

# Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan: Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment



U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
Pacific Northwest Region  
Snake River Area Office



September 2001

## **Finding of No Significant Impact PN FONSI 01-04**

### **Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan**

#### **Introduction**

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), Snake River Area Office has completed a planning and public involvement process for the purpose of preparing a Resource Management Plan (RMP) to manage resources, facilities, and access on the waters and Reclamation lands surrounding Lake Cascade for the next 10 years. Reclamation proposes to implement this new RMP to update the previous RMP prepared in 1991. The update is needed to address current issues to permit the orderly and coordinated development and management of lands and protection of natural resources at Lake Cascade. The RMP identifies goals and objectives for resource management, specifies desired land and resource use patterns, and explains the policies and actions that would be implemented or allowed during the 10-year life of the plan to achieve these goals and objectives.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 requires Reclamation to explore a range of possible alternative management approaches and analyze the environmental effects of these actions. A Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluating the effects of alternative means of resource management was prepared distributed for public review in December 2000.

#### **Alternatives Analyzed in the Draft EA**

Reclamation began a public involvement process in January 1999 to identify issues at Lake Cascade that needed to be included in the RMP alternatives and addressed in the EA. This process consisted of several public meetings and formation of an Ad Hoc Work Group to identify issues, goals, and objectives. Reclamation developed three action alternatives, including the Preferred Alternative, that prescribe some changes in resource management based on issues identified during the public involvement process. Reclamation refined these alternatives with assistance from the Ad Hoc Work Group. A fourth alternative analyzed in the EA is the No Action Alternative, which is required by NEPA. Each alternative would result in different future conditions at the reservoir. The four alternatives are summarized below:

- **Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices.** Management would be conducted according to the priorities and projects proposed in the 1991 RMP.

- **Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis.** This alternative would allow for a balanced amount of expansion and development of recreation sites and facilities at Lake Cascade. Several selected natural and cultural resources protection and management efforts would be increased on Reclamation lands and other such efforts would be maintained.
- **Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis.** Limited expansion and development of recreation sites and facilities would be allowed, while increased efforts to protect and manage natural and cultural resources on Reclamation lands would occur.
- **Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis.** The focus of this alternative would be to allow for the highest possible level of expansion and development of recreation sites and facilities. At the same time, natural and cultural resource protection efforts on Reclamation lands would be maintained.

## Assessment Categories

For the purposes of analysis in the Draft EA, management actions within each alternative were grouped into the following four broad assessment categories:

- Natural resource, habitat, and cultural resource protection and enhancement
- Water quality, surface water management, and erosion control
- Improved or restricted access
- Improved or new facilities or construction including parking areas, campgrounds, trails, and marinas; and miscellaneous items such as encroachment issues

## Similarities Among Alternatives

Although the alternatives differ in management emphasis, many features are common to all four alternatives. These are management actions carried over from the 1991 RMP:

- Continue to operate and maintain Reclamation lands and facilities.
- Adhere to existing and future Federal, state, and county laws and regulations.
- Authorize special recreation events on a case-by-case basis.
- Continue leasing Reclamation lands to YMCA, SISCRA, 4-H, and City of Donnelly for recreation purposes. Consider renewal of City of Cascade lease for the Cascade Golf Course when the term expires, in accordance with Reclamation concession policy.
- Tighten enforcement of standards for erosion control structures and continue the permit system.
- Restrict vehicle use of the shore and drawdown zone.
- Continue closure of all Reclamation lands to Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) use unless specifically designated as open.

- Within recreation areas, restrict snowmobiles to roads.
- Reserve quarry resources for Reclamation's exclusive use in maintaining the dam and other project-related facilities. Close and rehabilitate quarry following completion of projects.
- Jointly develop water surface management for the Boulder Creek Arm with Valley County. Add results to RMP as effort progresses.
- Follow the principles contained in Public Law 89-72, Federal Water Projects Recreation Act of 1965, as amended by Title 28 of Public Law 102-575 for recreation development and management. Basically, if a non-Federal government entity has agreed to manage recreation on Reclamation lands, Reclamation may share development costs for up to 50 percent of the total cost.
- Continue management agreement for Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) to manage the recreation sites.
- Continue to use Recreation, Conservation/Open space (C/OS), Wildlife Management Area (WMA), and Rural Residential (RR) land use designations to define how lands will be managed.
- Add a new land use category, Operations and Maintenance (O&M) for the RMP update. Management of O&M lands will be the same under all alternatives.

## **Proposed Action**

Reclamation will implement the Preferred Alternative identified in the Draft EA with the one major change regarding opening the former state airstrip. The major elements in the Preferred Alternative are described below:

## **Summary of Features**

The Preferred Alternative would allow expansion and development of some recreation sites and facilities, while increasing several selected efforts of protecting and managing natural and cultural resources on Reclamation lands. All existing recreation areas would be upgraded to meet Federal accessibility requirements wherever possible. Additional signs would be posted to inform the public of property boundaries and pertinent rules and regulations. Orientation kiosks would be situated at several key locations to provide visitors with information pertaining to the use of the area, including educational materials, maps, and interpretive displays of the area's landscape features. In general, the existing recreation sites at Lake Cascade would be modified to better accommodate current and future demand and use. This includes creating marked swimming areas, developing trails, and adding parking, as well as establishing new day use areas where use is now occurring on an ad hoc basis.

The Preferred Alternative would promote selected management actions that focus on protecting and enhancing native fish and wildlife and their habitat (vegetation, wetlands, riparian areas, water quality), as well as pro-active measures to protect cultural resources and ensure that Tribal treaty rights are met.

## **Major Elements of Proposed RMP (by Assessment Category)**

### **Natural Resource, Habitat, and Cultural Resource Protection and Enhancement**

- Cultural resources would be managed the same way as the 1991 RMP, plus information gathered during the RMP updating process would be used. Reclamation would develop a Cultural Resource Management Plan with pro-active strategies to manage and protect cultural resource sites, including site protection and stabilization measures, and procedures for addressing curation, inadvertent discoveries, and consultation, among other areas of concern.
- Reclamation would work with state, county, and local groups to study and effectively control terrestrial and aquatic noxious and invasive weed problems on Reclamation lands emphasizing integrated pest management techniques.
- Management of the WMA's would continue based on the intent and priorities stated in the 1991 RMP, except for two new actions. Existing Habitat Improvement Plans would be updated as needed to include actions that would improve water quality and increase the emphasis on wetlands. Second, existing and new non-motorized trails developed in the WMA's would be monitored. If they are detrimental to wildlife and habitat values, the trails would be closed.
- Habitat Improvement Plans will be prepared for the Cascade, Big Sage, Cabarton, and Gold Fork C/OS areas.

### **Water Quality, Surface Water Management, and Erosion Control**

- Reclamation would increase efforts to assist adjacent landowners in obtaining permits for constructing shoreline erosion control measures, such as retaining walls. Permits for erosion control methods would be monitored.
- Enforcement of no-wake zones would increase. State law would apply within 100 feet of in-water structures, such as a dock, and people. Educational materials would be provided to the public to encourage observance of a 200-foot no-wake zone adjacent to WMA's. Buoys would be placed selectively along intensively developed and eroding shorelines and enforced, in conjunction with county ordinance and enforcement. Particular emphasis would be placed on Boulder Creek. In addition, warnings, such as handouts and notices related to hazards and shallow water and wildlife sensitivity will be issued.
- Reclamation would continue to attempt to acquire agricultural easement rights on Reclamation lands through purchase, lease, or exchange.

### **Improved or Restricted Access**

- Vehicular access (not including snowmobiles) to shoreline and drawdown areas would be phased out and then eliminated except for limited access for construction, emergency, and administrative purposes, with the exception of Mallard Bay.
- Float plane access, for takeoff and landing, would be allowed only in the main body of the reservoir. Taxiing would be allowed, except for the non-motorized areas. The FAA would be responsible for enforcement and would terminate permits if appropriate.
- Existing boat ramps at Van Wyck, Sugarloaf, and Boulder Creek, Blue Heron, Buttercup, and Poison Creek would be extended.
- Nonmotorized trails would be developed at Duck Creek and Willow Creek WMA's, Boulder Creek C/OS, Big Sage, Cabartons, Crown Point, Recreation areas, North Fork Payette Arm, and Vista Point, subject to seasonal closures to protect waterfowl nesting.
- Snowmobile parking areas would be plowed at Poison Creek and north of Huckleberry on U.S. Forest Service (USFS) land. Other parking areas would be explored for plowing with the county and USFS as needed.

### **Improved Facilities, Encroachment, and Miscellaneous**

- In RR areas, Reclamation would issue no new permits for individual private docks. Reclamation would continue to renew permits for existing (grandfathered) docks. New community docks would be permitted only if permits replace an existing individual dock.
- C/OS areas would not be converted to RR designation under the Preferred Alternative with the exception of the area south of Arrowhead Point. Reclamation determined this area would be converted as it now meets the criteria described in the 1991 RMP for RR lands. No new docks would be permitted in C/OS areas, but Reclamation would continue to permit existing grandfathered docks.
- At developed recreation areas, moorage would be limited to loading and unloading only. Also, time limits would be imposed (for example, 1 hour), and no overnight use would be allowed.
- Private landscape development could occur on Reclamation lands in RR areas through an established permit system. Private erosion control or landscaping would only be allowed where a demonstrated public purpose will be served (such as erosion control or water quality). The permit system would specify erosion, water quality, and aesthetic standards.

- Encroachment on any Reclamation land, including unauthorized and unpermitted boat ramps and private structures, would continue to be prohibited. Existing encroachments would continue to be removed in RR, C/OS, WMA, or Recreation areas; grandfathered uses (such as boat docks) would be allowed to continue by permit.
- Limited recreation improvements such as restrooms, boat-in access, day use facilities, extended boat ramps, parking, formalized camping areas, accessible facilities, regulatory signage, sewer hook-ups, and interpretive displays would be developed at Driftwood Point, Duck Creek WMA, west side campgrounds, Boulder Creek, Gold Fork WMA, Crown Point, Big Sage, and Cabartons.
- The former state airstrip near Arrowhead Point would be considered for re-opening for fly-in and boat-in uses subject to avoiding adverse effects to bald eagles and other conditions.
- County use of the Crown Point Quarry would be limited to existing stockpiles until marina breakwater is developed. After breakwater construction, the quarry would be closed and reclaimed.
- Van Wyck Park, Cascade Marina, breakwater, and associated facilities would be developed as described in the 1991 RMP except that the marina would be developed in phases for up to 400 slips.

## Consultation and Coordination

### Public Involvement

Reclamation's approach to the RMP and EA was to develop a dialogue with local stakeholder groups. The goal of the public involvement process was to make sure that all stakeholders, including the general public, had ample opportunity to express their interests, concerns, and viewpoints, and to comment on the plan as it was developed. Reclamation's public involvement process involved four key components:

- **Newsbriefs** - A newsletter was initially mailed to more than 1,300 user groups, nearby residents, and agencies. The mailing list was continuously expanded as more stakeholders were identified. Seven newsbriefs were issued throughout the RMP/EA process, with an eighth newsbrief to be sent at the completion of the RMP.
- **Public Meetings/Workshops/Hearings** - Two sets of public meetings and one set of public hearings were included in the process. Two sets of meetings were held prior to the release of the Draft EA. Public hearings were held after the release of the Draft EA to collect oral public comment. Each meeting/hearing set consisted of two meetings: one in Boise and one in Cascade.

- **Ad Hoc Work Group** - This group consists of approximately 20 representatives from interested groups and agencies. They met eight times throughout the development process to identify issues, and assist with RMP update and alternatives development.
- **RMP Study Web Site** - The newsbriefs, draft materials, and meeting announcements are continuously updated at <http://www.pn.usbr.gov/>.

## **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Consultation and Coordination**

### **Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act**

Reclamation has consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to prepare the Coordination Act Report (CAR) under authority of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA). The CAR describes fish, wildlife, and vegetation in the area, analyzes project effects and recommends actions for protection and enhancement of these resources. A summary of the CAR recommendations and Reclamation's responses are included in the Final EA. In general, the proposed activities in the Preferred Alternative are consistent with FWS recommendations.

### **Endangered Species Act**

The evaluation of endangered species contained in the Final EA serves as Reclamation's biological assessment as required under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). It evaluates impacts to listed and proposed for listing species including Ute ladies'-tresses orchids, bald eagles, Canada lynx, gray wolf and bull trout. Reclamation has determined that the Preferred Alternative may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, Ute-ladies'-tresses, bald eagle, Canada lynx, and gray wolf and would have no effect on bull trout. FWS has concurred with this determination.

## **National Historic Preservation Act Consultation**

Reclamation has collected existing cultural resource information from the Lake Cascade area to prepare the EA, and to facilitate subsequent compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and its implementing regulations (36 CFR 800). In addition the NHPA, requires agencies to consult with Native American Tribes if a proposed Federal action may affect properties to which they attach religious and cultural significance. As part of Reclamation's government-to-government consultation with the Tribes, Reclamation has contacted appropriate Indian Tribes to identify Indian Trust Assets (ITAs), Traditional Cultural Properties (TCPs), and Indian sacred sites. Coordination with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and additional coordination with the Shoshone-Paiute, Shoshone-Bannock, and Nez Perce Tribes has occurred in conjunction with public review of the Draft EA. (It is understood that specific, future undertakings in response to specific RMP prescriptions, will require specific consultations with the SHPO and the Tribes.)

## **Tribal Consultation and Coordination**



### **Consultation with Tribes**

To meet its requirement for government to government consultation with Tribes, Reclamation met with Council members and staff of the Nez Perce, Shoshone-Paiute, and Shoshone-Bannock Tribes to discuss the preparation of the RMP and to identify ITAs, TCPs, and Indian Sacred Sites. A representative from the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes participated in the Ad Hoc Work Group, which facilitated close coordination with the Government and helped assure that Tribal interests were integrated with the RMP. Several meetings were held and a substantial amount of correspondence was exchanged between Reclamation and the Tribes.

### **Indian Trust Assets**

Reclamation coordinated with the Shoshone-Bannock and Nez Perce Tribes to identify their interests, including ITAs. These are discussed in Chapter 3 of the Final EA.

### **Other Laws and Regulations**

The relationship between Federal agencies and sovereign Tribes is defined by several laws and regulations addressing the requirement of Federal agencies to notify or consult with Native American groups or otherwise consider their interests when planning and implementing Federal undertakings. Among these are the following:

- National Environmental Policy Act
- American Indian Religious Freedom Act
- Archeological Resources Protection Act
- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
- Executive Order 12875, Enhancing the Intergovernmental Partnership
- Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations
- Presidential Memorandum: Government-to-Government Relations with Native American Tribal Governments
- Executive Order 13007, Indian Sacred Sites
- Executive Order 13175 Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments

Reclamation has adhered to these laws and regulations as applicable to the development of the RMP.

### **Summary of Public Comment on the Draft EA**

The Draft EA was released for public review on December 20, 2001 and the public was afforded 60 days to review and provide comments. About halfway through the public review and comment period, Reclamation held a set of two public hearings (one in Boise and the other in Cascade) to solicit public testimony on the Draft EA. Twenty four individuals commented at the public hearings.

During the comment period, a change was made to the Preferred Alternative regarding consideration of opening the former state airstrip. This concept was not part of the Preferred Alternative as presented in the Draft EA. Therefore, Reclamation sought input on this potential change to the Preferred Alternative and extended the comment period until March 28, 2001, to provide the public an opportunity to consider this potential change and provide comments. Reclamation received over 250 comment letters and E-mails on the Draft EA.

Overall there were few comments regarding the analysis of environmental impacts in the Draft EA. Nearly all comments pertained to elements of the Preferred Alternative or other alternatives that commentors either favored or objected to. Many of the comments focused on four main subject areas:

- Re-opening the former state airstrip
- Using the Crown Point Road
- Boating the Boulder Creek Arm
- Ensuring good water quality

By far, the largest number of comments (approximately 185) came from proponents advocating that the former state airstrip adjacent to Lake Cascade be re-opened as part of the Preferred Alternative. Most were members of the Idaho Aviation Association. There were 34 comments opposing re-opening the airstrip. Reclamation has added the reopening of the former state airstrip, subject to certain conditions, as part of the Preferred Alternative in the Final EA.

There were 19 letters supporting the Preferred Alternative's designation of Crown Point as closed to motorized vehicles while five letters favored opening it to ORV's and/or a county road.

Fifteen commentors were concerned with boat wakes, safety and erosion in the Boulder Creek arm and requested that the entire arm designated as a "no wake" zone as in Alternative B. Reclamation's response is that, under the Preferred Alternative, the designation of no wake in the upper arm, clearly marking 100 foot no wake zones and increasing assistance to the County for enforcement of the no wake zone under state law would address many of these concerns, while still allowing other uses.

Comments regarding water quality include removing cattle from the shoreline, addressing all shoreline erosion, concern for fuel facilities and a lack of emphasis on water quality improvement actions. Reclamation's response is that, under the Preferred Alternative, it would continue to work with agricultural easement holders to remove cattle from the shoreline. While shoreline erosion is actually a small contributor to water quality problems, many actions in the RMP, including better enforcement of no wake zones would also address water quality issues.

## **Changes in the Final EA**

The most notable change that was made to the Draft EA was to include, in the Preferred Alternative, re-opening of the former state airstrip, if certain conditions are met. This change was brought about by

extensive public comment in support of re-opening the airstrip. As explained above, the public comment period was also extended to receive input on this change.

Another change that was added to the Preferred Alternative was to extend the length of boat ramps at several recreation sites to allow for boat launching at lower water levels.

## **Environmental Impacts**

### **Water Quality**

Under the Preferred Alternative, stricter measures for erosion control, vehicular access to the shoreline and reservoir bottom, and no wake zones would serve to improve water quality to a minor degree compared to No Action. There would also be less recreation development acreage than No Action. Environmental commitments related to best management practices would minimize adverse impacts from recreation developments. The larger concentration of boats in the proposed marina could result in more spilled fuel and more exhaust emission to the water, however these impacts would be expected to occur only occasionally. The overall effect of the Preferred Alternative would be beneficial to water quality but not significantly so.

### **Vegetation**

Implementation of Habitat Improvement Plans and wetland improvement projects would improve native vegetation in localized areas. Construction of trails and expansion of recreation sites would destroy or disturb vegetation, but overall there would be 203 fewer acres developed than under No Action. The addition of 158 acres of C/OS compared to No Action would increase protection of shoreline and upland plant communities. Overall, vegetation communities would be enhanced to a moderate degree.

### **Wildlife**

The Preferred Alternative would allow recreation development which would degrade or destroy wildlife habitat; however development would occur on 203 fewer acres than under No Action. Wildlife habitat would be protected on 39 more acres of WMA land and 158 more acres of C/OS land out of the nearly 7,000 acres of Reclamation administered lands. Implementation of Habitat Improvement Plans, the better enforcement of no wake zones would also enhance wildlife habitat and reduce disturbance by boats. The construction of the larger marina, compared to No Action could cause a slightly greater disturbance to wildlife compared to No Action, but this effect would be localized. Additional mitigation would be developed during site-specific NEPA compliance for the marina. Overall, the Preferred Alternative would continue the protection of wildlife habitat from the 1991 RMP with minor enhancement in some areas.

### **Threatened and Endangered Species**

The Preferred Alternative would have essentially the same environmental effects to listed species

as the No Action Alternative: it may effect but would not likely adversely effect Ute ladies'-tresses, bald eagle, Canada lynx, and gray wolf. There would be no effect to bull trout. Environmental commitments in the Preferred Alternative and those developed during future site-specific NEPA and ESA compliance processes would ensure that adverse effects do not occur during activities such as re-opening the former state airstrip or constructing the marina.

### **Aquatic Biology**

Activities that would improve water quality may have a slight benefit to the reservoir fishery. The construction of trails would tend to provide more access for anglers which may increase harvest and poaching to a minor degree. Overall, the Preferred alternative is not expected to have any major impact on fish.

### **Recreation**

Proposed actions under the Preferred Alternative such as expanded camping, day use, parking, interpretive, and accessible facilities would tend to benefit recreation. Compared to No Action, Recreation facility development and expansion is more moderate in many areas, with the exception of the larger marina at Cascade, which would be addressed in detail during a separate NEPA compliance process. Measures such as more stringent enforcement of no wake areas would please some recreationists while restricting others. However, the affected areas are small in the context of the entire reservoir. Prohibiting vehicle access to the shoreline would adversely affect some users but this is a very small number of those using the lake.

### **Visual Resources**

The Preferred Alternative would have less visual impact from new development than No Action, but overall the visual character of the lake would be expected to remain essentially the same.

### **Socioeconomics**

There would be an overall indirect benefit locally to socioeconomics from water quality, recreation and resource protection and improvement actions; however the benefits would not improve significantly compared to No Action.

### **Cultural Resources**

The potential impacts to cultural resources from recreation facility and trail development would be slightly less than under No Action, and preparation and implementation of a cultural resource management plan would help protect known cultural sites. No significant effects are expected.

## **Sacred Sites and Indian Trust Assets**

The potential impacts to these resources would be the same as the No Action alternative.

## **Transportation and Access**

Traffic on West Mountain Road may increase slightly from recreation improvements, but no more than under No Action. Access to the water would be enhanced for some users through accessible trail development and marina construction, while the restricting of vehicle access to the shoreline and elimination of new boat dock permits would make access less convenient to others. Overall transportation and access would continue to be adequate for most of the public.

## **Environmental Commitments**

Reclamation will implement the environmental commitments listed in the Final EA to avoid or minimize effects to resources from RMP implementation activities. These activities include Best Management Practices (BMP's) as well as mitigation measures for protection of certain resources.

## **Best Management Practices**

BMP's for the following categories will be implemented as specified in the Final EA:

- Landscape Preservation and Impact Avoidance
- Erosion and Sediment Control
- Protection of Biological Resources
- Site Restoration and Revegetation
- Pollution Prevention
- Noise Prevention
- Cultural Resource Site Protection
- Miscellaneous Practices

## **Mitigation Measures**

Mitigation measures are environmental commitments intended to compensate for impacts that cannot be avoided through implementation of BMP's.

### **Soils**

All roads, trails, and new or upgraded facilities would employ designs that would not contribute to short- or long-term soil loss during and following construction and revegetation.

### **Vegetation**

In addition to Reclamation's overall planned increase in noxious and invasive weed control efforts, all sites that are disturbed for facilities and trail construction would be actively monitored for these plants. All infestations would be immediately treated in accordance with accepted methods and agreements with IDFG and Valley County. Trails would continue to be monitored at least once annually, followed by aggressive weed control efforts. Any wetland losses would be mitigated on at least a one-to-one basis, replacing both affected area and habitat value.

### **Wildlife**

Reclamation would replace the area and habitat value of all wetland and riparian areas that would be directly impacted or degraded by implementation of this alternative.

### **Cultural Resources**

Mitigation under all alternatives would occur if cultural resources are present that are eligible for the National Register, and if they are being adversely impacted by reservoir operations or land uses or are being damaged by natural agents. If an action is planned that could adversely impact an archaeological, traditional, or historic resource, then Reclamation would investigate options to avoid the site. Cultural resource management actions for impacted sites would be planned and implemented in accordance with consultation requirements defined in 36 CFR 800, using methods consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines.

### **Transportation and Access**

Upon development of more detailed plans for planned improvements (e.g., marina), predictions of increased traffic volumes would be more clearly defined. Mitigation to reduce congestion could include measures such as the installation of left hand turn lanes, pavement widening, or noise abatement where necessary. Specific mitigation requirements would be determined during site-specific facility designs.

### **Finding**

Based on the analysis of the environmental impacts in the EA, environmental commitments to avoid and reduce impacts and consultation with potentially affected tribes, agencies, organizations and the general public, Reclamation concludes that implementing the Preferred Alternative, with changes described in the Final EA would not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment or the natural and cultural resources in the project area. Implementing the Preferred Alternative will balance the needs for recreational development with water quality and other natural resource values at Lake Cascade. Additional NEPA documentation will be prepared for site-specific RMP actions.

This **Finding of No Significant Impact** has therefore been prepared and is submitted to document environmental review and evaluation in compliance with NEPA.

**APPROVED:**

---

Area Manager  
Snake River Area Office  
Boise, Idaho

# CONTENTS

Section	Page
<b>FONSI</b> .....	iii
<b>Abbreviations and Acronyms</b> .....	xxiii
<b>1.0 Introduction and Background</b> .....	1-1
1.1 Introduction .....	1-1
1.2 Authority .....	1-1
1.3 Proposed Federal Action .....	1-1
1.4 Purpose and Need .....	1-1
1.4.1 Purpose of the Environmental Assessment .....	1-1
Historical Overview .....	1-2
1.5 Related Activities .....	1-2
1.6 Location and Background .....	1-2
1.6.1 Regional Hydrology .....	1-5
1.6.2 River and Reservoir System Operations .....	1-5
1.7 Scoping .....	1-8
1.8 Summary of Issues .....	1-8
<b>2.0 Alternatives</b> .....	2-1
2.1 Introduction .....	2-1
2.2 Alternative Development .....	2-1
2.2.1 Similarities Among Alternatives .....	2-2
2.2.2 Land Management Categories at Lake Cascade .....	2-3
Recreation .....	2-4
Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) .....	2-4
Rural Residential (RR) .....	2-6
Conservation/Open Space (C/OS) .....	2-6
Operations and Maintenance (O&M) .....	2-7
2.3 Alternatives Considered in Detail .....	2-8
2.3.1 Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices .....	2-35
Summary of Features .....	2-35
Site-Specific Actions by Assessment Category .....	2-35
2.3.2 Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis .....	2-43
Summary of Features .....	2-43
Site-Specific Actions by Assessment Category .....	2-43



2.3.3 Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural	
Resource Emphasis .....	2-56
Summary of Features .....	2-56

<b>Section</b>	<b>Page</b>
Site-Specific Actions by Assessment Category . . . . .	2-56
2.3.4 Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis . . . . .	2-64
Summary of Features . . . . .	2-64
Site-Specific Actions by Assessment Category . . . . .	2-64
2.4 Alternative Elements Eliminated from Consideration . . . . .	2-73
2.5 Summary of Impacts . . . . .	2-73
<b>3.0 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences . . . . .</b>	<b>3-1</b>
3.1 Introduction . . . . .	3-1
3.1.1 Cumulative Impacts . . . . .	3-2
WestRock Resort . . . . .	3-2
Cascade Reservoir Watershed Management Plan . . . . .	3-2
3.2 Water Quality and Contaminants . . . . .	3-3
3.2.1 Affected Environment . . . . .	3-3
3.2.2 Environmental Consequences . . . . .	3-5
Assessment Categories . . . . .	3-5
Alternatives . . . . .	3-7
3.3 Soils . . . . .	3-10
3.3.1 Affected Environment . . . . .	3-10
Shoreline Erosion . . . . .	3-11
3.3.2 Environmental Consequences . . . . .	3-12
Assessment Categories . . . . .	3-12
Alternatives . . . . .	3-16
3.4 Vegetation . . . . .	3-19
3.4.1 Affected Environment . . . . .	3-19
Cover Types . . . . .	3-19
3.4.2 Environmental Consequences . . . . .	3-24
Assessment Categories . . . . .	3-24
Alternatives . . . . .	3-27
3.5 Wildlife . . . . .	3-30
3.5.1 Affected Environment . . . . .	3-30
Birds . . . . .	3-31
Amphibians and Reptiles . . . . .	3-35
Mammals . . . . .	3-36
Rare and Sensitive Species . . . . .	3-38
3.5.2 Environmental Consequences . . . . .	3-39
Assessment Categories . . . . .	3-39
Alternatives . . . . .	3-41



<b>Section</b>	<b>Page</b>
3.6 Threatened and Endangered Species . . . . .	3-45
3.6.1 Affected Environment . . . . .	3-45
Plants . . . . .	3-45
Wildlife . . . . .	3-45
Fish . . . . .	3-47
3.6.2 Environmental Consequences . . . . .	3-48
Assessment Categories . . . . .	3-48
Alternatives . . . . .	3-48
3.7 Aquatic Biology . . . . .	3-54
3.7.1 Affected Environment . . . . .	3-54
Reservoir Fishery . . . . .	3-54
Tributary Fishery . . . . .	3-57
Fisheries Management Considerations . . . . .	3-58
3.7.2 Environmental Consequences . . . . .	3-59
Assessment Categories . . . . .	3-59
Alternatives . . . . .	3-63
3.8 Recreation . . . . .	3-66
3.8.1 Affected Environment . . . . .	3-66
Recreation Activities and Use Levels . . . . .	3-66
Recreation Facilities . . . . .	3-68
3.8.2 Environmental Consequences . . . . .	3-74
Assessment Categories . . . . .	3-75
Alternatives . . . . .	3-77
3.9 Visual Resources . . . . .	3-85
3.9.1 Affected Environment . . . . .	3-85
Summary of 1991 Visual Resource Conditions . . . . .	3-85
Changes in the Visual Environment Since 1991 . . . . .	3-86
Summary Comparison of Changes . . . . .	3-86
3.9.2 Environmental Consequences . . . . .	3-86
Assessment Categories . . . . .	3-87
Alternatives . . . . .	3-88
3.10 Land Use . . . . .	3-93
3.10.1 Affected Environment . . . . .	3-93
Lake Cascade Area General Land Use . . . . .	3-93
Existing Land Status and Management . . . . .	3-95
3.10.2 Environmental Consequences . . . . .	3-99
Assessment Categories . . . . .	3-99
Alternatives . . . . .	3-100

Section	Page
3.11 Socioeconomics . . . . .	3-103
3.11.1 Affected Environment . . . . .	3-103
Demographics . . . . .	3-103
Employment and Income . . . . .	3-104
Public Facilities, Utilities, and Services . . . . .	3-104
Electrical . . . . .	3-104
Potable Water . . . . .	3-104
Wastewater . . . . .	3-105
Solid Waste . . . . .	3-105
Fire Protection . . . . .	3-105
Law Enforcement . . . . .	3-106
3.11.2 Environmental Consequences . . . . .	3-107
Assessment Categories . . . . .	3-107
Alternatives . . . . .	3-108
3.12 Environmental Justice . . . . .	3-110
3.12.1 Affected Environment . . . . .	3-111
3.12.2 Environmental Consequences . . . . .	3-111
Mitigation Measures . . . . .	3-111
3.13 Cultural . . . . .	3-111
3.13.1 Affected Environment . . . . .	3-111
Prehistoric Resources . . . . .	3-113
Historic Resources . . . . .	3-114
Traditional Cultural Properties . . . . .	3-114
3.13.2 Environmental Consequences . . . . .	3-115
Assessment Categories . . . . .	3-115
Alternatives . . . . .	3-117
3.14 Sacred Sites . . . . .	3-120
3.14.1 Affected Environment . . . . .	3-120
3.14.2 Environmental Consequences . . . . .	3-120
Assessment Categories . . . . .	3-120
Alternatives . . . . .	3-121
3.15 Indian Trust Assets . . . . .	3-123
3.15.1 Affected Environment . . . . .	3-123
3.15.2 Environmental Consequences . . . . .	3-124
3.16 Transportation and Access . . . . .	3-124
3.16.1 Affected Environment . . . . .	3-124
Local Road System . . . . .	3-125
3.16.2 Environmental Consequences . . . . .	3-127
Assessment Categories . . . . .	3-127

Alternatives .....	3-128
--------------------	-------

Section	Page
<b>4.0 Consultation and Coordination</b>	4-1
4.1 Public Involvement	4-1
4.1.2 Summary of Public Comments	4-3
4.2 Agency Consultation and Coordination	4-7
4.2.1 Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act	4-7
4.2.2 Endangered Species Act	4-7
4.2.3 National Historic Preservation Act	4-7
4.3 Tribal Consultation and Coordination	4-8
4.3.1 Government to Government Consultation with Tribes	4-8
4.3.2 National Historic Preservation Act Tribal Consultation	4-9
4.3.3 Indian Trust Assets	4-9
4.3.4 Other Laws and Regulations	4-9
<b>5.0 Environmental Commitments</b>	5-1
5.1 Best Management Practices	5-1
5.1.1 Landscape Preservation and Impact Avoidance	5-1
5.1.2 Erosion and Sediment Control	5-2
5.1.3 Biological Resources	5-2
5.1.4 Site Restoration and Revegetation	5-3
5.1.5 Pollution Prevention	5-3
5.1.6 Noise and Air Pollution Prevention	5-4
5.1.7 Cultural Resource Site Protection	5-4
5.1.8 Miscellaneous Comments	5-5
5.2 Mitigation Measures	5-6
5.2.1 Soils	5-6
5.2.2 Vegetation	5-6
5.2.3 Wildlife	5-6
5.2.4 Cultural Resources	5-6
5.2.5 Transportation and Access	5-6
<b>6.0 Preparers</b>	6-1
<b>7.0 Distribution List</b>	7-1
7.1 Overview	7-1
7.2 Tribes	7-1
7.3 Government Officials	7-2
7.4 Agencies	7-4
7.5 Organizations and Businesses	7-6
7.6 Libraries	7-8

7.7 Individuals .....	7-9
<b>8.0 Glossary .....</b>	<b>8-1</b>
<b>9.0 Bibliography .....</b>	<b>9-1</b>
<b>Appendix A: Lake Cascade RMP Goals and Objectives</b>	
<b>Appendix B: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coordination and Consultation</b>	
<b>Appendix C: Tribal Consultation and Coordination</b>	
<b>Appendix D: Summary of Public Comments</b>	

<b>Tables</b>	<b>Page</b>
1.6-1 Project Operations Data—Lake Cascade .....	1-6
2.3-1 Cascade Resource Management Plan: Draft EA Alternatives .....	2-9
2.5-1 Impacts of Alternatives Comparison Summary .....	2-74
3.4-1 Upland Shrub Cover Type Species .....	3-22
3.4-2 Conifer Forest Cover Type Species .....	3-23
3.5-1 Water-Oriented Birds Inhabiting the Lake Cascade RMP Area .....	3-31
3.5-2 Neotropical Migrants Common in the Lake Cascade RMP Area .....	3-33
3.5-3 Other Bird Species Found at the Cascade Lake RMP Area .....	3-33
3.5-4 Amphibians and Reptiles Found in the Lake Cascade RMP Area .....	3-35
3.5-5 Small Mammal Species Present in the Lake Cascade RMP Area .....	3-36
3.5-6 Furbearers and Large Mammals Found in the Lake Cascade RMP Area .....	3-37
3.7-1 Game and Non-Game Fish Species Found in Lake Cascade .....	3-55
3.7-2 IDFG General Management Objectives for Waters in the Payette River Basin .....	3-59
3.8-1 Existing Recreation Facilities at Lake Cascade .....	3-69
3.8-2 Campgrounds at Lake Cascade .....	3-73
3.10-1 Land Use Changes by Alternative (in Acres) .....	3-100
4.1-1 Ad Hoc Work Group .....	4-2
4.1-2 Lake Cascade Draft EA-Comment Summary .....	4-4

<b>Maps</b>	<b>Page</b>
1-1 Regional Location Map .....	1-3
2-1 Alternative A— No Action .....	2-37
2-2 Preferred Alternative .....	2-45
2-3 Alternative B .....	2-59
2-4 Alternative C .....	2-67





## ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AE	Agricultural Easement
ARPA	Archeological Resources Protection Act
ATV	All-Terrain Vehicle
BEMP	Bald Eagle Management Plan
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMP	Best Management Practice
B.P.	Before present
CAR	Coordination Act Report
cfs	Cubic feet per second
C/OS	Conservation/Open Space (areas)
COE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
CRCC	Cascade Reservoir Coordinating Council
CRMP	Cultural Resources Management Plan
cy	cubic yards
DOI	Department of Interior
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
FWCA	Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
FWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
HIP	Habitat Improvement Plan
IDEQ	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

IDFG	Idaho Department of Fish and Game
IDL	Idaho Department of Lands
IDPR	Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
IDWR	Idaho Department of Water Resources
ISLB	Idaho State Land Board
ITAs	Indian Trust Assets
ITD	Idaho Transportation Department
msl	Mean sea level
NAGPRA	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
National Register	National Register of Historic Places
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOI	Notice of Intent
NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
O&M	Operations and Maintenance
ORV	Offroad Vehicle
PWC	Personal Water Craft
Reclamation	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
RMP	Resource Management Plan
RR	Rural Residential (areas)
RV	Recreational Vehicle
SH	State Highway
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SICMS	South Idaho Christian Mission Society
SISCRA	Southwest Idaho Senior Citizens Recreation Association

TCPs	Traditional Cultural Properties
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
UFAS	Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
WAG	Watershed Advisory Group
WMA	Wildlife Management Area
YMCA	Young Men's Christian Association

# 1.0 Introduction and Background

*Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan: Environmental Assessment*

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

### 1.1 Introduction

This Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluates the proposed Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan (RMP). The RMP was developed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to manage resources, facilities, and access on their lands and waters. The RMP evaluated in this EA is an update of the plan implemented in 1991. Reclamation's lands at Lake Cascade are shown on Map 1-1, *Location Map*.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 requires Reclamation to explore a range of possible alternative management approaches and the environmental effects of these actions. Four alternatives are evaluated and compared in this document, including a No Action Alternative and a Preferred Alternative. The impacts of each alternative were evaluated for the affected resource areas, including water quality and contaminants, soils, vegetation, wildlife, threatened and endangered species, aquatic biology, recreation, visual resources, land use, socioeconomic, environmental justice, cultural resources, sacred sites, Indian Trust Assets (ITAs), and transportation and access. Air quality, topography, water resources and hydrology, and geology were also evaluated, but are not included in this document because no impacts would occur to these resources.

### 1.2 Authority

Title 28 of Public Law 102-575, Section 2805 (106 Stat. 4690; Reclamation Recreation Management Act of October 30, 1992) provides Reclamation with authority to prepare resource management plans.

### 1.3 Proposed Federal Action

The proposed Federal action is implementation of an updated RMP for Lake Cascade. The intent of the Lake Cascade RMP is to serve as a blueprint for the future use and management of Reclamation lands and resources at the reservoir for the next 10 years. The RMP identifies draft goals and objectives for resource management, specifies desired land and resource use patterns, and explains the policies and actions that would be implemented or allowed during the 10-year life of the plan to achieve these draft goals and objectives.

### 1.4 Purpose and Need

#### 1.4.1 Purpose of the Environmental Assessment

The purpose of this EA is to assist Reclamation in finalizing a decision on a preferred RMP alternative and to determine whether to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). An environmental analysis is required by NEPA for any Federal action that may have a significant impact on the environment.

## **Historical Overview**

Construction of Cascade Dam, located in east central Idaho, was completed in 1948 by Reclamation for use as a Federal irrigation and hydroelectric facility. The reservoir was filled to capacity for the first time in 1957. Since that time, the reservoir has become increasingly important for recreation use, serving west central and southern Idaho as well as out-of-state visitors. It also provides valuable fish and wildlife habitat. Approximately 330,000 people visited the reservoir in 1999 for swimming, boating, camping, picnicking, and fishing. The 1991 RMP addressed these and other issues related to management of Reclamation lands at Lake Cascade.

The current RMP covers the period from 1991 through 2001. Because it will expire soon, this plan needs to be updated to address current issues to permit the orderly and coordinated development and management of lands and facilities under Reclamation jurisdiction at Lake Cascade. The plan would be used as the basis for directing activities on Reclamation lands and the water surface in a way that maximizes overall public and resource benefits and would provide guidance for managing the area over the next 10 years.

The RMP will be reviewed, reevaluated, and revised to reflect changing conditions and management objectives on an as-needed basis. Opportunities for public involvement would be provided on significant changes that affect the resource or public use. Draft goals and objectives of the RMP are provided in Appendix A.

## **1.5 Related Activities**

The following activities and plans, although not a part of the proposed RMP, may have impacts on the same resources being impacted by the proposed Lake Cascade RMP:

- Idaho Division of Environmental Quality Watershed Management Plan—A plan to address water quality issues in the North Fork Payette River drainage
- WestRock development—A proposed four-season resort located immediately west of Lake Cascade

The potential of added impacts attributable to these actions on specific resources within the RMP study area is discussed under the cumulative impact assessment sections in Chapter 3.

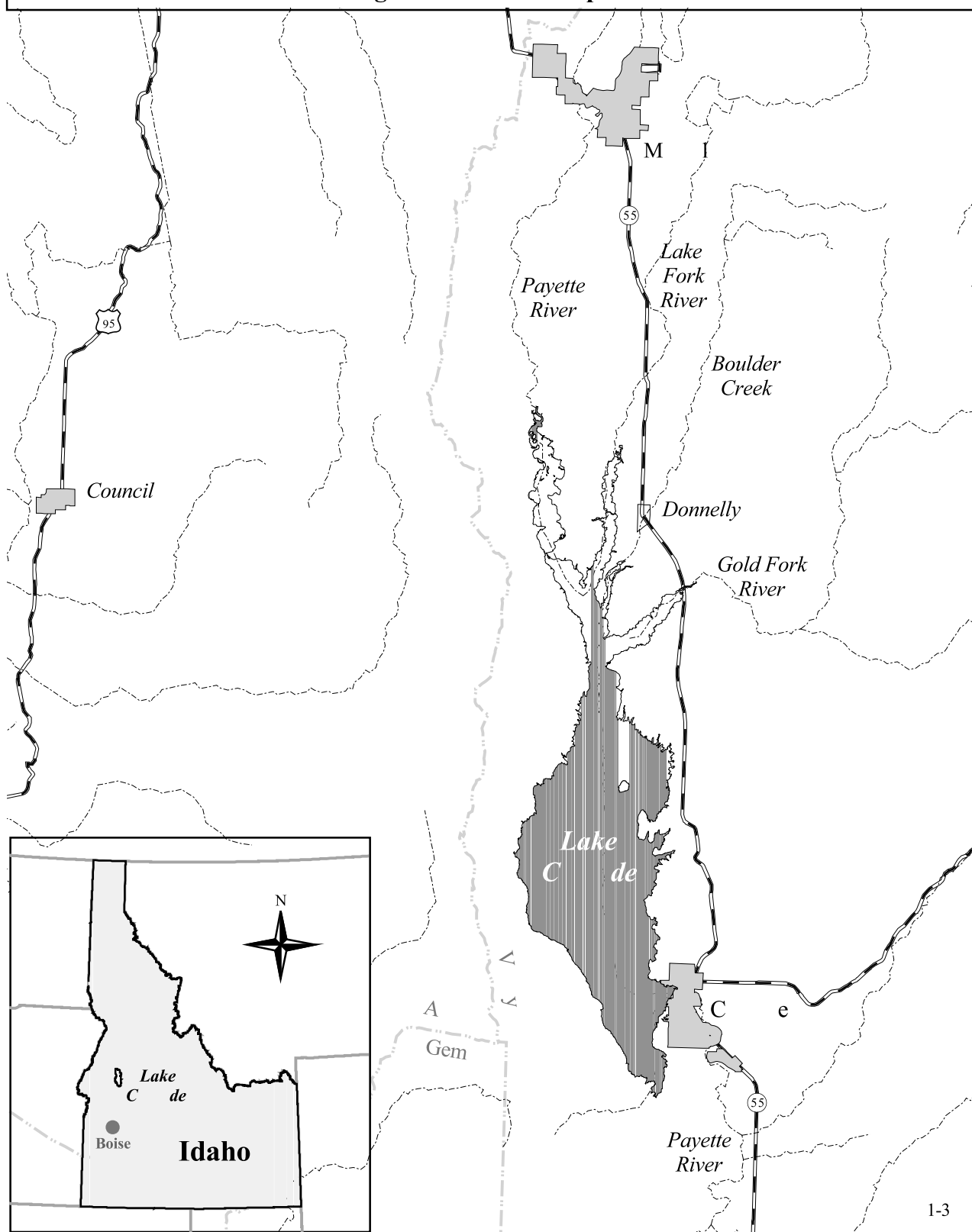
## **1.6 Location and Background**

Lake Cascade is located in the west central mountains of Idaho at the western edge of Long Valley in Valley County (Map 1-1). The reservoir is on the North Fork of the Payette River where the river flows along the base of a mountain ridge and across a broad valley floor. It is approximately 80 miles north of the Boise metropolitan area by State Highway 55 (SH-55). The City of Cascade is near the south end of the reservoir and the City of Donnelly is near the north end. Both cities lie to the east of the reservoir. Reclamation administers a narrow strip of land of irregular width around most of the reservoir. Generally, the lands west of the reservoir away from the immediate shoreline are administered

by the Boise National Forest. The remaining surrounding land is privately owned, except for isolated parcels of state and Federal lands.



