

## Summary of Goals and Objectives for East Park Reservoir

### CATEGORY A: EAST PARK MANAGEMENT

#### 1. Management Measure/Opportunity: Law Enforcement and Security

**Goal 1-1: Provide adequate law enforcement services to enforce laws and federal regulations and control incidents for a safe environment at East Park Reservoir.**

Objectives:

- Continue the patrol agreement with the Colusa County Sheriff's Department, or other law enforcement entity, and review it every two years.
- Provide adequate lighting with low-draw solar power at key reservoir locations, such as restrooms.
- Deter illegal uses of the reservoir with high visibility presence of park rangers and law enforcement personnel during peak and late hours.
- Deter illegal or unsafe activities by providing telephone numbers on reservoir area signs for visitors to report offenses and to receive assistance.
- Provide phones at the reservoir for public emergency use, to summon law enforcement and emergency services, and to assist law enforcement with locating the problem or need.

*(There previously was a public phone ((near the concession stand)), at the Lodoga side entrance area, near a previous concession stand, but the phone booth ((disappeared)) was removed when the concessionaire left. Questions were raised as to the feasibility of maintaining a pay phone and the likelihood that it would be vandalized).*

- Investigate ways to get better cell phone coverage so people can contact law enforcement if needed.
- Provide signage to help people identify their location when they are contacting law enforcement officials.

#### 2. Management Measure/Opportunity: Use Fees

**Goal 2-1: Control overcrowding by charging use fees, thus improving recreational opportunities for all users.**

Objectives:

- Establish carrying capacity to better regulate the use of East Park.
- Establish a staffed kiosk at entrances during the use season to manage entrance to and provide information about the park. A managing partner could collect day-use fees to improve site resources.
- Extend season of use to include Easter and to begin by April 1 of each year.

**Issue:** Would a fee demonstration program be effective in this circumstance? The Forest Service representative said that the program is working well with the boat launch and facility fee but that the road fee, or scenic sites fee, is not as successful. Ninety-five percent of the Forest Service's use fees go back to the site. Research the effectiveness of using fees to control crowds by checking the General Management Review to evaluate how money is spent in the Annual Report to Congress. Karen will have presenter come in and speak about this issue at the next meeting. Should group camping use permit have a fee? There already is a fee that is sent to Shasta, (but it is not very

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effective) but those fees are sent to the general fund and are not available for improvements at East Park.

**Discussion:** Many people are interested in visiting East Park over the Easter weekend. April 15<sup>th</sup> is when the park normally opens because there is a risk of rain prior to this point, which could prohibit road access. The Stonyford side is open this weekend so why would it matter if all of it were open? Answer-the staff need time to get ready, to prepare for the season (maintenance etc.).

Basia recommended that people interested in expanding East Park and making sure it is open for the Easter holiday regardless of when it falls in the calendar should contact Reclamation's (Area), Area Office Manager, Mike Ryan.

### 3. Management Measure/Opportunity: Sanitation

#### Goal 3-1: Provide adequate sanitation for all areas of the Reservoir.

##### Objectives:

- Provide adequate sanitation by increasing the cleaning and waste disposal of the restroom facilities and trash and garbage pickup to ensure cleanliness.
- Collect garbage at least twice a week during the busy weekends and holidays, clean restrooms and pick up trash daily and increase restroom waste disposal.
- Increase trash receptacle supply and contract services, franchised so the hauler will have exclusive rights; need more people, more receptacles, and more frequent trash pickup.
- Put in recycling to minimize volume of trash (but throw trash in recycling containers during weekend); managing partner to help with recycling; cite people who litter; provide more trash cans; post signs to warn people; provide better signage, continue to prohibit glass; provide greater capacity garbage trucks (This works at Stony Gorge-the local 4-H has the recycling program and it is profitable).
- Investigate ways to open up the county dump to more people (only one business presently has access to it), and extend its hours (it is only open one day a week from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

**Issue:** Can't keep up with sanitation on busy weekends.

**Discussion:** The holiday weekends overwhelm the capabilities of the garbage collectors. The Ladoga side can make 10 dumps by Monday over the holidays and there is no service when it is dark. Kenny Cook, whose truck capacity isn't as large as in the past, hauls garbage as fast as possible; he has an exclusive agreement to dump at the county landfill. Maybe he would be willing to subcontract, or a federal agency could do it. Need more trash receptacles (dumpsters) and, possibly staff.

