reoperation of Navajo Dam.

1- How can you say in the DEIS that the low flow test had "No Significant Impact" to analyze when at the September meeting of the San Juan Fly Fishing Federation, your own fisheries biologist stated that you quit the test early because you could see irreparable damage would occur if you continued the test any further? And if he, the biologist, was wrong in stating so, then why didn't you or Pat Page correct the statement since the two of you were also sitting there. Especially since everyone admits that the conditions which occurred, or didn't occur, such as low temperature, rain, and lack of irrigating, made the test, and the results flawed.

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2- Why, with all of the years, and the millions of tax payers money, is the DEIS compiled of only models, and no scientific data? Why is there the failure to adequately discuss the enormous adverse economic impact to the citizens of San Juan County, and the citizens of South West Utah?

2

3- The BOR, and the San Juan RIP Committee both stated, at the start of the public meetings, that there would be various high flows, and various low flows, to find the best flows for the endangered fish. My concerns are:

- Since the various high flows were not tried, there is not data to substantiate that the lower high flows would be sufficient.
- and since the lake didn't have enough water to meet the usual high flow, about two years ago, the BOR offered the RIP the same time

3

A23-1 Please see the responses to General Comments 22 and 28.

A23-2 Please see the response to General Comment 31.

A23-3 Please see the response to General Comment 20c.



- frame at 3000 cfs, but refused it, and stated they would either accept 5000 cfs or 500 cfs, and nothing in-between,
- and because of that, and many other reasons

I, along with so very many others, believe that the RIIP, BOR, or both, from the start, already had minds made up, and just searched for a way to come up with the results to justify predetermined decisions.

||| 4

4- I also don't believe that the DEIS adequately addressed the water quality issues on the entire river below Navajo Dam. If keeping a little more water in the river for human and animal consumption is needed, than that should be one of your main concerns.

||| 5

There are many more examples that I would like to express, but in keeping with requirements for brevity, I close.

Sincerely,

Tim "TJ" Jimerson

A23-4 Comment noted. Please see responses to General Comments 10 and 11.

A23-5 Please see responses to General Comments 20 (f) and 23.

9/23/2002

Mr. Ken Beck  
BOR, Western Co. Area Office  
835 East Second Ave. Suite 400  
Durango, Co. 81301

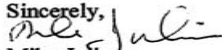
Dear Mr. Ken Beck

I am a flyfisherman from Southern NM who drives to the San Juan several times a year to fish. I am very concerned about the draft of the Environmental Impact Statement concerning the flows on the San Juan river.

I am very much opposed to reducing the flow to 250 cfs. Not only does this reduce the amount of suitable habitat for both fish and bugs, it increases the crowding on the fishery. This year we have already lost approximately half of the catch and release stretch do to reaction to the terrible 9/11 event. Lowering the flow makes a lot of the shallower runs unsuitable for both fish and anglers, and concentrates the fishermen.

When I go to the San Juan I spend money on campgrounds, gas, food, state park access, and many other incidentals. If the quality of the experience degrades sufficiently, people like me will find somewhere else to go or something else to do. I think the impact to the four corners region would be significant.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment, and hope that it will make a difference.

Sincerely,  
  
Mike Juliana  
6120 Old Clovis Hwy  
Roswell, NM 88201

A24-1 Approximately 1/4 mile of river directly below Navajo Dam was closed to public access due to required increased security measures on Reclamation facilities which were implemented after the September 11, 2001 incident. Please see responses to General Comments 3 and 27.

A24-2 Quality of the angling experience was a factor considered in determining the recreation losses which in turn were used to determine economic impacts in the EIS. Please see response to General Comment 31.

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EIS

Juvera  
62584 E. Flower Ridge Dr.  
Tucson, AZ  
85739

September 24, 2002

Area Office 835 East Second Ave  
Suite 400 Durango, Co 81301

Dear Sir,

I travel to the San Juan four to five times a year and use a guide once a year, I stay at the local motels and use the eating facilities at Navajo Dam and Aztec. I spend about 3000 dollars ~~per year up in that~~ area fishing.

I am opposed to the EIS and the result the current policies will have on the San Juan fishery, I and my family really enjoy spending time in that area. I thank you for taking the time to read my letter and I hope that due consideration is given to keeping this fishery healthy for trout fishing.

1

A25-1 Please see the responses to General Comments 11 and 27.

Sincerely,  
Ralph V. Juvera  
Retired

.....

# ANGLERS - Comments and Responses

**From:** Henry Kanemoto <kanemoto@dwave.net>  
**To:** <kbeck@uc.usbr.gov>  
**Date:** 11/27/02 4:36PM  
**Subject:** San Juan River Minimum flows

Mr. Ken Beck

I am a long time fly fisher having visited the San Juan River below Navaho Dam numerous times since the early 1990's.

I have fished during times of heavy flows at 5,500 CSF and at low flows of 500 CSF. I am opposed to flows below 500 CSF as it would decrease the habitat by 34% below even the low flows of 500 CSF.

I urge you to consider other alternatives which will maintain flows in the summer months when thermal pollution becomes critical to maintain the cold water fishery. For example, the low flows below 500 CSF could be limited to the winter months when thermal pollution is not a threat. In addition, I feel there is no need at this time to plan the low flows necessary to implement water projects such as the Animas-La Plata and the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project which may not need the water for years, if ever. Certainly, there is no need to include those water needs until such time as they are actually developed.

Finally, the planning could be fine tuned to incrementally decrease the flows below 500 CSF rather than taking the 50% decrease from 500 to 250 CSF. Every incremental additional CSF of flow is critical at these low levels.

Sincerely,

Henry Kanemoto, MD

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A26-1 Please see responses to General Comments 3 and 5.

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2

A26-2 Please see response to General Comment 11.

Tuesday, 11/12/02

Dear Mr. Beck,

I understand that Bureau of Reclamation is recommending a 250/5000 Alternative for Management of the Narzo Reservoir operations. I oppose this recommendation and urge you not to implement it.

I am an avid fly fisherman who contributes to the Four Corners economy and worry that the fishing will deteriorate with low flows. Minimum releases should as close to 500 cfs as possible. Lower flows will be politically unacceptable to fly fishermen and may ruin the excellent reputation (world wide) of the San Juan River among fishermen.

The tourism industry is under great stress already in the Four Corners — stressing/ruining the world class San Juan fishery will make matters only worse.

~~Best~~ Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Charles H. Karsia MD  
5001 Greenwood Hills Dr. NE  
Albuquerque NM 87111

A27-1 Please see responses to General Comments 27 and 31.

ANGLERS - Comments and Responses

From: <AJKelton@aol.com>  
To: <kbeck@uc.usbr.gov>  
Date: 12/4/02 3:44PM  
Subject: Draft EIS for Navajo Reservoir Operations

Mr. Ken Beck

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
Western Colorado Area Office  
kbeck@uc.usbr.gov

December 4, 2002

Re: Draft EIS for Navajo Reservoir Operations

Dear Mr. Beck,

I am writing to express my concern over the Preferred Alternative offered in the above draft EIS (DEIS).

As someone who regularly fishes the Quality Waters of the San Juan, I am dismayed to see the proposal for reducing flows to 250 cfs in summer. Even at 400 cfs, I have found, major side channels are de-watered, the trout are increasingly crowded and stressed, and angler crowding is much greater, all of which reduce the quality of the experience. For this situation - or worse, 250 cfs flows - to become a regular and continuous summer event in the Quality Waters will make me much less likely to visit the San Juan from my home in Santa Fe, or to spend money on fishing tackle, food, gas and accommodation in the Navajo Dam area.

1

I understand from the DEIS that the Quality Waters fishery may be worth some \$15 million annually to the local economy, through spending by out-of-state anglers, and estimate that several million dollars more is contributed by New Mexico anglers such as myself. I believe that reducing summer flows to 250 cfs over long periods will severely reduce this spending - perhaps by several million dollars - and cause serious impacts for the local economy.

