**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Geological Survey**

Publication of Award Announcement for Cooperative Agreement With the Student Conservation Association, Inc., for Recruitment and Placement of College-Age and Other Qualified Volunteers to Headquarters, Centers, and Field Stations of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

AGENCY: Department of the Interior, Geological Survey.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The USGS announces the availability of fiscal year (FY) 2002 funds for a cooperative agreement to provide recruitment and placement of college-age and other qualified volunteers to accomplish resource management tasks in the areas of biology, water, soil, air, waste, mineral, marine, environmental education, mapping, and geology to centers and field stations of the USGS. The purpose of this program is to provide opportunities to college-age students and other qualified volunteers to obtain experience in support of resource management and research tasks for limited periods on USGS projects. Assistance will be provided only to the Student Conservation Association, Inc. No other applications are solicited. Eligibility is limited to the Student Conservation Association, Inc., because no other known organization recruits and places volunteers with Federal earth science agencies and organizations.

Other qualified organizations that provide recruitment and placement of college-age students and other qualified volunteers are invited to provide an affirmative response to this notice. Response should consist of an organization chart, a brief history, and description of similar volunteer placement activities, including locations and contact information, numbers of volunteers placed, activities, and projects undertaken. Responses must be in writing but may be submitted via e-mail within 2 weeks of publication of this notice to the Business Technical Contact listed below.

No funds will be awarded under this agreement. Funding will be awarded through cooperative project awards based upon requests from headquarters, science centers and field stations for the placement of qualified volunteers. The USGS anticipates awarding this 60-month cooperative agreement on or about May 14, 2002.

**ADDRESSES:**

1. For program technical assistance contact Nancy Milton, U.S. Geological Survey, Program Review Coordinator, Biological Resources Discipline, MS 301, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia 20192, telephone: 703-648-4196, e-mail: nancy.milton@usgs.gov.

2. For business technical assistance contact Patricia L. Masterson, U.S. Geological Survey, Office of Acquisition and Grants, National Assistance Programs Branch, MS 205G, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia 20192, telephone: 703-648-7356, e-mail pnmasters@usgs.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Authority for this program is found at 43 USC 36c, and 43 USC 50c. The Office of Management and Budget Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number is 15.808.

Dated: April 1, 2002.

Carol F. Aten,
Chief, Office of Administrative Policy and Services.

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Minerals Management Service**

Texas Section 8(g) Natural Gas Royalty-In-Kind Pilot Report—Evaluation of the 19-Month Period (June 1999—December 2000)

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of Natural Gas Royalty-In-Kind Pilot Report for Review and Comment.

SUMMARY: The Minerals Management Service (MMS) will post on MMS’s Internet Home Page the Texas General Land Office/Minerals Management Service 8(g) Gas Royalty-In-Kind (RIK) Pilot—A Report. Comments will be accepted electronically or in hard copy.

DATES: MMS will consider all comments we receive by June 14, 2002. The Report will be posted on the MMS’s Internet home page on April 20, 2002.

**ADDRESSES:** The Report will be posted on Minerals Revenue Management’s
home page at http://www.mrm.mms.gov under “What’s New.” The Report may also be obtained by contacting Mr. Martin C. Grieshaber at the address in the FURTHER INFORMATION section.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information concerning the Report, contact Mr. Martin C. Grieshaber, Minerals Management Service, MS 9200, P.O. Box 25165, Denver, Co 80225–0165; telephone number (303) 275–7118; fax (303) 275–7124; e-mail Martin.Grieshaber@mms.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the RIK pilot undertaken jointly by the State of Texas General Land Office and the Department of the Interior’s Minerals Management Service, gas was sold beginning in June 1999. The pilot included thirteen of the forty leases offshore Texas subject to section 8(g) of the OCS Lands Act. These leases were split into two packages the “the Blessing” and the “MOPS” for purposes of gas sales. The Report summarizes and analyzes the results of the sales for the first 19 months June 1999 through December 2000.

