

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on August 12 and 13, 2003. On August 12 the meeting will be held at the VFW Hall, 933 Sells Avenue, Canon City, Colorado from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The meeting will reconvene on August 13 at the Holy Cross Abbey Community Center, 2951 E. Highway 50, Canon City, Colorado from 9:15 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The 15 member Council advises the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Land Management, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with public land management in the Front Range Center, Colorado. Planned agenda topics include:

On August 12, 2003 the public is encouraged to provide comments on the preliminary draft Sustaining Working Landscapes Initiative.

On August 13, 2003 the Council will discuss the preliminary draft Sustaining Working Landscapes Initiative with the purpose of providing advice to the BLM Colorado State Director. All meetings are open to the public. The public is encouraged to make oral comments to the Council between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. August 12 or written statements may be submitted for the Councils consideration. Depending on the number of persons wishing to comment and time available, the time for individual oral comments may be limited. Summary minutes for the Council Meeting will be maintained in the Front Range Center Office and will be available for public inspection and reproduction during regular business hours within thirty (30) days following the meeting.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Attn: Ken Smith, 3170 East Main Street, Canon City, Colorado 81212. Phone (719) 269-8500.

Dated: July 8, 2003.

**John L. Carochi,**

*Acting Front Range Center Manager.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-JB-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Reclamation

#### Operational Changes in Support of Lake Cascade Fishery Restoration, Boise Project, Payette Division, Idaho

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement and conduct public scoping meetings.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS), and conduct associated public scoping meetings for proposed operational changes at Lake Cascade, on the North Fork Payette River near Cascade, Idaho. The purpose of the proposed operational changes is to allow the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) to efficiently and effectively remove most of the northern pikeminnow and largescale suckers from the lake. IDFG has determined that the presence of large numbers of northern pikeminnow and largescale suckers in the lake are a major cause in the decline of the important yellow perch and trout fishery and will prevent recovery of the fishery unless their numbers are significantly reduced. The current proposal is for Reclamation to lower the water elevation of Lake Cascade to the lowest level possible to allow IDFG to remove the undesirable fish and restock the lake with perch and trout.

Reclamation has scheduled public meetings to describe the proposed project and obtain public input on potential impacts of the proposed operational changes at Lake Cascade. These meetings will assist in determining issues and concerns associated with the project that will be analyzed in the EIS.

**DATES:** Public scoping meetings will be held on the following dates:

- August 11, 2003, in Cascade, Idaho.
- August 12, 2003, in Boise Idaho.
- August 13, 2003, in Emmett, Idaho.

Each meeting will begin with a formal presentation about the proposed project from 7 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. followed by an informal open house from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Comments on the proposed project will be accepted through September 12, 2003.

The meeting facilities are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Please direct requests for sign language interpretation for the hearing impaired, or other auxiliary aids, to Steve Dunn by August 1, 2003, by telephone, fax, or TTY relay number listed under the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this notice.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments or requests for inclusion on the EIS mailing list may be submitted to Bureau of Reclamation, Snake River Area Office, Attention: Steve Dunn, Natural Resources Specialist, 214 Broadway Avenue, Boise ID 83702-7298.

The meetings will be held at the following locations:

- August 11, 2003, at the American Legion Hall, 105 E Mill Street, Cascade, Idaho.

- August 12, 2003, at the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, 600 S Walnut, Boise Idaho.

- August 13, 2003, at the U.S. Department of Agriculture Service Center, 1805 Highway 16, Emmett, Idaho.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Anyone interested in more information concerning the EIS, or who has information that may be useful in identifying significant environmental issues, may contact Mr. Steve Dunn at telephone 208-334-9844, or e-mail [sdunn@pn.usbr.gov](mailto:sdunn@pn.usbr.gov). TTY users may call 208-334-9844 by dialing 711 to obtain a toll free TTY relay.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Cascade Dam and Reservoir, located on the North Fork Payette River in west central Idaho, were constructed by Reclamation for use as a Federal irrigation facility. Cascade Reservoir, now designated Lake Cascade, has a storage capacity of 693,123 acre feet and encompasses 26,500 surface acres. Lake Cascade, along with Reclamation's Deadwood Reservoir, are part of Reclamation's Payette Division of the Boise Project. These reservoirs supply irrigation water to Idaho Water District 65, which encompasses the lower Payette River Basin. Hydropower is generated at Cascade Dam by Idaho Power Company.

At its peak from the late 1970's through the early 1990's, Lake Cascade was the most-fished water body in Idaho. The year-round yellow perch fishery and stocked rainbow trout and coho salmon not only provided thousands of recreation days for anglers but also significant income for the local economy. The perch fishery vanished and the trout fishery declined significantly in the mid-1990's, and neither has recovered.

IDFG began investigating the decline of the yellow perch fishery in Lake Cascade in 1998 and determined that large numbers of northern pikeminnow and largescale suckers in the lake are a major cause in the decline of the recreational fishery and will prevent recovery of the fishery unless their numbers are significantly reduced. Northern pikeminnow are predators on both yellow perch and trout, and largescale suckers are contributing to the decline of the fishery by competing for food resources.

