

10 September 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Traditional Navigable Water; Navigable In-Fact Determination for the San Juan River

1. The Sacramento and Albuquerque Districts of the Corps of Engineers jointly performed a review to determine the status of navigability on the San Juan River from the US Highway 160 Bridge Crossing east of Pagosa Springs, Colorado through New Mexico to its confluence with the Colorado River in Lake Powell, Utah. This assessment has used the US Highway Bridge as an easy delineating marker. The San Juan River is located primarily within private land from the US Highway 160 Bridge upstream until it crosses the San Juan National Forest. Access is limited within this stretch and mostly restricted to private land owners. The portion of the river located within the San Juan National Forest becomes very steep and, if used for recreation, would only be used by expert boaters and not the general public. The Corps reserves the right to reassess the San Juan River above this bridge.

2. This determination is made in accordance to Appendix D of the Rapanos Guidance

3. The San Juan River is currently a popular recreation area. There are numerous commercial rafting companies that utilize this river, both in Colorado and in the reach in Utah. Commercial rafting companies generally utilize the river east of Pagosa Springs and can continue to Navajo Reservoir. Additionally, commercial fishing is conducted by boats in the reach from Navajo Dam to Bloomfield, New Mexico. Commercial fishing guides serve several hundred to a thousand customers each, with over 80% of customers from out-of-state. Recreational boating is conducted throughout its length in New Mexico as evidenced by boat ramps that occur from Navajo Dam downstream through Fruitland, NM. Most commercial trips are multiple days but several outfitters will run day trips from Bluff, Utah to Mexican Hat, Utah. The San Juan River becomes a Section 10 waterway at Lake Powell at approximately 3700 feet MSL. The San Juan River is also a Section 10 waterway throughout the length of Navajo Lake reservoir. The river from Bluff, UT to Lake Powell is managed by the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Monticello Field Office. Permits are generally required for any type of recreation on the river. According to the BLM, in 2006, the San Juan River had a total of 1171 permits issued for this reach. The revenue generated from these permits was \$124,375.00.

4. The attached map indicates the location of the river.

5. List of Reference Material:

http://canoewest.com/maps/san_juan_map.htm

<http://www.blm.gov/utah/monticello/river.htm>

http://www.utah.com/raft/rivers/san_juan.htm

http://www.pagosaoutside.com/pagosa_springs_whitewater_rafting.htm

<http://www.canyonrio.com/pagosa.htm>

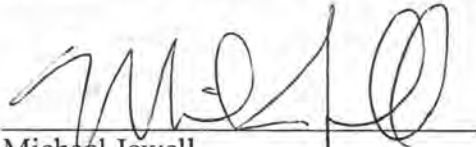
E-mail correspondence from Brian Quigley at the BLM to Kara Hellige with the US Army Corps of Engineers dated Wednesday, July 25, 2007 at 2:32 PM

E-mail correspondence from Chris Taylor at Fisheads of the San Juan to Deanna Cummings, USACE, July 26 2007

Email correspondence from Mark Nesbit, Blue Sky Fly Fishing, to Deanna Cummings, USACE, July 26, 2007.

Email correspondence from Rick Page, Riverreach Foundation, to Deanna Cummings, USACE, July 17, 2007

6. Kara Hellige of the Durango Regulatory Office is the point-of-contact for this determination for the Sacramento District, and can be reached by phone at 970-375-9452 or e-mail kara.a.hellige@usace.army.mil. Deanna Cummings of the Durango Regulatory Office is the point-of-contact for this determination for the Albuquerque District, and can be reached by phone at 970-375-9506 or e-mail deanna.l.cummings@usace.army.mil



Michael Jewell
Chief, Regulatory Branch
Sacramento District

15 OCT 07
DATE



Donald Borda
Chief, Regulatory Branch
Albuquerque District

1 OCT 2007
DATE