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## Chapter VI – Resource Management Plan

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## Resource Management Plan

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### INTRODUCTION

A formal planning process was followed in completing this planning and environmental compliance document. Based on the issues and concerns identified, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) analyzed possible management alternatives for Canyon Ferry Reservoir. After analyzing the three alternatives, the study team selected Alternative B (Natural Resource Enhancement With Moderate Recreation Development) to recommend as the preferred management alternative. The preferred management alternative will be the Resource Management Plan (RMP) and is described in this chapter. This chapter describes the goals formulated to address the issues and concerns, the associated objectives formulated to successfully achieve the goals, and the actions to facilitate meeting the objectives.

Based on public input and internal review of Reclamation programs and policy, the actions highlighted in this chapter are actions that should be implemented within the study area. The overall goal is to implement the actions within the 10-year planning period; however, implementation depends on, among other things, available funding, cooperation of other involved entities; cost-sharing efforts; results of visitor use surveys; results of recreation master plans prepared for individual recreation areas; results of the Facilities Condition Assessments; and the success of the Canyon Ferry working group in resolving conflicts and providing valuable input to Reclamation in its efforts to prioritize the actions for funding and implementation. This chapter also describes the process required to amend and modify the RMP.

### PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Reclamation has the primary stewardship responsibility to manage the lands under its jurisdiction in accordance with existing laws, policies, and guidelines. In cases in which Reclamation lands are directly managed by others (e.g., Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks [MFWP]), Reclamation exercises oversight responsibility to ensure that the managing agency fulfills its responsibilities pursuant to the terms and conditions of the management agreement between both parties.

Key objectives for development include protecting fish, wildlife, and biodiversity; preserving the environmental resources and cultural values of historical places; providing for outdoor recreation; and protecting the health and safety of visitors. These objectives, as well as the actions, must be met in an environmentally and economically sound manner.

A primary step in the planning process step was to identify goals and objectives to address the issues and concerns and resolve identified problems. Many of the goals, objectives, and actions were formulated in response to basic land management principles and concepts and Reclamation policy. Pursuant to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements, potential effects of implementing certain combinations of actions (i.e., "alternatives" or management plans) were analyzed and the results disclosed. The basic challenge was to select those combinations of goals, objectives, and actions that were widely accepted by the public and agency personnel, could be implemented without serious conflicts, within the environmental resource limitations, and consistent with existing policy, laws, and project purposes.

The RMP assumes that the existing and future rules and regulations of Reclamation and MFWP for managing Canyon Ferry Reservoir will be applied. See appendix H for a partial list of applicable Federal laws, regulations, and Executive orders.

## SUMMARY OF ELEMENTS IN THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

As discussed in chapter IV, a Reclamation interdisciplinary team determined the elements and/or actions that would best address the identified issues. Table VI-1 summarizes the elements and/or actions contained in the preferred RMP.

Table VI-1.—Summary of elements in the RMP

Alternative elements	Natural Resource Enhancement with Moderate Recreation Development (Preferred RMP Alternative)
Access for People With Disabilities	<p>Continue to conduct accessibility evaluations of all facilities and programs (to include evaluation of offices).</p> <p>Develop an adequate number of accessible day-use and campground sites.</p> <p>Make all or portions of new trails accessible to people with disabilities.</p> <p>Make interpretive displays/information accessible to people with disabilities.</p> <p>All upgrades and/or new developments will meet Americans with Disability Act standards.</p>
Airport	<p>Reclamation will continue to work with the Montana Aeronautics Division and other interested parties on the disposition of the Silos area airport.</p> <p>Reclamation will determine the need to retain the airport lands for Reclamation project purposes before any land transactions occur.</p>

Table VI-1.—Summary of elements in the RMP (continued)

Alternative elements	Natural Resource Enhancement with Moderate Recreation Development (Preferred RMP Alternative)
Boat Ramps	<p>Construct boat ramp at Silos pursuant to Broadwater County's development plan and Title X.</p> <p>Pursue replacing boat ramps at Kims' and Yacht Basin and extend ramp at Shannon. Goose Bay boat ramp will be replaced in 2003.</p> <p>Based on the Facilities Condition Assessment and a site-specific recreation master plan, upgrade certain boat ramps (including lengthening) to allow for safe access when reservoir is low and when there are high winds.</p> <p>Consider upgrading the boat ramp and parking area at Hellgate Recreation Area.</p> <p>Provide adequate boat docks at boat ramps to prevent user conflicts and to address safety concerns, such as high winds.</p> <p>Evaluate the need to install a boat ramp at Duck Creek.</p>
Buoys (also see "Health and Safety")	<p>Install buoys at designated swim beaches, boat launch areas, and other places, as needed, and comply with MFWP regulations for designating no wake zones.</p>
Campgrounds	<p>Develop new (and upgrade existing) overnight campsites at Silos Recreation Area, pursuant to Broadwater County's development plan and Title X.</p> <p>Continue operation and maintenance (O&amp;M) of other campgrounds at the existing level.</p> <p>Reclamation will rehabilitate and/or expand existing campgrounds based on the results of the Facilities Condition Assessment and after a site-specific recreation master plan has been prepared for each campground.</p> <p>Appropriate setbacks from streams and lakes will be maintained when campground developments occur.</p> <p>Based on the results of the Facilities Condition Assessment and the recreation master plan, Reclamation will first look at rehabilitating and/or expanding the campgrounds at White Earth, Hellgate, Indian Road, Riverside, Jo Bonner, Court Sheriff, and Chinamen's Gulch. An immediate need to focus on these recreation sites first was identified during the planning process used to prepare this RMP/EA.</p> <p>Based on the results of the Facilities Condition Assessment and completion of the site master plan for Confederate Bay, consideration will be given to closing and revegetating roads, installing vehicle barriers, and signing needs along State Highway 284.</p> <p>The scope of rehabilitation and/or expansion efforts at other recreation sites will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and after conducting a Facilities Condition Assessment and preparing individual site master plans.</p>

Table VI-1.—Summary of elements in the RMP (continued)

Alternative elements	Natural Resource Enhancement with Moderate Recreation Development (Preferred RMP Alternative)
Carrying Capacity Limitations	<p>Capacity limits would be determined prior to major capital investments.</p> <p>Initiate two University of Montana studies to identify social and facility carrying capacity issues and to assist in monitoring capacities.</p> <p>Use Geographic Information System mapping to avoid exceeding environmental capacities and to aid proper site planning to address physical carrying capacity issues.</p>
Concessions	<p>Any proposals to provide new commercial services must first be presented to, and evaluated by, Reclamation. If approved by Reclamation, the opportunity to provide the new commercial service should be competitively offered to prospective operators.</p> <p>Work with Broadwater County to establish an appropriate concession operation at Silos.</p> <p>Reissue existing concession contracts pursuant to Reclamation policy.</p> <p>Kim's and Yacht Basin Marina will be offered extensions on their concession contracts to allow Reclamation time to complete a Commercial Services Plan.</p> <p>Identify existing guides and outfitters doing business at Canyon Ferry Reservoir and issue special use permits, if appropriate.</p>
Day-Use Areas	<p>Develop new day-use facilities at Silos Recreation Area pursuant to Broadwater County's development plan.</p> <p>Continue O&amp;M of other day-use areas at the existing level.</p> <p>No existing day-use areas will be converted to overnight campgrounds.</p> <p>Existing day-use areas would be upgraded and/or expanded based on the results of a Facilities Condition Assessment and preparation of individual site master plans.</p> <p>Expand and improve the day-use site below the dam at Riverside based on the results of the Facilities Condition Assessment and site master plan.</p> <p>Based on the results of the Facilities Condition Assessment and after completion of a site master plan for Cemetery Island, consideration will be given to improving the existing trail, installing information signs, and investigating alternatives for pumping the existing toilets.</p> <p>Appropriate setbacks from streams and lakes will be maintained when day-use developments occur.</p>
Deep Water Bay	Develop the deep water bay at Broadwater Bay (Silos).

