

Odessa Subarea Special Study

Environmental Impact Statement

SCOPING SUMMARY REPORT

Columbia Basin Project, Washington



**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Pacific Northwest Region
Upper Columbia Area Office
Yakima, Washington**



**State of Washington
Department of Ecology
Central Regional Office
Yakima, Washington**

November 2008

Mission Statements

The Mission of the Department of the Interior is to protect and provide access to our Nation's natural and cultural heritage and honor our trust responsibilities to Indian Tribes and our commitments to island communities.

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.

The mission of the Department of Ecology is to protect, preserve and enhance Washington's environment, and promote the wise management of our air, land and water for the benefit of current and future generations.

Odessa Subarea Special Study

Environmental Impact Statement

SCOPING SUMMARY REPORT

Columbia Basin Project, Washington



**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Pacific Northwest Region
Upper Columbia Area Office
Yakima, Washington**



**State of Washington
Department of Ecology
Central Regional Office
Yakima, Washington**

November 2008

Table of Contents

	<i>Page</i>
Introduction	1
Background	1
Scoping Process	2
Scoping Summary	5
Purpose and Need	5
Alternatives	5
No Action Alternative.....	5
Action Alternatives	5
Water Supply Options.....	7
Other Suggested Water Supply Options	8
Water Supply	9
Groundwater (Aquifer)	9
Water Rights	10
Water Quality.....	10
Hydropower Resources.....	11
Climate Change.....	11
Vegetation.....	11
Fish	12
Wildlife	13
Land and Shoreline Use	14
Irrigation and Agriculture	14
Visual Resources / Aesthetics.....	14
Recreation	15
Human Health	15
Social and Economic Issues and Analyses	16
Cumulative Impacts	17
Other Issues and Concerns.....	18
Attachments	
Notice of Intent	
Determination of Significance	
Study Update	
News Releases	
Meeting Handouts	

Introduction

This document serves as the scoping report for the environmental impact statement (EIS) to be prepared by the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the State of Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) for the Odessa Subarea Special Study (Study). The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the major comments and issues provided as part of the scoping process.

Background

The Odessa Subarea Special Study is an investigation of continued phased development of the Columbia Basin Project to provide a replacement surface water supply for current groundwater irrigation occurring in the Odessa Groundwater Management Subarea. An estimated 170,000 acres within the Odessa Subarea are now being irrigated with groundwater; an estimated 140,000 of these acres are eligible to receive Columbia Basin Project surface water. Ecology is participating in the Study to provide support for State and local agency permit decisions that may be necessary to implement a selected alternative.

The purpose of the Odessa Subarea Special Study is to evaluate alternatives to replace current groundwater irrigation in the Odessa Subarea with Columbia Basin Project water. The Study is needed to fulfill the obligation Reclamation made in a Memorandum of Agreement between the State of Washington and the Columbia Basin Project irrigation districts in December 2004 to cooperatively explore opportunities for delivery of Columbia Basin Project water to existing groundwater-irrigated lands within the Odessa Subarea.

Action, if taken, would avoid significant economic loss in the near term to the region's agricultural sector resulting from resource conditions associated with continued decline of the aquifers in the Odessa Subarea. Groundwater is currently being depleted to such an extent that water must be pumped from depths as great as 750 feet in some areas, with well depths as great as 2,100–2,400 feet deep. Well drilling and pumping costs have resulted in expensive power costs and poor water quality due to high water temperatures and high sodium concentrations.

The proposed alternatives currently identified are as follows:

- No Action Alternative
- East Low/East High Alternative: Enlarge and extend existing East Low Canal south of Interstate 90 (I-90) and construct a new East High Canal system north of I-90 in phases; and
- East Low Alternative: Enlarge and extend existing East Low Canal south of I-90.

Additional information about the Study is available at http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/ucao_misc/odessa/index.html.

Scoping Process

Scoping is an essential part of public involvement; public involvement is a process for including interested and affected individuals, organizations, agencies, and governmental agencies in an agency's decisionmaking process. Scoping is a term used for the process of seeking comments and public information to identify the significant issues related to a proposal.

The scoping process for this study was initiated in August 2008. A Federal Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS and to conduct public scoping meetings was published in the *Federal Register* on August 21, 2008. Also on August 21, 2008, Ecology issued a Determination of Significance and a request for comments on the scope of the EIS. Additionally, on August 21, 2008, Reclamation sent an e-mail message to 190 mailing list recipients announcing the Study Update was available on the Study Web site (<http://www.usbr.gov/pn>).

On August 25, 2008, Ecology provided notice of the meeting to subscribers of its e-mail list for the Columbia River Basin Water Management Program. On August 26, 2008, Reclamation mailed copies of the Study Update to 243 mailing list recipients. Reclamation issued a news release to local media on September 2, 2008. Ecology provided a reminder notice on September 4, 2008, to subscribers of its E-Mail Lists, including those for the Columbia River Basin Water Management Program and the Reclamation Yakima Water Storage Feasibility Study.

Reclamation and Ecology hosted two evening public scoping meetings, one at the Town of Coulee Dam Town Hall, Coulee Dam, Washington, on September 10, 2008, and one at the Advanced Technologies Education Center, Big Bend

Community College, Moses Lake, Washington, on September 11, 2008. About 55 people attended the two scoping meetings. At the public meetings, Reclamation and Ecology presented the proposed alternatives, provided an overview of the NEPA/SEPA process, and provided opportunities for the public to identify issues and concerns associated with the proposed project.

The Notice of Intent, Determination of Significance, Study Update, and news releases are attached to this document, along with handouts from the public scoping meetings.

In addition to comments received at the scoping meetings, written comments were accepted through September 19, 2008. Including those from the scoping meetings, 33 written comment documents were received. The documents included two requests to be added to the mailing list with no comments and one requesting removal from the mailing list for this study. The comments ranged from brief comments or questions to detailed statements

The comments received will be used to assist in the following:

- Identifying the significant issues relevant to the proposed action
- Identifying those elements of the environment that could be affected by the proposed action
- Formulating alternatives for the proposed action
- Determining the appropriate environmental documents to be prepared

All comments received during the scoping process dealing with issues, concerns, and potential impacts will be considered by Reclamation and Ecology in the preparation of the draft EIS. Additional issues will also be considered as they arise.

Scoping Summary

This section identifies the major comments and issues provided to Reclamation and Ecology as part of the scoping process.

Purpose and Need

- Studying this problem in isolation from the rest of the river may ultimately be a mistake. The Department of Ecology is considering other factors and options to effect other changes that could at the same time possibly address the Odessa shortage through the water budget process.
- It may be that the task Ecology has asked the Bureau to accomplish is too narrow in scope. Thinking bigger may solve more problems and use taxpayer dollars more efficiently. We would hate to see the ruination of our regional tourism economy come about as a result of a piecemeal solution, the funding for which is likely to remain a large political question mark for years to come.
- The EIS should reflect not only the purpose and need of the irrigators but also the Tribal needs and the public need for water quality.

Alternatives

No Action Alternative

- Risks the loss of irrigated acres and will exacerbate the declining Odessa aquifer by not addressing the problem.
- Farmers chose to drill deep wells, they were not forced to; the taxpayers shouldn't pay for their mistakes.
- The EIS should explore a modified No Action Alternative that encourages conversion of Odessa Subarea irrigated lands to dryland farming and conservation reserve; dryland farming makes more sense for the area.

Action Alternatives

- How, when, and by whom will the decision be made on where the first 30,000 acre-feet of drawdown water will be delivered inside the Odessa Subarea?

Scoping Summary Report

- Earlier options no longer under consideration were removed before we knew about them or could comment; we think they should be put back on the table.
- Consider gravity flow as opposed to pumping for East Low to avoid high power costs.
- Actively subsidizing the waste of a resource is the absolute, worst possible choice, and it's high time we change direction.
- There should be one or more scenarios for phasing implementation, e.g., consider the East Low Canal expansion in stages and then continue with the more costly areas later.
- Have hydropower stations been considered on the canal system as part of the development?
- Consider making more municipal and industrial contract water available through this process
- If canal development is phased, big to smaller pipelines are not reasonable; can't be used backwards to change flow direction.
- Phase development of areas north and south of I-90 to keep costs of repayment equal.
- To keep the costs for development of the alternatives at a reasonable level, maximize the use of existing project facilities.
- Make use of existing farm pipes to distribute around farms.
- Develop from existing East Low Canal first to avoid a new, open canal that will fragment areas.
- Bring water to farm boundary instead of section corner.
- Maintenance of steel pipelines may be a problem.
- Consider alternative to finance drip irrigation systems, install metering, and revamp water regulations to encourage thrift.
- The East Low/East High Alternative appears to resolve the aquifer problem the most by bringing water to the largest number of acres currently being irrigated by deep wells

- Perhaps it would be best to develop more now rather than wait and have costs increase; may be affordable now, but not in future.
- Are there adequate wasteways to handle pump rejection along East Low Canal?
- What will happen to existing drainage in the East Low Canal?

Water Supply Options

- Do storage options equate to a “new water supply”?
- Clarify the source and withdrawal logistics for the water supply.
- When would the irrigation wells be decommissioned and who would pay for it?
- Drawing Banks Lake down will have adverse impacts to tourism, economics).
- Reclamation is authorized to operate Banks Lake as a reregulation reservoir with the intention of using the active storage for the Columbia Basin Project water supply and it should do so.
- Consider a Banks Lake drawdown of 7–8 feet which would provide at least 60–65 percent of the water needed and not be as devastating to the local areas.
- Why draw down Banks Lake in August which is height of tourist/recreation season?
- Will there be a minimum lake level? Is the minimum lake level negotiable?
- Banks Lake full pool elevation is 1,570 feet:
 - Operations below 1,565 feet could require modifications to launch and mooring docks.
 - Operations below 1,555 feet may inhibit navigation, create significant submerged hazards, and place most launches out of service.
 - Adapting to operations of 1,560 feet or less may require significant investment in open water docking systems.

Scoping Summary Report

- Any drawdown of Banks Lake during the months of October–June would adversely effect fish pen operations. What mitigation will be provided?
- Higher volumes of water through Banks Lake cause a severe current where the fish pens are located; this should be evaluated and mitigated.
- Limiting Banks Lake refill to an elevation of 1,564 feet until late February, then filling to, and holding at, an elevation of 1,570 feet through June 30 each year will allow for expansion of riparian species into the newly barren literal zone exposed by the drawdown. This action, along with aggressive structural enhancement, could help offset some of the vegetation loss.
- Consider refilling Banks Lake in December and January instead of September and October to minimize effects to reservoir productivity.
- Consider the costs to address drawdown related recreational issues on Banks Lake relative to the cost of the creation of additional storage.
- Drawing down Banks Lake could require numerous infrastructure changes at Coulee Playland Resort, including erosion control and damage recovery; reconfiguring moorage, fueling, launching, and pumpout facilities.

Other Suggested Water Supply Options

- Recommend placing storage reservoir south of Warden to better match delivery with demand.
- What about onfarm storage ponds to smooth out on-off pumping?
- Draw directly out of Columbia River instead of drawing down Banks Lake?
- Consider including municipal water reclamation (reclaimed water), specifically from Warden, Royal City, Ephrata, and Quincy, as an additional source of water that can be used to reduce demands on the Odessa Subarea Aquifer. Fully investigate how Reclamation’s storage and delivery systems can be used to help deliver reclaimed water to local farmers.
- Would it be possible to budget more water for Odessa, through Banks Lake, if Columbia water now budgeted for other downstream uses were stored for those uses in off-stream reservoirs, the original idea behind the Columbia River Initiative?

- Additional storage capacity sufficient for the entire Columbia Basin Project could come from constructing two dams on Banks Lake to create a lake within a lake.

