MEMORANDUM

Project 24125

TO: **Merceidez Fabok – Natural Resources Conservation Service**

FROM: **Jacquelyn Hagbery, P.E., P.G. – RJH Consultants, Inc.**

DATE: **April 24, 2025**

RE: **Tortugas Site 1 Dam (OSE D-270) Supplemental Watershed Plan and Environmental Document Project – Restart Agency/Tribal/Stakeholder Scoping Meeting Notes**

This memorandum presents a summary of items discussed during the Restart Agency/Tribal/Stakeholder Scoping Meeting held on January 23, 2025. The meeting was held virtually using Microsoft Teams meeting software from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. The agency scoping meeting is a requirement of the Supplemental Watershed Plan and Environmental Document for the Tortugas Site 1 Dam (OSE D-270) (Project). The meeting was hosted by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and was supported by the Elephant Butte Irrigation District (EBID) (Sponsor), New Mexico State University (NMSU) (Cooperating Agency), RJH Consultants, Inc. (RJH), and Tetra Tech, Inc. (Tetra Tech). This memorandum is a summary of the meeting and is not intended to be a verbatim account of what transpired.

The following individuals conducted the presentation:

NRCS	**RJH**	**TETRA TECH**
Merceidez Fabok	Jacquelyn Hagbery	Ondrea Hummel

Purpose

The purposes of these meetings were as follows:

- Explain the Project background, previous work, and dam components for Tortugas Site 1 Dam.
- Present the current conditions of Tortugas Site 1 Dam.
- Provide an overview of the NRCS Watershed Rehabilitation Program.
- Explain what is included in the Supplemental Plan-Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA) and how that meets the needs of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
- Explain the Project purpose and need.
- Provide an overview of the Project scope and approach.
- Explain initial agency and public scoping meetings and comments received.
- Review the Project schedule.
- Discuss watershed resources that may be impacted by potential alternatives. Obtain feedback from attendees on the relative importance of various watershed resources.

- Obtain and document general feedback and concerns from attendees.

Attendance

Meeting notification and instructions to access the link to the Teams meeting were distributed to interested agencies and nearby Tribes prior to the meeting. Twelve members of local, state, and federal agencies attended the meeting. Representatives from the following agencies and affiliations were in attendance:

- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Elephant Butte Irrigation District (EBID)
- New Mexico State University (NMSU)
- New Mexico Office of the State Engineer Dam Safety Bureau (NMOSE-DSB)
- New Mexico Office of the State Engineer Water Rights District IV – Las Cruces
- New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF)
- New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT)
- New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (NM EMNRD)

Presentation

A PowerPoint slide deck was used to facilitate the meeting and share pertinent information with meeting attendees. The slides used in the meetings are provided in Attachment 1. The following key notes from the presentation are sorted by slide topic and provide additional information or discussion items that are not already included on the slides in Attachment 1.

Logistics, Introduction, and Project Roles

- The intent of this meeting is to provide information on what we currently know about the dam and to obtain feedback from the stakeholders and agencies about the dam. We also request your feedback on resources associated with the dam. This will allow us to evaluate the social, economic, cultural, and environmental impacts of alternative solutions.
- The meeting is intended to be interactive. Let the presenters know if you have a question by using the raise a hand feature or writing your question in the online chat box.
- NRCS is the Lead Federal Agency of the Project and conducts final review of Project documents and coordinates with public, tribes, and government agencies.
- EBID is the Project Sponsor and is responsible for permits, long term operation and maintenance, land right acquisition and utilities.
- RJH is the lead engineering consultant on the Project, responsible for conducting field reconnaissance, reviewing and collecting background data, performing engineering analyses, developing and evaluating potential rehabilitation alternatives, and preparing final documents.
- Tetra Tech is a subconsultant to RJH and is responsible to provide technical expertise and perform work related to environmental, social, cultural, and economic resources and analyze resource data.
- At the time of this meeting, NMSU is the only cooperating agency and they will review and provide input on Project documents as they relate to impacts to NMSU.

Other cooperating agencies can be added at any time during the Project and these agencies include: Doña Ana County, Doña Ana Soil and Water Conservation District, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Tortugas Site 1 Dam Background

- The Project was started in 2020 by other consultants but was not completed. Initial public and agency scoping meetings were held in 2021. The Project was resumed in Fall of 2024 by a new team of consultants and today's meeting is a reintroduction to the Project. Another public scoping meeting will not be held.
- The Project is located southeast of the City of Las Cruces in Doña Ana County. It is immediately upstream of the NMSU Golf Course.
- The dam is built on the Tortugas Arroyo, which is tributary to the Rio Grande River (Rio Grande Canalization Project).
- The primary dam components are described as follows:
    - Tortugas Site 1 Dam is a flood control dam that is typically dry.
    - The zoned earthfill embankment is the part of the dam that retains the reservoir, if water is present.
    - The principal spillway is a concrete riser structure within the reservoir and a low-level conduit through the embankment. This is used to pass routine flows.
    - The auxiliary spillway is located at the left abutment and consists of a soil-cement lined broad crested control section and exit channel. The purpose of the auxiliary spillway is to pass large flows that exceed the capacity of the principal spillway and prevent overtopping of the embankment.
- The dam was constructed as a significant hazard potential dam for the purposes of flood prevention and sediment retention. The dam was reclassified by NMOSE-DSB as a high hazard potential dam due to the development downstream of the dam. The higher hazard class does not mean that the existing dam is less safe. It just means that there are more severe consequences downstream if the dam was to fail.
- Previous work identified that the dam does not meet current design standards:
    - The principal and auxiliary spillway capacities are not sufficient.
    - The principal spillway capacity should safely pass the Principal Spillway Hydrograph (PSH). The auxiliary spillway is engaged during the PSH, which does not meet NRCS criteria.
    - The auxiliary spillway and principal spillway combined capacity should be sufficient to evacuate the Freeboard Hydrograph (FBH) without overtopping the dam crest. The water level exceeds the dam crest elevation by 1.1 feet for the FBH, which means the spillway capacities are inadequate.
    - The designed crest width after the 1968 raise was 12 feet and the existing crest width is about 8 to 9 feet, which does not meet NRCS minimum width of 14 feet.
    - There are no embankment filters for drainage and seepage management. There are anti-seepage collars constructed along the principal spillway conduit, which are no longer the state of practice.
    - Inundation of Dripping Springs Road at elevation 4,118 is about 3.8 feet below the top of the dam crest.

  - Based on inspections performed by NMOSE, the dam is in poor condition because of a lack of design and construction reports and the severe gully erosion occurring on the upstream and downstream slopes of the dam.

- A key activity that will be performed as part of this Project is to identify the current conditions of the dam and to identify what parts of the dam do not meet current standards. This work is currently in progress.
- We do not know what alternatives will be identified to modify the dam, because the first step is to identify the current issues.
- The dam was designed to provide two primary benefits, flood protection for the 50-year storm event and sediment retention storage for 50-years of accumulated sediment. Accumulated sediment has been periodically removed from the reservoir over the life of the dam, and the reservoir still has more than 50 years of available sediment retention storage.
- Dam breach inundation maps have been prepared for three dam failure conditions, a hydrologic breach, static breach, and seismic breach. Inundation maps for the hydrologic breach were shared in this meeting. The hydrologic breach of the dam impacts significant portions of NMSU and the City of Las Cruces, and agricultural areas downstream of the city.

