

Chapter 5 - Consultation and Coordination

5.1 Introduction

Reclamation's public involvement program gives the public an opportunity to obtain information about a given project and allows all interested parties to participate in these projects through written comments. One of the most important objectives of the program is to obtain information from a well-informed public that would assist decision makers throughout the process and culminate in the implementation of an alternative. This section of the EA discusses public involvement activities undertaken to date for the proposed Scofield Dam SOD Modifications and bridge replacement.

5.2 Public Involvement

Reclamation coordinated with interested individuals and various local, State, and federal agencies and other organizations regarding the Scofield Dam SOD Modifications Project.

In March 2005, Reclamation sent a scoping letter to all agencies, organizations and individuals that might have an interest in the proposed SOD modifications and bridge replacement. This letter explained the project and, invited input and comments regarding the scope of analysis for this EA. No comments were received in response to this letter.

A draft EA was distributed for public review and comment in October, 2005. It was sent to all agencies, organizations and individuals that might have an interest in the proposed SOD modifications and bridge replacement. The due date for comments was specified as November 18, 2005. This EA is also available for review on Reclamation's web site (www.usbr.gov).

On November 4, 2005, notice of public opportunity for public hearing and availability of environmental assessment was placed in the following papers: the Salt Lake Tribune, Deseret Morning News, and the Sun Advocate.

Two letters were received commenting on this EA. They were from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife and the Resource Development Coordinating Committee of the State of Utah. Several minor changes to the EA were made as appropriate. This final EA and the Finding of No Significant Impact are being made available to the interested public.

5.3 Native American Consultation

Reclamation has conducted Native American consultation throughout the public information process. On August 18, 2005, Reclamation transmitted a letter describing the proposed action to Betsy Chapoose, Director of the Cultural Rights and Protection Department for the Northern Ute Tribe (Appendix C, Document 2). This consultation was conducted in compliance with 36 CFR 800.2(c) (2) on a government-to-government basis. Through this effort, the tribe is given a reasonable opportunity to identify any concerns about historic properties; to advise on the

identification and evaluation of historic properties, including those of traditional religious and cultural importance; to express their views on the effects of the proposed action on such properties; and to participate in the resolution of adverse effects. No response from the tribe has been received to date, and so it is assumed that there are no issues of concern.

5.4 Paleontological Resources

A paleontological report was requested from the Utah State Geological Survey on August 11, 2005. The record search produced no paleontological resources that would be affected by this project (Appendix C, Document 1).

5.5 Utah State Historic Preservation Office

A copy of the Class III cultural resource report (U-05-BE-0828f) has been forwarded to the SHPO. This report includes a project description, the results of the inventory, including maps and photographs, and a recommendation of determination of effect. Consultation is on-going at this time. An MOA among Reclamation, FHWA, UDOT and the ACHP if they choose to participate, and the SHPO stipulating the mitigation measures for the removal and reconstruction of the spillway and gatehouse on the Scofield Dam would be executed.