

update, BLM regulations update, Washington County planning updates, a tour of the Richfield Interagency Fire Center, and other issues as appropriate. The final agenda and meeting information will be posted on the Utah RAC website 30 days before the meeting at <https://www.blm.gov/get-involved/resource-advisory-council/near-you/utah/RAC>.

The meeting is open to the public; however, transportation, lodging, and meals are the responsibility of the participating individuals. The RAC will offer a 30-minute public comment period. Depending on the number of people wishing to comment and the time available, the time for individual comments may be limited. Written comments may also be sent to the BLM Utah State Office at the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice. All comments received will be provided to the Utah RAC. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comments, please be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Detailed meeting minutes for the Utah RAC meeting will be maintained in the BLM Utah State Office and will be available for public inspection and reproduction during regular business hours within ninety (90) days following the meeting. Notes will also be posted to the Utah RAC website.

**Authority:** 43 CFR 1784.4-2.

**Anita Bilbao,**

*Acting State Director.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[LLCAD01000 L13400000.DT0000 20X; MO 4500143086]

#### Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision for the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area Project, Inyo County, California, and Amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended (FLPMA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Record of Decision (ROD) to amend the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan for the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area (HGLA) Project, and by this notice is announcing its availability. The decision amends the CDCA Plan to allow for geothermal leasing within approximately 22,800 acres, authorizes three geothermal lease applications for 4,460 acres of public lands within the HGLA, and modifies the management of four Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) to allow for surface occupancy of geothermal development. Part of this decision is subject to appeal under Departmental regulations.

**DATES:** The California State Director signed the ROD on April 23, 2020.

**ADDRESSES:** The Record of Decision and Land Use Plan Amendment is available on the internet at <https://go.usa.gov/xEnvy>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Greg Miller, BLM Assistant District Manager, Resources, telephone (951) 697-5216; address, Bureau of Land Management, California Desert District, 22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos

Moreno Valley, CA 92553; or email [blm\\_ca\\_haiwee\\_geothermal@blm.gov](mailto:blm_ca_haiwee_geothermal@blm.gov).

Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 to contact Mr. Miller during normal business hours. The FRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The HGLA Draft EIS and Draft Proposed Amendment to the CDCA was published on May 10, 2012 (77 FR 27478), and public meetings were held in June 2012. As a result of the review of the comments, the BLM conducted a more detailed study to address projected water use by geothermal facilities should they be allowed in the HGLA. Argonne National Laboratories conducted the study and provided BLM a report in January 2016. Additionally, new land use designations approved with the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan amendment to the CDCA Plan in September of 2016, required analysis of a new alternative that considered the new land use designations. Based on these two developments, the BLM prepared a CDCA Plan Amendment and Draft

Supplemental EIS for the project. The Draft Supplemental EIS analyzed the Proposed Action and two action alternatives, in addition to the No Action Alternative.

The BLM received three geothermal lease applications for 4,460 acres of public land within the HGLA in 2002. In addition, the BLM identified approximately 18,345 acres of public lands, also within the Haiwee Proposed Project Area and adjacent to the three geothermal lease applications, which will be considered for competitive geothermal leasing under 43 CFR 3203.10(e). The proposed action is to amend the CDCA Plan to allow project area lands to be leased under the authority of the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970, as amended (30 U.S.C. 1001 *et seq.*) and to modify the management of four ACECs to allow for surface occupancy of geothermal development. The leasing of public lands for geothermal resources required an amendment to the CDCA Plan, which is authorized by the FLPMA Section 202(43 U.S.C. 1712) and 43 CFR 1610.5-5. Total acreage considered for geothermal leasing is approximately 22,800 acres.

On May 3, 2019, the Draft Supplemental EIS and Draft Land Use Plan Amendment was available for a 90-day public comment period (84 FR 19106). The BLM received seven comment letters during the comment period. The BLM considered and incorporated, as appropriate, public comments on the Draft EIS, Draft Supplemental EIS, and Draft Land Use Plan Amendment and internal agency review into the proposed plan amendment. Public comments resulted in the addition of clarifying text, but did not significantly change proposed land use plan decisions. A response to substantive comments is included as an appendix to the Final EIS and Proposed Land Use Plan Amendment.

The publication of the HGLA Final EIS and Proposed Land Use Plan Amendment initiated a 30-day protest period, which closed on February 24, 2020 (85 FR 4338). The BLM received three valid protests. The BLM has considered and resolved the protest on the HGLA Final EIS and Proposed Land Use Amendment. The BLM's protest resolution report to those protests can be found at <https://www.blm.gov/programs/planning-and-nepa/public-participation/protest-resolution-reports>.

In accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR 1610.3-2(e), the BLM submitted the Final EIS and Proposed Land Use Amendment for a 60-day Governor's Consistency Review on February 6,

2020. The Governor did not respond with any findings of inconsistency.

With this ROD, the BLM adopts the Agency Preferred Alternative. The decision to authorize the existing non-competitive geothermal lease applications may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR part 4. Appeal and stay procedures are outlined in Form 1842-1. All Notices of Appeal, Statement of Reasons, and mailing must follow the requirements and timelines outlined in 43 CFR part 4.

