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East Park Reservoir Web page:

<http://www.mp.usbr.gov/ncao/eastpark/index.html>

Campground Update Hotline: (530) 968-5274

Corrections:

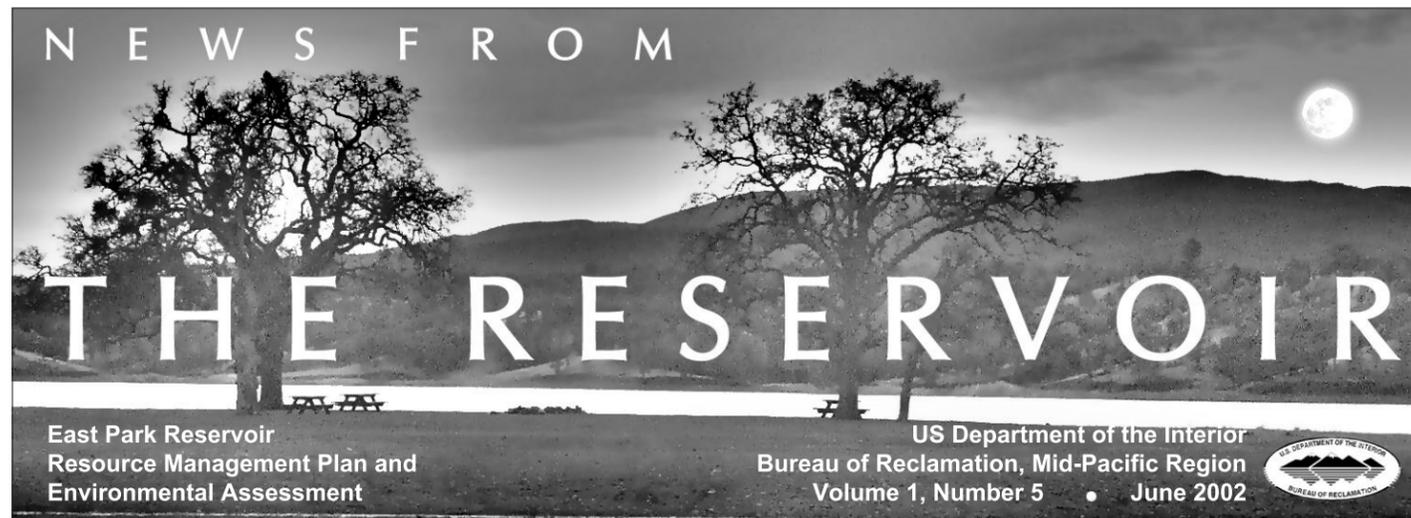
In last month's newsletter, under Goal 5-1, one of the objectives should have been: "Maintain the current contract Reclamation has with CDF." Also, the last additional objective for Goal 7 should have been: "Regardless of whether the roads are paved or unpaved, there should be weight limits, excluding vehicles for operation and maintenance of the facility, which includes the Orland Unit Water Users Association." We apologize for these omissions.



Mark Your Calendar

Next work group meeting:

Thursday June 27th, at The Maxwell Inn, 6 to 8 p.m. Guest speaker will be Rick Massa of the Orland Unit Water Users Association.



Endangered Species Act Explained

Once the goals and objectives for the East Park RMP have been developed, they will be incorporated into a viable and usable resource management plan. One of the categories addressed in the resource management plan is that of endangered species and their management. For those unfamiliar with the federal Endangered Species Act, what follows is a brief overview.



Fisheries Service (NMFS), under the Department of Commerce, share responsibility for administering the ESA. Generally, the NMFS deals with marine species, such as whales and seals, and anadromous fish (those that migrate up rivers from the sea to breed in freshwater); the USFWS is responsible for terrestrial and freshwater species and migratory birds. Additionally, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (within the Department of Agriculture) oversees the import and export of listed terrestrial plants.

The ESA amended earlier laws enacted in 1966 and 1969. The 1973 law has been reauthorized seven times and has been amended on several occasions, most recently in 1988. The ESA was due for reauthorization again in 1993. Since then, different bills have been submitted to change the act, but no new legislation has been authorized. The endangered species program has continued to receive appropriations while Congress considers reauthorization, allowing conservation actions for threatened and endangered species to continue.

