

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

FONSI No. 2020-01
Project No. 2015-025

Lake Pueblo State Park and Pueblo Reservoir State Wildlife Area Resource Management Plan Fryingpan-Arkansas Project

Finding of No Significant Impact

Approved: *signed-Jeffrey Rieker* Date: *July 9, 2020*
Area Manager



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Upper Colorado Basin Region
Eastern Colorado Area Office

July 2020

Mission Statements

The mission of the Department of the Interior is to protect and manage the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage; provide scientific and other information about those resources; and honor its trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities.

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.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and the Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR Part 1500-1508), the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has prepared an environmental assessment the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for Reclamation lands managed by Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) as Lakes Pueblo State Park and Pueblo Reservoir State Wildlife Area (RMP Planning Area. The RMP also incorporates the 2019 Lake Pueblo State Park Trail Management Plan developed by CPW to address existing resource issues and concerns associated with trails within the RMP Planning Area. The Environmental Assessment (EA) analyzes No Action and Proposed Action alternatives.

The EA is programmatic; it establishes only a conceptual framework for evaluating resource impacts and does not contain sufficient detail to implement any specific activities and improvements. As such, it focuses on a broad scale of resource impacts associated with the Action Alternative and its broad level of proposed development activities. Site-specific resource impacts will be addressed under separate National Environmental Policy Act compliance tiered off of this Environmental Assessment prior to implementation.

Based on the following, Reclamation has determined that the Proposed Action will not result in a significant impact on the human environment.

Background

Pueblo Reservoir is located on the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains of Colorado in a high semi-arid area in Pueblo County. The RMP Planning Area is located at a transition zone between the Great Plains to the east and the Southern Rocky Mountains to the west and transitions between the shortgrass prairie to the north and desert grasslands to the south. Views from Pueblo Reservoir include Pikes Peak to the north, the Wet Mountains to the west, and the Sangre de Cristo Mountains to the southwest. These lands were acquired and developed as part of the Fryngpan-Arkansas (Fry-Ark) Project.

Pueblo Reservoir is the terminal and principal storage feature of the Fry-Ark Project, a multipurpose transmountain, transbasin water diversion and delivery project in Colorado. It makes possible an average annual diversion of approximately 69,200 acre-feet of surplus water from the Fryngpan River and other tributaries of the Roaring Fork River, on the western slope of the Rocky Mountains, to the Arkansas River basin on the eastern slope. The reservoir is located on the Arkansas River, approximately six miles upstream of the city of Pueblo.

With the execution of Contract No. 14-06-700-8018 in 1975, Reclamation assigned management of recreation, fish, wildlife, and associated resources for federal lands around Pueblo Reservoir to the State of Colorado through its Department of Natural Resources. CPW manages these lands as part of Lake Pueblo State Park and Pueblo Reservoir State Wildlife Area. The 1975 contract expires in 2025. Section 4 of the 1975 contract outlines development of a Reservoir Area Management Plan, which was completed in 1981 (1981 Plan). Preparation of this plan was required where multiple uses on Reclamation lands were planned or occurred to achieve proper land use, recognized standards of proper land use, and aimed to achieve the highest utilization of said land.

In 2014, Reclamation began the process of preparing a RMP. The RMP will replace the 1981 Plan and direct future use, management, and development of Reclamation lands in RMP Planning Area. The RMP is intended to provide the management framework needed to balance the development, use, and protection of Reclamation lands and their associated natural, cultural, and recreation resources.

The RMP is Reclamation’s blueprint for future resource management decisions and guides Reclamation and its managing partners, as well as informs the public about the resource management policies and actions implemented over the life of the RMP. Table 1 provides a breakdown of the land ownership and management within the RMP Planning Area.

