
**Draft Environmental Assessment
for Clark Canyon Reservoir and Barretts Diversion Dam**

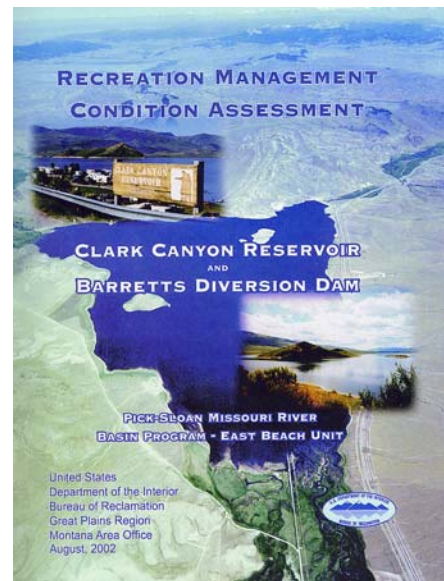
***Chapter 2
Alternatives***

2.0 Alternatives

This chapter presents the alternatives being considered for the Clark Canyon Reservoir and Barretts Diversion Dam RMP. It describes the No Action Alternative and two action alternatives in detail and includes a summary comparison. This chapter also documents the process and considerations for selection of a preferred alternative further addressed in the accompanying RMP. An alternatives development and screening process has been used to identify and screen options for future management of the recreational, cultural, and developmental resources which will help address a variety of public and agency interests and needs. The alternatives considered were developed using input obtained from interested parties during a series of public scoping workshops held for the project in three locations (Idaho Falls, Idaho; Butte, Montana; and Dillon, Montana) during the fall of 2002. The alternatives consist of a combination of recreation facility improvements and land management options. It should be noted that Reclamation does not have the authority, nor does Reclamation intend to independently construct all recreation facility improvements identified in the RMP alternatives under consideration. Instead, Reclamation would solicit co-sponsor(s) or managing partner(s) to implement many of the facility improvements assuming certain cost share conditions were met.

2.1 Alternatives Development

As part of the resource management planning process, a screening process was implemented to analyze a range of possible facilities development and redevelopment plans, and natural resource management planning options. The findings of Reclamation's August 2002 "Recreation Management Condition Assessment" provides further information on specific management actions deemed relevant and appropriate to address future development options at Clark Canyon Reservoir. From these analyses, a wide range of management actions have been identified. Management actions are specific tasks intended to guide Reclamation management and managing partners in the activities required to properly manage Reclamation lands.



The screening process to select possible management actions is a multi-step process that involves the consideration of many factors including:

- Opportunities for management and development,
- Constraints for management and development,
- Reclamation policies and authorities,
- Existing evaluations such as the 2002 Recreation Management Condition Assessment (see figure below),
- Comments and other public input obtained during the fall of 2002 scoping meetings and through the ongoing public involvement program; and
- Agency and local government needs and requirements.

Through a screening process that carefully evaluated each of the above listed factors, a series of alternative management actions at each recreation and/or management unit have been identified. Based on the type and extent of the action considered, these management actions were combined into no-action, moderate-level, and maximum-level development categories. The combined actions identified by recreation site and land area at Clark Canyon Reservoir provide a broad range of choices in guiding the management and near term development or redevelopment of Clark Canyon Reservoir facilities. The actions within alternatives are grouped according to resource category (recreation, cultural, and land resources). Table 2.1-1 provides a summary of each alternative by management unit or recreation facility location. Management actions in Table 2.1-1 are considered reasonable and appropriate actions that can be pursued for effective management of these lands over the next 10 years. Inclusion of these actions does not ensure funding, staff, or equipment will be available to implement these actions nor does it obligate Reclamation to implement actions in the future. As described above, Reclamation does not have direct authority to undertake certain recreational improvements without the assistance of a managing partner.

The following capital improvement costs were derived using the cost estimates provided in the 2002 Recreation Management Condition Assessment. These costs are rough estimates based on similar facility improvement line item projects found in the Recreation Management Condition Assessment Report. As estimates, they are suitable for this feasibility level of analysis. Depending on more finalized design, the estimates could vary by -30 to + 50 percent. Operation and Maintenance costs are expected to vary from \$200,000 to \$400,000 annually, depending on level of facility development and resulting visitation levels and associated maintenance needs.

Capital Improvements Estimated Costs For Each Alternative

Alternative A – No Action	Alt. B – Moderate Resource Development	Alt. C – Maximum Resource Development
\$100,000	\$1,000,000	\$4,250,000

TABLE 2.1-1 CLARK CANYON RESERVOIR AND BARRETTS DIVERSION DAM RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES			
Location ¹	No Action Alternative ²	Alternative A Moderate Resource Development	Alternative B Maximum Resource Development
Recreation Resources			
Barretts Diversion Dam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continued maintenance of existing facilities, including minor repairs and replacement as funding available over time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Add topsoil and better turf grass mix near diversion. ➤ Add accessible path to existing group shelter. ➤ Pave parking spot in front of toilet and pave path from parking area to existing toilet to make both ADA accessible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Implement improvements identified under Alternative A. ➤ Reconstruct 3 campsites to provide level parking spurs to accommodate RVs.⁴ ➤ Pave parking lot.⁴ ➤ Convert hand-pump to pressurized water system and install spigots.⁴
Beaverhead River Fishing Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continued maintenance of existing facilities, including minor repairs and replacement as funding available over time. ➤ Close non-essential roads, improve parking area, and delineate parking spaces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Improve access road to address erosion and safety concerns. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Implement improvements identified under Alternative A. ➤ Add accessible parking to the parking area and add a trail from the parking area to the wildlife viewing area. ➤ Install chlorinated pressurized water system. ➤ Relocate camp area and designate with some turf grass mix and landscaping. Install watering system for turf grass and landscaping in camp area. Set back camping area to allow better access to nature viewing area.⁴

¹ See Clark Canyon Reservoir Site Map and Barretts Diversion Dam Park Map (Figure 1.0-1)

² Defined as a continuation of current practices – (i.e., maintenance, replacement and repair of existing facilities). Replacements occurring due to Lewis & Clark celebration than they likely would continue in the short-term future. Deferred maintenance will be done when money becomes available. A new access road into Camp Fortunate Overlook from SR 324 will be constructed

³ Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks

⁴ Alternative requires a managing partner to fully implement. Reclamation does not have the authority to perform certain recreational improvements without the assistance of a managing partner.