The objectives of the ESA are twofold: To conserve "the ecosystems upon which endangered and threatened species depend" and to conserve and recover listed species.

ESA OVERSIGHT

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), under the Department of the Interior, and the National Marine

BACKGROUND

When Congress passed the Endangered Species Act in 1973, it recognized that many of our nation's native plants and animals were in danger of becoming extinct. The purposes of the ESA are to protect these endangered and threatened species and to provide a means to conserve their ecosystems and habitat. Congress expressed through the ESA that our rich natural heritage was of "aesthetic, ecological, educational, recreational, and scientific value to our nation and its people."

This law is regarded as one of the most comprehensive wildlife conservation laws in the world. It is a complex law and yet has a great deal of built-in flexibility. The ESA is used in many management decisions and is addressed in many conservation procedures.

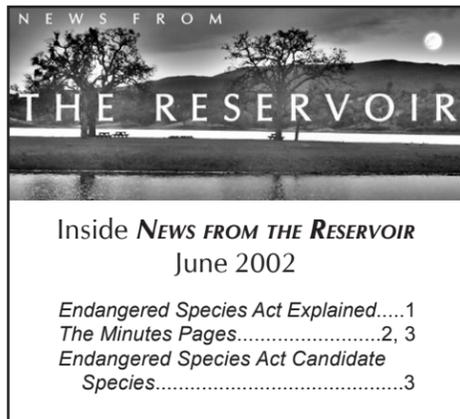
LISTING

Under the ESA, species may be listed as either endangered or threatened. An endangered species is defined as one in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. A threatened species is defined as one that is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future. All species of plants and animals, except pest insects, are eligible for listing as endangered or threatened.

Species are listed on the basis of "the best scientific and commercial data available." Listings are made solely on the basis of the species' biological status and threats to its existence. The USFWS decides all listings using sound science and peer review to ensure the accuracy of the best available data. 

East Park RMP/EA

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*Acting as contracted agent for the Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region

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The Minutes Pages

The following is a recap of the goals and objectives discussed at the last work group meeting. For the sake of space, the discussion of each topic has been omitted. If you would like to see the discussion text, please see a copy of the minutes or contact Dennis Kearney.

RMP Goals and Objectives Discussion

CATEGORY B: Land Use

2. Management Measure or Opportunity: Cattle Grazing

Goal 2-1: Protect resources and facilities from damage

- Objective: Require the lessee, through the grazing lease, to provide water structures, salt blocks, and fencing to maintain cattle at an adequate distance from the reservoir's edge and to prevent shoreline siltation and water contamination.
- Objective: Maintain and enforce grazing lease terms, which promote optimum distribution of cattle to control weeds, prevent overgrazing, and assign responsibility to the lessee for any repairs to facilities damaged by cattle grazing.
- Objective: Maintain appropriate barriers to minimize road erosion and to protect campgrounds and other structures from damage.

3. Management Measure or Opportunity: Boundary

Goal 3-1: Achieve a consistent framework for eliminating encroachments on Reclamation land.

- Objective: Construct and maintain boundary fencing in all areas where needed around East Park Reservoir.

4. Management Measure or Opportunity: Gravel Mining

Goal 4-1: Reclamation will enforce permitting requirements for in-stream gravel mining applicants.

5. Management Measure or Opportunity: Reservoir Access

Goals and objectives for Category B, Land Use, Item 5, are expressed under Category A: East Park Management, Item 6, Facilities and Roads (Goal 6-1), and Item 7, Season of Use. These goals and objectives are summarized as follows:

- Paving roads;
- Installing physical barriers;
- Posting signs with nonemergency phone numbers;
- Posting signs in Maxwell to alert the public when the park is full or closed;
- Building turnout (loop road);
- Establishing carrying capacity; and
- Updating the campground update phone line weekly.

Additional Goals and Objectives for 5—see minutes.

CATEGORY D: Recreation (Use)

1. Management Measure or Opportunity: Equitable use of the reservoir and its lands by the recreating public.

Goal 1-1: Maintain and enhance recreational opportunities

- Use the approved RDP as a guide in providing, along with a managing partner, adequate access management

and parking for a variety of recreation uses at the area.

