



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

DK-5000-19-01

Finding of No Significant Impact and Final Environmental Assessment for the Final Belle Fourche Resource Management Plan, Belle Fourche Reservoir, South Dakota

**Dakotas Area Office
Bismarck, North Dakota**

Mission Statements

The Department of the Interior (DOI) conserves and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of the American people, provides scientific and other information about natural resources and natural hazards to address societal challenges and create opportunities for the American people, and honors the Nation's trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities to help them prosper.

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
DAKOTAS AREA OFFICE
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

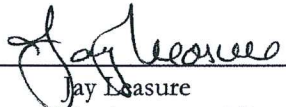
OF

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT


FOR

The Final Belle Fourche Resource Management Plan, Belle Fourche Reservoir, South
Dakota

NO. DK-5000-19-01

Recommended:  Date: 1/27/2020
Jay Leasure
Environmental Specialist
Dakotas Area Office

Concur:  Date: 1/27/2020
Scott Hettinger
Chief, Resources Management
Dakotas Area Office

Approved:  Date: 1/27/2020
Arden Freitag
Area Manager
Dakotas Area Office

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Introduction

Issuance of this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) follows the completion of the Environmental Assessment for the Final Belle Fourche Resource Management Plan, Belle Fourche Reservoir, South Dakota.

The FONSI describes the reasons for the finding for the proposed action's anticipated impacts insignificant. This document contains the FONSI and Final Environmental Assessment.

**Finding of No Significant Impact
of
Environmental Assessment
for
the Final Belle Fourche Resource Management Plan, Belle Fourche Reservoir, South
Dakota**

The Bureau of Reclamation proposes to implement the Final Belle Fourche Resource Management Plan (RMP). The Proposed Action would enable managers to make land use and resource management decisions that are consistent with overall management objectives and the needs of the public. It would assist land managers in minimizing conflicts among users, in complying with environmental and cultural resource laws, and in obtaining public support for the management of natural resources. It is intended to guide future development and use of resources while remaining flexible enough to allow resolution of day-to-day operational problems.

The Belle Fourche RMP should achieve the following:

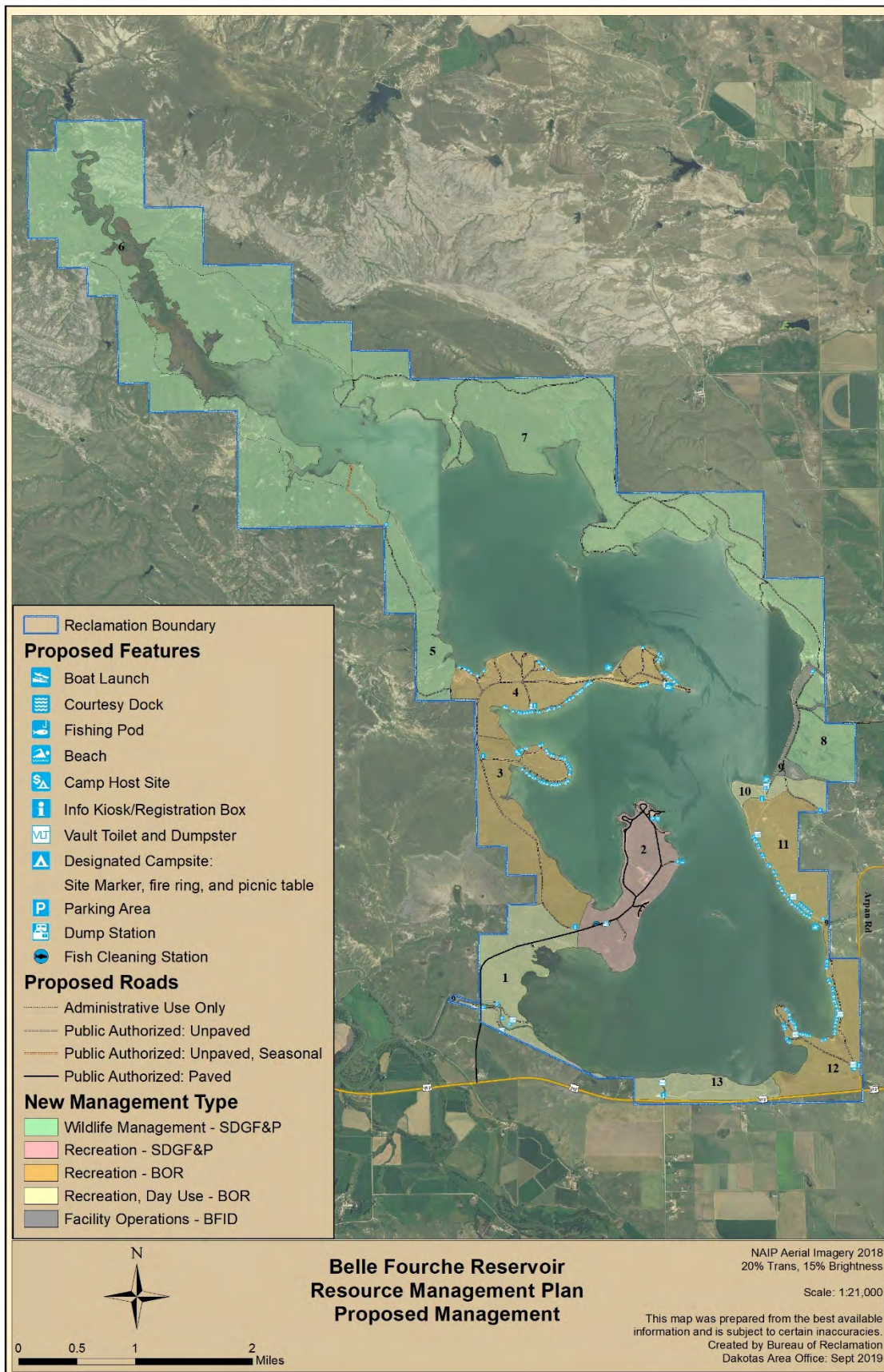
- Identify issues and set forth goals and procedures for managing and administering resources on public lands.
- Establish use levels that protect resources and are compatible with the needs of the public, recognizing that there are legal and policy constraints which limit meeting these needs.
- Identify types of land use development that may be permitted.
- Provide a tool for land managers to assist in the proper administration, development, and management of public lands.

Five agency responses were received regarding the preparation of the EA in response to Reclamation's scoping notice: South Dakota Department of Air Quality, Waste Management, Water Quality, and Environment and Natural Resources. Two private party responses were received.

Responses were received from the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, the South Dakota Department of Environmental and Natural Resource, and the South Dakota School of Mines Museum of Geology regarding the public release of the draft EA: (pages 9 – 22). Nine private party responses were received.

Reclamation acknowledges the comments provided and concludes no substantial revisions are necessary to the Final EA. However, minor clarifications were made to the Final EA in response to public comments. There were no substantial changes to the alternative or the effects analysis.

Figure 1-1. Overview of the Project Area and Action Alternative.



Agency Decision

No Action. The No Action Alternative consists of the future without the proposed federal action, therefore the current management at Belle Fourche Reservoir would continue under the guidance of the 2004 RMP. Changes to existing management would only occur if a threat to public health and safety occurs or if mandated by law or new or amended regulations and policy.

Proposed Action. Reclamation has determined that the Proposed Action, as described in the Environmental Assessment DK-5000-19-01 will not result in significant impacts to the human and natural environment; therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared. A complete description and analysis of the project's anticipated environmental impacts is contained in the final EA.

Reclamation defines significance relative to context and intensity in accordance with CEQ Regulations, 40 CFR 1508.27.

The reasons for the FONSI determination are summarized as follows:

1. All requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act have been met, including public involvement and coordination with Federal, State, and local agencies.
2. This action will not have significant effect on the quality of the human environment.
3. With regard to public health and safety, the action will have a beneficial impact with the implementation of new sanitary facilities.
4. This action will not have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.
5. This action will not have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.
6. This action will not establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principal about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.
7. The action will not have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.
8. All stipulations of the National Historic Preservation Act and other applicable Federal laws, regulations, and guidelines concerning cultural resources will be satisfied prior to construction. Avoidance measures have been incorporated into the project's design to reduce or eliminate impacts to historic properties. Four historic properties located within the APE were visited and monitored for potential effects from the proposed action. Site specific protection measures were developed for each property to prevent adverse effects from occurring. Potential beneficial impacts to one historic property from minimizing off-road travel were also identified. Based on the findings of the site monitors the Dakotas Area Office determined that the proposed project will result in no adverse effect to nonrenewable cultural resources provided the site-specific protection measures identified during the fieldwork are followed.

A Section 106 report documenting the findings of the field monitoring and the site-specific protection measures was submitted to the SDSHPO for consultation on October 2, 2019. The SDSHPO concurred with the findings in the report on November 7, 2019 under SDSHPO project number 191007004F. The consultation report was also submitted to fourteen Tribal Historic Preservation Offices with historic ties to the area on October 2, 2019 and a follow-up email was sent to the same tribes on October 8, 2019. Three tribal partners responded. The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma THPO responded on October 28, 2019 stating that they concurred with the findings of the report. They asked to be informed if any inadvertent discoveries are made. The Northern Cheyenne THPO responded on October 30, 2019 requesting a site visit and/or cultural survey work with tribal participation for all proposed major projects in the future. The Northern Arapaho THPO responded on December 5, 2019 requesting a tribal monitor be on site during any ground disturbance related to the project. Consultation with the Northern Cheyenne and Northern Arapaho is ongoing to develop a mutually beneficial process to meet their requests.

9. Reclamation has determined the Proposed Action will have no effect to the whooping crane, rufa red knot, and northern long-eared bat.
10. All applicable Federal and State environmental laws, regulations, and executive orders will be adhered to.
11. All stipulations of the Clean Water Act and other applicable Federal laws, regulations, and guidelines concerning wetlands and water resources will be satisfied prior to construction. Environmental commitments include the coordination with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service prior to construction, as necessary.
12. Reclamation has determined the Proposed Action will have no impacts to Indian Trust Assets.
13. Reclamation is including a list of environmental commitments as part of the proposed action to be implemented in order to (a) prevent, minimize, or offset the occurrence of potential adverse environmental effects and (b) ensure compliance with applicable Federal and State regulations designed to protect fish and wildlife resources, important habitats and sensitive areas, cultural and paleontological resources, human health and safety, and the public interest.

Environmental Mitigation Commitments of the Action Alternative

This section presents environmental commitments which have been developed by Reclamation in consultation with Federal and State agencies, the Tribes, and the public through responses to scoping. These commitments are included as an inseparable component of this Proposed Action and are designed to offset potential for significant environmental effects resulting from the Proposed Action.

Should the proposed projects be constructed, Reclamation along with their managing partner, will ensure that these commitments are implemented and followed prior to and/or during construction of any proposed projects, as these commitments are required for Reclamation funding. Appropriate environmental commitments will be incorporated into the designs and construction contracts and specifications of the project.

An Interagency Environmental Review Team, with appropriate agency representation, may be assembled to review environmental compliance in the field, as needed.

These environmental commitments will be implemented to (1) prevent, minimize, or offset the occurrence of potential for adverse environmental effects and (2) ensure compliance with applicable Federal and State regulations designed to protect fish and wildlife resources, important habitats and sensitive areas, cultural and paleontological resources, human health and safety, and the public interest.

General Best Management Practices
Comply with all appropriate Federal, State, and Local laws.
Follow recommended practices for construction, restoration, and maintenance.
Dump grounds, trash piles, and potential hazardous waste sites will be avoided.
Standard construction, industry measures will be taken to minimize fugitive dust emissions during construction activities. Any complaints that may arise will be dealt with in a timely and effective manner.
Equipment would be washed prior to entering the construction site to prevent the spread of noxious and invasive species.
Surface Water and Wetlands
Projects associated with the Proposed Action are required to comply with the Clean Water Act and avoid permanent impacts to isolated wetlands to the extent practicable either through coverage under a Section 404 permit or through an applicable Nationwide Permit.
SD Department of Environment and Natural Resources has surface water quality jurisdiction for waters of the state. SD water quality standards must be met during all phases of proposed construction.
Because BFR is listed for beneficial uses, special construction measures would be taken when working in the reservoir to not violate the 30-day average total suspended solids criterion of 90 ml/L.
A surface water discharge permit may be required for construction dewatering.
Any construction activity that disturbs an area of one or more acres of land must have authorization under the General Permit for Storm Water Discharges associated with Construction Activities.
Woody species including those bordering wetlands, shelterbelts, riparian woodlands, woody draws, or woodland vegetation will be avoided to the extent possible. For unavoidable impacts to woody habitats, replacement plants at a 2:1 ratio of appropriate speciation will be planted.
Erosion control measures will be employed as appropriate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Care will be exercised to preserve existing trees. (b) Stabilization, erosion controls, restoration, and re-vegetation of all streambeds and embankments will be performed as soon as a stream crossing is completed and maintained until stable. Riparian woody shrubs and trees will be replanted where and as necessary to preserve the shading characteristics of the watercourse and the aesthetic nature of the streambank.
Fish and Wildlife Species and Habitat
To the extent possible, construction will avoid: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wetlands - Migratory bird habitats during the nesting brood rearing season (February 1 – July 15)
Construction within 660 feet of visible nesting bald eagles will be avoided from February through August.
If threatened or endangered species are identified and encountered during construction, all ground-disturbing activities in the immediate area will be stopped until Reclamation can consult with the USFWS to determine appropriate steps to avoid impacting the species.
Native prairie will be avoided to the extent possible. However, if native prairie sod must be broken, existing topsoil will be carefully salvaged and replanted with native grasses in a timely manner, with a seed mix recommended by the local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).
Any new signage will be placed in a manner as to not allow raptors to perch by covering the top two holes of the post.

Cultural Resources
The site protection measures outlined in the Section 106 consultation report entitled "A Class I Cultural Resource Inventory for the 2019 Belle Fourche Reservoir Resource Management Plan" written by Justin C. Hammer will be followed.
Continued consultation will occur with the Northern Cheyenne and Northern Arapaho Tribal Historic Preservation Offices in order to make a good faith effort to accommodate requests both tribes made during the initial consultation process. All consultation activities will be documented through the Section 106 process.
If previously undiscovered, unrecorded cultural resources, or unanticipated effects on historic properties are found during project implementation, Reclamation will inform the South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office and consulting Tribes within 48 hours of the discovery, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.13.
Paleontological Resources
Rip-rap activities should be monitored by a professional paleontologist to look for previously undiscovered significant paleontological resources.

Future Modifications and Changes

Major changes or modifications to the proposed action would be addressed through additional NEPA and NHPA compliance.



IN REPLY REFER TO:

DK-5000
2.1.4.17

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Dakotas Area Office
304 East Broadway Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58501

DEC 20 2019

Subject: Notice of Release of a Draft Environmental Assessment for the Draft Belle Fourche Reservoir Resource Management Plan, Butte County, South Dakota

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the implementation of the draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) for Belle Fourche Reservoir (BFR). Reclamation is the lead federal agency responsible for ensuring compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and related federal environmental and cultural resource laws. To ensure that all social, economic, and environmental effects are considered in the development of this plan, Reclamation is seeking your input pursuant to Section 102 (2) (D) (IV) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The draft EA presents the Proposed Action Alternative and evaluates the potential impacts to the human and natural environment associated with the Proposed Action Alternative in comparison with the No Action Alternative.

Reclamation will use this draft EA and any review comments to determine whether the project will have any significant impacts on the human and natural environment. If no significant issues are identified, Reclamation would issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and final EA. If any significant issues are identified, we may consider the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Reclamation defines significance in accordance with 40 CFR 1508.27.

A copy of the draft EA is located at <https://www.usbr.gov/gp/dkao/index.html>. Hardcopies of the draft EA may be obtained by calling Ms. Andrea Gue, Natural Resource Specialist, at (701) 221-1223 or by requesting in writing to: Area Manager, Bureau of Reclamation, 304 E. Broadway Ave, Bismarck, North Dakota, 58501.

We would appreciate your review and comments on the draft EA and draft RMP. The review period will be open until January 20, 2020. Comments may be submitted in writing to: Ms. Andrea Gue, Dakotas Area Office, 304 E Broadway Ave, Bismarck, ND 58501, email ague@usbr.gov, or by calling (701) 221-1223.

Sincerely,

Arden Freitag
Area Manager

INTERIOR REGION 5 • MISSOURI BASIN

KANSAS, MONTANA, NEBRASKA, NORTH DAKOTA, SOUTH DAKOTA

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[EXTERNAL] Belle Fourche Reservoir Reclamation

Mike Rogers <captainmikerogers@gmail.com>

Thu 12/19/2019 5:42 PM

To: Gue, Andrea N <AGue@usbr.gov>

I have reviewed both drafts and can say that I for one support the plans to improve the lake for camping, fishing, and wildlife. I really like the proposal for additional camp sites at Middle Point and Gadens point as well as Golf course and the shore to the North of it.

This lake definitely needs more camp sites that can be reserved. (Getting very hard to get reservations these days) Improved roads and facilities will be a great addition as well as law enforcement. I absolutely love Rocky Point campground and can't wait to have more camp grounds like this.

I strongly support this and so does my family. I have a large family, including mother, father, brothers, aunts, uncle's, and cousins as well as numerous friends that support any kind of improvement at Orman Dam. I might be the only one sending in an email to show my support but I guarantee you have there's as well. So if you need more people that support this and you need to hear there opinion let me know and I'll encourage them to show there support as well.

Sincerely

Mike Rogers

[EXTERNAL] Belle Fourche Reservoir Resource Plan

Charles I. Reid <clreid6249@yahoo.com>

Wed 1/1/2020 2:37 PM

To: Gue, Andrea N <AGue@usbr.gov>

Dear Ms. Gue,

Our biggest concern being next to the reservoir is the extreme fire danger by the heavy amount of grass in this area. In years past grazing was allowed and thus controlled the fire danger .

If there is a better way to control the the over growth in this then this needs to be looked into.

As for now it would be very easy for a fire to get started and be out of control.

Thank you,
Charles Reid

[EXTERNAL] Public Comment / Belle Fourche Reservoir

Joshua Horak <Joshua.Horak@fib.com>

Thu 1/2/2020 5:51 PM

To: Gue, Andrea N <AGue@usbr.gov>

Hello,

As an avid outdoorsman's who has hunted and fished the Orman since 1995, I'd like to express concern over the future management plan. I just ask for you to consider all the hunters that use Orman for antelope hunting, deer hunting, grouse hunting, dove hunting, predator hunting, and rabbit hunting. As you grow the facilities to accommodate more camping, you will be jeopardizing the hunting opportunities and conflicts will grow with camper/hunter relationships. As it is today, there are many times I avoid hunting an area that has a camper out of respect for the camper occupants (not shooting my gun close by early morning hours) etc. This however will become more difficult to do as more camping becomes available and concentrated.

I agree that more police/game warden/sheriff presence is needed badly out there, so please pursue those options first. Too many kids and irresponsible adults abuse the free space and lack of authority.

I'm all for control, but this property is meant to be open to recreation of all kinds – and my concern is you are now going to cater to only campers and focus resources on making this a camping destination.

Please keep the hunting community in mind as you move forward.

Thank you!

Joshua R. Horak

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[EXTERNAL] Belle Fourche Reservoir Management Plan and EA

Ben Rhodd <brhodd1@yahoo.com>

Fri 1/3/2020 5:05 PM

To: Gue, Andrea N <AGue@usbr.gov>

Ms. Gue,

I am in receipt of the announcement of the EA and Management Plan for the Belle Fourche Reservoir. I thank your Office for the information and report as sent.

I do have some concern as to the cultural resources and the criteria used to arrive at the National Register of Historic Places determinations of Not Eligible. I realize from the past communication that testing and Class I research was conducted but am concerned as to the determinations postulated without Tribal concurrence of findings.

In addition to the above, I have stated this before to other federal agencies and I note that even the elected officials were given opportunity to comment under the public scoping invitation. However, the Rosebud Sioux Tribe and all the other relative Tribes are not the public. Therefore, I would suggest that in the future that Section 106 and Section 101 (d)(6)(B) be complied with in its entirety and that an invitation to consult be sent to the Tribal THPO's. If this is not possible then the alternative is our THPO Office's will collectively ask for a government to government consultation with our Tribal Council and President.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment of this undertaking EA and Management Plan.

Sincerely,

Ben Rhodd
Rosebud Sioux Tribe
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer



DEPARTMENT of ENVIRONMENT
and NATURAL RESOURCES

JOE FOSS BUILDING
523 EAST CAPITOL
PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA 57501-3182

denr.sd.gov

January 8, 2020

Andrea Gue
Dakota Area Office
304 E Broadway Ave
Bismarck, ND 58501

RE: Draft Environmental Assessment for the Draft Belle Fourche Reservoir Resource Management Plan, Butte County, South Dakota

Dear Ms. Gue:

The South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Surface Water Quality Program has reviewed the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Draft Belle Fourche Reservoir Resource Management Plan. Based on the information provided, DENR has the following comments:

1. Referring to page 2-10 under the table heading "Surface Water and Wetlands," DENR has surface water quality jurisdiction for waters of the state. The plan doesn't appear to acknowledge that state water quality standards exist and must be met during all phases of any proposed construction.
2. Impacts to tributaries, creeks, wetlands, and lakes should be avoided by this project. These waterbodies are considered waters of the state and are protected under Administrative Rules of South Dakota (ARSD) Chapter 74:51. Special construction measures may have to be taken to ensure that water quality standards are not violated.

The Belle Fourche Reservoir is classified by the South Dakota Surface Water Quality Standards and Uses Assigned to Lakes for the following beneficial uses:

- (4) Warmwater permanent fish life propagation waters;
- (7) Immersion contact recreation waters;
- (8) Limited contact recreation waters;
- (9) Fish and wildlife propagation, recreation, and stock watering waters; and
- (10) Irrigation waters.

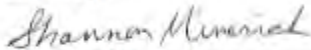
Because of these beneficial uses, special construction measures may have to be taken to ensure that the 30-day average total suspended solids criterion of 90 mg/L is not violated.

3. A Surface Water Discharge permit may be required if any construction dewatering should occur as a result of this project. Please contact this office for more information.

4. At a minimum and regardless of project size, appropriate erosion and sediment control measures must be installed to control the discharge of pollutants from the construction site. Any construction activity that disturbs an area of one or more acres of land must have authorization under the General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activities. Contact the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for additional information or guidance at 1-800-SDSTORM (1-800-737-8676) or <http://denr.sd.gov/des/sw/stormwater.aspx>.

If you have any questions concerning these comments, please contact me by email at Shannon.Minerich@state.sd.us. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Shannon Minerich
Environmental Scientist
Surface Water Quality Program

1/6/2020

Andrea Gue
Bureau of Reclamation - Dakotas Area Office
304 E Broadway Ave
Bismarck, ND 58501
701-221-1223(w) 701-226-9865(c)

Dear Ms. Andrea Gue:

Thank you for your time to look at our requests on Golf Course point at Orman Dam, to provide an area for kiteboarding, windsurfing, etc., and have access for other non-motorized water activities.

The enclosed map is not to scale perfectly because I used my range finder to give you the general needs for kiting. In that purple area we always back our vehicles right next to the road so that we can hook up our lines to our kites and then attach the control bar to the bumpers of the vehicles to self launch. We don't drive around or cause any ruts in this procedure. We have been doing this since 1985 and are very careful and aware of this problem which is created by other vehicles.

It would be great not to have any fencing or posts in the area, like the stakes used for the tree planting that took place last summer. When we launch and land our kites, we are dealing with four 35 meter kite lines. If these long lines tangle, it can definitely cause great bodily harm. The most dangerous aspect of kiting is launching and landing.

Another request we have is to leave this area in its present state of grass. Our kites are made of materials that don't tolerate launching and landing on pavement or gravel. If this area I am referring to was mowed, that would be great. It would help show that this area is specific for our use. Also, an information sign which would be put in a spot close by but not in the way of launching would be beneficial for our needs.

Orman, personally, has provided me many years of enjoyment. I'm 66 years old and I hope to continue my passion for kiteboarding. I would hate to loose our launch site that you have graciously provided free for so many years. I understand that times change with more population but hope we can make this work for all.

Please call or e-mail me for any questions. Thanks again for your time.

Sincerely,
Paul Berry. pberry2674@msn.com
11812 Ranch Rd.
Sturgis, SD. 57785
605-641-4267

DATE		TIME	
1/17/20		10:00	
TO		FROM	
Andrea		Paul Berry	
PROJECT		KITEBOARDING	
FUNDING NO.		701-221-1223	
PROJECT NO.		701-226-9865	

BOR
ID
lary

- dumpsters
- gravel soil

- *Quaternary*

- *fire ring*

:: trees planted by
BLM with stakes

30 yds

120 yds

76 yds

40 yds

35 yds

- *Regulated area
for hitchhiking
& wind surfing*

40 yds east x west

35 yds north x south

Plot 12

[EXTERNAL] Comments on Belle Fourche Reservoir management plan/draft EA

Elizabeth Krueger <ekrueger@rushmore.com>

Sun 1/12/2020 7:09 PM

To: Gue, Andrea N <AGue@usbr.gov>

Greetings,

My family and I have used the land around Orman for recreation for the past 20 years. Early on, we often visited Golf Course Point, Rocky Point, and the area below the dam, but not so much since use increased. We still occasionally use Middle Point but mostly we're out in MUs 5 and 6. Our main activities are hiking with our dogs and birdwatching. We have noticed the damage caused by increased use in areas such as Middle Point and were pleased to see the improvements (road graveling and installation of toilets) out there a few years ago. I'm generally in favor of the proposed actions in the developed areas, though since we don't use them as much, they're not my top concern.

I support the proposed management activities in MUs 5 and 6. I appreciate that they would remain as primitive use areas and that habitat management would occur. Over the years, we have seen the condition of much of the grassland deteriorate due to lack of disturbance. I would rather not see large numbers of cattle in these pastures over a long time or every year, but some grazing and/or burning is definitely needed.

I see that one of the goals for managing this area is to enhance sagebrush habitat (p. 58). A lot of the big sage doesn't seem to be in very good condition, so it would be great to see it protected to some degree from cattle & fire. Some parts of the grassland do have a good species composition with a decent component of natives, and I hope this can be maintained or improved.

Another goal is to enhance woody draws and shoreline trees. When the water level is high, cottonwoods along the shore are often damaged. There are noticeably fewer trees along the shore than there were 20 years ago. Perhaps some tree-planting could occur above the high-water mark.

Finally, I also support the potential for increased law enforcement. We have contacted either the sheriff or SDGFP several times, primarily to turn in license plates of vehicles being used for mud-bogging. We have also seen indications of poaching.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment!

Elizabeth Krueger

Spearfish, South Dakota

1/17/2020

Mail - Gue, Andrea N - Outlook

[EXTERNAL] Draft EA and RMP for Belle Fourche Reservoir

Pagnac, Darrin C. <Darrin.Pagnac@sdsmt.edu>

Thu 1/16/2020 5:06 PM

To: Gue, Andrea N <AGue@usbr.gov>

Ms. Gue,

I am a paleontologist with the Museum of Geology at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City. I am responding to a request for comment and review on the proposed Resource Management Plan for the Belle Fourche Reservoir.

I found the content of the Environmental Assessment regarding the paleontology of the area to be accurate and well-informed. The Greenhorn, Carlile, and Belle Fourche formations are highly productive geologic units regularly producing valuable fossils.

Additionally, based on the Resource Management Plan, as a paleontologist, I would support the proposed actions over the no action plan. While fossil resources are not likely to be impacted by the proposed plan, an increase in the monitoring of fossil-rich sites is always supported by the scientific community.

If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Darrin Pagnac
He/Him/His
Department of Geology & GeolE
South Dakota School of Mines and Technology
501 East Saint Joseph Street
Rapid City, SD 57701
Phone (Office): (605) 394-2469

"Speak useful words or be silent." -- *Hávamál*

[EXTERNAL] Response to Belle Fourche Reservoir Reclamation

ashley . <ashley@modernrepairllc.com>

Wed 1/22/2020 5:08 PM

To: Gue, Andrea N <AGue@usbr.gov>

I have read the article printed in the Black Hill Pioneer on Dec 28, 2019 and I would like to voice my opinion and concerns. I have been camping at Orman Dam my whole life. My parents grew up in Belle Fourche. We have always loved the isolation that the eastside of the lake offers. We have always had dogs and love to take them to a place where we are not required to leave them on a leash. We love the open/ primitive features the lake offers to be able to get away from other people. I do think that there should be limited use for camper trailers on this side of the lake. The westside improvements have been nice but I don't want to see the whole lake commercialized. First come, first serve works well when people aren't parking the campers there for weeks at a time, unoccupied. I also don't want the road to Rattle Snake Point blocked off. I spent many nights under the big trees along that shoreline. I also think that respectful UTV and OTV usage should still be allowed. There are 58 miles of shoreline so there is plenty of room for dirt bikes and four wheelers. Please do not over develop this lake, you will ruin it for the people who have enjoyed it for generations.

Sincerely,

Ashley Harris
Modern Repair, LLC.
510 Heritage Dr. Suite 1
Spearfish, SD 57783
605.642.2580

1/24/2020

Mail - Gue, Andrea N - Outlook

[EXTERNAL] Belle Fourche Reclamation

Mike Magnusson <mike.mag44@yahoo.com>

Wed 1/22/2020 10:37 PM

To: Gue, Andrea N <AGue@usbr.gov>

1 attachments (3 MB)

IMG_3103.JPG;

I am responding to the Belle Fourche Reservoir Reclamation proposal that was in the Black Hills Pioneer. To start, I think it is good the BOR is looking at doing future improvements at the lake. There are other concerns that should be taken into consideration.

ORV:

People need a public place to enjoy there toys, but just eliminating it not solution. Maybe putting up more signs on areas you want people to stay in and lager fines for those abusing or outside of areas.

Unauthorized Road Closures:

I am very concerned about road closures and future restrictions. I use both sides of the north end of lake for deer and waterfowl hunting. More restriction would make it impossible for me to access those area for hunting.

Designated Camp Sites:

The improvement the BOR is proposing for the west side of lake (Gadens, Middle, Rocky Point) which is the most used and the obvious area to focus improvements. The east side of the lake is the more primitive and opens spaces between camping areas. For a person that has been using this lake for many years, I didn't realize that there was such an issue with some of these area. There is a reason people come to this lake, and its for the open spaces, and freedoms it offers. The reason I don't go to other lakes is because of the restrictions and the KOA style of camping. Implementing camping registration, camp host doesn't seem necessary. I didn't realize the BOR was set up for imposing regulation and setting up camp ground. What is the BOR mission statement?

I think it is great BOR is trying to make future improvements at this lake. I am just concerned about how much you will listen to the people and not just implement everything purposed. I was at last years public meeting, some people were open to ideas, but most didn't have a positive response to major changes. Never once is there any mention of improving the lake itself. Why do people go out there? It is to enjoy fishing and recreation! Multiple times in the article it mentioned Law Enforcement. My question is- do you already have agreements with GF&P, Highway Patrol Dept, or BLM on how this will be enforced? Who is going to pay for this extra enforcement?

To quote the article "The plan states that Reclamation's implementation of the plan will be guided by existing and FUTURE laws, EXECUTIVE order, regulations, policies, and guidelines and monitored annually". I find this very disturbing!! BOR already has there minds made up, and will implement rules to fit there agenda. we the people, don't have a say. Most people that enjoy this lake respect it and take better care of it, then some heavy-handed restrictions!

I attached a file. It is a photo of the survey I filled out and it was sent back to me. How many other survey didn't make it to the right destination?

Thanks for your time. I hope there continues to be an open dialogue on future plans for the reservoir.

Jay Leasure
Bureau Of Reclamation
515 Ninth Street
Rapid City, SD57701

18 January 2020

Dear Mr. Leasure,

I recently received the RMP for Belle Fourche Reservoir and would like to add my comments.

I fully support option 2. I would suggest that a concession pad be provided adjacent to the boat ramp area. This pad could be rented by various groups or organizations for fund raising opportunity, kids fishing events, fishing tournaments and other functions. This pad would require electrical power and water.

I was a member of the RMP group in 2001 and watched the progress evolved from those efforts. I also observed the development at Angostura over the years and the fantastic recreation area that has become.

These upgrades to those areas have benefited the public immensely, as would upgrades to other reservoirs, particularly Deerfield Reservoir. This 420-acre reservoir is 75 years old and is over due for some upgrades and management that will benefit all recreational users.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment and look forward to your RMP improvements.

Good Fish'in,

Ken Edel

Ken Edel
20 Anaconda Road
Rapid City, SD 57701
kpedel@midco.net

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[EXTERNAL] Reclamation re: Belle Fourche Reservoir

Maggie Ryan <mags056@hotmail.com>

Thu 1/23/2020 12:25 PM

To: Gue, Andrea N <AGue@usbr.gov>

To Andrea Gue

Re: Comments on proposed plan for Belle Fourche Reservoir

Recreation is growing. Many of us old timers have had campers/tents for generations and been enjoying the reservoir area for many years and many new generations are experiencing it now. Buying a camper is readily available. Recreations needs to be expanded around the lake not restricted now that new generations are purchasing and experiencing the enjoyment of camping and boating and just the pleasure the outdoors gives one. With the plan being proposed for the Belle Fourche Reservoir, the proposal is restricting mostly campers.

Our family has been camping from CC point to Fruitdale point for generations. We have ALWAYS been respectful of the land and fellow campers. When we depart after a weekend of camping, our camp site is always clean before exiting. We are not opposed to fees for camping, use of boat ramps, etc. of which helps with maintenance, law enforcement, improvements etc. Here is our opinion on the ten points.

#1. Management responsibility. No problem, we agree.

#2. Off-road vehicle use. While we understand the point, concessions need to be made for people that do enjoy this recreation activity.

#3. Boat ramps. Do not have issue using boat ramps. More are needed including the East side. But, when a storm rolls in the ramps will become a safety issue and concern as EVERYONE will be trying to get their boat out at the same time. The ramps can not handle an influx on that scale. More ramps are needed. And considerations should one load boat from camp site shore in cases of storms rolling in.

#4. Designated campsites. Designated campsites are fine, but, you need an excessive amount of group camping sites. Families camp together - whole families. Our family and many more that we know, gather on weekends to camp. That number can be anywhere from seven to ten campers. But, the need for enough group sites to accommodate the influx of Holiday weekends is a viable need. While we understand the concern of large groups, the majority are not rowdy. Yes, a few do become that way, the majority do not. Families and friends want to camp together, not be spread out.

#5. Camper registration. No problem, we agree.

#6. Camp host. No problem, we agree.

#7. Hunting in recreation areas. No issue with this proposal so long as you keep what is already deemed for hunting. Do not close off more land on the east side to accommodate for more hunting. Not willing to lose more campsites for more hunting ground. As a hunter, the northwest side that is already closed off for hunting is sufficient enough ground.

#8. Conversion of overnight camping to day use only. DISAGREE with this proposal. The need to expand for overnight camping is greater then the need to close off those sites for day use only. As a third generation of camping at the reservoir and now our children and grandchildren (this is five generations in total) where do we go because you have taken away camping sites. By chocking back on these sites you not only ruin generations of family fun but put a kink in RV sales and every economic part of camping because people don't have a place near by to enjoy a generation of family activity. Expansion for overnight camping should be the focus. The land around the reservoir CAN accommodate more then you are proposing.

#9. Unauthorized road closure and rehabilitation. Maybe the right thing to do is put in a loop road and maybe a couple of day use areas so people can enjoy the wild life area and not make unauthorized roads.

#10. Administrative use only road restrictions and enforcement. Yes, these roads need to be closed off to the general public.

In closing, instead of restricting you need to embrace. Outdoor Recreation continues to grow leaps and bounds, specially with all the RV dealers in the Black Hills area. Families want to be outdoors after a long snowy winter. Families want to gather as one group not be spread out. Orman is a large body and is more then able to accommodate Thousands of families. Our entire family and friends have always respected the rules and the land. Do not ruin the experience for us model campers for the few mistakes of the ones that do not. Charge us, we don't mind paying. This, if managed right, will help to not only maintain but add more law enforcement. Please, do not chock us out.

Thank you for your time in hearing us out.

Sincerely,

Steve and Maggie Ryan
1204 Washington Street
Lead, SD 57754



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

DK-5000-19-01

Final Environmental Assessment for the Final Belle Fourche Resource Management Plan, Belle Fourche Reservoir, South Dakota

**Dakotas Area Office
Bismarck, North Dakota**

Mission Statements

The Department of the Interior (DOI) conserves and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of the American people, provides scientific and other information about natural resources and natural hazards to address societal challenges and create opportunities for the American people, and honors the Nation's trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities to help them prosper.

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

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List of Acronyms and Definitions

Action Area – Based on Reclamation’s assessment of the potential direct and indirect effects of the proposed action to federally listed species (50 CFR 402.02)

APE – Area of Potential Affect

BCC – Birds of Conservation Concern

BFR – Belle Fourche Reservoir

BLM – Bureau of Land Management

CCC – Civilian Conservation Corps

CFR – Code of Federal Regulations

District – Belle Fourche Irrigation District

DKAO – Dakotas Area Office

EA – Environmental Assessment

Environmental Commitments –Commitments included as an inseparable component of the Proposed Action.

ESA – Endangered Species Act of 1973

ESD – Ecological Site Descriptions

IPaC – Information, Planning, and Conservation System

MU – Management Unit

NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act of 1969

NHPA – National Historic Preservation Act

NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Service

NRHP – National Register of Historic Places

ORV – Off Road Vehicle

Proposed Project – The subject of this EA, the proposal of the action alternative for the Belle Fourche Resource Management Plan

Reclamation – U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation

RMP – Resource Management Plan

SCORP – Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

SDGFP – South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks

SDSHPO – South Dakota State Historical Preservation Officer

THPO – Tribal Historic Preservation Officer(s)

User Survey – Belle Fourche Reservoir User Survey

USFWS – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Chapter 1 Introduction and Regulatory Background

Introduction

The Bureau of Reclamation is the federal agency responsible for administering lands and resources associated with Belle Fourche Reservoir (BFR). Reclamation's Dakotas Area Office is preparing a Resource Management Plan (RMP) for BFR.

The purpose of an RMP is to foster proper stewardship of public lands. The RMP would enable managers to make land use and resource management decisions that are consistent with overall management objectives and the needs of the public. It would assist land managers in minimizing conflicts among users, in complying with environmental and cultural resource laws, and in obtaining public support for the management of natural resources. It is intended to guide future development and use of resources while remaining flexible enough to allow resolution of day-to-day operational problems.

The Belle Fourche RMP should achieve the following:

- Identify issues and set forth goals and procedures for managing and administering resources on public lands.
- Establish use levels that protect resources and are compatible with the needs of the public, recognizing that there are legal and policy constraints which limit meeting these needs.
- Identify types of land use development that may be permitted.
- Provide a tool for land managers to assist in the proper administration, development, and management of public lands.

The Belle Fourche Reservoir Resource Management Plan is included in Appendix A.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA); Reclamation is also preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the RMP. This EA evaluates the impacts of one action alternative and a no-action alternative. It is intended to help decision makers determine whether to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or proceed with preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. This EA is programmatic; future site-specific NEPA compliance may be required for some of the actions proposed. This EA does not present alternatives for reservoir water operations or lands within the Belle Fourche Irrigation District (District). There are legal and contractual commitments associated with water operations that are outside of the scope of the EA.

Authority

Title 28 of P.L. 102-575, Section 2805 (106 Statute 4690, Reclamation Recreation Management Act of October 30, 1992) provides Reclamation with authority to prepare RMPs. The act further provides that each RMP shall be consistent with applicable laws (including any applicable

statute, regulation, or Executive Order), shall be developed in consultation with appropriate heads of federal and non-federal departments or agencies, the authorized beneficiaries of any Reclamation project, and with appropriate public participation. Each RMP shall provide for the development, use, conservation, protection, enhancement, and management of resources of Reclamation lands in a manner that is compatible with the authorized purposes.

Reclamation's Recreation Management Policy (LND P04) defines Reclamation's overall responsibilities and establishes the basic principles for planning, development, management, and protection of public recreation resources on Reclamation's lands and waters. One of the principles outlined in this policy is: "Conduct necessary planning studies, research, assessment, and public involvement processes, in conjunction with managing partners where possible, to provide recreation facilities commensurate with public needs and Reclamation responsibilities and objectives".

The Federal Water Project Recreation Act of July 9, 1965 (P.L. 89-72) governs Reclamation's management and appropriations for all reservoirs within their jurisdiction, including Belle Fourche Reservoir. Reclamation's authority for development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat is limited by the provisions of P.L. 89-72. In summary, Section 3 of the Act states that in the absence of a non-federal managing agency, Reclamation may only provide minimum basic facilities. Minimum basic facilities are those required for public health and safety to protect and preserve federal property and the public. These facilities include boat ramps, picnic tables, beach areas, sanitation facilities (vault toilets), parking areas, etc. No cost share is required to construct minimum basic facilities and may include lands administered by managing partners and concessionaires. The intent of P.L. 89-72 is to encourage local agencies to assume management responsibilities for recreation areas on Reclamation lands that do not have a national significance. If no local interests assume management, then Reclamation is strictly limited to providing only minimum facilities for health and safety reasons.

Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

The purpose of this action is to protect and manage lands and resources associated with Belle Fourche Reservoir consistent with the authorized purposes of the reservoir which include irrigation (primary), fish, wildlife and recreation. An EA/RMP was finalized in 2004 for BFR; however, recreational use has increased over the last 15 years. This increase has resulted in the need to provide a new plan to enhance the framework under which Reclamation can continue to work with managing partners to accommodate increasing recreation use, while protecting the natural resources of the reservoir and ensuring public safety. Reclamation currently has management agreements with the District and South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks (SDGFP) for land and recreation management at the reservoir and with Butte County Sheriff's Office and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for law enforcement.

Project Area

BFR is located in Butte County in western South Dakota, northeast of the Black Hills and about 25 miles east of the Wyoming-South Dakota state border (Figure 1). The reservoir is part of the Belle Fourche Unit. It was originally authorized for construction in 1904 as the Belle Fourche Project, one of Reclamation's earliest irrigation projects. The Project was reauthorized as the Belle Fourche Unit of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program in 1983 under Public Law 98-157. This act provided

construction appropriations for rehabilitation and betterment of irrigation facilities, recreation, and fish and wildlife.

The main features of the Unit are the Belle Fourche Diversion Dam, Inlet Canal, Belle Fourche Dam and Reservoir; North and South Canals, laterals, drains, and irrigated acres. The Diversion Dam is located on the Belle Fourche River about 1.5 miles northeast of the city of Belle Fourche, South Dakota. The Inlet Canal carries diverted water to BFR, which is located on Owl Creek, a tributary of the Belle Fourche River. The project area addressed in the EA includes the BFR lands (Figure 1.1), excluding the Diversion Dam. The structural aspects or the operation of the dams, the Inlet Canal, North and South Canals, laterals, drains, and irrigated acres are not addressed in this EA.

The ecoregions of this area include Great Plains (level I), West Central Semi-arid Prairies (level II), Northwestern Great Plains (level III), and Semiarid Pierre Shale Plains (level IV). The Northwestern Great Plains ecoregion is characterized by semi-arid rolling plains with buttes and badlands. Agriculture is limited to spring wheat or alfalfa due to lack of precipitation and limited irrigation opportunities. Shortgrass species such as little bluestem and buffalograss occur frequently in the Semiarid Pierre Shale Plains. (Bryce et al. n.d.).

The annual average temperature for the City of Belle Fourche, SD is approximately 48 °F. December is typically the coldest month with an average temperature of approximately 25 °F and July is typically the warmest month with an average temperature of approximately 74 °F. Annual precipitation averaged 18 inches in Belle Fourche from 1981- 2010. Winter precipitation is highest in December and summer precipitation is highest in May. (NDDC 2011)

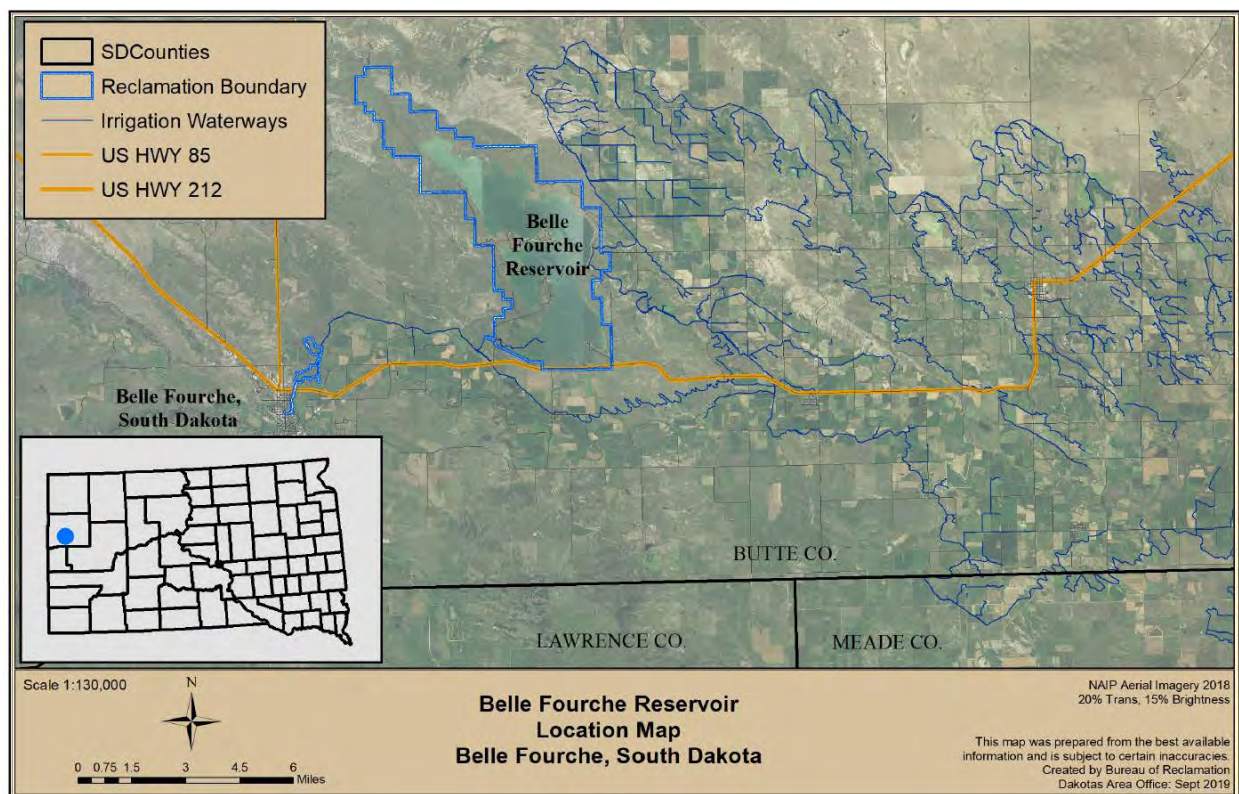


Figure 1.1 Overview of Belle Fourche Reservoir.

Public Involvement

Reclamation organized a variety of public involvement activities to gather data for the RMP process. Reclamation released four newsletters regarding the RMP process and public involvement opportunities. Newsletters were sent to a list of email addresses sourced from camping registration at Rocky Point State Recreation Area in 2017 and to adjacent landowners, Federal, State, County, and local agencies and businesses. This list created contact with over 1,000 recreationists who were invited to complete the Belle Fourche Reservoir User Survey (User Survey). A total of 568 User Surveys were returned to Reclamation, which were used to inform and develop proposed management actions.

In addition to the newsletters and User Survey, Reclamation hosted two informal open houses. The first was at the Belle Fourche Reservoir Warehouse on August 23, 2018, the second was held on May 29, 2019 at the Belle Fourche Community Hall. At the second open house, visitors had the opportunity to review draft management options and provide comments. Twenty-nine comments were received after the second open house. Early public involvement and participation assisted the RMP team by identifying issues and goals that ultimately lead to the development of the Proposed Action Alternative, which is the basis for the Belle Fourche Reservoir Resource Management Plan (Appendix A).

Chapter 2 Proposed Action and Alternatives Considered

No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative allows current management at Belle Fourche Reservoir to continue under the guidance of the 2004 RMP. Changes to the existing management would only occur if a threat to public health and safety or existing facilities occurs. Changes would also occur if mandated by law or new or amended regulations and policy. The objective of this Alternative is to provide a basis of comparison for the impacts of the Proposed Action Alternative.

Recreation Management

SDGFP, Parks Division would continue to manage Rocky Point Recreation Area, in accordance with their applicable procedures and regulations. Reclamation would continue to manage the remaining lands around Belle Fourche Reservoir.

Natural Resource Management

SDGFP, Wildlife Division would continue to manage the Wildlife Management Areas as a Game Production Area below the Dam and continue to manage the reservoir fishery through stocking and fisheries habitat improvements. In addition, under a new agreement to be finalized June of 2020, SDGFP Wildlife Division would manage the Wildlife Management Areas in MU's 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 (shown in Figure 2.1), as Game Production Areas, in accordance with their applicable procedures and regulations. The shelterbelts outside of this area would continue to be maintained by either SDGFP or Reclamation, depending on location. The current boundary fence would continue to be modified to allow for wildlife crossing. Grazing and haying permits are allowed; however, there are no active permits currently.

Recreation Amenities

No new facilities would be proposed in Rocky Point Recreation Area or the remaining lands that was not covered in the 2004 RMP. See Figure 2.1 for a list and map of existing facilities at BFR. Camping would continue to be prohibited in the Game Production Area below the dam. A 14-day camping time limit consistent with SDGFP regulations would be in force on Rocky Point Recreation Area. A 14-day camping time limit consistent with Reclamations regulations would be in force on all lands, excluding the Administrative Areas and Game Production Areas. Camping is not allowed in the Administrative Areas or the Game Production Areas.

Fees

There would be no fees for use of the reservoir, outside of Rocky Point Recreation Area.

Road System

All roads would be either graveled or unimproved. SDGFP would maintain the asphalt road between the Inlet Canal Bridge and Rocky Point. Reclamation would continue to maintain 13 miles of gravels roads accessing the recreation areas.

Law Enforcement

SDGFP would provide law enforcement within the Rocky Point Recreation Area according to regulations. State conservation officers would continue to enforce hunting, fishing, and boating regulations. The BLM and Butte County Sheriff's Office would continue to provide law enforcement on all reservoir lands including Rocky Point through a cooperative agreement with Reclamation.

Sanitation/Litter

Dumpsters and vault toilets would be located only in the southern half of the reservoir lands. New sanitary facilities consisting of vault toilets or dumpsters may be added as identified in the 2004 RMP.

