



How to Read the DEIS:

The Bureau of Reclamation has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to analyze the impacts of construction, operation, and maintenance of the Paradox Valley Unit (PVU) facilities to control saline groundwater in Paradox Valley, Montrose County, Colorado. The PVU is authorized by Title II, 202(a) (1) of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act of 1974 (88 Stat. 266), as amended.

The PVU is approximately 50 miles southwest of Grand Junction and 10 miles east of the Colorado-Utah border. The PVU extracts naturally occurring brine groundwater in Paradox Valley, which prevents brine from entering the Dolores River, a tributary to the Colorado River. The brine is then injected deep underground into a permeable, porous rock formation, thus improving water quality in both the Dolores and Colorado Rivers. The PVU currently removes about 95,000 tons of salt per year that would otherwise enter the Colorado River. The PVU is the largest single contributor to the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program.¹ The existing PVU deep injection well is nearing the end of its serviceable life; therefore, Reclamation is investigating alternative ways to protect and enhance the quality of water in the Colorado River.

The DEIS contains the following:

- **Chapter 1**, which introduces the project and explains the purpose of and need for the federal action;
- **Chapter 2**, which describes each of the four alternatives in detail;
- **Chapter 3**, which describes the affected environment in the project area and the environmental consequences of implementing each alternative on the affected environment;
- **Chapter 4**, which describes the cumulative impacts of each alternative along with other NEPA considerations; and
- **Chapter 5**, which describes the public involvement, consultation, and coordination that occurred throughout the preparation of the DEIS.
- Key terms are defined in **Appendix A**.
- DEIS figures are included in **Appendix B**.

The DEIS also includes a series of appendices with DEIS-supporting information. These appendices can be found in Volumes 3 and 4 and include reports on geomechanical flow modeling, ecological risk assessments, and potential impacts on visual resources.

¹ Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum. 2017. 2017 Review. Water Quality Standards for Salinity, Colorado River System. Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum. October 2017. Internet website: <http://www.coloradoriversalinity.org/docs/2017%20Review%20-%20FINAL.pdf>.