TABLE 2-1 (continued)
CLARK CANYON RESERVOIR AND BARRETTS DIVERSION DAM
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES SCREENING

Location ¹	No Action Alternative ²	Alternative A Moderate Resource Development	Alternative B Maximum Resource Development
Recreation Resources (continued)			
Buffalo Bridge Fishing Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continued maintenance of existing access road/area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Add signage and better delineate parking area below bridge and in upper parking area to improve periodic congested conditions. ➤ Add accessible walkway to toilet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Add paved accessible walkway to toilet; ➤ Expand existing parking area below bridge to relieve overcrowding. ➤ Define and enlarge upper parking area along access road. ➤ Widen access road to reduce congestion near private RV park.
Marina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continued maintenance of existing facilities, including minor repairs and replacement as funding available over time. ➤ Continue use of campground host and evaluate need and feasibility of marina operator on a case by case basis ➤ New approved interpretive displays to be added on south side marina facility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continue use of campground host and evaluate need and feasibility of marina operator on a case-by-case basis. ➤ Upgrade the existing marina by improving water supply system, planting additional shade trees and providing drip irrigation, and provide minor improvements to RV camping and parking sites. ➤ Continue to provide camping opportunities under existing conditions, collect fees with iron ranger. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continue use of campground host and evaluate need and feasibility of marina operator on a case by case basis ➤ Refurbish marina campground to attract more campers for marina operator business. Capital improvements would include better delineation of parking spurs, planting trees, installing watering system, excavating, dredging the existing marina to provide extended use during drought periods; Replace or refurbish store, and improving all facilities as necessary to achieve current health/safety code requirements. ➤ Install new ADA accessible boat docks.⁴

¹ See Clark Canyon Reservoir Site Map and Barretts Diversion Dam Park Map (Figure 1.0-1)

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TABLE 2-1 (continued)
CLARK CANYON RESERVOIR AND BARRETTS DIVERSION DAM
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES SCREENING

Location ¹	No Action Alternative ²	Alternative A Moderate Resource Development	Alternative B Maximum Resource Development
Recreation Resources (continued)			
Lewis & Clark Day Use Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continued maintenance of existing facilities, including minor repairs and replacement as funding available over time. ➤ Improve access road into Camp Fortunate Overlook from SR 324 to correct unsafe ingress/egress as designed in 2002. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Convert to day use area and eliminate camping uses due to road change. Remove “Campground” from name and signage to reflect day use only. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Implement improvements identified under Alternative A.
Beaverhead Campground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continued maintenance of existing facilities, including minor repairs and replacement as funding available over time. ➤ Maintain low-water boat ramp for drought periods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maintain low-water boat ramp for drought periods. ➤ Replace group use shelter at north end of campground. ➤ Pave sidewalks to toilets to make them ADA accessible and connect them with accessible parking spaces. ➤ Improve landscaping around 4 shelters and place concrete pad inside 4 shelters to make them ADA accessible. ➤ Add gravel and delineate low water boat ramp parking. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Implement improvements identified under Alternative A. ➤ Reconstruct entire campground with 50 sites total (25 in Loop A and 25 in Loop B). Install pressurized water system and add more spigots, but leave hand pumps for off-season use.⁴ ➤ Update parking area at the north end to double the width and update loop to reduce dust from traffic. ➤ Install new ADA accessible shelters and ADA accessible picnic tables at each site.⁴ ➤ Investigate and evaluate the charging of a use fee for the campground.

¹ See Clark Canyon Reservoir Site Map and Barretts Diversion Dam Park Map (Figure 1.0-1)

² Defined as a continuation of current practices – (i.e., maintenance, replacement and repair of existing facilities). Replacements occurring due to Lewis & Clark celebration than they likely would continue in the short-term future. Deferred maintenance will be done when money becomes available. A new access road into Camp Fortunate Overlook from SR 324 will be constructed

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TABLE 2-1 (continued) CLARK CANYON RESERVOIR AND BARRETTS DIVERSION DAM RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES SCREENING			
Location ¹	No Action Alternative ²	Alternative A Moderate Resource Development	Alternative B Maximum Resource Development
Recreation Resources (continued)			
Camp Fortunate Overlook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continued maintenance of existing facilities, including minor repairs and replacement as funding available over time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Improve interpretive facilities to better reflect Camp Fortunate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Implement improvements identified under Alternative A. ➤ Refurbish/renovate stone shelter.
Sacajawea Day Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continued maintenance of existing area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Close non-essential roads. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Improve parking area and delineate parking spaces.
Horse Prairie Campground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continued maintenance of existing facilities, including minor repairs and replacement as funding available over time. ➤ Replace barrier posts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Add gravel to all current designated parking sites. ➤ Designate campsite spaces at Horse Prairie East. ➤ Replace jack leg fencing to restrict ORV use. ➤ Repair boat ramp and channel streambed away from the boat ramp to minimize future erosion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Implement improvements identified under Alternative A. ➤ Reconstruct entire Horse Prairie East and West Campgrounds with a total of 25 sites. This will include the installation of new ADA accessible shelters and ADA accessible picnic tables at each site.⁴
Cameahwait Campground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continued maintenance of existing facilities, including minor repairs and replacement as funding available over time. ➤ Close non-essential roads to minimize ORV use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Add accessible parking and walkway to toilet. ➤ Close non-essential roads to minimize ORV use. ➤ Replace shelters with ADA accessible shelters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Implement improvements identified under Alternative A. ➤ Reconstruct entire campground to make level ADA accessible parking areas and areas to accommodate RVs. This will include the installation of new ADA accessible shelters and ADA accessible picnic tables at each site.⁴

