

- Fax: 505-564-7608.
- Mail: Bureau of Land Management, Farmington Field Office, 6251 College Blvd., Suite A, Farmington, NM 87402

Copies of the Project EIS are available in the Farmington Field Office at the above address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Marcy Romero, Project Manager, telephone 505-564-7727; address Farmington Field Office, 6251 College Blvd., Suite A, Farmington, NM 87402; email: [blm\\_nm\\_ffo\\_comments@blm.gov](mailto:blm_nm_ffo_comments@blm.gov). Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact Ms. Romero during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question for Ms. Romero. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association (Tri-State) submitted a right-of-way (ROW) application to construct, operate, and maintain a 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line from the Farmington, New Mexico area to Ignacio, Colorado. The proposed transmission project would be located on BLM-managed public lands, Southern Ute Indian Tribe (Southern Ute) tribal lands, New Mexico State lands, and private lands. Tri-State seeks approval from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), relating to the portion of the project that would cross Southern Ute tribal lands, and the New Mexico State Land Office. Tri-State is also requesting approval from La Plata County for the operation and construction of the transmission line on private properties located in La Plata County. Tri-State is requesting financial assistance for the Project from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS). Tri-State is also requesting approval from the Western Area Power Administration (Western) to interconnect its proposed 230 kV transmission line to Western's Shiprock Substation and also to locate the new Three Rivers Substation on Western's reserved area within BLM lands.

Before making a decision, Federal agencies, including the BLM, BIA, RUS, and Western, must comply with the requirements of NEPA, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The BLM is the lead Federal agency for NEPA, NHPA, and ESA review and compliance. The EIS preparation is a joint process among the BLM and the cooperating agencies. The cooperating

agencies include the BIA, RUS, Western, Southern Ute, La Plata County, the New Mexico State Land Office, and the Navajo Nation. The purpose and need for BLM's action is to respond to TriState's ROW application for access to BLM-managed lands for the construction and operation of the transmission line, substations, and access roads.

The BLM published the Notice of Intent in the **Federal Register** on January 25, 2011 (76 FR 4371), and scoping continued to April 1, 2011. Three public scoping meetings and one agency scoping meeting were held on March 16 and 17, 2011, in Farmington and Aztec, New Mexico, and Ignacio, Colorado, to solicit comments on the scope of the EIS. The key issue topics resulting from scoping are: Lands and realty actions, processes, and effects; effects to visual resources, water and wetlands, air quality, cultural resources, the Old Spanish National Historic Trail, socioeconomic, and wildlife species and habitats; and public health and safety effects, and potential cumulative effects. Further details on scoping issues and comments received are in the scoping report available on the project Web site: <http://www.blm.gov/nm/sjbec>

This Draft EIS analyzes a No Action Alternative and two action alternatives: The Preferred Alternative and the Proposed Action. The action alternatives were developed from a comprehensive process that considered a wide range of electrical system and transmission route alternatives. Both action alternatives are about 65 miles long. The action alternatives would originate from Western's Shiprock Substation and would interconnect to a new substation, the Three Rivers Substation. From the new Three Rivers Substation, the transmission lines would extend to a new 230 kV substation, the Kiffen Canyon Substation, located just north of the City of Farmington's existing Glade Tap Substation. The action alternatives would continue northeast and would terminate at the existing Iron Horse Substation near Ignacio, Colorado. The action alternatives also include constructing access roads by building new unpaved roads, improving existing access roads, and using existing roads in their current state. The action alternatives differ in their proposed alignment for the transmission line and the supporting access network.

For this Draft EIS, the No Action Alternative indicates that the BLM would not grant Tri-State a ROW for the construction and operation of the proposed Project. The Project facilities, including transmission lines and

substations, would not be built and existing land uses, and present activities in the Project study area would continue. The No Action Alternative does not consider the potential for additional actions that could occur if the action alternatives were denied.

