

6.0 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

The consultation and coordination process for the WTP EIS was initiated with public scoping. A legal NOI was published in the Federal Register on August 26, 2005. The BLM prepared a scoping information notice and provided copies of it to Federal, State, and local agencies, the Ute Tribe, and the general public. Announcements of the scoping opportunities were sent to the Vernal Express, Uintah Basin Standard, Deseret News, Denver Post, and Salt Lake Tribune for publication; local Vernal, Utah radio stations for announcement; and Channel 6 (the local Vernal television station), for announcement. These announcements included information on public scoping and information open houses, which were held October 18, 2005 at the Holiday Inn in Price; October 19, 2005 at the Museum of Ancient Life in Lehi; and October 20, 2005 at the Roosevelt Campus of Utah State University in Roosevelt. The official scoping period ended November 4, 2005.

The Price Field Office received several scoping letters commenting on the WTP Proposed Action. The contents of these letters may be found in the project record at the Price Field Office. The concerns and comments about the proposed project are summarized in **Section 1.7.1** of this EIS.

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The following Tribes, agencies, and organizations were contacted or consulted with during the scoping process and the preparation of the EIS:

Tribes

Northern Ute Indian Tribe
Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Mountain Ute Indian Tribe
Hopi Tribe, multiple chapters of the Navajo Nation
Paiute Indian Tribe
Pueblo of Laguna
Pueblo of Zia
Pueblo of Zuni
Jicarilla Apache Tribe
Pueblo of Acoma
Pueblo of Santa Clara

Federal Offices

National Park Service
U.S. Forest Service
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs

State Offices

Utah Public Lands Policy Coordination Office
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
Utah Department of Environmental Quality
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration
State Historic Preservation Office

6.2 CONSULTATION RESULTS

Formal Tribal consultation and coordination with the Northern Ute Indian Tribe, Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Mountain Ute Indian Tribe, Hopi Tribe, multiple chapters of the Navajo Nation, Paiute Indian Tribe, Pueblo of Laguna, Pueblo of Zia, Pueblo of Zuni, Jicarilla Apache Tribe, Pueblo of Acoma, and Pueblo of Santa Clara has been ongoing throughout the EIS process.

The Section 106 consultation process with the Utah SHPO has been initiated and is presently ongoing. This process has thus far involved two meetings between the SHPO and members of the project team, and two site visits to the WTP Project Area. In addition, the SHPO has been provided with a copy of the Class I Cultural Resource Literature Review (Whitfield et al. 2006). Consultation between the SHPO and the project team will continue throughout the entire Section 106 review of cultural resources within the WTP Project Area.

Formal Section 7 consultation with the USFWS will be completed prior to the signing of the ROD. Informal consultation has been on going for the WTP project since the USFWS joined the project as a formal Cooperating Agency. Several meetings between BLM and the USFWS have occurred to discuss project issues and alternative development in relationship to species protected under the ESA.

Consultation with Indian Tribes, the SHPO, and the USFWS will not be completed until after the review of this EIS and/or relevant documentations have been completed (e.g., signed Biological Opinion). As appropriate, results of formal consultations will be documented in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and/or ROD.