Fire department put out 55-gallon drums for recycling, but people put garbage in them and set them on fire. Maybe there needs to be more regular garbage cans for people to dispose of their trash. Need more signs to warn people against littering. Glass has recently been banned, and new ordinance signs have gone up.

### 4. Management Measure/Opportunity: Noise and Large Crowds

#### Goal 4-1: Provide adequate law enforcement services to control noise and large crowds.

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### Objective:

- Maintain noise ordinance, prohibiting amplified music.

**Discussion:** Outlawing amplified music at East Park has been effective so far in preventing large parties and is likely an effective measure to diminish the large crowds.

### **5. Management Measure/Opportunity: Fire Management**

#### **Goal 5-1: Maintain adequate agreements for immediate fire protection.**

### Objectives:

- Continue mutual aid cooperation with the Indian Valley Fire Department (volunteer) and the US Forest Service. (A mutual aid agreement is currently in place with these agencies, and the objective is to maintain this agreement).
- Continue suitable long-term grazing agreements.
- Identify water sources for fire extermination in the long term.

**Issue:** By agreement with Reclamation, CDF controls any range fires on Reclamation lands. During the fire season, CDF may not be available or able to respond immediately if they are needed.

**Discussion:** Drawing water from the lake is time consuming. Managers of the reservoir could install hydrants at strategic locations if there were a more developed water storage system in place in the future. The effectiveness of this option would depend on the storage and availability of water for the hydrants. The possibility of the use of gravity tanks to supply the hydrants was also discussed. (Typically, at Black Butte and East Park, they draw from the lake).

### **6. Management Measure/Opportunity: Facilities and Roads**

#### **Goal 6-1: Provide adequate safe and suitable road access to designated use areas, while protecting the area's resources.**

### Objectives:

- Limit access to areas supporting wildlife and natural resources (nesting birds, including a bald eagle, are affected during certain parts of the use season).
- Spread gravel and grade main roads yearly to maintain public access.
- Spread gravel and grade minor roads yearly, or as needed, to provide adequate access to designated use areas during the season most desired by the public.
- Deter off-road vehicle use and access by installing roadblocks and by eliminating those braided roads not necessary for access to established areas.
- Post signs at prohibited roads until they are revegetated or cabled off.
- Pave roads (as budget permits), particularly those that prevent access to the park and cause the most problems.
- Establish a carrying capacity for various areas of the park and tie it into the resources at the reservoir.
- Deter overcrowding and illegally entering the park by posting signs (which warn that East Park is at capacity) closer to towns (such as Maxwell) so visitors won't have to drive all the way to the reservoir only to be turned away.
- Deter illegal activities by including the non-emergency phone number for the sheriff's office on signs so that people can call if they see violations.

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- Deter illegal uses of the reservoir by maintaining high visibility of officers (staff availability permitting).
- Make loop campground road to allow emergency personnel and their vehicles easy access to the campgrounds (proposal does include loop campgrounds).

**Issue:** During the wet season, the reservoir has been closed due to poor road conditions and the damage that vehicles can cause on the wet clay/loam soils. Funds are spent yearly to repair the worst damage that vehicles have caused during the recreation season when occasional rain occurs. Repair has focused on deep holes and ruts. The public has expressed interest in having the reservoir open longer in the fall and earlier in the spring. This would require road improvements.

Facilities at East Park include permanent and temporary outhouses and occasional picnic tables. Due to much usage by the public, especially during holiday weekends, more of the permanent facilities are desired. Other useful facilities would be fire rings to prevent fire hazards caused by open fires and more picnic tables. Reclamation is unable to provide any facilities other than for minimum health and safety. With a managing partner, recreational facilities, such as picnic tables, boat ramps, boat docks, barbeque grills, and interpretive trails, could be provided under Public Law 89-72 and funds could be cost-shared.

**Discussion:** The loop roads would avoid the need for the two-way road, but at the entrance, the road is extremely narrow. There is no place to put in a loop road at the entrance on the east side of the Reservoir. Any loop would need to be constructed further north of the entrance, on the east side.

**Goal 6-2: Investigate the opportunities to obtain managing partners or concessionaires to provide recreational facilities and improvements.**

Objectives:

- Contact county, state, and federal agencies and private organizations to assess them as a managing partner, either solely or as part of a joint managing authority.
- With a managing partner, provide adequate picnic tables, boat ramps and docks, trails, and other recreational facilities in areas designated as campgrounds, as suggested in the Recreation Development Proposal (Draft).

