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

Chapter 4 Resource Management Plan Actions and Elements

# 4.0 Resource Management Plan Actions and Elements

This chapter provides general and specific actions proposed for the management of lands and resources at Clark Canyon Reservoir and Barretts Diversion Dam. General actions are those that are broad based management actions that include overall unit-wide goals and objectives and apply to all Reclamation lands around the Reservoir and at Barretts Diversion Dam. Specific actions are management actions formulated to be site-specific, prescriptive-based actions directed at specific purposes for specific areas. Management actions are specific tasks intended to guide Reclamation staff and managing partners to proper management of Reclamation lands. These actions are intended to be implemented over the next 10 years. Inclusion of these actions does not ensure the funding, staff, or equipment will be available to implement these actions, nor does it obligate Reclamation to implement. The following lists provide the four main categories of actions, the elements and subcategories of these actions are further described in this chapter.

- Recreation (Section 4.2) includes improvements and management considerations for the developed shoreline and dispersed recreation sites;
- Land Resources (Section 4.3) includes wildlife and vegetation management, erosion control, and water quality.
- Cultural Resources (Section 4.4) includes archaeological and paleontologic resources and Traditional Cultural Properties
- Operations, Maintenance, and Enforcement (Section 4.5)

# 4.1 Plan Formulation

In formulating the management actions determined to be most appropriate for effective and prudent management of the lands and recreation facilities at Clark Canyon Reservoir and Barretts Diversion Dam a screening process was used to analyze a range of possible development, redevelopment plans and natural resource management planning choices for the lands around Clark Canyon Reservoir. This screening process led to a final set of actions presented in this chapter.

The findings of Reclamation's August 2002 "Recreation Management Condition Assessment" provided further information on specific management actions deemed relevant and appropriate to address future development options at Clark Canyon Reservoir. From these analyses, a range of management actions was identified.

The screening process to select possible management actions involved several steps including the consideration of the following factors:

- Opportunities for natural resource management and development,
- Constraints for natural resource management and development,
- Reclamation policies and authorities,
- Existing evaluations such as the 2002 "Recreation Management Condition Assessment,"
- 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 were identified and documented in the Resource Management Plan Environmental Assessment for Clark Canyon Reservoir and Barretts Diversion Dam (EA). In the EA, the management actions were combined into no-action, moderate resource development, and maximum resource development. The combined actions identified by recreation site and land area at Clark Canyon Reservoir provided a broad range of choices in guiding the management and near term development or redevelopment of recreation facilities within the project area



The No-Action Alternative represents a continuation of pre-RMP management 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 celebrations would likely continue in the short term, however, deferred maintenance would be done when funds became available. This alternative also includes a new access road into the Camp Fortunate overlook from State Route 324 for safety and since funding for this work is already secured and construction is underway.

Alternative A consists of a series of actions labeled the "moderate resource development alternative". This alternative includes improvements and management actions that could reasonably be accomplished within the 10-year planning period based on previous levels of funding. Elements of this alternative seek to solve some of the existing problems with facility layout, access, or deferred maintenance. The various actions under this alternative are further outlined in this chapter.

Alternative B is the "maximum resource development alternative" and includes a series of improvements and management actions that would require substantial upgrading of reservoir recreation facilities, and in many cases, expanding existing facilities and bringing facilities up to current standards. This alternative incorporates many of the same elements identified in Alternative A, but includes additional elements addressing more extensive improvements and needs identified during the scoping process. Alternative B includes the construction of new facilities at several campgrounds and day use areas. Alternative B is described in detail in Section 2.2.3 of the Environmental Assessment.

At the end of the screening process, a single alternative was chosen based on several factors including demonstrated need, extent, type, and intensity of likely environmental and socioeconomic effects. It also included consideration of the ability to secure funding as well as past management history and likely effectiveness of the action(s). The alternative selected is Alternative A and it is analyzed in the EA document as the moderate resource development alternative. This alternative represents the proposed plan as presented in Figure 4.1-1 (see figure at the end of chapter 4). Goals and objectives of the Clark Canyon Reservoir Proposed Plan are in the following sections.