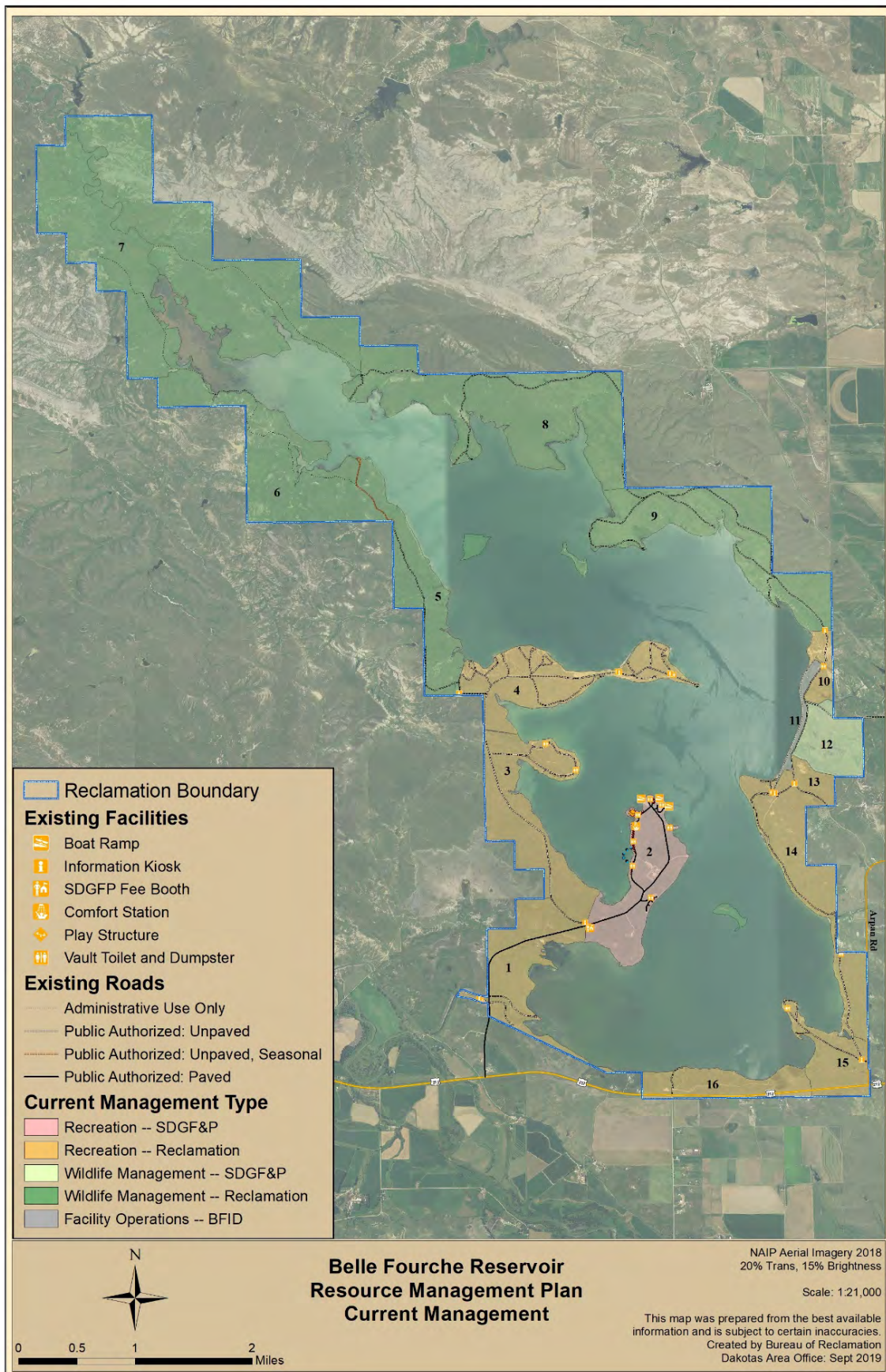


Figure 2.1 Current Management and Facilities at BFR

Proposed Action Alternative

The Proposed Action Alternative would provide for maximum protection and enhancement of natural resources and the scenic qualities of the reservoir, while providing both developed and primitive recreation opportunities. To review the Belle Fourche Reservoir Resource Management Plan, please see Appendix A. This Alternative was designed to address several issues raised by Reclamation, SDGFP, and the interested public, while considering Reclamation's limited authority to manage for recreation. This Alternative would be implemented under an agreement with one or more managing partners. If a managing partner were not available to manage lands outside of Rocky Point and the Game Production Area south of the dam, Reclamation would provide oversight for the remainder of the lands. Because of Reclamation's limited ability to manage for recreation, only recreation improvements justifiable under public health and safety purposes would be allowed. Specific locations and design of proposed facilities would be determined as funds become available and would likely require site-specific NEPA. The proposed facilities are listed in Table 2.2. Proposed facilities and management are shown in Figure 2.2.

Recreation Management

SDGFP, Parks Division would continue to manage Rocky Point Recreation Area. Reclamation would continue to manage the remaining recreation lands around Belle Fourche Reservoir, unless and until a managing partner agreement was in place. Enforcement of the current camping rule which requires all campers to camp in a designated campsite. A new rule will require campers to register to camp. Inlet Canal, Fruitdale Area, and CCC Point will be closed to camping. Only day uses will be allowed in these areas. The designated ORV area would be eliminated, trails would be reclaimed with a native seeding, and SDGFP would manage as a Wildlife Management Area.

Natural Resource Management

SDGFP, Wildlife Division would continue to manage the Wildlife Management Area as a Game Production Area near the Dam (MU 8) and continue to manage the reservoir fishery through stocking and fisheries habitat improvements. In addition, under a new agreement to be finalized June of 2020, SDGFP Wildlife Division would manage the Wildlife Management Areas in MU's 5, 6, and 7 (shown in Figure 2.2), as Game Production Areas, in accordance with their applicable procedures and regulations. The shelterbelts outside of this area would continue to be maintained by either SDGFP or Reclamation, depending on location. Wildlife friendly fence conversion would occur where necessary to provide habitat connectivity for ungulates. Grazing and haying permittees will be actively pursued by SDGFP in the Wildlife Management Areas. New pastures and rotation schedules would be developed by SDGFP and approved by Reclamation. Active wildlife habitat management through the planting of food plots would be planned and conducted by SDGFP, with Reclamation approval. Prescribed fire would follow the guidance provided in Reclamations South Dakota Fire Management Plan. Camping would continue to be prohibited on all Wildlife Management Areas managed as Game Production Areas.

Recreation Amenities

New recreation facilities would be developed around the reservoir, along with improvements and enhancements to existing facilities. Facilities requiring a managing partner are proposed for Rocky Point Recreation Area, Gaden's Point, and Middle Point. These facilities include playgrounds, comfort stations, and group shelters. Improvements to camping facilities would occur in the developed recreation areas including Rocky Point Recreation Area, Gaden's Point, Middle Point, Golf Course Point, and Bird Island View. Reclamation is proposing to designate 164 campsites, with 18 of them being group camp pods. Without a managing partner, Reclamation may only provide minimum basic facilities that are required for public health and safety such as designated camp sites

with a fire ring and picnic table, and vault toilets. Camper self-registration stations will be installed on Reclamation managed areas. To help manage the new designated camping, camp hosts will be recruited beginning in 2020. Camp hosts will be placed on one or more of Reclamation's managed recreation areas. See Table 2.1 and Figure 2.2 for proposed locations of the proposed amenities.

Fees

In the event a new managing partner agreement is negotiated with an entity, fees would be implemented in accordance with their rules and regulations. Fees would continue to be implemented on Rocky Point Recreation Area. Fees are not proposed to be implemented on Reclamation managed areas.

Road System

Road improvements and new roads are proposed around the reservoir for access to fishing, campsites, and other recreation facilities. See Figure 2.3 and Table 2.1 for locations. SDGFP would continue to maintain the asphalt road between the Inlet Canal Bridge and Rocky Point Recreation Area. The road to Gaden's Point and all remaining roads would be minimally maintained to prevent erosion and damage to existing facilities. Roads may be paved in the future as funds become available for both road improvement and maintenance, with priority given to Suzie Peak road to Gaden's Point.

Law Enforcement

SDGFP would provide law enforcement within the Rocky Point Recreation Area and the Game Production Areas according to regulations. State conservation officers would continue to enforce hunting, fishing, and boating regulations. The BLM and Butte County Sheriff's Office would continue to provide law enforcement on all reservoir lands including Rocky Point through a cooperative agreement with Reclamation. To aid in law enforcement, security cameras may be installed at certain areas.

Sanitation/Litter

New sanitary facilities including dumpsters and vault toilets would be provided at multiple areas around the reservoir. See Table 2.1 and Figure 2.2 for locations.

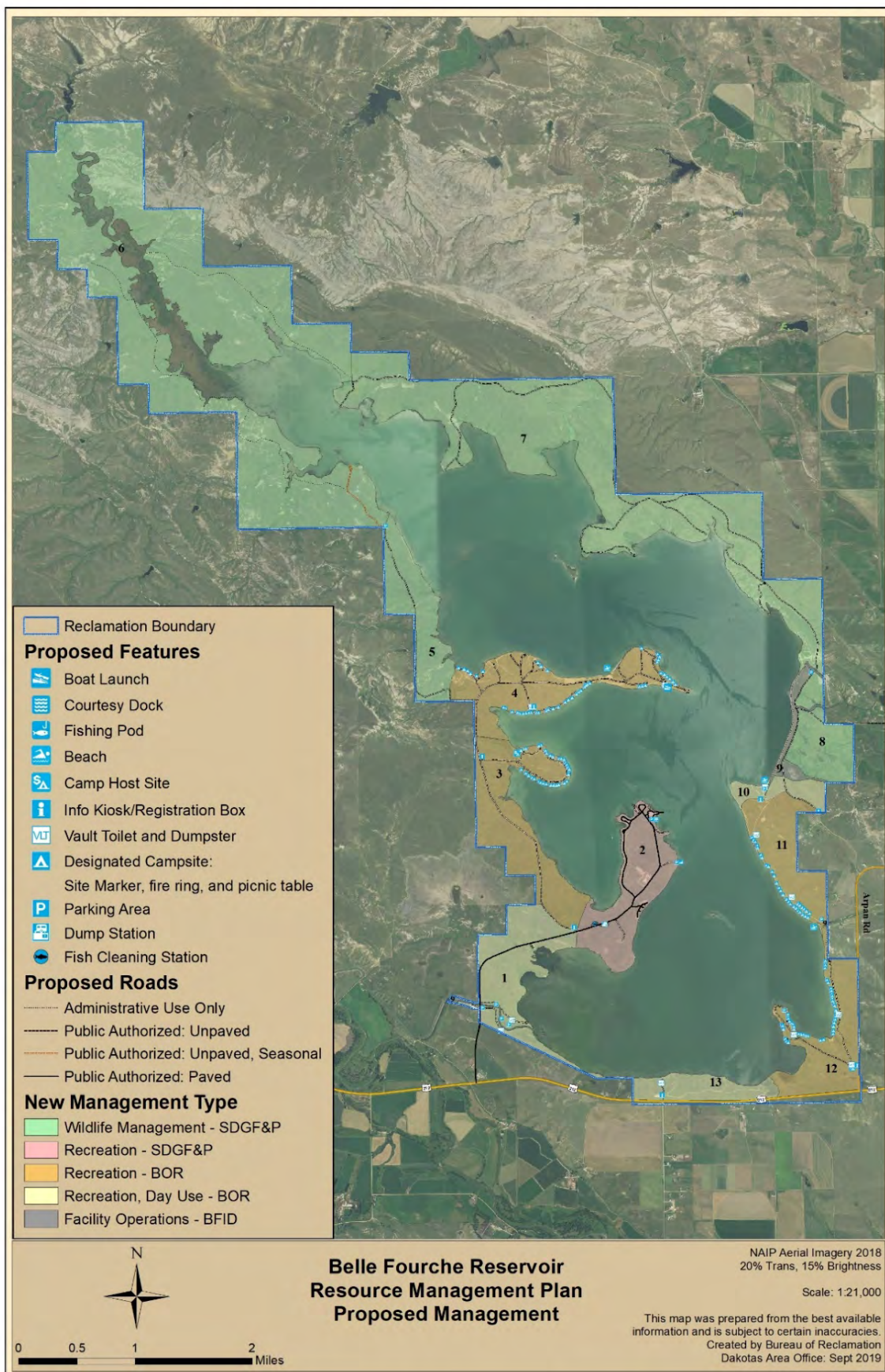


Figure 2.2 Proposed Facilities and Management

MU Name Number Use Proposed Managing Entity	Enhanced Recreation Development		
	Note: Projects marked with an * have been approved for funding. Project in red require a managing partner to accomplish		
Inlet Canal	Convert from camping to day use	Install 2 new vault toilets	
MU 1	Improve shore fishing access	Create fishing access parking	
Proposed Day Use	Install new fishing access road		
Reclamation	Install trash receptacles		
	Improve fishing access to drop structure		
Rocky Point Recreation Area	Expand boat ramp parking lot	Install courtesy dock	
MU 2	Plant 50-100 trees/yr and irrigation	Expand shore fishing parking lot	
Overnight Use	Improve fish cleaning station	Expand/Improve RV dump station	
SDGFP	Install fish cleaning station vault toilet	Construct shore fishing pod	
Middle Point	Construct camper registration station	Install potable water to camp host site	Install electricity to campsites
MU 3	Construct camp host site	Designate 38 campsites	Install water spigots
Overnight Use	Provide 38 picnic tables	Install 2 new vault toilets	
Reclamation	Provide 38 fire rings	3 additional garbage dumpsters	
	*Stabilize 1,250' of shoreline	Construct new day use area with group shelter	
	*Improve shore fishing access	Construct comfort station	
Gaden's Point	Construct camper registration station	Designate 64 campsites	Install electricity to campsites
MU 4	Tree plantings	Construct playground	Install water spigots
Overnight Use	Provide 64 picnic tables (one for each campsite)	Unauthorized road closure and rehabilitation	*New access road
Reclamation	Provide 64 fire rings (one for each campsite)	Expand Tequila Beach parking area	*New Parking area
	4 new garbage dumpsters	Construct group shelter at Tequila Beach	*New Rip-rap
	Install 4 new vault toilets	Construct comfort station	*Install 1 vault toilet
	*New boat ramp	Add group shelter to day use area	
West Wildlife Management Area	SDGFP manage	Enhance wetland/riparian areas	Use of prescribed fire
MU 5	Prohibit access on unauthorized trails	Construct/improve 2 new fishing access roads	Reclaim unauthorized trails
Day Use	Construct firebreak around boundary	Gravel all authorized roads	Prescribed grazing
Reclamation	Convert boundary fence to wildlife-friendly fence	Culvert installation on roads where needed	Plant foodplots
North Wildlife Management Area	SDGFP manage	Use of Prescribed fire	
MU 6	Construct firebreak around boundary	Plant foodplots	
Day Use	Convert boundary fence to wildlife-friendly fence		
Reclamation	Prescribed grazing		
	Reclaim ORV trails and seed with native grass		
East Wildlife Management Area	Eliminate ORV designation and use	Gravel all authorized roads	Plant foodplots
MU 7	SDGFP manage	Construct new road to Hippie Hole overlook	Prescribed grazing
Day Use	Restrict public parking on north dam area	Reclaim ORV trails and seed with native grass	Use of prescribed fire
Reclamation	Convert boundary fence to wildlife-friendly fence	Construct firebreak around boundary	Remove cattle guard
	Prohibit access and reclaim unauthorized trails	Provide BLM vehicular access to BLM lands	

MU Name Number Use Proposed Managing Entity	Enhanced Recreation Development Note: Projects marked with an * have been approved for funding. Project in red require a managing partner to accomplish		
Game Production Area MU 8 Day Use SDGFP	Boundary fence improvements		
Belle Fourche Dam MU 9 Administrative/Operations Reclamation and District	Administrative Road parking restrictions Modify operations area boundary Add/Improve fishing parking area access Additional management responsibility		
CCC Point MU 10 Proposed Day Use Reclamation	Convert from overnight to day use area Construct 1 new vault toilet Implement Orman Dam parking restrictions Construct new road to South Dam Beach Construct parking area		
Bird Island View MU 11 Overnight Use Reclamation	Construct camper registration station Mow hiking trail from the south Internal Fence removal Designate 26 non-utility campsites Unauthorized road closure and rehabilitation New road access with gravel pullouts Install 3 new vault toilets Provide 26 fire rings Tree Plantings Provide 26 picnic tables Provide 3 additional garbage dumpsters		
Golf Course Point MU 12 Overnight Use Reclamation	Construct camper registration station Install potable water to camp host site Construct camp host site Designate 36 non-utility campsites Hire camp host Install 2 camp loop roads Provide 36 picnic tables at each campsite Add Gravel pullouts to existing road Provide 36 fire rings at each campsite Non-motorized watercraft parking area Install 3 new vault toilets 3 new dumpsters		
Fruitdale Area MU 13 Proposed Day Use Reclamation	Convert from overnight to day use area Improve authorized road Construct 1 new vault toilet Construct 4 new fishing access roads Provide garbage dumpster		

Table 2.1 Proposed Facilities and Management Changes

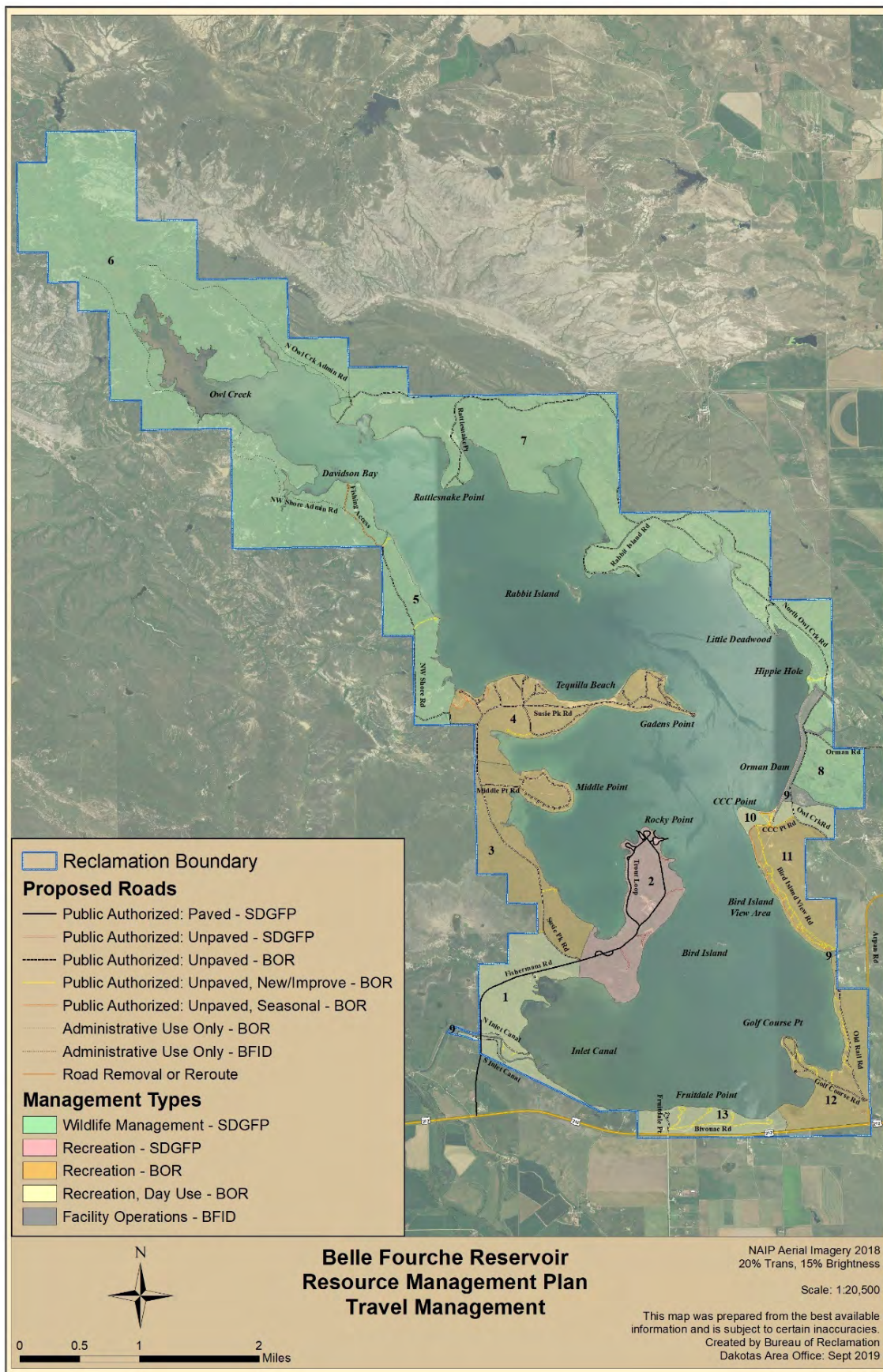


Figure 2.3 Proposed Road Improvements and Changes

Environmental Commitments for Proposed Action Alternative

The commitments below in Table 2.2 are an integral and inseparable part of the Proposed Action Alternative. These environmental commitments would be implemented to 1. Prevent, minimize, or offset the occurrence of or potential for adverse environmental effects and 2. Ensure compliance with applicable Federal and State regulations designed to protect fish and wildlife resources, important habitats and sensitive areas, cultural and paleontological resources, human health and safety, and the public interest.

General Best Management Practices	
Comply with all appropriate Federal, State, and Local laws.	
Follow recommended practices for construction, restoration, and maintenance.	
Dump grounds, trash piles, and potential hazardous waste sites will be avoided.	
Standard construction, industry measures will be taken to minimize fugitive dust emissions during construction activities. Any complaints that may arise will be dealt with in a timely and effective manner.	
Equipment would be washed prior to entering the construction site to prevent the spread of noxious and invasive species.	
Surface Water and Wetlands	
Projects associated with the Proposed Action are required to comply with the Clean Water Act and avoid permanent impacts to isolated wetlands to the extent practicable either through coverage under a Section 404 permit or through an applicable Nationwide Permit.	
SD Department of Environment and Natural Resources has surface water quality jurisdiction for waters of the state. SD water quality standards must be met during all phases of proposed construction.	
Because BFR is listed for beneficial uses, special construction measures would be taken when working in the reservoir to not violate the 30-day average total suspended solids criterion of 90 ml/L.	
A surface water discharge permit may be required for construction dewatering.	
Any construction activity that disturbs an area of one or more acres of land must have authorization under the General Permit for Storm Water Discharges associated with Construction Activities.	
Woody species including those bordering wetlands, shelterbelts, riparian woodlands, woody draws, or woodland vegetation will be avoided to the extent possible. For unavoidable impacts to woody habitats, replacement plants at a 2:1 ratio of appropriate speciation will be planted.	
Erosion control measures will be employed as appropriate: (a) Care will be exercised to preserve existing trees. (b) Stabilization, erosion controls, restoration, and re-vegetation of all streambeds and embankments will be performed as soon as a stream crossing is completed and maintained until stable.	
Riparian woody shrubs and trees will be replanted where and as necessary to preserve the shading characteristics of the watercourse and the aesthetic nature of the streambank.	
Fish and Wildlife Species and Habitat	
To the extent possible, construction will avoid: - Wetlands - Migratory bird habitats during the nesting brood rearing season (February 1 – July 15)	
Construction within 660 feet of visible nesting bald eagles will be avoided from February through August.	
If threatened or endangered species are identified and encountered during construction, all ground-disturbing activities in the immediate area will be stopped until Reclamation can consult with the USFWS to determine appropriate steps to avoid impacting the species.	
Native prairie will be avoided to the extent possible. However, if native prairie sod must be broken, existing topsoil will be carefully salvaged and replanted with native grasses in a timely manner, with a seed mix recommended by the local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).	

Any new signage will be placed in a manner as to not allow raptors to perch by covering the top two holes of the post.

Cultural Resources

The site protection measures outlined in the Section 106 consultation report entitled "A Class I Cultural Resource Inventory for the 2019 Belle Fourche Reservoir Resource Management Plan" written by Justin C. Hammer will be followed.

Continued consultation will occur with the Northern Cheyenne and Northern Arapaho Tribal Historic Preservation Offices in order to make a good faith effort to accommodate requests both tribes made during the initial consultation process. All consultation activities will be documented through the Section 106 process.

If previously undiscovered, unrecorded cultural resources, or unanticipated effects on historic properties are found during project implementation, Reclamation will inform the South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office and consulting Tribes within 48 hours of the discovery, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.13.

Paleontological Resources

Rip-rap activities should be monitored by a professional paleontologist to look for previously undiscovered significant paleontological resources.

Table 2.2 Environmental Commitments the Proposed Action

Chapter 3 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

Introduction

This section describes the existing conditions and potential environmental impacts for resources that may be affected by the Proposed Project. The affected environment includes the existing communities, land, water, and air-sheds that might be affected by the Proposed Project. Environmental impacts include: indirect (generally subsequent to a direct effect but not directly resulting from Proposed Action), positive (beneficial) or negative (adverse), and long term (permanent, long-lasting) or short term (temporary). Measures that would be implemented to reduce, minimize, or eliminate impacts (environmental commitments) were presented in Chapter 2 as an inseparable part of the Proposed Action, and are discussed under each resource.

The area of potential impacts (affected area) would be resource-specific and is defined in each individual resource discussion. The boundary of the affected area for each resource extends to where effects can be reasonably and meaningfully measured. Direct impacts would generally occur within the Project Area. However, some impacts may occur on a broader scale, encompassing an area beyond the Project Area. Impacts that may extend beyond the Project Area are disclosed in the environmental consequences section of each resource.

This Section will address the effects of the No Action, the Proposed Action, and Cumulative Effects, for the following resources: geology and paleontological; soils and minerals; recreation resources; vegetation; wildlife; threatened and endangered species; and cultural resources.

Resource Areas Considered and Eliminated from Further Analysis

Considering Reclamation's environmental commitments, and in response to comments received from the scoping notice and public involvement described in Chapter 1, the Proposed Action would have no potential to affect certain resource areas or its affect to certain resource areas is so minor (negligible) that it was not evaluated further in this document. These resources areas include water resources; fisheries; environmental justice; socioeconomics; air quality; visual resources; climate change; noise; and Indian Trust Assets (Table 3.1).

Resource	Rationale for Elimination from Further Analysis
Water Resources	The Proposed Action Alternative would result in no impacts to water resources.
Fisheries	Fishery management would remain unchanged under the Proposed Action Alternative.
Environmental Justice	No Environmental Justice population has been identified that would disproportionately bear impacts of the Proposed Action Alternative.
Socioeconomics	The Proposed Action Alternative could result in beneficial impacts to the local community through an increase in construction, recreation, and retail job opportunities, as well as a potential increase in visitors to the area.

Resource	Rationale for Elimination from Further Analysis
Air Quality	Application of standard construction, industry measures would be taken to minimize fugitive dust emissions during any construction activities associated with the Proposed Action Alternative
Visual Resources	Any above-ground features would result in minimal permanent impact from the Proposed Action Alternative.
Climate Change	The Proposed Action Alternative would not increase greenhouse gas emissions, nor would climate change affect the Proposed Action Alternative.
Noise	The Proposed Action Alternative could have a beneficial impact on noise in the Project Area due to the elimination of the ORV area.
Indian Trust Assets	The Proposed Action Alternative would not affect Indian Trust Assets including land, minerals, timber, ethnobotanical resources, hunting and fishing rights, water rights, and in-stream flows.

Table 3.1 Resources Eliminated from Further Analysis

Geologic and Paleontological Resources

Affected Environment

Paleontological resources are defined as any fossilized remains, traces, or imprints of organisms, preserved in or on the earth's crust. Paleontological Resources are protected under the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act of 2009. The act outlines the importance of paleontological resources located on Federal lands as well as outlines criminal penalties for the unauthorized removal of resources from federal lands.

BFR is located on the northern flank of the Black Hills and is entirely contained in the Whitewood Anticline (Bell et al, 1996). The anticlinal (upward) fold has exposed several very thick Cretaceous period (formed 66.5 to 145.5 million years ago) geologic formations. The formations consist of sediments deposited as a rich organic mud in a shallow sea that once extended from the Gulf of Mexico to the Arctic Ocean. The huge inland sea provided a niche for many forms of marine life. As the sea levels dropped and new landforms were exposed, they became suitable habitat for many kinds of terrestrial plants and animals.

At BFR, paleontological resources are entirely located within the Belle Fourche, Greenhorn, and Carlile geologic formations. The Belle Fourche Shale represents the lowest and oldest deposit out of the three. The formation is identified as a dark gray, non-calcareous shale containing many white, and orange weathering bentonite beds (Bell, 1996). The majority of the southern half of the reservoir is represented by the Belle Fourche Formation with excellent visible outcrops located along different sections of shoreline. A variety of marine life including both vertebrate and invertebrate fossils have been documented eroding out of the Belle Fourche formation along the reservoir's shoreline.

The Greenhorn formation is deposited above the Belle Fourche formation and consists of thin beds of buff-colored calcareous shale, marl, calcarenite, and limestone with thick beds of bluish gray marl and calcareous shale (Bell, 1996). Much of the northern portion of the BFR is represented by the Greenhorn formation with fossiliferous outcrops visible along the shoreline. Like the Belle Fourche Formation, a wide variety of vertebrate and invertebrate fossils have been documented within the Greenhorn at Belle Fourche.

The Carlile Shale formation overlays the Greenhorn formation and is the most recently deposited out of the three fossil bearing formations. The Carlile is divided into three lithological distinct packages of rock including the Pool Creek Member, the Turner Sandy Member, and the Sage Breaks Member. At Belle Fourche, the Pool Creek outcrops are composed of dark gray, silty, non-calcareous shale located on the south shore in the northwestern part of the reservoir and at a variety of points along the northern shoreline. The Turner Sandy Member is visible along the north shore and in drainages located around the reservoir. The Sage Breaks Member is visible on hillsides and in drainages in the extreme northwestern portion of BFR lands. A variety of vertebrate and invertebrate fossils have been observed in all three members.

Other geomorphic formations at the reservoir include Quaternary river terraces formed by the lateral migration of the Belle Fourche River. Minor accumulations of more recent sediments are present in low-lying areas and in backwaters and tributary drainages.

The first published descriptions of paleontological resources at BFR resulted from field surveys conducted by Bruno Petsch (1949) and William Cobban (1951). Since 1996, a variety of paleontological surveys have occurred at BFR that have led to the recording of a variety of paleontological site locales. Surveys have been completed by the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology Museum of Geology, by a variety of individual academic paleontologists, and by Reclamation staff as a part of project planning. In addition, a variety of significant fossils resources have been reported to Reclamation by members of public. Outcrops of Late Cretaceous rocks at the reservoir and the surrounding area are likely to contain significant fossil resources. These fossils can yield information about species population, distribution, reproduction, habitat, and can provide critical information about the climate.

Environmental Effects of the Proposed Action Alternative

Most proposed activities under the proposed action would not impact outcrops of fossiliferous Late Cretaceous bedrock. Paleontological surveys were previously completed for approved projects, including the boat ramp installation on Gaden's Point. Proposed activities with the potential to impact fossiliferous bedrock are minimal except for potential future riprap work. Those activities should be monitored by a professional paleontologist to look for previously undiscovered significant paleontological resources.

Some proposals under the proposed action may have a beneficial impact on paleontological resources. By moving future recreation activities primarily to established campsites and day use areas, high density fossiliferous shorelines where collection and damage have occurred in the past may see less damage and collection in the future.

Environmental Effects of the No Action Alternative

Paleontological resources would see minimal impacts under the No Action Alternative. Future collection and damage may continue to occur due to recreation activities including camping along fossiliferous shorelines.

Soils and Minerals

Affected Environment

Soil Descriptions

Web Soil Survey (NRCS 2017) identified 32 map units of dominant soil classes across BFR. These soils were reviewed for limitations in regard to land uses at BFR including recreational developments, farmland classification, and general site degradation susceptibility (Table 3.2).

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres	Percent
PeE	Enning silty clay loam, 6 to 25 percent slopes	1345.9	19.8
PmD	Enning-Minnequa silty clay loams, 3 to 15 percent slopes	982.9	14.4
MrD	Midway-Razor silty clay loams, 3 to 15 percent slopes	815.9	12.0
McB	Manvel silty clay loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	598.3	8.8
MoE	Midway silty clay loam, 6 to 25 percent slopes	548.1	8.1
AsA	Arvada-Slickspots complex, 0 to 3 percent slopes	521.2	7.7
Sg	Shale land	433.7	6.4
BaB	Baca silty clay loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	244.0	3.6
KIA	Kyle clay, 0 to 2 percent slopes	222.7	3.3
Sr	Stetter clay, 0 to 3 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	155.2	2.3
GrE	Grummit clay, 3 to 25 percent slopes	150.8	2.2
HeA	Haverson loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, rarely flooded	87.5	1.3
BmB	Bidman loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	83.6	1.2
BtB	Broadhurst clay, 0 to 6 percent slopes	72.3	1.1
Sv	Swanboy-Slickspots complex, 0 to 3 percent slopes	65.7	1.0

Table 3.2 15 Soil Map Units at BFR (Soils <1% not included)

Ratings for recreation development including playgrounds, camping and picnic areas, off-road vehicle trails, hiking paths and trails, are based on the soil properties that affect development, erodibility, trafficability, dustiness, and the ease of revegetation, and performance of the site (Table 3.3). A multitude of soil properties are used in the development of these ratings, including, slope, stoniness, depth to bedrock or a cemented pan, texture of the surface layer, depth to a water table, ponding, flooding, saturated hydraulic conductivity, large stones, and toxic substances in the soil. Soils are rated on a scale from not limited, somewhat limited, to very limited. Not rated areas include those consisting mainly of rock. None of the soils at BFR are listed as not limited to recreational developments, all soils are somewhat or very limited, or not rated. "Somewhat limited" indicates that the soil has limitations that can be minimized or overcome through planning and design; moderate maintenance can be expected. "Very limited" indicates that the soil has limitations that potentially cannot be overcome without major soil reclamation, special design, or expensive installation procedures; high maintenance can be expected. See Table 3.3 below for a summary of acres of limitations for recreation developments.

Recreation Developments		
Paths and Trails	Acres	Percent
Not rated	433.70	6
Somewhat Limited	6,316.40	93
Very Limited	56.60	1

Camp Areas		
Not rated	433.70	6
Somewhat Limited	1,478.00	22
Very Limited	4,895.00	72
Picnic Areas		
Not rated	433.70	6
Somewhat Limited	6,335.00	93
Very Limited	38.00	1
Playgrounds		
Not rated	433.70	6
Somewhat Limited	1,707.30	25
Very Limited	4,665.70	69
Off-Road Trails		
Not rated	433.70	6
Somewhat limited	6,335.00	93
Very limited	38.00	1

Table 3.3 Soil limitations for recreation development

Approximately 30% of BFR lands are classified as farmland of statewide importance (21%) or prime farmland if irrigated (9%) (Table 3.4). This land includes areas identified at the state level that contain soils that produce high yields of crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods. While they are not classified as prime farmlands, they contain similar characteristics to prime farmlands.

Farmland Classification	Acres	Percent
Not prime farmland	4,762.0	70
Farmland of Statewide Importance	1,404.2	21
Prime Farmland if irrigated	640.6	9

Table 3.4 Prime farmland classification at BFR lands

Ratings for site degradation susceptibility represent the relative risk of water and wind erosion, salinization, sodification, organic matter and nutrient depletion and/or redistribution, and loss of adequate rooting depth to maintain desired plant communities. This rating is used to protect vulnerable sites from erosion, reduction in water and air quality, and invasion by noxious weeds, which could result in large-scale native plant community conversions. Ratings range from slightly, moderately, to highly susceptible. A majority of BFR lands are moderately susceptible to degradation. See Table 3.5 for a summary of acres of site degradation susceptibility at BFR.

Site Degradation Potential	Acres	Percent
Slightly Susceptible	478.1	7
Moderately Susceptible	5,272.2	77
Highly Susceptible	1,056.4	16

Table 3.5 Site degradation susceptibility on BFR lands

The soils around the reservoir are subject to bank erosion when water levels are high. This process has been occurring on the reservoir since its construction. Eroded banks on the reservoir shore vary from one to 33 feet in height, most are between one to five feet in height. Eroded banks of 6 to 20 feet in height are generally found on the east side of the reservoir between Belle Fourche Dam and

Rabbit Island, on CCC Point, Golf Course Point, and Gaden's Point. The greatest concentrations of banks between 21 to 33 feet in height are found on CCC Point and Gaden's Point and directly north of the Belle Fourche Dam. These eroded banks limit the potential for shoreline development and impact shoreline trails in these areas. They also pose a safety hazard to motorists and shoreline users. Guardrails and warning signs have been placed at the highest banks. Erosion also occurs at primitive campsites and roads along the shoreline. Erosion of roads, trails, campsites, and user made boat launches has occurred at various locations around the reservoir.

Reclamation reserves all rights for minerals, oil, and gas in any lease or permit agreements at the reservoir. There are no active mineral, oil, or gas leases at the current time. Exploration for oil and gas has occurred at the reservoir under previous leases, most recently in the late 1970s and early 1980s, yet extraction of these resources did not occur. There is a ridge of unconsolidated gravel located within the Grummit Shale Land at the south end of the reservoir.

Environmental Effects of the Proposed Action Alternative

The Proposed Action Alternative includes recreation developments and wildlife habitat improvements across BFR lands that have the potential to impact soils. New recreation developments including camp sites, picnic tables, vault toilets, and playgrounds and their subsequent use have the potential to degrade the soils and vegetation. Sites for new recreation developments would be reviewed prior to initiating construction to avoid soils with severe limitations. Proposed road improvements would decrease current erosion and soil damage that occurs when recreationists drive off roads in poor condition to avoid potholes or other safety hazards. Closure of the OHV area would decrease the amount of erosion and soil degradation and allow for a restoration plan to return the area to a Wildlife Management Area. Limitations of the soils would be considered when determining potential locations of foodplots for wildlife habitat improvements to ensure success of the foodplot and not degrade the soils.

Environmental Effects of the No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would have no new impacts to soils. Erosion and soil degradation would continue to be a concern in the OHV area and roads that currently receive minimal maintenance.

Recreation Resources

Affected Environment

BFR is a large prairie reservoir that provides a variety of views and landscapes. The reservoir offers views of the large expanses of undulating prairie and buttes that lie north of the reservoir. To the south, there are panoramic views of the Black Hills. The land surrounding the reservoir varies from steep, rocky hills to gentle slopes and grassy meadows. The few trees are concentrated on the shoreline, near wetlands, or in planted shelterbelts. There are numerous small drainages that dissect the hillsides and support shrubs that provide cover for wildlife and visual diversity. Generally, the southern half of the reservoir has more level terrain, more roads, and more visitor use. The northern half of the reservoir is a more remote landscape with few roads, consisting of rocky hills and exposures of shale with sparse vegetation. Much of the approximately eight-mile long reservoir is oriented in a north-south direction, except for the upper portion, which is oriented northwest. The prevailing northwest winds often allow sudden, sizable waves to develop on the reservoir. Southeast winds also occur, but less frequently. The shoreline is level, except for steep banks that have developed as a result of wave action. When water levels are down, there are broad beaches around much of the reservoir. The soil on many of these beaches is heavy clay, derived from the underlying shale.

Facilities and Roads

The reservoir has a fully developed Recreation Area at Rocky Point, and minimal developments elsewhere around the reservoir. The existing facilities can be viewed in Figure 2.2, Chapter 2. Improved gravel roads were constructed on some of the reservoir lands in the 1970s and the road to Rocky Point Recreation area is paved. The remaining roads are unimproved and have developed gradually over the years, although some maintenance such as re-graveling, rock crossings and culvert installation has occurred. The improved paved roads are located on the:

- West side of the reservoir from U.S. Highway 212 to the Rocky Point Lakeside Use Area.

The improved gravel roads are located on the:

- West side of the reservoir from Rocky Point Lakeside Use area to Middle Point and to the end of Gaden's Point.
- East side of the reservoir from Arpan Road to Golf Course Road, Old Rail Road, Owl Creek Road, to North Owl Creek Road.

These roads are difficult to maintain because of the soil types around the reservoir. They often become rutted during rainy weather, leading drivers to drive off the roadbed to detour around the ruts. This damages vegetation and causes erosion. Roads and other infrastructure are shown in Figure 2.4 in Chapter 2.

Visitation and Use Patterns

Visitation records for Rocky Point Recreation Area show an overall increase in visitation at the reservoir over the last eight years. Visitation. Visitation is defined as number of visitors, shown in Table 3.6. Camper nights, which are the number of reserved nights of campsites at Rocky Point Recreation Area, have consistently increased over the last eight years.

Year	Camper Nights	Visitation
2012	3,906	59,378
2013	4,024	58,096
2014	4,385	68,866
2015	5,192	83,786
2016	5,681	86,654
2017	5,838	89,085
2018	5,879	76,160
2019	5,974	71,662

Table 3.6 Rocky Point Recreation Area Visitation

These data show that visitation has continued to increase at the reservoir in most years, in spite of fluctuating reservoir levels. These data do not include the visitation to the east side of the reservoir. Typically, use of this area is lower than on the west side. Visitation typically is highest from the months of April to September. Peak usage of the reservoir typically occurs over the July 4th Holiday. It is estimated that a majority of reservoir use occurs on weekends. Historically, visitors to the reservoir have traveled from 25 different states and 41 South Dakota counties. Most visitors are from South Dakota, primarily Butte County, followed by Lawrence, Meade and Pennington counties. Visitors also come from Wyoming and North Dakota.

According to the User Survey, the most popular activities at the reservoir include fishing, camping, and swimming (Table 3.7).

Activity	Number of Responses	Percent Total	% Range
Shore Fishing	353	63%	
RV/Trailer Camping	321	57%	>50% (range)
Swimming	267	48%	
Boat Fishing	264	47%	
Wildlife Viewing	203	36%	
Ice Fishing	177	31%	
Recreational Boating	177	31%	
Hunting	158	28%	24-46%
Day Use/Picnicking	153	27%	
Water skiing, tubing, etc.	146	26%	
Tent Camping	135	24%	
Sightseeing	116	21%	
Hiking	92	16%	
Canoeing/Kayaking	83	15%	
Bicycling	46	8%	
ORV Use	29	5%	
Spear or Bow Fishing	27	5%	21% or less
Shed Hunting	23	4%	
Sailing	8	1%	
Snowshoeing	5	1%	
Horseback Riding	3	1%	
Cross-Country Skiing	1	0%	

Table 3.7 User Survey results of recreation activity participation at BFR

Most camping occurs on the west side of the reservoir, at Rocky Point, Middle Point, and Gaden's Point. Bird Island View is also popular, although it does not receive as much use. Typically, people camp as close to the shoreline as possible, preferably in the shade of scattered cottonwoods. Numerous access roads lead to these preferred sites and to fishing sites. Campers commonly launch and moor their boats at preferred campsites. Group campouts are very common, with numerous campers that have returned to the same site for many years. Many campers drive their vehicles out on the beaches to camp near the water as water levels recede later in the summer. Although many visitors return to the same areas, new campsites are being established continuously. It is evident from vehicle tracks that some visitors leave the established road to drive cross-country to reach a desired camping or fishing location on the shoreline. Many of these vehicle tracks eventually develop into trails. Use of the existing boat ramp parking lots are high.

Regional Recreation and Population Trends

The State of South Dakota's 2018 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) identifies outdoor recreation needs and issues facing South Dakota. The surveys conducted to develop this plan show that many of the popular activities at the reservoir are also the most popular outdoor activities in South Dakota. Fishing, hunting, boating, hiking, swimming, camping, and visiting historic sites were among the highest ranked activities. Results of the SCORP indicated a need for more hunting areas, shooting ranges, nature areas, fishing areas, archery ranges, walking/biking trails, campgrounds, and canoe/kayak water trails. Camping areas offering a variety of services such as playgrounds, picnic areas, fishing and boating access, and swimming beaches are the most popular.

Population projections show an increase in population of 8.4 % from the 2010 U.S. Census to the 2018 U.S Census estimates for South Dakota. It is assumed that recreation demand at the reservoir

would reflect this amount as well. In addition to local population growth, tourism is increasingly popular in the Black Hills region. Visitation for the South Dakota Park System was over 7.5 million in 2016.

Environmental Effects of the Proposed Action Alternative

The Proposed Action Alternative offers many of the recreation amenities requested by the public through the User Survey and through the SD SCORP. The long-term impact of the proposed amenities would attract tourism and socioeconomic growth to Belle Fourche and the surrounding areas. Recreationists are looking for more opportunities for different types of recreation, including hunting and fishing, hiking/biking and water trails, and camping. The Proposed Action Alternative includes an increase in shore fishing access, boat ramps, campgrounds with amenities, and an increase in quality hunting opportunities through habitat management and road improvements and closures. The proposed amenities would change the distribution of people recreating at the reservoir due to the proposed development of campgrounds and day use areas, which would congregate overnight use at Middle, Golf Course, Gaden's Point and Bird Island View. Overall, the Proposed Action Alternative would maintain the natural setting of the reservoir. Road improvements and increased maintenance would increase the recreation use at the reservoir by allowing people more and safer access to areas previously inaccessible. Trail closures would allow recreationists more quality walk-in hunting opportunities during the hunting season.

Environmental Effects of the No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would maintain the current recreation resources. New amenities would only be allowed as stated in the 2004 RMP and under minimum basic authority for issues of public health and safety. Those amenities would not address the requests from the User Survey or the SCORP. The visual impacts would not change from current conditions. Road conditions would remain as they are currently, with health and safety issues arising throughout the years on unimproved roads.

Vegetation (Grasslands, Noxious weeds, Woodlands, Riparian)

Affected Environment

The uplands surrounding the reservoir support mostly grasslands, however, riparian areas, manmade wetlands, shrub/scrub, and native and planted woodlands can also be found at BFR (Figure 3.1). The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Ecological Site Descriptions (ESD) for BFR includes thirteen descriptions. Two of them comprise over 50% of the lands at BFR: Shallow Loamy and Shallow Clay (Table 3.8).

Ecological Site Description	Acres	Percent
Shallow Loamy	2328.8	34
Shallow Clay	1514.8	22
Thin Upland	663.8	10
Thin Claypan	626.4	9
Non-site (rock or shale)	525.9	8
Clayey 13-16" P.Z.	341.8	5
Loamy 13-16" P.Z.	256.1	4
Dense Clay	187.6	3
Clayey Overflow	176.4	3

Loamy Terrace	138.9	2
Shallow Porous Clay	18.6	<1
Clayey 16-18" P.Z.	17.0	<1
Porous Clay	10.6	<1

Table 3.8 Ecological Site Descriptions for BFR

Grazing permits were administered from 1954 until the late 1990s; no grazing has taken place since the late 1990's. This has influenced plant communities across BFR, likely resulting in the 1.2 plant community phase according to NRCS ESD state and transition charts, which are a basis for the two dominant ESD's:

- Shallow Loamy sites are located throughout the reservoir lands. The potential vegetation is about 80 to 90 percent grasses or grass-like plants, 5 to 10 percent forbs, and 2 to 10 percent shrubs. Those lands that have historically been subjected to continuous light grazing followed by a long-term rest period are likely to consist of needle and thread – little bluestem – and blue grama grasses. Other grasses would include western wheatgrass, prairie Junegrass and prairie sandreed, along with hairy grama and sedge. Forbs include purple coneflower, purple prairie clover and dotted gayfeather. Shrub species include yucca, cactus, rose, fringed sagewort, and Wyoming big sagebrush. This plant community is moderately resistant to change with herbaceous species adapted to grazing; however, species composition can be altered through long-term overgrazing. If the herbaceous component is intact, it tends to be resilient if the disturbance is not long-term.
- Shallow Clay sites are found mostly on the northern portion of BFR. The potential vegetation consists of about 80 to 90 percent grasses and grass-like, 5 to 15 percent forbs, 5 to 10 percent shrubs, and 0 to 2 percent trees. Those lands that have historically been subjected to continuous light grazing followed by a long-term rest period are likely to consist of western wheatgrass, blue grama, and sedge. Other grasses include sideoats grama, little bluestem, needle and thread, and three-awn. Forbs include yarrow, cudweed sagewort, goldenpea, prairie coneflower, and scurfpea. Shrubs include fringed sagewort and broom snakeweed, while trees include Rocky Mountain juniper and Pondersosa pine. Likely invaders of this plant community include non-native species such as cheatgrass, salsify, curlycup gumweed, thistle, and sweetclover. Generally, this plant community is protected from erosion and tends to be resilient if disturbance is not long-term.

Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plant Species

South Dakota has listed seven species as noxious weeds, see Table 3.9. Noxious weeds of greatest concern at the reservoir are salt cedar, Canada thistle, leafy spurge, and hoary cress. Invasive grass species of concern that have been documented at BFR include cheatgrass, Japanese brome, smooth brome, and crested wheat. These species need to be treated with a multidimensional approach to reduce their proliferation.

Name	Scientific Name	Distribution in Butte County (acres)
Leafy spurge	Euphorbia esula	<100
Canada thistle	Cirsium arvense	10,001-20,000
Perennial sow thistle	Sonchus arvensis	101-500
Hoary cress	Cardaria draba	5,001-10,000
Russian knapweed	Centaurea repens	<100
Purple loosestrife	Lythrum salicaria	None reported
Salt cedar	Tamarix spp.	<100

Table 3.9 Noxious Weed Distribution in Butte County, South Dakota

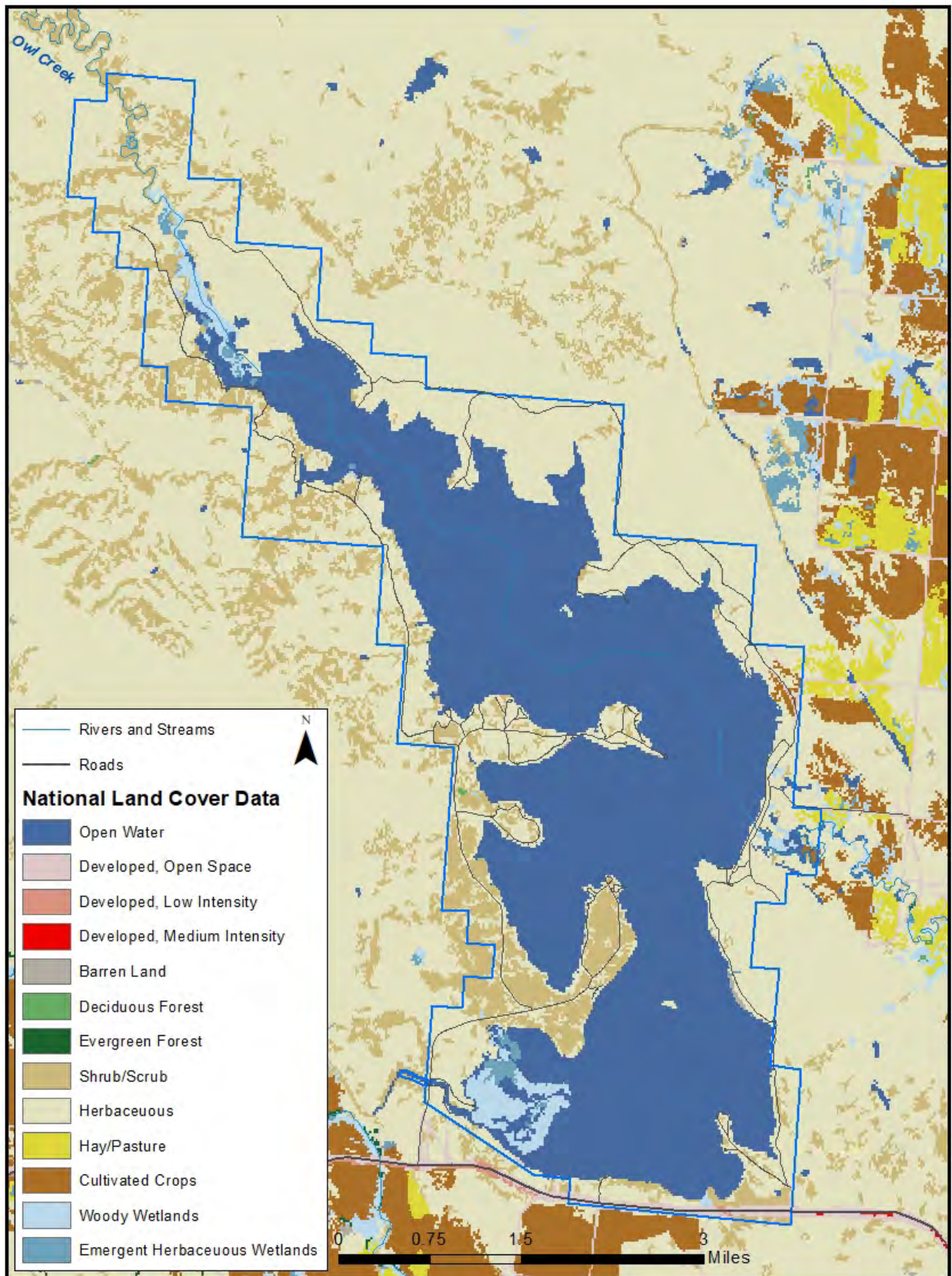


Figure 3.1 Land cover classes at BFR

Environmental Effects of the Proposed Action Alternative

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, SDGFP would assume management of all Wildlife Management Areas at BFR. Under the new management agreement, SDGFP would be allowed to implement a grazing, haying, and fire program to help reduce the non-native species and increase the native vegetation. With over 20 years of uncontrolled regrowth, Reclamation with the assistance of SDGFP, would like to implement a grazing program using modern practices. The implementation of food plots would be beneficial for native herbivores and pollinators, which are necessary for healthy grasslands. Native seeding, prescribed burning, and grazing would result in beneficial effects to vegetation by increasing diversity in plant community and structure, and reducing woody encroachment. This would beneficially affect a diversity of insects, songbirds, and help maintain native plant communities. Unauthorized trails and trails in the ORV area would be reclaimed using a native seed mix proposed by SDGFP and approved by Reclamation.