Water Supply

- Describe and provide graphic presentation of changes in reservoir conditions (water elevation changes, inflow and outflow volume, water particle travel time, and temperature) throughout the calendar year for current operations and for each proposed operation scenario.
- Prepare a map of irrigation return flows and identify where and when those flows enter the Columbia River or other water bodies.
- Clarify whether the additional water placed into storage in order to facilitate delivery will be considered under the Columbia River Basin Water Management bill formula, or some other such formula, for distributing water to instream use.
- Describe timing and rate of any incremental releases from Grand Coulee Dam associated with each operational scenario and the potential impacts or benefits to downstream resources.
- Include a means for measuring instream flow impacts of the Odessa Subarea diversion over a wide range of water year conditions and identify mitigation measures.
- How will changes to the Columbia River Treaty and the resultant changes in the operation of Canadian Columbia River dams affect the water supply for this project, the flow in the Columbia River, the availability of water in Franklin D. Roosevelt Lake, and aquatic habitat and water quality impacts associated with depletion of flows?

Groundwater (Aquifer)

- Evaluate the effects of the No Action Alternative and action alternatives on groundwater in the Odessa Subarea and its adjacent areas.
- Will there be any aquifer recharge?
- If well pumping is reduced south of I-90, will that alone help or impact the aquifer north of I-90?

- How many years will it take for the aquifer to recover?

Water Rights

- Consider how possible decisions to permit water withdrawals associated with the Columbia River Water Management Program (CRWMP) would be balanced with obligation to protect and enhance the quality of the natural environment.
- Ensure that the issuance of water rights does not violate the State water code and the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1978, as amended.
- Commingling of Reclamation and State water creates problems; the EIS needs to discuss how to administratively divide the water.
- Will Odessa irrigators continue to be allowed to “move” water for crop rotation purposes from one location to another by making changes to existing State water rights (seasonal change and acreage expansion)?
- Describe water spreading, who regulates it, and how much is allowed for the Columbia Basin Project.

Water Quality

- How will the removal of 202,000–453,000 additional acre-feet of water affect temperature, dissolved oxygen, the movement of sediment and associated toxics, and dissolved gas in the Columbia River system? How will the removal of these quantities of water affect estuarine conditions at the mouth of the Columbia River, including movement of sediments into the Pacific Ocean?
- The quality of the water from the Columbia River is much better than water from the deep wells.
- Describe the impacts of changing reservoir conditions on water temperatures and reservoir temperature stratification.
- Do not allow municipal/industrial discharges into any Reclamation facility.

Hydropower Resources

- The energy gains and losses should be compared, including the effect on energy used for deep well pumping; additional energy needed for primary pumping at Grand Coulee Dam; additional energy needed for secondary pumping by the irrigation districts; and effects on streamflow for hydropower consumption as well as actual electric consumption.
- Provide examples of electric use by other energy intensive industries in the Columbia Basin Project area such as silicon plants and computer server farms, etc., for perspective purposes.
- In addition to the value of lost generation, the EIS also should evaluate diminishment of system flexibility, decreased ability to ramp generation up or down; amount of hydropower available to meet the load growth of the region.
- What are the impacts of the proposed water supply options on Project and Columbia River hydropower generation? If hydropower production decreases, to what extent will it be replaced by or otherwise facilitate the use of coal or other carbon-based fuels? Consider impacts associated with increasing electricity generation from natural gas and/or coal facilities.
- Identify impacts to regional ratepayers of the energy costs associated with pumping water (direct costs and foregone hydropower) to the Odessa Subarea combined with existing subsidies for the Columbia Basin Project.

Climate Change

- The EIS should evaluate the effect of climate change on Columbia River flows and the effects to aquatic habitat, water quality, ESA-listed and other species, and estuarine conditions, including movement of sediments into the Pacific Ocean.
- Consider whether providing surface water for irrigation to the Odessa Subarea might exacerbate the effects of climate change on water supply.

Vegetation

- Prepare maps of habitat types for all project development areas; include shrub-steppe, riparian, wetlands, seasonal lakes or ponds, open water/ponds, grasslands, existing nonirrigated agriculture, and existing irrigated agriculture.

Scoping Summary Report

- Consider impacts to shrub-steppe for immediate and potential future developments, especially at the north end of the study area (fragmentation).
- Consider effects of Banks Lake drawdown on riparian habitat.
- Provide analyses of the acres of conversion of previously nonirrigated agricultural lands and undisturbed lands to irrigation that could result, directly or indirectly, from this proposal and how those conversions can be mitigated.
- Will construction of East High Canal increase the wetlands in the Coulee City area?
- Impacts of conversions of existing priority shrub-steppe habitat to irrigated agriculture are a concern.
- Consider effects on the Upper Crab Creek watershed, which provides important aquatic and riparian habitat in an otherwise arid zone.

Fish

- How will the removal of 202,000–453,000 additional acre-feet of water affect aquatic habitat and the needs of both ESA-listed and other species in the Columbia River system?
- Fully comply with ESA.
- Describe the productivity of Banks Lake and other affected reservoirs, the retention times within the reservoirs, and the possible extension of seasonal entrainment impacts to productivity, and resident fish. Quantify the loss of fish to and from Banks Lake and other affected reservoirs associated with the proposal.
- Describe impacts from changing reservoir conditions (water elevation, inflow and outflow volume, water particle travel time, and temperature) on fish and fisheries in Banks Lake and other affected reservoirs.
- Identify impacts to artificial production (“hatchery”) programs aimed at improving kokanee populations and/or benefiting Banks Lake and/or Franklin D. Roosevelt Lake fisheries.
- Consider effects of a 1- to 2-foot increase in Banks Lake water level on the fish pen operation.

- Any actions taken to provide water service to the Odessa Subarea lands must avoid or mitigate for any diminishment in Columbia River flows during the primary juvenile salmon migration season (April–August). Where such effects are identified during the juvenile salmon migration season, the EIS should identify sources of replacement water to compensate for such effects.
- Increased flows of irrigation water through the Columbia Basin Project can dramatically increase the recruitment through entrainment of undesirable vegetation and fish, which are conveyed throughout the Project and entrained into the Columbia River mainstem. Describe the change in these impacts attributable to the introduction of new irrigation water to the Odessa Subarea and the measures that will be taken to reduce these impacts.
- Evaluate effects of changing reservoir conditions on fish and their prey.

Wildlife

- How will loss of deep wells affect wildlife?
- Describe the impacts from changing reservoir conditions (water elevation, inflow and outflow volume, water particle travel time, and temperature) on wildlife, including nesting success of waterfowl and shorebirds and potential threat to raptor nests due to inundation.
- Describe the potential impacts of the proposed conveyance and storage systems on deer and other migratory wildlife and the effect on local movements of resident wildlife species, such as lizards and small mammals. Mechanisms should be included to provide for free movement of animals across any new or modified conveyance infrastructure.
- Conduct a habitat evaluation to determine gains and losses in the quality and quantity of wildlife habitat resulting from each alternative.
- Describe the potential impact to wildlife in disturbed areas and margins of agricultural areas and the manner in which those impacts will/can be mitigated.
- Describe how timing/scheduling of construction activities will take into consideration seasonal impacts to wildlife species present at each construction site.

Land and Shoreline Use

- Provide graphic presentation of exposed shorelines for each operational scenario under consideration.
- Describe/quantify the range or total area (square area exposed) by littoral habitat of horizontal shoreline affected by each alternative and identify potential temporary or permanent impacts associated with each operation scenario, such as erosion, ability for people to access recreational areas, ability for fish and wildlife to access tributaries, and loss of shallow habitats.
- Identify and quantify the changes in land and/or shoreline uses for each alternative.

Irrigation and Agriculture

- Consider adverse environmental, economic, and social impacts if deep-well irrigated farms revert back to dryland.
- Are the irrigators required to take the water? If not, can the water be directed to dry lands? Are “incidental acres” dryland acres?
- Describe the conditions that will be imposed on Odessa Subarea recipients of Columbia Basin Project irrigation water and analyze the extent of the market for this water under the stated conditions, including identifying the specific parcels and ownership patterns in the target area, and analysis of which landowners (and how much acreage they represent) are willing to accept the statutory and contractual conditions.
- Is there any possibility of irrigation water outside of the identified study area?
- Identify the numbers and locations of acres of currently nonirrigated land that will become irrigated under each alternative.
- Provide an estimated timeline for the transition from groundwater irrigated agriculture to dryland agriculture.

Visual Resources / Aesthetics

- What would the affected reservoirs look like under the various scenarios? Need visual representations of how the reservoirs and shorelines would

look under best-case, worst-case, and average-case (average not mean or medium) scenarios.

Recreation

- Public perception of impacts is often misguided, resulting in a decline in visitation.
- Consider if action would affect currents in Banks Lake which can be a hazard to visitors and require major consideration in the design and anchoring of waterborne assets.
- Ensure compliance with Executive Order 12962 of June 7, 1995, as amended September 26, 2008, regarding recreational fisheries.
- Concerned about alleviating the economic impacts related to Banks Lake and Potholes Reservoirs, specifically with boat docks and ramps not being low enough.
- A summer drawdown of Banks Lake of more than 7 feet, elevation 1,563 feet, during the tourist and recreation seasons would negate prime recreation activities that drive the success of current and future recreation related developments, possibly forcing partial to complete abandonment.
- Consider effects of a 7-foot or more decline in the elevation of Banks Lank on the shoreline; mosquitoes; boat launches and moorages and recreation and tourist-related revenues, including effects to future recreation-related job and revenue growth.
- Evaluate impacts to recreational fishing, hunting, and wildlife-related viewing
- Evaluate the impacts of changing water operations on water- and land-related recreational activities.

Human Health

- Consider effects on mosquito-borne diseases such as the West Nile virus. What assistance/mitigation will be provided to control the mosquito infestation from a 16-foot drawdown of Banks Lake from May–September?

- Consider how additional diversions from Franklin D. Roosevelt Lake will affect bed and bank pollutants and human and environmental exposures to these toxins.
- To reduce the application of Columbia River toxic contaminants or disturbing sediments, discuss using appropriate technologies that reduce the turbidity of the river and potentially suspend contaminants in the water column.

Social and Economic Issues and Analyses

- Consider adverse economic impacts, both present and future, from drawdown of Banks Lake.
- Reclamation must reassess the costs and benefits associated with crop production within the Odessa Subarea and not rely on the 2005 Washington State Potato Commission study.
- Reclamation's cost-benefit analysis for this study should not include loss of equipment or crop revenues without consideration of the State's decision to allow Odessa Subarea farmers to consume and profit from nonsustainable groundwater usage in a controlled fashion by providing a schedule for depletion of Odessa groundwater affording them the ability to amortize and receive a full economic return on their investments in wells and water distribution equipment.
- Evaluate the social and monetary effects of changing water operations on water- and land-related recreational activities; identify mitigation.
- Identify impacts to the tax base of the area for all alternatives.
- How will this project be paid for? Government funding vs. repayment by local entities, individuals?
- Provide discussion of monetary and social impacts for each alternative, identify mitigation for adverse impacts, and include analysis of who will pay.
- Economic analyses of the proposed alternatives need to include:
 - The loss of the existing irrigated acres and impacts to agricultural-related industries relying on the production of irrigated agriculture in the Odessa Subarea.

- Impacts to domestic, municipal, and industrial water uses.
- Impacts to recreation and the associated economic impacts for the Banks Lake drawdown options.
- The expenses of redoing existing farm wells and systems if water is not delivered to an onfarm point.
- Impacts of growing higher value crops with a full supply than currently able to grow under declining wells.
- Direct and indirect energy costs associated with pumping water to the Odessa Subarea.
- Expenditures for high-end housing developments.
- Impacts to industries attracted to the area by the natural environment.
- Multipliers for tourism.
- Consideration of future gains lost under the alternatives.
- Benefits of recreational fishing, hunting, and wildlife-related viewing and the value of associated goods and services.
- International impacts.

