Canyon Ferry Newsletter



July 2024



Power Plant Updates

Generator Rewind

Canyon Ferry's Unit 3 had a turn-to-turn fault in July 2022. Because of this fault, Reclamation decided to rewind Unit 3 once Unit 1 was completed and operational. Work on Unit 2 will commence once Unit 3 is operational. With the assistance from the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Canyon Ferry started the rewind of Unit 3 in November 2023. Once Canyon Ferry and TVA completed the unstacking of Unit 3, a private contractor began removing the rotor poles and coils. They are working on rebuilding the stator and rotor. Once complete, Canyon Ferry and TVA will restack Unit 3, conduct testing, and place the unit into operation before turning it back over to Canyon Ferry. The turnover of Unit 3 is expected to be in November 2024.

River Outlet Gates

The last of the river outlet gates was completed in the spring of this year. All four of the river outlet gates have been rehabbed. These gates require coatings on the exterior of the gate bonnet, which is expected to be completed by late summer.

Gantry Crane Rehab

The gantry crane was rehabbed last year; however, some issues with the braking system and the cable reeling system required adjustments. These items were completed in the spring, and the gantry crane is operational.



Unit 1 Fixed Wheel Gate Cylinder Repair

Unit 1's fixed wheel gate hydraulic cylinder failed when the team was bringing Unit 1 back online, which required them to pull the cylinder and repair some of the packing in the cylinder. This work required shutting down the roadway on the dam and bringing in a large crane to lift the cylinder, rods, and gate. Once they lifted the cylinder and shaft up to a point where they could lock in the gate at the first rod, they were able to remove the cylinder and shaft, push the shaft back into the cylinder, and replace the packing. This was completed, and the cylinder was reinstalled on Unit 1 and placed back into operation. Additional work will be conducted on this cylinder and the other unit cylinders later.



Preventative and Corrective Maintenance

The plant crew worked on preventative maintenance (PM) work orders and several corrective maintenance work orders. These are conducted to avoid issues before they become more significant problems that require the team to bring a unit down for major repairs. In addition to the PM and CMs, annual maintenance is conducted on each of the units to do a thorough inspection and make repairs as needed. However, over the last year, with Units 1 and 3 being rehabbed or in the process of being rehabbed, the team only needed to do an annual maintenance on Unit 2. Annuals and tri-annuals will be brought back into sequence once all the units have been rehabbed and brought back into operation.

Natural Resource Management

Shoreline Clean Up

Canyon Ferry recreation crew and the Montana Conservation Corps will collect garbage and abandoned property along the shoreline from land and by boat. Title 43 CFR Part 423.23 prohibits the abandonment of personal property in or on Reclamation facilities, lands, or water bodies. If an abandoned property is found on the shoreline, a Public Notice sticker will be attached, and if the property is not removed within 24 hours, it will be removed. The property owner will then reclaim their property with the removal company. Reclamation is asking all cabin site owners to do their part by removing their property and garbage that has accumulated over the winter from the shoreline near their cabin site.



Cabin Site Signs

Canyon Ferry recreation crew and the Montana Conservation Corps will also work on replacing the cabin site signs. Most of the signs are no longer legible, and many are missing. The signs are located within the roadway easement and will be kept in the original location. Any private signs on the BOR post will be removed and left on site for the owner to retrieve. If you want a new county address sign for your site, you can obtain one from Lewis and Clark County, Addressing - Lewis & Clark County (lccountymt.gov), 406-447-8367. Through this effort, we hope to clean up and unify the look of signage along West and East Shore Drives. If you have concerns about your personal sign situation, please call Brandi Hecker at 406-475-3927. Please

contact Brandi Hecker concerning Special Use Permits.



Recreation Management

Campground Improvements

Several campgrounds and day-use areas around Canyon Ferry Lake have been outfitted with modern sun shelters. These shelters are made of metal and painted with rust and weather-resistant coatings, thus alleviating the need to replace them after a few years of service. Beneath each shelter is a sturdy concrete picnic table. They are strategically placed throughout the area to best suit recreational users for their relaxation.

