

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Baltimore District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is initiating the Baltimore Metropolitan Water Resources Feasibility Study for the Gwynns Falls sub-basin of the Patapsco River watershed. The riparian and aquatic environmental integrity of the Gwynns Falls sub-basin has been severely degraded by urbanization, inadequate infrastructure and industrial encroachment. Potential environmental restoration of streambanks, wetlands and forest buffers could restore and/or create up to 150 acres of riparian and aquatic habitat, in addition to improving water quality, low base flows, stream channel erosion, and sedimentation. A DEIS will be integrated into the feasibility study to document existing conditions, projects actions, and project effects and products. Baltimore County, Baltimore City and the State of Maryland's Department of the Environment (MDE) are the non-Federal sponsors for the project.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions about the proposed action and DEIS can be addressed to Mr. Richard Starr, Study Manager, Baltimore District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, ATTN: CENAB-PL-RP, P.O. Box 1715, Baltimore, Maryland 21203-1715, telephone (410) 962-4633. E-mail address: richard.r.starr@ccmail.nab.usace.army.mil

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: 1. The U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Public Works and Transportation, authorized the Baltimore Metropolitan Water Resources Study-Gwynns Falls in a resolution adopted April 30, 1992.

2. The study area is located in northern Maryland. The area proposed for environmental restoration is known as the Gwynns Falls watershed and is located in highly developed portions of Baltimore County and Baltimore City. The most significant problem in the Gwynns Falls watershed is the instability of the stream channels and the loss of aquatic habitat. Due to the extensive urbanization along the narrow corridor between the Chesapeake Bay and the Fall Line within a short period of time, environmental resources and aquatic habitats have become degraded. This excessive degradation includes: flashy stormwater flows that cause streambank erosion and sedimentation, residential and industrial encroachment has limited riparian habitat and wetlands, and polluted runoff has contributed to poor water quality. These factors negatively impact the aquatic

environment in the present and the future.

3. An ecosystem framework has been developed to restore the habitat and environmental integrity of Gwynns Falls. It allows potential restoration projects to be identified, evaluated, and selected on a watershed basis. Study goals and characterizations will be made of the broad Gwynns Falls watershed. Sub-basins, or hydrologic unit areas (HUAs), will then be identified, delineated and prioritized within the broad watershed. Based on the study objectives, high priority HUAs will be further characterized and problem statements for these areas will be developed. Upon the identification and characterization of the high priority HUAs, specific problem areas within them will be identified and prioritized. Preliminary conceptual restoration measures which could address the problem areas within Gwynns Falls, developing ecosystem based alternative plans for the high priority HUAs, and incrementally analyzing each alternative will follow. The final evaluation will focus on which combination of problem area restoration solutions provide the most environmental benefits, at the least cost, for a HUA ecosystem.

4. This proposed HUA restoration plan would potentially include stormwater detention measures, such as the restoration of floodplains, creation of wetlands, and conversion of existing stormwater facilities. Habitat structures would also be installed to restore aquatic habitat and provide added cover for spawning. Stream restoration would include stabilization techniques, such as rootwads, plantings and geotubes. Where feasible, fish blockages would be removed to allow for residential and migratory passage. In the Middle Branch tidal area, alternatives to create islands and restore a vegetative wetland buffer around the Harbor area will be investigated.

5. The decision to implement these actions will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activities on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal will be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The Baltimore District is preparing a DEIS which will describe the impacts of the proposed projects on environmental and cultural resources in the study area and the overall public interest. The DEIS will be in accordance with NEPA and will document all factors which may be relevant to the proposal, including the

cumulative effects thereof. Among these factors are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, and the general needs and welfare of the people. If applicable, the DEIS will also apply guidelines issued by the Environmental Protection Agency, under the authority of Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (Pub. L. 95-217).

6. The public involvement program will include workshops, meetings, and other coordination with interested private individuals and organizations, as well as with concerned Federal, state and local agencies. Coordination letters and newsletters have been sent to appropriate agencies, organizations, and individuals on an extensive mailing list. Additional public information will be provided through print media, mailings, radio and television announcements.

