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

***Chapter 5
Implementation and Monitoring Program***

5.0 Plan Implementation

Implementation of the RMP is primarily the responsibility of Reclamation. Because funding is uncertain, implementation of specific actions will require close coordination between Reclamation and the many other parties (stakeholders) interested in the management and use of Clark Canyon Reservoir and Barretts Diversion Dam.

Other factors that may influence the implementation of a particular action are based on whether the action: (1) is procedural or technical, such as preparing agreements or developing specific plans; (2) addresses public health and safety concerns; (3) is in compliance with existing laws, authorities, and regulations; (4) is required to prevent resource damage or protect wildlife species or habitats; or (5) requires large capital investments, such as trail or facility development.

Successful planning and coordination will be necessary to identify annual program priorities and will be essential in securing funding necessary to accommodate the goals and objectives of this RMP. To aid in planning for future needs and development at Clark Canyon Reservoir and Barretts Diversion Dam, Reclamation will serve as the lead agency to collaborate with appropriate stakeholders on a periodic basis to discuss issues, concerns, and solutions and identify funding sources.

Reclamation may revise or amend the RMP within the established 10-year planning period. During the implementation or monitoring phases of the RMP, Reclamation, other agencies, or the public may identify problems, deficiencies, or additional issues that should be addressed. Changes in the social, economic, physical, or environmental conditions may also necessitate changes to the RMP. Minor changes in data or materials that do not conflict with the established goals and objectives would be documented by Reclamation and would not require further public involvement and NEPA review. Changes that would modify one or more of the prescribed decisions and require major changes to the established goals and objectives would be documented by an amendment to the RMP and may require further public involvement and NEPA compliance. Reclamation will determine the level of public involvement and NEPA compliance.

Grazing has been successfully used elsewhere as a management tool and can be used at Clark Canyon Reservoir to reduce the build up of plant residue and litter by the trampling action of animal hooves and proper grazing. Before a grazing system is implemented, a grazing plan will be developed with the goal of improving wildlife habitat and enhancing desirable plant species while reducing noxious weeds. The grazing plan will be designed to prevent adverse impacts to the biological and physical resources of the area that could result if the areas are over grazed.



Plant residue build-up & dead willows near Horse Prairie Mouth

Prior to implementing grazing, a vegetative transect by range site or area will be set up along with photo points to establish a baseline condition. The plant species present will be documented, noting whether they are native or desirable to the site, the vigor, and percent bare ground. Permanent monitoring sites will be established where data can be collected every five to ten years. Change can be determined by documenting the vegetation through data collection and photos. The kind of

growing season and amount of precipitation during the year would be noted and whether it was below average, average or above.

Periodic monitoring will be conducted by Reclamation on an on-going basis throughout the 10-year RMP timeline. On-going evaluation of the monitoring program will allow Reclamation to make modifications in timing of improvements, timing of mitigation implementation, and changes in the RMP that are needed to take into account changing visitation needs or other changes in site conditions.



5.1 Alternatives Eliminated from Consideration White Top near boundary fence at Horse Prairie

Scientists considered and evaluated fire as a management tool to eliminate build up of plant residue and litter that is suppressing the vigor and health of plants. Also considered, was the use of fire to improve plant diversity for wildlife on some vegetative sites. Land management agencies and private landowners to maintain healthy plant communities have used prescribed burning. The sites mainly affected by the build up of plant residue and litter are the wet and semi-wet areas of the Horse Prairie Mouth, Red Rock River Mouth, and Beaverhead River Lands down stream of the Clark Canyon Dam. An effective prescriptive burn requires a prescriptive fire plan. Where fire can be used in a safe environment, monitoring and follow up are needed to assure the desired objectives are carried out and achieved. To determine a prescribed burn as a component of a management plan, one should assess resource condition, needs, and associated risks of a fire getting out of control. A successful fire plan would 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. Recent prescribed burns in New Mexico, Utah has verified the extensive damage and cost of a prescribed fire getting out of control.