

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Taos Field Office 226 Cruz Alta Road Taos, New Mexico 87571-5983

July 11, 2006

Re: Your review of our Preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment for Treatment of Saltcedar (*Tamarix* spp.) and Other Invasive Nonnative Vegetation for Orilla Verde Recreation Area

Dear Reviewer:

Enclosed please find a copy of our preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and Environmental Assessment (EA) for treatment of saltcedar (*Tamarix* spp.) and other invasive nonnative vegetation for Orilla Verde Recreation Area. In brief, this project aims to provide flexibility in treating saltcedar and other nonnative vegetation species in Orilla Verde Recreation Area and to reestablish native riparian vegetation, enhance wildlife habitat and minimize wildfire threats to adjacent communities. The project is designed to treat small areas over a long time period to minimize impacts to wildlife habitat and visual resources. A copy of the Environmental Assessment is enclosed.

I appreciate your time and consideration in reviewing the preliminary FONSI and EA. Please email your comments to NM_comments@nm.blm.gov or mail postmarked by August 11th, 2006 to the address above Attention: Valerie Williams, Wildlife Biologist.

Sincerely,

Sam DesGeorges Field Office Manager

Enclosures