

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Belle Fourche Reservoir

Resource Management Plan Options Selection Table and Frequently Asked Questions



Your help is needed!

The Bureau of Reclamation, in cooperation with the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) is in the process of developing a Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Belle Fourche Reservoir. We are interested in your opinions and preferences regarding the Belle Fourche Reservoir Draft Management Options developed as a direct result of the User Survey completed in the summer of 2018. Your input is important in guiding future recreation development at the Reservoir. Please take a few minutes to comment on the Draft Management Options. When finished, please leave your comments in the box before you leave. Or please mail it to the address on the back of this document.

Thank you for your help!



Draft Future Management Options

Option 1 Minimum Recreation Development

Under this option, developments would be restricted to those allowed under Public Law (PL) 89-72 (minimum basic facility development) at recreation and wildlife areas, excluding current SDGFP managed areas.

Option 2 Enhanced Recreation Development

Under this option, a managing partner would be necessary to provide modern recreational facilities and services; as requested by the public at all recreation areas. These improvements would be similar to existing modern facilities and services currently offered inside Rocky Point.

Option 3 Comment

For each Management Unit, the public will be able to select their development preference out of Options 1 and 2, to form their preferred Option 3. With consideration of PL 89-72, a managing partner would be necessary for areas with Enhanced Recreation Development. If the public prefers Minimum Recreation Development, Reclamation would continue to manage those areas with management emphasis on resource protection and ensuring public health and safety.

Please write in your Option preference and additional comments for each Management Unit in the attached table under Option 3.



Proposed Management Actions

Management actions have been recognized by Reclamation staff, managing partners, and the public to increase the public's health and safety and recreational experience, while reducing resource damage. These actions will be proposed in the RMP:

1. In this RMP, fees are not proposed to be implemented on Reclamation managed areas. Fees may be implemented in the future as facilities and services are added.
2. All campers will be required to camp in a designated campsite.
3. Camper self-registration stations will be installed on Reclamation managed areas. All campers will be required to register to camp.
4. Camp hosts will be hired beginning in 2020. Camp hosts will be placed on one or more of Reclamation's managed recreation areas.
5. Boat launching at designated boat ramps only. This requirement will be enforced after a third boat ramp is constructed on the reservoir.
6. To aid in law enforcement, security cameras may be installed at certain areas around Belle Fourche Reservoir.

MU Name and Number Use Managing Entity	Existing Amenities, Services, & Facilities Existing as of January 1, 2019	Option 1 Minimum Recreation Development Note: Projects marked with an * have been approved for funding.	Option 2 Enhanced Recreation Development Note: Projects marked with an * have been approved for funding.	Option 3 Comments Please write in your Option preference for each Management Unit in the spaces below
Rocky Point Recreation Area MU 2 Overnight Use South Dakota Game Fish & Parks	57 electrical campsites 1 pet exercise area 5 group camping pods 1 storm warning siren 2 camping cabins 3 water hydrants 1 camp host 7 garbage dumpsters 1 comfort station 1 information kiosk 8 vault toilets 1 volleyball court 2 boat ramps 3 horseshoe pits 1 fish cleaning station 3 picnic shelters 1 dump station 5 parking lots 1 fee booth 1 swim beach 1 archery range 1 playground	N/A	Expand boat ramp parking Courtesy dock Fill and dump station and lane Improve fish grinder Shore fishing pod Expand parking lot at shore fishing area Annually plant 50-100 trees	
Middle Point MU 3 Overnight Use Reclamation	1 information kiosk 2 vault toilets gravel roads gravel parking areas 1 garbage dumpster fire rings	Camper registration station Camp host site 38 non-utility campsites 38 fire rings 38 picnic tables Shoreline stabilization* Shore-fishing access*	6 camping pods (3 campsites per pod) 20 back-in electrical campsites 38 fire rings 38 picnic tables New day use area with group shelter Shoreline stabilization* Shore-fishing access* Comfort station Mowed hiking trails 2 Vault toilets Playground Partner Fees	
Gadens Point MU 4 Overnight Use Reclamation	2 information kiosks 2 vault toilets 2 garbage dumpsters gravel parking areas gravel roads fire rings	Camper registration station 64 non-utility campsites 64 fire rings 64 picnic tables 3 vault toilets and dumpsters Buoyed swim beach at Tequila Beach Boat ramp* Boat ramp parking area* Shoreline rip-rap* 1 vault toilet*	12 camping pods (3 campsites per pod) 38 back in electrical campsites 64 fire rings 64 picnic tables Comfort station Tequila beach expanded parking area Tequila beach group shelter Group Shelter Playgrounds 5 vault toilets Boat ramp* Boat ramp parking area* Shoreline rip-rap* 1 vault toilet* Partner Fees	

