

Lake Cascade  
Resource Management Plan:  
Finding of No Significant  
Impact and Environmental  
Assessment



U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
Pacific Northwest Region  
Snake River Area Office



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## **Finding of No Significant Impact PN FONSI 01-04**

### **Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan**

#### **Introduction**

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), Snake River Area Office has completed a planning and public involvement process for the purpose of preparing a Resource Management Plan (RMP) to manage resources, facilities, and access on the waters and Reclamation lands surrounding Lake Cascade for the next 10 years. Reclamation proposes to implement this new RMP to update the previous RMP prepared in 1991. The update is needed to address current issues to permit the orderly and coordinated development and management of lands and protection of natural resources at Lake Cascade. The RMP identifies goals and objectives for resource management, specifies desired land and resource use patterns, and explains the policies and actions that would be implemented or allowed during the 10-year life of the plan to achieve these goals and objectives.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 requires Reclamation to explore a range of possible alternative management approaches and analyze the environmental effects of these actions. A Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluating the effects of alternative means of resource management was prepared distributed for public review in December 2000.

#### **Alternatives Analyzed in the Draft EA**

Reclamation began a public involvement process in January 1999 to identify issues at Lake Cascade that needed to be included in the RMP alternatives and addressed in the EA. This process consisted of several public meetings and formation of an Ad Hoc Work Group to identify issues, goals, and objectives. Reclamation developed three action alternatives, including the Preferred Alternative, that prescribe some changes in resource management based on issues identified during the public involvement process. Reclamation refined these alternatives with assistance from the Ad Hoc Work Group. A fourth alternative analyzed in the EA is the No Action Alternative, which is required by NEPA. Each alternative would result in different future conditions at the reservoir. The four alternatives are summarized below:

- **Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices.** Management would be conducted according to the priorities and projects proposed in the 1991 RMP.

- **Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis.** This alternative would allow for a balanced amount of expansion and development of recreation sites and facilities at Lake Cascade. Several selected natural and cultural resources protection and management efforts would be increased on Reclamation lands and other such efforts would be maintained.
- **Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis.** Limited expansion and development of recreation sites and facilities would be allowed, while increased efforts to protect and manage natural and cultural resources on Reclamation lands would occur.
- **Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis.** The focus of this alternative would be to allow for the highest possible level of expansion and development of recreation sites and facilities. At the same time, natural and cultural resource protection efforts on Reclamation lands would be maintained.

## Assessment Categories

For the purposes of analysis in the Draft EA, management actions within each alternative were grouped into the following four broad assessment categories:

- Natural resource, habitat, and cultural resource protection and enhancement
- Water quality, surface water management, and erosion control
- Improved or restricted access
- Improved or new facilities or construction including parking areas, campgrounds, trails, and marinas; and miscellaneous items such as encroachment issues

## Similarities Among Alternatives

Although the alternatives differ in management emphasis, many features are common to all four alternatives. These are management actions carried over from the 1991 RMP:

- Continue to operate and maintain Reclamation lands and facilities.
- Adhere to existing and future Federal, state, and county laws and regulations.
- Authorize special recreation events on a case-by-case basis.
- Continue leasing Reclamation lands to YMCA, SISCRA, 4-H, and City of Donnelly for recreation purposes. Consider renewal of City of Cascade lease for the Cascade Golf Course when the term expires, in accordance with Reclamation concession policy.
- Tighten enforcement of standards for erosion control structures and continue the permit system.
- Restrict vehicle use of the shore and drawdown zone.
- Continue closure of all Reclamation lands to Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) use unless specifically designated as open.

- Within recreation areas, restrict snowmobiles to roads.
- Reserve quarry resources for Reclamation's exclusive use in maintaining the dam and other project-related facilities. Close and rehabilitate quarry following completion of projects.
- Jointly develop water surface management for the Boulder Creek Arm with Valley County. Add results to RMP as effort progresses.
- Follow the principles contained in Public Law 89-72, Federal Water Projects Recreation Act of 1965, as amended by Title 28 of Public Law 102-575 for recreation development and management. Basically, if a non-Federal government entity has agreed to manage recreation on Reclamation lands, Reclamation may share development costs for up to 50 percent of the total cost.
- Continue management agreement for Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) to manage the recreation sites.
- Continue to use Recreation, Conservation/Open space (C/OS), Wildlife Management Area (WMA), and Rural Residential (RR) land use designations to define how lands will be managed.
- Add a new land use category, Operations and Maintenance (O&M) for the RMP update. Management of O&M lands will be the same under all alternatives.

## **Proposed Action**

Reclamation will implement the Preferred Alternative identified in the Draft EA with the one major change regarding opening the former state airstrip. The major elements in the Preferred Alternative are described below:

## **Summary of Features**

The Preferred Alternative would allow expansion and development of some recreation sites and facilities, while increasing several selected efforts of protecting and managing natural and cultural resources on Reclamation lands. All existing recreation areas would be upgraded to meet Federal accessibility requirements wherever possible. Additional signs would be posted to inform the public of property boundaries and pertinent rules and regulations. Orientation kiosks would be situated at several key locations to provide visitors with information pertaining to the use of the area, including educational materials, maps, and interpretive displays of the area's landscape features. In general, the existing recreation sites at Lake Cascade would be modified to better accommodate current and future demand and use. This includes creating marked swimming areas, developing trails, and adding parking, as well as establishing new day use areas where use is now occurring on an ad hoc basis.

The Preferred Alternative would promote selected management actions that focus on protecting and enhancing native fish and wildlife and their habitat (vegetation, wetlands, riparian areas, water quality), as well as pro-active measures to protect cultural resources and ensure that Tribal treaty rights are met.

## Major Elements of Proposed RMP (by Assessment Category)

### **Natural Resource, Habitat, and Cultural Resource Protection and Enhancement**

- Cultural resources would be managed the same way as the 1991 RMP, plus information gathered during the RMP updating process would be used. Reclamation would develop a Cultural Resource Management Plan with pro-active strategies to manage and protect cultural resource sites, including site protection and stabilization measures, and procedures for addressing curation, inadvertent discoveries, and consultation, among other areas of concern.
- Reclamation would work with state, county, and local groups to study and effectively control terrestrial and aquatic noxious and invasive weed problems on Reclamation lands emphasizing integrated pest management techniques.
- Management of the WMA's would continue based on the intent and priorities stated in the 1991 RMP, except for two new actions. Existing Habitat Improvement Plans would be updated as needed to include actions that would improve water quality and increase the emphasis on wetlands. Second, existing and new non-motorized trails developed in the WMA's would be monitored. If they are detrimental to wildlife and habitat values, the trails would be closed.
- Habitat Improvement Plans will be prepared for the Cascade, Big Sage, Cabarton, and Gold Fork C/OS areas.

### **Water Quality, Surface Water Management, and Erosion Control**

- Reclamation would increase efforts to assist adjacent landowners in obtaining permits for constructing shoreline erosion control measures, such as retaining walls. Permits for erosion control methods would be monitored.
- Enforcement of no-wake zones would increase. State law would apply within 100 feet of in-water structures, such as a dock, and people. Educational materials would be provided to the public to encourage observance of a 200-foot no-wake zone adjacent to WMA's. Buoys would be placed selectively along intensively developed and eroding shorelines and enforced, in conjunction with county ordinance and enforcement. Particular emphasis would be placed on Boulder Creek. In addition, warnings, such as handouts and notices related to hazards and shallow water and wildlife sensitivity will be issued.
- Reclamation would continue to attempt to acquire agricultural easement rights on Reclamation lands through purchase, lease, or exchange.

### **Improved or Restricted Access**

- Vehicular access (not including snowmobiles) to shoreline and drawdown areas would be phased out and then eliminated except for limited access for construction, emergency, and administrative purposes, with the exception of Mallard Bay.
- Float plane access, for takeoff and landing, would be allowed only in the main body of the reservoir. Taxiing would be allowed, except for the non-motorized areas. The FAA would be responsible for enforcement and would terminate permits if appropriate.
- Existing boat ramps at Van Wyck, Sugarloaf, and Boulder Creek, Blue Heron, Buttercup, and Poison Creek would be extended.
- Nonmotorized trails would be developed at Duck Creek and Willow Creek WMA's, Boulder Creek C/OS, Big Sage, Cabartons, Crown Point, Recreation areas, North Fork Payette Arm, and Vista Point, subject to seasonal closures to protect waterfowl nesting.
- Snowmobile parking areas would be plowed at Poison Creek and north of Huckleberry on U.S. Forest Service (USFS) land. Other parking areas would be explored for plowing with the county and USFS as needed.

### **Improved Facilities, Encroachment, and Miscellaneous**

- In RR areas, Reclamation would issue no new permits for individual private docks. Reclamation would continue to renew permits for existing (grandfathered) docks. New community docks would be permitted only if permits replace an existing individual dock.
- C/OS areas would not be converted to RR designation under the Preferred Alternative with the exception of the area south of Arrowhead Point. Reclamation determined this area would be converted as it now meets the criteria described in the 1991 RMP for RR lands. No new docks would be permitted in C/OS areas, but Reclamation would continue to permit existing grandfathered docks.
- At developed recreation areas, moorage would be limited to loading and unloading only. Also, time limits would be imposed (for example, 1 hour), and no overnight use would be allowed.
- Private landscape development could occur on Reclamation lands in RR areas through an established permit system. Private erosion control or landscaping would only be allowed where a demonstrated public purpose will be served (such as erosion control or water quality). The permit system would specify erosion, water quality, and aesthetic standards.

- Encroachment on any Reclamation land, including unauthorized and unpermitted boat ramps and private structures, would continue to be prohibited. Existing encroachments would continue to be removed in RR, C/OS, WMA, or Recreation areas; grandfathered uses (such as boat docks) would be allowed to continue by permit.
- Limited recreation improvements such as restrooms, boat-in access, day use facilities, extended boat ramps, parking, formalized camping areas, accessible facilities, regulatory signage, sewer hook-ups, and interpretive displays would be developed at Driftwood Point, Duck Creek WMA, west side campgrounds, Boulder Creek, Gold Fork WMA, Crown Point, Big Sage, and Cabartons.
- The former state airstrip near Arrowhead Point would be considered for re-opening for fly-in and boat-in uses subject to avoiding adverse effects to bald eagles and other conditions.
- County use of the Crown Point Quarry would be limited to existing stockpiles until marina breakwater is developed. After breakwater construction, the quarry would be closed and reclaimed.
- Van Wyck Park, Cascade Marina, breakwater, and associated facilities would be developed as described in the 1991 RMP except that the marina would be developed in phases for up to 400 slips.

## Consultation and Coordination

### Public Involvement

Reclamation's approach to the RMP and EA was to develop a dialogue with local stakeholder groups. The goal of the public involvement process was to make sure that all stakeholders, including the general public, had ample opportunity to express their interests, concerns, and viewpoints, and to comment on the plan as it was developed. Reclamation's public involvement process involved four key components:

- **Newsbriefs** - A newsletter was initially mailed to more than 1,300 user groups, nearby residents, and agencies. The mailing list was continuously expanded as more stakeholders were identified. Seven newsbriefs were issued throughout the RMP/EA process, with an eighth newsbrief to be sent at the completion of the RMP.
- **Public Meetings/Workshops/Hearings** - Two sets of public meetings and one set of public hearings were included in the process. Two sets of meetings were held prior to the release of the Draft EA. Public hearings were held after the release of the Draft EA to collect oral public comment. Each meeting/hearing set consisted of two meetings: one in Boise and one in Cascade.

- **Ad Hoc Work Group** - This group consists of approximately 20 representatives from interested groups and agencies. They met eight times throughout the development process to identify issues, and assist with RMP update and alternatives development.
- **RMP Study Web Site** - The newsbriefs, draft materials, and meeting announcements are continuously updated at <http://www.pn.usbr.gov/>.

## **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Consultation and Coordination**

### **Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act**

Reclamation has consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to prepare the Coordination Act Report (CAR) under authority of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA). The CAR describes fish, wildlife, and vegetation in the area, analyzes project effects and recommends actions for protection and enhancement of these resources. A summary of the CAR recommendations and Reclamation's responses are included in the Final EA. In general, the proposed activities in the Preferred Alternative are consistent with FWS recommendations.

### **Endangered Species Act**

The evaluation of endangered species contained in the Final EA serves as Reclamation's biological assessment as required under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). It evaluates impacts to listed and proposed for listing species including Ute ladies'-tresses orchids, bald eagles, Canada lynx, gray wolf and bull trout. Reclamation has determined that the Preferred Alternative may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, Ute-ladies'-tresses, bald eagle, Canada lynx, and gray wolf and would have no effect on bull trout. FWS has concurred with this determination.

## **National Historic Preservation Act Consultation**

Reclamation has collected existing cultural resource information from the Lake Cascade area to prepare the EA, and to facilitate subsequent compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and its implementing regulations (36 CFR 800). In addition the NHPA, requires agencies to consult with Native American Tribes if a proposed Federal action may affect properties to which they attach religious and cultural significance. As part of Reclamation's government-to-government consultation with the Tribes, Reclamation has contacted appropriate Indian Tribes to identify Indian Trust Assets (ITAs), Traditional Cultural Properties (TCPs), and Indian sacred sites. Coordination with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and additional coordination with the Shoshone-Paiute, Shoshone-Bannock, and Nez Perce Tribes has occurred in conjunction with public review of the Draft EA. (It is understood that specific, future undertakings in response to specific RMP prescriptions, will require specific consultations with the SHPO and the Tribes.)

## **Tribal Consultation and Coordination**

### **Consultation with Tribes**

To meet its requirement for government to government consultation with Tribes, Reclamation met with Council members and staff of the Nez Perce, Shoshone-Paiute, and Shoshone-Bannock Tribes to discuss the preparation of the RMP and to identify ITAs, TCPs, and Indian Sacred Sites. A representative from the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes participated in the Ad Hoc Work Group, which facilitated close coordination with the Government and helped assure that Tribal interests were integrated with the RMP. Several meetings were held and a substantial amount of correspondence was exchanged between Reclamation and the Tribes.

### **Indian Trust Assets**

Reclamation coordinated with the Shoshone-Bannock and Nez Perce Tribes to identify their interests, including ITAs. These are discussed in Chapter 3 of the Final EA.

### **Other Laws and Regulations**

The relationship between Federal agencies and sovereign Tribes is defined by several laws and regulations addressing the requirement of Federal agencies to notify or consult with Native American groups or otherwise consider their interests when planning and implementing Federal undertakings. Among these are the following:

- National Environmental Policy Act
- American Indian Religious Freedom Act
- Archeological Resources Protection Act
- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
- Executive Order 12875, Enhancing the Intergovernmental Partnership
- Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations
- Presidential Memorandum: Government-to-Government Relations with Native American Tribal Governments
- Executive Order 13007, Indian Sacred Sites
- Executive Order 13175 Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments

Reclamation has adhered to these laws and regulations as applicable to the development of the RMP.

### **Summary of Public Comment on the Draft EA**

The Draft EA was released for public review on December 20, 2001 and the public was afforded 60 days to review and provide comments. About halfway through the public review and comment period, Reclamation held a set of two public hearings (one in Boise and the other in Cascade) to solicit public testimony on the Draft EA. Twenty four individuals commented at the public hearings.

During the comment period, a change was made to the Preferred Alternative regarding consideration of opening the former state airstrip. This concept was not part of the Preferred Alternative as presented in the Draft EA. Therefore, Reclamation sought input on this potential change to the Preferred Alternative and extended the comment period until March 28, 2001, to provide the public an opportunity to consider this potential change and provide comments. Reclamation received over 250 comment letters and E-mails on the Draft EA.

Overall there were few comments regarding the analysis of environmental impacts in the Draft EA. Nearly all comments pertained to elements of the Preferred Alternative or other alternatives that commentors either favored or objected to. Many of the comments focused on four main subject areas:

- Re-opening the former state airstrip
- Using the Crown Point Road
- Boating the Boulder Creek Arm
- Ensuring good water quality

By far, the largest number of comments (approximately 185) came from proponents advocating that the former state airstrip adjacent to Lake Cascade be re-opened as part of the Preferred Alternative. Most were members of the Idaho Aviation Association. There were 34 comments opposing re-opening the airstrip. Reclamation has added the reopening of the former state airstrip, subject to certain conditions, as part of the Preferred Alternative in the Final EA.

There were 19 letters supporting the Preferred Alternative's designation of Crown Point as closed to motorized vehicles while five letters favored opening it to ORV's and/or a county road.

Fifteen commentors were concerned with boat wakes, safety and erosion in the Boulder Creek arm and requested that the entire arm designated as a "no wake" zone as in Alternative B. Reclamation's response is that, under the Preferred Alternative, the designation of no wake in the upper arm, clearly marking 100 foot no wake zones and increasing assistance to the County for enforcement of the no wake zone under state law would address many of these concerns, while still allowing other uses.

Comments regarding water quality include removing cattle from the shoreline, addressing all shoreline erosion, concern for fuel facilities and a lack of emphasis on water quality improvement actions. Reclamation's response is that, under the Preferred Alternative, it would continue to work with agricultural easement holders to remove cattle from the shoreline. While shoreline erosion is actually a small contributor to water quality problems, many actions in the RMP, including better enforcement of no wake zones would also address water quality issues.

## **Changes in the Final EA**

The most notable change that was made to the Draft EA was to include, in the Preferred Alternative, re-opening of the former state airstrip, if certain conditions are met. This change was brought about by

extensive public comment in support of re-opening the airstrip. As explained above, the public comment period was also extended to receive input on this change.

Another change that was added to the Preferred Alternative was to extend the length of boat ramps at several recreation sites to allow for boat launching at lower water levels.

## **Environmental Impacts**

### **Water Quality**

Under the Preferred Alternative, stricter measures for erosion control, vehicular access to the shoreline and reservoir bottom, and no wake zones would serve to improve water quality to a minor degree compared to No Action. There would also be less recreation development acreage than No Action. Environmental commitments related to best management practices would minimize adverse impacts from recreation developments. The larger concentration of boats in the proposed marina could result in more spilled fuel and more exhaust emission to the water, however these impacts would be expected to occur only occasionally. The overall effect of the Preferred Alternative would be beneficial to water quality but not significantly so.

### **Vegetation**

Implementation of Habitat Improvement Plans and wetland improvement projects would improve native vegetation in localized areas. Construction of trails and expansion of recreation sites would destroy or disturb vegetation, but overall there would be 203 fewer acres developed than under No Action. The addition of 158 acres of C/OS compared to No Action would increase protection of shoreline and upland plant communities. Overall, vegetation communities would be enhanced to a moderate degree.

### **Wildlife**

The Preferred Alternative would allow recreation development which would degrade or destroy wildlife habitat; however development would occur on 203 fewer acres than under No Action. Wildlife habitat would be protected on 39 more acres of WMA land and 158 more acres of C/OS land out of the nearly 7,000 acres of Reclamation administered lands. Implementation of Habitat Improvement Plans, the better enforcement of no wake zones would also enhance wildlife habitat and reduce disturbance by boats. The construction of the larger marina, compared to No Action could cause a slightly greater disturbance to wildlife compared to No Action, but this effect would be localized. Additional mitigation would be developed during site-specific NEPA compliance for the marina. Overall, the Preferred Alternative would continue the protection of wildlife habitat from the 1991 RMP with minor enhancement in some areas.

### **Threatened and Endangered Species**

The Preferred Alternative would have essentially the same environmental effects to listed species

as the No Action Alternative: it may effect but would not likely adversely effect Ute ladies'-tresses, bald eagle, Canada lynx, and gray wolf. There would be no effect to bull trout. Environmental commitments in the Preferred Alternative and those developed during future site-specific NEPA and ESA compliance processes would ensure that adverse effects do not occur during activities such as re-opening the former state airstrip or constructing the marina.

### **Aquatic Biology**

Activities that would improve water quality may have a slight benefit to the reservoir fishery. The construction of trails would tend to provide more access for anglers which may increase harvest and poaching to a minor degree. Overall, the Preferred alternative is not expected to have any major impact on fish.

### **Recreation**

Proposed actions under the Preferred Alternative such as expanded camping, day use, parking, interpretive, and accessible facilities would tend to benefit recreation. Compared to No Action, Recreation facility development and expansion is more moderate in many areas, with the exception of the larger marina at Cascade, which would be addressed in detail during a separate NEPA compliance process. Measures such as more stringent enforcement of no wake areas would please some recreationists while restricting others. However, the affected areas are small in the context of the entire reservoir. Prohibiting vehicle access to the shoreline would adversely affect some users but this is a very small number of those using the lake.

### **Visual Resources**

The Preferred Alternative would have less visual impact from new development than No Action, but overall the visual character of the lake would be expected to remain essentially the same.

### **Socioeconomics**

There would be an overall indirect benefit locally to socioeconomics from water quality, recreation and resource protection and improvement actions; however the benefits would not improve significantly compared to No Action.

### **Cultural Resources**

The potential impacts to cultural resources from recreation facility and trail development would be slightly less than under No Action, and preparation and implementation of a cultural resource management plan would help protect known cultural sites. No significant effects are expected.

## **Sacred Sites and Indian Trust Assets**

The potential impacts to these resources would be the same as the No Action alternative.

## **Transportation and Access**

Traffic on West Mountain Road may increase slightly from recreation improvements, but no more than under No Action. Access to the water would be enhanced for some users through accessible trail development and marina construction, while the restricting of vehicle access to the shoreline and elimination of new boat dock permits would make access less convenient to others. Overall transportation and access would continue to be adequate for most of the public.

## **Environmental Commitments**

Reclamation will implement the environmental commitments listed in the Final EA to avoid or minimize effects to resources from RMP implementation activities. These activities include Best Management Practices (BMP's) as well as mitigation measures for protection of certain resources.

## **Best Management Practices**

BMP's for the following categories will be implemented as specified in the Final EA:

- Landscape Preservation and Impact Avoidance
- Erosion and Sediment Control
- Protection of Biological Resources
- Site Restoration and Revegetation
- Pollution Prevention
- Noise Prevention
- Cultural Resource Site Protection
- Miscellaneous Practices

## **Mitigation Measures**

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

### **Soils**

All roads, trails, and new or upgraded facilities would employ designs that would not contribute to short- or long-term soil loss during and following construction and revegetation.

### **Vegetation**

In addition to Reclamation's overall planned increase in noxious and invasive weed control efforts, all sites that are disturbed for facilities and trail construction would be actively monitored for these plants. All infestations would be immediately treated in accordance with accepted methods and agreements with IDFG and Valley County. Trails would continue to be monitored at least once annually, followed by aggressive weed control efforts. Any wetland losses would be mitigated on at least a one-to-one basis, replacing both affected area and habitat value.

