

Memorandum of Understanding, Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Act Collaborative Program. Participants in the Middle Rio Grande ESA Work Group have developed an Interim Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This document which was signed on April 23, 2002, describes significant progress made by the ESA Work Group up to this point, develops an interim structure for program committees, outlines the process to manage program funds, and establishes the firm commitment and schedule to complete the development of the full program by the end of 2003. The interim period would extend until December 31, 2003, the same time frame as the Middle Rio Grande Water Operations Biological Opinion and the Conservation Water Agreement (both dated June 29, 2001). During the interim period, the federal actions agencies (Bureau of Reclamation and Corps of Engineers) will complete NEPA compliance and ESA Sec. 7 consultation for the long-term program.