

_ / NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

- S Signed into law by President Nixon in 1969
- S Established national environmental policy--it established our nation's environmental ethic
- S Requires all Federal agencies to consider the impacts of their activities on the environment and do everything within their means to ensure Americans can live in harmony with their environment
- S Established the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) within the Office of the President.
- S CEQ developed Implementing Regulations for NEPA and each agency was directed to develop A's own procedures based on CEQ Regulations.

_ / RECLAMATION DEVELOPED AND USES A NEPA HANDBOOK BASED ON CEQ REGULATIONS AND THE DOI MANUAL (Revised version of the Handbook is pending)

_ / ALL RECLAMATION ACTIVITIES ARE SUBJECT TO ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

_ / NEPA COMPLIANCE MAY/MAY NOT BE REQUIRED FOR THE ACTIVITY

- S If not clearly exempt, we can use a CE checklist to scope an action
- S If an action meets conditions for CE, no further compliance is required

_ / CATEGORIES OF NEPA COMPLIANCE

- S Environmental Assessment (EA)
 - S Results in either a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or an EIS
- S Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
 - S Results in a Record of Decision (ROD)

_ / KEY ELEMENTS:

- S Provides blanket checklist for other environmental laws (ESA/NHPA/CWA)
- S Significance of impacts-if not significant, not an issue
- S Alternatives--to use of existing resources and to proposed action
 - S Purpose and Need
 - S Mitigation of Adverse Effects