

Bonneville Unit Wildlife and Aquatic Mitigation Environmental Assessment – Scoping Notice

The Wildlife Mitigation Plan for the Bonneville Unit (BU) of the Central Utah Project (CUP), was adopted by the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) in its 1987 Final Supplement to the Final Environmental Statement and its Record of Decision for the M&I System (the '1987 FS/FES'). The Wildlife Mitigation Plan included several requirements to address CUP-associated impacts to wildlife. The Aquatic Mitigation Plan for CUP's Strawberry Aqueduct and Collection System was adopted by Reclamation in 1988. The Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission (Mitigation Commission) is an Executive branch agency of the federal government authorized under the Central Utah Project Completion Act of 1992 (CUPCA). The Mitigation Commission is responsible for mitigating impacts to fish and wildlife caused by the CUP. Reclamation and the Mitigation Commission together have acquired lands in Wasatch and Duchesne counties since the 1980s for the purpose of fulfilling CUP wildlife and aquatic mitigation requirements. Reclamation and the Mitigation Commission are now proposing to transfer ownership of 16,700 acres of those lands acquired in the Duchesne River watershed to the State of Utah, Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) for ongoing stewardship for fish and wildlife purposes as per the Fish and Wildlife

Coordination Act (FWCA) and the Central Utah Project Completion Act (CUPCA) (see Figure 1, Lands Proposed for Transfer and Surrounding Ownership).

Purpose and Need: The purpose is to fulfill CUP mitigation requirements laid out in the 1987 and 1988 mitigation plans. The need is to transfer lands acquired for CUP BU aquatic and wildlife mitigation and conservation from federal ownership to the State of Utah, UDWR.

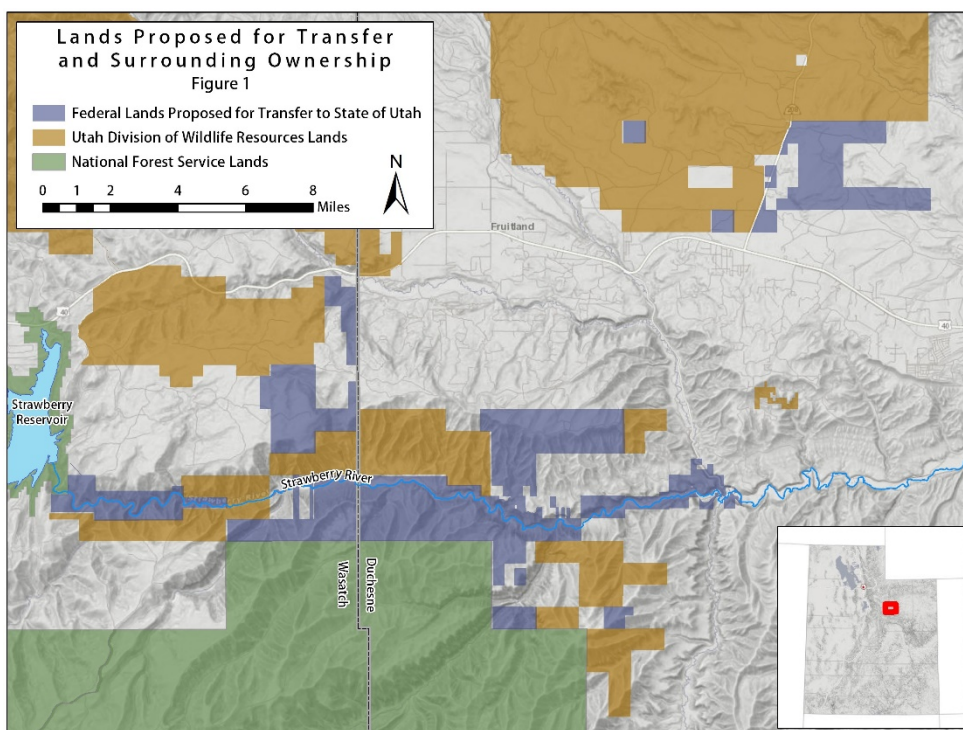
Proposed Action: The proposed action is to transfer acquired mitigation and conservation properties to UDWR. The transfer would include an agreement and deed restrictions requiring continued management of the lands for the purposes for which they were acquired. This would constitute a major Federal action requiring analysis and disclosure under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The properties are in Wasatch and Duchesne Counties. The United States would transfer the acquired lands to UDWR, in accordance with Federal and State of Utah laws, rules and policies. An Environmental Assessment (EA) will evaluate and disclose the effects of transferring those properties out of federal ownership to the State for ongoing mitigation and stewardship.