Overview of NRCS Watershed Program

- The Watershed Rehabilitation Program (or Rehab Program) provides federal funding for projects to rehabilitate aging dams that are either nearing the end of their design life or no longer able to meet federal or state dam safety standards. Work in this program can include extending the useful life of the structure, decommissioning the dam, repairing from a catastrophic event, upgrading the structure to meet change in watershed conditions, or general repair of structural components.
- The federal cost share for this project is up to 65 percent of total eligible construction costs and the Sponsor is responsible for the remaining (35 percent) costs. NRCS pays 100 percent of the planning and design costs.
- The Project is currently in the Watershed Rehabilitation Planning phase, which includes identifying and evaluating alternatives, selecting a preferred alternative, and preparing the Supplemental Plan Environmental Document (Plan-ED). Phases are dependent on funding and funding has only been secured for this Planning phase. A design phase and a construction phase follow the current planning phase. The total project timeline is likely to equal or exceed 10 years and can be periodically impacted by limited funding availability.

Supplemental Plan EA and NEPA

- All federal actions must satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The watershed project plan will include a Supplemental Plan - Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA) to assess the environmental, social, cultural, and economic impacts of the alternatives and provide a framework and basis for decision-making.

Project Purpose and Need

- The Project purpose and need is important because it establishes the objectives that the project was constructed to achieve. It also justifies the expected outcome of public expenditure and allows decisions to be defensible.

- The Project purpose is to maintain flood prevention and continue to retain and control watershed sedimentation.
- The Project is needed to address dam safety and performance deficiencies to improve public health and safety.

Overview of Scope of Work

- The planning phase identifies deficiencies of the dam and what is needed to improve the conditions of the dam as well as other alternatives that include nonstructural and others. The alternatives have to meet the purpose and need of the Project. Once alternatives are identified and compared, the preferred alternative is identified and moves forward into design.

Phase 1: Goals, Objectives, Purpose, and Need

- We are collecting data to perform analyses. Subsurface investigations were completed by others in 2020/2021 and RJH completed their investigation in December 2024.
- Topography data has been collected in the dam and reservoir area. Sediment capacity will be evaluated and confirmed.
- Public participation in scoping was performed in 2021.
- Hydrologic and hydraulic modeling for the performance of the existing dam was performed during the previous work in 2021-2024 and is currently being reviewed.
- It may be necessary to modify the Purpose and Need Statement depending on the comments we get from this agency scoping meeting. All alternatives must meet the purpose and need.

Phase 2: Inventory and Analyze Resources

- Resource inventory and analysis is ongoing, but an initial desktop study was performed in March 2024 by others. The desktop study documented environmental resources such as soils, wetlands, surface and groundwater supplies, federally listed species, state rare plant species, wildlife habitat, air quality, climate, etc.
- The economic resource evaluation is likely to consider urban flood damage estimates, impacts to agriculture, land use and property, recreational value, operations and maintenance costs, etc.
- Ecosystem services consist of provisioning services, regulating services, cultural services, and supporting services, which are distinct categories that link ecological function to the well-being of humans.
- The social resource evaluation is likely to consider demographics and population trends, socioeconomics, civil rights, and social issues.
- Cultural resources include archeological and architectural evaluations.

Phase 3: Alternatives Formulation

- After we identify the dam deficiencies, we will develop alternatives to address these deficiencies. The different alternative categories are summarized below.
    - No Action: considers what happens if the NRCS does not provide funding for project. Generally, this means that the risk continues to be present. This alternative is used to evaluate other alternatives against.

  - Nonstructural Alternative: changes to downstream floodplain that reduce impacts such as relocating structures, widening the floodplain, etc. Decommissioning can be included as part of a nonstructural option. Decommissioning consists of removal of the dam and puts the stream back to the original conditions. This would remove the flood protection provided by the dam and could include another form of flood protection.
  - Structural Alternative: repairs to the dam. There will likely be multiple alternatives and repairs will be designed to meet NRCS and NMOSE-DSB dam safety criteria.
  - Locally Preferred: another alternative that is preferred by the Sponsor and is not one of the other alternatives. This alternative is funded by the Sponsor.
- The team will estimate costs and evaluate impacts to resources for the alternatives identified.
- Sponsors, with some input from the NRCS, select the preferred alternative to move forward with the Project. There will be another public meeting to present the alternatives, costs, and impacts, and to solicit input on the preferred alternative.

Phase 4: Prepare Supplemental Plan-Environmental Assessment

- The Supplemental Plan-EA is a comprehensive report at the end of the planning phase which contains: existing conditions, technical evaluations, engineering, social impacts, environmental impacts, costs, etc. This document provides the NRCS and the Sponsor data they need to decide how to advance the project and documents selection of the preferred alternative.

Opportunities for Agency and Public Input

- Initial agency and public input was collected in 2021 by others.
- There will be four public and agency meetings, including the previous public/agency meeting and this one today. The two future meetings will consist of the Alternatives Meeting and Supplemental Plan-EA Review meeting.
- A resource scoping comment form was distributed during this meeting and is included as Attachment 2. Meeting participants were encouraged to complete and return the form to NRCS.

The questions and comments received during the meeting are summarized as follows and are included in Attachment 4.

Agency Input on Resources

- Will the Supplemental Plan-EA state listed plants in the study area as part of the environmental scoping?
  - The Project team has not collected field data to confirm the presence of state-listed rare plant species. The desktop study, completed in March 2024, indicates that state-listed plants may be in the Project area. During future on-site data collection work, state-listed plants will be formally identified if present.
  - The state of New Mexico has a new permit process for state-listed rare plant species. The following contact was provided for the state botanist: erika.rowe@emnrd.nm.gov.
- Will critical plant and animal species issues be identified and mitigated?

- Yes, key issues will be identified and mitigated throughout the Project from planning to construction. For example, the Supplemental Plan-EA document would recommend that tree removal not take place during nesting season.

Open Discussion

- As part of the environmental review process, a New Mexico Environmental Review Tool (NMERT) report was completed previously by NMDGF for this Project. Should an updated NMERT report be developed by NMDGF at this time?
  - An updated report does not need to be produced at this time. The Project will request an updated report and NMDGF will see this request submitted through the NMERT portal.
- Could alternatives include dredging reservoir sediment to create additional storage capacity?
  - Yes, the dam currently has sediment storage capacity, but alternatives may consider expanding retention volume.

RJH Closing Comments

- Public and agency participation is voluntary but is a critical component of a successful project. Comments and feedback will ensure that the Project meets the needs and priorities of agencies, tribes, stakeholders, and the local community.
- Concerns and comments are due by February 22, 2025 but are also welcome after this. Please submit them so we can get them to the Project team. The earlier comments are provided during the Project the more efficient it is to address them.
- Submit comments and resource scoping comment forms via email to merceidez.fabok@usda.gov, or by mail to USDA NRCS New Mexico, Att: Merceidez Fabok, 100 Sun Ave. Northeast, Suite 602, Albuquerque, NM 87109-3434.

A summary of the results that show how many agencies/stakeholders ranked the relative importance of each resource at the end of the comment period is presented in Attachment 3. Not every agency/stakeholder returned the completed resources inventory form and not every resource was completed. Comments received during the meeting and comment period, and responses are provided in Attachment 4.

JNH/ecp

Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Meeting Slides
Attachment 2 – Comment and Resources Inventory Form
Attachment 3 – Resources Inventory Form Results
Attachment 4 – Scoping Comments and Responses

ATTACHMENT 1

MEETING SLIDES

ATTACHMENT 1 - MEETING SLIDES

Supplemental Watershed Plan – Environmental Assessment for Tortugas Site 1 Dam (OSE D-270)

Agency/Tribal/Stakeholder Scoping Meeting

January 23, 2025

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Virtual – MS Teams

RJH CONSULTANTS, INC.