IDFG has analyzed different methods to remove and/or reduce the numbers of northern pikeminnow and has concluded that the most economical method with the highest probability for

success would entail draining the reservoir pool, passing most fish downstream, and utilizing a fish toxicant (rotenone) to kill any remaining fish. The configuration of Cascade Dam would allow the almost complete evacuation of water down to the former river channel. After the eradication of the fish, the reservoir would begin to refill with the next seasons spring runoff.

Through preliminary public involvement conducted by IDFG, several areas of potential impact and public concern caused by the proposed operational changes have been identified. Irrigation supply may be affected, and alternative management of flows and operations will need to be considered. The flows in the North and South Forks of the Payette River provide a commercial whitewater rafting industry, and change in water management from Reclamation reservoirs may have adverse effects. Water-based recreation on the lake itself may also be impacted. Water quality both in Lake Cascade and downstream may be impaired. Lake Cascade also supports several nesting pairs of bald eagles, a federally listed threatened species, as well as abundant waterfowl and other wildlife.

In response to the issues developed during scoping, other alternative means of operating the reservoir system to meet IDFG's needs will be explored and analyzed in the EIS if found to be feasible. In addition to changes at Lake Cascade, these alternatives may involve changes in operations upstream at Payette Lake, as well as at Deadwood Reservoir. Federal, state and local agencies, tribes, and the general public are invited to participate in the EIS process.

Dated: June 11, 2003.

**J. William McDonald,**

*Regional Director, Pacific Northwest Region.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

#### Notice of Proposed Information Collection

**AGENCY:** Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation

and Enforcement (OSM) is announcing that the information collection requests for 30 CFR part 733, Maintenance of State programs and procedures for substituting Federal enforcement of State programs and withdrawing approval of State programs; 30 CFR part 785, Requirements for permits for special categories of mining; and 30 CFR part 876, Acid mine drainage treatment and abatement program, have been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The information collection requests describe the nature of the information collections and their expected burden and cost.

**DATES:** OMB has up to 60 days to approve or disapprove the information collections but may respond after 30 days. Therefore, public comments should be submitted to OMB by August 14, 2003, in order to be assured of consideration.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To request a copy of any of the three information collection requests, explanatory information and related forms, contact John A. Trelease at (202) 208-2783. You may also contact Mr. Trelease at [jtreleas@osmre.gov](mailto:jtreleas@osmre.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** OMB regulations at 5 CFR 1320, which implement provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13), require that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities [see 5 CFR 1320.8(d)]. OSM has submitted three requests to OMB to renew its approval for the collections of information found at 30 CFR parts 733, 785 and 876. OSM is requesting a 3-year term of approval for these information collection activities.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control numbers for these collections of information are 1029-0025 for part 733, 1029-0040 for part 785, and 1029-0104 for part 876, and may be found in OSM's regulations at 733.10, 785.10 and 876.10.

As required under 5 CFR 1320.8(d), a **Federal Register** notice soliciting comments on the collections of information for parts 733, 785 and 876 was published on March 14, 2003 (68 FR 12379). No comments were received. This notice provides the public with an additional 30 days in which to comment on the following information collection activities:

*Title:* Maintenance of State programs and procedures for substituting Federal enforcement of State programs and withdrawing approval of State programs, 30 CFR 733.

*OMB Control Number:* 1029-0025.

*Summary:* This part provides that any interested person may request the Director of OSM to evaluate a State program by setting forth in the request a concise statement of facts that the person believe establishes the need for the evaluation.

*Bureau Form Number:* None.

*Frequency of Collection:* Once.

*Description of Respondents:* Any interested person (individuals, businesses, institutions, organizations).

*Total Annual Response:* 2.

*Total Annual Burden Hours:* 200 hours.

*Title:* Requirements for permits for special categories of mining, 30 CFR 785.

*OMB Control Number:* 1029-0040.

*Summary:* The information is being collected to meet the requirements of sections 507, 508, 510, 515, 516, 701 and 711 of Pub. L. 95-87, which require applicants for special types of mining activities to provide descriptions, maps, plans and data of the proposed activity. This information will be used by the regulatory authority in determining if the applicant can meet the applicable performance standards for the special type of mining activity.

*Bureau Form Number:* None.

*Frequency of Collection:* Once.

*Description of Respondents:* Applicants for coalmine permits.

*Total Annual Responses:* 432.

*Total Annual Burden Hours:* 47,850 hours.

*Title:* Acid mine drainage treatment and abatement program, 30 CFR 876.

*OMB Control Number:* 1029-0104.

*Summary:* This part establishes the requirements and procedures allowing State and Indian Tribes to establish acid mine drainage abatement and treatment programs under the Abandoned Mine Land fund as directed through Public Law 101-508.

*Bureau Form Number:* None.

*Frequency of Collections:* Once.

*Description of Respondents:* State governments and Indian Tribes.

*Total Annual Responses:* 1.

*Total Annual Burden Hours:* 350 hours.

Send comments on the need for the collection of information for the performance of the functions of the agency; the accuracy of the agency's burden estimates; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and ways to