

Appendix 1: Preparation, Consultation, and Coordination

1.0 Preparation, Consultation, and Coordination

1.1 Preparation

This EA was prepared by AMEC, Environment & Infrastructure, Inc. for CPW and USACE. Personnel primarily responsible for the preparation include:

- Melissa Greulich, Environmental Scientist, AMEC
- Matt Schulz, Forest Management and GIS Coordinator, CPW

1.2 Quality Control

This Environmental Assessment has been reviewed for quality control purposes. Reviewers include:

- Doug McFarling, Principal Program Manager, AMEC
- Dana Price, Botanist, USACE
- Jeremy Decker, Archaeologist, USACE
- Julie Alcon, Chief, Environmental Resources Section, USACE
- Chelsea Reale, Environmental Scientist Trainee, USACE

1.3 Consultation and Coordination

Agencies that were consulted in the process of creating this EA include:

- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- The City of Trinidad, Colorado
- Arkansas Valley Audubon Society
- Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory
- Colorado State Land Board

The USACE and CPW closely coordinated to produce the EA. An initial meeting was held prior to conducting research and outlined all foreseeable effects and issues to address. Below is the letter that was sent to US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Trinidad Lake State Park Environmental Assessment



May 29, 2013

AMEC, Environment & Infrastructure, Inc.
2000 S. Colorado Blvd., Suite 2-1000
Denver, CO 80222

Susan Linner
Field Supervisor
Colorado Ecological Services Field Office
US Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 25486
Denver, CO 80225

Dear Ms. Linner:

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality regulations that implement the National Environmental Policy Act, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) in collaboration with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Albuquerque District, whom is the federal landowner, completed a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the project titled **"Trinidad Lake State Park Fuels Management Project"** in Trinidad, Colorado. The purpose of this project is to thin a piñon /juniper forest within the park to enhance wildfire protection, improve wildfire evacuation routes, improve foraging for wildlife, advance forest health, and prevent meadow encroachment by woody species. See the enclosed figure for a map of the project area.

The proposed treatment area contains 78-acres of piñon/juniper woodlands, intermixed with scrub oak, cottonwoods (*Populus* sp.), and ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) that are very densely concentrated. Gambel oak (*Quercus gambelii*) fills space between mature pine and juniper trees, contributing to the existing fuel source. Fuels reduction would result in the creation of small openings in dense woodland areas, a reduction in woodland encroachment into meadows, and removal of excess fuel loads. Standing and downed woody materials would be masticated on site and hand trimming would be used when equipment is unable to reach target trees.

The project is necessary for additional protection of park visitors, staff, firefighters, and nearby communities. With this project's defensible space and fuels reduction in place, the park would have key locations where firefighters can implement suppression efforts in the event of an approaching wildfire. Thinning, mastication of downed woody debris and slash, and strategic fuels removal within these blocks would lower the risk of catastrophic wildfire, increase defensibility, minimize forest insect and diseases losses, and enhance overall stand health and vigor.

The DEA, entitled **"Trinidad Lake State Park Fuels Management Project"**, 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.

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2000 S. Colorado Blvd., Suite 2-1000
Denver, Colorado 80222
Tel +1 (303) 935-6505
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Trinidad Lake State Park Environmental Assessment

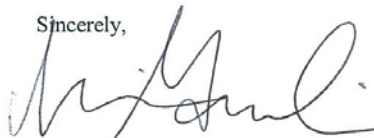
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The Corps has reviewed information on federally listed species and determined that no endangered or threatened species or their designated critical habitats would be affected by the proposed project. We would appreciate any additional information on endangered and threatened species or species of concern within Las Animas County and the proposed project area that could be affected by the proposed project. Please see Sections 3.2.3 and 3.2.4 for information on Biological Resources, including Wildlife and Special Status Species. Information on Wetlands is included in Sections 3.1.5, and 3.2.1.

Please review the DEA and provide any written comments to the above address, Attn: Ms. Melissa Greulich. Comments must be received **no later than June 30, 2013**, 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 (303)935-6575 or e-mail to Melissa.greulich@amec.com

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Ms. Melissa Greulich, environmental scientist, at (303) 630-0851 or e-mail at Melissa.greulich@amec.com.

