

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

5.1 Best Management Practices

The following best management practices (BMPs) will be implemented to avoid or minimize potential effects to the resources within the Black Canyon Reservoir and Montour WMA RMP Study Area that could occur if the Preferred Alternative were implemented. Although not listed here, the management actions identified in the Preferred Alternative as needed for proper stewardship of resources are also considered to be environmental commitments.

5.1.1 Landscape Preservation and Impact Avoidance

1. Developed facilities will complement with and be subservient to the surrounding landscape wherever possible.
2. Disturbed areas resulting from any construction will be aggressively revegetated.
3. To the maximum extent practicable, all existing trees, shrubs, and other naturally occurring vegetation will be preserved and protected from construction operations and equipment except where clearing operations are required for permanent structures, approved construction roads, or excavation operations.
4. To the maximum extent practicable, all maintenance yards, field offices, and staging areas will be arranged to preserve trees, shrubs, and other vegetation.
5. Clearing will be restricted to that area needed for construction. In critical habitat areas including, but not limited to, wetlands and riparian areas, clearing may be restricted to only a few feet beyond the areas required for construction.
6. Stream corridors, wetlands, riparian areas, steep slopes, or other critical environmental areas will not be used for equipment or materials storage or stockpiling; construction staging or maintenance; field offices; hazardous material or fuel storage, handling, or transfer; or temporary access roads, in order to reduce environmental damage.
7. Excavated or graded materials will not be stockpiled or deposited on or within 100 feet of any steep slopes (defined by industry standards), wetlands, riparian areas, or stream banks (including seasonally active ephemeral streams without woody or herbaceous vegetation growing in the channel bottom), or on native vegetation.
8. To the maximum extent possible, staging areas, access roads, and other site disturbances will be located in disturbed areas, not in native or naturally occurring vegetation.
9. The width of all new temporary and permanent roads will be kept to the absolute minimum needed for safety, avoiding wetland and riparian areas where possible. Turnouts and staging areas will not be placed in wetlands.

5.1.2 Erosion and Sediment Control

1. The design and construction of facilities will employ applicable recognized BMPs to prevent possible soil erosion and subsequent water quality impacts.
2. The planting of grasses, forbs, trees, or shrubs beneficial to wildlife, or the placement of riprap, sand bags, sod, erosion mats, bale dikes, mulch, or excelsior blankets will be used to prevent and minimize erosion and siltation during construction and during the period needed to reestablish permanent local native vegetative cover on disturbed sites located outside of landscaped areas. Appropriate landscaping plants and materials will be used for such purposes in landscaped areas.
3. Final erosion control and site restoration measures will be initiated as soon as a particular area is no longer needed for construction, stockpiling, or access. Clearing schedules will be arranged to minimize exposure of soils.
4. Cuts and fills for relocated and new roads will be sloped to facilitate revegetation.
5. Soil or rock stockpiles, excavated materials, or excess soil materials will not be placed near sensitive habitats, including water channels, wetlands, riparian areas, and on native or naturally occurring vegetation, where they may erode into these habitats or be washed away by high water or storm runoff. Waste piles will be revegetated using suitable native species after they are shaped to provide a natural appearance.

5.1.3 Biological Resources

1. Rare and sensitive species clearances described below will be conducted after project authorization, but prior to the start of construction.
2. If native plant communities must be used for access roads or staging areas, site clearances at the appropriate time of year for the species involved will be conducted by qualified biologists to ensure sensitive species are not impacted. Any established search protocols will be followed. Additional information concerning avoidance of rare and threatened or endangered species is presented in Sections 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, and 3.7.
3. Construction activities that could impact fish will be undertaken during non-spawning periods.
4. During the 15-year period covered by this RMP, species not currently protected under the Endangered Species Act may be listed and species that are not considered to be rare may become so. If any such species occur on Reclamation lands, Reclamation would develop and enforce appropriate site disturbance, time of year, distance restrictions in areas harboring Federal and state designated species of special concern (including Federally designated endangered or threatened species and rare species).

5.1.4 Site Restoration and Revegetation

1. Construction areas, including storage yards, will limit the amount of waste material and trash accumulations at all times.

