

# Cover Sheet

**Title:** Upper Rio Grande Basin Water Operations Review Final Environmental Impact Statement

**Lead Agencies:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Bureau of Reclamation  
New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission

**Location:** Rio Grande corridor and major tributaries in Colorado, New Mexico, Texas

**Abstract:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), and the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission (NMISC) prepared this Upper Rio Grande Basin Water Operations Review Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) to assess the potential consequences of proposed changes to water operations at federal facilities in the Rio Grande basin above Fort Quitman, Texas. The proposed changes in operations were required to be within the existing authorities of the Corps, NMISC, and Reclamation. The FEIS presents alternatives that consider changing waiver dates at Heron Reservoir, changing channel capacities below Abiquiu and Cochiti, allowing storage of Rio Grande water in authorized San Juan-Chama space in Abiquiu Reservoir and allowing varying degrees of diversion to the Low Flow Conveyance Channel. The FEIS summarizes the environmental, economic and social effects of these alternatives. Alternative E-3 is the Preferred Alternative because it best satisfies the key goals of the EIS—to provide a plan for more efficient operation of federal reservoirs and facilities as an integrated system, to improve decision-making processes and interagency coordination, to support compliance with applicable laws and regulations, and to promote ecosystem sustainability.

This FEIS has been prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and Reclamation and Corps procedures. It is intended to serve environmental review and consultation requirements pursuant to Executive Order 11990 (Wetlands Protection), Executive Order 12898 (Environmental Justice), the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106), Endangered Species Act (Section 7[c]), and Indian Trust Asset policies.

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