

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers****Intent To Prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Limited Reevaluation Report 1,750-Acre Bottomland Acquisition, Fourche Bayou Basin, Little Rock, AR**

AGENCY: Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DOD.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DOD, Little Rock District will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Limited Reevaluation Report (LRR) 1,750-Acre Bottomland Acquisition, Fourche Bayou Basin, Little Rock, AR.

The purpose of the EIS will be to present alternatives and assess the impacts associated with purchase development of 1,750 acres of bottomland hardwoods habitat known as Fourche Bottoms as well as development of a nature appreciation facility. Solutions will focus on protecting the Fourche Bottoms from urban development in the surrounding area. Proposed improvements resulting from the study could impact (positively or negatively) recreation, flood control, and fish and wildlife along the Fourche Bottoms in central Arkansas. The EIS will evaluate potential impacts (beneficial and adverse) to the natural, physical, and human environment as a result of implementing any of the proposed project alternatives that may be developed during the EIS process.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions or comments concerning the proposed action should be addressed to: Ms. Tricia Anslow, Chief, Environmental Section, Planning Branch, P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, AR 72203-0867, telephone (501) 324-5032, e-mail:

Patricia.M.Anslow@usace.army.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. *Background:* The Fourche Bottoms is a unique and valuable component to the surrounding urban environment. It serves as a natural filtration system, flood retention basin, and wetland habitat home to numerous diverse species.

2. *Study History:* The congressional authority to initiate this study was written in Section 401(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986. The initial EIS and Record of Decision was completed in 1989.

3. *Comment/Scoping Meeting:* Interested parties are requested to express their views concerning the proposed activity. The public is encouraged to provide written comments. To be most helpful, scoping comments should clearly describe specific environmental topics or issues, which the commentator believes the document should address. Comments received as a result of this notice and the news releases will be used to assist the preparers in identifying potential impacts to the quality of the human or natural environment. Affected local, state, or Federal 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. Interested parties may also request to be included on the mailing list for public distribution of meeting announcements and documents.

4. *Alternatives:* Alternatives will be evaluated against the No-Action alternative. Alternatives may include alternate location of facilities and trails.

5. *Availability of the Draft Supplemental EIS:* The draft supplemental EIS is anticipated to be available for public review in the summer of 2003.

Luz D. Ortiz,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-15577 Filed 6-19-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-57-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers****Intent To Prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Act Collaborative Program**

AGENCY: Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and other joint-lead agencies—the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), Department of Interior; and the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission (Commission), State of New Mexico—intend to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the establishment of the Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Act Collaborative Program (Program).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. William DeRagon, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 4101 Jefferson Plaza, NE.,

Albuquerque, NM 87109, (505) 342-3358.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Within the Middle Rio Grande Basin in New Mexico the continuing demand on limited water supplies to meet irrigation, municipal, industrial, and ecological purposes has strained environmental resources. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) listed the Rio Grande silvery minnow (*Hybognathus amarus*) and the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1994 and 1995, respectively. In February 2003, the USFWS designated critical habitat for the silvery minnow along the Rio Grande from Cochiti Dam to the headwaters of Elephant Butte Reservoir. Recovery plans for both species have been developed.

In 1999, governmental and non-governmental entities with management responsibility for resources in the Middle Rio Grande Basin, or an interest therein, formed the Middle Rio Grande ESA Workgroup to address ESA issues in a coordinated manner. Beginning in April 2002, representatives of the following entities have signed an Interim Memorandum of Understanding to work towards establishing the Middle Rio Grande ESA Collaborative Program: Reclamation, Corps, Commission, USFWS, U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station, New Mexico Office of the Attorney General, New Mexico Lieutenant Governor's Office, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, New Mexico Environment Department, New Mexico Department of Agriculture, New Mexico State University, University of New Mexico, Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, City of Albuquerque, Alliance for the Rio Grande Heritage, Rio Grande Restoration, and the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties.

The objective of establishing and implementing the Program is to provide the framework for coordinated actions to enhance habitat, increase populations, and contribute to the recovery of the listed species within the Rio Grande Basin between the Colorado state line and the headwaters (elevation 4,450 feet) of Elephant Butte Reservoir. A principal goal of the Program is to implement creative and flexible options under the ESA so that existing, ongoing, and future water supply and water resource management activities and projects can continue to operate and

receive necessary permits, licenses, funding, and other approvals.

The PEIS will address the establishment and governance of the Program, as well as anticipated activities such as scientific research, population monitoring, habitat restoration, fish passage at diversion structures, silvery minnow rescue and propagation, and water acquisition and management. The PEIS will present alternatives for these activities and evaluate their environmental, economic, and social effects. The environmental evaluation also will assess the potential effects that the proposed alternatives may have on Indian Trust Assets, and minority and low-income populations. The PEIS will address these actions on a programmatic basis; future activities implemented as a result of the Program will require project-specific compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other applicable laws and regulations prior to implementation.

Coordination is ongoing with public, private and tribal entities having jurisdiction or an interest in water operations in the Program area. In June 2003, the Corps, Reclamation, and the Commission, as lead agencies and on behalf of the cooperating entities, signed a Memorandum of Agreement to define the scope of the PEIS and to establish their roles and responsibilities relating to completing the PEIS in accordance with NEPA, ESA, and other laws and regulations. The joint lead agencies will seek and encourage public involvement throughout the process.

Public scoping meetings will be held in Albuquerque, Santa Fe, and Socorro, New Mexico, in July 2003. Specific information regarding location and times of these meetings will be published in local newspapers. The draft PEIS will be released for public review and comment in October 2003. Signing of the Records of Decision by the joint-lead agencies is expected in February 2004.

Dana R. Hurst,

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army, District Engineer.

[FR Doc. 03-15576 Filed 6-19-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-KK-M

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Department of Education.

SUMMARY: The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer invites

comments on the submission for OMB review as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before July 21, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Karen Lee, Desk Officer, Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503 or should be electronically mailed to the Internet address Karen_F_Lee@omb.eop.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes that notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, e.g. new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment.

Dated: June 16, 2003.

Angela C. Arrington,

Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Institute of Education Sciences

Type of Review: Revision.

Title: Preschool Curriculum

Evaluation Research (PCER) Program.

Frequency: Semi-annually.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 7,133.

Burden Hours: 3,483.

Abstract: The purpose of the PCER Program is to implement rigorous

evaluations of preschool curricula that will provide information to support informed choices of classroom curricula for early childhood programs. This research program supports research that will determine, through randomized experiments, whether one or more curricula produce educationally meaningful effects for children's language skill, pre-reading and pre-math abilities, general knowledge and social competence. The respondents for this research initiative include children, teachers and parents. The data collected from these respondents will provide critical information about preschool curricula to policy makers and early childhood practitioners.

Requests for copies of the submission for OMB review; comment request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, by selecting the "Browse Pending Collections" link and by clicking on link number 2292. When you access the information collection, click on "Download Attachments" to view. Written requests for information should be addressed to Vivian Reese, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Room 4050, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651 or to the e-mail address vivan.reese@ed.gov. Requests may also be electronically mailed to the internet address OCIO_RIMG@ed.gov or faxed to 202-708-9346. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request.

Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be directed to Kathy Axt at her e-mail address Kathy.Axt@ed.gov. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

[FR Doc. 03-15601 Filed 6-19-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Department of Education.

SUMMARY: The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer invites comments on the submission for OMB review as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

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