

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Draft Environmental Assessment

Changes to Recreational Use in the Reclamation Zone at Grand Coulee Power Office

Grand Coulee, Washington



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Pacific Northwest Region
Grand Coulee Power Office
Grand Coulee, Washington

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MISSION STATEMENTS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

The mission of the Department of the Interior is to protect and provide access to our Nation's natural and cultural heritage and honor our trust responsibilities to Indian tribes and our commitments to island communities.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronym or Abbreviation	Description
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
APE	Area of Potential Effects
BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs
BPA	Bonneville Power Administration
CCT	Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
CWA	Clean Water Act
EA	Environmental Assessment
EO	Executive Order
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FCRPS	Federal Columbia River Power System
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
GCACC	Grand Coulee Area Chamber of Commerce
ITA	Indian Trust Asset
Lake Roosevelt	Franklin Delano Roosevelt Lake
National Register	National Register of Historic Places
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOAA Fisheries	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service
NPDES	National Pollution Discharge Elimination System
NPS	National Park Service
Reclamation	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
STOI	Spokane Tribe of Indians
THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
TPP	Third Power Plant
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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Chapter 1 Purpose and Need

1.1 Introduction

The U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) prepared this Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). This EA analyzes the potential environmental impacts that could result from changes to the recreational uses, such as vehicle access and fishing, of a portion of the shoreline south and west of the Grand Coulee Third Power Plant (TPP) known as Geezer Beach (see Figure 1-1 and Figure 1-2 for location maps).

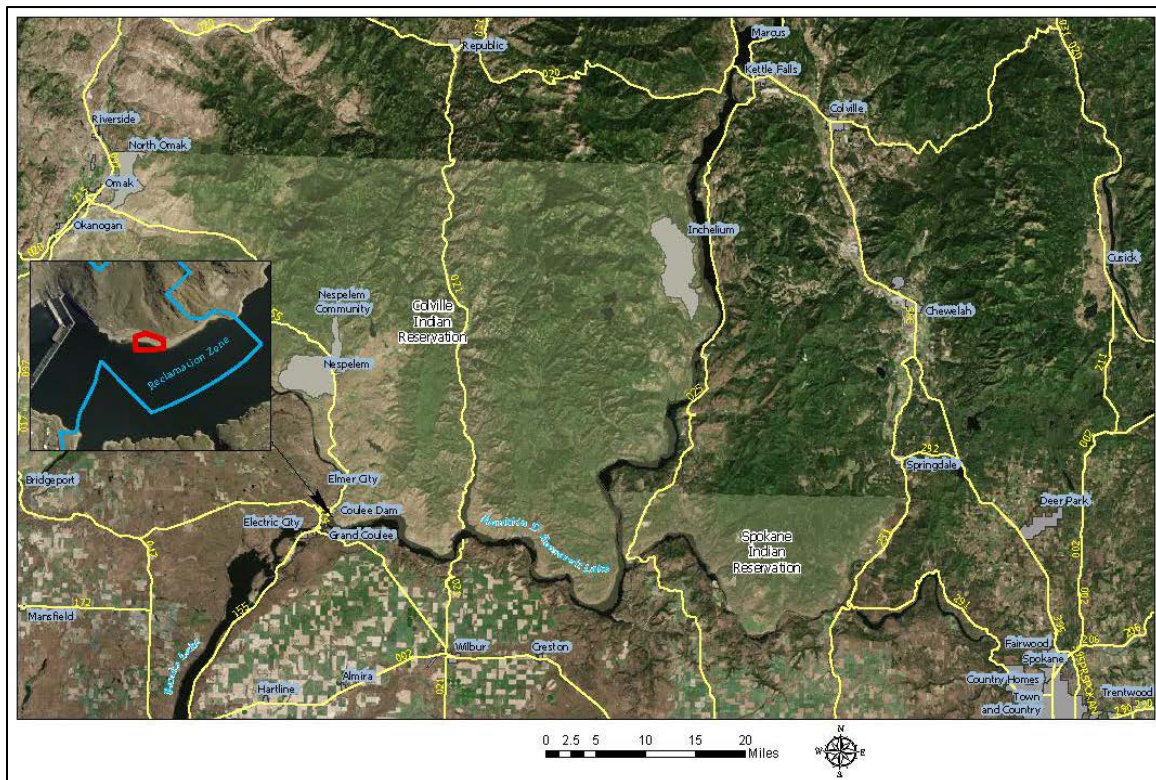


Figure 1-1. Location map of the Reclamation Zone and Geezer Beach along the Columbia River

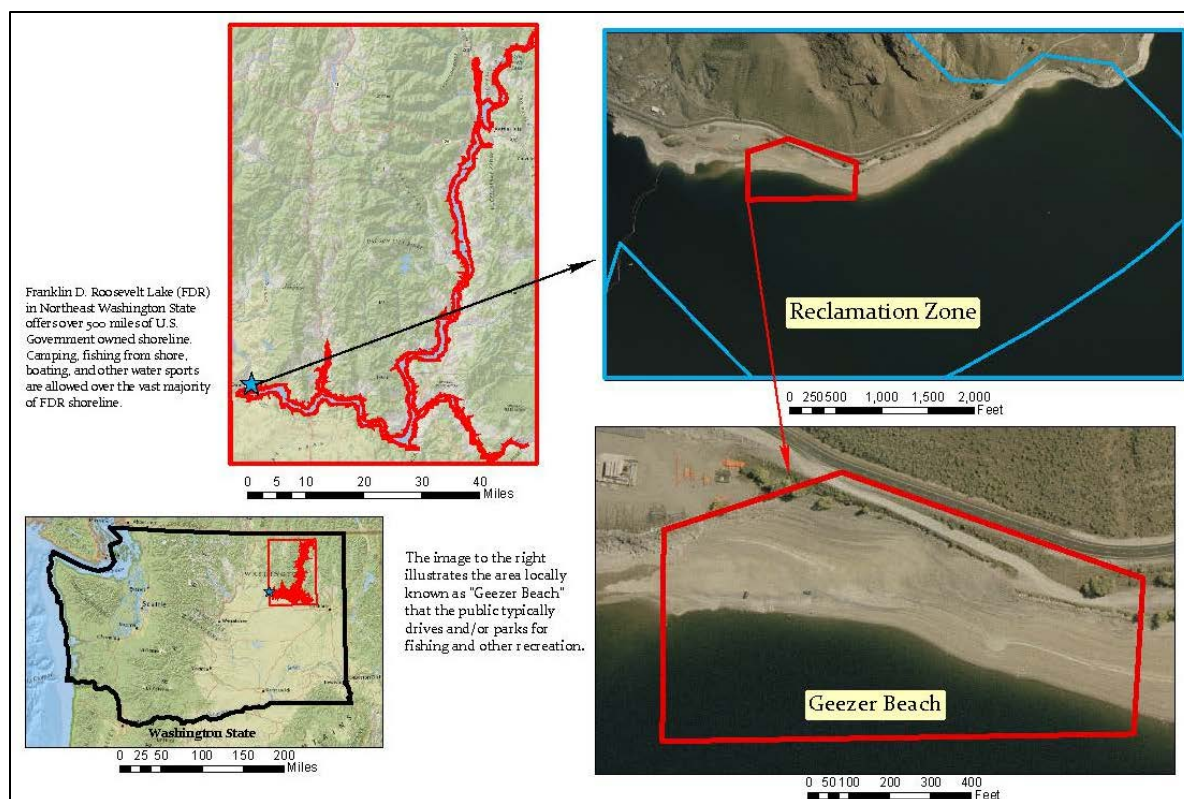


Figure 1-2. The Reclamation Zone and Geezer Beach in relation to Franklin D. Roosevelt Lake

Reclamation will use this EA to determine if the proposed Federal action would result in significant impacts to the environment. Should a determination be made that recreational changes would not result in significant environmental impacts, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) would be prepared to document that determination and provide a rationale for approving the selected alternative.

1.2 Background, Location, and Action Area

1.2.1 Background

Reclamation and Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) are parts of the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) project and are responsible for the operation and maintenance of Grand Coulee Dam in Washington State. Grand Coulee Dam impounds waters of the Columbia River to form Franklin Delano Roosevelt Reservoir (Lake Roosevelt).

Grand Coulee Dam is located on the Columbia River within the City of Grand Coulee and south of the Town of Coulee Dam in Grant County in north-central Washington State, approximately 90 miles west of Spokane and 230 miles east of Seattle. Access to and from the Grand Coulee Dam area is provided by U.S. Highway 2 and Washington State Routes 17, 21, 155, 174, and 283/28, as shown in Figure 1-1. The portion of the Reclamation Zone is southwest of the TPP on the west side of Lake Roosevelt.

The shoreline of Lake Roosevelt is owned by the United States and jointly managed under the Lake Roosevelt Cooperative Management Agreement of 1990, known as the Five-Party Agreement (Five-Party, 1990). The five management partners are Reclamation, the National Park Service (NPS), the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (CCT), Spokane Tribe of Indians (STOI), and the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). The area associated with this EA is the Reclamation Zone portion of the Lake Roosevelt shoreline, southwest of Grand Coulee Dam's Third Power Plant, including the area locally known as Geezer Beach. The Reclamation Zone is defined as that part of the Lake Roosevelt Management Area surrounding Grand Coulee Dam, as illustrated in Figure 1-3.



Figure 1-3. The Reclamation Zone, which is the part of the Lake Roosevelt Management Area surrounding Grand Coulee Dam

Geezer Beach is adjacent to the old North Marina boat ramp and immediately downstream of the original swimming and recreational area known as North Marina. North Marina, which was approximately 1.5 miles upstream from the dam on the west side of the river, was originally constructed in the 1940s for recreation and administered by NPS. The recreation area was upgraded over time to include landscaping, picnic areas, tables, fire pits, and showers. NPS operations at North Marina terminated in September 1967 and the land was added to the Reclamation Zone in 1968, as the area was needed for construction of the TPP.

During construction of the TPP, a hardened surface known as the haul road was created on the shoreline to allow staging and movement of materials. The resulting surface is primarily what people use to enter and drive on the shoreline.

The area to be affected by the proposed actions is located upstream of the TPP on the west bank of the Columbia River on the Colville Indian Reservation.

1.3 Purpose and Need

Reclamation proposes making changes to the recreational use of a portion of the Lake Roosevelt shoreline, within the Reclamation Zone, including the area locally known as Geezer Beach. The purpose of the proposed actions is to address safety concerns related to driving and/or parking vehicles on the shoreline or reservoir within the Reclamation Zone adjacent to Grand Coulee Dam.

Over time, Reclamation has observed cars, trucks, and recreational vehicles parked in the reservoir during drawdown, on Federally owned and Reclamation-managed land within the Reclamation Zone. Driving and parking on the drawdown can present a public safety risk to drivers and others, as these vehicles can become stuck, roll into the reservoir, or become abandoned.

Additionally, vehicle traffic on the drawdown area is not permitted on the rest of the Lake Roosevelt shoreline, in the Recreation or Reservation Zones, managed by the NPS and CCT or STOI, respectively. Allowing vehicle access at Geezer Beach in the Reclamation Zone could give the impression that it is allowed elsewhere. Restricting vehicle traffic within the Reclamation Zone would provide for the consistent management of the entire Lake Roosevelt shoreline.

The purpose of this EA is to analyze the potential effects of a range of alternative actions related to possible changes to recreational uses at Geezer Beach.

1.4 Authority

The Columbia Basin Project began with fund allocation for Grand Coulee Dam pursuant to the Nation Industrial Recovery Act of June 16, 1933. Grand Coulee pump-storage plant authorization is provided by the Acts of August 30, 1935, the Columbia Basin Project Act of March 10, 1943, and by the Secretary of the Interior's approval and submittal of feasibility reports to the President and Congress in House Document 172 in 1945 and a 1949 report, both pursuant to Section 9(a) of the Reclamation Project Act of 1939.

Under the Five-Party Agreement, Reclamation shall have exclusive control of the flow and use of water at Grand Coulee Dam and project facilities operated by Reclamation, and complete and exclusive jurisdiction within the Reclamation Zone. The shoreline associated with this EA is located within the Reclamation Zone.

The Reclamation Zone is defined as that part of the Five-Party Agreement surrounding Grand Coulee Dam, as illustrated in Figure 1-3.

1.5 Scoping and Issues

The decision to publicly scope an EA is an important one. Although not required, the scoping process for the draft EA provided an opportunity for the public, governmental agencies, and tribes to identify their concerns or other issues and ensure a full range of potential alternatives were identified that address the purpose and need stated in this

document. To accomplish this, a public scoping period was held from December 3 to December 31, 2018. A news release was provided to local area media announcing Reclamation's intent to prepare an EA and requesting public comment during the 30-day scoping period (Appendix A). Letters were sent to the CCT, the STOI, Members of Congress, Federal and State agencies, and local city and county officials to inform them of the proposed alternatives and to solicit comments or concerns they may have regarding the alternatives. A list of letter recipients may be found in Appendix A. Details regarding the public and agency scoping are found in Chapter 4.

Reclamation received 34 responses to the news release and the scoping letter during the scoping comment period. The scoping comments are included in Appendix B and are summarized below:

- Concerns were expressed regarding the fact that driving on the drawdown is not permitted within Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area. Allowing vehicle access at Geezer Beach sets an unacceptable example for visitors and shows a lack of consistency for management of the entire Lake Roosevelt shoreline.
- Geezer Beach and the old North Marina area are used by local residents and visitors for fishing, swimming, and other forms of recreation.
- Concerns were expressed that Geezer Beach is the only area where people with disabilities can drive to the water in order to fish from shore and/or from the vehicle.
- Concerns were expressed about effects on the local economy if the shoreline were closed to fishing.
- Concerns were expressed that Geezer Beach is the only local area where people can fish without a boat.
- Concerns were expressed about possibly losing recreational opportunities as the result of changes to recreational uses.

The EA team also identified associated issues and potential impacts to be considered and addressed. Issues of concern addressed in this EA include the possible effects of alternatives on recreational access; accessible fishing areas; vehicle access on the shoreline and drawdown areas that are unacceptable elsewhere on reservoir; the local economy; public safety; cultural resources; wildlife; Indian Trust Assets; traffic; water quality; and environmental justice.

1.6 Regulatory Compliance

The following major laws, executive orders, and secretarial orders apply to the proposed actions. Compliance with their requirements are documented in this EA.

1.6.1 Endangered Species Act of 1973

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) requires all Federal agencies ensure that their actions do not jeopardize the continued existence of listed species, or destroy or adversely modify their critical habitat. As part of the ESA's Section 7 consultation process, an agency must request information from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) regarding whether any threatened and endangered species occur within or near the action area. The agency then must evaluate impacts to those species. If the action may affect any listed species, the agency must consult with USFWS or NOAA Fisheries.

1.6.2 National Historic Preservation Act of 1966

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended, requires that Federal agencies consider the effects that their projects have on properties on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (National Register). The 36 CFR 800 regulations provide procedures that Federal agencies must follow to comply with the NHPA. For any undertaking, Federal agencies must determine if there are properties of National Register-quality in the project area, the effects of the project on those properties, and the appropriate mitigation for adverse effects. In making these determinations, Federal agencies are required to consult with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Native American tribes with a traditional or culturally significant religious interest in the study area, the interested public, and in certain cases, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

1.6.3 Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.)

Section 402 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) authorizes the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program. All of the proposed alternatives would be permitted by the Environmental Protection Agency's NPDES permit program. Any necessary facility upgrades must be designed and operated in accordance with the NPDES permit requirements. NPDES requirements are designed to mitigate potential direct, indirect, and/or cumulative effects on the environment.

1.6.4 Executive Order 13007 – Indian Sacred Sites

Executive Order (EO) 13007, dated May 24, 1996, instructs Federal agencies to promote accommodation of access to and protect the physical integrity of American Indian sacred sites. A sacred site is a specific, discrete, and narrowly delineated location on Federal land. An Indian tribe or an Indian individual determined to be an appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion must identify a site as sacred by virtue of its established religious significance to, or ceremonial use by, an Indian religion. However, this is provided that the tribe or authoritative representative has informed the agency of the existence of such a site.

1.6.5 Secretarial Order 3175 – Department Responsibilities for Indian Trust Assets

Indian Trust Assets (ITAs) are legal interests in property held in trust by the United States (with the Secretary of the Interior acting as trustee) for Indian tribes or Indian individuals. Examples of ITAs are lands, minerals, hunting and fishing rights, and water rights. In many cases, ITAs are on-reservation; however, they may also be found off-reservation.

The United States has an Indian trust responsibility to protect and maintain rights reserved by or granted to Indian tribes or Indian individuals by treaties, statutes, and executive orders. These rights are sometimes further interpreted through court decisions and regulations. This trust responsibility requires that officials from Federal agencies, including Reclamation, take all actions reasonably necessary to protect ITAs when administering programs under their control.