**Map 1-1**  
**U.S. Bureau of Reclamation**  
**Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan:**  
**Environmental Assessment**  
**Regional Location Map**



When the reservoir is full, 86 miles of shoreline extend into the narrow arms of the North Fork of the Payette River, Gold Fork River and Boulder and Lake Fork Creeks at the north end. Including the North Fork (Payette River) arm, the reservoir is approximately 21 miles long. The southern portion of the reservoir is wide and unsheltered from wind; the widest point being 4.5 miles.

The only island is Sugarloaf, which rises 140 feet above the high water line and is approximately 100 acres in size. It is located within the main body of the reservoir.

There are 28,300 surface water acres at normal full pool, which is 4828 feet above mean sea level. The reservoir is shallow, the average depth being only 26.5 feet. The mean annual drawdown was 16 feet during the first 30 years of operating at full capacity. However, an administrative decision was made in the early 1980s to maintain the reservoir at a 300,000 acre-foot minimum pool, the mean annual drawdown has been reduced to 12 feet. This has helped to maintain higher water quality and protect the reservoir fishery from the most severe drawdowns and has maintained recreational access later into the summer season and fall. The lowest water levels are typically reached in the month of October; the highest in June or July. Adhering to this minimum pool depends on adequate water supplies to meet irrigation water delivery contracts.

### **1.6.1 Regional Hydrology**

A number of streams and creeks drain into Lake Cascade (Map 1-1). The major tributaries of Lake Fork Creek, Gold Fork River, Boulder Creek, and Willow Creek, enter from the northeast. Numerous smaller creeks descend from West Mountain.

The North Fork of the Payette and its major tributaries flow through Long Valley, north of the reservoir. The stream channels are constantly changing, as shown by the numerous oxbows. Through the reservoir, the old river channel hugs the northwest shore, passes near Sugarloaf Island, and continues closely around Crown Point to the dam.

The water level of the reservoir reaches its peak in June or July (4828 feet) and is drawn down through the summer and into fall to a mean annual low of 4816 feet, thereby exposing large areas of mudflats in the flat valley. In the Hot Springs and Duck Creek areas, these mudflats extend thousands of feet from the high water shoreline. Mudflats also appear late in the season above Tamarack Falls Bridge, Lake Fork Bridge, the confluence of Willow and Boulder creeks, and the old highway embankment across the Gold Fork Arm.

Poor drainage and high water tables are prevalent along the west shoreline, the south end of the reservoir, the shoreline east of Sugarloaf Island, and in smaller areas where the terrain is essentially flat with poor draining soils or at elevations below the high water line.

### **1.6.2 River and Reservoir System Operations**

Information on reservoir system operations is provided as background information only. The RMP does not address reservoir operations because these operations are governed by other requirements.

Lake Cascade is one of three Reclamation reservoirs in the Payette River system; the other two are Deadwood Reservoir on the Deadwood River and Black Canyon Reservoir on the main stem of the

Payette River. These reservoirs are operated as an integrated system to meet irrigation, hydropower, and flood control purposes, as well as recreation and fish and wildlife needs. No firm operating rules govern; rather, the operations reflect a continuous evaluation of these individual needs, contractual obligations, and physical and legal constraints. The objective is to supply sufficient water from storage for irrigation diversions at Black Canyon Dam plus enough flow passing the dam to meet downstream irrigation requirements. The flow passing the dam is usually great enough to allow full generating capacity at the Black Canyon power plant near Emmett and to meet irrigation needs downstream. Idaho Power Company operates a hydroelectric facility at Cascade Dam.

Reclamation follows general objectives for reservoir operation, including flood control, irrigation releases, and salmon augmentation flows (Reclamation 1997). Flood control rule curves established for Lake Cascade and Deadwood Reservoir are designed to limit flows at Horseshoe Bend, Idaho, to 12,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). The rule curves specify that 80 percent of the flood control space should be provided by Lake Cascade. Releases to provide flood storage space typically occur in late winter to meet estimated April 1 space requirements. The target date to refill Lake Cascade is typically June 20 to 25 during an average runoff year. This date is earlier during drought years and later following wet winters. Irrigation demands on Lake Cascade waters typically begin in June after natural flows in the Payette River at Horseshoe Bend drop below 2,400 cfs and continue through September. Deadwood Reservoir is typically drafted more heavily in July and August to maximize summer water levels at Lake Cascade for recreation, water quality, and aesthetics. Salmon flow augmentation releases from the Payette River system to the Snake River ranged from about 62,000 to 155,000 acre-feet between 1991 and 1997 (Reclamation 1997). In recent years, some of the water has been released in July and August with the remainder being released in December and January (Reclamation 1997).

Flows occurring below Cascade and Deadwood reservoirs are used primarily during winter for power production at the Black Canyon power plant. Informal flood control operations are used during the spring thaw and less frequently during winter rain storms. Storage for irrigation begins in the fall and peaks in the early part of summer. Irrigation releases end by November. Water is released downstream to Black Canyon Dam where it is either diverted or released downstream for irrigation to a large number of contractors or passed through generators to produce electricity (Reclamation 1991a).

Table 1.6-1 provides project operations data regarding maximum and minimum reservoir pools, allocation of the reservoir's storage capacity, and Cascade Dam. As noted above, although Reclamation has authorization to lower water levels to a 46,662 acre-foot minimum pool, an administrative decision was made in 1984, following public input on the Boise Project Power and Modification Study, to maintain a 300,000 acre-foot minimum whenever possible, not precluding future requests for water by irrigators.

**Table 1.6-1. Project Operations Data—Lake Cascade**

<b>Normal Maximum Water Surface</b>	
Elevation	4828.0 feet mean sea level (msl)
Storage	693,123 acre-feet

**Table 1.6-1. Project Operations Data—Lake Cascade**

Surface area	26,307 acres
Shoreline	86 miles (approx.)
<b>Inactive (Minimum) Pool</b>	
Elevation	4787.5
Storage	46,662 acre-feet
Surface area	5,837 acres
<b>Administrative Minimum Pool</b>	
Elevation	4809.6 feet msl
Storage	300,000 acre-feet
<b>Allocation of Capacity</b>	
Inactive space	46,662 acre-feet
Special use pool	253,338 acre-feet
Irrigation contracts	310,450 acre-feet
Uncontracted space	82,673 acre-feet
Total	693,123 acre-feet
<b>Cascade Dam</b>	
Structural height	107 feet
Hydraulic height	69 feet
Top width	35 feet
Maximum base width	630 feet
Crest length	785 feet
Crest elevation	4840 feet msl
Spillway crest elevation	4808 feet msl
Spillway capacity at maximum normal pool	12,500 feet <sup>3</sup> /second
Maximum powerplant capacity	2,300 feet <sup>3</sup> /second

*Sources: Reclamation 1997; 1998; and 1999*

The Congressionally authorized minimum pool of 50,000 acre-feet was changed to 46,662 acre-feet based on the most recent bathymetric survey published in May 1998 (Reclamation 1998). In addition, since the 1991 RMP was completed, Reclamation has provided storage releases from Cascade as part

of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) requirement for salmon flow augmentation; however, the releases have not encroached on the 300,000 acre-foot conservation pool. (pers. comm., T. Dombrowski, Senior Water Quality Analyst, Cascade, ID, April 23, 1999).

## 1.7 Scoping

Two sets of public scoping meetings were held prior to the development of the Draft EA. An initial set of scoping meetings was held February 10, 1999, in Boise, Idaho; and February 11, 1999, in Cascade, Idaho. The meetings were advertised through announcements to local media and a public information newsbrief that was sent to 1,500 people. The purpose of the initial meetings and the newsbrief were to collect public input on the issues that should be addressed in the RMP alternatives and in this EA. The second set of public meetings was held February 16, 2000, in Boise, Idaho; and February 17, 2000, in Cascade, Idaho. These meetings were also announced through local media and an expanded newsbrief mailing list. The purpose of these meetings was to gather comments on the draft alternatives and RMP Draft Goals and Objectives. In addition, an Ad Hoc Work Group, consisting of more than 20 representatives of agencies and interest groups, met five times to assist with alternatives development. The public involvement process is described fully in Chapter 4, *Consultation and Coordination*.

## 1.8 Summary of Issues

The RMP addresses all activities occurring on Reclamation lands surrounding Lake Cascade. Reclamation water operations are based on contractual and flood control requirements. Because of these operational constraints, water operations are not part of the RMP. Reclamation identified several issues that need to be addressed by the RMP. These issues were presented to the public, and the list was expanded through this process. A summary list of issues follows:

- Protect/enhance water quality, fisheries, and wildlife habitat
- How much recreation use the reservoir can accommodate as demand increases in the region
- Shoreline erosion control
- Conflicts among recreation users, especially motorized versus non-motorized
- Development of a marina at Lake Cascade
- Agricultural use, leases, and easements, as well as grazing pressure
- Protection and conservation of important or sensitive resources, such as wetlands, riparian vegetation, cultural resources, and archeological sites
- Uses for Crown Point railroad grade
- Vegetation management and weed control
- Trespassing on adjacent private lands
- General expansion of opportunities to meet recreation demands

- Encroachment of private activities or structures onto Federal lands
- Additional or expanded boat ramps, docks and associated facilities
- Improve access to reservoir/recreation sites
- Limit negative impacts of off-road vehicles; designate areas for their use
- Coordination between property owners and Reclamation's rural residential lands
- Preserve open space conservation areas
- Cooperate with or evaluate impacts of surrounding development, including WestRock
- Boating/water recreation safety regulation (personal watercraft, powerboats, water skiing)

## 2.0 Alternatives

## 2.0 ALTERNATIVES

### 2.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the alternatives being considered for implementation as the updated Lake Cascade RMP. It describes the No Action Alternative and three action alternatives in detail, and provides a summary comparison.

Recreation area improvements are described for each of the alternatives, such as trails, a visitor's center, interpretive signage, marinas and boat launching facilities, and parking and campground improvements. Reclamation does not intend to build all of these facilities independently. Rather, Reclamation would allow these developments to occur if a managing partner is involved, cost-share conditions are met, and Reclamation funds are available. For the purpose of comparing the alternatives, it is assumed that all of the facilities would be built. Other actions, such as increased noxious weed control, do not require managing partners or cost-share agreements and would be implemented as described in the alternatives.

### 2.2 Alternative Development

NEPA requires Federal agencies to evaluate a range of reasonable alternatives to a proposed Federal action. The alternatives should meet the purpose and need of the proposal. The NEPA alternative development process allows Reclamation to work with interested agencies and the public to formulate alternative management plans that respond to identified issues. The EA documents Reclamation's planning and decision process for the RMP.

Reclamation began the public involvement process in January 1999. The purpose of this process was to identify issues at Lake Cascade that needed to be included in the RMP alternatives and addressed in the EA. After the first public meeting, held in February 1999, an Ad Hoc Work Group was formed to assist in addressing issues, identifying goals and objectives, and developing alternatives. The public involvement process is fully described in Chapter 4, Consultation and Coordination. Reclamation developed the alternatives based on issues identified during the public involvement process, and refined alternatives with assistance from the Ad Hoc Work Group and in a February 2000 public meeting. The Preferred Alternative was identified during this process for evaluation in this EA. The alternatives related directly to the Goals and Objectives included in Appendix A.

This process resulted in the development of three action alternatives that prescribe a change in resource management. A fourth alternative analyzed in this EA is the No Action Alternative, which is required by NEPA. Each alternative would result in different future conditions at the reservoir. The four alternatives are summarized below:



- **Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices.** Management would be conducted according to the priorities and projects proposed in the 1991 RMP.
- **Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis.** This alternative would allow for a balanced amount of expansion and development of recreation sites and facilities at Lake Cascade. Several selected natural and cultural resources protection and management efforts would be increased on Reclamation lands and other such efforts would be maintained.
- **Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis.** Limited expansion and development of recreation sites and facilities would be allowed, while increased efforts to protect and manage natural and cultural resources on Reclamation lands would occur.
- **Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis.** The focus of this alternative would be to allow for the highest possible level of expansion and development of recreation sites and facilities. At the same time, natural and cultural resource protection efforts on Reclamation lands would be maintained.

Table 2.3-1, provided in Section 2.3, summarizes the elements of the alternatives. The table highlights the differences among the alternatives. Section 2.3, Alternatives Considered in Detail, describes each of the alternatives.

### 2.2.1 Similarities Among Alternatives

Although the alternatives differ in many ways, several features are common to all four alternatives:

- Continue to operate and maintain Reclamation lands and facilities.
- Adhere to existing and future Federal, state, and county laws and regulations.
- Authorize special recreation events on a case-by-case basis.
- Continue leasing Reclamation lands to YMCA, SISCRA, 4-H, and City of Donnelly for recreation purposes. Consider renewal of City of Cascade lease for the Cascade Golf Course when the term expires, in accordance with Reclamation concession policy.
- Tightened enforcement of standards for erosion control structures and continuing permit system.
- Restrictions on vehicle use of the shore and drawdown zone.
- All Reclamation lands are closed to ORV use unless specifically designated as open.

- Snowmobiles restricted to roads within recreation areas.
- Reservation of quarry resources for Reclamation's exclusive use in maintaining the dam and other project-related facilities.
- Closure and rehabilitation of quarry resources following completion of projects outlined herein.
- Water surface management for the Boulder Creek Arm is being developed jointly with Valley County and Reclamation. The results of that effort will be added to the RMP as it progresses.
- For recreation development and management aspects, follow the principles contained in Public Law 89-72, Federal Water Projects Recreation Act of 1965, as amended by Title 28 of Public Law 102-575. Basically, if a non-Federal government entity has agreed to manage recreation on Reclamation lands, Reclamation may share development costs for up to 50 percent of the total cost.
- IDPR continues to manage the recreation sites under an agreement with Reclamation.
- Recreation, Conservation/Openspace, Wildlife Management Area, and Rural Residential land use designations (described in Section 2.2.2) will continue to be used to define how lands will be managed.
- A new land use category, Operations and Maintenance (O&M) has been created in updating the 1991 RMP. Management of O&M lands will be the same under all alternatives.

## 2.2.2 Land Management Categories at Lake Cascade

The 1991 RMP discussed Reclamation lands at Lake Cascade in terms of four management categories. These categories have been retained, and one has been added, in the development of alternatives for an updated RMP:

- Recreation
- Wildlife Management Area (WMA)
- Rural Residential (RR)
- Conservation/Open Space (C/OS)
- Operations & Maintenance (O&M)

To ensure that wildlife values are preserved as recreation use, residential use, and commercial development increases near the reservoir, the policies and habitat improvement programs contained in the 1991 RMP will be continued by Reclamation under all alternatives of this RMP. Other management categories may change based on the priorities identified in the action alternatives. Land

management areas are shown on the maps for each alternative, which are described later in this chapter.

The acreage for each management category is provided in Chapter 3, Section 3.10, *Land Use*.

## **Recreation**

Recreation management areas include both existing and proposed recreation sites such as the Crown Point Campground, marinas and related facilities, and boat-in camping or day use facilities. An important focus of the RMP alternatives is to provide designated recreation areas to meet current and growing needs. The facilities proposed for both existing and new recreation sites reflect those needs, as well as the Draft Goals and Objectives developed following the public meetings and from the Ad Hoc Work Group (see Chapter 4), and the constraints and opportunities of the existing resources.

The primary recreation concepts of the 1991 RMP included:

1. Meeting the general public's demand for more opportunities and facilities reservoir-wide without compromising natural resource values or creating land use and recreation use conflicts.
2. An emphasis on improving and/or expanding existing public recreation sites, as well as developing a few areas.
3. Concentration of the most intensive recreation in the southeast area of the reservoir
4. Maximize diversity of recreation opportunities by providing for different types of activities and levels of intensity for different user groups.
5. Increased but better managed vehicular access to the shoreline to prevent further vegetation loss and shoreline erosion.

Details regarding proposed recreation improvements at all existing and new sites around the reservoir and policies regarding recreation development and management are shown in Table 2.2-1, presented at the end of Section 2.2. These features are also discussed in this chapter for each alternative.

## **Wildlife Management Areas (WMA)**

An important responsibility for Reclamation as a managing agency is to protect wildlife and enhance habitat. At Lake Cascade, this is a particularly crucial function because the reservoir and adjacent Reclamation lands provide habitat for many wildlife species.

Various areas of the reservoir are managed for wildlife in accordance with the 1991 RMP and the

policies and habitat improvement programs contained in it will be continued. The following six areas are designated as WMAs:

- Hot Springs Creek (including Sugarloaf Island)
- Gold Fork
- Lake Fork
- North Fork Payette
- Duck Creek
- Willow Creek

These WMAs include critical waterfowl and fur-bearer habitat, especially wetlands, mudflats, riparian corridors, and perch and nesting trees in forested areas. The WMAs are generally located away from highly developed areas, where they can be buffered from motorized boating activity.

The 1991 RMP described the overall purpose and general policies that were adopted for the WMAs. The overall purpose of the WMAs is to protect habitat for migratory birds and sensitive, threatened, or endangered wildlife. Wetlands within the WMAs are extremely productive; they support a major part of the food chain for the entire reservoir, provide spawning grounds for fish, recycle nutrients, and filter pollutants. For the public, wetlands provide an excellent opportunity for observing and enjoying wildlife.

In general, the aim of management is to restore or maintain these areas in as natural or native condition as possible. Another goal is to improve habitat quality and “housing” for wildlife wherever feasible.

Management priorities for the WMAs were specific to the existing and potential resource values of each WMA, and therefore varied somewhat from site to site. However, management on all WMAs focused on improving wildlife habitat conditions through vegetation management, fencing, and nesting structures, where appropriate.

Reclamation has developed a specific habitat improvement plan (HIP) for each of the WMAs. These are in various stages of implementation. Many activities such as fencing to control unauthorized grazing or vehicle access, construction of nesting platforms and boxes for a variety of wildlife species, signage, and planting to improve habitat conditions have been implemented. More of these activities are scheduled for the next few years.

Ten wetlands have also been developed at the WMAs to improve water quality in the reservoir and to provide wildlife habitat. Wetland development sites were selected to represent different water management strategies and site characteristics that are typical in the watershed surrounding the

reservoir. Actions undertaken include on-channel impoundments to create shallow emergent marsh, constructed ponds with emergent marsh zones, stream bank stabilization with riparian habitat restoration, and conversion of seasonal to perennial marsh habitat. Specific intended functions of the wetland and riparian projects include sediment trapping and removal, phosphorous uptake, reduced erosion, and improved wildlife habitat. Annual monitoring of a variety of chemical and physical parameters began in 1996 and continues to determine the effectiveness of these actions in improving water quality.

Specific management recommendations are presented in the Cascade Reservoir Bald Eagle Management Plan (BEMP) for Lake Cascade, which was prepared by Reclamation and the USFS in cooperation with the FWS. The most notable recommendations applicable to all WMAs are as follows:

- Unofficial vehicular use will be prohibited–implemented.
- The discharge of firearms will be prohibited from March 1 through the start of hunting season–implemented.
- Livestock grazing on agricultural easement lands will be removed–partially implemented; see below.

Reclamation has eliminated grazing on all of its lands that are not covered by agricultural easements. They have tried to remove grazing from agricultural easement lands as well by attempting the purchase of or exchange for the reserved easement. However, these efforts have been largely unsuccessful partially due to Reclamation’s limited exchange authority.

The water surface adjacent to the WMAs is limited to voluntary no wake zones in the main body of the reservoir and to non-motorized boating in the arms to minimize wildlife disturbance. However, adherence to no-wake zones within areas open to motorized boating has not met with much success.

### **Rural Residential (RR)**

Areas designated as RR occur exclusively in the northeast part of the reservoir and apply to narrow Reclamation ownership located between the high water line and adjacent, subdivided private land. Reclamation ownership along most of the shore in this area is less than 100 feet wide; much of it is less than 50 feet. Where these lands remain unprotected from wave action, erosion may cause further narrowing.

Numerous encroachments by private lot owners onto Federal land have occurred over the years on these narrow Reclamation lands. The encroachments have changed the character of the shoreline in these areas from a natural, open landscape to a highly developed, “residential” landscape.

The types of encroachment that have occurred include individual boat docks, retaining walls, landscaping, patios, decks, and even portions of cabins. Reclamation has responded to these widespread encroachments in a variety of ways. During the 1991 and current RMP planning process, it was decided that complete removal of all encroachments was not justified.

### **Conservation/Open Space (C/OS)**

Lands in this category are managed to preserve one or a combination of the following values (dependent upon the specific location):

- Retaining large areas of undeveloped landscapes, contributing to an open, natural or rural visual character for the reservoir setting.
- Maintaining undeveloped, natural landscape buffers between public recreation areas and adjacent private development (homes and residences presently exist adjacent to C/OS areas).
- Retaining open, undeveloped habitat buffers between public or private land uses and WMAs.
- Conservation of vegetation, wildlife, soil, and water quality values in general and restoration of these values by implementing programs for wetland habitat restoration, erosion control, revegetation of over-used areas, and others.

Public use of C/OS land is permitted but restricted to passive, low intensity activities such as hiking, dispersed picnicking, swimming, fishing, and nature study. No overnight uses are permitted. Vehicular access is restricted to specific, designated roadways or trails leading to staging areas or passive use areas. No uncontrolled vehicular use is permitted (with the exception of snowmobiles in the winter season). No public boat launch facilities are provided; and no new individual boat docks are permitted. Some boat docks are “grandfathered” and allowed in these areas.

Conditions at individual C/OS areas are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that a proper balance is being achieved between human use and natural values. If necessary, C/OS areas may be closed to public use for intervals of time to allow habitat recovery if damage from overuse occurs.

A habitat improvement plan has also been developed and is being phased in for the Boulder Creek C/OS, Crown Point C/OS, and Gold Fork C/OS areas. Some of the specific features of the plan include vegetation management, signage, nest platforms and boxes, fence removal, and possible trail development.

### **Operations and Maintenance (O&M)**

Lands in this category:

- Are managed for the purpose of operating and maintaining Cascade Dam and Reservoir.

- Provide the facilities needed to adequately manage all Reclamation lands.

## 2.3 Alternatives Considered in Detail

Four alternatives were selected for detailed analysis. As shown on Table 2.3-1, many different actions are considered within each alternative. These actions can be grouped into four broad assessment categories:

- Natural resource, habitat, and cultural resource protection and enhancement
- Water quality, surface water management, and erosion control
- Improved or restricted access
- Improved or new facilities or construction including parking areas, campgrounds, trails, and marinas; and miscellaneous items such as encroachment issues

The alternatives are described in this section in terms of the assessment categories. Within each assessment category, the affected portions of the Lake Cascade RMP area are described. To understand the impacts of the alternatives, see Chapter 3, *Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences*.



Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives<sup>1</sup>

Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
<b>Topics Applicable to Entire Area</b>				
RR Areas and Private Docks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently permitting private docks to shoreline lot owners in RR areas with continued effort of encouraging these owners to construct community docks to reduce proliferation of individual docks. However, this is not in compliance with Reclamation policy, therefore, under this alternative the actions identified in the Preferred Alternative would be adopted.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issue no new permits for individual private docks; continue to renew permits for existing docks.</li> <li>Permit new community docks if permits replace existing individual dock permits (i.e., no net increase in dock permits).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eliminate all private docks and replace with community docks or concession-run moorage facilities available to both shoreline and inland lot owners and the general public.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.
Erosion Control Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Erosion control measures (retaining walls) currently allowed under permit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase efforts to assist adjacent landowners in obtaining permits for constructing shoreline erosion control measures.</li> <li>Monitor permits.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
Mooring Buoys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to allow mooring buoys through established permit system which allows one mooring buoy per shoreline lot at a safe distance from any adjacent mooring buoys, boat docks, or other shoreline structures (if any).</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.

Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives<sup>1</sup>

Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
Conversion of C/OS areas to RR designation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No conversion.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Area south of Arrowhead Point and north of the state airstrip converted from C/OS to RR.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
C/OS Rule Change to Permit Docks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No new docks in C/OS areas.</li> <li>Continue to permit existing “grandfathered” docks.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allow access in C/OS areas on a permit basis to launch boats.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A.
Cultural Resource Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow policies and actions prescribed in 1991 RMP, using updated information, including developing a Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP) with proactive strategies, including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site management and protection measures.</li> <li>Nomination of sites to the national register.</li> <li>Procedures for SHPO/Tribal consultation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utilize information compiled through the RMP Update process.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives<sup>1</sup>

Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
Vehicular access to Shoreline and Drawdown Area (not including snowmobiles)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow the intent of the 1991 RMP (i.e., manage access to protect vegetation and limit erosion).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phase out and eventually prohibit for the entire area except for limited access for construction, emergency, and administrative purposes.</li> <li>Continue to allow limited vehicular access at Mallard Bay (except during nesting season) contingent on monitoring.</li> <li>Provide pedestrian access (UFAS<sup>2</sup>) to the full pool shoreline at key locations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prohibit for the entire area except for limited access for construction, emergency, and administrative purposes.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designate specific areas.</li> <li>Increase public education and enforcement efforts.</li> <li>Allow limited access for construction, emergency, and administrative purposes.</li> </ul>
Snowmobile Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Entire area open to snowmobile use.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Closed for use at developed recreation areas except roads and designated route(s).</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
Boat Launching & Associated Moorage at Developed Recreation Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moorage limited to load and unload only.</li> <li>Provided at developed recreation areas.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No overnight use, time limits imposed (e.g., 1 hour).</li> <li>Extend boat ramps at Van Wyck, Sugarloaf, Boulder Creek, Blue Heron, Buttercup, and Poison Creek, as funds are available to cost share with non-federal managing partner.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No overnight use, time limits imposed (e.g., 1 hour).</li> <li>Continue existing launching in C/OS areas.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative B.

Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives<sup>1</sup>

Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
All “No Wake” Zones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No wake zones as designated in 1991 RMP.</li> <li>State law applies within 100 feet of in-water structures (dock), and people.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Warnings (handouts/notices) related to hazards/shallow water and wildlife sensitivity.</li> <li>Educate and encourage public to observe 200-foot no wake zone adjacent to WMAs.</li> <li>Selectively place buoys along intensively developed and eroding shorelines and enforce (in conjunction with county Ordinance and enforcement).</li> <li>State law applies within 100 feet of in-water structures (dock), and people.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
Noxious and Invasive Weeds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue cooperative agreement with county for weed control.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with state, county, and local groups to study and effectively control terrestrial and aquatic noxious and invasive weed problems on Reclamation lands.</li> <li>Emphasize integrated pest management practices and techniques in all associated actions.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives<sup>1</sup>

Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
Private Landscape Development on Reclamation Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to allow landscape uses in RR areas through established Permit system.</li> </ul>	<p>Same as Alternative A, except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Private erosion control/landscape (i.e., plant materials) permits to be issued only where a demonstrated public purpose will be served (i.e., erosion control and water quality).</li> <li>Permit system to specify erosion, water quality, and aesthetic standards to be defined by CRCC, IDEQ, or other guidelines requirements, criteria.</li> <li>Conduct permit compliance monitoring.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives<sup>1</sup>

Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
Encroachment on Reclamation Land (including unauthorized/u n-permitted boat ramps and private structures)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to prohibit new and remove existing encroachments of any kind in C/OS, WMA, or recreation areas; grandfathered uses allowed to continue by permit.</li> <li>Currently prohibiting new and removal of existing private uses in RR areas through established Permit system. However, this is not in compliance with Reclamation policy, therefore, under this alternative the actions identified in the Preferred Alternative would be adopted.</li> </ul>	<p>Same as Alternative A, except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discontinue and remove all private uses in RR areas and C/OS areas (except those that demonstrate a specific public purpose, i.e., landscape improvements in RR that also serve to control erosion).</li> <li>Allow continued use of existing private boat ramps under a permit system.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
Float Plane Use on the Reservoir	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No current restrictions for landing and takeoff; subject to water surface rules.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Float planes (take-off and landing) allowed only in the main body of Lake Cascade.</li> <li>Taxiing allowed except for non-motorized area.</li> <li>FAA is responsible for enforcement.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives<sup>1</sup>

Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
Habitat Protection and Enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to manage WMAs and C/OSs as per intent and priorities stated in 1991 RMP.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update and implement habitat improvement plans to improve water quality with increased emphasis on wetlands.</li> <li>Monitor existing and any new trails developed in WMAs and close if determined to be detrimental to wildlife and habitat values.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Alternative A, except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update and implement habitat improvement plans to improve water quality with increased emphasis on wetlands.</li> </ul>
Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to pursue negotiations with agricultural easement holders that lead to termination of grazing on Reclamation lands, or at a minimum keep livestock from the shoreline.</li> <li>Increase efforts to acquire agricultural easements and eliminate grazing.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
<b>Northwest Area</b>				
<b>Driftwood Point</b>				
YMCA Camp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor lease and consider renewal when term expires.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.

Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives<sup>1</sup>

Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
Driftwood Point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Driftwood Point would be developed as per 1991 RMP (i.e., boat-in access for camping and day use).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore possibility of administrative (i.e., maintenance) access to site.</li> <li>Allow development of a boat-in campground and day use site contingent upon availability of administrative access.</li> <li>Convert RMP designation to C/OS if no admin access available.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Convert proposed recreation area to C/OS designation.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore possibility of administrative (i.e., maintenance) access to site.</li> </ul>
Remaining Area (i.e., in between areas)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue C/OS and RR designations as is.</li> <li>No new docks allowed in C/OS.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
<b>Duck Creek WMA</b>				



Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives<sup>1</sup>

Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
Osprey Point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1991 RMP continued the lease to BSU which has since been terminated. Current (temporary and experimental) use is yurts for group camping.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add 4-season restroom facilities and reestablish and connect to septic system.</li> <li>Add staging area for winter use.</li> <li>Formalize and expand group camping.</li> <li>Allow for development of a four-season group meeting area.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add 4-season restroom facilities and reestablish and connect to septic system.</li> <li>Add staging area for winter use.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative B, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Permanent group use facilities, such as dormitory or lodge, meeting and cooking facilities, and play areas (e.g., volleyball, horseshoes, etc.).</li> <li>Parking areas.</li> <li>RV and group camping.</li> </ul>
Access and Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No trails exist and none are proposed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allow for development of trail to wildlife viewing site near Osprey Point.</li> <li>Provide groomed cross-country ski trails.</li> <li>Allow for development of a trail system extending from Osprey Point (away from sensitive wildlife habitat) north to Amanita campground (USFS managed).</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative, except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allow for development of more extensive network of trails (with seasonal closure).</li> </ul>
C/OS Area (west of road)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change in C/OS designation.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.

Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives<sup>1</sup>

Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
<b>West Side</b>				
Mallard Bay Area	1991 RMP called for: tent camping, day use, parking area, restrooms. <b>Note:</b> This level of development is no longer feasible due to wetland development, therefore, actions under the Preferred Alternative would be adopted.	Designate area as C/OS, allow: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formalized parking and vehicular access to shoreline.</li> <li>Restroom facilities to accommodate shoreline fishing activities.</li> <li>Trails with seasonal closure, specifically at southern end.</li> <li>Interpretive displays and regulatory signage.</li> <li>Monitor shoreline access; close if detrimental effects.</li> </ul>	Designate as WMA and formalize parking to prohibit vehicular access to shoreline.	Designate area as Recreation and C/OS. Recreation area to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formalized parking and vehicular access to shoreline.</li> <li>Day-use facilities focused on accommodating shoreline fishing activities.</li> </ul> Recreation and C/OS areas to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trails with seasonal closure, specifically at southern end.</li> <li>Interpretive displays and regulatory signage.</li> </ul>
West Mountain Campground and Poison Creek	Area to be developed as per 1991 RMP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marina developed if Val Bois did not occur.</li> <li>130-space parking area.</li> <li>West side trail system.</li> <li>Campground retained.</li> <li>RV dump station retained.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allow for development of a marina and associated facilities, but make second in priority to Van Wyck.</li> <li>Add orientation kiosk, interpretive displays, and regulatory signage.</li> <li>Convert C/OS to recreation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retain campground and associated facilities (no marina).</li> <li>Develop day use facilities.</li> <li>Add orientation kiosk, interpretive displays, and regulatory signage.</li> <li>Develop west side trail system.</li> <li>Convert C/OS to recreation.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.

Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives<sup>1</sup>

Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
Buttercup, Huckleberry, Curlew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently built out.</li> <li>Allow development of west side trail system.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add interpretive displays and regulatory signage.</li> <li>Develop and implement stormwater treatment for Poison Creek and Buttercup boat ramps.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Alternative A, except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add interpretive displays and regulatory signage.</li> </ul>
C/OS between all Recreation- Designated Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retain and manage for C/OS values.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Convert designation from C/OS to Recreation to allow development of west side trail.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop habitat improvement plan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand existing recreation sites into adjacent C/OS areas.</li> <li>Convert designation from C/OS to Recreation to allow development of west side trail.</li> </ul>

Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives<sup>1</sup>

Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
Access and Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued plowing for snowmobile parking at Poison Creek.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cooperate with USFS to provide for snowmobile parking areas north of Huckleberry (i.e., on USFS land).</li> <li>Explore expanding plowing additional right-of-way along county road.</li> <li>Expand plowing to other westside recreation areas as additional parking is needed.</li> <li>Allow for development of a trail system extending from Osprey Point (away from sensitive wildlife habitat) north to Amanita campground (USFS managed).</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cooperate with USFS to provide for snowmobile parking areas north of Huckleberry (i.e., on USFS land).</li> <li>Explore expanding plowing additional right-of-way along county road.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.
<b>Northeast Area</b>				
<b>Boulder Creek Arm</b>				
Boulder Creek Recreation Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Day use, boat ramp/docks.</li> <li>Add signage on SH-55.</li> </ul>	Renovate existing site, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional parking.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide boat services (fuel, supplies, etc.).</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of small marina and associated facilities.</li> </ul>
SISCRA Recreation Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor lease and consider renewal when term expires.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.

Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives<sup>1</sup>

Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
Water Surface Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-motorized and no-wake boating on upper ends of arm.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish and clearly demarcate a no-wake zone of 100 feet from shoreline structures adjacent to applicable areas of the Boulder Creek Arm through the use of buoys.</li> <li>Establish a no-wake zone in both reaches of the upper end of the Boulder Creek Arm.</li> <li>Increase enforcement of all no wake boating zones.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish and enforce a no-wake boating zone within the entire Boulder Creek Arm.</li> <li>Non-motorized boating continued in upper end of Boulder Creek Arm.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased enforcement of existing state law (i.e., no-wake within 100 feet of structures) within arm.</li> <li>Buoys/markers for mouth of arm.</li> </ul>
C/OS Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-motorized ( no ORV/ATV) use currently allowed, but no formally designated trails.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, except: allow development of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-motorized (hike/bike; no ORV/ATV) trail.</li> <li>Cross-country ski trail.</li> <li>Snowmobile trail.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative, except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Motorized vehicular trail use allowed on designated trail(s).</li> </ul>
<b>Gold Fork Arm</b>				
C/OS on north side of Arm West of old Railroad Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No formalized/designated trails.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop Habitat Improvement Plan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop limited (no ORV/ATV use) interpretive trail with interpretive and regulatory signage.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative B.
Water Surface Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-motorized boating above Old State Highway.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.

Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives<sup>1</sup>

Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
Gold Fork WMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-motorized use occurs in Gold Fork River with no facilities at take out adjacent to SH-55 on north side of Arm.</li> <li>Use of Old State Hwy as an informal boat launch.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop pull off, interpretive displays, parking and non-motorized boating access area at NE end of WMA adjacent to SH-55 on north side of arm.</li> <li>Construct wetlands, as needed.</li> <li>Continue to allow informal use of Old State Hwy as an informal boat launch, but monitor for safety and discontinue use if necessary.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop limited day use area and take out point at NE end of WMA adjacent to SH-55 on north side of arm.</li> </ul>	<p>Same as Alternative B, except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop larger day use area and take out points at NE end of WMA and adjacent to SH-55 on north side of Arm.</li> </ul>
<b>Arrowhead Point and Vicinity</b>				
State Airstrip	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Re-open under agreement with State aeronautics for fly-in day or overnight uses (this requires concurrence of agricultural easement holder).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider re-opening the airstrip for fly-in, boat-in, and hike-in uses subject to conditions and bald eagle monitoring and a separate NEPA process (this requires concurrence of agricultural easement holder).</li> <li>Change RMP land use designation to WMA while airstrip is considered for re-opening.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not re-open airstrip for fly-in uses.</li> <li>Designate area as Recreation for boat-in and hike-in access for camping and day use.</li> </ul>

Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives<sup>1</sup>

Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
<b>Southeast Area</b>				
<b>Crown Point &amp; Vicinity</b>				
Natural Resource Enhancements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wetlands developed as per 1991 RMP. New wetland projects would be considered under the water quality provisions of the 1991 RMP.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore additional wetland projects, including rebuilding Grandma's Creek impoundment.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Alternative A.
Access and Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No ORV/ATV allowed.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At first opportunity allow for development of a trail from Crown Point south to the Willow Creek WMA.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ORV/ATV access via paved Crown Point Road.</li> <li>ORV/ATV use of designated road.</li> <li>Access trail allowed from adjacent residential area to site road system and associated shoreline access.</li> </ul>
Ambush Rock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not addressed in 1991 RMP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide access and develop interpretive display.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives<sup>1</sup>

Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
Crown Point Extension	<p>Area to be developed as per 1991 RMP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vehicular access on railroad grade (no through County road).</li> <li>• Parking areas.</li> <li>• RV, group, and tent campgrounds.</li> <li>• Boat launch and docks.</li> <li>• Trail system.</li> </ul>	<p>In three limited pocket areas adjacent to the shoreline, create recreation facilities (not for ORV/ATV use), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited hike- and boat-in camping.</li> <li>• Limited day-use site/facilities.</li> <li>• Interpretive trails (hike/bike only) to provide shoreline access and linkage to Vista Point to the north and Cascade to the south.</li> <li>• At minimum, access to the southern-most pocket area to be UFAS<sup>2</sup> accessible.</li> <li>• Vault toilets.</li> <li>• Administrative access to maintain facilities.</li> <li>• Interpretive displays and regulatory signage.</li> <li>• Change remaining area not designated as proposed Recreation to C/OS.</li> <li>• Retain large areas of open space.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	<p>Same as Alternative A, except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tent replaced by RV camping.</li> <li>• County road.</li> <li>• Interpretive trails (hike/bike only) to provide shoreline access and linkage to Vista Point to the north and Cascade to the south.</li> <li>• Interpretive displays and regulatory signage.</li> </ul>



Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives<sup>1</sup>

Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
Crown Point Campground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current uses include camping (RV &amp; tent).</li> <li>Develop proposed expansion of existing campground to the north.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Renovate existing campground to accommodate current standards.</li> <li>Provide shower facilities.</li> <li>Develop interpretive trails (hike/bike only) to provide shoreline access and linkage to Vista Point to the north and Cascade to the south.</li> <li>Provide interpretive displays and regulatory signage.</li> <li>Expand area to accommodate tent-only camping.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No expansion of existing campground to the north.</li> <li>Renovate existing campground to accommodate current standards.</li> </ul>	<p>Same as Alternative A, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Renovate existing campground to accommodate current standards.</li> <li>Provide shower facilities.</li> <li>Develop interpretive trails (hike/bike only) to provide shoreline access and linkage to Vista Point to the north and Cascade to the south.</li> <li>Provide interpretive displays and regulatory signage.</li> </ul>

Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives<sup>1</sup>

Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
Quarry Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued implementation of current extraction and reclamation plan.</li> <li>Overlook or access developed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retain quarry as rock source for Reclamation purposes with allowance for County uses in conjunction with construction of Reclamation facilities; County materials to be chipped and stored off of Reclamation lands.</li> <li>Develop overlook adjacent to quarry (where county-stored gravel is located), including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-motorized (no ORV/ATV) trail access.</li> <li>Orientation kiosk.</li> <li>Interpretive panels.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Provide parking/staging area for Crown Point Extension and quarry.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative, except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allow vehicular access to overlook area.</li> </ul>
<b>Cascade</b>				
Habitat Protection and Enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No Habitat Improvement Plan existing or proposed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop Habitat Improvement Plan for Cascade C/OS.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives<sup>1</sup>

Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
Van Wyck Park and Extension	Area to be developed as per the 1991 RMP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 250-slip marina, breakwater and associated services and parking.</li> <li>• 4-lane boat launch.</li> <li>• Fish cleaning station.</li> <li>• Visitor center.</li> <li>• Expanded day-use.</li> <li>• Expanded camping.</li> <li>• RV camping and dump station.</li> <li>• Paved shoreline trail.</li> <li>• Water, sewer, power, and RV hook-ups.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phased development up to 400 slips in the marina and larger associated parking area.</li> <li>• Shower facilities.</li> <li>• Interpretive program area.</li> <li>• Orientation kiosk, interpretive displays, and regulatory signage.</li> <li>• Accommodate “at your own risk” swimming area.</li> <li>• Water and electricity provided to all facilities.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No additional camping developed.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, plus additional: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 150 to 250-slips in the marina and larger associated parking area.</li> <li>• Shower facilities.</li> <li>• Amphitheater.</li> <li>• Orientation kiosk, interpretive displays, and regulatory signage.</li> </ul>
Golf Course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor lease and consider renewal, in accordance with concession policy, when term expires.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BMPs to address water quality.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
<b>Big Sage and Cabartons</b>				
Habitat Protection and Enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Habitat Improvement Plan proposed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop Habitat Improvement Plan.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Alternative A.

Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives<sup>1</sup>

Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>East side trail system proposed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At first opportunity, allow for the development of non-motorized (no ORV/ATV) trail providing north/south linkages to Crown Point and Willow Creek WMA.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
Big Sage	<p>Area to be developed as per 1991 RMP, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>35 RV camp sites with hookups.</li> <li>Restrooms connected to City sewer system (2 new restrooms).</li> <li>One group RV campground.</li> <li>RV dump station.</li> <li>Fish cleaning station.</li> </ul>	<p>Same as Alternative A, except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of fish cleaning station and connection of restrooms to sewer contingent on City sewer development.</li> <li>No dump station.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Convert area to C/OS.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Similar to Alternative A, but smaller (i.e., approximately 20-25 camp sites) and no RV dump station or fish cleaning station.</li> </ul>
Blue Heron	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual and group campground (RV and tent).</li> <li>Day use sites/facilities.</li> <li>Boat launch and docks.</li> </ul>	<p>Same as Alternative A, except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formalize individual camping only (RV and tent).</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Alternative A, but change all camping to group camping only (RV and tent).
Snow Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group camping (RV and tent).</li> <li>Day use sites/facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide group camping only (RV and tent) by reservation.</li> <li>Continue day use when space is available.</li> <li>Implement shoreline erosion protection measures.</li> </ul>	<p>Same as Alternative A, except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formalize camping and allow group camping only (RV and tent).</li> <li>Implement shoreline erosion protection measures.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative B.

Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives<sup>1</sup>

Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
Cabarton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primarily day use with some overflow camping.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discontinue camping and develop area for day use with associated facilities.</li> <li>At first opportunity, allow for the development of non-motorized (no ORV/ATV) trail providing north and south linkages.</li> <li>Implement shoreline erosion protection measures.</li> <li>Provide interpretive displays and regulatory signage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discontinue current recreation use and change to C/OS designation.</li> <li>Allow for the development of non-motorized (no ORV/ATV) trail providing north and south linkages.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discontinue camping and develop area for day use with associated facilities.</li> <li>Allow for the development of non-motorized (no ORV/ATV) trail providing north and south linkages.</li> <li>Implement shoreline erosion protection measures.</li> </ul>
<b>Willow Creek WMA</b>				
Access and Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No trails exist and none are proposed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designate interpretive trail (no ORV/ATV use).</li> <li>Expanded existing parking and viewing area.</li> <li>Provide interpretive displays and regulatory signage.</li> <li>At first opportunity, allow for the development of a non-motorized trail providing north linkages to Crown Point (no ORV/ATV use).</li> <li>Enforce seasonal trail closures during nesting season.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designate interpretive trail (no ORV/ATV use).</li> <li>Expanded existing parking and viewing area.</li> <li>Provide interpretive displays and regulatory signage.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative B.

Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives<sup>1</sup>

Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
<b>Remaining Areas</b>				
<b>North Fork Payette Arm</b>				
Signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing USFS kiosk.</li> <li>No Reclamation action proposed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interpretive panels/displays at SE side of Tamarack Falls Bridge.</li> <li>Increase regulatory signage.</li> <li>Coordinated with USFS.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
Access and Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No formal trail system exists and none is proposed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate with agricultural easement owners to allow for development of non-motorized (no ORV/ATV) trails along northwest area.</li> <li>Formalize existing and expand non-motorized (no ORV/ATV) trail system within arm.</li> <li>Work with USFS to designate specific non-motorized boat put-in/take-out sites northwest of Tamarack Falls Bridge.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop non-motorized (no ORV/ATV) trails and/or wildlife viewing sites along northwest area if acquisition of agricultural easements occurs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate with agricultural easement owners to allow for development of non-vehicular trails along northwest area.</li> <li>Formalize existing and expand non-motorized (no ORV/ATV) trail system within arm.</li> </ul>
Winter Access and Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Area open to snowmobiles.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cooperate with USFS and County to provide for snowmobile parking; to be primarily winter road-widening along West Mountain Road.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cooperate with USFS to provide for snowmobile parking areas in southern portion of area.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative B.

Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives<sup>1</sup>

Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
Water Surface Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-motorized boating.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
<b>North Lake Fork Arm</b>				
Access and Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No formal trails exist and none are proposed.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited trail development to an interpretive viewing site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interpretive trail (no ORV/ATV use), pull-off parking, and interpretive/info signage on west side of arm.</li> </ul>
Water Surface Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-motorized boating.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
<b>South Lake Fork Arm</b>				
4-H Camp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor lease and consider renewal when term expires.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
C/OS Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue C/OS designation.</li> <li>No new docks allowed in C/OS.</li> <li>Continue existing community dock.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.

Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives<sup>1</sup>

Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
Donnelly City Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor the lease to the City of Donnelly and consider for renewal.</li> </ul>	<p>Same as Alternative A, except: increase efforts to assist City in making site/facility improvements and signage enhancements, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interpretive panels/displays and orientation kiosk.</li> <li>Additional regulatory signage.</li> <li>Non-vehicular trails with interpretive information.</li> <li>Accessible facilities per UFAS<sup>2</sup>.</li> <li>If feasible, allow public moorage facilities and boat services (i.e., fuel, boat pump out).</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
<b>Hot Springs Creek WMA</b>				
Access and Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No formal trail system exists and none are proposed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enlarge parking, improve safety, and provide orientation kiosk and interpretive/info signage next to SH-55 adjacent to Hembry Creek wetlands.</li> <li>Coordinate roadside work with the County Roads Department.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop interpretive trail (no ORV/ATV use) with seasonal closures.</li> <li>Enlarge parking next to SH-55 with orientation kiosk and interpretive/info signage.</li> <li>Evaluate possibility of providing parking area and trailhead adjacent to Hembry Creek wetlands.</li> </ul>



Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives<sup>1</sup>

Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
<b>Sugarloaf Island</b>				
Entire Island	Continue 1991 RMP WMA designation, with efforts focused on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhancing habitat for nesting/migrating birds.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Place “pack-in/pack-out” signage to reduce litter.</li> <li>Provide a restroom for boat-in users in the vicinity.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Alternative A, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of boat-in day use facilities, sanitation facilities, and interpretive/regulatory signage.</li> </ul>
<b>Sugarloaf Peninsula and Vicinity</b>				
Sugarloaf Recreation Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue use with current facilities.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Orientation kiosk, and additional interpretive and regulatory signage.</li> <li>Explore/allow for development of breakwater, if feasible.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop additional facilities, including: swimming beach, orientation kiosk, and additional interpretive and regulatory signage.</li> </ul>
Sugarloaf Peninsula	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pelican Bay, related access, and facilities to be developed as per 1991 RMP (i.e., vehicular access to day use area, trail to wildlife viewing platform with interpretive signage).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designate entire area as C/OS.</li> <li>Provide interpretive trail (no ORV/ATV use) to Pelican Bay area and west side of Peninsula with pull-off parking next to old State Hwy. with orientation kiosk and interpretive/info signage.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Alternative A.

Table 2.3-1. Cascade Resource Management Plan: EA Alternatives<sup>1</sup>

Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis	Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
<b>Vista Point &amp; Vicinity</b>				
Access and Trails	No formally designated trails currently exist or are proposed.	Explore development of non- motorized (no ORV/ATV) trail system, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interpretive signage.</li> <li>• Shoreline access points.</li> <li>• Linkage to Sugarloaf Peninsula north and Crown Point south.</li> <li>• Coordinate with agricultural easement owners for trail access.</li> </ul>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative, except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow ORV/ATV use on trails.</li> </ul>

**NOTES:**

<sup>1</sup> Several recreation area improvements are described for each of the alternatives, such as trails, visitor's centers, interpretive signage, boat launching facilities, and parking improvements. Reclamation does not intend to build all of these facilities independently. Rather, Reclamation would allow these developments to occur if a managing partner is involved, cost-share conditions are met, and Reclamation funds are available. For the purpose of comparing the alternatives, it is assumed that all of the facilities would be built. Other actions, such as increased noxious weed control, do not require managing partners or cost-share agreements and would be implemented as described in the alternatives. Recreation developments would be conducted in cooperation with IDPR. All recreation site leases currently in effect are monitored for compliance with RMP goals and objectives.

<sup>2</sup>UFAS = Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards. These accessibility standards apply to all Federal and Federally funded programs, buildings, and facilities and will be followed whenever possible. The Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines will be used, however, when they are the more stringent of the two regulations.

## 2.3.1 Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices

### Summary of Features

Under the No Action Alternative, management would be according to the priorities and projects proposed in the 1991 RMP. Reclamation's management decisions and priorities would continue to be directed by the guidelines set forth in the 1991 RMP. Many of the actions in the 1991 RMP have been implemented, while in some cases they have not because of Reclamation policy changes, lack of a cost-share partner, or other factors that have changed management priorities. Issues and concerns not previously addressed or included in the 1991 RMP would be dealt with on an ad hoc basis. In some cases, of all the alternatives, Alternative A would have the highest level of proposed recreation development of the four alternatives. This includes the RV campground at Big Sage that was proposed in the 1991 RMP, but not constructed. The Crown Point extension would include vehicular access on the railroad grade with development of RV, group, and tent campgrounds. A second marina at West Mountain was also proposed in the 1991 RMP if the Val Bois project did not occur. Facilities and land status under the No Action Alternative are shown on Map 2-1.

### Site-Specific Actions by Assessment Category

#### Natural Resource, Habitat, and Cultural Resource Protection and Enhancement

##### Topics Applicable to Entire Area

Under the No Action Alternative, cultural resources would be managed under the 1991 RMP. Using updated information, Reclamation would develop a Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP) with proactive strategies including site management and protection measures, nomination of sites to the National Register, and procedures for State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and Tribal consultation.

No new habitat protection and enhancement measures would be applied to the WMAs in addition to the current measures. Management of the WMAs would continue based on the intent and priorities stated in the 1991 RMP and the HIPs developed since then.

New wetland projects may be developed under the No Action Alternative to meet RMP water quality goals, but none are specifically identified. Noxious weeds would continue to be controlled under a cooperative agreement with the county.

### **Southeast Area**

#### **Crown Point and Vicinity**

Wetlands would be developed according to the 1991 RMP.

#### **Cascade**

No Habitat Improvement Plan exists and none is proposed.

#### **Big Sage or Cabartons**

(Includes the following recreation areas: Big Sage, Blue Heron, Snow Bank, and Cabarton.) Same as Cascade.

### **Water Quality, Surface Water Management, and Erosion Control**

#### **Topics Applicable to Entire Area**

Under the No Action Alternative, erosion control measures, such as retaining walls, would continue to be allowed under permit throughout Reclamation's lands at Lake Cascade.

Water surface management would continue to use the same no wake zones designated in the 1991 RMP for WMAs. State law would apply within 100 feet of in-water structures, such as a dock, and people. Enforcement of no-wake zones would require increased county efforts.

Water quality would be addressed through two actions. First, Reclamation would continue to negotiate with agricultural easement owners to terminate grazing on Reclamation lands, or, at a minimum, to keep livestock away from the shoreline. Second, Reclamation would increase efforts to acquire agricultural easements and eliminate grazing.

### **Northeast Area**

#### **Boulder Creek Arm**

At the Boulder Creek Arm, water surface management would consist of non-motorized and no-wake boating on the upper ends of this arm.

#### **Gold Fork Arm**

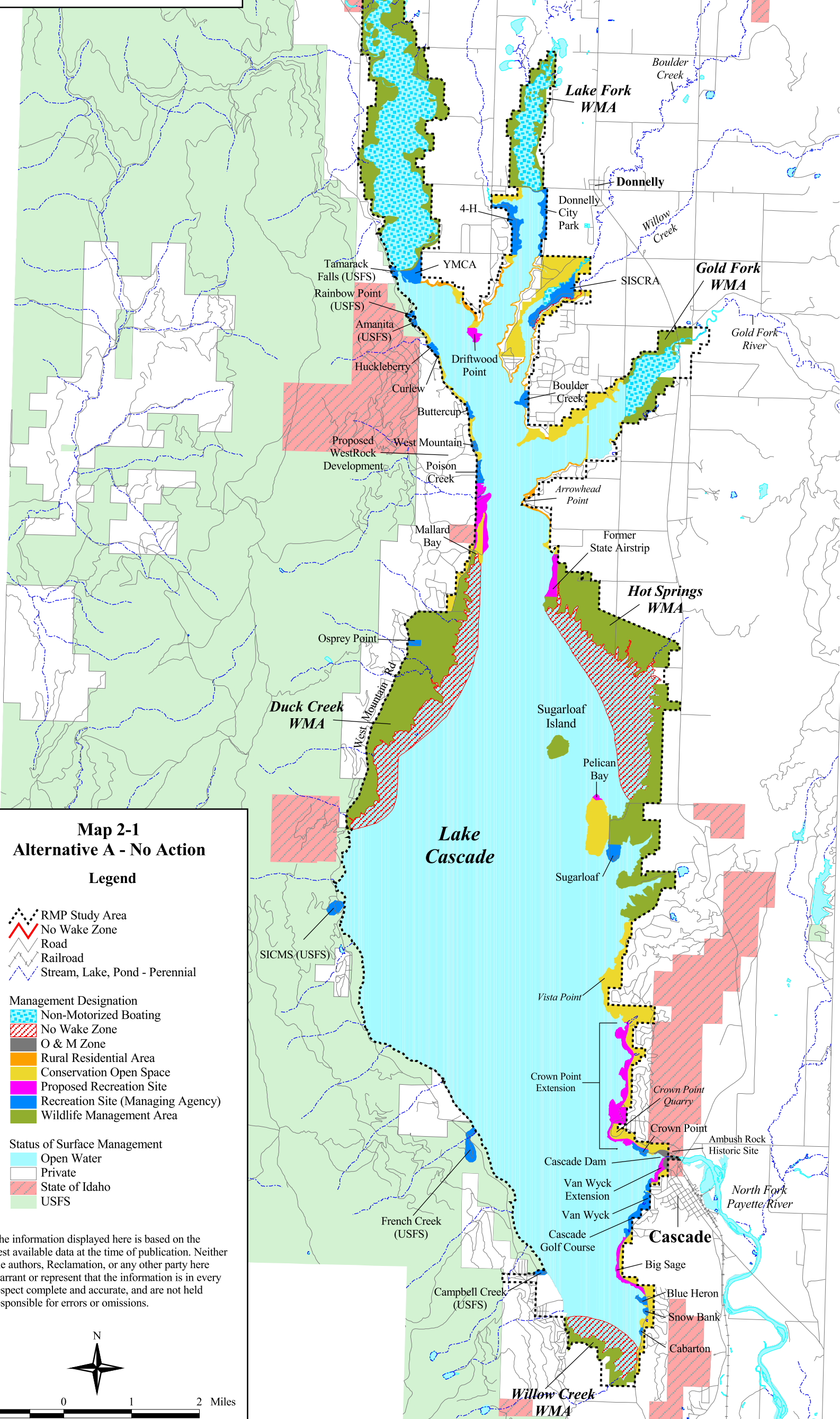
Only non-motorized boating would be allowed above the Old State Highway of the Gold Fork Arm.

### **Remaining Areas**

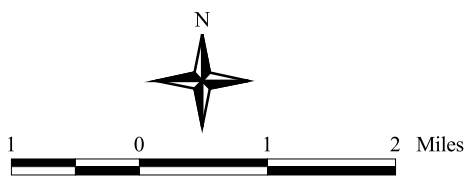
#### **North Fork Payette Arm**

Under the No Action Alternative, only non-motorized boating would be permitted.

# Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan Environmental Assessment



The information displayed here is based on the best available data at the time of publication. Neither the authors, Reclamation, or any other party here warrant or represent that the information is in every respect complete and accurate, and are not held responsible for errors or omissions.



### **North Lake Fork Arm**

Same as North Fork Payette Arm.

## **Improved or Restricted Access**

### **Topics Applicable to Entire Area**

Under the No Action Alternative, current access improvements or restrictions would primarily follow the 1991 RMP. Vehicular access to shoreline and drawdown areas (not including snowmobiles) would be managed to protect vegetation and limit erosion, as intended in the 1991 RMP. The entire Lake Cascade area would be open to snowmobile use.

Float plane access was not addressed in the 1991 RMP. Float planes are currently unrestricted, permitted in all areas of the reservoir, and subject to Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) rules and regulation.

### **Northwest Area**

#### **Duck Creek WMA**

No trails exist and none are proposed.

#### **West Side**

Under the No Action Alternative, the Poison Creek Recreation Area parking lot would continue to be plowed during the winter for snowmobile and ski access.

### **Northeast Area**

#### **Boulder Creek Arm**

At the C/OS area along both sides of the Boulder Creek Arm, no ORV/ATV use would be allowed and no formal trails would be designated.

#### **Gold Fork Arm**

The C/OS Area on the north side of the Gold Fork Arm, west of the old railroad grade, would have no formalized or designated trails.

### **Southeast Area**

#### **Crown Point and Vicinity**

Under the No Action Alternative, no ORV/ATV use would be allowed at Crown Point and the vicinity, based on the 1991 RMP.

#### **Big Sage and Cabartons**

An east side trail system was proposed in the 1991 RMP.

**Willow Creek WMA**

No trails exist and none were proposed in the 1991 RMP.

**Remaining Areas**

**North Fork Payette Arm**

No formal trail system exists and none was proposed in the 1991 RMP. The entire area is open to snowmobiles.

**North Lake Fork Arm**

No formal trails exist and none were proposed in the 1991 RMP.

**Hot Springs Creek WMA**

Same as North Lake Fork Arm.

**Vista Point and Vicinity**

Same as North Lake Fork Arm.

**Improved Facilities, Encroachment, and Miscellaneous**

**Topics Applicable to Entire Area**

In the RR areas, Reclamation currently permits private docks to shoreline lot owners with a continued effort of encouraging these owners to construct community docks to reduce the proliferation of individual docks. However, this is not in compliance with Reclamation policy. Therefore, under this alternative, the actions identified in the Preferred Alternative would be adopted. Mooring buoys would continue to be allowed through an established permit system that allows one mooring buoy per shoreline lot at a safe distance from any adjacent mooring buoys (if any). C/OS areas would not be converted to RR designation. No new docks would be permitted in C/OS areas, but Reclamation would continue to permit existing grandfathered docks. At developed recreation areas, moorage would be limited to load and unload only. Private landscape development could occur on Reclamation lands in RR areas through an established permit system.

Encroachment on any Reclamation land, including unauthorized and unpermitted boat ramps and private structures, would continue to be prohibited. Existing encroachments of any kind would continue to be removed in C/OS, WMA, or recreation areas; grandfathered uses would be allowed to continue by permit.

**Northwest Area**

### **Driftwood Point**

Reclamation would monitor the YMCA camp lease and consider renewal when the lease expires. Driftwood Point would be developed according to the 1991 RMP; that is, boat-in access for camping and day use. Between the YMCA Camp and Driftwood Point, Reclamation would continue C/OS and RR designations as is, with no new docks allowed in C/OS.

### **Duck Creek WMA**

In the Duck Creek WMA, at Osprey Point, the 1991 RMP continued the lease to BSU, which has since been terminated. The current (temporary and experimental) use is yurts for group camping. This use would continue.

### **West Side**

On the West Side in the Mallard Bay Area, the 1991 RMP would allow development of tent camping, day use, parking area, and restrooms. This level of development is no longer feasible because of wetland development; therefore, actions under the Preferred Alternative would be adopted. At the West Mountain Campground and Poison Creek, the area would be developed according the 1991 RMP, with a marina, a 130-space parking area, and a west side trail system. The campground and RV dump station would be retained. Buttercup, Huckleberry, and Curlew are currently built out, but Reclamation would allow the development of the west side trail system. The C/OS between all recreation-designated sites would be retained and managed for C/OS values.

## **Northeast Area**

### **Boulder Creek Arm**

Under the No Action Alternative, the Boulder Creek Recreation Site would continue as constructed.

### **Gold Fork Arm**

At the Gold Fork WMA, non-motorized use would continue in Gold Fork River with no facilities at the take out adjacent to SH-55 on north side of the Gold Fork Arm. Use of Old State Highway as an informal boat launch would continue.

### **Arrowhead Point and Vicinity**

Under the 1991 RMP, the former state airstrip near Arrowhead Point was to have been re-opened under an agreement with state aeronautics for fly-in day or overnight uses. Such use would have required acquisition of the agricultural easement or concurrence of the easement owner. However, negotiations with the easement owner have not been successful.



## **Southeast Area**

### **Crown Point and Vicinity**

At Crown Point and vicinity, Ambush Rock was not addressed in the 1991 RMP and no facilities currently exist. The Crown Point extension would be developed according to the 1991 RMP, including vehicular access on the railroad grade (no through County road), parking areas, a boat launch and docks, a trail system, and RV, group, and tent campgrounds. Current uses, including RV and tent camping, would continue at the Crown Point campground. Reclamation would allow development of the proposed expansion of the existing campground to the north. In the quarry area, the current extraction and reclamation plan would be continued and an overlook or access would be developed.

### **Cascade**

Under the No Action Alternative, Van Wyck Park and Extension would be developed according to the 1991 RMP, including a 250-slip marina, breakwater and associated services and parking; four-lane boat launch; fish cleaning station; visitor center; expanded day use area and camping; RV camping and dump station; paved shoreline trail; and connection of all facilities to City sewer system. The Golf Course lease would be monitored and considered for renewal when the term expires in accordance with Reclamation's new concession policy. In the meantime, BMPs would be added to the current lease to address water quality issues.

### **Big Sage and Cabartons**

The Big Sage area would be developed according to the 1991 RMP, including 35 RV camp sites with hookups, restrooms connected to City sewer system, two new restrooms, one group RV campground, RV dump station, and a fish cleaning station. Current uses of the Blue Heron area, such as the individual and group RV and tent campground, day use sites and facilities, and the boat launch and docks, would continue. Group camping in RVs or tents and the day use sites and facilities would continue at Snow Bank. At Cabarton, the current day use and overflow camping uses would continue.

## **Remaining Areas**

### **North Fork Payette Arm**

On the North Fork Payette Arm, no signage was proposed under the 1991 RMP. Therefore, none would be provided under the No Action Alternative.

### **South Lake Fork Arm**

On the South Lake Fork Arm, Reclamation would continue to lease to the 4-H Camp and allow the uses specified in the 1991 RMP. The C/OS designation

would continue, no new docks would be allowed, and the existing community dock would continue in the C/OS area. Reclamation would monitor the Donnelly City Park lease to the City of Donnelly and consider it for renewal.

### **Sugarloaf Island**

Sugarloaf Island would continue in its 1991 RMP WMA designation, and efforts would focus on restoring vegetation to increase habitat diversity and enhancing habitat for nesting and migrating birds.

### **Sugarloaf Peninsula and Vicinity**

Current uses and facilities at the recreation site on the Sugarloaf Peninsula would continue. Pelican Bay would be developed as specified in the 1991 RMP, including vehicular access to the day use area, and the trail to the wildlife viewing area with interpretive signage.

## **2.3.2 Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis**

### **Summary of Features**

The Preferred Alternative would allow expansion and development of some recreation sites and facilities, while increasing several selected efforts of protecting and managing natural and cultural resources on Reclamation lands. All existing recreation areas would be upgraded to meet Federal accessibility requirements wherever possible. Additional signs would be posted to inform the public of property boundaries and pertinent rules and regulations. Orientation kiosks would be situated at several key locations to provide visitors with information pertaining to the use of the area, including educational materials, maps, and interpretive displays of the area's landscape features. In general, the existing recreation sites at Lake Cascade would be modified to better accommodate current and future demand and use. This includes creating marked swimming areas, developing trails, and adding parking, as well as establishing new day use areas where use is now occurring on an ad hoc basis.

The Preferred Alternative would promote selected management actions that focus on protecting and enhancing native fish and wildlife and their habitat (vegetation, wetlands, riparian areas, water quality), as well as proactive measures to protect cultural resources and ensure that Tribal treaty rights are met. The general locations of facilities included in the Preferred Alternative are shown on Map 2-2.

### **Site-Specific Actions by Assessment Category**

#### **Natural Resource, Habitat, and Cultural Resource Protection and Enhancement**

##### **Topics Applicable to Entire Area**

Under the Preferred Alternative, cultural resources would be managed the same way as the 1991 RMP, plus information gathered during the RMP updating process would be used. Reclamation would develop a CRMP with proactive strategies to manage and protect cultural resource sites, including site protection and stabilization measures, and procedures for addressing curation, inadvertent discoveries, and consultation, among other areas of concern.

Reclamation would work with state, county, and local groups to study and effectively control terrestrial and aquatic noxious and invasive weed problems on Reclamation lands. Reclamation would emphasize integrated pest management techniques in all associated actions.

Management of the WMAs would continue based on the intent and priorities stated in the 1991 RMP, except for two new actions. Existing HIPs were discussed earlier in this chapter. These plans would be updated as needed to include actions that would improve water quality and increase the emphasis on wetlands. Second, existing and new non-motorized trails developed in the WMAs would be monitored. If they are detrimental to wildlife and habitat values, the trails would be closed.

### **Southeast Area**

#### **Crown Point and Vicinity**

At Crown Point, wetland projects in addition to those proposed in the 1991 RMP would be explored. This would include rebuilding the Grandma's Creek impoundment.

#### **Cascade**

A Habitat Improvement Plan would be developed for the Cascade C/OS area.

#### **Big Sage and Cabartons**

Same as Cascade.

### **Water Quality, Surface Water Management, and Erosion Control**

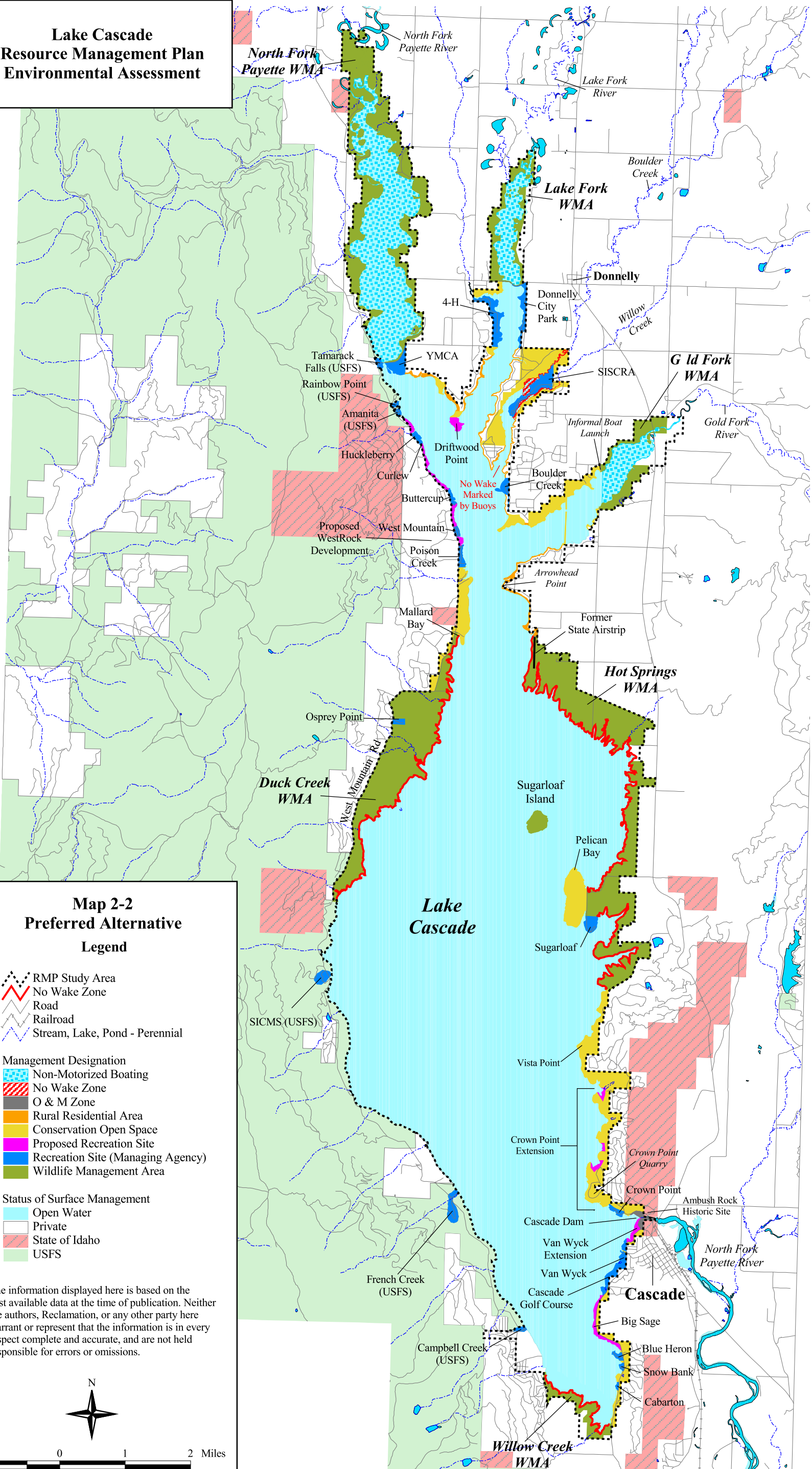
#### **Topics Applicable to Entire Area**

Under the Preferred Alternative, Reclamation would increase efforts to assist adjacent landowners in obtaining permits for constructing shoreline erosion control measures, such as retaining walls. Permits for erosion control methods would be monitored.

Enforcement of no-wake zones would increase. State law would apply within 100 feet of in-water structures, such as a dock, and people. In addition, the Preferred Alternative would include warnings, such as handouts and notices, related to hazards and shallow water

and wildlife sensitivity. Educational materials would be provided to the public to encourage observance of a 200-foot no-wake zone adjacent to WMAs. Buoys would be placed selectively along intensively developed and eroding shorelines and enforced, in conjunction with county ordinance and enforcement.

Lake Cascade  
Resource Management Plan  
Environmental Assessment



Water quality would be addressed through the same actions as for the No Action Alternative. Reclamation would continue to attempt to acquire agricultural easement rights on Reclamation lands through purchase, lease, or exchange.

### **Northeast Area**

#### **Boulder Creek Arm**

At the Boulder Creek Arm, Valley County would work with Reclamation to establish, clearly demarcate, and increase enforcement of a no-wake zone of 100 feet from shoreline structures adjacent to applicable areas of the Boulder Creek Arm through the use of buoys. Additionally, a no-wake zone would be established for both reaches of the upper end of the Boulder Creek Arm.

#### **Gold Fork Arm**

Non-motorized boating would be permitted above the Old State Highway, the same as the No Action Alternative.

### **Remaining Areas**

#### **North Fork Payette Arm**

Non-motorized boating would continue, the same as the No Action Alternative.

#### **North Lake Fork Arm**

Non-motorized boating would also continue on the North Lake Fork Arm, the same as the No Action Alternative.

### **Improved or Restricted Access**

#### **Topics Applicable to Entire Area**

Vehicular access to shoreline and drawdown Areas (not including snowmobiles) would be phased out and then eliminated except for limited access for construction, emergency, and administrative purposes, with the exception of Mallard Bay. Reclamation would continue to allow vehicular access at Mallard Bay contingent on monitoring for resource damage. During this phase out period Reclamation will conduct an outreach program to educate the public about the benefits of the change. Pedestrian access to the reservoir, meeting Federal accessibility standards, parking, and signage would be provided at a minimum of three key locations including Big Sage, Van Wyck North, and Van Wyck South. Reclamation lands would be open to snowmobiles, except that use would be closed at developed recreation areas where use may be limited to roads and designated routes.

Float plane access, for takeoff and landing, would be allowed only in the main body of the reservoir. Taxiing would be allowed, except for the non-motorized areas. The FAA would be responsible for enforcement and would terminate permits if appropriate.

Existing boat ramps at Van Wyck, Sugarloaf, Boulder Creek, Blue Heron, Buttercup, and Poison Creek would be extended as funds are available to cost share with non-federal managing partner.

### **Northwest Area**

#### **Duck Creek WMA**

Under the Preferred Alternative, a trail would be developed to a wildlife viewing site near Osprey Point. Groomed cross-country ski trails would also be allowed at this location in the Duck Creek WMA.

#### **West Side**

During the winter on the west side, snowmobile parking at the Poison Creek recreation area would continue to be plowed. Reclamation would cooperate with USFS to provide for snowmobile parking areas north of Huckleberry on USFS land. Reclamation would also cooperate with the USFS and the county to explore expanding plowing additional right-of-way along the county road, and plowing would be expanded to other west side recreation areas as additional parking is needed.

### **Northeast Area**

#### **Boulder Creek Arm**

At the C/OS Area along both sides of the Boulder Creek Arm, non-motorized use is currently allowed, but no formally designated trails exist. Under the Preferred Alternative, Reclamation would allow development of a hiking and biking trail (no ORV/ATV use), and of a cross-country skiing trail.

#### **Gold Fork Arm**

No formal trails currently exist at the C/OS Area on the north side of the Gold Fork Arm, west of the old railroad grade, but a Habitat Improvement Plan would be developed for this area under the Preferred Alternative.

### **Southeast Area**

#### **Crown Point and Vicinity**

Just like the No Action Alternative, no ORV/ATV would be allowed in the vicinity of Crown Point.

### **Big Sage and Cabartons**

At the first opportunity in Big Sage and Cabartons, Reclamation would allow for the development of non-motorized trail providing north and south linkages.

### **Willow Creek WMA**

In the Willow Creek WMA, Reclamation would designate an interpretive trail (no ORV/ATV use), expand the existing parking and viewing area, and provide interpretive displays and regulatory signage. At the first opportunity, Reclamation would allow for the development of a trail providing north linkages to Crown Point (no ORV/ATV use). Seasonal trail closures would be enforced during the waterfowl nesting season.

## **Remaining Areas**

### **North Fork Payette Arm**

Under the Preferred Alternative, Reclamation would coordinate with agricultural easement owners to allow for development of non-motorized trails along northwest area of the North Fork Payette Arm. Reclamation would formalize the existing system and expand the non-ORV/ATV trail system within the arm. Reclamation would also work with USFS to designate a specific non-motorized boat put-in and take-out sites northwest of Tamarack Falls Bridge. Reclamation would also cooperate with USFS and the county to provide snowmobile parking. This activity would primarily be wider winter plowing along West Mountain Road.

### **North Lake Fork Arm**

On the North Lake Fork Arm, Reclamation would continue with the current use designation and level of use, same as the No Action Alternative. No formal trails exist and none are proposed.

### **Hot Springs Creek WMA**

At the Hot Springs Creek WMA, Reclamation would enlarge parking, improve safety, and provide an orientation kiosk and interpretive signage next to SH-55, adjacent to Hembry Creek wetlands. This roadside work would be coordinated with the Valley County Road Department and the state.

### **Vista Point and Vicinity**

Reclamation would explore development of non-motorized (no ORV/ATV) trail system at Vista Point and the vicinity. Development could include interpretive signage, shoreline access points, and linkage to Sugarloaf Peninsula north and Crown Point south. Reclamation would coordinate with agricultural easement owners for trail access.



## **Improved Facilities, Encroachment, and Miscellaneous**

### **Topics Applicable to Entire Area**

In RR areas, Reclamation would issue no new permits for individual private docks. Reclamation would continue to renew permits for existing (grandfathered) docks. New community docks would be permitted if permits replace existing individual dock permits; that is, no net increase in dock permits. Just like the No Action Alternative, mooring buoys would continue to be allowed on a case-by-case basis through an established permit system that allows one mooring buoy per shoreline lot at a safe distance from adjacent mooring buoys. Buoys would generally be located adjacent to the property of the permittee. Only one C/OS area would be converted to RR designation under the Preferred Alternative: the area south of Arrowhead Point and north of the former state airstrip. No new docks would be permitted in C/OS areas, but Reclamation would continue to permit existing grandfathered docks, the same as the No Action Alternative. At developed recreation areas, moorage would be limited to loading and unloading only. Also, time limits would be imposed (for example, 1 hour), and no overnight use would be allowed.

Similar to the No Action Alternative, private landscape development could occur on Reclamation lands in RR areas through an established permit system. As part of the permit requirements, private erosion control or landscaping would only be allowed where a demonstrated public purpose will be served (such as erosion control or water quality). The permit system would specify erosion, water quality, and aesthetic standards to be defined by Cascade Reservoir Coordinating Council (CRCC), IDEQ, or other guidelines, requirements, and criteria, including allowable plant materials. Reclamation would initiate monitoring to determine any detrimental effects from landscape uses.

Encroachment on any Reclamation land, including unauthorized and unpermitted boat ramps and private structures, would continue to be prohibited, same as the No Action Alternative. Existing encroachments would continue to be removed in C/OS, WMA, or recreation areas; grandfathered uses (such as boat docks) would be allowed to continue by permit. Reclamation would discontinue and remove all private uses occurring in the RR areas, except those that demonstrate a specific public purpose, such as landscape improvements that also control erosion. Existing private boat ramps (for example, ramps permitted to homeowner's associations) could continue to be used under a permit system.

### **Northwest Area**

#### **Driftwood Point**

Driftwood Point would be managed as described under the No Action Alternative. The YMCA Camp lease would be monitored and Reclamation would consider renewal when the term expires. Reclamation would explore the possibility of vehicular administrative access to Driftwood Point for maintenance activities. If this

access is available, Driftwood Point would be developed for boat-in access for camping and day use. C/OS and RR designations would continue, and no new docks would be allowed in C/OS areas.

### **Duck Creek WMA**

In the Duck Creek WMA, at Osprey Point, the current (temporary and experimental) use is yurts for group camping. This use would be expected to continue. Reclamation would add four-season restroom facilities and reestablish and connect to the septic system. A staging area would be added for winter use, and group camping would be formalized and expanded with the development of a four-season group meeting area. There would be no change in the C/OS area designation on the west side of West Mountain Road.

### **West Side**

On the west side, the Mallard Bay Area would be designated as C/OS. Minimal recreation facilities associated with this designation would include formalized parking and vehicular access to the shoreline, day use facilities focused on shoreline fishing activities, restrooms, trails with seasonal closures (specifically at southern end), and interpretive displays and regulatory signage. Shoreline access would be monitored and access would be closed if detrimental effects occur.

At the West Mountain Campground and Poison Creek, the area would essentially be developed according the 1991 RMP, with a marina, 130-space parking area, a west side trail system, and retaining the campground and RV dump station. However, Reclamation would make development of this marina second in priority to a marina at the Van Wyck site. An orientation kiosk, interpretive displays, and regulatory signage would be added. The C/OS would be converted to recreation. Buttercup, Huckleberry, and Curlew are currently built out, but Reclamation would allow the development of the west side trail system that would extend from Osprey Point north to USFS-managed lands at Amanita Campground. This trail would be located along the upland side of Reclamation lands away from sensitive wildlife habitat. Reclamation would also add interpretive displays and regulatory signage, and develop and implement stormwater treatment for Poison Creek and Buttercup boat ramps. The C/OS areas between all recreation-designated sites would be converted to Recreation to allow development of the west side trail system.

### **Northeast Area**

#### **Boulder Creek Arm**

Under the Preferred Alternative, the Boulder Creek Recreation Site would be renovated, including providing additional parking and extending the boat ramp. At

the SISCRA recreation site, Reclamation would monitor the lease and consider renewal when the term expires.

### **Gold Fork Arm**

At the Gold Fork WMA, Reclamation would develop a roadside pull-off, interpretive displays, parking, and non-motorized boating take-out area adjacent to SH-55 at the northeast end of the WMA. Wetlands would be constructed as needed for water quality improvement, and Reclamation would continue to allow use of the Old State Highway as an informal boat launch, but monitor for safety and discontinue use if necessary.

### **Arrowhead Point and Vicinity**

The former state airstrip would be considered for re-opening for fly-in, hike-in, and boat-in uses subject to conditions and bald eagle monitoring noted below. The RMP land use designation would be changed to WMA (that is, in the near term during this evaluation period) and potentially in the long-term dependent on the outcome of the evaluation period. If the former state airstrip is re-opened, the management designation would then become Recreation.

The 1991 RMP proposed re-opening the airstrip for recreational fly-in use, and efforts were made to accomplish it. Before the airstrip can be re-opened, however, a land transaction is required between Reclamation and the private agricultural easement holder of this parcel. This transaction has not been successful to date; therefore, the airstrip never re-opened. Reclamation received approximately 150 comments on the Draft EA from proponents advocating that the Former state airstrip adjacent to Lake Cascade be re-opened as part of the Preferred Alternative, as was originally proposed in the 1991 RMP.

In response to these comments, Reclamation has modified the Preferred Alternative to potentially allow the Former state airstrip to be re-opened for recreational fly-in use as well as boat and hike-in use. If the modified scenario is adopted, the area would be developed for fly-in and boat-in camping and day use (e.g., picnicking, swimming) activities. However, this would only be allowed provided several conditions were met. Following are the conditions that would be required to permit this re-designation to occur and fly-in use to be reinstated:

- 1) As required in the FWS Biological Opinion for the 1991 Cascade RMP and recommended in the current FWS Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) Report, bald eagle nesting territories in the vicinity of the airstrip would be monitored to determine habitat use, and bald eagle nest site management plans would be prepared and/or updated. Based on this monitoring and these plans, opening of the airstrip would be allowed if adverse effects to bald eagles could be

avoided. This would be determined by Reclamation in consultation with the FWS, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and Idaho Division of Aeronautics. If the airstrip is re-opened, it is anticipated it would be a provisional opening based on continued monitoring of eagle/aircraft interactions and recreational use of the airstrip site.

