

THE RESERVOIR

East Park Reservoir
Resource Management Plan and
Environmental Assessment

US Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region
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MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS IDENTIFIED, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES TO BE DEVELOPED

Reclamation staff and the RMP work group have developed four categories of management considerations: Land Use, East Park Management, Natural Resources, and Recreation. Each category lists current and future uses and conditions, potential opportunities or problems, and wanted improvements. These are all issues that will be considered in the RMP. Goals and objectives for the East Park RMP will be developed using this list, along with strategies for achieving the objectives.

Land Use

- Sites Reservoir future impacts
- Cattle grazing
- Boundary issues
- Gravel mining
- Reservoir access

East Park Management

- Law enforcement and security
- Day use fees
- Sanitation
- Noise and large crowds
- Fire management
- Facilities and roads
- Season of use
- Future management

Natural Resources

- Sedimentation and water quality
- Wildlife management
- Tule management
- Wetlands
- Threatened and endangered species and their critical habitats

Recreation

- Boating
- Fishing
- Wildlife viewing

- Campsite development
- Managing partners
- Hang gliding

The Work Group, which meets on Thursday March 28, will develop goals and objectives for the RMP. A guest speaker, Donna Garcia of the Bureau of Reclamation, will give a presentation on the proposed Sites Reservoir. 🐦



Members of Sonoma Wings prepare their hang gliders at East Park. Hang gliding, camping, boating, fishing, and wildlife viewing are some of the outdoor activities that East Park has to offer its visitors.

News Flash!

A Draft East Park Reservoir Recreation Development Plan has been prepared.

The draft plan was distributed at the last work group meeting and a follow-up meeting with the plan's preparers was held on Thursday, March 7, 2002.

The plan evaluates the feasibility and planning issues for developing recreational campground facilities at East Park. It details the past, present, and future recreation at East Park and provides insight into the park's recreation possibilities.

While Reclamation is mandated to provide for only minimal health and safety at East Park, more expanded improvements could be made if one or more nonfederal cost-sharing partners were identified for East Park. Such cost sharing partners could be local and state agencies and not-for-profit organizations.

For more information on the draft Recreation Development Plan, please contact Basia Trout (contact information on page 4).

Public comments are due on March 28, 2002.

Did You Know?

The American Bird Conservancy (ABC) has recognized East Park for its significance in the ongoing effort to conserve wild birds and their habitats and has designated East Park Reservoir as a Globally Important Bird Area (IBA).

ABC's IBA Program aims to identify and protect a network of key sites in the US to further national and global bird conservation. IBA programs have been initiated in areas throughout the world, including Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Canada, Mexico, Ecuador, and the United States.

ABC's IBA Program, supported in part by the Nature Conservancy and the Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund, will soon publish *The Bird Conservation Handbook, Globally Important Bird Areas of the US*.

For more information, see ABC's Web site at www.abcbirds.org.

Administrative Constraints at East Park

There are certain administrative, environmental, and budgetary constraints associated with developing the resource management plan. Some of them are described briefly below:

Reclamation Act of 1902—The Orland Project was authorized under this act, and East Park was constructed in 1910 as part of the project. The act authorizes "construction and maintenance of irrigation works for the storage, diversion, and development of waters for the reclamation of arid . . . lands."



Orland Project-Contract 14-06-200-3502—This transferred the operation and maintenance of East Park Dam and Reservoir and Stony Gorge Dam and Reservoir, with associated lands and facilities, to the Orland Unit Water Users Association. Any major repairs or changes to or replacement of the facilities would need the written consent of the US.

Note: Title of the lands and facilities remains with the US.

Federal Water Project Recreation Act of 1965—This act stated that federal agencies must "investigate, plan, construct, operate, and maintain, or otherwise provide for public outdoor recreation and fish and wildlife enhancement facilities . . ." for all "reservoirs heretofore constructed . . . in a manner coordinated with other project purposes."

Note: Reclamation can manage recreation at East Park only with a non-federal cost-sharing partner. Reclamation can be sole recreation manager only with new authorizing legislation.

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969—Requires analysis, public comment, and reporting for environmental impacts of federal actions and requires public participation in the planning process of any project in order to build consensus for the final decision.

Note: In the East Park RMP, an environmental assessment is the compliance document that is expected to be used to analyze the impacts of proposed actions and to provide for public participation.

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, amended in 1992—This act preserves for public use archaeological, architectural, and historical sites.

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1958—This act ensures that wildlife conservation receives equal consideration and is coordinated with other features of water resource development programs.

Note: Conservation of wildlife and other resources will be considered in any proposed RMP action. East Park was designated as a Globally Important Bird Area by the American Bird Conservancy.