Table 1-Land Ownership and Management of Lake Pueblo State Park & SWA

Ownership	Current Designation	Area (acres)
Bureau of Reclamation	RMP Planning Area–Land Managed as State Park	7,298
	RMP Planning Area – Land Managed as SWA	6,185
	Total RMP Planning Area Lands	13,483
Bureau of Reclamation	RMP Planning Area – Surface water	4,002
	Total RMP Planning Area	17,485
State of Colorado	CPW-owned and managed lands in State Park (not included in RMP Planning Area). These lands are the subject of the separate Supplemental Park Management Plan.	2,160
Total Lake Pueblo State Park and SWA		19,645

Project and RMP Authorities

The Fry-Ark Project was authorized by Congress in 1962 (Public Law 87-590) and the construction of Pueblo Reservoir was completed in 1975. The Fry-Ark Project’s authorized purposes include supplying water for irrigation, municipal, domestic, and industrial uses, generating and transmitting hydroelectric power and energy, controlling floods and for other useful and beneficial incidental purposes thereto, including recreation and the conservation and development of fish and wildlife.

Reclamation’s authority to prepare RMPs is vested in the broad authority of the Reclamation Act of 1902 (Chapter 1093, 32 Stat. 388); the Reclamation Project Act of 1939 (Chapter 418, 53 Stat. 1187), the Federal Water Project Recreation Act (Public Law 89-72, 79 Stat. 213; and more specifically in the Reclamation Recreation Management Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-575, Title 28 [2805(c)(1)(A)]. The Reclamation Recreation Management Act authorized the preparation of RMPs to “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 of the Reclamation Project associated with the Reclamation lands.”

Reclamation’s Recreation Management Policy (LND P04) further 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.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the RMP is to establish a ten-year plan to provide decision-makers with consistent direction and guidance for successful resource management of Reclamation lands surrounding Pueblo Reservoir. The RMP also develops and implements resource management goals, objectives, and management actions.

Achieving balance between management for visitor recreation use and management of the natural resources has been an ongoing challenge. Since the 1981 Plan was written, recreation trends and demands have changed, resulting in new or changed management issues. For example, recreation interest and annual visitation increased to nearly 1.8 million in 2015, impacting existing infrastructure and resources. Some recreational uses (mountain biking and off leash dogs) have increased beyond original expectations or were never contemplated in the 1981 Plan. Also, the need for management of invasive species has increased and recreational facilities do not meet current standards for the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (ABA) and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Finally, data, knowledge and tools for management of natural, cultural, and paleontological resources have increased since the 1981 Plan was written.

The RMP addresses issues and concerns regarding existing infrastructure and resources by providing a guide for future development, to maximize recreational benefits, to minimize resource use conflicts, and to manage and protect resources on Reclamation lands.

Project Alternatives

No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative represents a “status quo” and continuation of existing management practices within the RMP Planning Area. Management would continue to be guided by the 1981 Plan where applicable and would continue without additional direction provided by the RMP. Improvements would continue to be made on an “as needed” basis and to meet health, safety, accessibility, or other legal requirements. Under the No Action Alternative, some progress would be made on deferred maintenance of facilities, as funding becomes available.

Current management unit boundaries between Lake Pueblo State Park and the SWA would be remain unchanged.

Proposed Action

The RMP includes a range of possible actions for managing resources, and this EA focuses on the broad scale of impacts associated with implementing the RMP. Additional site-specific environmental, cultural resource, and paleontological resource clearances would be obtained prior to any ground-disturbing activities. The RMP document, attached to this FONSI, was developed from a comprehensive summary matrix of management components for the Proposed Action and No Action alternatives, goals, objectives, and components by alternative, resource, and management unit. The alternative matrix was included as Appendix B in both the draft and Final EA.

The main goal of the RMP is to balance resource protection and recreational use while providing additional recreational development based on current and future demand. Guided by the RMP, resources and facilities would be more actively managed, and additional progress would be made on

deferred maintenance activities when compared to the No Action Alternative. The RMP focuses on identifying those improvements that will meet the most pressing needs and priorities identified during the RMP development process.

