

DATES: Written comments on the EIS will be accepted for 30 days following the date the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes the notice of filing of the final EIS in the Federal Register, which is expected to be between February 23, 1996, and March 1, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the final EIS may be reviewed at the following locations: Lewistown District BLM Office, 80 Airport Road, (contact Robert Padilla, Realty Specialist), Lewistown, Montana; Worland District BLM Office, 101 South 23rd Street, (Don Ogaard, BLM Project Manager), Worland, Wyoming; Casper District BLM Office, 1701 East "E" Street, (Pat Moore, Realty Specialist), Casper, Wyoming; Montana State Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) (Art Compton), 1520 East 6th Avenue, Helena, Montana, and county and city libraries along the proposed pipeline route.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Don Ogaard, BLM Project Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Worland District Office, P.O. Box 119, 101 South 23rd Street, Worland, Wyoming 82401-0119, telephone 307-347-9871; or Art Compton, Chief, Energy Division, Montana Department of Environmental Quality, 1520 East 6th Avenue, Helena, Montana, telephone 406-444-6791.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Express Pipeline, Inc., proposes to construct, operate, and maintain a 24-inch pipeline from Wild Horse (located on the border between Montana and Canada) to Casper, Wyoming, to transport Canadian crude oil. Nationwide, the demand for and consumption of petroleum in the United States has exceeded production for more than 20 years. In recent years, this gap has been widening as the demand for crude oil increases while domestic production declines.

Because of this, the United States needs to locate additional, dependable sources of crude oil. The overall purpose of the proposed pipeline is to address the needs of refineries in the United States, particularly in the Rocky Mountain Region, and the producers of Western Canada. The Express Pipeline, Inc., would provide a new source of crude oil to refineries located throughout the Rocky Mountain Region and other parts of the United States through the existing network of pipelines. Before Express Pipeline can construct the pipeline, it must obtain numerous Federal, State, county, and local permits. Because the route crosses public land administered by the BLM and the Bureau of Reclamation, Express Pipeline must obtain a right-of-way

grant from the Federal Government. As part of the process for granting the permits, these agencies must consider Express's proposal under NEPA. Regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1500) encourage agencies to incorporate any previous NEPA analyses by reference to eliminate repetitive discussions of the same issues and to focus on specific issues of the proposal. The proposed pipeline would follow the routes of two other pipelines for which EIS's were previously issued by Federal agencies. Accordingly, this final EIS incorporates by reference the PGT/PG&E and Altamont Natural Gas Pipeline Projects Final EIS (FERC 1991) and the Amoco Carbon Dioxide Projects Final EIS (BLM 1989).

The final EIS is a supplement to the draft EIS, published on August 18, 1995, and contains the following material:

- ◆ Incorporates by reference most of the material presented in the draft EIS and identifies the changes to the draft EIS required as a result of additional information.
- ◆ Public comments subsequent to publishing of the draft EIS.
- ◆ The corrections and additions to the draft EIS.
- ◆ Comments received on the draft EIS.
- ◆ Responses to the comments.

The BLM and Montana DEQ received 161 comments on the draft EIS. Ten supported the project, six provided information and did not state a position on the project, and 145 either opposed the project, suggested alternative routes, or expressed various concerns with the draft EIS. Of the latter 145 comments, all but 12 were concerned with the adequacy of the socio-economic impact analysis. Three express primarily environmental concerns and nine were from landowners concerned with effects on private lands. The Environmental Protection Agency, based on procedures they use to evaluate the adequacy of the information in an EIS, gave the draft EIS a rating of EC-2 (Environmental Concern, Insufficient Information).

No substantive changes were made to the proposed action. The BLM has agreed to evaluate all subsequent phases under complete NEPA procedures. This final EIS is not a decision document.

A Record of Decision will be prepared and made available to the public following the 30 day comment period provided above.

Dated: February 20, 1996.
Alan L. Kesterke,
Associate State Director.
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[OR-050-06-1220-00; GP6-0060]

Notice of Oregon Off-Highway Vehicle Designation

AGENCY: Prineville District Office, Deschutes Resource Area, Interior.

ACTION: Notice given relating to limiting motorized vehicle use on public lands north of Prineville Reservoir.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given relating to limiting the use of motorized vehicle use on approximately 2,200 acres of public lands in accordance with the authority and requirements of Executive Orders 11644 and 11989 and regulations contained in 43 CFR Part 8340.

The following lands under administration of Bureau of Land Management are designated as limited, as a result of decisions made in the BLM Upper Prineville Reservoir Activity Plan and Record of Decision for the Brothers/LaPine Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement.

These public lands are all located in T. 16S, R. 17E., W.M.:

Section 11: public lands south of O'Neil Cr. and west of Paulina Highway, Section 13: public lands west of Paulina Highway, and all public lands in Sections 14, 15, 22, 23, 24 and 27. All motorized vehicle use (includes passenger, four-wheel drive, motorcycle, three-wheel and quad) is limited in the following manner on these public lands:

1. No motorized vehicle use is permitted from December 1st through March 31st.
2. Motorized vehicle use is restricted to designated routes marked with "designated route" signs.

These restrictions are being implemented in a cooperative effort with the Bureau of Reclamation, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and adjacent private land owners to reduce soil erosion and improve mule deer winter range.

This designation is effective upon publication in the Federal Register and will remain in effect until rescinded or modified by the Prineville District Manager. Information and maps of this area are available at the BLM Prineville District Office, 3050 East Third Street, Prineville, Oregon, 97754, Telephone (541) 416-6700.

Dated: January 26, 1996.
Donald L. Smith,
Acting District Manager.
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