DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Office of the Assistant Secretary of Water and Science

Central Utah Project Completion Act

Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision on the Provo River Restoration Project Final Environmental Impact Statement documenting the Department of Interior’s approval for the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission to proceed with the construction of the Proposed Action Alternative.

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary—Water and Science, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the Provo River Restoration Project Record of Decision.

SUMMARY: On April 1, 1998, Patricia J. Beneke, Assistant Secretary—Water and Science, Department of the Interior, signed the Record of Decision (ROD) which documents the selection of the Proposed Action Alternative (Riverine Habitat Restoration Alternative) as presented in the Provo River Restoration Project Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), MC FES 97–01, filed December 23, 1997. The ROD approves the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission (Mitigation Commission) proceeding with construction of the Provo River Restoration Project (PRRP) and authorizes Department of the Interior agencies to assist the Mitigation Commission with this project. The Department of the Interior and the Mitigation Commission served as the Joint Lead Agencies in the preparation of the NEPA compliance documents. The FEIS for the PRRP considered three action alternatives (including the Proposed Action), as well as the No Action Alternative, for river restoration. The Assistant Secretary determined that the Proposed Action Alternative provides the greatest amount of mitigation and enhancement benefit among all alternatives considered.

Construction of the PRRP will restore a more natural steam channel along about 10 miles of the Provo River between Jordanelle Dam and Deer Creek Reservoir through the Heber Valley in Wasatch County, Utah. The project will fulfill Interior’s environmental commitments made in the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation’s 1987 Final Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement, Municipal and Industrial System of the Bonneville Unit, Central Utah Project (INT FES 87–8). These commitments are now binding upon the Mitigation Commission. The selected alternative will fulfill the environmental commitments by: acquiring lands in public ownership along the Provo River thereby increasing public access for angling and other low impact recreation, restoring aquatic habitats to increase game fish populations, eliminating fish migration barriers and aquatic habitat impacts currently associated with operating irrigation diversion facilities, and providing public management of newly acquired lands to maximize public recreation benefits.

During preparation of the FEIS, the Mitigation Commission consulted formally on listed species with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C.A. Sections 1531 to 1544, as amended). In a letter dated December 10, 1997, the FWS indicated that the Proposed Action Alternative selected by this ROD is not likely to adversely affect listed or proposed species or designated or proposed critical habitats. Interior and the Mitigation Commission will continue to consult with FWS prior to and during construction to avoid actions that may affect proposed or listed species, or their proposed or designated critical habitat.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Additional information on matters related to this Federal Register notice can be obtained at the address and telephone number set forth below:

Ronald Johnston, Program Director, Department of the Interior, 302 East 1860 South, Provo UT 84606–7317, Telephone: (801) 379–1254.


Ronald Johnston,
Program Director, Department of the Interior.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Action: Notice of Application for a Natural Gas Pipeline Right-of-Way

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that under Section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (41 Stat. 449:30 U.S.C. 185), as amended by Public Law 93–153, Koch Pipeline Southeast, Inc. has applied to construct, install and maintain a 12-inch pipeline across approximately 2,566.88 feet of the Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge in Jackson County, Mississippi and Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Mobile County,
Alabama within the existing corridor described as follows:

Legal Description of Centerline Proposed 50' Permanent Pipeline Right-of-Way Across Property of United States of America Located in Section 7, T7S, R4W, Jackson County, Mississippi.

Commencing at a point having a Mississippi Coordinate System, East Zone coordinated of X = 1,116,172.98 and Y = 345,153.82, said point being the Point of Beginning; Thence, N 53°37'00” E a distance of 480.94 feet to the Point of termination containing 480.94 feet or 29.15 rods.

Commencing at a point having a Mississippi Coordinate System, East Zone coordinated of X = 1,116,445.24 and Y = 345,354.43, said point being the Point of Beginning; Thence S 14°59'47” E a distance of 467.89 feet to a point; Thence S 59°59'47” E a distance of 202.22 feet to a Point of termination containing 4,177.23 feet or 253.16 rods.

The land described above contains 11.18 acres, more or less.

The purpose of this notice is to inform the public that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service is correctly considering the merits of approving this application.

DATES: Interested persons desiring to comment on this application should do so on or before June 22, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to the Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1875 Century Boulevard, Room 420, Atlanta, Georgia 30345.

Sam D. Hamilton,
Regional Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
[OR–050–1220–00; GP8–0194]

Closure of Public Lands

AGENCY: Prineville District, Deschutes Resource Area, Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice is hereby given that effective immediately, the Skeleton Fire Area and adjacent lands as legally described below is closed to all motorized vehicle use, except those defined as open roads. The purpose of this closure is to protect wildlife (including critical deer range), vegetation, sensitive soils, watershed resources, areas of high visual quality, and to prevent spread of noxious weeds. Exemptions to this closure will apply to administrative personnel of the Bureau of Land Management. Other exemptions to this closure order may be made on a case by case basis by the authorized officer.

This closure will remain in effect until further notice.

Descriptive Location:

This closure applies to those lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management East of Bend, Oregon, South of Highway 20, and immediately West of the Millican Valley Off-Highway Vehicle Management Area as described in the July 1989 Brothers/LaPine Resource Management Plan (Page 48).

Legal Description

This closure order applies to those lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management within the area of Township 18 south, Range 13 east, Sections 1-4, 10-14, 24 and 25; Township 18 south, Range 14 east, Sections 30, 31, and 32; Township 19 south, Range 14 east, Sections 3-11, 14-24, 23-27. Seven roads will remain open during the closure period and are described as follows:

—Old Highway 20, Horse Ridge Segment.
—BLM Road 6515 from Old Highway 20 South to Forest Road 2015
—BLM Road 6515–AA from BLM Road 6516, east to Dyer Well.
—Stookey Flat Road, from intersection of Gosney Road and Arnold Market Road in a southeast direction to the intersection with BLM Road 6516.
—Ford Road, a continuation of BLM Road 6516 to the Forest Road 2015.
—Forest Road 2015.
—Forest Road 2015–500 from Forest Road 2015 south to Forest Road 18.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The Bureau of Land Management, Prineville District, P.O. Box 550, Prineville Oregon 97754, telephone 541-416-6700.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The authority for this closure is 43 CFR 8341.2 and 43 CFR 8364.1. Violations of this closure order are punishable by a fine not to exceed $1,000 and/or imprisonment not to exceed 12 months as provided in 43 CFR 8360.0–7.

Dated: May 12, 1998.

Danny L. Tippy,
Acting District Manager.

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