



# LOWER PECOS RIVER MISCELLANEOUS PURPOSES CONTRACT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT & BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO



## INNOVATIVE COMPLIANCE SOLUTIONS.

### Key Services

- NEPA EIS
- ESA Biological Evaluation
- Vegetative Survey
- Firm deadline
- Coordination USFWS and NMDGF
- Public Involvement

### Client

BOR & NMISC

### Location

Southeast, New Mexico

### aci consulting

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In 2004, the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission (NMISC) needed the legal framework to convey surface water to the State of Texas via the Pecos River. In order to do so, the two parties (and others) signed a long-term contract for water use in southeast New Mexico. This action constituted a "significant action," and as such a NEPA EIS was required. Working with the clients and other consultants, aci prepared the EIS during 2004-06. The involvement of many public and agricultural stakeholders was essential to the success of the NEPA process and the contract framework.

As part of the process, aci analyzed the affects to federally listed threatened and endangered species under Section 7 of the ESA. This analysis concentrated on riverine and aquatic species dependent upon the Pecos River flow. Aspects of the analysis

included compilation of the known threats and affects on the species; a vegetative assessment of the lower 200 miles of the Pecos River within the state; and secondary and cumulative effects.

aci coordinated with USFWS and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish regarding the project in the form of a biological evaluation.

Notably, drafting the EIS and secondary documents, coordination with agencies, and publication of the FEIS were completed in less than two years. Project delivery complied with the clients' needs and their commitments mandated by the US Supreme Court.