Table VI-1.—Summary of elements in the RMP (continued)

Alternative elements	Natural Resource Enhancement with Moderate Recreation Development (Preferred RMP Alternative)
Eagles	<p>Continue cooperating with the Montana bald eagle working group.</p> <p>Continue with the seasonal closure of Eagle Bay Drive during bald eagle migration if the eagle count is above 50.</p> <p>Continue to cooperate with the Hauser Lake Bald Eagle Committee.</p> <p>Consider providing improved eagle viewing facilities at Riverside Recreation Area, as needed.</p>
Erosion Control	<p>Continue current soil erosion-control methods.</p> <p>As part of implementing Title X, continue working with a shoreline management committee of concerned individuals and entities on developing input on erosion-control methods for Reclamation to consider.</p> <p>Enforce off-road vehicle (ORV) closures, particularly in areas sensitive to erosion and where impacts to fish and wildlife could occur.</p> <p>Implement program to control shore erosion adjacent to public roads, Canyon Ferry Unit Project facilities, and developed recreation areas where there is a public health and safety concern. Gabions and breakwalls or other erosion-control techniques will be used to protect shorelines, where needed.</p> <p>Reclamation will pursue fencing the exterior boundaries to prevent livestock trespass and identify human-use areas.</p> <p>Reclaim areas closed to ORV use and to prevent unauthorized access.</p> <p>Reclamation will initiate riparian protection measures at developed recreation areas.</p>
Fees	<p>Establish fees based on those at similar sites in the area that offer similar services.</p> <p>Evaluate a variety of fee structures to accommodate a wide variety of users.</p> <p>Evaluate the type of use at Indian Road Campground to determine if a fee station is needed for the use of the campground and day-use facilities.</p> <p>Promote the Golden Age Passport Program.</p> <p>Investigate the feasibility of establishing one user pass that is good for multiple areas managed by a variety of entities.</p>
Fire Rehabilitation Efforts	<p>Reclamation will implement the goals set forth in the Buck Snort Fire Burned Area Rehabilitation Plan and EA prepared by Reclamation and the Bureau of Land Management. Reclamation will initiate management actions to achieve the goals of the plan. Rehabilitation efforts will be completed by the end of 2003.</p> <p>Continue to follow the updated 2001 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy and the January 2001 Secretary of the Interior's policy letter and prepare a Fire Management Plan.</p> <p>Work with remaining lease holders to permit the removal of slash, underbrush, and dead and downed timber to reduce fire hazards.</p>

Table VI-1.—Summary of elements in the RMP (continued)

Alternative elements	Natural Resource Enhancement with Moderate Recreation Development (Preferred RMP Alternative)
Fisheries	<p>Work with MFWP to identify areas needing closure.</p> <p>Continue to work with MFWP on their perch habitat program for the south end of the reservoir.</p> <p>Work with MFWP to identify opportunities for fisheries enhancement such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Montana Fish and Wildlife Conservation Trust Fund fishery enhancement projects</li> <li>– Setbacks for recreation areas</li> <li>– Area closure signage</li> </ul>
Habitat Improvement on Lands Other Than Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)	<p>Identify opportunities for habitat enhancement around the reservoir.</p> <p>Fund and develop sites identified.</p> <p>Consult with MFWP on potential habitat improvement programs on lands outside the WMA.</p>
Health and Safety	<p>Continue to post rules and regulations in campgrounds, at boat ramps, and at other visitor contact areas.</p> <p>Provide sanitation facilities and trash receptacles, as needed.</p> <p>Promote the Crime Witness Program.</p> <p>Some areas above and below the dam will be closed for public safety and facility security purposes.</p> <p>Health and safety concerns will be a high priority when implementing future management actions detailed in the RMP.</p> <p>Work with MFWP to establish no wake zones by placing buoys at swim beaches, developed recreation areas, boat ramps, and other areas that need special protection.</p> <p>Work with MFWP and the CGAUX to improve enforcement of watercraft safety rules and regulations and to enhance their existing programs.</p> <p>Review monitoring procedures at campgrounds (camp hosts, etc.)</p> <p>Post appropriate warning signs to warn visitors of potential hazards.</p> <p>Ensure that existing emergency services are adequate and proper notification and response procedures are in place.</p> <p>Repair or replace faulty septic systems when deficiencies are identified.</p> <p>Establish policy and "no shooting" areas to protect visitors and capital improvements.</p> <p>Install dry fire hydrants at several locations in cooperation with the Broadwater County Rural Fire District.</p>

Table VI-1.—Summary of elements in the RMP (continued)

Alternative elements	Natural Resource Enhancement with Moderate Recreation Development (Preferred RMP Alternative)
Heritage Resources	<p>Continue National Historic Preservation Act compliance for Federal actions.</p> <p>Continue to conduct opportunistic inspection of sites and locales as personnel and time are available.</p> <p>In consultation with the Montana State Historic Preservation Office, assess adequacy of existing heritage resource inventories and conduct intensive surveys in areas not adequately covered.</p>
Hunting	Develop plan for more WMAs to enhance habitat for game species.
Integrated Pest Management	<p>The comprehensive weed management plan established in 1993 will be followed and updated as necessary.</p> <p>Will continue the weed control agreement with Broadwater County and supply annual funding to the county.</p> <p>Work with Lewis and Clark County on formalizing a long-term weed control agreement and supply annual funding to the county.</p> <p>Review all integrated pest management practices with customers and partners.</p>
Law Enforcement (also see "Health and Safety")	<p>Continue to provide law enforcement pursuant to signed and current agreements with local agencies.</p> <p>Under the terms of the signed and current agreements, work with local law enforcement agencies to increase their law enforcement efforts.</p>
Management of Reservoir Lands	<p>Continue to investigate the feasibility of having a non-Federal or another Federal partner manage the recreation resources on reservoir lands.</p> <p>In lieu of a non-Federal or another Federal management partner, Reclamation will manage recreation and other land resources.</p> <p>Reclamation will provide additional on-site staff to manage the land, recreation, and concession activities and programs.</p> <p>Continue to propose an agreement with Broadwater County for the development and future management of the Silos Recreation Area.</p>
Nongame Birds	Reclamation may consider updating the bird species list of the Canyon Ferry area to include WMAs.
Pheasant Habitat Improvement	Continue working with Pheasants Forever to develop additional habitat along east shore.

Table VI-1.—Summary of elements in the RMP (continued)

Alternative elements	Natural Resource Enhancement with Moderate Recreation Development (Preferred RMP Alternative)
Policy Development and Land Use Strategy	<p>Conduct Facilities Condition Assessment of existing facilities.</p> <p>In cooperation with the Canyon Ferry Recreation Association (CFRA) and other interested parties, Reclamation will establish a policy for the public use of the areas between private lease lot lands and the water surface.</p> <p>As provided in the Canyon Ferry Unit, Montana, Cabin Lease Lots Sale Final EA and FONSI, February 2002, in cooperation with the CFRA and other interested parties, Reclamation will establish procedures for approving docks authorized by Title X and establishing design and construction standards.</p> <p>Based on review and evaluation of existing facilities, rehabilitation will be emphasized before development of new facilities.</p> <p>Consider soil conditions and other limiting factors when placing future facilities.</p> <p>Reclamation will conduct two user surveys during the 10-year planning life of the RMP.</p> <p>Reclamation will establish a working group to assist in resolving Canyon Ferry issues that may occur.</p> <p>Reclamation will work with the Broadwater Stream and Lake Committee, Broadwater County, and Townsend on potential developments at Indian Road Recreation Area.</p> <p>Reclamation will investigate the possibility of entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Forest Service for operating an ice-skating rink on the ponds at Indian Road Recreation Area.</p> <p>Based on the results of the Facilities Condition Assessment and other factors, prepare site-specific recreation master plans for each recreation area needing changes.</p> <p>Placement and construction of utilities will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Emphasis will be placed on minimizing impacts to the environment.</p> <p>Abandoned/unlicensed vehicles and equipment left in campgrounds for extended periods of time should be removed. A policy addressing this issue should be established and enforced.</p>
Pollution Control (also see "Health and Safety")	<p>On Reclamation lands, repair or replace faulty septic systems as deficiencies occur.</p> <p>Ensure fueling facilities are constructed to meet fire codes.</p> <p>Investigate the feasibility of requiring future concessionaires to install recreational vehicle dump stations and fish cleaning stations. If feasible, implement the action. (Note: Kim's and Goose Bay concessionaires currently have dump stations).</p>

Table VI-1.—Summary of elements in the RMP (continued)

Alternative elements	Natural Resource Enhancement with Moderate Recreation Development (Preferred RMP Alternative)
Prime Irrigated Soils	Locate development areas to avoid concentrations of prime farmlands.
Public Education and Information and Visitor Center	<p>Continue at current level.</p> <p>Proactively educate cabin site owners, concessionaires, campers, boat users, and other visitors on the appropriate use of Federal lands.</p> <p>Supply needed maps, brochures, pamphlets, and expanded Internet information services to the public.</p> <p>Continue to operate and maintain the Visitor Center.</p>
Raptors	Require burying powerlines as a condition to issuing special use permits on Reclamation lands.
Remote Areas	<p>Remote public use areas would continue to be managed at the current level.</p> <p>Maintain sufficient access to existing remote areas with legal access.</p> <p>Monitor public use at remote sites to determine the need for providing sanitation facilities or other improvements and restrictions.</p>
Restrooms	<p>Install restrooms at new trailheads.</p> <p>The need for facilities will be evaluated at Duck Creek and other campgrounds.</p> <p>Investigate methods of pumping existing toilets on Cemetery Island.</p> <p>Provide sanitary facilities at historical remote use sites, as needed.</p> <p>Upgrade existing restrooms at Hellgate and Riverside Recreation Areas and at other areas based on the results of the Facilities Condition Assessment and the site-specific recreation master plan.</p> <p>Incorporate the existing restroom on the north side of White Earth Campground into any campground expansion efforts.</p>
Shorebirds	<p>Coordinate shorebird survey with State piping plover survey.</p> <p>Use information from the survey to help identify and propose potential shorebird habitat enhancement projects for funding.</p>

