ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
EQIP – EASTERN NEW MEXICO
CONSERVATION BUFFER INITIATIVE GPA
2002

INTRODUCTION

This environmental assessment (EA) is being prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and implementing regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508. The EA will assist NRCS in determining whether the proposed action will have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment and therefore requires preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

NEED FOR PROPOSED ACTION

Purpose of and Need for Action: The purpose and need within the GPA is to reduce wind erosion on cropland, enhance riparian areas to improve water quality and water quantity, develop wildlife habitat on cropland and rangeland, and conserve energy.

Background:

It has long been recognized that conservation buffers address a wide array of resource concerns and provide substantial long term environmental benefits. The NRCS established a national goal to assist producers with the installation of two million miles of buffers by the year 2002.

The GPA encompasses 17,648,000 acres in Lea, Roosevelt, Curry, Quay, Harding, Union, Colfax, San Miguel, and Mora Counties. Within this region, approximately 4300 agricultural producers are eligible to apply for assistance in the installation of buffer practices which best address their site-specific resource concerns on rangeland, and dry or irrigated cropland.

Though the GPA covers a large area, there are some common elements, which present similar challenges. The entire area is considered semi-arid receiving from 12-30 inches of precipitation with an average of 16 inches/year. Eastern New Mexico sustains winds predominantly from the southwest with an annual average airspeed of 12 miles per hour. Winds in excess of 15 miles per hour cause soil erosion. Isolated wind events traditionally occurring during spring months can result in wind speeds exceeding 50 mph. Cropland not sufficiently protected with adequate cover can result in excessive soil loss. Soils eroding at greater than 5 tons/acre/year are compromised in terms of fertility, tilth, and future production capability. Severe climatic conditions such as those previously described coupled with highly erodible soil results in an area which experiences greater susceptibility to wind erosion.

The enhancement of riparian areas in the northern portion of the GPA is of particular concern. The value of wetland and riparian areas is being diminished in terms of water quantity, quality and wildlife use due to encroachment of invasive species such as salt cedar and Russian olive. The control or elimination of these species and subsequent replacement with native species such as willow and cottonwood contribute to improvement of ground water recharge as streams can once again flow.

Climatic conditions as previously mentioned in terms of extremes have more of an impact on wildlife than any other single item. There are currently thousands of acres within the GPA associated with the production of grain crops and over 500,000 acres currently enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program. The existence of resident wildlife species such as quail, pheasant, and mourning dove, along with a massive amount of cropland acres presents an opportunity to positively impact wildlife. Conservation buffers may be designed in a manner, which considers the needs of a particular species of wildlife and expands benefits past those of wind and water erosion to include wildlife habitat.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative 1. No Action

Alternative 2. Proposed Action: Use NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) authorities to assist farmers in the Eastern New Mexico Conservation Buffer Initiative Geographic Priority Area (GPA) to install conservation buffers and apply conservation systems that reduce wind erosion on cropland acres. This would be accomplished through the establishment of field borders, cross wind trap strips, and windbreaks/shelterbelts. Wind erosion and air quality concerns are further addressed by including practices such as conservation cropping system and crop residue use. Nutrient and pest management on cropland acres will address concerns related to plant health, plant productivity, and water quality. Grassed waterway and filter strips on or adjacent to cropland will be installed to control water erosion and contribute to improved water quality. The installation of riparian forest buffers will address water quality and water quantity concerns. Practices installed adjacent to or with in riparian areas would include prescribed grazing, fence, livestock pipeline, livestock trough, livestock exclusion, and brush management. Windbreaks/shelterbelts will address wind erosion concerns and wildlife habitat concerns on cropland acres and around farmsteads. An equally important and documented benefit of windbreaks around farmsteads would be realized in terms of energy conservation. Drip irrigation systems, fence, pipeline, and livestock exclusion are complimentary practices planned to ensure the success of the windbreak. Wildlife watering facilities and wildlife habitat management are practices that will address the resource concerns related to wildlife.

