

Open houses were again held in these four cities and in Topeka, in February 1999, when the draft preferred alternative was developed. One hundred fifty-six people attended these meetings; 215 written comments were received.

About 500 copies of the Draft GMP/EIS were distributed to the public, interest groups, and government agencies in late 1999. In conjunction with the 60-day public review of the Draft GMP/EIS open houses were held in Cottonwood Falls, Wichita, and Lawrence. A total of 70 people attended these open houses. During the comment period, 69 written public comments were received. Copies of the plan were available for review in local government offices and libraries.

The Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve worldwide website (www.nps.gov/tapr) has contained planning information since June 1997, and electronic comment sheets were posted there during the public comment period for the preliminary alternatives, draft preferred alternative, and Draft GMP/EIS. Approximately 87 comments were received through that medium.

Newsletters and response forms were available at the preserve's administrative offices in Cottonwood Falls, Kansas as well as at the historic ranch headquarters, two miles north of Strong City, Kansas.

Conclusion: A notice of availability for the General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve was published in the **Federal Register** by the Environmental Protection Agency on October 20, 2000 and the 30-day no-action period ended on November 20, 2000. The National Park Service distributed approximately 315 copies of the Final GMP/EIS during this period. Eight letters commenting on the Final GMP/EIS were received. These letters either expressed support for the preferred alternative, repeated issues already addressed in responses to comments on the draft document, or raised issues more appropriately addressed in follow-up implementation planning. No changes to the GMP/EIS were made in response to comments on the final document.

The above factors and considerations justify the selection of the final plan, as described in the "Proposed Action" and "Actions Common to All Action Alternatives" sections of the Final Environmental Impact Statement. The General Management Plan is hereby approved.

Recommended:

Dated: December 4, 2000.

Stephen T. Miller,

Superintendent, Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve.

Approved:

Dated: December 5, 2000.

David N. Given,

Acting Regional Director, Midwest Region.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Colorado River Interim Surplus Criteria

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of a final environmental impact statement for the proposed adoption of Colorado River Interim Surplus Criteria: FES 00 52.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, and the Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), has issued a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) on the proposed adoption of specific criteria under which surplus water conditions may be determined in the Lower Colorado River Basin during the next 15 years.

DATES: Reclamation will issue a Record of Decision no sooner than January 16, 2001.

ADDRESSES: See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for locations and addresses where copies of the document may be reviewed.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information, contact Ms. Jayne Harkins at the above address or telephone Ms. Harkins at (702) 293-8785. The FEIS is available for viewing on the Internet at <http://www.lc.usbr.gov> and <http://www.uc.usbr.gov>. Copies of the FEIS, in the form of a printed document or on compact disk, are available upon written request to Ms. Janet Steele, Attention BCOO-4601, PO Box 61470, Boulder City, Nevada 89006-1470, Telephone: (702) 293-8785, or by fax at (702) 293-8042.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) manages the lower Colorado River system in accordance with federal law (including the provisions of the 1964 U.S. Supreme Court decree, as supplemented, in *Arizona v. California*

(the Decree), the Colorado River Basin Project Act of 1968 (CRBPA) and Long Range Operating Criteria (LROC) adopted pursuant to the CRBPA). Within this legal framework, the Secretary makes annual determinations regarding the availability of surplus water from Lake Mead by considering various factors, including the amount of water in storage and predictions for natural runoff. Pursuant to Article II(B)2 of the Decree, if there exists sufficient water available in a single year for pumping or release from Lake Mead to satisfy annual consumptive use in the states of California, Nevada, and Arizona in excess of 7.5 million-acre feet (maf), such water may be determined by the Secretary to be made available as "surplus" water. The Secretary is authorized to determine the conditions upon which such water may be made available.

The purpose of and need for establishing interim surplus criteria is to assist the Secretary in making annual determinations of surplus conditions, and will afford entities that have contracted for surplus water a greater degree of predictability with respect to the annual existence of surplus water available for diversion. This greater predictability would assist these entities in the management of their water resources.

The FEIS presents five possible action alternatives for implementation, plus a No Action Alternative. The action alternatives have been formulated to be consistent with applicable federal law and would serve to implement Article III (3)(B) of the LROC, described above. The five potential action alternatives are (1) "Flood Control Alternative," which would provide surplus water only when flood control releases from Lake Mead are needed, (2) "Basin States Alternative" (Preferred Alternative), (3) "Six States Alternative" and (4) "California Alternative," all of which specify various Lake Mead water surface elevations to be used as "triggers" to indicate when surplus conditions exist; and (5) "Shortage Protection Alternative," which is based on maintaining an amount of water in Lake Mead necessary to provide a normal annual supply of 7.5 maf for the Lower Division, 1.5 maf for Mexico and storage necessary to provide an 80 percent protection for the critical Lake Mead water elevation of 1083 mean sea level (minimum power generation elevation).

