

Appendix A
Cultural Resource Consultation

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ALBUQUERQUE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
4101 JEFFERSON PLAZA NE
ALBUQUERQUE NM 87109-3435

September 29, 2011

Planning, Project and Program Management Division
Planning Branch
Environmental Resources Section



Ms. Jan Biella
Interim State Historic Preservation Officer
New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs
Historic Preservation Division
Bataan Memorial Building
407 Galisteo Street, Suite 236
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Rec'd 10-14-2011
GDE

Dear Ms. Biella:

Pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District, (Corps) is seeking your concurrence with our determination that the installation and maintenance of a cable log boom at the Corps' Cochiti Lake Project (Cochiti) will result in "No Historic Properties Affected". The undertaking is located on Pueblo de Cochiti (Pueblo) land and the project is supported by, and being conducted in coordination with the Pueblo.

The Corps' Operations Division, utilizing operations and maintenance funding, is planning to install a log boom spanning the width of the Rio Grande near the mouth of White Rock Canyon on the northern portion of Cochiti Lake (Enclosure 1). Because of the recent Las Conchas fire upstream of the project area, large amounts of debris are being washed into the Rio Grande and into Cochiti Lake. This debris endangers the operation of the outlet works of the dam, is a public safety concern, and inhibits recreational use of the lake. The log boom will intercept debris coming down the river before it can accumulate in the lake and threaten dam operation and public safety.

The log boom will be constructed of 20-foot segments of eight-inch, floatant-filled PVC pipe connected together with galvanized $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch steel wire rope. Below the PVC pipe, sections of galvanized chain link fencing will be suspended to a depth of three feet to contain floating debris. The log boom will be anchored on the east and west banks of the lake using lynch pins driven into basalt

boulders. The pins will be inserted into the boulders in hand-drilled holes using hand-held equipment. A single anchor point will generally be used on each bank, although up to three pins may be necessary depending on available rock at the anchor point.

Maintenance of the log boom will consist of periodic emptying of the materials trapped by the boom. It is currently unknown how often the log boom will require emptying, although it is estimated that the boom could be emptied as often as every two weeks, or as infrequently as once every three months. The frequency of clearing the boom will be dependent on natural factors such as snowmelt runoff, the number and intensity of rain events, and the speed with which the Las Conchas burn scar revegetates. Emptying the log boom will be accomplished by removing a middle section of the boom, looping it around captured materials, and transporting it to the Tetilla Peak boat ramp by tow boat. Materials will then be deposited onto the boat ramp or nearby parking lots before being loaded into trucks for removal. Removal will be done by a contractor, and all materials will be disposed of in a pre-approved location, or in an approved landfill. Materials removed from the log boom will not be stored at the Cochiti Lake project, except for the short time between removal from the water and disposal in a landfill. Shortly before the lake freezes, generally in late November, the log boom will be removed from the lake and stored until the ice melts in the spring when the log boom can be reinstalled.

A review of Corps records and the New Mexico Cultural Resources Information System (NMCRIIS) database by Corps archaeologist Jeremy Decker on August 30, 2011 (Enclosure 2) showed that the entire project area falls within the original 1970's University of New Mexico Office of Contract Archaeology (OCA) permanent and flood pool surveys of the Cochiti Lake Project (Biella and Chapman 1978). The OCA survey recorded a number of sites in the project area, but noticeable gaps between site clusters were observed, and potential anchor locations were proposed based on these perceived gaps. Because the site boundaries obtained from the Archaeological Resources Management Section (ARMS) database are more than thirty years old and are questionable in terms of accuracy, site visits were undertaken by the Corps (September 2 and 20, 2011), as well as the Pueblo (September 12, 2011) in order to determine a location that would avoid cultural resources.

A total of three possible locations were initially proposed (Enclosure 3), with the two upstream locations (Locations 1 and 2) being ruled out based on the presence of historic properties and/or

culturally sensitive areas in the vicinity of proposed anchor locations. Location 3, on the other hand, falls within a gap between site clusters, and inspection of the area by Corps archaeologists on September 20, 2011 confirmed that no historic properties are present. Subsequent consultation with the Pueblo confirmed that the area would be suitable for installing the log boom.

Consistent with the Department of Defense's American Indian and Alaska Native Policy of 1998, and pursuant to 36 CFR 800.2(c)(2)(i), tribal consultation on this project was conducted with the Pueblo de Cochiti. The project is located entirely on Pueblo de Cochiti lands. Consultation was conducted by phone, email and formal letter, and coordinated through the Director of the Pueblo de Cochiti Department of Natural Resources, Mr. Jacob Pecos. Location 1, identified by Corps Operations Division personnel, was initially considered to be the preferred log boom location. Corps archaeologists, during a site visit on September 2, 2011 determined that cultural resources in the vicinity of Location 1 might be culturally sensitive, and Pueblo officials subsequently visited the proposed project area on September 12 and agreed that Location 1 would be unsuitable for the log boom due to the presence of sensitive cultural resources. The Pueblo asked the Corps to define a new location and provide them the opportunity to review the new location. The Corps inspected two possible locations on September 20, 2011, and after Corps Archaeologists determined that Location 2 was unsuitable based on its proximity to historic properties, provided the Pueblo with Location 3 as the newly proposed project site. Mr. Pecos provided an email response on September 21, 2011 indicating that the Pueblo had no concerns with Location 3. A formal consultation letter was sent to the Pueblo on September 23, 2011 to document the consultation process and to provide the Pueblo another opportunity to comment on the undertaking.

