



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Phoenix Area Office
6150 West Thunderbird Road
Glendale, Arizona 85306-4001



PXAO-1500

ENV-6.00

1 February 2010

MEMORANDUM

To: All Interested Persons, Organizations, and Agencies

From: Carol Lynn Erwin
Area Manager

Subject: Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for Lake Pleasant Regional Park (LPRP), Agua Fria Conservation Area (AFCA) Proposed Management Plan, Maricopa and Yavapai Counties, Arizona

The Bureau of Reclamation is issuing an EA on its proposed approval of an amendment to Maricopa County's Lake Pleasant Master Plan (LPMP) to include a proposed Management Plan for the AFCA. The AFCA is located in the northeastern portion of LPRP, in Yavapai and Maricopa Counties, Arizona. The AFCA contains about 2,405 acres; it was designated in the LPMP as a conservation area in recognition of the special assemblages of natural and cultural resources that occurred there.

The EA describes the existing affected environment and anticipated environmental impacts from implementing the proposed Management Plan. The Management Plan includes formal designation and use of Table Mesa Road within the AFCA as a low maintenance park road. Access within the AFCA on Table Mesa Road would be allowed for day use only on a seasonal basis (generally December through June) with the presence of park hosts. Boat ramp(s), parking, and rest rooms would be provided. Additional facilities to support these activities would be provided. In addition, "pack-it in; pack-it out" permit-only camping would be provided on the south/east of the Agua Fria River. Implementation of the Management Plan would occur in three phases, over the course of several years, as funding permits.

Based upon the EA, Reclamation has made a preliminary determination that Reclamation's approval of amending the LPMP to include the Management Plan and subsequent implementation of the Management Plan will not result in significant impacts, that a FONSI is appropriate, and an environmental impact statement does not need to be prepared. The EA and a draft FONSI are available for public review on Reclamation's Phoenix Area Office Web site, www.usbr.gov/lc/phoenix. A hard copy or CD version of the EA may be obtained by calling the Environmental Resource Management Division at 623-773-6251, or by emailing rkonst@lc.usbr.gov.

We will consider all comments on both the EA and the draft FONSI prior to making a final decision regarding the proposed transfer. To be most helpful, comments should be as specific as possible. Please mail your comments to Ms. Sandra Eto, Environmental Resource Management Division, at the above address, Attention: PXAO-1500, via electronic mail to seto@usbr.gov, or send to faxogram 623-773-6486, no later than February 26, 2010. Before including your name, 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 be made publicly 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.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Eto of the Environmental Resource Management Division at 623-773-6254. Thank you for your interest in this project.