- Develop area for recreational use, while maintaining the “primitive” or “undeveloped” character of the area, ensuring protection of natural and any cultural resources.

- Work with the state to seek grant funding to provide permanent and portable boat ramps, where suitable.

- Continue to allow historic recreation uses by permit, according to current and established regulations.

- Increase public accessibility, where appropriate and consistent with resource management goals and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

- Using the RDP as a guide, develop campsites, where appropriate.

- Promote boater safety in general by developing public information to describe regulations, hazardous conditions, closed wildlife areas, seasonal closures, and other management actions.

- Construct a wildlife-viewing platform on the east side, near the entrance of Indian Creek Marsh.

Goal 1-2: Design campgrounds and other recreational facilities to account for changing water levels at East Park Reservoir.

2. Management Measure or Opportunity: Campsite Development—Covered under D 1-1.

Goal 2-1. Establish carrying capacity for East Park.

- Objective: Determine the capacity of the area by identifying developed camping sites, camping areas, day use areas, etc. and by posting the limit.

Goal 2-2. Establish fee system based on the systems used at other facilities.

3. Management Measure or Opportunity: Managing Partners

Goal 3-1: Promote cooperative management and program implementation efforts with other agencies and the private sector

Objectives:

- Contact the US Forest Service, local counties, and organizations such as Kampgrounds of America to determine their interest in managing or sharing management of the East Park area.

- If no single cost-sharing partner can be found, consider forming a joint management group, made up of private, local, and agency groups, to pool finances and sound management efforts.

- Ensure that any private interest groups, state and local agencies, and other federal agencies are aware of management actions and are offered an opportunity to participate through cooperative and cost-share agreements.

Category C: Natural Resources

1. Management measure or opportunity: sedimentation and water quality

Goal 1-1: Protect and improve water quality

Objectives:

- Develop an integrated water quality monitoring program to indicate the potential for water contaminants and any potential effects on human health, fish, and wildlife.

- Develop an integrated pest management program to oversee the use of pesticides on public land.

- Analyze the vegetation in the lake to determine if a problem exists.

- Move camping and parking activities away from the shore.

- Periodically burn the Indian Creek marsh to control and rejuvenate the decaying vegetation.

- Install barriers to protect the shoreline.

- Provide signs to limit boat launching to designated boat ramps, when constructed, and to boat launch areas to protect shoreline vegetation.

2. Management measure or opportunity: wildlife management

Goal 2-1: Minimize conflicts between wildlife and local landowners

Objectives:

- Educate the local homeowners on the problems caused by feeding wildlife.

- Coordinate with the California Department of Fish and Game to develop a wildlife management plan to prioritize and coordinate wildlife management actions.

- Protect wetlands.

- Periodically burn areas to enhance tricolored blackbird habitat.

- Enhance habitat to make the marsh, two wetland areas, and Middle Ridge more attractive to the elk to keep them off the private lands.

- Enhance fish habitat. 

Endangered Species Act Candidate Species

Candidate species are plants and animals for which the USFWS has sufficient information on their biological status and threats to propose them as endangered or threatened under the ESA but for which development of a proposed listing regulation is precluded by other higher priority listing activities.

That the USFWS maintains a candidate species list reflects its awareness that early conservation is important because it preserves management options, minimizes the cost of recovery, and reduces the potential for restrictive land use policies in the future. Addressing the needs of species before the regulatory restrictions associated with listed species come into play often allows greater management flexibility to stabilize or restore these species and their habitats.

The USFWS works with states and private partners to carry out conservation actions for candidate species to prevent their further decline and possibly to eliminate the need to list them as endangered or threatened.

The law's ultimate goal is to recover species so they no longer need protection under the ESA. The law provides for recovery plans to be developed, listing the steps needed to restore a species to health. Appropriate public and private agencies and institutions and other qualified persons help develop and implement recovery plans. The public and interested stakeholders also are encouraged to help develop recovery plans.

Depending on the species, a panel of recognized experts, under the direction of the USFWS, either prepare plans or they are contracted to an appropriate consultant on the species. In either case, regional directors are responsible for approving recovery plans for listed species occurring in their region.