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May 7, 2021

Jeff Boxrucker
Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership
Small Projects Grant Program
9321 E. State Highway 9
Norman, OK 73026

Dear Mr. Boxrucker:

We have reviewed two project proposals submitted by Sun County Outdoors and the New Mexico Bass Nation, for habitat improvements at Cochiti Reservoir and Six Mile Dam. The Cochiti Reservoir proposal includes non-native Eurasian watermilfoil control, native vegetation cultivation and planting, sediment control, and increasing fish spawning habitat for several sportfish and prey base species. Cochiti Reservoir is located near the largest population in the state yet the fishery generally falls below angler expectations. Low prey base density and impacts of sediment on spawning habitat are contributing factors.

The Six Mile Dam proposal includes increasing fish habitat for multiple sport fish species, improving water quality, and increasing boater access. Six Mile Dam is located immediately downstream of an ongoing multi-partner fish habitat project with New Mexico Bass Nation, City of Carlsbad, and the Department. The Six Mile Dam proposal augments our efforts to improve angler access and fish habitat in the lower Pecos River.

The Department supports the efforts to improve fish habitat, water quality, and angler access at Cochiti Reservoir and Six Mile Dam. We would be happy to offer technical guidance and gauge fish population response as part of regular monitoring efforts. Please feel free to contact Shawn Denny (575-626-3427 or shawn.denny@state.nm.us) with any questions.

Sincerely,

Kirk A. Patten
Chief, Fisheries Management Division