

## Welcome

The Bureau of Reclamation, in cooperation with Estes Valley Recreation and Park District (EVRPD), is hosting this scoping meeting for the Estes Valley Resource Management Plan (RMP).

### What is Scoping?

- Scoping is an opportunity for the public to be involved and to provide input into the planning process.
- Public input helps Reclamation identify issues that may need to be addressed or resolved in the RMP.

## Management Partnership

Estes Valley Recreation and Park District (EVRPD) manages recreation at Lake Estes, Marys Lake, and East Portal under a 25-year management agreement with Reclamation.

EVRPD is a public agency providing park and recreation programs for members of the community and visitors to Estes Park. EVRPD is challenged with satisfying the outdoor recreational demands of a diverse and expanding population, while responsibly conserving the natural resources for future generations and for maintaining the resources for which Colorado is renowned.

Reclamation is the lead agency preparing the RMP and EVRPD is a cooperating agency.

## What is a Resource Management Plan?

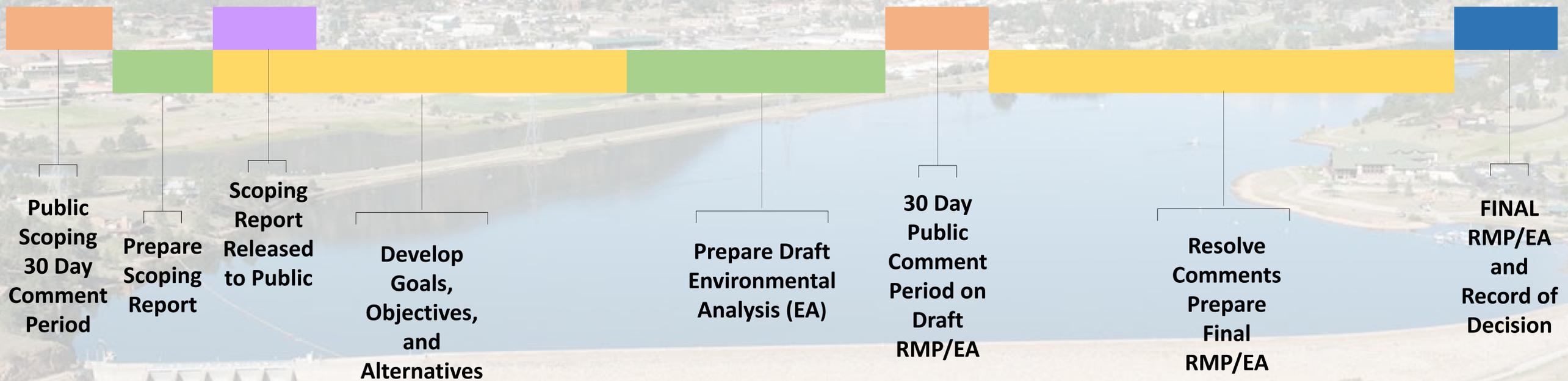
An RMP is a comprehensive planning document that identifies goals and objectives for land use and resource management, specifies desired future land and resource conditions, and explains the policies and actions that will be implemented during the life of the plan to achieve those goals and objectives in fulfillment of Reclamation's management responsibilities.

- An RMP provides a decisional framework for managing the biological, physical and social conditions that Reclamation wishes to achieve within the planning area.
- An RMP provides a general outline for future land use management, documents the current condition of resources within the planning area, and establishes resource and management priorities.
- An RMP represents a long-term commitment to decisions, usually for a period of 10 years.

**In a nutshell, an RMP sets a strategic vision for the future which helps identify priorities and guide management decisions.**

## Planning Timeline

2017			2018												2019												2020		
Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar



We are in the early stages of planning, which begins with public scoping. This timeline shows an overview of the milestones in the planning process and the timeframe in which we hope to achieve them.

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## Planning Area

Lake Estes, Marys Lake, and East Portal are all features of the Colorado-Big Thompson (C-BT) Project. The C-BT Project stores, regulates, and diverts water from the Colorado River on the western slope of the Continental Divide to the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains. The C-BT Project provides supplemental water for land irrigation, municipal and industrial use, hydroelectric power, and water-oriented recreational opportunities. The Town of Estes Park gets approximately 25% of its water from the C-BT Project.

The primary purpose of these project features is water storage and delivery. The reservoirs and associated project land also provide **recreational opportunities**, which is what will be addressed in this plan.

**Operations of the C-BT, and the resulting water levels in the reservoirs, will not be addressed in the RMP.**



**Legend**

- Reservoirs
- Planning Boundary
- City of Estes Park
- Highways
- Streets
- Rocky Mountain NP
- Roosevelt National Forest

**Estes Valley Resource Management Planning Area  
Lake Estes, Marys Lake, and East Portal  
Estes Park, Colorado**

Scale: 0.75 1.5 3 4.5 6 Miles  
1:32,000  
1 inch = 2,667 feet

**RECLAMATION**  
Managing Water in the West

This map was prepared from the best available information and is subject to certain inaccuracies. Created by Bureau of Reclamation, Eastern Colorado Area Office on August 18, 2017.

