

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****National Park Service****Notice of Availability of Final Elk Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Theodore Roosevelt National Park, North Dakota**

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C), the National Park Service (NPS) announces the availability of a Final Elk Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (Plan/EIS) for Theodore Roosevelt National Park, North Dakota (Park).

**DATES:** The final Plan/EIS will remain available for public review for 30 days following the publishing of the notice of availability in the **Federal Register** by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

**ADDRESSES:** The Plan/EIS is available via the Internet through the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment Web site (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/THRO>); click on the link to Elk Management Plan/EIS. You may also obtain a copy of the final Plan/EIS by sending a request to the Superintendent, Theodore Roosevelt National Park, P.O. Box 7, Medora, North Dakota 58645-0007.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Park is proposing to manage its elk population to prevent impacts to other natural resources in the Park, which would likely occur as the herd size increases. The principal tool (translocation of live elk) the Park had been using to keep population numbers within management goals is no longer an option because of an NPS policy issued in 2002 prohibiting translocation of elk from NPS units unless enough elk are tested to ensure that CWD is not present in the herd. The test for CWD is lethal to elk, and since 2002 the park has not tested enough elk to ensure the herd is free of CWD. Therefore, translocations for the purposes of population reduction have not occurred since 2000. This planning process was needed to examine alternatives to translocation. The purpose of this EIS is to develop and implement an elk management strategy compatible with the long term protection and preservation of park resources.

The NPS prepared a draft plan/EIS and made it available for public review for 90 days, from December 17, 2008 to March 19, 2009. Five public meetings on the draft Plan/EIS were held across the State of North Dakota from February 23, 2009, to February 28, 2009. The NPS preferred and environmentally

preferable alternatives were announced in a separate newsletter and made available for public comment for 30 days, from August 10, 2009 to September 9, 2009. Comments on both the draft Plan/EIS and the preferred and environmentally preferable alternatives were considered from individuals, groups, and public agencies on a range of issues.

The preferred alternative utilizes a suite of options contained in Alternatives B (direct reduction with firearms), C (roundup and euthanasia), and D (roundup and translocation) to meet the purpose, need, and objectives of the Plan/EIS. This alternative was preferred because it will effectively reduce and maintain the herd size to target population goals while protecting park resources. This alternative will not overly burden other agencies or landowners, and does not require the Park to manage elk beyond its jurisdiction. It will provide for control by the NPS for selecting which animals will be removed, and also the time and place of removal. It may also provide robust samples for CWD screening, which is a critical issue for the Park, North Dakota Game and Fish Department, ranchers, and others.

The preferred alternative will primarily make use of skilled public volunteers to assist the Park with culling the elk herd through the use of firearms. The Park would not pay private contractors or outside individuals to shoot elk. The initial reduction phase would reduce the elk herd, now estimated at 1,000 elk, to approximately 200 elk within five years, by removing approximately 275 elk per year. Following the initial reduction phase, the Park would take an additional 20 to 24 elk per year for the remaining ten years of the Plan in order to maintain a consistent population level. For both the initial reduction phase and the maintenance phase, the number of elk taken outside the Park would be used to refine the number of elk that must be removed from the Park each year in order to meet the population goals. Following each year of the initial reduction phase, the NPS will evaluate the program in order to determine if its population goals are being met. If population goals are being achieved, the park will continue with the use of firearms. Should the park determine that its population goals are not being met following the first two years of the initial reduction phase, it would continue with direct reduction activities but would also have the ability to use a roundup or other capture methods and then euthanize and/or translocate elk in order to meet its

population objectives. Should the park need to capture animals, whether elk are euthanized or translocated will depend on whether adequate sampling has occurred to meet chronic wasting disease (CWD) surveillance goals, whether CWD is detected in the herd and whether there are willing recipients that can meet all Federal and State requirements to transport and receive live elk.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Contact Superintendent Valerie Naylor, Theodore Roosevelt National Park, at the address above or by telephone at 701-623-4466.

Dated: February 2, 2010.

**Ernest Quintana,**

*Regional Director, Midwest Region.*

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**BILLING CODE P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Fish and Wildlife Service**

[FWS-R9-FHC-2010-N059; 94240-1341-9BIS-N5]

**Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Meeting**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces a meeting of the Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Task Force. The meeting is open to the public. The meeting topics are identified in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section.

**DATES:** The ANS Task Force will meet from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 5, and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 6, 2010.

**ADDRESSES:** The ANS Task Force meeting will take place at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Convention Center by the Bay, 88 Spring Street, Portland, ME (207-775-2311). You may inspect minutes of the meeting at the office of the Chief, Division of Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Conservation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203, during regular business hours, Monday through Friday. You may also view the minutes on the ANS Task Force Web site at: <http://anstaskforce.gov/meetings.php>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Susan Mangin, Executive Secretary, ANS Task Force, at (703) 358-2466, or by e-mail at [Susan\\_Mangin@fws.gov](mailto:Susan_Mangin@fws.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory

Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), this notice announces meetings of the ANS Task Force. The ANS Task Force was established by the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990.

Topics that the ANS Task Force plans to cover during the meeting include:

- Impacts of invasive tunicates.
- Effectiveness of outreach

campaigns.

• Roles of ANS Task Force Regional Panels.