MMS and the State of Texas initiated the 8(g) gas pilot as part of the continuing effort to follow through on the recommendations of the Royalty-In-Kind Feasibility Study published by MMS in 1997. Many of the lessons learned during the 8(g) pilot period and subsequent sales have been carried over to the expansion of the gas RIK pilots to the entire Gulf of Mexico (GOM). MMS’s intent in making the Report available for comment prior to finalization is to continue an iterative improvement process by receiving comments from individuals and groups with expertise in the GOM gas market.

The internet posting and availability of the Report in hard copy are being announced by a press release as well as in this Federal Register notice.

Dated: March 29, 2002.
Walter D. Cruickshank, Associate Director for Policy and Management Improvement.

[FR Doc. 02–10544 Filed 4–29–02; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310–MR–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Kennewick and Columbia Irrigation Districts Pump Exchange Feasibility Study, Washington

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and to conduct public scoping meetings.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Kennewick and Columbia Irrigation Districts Pump Exchange Feasibility Study, Washington. The purpose of this project is to allow opportunities to increase and improve streamflows in the lower Yakima River between the Prosser Diversion Dam and the mouth of the Yakima River during the irrigation season by investigating a water exchange project in the lower portion of the Yakima River or the electrification of the Chandler hydraulic pumps. Alteration of current conditions in this reach could improve spawning and rearing habitat and migration conditions for anadromous fish. Alternatives being considered are partial or full Yakima-Columbia River water exchange, or electrification of the Chandler Pumping Plant. Reclamation is requesting early public comment and agency input to help identify significant issues or other alternatives to be addressed in the EIS.

DATES: Scoping meetings will be held on the following dates and times:

- Kennewick, WA: May 1, 2002, Open Houses 12 pm to 1 pm and 6 pm to 7 pm; Meetings 1 to 3 pm and 7 pm to 9 pm.

Written comments will be accepted through June 3, 2002, for inclusion in the scoping summary document.

The meeting facilities are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Please direct requests for sign language interpretation or for the hearing impaired, or other auxiliary aids, to David Kaumheimer by April 17, 2002, at the telephone, fax or TTY relay numbers listed under the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION section of this notice.

ADDRESSES: Comments and requests to be added to the mailing list may be submitted to Bureau of Reclamation, Upper Columbia Area Office, Attention: David Kaumheimer, Environmental Programs Manager, 1917 Marsh Road, Yakima, Washington 98907–1749.

The scoping meetings will be held at the following location:

- West Coast Hotel Kennewick, North 1101 Columbia Center Blvd, Kennewick, WA, 99336.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Kaumheimer, Environmental Programs Manager, (509) 575–5848, extension 232, or fax; (509) 454–5611. TTY users may call (509) 575–5848 by dialing 711 to obtain a toll free TTY relay.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Public Disclosure

Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from public disclosure, which will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold a respondent’s identity from public disclosure, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public disclosure in entirety.

Background

Reclamation has undertaken this study as one potential means to augment instream flow in the lower Yakima River and benefit anadromous fish under the authority of Title XII, Phase 2 of the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project, in Public Law 103–434 (Title XII), which was passed by the Congress on October 31, 1994. Public Law 106–372, which amended Title XII, authorized an engineering feasibility report of the Chandler Pump Exchange, as well as electrifying the pumps at the Chandler Pumping Plant at Prosser Diversion Dam, Washington. Alternatives being considered include either a partial or full Yakima-Columbia River water exchange, or the electrification of the Chandler Pumping Plant.

Water exchange would entail pumping water from the Columbia River near the mouth of the Yakima River into the Kennewick Irrigation District (KID) and Columbia Irrigation District (CID) canals and reducing the amount of water diverted from the Yakima River at the current points of diversion. One of the alternatives being considered is a partial exchange of KID’s full Yakima River diversion. It would involve diverting about 2⁄5 of KID’s total 333 cfs diversion from the Columbia River and continuing to divert the remainder at Prosser Dam on the Yakima River. Another alternative is a full exchange which would totally eliminate the diversion of water from the Yakima River to the KID canal. Both alternatives would involve pumping approximately 116 cfs of CID’s total existing Yakima...