2) The land transaction would need to be resolved by Reclamation through acquisition of the agricultural easement or contractual agreement with the easement holder for the airstrip use.

3) The State of Idaho, Division of Aeronautics, would be required to comply with all Federal, State, and local requirements set forth in a permit issued to them by Reclamation. These would include: (a) providing for a hook-up to the Donnelly city sewer system when it is available at the site, and (b) adhering to any flight pattern or time of day restrictions that may be imposed.

In the Preferred Alternative of the Final EA, the area would continue to be designated and managed as a WMA. When/If all conditions are met, a separate NEPA process would be conducted on the permitting action to open the airstrip and develop for recreation, which, if approved, would include a redesignation of the area as Recreation, and an amendment made to the RMP.

### **Southeast Area**

#### **Crown Point and Vicinity**

At Crown Point and vicinity, Reclamation would provide access and develop an interpretive display at Ambush Rock. The Crown Point extension would be developed in three limited pocket areas adjacent to the shoreline. This recreation development, closed to ORV/ATV use, would include limited hike- and boat-in camping, limited day use site and facilities, and interpretive trails for hiking or biking only to provide shoreline access and linkage to Vista Point to the north and Cascade and the Willow Creek WMA to the south. At a minimum, access to the southern-most pocket area would be accessible according to the Federal accessibility standards. Interpretive displays, regulatory signage, and vault toilets would be installed. Administrative vehicular access would be provided to maintain facilities. The remaining area not designated as proposed recreation would be changed to C/OS, and large areas of open space would be retained. The existing Crown Point campground would be renovated to accommodate current standards and expanded to accommodate a tent-only camping area. Interpretive displays, regulatory signage, and shower facilities would be provided. Reclamation would develop hiking and biking interpretive trails to provide shoreline access and linkage to Vista Point to the north and Cascade to the south.

The quarry, located near Crown Point, contains a substantial amount of material that was acquired and is reserved for Reclamation project purposes. The active face of the quarry could produce between 100,000 to 300,000 cubic yards (cy) of rock. Currently, Valley County has a small stockpile of material stored at the quarry. Reclamation will allow the County to use the existing rock stockpiled at the quarry until the breakwater is developed. At the time of the breakwater planning, the County will be asked to determine what their total future needs will be. The breakwater, Reclamation's future O&M needs, and the County's needs would all be analyzed in an additional NEPA document. The future County material will be stockpiled off-site. When these actions are completed, the quarry will be closed for further excavations, reclaimed, and developed as a recreation overlook with an orientation kiosk, interpretive panels, and parking for non-vehicular access to the Crown Point area.

### **Cascade**

As in the No Action Alternative, Van Wyck Park and extension would be developed according to the 1991 RMP, including a 250-slip marina with a breakwater and associated services and parking, four-lane boat launch, fish cleaning station, visitor center, expanded day use area and camping, RV camping (with hook-ups) and dump station, paved shoreline trail, and connection of all facilities to the Cascade sewer system. In addition, the Preferred Alternative would provide for phased development of up to 400 slips in the marina and a larger associated parking area, shower facilities, an interpretive program area, and orientation kiosk, interpretive displays, and regulatory signage. An "at your own risk" swimming area would be accommodated, and water and electricity would be provided to all facilities.

The current lease for the Golf Course would be modified to include BMPs to address water quality issues. The lease would be monitored and, if appropriate, renewed according to Reclamation's concession policy when it expires.

### **Big Sage and Cabartons**

At Big Sage, in the No Action Alternative, the area would be developed including 35 RV camp sites with hook-ups, two new restrooms, one group RV campground, and a fish cleaning station. Under the Preferred Alternative, development would be the same with the exception of conversion of the new restrooms to the sewer and development of the fish cleaning station would be contingent on the Cascade sewer system being extended to this area. An RV dump station would not be built under the Preferred Alternative.

Current uses of the Blue Heron area, such as the day use sites and facilities and the boat launch and docks, would continue. However, individual RV and tent camping

would be formalized and no group camping would be permitted. At Snow Bank, group camping in RVs or tents would only be permitted by reservation. Day use would continue on a space-available basis, and shoreline erosion protection and control measures would be implemented.

At Cabarton, Reclamation would discontinue camping and develop the area for day use with associated facilities. Reclamation would allow for the development of a non-motorized (no ORV/ATV) trail providing north and south linkages to Crown Point and Willow Creek WMA. Shoreline erosion protection measures would be implemented and interpretive displays and regulatory signage would be provided.

### **Remaining Areas**

#### **North Fork Payette Arm**

On the North Fork Payette Arm, parking, interpretive panels, and displays would be provided at the southeast side of Tamarack Falls Bridge, and regulatory signage would be increased.

#### **South Lake Fork Arm**

On the South Lake Fork Arm, Reclamation would monitor the lease to the 4-H Camp and consider renewal when the lease expires. The C/OS area designation would continue as described in the No Action Alternative, no new docks would be allowed, and the existing community dock would continue in the C/OS area.

Reclamation would monitor the lease for the Donnelly City Park to the City of Donnelly and consider renewal when the lease expires. However, Reclamation would increase efforts to assist the City in making site and facility improvements and signage enhancements. These enhancements would include interpretive panels or displays and an orientation kiosk, additional regulatory signage, non-vehicular trails with interpretive information, and accessible facilities to Federal standards. If it is feasible, Reclamation would allow public moorage facilities and boat services, such as fuel and a boat pump-out.

#### **Sugarloaf Island**

The 1991 RMP WMA designation would continue at Sugarloaf Island, and efforts would focus on restoring vegetation to increase habitat diversity and enhancing habitat for nesting and migrating birds. In addition, pack-in/pack-out signage would be provided to reduce litter and a restroom for boaters would be provided in the vicinity of Sugarloaf Island or Pelican Bay.

#### **Sugarloaf Peninsula and Vicinity**

Current uses and facilities would continue at the Sugarloaf Peninsula recreation site with the addition of an orientation kiosk, more interpretive and regulatory signage, and the possible development of a breakwater, if feasible. Pelican Bay would be designated as C/OS. An interpretive trail (no ORV/ATV use) to the Pelican Bay area and the west side of the Peninsula would be allowed. Pull-off parking would be provided next to the Old State Highway with an orientation kiosk and interpretive signage.

### **2.3.3 Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis**

#### **Summary of Features**

Alternative B would provide some accommodation of increased recreation demand, but with a higher priority on protecting natural resources than the other alternatives. Similar to the Preferred Alternative, all existing recreation areas would be upgraded to meet Federal accessibility requirements. Existing recreation sites at Lake Cascade could be modified to better accommodate current and future demand and use, but opportunities for creating

additional recreation sites would not be a high priority. Under Alternative B, the main emphasis would be to promote management actions that focus on protecting and enhancing fish and wildlife and their habitat (vegetation, wetlands, riparian areas, and water quality), as well as proactive measures to protect cultural resources and ITAs as in the other alternatives. This would entail implementing strategies to better control noxious weeds, monitor and address erosion, and enhance buffers and control access within riparian areas and wetlands. Within established WMAs, management actions would be implemented to expand monitoring of vegetation planting and increase weed control, as well as developing, updating, and implementing HIPs to improve water quality with an increased emphasis on wetland development. Coordinated efforts would be continued with applicable agencies responsible for resource protection and enhancement to improve water quality in Lake Cascade. Water surface management would be focused on protecting wildlife habitat and eroding shoreline areas, primarily through enforcement of the existing state regulations of no wake within 100 feet of the shoreline or structures. Alternative B includes adhering to current Reclamation policy on private use of Reclamation lands, which states that exclusive use of Reclamation lands is to be discontinued. This alternative would eliminate all private docks and replace them with community docks or concession-run moorage in RR areas. The general locations of facilities included in Alternative B are shown on Map 2-3.

Because many of the same management actions are proposed for Alternative B as actions proposed for the Preferred Alternative, this discussion focuses on the differences. The reader is referred to the discussion of the Preferred Alternative for elements that are the same.

#### **Site-Specific Actions by Assessment Category**

## **Natural Resource, Habitat, and Cultural Resource Protection and Enhancement**

### **Topics Applicable to Entire Area**

Cultural resource protection would be the same as for the Preferred Alternative. Noxious weed control would also be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative. Habitat protection and enhancement measures for the WMAs would be the same as the intent and priorities of the 1991 RMP (No Action Alternative).



However, Habitat Improvement Plans would be updated and implemented to improve water quality with increased emphasis on wetlands.

### **Southeast Area**

#### **Crown Point and Vicinity**

Natural resource enhancements would be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative. Cascade

Same as the Preferred Alternative.

#### **Big Sage and Cabartons**

Same as the Preferred Alternative.

### **Water Quality, Surface Water Management, and Erosion Control**

#### **Topics Applicable to Entire Area**

Erosion control measures would be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative. State law regarding no-wake zones would apply within 100 feet of in-water structures, such as a dock, and people, and enforcement would be increased through cooperation with Valley County. As described for the Preferred Alternative, Alternative B would also provide warnings to recreationists, such as handouts and notices, related to hazards and shallow water and wildlife sensitivity. Reclamation would educate and encourage the public to observe a 200-foot no-wake zone adjacent to WMAs and a 100-foot no-wake zone would be enforced. Water quality would be addressed the same as it is for the No Action Alternative and for the Preferred Alternative.

### **Northeast Area**

#### **Boulder Creek Arm**

At the Boulder Creek Arm, Reclamation would establish and enforce no-wake boating within the entire arm. Non-motorized boating would continue in the upper end of the arm.

#### **Gold Fork Arm**

Water surface management would be the same as described for the No Action Alternative and the Preferred Alternative.

### **Remaining Areas**

#### **North Fork Payette Arm**

Water surface management would be the same as described for the No Action Alternative and the Preferred Alternative.

#### **North Lake Fork Arm**

Same as the North Fork Payette Arm.

### **Improved or Restricted Access**

#### **Topics Applicable to Entire Area**

Vehicular access to the shoreline and drawdown area would be prohibited, except for limited access for construction, emergency, and administrative purposes. Snowmobile and float plane use would be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative.

#### **Northwest Area**

##### **Duck Creek WMA**

Access and trails at the Duck Creek WMA would be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative.

##### **West Side**

Similar to the actions described under the Preferred Alternative, during the winter on the west side, Poison Creek would continue to be plowed. Reclamation would cooperate with USFS to provide for snowmobile parking areas north of Huckleberry on USFS land. Reclamation would also explore expanding plowing additional right-of-way along the county road.

#### **Northeast Area**

##### **Boulder Creek Area**

Access to the Boulder Creek Arm would be the same as the Preferred Alternative.

##### **Gold Fork Arm**

On the Gold Fork Arm, Reclamation would develop a limited, interpretive trail (no ORV/ATV use) with interpretive and regulatory signage.

#### **Southeast Area**

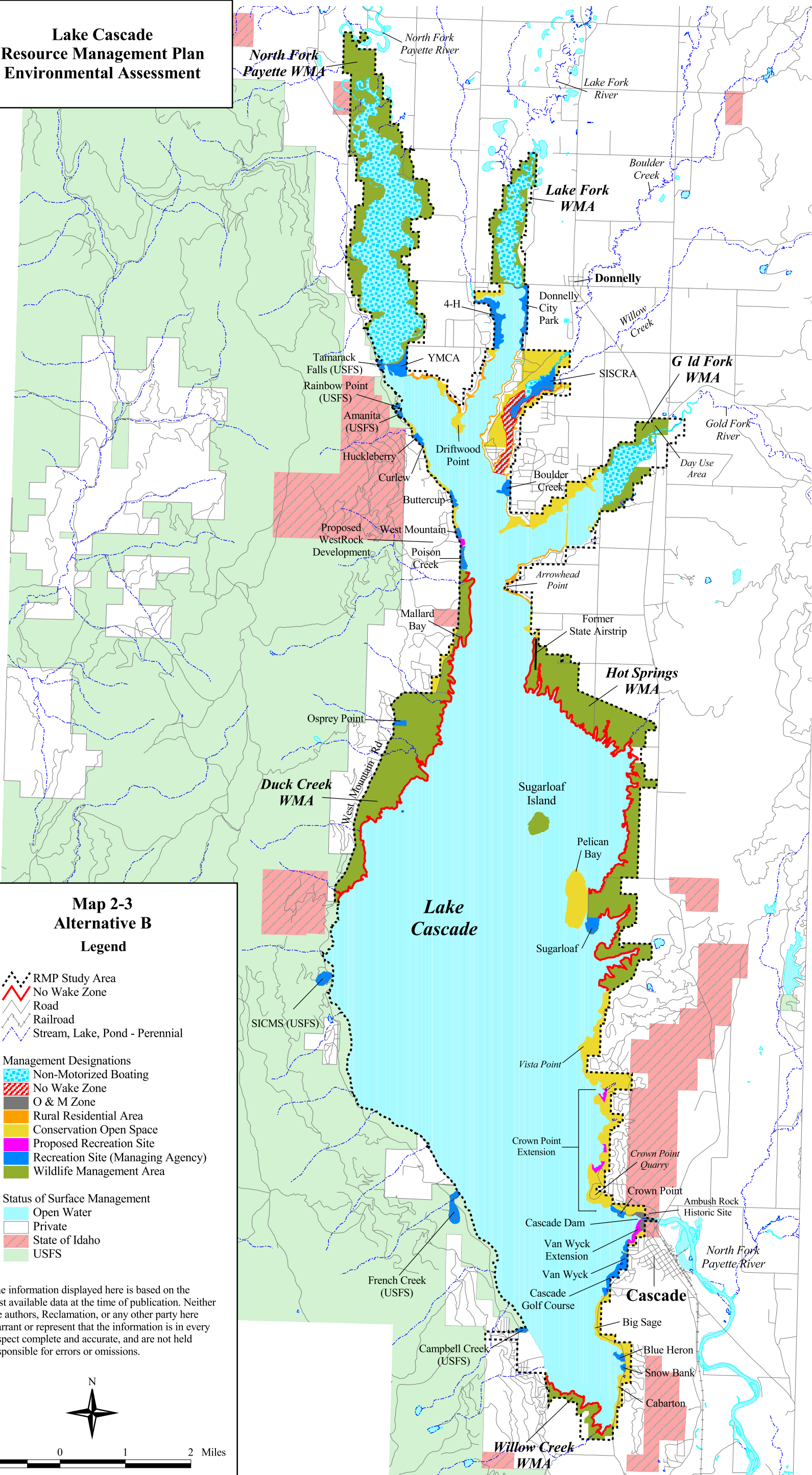
##### **Crown Point and Vicinity**

Just like the No Action Alternative and the Preferred Alternative, no off-road vehicle use would be allowed in the vicinity of Crown Point.

##### **Big Sage and Cabartons**

Trails at Big Sage and Cabartons would be developed as described for the Preferred Alternative.

**Lake Cascade  
Resource Management Plan  
Environmental Assessment**



### **Willow Creek WMA**

Similar to the actions described under the Preferred Alternative, in the Willow Creek WMA, Reclamation would designate an interpretive trail (no ORV/ATV use), expand the existing parking and viewing area, and provide interpretive displays and regulatory signage.

### **Remaining Areas**

#### **North Fork Payette Arm**

On the North Fork Payette Arm, Reclamation would develop non-motorized (no ORV/ATV use) trails or wildlife viewing sites along the northwest area, if agricultural easements are acquired. Reclamation would also cooperate with USFS to provide for snowmobile parking areas in the southern portion of area.

#### **North Lake Fork Arm**

On the North Lake Fork Arm, limited trail development would lead to an interpretive viewing site.

#### **Hot Springs Creek WMA**

The Hot Springs Creek WMA would have no formal trail system, just like in the No Action Alternative.

#### **Vista Point and Vicinity**

Access to the Vista Point and the vicinity would be managed the same as described in the Preferred Alternative.

### **Improved Facilities, Encroachment, and Miscellaneous**

#### **Topics Applicable to Entire Area**

Under Alternative B, all private docks would be eliminated and replaced with community docks or concession-run moorage facilities available to both shoreline and inland lot owners and the general public. Mooring buoys and the conversion of C/OS areas to RR designation would be as described for the No Action Alternative and the Preferred Alternative. The C/OS rule to permit grandfathered docks only would also be the same, except that access in C/OS areas would be provided by permit to launch boats. At developed recreation areas, moorage would be limited to loading and unloading only. Also, time limits would be imposed (for example, 1 hour), and no overnight use would be allowed. Reclamation would continue existing launching in C/OS areas.

Private landscape development or encroachment on any Reclamation land would be managed as described for the Preferred Alternative.

## **Northwest Area**

### **Driftwood Point**

The YMCA Camp and the area between the camp and Driftwood point would be managed as described under the No Action and Preferred Alternatives. At Driftwood Point, the proposed recreation area would be converted to C/OS.

### **Duck Creek WMA**

In the Duck Creek WMA, at Osprey Point, the current (temporary and experimental) use is yurts for group camping. This use is expected to continue. Reclamation would add four-season restroom facilities and reestablish and connect to the septic system. A staging area would be added for winter use. The C/OS designation would not change, the same as for the No Action and Preferred Alternatives.

### **West Side**

On the West Side, the Mallard Bay Area would be designated as a WMA and parking would be formalized to prohibit vehicular access to the shoreline. At the West Mountain Campground and Poison Creek, the campground would be retained, but no marina would be developed. An orientation kiosk, interpretive displays, and regulatory signage would be added, and the west side trail system would be developed. The C/OS would be converted to recreation. Buttercup, Huckleberry, and Curlew would be managed as described in the Preferred Alternative. The C/OS between all recreation-designated sites would be managed as described in the No Action Alternative, except a Habitat Improvement Plan would be developed.

## **Northeast Area**

### **Boulder Creek Arm**

Under the Preferred Alternative, the Boulder Creek Recreation Site would have day use and boat ramp and docks, and signage would be added on SH-55. In addition, boat services, such as fuel and supplies, would be allowed.

### **Gold Fork Arm**

At the Gold Fork WMA, Reclamation would develop a limited day use area and non-motorized boating access area at northeast end of WMA adjacent to SH-55 on the north side of the arm.

### **Arrowhead Point and Vicinity**

The former state airstrip near Arrowhead Point would not be re-opened similar to the Preferred Alternative.

### **Southeast Area**

#### **Crown Point and Vicinity**

At Crown Point and vicinity, Reclamation would manage Ambush Rock and the Crown Point Extension as described in the Preferred Alternative. The existing Crown Point Campground would not be expanded to the north, and would only be renovated to accommodate current standards.

The quarry would be managed as described in the Preferred Alternative.

#### **Cascade**

The Van Wyck Park and extension would be developed according to the 1991 RMP (see No Action Alternative), except that no additional camping would be developed. The lease for the Golf Course would be monitored and considered for renewal when the term expires. BMPs would be included in the current lease to address water quality issues.

#### **Big Sage and Cabartons**

At Big Sage, the area would be converted to a C/OS designation. Management of the Blue Heron area would be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative. At Snow Bank, only group camping in RVs or tents would be permitted, and it would be by reservation. Shoreline erosion protection measures would be implemented.

At Cabarton, Reclamation would discontinue current recreation use and change to a C/OS designation. Reclamation would allow for the development of a non-motorized trail providing north and south linkages.

### **Remaining Areas**

#### **North Fork Payette Arm**

The North Fork Payette Arm improvements would be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative.

#### **South Lake Fork Arm**

On the South Lake Fork Arm, Reclamation would continue to manage the 4-H Camp and the C/OS area as described for the Preferred and No Action Alternatives. Reclamation would continue to manage the lease of Donnelly City Park to the City of Donnelly, as described in the No Action Alternative.

#### **Sugarloaf Island**

Sugarloaf Island would be managed as described for the Preferred Alternative.

### **Sugarloaf Peninsula and Vicinity**

On the Sugarloaf Peninsula at the recreation site, the Preferred Alternative would be implemented.

## **2.3.4 Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis**

### **Summary of Features**

The focus of this alternative is to allow for the highest level possible of expansion and development of recreation sites and facilities while at the same time maintaining efforts to protect natural and cultural resources on Reclamation lands. This alternative would result in a greater level of recreation development than summarized under either the Preferred Alternative or Alternative B. Camping facilities would be substantially increased at several locations around the reservoir, and development of additional small marinas at West Mountain on the reservoir's northwest shoreline and Boulder Creek Recreation Area on the northeast shoreline would be allowed. Under Alternative C, the old railroad grade through the Crown Point area would be converted to a county road with the addition of RV and tent camping, and day use activities would be allowed in specific areas.

This alternative would maintain current levels of protection and enhancement for native fish and wildlife and their habitat (vegetation, wetlands, riparian areas, water quality). This would entail the continued implementation of strategies set forth in the 1991 RMP. It would go beyond this level of effort in some cases by developing, updating, and implementing Habitat Improvement Plans to improve water quality with an increased emphasis on wetlands. However, the increased recreation development would encroach on some habitat values at high-use locations. The general locations of facilities included in Alternative C are shown on Map 2-4.

Many of the management actions proposed for Alternative C are the same as actions proposed for the Preferred Alternative and Alternative B. This discussion focuses on the differences, and the reader is referred to the Preferred Alternative and Alternative B for discussions for elements that are the same.

### **Site-Specific Actions by Assessment Category**

#### **Natural Resource, Habitat, and Cultural Resource Protection and Enhancement**

##### **Topics Applicable to Entire Area**

Cultural resource protection and noxious weed control would be the same as for the Preferred Alternative. Habitat protection and enhancement in the WMAs would be the same as described for Alternative B.



### **Southeast Area**

#### **Crown Point and Vicinity**

At Crown Point, wetlands would be addressed as described for the No Action Alternative.

#### **Cascade**

At the Cascade recreation area, management would be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative.

#### **Big Sage and Cabartons**

Big Sage and Cabartons would be similar to the No Action Alternative.

### **Water Quality, Surface Water Management, and Erosion Control**

#### **Topics Applicable to Entire Area**

Erosion control measures, water surface management, and no-wake zones across Lake Cascade would be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative. Water quality would be addressed the same as described for the No Action Alternative and for the Preferred Alternative.

### **Northeast Area**

#### **Boulder Creek Arm**

At the Boulder Creek Arm, water surface management would consist of non-motorized and no-wake boating on the upper ends of this arm.

Alternative C would also include increased enforcement of existing state law of no wake within 100 feet of structures. Buoys or markers would be provided at the mouth of the arm.

#### **Gold Fork Arm**

Only non-motorized boating would be allowed above the Old State Highway, the same as described for the No Action and Preferred Alternatives.

### **Remaining Areas**

#### **North Fork Payette Arm**

Water surface management would be the same as described for the No Action and Preferred Alternatives.

### **Remaining Areas**

### **North Fork Payette Arm**

Water surface management would be the same as described for the No Action and Preferred Alternatives.

### **North Lake Fork Arm**

Same as the North Fork Payette Arm.

## **Improved or Restricted Access**

### **Topics Applicable to Entire Area**

Under Alternative C, vehicular access to the shoreline and drawdown area (not including snowmobiles) would be managed to protect vegetation and limit erosion, as intended in the 1991 RMP. In addition, specific areas would be designated for access, public education and enforcement efforts would increase, and limited access would be allowed for construction, emergency, and administrative purposes. Snowmobile and float plane use would be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative.

### **Northwest Area**

#### **Duck Creek WMA**

Access and trails at the Duck Creek WMA would be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative, except Reclamation would allow for development of a more extensive network of trails (no ORV/ATV), with seasonal closure to protect nesting waterfowl.

#### **West Side**

Winter access and facilities would be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative.

### **Northeast Area**

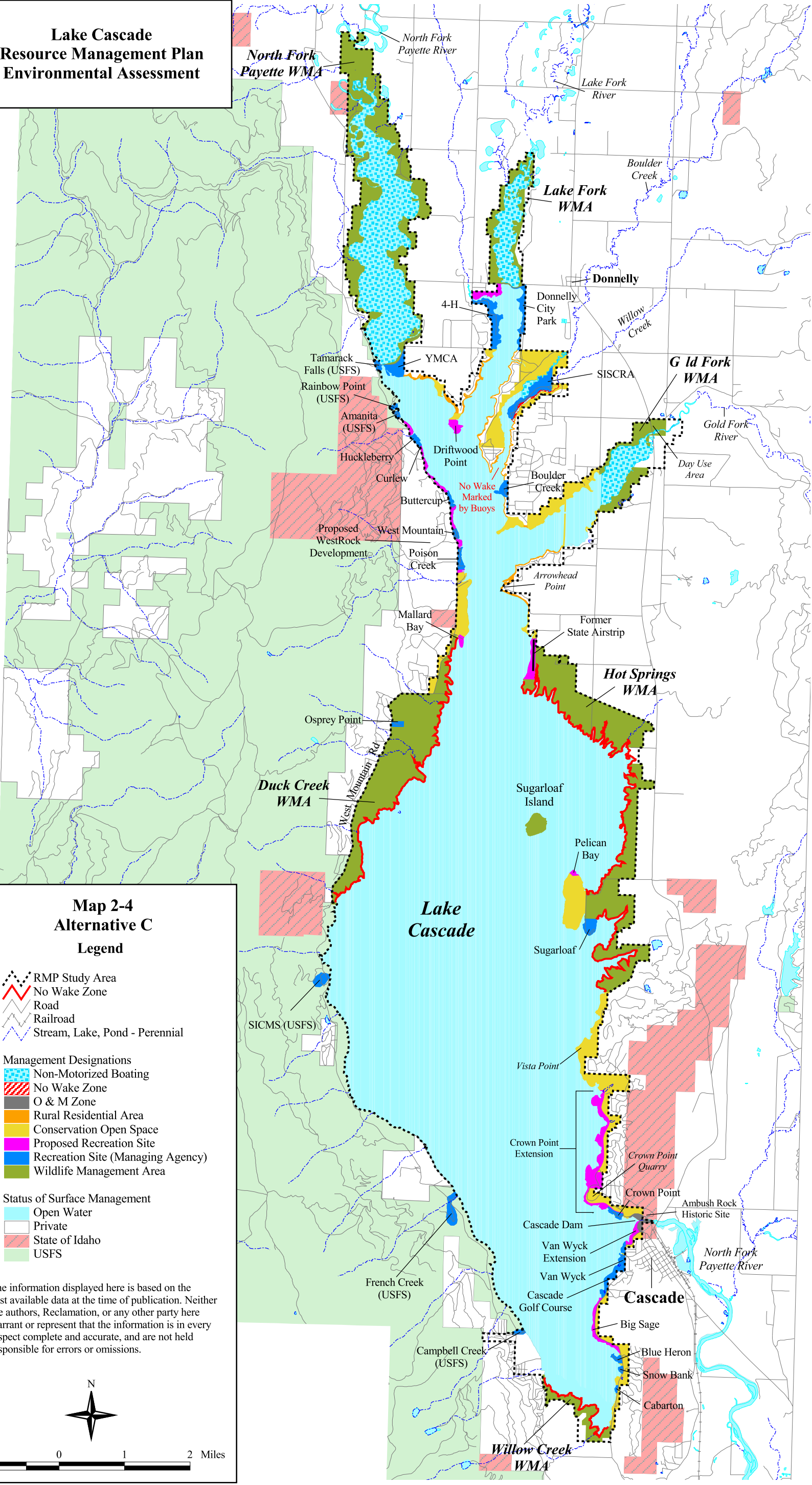
#### **Boulder Creek Arm**

At the C/OS area along both sides of the Boulder Creek Arm, access would be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative, except that motorized vehicular trail use would be allowed on designated trails.

#### **Gold Fork Arm**

The C/OS Area on the north side of the Gold Fork Arm, west of the old railroad grade, would be the same as Alternative B.

**Lake Cascade  
Resource Management Plan  
Environmental Assessment**



### **Southeast Area**

#### **Crown Point and Vicinity**

Under Alternative C, ORV/ATV access would be provided on the paved Crown Point Road and other designated roads. An access trail would be allowed from the adjacent residential area to site road system and associated shoreline access.

#### **Big Sage and Cabartons**

Access to Big Sage and Cabartons would be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative.

#### **Willow Creek WMA**

The Willow Creek WMA would be the same as described for Alternative B.

### **Remaining Areas**

#### **North Fork Payette Arm**

Under Alternative C, Reclamation would coordinate with agricultural easement owners to allow for development of non-motorized (no ORV/ATV) trails along northwest area of the North Fork Payette Arm. Reclamation would formalize existing trails and expand the non-motorized (no ORV/ATV) trail system within the arm. Winter access would be the same as described for Alternative B.

#### **North Lake Fork Arm**

On the North Lake Fork Arm, a non-motorized (no ORV/ATV) interpretive trail, pull-off parking, and interpretive signage would be provided on the west side of the arm.

#### **Hot Springs Creek WMA**

At the Hot Springs Creek WMA, Reclamation would develop a non-motorized (no ORV/ATV) interpretive trail with seasonal closures, enlarge the parking next to SH-55 and provide an orientation kiosk and interpretive signage, and evaluate the possibility of providing a parking area and trailhead adjacent to Hembry Creek wetlands.

#### **Vista Point and Vicinity**

Access at the Vista Point and vicinity would be the same as the Preferred Alternative, except that off-road vehicle use would be allowed on trails.

## **Improved Facilities, Encroachment, and Miscellaneous**

### **Topics Applicable to Entire Area**

Private docks in the RR areas would be managed as described for the Preferred Alternative. Mooring buoys, the C/OS change to permit docks, and the conversion of C/OS areas to RR designation would be as described for the No Action Alternative and the Preferred Alternative. At developed recreation areas, moorage and boat launching would be the same as described for Alternative B.

Private landscape development or encroachment would be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative.

### **Northwest Area**

#### **Driftwood Point**

The YMCA Camp would be managed as described under the No Action and Preferred Alternatives. Driftwood Point would be developed for boat-in access for camping and day use, and Reclamation would explore the possibility of administrative access to the site. C/OS and RR designations between the camp and Driftwood Point would continue as described in the No Action and Preferred Alternatives.

#### **Duck Creek WMA**

In the Duck Creek WMA, at Osprey Point, the current (temporary and experimental) use of yurts for group camping is expected to continue. Reclamation would also allow IDPR to add four-season restroom facilities and reestablish and connect to the septic system. A staging area would be added for winter use. Permanent group use facilities, such as a dormitory or lodge, meeting rooms, cooking facilities, and play areas (such as volleyball and horseshoes) would be allowed, along with parking areas and RV and group camping. The C/OS area would be the same as described for the No Action and Preferred Alternatives.

#### **West Side**

On the west side, the Mallard Bay Area would be designated as Recreation and C/OS. This would include formalized parking and vehicular access to the shoreline, restrooms, day use facilities focused on shoreline fishing activities, trails with seasonal closures (specifically at southern end), and interpretive displays and regulatory signage. At the West Mountain Campground and Poison Creek, the area would be developed as described in the Preferred Alternative. Buttercup, Huckleberry, and Curlew are currently built out, but Reclamation would allow the development of the west side trail system. Interpretive displays and regulatory signage would also be added. Recreation-designated sites adjacent to the C/OS

areas could potentially be expanded. The C/OS designation would be changed to Recreation to allow development of west side trail.

### **Northeast Area**

#### **Boulder Creek Arm**

Under Alternative C, the Boulder Creek Recreation Site would have a day use area, boat ramp and docks, signage on SH-55, and development of a small marina and associated facilities. The SISCRA lease would be managed as described in the No Action Alternative and the Preferred Alternative.

#### **Gold Fork Arm**

At the Gold Fork WMA, Reclamation would allow IDPR to develop a larger day use area than under Alternative B, and add take out points at the northeast end of the WMA adjacent to SH-55 on the north side of the arm.

#### **Arrowhead Point and Vicinity**

The former state airstrip near Arrowhead Point would not be re-opened for fly-in uses. Instead, the area would be designated as Recreation for boat-in and hike-in access for camping and day use.

### **Southeast Area**

#### **Crown Point and Vicinity**

Reclamation would assist in providing access and develop an interpretive display at Ambush Rock. The Crown Point extension would include vehicular access on the railroad grade, a through County road, interpretive hiking and biking trails to provide shoreline access and linkage to Vista Point to the north and Cascade to the south, interpretive and regulatory signage, parking areas, a boat launch and docks, and tent campgrounds. At the Crown Point Campground, current uses would continue, including RV and tent camping. Reclamation would allow IDPR to develop the proposed expansion of the existing campground to the north. In addition, the existing campground would be renovated to accommodate current standards, shower facilities would be provided, and interpretive displays and regulatory signage would be provided. Interpretive hiking and biking trails would be developed to provide shoreline access and linkage to Vista Point to the north and Cascade to the south.

The quarry would be managed as described for the Preferred Alternative, except vehicular access would be allowed to the overlook area.

#### **Cascade**

Van Wyck Park and extension would be developed according to the 1991 RMP, but a few features would be added. The development would include an additional 150- to 250-slips in the marina for a total of 400 to 500 slips and a larger parking area, breakwater, and marina services to accommodate the additional slips. In addition, an amphitheater would be added.

The lease for the Golf Course would be addressed as described in the Preferred Alternative.

### **Big Sage and Cabartons**

At Big Sage, the area would be developed as described for the No Action Alternative, but slightly smaller. The development would include 20 to 25 campsites, two restrooms connected to the Cascade sewer system if feasible, and one group RV campground.

Current uses of the Blue Heron area, such as the day use sites and facilities and the boat launch and docks, would continue. However, all camping would be group camping only for RVs and tents. Snow Bank would be managed as described for Alternative B.

At Cabarton, Reclamation would discontinue camping and develop the area for day use with associated facilities. Reclamation would allow for the development of a non-motorized (no ORV/ATV) trail providing north and south linkages. Shoreline erosion protection measures would be implemented.

## **Remaining Areas**

### **North Fork Payette Arm**

On the North Fork Payette Arm, facilities would be as described for the Preferred Alternative.

### **South Lake Fork Arm**

On the South Lake Fork Arm, Reclamation's management of the 4-H Camp and the C/OS area would continue as described in the No Action Alternative. The Donnelly City Park would be managed as described in the Preferred Alternative.

### **Sugarloaf Island**

Sugarloaf Island would continue in its 1991 RMP WMA designation, and efforts would focus on restoring vegetation to increase habitat diversity and enhancing habitat for nesting and migrating birds. In addition, boat-in day use facilities, sanitation facilities, and interpretive and regulatory signage would be provided.

### **Sugarloaf Peninsula and Vicinity**

On the Sugarloaf Peninsula at the recreation site, current uses and facilities would continue with the addition of a swimming beach, an orientation kiosk, and more interpretive and regulatory signage. Pelican Bay would be developed as described in the No Action Alternative.

## 2.4 Alternative Elements Eliminated from Consideration

Most of the elements suggested by the public were included in one or more of the alternatives. One suggestion from the public would have opened the current non-motorized areas in the upper reservoir arms to motorized use, particularly personal water craft. This suggestion was eliminated from consideration because opportunities for motorized recreation are available throughout the reservoir, non-motorized use is currently limited in size and scope, and motorized boat use in these areas would not be consistent with the WMA objectives.

## 2.5 Summary of Impacts

The impact analysis is presented in Chapter 3. A summary of these impacts is provided in Table 2.5-1.



Table 2.5-1. Impacts of Alternatives Comparison Summary

*Note: Only impacts that vary from those described for the No Action Alternative are described for other alternatives.*

Resource Area	Alternative A - No Action	Preferred Alternative	Alternative B	Alternative C
Water Quality and Contaminants	<p>Negotiations would continue with agricultural easement holders that lead to the termination of grazing on Reclamation lands, or at a minimum keep livestock from the shoreline. These actions, if successful, would benefit water quality. Changes to agricultural easements would be the same for all alternatives.</p> <p>Numerous recreation facilities would result in the potential for direct and indirect adverse water quality impacts from fertilizer, stormwater runoff, and fuel.</p>	<p>The Preferred Alternative would include stricter control measures than the No Action Alternative for erosion control, vehicular access to shoreline and drawdown areas, encroachment on Reclamation lands, and no-wake zones.</p> <p>There would be more C/OS and WMA areas and less recreation acreage than the No Action Alternative. The Preferred Alternative should have less adverse impact on water quality than the No Action Alternative.</p>	<p>This alternative would have an increased emphasis on natural resources, with more limited recreation development. Thus, Alternative B would be expected to adversely impact reservoir water quality slightly less than the Preferred Alternative due primarily to less recreation development and slightly more area designated as C/OS.</p>	<p>Alternative C would result in the highest acreage of recreation sites and the lowest acreage of C/OS and WMAs.</p> <p>Alternative C includes some actions more favorable to water quality than the No Action Alternative. These include erosion control, vehicular access, no-wake zones, and private landscape development and encroachment on Reclamation land. Therefore, Alternative C would be expected to have slightly less adverse impact on water quality than the No Action Alternative.</p>
Soils	<p>Continued efforts to eliminate livestock grazing near streams and the reservoir and to purchase agricultural easements would result in a gradual improvement in soil loss from erosion. Erosion control measures by residents would provide intermittent erosion protection, depending on structure design.</p> <p>Non-motorized areas in the upper arms of the Lake would continue to protect shorelines from erosion. Vehicle restrictions in shoreline and drawdown areas would protect these areas from erosion if enforcement is successful.</p> <p>New trail systems would be developed, with potential increased erosion from trail</p>	<p>Habitat improvement plans for the WMAs and C/OS to protect water quality would also protect soil as additional native vegetation is established and controls runoff.</p> <p>Monitoring of private landscaping for erosion control on Reclamation land would reduce erosion, by ensuring landscaping is effective.</p> <p>Less land (203 acres) would be disturbed than under Alternative A. Therefore, fewer impacts on soils would be expected.</p>	<p>Less area (281 acres) would be developed for recreation, thereby reducing disturbance and erosion potential. However, demand would continue to increase, so vegetation trampling and erosion at existing recreation sites would increase.</p> <p>No monitoring of private landscaping effectiveness on Reclamation lands would occur and a slight reduction in erosion control structures built by Reclamation would increase erosion potential.</p>	<p>Overall, more land would be disturbed for constructing recreation sites than any other alternative except Alternative A, resulting in greater erosion.</p> <p>Allowing motor vehicle use of the railroad grade north of Crown Point could open a new area to residential development, with subsequent increases in soil erosion.</p>

Table 2.5-1. Impacts of Alternatives Comparison Summary

*Note: Only impacts that vary from those described for the No Action Alternative are described for other alternatives.*

Resource Area	Alternative A - No Action	Preferred Alternative	Alternative B	Alternative C
	use. Runoff from new recreation facilities would increase, as increased visitor use would impact native vegetation and compact soil around the facilities.			