1.6.6 Executive Order 12898 – Environmental Justice

Executive Order 12898, dated February 11, 1994, instructs Federal agencies, to the greatest extent practicable and permitted by law, make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority populations and low-income populations. Environmental justice means the fair treatment of people of all races, income, and cultures with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Fair treatment implies that no person or group of people should shoulder a disproportionate share of negative environmental impacts resulting from the execution of environmental programs.

1.6.7 EO 13175 – Consultation and Coordination with Tribal Governments

EO 13175 instructs Federal agencies to consult, to the greatest extent practicable and to the extent permitted by law, with Tribal governments prior to taking actions that affect Federally recognized tribes. Each agency shall assess the impact of Federal government plans, projects, programs, and activities on tribal trust resources and ensure that government rights and concerns are considered during the development of such plans, projects, programs, and activities.

Chapter 2 Description of Alternatives

The alternatives presented in this chapter were developed based on the purpose and need for the project, as described in Chapter 1, and the issues raised during internal, public, and tribal scoping. The alternatives analyzed in this document include: Alternative A – No Action, Alternative B, and Alternative C. The No Action alternative is evaluated because it provides an appropriate basis by which the proposed actions and any other alternatives are compared.

2.1 Alternative A – No Action

Under Alternative A – No Action, current conditions associated with existing recreational uses in the Reclamation Zone and at Geezer Beach would continue.

2.2 Alternative B

Under Alternative B, Reclamation would continue to allow fishing and other forms of recreation and allow public use of the boat ramp. Reclamation would restrict physical access to cars, trucks, all-terrain vehicles, and recreational vehicles in the Reclamation Zone to designated parking areas and would not allow driving or parking on the shoreline or drawdown.

Concrete barriers, large boulders, or a combination of the two would be used to block access points and restrict traffic from entering onto shoreline or drawdown. Reclamation would install signage in areas that have been identified for designated parking.

2.3 Alternative C

Under Alternative C, Reclamation would close the area within the Reclamation Zone, including the area known as Geezer Beach to fishing and other forms of recreation. Concrete barriers, large boulders, or a combination of the two would be used to block access points and restrict traffic from entering onto the shoreline or drawdown area. Reclamation would install signage in areas that have been identified for designated parking. Additional signage would be installed along Marina Way noting the closure of the area to recreational use.

2.4 Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Further Study

Following a review of scoping comments from the public, the Reclamation's interdisciplinary team considered the following alternative to address concerns regarding fishing access for people with disabilities and the elderly.

- Construction of a fishing pier, which would allow people with accessibility issues access to deeper water during the drawdown, was investigated. However, this alternative was dismissed from further study since the Reclamation Zone was reserved for operations of the Grand Coulee Power Office (GCPO). A permanent structure within the Reclamation Zone that was not related to GCPO operations could interfere with current and/or future operations.

Chapter 3 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

3.1 Recreational Uses and Access

3.1.1 Affected Environment

This section examines potential effects the alternatives may have on current recreational uses and future opportunities.

Geezer Beach

With more than 500 miles of Federally owned shoreline, Lake Roosevelt offers many recreational opportunities. Camping, fishing from shore, boating, and other water sports are allowed over the majority of Lake Roosevelt shoreline. Within the Reclamation Zone and at the area known as Geezer Beach, recreational opportunities are limited to shoreline fishing and use of a boat ramp that is available in the summer months when the reservoir is above elevation approximately 1280 feet. Camping and other overnight uses are not allowed, as the area is closed to the public at dusk.

The Reclamation Zone, Geezer Beach, and the North Marina area can be accessed by traveling east on Roosevelt Way from the Town of Coulee Dam (the west side on the Colville Indian Reservation) and then south on Marina Way. Marina Way and a portion of Roosevelt Way are Federally owned and maintained roads. Marina Way is closed at dusk to the public. Barriers are placed by the Grand Coulee Power Office Security Force to restrict public access beyond the TPP guard station on the west side of the Columbia River (see Figure 3-1). Traffic on Marina Way is primarily limited to tourists who generally stop at the top of the TPP for the tour of Grand Coulee Dam, government vehicles and/or equipment on official business, or anglers and other recreationists.

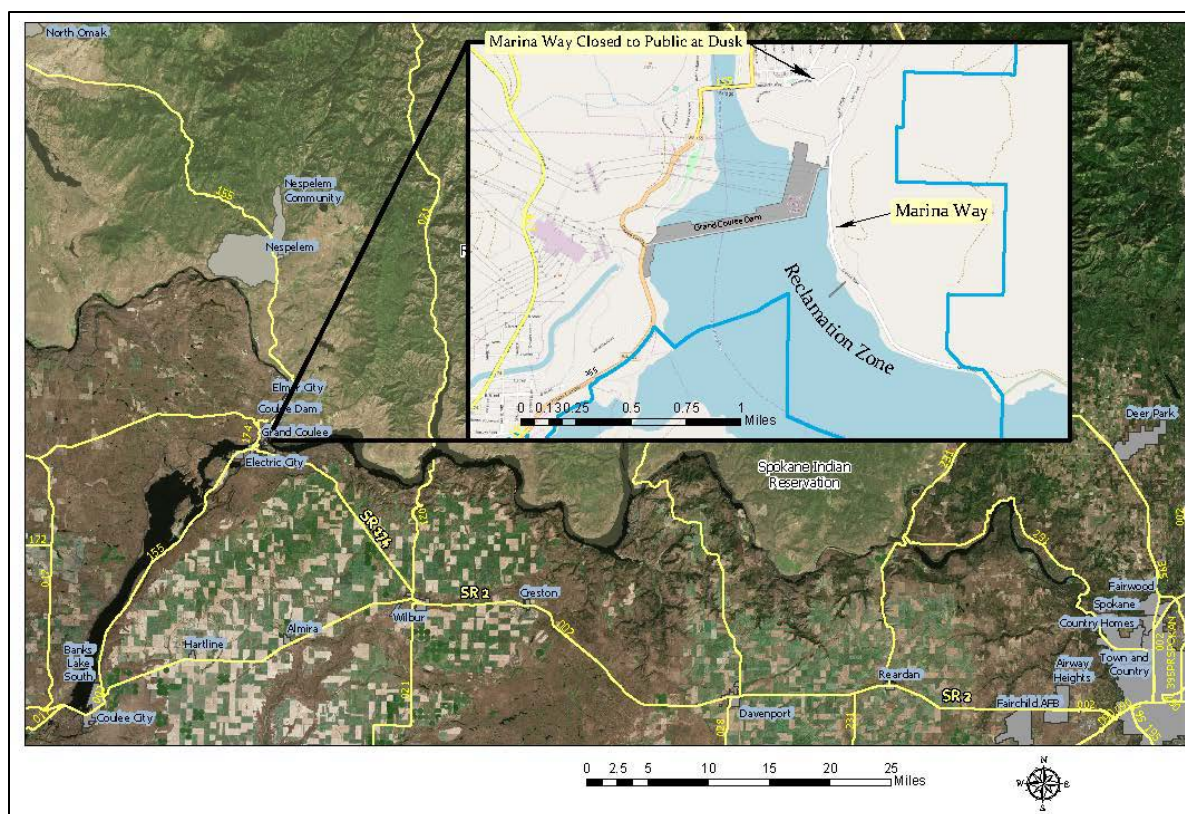


Figure 3-1. Closure of Marina Way at dusk

Driving a vehicle across the shoreline on the old haul road to get closer to the water is convenient, and as several citizens commented, it is the only way for them to get close to the water during the drawdown in order to fish. However, it is not always the safest or most appropriate option. The haul road and shoreline are neither formal roads nor trails and are not approved transportation or access points (see Section 3.2).

Other Recreation Areas near Geezer Beach

Grand Coulee Dam area offers a wide variety of recreational opportunities, including hunting, camping, fishing, boating, and other water recreation. As noted in Section 3.3 below, recreationists travel to the Grand Coulee area for many recreational opportunities (see Figure 3-2).

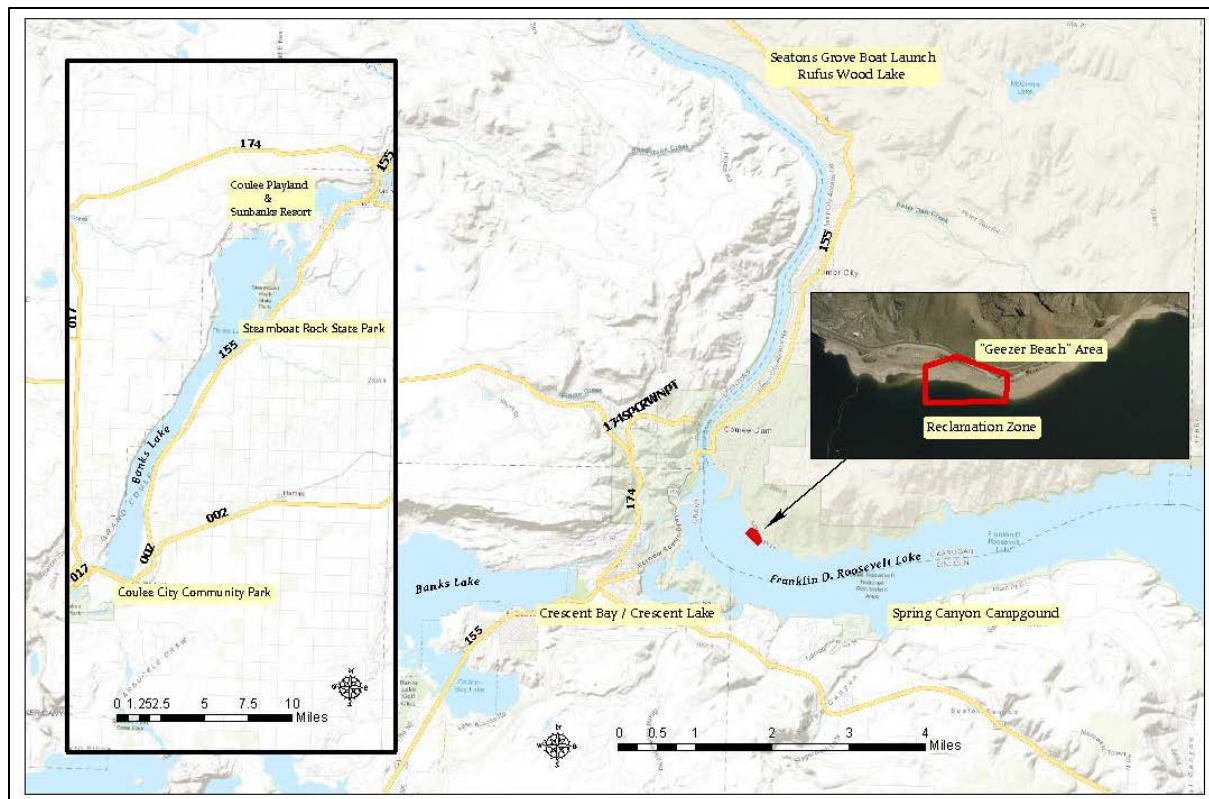


Figure 3-2. Recreational opportunities near Grand Coulee

Banks Lake, the nearly 30-mile-long equalizing reservoir with nine public access points, offers fishing, boating, and water sports, as well as assorted camping opportunities. Steamboat Rock State Park also offers Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) features such as a fishing pier, campsites, hiking trail, restroom, and shower. Sunbanks Resort and Coulee Playland also provide various forms of recreational opportunities. Public access, boat ramps, and parks are also located between Coulee City and Electric City on State Route 155.

Across the reservoir from the Reclamation Zone and Geezer Beach are NPS-managed areas Spring Canyon, Crescent Bay, and Crescent Lake. Spring Canyon Campground offers 78 camping sites, swimming, and day-use areas, as well as a boat ramp, which is usable down to elevation 1222 feet, and docks. Crescent Bay and Crescent Lake provide a boat ramp, parking, walking trails, and fishing at Crescent Bay, and canoe or row-boat access and fishing on Crescent Lake. The boat ramp at Crescent Bay goes out of service when the lake is at elevation 1265 feet.

Fishing and other recreational opportunities exist on the shoreline downstream of the dam and on Rufus Woods Reservoir, a 51-mile-long water body impounded by Chief Joseph Dam. Shoreline fishing immediately downstream from the dam is somewhat limited as the result of the Downstream Bank Stabilization Program. Riprap was installed in the 1980s to mitigate the effects of operating the TPP. Approximately 6 miles downstream from the dam, Reclamation provides a boat ramp on Rufus Woods Reservoir. According to Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, kokanee, rainbow trout, and walleye are caught on

Rufus Woods Reservoir. Additionally, brown trout, carp, smallmouth bass, and yellow perch may be caught.

Additional recreational opportunities exist on Rufus Woods Reservoir, including the CCT Rufus Woods RV Site Net Pens. Camping, recreational vehicle parking, picnic areas, and bathroom facilities and showers are available at the CCT recreational facility.

Public comments received during the scoping process included those regarding access for people with disabilities and elderly to fish and enjoy other recreation on the beach.

During construction of the TPP, a large portion of the Reclamation Zone was greatly disturbed, as noted in Section 3.4. Intense excavation was conducted for the TPP and a road was constructed to haul materials away from the site to a location downstream. The road, now known as the haul road, was constructed by excavating, filling, grading, and compacting local material. Photograph 3-1 is an aerial photograph taken during excavation and construction of the TPP. The image shows portions of the Reclamation Zone covered by this EA. While the location in which the majority of vehicle traffic occurs is not necessarily shown in the image, the haul road is plainly visible in the lower right portion of the photograph.



Photograph 3-1. Aerial view of the TPP excavation and haul road, taken April 7, 1969. The reservoir elevation in the photograph was 1166.9 feet.

As noted in the scoping comments, a large percentage of recreational use in the Reclamation Zone includes the public driving of motor vehicles onto and across the shoreline, below the reservoir rim, on this haul road and surrounding landscape during the drawdown, which typically occurs between January and July each year. Reservoir elevations vary from year to

year and can fluctuate during this time of the year. Variables that control reservoir elevations include upper watershed snowpack and precipitation, downstream water needs, and flood control elevations.

Comments received during the scoping period note the public also swims, launches boats and fishes from the boat ramp, picnics, and fishes from other areas within the Reclamation Zone shoreline.

Reclamation does not have traffic counts or other means of quantifying the number of people that use the Reclamation Zone, and particularly those who drive and/or park on the drawdown, below the reservoir rim. However, because of the proximity to Geezer Beach, Reclamation assumes that traffic count data collected by the NPS at Crescent Bay and Spring Canyon are reflective of usage of the Reclamation Zone by the public. Those data show peak use to occur from May through August, with the least traffic recorded from January through April.

In data collected from 2009 through 2017, traffic counts include the following average usage (split into 4-month segments):

- Spring Canyon:
 - January – April: 13,715
 - May – August: 60,894
 - September – December: 29,562
- Crescent Bay:
 - January – April: 5,081
 - May – August: 15,137
 - September – December: 5,441

The traffic data illustrate winter usage at Spring Canyon and Crescent Bay to be 13 and 20 percent of summer use, respectively. Reclamation assumes percentages of use in the Reclamation Zone and Geezer Beach would be the same.

3.1.2 Environmental Consequences

Alternative A – No Action

Under the No Action alternative, current conditions associated with existing recreational uses in the Reclamation Zone and at Geezer Beach would continue. No effects to existing recreation uses and access would be expected under this alternative because the existing recreational uses would continue and access to the Geezer Beach area would be unchanged. Under the No Action alternative, un-restricted and unauthorized vehicle access and use on the shoreline and the drawdown would continue, leading to inconsistent management of the entire Lake Roosevelt shoreline.

Alternative B

Under Alternative B, fishing from shore, including walking to water's edge during the drawdown; the use of the public boat ramp; and other forms of recreation would still be

allowed. Reclamation would restrict physical access to cars, trucks, all-terrain vehicles, and recreational vehicles in the Reclamation Zone to designated parking areas. Driving or parking on the shoreline during drawdown would not be allowed.

Fishing, launching a boat, and other recreational activities, such as boating, swimming and picnicking, would be allowed within the Reclamation Zone with implementation of Alternative B; therefore, there would be no effect to the public's opportunities for these recreational uses. Under Alternative B, the current use of the old haul road for driving or parking on the shoreline and drawdown would be eliminated by placing concrete barriers, large boulders, or a combination of the two to block access points and restrict traffic from entering onto the shoreline or drawdown area. Eliminating motorized vehicle access to the shoreline would displace recreational opportunities to members of the public with mobility issues who are unable to walk to the water edge from the designated parking area. However, nearby areas, such as the Banks Lake Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) fishing pier would provide similar opportunities to those recreational users. The addition of an ADA fishing dock at Crescent Lake, while only in the initial investigative and planning stages, would provide additional ADA fishing and recreational opportunities.

