

the project, including project description, planning process updates, meeting notices, reports and documents, and useful links associated with the project; direct mailings will also be made periodically.

Please note that our practice is to make comments, including names, home addresses, home phone numbers, and e-mail addresses of respondents, available for public review. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their names and/or home addresses, etc., but if you wish us to consider withholding this information you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. In addition, you must present a rationale for withholding this information. This rationale must demonstrate that disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy. Unsupported assertions will not meet this burden. In the absence of exceptional, documentable circumstances, this information will be released. We will always make submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

**Supplementary Information:** As noted above, Ross Lake NRA is managed as one unit of the North Cascades National Park Complex (North Cascades), which also includes North Cascades National Park (north and south units), and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area (which adjoins the park on the south). North Cascades is located deep in the northernmost reaches of the Cascades Range in Washington State and borders British Columbia, Canada.

Management guidance for Ross Lake NRA was included in the North Cascades GMP (now 18 years old) and has become inadequate to address the policy and operational issues now facing park management for Ross Lake NRA. Since the completion of the North Cascades GMP, many changes have occurred that affect NRA management. Seattle City Light's three dam facilities have been re-licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The mitigation package approved as part of the relicensing agreement included several large-scale changes and improvements for Ross Lake NRA that were not included or fully envisioned in the 1988 North Cascades GMP. It is timely to update the GMP to address these large scale changes that are occurring in Ross Lake NRA and to address resource protection, visitor use, and management issues surrounding these enhancements.

Additionally, Ross Lake NRA also faces other broad natural and cultural resource protection issues—these include bioregional management strategies for grizzly bear recovery, control of invasive species, local climate change effects, changing lake levels, air quality, archeology, and American Indian traditional uses. Complementary management strategies will be pursued for these resource challenges.

Visitor use within Ross Lake NRA has diversified and significantly increased since the 1988 North Cascades GMP, due in part to the enhanced recreational facilities. Boating on Diablo and Ross Lakes has intensified. Use of Washington State's North Cascades Highway 20 (which bisects approximately 25 miles of Ross Lake NRA) has increased dramatically and is the most popular motorcycle touring route in the region. The GMP update is needed to adequately provide management guidance for visitor use, boats, and motor vehicles within the Ross Lake NRA and address carrying capacity for visitor experience and resource protection.

Following the completion of the 1988 North Cascades GMP, the Stephen Mather Wilderness within the North Cascades National Park Complex was designated by Congress in November 1988. This act brought 93% of the park complex under the provisions of the 1964 Wilderness Act, and 69% of Ross Lake NRA is designated wilderness (4% is designated potential wilderness). The new GMP is needed to adequately update zoning for the management of wilderness lands within Ross Lake NRA, and will ratify the current management contained in the Wilderness Management Plan.

Trans-boundary ecosystem and recreation management is also a significant issue for Ross Lake NRA, which borders British Columbia provincial parks for five miles along its northern border. Hozomeen, at the US-Canada border, is the most developed access point onto Ross Lake. Ross Lake NRA is within a large extended watershed that begins in Canada, continues through the North Cascades and lower river valley, and then drains into the Pacific Ocean. An effort by Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission (SEE), an endowed organization established by international treaty, is underway to manage the upper Skagit watershed more holistically between Canada and the United States. The new GMP will address trans-boundary resource management issues as well as partnership opportunities with U.S. and Canadian entities. In addition, SEE has

provided funding to the province of British Columbia to complete a management plan for its provincial park units adjacent to Ross Lake NRA and within the upper Skagit watershed.

**Decision Process:** Following the scoping phase and consideration of public concerns and other agency comments, a Draft EIS and proposed GMP will be prepared and released for public review. Availability of the forthcoming Draft EIS for public review and written comment will be formally announced with publication of a Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**, as well as through local and regional news media, direct mailings, and via Web site postings. Following due consideration of all agency and public comment, a Final EIS will be prepared; it is anticipated that the final GMP proposal will be available in September 2009. As a delegated EIS, the official responsible for the decision on the proposed GMP is the Regional Director, Pacific West Region, National Park Service. Subsequently, the official responsible for implementation of the approved GMP would be the Superintendent, North Cascades National Park Service Complex.

Dated: September 14, 2006.

