

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Planning for the Future at the New Melones Lake Area

| RMP/EIS TIMELINE |
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| Notice of Intent published in the Federal Register December 18, 2006 |
| Public Scoping Period December 18, 2006, to February 16, 2007 Comment Period extended to March 19, 2007 |
| Public Scoping Meetings January 29, 30, and 31, 2007 |
| Scoping Summary Report available Spring 2007 |
| Alternatives Workshops September 28 and 29, 2007 |
| Revised Alternatives and Prepared Draft Chapters 1-3 November 2007-August 2008 |
| Draft Alternatives Chapter 1-3 available for public review August 2008-September 2008 |
| Public Open Houses on Draft Chapters 1-3 September 4 and 5, 2008 |
| Revise Chapters 1-3 and prepare Draft RMP/EIS October 2008-August 2009 |
| Draft RMP/EIS available for public review October 2009-January 2010 |
| Public Open Houses on Draft RMP/EIS December 2, 2009 |
| Prepare Final RMP/EIS January/February 2010 |
| 30-day public review for Final RMP/EIS February/March 2010 |
| Record of Decision and approved RMP/EIS March/April 2010 |
| <i>Shading indicates steps complete. Subsequent project updates will be distributed throughout this planning process. Schedule is subject to change.</i> |

The Bureau of Reclamation is preparing an integrated Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS) for the New Melones Lake Area. New Melones Lake is managed by the Central California Area Office, part of Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Region.

The RMP/EIS will evaluate current and future resource conditions and analyze whether updated or new management actions are needed. These management actions include public health and safety, recreational and land use, traffic and transportation, cultural and archeological resources, and sensitive species and habitats. All actions will be incorporated into a single document to guide the management of natural, cultural, and recreational resources at the lake.



Where Are We In The RMP/EIS Process?

During winter 2006/2007, Reclamation solicited input from the public and cooperating agencies regarding the RMP/EIS through a formal scoping process. At two workshops held in fall 2007, Reclamation collected additional public and cooperating agency input, and these suggestions and concerns were considered as we began to develop the range of draft alternatives for the RMP/EIS. A Visitor Use Survey and Water Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (WROS) inventory were completed and used in drafting Chapters 1 through 3 of the RMP/EIS. We then held Public Open Houses on September 4 and 5, 2008, to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the RMP/EIS draft chapters. Reclamation has now scheduled two Public Open Houses on December 2, 2009 (one in the afternoon and one in the evening), to give the public an opportunity to provide comments on the RMP/EIS directly to Reclamation.

October 2009

RMP Content And Alternatives

The purpose of the RMP is to establish a conceptual plan detailing the management framework for the conservation, protection, enhancement, development, and use of the physical and biological resources in the New Melones Lake Area.

The RMP proposes new management areas for the New Melones Lake Area to reflect updated information, current use, and potential future management actions. Four alternatives were developed to address the planning issues determined in previous scoping meetings:

- A. No Action: Continues current management.
- B. Increased Use: Emphasizes development of recreational resources and increased visitation while protecting natural and cultural resources as required by law.
- C. Conservation: Emphasizes active management of natural and cultural resources and less intensive recreation use.
- D. Multiple Use: Balances accommodating projected increased visitor use and demand with the need to enhance and conserve natural and cultural resources.



Reclamation Mission Statement

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

Water Information

Reclamation is the largest wholesale water supplier and the second largest producer of hydroelectric power in the United States, with operations and facilities in the 17 Western States. Its facilities also provide substantial flood control, recreation, and fish and wildlife benefits.

Mark Your Calendars

The New Melones Lake Area Draft RMP/EIS was released on October 30, 2009, for public review. Please send your comments on the Proposed Action Alternative by Monday, January 4, 2010, to Melissa Brockman Vignau (see contact information below).

Please Join Us

Public Open Houses

New Melones Lake Visitor Center

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

First meeting: 1-4 p.m. -or-

Second meeting: 6-9 p.m.

For Additional Information

For more information on the Draft RMP/EIS Open Houses, please visit the project website:

<http://www.usbr.gov/mp/cao/newmelones/rmp.html>

Contact Information

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