Alternative C

Under Alternative C, Reclamation would close the area within the Reclamation Zone to fishing and recreation. Local and other recreational users of the Reclamation Zone and Geezer Beach would not be allowed to use the area and would be displaced to adjacent areas of the Lake Roosevelt shoreline, as well as Spring Canyon, Crescent Bay, Banks Lake, and Rufus Wood Lake. Fishing and water recreational opportunities may be found locally on Banks Lake, Lake Roosevelt, Crescent Lake, and Rufus Wood Reservoir (Figure 3-2).

Cumulative Effects

Other projects identified in the Grand Coulee area include the TPP Overhaul, John W. Keys III Pump-Generating Plant Modernization Project, and construction of a new fire station. NPS projects include a seawall repair, possibly upgrading the government dock and fuel station, and campground improvements at Spring Canyon. NPS is also investigating the addition of an ADA fishing dock at Crescent Lake, closing off some of the social roads, and upgrading the boat ramp at Crescent Bay. Reclamation projects identified are within the confines of the dam or are otherwise outside of the study area and would not contribute to any potential effects of the proposed alternatives. The addition of an ADA fishing dock at Crescent Lake, while only in the initial investigative and planning stages, would provide additional ADA fishing and recreational opportunities.

3.2 Public Safety

Public safety is of utmost importance and should be considered in management of public lands. This section examines public safety as it relates to the alternatives.

3.2.1 Affected Environment

Over time, Reclamation staff has observed cars, trucks, and recreational vehicles parked on the shoreline or in the reservoir at Geezer Beach (Figure 3-3). Due to the variability of materials and conditions, the shoreline below the reservoir rim is not necessarily safe for vehicle traffic.

The public typically accesses Geezer Beach by travelling on Marina Way to the old boat ramp road and through an opening in the shrubs (see Figure 3-4). Anglers and other visitors use the old haul road to drive across the beach to gain closer access to fluctuating water elevations during the winter/spring drawdown. Photograph 3-2 and Photograph 3-3 illustrate the shoreline and beach area that the public uses to access fishing areas. The shoreline area shown in the photographs generally consists of cobbly coarse sand, sand, and silty clay loam materials. Fewer fine-grained sediments are found near the surface due to reservoir processes. As seen in the photographs, the surface has been compacted, as it is a remnant of the old haul road.

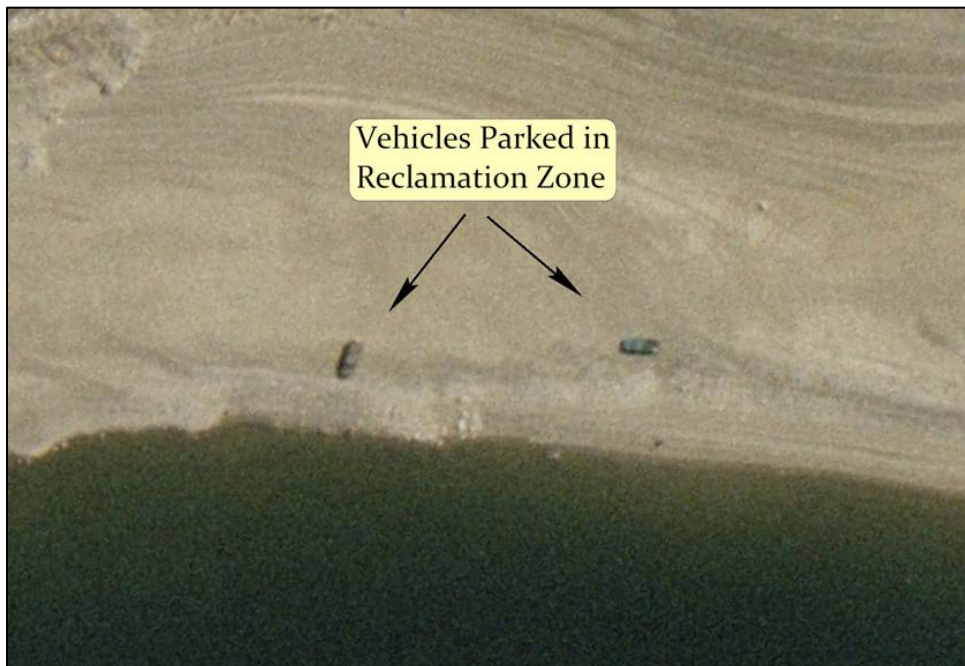


Figure 3-3. Vehicles parked in the Reclamation Zone at Geezer Beach.



Figure 3-4. Geezer Beach access point



Photograph 3-2. View of shoreline area (haul road) used by public for access to Geezer Beach. Photograph taken May 2018



Photograph 3-3. View looking southwest to access point. Photograph taken May 2018

Shoreline Access for People with Disabilities and the Elderly

The public has driven on the shoreline and drawdown area to access water during the drawdown for many years. Of the 34 scoping comments Reclamation received, approximately 25 percent referenced access to and driving on the shoreline or drawdown as their only way to fish.

Comments received included references to Geezer Beach as one of the few spots for people with disabilities to drive to for accessible fishing, and some are unable to physically walk across large amounts of sand or over rocks along the beach.

The informal roadway or trail the public uses to access and drive on the shoreline or reservoir drawdown is not an approved or ADA-compliant access point, nor is it endorsed as such by Reclamation. Additionally, the use of motor vehicles is restricted elsewhere on the shoreline of Lake Roosevelt, which results in management conflicts for the entire shoreline of Lake Roosevelt.

Vehicles Becoming Immobilized

The public typically uses a well-packed surface to access and drive on the shoreline or drawdown. However, loose and non-compacted soils are found in the area. Depending on the elevation of the reservoir, soft or loose areas are exposed and vehicles driving, turning around, and/or parking have become immobilized. During the scoping period, members of the public commented that there are incidents of people becoming stuck. Reclamation staff have assisted the public after becoming immobilized in wet sand while driving, turning around, or backing up on the shoreline or below the reservoir rim. In the past, staff have observed cars, pick-up trucks, or recreational vehicles parked on Geezer Beach for an

extended time (Bjorklund 2019); GCPO Security Response Force and CCT law enforcement officers have provided similar accounts and have gotten stuck, as well (Lamarre 2019; Desautel 2019).

Vehicles that are parked near the water and become immobilized or have become mechanically disabled could end up underwater, as the reservoir levels often fluctuate daily and at night.

3.2.2 Environmental Consequences

Alternative A – No Action

Under the No Action alternative, current conditions associated with existing recreational uses in the Reclamation Zone and at Geezer Beach would continue. The No Action alternative would not meet the purpose of the action because it would not address safety concerns associated with visitors driving motor vehicles on the shoreline and drawdown area.

Alternative B

Under Alternative B, Reclamation would continue to allow fishing and other forms of recreation and allow the public use of the boat ramp. Reclamation would restrict physical access to cars, trucks, all-terrain vehicles, and recreational vehicles in the Reclamation Zone to designated parking areas and not allow driving or parking on the shoreline or drawdown. Under Alternative B, public safety issues related to vehicle access to the Reclamation Zone would be addressed.

While locals may know which hardened and compacted areas are relatively safe to drive, newcomers or visitors to the area may not. Restricting vehicle access from the Reclamation Zone will also alleviate the risk to visitors accessing the shoreline and driving upstream, or in areas off the compacted surfaces, which could pose safety threats.

No adverse effects to public safety would result from Alternative B.

Alternative C

Under Alternative C, Reclamation would close the area within the Reclamation Zone to fishing and other forms of recreation. The same public safety issues would be addressed with Alternative C as with Alternative B.

Cumulative Effects

Other projects identified in the Grand Coulee area include the TPP Overhaul, John W. Keys III Pump-Generating Plant Modernization Project, and construction of a new fire station. NPS projects include a seawall repair, possibly upgrading the government dock, and fuel station and campground improvements at Spring Canyon. NPS is also investigating the addition of an ADA fishing dock at Crescent Lake, closing off some of the social roads, and upgrading the boat ramp at Crescent Bay. Reclamation projects identified are within the confines of the dam or otherwise outside of the study area and would not contribute to any potential effects of the proposed alternatives. The addition of an ADA fishing dock at

Crescent Lake, while only in the initial investigative and planning stages, would provide additional ADA fishing and recreational opportunities.

3.3 Local Tourism

This section examines potential impacts the alternatives may have on tourism within the Grand Coulee area.

3.3.1 Affected Environment

People travel to the Grand Coulee area to recreate throughout the year. Many recreational opportunities (Section 3.1) are found in the area. In addition to recreation, visitors travel to the area to view and visit the dam and take part in other events.

According to the Grand Coulee Area Chamber of Commerce (GCACC), lodging options in Electric City supply 77 percent of the Grand Coulee area accommodations, with Grand Coulee and Coulee Dam options accounting for 9 and 14 percent respectively (GCDACB 2019).

GCACC lodging data (Table 3-1) indicate that the majority of visitation stays are during the three summer months versus spring/fall/winter, or off-season.

Table 3-1. Estimated nightly visitation counts

Season	Average Number of Days Reported	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Summer	92.4	99,372	99,372	99,372	12,4869	13,6102
Off-Season	253	76,963	76,963	76,963	76,963	76,963

Source: Grand Coulee Area Chamber of Commerce 2019

As illustrated in Table 3-2 and Table 3-3, visitation to the dam plays an important role in local tourism. Lodging data correlate with dam visitation records provided by the GCACC and Reclamation. While Reclamation records (Table 3-2) show month-by-month visitation, GCACC data (Table 3-3) estimate the numbers of dam visitors and those that stay overnight in the area.

Table 3-2. Grand Coulee Dam Visitor Center monthly visitor counts

Year	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
2009	1,324	2,410	4,036	6,952	20,225	27,092	79,833	64,853	No Data	No Data	No Data	500
2010	656	964	2268	4,994	19,690	46,839	58,969	57,276	37,072	9,944	4,333	1,810
2011	596	1057	1738	8901	17055	43,574	77,107	64,572	39,226	11,158	3,690	2,286
2012	752	781	1,790	10,483	24,886	46,123	83,015	60,000	41,352	1,549	737	831
2013	457	1,209	2,617	9,782	22,765	38,848	57,249	61,385	32,729	10213	1224	1,094
2014	950	824	3,800	10,294	22,222	42,687	59,058	63,875	38,653	10,287	1,422	894
2015	794	1,596	5,018	12,373	23,590	40,626	57,273	37,249	No Data	4,247	1,545	651
2016	572	1,378	7144	12,499	20321	36531	73,045	52,386	43,015	2,924	1800	719
2017	404	842	5065	12,303	17,10	39,690	64,474	76,112	58,332	3,819	1642	819
2018	704	849	6210	10,542	25,428	51,494	51,730	37,831	31,343	3,795	1,784	992

Source: Grand Coulee Visitor Center visitation records

Table 3-3. Grand Coulee Dam estimated visitation

Year	Total Visitors	Day Trip Visitors	Overnight Stays	Visitors Not Staying Overnight
2014	254,966	154,327	no data	141,980
2015	185,962	85,323	100,640	78,497
2016	252,334	151,659	100,640	139,559
2017	282,553	169,165	113,388	155,632
2018	324,936	205,932	119,004	189,457

Visitation to the dam increases substantially during the summer months, as do the estimated numbers using local lodging. Other events that draw outside visitors and increase tourism include the annual Colorama celebration, Festival of America (over the 4th of July), the Harvest Festival, and Wine Auction. Estimated attendance numbers for these events can be found in Table 3-4.

Table 3-4. Grand Coulee area event attendance

Year	Colorama		Festival of America		Harvest Festival		Wine Auction	
	Total	Local	Total	Local	Total	Local	Total	Local
2014	4,500	2,250	12,000	3,000	1,500	900	250	225
2015	5,220	2,871	9,728	2,432	1,545	927	258	232
2016	6,003	3,302	10,701	2,675	1,931	1,159	258	232
2017	6,303	3,467	6,420	1,605	1,835	1,101	258	232
2018	6,933	3,813	13,063	2,613	2,018	1,009	258	232

Source: Grand Coulee Area Chamber of Commerce 2019

Additionally, fishing and other outdoor recreation brings tourists to the Grand Coulee area. Fishing tournaments are hosted by local business and Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife. Several fishing tournaments are held on Banks Lake with the Lake Roosevelt Walleye Club, Spokane Bass Club, and others sponsoring tournaments on Lake Roosevelt. Estimates of attendance for local fishing tournaments were provided by GCACC and are found in Table 3-5.

A search of regional fishing club websites, as well as the list provided by NPS (NPS 2019b) of tournaments on Lake Roosevelt indicate the majority of the fishing tournaments occur between the months of April and September.

Table 3-5. Fishing tournament attendance

Year	Total Attendance	Local	Traveled More Than 50 miles
2014	300	150	150
2015	300	30	No Data
2016	345	35	No Data

Year	Total Attendance	Local	Traveled More Than 50 miles
2017	380	38	342
2018	417	42	376

Source: Grand Coulee Area Chamber of Commerce 2019

3.3.2 Environmental Consequences

Alternative A – No Action

Under the No Action alternative, current conditions associated with existing recreational uses in the Reclamation Zone and at Geezer Beach would continue. No changes to tourism would be expected to result from the No Action alternative.

Alternative B

Under Alternative B, Reclamation would continue to allow fishing and other forms of recreation and allow public use of the boat ramp. Reclamation would restrict physical access to cars, trucks, all-terrain vehicles, and recreational vehicles in the Reclamation Zone to designated parking areas and not allow driving or parking on the shoreline or drawdown area.

Reclamation dam tours, visitor center counts, and GCACC lodging and event data verify that the majority of local tourism occurs during the summer months, with fewer visits during the spring, fall, and winter.

Under Alternative B, fishing and other recreation would be allowed. Local tourism would not be expected to be measurably affected by Alternative B because data indicate that the majority of visitation to the area takes place in May through September, with decreased tourism experienced during the winter months.

Alternative C

Under Alternative C, Reclamation would close the area within the Reclamation Zone, including the area known as Geezer Beach, to fishing and other forms of recreation. Potential effects to tourism would be similar to those from Alternative B. There could be a small reduction in tourism, although there are recreational opportunities on the Lake Roosevelt shoreline adjacent to the Reclamation Zone, on Rufus Woods Lake, and Banks Lake, which already receive the majority of recreational use in the area.

Cumulative Effects

Other projects identified in the Grand Coulee area include the TPP Overhaul, John W. Keys III Pump-Generating Plant Modernization Project, and construction of a new fire station. NPS projects include a seawall repair, possibly upgrading the government dock and fuel station, and campground improvements at Spring Canyon. NPS is also investigating the addition of an ADA fishing dock at Crescent Lake, closing off some of the social roads, and upgrading the boat ramp at Crescent Bay. No cumulative impacts have been identified for the alternatives.

3.4 Cultural Resources

This section describes the potential effects of the alternatives on cultural resources. Cultural resources include cultural landscapes, ethnographic resources, historic places, properties of traditional and cultural importance, artifacts and documents, buildings, structures, archaeological sites, districts, and objects. Chapter 3.5 provides additional information about the existing conditions and potential environmental consequences to properties of traditional and cultural importance (such as Indian sacred sites) to Native American tribes.

Implementing regulations for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), found at 36 CFR 800.8, encourage close coordination with NEPA and require Federal agencies to consider the effects of their actions on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (National Register). Reclamation, as a lead agency responsible for compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA, is responsible for ensuring that cultural resource studies have been conducted to the degree required to effectively identify historic properties at Grand Coulee Dam and Lake Roosevelt. Previous literature reviews and pedestrian inventories have been completed for the project vicinity, most notably for the 2010 TPP Generating Units Overhaul (TPP Overhaul) EA, the recently completed G1-G18 Modernization and Overhaul EA, and the ongoing FCRPS Lake Roosevelt Cultural Resources Program.

As part of the Section 106 consultation process, Reclamation has consulted with the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) for the CCT regarding archaeological and built environment areas of potential effects (APE) and a reached finding of No Historic Properties Affected for the proposed alternatives. Copies of this correspondence are included in Appendix C.