USDA NRCS United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service

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Meeting Agenda

1. Logistics and Introduction
2. Scoping Meeting Background
3. Project Location and Background
4. NRCS Watershed Rehabilitation Program
5. What Will the Supplemental Watershed Plan-EA include?
6. NEPA Process
7. Purpose and Need
8. Overview of Scope of Work
9. Initial Agency/Public Input
10. Agency/Tribal/Stakeholder Input and Comments
11. Discussion

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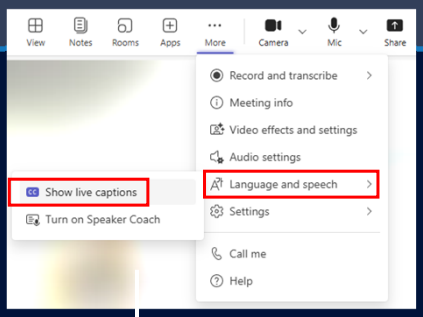
Meeting Logistics

- Attendance Record
- Meeting Functions



Chat function is enabled and being monitored;

Enter name, organization, and email/phone number to the meeting chat

Raise hand for comments/asking questions

Camera on/off control

Muted and unable to speak

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Introductions

Lead Federal Agency

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

- Merceidez Fabok | *Watershed Program Manager*
- Elias Gnann, P.E. | *State Conservation Engineer*

Project Sponsors

Elephant Butte Irrigation District

- Joshua Smith | *Treasurer / Manager*
- Alex Rubio | *Senior Engineering Manager*

Consultant Lead

RJH Consultants, Inc.

- Robert Huzjak, P.E. | *Contract Manager*
- Jacquelyn Hagbery, P.E., P.G. | *Project Manager*

Environmental Consultant

Tetra Tech, Inc.

- Ondrea Hummel, CERP | *Project Manager / Senior Ecologist*
- Edmund Vandever | *NEPA Specialist/ Biologist*

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Introductions

Cooperating Agency

New Mexico State University (NMSU)

- Scott Eschenbrenner | *Special Assistant to the President*
- Valerio Ferme, Ph. D. | *President*

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Scoping Meeting Background

- Tortugas Site 1 Dam Supplemental Watershed Plan-EA project was started in 2020 by other consultants but was not completed
- The following was accomplished:
  - Initial agency and public scoping meetings held in 2021
  - Data collection
  - Hydrology
  - Environmental and cultural resources
- As of September 2024 the project has been restarted with a new team of consultants
- Today's Agency/Tribal/Stakeholder scoping meeting to reintroduce personnel to the project and to make sure concerns are incorporated
- The goal is to use what was done previously and to move the project forward

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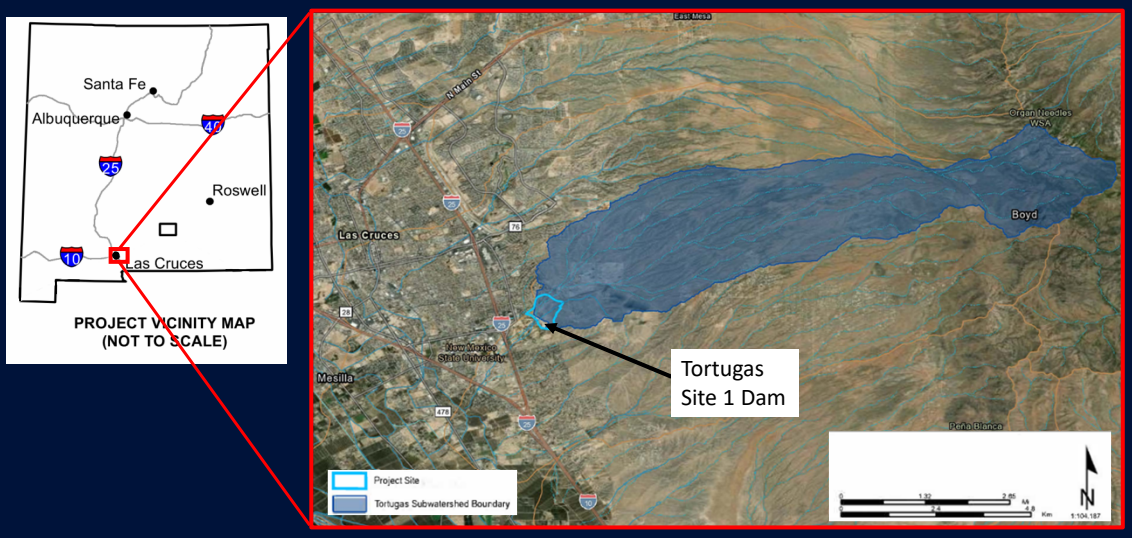
Project Location



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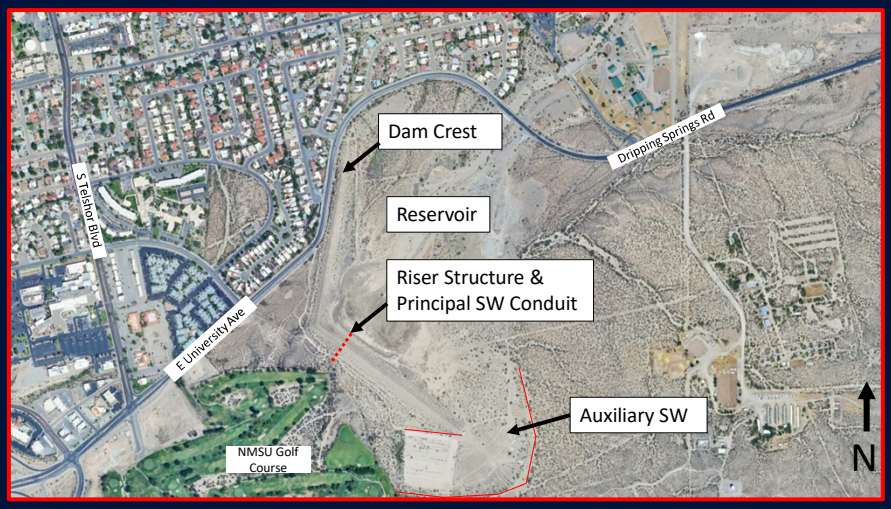
Dam Components

- Riser Structure
- Principal Spillway
- Auxiliary Spillway
- Dam (Embankment) Crest



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Project Background

- Dam constructed in 1962 and modified in 1968 to provide flood prevention and watershed protection
- Originally classified as significant hazard potential but now rated as high hazard potential
- Documents previously completed found that the dam does not meet current design and safety standards with the following deficiencies:
  - Inadequate principal and/or auxiliary spillway capacity and elevation
  - Insufficient embankment crest width
  - No embankment filters for drainage and seepage management
  - Inundation of Dripping Springs Road with reservoir levels greater than 4,118 ft
  - Excessive erosion on both upstream and downstream slopes
  - Other deficiencies may still be identified

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Benefits

- Designed flood protection for 50-year storm event
- Sediment retention
  - Sediment periodically removed from reservoir
  - Design sediment storage volume of 305 ac-ft for 50-year sediment storage life
  - Existing sediment storage volume of 335 ac-ft provides about 55 years of sediment storage life remaining

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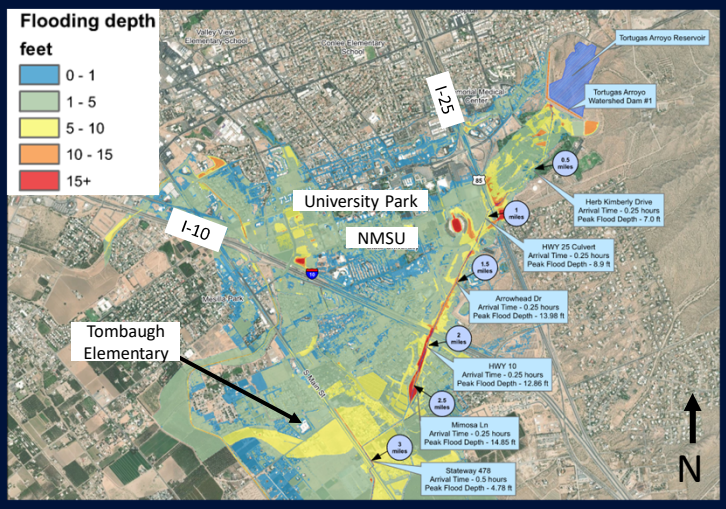
Dam Breach Inundation