Table VI-1.—Summary of elements in the RMP (continued)

Alternative elements	Natural Resource Enhancement with Moderate Recreation Development (Preferred RMP Alternative)
Signs	<p>Repair and/or replace old and deteriorated signs.</p> <p>In cooperation with the CFRA, provide signs to identify public use areas between private lots and the water surface.</p> <p>Inventory signs and identify all signing needs, including those for all roads and recreation sites.</p> <p>Provide signs with rules and regulations governing use of Reclamation lands and facilities such as campgrounds, boat ramps, and shoreline areas, including cabin areas.</p> <p>Signs will state the process used to identify and remove abandoned vehicles from the reservoir area.</p> <p>Consider placing interpretive signs in areas with interesting geologic features and at locations with outstanding environmental resources.</p> <p>Consider providing informational and directional signage to improve traffic flow and facility use.</p> <p>Provide warning signs to protect visitors.</p>
Trails	<p>Reclamation will continue to work with Broadwater County on establishing a non-motorized trail from Indian Road to Silos.</p> <p>Consider improving existing trail on Cemetery Island.</p> <p>Consider developing a nonmotorized, multiuse trail connecting White Earth and Crittendon (includes horses, hikers, nonmotorized bikes, cross-country skiing, and wheelchairs).</p> <p>Consider developing a small trail at White Earth on the south side of the peninsula.</p>
Vehicular Access and Roads (also see "Remote Areas")	<p>Reclamation will establish criteria for the closure of roads that cause damage to environmental resources and habitat.</p> <p>Close roads on Reclamation lands that provide reservoir access but do not have legal access across private lands.</p> <p>Provide improved existing public access to areas identified by the public.</p> <p>Provide sufficient year-round access for winter recreation activities.</p> <p>Maintain existing access to remote sites.</p>

Table VI-1.—Summary of elements in the RMP (continued)

Alternative elements	Natural Resource Enhancement with Moderate Recreation Development (Preferred RMP Alternative)
<p>Vehicular Access and Roads (also see "Remote Areas") (continued)</p>	<p>Investigate alternatives to provide legal access to Hole in the Wall Bay (Galzagorry Road).</p> <p>Evaluate O&amp;M program for roads to achieve standards of safety and resource protection.</p> <p>Depending on eagle counts during migration periods, maintain closures of Eagle Bay Drive and Riverside Campgrounds.</p> <p>Seek cooperative partnerships for developing and maintaining roads. Work with Federal, State, and county highway departments on improving or paving roads using TEA-21 funds.</p> <p>Work with the Montana Department of Transportation and Lewis and Clark County on ways to improve safety on Canyon Ferry Dam Road (Highway 284).</p> <p>Close all ORV areas pursuant to existing regulations.</p> <p>Depending on the results of the Facilities Condition Assessment and site-specific recreation master plan, consider realigning the access road into Indian Road Recreation Area.</p> <p>Reclamation will work cooperatively with other road users and entities to consider new cooperative initiatives for road development and maintenance. The cooperative initiatives may provide cost-share opportunities commensurate with past funding amounts to upgrade East and West Shore Drives beyond the existing condition.</p>
<p>Volunteers</p>	<p>Volunteer campground host program would continue.</p> <p>Additional volunteers would be solicited by Reclamation to assist in trail O&amp;M, litter cleanup, and Visitor Center operations.</p> <p>Camp host program will be evaluated to identify possible improvements.</p>
<p>Warning Systems</p>	<p>Continue the warning system established by the CGAUX.</p> <p>Work with the CGAUX to establish additional warning systems in the reservoir area.</p>
<p>Watchable Wildlife</p>	<p>Continue the bald eagle viewing program.</p> <p>A long-term watchable wildlife program for the Canyon Ferry area may be considered.</p>
<p>Water Quality Monitoring Program</p>	<p>Continue the long-term water quality monitoring program.</p> <p>Work with the State of Montana to prepare a total maximum daily load plan for Canyon Ferry Reservoir and the river immediately above the reservoir.</p>

Table VI-1.—Summary of elements in the RMP (continued)

Alternative elements	Natural Resource Enhancement with Moderate Recreation Development (Preferred RMP Alternative)
Water Quality Monitoring Program (continued)	<p>Monitor water quality at recreation sites and other areas, as appropriate. Data collected will include nutrient samples, zooplankton, phytoplankton, chlorophyll, and other parameters.</p> <p>Source Water Protection Areas being developed by Montana DEQ will be considered when implementing the management actions. These areas will be designated as environmentally sensitive areas.</p>
Wildlife	Work with MFWP and other wildlife entities to identify projects on Canyon Ferry lands that qualify for Montana Fish and Wildlife Conservation Trust funds.
Wildlife Management Areas	<p>Work with MFWP to identify potential new management areas.</p> <p>Determine if land should be added to MFWP WMA.</p> <p>Amend existing agreements to include new areas, if appropriate.</p> <p>Wildlife management plans will be prepared for specific areas identified for management by MFWP if new areas are identified.</p>

## ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

### *General Actions*

The following are general actions identified during the planning process to facilitate management of Canyon Ferry Reservoir and achieve the goals and objectives established for the study area. These actions apply to all lands within the study area. More specific actions are detailed later in this chapter.

- R** Reclamation will continue to operate Canyon Ferry Reservoir and Reclamation lands adjacent to it for the purposes for which the project was authorized.
- R** Reclamation will adhere to existing and future Federal, State, and county laws, regulations, and ordinances, including accessibility regulations and guidelines.
- R** Decisions will be made for the benefit of the project and the general public.
- R** Reclamation will provide additional on-site staff to manage the land, recreation, and concession activities at Canyon Ferry Reservoir.
- R** Visitor health and safety will be the primary focus when constructing or upgrading needed facilities and providing visitor use opportunities.

- R Reclamation will ensure that public use and facility development is consistent with the goals and objectives of the RMP.
- R In cooperation with concerned parties, Reclamation will establish a working group to work with Reclamation to identify potential options to resolve general Canyon Ferry Reservoir issues and implement RMP objectives.
- R Reclamation will conduct periodic land management and recreation reviews to ensure that the lands are being managed pursuant to the existing agreements and land use authorizations.
- R Reclamation will monitor visitor use to identify user conflicts and investigate corrective measures to prevent further conflicts.
- R Reclamation will comply with its policies, directives, and standards.

## **SPECIFIC ACTIONS**

### ***Goals and Objectives***

Goals and objectives for the RMP were developed in direct response to the issues and concerns identified during scoping. Each goal is the desired future condition Reclamation wishes to achieve as the RMP is implemented. Each goal is accompanied by a set of objectives that Reclamation should pursue to attain the goals (desired future condition).

### ***Actions***

In addition, each set of goals and objectives outlined in this chapter is accompanied by certain actions that will facilitate completion of the objectives. The actions listed below are essentially the same actions identified in table VI-1; however, the actions have been grouped into different issue categories to show the relationship of the actions to the goals and objectives.

Many of the actions may be specific; others are broad or are intended to initiate other actions that are needed to achieve the desired future condition. Examples of other actions needed are to develop: (1) wildlife management plans for potential new Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), (2) accessibility evaluations, (3) criteria for the closure of roads, (4) recreation Facilities Condition Assessments and site-specific recreation master plans, and (5) lease lot dock and shoreline use guidelines.

Implementation of the action(s) is the sole responsibility of Reclamation contingent upon appropriations from the Congress and other funding sources, if available. Some actions may be accomplished in cooperation with other entities or organizations.

The following section lists the concerns, goals, objectives, and actions for each of the seven issue categories previously described in chapter III. The seven issue categories are access management, recreation management, heritage resources, health and safety, wildlife resources, public information, and land use.

### ***Access Management***

The issues and concerns identified in this issue category focused on improving signing, maintaining existing roads to provide safe access, providing adequate year-round access for visitors, and closing illegal access roads to the reservoir. It also focused on providing only necessary and appropriate access to or between designated recreation areas (table VI-2). Meeting the goals and objectives established for this issue category will achieve safe access to, within, and from lands within the study area.

