Rio Grande Canalization Project Brief

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International Boundary and Water Commission
History of Current EIS

- 1977 Environmental Assessment for annual O&M activities
- 1991 USACE Corps Regulatory requirements
- 1994 channel maintenance 404 Permit issued with stipulations (wetland and riffle zone creation, tree planting etc)
- 1998 USIBWC receives notice of NEPA and ESA violations
- 1999 USIBWC issues NOI for River Management Alternatives EIS
History of Current EIS cont’d

- 1999 – 2001 Public Scoping and Consultation period for Alternatives Development
- 2001 Alternatives Formulation Report issued
- 2003 Reformulation of River Management Alternatives Report issued
- December 2003 Draft EIS released for public comment
- July 2004 Final EIS issued
- August 2004 Record of Decision expected
- Governor Richardson, Senators Bingamon and Domenici, and stakeholders request delay in signing the ROD
EIS Alternatives

- Canalization Project EIS evaluated long-term River Management Alternatives:
  - No Action
  - Flood Control Improvement
  - Integrated Land Management
  - Targeted River Restoration

- Goal to accomplish flood control, water delivery, and operation and maintenance activities in a manner that would enhance or restore the riparian ecosystem
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Category</th>
<th>No Action Alternative</th>
<th>Flood Control Improvement Alternative</th>
<th>PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE Integrated USIBWC Land Management</th>
<th>Targeted River Restoration Alternative</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Levee System Management</td>
<td>Routine levee and road maintenance</td>
<td>No Change</td>
<td>No Change</td>
<td>No Change</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Levee System Improvements</td>
<td>Levee System Improvements</td>
<td>Levee System Improvements</td>
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<tr>
<td>Floodway Management</td>
<td>Unmodified grazing leases</td>
<td>Modified leases for erosion control (3,552 ac)</td>
<td>Modified leases for erosion control (3,493 ac)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Continue Seasonal mowing (4,657 ac)</td>
<td>No Change</td>
<td>Continued mowing (2,674 ac)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Modified grassland management (1,641 ac)</td>
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<td>Native vegetation planting (223 ac)</td>
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<td>Stream bank Reconfiguration (127 ac)</td>
<td>Voluntary conservation easements (1,618 ac)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Channel and Irrigation Facilities Management</td>
<td>Debris removal and channel protection</td>
<td>No Change</td>
<td>No Change</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>American Dam and irrigation structures maintenance</td>
<td>No Change</td>
<td>No Change</td>
<td>No Change</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Reopening of six former meanders (147 ac)</td>
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<td>Sediment Management</td>
<td>NRCS sediment dam maintenance</td>
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<td>Sediment removal from arroyos / mitigation actions</td>
<td>No Change</td>
<td>Modified arroyo Dredging for aquatic habitat (12 arroyos)</td>
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<td>Disposal from dredging channel within ROW*</td>
<td>Disposal mainly outside ROW*</td>
<td>Disposal mainly outside ROW*</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Disposal from environmental measure excavation inside ROW*</td>
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<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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</table>
Final EIS Preferred Alternative

- Current O&M activities for flood protection and water delivery
- Current channel maintenance and flood control improvements
- Modify grazing lease program to improve erosion control
- Partial changes in floodplain maintenance
  - Environmental measures within USIBWC ROW
  - Develop riparian corridor for bank stabilization
  - Streambank reconfiguration for over bank flows
Status

1996 USACE HEC-2 model used by USIBWC as guideline for Flood Elevations
- Raise ~ 60.1 miles of levees 2 ft. average
- ~2.8 mile floodwall in Canutillo

At present FLO-2D has been adopted as the guideline
- Raise ~ 51 miles of levees
- Majority in the lower reach of project
Status

- April 2005 – Proposal from EBID/WWF (water rights framework and ESA safeguards)
- August 2005 – USACE completes FLO-2D model from Caballo to American Dam
- Fall 2005 – EBID/WWF Section 729 WRDA proposal to USACE (Hydrology & Hydraulics, flood protection, sediment transport, habitat restoration)
Status Cont’d

- January 2006 – USIBWC agrees to fund the Section 729 proposal and cost share in the EBID water rights and ESA safeguards study
- July-August 2006 – MOU and workplan with USACE established
- August 2006 – MOU with EBID established
Next Steps

- Complete USACE Hydraulics & Hydrology Restoration Study
- Complete Water Rights Framework Study with EBID
- Expect Record of Decision before 2009 (Final EIS June 2004)
Questions?

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