MU Name and Number Use Managing Entity	Existing Amenities, Services, & Facilities Existing as of January 1, 2019	Option 1 Minimum Recreation Development Note: Projects marked with an * have been approved for funding.	Option 2 Enhanced Recreation Development Note: Projects marked with an * have been approved for funding.	Option 3 Comments Please write in your Option preference for each Management Unit in the spaces below
Bird Island View MU 14 Overnight Use Reclamation	1 vault toilet fire rings	Camper registration station Improve road access from north 26 non-utility campsites (north) 20 non-utility campsites (south) 46 fire rings 46 picnic tables 2 vault toilets (1 north, 1 south) 3 garbage dumpsters (1 north, 2 south) Boat-in beach Buoyed swim beach	Camper registration & fee station New road access from north 26 electrical campsites (north) 20 electrical campsites (south) 46 fire rings 46 picnic tables 3 vault toilets (2 north, 1 south) 3 garbage dumpsters (2 north, 1 south) Comfort Station Hiking trails Water spigots Buoyed swim beach Boat-in beach Partner Fees	
Golf Course Point MU 15 Overnight Use Reclamation	1 information kiosk 1 vault toilet 1 garbage dumpster fire rings	Camp host site Camper registration station 16 non-utility campsites 16 fire rings 16 picnic tables Install 2 camp loop roads 1 vault toilet 1 garbage dumpster Canoe/kayak parking area Rip-rap Golf Course Point	Camper registration & fee station Fish cleaning station Dump station 16 electrical campsites 16 fire rings 16 picnic tables Install 2 camp loop roads 2 new vault toilets 2 garbage dumpsters Water spigots Hiking trail Canoe/kayak parking area Playground equipment Picnic shelters Comfort station Rip-rap Golf Course Point Partner Fees	

MU Name and Number Use Managing Entity	Existing Amenities, Services, & Facilities Existing as of January 1, 2019	Option 1 Minimum Recreation Development Note: Projects marked with an * have been approved for funding.	Option 2 Enhanced Recreation Development Note: Projects marked with an * have been approved for funding.	Option 3 Comments Please write in your Option preference for each Management Unit in the spaces below
Inlet Canal MU 1 Proposed Day Use Reclamation	1 Information Kiosk 1 Interpretive Display 1 vault toilet 1 garbage dumpster fire rings gravel parking lot	Convert to day use only (no camping) Improve fishing access 1 fishing loop road	Convert to day use only (no camping) Fee station Fish cleaning station Dump station Improve fishing access New fishing loop road 10 picnic shelters 10 picnic tables 2 vault toilets Partner Fees	
CCC Point MU 13 Proposed Day Use Reclamation	1 information kiosk 1 historical interpretive area 1 vault toilet 1 gravel parking area 1 garbage dumpster fire rings	Convert to day use only (no camping) Dam parking restrictions Improve road to South Dam Beach 1 vault toilet Boat ramp Boat staging and parking area Solar light at boat ramp Buoyed swim beach Expanded parking	Convert to day use only (no camping) Fee station Dam parking restrictions New road to South Dam Beach 1 vault toilet (boat ramp) Boat ramp Boat staging and parking area Solar light at boat ramp Buoyed swim beach CCC interpretive area parking Picnic shelters Fish cleaning station Playground equipment Hiking trails Partner fees	
Fruitdale Area MU 16 Proposed Day Use Reclamation	None	Convert to day use only (no camping) 1 vault toilet 1 garbage dumpster Authorized road improvements 2 fishing access roads	Convert to day use only (no camping) Fee station 1 vault toilet 1 garbage dumpster Authorized road improvements 2 fishing access roads Partner Fees	

