

agencies; Tribes; and stakeholders; as well as through the public scoping process. The PEIS analyzes the effects of the proposed changes in RMP management direction, the cumulative effects of the seven proposed solar projects, and the implementation of design features on:

- Air Resources
- Biological Resources
- Cultural and Native American Concerns
- Hydrologic Resources
- Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice
- Visual Resources

Schedule for the Decision-Making Process

The BLM will provide opportunities for public participation consistent with the NEPA and land use planning processes for a 90-day comment period on the draft RMP Amendment and PEIS. The Final PEIS is anticipated to be available for public review in the last quarter of 2024, with an Approved RMP Amendment and Record of Decision in the first quarter of 2025.

Public Process

One in-person and one virtual public meeting will be held. The location and dates of the meetings and information on how to participate will be announced at least 15 days in advance through the BLM's National NEPA Register (ePlanning) web page (see **ADDRESSES**) and applicable local newspapers.

This notice of availability initiates the public review of the planning criteria, draft RMP Amendment, and draft PEIS.

Through the review process, the BLM is requesting input on the environmental analysis, alternatives, and issues that are analyzed, including measures to minimize and/or avoid adverse environmental impacts, and any other information relevant to the proposed area of effect.

Lead and Cooperating Agencies

The BLM Battle Mountain District Office is the lead agency for this RMP Amendment and PEIS. The Nevada Department of Wildlife, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service—Ecological Services, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service—Migratory Birds Program, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Esmeralda County Board of County Commissioners have agreed to participate in this environmental analysis as cooperating agencies. Several Tribes, including the Moapa Band of Paiutes, have also requested to participate in the environmental analysis and may potentially agree to become cooperating agencies.

Additional agencies and organizations may be identified as potential cooperating agencies to participate in the environmental analysis for the RMP Amendment and PEIS.

Responsible Official

The BLM Nevada State Director is the deciding official for this planning effort.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The nature of the decision to be made will be the BLM Nevada State Director's selection of land use planning decisions for managing BLM-administered public lands under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield in a manner that best addresses the purpose and need.

Interdisciplinary Team

The BLM has used an interdisciplinary approach to develop the RMP Amendment to consider the variety of resource issues and concerns identified. Specialists with expertise in the following disciplines were involved in this planning effort: geology and soils, vegetation and noxious and invasive species, wildlife, hydrology, air quality, minerals, paleontology, visual resources, cultural resources, socioeconomics and environmental justice, public health and safety, land use and recreation, special designations, and others deemed necessary based on the results of the scoping process.

Additional Information

The BLM will identify, analyze, and consider mitigation to address the reasonably foreseeable effects to resources from the proposed RMP Amendment and all analyzed reasonable alternatives and, in accordance with 40 CFR 1502.14(e), include appropriate mitigation measures not already included in the draft RMP Amendment or alternatives. Mitigation may include avoidance, minimization, rectification, reduction or elimination over time, and compensation; and may be considered at multiple scales, including the landscape scale.

The BLM is utilizing and coordinating the NEPA and land use planning processes for this planning effort to help support compliance with applicable procedural requirements under the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1536), as well as section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. 306108) as provided in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3), including public involvement requirements of section 106. The information about threatened and endangered species and historic and cultural resources within the area potentially affected by the proposed

plan assists the BLM in identifying and evaluating impacts to such resources.

The BLM has consulted and will continue to consult with Native American Tribes on a government-to-government basis in accordance with Executive Order 13175, BLM MS-1780, and other Departmental policies. Tribal concerns, including impacts on Indian trust assets and potential impacts to cultural resources, are being given due consideration. Federal, State, and local agencies, along with Native American Tribal Nations and other stakeholders that may be interested in or affected by the draft RMP Amendment and PEIS that the BLM is evaluating, have been invited to participate in the environmental review process and, if eligible, have been requested by the BLM to participate in the development of the environmental analysis as a cooperating agency.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should 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.

(Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7, 43 CFR 1610.2, and 43 CFR 2800)

Kimberly Prill,

Acting State Director.

