

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) APPLICATION FOR DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PERMIT For use of this form, see 33 CFR 325. The proponent agency is CECW-COR.		Form Approved - OMB No. 0710- 0003 Expires: 2027-10-31	
The public reporting burden for this collection of information, OMB Control Number 0710-0003, is estimated to average 11 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or burden reduction suggestions to the Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Services, at whs.mc-alex.esd.mbx.dd-dod-information-collections@mail.mil . Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number. PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR APPLICATION TO THE ABOVE EMAIL.			
PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT			
Authorities: Rivers and Harbors Act, Section 10, 33 USC 403; Clean Water Act, Section 404, 33 USC 1344; Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act, Section 103, 33 USC 1413; Regulatory Programs of the Corps of Engineers; Final Rule 33 CFR 320-332. Principal Purpose: Information provided on this form will be used in evaluating the application for a permit. Routine Uses: This information may be shared with the Department of Justice and other federal, state, and local government agencies, and the public and may be made available as part of a public notice as required by Federal law. Submission of requested information is voluntary, however, if information is not provided the permit application cannot be evaluated nor can a permit be issued. One set of original drawings or good reproducible copies which show the location and character of the proposed activity must be attached to this application (see sample drawings and/or instructions) and be submitted to the District Engineer having jurisdiction over the location of the proposed activity. An application that is not completed in full will be returned. System of Record Notice (SORN). The information received is entered into our permit tracking database and a SORN has been completed (SORN #A1145b) and may be accessed at the following website: http://dpcl.d.defense.gov/Privacy/SORNsIndex/DOD-wide-SORN-Article-View/Article/570115/a1145b-ce.aspx			
(ITEMS 1 THRU 4 TO BE FILLED BY THE CORPS)			
1. APPLICATION NO.	2. FIELD OFFICE CODE	3. DATE RECEIVED 06/11/2026	4. DATE APPLICATION COMPLETE
(ITEMS BELOW TO BE FILLED BY APPLICANT)			
5. APPLICANT'S NAME First – Barbara Middle – Last – Cisneros Company – USDA Forest Service - Cibola NF E-mail Address – barbara.cisneros@usda.gov		8. AUTHORIZED AGENT'S NAME AND TITLE (agent is not required) First – Middle – Last – Company – E-mail Address –	
6. APPLICANT'S ADDRESS: Address – 2113 Osuna Rd NE City – Albuquerque State – NM Zip - 87113 Country – US		9. AGENT'S ADDRESS: Address – City – State – Zip – Country –	
7. APPLICANT'S PHONE NOs. w/AREA CODE a. Business b. c. Fax +15053463889		10. AGENTS PHONE NOs. w/AREA CODE a. b. c. Fax	

STATEMENT OF AUTHORIZATION

11. I hereby authorize, to act in my behalf as my agent in the processing of this application and to furnish, upon request, supplemental information in support of this permit application.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

Date

NAME, LOCATION, AND DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT OR ACTIVITY

12. PROJECT NAME OR TITLE (see instructions)

Shush'Kin Fen Riparian Restoration Phase 2, Cibola National Forest, Mt. Taylor Ranger District

13. NAME OF WATERBODY, IF KNOWN (if applicable)

a fen wetland in the headwaters of Bluewater Creek

14. PROJECT STREET ADDRESS (if applicable)

Address --

City -- Bluewater

State -- NM

Zip -- 87005

15. LOCATION OF PROJECT

Latitude: °N 35.1829562

Longitude: °W -108.2310121

16. OTHER LOCATION DESCRIPTIONS, IF KNOWN (see instructions)

Section --

Township --

Range --

County -- Cibola County

Project Area -- 5 Acres

State Tax Parcel ID -- S17, T11N, R13W

17. DIRECTIONS TO THE SITE

From I-40 take exist 81 south to turn right on Zuni Canyon Road. Turn right on to Ojo Redondo Road and travel past Ojo Redondo Campground. Take a slight left on to US Forest Road 480. Go 4.8 miles and take a right on Forest Road 50. Travel 1.8 miles and take a right at a stock yard pen on the right side of the road. Travel approximately 1 mile to get to the site. This URL provides directions from Mt. Taylor Ranger District in Grants, NM -<https://maps.app.goo.gl/CRhjU2wYdQTH529>; 35.18294444, -108.23097222