Environmental Effects of the No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, SDGDF would assume management of all Wildlife Areas at BFR. Under the new management agreement, SDGFP would be allowed to implement a grazing, haying, and fire program to help reduce the non-native species and increase the native vegetation. With over 20 years of uncontrolled regrowth, Reclamation with the assistance of SDGFP, would like to implement a grazing program using modern practices. Native seeding, prescribed burning, and grazing will result in beneficial effects to vegetation through increasing diversity in plant community and structure, and a reduction of woody encroachment. This will beneficially affect a diversity of insects, songbirds, and help maintain native plant communities. Unauthorized trails will be reclaimed using a native seed mix proposed by SDGFP and approved by Reclamation.

Wildlife

Affected Environment

The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940, as amended, (BGEPA), 16 U.S.C. 668-668c, prohibits anyone, without a permit issued by the Secretary of the Interior, from "taking" bald or golden eagles, including their parts, nests, or eggs. The Act defines "take" as "pursue, shoot, shoot at, poison, wound, kill, capture, trap, collect, molest or disturb." According to ebird.org, bald and golden eagles have been sighted at BFR year-round. Nesting habitat in the form of trees and cliffs or steep escarpments is present for bald and golden eagles at BFR.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, 16 U.S.C. §§ 703–712, makes it illegal to take, possess, import, export, transport, sell, purchase, barter, or offer for sale, purchase, or barter, any migratory bird, or the parts, nests, or eggs of such a bird except under the terms of a valid Federal permit. The 1988 amendment to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act mandates the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to “identify species, subspecies, and populations of all migratory nongame birds that, without additional conservation actions, are likely to become candidates for listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973.” The 2008 Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) is the most recent effort by USFWS to carry out this mandate. Bird species considered as BCC include: nongame birds, gamebirds without hunting seasons, subsistence-hunted nongame birds in Alaska, ESA candidate, proposed, and recently delisted species.

Table 3.10 includes Birds of Conservation Concern that may occur in Butte County and were identified by the USFWS Information, Planning, and Conservation System (IPaC) (<https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>). Thirteen of these species have been sighted at BFR. According to

ebird.org, BFR is a birding hotspot, with 176 species of birds including a variety of songbirds, waterfowl, shorebirds, and gamebirds documented using the area.

Common Name	Scientific Name
Baird's Sparrow+	<i>Ammodramus bairdii</i>
Bald Eagle*+	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>
Brewer's Sparrow+	<i>Spizella breweri</i>
Chestnut-collared Longspur+	<i>Calcarius ornatus</i>
Clark's Grebe+	<i>Aechmophorus clarkii</i>
Ferruginous Hawk+	<i>Buteo regalis</i>
Golden Eagle+	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>
Lark Bunting+	<i>Calamospiza melanocorys</i>
Lesser Yellowlegs+	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>
Lewis's Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>
Long-billed Curlew+	<i>Numenius americanus</i>
Marbled Godwit+	<i>Limosa fedoa</i>
Mccown's Longspur	<i>Calcarius mccownii</i>
Mountain Plover	<i>Charadrius montanus</i>
Pinyon Jay	<i>Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus</i>
Red-headed Woodpecker+	<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>
Sage Thrasher	<i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i>
Sprague's Pipit	<i>Anthus spragueii</i>
Willet+	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>

Table 3.10 Birds of Conservation Concern in Butte County(<https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>)

*Non BCC, falls under BGEPA

+Species has been sighted at BFR according to ebird.org

According to Chapter 34A-8-3 of SD state law, ... “the Game, Fish and Parks Commission shall promulgate a list of those species of wildlife which are determined to be endangered or threatened within the state.” Table 3.11 below includes the South Dakota state listed threatened and endangered species, excluding federally listed species.

Name	Scientific Name	State Status
Fishes		
Banded killifish	<i>Fundulus diaphanus</i>	SE
Blacknose shiner	<i>Notropis heterolepis</i>	SE
Finescale dace	<i>Chrosomus neogaeus</i>	SE
Longnose sucker*	<i>Catostomus catostomus</i>	ST
Northern pearl dace	<i>Margariscus nachtriebi</i>	ST
Northern redbelly dace	<i>Chrosomus eos</i>	ST
Sicklefin chub	<i>Macrhybopsis meeki</i>	SE
Sturgeon chub	<i>Macrhybopsis gelida</i>	ST
Reptiles and Amphibians:		
Eastern hognose snake	<i>Heterodon platirhinos</i>	ST
False map turtle	<i>Graptemys pseudogeographica</i>	ST
Lined snake	<i>Tropidoclonion lineatum</i>	SE
Birds:		
American dipper	<i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>	ST
Osprey*	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	ST
Peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	SE

Mammals:		
Northern river otter	<i>Lontra canadensis</i>	ST
Swift fox	<i>Vulpes velox</i>	ST

Table 3.11 South Dakota State listed threatened and endangered species

*Sighted on BFR lands (South Dakota Natural Heritage Data).

Common large mammal species found within the reservoir area include mule deer, pronghorn, and white-tailed deer. Mule deer are most often found in the open grasslands, yet also commonly use the tree plantings around the reservoir. Their numbers have been increasing in recent years, and mature bucks are common. White-tailed deer prefer the riparian woodlands at the upper portion of the reservoir. Chronic wasting disease is a fatal brain disease that infects deer and has occurred in South Dakota. Currently, the research suggests it has negatively impacted the overall deer and elk population growth rates in South Dakota. Overall, the pronghorn population in the area is stable.

Environmental Effects of the Proposed Action Alternative

The SDGFP taking over management of the Wildlife Management Areas and elimination of the ORV area would include a comprehensive vegetation and wildlife management strategy promoting the use of native seeding, wildlife friendly fencing, sagebrush management, enhancing wetland and riparian areas, food plots, prescribed burning, and grazing. Elimination of the ORV area would provide wildlife access to an unbroken corridor across federal lands without impediment. Unauthorized trails and trails in the ORV area would be reclaimed using a native seed mix. Prescribed burning and boundary firebreaks would reduce the danger of wildfire. Converting boundary fence to wildlife friendly fence specifications could increase big game movement across federal lands onto adjacent lands. Managing for sagebrush would maintain habitat for the Greater sage grouse, along with pronghorn, mule deer and other species.

Environmental Effects of the No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, SDGFP would take over management of the Wildlife Management Areas and allow for a more comprehensive vegetation and wildlife management strategy to include wildlife friendly fencing, sagebrush management, enhancing wetland and riparian areas, prescribed burning, and grazing. The current boundary fence would continue to be modified to allow for wildlife crossing. Prescribed burning and boundary firebreaks will reduce the danger of wildfire. Converting boundary fence to wildlife friendly fence specifications will allow big game movement to safely cross federal lands onto adjacent lands. Managing for sagebrush will maintain habitat for the Greater sage grouse, along with pronghorn, mule deer and other species.

Threatened and Endangered Species

Reclamation consulted the USFWS Information, Planning, and Conservation System (IPaC) (<https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>) to obtain a list of threatened and endangered species and critical habitats associated with the affected area (Table 3.12).

This section constitutes the Biological Assessment for the Proposed Action as required under Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, in compliance with regulations found at 50 CFR Part 402 Interagency Cooperation – Endangered Species Act of 1973, as Amended.

Action Area

The Action Area identified is based on Reclamation's assessment of the potential direct and indirect effects of the Proposed Action to federally listed species (50 CFR 402.02). The evaluation of

federally listed species focuses on the aquatic and terrestrial environments that may be influenced by the activities of the BFR RMP. The Action Area for Reclamation's decision to grant funds includes the BFR lands and water owned by Reclamation.

Group	Species	Federal Status
Bird	Whooping Crane	Endangered
	Rufa Red Knot	Threatened
Mammal	Northern Long-Eared Bat	Threatened

Table 3.12 Federally-listed Species in the Project Area

Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*)

Whooping cranes reach approximately 5 feet tall and have a wingspan that can reach 7½ feet. Whooping cranes are almost entirely white with black wingtips and have a red patch on the head that extends from the cheek along the bill. The eyes are yellow, and they have black legs.

Population Rangewide

The whooping crane was listed as endangered in 1967 (CFR 32:4001). Whooping crane recovery efforts have made great strides over the years, with new populations being established in

Florida and Wisconsin. The birds that migrate through South Dakota are part of the Aransas-Wood Buffalo population. Approximately, 504 whooping cranes were estimated for 2018-2019 survey, centered on the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge (Butler and Harrell n.d.).



Source: <https://www.fws.gov/midwest/whoopingcrane/>

The whooping crane recovery plan includes scientific information about the species and provides objectives and actions needed to down-list the species (Canadian Wildlife Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2007). Recovery actions designed to achieve these objectives include protection and enhancement of the breeding, migration, and wintering habitat for the Aransas-Wood Buffalo population. The goals are to allow the wild flock to grow and reach ecological genetic stability; reintroduction and establishment of geographically separate self-sustaining wild flocks to ensure resilience to catastrophic events; and maintenance of a captive breeding flock that is genetically managed to retain a minimum of 90 percent of the whooping cranes' genetic material for 100 years.

Action Area

The whooping crane passes through South Dakota each spring and fall while migrating between its breeding territory in northern Canada and wintering grounds on the Gulf of Mexico, frequently migrating with sandhill cranes. Whooping cranes are usually found in small groups of seven or fewer individuals and are easily disturbed when roosting or feeding. They prefer freshwater marshes, wet prairies, shallow portions of rivers and reservoirs, grain and stubble fields, shallow lakes, and wastewater lagoons for feeding, loafing, and roosting. Fall migration occurs in South Dakota from late September to mid-October, while spring migration occurs from late April to mid-June. Birds can appear in all parts of South Dakota but are more frequent in the western half. Although BFR is located wholly outside the migration corridor, there are three confirmed sightings of whooping cranes in Butte County from 1955-2010: (Figure 3.2; Pearse et al. 2018). The nearest sighting is approximately 12 miles from the Action Area.

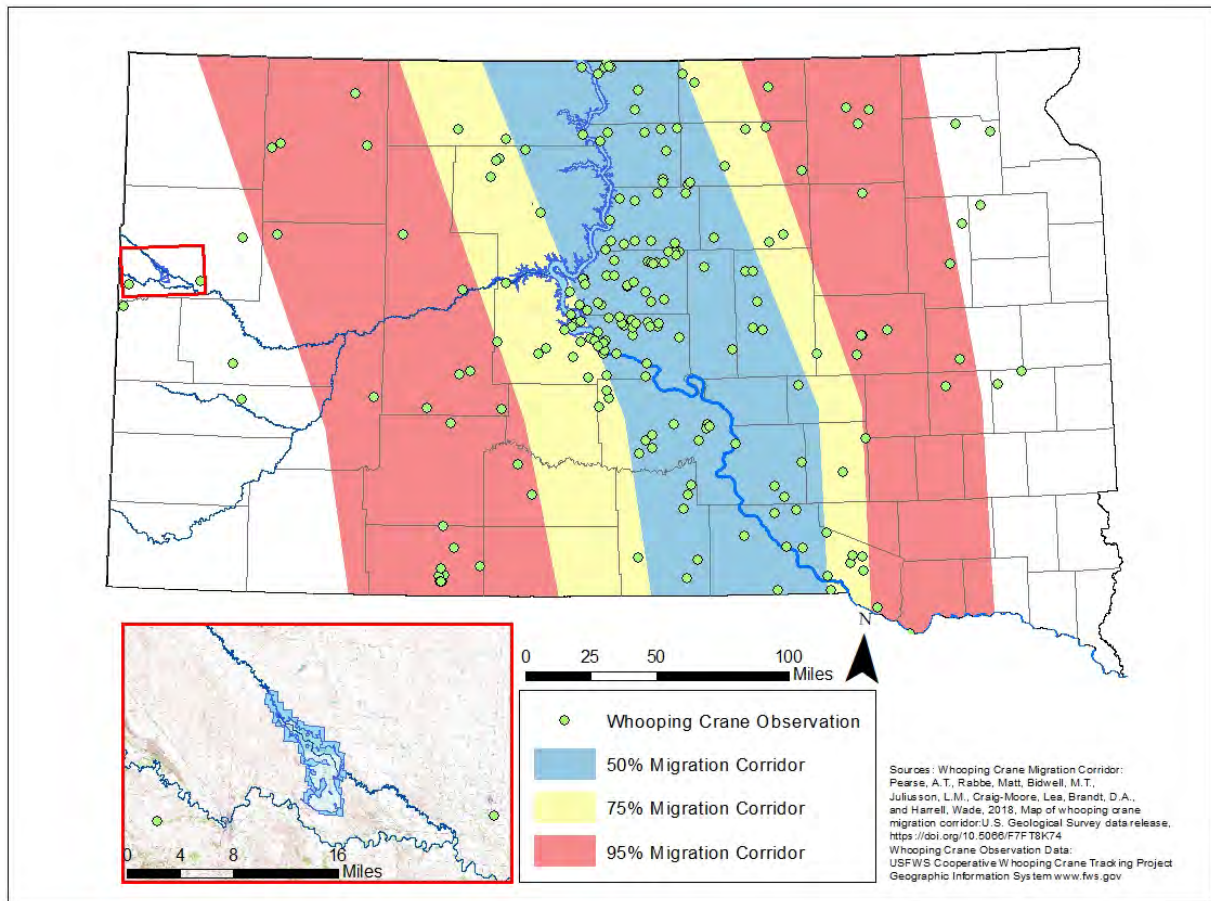


Figure 3.2 Whooping Crane Observations in the Project Area

Rufa Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*)

Rufa red knots are typically 9 to 11 inches in length. During the breeding seasons, they are a mottled gray, black, and white that run into stripes on their head and face with a cinnamon-brown underside and face. The legs and bill are black. The bill is straight tapering to the tip. During the non-breeding season rufa red knots are white and gray.



Source: <http://ecos.fws.gov/ecp0/profile/speciesProfile?spcode=B0DM>;
https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/red_knot/id

Population Rangewide

The rufa red knot was listed as threatened in 2014 (CFR 79:73706-73748). The red knot migrates between its breeding grounds in the Canadian Arctic and several wintering regions, including the southeast United States, the northeast Gulf of Mexico, northern Brazil, and Tierra del Fuego at the southern tip of South America. During both the northbound and southbound migrations, red knots use key staging and stopover areas to rest and feed. Long-distance migrant shorebirds are highly dependent on the continued existence of quality habitat at a few key staging areas. These areas serve as stepping stones between wintering and breeding areas. Many of the key migration staging areas are along the coasts but there are records that show small numbers (fewer than 10) of red knots migrating together in the interior states as well.



Source: <http://ecos.fws.gov/ecp0/profile/speciesProfile?spcode=B0DM>;
https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/red_knot/id

Action Area

While little is known about interior migrating red knots, they are believed to be rare migrants through South Dakota, occasionally utilizing wetlands as stopover habitat. Migration through South Dakota occurs from mid-May and mid-September to early October. According to Ebird.org, 4 locations throughout South Dakota have documented observations of small numbers of red knots.

Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*)

Northern long-eared bats are a medium-sized bat, with very long ears. Their length is 3.0 – 3.7 inches with a wingspan of 9 – 10 inches. The fur color is medium to dark brown on the back with a tawny to pale-brown on their underside.



Source: <https://www.fws.gov/wyominges/Species/NLEBat.php>

Population Rangewide

The northern long-eared bat was listed as threatened in 2015 (CFR 80:17974-18033) with a 4(d) rule in 2016 (CFR 81:1900-1922). The range of the northern long-eared bat includes much of the eastern and north-central United States and most of the Canadian provinces. The northern long-eared bat spends winters hibernating in caves and mines. In summer, the northern long-eared bat roosts underneath bark of live and dead trees, rock crevices, caves, mines, barns, and sheds. The dramatic decline of the northern long-eared bat is due to white-nose syndrome. There are many unknowns regarding white-nose syndrome, however it is expected that the disease will spread throughout the United States (Figure 3.3). Other sources of decline include impacts to hibernacula, degradation of summer habitat, and wind farm operation.

Action Area

BFR is within the native range of the northern long-eared bat. The 4(d) rule prohibits incidental take that could occur from tree removal activities within 150 feet of a known occupied roost. Pup season occurs from June 1st to July 31st. During this time special care should be taken in concern to tree removal. Surveys would need to be taken to identify any hibernation sites within the reservoir. However, this is unlikely since most individuals from this species will hibernate in underground

caves located in the southwestern portion of the state. To date, no hibernacula or bat activity during the winter months has been documented at BFR.

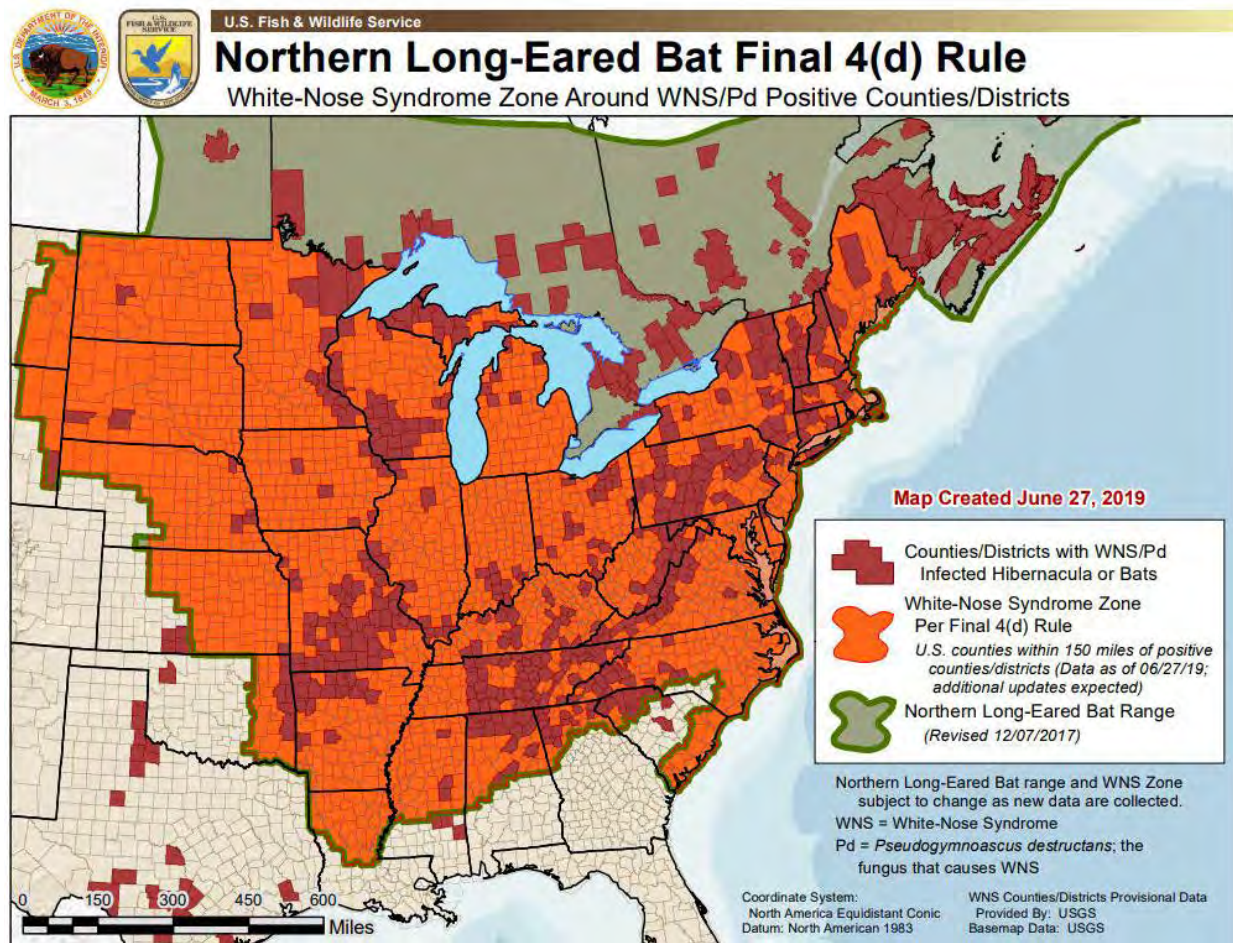


Figure 3.3 White-Nose Syndrome Zone
(available at: <https://www.fws.gov/Midwest/endangered/mammals/nle/pd/WNSZone.pdf>).

Environmental Effects of the Proposed Action

The Action Area takes place wholly outside of the migration corridor of the whooping crane, and sightings in this area would be rare. If a whooping crane is sighted within one mile of the project while it is under construction, all construction work will cease within one mile of that part of the project and Reclamation will contact the USFWS. In coordination with the USFWS, work will resume after the bird(s) leave the area. No cumulative effects were identified. The Proposed Action Alternative will have no effect on the whooping crane.

Reservoir shoreline could provide potential stopover habitat for the rufa red knot, but occurrence of this species in South Dakota is rare (4 known occurrences documented in the state since 1991). No cumulative effects were identified. The Proposed Action Alternative will have no effect on the rufa red knot.

No hibernacula or maternity roost trees for the northern long-eared bat have been identified in the Action Area. Tree removal of trees greater than 3-inch diameter at breast height would occur during the non-active season for bats (November 1 to March 31). Exception to this would occur only for

potential harm to human health and safety. No cumulative effects were identified. The Proposed Action Alternative will have no effect on the northern long-eared bat.

No threatened or endangered species are known to occupy the Action Area; however, in the event any threatened or endangered species are encountered during activities of the proposed project the contractor will contact Reclamation. Reclamation will consult with the USFWS to determine the appropriate steps to avoid any effects to these species, including cessation of construction.

Environmental Effects of the No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would have no effect on the whooping crane, rufa red knot, and northern long-eared bat.

Cultural Resources

Affected Environment

Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (36 CFR Part 800), Reclamation has completed cultural resource surveys in the Area of Potential Effect (APE) and has conducted evaluations to determine what cultural resource sites are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Sites that are determined to be eligible for listing on the NRHP are given high cultural resource management consideration and status as historic properties. Section 106 of the NHPA requires Reclamation to consider effects to historic properties when planning and implementing actions such as those identified in this EA.

The APE adding up to 1,923 acres includes all of the management unit areas where project activities are proposed as a part of this project. The APE includes a 15 meter buffer around the management unit areas on Bureau of Reclamation property. Prior adequate surveys cover the entire APE. The majority of the project area was surveyed as a part of two separate projects. The first occurred in 1989 as a part of a *“Class III Cultural Resources Inventory of Select Portions of the Belle Fourche Reservoir, Butte County, South Dakota, Volume I and II”* by Anthony Swenson. The second occurred in 1992 as a part of the *“Cultural Resources Inventory of 6000 Acres of Reclamation Lands at Belle Fourche Reservoir, Butte County, South Dakota”* by Michael Gregg and Patrick Driscoll. One historic property (Belle Fourche Dam) listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is located within the APE. Two eligible historic properties (39BU0391 and 39BU2312) are also located within the APE. In addition one canal (Inlet Canal) considered a contributing feature of the Belle Fourche Irrigation District (BFID) is located partially within the APE. A total of 53 not eligible cultural resource sites are also located within the APE. As a part of the current project a previously recorded part of 39BU0391 was broke out as an individual site (39BU0562). That site was evaluated and determined not eligible for the NRHP.

Environmental Effects of the Proposed Action

For the Proposed Action Alternative, a variety of actions are proposed to occur following the completion of the RMP. The current consultation report only covers those activities that have been identified to occur in the next few years. Those activities include road and parking lot construction, road removal and seeding, vault toilet installation, fire hearth and picnic table installation, tree planting, sign installation, riprap placement, fishing and boat dock installation, and wildlife friendly fence conversion.

As a part of the RMP, a wide variety of potential projects are proposed that may occur in the future. Currently those projects are merely hypothetical and will require new NEPA and Section 106

analysis prior to being implemented. This current project does not authorize their implementation. Those project activities include campground construction, prescribed fire, fire break installation, foot plot planting, water and electric service installation to campsites, and a variety of other recreation infrastructure activities. All future projects will completely avoid eligible and unevaluated cultural resource sites unless further fieldwork and consultation identify new impacts. All future project section 106 reviews will follow the process outlined in the Programmatic Agreement signed February 6, 2013 and renewed February 6, 2018 between DKAO and the South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office (SDSHPO).

As a part of the current analysis, the four historic properties located within the APE were visited and monitored for potential effects from the proposed action. Site specific protection measures were developed for each property to prevent adverse effects from occurring. Potential beneficial impacts to one historic property from minimizing off-road travel were also identified. Based on the findings of the site monitors the Dakotas Area Office determined that the proposed project will result in *no adverse effect* to nonrenewable cultural resources provided the site-specific protection measures identified during the fieldwork are followed.

A Section 106 report documenting the findings of the field monitoring and the site-specific protection measures was submitted to the SDSHPO for consultation on October 2, 2019. The consultation report was also submitted to fourteen Tribal Historic Preservation Offices with historic ties to the area on October 2, 2019 and a follow-up email was sent to the same tribes on October 8, 2019. The SDSHPO concurred with the findings in the report on November 7, 2019 under SDSHPO project number 191007004F.

The consultation report was also submitted to fourteen Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPO) with historic ties to the area on October 2, 2019 and a follow-up email was sent to the same tribes on October 8, 2019. Three tribal partners responded. The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma THPO responded on October 28, 2019 stating that they concurred with the findings of the report. They asked to be informed if any inadvertent discoveries are made. The Northern Cheyenne THPO responded on October 30, 2019 requesting a site visit and/or cultural survey work with tribal participation for all proposed major projects in the future. The Northern Arapaho THPO responded on December 5, 2019 requesting a tribal monitor be on site during any ground disturbance related to the project. Consultation with the Northern Cheyenne and Northern Arapaho is ongoing to develop a mutually beneficial process to meet their requests.

Any changes to the Proposed Action Alternative not identified in this document will be subject to a cultural resource inventory as required by Section 106 of the NHPA. Consultation with the SDSHPO and identified tribes will be completed prior to any newly proposed activities with the potential to cause effects to nonrenewable cultural resources not identified in this document and the Section 106 consultation report.

No cumulative effects were identified.

Consulting Tribe	Section 106 Report Mailed	Email Followup Sent	Tribal Response
Lower Brule Sioux Tribe	10/2/2019	10/8/2019	No Response Received
Oglala Lakota Nation	10/2/2019	10/8/2019	No Response Received
Cheyenne/Arapaho Tribes Of Oklahoma	10/2/2019	10/8/2019	Concurred with Reports Findings
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe	10/2/2019	10/8/2019	No Response Received
Crow Creek Sioux Tribe	10/2/2019	10/8/2019	No Response Received
Eastern Shoshone Tribe	10/2/2019	10/8/2019	No Response Received
Ft. Peck Assiniboine & Sioux	10/2/2019	10/8/2019	No Response Received
Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nation	10/2/2019	10/8/2019	No Response Received
Northern Arapaho Tribe	10/2/2019	10/8/2019	Responded on 12/2/2019 stating that they would like to monitor project activities. Continued Consultation Underway.
Northern Cheyenne Tribe	10/2/2019	10/8/2019	Responded on 10/30/2019 stating that they would like to conduct tribal visits to project areas. Agreed to provide tribe 3-month lead time on future major projects.
Rosebud Sioux Tribe	10/2/2019	10/8/2019	No Response Received
Santee Sioux Nation	10/2/2019	10/8/2019	No Response Received
Yankton Sioux Tribe	10/2/2019	10/8/2019	No Response Received
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe	10/2/2019	10/8/2019	No Response Received

Table 3.13 Tribal Historic Preservation Offices Contacted

Environmental Effects of the No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative cultural resources would not be impacted.

Chapter 4 Agency Consultation and Coordination

Reclamation sent a scoping notice announcement to over 100 individuals including Native American Tribes, South Dakota's congressional delegation, appropriate state and federal agency contacts, associated county government auditor offices, private individuals, non-government organizations and three published newspapers (Appendix B). Reclamation's Scoping Letter and Responses are included in Appendix C.

Compliance with Environmental Statutes

If the Proposed Action Alternative would be implemented, it would be accomplished in accordance and compliance with the following environmental laws, regulations, directives and compliance with the following:

- American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 (P.L. 95-341)
- National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-665), as amended 1992 (P.L. 102-575)
- Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act (P.L. 101-601)
- Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act (P.L. 93-291)
- Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (P.L. 96-95)
- National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 USC 4321)
- Clean Air Act (33 USC 7401) and Amendments
- Clean Water Act (33 USC 1251 et seq.), Sections 401, 402, and 404
- Endangered Species Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-205) (16 USC 1531-1544)
- Farmland Protection Policy Act (P.L. 97-98)
- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1958 (P.L. 85-624)
- Indian Trust Responsibilities (512 DM Chapter 2)
- Executive Order 13175 – Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments
- Federal Energy Policy Act of 2005
- Executive Order 11988 – Floodplain Management (1977)
- Executive Order 11990 – Protection of Wetlands (1977)
- Executive Order 12898 – Environmental Justice (1994)
- Executive Order 13007 – Indian Sacred Sites (1996)
- Executive Order 11593 – Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment (1971)
- Executive Order 13186 – Protection of Migratory Birds (2001) Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds in furtherance of the purposes of the migratory bird conventions
- Executive Order 13112 – Invasive Species
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 USC 703-711)
- Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 USC 668-668d)
- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 USC 661-666c)

- Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 USC 1531-1544)

List of Preparers

A list of individuals with primary responsibility for conducting this study, preparing the documentation, and providing technical reviews is below:

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Jay Leasure – Natural Resource Specialist – DKAO – Rapid City, South Dakota
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Chapter 5 References

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Appendices

Appendix A: Belle Fourche Reservoir Resource Management Plan

Appendix B: Scoping Notice Contact List

Appendix C: Scoping Letter and Scoping Letter Response

Appendix A: Belle Fourche Reservoir Resource Management Plan



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Belle Fourche Reservoir Resource Management Plan



Mission Statements

The Department of the Interior (DOI) conserves and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of the American people, provides scientific and other information about natural resources and natural hazards to address societal challenges and create opportunities for the American people, and honors the Nation's trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities to help them prosper.

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

Belle Fourche Reservoir Resource Management Plan

**Belle Fourche Reservoir Project, South Dakota
Missouri Basin Region**

prepared by

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

BFR	Belle Fourche Reservoir
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
MU	Management Unit
SDGFP	South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
Reclamation	Bureau of Reclamation
RMP	Resource Management Plan
SDSHPO	South Dakota State Historic Preservation Officer
Survey	Belle Fourche Reservoir User Survey

Section 1 Introduction and Overview

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is the federal agency responsible for administering lands and resources associated with Belle Fourche Reservoir (BFR). Reclamation's Dakotas Area Office (DKAO) is preparing the Belle Fourche Resource Management Plan (RMP). The RMP is intended to document current management practices and policies at BFR, which can be found in Sections 1.2 through 1.5. The RMP will help ensure that future management decisions are consistent with Reclamation's management objectives and authorized purposes and meet the needs of growing public demand for recreation, water development, and environmental protection. Future management actions and RMP implementation can be found in Sections 1.6 and 1.7. Land use designations, goals and definitions can be found in Section 2. Section 3 contains all the proposed management actions for each Management Unit (MU).

Resource Management Plan Authority

Title 28 of P.L. 102-575, Section 2805 (106 Statute 4690, Reclamation Recreation Management Act of October 30, 1992) provides Reclamation with authority to prepare RMPs. The Act further provides that each RMP shall be consistent with applicable laws (including any applicable statute, regulation, or Executive order) and shall be developed in consultation with appropriate heads of federal and non-federal departments or agencies, with the authorized beneficiaries of any Reclamation project, and with appropriate public participation. Each RMP shall provide for the development, use, conservation, protection, enhancement, and management of resources of Reclamation lands in a manner that complies with public laws and is compatible with the authorized purposes.

Reclamation's Recreation Management Policy (LND P04) defines Reclamation's overall responsibilities and establishes the basic principles for planning, development, management, and protection of public recreation resources on Reclamation lands and waters. One of the principles outlined in this policy is to: "Conduct necessary planning studies, research, assessment, and public involvement processes, in conjunction with managing partners where possible, to provide recreation facilities commensurate with public needs and Reclamation responsibilities and objectives."

The Federal Water Project Recreation Act of July 9, 1965 (P.L. 89-72) governs Reclamation's management and appropriations for all reservoirs within their jurisdiction, including BFR. Section 3 of the Act states that in the absence of a non-federal managing agency, Reclamation may only provide minimum basic facilities for recreation development. Minimum basic facilities are those required for public health and safety to protect and preserve federal property and the public, and they may include lands administered by managing partners and concessionaires. No cost share is required to construct minimum basic facilities. The intent of P.L. 89-72 is to encourage local agencies to assume management responsibilities for recreation areas on Reclamation lands that do not have legislative recreation authority established in the project purposes. If no local interests

assume management, then Reclamation is strictly limited to providing only minimum facilities for health and safety reasons.

1.2 PROJECT LOCATION, HISTORY, AND PURPOSE

The Belle Fourche Unit is in Butte County in western South Dakota, northeast of the Black Hills and about 25 miles east of the Wyoming-South Dakota state border (Figure 1). While originally authorized in 1904 as the Belle Fourche Project, the Project was reauthorized as the Belle Fourche Unit of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program in 1983 under Public Law 98-157, for the primary purpose of irrigation. This Act also provided construction appropriations for rehabilitation and betterment of irrigation facilities, recreation, and fish and wildlife.

The main project features of the Unit are the Belle Fourche Diversion Dam, Inlet Canal, Belle Fourche Dam and Reservoir, North and South Canals, laterals, drains, and irrigated acres. The Diversion Dam is located on the Belle Fourche River about 1.5 miles northeast of the city of Belle Fourche, South Dakota, and the Inlet Canal carries diverted water to BFR on Owl Creek, a tributary of the Belle Fourche River. Moreover, Belle Fourche Dam is an earthen dam constructed across Owl Creek and forms BFR, which has a water surface area of 8040 acres when the reservoir is at the top of conservation pool (i.e. full) and stores 192,077 acre-feet of water. The reservoir is approximately 8 miles long with approximately 50 miles of shoreline.

While the planning area addressed in this RMP includes Belle Fourche Unit lands, this document will not address BFR water operations or irrigation.

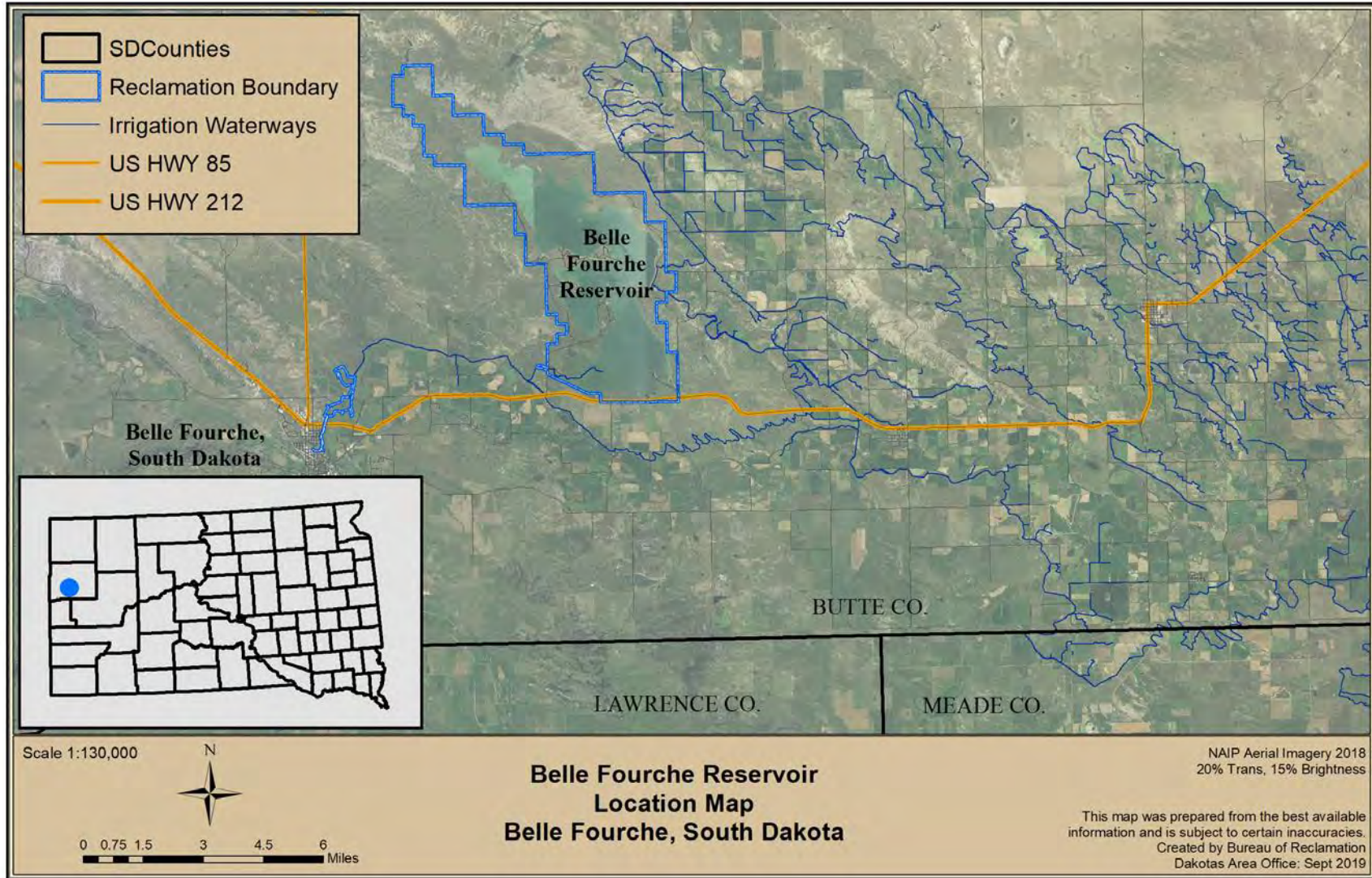


Figure 1. Belle Fourche Reservoir Location Map.

1.3 LAND USE AND MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

The total area within the boundary of BFR is 14,702 acres of acquired lands. Water surface area at elevation 2,975' (Top of Conservation Pool) encompasses 7,976 acres of water and the remaining upland habitat encompasses 6,743 acres and 57 miles of shoreline. Reclamation and South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks (SDGFP) manages these upland acres for:

Project operations..... 76 acres
 Reclamation managed recreation..... 2,007 acres
 SDGFP managed recreation..... 359 acres
 SDGFP managed wildlife management area..... 4,301 acres

Reclamation uses management agreements, permits, and contracts with private individuals, state and federal agencies to manage the lands per Reclamation's regulations. Below is a description of the current management agreements, permits, and contracts that affect the way land is managed on Reclamation lands. For a list of reference documents, authorities, and guides not discussed in this section, please refer to Table 1. Documents Associated with Management of Belle Fourche Reservoir.

Table 1. Documents Associated with the Management of Belle Fourche Reservoir.

Document Name	Description
Federal Water Project Recreation Act of 1965 (Public Law 89-72)	This Act authorizes recreation and fish and wildlife enhancement and encourages non-Federal public bodies to administer project land and water areas for such purposes.
Reclamation Recreation Management Act (Title XXVIII)	Title 28 authorizes Reclamation to cost-share with non-federal public entities for the planning, development, and replacement costs of recreation facilities up to 50% and up to 75% for wildlife habitat development.
Recreation Program Management (LND 01-03)	Under this Directive & Standards (D&S), Reclamation is guided to ensure effective management of public outdoor recreation on Reclamation lands and waterbodies. This D&S follows Pub. L. 89-72.
Reclamation Safety of Dams Act	This program concerns the construction, restoration, operation, and maintenance for new and existing features at Reclamation dams and related facilities.
South Dakota Fire Management Plan (FMP)	This FMP identifies objective and goals for the fire management program in South Dakota and defines how to manage wildland fire program elements.
Dakotas Area Office 2015 Integrated Pest Management Plan	Because Reclamation is responsible for resource management on Reclamation-owned lands, the goal of this document is to provide guidance for techniques used to control weeds and other pests.

Document Name	Description
ADA Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities (ADAAG)	This document contains scoping and technical requirements for accessibility to buildings and facilities by individuals with disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990.
Architectural Barriers Act (ABA)	This document applies to facilities on Federal lands to ensure universal access to the built environment for people with disabilities.
Safety and Health Standards	The standards prescribe the safety and health requirements for all Reclamation activities and operations.
Sign Guidelines for Planning, Designing, Fabricating, Procuring, Installing, and Maintaining Signs for Outdoor Public Use Areas (October 2006)	The intent of this document is to provide needed direction that will facilitate uniform application of the signing guidelines on a Reclamation-wide basis.
43 CFR Part 423: Public Conduct on Bureau of Reclamation Facilities, Lands, and Waterbodies	This regulation intends to maintain law and order and protect persons and properties at Reclamation property.
43 CFR Part 429: Use of Bureau of Reclamation Land, Facilities, and Waterbodies	This regulation outlines authorized use of Reclamation property.
Reclamation Manual, Recreation Program Management Policy & Directives and Standards	Defines and ensures Reclamations overall roles and responsibilities in providing public outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities.
Reclamation Manual, Directives and Standards for Implementing Cost Sharing Authorities for Recreation and Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Facilities	This Directive and Standard (D&S) benefits Reclamation by providing consistency in the way Reclamation cost shares with non-Federal partners in planning, developing, operating, maintaining, and replacing recreation and fish and wildlife enhancement facilities on lands and waterbodies under Reclamation jurisdiction.
Reclamation Manual, Land Use Authorizations	Provides standard procedures for issuing use authorization documents such as easements, leases, licenses, and permits which allow others to use Reclamation lands and interests in its lands, facilities, and water surfaces.
Reclamation Manual, Integrated Pest Management Program	To provide directives and standards for Reclamation personnel involved with the implementation of Pest Management/Resource Protection (PM/RP) plans for the operation and maintenance of Reclamation lands and facilities.
Memorandum of Understanding Between the United States and the South Dakota Game Fish and Parks	This document governs the administration and development of facilities at Belle Fourche Reservoir for recreation purposes.
SDGFP West River Fisheries Management Plan	Plan will guide staff working on fisheries and aquatic resource issues and provide the public with information on current fisheries management directions and activities.

Management Agreements

In 1961, the National Park Service created a General Development Plan for recreational facilities at the reservoir. A Management Agreement (14-06-600-7A) was entered into by SDGFP and Reclamation on December 11, 1969, modified October 18, 2000, for a length of 50 years.

Reclamation entered into another Management Agreement (0-AG-60-01050) on January 10, 1991, modified February 7, 1996 and October 18, 2000, with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and SDGFP to make 1,541 federal lands in the Belle Fourche Project available for wildlife purposes.

The wildlife management area included both Gaden's Point and Rocky Point. This was managed by SDGFP's Wildlife Division until 1998, when increased recreation use prompted them to transfer the management to their Parks Division. The lack of developed roads, restrooms, designated camping areas, and law enforcement eventually created a difficult management situation for SDGFP. They lacked the funding, staff and facilities to properly manage the increasing visitor use of the entire area. In 1999, they returned the management of 1,020 acres on Gaden's Point to Reclamation. SDGFP continues to manage 359 acres on Rocky Point for recreation and 164 acres on Owl Creek below the dam for wildlife purposes.

The current management agreement (Agreement # 14-06-600-7A) between Reclamation and SDGFP expires December 31, 2019. Increased use around the entire BFR has prompted Reclamation to actively seek a managing partner to (1) assume additional recreation and land management responsibility and (2) provide public use facilities that are above Reclamation's minimum basic facilities authority.

During the agency scoping and public involvement process of this RMP, no new recreation managing partners were identified. The SDGFP Wildlife Division has indicated interest to assume management responsibility of the Wildlife Management Areas on the north half of the reservoir, consisting of approximately 4,200 acres of land. A new management agreement will need to be entered between Reclamation and SDGFP in 2020. The Management agreement would be amended in the future if SDGFP assumes additional management responsibility at BFR.

Please see Appendix A for the Management Agreement.

Special Use Permits

Normal operations include the issuance of Special Use Permits through Right-of-Use applications for certain activities on Reclamation lands, including, but not limited to:

- Organized, recreational, public gatherings, and other special events;
- commercial filming and photography;
- commercial or organized sporting events;
- grazing farming, and other agricultural uses
- commercial outfitting and guiding; and
- infrastructure such as transportation, telecommunications, utilities, and pipelines

SDGFP is governed by State permitting processes and follows Reclamations 43 CFR Part 429 guidelines on BFR. SDGFP issues permits for organized events such as fishing tournaments, triathlon, and other special events that take place in areas managed by the Parks Division. The Wildlife Division may issue permits for haying, grazing and foodplot planting activities.

1.4 PLANNING PROCESS AND PUBLIC INVOLVMENT

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (P.L. 91-190 as amended) is the basic national charter for protection of the environment. NEPA requirements direct government agencies to assess the effects of their actions. The regulations implementing NEPA provide several procedural avenues to determine if or how this requirement applies to a particular federal action. Reclamation and SDGFP activities at BFR include the continuation of normal operations in managing the natural resources and facilities.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) will be completed for the implementation of the RMP. Project revisions and project concepts that differ from those already considered under this RMP will be considered under separate NEPA and National Historic Preservation Act compliance.

BFR is a popular public recreation area, and the demands placed on the facility are only projected to increase. Reclamation has collected traffic counter data since 2016. Each year between May and October four to six traffic counters are set out in strategic locations around the reservoir to capture vehicle usage. This data is useful for Reclamation to understand how many vehicles are accessing BFR lands as well as understand the most popular recreation areas, based on vehicle usage data. Based on the data, it is evident that visitation at BFR is generally increasing and major holidays including Memorial Day, July 4th and Labor Day have the highest traffic counts.

To ensure public needs are analyzed; the planning process provides opportunities for public participation. Public input increases the scope of the issues by ensuring a diverse examination of the resource. The information is used to help make management decisions and to plan for the future within the constraints of our authority.

Reclamation provided a variety of public involvement activities in order to gather data. Reclamation released four newsletters regarding the RMP process and public involvement opportunities. The first newsletter was sent to a list of email addresses sourced from camping registration at Rocky Point State Recreation Area in 2017. This list created contact with over 1,000 recreationists who were then invited to complete the Belle Fourche Reservoir User Survey (Survey). Outside of Rocky Point, Reclamation does not have a registration system on Reclamation managed lands to capture names and addresses of all users on Reclamation Managed lands. Reclamation also distributed newsletters to adjacent landowners, Federal, State, County, and local agencies and businesses. Recreationists who filled out the Survey and submitted an email address were also mailed newsletters.

A second newsletter was sent in November 2018 to the expanded list of email addresses, comprised of all Rocky Point campers, Survey respondents who provided email addresses, and other interested parties. This newsletter detailed results of the Survey and provided a status update on the RMP.

A third newsletter was sent out in May 2019. It provided the proposed management options, proposed management actions, proposed road names, provided a status update on the RMP, and advertised for the second open house meeting.

In addition to newsletters, Reclamation hosted two public open houses. The first was held at BFR on August 23, 2018. Visitors viewed displays and had the opportunity to speak with Reclamation and SDGFP staff about BFR, RMP development, and the opportunity to complete the Survey.

Individuals who included their contact information on a submitted Survey were added to our contact list. Moreover, Reclamation submitted press releases to local newspapers, radio stations, and local businesses advertising the Survey and Open House meeting. Surveys and RMP information were also provided on Reclamations website.

The second public open house meeting was held on May 29, 2019 at the Belle Fourche Community Hall. Visitors had the opportunity to review a range of potential management options and provide comments, as well as provide input on naming public roads around BFR. Maps and draft management options were also available on Reclamation's website. This public meeting was advertised through press release to local newspapers and radio stations and through flyers posted at the Reservoir and local businesses.

The Survey was available to the public in a paper format and online in a digital format from May 1 through October 1, 2018. In paper, the Survey was available at six locations around the reservoir, the Rocky Point entrance station, the Wheel Inn Bait Shop, the Buckstop, the Belle Fourche Irrigation District office, and Reclamation's Rapid City Office. The digital format was available through Reclamation's website, newsletters, and via a QR code with a cell phone. This outreach helped maximize input and understanding of public interests and needs. A total of 568 Surveys were returned to Reclamation as a result of the public outreach. The Survey, Survey results, public meeting handouts and comments are attached Appendix B. Appendix C contains the three newsletters.

1.5 ISSUES AND CONSTRAINTS

Issues

A variety of issues were identified through the Survey. Within the Survey, 287 written responses were received Reclamation and SDGFP staff reviewed all responses. The comments were given a reference number ranging from 1 to 287 (Comments are attached as Appendix C.) Reclamation staff categorized the 287 comments by issue similarity, which are shown in Table 2. The six categories are: Development, Safety & Enforcement Concerns, Administrative Management, Land Use, Maintenance, and No Issue. Some comments were applicable to multiple categories.

The most common comments include:

- Need for more reservable campsites (developed and primitive) & more group sites, electrical hookups and cabins (75 comments)
- Positive Comment/No issue or comment (38 comments)
- Issue with road closures or more road access to lands (24 comments)
- Need for more dumpsters; Clean up trash and fish around reservoir (22 comments)
- Concern over camping overstay & unoccupied campers (21 comments)
- Desire to increase GF&P management area or implement full lake access fee (20 comments)
- Need for road improvements (20 comments)
- Need for more law enforcement (20 comments)

Constraints

Management, environmental, cultural and paleontological constraints for development were identified through a review of various agency Geographic Information Systems databases, existing published data, input from subject matter experts, and Reclamation records. The identified constraints may require consultation and/or permitting with outside agencies, limit where development can occur, and/or place timing or setback restrictions in the areas developments occur. The constraints identified at BFR include:

Soils – Data was obtained from the Web Soil Survey Database (NRCS 2019). Soils identified as constraints at BFR include: Soils are very and/or somewhat limited for recreation development including campgrounds, off-road trails, paths and trails, picnic areas, and playgrounds; soils with a high degree of site degradation potential.

Natural Resources – Natural Heritage Inventory Data was obtained from the SDGFP. Included in this data are observed South Dakota Rare species, and federally listed threatened or endangered species areas. According to Natural Heritage Inventory Data, common tern, Caspian tern, great blue heron, California gull, and longnose sucker have been observed at BFR within the last 10 years. According to the State and Federally Listed Threatened, Endangered and Candidate Species Documented in South Dakota by County dated July 2016, the finescale dace, northern river otter, and swift fox have been observed in Butte County.

Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species and Critical Habitat – The list for T&E species was obtained from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website (USFWS 2019). The list includes Northern long-eared bat, red knot, and whooping crane. No critical habitat occurs within BFR. Effect determinations must be made for each species when considering any projects occurring on Reservoir lands. Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may be required. No critical habitat occurs within BFR.

Wetlands – Data was obtained from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s National Wetlands Inventory Wetland Mapper database (USFWS 2018). Wetlands at BFR are associated with creeks and tributaries to the Belle Fourche River and Owl Creek or are connected to the shoreline of the Reservoir. Consultation with the US Army Corps of Engineers may be required for working in these wetlands or waterbodies.

Riparian Areas – Riparian areas include reservoir shoreline, and tributaries. Reservoir elevation fluctuations have a direct impact on the riparian areas. Reservoir elevations are operated in accordance with the SOP and Reclamations contract with BFID, who owns the reservoir water storage rights.

Cultural/Paleontological Resources – Cultural and paleontological resource information was collected from Reclamation staff.

Staffing - Current staffing for SDGFP District 15 (including Belle Fourche) is 3 full time employees and 6 seasonal employees. Current staffing for Reclamation’s direct managed lands at BFR is seasonal of one employee’s time and one seasonal intern. Since 2016, Reclamation has stationed a seasonal intern at BFR. Beginning in 2020, Reclamation will replace the seasonal intern with a part-time seasonal position.

