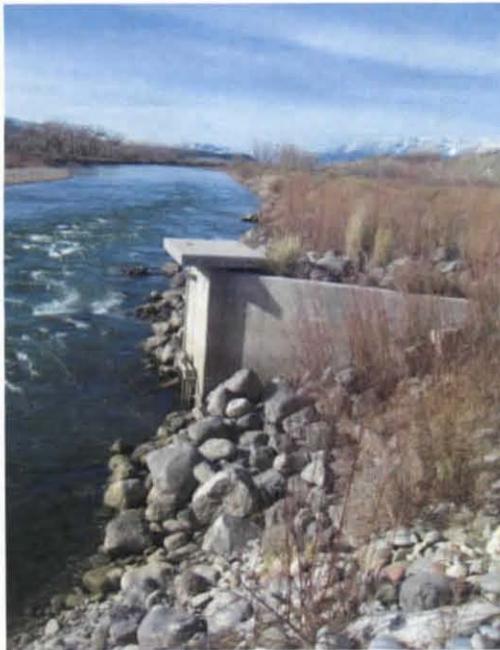


RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

EA No. 2010-32

Ruedi Round II Water Marketing Program Repayment Contract- City of Rifle Environmental Assessment



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Great Plains Region
Eastern Colorado Office

September 2011

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SGM Project # 99055A-466

For the Bureau of Reclamation, Eastern Colorado Area Office

Front cover photo: City of Rifle water intake structure on the Colorado River

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1.0 Introduction

The Bureau of Reclamation is proposing to enter into a 25-year water repayment contract with the City of Rifle, Colorado (Rifle). This non-federal entity has requested a water repayment contract for 200 acre feet (ac-ft) to augment out-of-priority depletions associated with municipal water operations.

As required by the Final Record of Decision for Ruedi Reservoir Round II Water Marketing Program Final Supplement to the Environmental Statement (RRII FSES; USDI 1990), Reclamation has conducted site-specific NEPA compliance for the proposed contract request with this Environmental Assessment (EA). This EA was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508), and Reclamation's draft NEPA Handbook (Bureau of Reclamation 2000). The EA is not a decision document, but rather it is a disclosure of the environmental consequences of the No Action and Proposed Action Alternatives.

2.0 Purpose and Need for Action

Issuance of the proposed contract would support one of the objectives of the Operating Principals for the Fryingpan-Arkansas (Fry-Ark) Project as described in House Document Number 130 (Operating Principals; US Govt. 1961) which is protection of western Colorado water uses, both existing and potential, in accordance with the declared policy of the State of Colorado. The purpose of the proposed action is to allow Rifle to use Ruedi Dam and Reservoir (Ruedi) water for augmentation under a water repayment contract. The primary purpose of Ruedi is to furnish water required for the protection of western Colorado water users, including present water rights and prospective uses of water.

Receipts from the sale of water from Ruedi are applied to pay for operation and maintenance costs and to reimburse construction costs in excess of \$7.6 million. The proposed contract will allow for out-of-priority diversions from the Colorado River for Rifle's municipal water supply. Rifle requested the proposed contract to ensure that it fulfills its statutory role of providing an adequate supply of water for its water service area in the long-term and to ensure augmentation water is available during drought conditions. See Figure 1 for a map of the service area. This EA analyzes the impacts that would result from the issuance of the proposed 200 ac-ft Ruedi Round II water repayment contract.