[FR Doc. 2024-16280 Filed 7-25-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4331-21-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[BLM_OR_FRN_MO_4500179756]

Notice of Availability of the Final Hult Reservoir and Dam Safety Environmental Impact Statement, Oregon

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended (FLPMA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the availability of the Final Hult Reservoir and Dam Safety Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

DATES: The BLM will not issue a decision on the proposal for a minimum

of 30 days after the date that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes its Notice of Availability (NOA) in the **Federal Register**. The EPA usually publishes its NOAs on Fridays.

ADDRESSES: The Final EIS and documents pertinent to this proposal are available for review on the BLM ePlanning project website at <https://bit.ly/4365A9m>. They are also available for in-person examination at the BLM's Siuslaw Field Office at 3106 Pierce Parkway, Springfield, OR 97477.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sarah Bickford, (541) 683-6767; 3106 Pierce Parkway, Springfield, OR 97477; sbickfor@blm.gov. Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services for contacting Ms. Bickford. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Hult Reservoir and Hult Pond Dam are located near the community of Horton, Oregon. The reservoir is fed by Lake Creek and smaller tributaries. The earthen embankment dam was built in the 1930s or 1940s to create a log holding pond for the Hult Lumber Company sawmill. Today, the 54-acre reservoir and surrounding area are primarily used as a recreation destination. The dam serves no other water retention purposes and provides no flood protection. The average lifespan for an earthen embankment dam is 50 years, which the Hult Dam has exceeded by over 3 decades. The BLM believes that the dam is at the end of its lifespan.

When the BLM took ownership of the reservoir and dam in a 1994 land exchange, the dam had been poorly maintained, but a 1990 Bureau of Reclamation inspection found there was no immediate danger of failing. Since then, the BLM has made improvements to the dam, including repairs, reinforcement, and installation of monitoring equipment. BLM staff continuously monitor the reservoir level and adjust the dam outlet during winter weather events to avoid overtopping.

In 2017, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) inspected the dam and found multiple failure points due to its age and condition. The 2018 USACE report based on this inspection described that flooding resulting from

dam failure could impact 70 to 130 people downstream and cause damage to Oregon Highway 36, as well as potential loss of life.

Purpose and Need

The project's purpose and need is to decommission the current Hult Dam structure to reduce the potential for failure of the aging structure and associated loss of life and critical services, and to be fiscally responsible to the public in managing the costs associated with the dam.

Alternatives

The Draft EIS analyzed three action alternatives and a No Action alternative. It also considered eight alternatives that were not presented in detail; the Final EIS adds four more alternatives not presented in detail that came from public comments on the Draft EIS.

Alternative 1 (Continue Current Management) would leave the dam in place and continue current operations. The analysis assumes that, because of the dam's condition and age, within approximately 8 years either the dam will fail catastrophically (Alternative 1.1), or the BLM would have to drain the reservoir because a catastrophic dam failure was imminent (Alternative 1.2). Alternative 2 (Remove the Existing Dam and Build a New Dam to Maintain Hult Reservoir) would remove the current Hult Pond Dam, build a new dam in its place, and refill the reservoir. Alternative 3 (Remove Hult Reservoir; Add Little Log Pond) would remove the dam and build a smaller dam downstream on Lake Creek to create a 5-acre pond (Little Log Pond) that would be used for recreation. Alternative 4 (Remove Hult Reservoir) would permanently remove the existing dam infrastructure; Hult Reservoir would be drained, and a natural stream channel would be reestablished through the former reservoir footprint.

Preferred Alternative

The BLM's preferred alternative is Alternative 4 (Remove Hult Reservoir). In addition to removing the dam and allowing Lake Creek to flow freely, this alternative would also remove the existing poorly functioning fish ladder near the dam. Excavated dam material would fill in the current spillway. A new bridge would be built to span the stream channel near the current dam location, replacing the existing bridge and road across the dam. This work would take place during summer months when water levels would be lowest.