Limited Authority without a Managing Partner – Reclamation’s authority is limited to minimum basic recreational facilities without a managing partner. Allowable facilities include fire rings, garbage dumpsters, vault toilets, boat ramps, informational kiosks and gravel roads and parking areas.

Limited Budget – During the recreation season, Reclamation utilizes contracts for operations and maintenance including; vault toilet maintenance, garbage dumpster service, road maintenance, noxious weed control, fire ring cleanout, litter pickup, and law enforcement. Reclamation also utilizes local volunteer groups, the Montana Conservation Corps and the SD Army National Guard to provide operation and maintenance duties as well as capital improvement projects such as road and parking lot improvements, fire ring installations, tree plantings and fence construction/removal.

1.6 MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Based on Reclamation Policy, public involvement and agency scoping; Reclamation is proposing to implement the following management actions at BFR under this RMP.

- **Management Responsibility** - SDGFP wildlife division will assume management responsibility of an additional 4,200 acres of wildlife management area at BFR. These lands will include the northern half of the reservoir, previously managed by Reclamation as wildlife management areas.

This transition will improve wildlife habitat by allowing Reclamation and SDGFP to cost share on habitat improvement projects and with wildlife biologists actively managing the lands by utilizing prescribed fire, prescribed grazing, and foodplots. The transition will also increase law enforcement on Reclamation lands.

- **Off Road Vehicle (ORV) Use** - Reclamation is proposing to change the use of the ORV area to a Wildlife Management Area to reduce resource damage and enhance wildlife movement. The location of the current ORV area creates a disconnect in the wildlife corridor between the wildlife management areas to the north and south. Additionally, the ORV area has also created a launching point for illegal ORV travel. The ORV area will be reclaimed and managed by SDGFP as a Wildlife Management Area. Motorcycles, ATV’s, and side by sides will still be allowed at BFR on authorized roads only. All motorcycles, ATV’s and side by sides must be registered and licensed, have a licensed operator, have operational head and tail lights, and must abide by all state of South Dakota rules for the operation of motor vehicles. Reclamation has met with multiple adjacent private landowners, who have expressed their concern about off road vehicle (ORV) use and the fire hazards they present. Reclamation has tried to educate the public on travel management by erecting signs, constructing new rules signs, updating rules and regulation brochures, and creating a traffic management brochure made available at any of the 8 kiosks around the reservoir. Reclamation has increased law enforcement patrols around the reservoir to curb this illegal activity.

- **Boat Ramps** - All motorized watercraft are required to launch from a designated boat ramp. Reclamation is requiring all motorized boats to launch and retrieve from a designated boat ramp to reduce resource damage, reduce the spread of Aquatic Nuisance Species, and aid law enforcement.

This was previously proposed to be implemented when a third boat ramp was constructed. However, considering the recent discovery of zebra mussels in the Missouri River, SD; this restriction has been implemented immediately.

- **Designated Campsites** – Reclamation is proposing to require all campers to camp in a designated campsite. This will reduce conflicts between campers, reduce ORV traffic, limit resource damage from campsite expansion, aid law enforcement and reduce abuse of campsite overstay and unlicensed campers.
- **Camper Registration** – Reclamation is proposing to require all campers to register to camp at BFR. This will reduce overstay and unlicensed campers, aid law enforcement, and help Reclamation better understand the needs and preferences of the public.
- **Camp Host** – Reclamation is proposing to add one or two camp hosts to recreation areas managed directly by Reclamation. The camp host will provide visitor assistance and assist Reclamation with recreation site management duties.
- **Hunting in Recreation Areas** – Reclamation is proposing to allow shotgun and archery only hunting in recreation areas directly managed by Reclamation. Hunting would not be allowed near occupied campsites. Archery and shotgun hunting will be permitted in non-campground areas during regular seasons and as designated by SDGFP.
- **Conversion of Overnight Camping to Day Use Only** – Reclamation is proposing to convert 3 overnight camping areas to Day Use Only areas. These areas are CCC Point, Fruitdale Area and Inlet Canal. Based on the second and third most frequent requests in the Survey (i.e. for more shore fishing access and increased law enforcement), a change to day use will reduce the need for camping facilities and allow Reclamation to focus staff and funding on additional shore fishing areas and increased law enforcement presence.
- **Unauthorized Roads Closure and Rehabilitation-** Reclamation has identified over 257 miles of unauthorized roads and trails around the Reservoir. These unauthorized roads: cause major safety concerns and fire hazards, disturb wildlife and damage wildlife habitat, damage and /or destroy archeological and paleontological resources, disrupt hunters and other recreation users, spread noxious weeds, and encroach on adjacent private lands. Unauthorized roads will be identified as soon as possible, reclaimed and seeded to native vegetation. See Figure 2 for an illustration of unauthorized trail use and Figure 3 for a map of unauthorized roads at BFR.
- **Administrative Use Only Road Restrictions and Enforcement** - Along the north end of the Reservoir, Administrative Use Only roads exist and are used by Reclamation, SDGFP and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for operations, maintenance, and law enforcement

purposes. These roads are not authorized for public vehicular use. Administrative Use Only roads also exist on both ends of Orman Dam. These roads are for administrative use only by Reclamation and the Belle Fourche Irrigation District to access the dam and associated facilities. Public vehicular use of these administrative roads is not allowed. In the summer of 2018, Reclamation imposed the Administrative Use Only road allowances. On the west side administrative use only road, public vehicle traffic is permanently restricted. However, within this location there is a seasonal exception. Public vehicular travel is allowed between April 1st and September 1st for fishing access up to Davidson Bay. The East side administrative use only road is permanently restricted, with no seasonal exceptions. See Figure 4 for a map of administrative roads and management.

For specific management action and proposed improvements for each individual MUs see Section 3.



Figure 2. Golf Course Point, Shoreline Driving/Illegal ORV Use.

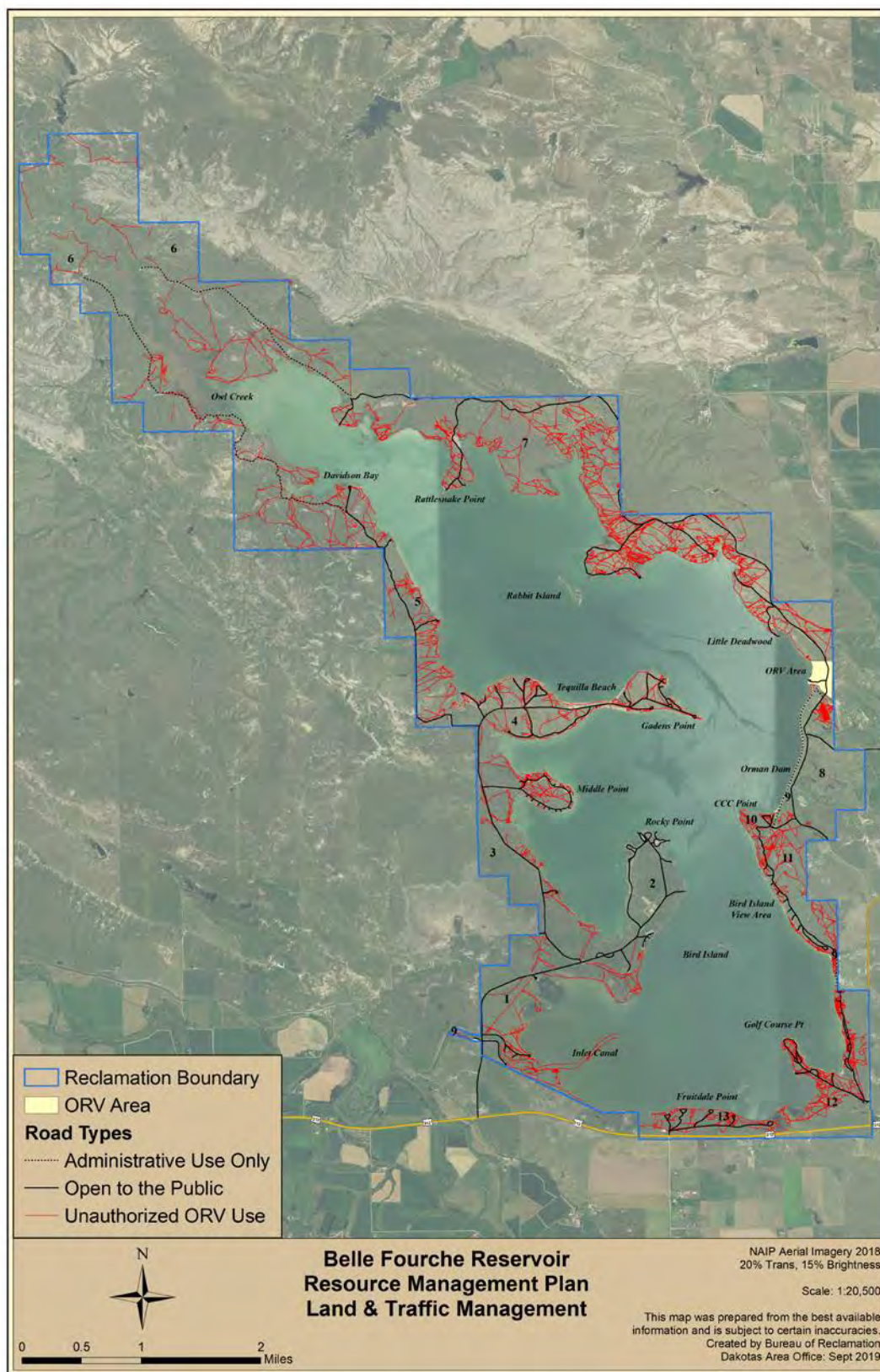


Figure 3. Belle Fourche Reservoir Resource Management Plan, Land & Traffic Management.

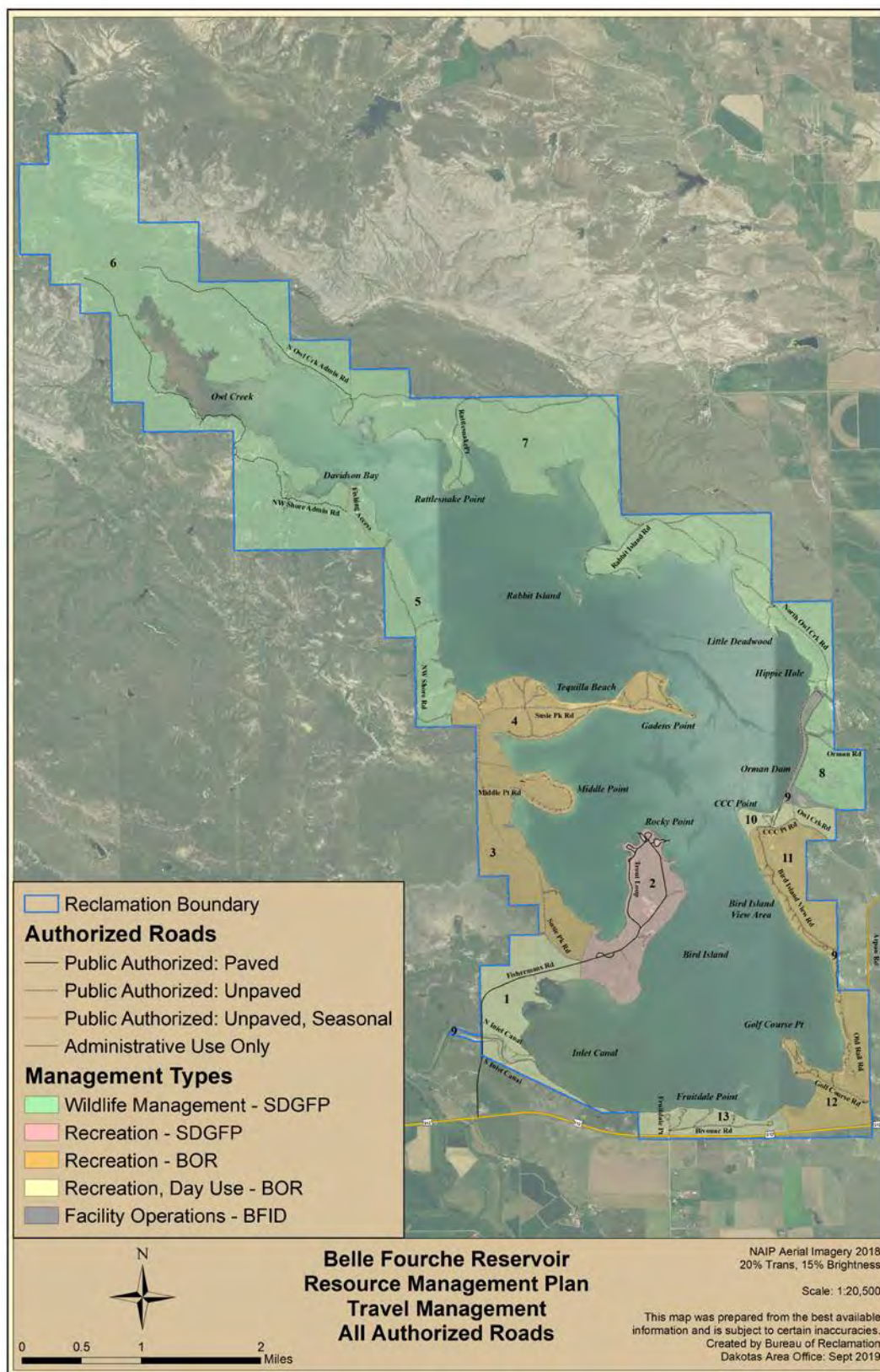


Figure 4. Belle Fourche Reservoir Resource Management Plan, Travel Management-All Authorized Roads.

Survey/Public Scoping

According to the 562 Survey responses and additional comments, the most frequent requests indicate need for trees for wind breaks, shore fishing access, law enforcement presence, and road maintenance. Refer to Appendix C for all the facilities and services requested at each MU. These requests and their locations will be considered as funds become available for future development.

The five issue categories identified in Section 1.6 include Development, Safety & Enforcement, Administrative Management, Land Use, and Maintenance. Current approved and proposed solutions to address the issues identified from the Survey are included in Table 2.

Table 2. Current Solutions to Issues Identified in the Belle Fourche Reservoir User Survey.

	Issues	Solutions
Development	More reservable campsites (primitive sites too) & more group sites, electrical hookups and cabins	Camping registration, a camp host, and designated single and group camp sites are proposed at Gadens Point, Middle Point, Bird Island View, and Golf Course Point. E-hookups and camping cabins can only be constructed with a managing partner.
	Issue with Road Closures or more road access to lands	New roads, increased road maintenance, and access are proposed in Inlet Canal Day Use Area, Gadens Point, West WMA, Fruitdale Day Use Area, Golf Course Point, Bird Island View, and CCC Point Day Use Area. Administrative road travel restrictions were implemented in 2018. No authorized roads have been closed.
	Additional comfort stations/showerhouse	Comfort stations are not allowed under minimum basic authority. Comfort stations are proposed at Middle and Gadens Point but can only be constructed with a managing partner.
	More boat access/overflow boat & trailer parking	Increased boat ramp parking is proposed at Rocky Point and a new boat ramp and parking is proposed at Gadens Point
	More shore fishing & ADA fishing access	Shore fishing access is proposed at Rocky Point, Middle Point, Inlet Canal Day Use Area, Fruitdale Day Use Area, and Wildlife Management Area West
	Add trees and wind breaks	Tree plantings are proposed at Rocky Point, Gadens Point, Middle Point, Bird Island View, and Golf Course Point
	More ORV use/keep ORV area	Eliminating ORV area - ORV restricted to road use only
	Weather monitor to check from home	Installed a weather camera at boat ramp.

	Issues	Solutions
	Additional Dump/fill and fish cleaning station or access	Expanding and Improving fish cleaning and dump station at Rocky Point
	Add Concessions or concessionaire/marina	No concessionaires have been identified in this RMP
	Add hiking trails	Hiking trails are proposed at Middle and Gadens Point; however, will not be constructed without a managing partner at those areas. A mowed trail is proposed on the south end of Bird Island View. A short hike trail currently exists at Rocky Point.
	Shooting range	A shooting range is not allowed under minimum basic authority. An archery range currently exists in Rocky Point.
	Disc golf amenity	Disc golf amenities are not allowed under minimum basic authority. SDGFP will consider adding this amenity.
	Boat-in-area camping	No new boat in camping sites are proposed. Currently campers can moor their boat along shoreline near campsites.
Safety & Enforcement	More law enforcement (underage parties, noise, theft, speeding, etc.)	Installed security camera at Rocky Point entrance station and other locations. Entered into law enforcement contracts with Butte County Sheriff and BLM. SDGFP wildlife division expanding management and a camp host will help manage these issues.
	Loose animals in campground	
	Unattended fires	
	Gunshots in campground	
	Bugs	No bug control has been identified in this RMP
Administrative Management	Camping overstay & unoccupied campers	Camping registration, a camp host, and designated camp sites will help manage these issues.
	Increase GF&P management area or full lake access fee	SDGFP Wildlife Division will assume management responsibility of 4,200 acres of additional lands.
	Issues with fees Reservoir wide or desire to have free access areas	No fees are proposed in this RMP for areas directly managed by Reclamation.
	No new development or areas left as free, undeveloped, access/camping	Reclamation will continue to manage recreation areas without a managing partner, with minimal developments.
	GF&P fees too high	Due to flooding damage in South Dakota in 2019, SDGFP will propose a fee increase. Revenues directly support repairs and upkeep to South Dakota parks.
	Review Walleye fishing regulations or more fish checks and signage	SDGFP will continue to actively manage the fishery. Fisheries staff review regulations annually and public has an opportunity to comment.

	Issues	Solutions
	Control ORV use	Eliminating ORV area - ORV restricted to road use only.
	Open Diversion dam to public	Diversion dam and Inlet Canal are open to the public. Unauthorized trails will not be open to vehicular traffic.
	Ability to follow water level to camp	Designated camping will prohibit campers from following the water, reducing environmental and cultural resource concerns.
	Increase in water management for Recreation	This RMP is not addressing water management issues.
	Concern for Irrigation	
	No private exclusive use	Private exclusive use is not permitted under current Reclamation policy.
	No concessionaire	No concessionaires have been identified in this RMP.
	Give land back to tribes	This RMP is not addressing land ownership.
	Boat ramp etiquette signage	SDGFP will consider adding signage.
	Have BLM manage	BLM is not interested in managing BFR.
Land Use	Bring back grazing	SDGFP will actively manage Wildlife Management Areas and include grazing, foodplots, and prescribed burning if feasible.
	Food Plots or Game Management	
Maintenance	More Dumpsters & Clean up trash and fish around reservoir	More dumpsters are proposed at almost all developed, primitive and day use MU's.
	Road Improvements	Road improvements are proposed at multiple MU's, annually maintain 13 miles of road, plan to increase miles of road maintenance.
	Trim trees	Trees are trimmed when they pose a risk to human health and safety.
	Manage weeds	Follow IPM Plan and annually spray weeds.
	Shoreline erosion	Actively addressing over 5,000 feet of shoreline erosion in multiple areas.
	Riprap the Islands	Not proposed in this RMP.

Additional Facilities/Services

The top 4 requests from the Survey for additional facilities/services indicate:

- 1) need for trees for wind breaks
- 2) shore fishing access
- 3) law enforcement presence
- 4) road maintenance.

- **Trees** – The reservoir lies within the mixed grass prairie region of the Great Plains. Reservoir lands include two ecoregions: The Semiarid Pierre Shale Plains and the Dense Clay Prairie. The Pierre Shale Plains are predominantly vegetated by grasses; while the Dense Clay Prairie lacks, for the most part, vegetative cover. The underlying dark clay substrate fails to support the growth of riparian woodlands in draws and stream corridors. This landscape is very fragile and erodes easily.

The upper end of the reservoir contains a portion of Owl Creek and its associated riparian area. The riparian area supports green ash, cottonwoods, and coyote willow. Owl Creek below the dam also supports a relatively small corridor of riparian woodlands. A few cottonwoods and willows have established along the shore of the reservoir; However, most shade trees and shelterbelts existing around the reservoir have been planted.

SDGF&P planted three block tree units in 1992 on the west side of the reservoir. Six units totaling 80 acres were planted on the south and east sides of the reservoir beginning in 1995 by Reclamation and Butte County Soil Conservation District. The survival rate of the trees on the west and south sides of the reservoir has been high. The survival rate of the trees on the east side of the reservoir has not been as high, many trees were destroyed by a storm in 1996 and replanted in 1997.

SDGFP annually plants and replants dead trees in Rocky Point Recreation Area. Reclamation handplanted 500 trees around the reservoir in 2019. SDGFP and Reclamation will continue to annually plant 50-500 shade trees. Reclamation will also work with the local Natural Resources Conservation Service office to plant shelterbelts in certain areas of the reservoir where soils are conducive.

- **Shore Fishing Access** – The entire shoreline around the Reservoir is open to public use; including fishing. Road access to certain shoreline areas around the reservoir currently exist. However, some of these areas currently have high, steep banks that do not allow for safe and convenient access to the shoreline. In areas of the reservoir where active shoreline erosion is occurring and where infrastructure exists; Reclamation may budget for shoreline erosion control measures. Where erosion control projects are constructed, Reclamation will make every attempt to include pedestrian access into the planning and engineering phase of the project.

Most campsites within both Rocky Point and Reclamation direct managed areas are located along the shoreline. Reclamation will designate campsites and will consider shore access when developing these sites.

A shore fishing pod is proposed in Rocky Point Recreation Area. This project will improve shore fishing opportunities. This shore fishing pod will be constructed as funding becomes available.

Shore fishing access is proposed at Rocky Point, Middle Point, Inlet Canal Day Use Area, Fruitdale Day Use Area, and Wildlife Management Area West

The primary purpose of BFR is for irrigation. Due to irrigation demands, the reservoir elevation may fluctuate annually and make shore-fishing and access to the shoreline more difficult. All vehicles are required to remain on roads. Shoreline driving is not allowed.

- **Law Enforcement Presence** – Reclamation does not have law enforcement authority. Reclamation contracts with the BLM for law enforcement purposes. One BLM law enforcement ranger and one canine companion provide law enforcement on all lands around the Reservoir, however focuses primarily on Reclamation direct managed lands. In 2019, Reclamation entered into a law enforcement contract with the Butte County Sheriff's Office. This contract allows Butte County to enforce local, state and Federal laws on all lands around the Reservoir. SDGFP Wildlife Division will assume management responsibility of an additional 4,200 acres of land on the northern end of the Reservoir. This agreement would increase the patrol frequency of SDGFP law enforcement officers on the Wildlife Management Areas around the Reservoir and enhance the cooperation between federal, state, and county law enforcement.
- **Road Maintenance** – There are 33.7 miles of authorized roads including asphalt roads, gravel roads, and primitive dirt roads and trails at BFR approved in the 2004 Belle Fouché Reservoir Resource Management Plan. No additional roads or trails have been formally approved for use since that time. Reclamation maintains 13.1 miles of authorized gravel roads and SDGFP maintains 4 miles of asphalt roads leading into and within Rocky Point Recreation Area. As new roads are added, and as funding allows, these new roads will be added to the annual road maintenance contract. Reclamation's road maintenance contract includes road bladings and shoulder mowing. This maintenance typically occurs prior to the 3 major holidays; Memorial Day, 4th of July and Labor Day.

New proposed roads are included in this RMP. As funding allows, Reclamation and the SDGFP plan to add gravel to all authorized roads and trails under their respective management, improve authorized roads and construct new public access roads and trails. New roads and trails may have seasonal use restrictions.

In addition to road improvements, Reclamation is planning to install street signs on all authorized roads. The signage will assist Butte County Dispatch with emergency and law enforcement response to the Reservoir. The signage will also aid the public in traversing the reservoir as well as ensure all vehicles remain on authorized roads.

Opportunities

Funding opportunities to enhance recreation development are available through various programs and are listed in Table 3.

Table 3. Opportunities to Enhance Recreation Development.

Funding Opportunity	Description
Public Law 102-575, Title 28	Title 28 authorizes Reclamation to cost-share with non-federal public entities for the planning, development, and replacement costs of recreation facilities and wildlife habitat improvements, up to 75%.

Funding Opportunity	Description
Federal Lands Transportation Program (FLTP)	FLTP supports the improvement of transportation infrastructure owned and maintained by federal land management agencies.
Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP)	FLAP funds projects that provide access to, are adjacent to, or are located within Federal lands. It supplements state and local resources for public roads, bridges, paved trails, and other transit systems, and other transportation facilities—with an emphasis on high-use recreation sites and economic generators.
Replacements, Additions & Extraordinary Maintenance Program (RAX)	RAX funds are annually provided to each region and may provide funding for non-routine, major items.
Sport Fish Restoration Program (SFR)	SFR provides funding to states for fishery projects, boating access, and aquatic education. SFR is authorized by the Sport Fish Restoration Act of 1950.
Bring Back the Natives	The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation invests in conservation activities that restore, protect and enhance native populations of sensitive or listed fish species across the US, especially in areas on or adjacent to federal agency lands.

1.7 IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES, MONITORING PLAN, PLAN REVISION OR AMENDMENT

The implementation of the RMP by Reclamation will be guided by existing and future laws, Executive Orders, regulations, policies and guidelines. The RMP is designed to supplement existing direction provided by these sources.

The RMP will be monitored annually at the end of the federal fiscal year (September 30). Completed projects will be added to the document each year in the Accomplishments Section. If projects are currently in progress at the end of the fiscal year, those projects will be added upon completion in the following fiscal year. RMP revisions, amendments, or updates mutually agreed upon by Reclamation and SDGFP will occur annually at the end of the federal fiscal year and be included in the Appendix.

Section 3 describes the proposed actions for each MU. These actions will be implemented beginning in 2020 based on Reclamation and South Dakota Game Fish and Parks funding and staffing levels. Public Law 89-72 gives Reclamation the authority to cost share in planning, development, operation, maintenance, and replacement of recreation and fish and wildlife enhancement facilities with a non-Federal managing partner. Federal cost sharing with non-Federal partners may be provided for up to 50% of the cost of development of recreation facilities and 75% of the development of fish and wildlife enhancement facilities.

Available funding will be the limiting factor to accomplishing these improvements and additions. Projects will be completed on a phased approach and will be prioritized in accordance with public health and safety concerns, required to protect existing resources, and based on public desire.

Other factors that may influence the implementation of a particular action are based on whether the action: (1) is procedural or technical, such as preparing agreements or developing specific plans; (2) addressed public health and safety concerns; (3) is in compliance with existing laws and regulations; (4) is required to prevent resource damage or protect plant or wildlife species or habitats; or (5) requires large capital investments, such as trail or facility development.

To aid in planning for future needs and development at BFR, Reclamation will serve as the lead agency to work with interested individuals, stakeholders and user groups as needed to discuss issues, concerns, solutions and to identify funding sources.

Section 2 Designation of Land Uses

The RMP describes the present operations of 13 MUs identified within five land resource codes (Figure 5). The five land use codes include:

- (01) Administrative Area
- (02) Developed Recreation Area
- (03) Primitive Recreation Area
- (04) Day Use Area
- (05) Wildlife Management Area

2.1 ADMINISTRATIVE AREA

Land Use Code 01

There is one unit managed as an Administrative Area at BFR. The Administrative Area unit is primarily used in operations of the Reservoir/Dam. This unit is managed by the Belle Fourche Irrigation District. Project Operation features are not located within a single boundary. The Inlet Canal and Emergency Spillway are located in areas separate from the Dam however, all features are included in MU 09.

MU 09 Dam, Spillway, North Canal, South Canal, Inlet Canal, Emergency Spillway

Management Objective - This unit is managed for priority water operations consisting of flood control and irrigation. Limited public recreation opportunities exist primarily to ensure public safety and protection of dam works. The RMP will not affect operations in MU 09.

Specific descriptions of these units, goals, issues, constraints, and management actions are included in Section 3.1.

2.2 DEVELOPED RECREATION AREA

Land Use Code 02

There are three units managed as Developed Recreation Areas at BFR. Rocky Point is managed by SDGFP, Parks Division. Middle and Gadens Point are direct managed by Reclamation, without a managing partner. Only minimum basic facilities are allowed under Reclamations authority for direct managed areas.

MU 02 Rocky Point Recreation Area

MU 03 Middle Point Recreation Area

MU 04 Gadens Point Recreation Area

Management Objective - Provide the public recreation opportunities in a developed recreation setting. Recreation development can include camping areas with facility amenities such as RV pullouts, picnic tables, fire rings, tent pads, grills, restrooms, sanitation dump stations, trash

dumpsters, fish cleaning stations, fishing platforms, drinking water, universally accessible use sites, picnic shelters, and other developments that support recreation. Boat ramps, docks, shower houses, trail systems, dog parks and playgrounds are possible amenities within a developed recreation area. Visitors can expect to experience extensive site development for recreation benefits, increased encounters with other visitors, Parks staff and law enforcement patrols. Emphasis is on visitor benefits, public safety and site maintenance to enhance recreation opportunities. Project authority currently limits recreation development in MU 03 & 04 to minimum basic facility development to address access, public safety and resource protection. This limitation reduces the ability for certain developments, without a managing partner, such as power and drinking water.

Specific descriptions of the unit, goals, issues, constraints, and management actions are included in Section 3.2.

2.3 PRIMITIVE RECREATION AREA

Land Use Code 03

There are two units managed for Primitive Recreation at BFR. These units are managed by Reclamation without a managing partner, specifically for recreational opportunities for the general public. Only minimum basic facilities are allowed under Reclamation's authority.

MU 11 Bird Island View Recreation Area
MU 12 Golf Course Point Recreation Area

Management Objective - Provide a primitive recreation experience characterized by an unmodified natural environment. Limited development may be present to address resource damage and public safety. Such improvements may consist of fire rings, signing, rock or vegetative barriers, tables, and graveled access routes. Visitor interaction is typically low with minimal evidence of human use. Moderate to high probability exists for isolation from the sights and sounds of humans. Opportunities are present for independence, tranquility, closeness to nature, and self-reliance through the application of outdoor skills in a setting that offers a high degree of interaction with the natural environment.

Specific descriptions of the unit, goals, issues, constraints, and management actions are included in Section 3.3.

2.4 DAY USE RECREATION AREA

Land Use Code 04

There are three units managed for day use at BFR. These units are managed by Reclamation, without a managing partner. Only minimum basic facilities are allowed under Reclamations authority. Day use areas include:

MU 01 Inlet Canal Day Use Area
MU 10 CCC Point Day Use Area
MU 13 Fruitdale Day Use Area

Management Objective - Provide day use opportunities and supporting amenities for water-based recreation activities such as picnicking, fishing, hiking, sightseeing, watching wildlife, boating, swimming, hunting and relaxation in a natural lake setting. Development is limited to minimum basic facility development under current legislative authority, without securing a managing partner, within these three MUs. Minimum basic facilities consist of amenities developed for providing public safety, resource protection and recreation access. Limited facility development can consist of graveled developed access roads, picnic sites, restrooms, delineation barriers, access trails, and informational/interpretive/regulatory signing.

Specific descriptions of the unit, goals, issues, constraints, and management actions are included in Section 3.4.

2.5 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Land Use Code 05

There are four units managed as Wildlife Management Areas at BFR. Wildlife MUs are managed for wildlife purposes. These units are managed by the SDGFP, Wildlife Division. The Wildlife MUs are:

MU 05	Game Production Area (West)
MU 06	Game Production Area (East)
MU 07	Game Production Area (Includes the former ORV area)
MU 08	Game Production Area (Below Orman Dam)

Management Objective - Provide emphasis on wildlife habitat and associated recreation opportunities such as hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing. Priority will be on establishing and maintaining wildlife habitat in a natural environment. Recreation facilities and amenities will be developed to the extent possible to enhance public opportunities without impacting wildlife habitat. Developments can consist of camping sites, access routes, signing, restrooms, fire rings, habitat improvements, tree/shrub plantings, food plots, fencing and native seedings. Visitors can expect to experience limited evidence of human development on large tracts within these units providing quality opportunities for hunting and fishing.

Specific descriptions of the unit, goals, issues, constraints, and management actions are included in Section 3.5.

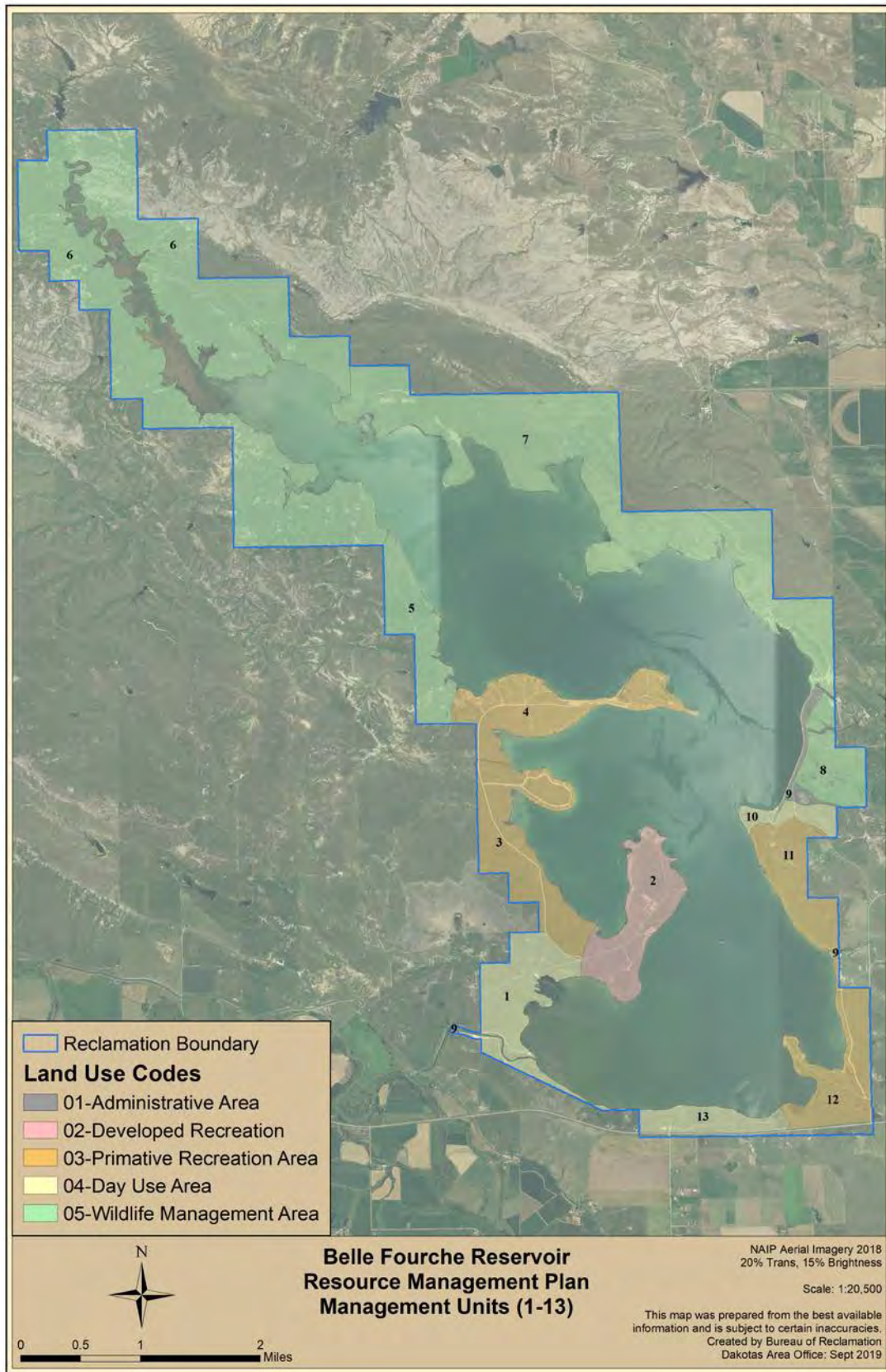


Figure 5. Management Unit Map.

Section 3 Management Unit (MU) Descriptions

3.1 Administrative Area – BFID Managed

Land Use Code 01

MU 09 Dam, Spillway, North and South Canals, Inlet Canal, Spillway, Overflow Spillway
(Figure 6)

Goal

Providing flood control and water for irrigation is the primary project purpose. Maintain the structural integrity of the facilities and ensuring public health and safety is the priority. Secondary benefits in this MU includes recreation and fish and wildlife habitat. Recreation opportunities and fish and wildlife habitat enhancements may be implemented so long as it does not interfere with project operations.

Administrative areas are set aside for project operations and maintenance. These include the Belle Fourche Dam, the emergency spillway, Inlet Canal, and the North and South Canals and Outlets. Uses that may interfere with project management, operations, and maintenance would not be permitted in Administrative Areas. Public access and vehicular access may be restricted depending on use of the area. Livestock grazing would not be permitted in these areas. Hunting would be prohibited in any areas where access is restricted.

Vegetation management would emphasize the following goals:

- Stabilize earthen embankments of facilities by planting rhizomatous grasses.
- Control of aquatic vegetation, which may impede flows and block control structures.
- Prevent damage to facilities and erosion on earthen embankments by restricting public access and prohibiting livestock grazing.
- Control noxious weeds and invasive plants.

MU 09 Dam, North and South Canals, Inlet Canal, Spillway, Overflow Spillway

Land Use Code: 01

1. Background/Current Use

Construction of the dam began in 1905 with the first unit of the project opened to settlement by public notice in June 1907. The first irrigation water was delivered to 12,000 acres of project lands in 1908 via a temporary canal through what is now BFR. Current land use includes Dam operation and maintenance, and fishing opportunities. Gravel access roads to the dam site are present.

2. Facilities Inventory

The MU facilities include the earthen dam, spillway, overflow spillway, north and south canals, inlet canal, 2 gate houses, piezometer pit, 2 walkways, and one parking area. Eight porous tube piezometers and three toe drain seepage outlets are also located along the downstream embankment and toe of the dam. A public parking area currently exists below the dam as well providing walk in fishing access.

3. Issues

According to the Survey, no issues were identified in this MU by the public.

Issues identified by Reclamation and Belle Fourche Irrigation District staff include:

- Eliminate public vehicular travel and parking on north and south ends of dam.
- Improvements needed at inlet canal/drop structure

4. Constraints

The primary purpose of this area is to maintain the integrity of the Dam and delivery of irrigation water. Planned recreational improvements in this area are minimal.

Cultural resource concerns occur throughout this MU. Orman Dam is listed on the National Historical Register and Consultation with South Dakota State Historical Preservation Office (SDSHPO) and interested Tribes may be required for any development in this area.

5. Management Actions

Current maintenance is conducted by the Belle Fourche Irrigation District and Reclamation. Maintenance includes road maintenance, gate house maintenance, noxious weed control, and dam instrumentation readings.

According to the Survey, the top four requests for this area include:

- Boat ramp
- Trees for wind breaks
- Shore fishing access
- Increased law enforcement presence

The table below includes proposed improvements and changes by priority group. Priority Groups are set up based on available budget, project approval status, public health and safety, and needs/desires of the public.

Priority Group 1	Priority Group 2
Administrative Road parking restrictions	Add/improve fishing parking area access
Additional O&M/land management responsibility.	
Modify operations area boundary	

A boat ramp was identified as the top request for this unit. This unit contains the Dam and no recreational facilities are proposed on the dam. The Survey responses may have meant the area immediately south of the dam, the CCC Point area. Boat ramp will be addressed in the CCC Point MU section.

Parking restrictions and vehicular access restrictions will be implemented in this unit. Access road to the northern end of the dam will be closed to all vehicles except administrative vehicles. The road will be gated, and a public parking lot constructed.



Figure 6. Belle Fourche Reservoir Resource Management Plan, MU 9: Dam and Outlet Canals.

3.2 Developed Recreation – SDGFP and Reclamation Managed Land Use Code 02

MU 02 Rocky Point State Recreation Area – SDGFP Managed (Figure 7)

MU 03 Middle Point Recreation Area – Reclamation Managed (Figure 8)

MU 04 Gadens Point Recreation Area – Reclamation Managed (Figure 9)

Goal

Provide recreation opportunities with visitor conveniences. Ensure public health and safety while preserving aesthetics and concentrating uses in order to protect natural resources. Expand those opportunities according to public needs, with a managing partner in the future.

Overnight camping would only be permitted in designated campsites. These areas could contain three different types of campsites: designated primitive, semi-primitive, and developed.

- Semi-primitive and developed campsites would be located within traditional campgrounds. Semi-primitive campsites may be hardened with gravel or paving, and would have vault toilets, picnic tables, and fire-grates. Camping cabins and other movable lodging facilities would be allowed. A central water supply would be provided.
- Developed campsites would be hardened with gravel or paving, have picnic tables, fire-grates, a central water supply, electricity, and full-service comfort stations (toilets, hot and cold running water and, showers).

Roads would be paved or graveled and receive regular maintenance. Winter snow removal will be performed. Recreational vehicle dump stations and fish cleaning stations may be provided. Trash dumpsters and containers would be provided. Day use areas could be present. They would contain picnic tables and established fire-rings with grills. Group shelters, swimming beaches, playgrounds, camping cabins, interpretive sites, and concessions may be included at these locations. Other amenities may include archery range, group camping areas, fishing access, dog park, trails and boat ramps.

Campgrounds would be closed to all hunting. Archery hunting after October 1 would be allowed in non-campground areas. Livestock grazing would not be permitted in these areas. Vegetation management would emphasize the following goals:

- Reduce wildfire hazard.
- Provide shade and privacy
- Retaining durable, drought resistant ground cover
- Encourage the establishment of shrubs and trees on shorelines where desirable for shade or shoreline stabilization
- Preserve aesthetics
- Control noxious weeds and invasive plants

MU 02 Rocky Point State Recreation Area

Land Use Code: 02

1. Background and Current Use

The MU is managed by SDGFP as a full service overnight and day use recreation area. Recreation opportunities include camping, fishing, boating, hiking, swimming, playgrounds, volleyball, horseshoes, archery range and interpretive sites. Overnight use options include renting a cabin, or camping in a tent or RV. Asphalt road access leads into the site.

2. Facilities Inventory

This area has 57 electrical camp sites, 5 group camping pods, 2 camping cabins, 1 camp host, 1 comfort station, 10 vault toilets, 2 boat ramps, 1 fish cleaning station, 1 dump station, 1 fee booth, 1 archery range, 1 pet exercise area, 1 storm warning siren, 3 hydrants/spigots, 7 garbage dumpsters, 1 informational kiosks, 1 volleyball court, 3 horseshoe pits, 3 picnic shelters, 5 parking lots, 1 swim beach, and 1 playground, live web cam at east boat ramp, park entrance security system.

3. Issues

According to the Survey, issues identified in this MU include:

- Trees for Wind Breaks
- Shore Fishing Access
- Increased Law Enforcement Presence
- More RV Electrical Hookups
- More potable Water Hookups
- More Camping Cabins
- Concession
- Boat Ramp Congestion
- Campsite crowding
- Difficulty reserving a site
- Shower use by unregistered campers with State Park vehicle decal

Issues identified by SDGFP staff include:

- Boat ramp congestion
- Shower house overuse
- Fish cleaning and dump station overuse
- Traffic and campsite congestion

4. Constraints

Natural, cultural, and paleontological resource concerns occur within this MU. Consultation with SDSHPO and interested Tribes may be required for additional or new development in this area.

5. Management Actions

This is the highest use area at BFR and where a majority of SDGFP staff time is utilized. Current maintenance conducted by SDGFP staff in this unit includes mowing, general

campground and park maintenance daily throughout the summer, multiple visits by staff each day for visitor interaction, custodial rounds, regulation compliance, road maintenance as needed inside the unit, and noxious weed control.

According to the Survey, the top four requests for this area include:

- Trees for wind breaks
- Shore fishing access
- Increased law enforcement presence
- More campsites with electrical hookups

Below is a list of projects approved for 2019 to 2020:

1. Construct concrete patios and walks, install ADA fire rings, modify decks and landscape around cabins 1 & 2.
2. Planted 2,000 feet of five row irrigated tree belt
3. Planted roughly 150 shade trees
4. Installed live web cam at east boat ramp
5. Installed security system at entrance to the park
6. Asphalt pave shop parking lot

The table below includes proposed improvements and changes by priority group. Priority Groups are set up based on available budget, project approval status, public health and safety, and needs/desires of the public

Priority Group 1	Priority Group 2	Priority Group 3
Expand/Improve RV dump station	Install vault toilet at fish cleaning station	Construct shore fishing pod with ADA fishing dock
Improve fish cleaning station	Expand shore fishing area parking lot	
Annually plant 50-100 trees and install irrigation system	Install courtesy dock near south boat ramp	
	Expand south boat ramp parking lot	

Projects will be completed as funding and staffing allows. These projects qualify for Reclamations Title 28 cost share program funds as a managing partner exists for these lands. Federal Lands Transportation Act (FLTP) and Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) funding opportunities exist for some of these projects.



Figure 7. Belle Fourche Reservoir Resource Management Plan, MU 2: Rocky Point SRA.

MU 03 Middle Point Recreation Area

Land Use Code: 02

1. Background and Current Use

This MU is managed by Reclamation. The unit is a popular overnight camping area. Gravel roads access the site.

2. Facilities Inventory

Under Reclamation's authority, minimum basic recreational facilities exist in this unit. Reclamation provides an informational kiosk, two vault toilets, gravel roads and parking areas, one garbage dumpster, and fire rings. A tree planting was conducted spring of 2019.

3. Issues

According to the Survey, issues identified in this MU include:

- Develop primitive day use facilities.
- Dust control road treatment on gravel road.

Issues identified by Reclamation staff include:

- Shoreline erosion threatening vault toilet
- Need shade trees
- Need for designated camping sites
- Overstay, unoccupied campers
- Use conflicts and overcrowding
- Impacts to habitat
- Public service & safety
- Facility and road maintenance repair and replacement responsibility

4. Constraints

Natural, cultural, and paleontological resource and management concerns occur within this MU. Consultation with SDSHPO and interested Tribes may be required for development in this area. A managing partner was not secured for this unit, and therefore will continue to be managed by Reclamation, with only minimum basic facilities provided according to Reclamations authority

5. Management Actions

Current maintenance conducted by Reclamation and contracted staff in this unit includes road maintenance (3 annual road bladings and mowing of road shoulders), weekly garbage service, weekly vault toilet cleaning, annual vault toilet pump-out, litter pickup, noxious weed control, and dust control on first 1,000 feet of Suzie Peak road north of the fee booth.

According to the Survey, the top four requests for this area include:

- Trees for wind breaks
- Shore fishing access
- Road maintenance
- Campgrounds with electrical hookups

The table below includes proposed improvements and changes by priority group. Priority Groups are set up based on available budget, project approval status, public health and safety, and needs/desires of the public.

Priority Group 1	Priority Group 2	Priority Group 3 – Need a Managing Partner to Implement
Construct camper registration station	Install potable water to camp host site	Install electricity to campsites
Implement Camp Host duties	Designate 38 campsites	Install water spigots
Provide 38 picnic tables (one for each new campsite)	Install 2 new vault toilets	Implement managing partner fees
Provide 38 fire rings (one for each new campsite)	3 additional garbage dumpsters	Construct new day use area with group shelter
Stabilize 1,250' of shoreline*		Construct comfort station
Improve shore fishing access during stabilization project		Hiking trails
Tree plantings		

*A shoreline stabilization project is proposed for construction in the fall of 2020. This project will protect middle point shoreline from eroding and protect infrastructure and camping areas. Shore-fishing access will be considered in the design and construction of the shoreline stabilization project.

Priority Group 3 activities cannot occur until a managing partner is secured.

A camp host site may be constructed as funding allows and potable water eventually added to that site. A seasonal employee and/or volunteer will assist Reclamation with recreation management duties, visitor assistance, provide maintenance and law enforcement assistance.

Required self-registration system for campers will be implemented based on public survey comments. There will be no fee for camping or day use activities on Reclamation managed recreation areas. All campers will be required to camp in a designated campsite. Designated campsites may be mowed or graveled and identified by wood or carsonite posts. Each campsite will contain a fire ring and a picnic table as funding allows. Certain designated campsites will be large enough to accommodate multiple campers, with the limit being 5 campers per site. Each camper unit is required to register to camp. Designated campsites will assist with reducing overstay, reducing unregistered campers, and assist in regulation enforcement. Maximum allowable stay is 14 days out of a 30-day period.



Figure 8. Belle Fourche Reservoir Resource Management Plan, MU 3, Middle Point.

MU 04 Gadens Point Recreation Area

Land Use Code: 02

1. Background and Current Use

This MU is managed by Reclamation. The unit is a popular overnight camping and day use area. Gravel roads access the site.

2. Facilities Inventory

Under Reclamation's authority, minimum basic recreational facilities exist in this unit.

Reclamation provides two informational kiosks, two vault toilets, gravel roads/parking areas, a swim beach, 2 garbage dumpsters and fire rings.

3. Issues

According to the Survey, issues identified in this MU include:

- Add boat ramp
- Develop campsites
- Improve facilities
- Better road maintenance
- Winter time road maintenance/snow removal
- Add showerhouse
- Re-open tequila beach to camping
- Need more shoreline stabilization
- Overstay/unattended campers

Issues identified by Reclamation staff include:

- Launching of motorized watercraft at undesignted boat launch site (ANS & LE concern)
- ORV use concerns
- Overstay, unoccupied campers
- No designated camping sites
- Need additional vault toilets
- Resource damage from campsite expansion
- Use conflicts and overcrowding
- Impacts to habitat
- Public service & safety
- Facility and road maintenance repair and replacement responsibility

4. Constraints

Natural, cultural, management and paleontological resource concerns occur within this MU.

Consultation with SDSHPO and interested Tribes may be required for development in this area.

A managing partner was not secured for this unit, and therefore will continue to be managed by Reclamation, with only minimum basic facilities provided according to Reclamations authority.

Topography concerns, including cutbanks up to 80' occur along portions of the shoreline. New developments should consider the limitations of the topography.

5. Management Actions

Current maintenance conducted by Reclamation and contracted staff in this unit includes, road maintenance (road bladings and mowing of road shoulders), weekly garbage service, weekly vault toilet cleaning, annual vault toilet pump-out, litter pickup, and noxious weed control.

According to the Survey, the top three requests for this area include:

- Campgrounds with electrical hookups
- Comfort station/shower
- Boat ramp

The table below includes proposed improvements and changes by priority group. Priority Groups are set up based on available budget, project approval status, public health and safety, and needs/desires of the public.

Priority Group 1	Priority Group 2	Priority Group 3 – Need a Managing Partner to Implement
Construct camper registration station	Designate 64 campsites	Install electricity to campsites
Provide 64 picnic tables (one for each campsite)	Construct new boat ramp and access road, parking area, rip rap and vault toilet	Install water spigots
Provide 64 fire rings (one for each campsite)	Install 2 new vault toilets and 2 additional garbage dumpsters	Implement managing partner fees
Unauthorized road closure and rehabilitation		Construct playground
Hire Camp Host (Combined Middle Point and Gadens Point)		Expand Tequila Beach parking area
Tree plantings		Construct group shelter at Tequila Beach
Install 2 new vault toilets and 2 additional garbage dumpsters		Construct comfort station
		Add group shelter to day use area
		Hiking Trails

Priority Group 3 activities cannot occur until a managing partner is secured.

Required self-registration system for campers will be implemented based on Survey comments. There will be no fee for camping or day use activities on Reclamation managed recreation areas. All campers will be required to camp in a designated campsite. Designated campsites may be mowed or graveled and identified by wood or carsonite posts. Each campsite will contain a fire ring and a picnic table as funding allows. Certain designated campsites will be large enough to accommodate

multiple campers, with the limit being 5 campers per site. Each camper unit is required to register to camp. Designated campsites will assist with reducing overstay, reducing unregistered campers, and assist in regulation enforcement. Maximum allowable stay is 14 days out of a 30-day period.