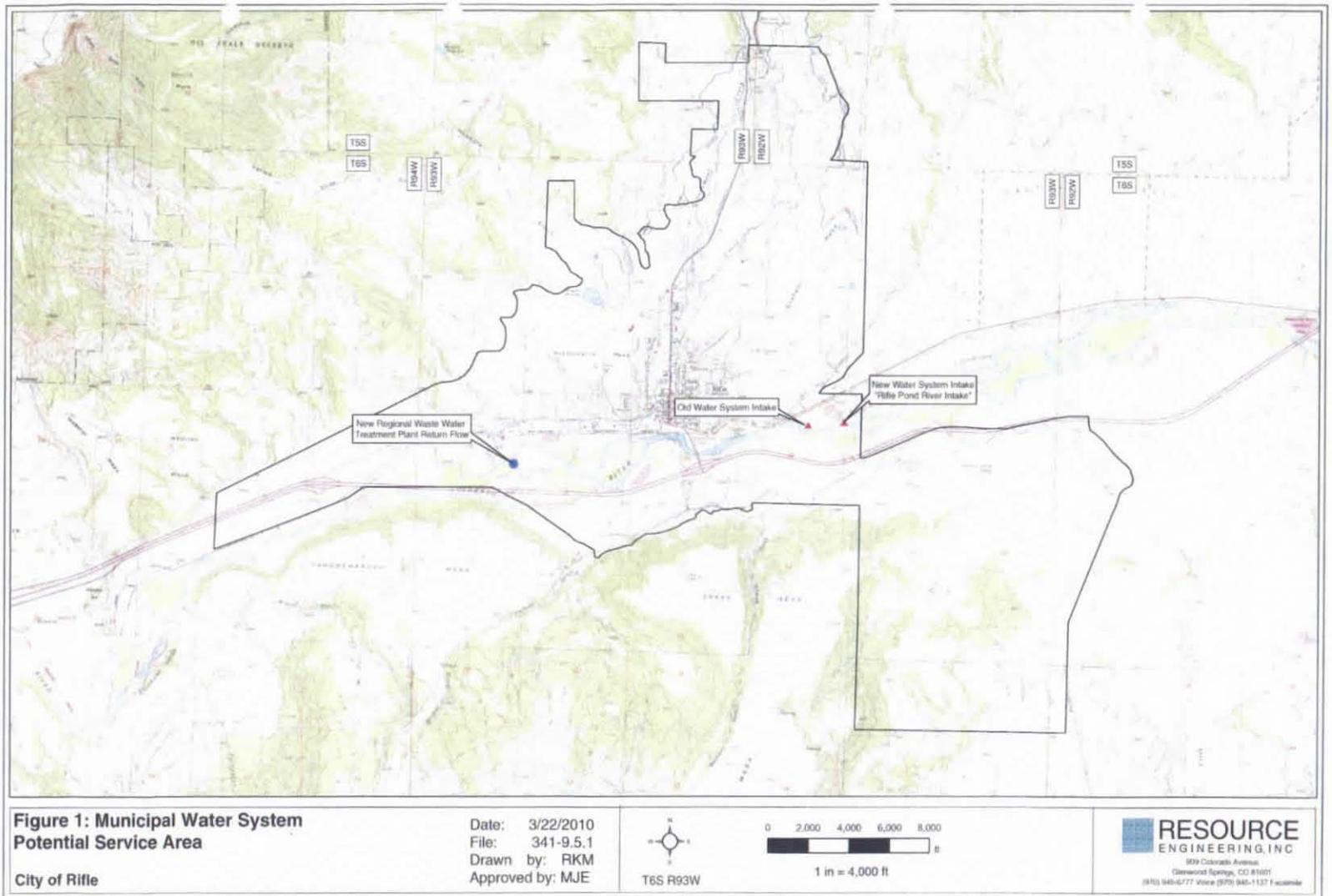


FIGURE 1.0 Service Area Map

3.0 Proposed Action Alternative

Rifle currently holds a long-term (25 year) Ruedi Reservoir Round II water repayment contract No. 009D6C0042 for 350 ac-ft with Reclamation for municipal and domestic purposes. The contract was issued in 2000 and the water augments out-of-priority depletions to the Colorado River that occur from Rifle's municipal water system.

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, Reclamation would enter into another water repayment contract with Rifle for an additional 200 ac-ft. The contract would be entered into pursuant to current Reclamation law and contain current repayment rates and stipulations. Proposed contract water would be used as a legal source of water to augment out-of-priority municipal diversions from the Colorado River, as they may currently exist or be modified in the future. Rifle's existing diversion and supporting transport infrastructure is sufficient to transport the additional water that would be made available as a result of the Proposed Action. No additional construction would be necessary to implement the Proposed Action. Table 1 shows the estimated diversions of the Proposed Action in acre feet per month.

TABLE 1.0 Estimate of Depletions/Diversions per Month

Month	Estimate of Depletions (Acre Feet)
January	1.0
February	1.0
March	1.4
April	2.5
May	3.6
June	55.8
July	72.1
August	56.0
September	2.8
October	1.8
November	1.0
December	1.0
Total	200.0

4.0 No Action Alternative

Under this alternative Reclamation would not issue the water repayment contract and Rifle would not be allowed to use additional Ruedi water for augmentation under the proposed water repayment contract.

In the absence of another contract with Reclamation, Rifle would be limited to the water made available by the 2000 contract described in the Proposed Action Alternative. Rifle would need to look for other sources of water to augment the out-of-priority depletions; otherwise it may not be able to meet future needs. Other potential sources of augmentation water may include Wolford Mountain Reservoir and agricultural or other water rights that may be available for sale in the area.

5.0 Description of Project Facilities

On August 16, 1962, the United States Congress authorized the construction of the Fryingpan-Arkansas (Fry-Ark) Project. Public Law 87-590 authorized the construction, operation and maintenance of a multipurpose project.

Construction of the Fry-Ark Project began with Ruedi Dam and Reservoir in 1964, and continued without interruption until September 28, 1990, when the project was declared completed with the dedication of the Fish Hatchery at Pueblo Reservoir.

There are two distinct areas of the Fry-Ark Project consisting of the western slope, located in the Hunter Creek and Fryingpan River watersheds, and the eastern slope in the Arkansas River Valley. These areas are separated by the Continental Divide which in many places exceeds an elevation of 14,000 feet. The project consists of diversion, conveyance, and storage facilities designed mainly to divert water from Colorado River tributaries on the western slope for use in the Arkansas River basin on the eastern slope. See FIGURE 2 for a map of the western portion of the Fry-Ark Project.

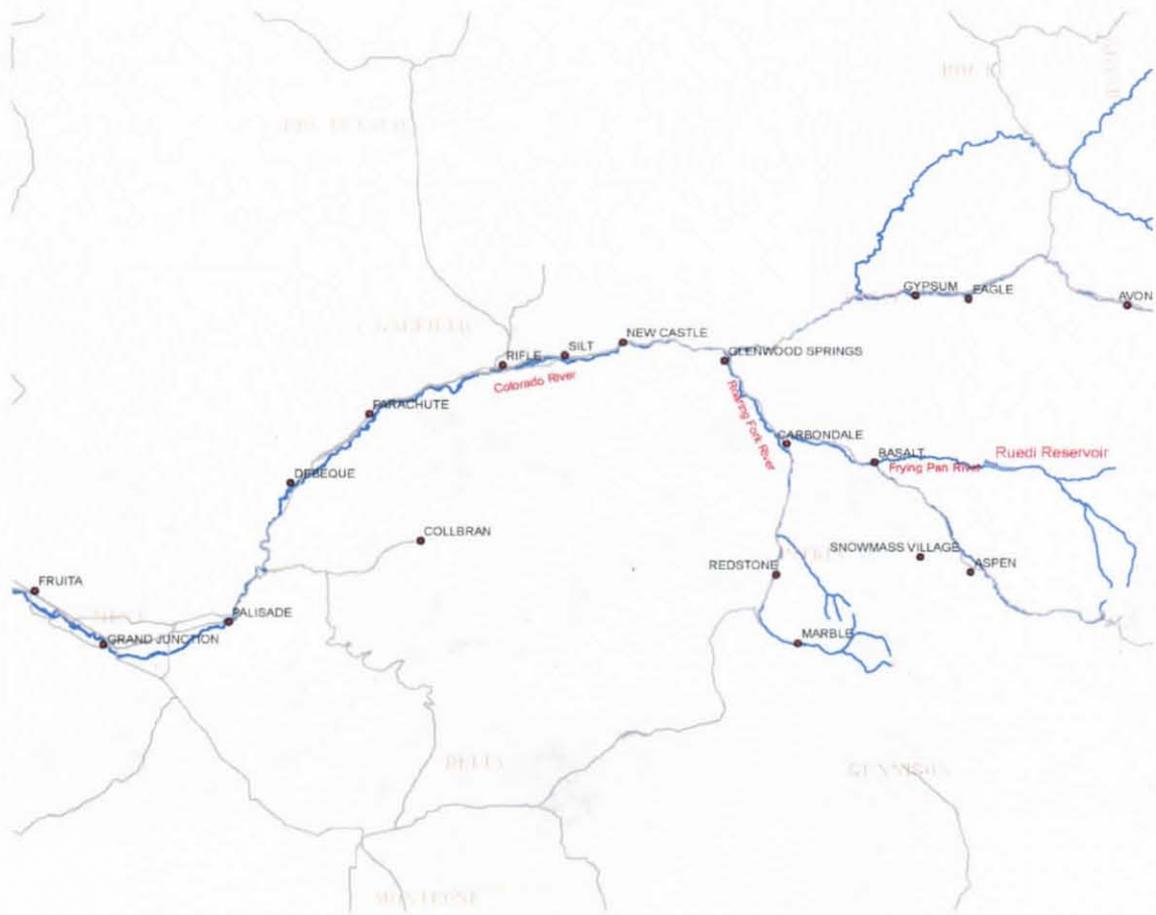


FIGURE 2.0 West-slope Frying Pan-Arkansas Project Area Overview

The western slope features of the Fry-Ark Project include the Ruedi Dam and Reservoir located on the Fryingpan River about 15 miles east of Basalt, Colorado. The dam creates the Ruedi Reservoir with a total capacity of 102,369 acre-feet. The Ruedi Dam and Reservoir provides storage for replacement and regulation of water for the Western Slope users. The water is used for irrigation, municipal, industrial, recreation, and fish and wildlife purposes.