2

I also understand that these impacts may be unnecessary. The amount of storage water saved by reducing summer flows from the present c.500 cfs minimum to 250 cfs will apparently make no significant contribution to the high spring releases needed for endangered species spawning downstream, nor is it presently needed for undeveloped irrigation schemes such as the Navajo Gallup project which is still many years away from start-up. As I understand it, the 250 cfs summer low-flow is being proposed instead as a means of meeting so-called optimal target summer flows for the endangered species near Farmington, with flows from Navajo Dam being cut back when Animas River flows contributing to the San Juan are higher. Given the uncertainty over what are optimal summer habitat flows for these endangered species, and the difficulty of managing the endangered species habitat through releases from Navajo Dam given the five-day lag time anyway, the rigid 250 cfs low-flow proposal seems highly inappropriate.

3

Instead, I would support a 250 Variable/5000 alternative which permits flows

A28-1 Please see response to General Comment 27.

A28-2 Please see the responses to General Comments 29 and 31.

A28-3 The baseflow operations are designed to maintain flows downstream from Farmington above 500 cfs to save water for the next year's spring peak and to meet future development of water rights. Please see responses to General Comments 11 and 20c.



in the Quality Waters to drop below 500 cfs in situations of high necessity (such as the present drought and need to refill Navajo Reservoir), but which protects the Quality Waters and downstream trout fishery to the maximum extent possible through operational discretion. This flexibility would allow all different interests on the San Juan to be protected adequately if not completely - rather than sacrificing some (such as the quality trout fishery) for others - thereby permitting a sustainable stakeholder compromise as has been achieved on the Green River below Flaming Gorge dam, where there are many similar issues. I do not believe that the DEIS adequately addresses the biological and economic impacts of the 250 Variable low-flow alternative, nor its potential for mitigating the severe impacts to the trout fishery that would be caused by the Preferred Alternative.

4

With many thanks for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Andrew Kelton  
Tesuque, NM

A28-4 Please see responses to General Comments 1, 3, 5, and 11.

ANGLERS - Comments and Responses

September 23, 2002

Ken Beck  
BOR Western CO Office  
835 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Suite 400  
Durango, CO 81301

Dear Mr. Beck:

I am writing to express my concerns about the Environmental Impact Statement concerning the San Juan River below Navajo Dam. I strongly oppose the 250/5000 proposal.

I believe the proposal to drop flows to 250 cfs minimum will be very detrimental to the fishery as it is today as well as the communities and individuals who make a living off of this area. I know that the 250 cfs is a minimum limit, however, when this limit is attained (in a dry area such as this it will), I fear for the viability of the fishery.

The San Juan River's quality waters section is known literally the world over as being one of the finest trout fishing areas anywhere. It would be a shame to harm that reputation and the people and fish that thrive because of that reputation.

I doubt very seriously that the razorback sucker and the Colorado pikeminnow will generate the kind of revenue that the trout in the San Juan quality trout water does. I think it is wrong to sacrifice people's livelihoods for a fish that is of no economic value to the state of New Mexico or the United States.

I thank you for your time to read my letter and hope that the BOR will decide against potentially reducing the flows of the San Juan so drastically.

Sincerely,

*Robert D Kirkwood*  
*Robert D Kirkwood*  
47980 Janet Lane  
Lexington Park, MD 20653

*P.S. I also make 3 to 4 trips each year to fish the San Juan, and spend over \$1,000.00 each trip. I would not pay that kind of money if the fishery was not as good as it is.*

1

A29-1

Please see responses to General Comments 10, 20b, 27, 28, 29, and 30.



ANGLERS - Comments and Responses

From: "Hugh Madden" <hmadden@worldnet.att.net>  
To: <navcomments@uc.usbr.gov>  
Date: Mon, Dec 2, 2002 5:42 PM  
Subject: Navajo Dam Proposal

December 2, 2003

Mr. Ken Beck  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Western Colorado Area Office  
835 East Second Avenue, Suite 400  
Durango, CO 81301

Dear Mr. Beck:

I am writing to urge the Bureau of Reclamation not to approve the 250/5000 cfs Preferred Alternative for Navajo Dam water releases as proposed in its recent Draft Environmental Impact Statement. I believe the Bureau needs to do a better job of crafting options that will preserve endangered fish species while protecting the world-class tailwater fishery of the San Juan River. I therefore urge the Bureau to support alternatives that will assure minimum flows of 500 cfs in the San Juan, or at least come closer to that target than the Bureau's Preferred Alternative.

1

A30-1 Please see response to General Comment 5.

Under current operations, a minimum release threshold of 500 cfs has helped to foster development of the San Juan River as a world-class trout fishery. With flows reduced to 250 cfs, the "quality waters" directly below Navajo Dam would suffer a 34% reduction in habitat. Dropping flows to 250 cfs during the irrigation season would be especially damaging for the river downstream from the special regulations section, as agricultural diversions could reduce the river to little more than a trickle. Low flows during the hot summer months would also lead to high water temperatures, creating more troubles for trout. The reduced flows would also reduce the dilution of pollutants in the San Juan River, meaning poorer water quality for fish and people alike.

2

A30-2 Please see responses to General Comments 3, 11, and 27.

The Bureau is to be commended in seeking measures to provide water to preserve endangered species in the form of higher springtime releases. But the Bureau has not looked at a full range of options for protecting the species without resorting to drastically reduced summer and winter dam releases. For example, the Bureau in its DEIS did not consider any minimum flow options between 250 cfs and 500 cfs; nor did it consider limiting 250 cfs releases to the winter months, when irrigation diversions wouldn't exacerbate low flow conditions.

3

A30-3 Please see response to General Comment 11.

Similarly, the DEIS appears to regard as a "given" the eventual full development of a number of water projects, including Animas-La Plata and the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project, and did not even consider any alternatives that would maintain a 500 cfs minimum flow for the indefinite time period before those prospective water uses are actually developed. These proposed water developments may not come on line for years, if ever, and it would be a travesty to sacrifice a world-class fishery for the mere possibility of those developments in the future.

4

A30-4 Please see responses to General Comments 3 and 11.

For these reasons, I urge the Bureau to return to the drawing board, so as to address the merits of reasonable, and less impactful, streamflow alternatives to which the DEIS gave scant or no consideration.

Thank you for your attention.

Very truly yours,

Hugh A. Madden  
7360 E. Pleasant Run  
Scottsdale, AZ 85258



Street: 7525 Second NW      Mail: PO Box 10597      Phone: 505-898-9615  
Albuquerque NM      Albuquerque NM      Fax: 505-898-2105  
87107      87184-0597      Web: headsuplandscape.com

DEC -2 2002

November 25, 2002

Ken Beck  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Western Colorado Area Office  
East Second Avenue, Suite 400  
Durango, Colorado 81301

**RE: EIS on the Operation of Navajo Dam, NM.**

Dear Mr. Beck:

Your agency has recommended a flow regime called the "250/5000" Alternative for releases from Navajo Dam into the San Juan River. The Bureau of Reclamation acknowledges that **250 cfs releases will negatively impact the trout fishery below the dam by reducing the habitat for trout and the macro-invertebrates that support the trout population. I as a member of New Mexico Trout would like to recommend that the agency adopt the "500/5000" alternative which would keep the minimum releases at 500 cfs.**

Although, I understand the original intended use for the Dam was not recreational, there is no denying that the San Juan Fishery has itself become a national treasure that requires our stewardship. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information that will assist in our organization's effort to protect this fine fishery.

Sincerely

Gary Mallory

1

A31-1      Please see responses to General Comments 3, 5, 11, and 28.

## ANGLERS - Comments and Responses

456

**From:** <AbelManz@cs.com>  
**To:** <kbeck@uc.usbr.gov>  
**Date:** 11/26/02 9:51PM  
**Subject:** Re: Urgent alert! Help keep the San Juan Flowing

Mr. Beck— This is response to the bureau's recommendation to reduce the flow in the San Juan River to 250 cfs. I plead that this not be done. It would ruin a world class fishery. I think there are many other options available The reduction in water flow to 250cfs would reduce the trout habitat by plus 30% and reduce the quality of water not mention the economic impact. Please find ways to preserve this very special place, we have so few left. Thank you for your time.  
Abel Manzanares  
2308 7th Ave  
Pueblo, CO 81003  
E-mail AbelManz@cs.com

<< kbeck@uc.usbr.gov. >>

1

A32-1 Please see the response to General Comment 11.