The RMP proposes to relocate the northern boundary between Lake Pueblo State Park and the SWA to incorporate SWA managed lands east of Turkey Creek into the State Park. The north boundary would be relocated north of the railroad tracks and the south boundary would be relocated to the west shoreline at Turkey Creek (see Appendix A-MU-7 Map). Areas within the new (increased) park boundary would be managed as State Park. The RMP also incorporates the 2019 Lake Pueblo State Park Trail Management Plan developed by CPW to address existing resource issues and concerns associated with trails within the RMP Planning Area. Other specific management RMP actions were illustrated in Alternative Matrix and are included in the RMP document.

Key RMP projects by Management Unit include the following:

MU -1 South Entry Management Actions

- Expand existing Pueblo State Fish Hatchery immediately to the north.
- Construct new fish cleaning station at the South Marina ramp area.
- Construction of new South Park entrance road, Visitor Center, maintenance office, aquatic nuisance species inspection station, CPW Wildlife Office relocations, existing maintenance shop compound expanded; new shop building within expanded compound footprint; new security fence installed around perimeter of compound expansion.
- Assess possibilities and redevelop all existing campground areas in place to accommodate larger vehicles, multiple vehicles, and trailers; update furnishings; tables; grills; fire rings; shelters; signage; playgrounds; repair damaged paving; site drainage.
- Design and construct new Bogg's Creek Trail. Formalize trail access from/around ramp to shoreline at Bogg's Creek and access to Pueblo Reservoir. Restore previous disturbance.
- Design and construct new trail connection going west from existing Valco Parking upstream to provide access to the Arkansas River.
- Sign and enforce prohibited parking on shoreline above high water mark at Pueblo Reservoir.
- Require paid parks pass for use of parking lot at spillway east of river and across from the East Entrance.
- Work with Colorado Department of Transportation to improve lanes on Highway 96 at Reservoir Road.
- Consolidate Park Entry/Point of Contact. Close South Marina Road from Juniper Road to State Highway 96. Improve intersection of Juniper Road and Reservoir Road.
- Design and improve all existing road access.
- Develop and implement a plan for additional parking/access at South Marina ramp area.
- Enforce pet dumping restrictions, dog and pet waste removal and leash use in high-use areas. Develop and implement a plan to control off-leash dog use. Install dog waste removal stations (signs, bags, trash facilities) in high-use areas.
- Evaluate, design and implement additional riverbank erosion control improvements.
- Maintain trail and fisherman access across top of Pueblo Dam, per Reclamation policy and security.

- All trails within Lake Pueblo State Park, including new developed routes, user created routes, spurs, reroutes, extensions, access and new types of trail use (such as E Bikes) will be assessed under and approved in the Lake Pueblo State Park Trail Management Plan. If adverse effects to resources, routes would be closed and restored.

MU – 2 Arkansas River Corridor Management Actions

- Improve trail access to Arkansas River to reduce shoreline erosion on both sides of the Arkansas River from Cottonwood Picnic Area to Osprey Trailhead.
- Design and construct trail and ADA/ABA compliant access to the Arkansas River's edge at Cottonwood Picnic area, Anticline Pond, Osprey Trailhead, and picnic area.
- Design and construct new trail connection going west from existing Valco parking lot (MU1) to provide access to Arkansas River.
- All trails within Lake Pueblo State Park, including new developed routes, user created routes, spurs, reroutes, extensions, access and new types of trail use (such as E Bikes) will be assessed under and approved in the Lake Pueblo State Park Trail Management Plan. If adverse effects to resources, routes would be closed and restored.
- Improve trout habitat in the Arkansas River and develop/implement plan to maintain bank stability, access and vegetation.
- Develop and implement a program for succession planting of native cottonwood trees along the Arkansas River Corridor to include beaver mitigation.
- Design and implement additional recreational access areas within the Arkansas River Corridor MU to help meet public demand for additional use areas, while reducing impacts to resources.
- Develop and implement a plan for additional parking/access as needed for Arkansas River Corridor.
- Enforce pet dumping restrictions, dog and pet waste removal and leash use in high-use areas. Develop and implement a plan to control off-leash dog use. Install dog and pet waste removal stations (signs, bags, trash facilities) in high-use areas.
- Develop and implement a revegetation plan for the Arkansas River Corridor. Include recommended native plant species, seed mixes, and maintenance guidelines.
- Evaluate and design and implement additional riverbank erosion control improvements for the Arkansas River.
- Develop and implement a Hazard Tree Removal Plan for Arkansas River Corridor.