2. All unused materials and trash will be removed from construction and storage sites during the final phase of work. All removed material will be placed in approved sanitary landfills or storage sites, and work areas will be left to conform to the natural landscape.
3. Upon completion of construction, grade any land disturbed outside the limits of reservoir pools, permanent roads, and other permanent facilities to provide proper drainage and blend with the natural contour of the land. Following grading, replant with native vegetation in coordination with IDFG, with non-native species used as appropriate. All plants used will be suitable for the site conditions, and beneficial to wildlife.
4. Where applicable, consult with the following agencies to determine the recommended plant species composition, seeding rates, and planting dates:
 - Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG)
 - U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
 - Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR)
 - U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
5. Grasses, forbs, shrubs, and trees appropriate for site conditions and surrounding vegetation will be included on a plant list developed during site design. Species chosen for a site will be matched for site drainage, climate, shading, resistance to erosion, soil type, slope, aspect, and vegetation management goals. Wetland and riparian species will be used in revegetating disturbed wetlands. Upland revegetation shall match the plant list to the site's soil type, topographic position, elevation, and surrounding communities. Local native species will be used in all areas that are not landscaped unless IDFG determines that non-native species are preferred to meet a management goal.

5.1.5 Pollution Prevention

1. All Federal and State laws related to control and abatement of water pollution will be complied with. All waste material and sewage from construction activities or project-related features will be disposed of according to Federal and State pollution control regulations.
2. Construction contractors may be required to obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit as established under Public Law 92B500 and amended by the Clean Water Act (Public Law 95B217).
3. Construction specifications shall require construction methods that will prevent entrance or accidental spillage of pollutants into flowing or dry watercourses and underground water sources. Potential pollutants and wastes include refuse, garbage, cement, concrete, sewage effluent, industrial waste, oil and other petroleum products, aggregate processing tailings, mineral salts, drilling mud, and thermal pollution.
4. Eroded materials shall be prevented from entering streams or watercourses during dewatering activities associated with structure foundations or earthwork operations adjacent to, or encroaching on, streams or watercourses.
5. Any construction wastewater discharged into surface waters will be essentially free of settling material. Water pumped from behind cofferdams and wastewater from aggregate processing,

concrete batching, or other construction operations shall not enter streams or watercourses without water quality treatment. Turbidity control methods may include settling ponds; gravel-filter entrapment dikes; approved flocculating processes not harmful to fish or other aquatic life; recirculation systems for washing aggregates; or other approved methods.

6. Any riprap shall be free of contaminants and not contribute significantly to the turbidity of the reservoir.
7. Appropriate controls to reduce stormwater pollutant loads in post-construction site runoff shall be followed. The appropriate facilities shall be properly designed, installed, and maintained to provide water quality treatment for runoff originating from all recreational facilities.
8. All parking lots and marinas should be designed to promote efficient vehicle and boat traffic to prevent congestion and pollution.
9. Waste facilities should be connected, whenever possible, to sanitary sewer systems instead of septic tanks to avoid water quality problems from failed tanks.

5.1.6 Noise and Air Pollution Prevention

1. Contractors will be required to comply with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations concerning prevention and control of noise and air pollution. Contractors are expected to use reasonably available methods and devices to control, prevent, and reduce atmospheric emissions or discharges of atmospheric contaminants and noise.
2. Contractors will be required to reduce dust from construction operations and prevent it from damaging dwellings or causing a nuisance to people. Methods such as wetting exposed soil or roads where dust is generated by passing vehicles will be employed.

5.1.7 Cultural Resource Site Protection

1. If necessary, Reclamation will prepare a Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP) to define long-term management and protection goals and processes. The CRMP may be a single plan covering the entire RMP area, or it may be specific to a particular site or sites in the RMP area that are in need of management or protection.
2. If there are significant cultural resource sites that may be affected by a Reclamation action (including TCP's), Reclamation will consult with the SHPO and Shoshone-Bannock and Shoshone-Paiute Tribes about appropriate actions to take to protect those sites.
3. Cultural resource management requirements and goals shall be integrated into other management plans completed under the RMP, including the comprehensive Wildlife Management Plan and Integrated Pest Management Plan.
4. When implementing habitat restoration activities, plant resources that have traditional importance to the Shoshone-Bannock and Shoshone-Paiute Tribes shall be used, insofar as these plants accomplish the habitat restoration goal and are reasonably comparable in cost.
5. Information shall be provided about the prehistory and history of the RMP area, for the enjoyment of users.