3.4.1 Affected Environment

The Mainstem of Lake Roosevelt from Grand Coulee Dam to the Canadian border contains hundreds of archaeological sites on Reclamation, CCT, STOI, and NPS-managed lands. Archaeological sites along Lake Roosevelt include habitations, resource gathering and processing sites, rock images and legendary landscapes, and many other types of human use areas. Local sites date from about the end of the Pleistocene to modern times and indicate a long-term and continuous human use of this stretch of the Columbia River by the Nespelem, San Poil, and Moses-Columbia Indians and their ancestors. By the 1800s, non-Indian settlers were populating the Columbia River country, and their homesteads, orchards, and transportation networks and towns dot the landscape intermixed with the native cultural sites.

Despite the hundreds of archaeological and historic sites present along the Columbia River, Reclamation has not identified any historic properties that could be impacted by these alternatives. The regulations in 36 CFR 800.16 (l) (1) define a historic property as “any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places maintained by the Secretary of the Interior.” For the purposes of this project, there are no NHPA-eligible archaeological sites, Traditional Cultural Properties, or contributing historical resources to the Grand Coulee Dam

District complex present that would be directly impacted by the proposed recreational changes.

There are no NHPA-eligible archaeological resources in the Reclamation Zone on the right bank above Grand Coulee Dam. Historic features in this same area do not contribute to the NHPA eligibility of Grand Coulee Dam and are not impacted by driving in the drawdown area.

Archeological resources have not been recorded in the immediate study area due to the extensive disturbance that happened during the construction of the original Grand Coulee Dam from 1933 to 1942, as well as construction of the Forebay and Third Power Plant from 1967 to 1974. Topographic maps developed in 1934 at the start of the construction of Grand Coulee Dam show that downstream right bank was once a broad terrace that sloped gently down to the river (Hess 2010). The elevation of that landform was about 1170 feet above sea level. At present, the parking area to the northwest of the forebay and Third Power Plant has an elevation of about 1013 feet above sea level. The construction efforts that removed more than 160 feet of rock and soils erased any signs of pre-dam activity along the riverbed in the immediate vicinity of the dam (see Photograph 3-1). The study area was similarly disturbed by the construction of haul roads and staging areas during the construction of the Third Power Plant.

There are about 20 archaeological sites within 1 mile of Grand Coulee Dam. There are two National Register-eligible archeological properties nearby: 45GR146, a pre-contact site, and 45GR662, a historic archaeological site. The other sites remain unevaluated for National Register eligibility. The sites are mixed between Pre-contact archaeological sites and historic-period features associated with the homestead era, dam construction, and later recreation. A recently recorded site, from about 1 mile upstream on Lake Roosevelt, is present slightly above the current high-water mark and yielded artifacts that date to at least 8,000 years ago.

Grand Coulee Dam was determined eligible for listing on the National Register by a process called consensus determination. In the 2006 consensus determination, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred with Reclamation's determination that the Grand Coulee "dam, power plants, pumping plants, industrial area [southwest of dam] and associated facilities" (MOA-1425-06 MA 1G 7047, 2006) are part of the historic complex eligible for listing in the National Register. The disturbed landscape around the dam and powerplants is not considered to be contributing to the Grand Coulee historic district.

There are a few post-construction historic resources in the Reclamation Zone on the right bank. Some of the materials stored in adjacent boneyard and staging areas may date from the period of original construction of the dam. The haul road constructed during the development of the Third Power Plant has not been formally evaluated for National Register eligibility, but as a non-descript late 20th century utility road, it is unlikely to possess the required significance.

Approximately ¼-mile to the east are the remains of North Marina, a recreation facility dating from the 1940s and 1950s. A few visible remnants of the operation are still visible, most notably the remains of a bath house and some stone road edging. The recreation area was closed in 1967 in preparation for construction of the Third Power Plant, and in 1968, 260 acres were excluded from Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area for use as materials for staging and penstock fabrication. This area is now part of the Reservation Management Area (Mckay and Renk 2002, pp. 279-280).

3.4.2 Environmental Consequences

Significance Criteria

Historic properties were analyzed under Section 106 of the NHPA to determine potential effects from the proposed alternatives. This NHPA analysis assesses known or foreseeable project actions that would result in loss of historic integrity affecting the National Register eligibility of the Grand Coulee Dam historic district. If no historic properties are present or the undertaking will have no effects upon them, a determination of No Historic Properties Affected can be applied, as is the case with any of the currently proposed alternatives.

Impacts to cultural resources are often applied somewhat differently with NEPA. Under NEPA, direct impacts to historic properties are those that are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place. They are not limited to physical impacts to the property; they can also include impacts to the setting. The context and intensity of impacts must be considered. The intensity of an impact refers to the degree to which the action may impact or cause loss or destruction to significant cultural resources. This intensity may be categorized as Minor, Not Significant, or Significant. Indirect impacts are caused by the action and are later in time or farther removed in distance but still are reasonably foreseeable, such as changes in land use patterns and related effects on air quality. Cumulative impacts result from a proposed action's incremental impact when added to those of other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (Federal or non- Federal) or person undertakes such other actions.

Alternative A – No Action

Under the No Action alternative, current conditions associated with existing recreational uses in the Reclamation Zone would continue and there would be no direct impacts to National Register-eligible cultural resources because there are no historic sites present in the APE.

There are potential indirect impacts to cultural resources in Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area because of the No Action alternative. Unrestricted driving in the Reclamation Zone could create a false sense that driving in the drawdown area in other areas of Lake Roosevelt is allowed. Any of the several hundred cultural resources could be adversely impacted by a recreationalist operating a motor vehicle in the drawdown area away from Geezer Beach. For example, upstream from the study area, important archaeological sites could be damaged if a vehicle entered the shoreline in the Reclamation Zone and proceeded upstream in the drawdown for recreational purposes.

Under the No Action alternative, current conditions associated with existing recreational uses in the Reclamation Zone and at Geezer Beach would continue.

Alternative B

Under Alternative B, Reclamation would continue to allow fishing and other forms of recreation and allow the public use of the boat ramp. Reclamation would restrict physical access to cars, trucks, all-terrain vehicles, and recreational vehicles in the Reclamation Zone to designated parking areas and not allow driving or parking on the shoreline or drawdown area. After analysis, Reclamation found Alternative B would have no direct impacts to cultural resources.

The implementation of Alternative B could have positive indirect impacts to National Register-eligible cultural resources reservoir-wide. Restricting vehicle driving and/or parking in the Reclamation Zone may help preserve and protect cultural resources reservoir-wide, as cultural resources are impacted regularly by unauthorized operation of motor vehicles in the Lake Roosevelt drawdown area.

Alternative C

Under Alternative C, Reclamation would close the area within the Reclamation Zone, including the area known as Geezer Beach, to fishing and other forms of recreation. Alternative C would have no direct impacts to cultural resources. The same potential positive indirect impacts to National Register-eligible cultural resources reservoir-wide could be expected as those with Alternative B.

Cumulative Effects

Other projects identified in the Grand Coulee area include the TPP Overhaul, John W. Keys III Pump-Generating Plant Modernization Project, and construction of a new fire station. NPS projects include a seawall repair, possibly upgrading the government dock and fuel station, and campground improvements at Spring Canyon. NPS is also investigating the addition of an ADA fishing dock at Crescent Lake, closing off some of the social roads, and upgrading the boat ramp at Crescent Bay. No cumulative impacts have been identified for the alternatives.

3.5 Indian Sacred Sites

Executive Order 13007, signed by President Clinton on May 24, 1996, defines a sacred site as:

Any specific, discrete, narrowly delineated location on Federal land that is identified by an Indian tribe, or Indian individual determined to be an appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion, as sacred by virtue of its established religious significance to, or ceremonial use by, an Indian religion; provided that the tribe or appropriately authoritative

representative of an Indian religion has informed the agency of the existence of such a site [E.O. 13007, Section 1 (b) (iii)].

3.5.1 Affected Environment

The Grand Coulee Dam sits within the traditional territory of the Nespelem Tribe. The Nespelem are one of 12 Federally recognized tribes who are incorporated as the CCT. The Sanpoil and the Moses-Columbia, also incorporated as part of the CCT, occupied adjacent traditional territories to the east and south of the Project. All three are part of the larger Interior Salish language group. Members of the CCT generally recognize that many aspects of the natural environment should be considered sacred, including water, land, air, and various plant and animal species. In their Cultural Resources Management Plan (CCT 2006), the CCT group sacred sites with traditional cultural properties and properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to Tribes.

Local landforms with Salish place-names are associated with stories and legends that remain important to the cultural continuity of the CCT and other regional tribes. There are numerous named landforms with Salish place-names in and near the Grand Coulee area. A trail on the left bank of the Columbia passing through Grand Coulee to Soap Lake, *skʷə'mcín* (“Passing by the mouth of the Coulee”), was traditionally used by the Nespelem and Sanpoil to collect white camas (George 2011). The place-name *skʷə'mcín* also refers to the traditional fishing grounds and camp of a band of Nespelem, located across the river from the mouth of the Grand Coulee, and was possibly the location of a group of Moses-Columbia who spoke a different dialect (George 2011). A named village site in the mouth of nearby Rattlesnake Canyon, *snawəxtn*, was the winter village of a Moses-Columbia group. This village site is now submerged under Lake Roosevelt. The Traditional Cultural Place *nq'aʔq'aʔáw's* (“Set in between”) is a named prominent hill between Rattlesnake Canyon and Eden Harbor and is an important landform in a version of the traditional legend, “How Coyote Diverted the Columbia River” (George 2011). All three of these named places are associated with or near Geezer Beach. Additionally, stacked rock cairns and rock art panels present on rocky slopes surrounding Grand Coulee Dam denote places where Tribal members have sought, and still seek, spiritual power (George 2011).

3.5.2 Environmental Consequences

Alternative A – No Action

Under the No Action alternative, current conditions associated with existing recreational uses at Geezer Beach would continue and there would be no impacts to Indian sacred sites.

Alternative B

Under Alternative B, Reclamation would continue to allow fishing and other forms of recreation and allow the public use of the boat ramp. Reclamation would restrict physical access to cars, trucks, all-terrain vehicles, and recreational vehicles in the Reclamation Zone to designated parking areas and not allow driving or parking on the shoreline or drawdown. There would be no impacts to Indian sacred sites from Alternative B. Traditional access to

fishing would be allowed even if vehicles were restricted from driving and/or parking in the drawdown area.

Alternative C

Under Alternative C, Reclamation would close the area within the Reclamation Zone, including the area known as Geezer Beach, to fishing and other forms of recreation. Potential adverse impacts to Indian Sacred Sites could result if access to the shoreline is restricted by the implementation of Alternative C.

Cumulative Effects

Other projects identified in the Grand Coulee area include the TPP Overhaul, John W. Keys III Pump-Generating Plant Modernization Project, and construction of a new fire station. NPS projects include a seawall repair, possibly upgrading the government dock and fuel station, and campground improvements at Spring Canyon. NPS is also investigating the addition of an ADA fishing dock at Crescent Lake, closing off some of the social roads, and upgrading the boat ramp at Crescent Bay. No cumulative impacts have been identified for the alternatives.

3.6 Indian Trust Assets

The Columbia River is adjacent to the action area, and it flows along the edges of both the Colville and Spokane Reservations. Therefore, it is appropriate to consider the potential for the project to affect ITAs.

3.6.1 Affected Environment

The Secretary of the Interior has defined Indian Trust Assets (ITAs) as lands, natural resources, money, or other assets held by the Federal government in trust or that are restricted against alienation for Indian tribes and individual Indians (Department of the Interior, Secretarial Order No. 3215). Reclamation usually takes this to mean that ITAs include water rights, lands, minerals, hunting and fishing rights, money, and claims.

Following this definition, Reclamation has not identified any potential ITAs within the area. The Reclamation Zone and Geezer Beach are entirely within Federal lands withdrawn or acquired by the United States for project purposes, and they are not held in trust for the CCT or for individual Indians.

No hunting or fishing rights exist inside the Reclamation Zone.

Water rights are another potential form of ITA. Both Tribes have asserted claims for water rights in the waters that border their reservations (Columbia River Initiative Agreement in Principle between the State of Washington and the CCT, January 4, 2005; Letter dated Jan. 31, 2012, from Gregory Abrahamson, Chairman, Spokane Tribe Business Council, to Keith McGowan, Environmental Protection Specialist, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation).

3.6.2 Environmental Consequences

Alternative A – No Action

Under the No Action alternative, current conditions associated with existing recreational uses in the Reclamation Zone and at Geezer Beach would continue. No impacts to ITAs would result from the No Action alternative because no potential ITAs have been identified within the area.

Alternative B

Under the Proposed Action, Reclamation would continue to allow fishing and other forms of recreation, allow the public use of the boat ramp. Reclamation would restrict physical access to cars, trucks, all-terrain vehicles, and recreational vehicles in the Reclamation Zone to designated parking areas and not allow driving or parking on the shoreline or drawdown area.

No potential ITAs have been identified within the area; therefore, no effects to ITAs would occur under this alternative.

Alternative C

Under Alternative C, Reclamation would close the area within the Reclamation Zone, including the area known as Geezer Beach, to fishing and other forms of recreation. The area of shoreline affected by this alternative is relatively small in relation to the size of the reservoir and more than 500 miles of available shoreline. No potential ITAs have been identified within the area; therefore, no effects to ITAs would occur under this alternative.

3.7 Environmental Justice

Executive Order 12898, “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations,” dated February 11, 1994, requires Federal agencies to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their actions on minorities and low-income populations and communities, as well as the equity of the distribution of the benefits and risks.

Environmental justice addresses the fair treatment of people of all races and incomes with respect to actions affecting the environment. Fair treatment implies that no group should bear a disproportionate share of negative impacts. Indicators often include analyzing racial and ethnic populations, income, unemployment, poverty rates, and housing conditions in the study area.

3.7.1 Affected Environment

The area around Grand Coulee Dam and its reservoir, Franklin D. Roosevelt Lake (Lake Roosevelt), is located in Douglas, Ferry, Grant, Lincoln, and Okanogan Counties. These counties were selected as the local study area.

Table 3-6 provides the numbers and percentages of population in 2010 for seven racial categories (White, Black or African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, Some Other Race, and Two or More Races), the total minority population, and the Hispanic or Latino population (a minority ethnic group) for each county, the combined five-county study area, and the state of Washington (U.S. Census Bureau 2010a).

Table 3-6. Race and ethnicity in the project area

Category	Douglas County		Ferry County		Grant County		Study Area Lincoln County		Okanogan County		Total Study Area		State of Washington	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total Population	37,565	—	7,520	—	88,098	—	10,248	—	40,552	—	183,983	—	6,465,755	—
White	35,446	94.4	5,902	78.5	83,034	94.3	9,735	95.0	34,378	84.8	168,495	91.6	5,201,398	80.4
Black or African American	382	1.0	17	0.2	1,147	1.3	28	0.3	280	0.7	1,854	1.0	220,417	3.4
American Indian and Alaska Native	713	1.9	1,319	17.5	1,482	1.7	262	2.6	4,612	11.4	8,388	4.6	91,437	1.4
Asian	371	1.0	23	0.3	1,079	1.2	30	0.3	313	0.8	1,816	1.0	424,531	6.6
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	72	0.2	7	0.1	98	0.1	7	0.1	36	0.1	220	0.1	28,884	0.4
Population of two or more races	581	1.5	252	3.4	1,258	1.4	186	1.8	933	2.3	3,210	1.7	244,250	3.8
Total Racial Minority Population	2,119	5.6	1,618	21.5	5,064	5.7	513	5.0	6,174	15.2	15,488	8.4	1,009,519	15.6
Not Hispanic or Latino	27,507	73.2	7,257	96.5	55,694	63.2	9,946	97.1	33,494	82.6	133,898	72.8	5,841,930	90.4
Hispanic or Latino	10,058	26.8	263	3.5	32,404	36.8	302	2.9	7,058	17.4	50,085	27.2	623,825	9.8

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2010a

The proportion of American Indians within the local study area is more than three times greater than the proportion within the State of Washington overall, largely as a result of the presence of the CCT within the study area and the nearby Spokane Tribe of Indians Reservation. Conversely, the proportion of persons who are Asian or Black or African American is substantially less than for the State of Washington. While the total racial minority population of the five-county study area, at 8.4 percent, is also less than the state's percentage of 15.6, the Hispanic or Latino representation within the study area is nearly three times greater than at the state level, at 27.2 percent and 9.6 percent, respectively.

Table 3-7 provides income and poverty information for each county and the state for the year 2010 (U.S. Census Bureau 2010b). Low-income populations are identified by several socioeconomic characteristics. As categorized by the 2010 Census, specific characteristics include income (median family and per capita), percentage of the population below poverty (families and individuals), unemployment rates, and general housing conditions.

Median family income and per capita income for the five counties are less than those in the state as a whole. Compared to the State of Washington, the study area has greater percentages of families and individuals below the poverty level. The CCT median household, inflation-adjusted income, at \$34,554, is lower than the study area as a whole. Approximately 24 percent of CCT families were below the poverty level, which is about twice the rate for the study area and three times the number of families living below the poverty level state-wide (U.S. Census Bureau 2010b).

