

Hatteras National Seashore, 1401 National Park Drive, Manteo, NC 27954. Telephone: (252) 473-2111 ext. 148.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the selected action, the NPS will propose a special regulation based on the ROD that provides a balanced distribution of beach miles designated as ORV routes and vehicle-free areas, while providing for the protection of park resources. Driving will be prohibited off-road in the Seashore except on designated routes, and an ORV permit, with a short educational component, will be required for ORV operators. To operate off-road, ORVs must meet required vehicle characteristics and carry required equipment. The NPS will implement measures for pedestrian safety. When carrying capacity is reached or exceeded on an ORV route, it will be temporarily closed to additional vehicles. To support access to both vehicle-free areas and designated ORV routes, the NPS will construct new parking areas and pedestrian access trails, new or relocated ORV ramps, and improvements and additions to the interdunal road system. The Superintendent may issue a special use permit in certain limited circumstances for ORV use in vehicle-free areas. Vehicles operated off-road under the terms of a commercial fishing permit or commercial use authorization (CUA) issued by the superintendent would not require a separate ORV permit.

The NPS will manage for protected species using the measures identified in the Final EIS. These include pre-nesting closures and standard buffers for shorebirds and night driving restrictions during the sea turtle nesting season. The NPS will employ periodic review and an adaptive management strategy, using monitoring and the systematic evaluation of results to determine if adjustments in management are necessary to reach the desired future condition for the threatened, endangered, state-listed, and special status species as described in the FEIS.

The ROD briefly discusses the selected action, five other alternatives considered, the basis for the decision, and measures to minimize impacts and address public concerns. The requisite no-action "wait period" before approval of the ROD was initiated November 19, 2010 with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's **Federal Register** notification of the filing of the Final EIS. As soon as practicable after the publication of the Notice of Availability and Summary of the ROD in the **Federal Register**, the Seashore will publish in the Federal Register for public comment

a proposed special regulation to designate ORV routes and regulate the use of ORVs in the Seashore. The ROD is not the final agency action for those elements of the plan that require promulgation of a regulation to be effective; promulgation of the regulation will constitute the final agency action for such elements of the plan. Moreover, the Seashore will not begin to implement the selected action until after promulgation of the final special regulation. Once the final special regulation is in effect, the Seashore will implement the selected action, as described in the preferred alternative (alternative F) presented in the final plan/EIS and in the ROD.

Interested parties desiring to review the ROD may access it on the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment Web site at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/caha> or may obtain a copy by contacting Mike Murray, Superintendent, Cape Hatteras National Seashore, 1401 National Park Drive, Manteo, NC 27954. Telephone: (252) 473-2111 ext. 148.

**Authority:** The authority for publishing this notice is 40 CFR 1506.6.

The responsible official for this ROD is the Regional Director, Southeast Region, National Park Service, 100 Alabama Street, SW., 1924 Building, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

**Gordon Wissinger,**

*Acting Regional Director, Southeast Region, National Park Service.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-X6-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Reclamation

[INT-DES 10-54]

#### **Odessa Subarea Special Study; Adams, Franklin, Grant, and Lincoln Counties, WA**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice for extension of the public comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Reclamation is extending the comment period for the Odessa Subarea Special Study DEIS to January 31, 2011. The original notice of availability for the DEIS was published in the **Federal Register** on October 25, 2010. The public review period was originally scheduled to end on December 31, 2010 (75 FR 65503).

**DATES:** Written or e-mailed comments on the Draft EIS will be accepted through January 31, 2011.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments on the Draft EIS may be submitted to Bureau of Reclamation, Columbia-Cascades Area Office, Attention: Charles Carnohan, Activity Manager, 1917 Marsh Road, Yakima, Washington 98901-2058. Comments may also be submitted electronically to [Odessa@usbr.gov](mailto:Odessa@usbr.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** Contact Charles Carnohan, Activity Manager, Telephone (509) 575-5848 x603. Information on this project can also be found at [http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/ucao\\_misc/odessa/index.html](http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/ucao_misc/odessa/index.html).

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

The Draft EIS is available for public inspection at the following locations:

- Bureau of Reclamation, Columbia-Cascades Area Office, 1917 Marsh Road, Yakima, WA 98901-2058; telephone: (509) 575-5848.
- Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Northwest Regional Office, 1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100, Boise, ID 83706-1234; telephone: (208) 378-5012.

#### **Libraries**

- Ritzville Public Library, 302 West Main, Ritzville, WA 99169.
- Basin City Branch, Mid-Columbia Library, Basin City, WA 99343.
- Benton-Franklin County Regional Law Library, Columbia Basin College, L Building, 2600 North 10th Avenue, Pasco, WA 99301.
- Big Bend Community College Library, Building 1800, 7611 Bolling Street, NE., Moses Lake, WA 98837.
- Columbia Basin College Library, 2600 North 20th Avenue, Pasco, WA 99301.
- Connell Branch, Mid-Columbia Library, 118 North Columbia Avenue, Connell, WA 99362.
- Coulee City Public Library, 405 West Main Street, Coulee City, WA 99115.
- Ephrata City Library, 45 Alder Street Northwest, Ephrata, WA 98823-2420.
- Grant County Law Library, 35 C Street, NW., Ephrata, WA 98823.
- Kahlotus Branch, Mid-Columbia Library, East 225 Weston, Kahlotus, WA 99335.
- Moses Lake Community Library, 418 East 5th Avenue, Moses Lake, WA 98837-1797.
- Odessa Public Library, 21 East 1st Avenue, Odessa, WA 99159.
- Othello Branch, Mid-Columbia Library, 101 East Main, Othello, WA 99344.