**Discussion:** Jack Horner raised the issue of finding a concessionaire to lease land to. Basia said that there used to be a concessionaire who could afford to stay and work there only by leasing areas to trailers. This resulted in a sanitation problem. Cliff Lindgren discussed the difficulty of surviving as a concessionaire at such a facility. He stated that most visitors could buy things cheaper at large grocery stores than at these smaller concessionaires; thus, it is difficult for these concessionaires to remain in business. Basia then concluded by stating that a joint managing partner, rather than a concessionaire, would be the likely solution and could provide for improvements in the near future.

### 7. Management Measure/Opportunity: Season of Use

**Goal 7-1: Provide adequate safe and suitable road access to designated use areas, while protecting the area's resources.**

Objectives:

- Extend the season of use by providing adequate roads for access.
- Limit access to areas supporting wildlife and natural resources (nesting birds, including a bald eagle, are affected during certain parts of the use season).

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- Spread gravel and grade main roads yearly to maintain public access.
- Spread gravel and grade minor roads yearly, or as needed, to provide adequate access to designated use areas during the season most desired by the public.
- Deter off-road vehicle use and access by installing roadblocks and by eliminating those braided roads not necessary for access to established areas.
- Post signs at prohibited roads until they are revegetated or cabled off.
- Pave roads (as budget permits), particularly those that prevent access to the park and cause the most problems.
- Establish a carrying capacity for various areas of the park and tie it into the resources at the reservoir.
- Deter overcrowding and illegally entering the park by posting signs (which warn that East Park is at capacity) closer to towns (such as Maxwell) so visitors won't have to drive all the way to the reservoir only to be turned away.
- Deter illegal activities by including the non-emergency phone number for the sheriff's office on signs so that people can call if they see violations.
- Deter illegal uses of the reservoir by maintaining high visibility of officers (staff availability permitting).
- Make loop campground road to allow emergency personnel and their vehicles easy access to the campgrounds (proposal does include loop campgrounds).
- Bring on personnel earlier to extend the season (there may be some planning on the part of personnel that could speed up the process).
- Limit access to areas supporting wildlife and natural resources (nesting birds, including a bald eagle, are affected during certain seasons).
- Limit access to Catholic Point during fawning period (if open to public access in the future).
- If season were expanded (and no paved roads were constructed), impose vehicle size or weight limits.

**Discussion:** Brad Long from Black Butte stated that the road conditions in wet weather and the lack of personnel are probably the limiting factors in the length of the season of use at East Park.

### CATEGORY B: LAND USE

#### 1. Management Measure/Opportunity: Sites Reservoir Future Impacts

**Goal 1-1: Effectively implement the East Park RMP through appropriate planning and communication.**

Objective:

- Assign a liaison between the Sites Project planning process and East Park RMP implementation process to keep current on applicable events that may affect the RMP. (The liaison would be a voice to express concerns regarding potential access problems).

**Issue:** The offstream water storage project at the Sites area may affect East Park Reservoir in the future. The construction of the proposed Sites Reservoir may affect the access road to the east side of East Park and may be beneficial or detrimental to East Park usage because more people are attracted to the recreation of the area's waters. If approved, Sites Reservoir would not be constructed for approximately 15 years. The East Park RMP is scheduled to address concerns for the next 10 years, at which time the RMP would be amended.

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**Discussion:** If the Sites Reservoir were constructed, the Bureau of Reclamation would probably address associated issues after the RMP is revised. Reclamation has already contacted the Sites Reservoir representatives. The County of Colusa may have a greater level of concern with the development of the reservoir because the town of Stonyford may be significantly affected. There is the potential for effects on recreation levels at East Park if Sites Reservoir is constructed. This impact would depend primarily on whether or not the Sites Reservoir is developed for recreation.

### 2. Management Measure/Opportunity: Cattle Grazing

**Issue:** The current grazing lease with Reclamation, allows the lessee to graze cattle from November through mid-April. A two-week extension may be granted by Reclamation to extend the lease through the end of April. The grazing area is predominantly the east, south, and southwest sides of the reservoir. There are no paddocks to control the herd's location, and the rancher periodically herds the cattle from one area to another. The cattle have free access to the reservoir waters; there are no water control structures. There is some erosion/siltation caused by the cattle on the water's edge, although this has never been a major concern to date. In the winter rainy season, the cattle walk around the muddy restroom facilities and on the roads, causing damage. The cattle control weeds and vegetations.

