

promotions, reassignments, adverse actions, disciplinary actions, and determination of qualifications of an individual.

(b) By bureau officials for setting out career goals and objectives for an employee and for documenting attainment of these targets.

(c) By bureau and Departmental officials in monitoring qualifications for maintaining a Contracting Officer's Warrant.

Disclosures outside the Department of the Interior may be made:

(1) To the U.S. Department of Justice or in a proceeding before a court or adjudicative body with jurisdiction when (a) the United States, the Department of the Interior, a component of the Department, or, when represented by the government, an employee of the Department is a party to litigation or anticipated litigation or has an interest in such litigation, and (b) the Department of the Interior determines that the disclosure is relevant or necessary to the litigation and is compatible with the purpose for which the records were compiled.

(2) To appropriate Federal, State, local or foreign agencies responsible for investigating or prosecuting the violation of or for enforcing or implementing a statute, rule, regulation, order or license, when the disclosing agency becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of a statute, rule, regulation, order or license.

(3) To a congressional office in response to an inquiry an individual has made to the congressional office.

POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR STORING, RETRIEVING, ACCESSING, RETAINING, AND DISPOSING OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:

STORAGE:

Paper records are stored in file folders, in file cabinets. Electronic records are stored on disk, tape or other appropriate media.

RETRIEVABILITY:

Records are retrieved by name of individual.

SAFEGUARDS:

Access to records is limited to authorized personnel. Paper records are maintained in locked file cabinets. Electronic records are maintained with safeguards meeting minimum security requirements of 43 CFR 2.51.

RETENTION AND DISPOSAL:

Records are maintained only on current employees. Records are destroyed upon departure of employees.

SYSTEM MANAGER(S) AND ADDRESSES:

(1) Team Leader, Executive Resources and Career Management Group, Office of Personnel Policy, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW, MS-5221 MIB, Washington, DC 20240.

(2) Bureau personnel officers:

(a) Director of Administration, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Division of Personnel Management, 1951 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20245.

(b) Personnel Officer, U.S. Geological Survey, National Center, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, VA 22092.

(c) Personnel Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Personnel Management and Organization, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240.

(d) Labor Relations Officer, Bureau of Reclamation, P.O. Box 25001, Denver, CO 80225.

(e) Personnel Officer, Bureau of Land Management, Division of Personnel (530), 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240.

(f) Personnel Officer, National Park Service, Division of Personnel, Branch of Labor Management Relations, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240.

(g) Personnel Officer, Minerals Management Service, Personnel Division, 1110 Herndon Parkway, Herndon, VA 22070.

(h) Personnel Officer, Office of Surface Mining, Division of Personnel, 1951 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20245.

(3) For Contracting Officers' Warrant System records: Director, Office of Acquisition and Property Management, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW, MS-5512 MIB, Washington, DC 20240.

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES:

An individual requesting notification of the existence of records on him or her should address his/her request to the appropriate System Manager. The request must be in writing, signed by the requestor, and comply with the content requirements of 43 CFR 2.60.

RECORD ACCESS PROCEDURES:

An individual requesting access to records maintained on him or her should address his/her request to the appropriate System Manager. The request must be in writing, signed by the requestor, and comply with the requirements of 43 CFR 2.63.

CONTESTING RECORD PROCEDURES:

An individual requesting amendment of a record maintained on him or her should address his/her request to the appropriate System Manager. The request must be in writing, signed by the requestor, and comply with the content requirements of 43 CFR 2.71.

RECORD SOURCE CATEGORIES:

Departmental employees and agency officials.

EXEMPTIONS CLAIMED FOR THE SYSTEM:

None.

[FR Doc. 99-12447 Filed 5-17-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-RJ-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Fish and Wildlife Service

Multi-Species Conservation Program (MSCP) for the Lower Colorado River, Arizona, Nevada, and California

ACTION: Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/ Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and notice of public scoping meetings.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, intend to prepare an EIS/EIR to evaluate the impacts associated with implementing the MSCP for the Lower Colorado River in the states of Arizona, Nevada, and California.