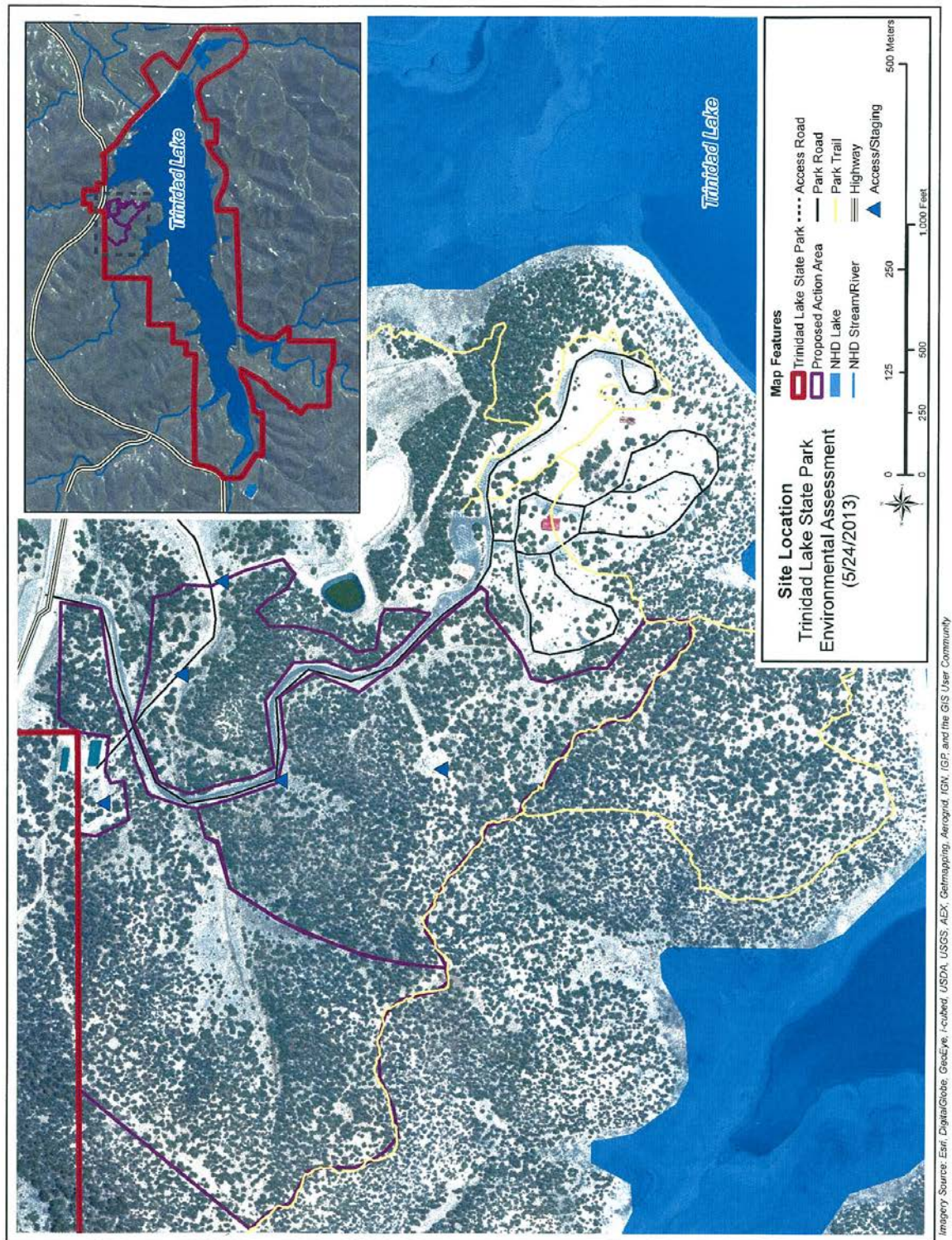
Sincerely,



Melissa Greulich
Environmental Scientist

Enclosure

Trinidad Lake State Park Environmental Assessment



1.4 Notification

The public review of the draft document occurred May 31, 2013 – June 30, 2013. Below is the Notice of Availability that was released to the public in the local newspaper. Letters of notification were also sent to individuals listed in Appendix 1 Section 1.6. You will also see the affidavit of publication from the Trinidad Times.

