

5. Consultation and Coordination

5.1 Introduction

This chapter is a description of the public outreach and participation opportunities made available through the development of the RMP/EIS and the coordination and consultation efforts with tribes, government agencies, and other stakeholders that have transpired to date. It includes a list of preparers of the document and the agencies, organizations, and individuals that received a copy of the Final RMP/EIS; a description of the public comment process on the Draft RMP/EIS; and a summary of the issues raised in the comments.

5.2 Public Collaboration and Outreach

5.2.1 Scoping Process

Scoping is the term used in the CEQ regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR, Part 1500 et seq.) to define the early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed in the planning process. The scoping process gets the public involved in identifying significant issues of land use management actions. The process also helps identify any issues that are not significant and that thereby can be eliminated from detailed analysis. The list of stakeholders and other interested parties is also confirmed and augmented during the scoping process.

Notice of Intent

The formal public scoping process for the Newlands Project RMP/EIS began on August 15, 2007, with the publication of the notice of intent (NOI) in the *Federal Register*.¹ The NOI initiated the public scoping process and notified the public of Reclamation's intent to develop an RMP/EIS for the Newlands Project planning area. Under CEQ regulations, the public comment period must last for at least 30 days, but Reclamation extended this public comment period until October 19, 2007, providing 66 days. Although the formal comment period has ended, Reclamation will continue to consider all comments received during the planning

¹“Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Document (Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement) and Notice of Public Meetings.” *Federal Register*, Vol. 72, No. 157 (August 15, 2007): pp. 45825-45826.

process. The NOI was provided for public consideration at the two scoping meetings.

Press Releases

Reclamation used local newspapers (*Lahontan Valley News* and the *Reno Gazette-Journal*) to disseminate information on the Newlands Project Planning Area RMP scoping and planning process. The advertisements notified the public of the project, announced the public meetings, requested public comments, and provided contact information. Also, Reclamation issued a news release to various media on September 14, 2007, to inform the public that the comment period had been extended to October 19, 2007. (The original NOI had placed the official end of the scoping comment period at October 3, 2007, and the newspaper advertisements had cited October 2, 2007.) An article notifying the public of the scoping meetings and the RMP also ran in the *Lahontan Valley News* on September 27, 2007.

Scoping Meetings

Informational public meetings were held in Reno on September 18, 2007, and in Fallon on September 19, 2007 (Table 5-1). An earlier cooperating agency meeting was held on March 6, 2007, and a joint meeting between Reclamation and the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe was held on October 24, 2007. As described above, the public meetings were advertised in local media. Additionally, letters were mailed to interested parties, the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe, and the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe.

Table 5-1 Meeting Schedule and Attendance

Venue	Location	Date	Time	Attendance*
Western Heritage Cultural Center	Reno	September 18, 2007	6:00 to 8:00 PM	6
Fallon Convention Center	Fallon	September 19, 2007	6:00 to 8:00 PM	24
Total				30

*Count based on number of individuals who signed in at the meetings.

These scoping meetings were conducted in an open house format. Project team members from Reclamation and its consultant, Tetra Tech, interacted with meeting participants to provide information and to answer questions. An open house format was chosen over the more formal public meeting format to encourage broader participation, to allow attendees to learn about the project at their own pace, and to enable people to ask questions of Reclamation representatives in an informal one-on-one setting. Fact sheets, comment forms, and other handouts about the Project area and a map of the planning area were provided. Various posters were displayed illustrating the Project area and purpose,

including a land status map of the planning area, explanations of the purpose of an RMP, the NEPA process, goals for public involvement, and contact information. Preliminary issues to be addressed in the RMP were also posted to guide the public in formulating questions to be addressed in the RMP/EIS. Informal settings in prominent local facilities, accessible to the disabled, were chosen as venues to encourage broad participation. These venues included a heritage cultural center in a park and the Fallon Convention Center. In addition to Reclamation representatives, 30 people attended the meetings.

Most scoping comments focused on planning and the NEPA process, general resource protection, and biological resources.

