



PUEBLO OF ISLETA

P.O. BOX 1270
ISLETA, NM 87022

March 24, 2010

Joe Quintana
Project Manager / MRCOG
809 Copper Ave., NW
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Dear Mr. Quintana:

Please accept this letter official notification the Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments (MRCOG) funded Non-Native Species Removal Project in the Bosque area of the Pueblo of Isleta (POI) is complete.

Thanks to the funding the POI Department of Natural Resources received, they were able to treat 397 acres on both sides of the Rio Grande, 154 more acres than initially planned. My staff and I feel that this project has been an immense success and have used it as a model project to showcase the capabilities of the Pueblo and to highlight what can be done when multiple entities such as the Pueblo, MRCOG and the New Mexico Office of Natural Resources Trustee combine efforts to combat common issues that affects all New Mexicans such as Non-Native Species, Water Conservation, Water Quality improvement and reducing Catastrophic Wildfire.

The project not only successfully accomplished its primary goals of decreasing ground water loss and improving water quality by the removal of Non-Native vegetation, it also reduced hazardous fuel loading, which reduced the threat of catastrophic fire to the Pueblo as well as to our neighbors in Bosque Farms, Los Lunas, South Valley and the City of Albuquerque. The secondary benefits from this project are numerous, Wildlife habitat has been improved and native species are healthier and flourishing. The increased visibility has also helped with patrolling, which has reduced illegal dumping, which was a large problem on the Pueblo. The project opened up areas that had been inaccessible for decades, which has increased recreational use and encouraged people to maintain this near pristine state.

I would also like to mention that this project had a perfect safety record with no reported injuries, which is also commendable, especially in this type of work. And that by using the Pueblo's own Natural Resources Fire/Fuels Crew, the Pueblo was able to maximize treated acreage for half of what a contractor would have charged.

Again, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude on behalf of the Pueblo of Isleta to you and your staff, as well as Mr. Will Fetner (New Mexico Office of Natural Resources Trustee) for your support and the funding necessary to accomplish this highly successful project.

If you have any questions you may contact Frank Jiron / Forestry Coordinator or Steve Abeita / Division Manager at 724-9279/9287.

Sincerely,

PUEBLO OF ISLETA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Robert Benavides', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

J. Robert Benavides
Governor