Table 3-7. Income and Poverty by County and State of Washington

Category	Douglas County	Ferry County	Grant County	Lincoln County	Okanogan County	State of Wash.
Income						
Median Family Income	\$55,363	\$43,529	\$48,907	\$50,899	\$48,159	\$68,457
Per Capita Income	\$22,522	\$26,283	\$19,205	\$24,127	\$19,367	\$29,320
Percent Below Poverty Level						
Families	12.0	12.0	14.4	8.1	14.2	7.9
Individuals	14.3	19.1	19.0	12.6	19.6	11.8
Percent Unemployed	7.0	15.0	10.2	4.5	8.7	7.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2010b

3.7.2 Environmental Consequences

Impact Indicator/Methods for Evaluating Impacts

An environmental justice analysis evaluates the effects of potential adverse environmental impacts on natural resources and associated human health impacts, as well as socioeconomic

impacts, to identify and describe disproportionate adverse effects to minority and/or low-income populations. Environmental justice impacts would be considered significant if the project resulted in disproportionate adverse impacts to minority and/or low-income populations.

Alternative A – No Action

Under No Action alternative, current conditions associated with existing recreational uses in the Reclamation Zone and at Geezer Beach would continue. No effects would result from the No Action alternative because the public's recreational uses within the Recreation Zone would not change.

Alternative B

Under Alternative B, Reclamation would continue to allow fishing and other forms of recreation and allow the public use of the boat ramp. Reclamation would restrict physical access to cars, trucks, all-terrain vehicles, and recreational vehicles in the Reclamation Zone to designated parking areas and not allow driving or parking on the shoreline or drawdown area.

As use of the existing boat ramp, fishing, and other forms of recreation will continue to be allowed, no impacts that would adversely affect minority and/or low-income populations have been identified. Therefore, there are no adverse environmental justice impacts.

Alternative C

Under Alternative B, Reclamation would close the area within the Reclamation Zone, including the area known as Geezer Beach, to fishing and other forms of recreation. Fishing and other forms of recreation would be closed in the Reclamation Zone, including Geezer Beach. Access to Lake Roosevelt and the amount of shoreline affected by this alternative is relatively small in relation to the size of the reservoir and more than 500 miles of available shoreline. Additionally, many other forms of recreation and fishing opportunities are located in the immediate area, including Lake Roosevelt, Rufus Woods Lake, and Banks Lake. Therefore, there are no environmental justice impacts from Alternative C.

Cumulative Effects

Other projects identified in the Grand Coulee area include the TPP Overhaul, John W. Keys III Pump-Generating Plant Modernization Project, and construction of a new fire station. NPS projects include a seawall repair, possibly upgrading the government dock and fuel station, and campground improvements at Spring Canyon. NPS is also investigating the addition of an ADA fishing dock at Crescent Lake, closing off some of the social roads, and upgrading the boat ramp at Crescent Bay. There are no direct or indirect effects from identified projects; therefore, no cumulative impacts have been identified for the alternatives.

3.8 Soils

3.8.1 Affected Environment

The landscape in the Reclamation Zone is generally composed of fill derived from glaciofluvial and alluvial sediments. Areas above the normal high-water line, at elevation 1290 feet, consist of cobbly coarse sand, sand, and silty clay loam. The shoreline area within the reservoir rim, below the normal high-water line, consists of generally the same materials but tends to exhibit fewer fine-grained sediments on the surface due to reservoir processes. Areas of riprap armoring are also present along the reservoir shoreline. Much of the area has been subject to disturbance due to activities associated with construction of the Grand Coulee Dam, Forebay Dam, and Third Power Plant. Haul roads, staging areas, and other appurtenances needed for construction were built throughout the area, remnants of which form much of the landform that is present today.

3.8.2 Environmental Consequences

Alternative A – No Action

Under No Action alternative, current conditions associated with existing recreational uses in the Reclamation Zone and at Geezer Beach would continue. No impacts to soils would result from the No Action alternative.

Alternative B

Under Alternative B, Reclamation would continue to allow fishing and other forms of recreation and allow the public use of the boat ramp. Reclamation would restrict physical access to cars, trucks, all-terrain vehicles, and recreational vehicles in the Reclamation Zone to designated parking areas and not allow driving or parking on the shoreline or drawdown area. No negative effects would result from Alternative B. However, there would be positive impacts expected, as restricting driving on the shoreline could help slow down erosion that results from tires loosening the surface materials.

Alternative C

Under Alternative C, Reclamation would close the area within the Reclamation Zone, including the area known as Geezer Beach, to fishing and other forms of recreation. Likely impacts would be the same for Alternative C as they are for Alternative B.

Cumulative Effects

Other projects identified in the Grand Coulee area include the TPP Overhaul, John W. Keys III Pump-Generating Plant Modernization Project, and construction of a new fire station. NPS projects include a seawall repair, possibly upgrading the government dock and fuel station, and campground improvements at Spring Canyon. NPS is also investigating the addition of an ADA fishing dock at Crescent Lake, closing off some of the social roads, and upgrading the boat ramp at Crescent Bay. Reclamation projects identified are within the

confines of the dam or otherwise outside of the study area and would not contribute to any potential effects of the proposed alternatives.

3.9 Wildlife

This section examines the potential effects the alternatives would have on wildlife and/or wildlife habitat.

3.9.1 Affected Environment

The varied habitats found in the GCPO area supports wildlife. Particularly, mule deer are known to inhabit the landscape that surrounds the Dam. Quail, turkeys, and other species may also be found throughout the area; however, wildlife are transitory and no resident populations have been documented (Edwards 2015). Additionally, bighorn sheep, ducks, and geese have been documented near the dam (Desautel 2019).

3.9.2 Environmental Consequences

Alternative A – No Action

Under the No Action alternative, current conditions associated with existing recreational uses in the Reclamation Zone and at Geezer Beach would continue. Continued vehicle access and traffic on the shoreline and drawdown could impact and deter future growth of localized wildlife habitat. Additionally, unrestricted driving on the shoreline and in the Reclamation Zone could create a false sense that driving in the drawdown area in other areas of Lake Roosevelt is allowed, thus negatively affecting habitat in other areas of the reservoir.

Alternative B

Under Alternative B, Reclamation would continue to allow fishing and other forms of recreation and allow the public use of the boat ramp. Reclamation would restrict physical access to cars, trucks, all-terrain vehicles, and recreational vehicles in the Reclamation Zone to designated parking areas and not allow driving or parking on the shoreline or drawdown area.

Positive effects to wildlife habitat, and therefore wildlife, could result from the implementation of Alternative B. Wildlife habitat could improve over time with the reduction of vehicle access to the shoreline and drawdown surface. Grasses and herbaceous plants, as well as small trees and shrubs, would have an increased opportunity to grow and reproduce without the disturbance of vehicle traffic.

Alternative C

Under Alternative C, Reclamation would close the area within the Reclamation Zone, including the area known as Geezer Beach, to fishing and other forms of recreation. The same potential effects for Alternative B would be expected for Alternative C.

Cumulative Effects

Other projects identified in the Grand Coulee area include the TPP Overhaul, John W. Keys III Pump-Generating Plant Modernization Project, and construction of a new fire station. NPS projects include a seawall repair, possibly upgrading the government dock and fuel station, and campground improvements at Spring Canyon. NPS is also investigating the addition of an ADA fishing dock at Crescent Lake, closing off some of the social roads, and upgrading the boat ramp at Crescent Bay. Reclamation projects identified are within the confines of the dam or otherwise outside of the study area and would not contribute to any potential effects of the proposed alternatives.

Chapter 4 Consultation and Coordination

4.1 Public Involvement

A public scoping period was held from December 3 to December 31, 2018. A news release was provided to local area media announcing Reclamation's intent to prepare an EA and requesting public comment during the 30-day scoping period. Letters were sent to the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (also known as the Colville Confederated Tribes or CCT), the Spokane Tribe of Indians (STOI), members of Congress, Federal and State agencies, and local city and county officials to inform them of the proposed alternatives and to solicit comments or concerns they may have on the alternatives. A list of letter recipients can be found in Appendix A.

4.2 National Historic Preservation Act

As part of the Section 106 consultation process, Reclamation has consulted with the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) for the CCT regarding archaeological and built environment areas of potential effect (APE) and reached a finding of No Historic Properties Affected for the proposed alternatives. Copies of this correspondence are included in Appendix C.

4.3 Tribal Coordination and Consultation

Reclamation engaged the CCT and STOI during the scoping period. A scoping announcement (Appendix C) was sent to both the CCT and the STOI. Additionally, the CCT Department of Natural Resources was contacted and input was obtained regarding known wildlife species that occur on the Reservation, adjacent to the Reclamation Zone.

As part of the Section 106 consultation process, Reclamation has consulted with the THPO for the CCT regarding archaeological and built environment APE and reached a finding of No Historic Properties Affected for the proposed alternatives. Copies of this correspondence are included in Appendix C.

Reclamation will continue to coordinate with the CCT, regarding activities associated with the implementation of alternatives.

4.4 Endangered Species Act of 1973, Section 7 Consultation

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) required all Federal agencies ensure that their actions do not jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or destroy or adversely modify their critical habitat. As part of the ESA's Section 7 process, an agency must request information from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) on whether any threatened and endangered species occur within or near the action area. The agency then must evaluate impacts to those species. If the action may affect any

listed species, the agency must consult with the USFWS or NOAA Fisheries. Reclamation obtained listed species information from NOAA Fisheries and the USFWS.

- NOAA Fisheries:
http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/protected_species/salmon_steel_head/status_of_ea_salmon_listings_and_ch_designations_map.pdf
- USFWS: <https://ecos.fws.gov>

Reclamation determined there are no listed species in the study area, and the proposed actions would have no effect on listed species; therefore, neither NOAA Fisheries nor the USFWS were consulted.

Chapter 5 References

- Bjorklund, Michael. 2019. Geologist, Grand Coulee Power Office. Email correspondence, January 31, 2019.
- Desautel, Cody. 2019. Natural Resources Director, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. Email Correspondence, January 11, 2019.
- Edwards, Jon. 2015. Environmental Protection Specialist, National Park Service. Personal Correspondence. January 26, 2015.
- Five Party Lake Roosevelt Cooperative Management Agreement. 1990.
- Grand Coulee Dam Area Chamber of Commerce. 2019. Data received from Peggy Nevsimal, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce through Lynne Brougher, GCPO. email correspondence, January 29, 2019.
- George, Matilda. 2011. Editor Introductory Remarks, Donald Shannon and Guy Moura Prepared by Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation History/Archaeology Program Revised Under Bonneville Power Administration Contract No. 35238. November 2003, Revised May 2011
- Lamarre, Russell. 2019. Email Correspondence, January 11, 2019.
- McKay, Kathryn L., and Nancy F. Renk. 2002. Currents and Undercurrents: An Administrative History of Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area. National Park Service. Washington, D.C.
- National Park Service. 2019. Traffic Counts for Crescent Bay and Spring Canyon. January 2019. Available at <https://irma.nps.gov/Stats/Reports/Park/LARO>.
- U.S. Census Bureau. 2010a. American FactFinder. Detailed 2009 Population Estimates. Douglas, Ferry, Grant, Lincoln, and Okanogan County and State of Washington. <http://factfinder.census.gov/>. Accessed September 2011.
- U.S. Census Bureau. 2010b. American FactFinder. American Community Survey 5 year Estimates. Douglas, Ferry, Grant, Lincoln, and Okanogan County. <http://factfinder.census.gov/>. Accessed September 2011.
- U.S. Census Bureau. 2016. American FactFinder. American Community Survey 5 year Estimates. My tribal areas. <http://factfinder.census.gov/>. Accessed September 2018.

Appendices

Appendix A – Public Scoping Letter



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Pacific Northwest Region
Grand Coulee Power Office
P.O. Box 620
Grand Coulee, WA 99133-0620

IN REPLY REFER TO:

GCP-5200
2.2.3.19

NOV 29 2018

Subject: Public Scoping for the Environmental Assessment on Altering Recreational Uses at
"Geezer Beach"

Dear Interested Parties (see list):

The Bureau of Reclamation is proposing to alter recreational uses at a portion of the shoreline near the Third Power Plant, at Grand Coulee Dam, known as "Geezer Beach". Reclamation will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act for the proposed actions. The beginning of the process is to notify you of these actions and ask for you to inform us of any concerns that you may have regarding the proposal or comments on the scope of studies to be prepared for the EA.

A description of the proposal is contained in the enclosed document. I invite you to send your written comments on this proposal to Lon Ottosen, Natural Resource Specialist, Bureau of Reclamation, Grand Coulee Power Office, P.O. Box 620, Grand Coulee, WA 99133. *Comments must be received by December 31, 2018 to ensure consideration during preparation of the EA.*

If you have any questions concerning the proposal please contact Lon Ottosen at (509) 633-9324 or at lottosen@usbr.gov.

Sincerely,

Acting For


Coleman W. Smith, Jr.
Power Manager

Enclosure

Distribution List, see next page

Distribution List:

Paul Townsend
Mayor, City of Grand Coulee
P.O. Box 180
Grand Coulee, WA 99133-0180

Larry Price
Mayor, Town of Coulee Dam
300 Lincoln Ave.
Coulee Dam, WA 99116

John Nordine
Mayor, City of Electric City
P.O. Box 130
Electric City, WA 99123

Jesse Tillman
Mayor, Town of Elmer City
P.O. Box 179
Elmer City, WA 99124

Congressman Dan Newhouse
3100 George Washington Way
#135
Richland, WA 99354

Senator Patty Murray
10 North Post Street, Suite 600
Spokane, WA 99201

Senator Maria Cantwell
W. 920 Riverside, #697
Spokane, WA 99201

Honorable Rodney Cawston
Chairman, Confederated Tribes of the
Colville Reservation
P.O. Box 150
Nespelem, WA 99155

Dan Foster
Superintendent
Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area
1008 Crest Drive
Coulee Dam, WA 99116

Peggy Nevismal
Grand Coulee Dam Area Chamber of
Commerce
306 Midway Ave.
Grand Coulee, WA 99133

Scott Hunter
Editor
The Star Newspaper
P.O. Box 150
Grand Coulee, WA 99133

Reclamation Prepares EA on Proposed Changes to Recreational Use of “Geezer Beach”

The Bureau of Reclamation is seeking public comment to identify issues to be addressed in an environmental assessment on altering recreational uses of the area within the Reclamation Zone, southwest of the Third Power Plant, known as “Geezer Beach.”

Under the 1990 Lake Roosevelt Cooperative Management Agreement, Reclamation manages the portion of the shoreline known as “Geezer Beach”. Reclamation has observed cars, trucks and recreational vehicles parked in the reservoir, on federally-owned and Reclamation managed land (Reclamation Zone) during the spring draw down. Driving and parking on the drawdown can present a public safety risk to drivers and others as these vehicles can become stuck, roll into the reservoir or become abandoned.

Reclamation proposes making changes to the recreational use of “Geezer Beach”, in order to address safety concerns related to driving vehicles on the reservoir shoreline during the spring drawdown. Reclamation will analyze the potential effects of a range of alternative actions. In the scoping phase we will seek public comment, to help identify and bring focus to concerns, issues, and analyses that should be included in the draft environmental assessment.

Proposed alternatives are:

- No Action: Reclamation continues to allow vehicles to enter onto and drive on the drawdown at “Geezer Beach”
- Proposed Alternative 1: Reclamation restricts physical access to cars, trucks, all-terrain vehicles and recreational vehicles in the Reclamation Zone to designated parking areas.
- Proposed Alternative 2: Reclamation closes the area within the Reclamation Zone to fishing and recreation.

Information obtained during the scoping period, December 3 through December 31, 2018 will bring focus to concerns, issues, and analyses that should be included in the draft environmental assessment. Written comments can be sent to Lon Ottosen, Bureau of Reclamation, Grand Coulee Power Office, P.O. Box 620, Grand Coulee, WA 99133 or emailed to lottosen@usbr.gov. Comments must be received no later than December 31, 2018 in order to be considered.

Third Power Plant

Geezer Beach Area

Franklin D Roosevelt Lake

Grand Coulee Dam

WASHINGTON STATE

**GEEZER BEACH LOCATION
FIGURE 1**



0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5
Miles

Appendix B – Scoping Comments



Ottosen, Lon <lottosen@usbr.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Geezer Beach

1 message

Bill Macaras <wmacaras@centurytel.net>

Thu, Dec 6, 2018 at 11:37 PM

To: lottosen@usbr.gov

Have there been issues with cars running off the beach into the water? Have the vehicles damaged the beach? Please don't limit access to the beach or close the beach to fishing. I don't see a reason for this idea.

