

**Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program  
Habitat Restoration Workgroup Meeting**

22 September 2010 – 9:00am-4:00pm

**ISC**

Meeting Summary

**Actions**

- Colin Lee will share with Cochiti pueblo representatives that pueblos can freely submit habitat restoration/construction proposals to the Program for funding (that is, the projects do not have to be associated with a reach plan).
- Ondrea Hummel will check with Yvette McKenna on updates on the communications to the pueblos and how HR is recommended to proceed regarding potential projects and scopes that could involve the pueblos.
- Gina Dello Russo and/or Ondrea Hummel will find out what portions of tributaries are included in the Program area/boundaries.
- Brian Wimberly will talk with Lynn at the Santa Ana nursery about black willow poles and will forward any information to Colin Lee.
- Gina Dello Russo will contact Brent about tree collecting opportunities this year and will forward any information to Colin Lee.
- Ondrea Hummel, Rick Billings, and/or Anders Lundahl will ask Yvette McKenna to assist HR in looking into project areas along the river where there is existing and proposed agency work (including the provision of locations and shape files) in order to avoid duplication, to coordinate efforts, and determine opportunities to work together for expanded benefit or enhanced projects.
- Colin Lee will send the Santo Domingo restoration shape files of existing and proposed work to Ondrea Hummel.
- Ondrea Hummel will check with Paula Maker on what the Cochiti Reach plan form is (assumed to be stable and not incising anymore).
- Gina Dello Russo will confirm with Darryl that the Reclamation flycatcher habitat report can be distributed; if approved, she will forward the link to Tetra Tech for distribution to the HR work group.
- Tetra Tech will make sure Terina Perez is included on the HR email distribution list.
- Ondrea Hummel will check on the status of the Bosque Farms Alleviating Entrapment project.
- Ondrea Hummel will check with Jericho Lewis about what projects could be funded through existing ID/IQs and issue task orders.
- Rick Billings will contact Jericho Lewis to find out when FY11 scopes of work are due and to whom.
- The draft scopes are to be sent to today's HR attendees by September 29<sup>th</sup> – remember to not distribute to contractors!
- Ondrea Hummel will draft the initial scope of work on the FY11 HR construction projects (that include: (1) *San Acacia Reach: flycatcher habitat adjacent to Elephant Butte* – expand near existing territories, potential habit, etc.; (2) *Cochiti Reach: Floodplain connectivity improvement construction*; (3) *Bosque Farms Entrapment Alleviation Construction*; and (4) *Albuquerque Reach: Floodplain HR construction*.)
- Gina Dello Russo and Anders Lundahl will draft the initial scope of work for the System Wide Analysis project.

- Sarah Beck, Jill Wick, and Yasmeen Najmi will draft the initial scope of work for the Isleta Reach: RGSM refugial & drying habitat (finding water).
- Robert Padilla and Gina Dello Russo will draft the initial scope of work for the San Acacia Reach: Degradation management – limited refugial habitat RGSM.
- Colin Lee and Rick Billings will draft the initial scope of work for the Cochiti Reach: Prioritize areas (combine information from Cochiti & Santo Domingo subreach A&R information).
- Monika Mann will distribute a scope of work template to HR members.
- Ondrea Hummel will distribute the Cochiti Reach scope to HR members.

### **Project Ideas**

- For the Albuquerque Reach, a scope that evaluated constructed project areas and looked at current diversity (in terms of stage flow) and the potential for enhancing it. The scope could be titled “project maintenance” or “project enhancement” with the intent of looking how long constructed projects are sustainable and how long it meets needs at different flow.
- For the Albuquerque Reach, could explore letting the La Aria return water meander through the bosque on its way to the river (instead of shooting straight into the river) or connect into the Montano Pond.
- For the Albuquerque Reach, the oxbow is a potential habitat project – it has flycatcher migrants in May, has the right criteria of 5 acres, height structure, etc. The oxbow is a preserve so human contact is low. The Calabasitas area is another potential.
- For the San Acacia Reach, the Tiffany basin could be a good place to start for flycatcher habitat development.
- A Sevilleta/La Jolla flycatcher project
- 2008 drying data could indicate that localized drying might not be as detrimental as once thought (ex. of the Los Lunas 10 miles that dried yet after re-wetting minnow were present and flourished the following year). There could be a refugia project to supply water to the Los Chavez site which doesn’t receive regular water during the dry times.
- A feasibility study to look at options for water delivery to a refugial place(s) within the 10 mile Los Lunas reach that dries; or more generally, to look at options to deliver water to refugial areas.
- For the San Acacia Reach, refugial projects up in the northern portions (instead of the drying subreaches) could be beneficial.
- For the San Acacia Reach, could enhance, expand, and protect existing suitable flycatcher habitat.
- For the San Acacia Reach, could evaluate the hydrology and provide more mixed habitat with trenching to make a groundwater fed exposed water (pool) upstream of the reservoir pool.
- Another San Acacia Reach project could be the evaluation of degradation management.
- There could be potential projects near the Arroyo de los Canas and Rhodes property.

