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**Clark Canyon Draft Resource Management Plan  
for Clark Canyon Reservoir and Barretts Diversion Dam**

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***Appendix A:  
Recreation Visitor Use Executive Summary***

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## Recreation Visitor Use Executive Summary

This information summarizes the results of a recreation survey on Clark Canyon reservoir, conducted from May 24, 2003 to February 29, 2004. There were 448 visitors who completed the questionnaires at nine sites on the reservoir, one site immediately below the dam (Fishing Access), and one site down river (Barretts).

### Demographic information

- The average age ranged from 40 years old at the Lewis and Clark site to 56 years old at Beaverhead.
- Groups were predominantly male - between 63 percent to 100 percent males.
- 33% to 55% of visitors had attended college followed by 20%- 30% with a high school education.
- Professional and retired were the predominant occupations reported by visitors.
- Montana residents spent \$89.29 on average per trip while nonresident visitors spent \$330.23 on average per trip.
- Montanan's accounted for 50% of all visitors to Clark Canyon followed by visitors from Idaho (9%), Utah (8%) and California (5%).
- If visitors were from Montana, Beaverhead County residents used the area the most followed by Silver Bow, Ravalli, and Missoula counties.
- Visitors generally came as a family group or as a group of friends to Clark Canyon. Average group sizes at the various sites ranged from a high of 4.44/ group at the Cameahwait site to 2/group at the South Shore sites.

### Trip Characteristics

- The majority of visitors were repeat visitors to the sites and 40%-85% had been to the site they were intercepted at more than 10 times. More than half of the visitors to five of the sites had been visiting that site for over 10 years.
- Most visitors (42% at Fishing Access to 100% at South Shore) did not spend a night.
- The most important reasons for choosing a site were – easy to get to, good fishing, been there before, and scenic beauty. Fishing Access received the highest percent (70%) who indicated good fishing followed by 63% at Lone Tree. 63% of visitors at Overlook indicated the Lewis and Clark historic site as the reason for visiting that site.
- Sightseeing, walking, viewing wildlife, and fishing were the most popular activities. Ice fishing was engaged in the most at South Shore and Horse Prairie.

### Satisfaction, Importance, and Facility Needs

- Visitors responded positively about their overall trip satisfaction.
- Cleanliness of the area and maintenance of the facilities received the most number of people indicating these conditions as important and each site received positive satisfaction levels related to cleanliness and maintenance.
- The condition of the campsite/picnic areas was important to most visitors and the visitors were satisfied with these conditions.

- The number of fish caught was very important to visitors at Fishing Access, South Shore, and Horse Prairie. Satisfaction level was the highest at Fishing Access with a positive response but a negative response in satisfaction of number of fish caught was reported at South Shore.
- The only agreement on facilities needed at each site was “none” indicating that visitors like the sites the way they are.
- When visitors wrote in suggestions for management and satisfaction, the predominant theme was that visitors encouraged management to keep the sites as a “no fee” area and that they liked the site as it currently exists.

#### Encounters, Conflicts, Crowding, and Place Attachment

- The number of encounters with people engaged in different types of activities was quite low at every site in the study. Because of this, conflicts at these sites were low to none.
- Fishing Access was the only site where more encounters occurred. 83% encountered bank anglers and 9 % disliked seeing them; 77% encountered wade anglers and 9% disliked seeing them, and; 68% encountered boat anglers and 14% disliked seeing them.
- In general visitors were not at all crowded at Clark Canyon but one-third of the South Shore visitors felt slightly crowded.
- Visitors to two sites, Lone Tree and South Shore, appear to have a greater attachment to place than the other visitors at other sites. Attachment, however was not very strong at any site.

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***Chapter 6***  
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***Chapter 7***  
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