SCOPING OF ISSUES FOR UNIQUE AND PROTECTED RESOURCES IN THE AREA:

NRCS conducted a review of the area to identify unique and protected resources and other special issues of concern. Members of the public had an opportunity to provide comments and identify concerns during a meeting on October 18, 2000, by a locally convened work group responsible for recommending proposed EQIP actions. No controversy about the need for action or the actions themselves was raised during this meeting, and no resources or issues of concern were identified during the meeting or by NRCS or other Federal and/or State agencies but those discussed in this EA.

Threatened and Endangered Species and Species of Concern: A record search of Fish & Wildlife Service and New Mexico Department of Game & Fish databases shows that several

species are listed as endangered, threatened, or candidate species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and found within the project area. However, the following species are rarely encountered on dry or irrigated cropland, rangeland, or riparian areas; Lesser Prairie chicken, Aplomado Falcon, Mexican Spotted Owl, and Common Black hawk. The NRCS has determined that none of these species will be affected by any alternatives or action considered in this EA. Species that may be affected by alternatives considered in this EA are as follows; Bald Eagle, Baird's Sparrow, Least Shrew, Bell's Vireo, Arid Land Ribbon Snake, SW Willow Flycatcher, and Piping Plover. Consultation with the US FWS will be done prior to implementation of systems.

Cultural Resources and Historic Properties: NRCS completed a search of cultural resource records, which indicated the presence of over 1500 recorded sites. Considering the area of concern, density and site significance may vary greatly. Records indicate Paleo Indian sites, turn of the century home sites, abandoned towns, tee pee rings, and Plains Indian Village sites. In order to assure that disturbance of sites will not occur, site specific field surveys will be done and consultation will be conducted with the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) before NRCS implements any ground disturbing activities.

Wetlands: Wetlands, in the form of playa lakes, are a common occurrence on the high plains of eastern New Mexico. However, because they will not be drained or manipulated to make possible the production of an agricultural commodity, swampbuster provisions will not be violated within this project area. Food Security Act requirements will be followed when wetlands are associated with acres treated. The Mora River, Ocate Creek, and Coyote Creek, all located within the GPA are considered High Quality Waters by the New Mexico Environmental Division. Also of particular significance is the impaired watershed classification of Coyote Creek.

IMPACTS AND EFFECTS OF ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative 1: No Action

Landowners will continue to address resource concerns and apply conservation systems that are needed to control wind erosion on cropland acres as required by provisions relating to the 1985 Farm Bill. This translates to soil erosion saved of approximately 15 tons/ac/yr. within the project area. When soil erosion occurs at this rate, as estimated using WEQ, there exists a potential for offsite damage as displaced soil falls out of suspension. Not only is organic matter lost, but pesticides and nutrients attached to soil particles can be detrimental to other crops as they are deposited downwind. It is also extremely costly to remove topsoil in roadways, fence rows, and areas around structures.

Opportunities to address wildlife concerns, specifically providing quality food, cover, and water will not be captured. Habitat for wildlife species, including mourning dove, pheasant, and quail, will continue to deteriorate, as cropland resources are not managed to their potential.

Riparian areas within the northern portion of the GPA will degrade as Russian olive and salt cedar invade. Water quantity will continue to decline, as the aforementioned species become prevalent on acres along watercourses. Water erosion occurring within watersheds will

contribute to excessive sediment, nutrients, and pesticides being delivered to watercourses. Water quality will be compromised for all aquatic wildlife species. Individuals who depend on the associated water supply for domestic use are also affected when water quality declines or storage for municipalities is limited over time due to excessive sediment load.

Farmsteads and livestock facilities will not benefit in terms of realized energy conservation if windbreaks/shelterbelts are not planted in these areas. The initial cost of installing a windbreak prohibits landowners from being able to enjoy the wildlife habitat benefits associated with a multi-row windbreak planned with consideration given to a particular species.

Alternative 2: Proposed Action

As previously mentioned, this GPA encompasses approximately 17,000,000 acres. Due to the financial limitations involved in EQIP, it is estimated that assistance could be provided to 200 producers if the GPA remains in existence for 5 years. The specific goals for a five-year period have been established by the local work group to install 650,000 feet of windbreaks, 118,640 feet of field borders, and 200 acres of riparian forest buffer. There are not a large number of acres associated with the installation of the proposed buffers.