### **Meeting Summary**

- Rick Billings called the meeting to order and introductions were made around the table. The purpose of the all day workshop was to use discussions of past and existing projects, reach by reach, to determine what work is worth pursuing and to help develop ideas for future HR scopes.
- Starting with the northern reach, the work group discussed the reach by reach past projects.

- The Cochiti Pueblo has done some restoration work (ex. exotic vegetation removal and planting natives), most of which is flycatcher oriented. It is unknown if the pueblo has any interest in participating in the Collaborative Program or coordinating on restoration projects. Participants also discussed the potential minnow habitat in the Cochiti reach and the possibilities and benefits of reestablishing a minnow population there.
  - Santo Domingo faces challenges including a perched floodplain (7 ft) and a lack of sediment. The tribe focuses mostly on their northern boundary areas which are fenced off from livestock, thus preserving the restoration efforts. There is a large wetland that the pueblo is starting to work on which has high flycatcher potential since it is seasonally connected to the Rio Grande. There are also plans to artificially rewet some of the flat plains; this work is scheduled to start this winter. Most of Santo Domingo restoration is flycatcher oriented since there is no permanent, standing water.
  - The San Felipe pueblo has done 1 or 2 flycatcher projects with the Program, but the status is unknown. It is assumed that San Felipe pueblo is in a similar situation to Santo Domingo with a high perched floodplain and cobble bed substraight.
  - Attendees discussed the habitat variability indicated from history; what is the physical reality that needs to be created since the system is unable to create its own habitat anymore? Especially in the Albuquerque Reach, restoration work continues to be done in the same areas since compliance is easier. However, there are also “blocks” of areas of no work interspersed. Attendees discussed how the areas with no restoration work could still provide mesohabitats at different levels of flow for the minnow.
  - Members discussed current projects in the Isleta reach and updates were provided. Models were used to help analyze different flows and the results informed the Isleta Phase II project. It was suggested that model results (HEC-RAS, FLO2D) could also be used as a starting foundation to the system-wide plan. Attendees also discussed using the A&R to guide the “big picture” of work that should be done while the finer resolution details will need to be worked out on a project basis. Reclamation’s interest in channel capacity in this reach was briefly discussed as was the Corps’s Bosque Farms Alleviating Entrapment project. The Sevilleta has expressed interest in a potential project and it is prime for flycatcher; the limited access is a benefit for the flycatchers.
  - Participants discussed the cost of water and water right transfer practices. There was brief discussion on potential uses of leased water from the water bank.
  - There is at least 4 subreaches in the San Acacia Reach and there has been a lot of work done in this area that is outside the Program (through the Save Our Bosque Task Force and the Socorro Soil Water Conservation. There is a lot of saltcedar control followed by plantings. There is very little overbank flows in this reach until the Bosque del Apache refuge. The refuge has several projects.
    - Protection of the existing flycatcher habitat is a big concern. Members also discussed the lack of fuel breaks on the refuge which would help to protect the new nesting areas downstream. The Sevilleta flycatcher nests and the tamarisk beetle threat were also briefly discussed.
- After developing a “table” with all identified potential projects, members each voted for their top 3 choices:
    - 1. San Acacia Reach: flycatcher habitat adjacent to Elephant Butte – expand near existing territories, potential habit, beetle; analysis and construction (6 votes);
    - 2. Albuquerque Reach: System wide analysis (4 votes)
    - 2. Isleta Reach: RGSM refugial & drying habitat (4 votes)
    - 3. San Acacia Reach: Degradation management – limited refugial habitat RGSM (3 votes)

- 3. Cochiti Reach: Floodplain connectivity improvement construction (3 votes)
  - 4. Cochiti Reach: prioritize areas (combine info from Cochiti & SD subreach A&R info)
  - 5. Bosque Farms Entrapment Alleviation Construction
  - 5. Albuquerque Reach: Floodplain HR construction
- Members were assigned to draft initial scopes of work for the prioritized FY11 projects.

