

permits for endangered species are at 50 CFR parts 13 and 17.

Copies of the final EIS and RHCP are available for public inspection and review at the following locations (by appointment at government offices):

- Department of the Interior, Natural Resources Library, 1849 C St. NW., Washington, DC 20240.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 110 S. Church, Suite 3450, Tucson, AZ 85701
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2321 West Royal Palm Road, Suite 103, Phoenix, AZ 85021
- Salt River Project, 1521 Project Drive, Tempe, AZ 85281
- Globe Public Library, 339 S. Broad St., Globe, AZ 85501
- Government Document Service, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ 85287
- Payson Public Library, 510 W. Main, Payson, AZ 85541
- Phoenix Public Library (Burton Barr Central), 1221 N. Central Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85004
- Tonto Basin Library, 1 School St., Tonto Basin (Punkin Center), AZ 85553

Background

Roosevelt Dam and Reservoir (Roosevelt) is operated by SRP in conjunction with three other reservoirs on the Salt River and two reservoirs on the Verde River as integral features of the Salt River Reclamation Project, authorized by the Reclamation Act of 1902, and pursuant to a 1917 contract with the United States. Since completion in 1911, Roosevelt has provided water for power generation, irrigation, municipal, and other uses. Currently, SRP reservoirs supply water to more than 1.6 million people in the cities of Phoenix, Mesa, Chandler, Tempe, Glendale, Gilbert, Scottsdale, Tolleson, and Avondale. In addition, water is provided to irrigate agricultural lands within SRP and for other uses. Also, water is delivered to the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, Gila River Indian Community, Buckeye Irrigation Company, Roosevelt Irrigation District, Roosevelt Water Conservation District, and others. Roosevelt and the other SRP reservoirs also provide a variety of recreational uses and environmental benefits in central Arizona. Due to dry conditions in central Arizona for the past six years, the water level at Roosevelt has been below normal. As a result, riparian vegetation has invaded and flourished in the portion of Roosevelt historically used by SRP to store water for use in the Phoenix metropolitan area. Animals that use riparian habitat have followed the

vegetation growth and now occupy areas within the reservoir. In particular, a population of flycatchers now occupies habitat within the storage space at Roosevelt. Thus, periodic refilling of the reservoir may adversely affect habitat used by the flycatcher, clapper rail, bald eagle, and cuckoo.

Proposed Action

The proposed action is the issuance of an ITP for flycatchers, clapper rails, bald eagles, and cuckoos for SRP's operation of Roosevelt, pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act. The activity that would be covered by the permit is the continued operation of Roosevelt by SRP. The area covered by the permit includes Roosevelt up to an elevation of 2,151 feet, the highest point in the reservoir at which water is stored. The requested term of the permit is for a period of 50 years. To meet the requirements of a Section 10(a)(1)(B) permit, SRP has developed and will implement the RHCP, which provides measures to minimize and mitigate incidental take of flycatchers, clapper rails, and bald eagles to the maximum extent practicable, and which ensures that the incidental take will not appreciably reduce the likelihood of the survival and recovery of these species in the wild. The RHCP also addresses potential impacts on a candidate species, the yellow-billed cuckoo.

Alternatives

Two other alternatives that were considered by the Service include the following:

1. *No Permit*—No issuance of an ITP by the Service. This alternative would require SRP to do everything within its control to avoid any take of federally listed species associated with its continued operation of Roosevelt.
2. *Re-operation Alternative*—Issuance of an ITP by the Service authorizing the modified operation of Roosevelt to reduce the short-term impact of reservoir operations on listed and candidate species. This alternative includes measures to minimize and mitigate the potential take of federally listed species.

Geoffrey L. Haskett,

Acting Regional Director, Southwest Region.
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Council) Meeting Announcement

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Council will meet to select North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) proposals for recommendation to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission.

The meeting is open to the public.

DATES: The meeting will be held on December 3, 2002, at 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the Mexican State of Quintana Roo. The Council Coordinator is located at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, MBSP-4075, Arlington, Virginia 22203.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David A. Smith, Council Coordinator, (703) 358-1784 or dbhc@fws.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with NAWCA (Pub. L. 101-233, 103 Stat. 1968, December 13, 1989, as amended), the State-private-Federal Council meets to consider wetland acquisition, restoration, enhancement and management projects for recommendation to, and final funding approval by, the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission. Proposals require a minimum of 50 percent non-Federal matching funds. The public is welcome to attend the meeting scheduled for December 3, 2002.

Dated: November 20, 2002.

Marshall P. Jones, Jr.,

Acting Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[AK-990-03-5101-ER-L016]

Final Environmental Impact Statement, Trans-Alaska Pipeline System Right-of-Way Renewal

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of Final Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for renewal of