

**DRAFT** Notes From The Canyon Ferry Working Group Meeting  
6/13/06

Shawn Bryant (Assistant Facility Manager) opened the meeting by reviewing portions of the Canyon Ferry Act regarding access by Canyon Ferry Cabin Site owners and by the general public. Cabin Site owners hold perpetual easements for one dock per lot and for access to that dock and to other improvements that were in place at the time of enactment of the Canyon Ferry Act as amended (October 1998). The Act also required that public access to the shoreline be unobstructed and maintained.

Shawn indicated that Special Use Permits would no longer be required for dock placement by Cabin Site owners. He noted that a free dock request form would be developed specifically for Cabin Site docks. The new form is needed to track dock placement and to review needed anchoring systems, etc. Shawn noted that other permits may also be required (e.g. US Army Corps of Engineers 404 permit, Lewis and Clark Conservation District 310 permits).

Shawn contrasted the need for a new dock request form with a Right-Of-Use authorization (Special Use Permit) required for activities not specifically approved in the Canyon Ferry Act. The Right-Of-Use authorization would cover activities proposed to occur on Reclamation land (e.g., temporary building material storage, stairs, walkways, trails, and temporary use of motorized vehicles). Shawn outlined the process and fees required to obtain Right-Of-Use authorization. Additional information regarding Right-Of-Use authorization can be found at <http://www.usbr.gov/pmts/lands/>.

Meeting attendees asked if a permit would be required to put a boat dock into the water, ride 4-wheelers on the shoreline, or to launch jet skis and boats.

Paul Backlund (Facility Manager) clarified that historical uses occurring at the time of the enactment of the Canyon Ferry Act may continue. However, Paul noted that new uses and maintenance of existing facilities on Federal land would require Right-Of-Use authorization. Paul indicated that Reclamation must administer Federal land in the public interest. Paul said that Reclamation will work to minimize expansion of exclusive uses unless they are permitted.

A general discussion followed on what constituted historical use.

Shawn provided some examples of activities that would not likely be permitted including burning debris and storing personal equipment on the shoreline.

Shawn and Paul also stated that Right-Of-Use authorization would require administrative fees and an appraised value of the permitted use. Methods for determining use values would be refined over time.

Audience members expressed interest in beach access for persons with disabilities. Paul noted that access for disabled persons was being planned and developed at campgrounds, picnic areas, and toilets around Canyon Ferry Reservoir.

The next public meeting is planned for August 15, 2006 at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church. Items covered at the next meeting include a review of the draft dock request form.