12/1/02

TO: B.O.R.

ATTN: MR KEN BECK

I AM WRITING IN REGARDS TO THE PROPOSED FLOW CHANGES FOR THE SAN JUAN RIVER.

I HAVE THE FOLLOWING CONCERNS:

1) FAILURE OF THE DRAFT EIS TO INCLUDE RESULTS OF IMPACT ON INSECT LIFE AND THE LONG TERM IMPACT OF THESE CHANGES ON TROUT AND OTHER FISH IN THE FIRST 15 MILES BELOW NAUJO DAM.

1

2) WHETHER OR NOT THE DRAFT EIS ADEQUATELY DISCUSSES ALTERNATIVE FLOW RECOMMENDATIONS; HOW SUCH

2

A33-1 Please see responses to General Comments 20b, 27, 28, 29, and 30.

A33-2 Please see responses to General Comments 5 and 11.

ANGLERS - Comments and Responses

2 cont.

PLANS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AND THE DIFFERENCES, IF ANY BETWEEN THE VARIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS.

3

3) WHETHER THE DRAFT EIS STATEMENT ADEQUATELY ADDRESSED WATER QUALITY ISSUES FOR THE ENTIRE REACH BELOW NAUASO DAM IN MAKING ITS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ALTERNATIVE FLOWS.

A33-3 Please see responses to General Comments 20 (f) and 23.

4

4) FAILURE OF THE DRAFT TO ADEQUATELY ADDRESS THE EARLY TERMINATION OF SUMMER LOW FLOW STUDY BECAUSE OF FEARS THAT IRREPARABLE DAMAGE MIGHT OCCUR IF THE TEST WERE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE.

A33-4 Please see the responses to General Comments 22 and 28.

SINCERELY

WILLIAM MARTIN

*William Martin*

PO BOX 6392

NAUASO DAM

N.M. 87419

Ken Beck  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Western Colorado Area Office  
835 East Second Avenue, Suite 400  
Durango, Colorado 81301

Mr. Beck:

The BoR's draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the operation of Navajo Dam is recommending a flow regime referred to as the "250/5000 Alternative", even though acknowledging that 250 cfs releases will negatively impact the trout fishery below Navajo Dam.

This level of flow will reduce habitat for trout and the macro-invertebrates the trout feed on. It will also put fish under more stress for a prolonged period of time. New Mexico Trout has recommended that the agency adopt the "500/5000 alternative" which would keep minimum releases at 500 cfs.

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A34-1 Please see responses to General Comments 3, 27, and 28.

My wife and I are "zero limit" catch and release anglers who regularly volunteer for habitat restoration, streamside repairs, and garbage cleanups through New Mexico Trout, a non-profit conservation organization. We care about the health of New Mexico streams, not only for recreational purposes, but also for the intrinsic right of these species to survive, and the preservation of the aesthetic integrity of our riparian habitats.

We spend approximately 30 days a year fishing the quality trout waters just below the Navajo Dam because it is so beautiful and unique to New Mexico. If the flows were reduced to 250 cfs, we could not, in good conscious, continue to fish those waters and contribute to the further stress, degradation and destruction of that unique habitat. If this happens, everyone suffers; the businesses of Navajo Dam, Aztec, Bloomfield, and surrounding regions that cater to conscientious anglers.

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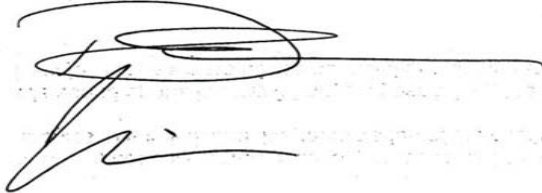
A34-2 Please see responses to General Comments 29 and 31.

We strongly urge the Bureau to adopt minimum flows of at least 500 cfs to help maintain this excellent fishery for our future generations.

||  
3

A34-3 Please see response to General Comment 3.

David & Carrie McChesney  
1603 Princeton Drive NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87106





## ANGLERS - Comments and Responses

460

**From:** "Richard Mead" <remead@qwest.net>  
**To:** <kbeck@uc.usbr.gov>  
**Date:** 11/26/02 11:05AM  
**Subject:** San Juan River

Dear Sir:

I just received a disturbing notice concerning the Bureau's idea to reduce the minimum flows on the San Juan to accomodate some future, unknown development. The San Juan is one of America's premier tailwater trout fisheries and is the economic lifeblood for the area surrounding the river. The act of cutting the minimum flows in half would basically ruin the San Juan's trout habitat.

This idea needs to be studied further with an eye toward preserving, not destroying the fishery. Please don't take any injurious action toward the San Juan until all interested parties have had a chance to contribute to the study.

Thank you for protecting the prized trout of the San Juan.  
A concerned angler,

Richard Mead

1

A35-1 Please see the responses to General Comments 11 and 27.

## ANGLERS - Comments and Responses

461

**From:** "Daniel Metzger" <d.s.metzger@worldnet.att.net>  
**To:** <kbeck@uc.usbr.gov>  
**Date:** 11/28/02 1:52PM  
**Subject:** San Juan River Flow Rates

Dear Mr. Beck:

As a fisherman, I am deeply concerned about the lower flow rates the Bureau of Reclamation is proposing for the San Juan fishery below the Navajo Dam. This is a very popular, world-class fishery that will be adversely affected by halving the flow rate.

I understand that there are many diverse demands on our waterways and that the Bureau has the tough job of balancing these demands. However, it seems to me that there must be alternatives to such a drastic reduction in the San Juan minimum flow rate.

Yes, I would prefer that the minimum flow remain at 500 cps. I hope that the Bureau will consider more alternatives before reducing the flow to 250 cps. Neither the necessity nor the urgency of this action is clear to me.

Respectfully,

Daniel S. Metzger  
1248 Vallecita Drive  
Santa Fe, NM 87501  
d.s.metzger@att.net

505-988-8981

1

A36-1 Please see responses to General Comments 20b, 27, 28, 29, and 30.

**CC:** <bschudlich@outsidemag.com>



169 Black Walnut Drive  
Rochester, NY 14615  
20 Sept 2002

Mr. Ken Beck, BOR  
835 East Second Ave.  
Suite 400  
Durango, CO 81301

Dear Mr. Beck:

I write to you with concern about the water flow levels proposed for the ~~San Juan~~ River in the future.

I fly fish several weeks a year in the Quality Waters section of the San Juan, below Navajo Dam. As you are aware, it is a tremendous recreational resource for the area and brings in many vacationers. My home in New York state is not exactly close by. From what I have heard, a proposed minimum of only 250 cfs flow is very inadequate to maintain a robust trout population, and I would heartily support regulations requiring a significantly higher minimum, say 500 cfs. The fishery there – world class – is too precious to jeopardize.

I know there are competing uses for limited water, but the fish certainly deserve a minimum to maintain year round healthy river conditions.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

  
Gary F. Mitchell

A37-1 Please see responses to General Comments 3, 20b, 27, 28, 29, and 30.

ANGLERS - Comments and Responses

KEN BECK BOR  
WESTERN AREA CO. AREA OFFICE  
835 3 2ND AVENUE  
DURANGO, COLORADO 81301

KEN, I AM APPOSED TO EIS

I FISH THE SAN JUAN 8 TO 10 DAYS PER YEAR. I LIVE IN DALLAS TX AND THE SAN JUAN IS THE CLOSEST QUALITY TROUT FISHERY THAT COMBINES FISHING AND MOUNTAINS, I ENJOY THE SCENERY AS MUCH AS THE FISHING.

I SPEND BETWEEN \$1500 AND \$2000 PER YEAR FOR GAS, LODGING, FOOD, LICENSES, FLYS, TACKLE ECT. ALMOST ALL THIS MONEY IS SPENT IN NEW MEXICO.

PLEASE RECONSIDER EIS.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO READ MY LETTER.

I AM FISHING ON THE SAN JUAN NOV 17TH THRU NOV 22.

REGARDS.

  
RICK MORRIS  
2728 LANDERSHIRE  
PLANO, TX. 75023  
972 596-3273

A38-1 Please see responses to General Comments 20b, 27, 28, 29, and 30.

