

Chapter 5: Consultation and Coordination

The Steinaker Reservoir Resource Management Plan (RMP) Environmental Assessment (EA) was completed concurrently and in conjunction with the same process for Red Fleet Reservoir. The RMP/EA process required an extensive consultation and coordination effort. This chapter describes the coordination with agencies that either have jurisdiction by law or interest in the development of RMP document for the Steinaker Reservoir RMP Study Area (Study Area). The chapter also describes the public involvement process that was undertaken, lists persons who were involved in preparation of the document, and provides a distribution list of specific agencies and organizations receiving a copy of this EA.

Consultation

The Steinaker Reservoir RMP/EA Interdisciplinary Project Team (Project Team) consulted with numerous federal and state government agencies, special-interest groups, and local governments to discuss the issues and land-use problems that must be addressed in the RMP. Government agencies included the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR), the Utah Division of Water Rights, the Utah Division of State Parks and Recreation (State Parks), the Utah Division of Water Quality, the Utah State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), the Uintah Water Conservancy District (UWCD), Uintah County, and Vernal City, Utah. Special interest groups included recreation interests and environmental interests.

Consultation with some of these agencies was conducted to ensure compliance with relevant laws and regulations. These included consultation with SHPO in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended in 1992) and consultation with the USFWS in compliance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

Public Involvement

The preparation of an RMP document for Steinaker Reservoir has required extensive public involvement activities throughout the planning process. Because the preparation of an RMP is a federal action requiring compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the public involvement process serves both the RMP and NEPA documents. This section describes the general methods used to contact and solicit comment from interested parties.

The process of informing the public and soliciting response is known as “scoping.” The scoping process for the Steinaker Reservoir EA document was initiated in October 2011. The public scoping methods included publishing newsletters, holding local and regional public workshops, forming a Resource Management Planning Work Group (PWG), and obtaining media exposure. Each of these methods is described below.

Newsletters

Three newsletters designed to inform the public about progress during the planning process were sent to individuals, interested organizations, and agency personnel involved with the RMP. The

distribution list was updated throughout the planning process as contact information was provided. Editions of newsletters and a brief description of content are as follows:

- ***Newsletter 1 (November 2011)***. This newsletter provided an overview of the Study Area, a summary of the RMP/EA planning process, a description of public involvement activities, the project schedule, the proposed Planning Work Group, a list of key contacts, identified preliminary issues, and requested that individuals fill out a voluntary comment form.
- ***Newsletter 2 (May 2012)***. This newsletter provided an update on the planning process, described the draft land use categories, presented the preliminary alternatives that will be evaluated in detail in the EA, and requested that individuals fill out a voluntary comment form.
- ***Newsletter 3 (March 2013)***. This newsletter provided an update on the planning process, discussed the release of the Draft EA document, and presented information on how individuals could provide comments.

Public Workshops

Public workshops were held at each stage of the RMP planning process to inform interested parties of progress on the RMP and to solicit comments from the general public and agency stakeholders. These public workshops were “open house” informational meetings, during which individuals were able to freely participate. Several Project Team members were available to answer questions. Each workshop was held at the Uintah County Western Park center in Vernal from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Resource and management issues, future resource management goals and objectives, and potential management approaches for the Study Area were discussed at these workshops. The following is a summary of the workshops with descriptions of their proceedings:

- ***Workshop 1 (November 17, 2011)***. The first workshop allowed attendees to identify the issues, concerns, and opportunities inherent at the Study Area. Maps and photographs of the Study Area were available for review. A preliminary list of issues was provided to inform the public of potential planning constraints, and members of the public were asked to comment on these issues and provide additional issues or concerns to be included in the RMP/EA planning process.
- ***Workshop 2 (May 9, 2012)***. The second public workshop gave the public and agency stakeholders opportunities to view maps, information boards, and proposed RMP alternatives. Detailed descriptions of the alternatives were provided and members of the public were asked to volunteer written feedback on comment forms.
- ***Workshop 3 (March 28, 2013)***. The third public workshop provided the public opportunities to view updated maps and proposed RMP alternatives. The Project Team members solicited suggestions for a “preferred RMP alternative” and answered questions regarding the Draft EA. Information was provided on how members of the public and agency stakeholders could provide comments on the Draft EA. Comment letters received and Reclamation responses are provided in Appendix D.

