



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Upper Colorado Region  
Provo Area Office  
302 East 1860 South  
Provo, Utah 84606-7317

IN REPLY REFER TO:

PRO-774  
ENV-6.00

SEP 01 2004

To Interested Persons, Organizations, and Agencies:

Subject: Operation of Flaming Gorge Dam Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Enclosed for your review and comment is a copy of the Operation of Flaming Gorge Dam Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). This document was prepared by the Bureau of Reclamation in cooperation with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, State of Utah Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems, and Western Area Power Administration.

During the preparation of this DEIS, we contacted those parties who had asked to receive the DEIS, to determine whether paper copy or CD ROM was preferred, and whether a full DEIS (with or without appendices) or Executive Summary was preferred. The enclosure(s) to this transmittal letter are in response to your stated preferences.

The Operation of Flaming Gorge Dam DEIS describes the effects of modifying the operation of Flaming Gorge Dam to assist in the recovery of four endangered fish and their critical habitat, downstream from the dam. The purpose of the proposed action is to operate Flaming Gorge Dam to protect and assist in recovery of the populations and designated critical habitat of the four endangered fish species, while continuing and maintaining all authorized purposes of the Flaming Gorge Unit of the Colorado River Storage Project, particularly those related to the development of water resources in accordance with the Colorado River Compact.

The DEIS describes and analyzes the potential effects of two alternatives. Under the No Action Alternative, operations under the conditions imposed by the 1992 Biological Opinion would continue. Under the Action Alternative, operations would be in accordance with the flow and temperature regimes specified in the "Flow and Temperature Recommendations for Endangered Fish in the Green River Downstream of Flaming Gorge Dam," published in September 2000 by the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program. The recommended flows and temperatures are intended to provide water releases of sufficient magnitude and, with the proper timing

and duration, to assist in the recovery of the endangered fishes and their designated critical habitat.

Public hearings will be held during the month of October in Wyoming and Utah. The public hearings will begin at 6 p.m. on the following dates and at the following locations:

- Tuesday, October 12, 2004, Moab, Utah  
Ramada Inn, 182 South Main Street, Moab, Utah
- Wednesday, October 13, 2004, Salt Lake City, Utah,  
Marriott Hotel, 75 South West Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah
- Tuesday, October 19, 2004, Rock Springs, Wyoming  
Holiday Inn, 1675 Sunset Drive, Rock Springs, Wyoming
- Wednesday, October 20, 2004, Dutch John, Utah  
Dutch John Conference Hall, South Boulevard, Dutch John, Utah
- Thursday, October 21, 2004, Vernal, Utah  
Western Park Conference Center, 300 East 200 South, Vernal, Utah

The public hearings will be recorded by a court reporter, and all hearing statements (oral and written) will become part of the public record for this EIS.

You need not attend the hearings to submit comments. Written comments may be provided to our office up until November 15, 2004. If you submit written or oral comments, it would be very helpful if any statements or recommendations that draw upon studies, reports, or working papers for substance are supported by appropriate documentation. It would also be helpful for your comments to be as specific as possible and address the adequacy of the document or the merits of the alternatives. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, all comments received, whether oral or written, are given full and equal consideration.

Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from public disclosure, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public disclosure in their entirety.

All written comments, including those from parties unable to attend the hearings or those wishing to supplement their comments at the hearings, should be addressed to Mr. Peter Crookston, Flaming Gorge Environmental Impact Statement Manager, PRO-774, Bureau of Reclamation, Provo Area Office, 302 East 1860 South, Provo, Utah 84606-7317; telephone 801-379-1152; faxogram 801-379-1159; email: [fgeis@uc.usbr.gov](mailto:fgeis@uc.usbr.gov).

If you would like additional paper or CD-ROM copies of the DEIS, Appendices, or Executive Summary, please contact Mr. Crookston using the information given above. The DEIS is also available for viewing on Reclamation's web site at [www.usbr.gov/uc/](http://www.usbr.gov/uc/) (click on Environmental Programs and then click on the Flaming Gorge Dam Environmental Impact Statement).

Thank you for participating in this environmental review process.

Sincerely,



ACTING FOR

Bruce C. Barrett  
Area Manager

Enclosure(s)