This alternative includes practices such as riparian forest buffers, field borders, cross wind trap strips, grassed waterways, filter strips, windbreaks/shelterbelts, fence, livestock pipeline, livestock trough, brush management, drip irrigation system, wildlife watering facility, and range seeding. Management practices will include prescribed grazing, livestock exclusion, conservation cropping system, crop residue use, nutrient and pest management, and upland wildlife habitat management.

A riparian forest buffer consists of an area of trees or shrubs located adjacent to and up-gradient from permanent or intermittent streams, lakes, ponds, wetlands and areas with ground water recharge. The buffer area is defined by zones, which extend at the top of the stream bank edge and extend perpendicular to the water body. Zones 1 and 2 are dominated by trees and shrubs while zone 3, which is further in distance from the edge of the water body, consists of herbaceous vegetation, planted and designed much like a filter strip. Consideration of native species is encouraged as well as species diversity. Shrubs, which reach a mature height of 10 feet, will be planted on a 3-8 ft. spacing. Shrubs and trees from 10-25 feet will be planted on a 6-10 feet spacing. Trees greater than 25 feet will be planted at a spacing of 8-18 feet. It may be necessary on some sites to control existing vegetation such as salt cedar and Russian olive by chemical or mechanical means prior to the installation of the riparian forest buffer. In some cases, where remnant beneficial tree and shrub species occur at low density, the riparian area may recover by managing livestock grazing within the riparian area. Chemical applications would target invasive species and would be applied in accordance with manufacturer's label to avoid effects to birds and aquatic wildlife species. It is possible that nesting birds would be displaced for a period of time, if salt cedar or Russian olive were eliminated prior to planting of willows and cottonwoods. If invasive species are destroyed by mechanical means, the site may be subject to water erosion if heavy rains fall and overland flow occurs within the watershed area. If this is the case, water quality could be affected as sediment, pesticides, and/or nutrients from adjacent farmland enter the watercourse.

Field borders are strips of permanent vegetation established at the edge or around the perimeter of a field. This is accomplished by seeding native grasses on a strip of cropland approximately 60 feet in width. The field border is seeded to a mixture of native grasses, including a shrub or legume. The field border acts as a stable area to reduce the effects of soil erosion that is started offsite from turn rows and county roads. The GPA has approximately 350,000 acres of irrigated cropland of which a large portion are center pivot sprinkler irrigation systems. Each center pivot system has 4 corresponding corners, which are classified as dry cropland. These acres are less productive than irrigated cropland and present a challenge in terms of growing enough crop residue to keep soil erosion at tolerable levels during years of below average rainfall. WEQ predicted erosion rates on pivot corners could be reduced from 15 tons/ac/yr. to 1 ton/ac/yr. if established to permanent vegetation. The seeding of dryland corners falls within the parameters of a field border and is suggested and encouraged by conservation planners. During the field border establishment phase, pesticides may be used to control weeds. Environmental impacts are negligible and all pesticides will be applied according to manufacturer's label. It may be necessary to mow established field borders to keep the plants in a vigorous condition. Impacts to birds could be minimized if mowing is scheduled outside the specified nesting period while allowing enough time for re-growth of grass to sufficient height to provide effective protection during the critical wind erosion period of Nov – May.

Cross wind trap strips are comprised of herbaceous cover resistant to wind erosion established in one or more strips across the prevailing wind erosion direction. Cross wind trap strips are generally established in recurring patterns with erosion susceptible crops planted on cropland acres. The width between trap strips is designed by utilizing WEQ, based on the crop to be grown, and the level of wind erosion that may be sustained by that crop without compromising yields or crop vigor. The purpose of cross wind trap strips is to reduce soil erosion rates to 5 tons/ac/yr. or less, dependent on crop. Cross wind trap strips may consist of perennial or annual plants. Wildlife may be impacted if mowing occurs during the nesting season, blowing snow accumulates during winter months, or trap strips are relocated and renovated as sediment accumulates within the strip.

Grassed waterways are natural or constructed channels shaped and graded to required design specifications. Permanent vegetation is planted in the channel where water is then conveyed to a stable outlet. A considerable amount of soil may be moved during the grassed waterway construction phase creating an increased potential for wind erosion until grass establishment is achieved. Heavy rains occurring prior to grass establishment may also result in sediment traveling down the waterway and being deposited on rangeland and eventually within a watercourse.