Fencing Replacement

Multiple fencing projects have been implemented around Canyon Ferry Lake. Fencing can be knocked down, destroyed, or dilapidated for multiple reasons. Wild animals, domesticated animals, humans, and natural decay have all contributed to the destruction of fencing. The recreation crew has repaired and/or replaced fencing throughout the area. These projects have been for boundary fences and safety concerns.

Water Levels and Courtesy Docks

Reclamation's goal is to leave courtesy docks in use as long as practicable. Courtesy docks will be installed and taken out at the following reservoir elevations:

- Hellgate 3787 feet
- Shannon 3788 feet
- White Earth 3789 feet
- Jo Bonner 3791 feet

Camp Host Program

Canyon Ferry is still actively recruiting camp hosts for this summer and next. Camp hosts greet visitors, perform general maintenance, and answer any questions that may arise. In return, camp hosts are provided with full hookups and a per diem. If you are interested in becoming a camp host, please contact Bradley Jackson at 406-475-3920 or by email at bradleyjackson@usbr.gov.

Campground and Group Shelter Reservations

Finding a campsite to reserve or reserving a group shelter can easily be done using a computer, mobile phone, or other device. Be sure to download and use the Recreation.gov website or mobile app as follows:

- 1. Log in to your **recreation.gov** account.
- 2. In the search bar, search the recreation site you want (i.e., Canyon Ferry).
- 3. Review the campground information provided.
- 4. Sort by availability and select your dates.
- 5. Select "Add to Cart" and follow the prompts to check out.
- 6. You will receive an email confirmation receipt. This receipt is used to confirm your reserved site and date of use.

Noxious Weeds

The campgrounds at Canyon Ferry Reservoir are known to have noxious weeds like spotted knapweed, Canada thistle, dalmatian toadflax, leafy spurge, and whitetop. Reclamation's Canyon Ferry Field Office has an ongoing weed management plan in which personnel and contractors spray weeds annually.



Campground Compliance

Canyon Ferry has been increasing its efforts to ensure compliance with campground rules and regulations. The rules and regulations are outlined in Title 43 CFR Part 423. By increasing our presence at the campgrounds, staff seek to raise awareness and education regarding campground rules. Some of the most common violations include.

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- Camping at one or more campsites at any reclamation project for a period longer than 14 days during any 30 consecutive day period.
- Littering the grounds, putting trash, or dumping holding tanks into latrine vaults.
- Allowing pets to roam free, left unattended, or causing noise disturbance. Pets must be physically constrained by a leash under 6 feet in length or a structure. It is your responsibility to clean up after your pet.
- Operation of any motorized vehicle more than 15 mph or posted speed. Motorized vehicles must be operated by a licensed driver.
- Operation or parking of any vehicle on or in areas other than established roadways and designated parking areas.

Special Thanks

Canyon Ferry couldn't accomplish our goals without the help of our partners and contractors, as well as Reclamation employees and management. We would especially like to thank:

- US Army Corps of Engineers
- Broadwater County Sheriff's
- Office Townsend Chamber of
- Commerce Volunteer
- Campground Hosts
- Canyon Ferry Homeowners
- Association Goose Bay Marina and Campground
- Helena Valley and Toston Irrigation Districts
- Kim's Marina and Campground Lewis & Clark
- Conservation District Lewis
 & Clark Sheriff's Office
- Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- Silos Citizens Action Group
- Walleyes Unlimited
- Yacht Basin Marina
- Northwestern Energy
- Missouri-Madison River Fund
- Program Silos Recreation Area
- Other State and Local Agencies

Contact Info

Please contact the Canyon Ferry Field office if you need additional information.

Canyon Ferry Field Division: (406) 475-3310

Facility Manager: (406) 475-3923

Assistant Facility Manager: (406) 475-3922

Recreation Clerk: (406) 465-3920

Natural Resource Specialist: (406) 475-3927