

- Quality Inn-South Mountain, 5121 E. LaPuente St. (Elliot Rd. & I-10), Ahwatukee, Arizona.
- Coolidge High School Auditorium, 800 W. Northern Ave., Coolidge, Arizona.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Sandra Eto, Environmental Protection Specialist, Bureau of Reclamation, Phoenix Area Office (Code: PXAO-150) 23636 N. 7th Street, PO Box 9980, Phoenix, AZ 85068; Telephone (602) 870-6771.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Colorado River Basin Project Act of 1968 (CRBPA) authorized the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary), acting through Reclamation, to construct the Central Arizona Project (CAP). The CRBPA also authorized Reclamation to assist Indian communities receiving CAP water allocations with development of their water delivery facilities. In 1985, GRIC developed an agriculturally based master plan for rehabilitating and improving existing irrigation systems and agricultural lands, as well as developing new land and water resources. This plan was adopted by the Tribal Council in December 1985. Under the plan, an irrigation water delivery system and appurtenant facilities would be constructed to serve up to 146,330 acres of land.

On October 22, 1992, the Secretary entered into a water service contract with GRIC for the delivery of 173,100 acre-feet of CAP water annually to GRIC. To obtain the maximum benefit from Reclamation resources available through CRBPA, Reclamation and GRIC propose to use CAP-authorized funds for the design and construction of a common use irrigation delivery system. This common use irrigation delivery system would be capable of conveying irrigation water (including existing and potential future ground, surface, and CAP water resources) to a maximum of 146,330 acres identified in the master plan as having the potential for agricultural development. Plans also provide for enhancement of certain wildlife habitat within GRIC, and rehabilitation and betterment of the San Carlos Indian Irrigation Project (SCIIP) Joint Works, which are under BIA's jurisdiction. Reclamation would contribute resources to implement the agricultural development master plan in an amount that is equivalent to what would have been spent to design and construct a single purpose CAP water delivery system.

The major components of GRIC's agricultural development master plan include the following: (1) Development of up to 146,330 acres of land for agricultural use and construction of a

water delivery system to serve those lands; (2) development of riverine and riparian habitat areas associated with agricultural development; and (3) rehabilitation and betterment of SCIIP Joint Works, which would consist of (a) rehabilitation of Ashurst-Hayden Diversion Dam; (b) construction of sediment removal basins and designation of a sediment disposal area near the headworks of the Florence-Casa Grande Canal; (c) construction of a new concrete-lined Florence-Casa Grande Canal and rehabilitation and lining of the remaining SCIIP Joint Works distribution system canals; and (d) construction of an earth and soil cement-lined regulation reservoir. There would be no modification to the existing Picacho Reservoir, which would be available for temporary storage of drainage and floodflows.

Because CAP-authorized funds would be used to implement portions of the master plan, Reclamation will prepare a draft PEIS to evaluate potential overall impacts to the human environment from implementing the master plan. Once finalized, the PEIS would assist Reclamation in making decisions regarding use of Federal funds to implement portions of the master plan. For activities related to the master plan that require a Federal action or involve Federal funds, future NEPA documentation would be prepared as the specific design- and construction-related details are developed. Future NEPA documents would be tiered from the PEIS.

The draft PEIS will describe two proposed alternatives plus a no Federal action alternative. Under the preferred alternative, Reclamation would support and consider funding portions of all aspects of the agricultural development master plan. Under the second alternative, Reclamation would support and consider funding of all aspects of the agricultural development master plan that fall within GRIC's boundaries, and rehabilitation and betterment of the Pima Lateral portion of the SCIIP Joint Works.

Thus far, the following are significant environmental issues that will be evaluated in the draft PEIS: Potential loss of desert habitat and impacts to plants and wildlife, including threatened or endangered species; potential impacts to archaeological sites, and historic and traditional cultural properties; potential impacts to, and creation/enhancement of, wetland and riparian habitat; potential impacts to surface and ground water quality and quantity; potential impacts to Indian and non-Indian land owners, allottees and residents; potential impacts to the

socio-economic conditions of GRIC at large; potential impacts to Indian Trust Assets; and potential opportunities for developing passive recreational benefits.

Extensive scoping has occurred since the mid-1980's within GRIC, involving members of GRIC at all levels. This input was taken into consideration in identifying significant environmental issues to be evaluated in the draft PEIS. Therefore, no additional separate formal scoping meetings within GRIC are planned to be held in connection with the preparation of the draft PEIS.

The draft PEIS is expected to be completed and available for review and comment by late summer 1995. The authority for approving and filing this draft PEIS has been delegated to Reclamation.

Comments regarding the proposed action are welcome at the public meeting. To ensure consideration in the preparation of the draft PEIS, written comments should be sent to the address shown above by March 17, 1995. All public input received by Reclamation as a result of previous public involvement will automatically be considered in the preparation of the draft PEIS. If you would like to be placed on a mailing list for any subsequent information, please write or telephone Ms. Sandra Eto.

Dated: February 2, 1995.

**Lawrence F. Hancock,**

*Regional Director.*

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## Fish and Wildlife Service

### Endangered and Threatened Species Permit Application; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement To Allow Incidental Take of Four Threatened Species on Lands Administered by Plum Creek Timber Company, L.P. in the State of Washington

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) intends to gather information necessary for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS will consider a permit application by Plum Creek Timber Company, L.P. (applicant) to take federally listed species, under the provisions of section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended. It will also consider the development of an unlisted species agreement. The Service is conducting scoping and hereby encourages