7. In addition to the Corps, the Maryland Department of the Environment, Baltimore County and Baltimore City, other participants that will be involved in the study and DEIS process include, but are not limited to the following: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; U.S. Forest Service; U.S. Geological Survey; Natural Resource Conservation Service; and the U.S. National Park Service. The Baltimore District invites potentially affected Federal, state, and local agencies, and other organizations and entities to participate in this study.

8. The DEIS is tentatively scheduled to be available for public review in July 1998.

Harold L. Nelson,

Assistant Chief, Planning Division.

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**Intent To Prepare a Draft
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
For Howard Hanson Dam Additional
Water Storage Project Feasibility Study**

AGENCY: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DOD.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: Seattle District, US Army Corps of Engineers is proposing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a study of alternatives for restoration of anadromous fisheries and wildlife habitat and for municipal water supply

at the Howard Hanson Dam on the Green River, King County, Washington.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions about the proposed action and DEIS can be answered by: Mike McNeely, Seattle District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Planning Branch, PO Box 3755, Seattle, Washington 98124-2255, Telephone (206) 764-3624; fax (206) 764-4470.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Proposed Action

Howard A Hanson Dam was originally authorized as the Eagle Gorge Dam and Reservoir by the Flood Control Act of 1950. Construction was completed in 1962. It is an earthfill and rockfill structure which provides winter flood control and summer low flow augmentation. The dam is located at river mile 64.5 on the Green River, King County, Washington, 35 miles southeast of Seattle, and 35 miles northeast of Tacoma. The dam and reservoir provide approximately 106,000 acre feet of winter flood control storage reservoir and 26,000 acre feet of summer conservation storage (seasonally from March through September). This 26,000 acre feet of conservation storage provides a minimum instream flow of 110 cubic feet per second (cfs) at 98 percent reliability. The Additional Water Storage Project Feasibility Study purposes are water supply and environmental restoration. Potential benefits are: municipal and industrial (M&I) water supply and downstream low flow augmentation through added storage; and higher fish and wildlife survival through improved downstream fish passage at the dam and improved habitat.

2. Alternatives

The Corps of Engineers is currently examining four alternatives.

- a. No action.
- b. Water supply only via pool raise to elevation 1169.
- c. Water supply/restoration via pool raise to elevation 1177.
- d. Adaptive management water supply/restoration via phased pool raise to maximum elevation 1177.

3. Scoping and Public Involvement

Public involvement will be sought during the scoping process and throughout the course of the project in accordance with NEPA procedures. A public scoping process has been begun to clarify issues of major concern, identify any information sources that might be available to analyze and evaluate impact, and obtain public input on the range and acceptability of

alternatives. This Notice of Intent formally commences the scoping process under NEPA. As part of the scoping process, all affected Federal, state and local agencies, Indian Tribes, general public and other interested private organizations, including environmental interest groups, are invited to comment on the scope of the EIS. Comments are requested concerning project alternatives, mitigation measures, probable significant environmental impacts, and permits or other approvals that may be required.

The following key areas have been identified to be analyzed in depth in the draft EIS:

- (1) Geology and Engineering Design.
- (2) Water Management.
- (3) Water Quality.
- (4) Fisheries.
- (5) Wildlife.
- (6) Wetlands.
- (7) Cultural Resources.
- (8) Socioeconomic Resources.

A scoping meeting has been scheduled for: July 18, 1996, in Auburn City Hall Council Chambers, 25 West Main Street, Auburn, Washington at 6 p.m.

4. Schedule

The draft EIS is scheduled for release on April 1, 1997.

Donald T. Wynn,

Colonel, Corps of Engineers, District Engineer.

[FR Doc. 96-17412 Filed 7-8-96; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Director, Information Resources Group, invites comments on the proposed information collection requests as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before September 9, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and requests for copies of the proposed information collection requests should be addressed to Patrick J. Sherrill, Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 5624, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patrick J. Sherrill (202) 708-8196.

Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Director of the Information Resources Group publishes this notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, e.g., new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment at the address specified above. Copies of the requests are available from Patrick J. Sherrill at the address specified above.

The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department, (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner, (3) is the estimate of burden accurate, (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected, and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: July 2, 1996.

Gloria Parker,

Director, Information Resources Group.

Office of Postsecondary Education

Type of Review: Revision.

Title: Training Assessment Form—Title IV Student Financial Assistance Programs.

Frequency: One Time.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions.