

**Intake Diversion Dam Modification Lower Yellowstone Project
Draft Environmental Assessment
Notes from Public Meeting in Glendive, MT
February 24, 2010**

The following questions/comments were received from members of the public who attended the public meeting on the Intake Diversion Dam Modification Lower Yellowstone Project, Draft Environmental Assessment (EA). This meeting was hosted by the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

- Request to validate and update the O&M cost estimates included in the draft EA.
- Need to revisit the numbers used in the economic impact analysis on irrigators.
 - Could funding for the project be used for O&M purposes?
 - Expenses for irrigators have increased.
- What is the cost of the screens and how reliable are they?
- How will we prevent debris damage?
- Relocate main channel alternative results in increased flooding.
- Impact of seasonal tributaries (spring runoff).
- What will happen during ice flow to the bollards? Will ice jamming at the bollards cause flooding?
- Ice flow concentrates on the left bank so will the bollards act as jetties?
- Will there be provisions during the construction process to reduce impacts to the paddlefish season?
- Have we considered the impacts and issues that could result from the silts and debris during spring flooding?
- Silty muddy water may cause trouble with parts of the screens and headworks.
- How do the screens handle algae?
- Where does debris go that is cleaned off the screens?
- Currently during low flows rock is added to the diversion dam. Will the current design of the rock ramp alternative be able to deliver the full volume of irrigation water during low flow?
- When the river gets really low who get the water right?
- How did we determine this project would benefit the pallid sturgeon?
- How many pallid sturgeons are moving in the Yellowstone River up to Intake?
- If pallid sturgeons are stocked above Intake and they reproduce why do we need them to move upstream and downstream?
- Paddlefishery concerns:

- The construction season will be as brief as possible therefore it will be going on during the paddlefish season.
 - Does environmental justice apply to those who are affected if there are changes to the paddlefish caviar industry such as the community of Glendive and others?
 - Who pays for lost income to the community from loss of paddlefish fishing opportunities?
 - The Intake FAS is the only spot they can collect the roe. This is directed by Montana state law.
 - Relocation of the boat ramp is a big impact to boaters. Will they be allowed to portage through the construction site?
- How much will the rock ramp raise the bottom of the river bed? Will this result in flooding of the camp ground during high flows?
- Downstream of the existing boat ramp is a gravel bar. Is there enough depth along the shore to relocate the boat ramp to that location?
- Can the bollards be put in front of the boat ramp to create backwater?
- Will alfalfa fields east of the campground flood because of a change in the stage of the river?
- There are septic and electrical facilities at the campground. Concerns about the campground flooding and who would be responsible to pay for these facilities if they area affected?
- Concern for contractor funded through the caviar industry. Would the loss of income be mitigated?
- Passage may improve for the paddlefish but not a benefit for the caviar industry. The roe does not last long so if they are harvested further from the collection area the roe will be lost.
- How will individuals be compensated for loss of farm income?
- If the project causes flooding how will people be compensated?
- If water doesn't get delivered to the farmers on time how will the District be compensated?
- Why don't the farmers on the Missouri River system where the impacts are occurring compensate the Intake Irrigation District for the increase in their O&M costs?
 - Since the Corps can't change the operation of the Missouri River dams they are working on the Intake Dam.
- Is the construction schedule realistic?
- Are the authorized funds sufficient to complete the entire project?
- Have other Missouri River projects been put on hold in order for the Intake project to move forward?
- Can archeology work be coordinated with the Glendive School for education benefits?
- Is there a possibility to get Glendive a hatchery for the pallid sturgeon?
- What happens to rocks that currently exist in the diversion dam?

- As part of the O&M of a new rock ramp, will rock need to be added? What will happen to the cable system?
- What are the mitigation options if there impacts to the caviar industry?
- What or is there a plan for mitigation for long-term flooding that may occur as a result of changes to the Intake project?
- How will the public know and be kept informed about what is going on?
- Could we incorporate other rock ramp information in the EA appendix?
- Will rock be hauled in and how, or will, this impact area roads?
- Did we consider impacts to bridges and load restrictions on local roads?
- Can the physical model of the proposed rock ramp simulate all the aspects of the natural environment?
- Can the physical model simulate the various high flow periods in the river?
- Can images of the physical model be shared?
- Who has the final authority to decide which option is picked?
- Is the new headgate going to be put in this September?
- Do local contractors have priority when contracts are available?

**Breakfast Meeting with Publics Interested in Recreation
Glendive, MT
February 25, 2010**

During the public meeting on the evening of 2/24/2010 members of the public had additional comments and questions relative to recreation impacts of the project. Anyone interested in further discussions were invited to a breakfast meeting on 2/25/2010. Attendees at the breakfast meeting included staff from Reclamation, Corps of Engineers, Glendive Chamber of Commerce, the Montana FW&P campground manager at the Intake FAS and a member of the general public. Below is a list of questions/concerns that were discussed at this meeting.

- The Glendive Chamber of Commerce would like to be better informed about what is going to happen at Intake and what is happening once construction of the project begins. The Chamber is a communication link with sportsmen and other community members and they want to be able to provide informed answers when questions are directed to them.
- Are Corps engineers aware of the existing jetties that the railroad has on the north side of the riverbank? How will/does the rock ramp design take these jetties into account?
- Will the height of the rock ramp affect potential water runoff in the spring or cause flooding of the campground? Sewer system and other campground improvements could be affected by flooding.

- Raising the riverbed will result in flooding of the campground and alfalfa fields.
- Can the rock ramp alternative be manipulated at the end to have water with enough velocity to scour the north shore to keep water there deep enough for a boat ramp?
- How do boaters navigate the new rock ramp?
- Are there plans for a temporary boat launching area during construction?
- Will the road improvements to access Joe's Island be temporary or permanent?
- Will boats still have access to the channel around Joe's Island during high water levels?
- Chapter 4 environmental commitment (pages 4-46 and 4-47), we need to add a statement about communicating with the community of Glendive so they can keep the public informed.
- Question – what is environmental justice and is this a way for potential impacts to the caviar industry to receive mitigation for potential losses? Reclamation explained the executive order for environmental justice is not applicable in this specific situation. Chamber's concern is that current state law specifies that roe can only be collected at Intake FAS so if this project changes the paddlefish distribution in the river, their collection site at Intake may be impacted. They are trying to work with state legislators to inform them of the possible changes and amend the state law to allow them collect roe at other areas along the Yellowstone River.
- What impacts will the construction phase of the project have on the roe collection?
- How will the historic properties at Intake be affected?
- Chamber of Commerce members had some suggestions to clarify minor editorial changes in the text of the draft EA (pages 3-38 and 3-40).
- During construction, will the current parking area at Intake FAS be affected?