

an existing program or programs, and should promote higher education's role in the transition to market economies and open democratic systems. Feasibility studies to plan partnerships will not be considered.

Whenever feasible, participants should make their training and personnel resources, as well as results of their collaborative research, available to government, NGOs, and business.

Participating institutions should exchange faculty and/or staff members for teaching/lecturing and consulting.

U.S. institutions are responsible for the submission of proposals and should collaborate with their foreign partners in planning and preparing proposals. U.S. and foreign partner institutions are encouraged to consult about the proposed project with USIA E/ASU staff in Washington, DC. Preference will be given to proposals which demonstrate evidence of previous relations with the foreign partner institution(s).

Guidelines U.S. Partner and Participant Eligibility

In the U.S., participation in the program is open to accredited two- and four-year colleges and universities, including graduate schools. Applications from consortia of U.S. colleges and universities are eligible. Secondary U.S. partners may include relevant non-governmental organizations, non-profit service or professional organizations. The lead U.S. institution in the consortium is responsible for submitting the application and each application from a consortium must document the lead school's stated authority to represent the consortium. Participants representing the U.S. institution who are traveling under USIA grant funds must be faculty, staff, or advanced graduate students from the participating institution(s) and must be U.S. citizens.

Foreign Partner and Participant Eligibility

Overseas, participation is limited to Magtumulgi University in Ashgabat, which is a recognized, degree-granting institution of post-secondary education. Secondary foreign partners may include relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations, non-profit service or professional organizations. Participants representing the foreign institutions must be faculty, staff or advanced students of the partner institution, and be citizens, nationals, or permanent residents of Turkmenistan, and be qualified to hold a valid passport and U.S. J-1 visa.

Ineligibility

A proposal will be deemed technically ineligible if:

- (1) It does not fully adhere to the guidelines established herein and in the Solicitation Package;
- (2) It is not received by the deadline;
- (3) It is not submitted by the U.S. partner;
- (4) One of the partner institutions is ineligible;
- (5) The academic discipline(s) is/are not listed as eligible in the RFP, herein;
- (6) The amount requested of USIA exceeds \$97,000 for the three-year project.

Please refer to program-specific guidelines (POGI) in the Solicitation Package for further details.

Notice

The terms and conditions published in this RFP are binding and may not be modified by any USIA representative. Explanatory information provided by the Agency that contradicts published language will not be binding. Issuance of the RFP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government. The Agency reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase proposal budgets in accordance with the needs of the program and the availability of funds. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements.

Notification

Final awards cannot be made until funds have been appropriated by Congress, allocated and committed through internal USIA procedures.

Dated: April 9, 1998.

John P. Loiello,

Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs.

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UTAH RECLAMATION MITIGATION AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Notice of Availability of the Finding of No Significant Impact for the Revised Fish Hatchery Production Plan

AGENCY: The Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission (Mitigation Commission).

ACTION: Notice of Availability of the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

SUMMARY: On April 2, 1998, Michael C. Weland, Executive Director of the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission signed the

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) which documents the decision to implement the Revised Fish Hatchery Production Plan (Plan). The Plan is programmatic in nature. It provides for the reconstruction of two cold-water hatcheries: Kamas and Whiterocks State Fish Hatcheries; the partial rehabilitation of one cold-water hatchery: Jones Hole National Fish Hatchery; the construction of two new cold-water hatcheries: Fountain Green State Fish Hatchery and Big Springs Tribal Hatchery; the construction of a new warm-water hatchery at either Gandy or Goshen Warm Springs; and an interim native species hatchery. It also includes wetland and/or wildlife habitat enhancement and conversion, improved public education opportunities, stream-side hatching units and new staff residences.

The Mitigation Commission documented the environmental effects of implementing the Revised Plan in an environmental assessment (EA). The Draft EA was developed with public input and the Final EA refined based upon public comment. The Draft and Final EA and Plan were distributed to 115 organizations or individuals. The Commission has found the EA adequate for its decision to fund the implementation of the Proposed Action and has issued its FONSI in accordance with the Commission's NEPA Rule (43 CFR 10010.20).

The Plan incorporates updated feasibility-level cost estimates and long-term fish-stocking needs. The original 1994 Plan was prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in accordance with and in fulfillment of the Central Utah Project Completion Act of 1992 (Titles II through VI of Pub. L. 102-575).

Implementing the Plan meets the objective of the Central Utah Project Completion Act (CUPCA), section 313(c), Fish Hatchery Production) to increase production of warm- and cold-water fishes for areas affected by the Colorado River Storage Project in Utah, by increasing hatchery production capacity. At the same time, the Plan meets the Commission's mandate to restore, maintain or enhance the biological productivity and diversity of natural ecosystems. This ecosystem restoration standard is met through the provision of the Plan that incorporates the Division's stocking policy, and requires a Tribal stocking policy to reduce the impacts of past practices; includes an education component to educate the public on the use of hatcheries as a tool to meet a management need, and on the importance of habitat to sustain both wild and stocked fish populations;

allocates almost half of the \$22.8 million identified in CUPCA 313(c) to fund a new warm-water hatchery, and an interim facility, with the main objective of native fish and amphibian restoration and conservation.

Environmental impacts of this action are not considered significant or highly controversial. Some site-specific impacts may occur with the implementation of the Plan. The incorporation of enhancement measures to compensate for construction impacts will be included on a site-specific basis.

The Plan is related to potential future actions, specifically the improvement or construction of the State, Federal or Tribal fish hatcheries. These future construction projects will require separate NEPA compliance.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Copies of the FONSI, of the Final EA, or additional information on matters related to this **Federal Register** notice can be obtained at the address and telephone number below:

Ms. Maureen Wilson, Project Coordinator, Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission, 102 West 500 South, Suite 315, Salt Lake City, UT 84101. Telephone: (801) 524-3146.

Dated: April 2, 1998.

Michael C. Weland,

Executive Director, Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission.
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