Table 2.5-1. Impacts of Alternatives Comparison Summary

*Note: Only impacts that vary from those described for the No Action Alternative are described for other alternatives.*

Resource Area	Alternative A - No Action	Preferred Alternative	Alternative B	Alternative C
Vegetation	<p>Efforts relating to livestock grazing, no-wake zones, and vehicle restrictions would have the same effect on vegetation as described for soils.</p> <p>New trail systems would be developed, with vegetation loss and erosion from trail construction and use.</p> <p>An additional 353 acres of vegetation would be directly impacted through construction of new recreation facilities.</p>	<p>Habitat improvement plans would result in native plant community improvements. Increased emphasis on development, protection, and enhancement of wetlands would improve hydrophytic communities around the reservoir.</p> <p>Monitoring trails and an increase in the no wake distance at WMAs would enhance and protect vegetation.</p> <p>Designation of an additional 158 acres of C/OS would increase protection of shoreline and adjacent upland plant communities.</p> <p>203 fewer acres would be disturbed for recreation development than under Alternative A. Therefore, fewer direct vegetation impacts would result from new or expanded recreation sites.</p>	<p>About 281 fewer acres would be developed for recreation compared to Alternative A, thereby reducing disturbance and vegetation losses.</p> <p>Plant community loss would increase over Alternative A in the WMAs with no monitoring of trails and reduction of no wake distance, but an increase in WMA acreage (155 acres) may offset some losses.</p> <p>No monitoring of private landscaping effectiveness would occur, resulting in poor maintenance and loss of plant communities from erosion.</p> <p>Designation of an additional 123 acres of C/OS would increase the acreage of native plants protected with this designation relative to Alternative A.</p>	<p>Overall, more land would be disturbed for constructing recreation sites than any other alternative except Alternative A, resulting in a loss of native plant communities comparable to Alternative A.</p> <p>Native plant loss would increase over Alternative A in the WMAs with no monitoring of trails and reduction of no wake distance.</p> <p>Allowing motor vehicle use of the railroad grade north of Crown Point could open a new area to residential development, with subsequent increases in native plant losses.</p>

Table 2.5-1. Impacts of Alternatives Comparison Summary

*Note: Only impacts that vary from those described for the No Action Alternative are described for other alternatives.*

Resource Area	Alternative A - No Action	Preferred Alternative	Alternative B	Alternative C
Wildlife	<p>A 20 percent increase in recreation use over the next 10 years would result in increased habitat degradation adjacent to recreation sites, more habitat loss through ad hoc recreation activity, and increased levels of wildlife disturbance and occasional harassment.</p> <p>New recreation facilities would be developed on about 313 acres of lands that are currently managed as C/OS or WMA. Impacts would include habitat loss and degradation of adjacent C/OS and WMA areas due to increased human use.</p> <p>Trail development would increase access to the shoreline, which would cause minor habitat loss and disturb wildlife.</p> <p>Construction of marinas would indirectly result in more wildlife disturbance along the shorelines of WMAs and increased erosion and habitat loss.</p> <p>Allowing vehicle access on the Crown Point railroad grade could make private lands more accessible and promote their development, resulting in direct and indirect habitat loss and degradation.</p>	<p>The Preferred Alternative would allow new recreation facilities to be developed on about 110 acres of lands that are currently managed as C/OS or WMA, compared to 313 acres under the No Action alternative. Direct and indirect impacts of recreation development would be similar to those described for the No Action alternative but would occur on a much smaller scale.</p> <p>A small increase in WMA acreage (39 acres) and designation of an additional 158 acres of C/OS would enhance and protect wildlife habitat and reduce potential disturbance and increase protection of shoreline and adjacent upland habitat.</p> <p>If successful, the 200-foot wide no-wake zones would actually provide more security for wildlife than they are currently afforded by a much wider no-wake zone that is not adhered to.</p> <p>Updating and implementing habitat improvement plans with an emphasis on wetlands would provide habitat benefits for a wide variety of species.</p> <p>A larger marina at Van Wyck would result in more direct and indirect habitat loss than for Alternative A.</p>	<p>Implementation of Alternative B would result in the smallest development of new or expanded recreation facilities of any of the alternatives (32 acres compared to 313 acres for No Action).</p> <p>Alternative B would also result in the largest area designated as WMA (4,142 acres versus 3,987 acres for No Action) and would add 123 acres of C/OS. Habitat values would likely improve in the new WMA and C/OS lands over the long-term and there would be substantially smaller direct impacts on wildlife and habitat.</p> <p>Increased emphasis on development, protection, and enhance of wetlands would improve habitat for a wide range of species.</p> <p>Marina impacts would be the same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>This alternative would result in 6 more acres of land converted to recreational uses as the No Action alternative. Therefore, impacts on wildlife and habitat would also be about the same.</p> <p>Habitat value could decline in WMAs compared to the Preferred Alternative because there would be no monitoring and closure of trails to reduce wildlife impacts.</p> <p>Expanded facilities at Osprey Point would substantially increase wildlife disturbance in the Duck Creek WMA compared to the No Action alternative.</p> <p>Allowing motor vehicle use of the railroad grade north of Crown Point would increase wildlife disturbance and could open a new area to residential development, with subsequent increases in wildlife and habitat losses.</p> <p>Permitting ATV use of trails in the Vista Point area would increase direct habitat loss because of wider trails, increase wildlife disturbance, and result in adjacent habitat losses as some users deviate from designated trails.</p> <p>The larger marina at Van Wyck would result in the greatest associated direct and indirect impacts on wildlife.</p>

Table 2.5-1. Impacts of Alternatives Comparison Summary

*Note: Only impacts that vary from those described for the No Action Alternative are described for other alternatives.*

Resource Area	Alternative A - No Action	Preferred Alternative	Alternative B	Alternative C
Threatened and Endangered Species	<p><u>Plants</u></p> <p>Potential impacts on Ute Ladies'-tresses would be avoided.</p> <p><u>Wildlife</u></p> <p>Bald eagles have increased in the face of more human activity. RMP actions may affect but are not likely to adversely affect bald eagles.</p> <p>RMP actions may affect but are not likely to adversely affect lynx and gray wolves.</p> <p><u>Fish</u></p> <p>No impacts on bull trout are expected.</p>	<p><u>Plants</u></p> <p>Same as the No Action Alternative.</p> <p><u>Wildlife</u></p> <p>Same as the No Action Alternative.</p> <p><u>Fish</u></p> <p>Same as the No Action Alternative.</p>	<p><u>Plants</u></p> <p>Same as the No Action Alternative.</p> <p><u>Wildlife</u></p> <p>Same as the No Action Alternative.</p> <p><u>Fish</u></p> <p>Same as the No Action Alternative.</p>	<p><u>Plants</u></p> <p>Same as the No Action Alternative.</p> <p><u>Wildlife</u></p> <p>Same as the No Action Alternative.</p> <p><u>Fish</u></p> <p>Same as the No Action Alternative.</p>
Aquatic Biology	<p>The No Action Alternative does not propose any changes in operation or facility planning that would impact or benefit the fishery resource compared to existing conditions.</p>	<p>Habitat improvement plans would be updated and emphasize wetland development to improve water quality. This would increase water quality, and thus improve fish habitat, above that of the No Action Alternative.</p> <p>Habitat improvement plans would be developed for the Cascade C/OS and Big Sage and Cabarton. This would increase the land area around the reservoir subject to water quality improvement measures.</p> <p>New trails would allow more shoreline access to a greater portion of the reservoir and some of the tributaries, which may increase the amount of poaching and harvest violations on fish.</p> <p>A 20 percent increase in visitor use</p>	<p>There are few differences between the Preferred Alternative and Alternative B relative to actions that would impact the fishery resources of the RMP study area.</p>	<p>Fishery impacts would be the same as Alternative B except that more recreation facilities would result in more erosion and poor quality runoff.</p>

Table 2.5-1. Impacts of Alternatives Comparison Summary

*Note: Only impacts that vary from those described for the No Action Alternative are described for other alternatives.*

Resource Area	Alternative A - No Action	Preferred Alternative	Alternative B	Alternative C
		over the next 10 years could cause increased fishing pressure and potential poaching and harvest violation problems.		

Table 2.5-1. Impacts of Alternatives Comparison Summary

*Note: Only impacts that vary from those described for the No Action Alternative are described for other alternatives.*

Resource Area	Alternative A - No Action	Preferred Alternative	Alternative B	Alternative C
Recreation	<p>In general, policies in the 1991 RMP prescribe a significant level of recreation development in the area that would have a positive impact on the visitor recreation experience and available opportunities. However, rather than Reclamation paying for all recreation developments, they are required by Federal law to find cost-share partners. Facilities that were included in the 1991 RMP, but that have not been constructed, would only be built if cost-share sponsors are involved.</p> <p>Recreation areas along the west side of the reservoir would experience a moderate increase in facilities with the addition of a marina, additional parking areas, and the development of a trail system.</p> <p>This alternative would allow much more significant recreation development at several areas along the southeastern shoreline of the reservoir, including allowing the development of a 250-slip marina and associated facilities. While these developments would have a positive impact on the developed recreation experience, they would come at the expense of the less development-dependent recreation opportunities that are currently provided for in this area. Current pedestrian use of the railroad grade would be adversely affected.</p>	<p>Actions that have a positive impact on recreation would include providing universally accessible facilities, snowmobile parking areas, expanded winter road-plowing, and campground improvements.</p> <p>Actions having an adverse impact on recreation would include no new permits for private docks, prohibiting shoreline vehicular access at most areas, closing a few areas to snowmobile use to protect facilities, restricting float plane use, and potentially closing trails for wildlife habitat protection.</p> <p>Stricter enforcement of state regulations pertaining to no-wake zones (particularly on the Boulder Creek Arm) and the recommended adherence of the 200-foot no-wake zone adjacent to the WMAs would have an adverse impact on some users by limiting waterskiing, powerboats, and PWC use in this area. Experience would be greatly enhanced for other recreationists. The affected areas are very small compared to the reservoir area not subject to no-wake restrictions.</p> <p>In the northwestern area of the reservoir, the magnitude of new public recreation development under this</p>	<p>The overall impacts of Alternative B on recreation would be positive and include many of the actions described under the Preferred Alternative, including a 250-slip marina along the southeast portion of the reservoir; however, some actions would have an adverse impact.</p> <p>Actions that would have an adverse impact on recreation would include the elimination of all private docks, no vehicular access to the shoreline by the public, no allowance to develop a west-side marina, and the limitation of snowmobile use in developed recreation areas to roads and designated routes. One action that would have a positive impact would be the community docks that would be allowed as a result of the elimination of all private docks.</p> <p>A no-wake zone in the Boulder Creek Arm would have an adverse impact on high-speed boating activities in the no-wake area; however, it may reduce conflicts between boaters and personal watercraft users and shoreline residents and result in a more positive and safer recreation experience for some.</p> <p>One significant impact of this alternative would be the elimination of recreational use of Big Sage and Cabarton resulting from the designation of these areas as C/OS.</p>	<p>Shoreline vehicular access would not be prohibited (as in Alternative B), but would be permitted in designated areas: a positive impact.</p> <p>The creation of boat-in and hike-in sites at the former airstrip would have a substantial positive impact on the availability of this type of recreation experience.</p> <p>A moderate increase in new public recreation facilities would also occur in southeastern areas of the reservoir under this alternative. New development would be greatest under this alternative (including allowing a 500-slip marina along the southeast portion of the reservoir) and would generally result in having a positive impact on recreation.</p>

Table 2.5-1. Impacts of Alternatives Comparison Summary

*Note: Only impacts that vary from those described for the No Action Alternative are described for other alternatives.*

Resource Area	Alternative A - No Action	Preferred Alternative	Alternative B	Alternative C
Recreation, cont.	New facilities at Van Wyck Park and Big Sage would positively impact the availability of developed recreation; however, it would have an adverse impact on the more dispersed recreation experience currently provided here.	<p>alternative would be moderate, and would have a positive impact on recreation. The western sections of the reservoir would also have moderate levels of facility development that would have a positive impact on recreation.</p> <p>This alternative would allow an even larger (400-slip) marina in the southeastern portion of the reservoir and would generally have a positive impact on recreation.</p>		
Visual Resources	<p>This alternative would allow for no new docks in C/OS areas, which would have a positive impact on visual resources. Also, there would be limited creation of new wetland areas and designation of some C/OS areas that would have a positive impact on visual resources.</p> <p>In the northwestern area of the reservoir, a new marina would be constructed at West Mountain that would adversely impact on visual resources.</p> <p>Several actions in the southeastern area that would have negative impacts include the construction of a 250-slip marina, breakwater, and a visitor center at Van Wyck and development in the Crown Point area.</p>	The Preferred Alternative still would have some adverse impacts on visual resources due to recreation development (with some positive impacts), these impacts, and the level of recreation development, would not be at the same level of magnitude as with Alternative A.	<p>Alternative B would allow for the least amount of recreation development of the four alternatives and therefore the least impact on visual resources.</p> <p>On a reservoir-wide basis, all private docks would be eliminated and replaced with community docks. This would have a positive impact on visual resources in the area by decreasing the amount of structures and visual intrusion along the shoreline.</p> <p>Also, the increased emphasis on C/OS areas and WMAs under this alternative would result in a positive impact on visual resources.</p>	<p>Alternative C would result in a moderate level of recreation development, although there would be slightly less development than allowed under Alternative A. In general, this alternative allows for additional recreation development that results in a few additional impacts on the visual resources of the area.</p> <p>Overall, while many of the activities undertaken as part of this alternative would result in incrementally negative impacts on the visual resources at Lake Cascade, several actions would also result in having a positive impact on the area's visual resources. In balance, the resulting impacts would be negligible.</p>



Table 2.5-1. Impacts of Alternatives Comparison Summary

*Note: Only impacts that vary from those described for the No Action Alternative are described for other alternatives.*

Resource Area	Alternative A - No Action	Preferred Alternative	Alternative B	Alternative C
Land Use	<p>Development of a marina adjacent to the West Mountain Campground would be a distinct change to the existing low intensity of development and activity on the western shore of Lake Cascade.</p> <p>Motor vehicle use on the railroad grade north of Crown Point would have indirect land use impacts that could result from increased development pressure because of use of this roadway by adjacent property owners to access their property.</p>	<p>The Preferred Alternative is unlikely to result in any measurable adverse impacts.</p> <p>The Preferred Alternative would address a number of land use designations that were not resolved in the 1991 RMP with more appropriate management areas.</p>	<p>The elimination of all private docks would create intense opposition and resistance from near shore property owners, thereby increasing the need for more intensive and time-consuming management.</p> <p>Depending on the type and scale of concession operations, the provision of fuel and supplies at the Boulder Creek Recreation Area could potentially result in localized land use incompatibilities with adjacent residential uses.</p>	<p>Conversion of the airstrip to a recreation site could potentially be incompatible with the large adjacent WMA. Likewise, conversion of the airstrip of C/OS-designated lands on the northwestern shore could alter both the level of activity and the character of the shoreline.</p> <p>Conversion of the railroad grade to a County road could create a number of land use concerns related to expansion of development pressures.</p>
Socioeconomics	<p>Direct impacts of a new marina at West Mountain on local public services and utilities would depend on ancillary facilities and use levels. Indirect impacts would result from potential commercial and residential development. Of particular concern would be firefighting capabilities because of the distance from the nearest fire station.</p> <p>Allowing motor vehicle use on the railroad grade within the Crown Point Extension would result in indirect public service and utility impacts because of increased development pressure resulting from use of this roadway by adjacent property owners to access their property.</p>	<p>Because of its emphasis on erosion control, community over private uses, pro-active solutions to user conflicts, monitoring for habitat and resource impacts, numerous beneficial socioeconomic impacts would indirectly result from this alternative.</p>	<p>Alternative B shares many of the beneficial impacts of the Preferred Alternative, such as its emphasis on information and regulatory signage, removal of private uses occurring within RR designated areas, and management of float plane and snowmobile activity, and boat wakes in sensitive areas.</p> <p>The provision of fuel and supplies at Boulder Creek Recreation Area could potentially result in added concerns for local fire departments.</p>	<p>This alternative shares many of the positive impacts of the other alternatives, particularly with regard to the management of higher impact motorized recreation activities, widespread use of informative kiosks and regulatory signage, and cooperation with the USFS.</p>
Environmental Justice	No impacts were identified.	Same as the No Action Alternative.	Same as the No Action Alternative.	Same as the No Action Alternative.

Table 2.5-1. Impacts of Alternatives Comparison Summary

*Note: Only impacts that vary from those described for the No Action Alternative are described for other alternatives.*

Resource Area	Alternative A - No Action	Preferred Alternative	Alternative B	Alternative C
Cultural	<p>A CRMP would be developed that addresses proactive strategies for managing and protecting cultural resource sites, for testing and determining the eligibility of sites to the National Register, and for consulting with SHPO and Tribes.</p> <p>Specific Reclamation actions under Alternative A that could potentially adversely affect cultural resources include recreational development; continued use and expansion at recreation sites and development of trail systems or new access.</p>	<p>Although recreation is emphasized under the Preferred Alternative, recreational developments and activities are more controlled and contained than under the No Action Alternative, thereby lessening the potential for relic collecting relative to the No Action Alternative.</p> <p>Potential impacts to yet-to-be-recorded archaeological resources and traditional cultural properties can be expected in conjunction with the planned recreational improvements.</p>	<p>Possible erosional impacts from reservoir operations and natural forces, as well as adverse effects from relic collecting, would continue under this alternative. However, direct impacts to cultural resources from additional facilities, trails, and other recreational improvements would be less than under the other alternatives.</p>	<p>Direct and indirect impacts to cultural resources similar to those discussed under Alternative A and the Preferred Alternative could be expected.</p>
Sacred Sites	<p>Possible impacts to Indian sacred sites from a continuation of existing management practices in the area of the RMP (or from new management practices or activities) cannot be clearly determined since the specific location of sacred properties is unknown.</p> <p>As with cultural resources, sacred sites could be compromised by vandalism and relic collecting from land use activities and recreation development.</p>	<p>Impacts would be the same as described for Alternative A.</p>	<p>Basically the same as Alternative A. Because of limited recreation development under this alternative, potential impacts to sacred sites would be less than for the other alternatives.</p>	<p>Impacts would be the same as described for Alternative A.</p>
Indian Trust Assets	<p>Each of the alternatives would result in minor losses of wildlife habitat with the largest losses occurring under the No Action Alternative and Alternative C.</p>	<p>Same as the No Action Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as the No Action Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as the No Action Alternative.</p>

Table 2.5-1. Impacts of Alternatives Comparison Summary

*Note: Only impacts that vary from those described for the No Action Alternative are described for other alternatives.*

Resource Area	Alternative A - No Action	Preferred Alternative	Alternative B	Alternative C
Transportation and Access	<p>Transportation and access may benefit from limiting access to areas where ad hoc access was prevalent.</p> <p>Encouraging community docks would be a minor negative impact to access for current private dock owners but would benefit others.</p> <p>Improved moorage, boat-in areas, and marinas would improve access to the reservoir but adversely affect local transportation because of more traffic.</p> <p>The new marina and 130-space parking lot near the West Mountain Campground would adversely affect traffic along SH-55 through Cascade, Donnelly, and along Tamarack Falls Road.</p> <p>Development of a west side trail system would improve pedestrian access to the west side area.</p> <p>Expansion of Crown Point Campground would improve user access to the area, but would also negatively impact the transportation system by adding traffic.</p> <p>The Van Wyck Park marina and associated facilities would impact transportation and access. Access for boats and pedestrians would be increased. Improvements to the transportation system reaching this facility would be required for SH-55 and Cascade.</p>	<p>The net impact to access to the water from consolidating private docks into community docks is slightly negative for current private dock owners, but positive for the larger public.</p> <p>Restricting vehicle access to the shoreline would decrease the current ad hoc access and limited, formalized accesses would be created.</p> <p>Expanded Osprey Point facilities would draw more users to Osprey Point, creating more traffic along the West Mountain Road and the roads that feed into West Mountain.</p> <p>Development of a marina and parking lot near the West Mountain Campground would have the same adverse effects described under the No Action Alternative.</p> <p>A larger marina at Van Wyck Park would increase access to the reservoir, but would also increase adverse impacts on the surrounding roads.</p> <p>Pedestrian access in the Cabarton, Blue Heron, and Snow Bank areas to the reservoir shoreline would improve.</p> <p>Erosion protection actions at Snow Bank and Cabarton would reduce vehicular access to the shoreline.</p> <p>Tamarack Falls Road would experience more traffic because of additional users</p>	<p>Eliminating all private docks in RR areas, and only permitting new community docks or concession-run moorages that would serve lot owners as well as the general public.</p> <p>The reduction in vehicles anticipated from no marina or associated facilities near the West Mountain Campground would be beneficial for the West Mountain Road and other approach roads.</p> <p>Winter snowmobile parking would be improved in the Buttercup, Huckleberry, and Curlew areas. Depending on the current and predicted snowmobile use, an increase in traffic arriving at the snowmobile parking areas would be anticipated, causing possible congestion.</p> <p>Boat services such as fueling and supplies at the Boulder Creek Arm area would be an additional draw for boat users, and create more boat as well as vehicle traffic.</p> <p>The Van Wyck marina and associated impacts would be the same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>The recommended action and impacts regarding private docks and RR areas would be the same as for the Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Access impacts from moorage policies and boat launching at developed recreation areas would be the same as Alternative B.</p> <p>Development of Mallard Bay Area facilities would improve access at this area.</p> <p>Alternative C would allow vehicle use of the Crown Point railroad grade and along designated roads and trails to access the Crown Point site road system and the associated shoreline access. This would be an increase in access for vehicles. However, this would be an adverse impact on pedestrian access because of conflicts with motorized access.</p> <p>Alternative C would allow for all-terrain vehicles on existing trails at Vista Point and vicinity. This would improve access for all-terrain vehicles in the area as compared to the No Action Alternative. However, this would be an adverse impact on pedestrian access because of conflicts with motorized access.</p> <p>A larger Van Wyck marina would result in greater access to the reservoir, but</p>

Table 2.5-1. Impacts of Alternatives Comparison Summary  
*Note: Only impacts that vary from those described for the No Action Alternative are described for other alternatives.*

Resource Area	Alternative A - No Action	Preferred Alternative	Alternative B	Alternative C
		in the North Fork Payette Arm.		would increase adverse impacts on surrounding roads.

## **3.0 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences**

## 3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

### 3.1 Introduction

Chapter 3 is organized by resource area. Resource areas include water quality, soils, vegetation, wildlife, threatened and endangered species, aquatic biology, recreation, visual resources, land use, socioeconomics, environmental justice, cultural resources, sacred sites, Indian Trust Assets (ITAs), and transportation and access. The depth of analysis corresponds to the scope and magnitude of the potential environmental impact. Climate, air quality, geology, water resources and hydrology, and topography are not discussed because no impacts were identified. Two topics are covered for each of the resource areas discussed: the affected environment and environmental consequences.

The **affected environment** is addressed first and describes the current conditions for each resource within the Lake Cascade RMP study area. This is not a comprehensive discussion of every resource within the RMP study area, but rather focuses on those aspects of the environment that were identified as issues during scoping or would be affected by the alternatives.

The effects of the alternatives are described next in the **environmental consequences** section for each of the resource areas. Impacts are discussed relative to actions within four broad **assessment categories** as described in Chapter 2:

- Natural resource, habitat, and cultural resource protection and enhancement
- Water quality, surface water management, and erosion control
- Improved or restricted access
- Improved facilities and miscellaneous

The types of impacts expected to result from implementation of any actions within the four assessment categories are discussed so that the nature of the impacts are known. Then, under the alternatives subheadings, the specific impacts of each of the alternatives are discussed in terms of the actions that would occur and specific information about the impact. Only impacts that cannot be fully avoided through the application of BMPs, listed in Chapter 5, are described.

In the environmental consequences section, the depth of analysis of the alternatives corresponds to the scope and magnitude of the potential environmental impact. This chapter compares the effects of the four alternatives described in Chapter 2:

- Alternative A—No Action Alternative: Continuation of Existing Management Practices
- Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis

- Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis
- Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis

The Preferred Alternative, and Alternatives B and C, are the **action alternatives**. Alternative A, the **No Action Alternative**, describes the future if the updated RMP were not implemented. The action alternatives are compared to the No Action Alternative. A description of the affected environment and environmental consequences is presented for each of the alternatives. Mitigation measures and residual impacts remaining after implementation of mitigation measures are described only for the Preferred Alternative. Cumulative impacts are presented for each of the alternatives and are described in Section 3.1.1. A summary of impacts for each alternative is provided at the end of Chapter 2 in Table 2.5.

Several recreation improvements are listed for each of the alternatives. Such improvements include campground expansion, trails, boat launching facilities, marinas, interpretive signage, and parking facilities. Building these facilities depends on developing cost-share agreements between Reclamation and cost-share partners (for example, IDPR). Therefore, the level of development described for each alternative would be allowed to occur, but may not actually occur. For the purpose of the alternatives impact analysis, it is assumed that all of the facilities would be built. At a minimum, the existing facilities would be upgraded to current Federal accessibility standards. Actions within the alternatives that are not related to recreation, such as noxious weed control or erosion control for existing Reclamation recreation facilities, do not require cost-share sponsors and would be implemented by Reclamation as described.

### 3.1.1 Cumulative Impacts

Reasonably foreseeable cumulative impacts were identified for the proposed WestRock resort and implementation of the Cascade Reservoir Watershed Management Plan. Both of these factors are described in this section. The cumulative impacts discussion in each of the resource areas refers to this discussion.

#### **WestRock Resort**

The WestRock Recreational Resort proposed for construction on the west side of Lake Cascade would be a four-season resort encompassing about 3,500 acres. The resort could potentially house more than 5,000 occupants and would require a substantial water supply and wastewater treatment plant. The development of WestRock has many aspects that may potentially impact the natural resources and facilities of the RMP study area. Future specific effects in Reclamation lands and facilities would be handled under separate NEPA analyses.

#### **Cascade Reservoir Watershed Management Plan**

The *Draft Implementation Plan for the Cascade Reservoir Watershed Management Plan Phase II* (Idaho Department of Environmental Quality [IDEQ] 2000) was released April 5, 2000.

The Implementation Plan outlines “the point and non-point source reduction measures that are needed to effect required water-quality improvements and achieve Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) goals within Cascade Reservoir” (IDEQ 2000).

The primary goal of the TMDL is a 37 percent reduction of phosphorus entering Lake Cascade. Based on water quality models, achievement of this reduction would result in compliance with the water quality standards for phosphorus and dissolved oxygen. Thus, the designated uses of fishing, swimming, boating, and agricultural water supply would be supported.

## **3.2 Water Quality and Contaminants**

### **3.2.1 Affected Environment**

Water quality at Lake Cascade has been a subject of public concern since the 1970s, when noxious algal blooms, aquatic weeds, and fish kills began to occur quite frequently (IDEQ 1996). Because of poor water quality, none of the beneficial uses of the reservoir were fully supported during 1993 and 1994 (IDEQ 1996). As a result, the TMDL process was initiated to comply with Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act of 1987 (40 CFR 130.7). The reservoir was listed in 1996 as water quality limited because of violations of water quality standards for nutrients, dissolved oxygen, temperature, and pH.

Violating the water quality standards had several direct, observable consequences to the reservoir. Nutrient enrichment, including phosphorous, caused excessive algal growth. The potential for winter fish kills increased because of oxygen depletion under ice cover (Bender 1997). Another concern has been bacterial contamination of water for swimming (Bender 1997). A substantial low point in water quality occurred in September 1993, when 23 cattle died from ingesting toxic algae in the reservoir. A public health advisory was issued warning the public to avoid contact with the reservoir (Shepard 1995).

Agencies and the community have actively worked toward improving water quality to attain full support of all beneficial uses, and have a goal to meet all water quality standards. The 1991 RMP contained provisions to improve water quality within Reclamation's jurisdiction. Specifically, the RMP included provisions for improving sanitation at waste management sites, prohibiting the use of chemicals on Reclamation lands, and pledging to follow the recommendations from the Valley County Soil Conservation District's Lake Cascade Watershed Project.

In 1992, a citizen's group formed an interagency task force to address water quality issues throughout the watershed. This group became the Cascade Reservoir Coordinating Council, the state-designated Watershed Advisory Group for the TMDL process, in 1995. This advisory group, which represents nine sectors of the local community, has worked closely with IDEQ and a Technical Advisory Committee composed of agency, industrial, and municipal scientists and engineers to develop draft TMDL standards. The *Lake Cascade Phase I Watershed Management Plan* was published in January 1996 (IDEQ). In August 1997, results of a Lake Cascade Water Quality Modeling Study were published by Reclamation “to develop predictive



water quality models to assist in identifying and evaluating operational and structural measures for improving water quality” (Bender 1997). In April 1998, the TMDL Phase II Agricultural Source Plan was released (IDEQ 1998b), followed by the Phase II Watershed Management Plan in December 1998 (IDEQ 1998a).

The TMDL Implementation Plan, which was released in early 2000, identifies specific measures needed to achieve a targeted 37 percent reduction of phosphorus loads. The primary sources of pollutants are from point and nonpoint source pollution. The following two point sources were identified in the Phase II Watershed Management Plan (IDEQ 1998a):

- McCall wastewater treatment plant
- IDFG fish hatchery in McCall

The major sources of nonpoint pollution include the following (IDEQ 1998a):

- Management practices by forestry, agricultural, and urban and suburban areas
- Internal recycling of nutrients within the reservoir

A Phase III Watershed Management Plan would be prepared to evaluate progress toward attainment of water quality standards and designated beneficial uses. This report is expected in December 2003.

To improve water quality, Reclamation has constructed wetlands on their lands to treat water flowing into Lake Cascade from several tributaries. The following wetland sites have been constructed:

- Duck Creek North
- Duck Creek Osprey Point
- Old State Highway
- Arling Hot Spring
- Hembry Creek sites 1 and 2
- Willow Creek
- Mallard Bay

These wetlands are intended to accomplish the following:

1. Trap and remove sediment

2. Uptake and release phosphorous in a cycle
3. Provide stream stabilization
4. Provide wildlife food, cover, nesting, and resting habitat values

Reclamation, in conjunction with IDEQ, is conducting a monitoring program to assess wetland performance relative to water quality parameters. Results of the monitoring indicate that the wetlands have, for the most part, successfully reduced the net pollutants entering the reservoir from these tributaries (Reclamation 1999b).

Reclamation scientists measured suspended sediment and three types of phosphorous at the inlet (tributary) and outlet (wetland result) at each site. In 1997, the Ivan Phelps and Hembry Creek sites had net reductions for all pollutants. The other sites had mixed results (Reclamation 1999b). As the wetland communities became more established in 1998, the pollutant reduction improved. All sites had a net reduction in pollutants, except for the Hembry Creek site (Reclamation 1999b). These wetlands are expected to be part of the long-term plan for reducing pollutant loads to the reservoir.

### **3.2.2 Environmental Consequences**

#### **Assessment Categories**

##### **Natural Resource, Habitat, and Cultural Resource Protection and Enhancement**

Emphasizing protection and enhancement of natural resources and habitat under the Preferred Alternative would benefit water quality by reducing potential sources of point and non-point pollution. Healthy riparian habitats help to reduce erosion along stream banks as well as reduce and or filter sediment-laden runoff from lands near water. Development of wetlands, which would receive an increased emphasis under any of the action alternatives, would also enhance water quality in much the same way, as well as provide a substantial source of nutrient uptake.

The conversion of open space to developed land under any of the alternatives could contribute to the deterioration of water quality. This could occur through activities such as construction, residential lawn maintenance, or grazing in riparian areas. These activities can be sources of excessive sediment and nutrients, and in the case of residential lawn maintenance, pesticides and herbicides. Setting aside or maintaining lands designated as C/OS or WMA would help maintain or improve water quality under any of the alternatives.

##### **Water Quality, Surface Water Management, and Erosion Control**

Under all alternatives, managing resources for the benefit of water quality would be necessary because of the recent water quality problems and increased recreational use and land development in and around the reservoir. Surface water management and erosion control would help maintain or

improve water quality under all the alternatives and would be more pronounced under the action alternatives.

Restricted motorized boating enforcement of 100-foot no-wake zones, and increased education of 200-foot voluntary no-wake zones under all of the action alternatives, would help to reduce shoreline erosion. In shallow areas, restricting motorized boats would help prevent resuspension of bottom sediments and detachment, suspension, and displacement of nuisance aquatic vegetation under all alternatives. Detached aquatic vegetation can drift to other areas of the reservoir and reestablish or accumulate in large quantities. Large quantities of detached aquatic vegetation can concentrate in coves and decay—a process that consumes valuable oxygen required by fish and other aquatic organisms, thus deteriorating water quality.

Regulating landscape development under the action alternatives would also minimize negative impacts to water quality. As mentioned above, landscape development and maintenance could result in short term erosion during construction and a long term source of nutrients from fertilizers and contaminants from herbicides and pesticides. Erosion control is especially important, since phosphorus adheres to sediment, and is transported during spring runoff and storm events. Phosphorous has been identified as a major source of pollution to the reservoir. Water quality would benefit from erosion control throughout the watershed.

### **Improved or Restricted Access**

Restricting access benefits water quality by restricting human activities in areas that may be prone to erosion. Access restrictions to riparian or wetland habitats may occur under any of the action alternatives, and also benefit water quality by preserving these areas.

In areas where access is already permitted, improving existing access under any alternative would likely be a benefit to water quality. For example, if unrestricted roads are a source of erosion, improved roads and designated access points could reduce erosion.

Vehicular access to the drawdown zone is currently not allowed; however, unauthorized access within this zone is commonplace. Alternatives A and C, more so than the Preferred Alternative or Alternative B, could increase the potential for new, unauthorized access points to be created, resulting in further shoreline vegetation and or structural damage and subsequent erosion. Frequent access on foot can also result in shoreline damage under any of the alternatives, especially if users continue to create new access points as use increases.

### **Improved Facilities and Miscellaneous**

Improving facilities to accommodate increased demand or promote increased use, under any of the alternatives, would, in general, negatively affect water quality. Larger parking and camping areas, which may occur under any of the alternatives, would mean increased hard surface impervious areas resulting in increased runoff of poorer quality because of pollution from vehicles. Where landscaped areas are created or expanded, the potential for poorer runoff quality resulting from

fertilizers and maintenance chemicals would result under any alternative. Although upgraded waste facilities are planned to some extent under all the alternatives, where direct connections to a sanitary sewer system would not be feasible, the potential for pollution resulting from faulty or unmaintained septic systems would be created.

The development of marinas under all alternatives would tend to concentrate boats in small areas, where unburned or spilled fuel would negatively affect water quality. Shoreline erosion would also be a potential problem because of wave erosion from increased boat traffic.

BMPs would have to be employed under any of the action alternatives to avoid or reduce these negative effects. An example would be implementing stormwater BMPs to control runoff quantity and provide treatment. Designing parking lots and marinas to promote efficient vehicle and boat traffic would be important to prevent congestion under all action alternatives. Also, connecting waste facilities directly to sanitary sewer systems under any alternative would be more beneficial than septic tanks because of the history of failed septic tanks along the reservoir contributing to water quality problems.

## **Alternatives**

### **Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices**

The No Action Alternative would result in a continuation of the current trends and conditions for water quality and contaminants. Shoreline erosion control measures are currently allowed by permit. Conversion of C/OS to RR designation would not occur. Landscape development and uses in RR areas would continue through an established permit system. Vehicular access to the shoreline and drawdown areas would be managed to protect vegetation and limit erosion. The no-wake zones designated in the 1991 RMP would remain. These actions would benefit water quality.

Habitat would continue to be protected and enhanced by the management of WMAs as according to the intent and priorities stated in the 1991 RMP. Negotiations would continue with agricultural easement (AE) owners that lead to the termination of grazing on Reclamation lands, or at a minimum keep livestock from the shoreline. Although there is uncertainty as to whether or not it would happen, acquisition of agriculture easements to eliminate grazing through purchase, lease, or exchange would be pursued. These actions, if successful, would also benefit water quality. Potential changes to AEs would be the same for all alternatives.

The No Action Alternative would allow the development of numerous recreation facilities as listed and described in Table 2.3-1. Of the four alternatives, the No Action Alternative and Alternative C have the greatest acreage of proposed recreation sites. These sites and their associated facilities would be expected to result in the potential for direct and indirect adverse water quality impacts described in the above *Assessment Categories*.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

The WestRock Project would have a number of potential effects on water quality and contaminants. These potential impacts are described by various Idaho State agencies in the *Analysis of the WestRock Project* (ISLB 1999). The general consensus is that water quality must be protected; however, many adverse potential impacts to water quality would be associated with the project, as well as some opportunities.

Some of the adverse impacts include the following:

- Substantial amount of land disturbance and erosion potential
- Sewage disposal, increased snow melt, and increased stormwater runoff have the potential to increase nutrient loading to the reservoir
- The proposed golf course has the potential to contribute pesticides and fertilizers into Poison Creek and the reservoir
- Increased boating activity could adversely affect shoreline habitat and erosion
- Vegetation clearing could adversely affect tributary water temperature

Some potential water quality benefits identified in the agency analysis include WestRock's proposed construction of a sewage collection/treatment system, and their stated intent to allow neighboring landowners the opportunity to connect to it. This could benefit water quality by allowing the decommissioning of outdated or unmaintained waste disposal systems along the reservoir that may currently be contributing to poor water quality. Opportunities may also exist to improve the condition of tributary streams in the RMP study area on land owned by WestRock. These would likely include erosion reduction and enhanced riparian corridors.

Overall, the short term impacts of the project on water quality would likely be unfavorable because of the extensive construction and associated land disturbance. The long term impacts would depend on the effectiveness of BMPs implemented, their maintenance and monitoring, and the project's and local stakeholder's commitment to protect and enhance the water quality of the reservoir.

The WestRock Project would be subject to the TMDL program for the reservoir. This program requires a 30 percent reduction of total phosphorus from nonpoint sources throughout the entire watershed. So, although the reduction is not necessarily required on a site-specific basis, the overall reduction of phosphorus loading to the reservoir must be achieved. Any new sources of phosphorus load to the reservoir would require a load reduction elsewhere in the watershed. As growth and development occur around the reservoir, this goal would likely become more challenging for all land owners within the watershed.

Another objective of the TMDL is to maintain the 300,000 acre-feet minimum reservoir pool to protect water quality. If the goals of the TMDL program for Lake Cascade are achieved, the cumulative effect would substantially improve water quality.

### **Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis**

As listed in Table 2.3-1, the Preferred Alternative would include stricter control measures than the No Action Alternative for erosion control, vehicular access to shoreline and drawdown areas, encroachment on Reclamation lands, and no-wake zones. It would also provide greater protection and enhancement of habitat. Also, BMPs to address water quality impacts from the golf course would be included. All of these measures would positively affect water quality and help offset the impacts of additional recreational development.

Although several recreational facilities would be developed or enlarged under the Preferred Alternative, there would be more C/OS and WMA areas, and less recreation acreage than the No Action Alternative. Some of the more important facilities, in terms of water quality impacts, would be the two proposed marinas—one at West Mountain Campground and Poison Creek, and the other at Van Wyck Park. The marina at Van Wyck Park would ultimately accommodate up to 150 more boat slips than proposed under the No Action Alternative. At Van Wyck Park, the wastewater facilities would be connected to City sewer, thus minimizing the impact of this potential indirect source of water pollution. With these things considered, the Preferred Alternative should have less adverse impact on water quality than the No Action Alternative.

### **Mitigation**

Wherever feasible, waste facilities at recreation sites would be connected to sewer systems to prevent water quality contamination from faulty or unmaintained septic tanks or other waste facilities. Controlling stormwater runoff quantity and quality during construction would prevent sediment-laden runoff from entering the reservoir. Stormwater controls would be implemented at recreation sites to treat runoff from parking lots and campgrounds and any new impervious areas. Streambank vegetation near the recreation areas would be maintained or improved to prevent shoreline erosion from wave action, runoff, or trampling by people or animals. Efforts will be made to make information available to the public to educate on this issue. Creating permanent or semi-permanent access points for pedestrian traffic, combined with signage to prevent trampling in sensitive shoreline areas, would also help mitigate impacts of increased recreational use.

### **Residual Impacts**

Minor water quality impacts from shoreline erosion would continue, especially following high winds. Some minor sediment runoff from construction of new or expanded facilities would also occur. Increased boat traffic on the reservoir would result in more fuel being discharged to the water, especially in the vicinity of the marinas. Spill control devices and

containment at fueling locations can mitigate the impact of on-land fuel spills; however, the amount of unburned fuel from watercraft on the reservoir would increase.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

The cumulative impacts from the RMP actions would be less than those described for the No Action Alternative because of the increased emphasis on natural resources. Effects of WestRock and the TMDL program would be the same.

## **Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis**

This alternative would have an increased emphasis on natural resources, with more limited recreation development. Thus, Alternative B would be expected to adversely impact reservoir water quality slightly less than the Preferred Alternative. This results from having less recreation development and slightly more areas designated as WMAs.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

The cumulative impacts from the RMP actions for this alternative would be less than those associated with the No Action and Preferred Alternatives. Effects of WestRock and the TMDL program would be the same.

## **Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis**

Alternative C would result in a similar amount of acreage for recreation sites, C/OS, and WMAs when compared to the No Action Alternative. As listed in Table 2.3-1, Alternative C includes some actions more favorable to water quality than the No Action Alternative. These include erosion control, vehicular access, no-wake zones, and private landscape development and encroachment on Reclamation land. Therefore, Alternative C would be expected to have slightly less adverse impact on water quality than the No Action Alternative.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

The cumulative impacts from the RMP actions would be slightly less than those associated with the No Action Alternative, but greater than the Preferred Alternative. Effects of WestRock and the TMDL program would be the same.

## **3.3 Soils**

### **3.3.1 Affected Environment**

The RMP study area lies entirely within the Idaho Batholith, a body of congealed molten rock (igneous) covering almost 20,000 square miles in northern and central Idaho. Basalt, a crystalline rock of volcanic origin, overlies eroded border rocks of the Idaho Batholith along the entire

western boundary of Valley County. Rocks from these formations consist of different types of granite and mica that are typically highly weathered and decomposed.

The parent materials for reservoir shoreline area soils are generally granitic rock with local areas of sandy alluvium and areas of glacial outwash, composed of uncemented beds of sand and gravel. The outwash areas are generally found on the reservoir's east shoreline, north of Sugarloaf Island, while the alluvium overlying the granitic rock is south of Sugarloaf. The reservoir's west shoreline also consists of alluvium and glacial outwash.

These geologic materials typically produce coarse-textured soils. The Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS 1981) general soils map shows five map units abutting the reservoir's shoreline. The map units indicate the following diverse soil conditions:

- Slopes vary from flat to steep
- Soils depths vary from moderate to very deep
- Drainage is poor to excessive

Uncontrolled recreation, vehicular use, and grazing in some riparian corridors have eliminated vegetation and caused considerable erosion. Excessive instream erosion has also been caused by reservoir backwater effects during high water in the early summer. The Valley Soil Conservation District, through the *Cascade Reservoir Watershed Management Plan*, has identified riparian-lined streams draining into the reservoir (IDEQ 1998b).

Reclamation (1998) estimated in 1995 that 10,329 acre-feet of sediment had been deposited in the reservoir since November 1947. This volume represents a 1.47 percent loss of the total storage capacity and an average yearly loss of 216 acre-feet of storage.

### **Shoreline Erosion**

Shoreline erosion continues to be a serious problem raising concerns about potential building structure and dock loss, public safety, and visual impacts. Reclamation continues to work with private property owners to address shoreline erosion concerns on their property. In general, shoreline erosion is confined to the reservoir's east shore, where wind-generated wave action has created 5- to 50-foot vertical cliffs in some areas. Large waves (4 to 6 feet) are common during severe storms on the reservoir because of the combination of the prevailing southwest and northwest wind patterns, the shallow nature of the reservoir, and its north/south orientation. Areas where shoreline encroachment is of particular concern include the Cabarton Recreation Area, Van Wyck Park to the dam, and residential areas starting below Arrowhead Point and proceeding north into the Boulder Creek and Lake Fork arms of the reservoir. Unusual storm events have also resulted in erosion at Huckleberry Park, the only point where shoreline erosion has become an issue on the west side of the reservoir (Reclamation 1991b).



The occurrence of shoreline erosion is most frequent during the early summer when reservoir water levels are at a maximum and summer storms and waves have the greatest erosive impact on the vertical slopes. Other factors that partially contribute to shoreline erosion include large wakes from boats in confined reservoir areas during high water, and uncontrolled off-road vehicle use (Reclamation 1991b).

The extent of vertical and horizontal erosion is highly variable along the east shore. In general, erosion is most serious in the alluvium and glacial outwash soils that extend along the upper two-thirds of the reservoir's eastern shoreline, where hard rock underlies these soils. In contrast, the southern third of this shoreline is generally composed of granitic soils underlain by rock that would eventually stop the erosion process.

Residents have indicated that certain shoreline areas have been cut upland from 10 to 60 feet during the past 10 to 20 years. A review of a shoreline survey conducted by Reclamation in 1974 also revealed that the height of the erosion point or scarp in several areas has also increased noticeably during the same time period (Reclamation 1991b). Areas where scarp height is greatest include the following:

- Cabarton area
- The area just south of the dam
- Several areas just north of Crown Point
- Sugarloaf Peninsula
- Immediately south of Arrowhead Point
- Many areas in the Boulder Creek and Lake Fork arms of the reservoir

Although many shoreline erosion control measures have been attempted by adjacent private property owners, a large percentage of past efforts have not been successful. Reclamation continues to receive requests for permits to construct retaining walls and other erosion control structures, as well as permits to maintain existing structures. The quality of erosion control efforts by private property owners is improving as they seek advice from Reclamation and the COE.