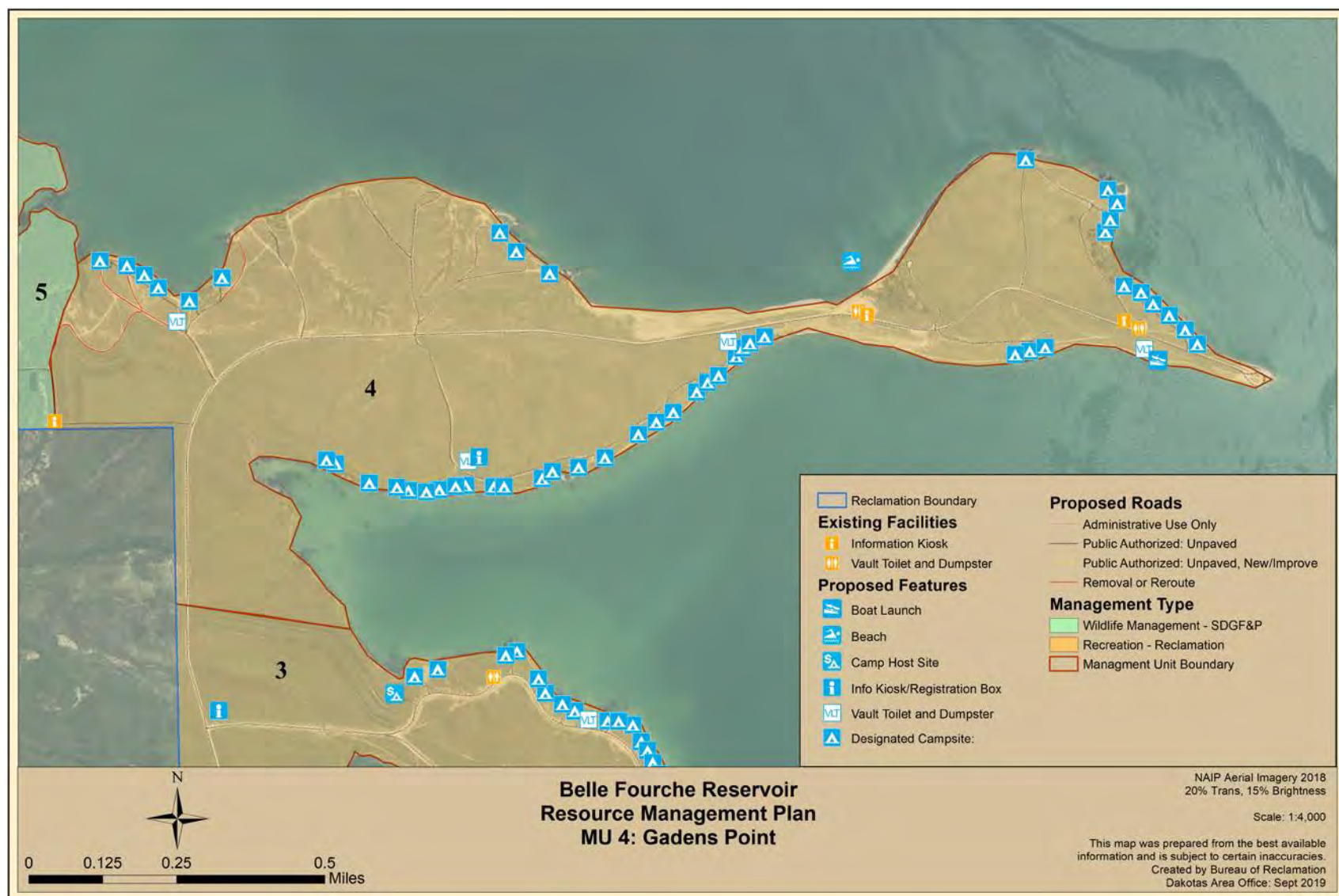


Figure 9. Belle Fourche Reservoir Resource Management Plan, MU 4: Gadens Point.

3.3 Primitive Recreation – Reclamation Managed Land Use Code 03

MU 11 Bird Island View Recreation Area (Figure 10)

MU 12 Golf Course Point Recreation Area (Figure 11)

Goal

Provide a range of public recreation opportunities in a primitive setting, while managing the units land and vegetation resources. Expand those opportunities according to public needs, with a managing partner in the future.

Overnight camping would only be permitted in designated primitive campsites. Designated primitive campsites would be dispersed, have only minimum hardening (gravel or mowing), no water or electricity. Picnic tables, basic fire-grates, garbage dumpsters, and vault toilets may be provided. If vault toilets were not provided, users would be required to have self-contained sanitary facilities.

Primitive campsites would be accessible only by designated roads. Pullouts would be provided from designated roads to designated campsites. Main roads would have gravel surfaces and receive annual maintenance. Road maintenance will occur between May and September. Winter maintenance or snow removal will not be performed by Reclamation or contractor. Material sites; such as gravel borrow pits would be allowed.

Archery and shotgun hunting would be permitted in non-campground areas during regular seasons and as designated by SDGFP. Livestock grazing may be permitted in these areas. Vegetation management would emphasize the following goals:

- Reduce wildfire hazard.
- Promote healthy sagebrush communities.
- Improve and enhance riparian habitat.
- Manage grasslands to encourage diverse native vegetation with a variety of structural classes and provide adequate cover for ground nesting birds and other wildlife.
- Maintain adequate vegetation to protect fragile shale soils.
- Encourage healthy woody draws and the establishment of woody, riparian vegetation to stabilize shorelines.
- Reduce impacts to native vegetation by limiting primitive camping and regulating road access.
- Control noxious weeds and invasive plants.
- Preserve aesthetics

MU 11 Bird Island View

Land Use Code: 03

1. Background and Current Use

The MU is managed by Reclamation. The unit is a popular overnight camping area. Gravel roads lead to this site. Dirt road accesses this site.

2. Facilities Inventory

Under Reclamation's authority, only minimum basic recreational facilities exist in this unit. Reclamation provides dirt roads/parking areas, and a few fire rings.

3. Issues

According to the Survey, no issues were identified in this MU by the public.

Issues identified by Reclamation staff include:

- Off road vehicle use in this area.
- Caving bank erosion concerns.
- Need for vault toilet (sanitation)
- Road work needed
- No designated camping sites
- Use conflicts and overcrowding
- Impacts to habitat,
- Public service & safety,
- Facility and road maintenance, repair and replacement responsibility

Issues identified by adjacent landowners include:

- Trash, littering, and noise disturbance

4. Constraints

Natural, cultural, management, and paleontological resource concerns occur within this MU. Consultation with SDSHPO and interested Tribes may be required for development in this area. Topography concerns, including cutbanks up to 80' occur along portions of the shoreline. New developments should consider the limitations of the topography.

5. Management Actions

Current maintenance conducted by Reclamation and contracted staff in this unit includes, enforcement patrols, litter pickup, and noxious weed control.

According to the Survey, the top five requests for this area include:

- Trees for wind breaks
- Additional vault toilet
- Road maintenance
- Shore fishing access
- Increased law enforcement presence

The table below includes proposed improvements and changes by priority group. Priority Groups are set up based on available budget, project approval status, public health and safety, and needs/desires of the public.

Priority Group 1	Priority Group 2	Priority Group 3
Construct camper registration station	Tree Plantings	Construct new road access from north with gravel pullouts
Designate 26 non-utility campsites	Internal Fence removal	
Restrict vehicle traffic from south	Install 1 new vault toilet	
Mow hiking trail from the south	Provide 1 additional garbage dumpster	
Provide 26 fire rings (one at each campsite)		
Provide 26 picnic tables (one at each campsite)		
Construct 2 new vault toilets		
Provide 2 additional garbage dumpsters		
Unauthorized road closure and rehabilitation		

Required self-registration system for campers will be implemented based on Survey comments. There will be no fee for camping or day use activities on Reclamation managed recreation areas. All campers will be required to camp in a designated campsite. Designated campsites may be mowed or graveled and identified by wood or carsonite posts. Each campsite will contain a fire ring and a picnic table as funding allows. Certain designated campsites will be large enough to accommodate multiple campers, with the limit being 5 campers per site. Each camper unit is required to register to camp. Designated campsites will assist with reducing overstay, reducing unregistered campers, and assist in regulation enforcement. Maximum allowable stay is 14 days out of a 30-day period.

Road improvements are needed in this south area, however available public land is limited for these improvements and infrastructure exists in this area that does not allow for road construction/maintenance. Vehicular access will be restricted from the south and a mowed trail furnished for public walk in access.

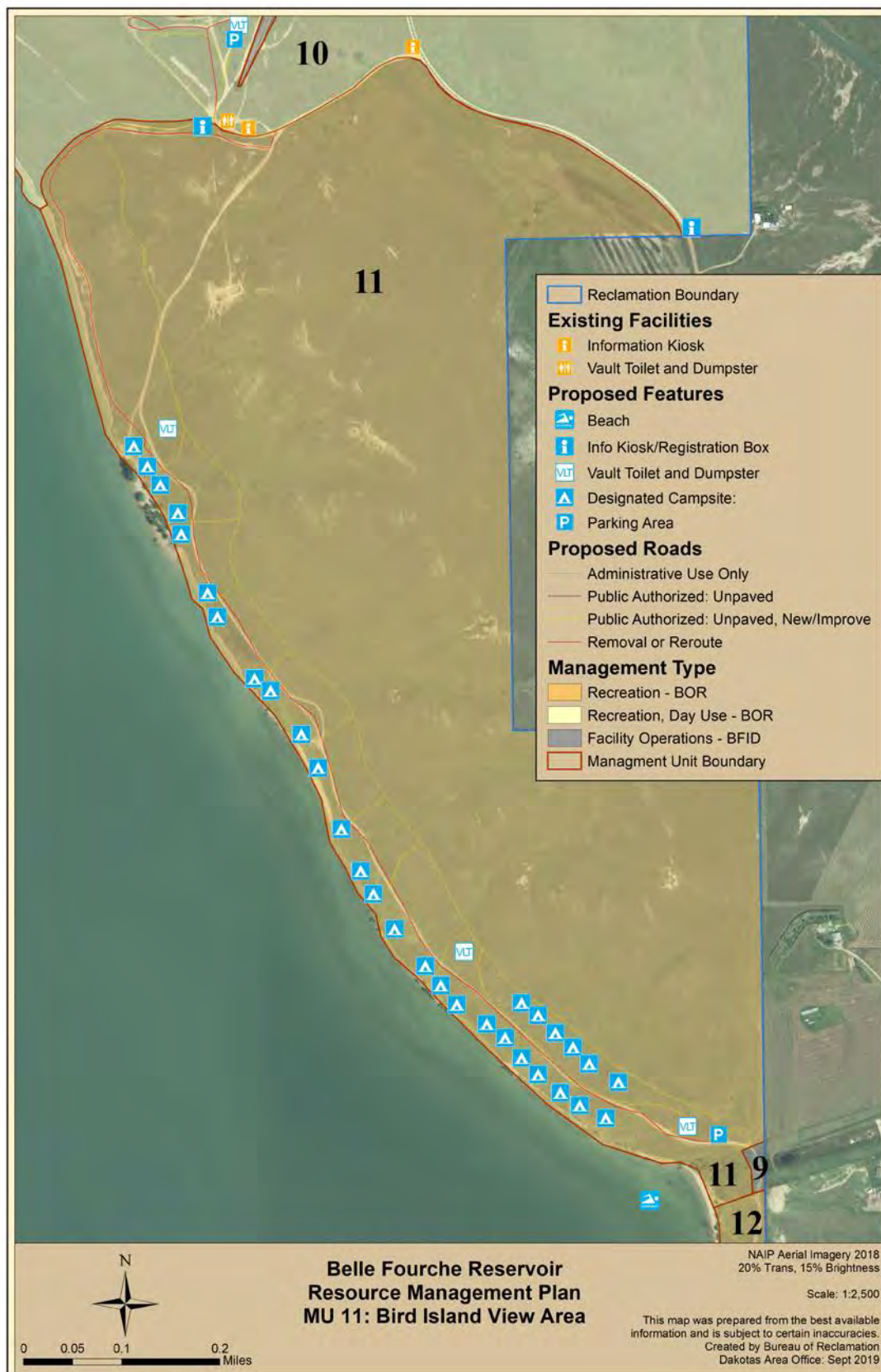


Figure 10. Belle Fourche Reservoir Resource Management Plan, MU 11: Bird Island View Area.

MU 12 Golf Course Point

Land Use Code: 03

1. Background and Current Use

The MU is managed by Reclamation. The unit is a popular overnight camping area. Asphalt road leads to this site. Gravel road accesses the site.

2. Facilities Inventory

Under Reclamation's authority, only minimum basic recreational facilities exist in this unit.

Reclamation provides one informational kiosk, two vault toilets, one garbage dumpster, and fire rings.

3. Issues

According to the Survey, issues identified in this MU include:

- Do not develop
- Great camping spot
- More fire rings

Issues identified by Reclamation staff include:

- Off road vehicle use in this area
- Caving bank concerns
- Need shade trees
- No designated camping sites
- Use conflicts and overcrowding
- Impacts to habitat,
- Public service & safety,
- Facility and road maintenance, repair and replacement responsibility

4. Constraints

Natural, cultural, management, and paleontological resource concerns occur within this MU.

Consultation with SDSHPO and interested Tribes may be required for development in this area. Topography concerns, including cutbanks up to 80' occur along portions of the shoreline. New developments should consider the limitations of the topography.

5. Management Actions

Current maintenance conducted by Reclamation and contracted staff in this unit includes, road maintenance (3 annual bladings and mowing of road shoulders), weekly garbage service, weekly vault toilet cleaning, annual vault toilet pump-out, litter pickup, and noxious weed control.

According to the Survey, the top four requests for this area include:

- Trees for wind breaks
- Increased law enforcement presence
- Shore fishing access
- Boat ramp

The table below includes proposed improvements and changes by priority group. Priority Groups are set up based on available budget, project approval status, public health and safety, and needs/desires of the public.

Priority Group 1	Priority Group 2	Priority Group 3
Construct camper registration station	Install potable water to camp host site	Add Gravel pullouts to existing road
Construct camp host site	Designate 36 non-utility campsites	Install 1 new vault toilet and garbage dumpster
Recruit camp host (combined Bird Island View and Golf Course Point)	Install 2 camp loop roads	
Provide 36 picnic tables at each campsite	Install 1 new vault toilet and additional garbage dumpster	
Provide 36 fire rings at each campsite	Construct canoe/kayak/windsurfing parking area	
Install 1 new vault toilet and 1 additional garbage dumpster		
Tree Plantings		

A Camp host site will be constructed, and a camp host will be recruited and stationed at the entrance to Golf Course Point as funding allows. The camp host will assist Reclamation with park management duties, visitor assistance, provide maintenance and law enforcement assistance.

Required self-registration system for campers will be implemented based on Survey comments. There will be no fee for camping or day use activities on Reclamation managed recreation areas. All campers will be required to camp in a designated campsite. Designated campsites may be mowed or graveled and identified by wood or carsonite posts. Each campsite will contain a fire ring and a picnic table as funding allows. Certain designated campsites will be large enough to accommodate multiple campers, with the limit being 5 campers per site. Each camper unit is required to register to camp. Designated campsites will assist with reducing overstay, reducing unregistered campers, and assist in regulation enforcement. Maximum allowable stay is 14 days out of a 30-day period.



Figure 11. Belle Fourche Reservoir Resource Management Plan, MU 12: Golf Course Point.

3.4 Day Use Area – Reclamation Managed

Land Use Code 04

MU 01	Inlet Canal Day Use Area (Figure 12)
MU 10	CCC Point Day Use Area (Figure 13)
MU 13	Fruitdale Day Use Area (Figure 14)

Goal

Provide a recreation opportunity with visitor conveniences. Ensure public health and safety while preserving aesthetics and concentrating uses in order to protect natural resources.

These areas would contain fishing access sites and beaches. Overnight camping would not be permitted in these areas. They may contain vault toilets, garbage dumpsters and informational kiosks.

Archery and shotgun hunting is permitted during regular seasons, and as designated by the SDGFP.

Livestock grazing would not be permitted in these areas. Vegetation management would emphasize the following goals:

- Reduce wildfire hazard.
- Provide shade and privacy.
- Retain durable, drought resistant ground cover.
- Encourage the establishment of shrubs and trees on shorelines where desirable for shade or shoreline stabilization.
- Preserve aesthetics.
- Control noxious weeds and invasive plants.

Three years (2017-2019) of hard camper count data shows minimal camping use at Inlet Canal Area, CCC Point, and Fruitdale Area when compared to other primitive recreation areas. Designating these areas as Day Use Only will reduce the need for law enforcement and camping facilities. It will also allow management to focus staff and funds on additional shore fishing areas and increase law enforcement presence.

Other reasons for restricting camping in these areas:

- Inlet Canal is prone to annual flooding and is not conducive to camping facilities.
- Conflicts between campers and day use fishing activities will be eliminated.
- Road access in the Fruitdale Recreation Area is minimal and does not receive annual maintenance.
- CCC Point is small in size and is a popular beach area. Shoreline camping with vehicles is a public safety concern and conflicts with day use beach activities.
- These areas are currently popular shore-fishing areas.

MU 01 Inlet Canal Day Use Area

Land Use Code: 04

1. Background and Current Use

The MU is managed by Reclamation. The unit is a popular fishing area in the spring and early summer. Overnight camping was allowed in the past; however, this area is proposed to be converted to day use only area. The entire area along both sides of inlet canal is open to shore fishing and easily accessible. Close proximity parking to the water is available. Asphalt road access leads to the site. Gravel roads access the site.

2. Facilities Inventory

Under Reclamation's authority, only minimum basic recreational facilities exist in this unit. West of fisherman's bridge, Reclamation provides an informational kiosk, a historical interpretive sign, one vault toilet, one garbage dumpster and gravel roads and parking areas. East of Fisherman's bridge, Reclamation provides gravel roads and fire rings.

3. Issues

Issues identified in this MU by the Survey include:

- More shore fishing access

Issues identified by Reclamation staff include:

- Undesignated camping
- Unauthorized road use
- High volume of trash
- Flooding/ice jams
- Improve shore fishing access
- Use conflicts and overcrowding
- Impacts to habitat,
- Public service & safety,
- Facility and road maintenance, repair and replacement responsibility

4. Constraints

Natural, cultural, management, and paleontological resource concerns occur within this MU. Consultation with SDSHPO and interested Tribes may be required for development in this area. The area is prone to annual flooding and/or ice jams that would damage infrastructure. No proposed facilities are planned for this area.

5. Management Actions

Current maintenance conducted by Reclamation and contracted staff in this unit includes, road maintenance (3 annual road bladings and mowing of road shoulders), weekly garbage service, weekly vault toilet cleaning, annual vault toilet pump-out, litter pickup, and noxious weed control.

According to the Survey, the top four requests for this area include:

- Trees for wind breaks
- Shore fishing access
- None desired

- Increased law enforcement

The table below includes proposed improvements and changes by priority group. Priority Groups are set up based on available budget, project approval status, public health and safety, and needs/desires of the public.

Priority Group 1	Priority Group 2
Convert from overnight camping to day use only area (no camping)	Improve current fishing access trail to drop structure
Improve shore fishing access	Install 2 new vault toilets
Install new fishing access road	
Install trash receptacles	
Add gravel between road and canal embankment for additional fishing access parking	

There are no plans to plant trees in this unit as the unit is prone to flooding. Mature shade trees exist along most of the shoreline of Inlet Canal in this unit.

Reclamation and the South Dakota Army National Guard have added a fishing access road and parking area in this unit and additional gravel and parking is planned for in the future.

This area is proposed to be converted from overnight camping to Day Use Only. 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. Additionally, Reclamation camper counts over the past 3 years have shown this area to be under-utilized for camping in comparison to Golf Course Point and Bird Island View.

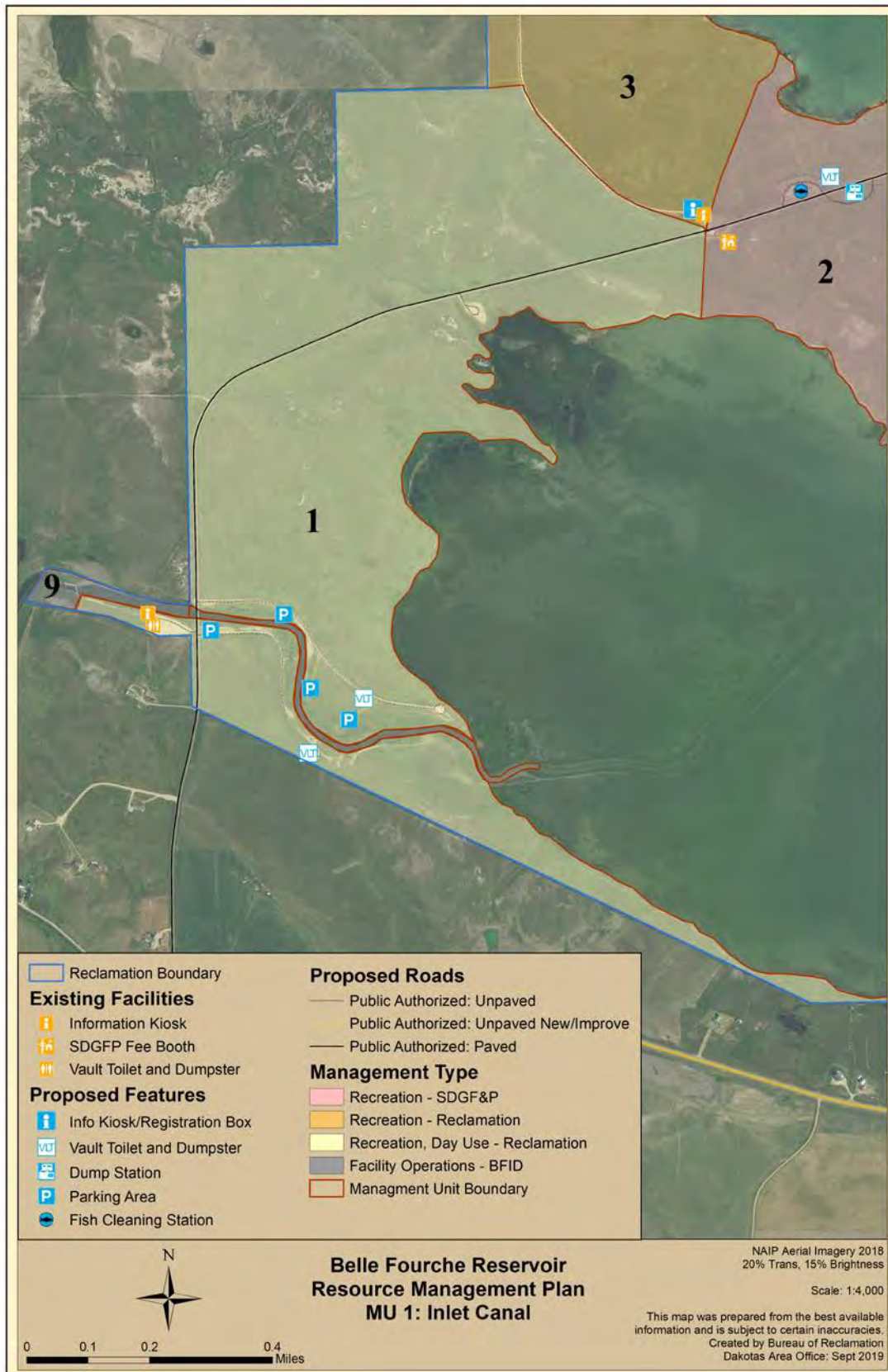


Figure 12. Belle Fourche Reservoir Resource Management Plan, MU 1: Inlet Canal.

MU 10 CCC Point Day Use Area

Land Use Code: 04

1. Background and Current Use

The MU is managed by Reclamation. The unit is a popular swimming, fishing, and overnight camping area. Overnight camping was allowed in the past; however, this area is proposed to be converted to day use only area. Gravel roads access the site.

2. Facilities Inventory

Under Reclamation's authority, only minimum basic recreational facilities exist in this unit. Reclamation provides one historical interpretive site, one vault toilet, gravel roads/parking areas, 1 garbage dumpster and fire rings.

3. Issues

According to the Survey, no issues were identified in this MU by the public.

Issues identified by Reclamation staff include:

- Launching of motorized watercraft at undesignated boat launch site (ANS & Law Enforcement concern)
- Shoreline driving/camping
- Road work needed
- Public vehicular parking at south dam gate
- Small area, not conducive to large groups for overnight camping
- Use conflicts and overcrowding
- Impacts to habitat,
- Public service & safety,
- Facility and road maintenance, repair and replacement responsibility

4. Constraints

Natural, cultural, management, and paleontological resource concerns occur within this MU. Consultation with SDSHPO and interested Tribes may be required for development in this area. Topography concerns; including cutbanks up to 80' occur along portions of the shoreline. New developments should consider the limitations of the topography.

5. Management Actions

Current maintenance conducted by Reclamation and contracted staff in this unit includes, road maintenance (3 annual road bladings and mowing of road shoulders), weekly garbage service, weekly vault toilet cleaning, annual vault toilet pump-out, litter pickup, and noxious weed control.

According to the Survey, the top three requests for this area include:

- Trees for windbreaks
- Increased law enforcement presence
- Boat ramp*

* Reclamation no longer proposes a boat ramp in this MU due to unfavorable lake contours and the potential for spreading aquatic invasive species which will increase the need for law enforcement.

The table below includes proposed improvements and changes by priority group. Priority Groups are set up based on available budget, project approval status, public health and safety, and needs/desires of the public.

Priority Group 1	Priority Group 2	Priority Group 3
Convert from overnight camping to day use only area (no camping)	Construct parking area	Construct new road to South Dam Beach
Implement Orman Dam parking restrictions	Construct 1 new vault toilet	

This area is proposed to be converted from overnight camping to Day Use Only. A change to day use will reduce the need for camping facilities and allow us to focus staff and funds on additional amenities and increased law enforcement presence. Camping will be provided in nearby Golf Course Point and Bird Island View.

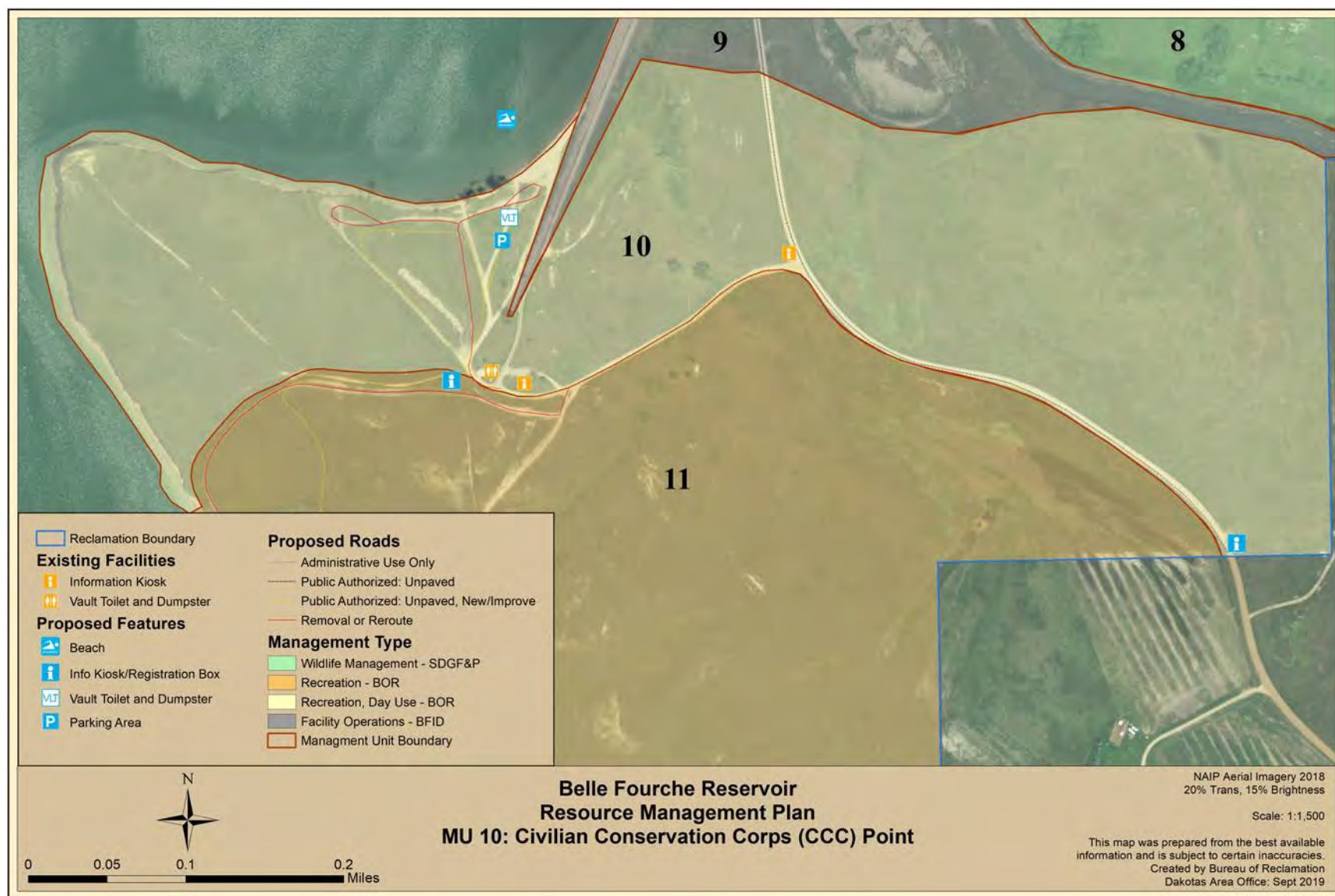


Figure 13. Belle Fourche Reservoir Resource Management Plan, MU 10: Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Point.

MU 13 Fruitdale Day Use Area

Land Use Code: 04

1. Background and Current Use

The MU is managed by Reclamation. The unit is a popular shore fishing area. This area is used annually by the South Dakota Army National Guard during the June Golden Coyote Exercise. Overnight camping was allowed in the past; however, this area is proposed to be converted to day use only area. Hwy 212, asphalt road leads to this site. Dirt road accesses this site.

2. Facilities Inventory

No facilities exist in this unit.

3. Issues

According to the Survey, issues identified in this MU include:

- Littering
- Unattended, unregistered, and overstay campers
- ORV use
- Shoreline driving

Issues identified by Reclamation staff include:

- Off road vehicle use
- Unattended, unregistered and overstay campers
- Caving banks
- Vault toilet need
- Unauthorized road use
- Need to improve authorized roads
- No designated camping sites
- Use conflicts and overcrowding
- Impacts to habitat
- Public service & safety
- Facility and road maintenance, repair and replacement responsibility

4. Constraints

Natural, cultural, management, and paleontological resource concerns occur within this MU. Consultation with SDSHPO and interested Tribes may be required for development in this area. Sanitation is a health and safety concern. No restroom facilities are present in this MU. The nearest facility is over one mile away.

5. Management Actions

Current maintenance conducted by Reclamation and contracted staff in this unit includes litter pickup, and noxious weed control.

According to the Survey, the top five requests for this area include:

- Trees for wind breaks
- Increased law enforcement presence

- Shore fishing access

The table below includes proposed improvements and changes by priority group. Priority Groups are set up based on available budget, project approval status, public health and safety, and needs/desires of the public.

Priority Group 1	Priority Group 2
Convert from overnight camping to day use only area (no camping)	Improve authorized road
Construct 1 new vault toilet	Construct new fishing access roads
Provide garbage dumpster	

Currently only a small section of authorized road occurs in this unit and a need for better and safer access has been identified by the public and Reclamation. Improvements will be made as funding is available or assistance is received from the South Dakota Army National Guard.

This area is proposed to be converted from overnight camping to Day Use Only. A change to day use will reduce the need for camping facilities and allow us to focus staff and funds on additional amenities and increased law enforcement presence. Camping will be provided in nearby Golf Course Point and Bird Island View.



Figure 14. Belle Fourche Reservoir Resource Management Plan, MU 13: Fruitdale Point.

3.5 Wildlife Management Area – SDGFP Managed Land Use Code 05

MU 05	Game Production Area (West) (Figure 15)
MU 06	Game Production Area (North) (Figure 16)
MU 07	Game Production Area (East)– (Including former ORV area) (Figure 17)
MU 08	Game Production Area (Below Dam) – Including Islands (Figure 18)

Goal

Encourage and enhance diverse wildlife habitat through land and vegetation management activities. Allow recreational use that is compatible with the protection of the MU's natural and cultural resources.

These areas would emphasize both primitive day use recreation and wildlife habitat. Hiking, boating, fishing, mountain biking, horseback riding, day use, and hunting access would be encouraged. Hunting would be permitted during regular seasons and as designated by SDGFP. Overnight camping would not be permitted. Vault toilets may be provided at day use areas and trailheads. The designated ORV Area will be eliminated and reclaimed and seeded with grass to be managed as a wildlife management area by SDGFP, Wildlife Division.

Roads would be unimproved or have gravel surfaces and receive minimal maintenance. Some remote roads may be open seasonally only to allow for hunting/fishing access. Access to portions of the area may be restricted to vehicles seasonally to protect wildlife during critical life cycle stages. Unauthorized roads would be closed and reclaimed using a native seed mix.

Livestock grazing would be permitted in these areas. Prescribed fire would be accomplished in accordance with the Reclamation's Dakotas Area Office South Dakota Fire Management Plan. Foodplots may be provided for wildlife and public hunting opportunities. Vegetation management would emphasize the following goals:

- Reduce wildfire hazard.
- Promote healthy sagebrush communities and manage for wildlife species dependent on sagebrush habitat.
- Improve and enhance riparian habitat.
- Manage grasslands to encourage diverse native vegetation with a variety of structural classes to provide adequate cover for ground nesting birds and other wildlife.
- Maintain adequate vegetation to protect fragile shale soils.
- Encourage healthy woody draws and the establishment of woody, riparian vegetation to stabilize shorelines.
- Control noxious weeds and invasive plants.

SDGFP will assume management for these units in 2020, which will allow conservation officers Federal law enforcement jurisdiction and SDGFP to utilize Reclamations Title 28 cost share funds for maintenance items such as road improvements, fence maintenance, and weed control.

MU 05 Wildlife Management Area (West)

Land Use Code: 05

1. Background and Current Use

The MU has been managed by Reclamation. SDGFP has agreed to assume management responsibility in 2020. The unit is a popular hunting and shore fishing area. Gravel road leads to this site. Dirt roads access this site. Wildlife Management Areas are closed to camping.

2. Facilities Inventory

Under Reclamation's authority, only minimum basic recreational facilities exist in this unit. Reclamation provides an informational kiosk and un-graveled roads.

3. Issues

According to the Survey, issues identified in this MU include:

- More shore fishing access
- Road maintenance

Issues identified by Reclamation staff include:

- ORV use
- Unauthorized camping in wildlife area
- Boundary fence and gates
- Road work needed
- Restricted vehicular access from September 1 – April 1 on an unauthorized trail

Issues identified by adjacent private landowners include:

- Wildfire concerns
- ORV use concerns
- Noxious weed control

4. Constraints

Natural, Cultural, management, and paleontological resource concerns occur within this MU. Consultation with SDSHPO and interested Tribes may be required for development in this area.

5. Management Actions

Current maintenance conducted by Reclamation and contracted staff in this unit includes litter pickup, and noxious weed control.

According to the Survey, the top four requests for this area include:

- Trees for wind breaks
- Shore fishing access
- Road maintenance
- Hunting trail access

The SDGFP Wildlife Division will assume management responsibilities of all previous Reclamation managed Wildlife Management Areas. This area includes the entire north half of BFR as well as the former ORV area. The Wildlife Division will

manage these areas for wildlife, wildlife habitat and public hunting opportunities.

The table below includes proposed improvements and changes by priority group. Priority Groups are set up based on available budget, project approval status, public health and safety, and needs/desires of the public.

Priority Group 1	Priority Group 2
SDGFP manage as State Game Production Area	Enhance wetland/riparian areas
Prohibit access on unauthorized trails	Construct/improve 2 new fishing access roads
Construct firebreak around boundary	Gravel all authorized roads
Convert boundary fence to wildlife friendly specs to improve big game movement	Culvert installation on roads where needed
Improve wildlife habitat by implementing prescribed fire, prescribed grazing and planting foodplots	
Reclaim unauthorized trails	



Figure 15. Belle Fourche Reservoir Resource Management Plan, MU 5: Game Production Area.

MU 06 Wildlife Management Area (East)

Land Use Code: 05

1. Background and Current Use

The MU has been managed by Reclamation. SDGFP has agreed to assume management responsibility in 2020. The unit is a popular hunting area. There are no public authorized roads that access this site. Wildlife Management Areas are closed to camping.

2. Facilities Inventory

No facilities exist in this unit.

3. Issues

According to the Survey, no issues were identified in this MU by the public.

Issues identified by Reclamation staff include:

- Boundary fence and gates
- Unauthorized camping in wildlife area
- Illegal ORV use into other adjacent areas

Issues identified by adjacent private landowners include:

- Wildfire concerns
- ORV use
- Noxious weed control

4. Constraints

Natural, cultural, management, and paleontological resource concerns occur within this MU. Consultation with SDSHPO and interested Tribes may be required for development in this area. There are topography concerns, including cutbanks up to 80' occur along portions of the shoreline. New developments should consider the limitations of the topography. A Great Blue Heron rookery exists within this MU. New developments should consider timing and setback distances from the nests during nesting season.

5. Management Actions

Current maintenance conducted by Reclamation and contracted staff in this unit includes, litter pickup, and noxious weed control.

According to the Survey, the top four requests for this area include:

- Hunting trail access
- Shore fishing access
- Trees for wind breaks
- Increased law enforcement presence

The table below includes proposed improvements and changes by priority group. Priority Groups are set up based on available budget, project approval status, public health and safety, and needs/desires of the public.

Priority Group 1
SDGFP manage as State Wildlife Management Area
Construct firebreak around boundary
Convert boundary fence to wildlife friendly specs to improve big game movement
Improve wildlife habitat by implementing prescribed fire, prescribed grazing and planting foodplots.
Reclaim ORV trails and seed with native grass
Riparian areas and wetlands will be enhanced as reservoir water elevations allow

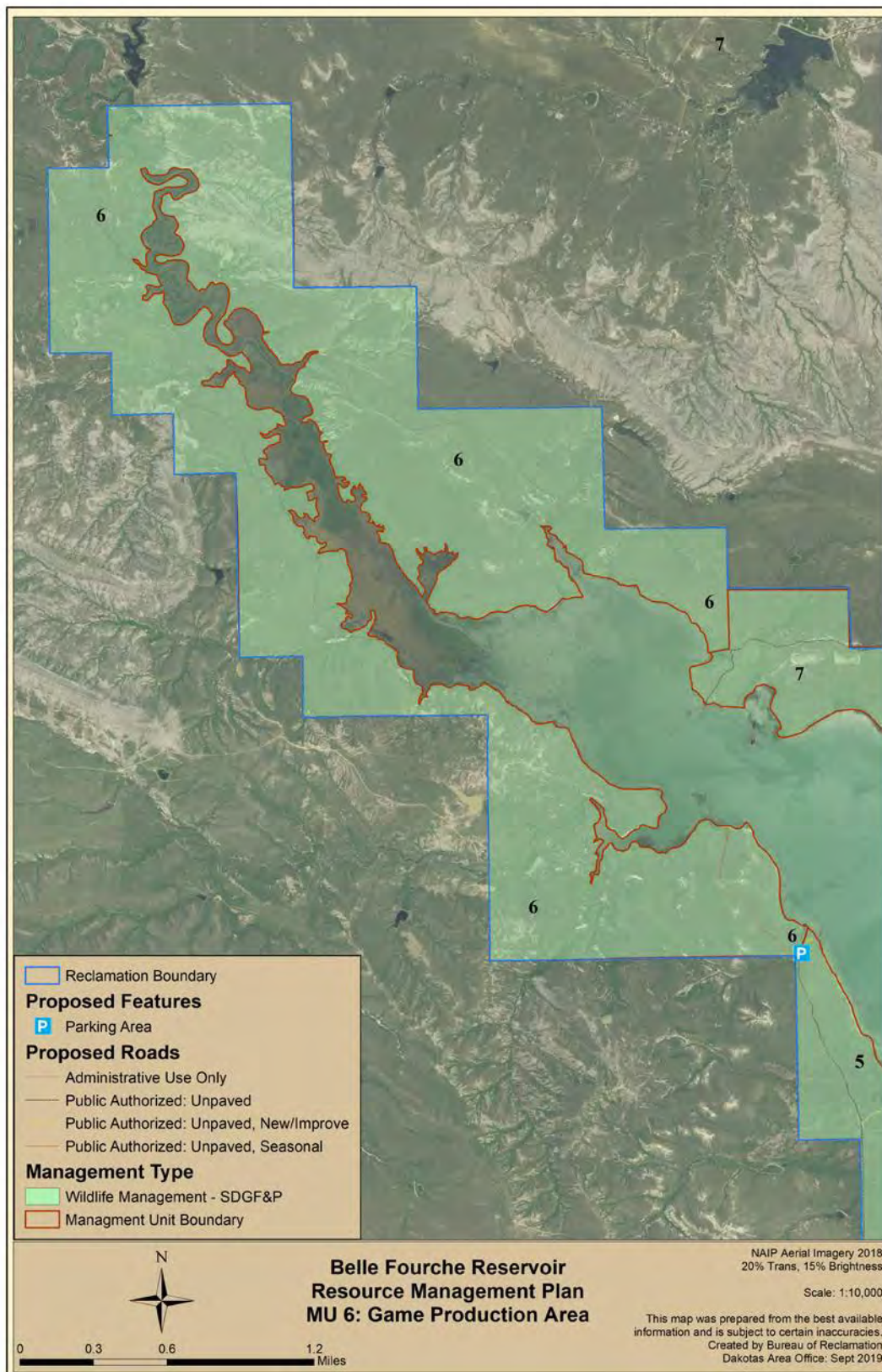


Figure 16. Belle Fourche Reservoir Resource Management Plan, MU 6: Game Production Area.

MU 07 Wildlife Management Area

Land Use Code: 05

1. Background and Current Use

The MU has been managed by Reclamation. SDGFP has agreed to assume management responsibility in 2020. The unit is a popular hunting area and currently includes the ORV area. Dirt road accesses this site. Wildlife Management Areas are closed to camping.

2. Facilities Inventory

No facilities exist in this unit.

3. Issues

According to the Survey, no issues were identified in this MU by the public.

Issues identified by Reclamation staff include:

- Boundary fence and gates
- Unauthorized camping in wildlife area
- Vault toilet vandalism
- Illegal ORV use into other adjacent areas
- Need road maintenance and/or new road to access shoreline (Hippie Hole)
- Public vehicular parking at north dam gate

Issues identified by adjacent private landowners include:

- Wildfire concerns
- ORV use
- Noxious weed control

5. Constraints

Natural, cultural, management, and paleontological resource concerns occur within this MU. Consultation with SDSHPO and interested Tribes may be required for development in this area. There are topography concerns, including cutbanks up to 80' occur along portions of the shoreline. New developments should consider the limitations of the topography. A Great Blue Heron rookery exists within this MU. New developments should consider timing and setback distances from the nests during nesting season.

5. Management Actions

Current maintenance conducted by Reclamation and contracted staff in this unit includes, litter pickup, and noxious weed control.

According to the Survey, the top four requests for this area include:

- Hunting trail access
- Shore fishing access
- Trees for wind breaks
- Increased law enforcement presence

The table below includes proposed improvements and changes by priority group. Priority Groups are set up based on available budget, project approval status, public health and safety, and needs/desires of the public.

Priority Group 1	Priority Group 2
Eliminate ORV designation and use; Convert to Wildlife Management Area*	Gravel all authorized roads
SDGFP manage as State Wildlife Management Area	Construct new road to Hippie Hole overlook
Restrict Public vehicular access and parking at north dam access area	
Prohibit access on unauthorized trails	
Construct firebreak around boundary	
Convert boundary fence to wildlife friendly specs to improve big game movement	
Improve wildlife habitat by implementing prescribed fire, prescribed grazing and planting foodplots.	
Reclaim unauthorized trails	
Remove cattle guard	
Provide BLM vehicular access to BLM lands	
Reclaim ORV trails and seed with native grass	

*The current ORV area will be eliminated in this unit. The 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. This change of use will follow 43 CFR, Part 420 regulations. The former ORV area will be reclaimed and managed as a wildlife management area. Public scoping did not show a significant interest in this type of recreational opportunity.

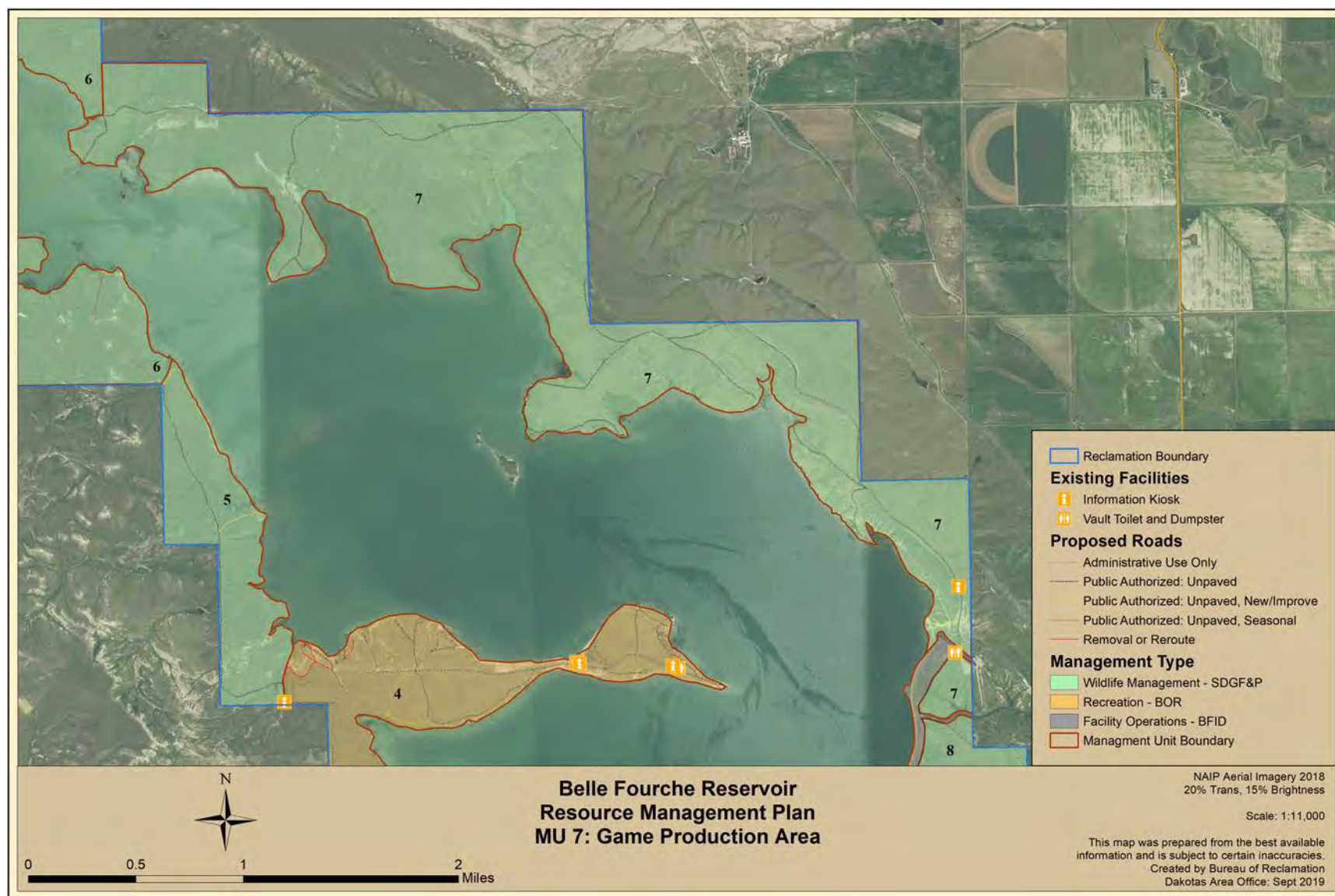


Figure 17. Belle Fourche Reservoir Resource Management Plan, MU 7: Game Production Area.

MU 08 Wildlife Management Area (Below Dam)

Land Use Code: 05

1. Background and Current Use

The SDGFP Wildlife Division currently manages this MU. The unit is managed for wildlife and hunting opportunities. The MU contains a strong wetland component and is primarily managed for waterfowl, deer and public hunting opportunities. This MU is located below Orman Dam. Gravel road access leads to this site. Wildlife Management Areas are closed to camping.

2. Facilities Inventory

This area contains one public gravel parking area, and one Butte County Historical Society sign.

3. Issues

According to the Survey, no issues were identified in this MU by the public. No issues were identified by Reclamation and SDGFP staff.

4. Constraints

Natural, cultural, and paleontological resource concerns occur within this MU. Consultation with SDSHPO and interested Tribes may be required for development in this area.

5. Management Actions

Current maintenance conducted by SDGFP staff in this unit includes noxious and invasive species control, fence maintenance.

According to the Survey, the top three requests for this area include:

- Trees for windbreaks
- Increased law enforcement presence
- Shore fishing access

The table below includes proposed improvements and changes by priority group. Priority Groups are set up based on available budget, project approval status, public health and safety, and needs/desires of the public.

Priority Group 1
Boundary fence improvements



Figure 18. Belle Fourche Reservoir Resource Management Plan, MU 8: Game Production Area.

Section 4 References

- Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), Department of Interior. June 2004. Final Environmental Assessment and Resource Management Plan Belle Fourche Reservoir. Dakotas Area Office, Bismarck, North Dakota.
- Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Department of Interior. 2019. Information for Planning and Consultation. U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. Available at: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>. Accessed March 6, 2019.
- . 2018. National Wetlands Inventory website. U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. Available at: <https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/mapper.html>. Accessed March 6, 2019.
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), United States Department of Agriculture. 2018. Web Soil Survey. Available at: <https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm>. Accessed April 3, 2018.
- South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks (SDGFP). 2016. State and Federally Listed Threatened, Endangered and Candidate Species Documented in South Dakota by County. South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks. Available at: <https://gfp.sd.gov/userdocs/docs/ThreatenedCountyList.pdf>. Accessed March 27, 2019.
- . 2019. Natural Heritage Inventory Data. South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks. Available at: <https://gfp.sd.gov/forms/heritagedata>. Accessed March 6, 2019.
- South Dakota Ornithologist's Union (SDOU). March 2011. South Dakota Bird Notes, Vol. 63, No. 1. Sioux Falls, SD.

APPENDICES

Appendix Contents

- A. MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN SDGFP AND RECLAMATION
- B. BELLE FOURCHE USER SURVEY
 - USER SURVEY SUMMARY (CHARTS AND TABLES)
 - USER SURVEY WRITTEN COMMENTS
 - OPTION TABLE
 - OPTION SELECTION COMMENTS
- C. NEWSLETTERS

Appendix A

MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN SDGFP AND RECLAMATION

MODIFICATION #1 TO MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN SDGFP AND
RECLAMATION

CONFIRMED COPY

Contract No. 14-06-600-7A

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

BELLE FOURCHE

Belle Fourche Reservoir
Belle Fourche Project
South Dakota

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND THE SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS CONCERNING
THE ADMINISTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT FACILITIES AT BELLE FOURCHE
RESERVOIR AREA FOR RECREATION AND FISH AND WILDLIFE PURPOSES

On this 11th day of December, 1969, the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, hereinafter referred to as the United States, pursuant to the authority contained in the Act of Congress of June 17, 1902 (32 Stat. 388, 43 U.S.C. 391, et seq.), and acts amendatory thereof or supplementary thereto, acting by and through the Regional Director, Region 6, Bureau of Reclamation, and in cooperation with the Regional Director, Midwest Region, National Park Service, and the STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA, acting by and through the Director of the DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS, hereinafter referred to as the Department, do hereby agree that the following principles shall govern the administration and development of facilities at Belle Fourche Reservoir for recreation purposes, which reservoir is a part of the Belle Fourche Project constructed primarily for irrigation purposes:

1. The location of the recreational facilities shall be in general accordance with National Park Service General Development Plan No. RS/BF-7100 and approved revisions thereto, with the written consent of the Bureau of Reclamation. Said plan is attached as "Exhibit A" hereto and by this reference is made a part hereof.

2. In the development and administration of recreation facilities, the Department shall follow the Reservoir Development Plan prepared by the Bureau of Reclamation in cooperation with the National Park Service and the Department. This plan shall be such as to facilitate the highest public benefit through the development of the fish and wildlife and recreation potential of the areas covered by this agreement.