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## Lake Estes

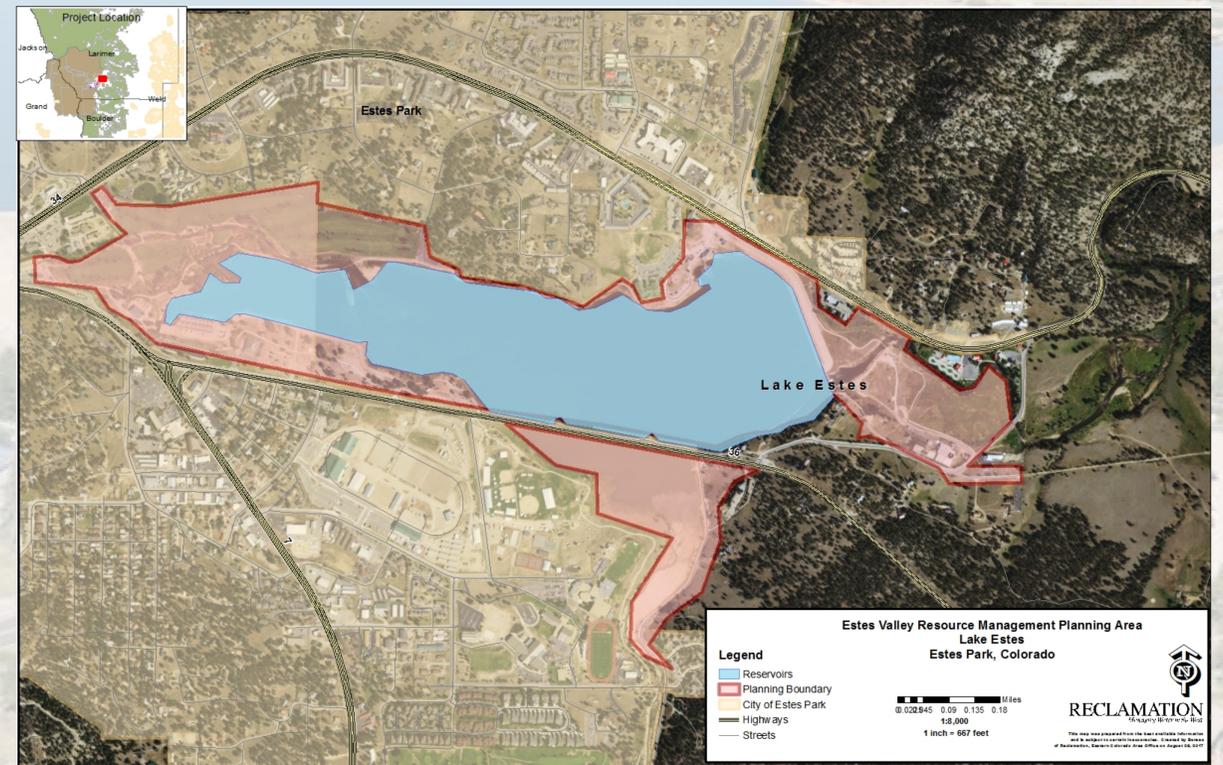
Lake Estes is a 160-acre reservoir with approximately 145 acres of surrounding land under the jurisdiction of Reclamation. Drainage into Lake Estes comes from native flows of the Big Thompson River in addition to trans-mountain diversions from the C-BT Project.

The primary function of Lake Estes is to provide regulation and storage of irrigation and municipal water, and to serve as an afterbay for hydroelectric power generation. Recreation is a secondary use of the reservoir. Surrounding land and current recreational activities include:

- Golfing
- Hiking
- Biking
- Fishing
- Boating
- Bird and wildlife watching
- Picnicking
- Volleyball
- Horse shoes

Existing facilities, which support recreation, include:

- Nine-hole golf course
- Picnic tables
- Playground
- Marina
- Trails
- Restrooms
- Fishing access
- Bird Sanctuary
- Dog Park



# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## Marys Lake

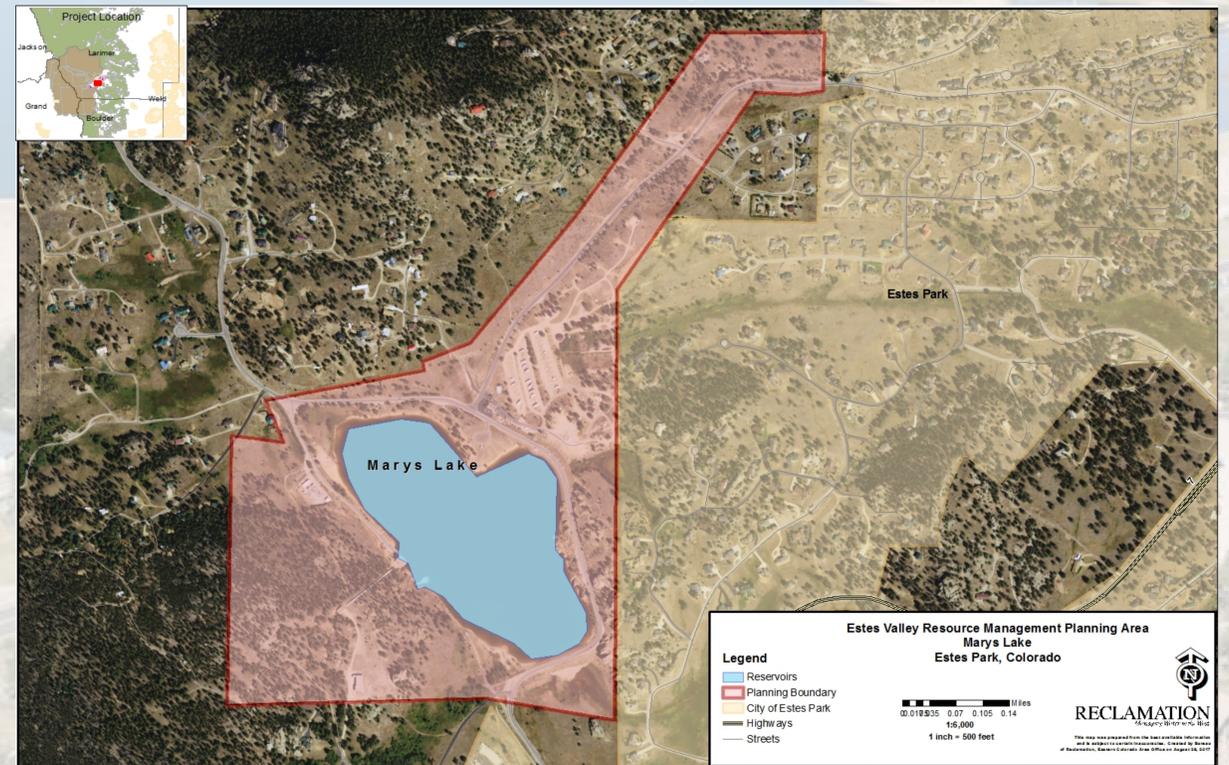
Marys Lake is a 42-acre reservoir with approximately 138 acres of surrounding land under the jurisdiction of Reclamation.

The primary function of Marys Lake is to provide regulation and storage of irrigation and municipal water, and to serve as an afterbay to the Marys Lake Power Plant and a forebay to the Estes Power Plant. Recreation is a secondary use and recreational opportunities include:

- Camping
- Fishing
- Picnicking
- Hiking
- Bouldering
- Wildlife viewing
- Photography

Existing facilities, which support recreation, include:

- Informal parking areas
- Picnic tables
- Restrooms
- Developed fee campground
- Fishing access



# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## East Portal

East Portal is a 2-acre reservoir with approximately 72 acres of surrounding land under the jurisdiction of Reclamation.

The primary function of the East Portal Reservoir is to serve as an afterbay for the Alva B. Adams Tunnel and a forebay to the Marys Lake Power Plant. Recreation is a secondary use and recreational opportunities include:

- Fishing
- Picnicking
- Overnight camping
- Hiking
- Horseback riding
- Wildlife viewing
- Trailhead access into Rocky Mountain National Park.

Existing facilities, which support recreation, include:

- Informal parking areas
- Picnic tables
- Restrooms
- Developed fee campground
- Trails



## Scoping Issues

There are a range of issues to be considered during development of alternatives and to be evaluated as part of the environmental review process. Some categories we have identified include:

1. Water Resources
2. Recreation and Visual Resources
3. Natural and Cultural Resources
4. Public Information, Health and Safety
5. Land Management
6. Project Facilities

What input should you provide? Tell us how you use the land, what you think of the facilities, any user-conflicts you have had, how the visitor experience could be improved, and any other concerns you may have about the resources.

## Please give us your comments

There are several different ways you may provide input:

1. Fill out a comment form (available at the registration table) and drop it in the box.
2. Send an email with your comments to [EstesRMP@usbr.gov](mailto:EstesRMP@usbr.gov)
3. Mail written comments to:  
Justina Thorsen  
11056 West County Road 18E  
Loveland, CO 80537

The comment period for this scoping process ends on  
**November 18, 2017**