Filter strips are areas of vegetation planted adjacent to a watercourse or at the lower edge of a cropland field for the purpose of removing sediment, organic matter, and other pollutants from runoff and waste water for the purpose of protecting water quality.

Windbreaks/shelter belts are single or multiple rows of trees or shrubs planted for a variety of environmental reasons. Species considered for planting (but not limited to) include native species such as Rocky Mountain Juniper, and Four wing saltbush, as well as introduced species such as Eastern Red Cedar, Austrian, Pine, Keteller Juniper, Sycamore, Green Ash, and Silver leaf maple. Windbreaks planted adjacent to farmsteads are established primarily for energy conservation. However, multiple rows and proper species selection can provide food, cover, and

nesting areas for quail, pheasant, and mourning dove. Trees and shrubs are planted on a spacing, which varies from 6 – 18 feet. Site preparation may involve tilling the ground prior to planting trees to facilitate easier planting of trees and root development during the establishment phase as well as destruction of weeds or native grasses which compete with trees for moisture and nutrients. Row orientation is placed as close to perpendicular to the prevailing wind direction as possible. Windbreaks are designed to lift damaging wind up and over an area to be protected and is effective for a distance of 10X the mature height of the tree.

A fence is a barrier comprised of metal or wood posts with smooth or barbed wire attached. The primary purpose for constructing a fence it to exclude livestock, people, or wildlife. Soil disturbance occurs to a maximum depth of 3-4 feet as holes are dug to anchor the ends of a fence with what is referred to as an H-brace. If a fence is constructed in brushy terrain, further soil disturbance may occur if an area is cleared of brush prior to fence construction. However, the area would be minimal, not exceeding the width of a tractor blade and vegetation would quickly re-grow to protect the area from wind or water erosion. Within the scope of this GPA, fences would be constructed around windbreaks to exclude livestock and wildlife, which frequently browse and rub on trees and shrubs. Riparian areas may also be excluded from livestock to allow regeneration of willows and cottonwoods.

Livestock pipelines are installed to convey water from a dependable water source to a specified site. The purpose is to provide adequate drinking water for livestock, wildlife, or to supply drip irrigation systems in the establishment of trees or shrubs. The pipeline is constructed of PVC or polyethylene buried 18 inches underground in a vertical wall trench with soil back filled to cover and protect the pipeline from freezing. Soil disturbance is minimal as most pipeline is 1 ¼" – 2" diameter. A trench to facilitate this size pipe is approximately 6 inches in width and re-growth of perennial grasses quickly masks the disturbed soil.

Livestock troughs are generally constructed of steel and set in a concrete base. Troughs constructed of steel with concrete bases are constructed by forming the base in the soil, then either welding or bolting the ends of the steel sheets together in a circle and pouring several yards of concrete as the base. The purpose for constructing a livestock tank is to provide watering facilities for livestock at selected locations that will protect vegetative cover. Within the scope of this GPA, livestock troughs may be constructed when livestock are excluded from a riparian area. Additionally, on rangeland within a watershed area where the desired effect is improvement of range condition. If range condition improves, water quality will be positively affected as less sediment and associated pollutants are not allowed introduction into the water body. Wildlife may also use livestock troughs to meet their water requirements.

Brush management is a practice that targets the removal, reduction, or manipulation of undesirable plant species. The purpose is to restore a natural plant community, which protects soils, controls erosion, and improves water quality and stream flow while enhancing wildlife habitat. Brush management may be accomplished by either mechanical removal or chemical treatment of invasive species. This practice will be applied on watershed acres up gradient or adjacent to a riparian area. If chemical treatment is utilized, all pesticides will be applied according to manufacturer's label, which ensures minimal environmental impacts. If mechanical removal is utilized, soil disturbance and subsequent destruction of vegetative cover may require reseeding of native grasses. It is anticipated this would occur on a very limited basis within the GPA. It is intended that the control of woody phreatophytes would impact riparian areas as

water quantity increases by reestablishment of subsequent native riparian species. Nesting birds may be temporarily displaced by removal of invasive species around riparian areas.