Impacted Structures

- New Mexico State University (25,000 students and faculty)
- University Park (4,192 people)
- Tombaugh Elementary (650 students)
- Further downstream communities

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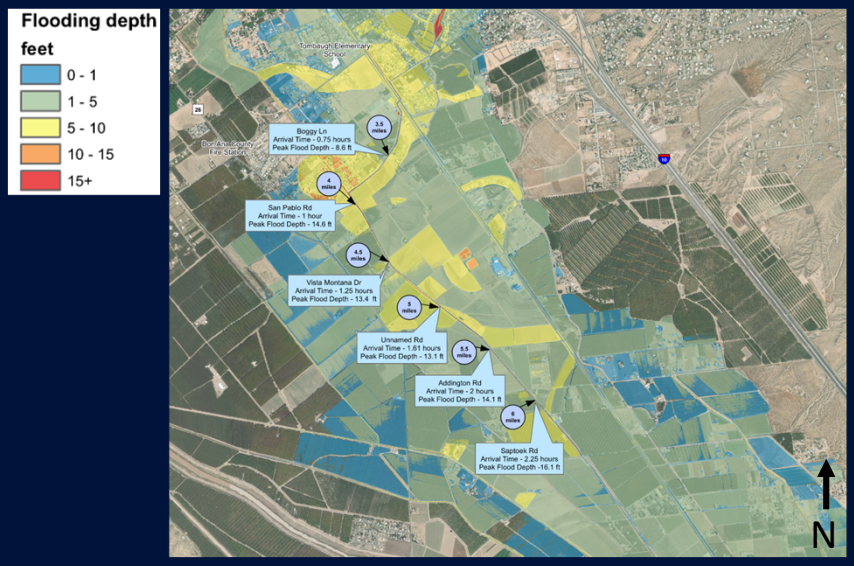
Dam Breach Inundation



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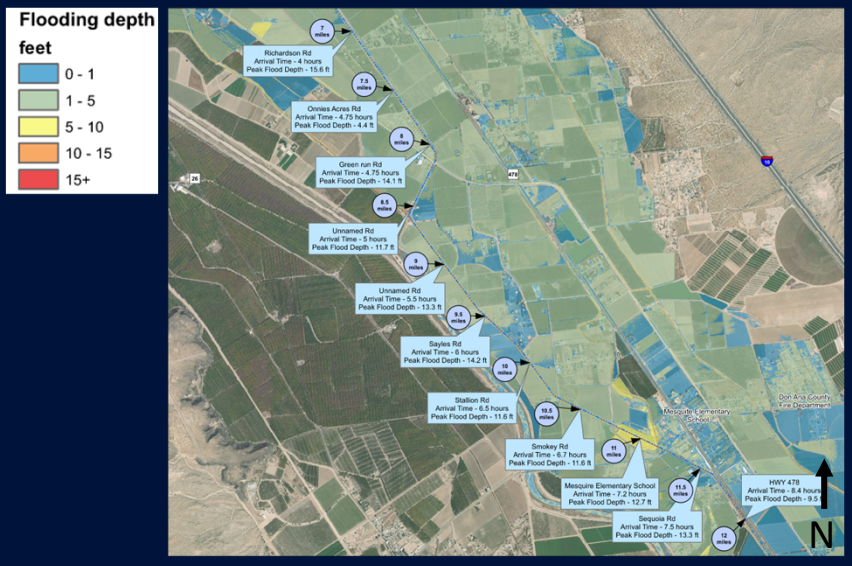
Dam Breach Inundation



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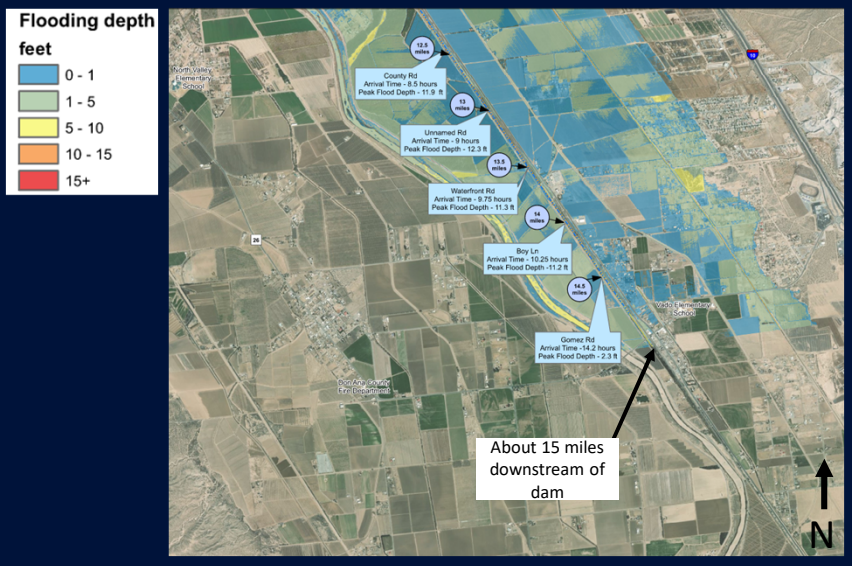
Dam Breach Inundation



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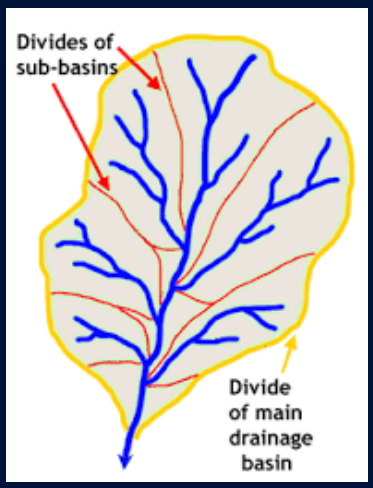
What is a watershed?



- Watershed = the land that drains to one stream, lake, or river; includes surface water and underlying groundwater
- Hydrologic Unit Codes - Used nationwide to describe drainage areas labelled with a series of numbers
- Different numbers represent different scales
  - The smaller the number the LARGER the area
    - HUC-12 drainage basin will represent a smaller area than a HUC-8 drainage basin

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The "NRCS Watershed Umbrella"

WFPO	Rehab	EWP
• Watershed & Flood Prevention Operations Program • Helps units of federal, state, local and federally recognized tribal governments (project sponsors) protect and restore watersheds.	• Rehabilitation Program • Helps project sponsors rehabilitate aging dams that are reaching the end of their design life and/or no longer meet federal or state safety criteria or performance standards	• Emergency Watershed Protection Program • Helps people reduce imminent hazards to life and property threatened by excessive erosion and flooding caused by a natural disaster

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Program Requirements

Rehab Program work may include any of the following:

- Protecting the integrity of the dam or extending the useful life of the dam beyond the original evaluated life expectancy.
- Repairing damage to the dam from a catastrophic event.
- Repairing structural components that are deteriorating at an abnormal rate.
- Upgrading the structural works of improvement to meet changed land use conditions in the watershed served by the structural works of improvement or changed safety criteria applicable to the structural measure.
- Decommissioning (removing) the structure and stabilizing the site, if requested by the sponsoring local organization (SLO).

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Rehab Program Cost Share

65% Federal / 35% Sponsor

- Specific rate established in the statute
- Cost share revolves around the total eligible project cost, not to exceed 100% of the actual construction cost
  - Project cost includes items like construction, in-kind services (planning, engineering, project administration), required replacement in-kind, required decent/safe/sanitary facilities, etc.