Based on the fact that, in close consultation with the Pueblo de Cochiti, all historic properties in the vicinity of the project area will be avoided by the construction and use of the log boom, the Corps is of the opinion that there would be "No Historic Properties Affected" by installing and maintaining the log boom. All access to the boom would be by boat, and all materials extracted from the boom, as well as the boom itself (during winter), will be stored in previously disturbed areas.

Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. 800.13, should previously unknown artifacts, features or historic properties be encountered during construction, work would cease in the immediate vicinity of the

resource. A determination of significance would be made, and further consultation with your office and with the Pueblo de Cochiti would be conducted to determine the best course of action.

In sum, we seek your concurrence in our determination of effect for this project. It is the opinion of the Corps that the installation and maintenance of a log boom will result in "No Historic Properties Affected". If you need additional information or have questions concerning the Cochiti Lake log boom installation, please call Jeremy Decker, archaeologist, at (505) 342-3671. Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Julie Alcon
Chief, Environmental Resources
Section

Oct 11 - 2011
Date

I concur

John R. Ecto For
Jan Biella
Interim New Mexico State
Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ALBUQUERQUE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
4101 JEFFERSON PLAZA NE
ALBUQUERQUE NM 87109-3435

September 23, 2011

Planning, Project and Program Management Division
Planning Branch
Environmental Resources Division

Robert B. Pecos
Governor, Pueblo de Cochiti
Post Office Box 70
Cochiti Pueblo, New Mexico 87072

Dear Governor Pecos:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District, is planning a project to install and maintain of a cable log boom at the Corps' Cochiti Lake Project in order to capture debris floating into Cochiti Lake. The undertaking is located on Pueblo de Cochiti (Pueblo) land near the mouth of White Rock Canyon within Cochiti Lake. Informal consultation for this project has been ongoing between the Pueblo and the Corps since September 2, 2011. This letter serves as formal tribal consultation, as required in 36 CFR 800.2(c)(2)(i).

The Corps' Operations Division, utilizing operations and maintenance funding, is planning to install a log boom spanning the width of the Rio Grande near the mouth of White Rock Canyon on the northern portion of Cochiti Lake (Enclosure 1). Because of the recent Las Conchas fire upstream of the project area, large amounts of debris are being washed into the Rio Grande and into Cochiti Lake. This debris endangers the operation of the outlet works of the dam, is a public safety concern, and inhibits recreational use of the lake. The log boom will intercept debris coming down the river before it can accumulate in the lake and threaten dam operation and public safety.

The log boom will be constructed of 20-foot segments of eight-inch, floatant-filled PVC pipe connected together with galvanized $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch steel wire rope. Below the PVC pipe, sections of galvanized chain link fencing will be suspended to a depth of three feet to contain floating debris. The log boom will be anchored on the east and west banks of the lake using lynch pins driven into basalt boulders. The pins will be inserted into the boulders in hand-

drilled holes using hand-held equipment. A single anchor point will generally be used on each bank, although up to three pins may be necessary depending on available rock at the anchor point.

Maintenance of the log boom will consist of periodic emptying of the materials trapped by the boom. It is currently unknown how often the log boom will require emptying, although it is estimated that the boom could be emptied as often as every two weeks, or as infrequently as once every three months. The frequency of clearing the boom will be dependent on natural factors such as snowmelt runoff, the number and intensity of rain events, and the speed with which the Las Conchas burn scar revegetates. Emptying the log boom will be accomplished by removing a middle section of the boom, looping it around captured materials, and transporting it to the Tetilla Peak boat ramp by tow boat. Materials will then be deposited onto the boat ramp or nearby parking lots before being loaded into trucks for removal. Removal will be done by a contractor, and all materials will be disposed of in a pre-approved location, or in an approved landfill. Materials removed from the log boom will not be stored at the Cochiti Lake project, except for the short time between removal from the water and disposal in a landfill. Shortly before the lake freezes, generally in late November, the log boom will be removed from the lake and stored until the ice melts in the spring when the log boom can be reinstalled.