18. Nature of Activity (Description of project, include all features)

In 2023, River Source and the Forest Stewards Guild developed a conceptual restoration design for the Shush Kin Fen, after the pipe fence was installed around the fen. Fencing was a critical in preparation for Phase 2. The Phase 2 proposed action to repair hummocks includes using various instream structures. The first type is a combination of sod plugs placed on contour (i.e., between hummocks) and supported by wicker weirs (i.e., brush and cedar stake structures). They would be placed in lines perpendicular to the slope to capture sediment in the areas of soil loss around hummocks. Sod plugs from nearby wetland forbs and sedges/rushes may be augmented on the upstream side of wicker weirs to dissipate energy from runoff and accelerate recruitment of native wetland plants in areas devoid of vegetation. Sod plugs can also be used to fill in the gaps between hummocks. Wicker weir materials (slash, juniper stakes, etc.) will be sourced locally on-Forest in areas approved by Cibola foresters. Due to the small relative watershed size and energy from surface water flows, cedar posts would be placed approximately every 3 to 4 feet.

The current pipe fence excludes cattle from entering the fen. However, elk are still able to access the fen. The proposal includes excluding elk from the fen temporarily to allow the treatments to take effect undisturbed by all ungulate grazing. River Source has proposed elk deterrence through a series of brush drift fences placed in several spots along the perimeter of the fen. They are intended to alter elk and deer movement patterns by obstructing movement into the fen and guiding their access to limited watering areas. These structures are intended to reduce native ungulate grazing while the fen recovers to a state in which it can sustain proper functioning condition with native grazing pressure. Materials needed would be 4-6 feet in length and 1-4 inches in diameter and would be sourced locally from approved forest locations. The structure would consist of cedar posts driven into soils that would support branches in stretches of 10-25 feet long

piles/obstacles/adapted drift fences. The Cibola is considering an alternative to the brush drift fences to exclude ungulate grazing altogether with less ground disturbance in the fen. This alternative would involve appending the existing pipe fence to create a taller temporary enclosure to completely exclude native ungulates (e.g., elk). Galvanized fence wire and t-posts can be used to extend the height of the existing fence for a prescribed period of time to allow the instream restoration actions in Phase II to take effect without disturbance by large native grazers. The extended fence would remain in place for ~2 years or until soil stabilization and riparian vegetation re-establishment is sufficient to withstand or be resilient to some level of native grazing. Grade control structures and small-scale check dams (i.e., one-rock dams) are proposed downstream of the fen. These structures would use rock placed perpendicular to the direction of water flow, to capture sediment, reconnect groundwater flows, and back up the subsurface flow enough to raise the peat saturation and spread water laterally through the fen soils. This is expected to create an at-grade or near-grade crest and avoid vertical head cutting. The structures described in this section may be used in concert with other small-scale erosion control structures, non-native invasive species treatments, and native riparian vegetation planting, described below. The proposed action also includes additional erosion control structures whose exact locations have not been determined but fall within and adjacent to the fen and the tributary channel that connects to and feeds Bluewater Creek. This work would use techniques including but not limited to check dams, engineered logjams, and boulder weirs and vanes. Non-native invasive species treatment and riparian planting are proposed in and around the Fen.

Besides activities described in the project description, monitoring also is proposed. This project intends to have a net environmental benefit on wetlands that increases rather than decreases ecological functions. The proposal activities are anticipated to fit under NWP 27.

