

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

The Belle Fourche Reservoir Resource Management Plan Facts



The Resource Management Plan is a part of Reclamation's Mission which is: to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

The Reservoir

* Belle Fourche Reservoir, a Bureau of Reclamation facility, is located in Butte County, South Dakota. When full, water covers 8,040 acres, with 6,653 acres of surrounding land. It is part of the Belle Fourche Irrigation Project, one of Reclamation's earliest irrigation projects. Originally authorized for irrigation, the reservoir also provides recreation opportunities and habitat for fish and wildlife. The reservoir provides irrigation water for 57,100 acres on the Belle Fourche Irrigation District. The primary recreation uses are boating, fishing, camping, hunting and day use.

* At this time, South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks manages Rocky Point and the wildlife area below the dam. The Belle Fourche Irrigation District administers grazing leases, and the Butte County Sheriff provides law enforcement.

Why a Resource Management Plan?

* Annual visitation has increased from 60,000 in 1991 to 167,369 in 2000 yet there are very few recreation facilities at the reservoir.

* The plan will provide a comprehensive framework under which Reclamation can work with managing partners to accommodate increasing visitor use while protecting natural resources and ensuring public safety.

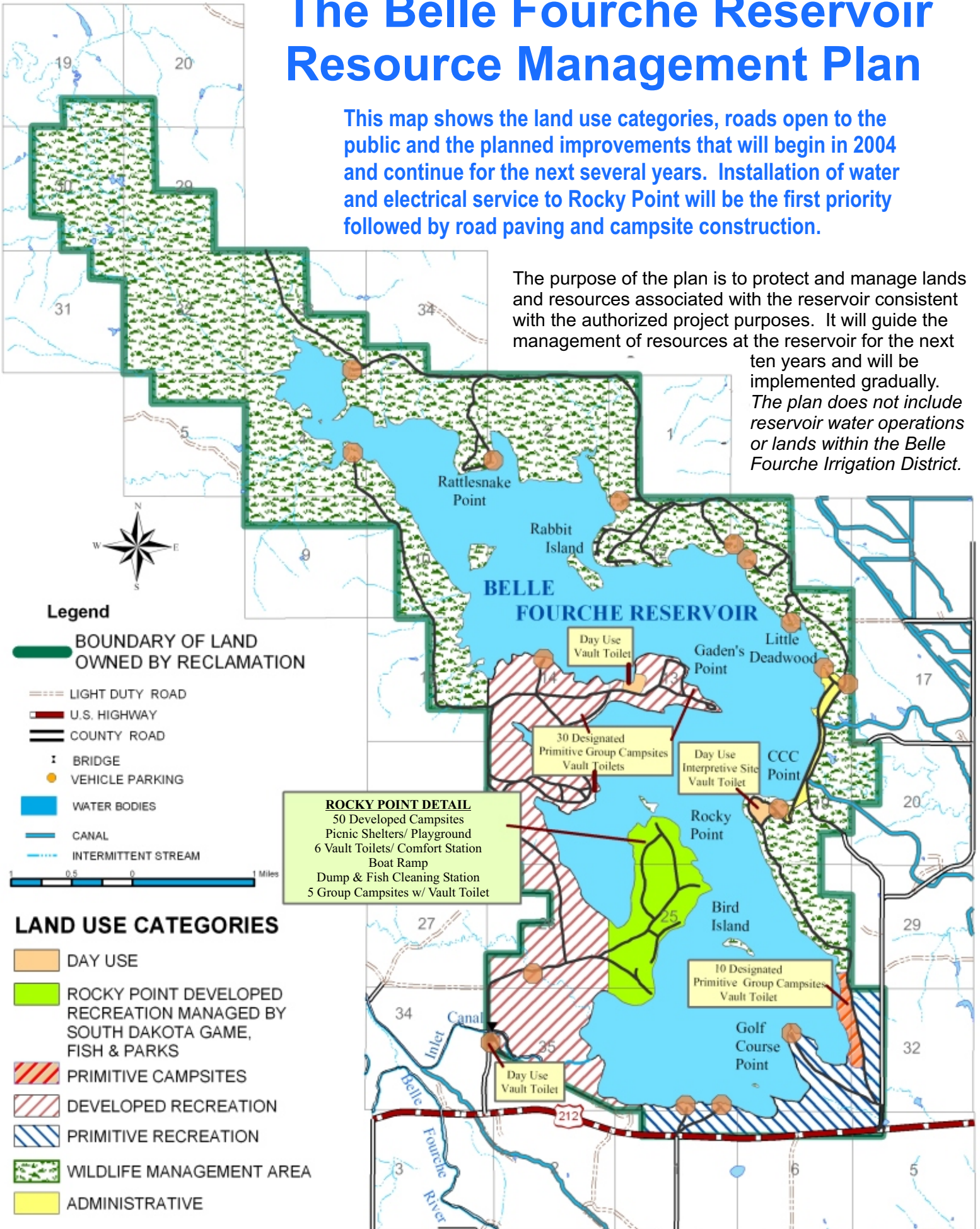


U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Dakotas Area Office
Rapid City Field Office

The Belle Fourche Reservoir Resource Management Plan

This map shows the land use categories, roads open to the public and the planned improvements that will begin in 2004 and continue for the next several years. Installation of water and electrical service to Rocky Point will be the first priority followed by road paving and campsite construction.

The purpose of the plan is to protect and manage lands and resources associated with the reservoir consistent with the authorized project purposes. It will guide the management of resources at the reservoir for the next ten years and will be implemented gradually. *The plan does not include reservoir water operations or lands within the Belle Fourche Irrigation District.*



Belle Fourche Reservoir: Meeting Changing Needs

Land use categories are a key part of the plan. They determine what types of uses can occur on different portions of the reservoir lands.

A Summary of Land Use Categories

Land Use Category	Existing Acres	Planned Acres	Location of Planned Land Use
Developed Recreation Area	none designated	1,520	Rocky Point, "middle point", and Gaden's Point
Primitive Recreation Area	none designated	420	Golf Course Point and the southeast corner of the reservoir
Wildlife Management Area	232	4,605	Northern portion of reservoir and below the dam
Day Use Area	none designated	45	Gaden's Point, Rocky Point, near dam & parking areas
Administrative Area	63	63	Dam and canals

- Developed Recreation Areas will provide a range of campsite types and visitor conveniences such as paved roads, water, electricity, comfort stations, picnic shelters and fish cleaning stations.
- Primitive Recreation Areas will offer only basic recreation facilities such as designated primitive campsites, vault toilets and fire-grates.
- Wildlife Management Areas will emphasize wildlife habitat and a wide variety of day use recreation activities such as hunting, fishing and hiking. Overnight camping will not be allowed.

Resource Management Plan Details

Fees would be charged for camping and at the entrance to the developed area of Rocky Point. Fees will be consistent with other rates in the area. Regulations for the reservoir will be developed.

Fishermen will be able to access the shoreline during low water periods at specific locations on the reservoir on a trial basis. These locations will be outside the wildlife management area.

The current one year grazing leases, issued through competitive bid in January 2003, may be renewed for three more years. Current leases specify that management changes at the reservoir may affect renewal. Future leases would be issued through a competitive bidding process if grazing is a selected management tool.

Improvements on Rocky Point will be accomplished through a partnership between Reclamation and South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks. They are shown on the map photo on the back of this page. This should be completed by the end of 2005.

Fees, designated camping, and vehicle restrictions will not begin until developed and primitive recreation sites are available by an estimated 2006. The map at left shows roads that will be improved for access to the shore and parking areas that will be provided. Excess roads will be closed or eliminated. The road to Rocky Point boat ramp will be paved.

The plan also designates as Wildlife Management Area 180 acres of Reclamation land associated with the Belle Fourche Diversion Dam on the Belle Fourche River.



Developing the Resource Management Plan included several years of extensive public involvement including a mailing list for newsletters and notices, press coverage, open houses, a citizen's working group and public review of the draft Environmental Assessment and plan.

ROCKY POINT

Developed Campground
50 Gravel Sites
with Electrical Pedestals
(proposed)

Boat Ramp
(existing)

Playground (proposed)

Comfort Station
(proposed)

5 Group
Campsite
(proposed)

22' Hard Surfaced
Road (proposed)

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPT.
of GAME, FISH & PARKS
MANAGED AREA

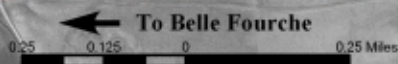
BELLE FOURCHE
RESERVOIR

Legend

- Boat Ramp (existing)
- 5 Group Campsites
- Parking Lots
- Picnic Shelter (proposed)
- Cold Storage (proposed)
- Dump & Fish Cleaning Station (proposed)
- Concrete Vault Toilet (existing)
- Concrete Vault Toilet (proposed)
- Comfort Station (proposed)

- Proposed 22' Hard Surface Road
- U.S. Highway
- Proposed Tree Belt
- Boundary of Land Owned by RECLAMATION

22 ft. Hard Surfaced
Road (proposed)



BELLE FOURCHE RESERVOIR AND ASSOCIATED LANDS
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Rocky Point Detail