Thank you,

Bill Macaras



Ottosen, Lon <lottosen@usbr.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Fishing regulations at geezer beach1 message

Bob Minato <bobminato@icloud.com>

Sun, Dec 9, 2018 at 9:09 PM

To: lottosen@usbr.gov

Sent from my iPad

I suffer from heart disease and diabetes. I need as flat ground as I can find to fish on to avoid chest pain. I also cant take the cold due to poor circulation. Fishing out of my vehicle at Geezer beach has been the best place for me to fish at. Before I became disabled, I used to spend all 6 weeks of my vacation in grand coulee. Now I spend even more time in grand coulee and eastern Washington. From what I have seen over the last 15 years, grand coulee needs my tourist dollars much more than in 1990 when I lived in Yakima. Please do not change the fishing regulations at geezer beach, leave them as is.



Ottosen, Lon <lottosen@usbr.gov>

[EXTERNAL] USAGE OF GEEZER BEACH

1 message

Bob Minato <bobminato@icloud.com>
To: LOTTOSEN@usbr.gov

Sun, Dec 9, 2018 at 8:49 PM

Sent from my iPad I AM A DISABLED FISHERMAN WITH HEART AND DIABETES ISSUES. I NEED AS FLAT A SURFACE TO FISH ON AS I CAN FIND TO LIMIT CHEST PAIN. I ALSO CAN'T TOLERATE COLD IN THE WINTER DUE TO POOR CIRCULATION. GEEZER BEACH HAS BEEN THE BEST PLACE FOR ME TO FISH AT DURING THE DRAW DOWN OR AT FULL POOL. BEFORE MY CONDITION BECAME SO SEVERE IT FORCED ME TO RETIRE EARLY, I USED TO SPEND ALL 6 WEEKS OF MY VACATION IN GRAND COULEE. NOW THAT I AM RETIRED I SPEND EVEN MORE TIME OUT IN EASTERN WASHINGTON. FROM WHAT I HAVE SEEN THE LAST 15 YEARS, THE AREA NEEDS MY TOURIST DOLLARS. PLEASE DO NOT CHANGE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS.



Ottosen, Lon <lottosen@usbr.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Geezer beach

1 message

Bob Minato <bobminato@icloud.com>

Tue, Dec 11, 2018 at 3:34 PM

To: lottosen@usbr.gov

Sent from my iPad

I am a disabled fisherman with cardiac and diabetes issues and I need a flat place to fish. Geezer beach has been the best place for me to fish. I spend more than 12 weeks a year in grand coulee and electric city. Seeing the state of the business community the last 30 years it sure seems like the area needs my tourist dollars. Please do not change the regulations on geezer beach.

DEC. 31, 2018

MR. OTTOSEN:

PLEASE ADD MY NAME TO THE LIST
OF THOSE OBJECTING TO CHANGING THE
REGULATIONS AT "GEESER BEACH." I CAN
SEE NO ADVANTAGE OR NECESSITY TO/FOR
THE PROPOSED CHANGE.

SINCERELY

Bob Paul



Ottosen, Lon <lottosen@usbr.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Geezer Beach response

1 message

Cody Tashina Leonard <codytashina@gmail.com>
To: lottosen@usbr.gov

Thu, Dec 20, 2018 at 9:04 PM

Hi Lon,

I'm writing to you to tell you I am against the Geezer Beach shut down. My entire life I have gone to Geezer Beach, or North Marina. I was two weeks old when I was in that water.... I was raised on Lake Roosevelt and I continue to go to our local swimming hole (and fishing hole). Every single day in the summer time, I go there to meet up with my kids, parents and brother to swim and fish. My parents are now senior citizens but love to be in and around the water. This is the only easy access place to go for them. Not only is it easy for them to get to the water, but it is close and not everyone can afford the gas money to go all the way to Spring Canyon... If you take this fishing/swimming hole away, the people in Coulee Dam won't have a quick spot to jump in and fish. This little tiny town needs something still for the young kids still wanting to be outside and keep the kids out of trouble having good, clean fun, as well as all of us still enjoying what little we have of the "Good Ol Coulee."

From my experience being back there, it is always cleaned up and everyone is always respectful. We share beaches with everyone, whether we know them or not. People with animals are always welcome and they clean up after themselves as well.

My family are all descendants of the SanPoil tribe, and this is also our fishing waters. I ask that you don't take away the little bit that we have left to fish on.

What is your point in this? We really need this spot for everyone local here, as well as those coming to enjoy our amazing fishing spots! Please reconsider.

Thank you for your time,

Ms. Cody T. Leonard
(Writing also for: Craig R. Leonard, Charlene S. Leonard, Ceth R. Leonard, Johnny L. Holt, Cadence D. Holy and Charisma C. Holt)

Sent from my iPhone



Ottosen, Lon <lottosen@usbr.gov>

[EXTERNAL] GEEZER BEACH

1 message

Connie W <foolforfishing@outlook.com>
To: "lottosen@usbr.gov" <lottosen@usbr.gov>

Mon, Dec 24, 2018 at 10:23 AM

<https://www.facebook.com/notes/dam-fishing-on-lake-roosevelt/petition-to-request-status-quo-on-geezer-beach-lake-roosevelt/1921509087968224/>



Ottosen, Lon <lottosen@usbr.gov>

[EXTERNAL] geezer beach

1 message

Connie W <foolforfishing@outlook.com>
To: "lottosen@usbr.gov" <lottosen@usbr.gov>

Wed, Dec 5, 2018 at 11:37 AM

WHY??? The reasons that are listed have never happened.

This beach is named GEEZER because when the draw-down happens, aged anglers cannot walk that far to reach the water, not to mention the ability to get back up to parking area.

I am one of the aged and I am also administrator of a fishing FB page.

This beach brings a large amount of fisherman from all over the state in the winter. Local economy needs that boost.

This beach has been driven on for decades with no damage, no littering, no dangers, no enviromental impact.

Who is driving this idea? CCT??? (COLVILLE TRIBE)

L. ROOSEVELT HAS very little shore access.

I still ask WHY?

Peering into a looking glass and making rules based on what might happen someday is not justification for the removal of access.

Rethink this!

Connie Williamson



Ottosen, Lon <lottosen@usbr.gov>

[EXTERNAL] GEEZER BEACH

1 message

Connie W <foolforfishing@outlook.com>
To: "lottosen@usbr.gov" <lottosen@usbr.gov>

Mon, Dec 17, 2018 at 9:06 AM

*ON BEHALF OF 550+ MEMBERS OF MY GROUP ON FACEBOOK...**DAM FISHING ON LAKE ROOSEVELT...** WE RESPECTFULLY ASK OF YOU TO KEEP THIS AREA FOR DISABLED ANGLERS OPEN AND ACCESSIBLE. AS A COMPROMISE WE SUGGEST, WITH OUR APPROVAL, TO POST **NO DRIVING IN THE SAND.***

SINCERELY,

*C WILLIAMSON
ADMINISTRATOR*

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1197073120411828/members/>



Ottosen, Lon <lottosen@usbr.gov>

Public Scoping for the Environmental Assessment on Altering Recreational Uses at "Geezer Beach"

1 message

Dan Foster <dan_foster@nps.gov>
To: Lon Ottosen <lottosen@usbr.gov>
Cc: Craig Brouwer <craig_brouwer@nps.gov>

Fri, Dec 21, 2018 at 2:45 PM

Dear Lon,

I did not receive this notification until I was about to take leave for the holidays. I would hope that, if there is a shutdown of the federal government, the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) would extend the comment period for this. However, this is an important issue, and I ask that you accept the following comments from the National Park Service, Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area.

This issue may have been oversimplified by the BOR, by addressing "safety concerns" during the spring drawdown only, and not the additional issues of resource protection, and consistency with management of the entirety of Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area throughout the year.

The National Park Service is not against the use of the area for fishing or other appropriate recreational activities, however, driving on the drawdown is not an acceptable practice, for the following reasons:

First, this is, or can be a public safety issue as outlined. The shoreline of the lake can be variable with regard to conditions and is not necessarily safe for vehicular traffic. As was pointed out by the BOR, vehicles can get "stuck, roll into the reservoir or become abandoned." However, while the issue is most pronounced during the spring drawdown, this is not the only time of year this happens and the decision should encompass the entirety of the year.

Second, the shoreline area of Lake Roosevelt is culturally rich in both pre-historic and historic archeological resources. For this reason, driving on the drawdown is not permitted anywhere within Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area to protect these resources. Those guilty of such actions are subject to prosecution under the law and can face stringent penalties.

Third, because driving on the drawdown is not permitted within Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area, not enforcing this restriction at "Geezer Beach" sets an unacceptable example for visitors and shows a lack of consistency for management of the entire area. It also creates enforcement issues at other areas, as visitors citing "Geezer Beach" as their precedent.

If you have any questions or need clarification on these comments please contact me.

Thanks.

Dan A. Foster,
Superintendent,
Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area

12/27/2018

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Public Scoping for the Environmental Assessment on Altering Recreational Uses at "Geezer ...

Sent from my iPad



Ottosen, Lon <lottosen@usbr.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Geezer beach

1 message

davetylor <davetylor@nwi.net>
To: lottosen@usbr.gov

Mon, Dec 10, 2018 at 3:16 PM

Please leave geezer beach alone. It is a wonderful place for us seniors to park and fish. Please no changes. Thank you
Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE smartphone



Ottosen, Lon <lottosen@usbr.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Geezer beach

1 message

davetylor <davetylor@nwi.net>
To: lottosen@usbr.gov

Wed, Dec 12, 2018 at 1:16 PM

LON, please take no action on geezer beach, it's great the way it is.

Thank you

Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE smartphone



Ottosen, Lon <lottosen@usbr.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Geezer beach access

1 message

Dean Bolt <deanbolt7@gmail.com>

Wed, Dec 5, 2018 at 6:39 PM

To: "lottosen@usbr.gov" <lottosen@usbr.gov>

Mr Otlosen: regarding restricting access to geezer beach . As a senior citizen and fisherman I feel restricting access would do way more harm than good . I fail to see the upside of this decision . I know of no adversary incidents at this location. Those of us with limited income and mobility need more access to low cost opportunities rather than fewer. This is a very drastic proposal to those who utilize this area either regularly or as a fishing destination. Please advise me of any problems being caused by users of this beach access. Thank you for your time and please rethink this proposal.

Dean Bolt...

To Ron Ottosen
Nat Resource Specialist

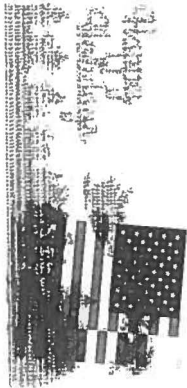
Dear Sir:

We came to this area 46 years ago, have fished the lake a lot I will be 90 ~~yes~~ young on my next birthday and still drive my car out there and go fishing. The boat ramp area has been off limits for years because it's too sandy strictly four wheel drive conditions but the tribe let us fish & park on the haul road no danger of getting stuck there, it's hard. As older guys really would miss fishing out there and the kids like it very much too.

yours truly
Earl Mustard
606 Spruce St
Coulee Dam, WA
633-0243

Carol M. Watson
606 Spruce St
Seattle, WA 98104

STANDARD MAIL PERMIT NO. 1000



RECEIVED For Otis
Bureau of Reclamation
Box 620 Grand Coulee, WA
99133
Grand Coulee
Power Plant

99133-062020





Ottosen, Lon <lottosen@usbr.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Fishing

1 message

Eddie Moore <meat_ed@yahoo.com>

Fri, Dec 7, 2018 at 1:50 PM

To: lottosen@usbr.gov

Fishing at geezer beach has been a tradition for years.. letting Vets..the handicap...and old geezers have their sights on that big one..also being able to put on their table a hearty meal. I'd like to know the name of the person that thought the idea of shutting down the beach....! I'd like to have a chat to understand how he thinks.. 🙄 I'd like to hear his heart...!

Ed Moore Sent from my iPhone

Frank Ayers
Josephine Ayers
1 Spokane Ave.
Coulee Dam, WA
fayers@q.com

December 28, 2018

Lon Ottosen
Bureau of Reclamation
Grand Coulee Power Office

Sir,

We wish to add our names to the list of those supporting continued public use of "Geezer Beach."

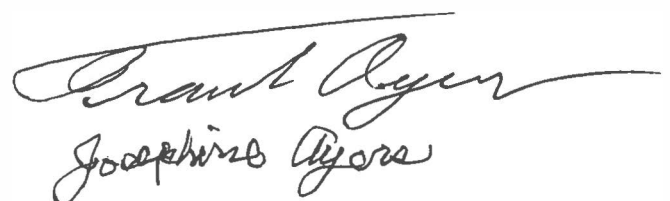
My Mother has lived in Coulee Dam for over eighty years, and still enjoys getting out fishing. She turns ninety-eight next week, and is no longer able to walk down to the shoreline. Geezer Beach provides us with access, while remaining in our vehicle, year around, and is the only place along Lake Roosevelt, that I am aware of, to do so.

That part of the shoreline is stable, even when the lake is drawn down, no doubt due to extensive use during early days of the project.

Please give this proposal serious consideration. If this access is lost, it will impact many individuals, especially the elderly, and those physically impaired.

Thank You,

Frank and G'MaJo

Handwritten signatures of Frank Ayers and Josephine Ayers. The signature of Frank Ayers is written in a cursive script, and the signature of Josephine Ayers is written below it in a similar cursive script.

Sirs :

December 20, 2018

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input during the scoping period for the Environmental Assessment relative to the use of the portion of the Franklin D Roosevelt Lake often referred to as "Geezer Beach".

To be frank, this proposal strikes me as a solution in search of a problem. To the best of my knowledge there is no record of any privately operated vehicles that have " become stuck, roll into the reservoir or become abandoned " while people were fishing during the spring drawdown.


The third paragraph of your scoping letter GCP-5200 2.2.3.19 refers to " safety concerns related to driving vehicles on the reservoir shoreline during the spring drawdown" , but does not identify what those "safety concerns" are. Therefore it is not possible for me to address those concerns or to offer possible alternative solutions.

Fishing at Geezer Beach during the spring drawdown has become an established winter time recreation experience for the entire population of the local Grand Coulee Dam area, and I have met many people who have traveled from out of town to enjoy the chance to fish and visit with other fishermen and women. Older citizens and those of us who utilize walkers and canes to move about on our own two legs would lose this prized recreation and social opportunity if Proposed Alternative 1 or Proposed Alternative 2 are selected.

In closing please keep in mind the old adage.... if it is not broke, do not fix it.

Fred Netzel

Coulee Dam 633-1235





Ottosen, Lon <lottosen@usbr.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Beach fishing

1 message

Gary E <Gaesmo@yahoo.com>

Thu, Dec 20, 2018 at 11:07 AM

To: lottosen@usbr.gov

I wish to express my concern about the purposed changes to the access at "geezer" beach. I see no reason for the purposed changes other than paranoia over the possibility of some incident which might occur. I do not recall an incident actually occurring in that area, I can find no justification for the paranoia which apparently caused these changes to be considered. More actual incident reports (facts) are needed for any changes to be implemented.

Regards,
Gary Esmond, retired US Army, retired USBR

Sent from my iPad



Ottosen, Lon <lottosen@usbr.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Geezer Beach comments

1 message

Sir Gregory's Gmail <gregb1950@gmail.com>
To: Lon Ottosen <lottosen@usbr.gov>

Mon, Dec 24, 2018 at 12:34 PM

Lon,

Attached are my comments on the review Geezer Beach. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this.

Greg Behrens

"Life is a no-draw poker game. You can't change the cards dealt you but you do get to choose how you play them." Greg Behrens

Geezer Beach

To whom it may concern:

These thoughts and observations are in response to the possible closure of Geezer Beach to vehicular travel.

I am a lifelong resident of the Grand Coulee Dam area. I was born in Coulee Dam and schooled in Grand Coulee. After serving in the military and finishing college I was fortunate to return and fulfill my professional career working at the Grand Coulee Dam project. Employment at the project included 30 plus years doing geological investigations and geographic mapping studies along the shoreline of Lake Roosevelt. These studies included monitoring shoreline processes, reservoir drawdown affects, landslide investigations, and natural and cultural resource studies. These studies were often done with the National Park Service, the Colville Tribe and the Spokane Tribe of Indians.

The portion of the shoreline locally referred to as Geezer Beach lies within one mile upstream of the Grand Coulee Dam, on the right bank, looking downstream. This beach area has all been reworked and completely modified throughout the construction of the Dam's history. During the construction of the third powerhouse this area was used as a staging area for equipment and materials down to elevation 1160 MSL. This area was extensively excavated, filled, graded, compacted and reworked to allow proper construction staging and access. The current federal restrictions will never allow the reservoir to be dropped below elevation 1208.

