

New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission Middle Rio Grande
Isleta Reach Riverine Habitat Restoration Project, Phase I
Draft Environmental Assessment
Bureau of Reclamation
Albuquerque Area Office
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

The New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission (NMISC) has prepared a draft environmental assessment (EA) for the NMISC's Middle Rio Grande Isleta Reach Riverine Habitat Restoration Project Phase I (Project). The EA was prepared under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et. Seq.) and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR 1500). The Bureau of Reclamation and NMISC are seeking comments concerning the Project.

The Proposed Action involves the design and implementation of various habitat restoration/rehabilitation techniques intended to enhance, restore and/or create aquatic habitat for the benefit of the Rio Grande silvery minnow within the Isleta Reach of the Middle Rio Grande. The proposed project would be the first phase of a four phased project, which would span a period from 2009 through 2013. The proposed rehabilitation and restoration would occur within the river floodway at two locations: (1) from Calle del Rio Rd. south to Reinken Rd. (Peralta Subreach) and (2) from Reinken Rd. south to the BNSF railroad bridge (LP1DR Subreach). A total of approximately 56 acres would be treated during Phase I, with treatment areas that include islands, bars, banks, and the bosque. Also, this project includes the restoration of a burned site of approximately 1000 acres of riparian vegetation which would be performed by the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District.

Copies of the draft EA are available for public inspection and review at the following locations: Albuquerque Main Library: 501 Copper NW, Albuquerque, NM 87102 (505) 768-5141; Belen Public Library: 333 Becker St., Belen, NM 87002, (505) 864-7522; Los Lunas Community Library: 460 Main St. NE, Los Lunas, NM 87031, (505) 839-3850; Bureau of Reclamation: 555 Broadway, Suite 100, Albuquerque, NM 87102 (505) 462-3540; Santa Fe Library: 145 Washington Ave., Santa Fe, NM 87501 (505) 955-6780. The draft EA is also available for public inspection online at: <http://www.usbr.gov/uc/albuq/envdocs/index.html>. **Comments may be submitted in writing by December 30, 2008** to Mr. Charles Fischer, Bureau of Reclamation, Albuquerque Area Office, 555 Broadway NE, Suite 100, Albuquerque, NM 87102; telephone (505) 462-3656; facsimile (505) 462-3780; e-mail: cfischer@uc.usbr.gov.