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TABLE 2-1 (continued) CLARK CANYON RESERVOIR AND BARRETTS DIVERSION DAM RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES SCREENING			
Location ¹	No Action Alternative ²	Alternative A Moderate Resource Development	Alternative B Maximum Resource Development
Recreation Resources (continued)			
West Cameahwait Campground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continued maintenance of existing facilities, including minor repairs and replacement as funding available over time. ➤ Close non-essential roads to minimize ORV use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Close non-essential roads to minimize ORV use. ➤ Replace 2 shelters with ADA accessible shelters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Implement improvements identified under Alternative A.
Hap Hawkins Campground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continued maintenance of existing facilities, including minor repairs and replacement as funding available over time. ➤ Remove “amphitheater” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Refurbish/renovate existing shelter. ➤ Add accessible walkways to toilets and connect them with accessible parking space. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Implement improvements identified under Alternative A.
Lone Tree Campground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continued maintenance of existing facilities, including minor repairs and replacement as funding available over time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Add signage to delineate camping areas. ➤ Add new well and hand pump for increased water supply. ➤ Add accessible toilet for safety and health. ➤ Add accessible walkways to toilets and connect them with accessible parking spaces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Implement improvements identified under Alternative A. ➤ Redesign entire campground with 40 sites. Install new shelters and tables at each site.⁴ ➤ Plant trees and install electrical power and drip irrigation system. Explore the use of a solar drip system. ➤ Add additional gravel to road and parking area.

¹ See Clark Canyon Reservoir Site Map and Barretts Diversion Dam Park Map (Figure 1.0-1)

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TABLE 2-1 (continued) CLARK CANYON RESERVOIR AND BARRETTS DIVERSION DAM RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES SCREENING			
Location ¹	No Action Alternative ²	Alternative A Moderate Resource Development	Alternative B Maximum Resource Development
Recreation Resources (continued)			
South Shore Fishing Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continued maintenance of existing facilities, including minor repairs and replacement as funding available over time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No improvements have been identified; therefore, none would be implemented. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No improvements have been identified; therefore, none would be implemented.
Red Rock Fishing Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continued maintenance of existing facilities, including minor repairs and replacement as funding available over time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Expand existing parking area to meet demand. ➤ Add accessible toilet for improved sanitation. ➤ Add accessible walkway to toilet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Implement improvements identified under Alternative A.
Armstead Island Campground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continued maintenance of existing facilities, including minor repairs and replacement as funding available over time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Replace picnic tables. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Implement improvements identified under Alternative A. ➤ Add new composting toilet. ➤ Replace covered shelter.

¹ See Clark Canyon Reservoir Site Map and Barretts Diversion Dam Park Map (Figure 1.0-1)

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CLARK CANYON RESERVOIR AND BARRETTS DIVERSION DAM
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES SCREENING

Location ¹	No Action Alternative ²	Alternative A Moderate Resource Development	Alternative B Maximum Resource Development
Land Resources			
Horse Prairie Creek Mouth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continued management of existing lands as Wildlife Management Areas. ➤ Continue to exclude grazing and ORV uses. ➤ Minor fencing repairs and replacement as funding available over time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Introduce periodic prescriptive cattle grazing. ➤ Obtain “benchmark” vegetation status and monitor vegetation recovery and changes. ➤ Continue to exclude ORV uses. ➤ Plant cotton woods & willows along waterways 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Implement actions identified under Alternative A. ➤ Plant cottonwood trees, willow and other native vegetation along newer stream courses. ➤ Evaluate removing abandoned railroad bridge blocking old stream channel & re-routing channel to provide water to dying cottonwoods & willows or provide water control structure. ➤ Develop a vegetative recovery plan to stimulate vigor in desirable perennial plants and reduce noxious weed dominance. ➤ Rebuild south boundary fence where it is in need of repair
Red Rock River Mouth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continued management of existing lands for fishing, hunting and wildlife viewing access, and administrative access and use of MFWP Fish Trap facility. ➤ Minor fencing and gravel parking area repairs and replacement as funding available over time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continued management of existing lands for fishing, hunting and wildlife viewing access, and administrative access and use of MFWP Fish Trap facility. ➤ Increase noxious weed control along old railroad grade. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Implement improvements identified under Alternative A. ➤ Demolish old roadway and remove pavement remnants; revegetate abandoned roadway with native species. ➤ Increase noxious weed control along south boundary fence and along Red Rock Creek.

