



**Green River Diversion  
Rehabilitation –  
Environmental Impact Statement**

**Scoping Report**

**Final**

Dan Axness  
Project Manager

July 16, 2013

**McMILLEN, LLC**

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# SECTION 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.0 Introduction

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF), as the project sponsor, are analyzing alternatives to repair damage to the Green River diversion structure from the late 2010 and early 2011 (2010/2011) flood events. The Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery program (Recovery Program) is proposing to install a fish barrier as part of this project at the entrance to the west irrigation and hydropower plant canal to prevent Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed fish species from entering the canal and/or hydropower plant. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBOR) are representing the Recovery Program by providing technical oversight of the fish barrier design and installation.

In August 2012, NRCS, as the lead federal agency, initiated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis in the form of an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate potential impacts to the natural and human environment from this project. An initial project scoping period for the elements to be addressed in the EA was opened for 32 days (October 30 through November 30, 2012). A public meeting attended by 34 participants was held November 15, 2012 to gather input and feedback on the project's purpose and need statement, potential alternatives for consideration, environmental issues to be addressed, methodologies to be used to evaluate impacts, and the overall public participation process. Eleven written comments were received and were included in the 1<sup>st</sup> Scoping Report titled *Final Green River Diversion Rehabilitation – Environmental Assessment Scoping Report* issued December 19, 2012.

Following the first scoping period, further consultation was performed with the Utah State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. NRCS determined that the dam is 90+ years old and may be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Any modifications to the dam may be considered an "adverse effect", which may make it ineligible for listing after rehabilitation. Some of the impacts to the diversion dam from the rehabilitation alternatives may be considered "significant" to cultural resources and as a result, NRCS has decided to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project instead of the previously-proposed EA. The EIS will comply with the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, which require an evaluation of potential environmental impacts associated with federal projects and actions.

Participation of the public is a vital component of the project so that those who are interested in or potentially affected by proposed alternatives have an opportunity to share their comments, ideas, and concerns regarding actions during the scoping stage of the NEPA process. To provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the preparation of the EIS and a second opportunity to comment on the overall project, NRCS opened a second public scoping period. The second scoping period was opened from May 29, 2013 and closed on July 2, 2013. This EIS Scoping Report presents the comments received from the agencies and the general public during the 2<sup>nd</sup> scoping period.

### 1.1 Project Purpose and Need

The Green River diversion structure was constructed in the early 1900s and has been modified over the years to maintain the structure. During the 2010/2011 flood events, flows in the Green

River caused severe damage to the diversion structure, compromising its structural integrity. If the dam failed, water service to two irrigation canals, a historic irrigation water delivery system, and a hydropower plant would be eliminated. Repairing the dam would directly result in these resources remaining open and usable. The purpose of the project is to rehabilitate the existing diversion dam. The need for the project is to maintain existing functions of the diversion dam for water delivery to irrigation canals and the hydropower plant's powerhouse.

## **1.2 Scoping Goals and Objectives**

The main goal of public participation is to involve a diverse group of public and government agency participants in order to solicit input and provide timely information throughout the NEPA review process regarding their concerns about the project and the proposed alternatives. The main goals are to (1) establish ongoing communication with stakeholders, agencies, and the general public; (2) educate the public about the environmental review process and each party's role; (3) evaluate the effectiveness of public participation activities on a continual basis and utilize the most effective techniques throughout the NEPA process; and (4) document all public and government agency input.

## SECTION 2

### SCOPING PROCESS SUMMARY

#### 2.0 Scoping Overview

Scoping questions, comments, and concerns were requested from the public and government agencies during the 2<sup>nd</sup> scoping period. The following summarizes the scoping process and efforts made to engage the public and government agencies.

#### 2.1 Scoping Terms

The following terms were used during the scoping process to identify specific actions:

- Comment: a distinct statement, question about a topic, or issue relating to the project.
- Comment Category: a topic to which a comment is addressed.
- Comment Document: a written version of comment(s) submitted by a commenter. One comment document may contain multiple comments.
- Commenter: an individual, organization, or agency providing one or more comments.

#### 2.2 Scoping Schedule

The following dates outline the milestones for the scoping process:

May 28, 2013	Public notice published in the Emery County Progress and the Sun Advocate newspapers
May 28, 2013	Scoping notice mailed and emailed to interested parties
May 29, 2013	2 <sup>nd</sup> scoping period opened
May 29, 2013	Public notice published in the Salt Lake Tribune newspaper
May 30, 2013	Public notice published in the Daily Herald and Moab Times newspapers
June 3, 2013	An Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Green River/Tusher Diversion Dam Rehabilitation Project, Emery/Grand County, UT published in the Federal Register, Vol. 78, No. 106
June 4, 2013	Public notice published a second time in the Emery County Progress and the Sun Advocate newspapers
June 5, 2013	Public notice published a second time in the Daily Herald
June 6, 2013	Public notice published a second time in the Moab Times newspaper
June 12, 2013	Two public telebriefings conducted consisting of a formal presentation (2:00–2:45 pm MDT and 6:00–6:45 pm MDT), each followed by an informal question and answer session
June 21, 2013	Website updated and email sent to interested parties to announce the extension of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> scoping period closing date to July 2, 2013
July 2, 2013	2 <sup>nd</sup> scoping period closed

## 2.3 Scoping Notice

A scoping notice was prepared and sent to interested parties and regulatory agencies on May 28, 2013. The list of recipients was prepared by NRCS, UDAF, the Utah Association of Conservation Districts (UACD), and the local Green River irrigators. The scoping notice identified the project and its location, the projects' purpose, and the reasons for preparing an EIS. The scoping notice requested public participation, listed the opening and closing dates for the scoping period, and provided information about the two public telebriefings (date, times, and call number) describing the current status of the project. In addition, the scoping notice listed contact information for submitting written comments. A copy of the scoping notice is attached in Appendix A. The scoping notice was also posted on the NRCS project website ([http://www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/EWP/green\\_river/index.html](http://www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/EWP/green_river/index.html)).

As noted in Section 2.2, public notices were published in the Salt Lake Tribune, Moab Times-Independent, Daily Herald, Sun Advocate, and Emery County Progress newspapers identifying the project and providing information about the public telebriefings. On June 3, 2013, a Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Green River/Tusher Diversion Dam Rehabilitation Project, Emery/Grand County, UT was published in the Federal Register, Vol. 78, No. 106. Copies of the newspaper scoping notices are attached in Appendix B, and the Federal Register Notice of Intent is attached in Appendix C.

## 2.4 Scoping Telebriefings

The primary purpose of the two scoping telebriefings on June 12, 2013 (2:00 pm MDT and 6:00 pm MDT) was to inform interested parties about the preparation of the EIS and update them regarding the status of the overall project. Interested parties were given the opportunity after the formal presentation to ask questions and provide comments on the preparation of the EIS and overall project. In order to gather as broad an audience as possible, two separate telebriefings were held (see Section 2.2). McMillen, LLC gave a presentation regarding the project and NEPA process at the beginning of each telebriefing. Interested parties could have downloaded the presentation from the project website prior to the meeting and the presentation is located in Appendix D.

Five interested parties and three speakers attended the first telebriefing at 2:00 pm MDT, and six interested parties and two speakers attended the second telebriefing 6:00 pm MDT. Participants were invited to submit comments in writing by mail, facsimile, e-mail, or oral comment during the 2<sup>nd</sup> scoping comment period for the project. Attendance at the meetings was recorded prior the meeting by the operator who connected each participant to the telebriefing and this list can be found in Appendix D.

## 2.5 Scoping Mailing List

As mentioned above, the scoping mailing list was prepared by NRCS, UDAF, UACD, and local Green River irrigators to inform the government agencies and general public about the 2<sup>nd</sup> scoping period for the project. A total of 70 mailings were sent to government agencies and 374 mailings were sent to the general public.

## SECTION 3 SCOPING COMMENTS

### 3.0 Scoping Telebriefings

Two scoping telebriefings were conducted on June 12, 2013 from 2:00 to 2:45 pm MDT and again from 6:00 to 6:45 pm MDT. Each telebriefing was followed by an informal question and answer session. There were zero informal questions asked at either telebriefing.

The following project personnel were in attendance for the telebriefings:

Name	Organization	Title	Telebriefing
Bronson Smart	NRCS	State Conservation Engineer	2:00 pm
Dan Axness	McMillen, LLC	Project Manager	2:00 pm and 6:00 pm
Greg Allington	McMillen, LLC	NEPA Manager	2:00 pm and 6:00 pm

### 3.1 Written Comments

The 2<sup>nd</sup> scoping period officially opened on May 29, 2013 and ended on July 2, 2013 for a total of 35 days. Written comments could be submitted via mail, facsimile, e-mail, or oral comment.

Commenters submitted 39 written comments during the scoping period and zero oral comments. Formal written comments are presented in Appendix E.

### 3.2 Comment Categories

The comments were separated into comment categories to group together similar topics. The categories that were created summarizing the 2<sup>nd</sup> scoping period are listed below. Specific comment details are listed in the Comment Category Matrix in Appendix E.

- Boat Passage
- Construction Impacts
- Dam Rehabilitation
- Dam Decommission
- Electrical Barrier
- Fish Passage
- Floods
- Funding/Economics
- Habitat
- Historic Preservation
- Hydropower Plant
- Irrigation
- NEPA Process
- Permits

**APPENDIX A**  
**SCOPING NOTICE**



May 28, 2013

Dear Interested Parties:

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), with the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) as the project sponsor, are proposing to address flood damage on the Green River/Tusher Diversion Dam in Green River, Utah. The proposed project is located approximately 6.6 miles north of the city of Green River on North Long Street. **You are invited to comment on the project and attend a public Telebriefing** which will describe the current status of the project.



**2<sup>nd</sup> Scoping Period**

**Open:** Wednesday, May 29, 2013 (12:00 a.m. MDT)

**Close:** Friday, June 28, 2013 (5:00 p.m. MDT)

**Telebriefing #1**

**When:** Wednesday, June 12, 2013

**Time:** Formal Presentation: 2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. (MDT)

Informal Q&A: 2:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (MDT)

**Call:** (800) 346-7359 (entry code 840561)



**Telebriefing #2**

**When:** Wednesday, June 12, 2013

**Time:** Formal Presentation: 6:00 p.m. – 6:45 p.m. (MDT)

Informal Q&A: 8:45 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. (MDT)

**Call:** (800) 346-7359 (entry code 840561)

Please call 15 minutes prior to the start of the Telebriefing and an operator will connect you to the meeting. Additional Telebriefing information will be posted to the project website prior to June 12, 2013. More project specific information is available by contacting Greg Allington (McMillen, LLC) with the project team by phone at (208) 342-4214 or email at [greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com](mailto:greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com).

**Environmental Impact Statement**

The NRCS conducted the 1<sup>st</sup> public scoping period for the project from October 30, 2012 to November 30, 2012 and a public meeting was held on November 15, 2012 at Green River City Hall in Green River, Utah. After the scoping period closed, NRCS consulted with the Utah State Historic Preservation Office under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act regarding the project. It was determined that the diversion dam may be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and any modifications to the dam may be considered an “adverse effect” which may make it ineligible for listing after rehabilitation. Some of the impacts to the diversion dam from conceptual alternatives considered may be considered “significant” to cultural resources. As a result, NRCS has decided to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project instead of an Environment Assessment (EA).

## Public Participation

The participation of the public is a vital component of the project so that those who are interested in or potentially affected by the proposed project have an opportunity to share their comments, ideas, and concerns regarding actions during the public scoping stage of the NEPA process. In order to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the preparation of an EIS and a second opportunity to comment on the overall project, NRCS has open a second public scoping period. You are encouraged to attend the Telebriefing and express your comments, ideas, and concerns. You may also submit your comments via letter, email or fax anytime during the public comment period. For comments to be considered and to become part of the public record for the project, **we need to receive them by close-of-business (5:00 p.m. MDT) on Friday, June 28, 2013.**

Please mail your written comments to:

Green River Diversion Rehabilitation Project  
c/o McMillen, LLC – Greg Allington  
1401 Shoreline Drive  
Boise, ID 83702

You may also submit comments by email, phone or fax to McMillen:

**Email:** [greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com](mailto:greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com)

**Phone:** (208) 342-4214

**Fax:** (208) 342-4216

**After receiving comments by close-of-business (5:00 p.m. MDT) on Friday, June 28, 2013,** the NRCS will begin reviewing the comments and continuing to prepare conceptual alternatives for analysis in the EIS.

You may also visit the project website at <http://www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/EWP/index.html> to check on the status of the project and download project related documents during the course of the NEPA analysis.

The project team values your feedback and encourages you to attend the Telebriefing on Wednesday, June 12, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. (MDT)

Sincerely,



Bronson Smart  
NRCS State Engineer

cc: Anthony Beals – NRCS  
Norm Evenstad – NRCS  
Thayne Mickelson – UDAF  
Roger Barton – UACD  
Dan Axness – McMillen, LLC  
Greg Allington – McMillen, LLC

**APPENDIX B**  
**NEWSPAPER SCOPING NOTICES**



## PUBLIC NOTICE

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), in cooperation with Utah Department of Agriculture and Food as the project sponsor, are proposing to address flood damage on the Green River/Tusher Diversion Dam under the Emergency Watershed Protection program. The proposed project is located approximately 6.6 miles north of the City of Green River, Utah on North Long Street. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508 require an evaluation of potential environmental impacts associated with federal projects and actions with input from the public.

The NRCS conducted the 1st public scoping period for the project from October 30, 2012 to November 30, 2012. After the scoping period closed, NRCS decided to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the project due to potential significant impacts to cultural resources.

**You are invited to comment on the project and attend a public Telebriefing** which will describe the current status of the project. Please call 15 minutes prior to the start and an operator will connect you to the meeting. Additional Telebriefing information will be posted to the project website prior to June 12, 2013.

### Telebriefing #1

**When:** June 12, 2013  
**Time:** 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM (MDT)  
**Call:** (800) 346-7359  
 Entry Code 840561

### Telebriefing #2

**When:** June 12, 2013  
**Time:** 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM (MDT)  
**Call:** (800) 346-7359  
 Entry Code 840561

Comments may be submitted during this 2nd scoping period starting May 29, 2013 and **ending on June 28, 2013 5:00 PM (MDT)** to the following:

**Mail:** Green River/Tusher Diversion Rehabilitation Project  
 c/o McMillen, LLC - Greg Allington  
 1401 Shoreline Drive  
 Boise, Idaho 83702

**Email:** [greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com](mailto:greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com)  
**Fax:** (208) 342-4216  
**Phone:** (208) 342-4214  
**Website:** <http://www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/EWP/index.html>

trapped in the mountains by snow.

When the film does stick to the handcarters, events are filtered mostly through the eyes of Thomas Dobson, a young English pioneer nursing a healthy portion of regret for having left his old life behind.

"Ephraim's Rescue" has some of the same problems that "17 Miracles" did. There's an over-reliance on sonorous music and slow-motion photography to punch up the drama of certain scenes. It's almost comical in some spots, like when a mob of angry hooligans appears at the scene of a Mormon baptism in England. There's surely no shortage of hooligans in England — ask any soccer fan — but there's nothing to ground us even a little bit in the persecution of Mormon converts abroad.

Baptism, rejoicing — blam. Cue slo-mo hooligans.

The film's sense of humor is also hit-and-miss. An attempt to weave in a running polygamy joke mostly falls flat, while a more organic chuckle neatly arises from Thomas comparing notes with pretty Esther about the romantic at-

shoehorned into this or that predicament for the sake of faith-promoting drama. When the handcart company crosses a river in high summer, a pioneer mother, apparently without consulting anyone else in the group, decides that her only means of getting to the opposite bank is to wade the deep water with her young son on her shoulders.

Whether or not it really happened that way (we're told that it did) is beside the point — the filmmaker's job is to suggest why it would have, or might have, happened that way.

Instead, the film has her simply struggle across in full view of any number of people who could have — and, more importantly, would have — rushed to her assistance.

One thing that's conveyed powerfully from start to finish is Ephraim Hanks' uncanny ability to give miraculous healing blessings employing Mormon priesthood rites. Hanks apparently manifested this remarkable gift early in life and Christensen gradually show him put it to use, carefully and respectfully building to scenes that show nearly the entire ritual. Especially tender

**Location:** Opens Friday at theater in Utah

is Hanks' humble insistence on washing his hands before every blessing.

As the film's frontier savior, Darin Southam is both suitably meek and appropriately rugged, if occasionally somewhat inscrutable. Christensen might have served his star better by giving Hanks a little more human frailty. When Hanks says at one point that his personal failings are too numerous to be counted, Southam makes it sound sincere. Aside from a humorous flash of temper at the expense of two ministers, on the other hand, we haven't seen much to suggest that "Eph" was anything but courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean reverent and so forth. A Boy Scout before his time.

Even viewers familiar with the handcart tragedy may not know about Hanks' role in responding to it. Despite its own shortcomings, "Ephraim's Rescue" is a worthwhile tribute to a forgotten hero.

# three nights in the valley

## Thursday

Stop holding it and just go with the flow: Two tickets to see **"Urinetown"** at Hale Center Theater Orem will help you make a splash as you kick off the weekend.



Pete Widtfeldt

## Friday

Who's afraid of Tyrannosaurus rex? Don't make any sudden moves when you sit down to watch **"Jurassic Park"** at Movies 8 in Provo.

## Saturday

Ride 'em cowboy! Saddle up the family minivan and head to Springville's rodeo arena (767 W. 1600 South) for the 5th annual **Art City Days Hometown Rodeo**. Admission is just \$10 per car, or \$5 per person.

# Perfect date: En-gendered to the arts



Jann Haworth

If you want to astound your date this weekend by displaying your vast knowledge of women's issues, or even if you're just up for a good (and free) time, Brigham Young University's Museum of Art is the place to go.

A new contemporary exhibition is set to explore the unique gender politics of Utah from the perspective of four of the state's top artists.

"We're not trying to be critical or negative about the roles of women," curator Jeff Lambson said. "We're just trying to ask some of those tough questions and appreciate all aspects of women's work, whether it's domestic, in the work place or in a social sphere."

"Work to Do" is on display at the museum now until Sept. 28 during regular museum hours. For more information on visiting, go to moa.byu.edu.

—Kari Kenner

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The Ticket is published Thursdays in the Daily Herald.

To submit an item for consideration by The Ticket editors, send a letter, postcard or email that gives a complete description of the event including the name of the sponsoring organization, time, date, place, cost and nature of the activity; and a full name and telephone number of a person to call for more information. Send items to The Ticket Listings, Daily Herald, 1555 N. Freedom Blvd., Provo, 84603, or email complete info to [theticket@heraldextra.com](mailto:theticket@heraldextra.com). Items must be received no later than noon on the Friday preceding the publication date. No listings will be accepted by phone.

## Wrinkle

Continued from D1

"Our approach to the production itself is quite unique," Sorensen said. "There's a quote I use in my program note taken from Friedrich Nietzsche which says, 'Man's maturity: To have regained the seriousness that he had as a child at play.' We, as a production, are working to create a space where we are imaginatively creating this journey that these children go on, and (are) inviting the audience to go on it with us — asking them to suspend their own disbelief and journey with us."

According to Sorensen, the fact that the show is performed as if by young neighborhood friends and children is just one aspect of the creativity involved. All props, set and costumes were created from found objects and require a touch of imagination to bring to life. Collaboration and creativity form the foundation of the show's direction and production.

"We are approaching it from the completely collaborative idea that anyone who is participating can make comments on any parts of the show, and that their ideas will be listened to and respected," he said. "We make decisions to use those ideas or not collaboratively. The company pretty much decides what we want to work on when and how. It's an exploration. This show has creativity and invites people to bring their own creativity to the show."

Sorensen said that despite the unique take on the production, one thing audience members can count on is that the show is true to the original story. "We have kept the storyline intact and it feels to me that we have stayed very true to her work," he said. "It has values, values that resonate with LDS culture and Christian culture. Values

we commend within the mission of this institution. The characters are wonderful, it's fun and it's a work that has shaped people's thoughts and lives for a long time. ... For more than 40 years it has shaped people's thoughts and been a part of how they think about life, and it's still very relevant to today."

The story of "A Wrinkle in Time" centers around the Murry family, especially young Meg and Charles, as well as their friend, Calvin O'Keefe. In an attempt to save their father, who has gotten lost while experimenting with time travel, the trio must journey through the universe and harness the power of love to defeat the forces of evil that try to overcome them.