Cumulative Impacts

- The impact of a permit for Odessa with multiple permits issued using the CRWMP process, coupled with the many water withdrawal permits currently pending with Ecology.
- Impacts of multiple water diversions from the Columbia River, including present diversions and foreseeable proposals, such as:
 - *Potholes Supplemental Feedroute* (Federal Environmental Assessment and FONSI dated 8-07 and State Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance, dated January 17, 2008).
 - *Columbia Mainstem Off-Channel Study* (appraisal valuation dated May 2007).
 - *Yakima River Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study* (draft EIS dated January 2008).

- Walla Walla storage and pump exchange studies (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reconnaissance report dated October 30, 1997; no information regarding State funding and role released to public).
- Shankers Bend storage project (Okanogan PUD FERC application dated May 17, 2007; no information regarding State funding and role released to public).
- Odessa Subarea stratigraphic study (Columbia Groundwater Management Area, ongoing; no information regarding State funding and role released to public).
- Miscellaneous “Northeast Washington” water storage projects, including, but not limited to, the Lincoln County Passive Hydration Project, Mill Creek Water Storage Project, Campbell Creek Reservoir project, and WRIA 44/50 Surface Water Storage, now being funded by Ecology.
- Idaho projects that propose diversion of water from Snake River basin waterways, including the Minidoka enlargement and Teton and Twin Springs dam proposals (see Idaho House Joint Memorial No. 8, March 17, 2008).

Other Issues and Concerns

- East Irrigation District suggests there may be an opportunity for it to manage portions of construction of the phased development and/or perform work solely with their crews which may be financially beneficial and could be a factor in reducing construction costs and repayment.
- Growers and landowners are willing to share in the cost of development.
- Consider impacts on environmental justice.
- How will the Tribes affect the project? What is their role?
- Document the Tribal consultation and coordination process by providing a chronology with the dates and locations of meetings with Tribal governments, results of the meetings, and discussion of how the Tribes’ input was used to develop the EIS. This consultation and coordination should continue throughout the EIS development phase.
- Ecology and Reclamation need to be sure residents of areas potentially affected by their CRWMP and Odessa Subarea projects actually receive

information about the projects and meetings, especially those whose lands may be involved. Use county public records to obtain names and addresses. Also suggest including information in the *South County Sun* and consider holding meetings in other places, including those closer to the location of the construction impacts, e.g., Royal Slope, Crab Creek, Sand Hollow, Royal City.

- What type of assistance will be provided to help mitigate impacts to those affected by the drawdown of Banks Lake? Financial mitigation needs to be provided for effects beyond the reasonable ability for self-adjustment, e.g., costs of modifying assets to deal with permanent change in reservoir elevation.
- While studying impacts on environmental and recreational facets affected by action alternatives, there is a need to recount the benefits that have resulted from the creation of the Columbia Basin Project.
- Define the CRWMP's meaning of "no negative impact" and the minimum standards and guidelines for measuring this "no negative impact" for this study.
- Expedite the process while interest rates are low.

Attachments

Notice of Intent

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**National Park Service****Notice of Meetings for the National Park Service (NPS) Subsistence Resource Commission (SRC) Program Within the Alaska Region**

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meetings for the National Park Service (NPS) Subsistence Resource Commission (SRC) program within the Alaska Region.

SUMMARY: The NPS announces the SRC meeting schedules for the following areas: Aniakchak National Monument, Cape Krusenstern National Monument, Kobuk Valley National Park, Lake Clark National Park, and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. The purpose of each meeting is to develop and continue work on NPS subsistence hunting program recommendations and other related subsistence management issues. Each meeting is open to the public and will have time allocated for public testimony. The public is welcome to present written or oral comments to the SRC. Each meeting will be recorded and meeting minutes will be available upon request from each Superintendent for public inspection approximately six weeks after each meeting. The NPS SRC program is authorized under Title VIII, Section 808 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, Pub. L. 96-487, to operate in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

DATES: The Aniakchak National Monument SRC meeting will be held on Monday, October 6, 2008, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., at the Katmai National Park and Preserve headquarters conference room in King Salmon, AK.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary McBurney, Subsistence Manager, telephone: (907) 235-7891, or Ralph Moore, Superintendent, telephone: (907) 246-2120, at Aniakchak National Park and Preserve, P.O. Box 7, King Salmon, AK 99613.

DATES: The Cape Krusenstern National Monument SRC and the Kobuk Valley National Park SRC meetings will be held on Thursday, October 9, 2008 and Friday, October 10, 2008 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office in Kotzebue, AK.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ken Adkisson, Subsistence Manager, telephone (907) 443-2522, or Willie Goodwin, Subsistence Manager, and George Helfrich, Superintendent, telephone: (907) 442-3890, at Western Arctic Parklands, P.O. Box 1029, Kotzebue, AK 99752.

DATES: The Lake Clark National Park SRC meeting will be held on September 24, 2008, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Lake Clark National Park and Preserve Visitor Center in Port Alsworth, AK.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary McBurney, Subsistence Manager, telephone: (907) 235-7891, or Joel Hard, Superintendent, and Michelle Ravenmoon, Subsistence Coordinator, telephone: (907) 781-2218, at Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, 1 Park Place, Port Alsworth, AK 99653.

DATES: The Wrangell-St. Elias National Park SRC meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 29, 2008 and Thursday, October 30, 2008, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Yakutat-Alaska Native Brotherhood Hall in Yakutat, AK.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Barbara Cellarius, Subsistence Manager, telephone: (907) 822-7236, or Meg Jensen, Superintendent, telephone: (907) 822-5234, at Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, P.O. Box 439, Copper Center, AK 99573.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: SRC meeting locations and dates may need to be changed based on weather or local circumstances. If meeting dates and locations are changed notice of each meeting will be published in local newspapers and announced on local radio stations prior to the meeting dates. The meetings may end early if all business is completed.

The agendas for each meeting include the following:

1. Call to Order (SRC Chair)
 2. SRC Roll Call and Confirmation of Quorum
 3. SRC Chair and Superintendent's Welcome and Introductions
 4. Review and Approve Agenda
 5. Status of SRC Membership
 6. SRC Member Reports
 7. Superintendent and NPS Staff Reports
 8. Federal Subsistence Board Update (Review Proposals, Board Actions)
 9. State of Alaska Board Actions Update
 10. New Business
 11. Agency and Public Comments
 12. SRC Work Session
 13. Set Time and Place of Next SRC Meeting
- Adjournment

Victor Knox,
Deputy Regional Director.

[FR Doc. E8-19437 Filed 8-20-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312-HE-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Reclamation****Odessa Subarea Special Study; Adams, Franklin, Grant, Lincoln and Walla Walla Counties, WA**

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) proposes to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Odessa Subarea Special Study. The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) is a joint lead with Reclamation in the preparation of this Environmental Impact Statement which will also be used to comply with requirements of the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).

The purpose of Reclamation's Odessa Subarea Special Study is to evaluate alternatives that would deliver project water from the Columbia Basin Project (CBP) to lands currently using groundwater for irrigation in the Odessa Ground Water Management Subarea. The Study is needed to fulfill the obligation Reclamation made in a Memorandum of Agreement between the State of Washington (State) and the Project irrigation districts in December 2004, which included cooperating on a study to explore opportunities for delivery of Columbia Basin Project water to existing groundwater-irrigated lands within the Odessa Subarea.

Action is needed to avoid significant economic loss, in the near term, to the region's agricultural sector because of resource conditions associated with continued decline of the aquifers in the Odessa Subarea. Groundwater in the Odessa Subarea is currently being depleted to such an extent that water must be pumped from great depths. Pumping depths are 750 feet in some areas, and well depths are as great as 2,100-2,400 feet. Well drilling costs and pumping water from this depth have resulted in expensive power costs and water quality concerns such as high water temperatures and high sodium concentrations.

The ability of farmers to irrigate their crops is at risk. Domestic, commercial, municipal, and industrial uses and water quality are also affected. Those irrigating with wells of lesser depth live with uncertainty about future well production.

Washington State University conducted a regional economic impact

study assessing the effects of lost potato production and processing in Adams, Franklin, Grant, and Lincoln counties from continued aquifer decline. Assuming that all potato production and processing is lost from the region, the analysis estimated the regional economic impact would be a loss of about \$630 million dollars annually in regional sales, a loss of 3,600 jobs, and a loss of \$211 million in regional income (Bhattacharjee and Holland 2005).

DATES: Scoping meetings will be held on September 10, 2008 and Sept 11, 2008, from 7 to 9 p.m., at the locations indicated under the **ADDRESSES** section. Written comments will be accepted through September 19, 2008, for inclusion in the scoping summary document. Requests for sign language interpretation for the hearing impaired or other special assistance needs should be submitted to Ellen Berggren as indicated under the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section by August 27, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Meetings will be held at:

- Town of Coulee Dam Town Hall, 300 Lincoln Avenue, Coulee Dam, WA 99116 (September 10, 2008);
- The Advanced Technologies Education Center (ATEC), Big Bend Community College, 7611 Bolling Street, NE., Moses Lake, WA 98837 (September 11, 2008).

The meeting facilities are physically accessible to people with disabilities.

Comments and requests to be added to the mailing list may be submitted to Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Northwest Regional Office, Attention: Ellen Berggren, Activity Manager, 1150 N. Curtis Rd., Suite 100, Boise, ID 83706. Comments may also be submitted electronically to StudyManager@pn.usbr.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Contact Ellen Berggren, Activity Manager, Telephone (208) 378-5090. TTY users in Washington may dial the following numbers to obtain a toll free TTY relay: 800-833-6384(V); for the hearing impaired 800-833-6388(T); for the deaf.

Information on this project can also be found at: http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/ucao_misc/odessa/index.html.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Columbia Basin Project is a multipurpose water development project in the central part of the State of Washington (State). The Grand Coulee Dam Project was authorized for construction by the Act of August 30, 1935, and reauthorized and renamed in

the Columbia Basin Project Act of March 10, 1943. Congress authorized the CBP to irrigate a total of 1,029,000 acres; about 671,000 acres are currently irrigated.

Section 9(a) of the Reclamation Project Act of 1939 gave authority to the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) to approve a finding of feasibility and thereby authorize construction of a project upon submitting a report to the President and the Congress. The Secretary approved a plan of development for the Columbia Basin Project, known as House Document No. 172 in 1945. House Document No. 172 anticipated that development of the Columbia Basin Project would occur in phases over a 70-year period. Reclamation is authorized to implement additional development phases as long as the Secretary finds it to be economically justified and financially feasible. The Odessa Subarea Special Study is conducted under the authority of the Columbia Basin Project Act of 1943, as amended, and the Reclamation Act of 1939.

In response to the public's concern about the declining aquifer and associated economic and other effects, Congress has funded Reclamation to investigate this problem. The State of Washington has partnered with Reclamation by providing funding and collaborating on various technical studies.

The State, Reclamation, and irrigation districts signed the Columbia River Initiative Memorandum of Understanding (CRI MOU) in December 2004, to promote a cooperative process for implementing activities to improve Columbia River water management and water management within the Columbia Basin Project. The Odessa Subarea Special Study implements Section 15 of the CRI MOU, which states in part that, "The parties will cooperate to explore opportunities for delivery of water to additional existing agricultural lands within the Odessa Subarea." In February 2006, the State legislature passed the Columbia River Water Resource Management Act (HB 2860) that directs Ecology to aggressively pursue development of water benefiting both instream and out-of-stream uses through storage, conservation, and voluntary regional water management agreements. Among the activities identified in the legislation, Ecology is directed to focus on "development of alternatives to ground water for agricultural users in the Odessa subarea aquifer." Ecology is participating in the Odessa Subarea Special Study to provide support for state and local agency permit decisions that will likely

be necessary to implement a water delivery project.