DATES AND ADDRESSES: Written comments on conservation alternatives and issues to be addressed in the EIS/EIR are requested by July 27, 1999, and should be sent to Mr. Tom Shrader, Attention: LC-2500, Bureau of Reclamation, PO Box 61470, Boulder City, NV 89006-1470, or FAX'd to Mr. Shrader at (702) 293-8146. Oral and written comments will be accepted at the open house format public scoping meetings to be held at the following locations:

June 15, 1999, 5:00 p.m., Bureau of Land Management Havasu Field Office, 2610 Sweetwater Drive, Lake Havasu City, Arizona.

June 16, 1999, 5:00 p.m., Avi Hotel and Casino, 10000 Aha Macav Parkway, Laughlin, Nevada.

June 17, 1999, 5:00 p.m., Henderson Convention Center, 200 South Water Street, Henderson, Nevada.

June 22, 1999, 5:00 p.m., Yuma Desalting Plant, Bureau of Reclamation, 7301 Calle Agua Salada, Yuma, Arizona.

June 23, 1999, 5:00 p.m., Arizona Department of Water Resources, conference rooms A and B, third floor, 500 North 3rd Street, Phoenix, Arizona.

June 30, 1999, 5:00 p.m., Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall Post 2987, 148 North 1st Street, Blythe, California.
 July 1, 1999, 5:00 p.m., Ontario Airport Marriott, 2200 East Holt Boulevard, Ontario, California.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Tom Shrader, Manager, Environmental Compliance, Bureau of Reclamation at (702) 293-8703 or Mr. Gilbert D. Metz, Supervisory Coordinator for Federal Projects, Fish and Wildlife Service at (602) 640-2720, ext. 217. Questions regarding the CEQA process should be directed to Dr. Debbie Drezner, Metropolitan Water District at (213) 217-6218. Information on the purpose, membership, meeting schedules and documents associated with the MSCP may be obtained on the Internet at www.lcrmscp.org, with a supplemental link to Reclamation's web page at www.lc.usbr.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed action is a multi-species conservation program that will move Federal and California Endangered Species Act (ESA and CESA) listed species, and potentially listed species, toward recovery while accommodating current water and power operations and optimizing opportunities for future water and power development. Reclamation and the Service are joint Federal leads for the EIS. The EIS will be the basis for (1) Reclamation's Record of Decision on implementing its portion of the MSCP and (2) the Service's Record of Decision on issuing an ESA section 10 permit. The EIS/EIR document will also include a biological assessment of Reclamation's ongoing and future discretionary actions, which the Service will utilize in preparing a biological opinion per section 7 of the ESA. The Metropolitan Water District is the designated CEQA lead agency for the EIR.

The Lower Colorado River MSCP is a partnership of state, Federal, tribal, and other public and private stakeholders with interest in managing the water and related resources of the Lower Colorado River basin. In August of 1995, the Department of the Interior and the states of Arizona, Nevada, and California entered into a Memorandum of Agreement and later a Memorandum of Clarification (MOA/MOC) for Development of a Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program. The purpose of the MOA/MOC was to initiate development of an MSCP that will: (1) conserve habitat and work toward the recovery of threatened and endangered species as well as reduce the likelihood of additional species listings under the ESA and the CESA,

and (2) accommodate current water diversions and power production and optimize opportunities for future water and power development, to the extent consistent with the law.

The participants agreed to develop, implement, and fund the MSCP. It was also agreed to pursue an ecosystem-based approach to developing the MSCP for interim and long-term compliance with applicable endangered species and environmental laws and to implement conservation and protection measures for included species and habitats.