**Next HRW Meeting October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm at ISC**

**Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program**  
**Habitat Restoration Workgroup Meeting**  
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ISC

## Meeting Minutes

### Introductions, Welcome, and Objectives

- Rick Billings called the meeting to order and introductions were made around the table. The purpose of the all day workshop was to use discussions of past and existing projects, reach by reach, to determine what work is worth pursuing and to help develop ideas for future HR scopes.
  - Another purpose of today's meeting is to garner a better shared understanding of the system and identify any problem areas. Any questions that remain unanswered or planning issues could be addressed at a future follow up workshop. This could be especially important for any work that needs to be discussed with and coordinated with the pueblos.

### Reach by Reach Analysis of Past Projects

- *Northern reaches*
  - *Cochiti*
    - Jacob Pecos, from the Cochiti Pueblo, provided information to Colin Lee regarding the pueblo's restoration work. A while ago, there was a North American Wetland Conservation project for water fowl, flycatcher, and potential minnow benefit just above the dam. There has also been some work below the dam as well. Much of the pueblo's focus consists of removing exotic vegetation (in stages) such as Russian olive and juniper and the continuing retreatment of those areas. As far as is known, there hasn't been much replanting yet. Most of the work is flycatcher oriented.
      - It is unknown if the Cochiti tribe has any interest in actively participating in the Program. The Program could assist with flycatcher projects. Pueblos can freely submit a construction proposal (stand alone projects that are not associated with a reach plan) for funding assistance through the Program.

**Action:** Colin Lee will share with Cochiti pueblo representatives that pueblos can freely submit habitat restoration/construction proposals to the Program for funding (that is, the projects do not have to be associated with a reach plan).

**Action:** Ondrea Hummel will check with Yvette McKenna on updates on the communications to the pueblos and how HR is recommended to proceed regarding potential projects and scopes that could involve the pueblos.

- *Cochiti: Flycatcher*
  - There are some areas where coyote willow is coming back strong through fencing. Some areas could be diversified with other trees. Since coyote willow is surviving it indicates that there is some water of a reasonable flow present. Cottonwoods haven't been seen yet. The Reclamation flycatcher habitat report (and nest occurrence) indicates that the multiple storied habitat is where the flycatcher is drawn to - the structure edges.
  - The wetland has high potential for flycatcher. Good component of willows and 3 acres of highly saturated soils and permanent water. Other areas are starting to open up due to the Russian olive removal.

- Participants discussed habitat work near the Rio Grande channel which could have ancillary benefits to the minnow even though the flycatcher would be, for now, the species of focus in Cochiti.

**Action:** Gina Dello Russo and/or Ondrea Hummel will find out what portion of tributaries are included in the Program area/boundaries.

**Action:** Brian Wimberly will talk with Lynn at the Santa Ana nursery about black willow poles and will forward any information to Colin Lee.

**Action:** Gina Dello Russo will contact Brent about tree collecting opportunities this year and will forward any information to Colin Lee.

- *Cochiti: Minnow*

- The river system in Cochiti is influenced by the dam; has a cobble bed, perched floodplain, and cold, fast water.
- Reproducing minnow were last found in Cochiti in 1995. It is assumed that the habitat should be able to maintain the minnow, if any were present.
- Attendees briefly discussed fish passage and the need to look at fish passage in the totality of the valley including considering passage of fish to/from wet reaches to reaches with a tendency to dry.
  - For the Cochiti reach, areas just under the Galisteo which could have water long enough to have a changing temperature gradient over time (i.e., warmer temperatures and food production) and some sediment supply would be a recommended first place to explore combination projects that benefit both species.
  - The Cochiti reach is important to the recovery of the minnow.
- Natural incision probably occurred to some degree in the Cochiti reach, but most occurred after Cochiti dam was in place. Interestingly, the delta above Cochiti dam looks very much like the historic-looking habitat. More channel complexity is needed in this reach since it is practically a “big cold ditch” coming out of Cochiti.
- Attendees discussed the suggestion that the work group be ambitious and have lofty goals for restoration in this reach. However, it was expressed that more information is needed before actual work can be designed; for example, what are the parameters and criteria of residential habitat? What is the temperature range? What food resources are available? What is the needed depth to provide successful over-wintering habitat?
  - Some of the primary constituent elements are known: habitat complexity with backwaters, runs, embayments, and shallower flows; winter habitat should have deep scoured holes; etc. But part of the issue is that those “known” parameters are based on areas with an existing population; there is a bias. Most data is from where the fish currently are – all the data is biased and doesn’t necessarily represent the range the fish can survive. Is straight a real limiting factor or not?
  - It would be beneficial to have input from the Science work group (ScW) regarding their previous discussions on Cochiti and the potential for reintroduction.