# ANGLERS - Comments and Responses

**From:** "Thom M" <tmosk1@hotmail.com>  
**To:** <kbeck@uc.usbr.gov>  
**Date:** 11/26/02 6:20PM  
**Subject:** Navajo Reservoir Operations

Dear Mr. Ken Beck:

After spending considerable time reading and absorbing the subject document, I have the following comments to make.

Subject: DEIS No. DES-02-35  
 Navajo Reservoir Operations

As a resident of La Plata County, an avid trout fisherman and frequenter of the quality waters below Navajo Dam, including the stretch between the Village and Hammond diversion, I am strongly opposed to the preferred alternative as defined by the Draft EIS. My support is for the 500/5000 alternative.

I believe there to be numerous deficiencies in the DEIS including the following:

The socioeconomic impact to LaPlata and Montezuma Counties was ignored or intentionally omitted. Based on information from American Sportfishing Association, NM State Parks and Durango Area Chamber of Commerce, I would expect this to have an economic impact to Durango and LaPlata county of between \$4.5 and \$10 million.

The impact to this world class fishery and the subsequent socioeconomic impacts are grossly under-appreciated.

The fact that the one-week summer low flow test showed no decline in fishing interest does not represent what will be seen over time.

Reducing the trout habitat by a third or more at the 250cfs flow will have the effect of reducing trout populations and concentrating anglers resulting in the substantial decline in the quality of the fishing and fishing experience. This will easily cut in half the number of out of state angler/days.

The cost to NIIP and other large water users under the 500/5000 alternative is grossly overstated with the assumption that nothing beyond the current development is possible unless the 250/5000 alternative is adopted. This cost must be fine tuned and balanced against the loss of this world class fishery and all of the resulting socioeconomic impacts.

With the flow from the Dam being reduced to 350cfs about a month ago, we are already seeing some mortality and substantially changed behavior in the fish in the Quality water.

If the 500/5000 alternative is totally out of the question, BOR should consider evaluating several flow regimes between 500 and 250 on the low end.

Also, BOR should evaluate what would be required and the cost associated with pumping from the reservoir 10 feet lower then is currently possible. This could make 500/5000 feasible without damaging any of the Trust responsibilities.

Finally, if 250 or some minimum flow lower than 500 is to be adopted, BOR should commit to using undeveloped water for the fishery. There is no reason to destroy this valuable economic resource now when the actual use of the water will be taking place as far out as 2025 or beyond (or maybe never). If this commitment is not made there will be many temptations to temporarily use this water for other purposes until the future water commitments already approved come on line. These comments are not to be taken as trout and the fishery vs. the endangered fish. I see this whole matter as the trout and fishery being sacrificed for the very last possible drop of water development, pure and simple. Last but not least I find it interesting and begging the question of conflict of interest that the power in the Biology Committee is in the hands of the biologists who are working for and paid by the major water users.

Respectively submitted,

Thom Mosko  
 10 Pine Ridge Loop  
 Durango, CO 81301  
 970-385-1813

- A39-1 Please see responses to General Comment 27 and 29.
- A39-2 Please see response to General Comment 22.
- A39-3 Please see responses to General Comments 20b, 27, 28, 29, and 30.
- A39-4 Please see response to General Comment 31.
- A39-5 Reclamation frequently consults with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. No mention has been made of trout mortality in the tailwater portion of the San Juan River since flows were reduced to 350 cfs last fall. Similarly, Reclamation has not been advised that the trout have been behaving in an abnormal way during the same time frame.
- A39-6 Please see response to General Comment 11.
- A39-7 Please see response to General Comment 8.
- A39-8 Please see response to General Comment 11.
- A39-9 Please see response to General Comment 10.

## ANGLERS - Comments and Responses

465

**From:** "Tom Nelson" <tnelson@zianet.com>  
**To:** <navcomments@uc.usbr.gov>  
**Date:** Wed, Dec 4, 2002 11:42 AM  
**Subject:** San Juan

I spend several thousand dollars annually fishing the river, so do my friends, their friends, etc. Please keep this in mind when decisions are made pertaining to water flow. Otherwise this money will be spent elsewhere.

Tom Nelson

|| 1

A40-1 Please see the response to General Comment 11.

TIMOTHY J. O'CONNOR  
7613 South Madison Circle  
Centennial, CO 80122  
October 4, 2002

Ken Beck  
Bureau of Reclamation  
835 East Second Avenue, Suite 300  
Durango, CO 81301

Re: Navajo Reservoir draft Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS")  
September 2002

Dear Mr. Beck:

This letter is written to respectfully urge the Bureau of Reclamation ("BOR") to adopt the 500/5000 Action Alternative discussed in Chapter 11, page 13 of the EIS.

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A41-1 Please see response to General Comment 3.

The stated mission of the BOR is to manage water and related resources...*in the interests of the American Public*. Given the substantial public interest and concern about the minimum flow levels for the San Juan River (EIS Chapter 11, page 24), the 500/5000 flow recommendation is a reasonable alternative to provide sufficient releases of water to conserve the two endangered fish species downstream and to serve the substantial interests of the American Public.

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A41-2 Please see responses to General Comments 1(e) and 3.

I respectfully urge the BOR to reject the 250/5000 stream flow alternative. According to Chart 11-29 of the EIS, the 250/5000 Action Alternative will result in significant habitat reduction in quality waters, significant physical habitat and water quality problems further downstream, lower quality of recreation for trout fishing, rafting and associated economies, and reduced hydropower energy production.

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A41-3 Please see the response to General Comment 11.

As you probably know, the San Juan River below Navajo Dam is one of the best cold water fisheries in the entire United States. I believe this is due in large part to the stream flow, habitat, and special regulations for this part of the river.

I try to spend at least ten days each year fishing the San Juan quality waters section below Navajo Dam. Every visit I spend money in the area on lodging, license, services including fishing guides, food, beverages, gas, and fishing equipment. Every day I fish there I see many people fishing the quality waters section.

Ken Beck  
Bureau of Reclamation  
October 4, 2002  
Page 2

When I talk to people on the river, I discover that they come from all over the United States just to experience the thrill and beauty of fishing the San Juan quality waters below Navajo Dam. This is a destination that I believe is highly desirable to the American Public, and it provides significant positive economic impact to the whole region.

The quality waters section of the San Juan River below Navajo Dam is a precious resource worth preserving and protecting in the interests of the American public. The 500/5000 Action Alternative is a reasonable alternative to protect endangered fish and to manage the water resources in the interests of the American public.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this issue that is so important to so many people.

Very truly yours,



Timothy J. O'Connor

3 cont.



Pat and Carol Oglesby  
3095 Evanston Ave  
Grand Junction CO 81504

December 3, 2002

Ken Beck  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Western Colorado Area Office  
835 East Second Avenue  
Suite 400  
Durango CO 81301

Ken,

Thank you for allowing us to comment on the EIS regarding flow changes in the San Juan River below Navajo Dam.

The San Juan River is a world class trout fishery that can be severely damaged by the proposed low flows. We support high spring flows for endangered fish but are concerned about the potential damage to the trout during times of low flows.

Minimum flow options between 250 cfs and 500 cfs should have been considered. Perhaps flows just under 500 cfs might accomplish the goals and still have minimal impacts on the trout fishery. We urge you to please consider flows that won't have negative impacts on this one-of-a-kind tailgater fishery.

We would like to remind you that the proposed water development projects you are trying to accommodate probably won't be built for years, if ever. Please don't sacrifice the fishery for something we may not see.

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A42-1 Please see Chapter II, Section VI - Alternatives Considered but Eliminated - 250 Variable/5000 Alternative, and response to General Comment 5.

A42-2 Please see response to General Comment 11.

The EIS didn't consider meeting water demands by use of the inactive pool in Navajo Dam. This water could be available for use down stream.

|| 3

A clear plan must be addressed in the Final EIS and Record of Decision as to how the river health and environment will be maintained.

Mitigation measures in the form of stream improvements must be in place before the flows are reduced below 500 cfs. These must be included and clearly defined in the plan.

|| 4

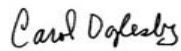
Please don't allow this world class trout fishery to be destroyed.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Pat Oglesby



Carol Oglesby

A42-3 Please see response to General Comment 8.

A42-4 Please see response to General Comment 2.