Project design features include:

- Riparian and wetland restoration in the former reservoir area, with the creation of habitat for fish, western pond turtles, and beavers.
- Improved recreation amenities, including a new day-use area, a developed camp host site and a group campsite, and a multi-use trail adjacent to the restoration area.
- Cultural design features including signage with information about the area's original indigenous inhabitants and the lumber mill previously located at the site.

In addition, proposed mitigation measures would reduce impacts to wetlands, western pond turtles, native fish, rare aquatic plants, and recreationists.

Public Involvement

The public scoping period for the project was held in January 2022. Issues identified by the public included changes to recreation access and opportunities such as fishing, swimming, and boating; effects to wildlife, plants, ecosystems, fish, and fish passage; effects to the local economy and community; availability of water for fire suppression; impacts on water quality, availability, and rights; and impacts on local Tribes. The BLM solicited additional public input during the EIS process by holding an open house in May 2022 and releasing a draft of EIS chapters 1 and 2 for a five-week public comment period.

The release of the complete Draft EIS in October 2023 was accompanied by two public meetings (one virtual, one in-person). The BLM received 35 comment letters during the 45-day comment period. Commenters asked the BLM to add or clarify information in the EIS and proposed additional alternatives.

Comments on the Draft EIS received from the public and internal BLM review were considered and incorporated as appropriate into the Final EIS. Public comments resulted in the addition of clarifying text but did not significantly change proposed actions.

Changes Made Between the Draft and Final EIS

The BLM addressed 48 substantive comments in the Final EIS. The BLM's responses to comments include additional information about permits required for the project, impacts to environmental justice populations, and impairment of waterbodies in the project area, along with corrections to facts and data and discussion of other alternatives.

The Final EIS includes new proposed mitigation measures that would:

- Reduce adverse impacts to environmental justice populations under Alternative 4.
- Reduce adverse impacts to special status aquatic plants under Alternative 2.
- Reduce adverse impacts to western pond turtles under Alternatives 3 and 4.

Changes include updated cost estimates for each alternative; changes to the *Comparison of the Alternatives* section and tables; and issues related to environmental justice, special status plants, and western pond turtles.

Other new information includes findings of recent surveys for archeological sites and artifacts, rare plants, and invasive plants within the project area, and a new, more accurate calculation of wetlands acres. Several EIS sections have been updated to reflect this new data.

Cooperators

Formal cooperating agencies on this EIS include:

- Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians of Oregon
- Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Oregon Department of Forestry—Lane County
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—Regulatory Branch

(Authority: 40 CFR 1506.6, 40 CFR 1506.10)

Dennis Teitzel,

District Manager, Northwest Oregon District, Oregon/Washington.

[FR Doc. 2024–16423 Filed 7–25–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4331–24–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[BLM_CA_FRN_MO4500178668]

Notice of Application for Extension of Withdrawal and Public Meeting; Notice of Legal Description and Map Availability, California

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of proposed extension.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of the Army (Army) filed an application with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for extension of the withdrawal created by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (2002 Act) for an additional 25-year term. The withdrawal created by the 2002 Act,

enacted on December 28, 2001, expires on December 27, 2026, unless extended by Congress. The 2002 Act withdrew public land from all forms of appropriation under the general land laws, including the mining laws and mineral and geothermal leasing laws, to conduct combined arms military training and develop and test military equipment at Fort Irwin National Training Center in San Bernardino County, California, and for other defense-related purposes. This notice also provides official publication of the legal land description and location of the map for the National Training Center withdrawal created by the 2002 Act. This notice initiates a 90-day comment period on the Army's application and announces that the BLM and the Army will hold a public meeting on the application. While the BLM will process the application, only Congress can extend the withdrawal.

