



US Army Corps
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News Release

Contact:
Bruce Hill
Phone# - 505-342-3171
Fax- 505-342-3179
Email- Bruce.R.Hill@usace.army.mil

Flood control and ecosystem are Corps of Engineers' priorities in Fountain Creek

Bruce A. Estok – EDITORIAL

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Albuquerque, NM – The ongoing concern regarding Fountain Creek underscores the challenge that water management along the creek poses for flood damage reduction, public safety, and the Fountain's ecosystem.

In fact, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers remains engaged in Southern Colorado where it is working to complete the Fountain Creek watershed study by September 2008.

While the Legacy Project completed provides superb recreational benefits for the local community and area visitors, these are ancillary benefits to the project's primary purpose of Environmental Restoration.

The Fountain Creek watershed study will provide a detailed analysis of current conditions on the creek and evaluate the types of projects that could reduce the impacts of flooding and

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benefit the environment. The plan formulation will be completed by October 2007 and preliminary project evaluations completed by January 2008. A final report will be submitted in September 2008, provided that Federal funding of this study is continued in Fiscal Year 2008.

It is important to note that the Fountain Creek watershed study will not, in and of itself, result in the construction of new projects. However, it will identify potential projects that address the conditions along the Fountain from environmental and flood damage reduction perspectives. It will also assess what Federal, state, or local agencies have the appropriate legal authorities required to implement the projects. Where the Corps of Engineers is the right agency, we stand ready to advance them once they are Federally authorized and funded.

Construction of a dam on Fountain Creek is one of many potential projects that are being evaluated. If the preliminary evaluation indicates a new dam will meet flood damage reduction and/or environmental purposes, the study will offer recommendations on how to pursue the project's detailed evaluation, design, and construction.

Numerous complex issues along Fountain Creek have been identified and will be thoroughly investigated in the ongoing watershed study. The Corps of Engineers looks forward to its continued collaboration with the study's sponsors, local and state government, other Federal agencies, and the interested public in Southern Colorado to devise solutions for the

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issues facing the Fountain.

We recognize the importance of recreation and other ancillary benefits that maybe derived from flood damage reduction and ecosystem projects, and believe that the Fountain Creek watershed study will complement Colorado Springs' and Pueblo's ongoing collaborative efforts as part of the Fountain Creek Jewel Task Force.

About the writer:

Lieutenant Colonel Bruce A. Estok is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' District Commander.