Notice of Availability

*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 project titled “**Trinidad Lake State Park Fuels Management Project**” in Trinidad, Colorado. The purpose of this project is to thin a piñon /juniper forest within the park to enhance wildfire protection, improve wildfire evacuation routes, improve foraging for wildlife, advance forest health, and prevent meadow encroachment by woody species. The project proposes to masticate and hand thin 78 acres of piñon /juniper woodlands.*

The proposed treatment area contains primarily piñon/juniper woodlands, intermixed with scrub oak, cottonwoods (Populus sp.), and ponderosa pine (Pinus ponderosa) that are very densely concentrated. Gambel oak (Quercus gambelii) fills space between mature pine and juniper trees, contributing to the existing fuel source. Fuels reduction would result in the creation of small openings in dense woodland areas, a reduction in woodland encroachment into meadows, and removal of excess fuel loads. Standing and downed woody materials would be masticated on site and hand trimming would be used when equipment is unable to reach target trees.

The project is necessary for additional protection of park visitors, staff, firefighters, and nearby communities. With this project’s defensible space and fuels reduction in place, the park would have key locations where firefighters can implement suppression efforts in the event of an approaching wildfire. Thinning, mastication of downed woody debris and slash, and strategic fuels removal within these blocks would lower the risk of catastrophic wildfire, increase defensibility, minimize forest insect and diseases losses, and enhance overall stand health and vigor.

The Draft EA is electronically available for viewing and copying at the Albuquerque District website at:

<http://www.spa.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/EnvironmentalComplianceDocuments.aspx>

Or a hard copy will be sent upon written request to the following address:

AMEC, Environment & Infrastructure, Inc.

Trinidad Lake State Park Environmental Assessment

*Attn: Melissa Greulich
2000 S. Colorado Blvd., Suite 2-1000
Denver, CO 80222*

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

*Carnegie Public Library
202 N. Animas St.
Trinidad, CO 81082*

And

*Trinidad Lake State Park Visitor's Center
32610 Highway 12
Trinidad, CO 81082*

This public review will extend from May 31, 2013 through June 30, 2013. Written comments should be sent to the above address or electronically to melissa.greulich@amec.com. Comments will be accepted until 4:00 P.M. June 30, 2013.

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

OFFICIAL SEAL
SANDRA L. GOMEZ
Notary Public
State of New Mexico
My Comm Expires 2-24-15

Trinidad Lake State Park Environmental Assessment

Notice of Availability
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 project titled "Trinidad Lake State Park Fuels Management Project" in Trinidad, Colorado. The purpose of this project is to thin a piñon/juniper forest within the park to enhance wildfire protection, improve wildfire evacuation routes, improve foraging for wildlife, advance forest health, and prevent

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Legal 867513
Published in The
Trinidad Times Independent, May 31,
2013

1.5 Public Review

The public review of the draft document occurred May 31, 2013 – June 30, 2013. No comments were received from the public during this time period.

Trinidad Lake State Park Environmental Assessment

1.6 Draft Environmental Assessment Notification Letter and Distribution List



May 29, 2013

AMEC, Environment & Infrastructure, Inc.
2000 S. Colorado Blvd., Suite 2-1000
Denver, CO 80222



Dear [REDACTED]:

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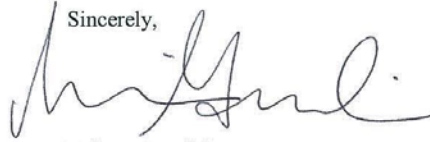
Trinidad Lake State Park Environmental Assessment