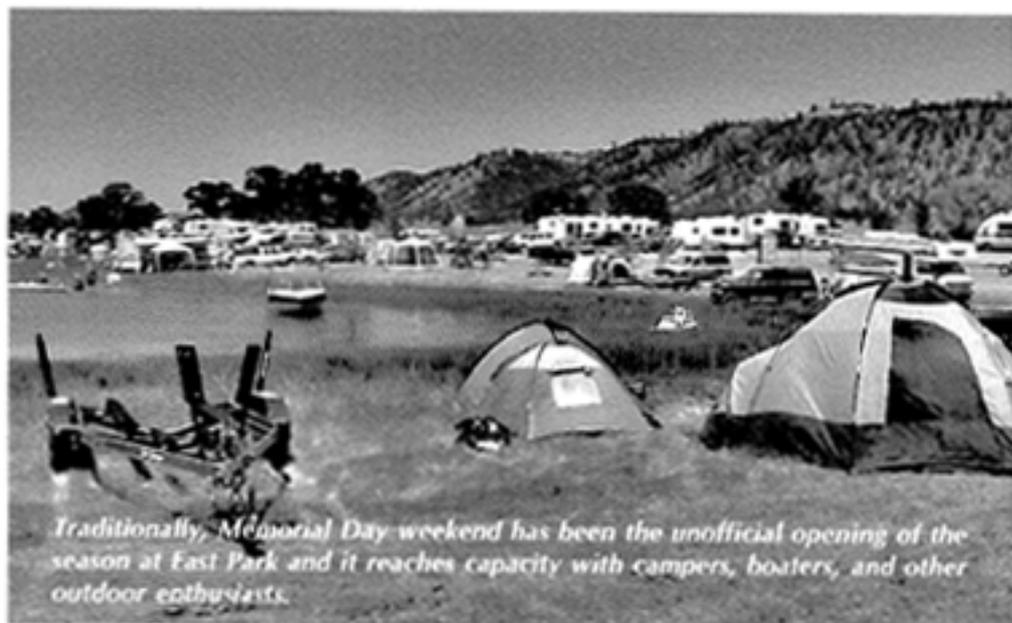
Problem Statement for East Park RMP

The work group developed the following problem statement for the East Park RMP. The purpose of a problem statement is to provide a working foundation for the work group to develop the goals and objectives needed to manage East Park.

The natural resources and quality of recreation at East Park Reservoir have been and are currently being degraded by past and present land use management practices, mainly associated with overuse and over capacity of casual camping facilities. The public's enjoyment of quality outdoor recreation opportunities is lessened because of a number of factors: Destruction of vegetation, soil erosion, lack of developed sanitary facilities, excess noise, unregulated camping, and overburdened law enforcement personnel. 🐦



East Park Reservoir is stocked with bluegill, catfish, crappie, and smallmouth and largemouth bass, such as this one that didn't get away.



Traditionally, Memorial Day weekend has been the unofficial opening of the season at East Park and it reaches capacity with campers, boaters, and other outdoor enthusiasts.

The Minutes Corner

Here are some highlights from the last work group meeting held on February 28, 2002.

- Memorial Day weekend crowds were thought to be larger now than in the past and the size of the Fourth of July crowds depends on where the holiday falls in the week.
- The work group addressed the issue of crowds during Labor Day weekend and noted that the crowds are not as large as they used to be, most likely because of school schedules and the change in user groups (fewer families and more young people).
- Asked if there were any improvements planned at East Park for this year, Reclamation staff listed the following planned upgrades:
 - Getting roads in proper condition for the season of use,
 - Adding three vault restrooms,
 - Installing concrete picnic tables at various sites, and
 - Putting up stronger and nicer signs (these have been ordered, but there has been no word on a delivery date).
- The issue of how emergencies are handled at East Park was raised. When an injury is reported, law enforcement personnel have a tough time locating the injured person because of inadequate signs at the park.
- The west side of East Park (Stonyford Side) is now open, weather permitting. A participant suggested opening a larger area of the lake earlier in the season because the camping is better on the east side.
- Another work group member suggested opening the east side for Easter weekend, for it is the first holiday weekend and people like to get away before late spring and early summer.
- There are phone lines going out to the lake. The suggestion was made to have a phone at East Park that would access a 911 dispatch only. Reclamation staff said they would contact the telephone company to see if they could work something out. As noted, installing a phone at the reservoir would come under basic health and safety. 🐦

HOW TO CONTACT US

If you have questions about the RMP, please contact:

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For facility questions, please contact:

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Mark Your Calendar

Next work group meeting:
Thursday March 28, 2002
The Maxwell Inn, 6 to 8 p.m.
Guest speaker, Donna Garcia
Bureau of Reclamation:
Proposed Sites Reservoir

East Park RMP/EA

C/o Tetra Tech, Inc.*
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*Acting as contracted agent for the Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region