"Calvin O'Keefe is an older boy from school that becomes friends with Charles and his sister Meg then gets totaled along for the ride across the galaxy and universe," said Logan Hayden, who portrays Calvin in the show. "He doesn't know what's going on at first and he and Meg are both kind of shocked by what they see, but he's there to support Meg and becomes a part of the family eventually."

With such a creative foundation, Hayden said above all he hopes audiences can take something good away from the production.

"I don't know if people would come expecting something they've already seen before, but it's going to be unlike anything they've seen," he said. "It's a new experience and I hope any audience member can come look at it with a creative eye or just appreciate it for what it is. ... Imagination and creativity is not something we should shy away from but something we should embrace and seek out. Things aren't always as we think they are, and if an audience member were to feel a renewed desire for imagination and creativity in their lives, that would make me really happy."

## SUMMER CONCERT LIST

(Club shows not included)

### DEER VALLEY AMPHITHEATER

**July 4** — Los Lonely Boys, Alejandro Escovedo  
**July 15** — Bruce Hornsby & the Noisemakers  
**July 19** — Steve Martin and The Steep Canyon Rangers featuring Edie Brickell with the Utah Symphony  
**July 20** — Indigo Girls with the Utah Symphony  
**July 30** — Natalie Maines  
**Aug. 3** — Mandy Patinkin with the Utah Symphony  
**Aug. 4** — Darlene Love and Muscle Shoals Live  
**Aug. 10** — The Music of The Rolling Stones with the Utah Symphony  
**Aug. 17** — Lyle Lovett and His Large Band  
**Aug. 24** — Jewel  
**Aug. 31** — One Republic, Churchill

### THE DEPOT

**June 8** — They Might Be Giants  
**July 7** — Moe  
**July 10** — Robert Randolph and the Family Band  
**July 13** — Ratt, Lita Ford  
**July 18** — Jimmy Eat World  
**Aug. 1** — The Cult  
**Aug. 24** — Three Days Grace

**Aug. 31** — Pinback  
**Sept. 20** — Hanson

### ENERGYSOLUTIONS ARENA

**Saturday** — Taylor Swift  
**Sept. 19** — Muse  
**Oct. 11** — Josh Groban  
**Oct. 17** — P!nk  
**Nov. 14** — Selena Gomez  
**Nov. 19** — Michael Bublé

### THE GREAT SALTAIR

**June 21** — Killswitch Engage  
**July 27** — Slightly Stoopid & Atmosphere  
**Aug. 23** — fun.

### KINGSBURY HALL

**Sept. 24** — Diana Krall

### LAVELL EDWARDS STADIUM

**July 4** — Stadium of Fire (Kelly Clarkson, Carly Rae Jepsen)  
**July 25** — One Direction  
**Aug. 1** — Megadeth, Black Label Society  
**Aug. 2** — Bruno Mars, and Fitz and the Tantrums  
**Sept. 3** — Rock Allegiance Tour (Volbeat, HIM, and All That Remains)

### RED BUTTE GARDEN

**Tonight** — Edward Sharpe, The Magnetic Zeros  
**June 9** — Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue, Big Head Todd and the Monsters  
**June 16** — Grace Potter and the Nocturnals  
**June 19** — Jackson Browne

**June 20** — Tony Bennett  
**June 24** — Tedeschi Trucks Band  
**June 25** — She & Him  
**July 5** — Old Crow Medicine Show  
**July 9** — Pink Martini  
**July 12** — Rodrigo y Gabriela  
**July 14** — Brandi Carlile  
**July 15** — David Byrne & St. Vincent  
**July 17** — Garrison Keillor's A Prairie Home Companion Radio Romance Tour  
**July 23** — Kenny Loggins  
**July 25** — Dwight Yoakam  
**July 30** — Merle Haggard  
**Aug. 4** — Medeski Martin & Wood, and John Scofield's UBERJAM Band  
**Aug. 7** — Steve Miller Band  
**Aug. 10** — Steely Dan  
**Aug. 14** — John Butler Trio  
**Aug. 18** — Michael Franti & Spearhead  
**Aug. 20** — John Prine  
**Aug. 27** — George Thorogood and the Destroyers, Buddy Guy  
**Aug. 29** — Wayne Shorter 80th Birthday Celebration  
**Sept. 15** — The Black Crowes  
**Sept. 16** — Neko Case

### RIO TINTO STADIUM

**July 27** — Jason Aldean

### SANDY AMPHITHEATER

**June 7** — Ryan Shupe and the RubberBand  
**June 8** — King Niko, Hang Time  
**June 15** — Rhonda Vincent

**June 21** — Rockapella  
**June 26** — American West Symphony and Chorus  
**July 3** — Pat Benatar and Neil Giraldo  
**July 6** — Arrival: The Music of Abba  
**July 9** — Happy Together 2013 (Flo & Eddie, Chuck Negron, Gary Puckett & the Union Gap and more)  
**July 12** — Exile, Juice Newton  
**July 13** — New Electric Sound, The North Valley  
**July 16** — Under the Sun 2013 (Smash Mouth, Sugar Ray, Gin Blossoms, Vertical Horizon, and Fastball)  
**July 20** — Stayin' Alive  
**July 23** — Huey Lewis and The News  
**Aug. 21** — Sail Rock (Christopher Cross, Orleans, Gary Wright, Firefall, John Ford Coley and more)  
**Aug. 24** — Golden Sun, Polytype  
**Aug. 29** — Chris Isaak  
**Sept. 6** — Rockin' the Decades With the Salamanders  
**Sept. 7** — The Souvenirs, and The Hollering Pines  
**Sept. 9** — Charley Jenkins  
**Sept. 13** — Creedence Clearwater Revisited

### SCERA SHELL

**June 18** — Utah's Stars and Friends (Reunion, Shaun King, Jenny Oaks Baker, Dallyn Vail Bayles, Kendra Lowe, Joshua Creek and more)

**June 25** — Josh Turner  
**July 22** — The 5th Dimension featuring Florence LaRue  
**Aug. 19** — The Righteous Brothers' Bill Medley  
**Aug. 29** — Richard Marx  
**Sept. 2** — Hotel California: A Salute to the Eagles

### SPRING ACRES ARTS PARK

**June 7** — Lou Gramm Band

### STEEL DAYS IN AMERICAN FORK

**July 20** — Little River Band

### USANA AMPHITHEATRE

**Tuesday** — Alice Cooper, Marilyn Manson  
**June 14** — Tim McGraw  
**June 20** — Barenaked Ladies  
**July 5** — Free the People 2013  
**July 18** — Kenny Chesney  
**July 30** — 311  
**July 31** — Rush  
**Aug. 1** — Americanarama Festival of Music (Bob Dylan, Wilco, My Morning Jacket, and Ryan Bingham)  
**Aug. 2** — Brad Paisley  
**Aug. 10** — Alan Jackson  
**Aug. 27** — Dave Matthews Band  
**Sept. 2** — Uproar Festival (Alice in Chains, Jane's Addiction, Coheed and Cambria, and more)  
**Sept. 20** — Luke Bryan

### UTAH STATE FAIRPARK

**June 29** — Vans Warped Tour

## Concerts

Continued from D1

check out Steve Martin and The Steep Canyon Rangers (July 19), Mandy Patinkin (Aug. 3) or Selena Gomez (Nov. 14).

Got crooners? Yes we do, with Michael Bublé (Nov. 19), Josh Groban (Oct. 11), Tony Bennett (June 20) and Bruce Hornsby (July 15).

In the legacy category, there is Jackson Browne (June 19), Bob Dylan (Aug. 1) and Steely Dan (Aug. 10).

If you like more bang for your buck, check out these shows with guaranteed fireworks: Stadium of Fire (Kelly Clarkson and Carly Rae Jepsen on July 4), Little River Band (Steel Days on July 20) and Chris Cagle (Saturday as the finale to Pony Express Days).

It's a lively summer for tribute acts as

well with Hotel California: A Salute to the Eagles (Sept. 2), Stayin' Alive (The Bee Gees on July 20), Arrival: The Music of Abba (July 6) and Creedence Clearwater Revisited (Sept. 13). OK, we're just joking about that last one, but seriously, without John Fogerty this CCR is pretty close to a tribute.

Be sure to check out our full list of the main summer concerts currently scheduled to find out when and where your favorite bands may be performing.

## Ephraim

Continued from D1

whose large spirit belies his small stature.

Yet while the new film devotes substantial screen time to the hardships endured by the handcart companies, the focus is much more on Hanks,

who spent his late teenage years in the Navy before following his brother into The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1845. After eventually winning the trust of early Mormon leader Brigham Young, Hanks was ready to take immediate action in the fall of 1856 when Mormon leaders in Salt Lake City received word of settlers trapped in the mountains by snow.

When the film does stick to the handcarters, events are filtered mostly through the eyes of Thomas Dobson, a young English pioneer nursing a healthy portion of regret for having left his old life behind.

"Ephraim's Rescue" has some of the same problems that "17 Miracles" did. There's an over-reliance on sonorous music and slow-motion photography to punch up the drama of certain scenes. It's almost comical in some spots, like when a mob of angry hooligans appears at the scene of a Mormon baptism in England. There's surely no shortage of hooligans in England — ask any soccer fan — but there's nothing to ground us even a little bit in the persecution of Mormon converts abroad.

Baptism, rejoicing — blam. Cue slo-mo hooligans.

The film's sense of humor is also hit-and-miss. An attempt to weave in a running polygamy joke mostly falls flat, while a more organic chuckle neatly arises from Thomas comparing notes with pretty Esther about the romantic at-

tachments they've each left behind. Esther, who's been making a steady (and steadily amusing) play for Thomas' affections, is apparently aiming to trade up. "He was quite plain, actually," she says of her former sweetheart. "I just tried not too look at him too much."

Certain scenes come across as forced, with characters shoehorned into this or that predicament for the sake of faith-promoting drama. When the handcart company crosses a river in high summer, a pioneer mother, apparently without consulting anyone else in the group, decides that her only means of getting to the opposite bank is to wade the deep water with her young son on her shoulders.

Whether or not it really happened that way (we're told that it did) is beside the point — the filmmaker's job is to suggest why it would have, or might have, happened that way.

Instead, the film has her simply struggle across in full view of any number of people who could have — and, more importantly, would have — rushed to her assistance.

One thing that's conveyed powerfully from start to finish is Ephraim Hanks' uncanny ability to give miraculous healing blessings employing Mormon priesthood rites.

Hanks apparently manifested this remarkable gift early in life and Christensen gradually show him put it to use, carefully and respectfully building to scenes that show nearly the entire ritual. Especially tender

## Review C+

### EPHRAIM'S RESCUE

Director: T.C. Christensen

Cast: Darin Southam, Katherine Nelson, James Gaisford, Christina Torriente

Running time: 1 hr., 50 min.

Rating: PG for thematic elements and some disturbing images

Location: Opens Friday at theaters in Utah

is Hanks' humble insistence on washing his hands before every blessing.

As the film's frontier savior, Darin Southam is both suitably meek and appropriately rugged, if occasionally somewhat inscrutable. Christensen might have served his star better by giving Hanks a little more human frailty. When Hanks says at one point that his personal failings are too numerous to be counted, Southam makes it sound sincere. Aside from a humorous flash of temper at the expense of two ministers, on the other hand, we haven't seen much to suggest that "Eph" was anything but courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, reverent and so forth. A Boy Scout before his time.

Even viewers familiar with the handcart tragedy may not know about Hanks' role in responding to it. Despite its own shortcomings, "Ephraim's Rescue" is a worthwhile tribute to a forgotten hero.



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### Telebriefing #1

When: June 12, 2013  
Time: 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM (MDT)  
Call: (800) 346-7359  
Entry Code 840561

### Telebriefing #2

When: June 12, 2013  
Time: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM (MDT)  
Call: (800) 346-7359  
Entry Code 840561

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c/o McMillen, LLC - Greg Allington  
1401 Shoreline Drive  
Boise, Idaho 83702  
Email: [greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com](mailto:greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com)  
Phone: (208) 342-4216  
Fax: (208) 342-4214  
Website: <http://www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/EWP/index.html>

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Previous assistance has been provided in China, Morocco, Bolivia, Mexico and Belarus. More information is available at [www.shareasmile.net](http://www.shareasmile.net).

Oakeson said the company has a history of helping the community.

She began using drugs herself. She ended up getting married to a man much like her dad." He said the clinic does care to alleviate pain for someone who does drugs, but does not provide other care until they are clean. When

said. "If we can take them off the street and have them get a job, they can get a social life with some degree of confidence. If they can have some joy in their life and some dignity, it is great. It is about seeing people's lives change."

## Train

*Continued from A1*

Nelson explained to the commission that the railroad needs to build a structure to house the train so they can make Vivian Park a starting point on the line. He also said it would be wise to include a ticket booth, a concession stand and additional parking areas to get things started at the canyon park.

Nelson estimated the railroad would need about \$100,000 to get the Vivian Park location up and running. He added that in the future the railroad could make additions at the park, such as a turntable, to increase public interest in the park.

Commissioner Gary Anderson agreed with Nelson that

Vivian Park was underutilized by the railroad and said he was interested in moving forward with discussions about how the county can be involved in aiding the railroad. Commissioners Doug Witney and Larry Ellertson also stated they were supportive of seeing if the county can support the railroad in some way but none of the three commissioners were ready to say the county would commit any money to the railroad.

"I think this could be a great little venture," Witney said.

After the meeting with the commissioners Nelson explained that he is trying all avenues to find a way to increase the viability of the railroad. He said he has courted the Legislature for money in the past two legislative sessions but failed in his attempts.

He said there was a possibility that the railroad could be altered from being an independent entity of the state to an interlocal agreement between Utah and Wasatch counties and a state department such as UDOT or the state parks.

The Heber Valley Railroad has attempted to evolve from being a scenic train that runs through Provo Canyon to a more family friendly attraction. In the past year the railroad has offered some theme-based rides, like the North Pole Express during the Christmas season and a Harry Potter-based train in the summer.

The railroad has also teamed up with other businesses that operate in Provo Canyon to offer rafting and rail trips as well as a train that includes a zip line excursion.

...of water used. This  
 something that happens  
 every year and will begin  
 1. A small incremental

...ber Carole Larsen. Many  
 suggestions were made as to  
 what should be in the Oran-

...gether and moved from place  
 to place.  
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 will be held at the cemetery.

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# Fracking...

Continued from page A1  
still has not justified the rule from an economic or scientific point of view.

"At a time of limited federal budgets, DOI is canceling lease sales and struggling to issue permits in a timely manner. We continue to question why DOI is taking on a whole new regulatory regime when it lacks resources, expertise, and personnel to implement it."

DOI spokeswoman Jessica Kershaw in Washington, D.C., said the proposed rule should be printed in the Federal Register within days and will then be subject to a 30-day comment period from the public.

The BLM said in a news release the proposal would establish "commonsense safety standards" for hydraulic fracturing.

"Approximately 90 percent of wells drilled on federal and Indian lands use hydraulic fracturing, but the Bureau of Land Management's current regulations governing hydraulic fracturing operations on public lands are more than 30 years old and were not written to address modern hydraulic fracturing activities," according to the news release.

The revised proposed rule will modernize BLM's management of fracking "and help to establish baseline environmental

safeguards for these operations across all public and Indian lands," the news release stated.

Steve Bloch, energy program director and attorney with the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance's Salt Lake City office, said most oil and gas wells in Utah are fracked.

"It is not less controversial here than in other places," he said. "I know folks in Moab are concerned about it. Any time the BLM sells an oil or gas lease it comes with the potential for fracking."

The BLM proposed a draft rule covering fracking in 2012. The current updated draft proposal results from more than 177,000 public comments on that plan.

The latest proposal "revises the array of tools operators may use to show that water is being protected, and provides more guidance on trade secret disclosure, while providing additional flexibility for meeting these objectives," according to the BLM news release.

The BLM noted it is not proposing a change to the provision that allows hydraulic fracturing flowback fluids to be stored either in tanks or in lined pits. But the agency said it is seeking comments on the costs and benefits of requiring those fluids to only be stored in closed tanks.

# Deadline looms for municipal elections

By Lisa J. Church  
Staff Writer

Candidates for office in Moab and Castle Valley, or for a seat on the Spanish Valley Water and Sewer Improvement District (SVWSID), must file the required paperwork during the first week of June.

In Moab, city council seats now held by Kyle Bailey and Jeff Davis, and the position of mayor will be up for election Nov. 5.

Declarations of candidacy must be filed between June 3 and June 7 at the Moab City Recorder's Office, 217 E. Center

St., 435-259-2683.

Under Utah law, candidates for city elections must be current residents who have lived within the city for at least one year.

Castle Valley residents will also choose a mayor, one two-year council position and two four-year council representatives. Candidacy forms are available at the Castle Valley Town Clerk's office, 435-259-9828.

Two seats are also up for election on the Castle Valley Fire District. Candidates must file declarations of candidacy with Bob Lippman, fire commission

clerk, between June 3 and June 7 at 5 p.m. Contact Lippman at 259-1182.

Three SVWSID trustee po-

sitions will be up for election. Candidacy documents must be filed June 3-7 with the SVWSID Clerk at the Grand Water & Sewer Service Agency office, 3025 E. Spanish Trail Road.

# Climbing...

Continued from page A1

Miller said the climbing closures will become an annual event, although the list of routes to be closed probably will change each year as park officials learn more about nesting and lambing habits.

The current closures have a termination date, although Miller noted the temporary bans could be lifted earlier or later depending on the results of area wildlife surveys. Changes in the re-opening dates will be posted on the NPS website at [www.nps.gov/arch](http://www.nps.gov/arch) and announced through the local news media, he said.

The routes now closed but slated to re-open Aug. 15 are Harkened Castle, including the entire rock feature known as Ham Rock; and Tonka Tower, including the entire feature known as Tonka Tower and the feature to the north of Tonka Tower.

Scheduled for re-opening on Aug. 31 are The Pickle, Canyonlands by Night, El Second, The Coup, Cohn's Odyssey, Left Route, Project One and Project Two, Klondike Bluffs Crack Route One and Route Two, Cuddle Bunny Tower, False Start, North Marcher, Sand Hearse, Unknown Matching Men, Fun Ramp, The Hyena, Trail of the Navajo, Pop Tarts and Escape Route.

The Industrial Disease route will re-open Sept. 30.

Local guiding companies are not affected because no commercial operators have worked in Arches since the 1990s, said Heidi Wiley, NPS concessions management specialist.

## Canyonlands permit changes

At Canyonlands National Park, visitors requesting backcountry permits will have a shorter period in which to apply.

The change, which goes into effect Sept. 1, affects four-wheel-drive and mountain bike camping, four-wheel-drive day use in the Needles District, group camping in the Needles, river trips, and trips involving combined backpacking and pack rafting, according to a news release from the NPS.

Currently, visitors may book reservations beginning on the second Monday in July for the following year, said Keri Nelson, reservations supervisor for Canyonlands. After the change, reservations will be taken no more than four months, and no less than two days, prior to the permit start date.

Permits and/or sites not reserved at least two days before the permit start date will be available to visitors in person at the park's visitor centers and park headquarters reservation office on a first-come, first-served basis, according to the news release.

Nelson said the change is being made because Canyonlands is updating its reservation process to an online system as opposed to the current mail or fax application process. She added that with the longer time frame to make reservations, many people ended up canceling their reservations, particularly on the popular White Rim.

More information and availability calendars will be posted on Canyonlands' website at [www.nps.gov/cany](http://www.nps.gov/cany).

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# Groups seek to block oil shale, tar sands development

By Steve Kadel  
Staff Writer

Moab-based Living Rivers has joined other environmental groups in filing a notice of intent to sue the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for allegedly failing to protect endangered species on public lands offered for oil shale and tar sands development.

The 60-day notice was filed May 23 in federal court in Denver, said John Weisheit of Living Rivers. The notice is the first step toward filing a lawsuit.

The BLM has allocated more than 800,000 acres of public land in the Colorado River Basin for oil shale and tar sands development, according to a news release

from Grand Canyon Trust, one of the groups that filed the notice of intent.

"This plan threatens to industrialize backcountry, pollute air and water, destroy habitat, and commit the Colorado River Basin to an even drier future," Grand Canyon Trust's Taylor McKinnon said in the release.