The BLM will use and coordinate the NEPA commenting process to satisfy the public involvement process for Section 106 of the NHPA (16 U.S.C. 470f) as provided for in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3). Ongoing tribal consultations will continue to be conducted in accordance with policy and tribal concerns, including impacts on Indian trust assets. Federal, State, and local agencies, along with other stakeholders that may be interested or affected by the BLM's decision on this Project, are invited to participate. Please note that public comments and information submitted including names, street addresses, and email addresses of persons who submit comments will be available for public review and disclosure at the above address during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may publicly be made available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Authority:** 40 CFR 1506.6, 40 CFR 1506.10.

**Michael H. Tupper,**  
*Acting State Director.*

[FR Doc. 2014-05479 Filed 3-13-14; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-FB-P**

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

[NPS-PWR-PWRO-14562;  
PX.P0131800B.00.1]

### Final Environmental Impact Statement for Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan, Yosemite National Park, Madera, Mariposa, Mono, and Tuolumne Counties, California

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

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**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C), and the National

Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.), the National Park Service (NPS) has prepared a *Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Final Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement* (Final Tuolumne River Plan/EIS). The Final Tuolumne River Plan/EIS fulfills the requirements of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Pub. L. 90-542, as amended) (WSRA) and will provide a long-term management program for the 54 miles of the Tuolumne River that flow through Yosemite National Park.

The purpose of the Final Tuolumne River Plan/EIS is to protect the river's free-flowing character and the values that make it worthy of designation by (1) reviewing and updating river corridor boundaries and segment classifications, (2) prescribing a process for the protection of the river's free-flowing condition, (3) identifying and documenting the condition of the river's outstandingly remarkable values, (4) identifying management actions needed to protect and enhance river values, (5) establishing management objectives for river values and a monitoring program for ensuring the objectives are met, and (6) defining visitor use and user capacity for the river corridor. The Final Tuolumne River Plan/EIS would update portions of the 1980 Yosemite General Management Plan (GMP) that address management within the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor. It also identifies the agency-preferred and environmentally preferred alternative.

**DATES:** The NPS will execute a Record of Decision not sooner than 30 days from the date of publication of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's notice of filing for the Final EIS in the **Federal Register**.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Kathleen Morse, Chief of Planning, Yosemite National Park, P.O. Box 700-W, 5083 Foresta Road, El Portal, CA 95318, (209) 379-1110. Electronic versions of the complete document are available online at [www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/trp.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/trp.htm). Request printed documents or CDs through email ([yose\\_planning@nps.gov](mailto:yose_planning@nps.gov)) (type "Final TRP EIS" in the subject line) or telephone (209) 379-1110.

*Range of Alternatives:* The Final EIS identifies and analyzes a No-Action alternative and four action alternatives for managing the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor. All alternatives would preserve and sustain wilderness character, including natural ecosystem function and opportunities for primitive, unconfined recreation, in the more than 90% of the river corridor that is congressionally designated

Wilderness. The No-Action alternative would retain current conditions in the Tuolumne River corridor with no change in management, use, or development. A number of proposed actions are common to the action alternatives (Alternatives 1-4). For example, Alternatives 1-4 include WSRA elements such as boundaries, classifications, a WSRA § 7 determination process, and a user capacity management program. Per WSRA direction, Alternatives 1-4 would protect and enhance the values for which the Tuolumne River was designated, including its free-flowing condition, excellent water quality, and outstandingly remarkable values. Alternatives 1-4 vary primarily in how they balance the protection of river values with different kinds of visitor use and associated user capacities. Alternatives 1-4 would provide for traditional cultural practices by American Indian tribes. The EIS analyzes potential impacts of each alternative and describes mitigation measures.

The No-Action alternative serves as the baseline from which to compare the action alternatives. This alternative assumes that current trends in the conditions of natural and cultural resources and visitor experiences would continue, consistent with the management activities that are ongoing under current, approved plans. In the Tuolumne Meadows area, opportunities for day and overnight use would continue to include a range of recreational activities supported by modest commercial services and overnight camping and lodging.

