

## **Appendix C Scoping Letters and Responses**





# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
Snake River Area Office  
230 Collins Road  
Boise, Idaho 83702-4520

FEB 27 2007



SRA-6121  
ENV-1.00

**Subject: Scoping of Issues for Proposed Transfer of Title for Bureau of Reclamation Drainage Facilities to the Pioneer Irrigation District, Boise Project, Idaho**

Dear Interested Party:

At the request of the Pioneer Irrigation District (PID), the Bureau of Reclamation is considering a proposal to transfer title for certain Federal drains and associated real property interests to PID. The facilities and land interests included in this proposal are limited to those Reclamation-owned facilities which are operated and maintained by PID and which lie within the PID boundary. Reclamation and PID have identified you as a party with a potential interest in the proposed transfer. A more detailed description of the proposed title transfer is included in the enclosed information.

PID is interested in pursuing title transfer in order to streamline operations and maintenance procedures and to enhance their management of the drainage system used to handle agricultural return flows. Although the District has fully paid off its repayment obligations for the Federally-owned portion of the drainage system, title remains with the United States. The proposed title transfer would reduce Reclamation's administrative, oversight, and liability burden for facilities that PID has operated and maintained since they were constructed or improved in the early 1900s. The proposed title transfer is consistent with Reclamation's commitment to a federal government that works better and costs less.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires Reclamation to evaluate the environmental impacts resulting from this action. In order to meet the requirements of NEPA and to help determine if transfer of these facilities are in the best interest of the public, Reclamation is asking for your assistance in identifying issues and concerns you may have about the proposed title transfer.

We invite you to send your written comments on this proposal to the Bureau of Reclamation, Snake River Area Office, Attention: Gretchen Fitzgerald, 230 Collins Road, Boise, Idaho 83702-4520 by March 21, 2007. If you have any questions concerning the proposal or the NEPA process, contact Gretchen Fitzgerald at 208-383-2231.

Sincerely,

Jerrold D. Gregg  
Area Manager

Enclosures





# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
Snake River Area Office  
230 Collins Road  
Boise, Idaho 83702-4520

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FEB 28 2007

Honorable Alonzo Coby, Chairman  
Fort Hall Business Council  
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes  
P.O. Box 306  
Fort Hall, ID 83203-0306

Subject: Scoping of Issues for Proposed Transfer of Title for Bureau of Reclamation Drainage Facilities to the Pioneer Irrigation District, Boise Project, Idaho

Dear Mr. Chairman:

At the request of the Pioneer Irrigation District (PID), the Bureau of Reclamation is considering a proposal to transfer title for certain Federal drains and associated real property interests to PID. The facilities and land interests included in this proposal are limited to those Reclamation-owned facilities which are operated and maintained by PID and which lie within the PID boundary. Reclamation and PID have identified the Tribes as a party with a potential interest in the proposed transfer. A more detailed description of the proposed title transfer is included in the enclosed information.

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Sincerely,

Jerrold D. Gregg  
Area Manager

ACTING FOR

Enclosures

cc: See next page.

cc: Carolyn Boyer Smith  
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes - HETO  
P.O. Box 306  
Fort Hall, ID 83203-0306

Jo'Etta Buckhouse  
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes - HETO  
P.O. Box 306  
Fort Hall, ID 83203-0306  
(w/encls to each above)



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ENV-1.00

# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
Snake River Area Office  
230 Collins Road  
Boise, Idaho 83702-4520

FEB 28 2007



Honorable Kyle Prior, Chairman  
Shoshone - Paiute Tribal Council  
P.O. Box 219  
Owyhee, NV 89832

Subject: Scoping of Issues for Proposed Transfer of Title for Bureau of Reclamation Drainage Facilities to the Pioneer Irrigation District, Boise Project, Idaho

Dear Mr. Chairman:

At the request of the Pioneer Irrigation District (PID), the Bureau of Reclamation is considering a proposal to transfer title for certain Federal drains and associated real property interests to PID. The facilities and land interests included in this proposal are limited to those Reclamation-owned facilities which are operated and maintained by PID and which lie within the PID boundary. Reclamation and PID have identified the Tribes as a party with a potential interest in the proposed transfer. A more detailed description of the proposed title transfer is included in the enclosed information.