### **Wildlife**

Reclamation would replace the area and habitat value of all wetland and riparian areas that would be directly impacted or degraded by implementation of this alternative.

### **Cultural Resources**

Mitigation under all alternatives would 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 an archaeological, traditional, or historic resource, then Reclamation would investigate options to avoid the site. Cultural resource management actions for impacted sites would 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.

### **Transportation and Access**

Upon development of more detailed plans for planned improvements (e.g., marina), predictions of increased traffic volumes would be more clearly defined. Mitigation to reduce congestion could include measures such as the installation of left hand turn lanes, pavement widening, or noise abatement where necessary. Specific mitigation requirements would be determined during site-specific facility designs.

### **Finding**

Based on the analysis of the environmental impacts in the EA, environmental commitments to avoid and reduce impacts and consultation with potentially affected tribes, agencies, organizations and the general public, Reclamation concludes that implementing the Preferred Alternative, with changes described in the Final EA would not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment or the natural and cultural resources in the project area. Implementing the Preferred Alternative will balance the needs for recreational development with water quality and other natural resource values at Lake Cascade. Additional NEPA documentation will be prepared for site-specific RMP actions.

This **Finding of No Significant Impact** has therefore been prepared and is submitted to document environmental review and evaluation in compliance with NEPA.

**APPROVED:**

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Area Manager  
Snake River Area Office  
Boise, Idaho

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## ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AE	Agricultural Easement
ARPA	Archeological Resources Protection Act
ATV	All-Terrain Vehicle
BEMP	Bald Eagle Management Plan
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMP	Best Management Practice
B.P.	Before present
CAR	Coordination Act Report
cfs	Cubic feet per second
C/OS	Conservation/Open Space (areas)
COE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
CRCC	Cascade Reservoir Coordinating Council
CRMP	Cultural Resources Management Plan
cy	cubic yards
DOI	Department of Interior
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
FWCA	Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
FWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
HIP	Habitat Improvement Plan
IDEQ	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

IDFG	Idaho Department of Fish and Game
IDL	Idaho Department of Lands
IDPR	Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
IDWR	Idaho Department of Water Resources
ISLB	Idaho State Land Board
ITAs	Indian Trust Assets
ITD	Idaho Transportation Department
msl	Mean sea level
NAGPRA	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
National Register	National Register of Historic Places
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOI	Notice of Intent
NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
O&M	Operations and Maintenance
ORV	Offroad Vehicle
PWC	Personal Water Craft
Reclamation	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
RMP	Resource Management Plan
RR	Rural Residential (areas)
RV	Recreational Vehicle
SH	State Highway
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SICMS	South Idaho Christian Mission Society
SISCRA	Southwest Idaho Senior Citizens Recreation Association

TCPs	Traditional Cultural Properties
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
UFAS	Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
WAG	Watershed Advisory Group
WMA	Wildlife Management Area
YMCA	Young Men's Christian Association

# 1.0 Introduction and Background

*Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan: Environmental Assessment*

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

### 1.1 Introduction

This Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluates the proposed Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan (RMP). The RMP was developed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to manage resources, facilities, and access on their lands and waters. The RMP evaluated in this EA is an update of the plan implemented in 1991. Reclamation's lands at Lake Cascade are shown on Map 1-1, *Location Map*.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 requires Reclamation to explore a range of possible alternative management approaches and the environmental effects of these actions. Four alternatives are evaluated and compared in this document, including a No Action Alternative and a Preferred Alternative. The impacts of each alternative were evaluated for the affected resource areas, including water quality and contaminants, soils, vegetation, wildlife, threatened and endangered species, aquatic biology, recreation, visual resources, land use, socioeconomics, environmental justice, cultural resources, sacred sites, Indian Trust Assets (ITAs), and transportation and access. Air quality, topography, water resources and hydrology, and geology were also evaluated, but are not included in this document because no impacts would occur to these resources.

### 1.2 Authority

Title 28 of Public Law 102-575, Section 2805 (106 Stat. 4690; Reclamation Recreation Management Act of October 30, 1992) provides Reclamation with authority to prepare resource management plans.

### 1.3 Proposed Federal Action

The proposed Federal action is implementation of an updated RMP for Lake Cascade. The intent of the Lake Cascade RMP is to serve as a blueprint for the future use and management of Reclamation lands and resources at the reservoir for the next 10 years. The RMP identifies draft goals and objectives for resource management, specifies desired land and resource use patterns, and explains the policies and actions that would be implemented or allowed during the 10-year life of the plan to achieve these draft goals and objectives.

### 1.4 Purpose and Need

#### 1.4.1 Purpose of the Environmental Assessment

The purpose of this EA is to assist Reclamation in finalizing a decision on a preferred RMP alternative and to determine whether to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). An environmental analysis is required by NEPA for any Federal action that may have a significant impact on the environment.

## **Historical Overview**

Construction of Cascade Dam, located in east central Idaho, was completed in 1948 by Reclamation for use as a Federal irrigation and hydroelectric facility. The reservoir was filled to capacity for the first time in 1957. Since that time, the reservoir has become increasingly important for recreation use, serving west central and southern Idaho as well as out-of-state visitors. It also provides valuable fish and wildlife habitat. Approximately 330,000 people visited the reservoir in 1999 for swimming, boating, camping, picnicking, and fishing. The 1991 RMP addressed these and other issues related to management of Reclamation lands at Lake Cascade.

The current RMP covers the period from 1991 through 2001. Because it will expire soon, this plan needs to be updated to address current issues to permit the orderly and coordinated development and management of lands and facilities under Reclamation jurisdiction at Lake Cascade. The plan would be used as the basis for directing activities on Reclamation lands and the water surface in a way that maximizes overall public and resource benefits and would provide guidance for managing the area over the next 10 years.

The RMP will be reviewed, reevaluated, and revised to reflect changing conditions and management objectives on an as-needed basis. Opportunities for public involvement would be provided on significant changes that affect the resource or public use. Draft goals and objectives of the RMP are provided in Appendix A.

## **1.5 Related Activities**

The following activities and plans, although not a part of the proposed RMP, may have impacts on the same resources being impacted by the proposed Lake Cascade RMP:

- Idaho Division of Environmental Quality Watershed Management Plan—A plan to address water quality issues in the North Fork Payette River drainage
- WestRock development—A proposed four-season resort located immediately west of Lake Cascade

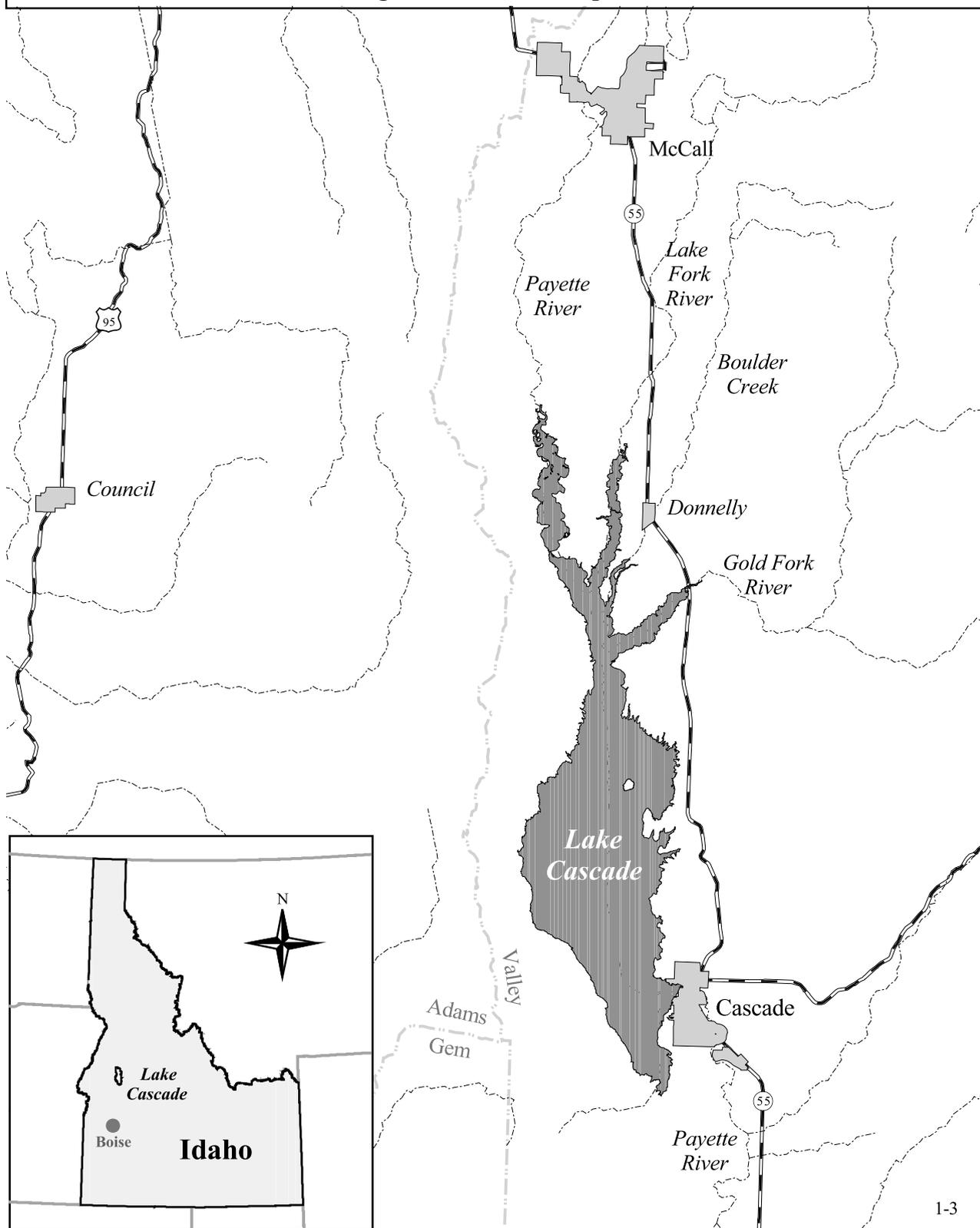
The potential of added impacts attributable to these actions on specific resources within the RMP study area is discussed under the cumulative impact assessment sections in Chapter 3.

## **1.6 Location and Background**

Lake Cascade is located in the west central mountains of Idaho at the western edge of Long Valley in Valley County (Map 1-1). The reservoir is on the North Fork of the Payette River where the river flows along the base of a mountain ridge and across a broad valley floor. It is approximately 80 miles north of the Boise metropolitan area by State Highway 55 (SH-55). The City of Cascade is near the south end of the reservoir and the City of Donnelly is near the north end. Both cities lie to the east of the reservoir. Reclamation administers a narrow strip of land of irregular width around most of the reservoir. Generally, the lands west of the reservoir away from the immediate shoreline are administered

by the Boise National Forest. The remaining surrounding land is privately owned, except for isolated parcels of state and Federal lands.

**Map 1-1**  
**U.S. Bureau of Reclamation**  
**Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan:**  
**Environmental Assessment**  
**Regional Location Map**



When the reservoir is full, 86 miles of shoreline extend into the narrow arms of the North Fork of the Payette River, Gold Fork River and Boulder and Lake Fork Creeks at the north end. Including the North Fork (Payette River) arm, the reservoir is approximately 21 miles long. The southern portion of the reservoir is wide and unsheltered from wind; the widest point being 4.5 miles.

The only island is Sugarloaf, which rises 140 feet above the high water line and is approximately 100 acres in size. It is located within the main body of the reservoir.

There are 28,300 surface water acres at normal full pool, which is 4828 feet above mean sea level. The reservoir is shallow, the average depth being only 26.5 feet. The mean annual drawdown was 16 feet during the first 30 years of operating at full capacity. However, an administrative decision was made in the early 1980s to maintain the reservoir at a 300,000 acre-foot minimum pool, the mean annual drawdown has been reduced to 12 feet. This has helped to maintain higher water quality and protect the reservoir fishery from the most severe drawdowns and has maintained recreational access later into the summer season and fall. The lowest water levels are typically reached in the month of October; the highest in June or July. Adhering to this minimum pool depends on adequate water supplies to meet irrigation water delivery contracts.

### **1.6.1 Regional Hydrology**

A number of streams and creeks drain into Lake Cascade (Map 1-1). The major tributaries of Lake Fork Creek, Gold Fork River, Boulder Creek, and Willow Creek, enter from the northeast. Numerous smaller creeks descend from West Mountain.

The North Fork of the Payette and its major tributaries flow through Long Valley, north of the reservoir. The stream channels are constantly changing, as shown by the numerous oxbows. Through the reservoir, the old river channel hugs the northwest shore, passes near Sugarloaf Island, and continues closely around Crown Point to the dam.

The water level of the reservoir reaches its peak in June or July (4828 feet) and is drawn down through the summer and into fall to a mean annual low of 4816 feet, thereby exposing large areas of mudflats in the flat valley. In the Hot Springs and Duck Creek areas, these mudflats extend thousands of feet from the high water shoreline. Mudflats also appear late in the season above Tamarack Falls Bridge, Lake Fork Bridge, the confluence of Willow and Boulder creeks, and the old highway embankment across the Gold Fork Arm.

Poor drainage and high water tables are prevalent along the west shoreline, the south end of the reservoir, the shoreline east of Sugarloaf Island, and in smaller areas where the terrain is essentially flat with poor draining soils or at elevations below the high water line.

### **1.6.2 River and Reservoir System Operations**

Information on reservoir system operations is provided as background information only. The RMP does not address reservoir operations because these operations are governed by other requirements.

Lake Cascade is one of three Reclamation reservoirs in the Payette River system; the other two are Deadwood Reservoir on the Deadwood River and Black Canyon Reservoir on the main stem of the

Payette River. These reservoirs are operated as an integrated system to meet irrigation, hydropower, and flood control purposes, as well as recreation and fish and wildlife needs. No firm operating rules govern; rather, the operations reflect a continuous evaluation of these individual needs, contractual obligations, and physical and legal constraints. The objective is to supply sufficient water from storage for irrigation diversions at Black Canyon Dam plus enough flow passing the dam to meet downstream irrigation requirements. The flow passing the dam is usually great enough to allow full generating capacity at the Black Canyon power plant near Emmett and to meet irrigation needs downstream. Idaho Power Company operates a hydroelectric facility at Cascade Dam.

Reclamation follows general objectives for reservoir operation, including flood control, irrigation releases, and salmon augmentation flows (Reclamation 1997). Flood control rule curves established for Lake Cascade and Deadwood Reservoir are designed to limit flows at Horseshoe Bend, Idaho, to 12,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). The rule curves specify that 80 percent of the flood control space should be provided by Lake Cascade. Releases to provide flood storage space typically occur in late winter to meet estimated April 1 space requirements. The target date to refill Lake Cascade is typically June 20 to 25 during an average runoff year. This date is earlier during drought years and later following wet winters. Irrigation demands on Lake Cascade waters typically begin in June after natural flows in the Payette River at Horseshoe Bend drop below 2,400 cfs and continue through September. Deadwood Reservoir is typically drafted more heavily in July and August to maximize summer water levels at Lake Cascade for recreation, water quality, and aesthetics. Salmon flow augmentation releases from the Payette River system to the Snake River ranged from about 62,000 to 155,000 acre-feet between 1991 and 1997 (Reclamation 1997). In recent years, some of the water has been released in July and August with the remainder being released in December and January (Reclamation 1997).

Flows occurring below Cascade and Deadwood reservoirs are used primarily during winter for power production at the Black Canyon power plant. Informal flood control operations are used during the spring thaw and less frequently during winter rain storms. Storage for irrigation begins in the fall and peaks in the early part of summer. Irrigation releases end by November. Water is released downstream to Black Canyon Dam where it is either diverted or released downstream for irrigation to a large number of contractors or passed through generators to produce electricity (Reclamation 1991a).

Table 1.6-1 provides project operations data regarding maximum and minimum reservoir pools, allocation of the reservoir's storage capacity, and Cascade Dam. As noted above, although Reclamation has authorization to lower water levels to a 46,662 acre-foot minimum pool, an administrative decision was made in 1984, following public input on the Boise Project Power and Modification Study, to maintain a 300,000 acre-foot minimum whenever possible, not precluding future requests for water by irrigators.

**Table 1.6-1. Project Operations Data—Lake Cascade**

<b>Normal Maximum Water Surface</b>	
Elevation	4828.0 feet mean sea level (msl)
Storage	693,123 acre-feet

**Table 1.6-1. Project Operations Data—Lake Cascade**

Surface area	26,307 acres
Shoreline	86 miles (approx.)
<b>Inactive (Minimum) Pool</b>	
Elevation	4787.5
Storage	46,662 acre-feet
Surface area	5,837 acres
<b>Administrative Minimum Pool</b>	
Elevation	4809.6 feet msl
Storage	300,000 acre-feet
<b>Allocation of Capacity</b>	
Inactive space	46,662 acre-feet
Special use pool	253,338 acre-feet
Irrigation contracts	310,450 acre-feet
Uncontracted space	82,673 acre-feet
Total	693,123 acre-feet
<b>Cascade Dam</b>	
Structural height	107 feet
Hydraulic height	69 feet
Top width	35 feet
Maximum base width	630 feet
Crest length	785 feet
Crest elevation	4840 feet msl
Spillway crest elevation	4808 feet msl
Spillway capacity at maximum normal pool	12,500 feet <sup>3</sup> /second
Maximum powerplant capacity	2,300 feet <sup>3</sup> /second

Sources: Reclamation 1997; 1998; and 1999

The Congressionally authorized minimum pool of 50,000 acre-feet was changed to 46,662 acre-feet based on the most recent bathymetric survey published in May 1998 (Reclamation 1998). In addition, since the 1991 RMP was completed, Reclamation has provided storage releases from Cascade as part

of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) requirement for salmon flow augmentation; however, the releases have not encroached on the 300,000 acre-foot conservation pool. (pers. comm., T. Dombrowski, Senior Water Quality Analyst, Cascade, ID, April 23, 1999).

## 1.7 Scoping

Two sets of public scoping meetings were held prior to the development of the Draft EA. An initial set of scoping meetings was held February 10, 1999, in Boise, Idaho; and February 11, 1999, in Cascade, Idaho. The meetings were advertised through announcements to local media and a public information newsbrief that was sent to 1,500 people. The purpose of the initial meetings and the newsbrief were to collect public input on the issues that should be addressed in the RMP alternatives and in this EA. The second set of public meetings was held February 16, 2000, in Boise, Idaho; and February 17, 2000, in Cascade, Idaho. These meetings were also announced through local media and an expanded newsbrief mailing list. The purpose of these meetings was to gather comments on the draft alternatives and RMP Draft Goals and Objectives. In addition, an Ad Hoc Work Group, consisting of more than 20 representatives of agencies and interest groups, met five times to assist with alternatives development. The public involvement process is described fully in Chapter 4, *Consultation and Coordination*.

## 1.8 Summary of Issues

The RMP addresses all activities occurring on Reclamation lands surrounding Lake Cascade. Reclamation water operations are based on contractual and flood control requirements. Because of these operational constraints, water operations are not part of the RMP. Reclamation identified several issues that need to be addressed by the RMP. These issues were presented to the public, and the list was expanded through this process. A summary list of issues follows:

- Protect/enhance water quality, fisheries, and wildlife habitat
- How much recreation use the reservoir can accommodate as demand increases in the region
- Shoreline erosion control
- Conflicts among recreation users, especially motorized versus non-motorized
- Development of a marina at Lake Cascade
- Agricultural use, leases, and easements, as well as grazing pressure
- Protection and conservation of important or sensitive resources, such as wetlands, riparian vegetation, cultural resources, and archeological sites
- Uses for Crown Point railroad grade
- Vegetation management and weed control
- Trespassing on adjacent private lands
- General expansion of opportunities to meet recreation demands

- Encroachment of private activities or structures onto Federal lands
- Additional or expanded boat ramps, docks and associated facilities
- Improve access to reservoir/recreation sites
- Limit negative impacts of off-road vehicles; designate areas for their use
- Coordination between property owners and Reclamation's rural residential lands
- Preserve open space conservation areas
- Cooperate with or evaluate impacts of surrounding development, including WestRock
- Boating/water recreation safety regulation (personal watercraft, powerboats, water skiing)

## 2.0 Alternatives

## 2.0 ALTERNATIVES

### 2.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the alternatives being considered for implementation as the updated Lake Cascade RMP. It describes the No Action Alternative and three action alternatives in detail, and provides a summary comparison.

Recreation area improvements are described for each of the alternatives, such as trails, a visitor's center, interpretive signage, marinas and boat launching facilities, and parking and campground improvements. Reclamation does not intend to build all of these facilities independently. Rather, Reclamation would allow these developments to occur if a managing partner is involved, cost-share conditions are met, and Reclamation funds are available. For the purpose of comparing the alternatives, it is assumed that all of the facilities would be built. Other actions, such as increased noxious weed control, do not require managing partners or cost-share agreements and would be implemented as described in the alternatives.

### 2.2 Alternative Development

NEPA requires Federal agencies to evaluate a range of reasonable alternatives to a proposed Federal action. The alternatives should meet the purpose and need of the proposal. The NEPA alternative development process allows Reclamation to work with interested agencies and the public to formulate alternative management plans that respond to identified issues. The EA documents Reclamation's planning and decision process for the RMP.

Reclamation began the public involvement process in January 1999. The purpose of this process was to identify issues at Lake Cascade that needed to be included in the RMP alternatives and addressed in the EA. After the first public meeting, held in February 1999, an Ad Hoc Work Group was formed to assist in addressing issues, identifying goals and objectives, and developing alternatives. The public involvement process is fully described in Chapter 4, Consultation and Coordination. Reclamation developed the alternatives based on issues identified during the public involvement process, and refined alternatives with assistance from the Ad Hoc Work Group and in a February 2000 public meeting. The Preferred Alternative was identified during this process for evaluation in this EA. The alternatives related directly to the Goals and Objectives included in Appendix A.