**Reclamation Comment:** *The current grazing lease requires the lessee to be responsible for and make all arrangements necessary to provide water. Reclamation has no water rights on the reservoir, and the lessee is aware that the reservoir is not available for cattle watering. The lessee, according to the contract, should be providing fencing to "confine his livestock within the boundaries of the leased premises..." which does not include the reservoir. This has not been enforced, as it has not been considered a problem to date.*

### Goal 2-1: Protect resources and facilities from damage.

#### Objectives:

- Require the lessee, through the grazing lease, to provide water structures, salt blocks and appropriate fencing to maintain cattle at an adequate distance from the reservoir's edge, and to prevent shoreline siltation and water contamination.
- Maintain and enforce grazing lease terms that promote optimum distribution to control weeds, prevent overgrazing, and assign responsibility for any repairs to facilities as a result of cattle grazing, to the lessee.
- Maintain appropriate barriers to minimize road erosion and to protect facilities and other structures from damage.

**Discussion:** Meeting attendees did not feel that the presence of cattle in the area has affected shoreline erosion. They said that the water's edge is flat and that they haven't noticed a significant erosion problem in the area. They didn't think fencing was necessary to keep cattle away from the water's edge. East Park hasn't had cattle and people together at the same time since 1993, however the consideration of an extended recreational season of use may promote a conflict between cattle and people. The current lease allows cattle to graze from November to mid-April, with a possible 2-week extension, and erosion due to their presence has never been a problem. Karen pointed out that fencing could be considered an alternative in the RMP.

Karen recalled seeing a road that had a significant amount of erosion on the slope into the reservoir. Nicole Braun and others suggested that it probably was not one of the actual designated roads but rather a temporary road that someone created with an off-road vehicle. This is a continuing problem

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at East Park, keeping people on designated roadways and preventing them from creating new roads by traveling off the main areas.

### 3. Management Measure/Opportunity: East Park Boundary

#### **Goal 3-1: Achieve a consistent framework for eliminating encroachments on Reclamation land.**

Objective:

- Construct and maintain boundary fencing in all areas where needed around East Park Reservoir.

**Issue:** The current boundary fence is not in place, is in disrepair, or is in the wrong location, allowing adjacent landowner cattle to trespass. The sections of fence in disrepair could contribute to wildlife entanglements because the barbed wire is scattered on the ground. Two adjoining landowners are trespassing, although this is an agency issue.

**Discussion:** The fence on the north end of the lake is in disrepair and would need to be rebuilt. Many other areas around the reservoir need fence construction or repair. The boundary issue between Reclamation and the landowners must be resolved before fencing can be repaired. Reclamation needs to address the encroachment issue with the landowners.

### 4. Management Measure/Opportunity: Gravel Mining

#### **Goal 4-1: Reclamation would enforce permitting requirements for in-stream gravel mining applicants.**

**Reclamation Comment:** *A potential gravel miner must first obtain a permit from CDFG for a fee. CDFG then reviews the site and establishes terms and conditions to avoid environmental impacts. The potential gravel miner must also apply for a permit (for a fee) from Colusa County and if obtained, then must obtain a license to remove material from Reclamation lands (at a fee).*

**Issue:** If gravel mining were to occur, measures should be taken to prevent damage to resources at the reservoir.

#### **Goal 4-2: Prevent increased sedimentation rates that could result from in-stream gravel mining.**

**Reclamation Comment:** *CDFG issues an in-stream permit by examining the area, setting terms and conditions that must be adhered to. CDFG does not set the limits on quantity, unless it is exorbitant. Colusa County sets limits by price. The standard permit fee is charged for amounts up to 1000 cubic yards. Above 1000 cubic yards is an additional fee, which was cost-prohibitive to the miner. He would have been interested in mining more gravel, except for the costs involved.*

**Discussion:** The state and county control gravel mining in East Park. The last permit obtained for gravel mining at East Park allowed the miner to remove up to 900 cubic yards. The lessee stated that the operation was cost prohibitive. If the gravel mining were not to occur in the streambed, this would need to be addressed separately.