Libraries Where the Draft EIS Is Available for Public Review

- Department of the Interior, Natural Resources Library, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240.

• Lower Colorado Regional Office, PO Box 61470, Boulder City, Nevada 89006-1470.

• Phoenix Area Office, Concorde Commerce Center, 2222 West Dunlap Ave., Suite 100, Phoenix, Arizona 85069-1169.

• Yuma Area Office, 7301 Calle Aqua Salada, Yuma, Arizona, 85366-7504.

• Upper Colorado Regional Office, 125 South State St., Room 6107, Salt Lake City, Utah 84138-1102.

• Boulder City Library, 813 Arizona, Boulder City, NV 89005.

• Henderson District Public Library, 280 South Water St., Henderson, NV 89015.

• Los Angeles Central Library, 630 W 5th St. Los Angeles, CA 90071.

• San Diego Central Library, 820 E St., San Diego, CA 92101.

• Salt Lake City Public Library, 209 E 500 S., Salt Lake City, UT 84111.

• Albuquerque Public Library, 501 Copper Ave. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87102.

• Denver Public Library, 10 W 14th Ave. Pkwy, Denver, CO 80204.

• Laramie County Library, 2800 Central Ave., Cheyenne, WY 82001.

• Phoenix Public Library (Burton Barr Central), 1221 N. Central Ave., AZ 85004.

• Government Reference Library, c/o Jo Reister, Tucson Pima Main Library, 101 North Stone Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85701.

• Mohave County Library, 1170 Hancock Rd., Bullhead City, AZ 86442.

• San Bernardino County Library, 1111 Bailey Ave., Needles, CA 92363.

• Lake Havasu City Library, 1787 McCulloch Blvd. North, Lake Havasu City, AZ, 86403.

• Parker Public Library, 1001 South Navajo Ave., Parker, AZ 85344.

• Palo Verde Valley Library, 125 W. Chanslor Way, Blythe, CA 92225.

• Yuma County Library, 350 S. 3rd Ave., Yuma, AZ 85364.

Dated: December 5, 2000.

Willie R. Taylor,

Director, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance, Department of the Interior.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

Notice of Proposed Information Collection

AGENCY: Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) is announcing its intention to request renewed approval for the collection of information under 30 CFR part 840, Permanent Program Inspection and Enforcement Procedures. The collection described below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The information collection request describes the nature of the information collection and the expected burden and cost.

DATES: OMB has up to 60 days to approve or disapprove the information collection but may respond after 30 days. Therefore, public comments should be submitted to OMB by January 16, 2001, in order to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request a copy of the information collection request, explanatory information and related form, contact John A. Trelease at (202) 208-2783, or electronically to jtrelease@osmre.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR 1320, which implement provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13), require that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities [see 5 CFR 1320.8(d)]. OSM has submitted a request to OMB to renew its approval for the collection of information in 30 CFR part 840, Permanent Program Inspection and Enforcement Procedures. OSM is requesting a 3-year term of approval for this information collection activity.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control number for this collection of information is 1029-0051 and codified at 30 CFR 840.10.

As required under 5 CFR 1320.8(d), a **Federal Register** notice soliciting comments on these collections of information was published on September 22, 2000 (65 FR 57371). No comments were received. This notice provides the public with an additional 30 days in which to comment on the following information collection activity:

Title: Permanent Program Inspection and Enforcement Procedures, 30 CFR Part 840.

OMB Control Number: 1029-0051.

Abstract: This provision requires the regulatory authority to conduct periodic inspections of coal mining activities, and prepare and maintain inspection reports for the public review. This information is necessary to meet the requirements of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 and its public participation provisions. Public review assures the public that the State is meeting the requirements for the Act and approved State regulatory program.

Bureau Form Number: None.

Frequency of Collection: Once, monthly, quarterly, annually.

Description of Respondents: State Regulatory Authorities.

Total Annual Responses: 99,013.

Total Annual Burden Hours: 578,509.

Send comments on the need for the collection of information for the performance of the functions of the agency; the accuracy of the agency's burden estimates; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and ways to minimize the information collection burden on respondents, such as use of automated means of collection of the information, to the following addresses. Please refer to the appropriate OMB control number in all correspondence.

ADDRESSES: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Attention: Department of the Interior Desk Officer, 725 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20503. Also, please send a copy of your comments to John A. Trelease, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, 1951 Constitution Ave, NW., Room 210-SIB, Washington, DC 20240, or electronically to jtrelease@osmre.gov.

Dated: December 11, 2000.

Richard G. Bryson,

Chief, Division of Regulatory Support.

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Office of the Secretary

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

December 7, 2000.

The Department of Labor (DOL) has submitted the following public information collection request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). A copy of each