MU – 3 Operations Management Actions

- Adopt and implement Environmental Protection Agency BMPs for managing lead at outdoor shooting ranges.
- Design and implement expanded parking capacity, and install vault toilets, at Law Enforcement Weapon Range.
- Maintain as existing service and operational access only.
- Develop a plan/location for proper future disposal of woody debris. If current accumulation of dead wood does not contain invasive tree species, chip existing accumulated wood at the current woody debris disposal site over time as needed and use the material as organic mulch or for other revegetation uses.
- Maintain and monitor existing Sanitary Sewer Treatment Facility and maintain required certifications and permits.

MU – 4 South Shore Management Actions

- Permanently close Old Highway 96 at intersection of SWA access road. Remove asphalt east of terminus trailhead and rehabilitate roadbed as natural surface ADA/ABA trail.
- Design and construct Red Gate South Shore public access trailhead, parking, permanent ADA compliant vault toilet, and self-service fee station at current undesignated location at Highway 96.
- Identify and construct formal administrative motorized access points and additional parking into MU4 for management and enforcement, as needed.
- Design and improve all existing road access in South Shore MU.
- Develop and implement a plan for additional parking/access as needed in South Shore MU.
- Assess impacts of undesignated, unauthorized uses on resources in South Shore MU.
- Develop and implement a revegetation plan for South Shore MU. Include recommended native plant species, seed mixes, and maintenance guidelines.
- Designate hunting or remove hunting in South Shore MU.
- All trails within Lake Pueblo State Park, including new developed routes, user created routes, spurs, reroutes, extensions, access and new types of trail use (such as E Bikes) will be assessed under and approved in the Lake Pueblo State Park Trail Management Plan. If adverse effects to resources, routes would be closed and restored.
- Trail maintenance, restoration, and/or variances to an assessed trail will be implemented under the Trail Management Plan. Site specific environmental and cultural resource compliance will be completed prior to any repairs or maintenance of trails.

MU – 5 North Shore Management Actions

- Remove and evaluate alternate uses for the Model Airplane Field.
- Install picnic tables between Loop Road and top of slope.
- Repurpose 1/3 to 2/3 existing Day Use Picnic Sites at G-Loop and Wagon Wheel Day Use Areas as walk-in camp sites and eliminate the remaining picnic sites.
- Formalize current dirt parking lot at North Marina ramp area.
- Sign and enforce prohibited parking on shoreline above Pueblo Reservoir's high-water mark.
- Remove entrance off Juniper Road and relocate along North Marina Road. Incorporate ANS Inspection, camp permits, entrance fees, registrations and wildlife licenses. Eliminate Wildlife Area Access Road to create a connection to North Marina Road further south.
- Redesign and reconstruct road/culvert to raise road above high water line at Kettle Creek Loop between Campsites 530 and 532, near existing restroom.
- Include a project-specific revegetation plan as part of the design for all planned infrastructure construction and improvements in this MU. This would include re-seeding with native plant species and interim/long-term noxious weed control.
- Maintain and monitor existing LPSP Sanitary Sewer Treatment Facility and maintain required certifications and permits.
- Relocation of the north boundary between SWA and LPSP (relocated to the north of the railroad tracks, on north side of Pueblo Reservoir). Relocation of the south boundary between SWA and LPSP (relocated to the west shoreline at Turkey Creek, on north side of Pueblo Reservoir). These proposed relocations would create a new LPSP boundary (increasing the area managed by LPSP). Also, would create a new SWA boundary (decreasing the area

managed by SWA primarily for wildlife resources). West entrance station would be relocated, and new roads added to the transferred parcel managed LPSP.

