

provide a few employment opportunities to tribal members, providing a small positive benefit to the Tribe.

### **3.2.11 Irretrievable Commitment of Resources of the Proposed Action**

The implementation of the Project will result in the commitment of resources such as fossil fuels, construction materials, and labor. In addition Federal funds will be expended for the construction of the proposed project.

### **3.2.12 Cumulative Impacts**

The Proposed Action will have a net positive benefit to RGSM in the Cochiti reach because of the enhanced habitat availability. Future restoration projects on Santo Domingo will cumulate to increasing habitat for threatened and endangered species while increasing overall biodiversity on Santo Domingo tribal lands. Restoration efforts from neighboring tribes and pueblos will also benefit from this project because of increased habitat connectivity for the RGSM. Overall cumulative impacts from these projects will benefit the overall recovery efforts of the RGSM in the Cochiti reach of the Middle Rio Grande.

## **Chapter 4. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS**

All applicable permits have been obtained prior to implementation of the project, including but not limited to:

- Section 7 of the ESA as administered by the USFWS
- Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) as administered by the New Mexico State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO)
- Should a bald eagle be observed within 0.25 mile, upstream or downstream of the active project site in the morning before project construction activity starts, or Following breaks in project construction activity, the construction crew would be required to suspend all activity until the bird leave on its own volition, or if the Tribal biologist in consultation with the USFWS, determine that the potential for harassment is minimal. However, if a bald eagle arrives during project construction activities or if a bald eagle is observed beyond the specified distance, construction would not need to be interrupted. If bald eagles are found consistently in the immediate action area during project construction, Santo Domingo would contact the USFWS to determine whether formal consultation under ESA is necessary.
- Avoiding impacts to birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act by scheduling construction outside of the normal bird breeding and nesting season (April 15 through August 15) for most avian species or conducting preconstruction breeding surveys and monitoring if construction were to occur

during the breeding and nesting season and consultation with USFWS if affected species are observed.

- Implementing specific mitigation measures to avoid impacts to threatened and endangered species and their habitats identified in the project area, as determined in consultation with USFWS.
- Implementing measures to stop work and notify the Reclamation Archaeologist in the event that prehistoric or historic remains, human burials, or other archaeological resources are discovered during construction or monitoring.
- To protect shallow water habitats adjacent to the bankline, a silt curtain will be installed. To protect aquatic habitats from spills or contamination, hydraulic lines will be protected from punctures. Additionally, all fueling will take place outside the active floodplain and all equipment will undergo cleaning and inspection prior to operation. Equipment will be parked on predetermined locations on high ground away from the project area overnight.
- Coyote willow will be transplanted from Site Two and replanted adjacent to the channel (see page 5, section 2.2.2).

## **Chapter 5. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION**

The Service was notified of the proposed action and federally protected species potentially occurring in the project site were identified. The Army Corps of Engineers were consulted for CWA Section 401 and 404 compliance, in which the Corps determined that permitting was unnecessary (Appendix A). The New Mexico State Historical Preservation Office was consulted to determine project compliance with state and federal laws pertaining to cultural and archeological resources in the proposed action area.

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## **Chapter 7 APPENDIX**

### **7.1.1 Correspondence and Coordination**