

Chapter 4

Consultation and Coordination

This chapter describes the consultation and coordination for the Victory Ranch River Restoration Project EA. It summarizes the consultation and coordination that was undertaken regarding the Proposed Action, alternatives to the Proposed Action and the associated Victory Ranch Resort project.

Reclamation initiated coordination for the Proposed Action with a scoping document circulated on June 26, 2003 to approximately 45 interested individuals, organizations and agencies. Eight comment letters were received and those comments were considered in developing this EA. Reclamation also has consulted with the Northern Ute Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation in Fort Duchesne, Utah regarding Indian Trust Asset concerns for the proposed project area.

The draft EA for the Victory Ranch River Restoration Project was distributed for public review on November 4, 2003 with comments requested by December 10, 2003. The draft EA was mailed to about 45 interested agencies, organizations, and individuals. Six comment letters were received, and the comments contained in those letters were considered in preparing this final EA.

In 2001 an application was submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for a 404 Permit for the Victory Ranch Resort project including the river restoration component (the Proposed Action). The first formal scoping meeting introducing the Victory Ranch Resort project to regulatory agencies was held at the Fish and Wildlife Service office in Salt Lake City on April 5, 2001. Most of the discussion was on the river golf course impacts, river restoration options, water quality, aquatic resources and the riverine habitat in general. Comments provided at the meeting were addressed during the spring and summer months by conducting several field studies as well as researching existing data concerning habitat and wildlife. Project design modifications were also produced to further minimize impacts and address regulators concerns on a variety of issues. A Public Notice was posted on the Corps website with a comment period from December 7, 2001 through February 5, 2002. The Public Notice was also mailed to adjacent property owners, as well as selected Federal, state and local regulatory agencies. Copies of the Permit Application were sent to organizations and individuals who requested the document. Eleven comment letters were received by the Corps of Engineers from individuals, organizations and agencies and the comments were considered in developing this EA. The Corps of Engineers intends to complete their EA for the 404 permit at the same time BOR finalizes this EA.

Public Hearings were held on May 31, 2001, by the Wasatch County Planning Commission and on August 6, 2001, by the Wasatch County Board of Commissioners. At these hearings public comment was taken orally and recorded by a court recorder. A

14 day period for written comment was also provided. Forty three parties submitted comments to Wasatch County and those comments were considered in developing the EA.

The developers of the project have recognized the importance of interacting closely with the local community, environmental groups and local, state and federal regulators. Substantial effort has been made to ensure the concerns of these groups were addressed early in the planning and permitting process in part by inviting interested parties and regulators to tour the site and discuss project components. Specific documentation of regulatory agency and public involvement is available upon request.