- Current unknowns regarding a minnow population at Cochiti include: are the pueblos supportive of Cochiti work and/or willing to participate? Where are the opportunities? What scale would ScW recommend?
- Even with the unknowns, the habitat will be needed at some point if the species is to be recovered. That makes it worthwhile to get some of the minnow work started.
  - Minnow eggs haven't been caught in the Albuquerque main at 550 in about 5 years.
  - Temperature, sediment, and food source are some of the main questions for this reach.
  - In response to a question about Reclamation's current river maintenance plans for the Cochiti reach, it was shared that there are projects in Santo Domingo, Cochiti, and a few projects in San Felipe. There are a few areas where there is concern for the infrastructure so bioengineering is being used to stabilize. Most of the current work involves a combination of maintenance and work to lessen shear stressors.
    - Participants discussed compiling existing and proposed project locations (ideally the actual shape files) for all agencies, entities, and pueblos in order to avoid duplication, for efficient and appropriate coordination, and to determine opportunities to work together for expanded benefit or enhanced projects. Permission and cooperation would be needed from the pueblos in order to include their information.
  - Attendees briefly discussed recommendations on how to accomplish more floodplain connectivity. Suggestions included pumping, bank lowering, and creation of backwaters (since they are connected to the river).
  - Would there be more benefit to moving the channel or developing more sinuous curves? This might give a sense of where to put backwaters, if that is the best thing. Or is encouraging more channel movement the best? Ondrea Hummel will check with Paula Maker on what the Cochiti Reach plan form is (assumed to be stable and not incising anymore).

**Action:** Ondrea Hummel will check with Paula Maker on what the Cochiti Reach plan form is (assumed to be stable and not incising anymore).

**Action:** Colin Lee will send the Santo Domingo restoration shape files of existing and proposed work to Ondrea Hummel.

- *Santo Domingo*
  - Galisteo contributes a lot of sediment into the Rio Grande. Incisions are mostly south of Galisteo. Santo Domingo is starting to work on a large wetland area which has high flycatcher potential and is seasonally connected to the Rio Grande. Shiners have been found in the area so there could be minnow potential as well. South of Galisteo there is concerns with the lack of sediment. Current thought favors more embayments angled upriver so there is less likely erosion by higher velocity. Starting this winter, there are plans to artificially rewet some of the flat planes using pumped river water. Most of the work is flycatcher oriented since there is no permanent, standing water.

- Santo Domingo focuses work mostly in the northern boundary areas which are fenced off from livestock. The southern areas have no fencing so restoration work is susceptible to livestock.
- Santo Domingo has flycatcher stop-over habitat, but no known nests. Santa Ana has the nearest known nests.
  - Strong cottonwood forests exist, although they are old. There are a number of natural high flow channels that do flow at high flow. The challenges for Santo Domingo include a perched floodplain (7 ft) and lack of sediment.
- For future designs, Santo Domingo is focusing on large embayments and maybe high flow side channels instead of permanently flowing side channels.
- *San Felipe*
  - The San Felipe pueblo has done 1 or 2 flycatcher projects with the Program, but the status is unknown. It is assumed that San Felipe pueblo is in a similar situation to Santo Domingo with a high perched floodplain and cobble bed substraight.
  - San Felipe has the first safe harbor on tribal lands in the country.
- *Albuquerque*
  - Attendees discussed several upcoming and potential projects in the Albuquerque area. ABCWUA intends to install a scalping treatment down on the Bosque School property.
  - There are concerns with the drain near Sandia and the confluence of all the arroyos on the west side.
  - There are potential projects in La Aria – especially to direct the water to meander through the bosque instead of the “straight shot” through the channel to the river. It is a concrete channel so this would require a lot work. Maybe it could also be connected to the Montano pond. This could be a staged project that might be best for the Corps to pursue since they own the land as part of the Open Space.
    - *Albuquerque: Flycatcher*
      - The oxbow is a potential habitat project – it has flycatcher migrants in May, has the right criteria of 5 acres, height structure, etc. The oxbow is a preserve so human contact is low. The Calabasitas area is another potential.
      - Flycatcher stop-over habitat is lacking in Albuquerque even with all the islands, bars, and willows. There are some small areas here and there. Depth to groundwater is usually 5 to 10 ft – that is why the swales tend to be a successful source of water.
    - *Albuquerque: Minnow*
      - From history, it is known that there needs to be habitat variability. But what is the physical reality that needs to be created since the system is no longer able to create its own habitat? Especially in the Albuquerque Reach, restoration work continues to be done in the same areas since compliance is easier. However, there are also “blocks” of areas of no restoration work interspersed. Attendees discussed how the areas with no restoration work could still provide mesohabitats at different levels of flow for the minnow.
        - There should be a focus in maintaining some of the existing restoration sites. Albuquerque reach has some sediment