Trickle irrigation system consists of drip tubing installed in conjunction with a windbreak to efficiently apply water directly to the plant root zone by means of an emitter with a consistent and specified water application rate. The purpose is to ensure success of windbreak plantings in an area where water requirements during the establishment phase are not met through precipitation.

Wildlife water facilities are constructed to improve or modify watering places for wildlife while creating a dependable water source in areas where water can be a limiting factor for sustainment of wildlife populations. The most invasive type of structure is a man made fiberglass catchment approximately 8 feet in diameter and 2 feet in depth, which is generally buried at ground level.

Range seeding is the establishment of adapted perennial vegetation such as grasses, forbs, and legumes on marginal cropland, and corners of irrigated center pivot irrigation systems. Native species to be considered include but are not limited to blue grama, sideoats grama, western wheatgrass, switchgrass, and plains bristlegrass. The purpose of this practice is to reduce erosion and provide food and cover for wildlife. Erosion rates predicted by WEQ indicate a reduction in soil erosion from 15 tons/ac/yr. to 1 ton/ac/yr. Wildlife habitat evaluation guides for quail, pheasant, and mourning dove show an increase in the indices for each of these species as a result of establishing improved habitat when range seeding is applied.

Prescribed grazing is the controlled harvest of vegetation with grazing or browsing animals for the purpose of improving rangeland condition, improving water quality in a watershed area, and protecting the soil resource base from erosion. Livestock exclusion is excluding animals, people, or vehicles from an area. This will be accomplished by constructing a fence around riparian areas to ensure establishment of tree/shrub species.

Conservation cropping rotation is growing crops in a recurring sequence on the same field for the purpose of controlling erosion to within the soil loss tolerance (T), improving soil organic matter, or managing weeds, insects, or disease.

Crop residue management is managing the amount, orientation, and distribution of crop and other plant residues on the soil surface during part of the year. The purpose is to reduce sheet and rill erosion, reduce soil erosion, capture snow to increase plant available moisture, and provide food and cover for wildlife.

Nutrient management is managing the amount, form, placement and timing of applications of plant nutrients. The purpose of nutrient management is to supply plant nutrients for optimum forage and crop yields, minimize entry of nutrients to surface and groundwater, and to maintain or improve the chemical and biological condition of the soil.

Pest management is managing agricultural pest infestations (including weeds, insects, and diseases) to reduce adverse effects on plant growth, crop production, and environmental resources. Nutrient and pest management would involve teaching farmers to follow NRCS nutrients and pest management standards so fertilizers and pesticides would be applied in

accordance with the label and crop needs and field conditions. Applications would be adjusted as soil quality and field conditions change.

Upland wildlife habitat management is creating, maintaining, or enhancing areas, including wetland, for food and cover for upland wildlife. The practice requires that the designated acreage of land will have habitat conditions, which meet the minimum habitat requirements for the specified kinds of wildlife. Quail, pheasant and mourning dove.

Land uses may change as a result of implementing this alternative. Cash flow may decrease as individuals install particular practices. However, investment requirements will result in an improved protection of natural resources. Management knowledge and ability to manage these systems may need to increase. Risk of investment loss is moderate. Profitability will remain static. Overall, clients and community well being will be improved.

The estimated cost for implementation of this alternative is $ 1,250,000 for a five-year program.

TABLE 1 - ALTERNATIVE 2

PRACTICES	TREATMENT WITH NRCS EQIP ASSISTANCE ALONE	TREATMENT BY LANDOWNER INITIATIVE, OTHER AGENCIES AND NRCS, CUMULATIVELY
Riparian Forest Buffers	200 ac	200 ac
Field Borders	118,000 ft	157,000 ft
Cross Wind Trap Strips	14,000 ft	14,000 ft
Windbreaks/Shelterbelts	650,000 ft	866,000 ft
Fence	26,400 ft	52,800 ft
Livestock Pipeline	42,240 ft	84,480 ft
Livestock Trough	10 troughs	10 troughs
Brush Management	150 ac	150 ac
Irrigation system/trickle	150 systems	300 systems
Wildlife Watering Facility	30 facilities	30 facilities
Range Seeding	300 ac	1500 ac
Prescribed Grazing	10,000 ac	10,000 ac
Livestock Exclusion	1500 ac	2,500 ac
Conservation Crop Rotation	10,000 ac	10,000 ac
Crop residue Management	10,000 ac	10,000 ac
Nutrient Management	10,000 ac	10,000 ac
Pest Management	10,000 ac	10,000 ac
Wildlife Upland Habitat Management	25,000 ac	40,000 ac