Alternative 4 (agency-preferred) seeks to retain the traditional Tuolumne experience while reducing the impacts of development. Alternative 4 would provide a meaningful introduction for the growing number of short-term visitors in the Tuolumne Meadows area. Opportunities for day visitors to connect with the river would be improved by providing a visitor contact station, picnic area, and trail connection to the river and Parsons Memorial Lodge. Existing opportunities for traditional overnight use would remain. To accommodate slightly increased use levels while protecting and enhancing recovering meadow and riparian habitats, most day use would be confined to maintained trails and specific destinations. As discussed in detail in the EIS, Alternative 4 is identified as the environmentally preferred course of action.

Alternative 1 would achieve a visitor experience characterized by self-reliance in a more natural setting, with

more wilderness-like management throughout the river corridor. In Tuolumne Meadows, all commercial services (including the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge, store, grill, fuel station, and mountaineering shop/school), would be discontinued. Use levels at the campground would remain at a reduced capacity, and the NPS would provide minimal camper supplies at the campground office. Natural river values would be enhanced by greatly reducing the development footprint, greatly reducing demands for water supply and wastewater treatment, and eliminating most potential risks to water quality.

Alternative 2 would facilitate resource enjoyment and stewardship for a broad spectrum of visitors, including visitors with only a short time to spend in the area. In the Tuolumne Meadows area, Alternative 2 would retain or expand all current activities and service. For example, there would be a new day parking and picnic area near the trailhead for Parsons Memorial Lodge and the Tuolumne Meadows Campground would be expanded. Overall visitor use levels in the river corridor would be the highest among the range of alternatives. River values would be protected by directing visitors to those areas most able to withstand use.

Alternative 3 would preserve the opportunity for a classic national park experience in a historic setting, in the Tuolumne Meadows and Glen Aulin areas. Visitors would have recreational opportunities in a setting that would appear little changed over time. A full range of orientation, interpretation, and education programs would be available. The store, grill, and concessioner day rides would remain. The Tuolumne Meadows Campground would remain at its current capacity, and the Tuolumne Lodge would be retained at half its current capacity. The levels of visitor use would be in the middle of the range of alternatives.

*Changes Incorporated in Final EIS:* In response to public comments on the Draft Tuolumne River Plan/EIS, agency feedback, and new technical information, the Final Tuolumne River Plan/EIS was revised as follows:

- A recreational outstanding remarkable value was reworded to clarify that it is the rare and easy access provided by the Tioga Road, not the Tioga Road itself, that is the outstanding remarkable value.

- The Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp would be retained at up to 28 beds. No tents would be removed, but the capacity of two tents would be reduced from four beds to two beds. Water consumption and wastewater

production at the camp would not exceed 500 gallons per day.

- Limited boating would be allowed through the Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne, from Pothole Dome to Pate Valley. Overnight boating would be permitted under the Wilderness overnight trailhead quota system used to manage the user capacity in Wilderness zones; only noncommercial boating would be permitted. The NPS would provide for such use on a trial basis, monitoring and adjusting the management of this recreational opportunity as needed.

- Twenty-one campsites in Loop A of the Tuolumne Meadows Campground that are within 100 feet of the river would be relocated within the campground to protect riparian vegetation along the Lyell Fork.
- The mountaineering school function would be retained and accommodated at the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge.

- The NPS would seek to move the dining hall and kitchen at Tuolumne Meadows Lodge upslope within the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge complex, more than 150 feet from the banks of the Dana Fork. This move would be dependent on identification of a suitable site and consultation with the California State Historic Preservation Officer.

- The grazing capacity for meadows along the Lyell Fork would be adjusted from a capacity of 192 grazing-nights per season to a flexible capacity of 167–249 grazing-nights per season, depending on snowfall and rainfall patterns.

- The percentage of total use allocated to commercial use in Wilderness portions of the Tuolumne River Corridor would be adjusted to a slightly higher percentage. Such uses would consist of no more than 15% of total use in the Lyell Canyon portion of the river corridor.