movement. Most features are still there with differential amounts of sediment deposited; it needs to be ensured that connectivity will remain.

- Maintenance needs to occur, not necessarily maintaining the features but maintaining the diversity. For example, there are bars that inundate at different levels after the original design levels. Vegetated islands and bars are active “floodplain” within the channel.
  - Future projects should also be staged so that low, dry, and average habitats are staggered in a way to better predict how things might evolve.
  - Patches of habitat with no restoration are good; the dynamics of the entire system should be focused on for restoration instead of just river miles or subreaches. It needs to be ensured that the habitat is being disturbed in a way that is beneficial for the system.
  - Mowing bars/islands in certain reaches for certain reasons could set growth back but it might also establish the age class diversity.
  - Given the physiographic boundaries there needs to be a general understanding of what the river should look like. The levees aren’t moving, “stable” needs to be managed for based on current inputs and boundaries.
  - Based on the hydrology what should the channel width be at certain points that would allow maintenance of an effective channel while also maintaining an effective floodplain?
- For the Albuquerque Reach, a scope that evaluated constructed project areas and looked at current diversity (in terms of stage flow) and the potential for enhancing it. The scope could be titled “project maintenance” or “project enhancement” with the intent of looking at how long constructed projects are sustainable and how long it meets needs at different flows.
  - *Isleta*
    - The ISC Isleta Phase I project is on either side of the Belen Bridge and included about 26 to 28 acres. The Isleta Phase II provides an additional 100 acres in the next 4 subreaches and is expected to be started this month. Most of the work is bar and island lowering, contouring, creating diversity, and inter-channel connection. HEC-RAS and FLO2D models were use to analyzed the availability of habitat inundation at different flows in an attempt to understand what is lacking in terms of habitat ranges. Improving the habitat relationships is important. Maybe the model results could be used as a starting foundation to the systems plan.
    - The Isleta A&R report could be used to determine the “big picture” of work that needs to be done.

**Action:** Gina Dello Russo will confirm with Darryl that the Reclamation flycatcher habitat report can be distributed; if approved, she will forward the link to Tetra Tech for distribution to the HR work group.

**Action:** Tetra Tech will make sure Terina Perez is included on the HR email distribution list.

- Whatever projects the work group decides to pursue, utilizing existing information and data should be a requirement included in all the scopes.
- The work group discussed Reclamation's interest in channel capacity in this reach. From a river maintenance and water delivery perspective, concerns include confining flows to smaller areas and sediment supply. The narrowing and encroachment could potentially cause dramatic changes and it is on Reclamation's "radar." Vegetation raises the roughness and if too much sediment is added then there is the potential for "plug" problems or other loss of capacity or water log of agriculture.
- The Corps is working on the Alleviating Entrapment project at Bosque Farms near the southern boundary of Isleta Pueblo. The status of the project is unknown.
- The Isleta reach isn't as far along in terms of established restoration "blocks."
- Sevilleta/La Jolla has expressed interest in a potential project. What the project might be is undetermined, but it is prime area for flycatcher. There could be a programmatic EA to implement work in stages or phases. There is limited access which is nice for flycatcher habitat.

**Action:** Ondrea Hummel will check with Jericho Lewis about what projects could be funded through existing ID/IQs and issue task orders.