A review of Corps records and the New Mexico Cultural Resources Information System (NMCRIS) database by Corps archaeologist Jeremy Decker on August 30, 2011 showed that the entire project area falls within the original 1970's University of New Mexico Office of Contract Archaeology (OCA) permanent and flood pool surveys of the Cochiti Lake Project. The OCA survey recorded a number of sites in the project area, but noticeable gaps between site clusters were observed, and potential anchor locations were initially proposed based on these perceived gaps (Enclosure 2). Because the site boundaries obtained from the Archaeological Resources Management Section (ARMS) database are more than thirty years old and questionable in terms of accuracy, site visits were undertaken by the Corps (September 2 and 20, 2011), as well as the Pueblo (September 12, 2011) in order to determine a location that would avoid cultural resources.

A total of three possible locations were initially proposed (Enclosure 2), with the two upstream locations (Locations 1 and 2) being ruled out based on the presence of historic properties and/or culturally sensitive areas in the vicinity of proposed anchor locations. Location 3, on the other hand, falls within a gap

between site clusters, and inspection of the area by Corps archaeologists on September 20, 2011 confirmed that no historic properties are present. Subsequent consultation with the Pueblo through Mr. Jacob Pecos, Director of the Pueblo de Cochiti Department of Natural Resources, confirmed that the area would be suitable for installing the log boom. As a result, the Corps is proposing to use Location 3 for the installation of the log boom.

Tribal consultation on this project was conducted only with the Pueblo de Cochiti, as the project is located entirely on Pueblo de Cochiti lands. Consultation was conducted initially by phone and email, and coordinated through Mr. Jacob Pecos. Corps archaeologists Jeremy Decker and Gregory Everhart conducted the Corps field visits and provided information on the project to Mr. Pecos. Rebecca Miner, Project Director for the Corps' Cochiti Lake project office, coordinated the field visit for Pueblo officials with Mr. Pecos.


Location 1, identified by Corps Operations Division personnel, was initially considered to be the preferred log boom location. Corps archaeologists, during a site visit on September 2, 2011 determined that cultural resources in the vicinity of Location 1 might be culturally sensitive, and Pueblo officials subsequently visited the proposed project area on September 12 and determined that Location 1 would be unsuitable for the log boom due to the presence of sensitive cultural resources. Following the September 2 and September 12 site visits, the Pueblo asked the Corps to define a new location and provide them the opportunity to review the new location. Corps archaeologists inspected two possible locations on September 20, 2011, and after determining that Location 2 was unsuitable based on its proximity to historic properties, provided the Pueblo with Location 3 as the newly proposed project site. Mr. Pecos provided an email response on September 21, 2011 indicating that the Pueblo had no concerns with Location 3. This formal consultation letter serves to document the consultation process and to provide another opportunity for the Pueblo to comment on the undertaking.

Based on the fact that, in close consultation with the Pueblo de Cochiti, all historic properties in the vicinity of the project area will be avoided by the construction and use of the log boom, the Corps is of the opinion that there would be "No Historic Properties Affected" by installing and maintaining the log boom. All access to the boom would be by boat, and all materials extracted from the boom, as well as the boom itself (during winter), will be stored in previously disturbed areas.

Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. 800.13, should previously unknown artifacts, features or historic properties be encountered during construction, work would cease in the immediate vicinity of the resource. A determination of significance would be made, and further consultation with your office and with the Pueblo de Cochiti would be conducted to determine the best course of action.

In sum, if you have any questions, comments or require any additional information concerning the Cochiti Lake Log Boom Installation project, please contact Jeremy Decker, archaeologist, by phone at (505) 342-3671 or by email at jeremy.t.decker@usace.army.mil. Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Julie Alcon,
Chief, Environmental Resources
Section

Enclosure

Copy furnished w/Encl:

Mr. Gilbert Herrera
Pueblo de Cochiti
NAGPRA Representative
Post Office Box 70
Cochiti Pueblo, New Mexico 87072

Mr. Jacob Pecos
Pueblo de Cochiti
Natural Resources Director
Post Office Box 70
Cochiti Pueblo, New Mexico 87072

Appendix B

Public Review Letter, Notice of Availability, and Affidavit of Publication

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ALBUQUERQUE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
4101 JEFFERSON PLAZA NE
ALBUQUERQUE NM 87109-3435

May 14, 2012

Planning, Project and Program Management Division
Planning Branch
Environmental Resources Section

Mr. Matt Wunder
NM Department of Game and Fish
Conservation Services Division
P.O. Box 25112
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

Dear Mr. Wunder:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Albuquerque District, has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the installation of a debris-containment log boom at Cochiti Lake, Sandoval County, New Mexico. The log boom was installed in November 2011 across the upper part of Cochiti Lake, upstream of the Tetilla Peak boat ramp and downstream of White Rock Canyon on the Rio Grande. See Figure 1 for the vicinity map of the project area.

In August 2011, following the Las Conchas fire, large quantities of woody debris were washed into Cochiti Lake, necessitating a costly emergency clean-up effort and closure of the lake to recreation. The Corps installed the log boom to prevent further large woody debris from entering Cochiti Lake. Debris is a hazard to public safety and can damage the dam's outlet works. Large quantities of woody debris resulting from the 2011 Las Conchas Fire still exist in several canyons that flow into the Rio Grande upstream of Cochiti Lake. The Corps determined that the log boom installation was necessary under its lake operations authority.

