

ODESSA SUBAREA SPECIAL STUDY

Columbia Basin Project

STUDY UPDATE

March 2009

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The Bureau of Reclamation and the Washington Department of Ecology have hired the team of CH2M HILL and John Petrovsky Associates to prepare an environmental impact statement for the Odessa Subarea Special Study. This team, hired in February 2009, will address the impacts of the alternatives proposed in Reclamation’s March 2008 *Appraisal-Level Investigation Summary of Findings* on the issues identified in the scoping process (November 2008). Reclamation will prepare a planning report which will present the feasibility-level designs, cost estimates, and economic analyses for the proposed alternatives.

As part of the impact analysis, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is conducting wildlife and habitat surveys in the areas that could be impacted by the alternatives. These surveys started in mid-March 2009 and will continue throughout the summer. The results of the surveys will be used to help determine potential impacts on resources such as animal migration corridors, plant species, and nesting and breeding areas for birds and other species. Letters requesting access have been sent to the landowners in advance of any survey activity. The many positive responses to these letters from the landowners ensure good coverage for the survey of the impacted area. WDFW is also gathering information on Banks Lake to help determine potential impacts to the fishery from potential changes in operation.

The alternatives included in the planning report and EIS 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.

Reclamation has been confirming and updating the number of groundwater-irrigated acres to be served with surface water by reviewing water right and irrigation district records. That acreage has been refined to 102,614 from the 127,300 used in the appraisal-level investigation. The current acreage and water diversions are shown in the following table.

Alternatives	Groundwater Acres Served	Additional Columbia River Diversion (acre-feet)
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	102,614	377,700
Enlarge and extend existing East Low Canal south of Interstate 90	57,069	202,700

Additional Columbia River diversions would 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 drawdown or a 2-foot operational raise, construction of a new 127,000-acre-foot reservoir in Rocky Coulee, and using additional water from Lake Roosevelt. The water supply options are being analyzed to determine the best way to supply the water for each alternative. It is possible that a combination of water supply options may be necessary to provide a sufficient replacement water supply.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the study, please contact:

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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> .