



# New Mexico Wildlife Federation



Protecting Our Outdoor Way Of Life Since 1914

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Dear Buckman Direct Diversion Board of Directors:

The New Mexico Wildlife Federation will be making a brief presentation at the next BDD Board meeting on Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. SWCA Environmental Consultants has prepared an Environmental Analysis on behalf of the USFS and BLM to assist in deciding whether to authorize the proposed restoration and recreation enhancement activities in the Buckman area. This document, the *Proposed Action and Alternatives for the Rio Grande Corridor at Buckman Restoration and Recreation Enhancement Project* has been made available for public review and comment until December 12, 2011. This is too lengthy a document to print out for each of you but it is presently posted on the Forest Service web site <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/sfe/>.

The proposed action includes two main components: 1) restoration of riparian areas and 2) recreation enhancements within the Rio Grande Corridor at Buckman. There are two areas identified for restoration, one within Diablo Canyon (BLM lands) and one large area along the east bank of the Rio Grande near the Buckman Direct Diversion (BDD) facility (USFS and BLM lands). There are two areas identified for recreation enhancements, one area on the west side of Diablo Canyon (BLM lands) and one area along the Rio Grande adjacent to the BDD facility (USFS lands). At this meeting I will be available to answer any of your questions and concerns regarding the proposed actions reviewed in this EA. I will then respectfully request a letter of support be sent on behalf of the BDD to District Ranger, Espanola Ranger District, PO Box 3307, Fairview, NM 87533.

The second item I would like to discuss is the need to construct and maintain a vault toilet at Buckman. Human waste has been and will continue to be a significant problem at Buckman unless we figure out a way to provide the necessary facilities. Youth Works, Rocky Mountain Youth Corp, and River Source will be bringing local youth to Buckman to help in restoration and monitoring. River Source hopes to use Buckman on a continuing basis for outdoor education with several local schools. It would be rather embarrassing to be educating these kids about the importance of protecting the Rio Grande, its water, and its habitats without there being a toilet—especially near the water diversion for the City and County of Santa Fe.

This action is considered in the EA and will hopefully be approved by the USFS. The USFS, however, has made it clear that they don't have the funds to construct or maintain a new toilet. I have done some research and a single vault toilet costs about \$18,000 to construct. It would need to be cleaned and maintained weekly at an estimated cost of \$45 per week, and need to be pumped once a year at a cost of approximately \$500. The estimated annual cost for the maintenance of a toilet at Buckman would be approximately \$2,840 per year. The Forest Service would like a MOA that funding for the maintenance of the toilet will be available for minimum of 7 years, a cost of approximately \$19,880. I would like the board to consider allocating \$38,000 of their mitigation funds for the construction and maintenance of a vault toilet at Buckman.

I am looking forward to discussing these items with you.

Sincerely,

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Conservation Director  
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