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Rehab Program Steps

1. Dam Assessment
   - Typically funded by NRCS, and completed by NRCS or Contractor
   - Duration to complete is approx. 12 months
2. Rehab Planning
   - Normally fully funded by NRCS
   - Multiple options for who completes / creates the Watershed Plan
     - Federal Contract
     - Local-Led Agreement
   - Duration to complete is approx. 18-24 months (+ or -)
3. Rehab Design
   - Normally fully funded by NRCS
   - Multiple options for who completes the design(s)
   - Duration is approx. 1-2 years
4. Rehab Construction
   - Funded at 65% Federal / 35% Sponsor for total construction costs
   - Duration ranges from 2 years to 5 years due to:
     - Acquisition of easements and or land rights
     - Permits

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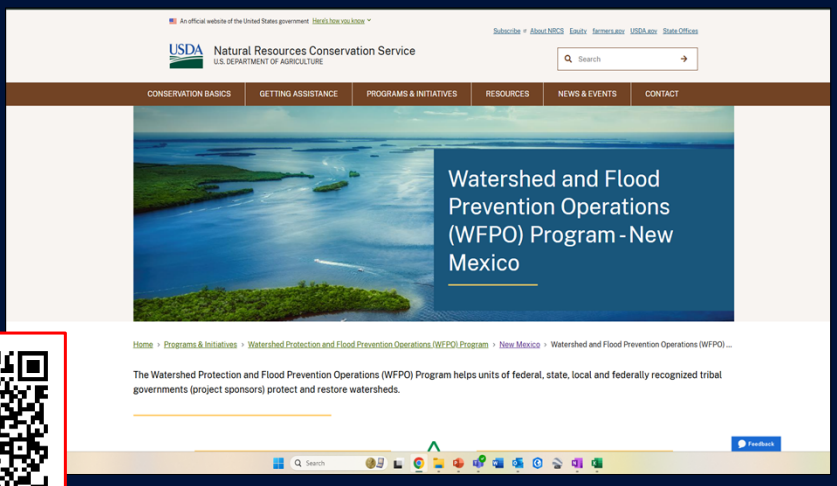
Link to NRCS WFPO Program Web Page:



https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/watershed-and-flood-prevention-operations-wfpo-program/new-mexico/watershed

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What will the Supplemental Watershed Plan-EA Include?

- Project Background Information
- Purpose and Need for the Project
- Affected Environment
- Development of Alternatives
- Environmental Consequences
- Evaluation of Alternatives
- Selection of Preferred Alternative

Affected Environment:
- Soil Resources
- Prime and Unique Farmland
- Water Resources
- Sole Source Aquifers
- Water Quality
- Floodplain Management
- Wetlands
- Wild and Scenic Rivers
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Migratory Birds
- Invasive Species
- Fish and Wildlife
- Cultural Resources
- Historic Properties
- Public Health and Safety
- Economic and Social Conditions
- Scenic Beauty
- Land Use
- Air Quality
- Noise

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National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process

- NEPA ensures that federal actions comply with federal, state, and local laws and regulations and that federal agencies consider the environment in decision-making
- NRCS funding or approval of a supplemental watershed project plan is a federal action subject to NEPA
- An EA will be part of the supplemental watershed project plan to assess the environmental, social, cultural, and economic impacts of the identified alternatives

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Purpose and Need

Purpose

- Maintain flood prevention
- Continue to reduce downstream sediment deposition

Need

- Address dam safety and performance deficiencies
- Improve public safety

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Scope of Work

Project Planning Phases

- Phase 1: Goals, Objectives, Purpose and Need
- Phase 2: Inventory and Analyze Resources
- Phase 3: Alternatives Formulation
- Phase 4: Prepare Final Supplemental Plan-Environmental Document

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Phase 1: Goals, Objectives, Purpose and Need

- Compile and Review Existing Data
- Collect Additional Data
  - Subsurface investigation - complete
  - Topographic Survey – complete
  - Sediment Survey – in progress
  - Flooding Evaluations – in progress
  - Public Participation – complete (2021)
- Refine Purpose and Need

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Phase 2: Inventory and Analyze Resources

- Inventory Resources
  - Environmental
  - Economic
  - Social
  - Cultural
- Analyze Identified Resources
  - Local Research
  - Desktop Analysis
  - Field Investigations
  - Evaluate Potential Impacts

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Environmental Resources

- An initial desktop analysis was performed in March 2024. The Environmental Technical Report (Stantec, 2024) identified:
  - None of the soils within project area are hydric; soils range from well drained to somewhat excessively drained.
  - Doña Ana County and the City of Las Cruces have local dust ordinances for improving local air quality.
  - Species with the potential to occur in the project area:
    - Sneed pincushion cactus, night-blooming cereus
  - Construction activities have potential to impact breeding or nesting activity for species provided protection under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA).

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Environmental Resources

- Further evaluation of this information and an update as needed will be performed:
  - Soil Resources - an updated NRCS Soil Data Report was collected
    - Prime and unique farmland
  - Water Resources (surface, groundwater, wetlands, etc.)
    - While the Tortugas Arroyo is predominantly ephemeral, the latest guidance requires an analysis of any intermittent waterway which will be conducted using the Streamflow Duration Assessment Method (SDAMs)
  - Special Status Species – federally listed species, state Rare Plants
    - Sneed pincushion cactus – federally endangered
    - Black spine prickly pear – state endangered
    - MBTA Species
  - Other (non-listed) Fish and Wildlife Habitat
  - Updates to other resources: air quality, climate, etc.

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Economic Evaluation

- Resources to be evaluated:
  - Urban flood damages
  - Agricultural production and estimated flood damages
  - Demographic economic drivers
  - Land use and property values
  - Number and characteristics of structures at risk in the 500-year floodplain
  - Water supply effects and costs
  - Recreation analysis
  - Operation, maintenance, and replacement costs
  - Climate Change – reservoir O&M

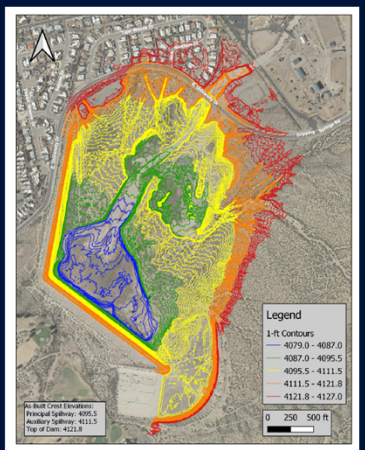

Figure 2.1: Elevation Contours Map of Dam and Reservoir Area

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Ecosystem Services

- Ecosystem services (either tangible or intangible) are the critical link between ecological function and social well-being.
  - Provisioning
    - Food and Water
  - Regulating
    - Regulation of ecosystem processes – flood control, erosion control, air quality, climate regulation, pollinator services for agriculture, regulation of human disease, water purification
  - Cultural
    - Recreational, spiritual and religious
  - Supporting
    - Soil formation and nutrient cycling

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Social Resources

- Social Population and Demographics Existing Conditions Study (Stantec, 2024) identified:
  - Civil Rights and Social Issues
    - Population, demographics, economic activity
  - Alternatives should consider potential impacts to community facilities and transportation infrastructure within the Study Area
- A review of the previous survey and report is being conducted to identify additional needs

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Cultural Resources

- Cultural Resources Survey (Zia, 2023) identified:
  - The dam site is not considered to be associated with an important event.
  - The dam site is ineligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.
  - Domestic refuse dumps are present in the reservoir area, but do not contain important information potential.
  - There are no potential adverse effects to cultural resources.
- A review of the previous survey and report identified the need for:
  - Historic context of the dam under National Register Criterion A and C
- NRCS will complete this assessment and is coordinating with SHPO and will complete the consultation for the project

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Phase 3: Alternatives Formulation

