

Colorado formed under the Water Conservancy Act of 1937, and is considered to be a quasi-municipal entity. In order for Ute Water to meet its commitment of providing a reliable, cost effective, high quality water source, replacement of the pipeline is necessary.

Water is conveyed via a 24-inch-diameter pipeline approximately 14 miles along Plateau Creek Canyon and adjacent to Interstate Highway 70 to Ute Water's treatment plant located on Rapid Creek, near the Town of Palisade. As of 1994, the pipeline was no longer able to provide an adequate flow rate to meet the peak day customer demands. The pipeline is presently subject to frequent breaks due to deteriorated pipe condition, and is unreliable due to its location within geologic hazards and stream erosion areas. The Bureau of Land Management and Ute Water had performed scoping to : (1) identify interested stakeholders and agencies, (2) define key issues, and (3) identify initial project alternatives for preparation of an Environmental Assessment. The initial filing of the Notice of Intent was on March 14, 1995. On the basis of subsequent information and comments provided to the BLM it was determined that issues and concerns would best be analyzed in an EIS.

During the initial scoping, 16 alternatives were developed. These include seven alternatives along the Plateau Creek corridor, three different alternatives involving use of water from nearby utilities, a Colorado River pump station alternative, two alternatives for supplying water from the Kannah Creek watershed, two alternatives for supplying water from the Whitewater Creek watershed, and a No Action alternative. Groundwater alternatives and conservation actions will be addressed in the EIS. Four of the initially considered alternatives, selected on the basis of screening criteria described in Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act, are proposed for evaluation in the EIS. These are:

Alternative A—Replacement of the pipeline on an alignment parallel to Plateau Creek such that impacts to all resources are minimized.

Alternative B—Replacement of the pipeline parallel to Plateau Creek entirely within the existing state highway 65 and 330 rights-of-way.

Alternative C—Replacement of the pipeline in either alignment A or B with a smaller pipeline. This alternative includes provisions for construction of a booster station at the mouth of Plateau Canyon to be built at a future date to meet long-term demands.

Alternative D—A "no federal action" alternative. Major issues identified during the scoping include: (1) wetlands and riparian areas, (2) threatened and endangered species, (3) Prime and Unique Farmlands, (4) water depletion issues, and (5) impacts to State highway 65. Preliminary review by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) indicates that the anticipated impacts within the project area may be entirely mitigable, and may be limited to temporary disturbance.

The tentative project schedule is:
 Begin Public Comment Period—August 1996
 Complete Draft EIS—March 1997
 Record of Decision—June 1997
 Complete Final Design—April 1998
 Begin Construction—June 1998

The BLM's scoping process will include: (1) Identification of additional issues to be addressed; (2) Identification of additional viable alternatives, (3) Notification of interested groups, individuals and agencies so that additional information concerning these issues can be obtained, and (4) Review of the information obtained to date.

The scoping process will be initiated by publication of this NOI in the Federal Register and issuance of a news release announcing the start of the process; letters of invitation to participate in the scoping process, and distribution of a scoping document describing the proposed action, alternatives and significant issues being considered is available upon request.

Mark T. Morse,
District Manager.

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[ID-990-1020-01]

Notice of Resource Advisory Council Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Resource Advisory Council meeting locations and times.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), 5 U.S.C., the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) council meeting of the Upper Snake River Districts Resource Advisory Council will be held as indicated below. The agenda includes a meeting to discuss historical and cultural issues, healthy rangeland standards and

guidelines, and a presentation by the Watershed Advisory Groups and Basin Area Advisory Groups. There will also be a float trip on the Snake River and presentation by the Area Manager on the resources, issues and programs. All meetings are open to the public. The public may present written comments to the council. Each formal council meeting will have a time allocated for hearing public comments. The public comment period for the council meeting is listed below. Depending on the number of persons wishing to comment, and time available, the time for individual oral comments may be limited. Individuals who plan to attend and need further information about the meetings, or need special assistance such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should contact Debra Kovar at the Shoshone Resource Area Office, P. O. Box 2-B, Shoshone, ID, 83352, (208) 886-7201.

DATE AND TIME: Date is September 18-19, 1996, starts at 8:30 a.m. at the BLM Office, 1405 Hollipark Drive, Idaho Falls, Idaho. Public comments from 1:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m. on September 18, 1996.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the council is to advise the Secretary of the Interior, through the BLM, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with the management of the public lands.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION Contact Debra Kovar, Shoshone Resource Area Office, P. O. Box 2-B, Shoshone, ID 83352, (208) 886-7201.

Dated: July 31, 1996.

Howard Hedrick,

District Manager.

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[CA-050-1330-00]

Notice of Resource Advisory Council Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Meeting.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the next meeting of the Ukiah Resource Advisory Council will be held on Wednesday, September 4 and Thursday, September 5, 1996 in Redding, California.

DATES: The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 4 and Thursday, September 5, 1996.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting on Wednesday will begin at 10:00 a.m. at the Redding Resource Area