There is prime farmland involved in this GPA. The majority of prime farmland designated acreage is located in Curry and Roosevelt Counties and overlies the Ogallala Aquifer. Unique farmland will be maintained and improved to sustain continued use.

Other effects were considered in the discussion, but the effects in Table 3 relate to the needs and are the only ones used for comparison to make the final decision.

TABLE - 3. Comparison of Alternatives

Comparison of Alternatives EFFECTS on NEEDS		
Needs	Alternative 1 – No Action	Alternative 2 – Installation of Conservation Buffers
Reduce wind erosion on cropland	Continued soil loss at predicted rates of 15 tons/ac/yr.	Reduce soil loss to 5 tons/ac/yr. or less
Enhance riparian areas	Continued infestation of riparian areas by invasive species such as salt cedar and Russian Olive and subsequent decline of free flowing water	Infestation of non-natives reduced by 60% with re-establishment of indigenous native species
Develop and enhance wildlife habitat	Wildlife habitat evaluation indices at .5 or below for selected species	Wildlife habitat development results in evaluation indices of >.5
Installation of windbreaks around farmsteads to conserve energy	Energy consumption remains high	Energy conservation and savings as high as 30%

PERSONS AND AGENCIES CONSULTED:

Central Curry SWCD hosted a meeting of the local work group on October 18, 2000, in Tucumcari, New Mexico. See list of participants, attached as Appendix B.

REFERENCES:

NRCS Field Office Technical Guide, Section III, Quality Criteria.

NRCS Field Office Technical Guide, Section IV, Standards and Specifications.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EQIP
IN THE EASTERN NEW MEXICO
CONSERVATION BUFFER GPA

INTRODUCTION

The Eastern New Mexico Conservation Buffer GPA is a federally assisted action under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), with assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). An environmental assessment was undertaken in connection with the development of this proposed action. This assessment was conducted in consultation with local, state, and federal agencies. Data developed during the assessment are available, upon, request, from:

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Clovis Field Office
Clovis, New Mexico

The Environmental Assessment (EA) is attached for reference.

DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

Table 1. Determination of significance of Proposed Action.

Context	Intensity	Reason for Non-Significance
Reduce wind erosion on cropland	Wind erosion losses reduced to below 5 tons/ac/yr. on 10,000 ac through the installation of 182,000 ft. of installed buffer practices	Less than 1% of the cropland acres within the GPA will be treated.
Enhance riparian areas, thus affecting water quantity, by controlling salt cedar and Russian olive	Establishment of 200 acres of riparian forest buffers	Many riparian areas within the GPA are not accessible for treatment or economically feasible.
Enhance wildlife habitat for various species	Habitat development rating of >.5 on 25,000 acres	Less than 1% of acreage within the GPA will be positively impacted for wildlife.
Energy savings in farmstead areas through the installation of windbreaks	600,000 ft. of windbreaks installed for energy savings of up to 30%	It is estimated that current funding and level of participation would affect 150 farmstead areas. This is a very small ? % of producers within a rural area encompassing the east side of the state.

Other consideration related to context and intensity are discussed as follows. Farms and ranches on the eastern side of the state are not unique in their resource concerns. No issues or concerns have been expressed at any public meetings, so controversy is small. Results of actions are known from past experience in the area, thus uncertainty is low. There will be no impact to National Register of Historic Places or cultural resources. Consultations will be done prior to implementation. No national, state, local or tribal laws will be violated by this action.

Finding of No Significant Impact:

This finding is based on the evidence presented in the environmental assessment of impacts and alternatives for this geographic priority area. Based on the assessment and the reasons given in table three, I find that the alternatives analyzed in the EA will have no significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

ROSENDO TREVINO
State Conservationist

December 20, 2001
Date