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We invite you to send your written comments on this proposal to the Bureau of Reclamation, Snake River Area Office, Attention: Gretchen Fitzgerald, 230 Collins Road, Boise, Idaho 83702-4520 by March 21, 2007. If you have any questions concerning the proposal or the NEPA process, contact Gretchen Fitzgerald at 208-383-2231.

Sincerely,

ACTING FOR

Jerrold D. Gregg  
Area Manager

Enclosures

cc: See next page.

cc: Lisa Jim, Acting CEO  
Shoshone-Paiute Tribes  
P.O. Box 219  
Owyhee, NV 89832

Ted Howard, Cultural Resources  
Shoshone-Paiute Tribes  
P.O. Box 219  
Owyhee, NV 89832  
(w/encls to each above)





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# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
Snake River Area Office  
230 Collins Road  
Boise, Idaho 83702-4520

FEB 28 2007



Honorable Rebecca Miles, Chairman  
Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee  
P.O. Box 305  
Lapwai, ID 83540-0305

Subject: Scoping of Issues for Proposed Transfer of Title for Bureau of Reclamation Drainage Facilities to the Pioneer Irrigation District, Boise Project, Idaho

Dear Madame Chairman:

At the request of the Pioneer Irrigation District (PID), the Bureau of Reclamation is considering a proposal to transfer title for certain Federal drains and associated real property interests to PID. The facilities and land interests included in this proposal are limited to those Reclamation-owned facilities which are operated and maintained by PID and which lie within the PID boundary. Reclamation and PID have identified the Tribe as a party with a potential interest in the proposed transfer. A more detailed description of the proposed title transfer is included in the enclosed information.

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The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires Reclamation to evaluate the environmental impacts resulting from this action. In order to meet the requirements of NEPA and to help determine if transfer of these facilities are in the best interest of the public, Reclamation is asking for the Tribe's assistance in identifying issues and concerns you may have about the proposed title transfer.

We invite you to send your written comments on this proposal to the Bureau of Reclamation, Snake River Area Office, Attention: Gretchen Fitzgerald, 230 Collins Road, Boise, Idaho 83702-4520 by March 21, 2007. If you have any questions concerning the proposal or the NEPA process, contact Gretchen Fitzgerald at 208-383-2231.

Sincerely,

ACTING FOR

Jerrold D. Gregg  
Area Manager

Enclosures

cc: See next page.

cc: Vera Sonneck  
Nez Perce Tribe  
P.O. Box 365  
Lapwai, ID 83540-0305

Josiah Pinkham  
Nez Perce Tribe  
P.O. Box 365  
Lapwai, ID 83540-0305  
(w/encls to each above)

## Response List to PID Comments

Agency/Organization	Concerns
Idaho State Parks & Recreation (Jeff Cook)	Rights-of-way and easements/pathway construction remain Reclamation
Ada County (John Caywood)	Pathways-convey to cities and counties
Hamilton, Michaelson & Hilty (Mark Hilty/Naida Kelleher)	Cities right to discharge run-off into historical waterways
Canyon County Parks, Rec. & Waterways (Tom Bicak)	Pathways
Foundation Ada/Canyon Trail Systems (Judy Peavey)	Limited success recreation use of canal bank – Opposed
ACHD (Steven Price/ Ericka Malmen-Perkins Coie)	Stormwater run-off, taxpayer interests, public aspects
Public Works – City of Nampa (Michael Fuss)	Pathways, utility easements and urban drainage
Public Works – City of Boise (Charles Mikelson)	Document requirements, drainage, transfer to local units of government
Spectrum Environmental Inc. (Rick Wells)	No reasonable steward of the drains, obstacle to use and development
Jim Budolfson	What PID has repaid U.S. for cost of facilities? Provide pathways.
Public Works – City of Caldwell (Gordon Law)	No objection, contingent on retention of drainage interests
Idaho Water Users Association (Norman Semanko)	Strongly supports transfer