This process resulted in the development of three action alternatives that prescribe a change in resource management. A fourth alternative analyzed in this EA is the No Action Alternative, which is required by NEPA. Each alternative would result in different future conditions at the reservoir. The four alternatives are summarized below:

- **Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices.** Management would be conducted according to the priorities and projects proposed in the 1991 RMP.
- **Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis.** This alternative would allow for a balanced amount of expansion and development of recreation sites and facilities at Lake Cascade. Several selected natural and cultural resources protection and management efforts would be increased on Reclamation lands and other such efforts would be maintained.
- **Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis.** Limited expansion and development of recreation sites and facilities would be allowed, while increased efforts to protect and manage natural and cultural resources on Reclamation lands would occur.
- **Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis.** The focus of this alternative would be to allow for the highest possible level of expansion and development of recreation sites and facilities. At the same time, natural and cultural resource protection efforts on Reclamation lands would be maintained.

Table 2.3-1, provided in Section 2.3, summarizes the elements of the alternatives. The table highlights the differences among the alternatives. Section 2.3, Alternatives Considered in Detail, describes each of the alternatives.

### 2.2.1 Similarities Among Alternatives

Although the alternatives differ in many ways, several features are common to all four alternatives:

- Continue to operate and maintain Reclamation lands and facilities.
- Adhere to existing and future Federal, state, and county laws and regulations.
- Authorize special recreation events on a case-by-case basis.
- Continue leasing Reclamation lands to YMCA, SISCRA, 4-H, and City of Donnelly for recreation purposes. Consider renewal of City of Cascade lease for the Cascade Golf Course when the term expires, in accordance with Reclamation concession policy.
- Tightened enforcement of standards for erosion control structures and continuing permit system.
- Restrictions on vehicle use of the shore and drawdown zone.
- All Reclamation lands are closed to ORV use unless specifically designated as open.

- Snowmobiles restricted to roads within recreation areas.
- Reservation of quarry resources for Reclamation's exclusive use in maintaining the dam and other project-related facilities.
- Closure and rehabilitation of quarry resources following completion of projects outlined herein.
- Water surface management for the Boulder Creek Arm is being developed jointly with Valley County and Reclamation. The results of that effort will be added to the RMP as it progresses.
- For recreation development and management aspects, follow the principles contained in Public Law 89-72, Federal Water Projects Recreation Act of 1965, as amended by Title 28 of Public Law 102-575. Basically, if a non-Federal government entity has agreed to manage recreation on Reclamation lands, Reclamation may share development costs for up to 50 percent of the total cost.
- IDPR continues to manage the recreation sites under an agreement with Reclamation.
- Recreation, Conservation/Openspace, Wildlife Management Area, and Rural Residential land use designations (described in Section 2.2.2) will continue to be used to define how lands will be managed.
- A new land use category, Operations and Maintenance (O&M) has been created in updating the 1991 RMP. Management of O&M lands will be the same under all alternatives.

## 2.2.2 Land Management Categories at Lake Cascade

The 1991 RMP discussed Reclamation lands at Lake Cascade in terms of four management categories. These categories have been retained, and one has been added, in the development of alternatives for an updated RMP:

- Recreation
- Wildlife Management Area (WMA)
- Rural Residential (RR)
- Conservation/Open Space (C/OS)
- Operations & Maintenance (O&M)

To ensure that wildlife values are preserved as recreation use, residential use, and commercial development increases near the reservoir, the policies and habitat improvement programs contained in the 1991 RMP will be continued by Reclamation under all alternatives of this RMP. Other management categories may change based on the priorities identified in the action alternatives. Land

management areas are shown on the maps for each alternative, which are described later in this chapter.

The acreage for each management category is provided in Chapter 3, Section 3.10, *Land Use*.

## **Recreation**

Recreation management areas include both existing and proposed recreation sites such as the Crown Point Campground, marinas and related facilities, and boat-in camping or day use facilities. An important focus of the RMP alternatives is to provide designated recreation areas to meet current and growing needs. The facilities proposed for both existing and new recreation sites reflect those needs, as well as the Draft Goals and Objectives developed following the public meetings and from the Ad Hoc Work Group (see Chapter 4), and the constraints and opportunities of the existing resources.

The primary recreation concepts of the 1991 RMP included:

1. Meeting the general public's demand for more opportunities and facilities reservoir-wide without compromising natural resource values or creating land use and recreation use conflicts.
2. An emphasis on improving and/or expanding existing public recreation sites, as well as developing a few areas.
3. Concentration of the most intensive recreation in the southeast area of the reservoir
4. Maximize diversity of recreation opportunities by providing for different types of activities and levels of intensity for different user groups.
5. Increased but better managed vehicular access to the shoreline to prevent further vegetation loss and shoreline erosion.

Details regarding proposed recreation improvements at all existing and new sites around the reservoir and policies regarding recreation development and management are shown in Table 2.2-1, presented at the end of Section 2.2. These features are also discussed in this chapter for each alternative.

## **Wildlife Management Areas (WMA)**

An important responsibility for Reclamation as a managing agency is to protect wildlife and enhance habitat. At Lake Cascade, this is a particularly crucial function because the reservoir and adjacent Reclamation lands provide habitat for many wildlife species.

Various areas of the reservoir are managed for wildlife in accordance with the 1991 RMP and the

policies and habitat improvement programs contained in it will be continued. The following six areas are designated as WMAs:

- Hot Springs Creek (including Sugarloaf Island)
- Gold Fork
- Lake Fork
- North Fork Payette
- Duck Creek
- Willow Creek

These WMAs include critical waterfowl and fur-bearer habitat, especially wetlands, mudflats, riparian corridors, and perch and nesting trees in forested areas. The WMAs are generally located away from highly developed areas, where they can be buffered from motorized boating activity.

The 1991 RMP described the overall purpose and general policies that were adopted for the WMAs. The overall purpose of the WMAs is to protect habitat for migratory birds and sensitive, threatened, or endangered wildlife. Wetlands within the WMAs are extremely productive; they support a major part of the food chain for the entire reservoir, provide spawning grounds for fish, recycle nutrients, and filter pollutants. For the public, wetlands provide an excellent opportunity for observing and enjoying wildlife.

In general, the aim of management is to restore or maintain these areas in as natural or native condition as possible. Another goal is to improve habitat quality and “housing” for wildlife wherever feasible.

Management priorities for the WMAs were specific to the existing and potential resource values of each WMA, and therefore varied somewhat from site to site. However, management on all WMAs focused on improving wildlife habitat conditions through vegetation management, fencing, and nesting structures, where appropriate.

Reclamation has developed a specific habitat improvement plan (HIP) for each of the WMAs. These are in various stages of implementation. Many activities such as fencing to control unauthorized grazing or vehicle access, construction of nesting platforms and boxes for a variety of wildlife species, signage, and planting to improve habitat conditions have been implemented. More of these activities are scheduled for the next few years.

Ten wetlands have also been developed at the WMAs to improve water quality in the reservoir and to provide wildlife habitat. Wetland development sites were selected to represent different water management strategies and site characteristics that are typical in the watershed surrounding the

reservoir. Actions undertaken include on-channel impoundments to create shallow emergent marsh, constructed ponds with emergent marsh zones, stream bank stabilization with riparian habitat restoration, and conversion of seasonal to perennial marsh habitat. Specific intended functions of the wetland and riparian projects include sediment trapping and removal, phosphorous uptake, reduced erosion, and improved wildlife habitat. Annual monitoring of a variety of chemical and physical parameters began in 1996 and continues to determine the effectiveness of these actions in improving water quality.

Specific management recommendations are presented in the Cascade Reservoir Bald Eagle Management Plan (BEMP) for Lake Cascade, which was prepared by Reclamation and the USFS in cooperation with the FWS. The most notable recommendations applicable to all WMAs are as follows:

- Unofficial vehicular use will be prohibited–implemented.
- The discharge of firearms will be prohibited from March 1 through the start of hunting season–implemented.
- Livestock grazing on agricultural easement lands will be removed–partially implemented; see below.

Reclamation has eliminated grazing on all of its lands that are not covered by agricultural easements. They have tried to remove grazing from agricultural easement lands as well by attempting the purchase of or exchange for the reserved easement. However, these efforts have been largely unsuccessful partially due to Reclamation’s limited exchange authority.

The water surface adjacent to the WMAs is limited to voluntary no wake zones in the main body of the reservoir and to non-motorized boating in the arms to minimize wildlife disturbance. However, adherence to no-wake zones within areas open to motorized boating has not met with much success.

### **Rural Residential (RR)**

Areas designated as RR occur exclusively in the northeast part of the reservoir and apply to narrow Reclamation ownership located between the high water line and adjacent, subdivided private land. Reclamation ownership along most of the shore in this area is less than 100 feet wide; much of it is less than 50 feet. Where these lands remain unprotected from wave action, erosion may cause further narrowing.

Numerous encroachments by private lot owners onto Federal land have occurred over the years on these narrow Reclamation lands. The encroachments have changed the character of the shoreline in these areas from a natural, open landscape to a highly developed, “residential” landscape.

The types of encroachment that have occurred include individual boat docks, retaining walls, landscaping, patios, decks, and even portions of cabins. Reclamation has responded to these widespread encroachments in a variety of ways. During the 1991 and current RMP planning process, it was decided that complete removal of all encroachments was not justified.

### **Conservation/Open Space (C/OS)**

Lands in this category are managed to preserve one or a combination of the following values (dependent upon the specific location):

- Retaining large areas of undeveloped landscapes, contributing to an open, natural or rural visual character for the reservoir setting.
- Maintaining undeveloped, natural landscape buffers between public recreation areas and adjacent private development (homes and residences presently exist adjacent to C/OS areas).
- Retaining open, undeveloped habitat buffers between public or private land uses and WMAs.
- Conservation of vegetation, wildlife, soil, and water quality values in general and restoration of these values by implementing programs for wetland habitat restoration, erosion control, revegetation of over-used areas, and others.

Public use of C/OS land is permitted but restricted to passive, low intensity activities such as hiking, dispersed picnicking, swimming, fishing, and nature study. No overnight uses are permitted. Vehicular access is restricted to specific, designated roadways or trails leading to staging areas or passive use areas. No uncontrolled vehicular use is permitted (with the exception of snowmobiles in the winter season). No public boat launch facilities are provided; and no new individual boat docks are permitted. Some boat docks are “grandfathered” and allowed in these areas.

Conditions at individual C/OS areas are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that a proper balance is being achieved between human use and natural values. If necessary, C/OS areas may be closed to public use for intervals of time to allow habitat recovery if damage from overuse occurs.

A habitat improvement plan has also been developed and is being phased in for the Boulder Creek C/OS, Crown Point C/OS, and Gold Fork C/OS areas. Some of the specific features of the plan include vegetation management, signage, nest platforms and boxes, fence removal, and possible trail development.

### **Operations and Maintenance (O&M)**

Lands in this category:

- Are managed for the purpose of operating and maintaining Cascade Dam and Reservoir.

- Provide the facilities needed to adequately manage all Reclamation lands.

## 2.3 Alternatives Considered in Detail

Four alternatives were selected for detailed analysis. As shown on Table 2.3-1, many different actions are considered within each alternative. These actions can be grouped into four broad assessment categories:

- Natural resource, habitat, and cultural resource protection and enhancement
- Water quality, surface water management, and erosion control
- Improved or restricted access
- Improved or new facilities or construction including parking areas, campgrounds, trails, and marinas; and miscellaneous items such as encroachment issues

The alternatives are described in this section in terms of the assessment categories. Within each assessment category, the affected portions of the Lake Cascade RMP area are described. To understand the impacts of the alternatives, see Chapter 3, *Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences*.

Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives<sup>1</sup>

Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
<b>Topics Applicable to Entire Area</b>				
RR Areas and Private Docks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently permitting private docks to shoreline lot owners in RR areas with continued effort of encouraging these owners to construct community docks to reduce proliferation of individual docks. However, this is not in compliance with Reclamation policy, therefore, under this alternative the actions identified in the Preferred Alternative would be adopted.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issue no new permits for individual private docks; continue to renew permits for existing docks.</li> <li>Permit new community docks if permits replace existing individual dock permits (i.e., no net increase in dock permits).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eliminate all private docks and replace with community docks or concession-run moorage facilities available to both shoreline and inland lot owners and the general public.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.
Erosion Control Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Erosion control measures (retaining walls) currently allowed under permit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase efforts to assist adjacent landowners in obtaining permits for constructing shoreline erosion control measures.</li> <li>Monitor permits.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
Mooring Buoys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to allow mooring buoys through established permit system which allows one mooring buoy per shoreline lot at a safe distance from any adjacent mooring buoys, boat docks, or other shoreline structures (if any).</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.

Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives <sup>1</sup>				
Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
Conversion of C/OS areas to RR designation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No conversion.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Area south of Arrowhead Point and north of the state airstrip converted from C/OS to RR.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
C/OS Rule Change to Permit Docks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No new docks in C/OS areas.</li> <li>Continue to permit existing “grandfathered” docks.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allow access in C/OS areas on a permit basis to launch boats.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A.
Cultural Resource Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow policies and actions prescribed in 1991 RMP, using updated information, including developing a Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP) with proactive strategies, including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site management and protection measures.</li> <li>Nomination of sites to the national register.</li> <li>Procedures for SHPO/Tribal consultation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utilize information compiled through the RMP Update process.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

**Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives<sup>1</sup>**

Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
Vehicular access to Shoreline and Drawdown Area (not including snowmobiles)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow the intent of the 1991 RMP (i.e., manage access to protect vegetation and limit erosion).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phase out and eventually prohibit for the entire area except for limited access for construction, emergency, and administrative purposes.</li> <li>Continue to allow limited vehicular access at Mallard Bay (except during nesting season) contingent on monitoring.</li> <li>Provide pedestrian access (UFAS<sup>2</sup>) to the full pool shoreline at key locations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prohibit for the entire area except for limited access for construction, emergency, and administrative purposes.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designate specific areas.</li> <li>Increase public education and enforcement efforts.</li> <li>Allow limited access for construction, emergency, and administrative purposes.</li> </ul>
Snowmobile Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Entire area open to snowmobile use.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Closed for use at developed recreation areas except roads and designated route(s).</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
Boat Launching & Associated Moorage at Developed Recreation Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moorage limited to load and unload only.</li> <li>Provided at developed recreation areas.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No overnight use, time limits imposed (e.g., 1 hour).</li> <li>Extend boat ramps at Van Wyck, Sugarloaf, Boulder Creek, Blue Heron, Buttercup, and Poison Creek, as funds are available to cost share with non-federal managing partner.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No overnight use, time limits imposed (e.g., 1 hour).</li> <li>Continue existing launching in C/OS areas.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative B.

**Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives<sup>1</sup>**

Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
All “No Wake” Zones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No wake zones as designated in 1991 RMP.</li> <li>• State law applies within 100 feet of in-water structures (dock), and people.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Warnings (handouts/notices) related to hazards/shallow water and wildlife sensitivity.</li> <li>• Educate and encourage public to observe 200-foot no wake zone adjacent to WMAs.</li> <li>• Selectively place buoys along intensively developed and eroding shorelines and enforce (in conjunction with county Ordinance and enforcement).</li> <li>• State law applies within 100 feet of in-water structures (dock), and people.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
Noxious and Invasive Weeds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue cooperative agreement with county for weed control.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with state, county, and local groups to study and effectively control terrestrial and aquatic noxious and invasive weed problems on Reclamation lands.</li> <li>• Emphasize integrated pest management practices and techniques in all associated actions.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

**Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives<sup>1</sup>**

Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
Private Landscape Development on Reclamation Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to allow landscape uses in RR areas through established Permit system.</li> </ul>	<p>Same as Alternative A, except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Private erosion control/landscape (i.e., plant materials) permits to be issued only where a demonstrated public purpose will be served (i.e., erosion control and water quality).</li> <li>Permit system to specify erosion, water quality, and aesthetic standards to be defined by CRCC, IDEQ, or other guidelines requirements, criteria.</li> <li>Conduct permit compliance monitoring.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

**Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives<sup>1</sup>**

Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
Encroachment on Reclamation Land (including unauthorized/un-permitted boat ramps and private structures)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to prohibit new and remove existing encroachments of any kind in C/OS, WMA, or recreation areas; grandfathered uses allowed to continue by permit.</li> <li>Currently prohibiting new and removal of existing private uses in RR areas through established Permit system. However, this is not in compliance with Reclamation policy, therefore, under this alternative the actions identified in the Preferred Alternative would be adopted.</li> </ul>	<p>Same as Alternative A, except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discontinue and remove all private uses in RR areas and C/OS areas (except those that demonstrate a specific public purpose, i.e., landscape improvements in RR that also serve to control erosion).</li> <li>Allow continued use of existing private boat ramps under a permit system.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
Float Plane Use on the Reservoir	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No current restrictions for landing and takeoff; subject to water surface rules.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Float planes (take-off and landing) allowed only in the main body of Lake Cascade.</li> <li>Taxiing allowed except for non-motorized area.</li> <li>FAA is responsible for enforcement.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

<b>Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives<sup>1</sup></b>				
<b>Area and Topic</b>	<b>Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices</b>	<b>Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis</b>	<b>Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis</b>	<b>Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis</b>
Habitat Protection and Enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to manage WMAs and C/OSs as per intent and priorities stated in 1991 RMP.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update and implement habitat improvement plans to improve water quality with increased emphasis on wetlands.</li> <li>Monitor existing and any new trails developed in WMAs and close if determined to be detrimental to wildlife and habitat values.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Alternative A, except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update and implement habitat improvement plans to improve water quality with increased emphasis on wetlands.</li> </ul>
Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to pursue negotiations with agricultural easement holders that lead to termination of grazing on Reclamation lands, or at a minimum keep livestock from the shoreline.</li> <li>Increase efforts to acquire agricultural easements and eliminate grazing.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
<b>Northwest Area</b>				
<b>Driftwood Point</b>				
YMCA Camp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor lease and consider renewal when term expires.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.

Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives <sup>1</sup>				
Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
Driftwood Point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Driftwood Point would be developed as per 1991 RMP (i.e., boat-in access for camping and day use).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore possibility of administrative (i.e., maintenance) access to site.</li> <li>• Allow development of a boat-in campground and day use site contingent upon availability of administrative access.</li> <li>• Convert RMP designation to C/OS if no admin access available.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convert proposed recreation area to C/OS designation.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore possibility of administrative (i.e., maintenance) access to site.</li> </ul>
Remaining Area (i.e., in between areas)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue C/OS and RR designations as is.</li> <li>• No new docks allowed in C/OS.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
<b>Duck Creek WMA</b>				

**Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives<sup>1</sup>**

Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
Osprey Point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1991 RMP continued the lease to BSU which has since been terminated. Current (temporary and experimental) use is yurts for group camping.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add 4-season restroom facilities and reestablish and connect to septic system.</li> <li>Add staging area for winter use.</li> <li>Formalize and expand group camping.</li> <li>Allow for development of a four-season group meeting area.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add 4-season restroom facilities and reestablish and connect to septic system.</li> <li>Add staging area for winter use.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative B, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Permanent group use facilities, such as dormitory or lodge, meeting and cooking facilities, and play areas (e.g., volleyball, horseshoes, etc.).</li> <li>Parking areas.</li> <li>RV and group camping.</li> </ul>
Access and Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No trails exist and none are proposed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allow for development of trail to wildlife viewing site near Osprey Point.</li> <li>Provide groomed cross-country ski trails.</li> <li>Allow for development of a trail system extending from Osprey Point (away from sensitive wildlife habitat) north to Amanita campground (USFS managed).</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative, except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allow for development of more extensive network of trails (with seasonal closure).</li> </ul>
C/OS Area (west of road)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change in C/OS designation.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.

Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives <sup>1</sup>				
Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
<b>West Side</b>				
Mallard Bay Area	1991 RMP called for: tent camping, day use, parking area, restrooms. <b>Note:</b> This level of development is no longer feasible due to wetland development, therefore, actions under the Preferred Alternative would be adopted.	Designate area as C/OS, allow: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formalized parking and vehicular access to shoreline.</li> <li>• Restroom facilities to accommodate shoreline fishing activities.</li> <li>• Trails with seasonal closure, specifically at southern end.</li> <li>• Interpretive displays and regulatory signage.</li> <li>• Monitor shoreline access; close if detrimental effects.</li> </ul>	Designate as WMA and formalize parking to prohibit vehicular access to shoreline.	Designate area as Recreation and C/OS. Recreation area to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formalized parking and vehicular access to shoreline.</li> <li>• Day-use facilities focused on accommodating shoreline fishing activities.</li> </ul> Recreation and C/OS areas to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trails with seasonal closure, specifically at southern end.</li> <li>• Interpretive displays and regulatory signage.</li> </ul>
West Mountain Campground and Poison Creek	Area to be developed as per 1991 RMP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marina developed if Val Bois did not occur.</li> <li>• 130-space parking area.</li> <li>• West side trail system.</li> <li>• Campground retained.</li> <li>• RV dump station retained.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow for development of a marina and associated facilities, but make second in priority to Van Wyck.</li> <li>• Add orientation kiosk, interpretive displays, and regulatory signage.</li> <li>• Convert C/OS to recreation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retain campground and associated facilities (no marina).</li> <li>• Develop day use facilities.</li> <li>• Add orientation kiosk, interpretive displays, and regulatory signage.</li> <li>• Develop west side trail system.</li> <li>• Convert C/OS to recreation.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.

**Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives<sup>1</sup>**

Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
Buttercup, Huckleberry, Curlew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently built out.</li> <li>• Allow development of west side trail system.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add interpretive displays and regulatory signage.</li> <li>• Develop and implement stormwater treatment for Poison Creek and Buttercup boat ramps.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Alternative A, except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add interpretive displays and regulatory signage.</li> </ul>
C/OS between all Recreation-Designated Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retain and manage for C/OS values.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convert designation from C/OS to Recreation to allow development of west side trail.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop habitat improvement plan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand existing recreation sites into adjacent C/OS areas.</li> <li>• Convert designation from C/OS to Recreation to allow development of west side trail.</li> </ul>

**Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives<sup>1</sup>**

Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
Access and Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued plowing for snowmobile parking at Poison Creek.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cooperate with USFS to provide for snowmobile parking areas north of Huckleberry (i.e., on USFS land).</li> <li>Explore expanding plowing additional right-of-way along county road.</li> <li>Expand plowing to other westside recreation areas as additional parking is needed.</li> <li>Allow for development of a trail system extending from Osprey Point (away from sensitive wildlife habitat) north to Amanita campground (USFS managed).</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cooperate with USFS to provide for snowmobile parking areas north of Huckleberry (i.e., on USFS land).</li> <li>Explore expanding plowing additional right-of-way along county road.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.
<b>Northeast Area</b>				
<b>Boulder Creek Arm</b>				
Boulder Creek Recreation Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Day use, boat ramp/docks.</li> <li>Add signage on SH-55.</li> </ul>	Renovate existing site, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional parking.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide boat services (fuel, supplies, etc.).</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of small marina and associated facilities.</li> </ul>
SISCRA Recreation Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor lease and consider renewal when term expires.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.

**Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives<sup>1</sup>**

Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
Water Surface Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-motorized and no-wake boating on upper ends of arm.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish and clearly demarcate a no-wake zone of 100 feet from shoreline structures adjacent to applicable areas of the Boulder Creek Arm through the use of buoys.</li> <li>• Establish a no-wake zone in both reaches of the upper end of the Boulder Creek Arm.</li> <li>• Increase enforcement of all no wake boating zones.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish and enforce a no-wake boating zone within the entire Boulder Creek Arm.</li> <li>• Non-motorized boating continued in upper end of Boulder Creek Arm.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased enforcement of existing state law (i.e., no-wake within 100 feet of structures) within arm.</li> <li>• Buoys/markers for mouth of arm.</li> </ul>
C/OS Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-motorized ( no ORV/ATV) use currently allowed, but no formally designated trails.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, except: allow development of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-motorized (hike/bike; no ORV/ATV) trail.</li> <li>• Cross-country ski trail.</li> <li>• Snowmobile trail.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative, except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motorized vehicular trail use allowed on designated trail(s).</li> </ul>
<b>Gold Fork Arm</b>				
C/OS on north side of Arm West of old Railroad Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No formalized/designated trails.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop Habitat Improvement Plan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop limited (no ORV/ATV use) interpretive trail with interpretive and regulatory signage.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative B.
Water Surface Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-motorized boating above Old State Highway.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.

**Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives<sup>1</sup>**

Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
Gold Fork WMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-motorized use occurs in Gold Fork River with no facilities at take out adjacent to SH-55 on north side of Arm.</li> <li>• Use of Old State Hwy as an informal boat launch.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop pull off, interpretive displays, parking and non-motorized boating access area at NE end of WMA adjacent to SH-55 on north side of arm.</li> <li>• Construct wetlands, as needed.</li> <li>• Continue to allow informal use of Old State Hwy as an informal boat launch, but monitor for safety and discontinue use if necessary.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop limited day use area and take out point at NE end of WMA adjacent to SH-55 on north side of arm.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative B, except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop larger day use area and take out points at NE end of WMA and adjacent to SH-55 on north side of Arm.</li> </ul>
<b>Arrowhead Point and Vicinity</b>				
State Airstrip	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-open under agreement with State aeronautics for fly-in day or overnight uses (this requires concurrence of agricultural easement holder).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider re-opening the airstrip for fly-in, boat-in, and hike-in uses subject to conditions and bald eagle monitoring and a separate NEPA process (this requires concurrence of agricultural easement holder).</li> <li>• Change RMP land use designation to WMA while airstrip is considered for re-opening.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not re-open airstrip for fly-in uses.</li> <li>• Designate area as Recreation for boat-in and hike-in access for camping and day use.</li> </ul>

Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives <sup>1</sup>				
Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
<b>Southeast Area</b>				
<b>Crown Point &amp; Vicinity</b>				
Natural Resource Enhancements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wetlands developed as per 1991 RMP. New wetland projects would be considered under the water quality provisions of the 1991 RMP.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore additional wetland projects, including rebuilding Grandma’s Creek impoundment.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Alternative A.
Access and Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No ORV/ATV allowed.</li> </ul>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At first opportunity allow for development of a trail from Crown Point south to the Willow Creek WMA.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ORV/ATV access via paved Crown Point Road.</li> <li>ORV/ATV use of designated road.</li> <li>Access trail allowed from adjacent residential area to site road system and associated shoreline access.</li> </ul>
Ambush Rock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not addressed in 1991 RMP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide access and develop interpretive display.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

**Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives<sup>1</sup>**

Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
Crown Point Extension	<p>Area to be developed as per 1991 RMP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vehicular access on railroad grade (no through County road).</li> <li>• Parking areas.</li> <li>• RV, group, and tent campgrounds.</li> <li>• Boat launch and docks.</li> <li>• Trail system.</li> </ul>	<p>In three limited pocket areas adjacent to the shoreline, create recreation facilities (not for ORV/ATV use), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited hike- and boat-in camping.</li> <li>• Limited day-use site/facilities.</li> <li>• Interpretive trails (hike/bike only) to provide shoreline access and linkage to Vista Point to the north and Cascade to the south.</li> <li>• At minimum, access to the southern-most pocket area to be UFAS<sup>2</sup> accessible.</li> <li>• Vault toilets.</li> <li>• Administrative access to maintain facilities.</li> <li>• Interpretive displays and regulatory signage.</li> <li>• Change remaining area not designated as proposed Recreation to C/OS.</li> <li>• Retain large areas of open space.</li> </ul>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A, except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tent replaced by RV camping.</li> <li>• County road.</li> <li>• Interpretive trails (hike/bike only) to provide shoreline access and linkage to Vista Point to the north and Cascade to the south.</li> <li>• Interpretive displays and regulatory signage.</li> </ul>

**Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives<sup>1</sup>**

Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
Crown Point Campground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current uses include camping (RV &amp; tent).</li> <li>• Develop proposed expansion of existing campground to the north.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renovate existing campground to accommodate current standards.</li> <li>• Provide shower facilities.</li> <li>• Develop interpretive trails (hike/bike only) to provide shoreline access and linkage to Vista Point to the north and Cascade to the south.</li> <li>• Provide interpretive displays and regulatory signage.</li> <li>• Expand area to accommodate tent-only camping.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No expansion of existing campground to the north.</li> <li>• Renovate existing campground to accommodate current standards.</li> </ul>	<p>Same as Alternative A, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renovate existing campground to accommodate current standards.</li> <li>• Provide shower facilities.</li> <li>• Develop interpretive trails (hike/bike only) to provide shoreline access and linkage to Vista Point to the north and Cascade to the south.</li> <li>• Provide interpretive displays and regulatory signage.</li> </ul>

**Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives<sup>1</sup>**

Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
Quarry Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued implementation of current extraction and reclamation plan.</li> <li>• Overlook or access developed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retain quarry as rock source for Reclamation purposes with allowance for County uses in conjunction with construction of Reclamation facilities; County materials to be chipped and stored off of Reclamation lands.</li> <li>• Develop overlook adjacent to quarry (where county-stored gravel is located), including:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Non-motorized (no ORV/ATV) trail access.</li> <li>– Orientation kiosk.</li> <li>– Interpretive panels.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Provide parking/staging area for Crown Point Extension and quarry.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative, except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow vehicular access to overlook area.</li> </ul>
<b>Cascade</b>				
Habitat Protection and Enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Habitat Improvement Plan existing or proposed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop Habitat Improvement Plan for Cascade C/OS.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

**Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives<sup>1</sup>**

Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
Van Wyck Park and Extension	Area to be developed as per the 1991 RMP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 250-slip marina, breakwater and associated services and parking.</li> <li>• 4-lane boat launch.</li> <li>• Fish cleaning station.</li> <li>• Visitor center.</li> <li>• Expanded day-use.</li> <li>• Expanded camping.</li> <li>• RV camping and dump station.</li> <li>• Paved shoreline trail.</li> <li>• Water, sewer, power, and RV hook-ups.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phased development up to 400 slips in the marina and larger associated parking area.</li> <li>• Shower facilities.</li> <li>• Interpretive program area.</li> <li>• Orientation kiosk, interpretive displays, and regulatory signage.</li> <li>• Accommodate “at your own risk” swimming area.</li> <li>• Water and electricity provided to all facilities.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No additional camping developed.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, plus additional: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 150 to 250-slips in the marina and larger associated parking area.</li> <li>• Shower facilities.</li> <li>• Amphitheater.</li> <li>• Orientation kiosk, interpretive displays, and regulatory signage.</li> </ul>
Golf Course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor lease and consider renewal, in accordance with concession policy, when term expires.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BMPs to address water quality.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
<b>Big Sage and Cabartons</b>				
Habitat Protection and Enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Habitat Improvement Plan proposed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop Habitat Improvement Plan.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Alternative A.

**Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives<sup>1</sup>**

Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>East side trail system proposed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At first opportunity, allow for the development of non-motorized (no ORV/ATV) trail providing north/south linkages to Crown Point and Willow Creek WMA.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
Big Sage	<p>Area to be developed as per 1991 RMP, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>35 RV camp sites with hookups.</li> <li>Restrooms connected to City sewer system (2 new restrooms).</li> <li>One group RV campground.</li> <li>RV dump station.</li> <li>Fish cleaning station.</li> </ul>	<p>Same as Alternative A, except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of fish cleaning station and connection of restrooms to sewer contingent on City sewer development.</li> <li>No dump station.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Convert area to C/OS.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Similar to Alternative A, but smaller (i.e., approximately 20-25 camp sites) and no RV dump station or fish cleaning station.</li> </ul>
Blue Heron	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual and group campground (RV and tent).</li> <li>Day use sites/facilities.</li> <li>Boat launch and docks.</li> </ul>	<p>Same as Alternative A, except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formalize individual camping only (RV and tent).</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Alternative A, but change all camping to group camping only (RV and tent).
Snow Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group camping (RV and tent).</li> <li>Day use sites/facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide group camping only (RV and tent) by reservation.</li> <li>Continue day use when space is available.</li> <li>Implement shoreline erosion protection measures.</li> </ul>	<p>Same as Alternative A, except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formalize camping and allow group camping only (RV and tent).</li> <li>Implement shoreline erosion protection measures.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative B.

<b>Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives<sup>1</sup></b>				
<b>Area and Topic</b>	<b>Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices</b>	<b>Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis</b>	<b>Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis</b>	<b>Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis</b>
<b>Cabarton</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primarily day use with some overflow camping.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discontinue camping and develop area for day use with associated facilities.</li> <li>At first opportunity, allow for the development of non-motorized (no ORV/ATV) trail providing north and south linkages.</li> <li>Implement shoreline erosion protection measures.</li> <li>Provide interpretive displays and regulatory signage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discontinue current recreation use and change to C/OS designation.</li> <li>Allow for the development of non-motorized (no ORV/ATV) trail providing north and south linkages.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discontinue camping and develop area for day use with associated facilities.</li> <li>Allow for the development of non-motorized (no ORV/ATV) trail providing north and south linkages.</li> <li>Implement shoreline erosion protection measures.</li> </ul>
<b>Willow Creek WMA</b>				
<b>Access and Trails</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No trails exist and none are proposed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designate interpretive trail (no ORV/ATV use).</li> <li>Expanded existing parking and viewing area.</li> <li>Provide interpretive displays and regulatory signage.</li> <li>At first opportunity, allow for the development of a non-motorized trail providing north linkages to Crown Point (no ORV/ATV use).</li> <li>Enforce seasonal trail closures during nesting season.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designate interpretive trail (no ORV/ATV use).</li> <li>Expanded existing parking and viewing area.</li> <li>Provide interpretive displays and regulatory signage.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative B.

Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives <sup>1</sup>				
Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
<b>Remaining Areas</b>				
<b>North Fork Payette Arm</b>				
Signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing USFS kiosk.</li> <li>No Reclamation action proposed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interpretive panels/displays at SE side of Tamarack Falls Bridge.</li> <li>Increase regulatory signage.</li> <li>Coordinated with USFS.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
Access and Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No formal trail system exists and none is proposed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate with agricultural easement owners to allow for development of non-motorized (no ORV/ATV) trails along northwest area.</li> <li>Formalize existing and expand non-motorized (no ORV/ATV) trail system within arm.</li> <li>Work with USFS to designate specific non-motorized boat put-in/take-out sites northwest of Tamarack Falls Bridge.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop non-motorized (no ORV/ATV) trails and/or wildlife viewing sites along northwest area if acquisition of agricultural easements occurs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate with agricultural easement owners to allow for development of non-vehicular trails along northwest area.</li> <li>Formalize existing and expand non-motorized (no ORV/ATV) trail system within arm.</li> </ul>
Winter Access and Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Area open to snowmobiles.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cooperate with USFS and County to provide for snowmobile parking; to be primarily winter road-widening along West Mountain Road.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cooperate with USFS to provide for snowmobile parking areas in southern portion of area.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative B.

<b>Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives<sup>1</sup></b>				
<b>Area and Topic</b>	<b>Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices</b>	<b>Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis</b>	<b>Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis</b>	<b>Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis</b>
Water Surface Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-motorized boating.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
<b>North Lake Fork Arm</b>				
Access and Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No formal trails exist and none are proposed.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited trail development to an interpretive viewing site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interpretive trail (no ORV/ATV use), pull-off parking, and interpretive/info signage on west side of arm.</li> </ul>
Water Surface Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-motorized boating.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
<b>South Lake Fork Arm</b>				
4-H Camp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor lease and consider renewal when term expires.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
C/OS Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue C/OS designation.</li> <li>• No new docks allowed in C/OS.</li> <li>• Continue existing community dock.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.

<b>Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives<sup>1</sup></b>				
<b>Area and Topic</b>	<b>Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices</b>	<b>Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis</b>	<b>Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis</b>	<b>Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis</b>
Donnelly City Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor the lease to the City of Donnelly and consider for renewal.</li> </ul>	<p>Same as Alternative A, except: increase efforts to assist City in making site/facility improvements and signage enhancements, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interpretive panels/displays and orientation kiosk.</li> <li>Additional regulatory signage.</li> <li>Non-vehicular trails with interpretive information.</li> <li>Accessible facilities per UFAS<sup>2</sup>.</li> <li>If feasible, allow public moorage facilities and boat services (i.e., fuel, boat pump out).</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
<b>Hot Springs Creek WMA</b>				
Access and Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No formal trail system exists and none are proposed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enlarge parking, improve safety, and provide orientation kiosk and interpretive/info signage next to SH-55 adjacent to Hembry Creek wetlands.</li> <li>Coordinate roadside work with the County Roads Department.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop interpretive trail (no ORV/ATV use) with seasonal closures.</li> <li>Enlarge parking next to SH-55 with orientation kiosk and interpretive/info signage.</li> <li>Evaluate possibility of providing parking area and trailhead adjacent to Hembry Creek wetlands.</li> </ul>

Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives <sup>1</sup>				
Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
<b>Sugarloaf Island</b>				
Entire Island	Continue 1991 RMP WMA designation, with efforts focused on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhancing habitat for nesting/migrating birds.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Place “pack-in/pack-out” signage to reduce litter.</li> <li>Provide a restroom for boat-in users in the vicinity.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Alternative A, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of boat-in day use facilities, sanitation facilities, and interpretive/regulatory signage.</li> </ul>
<b>Sugarloaf Peninsula and Vicinity</b>				
Sugarloaf Recreation Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue use with current facilities.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Orientation kiosk, and additional interpretive and regulatory signage.</li> <li>Explore/allow for development of breakwater, if feasible.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop additional facilities, including: swimming beach, orientation kiosk, and additional interpretive and regulatory signage.</li> </ul>
Sugarloaf Peninsula	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pelican Bay, related access, and facilities to be developed as per 1991 RMP (i.e., vehicular access to day use area, trail to wildlife viewing platform with interpretive signage).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designate entire area as C/OS.</li> <li>Provide interpretive trail (no ORV/ATV use) to Pelican Bay area and west side of Peninsula with pull-off parking next to old State Hwy. with orientation kiosk and interpretive/info signage.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Alternative A.

Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives <sup>1</sup>				
Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
<b>Vista Point &amp; Vicinity</b>				
Access and Trails	No formally designated trails currently exist or are proposed.	Explore development of non-motorized (no ORV/ATV) trail system, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interpretive signage.</li> <li>• Shoreline access points.</li> <li>• Linkage to Sugarloaf Peninsula north and Crown Point south.</li> <li>• Coordinate with agricultural easement owners for trail access.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative, except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow ORV/ATV use on trails.</li> </ul>

**NOTES:**

<sup>1</sup>Several recreation area improvements are described for each of the alternatives, such as trails, visitor’s centers, interpretive signage, boat launching facilities, and parking improvements. Reclamation does not intend to build all of these facilities independently. Rather, Reclamation would allow these developments to occur if a managing partner is involved, cost-share conditions are met, and Reclamation funds are available. For the purpose of comparing the alternatives, it is assumed that all of the facilities would be built. Other actions, such as increased noxious weed control, do not require managing partners or cost-share agreements and would be implemented as described in the alternatives. Recreation developments would be conducted in cooperation with IDPR. All recreation site leases currently in effect are monitored for compliance with RMP goals and objectives.

<sup>2</sup>UFAS = Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards. These accessibility standards apply to all Federal and Federally funded programs, buildings, and facilities and will be followed whenever possible. The Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines will be used, however, when they are the more stringent of the two regulations.

## 2.3.1 Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices

### Summary of Features

Under the No Action Alternative, management would be according to the priorities and projects proposed in the 1991 RMP. Reclamation's management decisions and priorities would continue to be directed by the guidelines set forth in the 1991 RMP. Many of the actions in the 1991 RMP have been implemented, while in some cases they have not because of Reclamation policy changes, lack of a cost-share partner, or other factors that have changed management priorities. Issues and concerns not previously addressed or included in the 1991 RMP would be dealt with on an ad hoc basis. In some cases, of all the alternatives, Alternative A would have the highest level of proposed recreation development of the four alternatives. This includes the RV campground at Big Sage that was proposed in the 1991 RMP, but not constructed. The Crown Point extension would include vehicular access on the railroad grade with development of RV, group, and tent campgrounds. A second marina at West Mountain was also proposed in the 1991 RMP if the Val Bois project did not occur. Facilities and land status under the No Action Alternative are shown on Map 2-1.

### Site-Specific Actions by Assessment Category

#### Natural Resource, Habitat, and Cultural Resource Protection and Enhancement

##### *Topics Applicable to Entire Area*

Under the No Action Alternative, cultural resources would be managed under the 1991 RMP. Using updated information, Reclamation would develop a Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP) with proactive strategies including site management and protection measures, nomination of sites to the National Register, and procedures for State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and Tribal consultation.

No new habitat protection and enhancement measures would be applied to the WMAs in addition to the current measures. Management of the WMAs would continue based on the intent and priorities stated in the 1991 RMP and the HIPs developed since then.

New wetland projects may be developed under the No Action Alternative to meet RMP water quality goals, but none are specifically identified. Noxious weeds would continue to be controlled under a cooperative agreement with the county.

### Southeast Area

#### **Crown Point and Vicinity**

Wetlands would be developed according to the 1991 RMP.

#### **Cascade**

No Habitat Improvement Plan exists and none is proposed.

#### **Big Sage or Cabartons**

(Includes the following recreation areas: Big Sage, Blue Heron, Snow Bank, and Cabarton.) Same as Cascade.

### Water Quality, Surface Water Management, and Erosion Control

#### Topics Applicable to Entire Area

Under the No Action Alternative, erosion control measures, such as retaining walls, would continue to be allowed under permit throughout Reclamation's lands at Lake Cascade.

Water surface management would continue to use the same no wake zones designated in the 1991 RMP for WMAs. State law would apply within 100 feet of in-water structures, such as a dock, and people. Enforcement of no-wake zones would require increased county efforts.

Water quality would be addressed through two actions. First, Reclamation would continue to negotiate with agricultural easement owners to terminate grazing on Reclamation lands, or, at a minimum, to keep livestock away from the shoreline. Second, Reclamation would increase efforts to acquire agricultural easements and eliminate grazing.

#### Northeast Area

##### **Boulder Creek Arm**

At the Boulder Creek Arm, water surface management would consist of non-motorized and no-wake boating on the upper ends of this arm.

##### **Gold Fork Arm**

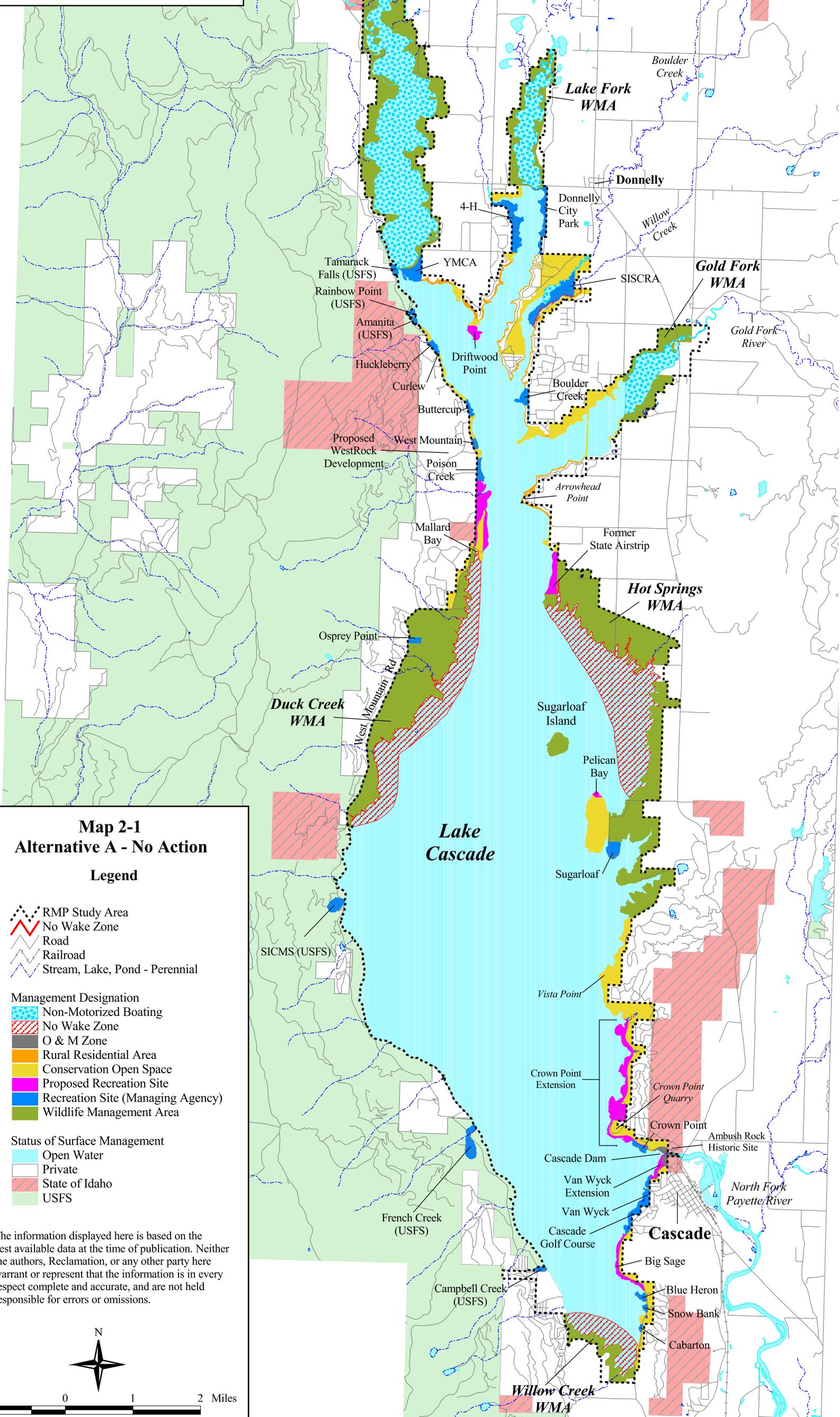
Only non-motorized boating would be allowed above the Old State Highway of the Gold Fork Arm.