It is proposed that the MSCP will serve as a coordinated, comprehensive conservation approach for the lower Colorado River basin within the 100-year floodplain from below Glen Canyon Dam to the Southerly International Boundary with Mexico for a period of 50 years. Potential conservation measures or alternatives currently under consideration for various fish species (e.g., endangered razorback sucker) and their habitats may include evaluating the use of backwaters between native and nonnative species; managing to minimize conflicts between native and nonnative aquatic species by constructing isolated native fish refugia; restoring floodplain connections and ephemeral backwaters in an effort to restore floodplain functions; augmenting native fish populations through stocking and additional rearing capacity; implementing a genetic management plan for native fish populations; enhancing fish passage; managing to minimize take; and managing discretionary flows to enhance and restore habitat. Potential conservation measures or alternatives currently under consideration to benefit various bird species (e.g., endangered southwestern willow flycatcher) and their habitats may include protecting and restoring habitat; protecting existing habitat through activities such as managing access; maintaining hydrologic conditions; fire protection using prescribed fires/fire planning and postfire rehabilitation; converting agricultural land to habitat (acquire land and water rights from willing sellers); managing large mammal problems (e.g., burro grazing and trampling); controlling threats from other species such as cowbird trapping; vegetation management including the need to improve habitat; and manipulating discretionary flows to enhance and restore habitat. Additional conservation measures or alternatives may be identified during the scoping process. The needs of these and other species identified in the MSCP will be integrated to maximize biodiversity of the Lower Colorado River. Research and

monitoring in combination with adaptive management will be used to facilitate accomplishment of these goals.

Under the No Action/No Project alternative, it is assumed that some or all of the current and future projects proposed for coverage under the MSCP would be implemented, as long as they are in compliance with the ESA. The No Action/No Project alternative would imply that the impacts from these potential projects on sensitive species and habitats would be evaluated and mitigated on a project-by-project basis, as is presently the case. Individual ESA Section 10 permits would be required for activities involving take of listed species due to nonfederal projects/actions. Without a coordinated, comprehensive ecosystem-based conservation approach for the region, listed species may not be adequately addressed by individual project-specific mitigation requirements, unlisted "at risk" species would not receive proactive action intended to prevent their listing, and project-specific mitigation would be less cost effective in helping Federal and nonfederal agencies work toward recovery of listed species. Current independent conservation actions would continue, although some of these are not yet funded.

A public involvement program has been initiated and will be maintained throughout this EIS/EIR process. The goal is to keep the public and affected parties informed and actively involved as the project evolves. Given the number of entities participating (Federal, State, and local governments, tribes, and private interest groups), successfully providing information and soliciting feedback are critical to the project's effectiveness.

Probable Environmental Effects—Following is a preliminary list of probable environmental issues and effects associated with the project. Other issues may be identified during the internal MSCP and public scoping process. Until a firm proposal and alternatives with specific actions and locations are developed, it is difficult to predict specific impacts.

Biological Resources—Among the endangered species known to use the project area are the southwestern willow flycatcher, Yuma clapper rail, razorback sucker, bonytail, peregrine falcon, and bald eagle (being considered for delisting). Of prime concern will be the conservation of these and other species, such as the yellow billed cuckoo (under review for listing under the ESA), and associated habitat within the 100-year floodplain. Overall impacts on

biological resources are expected to be positive.

Hydrology and Water Quality—Certain conservation measures and flow regimes may alter onsite water resources, including waters of the United States [as defined in 40 CFR 230.3(s)], which are under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) jurisdiction. Under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, the Corps is responsible for issuing a permit if a project may result in the placement of material into water of the United States. Until specific alternatives are developed, the effects on hydrology and water quality are unknown.

Floodplains and Wetlands—Implementation of the MSCP will have overall beneficial impacts on floodplains and wetlands, especially in maintaining or creating backwaters (wetlands) and reestablishing native riparian habitat which is essential to the recovery of species.

Municipal and Industrial Uses—Municipal and industrial water uses may be affected by various conservation measures that require additional water. However, it is the intent of the MSCP to accommodate these uses and optimize future opportunities while protecting threatened and endangered species and their habitat within the project area.