- Identify and formulate reasonable alternatives
  - No action
  - Nonstructural (could include decommission)
  - Structural rehabilitation
  - Locally preferred (if requested by Sponsor)
  - Evaluate impacts to resources
  - Cost Estimates
- Identify the preferred alternative

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Phase 4: Prepare Supplemental Plan-Environmental Assessment

- Compile collected data for existing structures
- Identify and evaluate alternatives
- Identify and evaluate impacts of alternatives
- Select preferred alternative with public input

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Initial Agency & Public Input/Responses

- Initial Agency/Stakeholder meeting held in August 2021
- Initial Public Scoping Meeting held in December 2021
- Numerous public comments regarding recreational use and artwork located near the auxiliary spillway
- Comments were addressed by NRCS

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Agency/Tribal/Stakeholder Input

- Three scheduled opportunities for public and agency input:
  - Additional Agency/Stakeholder Scoping Meeting - today
    - Provided: Project re-introduction
    - Requested: Input on objectives, alternatives, and prioritization
  - Alternatives Meeting
    - Provided: Report on how input was incorporated and presentation of alternatives
    - Requested: Input on selected alternative
  - Supplemental Plan-Environmental Assessment Review
    - Provided: Draft Supplemental Plan-Environmental Assessment
    - Requested: Comments on the Supplemental Plan-Environmental Assessment

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Input on Resources

Stakeholder Involvement

What resource opportunities/impacts are of particular importance?

Are there any other known opportunities or impacted resources?

Ecosystem Services approach comments?

General concerns or comments?

Resource List

- Soil Resources
- Prime and Unique Farmland
- Water Resources
- Sole Source Aquifers
- Water Quality
- Floodplain Management
- Waters of the US
- Regional Water Resource Plans
- Wild and Scenic Rivers
- Air Quality
- T&E Species
- Migratory Birds
- Bald and Golden Eagles
- Essential Fish Habitat
- Critical Habitat
- Ecologically Critical Areas
- Invasive Species
- Fish and Wildlife
- Natural Areas
- Riparian Areas
- Forest Resources
- Wetlands
- Recreation
- Cultural Resources/Tribal Consult
- Social Issues
- Local, Regional, National Economy
- Public Health and Safety
- Scenic Beauty
- Parklands
- Scientific Resources
- Land Use
- Recreation
- Ecosystem Services
  - Provisioning
  - Regulating
  - Supporting
  - Cultural
- *Other…*

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Input: How to Submit Comments?

- Submit your comments on the project by February 22, 2025
- There are three ways to comment:

Comment Card
Submit a written Comment at today's meeting

Mail
USDA NRCS New Mexico
Attn: Merceidez Fabok
100 Sun Avenue Northeast, Suite 602
Albuquerque, NM 87109-3434

Email
Merceidez.Fabok@usda.gov

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Discussion on Possible Benefits & Considerations

- Possible benefits and other considerations while developing alternatives
  - Increased flood protection
- Landowner considerations
- Recreational use of facilities
- Avoid impacts to critical infrastructure (NMSU, I-10 and I-25, etc.)
- Other considerations?

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Open Discussion/Questions

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Next Steps

- Additional Agency/Stakeholder Scoping Meeting (Today)
  - Agency comments due to NRCS by February 22, 2025
- Alternatives Development
  - Consider information from initial and current Agency meetings and previous public meeting
  - Refine purpose and need as appropriate
  - Develop alternatives and evaluate impacts
  - Identify preferred alternative
  - Next agency/public meeting (alternatives presentation and solicit input)

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Schedule

Evaluate existing conditions	Spring 2025
Identify and evaluate alternatives	Spring and Summer 2025
Alternatives Meeting	Summer 2025
Public review of draft documents	Winter 2025
Public review of final documents	Spring 2026
Planning completion	Spring 2026

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Closing Comments

Final Thoughts

- Planning phase of a bigger project.
- Schedules and timelines are targets, not rigid.
- The participation of public and agencies is voluntary BUT CRITICAL TO A SUCCESSFUL PROJECT.
- The project is intended to reflect the values and opinions of the local agencies and community whenever possible.
- Project webpage: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/watershed-and-flood-prevention-operations-wfpo-program/new-mexico/watershed

Contact Merceidez Fabok with the NRCS:

- Email: merceidez.fabok@usda.gov
- Mail: USDA NRCS New Mexico, Att: Merceidez Fabok
  100 Sun Ave. Northeast, Suite 602, Albuquerque, NM 87109-3434

Comments/Questions are due to NRCS by: Saturday February 22, 2025

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ATTACHMENT 2

COMMENT AND RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM

Supplemental Watershed Plan – Environmental Assessment for Tortugas Site 1 Dam (OSE D-270)
Agency/Tribal/Stakeholder Meeting
Comment Form

The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) along with the Elephant Butte Irrigation District is proposing the Tortugas Arroyo Watershed Dam No. 1 (Tortugas Site 1 Dam) rehabilitation in Las Cruces, New Mexico within Doña Ana County, see attached map. The purpose of the project is to analyze the flood protection capabilities of the Tortugas Site 1 Dam, as it currently exists in comparison with current NRCS and New Mexico Office of the State Engineer Dam Safety Bureau (NMOSE-DSB) dam performance, design, and safety standards, along with analyzing other opportunities to maintain or improve flood damage reduction and flood protection opportunities for the downstream community.

If you have any information within the proposed project area or surrounding area, such as existing condition information, studies, previous environmental assessments, and previous environmental impact statements, please note below. Please provide any comments you have on resource concerns on the attached resource table. You may provide written comments by mail or email (using this form or direct comments to) **by February 22, 2025**:

USDA NRCS New Mexico, Attn: Merceidez Fabok, 100 Sun Avenue Northeast, Suite 602, Albuquerque, NM 87109-3434 or email *Merceidez.Fabok@usda.gov*

Closing Comments

Final Thoughts

- Planning phase of a bigger project.
- Schedules and timelines are targets, not rigid.
- The participation of public and agencies is voluntary BUT CRITICAL TO A SUCCESSFUL PROJECT.
- The project is intended to reflect the values and opinions of the local agencies and community whenever possible.
- Project webpage: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/watershed-and-flood-prevention-operations-wfpo-program/new-mexico/watershed

Contact Merceidez Fabok with the NRCS:

- Email: merceidez.fabok@usda.gov
- Mail: USDA NRCS New Mexico, Att: Merceidez Fabok
  100 Sun Ave. Northeast, Suite 602, Albuquerque, NM 87109-3434

Comments/Questions are due to NRCS by: Saturday February 22, 2025

Tortugas Plan-EA
Watershed and Project Area Map

USDA NRCS
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Project Site
Tortugas Subwatershed Boundary

Project Location: 106.670567°W 32.305589°N

0 1.32 2.65 Mi
0 2.4 4.8 Km
1:104,187

Resource Concerns – Scoping Meeting
Supplemental Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment for
Tortugas Site 1 Dam (OSE D-270)
January 23, 2025

Name (Optional):_____

ITEM/ CONCERN	How Important is this Resource in relation to the Project?			Why?
	Not	Little	Very	
Soil-Related Concerns				
Soil Resources				
Prime and Unique Farmland				
Water-Related Concerns				
Water Resources				
Sole Source Aquifers				
Water Quality				
Floodplain Management				

Resource Concerns – Scoping Meeting
Supplemental Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment for
Tortugas Site 1 Dam (OSE D-270)
January 23, 2025

ITEM/ CONCERN	How Important is this Resource in relation to the Project?			Why?
	Not	Little	Very	
Waters of the US				
Regional Water Resource Plans				
Wild and Scenic Rivers				
Air-Related Concerns				
Air Quality				
Plant and Animal-Related Concerns				
Threatened and Endangered Species				
Migratory Birds				
Bald and Golden Eagles				

Resource Concerns – Scoping Meeting
Supplemental Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment for
Tortugas Site 1 Dam (OSE D-270)
January 23, 2025