Table VI-2.—Summary of issues and concerns and associated goals and objectives for Canyon Ferry RMP/EA

Access management issue category		
Issue or concern	Goals	Objectives
Maintain/improve existing roads	Implement program to provide reasonable maintenance of existing roads	<p>Implement an operation and maintenance program consistent with available funding</p> <p>Develop partnerships for needed road maintenance and enhancements</p> <p>Develop a signage plan for the Canyon Ferry Reservoir area</p>
The reservoir does not have adequate access	Provide adequate access to recreation areas	<p>Use established Federal criteria in evaluating roads for public use</p> <p>Develop and implement procedures for closing off-road vehicle roads/ areas and roads that do not have legal access</p> <p>Evaluate the suitability of existing roads for year-round access</p>

### ***Access Management – Actions***

- R** Reclamation will establish criteria for closing roads and trails causing environmental resource and habitat damage. In addition, roads that provide access to the reservoir and that cross private property illegally will be closed to reservoir access. Reclamation will coordinate the development of its road closure criteria with other Federal and State agencies.
  
- R** Reclamation will close all off-road vehicle (ORV) use areas pursuant to existing Federal law and Reclamation policy. Exceptions will be made pursuant to 43 CFR Part 420 (Off-Road Vehicle Use).
  
- R** Reclamation will evaluate its operation and maintenance program for roads to achieve appropriate standards of public safety and resource protection. Established standards will also be followed if new roads are constructed to provide safe and legal access to the reservoir area.
  
- R** Reclamation will identify existing roads that should provide year-round access (i.e., winter access). New roads to provide year-round access will not be constructed.
  
- R** Reclamation will identify roads and trails that will remain open for public use. These roads/trails have provided historic public access to the reservoir for individuals who desire a less-confined recreation experience. However, these roads/trails must have legal access across private lands before such roads are allowed to remain open for public use. Roads that are left open will be monitored by Reclamation to determine the degree of use and potential resource damage that could occur.
  
- R** Reclamation will seek cooperative partnerships for developing and maintaining public access roads to the reservoir. Reclamation will cooperate with the Federal, State, and county highway departments to evaluate the feasibility of securing funds under the Transportation and Efficiency Act for the 21st Century or other funding sources for paving Jim Towne Road and the 3-mile section between Magpie and the county line, as well as funds for improving access roads to the reservoir and within the study area covered by the RMP/EA. Reclamation will also work with other entities, including the Canyon Ferry working group and the Canyon Ferry Fire Service Areas Board of Trustees, to resolve public safety access issues on East and West Shore Drives.
  
- R** Reclamation will work with the Montana Department of Transportation and Lewis and Clark County on improving safety conditions on Highway 284 at the north end of the reservoir near the dam. Emphasis will be given to signing and establishing turning lanes into recreation areas.

- R Reclamation will establish procedures which will address potential requests from private subdivisions for access to the reservoir. Generally, Reclamation will not grant additional access to special interest groups or private parties over and above access that is already provided to the public.
  
- R Reclamation will, in cooperation with the adjacent landowner(s), research the ownership of the road that leads to the Hole in the Wall fishing area to determine if the public has legal access to this area.
  
- R Reclamation will provide proper directional and/or warning signs for main access roads and interior roads to guide visitors.
  
- R Reclamation will work cooperatively with other road users and entities to consider new cooperative initiatives for road development and maintenance. The cooperative initiatives may provide cost-share opportunities commensurate with past funding amounts to upgrade East and West Shore Drives beyond the existing condition.

### ***Recreation Management***

The issues and concerns identified in this issue category focused on upgrading existing recreation facilities, providing additional camping and day-use facilities, providing more recreation opportunities, reducing user conflicts, eliminating ORV use, improving the quality of the concession operations at the reservoir, and providing a healthy and safe environment for visitors (table VI-3). Meeting the goals, objectives, and actions established for this issue category will provide safe and quality recreation facilities, opportunities, and services to meet public expectations within the study area.

Table VI-3.—Summary of issues and concerns and associated goals and objectives for Canyon Ferry RMP/EA

Recreation management issue category		
Issue or concern	Goals	Objectives
Not enough recreation facilities and opportunities	Provide for a variety of recreational opportunities and facilities	Determine the types and quantities of new recreation facilities needed, based on demand, carrying capacity limits, and site-specific recreation master planning.  Provide facilities and opportunities for people with disabilities

Table VI-3.—Summary of issues and concerns and associated goals and objectives for Canyon Ferry RMP/EA

Recreation management issue category (continued)		
Issue or concern	Goals	Objectives
Not enough recreation facilities and opportunities (continued)		<p>Provide information to visitors.</p> <p>Use current design standards and principles for the design and construction of facilities</p>
Laws and regulations not enforced	Improve visitor safety and increase resource protection	<p>Establish and enforce recreation-related rules and regulations to conserve and protect resources and to protect the health and safety of visitors</p> <p>Balance recreation development with other uses of reservoir lands</p> <p>Following established procedures, eliminate ORV use</p>
Existing facilities not maintained	Maintain facilities to protect the Federal investment	Establish and implement a schedule of routine maintenance for the reservoir's recreation facilities and infrastructure
Concessions (marinas) should continue	Provide commercial goods and services to the public in a fiscally responsible manner in response to user demand	<p>Select concessionaires on a competitive basis</p> <p>Seek concessionaires as partners to assist Reclamation in protecting reservoir lands and providing quality recreation opportunities and appropriate goods and services to the visiting public</p> <p>Evaluate concession operations on a periodic basis to ensure that the operators adhere to the terms and conditions of their contract</p> <p>Use a Commercial Services Plan to assist in issuing any Request for Proposal for commercial services</p>
Charge an appropriate fee for the use of facilities	Implement a fee structure to optimize revenue collection	<p>Set fees on a fee-for-service or fee-for-facility use basis</p> <p>Fees should reflect prevailing costs for similar services or facilities in the private sector, reflecting market demand</p>

## ***Recreation Management – Actions***

- R** Before rehabilitating existing facilities, Reclamation will conduct a Facilities Condition Assessment to determine needed improvements and to assist in the preparation of site-specific recreation master plans. Once the assessment and site planning have been completed, those recreation areas that have immediate needs will be given a higher priority. Those immediate needs are addressed in the actions for specific recreation areas listed below. The amount of rehabilitation work needed at other recreation areas not indicated below will depend on the results of the Facilities Condition Assessment and individual site master plans. See figure VI-1 for the process used to develop recreation facilities.
- R** All recreation facility developments within the Canyon Ferry Reservoir area will be based on public need, enhancing the visitor experience, and the social, physical, environmental, and facility carrying capacity limits as described in chapter III. Reclamation will monitor visitor use to ensure that the above-mentioned capacity limits at Canyon Ferry are not exceeded. Capacity limits will be determined during site planning and before major capital investments are made.
- R** Special attention will be given to upgrading existing restrooms, individual campsites, and day-use sites to bring the facilities up to current design standards (e.g., proper spacing, turning radii, accessibility, vegetative screening, potable water, and appropriate landscaping and irrigation).
- R** Reclamation will conduct handicapped-accessibility evaluations of existing facilities and programs, prepare necessary action plans, and schedule modifications to achieve compliance with existing accessibility laws and regulations.
- R** The concept of universal design<sup>1</sup> will be the standard when designing and constructing visitor use facilities.
- R** All trail development will follow the general design criteria described in appendix D and a comprehensive trail plan to be developed.
- R** Recreation will continue to be managed by Reclamation if a managing partner cannot be found.
- R** Emphasis will be given to rehabilitating existing recreation areas before initiating expansion efforts at new (proposed) sites.

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<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this RMP/EA, universal design is defined as facilities and features that will be accessible to persons with disabilities, beyond what is legally required. Once existing laws and regulations have been met, an attempt will be made to follow the principles of total accessibility in constructing the remaining facilities and features.