- The Draft EIS mistakenly showed that the ranger station in Tuolumne Meadows would be relocated to the existing visitor center. The Final EIS confirms that the ranger station would remain in its existing location. The maintenance offices would occupy the old visitor center once the new visitor contact station is constructed.

- An employee fuel station would be provided at the maintenance yard. Visitors who ran out of gas could also obtain fuel.

*Decision Process:* The Record of Decision will be prepared not sooner than 30 days after release of the Final Tuolumne River Plan/EIS. As a delegated EIS process, the official responsible for final approval of the Tuolumne River Plan is the Regional

Director, Pacific West Region, NPS; subsequently the official responsible for implementation of the approved Tuolumne River Plan is the Superintendent, Yosemite National Park.

Dated: November 22, 2013.

**Martha J. Lee,**

*Acting Regional Director, Pacific West Region.*

**Editorial Note:** This document was received by the Office of the Federal Register on March 11, 2014.

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

[OMB Number 1010—New]

#### Information Collection: Social Indicators in Coastal Alaska: Arctic Communities Survey; Proposed Collection for OMB Review; Comment Request; MMAA104000

**ACTION:** 60-Day notice.

**SUMMARY:** To comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is inviting comments on a new collection of information that we will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. The information collection request (ICR) pertains to a survey conducted in northern coastal Alaska communities.

**DATES:** Submit written comments by May 13, 2014.

**ADDRESSES:** Please send your comments on this ICR to the BOEM Information Collection Clearance Officer, Arlene Bajusz, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, 381 Elden Street, HM–3127, Herndon, Virginia 20170 (mail); or [arlene.bajusz@boem.gov](mailto:arlene.bajusz@boem.gov) (email); or 703–787–1209 (fax). Please reference ICR 1010—New Alaska Survey in your comment and include your name and return address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Arlene Bajusz, Office of Policy, Regulations, and Analysis at (703) 787–1025. You may also request a free copy of the survey. For more information on the survey, contact Chris Campbell in the BOEM Alaska Regional Office at (907) 334–5264.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*OMB Control Number:* 1010—New.

*Title:* Social Indicators in Coastal Alaska: Arctic Communities Survey.

*Abstract:* This is a new collection that involves a survey of the Alaska coastal

area along the Arctic. Section 20 of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lands Act (OCSLA) requires the Secretary of the Department of the Interior (DOI) to monitor and assess the impacts of resource development activities in Federal waters on human, marine, and coastal environments. The OCSLA authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to conduct studies in areas or regions of lease sales to ascertain the “environmental impacts on the marine and coastal environments of the outer Continental shelf and the coastal areas which may be affected by oil and gas development” (43 U.S.C. 1346) (Pub. L. 95–372).

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321–4347) requires that all Federal agencies use a systematic, interdisciplinary approach to ensure the integrated use of the natural and social sciences in any planning and decision making that may have an effect on the human environment. The Council on Environmental Quality’s Regulations for Implementing Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR 1500–1508) state that the “human environment” is to be “interpreted comprehensively” to include “the natural and physical environment and the relationship of people with that environment” (40 CFR 1508.14). An action’s “aesthetic, historic, cultural, economic, social or health” effects must be assessed, “whether direct, indirect, or cumulative” (40 CFR 1508.8).

The BOEM is the DOI agency that conducts OCS lease sales and monitors and mitigates adverse impacts that might be associated with offshore resource development. The BOEM Environmental Studies Program implements and manages the responsibilities of research. This new survey will facilitate the meeting of DOI/BOEM information needs by quantifying measures of well-being and the living conditions of residents in coastal Alaska areas, with specific focus on six Iñupiat coastal Alaska Native communities in the North Slope Borough (Barrow, Point Hope, Wainwright, Nuiqsut, Kaktovik, Point Lay).

The BOEM will use the information collected from this survey to learn about local social systems and well-being in a way that may shape development strategies and serve as an interim baseline for impact mitigation and/or monitoring to compare against future research in these areas. Without these data, BOEM will not have sufficient information to make informed oil and gas leasing and development decisions for these areas. The studies will help