

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Pyramid Lake Watercraft Inspection Station

Finding of No Significant Impact

FONSI No. LO-2014-1035

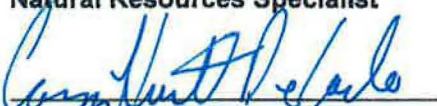
Prepared by:



Selena J. Weldon
Natural Resources Specialist

Date: 6/9/16

Recommended by:



Caryn Hunt DeCarlo
Desert Terminal Lakes Program Manager

Date: 6/9/16

Approved by:



Terri A. Edwards
Area Manager

Date: 6/10/16



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Lahontan Basin Area Office
705 North Plaza Street, Suite 320
Carson City, Nevada 89701

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INTRODUCTION

The Pyramid Lake Reservation (Reservation) for the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe covers 476,728 acres in Nevada and includes Pyramid Lake and the lower Truckee River. Pyramid Lake is 350 feet deep, 15 miles long, 11 miles wide and has a surface area of approximately 112,000 acres. Pyramid Lake and the Truckee River are habitat for Lahontan cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii henshawi*) and cui-ui (*Chasmistes cujus*), which are both listed under the Endangered Species Act. These fish are important to the culture of the Pyramid Lake Paiute People, and fishing, boating and other recreational activities by the public at Pyramid Lake contribute significantly to the Tribe's economy. Anaho Island National Wildlife Refuge is located in Pyramid Lake and is managed for colonial nesting and migratory birds. The island supports one of the largest American white pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) breeding colonies in the western United States.

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are aquatic organisms that invade ecosystems beyond their natural, historical range. Their presence may harm native ecosystems or commercial, agricultural, and recreational activities dependent on these ecosystems. AIS of greatest concern to the Tribe are quagga mussels (*Dreissena rostriformis bugensis*) and zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*). New Zealand mudsnails (*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*), curly-leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*), Eurasian water milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), and Asian clams (*Corbicula fluminea*) are AIS already established upstream in Lake Tahoe and/or the Truckee River. The Tribe has developed an AIS management plan, issued regulations for watercraft inspection and decontamination, and implemented measures to inform Pyramid Lake's recreational user groups about AIS.

PROPOSED ACTION

The Proposed Action would authorize Pyramid Lake Fisheries to use National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) sub-grant funding to construct a permanent watercraft inspection and decontamination station for AIS on the Reservation at Sutcliffe, Nevada. The source of the original funding to NFWF is Reclamation's Desert Terminal Lakes Program (P.L. 107-171, as amended by P.L. 110-246, Section 2807; P.L. 111-85, Section 207; and P.L. 112-74, Title II, Division B, Section 208(a)). Recreational use permit fees would fund the Tribe's long-term costs of station operation.

FINDINGS

Based on the attached Environmental Assessment (EA), Reclamation finds that the Proposed Action is not a major Federal action that will significantly affect the quality of the human environment. The attached EA describes the existing environmental resources in the Proposed Action area and evaluates the effects of the Proposed Action and No Action Alternative on those resources. The EA was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 United States Code 4321-4347), Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing the procedural requirements of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR]

1500–1508), and Department of the Interior NEPA regulations (43 CFR Part 46). The analysis provided in the attached EA is incorporated by reference.

Following are the reasons why the impacts of the Proposed Action are not significant:

1. The Proposed Action will not significantly affect public health or safety (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(3)).
2. The Proposed Action will not significantly impact natural resources and unique geographical characteristics such as historic or cultural resources; parks, recreation, and refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order (EO) 11990); floodplains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(3) and 43 CFR 46.215(b)).
3. The Proposed Action will not have possible effects on the human environment that are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(5)).
4. The Proposed Action will neither establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects nor represent a decision in principle about a future consideration (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(6)).
5. There is no potential for the effects to be considered highly controversial (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(4)).
6. The Proposed Action will not have significant cumulative impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)).
7. The Proposed Action has no potential to affect historic properties (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(8)).
8. The Proposed Action will not impact listed or proposed threatened or endangered species or critical habitat (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(9)).
9. The Proposed Action will not violate federal, state, tribal, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(10)).
10. The Proposed Action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets (512 Departmental Manual (DM) 2, Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993).
11. The Proposed Action will not limit access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian Sacred Sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sites (EO 13007 and 512 DM 3).
12. Implementing the Proposed Action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities (EO 12898).