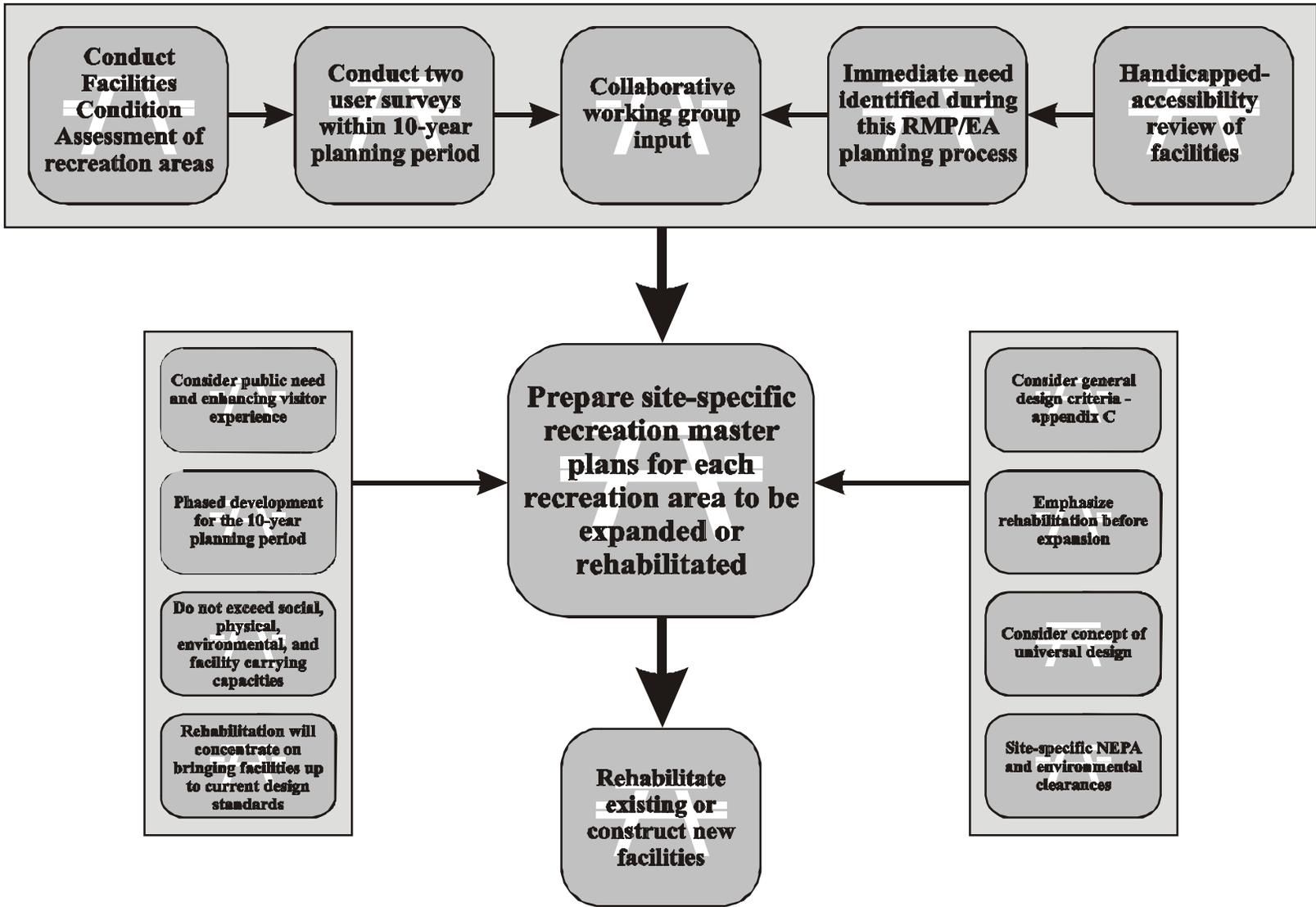


Figure VI-1.—Process for rehabilitating existing and developing new recreation facilities.  
 (Note: Site-specific NEPA and environmental clearances will be obtained prior to construction.)

- R New developments will be phased in over the 10-year planning period.
- R Reclamation will investigate riparian protection measures within, or immediately adjacent to, all developed recreation areas.
- R All recreation facility development will follow the general design criteria as described in appendix C.
- R Fee stations will be installed at appropriate locations leading to specific recreation areas. Fees charged for the use of facilities will be comparable to fees charged for the use of the same types of facilities and services at recreation areas other than the Canyon Ferry Reservoir area. A variety of fee structures will be examined to accommodate a wide variety of recreation uses.
- R The Golden Age Passport program will be promoted to allow senior citizens to enter and use the facilities at Canyon Ferry Reservoir, as well as other federally managed areas once the passport is purchased.
- R Reclamation will investigate the feasibility of establishing one user pass that is good for multiple areas managed by a variety of entities.
- R None of the existing day-use areas will be converted into overnight campgrounds.
- R Abandoned/unlicensed vehicles and equipment (i.e., campers, boats, tents, trailers, etc.) left in campgrounds for extended periods of time should be removed. A policy addressing this issue should be established and enforced.

The volunteer camp host program will continue, but will be evaluated to identify possible improvements. Additional volunteers will be solicited to assist Reclamation in maintaining trails, litter control, and Visitor Center operation.

Recreation facility development for specific recreation areas may consist of the following actions:

**R Silos Recreation Area**

- S Reclamation, in cooperation with Broadwater County, will upgrade and provide new recreation facilities at the Silos Recreation Area. The plan of development will follow a plan being developed by Broadwater County and Reclamation.

- S Development will include the construction of a deep water bay and boat ramp.
- S Reclamation and Broadwater County are investigating the scope of a concession operation to enhance recreation opportunities (see page VI-25 for further discussion of concessions).

**R White Earth Recreation Area**

- S Prepare a Facility Condition Assessment, evaluate the uses, and prepare a site-specific recreation master plan for the area.
- S Depending on the outcome of the Facility Condition Assessment, master plan, and an immediate need identified in this planning process, consideration will be given to:
  - ¼ Constructing a new campground loop and support facilities (e.g., parking, picnic tables, grills, trash receptacles, and potable water). The existing restroom on the north side of the peninsula will be included in any development of this camping loop.
  - ¼ Developing a short trail along the shoreline on the south side of the peninsula with trail head, signing, and parking.
  - ¼ Developing a trail from White Earth to Crittendon day-use area to the north.

**R Hellgate Recreation Area**

- S Prepare a Facility Condition Assessment, evaluate the uses, and prepare a site-specific recreation master plan for the area.
- S Depending on the outcome of the Facility Condition Assessment, master plan, and an immediate need identified in the planning process, consideration will be given to:
  - ¼ Upgrading the existing campsites to meet current design standards (e.g., proper spacing, turning radii, accessibility, vegetative screening, and appropriate landscaping and irrigation).
  - ¼ Upgrading the boat ramp and parking area.

## **R Indian Road Recreation Area**

- S** Prepare a Facility Condition Assessment, evaluate the uses, and prepare a site-specific recreation master plan for the area.
- S** Depending on the outcome of the Facility Condition Assessment, master plan, and an immediate need identified in the planning process, consideration will be given to:
  - ¼ Realigning the access road into the campground area. A fee station will be considered, where appropriate, and fees will be collected for the use of the campground and day-use area. (*Note:* The boat launch ramp is owned and operated by MFWP; therefore, Reclamation cannot collect fees for the use of the boat ramp).
  - ¼ Working with Broadwater County and Townsend on establishing a nonmotorized trail from Indian Road Recreation Area to Silos Recreation Area.
  - ¼ Providing signs with interpretive information to inform the public about Canyon Ferry Reservoir and the surrounding area.
  - ¼ Developing a restroom with flush toilets for the campground.
  - ¼ Working with Broadwater County on finding ways to dispose of gravel pile on site.
  - ¼ Coordinating development with the Broadwater Stream and Lake Committee.
  - ¼ Investigating the development of a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Forest Service for constructing and operating an ice-skating rink at the ponds.

## **R Riverside Recreation Area**

- S** Prepare a Facility Condition Assessment, evaluate the uses, and prepare a site-specific recreation master plan for the area.
- S** Depending on the outcome of the Facility Condition Assessment, master plan, and an immediate need identified in the planning process, consideration will be given to:

- ¼ Upgrading the existing campground to current design standards (e.g., proper spacing, turning radii, accessibility, vegetative screening, and appropriate landscaping and irrigation).
- ¼ Providing electric power to the campground area. (*Note:* Power has already been supplied to the camp host, and a pressurized water system is provided).
- ¼ Upgrading the existing day-use area.
- ¼ Constructing a vehicle turnaround and parking area near the south end of the Riverside Recreation Area complex.
- ¼ Placing riprap at appropriate locations along the riverbank to prevent erosion and protect facilities.
- ¼ Evaluating the need for providing additional eagle viewing opportunities.

#### **R Confederate Bay Recreation Area**

- S** Prepare a Facility Condition Assessment, evaluate the uses, and prepare a site-specific recreation master plan for the area.
- S** Depending on the outcome of the Facility Condition Assessment, master plan, and an immediate need identified in the planning process, consideration will be given to:
  - ¼ Closing and revegetating roads that do not lead to developed areas and sites. Physical barriers may be provided, where necessary, to prevent vehicles from leaving developed roads.
  - ¼ Installing direction and entrance signs along State Highway 284.
  - ¼ Maintaining at least a 100-foot setback from Confederate Creek when constructing or rehabilitating facilities.

#### **R Jo Bonner Recreation Area**

- S** Prepare a Facility Condition Assessment, evaluate the uses, and prepare a site-specific recreation master plan for the area.

- S** Depending on the outcome of the Facility Condition Assessment, master plan, and an immediate need identified in the planning process, a group shelter and parking area may be constructed.