- National ANS Hotline.

The agenda and other related meeting information are on the ANS Task Force Web site at: <http://anstaskforce.gov/meetings.php>.

Dated: March 19, 2010.

**Bryan Arroyo,**

*Co-Chair, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, Assistant Director—Fisheries & Habitat Conservation.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Reclamation

[DES 09-55]

#### Request for Small Reclamation Projects Act Loan To Construct Narrows Dam in Sanpete County, UT

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability and Notice of Public Hearings for the Narrows Project Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS).

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, has prepared and made available to the public a SDEIS pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, 42 U.S.C. 4332.

**DATES:** A 63-day public review period commences with the publication of this notice. Written comments on the SDEIS are due by Tuesday, June 1, 2010.

Two public hearings have been scheduled for the SDEIS:

- Wednesday, April 28, 2010, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Manti, Utah.
- Thursday, April 29, 2010, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Price, Utah.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments on the SDEIS and requests for copies to Mr. Peter Crookston, PRO-774, Bureau of Reclamation, Provo Area Office, 302 East 1860 South, Provo, Utah 84606-

7317; facsimile (801) 379-1159; *e-mail:* [narrowseis@usbr.gov](mailto:narrowseis@usbr.gov). The SDEIS is also available on Reclamation's Web site at <http://www.usbr.gov/uc> (click on Environmental Documents and then click on the Narrows Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement).

The public hearings will be held at:

- *Manti:* Manti City Hall, 50 South Main Street, 2nd Floor, Manti, Utah.
- *Price:* Price Civic Auditorium, 185 East Main Street, Price, Utah.

See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for locations of where copies of the SDEIS are available for public review and inspection.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Peter Crookston, telephone (801) 379-1152; facsimile (801) 379-1159; *e-mail:* [narrowseis@usbr.gov](mailto:narrowseis@usbr.gov). If special assistance is required regarding accessibility accommodations for attendance at either of the public hearings, please contact Peter Crookston no less than 5 working days prior to the applicable hearing(s).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Narrows Project SDEIS describes the effects of Reclamation issuing to the Sanpete Water Conservancy District (SWCD) a loan pursuant to the authority of the Small Reclamation Projects Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 422a-422k, 70 Stat. 1044), as well as issuing to the SWCD a right of use of Federal lands in accordance with Reclamation law. These Reclamation actions would facilitate the construction by SWCD of the proposed Narrows Dam and reservoir, a non-Federal project to be located on Gooseberry Creek in Sanpete County, Utah. The loan application and request for a right of use of Federal lands by SWCD to build the Narrows Project is intended to meet the purpose of developing an irrigation and municipal and industrial (M&I) supply source for water users in northern Sanpete County, Utah. The needs that would be met by the proposed Narrows Project include meeting present and future demand for municipal water, providing an adequate supply of late season irrigation water, and rehabilitating the Narrows Tunnel in Sanpete County to maintain and enhance its dependability and capability to deliver water to Sanpete County users.

The Narrows Project SDEIS updates information and analyses contained in the Narrows Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DES 98-10) published in March 1998 and discloses the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the proposed action and alternative actions for water development in northern Sanpete

County, Utah. A Notice of Intent to prepare the Narrows Project SDEIS was published in the **Federal Register** on November 25, 2003 (68 FR 66123-66124). The SDEIS describes and analyzes the potential effects of three action alternatives and a no action alternative.

The No Action Alternative represents the conditions of the affected area if Reclamation does not approve the Small Reclamation Projects Act loan or issue a right of use of Federal lands to SWCD for the Narrows Project. It establishes the baseline for evaluating the environmental impacts of SWCD providing a supplemental water supply to northern Sanpete County, Utah. The No Action Alternative also establishes anticipated conditions in the affected areas without further development and assumes that irrigation operations would continue according to historic use.

The Proposed Action Alternative would provide northern Sanpete County an average annual supply of 4,281 acre-feet of supplemental irrigation water for 15,420 acres of presently irrigated farmland and 855 acre-feet of water for municipal use. The project would include construction of the 17,000 acre-foot Narrows Dam and reservoir on Gooseberry Creek, pipelines to deliver the water to existing water distribution systems, rehabilitation of the existing 3,100-foot Narrows Tunnel, and relocation of 2.9 miles of State Road (SR) 264. The dam would be 120-feet high with a crest length of 550 feet and a crest width of 30 feet. The project would also provide recreation opportunities.

The Mid-Sized Reservoir Alternative would be similar to the Proposed Action Alternative except that the reservoir capacity would be limited to 12,450 acre-feet. Of that amount, 9,950 acre-feet would be active capacity and 2,500 acre-feet would be inactive storage. The 110-foot high dam, with a crest length of 475 feet and crest width of 30 feet, would be in the same location as that for the Proposed Action Alternative. Other features of the project would be the same as those for the Proposed Action Alternative and would include the construction of pipelines, rehabilitation of the existing Narrows Tunnel, relocation of SR-264, and recreation opportunities.

The Small Reservoir Alternative would be similar to the Proposed Action Alternative except that the reservoir capacity would be limited to 7,900 acre-feet. Of that amount, 5,400 acre-feet would be active capacity and 2,500 acre-feet would be inactive storage. The 100-foot high dam, with a crest length of 425