Reclamation is developing alternatives to replace the current and increasingly unreliable groundwater supplies used for irrigation with a surface supply as part of continued phased development of the Columbia Basin Project. Reclamation can only deliver water to lands authorized to receive Columbia Basin Project water. An estimated 170,000 acres within the Odessa Subarea are now being irrigated with groundwater with an estimated 140,000 of these acres eligible to receive Project surface water. Reclamation is considering alternatives that would provide a replacement surface water supply for up to 140,000 groundwater-irrigated acres within the Study area. Alternatives include two main components.

- *Water conveyance*; this component consists of infrastructure such as canals, pumping plants and laterals to deliver surface water to groundwater-irrigated lands. These could include building a new East High canal system and reregulating reservoir in Black Rock Coulee north of Interstate 90 and/or expanding the capacity of the existing East Low Canal system and building a 2.3 mile extension.

- *Water supply*; this component consists of storage facilities that could store the replacement surface water supply for later use in the Odessa Subarea. These involve modifying operations at Banks Lake and/or constructing a new reservoir in Rocky Coulee.

Alternatives would involve various combinations and configurations of these water conveyance and water supply components.

Public Involvement

Reclamation will conduct public scoping meetings to solicit comments on the alternatives developed to address the concerns in the Odessa Subarea and to identify potential issues and impacts associated with those alternatives. Reclamation will summarize comments received during the scoping meetings and from letters of comment received during the scoping period, identified under the **DATES** section, into a scoping summary document that will be made available to those who have provided comments. It will also be available to others upon request.

If you wish to comment, you may mail us your comments as indicated under the **ADDRESSES** section. Our practice is to make comments, including names, home addresses, home phone numbers, and e-mail addresses of respondents, available for public

review. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their names and/or home addresses, etc., but if you wish us to consider withholding this information you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. In addition, you must present a rationale for withholding this information. This rationale must demonstrate that disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy. Unsupported assertions will not meet this burden. In the absence of exceptional, documentable circumstances, this information will be released. We will always make submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

J. William McDonald,

Regional Director, Pacific Northwest Region.

[FR Doc. E8-19376 Filed 8-20-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MN-P

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation Nos. 701-TA-457 and 731-TA-1153 (Preliminary)]

Certain Tow-Behind Lawn Groomers and Parts Thereof From China Determinations

On the basis of the record¹ developed in the subject investigations, the United States International Trade Commission (Commission) determines, pursuant to sections 705(b) and 735(b) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1671d(a) and 1673d(a)) (the Act), that there is a reasonable indication that an industry in the United States is materially injured by reason of imports from China of certain tow-behind lawn groomers and parts thereof ("TBLG"), provided for in statistical reporting numbers 8432.40.0000, 8432.80.0000, 8432.90.0030, 8432.90.0080, 8479.89.9897, 8479.90.9496, and 9603.50.0000 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, that are alleged to be sold in the United States at less than fair value (LTFV) and alleged to be subsidized by the Government of China.

Commencement of Final Phase Investigations

Pursuant to section 207.18 of the Commission's rules, the Commission

¹ The record is defined in sec. 207.2(f) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (19 CFR 207.2(f)).

also gives notice of the commencement of the final phase of its investigations. The Commission will issue a final phase notice of scheduling, which will be published in the **Federal Register** as provided in section 207.21 of the Commission's rules, upon notice from the Department of Commerce (Commerce) of affirmative preliminary determinations in the investigations under sections 703(b) and 733(b) of the Act, or, if the preliminary determinations are negative, upon notice of affirmative final determinations in those investigations under section 705(a) and 735(a) of the Act. Parties that filed entries of appearance in the preliminary phase of the investigations need not enter a separate appearance for the final phase of the investigations. Industrial users, and, if the merchandise under investigation is sold at the retail level, representative consumer organizations have the right to appear as parties in Commission antidumping and countervailing duty investigations. The Secretary will prepare a public service list containing the names and addresses of all persons, or their representatives, who are parties to the investigations.

Background

On June 24, 2008, a petition was filed with the Commission and Commerce by Agri-Fab, Inc., Sullivan, IL, alleging that an industry in the United States is materially injured by reason of subsidized imports of TBLGs from China and LTFV sales of TBLG imports from China. Accordingly, effective June 24, 2008, the Commission instituted countervailing duty investigation No. 701-TA-457 (Preliminary) and antidumping investigation No. 731-TA-1153 (Preliminary).

Notice of the institution of the Commission's investigations and of a public conference to be held in connection therewith was given by posting copies of the notice in the Office of the Secretary, U.S. International Trade Commission, Washington, DC, and by publishing the notice in the **Federal Register** of July 1, 2008 (72 FR 37494). The conference was held in Washington, DC, on July 15, 2008, and all persons who requested the opportunity were permitted to appear in person or by counsel.

The Commission transmitted its determinations in these investigations to the Secretary of Commerce on August 8, 2008. The views of the Commission are contained in USITC Publication 4028 (August 2008), entitled *Certain Tow-Behind Lawn Groomers and Parts Thereof from China Investigation Nos.*

701-TA-457 and 731-TA-1153 (Preliminary).

By order of the Commission.

Issued: August 18, 2008.

William R. Bishop,

Acting Secretary to the Commission.

[FR Doc. E8-19400 Filed 8-20-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7020-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Notice of Lodging of Consent Decree Under the Clean Air Act

Notice is hereby given that on August 13, 2008, a proposed Consent Decree (the "Decree") in *United States v. Allied Waste Services of Massachusetts, LLC*, Civil Action No. 08-11382, was lodged with the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey.

In a complaint, filed simultaneously with the Decree, the United States alleges that Allied Waste Services of Massachusetts, LLC ("Allied Waste") violated the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*, at four of its waste-hauling depots in western Massachusetts by allowing some of its diesel waste-hauling trucks to idle in excess of five minutes, as prescribed by 30 CMR 7.11(b), a regulation included in the Massachusetts State Implementation Plan.

Pursuant to the Decree, Allied will implement a number of compliance measures, including: Requiring a supervisor to walk-through the four depots where violations were found ("subject facilities") twice a day to identify and rectify illegal idling; the implementation of a driver training program that highlights Allied Waste's anti-idling policy; the inclusion of the anti-idling policy as part of the subject facilities' daily debriefing checklist to be reviewed with each driver of a waste-hauling truck at the end of their route; the posting of "No Idling" signs at the subject facilities; and the certification by Allied Waste that all trucks equipped with automatic engine shut-offs are working and set to turnoff the engine at the expiration of five minutes of idling. If Allied Waste fails to conduct the aforementioned compliance measures, or is in future violation of 30 CMR 7.11(b), it will be subject to stipulated penalties under the terms of the Decree.

Allied Waste will pay a \$195,000 civil monetary penalty to the United States pursuant to the Decree.

The Department of Justice will receive, for a period of thirty (30) days from the date of this publication, comments relating to the Decree. Comments should be addressed to the

Determination of Significance

**DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE
AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON SCOPE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE ODESSA
SUBAREA SPECIAL STUDY**

The Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) are beginning preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Odessa Subarea Special Study. The EIS will be a joint National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) EIS. Reclamation and Ecology are requesting comments regarding the scope of the EIS.

Lead Agency: Reclamation and Ecology are joint lead agencies for the combined NEPA and SEPA process.

EIS Required: Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, Reclamation proposes to prepare an EIS for the Odessa Subarea Special Study. The Ecology has determined that an EIS is required under SEPA (Chapter 43.21C RCW).

Location: Adams, Franklin, Grant, Lincoln and Walla Walla counties, Washington

Description of Proposal:

The purpose of Reclamation's Odessa Subarea Special Study is to evaluate alternatives that would deliver project water from the Columbia Basin Project (CBP) to lands currently using groundwater for irrigation in the Odessa Ground Water Management Subarea.

The Study is needed to fulfill the obligation Reclamation made in a Memorandum of Understanding between the State of Washington (State) and the three CBP irrigation districts in December 2004, which included cooperating on a study to explore opportunities for delivery of CBP water to existing groundwater-irrigated lands within the Odessa Subarea.

Action is needed to avoid significant economic loss, in the near term, to the region's agricultural sector because of resource conditions associated with continued decline of the aquifers in the Odessa Subarea. Groundwater in the Odessa Subarea is currently being depleted to such an extent that water must be pumped from great depths. Pumping depths are 750 feet in some areas, and well depths are as great as 2,100–2,400 feet. Well drilling costs and pumping water from this depth have resulted in expensive power costs and water quality concerns such as high water temperatures and high sodium concentrations.

The ability of farmers to irrigate their crops is at risk. Domestic, commercial, municipal, and industrial uses and water quality are also affected. Those irrigating with wells of lesser depth live with uncertainty about future well production.

Washington State University conducted a regional economic impact study assessing the effects of lost potato production and processing in Adams, Franklin, Grant, and Lincoln counties from continued aquifer decline.

Assuming that all potato production and processing is lost from the region, the analysis estimated the regional economic impact would be a loss of about \$630 million dollars annually in regional sales, a loss of 3,600 jobs, and a loss of \$211 million in regional income (Bhattacharjee and Holland 2005). Information on this project can also be found at:

http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/ucao_misc/odessa/index.html

Scoping Comments:

Written comments will be accepted through September 19, 2008, for inclusion in the scoping summary document. Comments should be addressed to Ellen Berggren at the following address:

Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Northwest Regional Office,
Attention: Ellen Berggren, Activity Manager
1150 North Curtis Rd. Suite 100
Boise ID 83706

Comments may also be submitted electronically to **StudyManager@pn.usbr.gov**

Requests for sign language interpretation for the hearing impaired or other special assistance needs should be submitted to Ellen Berggren at (208) 378- 5090. TTY users in Washington may dial the following numbers to obtain a toll free TTY relay:

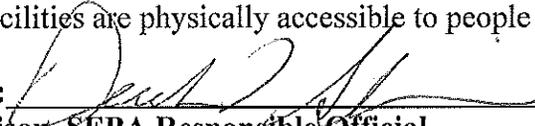
(800) 833-6384(V); for the hearing impaired
(800) 833-6388(T); for the deaf

Scoping Meetings:

Scoping meetings will be held on September 10, 2008 and September 11, 2008, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., at the following locations:

- Town of Coulee Dam Town Hall, 300 Lincoln Avenue, Coulee Dam, WA 99116 (September 10, 2008)
- The Advanced Technologies Education Center (ATEC), Big Bend Community College, 7611 Bolling Street NE, Moses Lake, WA 98837 (September 11, 2008)

The meeting facilities are physically accessible to people with disabilities.

SIGNATURE: 
Derek I. Sandison, SEPA Responsible Official

DATE: 8/21/08

Study Update

ODESSA SUBAREA SPECIAL STUDY

Columbia Basin Project

STUDY UPDATE

August 2008

STUDY BACKGROUND

The Odessa Subarea Special Study is an investigation of continued phased development of the Columbia Basin Project to provide a replacement surface water supply for current groundwater irrigation occurring in the Odessa Ground Water Management Subarea. An estimated 170,000 acres within the Odessa Subarea are now being irrigated with groundwater; an estimated 140,000 of these acres are eligible to receive Columbia Basin Project surface water. The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) is participating in the Study to provide support for state and local agency permit decisions that may be necessary to implement a selected alternative. Additional information about the Study is available at Reclamation's website:

http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/ucao_misc/odessa/index.html.

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS SCHEDULED

Reclamation is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in cooperation with Ecology that will comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). Reclamation and Ecology are hosting two public meetings to obtain your input about the Study. During these meetings, the current alternatives being considered will be described and staff will be available to answer questions. You will also be given an opportunity to identify issues and concerns associated with the current alternatives and to identify other potential alternatives.

SCOPING MEETING DETAILS

Wednesday, September 10, 2008

Town of Coulee Dam Town Hall
300 Lincoln Avenue
Coulee Dam, Washington

Thursday, September 11, 2008

The Advanced Technologies Education Center (ATEC)
Big Bend Community College
7611 Boling Street
Moses Lake, Washington

Both meetings are from 7 – 9 p.m.

