

EC-1340  
ENV-10.00

To: Interested Agencies and Members of the Public

Subject: Bonny Reservoir Integrated Pest Management Plan

Dear Interested Parties:

The Bureau of Reclamation is considering implementation of an integrated pest management plan (IPM) at Bonny Reservoir, Colorado. The IPM would be used to guide management of noxious, invasive or nuisance species on Reclamation lands at the reservoir. These “pest” species are a growing issue at Bonny Reservoir. In particular, there has been an increase in the number of acres impacted by noxious weeds. If not effectively treated, these species have the potential to negatively impact recreation activities, degrade wildlife habitat, and negatively impact surrounding private lands.

We would appreciate hearing your thoughts and concerns about implementation of the plan. A copy of the IPM has been enclosed for your review. (The IPM appendices have not been included because of their length, but are available upon request or online [www.usbr.gov/gp/eca/](http://www.usbr.gov/gp/eca/)). Your input will assist Reclamation in determining what issues exist with the plan, as well as potential alternatives to the proposed plan.

Reclamation’s implementation of the IPM is a Federal action that requires compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. As the lead Federal agency, Reclamation anticipates the preparation of an Environmental Assessment to evaluate the environmental consequences of the proposed action and determine whether there is a need to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

### **Purpose & Need for the IPM**

Reclamation lands at Bonny Reservoir are managed by multiple agencies, including the State of Colorado’s Division of Wildlife and State Parks, and Reclamation. Each agency has addressed a handful of noxious weeds and nuisance species at Bonny Reservoir through pesticide use plans (PUPs) in the past. PUPs are short-term annual plans to control specific pests using specific pesticides. Because each agency addresses pests individually, this creates the potential for using treatments that are counter to each other, less effective because treatment is confined to only those areas under the management agencies control, and could result in unintended cumulative pesticide impacts from lack of coordinated use between the agencies.

Implementation of an IPM would result in the use of a broad range of control agents and methods to control a wide range of pests, multi-year pest management planning, and treatment coordination between the agencies.

## **Potential Environmental Issues and Concerns**

Reclamation has tentatively identified the following issues or potential resource impacts that could result from the proposed action.

1. Potential for drift and/or over-spraying during aerial spraying.
2. Impacts on water quality from aerial spraying.
3. Impacts on bald eagles, a federally-listed threatened species.
4. What to do about dead plant debris resulting from treatment removal after aerial spraying.
5. Preventing re-establishment of undesirable species in treated areas after noxious weeds have been removed.

## **Alternatives**

Preliminary alternatives that have been developed for initial consideration include:

1. *No Action Alternative*: Reclamation **would not** implement an integrated pest management plan at Bonny Reservoir. Pest species would continue to be treated through the use of individual PUPs.
2. *Proposed Action Alternative*: Reclamation **would** implement the proposed integrated pest management plan at Bonny Reservoir.

Reclamation will consider all environmental issues identified during this process to develop appropriate mitigation measures and alternatives.

## **Timeframe for Receiving Comments**

Again, the purpose of this document is to solicit initial public and agency comments on environmental issues and potential effects associated with the proposed action and no action alternatives that should be considered by Reclamation.

If upon review of this information you desire to provide written comments or have any questions, please send your comments by April 27, 2005, to: Bureau of Reclamation, Eastern Colorado Area Office, Attn: Paula Sunde (EC-1340), 11056 W. County Road 18E, Loveland, CO 80537-9711 or fax 970-663-3212.

Sincerely,

Brian Person  
Area Manager

Enclosure -1