In 1982 Reclamation concluded Ruedi Reservoir Round I Water Sales, which totaled 7,850 ac-ft of water contracts annually. In response to additional demand, Reclamation initiated action to provide additional water sales through the Ruedi Reservoir Round II Water Marketing Program, which involved extensive U.S. Fish Wildlife Service (USFWS) consultation. In January 1990 Reclamation completed the RRII FSES, which recommended the preferred alternative with conservation measures to offer for sale a total of 51,500 ac-ft of water annually from Ruedi; however, 5,000 ac-ft of this was to be withheld for conservation flows for identified endangered Colorado River fishes. In May 2002 Reclamation issued a Finding of No Significant Impact for the 2012 Agreement, which Reclamation agreed to contract 10,825 ac-ft annually through the year 2012 for the benefit of the endangered fish.

To date, Reclamation has entered into 29 long-term Ruedi Round II contracts and has marketed 11,452 acre-feet of the 51,500 acre-feet analyzed in the RRII FSES for these contracts, leaving 16,373 ac-ft available for water contracting (Kinsey 2011).

Rifle is located in Garfield County on the western slope of Colorado. The area has experienced significant growth within the past few years and expects to see continued growth into the foreseeable future. For the proposed contract, Rifle would utilize its existing diversion structure and intake, which was constructed in 2006. FIGURE 3 shows the location of the existing diversion point and intake structure located along the Colorado River east of Rifle. No additional construction would be necessary for Rifle to utilize the additional water which would be made available by the proposed contract.