However, U.S. Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, said in a letter to the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) that litigation from environmental groups already has reduced the available BLM land for oil shale development in Utah, Colorado and Wyoming from 1.9 million acres to 679,000 acres.

Bishop said the BLM is also

proposing "significant changes" to the oil shale commercial leasing program. Those changes include a policy of granting commercial leases for oil shale research and development only after the agency has determined the drilling operations can occur without "unacceptable environmental risk," according to the BLM.

Bishop's letter called that "a nebulous term." He said it duplicates safeguards already in place under the National Environmental Policy Act.

The letter, also signed other senators and representatives, including Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, asked the DOI to extend the public comment period on

the new regulations by 60 days from its May 28 closure. Bishop's spokeswoman Melissa Subbotin said the request was granted.

The BLM's proposed new policy also would replace the current royalty rates industry must pay, a change Bishop and others believe will deter energy development. The new rule would boost the present 5 percent rate adopted in 2008 under the Bush administration to 12.5 percent.

But Steve Bloch, attorney for the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, said the oil shale industry now pays less for development rights than does the traditional oil and gas industry.

"It's almost like a taxpayer-funded incentive," Bloch said.

# County declines to sign up for American Lands Council membership

By Steve Kadel  
Staff Writer

The Grand County Council has rejected a request to become a member of American Lands Council, a group that lobbies for states to take control of federal lands.

Kane County Commissioner Doug Heaton made a pitch for membership during the Grand County Council's meeting on May 7. There was little discussion then, but the issue arose again during the council's Tuesday, May 21, meeting with an

agenda item to approve memberships and subscriptions for 2013.

Membership in the American Lands Council would have cost \$5,000. However, that wasn't the main reason council members vetoed the idea.

Council vice chairman Lynn Jackson said there are "fundamental problems" with the organization.

"They are a secret Super PAC," he said. "They are not required to report who gives them money or how much money they have."

Jackson said such political action committees "allow our democracy to be purchased."

Officially known as "independent-expenditure only committees," Super PACs are not allowed to give money directly to political candidates' campaigns or political parties. But unlike traditional PACs, there is no legal limit on the size of donations they can accept from individuals, unions, corporations or other groups.

Jackson said many residents of Grand County probably agree with the American Land Council's philosophies while just as

many probably are opposed. He said it is wrong to use taxpayer money to support a particular political agenda.

Council chairman Gene Ciarus said he is a member of American Lands Council. Still, he said, "You can question using public money" for membership.

Council member Elizabeth Tubbs also went on record against joining the group, saying she doesn't agree with its primary goal of returning federal lands to states. Tubbs added that \$5,000 is too much money to spend for a membership.

Council member Jim Nyland cited the group's private nature in opposing membership.

"I hate to see taxpayer dollars go to a private organization and I'm not sold on this organization," he said.

The American Lands Council's mission is to "secure and defend local control of land access, land use and land ownership," according to an information brochure from the group.

"Federal control of public lands is destroying forests and watersheds, shutting off access, constricting economic opportunity, breaking state and local government budgets, and threatening our way of life," the brochure states.



**If you have been thinking about taking the CERT Course, now is the time to sign up. Classes start in June!**

**The question is not if a disaster strikes but when.** Do you know what to do when disaster strikes? How can you help yourself and loved ones before emergency crews can respond? Do you know how to protect your employees and customers? Learn what hazards we face in Grand County and around the country, and how to respond. Courses include fire suppression, light search & rescue, medical operations, and disaster psychology. Join tens of thousands of CERT members in over 1100 communities nationwide. Upon completion you will have the skills and knowledge to act before emergency crews can respond. And we'll help you complete a home disaster preparedness kit.

**CERT TRAINING is a 24 hour course held over 2 weeks. The next class starts in mid-June. To register or for more information contact Kris Hurlburt 260-8824 or certgrand@gmail.com. \$20.00 one-time fee, waivers available. Must be 18+ years old. CERT is a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) program.**

**To the Citizens of Grand County:**

The Solid Waste District is the current owner/operator of Moab's Community Recycle Center. Included in the District's 5-year plan, is a goal to increase recycling throughout Grand County.

The Community Recycle Center accepts a wide variety of recycling materials including plastics #1-7, tin cans, aluminum cans, newspaper, office paper, cardboard and glass.

All of the materials collected, except glass, is crushed and baled and sold to various markets with the revenue used to offset the cost of operating the recycling center.

Due to the difficulty of getting trucks to haul the glass to markets, the District was hauling the glass to the Moab Landfill where it was crushed and used as an intermediate cover for the construction and demolition waste that is disposed of at the landfill.

**The District is happy to announce that they have located a buyer for the glass.**

**The District is working with Interwest Paper of Salt Lake City who will purchase the glass, crushed and stored in boxes, in a mixed load with baled newspaper.**

**Interwest Paper will ship the boxes of crushed glass to Momentum Recycling in Salt Lake City.**

**Momentum Recycling will use the glass for various industries including making fiberglass insulation to sell to Utah construction firms, water filtration systems for cities and counties here in Utah and for use in sandblasting.**

**These are just some of the ways they will use the glass.**

The District is committed to serving the recycling needs of our residents and visitors and we will continue to work to make improvements that will maximize our recycling potential.

Any concerns or comments can be directed to the Solid Waste District office at 435-259-3867 or emailed to gcswmss@yahoo.com.

**For more information please visit our website at solidwastessd1.com**

## Fatal Fall...

Continued from page A1 of nature. Your show of love and understanding is met with gratitude."

Patterson's death is the fifth fatality to occur in the backcountry near Moab this year. On March 13, Zachary Taylor, 20, of Moab, died after falling approximately 120 feet while rappelling with friends at Teardrop Arch in the Pritchett Canyon area southwest of town. On March 24, Kyle Lee Stocking, 22, of West Jordan, died while attempting to rope-swing at Corona Arch, northwest of Moab. On May 5, Adam Jason Weber, 32, of Salt Lake City, died from injuries sustained in a 150-foot fall while rope-swinging and rappelling in Day Canyon, about seven miles west of U.S. 191 and the Gemini Bridges parking area. On May 7, Christina Elizabeth Allen, 19, from San Luis Obispo, Calif., died after falling approximately 20 feet while hiking with her family near Kane Creek in San Juan County.

A memorial service for Elizabeth Patterson will be held Sunday, June 9, at 10 a.m. at the top of the gondola in Telluride.

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6:30 - 8:30 PM**  
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**Featuring:**  
**Michael Brune,**  
Executive Director of the Sierra Club

John Davis, Sojourner of the 2,000-mile Trek West

**Including:**  
Panel discussion and conversation on the proposed  
**Greater Canyonlands National Monument**  
\*\*Panelists TBA\*\*

Photo: Neal Clark/SUWA

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**2013 Jr. Golf Camp**  
**MOAB GOLF CLUB**  
2705 S. East Bench Road

<b>1st Session</b>	<b>July 17-20</b>
7-9 age group	8 to 10 a.m.
10-11 age group	10 a.m. to 12 noon
12-16 age group	12 noon to 2:00 p.m.
<b>2nd Session</b>	<b>July 15-18</b>
7-9 age group	8 to 10 a.m.
10-11 age group	10 a.m. to 12 noon
12-16 age group	12 noon to 2:00 p.m.
<b>3rd Session: August 6-7 (Tourney 8th)</b>	

**Sign up at the Golf Course or call 259-6488.**

Cost: \$25 - One session instruction & tourney (\$40 for all sessions & tourney) includes camp T-Shirt, tournament/BBQ and FREE GOLF DURING THE SUMMER!  
Learn the game of a lifetime and the lessons it teaches.

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June 8

Moab, Utah

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**10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Scott Matheson Wetlands**  
Booths about wildlife, rehabilitation, beaver, and insects. Wildlife photography by Keith Cauley, bat education by Tom Haraden and much more. An owl hooting contest. "Come as your favorite bird" contest with prizes!

**6-9 p.m. Eddie McStiffs**  
A silent auction with many items and beautiful works of art from local artists and several others throughout the state. Other items besides artwork will also be available at the auction.

More information, call Debbie 435-650-3441 or Sara 435-259-0910.  
<http://wildliferehabilitationinutah.blogspot.com/>



**NRCS PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), in cooperation with Utah Department of Agriculture and Food as the project sponsor, are proposing to address flood damage on the Green River/Tusher Diversion Dam under the Emergency Watershed Protection program. The proposed project is located approximately 6.6 miles north of the City of Green River, Utah on North Long Street. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508 require an evaluation of potential environmental impacts associated with federal projects and actions with input from the public.

The NRCS conducted the 1st public scoping period for the project from October 30, 2012 to November 30, 2012. After the scoping period closed, NRCS decided to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the project due to potential significant impacts to cultural resources.

**You are invited to comment on the project and attend a public Telebriefing** which will describe the current status of the project. Please call 15 minutes prior to the start and an operator will connect you to the meeting. Additional Telebriefing information will be posted to the project website prior to June 12, 2013.

<p><b>Telebriefing #1</b></p> <p><b>When:</b> June 12, 2013 <b>Time:</b> 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM (MDT) <b>Call:</b> (800) 346-7359 Entry Code 840561</p>	<p><b>Telebriefing #2</b></p> <p><b>When:</b> June 12, 2013 <b>Time:</b> 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM (MDT) <b>Call:</b> (800) 346-7359 Entry Code 840561</p>
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Comments may be submitted during this 2nd scoping period starting May 29, 2013 and ending on **June 28, 2013 5:00 PM (MDT)** to the following:

**Mail:** Green River/Tusher Diversion Rehabilitation Project  
c/o McMillen, LLC - Greg Allington  
1401 Shoreline Drive  
Boise, Idaho 83702

**Email:** [greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com](mailto:greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com)  
**Fax:** (208) 342-4216  
**Phone:** (208) 342-4214  
**Website:** <http://www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/EWP/index.html>

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June 16 2013

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**Website:** <http://www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/EWP/index.html>

# Boats leaving Lake Powell must be de

Searchers are still finding quagga mussels at Lake Powell. As summer gets closer, you need to be aware of a three-step process you must put your boat through if it's been on the lake.

So far this spring, searchers have found more than 115 quagga mussels attached to boats and boat docks at the Wahweap and Antelope Point marinas at the lake in southern Utah. Larry Dalton, aquatic invasive species coordinator for the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, says searchers will likely find

more mussels as they continue looking.

"No matter where you boat in Utah," Dalton says, "it's absolutely vital that you clean, drain and dry your boat and any equipment that comes in contact with the water."

Once mussels establish themselves in a body of water, Dalton says it's extremely difficult, expensive and sometimes impossible to remove them.

To reduce the chance that boaters accidentally transport mussels from Lake Powell to other bodies of water in

Utah, effective immediately you must do the following:

Before you leave Lake Powell, you must begin the three-step decontamination process. Before you leave the lake, you must clean all plants, mussels and other debris off of your boat.

You must also drain all of the water from the boat's bilge live and bait wells, ball tanks and lower engine compartment.

After you've completed the first two steps (cleaning and draining your boat), you can legally leave the lake to travel into or through Utah where you must complete the third step: Drying your boat at home or having the boat serviced at a professional decontamination station.

If you've been boating



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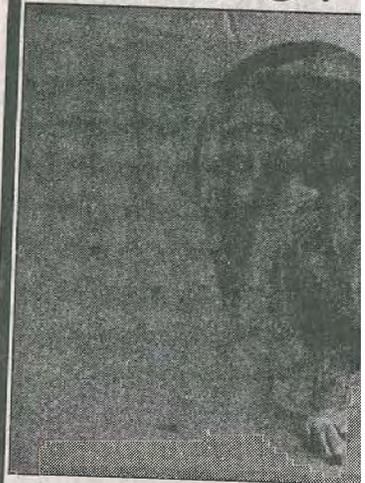
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**Fax:** (208) 342-4216

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would like to take this opportunity to thank all our many friends, neighbors, and family for the out pour of love for our dear Patti. Words cannot express our appreciation for the visits, cards, calls, food, flowers and contributions.

A very special thanks to Dr. Karen Radley, the emergency room staff, the paramedics, police and fire department and the tender loving care given to Patti at the Utah Valley Regional Neuro Trauma ICU who took care of her every need as well as her family.

Thank you to Father Don Hope for the beautiful vigil and mass, Steve Lasslo and Mike Schmidt for the music, the Funeral Dinner Committee for the lovely dinner, Bobby, Patrick, Annette, and Bob at Mitchells for their compassion and love.

We are blessed to have so many dear and wonderful friends.

Pat O'Neil  
Tiffany and Richard  
Tyson and Carrie  
Pat Colosimo  
Sidnee, Bob and Mandee Kraync  
Kelli and Allen Nielsen

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**APPENDIX C**  
**FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE OF INTENT**

**ACTION:** Notice of extension of public scoping comment period.

**DATES:** Comments must be received no later than July 8, 2013.

**SUMMARY:** The Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest hereby gives notice that it is extending the public scoping comment period for the Green Mountain Lookout Removal Project. A notice was originally published in the **Federal Register** on May 2, 2013 (Volume 78, No. 85), beginning a 30 day comment period. Please see the Notice of Intent (FR Doc. 2013-10322) for more information related to the project. In response to requests for additional time, the Forest Service will extend the comment period from June 3, 2013, to July 8, 2013.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to Todd Griffin, Project Leader, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, 2930 Wetmore Avenue, Suite 3A, Everett, Washington 98201. Comments may also be sent via email to [toddgriffin@fs.fed.us](mailto:toddgriffin@fs.fed.us), or via facsimile to (425) 783-0141.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Todd Griffin, Project Leader, at the address listed above or by telephone (360) 677-2258.

Dated: May 28, 2013.

**Steve Kuennen,**

*Acting Forest Supervisor.*

[FR Doc. 2013-13008 Filed 5-31-13; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-11-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

#### Advisory Committee Meeting

**AGENCY:** Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of advisory committee meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, this constitutes notice of the upcoming meeting of the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) Grain Inspection Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee). The Advisory Committee meets twice annually to advise the GIPSA Administrator on the programs and services that GIPSA delivers under the U.S. Grain Standards Act. Recommendations by the Advisory Committee help GIPSA better meet the needs of its customers who operate in a dynamic and changing marketplace.

**DATES:** June 18, 2013, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and June 19, 2013, 8:00 a.m. to Noon.

**ADDRESSES:** The Advisory Committee meeting will take place at GIPSA's National Grain Center, 10383 N. Ambassador Drive, Kansas City, Missouri 64153.

Requests to orally address the Advisory Committee during the meeting or written comments may be sent to: Administrator, GIPSA, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., STOP 3601, Washington, DC 20250-3601. Requests and comments may also be faxed to (202) 690-2173.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Terri L. Henry by phone at (202) 205-8281 or by email at [Terri.L.Henry@usda.gov](mailto:Terri.L.Henry@usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of the Advisory Committee is to provide advice to the GIPSA Administrator with respect to the implementation of the U.S. Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 71-87k). Information about the Advisory Committee is available on the GIPSA Web site at <http://www.gipsa.usda.gov/fgis/adcommit.html>.

The agenda will include an overview of Federal Grain Inspection Service operations-market overview, international programs, moisture meter implementation, update on biotech proficiency program, Field Management Division updates and initiatives, and an overview of the quality pilot in New Orleans and results to date.

For a copy of the agenda please contact Terri L. Henry by phone at (202) 205-8281 or by email at [Terri.L.Henry@usda.gov](mailto:Terri.L.Henry@usda.gov).

Public participation will be limited to written statements unless permission is received from the Committee Chairperson to orally address the Advisory Committee. The meeting will be open to the public.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication of program information or related accommodations should contact Terri L. Henry at the telephone number listed above.

**Larry Mitchell,**

*Administrator, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2013-13063 Filed 5-31-13; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-KD-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Natural Resources Conservation Service

#### Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Green River/Tusher Diversion Dam Rehabilitation Project, Emery/Grand County, UT

**AGENCY:** Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent (NOI) to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, 42 U.S.C. 4321-4370d, as implemented by the Council of Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) regulations that implement NEPA at 7 CFR part 650, the NRCS Utah State Office announces its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Green River/Tusher Diversion Dam Rehabilitation project.

The purpose of this notice is to alert interested parties regarding the intent to prepare the EIS, to provide information on the nature of the proposed action and possible alternatives, and to invite public participation in the EIS process (including providing comments on the scope of the draft EIS, to announce that a public scoping meeting will be conducted, and to identify cooperating agency contacts). The EIS process will evaluate alternatives recommended for detailed study as a result of previous planning-level studies completed by NRCS and any additional (new) alternatives identified during scoping.

**DATES:** Written comments on the scope of the draft EIS, including the project's purpose and need, the alternatives to be considered, types of issues that should be addressed, associated research that should be considered, and the methodologies to be used in impact evaluations should be sent to NRCS starting on May 29, 2013 and ending on or before June 28, 2013 (5:00 p.m. MDT), to the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section below. Comments submitted after June 28, 2013 will be considered to the extent practicable by the project team.

Two scoping meetings to present the project and develop the scope of the EIS will be held on Wednesday, June 12, 2013, via Tele-briefings. Participants should call (800) 346-7359 (entry code 840561) at least fifteen minutes prior to the meeting and an operator will connect you to the Tele-briefing. The first Tele-briefing will start at 2:00 p.m. (MDT) with a formal presentation and

last until 2:45 p.m. An informal question and answer period will be held from 2:45 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The second Tele-briefing will start at 6:00 p.m. (MDT) with a formal presentation and last until 6:45 p.m. An informal question and answer period will be held from 6:45 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Presentation materials will be available on the project Web site (<http://www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/EWP/index.html>) for participants to download prior to the meeting.

Any individual who requires special assistance to participate in a scoping meeting, such as hard copy documentation of the meeting or other assistance, should contact Mr. Greg Allington, McMillen, LLC, (208) 342-4214 or [greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com](mailto:greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com) by Friday, May 24, 2013 to allow sufficient time for documents to be mailed or special arrangements to be made.

Scoping meeting presentation materials will be available on the NRCS Utah Emergency Watershed Protection Web site (<http://www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/EWP/index.html>) prior to the meeting. Electronic copies of the scoping materials may also be obtained from Mr. Greg Allington, McMillen, LLC, (208) 342-4214 or [greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com](mailto:greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com). Representatives of Native American tribal governments and of federal, State, regional and local agencies that may have an interest in any aspect of the project will be invited to be cooperating agencies, as appropriate.

**ADDRESSES:** Formal scoping comments may be submitted via mail, email, fax, or oral telephone comment to:

- Contact: Mr. Greg Allington, McMillen, LLC,
- Mail: 1401 Shoreline Dr., Boise, Idaho 83702
- Email: [greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com](mailto:greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com)
- Fax: (208) 342-4216
- Telephone: (208) 342-4214.

Details of the public scoping meeting are given above under DATES.

Comments should be submitted by close-of-business (5:00 p.m. MDT) June 28, 2013. Respondents should provide contact information if you wish to be included on the EIS mailing list. Please note that any respondent's entire scoping comment, including their personal contact information, may be made publicly available at any time during the EIS process.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Bronson Smart, State Conservation Engineer, Wallace F. Bennett Federal Building, 125 South State Street, Room 4010, Salt Lake City, Utah 84138-1100, or via email at [bronson.smart@ut.usda.gov](mailto:bronson.smart@ut.usda.gov). Information

may also be obtained from Mr. Greg Allington, McMillen, LLC, 1401 Shoreline Dr., Boise, Idaho 83702, or via email at [greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com](mailto:greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Background*—The NRCS and Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) are analyzing alternatives to rehabilitate the Green River/Tusher Diversion Dam due to damage from the late 2010 and early 2011 flood events. The dam was constructed in the early 1900's and has been modified over the years to maintain the structure. During the 2010/2011 flood events, flows in the Green River caused severe damage to the diversion structure compromising its structural integrity. If the dam fails, water delivery to two irrigation canals, a historic irrigation water wheel delivery system, and one hydropower plant would be eliminated.

The rehabilitation of the diversion dam would be funded through the NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program (CFR, Title 7: Agriculture, Part 624—Emergency Watershed Protection) via technical assistance and partial construction funding. A National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Programmatic EIS was prepared by NRCS for the overall EWP program in 2004; however, the rehabilitation of this diversion dam does not fit within the analysis parameters of the Programmatic EIS. Therefore, additional NEPA analysis is required for this project.