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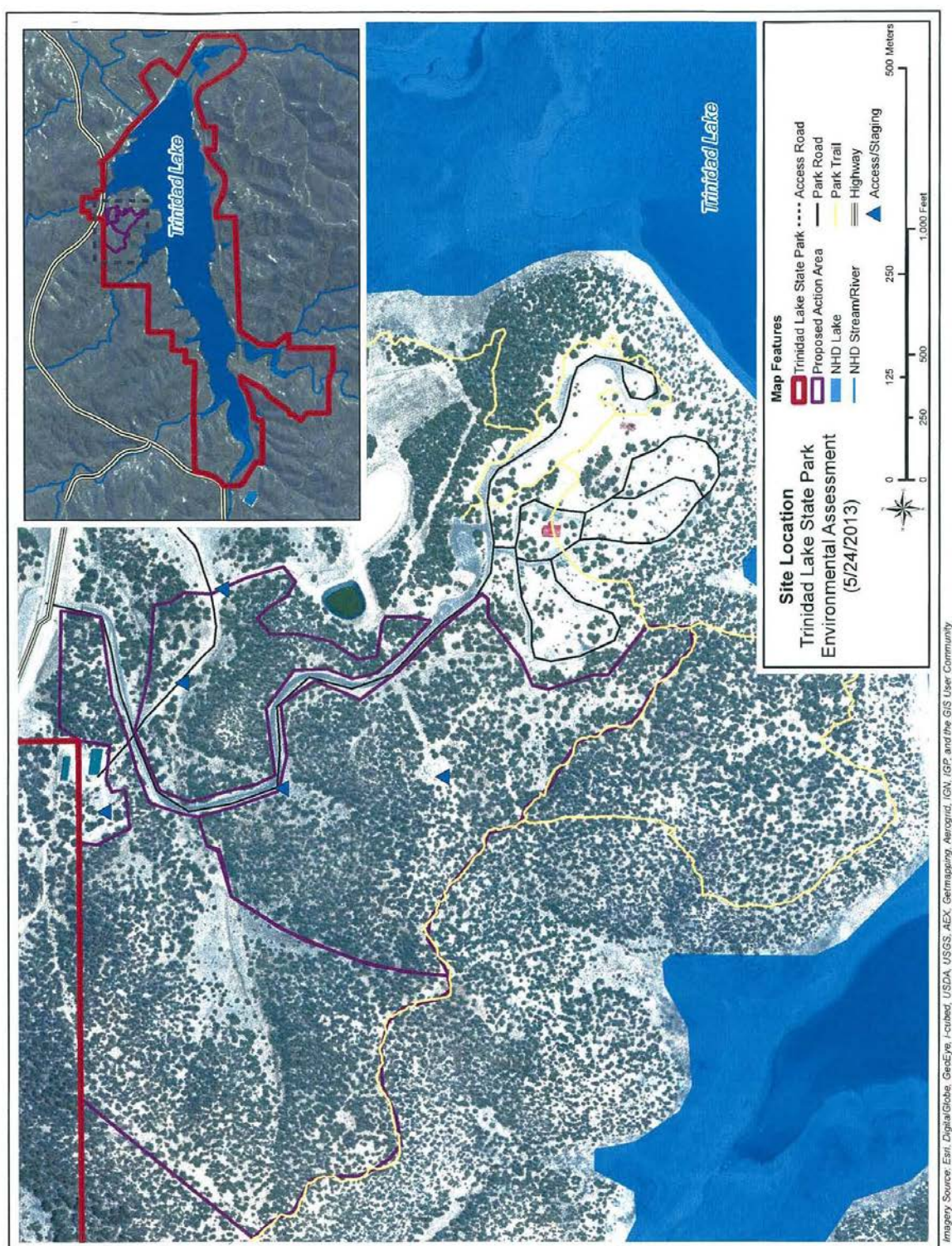
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melissa Greulich', written over a horizontal line.

Melissa Greulich
Environmental Scientist

Enclosure

Trinidad Lake State Park Environmental Assessment



Trinidad Lake State Park Environmental Assessment

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District Conservationist
Trinidad Service Center
US Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Natural Resource Conservation Service
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Montane/Forest Habitat Coordinator
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Planning Department
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Trinidad, CO 81082

Leann Fabec
Las Animas County
County Administrator
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Trinidad Lake State Park Environmental Assessment

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Chair, Community Preparedness
Committee
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Trinidad, CO 81082

Spirit Mountain Ranch Property
Owner's Association
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Aguilar, CO 81020

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Trinidad, CO 81082

Tom and Marie Sciacca
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Trinidad, CO 81082