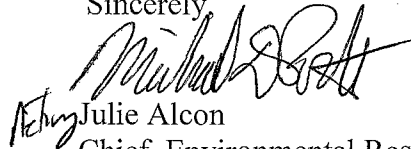
The DEA, entitled "**Installation of a Debris-Containment Log Boom at Cochiti Lake, Sandoval County, New Mexico**", is available electronically at the Albuquerque District website, <http://www.spa.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/EnvironmentalComplianceDocuments.aspx>. The Corps is soliciting comments from Federal, State, and local interests to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act.

The Corps has reviewed information on the BISON-M website and determined that no state endangered or threatened species would be affected by the proposed project. The Corps would appreciate any additional information on state endangered and threatened animal species or species of concern within Sandoval County and the project area that could be affected by the project. **Please see Section 3.8, Wildlife and Section 3.9, Special Status Species.**

Please review the DEA and provide any written comments to the above address, Attn: Ms. Dana Price, Environmental Resources Section. Written comments must be received **no later than June 13, 2012**, so that comments can be addressed and revisions made to the DEA in a timely manner. If we do not receive comments by this date, we will assume you have no concerns or have no objections to the project. You may facsimile your correspondence to (505) 342-3668 or e-mail to Dana.m.price@usace.army.mil.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Ms. Dana Price, biologist, at (505) 342-3378 or e-mail at dana.m.price@usace.army.mil or Mr. Jeremy Decker, archaeologist, at (505) 342-3671 or e-mail at Jeremy.T.Decker@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julie Alcon", written over the printed name.

Julie Alcon
Chief, Environmental Resources Section

Enclosure



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ALBUQUERQUE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
4101 JEFFERSON PLAZA NE
ALBUQUERQUE NM 87109-3435

May 14, 2012

Planning, Project and Program Management Division
Planning Branch
Environmental Resources Section

Mr. Steve Harris
Rio Grande Restoration
HCR 69 Box 3-C
Embudo, NM 87531

Dear Mr. Harris:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Albuquerque District, has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the installation of a debris-containment log boom at Cochiti Lake, Sandoval County, New Mexico. The log boom was installed in November 2011 across the upper part of Cochiti Lake, upstream of the Tetilla Peak boat ramp and downstream of White Rock Canyon on the Rio Grande. See Figure 1 for the vicinity map of the project area.


In August 2011, following the Las Conchas fire, large quantities of woody debris were washed into Cochiti Lake, necessitating a costly emergency clean-up effort and closure of the lake to recreation. The Corps installed the log boom to prevent further large woody debris from entering Cochiti Lake. Debris is a hazard to public safety and can damage the dam's outlet works. Large quantities of woody debris resulting from the 2011 Las Conchas Fire still exist in several canyons that flow into the Rio Grande upstream of Cochiti Lake. The Corps determined that the log boom installation was necessary under its lake operations authority.

The DEA, entitled "**Installation of a Debris-Containment Log Boom at Cochiti Lake, Sandoval County, New Mexico**", is available electronically at the Albuquerque District website, <http://www.spa.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/EnvironmentalComplianceDocuments.aspx>. The Corps is soliciting comments from Federal, State, and local interests to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act.

Please review the DEA and provide any written comments to the above address, Attn: Ms. Dana Price, Environmental Resources Section. Written comments must be received **no later than June 13, 2012**, so that comments can be addressed and revisions made to the DEA in a timely manner. If we do not receive comments by this date, we will assume you have no concerns or have no objections to the project. You may facsimile your correspondence to (505) 342-3668 or e-mail to Dana.m.price@usace.army.mil.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Ms. Dana Price, Biologist, at (505) 342-3378 or e-mail at Dana.M.Price@usace.army.mil or Mr. Jeremy Decker, Archaeologist, at (505) 342-3671 or e-mail at Jeremy.T.Decker@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,


Acting Julie Alcon

Chief, Environmental Resources Section

Enclosure



Figure 1. Location of Log Boom in Cochiti Lake

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THE SANTA FE
NEW MEXICAN
Founded 1849

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGI
4101 JEFFERSON PLAZA N
ALBUQUERQUE NM 87109

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AD NUMBER: 00369521 ACCOUNT: 00027282
LEGAL NO: 93102 P.O. #:
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AFFIDAVIT: 0.00
TAX. 12.37
TOTAL: 163.49

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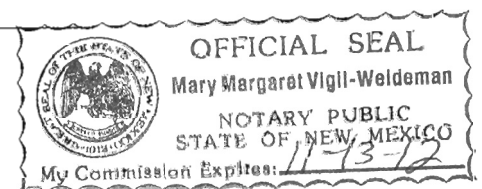
STATE OF NEW MEXICO
COUNTY OF SANTA FE

