

# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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Subject: August Rio Grande Silvery Minnow Salvage Update

Date: 4 August 2016

## PROVISIONAL DATA

**Please note that this is provisional data and all numbers provided are considered approximate. A final report for salvage activities in 2016 will be produced later with greater detail and provided to the Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program.**

As of 4 August 2016, USFWS – New Mexico FWCO conducted rescue and salvage activities on 19.2 unique miles of the Rio Grande (Figure 1) and sampled a total of 290 isolated pools. The river miles where the drying occurred are located in the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge (RM 74.2-RM 86.2) and upstream of the refuge (RM 86.2-RM 93.4). We collected 118 Rio Grande Silvery Minnow (RGSM) > 30 mm (SL) during the 8 days of salvage. Of these, 72 (50 hatchery marked fish) were found alive and rescued. There were 46 RGSM (31 hatchery marked) > 30 mm (SL) found dead during this time, of which all individuals which were identified as incidental take. In addition, 2 RGSM died during transport. These mortalities do not count towards incidental take of RGSM > 30 mm (SL). In addition to RGSM >30 mm (SL) we salvaged 4,727 RGSM young of year (YOY) < 30 mm (SL) and after transport loss the total amount of YOY rescued is 4,123 fish. We collected voucher specimens from a pool that had ~10,000 dead YOY. Of 1,311 vouchered specimens 1,027 were RGSM. We estimated a total of 13,175 dead YOY throughout the extent of drying as of 4 August, 2016.

Second drying and Isleta drying has not occurred yet due to summer monsoonal rains.

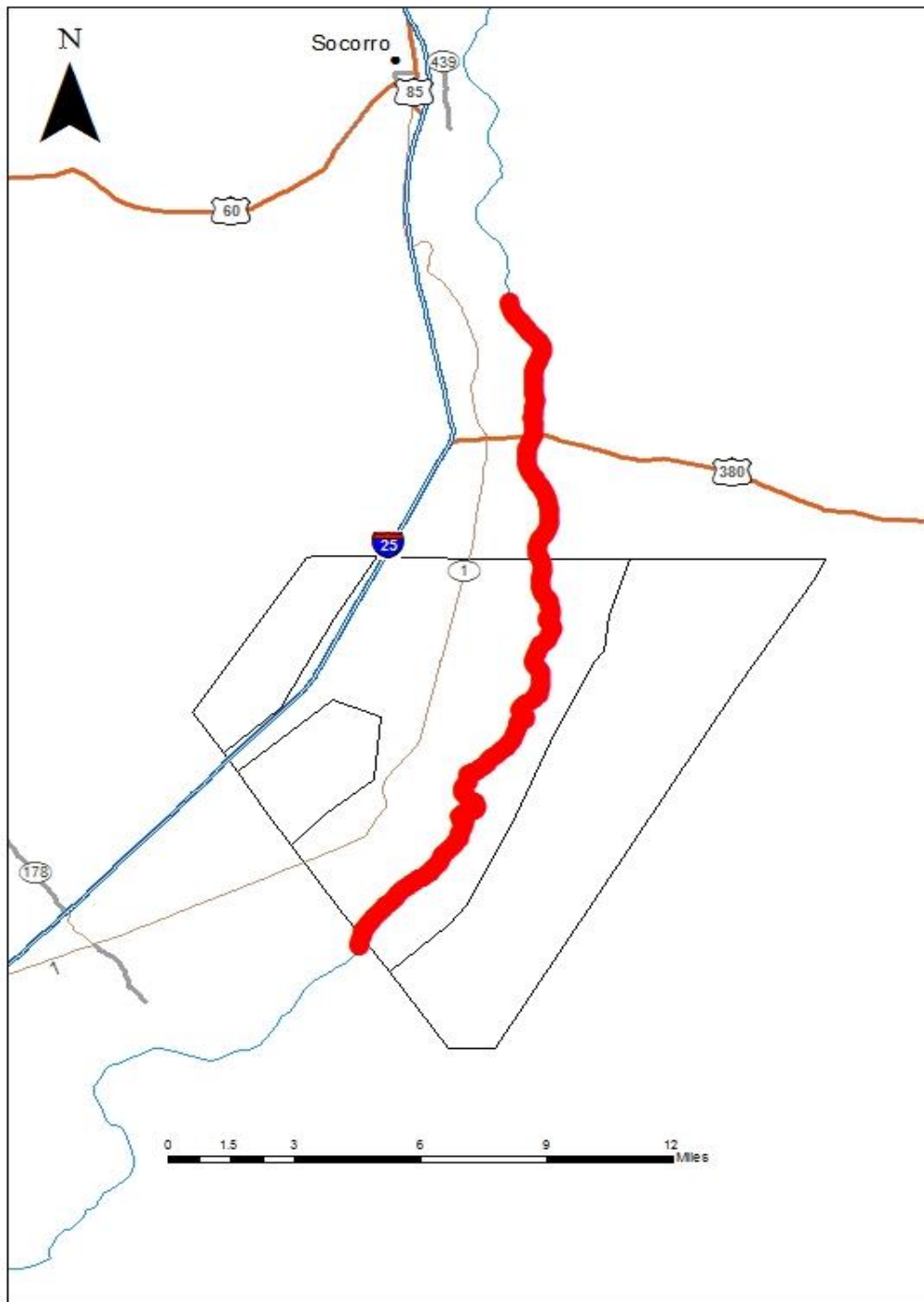


Figure 1-Extent of drying in the San Acacia reach of the Middle Rio Grande, New Mexico, 2016. Red area indicates discontinuous flows July 13, 2016 to July 20, 2016. Black boundary indicates the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge.