

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Tropic Ditch Replacement Project Draft Environmental Assessment

**Bureau of Reclamation
Provo Area Office**



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Upper Colorado Region
Provo, Utah

May 2006

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.

Tropic Ditch Replacement Project Draft Environmental Assessment

**Garfield County, Utah
May 2006**

Prepared by:

Lead Agency:

Bureau of Reclamation
Provo Area Office
Provo, Utah

Cooperating Agency:

National Park Service
Bryce Canyon National Park
Bryce, Utah

Contact Person:

Rafael Lopez
Bureau of Reclamation
302 East 1860 South
Provo, Utah 84606
801-379-1185

Contact Person:

Kristin Legg
Bryce Canyon National Park
P.O. Box 170001
Bryce, UT 84717
435-834-4900

SUMMARY

The purpose of this project is to reduce the amount of salt entering the Paria River and ultimately the Colorado River. One way to reduce the amount of salt reaching the Colorado River is to eliminate seepage from the historic Tropic Ditch. The Bureau of Reclamation, Provo Area Office has proposed funding for the project under the Colorado River Salinity Control Program. In addition to reducing the amount of salt loading, the project would also conserve water lost to evaporation and seepage.

The purpose of this Environmental Assessment (EA) is to analyze the potential environmental consequences of the proposed construction of an irrigation pipeline by Tropic and East Fork Irrigation Company. The construction of the pipeline would originate approximately one mile within the east border of Bryce Canyon National Park. The pipeline would follow approximately one mile of an existing cattle trail through the park. It would continue to pass through the Tropic Canyon and eventually into the Tropic Valley near the town of Tropic in Garfield County, Utah. The pipeline would replace about 5.5 miles of existing open ditch.