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### 5. Management Measure/Opportunity: Reservoir Access

**Goal 5-1: Provide adequate, safe, and suitable road access to designated use areas, while protecting the area's resources.**

Objectives:

- Spread gravel and grade main roads yearly to maintain public access.
- Spread gravel and grade minor roads yearly, or as needed, to provide adequate access to designated use areas during the season most desired by the public.
- Deter off-road vehicle use and access by installing roadblocks and by eliminating those braided roads not necessary for access to established areas.
- Post signs at prohibited roads until they are revegetated or cabled off.
- Bring on personnel earlier to extend the season (there may be some planning on the part of personnel that could speed up the process).
- Limit access to areas supporting wildlife and natural resources (nesting birds, including a bald eagle nest on adjacent private land, that can be affected during certain seasons).
- Limit access to Catholic Point during fawning period (if open to public access in the future).
- If season were expanded (and no paved roads were constructed), impose vehicle size or weight limits.
- Reevaluate the grazing lease to determine the best methods to integrate grazing for weed/fire control and public use.

**Issue:** Problem, goals, and objectives are covered under East Park Management numbers 6 and 7. The reservoir area is open, generally, from April/May through September. The area is closed the remainder of the year to protect the roads and resources from vehicular damage. The public desires to extend the season of use, from approximately March through November, and possibly on weekends year-round.

**Discussion:** The Recreation Development Plan (RDP) states that there would be one entrance, with a road going all the way around the reservoir; this seems infeasible (p.53), and a trail running all the way around the reservoir also seems infeasible. There would be significant property issues, such as acquiring a significant amount of land. Even if feasible, patrolling would be extremely difficult. Any type of foot trail would require consideration of environmental issues, particularly potential impacts to sensitive plants. Preparers of the RMP need to inspect the land and the topography of the area before they can even consider some of the options discussed in the RDP. There would also be effects to Stonyford if they closed the second entrance. Residents would no longer have direct access to the reservoir.

**Reclamation Comment:** *Page 53 of the RDP describes suggestions for long-term goals that can be considered. Property and environmental issues would be handled, if extended access were considered. The purpose of environmental analysis is to determine if an action significantly affects the environment, thereby determining if an action will be pursued. If analysis determined that there were too many impacts to the environment, then the trail would not be constructed. The RDP will be changed to reflect that a trail is not feasible all the way around the reservoir. The Reclamation Zone, or that area considered closed to the public and which involves security of the dam, spillway and other facilities, would prohibit any access of the area.*

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### CATEGORY C: NATURAL RESOURCES

#### 1. Management Measure/Opportunity: Sedimentation And Water Quality

##### Goal 1-1: Protect and improve water quality of East Park Reservoir.

###### Objectives:

- Develop an integrated water quality-monitoring program to indicate the potential for water contaminants and any potential effects on human health, fish, and wildlife.
- Develop an integrated pest management program to oversee the use of pesticides on public land.
- Move camping and parking activities away from the shore.
- Periodically burn the Indian Creek marsh to control and rejuvenate the decaying vegetation.
- Analyze the vegetation in the lake to determine if a problem exists.
- Establish more limits on vehicle access-close unnecessary side roads.
- Protect shoreline trees.
- Establish designated boat launch areas.

**Issue:** There is a concern about increased vegetation growing in the reservoir, clogging the inlets and causing backflooding. There is a lesser concern regarding the water quality associated with cattle grazing, camping near shore, and allowing domestic pets in the park.

**Discussion:** Working group members were not sure if the water at East Park has been sampled. Well water sampling indicates a water quality problem in the area (arsenic, mercury). Alternately, as a result of comments received at the Open House from residents who have wells, their wells have good water and are relatively close to the reservoir. They also mentioned that the concessionaire who used to be located at the Lodoga side also had a well that provided drinking water to visitors. Sampling the groundwater would indicate whether the water was suitable for drinking. Some areas in EP require the herbicide/pesticide Roundup to be applied. Rodeo is an effective contact herbicide that is authorized for use around water. In addition to improving water quality, periodic burning of Indian Creek would enhance the tri-colored blackbird habitat by preventing crows from landing and eating blackbird young. It would also help to move water into the reservoir faster (possibly reducing flooding upstream). Indiscriminant camping along the water's edge encourages boat launching in any area. Alternatives should include prohibiting boat launching in particular areas and allowing boat launching only in certain areas.

