

18 U.S.C. 1170 (b). On January 3 and February 12, 2003, the U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico ordered that all items seized during the investigation be forfeited to the U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement, Albuquerque, NM, and repatriated to the culturally affiliated Indian tribes. The 13 cultural items are part of the items forfeited to the U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement, Albuquerque, NM.

The U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement, Albuquerque, NM, prepared a summary of the cultural items obtained during the investigation. The U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement, Albuquerque, NM, also consulted with representatives of the Hopi Tribe of Arizona; Navajo Nation, Arizona, New Mexico & Utah; Pueblo of Acoma, New Mexico; Pueblo of Jemez, New Mexico; Pueblo of Laguna, New Mexico; Pueblo of Santo Domingo, New Mexico; and Zuni Tribe of the Zuni Reservation, New Mexico.

Representatives of the Pueblo of Santo Domingo, New Mexico identified the 13 cultural items as ceremonial objects needed for the practice of traditional religion. They considered the bundle with the ear of corn and eagle feathers to be a very sacred object that was not supposed to be removed from the kiva. Similar bundles have been identified in the anthropological literature as corn mothers that are necessary for a variety of sacred, ritual, political, and social purposes. They identified the two buffalo hide parfleches as being needed to hold medicine items used in religious ceremonies. They identified the two anthropomorphic figures as items necessary for religious purposes. They identified the tablita and hair ties as items worn in particular religious ceremonies.

The representatives of the Pueblo of Santo Domingo, New Mexico identified all 13 cultural items as the communal property of the pueblo as a whole that could not be sold or given away by an individual.

Officials of the U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement, Albuquerque, NM, have determined that, pursuant to 25 U.S.C. 3001 (3)(C), the 13 cultural items are specific ceremonial objects needed by traditional Native American religious leaders for the practice of traditional Native American religions by their present-day adherents. Officials of the U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish

and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement, Albuquerque, NM, have determined that, pursuant to 25 U.S.C. 3001 (3)(D), the 13 cultural items also have ongoing historical, traditional, or cultural importance central to a Native American group or culture itself, rather than property owned by an individual. Officials of the U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement, Albuquerque, NM, also have determined that, pursuant to 25 U.S.C. 3001 (2), there is a relationship of shared group identity that can be reasonably traced between the 13 sacred objects/objects of cultural patrimony and the Pueblo of Santo Domingo, New Mexico.

Representatives of any other Indian tribe that believes itself to be culturally affiliated with the sacred objects/objects of cultural patrimony should contact Special Agent Lucinda D. Schroeder, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4901 Paseo Del Norte, Albuquerque, NM 87113, telephone (505) 828-3064, before August 4, 2003. Repatriation of the sacred objects/objects of cultural patrimony to the Pueblo of Santo Domingo, New Mexico may proceed after that date if no additional claimants come forward.

The U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement, Albuquerque, NM, is responsible for notifying the Hopi Tribe of Arizona; Navajo Nation, Arizona, New Mexico & Utah; Pueblo of Acoma, New Mexico; Pueblo of Jemez, New Mexico; Pueblo of Laguna, New Mexico; Pueblo of Santo Domingo, New Mexico; and Zuni Tribe of the Zuni Reservation, New Mexico that this notice has been published.

Dated: May 27, 2003.

**John Robbins,**

*Assistant Director, Cultural Resources.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Reclamation

#### Closure Order Establishing Prohibitions at Ridges Basin, La Plata County, CO

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of closure.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Reclamation is prohibiting public access and activities on Reclamation land in Ridges Basin, La Plata County, Colorado.

**DATES:** The closure is effective June 30, 2003, and will remain in effect indefinitely.

**ADDRESSES:** A map is available for inspection at the Bureau of Reclamation's Western Colorado Area Office located at 835 East Second Avenue, Durango, Colorado. The map may be viewed between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bill Walsh, Bureau of Reclamation, Western Colorado Area Office, (970) 385-6554, or Doug Hendrix, Bureau of Reclamation, Office of Public Affairs, (801) 524-3837.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This action is being taken under 43 CFR 423.3 to improve facility security and public safety. Reclamation will be prohibiting all public access on Reclamation lands in and around Ridges Basin during construction of the Animas-La Plata Project. This is being done to protect the public from construction activities and to protect the construction workforce from public activities such as discharging weapons. The following acts are prohibited within the Ridges Basin closure area:

(a) Trespassing, entering, or remaining in or upon property or real property not open to the public (closed areas).

*Exceptions:* Construction contractor personnel that have authorization from Reclamation, law enforcement and fire department personnel and Reclamation employees acting within the scope of their employment, and any others who have received expressed written authorization from Reclamation to enter the closure area.

(b) Vandalizing, destroying, manipulating, injuring, contaminating, defacing, depositing, abandoning, dumping, damaging, taking, or occupying property and real property of the United States, or other property, not under one's lawful control and possession.

This order is posted in accordance with 43 CFR 423.3(b). Violation of this prohibition or any prohibition listed in 43 CFR 423 is punishable by fine, or imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both.

Dated: June 23, 2003.

**Carol DeAngelis,**

*Area Manager, Western Colorado Area Office, Bureau of Reclamation—Upper Colorado Region.*

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