# 4.2 Recreation Resources Goals and Objectives

This section identifies goals, objectives and where possible actions applicable to guide future recreation resource management of Clark Canyon Reservoir lands. These goals and objectives are intended to complement site-specific land area management prescriptions that follow.

The goals for recreation resource management include provision for safe and suitable road access to designated recreation areas.

For this goal, the objectives and general actions include:

- a. Provide access management and parking within designated public use sites.
- b. Ensure motorized vehicles stay on designated roads and vehicle users are to obey signs including closed area signs. There is to be no vehicular use of the exposed lakebed unless special permission is obtained from Reclamation officials in the Montana Area Office in Billings.
- c. Maintain the existing public access right-of-way that is currently in place. One area of interest is East side lands. (See Figure 4.1-1)
- d. Improve Beaverhead Fishing access road to prevent erosion and for safety concerns.

A second major goal for recreation resource management includes provision for minimum and basic recreation site improvements, consistent with demand, available funding and carrying capacity of the resource base.

For this goal, the objectives and general actions include:

- a. Ensure compliance with existing federal legislation and regulations in accordance with ADA for designated, developed sites and facilities.
- b. Accommodate future increases in recreation demand and visitation by expanding with help from partner, or rehabilitating existing sites as appropriate.
- c. Actively manage recreation services, especially restroom and trash services at popular sites used during holiday weekends.
- d. Continue to upgrade the existing facilities with more maintenance free, uniformly accessible equipment.

Managing litter and providing litter control is also an ongoing maintenance and social-environmental issue. Litter receptacles, including dumpsters, will not be provided at dispersed recreation areas such as the Sacajawea Day Use. Recreationists will be expected to follow a "pack it in- pack it out" concept in carrying out all garbage and litter resulting from their activities. Policy statements on

litter and garbage removal will be included in visitor information materials and programs on land management.

In addition to the general actions for managing recreation resources, there are land management prescriptions specific to the different recreation facilities at Clark Canyon Reservoir and Barretts Diversion Dam. The specific management actions for each recreation site are provided as follows:

### 4.2.1 Barretts Diversion Dam



Barretts Diversion Dam is a very popular day use area used for activities including weddings, group picnicking, and fishing. Several relatively simple improvements have been identified that would make the area more usable and accessible. Improve the lawn areas near the diversion dam by fertilization. Through assistance from partner construct an ADA accessible path and parking area leading to the existing toilet.

#### 4.2.2 Beaverhead River Fishing Access

Beaverhead River Fishing Access is a 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. The recommended RMP improvement for this area is to improve the access road down to the fishing/camping area to address erosion and safety concerns.

#### 4.2.3 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 by crossing 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. The existing informal paths would be replaced with an accessible walkway to the toilet.

#### 4.2.4 Marina

The existing marina is limited in use by several factors, primary being the reservoir levels are unusually low and there is no current operator (concessionaire). However, the marina facility is still used for RV camping. Until the spring of 2002, the facility was operated by a private operator under a concession agreement with 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 required to upgrade the facility to modern standards and the large annual fluctuations in the reservoir level. The drought of the past 5 years (1999-2003) has drastically reduced the inflow and water into the reservoir. Consequently the marina has been closed and the boating use has dropped significantly. 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. The RMP improvement for this area 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 camping and parking sites. The RMP also proposes continuing the use of the area, managed by campground host/volunteers, for overnight camping with nominal fees.

# 4.2.5 Lewis & Clark Campground

The existing Lewis & Clark Campground site provides for overnight camping uses, but the area receives low use. The RMP calls for eliminating the overnight camping uses as a result of the recent relocation of the Camp Fortunate Overlook access road through the site. Also, Reclamation will install a new sign to designate it as a day use area and the existing units can be used for day use shelters and picnic sites.