**Action:** Ondrea Hummel will check on the status of the Bosque Farms Alleviating Entrapment project.

- *Isleta: Minnow*
  - 2008 monitoring data indicated that about 10 miles of river around the Los Lunas restoration site. After re-wetting, the area was sampled and 100 minnow were found. That spring, 12,000 minnow were found on the floodplain. This information could be interpreted to indicate that drying might not be as detrimental as once thought. A refugia project could be to supply water to the Los Chavez site which doesn't receive regular water during the dry times.
  - Participants discussed the cost of water and the potential to use leased water from the water bank and MRGCD practices, and water rights transfers. However, there are concerns with precedent setting.
    - A scope of work could be written for a feasibility study to look at options for water delivery to refugial places; maybe specifically for the 10 mile stretch in Los Lunas that regularly dries.
  - There was brief mention of the SWM presentation on water banks given by Dr. Lee Brown. Please refer to the November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009 finalized SWM meeting notes for information on this topic.
- *San Acacia*
  - There are at least 4 subreaches in the San Acacia Reach and there has been a lot of work done in this area that is outside the Program (through the Save Our Bosque Task Force and the Socorro Soil Water Conservation. There is a lot of saltcedar control followed by plantings. There is very little overbank flows in this reach until the Bosque del Apache refuge. The refuge has several projects
  - Drying usually occurs mid refuge and extends north and south. The low flow conveyance channel is the gradient of the valley so it is very hard, at low flows, to keep the most aggraded sections wet.
    - *San Acacia: Flycatcher*

- The Tiffany basin is proposed as a good place to start for flycatcher habitat development.
- Protection of the existing flycatcher habitat is big concern for this reach. There are no good fuel breaks on the refuge; fuel breaks could also help to protect the new nesting areas downstream. And the east side fires can't easily be fought since there is limited access.
- Enhancing, expanding, and protecting areas of suitable flycatcher habitat are other potential projects. Providing more mixed habitat with trenching to make groundwater fed pools upstream of the reservoir pool was suggested. These potential projects address the (1) flycatcher habitat in the reservoir pool; (2) critical habitat is going to be reopened; (3) the task to expanding flycatcher habitat near existing nests; and (4) the tamarisk beetle which is expected to be present in the Middle Rio Grande valley within a few years. The benefits could be substantial and reliable.
  - Remember that planting and establishment techniques are experimental with high levels of uncertainty.
- Another suggest project was the evaluation of degradation management and addressing the adjustment process so downstream locales have time to respond over several seasons.
- Attendees discussed the Sevilleta flycatcher nests and the tamarisk beetle threat. The beetle defoliates the saltcedar thus threatening flycatcher nests where established in saltcedar. It takes 10+ years to defoliate a saltcedar stand.
- Another area where there is potential for restoration is the Arroyo de los Canas– near Rhodes property. The area was significantly eroded in 2005 and was burnt in a 2008 fire. There are channel adjustments and instability. In wetter years, everything could be mobilized. There is a natural berm and little to no inundation even at 6500 cfs. However, if the berm were ever to be topped, there is a natural lowland that would become a wetland area.
- *San Acacia: Minnow*
  - Refugial habitat projects could be very beneficial in this reach as long as they were located north of the drying subreaches.
  - There could be a scope of work related to or based on RPA flow targets to help determine if refugial habitat in the upper reach are sufficient. Or for River Mile 83 – given the complexity and in the larger picture, is there anything that could be done to benefit the species in that area if/when the river realignment occurred.

### **Potential New Projects and Scope Details and Assignments**

- Work group had a broad discussion on general priorities including the importance between/among reaches and species. There tends to be more focus placed on the minnow and in general, there is also an upstream to downstream priority. For its entirety, the Program has been minnow-centric. That will have to change at some point soon since the flycatcher territories at Elephant Butte are now the largest group of territories in the entire range of the species. It is now the “hub” and it is inside the reservoir pool. Flycatcher habitat has to be planted and allowed to mature over 5 to 10 years until it is suitable; we can't be reactive in creating flycatcher habitat – we have to be proactive. Considering that there

might not be funds next year for new projects, work group members were encouraged to consider *the ability to implement* when prioritizing projects (emphasis places on inexpensive, effective projects).