#### Remaining Areas

##### **North Fork Payette Arm**

Under the No Action Alternative, only non-motorized boating would be permitted.

**Lake Cascade  
Resource Management Plan  
Environmental Assessment**



**Map 2-1  
Alternative A - No Action  
Legend**

- RMP Study Area
- No Wake Zone
- Road
- Railroad
- Stream, Lake, Pond - Perennial

- Management Designation**
- Non-Motorized Boating
  - No Wake Zone
  - O & M Zone
  - Rural Residential Area
  - Conservation Open Space
  - Proposed Recreation Site
  - Recreation Site (Managing Agency)
  - Wildlife Management Area

- Status of Surface Management**
- Open Water
  - Private
  - State of Idaho
  - USFS

The information displayed here is based on the best available data at the time of publication. Neither the authors, Reclamation, or any other party here warrant or represent that the information is in every respect complete and accurate, and are not held responsible for errors or omissions.



1 0 1 2 Miles

### **North Lake Fork Arm**

Same as North Fork Payette Arm.

## **Improved or Restricted Access**

### **Topics Applicable to Entire Area**

Under the No Action Alternative, current access improvements or restrictions would primarily follow the 1991 RMP. Vehicular access to shoreline and drawdown areas (not including snowmobiles) would be managed to protect vegetation and limit erosion, as intended in the 1991 RMP. The entire Lake Cascade area would be open to snowmobile use.

Float plane access was not addressed in the 1991 RMP. Float planes are currently unrestricted, permitted in all areas of the reservoir, and subject to Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) rules and regulation.

### **Northwest Area**

#### **Duck Creek WMA**

No trails exist and none are proposed.

#### **West Side**

Under the No Action Alternative, the Poison Creek Recreation Area parking lot would continue to be plowed during the winter for snowmobile and ski access.

### **Northeast Area**

#### **Boulder Creek Arm**

At the C/OS area along both sides of the Boulder Creek Arm, no ORV/ATV use would be allowed and no formal trails would be designated.

#### **Gold Fork Arm**

The C/OS Area on the north side of the Gold Fork Arm, west of the old railroad grade, would have no formalized or designated trails.

### **Southeast Area**

#### **Crown Point and Vicinity**

Under the No Action Alternative, no ORV/ATV use would be allowed at Crown Point and the vicinity, based on the 1991 RMP.

#### **Big Sage and Cabartons**

An east side trail system was proposed in the 1991 RMP.

**Willow Creek WMA**

No trails exist and none were proposed in the 1991 RMP.

**Remaining Areas**

**North Fork Payette Arm**

No formal trail system exists and none was proposed in the 1991 RMP. The entire area is open to snowmobiles.

**North Lake Fork Arm**

No formal trails exist and none were proposed in the 1991 RMP.

**Hot Springs Creek WMA**

Same as North Lake Fork Arm.

**Vista Point and Vicinity**

Same as North Lake Fork Arm.

**Improved Facilities, Encroachment, and Miscellaneous**

**Topics Applicable to Entire Area**

In the RR areas, Reclamation currently permits private docks to shoreline lot owners with a continued effort of encouraging these owners to construct community docks to reduce the proliferation of individual docks. However, this is not in compliance with Reclamation policy. Therefore, under this alternative, the actions identified in the Preferred Alternative would be adopted. Mooring buoys would continue to be allowed through an established permit system that allows one mooring buoy per shoreline lot at a safe distance from any adjacent mooring buoys (if any). C/OS areas would not be converted to RR designation. No new docks would be permitted in C/OS areas, but Reclamation would continue to permit existing grandfathered docks. At developed recreation areas, moorage would be limited to load and unload only. Private landscape development could occur on Reclamation lands in RR areas through an established permit system.

Encroachment on any Reclamation land, including unauthorized and unpermitted boat ramps and private structures, would continue to be prohibited. Existing encroachments of any kind would continue to be removed in C/OS, WMA, or recreation areas; grandfathered uses would be allowed to continue by permit.

**Northwest Area**

### **Driftwood Point**

Reclamation would monitor the YMCA camp lease and consider renewal when the lease expires. Driftwood Point would be developed according to the 1991 RMP; that is, boat-in access for camping and day use. Between the YMCA Camp and Driftwood Point, Reclamation would continue C/OS and RR designations as is, with no new docks allowed in C/OS.

### **Duck Creek WMA**

In the Duck Creek WMA, at Osprey Point, the 1991 RMP continued the lease to BSU, which has since been terminated. The current (temporary and experimental) use is yurts for group camping. This use would continue.

### **West Side**

On the West Side in the Mallard Bay Area, the 1991 RMP would allow development of tent camping, day use, parking area, and restrooms. This level of development is no longer feasible because of wetland development; therefore, actions under the Preferred Alternative would be adopted. At the West Mountain Campground and Poison Creek, the area would be developed according the 1991 RMP, with a marina, a 130-space parking area, and a west side trail system. The campground and RV dump station would be retained. Buttercup, Huckleberry, and Curlew are currently built out, but Reclamation would allow the development of the west side trail system. The C/OS between all recreation-designated sites would be retained and managed for C/OS values.

## **Northeast Area**

### **Boulder Creek Arm**

Under the No Action Alternative, the Boulder Creek Recreation Site would continue as constructed.

### **Gold Fork Arm**

At the Gold Fork WMA, non-motorized use would continue in Gold Fork River with no facilities at the take out adjacent to SH-55 on north side of the Gold Fork Arm. Use of Old State Highway as an informal boat launch would continue.

### **Arrowhead Point and Vicinity**

Under the 1991 RMP, the former state airstrip near Arrowhead Point was to have been re-opened under an agreement with state aeronautics for fly-in day or overnight uses. Such use would have required acquisition of the agricultural easement or concurrence of the easement owner. However, negotiations with the easement owner have not been successful.

## Southeast Area

### **Crown Point and Vicinity**

At Crown Point and vicinity, Ambush Rock was not addressed in the 1991 RMP and no facilities currently exist. The Crown Point extension would be developed according to the 1991 RMP, including vehicular access on the railroad grade (no through County road), parking areas, a boat launch and docks, a trail system, and RV, group, and tent campgrounds. Current uses, including RV and tent camping, would continue at the Crown Point campground. Reclamation would allow development of the proposed expansion of the existing campground to the north. In the quarry area, the current extraction and reclamation plan would be continued and an overlook or access would be developed.

### **Cascade**

Under the No Action Alternative, Van Wyck Park and Extension would be developed according to the 1991 RMP, including a 250-slip marina, breakwater and associated services and parking; four-lane boat launch; fish cleaning station; visitor center; expanded day use area and camping; RV camping and dump station; paved shoreline trail; and connection of all facilities to City sewer system. The Golf Course lease would be monitored and considered for renewal when the term expires in accordance with Reclamation's new concession policy. In the meantime, BMPs would be added to the current lease to address water quality issues.

### **Big Sage and Cabartons**

The Big Sage area would be developed according to the 1991 RMP, including 35 RV camp sites with hookups, restrooms connected to City sewer system, two new restrooms, one group RV campground, RV dump station, and a fish cleaning station. Current uses of the Blue Heron area, such as the individual and group RV and tent campground, day use sites and facilities, and the boat launch and docks, would continue. Group camping in RVs or tents and the day use sites and facilities would continue at Snow Bank. At Cabarton, the current day use and overflow camping uses would continue.

## Remaining Areas

### **North Fork Payette Arm**

On the North Fork Payette Arm, no signage was proposed under the 1991 RMP. Therefore, none would be provided under the No Action Alternative.

### **South Lake Fork Arm**

On the South Lake Fork Arm, Reclamation would continue to lease to the 4-H Camp and allow the uses specified in the 1991 RMP. The C/OS designation

would continue, no new docks would be allowed, and the existing community dock would continue in the C/OS area. Reclamation would monitor the Donnelly City Park lease to the City of Donnelly and consider it for renewal.

### **Sugarloaf Island**

Sugarloaf Island would continue in its 1991 RMP WMA designation, and efforts would focus on restoring vegetation to increase habitat diversity and enhancing habitat for nesting and migrating birds.

### **Sugarloaf Peninsula and Vicinity**

Current uses and facilities at the recreation site on the Sugarloaf Peninsula would continue. Pelican Bay would be developed as specified in the 1991 RMP, including vehicular access to the day use area, and the trail to the wildlife viewing area with interpretive signage.

## **2.3.2 Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis**

### **Summary of Features**

The Preferred Alternative would allow expansion and development of some recreation sites and facilities, while increasing several selected efforts of protecting and managing natural and cultural resources on Reclamation lands. All existing recreation areas would be upgraded to meet Federal accessibility requirements wherever possible. Additional signs would be posted to inform the public of property boundaries and pertinent rules and regulations. Orientation kiosks would be situated at several key locations to provide visitors with information pertaining to the use of the area, including educational materials, maps, and interpretive displays of the area's landscape features. In general, the existing recreation sites at Lake Cascade would be modified to better accommodate current and future demand and use. This includes creating marked swimming areas, developing trails, and adding parking, as well as establishing new day use areas where use is now occurring on an ad hoc basis.

The Preferred Alternative would promote selected management actions that focus on protecting and enhancing native fish and wildlife and their habitat (vegetation, wetlands, riparian areas, water quality), as well as proactive measures to protect cultural resources and ensure that Tribal treaty rights are met. The general locations of facilities included in the Preferred Alternative are shown on Map 2-2.

### **Site-Specific Actions by Assessment Category**

#### **Natural Resource, Habitat, and Cultural Resource Protection and Enhancement**

##### ***Topics Applicable to Entire Area***

Under the Preferred Alternative, cultural resources would be managed the same way as the 1991 RMP, plus information gathered during the RMP updating process would be used. Reclamation would develop a CRMP with proactive strategies to manage and protect cultural resource sites, including site protection and stabilization measures, and procedures for addressing curation, inadvertent discoveries, and consultation, among other areas of concern.

Reclamation would work with state, county, and local groups to study and effectively control terrestrial and aquatic noxious and invasive weed problems on Reclamation lands. Reclamation would emphasize integrated pest management techniques in all associated actions.

Management of the WMAs would continue based on the intent and priorities stated in the 1991 RMP, except for two new actions. Existing HIPs were discussed earlier in this chapter. These plans would be updated as needed to include actions that would improve water quality and increase the emphasis on wetlands. Second, existing and new non-motorized trails developed in the WMAs would be monitored. If they are detrimental to wildlife and habitat values, the trails would be closed.

### **Southeast Area**

#### **Crown Point and Vicinity**

At Crown Point, wetland projects in addition to those proposed in the 1991 RMP would be explored. This would include rebuilding the Grandma's Creek impoundment.

#### **Cascade**

A Habitat Improvement Plan would be developed for the Cascade C/OS area.

#### **Big Sage and Cabartons**

Same as Cascade.

### **Water Quality, Surface Water Management, and Erosion Control**

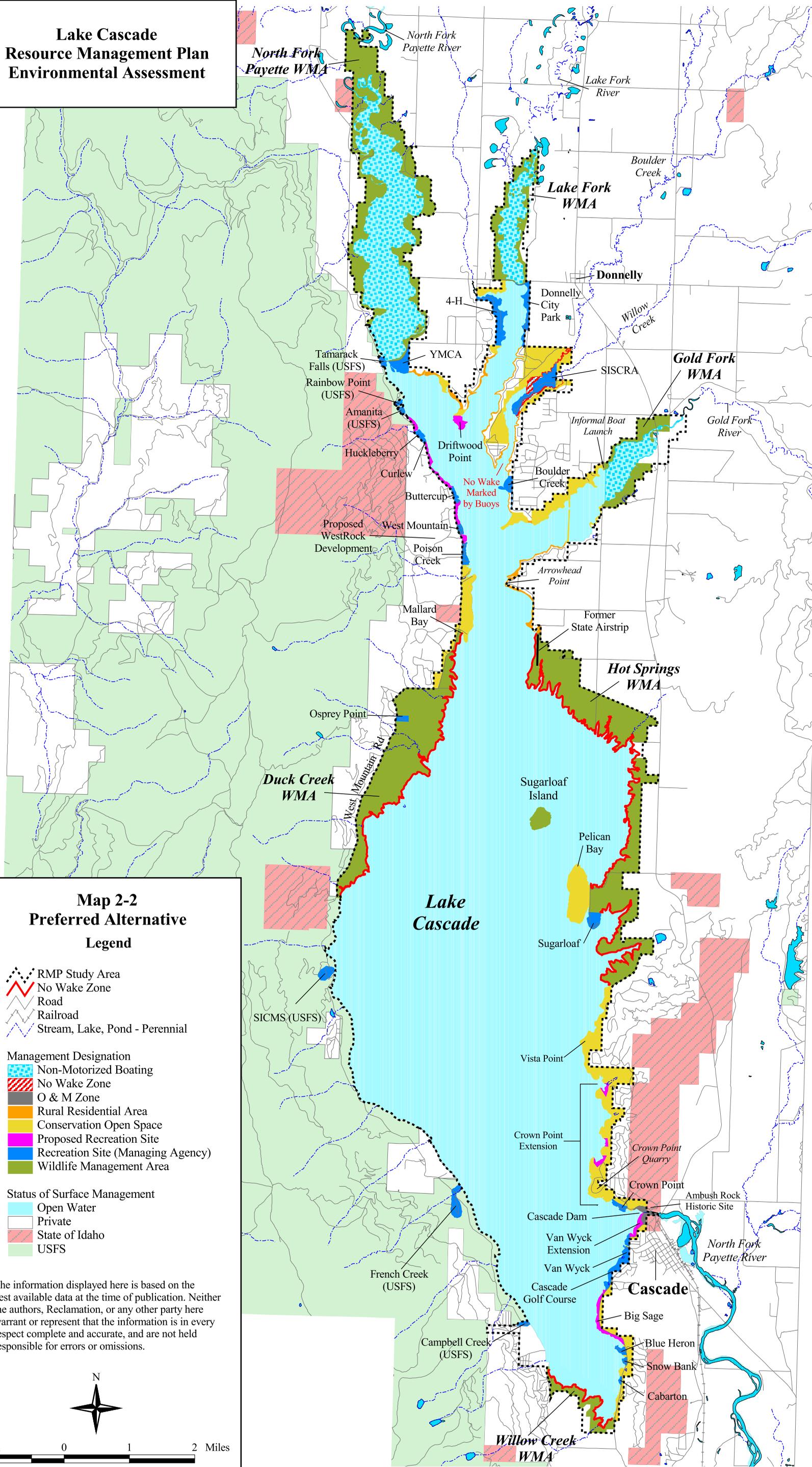
#### **Topics Applicable to Entire Area**

Under the Preferred Alternative, Reclamation would increase efforts to assist adjacent landowners in obtaining permits for constructing shoreline erosion control measures, such as retaining walls. Permits for erosion control methods would be monitored.

Enforcement of no-wake zones would increase. State law would apply within 100 feet of in-water structures, such as a dock, and people. In addition, the Preferred Alternative would include warnings, such as handouts and notices, related to hazards and shallow water

and wildlife sensitivity. Educational materials would be provided to the public to encourage observance of a 200-foot no-wake zone adjacent to WMAs. Buoys would be placed selectively along intensively developed and eroding shorelines and enforced, in conjunction with county ordinance and enforcement.

**Lake Cascade  
Resource Management Plan  
Environmental Assessment**



**Map 2-2  
Preferred Alternative  
Legend**

- RMP Study Area
- No Wake Zone
- Road
- Railroad
- Stream, Lake, Pond - Perennial

**Management Designation**

- Non-Motorized Boating
- No Wake Zone
- O & M Zone
- Rural Residential Area
- Conservation Open Space
- Proposed Recreation Site
- Recreation Site (Managing Agency)
- Wildlife Management Area

**Status of Surface Management**

- Open Water
- Private
- State of Idaho
- USFS

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1 0 1 2 Miles

Water quality would be addressed through the same actions as for the No Action Alternative. Reclamation would continue to attempt to acquire agricultural easement rights on Reclamation lands through purchase, lease, or exchange.

### Northeast Area

#### **Boulder Creek Arm**

At the Boulder Creek Arm, Valley County would work with Reclamation to establish, clearly demarcate, and increase enforcement of a no-wake zone of 100 feet from shoreline structures adjacent to applicable areas of the Boulder Creek Arm through the use of buoys. Additionally, a no-wake zone would be established for both reaches of the upper end of the Boulder Creek Arm.

#### **Gold Fork Arm**

Non-motorized boating would be permitted above the Old State Highway, the same as the No Action Alternative.

### Remaining Areas

#### **North Fork Payette Arm**

Non-motorized boating would continue, the same as the No Action Alternative.

#### **North Lake Fork Arm**

Non-motorized boating would also continue on the North Lake Fork Arm, the same as the No Action Alternative.

### Improved or Restricted Access

#### Topics Applicable to Entire Area

Vehicular access to shoreline and drawdown Areas (not including snowmobiles) would be phased out and then eliminated except for limited access for construction, emergency, and administrative purposes, with the exception of Mallard Bay. Reclamation would continue to allow vehicular access at Mallard Bay contingent on monitoring for resource damage. During this phase out period Reclamation will conduct an outreach program to educate the public about the benefits of the change. Pedestrian access to the reservoir, meeting Federal accessibility standards, parking, and signage would be provided at a minimum of three key locations including Big Sage, Van Wyck North, and Van Wyck South. Reclamation lands would be open to snowmobiles, except that use would be closed at developed recreation areas where use may be limited to roads and designated routes.

Float plane access, for takeoff and landing, would be allowed only in the main body of the reservoir. Taxiing would be allowed, except for the non-motorized areas. The FAA would be responsible for enforcement and would terminate permits if appropriate.

Existing boat ramps at Van Wyck, Sugarloaf, Boulder Creek, Blue Heron, Buttercup, and Poison Creek would be extended as funds are available to cost share with non-federal managing partner.

### **Northwest Area**

#### **Duck Creek WMA**

Under the Preferred Alternative, a trail would be developed to a wildlife viewing site near Osprey Point. Groomed cross-country ski trails would also be allowed at this location in the Duck Creek WMA.

#### **West Side**

During the winter on the west side, snowmobile parking at the Poison Creek recreation area would continue to be plowed. Reclamation would cooperate with USFS to provide for snowmobile parking areas north of Huckleberry on USFS land. Reclamation would also cooperate with the USFS and the county to explore expanding plowing additional right-of-way along the county road, and plowing would be expanded to other west side recreation areas as additional parking is needed.

### **Northeast Area**

#### **Boulder Creek Arm**

At the C/OS Area along both sides of the Boulder Creek Arm, non-motorized use is currently allowed, but no formally designated trails exist. Under the Preferred Alternative, Reclamation would allow development of a hiking and biking trail (no ORV/ATV use), and of a cross-country skiing trail.

#### **Gold Fork Arm**

No formal trails currently exist at the C/OS Area on the north side of the Gold Fork Arm, west of the old railroad grade, but a Habitat Improvement Plan would be developed for this area under the Preferred Alternative.

### **Southeast Area**

#### **Crown Point and Vicinity**

Just like the No Action Alternative, no ORV/ATV would be allowed in the vicinity of Crown Point.

### **Big Sage and Cabartons**

At the first opportunity in Big Sage and Cabartons, Reclamation would allow for the development of non-motorized trail providing north and south linkages.

### **Willow Creek WMA**

In the Willow Creek WMA, Reclamation would designate an interpretive trail (no ORV/ATV use), expand the existing parking and viewing area, and provide interpretive displays and regulatory signage. At the first opportunity, Reclamation would allow for the development of a trail providing north linkages to Crown Point (no ORV/ATV use). Seasonal trail closures would be enforced during the waterfowl nesting season.

## **Remaining Areas**

### **North Fork Payette Arm**

Under the Preferred Alternative, Reclamation would coordinate with agricultural easement owners to allow for development of non-motorized trails along northwest area of the North Fork Payette Arm. Reclamation would formalize the existing system and expand the non-ORV/ATV trail system within the arm. Reclamation would also work with USFS to designate a specific non-motorized boat put-in and take-out sites northwest of Tamarack Falls Bridge. Reclamation would also cooperate with USFS and the county to provide snowmobile parking. This activity would primarily be wider winter plowing along West Mountain Road.

### **North Lake Fork Arm**

On the North Lake Fork Arm, Reclamation would continue with the current use designation and level of use, same as the No Action Alternative. No formal trails exist and none are proposed.

### **Hot Springs Creek WMA**

At the Hot Springs Creek WMA, Reclamation would enlarge parking, improve safety, and provide an orientation kiosk and interpretive signage next to SH-55, adjacent to Hembry Creek wetlands. This roadside work would be coordinated with the Valley County Road Department and the state.

### **Vista Point and Vicinity**

Reclamation would explore development of non-motorized (no ORV/ATV) trail system at Vista Point and the vicinity. Development could include interpretive signage, shoreline access points, and linkage to Sugarloaf Peninsula north and Crown Point south. Reclamation would coordinate with agricultural easement owners for trail access.

## Improved Facilities, Encroachment, and Miscellaneous

### Topics Applicable to Entire Area

In RR areas, Reclamation would issue no new permits for individual private docks. Reclamation would continue to renew permits for existing (grandfathered) docks. New community docks would be permitted if permits replace existing individual dock permits; that is, no net increase in dock permits. Just like the No Action Alternative, mooring buoys would continue to be allowed on a case-by-case basis through an established permit system that allows one mooring buoy per shoreline lot at a safe distance from adjacent mooring buoys. Buoys would generally be located adjacent to the property of the permittee. Only one C/OS area would be converted to RR designation under the Preferred Alternative: the area south of Arrowhead Point and north of the former state airstrip. No new docks would be permitted in C/OS areas, but Reclamation would continue to permit existing grandfathered docks, the same as the No Action Alternative. At developed recreation areas, moorage would be limited to loading and unloading only. Also, time limits would be imposed (for example, 1 hour), and no overnight use would be allowed.