Reclamation has also installed erosion control structures at several locations around the reservoir. Logs have been buried along the shoreline at Huckleberry Park to reduce erosion on the gently sloping shoreline. Rock gabions have been installed along the shoreline at the Boulder Creek day use area. Steel pilings have been installed at the concrete slab at Crown Point Campground as a temporary solution for erosion undermining the slab.

### **3.3.2 Environmental Consequences**

#### **Assessment Categories**

##### **Natural Resource, Habitat, and Cultural Resource Protection and Enhancement**

Development of habitat improvement plans, under all alternatives except Alternative A, within C/OS areas and near recreation areas would beneficially impact soil resources through increased erosion protection. In general, developing and implementing a plan to improve habitat would provide an intact plant canopy cover, which reduces precipitation-induced dislodgment of soil particles from the soil surface. This is particularly true for riparian areas where existing vegetation has been removed from stream banks through recreation or grazing. However, in high human use areas (recreation areas), existing vegetation may be less effective for erosion control than non-native vegetation, such as turf grasses, because of the susceptibility of native vegetation to damage (canopy removal) through disturbance. Developed areas are discussed below under the *Improved Facilities* subsection. Vegetation would reduce but not eliminate shoreline erosion in areas prone to major wind-driven wave erosion.

Restoration of native plant communities under all alternatives except Alternative A, would have the same effect of reducing erosion as discussed above for habitat management plans. Degraded plant communities typically have a low density canopy cover, with many bare areas. Restoration of the native plant community would improve overall plant density, and thereby increase canopy cover. Higher canopy cover equates to increased protection of the soil resource. Soil productivity would also be expected to increase over time with vegetation restoration, as more organic matter is added to the soil, with a subsequent increase in soil nutrient levels.

Reclamation would monitor new and existing trails in WMAs under the Preferred Alternative. Improved monitoring would allow areas showing increased erosion to be addressed quickly through trail closure or maintenance. Unimproved, unvegetated trails provide easily erodible areas that contribute to soil loss in the WMAs.

Emphasis would be placed on additional wetland development in the Gold Fork WMA under the Preferred Alternative and in the Crown Point Vicinity under all action alternatives. Although not a direct erosion control activity, construction of wetlands slows runoff and results in sediment deposition. Sediment deposition would prevent the loss of sediment (soil) from areas around the reservoir where wetlands are developed. This action slowly builds new soil horizons as the wetlands fill in with sediment, providing new, nutrient-rich substrates for terrestrial communities. As the wetland fills in completely with sediment, the new soil (sediment) is colonized, by first riparian, and then upland vegetation through succession.

Designation of an area as a WMA from a potential developed land use as proposed for Mallard Bay under Alternative B and at the former state airstrip under the Preferred Alternative and Alternative B would increase erosion protection as native vegetation becomes established. Native vegetation provides multiple plant canopies and reduces soil dislodgment by rain drops.

Conversion of an area from recreation or other developed use to C/OS would reduce soil loss as human-use decreases and native vegetation becomes established. This action is proposed at Mallard Bay under the Proposed Alternative and Alternative C; at Crown Point Extension under the Preferred Alternative and Alternative B; at big Sage and Carbarton under Alternative B; and on Sugarloaf Peninsula under all action alternatives. Conversion from C/OS to Recreation to allow trail

development between existing west side recreation areas under the Preferred Alternative and Alternative C would increase erosion compared to No Action. Minor erosion would occur during construction and then because of increased human use.

### **Water Quality, Surface Water Management, and Erosion Control**

Permitting shoreline erosion control structures would be a major contributor to reducing shoreline loss. Shoreline erosion is a continuing problem on Lake Cascade that results in soil loss, with subsequent deposition in the reservoir. The permitting process, while not difficult, is time-consuming and confusing to some residents. Increasing efforts to assist residents to obtain erosion control structure permits from the COE in all action alternatives would facilitate obtaining permits, thus likely increasing the number of structures installed. More structures equates to more erosion control and less soil loss. A wide variety of structures are currently in-use on Lake Cascade. The effectiveness of these structures varies from very good to failing. Reclamation in conjunction with COE would develop structure design guidelines under all action alternatives. Following these guidelines would help to ensure that each new structure provides the best erosion control possible. Shoreline soil loss would decline over the long-term as new and replacement structures using the accepted designs are installed.

Evaluation, recommendations, and implementation of permitted private landscaping on Reclamation land on a regular basis under all action alternatives would improve erosion control around the reservoir. Existing permitted landscaping structures, mostly retaining walls, reduce erosion and are a benefit to Reclamation lands. However, many of these structures are in disrepair and need maintenance. Periodic evaluation would allow Reclamation to recommend repairs as a condition of the permit, enhancing erosion control efforts.

Boat wakes and storms are the two major actions initiating shoreline erosion. Storms cannot be avoided, but wake control is possible in susceptible areas. Establishment, signage, and successful enforcement of no-wake zones under all action alternatives would reduce shoreline soil loss from boat-generated waves. Increasing the no-wake distance to 200-feet from the shoreline adjacent to WMAs, as proposed under the Preferred Alternative and Alternative C, compared to only 100-feet under Alternative B, would provide additional erosion protection.

Grazing can contribute to soil loss through removal of vegetation cover, establishment of cattle trails, soil compaction, and streambank trampling. If successful, increasing efforts to acquire AEs to eliminate grazing on Reclamation's land would increase plant cover, decrease establishment and use of unvegetated livestock trails, improve soil tilth as compaction lessens, and reduce streambank trampling. All of these actions would reduce soil loss and subsequent loss of vegetation productivity. Removal of cattle from shoreline grazing area would reduce trampling of the shoreline, which would lessen soil loss through erosion. Shoreline trampling tends to establish erosional pathways from the uplands to the water, contributing to sedimentation into the reservoir.

### **Improved or Restricted Access**

Vehicular access to the shoreline and drawdown area is not allowed, but enforcement is currently lax. Driving onto the shoreline and drawdown areas contributes to increased erosion through destruction of vegetative cover and creation of ruts. Ruts provide an erosion pathway from the uplands to the water, and destruction of vegetation removes the protective cover and initiates erosion and soil loss. Prohibiting vehicular access to all areas of the lake under the Preferred Alternative and Alternative B would reduce erosion by eliminating vehicles from these areas. Limited vehicular access would continue to be allowed at Mallard Bay under the Preferred Alternative, which would only slightly improve existing erosion from conditions under Alternative A at this location. Under Alternative C, vehicles would still be allowed in designated areas, which would allow erosion to continue in those areas, but public education and increased enforcement would tend to lower erosion potential.

Development of new trails and trailheads under all alternatives would concentrate non-motorized off-road use onto trails designed to prevent erosion and subsequent soil loss. Use of newly developed trails may also result in abandonment (or at least less use) of numerous ad hoc trails. These networks of ad hoc trails have resulted in gully formation, accelerated erosion, bank failure, and runoff pathways directly into the reservoirs or streams. All these outcomes of undeveloped trails lead to loss of soil; a situation that may improve through new trail creation and public awareness/education. Creating new trails where access is currently prohibited through land use, land ownership, or AEs would open new areas to erosion. New trails would provide shoreline access under all action alternatives where none currently exists, which may result in additional impacts to sensitive shoreline areas. Increased human use would result in loss of vegetation and bank trampling.

### **Improved Facilities and Miscellaneous**

Private landscaping for erosion control on Reclamation property under all action alternatives could reduce soil loss if properly designed and installed. Encroachment onto Reclamation land may increase soil loss if encroachments are left barren or are allowed to become weed-infested. If encroachment areas are vegetated and protective of soil surfaces, no impact on soil loss would be expected.

Monitoring the lease and consideration of lease renewal for the YMCA and 4-H camps and the Donnelly City Park would have no additional impacts on soil resources. However, if population increases result in increased use, erosion could increase depending on management practices employed but monitoring and recommendations would prevent additional impacts. Development of new boat-in day use and camp areas would result in increased shoreline erosion, as the shoreline would become un-vegetated and compacted in high-use areas. This activity would occur at Driftwood Point under the Preferred Alternative and Alternatives A and C; Crown Point Extension under the Preferred Alternative and Alternative B; and under Alternative C on Sugarloaf Island.

A variety of facilities would be constructed or expanded. These include expansion of group camping areas (Alternatives A, C, and Preferred Alternative), development of day use areas (all alternatives), construction of a lodge, marina development with breakwaters (all alternatives), construction of kiosks and interpretive areas (all alternatives), building stormwater systems (Preferred Alternative and Alternative B), extending boat ramps (all alternatives), constructing fish cleaning stations (all alternatives), and conversion of camping areas to day use areas (Preferred Alternative and Alternative C).

Organizing parking areas and increasing parking lot size under all alternatives would discourage using vegetated areas adjacent to existing parking lots as ad hoc parking areas. This would improve groundcover and reduce soil compaction, which would lessen soil loss and surface runoff. Construction of new parking lots in previously undisturbed areas would increase runoff and result in additional soil loss.

Expansion of existing facilities (such as campgrounds and day use areas) under all alternatives would encourage additional visitor days. Additional visitor use would result in impacts to natural areas adjacent to the expanded facilities. As native vegetation is impacted from increased visitor use, soil loss would accelerate. Construction of new facilities (such as campgrounds, day use areas, marinas, kiosks, and interpretive centers) would cover undisturbed soils with impervious surfaces, increasing runoff and soil loss. Increased visitor use, as discussed above for expanded facilities, would impact surrounding areas, with potential for soil loss. For those facilities expanded or constructed near the shoreline, shoreline erosion would increase as banks are trampled and compacted and vegetation is lost. Where facilities are constructed in previously impacted areas, soil loss could decrease as barren areas are vegetated with landscaping. Turf grasses would be more protective of soil than native vegetation in high-use areas. Expanded or constructed facilities with new stormwater collection systems, would not experience increased erosion over the long-term. In fact, stormwater facilities may result in less runoff, as storm flows are captured. Shoreline erosion would decrease near marinas where breakwaters are constructed. The breakwater would reduce both boat- and weather-generated wave impacts. Expansion of boat ramps would result in increased use on the edges of the ramp. These impacted areas would be compacted and devoid of vegetation. This would increase soil loss and surface runoff directly into the reservoir.

Continued use of the quarry would result in no additional impacts to soil resources (all alternatives). The quarry is already through the soil cap and into the underlying rock. Continued use of erosion control practices at the quarry would reduce erosion from bare surfaces.

## **Alternatives**

### **Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices**

Riparian areas would continue to decline from overuse with subsequent loss of streambank soil. Continued efforts to eliminate livestock grazing near streams and the reservoir would result in a gradual improvement in soil loss from erosion. Continued efforts to acquire AEs would generally

improve soil loss conditions as grazing is eliminated and vegetation and soil recovers. The expected success of these actions is probably low.

Piecemeal erosion control measures by residents would continue to provide intermittent erosion protection, depending on the efficiency of the erosion control structure design and placement. Existing no-wake zones would continue to protect certain shorelines from boat-generated wave action, but others in need of protection would continue to decline. Non-motorized areas in the upper arms of the reservoir would continue to protect shorelines from erosion.

Vehicle restrictions in shoreline and drawdown areas would protect these areas from erosion. However, current lax enforcement results in numerous violations, which would continue. Erosion impacts from ad hoc off-road vehicle use around Boulder Creek Arm and the north side of Gold Fork Arm would continue, and likely increase as use increases. Many ad hoc trails at Vista Point, Hot Springs Creek WMA, and North Fork Arm would continue to be used, with continued loss of soil from compaction and runoff.

The West Side Trail system and trails at Mallard Bay and Crown Point Extension would be developed, with potential increased erosion from trail use. Five new day use areas, one new boat-in campground, seven new campgrounds, one expanded campground, two new marinas, one formalized parking area, one new parking area, one interpretive area, three new boat ramps with docks, a large facility at Van Wyck (including a boat ramp, fish cleaning stations, parking areas, marina with breakwater, visitor center, expanded day use area, RV campground, and new paved trails), and one fish cleaning station would be allowed. Runoff from these areas would increase, as increased visitor use would impact native vegetation and compact soil around the facilities. Overland storm flows may increase in areas of impervious surfaces and where vegetation cannot establish due to increased visitor use. Erosion would decrease at facilities where turf is established, because it is very protective of soil resources.

The 4-H Camp, YMCA Camp, and Donnelly City Park use would be monitored and leases considered for renewal. As these facilities see increased use as population increases, the potential for additional erosion is present.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

Development of WestRock would increase shoreline erosion because more boats would use the reservoir. It would also stimulate overall increased use of recreational facilities, further impacting recreation areas and increasing soil loss from those areas.

Reduction of non-point source phosphorous associated with soil particles through the Cascade Reservoir Watershed Management Plan TMDL process would slow the loss of soil within the entire watershed. Construction and expansion of facilities along the reservoir, with subsequent increase in soil loss potential, would reduce the overall soil loss prevention anticipated with implementation of the TMDL.

### **Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis**

The following discussion focuses on differences from Alternative A.

Implementation of habitat improvement plans would result in enhanced soil protection. Habitat improvement plans for the WMAs to protect water quality would also protect soil as additional native vegetation is established and controls runoff. Monitoring trails and an increase in the no-wake distance, to the extent that it is honored, and a slight increase in WMA acreage (39 acres) would reduce erosion. Designation of an additional 158 acres of C/OS would increase shoreline protection.

The AE and grazing elimination actions, as discussed for Alternative A would be pursued. Reclamation assistance to landowners applying for erosion control structure permits and accepted design standards would more effectively arrest shoreline erosion, where structures are constructed by land owners. Expansion of no-wake zones, public awareness campaigns to promote no-wake zones, and enhanced enforcement would increase shoreline protection.

Private landscaping for erosion control on Reclamation land would continue, however, permits would now be issued following approval of designs that promote erosion control. Monitoring would reduce erosion, by ensuring landscaping is effective. Encroachment onto Reclamation land would continue to be prohibited and existing, non-grandfathered encroachment removed in C/OS, WMA, and recreation areas. Shoreline erosion protection would be implemented at Snow Bank and Cabarton.

Other recreation site improvements and expansions noted in Table 2.3-1 would have effects described for the assessment categories. Less land (203 acres) would be disturbed than under Alternative A. Therefore, fewer impacts on soils would be expected.

#### **Mitigation**

No mitigation is proposed for impacts identified for the Preferred Alternative. Best management practices would be implemented during construction to reduce soil loss from construction sites. Establishment of vegetation at new and expanded facilities would assist in preventing soil loss around recreation sites. Vigorous enforcement would be needed to enforce no-wake zones and keep motor vehicles from shoreline and drawdown areas.

#### **Residual Impacts**

Residual impacts include temporary increased soil loss from new and expanded recreation areas. Shoreline erosion and soil loss would also continue in unprotected areas.

#### **Cumulative Impacts**

Cumulative impacts of the Preferred Alternative would be the same as those of No Action with the following exceptions. The Preferred Alternative and the Cascade Reservoir

Watershed Management Plan would interact in a positive manner. Implementation of erosion control activities within the Preferred Alternative would supplement the erosion control activities in the TMDL process, thereby possibly reducing soil erosion into the reservoir.

### **Alternative B—Limited Recreation Development /Increase Natural Resource Emphasis**

Shoreline erosion and erosion from recreation sites would be reduced at all facilities not expanded or constructed with this alternative. Less area (278 fewer acres than under Alternative A) would be developed for recreation, thereby reducing disturbance and erosion potential. However, demand would continue to increase, so vegetation trampling and erosion at existing recreation sites would increase. Erosion would increase over Alternative A in the WMAs with no monitoring of trails and reduction of no-wake distance, but an increase in WMA acreage (155 acres) would likely offset the increase. Erosion would increase in the Gold Fork (non-motorized trail) and North Fork Arms (no formalization of ad hoc trails). No monitoring of private landscaping effectiveness would continue and a slight reduction in erosion control structures built by Reclamation would increase erosion potential. Designation of an additional 123 acres of C/OS would improve protection against shoreline erosion relative to Alternative A.

#### **Cumulative Impacts**

The cumulative impacts would be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative, except less recreational development with this alternative would reduce the cumulative impacts, because less people overall would be using the reservoir. Cumulative impacts attributable to WestRock and the TMDL program would be the same as described for No Action.

### **Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis**

Overall, more land would be disturbed for constructing recreation sites than any other alternative except Alternative A, resulting in greater erosion. Erosion would increase over Alternative A in the WMAs with no monitoring of trails and reduction of no-wake distance. No monitoring of private landscaping effectiveness would continue. Designation of an additional 9 acres of C/OS land to other land uses would slightly increase protection against shoreline erosion relative to Alternative A. Allowing motor vehicle use of the railroad grade north of Crown Point could open a new area to residential development, with subsequent increases in soil erosion.

#### **Cumulative Impacts**

The cumulative impacts would be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative, except that moderate recreational development would increase the cumulative impact on soils as more people would be using the reservoir. Cumulative impacts attributable to WestRock and the TMDL program would be the same as described for No Action.



## 3.4 Vegetation

### 3.4.1 Affected Environment

#### Cover Types

The following four major vegetation cover types are found near Lake Cascade: (1) wetlands and riparian communities; (2) grassland/pasture; (3) upland shrub; and (4) conifer forest. Numerous plant communities are found within each of these major cover types, as discussed below.

#### Wetlands and Riparian Cover Types

Wetlands and riparian communities perform many important ecological functions, including providing water quality, protection, flood control, shoreline stabilization, contribution to groundwater recharge and streamflows, primary production in the food chain, and wildlife and fish habitat (Sather and Smith 1984). In addition, they also provide social benefits as natural areas for aesthetic, recreational, and educational opportunities.

A variety of Federal and state regulations require consideration of wetlands during construction and other activities. The most substantial of these regulations are the National Environmental Policy Act, the Clean Water Act (especially Section 404, which requires a permit for wetland disposal of fill and dredge material), the Idaho Lake Protection Act, and the Stream Channel Protection Act. All Federal agencies are subject to these regulations.

Wetland and riparian communities, as defined for the purposes of this EA, include shallow and deep marshes; wet meadows; and forest, shrub and herbaceous riparian communities. These areas are mapped according to the primary vegetation types without regard to whether or not the area meets the COE criteria for jurisdictional wetlands under Section 404. The EA follows this approach because the major vegetation type of wetlands and riparian communities typically define the area's habitat value for fish and wildlife, which is a major consideration of this current RMP. General boundaries of wetland and riparian communities were established during a vegetation mapping program conducted for the USFS by Utah State University. Boundaries were delineated for this study using aerial photos. Jurisdictional wetland boundaries would be delineated with special studies on a case-by-case basis as needed for projects anticipated by this plan.

Many of the wetland and riparian communities around Lake Cascade are directly supported by the water stored in the reservoir. Several wetlands have been developed specifically to improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat. Wetlands extend along much of the west shoreline except near the Tamarack Falls Bridge. This shore has a cover of rushes, sedges, various grasses (both wetland and upland species), and occasional clumps of other emergent wetland species such as cattails (*Typha latifolia*). The largest concentrations of wetlands along the western shore occur between Poison and Gibson creeks, and in the Willow Creek area at the southern tip of the reservoir. Shallow marshes are quite extensive in the latter two locations and along the undulating shoreline of the upper arms of the reservoir, especially the North Fork. Former river meanders of the North

Fork, Lake Fork, and Gold Fork arms create a complex mix of wetland and riparian communities ranging from emergent wetlands and aquatic beds in oxbow sloughs to scrub-shrub bogs supported by springs or perched water tables to a variety of forest types (FWS 1990). These wetlands are interspersed by numerous wet meadows and upland forest and meadow areas. The bottomlands in the North Fork are covered primarily with sedges, rushes, grasses, and scattered groups of cattails, with willow (*Salix* spp.) swales among the meandering river channels and willows, alders (*Alnus* spp.), and aspens (*Populus tremuloides*) along the high water areas and tributaries. Wetlands are less extensive in the Lake Fork and Gold Fork arms, although the ends of these arms are heavily covered with willows. Wetlands occur along the more riverine sections beyond the terminus of the reservoir's normal maximum pool elevation in the Boulder Creek and Willow Creek arms.

Another large wetland is located in the Hot Spring Creeks/Sugarloaf area along the eastern shoreline between the former state airstrip and Sugarloaf Peninsula. In this area, a shallow marsh extends outward from the shore and is adjacent to wet meadows and grasslands. Other wetland areas are located in the two inlets south of Sugarloaf Peninsula and on the south side of Sugarloaf Island.

Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) were officially designated at the locations of many of the larger wetland areas as a result of implementation of the 1991 RMP. Actions that have been undertaken on many of the WMAs include fencing to exclude livestock from all areas not having a grazing right through an AE, emergent wetland development at several sites noted below, and habitat improvement measures including planting and placement of nest boxes and platforms. With the exception of the AE areas, vegetation conditions on the WMAs have improved substantially since their establishment. Continued livestock grazing on the AE lands diminishes wildlife habitat values and other functions and values of wetland and riparian communities. Grazing and trampling in AE portions of wetlands destroys protective plant cover for nesting waterfowl and interferes with nesting. Along stream corridors, livestock grazing has eroded the shoreline and has generally added to water pollution.

### **Grasslands/Pasture and Denuded Areas**

Grasses occur along the North Fork Arm in drier upland areas above high banks and on gentle slopes leading up from the bottomlands of the reservoir. Most grasses in the area are non-native. Ponderosa (*Pinus ponderosa*) and lodgepole pine (*P. contorta*) often occur in association with the shrubs and grasses in this area. Grasses also predominate in the upland areas of the Lake Fork and most of the Gold Fork Arms and in the Crown Point area in association with open stands of lodgepole and ponderosa pine. Vegetation on Sugarloaf Island is predominantly made up of grasses, with a few conifers on the north end of the island. Vegetation on Sugarloaf Peninsula consists of a codominant grass/shrub community. Agricultural lands to the east and north of Lake Cascade are dominated by pasture grasses (Kentucky bluegrass [*Poa pratensis*] and timothy [*Phleum pratense*]), hay, and small grains. Most grass species are not native.

Overgrazing by livestock in some AE areas has reduced and weakened vegetation. The problem is most severe in drier areas with low soil fertility where plant regeneration is difficult. Several areas

around the reservoir that have a light cover of grasses, sagebrush (*Artemisia* spp.), and conifers have also been substantially denuded of vegetation, mostly by off-road vehicle use, especially in the area north of Cabarton to the dam. The lack of vegetation in other areas results from the infertility of the soils. These include the exposed sandy beaches and sand bars, as well as sparsely vegetated grass and shrub areas scattered around the reservoir. Reservoir drawdown zones are also generally devoid of vegetation. Areas above full pool need to be managed to prevent further deterioration and allow for rehabilitation.

An annual grass/forb community consisting of a variety of weedy annual grasses and forbs colonizes portions of the reservoir drawdown zone during late summer. These annual species tend to occur in drawdown areas with shallow slopes and are especially common on the east side of the reservoir from Sugarloaf to the north. They occupy the largest areas during relatively dry water years.

### **Upland Shrub Cover Types**

Shrub communities on the east side of the reservoir and drier portions of the west side are characterized by big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) and low sagebrush (*A. arbuscula*) and antelope bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*). A variety of other shrubs such as ninebark (*Physocarpus malvaceus*), serviceberry (*Amelanchier alvifolia*), hawthorn (*Crataegus douglasii*), bitter cherry (*Prunus emarginata*), mountain ash (*Sorbus* spp.), and syringa (*Philadelphus lewisii*) are scattered throughout this community, especially as elevation and precipitation increase. Common grasses and sedges are listed on Table 3.4-1. The table is not a complete list of plants; it is only a representation of the more common forbs are also listed in Table 3.4-1.

**Table 3.4-1. Upland Shrub Cover Type Species**

Common Name	Scientific Name
<b>Grasses and sedges</b>	
bluebunch and western wheatgrass	<i>Agropyron spicatum</i>
Idaho fescue	<i>Festuca idahoensis</i>
needle-and-thread grass	<i>Stipa comata</i>
Sandberg's bluegrass	<i>Poa secunda</i>
elk sedge	<i>Carex geyeri</i>
Ross sedge	<i>C. rossii</i>
<b>Forbs</b>	
arrowleaf balsamroot	<i>Balsamorhiza sagittata</i>
Pacific trillium	<i>Trillium ovatum</i>
penstemon	<i>Penstamon deustus</i>

**Table 3.4-1. Upland Shrub Cover Type Species**

Common Name	Scientific Name
lupine	<i>Lupinus</i> spp.
fireweed	<i>Epilobium angustifolium</i>
Indian paintbrush	<i>Castilleja</i> spp.
tapertip hawksbeard	<i>Crepis acuminata</i>

Sources: Reclamation 1991a, Alexander 1998, and Steele and Geier-Hayes 1995

### **Conifer Forest Cover Type**

The lowest elevation forest stands around the reservoir are dominated by ponderosa and lodgepole pine with a grass/forb understory. There are few places on the west side of the reservoir where the forest cover extends all the way to the shoreline. Forested areas on the slopes of West Mountain are dominated by the species listed in Table 3.4-2. The predominant Douglas-fir community has a dense forest canopy but some places support a dense understory of shrubs, which are also listed on Table 3.4-2. Forbs and grasses common to the other forest communities, described below, are also found here but are not as abundant.

**Table 3.4-2. Conifer Forest Cover Type Species**

Common Name	Scientific Name
<b>West Slope Forested Areas</b>	
Douglas-fir	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>
grand fir	<i>Abies grandis</i>
Englemann spruce	<i>Picea engelmannii</i>
Western larch	<i>Larix occidentalis</i>
ponderosa pine	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>
lodgepole pine	<i>Pinus contorta</i>
quaking aspen	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>
<b>Dominant Douglas-Fir Community</b>	
ninebark	<i>Physocarpus malvaceus</i>
Rocky Mountain maple	<i>Acer glabrum</i>
Western serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier alvifolia</i>
common snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>
mountain-ash	<i>Sorbus</i> spp.

substrates are present on Reclamation lands, and the other habitat conditions may be suitable in some of the WMAs. No tall swamp onions are known to occur on Reclamation lands.

The giant helleborine (*Epipactis gigantea*) typically grows in moist meadows with scattered willows. It is associated with calcareous habitats throughout its range. Within the Rocky Mountains it is usually associated with warm springs. Wetlands in the Hot Springs Creek area may provide suitable habitat for this species. No giant helleborines are known to occur on Reclamation lands.

### **3.4.2 Environmental Consequences**

In terms of the types of land disturbing activities that would occur through implementation of this RMP, impacts on soils and vegetation are closely related. Land clearing for development results in loss of vegetation and soils. Similarly, erosion along the reservoir shoreline or along trails also causes soil loss and elimination of vegetation. Therefore, the nature of many of the impacts discussed here are very similar to those discussed for soils. Likewise, specific actions included on one or more of the alternatives would often both cause soil loss and eliminate vegetation. Therefore, the structure of this section is similar to Section 3.3.2, *Environmental Consequences*, in the Soils section.

#### **Assessment Categories**

##### **Natural Resource, Habitat, and Cultural Resource Protection and Enhancement**

Development and implementation of habitat improvement plans under all alternatives except Alternative A within C/OS areas and near recreation areas would benefit natural plant communities through enhancement of species diversity and aerial extent of plant communities. This is particularly true for riparian areas where native vegetation has been removed from stream banks and shorelines through recreation or grazing. However, existing vegetation near high human-use areas, such as recreation areas, would experience adverse impacts through trampling or removal for other uses such as firewood.

Improved monitoring of new and existing trails in WMAs under the Preferred Alternative would allow areas showing increased degradation of existing plant communities to be addressed quickly through trail closure. Overuse can reduce the health of the plant community and degrade habitat values.

Additional wetlands to be developed in the Gold Fork WMA under the Preferred Alternative and in the Crown Point extension under all alternatives, and other sites deemed appropriate, would perform many useful ecological functions that contribute to improvement of water quality and wildlife and fishery habitat and enhance the esthetics of the reservoir environment.

Designation of an area as a WMA from a developed land use as proposed for Mallard Bay under Alternative B and at the former state airstrip under the Preferred Alternative and Alternative B would improve plant communities through increased access and use restrictions. Conversion of an

area from recreation or other land use to C/OS would reduce soil loss as human-use decreases and vegetation becomes established. This action is proposed at Mallard Bay under the Proposed Alternative and Alternative C; at Crown Point Extension under the Preferred Alternative and Alternative B; at big Sage and Carbarton under Alternative B; and on Sugarloaf Peninsula under all action alternatives. Conversion of land from C/OS to Recreation to permit a west side trail under the Preferred Alternative and Alternative C would increase soil erosion and vegetation loss.

### **Water Quality, Surface Water Management, and Erosion Control**

Increasing efforts to assist residents to obtain erosion control structure permits from the COE under all action alternatives would facilitate obtaining permits, thus likely increasing the number of structures installed. Permitting shoreline erosion control structures would allow plant species to colonize or be planted in eroded areas. This would slightly increase the extent of plant communities in the study area. These actions would also curtail erosion before it has a chance to degrade existing upland vegetation. Controlling boat wakes and establishment, signage, and successful enforcement of no-wake zones under all action alternatives would reduce shoreline vegetation loss from boat-generated waves. Increasing the no-wake distance to 200-feet from the shoreline adjacent to WMAs, as proposed under the Preferred Alternative and Alternative C, compared to only 100-feet under Alternative B, would provide additional plant community protection. The degree to which a wider no-wake zone can be enforced or would be followed voluntarily is unknown.

Private permitted landscaping on Reclamation land would be evaluated on a regular basis under all action alternatives. This would improve erosion control around the reservoir, protecting native and other existing plant communities. Periodic evaluation would allow Reclamation to require repairs as a condition of the permit, enhancing protection of plant communities.

Grazing can contribute to vegetation degradation directly through physically removing vegetation cover and indirectly through soil compaction, which inhibits plant regeneration. Relatively large portions of several WMAs and some C/OS lands are encumbered by permanent AEs, with associated unrestricted livestock grazing rights. This results in substantial removal of vegetation from affected areas. Acquisition of AEs to eliminate grazing on Reclamation's land would increase plant community health by decreasing establishment and use of unvegetated livestock trails, reducing streambank trampling, and reduction in biomass loss through grazing. Removal of cattle from shoreline grazing area would reduce trampling of the shoreline, which would allow vegetation to establish. The actual benefits that would be realized will depend on how successful Reclamation is in acquiring or changing the permanent AEs.

### **Improved or Restricted Access**

Vehicular access to the shoreline and drawdown area is not currently allowed, but enforcement is lax. Driving onto the shoreline and drawdown areas severely impacts existing plants and reduces establishment success of new plants. Prohibiting vehicular access to all areas of the lake under the Preferred Alternative and Alternative B would reduce plant community loss by eliminating vehicles from these areas. Vehicular access to the shoreline would be formalized, but would continue to be

allowed at Mallard Bay under the Preferred Alternative and Alternative C, which would slightly improve existing plant communities from conditions under Alternative A. Under Alternative C, vehicles would still be allowed in designated areas, which would allow vegetation loss to continue in those areas, but public education and increased enforcement would tend to lower the potential loss. Placing physical barriers preventing vehicle access in damaged areas would allow degraded vegetation to recover, either naturally or through active revegetation.

Trail and trailhead development under all alternatives would concentrate non-motorized off-road use onto trails designed to minimize vegetation impacts. Some existing ad hoc trails might be used less. These networks of ad hoc trails have resulted in loss of plants and creation of areas suitable for noxious weed establishment. Creation of new trails could spread noxious weeds. Creating new trails where access is currently prohibited through land use, land ownership, or AEs would open new areas to disturbance and native and existing plant loss. New trails would provide shoreline access under all alternatives where none currently exists, which may result in additional impacts to sensitive shoreline vegetation. Increased human use would result in loss of vegetation and bank trampling.

### **Improved Facilities and Miscellaneous**

Permitted encroachment of private landscaping onto Reclamation land may reduce the extent of existing plant communities as they are replaced by managed landscapes or structures or are left barren and allowed to become weed infested.

Development of new boat-in day use and camp areas would result in loss of shoreline and adjacent plant communities, as these areas become unvegetated and compacted in high-use areas. This activity would occur at Driftwood Point under the Preferred Alternative and Alternatives A and C; Crown Point Extension under the Preferred Alternative and Alternative B; and under Alternative C on Sugarloaf Island.

Recreation facilities that would be constructed or expanded as shown in Table 2.3-1 would reduce the extent of plant communities and lead to additional impacts on adjoining property through physical removal during construction and disturbance from additional visitors.

Organizing parking areas and increasing parking lot size under all alternatives may discourage using vegetated areas adjacent to existing parking lots as ad hoc parking areas, which would improve groundcover. The net effect, comparing direct vegetation loss with less ad hoc disturbance, is unknown. For those facilities expanded or constructed near the shoreline, shoreline impacts would increase as banks are trampled and compacted and vegetation is lost.

Inclusion of recreation facilities at the quarry under all alternatives would remove previously undisturbed vegetation. Expansion of boat ramps under all alternatives would result in increased compaction and loss of vegetation cover along the adjacent shorelines. Improved and expanded boating capacity would increase boating use and associated wave-related shoreline erosion and vegetation loss.

## **Alternatives**

This section discusses the impacts on vegetation from implementation of the three action alternatives and the No Action Alternative. Specific actions to be implemented are discussed below and the reader is directed to the assessment category for a discussion of the nature of the impacts.

### **Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices**

The Sugarloaf Peninsula habitat improvement effort would beneficially effect existing vegetation. Continued efforts to eliminate livestock grazing near streams and around the reservoir and to acquire AEs would result in a gradual improvement in native plant communities. The expected success of these actions (efforts to reduce grazing) is unknown.

Loss of existing plant communities from ad hoc off-road vehicle use around Boulder Creek Arm and the north side of Gold Fork Arm would continue, and likely increase as levels of use increase. Ad hoc trails at Vista Point, Hot Springs Creek WMA, and North Fork Arm would continue to be used, with continued loss of vegetation. Vehicle restrictions in shoreline and drawdown areas would protect plant communities in these areas. However, current lax enforcement results in numerous violations, which may continue.

The 4-H Camp, YMCA Camp, and Donnelly City Park use would be monitored and lease renewal considered. As these facilities see increased use as population increases, the potential for additional plant community and shoreline area disturbance would increase.

Construction and expansion of recreational facilities as shown in Table 2.3-1 would result in direct and indirect vegetation loss as discussed in the assessment category section. An additional 313 acres of vegetation would be directly impacted through construction of new recreation facilities. The West Side Trail system and trails at Mallard Bay and Crown Point Extension would be developed, with vegetation loss and erosion from trail construction and use. However, replacement and abandonment of some ad hoc trails would encourage plant recovery to the extent that existing trails receive less use.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

Development of WestRock would result in substantial loss of plant communities in the resort area and would increase shoreline erosion and loss of shoreline plant communities, due to more boats using the reservoir. It would also stimulate a substantial increase in use of recreational facilities, further impacting vegetation both along and near the reservoir.

The No Action Alternative and the Cascade Reservoir Watershed Management Plan would interact to enhance native and other existing vegetation in the Lake Cascade area. Reduction of non-point source phosphorous input into the reservoir from both within and outside the RMP study area would require better management of agriculture and grazing practices. Except for AEs, grazing has already been eliminated around all but an 8-acre



**Table 3.4-2. Conifer Forest Cover Type Species**

Common Name	Scientific Name
Shinyleaf spirea	<i>Spiraea betulifolia</i>

Sources: Reclamation 1991a, Alexander 1998, and Steele and Geier-Hayes 1995

A ponderosa pine/mixed shrub community is also located on the west side of the reservoir. This community has a fairly open forest canopy dominated by ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, grand fir (*Abies grandis*), and some lodgepole pine. The shrub understory is comprised of common chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*), snowberry, syringa, mountain ash, shinyleaf spirea, bitter cherry, and buckbrush (*Canothus cureatus*). Stands of quaking aspen, Rocky Mountain maple, alder, and red-osier dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*) are common in the moister gullies. In the more open areas, forbs such as arrowleaf balsamroot, bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*), and a variety of grasses also occur.

Along the arms of the reservoir, lodgepole pine and ponderosa pine are the dominant forest species where forest cover occurs. Sugarloaf Island supports pines on the northwest edge. Reclamation lands in the Crown Point area are moderately forested with young and mature ponderosa pines and other conifers.

An open pine forest is common on the slopes and hills on the east side of the reservoir. This forest is characterized by a widely dispersed, open tree canopy of ponderosa pine on the drier sites and of lodgepole pine on the wetter sites. Many of the shrubs, forbs, and grasses described above also dominate this community; however, shade-tolerant or moisture-requiring shrubs such as wild rose (*Rosa woodsii*), ninebark, chokecherry, snowberry, elderberry (*Sambucus cerulea*), and syringa are more numerous.

Overall, the amount of forest on Reclamation lands is limited. However, some of the forested areas contain diseased and dead trees that pose higher than normal fire hazards. Generally, these are lodgepole pines and ponderosa pines infested by western gall rust. The greatest concentration of dead and dying trees is in the Boulder Creek Arm. During the last 5 years, Reclamation has contracted for commercial thinning and slash burning in infested areas. Dead and dying trees have not been made available to the public as firewood because of the lack of staffing necessary to monitor woodcutting areas and the required burning of slash piles left by woodcutters.

### **Rare and Sensitive Species**

Two species considered rare by the Idaho Conservation Data Center occur about 2 miles west of the reservoir on land managed by the Payette National Forest. The tall swamp onion (*Allium madidum*) generally occurs between 3,000 and 6,500 feet elevation in vernal wet meadows, flats, draws, and gentle slopes along creeks and drainages. Populations occur in meadows and coniferous forest openings that are wet during the spring and dry to the surface by late summer or early fall. The species appears to be restricted to basalt-derived substrates. Some basalt-derived

lease along portions of the reservoir shoreline. This is allowing plant communities to reestablish along the shoreline. This complements restoration of habitat in the WMA and C/OS areas. Better irrigation water management to reduce return flows outside the RMP study area would eventually result in more water being left in streams flowing into the reservoir. This would enhance native riparian and wetland plant communities around the reservoir.

### **Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis**

The following discussion focuses on differences from Alternative A.

Designation of an additional 158 acres of C/OS and 39 acres of WMA would increase protection of shoreline and adjacent upland plant communities. Implementation of habitat improvement plans would result in plant community improvements through establishment of new plants and protection of existing plants. Monitoring trails and an increased public awareness/education effort aimed at adherence to the 200-foot voluntary no-wake zone along WMAs, to the extent that it is honored, would enhance and protect vegetation.

Reclamation assistance to landowners applying for erosion control structure permits and accepted design standards would continue and more effectively arrest shoreline erosion, where structures are constructed by land owners, and reduce the loss of plant communities to erosion. Expansion of no-wake zones, public awareness campaigns to promote no-wake zones, and enhanced enforcement would increase shoreline plant community protection.

Permits would be issued following approval of designs for private landscaping that promotes erosion control on Reclamation land and are in the public interest. Monitoring the effectiveness of those efforts would be continued through the permitting process. Reclamation-installed shoreline erosion protection would be implemented at Snow Bank and Cabarton, avoiding further loss of vegetation.

Recreation site improvements and expansions noted in Table 2.3-1 would have the effects described for the assessment categories. Less land (203 acres less) would be disturbed than under Alternative A. Therefore, fewer direct vegetation impacts resulting from new or expanded recreation sites would be expected.

Increased emphasis on development, protection, and enhancement of wetlands would improve hydrophytic communities around the reservoir.

### **Mitigation**

No mitigation is proposed for impacts identified for the Preferred Alternative. Best management practices would be implemented during construction to protect vegetation not directly impacted and revegetate temporarily impacted areas with native plants. Any wetland or riparian vegetation losses would be mitigated on at least a one-to-one basis, replacing both affected area and loss of habitat value. Vigorous enforcement would be

needed to enforce no-wake zones and keep motor vehicles from shoreline and drawdown areas to protect existing plant communities.

### **Residual Impacts**

Residual impacts include increased loss of vegetation as population pressures result in increased visitor use of the lake and recreation areas are expanded or developed to meet those needs.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

Cumulative impacts from WestRock and the TMDL program would be the same as described for the No Action Alternative. Cumulative impacts on vegetation attributable to this Alternative would be less than under No Action because less land would be developed for recreation.

## **Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development /Increase Natural Resource Emphasis**

Loss of plant communities would be reduced at all facilities not expanded or constructed with this alternative. About 281 fewer acres would be developed for recreation compared to Alternative A, thereby substantially reducing disturbance and vegetation losses. However, demand would continue to increase, so vegetation trampling at existing recreation sites would increase. An increase in WMA acreage (155 acres) would likely offset losses. Monitoring trails and an increased public awareness/education effort aimed at adherence to the 200-foot voluntary no-wake zone along WMAs, to the extent that it is honored, would enhance and protect vegetation. Vegetation losses would increase in the Gold Fork (non-motorized trail) and North Fork Arms (no formalization of ad hoc trails). No monitoring of private landscaping effectiveness would occur, resulting in poor maintenance and loss of plant communities from erosion. A slight reduction in erosion control structures built by Reclamation would increase plant community losses in areas where erosion is cutting into the shoreline plant communities. Designation of an additional 123 acres of C/OS would increase the acreage of plants protected with this designation relative to Alternative A. These communities would improve in quality over the long-term. Increased emphasis on development, protection, and enhancement of wetlands would improve hydrophytic communities around the reservoir.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

Cumulative impacts from WestRock and the TMDL program would be the same as described for the No Action Alternative. Impacts from Alternative B would be less than under the No Action Alternative because of less recreation development.

## **Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis**

The amount of land that would be disturbed for constructing recreation sites would be about the same as Alternative A, resulting in similar loss of plant communities. Monitoring trails and an

increased public awareness/education effort aimed at adherence to the 200-foot voluntary no-wake zone along WMAs, to the extent that it is honored, would enhance and protect vegetation. An increase of 9 acres of C/OS land would increase protection of shoreline plant communities relative to Alternative A slightly.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

Cumulative impacts from WestRock and the TMDL program would be the same as described for the No Action Alternative. Impacts from Alternative C would be the same as No Action because of similar losses of vegetation.

## **3.5 Wildlife**

### **3.5.1 Affected Environment**

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) assist Reclamation in managing fish and wildlife resources. The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act mandate that Reclamation, as a Federal agency, protect, conserve, and enhance wildlife and fisheries resources.