The project started out under the analysis of an Environmental Assessment (EA) during the first scoping period that was opened from October 30, 2012 to November 30, 2012. A public scoping meeting was held on November 15, 2012 at Green River City Hall in Green River, Utah. Through additional consultation with the Utah State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, it was determined that the diversion dam may be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Any modifications to the dam may be considered an "adverse effect" which may make it ineligible for listing after rehabilitation. A wide range of alternatives is being considered for the project as listed in the Alternatives section below. Some of the impacts to the diversion dam from these alternatives may be considered "significant" to cultural resources and as a result, NRCS has decided to prepare an EIS for the project. The EIS will be prepared consistent with Title 390, The National Emergency Watershed Protection Program Manual.

The Upper Colorado Endangered Fish Recovery Program (Recovery Program) is proposing to fund and install a fish barrier in the west irrigation and hydropower plant canal to prevent Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed fish species from entering the canal and/or hydropower plant. As part of the dam repair, upstream and downstream fish passage may also be incorporated into the design. These fish protection and passage components are proposed for inclusion in the Green River diversion rehabilitation project to help reduce mortality of ESA listed fish species populations in the Green River.

*Scoping Process*—NRCS invites all interested individuals and organizations, public agencies, and Native American Tribes to comment on the scope of the EIS, including the project's purpose and need, alternatives proposed to date, new alternatives that should be considered, specific areas of study that might be needed, and evaluation methods to be used.

Background information including the project purpose and need and alternatives developed to date will be available prior to the scoping meeting on the NRCS Utah EWP Web site (<http://www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/EWP/index.html>). Electronic and hard copies of supporting documentation are also available from Mr. Greg Allington, McMillen, LLC, (208) 342-4214 or [greg.allington@mcmillen-llc.com](mailto:greg.allington@mcmillen-llc.com).

Once the scope of the EIS is confirmed upon the close of scoping, NRCS will begin preparation of the draft EIS. A summary of comments received during the scoping period will be compiled in a scoping report which will be available on the NRCS Utah EWP Web site.

*Project Study Area and Environmental Setting*—The proposed project is located approximately 6.6 miles north of the city of Green River in Emery/Grand Counties, Utah. The project study area includes land that is unincorporated on both sides of the Green River. The primary study area includes the diversion dam where rehabilitation activities would occur. Secondary study areas include areas required for alternatives of the project as described in the Alternatives section below such as the powerhouse raceway, irrigation canal on the east side of the diversion dam, construction staging areas on both sides of the river, and potential impacts to the river and riparian area upstream of the diversion dam.

The environmental setting for the project area is primarily located in a riverine environment surrounded by a relatively narrow riparian plant

community adjacent to the river. Beyond the riparian community are agricultural fields on the east side of the diversion dam and BLM land on the west side of the diversion dam that is primarily comprised of desert shrubs and grasses.

Environmental resources consist of the natural and man-made environment. Preliminary resource concerns associated with the rehabilitation of the diversion dam may include both beneficial and negative impacts to water quality and supply, fish, threatened and endangered species, cultural, recreation, aesthetics, and public health and safety.

**Alternatives**—NRCS is analyzing the following conceptual alternatives to rehabilitate the diversion dam:

- **Repair Existing Diversion Dam:** Repair the existing diversion to safely pass flood events.
- **Replace Existing Diversion Dam:** Demolish the existing diversion dam and install a new dam in the same location.
- **Replace Diversion Dam Downstream:** Demolish the existing diversion dam and install a new diversion dam downstream.
- **Replace Diversion Dam Upstream:** Demolish the existing diversion dam and install a new diversion dam upstream.
- **Diversion Decommissioning:** Completely remove the diversion dam from the river and stabilize the diversion site. The existing water rights at the dam would be supplemented via pumping out of the river or other options to provide water to the water rights holders.
- **Fish Passage Upstream/Downstream:** Construct a passage system(s) on the dam to allow safe upstream and downstream passage of fish over the diversion dam.
- **Electric Fish Barrier:** Install an electric fish barrier to prevent fish from swimming into the powerhouse and irrigation canal on the west side of the diversion dam.
- **Fish Barrier:** Install a fish barrier to prevent fish from swimming into irrigation canal on the east side of the diversion dam.
- **Boat Passage Upstream/Downstream:** Construct a passage system(s) on the dam to allow safe downstream passage of boats past the diversion dam.

NRCS will consider any viable alternatives brought forward during scoping if it is substantially different from the alternatives described above. NRCS will also study a No-Action alternative which would consist of no Federal money used for the rehabilitation of the diversion dam.

**Cooperating Agencies**—Federal, state, and local agencies that may be interested in or affected by the project may request or be requested by NRCS to become a cooperating agency in the development of the EIS.

Signed this 24th day of May, 2013, in Salt Lake City, Utah.

**David C Brown,**

*Utah State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service.*

[FR Doc. 2013-13062 Filed 5-31-13; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-16-P**

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Natural Resources Conservation Service

#### Non-Rock Alternatives to Shoreline Protection Demonstration Project (LA-16) Iberia, Jefferson, and Lafourche Parishes, LA

**AGENCY:** Natural Resources Conservation Service, Department of Agriculture.

**ACTION:** Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; the Council on Environmental Quality Guidelines (40 CFR part 1500); and the Natural Resources Conservation Service Guidelines (7 CFR part 650); the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, gives notice that an environmental impact statement is not being prepared for the Non-Rock Alternatives to Shoreline Protection Demonstration Project (LA-16), Iberia, Jefferson, and Lafourche Parishes, Louisiana.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** W. Britt Paul, Acting State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 3737 Government Street, Alexandria, Louisiana 71302; telephone (318) 473-7751.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** An environmental assessment of the federally assisted action indicates that the project will not cause significant local, regional, or national impacts on the environment. As a result of these findings, W. Britt Paul, Acting State Conservationist, has determined that preparation and review of an environmental impact statement is not needed for this project.

The project will install and monitor various shoreline protection systems in areas of the state where physical, logistical and environmental limitations preclude the use of rock structures. The

shoreline protection systems will be demonstrated in up to three (3) test sites in coastal Louisiana. Up to five (5) “non-rock” shoreline protection systems will be installed in 500 linear foot sections at each site, extending a maximum of 4,200 linear feet (including buffer areas) along the shoreline at each site. The sites selected include the western side of the peninsula separating Vermilion and Weeks Bay in Iberia Parish; the southeast shoreline of Lake Salvador in Jefferson Parish; and the western shoreline of Bayou Perot in Lafourche Parish.

The Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been forwarded to the Environmental Protection Agency and to various federal, state, and local agencies and interested parties. A limited number of copies of the FONSI are available to fill single copy requests at the above address. Basic data collected during the environmental assessment are on file and may be reviewed by contacting W. Britt Paul.

No administrative action on implementation of the proposal will be taken until 30 days after the date of this publication in the **Federal Register**.

**W. Britt Paul,**

*Acting State Conservationist.*

[FR Doc. 2013-13060 Filed 5-31-13; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-16-P**

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[B-53-2013]

#### Notification of Proposed Production Activity, The Gas Company, LLC dba Hawai'i Gas, Subzone 9F (Synthetic Natural Gas), Kapolei, Hawaii

The Gas Company, LLC dba Hawai'i Gas (Hawai'i Gas), operator of Subzone 9F, submitted a notification of proposed production activity to the Foreign-Trade Zones (FTZ) Board for their facility in Kapolei, Hawaii. The notification conforming to the requirements of the regulations of the FTZ Board (15 CFR 400.22) was received on May 22, 2013.

The subzone currently has authority to produce synthetic natural gas, carbon dioxide, hydrogen, hydrocarbon gas mixtures and zinc sulfide using certain foreign-status feedstocks produced within Subzone 9A. The current request would allow Hawai'i Gas to admit the feedstocks listed below from any source in foreign status. Pursuant to 15 CFR 400.14(b), FTZ activity would be limited to the specific foreign-status materials and components and specific finished

**APPENDIX D**  
**TELEBRIEFING PRESENTATION**

**Conference Participant List***Client Instant Access, LLC***2nd Scoping Telebriefing Presentation Attendance List 2:00 PM****Company: McMillen, LLC****Chairperson: Greg Allington****Date of Conference: 6/12/13****Conference ID: 840561**

	Last Name	First Name	Company
1	Beals	Tony	USDA NRCS
2	Czapla	Tom	Fish Wildlife
3	Johnson	Floyd	BLM
4	Schou	Nick	Utah Rivers Council
5	Smith	Ted	Software AG
6	Axness	Dan	<b>**Speaker**</b>
7	Allington	Greg	<b>**Speaker**</b>
8	Smart	Bronson	<b>**Speaker**</b>

**Conference Participant List***Client Instant Access, LLC***2nd Scoping Telebriefing Presentation Attendance List 6:00 PM****Company: McMillen, LLC****Chairperson: Greg Allington****Date of Conference: 6/12/13****Conference ID: 840561**

	Last Name	First Name	Company
1	Beals	Tony	USDA & RCF
2	Carey	Jason	River Restoration
3	Hanson	Makeda	Division of Wildlife Resources
4	Hunt	Chet	Green River Canal Company
5	Ryan	Cathy	The City of Green River
6	Young	Brody	Utah State Parks & Recreation
7	Axness	Dan	<b>**Speaker**</b>
8	Allington	Greg	<b>**Speaker**</b>



# NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Green River/Tusher Diversion Dam Rehabilitation

## Environmental Impact Statement

2<sup>nd</sup> Scoping Period  
Public Telebriefing  
June 12, 2013  
2:00 PM & 6:00 PM (MDT)



## Project Team

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
(NRCS)  
Lead Funding Agency

Utah Department of Agriculture and Food  
(UAF)  
Project Sponsor

McMillen, LLC  
NEPA Project Manager/Concept Design

## NRCS EWP Program



Bronson Smart – NRCS Utah

- State Conservation Engineer
- [bronson.smart@ut.usda.gov](mailto:bronson.smart@ut.usda.gov)
- 801-524-4559

## NRCS EWP Program

- Utah State: \$70 million+ in 2012
- Damage to Watersheds from Natural Disasters
- Rehabilitate Structure from 2010/2011 Flood Damage
- Upgrade Structure to Current Engineering Standards and Technology
- Comply with Federal, State and Local Regulations

## NRCS EWP Program

- Green River/Tusher Diversion Dam is eligible for funding from 2010/2011 flood event
- The Diversion Dam is a conservation practice and complies with the EWP regulations
- Completing additional NEPA Analysis in the form of an EIS
  - Project not covered in the 2004 Programmatic EIS

## NRCS EWP Program

- National EWP Program Manual (Title 390 Part 510-515)
  - <http://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/RollupViewer.aspx?hid=26433>
- EWP Program Final Programmatic EIS (2004)
  - <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/ewp/>

## Project Review

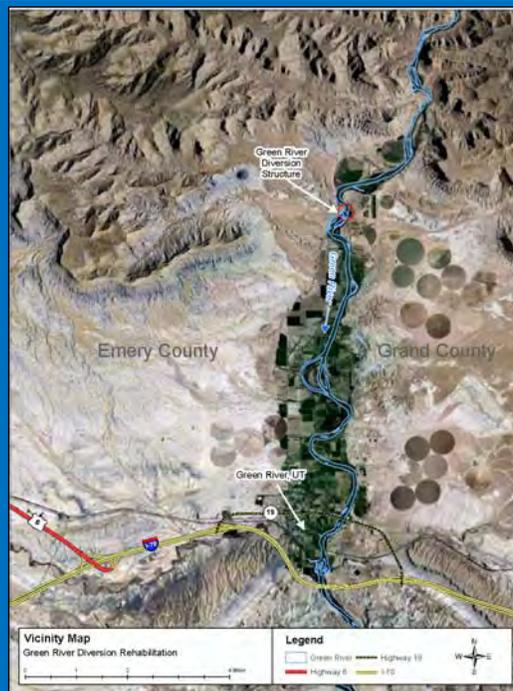


Dan Axness – McMillen, LLC  
– Concept Design Project Manager  
– [greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com](mailto:greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com)  
– 208-342-4214

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## Project Vicinity Map

Dam is ~6 miles north  
of Green River, Utah

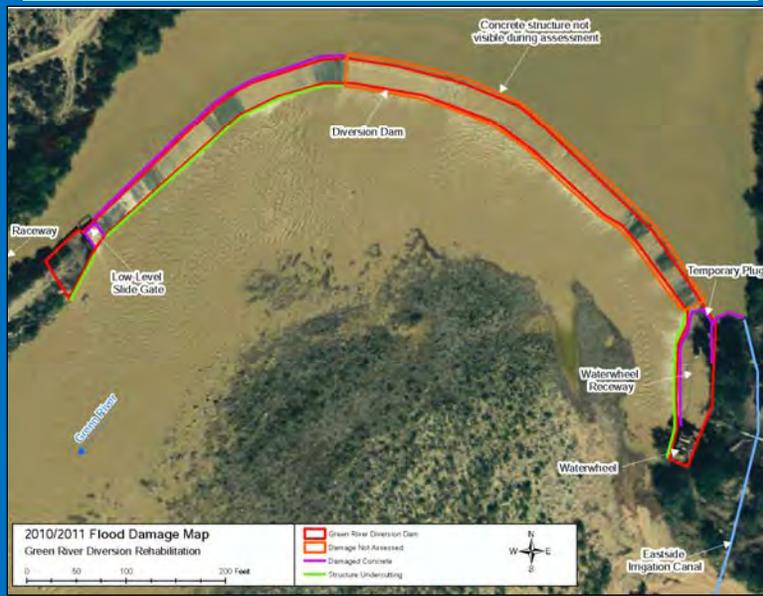


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# Project Overview Map



# 2010/2011 Flood Damage Map



# Photos



West End of Diversion



East End of Diversion

# Photos



East End of Diversion Damage to Waterwheel Raceway (looking u/s)



East End of Diversion Damage to Waterwheel Raceway (looking d/s)

## Photos



West End of Diversion Damage to Diversion Dam (looking u/s)



West End of Diversion Damage to Diversion Dam (looking u/s)

## Photos



Damage to Slide Gate West End of Dam (looking u/s)



Damage to Concrete West End of Diversion

## Photos



Damage to Concrete West End of Diversion



Damage to Concrete and Entrance to Raceway West End of Diversion

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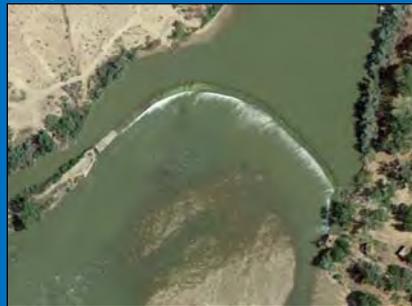
## Conceptual Project Alternatives

- No Action
- Rehabilitate Diversion (4 Options)
- Diversion Decommissioning
- Fish Passage Upstream/Downstream
- Fish Passage Monitoring
- Boat Passage Upstream/Downstream
- Fish Barrier(s)

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## Conceptual Project Alternatives

- Rehabilitate Diversion Options
  - Repair Existing Diversion
  - Replace Existing Diversion
  - Replace Existing Diversion Downstream
  - Replace Existing Diversion Upstream



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## Fish Passage

- Endangered and Threatened Fish Species under the Endangered Species Act
- Downstream: Notches in Dam
- Upstream: Passage System
- Electronic Tag Reader



Razorback Sucker



Colorado Pikeminnow



Humpback Chub



Bonytail

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## Fish Barrier(s)

- Electric Barrier: Deter fish from swimming down powerhouse and west irrigation canal raceway
- Barrier: Deter fish from swimming down east irrigation canal



ELECTRIC BARRIER EXAMPLE

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## Fish and Boat Passage

- Fish and Boat Passage: System to allow safe upstream passage of fish and safe downstream passage of boats past the dam
- Boat Portage: Access around dam during low flow scenarios



FISH AND BOAT PASSAGE SYSTEM  
EXAMPLE

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## National Environmental Policy Act



Greg Allington – McMillen, LLC  
– NEPA Project Manager  
– [greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com](mailto:greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com)  
– 208-342-4214

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969  
(Public Law 91-190) and the Council on Environmental  
Qualities regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508

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## NRCS NEPA

- Environmental analysis required for major federal actions
- The NRCS is the funding agency for the rehabilitation of the diversion dam (75%)
- The project sponsor provides the remaining 25% cost-share for the diversion dam rehabilitation project



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## Other Components

- Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program will be implementing the installation of the electric fish barrier project (100%) in the raceway
  - US Bureau of Reclamation is the funding agency
  - US Fish and Wildlife Service is providing technical oversight of the barrier

## NEPA Project History

- NEPA process began in September 2012
- Started under the analysis of an Environmental Assessment (EA)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Scoping Period
    - Opened: October 30, 2012
    - Public Meeting: November 15, 2012
    - Closed: November 30, 2012
  - 1st Scoping Report is available on the project website

## NEPA Project History

- Preliminary Section 106 Consultation with the Utah State Historic Preservation Office after 1<sup>st</sup> Scoping Period
  - Diversion Dam may be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places
  - Any modification may be considered an “adverse effect” which may make it ineligible for listing depending on the selected alternative
  - NRCS concluded that some of the impacts from alternatives may be considered “significant” to cultural resources

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## NEPA Project History

- NRCS has decided to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project
- Federal Register Notice of Intent (NOI)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Scoping Period
    - Opened: May 29, 2013
    - Public Telebriefings: June 12, 2013
    - **Closes: July 2, 2013 (extended)**

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## NEPA Public Involvement

- EIS Scoping (30-day)
  - Express initial concerns and suggest alternatives to be considered
- Draft EIS Public Comment Period (45-day)
  - Public review of alternatives and environmental impacts
- Final EIS Public Comment Period (30-day)
  - Proposed alternative published to public with summary of Draft EIS comments
- Record of Decision (ROD) Protest/Appeal (30-day)
  - Project approval by NRCS

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## Typical Scoping Concerns

- Project Purpose and Need
- Design Alternatives
  - Including a No-Action Alternative
- Mitigation
- Natural Environment
  - Water Quality and Quantity
  - Fish
  - T&E Species
- Man-made Environment
  - Cultural
  - Recreation
  - Aesthetics
  - Public Health and Safety



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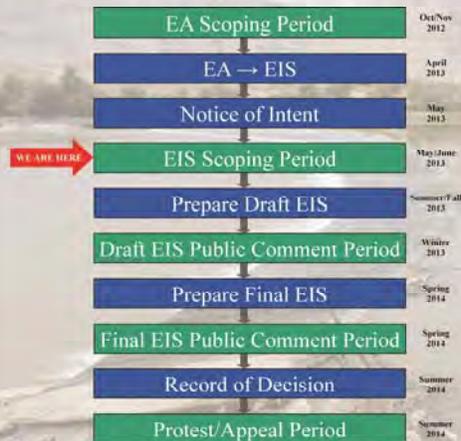
## Scoping Comments

- Formal comments may be submitted by:
  - Email
  - Written Letter
  - Oral (Phone)
- Scoping Report: Summarizes issues, alternatives and concerns from the public



### Green River/Tusher Diversion Dam Rehabilitation National Environmental Policy Act Process

#### Environmental Impact Statement Schedule



2<sup>nd</sup> Public Scoping Comment Closes: July 2, 2013

## NEPA Contact Information

- Please contact Greg Allington with McMillen regarding questions and comments:



Phone: 208-342-4214



Fax: 208-342-4216



Email: [greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com](mailto:greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com)



Address: 1401 Shoreline Drive  
Boise, ID 83702

<http://www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/EWP/index.html>

## Informal Questions

???