The meeting facilities are physically accessible to people with disabilities. If you need other accommodations or auxiliary aids, please contact Jennifer McConnell at 509-754-0202 before September 5, 2008. TTY users in Washington may dial the following numbers to obtain a toll free TTY relay: 800-833-6384(V) for the hearing impaired; 800-833-6388(T) for the deaf.

Si desea atender la junta y necesita un interprete en Espanol, por favor llame a Casimira Garza al (509) 754-0239.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE STUDY

The purpose of Reclamation’s Odessa Subarea Special Study is to evaluate alternatives to replace current groundwater irrigation in the Odessa Subarea. The Study is needed to fulfill the obligation Reclamation made in a Memorandum of Agreement between the State of Washington (State) and the Columbia Basin Project irrigation districts in December 2004, to cooperatively explore opportunities for delivery of Columbia Basin Project water to existing groundwater-irrigated lands within the Odessa Subarea.

Action, if taken, would avoid significant economic loss in the near term to the region’s agricultural sector resulting from resource conditions associated with continued decline of the aquifers in the Odessa Subarea. Groundwater is currently being depleted to such an extent that water must be pumped from depths as great as 750 feet in some areas, with well depths as great as 2,100–2,400 feet deep. Well drilling and pumping costs have resulted in expensive power costs and poor water quality due to high water temperatures and high sodium concentrations.

The ability of farmers to irrigate their crops is at risk. In addition, water supply for domestic, commercial, municipal, and industrial uses is also affected. Those irrigating with wells of lesser depth live with uncertainty about future well production. Washington State University conducted a regional economic impact study assessing the effects of lost potato production and processing in Adams, Franklin, Grant, and Lincoln counties from continued aquifer decline. Assuming all potato production and processing is lost from the region, the analysis estimated the regional economic impact would be a loss of about \$630 million dollars annually in regional sales, a loss of 3,600 jobs, and a loss of \$211 million in regional income (Bhattacharjee and Holland. 2005. Economic Impact of a Possible Irrigation-Water Shortage in Odessa Subarea: Potato Production and Processing. WO2005-4. Washington State University, Pullman, Washington).

PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES

Reclamation is currently investigating the alternatives summarized below. These alternatives involve construction of water delivery infrastructure to convey Columbia Basin Project water to current groundwater-irrigated lands. Proposed construction would include expanding the capacity of existing facilities and constructing new canals, siphons, tunnels, pumping plants, piped laterals, and a re-regulating reservoir. The proposed infrastructure is part of the original development plan for the Columbia Basin Project.

Alternatives	Groundwater Acres Served	Additional Columbia River Diversion (acre-feet)	Appraisal-level Estimated Construction Cost Range* (in million \$)
No Action	0	0	\$ 0
Enlarge and extend existing East Low Canal south of Interstate 90 and construct a new East High canal system north of Interstate 90 in phases	127,300	453,200	\$ 1,944 – \$ 4,391
Enlarge and extend existing East Low Canal south of Interstate 90	61,900	202,300	\$ 377 – \$ 2,261

*These are appraisal-level cost estimates that are considered preliminary and not suitable for determining actual construction costs or requesting construction fund appropriations from the Congress. Updated feasibility-level cost estimates are currently being prepared.

Additional Columbia River diversions will be required above current diversions for the Columbia Basin Project to provide the replacement surface water supply. Reclamation is examining several options to provide replacement water including modifying operations at Banks Lake through additional draw down or a two-foot operational raise, and construction of a new 127,000 acre-foot reservoir in Rocky Coulee. All water supply options would be configured to work with the proposed alternatives; several water supply options may be necessary to provide a sufficient replacement water supply.

YOUR FEEDBACK REQUESTED

We want to hear your thoughts about the issues and concerns associated with the alternatives proposed for study. Please attend one of the scoping meetings scheduled in September 2008 to provide input. If you cannot attend one of our public scoping meetings, please submit your comments using the enclosed comment form and return it to us no later than **September 19, 2008**.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the Study, please contact:

Ellen Berggren, Study Manager
Bureau of Reclamation
1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100
Boise, Idaho 83706
208-378-5090 (telephone)
208-378-5102 (fax)
StudyManager@pn.usbr.gov

Visit our website at http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/ucao_misc/odessa/index.html, or sign up with Ecology's list serve at <http://listserv.wa.gov/archives/cwp.html>.

THE NEPA/SEPA PROCESS

What is NEPA?

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was passed by Congress and signed into law in 1969. It requires Federal agencies to evaluate and consider the environmental factors of proposed actions during decision making and to seek input to these evaluations from state and local agencies, Tribal Governments, organizations, and the public. Agencies must also consider and evaluate a range of alternatives that meet the purpose and need of the proposed action. A Federal agency must prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for any major action that may have significant impacts.

What is SEPA?

Washington's State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), enacted in 1971, provides the framework for State agencies to consider the environmental consequences of a proposal before taking action. Environmental review is required for any proposal which involves a government "action," as defined in the SEPA rules, and gives agencies the ability to condition or deny a proposal due to identified likely significant adverse impacts. The Act is implemented through the SEPA Rules, Chapter 197-11, Washington Administrative Code.

What is the NEPA/SEPA Process for this project?

Reclamation published a Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS in the Federal Register on August 21, 2008 (Federal Register, Vol. 73 No. 163, 49487), and Ecology published a Determination of Significance on August 21, 2008. The EIS will be prepared jointly by Reclamation and Ecology and will satisfy the requirements of both NEPA and SEPA.

A public scoping period, in which issues and concerns and other potential alternatives are identified, will run through September 19, 2008. Reclamation will develop a scoping summary of the comments received during this scoping period and it will be available to the public.

Following the scoping period, a draft EIS will be developed for public review and comment. It is anticipated that the Draft EIS will be available early in 2010. An EIS is a comprehensive, full-disclosure document that assesses the social, economic, and environmental effects, both positive and negative, of a proposed action and alternatives to it. Impacts of those alternatives are compared to the No Action Alternative. Following a 60-day public review and comment period, a Final EIS will be prepared and made available to the public. The NEPA process is concluded with a Record of Decision (ROD) issued no sooner than 30 days after the Final EIS is completed. The ROD identifies Reclamation's decision and the basis for that decision.

COMMENT FORM

Odessa Subarea Special Study

Name (please print legibly):	
Organization:	
Mailing Address:	
City, State, and Zip Code:	
Telephone:	E-mail:

If you received this form in the mail or attended a public scoping meeting you will be placed on our mailing list. Please indicate your preferred method of contact below:

I prefer to be contacted about Study progress though (CHECK ONE): Post office E-mail.
 I want my name removed from this mailing list.

Please note: Our practice is to make comments, including names, home addresses, home phone numbers and email addresses of respondents, available for public review. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their names and/or home addresses, etc., but if you wish us to consider withholding this information you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. In addition, you must present a rationale for withholding this information. This rationale must demonstrate that disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy. Unsupported assertions will not meet this burden. In the absence of exceptional, documentable circumstances, this information will be released. We will always make submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public disclosure in their entirety.

My comments on the Odessa Subarea Special Study are:

(Use back of sheet or additional sheets as necessary)

Please mail, fax, or email your comments before SEPTEMBER 19, 2008, to: Ellen Berggren, Study Manager, Bureau of Reclamation, 1150 North Curtis Road, Boise, ID 83706; fax: (208) 378-5102; email: StudyManager@pn.usbr.gov.

News Releases

From: "Hill, Tim (ECY)" <tih461@ECY.WA.GOV>
To: CWP@LISTSERV.WA.GOV
Date: Monday - August 25, 2008 6:57 PM
Subject: Scoping Meetings for Odessa Subarea EIS
 Odessa_Study_Update_8-08 (2).pdf (46242 bytes) [\[View\]](#) [\[Save As\]](#)
Mime.822 (74477 bytes) [\[View\]](#) [\[Save As\]](#)

The US Bureau of Reclamation is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in cooperation with Ecology . The EIS will look at alternatives for delivering surface water to replace current groundwater irrigation. We want to hear your thoughts about the issues and concerns associated with the alternatives proposed for study. Please attend one of the scoping meetings scheduled in September 2008 to provide input.

Scoping Meeting Details

Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2008

7- 9 p.m.

Town of Coulee Dam
Town Hall
300 Lincoln Avenue
Coulee Dam, WA
[\(directions\)](#)

Thursday, Sept. 11, 2008

7- 9 p.m.

The Advanced Technologies Education Center (ATEC)
Big Bend Community College
7611 Boling Street
Moses Lake, WA
[\(directions\)](#)

The meeting facilities are physically accessible to people with disabilities. If you need other accommodations, or auxiliary aids, please contact Jennifer McConnell at 509-754-0202 before September 5, 2008. TTY users in Washington may dial the following numbers to obtain a toll free TTY relay: 800-833-6384(V) for the hearing impaired; 800-833-6388(T) for the deaf. Si deca atender la junta y necesita un interprete en Espanol, por favor.

If you cannot attend one of our public scoping meetings, please submit your comments to Ellen Berggren no later than September 19, 2008.

Ellen Berggren
Study Manager
Bureau of Reclamation
1150 North Curtis Road, Ste 100
Boise, Idaho 83706
208-378-5090

See the attached Study Update for more information.

The meeting facilities are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Please direct requests for sign language interpretation for the hearing impaired, or other auxiliary aids, to Jennifer McConnell at (509) 754-0202 by September 5.

The Columbia Basin Project, located in central Washington, was authorized for the irrigation of 1,029,000 acres. Currently, the Project serves about 671,000 acres in four eastern Washington counties. The multi-purpose project provides irrigation, power production, flood control, municipal water supply, recreation, and fish and wildlife benefits.

For more information about the study, including past reports and study updates, please go to: http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/ucao_misc/odessa/index.html.

#

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. Visit our website at www.usbr.gov.

Relevant Links:

http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/ucao_misc/odessa/index.html

From: "Hill, Tim (ECY)" <tih461@ECY.WA.GOV>
To: <CWP@LISTSERV.WA.GOV>
Date: Thu, Sep 4, 2008 9:23:59 AM
Subject: Reminder: Scoping Meetings for Odessa Subarea Special Study.

The Bureau of Reclamation and Washington State Department of Ecology will hold two public scoping meetings for the Odessa Subarea Special Study. Ecology is a joint lead with Reclamation in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement that will satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and the Washington State Environmental Policy Act.

The purpose of the study is to evaluate alternatives that would deliver surface water from the Columbia Basin Project to replace current groundwater use for irrigation in the Odessa Ground Water Management Subarea. Continued declines of aquifers in the Odessa Subarea place well production and farmers' ability to irrigate crops at risk and could cause significant economic loss to the region.

The purpose of the scoping meetings is to give the public the opportunity to identify issues and concerns associated with the alternatives proposed for study, and to identify other potential alternatives that could be considered in the EIS.

Scoping meetings will be held:

- September 10, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Town of Coulee Dam Town Hall, 300 Lincoln Avenue, Coulee Dam WA 99116.
- September 11, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., the Advanced Technologies Education Center (ATEC), Big Bend Community College, 7611 Bolling Street NE, Moses Lake WA 98837.

The study fulfills the obligation Reclamation made in a Memorandum of Agreement between the State of Washington and Columbia Basin Project irrigation districts in December 2004 to cooperatively study opportunities for delivery of Columbia Basin Project water to existing groundwater-irrigated lands within the Odessa Subarea.

A Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS was published in the Federal Register on August 21, 2008.

In addition to comments received at the scoping meetings, written comments will be accepted through September 19, and may be submitted to Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Northwest Regional Office, Attention: Ellen Berggren, Study Manager, 1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100, Boise ID 83706. Telephone (208) 378- 5090. Comments may also be submitted electronically to StudyManager@pn.usbr.gov.

The meeting facilities are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Please direct requests for sign language interpretation for the hearing impaired, or other auxiliary aids, to Jennifer McConnell at (509) 754-0202 by September 5.