ITEM/ CONCERN	How Important is this Resource in relation to the Project?			Why?
	Not	Little	Very	
Essential Fish Habitat				
Critical Habitat				
Ecologically Critical Areas				
Invasive Species				
Fish and Wildlife				
Natural Areas				
Riparian Areas				
Forest Resources				

Resource Concerns – Scoping Meeting
Supplemental Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment for
Tortugas Site 1 Dam (OSE D-270)
January 23, 2025

ITEM/ CONCERN	How Important is this Resource in relation to the Project?			Why?
	Not	Little	Very	
Wetlands				
Human Use-Related Concerns				
Cultural Resources/ Historic Properties/ Tribal Consultation				
Civil Rights				
Social Issues				
Local, Regional, National Economy				
Public Health and Safety				
Scenic Beauty				

Resource Concerns – Scoping Meeting
Supplemental Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment for
Tortugas Site 1 Dam (OSE D-270)
January 23, 2025

ITEM/ CONCERN	How Important is this Resource in relation to the Project?			Why?
	Not	Little	Very	
Parklands				
Scientific Resources				
Land Use				
Recreation				
Ecosystem Services Concerns				
Provisioning				
Regulating				
Supporting				

Resource Concerns – Scoping Meeting
Supplemental Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment for
Tortugas Site 1 Dam (OSE D-270)
January 23, 2025

ITEM/ CONCERN	How Important is this Resource in relation to the Project?			Why?
	Not	Little	Very	
Cultural				
Other Concerns?				
Other?				

Resource Concerns – Scoping Meeting
Supplemental Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment for
Tortugas Site 1 Dam (OSE D-270)
January 23, 2025

ITEM/ CONCERN	How Important is this Resource in relation to the Project?			Why?
	Not	Little	Very	

ATTACHMENT 3

RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM RESULTS

Resource Concerns – Scoping Meeting
Supplemental Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment for
Tortugas Site 1 Dam (OSE D-270)
January 23, 2025

Name (Optional):_____

Results are shown in red. Numbers indicate how many agencies/stakeholders ranked the importance of the resources. Not every agency/stakeholder submitted the resource inventory sheet and not every resource was completed. Comments and responses are documented in Attachment 4.

ITEM/ CONCERN	How Important is this Resource in relation to the Project?			Why?
	Not	Little	Very	
Soil-Related Concerns				
Soil Resources	No Response Received			
Prime and Unique Farmland	No Response Received			
Water-Related Concerns				
Water Resources	No Response Received			
Sole Source Aquifers	No Response Received			
Water Quality	No Response Received			
Floodplain Management	No Response Received			

Resource Concerns – Scoping Meeting
Supplemental Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment for
Tortugas Site 1 Dam (OSE D-270)
January 23, 2025

ITEM/ CONCERN	How Important is this Resource in relation to the Project?			Why?
	Not	Little	Very	
Waters of the US	No Response Received			
Regional Water Resource Plans	No Response Received			
Wild and Scenic Rivers	No Response Received			
Air-Related Concerns				
Air Quality	No Response Received			
Plant and Animal-Related Concerns				
Threatened and Endangered Species	0	0	1	
Migratory Birds	0	0	1	
Bald and Golden Eagles	1	0	0	

Resource Concerns – Scoping Meeting
Supplemental Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment for
Tortugas Site 1 Dam (OSE D-270)
January 23, 2025

ITEM/ CONCERN	How Important is this Resource in relation to the Project?			Why?
	Not	Little	Very	
Essential Fish Habitat	1	0	0	
Critical Habitat	1	0	0	
Ecologically Critical Areas	0	0	1	
Invasive Species	0	0	1	
Fish and Wildlife	0	0	1	
Natural Areas	1	0	0	
Riparian Areas	0	1	0	
Forest Resources	1	0	0	

Resource Concerns – Scoping Meeting
Supplemental Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment for
Tortugas Site 1 Dam (OSE D-270)
January 23, 2025

ITEM/ CONCERN	How Important is this Resource in relation to the Project?			Why?
	Not	Little	Very	
Wetlands	0	0	1	
Human Use-Related Concerns				
Cultural Resources/ Historic Properties/ Tribal Consultation	No Response Received			
Civil Rights	No Response Received			
Social Issues	No Response Received			
Local, Regional, National Economy	No Response Received			
Public Health and Safety	No Response Received			
Scenic Beauty	No Response Received			

Resource Concerns – Scoping Meeting
Supplemental Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment for
Tortugas Site 1 Dam (OSE D-270)
January 23, 2025

ITEM/ CONCERN	How Important is this Resource in relation to the Project?			Why?
	Not	Little	Very	
Parklands	No Response Received			
Scientific Resources	No Response Received			
Land Use	No Response Received			
Recreation	No Response Received			
Ecosystem Services Concerns				
Provisioning	No Response Received			
Regulating	No Response Received			
Supporting	No Response Received			

Resource Concerns – Scoping Meeting
Supplemental Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment for
Tortugas Site 1 Dam (OSE D-270)
January 23, 2025

ITEM/ CONCERN	How Important is this Resource in relation to the Project?			Why?
	Not	Little	Very	
Cultural	No Response Received			
Other Concerns?				
Other?	No Response Received			

ATTACHMENT 4

SCOPING COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

TORTUGAS SITE 1 DAM (OSE D-270) SUPPLEMENTAL WATERSHED PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT RESTART AGENCY/TRIBAL/STAKEHOLDER SCOPING MEETING COMMENTS / RESPONSE FORM

Comment Number	Item/Concern	How Important is the Resource to the Project?	Comment	NRCS Response
			During Scoping Meeting	
1	Plant and Animal-Related Concerns	N/A	Will the Supplemental Plan-EA state listed plants in the study area as part of the environmental scoping?	The Project team has not collected field data to confirm the presence of state-listed rare plant species. The desktop study, completed in March 2024, indicates that state-listed plants may be in the Project area. During future on-site data collection work, state-listed plants will be formally identified if present. The state of New Mexico has a new permit process for state-listed rare plant species. The following contact was provided for the state botanist: erika.rowe@emnrd.nm.gov
2	Plant and Animal-Related Concerns	N/A	Will critical plant and animal species issues be identified and mitigated?	Yes, key issues will be identified and mitigated throughout the Project from planning to construction. For example, the Supplemental Plan-EA document would recommend that tree removal not take place during nesting season.
3	Plant and Animal-Related Concerns	N/A	As part of the environmental review process, a New Mexico Environmental Review Tool (NMERT) report was completed previously by New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) for this Project. Should an updated NMERT report be developed by NMDGF at this time?	An updated report does not need to be produced at this time. The Project will request an updated report and NMDGF will see this request submitted through the NMERT portal.
4	Alternatives	N/A	Could alternatives include dredging reservoir sediment to create additional storage capacity?	Yes, the dam currently has sediment storage capacity, but alternatives may consider expanding retention volume.
			During Comment Period	
5	Threatened and Endangered Species	Very	The NMDGF recommends that you contact Erika Rowe (Erika.Rowe@emnrd.nm.gov) at the New Mexico Endangered Plant Program of the Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department (NM EMNRD), regarding potential presence and conservation needs for state-listed plants. The state endangered plant Night-Blooming Cereus (Peniocereus greggii var. greggii) has been documented near and potentially within the project area footprint, and may need to be considered and/or mitigated for while designing and implementing project activities.	This information will be included in the Supplemental Plan-EA. The rare plants list has been collected for Doña Ana County, which includes the Night-Blooming Cereus (Peniocereus greggii var. greggii). Erika Rowe at NM EMRND will be contacted.
6	Migratory Birds	Very	All migratory birds are protected against direct take under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. Sections 703-712), and hawks, falcons, vultures, owls, songbirds, and other insect-eating birds are protected under New Mexico State Statutes (17-2-13 and 17-2-14 NMSA), unless permitted by the applicable regulatory agency. To minimize the likelihood of adverse impacts to migratory birds, nests, eggs, or nestlings, the NMDGF recommends that ground disturbance and vegetation removal activities be conducted outside of the primary migratory bird breeding season of April 15-September 1. Breeding season may begin earlier for raptors or when working in low-elevation habitats such as deserts. If ground disturbing and clearing activities must be conducted during the breeding season, the area should be surveyed for active nest sites (with birds or eggs present in the nesting territory) and avoid disturbing active nests until young have fledged. For active nests, establish adequate buffer zones to minimize disturbance to nesting	This information and the recommended conservation measures will be included in the Supplemental Plan-EA.