**APPENDIX E**  
**COMMENTS**

## NRCS Green River EIS 2<sup>nd</sup> Scoping Period – Commenters and Commenter Reference Numbers

Commenter #	Name	Organization	City	State	Comment Document
1	Jack Kloepfer	Public			E-mail
2	Landis Arnold	Public	Longmont	CO	E-mail
3	Helen Howard	Public			E-mail
4	Hal Crimmel	Public	Ogden	UT	E-mail
5	Andrew G. Bentley	Public	Poultney	VT	E-mail
6	Janet Oertli	Public			E-mail
7	Leif M. Johnson	Public	Grand Junction	CO	Mail
8	Herman Hoops	Public	Jensen	UT	Mail
9	Karen Nelson	Public	Castle Valley	UT	E-mail
10	S. Young	Public			E-mail
11	Nick Schou	Utah Rivers Council	Salt Lake City	UT	E-mail
12	John Weisheit	Living Rivers and Colorado Riverkeeper	Moab	UT	E-mail
13	Sam Dorsi	Public	Boulder	CO	E-mail
14	Roy Webb	Public	Salt Lake City	UT	E-mail
15	Eugene Swalberg	Utah State Parks	Green River	UT	Mail
16	Kelly Baustian	Public			E-mail
17	David Jackson	Public	Aurora	CO	E-mail
18	Scott Schreiner	Public	Eagle	CO	E-mail
19	Jordan Witbeck Sherma Witbeck	Public	Vernal	UT	E-mail
20	Thomas Rampton	Public			E-mail
21	Kirk Cooley	Public	Bountiful	UT	E-mail
22	Denny Huffman	Public	Ridgefield	WA	E-mail
23	Dave Kelly	Public	Salt Lake City	UT	E-mail
24	Bill D'Olier	Public	Sandpoint	ID	E-mail
25	Pat Larkin	Public			E-mail
26	Tom Martin	Public	Flagstaff	AZ	E-mail
27	Richard Mingo	USBOR	Salt Lake City	UT	E-mail
28	Ted Smith	Public			E-mail
29	Carole Sue Prescott	Public			E-mail
30	Jennifer Jones	Public			E-mail
31	Karen Hastings Bartlett	Public			E-mail
32	Todd Havener	Public			E-mail
33	Kagan Breitenbach	Public			E-mail
34	Von Bowerman	Public			E-mail
35	Bob Brister	Public	Salt Lake City	UT	E-mail
36	Alice H. Peterson	Public	Santa Cruz	CA	E-mail
37	Kathleen Clarke	Public Lands Policy Coordination Office	Salt Lake City	UT	E-mail
38	Nathan Fey	American Whitewater	Longmont	CO	E-mail
39	Larry Crist	USFWS	West Valley City	UT	Mail

**NRCS Green River EIS 2<sup>nd</sup> Scoping Period – Comment Categories and Commenter Reference Numbers**

<b>Comment Category</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Commenter</b>
Boat Passage	Create a flow-through (navigable bypass) for boaters at the diversion dam.	1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 30, 33, 37, 38
	The lack of a flow-through represents a safety hazard for boaters.	1, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17, 22, 28
	The Green River Diversion structure is the most significant in-channel obstruction on the main segment of the Green River, and starves fish of high quality habitat, while also creating a life threatening recirculating hydraulic that presents significant danger to recreational paddlers at higher flows. Including downstream passage into the rehabilitation plan will eliminate the threat to public safety. We ask that the NRCS and its project partners contact local law enforcement and search and rescue for more information on these non-fatal incidents.	38
	Providing boat passage at the dam will enhance recreational opportunities and bring revenue to the local and/or regional economy.	5, 8, 11, 14, 15, 18, 30
	A white water park would enhance recreational use of the river and would provide economic benefit to the town and/or region.	6, 7, 8, 17
	Providing boat passage would allow boating on the Green River to extend from Flaming Gorge to Lake Powell or to connect other areas of the river.	4, 5, 7, 8, 15, 16, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26
	Portaging around the dam is impractical.	5, 14
	Boat ramps at points upstream and downstream of the dam do not provide a solution to boat passage issues.	13
	If a navigable channel is not provided, consider building boat landings on either side of the dam, connected by a pathway to allow river travelers to manually portage their boats.	13
	Historically, the river was navigable prior to constructing the dam; the dam should not infringe on this navigability.	5, 13, 14, 26
	Provide boat passage in the middle or on the right side of the dam (when facing downstream).	14
	Boating is a non-consumptive use of the Green River and a source of economic generation.	30
	In the past the river trips below the diversion dam to the town of Green River is long and boring because of how slow of speed the river flows. Anybody that did take the trip will not take it again.	34
If boat passage is included in the project, the boat passage design must be able to maintain the important fish passage components.	39	
Construction Impacts	Avoid impacts whenever feasible by following proper construction BMPs, work timing, material selection, and de-watering.	39
Dam Rehabilitation	Make the entire diversion dam a foot higher than the high side is now.	34
	Rebuild/repair dam in the current location.	32

**NRCS Green River EIS 2<sup>nd</sup> Scoping Period – Comment Categories and Commenter Reference Numbers**

<b>Comment Category</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Commenter</b>
Dam Decommission	Decommission the Tusher Division Dam in the interest of aiding the aquatic ecology, safety, and local recreation economy.	35
Electrical Barrier	Assist the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program in the effective design, construction, and operation of an electric barrier to prevent fish entrainment into the Green River canal and Thayn Hydroelectric facility.	39
	Rehabilitation should incorporate a barrier to prevent endangered fish from entering the powerhouse and irrigation canals.	11, 14
Fish Passage	The diversion dam should have a fish ladder.	2, 14
	Modifications should allow upstream and downstream fish passage.	11, 14, 16, 19, 29, 39
Floods	Field research shows that the Green River has experienced large floods of at least 250,000 cubic feet per second. Human-occupied structures and non-human occupied facilities, such as power generation structures, should not be constructed in the floodplain.	12
Funding/Economics	Federal (public) dollars should be used to the make the project safe and beneficial to multiple river user groups.	8
	Provide a cost-benefit analysis to determine whether rehabilitating the existing dam is more cost-effective than replacing it with a pump house.	11, 32
	Provide information about the nature of the insurance coverage carried by the dam's owner and/or operator, and consider possible financial damages accruing from loss of life due to safety issues.	11
Habitat	Maintain suitable fish habitat in the project vicinity, by providing adequate hydrological, thermal, and chemical conditions.	39
Historic Preservation	Listing on the historic register is not a good idea if it means that the dam cannot be torn out, rebuilt, or changed.	1
	The old dam does not warrant historic protection.	3
Hydropower Plant	Do not need to change the plans to the point of falling out of the original protection. Add hydro to tie into the large sluice gates that will be installed in the structure for sluicing sediment on the water wheel side and build a channel down the east side downstream like the west side, so as to copy the west side pump and hydro structure that is in place.	34

**NRCS Green River EIS 2<sup>nd</sup> Scoping Period – Comment Categories and Commenter Reference Numbers**

<b>Comment Category</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Commenter</b>
Irrigation	Leave the dam in its present location and continue to use the water wheel.	29, 31, 32
	The dam should be removed in favor of building a pump house on the bank of the river.	11
	On the lower Colorado River, pumps take out water and do not hinder recreation by all types of boaters.	3
	The water wheel is an historic landmark. Protect this resource.	32, 36
	Irrigation is an important consumptive use of the Green River and a source of economic generation in rural Utah.	30
	Use of the water wheel is green technology.	32
NEPA Process	An EA would have been appropriate for this effort.	27
Permits	The State of Utah owns the bed of the Green River in the project area. A permit will be required from the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands for construction activities on the beds of sovereign lands.	37
	Project must comply with the Endangered Species Act of (ESA) of 1973. Any reduced function of a fish passage structure would be considered in an interagency consultation under the ESA.	39

Greg Allington

From: greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com on behalf of [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2013 8:22 PM  
To: greg.allington@mcmillen-llc.com  
Subject: Green River/ Tusher diversion Dam comment

Dear Sir,

Some rules are just plain worn out or they do not apply. In the case of a diversion dam on a heavily silt laden river, the idea of listing it in the registry of historical places is not a good idea, if that means that It can not be torn out, rebuilt, or changed in any way. It simply negates the reason why the thing was built in the first place. With that being said, I believe it will be changed is some way, and when it does, it needs to have a flow through for rafters.

Diversion dams have an expected life span, must be removed or rebuilt. Perhaps when this one was built there was no EPA, or environmental impact statement, and perhaps they did not even have a plan for removal or upgrade. I can not see something like this happening today. We would have a plan for the life span of the diversion, with a definite solution when it reached the end of its life, or a method to upgrade it so it would still be usefull. I also believe that we would not put something as serious as a diversion dam on a major river in moth balls because of some historical value that will have little meaning to anyone who uses the river. It is a chunk of cement and rebar, that must be delt with in some manner that is both safe and efficient for those who use the river in a variety of ways.

My point here is that we use the Green river for recreation as well as for irrigation of crops. I would like to see a diversion with a flow through for rafters. It is an extremely bad Idea not to do this. Many boaters do some of their first trips on Desolation Canyon. When they get down to Swayseys rapid, they think that all the big stuff is behind them. I have seen this attitude hurt people in the past. If they get to a diversion dam with no flow through, then there could be casualties or drownings just because of complacency, or even because of inadequate skill when dealing with something like a diversion dam.

I think something will be done about the condition of this Diversion dam. If it is changed in anyway, there must be a flow through for boaters who want to take out at the state park. To do otherwise is to risk life needlessly. We owe it to future generations to make things a little bit better than they have been in the past.

Finally with the knowledge of the risk to life at diversion dams I think it is a good idea to step forward and make this one an example of what can happen for the good of everyone, the liability risk is also not worth doing nothing or rebuilding it without a flow through.

Thank you for asking for my comment.

Sincerely,  
Jack Kloepfer

--  
[REDACTED]

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**Greg Allington**

Commenter #2

**From:** greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com on behalf of Landis Arnold [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 28, 2013 8:53 PM  
**To:** greg.allington@mcmillen-llc.com  
**Subject:** Boat passages and Fish Ladders should be one and the same - ref Green River Diversion Rehabilitation Project

Hello,

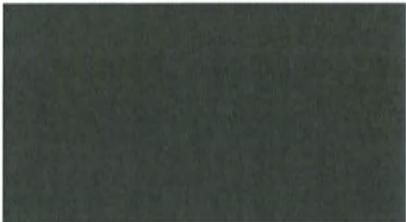
Any sort of Dam or Diversion in a navigable river needs to have a Navigable Boat Passage and Fish Ladder. They should be one and the same. Around the country disfunctional fish ladders have been built that purport to lead fish upstream but they have proven time and time again to not work. Fish want to follow a real channel that acts like a real river.

A Navigable boat passage is the answer to this. The state of Colorado has countless Boat Passages at diversion points that allow functional and complete navigation and which enhance fish habitat along with recreational habitat.

Please follow this approach on the Green River Diversion Rehabilitation Project. I can see no reason for not having a fully navigable bypass.

thank you for your interest and understanding.

--  
Landis Arnold  
Interstate Boater



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**Greg Allington**

Commenter #3

**From:** greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com on behalf of Helen Howard [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 29, 2013 6:27 AM  
**To:** greg.allington@mcmillen-llc.com  
**Subject:** Diversion dam above Green River.

I am writing to object to any thing on the river that hinders access to private boaters. The old dam is in poor shape and does not warrant historic protection. On the lower Colorado where I live there are pumps taking water out of the Colorado River every half mile or so in some areas. They do not hinder recreation by all types of boaters. ( one of the major sources of income to us at Desert River Kayak). I work in recreation here and the Green River is where I go for vacation. Having another dam on that river for just pulling irrigation off is offensive. Helen Howard

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**Greg Allington**

Commenter #4

**From:** greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com on behalf of Hal Crimmel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 29, 2013 7:59 AM  
**To:** greg.allington@mcmillen-llc.com  
**Subject:** Diversion Dam / Green River / Comments

Dear Public Comment Group:

As an avid river runner I think it absolutely essential that a boat passage be built at the Tuschar Diversion dam rebuild. I will be doing a Deso trip in three weeks and would certainly appreciate having such a feature be built in.

Nationally, the trend is to make our rivers usable by a wide range of users--not just industry or agriculture, and having this boat passage would be a very positive step in the right direction--making it possible to run from Flaming Gorge dam hundreds of miles without encountering any obstacles (short of the river permits).

I know there are many of us who would like to see this feature be installed.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Hal Crimmel

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**Greg Allington**

Commenter #5

**From:** greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com on behalf of Andrew Bentley [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 29, 2013 8:53 AM  
**To:** greg.allington@mcmillen-llc.com  
**Subject:** Public comment about NRCS Green River EIS 2nd Scoping Period Public Notice

Hello Project Team,  
Recently I heard about the dam rehab project and have a background in recreation resource use from the University of Idaho. Also, I have guided numerous multi-day, whitewater and flat water float trips on the Green River above and below the dam. As such, I have various concerns about the project, explained below.

Concern one.

The current proposal offers inadequate passage around the dam for river runners seeking to start or end trips on either side of the dam. Those attempting passage in small watercraft (canoe/kayaks, rafts/dories) may therefore experience unnecessary threat of loss to life, limb, or equipment/ goods.

Concern two.

As is well documented, Major Powell's party, ranchers, miners, and others have traveled this river section on more than one occasion for the purpose of trade and industry. There is precedence that the Green River is historically navigable, prior to the establishment of the Tuscher Dam. Replacement of the dam without a passage for watercraft will infringe on this historic navigability.

Concern three.

Outdoor recreation is a top economic generator for Utah tourism. According to the Utah Governor's "State of Utah Outdoor Recreation Vision," taking a long term perspective is key to decision making regarding recreation resource management. Not including boat passage in the dam rehab project may save capital resources on the front end, though opportunities for recreation will be diminished for the long term.

Concern four.

Unique recreation opportunities will be diminished without a boat passage. The ability to connect and float multiple river sections is a rare recreation experience in the United States. The Green River in Utah represents one such opportunity, with one able to travel for hundreds of miles in habitats relatively desolate from other humans. While some may suggest providing a portage route around the dam is sufficient for passage, this suggestion is likely made by those who have never disassembled and portaged fully loaded raft that weighs 2500 pounds. Additionally, for those with hard hulled dory boats, portaging puts undue hardship on those parties who cannot safely carry an empty 500-750 pound boat around the dam.

Thank you for hearing my concerns.

Drew

Sent from an iPhone

Andrew G. Bentley  
[REDACTED]

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**Greg Allington**

Commenter #6

**From:** greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com on behalf of Janet Oertli [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 29, 2013 9:08 AM  
**To:** greg.allington@mcmillen-llc.com  
**Subject:** NRCS Green River EIS 2nd Scoping Period Public Notice

Dear Mr. Allington,

As a life long user of the Green River and particularly the area around the city of Green River, Utah. I would like to suggest that the Tusher dam rehabilitation project take into account the recreational use and safety of the river.

The Canadian city of Calgary had a dam much like this, which was a danger and old and they have replaced it with a excellent white water park, which draws people to use an area that was once unusable.

<http://www.acr-alberta.com/Portals/0/articles/weir.pdf>

If something like this could be done in Green River it would draw boaters from all over and provide economic benefit to the town.

I know I'd stay a bit extra to be able to run some more white water.

Sincerely,  
Janet Oertli

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# Leif Johnson Resource Marketing

Commenter #7

May 30, 2013

Greg Allington, Project Manager/Biologist  
McMillen, LLC  
1401 Shoreline Drive, Suite 100  
Boise, ID 83702

Dear Mr. Allington:

RE: Tushar Diversion Dam Project

I am aware of the Tushar Diversion Dam Project on the Green River between Swasey's Rapid and U.S. Highway 6 in Green River, Utah. As an avid boater (*raft/kayak*) of the area, I urge you to include a design passage for rafts and kayaks through or around this project.

**Background:** I have been Director of Sales at Grand Canyon National Park, South Rim (*AZ*); General Sales Manager at Mammoth Mountain Ski Area (*CA*); Director of Sales at Lake Powell Resorts & Marinas (*AZ/UT*); General Manager of the Yellowstone IMAX Theatre (*West Yellowstone, MT*); Director of Sales at the Adams Mark Hotel (*Grand Junction, CO*); Executive Director of the Palisade Chamber of Commerce (*CO*); Marketing Consultant for San Juan County, Utah; and currently serve as Membership/Marketing Director of the Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce (*CO*). Why am I providing you with my background? I believe I have an extensive background to realize the economic benefits. I have been involved in many opportunities of economic development of tourism-related product. I will assure you, economic studies will back up my viewpoint.

**Economic Development:** This is an unprecedented opportunity for the town of Green River and Emery County to increase recreational tourism, including multi-day trips through Desolation/Gray Canyons and daily trips through Gray Canyon from Nefertiti Rapid (*put-in*) to Green River State Park. The net result: Increased tourism to Green River; more overnight stays in hotels/motels, more expenditures at restaurants, grocery and convenience stores, gas stations, and visitation to the John Wesley Powell Museum. River outfitting companies and rental companies will benefit. Towns and cities - Denver, Steamboat, Glenwood Springs, Durango, and Golden, Colorado - are discovering economic benefits of recreational river parks as part of their marketing. Whitewater boating and kayaking are a multi-million dollar industry. It will draw more people to the area.

**Safety:** Many low-head diversions are being rehabilitated due to lawsuits that have shown them to be hazards. A boat passage will prevent people from being seriously injured or killed. It will affect the operation of the Endangered Fish Recovery Project by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, State of Utah and other agencies.

**The Experience:** This project is the only place on the Green River from Flaming Gorge to Lake Powell where one cannot safely run a boat. Each year a number of river runners recreate what is known as "The Powell Trip," launching far upriver and running this section to Hite or Mineral Bottom. Nothing is more exhilarating than exiting Desolation/Gray Canyons and the Book Cliffs, observing the birds and wildlife along the banks, and learning about the history of fur trappers, outlaws, the Powell Expeditions, and river runners along the Green River.

**Summary:** I believe tourism and ranching can coexist. I've seen it happen in yet another industry in Palisade, Colorado - agritourism - including peach growers, winery/vineyards, alpaca farms, and lavender growers. For reference, I request this letter be kept on file so future litigants may use it in the discovery process. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Leif M. Johnson  
President

cc: Bureau of Land Management, Emery County Board of Commissioners, Town of Green River

April 13, 2013

Commenter #8

Greg Allington, Project Manager/Biologist  
McMillen, LLC  
1401 Shoreline Drive, Suite 100  
Boise, ID 83702

Dear Mr. Allington:

I just became aware of the proposal to rebuild the diversion dam at Tuscher (mp8.5 – 1914 survey) on the Green River between Swasey’s Rapid (mp12) and the U.S. highway 6 bridge in Green River and I have several comments.

In the rebuilding of this structure you MUST include design for raft passage (approximately ten feet wide).

Not allowing boat passage through this river obstruction is a step backwards, with the new construction making passage more dangerous than the present structure. There are burgeoning rafting rental businesses and outfitting companies that use this section of river. Failure to include a boat passage will have a negative financial impact on those businesses. In addition novice recreational rafters regularly use this section of river, unless at armed guard is posted they will continue to attempt using this section and someone is going to become seriously injured or killed.

In the U.S. many low head diversions are being rehabilitated because lawsuits have shown them to be hazards (attractive nuisance, like an unfenced swimming pool). Without a boat passage you will be creating a hazard even though people have been notified that it will do so. In addition towns and cities are discovering (Denver, Palisade, Craig , Steamboat, and Grand Junction Colorado for example) the recreational and attractive opportunities of river trails and they are developing that resource as a part of their marketing. Whitewater boating and kayaking are a multi-million dollar industry (indeed if all the commercial companies operating on the Colorado/Green Rivers were one company it would be near the top of the Fortune 500 list). Projections by America Outdoors and the Utah travel people indicate that day trips have not yet come close to their marketing potential. By failing to include a boat passage, and failing to allow for future incorporation of a competition type slalom you are restricting opportunities for green River down the road.

Lots of public (federal) dollars are being spent on this, so it should be made safe and beneficial for multiple river user groups. This proposed project will be the ONLY place on the Green from Flaming Gorge to Lake Powell where one cannot safely run a boat. Each year a number of river runners recreate what is known as “The Powell Trip” and launch far upriver, run through this section and take out at Hite or Mineral Bottom downriver. In addition it will negatively affect the operation of the Endangered fish Recovery project monitoring by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

service, State of Utah and other agencies.

Finally, I have contacted a number of environmental and river related organizations, who were unaware of this project. I can almost guarantee litigation if a boat passage is not included.

I request this letter be kept on file in order that future litigants may use it in the discovery process.

Herman Hoops



**Greg Allington**

Commenter #9

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**From:** greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com on behalf of Karen Nelson  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 30, 2013 8:33 AM  
**To:** greg.allington@mcmillen-llc.com  
**Subject:** Green River Tuscher Dam

Just one short comment. PLEASE include a boat passage channel in the new replacement for this dam. I don't see any reason to exclude boats from passing through this section of river. The use currently coexisted and would like to see that use continue!!!!

