



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – Southwest Region



N.M. Company Awarded \$\$ to Build Refuge Fence American Recovery and Reinvestment Act FACT SHEET

Project Description

The U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has awarded \$345,698 to STV Group Inc. to build/rehabilitate 60 miles of fence marking the boundary of Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). The plans call for a four-strand, metal barbed-wire fence designed to keep livestock from grazing on the Central New Mexico property.



Rio Grande River at Sevilleta NWR

The Ramah, New Mexico company is scheduled to begin work on the project in the spring and finish by late 2011. Large sections of the property are already fenced, but require an upgrade due to age and wear; in addition, much of the 40+ year old fencing was constructed with wood posts, making it vulnerable to wildfires. The award came in well under the project’s allocated amount of \$500,000 – 1,000,000, which will free up Recovery Act funds for other Service projects.

New Mexico is considered a “fence out” state meaning that ranchers may allow cattle to graze on any rangeland not protected by a fence. The 220,000 acre Sevilleta NWR is primarily a research facility which examines long term change of the desert ecosystem. Located 20 miles north of Socorro, NM, Sevilleta NWR was conveyed to the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service in 1973.

Project Benefits

The Service expects the award to create work for three to four people, and to protect the Refuge from cattle intrusion, maintaining the pristine desert environment for research.

Total Budget Information for All Projects

Sevilleta NWR: \$1.36 million

For More Information

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