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TABLE 2-1 (continued) CLARK CANYON RESERVOIR AND BARRETTS DIVERSION DAM RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES SCREENING			
Location ¹	No Action Alternative ²	Alternative A Moderate Resource Development	Alternative B Maximum Resource Development
Land Resources (continued)			
South Side Open Lands -Lone Tree to Hap Hawkins Campground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continued management of existing lands to exclude cattle and ORV uses. ➤ Minor fencing repairs and replacement as funding available over time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continued management of existing lands to exclude cattle and ORV uses. ➤ Minor fencing repairs and replacement as funding available over time. ➤ Replace/rehabilitate existing fencing to improve antelope passage in areas along migration and use corridors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Implement improvements identified under Alternative A. ➤ Extend Jack-leg fencing east of Lone Tree access road while maintaining antelope passages.
North Side Open Lands – Dam to Cameahwait	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continued maintenance of fencing. ➤ Continued open range uses above SR 324. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continued maintenance of fencing. ➤ Continued open range uses above SR 324 ➤ Add new uniform signing for closures to off highway vehicles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Implement improvements identified under Alternative A.

¹ See Clark Canyon Reservoir Site Map and Barretts Diversion Dam Park Map (Figure 1.0-1)

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TABLE 2-1 (continued) CLARK CANYON RESERVOIR AND BARRETTS DIVERSION DAM RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES SCREENING			
Location ¹	No Action Alternative ²	Alternative A Moderate Resource Development	Alternative B Maximum Resource Development
Land Resources (continued)			
East Side Lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maintain public access for existing roads on Reclamation owned lands and lands that Reclamation has an easement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maintain public access for existing roads on Reclamation owned lands and lands that Reclamation has an easement. ➤ Install fencing to delineate all easement lands from the Buffalo Lodge to a point approximately 5 miles to the south. ➤ Remove all obstructions, such as cattle guards and gates, in the road that imply private ownership from the Buffalo Lodge to a point approximately 5 miles to the south. This includes all lands owned by Reclamation and all easements lands located on the East side of I-15. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Implement improvements identified under Alternative A.
Beaverhead River Lands Below Dam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continued management of existing lands to support Watchable Wildlife Viewing Area and Beaverhead River Access and Camping areas. ➤ Continued noxious weed management activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No new land management changes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pave main access road, rehabilitate drainage and erosion control features, and add guardrails. ➤ Identify various actions to improve area; including, but not limited to trail design, trail surface improvements, and flora/fauna interpretation.

¹ See Clark Canyon Reservoir Site Map and Barretts Diversion Dam Park Map (Figure 1.0-1)

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TABLE 2-1 (continued) CLARK CANYON RESERVOIR AND BARRETTS DIVERSION DAM RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES SCREENING			
Location¹	No Action Alternative²	Alternative A Moderate Resource Development	Alternative B Maximum Resource Development
Cultural Resources			
Clark Canyon Reservoir Cultural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continued Section 106 clearances as required by undertakings ➤ Continue low water shoreline surveys, when applicable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Develop an interpretive program for history of the area. This would include interpretive signs placed at existing public locations; such as campgrounds and access sites. ➤ Develop a Cultural Resources Management Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continue all activities listed in No Action Alternative and Alternative A Mid-Level Development ➤ Develop an Auto Tour Route for interpretation of Prehistoric and Historic uses of the area. This would include, but not limited to brochures, highway signage, and interpretive signs. ➤ Continue all activities listed in “No Action Alternative”

¹ See Clark Canyon Reservoir Site Map and Barretts Diversion Dam Park Map (Figure 1.0-1)

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2.2 Alternatives Considered in Detail

2.2.1 No Action Alternative

As identified in Table 2.1-1, the No Action Alternative is defined as a continuation of current practices. On-going maintenance and associated replacement or repair of existing facilities would continue under this alternative. Some replacement of facilities/structures associated with the Lewis & Clark celebration would likely continue in the short term; however, deferred maintenance will be done only when money becomes available. This alternative also includes a new access road into Camp Fortunate Overlook from State Route 324 (SR 324) since funding for this work is already secured and construction underway.

The No Action Alternative also includes minor improvements to parking areas, and delineation of parking spaces at the Beaverhead River Fishing Access site. Reclamation would also maintain the low-water boat ramp at Beaverhead Campground for use during drought periods. Under this alternative, Reclamation would continue as a campground host at the Marina and evaluate the need and feasibility of a marina operator on a case by case basis.

At Horse Prairie Campground exist barrier posts would be replaced and funding becomes available and other similar minor, but needed improvements would be done at the other recreation sites around the reservoir. At the Beaverhead River fishing access site, Cameahwait Campground, West Cameahwait Campground and at Horse Prairie Creek Mouth, Reclamation would close non-essential road to minimize off-road vehicle use.

2.2.2 Alternative A – Moderate Level Alternative

Alternative A includes improvements and management actions that could reasonably be accomplished within the 10-year planning period given current economic conditions and previous levels of available funds for capitol improvements. This alternative focuses on identifying those improvements that would meet the most pressing needs and priorities, which were identified during the project scoping process by reservoir users and by Reclamation. This alternative also includes improvements that would better facilitate attracting a managing partner for the existing marina operation. Elements of this alternative seek to solve some existing problems with facility layout, access, or deferred maintenance on structures or facilities. This moderate level alternative has been selected by Reclamation as the Preferred Alternative. The following is a brief discussion of the elements of this proposal for each geographic area and resource category.

2.2.2.1 Recreation Resources

Barretts Diversion Dam– Barretts Diversion Dam is a very popular day use area used for day use activities including: weddings, group picnicking, and fishing. Several relatively simple improvements have been identified that would make the area more usable and accessible. Under Alternative A, minor improvements to the park area would include improving the landscape grass near the diversion dam and addition of an American’s with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible path and parking area leading to the existing toilet.