The Columbia Basin Project, located in central Washington, was authorized for the irrigation of 1,029,000 acres. Currently, the Project serves about 671,000 acres in four eastern Washington counties. The multi-purpose project provides irrigation, power production, flood control, municipal water supply, recreation, and fish and wildlife benefits.

For more information about the study, including past reports and study updates, please go to: http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/ucao_misc/odessa/index.html.

###

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. Visit our website at www.usbr.gov.

From: "Hill, Tim (ECY)" <tih461@ECY.WA.GOV>
To: <YAKIMA-STORAGE-STUDY@LISTSERV.WA.GOV>
Date: Thu, Sep 4, 2008 9:33:42 AM
Subject: Reminder: Scoping Meetings for Odessa Subarea Special Study.

The Bureau of Reclamation and Washington State Department of Ecology will hold two public scoping meetings for the Odessa Subarea Special Study. Ecology is a joint lead with Reclamation in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement that will satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and the Washington State Environmental Policy Act.

The purpose of the study is to evaluate alternatives that would deliver surface water from the Columbia Basin Project to replace current groundwater use for irrigation in the Odessa Ground Water Management Subarea. Continued declines of aquifers in the Odessa Subarea place well production and farmers' ability to irrigate crops at risk and could cause significant economic loss to the region.

The purpose of the scoping meetings is to give the public the opportunity to identify issues and concerns associated with the alternatives proposed for study, and to identify other potential alternatives that could be considered in the EIS.

Scoping meetings will be held:

- September 10, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Town of Coulee Dam Town Hall, 300 Lincoln Avenue, Coulee Dam WA 99116.
- September 11, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., the Advanced Technologies Education Center (ATEC), Big Bend Community College, 7611 Bolling Street NE, Moses Lake WA 98837.

The study fulfills the obligation Reclamation made in a Memorandum of Agreement between the State of Washington and Columbia Basin Project irrigation districts in December 2004 to cooperatively study opportunities for delivery of Columbia Basin Project water to existing groundwater-irrigated lands within the Odessa Subarea.

A Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS was published in the Federal Register on August 21, 2008.

In addition to comments received at the scoping meetings, written comments will be accepted through September 19, and may be submitted to Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Northwest Regional Office, Attention: Ellen Berggren, Study Manager, 1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100, Boise ID 83706. Telephone (208) 378- 5090. Comments may also be submitted electronically to StudyManager@pn.usbr.gov.

The meeting facilities are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Please direct requests for sign language interpretation for the hearing impaired, or other auxiliary aids, to Jennifer McConnell at (509) 754-0202 by September 5.

The Columbia Basin Project, located in central Washington, was authorized for the irrigation of 1,029,000 acres. Currently, the Project serves about 671,000 acres in four eastern Washington counties. The multi-purpose project provides irrigation, power production, flood control, municipal water supply, recreation, and fish and wildlife benefits.

For more information about the study, including past reports and study updates, please go to: http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/ucao_misc/odessa/index.html.

###

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. Visit our website at www.usbr.gov.

Meeting Handouts

ODESSA SUBAREA SPECIAL STUDY
Columbia Basin Project

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
Coulee Dam, Washington

September 10, 2008

AGENDA

7:00 p.m. Doors open

7:15 p.m. Welcome
Ellen Berggren, Study Manager, Reclamation

Presentations by Reclamation and Washington Department of Ecology

Bill Gray, Assistant Area Manager, Reclamation

Derek Sandison, Central Regional Director, Washington Department of Ecology

David Kaumheimer, Environmental Programs Manager, Reclamation

Identification of Issues and Concerns

Take this opportunity to provide written comments about any issues or concerns you have about the impacts associated with the alternatives currently proposed or identify other alternatives that address the Study purpose and need. Post-its are provided for you to jot down your comments and then place them on the appropriate comment board.

Comment board categories include:

Banks Lake Operations

Aquifer

Water Supply and Quality

Construction

Hydropower

Historic Properties and Cultural Resources

Recreation

Social / Economic

Fish

Wildlife

Vegetation

Other Issues and Concerns

Alternatives

This is also an opportunity to review maps and other information and have one-on-one discussions with technical team members and managers.

Review and Wrap-Up

9:00 p.m. Adjourn
If you have additional comments, please turn in your comment form before you leave.

ODESSA SUBAREA SPECIAL STUDY
Columbia Basin Project

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
Moses Lake, Washington

September 11, 2008

AGENDA

7:00 p.m. Doors open

7:15 p.m. Welcome
Ellen Berggren, Study Manager, Reclamation

Presentations by Reclamation and Washington Department of Ecology

Bill Gray, Assistant Area Manager, Reclamation

Derek Sandison, Central Regional Director, Washington Department of Ecology

David Kaumheimer, Environmental Programs Manager, Reclamation

Identification of Issues and Concerns

Take this opportunity to provide written comments about any issues or concerns you have about the impacts associated with the alternatives currently proposed or identify other alternatives that address the Study purpose and need. Post-its are provided for you to jot down your comments and then place them on the appropriate comment board.

Comment board categories include:

Banks Lake Operations

Aquifer

Water Supply and Quality

Construction

Hydropower

Historic Properties and Cultural Resources

Recreation

Social / Economic

Fish

Wildlife

Vegetation

Other Issues and Concerns

Alternatives

This is also an opportunity to review maps and other information and have one-on-one discussions with technical team members and managers.

Review and Wrap-Up

9:00 p.m. Adjourn
If you have additional comments, please turn in your comment form before you leave.

RECLAMATION
Managing Water in the West

Odessa Subarea Special Study
 Columbia Basin Project

Scoping Meeting
 September 10, 2008 - Coulee Dam, WA
 September 11, 2008 - Moses Lake, WA



U.S. Department of the Interior
 Bureau of Reclamation

Meeting Objectives

- Describe proposed alternatives
- Provide overview of NEPA/SEPA process
- Obtain feedback on issues and concerns about proposed alternatives

RECLAMATION

Study Process Overview

- Organize and Develop Plan of Study
- Pre-appraisal Investigation
- Appraisal Investigation (Pre-plan formulation)
- **Feasibility Investigation (Plan formulation)**
- **Environmental Regulatory Requirements**
- Alternative Selected
- Repayment Contract Discussions Begin
- Federal Appropriations
- Final Engineering Design and Specifications
- Award Construction Contract

RECLAMATION

Columbia River Partnership

- December 2004 – Columbia River Initiative Memorandum of Understanding
- February 2006 – State's Columbia River Water Resource Management Act

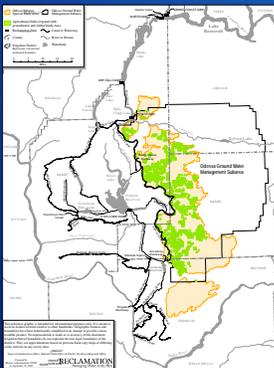


RECLAMATION

Study Purpose and Need

- Fulfill obligation in Columbia River Initiative to cooperatively study delivery of Columbia Basin Project water as a replacement for groundwater pumping
- Evaluate alternatives to replace current groundwater irrigation in Odessa Subarea

RECLAMATION



Study Area

RECLAMATION

Alternatives

Alternatives	Groundwater Acreage Supplied	Additional Columbia River Diversion (acre-feet)
No Action	0	0
Enlarge & extend East Low Canal/ Construct new East High canal system	127,300	453,200
Enlarge & extend East Low Canal	61,900	202,300

RECLAMATION

East Low / East High Alternative



- Expand capacity of East Low Canal south of I-90 and extend 2.3 miles
- Construct a new East High Canal system north of I-90

RECLAMATION

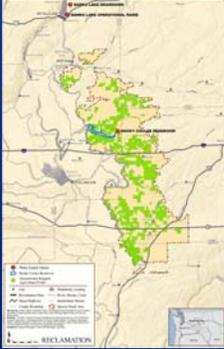
East Low Alternative



Expand capacity of East Low Canal south of I-90 and extend 2.3 miles

RECLAMATION

Water Supply Options



- Banks Lake operations
Additional draw down
Two-foot operational raise
- Reservoir in Rocky Coulee
126,000 acre-feet

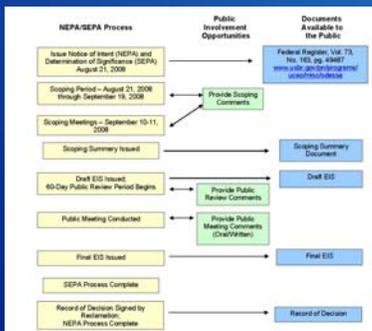
RECLAMATION

Groundwater Acreage Served

Water Supply Options		Storage Available (acre-feet)	Groundwater Acreage Supplied
Banks Lake	Draw down	50,000 per 2 ft.	16,700 per 2 ft.
	Two ft raise	50,000	16,700
Rocky Coulee Reservoir		126,000	46,900

RECLAMATION

NEPA/SEPA Process



RECLAMATION

Issues and Concerns Comment Boards

- Historic Properties / Cultural Resources
- Recreation
- Banks Lake Operations
- Aquifer
- Water Supply and Quality
- Social / Economic
- Fish
- Wildlife
- Vegetation
- Construction
- Hydropower
- Other Issues and Concerns
- Alternatives



RECLAMATION

Contact Information

Scoping comments through September 19, 2008

By mail: Ellen Berggren
Study Manager
Bureau of Reclamation
1150 North Curtis Road
Boise, ID 83706

By email: StudyManager@pn.usbr.gov

Fax: 208-378-5102

RECLAMATION

Questions?

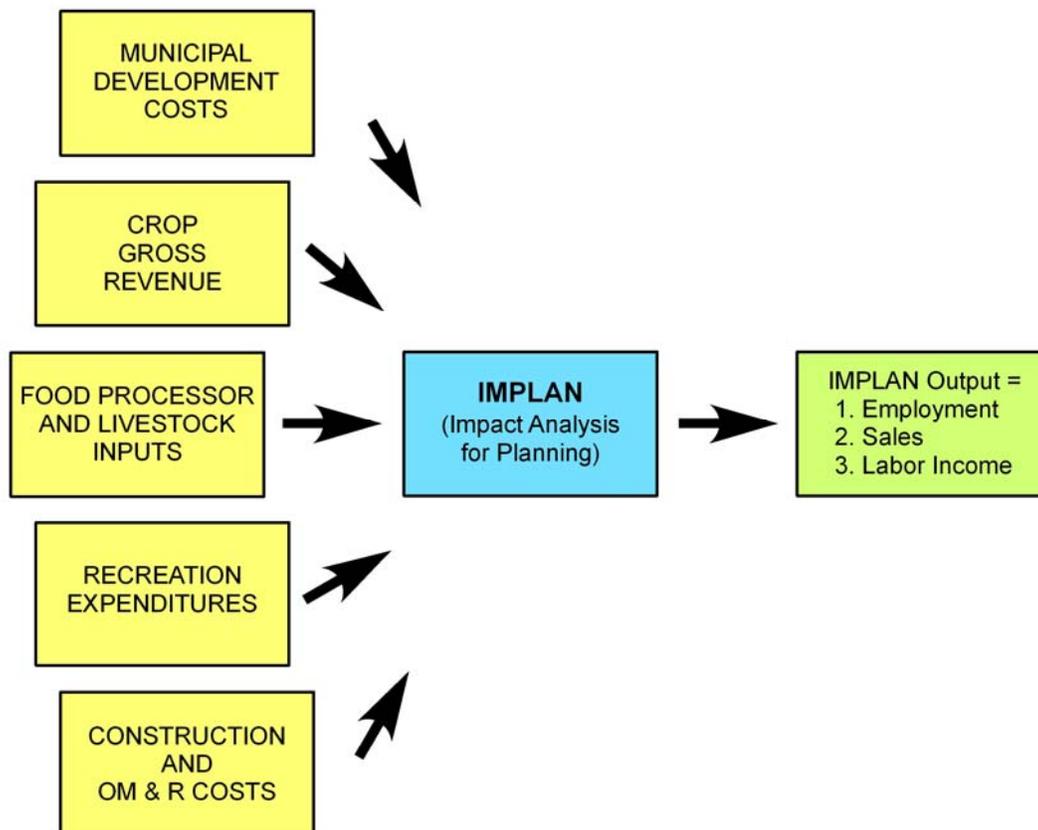


RECLAMATION

ODESSA SUBAREA SPECIAL STUDY Columbia Basin Project

REGIONAL ECONOMIC ANALYSIS for the EIS September 2008

The regional economic analysis for the environmental impact statement (EIS) will describe the current conditions within the study area (Adams, Franklin, Grant, and Lincoln Counties) and evaluate the effects on income and employment within the local economy that could be expected to occur with alternative implementation. The expected regional economic impacts in this study stem from changes in crop production revenues, agricultural inputs to food processing and livestock industries, recreation expenditures, construction and annual operations, maintenance, and replacement (OM&R) costs, and municipal development costs.



