

Susanville Indian Rancheria; California Department of Water Resources; California Department of Fish and Game; Lassen County, CA; Washoe County, NV; City of Reno; City of Sparks; Airport Authority of Washoe County; and Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency.

Public participation has occurred throughout the EIS process. A Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS was published in the **Federal Register** on September 15, 2003 and the public comment period was initiated. A public scoping open house was held in Reno, NV in October 2003 and eight additional presentations were conducted between October 2003 and April 2004. A Notice of Availability for the Draft EIS was published in the **Federal Register** on May 20, 2005 and a 60-day comment period was initiated. Two public open houses and three local government presentations were conducted in Reno, NV and one community public meeting was conducted in Susanville, CA. A total of 26 comment letters were received on the Draft EIS and the letters and responses to comments are included in the Final EIS.

Comments on the Final EIS should be as specific as possible and should refer to specific pages or chapters in the document. After the comment period ends, all comments will be considered by the BLM in preparing the Record of Decision (ROD).

Dated: September 27, 2005.

**Donald T. Hicks,**

*Manager, Carson City Field Office.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-HC-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Land Management**

[WO-220-05-1020-JA-VEIS]

**Notice of Availability of Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and Environmental Report for Vegetation Treatments on Public Lands Administered by the Bureau of Land Management in the Western United States, Including Alaska**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability for public review and comment.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the BLM is making available for public review and comment a draft national programmatic EIS and environmental report on vegetation treatments involving the use of chemical herbicides and other methods on the public lands administered by BLM in 17 western states, including Alaska.

**DATES:** Written or e-mailed comments for the review of the EIS and environmental report may be submitted through January 9, 2006. BLM will hold public meetings to solicit written and oral comments on the proposed action during the 60-day public review period.

Dates and time locations for the public meetings are as follows:

Date & time	Locations	BLM contact
November 28, 2005: 6 p.m. Open House, 7 p.m. Public Meeting.	BLM Office, 333 SW 1st Avenue, 3rd Floor Conference Room, Portland, Oregon 97204.	Michael Campbell, PH: (503) 808-6031.
November 29, 2005: 6 p.m. Open House, 7 p.m. Public Meeting.	Clarion Hotel, 2600 Auburn Blvd., Sacramento, CA.	Dianna Brink, PH: (916) 978-4645.
November 30, 2005: 6 p.m. Open House, 7 p.m. Public Meeting.	Little America Hotel, 500 South Main Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84101.	Laura J. Williams, PH: (801) 539-4027.
December 1, 2005: 6 p.m. Open House, 7 p.m. Public Meeting.	Marriott Pyramid North, 5151 San Francisco Rd. NE, Albuquerque, NM.	Bernie Chavez, PH: (505) 438-7668.
December 5, 2005: 6 p.m. Open House, 7 p.m. Public Meeting.	Grand Vista Hotel, 2790 Crossroads Blvd., Grand Junction, CO.	Melodie Lloyd, PH: (970) 244-3097.
December 6, 2005: 6 p.m. Open House, 7 p.m. Public Meeting.	Holiday Inn—Airport Hotel, 3300 S. Vista, Boise, ID.	Sharon Paris, PH: (208) 373-4028.
December 7, 2005: 6 p.m. Open House, 7 p.m. Public Meeting.	BLM Office, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, MT.	Theresa Hanley, PH: (406) 896-5068.
December 8, 2005: 6 p.m. Open House, 7 p.m. Public Meeting.	Holiday Inn—Yellowstone, Room 204 West Fox Farm Road, Cheyenne, WY.	Ken Henke, PH: (307) 775-6041.
December 13, 2005: 6 p.m. Open House, 7 p.m. Public Meeting.	BLM Office, 4701 N Torrey Pines Dr., Las Vegas, NV.	Kirsten Cannon, PH: (702) 515-5057.
December 13, 2005: 6 p.m. Open House, 7 p.m. Public Meeting.	Courtyard by Marriott—Embassy Row, 1600 Rhode Island Avenue, NW., Washington DC.	Sharon Wilson, PH: (202) 425-5130.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be sent to: Project Manager, National Vegetation EIS, BLM Nevada State Office, P.O. Box 12000, Reno, NV 89520-0006. Comments may also be sent by e-mail to [vegeis@nv.blm.gov](mailto:vegeis@nv.blm.gov). Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by

law. The BLM will not consider anonymous comments. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety. The Draft EIS and associated documents will be available for review in either hard copy or on compact disks (CDs) at all BLM State, District, and Field Office public rooms. The entire document can also be reviewed or

downloaded at the BLM National Web site <http://www.blm.gov/>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This national, draft programmatic EIS will provide a comprehensive analysis of BLM's use of chemical herbicides in its various vegetation treatment programs related to hazardous fuels reduction, noxious weed and invasive terrestrial plant species management, resource rehabilitation following catastrophic fires and other disturbances. In addition, an accompanying environmental report will provide an

assessment of the expected impacts of the use of herbicides, in addition to other vegetation treatment methods (fire, mechanical, manual, and biological) on up to approximately 5,030,000 acres of public lands per year. Together, these documents will:

- Consider reasonably foreseeable activities, particularly hazardous fuels reduction treatments, emergency stabilization and rehabilitation efforts, noxious weed, and invasive terrestrial plant species management.
- Address human health and ecological risk for proposed use of chemical herbicides on public lands.
- Provide a cumulative impact analysis of the use of chemical herbicides in conjunction with other treatment methods.