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West Wildlife Management Area MU 5 and 6 Day Use Reclamation	1 information kiosk	2 fishing access roads Wildlife-friendly fence conversion	2 fishing access roads Firebreak Wildlife-friendly fence conversion Prescribed fire Grazing Foodplots	
North Wildlife Management Area MU 7, 8, and 9 Day Use Reclamation	1 storm warning siren	Prohibit access on unauthorized trails Reclaim unauthorized trails Wildlife-friendly fence conversion Provide BLM access	Prohibit access on unauthorized trails Reclaim unauthorized trails Firebreak Wildlife-friendly fence conversion Prescribed fire Grazing Foodplots Provide BLM access Remove cattle guard	
Off-Road Vehicle Area (ORV) MU 10 Day Use Reclamation	Designated ORV area 1 vault toilet ORV Area rules/regs sign 1 information kiosk	Eliminate ORV designation and use Convert to Wildlife Management Area New road to Hippie Hole overlook Grass plantings	Eliminate ORV designation and use Convert to Wildlife Management Area New road to Hippie Hole overlook Grass plantings Prescribed fire Grazing Foodplots	
Game Production Area MU 12 Day Use South Dakota Game Fish & Parks	1 gravel parking area 1 historical sign	N/A	Repair east entrance fence Remove cattle guard	
Belle Fourche Dam MU 11 Operations Reclamation Belle Fourche Irrigation District	Earthen dam Spillway Overflow spillway 2 gate houses Piezometer pit 2 walkways/stairwells North and South Canal Inlet Canal Sediment retention pond	N/A	Administrative Road parking restrictions Modify operations area boundary Add/improve fishing parking area access	

Belle Fourche Resource Management Plan

May 29, 2019 Open House Meeting
Belle Fourche Community Hall
512 6th Avenue, Belle Fourche, South Dakota
5:00 to 8:00 p.m. MDT

Contact

Jay Leasure
Bureau of Reclamation
515 Ninth Street
Rapid City, SD 57701

Email: jleasure@usbr.gov
Phone: 605.519.5504

What's Included:

Draft Management Option Descriptions
Table of Draft Management Options
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

Helpful Acronyms:

BFR	Belle Fourche Reservoir
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
MU	Management Unit
ORV	Off-Road Vehicle
RMP	Resource Management Plan
SDGFP	South Dakota Game Fish and Parks

Frequently Asked Questions

What is an RMP?

RMP stands for Resource Management Plan. This is a document that can effectively assist Reclamation, South Dakota Game Fish and Parks (SDGFP), and future managing partners in planning, decision making, and implementing actions affecting Belle Fourche Reservoir.

Why have an RMP now?

Belle Fourche Reservoir use has increased substantially since the last RMP in 2004. The User Survey indicated the desire for many additional facilities and services at Belle Fourche Reservoir.

What will the RMP accomplish?

The RMP will chart the desired future condition for Belle Fourche Reservoir relative to public uses and available funding. One of the objectives of the RMP is to provide a quality recreation experience.

What does the RMP mean to me?

The RMP enhances your recreation experience by identifying and addressing public concerns through public input and helps Reclamation and SDGFP to better manage multiple uses.

What is a Management Unit (MU)?

A specific geographic area that can be effectively managed as a relatively independent area.

What is a Proposed Management Action?

An action or group of actions which are developed to provide solutions to the issues raised by the public and internally by Reclamation and SDGFP staff; enhance, protect, and provide a wide variety of recreation facilities and opportunities; must be realistic and within anticipated funding and staffing levels; and meet the objectives and specific goal for its respective management unit.

What are Minimum Basic Facilities?

Minimum basic facilities are those facilities required for the public's health and safety. Examples of minimum basic facilities include: beach areas, vault toilets, garbage dumpsters, fire rings, and designated campsites.

Is Reclamation charging camping fees at Reclamation direct-managed recreation areas?