- Pueblo West has secured FHWA funding to construct about 1.6 miles of paved connecting trail along Nicholls Road just north of the RMP Planning in Pueblo West. The new trail will include a pedestrian bridge on Nicholls Road over the railroad. The trail will connect with the existing LPSP trail network on Reclamation lands. Reclamation will issue any necessary land use authorization after review of final design.
- All trails within Lake Pueblo State Park, including new developed routes, user created routes, spurs, reroutes, extensions, access and new types of trail use (such as E Bikes) will be assessed under and approved in the Lake Pueblo State Park Trail Management Plan. If adverse effects to resources, routes would be closed and restored.

MU – 6 Pueblo Reservoir Management Actions

- Develop and implement bank stability, vegetation and access plan to Arkansas River. Coordinate improvements of trout habitat with CPW.
- Improve existing South Marina courtesy dock. Design and construct breakwater jetty at South Shore Boat Ramp.
- Monitor buoy line locations and adjust as necessary.
- Seek regulatory changes to permit swimming in specific areas in Pueblo Reservoir. Review CPW swimming policy.
- Monitor Pueblo Reservoir for woody debris and remove as necessary.
- Designate hunting or remove hunting in Pueblo Reservoir MU.

MU – 7 Pueblo Reservoir State Wildlife Area Management Actions

- Install gate and close Old Highway 96 at intersection of the SWA access road and upgrade to include trailhead amenities. Remove asphalt east of terminus trailhead and rehabilitate roadbed as natural surface trail.
- Develop and implement bank stability, vegetation, and access plan to Arkansas River on west end.
- Replace existing vault toilets with ADA/ABA compliant vault toilets.
- All trails within Lake Pueblo State Park, including new developed routes, user created routes, spurs, reroutes, extensions, access and new types of trail use (such as E Bikes) will be assessed under and approved in the Lake Pueblo State Park Trail Management Plan. If adverse effects to resources, routes would be closed and restored.
- Design and improve all existing road access in SWA MU.
- Inspect, strengthen, and repair perimeter fencing to discourage unauthorized access in SWA MU. Include fencing sections that allow wildlife to cross.
- Relocation of the north boundary between SWA and LPSP (relocated to the north of the railroad tracks, on north side of Pueblo Reservoir). Relocation of the south boundary between SWA and LPSP (relocated to the west shoreline at Turkey Creek, on north side of Pueblo Reservoir). These proposed relocations would create a new LPSP boundary (increasing the area managed by LPSP). Also, would create a new SWA boundary (decreasing the area managed by SWA primarily for wildlife resources). West entrance station would be relocated, and new roads added to the transferred parcel managed by LPSP.

- Reopen boat ramps for wildlife access, perform ANS inspections, and make improvements as necessary (if the boundary is relocated and area is managed by LSPS and the North Entrance relocated).
- Develop and implement wildlife habitat management plan to include prescribed burns: i.e. food plots, Scaled Quail habitat, wetland habitat, fisheries, etc.

Consultation and Coordination

A news release dated January 14, 2014 was issued announcing a 30-day comment period for public input to assist in the development of a resource management plan for Reclamation lands managed by CPW as Lake Pueblo State Park and the SWA. An Open House was held at the Lake Pueblo State Park Visitor Center in Pueblo, Colorado on January 22, 2014 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Public comments were accepted through February 21, 2014 with a total of 116 comments received.

From 2014 to 2016, CPW, Studio CPG and Walsh Engineering worked to develop a range of management actions that set forth different priorities or actions to emphasize certain uses or resource values to achieve management goals and objectives for each resource. Management actions ranged “status quo”, a “minimum management”, and “intensive management” strategy goals and objectives.

The RMP process was put on hold in 2015 due to issues raised by the public and Reclamation concerning the 50 miles of unauthorized trails in MU 4 South Shore. Safety became a concern due to erosion and degradation along various trails. Reclamation and CPW completed an assessment of the trails in the fall of 2015, which documented natural and cultural resource impacts from the unauthorized trails. Due to the extensive expansion of unauthorized trails during the past decade on both the north and south side of Pueblo Reservoir, a separate Trail Management Plan was needed. Over the next three years, CPW collected additional natural resource data and developed a Trail Management Plan through a public process with a final plan in May 2019.