# 4.2.6 Beaverhead Campground

Beaverhead Campground is the most popular and conveniently accessible camping site at the reservoir. The plan is to implement improvements to provide improved low-water boat access, upgrade existing picnic shelters, improve ADA access to the toilets, improve landscaping near existing shelters, and better delineate the low-water boat ramp parking.

# 4.2.7 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. The plan calls for improvements to the interpretive facilities to better reflect the historic qualities of Camp Fortunate.

# 4.2.8 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 along side the footprint of a cabin that once existed in the area. The proposed improvement to the Sacajawea Day Use is to close down non-essential roads within the area and replace a toilet.

### 4.2.9 Horse Prairie Campground

Horse Prairie Campground is used for camping and fishing access on the north side of the reservoir. The plan calls for improvements to the parking area and camp site designations, install new jack-leg fencing to restrict ORV traffic, and repair the existing boat ramp, as well as, implement other measures to address areas of erosion along the portion of Horse Prairie Creek within the campground.

### 4.2.10 Cameahwait and West Cameahwait Campground

The RMP improvements for Cameahwait and West Cameahwait Campground include adding new ADA access to toilets and shelters. The non-essential roads will be closed to minimize ORV use.

#### 4.2.11 Hap Hawkins Campground

Improvements for this area are to refurbish the existing group shelter and improve access to toilets by providing accessible walkways from the parking area.

#### 4.2.12 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 for this site include adding signage to delineate camping areas, improve the water supply, and add an ADA toilet that is accessible from the parking area.



#### 4.2.13 Armstead Island

The isolation and lack of vehicular access to Armstead Island limits the type of improvements that can reasonably be provided. One fundamental and reasonably achievable improvement is to replace existing picnic tables with new tables.

#### 4.2.14 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.

#### 4.2.15 Red Rock Fishing Access

The Red Rock Fishing Access area is heavily used during peak fishing periods. To better meet peak demand, the parking area would be expanded and an accessible toilet would be provided with a walkway from the newly expanded parking area.

# 4.3 Land Resources Goals and Objectives

This section identifies goals, objectives and possible actions applicable to guide Reclamation's future natural resource management of project area lands. These goals and objectives are intended to complement site-specific land area management prescriptions that follow.

The goal for land management dealing with surface water runoff is:

Protect and improve water quality and limit shoreline erosion and sedimentation.

## For this goal, the objectives and general actions include:

- a. Include erosion control measures (e.g. straw mulches, sediment traps and filter fabric) in the design and construction specifications for any proposed development. Contract specifications will contain measures to prevent erosion and sediment-laden runoff from leaving the work sites.
- b. Discourage and prevent any future grazing practices that allow cattle to enter the reservoir. Control cattle movement around other water bodies to minimize sedimentation and direct bacterial contamination of incoming source waters.

The goal for Fish and Wildlife habitat is:

Protect and enhance important vegetation fish, and wildlife habitat values.

For this goal, the objectives and general actions include:

- a. Protect existing trees and promote the establishment of native trees and shrubs.
- b. Require that any permitted livestock grazing on Reclamation land does not result in a significant adverse effect on existing valuable vegetation and wildlife habitat or the rate of recovery of habitat previously damaged habitat.
- c. Continue program to control noxious weeds and promote the growth of native species.
- d. Identify methods to restore upland vegetation/habitat damaged by vehicular access focusing on areas where access has been terminated.
- e. Identify locations where State-listed noxious weeds, invasive exotics, and other plants are a problem requiring action.
- f. Assist in bald eagle recovery efforts and other bird nesting and foraging studies as well as other wildlife studies that are active in the region over the next 10 years.
- g. Limit firearm usage to shotgun, handgun, and black powder on all Reclamation lands surrounding Clark Canyon Reservoir.

h. Provide Raptor protection on utilities.