Similar to the No Action Alternative, private landscape development could occur on Reclamation lands in RR areas through an established permit system. As part of the permit requirements, private erosion control or landscaping would only be allowed where a demonstrated public purpose will be served (such as erosion control or water quality). The permit system would specify erosion, water quality, and aesthetic standards to be defined by Cascade Reservoir Coordinating Council (CRCC), IDEQ, or other guidelines, requirements, and criteria, including allowable plant materials. Reclamation would initiate monitoring to determine any detrimental effects from landscape uses.

Encroachment on any Reclamation land, including unauthorized and unpermitted boat ramps and private structures, would continue to be prohibited, same as the No Action Alternative. Existing encroachments would continue to be removed in C/OS, WMA, or recreation areas; grandfathered uses (such as boat docks) would be allowed to continue by permit. Reclamation would discontinue and remove all private uses occurring in the RR areas, except those that demonstrate a specific public purpose, such as landscape improvements that also control erosion. Existing private boat ramps (for example, ramps permitted to homeowner's associations) could continue to be used under a permit system.

### Northwest Area

#### **Driftwood Point**

Driftwood Point would be managed as described under the No Action Alternative. The YMCA Camp lease would be monitored and Reclamation would consider renewal when the term expires. Reclamation would explore the possibility of vehicular administrative access to Driftwood Point for maintenance activities. If this

access is available, Driftwood Point would be developed for boat-in access for camping and day use. C/OS and RR designations would continue, and no new docks would be allowed in C/OS areas.

### **Duck Creek WMA**

In the Duck Creek WMA, at Osprey Point, the current (temporary and experimental) use is yurts for group camping. This use would be expected to continue. Reclamation would add four-season restroom facilities and reestablish and connect to the septic system. A staging area would be added for winter use, and group camping would be formalized and expanded with the development of a four-season group meeting area. There would be no change in the C/OS area designation on the west side of West Mountain Road.

### **West Side**

On the west side, the Mallard Bay Area would be designated as C/OS. Minimal recreation facilities associated with this designation would include formalized parking and vehicular access to the shoreline, day use facilities focused on shoreline fishing activities, restrooms, trails with seasonal closures (specifically at southern end), and interpretive displays and regulatory signage. Shoreline access would be monitored and access would be closed if detrimental effects occur.

At the West Mountain Campground and Poison Creek, the area would essentially be developed according the 1991 RMP, with a marina, 130-space parking area, a west side trail system, and retaining the campground and RV dump station. However, Reclamation would make development of this marina second in priority to a marina at the Van Wyck site. An orientation kiosk, interpretive displays, and regulatory signage would be added. The C/OS would be converted to recreation. Buttercup, Huckleberry, and Curlew are currently built out, but Reclamation would allow the development of the west side trail system that would extend from Osprey Point north to USFS-managed lands at Amanita Campground. This trail would be located along the upland side of Reclamation lands away from sensitive wildlife habitat. Reclamation would also add interpretive displays and regulatory signage, and develop and implement stormwater treatment for Poison Creek and Buttercup boat ramps. The C/OS areas between all recreation-designated sites would be converted to Recreation to allow development of the west side trail system.

### **Northeast Area**

#### **Boulder Creek Arm**

Under the Preferred Alternative, the Boulder Creek Recreation Site would be renovated, including providing additional parking and extending the boat ramp. At

the SISCRA recreation site, Reclamation would monitor the lease and consider renewal when the term expires.

### **Gold Fork Arm**

At the Gold Fork WMA, Reclamation would develop a roadside pull-off, interpretive displays, parking, and non-motorized boating take-out area adjacent to SH-55 at the northeast end of the WMA. Wetlands would be constructed as needed for water quality improvement, and Reclamation would continue to allow use of the Old State Highway as an informal boat launch, but monitor for safety and discontinue use if necessary.

### **Arrowhead Point and Vicinity**

The former state airstrip would be considered for re-opening for fly-in, hike-in, and boat-in uses subject to conditions and bald eagle monitoring noted below. The RMP land use designation would be changed to WMA (that is, in the near term during this evaluation period) and potentially in the long-term dependent on the outcome of the evaluation period. If the former state airstrip is re-opened, the management designation would then become Recreation.

The 1991 RMP proposed re-opening the airstrip for recreational fly-in use, and efforts were made to accomplish it. Before the airstrip can be re-opened, however, a land transaction is required between Reclamation and the private agricultural easement holder of this parcel. This transaction has not been successful to date; therefore, the airstrip never re-opened. Reclamation received approximately 150 comments on the Draft EA from proponents advocating that the Former state airstrip adjacent to Lake Cascade be re-opened as part of the Preferred Alternative, as was originally proposed in the 1991 RMP.

In response to these comments, Reclamation has modified the Preferred Alternative to potentially allow the Former state airstrip to be re-opened for recreational fly-in use as well as boat and hike-in use. If the modified scenario is adopted, the area would be developed for fly-in and boat-in camping and day use (e.g., picnicking, swimming) activities. However, this would only be allowed provided several conditions were met. Following are the conditions that would be required to permit this re-designation to occur and fly-in use to be reinstated:

- 1) As required in the FWS Biological Opinion for the 1991 Cascade RMP and recommended in the current FWS Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) Report, bald eagle nesting territories in the vicinity of the airstrip would be monitored to determine habitat use, and bald eagle nest site management plans would be prepared and/or updated. Based on this monitoring and these plans, opening of the airstrip would be allowed if adverse effects to bald eagles could be

avoided. This would be determined by Reclamation in consultation with the FWS, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and Idaho Division of Aeronautics. If the airstrip is re-opened, it is anticipated it would be a provisional opening based on continued monitoring of eagle/aircraft interactions and recreational use of the airstrip site.

2) The land transaction would need to be resolved by Reclamation through acquisition of the agricultural easement or contractual agreement with the easement holder for the airstrip use.

3) The State of Idaho, Division of Aeronautics, would be required to comply with all Federal, State, and local requirements set forth in a permit issued to them by Reclamation. These would include: (a) providing for a hook-up to the Donnelly city sewer system when it is available at the site, and (b) adhering to any flight pattern or time of day restrictions that may be imposed.

In the Preferred Alternative of the Final EA, the area would continue to be designated and managed as a WMA. When/If all conditions are met, a separate NEPA process would be conducted on the permitting action to open the airstrip and develop for recreation, which, if approved, would include a redesignation of the area as Recreation, and an amendment made to the RMP.

### Southeast Area

#### **Crown Point and Vicinity**

At Crown Point and vicinity, Reclamation would provide access and develop an interpretive display at Ambush Rock. The Crown Point extension would be developed in three limited pocket areas adjacent to the shoreline. This recreation development, closed to ORV/ATV use, would include limited hike- and boat-in camping, limited day use site and facilities, and interpretive trails for hiking or biking only to provide shoreline access and linkage to Vista Point to the north and Cascade and the Willow Creek WMA to the south. At a minimum, access to the southern-most pocket area would be accessible according to the Federal accessibility standards. Interpretive displays, regulatory signage, and vault toilets would be installed. Administrative vehicular access would be provided to maintain facilities. The remaining area not designated as proposed recreation would be changed to C/OS, and large areas of open space would be retained. The existing Crown Point campground would be renovated to accommodate current standards and expanded to accommodate a tent-only camping area. Interpretive displays, regulatory signage, and shower facilities would be provided. Reclamation would develop hiking and biking interpretive trails to provide shoreline access and linkage to Vista Point to the north and Cascade to the south.

The quarry, located near Crown Point, contains a substantial amount of material that was acquired and is reserved for Reclamation project purposes. The active face of the quarry could produce between 100,000 to 300,000 cubic yards (cy) of rock. Currently, Valley County has a small stockpile of material stored at the quarry. Reclamation will allow the County to use the existing rock stockpiled at the quarry until the breakwater is developed. At the time of the breakwater planning, the County will be asked to determine what their total future needs will be. The breakwater, Reclamation's future O&M needs, and the County's needs would all be analyzed in an additional NEPA document. The future County material will be stockpiled off-site. When these actions are completed, the quarry will be closed for further excavations, reclaimed, and developed as a recreation overlook with an orientation kiosk, interpretive panels, and parking for non-vehicular access to the Crown Point area.

### **Cascade**

As in the No Action Alternative, Van Wyck Park and extension would be developed according to the 1991 RMP, including a 250-slip marina with a breakwater and associated services and parking, four-lane boat launch, fish cleaning station, visitor center, expanded day use area and camping, RV camping (with hook-ups) and dump station, paved shoreline trail, and connection of all facilities to the Cascade sewer system. In addition, the Preferred Alternative would provide for phased development of up to 400 slips in the marina and a larger associated parking area, shower facilities, an interpretive program area, and orientation kiosk, interpretive displays, and regulatory signage. An "at your own risk" swimming area would be accommodated, and water and electricity would be provided to all facilities.

The current lease for the Golf Course would be modified to include BMPs to address water quality issues. The lease would be monitored and, if appropriate, renewed according to Reclamation's concession policy when it expires.

### **Big Sage and Cabartons**

At Big Sage, in the No Action Alternative, the area would be developed including 35 RV camp sites with hook-ups, two new restrooms, one group RV campground, and a fish cleaning station. Under the Preferred Alternative, development would be the same with the exception of conversion of the new restrooms to the sewer and development of the fish cleaning station would be contingent on the Cascade sewer system being extended to this area. An RV dump station would not be built under the Preferred Alternative.

Current uses of the Blue Heron area, such as the day use sites and facilities and the boat launch and docks, would continue. However, individual RV and tent camping

would be formalized and no group camping would be permitted. At Snow Bank, group camping in RVs or tents would only be permitted by reservation. Day use would continue on a space-available basis, and shoreline erosion protection and control measures would be implemented.

At Cabarton, Reclamation would discontinue camping and develop the area for day use with associated facilities. Reclamation would allow for the development of a non-motorized (no ORV/ATV) trail providing north and south linkages to Crown Point and Willow Creek WMA. Shoreline erosion protection measures would be implemented and interpretive displays and regulatory signage would be provided.

### **Remaining Areas**

#### **North Fork Payette Arm**

On the North Fork Payette Arm, parking, interpretive panels, and displays would be provided at the southeast side of Tamarack Falls Bridge, and regulatory signage would be increased.

#### **South Lake Fork Arm**

On the South Lake Fork Arm, Reclamation would monitor the lease to the 4-H Camp and consider renewal when the lease expires. The C/OS area designation would continue as described in the No Action Alternative, no new docks would be allowed, and the existing community dock would continue in the C/OS area.

Reclamation would monitor the lease for the Donnelly City Park to the City of Donnelly and consider renewal when the lease expires. However, Reclamation would increase efforts to assist the City in making site and facility improvements and signage enhancements. These enhancements would include interpretive panels or displays and an orientation kiosk, additional regulatory signage, non-vehicular trails with interpretive information, and accessible facilities to Federal standards. If it is feasible, Reclamation would allow public moorage facilities and boat services, such as fuel and a boat pump-out.

#### **Sugarloaf Island**

The 1991 RMP WMA designation would continue at Sugarloaf Island, and efforts would focus on restoring vegetation to increase habitat diversity and enhancing habitat for nesting and migrating birds. In addition, pack-in/pack-out signage would be provided to reduce litter and a restroom for boaters would be provided in the vicinity of Sugarloaf Island or Pelican Bay.

#### **Sugarloaf Peninsula and Vicinity**

Current uses and facilities would continue at the Sugarloaf Peninsula recreation site with the addition of an orientation kiosk, more interpretive and regulatory signage, and the possible development of a breakwater, if feasible. Pelican Bay would be designated as C/OS. An interpretive trail (no ORV/ATV use) to the Pelican Bay area and the west side of the Peninsula would be allowed. Pull-off parking would be provided next to the Old State Highway with an orientation kiosk and interpretive signage.

### **2.3.3 Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis**

#### **Summary of Features**

Alternative B would provide some accommodation of increased recreation demand, but with a higher priority on protecting natural resources than the other alternatives. Similar to the Preferred Alternative, all existing recreation areas would be upgraded to meet Federal accessibility requirements. Existing recreation sites at Lake Cascade could be modified to better accommodate current and future demand and use, but opportunities for creating

additional recreation sites would not be a high priority. Under Alternative B, the main emphasis would be to promote management actions that focus on protecting and enhancing fish and wildlife and their habitat (vegetation, wetlands, riparian areas, and water quality), as well as proactive measures to protect cultural resources and ITAs as in the other alternatives. This would entail implementing strategies to better control noxious weeds, monitor and address erosion, and enhance buffers and control access within riparian areas and wetlands. Within established WMAs, management actions would be implemented to expand monitoring of vegetation planting and increase weed control, as well as developing, updating, and implementing HIPs to improve water quality with an increased emphasis on wetland development. Coordinated efforts would be continued with applicable agencies responsible for resource protection and enhancement to improve water quality in Lake Cascade. Water surface management would be focused on protecting wildlife habitat and eroding shoreline areas, primarily through enforcement of the existing state regulations of no wake within 100 feet of the shoreline or structures. Alternative B includes adhering to current Reclamation policy on private use of Reclamation lands, which states that exclusive use of Reclamation lands is to be discontinued. This alternative would eliminate all private docks and replace them with community docks or concession-run moorage in RR areas. The general locations of facilities included in Alternative B are shown on Map 2-3.

Because many of the same management actions are proposed for Alternative B as actions proposed for the Preferred Alternative, this discussion focuses on the differences. The reader is referred to the discussion of the Preferred Alternative for elements that are the same.

#### **Site-Specific Actions by Assessment Category**

## Natural Resource, Habitat, and Cultural Resource Protection and Enhancement

### *Topics Applicable to Entire Area*

Cultural resource protection would be the same as for the Preferred Alternative. Noxious weed control would also be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative. Habitat protection and enhancement measures for the WMAs would be the same as the intent and priorities of the 1991 RMP (No Action Alternative).

However, Habitat Improvement Plans would be updated and implemented to improve water quality with increased emphasis on wetlands.

### Southeast Area

#### **Crown Point and Vicinity**

Natural resource enhancements would be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative. Cascade

Same as the Preferred Alternative.

#### **Big Sage and Cabartons**

Same as the Preferred Alternative.

### Water Quality, Surface Water Management, and Erosion Control

#### Topics Applicable to Entire Area

Erosion control measures would be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative. State law regarding no-wake zones would apply within 100 feet of in-water structures, such as a dock, and people, and enforcement would be increased through cooperation with Valley County. As described for the Preferred Alternative, Alternative B would also provide warnings to recreationists, such as handouts and notices, related to hazards and shallow water and wildlife sensitivity. Reclamation would educate and encourage the public to observe a 200-foot no-wake zone adjacent to WMAs and a 100-foot no-wake zone would be enforced. Water quality would be addressed the same as it is for the No Action Alternative and for the Preferred Alternative.

### Northeast Area

#### **Boulder Creek Arm**

At the Boulder Creek Arm, Reclamation would establish and enforce no-wake boating within the entire arm. Non-motorized boating would continue in the upper end of the arm.

#### **Gold Fork Arm**

Water surface management would be the same as described for the No Action Alternative and the Preferred Alternative.

### Remaining Areas

#### **North Fork Payette Arm**

Water surface management would be the same as described for the No Action Alternative and the Preferred Alternative.

**North Lake Fork Arm**

Same as the North Fork Payette Arm.

Improved or Restricted Access

Topics Applicable to Entire Area

Vehicular access to the shoreline and drawdown area would be prohibited, except for limited access for construction, emergency, and administrative purposes. Snowmobile and float plane use would be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative.

Northwest Area

**Duck Creek WMA**

Access and trails at the Duck Creek WMA would be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative.

**West Side**

Similar to the actions described under the Preferred Alternative, during the winter on the west side, Poison Creek would continue to be plowed. Reclamation would cooperate with USFS to provide for snowmobile parking areas north of Huckleberry on USFS land. Reclamation would also explore expanding plowing additional right-of-way along the county road.

Northeast Area

**Boulder Creek Area**

Access to the Boulder Creek Arm would be the same as the Preferred Alternative.

**Gold Fork Arm**

On the Gold Fork Arm, Reclamation would develop a limited, interpretive trail (no ORV/ATV use) with interpretive and regulatory signage.

Southeast Area

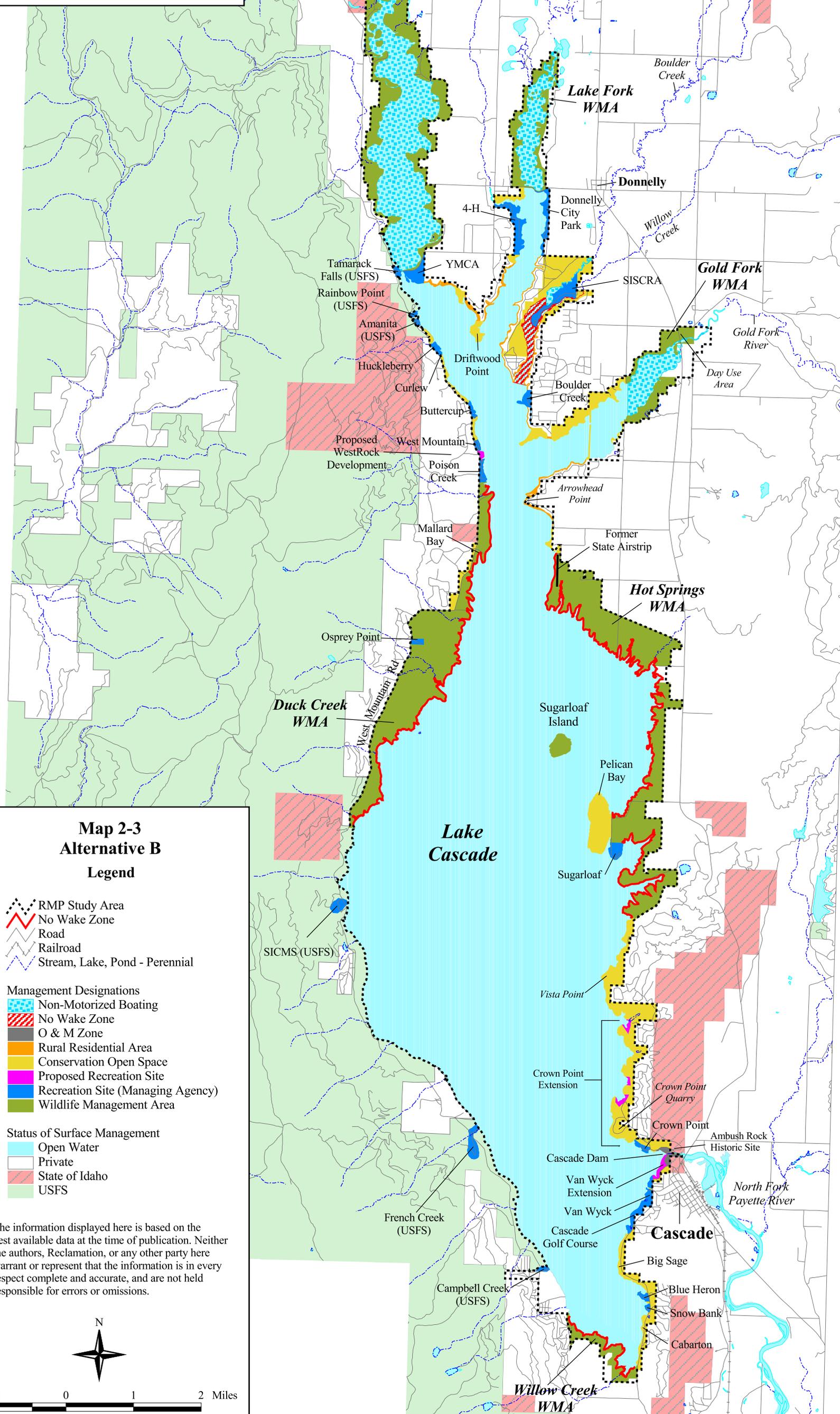
**Crown Point and Vicinity**

Just like the No Action Alternative and the Preferred Alternative, no off-road vehicle use would be allowed in the vicinity of Crown Point.

**Big Sage and Cabartons**

Trails at Big Sage and Cabartons would be developed as described for the Preferred Alternative.

**Lake Cascade  
Resource Management Plan  
Environmental Assessment**



**Map 2-3  
Alternative B  
Legend**

- RMP Study Area
- No Wake Zone
- Road
- Railroad
- Stream, Lake, Pond - Perennial

- Management Designations**
- Non-Motorized Boating
  - No Wake Zone
  - O & M Zone
  - Rural Residential Area
  - Conservation Open Space
  - Proposed Recreation Site
  - Recreation Site (Managing Agency)
  - Wildlife Management Area

- Status of Surface Management**
- Open Water
  - Private
  - State of Idaho
  - USFS

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### **Willow Creek WMA**

Similar to the actions described under the Preferred Alternative, in the Willow Creek WMA, Reclamation would designate an interpretive trail (no ORV/ATV use), expand the existing parking and viewing area, and provide interpretive displays and regulatory signage.

### **Remaining Areas**

#### **North Fork Payette Arm**

On the North Fork Payette Arm, Reclamation would develop non-motorized (no ORV/ATV use) trails or wildlife viewing sites along the northwest area, if agricultural easements are acquired. Reclamation would also cooperate with USFS to provide for snowmobile parking areas in the southern portion of area.

#### **North Lake Fork Arm**

On the North Lake Fork Arm, limited trail development would lead to an interpretive viewing site.

#### **Hot Springs Creek WMA**

The Hot Springs Creek WMA would have no formal trail system, just like in the No Action Alternative.

#### **Vista Point and Vicinity**

Access to the Vista Point and the vicinity would be managed the same as described in the Preferred Alternative.

### **Improved Facilities, Encroachment, and Miscellaneous**

#### **Topics Applicable to Entire Area**

Under Alternative B, all private docks would be eliminated and replaced with community docks or concession-run moorage facilities available to both shoreline and inland lot owners and the general public. Mooring buoys and the conversion of C/OS areas to RR designation would be as described for the No Action Alternative and the Preferred Alternative. The C/OS rule to permit grandfathered docks only would also be the same, except that access in C/OS areas would be provided by permit to launch boats. At developed recreation areas, moorage would be limited to loading and unloading only. Also, time limits would be imposed (for example, 1 hour), and no overnight use would be allowed. Reclamation would continue existing launching in C/OS areas.