**From:** <george.osborn@colostate.edu>  
**To:** <kbeck@uc.usbr.gov>  
**Date:** 12/4/02 8:15AM  
**Subject:** San Juan flows

Mr. Beck,  
I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposal to maintain the San Juan at a minimum flow of 250 cfs. I feel this would be devastating to the insect life and fishery in this wonderful river. I hope you will revisit this idea and do what is best for this special place.

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A43-1 Please see response to General Comment 28.

Thank you,  
George Osborn  
203 Poplar Way  
Hotchkiss, CO 81419  
ph.(970)872-3564

# ANGLERS - Comments and Responses

NOV-20-2002 WED 08:51 AM

FAX NO. 8417240

P. 02  
Page 1 of 1

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pat\_packwood@hotmail.com

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To: Ken Beck

Cc:

Bcc:

Subject: Navajo Reservoir Operations Draft EIS

Attachments: Add/Edit Attachments

- Quick Address List
- amy
  - bro
  - burley
  - carl
  - darcy
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Ken, as a fisherman of the San Juan river, I must state that I am NOT in favor of the proposed 250/5000 alternative. I feel this will disrupt not only the joy of catching world quality fish but it will economically disrupt business thru out the area: fishing guides and their businesses, hotel and restaurants, gas stations to what ever, plus the lost of electrical production in the Farmington area as well as the affected surrounding states. I am in favor of a minimum of a 500/5000 alternative. Please don't endanger the habitat for trout and the macro-invertebrates the trout feed on!!! Enjoy a tight line and please correspond back to me about the outcome. pat\_packwood@hotmail.com  
 wx: (505) 323-4657 hm (505) 883-2772

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A44-1 Please see the responses to General Comments 3, 11, 27, 28, 29, and 31.

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## ANGLERS - Comments and Responses

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**From:** "yooper" <yooper@mail.ev1.net>  
**To:** <navcomments@uc.usbr.gov>  
**Date:** Tue, Dec 3, 2002 12:11 PM  
**Subject:** San Juan River

To: Mr. Ken Beck  
Bureau of Reclamation

Dear Mr. Beck:

As an avid fly-fisherman who has made frequent trips to the San Juan River (I live in the Houston, Texas area), I am disheartened by the information that I have been able to collect in regards to the plans that the Bureau of Reclamation has for the San Juan River below the Navajo Dam.

Notwithstanding the economic impact that the revised plan would have, I surely would not want to see any reduction in the quality of fishing opportunities that the San Juan currently provides. I personally have spent lots of time and lots of money pursuing fish (and releasing them) in the San Juan river. Mostly because of the quality of the fishery...it is unlike any fishery that I've had the privelege to experience.

My understanding is that the plan has some contradictions, which will need further clarification and explanation. I appreciate the opportunity to express my thoughts, and wish that alternative flow plans are presented for public comment before a decision is made. Could you please keep me posted as to the department's actions in regards to this matter? Your response is welcome, and I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,  
Steven J. Patterson  
19820 N. North Court  
Porter, Texas 77365  
mailto:yooper@ev1.net

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A45-1 Please see the response to General Comment 11.

Dennis Prescott  
1809 Nancy Lopez Blvd.  
Belen, NM 87002

November 27, 2002

Ken Beck  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Western Colorado Area Office  
835 East Second Avenue, Suite 400  
Durango, Colorado 81301

Mr. Beck,

Reference the NAVAJO RESERVOIR OPERATIONS DRAFT EIS. I fished the San Juan Qualities Waters below Navajo Dam during November. The river was flowing at 350 cfs. My experience convinced me that adoption of the 250/cfs Alternative would decimate this New Mexico treasure.

I have fished the San Juan for the last five years. During a November trip to the San Juan, I was shocked by what I observed. The river was way down. I would guess almost 50% of the area known as the upper flats was too low for fish or fishing. I saw trout trying to survive in water so shallow their backs were exposed while others were forced into the deeper holes. I saw fishermen/women concentrated at the holes catching unusually high levels of trout. Vast areas were choked with seaweed and muck created by the low water levels. At the Texas hole, I saw the same conditions, plus the special handicapped fishing ramps were too far from the water to be usable. In the Baetis Bend and Lunker Alley areas, fishermen/women had access to almost the entire area in just waders. The trout had no safe havens. Finally, there were large numbers of trout obviously beaten up from prior battles whose survival was doubtful. The trout and fishermen/women were being forced into smaller and smaller areas resulting in extremely high levels of catches, a level which cannot be sustained.

It was apparent the quality waters are not sustainable at 350 CFS. It was equally apparent the quality waters would be decimated at 250 CFS. The San Juan is a national asset. It is a world-class affordable recreational opportunity available to working people as witnessed by parking lots filled with Chevys and Fords, not Cadillacs and Lincolns. What is being proposed will decimate this recreational area and devastate the small community of Navajo Dam, which relies on the income generated by recreational fishermen/women. I encourage you to fish the river in its current condition.

I recommend the 250/5000 Alternative not be adopted. I do recommend adoption of the "500/5000 Alternative" endorsed by New Mexico Trout Association. Thank you for your consideration.



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A46-1 Comments noted. Please see responses to General Comments 11 and 29.

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A46-2 Please see the responses to General Comments 3, 27, and 31a & b.

## ANGLERS - Comments and Responses

474

>>> <OPruitt@aol.com> 12/31/02 11:07AM >>>

Please consider the resource that we have in the tail water fishery below Navajo Dam, NM Please maintain flows to 500cfs or close to this to maintain our quality waters.

1

Olin Pruitt  
Palmer Lake, CO

A47-1 Comment noted. Please see responses to General Comments 3, 11, and 27.

## ANGLERS - Comments and Responses

475

**From:** "Craig Rabb" <rabb@rmna.net>  
**To:** <kbeck@uc.usbr.gov>  
**Date:** 11/26/02 2:09PM  
**Subject:** San Juan River Releases

I have recently heard that consideration is being given to reducing flows from Navajo Dam. Trout Unlimited, of which I am a member, is opposed to your doing so. As a member, I support that position. While maintaining flows that help endangered native species, I would hope that some middle ground can be reached in this situation, and that further study will be done prior to making any decision.

Sincerely,

Craig H. Rabb MD

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A48-1 Please see responses to General Comments 9 and 16.

ANGLERS - Comments and Responses



Burgers Motorcycle Sales, Inc.  
Box 426 Highway 202  
Three Bridges, New Jersey 08887  
908-782-2020  
FAX-908-782-5038



10/31/02

Dear Mr Beck,

I have been informed that the Bureau is planning on reducing the flows on the San Juan River.

I visited the San Juan river three times, from N.J, in 2002. I estimated that I spent 1800 To 3,000 dollar in the area during each trip.

I also fished twice in 2001 and during the low water experiment. In my estimation the low water was not conducive to a good fishing experience and I probably will consider going elsewhere in the future.

Sincerely

Nickol Kamalich

Hopefully you will keep the 5x cfs minimum.

A49-1 Please see the responses to General Comments 11 and 16.

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*Bureau of*

DEC -2 2002

OPEN LETTER TO THE ~~RE~~ *Reclamation*

SIRS, IN REGARD TO THE LOW FLOW PLAN I HAVE SEVERAL OBSERVATIONS. I HAVE BEEN FISHING THE QUALITY WATERS FOR TWENTY FIVE YEARS. I NOW FIND MYSELF FISHING IN AREAS AWAY FROM THE MAIN RIVER TO AVOID CROWDS OF GUIDE LED PEOPLE. THESE AREAS WOULD BE DRASTICALLY AFFECTED BY YOUR LOW FLOW PLAN. I HAVE SEEN IT HAPPEN ALREADY DURING LOW FLOW TESTS. ALL OF THIS FOR FISH THAT HAVE NO GENETIC TRACE TO THE ORIGINAL POPULATION. YOU HAVE PLANTED 100,000 OF THESE "ENDANGERED" FISH ON SEVERAL OCCASSIONS AND GROW OTHERS AT NAPI. I SUPPORT THE 500-5000 PLAN. IT WAS ALSO AMAZING TO ME THAT THE RIVER WAS KEPT AT 900 CU. FT ALL SUMMER IN THE MIDDLE OF A 100 YEAR DROUGHT. COMMON SENSE HAS BEEN LACKING FROM ALL SIDES INVOLVED FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS.