TORTUGAS SITE 1 DAM (OSE D-270) SUPPLEMENTAL WATERSHED PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT
RESTART AGENCY/TRIBAL/STAKEHOLDER SCOPING MEETING COMMENTS / RESPONSE FORM

Comment Number	Item/Concern	How Important is the Resource to the Project?	Comment	NRCS Response
			birds. Buffer distances should be at least 100 feet from songbird and raven nests; 0.25 miles from most raptor nests; and 0.5 miles for ferruginous hawk (Buteo regalis), golden eagle (Aquila chrysaetos canadensis), peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus), and prairie falcon (Falco mexicanus) nests. Active nest sites in trees or shrubs that must be removed should be mitigated by qualified biologists or wildlife rehabilitators. NMDGF biologists are available to consult on nest site mitigation and can facilitate contact with qualified personnel. The list of New Mexico SGCN (see link, page 14, table 5) and the federal list of Birds of Conservation Concern should be reviewed to fully evaluate potential effects to migratory birds from your proposed project. Federal agencies are also required under Executive Order 13186 to implement standards and practices that lessen the amount of unintentional take attributable to agency actions. These conservation measures are strongly recommended to ensure persistence of migratory bird species whose populations are small and/or declining within New Mexico. Burrowing owl (Athene cunicularia) may occur within your project area. Burrowing owls are protected from take by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and under New Mexico state statute. Before any ground disturbing activities occur, the NMDGF recommends that a preliminary burrowing owl survey be conducted by a qualified biologist using the NMDGF's burrowing owl survey protocol. Should burrowing owls be documented in the project area, please contact the NMDGF or USFWS for further recommendations regarding relocation or avoidance of impacts.	
7	Bald and Golden Eagles	Not	Bald and golden eagles have not been observed within or near the project area.	Text will be included in the Supplemental Plan-EA.
8	Essential Fish Habitat	Not	There is no essential fish habitat within the project area.	Text will be included in the Supplemental Plan-EA.
9	Critical Habitat	Not	There is no critical habitat for federally-listed Threatened or Endangered species in the project area.	Text will be included in the Supplemental Plan-EA.
10	Ecologically Critical Areas	Very	The current project area appears to be within Crucial Habitat as identified in the Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool (CHAT) layers provided in the NMERT. This indicates that a diversity of species of conservation concern and sensitive or important habitats for wildlife are likely to be found in the project area. The NMDGF recommends completion of thorough environmental assessment prior to, and exercising care during, implementation of project activities to avoid adverse impacts to sensitive wildlife and habitats.	After review of the Crucial CHAT layers through NMERT, the Project area is within the 'Most Crucial' category (category 1). Using Table 1 in Crucial Data Metadata, category 1 implies a category 1 in the following sections: species of concern, terrestrial SERI, Aquatic SERI, and wetland/riparian. This information and the recommended conservation measures will be included in the Supplemental Plan-EA.
11	Invasive Species	Very	The highly invasive, noxious weed African rue (Peganum harmala) has been documented near the proposed project area. African rue thrives on disturbed sites and along road sides. It is extremely drought- tolerant and will undergo rapid vegetative growth when soil moisture is available. African rue is extremely toxic	This information, the recommended management measures, and Table 1 Management Options from the referenced field guide will be included in the Supplemental Plan-EA.

TORTUGAS SITE 1 DAM (OSE D-270) SUPPLEMENTAL WATERSHED PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT
RESTART AGENCY/TRIBAL/STAKEHOLDER SCOPING MEETING COMMENTS / RESPONSE FORM

Comment Number	Item/Concern	How Important is the Resource to the Project?	Comment	NRCS Response
			to horses, sheep, cattle, and humans, containing at least four types of poisonous alkaloids. In addition, most parts of the plant contain allelopathic chemicals that will reduce the growth of surrounding native plants. To help control this species' spread, the NMDGF recommends that any vehicles and equipment arriving on the project site be thoroughly cleaned of all visible dirt and mud to help contain and control the potential spread of weed seeds. The operator should also initiate a weed management program that includes a commitment to aggressive control of any African rue on the project site. For more information on potential control of African rue, see this field guide: USDA, U.S. Forest Service, Southwest Region (Sept. 2014). Field Guide for Managing African Rue in the Southwest. TP-R3-16-15.	
12	Fish and Wildlife	Very	In the event that sediment dredging occurs as part of a potential alternative action for this project, the NMDGF recommends surveying the proposed dredging site for any burrowing wildlife species prior to the initiation of any soil moving activities in addition to the burrowing owl surveys recommended in comment 6 above. If disturbance of any detected burrowing wildlife cannot be avoided, then a qualified biologist should be engaged to capture and move any such wildlife.	This information will be included in the Supplemental Plan-EA in sections related to the discussion of fish and wildlife pertaining to the potential alternative for sediment dredging and increasing dam capacity and potential borrow areas, as applicable.
13	Natural Areas	Not	The project area does not occur within any Large Natural Areas.	Text will be included in the Supplemental Plan-EA.
14	Riparian Areas	Little	The proposed project occurs within or near a riparian area. Because riparian areas are important wildlife habitats, the project footprint should avoid removing any riparian vegetation or creating ground disturbance either directly within or affecting the riparian area, unless the project is intended to restore riparian habitat through non-native plant removal and replanting with native species. If your project involves removal of non-native riparian trees or planting of native riparian vegetation, please refer to the NMDGF's habitat handbook guideline for Restoration and Management of Native and Non- native Trees in Southwestern Riparian Ecosystems. The New Mexico Riparian Habitat Map (NMRipMap) may also provide useful information on local riparian habitat composition and structure.	The nearest riparian area is approximately 1.86 miles southwest of Project area down Tortugas Arroyo. This area is categorized as GRSJ Level 3 (IVE1 and IVD1). This information will be included and explained in the Supplemental Plan-EA Additionally, any tree removal to occur within Project area will be documented.
15	Forest Resources	Not	There is no forest habitat, as defined by the New Mexico State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP), within the project area.	Text will be included in the Supplemental Plan-EA.
16	Wetlands	Very	The current project area appears to contain the following wetland types classified by the National Wetlands Inventory: palustrine emergent and riverine wetlands. Wetlands provide important habitat for numerous species of wildlife and pollinators and provide ecosystem services, such as water filtration, to downstream users. The NMDGF recommends avoiding disturbance of wetlands whenever possible, and reseeding or replanting areas where disturbance cannot be avoided with native wetland plant species. For a list of native seed providers, please see the NMDGF's habitat	This information will be included in the Supplemental Plan-EA and resources described in the comment will be included in sections related to revegetation.

TORTUGAS SITE 1 DAM (OSE D-270) SUPPLEMENTAL WATERSHED PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT RESTART AGENCY/TRIBAL/STAKEHOLDER SCOPING MEETING COMMENTS / RESPONSE FORM

Comment Number	Item/Concern	How Important is the Resource to the Project?	Comment	NRCS Response
			handbook guideline for Restoration and Management of Native and Non-native Trees in Southwestern Riparian Ecosystems.	