Beaverhead River Fishing Access – Beaverhead River Fishing Access is frequently used site situated immediately below Clark Canyon Dam. Compared to most other areas around the reservoir, this area is lush with vegetation and is used by anglers, campers, bird watchers, and other wildlife observers. The area is also a popular put-in location for anglers with drift boats. Access to the site is from a steep, winding road that begins near the top of Clark Canyon Dam. Under Alternative A, the recommended improvement would be to improve the access road down to the fishing/camping area to address erosion and safety concerns.



Buffalo Bridge Fishing Access – The Buffalo Bridge Fishing Access is heavily used during the fishing season. The site is not signed, but is well known and accessed from the east side of I-15 it then crosses under the freeway bridge that spans the Beaverhead River just below the dam. During the fishing season, the area is often congested and difficult to use, especially when anglers are trying to launch their boats. To help alleviate this and other problems, signs would be installed to better delineate the parking areas below the bridge, as well as, in the area above the bridge where cars and trailers typically park. Under this alternative, the existing gravel path would be replaced with an accessible walkway to the toilet.

Marina – The existing marina is limited in use by several factors, the primary factor being that there is no current operator (concessionaire). However, the marina facility is still used for motor home, or Recreation Vehicle (RV), overnight use. Until the spring of 2002, the facility was operated by a private operator under a concession agreement with the Reclamation. The concessionaire provided gas, oil, boating supplies, mooring slips, and some groceries. In the past 15 years, there have been several different concessionaires who attempted to operate the marina successfully, but they all had difficulties making it a successful business venture. Currently, there appears to be little interest given the investment that would be required to upgrade the facility to modern standards. The need for an operator has been identified as critical if the marina is to remain an amenity at the reservoir, but Reclamation recognizes that improvements to the current facility will be needed in order to attract a new concessionaire. This alternative addresses some of the needs at the marina facility such as improving the water supply system, providing more shade trees and irrigation, and making some minor improvements to the RV use and parking sites. Under this alternative, overnight use would continue to be allowed with a nominal fee imposed.

Lewis & Clark Campground – The existing Lewis & Clark Campground site provides for overnight camping uses, but the area receives low use. Under Alternative A, the camping would be eliminated as a result of the currently planned relocation of the Camp Fortunate Overlook access road through the site, thus the area will be converted to day use to provide better compatibility and integration with the two adjoining sites. A new sign would be installed to designate it as a day use area and the existing units can be used for day use shelters and picnic sites.

Beaverhead Campground – Beaverhead Campground is the most popular and conveniently accessible camping site at the reservoir.



Under Alternative A, several improvements would be implemented to provide improved low-water boat access, upgrade existing picnic shelters, improve ADA access (i.e., access in compliance with the requirements of the American's with Disabilities Act¹) to the toilets, improve landscaping near existing shelters, and better delineate the low-water boat ramp parking.

Camp Fortunate Overlook - The Camp Fortunate Overlook is increasingly used for educational and interpretative uses celebrating the Lewis and Clark Expeditions of 1804-1806. The facility is also used for passive recreation (limited trail use) and provides

excellent views of the reservoir. Modification anticipated under this alternative includes improving the interpretive facilities to better reflect the historic qualities of Camp Fortunate.

Sacajawea Day Use – The Sacajawea Day Use is a dispersed recreation site that currently consists of a series of dirt roads leading from SR 324 to the waters edge. The site is somewhat barren other than a few juniper trees standing alongside the footprint of a cabin that once existed in the area. Proposed improvements to the Sacajawea Day Use would be limited to closing non-essential roads within the area.

Horse Prairie Campground - Horse Prairie Campground is used for camping and fishing access on the north side of the reservoir. Moderate resource improvements identified for the area would provide improved parking and camp site designations, new jack-leg fencing to restrict Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) traffic, and include repairs to the existing boat ramp as well as other measures to address areas of erosion along the portion of Horse Prairie Creek within the campground.

Cameahwait and West Cameahwait Campground – The moderate resource improvements identified in Alternative A for Cameahwait Campground include improving ADA access to toilets and shelters and closing non-essential roads to minimize ORV use. Similar improvements are identified for West Cameahwait Campground.

Hap Hawkins Campground – Improvements identified in Alternative A for this somewhat remote campground on the south shore include refurbishing the existing group shelter and improving access to toilets by providing accessible walkways from the parking area.

Lone Tree Campground – Lone Tree Campground is a popular group camping area that serves as a base camp for fishing access to the reservoir as well as for large gatherings of campers in multiple groups that desire shared facilities. Improvements identified in Alternative A include adding signage to delineate camping areas, add new well and hand pump to improve and increase water supply and adding an ADA toilet that is accessible from the parking area.

¹ As published in the Title III regulations [28 CFR Part 36, revised July 1, 1994] issued by the Department of Justice and any subsequent amendments thereto.

Armstead Island – The isolation and lack of vehicular access to Armstead Island limits the type of improvements that can reasonably be provided. During the scoping meetings, several individuals and groups identified several improvements that would enhance the island as a recreational amenity. The moderate improvements identified for the island campground is to replace existing picnic tables that have fallen in disrepair.

South Shore Fishing Access – No improvements have been identified for the South Shore Fishing Access area as the area currently appears adequate to serve the public given the low level of use typically found at this location.

Red Rock Fishing Access - The Red Rock Fishing Access area is heavily used during peak fishing periods. The area is so well used with anglers that the existing parking area needs expansion to better meet peak demand and to provide an accessible toilet and walkway from the parking area. The old highway can be used as a boat launch during higher water.

2.2.2.2 Land Resources

All Reclamation Lands Surrounding Clark Canyon Reservoir – Limit firearm usage to shotgun, handgun, and black powder. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks is also considering this firearm restriction for hunting regulations around Clark Canyon Reservoir.

