



**US Army Corps  
Of Engineers  
Albuquerque District**

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# News Release

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**Release For: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District  
Construction Project for Habitat to Begin this Fall**

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## HABITAT

**Albuquerque, NM.** - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Albuquerque District has begun construction on the Rio Grande Nature Center Habitat Restoration Project to benefit the Rio Grande silvery minnow (RGSM) and southwestern willow flycatcher (SWFL) in the Albuquerque Reach.

A Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Act Collaborative Program funded project, the proposal includes re-establishment of the hydrological connection between the river and existing channel-like topography in the Bosque at the Rio Grande Nature Center.

"This project will create habitat that could be utilized by the Rio Grande silvery minnow during spawning as well as be a haven for juvenile fish of all species," said Ondrea Hummel, Biologist, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Albuquerque District. It will also meet overall goals to restore the riparian mosaic and enhance habitat for endangered species.

Construction has begun and will continue through the fall of 2007 and winter of 2008. Non-native vegetation such as Russian olive will be removed from the bottom of the channel and along the side-slopes with some left for habitat. Native vegetation such as willow and New Mexico olive will be planted along the side slopes and grass seeding will be installed in areas that are disturbed by construction. Some embayment areas will also be constructed.

