



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Pacific Northwest Region
Snake River Area Office

230 Collins Road

Boise, ID 83702-4520

AUG 09 2019

IN REPLY REFER TO:

SRA-1200

2.1.4.13

Subject: Open House Announcement and Request for Public Comments Regarding the Boise River Basin Storage Feasibility Study Environmental Impact Statement, Boise Project, Elmore County, Idaho

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Reclamation is exploring the feasibility of increased water storage opportunities behind Anderson Ranch Dam (See Figure 1.1). Under the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, Public Law (Pub. L.) 111-11, Section 9001, Congress authorized Reclamation to conduct feasibility studies on projects that address water shortages within the Boise River Basin System that are considered appropriate for study according to Reclamation's 2006 Boise/Payette Water Storage Assessment Report. The proposed action includes a six-foot raise of Anderson Ranch Dam, raising the top of the pool from the present elevation of 4,196 feet to 4,202 feet, and allowing the ability to capture and store approximately 29,000 additional acre-feet of water. This new space would allow Reclamation to capture additional water when available during wet years for supplemental supply and to hold over for use during dry years. Potential space holders include existing Reclamation contractors and the Idaho Water Resource Board, which could in turn contract water to existing Water District 63 water users and/or may offer water through the Idaho water supply bank's Water District 63 rental pool.

The proposed action includes the following dam structure modifications:

- Raising the earthen embankment dam crest by 6 feet
- Demolishing the existing spillway crest structure and bridge
- Removing, rehabilitating, and re-installing the existing radial gates
- Constructing a new spillway crest structure and bridge
- Constructing a new two-lane road across the dam

The existing road across the dam would be closed during construction. An alternative route for safe public passage has been identified.

The purpose of this letter is to inform interested and affected public of the proposal and to solicit comments pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Scoping is a public involvement process used to identify issues related to a proposed action and to determine the scope of issues to be addressed. Analysis of the proposal is ongoing and will be documented in an Environmental Impact Statement planned for completion in July of 2020.

Comments received in response to this solicitation will be used to identify potential environmental issues related to the proposed action and to identify alternatives to the proposed action.

Further information and detail regarding the subject project are available at the project website which can be accessed at www.usbr.gov/pn/studies/boisefeasibility/index.html. Three scoping open houses for the general public will be held on the following dates, times, and locations:

- August 27, 2019, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Boise River Senior Center, 350 North Pine Featherville Road, Pine, Idaho 83647
- August 28, 2019, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Wyndham Garden Boise Airport Hotel, 3300 South Vista Avenue, Boise, Idaho 83705
- August 29, 2019, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., American Legion, 515 East 2nd South Street, Mountain Home, Idaho 83647

Please help us identify important issues and concerns related to the proposed action by providing your written comments. Although your comments are always welcome, they can be best used if received by **September 9, 2019**. Written comments may be submitted electronically to bor-sra-boifeasibility@usbr.gov, or mailed or hand-delivered to:

Mr. Jim Taylor
Environmental/Cultural Resource Manager
Bureau of Reclamation
Snake River Area Office
230 Collins Road
Boise, ID 83702

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

If you have additional questions about this proposal or its analysis, please contact Mr. Jim Taylor, Environmental/Cultural Resource Manager, at 208-383-2260.