Decision to be Made: The Joint Lead Agencies: Mitigation Commission, Reclamation and Department of the Interior, CUPCA Office, will determine whether to transfer the acquired lands (parcels) to UDWR.

THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT OF 1969 (NEPA)

NEPA requires all Federal Agencies to consider and disclose to the public the environmental impacts of any major federal actions before implementing them. Because this proposed project is a Federal action through the Mitigation Commission, it is subject to NEPA.

The environmental review process required by NEPA provides an



[View Larger Map](#)

opportunity for you to be involved in the Federal agency decision making process. The process helps you understand what the Federal agency is proposing and why, provides you with the opportunity to express your thoughts on alternative ways for the agency to accomplish what it is proposing, and provides you an opportunity to offer your comments on the agency's analysis of the environmental effects of the proposed action.

NEPA requires Federal agencies to consider environmental effects that include, among others, impacts on social, cultural, and economic resources, as well as natural resources. Citizens often have valuable information about places and resources they value, and the potential environmental, social, and economic effects proposed federal actions may have on those places and resources. Primary resources anticipated to be analyzed in the EA for this proposal include: wildlife, botany, watershed, and cultural resources. Additional resources may be considered in the EA as a result of scoping, and some of these resources may be dropped from detailed consideration upon further review.

HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE

There are several opportunities to participate in the planning process. Your first opportunity is now, by suggesting issues that are relevant to the proposal and that should be discussed in the environmental review. You can also suggest alternatives to our proposal– a different way to address the CUP BU mitigation requirements. You may also submit comments at a Public Information Meeting (open house format) to be held on October 17th between 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the

Heber Senior Center in Heber, Utah. Your second opportunity to participate in the planning process will be to review and comment on the draft EA when it is published. The draft EA will describe this proposal's relevant issues, environmental impacts, and any alternative actions. The Mitigation Commission will compile and consider all comments received in response to the draft EA. Changes will be made to the draft EA, as may be necessary, and a final EA will be published. The Joint Lead Agencies will then decide which alternative (or combination of alternatives) to implement, if any. If the proposal's anticipated impacts are significant and unmitigable, then the EA would be supplemented with additional information and more thorough analysis and reissued as a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The DEIS would then be made available for review and comment. The final decision will be based on the analysis of anticipated impacts identified in the final EA or EIS and input from the public, other agencies and local governments.

Please submit your suggestions on issues that should be considered in the draft EA to Maureen Wilson. Comments would be most useful if submitted prior to November 1, 2019.

Project Coordinator: [Maureen Wilson](#)
Email: mwilson@usbr.gov
Mailing Address: 230 S 500 E, Suite 230
Salt Lake City, UT 84102
Phone: (801) 524-3146
Comments by: November 1, 2019

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

DATE: OCTOBER 17, 2019
TIME: 6:00 – 7: 30 P.M.
LOCATION: HEBER SENIOR CENTER
465 EAST 1200 SOUTH
HEBER CITY, UTAH 84032



U.S. Department of the Interior, Central Utah Project Completion Act Office






U.S. Bureau of Reclamation



Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission

Lands Proposed for Transfer and Surrounding Ownership

Figure 1

-  Federal Lands Proposed for Transfer to State of Utah
-  Utah Division of Wildlife Resources Lands
-  National Forest Service Lands

