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

***Chapter 4
Consultation and Coordination***

4.0 Consultation and Coordination

Reclamation has developed and is implementing a public involvement program for the Clark Canyon Reservoir and Barretts Diversion Dam RMP project. The public involvement program consists of numerous coordination efforts as a means to obtain public input on the project and consultation with key agencies that have interest in the project. The public involvement program is designed to achieve several goals and objectives. These goals and objectives include:

- Accurately identifying stakeholders;
- Providing opportunities and a convenient means for stakeholders to provide input into the project;
- Soliciting information directly from Clark Canyon users as to the perceived opportunities and constraints associated with lands around Clark Canyon Reservoir that are managed by Reclamation;
- Communicating a clear message to stakeholders and the general public about the RMP process and the scope of the RMP;
- Preparing an RMP and EA that are well organized and written to provide clear and concise information for the reviewing public and agencies.
- Public and agency input into the RMP process that will be accomplished through a public notice announcing the RMP process;
- Providing a draft RMP and draft EA for public and agency review, and inviting comments on the draft documents;
- Receipt and consideration of public comments on the Final RMP and EA.

The public involvement program also includes a broader public information element, which will be accomplished through distribution of newsletters, direct mailing notices regarding scheduled workshops and project hearings, and an internet website link to Reclamation's Clark Canyon Reservoir information page.

4.1 Agency Coordination

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as Amended

Reclamation collected information necessary to complete consultations as required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 Code of Federal Regulations Part 800). Section 106 consultations with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and Indian Tribes will be completed during the public comment period of the draft RMP and EA. When specific ground disturbing activities discussed in the RMP and EA are going to be implemented, Reclamation will again contact appropriate Indian Tribes and the SHPO to determine if they are aware of archeological sites or Traditional Cultural Properties within the study area and to learn if the Tribes or the SHPO have any related heritage resource management concerns.

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as Amended

Reclamation consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) as required by the Endangered Species Act (ESA). On July 22, 2004, Reclamation requested informal consultation from the Service in Helena, Montana on 5 threatened or endangered species that are present in Beaverhead County. Three of the five species listed, the Grizzly bear, the Bald eagle and the Ute ladies' tresses, are the only species that may be present in the study area. Reclamation requested that the Service concur with Reclamation's findings that the development of the RMP and the proposed action alternative would not likely adversely affect the Bald eagle, Grizzly bear, and the Ute ladies' tresses. At this time, no response has been received from the Service.

4.2 Indian Trust Assets

Letters requesting identification of ITAs for Native American Tribes who are currently in the Clark Canyon Reservoir area or who historically used the area were sent to the 11 Tribal Officers of various Tribes and the associated Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) offices. These letters were mailed on November 6, 2003. By letter received November 14, 2003, the BIA Rocky Mountain Regional Office advised that they were unaware of any ITA in the area and Reclamation's concurrent inquiry to the 11 Tribes may provide information on affected entities. There were no comments received by any Native American Tribes. By a letter received November 13, 2003, the BIA Fort Peck Agency confirmed that they did not hold any trust assets in the Clark Canyon Area for their beneficiaries, the Assiniboine & Soix Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation.

4.3 Indian Sacred Sites

On November 6, 2003, letters requesting identification of Indian sacred sites were mailed to Native American Tribes who are currently in the area or who historically used the area. No replies have been received at this time. When specific ground disturbing activities discussed in the RMP/EA is going to be implemented, Tribal governments will be notified and asked for their input about Indian sacred sites.

4.4 Identification of Stakeholders



As mentioned above, one of the goals of the public involvement process is to accurately identify stakeholders. Prior to initiation of informal public scoping, a comprehensive stakeholder list was developed. This list was developed from several sources including: registered fishing and hunting guides in the areas; known Clark Canyon Reservoir recreational users, water users and other agricultural interests; local, state, and federal officials and offices; Native American tribes in the region, and existing Reclamation mailing lists from other projects in the region.

The stakeholder list continues to be updated to include additional names and/or organization as they were identified.