#### 2. Management Measure/Opportunity: Wildlife Management

##### Goal 2-1: Minimize conflicts between wildlife and local landowners.

###### Objectives:

- Educate the local homeowners on the problems caused by feeding wildlife.
- Coordinate with the California Department of Fish and Game to develop a wildlife management plan to prioritize and coordinate wildlife management actions.
- Protect wetlands.
- Periodically burn areas to enhance tri-colored blackbird habitat.
- Enhance habitat to make the marsh, two wetland areas, and Middle Ridge more attractive to the elk, to keep them off the private lands.

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- Enhance fish habitat.

**Issue:** There have been concerns about conflicts between the elk herd in the area and ranchers, and there have been comments about deer overgrazing. However, local homeowners enjoy seeing the deer and have been known to feed them, which have caused fawn die-offs and an unnatural carrying capacity, according to DFG.

**Discussion:** Currently the elk herd is not managed at East Park; no hunting is allowed. Elk wander onto private property, and landowners have been speaking with Fish and Game to get a large number of the elk herd removed from the area. A cattle-grazing lessee present at the meeting suggested that East Park could keep approximately 10 to 15 elk on-site, with a management plan in place. The RMP should evaluate areas for habitat enhancement to encourage elk usage in certain areas (for example, Middle Ridge or two wetland areas).

**Reclamation Comment:** *The suggestion to keep 10-15 elk at East Park with a management plan in place would need to be approved by the California Department of Fish and Game prior to implementation.*

Deer are not a problem. Refuge for deer on Middle Ridge (Catholic Point) should not be open to vehicles, camping, or trails because this is an important spawning ground. Reclamation could allow group tours during off-season to view elk, geese, and other wildlife, as opposed to allowing year-round camping. The RMP should include provisions for tri-colored blackbird habitat enhancement by periodically burning habitat areas and by maintaining water levels.

**Reclamation Comment:** *Reclamation cannot provide group tours-a managing partner could, however.*

### 3. Management Measure/Opportunity: Tule Management

#### **Goal 3-1: Develop and implement a burn plan to help manage Tule growth.**

Objective:

- Work with Orland Unit Water Users' Association to create and implement a burn plan. Burn at least once every three years.

**Issue:** Tule (bullrush) overgrowth is associated with increased sedimentation in the East Park Reservoir and deterioration of tri-colored blackbird habitat (this species prefers new growth of cattails and the decadent Tules inhibit new growth). Sedimentation under the bridge at Indian Creek Road has been thought to contribute to a reduction in water reaching the reservoir. Tules help trap the sediment in the river channel and the sediment supports Tule establishment and growth.

**Discussion:** This would be a good year (2002) for a controlled burn due to the low water levels.

#### **Goal 3-2: Implement a program for managing current and future sedimentation in Indian Creek.**

Objective:

- Work with the Orland Unit Water Users' Association as well as local, state and federal agencies to develop a water management plan for Indian Creek.

### 4. Management Measure/Opportunity: Wetlands

#### **Goal 4-1: Develop a wetlands management plan.**

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### Objectives:

- Develop a team to address wetland management issues.
- Work with groups such as the Colusa County Resource Conservation District, The California Department of Fish and Game, and the Colusa County Agricultural Commissioner to develop a wetlands management plan.
- Coordinate with the US Army Corps of Engineers to delineate wetlands at East Park.

**Issue:** As the nation's wetlands are continually threatened, it is important to maintain and enhance any wetlands. Tri-colored blackbirds, a state species of special concern, depend on the wetlands for breeding. Local homeowners have thought that the wetlands areas at the inlets cause some flooding, as the sedimentation and decaying vegetation causes a water backlog.

### **Goal 4-2: Protect and enhance important vegetation and fish and wildlife habitat values.**

### Objectives:

- Develop a program to control noxious weeds and to promote the controlled growth of native species.
- Implement a marsh burn program to control the decaying bulrush and cattails.
- Implement a program to educate the public on the importance of wetlands in general and especially to East Park's native tri-colored blackbirds and other marsh-dependent species.

**Note:** Local resources are available with knowledge base (CCRCD is interested in wetland restoration).

## **5. Management Measure/Opportunity: Sensitive Species and their Critical Habitats**

### **Goal 5-1. Conduct a survey to identify the location of state- and federally-listed species and avoid impacts to them.**

### Objectives:

- In all actions, promote a balanced habitat conservation and enhancement program.
- Conduct surveys for sensitive or rare species before constructing any improvements in an area.
- Consult with US Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Game to ensure compliance with the Endangered Species Act for any recovery and maintenance efforts.