Karen Nelson, Castle Valley UT

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**Greg Allington**

Commenter #10

**From:** greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com on behalf of [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 30, 2013 6:17 PM  
**To:** greg.allington@mcmillen-llc.com  
**Subject:** Rusher diversion dam

Curious to the mindset of not having a safe place to run boats, and locals on inner tubes around the diversion? Maybe check out how many deaths happen on low head dams and diversions on the eastern rivers. River management wise it seems the State would be asking and making sure their river bed (sovereign lands), would be safe and free of liability. I bet if it is built in this day and age without a safe option, someone will die, and a law suit will happen. The taxpayers will pay through the nose.

Let's get a safe option, it also helps with searches, and rescues.

S Young

Sent from my iPhone=

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**Greg Allington**

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**From:** greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com on behalf of Nick Schou [nick@utahrivers.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 03, 2013 2:11 PM  
**To:** greg.allington@mcmillen-llc.com  
**Subject:** Comments Regarding the Green River Tusher Diversion Dam Rehabilitation  
**Attachments:** Tusher Diversion Comments-URC.pdf

Dear Mr. Allington,

On behalf of Utah Rivers Council, its members, staff, board and volunteers, I respectfully submit the following comments regarding the *Green River Tusher Diversion Dam Rehabilitation* NEPA analysis. Comments are attached. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Nick Schou  
Water Outreach Manager



1055 East 2100 South, Suite 204  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84106  
801-486-4776  
[www.utahrivers.org](http://www.utahrivers.org)

Follow Utah Rivers Council on:



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June 3, 2013

Attn: Greg Allington  
McMillen, LLC  
1401 Shoreline Dr.  
Boise, ID 83702  
[greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com](mailto:greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com)  
Via Email

Re: Comments Regarding the *Green River Tusher Diversion Dam Rehabilitation*

Dear Mr. Allington,

On behalf of Utah Rivers Council, its members, staff, board and volunteers, I respectfully submit the following comments regarding the *Green River Tusher Diversion Dam Rehabilitation* NEPA analysis.

Utah Rivers Council is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) grassroots community-based organization that advocates for sound water policy and protection and conservation of Utah's rivers, streams, and clean water sources for today's citizens, future generations and wildlife. The Utah Rivers Council has a long history working to protect Utah's amazing Green River and while this proposal stems from the need to rehabilitate the damaged diversion dam to protect irrigation and hydropower water rights, we assert that there are numerous stakeholders other than irrigators, including river runners, fishermen and conservationists, as well as a native fishes who have a vested interest in seeing the Tusher Dam's removal or modern renovation—rather than simply a rehabilitation of the existing antiquated and deadly obstruction.

The current diversion dam is a dangerous safety hazard to recreation enthusiasts such as river runners, hunters, anglers and bird-watchers. The failed structure constitutes the only river-wide obstacle in the Green River downstream of Flaming Gorge Dam, requiring a mandatory portage by those who value their lives and their personal property. Our organization supports the proposal to remove the dam in favor of building a pump-house on the bank of the river. This would be a win-win solution for all stakeholders, allowing the river to flow free while continuing to meet water delivery obligations to irrigators and the powerhouse. We recognize that this proposal burdens the water users with an additional cost, yet one should not ignore the cost of lost lives which accrue as a function of this hazard. The reality of lost lives in the future is one to which the water users must acknowledge and be prepared to accept. The additional costs associated with future litigation on the part of family of the deceased should also not be overlooked.

Should the dam remain in place our organization strongly supports the proposal to create downstream boat passage past the dam, specifically in the form of an in-stream channel. Upstream boat passage does not seem necessary. In addition to aiding the aquatic ecology and local recreation economy, this option would lessen the owner/operator's future need for expensive insurance coverage as the dam is currently a major public safety liability.

In this regard, we have a number of questions. We have received numerous calls about this deadly hazard posed to the public and many concerned parties have inquired about the ownership of the dam and whether or not the owners/operators have adequate insurance coverage in the likely

event of an accident and subsequent litigation. The first scoping report identifies the project sponsors NRCS and UDAF, but could you please write back to our organization to let us know who owns and operates the dam, as well as the nature of insurance coverage carried by those responsible for the damaged structure? For example, would a single entity like the Green River Canal Company be liable for an accident that occurred because of a single-use structure that obstructs this navigable water way? While dam owners should certainly not have to bare the financial cost of boat passage alone, it only seems reasonable for the owner/operators and other project proponents to seek to prevent any future navigation accidents rather than to prolong the status quo and hope for the best.

Moreover, if the dam is to stay in place its rehabilitation should also include modifications that allow upstream and downstream fish passage over the structure. In particular, this will greatly benefit the four species of endangered native fish in the Green River; Colorado pikeminnow, bonytail chub, humpback chub and razorback sucker as well as other species of native fish and wildlife. Additionally, the rehabilitation should incorporate a much-needed barrier to prevent endangered fish from entering the powerhouse and irrigation canals, reducing accidental takings.

Our organization would also like to see a detailed cost-benefit analysis in order to determine whether rehabilitation of the existing dam is more cost-effective than decommissioning the structure altogether, in favor of a pump house taking water from the main channel of the river. A complete economic analysis should be produced that attempts to weigh the costs of water diverted by the Tusher diversion dam, against the costs of water delivered by a contemporary pumping system.

The eminent threat to human life and the subsequent increase to owner/operator's insurance premiums, alongside possible financial damages accruing from said loss of life must also be considered against the relatively small costs of removing/rehabilitating the dam to avoid fatalities. A thorough analysis will include an estimate of financial damages caused by litigation from mortality alongside an assessment of the likelihood of damages being awarded by the courts. Our organization believes a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis is an indispensable part of determining the most environmentally and economically sound option for rehabilitating the Green River Tusher Diversion Dam. Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nick Schou". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nick" and last name "Schou" clearly distinguishable.

Nick Schou  
Water Outreach Manager

**From:** greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com on behalf of John Weisheit [john@livingrivers.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 03, 2013 2:29 PM  
**To:** greg.allington@mcmillen-llc.com  
**Subject:** Tusher Wash Dam: New information for the administrative record  
**Attachments:** SiteFuturesCommLetterFromLRandUWmay2013.pdf; ATT00044.htm

Hi Greg,

Attached please find a letter from Living Rivers dated May 28 written to the "Site Futures Committee," related to the flood history of the Colorado River above Moab, UT. The Site Futures Committee is a group of citizens considering the possible development (or not) of the land now occupied by the Atlas Tailings Pile, which is a waste pile from the milling of uranium ore. This waste is currently being moved off the Colorado River floodplain by the Department of Energy.

Please include this letter as a part of the administrative record for the Environmental Impact Statement regarding the rehabilitation of Tusher Wash Dam.

We mentioned in our scoping letter of November 30, 2012 that we might be able to provide more flood data specific to the Green River. Unfortunately the paleoflood sediment samples are still being processed in Israel. Once they are fully processed and analyzed, we will be able to provide the volume and frequencies of Green River flood events.

In the meantime, let me explain what our field research revealed as it relates to large floods on the Green River above the Confluence with the Colorado River in Canyonlands National Park.

The field work was accomplished in July of 2012. We began our work on the Green River 20 miles above the Confluence with the Colorado River. We dug drenches in many slack water deposits to take measurements and acquire samples for optically stimulated luminescence dating (OSL).

We acquired enough information during our research to reasonably conclude that the Green River has experienced large floods of at least 250,000 cubic feet per second. At one site we noted the evidence of at least 20 individual floods of high volume.

All the best,  
John Weisheit  
Living Rivers and Colorado Riverkeeper  
435-259-1063

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**To: Site Futures Committee**

Norm Boyd, Krissie Braun, Sabrina Henry, Saxon Sharpe, Rock Smith, and Russ von Koch

**From: Living Rivers & Uranium Watch**

John Weisheit and Sarah Fields

May 28, 2013

Dear sub-committee members:

During the federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for the remediation of the Atlas Tailings Pile, a group of citizens obtained a grant from the Citizens' Monitoring and Technical Assessment Fund to include paleoflood data for the administrative record and to demonstrate scientifically that it was in the public's interest to move the tailings pile out of the Colorado River floodplain.

We submitted our final report about the same time that the US Geological Survey (USGS) submitted their findings (circa 2006). The citizens' distributed their report liberally to all interested parties via US Mail and it is posted permanently on the World Wide Web.

2005 USGS Report: [http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2005/5022/pdf/SIR2005\\_5022.pdf](http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2005/5022/pdf/SIR2005_5022.pdf)

2006 Citizens' Report: [www.livingrivers.org/pdfs/LRlibrary/MoabMillProject/MoabMillProject.pdf](http://www.livingrivers.org/pdfs/LRlibrary/MoabMillProject/MoabMillProject.pdf)

2007 Citizens' Addendum: [www.riversimulator.org/Resources/Hydrology/PaleofloodsColoradoHECRASmagnitudesOctober2006.pdf](http://www.riversimulator.org/Resources/Hydrology/PaleofloodsColoradoHECRASmagnitudesOctober2006.pdf)

The USGS calculated the peak discharge, using the Probable Maximum Precipitation - Probable Maximum Flood (PMP-PMF) model, to be about 300,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). The results of the citizens' paleoflood study shows that at least 2 floods with similar magnitudes did occur during the late history of the Colorado River. Such magnitudes are nearly five times greater than the magnitude of the floods of 1983 and 1984.

To visualize just how large a flood of 300,000 cfs in the Moab Valley would be, Highway 191 would be underwater from where the Grand County Credit Union building is to the junction of the Potash Highway 279. In the city limits of Moab, the river would encroach and parallel 100 West (Swanny City Park). Along our study reach (Highway 128 at Milepost 10.3), such a flood would be more than 15 meters (49 feet) above present winter water levels.

The two studies were different in determining the magnitude and frequency of the largest expected floods. The USGS did two types of analyses: (1) statistical analysis of the measured data and (2) Iteration of the PMP-PMF model. Whereas the citizens' group did a detailed paleoflood study under the supervision of Dr. Victor Baker from the University of Arizona and Dr. Noam Greenbaum from the University of Haifa (Israel).

The USGS's statistical analysis estimated the frequency of the probable maximum flood (PMF) at about 10,000-years. The citizens' paleoflood study revealed that the frequency of floods with magnitude the size of the PMF occurs in much higher frequency. For example, the citizens' report has found geological evidence of at least two floods with a PMF magnitude greater than 300,000 cfs that have occurred in the last 2,100-years, suggesting an average frequency of about 1,000-years to these floods.

We already understand that the Colorado River breaches the river right (north) bank at levels approaching 70,000 cfs. For example, there is a photo of the 1917 flood inundating the land between the Colorado River Bridge and Courthouse Wash Bridge. [www.riversimulator.org/Resources/Photos/Moab/1917FloodMoab.jpg](http://www.riversimulator.org/Resources/Photos/Moab/1917FloodMoab.jpg)

There is a photo from 1957 that shows the Colorado River encroaching upon the site operations of the original uranium mill. [www.riversimulator.org/Resources/Photos/Moab/ColoradoRiverFlood1957MoabMill.jpg](http://www.riversimulator.org/Resources/Photos/Moab/ColoradoRiverFlood1957MoabMill.jpg)

We also understand that the flood of 1884 peaked at 125,000 cfs above the mouth of the Dolores River and that this level has been confirmed by other proxies, such as the driftwood lines that still exist along the margins of the Colorado River from this flood. One of these driftwood lines exists at our paleoflood study site above the BLM "take-out" (Milepost 10.3) on the Colorado River "Daily."

Our paleoflood study has not been concluded. Since 2005, we have increased our level of understanding thanks to additional grant money from the Bureau of Reclamation to study paleofloods on the Green River in Canyonlands National Park and to model the flood history of the Upper Colorado River Basin. Dr. Tess Harden (Bureau of Reclamation) provided assistance for this modeling. The model is called FLDFRQ3. The following information will be shortly submitted to publication in a leading journal of hydrology.

The USGS report (Kenney, 2005) has determined the following probabilities for flood magnitudes at Moab, Utah as follows:

- 1) A 100-year flood – peak discharge of 97,645 cfs.
- 2) A 500-year flood – peak discharge of 120,070 cfs.
- 3) The PMF peak discharge – 300,175 cfs.
- 4) Estimated frequency of the PMF – 10,000-years.

The citizens' report (Greenbaum et al., 2007) determined the following flood frequencies in the last 2,140-years (+/- 220-years):

- 1) 34 to 40 floods have exceeded the magnitude of the USGS 100-year flood determination.
- 2) 20 to 25 floods have exceeded the magnitude of the USGS 500-year flood determination.
- 3) 5 floods have exceeded a peak discharge of 282,000 cfs.
- 4) The two largest floods exceeds peak discharge of 349,000 cfs.
- 5) The frequency of these floods is about 1,000-years. This value was also assigned to the USGS PMF.

FLDFRQ3 modeling suggests that flood recurrence intervals would have the following values:

- 1) The 100-year flood would have a peak discharge ranging from 156,440 to 179,050 cfs.
- 2) The 500-year flood would have a peak discharge ranging from 224,780 to 265,570 cfs.
- 3) A 1000-year flood would have a peak discharge ranging from 256,740 to 310,770 cfs.

## **INTERPRETATION**

This data (USGS and Citizens') is more severe than the human instrument record reveals. The instrument record began when the railroad lines entered Grand County in 1883. In 1884 the Loma, Colorado, river gage measured a flood of 125,000 cfs. The second most severe flood happened in 1917, with a peak volume of 76,800 cfs.

According to the USGS statistical data, Grand County hasn't experienced a 100-year flood event since 1884 (129-years ago). According to the FLDFRQ3 modeling, Grand County hasn't experienced a 100-year flood in the chronology of its human history.

The take-home message is: According to our knowledge from the measured data, floods greater than what occurred in 1884 are indeed possible, and the frequency of these floods occur in much shorter intervals. Such floods can severely affect the tailings pile, and, therefore, it is critically important to continue to move the contaminated waste materials from the floodplain as quickly as possible.

The ultimate concerns are: 1) A 100-year flood is overdue, 2) When will the 500-year flood event arrive?, and 3) When will the 1,000-year flood arrive?

We cannot make a prediction regarding these three possible events, but we clearly know that such floods have already occurred in the late history of the Colorado River (twice in the last 2,000-years). Therefore, a prediction is not really vital information for planners. The best planning policy for the moment is to assume that such a flood will arrive someday and the community should be prepared for such an event. The community should adopt a development plan that is compatible with the reality of the Colorado River's flood history.

### **SUGGESTIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT, OR NOT**

1) We suggest strongly that no permanent structures for human occupation be built in the floodplain. Analysis of drill records (DOE Borehole #453) at the mill site indicate significant reworking of driftwood, sediment and gravels during floods. Thus, structures and their foundations would very likely be compromised during major flood events.

2) We also suggest that non-human occupation facilities, such as power generation structures, not be constructed in the floodplain.

3) We strongly suggest that the best use of this land is to respect it for what it truly is—a floodplain buffer. Consider its true value as a free ecological service to lessen the impacts of flooding in the Moab Valley.

Sincerely yours,

John Weisheit  
Living Rivers  
PO Box 466  
Moab, UT 84532  
435-259-1063  
[john@livingrivers.org](mailto:john@livingrivers.org)

Sarah Fields  
Uranium Watch  
PO Box 344  
Moab, UT 84532  
435-259-9450  
[sarah@uraniumwatch.org](mailto:sarah@uraniumwatch.org)

**Greg Allington**

**Commenter #13**

**From:** greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com on behalf of Samuel W Dorsi  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 04, 2013 8:04 AM  
**To:** greg.allington@mcmillen-llc.com  
**Subject:** Green River 2nd Scoping Period comments

Mr. Allington --

Please include these comments in the official public record for the 2nd Scoping Period.

I would like to advocate for a safe, navigable route through the current diversion structure that lies on the Green River above the town of Green River, UT. The existing dam divides two sections of river--Desolation Canyon and Labyrinth Canyon, both of which are popular with recreating families--with a structure that is at least inconvenient and at worst dangerous. Water travel is a traditional use of the river and should be facilitated with a basic downstream boat channel.

For non-motorized users, who are limited to downstream travel, the presence of the dam prevents access to the section of river that starts at the dam and runs downstream to the next access point.

Earlier public comments stated that no channel was needed, since boat ramps were available at points upstream and downstream of the dam. However, this is an inadequate solution for many river users. These two closest access points are some distance from the dam itself, and would not provide a realistic alternative for many users, especially those on longer trips who don't have access to their vehicles as they travel this section of river. This would be the case, for example, for a party that wished to travel from Desolation Canyon down to Crystal Geyser or to Mineral Bottom: the vehicles used to access this section of water would not easily be available at Swazey's Beach to bypass the dam.

Please include a navigable channel in any plan for renovations made to the current diversion dam. A less desirable option that would still represent an improvement to the current situation would be to build boat landings on either side of the dam, connected by a pathway to allow for river travelers to manually portage their boats.

Thank you for considering the installment of a boat channel,

Sam Dorsi

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No virus found in this message.

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Version: 2013.0.3343 / Virus Database: 3184/6381 - Release Date: 06/03/13

**From:** greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com on behalf of Roy Webb  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 05, 2013 11:33 AM  
**To:** greg.allington@mcmillen-llc.com  
**Subject:** Re: NRCS Green River EIS 2nd Scoping Period Public Notice

Mr. Allington,

Thanks for the notice and the opportunity to comment on this project. As an historian who has studied travel on the Green River for many years, I have strong opinions about how this project should proceed. I agree with the stated goals of protecting the irrigation and hydropower stake holders; feel that the endangered fish should be given special consideration both in keeping them out of places where they will be trapped and killed; and with the idea of a fish ladder or passage around the dam in both directions, to ensure that they can spawn and travel up and downriver safely.

My particular concern, however, is in the downstream boat passage. As has been noted by others, this is the longest remaining free-flowing stretch of the Green River, and I would argue that not only is the dam itself, as a structure, historic, the idea of being able to float a stretch of the Green without portages or barriers is likewise worthy of consideration as a cultural resource. From John Wesley Powell in 1869, people in boats have been able to float this stretch of the Green and that historic use should be taken into consideration when planning for this repairs to this dam. This would have to be in the form of a safe downstream passage, preferably in the middle or on the right side of the dam (when facing downstream). The current slot, on the left, leads a boat onto the island just below and has been the scene of more than one mishap. Running the center of the dam at anything but high water is a dangerous undertaking. A downstream boat passage should allow for safe and easy passage at any water level.

A portage path by itself around the dam is really not an option in this day and age. Unless one is on a day trip in a small, light craft, unloading and de-rigging your boat to carry the whole thing around the dam is not feasible. Many people who do long extended journeys on the Green are in small parties or even solo, and moving the boat by yourself is not possible. Also, wouldn't private land have to be set aside for such a passage, requiring negotiations with the land-owners?

I support the repairs to this dam since it has qualified as a historic cultural resource, but I would argue that a downstream boat passage, passable safely in any water level, is equally important. Not only will those who do through-trips use it, it could foster the development of a recreational boating industry in Green River that is not presently possible, because there is no safe passage through the dam. I would encourage the planners to make sure that safe downstream boat passage is included in the final specifications for any changes made to the Tusher Dam.

Roy Webb



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**From:** Greg Allington <[Greg.Allington@mcmillen-llc.com](mailto:Greg.Allington@mcmillen-llc.com)>  
**To:** Greg Allington <[Greg.Allington@mcmillen-llc.com](mailto:Greg.Allington@mcmillen-llc.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 28, 2013 4:55 PM  
**Subject:** NRCS Green River EIS 2nd Scoping Period Public Notice

Good Afternoon Interested Party,

Please find attached the Public Notice for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Scoping Period for the Green River Diversion Rehabilitation Project.

Official comments should sent to [greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com](mailto:greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com) or myself at the physical address listed below.

Additional project information is also listed on the project website at <http://www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/EWP/index.html> which will be updated throughout the course of the NEPA analysis and project.

For some of you this may be a duplicate notice. If you would not like to receive duplicate notices in the future, please respond to this email how you would like to be notified (email or mail).

Thank you. You may contact me at any time with any questions or comments about the project.