3. Consonant with the basic irrigation requirements of the Belle Fourche Project and subject to the Reservoir Development Plan:

a. The Department may construct roads, trails, docks, sanitation facilities, water supplies, camp and picnic grounds, bathing beaches, or other facilities and provide services incidental to recreation and fish and wildlife use.

b. The Department may issue and administer licenses, permits and contracts to persons or associations for the purpose of regulating

the privileges to be exercised and concession contracts under which services are made available to the public in the area. All instruments used for such purposes shall be subject to applicable terms of this agreement and shall contain certain language recognizing the purpose of the Belle Fourche Project and effecting releases and indemnification to and for the United States, its successors and assigns, and its officers, agents, and employees engaged in the construction, operation, and maintenance of project works. The term of such licenses, permits, or contracts shall not exceed 25 years, and such licenses, permits and contracts shall contain the following provision:

"In the event of the termination of the Memorandum of Understanding between the United States and the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks dated December 11, 1969, the United States shall be deemed to stand in the stead of the Department as grantor for the remainder of the term of this agreement: Provided, however, in the event of such termination, the United States at any time within 90 days thereafter, may terminate this agreement by giving to the (licensee, permittee, or contractor) 30 days written notice thereof, and in such event the (licensee, permittee, or contractor) shall have the privilege of selling or removing, for a period of 30 days after termination of this agreement, or such longer period as may be determined by the Bureau of Reclamation to be reasonable, improvements which have been constructed on the premises at the sole cost or expense of the (licensee, permittee, or contractor); otherwise after the expiration of such period of time, the title to such improvements shall vest in the United States."

c. The Department shall, within the limits of its administration, make and enforce such rules and regulations for the use of recreation facilities as are necessary and desirable to protect the health and safety of persons using the facilities and for the preservation of law and order in the interest of public safety and sanitation.

d. The Department shall have the right to collect and retain all receipts derived from licenses, leases, permits, or contracts which it issues or administers. Such receipts shall be used only for the administration, development and maintenance of said facilities. The Department shall submit to the United States, not later than March 1 of each year during the term of this agreement, a report of all such receipts and expenditures from such receipts during the preceding calendar year. At such time, the Department shall transfer to the United States any surplus of such receipts over such expenditures for the preceding calendar year in excess of \$10,000, including any carryover from former operations. On the termination of this agreement, any and all remaining excess of such receipts over such expenditures shall be paid to the Bureau of Reclamation in full within 30 days after such termination. All improvements constructed in whole or in part with expenditures from such receipts

shall be and remain the property of the United States. All improvements constructed by the Department at its sole cost or expense shall be and remain the property of the Department, subject, however, to the provisions of Article 8 of this agreement. The Department shall maintain such accounting records as are necessary to satisfy the requirements of this article and will have these records available for inspection upon request.

e. The Department shall use and cause all its licensees or permittees to use good soil-conserving practices in the entire area and shall cause all improvements located on the premises involved to be maintained in a state of good repair, reasonable wear and tear expected. In conjunction with programs of soil conservation and maintenance the Department will carry out an adequate presuppression fire control program.

f. The Department shall require all concessioners, permittees and licensees to carry such public liability insurance as is customary among prudent operators of similar businesses under comparable circumstances. This shall not apply to individual boat permittees who operate boats solely for private and personal use.

4. If any concessioner shall fail to perform the terms of his license, permit, or contract, and be subject to cancellation or cease to be authorized to conduct the operations provided for in his concession contract, and the United States determines that such operations are to be conducted by a successor, then:

a. The concessioner shall be afforded a reasonable time to sell his interest in any structure, facility, and other improvement on the premises to a successor, approved in writing by the United States and also by the Department if this agreement remains in effect; and

b. The Department or the United States, as the case may be, will require each successor, as a condition to the granting of a permit or contract to conduct such operations, to purchase such interest from the concessioner and to pay the concessioner an amount equal to his interest in the sound value of such structure, facility or improvement, determined upon the basis of replacement cost less depreciation as evidenced by its condition and prospective serviceability, in comparison

with a unit of like kind, but not to exceed fair market value. If the concessioner and the prospective purchaser cannot agree upon the amount payable for any item or items, such amount will be determined by the majority vote of a board of three appraisers selected as follows: The concessioner and the prospective purchaser shall each name one member of such appraisal board, and the two members so named shall select the third member. All compensation and expenses of the appraisal board shall be shared and paid equally by the concessioner and the prospective purchaser. Before reaching its decision, the board shall give each of the parties a fair and full opportunity to be heard on the matters in dispute.

c. If any concessioner shall cease to be authorized to conduct the operations provided for in his concession contract for any reason other than termination of his contract by direct action of the United States, and the Department determines, with the concurrence of the authorized representative of the Secretary, that such operations are to be conducted by a successor, then the rights, if any, of the concessioner to sell to and/or obtain compensation from his successor shall be controlled by the provisions of his concession contract, with respect to which the United States shall have no financial or other obligation whatsoever except where the United States is such successor.

5. Upon request of either the Bureau or the Department, both parties, together with representatives of the National Park Service and the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, if involved, will meet to review the administration of the recreation facilities at Belle Fourche Reservoir.

6. The term of this agreement shall be for a period of 50 years from the date hereof.

7. This agreement shall terminate, and all rights of the Department hereunder, except as hereinafter provided, shall cease:

a. Upon expiration of terms as provided in Article 6.

b. Upon failure of the Department to observe any of the conditions, exceptions, or reservations set out in this agreement, the Secretary of the Interior shall give written notice to the Department of the obligations that are in default or the provisions of this agreement that have been violated, and the Department shall have 90 days in which to correct the default or violation. Unless the Department shall have corrected such default or violation, this agreement shall terminate on the ninety-first (91st) day following service of the written notice being provided.

8. For a period of ninety (90) days after termination of this agreement, or such longer period as may be determined by the Bureau of Reclamation to be reasonable, the Department shall have the privilege of selling or removing all improvements on the premises constructed by the Department at its sole cost or expense; otherwise, after the expiration of such period of time, the title to such improvements shall vest in the United States.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

9. a. During the performance of this contract, the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, in this article referred to as the Contractor, agrees as follows:

(1) The Contractor will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. The Contractor will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Such action shall include, but not be limited to, the following: Employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. The Contractor agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices to be provided by the Contracting Officer setting forth the provisions of this Equal Opportunity clause.

(2) The Contractor will, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the Contractor, state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

(3) The Contractor will send to each labor union or representative of workers with which he has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding, a notice, to be provided by the agency Contracting Officer, advising the labor union or workers' representative of the Contractor's commitments under this Equal Opportunity clause, and shall post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment.

(4) The Contractor will comply with all provisions of Executive Order No. 11246 of September 24, 1965, and of the rules, regulations, and relevant orders of the Secretary of Labor.

(5) The Contractor will furnish all information and reports required by Executive Order No. 11246 of September 24, 1965, and by the rules, regulations, and orders of the Secretary of Labor, or pursuant thereto, and will permit access to his books, records, and accounts by the contracting agency and the Secretary of Labor for purposes of investigation to ascertain compliance with such rules, regulations, and orders.

(6) In the event of the Contractor's noncompliance with the Equal Opportunity clause of this contract or with any of the

said rules, regulations, or orders, this contract may be canceled, terminated, or suspended, in whole or in part, and the Contractor may be declared ineligible for further Government contracts in accordance with procedures authorized in Executive Order No. 11246 of September 24, 1965, and such other sanctions may be imposed and remedies invoked as provided in Executive Order No. 11246 of September 24, 1965, or by rule, regulation, or order of the Secretary of Labor, or as otherwise provided by law.

(7) The Contractor will include the provisions of paragraphs (1) through (7) in every subcontract or purchase order unless exempted by rules, regulations, or orders of the Secretary of Labor issued pursuant to Section 204 of Executive Order No. 11246 of September 24, 1965, so that such provisions will be binding upon each subcontractor or vendor. The Contractor will take such action with respect to any subcontract or purchase order as the contracting agency may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions, including sanctions for noncompliance: Provided, however, That in the event the Contractor becomes involved in, or is threatened with, litigation with a subcontractor or vendor as a result of such direction by the contracting agency, the Contractor may request the United States to enter into such litigation to protect the interests of the United States.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL

10. The Contractor agrees that it will comply fully with all applicable Federal laws, orders, and regulations, and the laws of the State of South Dakota, all as administered by appropriate authorities, concerning the pollution of streams, reservoirs, groundwater, or water courses with respect to thermal pollution or the discharge of refuse, garbage, sewage effluent, industrial waste, oil, mine tailings, mineral salts, or other pollutants. The Contractor further agrees that any contract he may enter into with a third party for the furnishing of project water will contain a similar water pollution control article.

ASSIGNMENT

11. The provisions of this contract shall apply to and bind the successors and assigns of the Contractor, but no assignment or transfer of this contract or any part thereof or interest therein shall be valid unless and until approved by the United States.

OFFICIALS NOT TO BENEFIT

12. No Member of or Delegate to Congress or Resident Commissioner shall be admitted to any share or part of this contract or to any benefit that may arise herefrom; but this provision shall not be construed to extend to this contract if made with a corporation or company for its general benefit.

CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964

13. The Contractor hereby agrees as follows:

a. To comply with Title VI (Section 601) of the Civil Rights Act of July 2, 1964 (78 Stat. 241), which provides that "No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance," and to be bound by the regulations of the Department of the Interior for the effectuation thereof, as set forth in 43 CFR 17.

b. To obligate its subcontractors, subgrantees, transferees, successors in interest, or any other participants receiving Federal financial assistance hereunder, to comply with the requirements of this provision.

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE
TITLE VI, CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964

14. The Contractor, hereinafter called "Recipient," hereby agrees as follows:

a. To comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) and all requirements imposed by or pursuant to the Department of the Interior Regulation (43 CFR 17) issued pursuant to that title, to the end that, in accordance with Title VI of that Act and the Regulation, no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which the Recipient receives financial assistance from the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, and hereby gives assurance that it will immediately take any measures to effectuate this agreement.

b. That if any real property or structure thereon is provided or improved with the aid of Federal financial assistance extended to the Recipient by the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, this statement obligates the Recipient, or in the case of any transfer of such property, any transferee for the period during which the real property or structure is used for a purpose involving the provision of similar services or benefits. If any personal property is so provided, this statement obligates the Recipient for the period during which it retains ownership or possession of the property. In all other cases, this statement obligates the Recipient for the period during which the Federal financial assistance is extended to it by the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation.

c. To give this statement in consideration of and for the purpose of obtaining any and all Federal grants, loans, contracts, property, discounts or other Federal financial assistance extended after the date hereof to the Recipient by the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, including installment payments after such date on account of arrangements for Federal financial assistance which were approved before such date. The Recipient recognizes and agrees that such Federal financial assistance will be extended in reliance on the representations and agreements made in this statement, and that the United States shall reserve the right to seek judicial enforcement of this statement. This statement is binding on the Recipient, its successors, transferees, and assignees.

COVENANT AGAINST CONTINGENT FEES

15. The Contractor warrants that no person or selling agency has been employed or retained to solicit or secure this contract upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage, or contingent fee, excepting bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial or selling agencies maintained by the Contractor for the purpose of securing business. For breach or violation of this warranty the Government shall have the right to annul this contract without liability or in its discretion to deduct from the contract price or consideration, or otherwise recover, the full amount of such commission, percentage, brokerage, or contingent fee.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this memorandum as of the day and year first above written.

Reviewed & Passed
Date 10/1/51
Off. of Field Sol.
R. A. Bradley
For the Field Sol.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
By R. A. Bradley
Acting Regional Director, Region 6
Bureau of Reclamation
Billings, Montana

Approved:

BELLE FOURCHE IRRIGATION
DISTRICT

By R. C. McWilliam By R. A. Bradley
President Chairman

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF
GAME, FISH AND PARKS

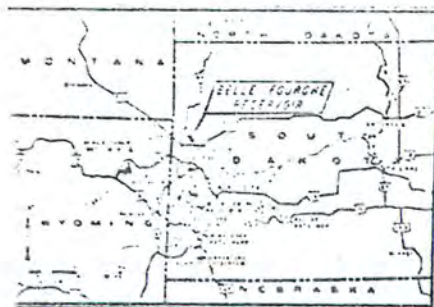
By R. A. Bradley
Director

I concur:

Frank J. ...
Regional Director, Midwest Region
National Park Service

I concur:

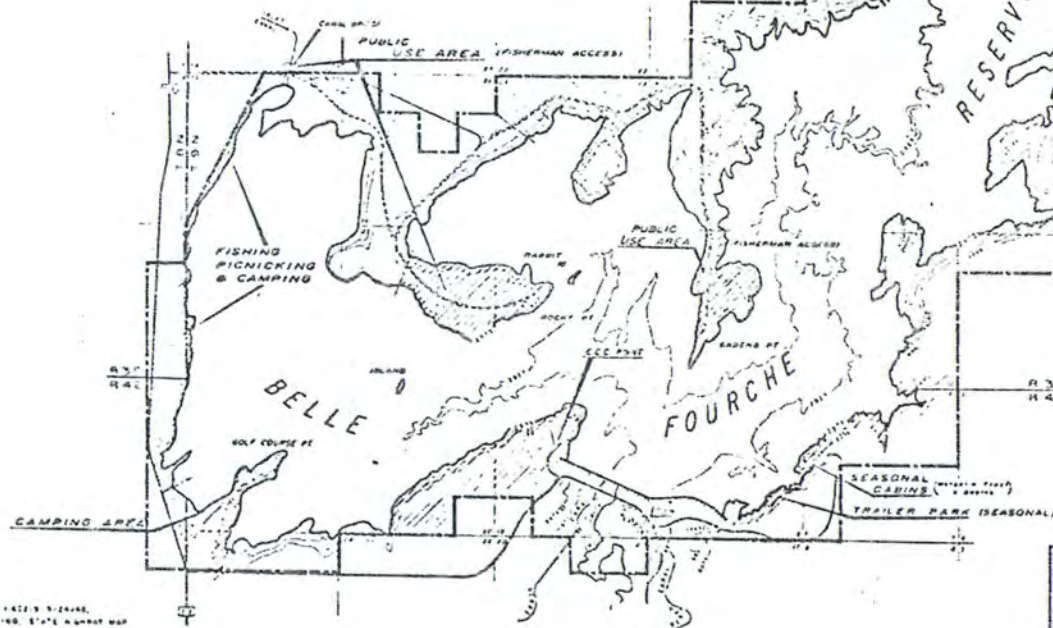
Louis R. ...
Acting Regional Director, Region 3
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and
Wildlife



VICINITY MAP

LEGEND

- Bureau of Reclamation Title Line
- - - Reclamation Acreage
- Range Line
- Township Line
- Section Line
- Roads
- Proposed Road (planned)



RESERVOIR DATA

Maximum Water Surface	2979
Average Maximum Water Surface	2966.6
During Wet Season	2966.6
Average Minimum Water Surface	2950.3
During Dry Season	2950.3
Dam Storage	2927

EXHIBIT "A"

I RECEIVED BY <u>BRUCE JOHNSON</u> DATE <u>10/15/42</u> PREPARED BY <u>BRUCE JOHNSON</u> DATE <u>10/15/42</u> APPROVED BY <u>BRUCE JOHNSON</u> DATE <u>10/15/42</u> ACCEPTED BY <u>BRUCE JOHNSON</u> DATE <u>10/15/42</u> NAME & TITLE: <u>BRUCE JOHNSON, Bureau of Reclamation</u>	SUPERVISOR OF THE DISTRICT MISSOURI RIVER DIVISION OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ENGINEER BUTTE, MONTANA GENERAL DEVELOPMENT BELLE FOURCHE RESERVOIR OFFSTREAM BUTTE COUNTY SOUTH DAKOTA
---	---

1:25,000 SCALE FROM 6 INCH SHEETS, 1942 & 1943.
 USE 1:25,000 SCALE FOR DISTANCE. STATE MAPS NOT USED.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE
SOUTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH, AND PARKS
Parks and Recreation and Wildlife Divisions
For Management of Lands at Belle Fourche Reservoir

I. MOU No. 14-06-600-7A, Amendment No. 1 "Area to be Established" 1.a. Established a public use recreation area at the Belle Fourche Reservoir. This use area was established as the land area locally known as Gaden's Point and more specifically located within Sec. 13, T9N R3E, BHM, and was shown on Exhibit "A". The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (Department), Parks and Recreation and Wildlife Divisions agree to amend and modify Exhibit "A" by replacing it with the new Exhibit "A" dated March 1, 2000. This removes the Department's responsibility for management of the area known as "Gaden's Point" and limits the Department's management responsibilities to the areas described below. The new Exhibit "A" designates the areas managed by the Department as:

1. Recreation Division: The 359 acre land area known as "Rocky Point". This 359 acre area contains 344.5 acres of mainland, 2.17 acres of island, and 12.3 acres (66' X 8,100') of roadway. More specifically all lands owned by Reclamation located within the sections or portions of sections described here and lying above elevation contour 2975 all in Township 9 North, Range 3 East, Black Hills Meridian:

Section 24-All
Section 25-All
Section 36-N1/2 NW1/4

This includes a 66' Right of Way for the 8,100' of access road beginning at Reclamation's property line directly south of the Belle Fourche Reservoir Inlet Canal bridge and ending at Section 25 and the island located directly north of Rocky Point. Rocky Point will be managed as a Lakeside Use Area as defined by the Department.

2. Wildlife Division: The 164 acre land area located immediately below Belle Fourche Dam all in Township 9 North, Range 3 East, Black Hills Meridian:
Section 18- SE 1/4 SE1/4 (that area south of the North Canal)
Section 19- NE 1/4 (that area between the North and South Canal)

Section 20- W ½ NW 1/4

and any existing wildlife enhancement developments in:

Section 24-All

Section 25-All

Section 36- N1/2 NW1/4.

All other terms and conditions of the MOU remain in effect and unchanged.

II. MOU No. 0-AG-60-01050. Agency Responsibilities: 1. Bureau of Reclamation- This MOU transferred management authority of those lands described in Exhibit "C" to the Department. Reclamation and the Department agree to amend and modify Exhibit "C" by terminating the Department's responsibility to manage these lands under this MOU. The Department will manage the following area under MOU 14-06-600-7A: Section 24-All, Section 25-All, and Section 36- N1/2 NW1/4. The remainder of the lands in Exhibit "C" will be managed by Reclamation. The Department will continue management of the lands described in Modification No. 1 to MOU 0-AG-60-01050 Exhibit "C-1" .

All other terms and conditions of the MOU remain in effect and unchanged.

These modifications of MOU No. 14-06-600-7A and MOU No. 0-AG-60-01050 will serve until the completion of the Belle Fourche Resource Management Plan and the execution of a new MOU between Reclamation and the Department.

Signatures

John L. Cooper
State of South Dakota
South Dakota Department of
Game, Fish, and Parks

Dennis E. Breitzman
Area Manager
Dakotas Area Office
Bureau of Reclamation


(Signature/Title)


(Signature/Title)

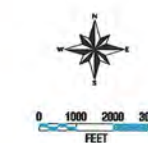
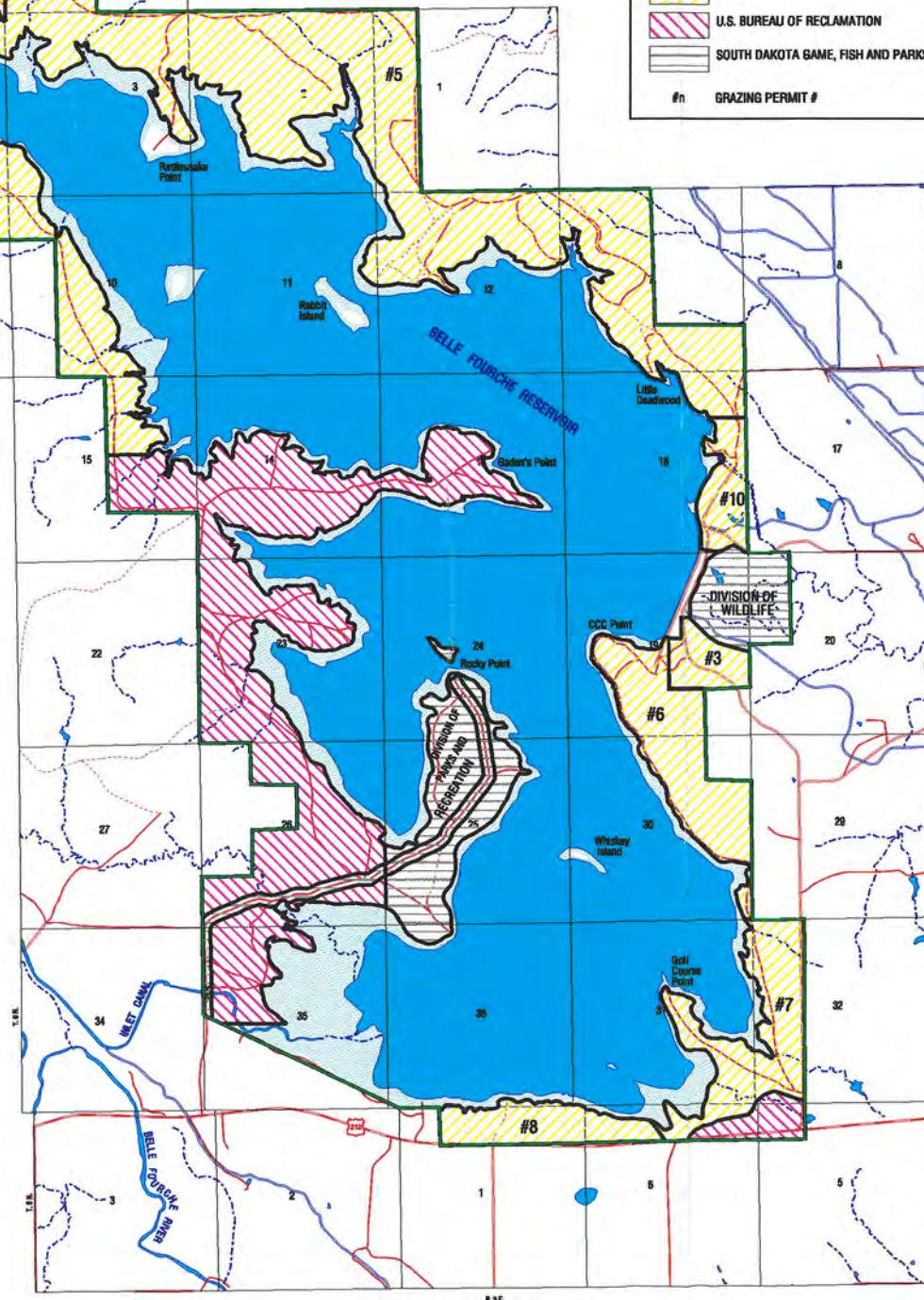
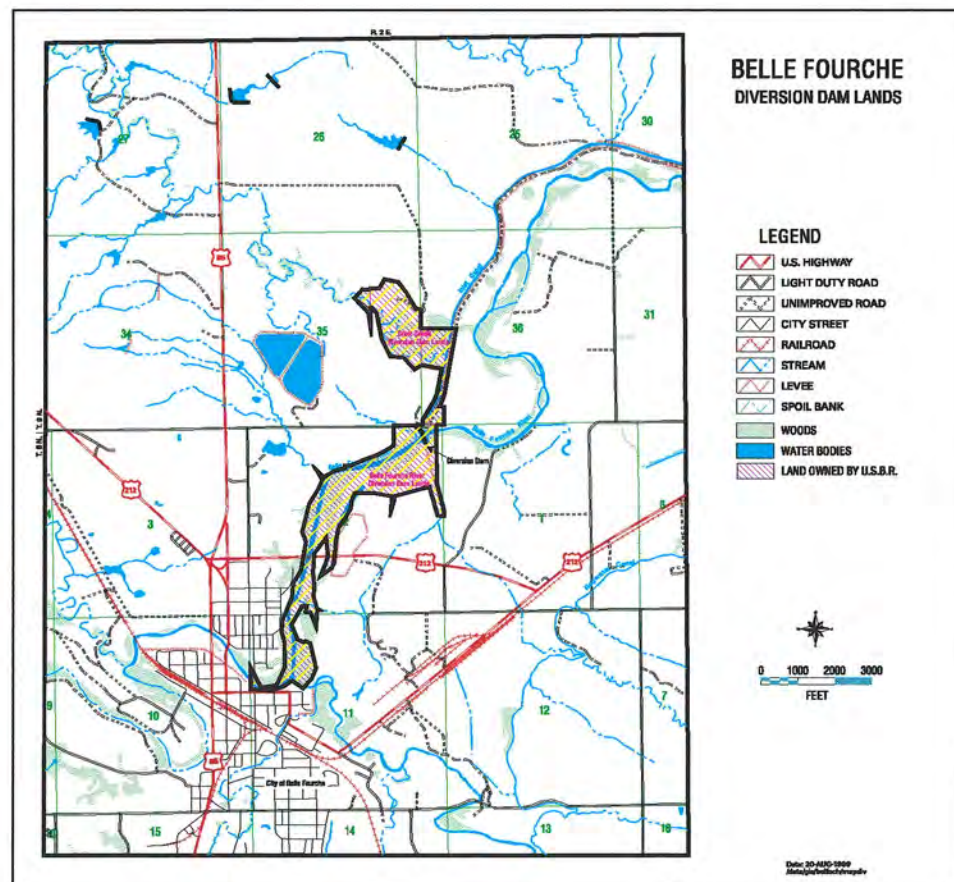
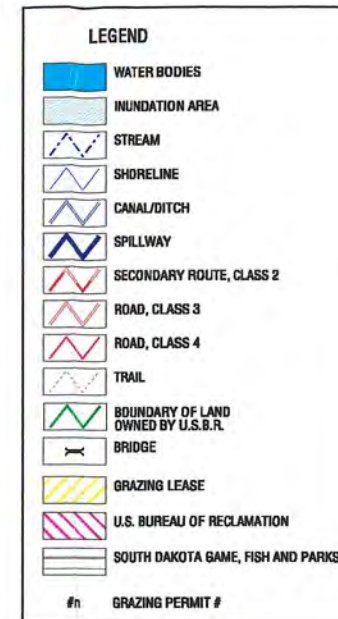
SECRETARY / SDGFP

Area Manager

Date: OCT. 18, 2000

Date: Sept. 28, 2000

MOU No. 14-06-600-7 A
MOU No. 0-AG-60-01050
Exhibit A - 3/1/2000



Appendix B

BELLE FOURCHE USER SURVEY

USER SURVEY SUMMARY (CHARTS AND TABLES)

USER SURVEY WRITTEN COMMENTS

OPTION TABLE

OPTION TABLE WRITTEN COMMENTS/OPTION SELECTION

Q7. To what extent, if at all, did you experience any of the following at the reservoir during the past 12 months?
Please select a response for each item:

	Not An Issue	Slight Issue	Moderate Issue	Serious Issue	Very Serious Issue
Noise disturbance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Crowding at campsites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inconsiderate groups or individuals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Too many boats on the reservoir	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Too many boats at ramp	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conflict with other types of recreational users	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other, please specify _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q8. Which of the following activities have you participated in at the Belle Fourche Reservoir during the past 12 months?

<input type="checkbox"/> Water skiing, tubing, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/> Tent camping	<input type="checkbox"/> Horseback riding	<input type="checkbox"/> Snowshoeing
<input type="checkbox"/> Sailing	<input type="checkbox"/> RV/trailer camping	<input type="checkbox"/> Hunting	<input type="checkbox"/> Cross-country skiing
<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife viewing	<input type="checkbox"/> Day use/picnicking	<input type="checkbox"/> Boat fishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Spear or Bow fishing
<input type="checkbox"/> Swimming	<input type="checkbox"/> Recreational boating	<input type="checkbox"/> Shore fishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Shed hunting
<input type="checkbox"/> Hiking	<input type="checkbox"/> Bicycling	<input type="checkbox"/> Sightseeing	<input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Canoeing/Kayaking	<input type="checkbox"/> ORV use	<input type="checkbox"/> Ice fishing	_____

Thank you for your time! Those are all the questions we have for you. If you have additional comments about the management of Belle Fourche Reservoir, please use the space below.

To receive notifications on the development of the Belle Fourche Resource Management Plan, please provide your email address: _____

To complete this survey online, please visit our website at www.usbr.gov/gp/dkao

Belle Fourche Reservoir User Survey



Your help is needed!

The Bureau of Reclamation, in cooperation with the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) is in the early stages of developing a Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Belle Fourche Reservoir. A new RMP is needed as the agreement between Reclamation and GFP for the management of Rocky Point expires in December of 2019. We are interested in your opinions and preferences regarding Belle Fourche Reservoir. This survey is voluntary and we will only report summaries of our findings. Your input is important even if this is the first time you have visited the reservoir. Please take a few minutes to answer this short survey. When finished, please drop your completed survey in one of the drop boxes located at the Informational Kiosks around the reservoir or at the Rocky Point Entrance Station.

Thank you for your help!



Belle Fourche Reservoir User Survey

Please read each question on the following pages and indicate your answer in the space provided.

Q1. Is this your first time visiting the Belle Fourche Reservoir?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

Q2a. Did you take any **day trips** (including current trip) to the Belle Fourche Reservoir in the past 12 months?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

Q2b. IF YES, approximately how many *day trips* did you take? _____ Number of trips

Q2c. IF YES, on average, approximately how many hours did your *day trips* last? _____ Hours

Q3a. Did you take any **overnight trips** (including current trip) to the Belle Fourche Reservoir in the past 12 months?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

Q3b. IF YES, approximately how many *overnight trips* did you take? _____ Number of trips

Q3c. IF YES, on average, approximately how many nights did your *overnight trips* last? _____ Nights

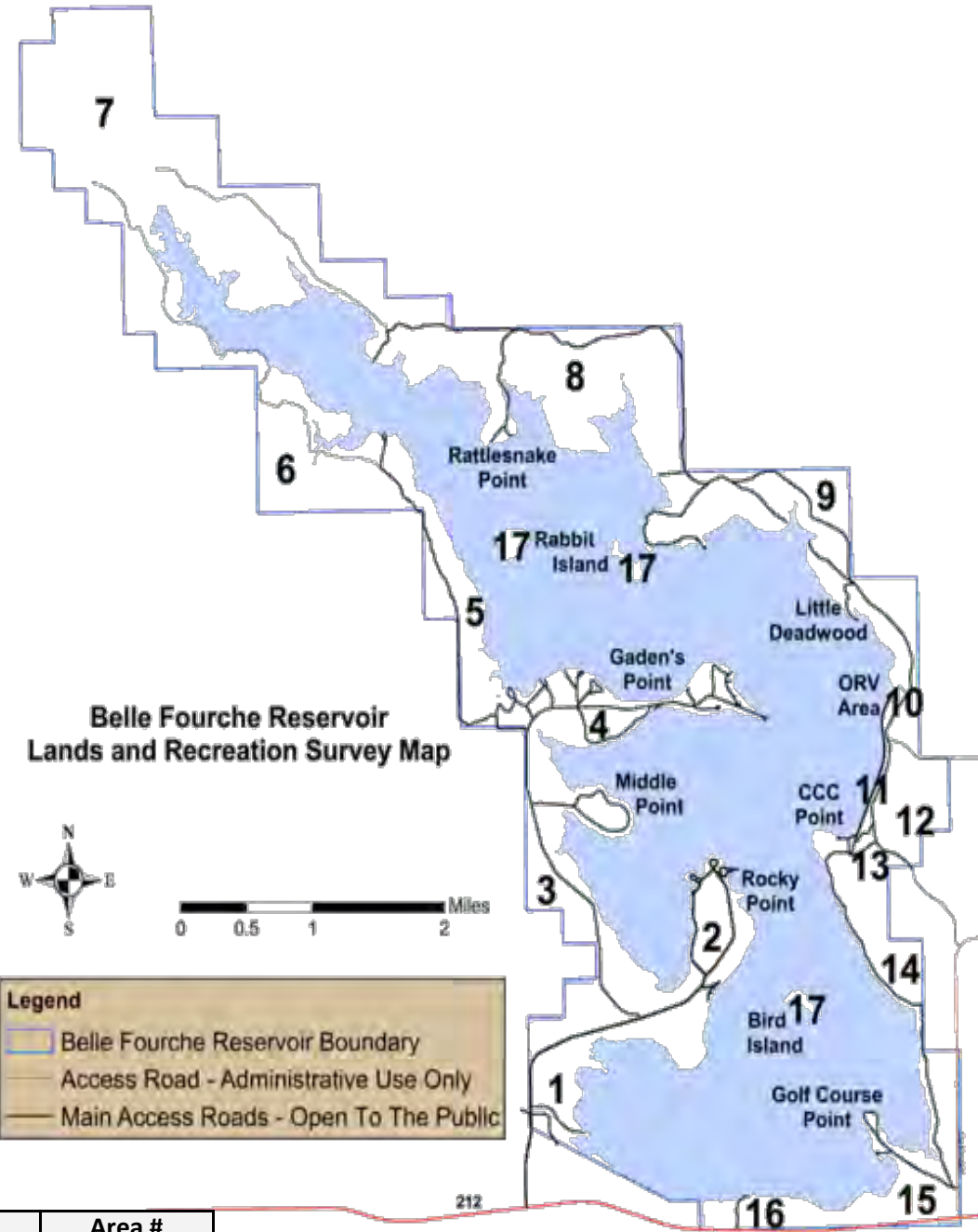
Q4. Approximately how far, one-way, did you travel from your home to the Belle Fourche Reservoir?
_____ Miles (one-way)

Q5. How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the Belle Fourche Reservoir?

Statements	Strongly Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Neither Disagree Nor Agree	Slightly Agree	Strongly Agree
The reservoir is inviting to use.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public access to the reservoir is sufficient.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public access to the reservoir is safe.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I enjoy the undeveloped nature of the recreational activities at the reservoir.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I enjoy the developed recreational areas at the reservoir.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q6. Which of the following additional facilities/ services, if any, would you like to see at the reservoir?

Please select all that apply in the boxes below and indicate the area number of the map, located to the right, where you would like see these facilities/services.

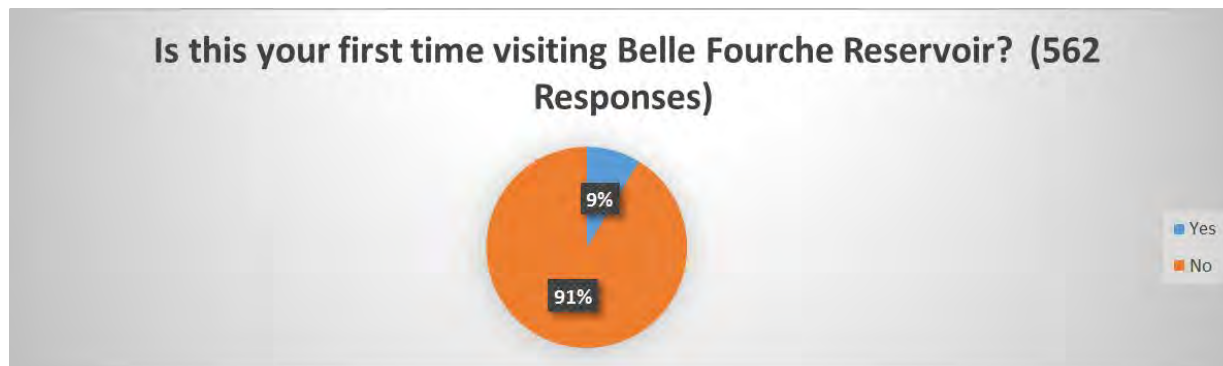


	Area # on Map		Area # on Map
<input type="checkbox"/> Fish cleaning station		<input type="checkbox"/> ADA accessible facilities	
<input type="checkbox"/> Boat ramp		<input type="checkbox"/> Dump/fill station	
<input type="checkbox"/> Road maintenance		<input type="checkbox"/> Law enforcement presence	
<input type="checkbox"/> Comfort station/ shower		<input type="checkbox"/> Concession (food, drink, bait)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Campgrounds w/electrical hookups		<input type="checkbox"/> Hiking trails	
<input type="checkbox"/> Potable water hookup		<input type="checkbox"/> Biking trails	
<input type="checkbox"/> Playground equipment		<input type="checkbox"/> Interpretive information	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hunting trail access		<input type="checkbox"/> Vault toilet	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hunting road access		<input type="checkbox"/> Primitive (tent) campgrounds	
<input type="checkbox"/> Camping cabins		<input type="checkbox"/> Archery range	
<input type="checkbox"/> Shore fishing access		<input type="checkbox"/> Shooting range	
<input type="checkbox"/> Day use/Picnic shelters		<input type="checkbox"/> No additional facilities/services desired	
<input type="checkbox"/> Trees for wind breaks			

Belle Fourche Reservoir User Survey Results: Summary

Q1. Is this your first time visiting Belle Fourche Reservoir?

Yes	No	No Answer
49	510	3



Q2. Did you take any day trips to Belle Fourche Reservoir (BFR) in the past 12 months?

Yes	No	No Answer
469	89	4

Q2b. IF YES to question Q2., approximately how many day trips did you take?

Days	Responses	Rate
1-5	161	35%
6-10	137	30%
11+	163	35%
No Response, Or did not know	101	

Q2c. IF YES to question Q2., on average, approximately how many hours did your day trips last?

Hours	Responses	Rate
1-5	164	47%
6-10	169	48%
12+	19	5%

No Response, Or more than 1 day	210	
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Q3a. Did you take any overnight trips to BFR in the past 12 months?

Yes	No	No Response
427	129	6

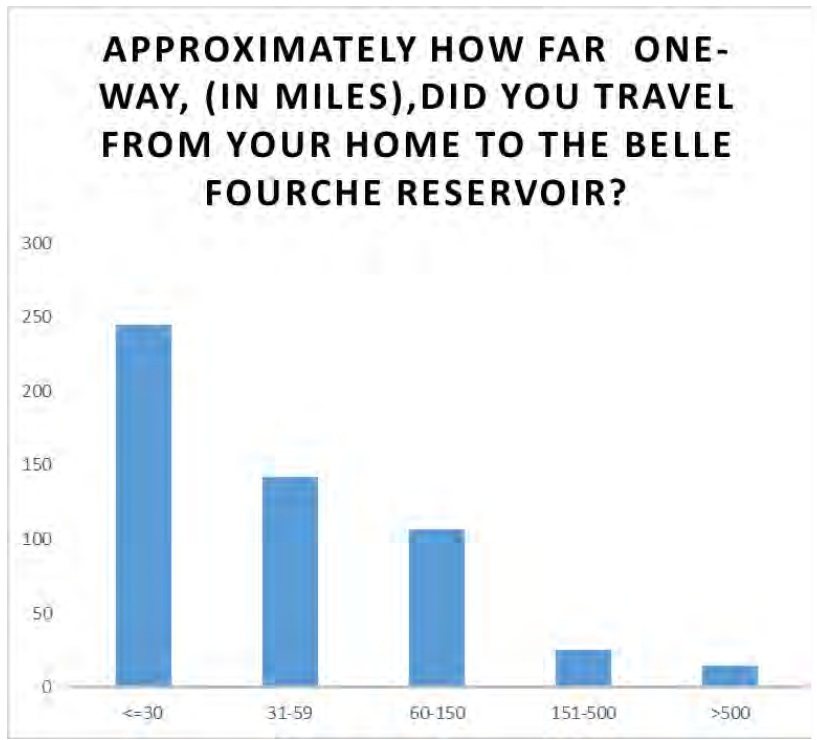
Q3b. IF YES to Q3a., approximately how many overnight trips did you take?

Trips	Responses	Rate
1-5	295	71%
6-10	76	18%
11-20	33	8%
21+	9	2%
No Response	149	

Q3c. IF YES to Q3a., on average, approximately how many nights did your overnight trips last?

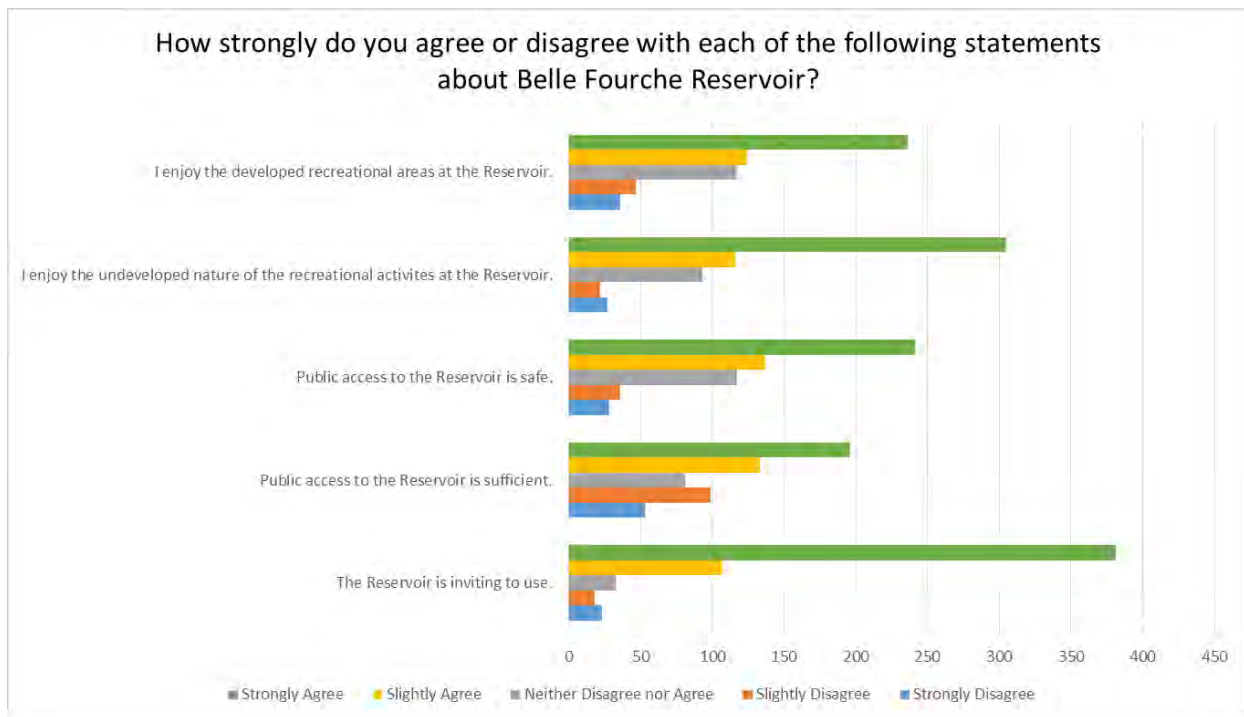
Number of Nights	Responses	Rate
1-3	240	73%
4-7	62	19%
8+	26	8%
No Response	231	

Q4. Approximately how far, one-way, did you travel from your home to BFR?



Q5. How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about BFR?

Statement	Strongly Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Neither Disagree nor Agree	Slightly Agree	Strongly Agree
The Reservoir is inviting to use.	23	18	33	107	381
Public access to the Reservoir is sufficient.	53	99	81	133	196
Public access to the Reservoir is safe.	28	36	117	137	241
I enjoy the undeveloped nature of the recreational activities at the Reservoir.	27	22	93	116	305
I enjoy the developed recreational areas at the Reservoir.	36	47	117	124	236

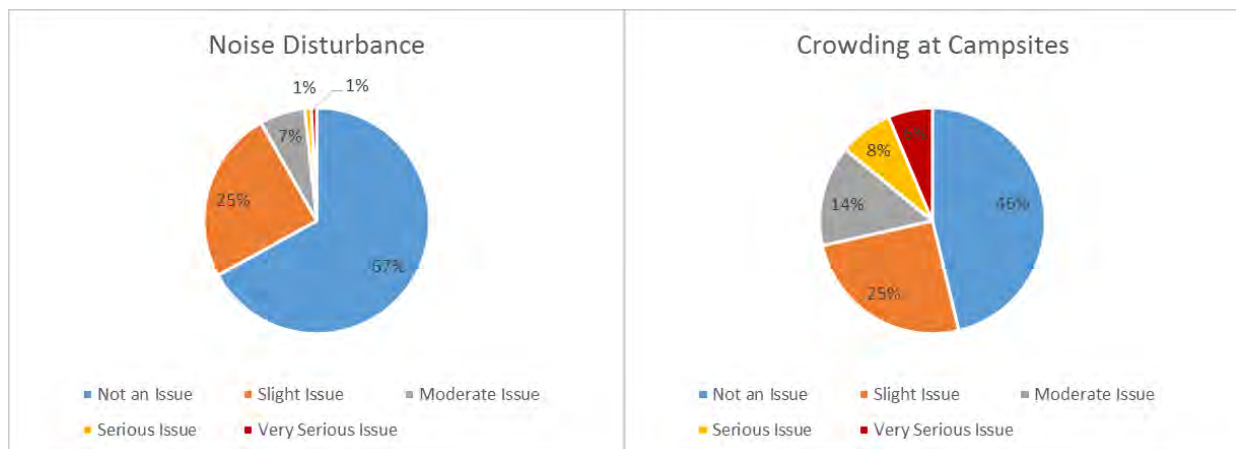


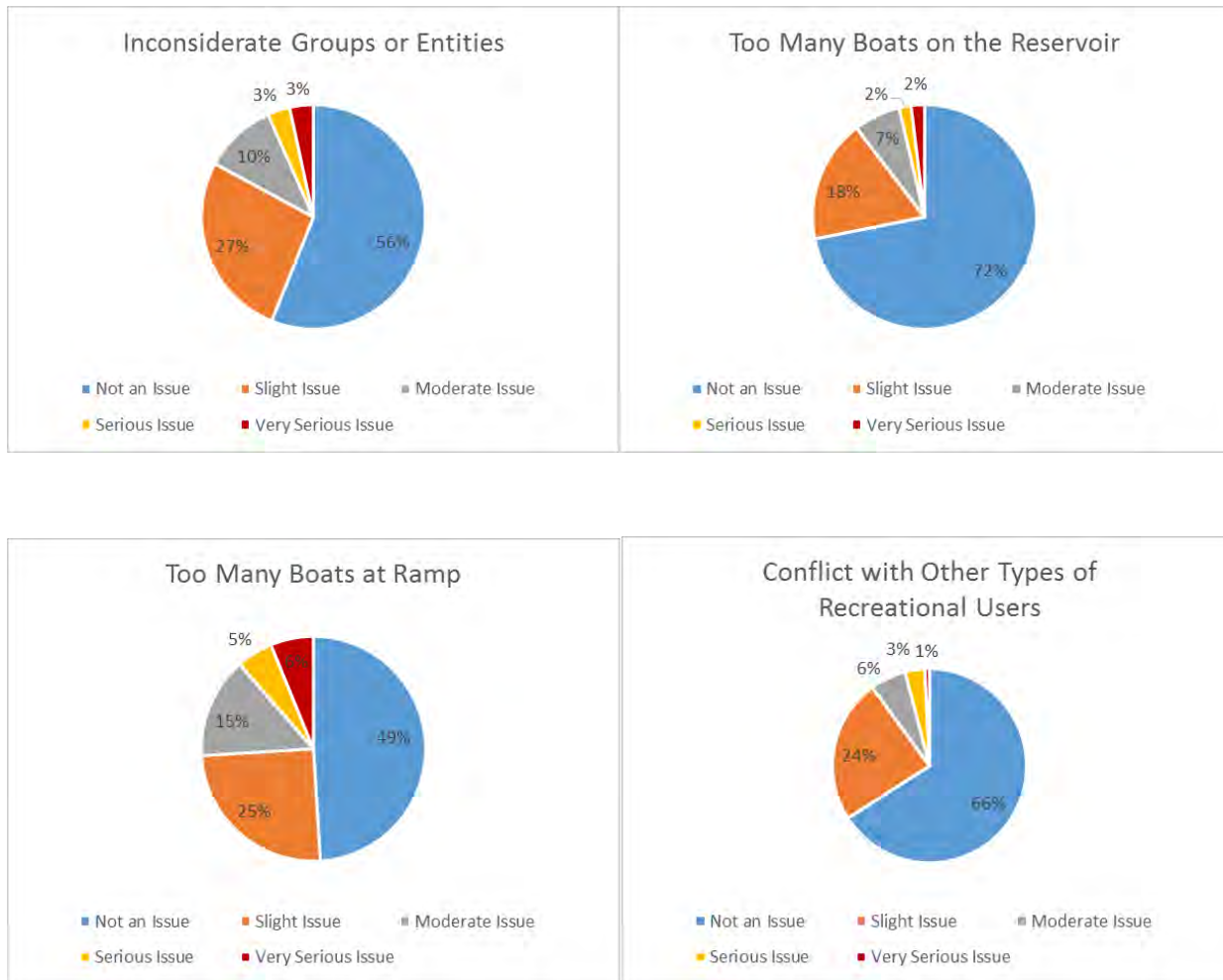
Q6. Which of the following additional facilities/services, if any, would you like to see at BFR?

Additions:	Comment Totals	Inlet Canal MU1	Rocky Point MU2	Middle Point MU3	Gaiden's Point MU4
Trees for Wind Breaks	682	62	51	55	68
Shore Fishing Access	545	54	42	46	49
Law Enforcement Presence	431	37	42	33	57
Road Maintenance	401	38	17	44	65
Hunting Trail Access	349	33	19	17	13
Campgrounds w/ Electrical Hookups	335	28	40	31	82
None Desired	312	46	24	26	18
Boat Ramp	267	26	12	13	79
Comfort Station/Shower	253	26	26	15	81
Hiking Trails	241	25	22	18	28
Biking Trails	226	21	24	16	28

Potable Water Hookup	219	24	39	18	55
Fish Cleaning Station	217	33	27	13	56
Vault Toilet	211	24	11	17	29
Camping Cabins	205	17	36	19	51
Dump/Fill Station	202	28	22	12	49
Primitive (tent) Campgrounds	193	19	13	18	21
Day Use/Picnic Shelters	190	19	19	22	49
Concession (food, drink, bait)	138	26	37	7	26
Playground Equipment	130	11	21	9	43
ADA Accessible Facilities	111	11	18	9	25
Shooting Range	108	17	14	12	12
Interpretive Information	69	16	13	6	6
Archery Range	68	12	13	11	5
Hunting Road Access	0				
Total Comments for all Mus:	6103	653	602	487	995

Q7. To what extent did you experience any of the following during the past 12 months at BFR?





Q8. Which of the following activities have you participated in during the past 12 months at BFR?

Activity	Number of Responses	Percent Total	% Range
Shore Fishing	353	63%	
RV/Trailer Camping	321	57%	>50% (range)
Swimming	267	48%	
Boat Fishing	264	47%	
Wildlife Viewing	203	36%	
Ice Fishing	177	31%	
Recreational Boating	177	31%	
Hunting	158	28%	24-46%
Day Use/Picnicking	153	27%	
Water skiing, tubing, etc.	146	26%	
Tent Camping	135	24%	
Sightseeing	116	21%	
Hiking	92	16%	
Canoeing/Kayaking	83	15%	

Bicycling	46	8%	
ORV Use	29	5%	
Spear or Bow Fishing	27	5%	21% or less
Shed Hunting	23	4%	
Sailing	8	1%	
Snowshoeing	5	1%	
Horseback Riding	3	1%	
Cross-Country Skiing	1	0%	

Q9. Please specify any activities you have participated in at BFR during the past 12 months, that were not on the list above?