I, V. Wright, being first duly sworn declare and say that I am Legal Advertising Representative of THE SANTA FE NEW MEXICAN, a daily newspaper published in the English language, and having a general circulation in the Counties of Santa Fe and Los Alamos, State of New Mexico and being a newspaper duly qualified to publish legal notices and advertisements under the provisions of Chapter 167 on Session Laws of 1937; that the publication # 93102 a copy of which is hereto attached was published in said newspaper 1 day(s) between 05/14/2012 and 05/14/2012 and that the notice was published in the newspaper proper and not in any supplement; the first date of publication being on the 14th day of May, 2012 and that the undersigned has personal knowledge of the matter and things set forth in this affidavit.

/s/ V. Wright
LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT REPRESENTATIVE

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 14th day of May, 2012

Notary Mary Margaret Vigil-Weldeman
Commission Expires: 11-13-2012



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**Notice of Availability
Draft Environmental
Assessment for the
Installation of a De-
bris-Containment Log
Boom at Cochiti Lake
Sandoval County,
New Mexico**

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality regulations that implement the National Environmental Policy Act, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Albuquerque District, completed a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the installation of a debris-containment log boom at Cochiti Lake, Sandoval County, New Mexico. The log boom was installed in November 2011 across the upper part of Cochiti Lake, upstream of the Tetilla Peak boat ramp and downstream of White Rock Canyon on the Rio Grande. In August 2011, following the Las Conchas fire, large quantities of woody debris were washed into Cochiti Lake, necessitating a costly emergency clean-up effort and closure of the lake to recreation. The Corps installed the log boom to prevent further large woody debris from entering Cochiti Lake. Debris is a hazard to public safety and can damage the dam's outlet works. Large quantities of woody debris resulting from the 2011 Las Conchas Fire still exist in several canyons that flow into the Rio Grande upstream of Cochiti Lake. The Corps determined that the log boom installation was necessary under its lake operations authority. Public review of the draft EA/FONSI will begin on May 14, 2012 and will run for 30 days until June 13, 2012. The document

will be available on the Corps web site at <http://www.spa.usace.army.mil/fonsi/>. A hard copy will be sent upon request. Comments on the draft EA/FONSI should be sent to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District
Environmental Resources Section
Attn: CESPA-PM-LE (Dana Price)
4101 Jefferson Plaza NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109-3435

Paper copies of this document are also available for review at:

Santa Fe Public Library
145 Washington Street
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Albuquerque Main Library
501 Copper NW
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Bernalillo Roosevelt Public Library
134 Calle Malinche / P.O. Box 638
Bernalillo, NM 87004

Corrales Community Library
84 West La Entrada
Corrales, NM 87048

Los Alamos Mesa Public Library
2400 Central Ave.
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Espanola Public Library
313 North Paseo de Oñate
Espanola, NM 87532

Sweetkind Public Library
6515A Hoochaneetsa Blvd
Cochiti Lake, NM 87083

For more information please contact Dana Price, USACE, (505) 342-3378 or dana.m.price@usace.army.mil
Legal # 93102
Pub. May 14, 2012

Appendix C
Public Review Comment Letters

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United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Bandelier National Monument
15 Entrance Road
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544-9508



IN REPLY REFER TO:
H42(BAND)

Ms. Dana M. Price
Environmental Resources Section
Albuquerque District, Corps of Engineers
4101 Jefferson Street Plaza NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109-3435

Sent via Fax: (505) 342-3668

RE: Draft Environment Assessment (DEA) "Installation of a Debris-Containment Log Boom at Cochiti Lake, Sandoval County, New Mexico"

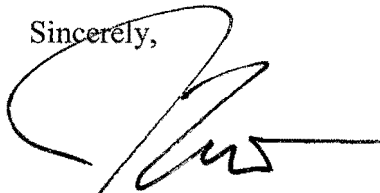
Dear Ms. Price;

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above referenced project. On behalf of the Monument, I would like to express my support for this project to address a pressing safety issue for managers and recreational users of Cochiti Lake.

The DEA is an opportunity to consider how federal and state agencies with an interest in the White Rock Canyon portion of the Rio Grande manage recreational boating, including providing information on current conditions. We would appreciate the opportunity to work with appropriate staff at the Corps of Engineers to cross-reference the Bandelier National Monument webpage with your recreational boating information webpage. This would allow the Monument to reach more boaters with the information that our Falls Trail in Frijoles Canyon is no longer in service from the Rio Grande to the Visitor Center area, due to a geologic collapse of a portion of the canyon wall. We would appreciate a contact from your staff to Rod Torrez, Chief of Interpretation, Bandelier National Monument, to facilitate coordination of our respective webpages.