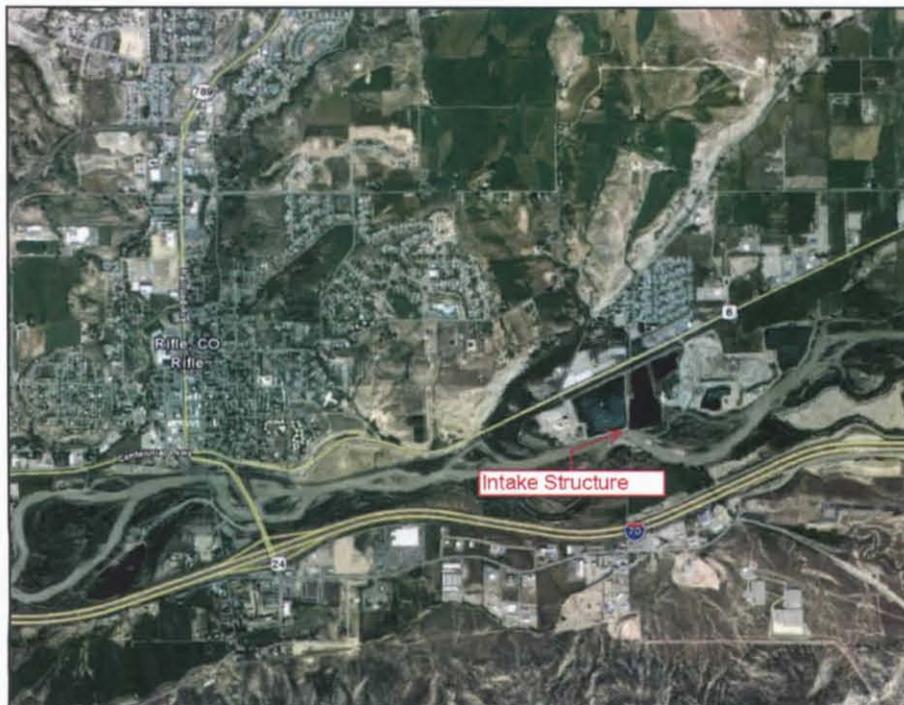


FIGURE 3.0 Location of Intake Structure

5.1 Area of Potential Effect

The area of potential effect upon which the EA has been completed encompasses Ruedi Reservoir to the proposed water delivery site (as shown in Figure 3) and below on the Colorado River to the state line. This includes Ruedi Reservoir, the Fryingpan River, the Roaring Fork River from the confluence with the Fryingpan, and the Colorado River from the confluence with the Roaring Fork River to the Colorado state line (See Figure 2). Impacts in these areas were extrapolated from analyses completed in the RRII FSES, Programmatic Biological Opinion regarding endangered fish species in the Upper Colorado River Basin (PBO), and/or the Ruedi Reservoir 2012 Agreement Final Environmental Assessment (2012 Agreement; USDI 2002), as well as site specific analyses. It should be noted that the amount of water involved in the Proposed Action (200 ac-ft) is less than one half of one percent (0.4 percent) of the 51,500 ac-ft analyzed for water contracts and fish recovery releases in the RRII FSES and leads to an assumption that issuance of the proposed contract would not approach, let alone exceed, the environmental impacts discussed in the aforementioned documents.

6.0 Environmental Consequences

This section discloses the environmental consequences associated with implementing the Proposed Action Alternative. Resources evaluated in this chapter include air quality, noise, transportation, floodplains, wetlands, farmlands, noxious weeds, cultural resources, hydrology, recreation, threatened and endangered species, and environmental justice.

The No Action Alternative represents what would occur without the implementation of the proposed contract. It provides a basis of comparison to evaluate the level of impact caused by the Proposed Action Alternative. Direct, indirect, and cumulative effects were analyzed for each resource.

Intensity of the effect describes the degree, level, or strength of an effect.

- No effect: no discernable effect.
- Negligible: effect is at the lowest level of detection and causes very little or no disturbance.
- Minor: effect is slight, but detectable, with some perceptible effects of disturbance.
- Moderate: effect is readily apparent and has measurable effects of disturbance.
- Major: effect is readily apparent and has significant effects of disturbance.

Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions considered for Cumulative Effects

Cumulative effects were assessed in terms of how the alternatives would add to the past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future activities within the analysis area. Existing conditions represent the effects of past and present activities. Several reasonably foreseeable actions are anticipated to occur in the future regardless of whether the Proposed Action is implemented or not (see Table 2). Because the Proposed Action involves no land-disturbing activities or new infrastructure, reasonably foreseeable future actions considered were focused on water-based actions in the vicinity of the analysis area.

All of the following reasonably foreseeable, water-based actions were considered in the evaluation of cumulative effects. However, as stated in Section 5.1, the Proposed Action involving 200 ac-ft is a very small amount of water compared to the 51,500 ac-ft analyzed in the RRII FSES.

TABLE 2.0 Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions

Action	Description
City of Rifle Water Treatment Plant	Rifle is planning on construction of a new regional water treatment facility to replace an aging, non-compliant, existing facility.
10825 Project-Colorado River Recovery Program	Reclamation is proposing to complete up to four contracting actions that would allow releases of 10,825 acre-feet per year (ac-ft/yr) of water to benefit endangered fish species habitat as part of the east and west slope water users commitment in the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program.
The Orchard Mesa Irrigation District (OMID)	The OMID is a major supplier of irrigation water in the Grand Valley area, located just east of Grand Junction. Reduced OMID irrigation diversions will be replaced with increased utilization of the Grand Valley Power Plant and associated water rights.

6.1 Wetlands, Floodplains, Vegetation, Prime Farmlands, and Air Quality

Neither the Proposed Action nor the No Action alternative involves construction activities or other on-the-ground changes. The Proposed Action Alternative would not include any ground disturbance at the diversion structure, as all necessary infrastructure is existing and has the capacity to accommodate the additional proposed contract water. There would not be any dredging, filling, or other disturbance to any wetlands, floodplains, or rivers within the analysis area due to the proposed action. Since there would be no ground disturbance, there would be no potential to introduce noxious weeds or other non-native invasive species from construction activities. There would be no effects to prime farmlands. There would also be no activities which would affect air quality. Since there would be no direct or indirect effects on these resources, there would be no additional cumulative impacts as a result of either alternative.

6.2 Cultural Resources

On August 24, 1998, Reclamation, the Colorado State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation signed a Programmatic Agreement under 36 CFR, 800.13 (51 FR 31118, 9/2/86) on the Ruedi Reservoir and Green Mountain Reservoir water marketing programs. The programmatic agreement defines the Area of Potential Effect for this contract as the area from the point of diversion to the water treatment facility. Rifle has already constructed and maintains the diversion and associated structures associated with this use and no new construction is proposed as part of this action. This proposed contract would not constitute an undertaking as defined in 36 CFR, 800.2 (51 FR 31118, 9/2/86) because within the Area of Potential Effect as defined in the above programmatic agreement, no construction would be necessary to use the contracted water, so there would be no change in the character of use of historic properties as a result of the contract. Therefore, the Proposed Action is not considered an undertaking under the Programmatic Agreement and does not require further review or coordination with the SHPO. This was determined by the Area Office Archeologist and acknowledged by SHPO (Appendix A).