Several important WMAs are located around Lake Cascade. These generally correspond with the WMAs established as part of the 1991 RMP. The primary reasons for establishing the WMAs was to preserve long-term, viable habitat for waterfowl, birds of prey, mammals, and other wildlife. This is accomplished by protecting important wildlife habitat and managing conflicting uses. Each WMA has an active management plan that describes implemented or planned actions. These actions vary by WMA but typically include the following:

- Fencing to exclude livestock and vehicles
- Habitat improvement measures
- Information and education programs
- Development of facilities for compatible uses, such as Nordic skiing

Several of these areas also include important bald eagle habitats as described in the Cascade Reservoir Bald Eagle Management Plan (BEMP) prepared by the FWS, USFS, and Reclamation in 1990 (USFS et al. 1990).

The WMAs also provide habitat, such as forage, shelter, and reproduction sites, for a number of other wildlife species. The most crucial, abundant, and sensitive of these habitats are the riparian areas and wetlands. The emergent vegetation, adjacent wet meadows, swales, mudflats, and sandbars are critical as nesting, feeding, and loafing habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, and wading birds. FWS (1990) indicates that 151 species of birds, 47 mammal species, 8 amphibian, and 5 reptile species are found in the vicinity of Lake Cascade.

## **Birds**

Generally, in the dry west, many studies have shown that as many as 80 percent of all wildlife species depend partly or wholly on wetland and riparian communities for their survival. A few of the many species of water-oriented birds reported inhabiting the Lake Cascade area during the breeding season or during migration are listed in Table 3.5-1. This is not a complete species list but represents the variety of water-oriented birds found at the reservoir.

**Table 3.5-1. Water-Oriented Birds Inhabiting the Lake Cascade RMP Area**

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>
bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>
several species of gulls	<i>Larus</i> spp.
American avocet	<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>
osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
long-billed curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>
white pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>
mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>
western grebe	<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>
common merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>
American wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>
great blue heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>
common loon	<i>Gavia immer</i>
black-necked stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>
tundra swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>
Canada goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>
snow goose	<i>Chen caerulescens</i>
killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>
lesser yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>
spotted sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularia</i>
Wilson's phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>

Sources: Reclamation 1991a, FWS 1990, and Groves et al. 1997

Lake Cascade is an important migration staging and resting area for water-oriented birds flying south in October. Birds generally flock in separate masses of 100 to 200 birds each according to species. Several of these species, such as dabbling ducks, feed on small grains harvested in fields east of the reservoir, then return to the reservoir for loafing. Shorebirds also use the area as a rest

stop during migration. Because of its high elevation, Lake Cascade functions mainly for the initial congregation of migrating birds during the fall. Birds move quickly to lower elevation waters, such as Lake Lowell, where larger congregations occur (Reclamation 1991a).

The largest wetland areas are located at Willow Creek, Mallard Bay, Hot Springs Creek, and the upper arms of the reservoir. Canada geese congregate around the Willow Creek and Mallard Bay wetlands in the spring and early fall. They also occur at the Hot Springs Creek wetlands, along with feeding herons. Canada geese also feed extensively on the annual grasses and forbs that colonize portions of the reservoir drawdown zone during late summer and early fall. During spring migration, snow geese and tundra swans use Sugarloaf Island and adjacent areas. Directly west of Sugarloaf on the western shore of the reservoir, the Mallard Bay wetlands support a colony of nesting western grebes. Common loons, a species of special concern that have similar habitat requirements as the western grebe, have also been sighted in this wetland, although no nests have been found, possibly because this species needs seclusion. Long-billed curlews, a more upland shorebird, were reported to nest in the area in 1991 (Reclamation 1991a). Conversations with local agency biologists could not confirm if curlews still nest in the area. Pelicans feed in the general vicinity of Mallard Bay and Hot Springs Creek, along with Canada geese and great blue herons, during the spring, summer, and early fall. Most of these water-oriented birds are sensitive to disturbance during the nesting and rearing season between mid-March and the end of June.

The upper arms of the reservoir support the greatest abundance and diversity of wildlife because of the intermingled mosaic of habitat types. The flooded river meanders from an undulating shoreline with its many inlets, coves, channels, and edges, and few conflicting human activities. These areas provide the seclusion needed for especially sensitive species such as the common loon. Great blue herons have established a large rookery in a stand of lodgepole pines at the north end of the North Fork Arm. Herons generally require an area with little or no disturbance within about one-half mile of their rookery. Water level fluctuations pose a problem for nesting waterfowl along the reservoir shoreline. Birds build nests along the waterline that may be flooded out as water levels increase in the late spring. Habitat enhancement at the WMAs alleviates part of this problem by providing additional nesting habitat, but water level fluctuations will continue to pose problems along the shoreline. IDFG believes this problem can be solved by digging potholes along the high water line, or by creating offshore islands and providing side channel ponds in the arms of the reservoir.

In addition to water-oriented birds, numerous neotropical migrants are common, especially in the upper arms of the reservoir. Species that may be observed in the area are listed on Table 3.5-2.

**Table 3.5-2. Neotropical Migrants Common in the Lake Cascade RMP Area**

Common Name	Scientific Name
evening grosbeak	<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>
tree swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>
dipper	<i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>
gray jay	<i>Perisoreus canadensis</i>
western kingbird	<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>

**Table 3.5-2. Neotropical Migrants Common in the Lake Cascade RMP Area**

Common Name	Scientific Name
dark-eyed junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>
mountain chickadee	<i>Parus gambeli</i>
vesper sparrow	<i>Pooecetes gramineus</i>
chipping sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>
mountain bluebird	<i>Sialia currucoides</i>
belted kingfisher	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>
Steller's jay	<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>
calliope hummingbird	<i>Stellula calliope</i>
yellow-rumped warbler	<i>Dendroica coronata</i>
yellow warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>

Sources: Reclamation 1991a, FWS 1990, and Groves et al. 1997

Blue, ruffed, and spruce grouse occur in the forested mountain areas. The conifers west of the reservoir also provide suitable habitat for cavity-dependent birds species, such as pileated and Lewis' woodpecker, wrens, and nuthatches. Table 3.5-3 lists these forested-mountain and cavity-dependent species as well as the raptors commonly found in the Cascade area.

**Table 3.5-3. Other Bird Species Found at the Cascade Lake RMP Area**

Common Name	Scientific Name
<b>Forested-Mountain Species</b>	
blue grouse	<i>Dendragapus obscurus</i>
ruffed grouse	<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>
spruce grouse	<i>Dendragapus canadensis</i>
<b>Cavity-Dependent Species</b>	
pileated woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>
Lewis' woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>
wrens	<i>Troglodytes</i> spp.
nuthatches	<i>Sitta</i> spp.
<b>Raptors</b>	
red-tailed hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>
rough-legged hawk (during winter)	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>
northern harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>
American kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>
northern goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>
short-eared owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>
long-eared owl	<i>Asio otus</i>

**Table 3.5-3. Other Bird Species Found at the Cascade Lake RMP Area**

Common Name	Scientific Name
great-horned owls	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>
great gray owls	<i>Strix nebulosa</i>
osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>

Sources: Reclamation 1991a, FWS 1990, and Groves et al. 1997

Lake Cascade raptor populations include great-horned owls (*Bubo virginianus*), especially in the upper arms of the reservoir. A few great gray owls (*Strix nebulosa*) also inhabit the area north of Donnelly along the east side of the reservoir throughout the year (pers. comm., L. Powers Biology Professor, Northwest Nazarine University, Nampa Idaho, July 14, 1999). Dr. Powers indicated that three pairs consistently nested in this general area in the mid to late 1980s. However, in 1998, only one nesting pair was found following extensive efforts. Great gray owls need forest edges for hunting with dense timber stands nearby for thermoregulation and nesting. Powers suggested that habitat fragmentation resulting from summer home development and wood cutting has reduced the size and number of dense forest stands as well as the density of trees in remaining stands, thereby degrading habitat quality. Summer heat stress is also a problem for this species at relatively low elevations, especially as the dense forest canopy is opened.

One other raptor of particular interest at Lake Cascade is the osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*). Osprey numbers have increased considerably since Cascade Dam was completed and the reservoir filled. This expansion is the result of several factors, including prohibiting the use of long-lived pesticides, erection of nesting platforms, and a productive fishery in Lake Cascade. The first intensive surveys to determine osprey status were conducted between 1978 and 1980 (Van Daele et al. 1980). This study found that the valley area supported approximately 50 nesting pairs with approximately 30 nesting pairs observed in the immediate vicinity of the reservoir (Reclamation 1991a). By 1989, the number of nesting pairs had increased to over 90 with 69 pairs nesting at Lake Cascade. Although no firm count is available, as many as 90 pairs may nest in the immediate vicinity of the reservoir. Nesting concentrations are highest where artificial nesting platforms have been erected around the reservoir. Nests are built on snags (58 percent), live trees, power poles, and artificial platforms (20 percent) with concentrations in the Duck, Gold Fork, and Willow Creek areas (FWS 1990).

Ospreys are most sensitive to disturbance early in the nesting season from mid-April through mid-July. A 1/4- to 3/4-mile no disturbance radius around a nest is generally recognized to provide effective protection. However, many of the osprey at Lake Cascade have demonstrated their adaptability to certain types of human activity, with several nests located next to roads. Ospreys have shown a high degree of tolerance of high speed highway traffic as long as vehicles move quickly past the nest site.

The peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), which was de-listed July 1999, has been successfully released several times at a site 11 miles away from the reservoir in Scott Valley, east of the town of Cascade. There have been summer sightings of peregrines in the Duck Creek area where their



primary prey base, waterfowl, are abundant. Peregrines are anticipated to eventually nest in the cliffs and ledges along West Mountain where appropriate habitat is available (Reclamation 1991a). Peregrines are especially sensitive during nesting and rearing periods that occur between mid-March and the end of July. A 1-mile, year-long, no disturbance radius around nests has been established to protect this recovering species. No peregrines are known to nest in the vicinity of Lake Cascade (Levine et al. 1998).

## **Amphibians and Reptiles**

Examples of amphibians and reptiles typically found in the study area are listed in Table 3.5-4.

**Table 3.5-4. Amphibians and Reptiles Found in the Lake Cascade RMP Area**

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>
<b>Amphibians</b>	
long-toed salamander	<i>Ambystoma macrodactylum columbianum</i>
Western Toad	<i>Bufo boreas</i>
Pacific chorus frog	<i>Hyla regilla</i>
spotted frog	<i>Rana luteiventris</i>
<b>Reptiles</b>	
rubber boa	<i>Charina bottae</i>
gopher snake	<i>Pituophis melanoleucus deserticola</i>
common garter snake	<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>
Western garter snake	<i>Thamnophis elegans</i>

Sources: Reclamation 1991a, FWS 1990, and Groves et al. 1997

The former river meanders of the North Fork, Lake Fork, and Gold Fork arms of the reservoir provide high quality habitat for amphibians. Populations of many frog species have apparently suffered declines on a global scale in recent years, making all suitable habitat especially important.

## **Mammals**

Small mammals that commonly occur in the vicinity of Lake Cascade are listed on Table 3.5-5. Terrestrial small mammals provide an important food supply for area predators. A bat roost (species unidentified) is located under a bridge over one of the reservoir arms.

**Table 3.5-5. Small Mammal Species Present in the Lake Cascade RMP Area**

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>
masked shrew	<i>Sorex cinereus</i>
long-legged brown bat	<i>Myotis volans</i>
montane meadow mouse	<i>Microtus montanus</i>

**Table 3.5-5. Small Mammal Species Present in the Lake Cascade RMP Area**

Common Name	Scientific Name
deer mouse	<i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i>
golden-mantled ground squirrel	<i>Spermophilus lateralis</i>
red squirrel	<i>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus</i>
snowshoe hare	<i>Lepus americanus</i>
yellow-bellied marmot	<i>Marmota flaviventris</i>
mountain cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus nuttallii</i>
yellow pine chipmunk	<i>Eutamias amoenus</i>
porcupine	<i>Erethizon dorsatum</i>

Sources: Reclamation 1991a, FWS 1990, and Groves et al. 1997

The reservoir arms also provide high quality habitat for furbearers such as beaver, river otter, muskrat, mink, badger, raccoon, coyote, striped and spotted skunk, long-tailed weasel, and red fox (listed on Table 3.7-5). Red fox are common throughout the Lake Cascade area.

River otter forage extensively along each of the northern drainages that flow into the reservoir; the North Fork of the Payette River and Gold Fork, Lake Fork, and Boulder creeks are used most extensively (Melquist and Hornocker 1983). Melquist and Hornocker's study indicated that fish are the most important prey item of otters, occurring in 93 to 100 percent of fecal samples (FWS 1990).

Larger mammals are less common, but are present in the area and listed in Table 3.5-6. White-tailed deer occur in riparian areas, mostly in the North Fork river bottom, and a few elk may also forage in the reservoir area (Reclamation 1991a). Elk and deer use the dense timber and wet meadow complexes of West Mountain (immediately west of Lake Cascade) during the spring and summer. During late November, these species migrate west into the Weiser River drainage for the winter. Deer also use the southern end of the reservoir and the Hot Springs WMA as winter habitat, and a few deer and elk may winter in the Crown Point area where there is a good bitterbrush stand. This area, on the east side of the reservoir, has less snow and is warmer because of its westerly aspect.

**Table 3.5-6. Furbearers and Large Mammals Found in the Lake Cascade RMP Area**

Common Name	Scientific Name
<b>Furbearers</b>	
beaver	<i>Castor canadensis</i>
voles	<i>Microtus spp.</i>
river otter	<i>Lutra canadensis</i>
muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>

**Table 3.5-6. Furbearers and Large Mammals Found in the Lake Cascade RMP Area**

Common Name	Scientific Name
mink	<i>Mustela vison</i>
badger	<i>Taxidea taxus</i>
raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>
coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>
striped skunk	<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>
spotted skunk	<i>Spilogale putorius</i>
long-tailed weasel	<i>Mustela frenata</i>
red fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>
<b>Large Mammals</b>	
white-tailed deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>
elk	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>
moose	<i>Alces alces</i>
mule deer	<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>

Sources: Reclamation 1991a, FWS, 1990, and Groves et al. 1997

The west shoreline is not good winter range because of its colder, east-facing exposure and greater accumulation of snow, although some wintering may occur in mild winters. The Willow Creek area is also a wintering ground for a few elk. Occasionally, a small number of elk may swim across the reservoir during their annual migration to and from winter ranges in the west. Most elk summering on West Mountain migrate to the west to the Weiser River drainage for the winter. Moose (*Alces alces*) are only occasionally observed passing through the area; there is no resident population (FWS 1990). Mountain lion (*Felis concolor*), bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), and pine marten (*Martes americana*) occur in the mountains to the west of the reservoir but rarely occur in the valley.

Black bears (*Ursus americanus*) are nomadic with their movements depending largely on berry production of forest shrubs, one of their main sources of food. Black bears generally stay in the forested areas on West Mountain except during dry, poor berry years. The North Fork of the Payette is a travel corridor for bears.

Big game hunting on Reclamation lands is not encouraged because of the potential danger to adjacent residents. However, Reclamation has no enforcement authority with regard to hunting except in campground areas. The IDFG has full authority and responsibility and will cooperate with Reclamation if a hazard is shown to exist. Gold Fork and Sugarloaf are the primary hunting areas for waterfowl. Waterfowl hunting is safer in these areas because fewer homes are located along the shore.

### **Rare and Sensitive Species**

A former endangered species, the peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), has been successfully released several times at a site 11 miles away from the reservoir in Scott Valley, east of the town of Cascade. There have been summer sightings of peregrines in the Duck Creek area where their primary prey base, waterfowl, are abundant. Peregrines are anticipated to eventually nest in the cliffs and ledges along West Mountain where appropriate habitat is available (Reclamation 1991a). Peregrines are especially sensitive during nesting and rearing periods that occur between mid-March and the end of July. A 1-mile, year-round, no disturbance radius around nests has been established to help protect this recovering species. No peregrines are known to nest in the vicinity of Lake Cascade (Levine et al. 1998).

The FWS letter concerning rare species in the area listed several wildlife species about which they are interested because their declining population status and/or threats to their long term viability. While these species have no legal status under the ESA, their long term viability is also of interest to Reclamation. Therefore, the potential status of these species are addressed briefly here.

The fisher (*Martes pennanti*) prefers late-successional conifer forests and especially riparian zones (Powell and Zielinski 1994) but have also been reported to prefer young to medium aged conifer stands in parts of the Rocky Mountains (Jones 1991, Roy 1991). Douglas-fir is mentioned as a preferred habitat type and snowshoe hares are one of their primary prey species. Suitable fisher habitat may occur on USFS lands to the west of Lake Cascade. However, the range of the fisher in Idaho may not include the immediate Lake Cascade area (Groves et al. 1997).

Kelsall (1981) defined wolverine (*Gulo gulo luscus*) habitat as areas with adequate year-round food supplies, in large sparsely inhabited wilderness areas rather than in terms of topography or plant associations. Groves et al. (1997) describes wolverine habitat in Idaho as remote, mountainous areas unaffected by human disturbance and their range map includes all of Valley County. Wolverines have large home ranges and are known to move long distances in search of food. More remote portions of West Mountain could be frequented by wolverines. The valley and Reclamation lands around Lake Cascade are probably too populated to provide quality wolverine habitat.

The long-eared myotis (*Myotis evotis*) occupies forested lands throughout Idaho, especially near water. Roosts are always found near water. This species is common in lodgepole pine forests (Groves et al. 1997). Suitable habitat may exist along the North Fork of the Payette River arm of Lake Cascade where lodgepole pine is common and there is abundant water nearby.

Flammulated owl (*Otus flammeolus*) habitat in Idaho consists of older ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, and mixed conifer forests. According to the range maps shown by Groves et al. (1997), flammulated owls occur throughout much of Valley County and therefore may occur on Reclamation and adjacent forested lands. The IDFG letter commenting on the WestRock project (ISLB 1999) indicates that flammulated owls probably occur in the WestRock project area.

Northern pygmy-owls (*Glaucidium gnoma*) prefer dense forests or open woodlands in the mountains or foothills and forage in open meadows. Much of Valley County is shown as being

occupied by pygmy-owls (Groves et al. 1997). Suitable habitat may exist along the North Fork of the Payette River arm of Lake Cascade and in several of the WMAs that support forest stands.

The black-backed woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*) occurs in coniferous forests (primarily spruce/fir), especially in windfall and burned areas with standing dead trees (Groves et al. 1997). Their range map appears to include the West Mountain area just to the west of Lake Cascade.

In Idaho northern goshawks (*Accipiter gentilis*) breed in coniferous and aspen forests and winter in lower elevation riparian and agricultural areas. Nests tend to be located in the tallest trees in dense timber stands. Suitable nesting habitat may exist on West Mountain and Reclamation lands are probably used for foraging and during migration. The IDFG letter commenting on the WestRock project (ISLB 1999) indicates that northern goshawks probably occur in the WestRock project area.

The upland sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*) prefers dry grass prairies in Idaho and is not tied to wet areas or shores (Groves et al. 1997). Three of the four locations shown for this species in Idaho are in Valley County and one appears to include portions of the upper arms of Lake Cascade.

### **3.5.2 Environmental Consequences**

This section discusses the expected positive and adverse impacts of the RMP alternatives on wildlife and habitat. General and specific impacts on vegetation were discussed in Section 3.5.

#### **Assessment Categories**

The general nature of beneficial and adverse impacts on wildlife and wildlife habitat of the various actions that would be implemented under one or more of the alternatives is described for four assessment categories.

#### **Natural Resource, Habitat, and Cultural Resource Protection and Enhancement**

The 1991 RMP established 3,987 acres of WMAs to protect wildlife habitat from human encroachments. The RMP also designated 1,422 acres as C/OS lands to act as buffers between WMAs and recreation sites or private lands. The alternatives in the current RMP would either maintain or slightly increase the area designated as WMA and C/OS lands.

About 1,846 acres of existing WMAs and C/OS lands are encumbered by permanent AEs that permit the easement owner to graze livestock. Reclamation has no authority to control grazing on these lands and habitat values are degraded well below the potential that would be achieved in the absence of grazing. All of the alternatives include a provision calling for Reclamation to continue to negotiate with AE owners to terminate grazing on Reclamation lands, or, at a minimum, to keep livestock away from the shoreline. Reclamation would also attempt to acquire AEs to eliminate grazing through purchase, lease, or exchange. Past Reclamation actions along these lines have

focused on encouraging easement owners to voluntarily keep livestock away from the reservoir shoreline to reduce erosion and reduce the amount of animal waste directly entering the reservoir. Reclamation's success has been mixed; some easement owners have chosen to cooperate and others have not. In the past, Reclamation has acquired the AEs by exchange to eliminate grazing on its lands; however, no AEs have been acquired since the 1991 RMP. Under all alternatives, to the extent that such a program is successful, it would greatly enhance habitat values on affected WMA and C/OS lands. Where it is not successful, existing management practices on WMA and C/OS lands would not change and habitat values would not achieve their full potential in the future. However, habitat values on grazed lands would continue to be higher than if these lands were developed for recreation or other human uses.

One or more of the alternatives includes development and implementation of habitat improvement plans for C/OS lands and additional wetland development on WMAs. Both actions would be beneficial for wildlife and habitat values.

### **Water Quality, Surface Water Management, and Erosion Control**

Efforts to address AEs were discussed above. Water quality improvement and improved erosion control would benefit wildlife habitat. Non-motorized boating areas designated in the 1991 RMP would continue under all of the alternatives with substantial direct and indirect benefits for wildlife. Benefits include substantially less disturbance than in areas open to motorized boating and no-wake-generated waves. Fewer waves reduces shoreline erosion and habitat loss and reduces the potential for flooding of water bird nests. Under the action alternatives, erosion control measures intended to stop the loss of upland vegetation would result in a short-term habitat loss during construction and relatively long-term habitat benefits through avoiding or slowing future habitat loss. The benefits would be minor because construction of retaining walls is expected to occur on a piecemeal basis and protected habitats have already been degraded to a degree by residential and recreational development.

### **Improved or Restricted Access**

Enforcement of restrictions on vehicle access to the shoreline would avoid future upland and habitat loss and allow areas currently degraded by this activity to recover slowly. Trail development under all of the alternatives would result in the loss of about 3 acres of mostly disturbed shrub and herbaceous vegetation along the reservoir's southeast shoreline, and 2 acres of herbaceous and riparian vegetation in the northwest. New trails into WMAs and between existing recreation sites would increase levels of wildlife disturbance under all alternatives. Seasonal trail closures in WMAs would reduce potential disturbance if implemented and enforced. Interpretive trails can have the benefit of educating the public and creating more support for natural resource protection. Trail development may also reduce the current use of ad hoc trails and allow habitat to recover from trampling. Allowing motor vehicle access on the railroad grade north of Crown Point may indirectly result in vegetation and habitat loss if new areas are developed as residential housing on nearby private lands. This would also result in habitat loss and increased wildlife disturbance on Reclamation lands as residents establish ad hoc trails to the shoreline and trample shoreline

previously used lightly or not at all. Establishment of 200-foot wide no-wake zones along WMAs would provide benefits for wildlife to the extent that public education/awareness is successful in reducing human intrusions near these lands.

### **Improved Facilities and Miscellaneous**

Improvement of existing facilities within the existing footprint of disturbed ground would accommodate and attract higher levels of human use under all of the alternatives. Overall, recreation use is expected to increase by 20 percent during the next 10 years. Higher levels of use would result in additional wildlife disturbance and degradation of surrounding habitat value because of the presence of more people. Expansion of recreation facilities has the same impacts as improving facilities, plus the direct loss of habitat areas that are converted to recreation uses. The extent of these direct habitat losses would be expected to be proportional to the land area used for expanded recreation, which is discussed for each of the alternatives. Completely new facilities in relatively remote areas where none currently exist, such as new boat-in camping, as described under the No Action Alternative and proposed under the Preferred Alternative and Alternative C, would have relatively larger disturbance-related effects for their area because little human activity occurs in these areas at the present time.

Under all of the alternatives, new marinas would accommodate both increasing demand and provide facilities for more users, thereby resulting in higher use levels. Construction of marinas to accommodate more motorized boating activity would result in several indirect, secondary impacts on wildlife and habitat, including increased levels of disturbance and harassment, increased shoreline erosion from boat wakes, more fuel and oil in the water, and more problems in enforcing no-wake zones along WMAs. Formalized vehicle parking at sites where ad hoc parking occurs now would result in immediate small habitat loss but tend to reduce future habitat loss and probably be a net benefit for wildlife habitat.

### **Alternatives**

The relative magnitude of expected impacts on wildlife and habitat are discussed for each of the alternatives. The reader is directed back to Chapter 2 and Table 2.3-1 for more site-specific information regarding actions that would be implemented or allowed under each of the alternatives.

#### **Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices**

Levels of recreation use are expected to increase 20 percent over the next 10 years (see Section 8, *Recreation*). In the absence of new recreation site development, increased levels of use would result in increased habitat degradation adjacent to existing recreation sites, more habitat loss through ad hoc recreation activity, and increased levels of wildlife disturbance and occasional harassment.

The No Action Alternative would allow new recreation facilities to be developed on approximately 313 acres of lands that are currently managed as C/OS. Direct impacts would include habitat loss

and degradation of adjacent C/OS and WMA areas because of increased human use. Wildlife disturbance adjacent to new recreation sites would also increase. Formalizing boat-in camping at Driftwood Point and allowing vehicle access to Sugarloaf Peninsula would generally be more detrimental to wildlife than development of other recreation facilities because of the relatively low current levels of human use of these two areas. Most of the other new recreation developments and expansions would occur at existing recreation areas that already have relatively high human use.

Trail development would increase pedestrian access to the reservoir shoreline, which would cause minor habitat loss and contribute to wildlife disturbance. Allowing construction of marinas would increase boat launching capacity and indirectly result in more wildlife disturbance along the shorelines of WMAs and increased boat wake induced erosion and habitat loss. Reopening the former state airstrip would result in increased levels of wildlife disturbance and possibly substantial habitat loss because of associated recreational and potential residential development.

### **Rare and Sensitive Species**

The projected 20 percent increase in levels of recreation use at Lake Cascade over the next 10 years, combined with conversion of 313 acres of land managed as C/OS to new recreation facilities, would result in habitat loss and increased levels of potential human disturbance on all wildlife. Rare and sensitive species and their habitats would be adversely affected. Potential rare species habitat losses on Reclamation lands would be less than those expected from WestRock due to less affected acreage.

Potentially suitable habitat for several rare species may exist on Reclamation lands, especially the forested portions of WMAs. Management and wildlife habitat conditions on most of the WMA lands would either not change under the No Action Alternative or would improve if AEs are changed. An exception to expected improved habitat conditions would involve lands managed as C/OS that would be converted to recreation. About 180 acres of coniferous forest in C/OS-managed areas would be converted to recreation uses, adversely affecting the fisher, long-eared myotis, flammulated owl, northern pygmy-owl, black-backed woodpecker, and northern goshawk on Reclamation lands. Increases in recreation use and continued development of private lands around Lake Cascade would also degrade the value of potential habitat for these species near the reservoir. Conversion of 45 acres of herbaceous cover type to recreation uses could adversely affect the upland sandpiper. The wolverine typically uses areas not inhabited by people and would not be expected on Reclamation or adjacent private lands.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

The WestRock resort would result in substantial direct wildlife habitat loss as the development proceeds. A wide variety of forest dwelling species would be adversely affected. The resort would also result in a large increase in the local population and a corresponding increase in recreation activity on Reclamation lands and on Lake Cascade. Wildlife disturbance on all Reclamation lands, especially on the west side of the reservoir, would increase substantially because of the presence of substantially more people. Habitat



values of wetlands and the WMAs and C/OS lands adjacent to the reservoir would be degraded and more erosion would be expected from boat wakes. The IDFG letter commenting on the WestRock project (ISLB 1999) concurs with this assessment of boating impacts. Development of the WestRock project may adversely affect habitat for several listed and rare species of wildlife.

Implementation of the TMDL measures contained in the Cascade Reservoir Watershed Management Plan would improve water quality. This would be beneficial for all wildlife species that use the reservoir. Any resulting improvement in the fishery would benefit wildlife predators.

### **Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis**

Specific differences between the No Action Alternative and the Preferred Alternative that affect wildlife and habitat are discussed in this section. The Preferred Alternative would allow new recreation facilities to be developed on about 110 acres of lands that are currently managed as C/OS, compared to 313 acres under the No Action Alternative. These lands include about 19 acres of coniferous forest and 10 acres of wetland and riparian cover types, which provide habitat for a variety of wildlife species. Direct and indirect impacts of recreation development would be similar to those described for the No Action Alternative but would occur on a much smaller scale. Monitoring and closing certain trails if their use impacts wildlife and a small increase in WMA acreage (39 acres) would enhance and protect wildlife habitat and reduce potential disturbance. Conversion of land designations from C/OS to Recreation to allow development of a west side trail, and the subsequent construction and use of this trail, would result in additional direct habitat loss and increased wildlife disturbance in this area. Designation of an additional 158 acres of C/OS would increase protection of shoreline and adjacent upland habitat. If public awareness/education efforts are successful, the 200-foot wide no-wake zones would actually provide more security for wildlife than they are currently afforded by a much wider no-wake zone that is not adhered to by the public. This wider no-wake zone was established during the 1991 RMP. Updating and implementing habitat improvement plans with an emphasis on wetlands would provide habitat benefits for a wide variety of species. A larger marina at Van Wyck would result in greater direct and indirect impacts on wildlife and habitat.

#### **Rare and Sensitive Species**

Conversion of 110 acres of C/OS-managed lands to recreation facilities represents a relatively minor habitat loss for rare and sensitive species.

#### **Mitigation**

In addition to the BMPs identified in Chapter 5, Reclamation would replace the area and habitat value of all wetlands and riparian areas that would be directly impacted or degraded by implementation of this alternative.

### **Residual Impacts**

Residual impacts would include minor loss of upland habitat and other non-wetland related direct and indirect impacts discussed above.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

Cumulative impacts attributed to WestRock and the TMDL program would be the same as described for the No Action Alternative, while RMP impacts would be less under the Preferred Alternative because of fewer affected acres.

## **Alternative B—Limited Recreation Development /Increase Natural Resource Emphasis**

Implementation of Alternative B would result in the smallest development of new or expanded recreation facilities of any of the alternatives (32 acres compared to 313 acres for No Action). Alternative B would also result in the largest area designated as WMA (4,142 acres versus 3,987 acres for the No Action Alternative) and would add 123 acres of C/OS. Habitat values would likely improve in the new WMA and C/OS lands over the long-term and there would be substantially smaller direct impacts on wildlife and habitat. Recreation visitation, and the associated higher human disturbance and habitat degradation would still increase but Reclamation facilities would generally not be expanded to attract more visitors. A slight reduction in erosion control structures built by Reclamation would increase habitat losses in areas where erosion is cutting into the shoreline plant communities. Increased emphasis on development, protection, and enhancement of wetlands would improve habitat for a wide range of species.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

Cumulative impacts from WestRock and the TMDL program would essentially be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative. RMP impacts would be less than No Action because of less affected land.

## **Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis**

This alternative would result in about the same amount of land converted to recreational uses as the No Action Alternative. Therefore, impacts on wildlife and habitat would also be about the same. Habitat value could decline in WMAs compared to the Preferred Alternative because there would be no monitoring and closure of trails to reduce wildlife impacts. Expanded facilities at Osprey Point would substantially increase wildlife disturbance in the Duck Creek WMA compared to the No Action Alternative. Possible expansion of west side recreation sites into C/OS areas and conversion of C/OS to Recreation for trail development would result in additional habitat loss and wildlife displacement as would allowing motorized vehicle use of trails on C/OS lands in the Boulder Creek arm. Allowing motor vehicle use of the railroad grade north of Crown Point would increase wildlife disturbance and could open a new area to residential development, with subsequent increases in wildlife and habitat losses. Habitat loss would also occur at the Hot Springs Creek WMA because of development of parking and a trail and trailhead. Finally, permitting

off-road vehicle use of trails in the Vista Point area would increase direct habitat loss because of wider trails, increase wildlife disturbance, and result in adjacent habitat losses as some users deviate from designated trails.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

Cumulative impacts from WestRock and the TMDL program would be the same as described for the No Action Alternative, while there would also be the same impacts on wildlife and habitat under Alternative C as described under the No Action Alternative.

## **3.6 Threatened and Endangered Species**

### **3.6.1 Affected Environment**

#### **Plants**

The Ute ladies'-tresses orchid (*Spiranthes diluvialis*) is the only Federally protected plant species that may occur near Lake Cascade. It typically occupies floodplains and wet meadows with little overhanging shrub or tree canopy. Wetland and riparian habitats such as springs, wet meadows, and river meanders are potential habitat. Ute ladies'-tresses orchids have been found in southeast Idaho and eastern Washington and may occur in suitable habitats between these locations. No searches for this species have been conducted on Reclamation lands. Field surveys would be conducted at the sites of any future land-disturbing activities within wetlands or riparian communities on Reclamation lands.

#### **Wildlife**

##### **Bald Eagle**

FWS recently determined that bald eagles are still a threatened species in Idaho. Like ospreys, the nesting bald eagle population at Lake Cascade has also increased. The first bald eagle nest was discovered in the reservoir area in 1976. There are now eight known active bald eagle nests around the reservoir, with six pairs on the west side and two on the east. Three pairs also nest along the North Fork of the Payette River within a few miles to the south of the reservoir (Beals and Melquist 1998). There are also two bald eagle nests along the Payette River between Lake Cascade and McCall.

The 1990 Cascade Reservoir BEMP provides recommendations on recreation use, timber management, livestock management, eutrophication, areas exempted from eagle management, chemical use, control of pesticides, and an annual interagency evaluation of wildlife management resources at the reservoir. The majority of those recommendations were incorporated into the 1991 RMP.

Eagle territories include nest sites, perch trees, and foraging areas. Eagles typically nest in isolated, mixed-aged timber in codominant or dominant trees with a clear flight path to feeding areas; in this case, feeding areas include the reservoir. Management for protection typically requires a 0.75-mile no disturbance radius around the nest throughout the year but important habitat areas extend throughout the reservoir, especially along the west shoreline outside of developed sites. Human presence interferes with hunting behavior of bald eagles, although the degree to which their behavior is affected varies for individual eagles. There have been many reports of eagles diving for fish near boats. Nesting behavior, however, is more defensive and subject to disturbance. See Appendix B for additional information concerning bald eagle nest buffers.

Fish throughout the reservoir provide the primary prey for the bald eagle. In the spring, ice melts first in the Hot Spring Creek area, exposing live fish to capture. Also, winter-killed fish begin to wash up along the shoreline. As the reservoir thaws and the readily available supply of dead fish is depleted, bald eagles switch to live fish again and to shorebirds and waterfowl. A late summer fish die-off resulting from warm temperatures and oxygen depletion again supplies dead fish for sustenance. Suckers (*Catostomidae*) and bullheads (*Ictalurus sp.*) congregating in shallow bays at this time provide a source of live fish.

The FWS is concerned about the protection of the eagle foraging area that includes the open water area and wetlands of Lake Cascade and all the land west to an elevation of 6,500 feet on West Mountain between Poison Creek and the Van Wyck Trail. Some locations for potential recreation areas are restrained by the bald eagle recovery goals and the proposed terms and conditions for bald eagle protection specified by the FWS for the proposed WestRock Resort. Additional concerns identified by FWS in their Coordination Act Report (Appendix B) include permanent loss of wildlife habitats, degradation of the quality of the remaining resources, and increasing pressure associated with human presence.

### **Canada Lynx**

The FWS letter listing species protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) includes the lynx (*Lynx canadensis*), which was recently listed as a threatened species. Idaho is near the southern limits of the lynx range. Mountainous regions supporting stands of spruce (*Picea sp.*) and fir (*Abies sp.*), Douglas-fir, and lodgepole pine are generally considered to be suitable lynx habitat (Ruggiero et al. 1999). Snowshoe hares (*Lepus americanus*) represent the lynx primary prey (Hall 1981) and red squirrels (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*) are an important alternate prey when hares are scarce (Ruggiero et al. 1999). USFS lands immediately to the west of Lake Cascade and Reclamation lands along the North Fork of the Payette River may provide suitable lynx habitat based on the tree species present and the relatively undisturbed nature of those areas. Snowshoe hares are probably present in both areas and red squirrels are present on the USFS lands.

The WestRock Resort Wildlife Habitat Conservation Plan (WestRock 2000) states that lynx are not known to be present in their project area and that the nearest recent lynx records are from about 20 miles to the east of Lake Cascade. WestRock (2000), citing an unpublished USFS

report, also states that the availability of prey for lynx in the West Mountain area is considered low when compared to other areas of the Cascade Ranger District of the Boise National Forest.

Potential denning habitat is located six to seven miles northeast of Lake Cascade in the Sloan Creek and Kennally Creek watersheds, which are tributaries of the Gold Fork River. In addition, west of Lake Cascade suitable foraging and denning habitats have been identified on the Forest. The Forest Service has ongoing efforts to determine whether the lynx are present, and how this species uses habitats in the area. Lynx have been reported, but not confirmed, within the West Mountain lynx analysis units west of Lake Cascade, and a lynx track was documented in December 1999 in the Deadwood drainage southeast of the lake (USDA-Payette National Forest 2000; USDA-Boise National Forest 2000).

Lynx are generally secretive and rarely venture into populated areas. However, hare populations are cyclic on a 10 to 11 year cycle. Lynx may move into lower elevation, more populated areas during periods of low hare numbers drop below 0.5 hares per hectare (Ward and Krebs 1985). This movement could result in lynx occasionally traveling through and foraging on Reclamation lands, but this occurrence would probably be rare.

### **Gray Wolf**

The gray wolf is classified as an experimental non-essential population throughout most of Idaho, including the Lake Cascade area (59 FR 60266). Wolves may currently occupy the forested areas to the east and northeast of Lake Cascade. Wolves have been documented in the West Mountain area southwest of Lake Cascade during a tracking survey in the winter of 2000. Recently, several wolf sightings and tracks have been located on both the east and west sides of Lake Cascade. Denning and rendezvous sites have not been located in the Lake Cascade area; however, based on the frequency of observation of wolves, it is possible that wolves may become established in the area west of Lake Cascade if there is sufficient food base available (pers. comm., C. Niemeyer and R. Vizgirdas, USFWS 2000; pers. comm., T. Holden, U.S. Forest Service 2000; USDA-Boise National Forest 2000).

### **Fish**

#### **Bull Trout**

The FWS letter listing species protected under the ESA includes the bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) as possibly occurring in the RMP study area. A review of IDFG *Fisheries Management Plan 1996 – 2001* (IDFG 1996) and the State of Idaho Bull Trout Conservation Plan (IDFG 1998) indicates that the North Fork of the Payette River drainage is not listed as a key watershed for the bull trout, and surveys have not found them in Lake Cascade (IDFG 1998).

Bull trout are documented within the Lake Cascade watershed; however, they are restricted to the Gold Fork River above the impassable irrigation water diversion dam constructed there in the 1930s. Focal (spawning and rearing) habitat which supports a single depressed bull trout

population is located in the tributaries of the upper Gold Fork River Watershed. No bull trout have been found in the lower reaches of the Gold Fork River below the diversion dam or in Lake Cascade in recent times. In some areas of Idaho, reservoirs and lakes provide important habitat for the species. Conditions in Lake Cascade are likely unsuitable for bull trout because of warm water temperatures and poor water quality (USDA-Payette National Forest 1998; Steed 1998). Therefore, all of the alternatives would have no effect on bull trout, and bull trout are not discussed further in this section.

### **3.6.2 Environmental Consequences**

#### **Assessment Categories**

Restoration and protection of native plant communities in certain habitat types could beneficially effect threatened and endangered species. These actions in shoreline, wetland, wet meadow, and streambank communities would be protective of potential or actual Ute ladies'-tresses habitat.

The general impacts in each of the Assessment Categories would be the same as described in Section 3.4, *Vegetation*, and Section 3.5, *Wildlife*.

Removal of cattle from shoreline grazing area would reduce trampling of the shoreline, which would allow vegetation to establish.

New trails would provide shoreline access under all alternatives where none currently exists, which may result in additional impacts to sensitive shoreline vegetation, potentially including Ute ladies'-tresses orchids.

#### **Alternatives**

##### **Plants**

##### **Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices**

Reclamation has not developed detailed plans for any future developments or pedestrian trails that are included in the Lake Cascade RMP. Reclamation will identify the areas on lands under their administration that could be potential Ute ladies'-tresses habitat. Typical potential habitat includes wetland and riparian areas such as springs, wet meadows, and river meanders. Potential habitat may be ascertained through locating plants that are usually associated with the species or through cover type mapping. In areas of potential habitat, Reclamation would either change the location of the facility or trail to avoid direct and indirect impacts, including surface disturbance and hydrologic changes, or not construct the facility or trail. If potential habitat is found in the vicinity of existing or proposed trails or other high use public recreation areas where the potential for trampling exists, access restrictions would be implemented and strictly enforced. Reclamation would work with FWS to design a system to effectively restrict access without calling attention to the

presence of a threatened species. Implementation of these actions would be expected to avoid all potential impacts on the Ute ladies' tresses orchid and potential habitat and result in a determination of may affect, but not likely to adversely affect, from implementation of the Lake Cascade RMP. Reclamation will coordinate with FWS before undertaking actions that would be considered exceptions to this habitat avoidance policy.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

As noted, impacts from RMP actions would generally be avoided. There would be no impacts from the TMDL process and actions in potential tress habitat would follow the same search and avoid approach to avoiding potential impacts. WestRock (2000) indicates that development of the resort would likely not impact tresses. FWS has not issued any documents rebutting or concurring on the conclusion (D. Mackey, Wildlife Biologist, USFWS, Boise, ID, August 7, 2000). Therefore, no further conclusions regarding WestRock can be drawn.

### **Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis**

The same measures described for Alternative A would be implemented to map potential habitat and avoid Ute ladies'-tresses orchids. This alternative may affect, but not likely to adversely affect Ute ladies'-tresses orchids.

### **Mitigation Measures**

No impacts are anticipated and therefore, no mitigation measures are proposed.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

The potential for cumulative impacts would be the same as described for the No Action Alternative.