5.2.2 Public Review of the Draft RMP/EIS

The Draft RMP/EIS was made available to the public and interested groups and agencies on May 28, 2013 in accordance with CEQ regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR, Part 1500 et seq.). The public review of draft NEPA documents allows the public to review the detailed analysis of the proposed action and alternatives, their potential environmental impacts, and compare them to the potential environmental impacts of the no action alternative. The process also helps the lead agency in assessing the public's and other interest group's perspective of the significance of these impacts, and input on the decisions being made through the NEPA document.

Notice of Availability

The formal public review period for the Newlands Project Draft RMP/EIS began on May 28, 2013, with the publication of the notice of availability (NOA) in the *Federal Register*. The NOA initiated the public review period for the Draft RMP/EIS. Under CEQ regulations, the public comment period must last for at least 30 days, but Reclamation extended this public comment period until July 29, 2013, providing 62 days.

Public Meetings

Two public open house meetings were held by Reclamation to provide information and receive comments from the public. The meetings were held at the following locations and times:

Churchill County Commission Chambers, 155 N. Taylor Street, Suite 110,
Fallon, NV, 3:00 to 7:00 p.m., June 18, 2013

Hyatt Place Reno-Tahoe Airport, 1790 East Plumb Lane, Reno, NV, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., June 19, 2013

Twelve comments were received and are addressed in Section 5.4.

5.3 Agency Coordination

The benefits of enhanced collaboration among agencies in preparing NEPA analyses include disclosing relevant information early in the analytical process, applying available technical expertise and staff support, avoiding duplication with other federal, state, tribal, and local procedures, and establishing a mechanism for addressing intergovernmental issues. One of the key concerns raised during the Newlands Project public scoping period was how other local agencies can collaborate with Reclamation in developing the RMP and subsequently managing Project lands. Coordination with these other agencies facilitates this sharing of ideas and public input.

Reclamation and Tetra Tech met with cooperating agencies on March 6, 2007, to initiate the collaborative planning process. Reclamation provided a brief history of the Newlands Project and its lands, explained what an RMP is and its intentions, and reviewed the general RMP and NEPA process. Collaboratively, the attendees drafted an initial list of issues and specific resources to be addressed in the RMP/EIS. Agencies at the meeting included the US Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Bureau of Indian Affairs, US Navy, Nevada Division of State Parks, Nevada Division of State Lands, Nevada Division of Water, County of Churchill, City of Fallon, and Lahontan Valley Environmental Alliance.

Cultural resource consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Native American tribes, and interested parties is required under the NHPA and a variety of laws, regulations, guidance, and departmental and executive orders. Reclamation initiated consultation with the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe and the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe in August 2007, and consultation is ongoing. Tribes were consulted for the cultural resource overview report prepared in conjunction with this RMP/EIS. Consultations with the SHPO and Indian tribes may be required when individual projects are implemented.

Agency Meeting on the Draft RMP/EIS

On July 22, 2013, Reclamation met with representatives of several state agencies including: NDOW, State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), NSP, Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (NDCNR), and Nevada State

Lands. The meeting was hosted by the Nevada State Clearinghouse. Comments, suggestions, and coordination that resulted from that meeting included:

- Methods whereby local agencies could acquire Reclamation managed lands that were no longer need for the Newlands Project. The process was explained in detail.
- Comments from the SHPO which were later included in official comment letter received from SHPO.
- Questions were asked concerning how the Reclamation RMP process was different from the BLM RMP process.

5.4 Comments on the Draft RMP/EIS

A total of 12 comment letters on the Draft RMP/EIS were received by the end of the public comment period on July 29, 2013. The comments concerned:

- Incorrect data referenced or lack of reference cited,
- Changing grazing practices,
- Lack of information on Historical Trails in the planning area,
- Protection of wildlife and a request to identify areas of wildlife habitat, and
- Relinquishment of un-needed Reclamation managed withdrawn lands back to public lands or disposal of un-needed lands.

All of the written comments, with responses, are included in Appendix B, *Consideration of Public Comments*.