(Authority: 40 CFR 1506.6; 40 CFR 1506.10; 43 CFR 1610.2; 43 CFR 1610.5; 42 U.S.C. 4370m-6(a)(1))

**Danielle Chi,**

*Deputy State Director, Resources.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Reclamation

[RR01114000, 20XR0680A5,  
RA.5221203.0019100]

#### Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Public Scoping Virtual Meeting Room for the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery Surface Water Intake Fish Screens and Fish Passage Project, Chelan County, Washington

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery (LNFH) Surface Water Intake Fish Screens and Fish Passage (SWISP) Project. Reclamation is requesting public and agency comment to identify significant issues or other alternatives to be considered in the EIS.

**DATES:** The public will have the opportunity to participate in the scoping process by providing written scoping comments, providing input through a web-based virtual meeting room from April 24, 2020, to May 26, 2020, and/or participating in a question and answer teleconference on May 18, 2020 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. (PDT).

**ADDRESSES:** Provide written scoping comments, requests to be added to the mailing list, or other special assistance needs to Mr. Jason Sutter, EIS Team Lead, Bureau of Reclamation, Columbia-Pacific Northwest Regional

Office, 1150 N. Curtis Road, Boise, ID 83706 or email [BOR-SHA-PNRLSWISP@usbr.gov](mailto:BOR-SHA-PNRLSWISP@usbr.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For requests to be added to the mailing list, or other special assistance needs, please contact Mr. Jason Sutter, at the address or email provided in the **ADDRESSES** section or by telephone at (208) 378-5390 or facsimile (509) 454-5650. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf may call the Federal Relay Service (FedRelay) at 1-800-877-8339 TTY/ASCII to contact the above individual during normal business hours or to leave a message or question after hours. You will receive a reply during normal business hours. Information on this project, including details for the public question and answer teleconference, may also be found at: <https://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/leavenworth/swisp/index.html>.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Reclamation is issuing this notice pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*; the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing NEPA, 43 CFR parts 1500 through 1508; and the Department of the Interior's NEPA regulations, 43 CFR part 46. The virtual meeting will be accessible at <https://virtualpublicmeeting.com/leavenworth-swisp-eis>. Website visitors will be able to view public meeting materials, pose questions, view answers, and submit comments. Please monitor the project website for any changes or updates at <https://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/leavenworth/swisp/index.html>.

#### Background

The LNFH was designed and constructed in the late 1930s as mitigation for the construction of Grand Coulee Dam. The hatchery, which is operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and funded by Reclamation and Bonneville Power Administration, produces 1.2 million spring Chinook Salmon smolts annually that are released into Icicle Creek.

The LNFH's primary point of diversion and water delivery system on Icicle Creek is nearly 80 years old and is reaching or exceeding its operational life. Rehabilitation, replacement, and modernization of the LNFH surface water intake and delivery system was evaluated in the 2002 USFWS Icicle Creek Restoration Project Final EIS and the 2019 Icicle Creek Water Resource Management Strategy Final Programmatic EIS prepared by the State of Washington Department of Ecology

and Chelan County under the Washington State Environmental Policy Act. Currently, the intake facility does not comply with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) criteria for anadromous salmonids. The 2017 NMFS biological opinion covering LNFH operations requires the LNFH to have a surface water intake and delivery system that complies with NMFS current screening and fish passage criteria for anadromous fish passage facilities in place and operating by May 2023.

In addition to meeting legal requirements, LNFH needs to improve employee safety when operating and maintaining intake and delivery facilities, improve flow control and water conservation capabilities, effectively manage sediment adversely affecting the water delivery system, and increase reliability and longevity of the system. The purpose of the SWISP Project is to minimize take of ESA-listed fish species, provide fish passage that complies with current regulatory criteria, and ensure safe, efficient, and reliable delivery of LNFH's full surface water rights from Icicle Creek.

Reclamation proposes to rehabilitate the LNFH intake and delivery system on Icicle Creek by constructing new headworks and a creek-width roughened channel, and replacing/lining the surface water conveyance pipeline to the hatchery. In addition, the current intake access road would be modified and extended to provide better entry to an expanded intake operations and maintenance area. Construction of the headworks and roughened channel would incorporate the existing low-head diversion dam and intake channel. Self-cleaning, cylindrical fish screens would be installed at the diversion headworks, and a low-flow boulder weir fishway would be integrated into the roughened channel. A new pipeline would be placed in the intake channel to connect the headworks to the conveyance pipeline. The intake channel would be filled to cover the pipeline and create the intake operations and maintenance area. The conveyance pipeline would be replaced on USFWS lands and lined with cure-in-place liner on private parcels. Several manhole access points along the existing conveyance pipeline alignment would be constructed to provide ingress and egress for pipe lining on private lands.

Reclamation is not presently aware of any known or possible Indian Trust Assets, Indian Sacred Sites, or Environmental Justice issues associated with the proposed action, but requests any information relative to this issue be submitted during the scoping period.