Horse Prairie Creek Mouth – The area near the mouth of Horse Prairie Creek as it enters the reservoir has the potential to provide added benefits to recreational users and wildlife that frequent the area. Currently, the ecological condition of the vegetation has declined in productivity and vigor. Weeds, such as Canadian thistle and whitetop, have increased in density. The sub-irrigated and wet meadow sites have very substantial amounts of litter accumulation that have essentially smothered the perennial plants such as rush and sedge. Most of the willows and cottonwoods in the area are dead or nearly dead. Even the wild rose is struggling to survive. Planting willows and cottonwoods along the waterways will help maintain future plant diversity that is currently in decline. The moderate resource improvements identified for the area include measures to improve the vegetation community by reducing residue accumulation by prescriptive grazing to stimulate new growth, control noxious weeds, and increasing the number native perennial plants in the area.



Red Rock River Mouth – The Red Rock River Mouth area is rich in riparian communities and small mammal and migrating bird habitat. The area is used by anglers, hunters, and wildlife viewers. Improvements identified in Alternative A include continuation of multi-use management of the area for hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing access. In addition, this alternative includes measures to reduce noxious weeds along the margin of the reservoir and along the old railroad grade as a means to increase the overall habitat value of the area.

South Side Open Lands – (Lone Tree to Hap Hawkins Campground) - Identified improvements under Alternative A for this vast area along the south side of the reservoir include a continuation of management practices to exclude cattle and off-road vehicle uses and repair of fencing on an as-needed basis. This alternative also includes replacement of existing fencing in areas along antelope migration and use corridors to improve access for this species.

North Side Open Lands – (Dam to West Cameahwait) – Moderate resource improvements for this area along the north side of the reservoir are limited to current management practices and addition of uniform signage to designated areas that are closed to off-road vehicles.

East Side Lands – Reclamation lands located east of the reservoir have been identified for the following improvements: maintenance of existing Reclamation public access roads and access road easements, installation of additional fencing to delineate easement lands near Buffalo Lodge, and removal of obstructions in the road that leads to confusion as to whether the land is privately or publicly owned.

Beaverhead River Lands Below Dam – No new land management changes are proposed under Alternative A for the Beaverhead River Lands below the dam.

2.2.2.3 Cultural Resources

Under Alternative A, Clark Canyon Reservoir cultural resources management would be improved through development of an interpretive program about the history of the area and the important role this area played in the Lewis & Clark expedition. The program would include interpretive signs installed at public locations. In addition, this alternative includes development of a Cultural Resources Management Plan.

2.2.3 Alternative B – Maximum Level Alternative

Alternative B includes a series of improvements and management actions that could reasonably be accomplished within the 10-year planning period, but would require a greater level of funding than required for Alternative A. This alternative incorporates many of the same elements identified in Alternative A, but includes additional elements such as upgrading of facilities, expansion of facilities, in addition to bringing facilities up to current standards. Alternative B also includes elements considered important and useful in attracting a managing partner(s) and a marina concessionaire that were identified during the scoping process.

2.2.3.1 Recreation Resources

Barretts Diversion Dam– At Barretts Diversion Dam, the maximum resource improvements would include the Alternative A improvements and other upgrades to improve RV parking and provide a better water supply. Specifically the improvements include reconstructing 3 campsites to provide level parking spurs for RV's and paving the parking lot. The existing hand-water pump would also be pressurized and spigots would be added. In addition, a new shelter will be added on the west side of the river near the parking lot.

Beaverhead River Fishing Access – Under Alternative B, in addition to the improvements identified in Alternative A, additional changes would be made to the layout of the access area. Currently, the gravel parking area is heavily used but the layout results in crowding around the perimeter. To encourage more use and better access to the wildlife viewing area, a trail would be added to the viewing area. In addition, the camping area would be moved back from the parking area and better designated with turf grass and landscaping. Irrigation for the grass and landscaping would be installed to maintain the area. Setting the camp area away from the parking area would also allow better access to the wildlife viewing trail and separate the trail users from the campers. In addition, a chlorinated pressurized water system would be provided for both anglers, campers, and hikers.

Buffalo Bridge Fishing Access – Under Alternative B, additional improvements would be made to further relieve vehicular congestion and overcrowding. During peak use times, vehicles with trailers experience delays in launching and problems turning around because of the small area below the bridge that is available for boat launching. The problems are made worse when other vehicles are parked below the bridge, which likewise results in longer launching delays. To alleviate this, the parking area immediately west of the bridge would be expanded to improve turning and maneuvering, signs would be posted to delineate launching versus parking areas, and the upper parking area along an existing access road would be widened. This widening would also reduce congestion near a private RV park.

Marina – Under Alternative B, Reclamation would continue the use of a campground host and evaluate the need and feasibility of an operator on a case-by-case basis. Under this alternative, a substantial investment in capital improvements to the marina would also be made to make the marina more attractive to perspective operators and to provide for additional facilities for the public. The most significant improvements would be to dredge the existing marina to provide extended use during drought periods, refurbish the marina campground, install ADA accessible boat docks, and replace or refurbish the store. In addition, parking will be improved, shade trees will be planted, and irrigation will be installed. All the facilities at the marina would be improved as necessary to meet current health and safety code requirements.

Lewis & Clark Campground – No additional improvements beyond those discussed under Alternative A would be undertaken.

Beaverhead Campground – The improvements proposed under Alternative B include the Alternative A improvements, as well as additional improvements to accommodate increased public use. Under Alternative B, the entire campground would be reconstructed with a total of 50 campsites and the water supply system would be pressurized. Additional upgrades to the parking area on the north end of the campground would be implemented to improve vehicle circulation and reduce traffic dust. Other improvements would be made to the shelters and picnic tables to make them ADA accessible. Under this alternative, Reclamation would also evaluate whether a user fee for the campground should be charged.