If the concern for the allowed vehicle access is based on 'cultural resource preservation' then the prior construction activities within the area have made this a non issue. This includes the nearshore environment well below the accessible areas today.

If the concern for the allowed vehicle access is water quality then it should be noted that the beach area is mostly compacted sand and gravel and mostly devoid of finer grained materials that would be mobilized and entered into the lake through wave action. It can't be said that absolutely 'no sediment' would enter the lake but there are much greater amounts of sand/silt entering the lake through kid's building sand castles on the many beaches. And absolutely there is much more sedimentation introduced into the lake through a one hour wind and wave event along the shoreline. There are 513-miles of shoreline along Lake Roosevelt and just imagine how much the water quality is affected by the constant attack of millions of waves on the shoreline.

Do vehicles get stuck on the beach? Yes they occasionally do. Every event I have heard of this happening they are rapidly recovered by other fishermen or friends. I have never heard of any incident of a vehicle going into the lake in this area. There are, however, many documented incidents of vehicles going into the reservoir while launching or retrieving a boat at the many boat ramps.

I hear concerns that driving on the beach here sets a bad precedent for the other areas of the reservoir. Never have I heard during any of my contacts with land owners along the lake, or people recreating on the beach, say that "it must be ok to drive on the drawdown area because they allow it on Geezer Beach." I'm not saying people don't drive on the drawdown in other areas but it is not because they are extending the allowance of vehicles here to other areas. People just know that driving on the beach is NOT ALLOWED! If they do drive on the beach it's out of ignorance or disrespect.

Have I ever driven on Geezer Beach? Yes, a couple of times to launch our work boat to do shoreline inspections. Do I think it should be allowed for the public to drive on the beach? Absolutely. It is the one area where the mobility impaired, and families with small kids can go fish, swim and enjoy our beautiful lake. Restricting their access would result in a tremendous loss of opportunity for these people. I've been on the beach, talked to folks who use it and enjoy it and hear their favorable comments of "it sure is nice to be able to drive to the shoreline here, otherwise I wouldn't have any way to fish!"

Everything I have observed of people on Geezer Beach is 'they respect their opportunity to access it and they keep it clean and safe'. I'm not being culturally or environmentally insensitive to this issue. I have the deepest respect for our local heritage and environment and I want to keep those things we enjoy in our area to continue if there is not valid reason to discontinue them.

Hank Wiebe
PO Box 668
Grand Coulee, WA 99133

December 20, 2018

Lon Ottosen
Bureau of Reclamation
Grand Coulee Power Office
PO Box 620
Grand Coulee, WA 99133

Dear Mr. Ottosen,

I submit this letter in response to your request for written comments on the Bureau of Reclamation's proposal to alter recreational use of Geezer Beach.

As a disabled fisherman residing in the Grand Coulee area, I have fished at Geezer Beach for many years. In fact, I fish this area 4 or 5 times a week between the months of January through June each year. Due to my disabilities, this beach provides one of the few places I can access to fish. There is a strong group of fishermen, with varying degrees of limited mobility, who often fish alongside me. In all the years we have fished from this beach, we have never seen or experienced any of the scenarios about which the bureau seems to be concerned, particularly regarding lake level changes and cars parked on the beach. Those of us who use this beach are careful stewards and work hard to keep the area we enjoy litter-free.

I respectfully request that you reconsider your intent to alter the recreational use of Geezer Beach.

Sincerely,



Hank Wiebe

cc: Congressman Dan Newhouse
Senator Patty Murray
Senator Maria Cantwell
Honorable Rodney Cawston, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
Dan Foster, Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area



Ottosen, Lon <lottosen@usbr.gov>

[EXTERNAL] GEEZER BEACH

1 message

HANK WIEBE <fulltankhank1841@hotmail.com>
To: "lottosen@usbr.gov" <lottosen@usbr.gov>

Wed, Dec 5, 2018 at 1:44 PM

As a disabled fisherman, I, along with many other disabled, aged friends, have fished Geezer Beach for many years. We fish this area exclusively 4 to 5 days per week from Jan to June. Due to our disabilities and very limited walking capabilities for many of us it is the only alternative for fishing in the area. In all of my years of enjoying fishing Geezer Beach I have never seen or experienced any of the suggested scenarios. I am proud to say that due to our appreciation of the ability to fish there, we are exempt in keeping the area litter free, as opposed to other recreational areas. (we self police !) This is one of the few spots for disabled people to be able to drive to for accessible fishing. During draw down it is impossible for me, as well as many, to walk to the lake. So please reconsider, and don't deny us geezers the joy of fishing Geezer Beach. Thankyou, Hank Wiebe, Grand Coulee

Sent on my Sprint Samsung Galaxy S6 edge+.



Ottosen, Lon <lottosen@usbr.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Re: GEEZER BEACH

1 message

HANK WIEBE <fulltankhank1841@hotmail.com>
To: "lottosen@usbr.gov" <lottosen@usbr.gov>

Tue, Dec 11, 2018 at 12:45 PM

Dear Sir, In regards to Geezer Beach and possible changes, is there a possibility that you could meet with me at this location to discuss the concerns you have? I received a copy of the map that shows the area of concern, but it is a little confusing. Any time is good with me. Thank you, Hank Wiebe 425 328 6760

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From: HANK WIEBE <fulltankhank1841@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 5, 2018 1:44:19 PM
To: lottosen@usbr.gov
Subject: GEEZER BEACH

As a disabled fisherman, I, along with many other disabled, aged friends, have fished Geezer Beach for many years. We fish this area exclusively 4 to 5 days per week from Jan to June. Due to our disabilities and very limited walking capabilities for many of us it is the only alternative for fishing in the area. In all of my years of enjoying fishing Geezer Beach I have never seen or experienced any of the suggested scenarios. I am proud to say that due to our appreciation of the ability to fish there, we are exempt in keeping the area litter free, as opposed to other recreational areas. (we self police !) This is one of the few spots for disabled people to be able to drive to for accessible fishing. During draw down it is impossible for me, as well as many, to walk to the lake. So please reconsider, and don't deny us geezers the joy of fishing Geezer Beach. Thankyou, Hank Wiebe, Grand Coulee

Sent on my Sprint Samsung Galaxy S6 edge+.



Ottosen, Lon <lottosen@usbr.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Options RE: "Geezer Beach"

1 message

Alice Frost <frosty@bigdam.net>

Sun, Dec 16, 2018 at 8:16 AM

To: lottosen@usbr.gov

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our comments about the possible changes at the fishing spot behind the dam. Before doing that, we need some information.

How many cars/trucks have rolled in to the water?

If so, did the owners call the USBR to have them removed?

How many abandoned cars have been found there?

A lot of things that CAN happen -- DON'T. We have not been aware of any of the problems you suggest.

James And Alice Frost frosty@bigdam.net



Ottosen, Lon <lottosen@usbr.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Beach closure

1 message

Jim Joyce <joyce3818@gmail.com>
To: LOTTOSEN@usbr.gov

Sun, Dec 9, 2018 at 3:33 PM

WHY? The reasons that are listed have never happened.

This beach is named GEEZER because when the draw-down happens, aged anglers cannot walk that far to reach the water, not to mention the ability to get back up to parking area.

I am one of the aged and I am also administrator of a fishing FB page.

This beach brings a large amount of fisherman from all over the state in the winter. Local economy needs that boost.

This beach has been driven on for decades with no damage, no littering, no dangers, no enviromental impact.

Who is driving this idea? CCT??? (COLVILLE TRIBE)

L. ROOSEVELT HAS very little shore access.

I still ask WHY?

Peering into a looking glass and making rules based on what might happen someday is not justification for the removal of access.

Rethink this!



Ottosen, Lon <lottosen@usbr.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Geezer Beach Access

1 message

JIMJUDI REEVES <jimjudireeves@gmail.com>

Wed, Dec 5, 2018 at 12:09 PM

To: LOTTOSEN@usbr.gov

The word is out that they are closing access for vehicles at Geezer Beach near the dam on Lake Roosevelt. This will eliminate my ability to fish there. I can't possibly walk down to the water from above. Neither can most retirees that fish there. This would be a travesty !

Jim Reeves

Sir:

I'm writing you on the issue, fishing above the dam on so called Geezer Beach. I believe it should be left the way it has been.

We are both in our late seventies and have medical issues.

This is the only place thats easy to get to and to fish off shore.

In all the many year we have never seen anyone who were stuck or did any harm like litter and doing wrong. All the people we have encountered where there to fish and enjoy the outdoors.

If there would be something like being stuck, there are always people there to help.

We know of one lady in her ninety's that goes with her son to fish, she is rather there, as for sitting at home, there she meets people and fresh air and enjoyment and that goes for us too, would you want to take that away from a lot of people who do no harm but enjoy themselves in some wholesome enjoyment. We see families with children who enjoy the outdoors, they do no harm, we had a visit and catch a few fish.

It is a place for the whole family.

Why take ~~that~~ away!

There is absolutely no harm done or
somebody getting hurt. The environment
is safe, those people that go there are
there for clean healthy family + older
people enjoyment.

Please, please think about what you
are taking away from good decent
people for some it is the only true
and clean enjoyment in life.

Thank you

Larry + Edith Neether



Ottosen, Lon <lottosen@usbr.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Geezer Beach

1 message

Kim <lgmyers5@gmail.com>

Thu, Dec 13, 2018 at 8:02 AM

To: "lottosen@usbr.gov" <lottosen@usbr.gov>

We are outraged with the thought that Geezer Beach may become a restricted or even possibly closed fishing area. This is a beach that we have fished at for years with such enjoyment and success not only fishing but meeting new friends and always enjoying the company of fellow fishermen and women. We have never seen any litter problem and when we do see something on the beach we always collect it and dispose of it. This is not a problem at Geezer. The biggest majority of the fishermen/women enjoy driving right down to the beach, sitting in a chair and not having to worry about walking over rocks and falling. We have never, in all the years coming to the beach, seen a car or truck either stuck or endangering the beach or the people fishing. This is a beach where people can come to fish that don't have access to the lake via boat. We love this beach. Don't ruin this sport for all us Geezer in our area!!! Leave our beach as is for our enjoyment !!!!!



Ottosen, Lon <lottosen@usbr.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Geezer Beach

1 message

Mark & Marlene Igo <igos@couleedam.net>

Fri, Dec 21, 2018 at 6:17 AM

To: lottosen@usbr.gov, Lynne Brougher <lbrougher@usbr.gov>

Dear Mr. Ottosen:

I am a 20 year resident of Coulee Dam and a routine visitor/fisherman at Geezer Beach. I would like to go on record requesting recreational use of that area remain “**as is**”.

Geezer Beach offers a somewhat unique recreational opportunity to older citizens in the area where they can get out of the house for a couple of hours and actually stand a chance of catching fish. Many of these folks are unable to walk any distance, especially back uphill with fishing gear and hopefully, the odd fish. By driving down to the shoreline they can “get out of the house” and enjoy a recreational opportunity, especially during the cloudy dreary days of winter and early spring.

Out of town visitors to Geezer Beach occupy hotel rooms and spend related money in the area, helping support the local economy, especially in the early spring, a shoulder season without a lot of other draws to the area.

I can probably count the number of “stuck vehicles” I have personally witnessed on the fingers of one hand. I can't recall an instance of a vehicle being abandoned there, and I don't remember any rolling into the reservoir, though I suppose that could be possible. There is a certain amount of risk associated in every activity. The risk of NOT getting out and going to Geezer Beach would likely mean sitting home watching t.v., leading to an earlier death due to a sedentary lifestyle and related depression. From my observation, statistically it is far more dangerous to drive from Coulee Dam to Safeway, than it is to spend a morning “pickup fishing” at Geezer Beach.

Following 911, we lost other accessible recreation opportunities such as being able to fish from the top of the dam, the opportunity to drive near the “walleye rocks” at the third powerhouse, and being able to drive in over North Dam to the tainter gate area on the inlet canal to Banks Lake. I used to keep a fishing pole in my pickup and quickly drive in and “wet a hook” in the canal on my way to or from the hardware store, often with some success.

The NPS area at Crescent Bay seldom offers any fishing success, and is shady and colder on winter days.

Losing access to “Geezer Beach” would be quite a Negative impact to the area. Please keep the access as is – it is “the only game in town” that offers that kind of opportunity and is especially important to our aging population around the area.

12/27/2018

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - [EXTERNAL] Geezer Beach

Please record my vote for "**No Action**" - keep the access as it currently is.

Respectfully,

Mark Igo

607 Birch Street
Coulee Dam, WA 99116

Cell 509-631-0824



Ottosen, Lon <lottosen@usbr.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Geezer Beach

1 message

Mark Jensen <jensenmark@comcast.net>
Reply-To: Mark Jensen <jensenmark@comcast.net>
To: lottosen@usbr.gov

Wed, Dec 19, 2018 at 6:34 PM

Mr. Ottosen,

Let me introduce myself, my name is Mark Jensen. I am a recent transplant to Coulee Dam, having moved from Seattle about five months ago. I love it here. I have no doubts that I made the right decision moving to the region.

I will admit that all of my knowledge regarding this matter is based on reporting from The Star and some bike rides past the area. The only concerns that they report on why this beach will be closed is because of the risk that "stuck vehicles can be a hazard or even be abandoned." I don't know if this beach has a history of this kind of incidence or not. But if it hasn't, or has only occurred on rare occasions I do not feel this is grave enough concern for measures such as limiting access, or eliminating it all together.

My biggest reason that I want the beach to remain open is because I do see it as one of many gems we have in the area that will help the local economy, enrich the community, and improve the quality of life for its citizens. Instead of limiting/eliminating access it would be far more beneficial if the area was improved. Additions with some restroom, picnic tables and so on. Perhaps this is something that can be planned on with the Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area Headquarters, who just happen to be in Coulee Dam also!

Thank you for your time.

Mark Jensen

Coulee Dam

Hon Ottosen
Bureau of Reclamation

Don't change the rules and regs. for
Geezer Beach !!!!!!!

Its the only close by place we can get
to - no boat required. When our kids &
grandkids visit, its a place we can go.
We're introducing 2 of our grandkids to
fishing - ages 13 & 16 - never fished before but
enjoyed it & want to go again.

I'm older, arthritis in both hips, it would
be Impossible for me to walk in.

My husband also has walking issues - one bad
hip and two bad knees. No walking in for
him either.

If this area was located in the Portland, Ore
or Vancouver, Wa. area, I would say your concerns
would be justified, but not here !!

Not Now !! The people we've come in
contact with in the Coulee Dam area while
fishing, shopping etc. still respect other
people and property.

Please Don't Change Geezer Beach
Rules & Reg. !!!!!!!

Sincerely
Mary L. Barcus



Ottosen, Lon <lottosen@usbr.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Driving on geezer beach

1 message

Mike G <mikegagne02@gmail.com>
To: lottosen@usbr.gov

Thu, Dec 6, 2018 at 5:40 PM

Hello there. I think it is a terrible idea to not allow driving on the beach. Locals in that area often older people in the winter time when the water is down, enjoy fishing there. There are not many times that people get stuck, and some older people can't walk that far when the lake is low or carry wood for a fire etc. The risk of a car rolling in the lake is stupid to even print. That risk is there for any boat launch anywhere. You can't fix stupid. You can fine them or make them pay the tow bill.

I grew up in coulee and have since moved. My father and grandpa used to fish there and enjoyed it. The coulee area as a whole as went to hell and the are is shrinking in size. Don't ban things like this and make it even less desirable for folks to live there. The trickle down affect happens to all local businesses etc. I'm sad to even see this as an option. Hopefully they still allow people to drive down the launch to get to the lake. If I'm not mistaken that is how the rules are now.

Anyway, thanks for listening. I know the bureau serves a wide range of things, but closing that area would just plain suck for a lot of older folks in the area.

Sent from my iPhone

December 21, 2018,

Mr. Lon Ottosen, Natural Resource Officer,
United States Bureau of Reclamation,
Grand Coulee Power Office,
P. O. Box 620,
Grand Coulee, WA 99133

Re: Geezer Beach AND:

Dear Mr. Ottosen,

First a brief statement on the Banks Lake Canal. Many of us both handicapped and not handicapped fished the canal and no problems. 9-11 and closure. Any reason it can't be re-opened daylight hours? People ice fishing caused a problem, instead of dealing with the problem with the Washington State Game Department, close the canal to fishing. Yes one can still fish the canal, if one can walk that far. I can't. Certainly not dealing with the problem.