Should you have further inquiries regarding the DEA, please contact Barbara Judy, Chief of Resources, (505) 672-3861 x701.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Lott', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

D. Jason Lott
Superintendent

GOVERNOR
Susana Martinez



DIRECTOR AND SECRETARY
TO THE COMMISSION
James S. Lane, Jr.

Daniel E. Brooks, Deputy Director

STATE OF NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF GAME & FISH

One Wildlife Way
Santa Fe, NM 87507
Post Office Box 25112
Santa Fe, NM 87504
Phone: (505) 476-8008
Fax: (505) 476-8124

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To order free publications call: (800) 862-9310

STATE GAME COMMISSION

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Albuquerque, NM

BILL MONTOYA
Alto, NM

May 23, 2012

Dana Price
Environmental Resources Section
Department of the Army
Corps of Engineers
Albuquerque District
4101 Jefferson Plaza NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109-3435

Draft Environmental Assessment and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact for Installation of a Debris-Containment Log Boom, Cochiti Lake, Sandoval County, New Mexico; NMDGF No. 15107

Dear Ms. Price:

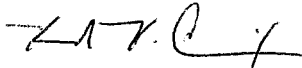
In response to your letter dated 14 May, regarding the above referenced project, the Department of Game and Fish (Department) does not anticipate significant impacts to wildlife or sensitive habitats. For your information, we have enclosed a list of sensitive, threatened and endangered species that occur in Sandoval County.

For more information on listed and other species of concern, contact the following sources:

1. BISON-M Species Accounts, Searches, and County lists: <http://www.bison-m.org>
2. Habitat Handbook Project Guidelines: http://wildlife.state.nm.us/conservation/habitat_handbook/index.htm
3. For custom, site-specific database searches on plants and wildlife, go to <http://nhnm.unm.edu>, then go to Data, then to Free On-Line Data, and follow the directions
4. New Mexico State Forestry Division (505-476-3334) or <http://nmrareplants.unm.edu/index.html> for state-listed plants
5. For the most current listing of federally listed species **always** check the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at (505-346-2525) or <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/NewMexico/SBC.cfm>.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on your project. If you have any questions, please contact Ellen Heilhecker, Northwest Area Habitat Specialist at (505) 222-4708 or ellen.heilhecker@state.nm.us.

Sincerely,



Kenneth K. Cunningham
Assistant Chief, Technical Guidance Section
Conservation Services Division

KKC/eh

xc: USFWS NMES Field Office
Brian Gleadle, NW Area Operations Chief, NMDGF
Ellen Heilhecker, NW Area Habitat Specialist, NMDGF

NEW MEXICO WILDLIFE OF CONCERN

SANDOVAL COUNTY

For complete up-dated information on federal-listed species, including plants, see the US Fish & Wildlife Service NM Ecological Services Field Office website at <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/NewMexico/SBC.cfm>. For information on state-listed plants, contact the NM Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, Division of Forestry, or go to <http://nmrareplants.unm.edu/>. If your project is on Bureau of Land Management, contact the local BLM Field Office for information on species of particular concern. If your project is on a National Forest, contact the Forest Supervisor's office for species information. E = Endangered; T = Threatened; s = sensitive; SOC = Species of Concern; C = Candidate; Exp = Experimental non-essential population; P = Proposed

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>NMGF</u>	<u>US FWS</u>	<u>critical habitat</u>
Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Oncorhynchus clarki	s	C	
Rio Grande Chub	Gila pandora	s		
Rio Grande Silvery Minnow	Hybognathus amarus	E	E	Y
Jemez Mountains Salamander	Plethodon neomexicanus	E	C	
Brown Pelican	Pelecanus occidentalis	E		
Neotropic Cormorant	Phalacrocorax brasilianus	T		
Bald Eagle	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	T		
Northern Goshawk	Accipiter gentilis	s	SOC	
Common Black-Hawk	Buteogallus anthracinus	T	SOC	
Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus	T	SOC	
Mountain Plover	Charadrius montanus	s	SOC	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Coccyzus americanus	s	C	
Mexican Spotted Owl	Strix occidentalis lucida	s	T	Y
Burrowing Owl	Athene cunicularia		SOC	
Black Swift	Cypseloides niger	s		
Broad-billed Hummingbird	Cynanthus latirostris	T		
Costa's Hummingbird	Calypte costae	T		
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher	Empidonax traillii extimus	E	E	Y
Loggerhead Shrike	Lanius ludovicianus	s		
Gray Vireo	Vireo vicinior	T		
Baird's Sparrow	Ammodramus bairdii	T	SOC	
Sprague's Pipit	Anthus spragueii		C	
Western Small-footed Myotis Bat	Myotis ciliolabrum melanorhinus	s		
Yuma Myotis Bat	Myotis yumanensis yumanensis	s		
Little Brown Myotis Bat	Myotis lucifugus carissima	s		
Occult Little Brown Myotis Bat	Myotis lucifugus occultus	s		
Long-legged Myotis Bat	Myotis volans interior	s		
Fringed Myotis Bat	Myotis thysanodes thysanodes	s		
Long-eared Myotis Bat	Myotis evotis evotis	s		
Spotted Bat	Euderma maculatum	T		
Pale Townsend's Big-eared Bat	Corynorhinus townsendii pallescens	s	SOC	
Big Free-tailed Bat	Nyctinomops macrotis	s		
Goat Peak Pika	Ochotona princeps nigrescens	s	SOC	
Gunnison's Prairie Dog (prairie)	Cynomys gunnisoni	s		
Gunnison's Prairie Dog (montane)	Cynomys gunnisoni	s	C	
New Mexican Jumping Mouse	Zapus hudsonius luteus	E	C	
American Marten	Martes americana origenes	T		
Black-footed Ferret	Mustela nigripes		E	