Camp Fortunate Overlook - Under this alternative, the Alternative A improvements would be implemented and the only other improvement proposed would be refurbishment/renovation of the stone shelter.

Sacajawea Day Use – Under Alternative B, improvements to the Sacajawea Day Use would be made to improve the existing informal parking area including modifications to delineate parking spaces.

Horse Prairie Campground –Under Alternative B, the Horse Prairie Campground would include reconstruction of the entire campground (East and West campgrounds) with a total of 25 camping sites similar to the level of improvement proposed for Beaverhead Campground. Additional ADA accessible shelters and picnic tables would be provided at each site. These improvements would be in addition to the improvements included in Alternative A for this area.

Cameahwait and West Cameahwait Campground - The moderate resource improvements identified in Alternative A for Cameahwait Campground would be implemented under this alternative. In addition, the entire campground would be reconstructed to provide level ADA accessible parking areas and areas to accommodate RVs. Additional, ADA accessible picnic tables and shelters would be provided at each site. The improvements proposed under this alternative for the West Cameahwait Campground would be limited to those described under Alternative A.

Hap Hawkins Campground – No additional improvements other than those identified in Alternative A for Hap Hawkins Campground would be provided.

Lone Tree Campground – Under Alternative B, Lone Tree Campground maximum resource improvements would include the Alternative A improvements, as well as redesigning of the entire campground to provide a total of 40 sites. New shelters and tables would be provided at each site. Additional improvements would include improved landscaping, installation of electrical power and drip irrigation, and added gravel to the road and parking area. Figure 2-1 provides a drawing with the layout of how the improvements may look as described in Alternative B Maximum Resource Development, Table 2-1.

Armstead Island – As described in Alternative A, the lack of vehicular access to Armstead Island limits the type of improvements that can reasonably be provided. However, under Alternative B, the entire Alternative A improvements would be implemented along with adding a new composting toilet and replacing the existing covered shelter.



South Shore Fishing Access – No new improvements have been identified for the South Shore Fishing Access area as the area currently appears adequate to serve the public given the low level of use typically found at this location.

Red Rock Fishing Access – Under Alternative B, improvements for Red-Rock Fishing Access would be the same as the Alternative A improvements.

2.2.3.2 Land Resources

Horse Prairie Creek Mouth – The Alternative A improvements included minor modifications to land use, grazing, monitor vegetation recovery, discontinue ORV use, and limiting firearm usage. The improvements proposed under Alternative B include these but also include a comprehensive vegetation restoration program designed to improve existing habitat and reduce noxious weed dominance.

Red Rock River Mouth – The Red Rock River Mouth improvements proposed under Alternative B include a vegetation restoration program to improve habitat and plant community in this area. In addition to the improvements identified under Alternative A, this alternative includes demolition of the old roadway and railway beds in order to re-vegetate the area with native species. A pre-construction cultural resource survey will be done. Also, monitoring for cultural resources during restoration will take place. A more aggressive weed control effort would also be used to reduce noxious weeds.

South Side Open Lands – (Lone Tree to Hap Hawkins Campground) - Under this alternative, the Alternative A improvements would be implemented and the existing jackleg fencing east of Lone Tree access road would be extended. The antelope passage routes would also be maintained.

North Side Open Lands – (Dam to West Cameahwait) Management improvements for this tract of lands would be the same as those proposed for the moderate resource improvements under Alternative A.

East Side Lands – The improvements proposed under Alternative B are the same as those described for Alternative A

Beaverhead River Lands Below Dam – Under this Alternative, the improvements would include paving the main access road, improving drainage and adding erosion control features and guardrails to the road. Additional improvements would also be identified to upgrade the area. Some of these improvements may include reworking the trail design and trail surface and providing more signage for plant and animal identification.

2.2.3.3 Cultural Resources

Under Alternative B, Clark Canyon Reservoir cultural resources management would be improved as described in Alternative A. In addition, an auto tour route would be developed to show prehistoric and historic uses of the area (i.e., brochures, highway signage, and interpretive signs). In addition, all activities carried out in the No Action Alternative would also continue.