On April 17, 2020, Reclamation issued a news release announcing the availability of the Draft EA for public review and comment. Reclamation also sent a news release to individuals and entities included in Reclamation’s Eastern Colorado Area Office Pueblo Distribution List. Reclamation requested comment on the Draft EA by May 11, 2020. Reclamation received six emails including four with general or specific comments on the Draft EA.

Summary of Environmental Impacts

During the environmental review process, potential effects resulting from the Proposed Action were identified, either by the public, other agencies, or Reclamation. Reclamation used potential effects to help focus the environmental review process, to structure the EA, and to identify opportunities for mitigating or avoiding adverse effects of the Proposed Action, as appropriate.

In the Final EA, Reclamation evaluated environmental consequences associated with implementing both the No Action and Proposed Action.

No unavoidable adverse impacts or irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources are expected under the Proposed Action or the No Action. Table 2 below lists each resource included

Table 2-Summary of Impacts by Alternative¹

Impact Topic	No Action Alternative (1981 Plan)	Proposed Action (RMP)
Paleontological Resources	Negligible, overall Minor (-), localized	Negligible, overall Moderate (-), localized
Soils Resources	Minor (+), overall Minor (-), localized	Moderate (+), overall Minor (-), localized
Water Resources	Minor (+), overall	Moderate (+), overall Moderate (+), localized
Vegetation Resources	Minor/moderate (-), overall Minor/moderate (-), localized	Minor/moderate (+), overall Minor (-), localized
Wildlife and Aquatic Resources	Minor (+), overall Minor (+), localized	Major (+), overall Minor (-), localized
Cultural Resources	Minor (-), overall Minor (-), localized	Major (+), overall Minor (-), localized
Travel Management	Minor (-), overall Moderate (+), localized	Moderate (+), overall Major (+), localized
Socioeconomic Conditions	Negligible, overall	Minor (-) to minor/moderate (+), depending on user group objectives
Environmental Justice	Negligible, overall	Same as No Action Alternative
Recreation and Visitor Services	Moderate (+), overall Minor (+), localized	Major (+), overall Major (+), localized
Visual Resources	Negligible, overall Negligible, localized	Negligible, overall Negligible, localized
Air Quality and Noise	Negligible, localized	Negligible, localized
Indian Trust Assets	No impacts	No impacts

Note:

¹Overall impact level after combining adverse (-) and beneficial (+) effects of land uses and management actions and after incorporating BMPs included in the RMP. Beneficial impacts are indicated as (+). Adverse impacts are indicated as (-). As necessary, a distinction is made between overall impacts across the Planning Area, versus localized impacts, due to specific actions in a particular location. Summarized impacts for each alternative comprise consideration of impacts to all MUs. Additional details of impact analysis are discussed in Chapter 4 of the Final EA in the RMP and includes a brief summary of impacts. Many of the proposed facilities are in areas of previous disturbance, and short-term and long-term impacts will be minor.

Implementation of the RMP is predicted to result in negligible to minor beneficial and negative localized and overall effects on paleontological and visual resources, air quality, noise, and socioeconomic conditions. Moderate beneficial effects were predicted for soil, water and vegetation resources. Major beneficial effects are predicted for wildlife, aquatic and cultural resources. Implementation of the preferred alternative would have no effect on Indian Trust Assets and would not result in disproportionate adverse impacts to minority and low-income populations.

Mitigation Measures and Environmental Commitments

The following measures would be implemented and followed by Reclamation, CPW, and selected contractors during implementation of the Preferred Alternative. The RMP will require these environmental commitments be followed and met.