THANK YOU  
*Chuck Renk*  
CHUCK RENK

Chuck Renk  
1007 Loma Linda  
Farmington NM 87401

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A50-1 Please see the responses to General Comments 11 and 16.



## ANGLERS - Comments and Responses

478

**From:** <RAR348@aol.com>  
**To:** <navcomments@uc.usbr.gov>  
**Date:** Wed, Dec 4, 2002 3:02 PM  
**Subject:** flows for the san juan river

<PRE>as some one fishes the san juan 6-8 times a year, iu am very unhappy with the plan to reduce flow at any time to 250 cfs. the prime water below the dam will concentrate in a main channel flow and will limit the food availability to the fish and concentrate the fisherman. elbow to elbow. out of staters comprise most of the fisherman and the out of state revenue must be huge. i cant imagine myself making the trip to fish this once pristine river after such changes were made., sincerely richard rivera , montrose, colorado

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A51-1 Please see the responses to General Comments 11 and 16.

## ANGLERS - Comments and Responses

479

**From:** <TRCBMAC@aol.com>  
**To:** <navcomments@uc.usbr.gov>  
**Date:** Thu, Dec 5, 2002 6:53 PM  
**Subject:** Re-operate Navajo Dam

It is December 5, 2002, and this comment may never be registered but I just became aware of the proposed changes on a fishing trip to the area and feel compelled to send my comments anyway. This is the first time I have ever responded to such an issue or plan but from what I have read this idea does not seem to be ready to do much but create problems. My interest comes from a recreational perspective. My companions and I have spent many days dreaming about, planning trips to, traveling to, and spending time at this incredible fishery over the last 15 years. There are few fisheries that hold the kind of allure that the San Juan holds. DON'T DIMINISH IT OR DAMAGE IT, PLEASE!!

Sincerely,  
Terry

Terry Robinson  
www.evergreenareahomes.com  
trcbmac@aol.com  
800-574-6667x218 toll free  
303-679-2218 direct  
303-898-3658 cell  
303-670-1748 home

1

A52-1 Comment noted.

## ANGLERS - Comments and Responses

480

**From:** "Mike Rutledge, M.D." <mrutledgemd@toast.net>  
**To:** <navcomments@uc.usbr.gov>  
**Date:** Mon, Nov 18, 2002 2:17 PM  
**Subject:** DEIS San Juan River

Dear Sirs: I am a Farmington resident, a recreational fly-fisherman, and a medical doctor (Family Practice). I am concerned about the D.E.I.S. I recommend that you keep the minimum flows at 500cfs to maintain the current fishery status and for the operation of our hydroelectric plant. As a biology major in college (B.S. Biology) I realize the importance of the NEPA, but I feel that the 250/5000 alternative is a mistake.

Thank you, Mike Rutledge, M.D.  
5301 Thomas Dr.  
Farmington, NM 87402

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A53-1 Please see the responses to General Comments 3, 11, and 16.

November 22, 2002

Mr. Ken Beck  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Western Colorado Area Office  
835 East Second Ave. Suite 400  
Durango, CO. 81301

Dear Mr. Beck,

I have been a resident of New Mexico since 1989 and have been fishing the San Juan River summer and winter ever since.

Recent events and proposals, however, are threatening this great resource. The Bureau's proposal to bring the new water releases from Navajo Dam from the existing 500/5000 down to 250/5000, I believe, is too drastic a move without attempting other options not quite so severe. In the summer when temperatures soar, the water at 250cfs would endanger the lives of the trout in the river, as water temperatures also rise. The insect population would be damaged as a result of the low water. Isn't there a few steps to take and try before making such a drastic reduction in flows? The river is presently flowing at a reduced rate, 350cc, why not see the results of this amount first before the proposed 250?

While there are certainly upcoming needs for water in other areas around Navajo Dam, those needs have not been finalized and may not be for a few years to come, so why the need to reduce the water at this time? Are we not getting ahead of the game and endangering a whole chain of wildlife in the process? The San Juan River is one of the true Blue Ribbon fisheries in America and your plans as they stand may bring ruin to the fishery and attending businesses. What a shame to commit to a program that is not absolutely necessary at this stage. Please reconsider and rethink this entire project.

Yours truly,



Peter Sagara  
58A Loma Blanca  
Santa Fe, NM 87506

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A54-1 Please see the responses to General Comments 3, 16, and 28.

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A54-2 Please see the response to General Comment 11.


November 8, 2002

Ken Beck  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Western Colorado Area Office  
835 East Second Ave., Suite 400  
Durango, Colorado 81301

Dear Mr. Beck,

I wish to cast my vote concerning your Environmental Impact Statement on the operation of Navajo Dam. Please adopt the 500/5000 alternative that has been recommended by New Mexico Trout. This will keep a level of flow that will protect the habitat for trout and the macro-invertebrates the trout feed on. A healthy stream for all of its aquatic inhabitants is a better stream.

Sincerely

  
Ray Shewnack  
78 La Puerta Trail  
Placitas, NM 87043

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A55-1 Please see the responses to General Comments 11, 16, and 28.

# ANGLERS - Comments and Responses

**From:** Buck Skillen <fpope@frontier.net>  
**To:** <kbeck@uc.usbr.gov>  
**Date:** 11/26/02 4:45PM  
**Subject:** Navajo Reoperation DEIS - Comments.

Dear Mr. Ken Beck:

After spending considerable time reading and absorbing the subject document, I have the following comments to make.

Subject: DEIS No. DES-02-35  
 Navajo Reservoir Operations

As a resident of Hesperus, an avid trout fisherman and frequenter of the quality waters below Navajo Dam, including the stretch between the Village and Hammond diversion, I am strongly opposed to the preferred alternative as defined by the Draft EIS. My support is for the 500/5000 alternative.

I believe there to be numerous deficiencies in the DEIS including the following:

The socioeconomic impact to LaPlata and Montezuma Counties was ignored or intentionally omitted. Based on information from American Sportfishing Association, NM State Parks and Durango Area Chamber of Commerce, I would expect this to have an economic impact to Durango and LaPlata county of between \$4.5 and \$10 million.

The impact to this world class fishery and the subsequent socioeconomic impacts are grossly under-appreciated.

The fact that the one-week summer low flow test showed no decline in fishing interest does not represent what will be seen over time.

Reducing the trout habitat by a third or more at the 250cfs flow will have the effect of reducing trout populations and concentrating anglers resulting in the substantial decline in the quality of the fishing and fishing experience. This will easily cut in half the number of out of state angler/days.

The cost to NIIP and other large water users under the 500/5000 alternative is grossly overstated with the assumption that nothing beyond the current development is possible unless the 250/5000 alternative is adopted. This cost must be fine tuned and balanced against the loss of this world class fishery and all of the resulting socioeconomic impacts.

With the flow from the Dam being reduced to 350cfs about a month ago, we are already seeing some mortality and substantially changed behavior in the fish in the Quality water.

If the 500/5000 alternative is totally out of the question, BOR should consider evaluating several flow regimes between 500 and 250 on the low end.

Also, BOR should evaluate what would be required and the cost associated with pumping from the reservoir 10 feet lower then is currently possible. This could make 500/5000 feasible without damaging any of the Trust responsibilities.

Finally, if 250 or some minimum flow lower than 500 is to be adopted, BOR should commit to using undeveloped water for the fishery. There is no reason to destroy this valuable economic resource now when the actual use of the water will be taking place as far out as 2025 or beyond (or maybe never). If this commitment is not made there will be many temptations to temporarily use this water for other purposes until the future water commitments already approved come on line.

These comments are not to be taken as trout and the fishery vs. the

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- A56-1 Please see responses to General Comments 27, 29, and 31.
- A56-2 Please see the responses to General Comments 22 and 28.
- A56-3 Please see the responses to General Comments 16 and 27.
- A56-4 Please see the responses to General Comments 3, 11 16, and 31.
- A56-5 Please see response A38-5.
- A56-6 Please see response A41-1.
- A56-7 Please see response to General Comment 8.
- A56-8 Please see the responses to General Comments 11 and 16.

endangered fish. I see this whole matter as the trout and fishery being sacrificed for the very last possible drop of water development, pure and simple. Last but not least I find it interesting and begging the question of conflict of interest that the power in the Biology Committee is in the hands of the biologists who are working for and paid by the major water users.