**Patricia L. Neubacher,**

*Acting Regional Director, Pacific West Region.*

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**BILLING CODE 4312-GX-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### **Final Environmental Impact Statement/ General Management Plan, Minidoka Internment National Monument, Jerome County, ID; Notice of Approval of Record of Decision**

**Summary:** Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Pub. L. 91-190, as amended) and the implementing regulation promulgated by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR 1505.2), the Department of the Interior, National Park Service has prepared, and the Regional Director, Pacific West Region has approved, the Record of Decision for the General Management Plan for Minidoka Internment National Monument. The formal no-action period was officially initiated July 28, 2006, with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's **Federal Register** notification of the filing of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

**Decision:** As soon as practicable the monument will begin to implement as its new General Management Plan the

Preferred Alternative (Alternative C) contained in the Draft and Final EIS. The selected plan features a deliberate, long-term strategy emphasizing on-site education and interpretation and the extensive treatment and use of cultural resources in telling the Minidoka story. A range or preservation techniques to protect and enhance historic resources will be employed, including delineation; stabilization, restoration, or rehabilitation; and limited reconstruction. A complete barracks block exhibit in its original location will be established. A visitor contact facility area will be developed by adaptively reusing existing historic buildings; there will be minimal new development. As document in the EIS, this course of action was also deemed to be the "environmentally preferred" alternative. The proposed plan and three alternatives were identified and analyzed in the Final EIS, and previously in the Draft EIS (the latter was distributed in June 2005). The full spectrum of foreseeable environmental consequences was assessed, and appropriation mitigation measures identified, for each alternative. Beginning with early scoping, through the preparation of the Draft and Final EIS, scores of public meetings were conducted and over 2000 interested individuals participated overall. Approximately 375 written comments were received during the scoping phase or in response to the Draft EIS (given the minor nature of comments received on the Draft EIS, an abbreviated format was used for the Final EIS). Key consultations or other contacts that aided in preparing the EIS involved (but were not limited to) the Jerome County Office of Planning and Zoning, Jerome County Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Offices in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, native American Tribes, Japanese American Citizens League, South Central Idaho Tourism Association, and adjoining land managing agencies. Local communities, county and city officials, and interested organizations were contacted extensively during initial scoping and throughout the GMP planning process.

**Copies:** Interested parties desiring to review the Record of Decision may obtain a complete copy by contacting the Superintendent, Minidoka Internment National Monument, P.O. Box 570, Hagerman, Idaho 83332-0570; or via telephone request at (208) 837-4793.

Dated: September 6, 2006.

**Jonathan B. Jarvis,**

*Regional Director, Pacific West Region.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

#### Notice of Proposed Information Collection for 1029-0047 and 1029-0080

**AGENCY:** Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) is announcing its intention to request renewed authority for two collections of information: 30 CFR parts 816 and 817 relating to the permanent program performance standards—surface mining activities and underground mining activities, and 30 CFR part 850 authorizing State regulatory authorities to develop blaster certification programs. These information collection activities were previously approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and assigned clearance numbers 1029-0047 and 1029-0080, respectively.

**DATES:** Comments on the proposed information collection must be received by December 29, 2006, to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be mailed to John A. Trelease, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, 1951 Constitution Ave, NW., Room 202—SIB, Washington, DC 20240. Comments may also be submitted electronically to [jtrelease@osmre.gov](mailto:jtrelease@osmre.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To request a copy of the information collection requests, explanatory information and related forms, contact John A. Trelease, at (202) 208-2783.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR part 1320, which implement provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13), require that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities [see 5 CFR 1320.8(d)]. This notice identifies information collections that OSM will be submitting to OMB for approval. These collections are contained in 30 CFR parts 816 and

817—Permanent Program Performance Standards—Surface and Underground Mining Activities, and 30 CFR part 850, Permanent Regulatory Program Requirements—Standards for Certification of Blasters. OSM will request a 3-year term of approval for each information collection activity.

**Comments are invited on:** (1) The need for the collection of information for the performance of the functions of the agency; (2) the accuracy of the agency's burden estimates; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and (4) ways to minimize the information collection burden on respondents, such as use of automated means of collection of the information. A summary of the public comments will accompany OSM's submission of the information collection request to OMB.

The following information is provided for each information collection: (1) Title of the information collection; (2) OMB control number; (3) summary of the information collection activity; and (4) frequency of collection, description of the respondents, estimated total annual responses, and the total annual reporting and recordkeeping burden for the collection of information.

**Title:** Permanent Program Performance Standards—Surface and Underground Mining Activities, 30 CFR Parts 816 and 817.

**OMB Control Number:** 1029-0047.

**Summary:** Section 515 and 516 of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 provides that permittees conducting coal mining operations shall meet all applicable performance standards of the Act. The information collected is used by the regulatory authority in monitoring and inspecting surface coal mining activities to ensure that they are conducted in compliance with the requirements of the Act.

**Bureau Form Number:** None.

**Frequency of Collection:** Once, on occasion, quarterly and annually.

**Description of Respondents:** Coal mining operators and State regulatory authorities.

**Total Annual Responses:** 326,027.

**Total Annual Burden Hours:** 1,432,142.

**Total Annual Burden Cost:** \$323,096.

**Title:** Permanent Regulatory Program Requirements—Standards for Certification of Blasters, 30 CFR Part 850.

**OMB Control Number:** 1029-0080.

**Summary:** This part establishes the requirements and procedures applicable to the development of regulatory programs for the training, examination, and certification of persons engaging in