

for lease or conveyance under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act and leasing under the mineral leasing laws. For a period of 45 days from the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, interested persons may submit comments regarding the proposed conveyance or classification of the lands to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Gunnison Field Office, 216 N. Colorado St., Gunnison, CO 81230.

CLASSIFICATION COMMENTS: Interested parties may submit comments involving the suitability of the land for a sanitary landfill. Comments on the classification are restricted to whether the land is physically suited for the proposal, whether the use will maximize the future use or uses of the land, whether the use is consistent with local planning and zoning, or if the use is consistent with State and Federal programs.

APPLICATION COMMENTS: Interested parties may submit comments regarding the specific use proposed in the application and plan of development, whether the BLM followed proper administrative procedures in reaching the decision, or any other factor not directly related to the suitability of the land for a sanitary landfill.

Any adverse comments will be reviewed by the State Director. In the absence of any adverse comments, the classification will become effective 60 days from the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

Signed September 24, 1999.

Barry A. Tollefson,

Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 99-25524 Filed 9-30-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-JB-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Acceptance of Plan of Operations; Mining Operations, CIMA Cinder Mine, Mojave National Preserve, San Bernardino County, California

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with Section 9.17(a) of Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 9, Subpart A, that the National Park Service has received, and accepted as complete, from J. Lorene Caffee, the Cima Cinder Mine, a plan of operations on the Cinder No. 2 and Cinder No. 3 claims, in the Mojave National Preserve, located within San Bernardino County, California.

The plan of operations is available for public review and comment for a period

of 30 days from the publication date of this notice. The document can be viewed during normal business hours at the office of the Superintendent, Mojave National Reserve, 222 East Main Street, Suite 202, Barstow, California 92311. Individuals desiring to comment on the plan are notified that their names and addresses are generally available to the public.

Dated: September 13, 1999.

Mary G. Martin,

Superintendent, Mojave National Preserve.

[FR Doc. 99-25246 Filed 9-30-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Operations of the Navajo Unit, Colorado River Storage Project, New Mexico and Colorado and Announcement of Public Scoping Meetings

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the operations of the Navajo Unit, Colorado River Storage Project, New Mexico and Colorado and announcement of public scoping meetings.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), announces its intent to prepare a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS), pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, on the Navajo Unit (Unit). The DEIS will describe the effects of operating the Unit to implement the flow recommendations provided by the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program (Program). The purpose of the proposed action is to mimic the natural hydrograph of the San Juan River to create and maintain habitat and a healthy biological community in order to conserve populations of two endangered fishes, the razorback sucker and the Colorado pikeminnow (formerly Colorado squawfish), while maintaining the other authorized purposes of the Unit, Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP). Such conservation is consistent with the recovery goals established under the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*

Reclamation invites other federal agencies, states, Indian Tribes, local

governments, and the general public to submit written comments or suggestions concerning the scope of the issues to be addressed in the DEIS. The public is invited to participate in a series of scoping meetings that will be held in November in Colorado and New Mexico (see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section). Those not desiring to submit comments or suggestions at this time, but who would like to receive a copy of the DEIS, should write to the addresses below. When the DEIS is complete, its availability will be announced in the **Federal Register**, local news media, and through direct contact with interested parties so that comments can be solicited.

DATES AND LOCATIONS: See

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section for meeting dates and locations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jone Wright, Bureau of Reclamation, Western Colorado Area Office, Northern Division, 2764 Compass Drive, Suite 106, Grand Junction, Colorado 81506, telephone: (970) 248-0636. FAX: (970) 248-0601. E-Mail: jwright@uc.usbr.gov or refer to Reclamation's web site at www.uc.usbr.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Unit was authorized by Congress in 1956 as one of four key features of the CRSP intended to develop the water resources of the Upper Colorado River Basin for the purposes of:

* * * regulating the flow of the Colorado River, storing water for beneficial consumptive use, making it possible for the States of the Upper Basin to utilize, consistently with the provisions of the Colorado River Compact, the apportionments made to and among them in the Colorado River Compact and the Upper Colorado River Basin Compact, respectively, providing for the reclamation of arid and semiarid lands, for the control of floods, and for the generation of hydroelectric power, as an incident to the foregoing purposes. * * *

Other project purposes include a municipal and industrial water supply, recreation, and fish and wildlife.

Operations

After completion of the Unit in December 1963, the focus of the criteria for releasing water from the dam was primarily on meeting irrigation needs, providing flood control, maintaining stable flows, and providing a recreation pool in Navajo Reservoir. Over the last decade, however, the focus of the criteria and associated pattern for releasing water from the Unit has changed. The effects that Unit operations have had on endangered fishes and trout have resulted in various

commitments by Reclamation to evaluate those effects and consider implementing the flow recommendations.