The EIS is neither a land-use plan nor a land-use plan amendment. The EIS and ER will provide a comprehensive programmatic NEPA document and environmental report to allow effective tiering and incorporation by reference of baseline cumulative impact assessment to be used for other new, revised or existing land use and activity level plans that involve vegetation modification or maintenance. This EIS does not affect the status of the herbicide court injunction in Oregon.

The analysis area includes only surface estate public lands administered by 11 BLM state offices: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana (Dakotas), New Mexico (Oklahoma/Texas/Nebraska), Nevada, Oregon (Washington), Utah and Wyoming.

**Ed Shepard,**

*Assistant Director, Renewable Resources and Planning.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Reclamation**

**South Delta Improvements Program, Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta, California**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) and notice of public workshops and hearings.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) have made available for public review and comment the Draft EIS/EIR for the

South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP).

The proposed SDIP would (1) construct and operate a fish control gate at the Head of Old River; (2) construct and operate up to 3 flow control gates (one each in Middle River, Grant Line Canal, and Old River, near the Tracy Pumping Plant) to maintain adequate water quality and water levels available for agricultural diversions in the south Delta, downstream of the Head of Old River; (3) dredge various channels within the south Delta to improve conveyance; (4) construct extensions of up to 24 shallow agricultural diversions; (5) increase water deliveries by increasing the maximum diversion through the existing intake gates at Clifton Court Forebay to 8,500 cubic feet per second; and (6) implement an interim operations regime between December 15 and March 15 until the permanent gates are fully operable.

**DATES:** Submit written comments on the Draft EIS/EIR on or before February 7, 2006 to the address provided below. Public meetings will be held to discuss the purpose and content of the Draft EIS/EIR. The public meetings will be held as follows:

- December 6, 2005, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., Sacramento, CA.
  - December 7, 2005, 7 to 9 p.m., Stockton, CA.
  - December 8, 2005, 7 to 9 p.m., Oakland, CA.
  - December 13, 2005, 7 to 9 p.m., Visalia, CA.
  - December 14, 2005, 1 to 3 p.m., Los Angeles, CA.
- Three public hearings have been scheduled to receive oral or written comments regarding the project's environmental effects:
- January 18, 2005, 1 to 4 p.m., Sacramento CA.
  - January 24, 2005, 1 to 3 p.m., Los Angeles, CA.
  - January 25, 2005, 1 to 4 p.m., Stockton, CA.

**ADDRESSES:** The locations of the public meetings are:

- Resources Auditorium, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA.
- American Legion Post 803, 3110 West Lane, Stockton, CA.
- CSU East Bay Oakland Conference Room, 1000 Broadway, Oakland, CA.
- Mill Creek Auditorium, 3100 West Main, Visalia, CA.
- Junipero Serra State Building, Carmel Room 225, 320 West Fourth Street, Los Angeles, CA.

The locations of the public hearings are:

- CALFED, Bay Delta Room, 5th Floor, 650 Capitol Mall, Sacramento CA

(need driver's license to enter the building; no picture phones allowed).

- Junipero Serra State Building, Carmel Room 225, 320 West Fourth Street, Los Angeles, CA.

- Department of General Services Auditorium, 31 East Channel Street, Stockton, CA.

Hardcopy comments may be mailed to Mr. Paul Marshall, SDIP EIS/EIR Comments, State of California Department of Resources, Bay Delta Office, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, California, 95814. Electronic comments may be emailed to [sdip\\_comments@water.ca.gov](mailto:sdip_comments@water.ca.gov), or posted on the SDIP Web site at <http://sdip.water.ca.gov>.

See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for locations where copies of the Draft EIS/EIR are available for public review.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Sharon McHale, Reclamation Program Manager, at 916-978-5086, or e-mail: [smchale@mp.usbr.gov](mailto:smchale@mp.usbr.gov); or Mr. Paul A. Marshall, DWR Program Manager at 916-653-2118, or e-mail at [marshall@water.ca.gov](mailto:marshall@water.ca.gov). The Draft EIS/EIR may be viewed at <http://sdip.water.ca.gov> or at Reclamation's Web site at [http://www.usbr.gov/mp/pepa/pepa\\_projdetails.cfm?Project\\_ID=316](http://www.usbr.gov/mp/pepa/pepa_projdetails.cfm?Project_ID=316).

To request a copy of the Draft EIS/EIR, please contact Ms. McHale as indicated above.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Draft EIS/EIR addresses facilities-related impacts including the effects of project construction and operation on hydrology, water quality, fish resources, recreation, vegetation and wildlife, visual resources, cultural resources, land use, geology, soils, seismicity, groundwater, traffic and circulation, air quality, noise, and public health and safety. Diversion-related impacts include the effects of increased diversions from the Bay Delta and associated changes in Reclamation's operation of Central Valley Project (CVP) facilities and DWR's operation of State Water Project (SWP) facilities. Project diversions therefore may directly or indirectly affect the Sacramento River, its tributaries, San Joaquin River, its tributaries, and Delta resources including water supply, fish and aquatic habitat, riparian vegetation and habitat, water quality, recreation, visual and cultural resources. The Draft EIS/EIR also evaluates potential growth-inducing impacts for the CVP and SWP water service areas. An evaluation of cumulative hydrologic and water service area impacts associated with reasonably foreseeable actions is also included.