**Issue:** The sensitive species that have been known to occur in the area include the federally threatened bald eagle, the northern goshawk, tri-colored blackbird (federal species of special concern), Colusa Layia (considered rare by the California Native Plant Society and a federal species of special concern) and the adobe lily, (a federal species of special concern), among others. There is no program in place to protect these species.

**Discussion.** Glen Holsten, of the California Native Plant Society, submitted a list of rare plants located in the East Park quads. Attendees discussed the possibility of partnering with college students to conduct surveys. Potential schools include Chico State University, the University of California Davis, and Humboldt State University. Surveys should be done before the recreation plan is prepared.

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### CATEGORY D: RECREATION (USE)

#### 1. Management Measure/Opportunity: Equitable Use of the Reservoir and its Lands for Use by Various Recreating Publics.

##### Goal 1-1: Maintain and enhance recreational opportunities.

###### Objectives:

- Using the RDP as a guide, develop campsites, where appropriate.
- Use the approved RDP along with a managing partner, as a guide in providing adequate access management and parking for a variety of recreation uses at the area.
- Develop area for recreational use while maintaining the “primitive” or “undeveloped” character of the area, ensuring protection of natural and any cultural resources.
- Work with the state to seek grant funding to provide boat ramps.
- Continue to allow historic recreation uses by permit, according to current and established regulations.
- Establish the carrying capacity for the reservoir prior to constructing boat ramps.
- Increase public accessibility where appropriate and consistent with resource management goals.
- Promote boater safety in general by developing public information to describe regulations, hazardous conditions, closed wildlife areas, seasonal closures, and other management actions.
- Develop birding facilities consistent with wildlife management goals and objectives.
- Construct a wildlife-viewing platform on the East Side, near the entrance of Indian Creek Marsh.

**Issue:** There are many recreational opportunities at East Park, including boating, fishing, camping, picnicking, and birding. Other recreational opportunities, that require accommodation, may be allowed by special use permit including hang gliding, fishing derbies, use of group camping areas, etc.

**Reclamation Comment:** *Draft law enforcement regulations suggest that all aircraft shall be prohibited on Reclamation land due to security issues. Reclamation shall adhere to the final regulations.*

##### Goal 1-2: Design campgrounds and other recreational facilities to account for changing water levels at East Park Reservoir.

###### Objective:

- Consult the pending East Park Recreation Development Plan prior to initiating any campground development.

**Reclamation Comment:** *Lake water level is an administrative constraint and changes to existing legislation cannot be considered under this RMP. Reclamation, a managing partner, or the public has no control over established, historic water rights. OUWUA already does their best to ensure that water levels remain as high as possible in East Park, as East Park is hard to fill. Typically, releases do not begin until May or June. The recreation improvements are being suggested in light of all different kinds of uses of the reservoir, including water based recreation in good years.*

**Discussion:** A recent Colusa County ordinance prohibits off-road vehicles at East Park, and no hunting or shooting is allowed there. Hang gliding is not mentioned at all in the RDP, but hang gliders present at the meeting request that the Reclamation designate some natural open areas for

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landing. Boat ramps will bring more people to East Park, so Reclamation needs to consider capacity before it builds ramps. In the RDP, two places are considered for boat ramps, the ramps wouldn't work during the dry years because water levels would be so low that there would be only mud. Alternatives should include no boat ramps or one ramp on the Stonyford side and one ramp on the tip of Rattlesnake on the Ladoga side.

***Reclamation Comment:*** All aircraft are prohibited by county ordinance (Section 14-17, (l)), except by special use permit. Current proposed Reclamation law enforcement regulations prohibit all aircraft on Reclamation land, due to security issues. A runway shall not be provided for ultralights at East Park, as they are prohibited. If hang gliding is permitted, an approved landing site would be designated in the permit, but final determination will rest with the new regulations.

*Boat ramp locations were considered in the RDP according to topography, by the contractor. If it is determined, by survey, that these areas are not suitable, then if a boat ramp is to be constructed, the location will be changed.*

Working group members were concerned about the water level in the reservoir. Some believe water politics are threatening the health of the reservoir. This year, Orland drained East Park much earlier than usual (they lower it a bit each year per flood criteria requirements). When water level goes down, drivers move their cars closer into the lakebed where they aren't supposed to be. Lower lake levels also affect wildlife (particularly the tri-colored blackbird. Reclamation should plan to view the area from the air at the end of July so it can get an idea of conditions, including where cars are being parked, during low water levels in the dry season. The RMP should consider the possibility that the water level would decrease in the future, which would definitely result in fewer people. Last Memorial Day, the lake was lower than it had been in years past, and cars were observed close to the lakebed. (The sheriff has aerial photos of this, and we can get copies of them.)

