

Joint Water Agency SRP and individual SAPs would serve as a multiple species Habitat Conservation Plan under Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Federal ESA.

The Service and the California Department of Fish and Game may issue take authorization permits for individual SAPs with conditions or modifications. The proposed SRP would consist of several key components including an implementation process and structure, preserve management guidelines, and a covered species list. A total of 80 species are proposed for coverage under the SRP. The proposed SRP would strive to anticipate and cover the effects on biological resources of all currently foreseeable actions of the participating water agencies over the next 75 years. The proposed SRP would address the following groups of foreseeable projects and covered actions: facilities operation and maintenance, planned or conceptual projects, and potential future projects.

The proposed planning area encompasses approximately 8,600 acres (13.5 square miles) of land in northern, eastern, and southern San Diego County cumulatively owned by the participating water agencies. These lands are located in the unincorporated County area, and in the cities of Santee, El Cajon, La Mesa, and Chula Vista. In general, ownerships consist of land used directly for water production, collection, storage, treatment, and distribution as well as easements used primarily for water and wastewater distribution pipelines. These facilities consist of open water reservoirs, water tanks, water, reclaimed water, and wastewater treatment plants, pump stations, pipelines, and access roads. In addition, the agencies also have maintenance trails and roadways, maintenance yards, and sedimentation ponds. In some situations, watershed protection lands provide recreational facilities, including camp grounds, golf courses, boat docks and ramps, fishing piers, hiking trails, and interpretive signage. These lands are operated in cooperation with other agencies such as the County and City of San Diego.

Components of the proposed conservation program are now under consideration by the Service and the Applicants. These components will likely include avoidance and minimization measures, monitoring, adaptive management, and mitigation measures consisting of preservation, restoration, and enhancement of habitat.

Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report

The Applicants, the Service, and the California Department of Fish and Game

have selected A.D. Hinshaw Associates to prepare the Draft EIS/EIR. The joint document will be prepared in compliance with NEPA and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Although A.D. Hinshaw Associates will prepare the EIS/EIR, the Service will be responsible for the scope and content of the document for NEPA purposes, and the Sweetwater Authority will be responsible for the scope and content of the EIR for CEQA purposes.

The EIS/EIR will consider the proposed action (i.e., the issuance of a section 10(a)(1)(B) permit under the Federal ESA), and a reasonable range of alternatives. A detailed description of the proposed action and alternatives will be included in the EIS/EIR. It is anticipated that several alternatives will be developed, which may vary by the level of conservation, impacts caused by the proposed activities, permit area, covered species, or a combination of these factors. Additionally, a No Action alternative will be considered. Under the No Action alternative, the Service would not issue a section 10(a)(1)(B) permit.

The EIS/EIR will also identify potentially significant impacts on biological resources, recreation, and other environmental issues that could occur directly or indirectly with implementation of the proposed action and alternatives. For all potentially significant impacts, the EIS/EIR will identify mitigation measures where feasible to reduce these impacts to a level below significance.

Environmental review of the EIS/EIR will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), its implementing regulations (40 CFR 1500–1508), other applicable regulations, and Service procedures for compliance with those regulations. This notice is being furnished in accordance with 40 CFR 1501.7 of NEPA to obtain suggestions and information from other agencies and the public on the scope of issues and alternatives to be addressed in the EIS/EIR. The primary purpose of the scoping process is to identify important issues raised by the public, related to the proposed action. Written comments from interested parties are invited to ensure that the full range of issues related to the proposed action is identified. While written comments are encouraged, we will accept both written and oral comments at the public meeting. In addition, you may submit written comments by mail or facsimile transmission (see **ADDRESSES**). All comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the

official administrative record, and may be made available to the public.

Dated: January 31, 2005.

Ken McDermond,

*Deputy Manager, California/Nevada
Operations Office, Sacramento, California.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[MT–020–05–1610–DO–036E]

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Resource Management Plan Revision and Environmental Impact Statement for Eastern Montana

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior, Montana, Miles City Field Office.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a Resource Management Plan Revision and Environmental Impact Statement for Eastern Montana, initiate public scoping and request comments on Planning Criteria.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701), as amended; the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321), as amended; and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will revise two Resource Management Plans (RMPs) by combining the Powder River and Big Dry RMPs (to be called the “Miles City Field Office RMP”) and preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the effects of land and mineral management options. The RMP and EIS are scheduled for completion by December 2007.

DATES: Written and electronic comments on the scope of the RMP, preliminary issues, and planning criteria may be submitted for 30 days from the date of this notice. Public scoping meetings will be held in Ashland, Baker, Broadus, Glendive, Jordan, Miles City, Terry, Billings and Sidney, Montana. Meeting locations and dates for each town will be announced through local news media, newsletters and the BLM public outreach Web site <http://www.mt.blm.gov/mcfo/>.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

Web site: <http://milescityrmp.com>.

