

the river will be managed by the State of Oregon at no cost to the federal government, except for those lands currently managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

For a state-managed river to be eligible for the National System, four conditions must be met: (1) The river is already designated as part of a state river protection system; (2) the river has at least one "outstandingly remarkable" natural, cultural or recreational resource—i.e., a resource of regional or national significance—and is free-flowing as defined by the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture; (3) the state has adequate mechanisms in place to protect the resources for which the river is eligible for the National System; and (4) the state has the institutional framework to manage the river at no cost to the federal government, except for those lands already in federal management.

The National Park Service (NPS) is responsible for making determinations of eligibility under section 2(a)(ii). The NPS Pacific West Field Area conducted a study, with the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) acting as cooperating agencies. In April of 1995, the NPS released the Draft Wallowa River 2(a)(ii) Wild & Scenic River Study for public review and comment. A period for public comment was provided from April 21, 1995, to June 22, 1995. The draft report was finalized based on comments received.

Simultaneous with the release of the draft report, the NPS announced it was adopting the Wallowa River Wild and Scenic River Study Report and Final Legislative Environmental Impact Statement (LEIS) in fulfillment of National Environmental Policy Act requirements. The LEIS was prepared by the USFS, with the NPS and BLM acting as cooperating agencies. The LEIS was prepared at the direction of Congress under the 1988 Oregon Omnibus Rivers Act which mandated that the USFS study the Wallowa River for possible inclusion into the National System. The Preferred Alternative of the LEIS was designation of the river as wild and scenic through section 2(a)(ii), subsequently leading to Governor Roberts' request. The USFS filed the LEIS with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on July 14, 1995, and notice was provided in the Federal Register on July 21, 1995. Simultaneously, the NPS filed with the EPA its notice of adoption of the LEIS, and this was also notice in the Federal Register on July 21, 1995.

This action is taken following public involvement and consultation with the Departments of Agriculture, Army,

Energy and Transportation; the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; all Department of the Interior agencies; the National Marine Fisheries Services; the State of Oregon; the EPA; and all other Federal agencies that might have an interest.

Based on the recommendations of the NPS and a review of all relevant documents, I have determined that the 10-mile stretch of the Wallowa River should be designated as a state-administered component of the National System, as provided for in section 2(a)(ii) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Notice is hereby given that effective upon this date, the segment of the Wallowa River from the confluence of the Wallowa and Minam Rivers in the hamlet of Minam downstream to the confluence of the Wallowa and Grande Ronde Rivers is approved for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System as a National Recreational River.

Dated: July 23, 1996.

Bruce Babbitt,

Secretary of the Interior.

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## Fish and Wildlife Service

### Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment for the Eradication of the Nonnative Red Shiner in the Virgin River, Utah

**AGENCY:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of document availability.

**SUMMARY:** The Fish and Wildlife Service announces the availability for public review of the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Eradication of the Nonnative Red Shiner (*Cyprinella lutrensis*) in the Virgin River, Utah.

**DATES:** Comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment must be received on or before September 12, 1996 to be considered by the Service during preparation of the final environmental assessment.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments and requests for copies of the Draft Environmental Assessment should be addressed to the Assistant Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 145 East 1300 South, Suite 404, Salt Lake City, Utah 84115. Comments and materials received will be available on request for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Robert D. Williams, Assistant Field Supervisor (see **ADDRESSES** section) (telephone 801/524-5002).

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

### Background

The red shiner (*Cyprinella lutrensis*) is a small minnow native from the North Central United States to northeastern Mexico. It was introduced into the lower Colorado River Basin as a bait fish in the early 1950's, and since then has invaded most of the Colorado River system, including the Virgin River system. Until the 1980's, the red shiner was confined to the lower Virgin River system, in Arizona and Nevada, below the Virgin River Gorge, which is usually dewatered during the dry summer months. In 1984 red shiner were discovered above the Gorge, in southwestern Utah, and have since then become the dominant fish species in the 33.6 km (21 mi) river reach between the Virgin River Gorge and Washington Fields Diversion.

The red shiner has been implicated in the decline of the endangered woundfin (*Plagopterus argentissimus*) and Virgin River chub (*Gila seminuda*), and in the decline of the Virgin spinedace (*Lepidomeda mollispinis mollispinis*), a species of concern. The Virgin River Fishes Recovery Plan and the Virgin Spinedace Conservation Agreement have identified the eradication of red shiner in the Virgin River system as a recovery and conservation activity necessary to ensure the longterm survival of the native fishes of the Virgin River. The Draft Environmental Assessment outlines a plan for the eradication of red shiner from the Virgin River system, Utah.

### Public Comments Solicited

Comments or suggestions from the public, other concerned governmental agencies, the scientific community, industry, or any other interested party concerning this draft document are hereby solicited. All comments and materials received will be considered in the preparation of the final environmental assessment.

**Author:** The primary author of this notice is Janet Mizzi (see **ADDRESSES** section) (telephone 801/524-501).

**Authority:** The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. *et seq.*).

Dated: August 6, 1996.

Terry T. Terrel,

Deputy Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.

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