19. Project Purpose (Describe the reason or purpose of the project, see instructions)

The Shush'Kin Fen is a perennial spring-fed wetland found in the headwaters of Bluewater Creek. It is severely degraded from years of overgrazing. There is widespread pedestalling (root crowns exposed by erosion) and hummocked soils with eroding plant communities (forbs and grasses). Several non-native invasive species occur at the site. Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*), an exotic grass to the area, is one of the dominant species found with greater concentrations on the fen edges where ungulates forage the most. The wetland is underlain by peat but due to historic overgrazing, several channels are forming and the peat is eroding, leading to accelerated soil loss and drying of the wetland. The surface water largely flows at the base of vegetation pedestals 14-24 inches lower than the soil surface of the plant pedestals. Survey and mapping of vegetation indicate that the historical width of the fen was more extensive in comparison to the current condition.

Approximately 80% of the fen shows damage from overgrazing as evidenced by livestock/game trails, bare soil, head cuts and incision, and exposed muddy soils from extensive hoof action. Research shows that a healthy high elevation fen should not have more than 5% of the total area with this kind of disturbance (Milford 2023). Recent livestock fencing around the fen is expected to improve vegetation cover but additional restoration interventions will accelerate the ecological recovery of the wetland. Furthermore, native ungulates have not been excluded from the fen and therefore, some grazing pressure and surface disturbance is still present in the fen. The goal of the restoration design is to capture sediment to arrest and reverse erosion and subsequently increase water retention in the fen and downstream. The proposal aims to accomplish this by repairing the hummocks/pedestalling. This plan involves constructing various types of dams and instream structures to raise and stabilize the soil elevation between hummocks so they can revegetate with native wetland species that were previously abundant at this site.

USE BLOCKS 20-23 IF DREDGED AND/OR FILL MATERIAL IS TO BE DISCHARGED

22. Reason(s) for Discharge

The proposed action aims to restore hydrologic function and re-wet the wetlands where trampling, trailing, and gullies have removed soils and wetland vegetation and reduced the water-holding capacity of the fen. The design is expected to preserve the remaining wetland habitat and support its expansion.

23. Type(s) of Material Being Discharged and the Amount of Each Type:

See Appendix C

24. Surface Area in Acres of Wetlands or Other Waters Filled (see instructions)

See Appendix C

25. Description of Avoidance, Minimization, and Compensation (see instructions)

The project is wetland fen restoration and therefore no mitigation is proposed. Sod swales and erosion control structures are needed to restore hydrologic function, reduce erosion, and re-wet fen. BMPs will be implemented during implementation.

26. Is Any Portion of the Work Already Complete?	Yes	No
If Yes, describe the completed work:		

If Yes, describe the completed work:

27. Addresses of Adjoining Property Owners, Lessees, Etc., Whose Property Adjoins the Waterbody (if more than can be entered here, please attach a supplemental list).

28. List of Other Certificates or Approvals/Denials received from other Federal, State, or Local Agencies for Work Described in This Application.

AGENCY	TYPE APPROVAL	IDENTIFICATION NUMBER	DATE APPLIED	DATE APPROVED	DATE DENIED

* Would include but is not restricted to zoning, building, and flood plain permits

AGENCY	TYPE APPROVAL	IDENTIFICATION NUMBER	DATE APPLIED	DATE APPROVED	DATE DENIED
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* Would include but is not restricted to zoning, building, and flood plain permits

29. Application is hereby made for permit or permits to authorize the work described in this application. I certify that this information in this application is complete and accurate. I further certify that I possess the authority to undertake the work described herein or am acting as the duly authorized agent of the applicant.

Barbara Cisneros 06/11/2026

Barbara Cisneros

06/11/2026

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

DATE _____

SIGNATURE OF AGENT

DATE _____

The Application must be signed by the person who desires to undertake the proposed activity (applicant) or it may be signed by a duly authorized agent if the statement in block 11 has been filled out and signed.

18 U.S.C. Section 1001 provides that: Whoever, in any manner within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of the United States knowingly and willfully falsifies, conceals, or covers up any trick, scheme, or disguises a material fact or makes any false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or representations or makes or uses any false writing or document knowing same to contain any false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or entry, shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned not more than five years or both.

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