Formal consultation under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) on the Unit was requested by Reclamation in a July 30, 1991, memorandum to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). Reclamation committed at that time to, among other things, operate Navajo Dam in the manner most consistent with endangered fish recovery, including mimicking a natural hydrograph if that is the recommended course, for the life of Navajo Dam. In an August 19, 1991, response to Reclamation, the Service concurred that the consultation process should be initiated, and that the consultation period for the operations of the Unit be extended while research on the San Juan River was conducted.

Flow Recommendations

Under the direction of the Program's Biology Committee, test releases were conducted and evaluated during the 1992–1998 research period. At the completion of the research period, the Biology Committee completed a report, entitled Flow Recommendations for the San Juan River (1999), which provides recommended flows for the endangered fishes in the San Juan River below Farmington, New Mexico. The recommendations define the conditions for mimicking a natural hydrograph in terms of magnitude, duration, and frequency of flows in the San Juan River.

If the Service follows these recommendations in future biological opinions, then the flow criteria or a reasonable alternative would have to be met to avoid jeopardy. These recommendations have been accepted by the Program's Coordination Committee and have been provided to the Service for their use in future Section 7 consultations.

Related Projects

Subsequent consultations with the Service on other San Juan Basin projects and associated federal actions included the operation of the Unit as an element of the proposed plan or the resulting reasonable and prudent alternative. These related projects include conversion of irrigation water to municipal and industrial water on the Mancos Project, Florida Project water sale contracts, the Animas La-Plata Project, and completion of the Navajo

Indian Irrigation Project (NIIP) and related water service contracts.

The Proposed Federal Action

Reclamation proposes to prepare a DEIS which will describe the effects of operating the Unit to implement the flow recommendations, or reasonable alternatives, as contained in the recommendation from the Program's Biology Committee resulting from consultation under the ESA. Reclamation would implement the proposed action by modifying the operations decision criteria of the Unit. Modifying the operations would provide sufficient releases of water at times, quantities, and durations necessary to mimic the natural hydrograph of the river to create and maintain habitat and to maintain a healthy biological community in order to conserve populations of two endangered fishes, while maintaining the other authorized purposes of the Unit.

Public Scoping

Scoping meetings will be held in Farmington, New Mexico; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Durango, Colorado; and Pagosa Springs, Colorado in early November 1999 for the purpose of obtaining public input on the significant issues related to the proposed action. The schedule and locations for the meetings are shown below. The public is asked to provide input on the following:

1. Identification of relevant issues related to the proposed action.
2. Whether the overall range of alternatives is appropriate.

Schedule of Scoping Meetings

The following scoping meetings will be conducted in New Mexico and Colorado.

- November 3, 1999, from 6–9 p.m., Farmington Civic Center, 200 W. Arrington, Farmington, New Mexico.
- November 4, 1999, from 6:30–9:30 p.m., Doubletree Hotel, 501 Camino Del Rio, Durango, Colorado.
- November 9, 1999, from 6–9 p.m., Crown Plaza Pyramid, 5151 San Francisco Road, Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- November 10, 1999, from 6–9 p.m., Pagosa Inn, 3565 Highway 160, Pagosa Springs, Colorado.

Dated: September 24, 1999.

Charles A. Calhoun,

Regional Director, Upper Colorado Region.

[FR Doc. 99–25475 Filed 9–30–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–94–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation, Interior

Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Advisory Council

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Public Meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, announcement is made of a meeting of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Advisory Council (Council).

DATES AND LOCATIONS: The meeting is scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, October 26, 1999, and recess at 5 p.m. The Council will briefly reconvene at about 1 p.m. the following day after the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum meeting. The meeting will be held at the York Hotel located at 940 Sutter Street, San Francisco, California. For reservations and information, please contact the York Hotel at (415) 885–6800.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Trueman, Colorado River Salinity Control Program Manager, Bureau of Reclamation, Attention: UC–240, 125 South State Street, Room 6107, Salt Lake City, Utah 84138–1102, telephone (801) 524–3753.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Council members will be briefed on the status of salinity control activities and receive input for drafting the Council's annual report. The Department of the Interior, Department of Agriculture, and Environmental Protection Agency will each present a progress report and schedule of activities on salinity control in the Colorado River Basin. The Council will discuss salinity control activities and the content of their report.

The meeting of the Council is open to the public. Any member of the public may file written statements with the Council before, during, or after the meeting, in person or by mail. Time will be allowed on the agenda for any individual or organization wishing to make formal oral comments (limited to 10 minutes) at the meeting.

Dated: September 14, 1999.

Charles A. Calhoun,

Regional Director, Upper Colorado Region.

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