5.5 Changes in the Final RMP/EIS

In consideration of the comments received from the public and interested groups and agencies, the following changes were made to the Draft RMP/EIS and included in this Final RMP/EIS. These changes include:

- An Objective and an Action regarding the protection of National Historical Trails

- (NHTs) has been added to Alternatives B and C. Additional information and a
- map has been added to Chapters 3 and 4.
- An Action directed at the protection of bats has been added to Alternatives B and
- Alternative C.
- An Action requiring the consultation with NDOW when inventorying key habitats
- within the Newlands Project area or developing management strategies/goals for
- key habitats has been added to Alternatives B and C.
- Action R 2.2 has been amended to include Carson Lake Pasture for Alternatives
- A, B, and C.
- The inclusion of updated data, corrected reference materials, and corrections to misstatements and typos

5.6 Distribution List

Scoping for the RMP/EIS began in August 2007. The Draft RMP/EIS was issued to the public on May 28, 2013. The project mailing list has been updated throughout the development of the RMP/EIS. Reclamation has kept a list individuals, agencies, and organizations that have participated in this RMP process, that are known stakeholders for this project, or that requested to be on the mailing list. Requests to be added to or to remain on the official Newlands Project RMP/EIS mailing list will continue to be accepted throughout the planning process. The distribution list of agencies, organizations, and individuals who have been a part of the RMP/EIS process is available in the administrative record. Reclamation maintains the distribution list for the RMP/EIS, which is available on request.

5.7 List of Preparers

A team of resource specialists from Reclamation prepared this RMP/EIS. Tetra Tech assisted Reclamation in preparing these documents and in the planning process.

List Bureau of Reclamation of Preparers

Bureau of Reclamation

Name	Role
Scott Springer	Regional Recreation Coordinator
Stacey Leigh	Regional Archaeologist/Regional Environmental Officer
Russell Grimes	Regional Environmental Compliance Officer
Laureen Perry	Regional Archaeologist
Tony Overly	Archaeologist
Scott Williams	Archaeologist
Pat Mangan	Planner
Pete Neugebauer	Lands and Realty
Andrea Minor	NEPA Planner
Terri Edwards	Deputy Area Manager
BC Deshler	Lands and Realty/Recreation
Caryn Hunt De Carlo	Resource Specialist
Bureau of Reclamation cont.	
Jennifer Birri	Grazing Management Plan/Recreation
Bob Edwards	Manager, Division of Resources/Project Management

List of Tetra Tech Consulting Team Preparers

Tetra Tech Consulting Team*

Name	Years Experience	Role/ Responsibility	Education
Cliff Jarman	24	Project Manager, Geology, Minerals, Soils, Climate, Topography, Air Resources, Hydrology,	MS, Geophysics BS, Geology
Kelly Bayer	19	QA/QC, Project Management	BS, Biology and Marine Science
Cynthia Adornetto	27	Recreation, Transportation	MS, Environmental Policy and Management BS, Natural Resources Management
Kevin Doyle	29	Cultural Resources, Indian Trust Assets	BA, Sociology

5.7 List of Preparers

Yashekia Evans	14	GIS	
Cameo Flood	27	Fire Management	BS, Forest Resource Management
Derek Holmgren	12	Public Health and Safety, Visual Resources, Utilities	MPA, Environmental Policy and Natural Resources Management MS, Environmental Science BA, International Studies BS, Environmental Science
Genevieve Kaiser	24	Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, Recreation, Energy and Mineral Development, Noise, Grazing	MS, Energy Management and Policy, BA, Economics Professional Certification: GIS
Erin King	10	Cultural Resources, Indian Trust Assets	MA, Cultural Anthropology BA, Cultural Anthropology
Julia Mates	12	Cultural Resources, Indian Trust Assets	MA, Public History/History BA, History
Tetra Tech Consulting Team* cont.			
Holly Prohaska	15	Land Management, Project Management	MS, Environmental Management, BA, Marine Science
Cindy Schad	21	Word Processing	BFA, Creative Writing
Randolph Varney	23	Technical Editor	MFA, Writing BA, Technical and Professional Writing
Meredith Zaccherio	8	Vegetation, Fish and Wildlife	MA, Biology BS, Biology BS, Environmental Science

* Current and past members

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