Mail: “Miles City RMP Comments”, P.O. Box 219, Miles City, MT 59301–0219.

Fax: (918) 382–7582.

Hand-Deliver: Miles City Field Office, 111 Garryowen Road, Miles City, Montana.

Comments on issues and planning criteria may also be submitted to the BLM at any public scoping meeting. Documents pertinent to the Miles City Field Office RMP may be examined at the Miles City Field Office, 111 Garryowen Road, Miles City, MT.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mary Bloom, Project Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Miles City Field Office, 111 Garryowen Road, Miles City, MT, telephone (406) 233-2852. Web site questions may be directed to WebSiteAdmin@milescityrmp.com.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The approved RMP will replace the existing Big Dry and Powder River RMPs as the document guiding land and resource management decisions on BLM-administered lands and minerals in the planning area. The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis and alternatives. These issues also guide the planning process. The BLM will work collaboratively with interested parties to identify the management options that are best suited to local, regional, and national needs and concerns. Public land management within the planning area is currently guided by the Big Dry RMP and the Powder River RMP, completed in 1996 and 1985, respectively.

The intent of the planning process is to analyze and update land and resource management objectives within the planning area. The planning area includes all of the BLM-administered surface (2,785,000 acres) and mineral (11,725,000 acres) estate managed by the Miles City Field Office in Carter, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Garfield, McCone, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Sheridan, Treasure, Wibaux and portions of Big Horn and Valley counties.

The public will assist the BLM in identifying the issues. Preliminary issues and management concerns have been identified by BLM personnel and other agencies, and in meetings with individuals and user groups. The RMP will consider resource options that are scientifically sound, legally defensible and sustainable. Examples of preliminary issues include the need to provide access to significant energy sources and communication sites, the continuation of grazing activities, maximizing use of public lands in species recovery and habitat conservation, and the need to provide adequate facilities for safe recreation

and visitation on the public lands. Topics to be addressed in the RMP will include vegetation; forestry and timber; special status species; water quality and quantity; travel management; all special management area designations; livestock grazing; fluid mineral leasing, including for coal bed natural gas; solid minerals; recreational uses; right-of-way corridor planning and land authorizations; land tenure adjustment information and access needs; and Native American concerns. Management concerns include air quality, cultural resources, paleontological resources, social and economic concerns, environmental justice, and wildfire management. BLM will also consider compatibility with management plans for adjacent lands.

BLM is also extending a call for coal resource information and any information regarding resources which may affect the leasing of Federal coal or be affected by the leasing of Federal coal. Resource information pertinent to any other BLM resource management activities is also requested.

The RMP and EIS will be prepared by an interdisciplinary team with specialists for recreation, fisheries, biology, archeology, air quality, wildlife, realty, geology and mining, and range management.

Please note that comments and information submitted regarding this RMP, including names, e-mail addresses, and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review and disclosure at the above address. BLM will not accept anonymous comments. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. Individuals who wish to withhold their name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act must state this prominently at the beginning of their written comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

Dated: January 5, 2005.

David McInlay,

Field Manager.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG), Notice of Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Adaptive Management Program (AMP) was implemented as a result of the Record of Decision on the Operation of Glen Canyon Dam Final Environmental Impact Statement to comply with consultation requirements of the Grand Canyon Protection Act (Pub. L. 102-575) of 1992. The AMP includes a federal advisory committee (AMWG), a technical work group (TWG), a monitoring and research center, and independent review panels. The AMWG makes recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior concerning Glen Canyon Dam operations and other management actions to protect resources downstream of Glen Canyon Dam consistent with the Grand Canyon Protection Act. The TWG is a subcommittee of the AMWG and provides technical advice and recommendations to the AMWG.

Date and Location: The AMWG will conduct the following public meeting:

Phoenix, Arizona—March 2-3, 2005. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. and conclude at 5 p.m. on the first day and will begin at 8 a.m. and conclude at 3 p.m. on the second day. The meeting will be held at the Arizona Department of Water Resources, 500 N. Third Street, Conference Rooms A&B, Phoenix, Arizona.

Agenda: The purpose of the meeting will be to review the Fiscal Year 2004 budget expenditures, the FY06 Draft Budget and Work Plan, updates on plans currently in development, and other monitoring and research reports. Other topics of discussion will include status of the Colorado River Basin Fund, Programmatic Agreement membership, basin hydrology, the Humpback Chub Comprehensive Plan, public outreach, environmental compliance progress on proposed actions, as well as other administrative and resource issues pertaining to the AMP.

Time will be allowed for any individual or organization wishing to make formal oral comments (limited to 5 minutes) at the meeting. To allow full consideration of information by the AMWG members, written notice must be provided to Dennis Kubly, Bureau of Reclamation, Upper Colorado Regional Office, 125 South State Street, Room