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<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>NMGF</u>	<u>US FWS</u>	<u>critical habitat</u>
Wrinkled Marshsnail	Stagnicola caperata	E		
Socorro Mountainsnail	Oreohelix neomexicana	s		

From: [Roth, Daniela, EMNRD](#)
To: [Price, Dana M SPA](#)
Subject: Chochiti Lake Log Boom
Date: Tuesday, June 19, 2012 3:03:34 PM

Dear Dana Price:

This is to inform you that the Forestry Division of the NM Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department has no concerns regarding state listed plants with respect to the construction of a log boom across the upper part of Chochiti Lake in Sandoval County, NM.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance,

Daniela Roth

BOTANY PROGRAM COORDINATOR

EMNRD-Forestry Division

1220 S. St. Francis Dr.

Santa Fe, NM 87505

(505)476-3347 (Phone)

(505)476-3330 (Fax)

From: [Verchinski, Stephen, EMNRD](#)
To: [Price, Dana M SPA](#)
Subject: Cochiti Lake Comments
Date: Monday, November 28, 2011 1:24:27 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image008.png](#)

Here are some boater safety comments to consider.

The log boom will cause a long term accident issue with use of the upper end of this lake with likely subsurface logs that get past the boom being struck by boaters. It may be more prudent to put move the boom further up the reservoir. I would then access the debris with a road extension from the NW side accessing the shallow upper end of the lake for debris removal/ air curtain burning on the NW side of the lake.

As for notice. My recommendation would be to put at least a 2' by 4' sign at Buckmann, Tetilla and Cochiti Main Ramp for alerting the boaters of the obstruction. Further at least 500-600 feet before the boom on the upriver side of the Lake I would suggest a 2' by 3' sign with hazard buoy markings and a notice of and direction to portage for the paddle craft in order to avoid the boom.

Officer Stephen Verchinski

State Boating Safety and Education Coordinator

2011 Recipient of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators Boating Safety Award

1220 St. Francis Drive

Santa Fe, NM 87505

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From: John Seiner Kokopelli Rafting
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2011 11:19 AM
To: Price, Dana M SPA
Subject: RE: Log Boom installation at Cochiti Lake

Hello Dana,

Impeding navigability would have serious impacts on my business. We take about 20 - 30 trips a year down this section of river. We've already suffered from one summer of lost use. We definitely offer this trip to youth groups and educational groups, about 100 participants a year. (Science discovery camps, Bernalillo public school groups, etc) Kokopelli Rafting's season runs from April 15th until Sept 7th each year.

John Seiner
Kokopelli Rafting Adventures

On Nov 9, 2011, at 3:50 PM, Price, Dana M SPA wrote:

Dear Boaters,

I am writing to inform you of a planned Corps of Engineers action that may affect boating in the upper part of Cochiti Lake.

As you may know, there have been issues with debris from the Las Conchas fire impacting recreation on the lake recently. The Corps is also concerned about debris clogging and damaging the dam outlet works. To address this, we are planning to install a floating log boom across the upper part of the lake. This will help keep the rest of the lake clear, but will obstruct passage into Cochiti Lake from upstream. Please read the attached letter for details.

I would appreciate hearing from you if you have any concerns. Also, please let me know of any others who should receive this. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you,

Dana M. Price
Botanist, Environmental Resources Section
US Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District
4101 Jefferson Plaza NE Albuquerque, NM 87109
(505) 342-3378

From: Steve Harris
Sent: Tuesday, May 15, 2012 9:26 AM
To: Price, Dana M SPA
Subject: White Rock Canyon Navigation; Cochiti Log Boom EA

DANA: My previous e-mail (bottom of this thread) summarizes my views:

1. The log boom, as presently configured, represents a problem for navigation and a potential public hazard to any traffic coming from upstream that may find itself in need of rescue or assistance.
2. USACE is urged to find a technical solution, by re-engineering the boom to allow more effective access for motors coming from the reservoir to the river.

I will be glad to work with you on devising such a solution. Please consider these to be my comments for your EA.