6.3 Indian Trust Assets

Indian trust assets are legal interests in property held in trust by the United States for Indian tribes or individuals. The United States has a responsibility to protect and maintain rights reserved by or granted to Indian tribes or Indian individuals by treaties, statutes, and Executive Orders, which are sometimes further interpreted through court decisions and regulations. This trust responsibility requires Reclamation to take all actions reasonable and necessary to protect trust assets. No Indian-owned lands, federally-recognized Indian reservation, or ceded lands have been identified within the project area where traditional use rights are retained by a federally-recognized Indian tribe; therefore, no Indian trust assets would be affected by implementation of either alternative. Since there would be no direct or indirect effects, there would be no additional cumulative impacts to Indian Trust Assets expected from either alternative.

6.4 Hydrology

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no changes to the Ruedi Reservoir storage levels or the Fryingpan and Roaring Fork River flows as a result of a new water repayment contract for 200 ac-ft. Storage level and flows would continue to fluctuate as they have historically as a result of yearly precipitation variations, previously established water contracts, and/or regulation according to the CWCB's minimum instream flows and the Operating Principles. The No Action Alternative would have no direct or indirect impacts to hydrology, including Ruedi operations. Therefore, there would be no additional cumulative impacts from the No Action Alternative.

Under the Proposed Action, the town of Rifle plans to use an additional 200 ac-ft of Ruedi Reservoir contract water to augment out-of-priority municipal diversions from the Colorado River. Table 3 shows the proposed diversions and associated releases and their effects. The proposed releases, as part of Ruedi operations, have the potential to impact Ruedi Reservoir storage levels and the Fryingpan and Roaring Fork river flows.

TABLE 3.0 CHANGES OF PROPOSED RELEASES ON THE FRYINGPAN, ROARINGFORK, AND COLORADO RIVERS' FLOWS

Month	Estimate of Monthly Diversions (ac-ft)	Estimate of Daily Release (cfs)	Fryingpan River Average Daily Discharge (cfs) from 1968-2010*	Flow Change (%)	Roaring Fork River Daily Discharge (cfs)*	Flow Change (%)	Colorado River below Glenwood Daily Discharge (cfs)*	Flow Change (%)
January	1	0.01626345	120	0.014%	490	0.003%	1460	0.001%
February	1	0.01626345	125	0.013%	463	0.004%	1440	0.001%
March	1.4	0.02276883	134	0.017%	524	0.004%	1670	0.001%
April	2.5	0.040658624	155	0.026%	838	0.005%	2670	0.002%
May	3.6	0.058548419	256	0.023%	2270	0.003%	6910	0.001%
June	55.8	0.907500492	341	0.266%	3910	0.023%	9930	0.009%
July	72.1	1.172594721	252	0.465%	2210	0.053%	5280	0.022%
August	56	0.910753181	190	0.479%	971	0.094%	2810	0.032%
September	2.8	0.045537659	169	0.027%	739	0.006%	2280	0.002%
October	1.8	0.029274209	149	0.020%	729	0.004%	2120	0.001%
November	1	0.01626345	115	0.014%	651	0.002%	1840	0.001%
December	1	0.01626345	122	0.013%	551	0.003%	1550	0.001%

* United States Geological Survey (USGS 2011) National Water Information System.

The Proposed Action is expected to cause negligible effects to flow on the Fryingpan, Roaring Fork, and Colorado Rivers. The average flow changes for the Fryingpan, Roaring Fork, and Colorado rivers respectively are 0.12 percent, 0.01 percent, and 0.006 percent. The greatest flow change expected is no greater than 0.48 percent, 0.09 percent, and 0.03 percent respectively during the August time period and these would be beneficially adding water to the system during the time of year when flows are starting to decrease. The Proposed Action is also expected to cause negligible hydrologic changes to the Ruedi Reservoir water level. At no point would resulting changes to the Ruedi Reservoir storage level be outside of the limits or even close to what was described and analyzed in the RRII FSES or result in violation of minimum instream flow targets as described in the Operating Principles. Therefore, the difference in effects of contracting the relatively small volume of water included in the Proposed Action compared with conditions expected if the contract was not awarded are considered to be negligible on the resultant flows and reservoir level.