DATES: The BLM must receive all comments by October 24, 2024. The BLM and the Army will hold an in-person and virtual public meeting in connection with the proposed withdrawal extension on September 9, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Pacific Time. The BLM will publish a notice of the time and online venue in the Press-Enterprise and the San Bernardino Sun local newspapers and the BLM California website at <https://www.blm.gov/california> for a minimum of 30 days before the scheduled date of the meeting and instructions for the public to access the meeting.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to the Sarah Naranjo, Realty Specialist, BLM California State Office, Attn: Fort Irwin Withdrawal, 2800 Cottage Way, W-1623 Sacramento, CA 95825–1886 or by email at BLM_CA_SO_FortIrwinComments@blm.gov. For instructions on submitting public comments visit: <https://www.blm.gov/california>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Sarah Naranjo, Realty Specialist, Bureau of Land Management, California State Office, telephone: (505) 954–2200, email: snaranjo@blm.gov. Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the 2002 Act (Pub. L. 107–107 (115 Stat. 1012)), Congress withdrew

approximately 117,710 acres of public lands in San Bernardino County, California, from all forms of appropriation under the general land laws, including the mining laws and mineral and geothermal leasing laws, subject to valid existing rights, and reserved the land for the Army's use at the Fort Irwin National Training Center and transferred administrative jurisdiction over the lands to the Army. This withdrawal will expire on December 27, 2026, unless extended by Congress. The Army submitted an application for extension of this withdrawal for an additional 25 years.

The legal description for public lands withdrawn for use by the Army at the Fort Irwin National Training Center is as follows:

Mount Diablo Meridian, California

T. 31 S., R. 46 E.,

Sec. 1, lots 1 and 2 in NE¹/₄ and SE¹/₄;

Sec. 2, lots 1 and 2 in NE¹/₄;

Sec. 3, W¹/₂ lot 1 in NW¹/₄ and W¹/₂ lot 2 in NW¹/₄;

Sec. 4;

Sec. 5, lots 1 and 2 in NE¹/₄, lots 1 and 2 in NW¹/₄, and SW¹/₄;

Sec. 8;

Sec. 9, S¹/₂;

Sec. 10, SE¹/₄;

Sec. 11;

Sec. 12, N¹/₂ and SW¹/₄;

Sec. 13, NW¹/₄ and SE¹/₄;

Sec. 14, N¹/₂ and S¹/₂ SE¹/₄;

Secs. 15 and 17;

Sec. 20, W¹/₂NE¹/₄ and W¹/₂SE¹/₄;

Sec. 21, NE¹/₄;

Sec. 22, SW¹/₄ and W¹/₂SE¹/₄;

Sec. 23, SW¹/₄;

Sec. 25, N¹/₂, N¹/₂SW¹/₄, and N¹/₂SE¹/₄;

Sec. 26, NE¹/₄ and S¹/₂;

Sec. 27, NE¹/₄ and N¹/₂SE¹/₄;

Sec. 28, S¹/₂;

Sec. 29, N¹/₂.

T. 31 S., R. 47 E.,

Sec. 3;

Sec. 4, lots 1 thru 4, S¹/₂NE¹/₄, S¹/₂NW¹/₄, and SE¹/₄;

Sec. 5, lots 1 thru 4, S¹/₂NE¹/₄, S¹/₂NW¹/₄, N¹/₂SW¹/₄, and N¹/₂SE¹/₄;

Sec. 6, lots 1 thru 5, S¹/₂NE¹/₄, and SE¹/₄NW¹/₄;

Sec. 7, SE¹/₄SW¹/₄ and SE¹/₄;

Sec. 8, NW¹/₄ and S¹/₂;

Sec. 9, NE¹/₄ and S¹/₂;

Secs. 10, 15 thru 22, 27 thru 30, and 34.

T. 32 S., R. 47 E.,

Sec. 3, all the lands in Section 3 not selected within Patent #441652 and Patent #965371 being 102.59 acres.

San Bernardino Meridian, California

T. 12 N., R. 1 E.,

Sec. 1, lots 1 thru 4 and S¹/₂NW¹/₄;

Sec. 2, lots 3 thru 8, lots 1 and 2 in NW¹/₄, SW¹/₄NE¹/₄, N¹/₂SW¹/₄, and NW¹/₄SE¹/₄;

Secs. 4 and 6.

T. 13 N., R. 1 E.,

Sec. 1;

Sec. 2, all except that portion in MS 6182;

Sec. 3, all except that portion in MS 6182;