4.5 Public Noticing

Another aspect of the public involvement process was noticing for the public scoping meetings/workshops. Since the purpose of these meetings was to obtain input from the public about their preferences regarding resource management, well-advertised notification of the meetings was necessary. A two-page public notice was prepared that provided notification of Reclamation's intent to prepare an RMP/EA, and also provided general background about Clark Canyon Reservoir and the RMP process. The Public Notice also included information on the planned public meetings, including the date, time, and locations. The Public Notice was mailed to approximately 500 individuals, organizations, and agencies on the stakeholders list.

In addition to notification by direct mailings, a series of notices were advertised in local newspapers. The announcement was published in the following newspapers:

- Dillon Tribune Examiner – Dillon, MT
- The Montana Standard – Butte, MT
- Idaho Falls Post Register – Idaho Falls, ID
- Recorder-Herald – Salmon, ID
- Three Forks Herald – Three Forks, MT
- Helena Independent Record – Helena, MT
- Anaconda Leader – Anaconda, MT
- Bozeman Daily Chronicle – Bozeman, MT

4.6 Public Scoping Meetings

Three public scoping meetings/workshops were held in three different locations. The meeting locations were selected for public convenience. Reclamation staff and consultants attended each public meeting. Each meeting consisted of an “open house” period during which public attendees were provided an opportunity to visit information stations that were located throughout the meeting room. Each station consisted of a text board and photographs/maps of project-area resources. Following the open house period, a 20-minute formal presentation was made by both Reclamation staff and the consultant team. The presentation provided an overview of the RMP process, and provided more detailed information concerning the approach and content of both the RMP and EA. After the presentation, meeting attendees were provided an opportunity to comment and ask questions in a group setting which was then followed by informal small group discussions. The public scoping meetings/workshops were held on the following dates at the following locations:

- November 19, 2002: Idaho Falls Hotel, Idaho Falls, Idaho;
- November 20, 2002: Red Lion Inn, Butte, Montana;
- November 21, 2002: Beaverhead County Search and Rescue Building, Dillon, Montana.

A total of 26 people attended the meetings, with the highest turnout at Dillon and second highest at Butte. The stakeholder mailing list was revised, following the meetings, to include any additional individuals or organizations.

Numerous comments were received during these public meetings. These comments were used to assist in developing project alternatives and served as the basis for elements of the Draft RMP. In addition, during preparation of the Draft RMP/EA, several consultations were made to obtain important information (e.g., consultation with US Fish and Wildlife Service on endangered and threatened species, consultation of the local Native American tribes and representatives, and consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer on cultural and historic resources).

4.7 Public Comment Period

This Draft EA has been issued concurrently with the Draft RMP, and these documents are now available for a 30-day public review and comment period. During this time, the general public and stakeholders are encouraged to provide written comments on the document and oral comments at two public meetings that will be held near the end of the comment period. A public notice announcing the availability of the documents has been published in various newspapers, and copies of the documents have been directly mailed to individuals requesting them. Copies of the documents have been made available at area libraries and other publicly accessible locations. A newsletter was also distributed to serve as an additional notice that the documents are available and to announce the dates and locations of the public meetings.

At the close of the public comment period, a database will be developed of all comments received and responses to each comment will be prepared for inclusion in the Final RMP and EA. Individuals or organizations/agencies providing comments on the Draft EA and RMP that were not already included on the stakeholder list will be added. The Final RMP and EA will be provided to responsible agencies, individuals/organizations that requested copies, and entities that commented on the Draft RMP and Draft EA. Following completion of the Final EA, Reclamation will determine whether a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) should be prepared for the project.

Concurrent with completion of the Final RMP and EA, a second newsletter will be prepared and distributed that included a brief summary of comments received during the public review period on the Draft RMP/EA and how those comments are incorporated into the Final RMP/EA. The newsletter will also provide information on the decision-making process and whether Reclamation will adopt a FONSI and ultimately implement the Final RMP.