Since there would be negligible direct and indirect effects on flows and reservoir level, the additional cumulative impacts for hydrology are also expected to be negligible. The effects of Ruedi Reservoir releases gradually diminish down to un-measurable amounts in the downstream river reaches. Therefore, the Roaring Fork and Colorado Rivers respectively bear progressively less impacts as the distance from Ruedi Reservoir increases. The RRII FSES found that there would not be significant cumulative impacts to any area along the Colorado River due to the fact that maximum changes in water releases from Ruedi would be a very small percentage of average Colorado River flows (less than 1 percent). The Proposed Action is in turn a small percentage of what was analyzed in the RRII FSES (less than one half of 1 percent).

See the threatened and endangered species discussion below for information concerning downstream impacts to the “15-Mile Reach” of the Colorado River.

6.5 Recreation

The Colorado River Basin is growing in population and recreation opportunities on Ruedi Reservoir and the Fryingpan, Roaring Fork, and Colorado rivers are abundant and heavily used by the public. Recreation usage is influenced by water levels in Ruedi Reservoir and the streamflows below it.

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no changes to the Ruedi Reservoir storage levels or the Fryingpan and Roaring Fork River flows as a result of a new water repayment contract for 200 ac-ft. Storage level and flows would continue to fluctuate as they have historically as a result of yearly precipitation variations, previously established water contracts, and/or regulation according to the CWCB’s minimum instream flows and the Operating Principles. This alternative would have no direct or indirect impacts to recreation, including Ruedi operations. Therefore, there would be no additional cumulative impacts from the No Action Alternative.

The amount of maximum water releases out of Ruedi to augment the diversions of the Proposed Action is anticipated to have negligible beneficial impacts to recreation and associated tourism. As stated earlier, the Proposed Action is expected to cause negligible changes to flows on the Fryingpan, Roaring Fork, and Colorado rivers and to the Ruedi Reservoir water level. At no point would changes to the Ruedi Reservoir storage level be outside of the limits, or even close to, what was described and analyzed in the RRII FSES. Therefore, the difference in effects of contracting the relatively small volume of water included in the Proposed Action compared with conditions expected if the contract was not awarded are considered to be negligible on recreation in Ruedi Reservoir and the Fryingpan, Roaring Fork, and Colorado rivers below.

Since there would be negligible direct or indirect effects for recreation, any additional cumulative effects are also expected to be negligible. Recreation usage is influenced by water levels in Ruedi and the streamflows below it. The RRII FSES analyzed the cumulative effects on recreation from release of a total of 51,500 ac-ft of water. Since the Proposed Action is a small fraction of what was evaluated in the RRII FSES, which found only minor impacts to recreational fisheries, it would not be expected to result in cumulative impacts to recreation greater than or even approaching those presented in the RRII FSES.

6.6 Threatened and Endangered Species

On December 20, 1999, the Fish and Wildlife Service issued a Programmatic Biological Opinion (PBO) on the Bureau of Reclamation's Operations and Depletions, Other Depletions, and Funding and Implementation of Recovery Program Actions in the Upper Colorado River above the Gunnison River. The endangered fish species information presented here in summary can be found in detail in the PBO issued to Reclamation in 1999 identifying mitigation measures and elements to allow future development of water by users in the Colorado River Basin and the 2012 Agreement. On January 19, 2000, the Great Plains Region of the Bureau of Reclamation accepted the PBO and agreed to implement the proposed action as described in the PBO. The PBO considered the effects of a comprehensive list of actions to be implemented and funded by the recipients of the PBO, including continuation of Ruedi repayment contracts. Therefore, the depletion effects of this proposed contract were mitigated in the PBO. The PBO determined that actions of this nature "may affect" the endangered Colorado pike minnow (squawfish), humpback chub, bonytail, and razorback sucker (the four listed fish species) and their critical habitat, but were "not likely to jeopardize" the continued existence, or destroy or adversely modify the designated critical habitat of these species. This "may affect, not likely to jeopardize" determination was for implementation of the recovery program and the depletion effects. No further Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultation is required for the proposed contract regarding the endangered Colorado River fishes because continuation of Ruedi contracting was part of the Proposed Action considered in the PBO.

Under the No Action Alternative, Reclamation would continue to provide water annually to the 15-Mile Reach as specified in the PBO and 2012 Agreement. Therefore, this alternative would be projected to have no impact to the endangered fish of the Colorado River Basin.