**R Cemetery Island**

- S** Prepare a Facility Condition Assessment, evaluate the uses, and prepare a site-specific recreation master plan for the area.
- S** Depending on the outcome of the Facility Condition Assessment, master plan, and an immediate need identified in the planning process, consideration will be given to:
  - ¼ Improving the existing trail system on Cemetery Island.
  - ¼ Installing appropriate information signs.
  - ¼ Investigating alternatives available for pumping the two existing toilets.

**R Court Sheriff**

- S** Prepare a Facility Condition Assessment, evaluate the uses, and prepare a site-specific recreation master plan for the area.
- S** Depending on the outcome of the Facility Condition Assessment, master plan, and an immediate need identified in the planning process, consideration will be given to separating site developments so that day users and boat ramp users are not negatively impacting each other.

**R Chinamen's**

- S** Prepare a Facility Condition Assessment, evaluate the uses, and prepare a site-specific recreation master plan for the area.
- S** Depending on the outcome of the Facility Condition Assessment, master plan, and an immediate need identified in the planning process, consideration will be given to widening, lengthening, and leveling of parking spots and the redesign of the boat ramp area so that traffic does not become congested and block the road.

**R Other Locations**

- S** The boat ramp at Shannon will be extended to provide access at low water levels.
- S** Pursue replacing boat ramps at Kims' and Yacht Basin and extend ramp at Shannon. Goose Bay boat ramp will be replaced in 2003.
- S** Based on the Facilities Condition Assessment and a site-specific recreation master plan, upgrade other boat ramps (including lengthening) to allow for safe access when reservoir is low and when there are high winds.
- S** Provide adequate boat docks at boat ramps to prevent user conflicts and to address safety concerns, such as high winds.
- S** Evaluate the need to install a boat ramp and restroom at Duck Creek.

Commercial service actions for Canyon Ferry Reservoir will consist of the following:

- R** Yacht Basin and Kim's Marina operators will be offered extensions to their concession contracts to allow appropriate time to conduct commercial services planning and public involvement activities prior to the issuance of Requests for Proposals (RFPs).
- R** Reclamation will prepare and use a Commercial Services Plan (CSP) to assist in preparing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for concession operations. A CSP for the reservoir will provide an analysis of the need for and services required of any new or existing concessions. Any commercial development will be subject to the Reclamation policies and directives and standards in place at the time.
- R** Public involvement will be an integral part of the CSP process.
- R** An appropriate level of environmental analysis will be completed for the CSP.
- R** A concession operation will be developed at Silos Recreation Area subject to plans developed by Reclamation and Broadwater County. The scope of this operation is being investigated by Reclamation and Broadwater County. Reclamation and the county have signed an agreement for Broadwater County to manage the Silos Recreation Area.
- R** Kim's, Yacht Basin, and Goose Bay Marinas will continue to operate until 2003, 2004, and 2010, respectively, unless an extension is agreed to so planning and public involvement can be accomplished for the CSP. Before expiration of each contract, Reclamation will initiate an RFP process for obtaining a concessionaire(s). The issuance of concession permits will follow Reclamation's *Concessions Policy, Directives and Standards* and associated guidelines. The policy includes, among other things, the requirement to provide for public competition for the right to operate a concession on Reclamation lands.

- R** Reclamation will identify existing guides and outfitters doing business at Canyon Ferry Reservoir, and they will be required to obtain special use permits pursuant to existing Federal law.
- R** Reclamation will conduct periodic evaluations of existing concession operations to determine if the terms and conditions of the concession permits are being adhered to; the evaluations will be conducted according to established directives and standards.
- R** Any proposals to provide new commercial services must first be presented to and evaluated by Reclamation. If approved by Reclamation, the opportunity to provide the new commercial service should be competitively offered to prospective operators.

Proposed actions for historically used undeveloped remote areas are as follows:

- R** Access to historically used undeveloped areas around the reservoir will remain open if the access roads are not causing damage to the environmental resources within the study area. As stated earlier, roads that do not have legal access to the reservoir and roads causing resource damage will be closed.
- R** The public use of the historically used remote sites will be monitored to determine the need for sanitation facilities and future closure if such use is negatively affecting the environmental resources.

Reclamation will initiate two public user surveys at Canyon Ferry Reservoir during the RMP 10-year planning period. The results of the visitor use surveys will be used to update information collected from the two previous surveys and fill in data gaps identified during the RMP/EA process. Data to be collected includes:

- R** Visitation and recreation activity participation levels for sailing, hunting, and jet skiing, in addition to the activities already identified during the previous studies and documented in the RMP/EA.
- R** Carrying capacity limits (i.e., identify user conflicts and facility overuse, if any). Surveys will assist Reclamation in monitoring visitor use to ensure that carrying capacity limits have not been exceeded.
- R** Existing studies and planning documents within the region (i.e., identify possible correlations or discrepancies between data it collects and the data contained in other existing studies and regional or local planning reports).
- R** Possible impacts that private, exclusive use of areas within existing concessions may have on the quality of the public's recreation experience or their use of the reservoir area.

- R Overall public satisfaction level with accomplishment of actions identified in the RMP.
- R Information which will determine whether to build future planned developments.
- R Winter use.

### ***Heritage Resources***

The issues and concerns identified in this issue category focused on protecting paleontological and heritage resources, minimizing the loss of resources to artifact collectors, avoiding sensitive resources during development of facilities and features, and providing more interpretive information on the heritage resources in the Canyon Ferry Reservoir area (table VI-4). Meeting the goals, objectives, and actions established for this issue category will safeguard heritage, historic, and paleontological resources within the study area.

Table VI-4.—Summary of issues and concerns and associated goals and objectives for Canyon Ferry RMP/EA

Heritage resources issue category		
Issue or concern	Goals	Objectives
Paleontological and heritage resources are not protected or interpreted	Identify, conserve, protect, and provide opportunities for the public to experience the heritage, historic, and paleontological resources of the reservoir	<p>Pursue a systematic inventory of historic, prehistoric, and paleontological resources</p> <p>Provide a reasonable level of oversight to protect the heritage resources</p> <p>Develop interpretive displays and brochures for heritage resources</p> <p>Require all entities doing business on Canyon Ferry lands to provide enough notification to allow Reclamation to comply with all pertinent laws, rules, and regulations</p>

### ***Heritage Resources – Actions***

- R Reclamation will continue to comply with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for all activities conducted at Canyon Ferry Reservoir.
- R Reclamation will comply with section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act for all heritage resources at Canyon Ferry Reservoir as personnel, time, and funding are available.

- R In consultation with the Montana State Historic Preservation Office, Reclamation will assess the adequacy of existing heritage resource inventories and conduct necessary surveys in the areas that have not been adequately covered.
- R Proposed improvements will be designed to avoid impacts to archeological and historic sites, as well as environmentally sensitive habitats and critical wildlife areas.

### ***Health and Safety***

The issues and concerns identified in this issue category focused on providing an appropriate level of law enforcement, establishing no wake zones to reduce user conflicts, providing appropriate sewage and garbage disposal, providing safe drinking water, posting rules and regulations, controlling dust, upgrading unsafe facilities, and providing additional boat ramps at the south end of the reservoir for escape routes during inclement weather (table VI-5). Meeting the goals, objectives, and actions established for this issue category will provide a safe and healthy environment for visitors within the study area.

Table VI-5.—Summary of issues and concerns and associated goals and objectives for Canyon Ferry RMP/EA

Health and safety issue category		
Issue or concern	Goals	Objectives
The public is not safe at some locations around the reservoir	Provide a safe and healthy environment for visitors	Promote proactive law enforcement activities
Maintain or assist in maintaining public health at and near the reservoir	Increase public awareness regarding safety and security	Separate users to prevent user conflicts and accidents
		Respond to and correct unsafe conditions
		Ensure availability of adequate emergency services
		Provide adequate public safety measures for protection of visitors
		Provide adequate sanitary facilities and safe drinking water
		Assess and implement dust abatement control measures where appropriate

Table VI-5.—Summary of issues and concerns and associated goals and objectives for Canyon Ferry RMP/EA

Health and safety issue category (continued)		
Issue or concern	Goals	Objectives
		Develop a health, safety, and security program to educate and inform visitors
		Develop and implement adequate informational and regulatory signage program
		Promote Crime Witness Program

### ***Health and Safety – Actions***

- R Reclamation will work with MFWP to improve enforcement of watercraft safety rules and regulations and to enhance their existing programs.
- R Rules and regulations governing the use of Reclamation lands, as stated in the public information issue category, will be placed at visitor contact areas.
- R The camp host program will be reviewed and monitored to determine if additional guidance should be provided to respective camp hosts so that relations with the public can be improved within the developed recreation areas.
- R Trash receptacles will be maintained and placed at campgrounds.
- R Restrooms will be maintained at campgrounds and day-use areas.
- R Based on the results of the sign inventory, appropriate warning signs will be placed throughout the reservoir area to warn visitors of potential hazards, including signing needs for visitors using the reservoir during the winter (i.e., driving and fishing on the ice).
- R Reclamation will ensure existing emergency services (i.e., fire control, search and rescue, and ambulance service) are adequate and that proper notification and response procedures are in place.
- R Upon expiration of existing concession contracts, as detailed in the recreation issue category, Reclamation will evaluate the need to have future concessionaires install fish cleaning and recreational vehicle dump stations within their area of operation. Reclamation will evaluate the need for these facilities at other locations within the study area.

