




McGaffey Lake: Decommissioning Procedures and Alternatives

November 13, 2014

New Mexico State Game Commission Meeting

Espanola, NM



State Requirements

Office of State Engineer: Dam Safety Bureau

- Must submit a plan for approval by the Office of State Engineer as per 19.25.12.19.B
- Must have a professional licensed engineer prepare a breach plan.
- Must evaluate the potential effects of the breach on life, property and environment downstream.

New Mexico Environment Department

- Would require State and Federal Clean Water Act permitting



Federal Requirements

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

- Environmental Impact Statement and Biological Opinion.
- National Historic Properties Act.
- Clean Water Act. (401 and 404 permitting)
- Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration (Federal Aid) grants and effects determinations.

Estimated Costs:

- **Engineering Breach Plan: \$300K to \$500K**
- **NEPA (EIS, Biological Opinion): \$150K to \$200K**
- **Must meet approvals of State Engineer and US Fish and Wildlife Service**



Other Options for McGaffey Lake Dam

Discuss with USFS about transferring the dam to the USFS:

- **USFS keeping dam for a fisheries and NMDGF would stock as appropriate**



Questions?

Department Owned Dams and Associated Angler Use, Stocking, and Economic Value

Water	Angler days/year*	Economic value to NM**	Fish stocked per year***
Lake Roberts	36,333	\$2,179,980	22,500 rainbow trout, 3,550 channel catfish
Bear Canyon	21,720	\$1,303,200	13,750 rainbow trout, 1,100 channel catfish
Snow Lake	11,509	\$690,540	10,000 rainbow trout
Quemado Lake	41,101	\$2,466,060	20,000 rainbow trout, tiger muskie as needed
Clayton Lake	20,624	\$1,237,440	20,000 rainbow trout, 4,400 channel catfish, 200,000 walleye fry, occasional largemouth bass
Eagle Nest Lake	122,639	\$7,358,340	600,000 rainbow trout, 200,000 kokanee salmon
Fenton Lake	67,401	\$4,044,060	29,300 rainbow trout
McGaffey Lake	3,802	\$228,120	16,900 rainbow trout, channel catfish. No longer stock since lake is dry
Laguna del Camp	2,660	\$159,600	4,950 rainbow trout
Hopewell Lake	6,300	\$378,000	11,130 rainbow trout
Jackson Lake	9,253	\$555,180	15,500 rainbow trout

*Average angler days from 1998 to 2004

**Based upon USFW 2011 Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation of \$60 per angler day

***As scheduled in the FIMS



Annual Maintenance Costs

Quarterly inspections – 1 person – 1 day X 4 = **\$1000.00**

Semi-annual Maintenance - 2 people – 4 days = **\$2000.00**

Rodent Control - semi-annual contracted service = = **\$3000.00**

Total = \$6,000.00

Non-scheduled Maintenance –as needed = 2 People 4-5 days a year = **\$5000.00 > \$8000.00**