Resource Management Planning Work Group (PWG)

The PWG was formed to broadly represent agencies and stakeholders with significant interests in the future management and use of Study Area resources. Representatives in the PWG were selected primarily from those organizations and agencies directly involved with management of resources within the Study Area and included representatives of the UWCD, State Parks, UDWR, USFWS, BLM, Uintah County, and Vernal City. The purpose of the PWG was to facilitate information exchange and to provide an open forum for discussing all aspects of the RMP and the planning process. In addition, the PWG provided input into the identification of issues, development of goals and objectives, and formulation of a full range of RMP alternatives. A brief description of each of the four PWG meetings is as follows:

- **Meeting 1 (October 18, 2011).** At this meeting, PWG members were introduced, and an overview of the RMP/EA process was provided. The existing management situation was discussed, and Preliminary Issue Statements, Goals, and Objectives for the RMP process were developed.
- **Meeting 2 (February 22, 2012).** At this meeting, PWG members reviewed and finalized the Issue Statements, Goals, and Objectives; discussed the preliminary land-use categories; reviewed the recreational development suitability criteria; and obtained comments and ideas for preliminary RMP alternatives.
- **Meeting 3 (May 9, 2012).** At this meeting, PWG members reviewed and discussed their comments regarding RMP alternatives to be presented to the public and analyzed in detail in the EA.
- **Meeting 4 (March 28, 2013).** The purpose of this meeting was to provide an overview of the Draft EA document, discuss a preferred alternative, and describe how to provide comments to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) within the comment period.

Additionally, Reclamation scheduled a meeting with the Uintah County Commission on January 8, 2013. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss how comments received from the County Commissioners (in a letter dated May 30, 2012) had been incorporated into the RMP alternatives. Attendees at the meeting included representatives of the County Commission, Reclamation, UWCD, and State Parks.

Media

Media exposure for the Steinaker Reservoir RMP project included local newspapers (print and on-line) and radio. Print publicity in the form of legal notices and paid advertisements guaranteed adequate exposure and were placed in the Vernal Express newspaper. Radio notices were in the form of public service announcements and were delivered to local radio stations.

Distribution List

Copies of the Draft and Final EA documents were distributed by Reclamation's Provo Area Office to the government agencies, organizations, individuals, and libraries listed below.

Government Agencies

Uintah Water Conservancy District
78 West 3325 North
Vernal, Utah 84078

Utah Division of State Parks and Recreation
PO Box 146001
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-6001

Uintah County Commission
152 East 100 North
Vernal, Utah 84078

Utah Division of State Parks and Recreation
Steinaker and Red Fleet State Parks
4335 N. Hwy 191
Vernal, Utah 84078-7800

Uintah Recreation District
610 S. Vernal Avenue
Vernal, Utah 84078

Utah Public Lands Policy Coordination
Office
5110 State Office Building
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Vernal Field Office
170 South 500 East
Vernal, Utah 84078

Utah State Historic Preservation Office
300 S. Rio Grande Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Utah Field Office
2369 Orton Circle, Suite 50
West Valley City, Utah 84119

Vernal City Mayor's Office
374 East Main Street
Vernal, Utah 84078

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
Northeast Region
318 N. Vernal Ave.
Vernal, Utah 84078

Interested Individuals and Organizations

Orlan and Donna Anderson
1966 West 1500 South
Vernal, Utah 84078

Orlando Heaton
965 North 2175 West
Vernal, Utah 84078

Trever Anderson
965 West 1100 South
Vernal, Utah 84078

Bret and Laurie Reynolds
917 North 2000 West
Vernal, Utah 84078

Tammy Ferguson
1877 East 3500 South
Vernal, Utah 84078

Marilyn Sweetser
780 West 350 North
Vernal, Utah 84078

Libraries

Uintah County Library
155 East Main
Vernal, Utah 84078

List of Preparers

The following is a list of preparers who participated in the development of the Draft and Final EA. They include Project Team members, Reclamation Team members, and other contributors.

Project Team Members

Table 5-1 provides a list of preparers from the BIO-WEST, Inc., Project Team, their qualifications, and their roles in developing the Draft and Final EA documents.

