

Chapter 5 - Consultation and Coordination

5.1 Introduction

This chapter details the consultation and coordination between Reclamation and other Federal, state, and local Government agencies, Native American Tribes, and the public, during the preparation of this EA. Compliance with NEPA is a Federal responsibility that involves the participation of all of these entities in the planning process. NEPA requires full disclosure about major actions taken by Federal agencies and accompanying alternatives, impacts, and potential mitigation of impacts.

5.2 Public Involvement

A public scoping period to provide to the interested public an opportunity to provide input regarding the scope of this EA was initiated on June 3, 2008, with a scoping letter mailed to over 100 municipalities, organizations, or agencies considered to have an interest in the proposed action. The scoping period ended on June 27, 2008, with 4 comment letters received. All comments received were given full consideration in defining issues to be analyzed in this EA.

The draft EA was made available for a 30-day public comment period with the deadline for comments indicated in the transmittal letter. Nine comment letters were received and considered in the final EA. During the 30-day comment period, a public meeting was scheduled in Morgan on January 13, 2009, to present a summary of the proposed project and answer questions, as well as receive written comments. The draft EA was mailed to over 70 municipalities, organizations, and agencies who indicated in response to the scoping letter that they would like to remain on the mailing list. The draft EA was also made available on the internet at www.usbr.gov/uc/endocs/index.html.

Comments received on the draft EA were reviewed and where appropriate, revisions to the final EA have been made based on comments received.

The Final EA can be found at the same internet web site above. Interested parties may receive a copy of the final EA by written request to Mr. Peter Crookston, Bureau of Reclamation, Provo Area Office. The address is 302 East 1860 South, Provo, Utah 84606-7317, or e-mail, pcrookston@usbr.gov.

5.3 Native American Consultation

Reclamation conducted Native American consultation throughout the public information process. Consultation letters and copies of the cultural resource inventory reports were sent by the Provo Area Office archaeologist to each tribe. Consulted tribes included the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation, the Northwestern Band of Shoshoni Nation of Utah, the Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation, and the Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians of Utah. This consultation was conducted in compliance with 36 CFR 800.2(c)(2), on a government-to-government basis. Through this effort, the tribes are given a reasonable opportunity to (1) identify any concerns about historic properties; (2) advise on the identification and evaluation of historic properties, including those of traditional religious and cultural importance; (3) articulate their views on the undertaking's effects on such properties; and (4) participate in the resolution of adverse effects.

5.4 Coordination with Other Agencies

A paleontological report was requested from the UGS in September 2008. The UGS determined that unless fossils are discovered as a result of construction activities, this project should have no impact on paleontological resources.

Cultural resource inventory reports and a determination of no historic properties affected for the undertaking were submitted to the SHPO by the Provo Area Office archaeologist. SHPO concurred with Reclamation's determination of no historic properties affected.

Chapter 6 – Preparers

The following contributors to the EA are part of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Provo Area Office and Salt Lake Regional Office.

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