Unauthorized OHV Use and Trail Restoration at Canyon Ferry Reservoir

February 22, 2017
• Purpose of Restrictions and Restoration
• OHV Regulations
• Private Exclusive Use
• Restoration Successes
• Unauthorized Trails
• Restoration Strategy

Examples of unauthorized OHV use at Canyon Ferry.
Purpose of Restrictions and Restoration

• Reclamation is responsible for managing the resources around the reservoir.
• Maintain the safe enjoyment and healthy condition of your public lands.
• Off-road vehicle use crushes and denudes vegetation.
• Displaces wildlife and may reduce the success of ground-nesting birds.
• Increases the risk of wildland fire.
• Reclamation has received several complaints.
• Trails are becoming more prominent with an increase in use and intensity and are spreading.
Off Road Vehicle Regulations

- Code of Federal Regulations (43 CFR PART 420.2), “Reclamation lands are closed to off-road vehicle use, except for an area or trail specifically opened to use of off-road vehicles in accordance with 420.21.”
Private Exclusive Use

• Reclamation policy prohibits private exclusive uses unless directed otherwise in the Canyon Ferry Act or 43 CFR 429.31 and 43 CFR 429.32.

• Private Exclusive Recreational or Residential Use is any use that involves structures or other improvements used for recreational or residential purposes to the exclusion of public uses and are not associated with the official management of a Reclamation project.
Title X—Canyon Ferry Reservoir, Montana, Act

• (2) Perpetual easements for—
  • (A) Vehicular access to each property;
  • (B) Access to and use of 1 dock per property; and
  • (C) Access to and use of all boathouses, ramps, retaining walls, and other improvements for which access is provided in the leases as of the date of enactment of this Act.
Restoration Successes

- Goose Bay
- Confederate
- Hellgate

Example of unauthorized OHV use at Canyon Ferry.
Examples of successful restoration projects addressing unauthorized OHV use at Canyon Ferry.
Examples of successful restoration projects addressing unauthorized OHV use at Canyon Ferry.
Examples of successful restoration projects addressing unauthorized OHV use at Canyon Ferry.
Unauthorized Trails

- 3 unauthorized trails along East Shore Drive
- 6 unauthorized trails in Woodridge Trail Area
East Shore Drive

- Several unauthorized trails off of main road
- New signs, blocked off and restored

Examples of unauthorized OHV use along East Shore Drive at Canyon Ferry.
Examples of unauthorized OHV near Woodridge Trail at Canyon Ferry.
Examples of unauthorized OHV near Woodridge Trail at Canyon Ferry.
Examples of unauthorized OHV near Woodridge Trail at Canyon Ferry.
Examples of unauthorized OHV near Woodridge Trail at Canyon Ferry.
Restoration Strategy

- Work with Montana Conservation Corps in May 2017
- One side of trail will be raked, seeded, and covered with erosion control fabric if needed
-Steel bollards will be installed with concrete to stop OHV access
-Non motorized use such as foot, bicycle, and horse access will still be allowed
• Future projects will include continuing to the west side of the reservoir and addressing issues at West Shore Drive, White Earth, and Silos.
• Continued monitoring of past restoration areas and addressing new issues that may develop in those areas.
Questions or comments