Reclamation Team Members

- Peter Crookston, Environmental Protection Specialist
- Jeffrey D'Agostino, Environmental Group Chief
- Troy Ethington, Geography/GIS
- Jonathan Jones, Water Resources Group Chief
- Brian Joseph, Archaeologist
- Kerry Schwartz, Water and Environmental Resources Division Manager/COR
- Johnn Sterzer, Landscape Architect

Table 5-1. List of Preparers for the Project Team.

NAME	RESPONSIBILITIES	QUALIFICATIONS
Christopher Sands	Project Team Leader, EA development, public involvement, and project management.	B.L.A. landscape architecture, M.L.A. landscape architecture, 24 years professional experience.
Sandra Turner	Public involvement and editorial oversight	A.A.S. science and journalism, B.S. English (professional writing emphasis), 20 years professional experience.
Chadd VanZanten	Document preparation	B.S. communications (journalism), 13 years professional experience.
Sean Keenan	EA development, public involvement, socioeconomic conditions	Ph.D. sociology, M.S. sociology, B.A. social and behavioral sciences, 6 years professional experience.
Sandra Davenport	Recreation and visual resources existing conditions and impact evaluation	M.L.A. landscape architecture, B.L.A. landscape architecture, 20 years professional experience.
Michael Sipos	Wildlife oversight and impact evaluation	M.S. wildlife science, B.S. wildlife science, 18 years professional experience.
Mary Cheney	Wildlife existing conditions and impact evaluation	B.S. environmental studies, M.S. wildlife biology (candidate), 8 years professional experience.
Brandon Albrecht	Fisheries oversight and impact evaluation	M.S. aquatic ecology, B.S. fisheries and wildlife, 13 years professional experience.
Ron Kegerries	Fisheries existing conditions and impact evaluation	M.S. biology, B.S. biology, 10 years professional experience.
Melissa Stamp	Water resources existing conditions and impact evaluation	M.S. watershed science, B.A. geography, 17 years professional experience.
Shannon Herstein	Water quality existing conditions and impact evaluation	M.S. watershed science, B.S. watershed science, 12 years professional experience.
Alyson Eddie	Vegetation community oversight and impact evaluation	B.S. environmental biology and ecology, 10 years professional experience.
Kari Coy	Vegetation community existing conditions and impact evaluation	B.S. botany, A.A.S. general studies, 7 years professional experience.
Travis Taylor	Vegetation community existing conditions and impact evaluation	B.S. restoration and conservation ecology, 8 years professional experience.
Wes Thompson	Geology, soils, waste water, and hazardous materials oversight, existing conditions, and impact evaluation	B.S. composite sciences with an emphasis in geology, A.A.S. geology, Utah Professional Geologist Certificate (5540557-2250), 23 years professional experience.
Glen Busch	Geographic Information System (GIS) oversight, analysis, mapping, and presentation	M.S. bioregional planning, B.S. forest management, 10 years professional experience.
Adam Perschon	GIS analysis and mapping	A.S. communications, B.A. communications, M.S. bioregional planning (candidate), 7 years professional experience.
Aaron Crookston	GIS analysis and mapping	B.L.A. landscape architecture, ArcGIS Technician Certification, 5 years professional experience.
Jennifer Dunn	Public involvement, media coordination, document preparation, and administrative	18 years professional experience.

Other Contributors to the Planning Process

The following individuals participated in the Planning Work Group and/or otherwise assisted with information and analysis in the Draft and Final EA documents:

- Gawain Snow, General Manager, Uintah Water Conservancy District
- John Hunting, Assistant Manager for Operations, Uintah Water Conservancy District
- Mike Murray, Park Manager, Red Fleet and Steinaker State Parks
- Fred Hayes, Director, Utah Division of State Parks and Recreation
- Tim Smith, Regional Manager, Utah Division of State Parks and Recreation
- Leon Tate, Senior Business Analyst, Utah Division of State Parks and Recreation
- Jason West, Outdoor Recreation Planner, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Vernal Field Office
- Amy Defreese, Ecologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Utah Field Office
- Trina Hedrick, Northeast Region Aquatics Manager, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
- Natalie Boren, Northeast Region Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
- Darlene Burns, Uintah County Commissioner
- Diane Coltharp, Public Lands Specialist, Uintah County
- Lesha Coltharp, Travel and Tourism Specialist, Uintah County
- E. Allen Parker, Assistant City Manager and City Planner, Vernal City
- Mark Raymond, Uintah County Commissioner