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, to satisfy the site-specific NEPA requirement as described in the RRII FSES, information and analysis on other threatened or endangered species is included here. There is no designated critical habitat for any federally endangered or threatened species not covered in the PBO, in Garfield County, including Canada lynx, Colorado hookless cactus, Mexican spotted owl, Greenback Cutthroat trout, and Ute ladies-tresses orchid (USFWS, 2011). No ground disturbing activities would be necessary to use the contracted water, so there would be no change in the habitat or prey of any of these species as a result of the contract. Therefore, it is expected that there would be no impacts to any threatened or endangered species not covered in the PBO as a result of the issuance of the proposed contract.

The RRII FSES analyzed the cumulative effects of water depletions on the Colorado River from all anticipated water sales and provided mitigation obligations in the form of in-stream flow requirements for the Fryingpan River. In addition, conservation measures to offset impacts on threatened and endangered species are included in the 1999 Upper Colorado River Programmatic Biological Opinion. Cumulative federal and non-federal depletions to the 15-Mile Reach "may affect, but are not likely to jeopardize" the endangered fishes and their critical habitats, provided the federal action identified in the PBO is carried out as described in the PBO. Therefore, the Proposed

Action would not be expected to result in any additional cumulative impacts to threatened or endangered species different than those presented in the PBO.

6.7 Environmental Justice

As required by Executive Order 12898, General Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, "each Federal agency shall make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations." Residents within and surrounding the area of potential effect are not disproportionately minority or low-income (BEA, 2011).

Under the No Action Alternative, Reclamation would not issue the water repayment contract and Rifle would not be allowed to use additional Ruedi water for augmentation. In the absence of another contract with Reclamation, Rifle would need to look for other sources of water to augment the out-of-priority depletions; otherwise it may not be able to meet future needs. This could potentially have a negative effect on the residents within and surrounding Rifle. However, as noted above, the Bureau of Economic Analysis statistics document that residents in this area are not disproportionately minority or low-income, so it would not necessarily be a violation of EO12898.

Under the proposed action, the issuance of the proposed contract is expected to have a negligible effect on recreation and thus the associated tourism industry and economy. Corresponding socioeconomic effects on indicators such as household income should also be negligible. Therefore, the Proposed Action would not have disproportionately high or adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations.

7.0 Scoping Process

The RRII FSES contains an obligation to implement coordination and consultation of site-specific NEPA compliance with Federal and state agencies concerned. Internal scoping was conducted in March 2011 and it was determined that no additional scoping specific to the proposed contracts would be needed beyond what is listed in Section 8.0 below. Factors influencing the decision include the small amount of contract water involved (200 ac-ft), the fact that the proposed contract water would be augmented with Ruedi water, and that the impacts of the release of this water would not approach the amounts disclosed in the RRII FSES.

8.0 List of Agencies and Persons Consulted

8.1 State Agencies

Colorado State Historic Preservation Office

8.2 Local Government

City of Rifle, Colorado (Utilities Department)

9.0 PREPARERS

TABLE 4.0 LIST OF RECLAMATION PREPARERS

Name	Title	Contribution
Lamb, Kara	Public Information Specialist	Public and agency involvement and notification
Meyer, Timothy	Natural Resources Supervisor	Environmental compliance guidance and document review
Mollard, Belinda	Archeologist	Cultural resource compliance
Thomasson, Ron	Hydraulic Engineer	Water scheduling consideration
Tully, Will	Environmental Specialist	Environmental compliance guidance and document review
Wheatley, Laura	Natural Resource Specialist	Project management for environmental compliance and document production.

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11.0 Appendix A - Cultural Resources



HISTORY  Colorado

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April 1, 2011

Carlie Ronca
 Chief, Resources Division
 Bureau of Reclamation
 Great Plains Region
 Eastern Colorado Area Office
 11056 West County Road 18E
 Loveland, Colorado 80537-9711

Re: Water Contract to Supply Water from Ruedi Reservoir to the Town of Rifle, Colorado (CHS #26702)

Dear Ms. Ronca:

Thank you for your correspondence dated March 7, 2011 (received by our office on March 10, 2011) regarding the subject project.

Following our review of the documentation provided, we concur that a finding of **no historic properties affected** is appropriate for the activities proposed.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If we may be of further assistance please contact Shina duVall, Section 106 Compliance Manager, at (303) 866-4674 or shina.duvall@chs.state.co.us.

Sincerely,

Richard H. Williams, for

Edward C. Nichols
 State Historic Preservation Officer
 ECN/SAD

THE COLORADO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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