- R** Reclamation will promote the Crime Witness Program in an effort to promote public safety.
- R** Continue to provide law enforcement pursuant to signed and current agreements with local agencies. Under the terms of the agreements, work with local law enforcement agencies to increase their law enforcement efforts.
- R** Reclamation will ensure that fueling facilities and trash receptacles are constructed to fire codes.
- R** Work with the Coast Guard Auxiliary in promoting their early warning system and in developing a comprehensive plan to improve boater safety.
- R** Through the lease lot sale process, Reclamation, the CFRA, and interested parties are addressing the septic system and drain field issues. Reclamation will ensure the appropriate local and State rules and regulations are followed.
- R** No wake zones will be established and buoys will be installed by Reclamation, in cooperation with MFWP, at swim beaches, boat ramps, developed day-use areas, campgrounds, sheltered fishing bays, environmentally sensitive areas, and other areas, as necessary, to prevent user conflicts and resource damage.
- R** Reclamation will cooperate with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality in protecting the source water protection zones for the public water systems throughout the reservoir area.
- R** Some areas above and immediately below the dam will be closed for public safety and facility security purposes. As of October 2002, the following closures have been instituted:
  - S** No public access in the tail water area just below Canyon Ferry Dam. This area is closed the entire year, prohibiting public access with signage and a visible cable demarcating the closed area. This closure is listed in the Montana fishing regulations.
  - S** The Canyon Ferry Powerplant areas is a restricted area and has chain link fencing and signs posted prohibiting public access to this area.
  - S** The public is prohibited from entering the Helena Valley Pumping Plant area. This area has chain link fencing and signs prohibiting public access.
  - S** Boat access is not permitted closer the floating buoy system upstream of the dam.
  - S** No parking or stopping is permitted on the crest of Canyon Ferry Dam. Reclamation has posted signs and installed jersey barriers restricting public access and parking in this area.

- R Install fire hydrants at several locations in cooperation with the Broadwater County Rural Fire District.
  
- R Reclamation has granted space for turnarounds, dry fire hydrants, and future fire stations within the study area and will continue to work with the Canyon Ferry Fire Service Area Board of Trustees to identify and resolve issues related to fire suppression.

**Wildlife Resources**

The issues and concerns identified in this issue category focused on preserving, protecting, and enhancing wildlife areas; providing additional hunting opportunities; improving habitat; and adding funding in support of fish and wildlife resources (table VI-6). Meeting the goals, objectives and actions established for this issue category will protect and enhance the wildlife resources within the study area.

Table VI-6.—Summary of issues and concerns and associated goals and objectives for Canyon Ferry RMP/EA

Wildlife resources issue category		
Issue or concern	Goals	Objectives
Need more hunting opportunities, as well as habitat improvement, to increase species numbers (upland game birds and other species, as appropriate)	Enhance fish and wildlife recreation opportunities	Work cooperatively with other entities to improve fish and wildlife habitat by, among other things, developing additional wildlife areas
		Develop a line of communication with MFWP to forward public concerns about hunting and fishing
Need to balance recreation development with fish and wildlife protection	Balance recreation development with fish and wildlife protection	Monitor the use of Canyon Ferry lands to identify conflicts between hunters, anglers, and other users
		Ensure a balance between fish and wildlife resources and recreational opportunities
Need to provide funding sources, in addition to recreation funding, to support fish and wildlife	Identify a source and level of funding	Identify the base level of funding necessary to manage and maintain the fish and wildlife resources of the reservoir
		Seek permanent sources of funding (to the extent allowed by law and policy)

### ***Wildlife Resources – Actions***

- R** Reclamation will continue to work with Pheasants Forever and other organizations to develop additional habitat along the eastern shore of the reservoir.
- R** A long-term watchable wildlife program will be considered for the reservoir area.
- R** Reclamation will cooperate with MFWP and other wildlife agencies to identify and fund projects on reservoir lands that qualify for Montana Fish and Wildlife Conservation Trust Funds.
- R** Reclamation will cooperate with MFWP to identify opportunities for wildlife enhancement projects on all Reclamation lands within the reservoir area.
- R** Reclamation will consider developing a new bird species list for the reservoir, including the WMA, which is managed by MFWP.
- R** Reclamation will continue to cooperate with the Montana bald eagle working group and consider providing improved eagle viewing opportunities at the Riverside Recreation Area. Eagle Bay Drive and Riverside Campground will continue to be closed during certain times of the year to protect eagle perching sites if the eagle count remains above 50.
- R** Reclamation will coordinate a shorebird survey of the reservoir area with the State piping plover survey and use this information to propose potential shorebird habitat enhancement projects.
- R** Reclamation will work with MFWP to identify potential new wildlife areas. If additional WMAs are identified, the existing agreement with MFWP will be amended to incorporate provisions for MFWP management. A wildlife management plan for each new area will be prepared by MFWP.
- R** Reclamation will require that all new powerlines constructed in the reservoir area be buried to provide for protection of raptors.
- R** Reclamation will cooperate with MFWP to identify opportunities for fisheries enhancement opportunities. Possible cooperative efforts include:
  - S** Requiring setbacks of developed recreation areas
  - S** Closing specific areas for the protection of the reservoir fishery
  - S** Identifying potential fisheries enhancement projects for possible funding by the Montana Fish and Wildlife Conservation Trust Fund

- S Placing appropriate signs at visitor contact points (i.e., closure, informational, directional, interpretative, etc.).
- S Continuing to work with MFWP on their perch habitat program for the south end of the reservoir.

**Public Information**

The issues and concerns identified in this issue category focused on keeping the Visitor Center open; posting needed rules and regulations; providing information on the opportunities available at the reservoir; providing an appropriate number of direction, information, and warning signs to improve traffic flow, use of facilities, and visitor safety; and maintaining the eagle watching program for educational purposes (table VI-7). Meeting the goals, objectives, and actions established for this issue category will enhance the visitor experience and interpret the different resources within the study area.

Table VI-7.—Summary of issues and concerns and associated goals and objectives for Canyon Ferry RMP/EA

Public information issue category		
Issue or concern	Goals	Objectives
Need more information about the reservoir	Enhance public information	<p>Establish clear, consistent signage to guide public use of the reservoir and inform the public about the use of Reclamation land, water, and facilities</p> <p>Use a variety of media to communicate with the public: printed materials, maps, photos, brochures, web sites, etc.</p> <p>Provide information on a variety of topics: rules, regulations, history of the dam, elk and moose distributions, dam operations, weather, etc.</p>
Need more visitor services	Enhance visitor services	<p>Operate Visitor Center and support facilities (e.g., restroom and parking lot)</p> <p>Provide additional programs for public enjoyment (e.g., wildlife observation and interpretive programs)</p>

### ***Public Information – Actions***

- R Reclamation will complete a sign inventory to determine the number and types of signs needed within the study area.
- R Signs will be replaced or repaired, as appropriate.
- R Signs that provide necessary information regarding boating and the use of boat launch ramps, campgrounds, day-use areas, fish cleaning stations, etc., and rules and regulations governing the use of Reclamation lands and facilities will be provided at public use areas.
- R Interpretive signs will be considered for interesting geologic features and other outstanding environmental resources.
- R An appropriate number of warning signs will be placed throughout the study area to protect the health and safety of the visiting public.
- R Informational signs will be placed at appropriate areas to inform the public of the proper use of the shoreline, including the shoreline below the cabin site areas.
- R Reclamation will supply needed maps, brochures, pamphlets, and expanded Internet service to the public.
- R Reclamation will proactively educate cabin site lessees, concessionaires, and the general public on the proper use of Canyon Ferry Reservoir lands.
- R The Visitor Center will remain open and maintained to provide the public with information and interpretation. Repairs will be made as necessary.

### ***Land Use***

The issues and concerns identified in this issue category focused on increasing the efforts to control weeds on Federal lands, preventing erosion, coordinating Canyon Ferry Reservoir development with local communities, locating septic systems for lease lots, consolidating lease lot docks to allow public access, and locating the exterior boundaries of lease lots (table VI-8). Meeting the goals, objectives, and actions established for this issue category will prevent unnecessary damage to existing resources and facilities within the study area.