Cultural Resources—The program could disturb or affect archaeological resources, traditional cultural properties, Indian sacred sites, and Indian Trust Assets. However, it is the intent of the MSCP to avoid such effects.

Socioeconomics—The program may have overall beneficial socioeconomics effects on the Lower Colorado River. However, the extent of such effects will not be known until specific conservation alternatives are identified.

Recreation—In addressing species needs, there may be adverse impacts to localized recreational uses such as motorized boating, off-highway vehicle use, and angling.

Water and Hydroelectric Power Uses—Water and hydroelectric power uses may be affected by various conservation measures that involve discretionary release patterns. However, it is the intent of the MSCP to accommodate these uses while protecting threatened and endangered species and their habitat within the project area.

Agricultural and Other Land Uses—Current agricultural resources or operations and land uses may be impacted. Land use and cropping patterns would change with the voluntary conversion of agricultural lands to native riparian habitat or the

transfer of water rights for habitat maintenance and restoration.

International Impacts—Potential trans-boundary impacts to Mexico will be identified and analyzed. The project will not affect the delivery of water pursuant to the Mexico Water Treaty.

Environmental Justice—It is anticipated that the MSCP will not result in disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minorities and/or low income populations.

Related Project Documentation—It is anticipated that the EIS/EIR process will make full use (including incorporation by reference, as appropriate, pursuant to NEPA and CEQA) of the following project documents, copies of which are available for inspection at the Metropolitan Water District, Reclamation, and Service offices:

Bureau of Reclamation, Description and Assessment of Operations, Maintenance, and Sensitive Species of the Lower Colorado River—Final Biological Assessment, August 1996
Fish and Wildlife Service, Biological and Conference Opinion on Lower Colorado River Operations and Maintenance—Lake Mead to Southerly International Boundary, April 1997.

Starting in June 1999, these documents may also be accessed through Reclamation's web site at www.lc.usbr.gov.

The draft EIS/EIR is expected to be completed by June 2000.

Dated: May 5, 1999.

LeGrand Neilson,

Assistant Regional Director, Lower Colorado Region, Bureau of Reclamation.

Geoffrey L. Haskett,

Acting Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.

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BILLING CODE 4310-94-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: As provided in Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the Service announces a meeting designed to foster partnerships to enhance public awareness of the importance of aquatic resources and the social and economic benefits of recreational fishing and boating in the United States. This meeting, sponsored

by the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council (Council), is open to the public, and interested persons may make oral statements to the Council or may file written statements for consideration.

DATES: June 9, 1999, 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn, 625 First Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, Telephone (703) 548-6300, FAX (703) 548-8032.

Summary minutes of the conference will be maintained by the Council Coordinator at 1033 North Fairfax Street, Suite 200, Arlington, VA 22314, and will be available for public inspection during regular business hours within 30 days following the meeting. Personal copies may be purchased for the cost of duplication.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Laury Parramore, Council Coordinator, at 703/836-1392.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council (Council) will convene to discuss: (1) the ongoing effort to monitor and evaluate Federal agency activities pursuant to Executive Order 12962 for Recreational Fisheries; (2) the Council's role as a facilitator of discussions concerning national fisheries management issues; and (3) the Interior Secretary's approval of the Strategic Plan for the National Outreach and Communications Program and the Council's continued involvement in the administration of the plan. Under Executive Order 12962, the Council is required to monitor and annually report its findings on various Federal agencies' actions and policies for protecting, restoring, and enhancing recreational fishery resources. The Council will hear a report and recommendations from its Technical Working Group on this and other topics.

Dated: May 12, 1999.

John G. Rogers,

Deputy Director.

[FR Doc. 99-12454 Filed 5-17-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Geological Survey

Privacy Act of 1974, as Amended; Systems of Records

AGENCY: Geological Survey, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of deletion of three systems of records.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the provisions of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (5 U.S.C. 552a), notice is hereby given that