**Greg Allington**  
Project Manager/Biologist

McMillen, LLC  
1401 Shoreline Drive, Suite 100 Boise, ID 83702  
p 208.342.4214 x 318 | f 208.342.4216 | c 208.340.5721  
[greg.allington@mcmillen-llc.com](mailto:greg.allington@mcmillen-llc.com) | [www.mcmillen-llc.com](http://www.mcmillen-llc.com)

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Version: 2013.0.3343 / Virus Database: 3184/6386 - Release Date: 06/05/13



GARY R. HERBERT  
Governor

GREG BELL  
Lieutenant Governor

# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER  
Executive Director

Division of State Parks and Recreation

FRED HAYES  
Division Director

Commenter #15

May 29, 2013

Green River diversion rehabilitation project  
c/o McMillen, LLC – Greg Allington  
1401 Shoreline Drive  
Boise, ID 83702

Dear Greg:

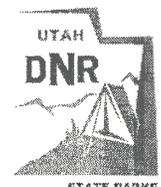
Green River State Park is located at river mile zero on the Green River approx. 8.5 river miles below the diversion dam. The park has been a historic launching point for downstream travel, but due to the diversion dam and the associated private property rights, the park has not been able to safely function as a take-out for any upstream river activity. The diversion dam is located between two major river recreation access points – Swasey’s beach/boat ramp located at river mile 10 and Green River State Park.

On behalf of Utah State Parks we would encourage a serious look at dam design options that would allow for safe downstream recreational vessel travel from Swasey’s beach to the Green River State Park. This would create positive economic impacts/benefits for the park and for all tourism related businesses in the city of Green River. Allow access across the dam would offer recreational boaters a wonderful float trip between two easy river access points. Visitors seeking an ‘on your own’ float trip would be treated to beautiful vistas of the Bookcliffs and an abundance of wildlife viewing opportunities. Local commercial river outfitters could enjoy an increase in potential business and other ancillary business opportunities that may result from the increased visitation to a ‘new’ recreation opportunity.

Redesigning the dam to allow for safe passage downstream would alleviate the current dangerous conditions faced by boaters who missed Swasey’s take out. Currently boaters, after a ‘daily trip’ or the more extensive river trip through Desolation Canyon, have to deal with the terror of an overhead dam if they miss Swasey’s. A redesign allowing access would eliminate this dangerous navigational hazard and improve the public’s recreational experience on the Green River. A recent article published in the Salt Lake Tribune on the Century-old Tusher diversion dam quotes an engineer with the Colorado firm River Restoration as saying, “It is not unreasonable to have safe boating and great melons in Green River.” We concur with this statement.

Sincerely,

Eugene Swalberg, Manager  
Utah State Parks



**Greg Allington**

Commenter #16

**From:** greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com on behalf of Kelly Baustian  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 06, 2013 8:12 AM  
**To:** greg.allington@mcmillen-llc.com  
**Subject:** Green River/Tusher Dam Refurbishment\_Public Comment

Dear Greg,

Thank you for your willingness to collect public comments regarding the rehabilitation of the Green River/Tusher Diversion Dam project.

As a avid boater of Western waterways, I would like to see a small boat channel included as part of the refurbishment so the river can be safely floated at all levels. I see this as unprecedented opportunity to improve navigation and fish migration in the Green river. As the only dam on the Green River below Flaming Gorge, the addition of a boat passage would enable boaters to link several sections of great river.

Thank you,  
Kelly Baustian=

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Version: 2013.0.3343 / Virus Database: 3184/6386 - Release Date: 06/05/13

**Greg Allington**

Commenter #17

**From:** greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com on behalf of David Jackson  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 08, 2013 8:40 PM  
**To:** greg.allington@mcmillen-llc.com  
**Subject:** Tusher Dam revision

Thank you for taking comments about the Tusher diversion dam.

I am first and foremost concerned about having safe passage for boats. More and more people are continuing their Desolation Canyon float trips through Green River and on into Canyonlands. Placing an unrunnable obstacle in the middle of that float is dangerous and all but guarantees future expenditures on fixing that mistake. I am locally familiar with, and would refer you to, the modifications to countless low-head dams along the South Platte through Denver that caught and killed unexpected swimmers to see the future of any dam that does not include boat passage.

Secondly, I think this is a great opportunity to enhance the recreation economy of Green River by including a whitewater play park. Even a single wave with good and consistent surf is a huge draw, and would bring people to Green River specifically to kayak and surf throughout the year. Including a play feature in the initial design would add minimal cost and yet give great benefit to the region's economy for years.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Thank you,  
David Jackson

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Version: 2013.0.3343 / Virus Database: 3199/6391 - Release Date: 06/07/13

**Greg Allington**

Commenter #18

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**From:** greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com on behalf of scott schreiner [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 09, 2013 9:19 AM  
**To:** greg.allington@mcmillen-llc.com  
**Subject:** Green River/Tusher Diversion Dam

I have recently been informed of the proposed changes/repairs proposed for the Tusher Diversion Dam on the Green River. This would seem like the perfect opportunity to create a safe passage for all downstream traffic in the form of a boat shoot or other navigable bypass structure. As the only obstruction on the Green River from Flaming Gorge to the confluence, this damn creates various headaches and logistical problems for downstream travel. With the addition of safe passage for downstream travel, boaters could extend their trips to Green River State Park and provide a boost to the local businesses in Green River rather than merely passing by on their way home. Furthermore, boaters looking to float Labrynth and Stillwater Canyons could extend there trips to include the rapids of the Green River Daily, or, perhaps, create a longer daily run starting with the Green River Daily and taking out at Crystal Geysers. I am sure that your local rafting companies would love the opportunity to offer longer trips that expose their clients to the beauty of both Utah and the Green River area:

Sincerely,

Scott Schreiner  
[REDACTED]

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Version: 2013.0.3343 / Virus Database: 3199/6391 - Release Date: 06/07/13

**Greg Allington**

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**From:** greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com on behalf of Sherma Witbeck  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 16, 2013 3:05 PM  
**To:** greg.allington@mcmillen-llc.com  
**Subject:** Green River

To whom it may concern,

Upon review of the proposal: **Green River/Tusher Diversion Dam Rehabilitation**

We would hope that some thought and provision are made to allow river access through an in stream channel for boats, rafts and any other water craft. This same in stream channel could also be designed not to impeded but encourage the movement of animals including fish around the dam.

Jordan Witbeck  
Sherma Witbeck

Sent from Windows Mail

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Version: 2013.0.3345 / Virus Database: 3199/6407 - Release Date: 06/13/13

**Greg Allington**

Commenter #20

**From:** greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com on behalf of Thomas Rampton [REDACTED]  
enterprises.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 21, 2013 11:59 PM  
**To:** greg.allington@mcmillen-llc.com  
**Subject:** Fwd: [Rafting\_Grand\_Canyon] Tusher Diversion Dam Rehabilitation Comments

I too consider it important that a way for rivercraft be included in any work on Tusher Dam. There is a river trip upstream of Green River (Desolation Canyon) and another downstream (Labyrinth Canyon), not to mention Stillwater and Cataract Canyons. It ought to remain possible to connect these trips.

Thomas Rampton  
Author, *Desolation and Gray Canyons River Guide* and *Labyrinth Canyon River Guide*

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Version: 2013.0.3345 / Virus Database: 3199/6432 - Release Date: 06/22/13

**Greg Allington**

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**From:** greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com on behalf of [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 22, 2013 5:30 AM  
**To:** greg.allington@mcmillen-llc.com  
**Subject:** Tusher Diversion Dam Rehabilitation

Dear Mr Allington,

I am one of many whitewater boaters who have run the Tusher Dam during the coarse of it's life. This was done to link my Desolation Gray Canyon river trip with continuing on down through Labyrinth, Stillwater and Cataract Canyons to Hite. Please include a boatable passage in the revision of the Tusher damn so that the next generation of boaters can enjoy the thrill of running the damn and having a nice long river trip experience (almost a Grand Canyon length river trip). Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the revision project.

Sincerely,

Kirk Cooley  
[REDACTED]

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Version: 2013.0.3345 / Virus Database: 3199/6432 - Release Date: 06/22/13

**Greg Allington**

Commenter #22

**From:** greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com on behalf of Denny Huffman  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 22, 2013 8:16 AM  
**To:** greg.allington@mcmillen-llc.com  
**Subject:** Safe Boat Passage - Public Comment

Dear Mr. Allington:

As one of thousands of private river users along the Green River stem I write with **grave** concern about the proposal to rebuild the diversion dam at Tuscher between Swasey's Rapid and the U.S. highway 6 bridge in Green River. It is imperative that this proposal include a safe boat passage for those river users. If the rebuilding of this dam does not include such a passage it would be the only such obstacle to safe river running between the Flaming Gorge Dam and the Lake Powell Dam. The implications of not including a safe boat passage related to the high potential for loss of life and attendant legal ramifications are well known throughout our country.

I write to specifically ask that such a safe boating option be added to this project. Please keep this email as part of the public involvement process.

Denny Huffman

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Version: 2013.0.3345 / Virus Database: 3199/6432 - Release Date: 06/22/13

**Greg Allington**

Commenter #23

**From:** greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com on behalf of David Kelly [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 22, 2013 7:11 PM  
**To:** greg.allington@mcmillen-llc.com  
**Subject:** Green River Diversion Dam

Dear Sir or Madam,

My name is Dave Kelly and I am boater in support of a navigable passage through the Tusher Diversion Dam located north of Green River, Utah and south of Swasey's Rapid. I support having a navigable passage that makes boating from Flaming Gorge to Lake Powell a journey safe from man-made hazards.

Thanks,  
Dave Kelly

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Version: 2013.0.3345 / Virus Database: 3199/6432 - Release Date: 06/22/13

**Greg Allington**

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**From:** greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com on behalf of [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 23, 2013 8:29 AM  
**To:** greg.allington@mcmillen-llc.com  
**Subject:** Tusher Diversion Dam

Mr. Greg Allington  
McMillen LLC

Dear Mr. Allington;

I'm writing to ask that a boater bypass be included in the rehab of the Tusher Diversion Dam on the Green upstram of Green River. We floaters wouldn't need anything elaborate. We'd probably be easier to accomodate than the fish. Thanks for your consideration.

Bill D'Olier  
Sandpoint, Idaho  
(a multiple time Green River floater)

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Version: 2013.0.3345 / Virus Database: 3199/6432 - Release Date: 06/22/13

**Greg Allington**

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**From:** greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com on behalf of Steve Larkin  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 23, 2013 8:29 AM  
**To:** greg.allington@mcmillen-llc.com  
**Subject:** Tusher Dam

To Whom It May Concern:

It has come to my attention that work is being considered on the Tusher Dam on the Green River, and that due to this work, the dam may become impassable to rafts, dories, etc.

I first ran the Tusher Dam in 1989 on a trip from Sand Wash to Hite. Being able to run such a long stretch of river remains one of my most memorable trips. I would hate to think that I could never repeat this journey.

In considering what needs to be done to the dam I would ask that you please include something that would keep the dam passable by water craft.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Pat Larkin

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Version: 2013.0.3345 / Virus Database: 3199/6432 - Release Date: 06/22/13

**Greg Allington**

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**From:** greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com on behalf of Tom Martin  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 23, 2013 8:29 AM  
**To:** greg.allington@mcmillen-llc.com  
**Subject:** Tusher Diversion Dam Rehabilitation Comments

Emergency Watershed Protection, Green River/Tusher Diversion Dam Rehabilitation  
Mr. Greg Allington  
McMillen, LLC  
1401 Shoreline Dr.  
Boise, ID 83702

June 21, 2013

Dear Mr. Allington,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment during the public scoping period on the Tusher Diversion Dam Rehabilitation.

In the book I wrote, *Big Water Little Boats, Moulty Fulmer and the First Grand Canyon Dory on the Last of the Wild Colorado River*, Vishnu Temple Press, 2012, there is a photo on page 69 of Moulty Fulmer running his first dory named MOJA down the left tongue of the Tusher Diversion Dam. The photo was taken on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, 1951. Fulmer is rowing the MOJA, and his passenger is Otis “Dock” Marston’s daughter Maradel, sitting in front of him in the footwell of the boat. The flow is 14,600 cfs. The river party floated on downriver to the highway bridge at Green River, UT, and took out there. I found this photo in the Marston Collection at the Huntington Library, and point this out to you as evidence for a very long history of river runners interfacing with and rowing over the Tusher Diversion Dam.

I made my first crossing of the Tusher Diversion Dam rowing a rubber raft in September, 1996, on a river trip from Sand Wash at the start of Desolation Canyon to Hite, Utah, below Cataract Canyon. Running the Tusher Diversion dam, as Moulty Fulmer and Dock Marston had done before me, adds immense value to our river trips. I urge you to include a downstream boat passage in-stream channel on the Tusher Diversion Dam in the FEIS of this project, preserving our American heritage into the next 100 years of river running on the Green River.

If you could kindly acknowledge receipt of this e-mail, I would be most appreciative.

Sincerely yours,

Tom Martin



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Version: 2013.0.3345 / Virus Database: 3199/6432 - Release Date: 06/22/13

**Greg Allington**

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**From:** greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com on behalf of Mingo, Richard [rmingo@usbr.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 24, 2013 8:57 AM  
**To:** greg.allington@mcmillen-llc.com  
**Subject:** green river tusher diversion dam

I just received and reviewed your scoping notice for the subject project. I don't have any comments other than an "adverse effect" under Section 106 is different than "significant impact" under NEPA and an EA would have been appropriate, all else the same.

—  
Richard Mingo | Utah Reclamation Mitigation & Conservation Commission  
230 South 500 East Suite 230 | Salt Lake City, Utah 84102  
p. 801.524.3168 | c. 801.284.6130 | [rmingo@usbr.gov](mailto:rmingo@usbr.gov)

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Version: 2013.0.3345 / Virus Database: 3199/6433 - Release Date: 06/23/13

**Greg Allington**

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**From:** greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com on behalf of Smith, Ted [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 24, 2013 4:25 PM  
**To:** greg.allington@mcmillen-llc.com  
**Subject:** Green River Diversion Rehabilitation Project c/o McMillen, LLC – Greg Allington

Hello,

Thanks you for the opportunity to comment on the green river diversion dam.  
I would like to see a boat ramp built into the diversion dam. Currently this dam requires portage to be safe to get by it.  
This can be a lengthy and dangerous in it's self.  
I have heard stories of the dangers people have encountered running over this dam.

Thank you for your time.

Best regards,  
Ted Smith

[REDACTED]

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Version: 2013.0.3345 / Virus Database: 3199/6433 - Release Date: 06/23/13

**Greg Allington**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 25, 2013 10:31 AM  
**To:** greg.allington@mcmillen-llc.com  
**Subject:** Green River Diversion Repair input

Dear Greg,

Please send us any information you have now or have in the future regarding the status of the Green River/Tusher Diversion Dam Rehabilitation Project. We are concerned property owners or family members of the Hasting Ranch in which the water wheel is located:



We are most concerned about the Green River /Tusher Diversion Dam Rehabilitation project as to its impact on our obtaining water from the Green River using the water wheel to irrigate part of the Hastings Ranch property as it has in some form since the early 1900's and since the 1880 Survey. We will be sending you facts about the water wheel and dam recorded by Howard Laurence Hastings to the Grand County Historical Preservation Commission and the Utah State Historical Society, February 16, 2000. We feel the dam should be left in its present location with the rehabilitation or reconstruction that is proposed to repair flood damage of 2010/2011. Please advise us and send us any information you have on this project as it greatly affect our land.

Most sincerely:  
Carole Sue Prescott



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Version: 2013.0.3345 / Virus Database: 3199/6438 - Release Date: 06/24/13

**Greg Allington**

Commenter #30

**From:** greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com on behalf of Jennifer Jones [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 25, 2013 5:21 PM  
**To:** greg.allington@mcmillen-llc.com  
**Subject:** public comment

To Whom It May Concern:

Please consider the recreational boating potential of the Green River... If a boater pass through is created it would allow for the potential increase in generation of economic revenue to the community of Green River. A new passage for boats would increase the floating opportunities for paddlers of all types. By not considering this option you will effectively continue to discourage through boater traffic that may otherwise continue downstream. The engineering required for a boater pass through is viable and should be implemented.

Obviously irrigation is an important consumptive use of the Green River and a source of economic generation in rural Utah. Boating is a non-consumptive use of the Green River and a source of economic generation.

Thank you for considering my comments during the analysis.

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Version: 2013.0.3345 / Virus Database: 3199/6438 - Release Date: 06/24/13

**Greg Allington**

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**From:** greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com on behalf of Bartlett, Karen  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 26, 2013 9:13 AM  
**To:** greg.allington@mcmillen-llc.com  
**Subject:** NRCS Green River EIS scoping request

Irrigation water for the property (tax record parcels 05-016-0003 and 05-017-0007) is taken from the Green River at the point the diversion dam meets the east shore of the river. The land (234.23 acres) has been under continuous irrigation for garden, orchard, and hay fields using either water wheel and/or electric pump since 1912.

I support re-construction of the dam to continue to provide water to existing irrigation ditches that service the east side of the river, and for the point of take out for the property described above.

I am a co-owner of this property (10% share tenants in common).

Regards,  
Karen Hastings Bartlett

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Version: 2013.0.3345 / Virus Database: 3199/6440 - Release Date: 06/25/13

**Greg Allington**

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**From:** greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com on behalf of Todd Havener  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 26, 2013 9:13 AM  
**To:** greg.allington@mcmillen-llc.com  
**Subject:** Greenriver Diversion Rehabilitation Project

To whom it may concern:

I'm in favor of rebuilding/ repairing the diversion dam in its current location for economic, cultural/historical and environmental reasons.

The infrastructure for both the East/West irrigation canals are in place and do not need to be modified by keeping the diversion dam in its current location. If the dam is rebuilt up or downstream these would also have to be modified costing both more money and further damage to the surrounding environment.

The waterwheel on the Hastings ranch is a historical landmark and part of Greenriver's cultural heritage. Keeping and repairing the diversion dam in its current location maintains the functionality of the waterwheel and preserves our heritage. Moving the dam will destroy the waterwheel's inflow and bring to an end this important part of our history. The waterwheel has been functioning in various forms for decades, has lasted through many floods and has proven its ability to irrigate. This type of irrigation is green technology (no pun intended) using the river's energy to elevate the water.

The energy cost of using a pumping station must be considered in your analysis.

Thank you for your consideration,

Todd Havener MD  
Sent from my iPhone=  
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Version: 2013.0.3345 / Virus Database: 3199/6440 - Release Date: 06/25/13

**Greg Allington**

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**From:** greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com on behalf of Kagan Breitenbach  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 27, 2013 9:45 AM  
**To:** greg.allington@mcmillen-llc.com  
**Subject:** Diversion Dam

To whom it may concern,

I am emailing to express that I am in favor of making a diversion dam on the Green River that would be passable with flat bottom boats such as rafts and dories. Please keep me updated as the project progresses.

Best Regards,

Kagan Breitenbach=  
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Version: 2013.0.3345 / Virus Database: 3204/6443 - Release Date: 06/26/13

**Greg Allington**

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**From:** greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com on behalf of Von Bowerman  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 27, 2013 7:35 PM  
**To:** greg.allington@mcmillen-llc.com  
**Subject:** comments on the G.R. Diversion

Hi Greg

1) In the past the river trips below the diversion dam to the town of Green River is long and boring because of how slow of speed the river flows. Anybody that did take the trip will not take it again.

2) We are hearing a lot about putting in a hydro power plant in the new construction. I do not feel we need to change the plans to the point of falling out of the grandfathered protection that we have now. If anybody wants to add hydro they can tie into the large sluice gates that will be installed in the structure for sluicing sediment on the water wheel side and build a channel down the east side down stream like we have on the west side, so as to copy the west side pump and hydro structure that is in place now.

3) I want to keep the other comments from the last comment period to still be considered. I still want to have the entire diversion dam a foot higher than the high side is now.

Thanks Von Bowerman

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Version: 2013.0.3345 / Virus Database: 3204/6443 - Release Date: 06/26/13

**Greg Allington**

Commenter #35

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**From:** greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com on behalf of [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 28, 2013 8:59 AM  
**To:** greg.allington@mcmillen-llc.com  
**Subject:** decommission Tusher Diversion Dam

Dear Greg Allington,  
Please decommission the Tusher Diversion Dam in the interests of aiding the aquatic ecology, safety, and local recreation economy.  
Thanks,

Bob Brister  
[REDACTED]

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Version: 2013.0.3345 / Virus Database: 3204/6443 - Release Date: 06/26/13

**Greg Allington**

Commenter #36

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 26, 2013 1:24 PM  
**To:** greg.allington@mcmillen-llc.com  
**Subject:** Water wheel at the Hastings ranch in Green River, Utah  
**Attachments:** water wheel letter 23 June 2013.docx

Greg,

Here is a letter from Alice (Hastings) Peterson. I am a granddaughter of Effie and Howard Hastings, and Lawrence Hastings' daughter.