Reclamation is not proposing fees in this RMP. As improvements are completed, Reclamation will analyze implementation of a fee structure in the future.

Why are we proposing converting Inlet Canal, Fruitdale Area, and CCC areas from Camping to Day Use only?

Funding limits accomplishments. Based on the number two and number three request in the User Survey for more shore fishing access and increased law enforcement, a change to day use will reduce the need for camping facilities and allow us to focus staff and funds on additional shore fishing areas and increased law enforcement presence.

Trees

Based on the number one request in the User Survey for more windbreak and shade trees, Reclamation will pursue a tree planting program and tree farm. Reclamation has purchased 500 trees to be hand planted with assistance from the public, with the goal of annually planting 100-500 trees.

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Why are we proposing to convert the Off-Road Vehicle Area to Wildlife Management?

- ♦ The current location of the ORV area creates a disconnect in the wildlife corridor between the wildlife management areas to the north and south and has created a launching point for illegal off-road vehicle travel.
- ♦ Reclamation is proposing to change the use of this area to reduce resource damage and enhance wildlife movement between the wildlife management areas to the north and south and assist in the reduction of unauthorized vehicle trails.

Why are designated campsites being proposed?

- ♦ Reclamation is proposing to require all campers to camp in a designated campsite. This will reduce altercations between campers, aid law enforcement, reduce resource damage to the shoreline and grasslands, avoid confusion of multi-agency management, and reduce overstay and unlicensed campers.
- ♦ All vehicles are required to stay on authorized roads. This is difficult to enforce if undesignated and shoreline camping is allowed.

Shore Fishing Access

- ♦ Based on the number two request in the User Survey for more shore fishing access, Reclamation has proposed three areas to be converted from camping to day use only, focusing staff and funds on shore fishing access. Reclamation is also planning shore fishing access in conjunction with shoreline stabilization projects.
- ♦ Reclamation proposes to continue prohibiting shoreline driving for fishing access and shoreline camping. Pedestrian access to the shoreline and shore fishing will continue to be allowed.

Boat Ramp

- ♦ There are currently two boat ramps available at Rocky Point Recreation Area, which require a SDGFP entrance pass to use. Reclamation is in the process of constructing a third boat ramp at Gaden's Point, with construction to begin in the fall of 2020.
- ♦ Reclamation is proposing to require all boats to launch and retrieve from a designated boat ramp to reduce resource damage and reduce the spread of Aquatic Nuisance Species. This restriction will be enforced after a third boat ramp is constructed. To increase safety and access for boaters, Reclamation is proposing to construct an additional boat ramp on the east side at CCC Point.

Law Enforcement

- ♦ Currently, Reclamation does not have law enforcement authority and contracts law enforcement services with the Bureau of Land Management. SDGFP have law enforcement officers for the areas they manage on Reclamation lands. Reclamation has hired a seasonal on-site intern for the past three summers to aid in law enforcement efforts. Additional law enforcement officers have been on site during holiday weekends the past two years.
- ♦ Based on the number three request in the User Survey for increased law enforcement presence, Reclamation has proposed to negotiate a law enforcement contract with Butte County Sheriff's office, install security cameras, and hire camp hosts in Reclamation managed areas. Additional managing partner(s) would also increase law enforcement service.

Road Maintenance

- ♦ Reclamation contracts for 13 miles of road blading and shoulder mowing to be conducted prior to all three major holidays in the summer.
- ♦ There are currently 257 miles of unauthorized roads and trails at Belle Fourche Reservoir. Reclamation proposes to continue prohibiting illegal off-road vehicle travel, closing, and reclaiming unauthorized roads.
- ♦ There are currently 33.7 miles of authorized roads at Belle Fourche Reservoir. Reclamation proposes new roads, graveling existing roads, and increasing road maintenance on all authorized roads as funding allows.



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Please provide additional comments in the space below. You may submit your comments via mail or in person at the Open House Meeting, **Wednesday May 29, 2019, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. MDT, Belle Fourche Community Hall**, 512 6th Ave, Belle Fourche, SD.

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Place
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Jay Leasure
Bureau of Reclamation
515 Ninth Street
Rapid City, SD 57701