Table VI-8.—Summary of issues and concerns and associated goals and objectives for Canyon Ferry RMP/EA

Land use issue category		
Issue or concern	Goals	Objectives
Weeds and other pests should be controlled	Control pests	Apply integrated pest management practices
		Minimize the invasion or spread of noxious weeds into burned areas
Erosion is a problem around the reservoir	Reduce erosion	Minimize soil loss that will be caused by water erosion on the burn areas
		Retain or regain site productivity; emphasize ecosystem function in upland areas and associated drainages
		Protect the shoreline when Federal facilities or use may be impacted
Don't pollute the reservoir	Reduce pollution	Establish procedures and programs to ensure only nonpolluting facilities are developed
Land resources are not protected	Establish strategies to protect and manage resources	Develop land uses based on criteria developed to reduce erosion

**Land Use – Actions**

- R As part of the RMP/EA planning process discussed in this document, Reclamation will implement a land use planning strategy for protecting and expanding resource values while developing a moderate number of new facilities and opportunities for public use.
- R Reclamation will continue to investigate the feasibility of having another Federal or non-Federal agency manage the land and recreation resources within the study area.
- R Reclamation will consider soil conditions, and other limiting resource factors, when planning for and constructing new facilities and when granting licenses, leases, and permits for the use of Reclamation lands. As an example, prime irrigated land and critical wildlife areas will be avoided when developing facilities.
- R Faulty septic systems will be repaired or replaced as deficiencies are identified.

- R Reclamation will cooperate with the State to prepare total maximum daily loads of pollutants for Canyon Ferry Reservoir and the basin immediately above it.
- R Reclamation will continue its water quality monitoring program for the reservoir. Emphasis will be given to monitoring drinking water supplies at developed recreation areas and other specific sites, as appropriate. Data collected will include nutrient samples, zooplankton, phytoplankton, chlorophyll, and other parameters.
- R Reclamation will work with concerned individuals and entities to provide input on shoreline erosion-control methods for Reclamation to consider.
- R In cooperation with the CFRA and other interested parties, Reclamation will develop a policy for public use of the shoreline between the reservoir and the lease lot areas. This policy will not conflict with Title X, Public Law 105-277.
- R In cooperation with the CFRA and other interested parties, Reclamation will develop procedures that address the existing and future placement of private docks at Canyon Ferry Reservoir authorized by Title X and establish design and construction standards (Title X allows one boat dock for each lease lot owner after privatization). Proper requirements/stipulations to be contained in any such land use authorization or permit will be identified. Reclamation manual directives and standards for use authorization will be followed.
- R ORV use will be eliminated to protect areas sensitive to erosion and where impacts to fish and wildlife resources could occur. Closed areas will be revegetated. Erosion-control structures will be placed in areas of ongoing erosion and areas that have the potential for erosion.
- R A program will be initiated to identify and control erosion adjacent to public roads, Canyon Ferry Unit Project facilities, and developed recreation areas where there is a public health and safety concern. Gabions and breakwalls or other erosion-control techniques will be used to protect shorelines, where needed. Design, review, and approval from Reclamation, the Corps of Engineers, and the county conservation districts is required before construction begins.
- R Reclamation will pursue fencing the exterior boundary of the reservoir area to prevent cattle trespass. Developed campgrounds and other public use areas to be identified may be fenced to prevent resource damage, if necessary. Since the lands in Broadwater County, which are adjacent to Reclamation lands on the east side of the reservoir, are within a horse herd district and are considered a fence-in area for horses, Reclamation will work with adjacent land owners on common fencing needs. The Montana Livestock Laws, Title 70 Property; 70-16-205 Monuments and Fences, will be followed accordingly.

- R** Reclamation will review all integrated pest management practices and make changes if necessary. The 1993 comprehensive weed control program will be followed and updated as necessary. Reclamation will continue the long-term weed control agreement with Broadwater County and supply annual funds to the county. Work with Lewis and Clark County to formalize a long-term weed control agreement and supply annual funding to the county for weed control.
- R** Placement and construction of utilities will be considered on a case-by-case basis, with emphasis on minimizing impacts to the environment.
- R** Reclamation will continue to work with the Montana Aeronautics Division, the Montana National Guard, Broadwater County, and the General Services Administration to transfer ownership of Reclamation lands near Silos Recreation Area to an interested entity for the purpose of operating the airport.
- R** Reclamation will follow the 2001 Federal Wildland Fire Management policy and the January 2001 Secretary of the Interior’s policy letter and develop a Fire Management Plan.
- R** Specific fire rehabilitation treatment actions on 500 acres of Reclamation-managed lands impacted by the year 2000 fires:
  - S** Aerial and mechanical seeding of a native seed mixture on approximately 100 acres.
  - S** Treatment of noxious weeds with herbicide at identified sites.
  - S** Repair and reconstruct the damaged camping areas, facilities, and signs.
  - S** Repair West Shore Drive by grading and cleaning out some culverts. Settling basins may be installed above all culverts throughout the burned area to catch sediment. These will require frequent maintenance.
  - S** Design and construct new culverts on East and West Shore Drives at selected sites.
  - S** Replace some culverts that are undersized as funding allows.

In addition, Reclamation will work with remaining lease holders to permit the removal of slash, underbrush, and dead and downed timber to reduce future fire hazards where determined appropriate by Reclamation.

Reclamation will complete fire rehabilitation efforts by the end of 2003.

## PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of the RMP is primarily the responsibility of Reclamation. Approval and acceptance of the RMP/EA by involved agencies include a commitment by Reclamation, and other entities where appropriate, to seek financial, program, and staffing resources necessary to implement the proposed actions. 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 Canyon Ferry lands and waters.

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 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 Canyon Ferry Reservoir, 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. This working group (figure VI-2) will be used to identify concerns and help Reclamation decide which projects should be funded and who will fund them. Once a budget is approved, Reclamation could then implement specific actions.

## AMENDMENTS AND MODIFICATIONS TO THE RMP/EA

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/EA. Minor changes in data or material that do not conflict with the established goals and objectives would be documented by Reclamation and would not require further public involvement and NEPA compliance. 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.

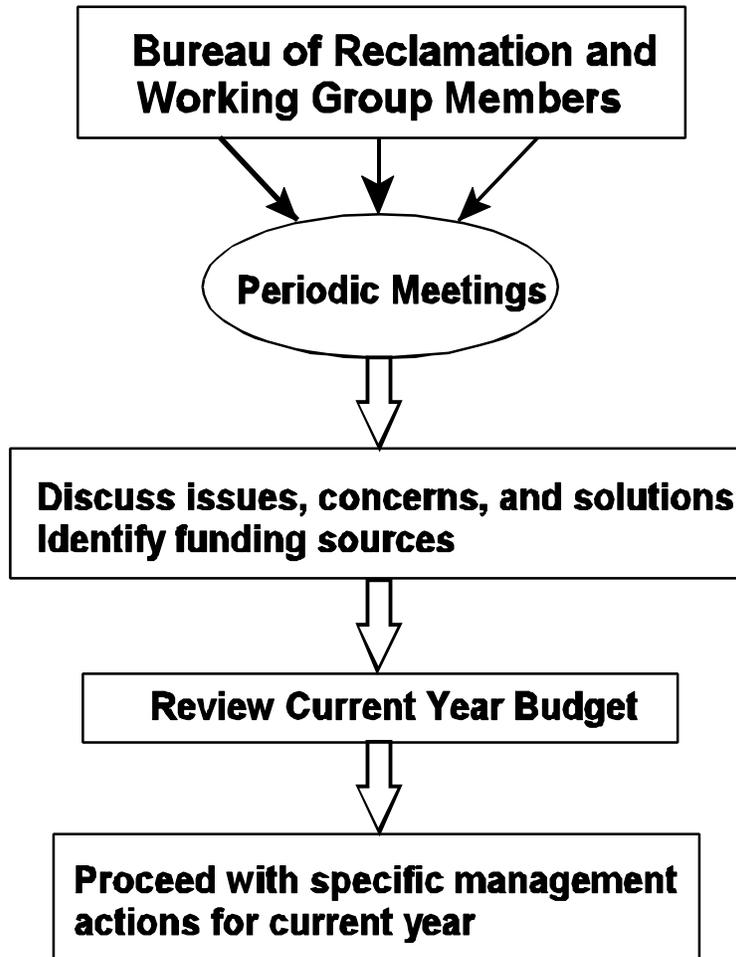


Figure VI-2.—Working group process.

The RMP is expected to be re-evaluated at the end of the 10-year planning period (year 2013) to determine whether or not the RMP should be revised. The planning and NEPA process used to complete this RMP/EA will be used to prepare an updated RMP/EA.