Steve Harris
Rio Grande Restoration
HCR 69 Box 3-C
Embudo, NM 87531

-----Original Message-----

From: Steve Harris
Sent: Friday, May 11, 2012 8:23 AM
To: Price, Dana M SPA
Subject: Re: Follow up on Cochiti Reservoir log boom

Dana: Because of its location down the lake, there was substantial time and effort required in reaching the boom. Getting across required multiple attempts at getting our boat to tow us across.

One boater reports that he set a passenger off on the boom to hold it down and was able to get over, though not, I gather without some difficulty. In short it is a barrier to navigation whose impact is most keenly felt in a wind. In case of an emergency, it effectively prevents rescue response.

Mitigating this would require a gap large enough to drive the Corps' Boston Whaler or Richard Bell's pontoon through.

Thanks for keeping the boaters in the loop throughout the season.

Steve Harris
Rio Grande Restoration
HCR 69 Box 3-C
Embudo, NM 87531

On May 10, 2012, Price, Dana M SPA wrote:

Hi Steve,
I'm sending out the Draft Environmental Assessment on the Cochiti log boom for public review Monday. Question for you- on the trip you did last March when the boom was closed, how did you get across? Any trouble?

It turns out opening/closing the boom is not so easy and takes some time, so they are only going to have it open when they expect long periods of clear weather without runoff.

Thanks for your feedback!

From: Standish, Miles -FS
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2012 10:54 AM
To: Price, Dana M SPA
Cc: Bjorklund, Lynn A -FS; Hurlocker, Sandy -FS
Subject: RE: Follow up on Cochiti Reservoir boom

Hello Dana, thanks for your message.
First off I have a couple questions.

Where on the lake is the boom located? Rafters floating down the river often get picked up by some sort of boat and towed to a boat ramp once they reach the upper lake since the current drops to zero and the typical upcanyon winds make paddling the lake difficult. Is the boom upstream from the popular boat ramp/take out points? In other words, would the tow boats need to cross the boom? And if so, could they? Another thing to consider is that canoes are occasionally taken down the river, but I am assuming a canoe could be portaged around it with little difficulty.

I understand the boom would have a center section left open "as much as we can. It will have to be closed during high runoff and before storm events."

Of course, "during high runoff" is the most popular time to run the river.... and storm events are unpredictable, and it is unlikely that commercial river runners will be able to take them into account, unless we are referring to very large and massive storm events. I assume that this is what you have in mind.

As for the signage, we are happy to work on this with you. At present, we are still a ways away from final kiosk design, construction, and even final determination of the kiosk location.

I suggest in the interim that we jointly design and have fabricated a sign that conveys the message we want, and that we place it in the location most likely to catch the eyes of the recreational boaters on the river. I suggest the best location to do this would be right at the very end of the Buckman Road, on the north side of the road, right at the river where rafts unload and put in (at present out planned kiosk location is a bit farther downstream and it is unlikely that boaters would notice it). Typically it might take 20 or 30 minutes to unload, secure the boats and gear, and put in, then the vehicles usually leave the area. This would give the boaters ample time to notice the sign.

I would be happy to help with the design of the sign, and can provide the Forest Service logo, etc. We can order it from the sign manufacturer we typically use, and can ensure it meets agency standards as well as the typical Forest Service "look". I think something 3' X 4', mounted on two wooden posts should be sufficient.

In addition, we can also post this information on the Forest Service Recreation webpage, and I can also contact directly the commercial river outfitters that we have under Special Use Permit. Perhaps a press release might be in order too. And when we do proceed with our kiosk, we can always double up on the message there also.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Miles Standish
Recreation Special Uses, Trails and Wilderness Espanola Ranger District, Santa Fe National Forest

-----Original Message-----

From: Price, Dana M SPA [<mailto:dana.m.price@usace.army.mil>]

Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2012 11:32 AM

To: Standish, Miles -FS

Subject: RE: Follow up on Cochiti Reservoir boom

Hi Miles,

We will be preparing an Environmental Assessment for the boom this spring.

We are planning to leave the center section open as much as we can. It will have to be closed during high runoff and before storm events. We will purchase channel buoys to mark the passage.

...

Currently the boom is in place across the lake and there is no ice on the lake. Here's a picture- this was taken last Nov but it looks the same now. The other pictures show installation just before hooking it to the bank & before placing the mid-stream anchors, and the right bank anchor.

Thanks,

Dana

....

-----Original Message-----

From: Hurlocker, Sandy [<mailto:shurlocker@fs.fed.us>]

Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2011 12:11 PM

To: Price, Dana M SPA

Cc: Standish, Miles; Bjorklund, Lynn; Apodaca, Anne

Subject: Follow up on Cochiti Reservoir Conversation

Hi Dana,

Thanks for calling regarding the Cochiti Boom and its potential effects on rafting access to the lower reservoir. I agree about the need to coordinate signs letting rafters know about it. I also agree it's best to start now so we're ready in the spring season. Your contact here at Española will be Miles Standish.

Sandy Hurlocker

District Ranger

Española Ranger District