- Points to consider when prioritizing included:
  - Between/among reaches;
  - Between/among species;
  - Upstream/downstream;
  - Analysis thru ID/IQ vs. construction;
    - For example, are there any NEPA completed or on the shelf and ready projects?
      - Bosque Farms Entrapment Alleviation;
      - Anything on the refuge would have the compliance completed would just need a Section 7;
      - RM83;
      - Sevilleta?
  - Balance the on-the-ground and analysis pieces.
- Voting for their top 3 choices, HR members selected the following for FY11 scopes (construction to begin in FY12):
  - 1. San Acacia Reach: flycatcher habitat adjacent to EB – expand near existing territories, potential habit, beetle; *analysis and construction* (6)
    - Reference: 2008 potential habitat analysis
    - Scope of Work assignment: construction portion assigned to Ondrea Hummel.
  - 2. Albuquerque Reach: System wide analysis (4)
    - Reference: LTP activity Sheet
    - Scope of Work assignment: Gina Dello Russo and Anders Lundahl
  - 2. Isleta Reach: RGSM refugial & drying habitat – (4)
    - Reference: Isleta Reach A&R
    - Scope of Work assignment: Sarah Beck, Jill Wick, and Yasmeeen Najmi
  - 3. San Acacia Reach: Degradation management – limited refugial habitat RGSM (3)
    - Scope of Work assignment: Robert Padilla and Gina Dello Russo
  - 3. Cochiti Reach: Floodplain connectivity improvement *construction* (3)
    - Scope of Work assignment: Ondrea Hummel
  - 4. Cochiti Reach: prioritize areas (combine info from Cochiti & SD subreach A&R info)
    - Reference: Cochiti Reach Planning SOW
    - Scope of Work assignment: Colin Lee and Rick Billings
  - 5. Bosque Farms Entrapment alleviation *Construction*
    - Reference: Existing project info
    - Scope of Work assignment: Ondrea Hummel
  - 5. Albuquerque Reach: Floodplain HR *construction*

- Reference: Albuquerque Reach A&R
- Scope of Work assignment: Ondrea Hummel

**Action:** Monika Mann will distribute a scope of work template to HR members.

**Action:** Ondrea Hummel will distribute the Cochiti Reach scope to HR members.

Cochiti- Cochiti pueblo A&R	Alb – Alb A&R Sandia A&R	Isleta – Isleta A&R Pueblo A&R	San Acacia -
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve high-flow side channels</li> <li>• Embayments with bank lowering</li> <li>• Riparian veg recruitment for flycatcher</li> <li>• Floodplain connectivity improvement</li> <li>• Analysis for priority areas – A&amp;R</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enough habitat diversity at low flows (RGSM)?</li> <li>• Habitat diversity overall? RGSM – evaluate constructed projects &amp; evaluate flow diversity; flycatcher – enough stopover habitat?</li> <li>• Avoid landowner, water rights issues</li> <li>• System Wide SOW</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bosque Farm Entrapment Alleviation Project construction</li> <li>• Sevilleta/La Joya reach – look at improving/creating suitable flycatcher habitat from borderline potential &amp; unsuitable.</li> <li>• Valencia SWCD; MRGCD burned areas</li> <li>• RGSM refugial &amp; drying projects (find water)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RM 83/LFCC issues – protection of existing habitat (Flycatcher) &amp; fuel breaks</li> <li>• Tiffany Area flycatcher habitat – Armindaras &amp; other landowners</li> <li>• RGSM refugial project above Bosquecito</li> <li>• LF at Escondida – backwater habitat</li> <li>• Flycatcher habitat adjacent to EB – expand near existing territories, potential CH, beetle</li> <li>• Degradation management – limited refugial habitat (RGSM)</li> <li>• Sevilleta – BdA – evaluate potential habitat areas for expansion/enhancement</li> </ul>

**Habitat Restoration Work Group Meeting  
22 September 2010 Meeting Attendees**

NAME	POSITION	AFFILIATION	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
Colin Lee	HR Members	KeWa (Santo Domingo) Tribe	465-0055	clee@sutilities.com
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Rick Billings	HR Chair	ABCWUA	796-2527	rbillings@abcwua.org
Anders Lundahl	HR Member	ISC	383-4047	anders.lundahl@state.nm.us
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Brian Wimberly	HR Member	Santa Ana	771-6714	brian.wimberly@santaana-nsn.gov
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Marta Wood	Admin support	Tetra Tech, EMI	259-6098	marta.wood@tetrattech.com