Private landscape development or encroachment on any Reclamation land would be managed as described for the Preferred Alternative.

## **Northwest Area**

### **Driftwood Point**

The YMCA Camp and the area between the camp and Driftwood point would be managed as described under the No Action and Preferred Alternatives. At Driftwood Point, the proposed recreation area would be converted to C/OS.

### **Duck Creek WMA**

In the Duck Creek WMA, at Osprey Point, the current (temporary and experimental) use is yurts for group camping. This use is expected to continue. Reclamation would add four-season restroom facilities and reestablish and connect to the septic system. A staging area would be added for winter use. The C/OS designation would not change, the same as for the No Action and Preferred Alternatives.

### **West Side**

On the West Side, the Mallard Bay Area would be designated as a WMA and parking would be formalized to prohibit vehicular access to the shoreline. At the West Mountain Campground and Poison Creek, the campground would be retained, but no marina would be developed. An orientation kiosk, interpretive displays, and regulatory signage would be added, and the west side trail system would be developed. The C/OS would be converted to recreation. Buttercup, Huckleberry, and Curlew would be managed as described in the Preferred Alternative. The C/OS between all recreation-designated sites would be managed as described in the No Action Alternative, except a Habitat Improvement Plan would be developed.

## **Northeast Area**

### **Boulder Creek Arm**

Under the Preferred Alternative, the Boulder Creek Recreation Site would have day use and boat ramp and docks, and signage would be added on SH-55. In addition, boat services, such as fuel and supplies, would be allowed.

### **Gold Fork Arm**

At the Gold Fork WMA, Reclamation would develop a limited day use area and non-motorized boating access area at northeast end of WMA adjacent to SH-55 on the north side of the arm.

### **Arrowhead Point and Vicinity**

The former state airstrip near Arrowhead Point would not be re-opened similar to the Preferred Alternative.

## **Southeast Area**

### **Crown Point and Vicinity**

At Crown Point and vicinity, Reclamation would manage Ambush Rock and the Crown Point Extension as described in the Preferred Alternative. The existing Crown Point Campground would not be expanded to the north, and would only be renovated to accommodate current standards.

The quarry would be managed as described in the Preferred Alternative.

### **Cascade**

The Van Wyck Park and extension would be developed according to the 1991 RMP (see No Action Alternative), except that no additional camping would be developed. The lease for the Golf Course would be monitored and considered for renewal when the term expires. BMPs would be included in the current lease to address water quality issues.

### **Big Sage and Cabartons**

At Big Sage, the area would be converted to a C/OS designation. Management of the Blue Heron area would be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative. At Snow Bank, only group camping in RVs or tents would be permitted, and it would be by reservation. Shoreline erosion protection measures would be implemented.

At Cabarton, Reclamation would discontinue current recreation use and change to a C/OS designation. Reclamation would allow for the development of a non-motorized trail providing north and south linkages.

## **Remaining Areas**

### **North Fork Payette Arm**

The North Fork Payette Arm improvements would be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative.

### **South Lake Fork Arm**

On the South Lake Fork Arm, Reclamation would continue to manage the 4-H Camp and the C/OS area as described for the Preferred and No Action Alternatives. Reclamation would continue to manage the lease of Donnelly City Park to the City of Donnelly, as described in the No Action Alternative.

### **Sugarloaf Island**

Sugarloaf Island would be managed as described for the Preferred Alternative.

### **Sugarloaf Peninsula and Vicinity**

On the Sugarloaf Peninsula at the recreation site, the Preferred Alternative would be implemented.

## **2.3.4 Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis**

### **Summary of Features**

The focus of this alternative is to allow for the highest level possible of expansion and development of recreation sites and facilities while at the same time maintaining efforts to protect natural and cultural resources on Reclamation lands. This alternative would result in a greater level of recreation development than summarized under either the Preferred Alternative or Alternative B. Camping facilities would be substantially increased at several locations around the reservoir, and development of additional small marinas at West Mountain on the reservoir's northwest shoreline and Boulder Creek Recreation Area on the northeast shoreline would be allowed. Under Alternative C, the old railroad grade through the Crown Point area would be converted to a county road with the addition of RV and tent camping, and day use activities would be allowed in specific areas.

This alternative would maintain current levels of protection and enhancement for native fish and wildlife and their habitat (vegetation, wetlands, riparian areas, water quality). This would entail the continued implementation of strategies set forth in the 1991 RMP. It would go beyond this level of effort in some cases by developing, updating, and implementing Habitat Improvement Plans to improve water quality with an increased emphasis on wetlands. However, the increased recreation development would encroach on some habitat values at high-use locations. The general locations of facilities included in Alternative C are shown on Map 2-4.

Many of the management actions proposed for Alternative C are the same as actions proposed for the Preferred Alternative and Alternative B. This discussion focuses on the differences, and the reader is referred to the Preferred Alternative and Alternative B for discussions for elements that are the same.

### **Site-Specific Actions by Assessment Category**

#### **Natural Resource, Habitat, and Cultural Resource Protection and Enhancement**

##### **Topics Applicable to Entire Area**

Cultural resource protection and noxious weed control would be the same as for the Preferred Alternative. Habitat protection and enhancement in the WMAs would be the same as described for Alternative B.

### Southeast Area

#### **Crown Point and Vicinity**

At Crown Point, wetlands would be addressed as described for the No Action Alternative.

#### **Cascade**

At the Cascade recreation area, management would be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative.

#### **Big Sage and Cabartons**

Big Sage and Cabartons would be similar to the No Action Alternative.

### Water Quality, Surface Water Management, and Erosion Control

#### Topics Applicable to Entire Area

Erosion control measures, water surface management, and no-wake zones across Lake Cascade would be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative. Water quality would be addressed the same as described for the No Action Alternative and for the Preferred Alternative.

### Northeast Area

#### **Boulder Creek Arm**

At the Boulder Creek Arm, water surface management would consist of non-motorized and no-wake boating on the upper ends of this arm.

Alternative C would also include increased enforcement of existing state law of no wake within 100 feet of structures. Buoys or markers would be provided at the mouth of the arm.

#### **Gold Fork Arm**

Only non-motorized boating would be allowed above the Old State Highway, the same as described for the No Action and Preferred Alternatives.

### Remaining Areas

#### **North Fork Payette Arm**

Water surface management would be the same as described for the No Action and Preferred Alternatives.

### Remaining Areas

### **North Fork Payette Arm**

Water surface management would be the same as described for the No Action and Preferred Alternatives.

### **North Lake Fork Arm**

Same as the North Fork Payette Arm.

## **Improved or Restricted Access**

### **Topics Applicable to Entire Area**

Under Alternative C, vehicular access to the shoreline and drawdown area (not including snowmobiles) would be managed to protect vegetation and limit erosion, as intended in the 1991 RMP. In addition, specific areas would be designated for access, public education and enforcement efforts would increase, and limited access would be allowed for construction, emergency, and administrative purposes. Snowmobile and float plane use would be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative.

### **Northwest Area**

#### **Duck Creek WMA**

Access and trails at the Duck Creek WMA would be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative, except Reclamation would allow for development of a more extensive network of trails (no ORV/ATV), with seasonal closure to protect nesting waterfowl.

#### **West Side**

Winter access and facilities would be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative.

### **Northeast Area**

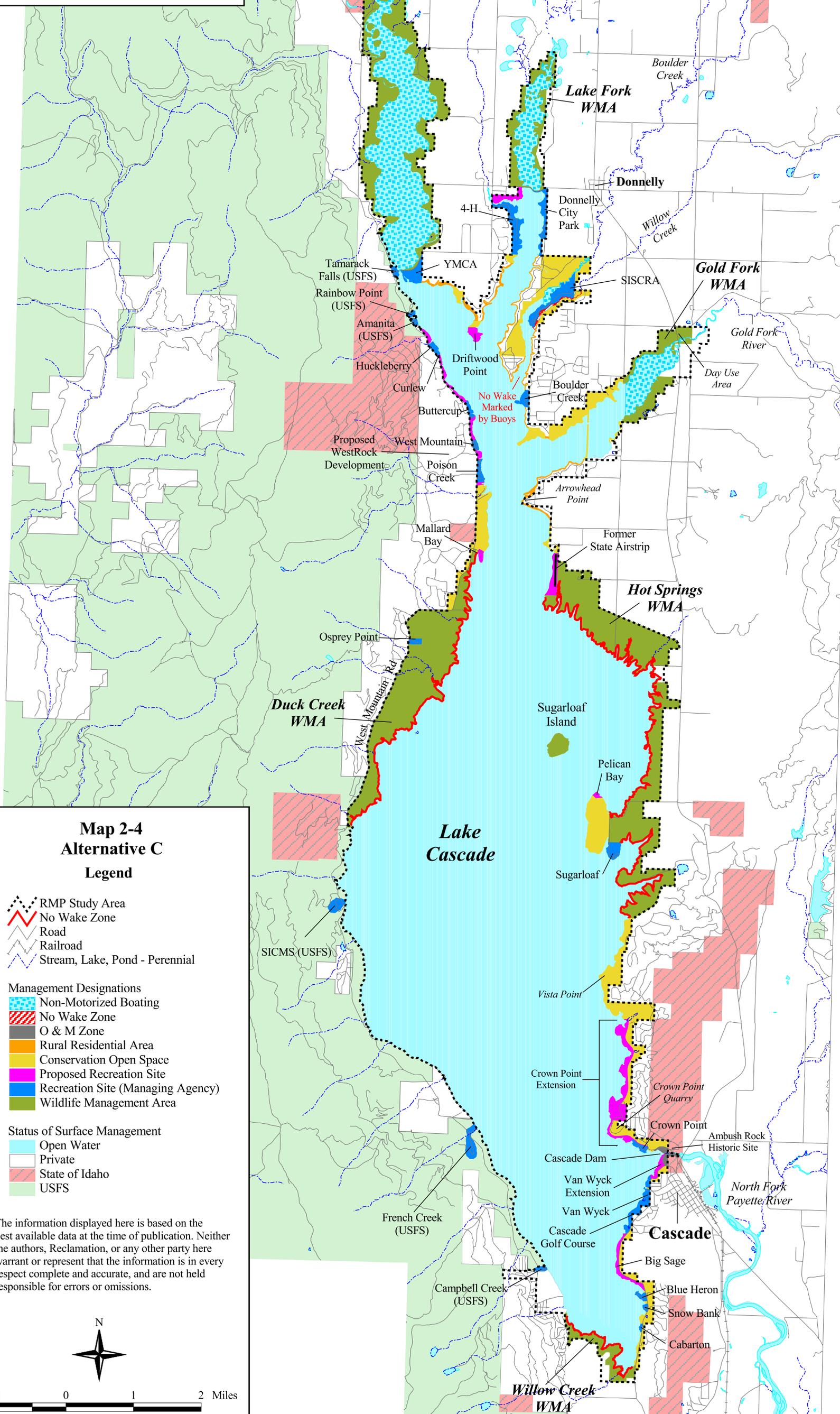
#### **Boulder Creek Arm**

At the C/OS area along both sides of the Boulder Creek Arm, access would be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative, except that motorized vehicular trail use would be allowed on designated trails.

#### **Gold Fork Arm**

The C/OS Area on the north side of the Gold Fork Arm, west of the old railroad grade, would be the same as Alternative B.

**Lake Cascade  
Resource Management Plan  
Environmental Assessment**



**Map 2-4  
Alternative C  
Legend**

- RMP Study Area
- No Wake Zone
- Road
- Railroad
- Stream, Lake, Pond - Perennial

**Management Designations**

- Non-Motorized Boating
- No Wake Zone
- O & M Zone
- Rural Residential Area
- Conservation Open Space
- Proposed Recreation Site
- Recreation Site (Managing Agency)
- Wildlife Management Area

**Status of Surface Management**

- Open Water
- Private
- State of Idaho
- USFS

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1 0 1 2 Miles

### Southeast Area

#### **Crown Point and Vicinity**

Under Alternative C, ORV/ATV access would be provided on the paved Crown Point Road and other designated roads. An access trail would be allowed from the adjacent residential area to site road system and associated shoreline access.

#### **Big Sage and Cabartons**

Access to Big Sage and Cabartons would be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative.

#### **Willow Creek WMA**

The Willow Creek WMA would be the same as described for Alternative B.

### Remaining Areas

#### **North Fork Payette Arm**

Under Alternative C, Reclamation would coordinate with agricultural easement owners to allow for development of non-motorized (no ORV/ATV) trails along northwest area of the North Fork Payette Arm. Reclamation would formalize existing trails and expand the non-motorized (no ORV/ATV) trail system within the arm. Winter access would be the same as described for Alternative B.

#### **North Lake Fork Arm**

On the North Lake Fork Arm, a non-motorized (no ORV/ATV) interpretive trail, pull-off parking, and interpretive signage would be provided on the west side of the arm.

#### **Hot Springs Creek WMA**

At the Hot Springs Creek WMA, Reclamation would develop a non-motorized (no ORV/ATV) interpretive trail with seasonal closures, enlarge the parking next to SH-55 and provide an orientation kiosk and interpretive signage, and evaluate the possibility of providing a parking area and trailhead adjacent to Hembry Creek wetlands.

#### **Vista Point and Vicinity**

Access at the Vista Point and vicinity would be the same as the Preferred Alternative, except that off-road vehicle use would be allowed on trails.

## **Improved Facilities, Encroachment, and Miscellaneous**

### **Topics Applicable to Entire Area**

Private docks in the RR areas would be managed as described for the Preferred Alternative. Mooring buoys, the C/OS change to permit docks, and the conversion of C/OS areas to RR designation would be as described for the No Action Alternative and the Preferred Alternative. At developed recreation areas, moorage and boat launching would be the same as described for Alternative B.

Private landscape development or encroachment would be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative.

### **Northwest Area**

#### **Driftwood Point**

The YMCA Camp would be managed as described under the No Action and Preferred Alternatives. Driftwood Point would be developed for boat-in access for camping and day use, and Reclamation would explore the possibility of administrative access to the site. C/OS and RR designations between the camp and Driftwood Point would continue as described in the No Action and Preferred Alternatives.

#### **Duck Creek WMA**

In the Duck Creek WMA, at Osprey Point, the current (temporary and experimental) use of yurts for group camping is expected to continue. Reclamation would also allow IDPR to add four-season restroom facilities and reestablish and connect to the septic system. A staging area would be added for winter use. Permanent group use facilities, such as a dormitory or lodge, meeting rooms, cooking facilities, and play areas (such as volleyball and horseshoes) would be allowed, along with parking areas and RV and group camping. The C/OS area would be the same as described for the No Action and Preferred Alternatives.

#### **West Side**

On the west side, the Mallard Bay Area would be designated as Recreation and C/OS. This would include formalized parking and vehicular access to the shoreline, restrooms, day use facilities focused on shoreline fishing activities, trails with seasonal closures (specifically at southern end), and interpretive displays and regulatory signage. At the West Mountain Campground and Poison Creek, the area would be developed as described in the Preferred Alternative. Buttercup, Huckleberry, and Curlew are currently built out, but Reclamation would allow the development of the west side trail system. Interpretive displays and regulatory signage would also be added. Recreation-designated sites adjacent to the C/OS

areas could potentially be expanded. The C/OS designation would be changed to Recreation to allow development of west side trail.

### **Northeast Area**

#### **Boulder Creek Arm**

Under Alternative C, the Boulder Creek Recreation Site would have a day use area, boat ramp and docks, signage on SH-55, and development of a small marina and associated facilities. The SISCRA lease would be managed as described in the No Action Alternative and the Preferred Alternative.

#### **Gold Fork Arm**

At the Gold Fork WMA, Reclamation would allow IDPR to develop a larger day use area than under Alternative B, and add take out points at the northeast end of the WMA adjacent to SH-55 on the north side of the arm.

#### **Arrowhead Point and Vicinity**

The former state airstrip near Arrowhead Point would not be re-opened for fly-in uses. Instead, the area would be designated as Recreation for boat-in and hike-in access for camping and day use.

### **Southeast Area**

#### **Crown Point and Vicinity**

Reclamation would assist in providing access and develop an interpretive display at Ambush Rock. The Crown Point extension would include vehicular access on the railroad grade, a through County road, interpretive hiking and biking trails to provide shoreline access and linkage to Vista Point to the north and Cascade to the south, interpretive and regulatory signage, parking areas, a boat launch and docks, and tent campgrounds. At the Crown Point Campground, current uses would continue, including RV and tent camping. Reclamation would allow IDPR to develop the proposed expansion of the existing campground to the north. In addition, the existing campground would be renovated to accommodate current standards, shower facilities would be provided, and interpretive displays and regulatory signage would be provided. Interpretive hiking and biking trails would be developed to provide shoreline access and linkage to Vista Point to the north and Cascade to the south.

The quarry would be managed as described for the Preferred Alternative, except vehicular access would be allowed to the overlook area.

#### **Cascade**

Van Wyck Park and extension would be developed according to the 1991 RMP, but a few features would be added. The development would include an additional 150- to 250-slips in the marina for a total of 400 to 500 slips and a larger parking area, breakwater, and marina services to accommodate the additional slips. In addition, an amphitheater would be added.

The lease for the Golf Course would be addressed as described in the Preferred Alternative.

### **Big Sage and Cabartons**

At Big Sage, the area would be developed as described for the No Action Alternative, but slightly smaller. The development would include 20 to 25 campsites, two restrooms connected to the Cascade sewer system if feasible, and one group RV campground.

Current uses of the Blue Heron area, such as the day use sites and facilities and the boat launch and docks, would continue. However, all camping would be group camping only for RVs and tents. Snow Bank would be managed as described for Alternative B.

At Cabarton, Reclamation would discontinue camping and develop the area for day use with associated facilities. Reclamation would allow for the development of a non-motorized (no ORV/ATV) trail providing north and south linkages. Shoreline erosion protection measures would be implemented.

## **Remaining Areas**

### **North Fork Payette Arm**

On the North Fork Payette Arm, facilities would be as described for the Preferred Alternative.

### **South Lake Fork Arm**

On the South Lake Fork Arm, Reclamation's management of the 4-H Camp and the C/OS area would continue as described in the No Action Alternative. The Donnelly City Park would be managed as described in the Preferred Alternative.

### **Sugarloaf Island**

Sugarloaf Island would continue in its 1991 RMP WMA designation, and efforts would focus on restoring vegetation to increase habitat diversity and enhancing habitat for nesting and migrating birds. In addition, boat-in day use facilities, sanitation facilities, and interpretive and regulatory signage would be provided.

### **Sugarloaf Peninsula and Vicinity**

On the Sugarloaf Peninsula at the recreation site, current uses and facilities would continue with the addition of a swimming beach, an orientation kiosk, and more interpretive and regulatory signage. Pelican Bay would be developed as described in the No Action Alternative.

## 2.4 Alternative Elements Eliminated from Consideration

Most of the elements suggested by the public were included in one or more of the alternatives. One suggestion from the public would have opened the current non-motorized areas in the upper reservoir arms to motorized use, particularly personal water craft. This suggestion was eliminated from consideration because opportunities for motorized recreation are available throughout the reservoir, non-motorized use is currently limited in size and scope, and motorized boat use in these areas would not be consistent with the WMA objectives.

## 2.5 Summary of Impacts

The impact analysis is presented in Chapter 3. A summary of these impacts is provided in Table 2.5-1.

**Table 2.5-1. Impacts of Alternatives Comparison Summary**

**Note: Only impacts that vary from those described for the No Action Alternative are described for other alternatives.**

Resource Area	Alternative A - No Action	Preferred Alternative	Alternative B	Alternative C
Water Quality and Contaminants	<p>Negotiations would continue with agricultural easement holders that lead to the termination of grazing on Reclamation lands, or at a minimum keep livestock from the shoreline. These actions, if successful, would benefit water quality. Changes to agricultural easements would be the same for all alternatives.</p> <p>Numerous recreation facilities would result in the potential for direct and indirect adverse water quality impacts from fertilizer, stormwater runoff, and fuel.</p>	<p>The Preferred Alternative would include stricter control measures than the No Action Alternative for erosion control, vehicular access to shoreline and drawdown areas, encroachment on Reclamation lands, and no-wake zones.</p> <p>There would be more C/OS and WMA areas and less recreation acreage than the No Action Alternative. The Preferred Alternative should have less adverse impact on water quality than the No Action Alternative.</p>	<p>This alternative would have an increased emphasis on natural resources, with more limited recreation development. Thus, Alternative B would be expected to adversely impact reservoir water quality slightly less than the Preferred Alternative due primarily to less recreation development and slightly more area designated as C/OS.</p>	<p>Alternative C would result in the highest acreage of recreation sites and the lowest acreage of C/OS and WMAs.</p> <p>Alternative C includes some actions more favorable to water quality than the No Action Alternative. These include erosion control, vehicular access, no-wake zones, and private landscape development and encroachment on Reclamation land. Therefore, Alternative C would be expected to have slightly less adverse impact on water quality than the No Action Alternative.</p>
Soils	<p>Continued efforts to eliminate livestock grazing near streams and the reservoir and to purchase agricultural easements would result in a gradual improvement in soil loss from erosion. Erosion control measures by residents would provide intermittent erosion protection, depending on structure design.</p> <p>Non-motorized areas in the upper arms of the Lake would continue to protect shorelines from erosion. Vehicle restrictions in shoreline and drawdown areas would protect these areas from erosion if enforcement is successful.</p> <p>New trail systems would be developed, with potential increased erosion from trail</p>	<p>Habitat improvement plans for the WMAs and C/OS to protect water quality would also protect soil as additional native vegetation is established and controls runoff.</p> <p>Monitoring of private landscaping for erosion control on Reclamation land would reduce erosion, by ensuring landscaping is effective.</p> <p>Less land (203 acres) would be disturbed than under Alternative A. Therefore, fewer impacts on soils would be expected.</p>	<p>Less area (281 acres) would be developed for recreation, thereby reducing disturbance and erosion potential. However, demand would continue to increase, so vegetation trampling and erosion at existing recreation sites would increase.</p> <p>No monitoring of private landscaping effectiveness on Reclamation lands would occur and a slight reduction in erosion control structures built by Reclamation would increase erosion potential.</p>	<p>Overall, more land would be disturbed for constructing recreation sites than any other alternative except Alternative A, resulting in greater erosion.</p> <p>Allowing motor vehicle use of the railroad grade north of Crown Point could open a new area to residential development, with subsequent increases in soil erosion.</p>

Table 2.5-1. Impacts of Alternatives Comparison Summary

Note: Only impacts that vary from those described for the No Action Alternative are described for other alternatives.