6. Reclamation will coordinate with the BLM during the their resource management planning on lands adjacent to Reclamation's boundary, to identify actions they might implement that would aid in protecting cultural resources on Reclamation's lands.
7. Location-specific cultural resource clearances shall be obtained when the agency acts to enhance recreation and wildlife. Avoid adverse effects to significant cultural properties by relocating or redesigning any proposed development.
8. Cultural sites shall be stabilized or protected when avoidance is not possible. Test excavations will be conducted as necessary to determine the presence or nature of subsurface deposits, or whether an archeological site may be eligible for the National Register. Consultation, per 36 CFR 800, will also be conducted to determine site eligibility, project effect, and appropriate treatment of adversely affected Register-eligible sites.
9. Actions to protect human burials shall be initiated as soon as possible if they are reported to be exposed or endangered by reservoir operations, natural erosion, or land use. Unless the burials are clearly non-Indian, tribes potentially affiliated with the remains will be consulted upon discovery of a burial, and procedures for protection, treatment, and disposition of the remains will be worked out with those tribes in accordance with NAGPRA.
10. Archaeological collections shall be curated in most cases at the Archaeological Survey of Idaho, Western Repository, in Boise (except NAGPRA burials and cultural items). When NAGPRA burials or cultural items are recovered, procedures set forth in 43 CFR Part 10 for consultation and custody will be followed.
11. If consultation with Indian tribes reveals Indian sacred sites to be present that are being adversely affected by land use, Reclamation will implement actions to avoid or reduce those impacts.

5.1.8 Miscellaneous Comments

Reclamation-issued land use licenses, leases, and permits will contain sufficient language and stipulations to help protect existing resources and help mitigate possible conflicts among the various users and between visitors and adjacent land owners.

5.2 Mitigation Measures

Mitigation measures are environmental commitments intended to compensate for impacts that cannot be avoided through implementation of BMPs.

5.2.1 Vegetation

To avoid substantial detrimental impacts to native plant resources, Reclamation will undertake the following design measures:

- In addition to Reclamation's overall planned increase in noxious and invasive weed control efforts, all sites that are disturbed for facilities shall be actively monitored for these plants. All

infestations will be treated in accordance with accepted methods and agreements with IDFG and Gem County and in accordance with Reclamation's Integrated Pest Management Plan.

- The expansion proposed for Black Canyon Park is along a riparian edge of the reservoir. The expansion design will include removing false indigo and other weedy species that are invading along the riparian zone, and leaving native vegetation in place.
- The expansion proposed for Cobblestone Park is a gravel substrate within the floodplain of the Payette River. This site has an open understory that makes it a target for heavy off-road vehicle use. Although much of it has been invaded by weeds, many areas have native cottonwood and willow. The proposed expansion for Cobblestone Park will be designed to conserve the trees and shrubs onsite, to control weeds, and to limit vehicle use to roadways.
- Both expansions will further compensate for impacts on vegetation resources by landscaping the expanded and disturbed areas with native plants instead of with the mix of exotic lawn and tree species that were used for the existing parks where appropriate and cost effective.
- Reclamation will proportionally replace areas and habitat value of all wetland and riparian areas that are directly impacted or degraded by implementation actions.

5.2.2 Wildlife

- Reclamation will replace the area and habitat value of all wetland and riparian areas that are directly impacted or degraded by implementation actions.
- New wetlands/open water ponds created within the Montour WMA will be developed in upland areas if possible, considering the location of available water sources. Where possible, this action could avoid impacts on wildlife that use wet meadows, which is also a valuable habitat type.
- Future development of new emergent wetlands/open water ponds may be in wet meadow areas because of the location of water sources. No ground disturbing activities would be undertaken before a field review was conducted to determine the likelihood of occurrence of sensitive species (e.g. spotted frog). If warranted a sensitive species survey would be conducted following established protocols and seasonal requirements. Project implementation and design would be based on the findings of the survey.
- Additional wildlife species are likely to become rare over the 15-year time frame of the RMP. Appropriate site clearances following established protocols will also be conducted for other wildlife species that become rare during that period prior to ground disturbance.

5.2.3 Cultural Resources

Mitigation under all alternatives will occur if cultural resources are present that are eligible for the National Register, and if they are being adversely impacted by reservoir operations or land uses or are being damaged by natural agents. If an action is planned that could adversely impact historic properties, Reclamation will investigate options to avoid the site. Cultural resource management actions for impacted sites will be planned and implemented in accordance with consultation requirements defined in 36 CFR 800, using methods consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines.