

Notes From The Canyon Ferry Working Group Meeting
4/25/06

Paul Backlund provided an introduction of Reclamation employees and briefly updated the audience regarding recent recreation site improvements including extension of the Goose Bay boat ramp, renovation of the Court Sherriff Camp Ground, and work at the Silos area.

Paul then introduced the main topic for the meeting which was the potential for development of exclusive use boat docks other than those authorized by Public Law 105-277, Title X.

Several attendees voiced concern with development of additional private boat docks.

Tom Sawatzke provided an example from North Dakota where unauthorized private docks were eventually authorized despite initial efforts by the USBR to restrict their development. Tom noted that Reclamation would likely resist development of additional exclusive developments on public land because Reclamation policy encourages fair and equal access to public lands.

A general discussion followed regarding the need for additional boat docking facilities. Boat dock facilities are currently provided by the three existing Marinas.

The consensus from the meeting was that only docks connected to the cabin sites would be permitted. This is in line with Reclamation policy.

Paul then displayed a land use map of Canyon Ferry Reservoir and identified sites of existing public facilities. He also explained draft land use designations including: residential lands, the Wildlife Management Area, administrative area, and undeveloped area.

Paul also discussed the wording in Public Law 105-277, Title X referring to "historical use". Title X states that future uses of cabin properties "... shall be limited to the type and intensity of uses in existence on the date of enactment of this Act."

Tom Sawatzke then discussed potential subdivision around Canyon Ferry Reservoir. He noted that nearby subdivision development would not entitle new residences to exclusive use of public land.

Attendees held an open discussion regarding potential zoning changes in Lewis and Clark County.

Paul opened a discussion of where docks could be located relative to cabin property. He summarized the discussion with three conclusions: 1) dock placement strategies should be worked out with neighbors; 2) docks might be located within a line drawn perpendicular from the water edge to the lot-line "pins"; and 3) historical use may help to determine dock location.

Paul ended the meeting with discussion of topics for the next meeting including beach access developments, and erosion-shoreline stabilization. He suggested June 13th as a potential date for the next meeting and indicated that the next meeting may be held at Canyon Ferry Reservoir.

Meeting ended at 8:15 PM.

The next shoreline management working group meeting is scheduled June 13, 2006 at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church near Magpie Bay. It will begin at 6:30 pm. The topic will be access.