9

Respectively submitted,

Frank (Buck) Skillen  
385 Old Snag Circle  
Hesperus, CO 81326  
970-382-8248

A56-9 Comment noted. Please see response to General Comment 10.



ANGLERS - Comments and Responses

From: Buck Skillen <fpope@frontier.net>  
To: <kbeck@uc.usbr.gov>  
Date: 11/29/02 10:17PM  
Subject: Comments-DEIS No. DES-02-35 Navajo Reservoir Operations

Mr. Ken Beck  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Western Colorado Area Office  
835 East Second Ave. Suite 400  
Durango, CO 81301

November 29, 2002

Dear Mr. Beck,

I would like to add the following to my previous comments.

Previously I had stated that BOR should make a commitment to use undeveloped water for the downstream recreational users, specifically the quality water fishery. It has since occurred to me that the previously rejected alternative of 250 variable/5000 addresses this issue. It seems that this alternative would be of benefit to all users of the resource. However, it seems to have been dismissed out of hand for some reason not made entirely clear in the DEIS. Certainly, this alternative should be thoroughly examined as a viable solution to the re-operation question.

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A further advantage to committing undeveloped water to the river is enhanced opportunities for the endangered fish to recover. By staying closer to 500cfs in releases from the dam, the flow between Shiprock and Bluff will tend toward the higher end of the 500-1000cfs Flow Recommendations. 500cfs is the bare minimum for the endangered fish, so why not do better and provide more flow when the water is available?

Another concern in meeting the Flow Recommendations is the lack of control over the water diversions between Navajo Dam and Shiprock. The appropriate authorities must get control of these diverters or there will be use beyond the flow rights held as was experienced in the Summer of 2002.

2

Speaking of the Flow Recommendations, it is imperative that SJBRIIP's recommendation for where and how to measure the flow in the recovery area be adopted. This is mentioned in footnote #8 on page II-23.

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The word "flexibility" is used extensively in the DEIS when discussing the use of the minimum flow of 250cfs. This "flexibility" must be defined and not subject to tweaking by BOR in response to powerful political and water rights forces.

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There seems to be some discrepancy in reporting the ALP depletions. On page II-7, the table shows 43,523 acre-feet as the ALP depletion. On the next page, II-8, last paragraph, the ALP depletion is listed as 57,000 acre-feet. Why the different numbers?

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In conclusion, the DEIS should be revised to include analysis of the 250 variable/5000 and sufficient commitment to maintain the Quality Waters fishery until such time as already approved projects come on line and need the water. If this isn't done the Quality Waters fishery and the economic benefit derived from that resource will be sacrificed to any and all manner

6

A57-1 Please see response A41-1.

A57-2 Please see responses to General Comments 18 and 20d.

A57-3 The discussion on monitoring base flows has been clarified in the FEIS. Please see General Comment No. 15 for further information.

A57-4 Reclamation concurs that flexibility should be better defined and revisions have been made in the FEIS. Please see responses to General Comment No. 11.

A57-5 The ALP Project depletion of 43,533 af listed in Table II-1 on page II-7 is that portion of ALP Project depletions occurring in Colorado. On page II-6 of that same table under the heading of New Mexico, ALP Project depletions are listed as 13,600 af. The total of these are 57,133 af.

A57-6 Please see the responses to General Comments 5 and 11 and response to A41-1.

## ANGLERS - Comments and Responses

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of water development.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank (Buck) Skillen  
385 Old Snag Circle  
Hesperus, CO 81326  
970/382-8248.

||

**ANGLERS - Comments and Responses**

**From:** "Dale Smith" <flysmith@fone.net>  
**To:** <kbeck@uc.usbr.gov>  
**Date:** 12/3/02 11:27AM  
**Subject:** DEIS No. DES 02-35 Navajo Reservoir Operations

My Dale Smith and I am a resident of Cortez, CO. I am an avid trout fisherman and a visitor to the quality fishing waters below Navajo Reservoir. I am opposed to the 500/5000 alternative to flow from Navajo Reservoir. I believe that several issues have been ignored or glossed over in the interest of time in preparing the Environmental Impact Statement regarding this matter. These issues include but are not limited to economic impact, lack of time involved in the one week summer low flow test compared, quality of the recreational experience, fish mortality at 350 cfs, consideration of undeveloped water. Although not part of the EIS there appears to be a conflict of interest within the Biology Committee.

The economic impact to Montezuma and LaPlata Counties has not been addressed. Tourism is a vital part of the fragile four corners economy. If the world class fishery is depleted to something similar to the quality waters below McPhee Reservoir I fear that visitation to this region will be greatly affected. I know of several contributing editors to fly fishing magazines that are watching this matter to see how it is resolved. They will then inform their readers who will choose other destinations for fishing trips or for family vacations.

The quality of the recreational experience will be affected by reducing habitat and thus reducing the area that fishermen will have to pursue their sport. Is this fair to those who have chosen to live in this region because of this tremendous resource?

The recent reduction in discharge to 350 cfs has already caused some fish mortality and we will see more to come. Are we sacrificing one fish species for another? I do not understand the logic in this.

Is undeveloped water available to maintain a flow some where close to 500 cfs? Would it be prudent to use this source to prevent the temptation to use this water some where else before it is needed some time in the future? This was not addressed in the copy of the EIS that I read.

The last item that should be addressed is the apparent conflict of interest that exists in the make up of the Biology Committee. If the power in the Biology Committee is in the hands of the biologists that are employed by the major water users, then the objectivity of said committee should be questioned. I find this to be disconcerting owing to the gravity of the decisions made by this important group.

I respectfully submit these comments and hope that you will consider them.

Dale W. Smith  
Cortez, CO

**CC:** <flysmith@fone.net>

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A58-1 Please see the responses to General Comments 11, 16, 22, 27, and 31.

A58-2 Please see response A38-5.

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A58-3 Please see the responses to General Comments 11 and 16.

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A58-4 The composition of the Biological Committee is beyond the scope and intent of this EIS.

## ANGLERS - Comments and Responses

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**From:** "daniel stecklein" <steck@wwdb.org>  
**To:** <kbeck@uc.usbr.gov>  
**Date:** 11/26/02 9:29AM  
**Subject:** San Juan

Dear Mr. Beck,

It is my understanding that the Bureau of Reclamation has issued a Environmental Impact Statement proposing to change the minimum flows of the San Juan from 500cfs to 250cfs. This would be a substantial reduction in the fishery's habitat.

I believe this is a serious mistake to make these kind of operational change. I urge the Bureau to conduct more studies be done to determine the long range effect of this fishery from the 50% reduction of the now minimum 500cfs.

Daniel J. Stecklein  
8641 E. Dry Creek Rd.  
Centennial, Colo., 80112  
303.713.9306

PS. This is one of the finest fishery's in the country and such studies would produce crucial data to the importance of protecting this fishery.

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A59-1 Comment noted. Please see responses to General Comments 5, 11, and 16.

## ANGLERS - Comments and Responses

489

Bill Stevens  
3311 20<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lubbock, TX 79410

September 23, 2002

Ken Beck  
BOR Western CO Office  
835 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Suite 400  
Durango, CO 81301

Dear Mr. Beck:

I am writing to express my concerns about the Environmental Impact Statement concerning the San Juan River below Navajo Dam. I strongly oppose the 250/5000 proposal.

I usually fish the San Juan one week a year. I spend between \$300 and 400 when I am visiting there. I believe the proposal to drop flows to 250 cfs minimum will be very detrimental to the fishery as it is today as well as the communities and individuals who make a living off of this area. I know that the 250 cfs is a minimum limit, however when this limit is attained I fear for the viability of the fishery.

The San Juan Rivers's quality waters section is known literally the world over as being one of the finest trout fishing areas anywhere. It would be a shame to harm that reputation and the people and fish that thrive because of that reputation.

