

**Comments from URGWOPS Public Scoping Meeting;  
Las Cruces, New Mexico; Corbett Center, New Mexico State University;  
October 17, 2000**

Following is a summary of the questions, comments, and issues raised during the discussion that followed the formal presentation on the purpose and objectives of the Upper Rio Grande Basin Water Operations Review and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) at the scoping meeting in Las Cruces, New Mexico. They are presented in the order they were discussed.

*/?/Comment.* Will you be doing analysis for the river below Elephant Butte?

*/?/Comment.* Agriculture is apparently not represented in any of the technical teams.

*/?/Comment.* Agriculture should be addressed by a separate technical team, similar to recreation. Why not cover recreation under the Land Use Technical Team and designate a separate team for agriculture, which has a vested interest in water operations and the potential for important impacts to changing operations.

*/?/Comment.* A farmer or rancher can contribute a great deal to this project. It doesn't appear that ranching interests are represented either.

*/?/Comment.* It is a disservice to represent recreation and wildlife but not include specific representation of agricultural interests. Some of the dams in the basin were built for agriculture, not recreation or fish.

*/?/Comment.* Agriculture should be raised in importance by adding a technical team or developing a poster and other information on how it will be addressed.

*/?/Comment.* What baseline information will be covered for operation of the Rio Grande Project?

*/?/Comment.* How much of the Rio Grande Project is flood control? Is this a minor part of this project?

*/?/Comment.* Which litigation are you referring to? You are missing a tremendous opportunity to get baseline river information that is important to Las Cruces.

*/?/Comment.* The middle Rio Grande litigation seems to be as disruptive as the litigation below Elephant Butte, but limits have not been placed on evaluating water operations there.

*/?/Comment.* Will actions and alternatives be considered outside the river channel and the floodplain? For example, will salt cedar baseline information be collected? You should understand pre-dam vegetation to determine trends and changes in vegetation in the floodplain.

*/?/Comment.* Will you only evaluate current conditions or will you compare these conditions with historic data and project the effects of changes?