- Pasco Branch, Mid-Columbia Library, 1320 West Hopkins, Pasco, WA 99301.
- Quincy Public Library, 108 B Street Southwest, Quincy, WA 98848.
- North Central Regional Library, Royal City Library, 136 Camelia Street, Royal City, WA 99357.
- Seattle Public Library, Central Library, 1000 Fourth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104.
- Sprague Public Library, 119 West Second Street, Sprague, WA 99032.
- North Central Regional Library, Warden Library, 305 South Main Street, Warden WA 98857.
- Washington State Library, 6880 Capitol Boulevard South, Olympia, WA 98504.

#### Public Disclosure Statement

If you wish to comment, you may mail or e-mail your comments as indicated under the **ADDRESSES** section. Before including your name, address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment (including your personal identifying information) may be made publicly available at any time. While you can request in your comment for us to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Karl E. Wirkus,

*Regional Director, Pacific Northwest Region.*

[FR Doc. 2010-32525 Filed 12-27-10; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Reclamation

#### Long-Term North to South Water Transfer Program, Sacramento County, CA

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) and notice of scoping meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority propose to prepare a joint EIS/EIR to analyze the effects of water transfers from water agencies in northern California to water agencies south of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) and in the San Francisco Bay Area. The EIS/EIR will address transfers of Central Valley Project (CVP) and non-CVP water

supplies that require use of CVP or State Water Project (SWP) facilities to convey the transferred water. Water transfers would occur through various methods, including, but not limited to, groundwater substitution and cropland idling, and would include individual and multiyear transfers from 2012 through 2022.

**DATES:** Submit written comments on the scope of the Long-Term Water Transfer Program by February 28, 2011.

Three public scoping meetings have been scheduled:

- Tuesday, January 11, 2011, 6–8 p.m., Chico, CA.
- Wednesday, January 12, 2011, 2–4 p.m., Sacramento, CA.
- Thursday, January 13, 2011, 6–8 p.m., Los Banos, CA.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments on the scope of the Long-Term Water Transfer Program or issues to be addressed in the EIS/EIR to Mr. Brad Hubbard, Bureau of Reclamation, 2800 Cottage Way, MP-410, Sacramento, CA 95825.

Scoping meetings will be held at:

- Chico at the Chico Masonic Family Center, 1110 W. East Avenue.
- Sacramento at the Best Western Expo Inn & Suites, 1413 Howe Avenue.
- Los Banos at the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, 842 Sixth Street.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Brad Hubbard, Project Manager, Bureau of Reclamation, via e-mail at [bhubbard@usbr.gov](mailto:bhubbard@usbr.gov) or at 916-978-5204, or Ms. Frances Mizuno, Assistant Executive Director, San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, via e-mail at [frances.mizuno@sldmwa.org](mailto:frances.mizuno@sldmwa.org) at 209-832-6200.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Due to dry hydrological conditions, priority of rights, competing needs, and low reservoir storage levels, water agencies south of the Delta have been using water transfers to supplement local and imported water supplies. Transfers of CVP supplies and transfers that require use of CVP or SWP facilities are subject to review by Reclamation and/or DWR in accordance with the Central Valley Project Improvement Act of 1992, Reclamation's water transfer guidelines, and California State law. Pursuant to Federal and State law and subject to separate written agreement, Reclamation and DWR would facilitate water transfers involving CVP contract water supplies and CVP and SWP facilities. Buyers and sellers would be responsible for negotiating the terms of the transfers, including amount of water for transfer, method to make water available, and price.

The EIS/EIR will identify potential selling parties in northern California, methods by which water could be made available for transfer, and maximum amounts of water available through each method. The EIS/EIR will also identify potential purchasing agencies south of the Delta and the proposed use of transfer water.

The EIS/EIR will investigate alternative transfer methods to make water available. Groundwater substitution and cropland idling have been frequent transfer mechanisms in the past and will be analyzed in the EIS/EIR. Groundwater substitution transfers occur when sellers forego diversion of their surface water supplies and pump an equivalent amount of groundwater as an alternative supply. The purchasing agency would receive the foregone surface water supply. The quantity of water available for transfer would account for potential stream flow losses as a result of groundwater-surface water interaction. Cropland idling would make water available for transfer that would have been used for agricultural irrigation without the transfer. Typically, the proceeds from the water transfer would pay farmers to idle land that they would have placed in production. Rice has been the crop idled most frequently in previous transfer programs.

Water transfers under the Proposed Action involving conveyance through the Delta would be implemented within the operational parameters of the Biological Opinions on the Continued Long-term Operations of the CVP/SWP and any other regulatory restrictions in place at the time of implementation of the water transfers. Current operational parameters applicable to the transfer water include:

- Conveyance of a maximum of 600,000 acre feet per year; and
- Use of the SWP's Harvey O. Banks Pumping Plant and CVP's C.W. "Bill" Jones Pumping Plant during July through September only.

The EIS/EIR is expected to analyze the adverse and beneficial effects of implementing water transfers on the following environmental resources: Surface water, water quality, groundwater, fisheries, vegetation and wildlife, special status species, geology and soils, land use, air quality, climate change, cultural resources, noise, recreation, energy, visual resources, socioeconomics, and Indian trust assets. The EIS/EIR will also evaluate environmental justice and cumulative impacts associated with the Long-Term Water Transfer Program.