1. Incorporate and implement BMP included as Appendix E as part of the RMP.
2. Proper regulatory and informational signage will be posted and maintained throughout the RMP Planning Area.
3. During final selection of facilities or trails, all efforts will be made to avoid wetlands, riparian areas, cliffs, and steep and/or rocky slopes.
4. Temporary recreational closures may be necessary when construction poses a risk to visitor safety or resource damage.
5. Minimize the area disturbed during construction.
6. As much as possible, onsite materials will be used for construction.
7. Recreation facility development will complement the surrounding landscape as much as practical.
8. Consult the Reclamation manuals and guidelines for signs and recreation facility design. More information can be found at:
<http://www.usbr.gov/recreation/publications/RecreationFacilitiesDesignGuidelines.pdf>
9. Maintain compliance with the Federal, State and local noxious weed laws.
10. Reduce competition of undesirable plants with native and/or vegetation.
11. Clean all heavy equipment before entering and existing construction sites to minimize transporting weeds.
12. Reseed with native/local mix after construction, heavy maintenance, and other soil disturbing activities. Use clean fill material from weed-free sources. If straw or mulch is used for stabilization and erosion control, it must be certified weed-free or weed-seed free.
13. Revegetate areas within 10-days of final grading after construction based on suitable site conditions and irrigate as appropriate.
14. Control runoff from disturbed areas during construction; build erosion resistance into project design to reduce costly maintenance and restoration; mitigate concurrently with construction.
15. Disturbances of more than 1 acre require a state stormwater discharge permit. More information can be found at: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/wq-construction-general-permits>
16. Minimize construction disturbance in areas where soils are thin.
17. Avoid soil-disturbing actions during periods of heavy rain or wet soils. Periods of heavy snowmelt should also be considered.
18. Design catchment basins, wetlands, or other Reclamation approved stormwater control measures to detain and treat runoff from campgrounds and parking lots.
19. Utilize vegetative swales with catchment basins or oil/water separator systems to treat runoff from campgrounds and parking lots. Stormwater systems would be designed to meet or

- exceed Pueblo County Stormwater Quality Ordinance requirements (Chapter 8.26) and comply with Pueblo County's Municipal Stormwater Separate Sewer System (MS4) permit.
20. No ground disturbing activities associated with the Proposed Action shall begin prior to the completion of NHPA compliance.
 21. Any adverse effects on historic properties associated with the Proposed Action will be resolved through consultations with the SHPO, tribes, and local historic preservation groups per 36 CFR 800.6.
 22. If human remains or cultural/paleontological resources are discovered during ground-disturbing activities associated with the Proposed Action, whether on the surface or subsurface, all ground-disturbing activities in the vicinity of the discovery shall cease and Reclamation's Eastern Colorado Area Office archaeologist shall be notified immediately. Ground-disturbing activities in the vicinity of the discovery shall not be resumed until approved by Reclamation.
 23. If any additional areas of impact are identified during implementation of the RMP, additional NHPA compliance may be required prior to the approval of any ground-disturbing activities.
 24. In the event of discovery of threatened or endangered species, CPW and its contractors shall immediately cease all ground-disturbing activities in the vicinity and notify Reclamation. Work will not be resumed until approved by Reclamation and additional consultation under Section 7 of ESA is complete.
 25. Effects on migratory birds will be avoided and minimized during construction, including completing pre-construction surveys and limiting vegetation clearing activities between April 15 and July 15, as appropriate, including seasonal restrictions. For raptor species, Reclamation and CPW will utilize CPW's (2008) Recommended Buffer Zones and Seasonal Restrictions for Colorado Raptors when developing buffer zones and seasonal restrictions for active raptor nests.
 26. If an active MBTA species nest is detected, a buffer zone between the nest and the limits of construction will be flagged and avoided during the nesting season, or construction will be scheduled outside the nesting season.
 27. In the event new species are added to Federal Endangered Species List during implementation of the RMP, Reclamation will consult with CPW and evaluate the potential for newly listed species to occur within the RMP Planning Area and be affected by RMP management actions. Reclamation will complete the additional Section 7 consultation as appropriate.