Additional Activities Users Mentioned	Responses
Archery	9
Cabin Rental	5
Kite Surfing/Paddle Boarding	5
Dog Training/Walking	3
Fishing Tournament	2
Rifle Shooting	2
Fossil Hunting	1
Ice Skating	1
Photography	1
Step Outside Day	1
Triathlon/Race	1

User Survey Written Comments

Ref # / Comment

1	ORV use needs to be controlled
2	More signage about getting ready at back of parking lot instead of on the ramp.
3	Would love a marina and boat dock
4	Campsite reservations are almost impossible to get based on GF&P policies
5	All the dead fish on the bank at the channel (inlet canal)
6	Walleye slot needs to be reviewed
7	People who camp in the same spot all summer and think they own the place.
8	Need more policing so not so much drinking/driving/boating/shooting
9	need more cabins!!
10	Very difficult to get a camping reservation at the campground
11	Random gunshots in the campground
12	loose animals not on a leash in the paved area.
13	Not alot of shore fishing spots.
14	Multiple trash piles, unattended campfires, and off-roading near Fruitdale Point.
15	None
16	No electrical in group sites
17	Definitely not enough campsites with electric hookup
18	Please add year round campground for rent
19	not enough cabins
20	Drought, but you can't control that. :)
21	Dogs barking and running loose
22	People taking campsites for more days than the weekend, putting their campers on site, but are NOT occupied until the weekend.
23	Theft
24	Please add year round campground for rent
25	Unleashed dogs and not cleaning up after dogs. The camp host does little if any hosting and he has his big boat in a camp site and seems to have friends in the handicap site next to his. The need a place (and enforced) area for boats not in use. It is starting to get very junking with the over run of vehiles
26	Really would like to see more reservable campsites. It is very tough to use on weekends
27	Better bathrooms, add a shower would be great
28	can't ever get a spot everyone books way out
29	Not nearly enough campsites that can be reserved for the volume of campers wanting to be at the lake. Definitely need to expand the state monitored land to include the area to the north and west of the pay station, to include Gaden's Point.
30	Need more fishing size enforcement
31	we only camp
32	You pay a dailey camping fee plus an additional entrance fee. Sort of like paying for a motel room and paying extra for the key. I'm not to happy with that arrangement
33	Leave Golf Course Point alone, no more development.
34	You need more than 2 ADA parking spaces in the boat trailer parking areas.
35	Some spots have glass
36	Another boat ramp or two or unimporoved access might be beneficial, especially for jet-skis.
37	Campers tying up camp spots for extended periods of time
38	People just need to be more open to allowing new people to camp in the same area and share the shoreline and quit bitching and thinking it is all about them. This is a wonderful recreation area and people need to grow up and get along and enjoy the experience and meet new people!!
39	theft in the campgrouond
40	People mowing there own areas - taking ownership of the public lands
41	rough dusty roads
42	The entire lake should be State Park!
43	unoccupied campers
44	Children riding ATVs
45	Littering
46	Boat ramp has some testy customers when busy.
47	Bugs
48	Unattended campers
49	More law enforcement
50	More law enforcement on the water
51	Underage drinking
52	Off-road vehicles in camping areas
53	firepits, very serious issue

User Survey Written Comments

54	shower use
55	not enough camp sites
56	driving in grass
57	add shooting range anywhere
58	people destroying things
59	Trash
60	dump station
61	people leaving trash and dogs at large
62	need hiking trails everywhere
63	no concession (food, drink, bait)
64	add trees for wind breaks wherever possible. generators are running too long.
65	None - Great Place
66	New Roads Closed - Serious Issue
67	cars and trucks driving too fast
68	need trees for wind break at middle point
69	Trash is a moderate issue
70	Trash is a slight issue
71	Trash is a moderate issue
72	Late night roaring around in trucks on the road, shouting.
73	Garbage
74	Unattended Campers
75	Road closures
76	Road closures
77	Closed gates - very serious issue
78	Roads closed - very serious issue
79	People setting up early and leaving unattended is a serious issue.
80	none
81	Had an issue last summer with using the shower house, had to primitive camp because camp ground was full but got harassed by an employee. We camped 10 different times in the camp ground and would of but it was booked.
82	Winter access maintenance needs improved
83	Please finish incorporating the rest of the lake into an area like rocky point. The lake needs it. Run electric and water to the gardens and middle point area and make it nice.
84	There is a big problem with people just leaving there campers around the lake for months , so nobody else can camp in that spot
85	Need more RV sites
86	I love that most of it is open and left for back to nature without all of the upgrades so you can do actual camping with kids and grandkids but there is an area for the older/younger people that are not back to nature types that need electricity, showers, etc. The best of both worlds I guess and most important is that it is free to go to with family.
87	Would like to see land grazed to help with fire danger.
88	It is being used by too many people who are not local it don't need any more development you have already forgot the reason the dam was built pretty soon you shut water off to the farmers just so people can boat the farming is way more important for the area
89	Irrigation along with recreational activities are needs filled by orman. It's original purpose was irrigation but has moved on to benefit the recreational needs of the area also.
90	I enjoy the lake and the fishing is usually pretty good. The only issue I have is traveling there from 50 miles away I would like to see the slot limit on Walleye loosened a little bit. I would like to see a person be able to keep 1 Walleye between 15-18 inch range along with the 1 over 18 and the rest under 15. Thank you
91	Our family would like to see additional electric hookups and playground equipment, it's impossible to get spots here unless 90 days ahead, and sometimes that's not always possible to know that far ahead.
92	It would be nice to have a portable handicapped fishing access on the shoreline and at the docks.
93	Please plant a few more trees...some bare spots need windbreak/shade
94	Require Park sticker to all areas to help with road maintenance and keep/discourage people driving around with no intent of using reservoir.
95	Tell Brad Scott said hi please.
96	Great facility, would love to see continued development.
97	Beautiful area
98	Please, please, please, more hookups for RVs. Almost everyone has a camper these days. It gets harder to get reservations each year. "If you build they will come!!"
99	Loved it when we could park two rv's in one spot. The sites are so spacious, when we're spread out, it doesn't really feel like we're camping with our group. I understand it placed a load on the utilities. Maybe a few spots at the very entrance could be designated to allow doubles? It would be pretty congested down by the showers and campground host. No complaints-we don't get to camp as often as I'd like, so really enjoy our time there!
100	The Handicapped site has a nice concrete pad. It would be nice if the other RV sites also had the concrete pads. More Shower houses throughout would be nice.
101	We would like to return when there is no drought so we can fully enjoy Rocky Point Recreation Area.
102	Needs more camping spots with hook ups
103	Love the Reservoir. Well kept and managed. Only good things to say.
104	We loved camping there, actually camping two different times on our trip. We may be back next summer if the mission trip works out for us in Montana.

User Survey Written Comments

105	Beautiful spot
106	Rocky Point could you a disk golf trail.
107	more cabins
108	I would like to see a comfort station that was heated and could stay open longer into the fall. I have stayed at Rocky Pt. during the EMT conference in Spearfish and that is late Oct. This also explains why I haven't had any issues for Q7.
109	please add campsites to the lake. It is a great resource just tough to get a campsite reserved
110	Showers and better bathrooms would make camping so great! Hiking trails and shore fishing access. I just didn't know where on the map.
111	We really enjoy the option of free camping as it is very hard to get paid camping sights booked a lot of times. It would be nice to have another boat launch some where around Gadens Point or at least a paved road so you don't have to run down all that gravel to get to boat launch. Love what you have done with the place over the years, but I don't want to lose the option of just being able to go find a camp spot, for those of us that don't plan 3 mos. in advance for all our camping trips.
112	The employees are friendly
113	It gets so horribly buggy. It would be nice if you could spray a couple of times each camping season.
114	Very helpful staff
115	Belle Fourche Reservoir is a nice place to camp and fish. It needs more RV camper sites since it is usually full up on weekends and very hard to get a site unless one rents a site for a night or two knowing that you won't be there to use it.
	I did wish there was more campsites.
116	On the pay side that was a same day reservation and people would stop buy spots for all summer regardless if they stay there or not. Like the free side just wish it had more mowed areas and better shoreline.
117	I would like to see the Gaydens Point area developed for a state park campground with hook ups.
118	Love Belle Fourche Reservoir! It would be great to have more developed/maintained/monitored campsites at Gaden's Point that are also on the state website to be reserved. Way too hard to get a campsite most weekends! Thank you!
119	watch people who are taking RVs to the reservoir and leaving them to tie up a spot and not following the rules by not staying in it.
120	we like the campground
121	Real good management should finish developing rocky point before moving on. Do the same on east side as they done on west side add 8 more cabins open low water ramp for jet skis and small boats under 16 ft all kayaks
122	It would be nice if there were large loops for groups that are intentionally camping together. We visit every 2 years for a family reunion with about 18 campers; it would be nice if there was a way for us to be closer together, with a larger picnic shelter in the middle. We make it work, but are very spread out.
123	Need surveillance cameras at entrance after hours. My cooler was stolen,,,
124	They need more paid campsites with power, water would be a great addition. I don't think there are enough paid campsites, getting nearly impossible to get a spot on the weekend. I think Brad Nelson needs a pay raise. Also Rocky point needs a marina, with docks that can be rented out annually.
125	We love the free camping at orman
126	Don't develop golf course point
127	You've done a wonderful job out there. I've lived nearby in the valley for 57 years and it has never been this organized, developed and well maintained. It is a wonderful addition to the community and very, very well used by fishermen and recreationists combined.
128	Would like to see some more fire rings at gadens point and North of golf course
129	More orv areas.
130	please don't change anything on Susie peak rd as it is a great spot to camp and not have to pay along with taking the family out to tequila beach for the day and have fun at no cost
131	I would appreciate more camp spaces available at Rocky Point or another developed area with electricity and bathrooms. It is VERY competitive trying to reserve spots at the campground. People often reserve them, just in case, and then don't use them. Also, developing the far side of the lake would expand the availability for usage and spread out the people. Another beach area would also be useful as the one at Rocky Point is very busy on the weekends.
132	A number of friends and I enjoy riding the ORV area and hope stays available for public access.
133	Please make the entire reservoir fee area and enhance the entire lake
134	People parking their outfits to hold the camp spot irritates me and no parking on shoreline when water level is down. I am somewhat disabled and can't walk that far. The campground gets over crowded and if one makes it too nice, it will just attract more people.
135	We enjoy coming out to the areas that don't charge. Our entire family, including out of state, can come and enjoy fishing and boating without breaking the bank. The out of state fishing licenses already cost a lot.
136	This lake could use at least one more boat ramp and enforcement of RV campers taking all the campsites for the summer when they obviously aren't here and a shower facility of the campsites at Gaydens would be great.
137	Develop the west side of the north end. Keep the area free as it is now; add extra garbage dumpsters; clarification of SD Parks sticker on use of showers on campsite section in not parked there.
138	Add a few dumpsters on primitive side. Clarification on use of showers at Rocky Point area when we have a parks sticker but prefer to camp on primitive side. Develop north end to make roads accessible to more campsites. Keep Primitive side the same as much as possible, except for more sites and showers and boat ramp.
139	I like the fact that this area is free but would like to see some picnic tables. Some folks leave their RV here all summer and only use it on the weekends.
140	Consider changing slot size
141	Require a park sticker for any lake access and use money to keep roads maintained and add rocks around Gaden's point like done by Tequila Beach area. It looks great. Leave primitive camping how it is. Just more often, seems to be a lot of slot fish being taken from shore. may be add big signs that explain slot limits to fisherman. Anyway, things are pretty good. I think Chuck Huston is a great asset out here. Again purchasing park stickers would help keep more control.
142	We like to camp next to the water, and it being a lake used for irrigation it is going down all summer. So it is nice to be able to follow it down. Also, we have camped in groups which we would like no changes in primitive camping. Law enforcement is good and it is easy to call if problems do arise.

User Survey Written Comments

	I think the upgraded road structure is great! I would love to see more accessible shoreline available to RV use. There is a lot of usable shoreline that is off limits, or could have a more upgraded road structure. Campfire rings are useless.
143	Seems that they are always getting moved. People like to camp next to the water so they want the campfire there too. I would almost rather there be a no campfire rule on the free side, or only in a metal fire pit/ring. This is a tough topic!
144	I would like to see everyone who uses the reservoir be required to purchase a day use or park pass to use the reservoir. I think this would help with controlling the underage parties and the unnecessary traffic around the lake. Maybe more fish checks and game wardens patrolling the shoreline, seems to be a lot of people who don't know or care about the slot limit on walleyes, and they keep a lot of slot fish because they are not getting checked enough. Keep dry camping the way it is, just require a sticker.
145	Need a vault toilet at the beach area. Need more signage to indicate slot sizes for walleyes. People are cleaning walleyes at the cleaning table that are clearly between 15" and 18". More game warden checks. I have not been boat checked or had my fishing license checked on this reservoir since Warden Harold Havila was here. I also strongly agree with the slot limit sizes, however there are times when a walleye is gut hooked and bleeding profusely and will not survive but because of the slot, has to be thrown back. one slot fish 15" to 18" included in the daily limit would be nice.
146	I would like to see more law enforcement around for littering, noise, fire control. More road maintenance on north sided of lake for RV travel to primitive RV/tent camp sites. Would like to see annual park sticker entrance only for lake. \$35 annual fee for fist vehicle, \$10 for second, and \$10 for third vehicle. Make off road vehicle trails around lake. Last 2 years has been some of the best shore fishing for walleyes that I have seen for years. Look forward to enjoying this lake for many more years. Thank you.
147	Please extend concrete pad on north end boat ramp. no additional amenities needed at south end (#15) where kite boarding takes place.
148	I realize that not all campers are respectful of the privileges, we have at Orman dam. Most of the campers I know are very considerate and do not leave messes when they leave. The majority of us even clean up the campsites when we arrive, if they leave a mess. I would like to see campers pay for a yearly sticker that would entitle us to use the showers and facilities, such as water refills and dump stations. Then I hope you leave everything else like it is.
149	I would like to see a better ORV park. It would be amazing to see more trees and green plants along the sides of Orman. To bring attention to the lake more, it would be cool if there was more events out there such as an off road tour for those who are new to the ORV community.
150	Management has been good. Improvements are needed and have been good. Improvements are appreciated.
151	There is a group that is always at Gaden's Point. They have been there since the 8th of June and it is now the 9th of July. Need more patrolling of who stays and lives out here all summer. Make them move.
152	First come, first served is a great thing. However every time I have come to camp there are campers parked in prime camping spots with no one around. We always camp for 6-7 days. Almost always those campers are vacant for our first 4-5 days before you see anyone. There needs to be better enforcement on this issue. We love to camp but shouldn't be forced to have crappy camping because someone else is saving a spot for camping a week away.
153	There are many things being enforced, controlling who takes showers is ridiculous. Maybe shower tickets would help with that. Paid for parking passes to shower, yet threatened a fine. Let campers ride motorcycles if they wish.
154	Please put in more full service campsites or more electric campsites.
155	A spot with 18 to 20 sites for family reunions with electrical hook-ups.
156	A way to facilitate large groups to reserve campsites together.
157	We enjoy camping here. Thanks for all the improvements. We will be back again.
158	No more state park fee areas. Keep it like it is.
159	Reopen closed roads.
160	Ever since the 2018 fishing tournament, all that I have caught is slot fish.
161	Re-open closed roads to WMAs.
162	Too many roads are closed.
163	Love seeing the lake so high.
164	Fee is high in state park area.
165	Have BLM become managing partner.
166	Less crowded than Angostura, but more "No Vehicle Access" signs.
167	Too many roads closed.
168	Keep farmers first.
169	Disappointed that my annual pass does not cover use of shower facilities and I was threatened with a citation for using them because I was not in the paid camping area. Have never had an issue in years past and during the summer months it is nearly impossible to camp in the paid section; hence why I bought the annual pass.
170	Leave Arpan Road camping for free. Do not develop please.
171	North side of dam is totally under-utilized. Need marina/restaurant.
172	Leave developed area on the west side of reservoir. Leave Arpan road area alone.
173	Spray more weeds.
174	Leave developed area on the west side. Leave Arpan Rd area alone!
175	I would like to see more weed spraying on our side of lake. There is a large amount of garbage that blows in from the people that use the channel.
176	I think the Game, Fish and Parks does an excellent job of managing the Rocky Point Area. The issues I have had is booking sites at Rocky Point, therefore I primitive camp on other areas. I would like to see more improvements to the Gadens Point Area. Charge a day use fee to help cover cost of improvements. The road issue to Gaden's is a big one. If the roads were maintained, it would help a bunch. Snow removal to Gaden's in the winter would allow winter activities at Gaden's point. All in all, it's a wonderful place to take the family. Improvements to some areas would be nice without being detrimental to wildlife.
177	I think there could be some primitive day use developed in area 3 & 4. SDGF&P does a great job of running the Rocky Point area. I think they should take over all recreational areas, maybe charging a small fee for usage. It should NOT go to private contractors. No permanent residences should be allowed. I enjoy this area and plan to visit much more often.
178	Leave this area exactly the way it is. This is one of the few places in this area where primitive camping is still allowed. Please don't take that away from us public land owners.
179	hunting road access 5,6'
180	hunting road access: 6-7, 8, 9'
181	hunting road access: 6 & 7' No privatization
182	hunting road access: 6&7' No privatization

User Survey Written Comments

183	I am strongly against having a third party management firm come in to manage our area. Any addition fees or permits, if any should benefit only the reservoir and surrounding area.
184	Want to keep free primitive area for camper use - also want to see the Tequila beach available to camp on again. Want to be able to ride offroad with ATV's at all areas. Many families will be unable to camp if you charge everywhere and it's not fair. Want Orman back the way it was before Game, Fish & Parks took over - way, way more problems since then. We have camped here for 40+ years. Do not develop!
185	I want to add just an opinion of mine, family and friends that have enjoyed this reservoir since we were kids. The improvements to the rocky point area are amazing so please do not get the wrong impression. Many people enjoy the conveniences of home while camping, but there are so many people who just like to enjoy the solitude and peacefulness of not being in a crowded, small town-like camp area. My suggestion would be to make more fire pit areas in primitive parts of the lake and separate, if needed, by a row of trees to accommodate the people who enjoy this reservoir, but no longer come here due to the lack of primitive sites and privacy. We will have no problem paying for that.
186	Love to have laundry facilities.
187	Not enough primitive sites. We like our privacy.
188	I was told no camping if no fire pit. Need more spots away from people!
189	Need more campsites. Hookups @ group campoing. WIFI and phone services. Pool
190	Solar lights in the toilet at campsite 2. Add an additional one in the loop.
191	You guys are doing a great job, but the reason I and my family come here is for the wide open nature, primitive camping and fishing. The roads could use some work, and things like fish cleaning stations and dumpsters would keep the area cleaner. But if you do too much it's going to be too expensive, and too crowded (ie, Pactola) and will take away the experience. If this turns into a restricted area, all pay or as busy as Pactola, my family, for one, won't be returning.
192	(camping cabins was marked but didn't indicate area on map) How about a web cam and weather station accessible to online use? Check wind and waves, temp, rain, etc. I have, in the past, gone to the reservoir many times to just turn around and go back home, mostly because of the wind.
193	Cleaning the firepits out on a regular basis would be nice. Maybe another fish cleaning station closer to boat ramps.
194	1. would like some clarification on why we are not entitled to use the showers at Ricky Point when we purchase a park sticker, but camp on the primitive side. 2. develop north end so to make extra campsites.
195	3. keep primitive side the same as much as possible (no large camping fees).
196	all the things marked for Q6 did not have an "area" in which they would like to see those services.
197	checked road maintenance but didn't specify area. Need more camping on the north side. The campsites are always crowded especially on holidays. The North side of the lake needs to be re-opened to camping.
198	Orman is a great place to be able to camp at no charge. Golf course is a great camping spot. Please don't make us start to pay for it!
199	Rocky Point needs more sites. It is very difficult to get sites during the peak. Also need to crack down on people occupying sites just to "reserve" a spot.
200	There is a problem with people dropping off camper on Thursday night and leaving them unattended until Friday night.
201	I met Jay and Will, the old P.W. camp. Very helpful and respectful. Need more people like them. Good Job Orman!
202	There needs to be more campsites with electricity. It is almost impossible to get sites in the summer. I feel improvements should only be made to areas where you pay to get in. A paying gate needs to be added on the other areas such as Gadens point, Middle point and Golf course. A cell tower would be nice so you could monitor incoming storms.
203	Have an issue with people leaving campers in advance of the holiday weekends to save a spot and not actually staying there.
204	Please leave primitive camp areas as they are.
205	Handicap access pier on lake out from cabins #1 &2
206	Handicap access on lake out from cabins 1 & 2
207	People that pull out here with their campers to get spots and then don't stay in the campsite the whole time.
208	Consider more electric hookups and campsites and ramps (boat) away from Rocky Point. Thank you.
209	Shoreline erosion is an enormous problem that should be addressed.
210	We enjoy the primitive type of camping. Less people around that way. That's why we go camping is to get away from town life. Your park area is nice, but not our style. Too many people, always full. that's ok for the folks that have to have the plug-in.
211	We live directly east of Bird Island...Wildlife management area. The campers along east shoreline consistently leave garbage behind. They are parking big campers on the beach - even when signs posted say 'no driving on shoreline'. they are launching pontoon and speed boats from shoreline as well. They are building big fires where there aren't fire rings. If those fires get away from them, it will put our home and livestock in danger. Campers will also leave their campers unattended for up to a week. We have also had issues with dogs not being on leashes and we have sheep/lambs, so that is a concern for us. We would like to see no campers beyond the point where road is maintained. Primitive camping only.
212	Would like o see more campsites developed so it is not so hard to find a place on the weekends.
213	I would help pay for mag water on the road to Gaden's Point. If the wind is right, dust from the road is an issue. I don't know how you would go about charging for mag water and still have free camping though. Voluntary donations from previous year paying for next years mag water maybe?
214	Not enforcing vehicles left unattended and taking up places to camp. Dogs running at large. Generators running all night to run their air conditioners.
215	There is an issue with people leaving campers unattended at good locations all week just to make sure they have a spot to camp. The rules say they must be occupied 8 hours every 24 hours. We do this, and would like to see the rules enforced.
216	Fish population needs to be managed better. Lake is over fished and has been for many years.
217	Road needs bladed more than 4 times through summer, spray for dust control
218	Road needs more blading during summer months and spray for dust control
219	Good escape from Belle Fourche, once a week. Majority of drivers just tearing down the roads.
220	Cut the grass. Can't get to the channel for neck high grass.
221	It is a great improvement to the area. I would like to see a minimum % drawdown on the water, to enhance fishing and water recreation. ie., 40 or 50% minimum pool area
222	Have a fish ___ structure contest. Have a plant a tree day at the lake. Have a bug spray day once a month. There are too many flies and mosquitoes.
223	a phone number to leave message for lost or found items.
224	Please leave undeveloped! Could use boat ramp on east side.

User Survey Written Comments

224	Closing the canal road for shore fishing is not in the best interest of shore fishing. I was told from RMP management it was closed because of abuse from shore fisherman. I didn't think there is any more abuse of leaving garbage on the canal than any other place on the reservoir. Open the road back up and patrol and enforce behavior just ad you do everywhere else on the lake.
225	Fix the roads at least once a decade into your units denoted as #6 and #7
226	would have liked to have canoed, but had to head down the road
227	We thought the primitive camping sites were awesome. We loved it.
228	The addition of a weather type system for severe storm alert. A place for large group camping.
229	1) Addition of a weather station or ability to keep more informed about severe weather. 2) a 20-25 spot electrical group area where families could hold reunions and not be so spread apart.
230	Would like to see a weather station put up out here to stay informed on storms coming in and would also like to see full hook-up at group sites.
231	We like it the way it is. That's what brings us here. Any changes will chase us away.
232	I love it here
233	Shitty roads, North part lake
234	toilet area 14
235	Add food plots
236	build better roads north end of lake
237	Too much goose poop. Mosquitoes in showers. Showers need bathroom stools. Free-loaders who camp outside the campground, use the shower and leave them dirty. Broken beer bottles and garbage in showers. Section 4 and east side need electrical hookups and you wouldn't have problems with free-loaders. WIFI would be nice. More beach areas, volleyball and basketball.
238	More fishing docks, more boat docks, more campsites, more picnic shelters, wind breaks for tents, free camping at the south-east side, more beaches, boat rentals etc..
239	I would like to see a boat dock for more than 5 boats on the north side of Gadens Point so people can use the restroom.
240	Please place rip rap on Bird Island and Rabbit Island before they erode away. During winter/low water, bulldozers could build up islands and rip rap could be installed. Also build artificial structure for fish habitat.
241	You have a serious issue of campers "hogging" the really good campsites. For example, Dennis Silvernail camping on one site for weeks, months, or the whole summer. Others should have the opportunity to enjoy these sites as well.
242	More electrical sites are needed as you can't get in. Another deep water boat ramp is a top priority.
243	Would like for everyone who uses the reservoir to buy a state sticker.
244	You have a serious dust pollution issue on Susie Peak Road to Gaden's Point on busy weekends. This should be addressed! We do like the freedom of being able to camp wherever with whomever or group. This is great! Note: Looks like this survey got wet at some point which made the survey unreadable in different areas. What could be read was: We enjoy the open...; Camp in large...; Specific spots/...; the freedom to...; restrictions on...; more dumpsters
245	to keep...;
246	Thank you so much for having free tenting sites on this beautiful reservoir - we love it, and will come back when passing through! your friends from BC Coast Canada on the way to Ontario.
247	My priority is dry camping on the reservoir. I hope you leave the reservoir like this. One problem is the day people that use the north side to fish and leave their garbage. There is plenty of garbage cans and these people do not use. Having both developed and dispersed camping works great...we always use dispersed camping. Belle Fourche as it is set up now. We always enjoy dispersed camping. Some folks like having water/electric/sewer. We are fully self contained.
248	We strongly support free access to public lands.
249	Keep lake open to us poor folks. \$21 to camp is too much.
250	Better roads to north
251	A road around the lake could increase sightseeing, hiking, biking, fishing, and hunting.
252	Why is there such limited access up north?
253	Please reopen diversion dam area to the public.
254	Every year feds close more of the lake to us. Why?
255	Want more road access instead of traveling by foot.
256	Open diversion canal up to the public.
257	Reopen inlet canal roads
258	It would be nice if Little Deadwood was maintained a little better, as it is full of garbage, and if it was accessible to RV camping.
259	The over hanging branches on the trees have damaged our camper. Be nice if they were trimmed.
260	Why are all the roads closed?
261	Garbage dumpsters are always full.
262	Rocky Point camping fees are too high.
263	Good thing 100 year Keyhole agreement ended as they have water for all to use, not just a few farmers like here.
264	State Park fees are too high.
265	Leave as is.
266	Leave the reservoir as it is.
267	Everyone should buy a park pass to use the reservoir.
268	Question 6 (Q6) Maybe a primitive camp for limited camping per night or by reservation? Anyway have a primitive "doggy bag" for human waste only - pack out what you pack in, otherwise first come first serve. Boat-in-area left primitive as is. Would have to watch for large parties. Otherwise we are still lucky to have an area to come and recreate and not be in a pay area fee.
269	Everyone should buy a park pass to use reservoir
270	Leave as it is.
271	Leave as is.
272	Fees too high
273	Good thing 100-year Keyhole agreement ended as they have water for all to use, not just a few farmers like here.

User Survey Written Comments

274	Camp fees too high
275	Garbage is full
276	Why are all the roads closed?
277	The over hanging branches on the trees have damaged our camper. Be nice if they were trimmed.
278	Camping fees are too high for seniors on a fixed income. It is too hard to get a reservation anyway. Even the no-fee areas are sometimes hard to find a spot for an RV. It would be nice if Little Deadwood was maintained a little better (it is full of water bottles, garbage) - and if it was accessible to camping with an RV
279	Reopen canal roads.
280	Open diversion canal for us.
281	Let us access our land, not just by foot.
282	give land back to tribes - Cheyenne
283	Every year feds close more of lake to us. Why?
284	Please open diversion area 2, public.
285	Why is there so limited access?
286	What wonderful changes in the facilities since the GF&P have been involved. Thank you, Dan. A road around the lake could increase sightseeing, hiking, biking, fishing, hunting.
287	Give land back to tribes

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
East Side Recreation				
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
Proposed Day Use Recreation				
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	

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
Wildlife Management Areas				
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	
Facility Operations				
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.

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.



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.

Place
Postage
Here

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

Option Table Public Comments

MU Name and Number Use Managing Entity	Option 1 Minimum Recreation Development	Option 2 Enhanced Recreation Development	Option 3 Comments
Rocky Point Recreation Area MU2 Overnight Use South Dakota Game Fish & Parks		6	5 - for courtesy dock 1-add more campsites, more handicapped accessible sites for fishing from shore, more spots to camp 3- Leave as is 1- Bathroom at cleaning station would be good 1- More spots to camp (Developed)
Middle Point MU3 Overnight Use Reclamation	9		6- Leave as is 1- Leave primitive camping I don't want designated spots, leave Middle Point name or change back to Muddy Flats Area
Gadens Point MU 4 Overnight Use Reclamation	9		1- Let people camp on Tequila Beach like before, never hurt nothing for fifty years 5- Leave as is
Bird Island View MU 14 Overnight Use Reclamation	7	1	6-Leave as is
Golf Course Point MU 15 Overnight Use Reclamation	7		6-Leave as is
Inlet Canal MU 1 Proposed Day Use Reclamation	4		1-No Day Use Only 6- Leave as is

CCC Point MU 13 Proposed Day Use Reclamation	4		5-Leave as is 1-Improve road to South Dam Beach, 1 vault toilet, needs more garbage dumpsters
Fruitdale Area MU 16 Proposed Day Use Reclamation	4		1- Leave camping- NOT just day use 4-Leave as is
West Wildlife Management Area MU 4 and 6 Day Use Reclamation	5	1	4-Leave as is
North Wildlife Management Area MU 7, 8, and 9 Day Use Reclamation	3		1-Provide BLM access 5-Leave as is
Off-Road Vehicle Area (ORV) MU 10 Day Use Reclamation	3		1-Everything except elimination ORV 4-Leave as is
Game Production Area MU 12 Day Use South Dakota Game Fish & Parks			3- Leave as is
Belle Fourche Dam MU 11 Operations Reclamation Belle Fourche Irrigation District			1-No parking restrictions, add/improve fishing parking area access 3- Leave as is

**Option 3
Additional
Comments:**

- 1 The improvements at Rocky Point are nice but not everyone wants to camp in campgrounds. Something I would not like to see change is the openness of the Arpan side of the lake. It is nice to spread out and get away from other campers. I have been camping at Orman all my life and the main reason is to enjoy the seclusion the east side of the lake offers.
- 2 Make it a "Glass" "bottle" free lake. Fix Carp Road and make some available campsites around on that road. .
- 3 What happens under Your proposals when all of the designated Camp sites are taken? is there going to be a reservation system? How many campers will be turned away because of these changes? there needs to be primitive camping Available. Get Rid of all Livestock Grazing in the entire area.
- 4 was better before you started changing & maintaining !!!
- 5 Some for safty reasons and some for personal reason like my kids to have a place to camp for small cost. instead of charging to camp, some people dont always have funds for that. I have seen in the past when storms threaten the lake and to have designated camping I could not get a boat loaded safly at a crowden boat ramp. I hate the options for the fact I prefer to have campers park anyway we want and if dog want to be off leash they can. I live in WY and I bypass Keyhole because I dont want designated camp spots, and drive the extra miles to be able to camp where and how I want.
- 6 Was late getting to the last meeting in Belle, but I hope you can use my comments. I don't was to see GF&P have more ??? Maintain, but still provide law Enforcement for the whole area. I like what both GF&P & Bureau of Rec. have done to date. Would like to have a few trails named for myself & kids. (See notes on Enclosed Maps) would like to Have these areas named "Haivula Trails" and individual Trails named for myself, my son Marty & granddaughter Abby. Thanks Harry Haivala – former Game Warden for area Harry Haivala 1230 Wolworth St. Belle Fourche, 50717.
- 7 CCC point – don't need to spend \$1 million plus to put boat ramp when able to use 1-2 months a year.

Appendix C

AUGUST 2018 NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

MAY 2019 NEWSLETTER

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

August 2018
Dakotas Area Office

Belle Fourche Reservoir Resource Management Plan

Reclamation Initiates Resource Management Plan: **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

The Bureau of Reclamation's Dakotas Area Office (Reclamation), in cooperation with South Dakota Game Fish and Parks (GFP) is preparing a Resource Management Plan (RMP) for Belle Fourche Reservoir. In addition to the Belle Fourche Reservoir RMP, Reclamation is responsible for management of lands around Angostura Reservoir, Belle Fourche Reservoir, and Shadehill Reservoir.

The RMP will be used by Reclamation and GFP to guide management of lands surrounding Belle Fourche Reservoir. The RMP will provide a blueprint for managing recreation, wildlife habitat, vegetation, roads, cultural resources, and natural resources. The RMP document will include long-term management goals and objectives for Belle Fourche Reservoir and associated lands. Reclamation is directed to accomplish land management with a Federal, state or local managing partner.

We need your help during the planning process to ensure that you, members of the public, have ample opportunity to express your interests, concerns, and ideas, and to review and comment on the RMP as it develops.

Newsletters will be sent to everyone on our mailing list, and will also be distributed around the local area. The purpose of these newsletters is to keep you informed of the RMP progress and to provide opportunities for you to participate.

Project Background

The Belle Fourche Unit is one of Reclamation's earliest irrigation projects with the first irrigation water delivered to anxious farmers on project lands in 1908. Completion of construction of the Belle Fourche Dam followed three years later in 1911. Individuals came together in the next decade to form the Belle Fourche Irrigation District in 1923.

While the Belle Fourche Project was Federally authorized for construction in 1904, reauthorization as the Belle Fourche Unit of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program in 1983, under Public Law 98-157, further provided construction money for rehabilitation and betterment of irrigation facilities, recreation, and fish, and wildlife. Water releases from Belle Fourche Reservoir for irrigation range from approximately 50,000 to 120,000 acre feet per year, depending on the irrigating farmer's need for



(Above) The above photograph was captured during construction of Belle Fourche Dam's main Inlet Canal at Station 110 on August 22, 1905.



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

water. Reclamation has a contract with the Belle Fourche Irrigation District that is in effect until 2035, allowing them to deliver irrigation water to approximately 57,000 acres.

The main features of the Belle Fourche Unit are the Belle Fourche Dam and Reservoir, Belle Fourche Diversion Dam, Inlet Canal, North Canal, South Canal, laterals, drains, and 57,000 irrigated acres. The Belle Fourche Diversion Dam is located on the Belle Fourche River about 1.5 miles northeast of the city of Belle Fourche, South Dakota. The water diverted from the Belle Fourche River is carried by the Inlet Canal to the Belle Fourche Reservoir.

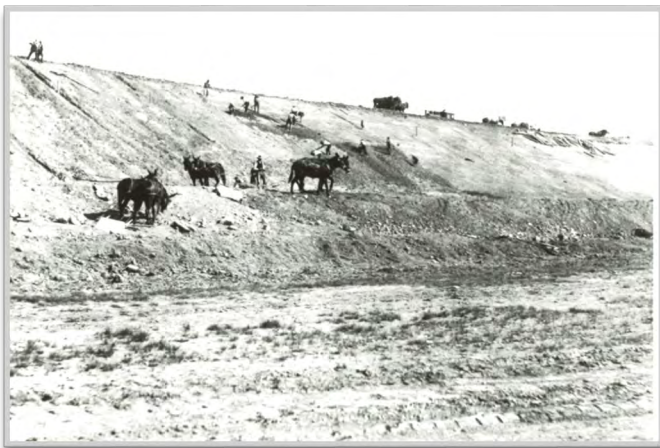
The resource area that will be included in the RMP will include the Belle Fourche Diversion Dam lands and Belle Fourche Reservoir lands (See map on page 5). **The RMP will not address operation of the dams, irrigation distribution Facilities, or lands located in the Belle Fourche Irrigation District.**



(Above) Rocky Point Recreation Area managed by South Dakota Game Fish and Parks.

District is responsible for 63 acres around the dam and outlet works.

Recreation management of the Reservoir varies drastically from fully developed recreation at Rocky Point Recreation Area to primitive on Reclamation managed lands. Reclamation policy limits recreation development without a managing partner to minimum basic facilities only. Minimum basic facilities provided on Reclamation managed lands around the reservoir include vault toilets, fire rings, gravel roads and parking areas, garbage dumpsters and informational kiosks. Not only does Reclamation lack the authority to develop recreational facilities without a managing partner, annual funding is not sufficient to develop facilities.



(Above) Shaping the slope of the upstream face of Belle Fourche Dam as a foundation for the pavers, May 15, 1909.

Belle Fourche Dam (known locally as Orman Dam) is an earthen dam constructed across Owl Creek, a stream tributary to the Belle Fourche River. The dam forms the Belle Fourche Reservoir which has a water surface area of 8,040 acres and stores 192,000 acre-feet of water.

There are 6,503 acres of land surrounding Belle Fourche Reservoir. The GFP manages 359 acres on Rocky Point for recreation and 164 acres on Owl Creek below the dam for wildlife purposes. Reclamation manages the remaining 5917 acres around the Reservoir for primitive recreation and wildlife habitat. The Belle Fourche Irrigation



(Above) South Dakota Army National Guard constructing Bird Island View Road.

Reclamation utilizes the South Dakota Army National Guard, the Montana Conservation Corps, local scout troops, and volunteer groups to accomplish improvements. Some of these recent projects include:

- ♦ **New Bird Island View Road and access routes**
South Dakota Army National Guard
- ♦ **New Middle Point Road loop**
Reclamation contract, SDARNG assisted with culvert installation
- ♦ **Tequila Beach parking lot**
Reclamation contract
- ♦ **Gadens Point shoreline stabilization**
Reclamation contract, SDARNG assisted with rip-rap stockpiling
- ♦ **Owl Creek culvert installation, Inlet Canal parking lot, Warm Water Slough parking lot**
SDARNG
- ♦ **Warehouse Compound chain link fence install, internal fence removal**
Montana Conservation Corps
- ♦ **Fire ring install**
Reclamation, Boy Scouts, and Montana Conservation Corps
- ♦ **Miles of internal fence removal and wildlife friendly fence conversion**
Reclamation and Montana Conservation Corps

Currently, recreation activities at Belle Fourche Reservoir are free of charge to the public, outside of Rocky Point Recreation Area. Reclamation charges no fees for entrance, camping, or day use activities. There is currently no registration process for visitors to Reclamation managed lands around the Reservoir.



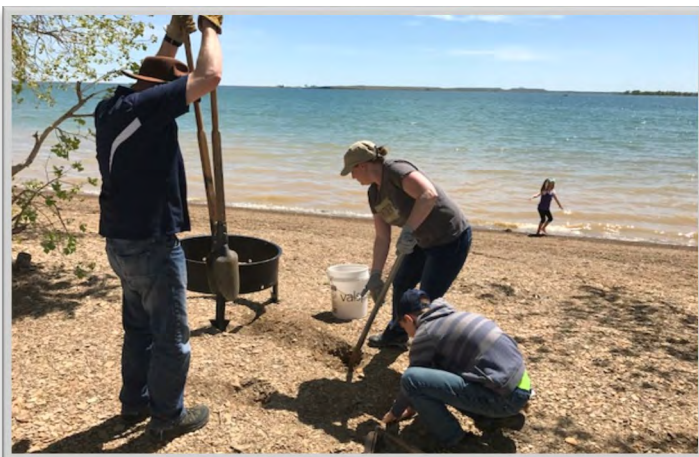
(Above) An aerial view of Belle Fourche Dam and Reservoir.



(Above) South Dakota Army National Guard troops constructing Bird Island View Road.



(Above) Rocky Point Recreation Area.



(Above) An Eagle Scout and his family installing fire rings on Gadens Point.



(Above) Montana Conservation Corp boundary fence project.



(Above) Entrance to Rocky Point Recreation Area.

RMP Purpose

The overall purpose of a Resource Management Plan is to foster proper stewardship of public lands. RMPs enable managers to make land use and resource management decisions that are consistent with overall management objectives and the needs of the public. They assist land managers in minimizing conflicts among users, in following environmental and cultural resource objectives, Federal law, agency policies and guidelines, and in obtaining public support for the management of public resources.

Public Involvement

Reclamation and GFP has been conducting a recreation user survey since May 1, 2018. The survey will be available to the public through October 1, 2018. Reclamation and GFP has attempted to capture as many users as possible

through personal contacts or by placing a survey on vehicle windshields around the Reservoir. There are user survey drop boxes on informational kiosks located around the Reservoir. Surveys may be deposited in these drop boxes prior to departure.

User surveys have also been placed at the Rocky Point Recreation Area entrance booth. The user survey is also available online thru Reclamation's website at www.usbr.gov/gp/dkao.

The information gathered from the surveys is important and will assist in the RMP development and future management of Belle Fourche Reservoir.

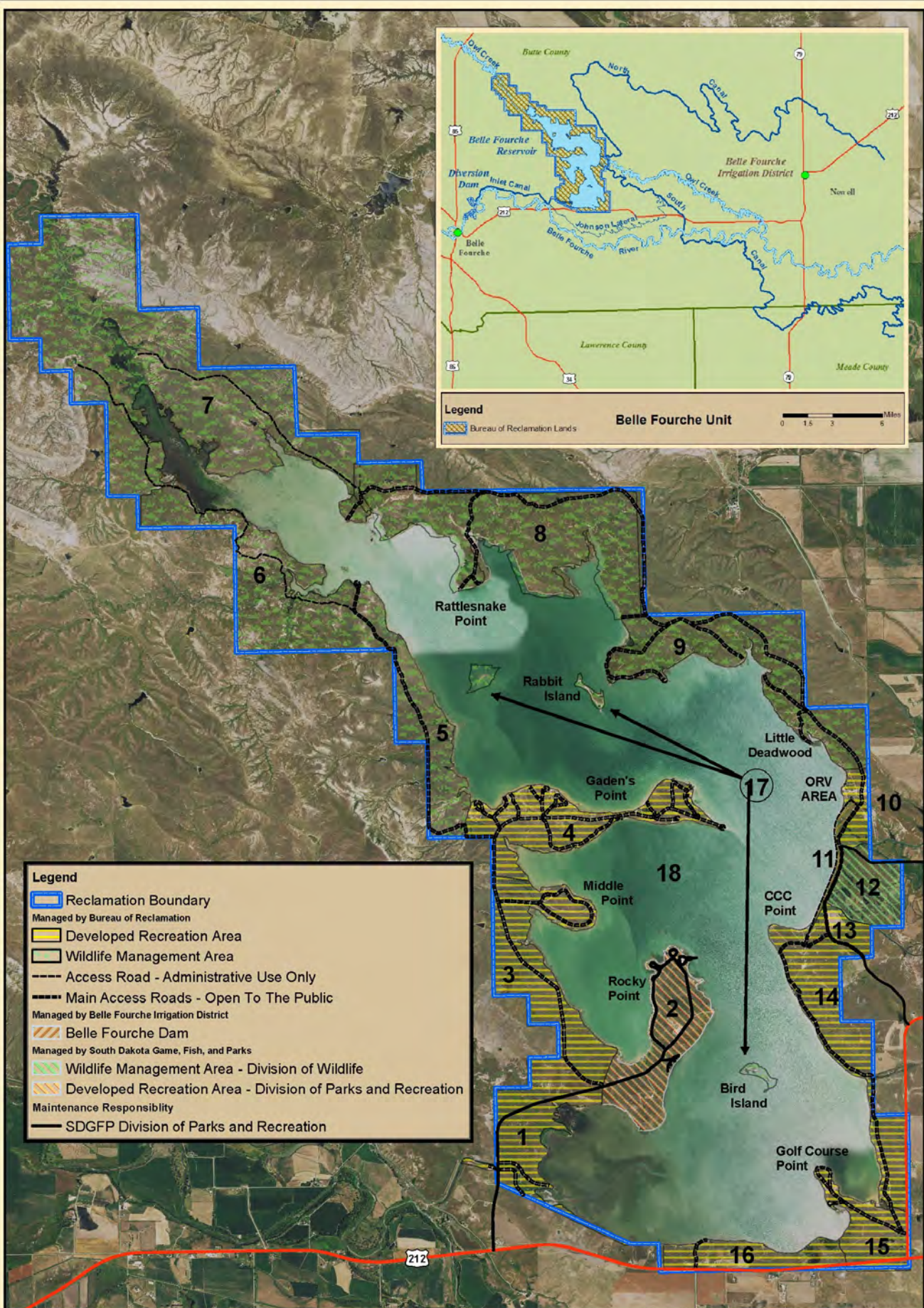
An informal open house meeting is scheduled for August 23, 2018, from 5:00-8:00 pm MDT at the Rocky Point Recreation Area warehouse. Those attending the open house meeting will be able to meet staff, provide comments on future development, ask questions about the RMP and the RMP process. Reclamation will consider any opportunities and ideas brought up by the public providing they fall within Reclamation policies and regulations. Additional open house meetings will be scheduled once management alternatives are developed.

National Environmental Policy Act

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is a law that directs Federal agencies to inform the public about Federal actions. While the Belle Fourche Reservoir RMP is being developed, Reclamation will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) which describes the impacts to the human and natural environment of the proposed RMP and any alternatives. The EA and RMP will be separate documents

A draft EA and RMP will be available to the public for a 30-day comment period. If the effects described in the EA are not found to be significant, Reclamation will issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) along with the Final RMP. If the effects are found to be significant, Reclamation will then prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

Be Sure to Participate by Taking the Belle Fourche Reservoir User Survey
www.usbr.gov/dkao **CLICK HERE**



Belle Fourche Reservoir Land Management



0 0.5 1 2 Miles

This map was prepared from the best available information and is subject to certain inaccuracies. Created by Bureau of Reclamation Dakotas Area Office: August, 2018

How to Stay Involved

Public involvement is one of the most important aspects of planning during the RMP development process. The public is encouraged to stay involved by providing comments and suggestions at any time during the RMP development process.

How to participate in the public involvement process:

- ♦ Complete the User Survey
- ♦ Attend Open House Meetings
- ♦ Visit the RMP Website to Review New Information
- ♦ Watch and Listen for Media Coverage on Upcoming Events
- ♦ Read Newsletters
- ♦ Provide Comments

Comments may be submitted to:

Mail: Jay Leasure
Bureau of Reclamation
515 9th Street, Room 101
Rapid City, SD 57701

Phone: (605)519-5504

E-mail: jleasure@usbr.gov



AUGUST 23

Belle Fourche Resource
Management Plan Open House Meeting.
Rocky Point Recreation Area Warehouse
5:00-8:00 p.m.
18513 Fishermans Road, Belle Fourche, SD

Project Timeline

Recreation User Survey Begins
May, 2018

RMP Newsletter Distributed
August 15, 2018

**We Are
Here.**

Public Scoping Meeting
August 23, 2018

Agency Scoping Letters Sent Out
September 1, 2018

Public and Agency Scoping Ends
September 30, 2018

RMP Team summarize
comments and develops
management alternatives
Winter 2018

Distribution of 2nd Newsletter with
management alternatives
Spring 2019

2nd Open House Meeting to
delivery management alternatives
Spring 2019

Draft RMP/EA Completed and 30
day Public Comment Period Begins
September 1, 2019

End of Draft RMP 30-day
Public Comment Period
October 1, 2019

Final RMP Completed and
Distributed to the Public
November 1, 2019



Be Sure to Participate by Taking the
Belle Fourche Reservoir User Survey
www.usbr.gov/dkao

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

November 2018
Dakotas Area Office

Belle Fourche Reservoir Resource Management Plan

The Resource Management Plan for Belle Fourche Reservoir Continues!

For those of you who are new to our mailing list, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), in cooperation with the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP), has initiated work on a Resource Management Plan (RMP) for Belle Fourche Reservoir. The RMP will serve as the blueprint for the future use, management and development of Belle Fourche Reservoir. **The RMP will not address Belle Fourche Reservoir water operations or irrigation.**

This is the second newsletter regarding the Belle Fourche RMP. Newsletters are sent to provide information on the progress of the RMP. This newsletter provides a summary of the 2018 summer Recreational User Survey (User Survey), and status of the RMP.

Public Involvement

Public involvement is one of the most important aspects of planning during the RMP development process. Reclamation and SDGFP hosted an informal open house at the Belle Fourche Reservoir Warehouse on August 23, 2018. Visitors viewed displays, and had the opportunity to speak with Reclamation and SDGFP staff about Belle Fourche Reservoir and the RMP, as well as the opportunity to complete the Belle Fourche Reservoir User Survey. Moreover, Reclamation submitted press releases to the local newspapers,

radio stations, and local businesses advertising the User Survey and Open House Meeting.

In addition to the open house, the User Survey was sent to over 1,200 recreationists. This list was derived from all people who registered to camp at Rocky Point State Recreation Area in 2017. Outside of Rocky Point, Reclamation does not have a registration system on Reclamation managed lands to capture names and addresses of all users on Reclamation managed lands. However, people that included their contact information on a submitted User Survey will be added to our mailing list and sent a newsletter.



(Above) Reclamation and SDGFP staff answering questions at the first RMP open house hosted at the Belle Fourche Reservoir Warehouse on August 23, 2018.



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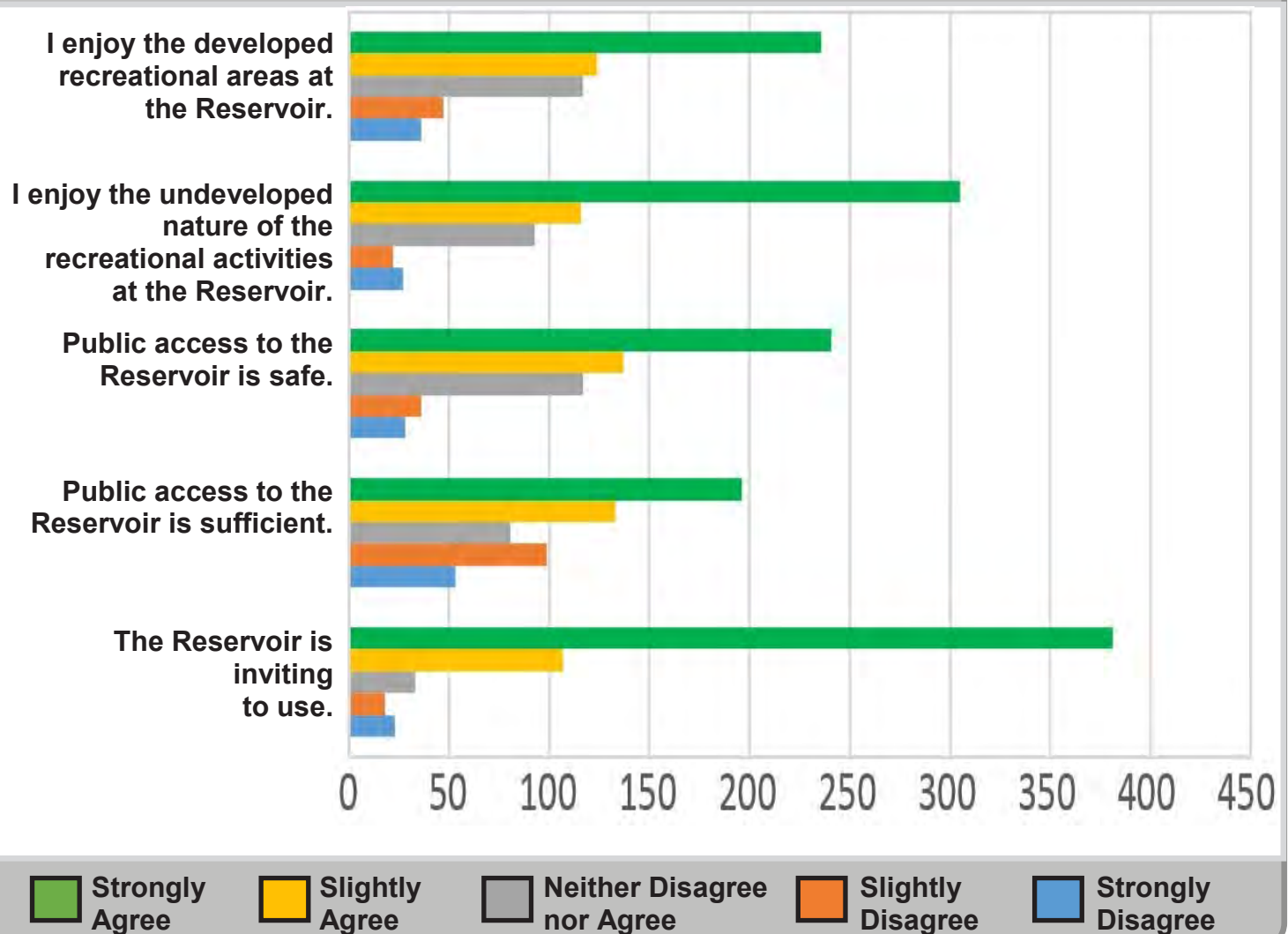
Thank You for Your Comments

The User Survey was available to the public at six locations around Belle Fourche Reservoir from May 1 thru October 1, 2018, as well as at the Rocky Point Fee Booth, the Wheel Inn Bait Shop, the Buckstop, the Belle Fourche Irrigation District office, and Reclamation's Rapid City Office. In addition, the User Survey was available online from May 1 thru October 1, 2018. QR Code cards were also available to the public to access the User Survey on their cell phones.