For more information about the Study, please contact Ellen Berggren, Study Manager, Bureau of Reclamation, 1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100, Boise ID 83706; telephone, 208-378-5090; fax, 208-378-5102; email, StudyManager@pn.usbr.gov.



Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Resources Implementation Studies (P&Gs)

Reclamation is authorized to continue development of the Columbia Basin Project as long as the development is economically and financially feasible. Reclamation traditionally determines economic feasibility through benefit-cost analysis and financial feasibility through payment capacity analyses. In other words, the benefits must exceed the costs and the beneficiaries must be willing and able to repay reimbursable construction costs and annual operations and maintenance costs. In the Odessa Subarea Special Study, Reclamation will use Principles and Guidelines (P&Gs) established for Federal water resources planning studies to conduct the benefit-cost analysis. The major steps of this process are:

1. Specify problems and opportunities associated with the Federal objective and State and local concerns.
2. Inventory, forecast, and analyze water and land conditions relevant to identified problems and opportunities.
3. Formulate Alternative Plans using criteria of completeness, effectiveness, efficiency, and acceptability.
4. Evaluate effects of Alternative Plans using four “accounts” that attempt to quantify information for comparison purposes.
 - NED (National Economic Development) – compares total benefits to total costs (Federal and non-Federal) by alternative. It is required in Federal analyses and focuses on impacts to the nation and considers changes in the economic value of the national output of goods and services of each alternative.
 - EQ (Environmental Quality) – displays nonmonetary effects on significant natural and cultural resources
 - RED (Regional Economic Development) – estimates both the positive and negative effects on the local economy that result from each alternative plan. Effects are measured as changes in regional economic activity (regional income and employment).
 - OSE (Other Social Effects) – displays effects of each alternative from perspectives that are relevant to the planning process, but are not reflected in the other three accounts.
5. Compare Alternative Plans using a “with project” and “without project” analysis.
6. In most cases, the plan selected is to be the alternative with the greatest net national economic benefit, consistent with protecting the environment.

ODESSA SUBAREA SPECIAL STUDY

Columbia Basin Project

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

September 2008

The National Environmental Policy Act

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was enacted into law on January 1, 1969. It requires Federal agencies to evaluate and consider environmental factors during decisionmaking and to seek input to these evaluations from state and local agencies, Tribal Governments, organizations, and the public. Agencies also must consider and evaluate a range of alternatives that meet the purpose and need of the proposed action.

When a Federal action is determined likely to significantly affect the quality of the human environment, an environmental impact statement (EIS) is prepared. The EIS provides decision-makers with important information on the types of issues and concerns identified by the public, the expected environmental consequences of all alternatives, and potential mitigation measures.

Washington State Environmental Policy Act

SEPA is the acronym for the State Environmental Policy Act. Enacted in 1971, it provides the framework for agencies to consider the environmental consequences of a proposal before taking action. It also gives agencies the ability to condition or deny a proposal due to identified likely significant adverse impacts. The Act is implemented through the SEPA Rules, Chapter 197-11, of the Washington Administrative Code.

Environmental review is required for any proposal which involves a government “action,” as defined in the SEPA Rules and is not categorically exempt. Project actions involve an agency decision on a specific project, such as a construction project or timber harvest. Nonproject actions involve decisions on policies, plans, or programs, such as the adoption of a comprehensive plan or development regulations, or a 6-year road plan.

NEPA and SEPA Compliance for This Project

The requirements of NEPA and SEPA are very similar. Both require that a range of reasonable alternatives be considered to meet the purpose and need of the project. The Washington Department of Ecology will be a joint lead with Reclamation on the development of the EIS, which will comply with both NEPA and SEPA regulations.



Terms Commonly Associated with an EIS

- ❖ **Federal Action** - This is what triggers the requirement for NEPA compliance. It can be an action that the Federal agency will take, or a decision that must be made, that may significantly impact the human environment.
- ❖ **Scoping** - The process by which input from the public, agencies, and organizations is sought to help define the alternatives, issues, and impacts that should be addressed in the EIS.
- ❖ **Purpose and Need** - The statement of purpose and need identifies the underlying reasons why an action is needed.
- ❖ **Proposed Action** - This is the action initially identified to meet the identified purpose and need for action.
- ❖ **Alternatives** - These are reasonable actions that meet the same identified purpose and need as the proposed action.
- ❖ **Federal Preferred Alternative** - This is the alternative that the Federal agency proposes to implement. If one has been identified, it will be described in the Draft EIS. A Preferred Alternative must be identified in the Final EIS.
- ❖ **No Action Alternative** - This is considered to be the most likely future without implementation of the proposed action or other alternative.
- ❖ **Record of Decision** - This document summarizes the alternatives considered in the EIS and identifies the agency's decision along with the basis for that decision. This is a requirement of NEPA, but not SEPA.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

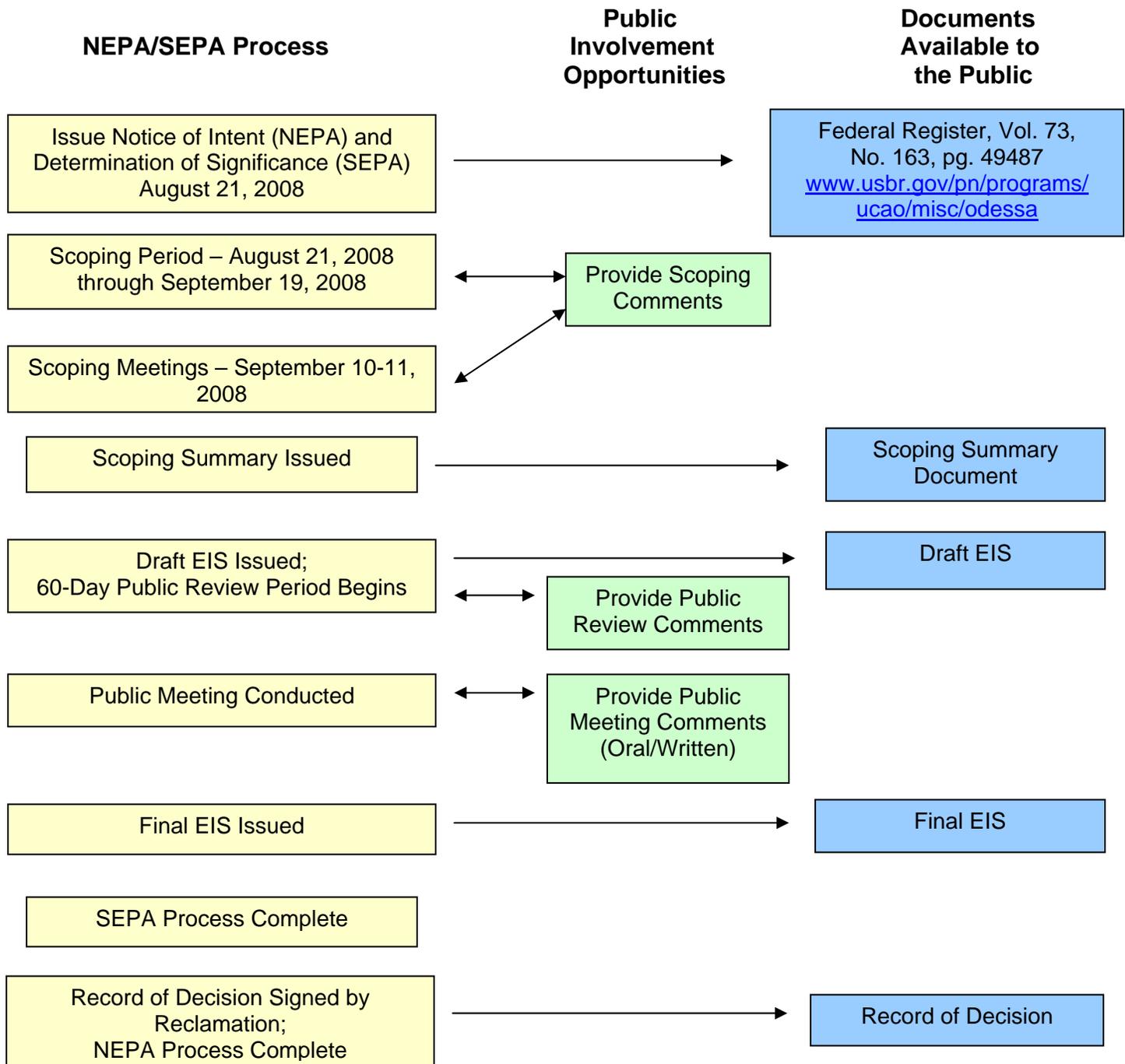
Study Website: http://www.usbr.gov/pn.programs/ucao_misc/odessa/index.html

Study Manager: Ellen Berggren, Study Manager
Bureau of Reclamation
1150 N. Curtis Road
Boise, Idaho 83706

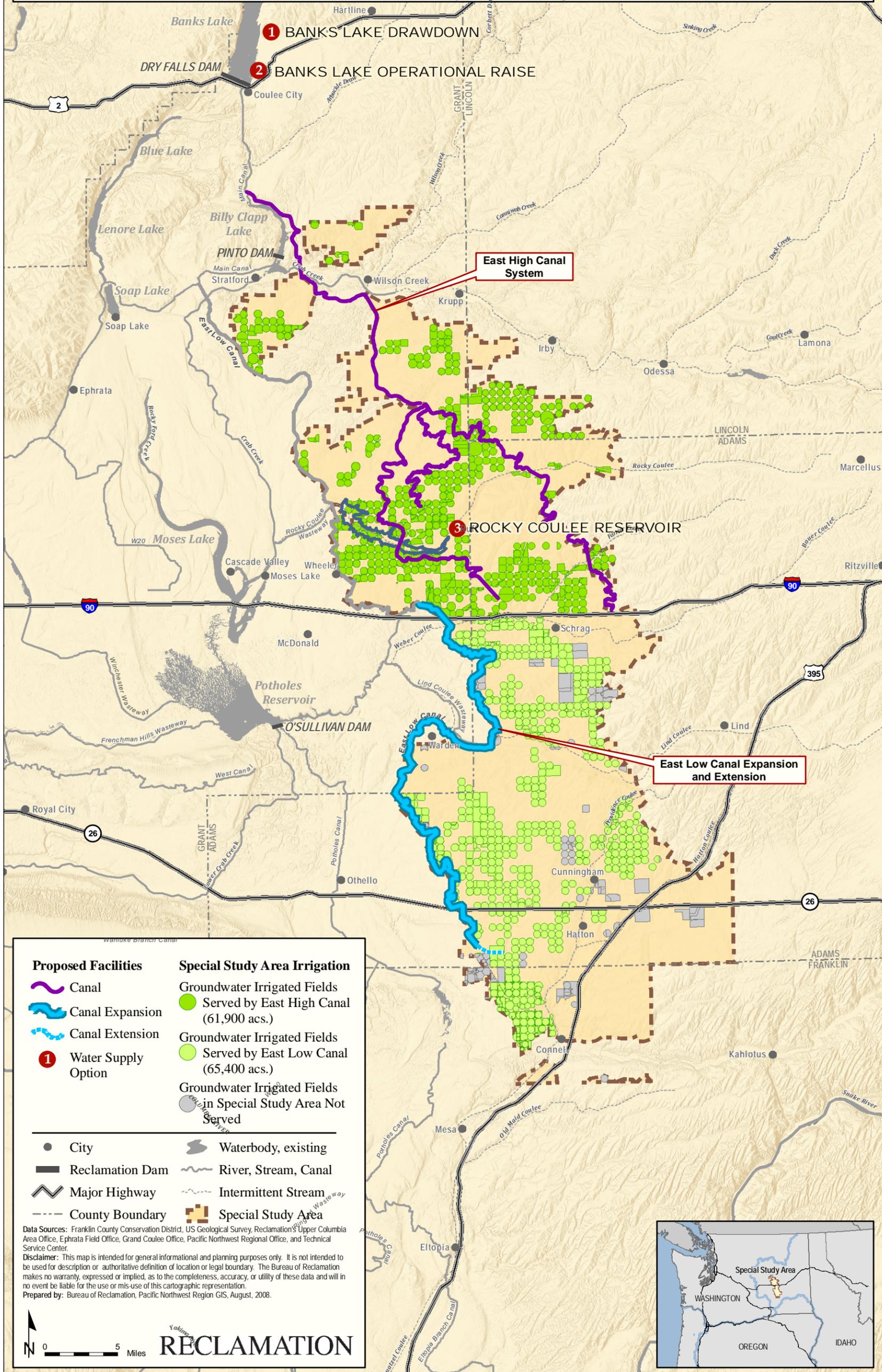
208-378-5090
208-378-5102 FAX
StudyManager@pn.usbr.gov

