

Chapter 5. — Coordination and Environmental Review

This chapter describes how the Service coordinated with others and conducted environmental reviews of various aspects of the project proposal and analysis. Additional coordination and review would be needed to carry out the proposed action, if selected.

Agency Coordination

The Service has discussed the proposed establishment of the SLVCA with other Federal (USFS, National Park Service, BLM, NRCS), State of Colorado (Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Colorado Water Conservation Board), local county governments, and regional (Rio Grande Water Conservation District) agencies through a series of meetings and correspondence. Tribes with an aboriginal interest in the San Luis Valley and surrounding mountains (Pueblo of Picuris, Cochiti Pueblo, Jemez Pueblo, Jicarilla Apache Nation, Navajo Nation, San Juan Pueblo, Pueblo of Acoma, Pueblo of Jemez, Pueblo of Laguna, Pueblo of Ildefonso, Pueblo of Santa Ana, Pueblo of Santa Clara, Pueblo of Taos, Pueblo of Zuni, Southern Ute Tribe, Uintah and Ouray Ute Indian Tribe, and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe) were invited to participate or formally consult in the planning process. The Service's Regional Archaeologist consulted with the State Historic Preservation Officer, and was intimately involved with the development of this EA.

A number of nongovernmental organizations that are active in and around the San Luis Valley were also consulted, including Colorado Cattleman's Agricultural Land Trust, Colorado Open Lands, The Nature Conservancy, Rio Grande Headwaters Trust, Orient Land Trust, and Colorado Water Trust.

The Service coordinated internally in the development of this EA as well. Region 6 Refuge planning staff and San Luis Valley NWR Complex staff conducted the analysis and prepared this document, as well as the LPP. An intra-service Endangered Species Act section 7 consultation has been initiated and will be included as an appendix in the final LPP/EA. Region 6 Migratory Birds staff guided the development of our focal species list, and both that office and staff from the Region 6 Fisheries office reviewed the document (See appendix A, List of Preparers and Reviewers).

Contaminants and Hazardous Waste

The Service is required to invest in healthy lands. At a minimum, a Level I pre-acquisition site assessment by the USFWS Ecological Services – Colorado Field Office or New Mexico Field Office, as appropriate, would be required prior to acquisition.



Through the SLVCA, the Service hopes to help ensure the viability of wildlife habitats in an uncertain future.

National Environmental Policy Act

The Service conducted this environmental analysis under the authority of and in compliance with NEPA, which requires an evaluation of reasonable alternatives that will meet stated objectives, and an assessment of the possible effects on the natural and human environment.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

This EA will be the basis for determining whether the implementation of the proposed action would constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the natural and human environments. NEPA planning for this EA involved other government agencies and the public in the identification of issues and alternatives for the proposed project.

DISTRIBUTION AND AVAILABILITY

The Service distributed the draft EA (with the associated draft LPP in the same volume) to the project mailing list, which includes Federal and State legislative delegations; tribes; Federal, State, and local agencies; nongovernmental organizations; and interested individuals. Copies can be requested from the USFWS Region 6 office. The documents are also available electronically on the Refuge Planning website.

Project Web site: <<http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/planning/lpp/index.html>>

- Project email: <slvrefugesplanning@fws.gov>
- Planning Team Leader:
 - Dr. Mike Dixon
 - Attn: SLVCA EA
 - Division of Refuge Planning
 - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
 - P.O. Box 25486, Denver Federal Center
 - Denver, CO 80225
 - 303/236-8132