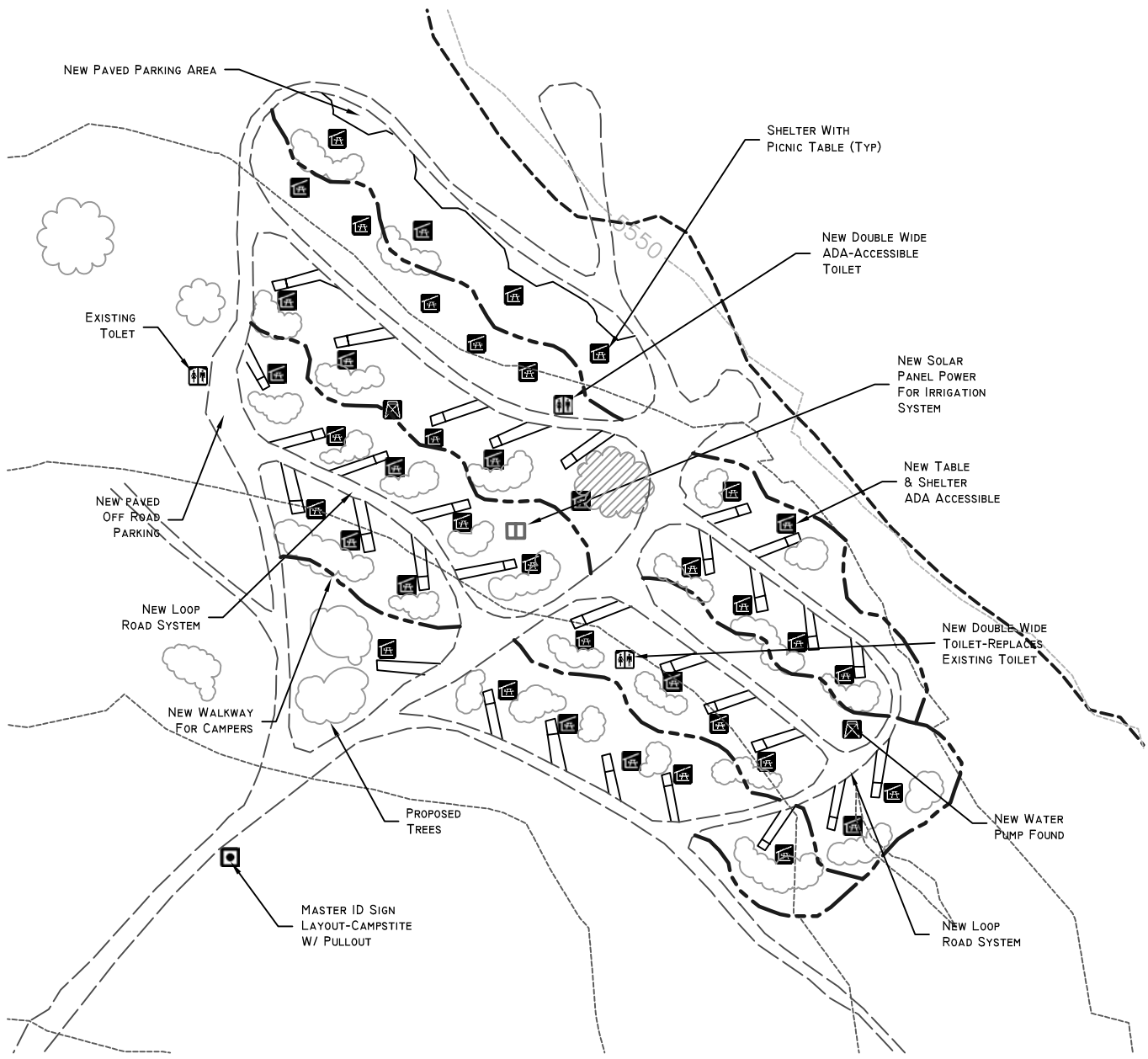
2.3 Alternatives Eliminated from Consideration

Fire can be used as a tool to improve the ecological condition, vigor, health, and plant diversity for wildlife. Prescribed burning has been used to maintain healthy plant communities. Healthy plants are better able to compete against noxious weeds. Implementing an effective prescriptive burn requires a prescriptive fire plan with monitoring and follow up to assure the desired objectives are carried out

and achieved. To carry out a prescribed burn and monitoring requires an expenditure of numerous resources to develop a burn plan that assesses resource condition, needs, and associated risks of a fire getting out of control. The fire plan if carried out will need to accomplish the desired objectives without adverse affects.

Reclamation has evaluated the resources needed and risks of a fire getting out of control and determined the associated risks are too great verses the possible benefit it would achieve and has eliminated this management tool as an option. There are several residence and public roads in the area including I-15 that create logistical problems and increase the potential risks of undertaking prescribed burns.

Most of the actions recommended by the public were included in one or more of the action alternatives. In addition, many of the actions contemplated in Reclamation's 2002 Recreation Management Condition Assessment were also included in one or more alternative. However, there were some elements that were reviewed, discussed, and analyzed among the Reclamation RMP team but were eliminated from further consideration because of potential costs, lack of demand, and unnecessary impacts to natural and potential cultural resources. Elements that were considered but eliminated include provision of flush toilets at several campgrounds, paving access roads, and building indoor interpretive facilities.



NEW PAVED PARKING AREA

SHELTER WITH PICNIC TABLE (TYP)

NEW DOUBLE WIDE ADA-ACCESSIBLE TOILET

EXISTING TOILET

NEW SOLAR PANEL POWER FOR IRRIGATION SYSTEM

NEW PAVED OFF ROAD PARKING

NEW TABLE & SHELTER ADA ACCESSIBLE

NEW LOOP ROAD SYSTEM

NEW DOUBLE WIDE TOILET-REPLACES EXISTING TOILET

NEW WALKWAY FOR CAMPERS











PROPOSED TREES

NEW WATER PUMP FOUND

MASTER ID SIGN LAYOUT-CAMPSTITE W/ PULLOUT

NEW LOOP ROAD SYSTEM

LEGEND

-  EXISTING VEGETATION
-  PROPOSED TREES
-  NEW PARKING AREA
-  EXISTING CAMPSITES WITH NEW ADA ACCESSIBLE PICNIC TABLES & SHELTERS
-  PROPOSED TRAILS
-  DOUBLEWIDE TOILET
-  WATER PUMPS
-  MASTER CAMPGROUND IDENTIFICATION
-  EXISTING CONTOURS (5FT CONTOURS)
-  HIGH WATER LEVEL



DATE: August 2004
 SCALE: NTS
 Campground Improvement.dwg
 H:\CLIENTS\USBR Area\Projects\Clark Canyon-MT\6-Maps & Figures\drawings\ Lone Tree 8.5x11

Bureau of Reclamation
 Clark Canyon Reservoir
 Campground Improvements

Figure 2-1
 Lone Tree Campground
 Alternative B