ODESSA SUBAREA SPECIAL STUDY Columbia Basin Project

NEPA/SEPA PROCESS September 2008



Alternative Components Odessa Subarea Special Study Columbia Basin Project, Washington



Proposed Facilities

- Canal
- Canal Expansion
- Canal Extension
- Water Supply Option

Special Study Area Irrigation

- Groundwater Irrigated Fields Served by East High Canal (61,900 acs.)
- Groundwater Irrigated Fields Served by East Low Canal (65,400 acs.)
- Groundwater Irrigated Fields in Special Study Area Not Served

- City
- Reclamation Dam
- Major Highway
- County Boundary
- Waterbody, existing
- River, Stream, Canal
- Intermittent Stream
- Special Study Area

Data Sources: Franklin County Conservation District, US Geological Survey, Reclamation's Upper Columbia Area Office, Ephrata Field Office, Grand Coulee Office, Pacific Northwest Regional Office, and Technical Service Center.

Disclaimer: This map is intended for general informational and planning purposes only. It is not intended to be used for description or authoritative definition of location or legal boundary. The Bureau of Reclamation makes no warranty, expressed or implied, as to the completeness, accuracy, or utility of these data and will in no event be liable for the use or mis-use of this cartographic representation.

Prepared by: Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Northwest Region GIS, August, 2008.



RECLAMATION



ODESSA SUBAREA SPECIAL STUDY

Columbia Basin Project

STUDY UPDATE

August 2008

STUDY BACKGROUND

The Odessa Subarea Special Study is an investigation of continued phased development of the Columbia Basin Project to provide a replacement surface water supply for current groundwater irrigation occurring in the Odessa Ground Water Management Subarea. An estimated 170,000 acres within the Odessa Subarea are now being irrigated with groundwater; an estimated 140,000 of these acres are eligible to receive Columbia Basin Project surface water. The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) is participating in the Study to provide support for state and local agency permit decisions that may be necessary to implement a selected alternative. Additional information about the Study is available at Reclamation's website:

http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/ucao_misc/odessa/index.html.

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS SCHEDULED

Reclamation is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in cooperation with Ecology that will comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). Reclamation and Ecology are hosting two public meetings to obtain your input about the Study. During these meetings, the current alternatives being considered will be described and staff will be available to answer questions. You will also be given an opportunity to identify issues and concerns associated with the current alternatives and to identify other potential alternatives.

SCOPING MEETING DETAILS

Wednesday, September 10, 2008

Town of Coulee Dam Town Hall
300 Lincoln Avenue
Coulee Dam, Washington

Thursday, September 11, 2008

The Advanced Technologies Education Center (ATEC)
Big Bend Community College
7611 Boling Street
Moses Lake, Washington

Both meetings are from 7 – 9 p.m.

The meeting facilities are physically accessible to people with disabilities. If you need other accommodations or auxiliary aids, please contact Jennifer McConnell at 509-754-0202 before September 5, 2008. TTY users in Washington may dial the following numbers to obtain a toll free TTY relay: 800-833-6384(V) for the hearing impaired; 800-833-6388(T) for the deaf.

Si desea atender la junta y necesita un interprete en Espanol, por favor llame a Casimira Garza al (509) 754-0239.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE STUDY

The purpose of Reclamation’s Odessa Subarea Special Study is to evaluate alternatives to replace current groundwater irrigation in the Odessa Subarea. The Study is needed to fulfill the obligation Reclamation made in a Memorandum of Agreement between the State of Washington (State) and the Columbia Basin Project irrigation districts in December 2004, to cooperatively explore opportunities for delivery of Columbia Basin Project water to existing groundwater-irrigated lands within the Odessa Subarea.

Action, if taken, would avoid significant economic loss in the near term to the region’s agricultural sector resulting from resource conditions associated with continued decline of the aquifers in the Odessa Subarea. Groundwater is currently being depleted to such an extent that water must be pumped from depths as great as 750 feet in some areas, with well depths as great as 2,100–2,400 feet deep. Well drilling and pumping costs have resulted in expensive power costs and poor water quality due to high water temperatures and high sodium concentrations.

The ability of farmers to irrigate their crops is at risk. In addition, water supply for domestic, commercial, municipal, and industrial uses is also affected. Those irrigating with wells of lesser depth live with uncertainty about future well production. Washington State University conducted a regional economic impact study assessing the effects of lost potato production and processing in Adams, Franklin, Grant, and Lincoln counties from continued aquifer decline. Assuming all potato production and processing is lost from the region, the analysis estimated the regional economic impact would be a loss of about \$630 million dollars annually in regional sales, a loss of 3,600 jobs, and a loss of \$211 million in regional income (Bhattacharjee and Holland. 2005. Economic Impact of a Possible Irrigation-Water Shortage in Odessa Subarea: Potato Production and Processing. WO2005-4. Washington State University, Pullman, Washington).

PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES

Reclamation is currently investigating the alternatives summarized below. These alternatives involve construction of water delivery infrastructure to convey Columbia Basin Project water to current groundwater-irrigated lands. Proposed construction would include expanding the capacity of existing facilities and constructing new canals, siphons, tunnels, pumping plants, piped laterals, and a re-regulating reservoir. The proposed infrastructure is part of the original development plan for the Columbia Basin Project.

Alternatives	Groundwater Acres Served	Additional Columbia River Diversion (acre-feet)	Appraisal-level Estimated Construction Cost Range* (in million \$)
No Action	0	0	\$ 0
Enlarge and extend existing East Low Canal south of Interstate 90 and construct a new East High canal system north of Interstate 90 in phases	127,300	453,200	\$ 1,944 – \$ 4,391
Enlarge and extend existing East Low Canal south of Interstate 90	61,900	202,300	\$ 377 – \$ 2,261

*These are appraisal-level cost estimates that are considered preliminary and not suitable for determining actual construction costs or requesting construction fund appropriations from the Congress. Updated feasibility-level cost estimates are currently being prepared.

Additional Columbia River diversions will be required above current diversions for the Columbia Basin Project to provide the replacement surface water supply. Reclamation is examining several options to provide replacement water including modifying operations at Banks Lake through additional draw down or a two-foot operational raise, and construction of a new 127,000 acre-foot reservoir in Rocky Coulee. All water supply options would be configured to work with the proposed alternatives; several water supply options may be necessary to provide a sufficient replacement water supply.

YOUR FEEDBACK REQUESTED

We want to hear your thoughts about the issues and concerns associated with the alternatives proposed for study. Please attend one of the scoping meetings scheduled in September 2008 to provide input. If you cannot attend one of our public scoping meetings, please submit your comments using the enclosed comment form and return it to us no later than **September 19, 2008**.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the Study, please contact:

Ellen Berggren, Study Manager
Bureau of Reclamation
1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100
Boise, Idaho 83706
208-378-5090 (telephone)
208-378-5102 (fax)
StudyManager@pn.usbr.gov

Visit our website at http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/ucao_misc/odessa/index.html, or sign up with Ecology's list serve at <http://listserv.wa.gov/archives/cwp.html>.

THE NEPA/SEPA PROCESS

What is NEPA?

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was passed by Congress and signed into law in 1969. It requires Federal agencies to evaluate and consider the environmental factors of proposed actions during decision making and to seek input to these evaluations from state and local agencies, Tribal Governments, organizations, and the public. Agencies must also consider and evaluate a range of alternatives that meet the purpose and need of the proposed action. A Federal agency must prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for any major action that may have significant impacts.

What is SEPA?

Washington's State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), enacted in 1971, provides the framework for State agencies to consider the environmental consequences of a proposal before taking action. Environmental review is required for any proposal which involves a government "action," as defined in the SEPA rules, and gives agencies the ability to condition or deny a proposal due to identified likely significant adverse impacts. The Act is implemented through the SEPA Rules, Chapter 197-11, Washington Administrative Code.

What is the NEPA/SEPA Process for this project?

Reclamation published a Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS in the Federal Register on August 21, 2008 (Federal Register, Vol. 73 No. 163, 49487), and Ecology published a Determination of Significance on August 21, 2008. The EIS will be prepared jointly by Reclamation and Ecology and will satisfy the requirements of both NEPA and SEPA.

A public scoping period, in which issues and concerns and other potential alternatives are identified, will run through September 19, 2008. Reclamation will develop a scoping summary of the comments received during this scoping period and it will be available to the public.

Following the scoping period, a draft EIS will be developed for public review and comment. It is anticipated that the Draft EIS will be available early in 2010. An EIS is a comprehensive, full-disclosure document that assesses the social, economic, and environmental effects, both positive and negative, of a proposed action and alternatives to it. Impacts of those alternatives are compared to the No Action Alternative. Following a 60-day public review and comment period, a Final EIS will be prepared and made available to the public. The NEPA process is concluded with a Record of Decision (ROD) issued no sooner than 30 days after the Final EIS is completed. The ROD identifies Reclamation's decision and the basis for that decision.

COMMENT FORM

Odessa Subarea Special Study

Name (please print legibly):	
Organization:	
Mailing Address:	
City, State, and Zip Code:	
Telephone:	E-mail:

If you received this form in the mail or attended a public scoping meeting you will be placed on our mailing list. Please indicate your preferred method of contact below:

I prefer to be contacted about Study progress though (CHECK ONE): Post office E-mail.
 I want my name removed from this mailing list.

Please note: Our practice is to make comments, including names, home addresses, home phone numbers and email addresses of respondents, available for public review. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their names and/or home addresses, etc., but if you wish us to consider withholding this information you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. In addition, you must present a rationale for withholding this information. This rationale must demonstrate that disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy. Unsupported assertions will not meet this burden. In the absence of exceptional, documentable circumstances, this information will be released. We will always make submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public disclosure in their entirety.

My comments on the Odessa Subarea Special Study are:

(Use back of sheet or additional sheets as necessary)

Please mail, fax, or email your comments before SEPTEMBER 19, 2008, to: Ellen Berggren, Study Manager, Bureau of Reclamation, 1150 North Curtis Road, Boise, ID 83706; fax: (208) 378-5102; email: StudyManager@pn.usbr.gov.