I doubt very seriously that the razorback sucker and the Colorado pikeminnow will generate the kind of revenue that the trout in the San Juan quality water does. I think it is wrong to sacrifice peoples livelihoods for a fish that is of no economic value to the state of New Mexico or the United States.

I thank you for your time to read my letter and hope that the BOR will decide against reducing the flows of the San Juan so drastically.

Sincerely,

  
Bill Stevens

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A60-1 Please see responses to General Comments 20b, 27, 28, 29, and 30.

# ANGLERS - Comments and Responses

**From:** Jeff Talus <JTalus@skrco.com>  
**To:** "kbeck@uc.usbr.gov" <kbeck@uc.usbr.gov>  
**Date:** 12/3/02 5:34PM  
**Subject:** San Juan River

Ken

Here are my thoughts on the San Juan river below Navajo Dam for your consideration. First off I am not a fisheries biologist so I usually must defer to conservation organizations such as Trout Unlimited for help in formulating my opinion on how a river should be managed. But when it comes to the San Juan River I am an avid fly fisherman and a tourist. I am a part of a small group of fisherman (eight or so) from Colorado Springs that fish the San Juan three or four times a year as a group, usually during the fall and winter months after the enormous summer crowds have dropped off. As a group we spend \$2,000 or so each trip whether it is lodging at Abe's or one of the other motels, meals at the Sportsman's Inn, or some flies, a license or even a rod or waders at one of the shops. And we always buy a bit of refreshments! Not a lot but over the course of a year it amounts to probably \$8,000. If management of the river caused the fishing quality to decrease we probably would not make the six hour drive resulting in an economic cost to the local economy. I suspect many others would stay away also which could be devastating to the local economy. I would urge you to do a better job of crafting options that preserve endangered species while protecting the world-class tailwater fishery of the San Juan. I suspect this can be done by supporting alternatives that keep minimum flows of 500 cfs in the San Juan, or at least come closer to that target than their "250/5000" option. I fished the river once when the flows were significantly below 500 cfs and the amount of fish habitat and structure was significantly reduced. Please remember that some of the proposed water developments that you are trying to accommodate may not come on line for years, if ever - and it would be a travesty to sacrifice a world-class fishery today for the sake of water development projects that may not be built for many years.

Thank you for your consideration of my opinion.

Jeff

Jeffrey W. Talus, CPA  
Tax Partner  
Stockman Kast Ryan & Co. LLP  
102 N. Cascade Ave. Suite 450  
Colorado Springs, CO. 80903  
Work: (719) 630-1186 ex. 305  
Fax: (719) 630-1187  
<http://www.skrco.com>

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A61-1 Please see response to General Comment 9.

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A61-2 Please see the responses to General Comments 11 and 16.



## ANGLERS - Comments and Responses

491

**From:** "Richard W. Tatem" <goldentrout1@prodigy.net>  
**To:** <kbeck@uc.usbr.gov>  
**Date:** 11/26/02 8:53AM  
**Subject:** san juan flow

Dear Mr. Beck

I'm not extremely knowledgeable about stream flows. What I do know is that the San Juan River below Navajo Dam is one of, if not the, premier river fishery in the US.

It would be a horrible shame to destroy this fishery with unfavorable stream flows. Some of the proposed water developments you are trying to accommodate may not come on line for years, if ever - it would be a travesty to sacrifice a world-class fishery today for the sake of water development projects that may not be built for many years.

Please don't do it.

Respectfully

Richard W. Tatem  
Colorado Springs, CO

**CC:** <dnickum@tu.org>

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A62-1 Please see the responses to General Comments 11 and 16.



## ANGLERS - Comments and Responses

492

**From:** "Michael Terrian" <mike@pssoftware.com>  
**To:** <kbeck@uc.usbr.gov>  
**Date:** 10/29/02 4:22PM  
**Subject:** San Juan low flows

Mr. Ken Beck  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Western Colorado Area Office  
Durango, CO

Dear Mr. Beck and BOR:

I have heard and read much lately about the BOR's proposal to lower minimum flows on the San Juan River from 500cfs to 250cfs. I am writing to express my concern over the damage that such an act could wreak on the San Juan as a fishery and recreation venue. While I live over 500 miles from the river, I consider the river my "home waters." I spend several weeks a year there, more when I can. I purchase all my flyfishing supplies from local merchants. I store a boat permanently at the San Juan. Of course, when I visit the river, I patronize local restaurants, lodges, guides, shuttle services, etc. It's hard for me to estimate how much I actually spend in the area pursuing my flyfishing hobby [obsession], but I can safely say that it's more than I spend on any other recreational pursuit anywhere else. In the last five years alone, I have introduced seven friends to flyfishing on the San Juan. Many of them now accompany me on my visits to the river.

If the plan to lower flows becomes a reality, I can't help but feel that the resulting decrease in the quality of the river will be the beginning of the end for the river and the local economy. I urge you to protect this wonderful resource by maintaining a minimum flow of 500cfs.

Respectfully,

Mike Terrian  
4381 Loma de Brisas  
El Paso, TX 79934  
terrian@attglobal.net

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A63-1 Please see responses to General Comments 3, 11, and 27.

170 Smolik Rd.  
St. Johnsville, NY 13452  
Oct. 18, 2002

Mr. Ken Beck  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Western Colorado Area Office  
835 East Second Ave., Suite 400  
Durango, Colorado 81301

RE: San Juan River Flows

Dear Mr. Beck:

I have recently become aware of the recommendations to reduce flow levels in the San Juan River below Navaho Dam to well below the traditional 500 cfs minimum levels. Whereas I am aware that there are multiple points of view on this subject, as there are on any matter concerning a resource that serves multiple functions, I am writing simply to express my own point of view, which is born of my own self interest in this issue. I am not going to argue the validity of alternate points of view; I simply want you to know how I feel.

My stake in the whole thing derives from my life-long interest in fly fishing for trout. For over 50 years I have pursued this interest in many areas of the U.S. and abroad. Several years ago, I was introduced to the San Juan River by a fishing friend. To state the matter simply, it is my view that there are few trout fisheries in the world that can compare to the San Juan in terms of the quantity and quality of the trout fishing available. That is the reason why at least once every year I travel three quarters of the way across the country to pursue my passion in this river. Judging from the numbers of fishermen from all over that I encounter on each of my trips, it is clear that my view of river, as a fly fishing treasure, is shared by many.

I have no idea of the magnitude of the economic benefit that must accrue to this area of New Mexico from the presence of all these fishermen, but it must be considerable. For a week's stay, I typically will spend \$500 - \$1,000 on accommodations, food, fishing tackle, license fees, etc., and I am cheap! The per capita expenditure for the fishing crowd as a whole is undoubtedly greater than that.

An inevitable consequence of reducing flows to 250 cfs or any level significantly below 500 cfs will be the destruction of much of the habitat that now supports this fabulous trout fishery. There can be no argument about that. It will happen if flows are so drastically reduced, and the accompanying consequence will be the loss of whatever economic benefit this "industry" currently brings to the state. People

A64-1      Comments noted. Please see the responses to General Comments 11, 16, and 31.

will not spend the kind of money currently spent on the San Juan to come to a river that is not extraordinary in the quality of the fishing experience it delivers.

Obviously, I write this letter from my own personal, selfish point of view. But it is a viewpoint shared by many, and I would hope that those who are responsible for the ultimate decision in this matter will consider it seriously. That is all I ask.

Sincerely,

*John H. Wood*

## ANGLERS - Comments and Responses

495

**From:** Ken Beck  
**To:** Jone Wright; Justyn Hock; Kathleen Ozga; Steve McCall  
**Date:** 12/9/02 11:31AM  
**Subject:** Fwd: San Juan

FYI

>>> "Jim & Laura Wright" <wrighton@rof.net> 12/08/02 11:54AM >>>

I strongly object to scraficing the recreational fishing quality by reducing the flow. A reduction of the fish holding areas will negatively impact the quality of the fishery and therefore reduce tourism, and diminish the recreational value of the river. I don't understand why it's necessary to mount a monumental public effort to "do the right thing." It's a given that people will defend their position. But I would think your bureau would at least act as a referee, looking at all options.

Jim Wright  
Glenwood Springs, Co

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A65-1

Comment noted. Please see the responses to General Comments 11, 16, and 27.