

Danny Borunda 915.832.4701

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

River Management Alternatives for the Rio Grande Canalization Project

Lead Agency:

**UNITED STATES SECTION,
INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION**

Cooperating Agency:

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION, ALBUQUERQUE AREA OFFICE
Albuquerque, New Mexico**

Technical Support:

PARSONS
Austin, Texas

To: - 7845
Ellea Dietrich

842-7798
FAX

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Cover Sheet

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Draft Final

Lead Agency

United States Section, International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico (USIBWC) El Paso, Texas.

Cooperating Agency

U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Albuquerque Area Office, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Abstract

The USIBWC is evaluating long-term river management alternatives for the Rio Grande Canalization Project (RGCP), a 105.4-mile narrow river corridor that extends from below Percha Dam in Sierra County, New Mexico to American Dam in El Paso, Texas. The RGCP, operated and maintained by the USIBWC since its completion in 1943, facilitates water deliveries and provides flood control.

The No Action Alternative and three action alternatives are evaluated in the EIS. The alternatives were developed in a manner that enhances and partially restores the riparian ecosystem while maintaining the flood control and water delivery requirements of the RGCP. Alternatives formulation was the result of a 3-year public consultation process that included regulatory agencies, irrigation districts, and environmental organizations.

Measures under consideration as part of the alternatives include modifications to grazing leases, changes in floodway vegetation management, riparian restoration, and aquatic habitat diversification.

Following the public comment period on the Draft EIS, the Integrated USIBWC Land Management was identified as the preferred alternative for RGCP management.

Other Requirements Served

This Final EIS is intended to serve other environmental review and consultation requirements pursuant to: 40 CFR 1502.25(a)

Date Draft EIS was made available to EPA and the Public:

December 18, 2003

Date Final EIS was made available to EPA and the Public:

June 29, 2004