GEEZER BAY:

Let's look at the history:

1. Once a boat launch with a float.
2. Garbage Cans.
3. Chick sales.
4. Overnight camping
5. Fishermen.
6. Swimming.
7. Other recreational—surfing—personal water craft.

Gone, Float, Garbage Cans, Chick Sales, Overnight Camping, Probably Swimmers and others.

First, I AM HANDICAPPED.

I recall when after surgery and 90 days in a cast, finally the day arrived, I could drive and walk on a very limited basis. I put a lawn chair and fishing gear in the pickup and headed to Geezer Bay. I found I couldn't drive to the river. After checking, I found that the Colville Confederated Tribe was responsible for the closure. After hearings/rulings, driving to the lake was again allowed. Again I became a fisherman, even taking my grandchildren fishing.

Failure to continue to allow driving to the water front is wrong and DISCRIMINATING TO THE HANDICAPPED, and ending my fishing as boating is out for me.

We are also the best watch dogs and FREE.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ray Gilman".

Ray Gilman
801 Yucca St.
Coulee Dam, WA 99116
Ph: 509-633-1745
E-mail: rgilman@outlook.com

CC:

Congressman Dan Newhouse
402 E. Yakima Ave.,
Suite #445
Yakima, WA 98901

Representative Cathy McMorris Rogers
10 North Post,
Suite #625,
Spokane, WA 99201



Ottosen, Lon <lottosen@usbr.gov>

[EXTERNAL] "Geezer Beach" Use

1 message

Richard <rparis451@hotmail.com>
To: "lottosen@usbr.gov" <lottosen@usbr.gov>

Wed, Dec 19, 2018 at 11:19 PM

Good Day Sir,

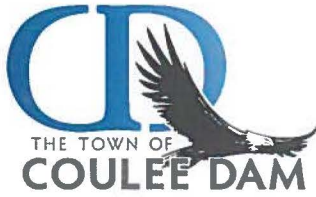
I want to go on record in favor of leaving the access and use of Geezer Beach as it is and has been for numerous years. The area south of The Third Power Plant along Marina way where there is access to the shoreline commonly referred to as "Geezer Beach" should be left open to the Public during daylight hours for fishing and shoreline access, including being able to drive down toward the water's edge.

There is no history of problems to the environment or public safety with this practice over the last several years. As it appears that new employees come to Grand Coulee Project and they perceive problems. I was employed at the project for over 20 years and am also involved with the local emergency services and can not recall any major issues with the past and current access and fishing along that area. There might have been a stuck vehicle or two over the years but it never created a Public Safety or environmental issue.

I believe any change would be just another Government closure to public owned lands and water for no supported reason, very similar to reducing the speed limit between the Grand Coulee City Limits and the northern entrance to the Industrial / Administrative area just for use of slow speed vehicles that were a misuse of government funds in the first place in my and others opinions.

Please do not change the access and use of the shoreline south of the Third Power Plant. I want to be on record as opposing any change as a citizen and taxpayer.

Respectfully,
Richard W. Paris
Grand Coulee Citizen



Town of Coulee Dam

300 Lincoln Ave.
Coulee Dam, Washington 99116-1434
(509) 633-0320 FAX (509) 633-3252

December 17, 2018

Lon Ottosen
Bureau of Reclamation
Grand Coulee Power Office
P.O. Box 620
Grand Coulee, WA 99133-0620

Re: GFP-5200
2.2.3.19

Dear Mr. Ottosen,

This letter is in response to the USBR's proposed changes regarding the recreational use of the shoreline near the Third Power Plant known as "Geezer Beach". This issue was discussed at the December 12th, 2018 council meeting of the Town of Coulee Dam, at which the entire Town Council expressed very strong feelings against the changes proposed.

For more than 40 years, we cannot recall ever hearing of an incident in where a vehicle has been stuck, driven or rolled into the reservoir or been in an accident at Geezer Beach. The access roads, which have been in existence since the 1960's, are well established and have been packed down, providing a firm surface for vehicles to travel on. It is our understanding that the USBR maintains constant 24 hour surveillance in this general location as well and would know immediately if an emergency situation arose. We do not feel that allowing vehicles to continue accessing and using this area is a safety concern.

Aside from the safety concerns that you note, we feel that restricting access to that area will cause a negative impact on the recreation, tourism and economy of our Town. Geezer Beach provides access for fishing to disabled and elderly that are unable to access the shoreline in other local parks. Many disabled and elderly do not have the means to fish from a watercraft and this location provides them the opportunity to fish from the shoreline. By restricting this shoreline access point, you would be taking away one of the few recreational activities that are available to them in our area. We also notice a large number of tourists that utilize Geezer Beach, coming from as far away as

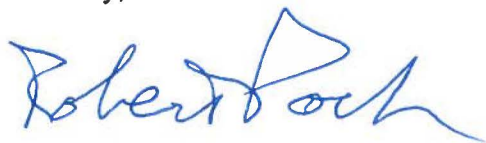
Seattle, which stay in our local motels, eat at our restaurants and patron our stores. The Town of Coulee Dam already struggles to maintain with the limited revenue sources it receives today. By reducing the amount of tourists coming to our area, we will suffer from the reduction in revenues received from hotel/motel taxes and sales tax.

The Town of Coulee Dam recently underwent an extensive Shoreline Master Plan update as required by Washington State Department of Ecology. Through that process, the citizens and Town Council expressed a desire to increase the use of our shorelines for recreational purposes. If your proposal of restricting access to Geezer Beach gets enacted, it is going against everything that our citizens have asked and hoped for.

There have already been several other shoreline accesses shut-down in this area. This just makes us question how many more are or will be planned in the near future. Will the downriver area be in jeopardy of closure as well?

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue. We ask that you please reconsider your proposal for restricting access to Geezer Beach.

Sincerely,



Robert Poch
Mayor Pro-Tem

Cc: Coleman Smith
Department of Ecology, Shorelands & Environmental Assistance Program
Colville Confederated Tribes

To: Lon Ottosen

Hi, my name is Wayne King, I live in Electric City, I moved to the Coulee in 1977 to work for the USBR.

I fished the Columbia Basin lakes for white meat Rainbow before moving here.

I started trolling Banks Lake for Sockeye and Rainbow. After eating these red meat fish I knew the Columbia Basin trout were history for me.

Then I discovered Lake Roosevelt trout and salmon in the eighties. There is no other lake with better eating trout and salmon then Lake Roosevelt.

Now at 70 years old and no boat I really live to fish from the banks of Lake Roosevelt, I started fishing from the bank at Geezer beach on the old USBR haul Road that I can drive down to the water as the lake is dropping for spring runoff.

It is really nice to be able to drive close to the water especially in colder weather and sit in warm truck and B.S. with a friend and fish for the best eating red meat fresh water fish on the planet.

Please consider keeping the USBR haul road to driving down to the water and fishing

For us old guys it's God Sent.

Now my only complaint is fisherman driving off the boat ramp at North Marina and sometimes getting stuck on the beach or tearing up the beach. Me and my friends do not do this. We either stay on the boat ramp or on a warm day walk down to the water with our chairs and enjoy the fishing.

Thank you for Listening

Wayne King

Wayne King
P.O. Box 7
Ellettsville City

Wa. 99123

RECEIVED

DEC 17 2018

Grand Coulee
Power Office

Lan Ottosen
Grand Coulee Power Office
P.O. Box 620
Grand Coulee Wa. 99133

SPOKANE WA 990

19 DEC 01 03 PM 31



99133-062020



Appendix C – Tribal and Agency Correspondence



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Pacific Northwest Region
Grand Coulee Power Office
P.O. Box 620
Grand Coulee, WA 99133-0620

IN REPLY REFER TO:

GCP-5200
2.2.3.19

NOV 29 2018

Honorable Rodney Cawston
Chairman, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
P.O. Box 150
Nespelem, WA 99155

Subject: Public Scoping for the Environmental Assessment on Altering Recreational Uses at
"Geezer Beach"

Dear Chairman:

The Bureau of Reclamation is proposing to alter recreational uses at a portion of the shoreline near the Third Power Plant, at Grand Coulee Dam, known as "Geezer Beach". Reclamation will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act for the proposed actions. The beginning of the process is to notify you of these actions and ask for you to inform us of any concerns that you may have regarding the proposal or comments on the scope of studies to be prepared for the EA.

A description of the proposal is contained in the enclosed document. I invite you to send your written comments on this proposal to Lon Ottosen, Natural Resource Specialist, Bureau of Reclamation, Grand Coulee Power Office, P.O. Box 620, Grand Coulee, WA 99133. *Comments must be received by December 31, 2018 to ensure consideration during preparation of the EA.*

If you have any questions concerning the proposal, contact Lon Ottosen at (509) 633-9324 or at lottosen@usbr.gov.

Sincerely,

Acting For

Coleman W. Smith, Jr.
Power Manager

Enclosure

Identical Letter Sent To:

Paul Townsend
Mayor, City of Grand Coulee
P.O. Box 180
Grand Coulee, WA 99133-0180

Larry Price
Mayor, Town of Coulee Dam
300 Lincoln Ave.
Coulee Dam, WA 99116

John Nordine
Mayor, City of Electric City
P.O. Box 130
Electric City, WA 99123

Jesse Tillman
Mayor, Town of Elmer City
P.O. Box 179
Elmer City, WA 99124

Congressman Dan Newhouse
3100 George Washington Way
#135
Richland, WA 99354

Senator Patty Murray
10 North Post Street, Suite 600
Spokane, WA 99201

Senator Maria Cantwell
W. 920 Riverside #697
Spokane, WA 99201

Dan Foster
Superintendent
Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area
1008 Crest Drive
Coulee Dam, WA 99116

Peggy Nevismal
Grand Coulee Dam Area Chamber of
Commerce
306 Midway Ave.
Grand Coulee, WA 99133

Scott Hunter
Editor
The Star Newspaper
P.O. Box 150
Grand Coulee, WA 99133

Reclamation Prepares EA on Proposed Changes to Recreational Use of “Geezer Beach”

The Bureau of Reclamation is seeking public comment to identify issues to be addressed in an environmental assessment on altering recreational uses of the area within the Reclamation Zone, southwest of the Third Power Plant, known as “Geezer Beach.”

Under the 1990 Lake Roosevelt Cooperative Management Agreement, Reclamation manages the portion of the shoreline known as “Geezer Beach”. Reclamation has observed cars, trucks and recreational vehicles parked in the reservoir, on federally-owned and Reclamation managed land (Reclamation Zone) during the spring draw down. Driving and parking on the drawdown can present a public safety risk to drivers and others as these vehicles can become stuck, roll into the reservoir or become abandoned.

Reclamation proposes making changes to the recreational use of “Geezer Beach”, in order to address safety concerns related to driving vehicles on the reservoir shoreline during the spring drawdown. Reclamation will analyze the potential effects of a range of alternative actions. In the scoping phase we will seek public comment, to help identify and bring focus to concerns, issues, and analyses that should be included in the draft environmental assessment.

Proposed alternatives are:

- No Action: Reclamation continues to allow vehicles to enter onto and drive on the drawdown at “Geezer Beach”
- Proposed Alternative 1: Reclamation restricts physical access to cars, trucks, all-terrain vehicles and recreational vehicles in the Reclamation Zone to designated parking areas.
- Proposed Alternative 2: Reclamation closes the area within the Reclamation Zone to fishing and recreation.

Information obtained during the scoping period, December 3 through December 31, 2018 will bring focus to concerns, issues, and analyses that should be included in the draft environmental assessment. Written comments can be sent to Lon Ottosen, Bureau of Reclamation, Grand Coulee Power Office, P.O. Box 620, Grand Coulee, WA 99133 or emailed to lottosen@usbr.gov. Comments must be received no later than December 31, 2018 in order to be considered.

Third Power Plant

Geezer Beach Area

Franklin D Roosevelt Lake

Grand Coulee Dam

WASHINGTON STATE

GEEZER BEACH LOCATION
FIGURE 1



0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5
Miles



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Pacific Northwest Region
Grand Coulee Power Office
P.O. Box 620
Grand Coulee, WA 99133-0620

IN REPLY REFER TO:

GCP-5200
2.2.3.19

NOV 29 2018

Honorable Carol Evans
Chairwoman, Spokane Tribe of Indians
P.O. Box 100
Wellpinit, WA 99040

Subject: Public Scoping for the Environmental Assessment on Altering Recreational Uses at
"Geezer Beach"


Dear Chairwoman Evans:

The Bureau of Reclamation is proposing to alter recreational uses at a portion of the shoreline near the Third Power Plant, at Grand Coulee Dam, known as "Geezer Beach". Reclamation will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act for the proposed actions. The beginning of the process is to notify you of these actions and ask for you to inform us of any concerns that you may have regarding the proposal or comments on the scope of studies to be prepared for the EA.

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Sincerely,

Acting For


Coleman W. Smith, Jr.
Power Manager

Enclosure

Identical Letter Sent To:

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Mayor, City of Grand Coulee
P.O. Box 180
Grand Coulee, WA 99133-0180

Larry Price
Mayor, Town of Coulee Dam
300 Lincoln Ave.
Coulee Dam, WA 99116

John Nordine
Mayor, City of Electric City
P.O. Box 130
Electric City, WA 99123

Jesse Tillman
Mayor, Town of Elmer City
P.O. Box 179
Elmer City, WA 99124

Congressman Dan Newhouse
3100 George Washington Way
#135
Richland, WA 99354

Senator Patty Murray
10 North Post Street, Suite 600
Spokane, WA 99201

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Under the 1990 Lake Roosevelt Cooperative Management Agreement, Reclamation manages the portion of the shoreline known as “Geezer Beach”. Reclamation has observed cars, trucks and recreational vehicles parked in the reservoir, on federally-owned and Reclamation managed land (Reclamation Zone) during the spring draw down. Driving and parking on the drawdown can present a public safety risk to drivers and others as these vehicles can become stuck, roll into the reservoir or become abandoned.

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Information obtained during the scoping period, December 3 through December 31, 2018 will bring focus to concerns, issues, and analyses that should be included in the draft environmental assessment. Written comments can be sent to Lon Ottosen, Bureau of Reclamation, Grand Coulee Power Office, P.O. Box 620, Grand Coulee, WA 99133 or emailed to lottosen@usbr.gov. Comments must be received no later than December 31, 2018 in order to be considered.

Third Power Plant

Geezer Beach Area

Franklin D Roosevelt Lake

Grand Coulee Dam

WASHINGTON STATE

GEEZER BEACH LOCATION
FIGURE 1



0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5
Miles



Ottosen, Lon <lottosen@usbr.gov>

Fwd: [EXTERNAL] RE: Voicemail re: Geezer S016

Beery, Derek <dbeery@usbr.gov>
To: Lon Ottosen <lottosen@usbr.gov>

Fri, Feb 8, 2019 at 10:44 AM

Guy's concurrence with S106 for the "Geezer Beach Management" EA.

Derek

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Guy Moura (HSY)** <Guy.Moura@colvilletribes.com>
Date: Fri, Feb 8, 2019 at 10:43 AM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Voicemail re: Geezer S016
To: Beery, Derek <dbeery@usbr.gov>
Cc: Guy Moura (HSY) <Guy.Moura@colvilletribes.com>

Dear Mr. Beery:

Please accept this electronic transmission as our official response to your email below. We concur with the Section 106 findings presented in the Geezer Beach Environmental Assessment. We appreciate your noting our indirect impact concern. Have a pleasant weekend.

Email still not working, I am processing through alternative avenues.

Thank you for consulting with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.

Guy Moura

Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.

From: Beery, Derek [mailto:dbeery@usbr.gov]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2019 10:27 AM
To: Guy Moura (HSY)
Subject: Voicemail re: Geezer S016

Good morning Guy. I hope your email is back up and running. If I don't hear back from you I will call on Monday morning. I DID NOT receive the email you described in your voicemail the other day concurring with the S106 findings on the Geezer Beach management EA.

And to respond to your No Action comment- Yes the continued driving in the drawdown is called out in the EA language as an indirect negative impact for the no action alternative. I thought about it quite a bit and if we do nothing (no action) there is technically no S106 Undertaking- so I left it out of the NHPA finding. That said- it is quite practical to discuss it as an indirect adverse impact in the EA format- so that is on record in the EA under Cultural Resources.

I hope that addresses your suggestion. I imagine the dEA should be out soon for your review.

Please let me know if you have any questions or additional concerns,

Derek

--

Derek S. Beery

Archaeologist

Grand Coulee Power Office (GCPO)

United States Bureau of Reclamation

P.O. Box 620 Code 1300

Grand Coulee, WA 99133

(509) 633-9233 desk

(509) 237-4477 cell

dbeery@usbr.gov

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--

Derek S. Beery

Archaeologist

Grand Coulee Power Office (GCPO)

United States Bureau of Reclamation

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