***Reclamation Comment:*** as stated earlier, water rights and water levels will not be an issue in the RMP. Fluctuating water levels, however, should be considered in construction of facilities.

The group proposed a platform near the entrance on the east side at Indian Creek Marsh as a wildlife viewing area, and Reclamation has a copy of this proposal.

***Reclamation Comment:*** A platform has been designed by Reclamation's wetlands committee, however the solicitor has stated that without a managing partner, recreational construction cannot occur.

### 2. Management Measure/Opportunity: Campsite Development

#### **Goal 2-1: Establish carrying capacity for East Park prior to developing campsites.**

##### Objectives:

- Determine maximum capacity by designating campground areas.
- For certain areas, establish a maximum number of people allowed.

**Issue:** Public use of East Park Reservoir can be extensive on some weekends and holidays. Developing campsites has been determined to provide for public health and safety by controlling the number of people that stay at the reservoir. Developing the carrying capacity for camping can also encourage the return of single-family user groups that once used the area for recreation.

## Summary of Goals and Objectives for East Park Reservoir

### **Goal 2-2: Build portable boat ramps that could be moved as the reservoir level changed.**

#### Objective:

- Attempt to establish a cost-sharing partner that could help with the costs associated with portable boat ramps.

### **Goal 2-3: Establish fee system based on the systems used at other facilities.**

#### Objective:

- Once a managing partner is identified, consult with other recreation areas (Black Butte) on their fee systems to help develop a fee system for East Park.

**Discussion:** Stonyford side should remain 100 percent camping, not limited to day use in the off-season. Some possible sites for development include Hanging Tree, Roundup, Chisum, and Rattlesnake. Hanging Tree is designated as day use but people want it for camping. Alternatives should include leaving East Park in its current state with no developed sites. The RDP (on p.53) proposes designating half of the west side as day use only. Currently, only a very small percentage of users (15 to 20 percent) use this area. Designating it as a day use only area would hurt many businesses in that area. Enforcing a carrying capacity for certain areas would be difficult. Reclamation or a managing partner could develop campsites in stages, and the Roundup area would be a good area to begin with.

**Reclamation Comment:** *The Recreation Development Plan, draft #3 has been changed to reflect these comments.*

### **3. Management Measure/Opportunity: Managing Partners**

#### **Goal 3-1: Promote cooperative management and program implementation efforts with other agencies and the private sector.**

#### Objectives:

- Contact the US Forest Service, local counties, and organizations such as Kampgrounds of America to determine their interest in managing or sharing management of the East Park area.
- If no single cost-sharing partner can be found, consider forming a joint management group, made up of private, local, and agency groups to pool finances and sound management efforts.
- Ensure that any private interest groups, state and local agencies, and other federal agencies are aware of management actions and are offered an opportunity to participate through cooperative and cost-share agreements.

**Issue:** Reclamation is authorized to currently manage the area for minimum health and safety. Any recreational development will require a managing partner, under Public Law 89-72.

**Discussion:** Due to the uncertainty regarding potential managing partners, alternatives should include the possibility that a managing partner would not be found. Because the Forest Service managed East Park temporarily for four years, some meeting attendees questioned whether or not they would be interested in permanent transfer (or sharing) of management responsibilities at East Park. The RMP should include a discussion of things that could or couldn't be done, with or without a managing partner.

## Summary of Goals and Objectives for East Park Reservoir

***Reclamation Comment:*** *It is difficult to say what managing partners would be interested without asking them. A joint powers authority has been suggested in the RDP that could be a possibility.*

*It is incorrect to say that the Forest Service “gave it up” and that it is “unlikely” that they are interested. The Forest Service has expressed interest in managing the area, and preliminary discussions are under way (It has already been stated by Reclamation that the Forest Service is interested). The FS ran the area successfully for four years and Reclamation was working with them to transfer the facility at the time. Because there were concerns at the time from OUWUA, the area was not transferred to the FS. The FS could not enforce their regulations on non-FS land; therefore Reclamation took the lands back.*