SDGFP and Reclamation received 568 responses between May and October of 2018. A summary of the Survey results will be included in the RMP. A brief summary of some of the survey questions indicate:

- ♦ Most respondents had visited Belle Fourche Reservoir before (**91%**).
- ♦ More than three quarters of the respondents took day trips (**83%**), whereas (**76%**) made overnight trips to the reservoir.
- ♦ Travel distances varied for respondents from **1** mile to **2,509** miles, with nearly half traveling less than 30 miles (**46%**).
- ♦ Most agreed the reservoir is inviting to use (**86%**), and they enjoyed both the developed (**64%**) and undeveloped (**75%**) recreational areas at the reservoir. More than half thought public access is safe (**67%**) and access is sufficient (**59%**), See graph below.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about Belle Fourche Reservoir?



Which of the following additional facilities/services, if any, would you like to see at the reservoir?

From the 568 survey responses to the User Survey Question #6 regarding the 17 different Management Units, there were more than **6100** checked boxes desiring additional facilities.

- ♦ Only **5%** of those responses did not desire additional facilities.
- ♦ **335** respondents desire additional campgrounds with electrical hookups; with Gadens Point, Rocky Point State Recreation Area, Middle Point and the Inlet Canal Area receiving the most responses for electrical campsites. Gadens Point also received the most responses for a boat ramp, shower house, hike and bike trails, potable water, fish cleaning station, camping cabins, dump/fill station, day use picnic shelters and playground equipment.

As discussed in issue one of the **Belle Fourche Reservoir Resource Management Plan Newsletter**, Reclamation policy limits recreation development to minimum basic facilities only when there is no managing partner. Minimum basic facilities provided on Reclamation managed lands include vault toilets, fire rings, garbage dumpsters, gravel roads and parking lots, and informational kiosks. Not only does Reclamation lack the Congressional authority to develop recreational facilities without a managing partner, annual funding is not sufficient to develop facilities.



(Above) Rocky Point Recreation Area.



(Above) Signage at Rocky Point Recreation Area.

Annual funding is used for contracts including; road maintenance, dumpster service, vault toilet cleaning and pump-out, law enforcement and noxious weed spraying.

The Top 5 additional facilities/services desired by the survey respondents, totaled for all Management Units are:

1. Trees for wind breaks
2. Shore fishing access
3. Law enforcement presence
4. Road maintenance
5. Hunting trail access

To what extent, if at all, did you experience any of the following at the reservoir during the past 12 months?

- ♦ Two-thirds of all respondents felt noise disturbance was not an issue at the reservoir (**67%**)
- ♦ More than half (**54%**) of respondents felt crowding at their campsite was a slight to serious issue
- ♦ More than half (**56%**) felt inconsiderate groups were not an issue at the reservoir
- ♦ Nearly three-quarters (**72%**) did not feel that there were too many boats on the water; however
- ♦ More than half (**51%**) of the respondents felt that there were too many boats at the boat ramp
- ♦ Two-thirds (**66%**) did not have a conflict with other types of recreational users



User Survey Comments

Reclamation and the SDGFP have reviewed all 568 User Survey responses. Each response has been separated into individual comments and will be grouped into categories. Due to space limitations we have included only a snapshot of the comments received. Comments follow:

"Really would like to see more reservable campsites. It is very tough to use on weekends."

"I think the Game, Fish and Parks does an excellent job of managing the Rocky Point Area. The issues I have had is booking sites at Rocky Point, therefore I primitive camp on other areas."

"Another deep water boat ramp is a top priority."

"Not alot of shore fishing spots."

"Would like to see land grazed to help with fire danger."

"Management has been good. Improvements are needed and have been good. Improvements are appreciated."

"A number of friends and I enjoy riding the ORV area and hope stays available for public access."

"Definitely need to expand the state monitored land to include the area to the north and west of the pay station, to include Gaden's Point."

"Leave Golf Course Point alone, no more development."

"Add trees for wind breaks wherever possible."

"It would be nice to have a portable handicapped fishing access on the shoreline and at the docks. How about a web cam and weather station accessible to online use? Check wind and waves, temp, rain, etc. I have, in the past, gone to the reservoir many times to just turn around and go back home, mostly because of the wind."

"ORV use needs to be controlled."

"Need more policing so not so much drinking/driving/boating/shooting."

"People who camp in the same spot all summer and think they own the place."

"Children riding ATVs."

"There is a problem with people dropping off camper on Thursday night and leaving them unattended until Friday night."

"I love that most of it is open and left for back to nature without all of the upgrades so you can do actual camping with kids and grandkids but there is an area for the older/younger people that are not back to nature types that need electricity, showers, etc. The best of both worlds I guess and most important is that it is free to go to with family."

"Require Park sticker to all areas to help with road maintenance and keep/discourage people driving around with no intent of using reservoir."

"Please make the entire reservoir fee area and enhance the entire lake."

"No more state park fee areas. Keep it like it is."

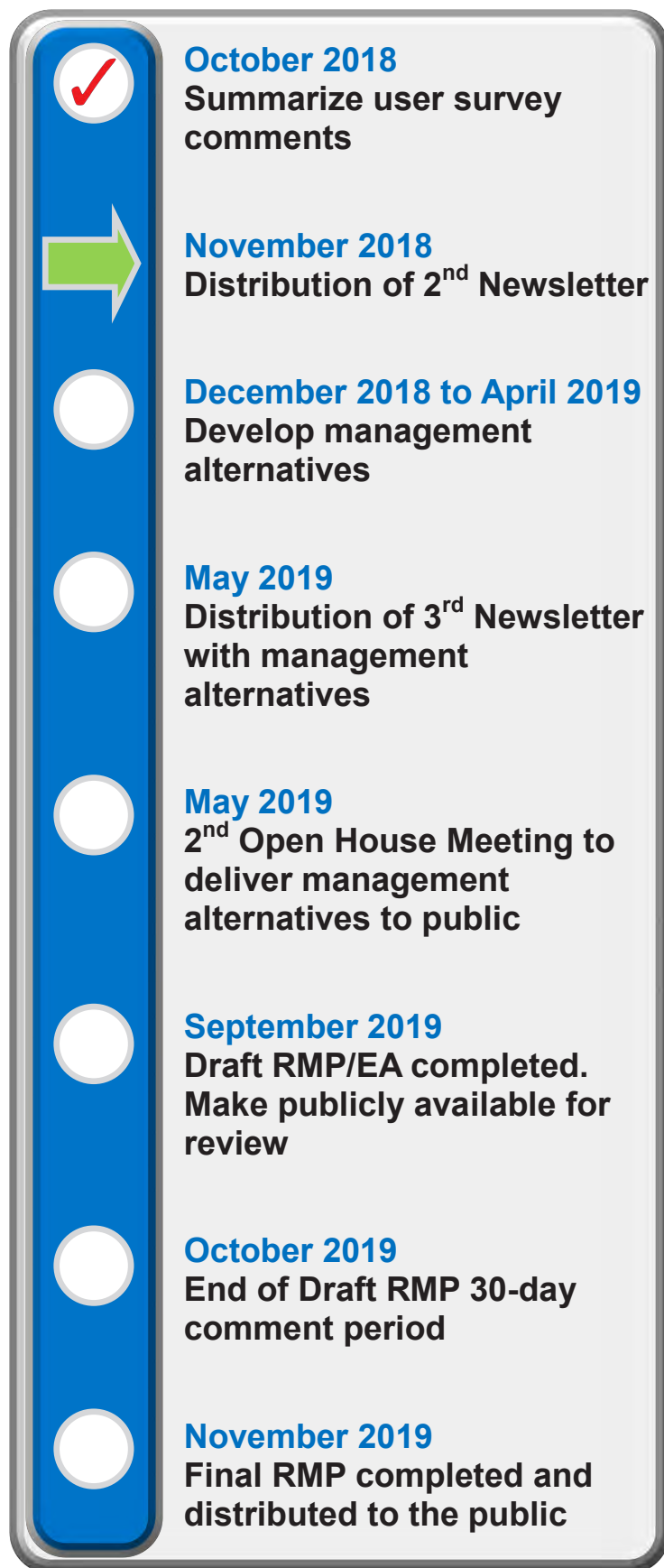
"Love the Reservoir. Well kept and managed. Only good things to say."

"Belle Fourche Reservoir is a nice place to camp and fish. It needs more RV camper sites since it is usually full up on weekends and very hard to get a site unless one rents a site for a night or two knowing that you won't be there to use it."

"You've done a wonderful job out there. I've lived nearby in the valley for 57 years and it has never been this organized, developed and well maintained. It is a wonderful addition to the community and very, very well used by fishermen and recreationists combined."

While we received comments regarding water levels, and irrigation, comments in these categories were not considered because these topics are outside the scope of the RMP. Reclamation and the SDGFP will consider all other comments in the formulation of management alternatives providing they fall within current policies and regulations.

Resource Management Plan Schedule Update:



How to Stay Involved

Although public scoping concluded in October 2018, Reclamation and SDGFP encourage everyone to stay involved in the RMP process by providing comments and suggestions to the addresses below. The next phase of the RMP process will be developing management alternatives. The public will have an opportunity to review and comment on the draft management alternatives at a second open house meeting scheduled for May, 2019. See timeline to the left.

Please send additional comments or suggestions to:

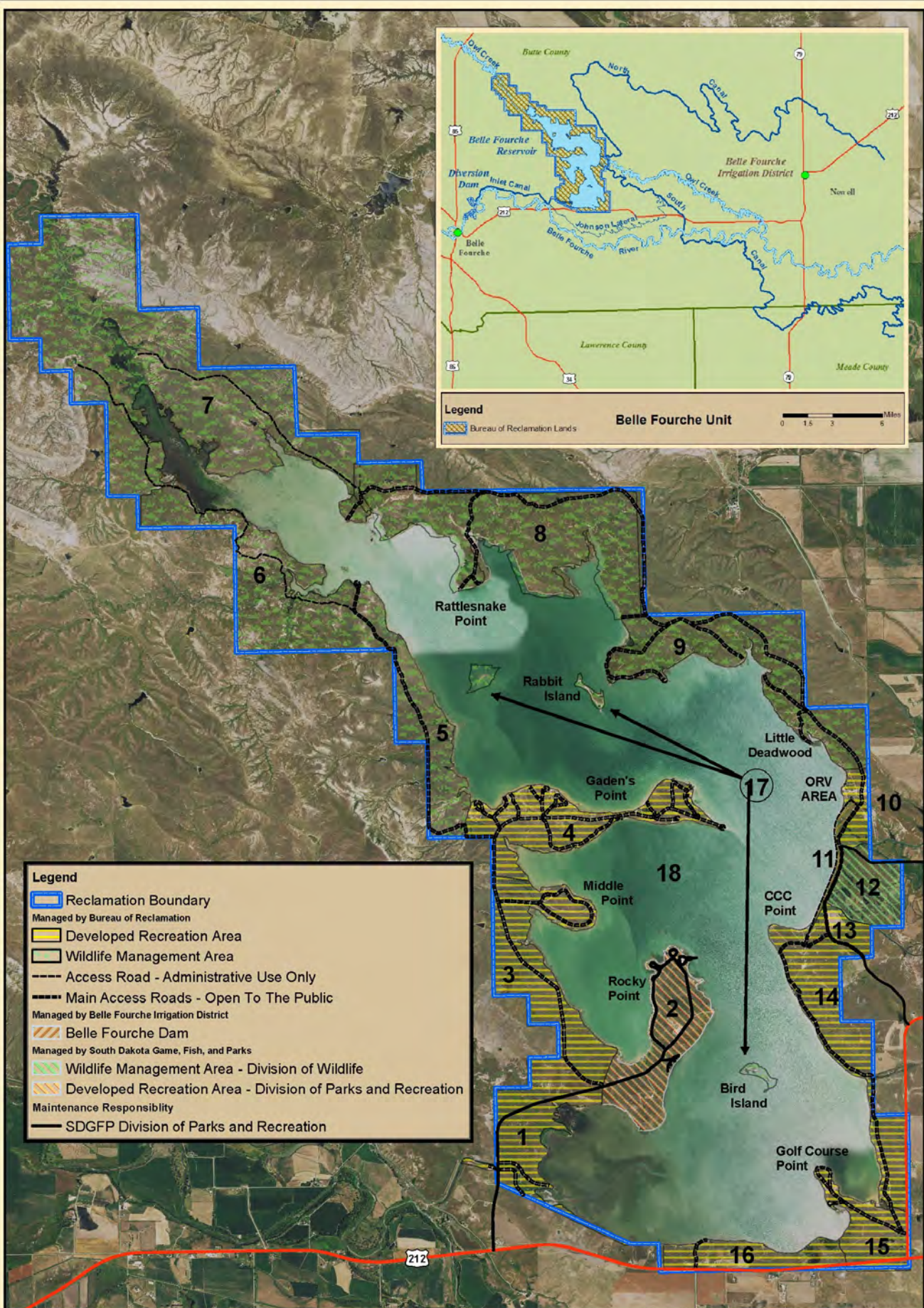
Jay Leasure
Bureau of Reclamation
515 Ninth Street
Rapid City, SD 57701

Email: jleasure@usbr.gov
Phone: 605-519-5504

Brad Nelson
South Dakota Game Fish & Parks
18513 Fisherman's Road
Belle Fourche, SD 57717

Email: Brad.Nelson@state.sd.us
Phone: 605-641-0023





Belle Fourche Reservoir Land Management



0 0.5 1 2 Miles

This map was prepared from the best available information and is subject to certain inaccuracies. Created by Bureau of Reclamation Dakotas Area Office: August, 2018

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

May 2019
Dakotas Area Office

Belle Fourche Reservoir Resource Management Plan

The Resource Management Plan for Belle Fourche Reservoir Continues!

For those of you who are new to our mailing list, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), in cooperation with the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP), continues to work on the Belle Fourche Reservoir Resource Management Plan (RMP). The RMP will serve as the blueprint for the future use, management and development of Belle Fourche Reservoir. This is the third newsletter regarding the Belle Fourche RMP. Newsletters are sent to provide information on the progress of the RMP.



(Above) Montana Youth Conservation Corps removing internal fencing at Belle Fourche Reservoir in August of 2018.

This newsletter provides the status of the RMP as well as development options for your review and comment. **The RMP will not address Belle Fourche Reservoir water operations or irrigation.**

RMP Update

Since the last newsletter in November 2018, the RMP team has reviewed all public comments and worked to incorporate them into proposed management options. According to the User Survey, of the 562 responses, 95% requested some additional facilities or services. Over half of the respondents desire additional campgrounds with electrical hookups, with most of the requests occurring at Gadens Point, Rocky Point, and Middle Point. Gadens Point also received the most responses for a boat ramp, shower house, hike and bike trails, potable water, fish cleaning station, camping cabins, dump/fill station, day use picnic shelters and playground equipment.

As discussed in previous newsletters; in accordance with Public Law (PL) 89-72 and Reclamations Recreation Management Policy, Reclamation has limited authority to provide these developments without a managing partner. The public identified a number of issues for all areas, so we understand there is a need for additional facilities to be developed inside Rocky Point or be expanded around Belle Fourche Reservoir.

Option Maps and an Option Selection Table are available electronically at:

<https://www.usbr.gov/gp/dkao/>



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Future Management Options

Draft options have been developed and the summaries of each are presented below. The options will be presented in more depth at the May 29 open house meeting for the Belle Fourche Reservoir RMP. From these options, Management Alternatives will be developed as part of an Environmental Assessment (EA) based on current and future public input. The Draft EA is anticipated to be available for public review in September of 2019. The RMP will be prepared based on the selected Alternative from the EA.



Option 1 - Minimum Recreation Development

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

Proposed Developments

Under PL 89-72, only minimum basic recreational facility development is allowed without a managing partner. Reclamation proposes to provide additional minimum basic facilities in the areas not currently administered by a managing partner. These additional minimum basic facilities and services include boat ramps, designated campsites, additional vault toilets and garbage dumpsters, picnic tables, additional fire rings, increased road maintenance, road construction, increased law enforcement, camping registration system and camp hosts.

Option 2 - Enhanced Recreation Development

Under this option, a managing partner would be necessary to provide additional 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. While SDGFP is currently a managing partner for Rocky Point and the Game Production Area below Belle Fourche Dam, this option is not an indication of SDGFP's intent, ability or authorization to manage additional areas.

Proposed Developments

With the presence of a managing partner, enhanced recreation developments could include playground equipment, trails, improved shoreline fishing access, comfort stations, fish cleaning stations, dump station, picnic tables, day use areas with group shelters, water and utility hookups, in addition to the minimum basic facilities listed previously. A managing partner may collect entrance and user fees for services according to their respective authority.

Option 3 - Combined Option 1 & Option 2

The public will be able to select their development preference out of Options 1 and 2, by Management Unit, to form Option 3. 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.

Proposed Management Actions

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

1. **Camper self-registration stations**

Camper self-registration stations will be installed on Reclamation direct-managed areas. In accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 423.62, the camper self-registration system will assist Reclamation in reducing overstay campers and unregistered/unlicensed camper units, as well as help gather visitation numbers, and provide law enforcement assistance.

2. **Designated campsites**

In an effort to reduce resource damage, altercations between campers, overstay campers, unregistered/unlicensed camper units, and assist with operation and maintenance endeavors; all campers will be required to camp in a designated campsite. This action is consistent with SDGFP management philosophy and will reduce confusion of multi-agency management.

3. **No shoreline driving or camping**

In the past, campers have followed the water and camped on the exposed shorelines as the Reservoir water levels recede throughout the summer. This has caused natural, cultural, and paleontological resource damage, and is in direct conflict with the law requiring all vehicles to remain on established roads. Currently all vehicles are restricted to authorized roads and this restriction will be enforced.

4. **Boat launching at designated boat ramps only**

Due to Aquatic Invasive Species concerns, and natural, cultural, and paleontological resource damage, all boats will be required to launch and retrieve from designated boat ramps. This requirement will be enforced after a third boat ramp is constructed on the Reservoir.

5. **Camp Host**

Under minimum basic authority, authorization exists for the placement of a camp host on Reclamation direct managed recreation areas. Camp hosts will be hired beginning in 2020. Camp hosts will be responsible for ensuring compliance with

rules and regulations, performing maintenance tasks, and assist Reclamation and law enforcement personnel in management and enforcement endeavors.

6. **Implementation of Fee Structure**

Reclamation has the authority to implement a fee structure. All proposed improvements will be costly and implemented on a phased approach as funding and resources are available. As improvements are furnished to the public, Reclamation will analyze the implementation of a possible future fee structure on recreation areas without a partner, to recoup a portion of the capital investment costs. Fees may be implemented on a phased approach and adjusted accordingly as facilities/services are added. Fees would follow a similar structure to those of SDGFP to reduce confusion of multi-agency management.



(Above) Designated camping sign.

Phased Development Strategy

The SDGFP is Reclamation's current managing partner at Belle Fourche Reservoir. Reclamation and the SDGFP currently utilize the Title 28 cost-sharing program to fund recreation and fish and wildlife improvements. This program allows Reclamation to pay for up to 50-percent of the cost of recreation improvement projects and up to 75-percent of the cost for fish and wildlife improvement projects. Reclamation, in conjunction with our current and future managing partner(s), will plan a phased strategic approach, including a five-year and ten-year development strategy to budget for the costs of additional facilities.

Help Us Name Roads at Belle Fourche Reservoir

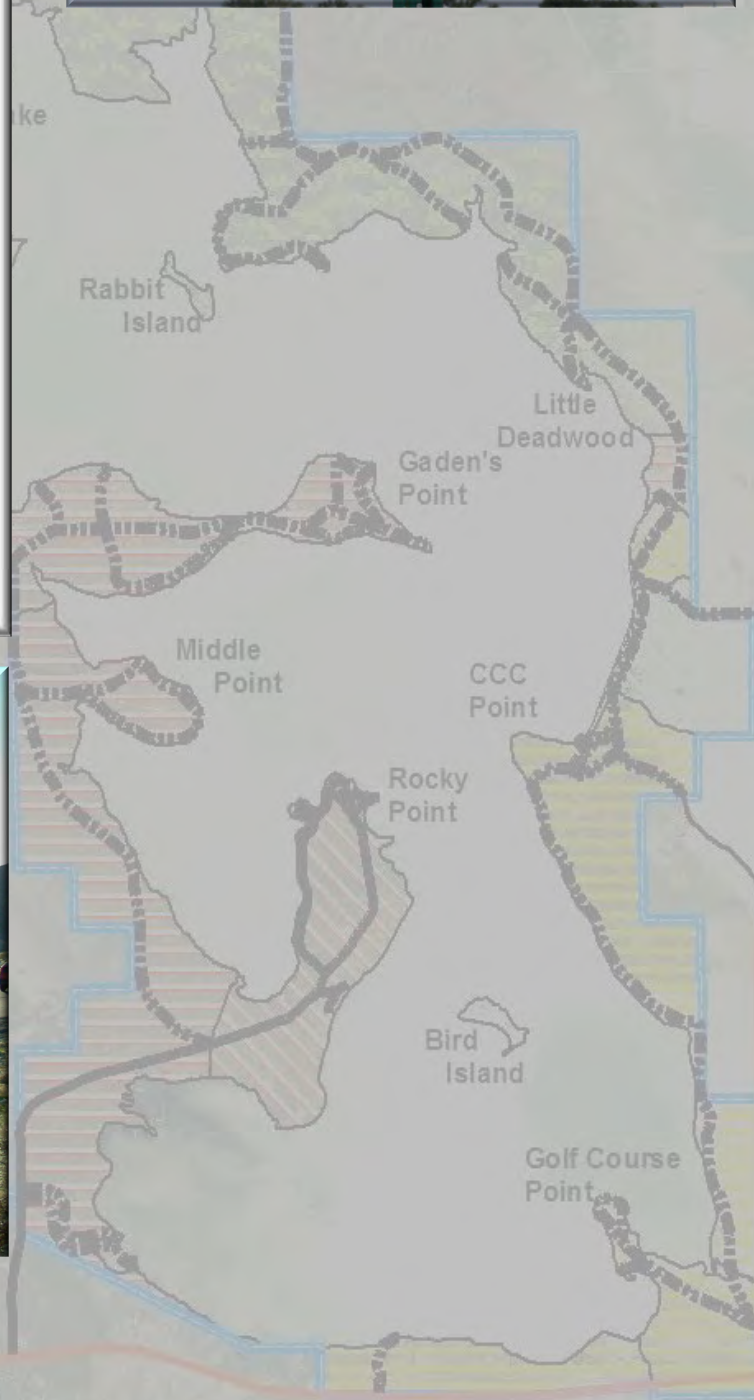
Reclamation and the SDGFP want the public's assistance in selecting names for the roads around Belle Fourche Reservoir.

For emergency response purposes and to aid law enforcement and the public, Reclamation is proposing to install green street signs at the intersection of all Reservoir roads. Certain roads are currently named and those names will remain the same; such as Fisherman's Road and Owl Creek Road. However there are many existing roads that have a local or unofficial name.

At the May 29 open house meeting, Reservoir maps with all the Reservoir roads identified will be available for viewing. You will have the opportunity to vote between the current name, proposed name, or write-in an option.

The intent of the write-in option is to let us know if a road is already unofficially known as something else – and for you to be part of the naming process.

Reclamation will announce the selected official names in the final RMP.



Resource Management Plan Schedule Update:



October 2018

Summarize user survey comments



November 2018

Distribution of 2nd Newsletter



December 2018

Develop management options



May 2019

Distribution of 3rd Newsletter with management options



2nd Open House Meeting to deliver management options to public



June 15, 2019

Management Options comment period ends



September 2019

Draft EA completed. Make publicly available for review



October 2019

End of EA 30-day comment period



November 2019

Final RMP completed and distributed to the public

How to Stay Involved

Although the initial public scoping concluded in October 2018, Reclamation and SDGFP encourage everyone to stay involved in the RMP process by providing comments and suggestions to the addresses below. The next phase of the RMP process will be considering public comments on the draft management options. The public will have an opportunity to review and comment on the draft management options online or at the open house meeting scheduled for May 29, 2019. See timeline to the left.

Please send additional comments or suggestions to:

Jay Leasure
Bureau of Reclamation
515 Ninth Street
Rapid City, SD 57701
Email: jleasure@usbr.gov
Phone: 605-519-5504

Brad Nelson
South Dakota Game Fish & Parks
18513 Fisherman's Road
Belle Fourche, SD 57717
Email: Brad.Nelson@state.sd.us
Phone: 605-641-0023

Reminder

Open House Meeting

An informal open house meeting for the Belle Fourche Reservoir RMP:

- ⇒ **Wednesday May 29, 2019**
- ⇒ **5:00 - 8:00 p.m. MDT**
- ⇒ **Belle Fourche Community Hall**
512 6th Ave, Belle Fourche, SD

An aerial photograph of a large body of water, likely a reservoir, with a grassy peninsula in the center. A line of white trailers or mobile homes is parked along the edge of the peninsula. To the left of the trailers, there is a baseball field. The water is a deep blue-green color. The sky is not visible.

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

An aerial photograph of a large body of water, likely a reservoir, with a grassy peninsula in the center. A line of white trailers or mobile homes is parked along the edge of the peninsula. To the left of the trailers, there is a baseball field. The water is a deep blue-green color. The sky is not visible.

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

[illegible]

JAY LEAUSRE - BELLE FOURCHE RMP
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
515 9TH STREET
RAPID CITY, SD 57701

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Please fold, staple, stamp, and mail

Appendix B: Scoping Notice Contact List

Agency Scoping Mailing List			
Federal Agencies			
Ms. Lori Kimball, Field Manager	South Dakota Field Office	309 Bonanza Street	Belle Fourche, SD 57717
Scott Larsen, Field Supervisor	Bureau of Land Management		
Jennifer Bednar, Office Manager	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	420 South Garland Ave., Suite 400	Pierre, SD 57501
Steve Naylor, Supervisor	South Dakota Field Office		
	U.S. Geological Survey	1608 Mountain View Road	Rapid City, SD 57702
	Department of the Army U.S. Corps of Engineers	28563 Powerhouse Road, Rm 120	Pierre, SD 57501
	South Dakota Regulatory Office		
Jeff Breckenridge	Department of the Army U.S. Corps of Engineers	2100 S 7th St	Rapid City, SD 57701
	South Dakota Regulatory Office		
Justin Boerboom, District Conservationist	Natural Resources Conservation Service	1835 5 th Ave.	Belle Fourche, SD 57717
Mark Van Every, Forest Supervisor	Black Hills National Forest	1019 N. 5 th Street	Custer, SD 57730
Lt. Colonel Tom Nelson	South Dakota Army National Guard	2823 West Main Street	Rapid City, SD 57702
SGM Mike Shay	South Dakota Army National Guard	2823 West Main Street	Rapid City, SD 57702
	South Dakota Department of Tourism	711 E. Wells, Ave	Pierre, SD 57501
State Agencies			
Kelly Hepler, Secretary	South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks	523 East Capitol, Foss Bldg.	Pierre, SD 57501
Scott Simpson, Director, Division of Parks & Recreation	South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks	523 East Capitol, Foss Bldg.	Pierre, SD 57501
Al Nedved, Assistant Director, Division of Parks & Recreation	South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks	523 East Capitol, Foss Bldg.	Pierre, SD 57501
Paul Beckwith, Park Planner, Division of Parks and Recreation	South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks	523 East Capitol, Foss Bldg.	Pierre, SD 57501
Dennis Williams, Division of Parks & Recreation	South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks	523 East Capitol, Foss Bldg.	Pierre, SD 57501
Pat Thompson, Regional Parks Supervisor	South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks		
	Farm Island Recreation Area	1301 Farm Island Road	Pierre, SD 57501
Tony Leif, Director, Division of Wildlife	South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks	523 East Capitol, Foss Bldg.	Pierre, SD 57501
Paul Coughlin, Wildlife Habitat Program Administrator, Division of Wildlife	South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks	523 East Capitol, Foss Bldg.	Pierre, SD 57501
John Kanta, Assistant Regional Supervisor-Habitat, Division of Wildlife	South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks	4130 Adventure Trail	Rapid City, SD 57702
Tyrel Schmelz, Regional Habitat Program Manager	South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks	4130 Adventure Trail	Rapid City, SD 57702
Gene Galinat, Regional Fisheries Program Manager	South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks	4130 Adventure Trail	Rapid City, SD 57702
Brad Nelson, Rocky Point Park Manager	South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks	18513 Fishermans Road	Belle Fourche, SD 57717
Bill Eastman, Wildlife Conservation Officer, Division of Wildlife	South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks	19127 US Hwy 85	Belle Fourche, SD 57717
Jim Straight, Park Manager	South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks		
	Shadehill Recreation Area	19150 Summerville Road	Shadehill, SD 57638
Keith Mutschler, Wildlife Conservation Officer, Division of Wildlife	South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks	14 Fourth Street West	Lemmon, SD 57638
Gary Jensen, SDGFP Commission Chair	South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks	PO Box 9579	Rapid City, SD 57709
Mary Anne Boyd, SDGFP Commissioner	South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks	1004 Mulberry Street	Yankton, SD 57078
Russell Olson, SDGFP Commissioner	South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks	221 Lake Ridge Dr	Wentworth, SD 57075
Doug Sharp, SDGFP Commissioner	South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks	PO Box 1654	Watertown, SD 57201
Scott Phillips, SDGFP Commission Vice Chair	South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks	16117 W River View Rd	New Underwood, SD 57761
Jon Locken, SDGFP Commissioner	South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks	13755 396th Avenue	Bath, SD 57427
Travis Bies, SDGFP Commissioner	South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks	25813 S. Fork Road	Fairburn, SD 57738
Robert Whitmyre, SDGFP Commissioner	South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks	14408 431st Ave.	Webster, SD 57274
Steven Pirner, Dept. Secretary	South Dakota Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources	523 East Capital Ave.	Pierre, SD 57501
Jay Vogt, State Historic Preservation Officer	South Dakota State Historical Society	900 Governor Drive	Pierre, SD 57501
Mr. Ryan Brunner, Commisioner	Cultural Heritage Center	500 East Capitol Avenue	Pierre, SD 57501
	School and Public Lands		
Local			
Belle Fourche Irrigation District Manager		P.O. Box 225	Newell, SD 57760
Belle Fourche Chamber of Commerce		1010 State Street	Belle Fourche, SD 57715
Belle Fourche City Council		606 6 th Ave.	Belle Fourche, SD 57716
Butte County Commissioners		839 5 th Street	Belle Fourche, SD 57717
Black Hills and Badlands Tourism Association		1851 Discovery Circle	Rapid City, SD 57701
Northern Hills Recreation Association		PO Box 218	Sturgis, SD 57785
Black Hills Resource Conservation and Development		428 St Joseph Street	Rapid City, SD 57701
Deadwood Chamber of Commerce		501 Main Street	Deadwood, SD 57732
Butte County Historical Society		259 Jensen Road	Belle Fourche, SD 57717
Lead Chamber of Commerce		160 W. Main Street	Lead, SD 57754
Meade County Commissioners		1300 Sherman Street	Sturgis, SD 57785
South Dakota Wildlife Federation		1306 E. Sully Ave	Pierre, SD 57501
Newell Community Club		101 E. 3 rd Street	Newell, SD 57760
Rapid City Chamber of Commerce		444 N. Mt. Rushmore Road N.	Rapid City, SD 57701
Spearfish Chamber of Commerce		106 W. Kansas Street	Spearfish, SD 57783
Black Hills Sportsman's Club		1830 West Fulton Street	Rapid City, SD 57702
High Plains Anglers		PO Box 752	Spearfish, SD 57783
Center of the Nation Sportsmans Club		500 State Street	Belle Fourche, SD 57717
Spearfish Economic Development Corporation		106 West Kansas Street	Spearfish, SD 57783
Sturgis Chamber of Commerce		2040 Junction Ave.	Sturgis, SD 57785
Prairie Hills Audubon Society		P.O Box 788	Black Hawk, SD, 57718
Museum of Geology South Dakota School of Mines		501 E. Saint Joseph St.	Rapid City, SD 57701
Nature Conservancy		822 Main Street	Rapid City, SD 57701
Congressionals			
Honorable Mike Rounds, United States Senator		111 West Capitol Avenue, Suite 210	Pierre, SD 57501
Honorable John Thune, United States Senator		246 Founders Park Drive, Suite 102	Rapid City, SD 57701
Honorable Kristi Noem, Governor of South Dakota		500 East Capitol Avenue	Pierre, SD 57501
Lt. Governor Larry Rhoden		500 East Capitol Avenue	Pierre, SD 57501
Representative Sam Marty		16692 Antelope Road	Prairie City, SD 57649
Representative Thomas J. Brunner		18769 Quin Road	Nisland, SD 57762

Senator Gary L. Cammack		PO Box 100	Union Center, SD 57787
Senator Bob Ewing		PO Box 607	Spearfish, SD 57783
Representative Timothy R. Johns		110 S. Main Street	Lead, SD 57754
Representative Taffy Howard		530 Westberry Dr.	Rapid City, SD 57702
Senator Phil Jensen		10215 Pioneer Ave.	Rapid City, SD 57702
Representative David Johnson		10265 Heritage Lane	Rapid City, SD 57702
Representative Michael G. Diedrich		4884 Cliff Drive	Rapid City, SD 57702
Representative David Lust		4269 Rosemary Lane	Rapid City, SD 57702
Senator Jeffrey D. Partridge		7174 Prestwick Road	Rapid City, SD 57702
Representative Scyller J. Borglum		217 Franklin Street	Rapid City, SD 57701
Representative Kristin A. Conzet		1523 West Blvd.	Rapid City, SD 57701
Senator Alan Solano		3410 Wisconsin Ave.	Rapid City, SD 57701
Representative Blaine Campbell		3480 Colvin Street	Rapid City, SD 57703
Representative Lynne Disanto		22739 Rando Ct.	Box Elder, SD 57719
Tribal			
Floyd Azure	Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation	PO Box 1027	Poplar, MT 59255
Harold Frazier	Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe	PO Box 590	Eagle Butte, SD 57625
Lester Thompson, Jr.	Crow Creek Sioux Tribe	PO Box 50	Fort Thompson, SD 57339
Boyd Gourneau	Lower Brule Sioux Tribe	187 Oyate Circle	Lower Brule, SD 57548
Julian Bear Runner	Oglala Sioux Tribe	PO Box 2070	Pine Ridge, SD 57770
Rodney M. Bourdeaux	Rosebud Sioux Tribe	PO Box 430	Rosebud, SD 57570
Mike Faith	Standing Rock Sioux Tribe	PO Box D	Fort Yates, ND 58538
Mark Fox	Three Affiliated Tribes	404 Frontage Rd.	New Town, ND 58763-9402
Reggie Wassana	Cheyenne/Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma	PO Box 38	Concho, OK 73022
Vernon Hill	Eastern Shoshone Tribe	PO Box 538	Fort Washakie, WY 82514
Rynalea Whiteman Pena	Northern Cheyenne Tribe	PO Box 128	Lame Deer, MT 59043-0128
Lee Spoonhunter	Northern Arapaho Tribe	PO Box 396	Fort Washakie, WY 82514
Roger Trudell	Santee Sioux Nation	108 Spirit Lake Avenue West	Niobrara, NE 68760
Robert Flying Hawk	Yankton Sioux Tribe	PO Box 1153	Wagner, SD 57380-1153
BFR Adjacent Landowners			
Craig & Deb Kukuchka	Bar 69 Ranch	18758 Bar 69 Ranch Lane	Belle Fourche, SD 57717
Derek Brink	Bar V Livestock LLC	14476 Marty Road	Newell, SD 57760
Richard Kokesh		18772 Kokesh Lane	Belle Fourche, SD 57717
Todd Leitner		11150 Davis Road	Belle Fourche, SD 57717
Shane Finn		11849 Kessel Road	Nisland, SD 57762
Dennis Capp		11806 Capp Road	Nisland, SD 57762
Charles Reid		11943 Reid Road	Nisland, SD 57762
Victor Reid		11968 Owl Creek Road	Nisland, SD 57762
Wilbert Koch		10792 Sourdough Road	Belle Fourche, SD 57717
Bill Mason		514 5 th Ave.	Belle Fourche, SD 57717
David Anderson		18569 Arpan Road	Nisland, SD 57762
Steve Hansen		908 National St	Belle Fourche, SD 57717
Brad Nelson		11678 US Hwy 212	Belle Fourche, SD 57717
Jeff Nettleton		10162 Dowitcher Road	Klamath Falls, OR 97601
Larry Heimbuck “Griz”		11702 US Hwy 212	Belle Fourche, SD 57717
Lana Sternhagen		11714 Hwy 212	Belle Fourche, SD 57717
Mitch Iverson	Bureau of Land Management	309 Bonanza Street	Belle Fourche, SD 57717

Appendix C: Scoping Letter and Responses



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Great Plains Region

Dakotas Area Office

P.O. Box 1017

Bismarck, ND 58502-1017

AUG 1 2019

IN REPLY REFER TO:

DK-5000

2.1.4.17

Subject: Preparation of an Environmental Assessment for the Resource Management Plan at Belle Fourche Reservoir, South Dakota

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the implementation of a Resource Management Plan (RMP) for Belle Fourche Reservoir (BFR). Reclamation is the lead federal agency responsible for ensuring compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and related federal environmental and cultural resource laws. To ensure that all social, economic, and environmental effects are considered in the development of this plan, Reclamation is seeking your input pursuant to Section 102 (2) (D) (IV) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Reclamation and managing partner South Dakota Game Fish & Parks (SDGFP) estimate that public use at BFR has doubled since the previously-completed RMP from 2004. The increased use has created management challenges for Reclamation, SDGFP, and the recreating public. A new RMP would serve as the blueprint for the future use, management, and development for BFR. Public involvement efforts on the RMP began in May 2018 and to date includes an online and paper survey, an initial scoping letter, open house, public meeting to discuss options, numerous press releases to local newspapers, radio stations, and local businesses advertising the survey and public meetings, and newsletters updating the public on the progress.

Reclamation has developed an Action Alternative based on previous public involvement activities to determine the best uses for BFR. This Alternative includes enhanced recreation development on Middle and Gadens Point, a change to day use for Fruitdale Area, Inlet Canal, and CCC Point, and the elimination of the off-road vehicle area, among other changes from current management strategies.

Reclamation is requesting your input about the proposed action and information or concerns you may have regarding the potential effects. If no significant issues are identified during scoping or in the preparation of the EA, Reclamation would issue a Finding of No Significant Impact. Conversely, if any significant issues are identified, Reclamation would consider whether to proceed with the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement. Reclamation defines significance in accordance with 40 CFR 1508.27.

Please provide comments, concerns, or information by September 1, 2019. Questions or comments regarding the preparation of the EA may be delivered to Andrea Gue at 701-221-1223, ague@usbr.gov, or in writing to: Area Manager, Bureau of Reclamation, 304 E Broadway Avenue, Bismarck, North Dakota 58501.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arden Freitag". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Arden" being more prominent than the last name "Freitag".

Arden Freitag
Area Manager



Gue, Andrea <ague@usbr.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Belle Fourche Reservoir, SD

1 message

Alicia Anderson <aliciaanderson5400@gmail.com>

Wed, Aug 7, 2019 at 7:22 PM

To: ague@usbr.gov

To whom it may concern,

My family and I live at [18569 Arpan Road](#) just a couple miles south of the Belle Fourche Reservoir dam. We can see Bird Island from our kitchen window. We have a front row seat sort of speak to how the area around the reservoir is being used. We have several concerns as property owners, as well as recreational users of the lake and surrounding areas.

One major concern we have is the overuse of the area along Fruitdale Point and north all the way to the dam at CCC Point. On any given weekend there are dozens and dozens of campers along the shoreline. On many occasions those campers are left unattended for days to "save" their spots. The amount of trash and human/animal waste that is left behind is disgusting! Just this past Sunday morning we witnessed a man going to the bathroom on the road behind our house. Not number 1, NUMBER 2! We don't like to take our children or dogs for walks along shore because every clump of trees or bush has human waste left behind. Also broken glass and garbage.

In the case of directly behind our house there is a nice sandybeach area and campers are parking right on the sand which is eroding the shoreline and trash is polluting the waters.

There is also a low spot in the road directly behind our house that fills up with water when it rains. There are large trucks, and four wheelers driving back and forth through the mud tearing up the road even worse. They also drive through the grasses tearing them up, which harms the wildlife and birds nesting there.

Last summer a person was going back and forth through the mud on his four wheeler and it caught on fire. We were very concerned that the fire would spread to the grasses behind our house and spread to our property putting our home and livestock in danger. Thankfully the Nisland fire department responded quickly and got the fire out.

We are fortunate to live in an incredibly beautiful area and it is sad to see people not treat the area with the care and respect due it. If camping is going to be aloud to continue then it needs to be monitored as it is at Rocky Point Recreation Area. We would be in favour of limiting the use of this area to say use only, and closing of the off road vehicle area.

Thank you for your work in preservation of this beautiful area.

Sincerely,
David and Alicia Anderson



Gue, Andrea <ague@usbr.gov>

Belle Fourche Res. RMP

2 messages

Iverson, Mitchell <miverson@blm.gov>
To: Andrea Gue <ague@usbr.gov>

Wed, Aug 14, 2019 at 1:16 PM

Andrea

Received your letter about the Belle Fourche Reservoir RMP and would like a little more information on the proposed action (action) alternative.

Thanks,

Mitch Iverson
BLM, SDFO
309 Bonanza St. Belle Fourche, SD
605-892-7008 (office) 605-580-5707 (cell)

Gue, Andrea <ague@usbr.gov>
To: "Iverson, Mitchell" <miverson@blm.gov>

Wed, Aug 14, 2019 at 2:27 PM

Hi Mitch,

Please see the link below. This link will take you to our Area Office page, which you will then scroll down to the yellow box with the title Resource Management Plans. Within the box, the first link is to the public notice for the initiation of the EA. The second link is all the information presented at our public meeting last May. This link includes a summary of the Options and a table with specific details about our options for each Management Unit, along with maps of the proposed options. We anticipate the draft EA and draft RMP will be a combination of Option 1 and Option 2.

The third, fourth and fifth links are all the newsletters we have sent to the public.

<https://www.usbr.gov/gp/dkao/>

If you have any questions about any of the information or would like to discuss further, please let me know!

Thank you!

Andrea

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Andrea Gue
Natural Resource Specialist
Dakotas Area Office
304 E Broadway Ave
Bismarck, ND 58501
701-221-1223(w) 701-226-9865(c)

Control # 2019-103

OFFICIAL FILE COPY
RECEIVED

AUG 26 2019

REPLY DATE

INFO. COPY TO:

DATE	INITIAL	TO
8/29/19	SC	Andrea Scott

CLASSIFICATION

PROJECT

CONTROL NO.

FOLDER I.D.

Aug. 22 2019

Dear Sirs,

This is in response to the RMP for the Belle Fourche Reservoir.

As a landowner next to the lake my main concern is the extreme fire hazard that exists at the present time with the heavy growth that is present on the reservoir ground.

Using it as a recreation area could possibly increase this hazard from campfire sparks, car exhausts, and cigarette butts, or lighting strikes.

This area was controlled in the past by grazing, which is a very economical way of doing a control of the growth.

The more people that have access, the more problems occur.

(over)

As for the closing of the off road area, I agree with closing it. This area is a on going chore to keep fences repaired from people running through the fence and breaking wires, makeing ruts and trails next to the fence.

It is also hard for the Polize to cover this area.

Sincerely,
Charles Reid

Mr. Charles Reid
11943 Reid Rd
Nisland, SD 57762



Control # 2019-84

OFFICIAL FILE COPY RECEIVED		
AUG 12 2019		
REPLY DATE		
INFO. COPY TO:		
DATE	INITIAL	TO
8/15/19	AG	Andrew
CLASSIFICATION		
PROJECT		
CONTROL NO.		
FOLDER I.D.		

**DEPARTMENT of ENVIRONMENT
and NATURAL RESOURCES**

JOE FOSS BUILDING
523 EAST CAPITOL
PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA 57501-3182

denr.sd.gov

August 6, 2019

Arden Freitag
Area Manager
Bureau of Reclamation
304 E Broadway Avenue
Bismarck, North Dakota 58501

Re: Preparation of an Environmental Assessment for the Resource Management Plan at Belle Fourche Reservoir, South Dakota

Dear Mr.Freitag:

The South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) Ground Water Quality Program has reviewed the above-referenced project for potential impacts to ground water quality. Based on the information submitted in your letter, dated August 1, 2019, DENR does not anticipate adverse impacts to ground water quality by this project.

If construction for this project disturbs one or more acre(s) of soil, a storm water permit may be required. For more information or to obtain a storm water permit, please contact the Department at 1-800-SD-Storm or visit: <http://denr.sd.gov/des/sw/StormWaterandConstruction.aspx>.

There have been numerous petroleum and other chemical releases throughout the state. Of the releases reported to DENR, we have identified several release cases in the vicinity of your project areas. A list of these releases is enclosed in Table 1. However, the locational information provided to us regarding releases is sometimes inaccurate or incomplete. If you would like to do more research, additional information on reported releases in South Dakota may be obtained at the following website: <http://arcgis.sd.gov/server/denr/spillsviewer/>.

In the event that contamination is encountered during construction activities or is caused by the construction activity, the Bureau of Reclamation, or its designated representative, must report the contamination to DENR at 605-773-3296. Any contaminated soil encountered or caused by the construction must be temporarily stockpiled and sampled to determine disposal requirements.

Thank you for providing DENR the opportunity to comment on this project. If you have any questions regarding the information provided, please contact me at 605-773-3296.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Katherine Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Katherine Miller
Environmental Scientist
Ground Water Quality Program

Enclosure

cc: Fred Lamphere, Temporary Emergency Manager, Belle Fourche, SD

Release Cases Near the Project Areas

Number	Site Name	Street	Material	Status	lat	lon	R1
93.437	DOD/USAF/MMII LCF November 7 (Sump H2O & Tank Closure	Hwy 212	TPH	Closed	44.687	- 103.69	MM
2005.047	Overtured Tank - Franke Property	11811 US Hwy 212	Diesel	Closed	44.688	- 103.68	RL



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Great Plains Region

Dakotas Area Office

P.O. Box 1017

Bismarck, ND 58502-1017

IN REPLY REFER

DK-5000

2.1.4.17

AIR QUALITY DETERMINATION

It appears, based on the information, that the project will have little or no impact on the air quality in this area. This project is approved.

Approved By: [Signature]

Date: 8-16-19

(605) 773-3151
South Dakota Department of Environment
And Natural Resources

AUG 1 2019

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AUG 05 2019

Dept. of Environment and
Natural Resources
Waste Management

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AUG 05 2019

AIR QUALITY
PROGRAM

Subject: Preparation of an Environmental Assessment for the Resource Management Plan at Belle Fourche Reservoir, South Dakota

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the implementation of a Resource Management Plan (RMP) for Belle Fourche Reservoir (BFR). Reclamation is the lead federal agency responsible for ensuring compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and related federal environmental and cultural resource laws. To ensure that all social, economic, and environmental effects are considered in the development of this plan, Reclamation is seeking your input pursuant to Section 102 (2) (D) (IV) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

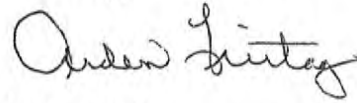
Reclamation and managing partner South Dakota Game Fish & Parks (SDGFP) estimate that public use at BFR has doubled since the previously-completed RMP from 2004. The increased use has created management challenges for Reclamation, SDGFP, and the recreating public. A new RMP would serve as the blueprint for the future use, management, and development for BFR. Public involvement efforts on the RMP began in May 2018 and to date includes an online and paper survey, an initial scoping letter, open house, public meeting to discuss options, numerous press releases to local newspapers, radio stations, and local businesses advertising the survey and public meetings, and newsletters updating the public on the progress.

Reclamation has developed an Action Alternative based on previous public involvement activities to determine the best uses for BFR. This Alternative includes enhanced recreation development on Middle and Gadens Point, a change to day use for Fruitdale Area, Inlet Canal, and CCC Point, and the elimination of the off-road vehicle area, among other changes from current management strategies.

Reclamation is requesting your input about the proposed action and information or concerns you may have regarding the potential effects. If no significant issues are identified during scoping or in the preparation of the EA, Reclamation would issue a Finding of No Significant Impact. Conversely, if any significant issues are identified, Reclamation would consider whether to proceed with the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement. Reclamation defines significance in accordance with 40 CFR 1508.27.

Please provide comments, concerns, or information by September 1, 2019. Questions or comments regarding the preparation of the EA may be delivered to Andrea Gue at 701-221-1223, ague@usbr.gov, or in writing to: Area Manager, Bureau of Reclamation, 304 E Broadway Avenue, Bismarck, North Dakota 58501.

Sincerely,



Arden Freitag
Area Manager

Control # 2019-98

OFFICIAL FILE COPY RECEIVED		
AUG 21 2019		
REPLY DATE		
INFO. COPY TO:		
DATE	INITIAL	TO
8/26	AS	Arden
		Smith
CLASSIFICATION		
PROJECT		
CONTROL NO.		
FOLDER ID.		



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Great Plains Region

Dakotas Area Office

P.O. Box 1017

Bismarck, ND 58502-1017

AUG 1 2019

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AUG 05 2019

Dept. of Environment and
Natural Resources
Waste Management

IN REPLY REFER TO:

DK-5000

2.1.4.17

Waste Management Determination

Hazardous Waste/Solid Waste/Asbestos

It appears, based on the information provided, that this project will have little or no impact on the waste management in this area.

Approved By: James L. Winkler

Date: 8-12-19

Subject: Preparation of an Environmental Assessment for the Resource Management Plan for Belle Fourche Reservoir, South Dakota

South Dakota Department of
Environment & Natural Resources
Phone: (605) 773-3153 Fax: (605) 773-6035

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the implementation of a Resource Management Plan (RMP) for Belle Fourche Reservoir (BFR). Reclamation is the lead federal agency responsible for ensuring compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and related federal environmental and cultural resource laws. To ensure that all social, economic, and environmental effects are considered in the development of this plan, Reclamation is seeking your input pursuant to Section 102 (2) (D) (IV) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

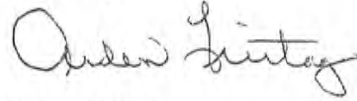
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Please provide comments, concerns, or information by September 1, 2019. Questions or comments regarding the preparation of the EA may be delivered to Andrea Gue at 701-221-1223, ague@usbr.gov, or in writing to: Area Manager, Bureau of Reclamation, 304 E Broadway Avenue, Bismarck, North Dakota 58501.

Sincerely,



Arden Freitag
Area Manager

Control # 2019-88

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AUG 15 2019		
REPLY DATE		
INFO. COPY TO:		
DATE	INITIAL	TO
8/15	CF	Andrea
8/15	TH	Scott
CLASSIFICATION		
PROJECT		
CONTROL NO.		
FOLDER I.D.		



IN REPLY REFER TO:

DK-5000
2.1.4.17

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Great Plains Region
Dakotas Area Office
P.O. Box 1017
Bismarck, ND 58502-1017

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AUG 05 2019

Dept. of Environment and
Natural Resources
Waste Management

DRINKING WATER QUALITY DETERMINATION
It appears, based on the information provided,
that this project will not have adverse
environmental effects to drinking water in
this area. This project is approved.

Approved by:

Date: 10/24/19 ID No.: 2019060

605-773-3754

Fax 605-773-5286

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

Subject: Preparation of an Environmental Assessment for the Resource Management Plan at
Belle Fourche Reservoir, South Dakota

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the implementation of a Resource Management Plan (RMP) for Belle Fourche Reservoir (BFR). Reclamation is the lead federal agency responsible for ensuring compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and related federal environmental and cultural resource laws. To ensure that all social, economic, and environmental effects are considered in the development of this plan, Reclamation is seeking your input pursuant to Section 102 (2) (D) (IV) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

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