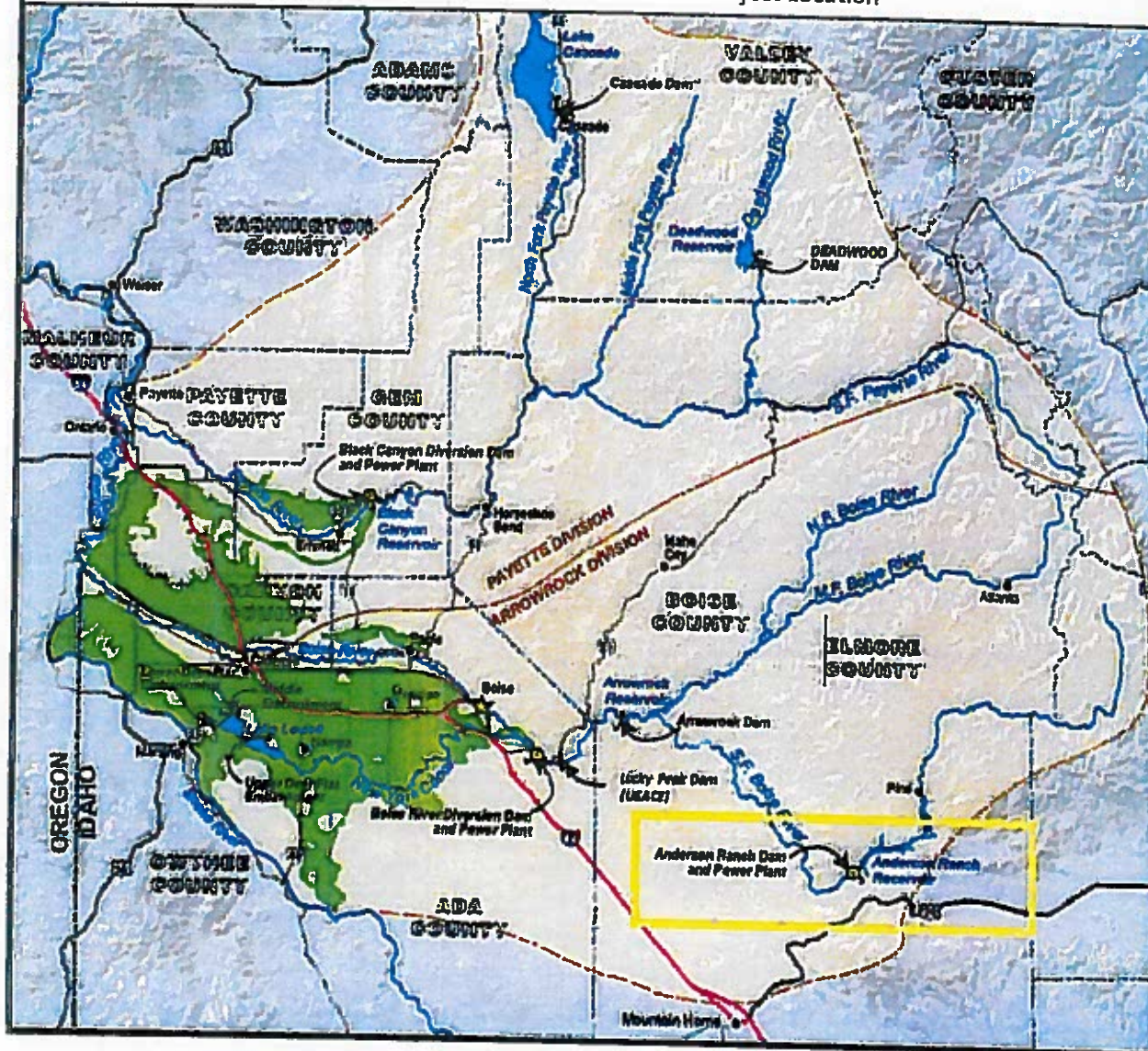
Sincerely,



Roland K. Springer
Area Manager

Enclosure

Figure 1.1-Map outlining the proposed project area at Anderson Ranch Dam in yellow and the boundaries of Arrowrock and Payette Divisions of the Boise Project Location

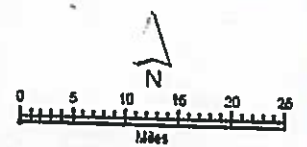


RECLAMATION
Managing Water in the West

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

Boise Project

- Reclamation Power Plant
- Reclamation Dam/Diversion
- Reclamation Reservoirs
- Areas Benefitted by Project
- City
- Road - Interstate
- Road - U.S. Route
- Road - State Route
- River/Stream
- County Boundary
- State Boundary



Date: 7/5/2012 MSFO GIS Dept.

ELMORE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

(208) 587-2130 EXT 1212

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Elmore County Board of Commissioners, with support from the Mountain Home Irrigation District and the City of Mountain Home have been working to ensure the future availability of water to the citizens of Elmore County.

Over the last 30 years the Aquifer in Elmore County has been depleted by 30,000 to 40,000 acre feet per year.

For several years Elmore County has applied for various water permits so as to counter this increasingly dire situation.

One of the permit applications would allow Elmore County to divert winter runoff into three gravel pits so that water would be captured and allowed to filter into our local aquifer rather than running to the Snake River and ultimately being lost to our county.

Over the winter months, in anticipation of the approval of this permit; upgrades were made including the pouring of concrete, installation of new pipes and head gates.

In May of this year Elmore County was granted the necessary permit and began diverting the runoff. At the height of the runoff season the gravel pits were collecting approximately 13 million gallons of water per day.

In August 13, 2019 a Water Permit was granted that will allow Elmore County to pump 10,000 acre feet of water annually from the South Fork of the Boise River to Little Camas Reservoir for storage and then divert water through the existing Mountain Home Irrigation Canal, which may be enlarged for additional flow.

The Bureau of Reclamation are now conducting a feasibility study regarding raising the water level at Anderson Ranch Dam. On August 9, 2019 the Bureau published a Notice of Intent (NOI) regarding this proposed project at Anderson Ranch Dam.

This Notice included public hearing dates and times. Dates and locations for those meetings are as follows:

- TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2019 from 1:00 PM TO 3:00 PM – Boise River Senior Center, 350 North Pine Featherville Road, PINE, ID.
- WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2019 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM – Wyndham Garden Boise Airport Hotel, 3300 South Vista Avenue, BOISE, ID.
- THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2019 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM – American Legion, 515 East 2nd South Street, MOUNTAIN HOME, ID.

Written comments may be submitted electronically to bor-sra-boifcability@usbr.gov, or mailed or hand-delivered to Mr. Jim Taylor, Environmental/Cultural Resource Manager, Bureau of Reclamation, Snake River Area Office, 230 Collins Road, Boise, ID 83702 **Please be aware that your comments may best be used if received prior to September 9, 2019.**

It is vital to our County's water management future that Elmore County Citizens attend these meetings to voice support for the County's request to secure additional water rights and storage for the future with the raising of water levels at Anderson Ranch Dam or at least submit a letter of support.