Sincerely,

AliceH. Peterson

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Version: 2013.0.3345 / Virus Database: 3204/6443 - Release Date: 06/26/13

Greg Allington Mailto:Greg.Allington@McMillen-llc.com

To the question of making the water wheel at the Hastings Ranch un-usable, I would bring to your attention a publication entitled "Howard Laurence Hastings – Oral History" that was produced by the Human History Program, Grand County Preservation Commission. This was compiled from personal interviews by Bette L. Stanton, 683 Mountain View Drive, Moab UT, 84532, Phone 435 259 7809, Fax 435 719 4066, E-mail bls @lasal.net. There is a computer disk on file at the Dan O'Laurie Canyon County Museum and also at the Utah State Historical Society.

There is a chapter beginning on page 18 which talks about the history of water wheels on the Green River. On page 22 there is a photo of the Hastings Ranch water wheel. On Page 29, 30 there is an article from The Sun Advocate Lifestyle" by Layne Miller, staff writer.

There is a lot of History on the Hastings Ranch regarding the water wheel. It would indeed be sad to not try to protect this part of a colorful bygone era!

As a Hastings granddaughter and daughter I spent many summers on the Ranch and realized how special the Hastings Ranch was because of this beautiful wheel. Later on as a "grown up" I am continually amazed by the number of people that I meet who have visited the "water wheel ranch" on trips to Green River or have passed the wheel on trips down the Green River. Not to mention the practical value of using the wheel to help water the property.



*Steel Water Wheel Designed by U. of Arizona*



*The Old Wooden Water Wheel Built in 1940*

Sincerely yours,

Alice H. Peterson

400 – 36<sup>th</sup> Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95062

**Greg Allington**

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**From:** Cindy Smith [sindysmith@utah.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 02, 2013 2:19 PM  
**To:** Greg Allington  
**Subject:** State Comment -- Green River Diversion Rehabilitation Project  
**Attachments:** Green River Diversion Rehabilitation.doc

Greg,

The state comment concerning the Green River Diversion Rehabilitation project is attached.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sindy

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*Sindy Smith*  
RDCC Coordinator  
Public Lands Policy Coordination Office  
801-537-9193

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Version: 2013.0.3345 / Virus Database: 3204/6451 - Release Date: 06/30/13



State of Utah

GARY R. HERBERT  
*Governor*

GREG BELL  
*Lieutenant Governor*

Office of the Governor  
PUBLIC LANDS POLICY COORDINATION OFFICE

KATHLEEN CLARKE  
*Director*

July 2, 2013

Greg Allington  
McMillen, LLC  
1401 Shoreline Drive  
Boise, ID 83702

Subject: Green River Diversion Rehabilitation - Scoping Comments

Dear Mr. Allington:

The State of Utah, through the Public Lands Policy Coordination Office (PLPCO), has reviewed this project. Utah Code (Section 63J-4-601, et. seq.) designates PLPCO as the entity responsible to coordinate the review of technical and policy actions that may affect the physical resources of the state, and to facilitate the exchange of information on those actions among federal, state, and local government agencies. As part of this process, PLPCO makes use of the Resource Development Coordinating Committee (RDCC). The RDCC includes representatives from the state agencies that are generally involved or impacted by public lands management.

**Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands**

The State of Utah owns the bed of the Green River in the project area by virtue of the Equal Footing Doctrine and several legal decisions including *United States v. State of Utah*, 283 U.S. 801 (1931), *United States v. State of Utah*, 283 U.S. 64 (1931), and *United States of America v. State of Utah*, Civil No. C-201-62 (D. Utah 1965).

Uses upon these sovereign lands must be consistent with the Public Trust doctrine. This doctrine ensures that these lands are managed for the benefit of the public. It has been interpreted broadly to protect navigation, recreational use, fish and wildlife habitat, and aquatic beauty on sovereign land. In addition, all uses must be consistent with state statutes and regulations. *See* Utah Code § 65A.

The Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands ("Division") requires a permit for construction activities on the beds of sovereign lands. The NRCS should contact the Division to obtain a permit application.

Greg Allington  
July 2, 2011  
Page 2

The Division requests the NRCS to ensure that members of the public continue to enjoy the use of the Green River in the project area for recreational purposes. It is the understanding of the Division that a passage for boats was previously constructed. The Division requests that the NRCS continue to provide for recreational vessel passage in the area.

As the owner of the lands, the Division requests to be consulted regarding the particular details of the plan. Division employees will be able to consult with the NRCS to ensure that the proposed activities are consistent with the governing legal requirements.

The Division appreciates the opportunity to provide comments and input on a proposed project of this magnitude. If any questions or concerns arise regarding the contents of this response, please contact Laura Ault at 801.538.5540 or at [lauraault@utah.gov](mailto:lauraault@utah.gov).

The State of Utah appreciates the opportunity to review this proposal and we look forward to working with you on future projects. Please direct any other written questions regarding this correspondence to the Public Lands Policy Coordination Office at the address below, or call Cindy Smith at (801) 537-9193.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathleen Clarke', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kathleen Clarke  
Director

**Greg Allington**

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**From:** greenriver@mcmillen-llc.com on behalf of Nathan Fey [nathan@americanwhitewater.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 02, 2013 4:48 PM  
**To:** greg.allington@mcmillen-llc.com  
**Subject:** Comments - Green River Diversion Rehabilitation Project  
**Attachments:** Green River Rehab - NRCS Comments.pdf; ATT00402.htm

Mr. Allington,  
Attached, please find a short letter providing comment on the Green River Diversion Rehabilitation Project.

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Version: 2013.0.3345 / Virus Database: 3204/6451 - Release Date: 06/30/13



Nathan T. Fey  
Director  
Colorado River Stewardship Program  
1601 Longs Peak Ave.  
Longmont, Colorado 80501  
nathan@americanwhitewater.org

July 2, 2013

Greg Allington, Project Manager/Biologist  
McMillen, LLC  
1401 Shoreline Drive, Suite 100  
Boise, ID 83702  
RE: Comments on Proposed Green River Diversion Rehabilitation Project

Dear Mr. Allington,

American Whitewater is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) river conservation organization founded in 1954. We have nearly 7,000 individual members and over 100 club affiliates, representing over 80,000 whitewater paddlers and river enthusiasts from across the nation. American Whitewater's mission is to conserve and restore America's whitewater resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely. As a conservation-oriented paddling organization whose members enjoy the recreational opportunities the Green River has to offer, American Whitewater has a strong interest in the Green River Diversion Structure and, therefore, strongly encourages NRCS to include downstream boat passage at the dam to improve public safety.

The Green River is a high-value recreational resource in the upper Colorado River basin, and provides unique multi-day rafting and kayaking opportunities popular with a wide range of recreational users – particularly families. Below Flaming Gorge Dam, no major storage impoundments have been constructed on the river, and compared to other rivers in the region, irrigation diversions are minor – allowing for nearly un-impeded navigation from Flaming Gorge to the Colorado River Confluence. The Green River Diversion structure is the most significant in-channel obstruction on the main segment of the Green River, and starves fish of high quality habitat, while also creating a life threatening re-circulating hydraulic that presents significant danger to recreational paddlers at higher flows.

While American Whitewater has no recorded information on fatal accidents caused by Tusher Canyon Diversion in our database<sup>1</sup>, we have been aware of numerous near-fatal incidents associated with the diversion structure and downstream hydraulic. Including downstream passage into the rehabilitation plan will eliminate the threat to public safety, while minimizing demands on emergency personnel. We ask that the NRCS and its project partners contact local law enforcement and search and rescue for more information on these non-fatal

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<sup>1</sup> The American Whitewater Accident Database is a nation-wide collection and analysis of whitewater accidents and close calls. This database, while extensive, is not complete. A significant number of accidents are not reported to us. <http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Safety/view/>

incidents, and to incorporate safe passage into the final project proposal to eliminate these existing risks.

Thank you in advance for considering a range of improvements to the Green River Diversion Structure. American Whitewater applauds the efforts of NRCS and its partners to eliminate a physical barrier to fish seeking to migrate through the site, while also creating safe passage for rafters, kayakers, and canoeists enjoying the outstandingly remarkable recreational opportunities the Green River provides. It is critical that the project meet the needs of local irrigators, while minimizing threats to public safety. Please contact me if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nathan T. Fey". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Nathan T. Fey  
Colorado River Stewardship Director  
American Whitewater



United States Department of the Interior  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

UTAH FIELD OFFICE  
2369 WEST ORTON CIRCLE, SUITE 50  
WEST VALLEY CITY, UTAH 84119

July 1, 2013

In Reply Refer To:  
FWS/R6  
ES/UT  
09-I-0217

Mr. Bronson Smart, State Engineer  
Natural Resource Conservation Service  
125 S. State Street – Room 4010  
Salt Lake City, UT 84138-1100

RE: Green River Diversion Rehabilitation, Grand & Emery Counties, Utah; EIS Scoping Comments

Dear Mr. Smart:

On June 3, 2013, we received your Notice for a 2<sup>nd</sup> Scoping Period for the rehabilitation of the Green River Diversion (Diversion), which spans the Green River upstream of the town of Green River, Utah. We appreciate the coordination between our offices and your support of endangered species considerations during the preliminary discussions concerning this project. As we further describe below, it is important that the rehabilitation of the Green River Diversion consider impacts to federally listed fish species. In response to your scoping notice, we submit the following comments pursuant to our authorities under the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973.

Importance of the Green River to endangered fish recovery

Four federally endangered species inhabit the Green River: bonytail (*Gila elegans*); Colorado pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus lucius*); humpback chub (*Gila cypha*); and razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*). Portions of the Green River are designated as critical habitat to all four species; the entire length of the Green River and its 100 year floodplain is designated as critical habitat for at least one species between the Yampa River confluence and the Colorado River confluence (Appendix A)<sup>1</sup>. Furthermore, the Diversion is located within critical habitat for the Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker, and directly downstream of Desolation Canyon, which is designated critical habitat for the bonytail and humpback chub.

The Green River Basin, particularly the mainstem Green River, is vital to the recovery of these four species. Maintaining self-sustaining populations in the Green River is a recovery goal for all four

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<sup>1</sup> For a detailed description of the critical habitat reaches, please see the Federal Register: 59 FR 13374

species (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2002a, 2002b, 2002c, 2002d). Currently, the Green River Basin harbors:

- the largest, most productive, and most robust population of the Colorado pikeminnow;
- two known, active spawning locations of the Colorado pikeminnow;
- two known population centers of humpback chub;
- two known, active spawning locations of the razorback sucker; and
- populations of stocked individuals of razorback sucker and bonytail;

These four species are adapted to desert river hydrology (characterized by large spring peaks of snow-melt runoff and low, relatively stable base flows) and long, unimpeded stretches of river. Unimpeded stretches of river are crucial to the life histories of these species in order to support migrations of spawning individuals, drifting of newly produced young-of-year fish, and home-range expansion of juveniles. Specifically, razorback sucker and Colorado pikeminnow annually migrate to established spawning areas to reproduce (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2002b, 2002d). Individuals travel long distances to reach these sites (745 river kilometers round-trip on record for Colorado pikeminnow) (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2002b). Colorado pikeminnow spawn in two principal sites: Gray Canyon in the lower Green River; and the lower Yampa River (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2002b). Known spawning sites for razorback sucker are located in the lower Yampa River and in the Green River near Escalante Ranch, but other, less-used sites are probable (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2002d). Because all of the spawning sites are upstream of the Diversion, any individual fish that occurs downstream of the Diversion (or in the Colorado River) must pass over the Diversion to reach these spawning sites (and conversely must pass over it in the downstream direction to return to their home range).

After viable eggs are produced at spawning areas, eggs hatch into larval fish. Larval fish remain in the river substrate for about a week and then emerge into the water column. Larval fish are very small (<0.5 inches total length) and incapable of directed swimming from the time of hatching through the first 2-4 weeks of their life. As a result, they drift downstream with the current, ending up in slow water habitats where they can grow and achieve swimming ability. Because the Diversion is downstream of spawning locations, many larval fish pass over the Diversion each year. This input of larval fish makes the lower Green River an important nursery area for young fish.

As young fish in the lower Green River grow and reach sexual maturity, they require an ability to migrate to spawning locations and other new habitats. In fact, juvenile fish in the lower Green River commonly leave this area and establish new home areas upstream. Increased recruitment<sup>2</sup> that resulted in increased abundance of adult Colorado pikeminnow in the Green River Basin in 2006 to 2008 likely originated from a large year class of age-0 Colorado pikeminnow produced in the lower Green River during 2000 (Bestgen *et al.* 2010). Furthermore, population studies indicate that many small Colorado pikeminnow leave the lower Green River and immigrate into upstream areas such as Desolation Canyon and the White River (Bestgen *et al.* 2010). Overall transition rates reflect a general movement pattern of Colorado pikeminnow from Desolation-Gray Canyon and the lower Green River into upstream reaches; this trend demonstrates that young fish reared in the lower Green River support populations of adult fish throughout the Green River basin (Bestgen *et al.* 2010).

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<sup>2</sup> Recruitment is defined as an organism transitioning from an immature individual to a sexually mature individual; thus becoming a reproductively active member of the population

As you can see, maintaining connectivity between population centers and spawning sites is vital to reaching the de-listing goals of self-sufficient populations of these endangered fish species for a variety of biological reasons.

### Considerations for the Green River Diversion rehabilitation

In the course of designing any future modifications to the Green River Diversion, it is important to consider how the modifications may impact the endangered fish species and how the impacts may be avoided, minimized, or mitigated. We foresee the following considerations as being important for any design modification:

1. *Fish Passage* – Providing safe, effective fish passage for both up- and downstream movements year-round in most years;
2. *Reducing Construction Impacts* – Avoiding impacts whenever feasible by following proper construction BMPs, work timing, material selection, and de-watering protocols;
3. *Maintaining Habitat* – Maintaining suitable habitat in the project vicinity, by providing adequate hydrological, thermal, and chemical conditions; and
4. *Electrical Barrier Component* – Assisting the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program (Recovery Program) in the effective design, construction, and operation of an electric barrier to prevent fish entrainment into the Green River Canal and Thayn Hydroelectric facility.

#### *Fish Passage*

As described in detail above, it is critical to species recovery that the Green River Diversion does not act as a barrier to fish movement. If individuals are prevented from migrating up- and downstream, the populations of the four species will be heavily impacted. We have spoken with your office about designing an appropriate suite of fish passage options, including an upstream passage on river left (near the water wheel), downstream fish passage ‘notches’, and a fish return system from the ‘raceway’<sup>3</sup> section.

Designing fish passage for native, warm-water fishes requires special design criteria because these species are not equipped with strong burst speeds or jumping abilities. Therefore, fish-ladders (or other structures designed for salmonids) will not work for these species. Fish passage design must take into account native fish swimming ability, which is related to body size. At this time we believe any upstream fish passage must be able to move individuals that are 200 millimeters and longer. This size requirement should allow the smallest juvenile fish (and therefore the weakest swimmer) that might leave the lower Green River to access upstream habitats.

In addition, designs must analyze flows available inter- and intra-annually, to ensure that flows will be available year round to operate the facility. In other words, the fish passage options must work year round, under a variety of flow regimes, in the vast majority of years. Most importantly the fish passage must work in the majority of dry years, when little flow is available at the Diversion. However, our office understands that the fish passage should not infringe upon any existing water right in the local area, so passage operation will need to be closely monitored.

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<sup>3</sup> The large channel that takes water to both the Green River Canal and Thayn Hydroelectric facility

We have recently seen comments requesting downstream boat passage at the structure. We have no opposition in principle to boat passage – in fact scientific research crews would likely benefit from the use of such a boat passage. However, we strongly emphasize that any boat passage design must be able to maintain the important fish passage components. That is, the design of a boat passage must ensure that proper water velocities and quantities are maintained at the fish passage, and funds are still available to construct the fish passage. Any reduced function of a fish passage structure would be considered in an inter-agency consultation under the Endangered Species Act.

We believe that designing an effective set of fish passage options is quite feasible. We are encouraged by initial discussions with your office that demonstrate the potential for such structures. We would like to continue coordinating and working with your office's engineers to help design a long-lasting Diversion that will support water use and benefit native fish species.

### *Construction Impacts*

Once a preferred alternative is chosen for the Diversion rehabilitation, it will be important for our offices to work closely on appropriate construction methods to reduce impacts to the river and to individual fish. When working in designated critical habitat it is important to choose the least impactful techniques for accomplishing effective construction. Usually the least impactful timing for construction is in the fall, as the reproductive season has ended and flows are safer for construction crews.

The de-watering component of the project is a key decision that will affect construction and fish. We support using the existing structure as a possible de-watering feature, as it may reduce the impact of installing new de-watering structures. Whatever de-watering option is chosen, we ask that it not act as a fish passage barrier, that it be cleared of fish trapped inside before work begins, and that it not contribute large sediments loads to the downstream areas.

### *Maintaining Habitat*

It is important that suitable habitat for endangered fish species is maintained in the vicinity of the Diversion after the project is complete. In fact, because this stretch of river is designated critical habitat for the razorback sucker and Colorado pikeminnow, a project cannot adversely modify the habitat. We have specific habitat criteria, called primary constituent elements (PCEs) for the designated critical habitat in the Green River.

Water, physical habitat, and the biological environment are the PCEs of critical habitat for these fish species. This includes a quantity of water of sufficient quality that is delivered to a specific location in accordance with a hydrologic regime that is required for the particular life stage for each species. The physical habitat includes areas of the Colorado River system that are inhabited or potentially habitable for use in spawning and feeding, as a nursery, or serve as corridors between these areas. In addition, oxbows, backwaters, and other areas in the 100-year floodplain, when inundated, provide access to spawning, nursery, feeding, and rearing habitats. Food supply, predation, and competition are important elements of the biological environment.

Habitat in the vicinity of the project would need to remain suitable for endangered fish. For this project, habitat condition is largely controlled by flows in the river channel. Habitat conditions regulated by flows that must be considered include, but are not limited to:

- Adequate water depth for fish movement, both over the diversion through a passage facility and local movement across the river channel; and
- Suitable chemical conditions, such as temperature, dissolved oxygen, and pollution levels.

Proper water management at the Diversion will ensure that the project does not dry dam the Green River. Dry damming the river will result in significant entrainment issues and effectively remove habitat from that portion of the river. Analyses must be conducted to clearly identify the flows necessary to provide adequate habitat for the endangered fish downstream of the Diversion.

### *Electrical Barrier Component*

It is the responsibility of the Recovery Program to enact a project that reduces the existing entrainment of fish into the Green River Canal and Thayn Hydroelectric facility. After careful deliberation, the Recovery Program has chosen to fund the construction and operation of an electric barrier that inhibits fish entrainment into these facilities by creating an electric field which irritates fish and compels them to leave the area. The Recovery Program believes that this electric barrier is a superior option to an alternative of installing a physical rolling drum screen structure because it will offer more effective entrainment prevention and will not negatively affect water use in the area.

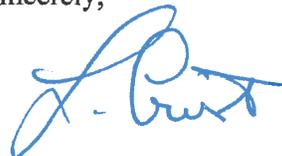
Because the two projects (the Diversion rehabilitation and the electric barrier) will each benefit if designed, constructed, and operated as one, your office and the Recovery Program have been in consistent discussions about the electrical barrier component. We applaud your early coordination that will ensure that both projects are congruous.

To enact the project, the Recovery Program will fund the design, construction, and operation of the electrical barrier components. To assist in this process your office has agreed to consider these design, construction, and operation components in your project planning. To ensure successful implementation of both projects, please continue this coordinated effort. The effective operation of the electric barrier is a key component of species recovery, and your assistance in the project is greatly valued.

### Conclusion

We appreciate your office's continued coordination with us concerning this project. Through the entire process, your office has been very supportive of ideas to promote native species. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. We look forward to working with you in the future. If you have any questions or need further information please contact Kevin McAbee at (801) 975-3330 extension 143.

Sincerely,



Larry Crist  
Utah Field Supervisor

cc: Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program; Attn: Tom Chart

Region 6 RO; Attn: Dave Carlson

Lisa Chetnik Treichel  
DOI Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance  
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Appendix A

