

Third Avenue, Walla Walla, WA. 99362, phone 509-527-7266.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A reconnaissance study completed in June 1993, by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District recommended a feasibility level study to evaluate the feasibility of completing the levee system and restoring fish and wildlife resources. The study area included the levee system and adjacent lands affected by the project, within the 500-year flood plain along a 25 mile reach of the Snake River. To reduce the cost of the feasibility study, the scope of the study was reduced to determining the feasibility of providing environmental restoration on four priority sites exhibiting the greatest potential for restoration. Based on the reduced scope, environmental impacts of the proposed project will be documented in an EA.

Alternatives: Alternatives that could be implemented at the four sites include:

- a. Channel restoration to rehabilitate fisheries.
- b. Island protection measures to preserve riparian island values.
- c. Island restoration measures to restore riparian island values.
- d. Fish habitat creation through stream structure alteration.
- e. No action.

Public Meeting: A public information meeting for the EA will be held in Jackson, Wyoming in January 1999. Date, time and location will be publicized.

Availability: The Draft EA should be available in December 19993.

Donald R. Curtis, Jr.,

LTC, EN Commanding.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Wichita River Basin Portion of the Red River Chloride Control Project (RRCCP), Texas and Oklahoma

AGENCY: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The purpose of the EIS is to address alternatives and modifications to the authorized plan for chloride control in the Wichita River Basin to provide improved water quality at Lake Kemp, Texas.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions or comments concerning the proposed action should be addressed to Mr. David L. Combs, Chief, Environmental Analysis and Compliance Branch, Tulsa District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, P.O. Box 61, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74121-0061, telephone 918-669-7188.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Wichita River Basin portion was authorized as part of a larger chloride control project by the Flood Control Act of 1966, approved 7 November 1966, Public Law 89-789, SD 110; as modified by the Flood Control Act approved 31 December 1970, Public Law 91-611; and as amended by the Water Resources Development Acts of 1974 (Public Law 93-251) and 1976 (Public Law 94-587). Section 1107 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 amended the above authorization to separate the overall project into the Arkansas River Basin and the Red River Basin and authorized the Red River Basin for construction subject to a favorable report by a review panel on the performance of Area VIII. The review panel submitted a favorable report to the Public Works Committee of the House and Senate in August 1988 indicating that Area VIII was performing as designed. The portion of the authorized project on the upstream forks of the Wichita River consists of collection Areas VII, VIII, and X and Truscott Lake. The authorized plan consisted of four low flow dams for collection of brine-laden waters, two brine storage lakes for holding concentrated brine solutions, and the necessary pumps and pipelines to transport brine solutions from the low flow dams to the brine storage lakes.

Facilities constructed to date include the Areas VIII and X low flow collection facilities, Truscott Brine Lake, and a pipeline from the Area VIII collection facility to the Truscott Brine Lake. Approximately 10,000 acres of lands have also been purchased at the Crowell Brine Lake site near Crowell, Texas. The Crowell Brine Lake component will not be constructed, but the lands will be used for fish and wildlife mitigation requirements associated with completion of the Wichita River Basin facilities. The EIS will evaluate the impacts associated with construction and operation of *only* the Wichita River Basin chloride control facilities.

Reasonable alternatives to be considered include various combinations of constructed facilities in combination with plans for deep well injection, construction of the Area VII collection facility, abandonment of the Area X collection facility, an increase in

the size of Truscott Brine Lake, and no action.

Significant issues to be addressed in the EIS include: (1) hydrological, biological, and water quality issues concerning fish, aquatic invertebrates, algae/biofilm, aquatic macrophytes, wetland/riparian ecosystem of the Wichita River, Lake Kemp, and Red River above Lake Texoma to the confluence of the Wichita River; (2) the Lakes Kemp and Texoma components, including chloride/turbidity relationships, chloride/fish reproduction issues, chloride/plankton community issues, chloride/nutrient dynamics issues, and impacts on recreational values; (3) a selenium (Se) component addressing Se concentrations and impacts on biota; (4) alternative studies involving constructed facilities and remaining facilities to be constructed; (5) man-made brines and associated reduction (6) mitigation as it relates indirectly to habitat losses resulting from irrigated cropland and direct impacts resulting from construction of project components; (7) Section 401 water quality issues; (8) impacts on the commercial bait-fishery of the upper Red River; (9) Federally-listed threatened and endangered species; and (10) unquantifiable/undefined impacts.

Scoping meetings for the project are planned to be conducted in August 1998. News releases, informing the public and local, state, and Federal agencies of the proposed action will be published in local newspapers. Comments received as a result of this notice and the news releases will be used to assist the Tulsa District in identifying potential impacts to the quality of the human or natural environment. Affected Federal, state, or local agencies, affected Indian tribes, and other interested private organizations and parties may participate in the Scoping process by forwarding written comments to the above noted address or attending the Scoping meetings.

The draft EIS (DEIS) is expected to be available for public review and comment by 1 August 1999. Any comments and suggestions should be forwarded to the above noted address no later than 1 October 1999 to be considered in the DEIS.

Timothy L. Sanford,

Colonel, U.S. Army, District Engineer.

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