Resource Area	Alternative A - No Action	Preferred Alternative	Alternative B	Alternative C
	use. Runoff from new recreation facilities would increase, as increased visitor use would impact native vegetation and compact soil around the facilities.			

**Table 2.5-1. Impacts of Alternatives Comparison Summary**

*Note: Only impacts that vary from those described for the No Action Alternative are described for other alternatives.*

Resource Area	Alternative A - No Action	Preferred Alternative	Alternative B	Alternative C
Vegetation	<p>Efforts relating to livestock grazing, no-wake zones, and vehicle restrictions would have the same effect on vegetation as described for soils.</p> <p>New trail systems would be developed, with vegetation loss and erosion from trail construction and use.</p> <p>An additional 353 acres of vegetation would be directly impacted through construction of new recreation facilities.</p>	<p>Habitat improvement plans would result in native plant community improvements. Increased emphasis on development, protection, and enhancement of wetlands would improve hydrophytic communities around the reservoir.</p> <p>Monitoring trails and an increase in the no wake distance at WMAs would enhance and protect vegetation.</p> <p>Designation of an additional 158 acres of C/OS would increase protection of shoreline and adjacent upland plant communities.</p> <p>203 fewer acres would be disturbed for recreation development than under Alternative A. Therefore, fewer direct vegetation impacts would result from new or expanded recreation sites.</p>	<p>About 281 fewer acres would be developed for recreation compared to Alternative A, thereby reducing disturbance and vegetation losses.</p> <p>Plant community loss would increase over Alternative A in the WMAs with no monitoring of trails and reduction of no wake distance, but an increase in WMA acreage (155 acres) may offset some losses.</p> <p>No monitoring of private landscaping effectiveness would occur, resulting in poor maintenance and loss of plant communities from erosion.</p> <p>Designation of an additional 123 acres of C/OS would increase the acreage of native plants protected with this designation relative to Alternative A.</p>	<p>Overall, more land would be disturbed for constructing recreation sites than any other alternative except Alternative A, resulting in a loss of native plant communities comparable to Alternative A.</p> <p>Native plant loss would increase over Alternative A in the WMAs with no monitoring of trails and reduction of no wake distance.</p> <p>Allowing motor vehicle use of the railroad grade north of Crown Point could open a new area to residential development, with subsequent increases in native plant losses.</p>

**Table 2.5-1. Impacts of Alternatives Comparison Summary**

*Note: Only impacts that vary from those described for the No Action Alternative are described for other alternatives.*

Resource Area	Alternative A - No Action	Preferred Alternative	Alternative B	Alternative C
Wildlife	<p>A 20 percent increase in recreation use over the next 10 years would result in increased habitat degradation adjacent to recreation sites, more habitat loss through ad hoc recreation activity, and increased levels of wildlife disturbance and occasional harassment.</p> <p>New recreation facilities would be developed on about 313 acres of lands that are currently managed as C/OS or WMA. Impacts would include habitat loss and degradation of adjacent C/OS and WMA areas due to increased human use.</p> <p>Trail development would increase access to the shoreline, which would cause minor habitat loss and disturb wildlife.</p> <p>Construction of marinas would indirectly result in more wildlife disturbance along the shorelines of WMAs and increased erosion and habitat loss.</p> <p>Allowing vehicle access on the Crown Point railroad grade could make private lands more accessible and promote their development, resulting in direct and indirect habitat loss and degradation.</p>	<p>The Preferred Alternative would allow new recreation facilities to be developed on about 110 acres of lands that are currently managed as C/OS or WMA, compared to 313 acres under the No Action alternative. Direct and indirect impacts of recreation development would be similar to those described for the No Action alternative but would occur on a much smaller scale.</p> <p>A small increase in WMA acreage (39 acres) and designation of an additional 158 acres of C/OS would enhance and protect wildlife habitat and reduce potential disturbance and increase protection of shoreline and adjacent upland habitat.</p> <p>If successful, the 200-foot wide no-wake zones would actually provide more security for wildlife than they are currently afforded by a much wider no-wake zone that is not adhered to.</p> <p>Updating and implementing habitat improvement plans with an emphasis on wetlands would provide habitat benefits for a wide variety of species.</p> <p>A larger marina at Van Wyck would result in more direct and indirect habitat loss than for Alternative A.</p>	<p>Implementation of Alternative B would result in the smallest development of new or expanded recreation facilities of any of the alternatives (32 acres compared to 313 acres for No Action).</p> <p>Alternative B would also result in the largest area designated as WMA (4,142 acres versus 3,987 acres for No Action) and would add 123 acres of C/OS. Habitat values would likely improve in the new WMA and C/OS lands over the long-term and there would be substantially smaller direct impacts on wildlife and habitat.</p> <p>Increased emphasis on development, protection, and enhance of wetlands would improve habitat for a wide range of species.</p> <p>Marina impacts would be the same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>This alternative would result in 6 more acres of land converted to recreational uses as the No Action alternative. Therefore, impacts on wildlife and habitat would also be about the same.</p> <p>Habitat value could decline in WMAs compared to the Preferred Alternative because there would be no monitoring and closure of trails to reduce wildlife impacts.</p> <p>Expanded facilities at Osprey Point would substantially increase wildlife disturbance in the Duck Creek WMA compared to the No Action alternative.</p> <p>Allowing motor vehicle use of the railroad grade north of Crown Point would increase wildlife disturbance and could open a new area to residential development, with subsequent increases in wildlife and habitat losses.</p> <p>Permitting ATV use of trails in the Vista Point area would increase direct habitat loss because of wider trails, increase wildlife disturbance, and result in adjacent habitat losses as some users deviate from designated trails.</p> <p>The larger marina at Van Wyck would result in the greatest associated direct and indirect impacts on wildlife.</p>

**Table 2.5-1. Impacts of Alternatives Comparison Summary**

*Note: Only impacts that vary from those described for the No Action Alternative are described for other alternatives.*

Resource Area	Alternative A - No Action	Preferred Alternative	Alternative B	Alternative C
Threatened and Endangered Species	<p><u>Plants</u> Potential impacts on Ute Ladies'-tresses would be avoided.</p> <p><u>Wildlife</u> Bald eagles have increased in the face of more human activity. RMP actions may affect but are not likely to adversely affect bald eagles.</p> <p>RMP actions may affect but are not likely to adversely affect lynx and gray wolves.</p> <p><u>Fish</u> No impacts on bull trout are expected.</p>	<p><u>Plants</u> Same as the No Action Alternative.</p> <p><u>Wildlife</u> Same as the No Action Alternative.</p> <p><u>Fish</u> Same as the No Action Alternative.</p>	<p><u>Plants</u> Same as the No Action Alternative.</p> <p><u>Wildlife</u> Same as the No Action Alternative.</p> <p><u>Fish</u> Same as the No Action Alternative.</p>	<p><u>Plants</u> Same as the No Action Alternative.</p> <p><u>Wildlife</u> Same as the No Action Alternative.</p> <p><u>Fish</u> Same as the No Action Alternative.</p>
Aquatic Biology	<p>The No Action Alternative does not propose any changes in operation or facility planning that would impact or benefit the fishery resource compared to existing conditions.</p>	<p>Habitat improvement plans would be updated and emphasize wetland development to improve water quality. This would increase water quality, and thus improve fish habitat, above that of the No Action Alternative.</p> <p>Habitat improvement plans would be developed for the Cascade C/OS and Big Sage and Cabarton. This would increase the land area around the reservoir subject to water quality improvement measures.</p> <p>New trails would allow more shoreline access to a greater portion of the reservoir and some of the tributaries, which may increase the amount of poaching and harvest violations on fish.</p> <p>A 20 percent increase in visitor use</p>	<p>There are few differences between the Preferred Alternative and Alternative B relative to actions that would impact the fishery resources of the RMP study area.</p>	<p>Fishery impacts would be the same as Alternative B except that more recreation facilities would result in more erosion and poor quality runoff.</p>

Table 2.5-1. Impacts of Alternatives Comparison Summary

Note: Only impacts that vary from those described for the No Action Alternative are described for other alternatives.

Resource Area	Alternative A - No Action	Preferred Alternative	Alternative B	Alternative C
		over the next 10 years could cause increased fishing pressure and potential poaching and harvest violation problems.		

**Table 2.5-1. Impacts of Alternatives Comparison Summary**

*Note: Only impacts that vary from those described for the No Action Alternative are described for other alternatives.*

Resource Area	Alternative A - No Action	Preferred Alternative	Alternative B	Alternative C
Recreation	<p>In general, policies in the 1991 RMP prescribe a significant level of recreation development in the area that would have a positive impact on the visitor recreation experience and available opportunities. However, rather than Reclamation paying for all recreation developments, they are required by Federal law to find cost-share partners. Facilities that were included in the 1991 RMP, but that have not been constructed, would only be built if cost-share sponsors are involved.</p> <p>Recreation areas along the west side of the reservoir would experience a moderate increase in facilities with the addition of a marina, additional parking areas, and the development of a trail system.</p> <p>This alternative would allow much more significant recreation development at several areas along the southeastern shoreline of the reservoir, including allowing the development of a 250-slip marina and associated facilities. While these developments would have a positive impact on the developed recreation experience, they would come at the expense of the less development-dependent recreation opportunities that are currently provided for in this area. Current pedestrian use of the railroad grade would be adversely affected.</p>	<p>Actions that have a positive impact on recreation would include providing universally accessible facilities, snowmobile parking areas, expanded winter road-plowing, and campground improvements.</p> <p>Actions having an adverse impact on recreation would include no new permits for private docks, prohibiting shoreline vehicular access at most areas, closing a few areas to snowmobile use to protect facilities, restricting float plane use, and potentially closing trails for wildlife habitat protection.</p> <p>Stricter enforcement of state regulations pertaining to no-wake zones (particularly on the Boulder Creek Arm) and the recommended adherence of the 200-foot no-wake zone adjacent to the WMAs would have an adverse impact on some users by limiting waterskiing, powerboats, and PWC use in this area. Experience would be greatly enhanced for other recreationists. The affected areas are very small compared to the reservoir area not subject to no-wake restrictions.</p> <p>In the northwestern area of the reservoir, the magnitude of new public recreation development under this</p>	<p>The overall impacts of Alternative B on recreation would be positive and include many of the actions described under the Preferred Alternative, including a 250-slip marina along the southeast portion of the reservoir; however, some actions would have an adverse impact.</p> <p>Actions that would have an adverse impact on recreation would include the elimination of all private docks, no vehicular access to the shoreline by the public, no allowance to develop a west-side marina, and the limitation of snowmobile use in developed recreation areas to roads and designated routes. One action that would have a positive impact would be the community docks that would be allowed as a result of the elimination of all private docks.</p> <p>A no-wake zone in the Boulder Creek Arm would have an adverse impact on high-speed boating activities in the no-wake area; however, it may reduce conflicts between boaters and personal watercraft users and shoreline residents and result in a more positive and safer recreation experience for some.</p> <p>One significant impact of this alternative would be the elimination of recreational use of Big Sage and Cabarton resulting from the designation of these areas as C/OS.</p>	<p>Shoreline vehicular access would not be prohibited (as in Alternative B), but would be permitted in designated areas: a positive impact.</p> <p>The creation of boat-in and hike-in sites at the former airstrip would have a substantial positive impact on the availability of this type of recreation experience.</p> <p>A moderate increase in new public recreation facilities would also occur in southeastern areas of the reservoir under this alternative. New development would be greatest under this alternative (including allowing a 500-slip marina along the southeast portion of the reservoir) and would generally result in having a positive impact on recreation.</p>

**Table 2.5-1. Impacts of Alternatives Comparison Summary**

*Note: Only impacts that vary from those described for the No Action Alternative are described for other alternatives.*

Resource Area	Alternative A - No Action	Preferred Alternative	Alternative B	Alternative C
Recreation, cont.	New facilities at Van Wyck Park and Big Sage would positively impact the availability of developed recreation; however, it would have an adverse impact on the more dispersed recreation experience currently provided here.	alternative would be moderate, and would have a positive impact on recreation. The western sections of the reservoir would also have moderate levels of facility development that would have a positive impact on recreation.  This alternative would allow an even larger (400-slip) marina in the southeastern portion of the reservoir and would generally have a positive impact on recreation.		
Visual Resources	This alternative would allow for no new docks in C/OS areas, which would have a positive impact on visual resources. Also, there would be limited creation of new wetland areas and designation of some C/OS areas that would have a positive impact on visual resources.  In the northwestern area of the reservoir, a new marina would be constructed at West Mountain that would adversely impact on visual resources.  Several actions in the southeastern area that would have negative impacts include the construction of a 250-slip marina, breakwater, and a visitor center at Van Wyck and development in the Crown Point area.	The Preferred Alternative still would have some adverse impacts on visual resources due to recreation development (with some positive impacts), these impacts, and the level of recreation development, would not be at the same level of magnitude as with Alternative A.	Alternative B would allow for the least amount of recreation development of the four alternatives and therefore the least impact on visual resources.  On a reservoir-wide basis, all private docks would be eliminated and replaced with community docks. This would have a positive impact on visual resources in the area by decreasing the amount of structures and visual intrusion along the shoreline.  Also, the increased emphasis on C/OS areas and WMAs under this alternative would result in a positive impact on visual resources.	Alternative C would result in a moderate level of recreation development, although there would be slightly less development than allowed under Alternative A. In general, this alternative allows for additional recreation development that results in a few additional impacts on the visual resources of the area.  Overall, while many of the activities undertaken as part of this alternative would result in incrementally negative impacts on the visual resources at Lake Cascade, several actions would also result in having a positive impact on the area's visual resources. In balance, the resulting impacts would be negligible.

**Table 2.5-1. Impacts of Alternatives Comparison Summary**

*Note: Only impacts that vary from those described for the No Action Alternative are described for other alternatives.*

Resource Area	Alternative A - No Action	Preferred Alternative	Alternative B	Alternative C
Land Use	<p>Development of a marina adjacent to the West Mountain Campground would be a distinct change to the existing low intensity of development and activity on the western shore of Lake Cascade.</p> <p>Motor vehicle use on the railroad grade north of Crown Point would have indirect land use impacts that could result from increased development pressure because of use of this roadway by adjacent property owners to access their property.</p>	<p>The Preferred Alternative is unlikely to result in any measurable adverse impacts.</p> <p>The Preferred Alternative would address a number of land use designations that were not resolved in the 1991 RMP with more appropriate management areas.</p>	<p>The elimination of all private docks would create intense opposition and resistance from near shore property owners, thereby increasing the need for more intensive and time-consuming management.</p> <p>Depending on the type and scale of concession operations, the provision of fuel and supplies at the Boulder Creek Recreation Area could potentially result in localized land use incompatibilities with adjacent residential uses.</p>	<p>Conversion of the airstrip to a recreation site could potentially be incompatible with the large adjacent WMA. Likewise, conversion of the airstrip of C/OS-designated lands on the northwestern shore could alter both the level of activity and the character of the shoreline.</p> <p>Conversion of the railroad grade to a County road could create a number of land use concerns related to expansion of development pressures.</p>
Socioeconomics	<p>Direct impacts of a new marina at West Mountain on local public services and utilities would depend on ancillary facilities and use levels. Indirect impacts would result from potential commercial and residential development. Of particular concern would be firefighting capabilities because of the distance from the nearest fire station.</p> <p>Allowing motor vehicle use on the railroad grade within the Crown Point Extension would result in indirect public service and utility impacts because of increased development pressure resulting from use of this roadway by adjacent property owners to access their property.</p>	<p>Because of its emphasis on erosion control, community over private uses, pro-active solutions to user conflicts, monitoring for habitat and resource impacts, numerous beneficial socioeconomic impacts would indirectly result from this alternative.</p>	<p>Alternative B shares many of the beneficial impacts of the Preferred Alternative, such as its emphasis on information and regulatory signage, removal of private uses occurring within RR designated areas, and management of float plane and snowmobile activity, and boat wakes in sensitive areas.</p> <p>The provision of fuel and supplies at Boulder Creek Recreation Area could potentially result in added concerns for local fire departments.</p>	<p>This alternative shares many of the positive impacts of the other alternatives, particularly with regard to the management of higher impact motorized recreation activities, widespread use of informative kiosks and regulatory signage, and cooperation with the USFS.</p>
Environmental Justice	No impacts were identified.	Same as the No Action Alternative.	Same as the No Action Alternative.	Same as the No Action Alternative.

**Table 2.5-1. Impacts of Alternatives Comparison Summary**

*Note: Only impacts that vary from those described for the No Action Alternative are described for other alternatives.*

Resource Area	Alternative A - No Action	Preferred Alternative	Alternative B	Alternative C
Cultural	<p>A CRMP would be developed that addresses proactive strategies for managing and protecting cultural resource sites, for testing and determining the eligibility of sites to the National Register, and for consulting with SHPO and Tribes.</p> <p>Specific Reclamation actions under Alternative A that could potentially adversely affect cultural resources include recreational development; continued use and expansion at recreation sites and development of trail systems or new access.</p>	<p>Although recreation is emphasized under the Preferred Alternative, recreational developments and activities are more controlled and contained than under the No Action Alternative, thereby lessening the potential for relic collecting relative to the No Action Alternative.</p> <p>Potential impacts to yet-to-be-recorded archaeological resources and traditional cultural properties can be expected in conjunction with the planned recreational improvements.</p>	<p>Possible erosional impacts from reservoir operations and natural forces, as well as adverse effects from relic collecting, would continue under this alternative. However, direct impacts to cultural resources from additional facilities, trails, and other recreational improvements would be less than under the other alternatives.</p>	<p>Direct and indirect impacts to cultural resources similar to those discussed under Alternative A and the Preferred Alternative could be expected.</p>
Sacred Sites	<p>Possible impacts to Indian sacred sites from a continuation of existing management practices in the area of the RMP (or from new management practices or activities) cannot be clearly determined since the specific location of sacred properties is unknown.</p> <p>As with cultural resources, sacred sites could be compromised by vandalism and relic collecting from land use activities and recreation development.</p>	<p>Impacts would be the same as described for Alternative A.</p>	<p>Basically the same as Alternative A. Because of limited recreation development under this alternative, potential impacts to sacred sites would be less than for the other alternatives.</p>	<p>Impacts would be the same as described for Alternative A.</p>
Indian Trust Assets	<p>Each of the alternatives would result in minor losses of wildlife habitat with the largest losses occurring under the No Action Alternative and Alternative C.</p>	<p>Same as the No Action Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as the No Action Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as the No Action Alternative.</p>

**Table 2.5-1. Impacts of Alternatives Comparison Summary**

*Note: Only impacts that vary from those described for the No Action Alternative are described for other alternatives.*

Resource Area	Alternative A - No Action	Preferred Alternative	Alternative B	Alternative C
Transportation and Access	<p>Transportation and access may benefit from limiting access to areas where ad hoc access was prevalent.</p> <p>Encouraging community docks would be a minor negative impact to access for current private dock owners but would benefit others.</p> <p>Improved moorage, boat-in areas, and marinas would improve access to the reservoir but adversely affect local transportation because of more traffic.</p> <p>The new marina and 130-space parking lot near the West Mountain Campground would adversely affect traffic along SH-55 through Cascade, Donnelly, and along Tamarack Falls Road.</p> <p>Development of a west side trail system would improve pedestrian access to the west side area.</p> <p>Expansion of Crown Point Campground would improve user access to the area, but would also negatively impact the transportation system by adding traffic.</p> <p>The Van Wyck Park marina and associated facilities would impact transportation and access. Access for boats and pedestrians would be increased. Improvements to the transportation system reaching this facility would be required for SH-55 and Cascade.</p>	<p>The net impact to access to the water from consolidating private docks into community docks is slightly negative for current private dock owners, but positive for the larger public.</p> <p>Restricting vehicle access to the shoreline would decrease the current ad hoc access and limited, formalized accesses would be created.</p> <p>Expanded Osprey Point facilities would draw more users to Osprey Point, creating more traffic along the West Mountain Road and the roads that feed into West Mountain.</p> <p>Development of a marina and parking lot near the West Mountain Campground would have the same adverse effects described under the No Action Alternative.</p> <p>A larger marina at Van Wyck Park would increase access to the reservoir, but would also increase adverse impacts on the surrounding roads.</p> <p>Pedestrian access in the Cabarton, Blue Heron, and Snow Bank areas to the reservoir shoreline would improve.</p> <p>Erosion protection actions at Snow Bank and Cabarton would reduce vehicular access to the shoreline.</p> <p>Tamarack Falls Road would experience more traffic because of additional users</p>	<p>Eliminating all private docks in RR areas, and only permitting new community docks or concession-run moorages that would serve lot owners as well as the general public.</p> <p>The reduction in vehicles anticipated from no marina or associated facilities near the West Mountain Campground would be beneficial for the West Mountain Road and other approach roads.</p> <p>Winter snowmobile parking would be improved in the Buttercup, Huckleberry, and Curlew areas. Depending on the current and predicted snowmobile use, an increase in traffic arriving at the snowmobile parking areas would be anticipated, causing possible congestion.</p> <p>Boat services such as fueling and supplies at the Boulder Creek Arm area would be an additional draw for boat users, and create more boat as well as vehicle traffic.</p> <p>The Van Wyck marina and associated impacts would be the same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>The recommended action and impacts regarding private docks and RR areas would be the same as for the Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Access impacts from moorage policies and boat launching at developed recreation areas would be the same as Alternative B.</p> <p>Development of Mallard Bay Area facilities would improve access at this area.</p> <p>Alternative C would allow vehicle use of the Crown Point railroad grade and along designated roads and trails to access the Crown Point site road system and the associated shoreline access. This would be an increase in access for vehicles. However, this would be an adverse impact on pedestrian access because of conflicts with motorized access.</p> <p>Alternative C would allow for all-terrain vehicles on existing trails at Vista Point and vicinity. This would improve access for all-terrain vehicles in the area as compared to the No Action Alternative. However, this would be an adverse impact on pedestrian access because of conflicts with motorized access.</p> <p>A larger Van Wyck marina would result in greater access to the reservoir, but</p>

Table 2.5-1. Impacts of Alternatives Comparison Summary

Note: Only impacts that vary from those described for the No Action Alternative are described for other alternatives.

Resource Area	Alternative A - No Action	Preferred Alternative	Alternative B	Alternative C
		in the North Fork Payette Arm.		would increase adverse impacts on surrounding roads.