In addition, encroachment and trespass on Reclamation lands is not to be allowed. Yearly inspections will be conducted on an informal basis and a formal review will be conducted every 5 years. Agricultural and grazing use of Reclamation lands will be allowed only as a land management tool. Any dumping problems will be followed up with local law enforcement officials if necessary. Boundary identification will be improved where feasible with installation of signs, monuments, and fences.



In addition to the general actions for managing natural resources, there are land management prescriptions specific to the different open land areas surrounding Clark Canyon Reservoir. The specific management actions for these land areas are provided as follows:

## 4.3.1 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. One of the most straightforward measures that are often found to be successful in similar settings is to plant willows and cottonwood along waterways to help maintain plant diversity. Another measure that can be used if an acceptable grazing arrangement can be devised is to utilize prescriptive grazing to stimulate new growth, control noxious weeds and increase native perennial plants in the area.

#### 4.3.2 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 for this area include continuation of multi-use management of the area for hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing access. Additionally, further noxious weed control should be implemented to suppress noxious weeds along the railroad grade and in open areas above the reservoir margin.

#### 4.3.3 South Side Open Lands

Lone Tree to Hap Hawkins Campground - Improvements includes a continuation of management practices to exclude cattle and ORV uses and repair of fencing on an as-needed basis. Replace existing fencing in areas along antelope migration and use corridors to improve access for this species.

## 4.3.4 North Side Open Lands

On these lands from the dam to West Cameahwait, continue current management practices and add uniform signage to designated areas that are closed to ORV.

### 4.3.5 East Side Lands

Maintain existing Reclamation public access roads and access road easements. Install additional fencing to delineate easement lands near Buffalo Lodge, and remove obstructions in the road.

## 4.3.6 Beaverhead River Lands Below Dam

No new land management changes are proposed for the Beaverhead River Lands below the dam.

# 4.4 Cultural Resources Goals and Objectives

This section identifies goals, objectives and, where possible, actions applicable to guide future cultural resource management of Clark Canyon Reservoir lands. These following goals and objectives are intended to complement site-specific land area management prescriptions that follow.

## 4.4.1 Cultural Resource Goal

The primary goal for Cultural Resources Management is:

Protect cultural resources and provide educational/interpretive opportunities.

For this goal the objectives and general actions include:

- a. Ensure protection of sensitive cultural and paleontological resources in accordance with existing Federal regulations through consultation with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.
- b. Install signs at key access points to indicate damage of cultural resources is punishable by law, citing Archaeological Resources Protection Act and appropriate state codes.
- c. Cultural Resources Management Plan will be prepared.

As a further enhancement to cultural resources, an interpretive program would be developed in the Cultural Resources Plan that would highlight the history of the area and the important role this area played in the Lewis & Clark expedition. The program should include interpretive signs installed at public locations.

# 4.5 Operations, Maintenance, Enforcement

This section identifies goals, objectives and where possible, actions applicable to guide future operations, maintenance and enforcement of Clark Canyon Reservoir lands. These goals and objectives are intended to complement site-specific land area management prescription that follows.

The primary goal for operation maintenance and enforcement are:

Protect existing Reclamation natural resources at Clark Canyon Reservoir and Barretts Dam though a proactive program designed specifically to take into account recreational facilities operations, maintenance, and enforcement of existing rules and regulation that govern the recreation operation of the reservoir.

For this goal, the objectives and general actions include:

- a. Continue to provide a proactive maintenance program of existing and future recreation amenities that take into account public safety needs, accessibility needs, water quality protection, user demand, habitat protection, and cultural resource protection.
- b. Continue to provide an appropriate level of enforcement of existing rules and laws that govern the land-based activities, as well as, use of the facilities by the public. Continue to work cooperatively with other local agencies (e.g., State of Montana, Beaverhead County, U.S. Bureau of Land Management) to maximum the use of existing resources and funding to ensure adequate levels of enforcement are provided in order the balance public safety, resource protection, and water supply commitments.