### **Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis**

The same measures described for Alternative A would be implemented to map potential habitat and avoid Ute ladies'-tresses orchids. This alternative may affect, but not likely to adversely affect Ute ladies'-tresses orchids.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

The potential for cumulative impacts would be the same as described for the No Action Alternative.

### **Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis**

The same measures described for Alternative A would be implemented to map potential habitat and avoid Ute ladies'-tresses orchids. This alternative may affect, but not likely to adversely affect Ute ladies'-tresses orchids.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

The potential for cumulative impacts would be the same as described for the No Action Alternative.

### **Wildlife**

#### **Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices**

The projected 20 percent increase in levels of recreation use at Lake Cascade over the next 10 years, combined with conversion of 313 acres of C/OS-managed lands to new recreation facilities, would result in habitat loss and increased levels of potential human disturbance on all wildlife. Threatened and endangered species and their habitats would be negatively affected.

**Bald Eagle.** Several specific actions evaluated in this EA have the potential of affecting bald eagles nesting at Lake Cascade. The potential for adverse effects on eagles from specific actions are discussed below along with measures that would be implemented to avoid or minimize impacts. All of the bald eagle nests located on land administered by Reclamation and on adjacent lands will be monitored for adverse impacts as Reclamation implements the proposed projects under the RMP, with specific interest in the Gold Fork and North Fork nests, and those on the west side of Lake Cascade.

The number of bald eagle nests around Lake Cascade has increased steadily as bald eagle numbers have grown nationally. This has occurred at the same time that recreation visitation at Lake Cascade increased from 255,000 in 1988 to 330,000 in 1999, an increase of about 30 percent in 11 years. These nesting bald eagles are apparently tolerating current levels of human activity on and around Lake Cascade and they may continue to tolerate the projected 20 percent increase in recreation use during the next 10 years. On the other hand, levels of human use may increase above tolerable levels for some eagle pairs in some areas during this period. There is no way to predict when such a threshold might be crossed as individual bald eagle response to human activity is highly variable.

No new or expanded recreation development would occur within 0.75 mile of an existing bald eagle nest, so no direct impacts are expected. In conclusion, implementation of the No Action Alternative may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, bald eagles. Reclamation would continue to manage its future activities to avoid impacts on bald eagles regardless of potential future changes in the status of the bald eagle under the ESA.

Potential effects from reopening the state airstrip are not considered in the above conclusion for the following reasons. Re-opening of the state airstrip for fly-in day use and overnight camping could cause disturbances to bald eagles and bald eagle prey from low level flights and human activity at the recreation site. Reopening of the airstrip would occur in phases, be subject to monitoring, and be addressed under a separate NEPA action as described in Section 2.3.2. Bald eagle activity would be monitored both before and after opening to



determine if disturbance or other adverse effects to bald eagles is occurring from fly-in uses. If so, the site may be developed for boat in or hike-in use only.

**Canada Lynx.** Lynx are listed as a threatened species and may rarely use more remote Reclamation lands, especially during periods of low snowshoe hare numbers. The North Fork Payette River WMA may provide the best potential lynx habitat on Reclamation lands. However, WestRock (2000) states that lynx are not known to be present in their project area and that the nearest recent lynx records are from about 20 miles to the east of Lake Cascade. Only very minor changes would occur in some WMA and C/OS lands generally located near existing recreation sites. Management and wildlife habitat conditions of the North Fork Payette River WMA would either not change under the No Action Alternative or would improve if AEs are changed. Therefore, implementation of the No Action Alternative may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, the lynx on Reclamation lands. The general projected increase in recreation visitation and cabin and second home development around Lake Cascade would result in more people, less suitable habitat, and less abundant alternate prey for the lynx on private lands around Lake Cascade, further reducing the likelihood that lynx would use the area.

**Gray Wolf.** The Coordination Act Report (Appendix B) notes that winter recreation, particularly snowmobiling, has been identified as a threat to gray wolves because of disturbance and altered snow conditions. Several components of the RMP facilitate snowmobile use of USFS lands west of Lake Cascade. FWS is concerned that snowmobilers using Reclamation parking facilities may use adjoining lands for snowmobiling, and potentially disturb wolves during the mating and early denning seasons on adjacent public lands. FWS recognizes that the role of Reclamation in regards to wolves on non-Reclamation lands is minor compared with the other agencies who administer lands on which habitat for these species occurs. Therefore, implementation of the No Action Alternative may affect but is not likely to adversely affect the wolf.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

As noted, RMP actions may affect but are not likely to adversely affect bald eagles and lynx. There would be no impacts on either of these species from the TMDL process. The WestRock (2000) plan stated that development of the resort would likely impact two bald eagle nests, and would likely have no direct effects on lynx. FWS has not issued and documents rebutting or concurring on these conclusions (D. Mackey, Wildlife Biologist, USFWS, Boise, ID, August 7, 2000). Therefore, no further conclusions regarding WestRock can be drawn.

### **Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis**

The expected impacts and effects determination would be the same as described for the No Action Alternative.

Several measures that are either included or would be allowed under this RMP

alternative have the potential for indirectly impacting bald eagles by increasing levels of human disturbance. The potential for adverse effects on eagles from specific actions under the Preferred Alternative are discussed below along with measures that would be implemented to avoid or minimize impacts. All of the bald eagle nests located on land administered by Reclamation and on adjacent lands will be monitored for adverse impacts as Reclamation implements the proposed projects under the RMP, with specific interest in the Gold Fork and North Fork nests, and those on the west side of Lake Cascade.

One of the actions included in the Preferred Alternative and Alternative C is conversion of several C/OS areas on the west side to the Recreation land use status to allow construction of pedestrian trails as funding allows. About 0.5 miles of these trails would be located within the primary protection zone of the Buttercup nest and 0.65 miles of trails would be within the nest's secondary protection zone. All new trails would be located to the east of the existing West Mountain road, meaning that the road, with its existing traffic, would be located between the trails and the Buttercup and Poison Creek nests. Other current facilities and ongoing activities within these zones include private residences, three Reclamation campgrounds, camping, and motorized boating. In order to avoid impacts to bald eagles and protect other resource values, Reclamation is fully committed to closing current and future trails seasonally if needed.

Habitat improvement plans (HIPs), intended to benefit natural resources, will be updated under the Preferred Alternative and Alternatives B and C. Implementation of HIPs will continue under all of the alternatives. Specific types of actions that have been included in HIPs developed to date include tree and shrub planting; fence construction, maintenance, and removal; wetland development to improve water quality; and placement of nest and roost boxes and platforms for a variety of raptors, songbirds, waterfowl, and bats. All HIPs would be reviewed to assure that there would be no adverse effects on eagles. At worst, HIPs would be neutral toward bald eagles.

A new marina at West Mountain would be allowed as a second priority to the marina at Cascade (Van Wyck) under the Preferred Alternative and Alternative C. This marina would be located within the secondary protection zone for the Buttercup nest. Specific plans related to future marina construction at West Mountain would be addressed in a separate NEPA document, as would any other changes in west side facilities that are not addressed in the current RPM/EA.

Vehicles and trailers associated with snowmobiling currently are parked along West Mountain Road within the primary and secondary protection zones for the Buttercup nest. However, the county does not plow very far off of the existing roadway. Therefore, parked vehicles and trailers often partially block traffic in one direction. The RMP proposal under the Preferred Alternative and Alternatives B and C is to work with the County to widen the plowing along the road so that parking does not obstruct traffic. Additional plowing would be to the reservoir side of the road. Late-winter

snowmobiling on West Mountain (off of Reclamation land) could conflict with early nesting activities. Reclamation will cooperate with the USFS to try to avoid impacts on bald eagles and other protected species from any future snowmobile trail development on West Mountain. However, there are also private and state lands involved so Reclamation's authority is very limited. Additionally, Reclamation would be a cooperator in any inter-agency (USFS, state, etc.) effort to manage snowmobiles to protect ESA species habitat in addition to trail development activities.

Non-motorized boating, mostly canoeing, currently occurs within the upper end of the Gold Fork arm and in the North Fork arm. The designated non-motorized boating area in the Gold Fork arm is located over 2 miles from the Gold Fork nest, well beyond the secondary nest protection zone. Motorized boating currently occurs on a regular basis in both the primary and secondary protection zones for the Gold Fork nest. The North Fork nest is located on the east side of the reservoir about mid-way along the 4.5 mile-long designated non-motorized boating area. The Preferred Alternative and Alternative C include development of non-motorized boat launch sites in both of these arms of the reservoir. The Gold Fork launch site would be located over 2 miles from the Gold Fork nest, well beyond the secondary protection zone. The location of the North Fork launch site has not been determined at this time. However, Reclamation would locate it at least 1/2 mile outside of the secondary protection zone for the North Fork nest and assure that there is no direct line-of-site between the nest and the launch site.

In conclusion, proposed RMP facilities and activities that would be implemented under the Preferred Alternative would avoid or minimize potential impacts on bald eagles because of one or more factors including the following:

- They would occur outside of bald eagle nest protection zones,
- They would be buffered by other ongoing activities,
- They would represent a continuation of ongoing activities that apparently are not a problem for bald eagles at Lake Cascade,
- Current and future trails would be closed as needed to avoid impacts, and
- Future design and placement of facilities would carefully consider and avoid potential impacts on bald eagles.

Therefore, implementation of any of the Preferred Alternative may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, bald eagles at Lake Cascade. Reclamation would continue to manage its future activities to avoid impacts on bald eagles regardless of potential future changes in the status of the bald eagle under the ESA. Potential reopening of the state airstrip would be handled as described for the No Action Alternative.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

The potential for cumulative impacts would be the same as described for the No Action Alternative.

**Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Protection Emphasis**

The expected impacts and effects determination would be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative.

**Cumulative Impacts**

The potential for cumulative impacts would be the same as described for the No Action Alternative.

**Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis**

The expected impacts and effects determination would be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative.

**Cumulative Impacts**

The potential for cumulative impacts would be the same as described for the No Action Alternative.

## **3.7 Aquatic Biology**

### **3.7.1 Affected Environment**

Lake Cascade is one of three Reclamation impoundments in the Payette River Basin and was formed by damming the North Fork Payette River. The reservoir provides a mixed fishery (both cold water and warm water species) and is one of the most heavily fished waters in the state (IDFG 1996). In addition to recreational benefits, the reservoir fishery is also the main source of prey for eagles, ospreys, otters, and other wildlife discussed in Section 3.5. Associated with the reservoir are the fisheries resources of its four main tributaries, the North Fork Payette River, the Lake Fork River, Gold Fork Creek, and Willow Creek (see Map 1-1). These tributaries, along with numerous smaller ones, also provide recreational fishing opportunities as well as forage for local wildlife.

#### **Reservoir Fishery**

Lake Cascade is a heavily used mixed fishery. The primary species found in the reservoir are listed on Table 3.7-1.

Table 3.7-1. Game and Non-Game Fish Species Found in Lake Cascade

Common Name	Scientific Name
<b>Cold Water Game Species</b>	
Hatchery rainbow trout	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>
redband trout	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss gairdneri</i>
kokanee salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus nerka kennerlyi</i>
coho salmon (land locked)	<i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i>
mountain whitefish	<i>Prosopium williamsoni</i>
<b>Warm Water Game Species</b>	
smallmouth bass	<i>Micropterus dolomieu</i>
black crappie	<i>Pomoxis nigromaculatus</i>
tiger muskie (sterile northern pike hybrid with muskellunge)	<i>Esox lucius</i> x <i>E. Masquinongy</i>
yellow perch	<i>Perca flavescens</i>
channel catfish	<i>Ictalurus punctatus</i>
black bullhead	<i>Amerurus melas</i>
brown bullhead	<i>Amerurus nebulosus</i>
Pumpkinseed	<i>Lepomis gibbosus</i>
<b>Non-Game Fish</b>	
Northern pikeminnow (formerly called northern squawfish)	<i>Ptychocheilus oregonensis</i>
large-scale sucker	<i>Catostomidae macrocheilus</i>

Source: IDFG 2000, personal communication with Paul Jansen

Trout and salmon populations are supplemented through stocking programs by IDFG (pers. comm. D. Anderson, Fishery Manager, IDFG, McCall, Idaho, April 26, 1999). At one time, the reservoir had some of the most productive yellow perch (*Perca flavescens*) fishing in the state, with perch comprising over 75 percent of the total annual catch in the reservoir. Since 1996, however, for reasons not yet completely understood, perch have almost disappeared from the reservoir. IDFG is presently conducting ongoing studies to determine the cause of the population decline, and the preliminary conclusion is that predation by northern pikeminnows is the cause (pers. comm. P. Jansen, Biologist, IDFG, McCall, Idaho, June 4, 2001).

Lake Cascade is open to fishing all year. Sport fishing activity focuses primarily on rainbow trout during spring and fall. Summer and winter fishing formerly focused on perch. However, since perch populations have declined, summer fishing is now focused on other warm water species. Winter fishing opportunities on the reservoir are limited since the decline of the perch fishery.

Spawning conditions for warm water game and non-game fish in the reservoir are generally good. Shoreline gravels, rocks, and vegetation usually remain inundated long enough for spawning, egg development, and fry emergence to occur. The cold water species and some non-game species, such as the northern pikeminnow, primarily use the tributaries for spawning.

Lake Cascade has the potential to provide good rearing habitat for both warm and cold water fish. The reservoir inundates a broad, flat valley and has relatively flat underwater topography. The existing shallow profile of the reservoir is exaggerated by periodic drawdowns. Even with annual fluctuations, the large, shallow shoreline zone is productive for benthic organisms and some aquatic vegetation. However, this high productivity, coupled with the shallow reservoir profile and watershed-wide nutrient inputs, has resulted in periodic poor water quality conditions in the reservoir. The primary hazards to fish as a result of the poor water quality are low dissolved oxygen levels during winter and summer months, and elevated water temperatures in the late summer. Section 3.2, *Water Quality and Contaminants*, has a complete description of these issues.

Low oxygen levels and elevated temperatures are believed to be the contributing factors to fish kills that have periodically occurred in the reservoir. These fish kills have included rainbow trout, coho salmon, and yellow perch. The most recent substantial fish kill occurred in 1994, when a large number of juvenile yellow perch died. Since then, no strong recruitment of yellow perch has been documented (pers. comm. D. Anderson, Fishery Manager, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, McCall, Idaho, April 26, 1999). It is not known if water quality problems are the direct cause of these fish kills. IDFG suspects that, in some instances, this may be the case. However, it could be that poor water quality conditions may stress fish and cause them to become extremely susceptible to disease and parasites (pers. comm. D. Anderson, Fishery Manager, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, McCall, Idaho, April 26, 1999). IDFG in cooperation with Reclamation and Idaho Power Company are currently investigating the causes of these fish kills.

Space limitations as a result of the reservoir drawdowns are also a concern for the reservoir fishery. Reservoir drawdowns result in a limited area for fish, limiting refuge habitat from extreme conditions. Low reservoir levels and low late summer flows in the main tributaries can limit fish access to refuge areas in these tributaries, where water is more highly oxygenated and possibly cooler (pers. comm., T. Dombrowski, IDEQ, Cascade, Idaho, April 23, 1999; pers. comm. D. Anderson, Fishery Manager, IDFG, McCall, Idaho, April 26, 1999). Also, because the average depth of the reservoir is only about 25 feet at full pool, low reservoir levels can result in depths of only a few feet throughout much of the reservoir. This limits the amount of cool water habitat in late summer and can result in areas of stagnant water with low oxygen levels, particularly in the southern portion of the reservoir (pers. comm., T. Dombrowski, IDEQ, Cascade, Idaho, April 23, 1999).

Currently, Reclamation maintains a minimum pool of 300,000 acre-feet during the winter under an administrative agreement with the IDEQ and IDFG (pers. comm., T. Dombrowski, IDEQ, Cascade, Idaho, April 23, 1999). This minimum pool level was developed in response to IDFG research results and is intended to minimize winter oxygen problems (D. Anderson, Fishery Manager, IDFG, McCall, Idaho, April 26, 1999). A minimum pool level of 46,662 acre-feet is required during the remaining portions of the year; however, Reclamation has maintained minimum pool levels during the summer much greater than this during the past few years (pers. comm., T. Dombrowski, IDEQ, Cascade, Idaho, April 23, 1999).

### **Tributary Fishery**

Like Lake Cascade, the tributaries provide recreational fishing opportunities, forage for wildlife, and important spawning and refuge habitat for the cold water species of the reservoir. Species from the reservoir using the tributaries for rearing and spawning include rainbow trout, coho and kokanee salmon, and northern pikeminnow. Warm water reservoir species may also occasionally be found in the tributaries, but their use is probably limited. The main tributaries also have resident populations of cold water species, which include rainbow trout, mountain whitefish (*Prosopium williamsoni*), and northern pikeminnow. It is also possible that one or more of these tributaries supports native populations of redband trout (a subspecies of rainbow trout), but this has yet to be verified (D. Anderson, Fishery Manager, IDFG, McCall, Idaho, April 26, 1999).

Unlike the reservoir, the major tributaries are closed to fishing during the spring and fall spawning period upstream of slack water reservoir areas. This closure protects spawning fish and helps to maximize production from the tributaries.

The primary ecological problems associated with the reservoir tributaries are fish access to spawning and refuge habitat, water quality, and water quantity. Fish access is limited or blocked by irrigation diversions and road culverts on many of the tributaries. Water quality is impacted by forest and agricultural drainage, urban runoff, onsite waste disposal (septic tanks), and direct treated wastewater discharges from the McCall wastewater treatment plant and the fish hatchery. Water quantity is also impacted through agricultural diversions, since no minimum flows are currently established in any of the tributaries.

The Gold Fork River has the greatest potential for wild fish production in the Lake Cascade drainage. However, fish access to most of this river is blocked by an irrigation diversion located 4 miles upstream of the reservoir. Habitat in small tributary streams is critical, especially when the reservoir water quality conditions become poor in late summer. Several tributaries of special habitat importance include the following:

- Willow Creek (at the south end)
- Hurd Creek
- French Creek

**Table 3.7-2. IDFG General Management Objectives for Waters in the Payette River Basin**

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Program</b>
Provide a diversity of fishing opportunities within the Payette River drainage.	<p>Zone the stream areas to concentrate hatchery catchable stocking in locations where the highest return to creel would occur.</p> <p>Manage for wild trout where habitat and fish populations would sustain an acceptable fishery.</p> <p>Manage for increased catch rates and size in selected stream reaches using quality trout regulations.</p> <p>Stock appropriate strains of trout in natural production areas to better use the rearing capacity and provide larger and more desirable fish.</p> <p>Improve land use management by working with Federal, state, and private landowners on proper land uses to increase soil stability in the drainage.</p>
Assess the potential for securing stream maintenance flows to protect fisheries on the North Fork Payette River, Lake Fork Creek, and other tributaries.	Gather needed biological and economic information for the Idaho Water Resource Board to justify pursuing stream maintenance flows for fish and wildlife protection.
Maintain riparian and floodplain values for fish and public access.	Work with Valley County and landowners to provide public access to the North Fork Payette River.

Source: IDFG 1996

## 3.7.2 Environmental Consequences

### Assessment Categories

This section describes the benefits and potential impacts that the general actions of the alternatives may have on the fishery resources of Lake Cascade. Most all of the actions are not directed specifically at fishery resources (for example, improving a specific portion of known spawning habitat). Instead, they involve indirect improvements such as erosion control structures and BMP procedures for the construction of facilities. The most direct actions that would affect fish are those relating to water quality and riparian vegetation. These are discussed more fully in Sections 3.3 and 3.5, respectively.

As stated in Section 3.7.1, *Affected Environment*, water quality is one of the two primary factors affecting the fish populations in the reservoir and tributaries, with other being reservoir pool levels. The RMP does not address reservoir pool levels, because that issue falls under the operational



jurisdictions and contractual agreements. Issues regarding water quality improvement are prevalent throughout many of the actions listed in the alternatives, i.e., protecting and enhancing water quality is the primary goal for improving the fishery (Appendix A, Goal 1.4, Object 1.4.1).

### **Natural Resource, Habitat and Cultural Resource Protection and Enhancement**

General habitat improvement and enhancement objectives related to fisheries were developed in the 1991 RMP. Subsequent to the 1991 RMP, HIPs were developed and implementation begun for the six WMAs. Continued implementation would occur under all alternatives. Habitat improvement would occur in two of the C/OS areas (Crown Point and Boulder Creek) under all of the action alternatives. These objectives mostly focus on restoring or maintaining riparian and shoreline habitat of the tributaries and the reservoir. This would be accomplished primarily through the following methods:

- Native vegetation plantings and wetland enhancement
- Restoration of disturbed riparian and shoreline areas
- Fencing or cattle exclusion

The most notable benefits derived from these actions would be the reduction of erosion sediment input to the reservoir and tributaries and the maintenance or creation of riparian and shoreline habitat and wetlands. As stated in Section 3.7.1, *Affected Environment*, one of the primary concerns for aquatic resources in Lake Cascade is water quality. Enhanced vegetation cover along riparian and shoreline areas and wetlands would provide the following specific benefits:

- A reduction in erosion and sediment input to the reservoir and tributaries, resulting in improved water quality and cleaner spawning substrate. Vegetation along the riparian and shoreline areas would minimize erosion and wetlands would act as a sediment filter.
- Increase the potential for more woody debris input along stream corridors, which would enhance cover habitat and stream complexity.
- Increase food production in both the reservoir and streams. An increase in the food supply for aquatic insects would be expected to occur, along with an increase in terrestrial insect production.

The exclusion of cattle through fencing would minimize or eliminate the potential for near-water habitat destruction. These exclusions, in conjunction with native and other vegetation plantings, would also provide a long-term gradual improvement to habitat.

### **Water Quality, Surface Water Management, and Erosion Control**

Three aspects of the alternatives are aimed directly at improving the water quality of reservoir. These include direct water quality improvement measures as they relate to agricultural and grazing

use around the reservoir and erosion control structures on and near the reservoir. Indirect measures are those that deal with no-wake zones and non-motorized boating zones, both which would limit shoreline erosion.

As stated, the alternatives propose to improve the water quality of the reservoir by addressing grazing near the shoreline areas. Under all alternatives, this could potentially be accomplished through the negotiation with landowners. To the extent this action is successful, it would minimize or eliminate shoreline erosion and nutrient input to the reservoir that is currently caused by cattle.

Relative to erosion control structures, the action alternatives propose assisting private landowners in obtaining the appropriate permits to construct structures in an effective way (including the modification of existing ones). These would include retaining walls and other similar landscape features. This individual application approach to erosion control would be on an as-needed and as-requested basis and differs from erosion control instituted under the habitat enhancement features using vegetation and wetlands on a selective basis. However, the benefits of reduced erosion and bank and slope stabilization would be similar to those discussed above as they relate to water quality and shoreline habitat improvement. Individually, corrective measures of spot erosion problems would probably not improve aquatic habitat conditions substantially. However, a programmatic approach to addressing ongoing spot erosion problems, as well as TMDLs, would cumulatively improve conditions throughout the reservoir and tributary areas.

The surface water management aspect of the alternatives focuses mostly on the creation or maintenance of no-wake zones in portions of the reservoir and the designation of specific non-motorized boating areas. No-wake zones and non-motorized zones are addressed by all alternatives, but each have varying extensions and exclusions for each (see Table 2.3-1). The primary benefit derived from these two actions would be to minimize shore erosion in areas that either currently experience or have the potential to experience erosion problems. As stated, erosion is one of the factors contributing to water quality problems of the reservoir.

### **Improved or Restricted Access**

The improvement of access to the tributaries and portions of the reservoir has the potential to increase angling pressure, along with poaching and harvest violations, in the larger drainages. It is assumed that the improvement of existing trails and roads, or construction of new ones, would follow all appropriate BMPs for minimizing erosion problems during construction and use. Therefore, erosion issues related to trails and roads is not considered a potential impact to fisheries.

All of the alternatives have associated with them some improvement for boat access, including, but not limited to increased parking and extended boat ramps. Most notable are the improved recreational areas under all alternatives at West Mountain Campground, Boulder Creek Recreation Area, Crown Point Extension, and Van Wyck Park (see Table 2.3-1). These actions would result in higher boat traffic. Boats have the potential for hazardous fuel and oil spills through either normal operation or through accidents that could occur on the reservoir. Normal use spills (such as refueling and leaking engines) would not pose a substantial hazard to water quality or aquatic

- Poison (Rock) Creek
- Campbell Creek
- Van Wyck Creek

Willow, Hurd, and Rock creeks probably have the greatest potential for salmonid reproduction of all the west side tributaries. Spawning in all of these (with the exception of Willow Creek) is limited to near-mouth areas because of the steep stream gradient and poorly strewn substrate. Fish also have difficulty passing through some road culverts.

### **Fisheries Management Considerations**

Lake Cascade and its tributaries have the potential to provide excellent recreational fishing opportunities for a variety of species. However, several factors currently limit this potential. The primary factor is water quality in the reservoir and the tributaries. To address this issue, Reclamation has successfully implemented a higher winter minimum pool that may have minimized or eliminated winter fish kills. Maintaining a higher winter pool has been possible because of recent wet years. Reclamation has recently maintained summer minimum pools above the 300,000 acre-feet administrative pool requirement (see Section 1.6, *Location and Background*, for an explanation of hydrologic issues). For the tributaries in the watershed, IDEQ has instituted a draft TMDL requirement that should result in a 37 percent reduction in nutrient loading to the streams, and eventually the reservoir, over a 5-year period (IDEQ 1998a).

Access to spawning areas may also be an important limiting factor for reservoir and tributary fisheries. Currently, none of the diversions on any of the tributaries have fish ladders (the North Fork Payette River is the only major tributary without diversions), and none are currently proposed. In addition to access problems, these diversions (except one) are not screened. Fish that otherwise would be recruited to the reservoir or lower portions of the tributaries may be lost into irrigation canals. To address this issue, IDFG has recently completed a pilot screening project on Mulholland ditch. If this proves successful and cost-effective, some irrigation districts have expressed interest in screening projects (D. Anderson, Fishery Manager, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, McCall, Idaho, April 26, 1999).

Flow in the tributaries and into the reservoir can compound water quality and access issues. As stated above, no minimum flows are required in the tributaries, and overland return flow can constitute the majority of the streamflows during late summer. Overland return flow quickly reaches ambient air temperature and collects large amounts of nutrients.

Only some of the above issues are under Reclamation's management authority. Addressing all of the issues would require coordination among IDFG, IDEQ, Reclamation, and private landowners throughout the basin. The IDFG's general management objectives for waters in the Payette River Basin, which apply to Lake Cascade and its main tributaries, are listed in Table 3.7-2.

resources, but would incrementally add to the water quality problems currently experienced in the reservoir. Accidents, on the other hand, have the potential to result in small isolated fish kills related to substantial fuel and oil spills that may result. The impacts on fish populations from accidents, however, would be negligible, as they would be expected to be extremely uncommon. Float plane access would continue under all alternatives, however, only the action alternatives have provisions for restricted access to some areas. Float planes also have the potential for fuel spills and accidents.

### **Improved Facilities, Encroachment, and Miscellaneous**

For the fishery resource impact assessment, the improvement or construction of facilities under the alternatives can be divided into two categories. The first are those that would be constructed in a terrestrial environment, such as campsites and their associated parking facilities, and access roads, day use facilities, trails, and miscellaneous visitor amenities. The others would be those constructed in or near the reservoir such as fishing or boat docks and boat ramps, and day use swimming areas and platforms. All action alternatives have some construction BMPs associated with them. The most extensive are the expanded recreation facilities at West Mountain Campground, Boulder Creek Recreation Area, Crown Point Extension, and Van Wyck Park for all alternatives.

The terrestrial improvements under the Preferred Alternative would all be planned and constructed under appropriate BMPs (Chapter 5) that would minimize erosion potential, hazardous spills from construction facilities, and water quality issues relating to surface water runoff. The implementation and adherence to these BMPs under the No Action Alternative would avoid or minimize to the extent practicable any impacts to the aquatic resources of the RMP study area.

The only potential concern of the terrestrial improvements on the fishery resource is that angler use may increase throughout the area. This would apply to all alternatives. An increase in the number of anglers may result in increased poaching and harvest violations similar to those described above for improved access. The actual increase in recreational use is predicted to be about 20 percent over the next 10 years (See *Recreation*, Section 3.8). It can reasonably be assumed, however, that not all of this user increase would translate directly to an increase in angler pressure, only some lesser unknown portion. Given this, angler pressure would not be expected to substantially impact the reservoir or tributary fisheries.

The in- or near-water facilities under the No Action Alternative would also be constructed under existing BMPs. These BMPs would limit the impact of construction related activities. BMPs under the No Action Alternative would also limit the timing of the construction so as not to interfere with gamefish spawning. With the exception of boat ramps, all of the in-reservoir features (mostly private boat docks and piers) addressed in the alternatives provide in-reservoir fish habitat. These facilities are well-known to provide cover, shade, and ambush sites for predatory gamefish. The Preferred Alternative and Alternative C would not allow the construction of new private docks, but allow the construction of new community docks under a permit system. Alternative B would eliminate all private docks on the reservoir and replace them with community docks. The No Action Alternative would continue to permit individual docks, but encourage construction of community facilities. These actions could either reduce or maintain the amount of in-reservoir habitat these structures

currently provide. However, given the amount of surface area these features cover relative to the entire reservoir, the impact of eliminating or consolidating dock to the fishery would be negligible.

Boat ramps eliminate some near shore habitat. The alternatives indicate that some new boat ramps would be constructed in conjunction with new or renovated recreational areas, while some private boat ramps encroaching on Reclamation lands would be eliminated. The construction of new boat ramps would eliminate some nearshore reservoir habitat, although as with docks, their surface area, and thus impacts to fisheries would be negligible. The elimination of some other boat ramps would potentially enhance near-shore habitat, but these benefits would also be very small.

## **Alternatives**

### **Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices**

The No Action Alternative does not propose any changes in operation or facility planning that would impact or benefit the fishery resource compared to existing conditions (that is, by following the management guidelines outlined in the 1991 RMP).

The primary actions under the No Action Alternative (1991 RMP) that relate to fisheries are as follows:

- Limited or monitored vehicle access to the drawdown area of the reservoir to minimize erosion and protect vegetation (improved water quality)
- No new docks in the C/OS areas (limited in-reservoir habitat)
- Prohibition of encroachment of unauthorized boat docks (protection of shore habitat)
- Trails constructed under BMPs (minimize erosion)
- Proposed facilities, in accordance with the 1991 RMP, constructed under BMPs (minimize erosion)

Currently, the most substantial issue for the fishery resource is water quality. The management practices listed under the No Action Alternative are addressing this issue. This includes active cooperation with IDEQ and IDFG in implementing the Cascade Reservoir Watershed Management Plan TMDL and the State Fishery Management Plan.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

Cumulative impacts resulting from the proposed WestRock development include increased anglers on the reservoir and the tributaries, land disturbance, associated water quality issues, and flow reductions in several tributaries. IDFGs review of WestRock concluded that the potential increase in anglers could reduce the recreational fishing catch on the reservoir (Idaho Department of Water Resources [IDWR] 1999). They also concluded that land disturbances relative to the construction of the facilities may increase sediment input to the tributaries as well as reduce flows, as some facilities (mainly golf courses) would require water diversions. Increased sediment and reduced stream flows would both adversely affect the fishery.

The successful implementation of the Cascade Reservoir Watershed Management Plan would result in improved water quality in the reservoir, and thus the fishery would benefit. For a more complete discussion of the potential impacts of the Plan on future water quality of the reservoir, see Section 3.2, *Water Quality and Contaminants*.

### **Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis**

Management of the WMAs would continue the same as described under the No Action Alternative. The primary difference would be that the habitat improvement plans would be updated and emphasize wetland development to improve water quality. This would increase water quality, and thus improve fish habitat, above that of the No Action Alternative. In addition, habitat improvement plans would be developed for the Big Sage and Cabarton Areas. This would increase the land area around the reservoir subject to water quality improvement measures.

Water surface management (no-wake zones and non-motorized zones) and water quality measures would be more clearly established and better enforced compared to the No Action Alternative (see Table 2.3-1). The primary differences would be an increase in warnings and education for the no-wake zones, which may incrementally reduce shoreline erosion and improve water quality.

Erosion control issues would be somewhat different than under the Preferred Alternative compared to the No Action Alternative. The primary improvement would be a more comprehensive permitting process for private landscape features and a focus on allowing only those features that serve a public interest, primarily reducing erosion around the reservoir and along the tributaries. Where implemented, this would incrementally improve water quality and near shore habitat above current conditions.

Vehicle access to the drawdown area would be prohibited with a few exceptions. This would enhance the shoreline and near-shore upland vegetation currently disturbed and reduce the amount of erosion and sediment input to the reservoir.

Float plane use was not addressed in the 1991 RMP, but occurs on an infrequent basis. The Preferred Alternative would allow float planes in the main body of the reservoir, with taxing allowed throughout the reservoir except in the non-motorized areas. As stated above, float planes pose a hazardous spill potential that may incrementally reduce water quality, and on occasion, result in local fish kills.

Several non-motorized trails would be developed in various areas around the reservoirs (see Table 2.3-1). These trails would be constructed in accordance with BMPs and would not have a substantial impact on the water quality of the reservoir. The trails, however, would allow more shoreline access to a greater portion of the reservoir and some of the tributaries. As stated above, this may increase the amount of poaching and harvest violations on fish. The impact would be greater in the tributaries, as these areas would be more prone to poaching as spawning salmonids would be more concentrated.

The Preferred Alternative would prohibit the construction of new private docks and focus on permitting community docks in an attempt to either maintain or reduce the number of structures on the reservoir. As stated above, docks can provide quality habitat for gamefish in reservoirs. A reduction in docks would reduce the amount of in-reservoir habitat by a very small amount. However, given the small amount of surface area docks cover relative to the entire reservoir, a reduction in them would have only a negligible effect on the overall habitat.

Under the Preferred Alternative, relatively substantial development would occur at several places, most notably, West Mountain Campground, Boulder Creek Recreation Area, Crown Point Extension, and Van Wyck Park (see Table 2.3-1). The developments (such as parking and camping) would be constructed under BMPs that minimize impacts to water quality. The primary impact to fisheries, however, would be that these improved or new facilities are expected to increase visitor use by about 20 percent over the next 10 years. New facilities both attract increased use and accommodate higher demand as populations and general recreation use grows. This could potentially lead to an increase in fishing pressure and potential poaching and harvest violation problems. However, because not all of the visitor increase would be expected to result directly into increased angling (only some unknown portion) it is unlikely that this level of angler use would substantially impact the fishery.

### **Mitigation and Residual Impacts**

No impacts were large enough to warrant mitigation measures. Minor residual impacts are those described above.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

Cumulative impacts from WestRock and the TMDL process would be the same as those of the No Action Alternative. Because Alternative B has the potential to increase water quality and reduce erosion compared to the No Action Alternative, the cumulative impacts may be somewhat less than those stated under the No Action Alternative.

### **Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis**

Few differences exist between the Preferred Alternative and Alternative B relative to actions that would impact the fishery resources of the RMP study area. Water quality would continue to be improved through WMA management. In-reservoir habitat would be reduced somewhat through the reduction in docks, although not to a substantial extent. Shoreline habitat would be improved through limited or prohibited access, and landscape or erosion control features would be more thoroughly monitored and permitted. The recreational development of the area would result in about the same increase in visitors as the Preferred Alternative, but this is not expected to impact the fishery resource.

#### **Cumulative Impacts**

Cumulative impacts from WestRock and the TMDL process would be the same as those of the No Action Alternative. The cumulative impacts on fisheries resources for Alternative B would be the same as those described under the No Action Alternative.

### **Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis**

Acres of land that would be converted to recreation uses would be the same as the No Action Alternative. Fishery impacts would be the same as Alternative B except that more recreation facilities would result in more erosion and poor quality runoff.

#### **Cumulative Impacts**

Cumulative impacts from WestRock and the TMDL process would be the same as those of the No Action Alternative. The cumulative impacts of RMP actions on fisheries resources for Alternative C would essentially be the same as those described under the No Action Alternative.

## **3.8 Recreation**

### **3.8.1 Affected Environment**

Recreation use at Lake Cascade includes many forms including land-, water-, and snow-based activities. Certain activities occur at a single location while others are more widely dispersed. These activities involve both day and overnight use at developed recreation facilities, as well as undeveloped dispersed sites or use areas.

Reclamation, USFS, IDPR, IDFG, City of Cascade, City of Donnelly, YMCA, 4-H Club, various church camps, the Southwest Idaho Senior Citizens Recreation Association (SISCRA), and many private sector enterprises currently provide the diverse recreation opportunities available in the Lake Cascade area. The IDPR operates all of the Reclamation recreational facilities on Lake Cascade. The Reclamation/IDPR management agreement requires that the IDPR must comply with



Reclamation's *Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan* (1991), or any subsequent updates to this plan.

### **Recreation Activities and Use Levels**

Results from a questionnaire conducted during the summer of 1999 reveal that the most common visitor activities at Lake Cascade are resting and relaxing (79 percent of visitors), RV camping (67 percent), tent camping (44 percent), observing wildlife (44 percent), fishing from a boat (43 percent), swimming (42 percent) and fishing from shore (41 percent). While these responses reflect common activities, visitors also indicated their primary activity while on their trip. These primary activities include rest and relaxation (41 percent), RV camping (17 percent), and fishing from a boat (12 percent) (EDAW and IDPR 1999). Since rest and relaxation is not mutually exclusive to these other activities, it can be assumed that RV camping and fishing from a boat represent the primary activities for visitors to the reservoir.

Aside from these specific activities, several primary general recreation experiences are provided at Lake Cascade. Existing recreation facilities provide for the most common and popular experience and can be generalized as a developed recreation experience. This visitor experience is provided at many campgrounds, day use areas, and public boating facilities. Also popular is the undeveloped or dispersed recreation experience that can be found on and adjacent to the reservoir. This includes undeveloped camping or day use areas that provide a more primitive experience with few, if any facilities. Two additional recreation experiences include motorized and non-motorized boating. Currently, visitors enjoy a non-motorized boating experience in the upper ends of several arms of the reservoir, while the motorized boating experience can be enjoyed in the remaining areas. Non-motorized trail experiences are also becoming more popular with visitors, particularly along the old railroad grade in the Crown Point Extension area. Visitors may also enjoy non-motorized and motorized trail experience in various areas off of Reclamation lands (that is, the Payette National Forest) but near the reservoir.

Approximately 86 percent of Lake Cascade visitors are from the Boise metropolitan area. Because of the travel distance, most visitors stay overnight in the area while on their trip. The average length of stay for campers (who also participate in other activities) in 1999 was 4.1 days. Many visitors stay in area campgrounds; however, some visitors stay in more developed lodging facilities in Cascade, Donnelly, or surrounding areas.

Additional information about campers at Lake Cascade was obtained in a 1999 questionnaire conducted at six IDPR-managed campgrounds (EDAW and IDPR 1999). These results provide a current snapshot of visitor perceptions and attitudes at Lake Cascade. Most campers have been coming to the area for many years; the average year for their first visit is 1981 (19 years). Campers tend to come more than once a year, averaging 2.3 visits per year. Most campers stay on or near the reservoir. About one-third (31 percent) of visitors had been out on the reservoir in a boat during the day they were contacted, while about two-thirds (69 percent) had not.

Group use is popular at Lake Cascade because many other recreation areas in the region cannot accommodate large parties. Groups ranged in size from 20 to 300 people, although 100 to 200 is most common. Group visitors were affiliated with many organizations and came from all parts of Idaho and occasionally from neighboring states. In addition, several groups or organizations have their own facilities at Lake Cascade, including SISCRA, 4-H Club, YMCA, and South Idaho Christian Mission Society (SICMS [located on USFS land]).

The greatest concentration of recreation use occurs at the southern and northern ends of the reservoir where most IDPR and USFS campgrounds and day use areas and the Donnelly City Park are located. In the northern portion of the reservoir, the arms are also surrounded by residential development with numerous private boat docks.

Data on camper's perceptions of the existing facilities show that most campers contacted feel that the current number of facilities (such as boat ramps and campgrounds) at the reservoir is about right. Despite the high facility occupancy levels observed in recent years, there appears to be limited support by campers for construction of new recreation facilities at this time. While there may be limited support for new facilities by campers, area boaters see a strong need for a new public boat marina(s) at Lake Cascade.

Overall, visitors contacted at Lake Cascade perceived relatively little crowding. In general, campers feel slightly to moderately crowded while visiting the area, while boaters on the reservoir appear to not perceive any substantial crowding at this time.

It is estimated that 330,000 people visit Lake Cascade during a typical year, and nearly 86 percent are residents of the Boise metropolitan area (Ada or Canyon counties) (EDAW and IDPR 1999). The Boise area is one of the fastest growing areas in the state and is projected to experience a 20 percent increase in population by 2010 (Ada County Community Planning Association 2000). Assuming that these new residents would participate in recreation activities similar to those of current residents, it can be estimated that visitation at Lake Cascade would increase by approximately the same amount. Thus, visitation at Lake Cascade is estimated to increase by 20 percent to approximately 396,000 annual visitors by 2010.

### **Recreation Facilities**

Developed recreation facilities are provided at numerous locations around Lake Cascade by IDPR, USFS, and other municipal, private or religious organizations. The cities of Donnelly and Cascade and private or religious organizations lease land from either Reclamation or the USFS. An inventory of recreation facilities at Lake Cascade is provided in Table 3.8-1.

Public use at Lake Cascade is greatly enhanced by a substantial amount of public access to the water via public and group boat launches and docks. Approximately 150 floating docks (or dock segments) and 30 boat ramp lanes are located at public or organizational recreation sites on the reservoir. Most of the public boat launches are located along the eastern shoreline however, a 2-lane boat launch was recently added to the Buttercup facility which is located on the western

shoreline. Additionally, one floating pump-out waste platform is located on the south end of the reservoir for use by boaters. Also, public docks are available for short-term loading and unloading at various points around the

**Table 3.8-1 Existing Recreation Facilities at Lake Cascade**

		Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR)												U. S. Bureau of Reclamation Leases					U.S. Forest Service									
		Buttercup	Blue Heron	Snow Bank	Cabarton	Crown Point	Curlaw	Poison Creek	Sugarloaf	Van Wyck Park	Huckleberry	West Mountain	Big Sage	Boulder Creek	Donnelly City Park	4-H Club Camp	Osprey Point	SISCRA	Cascade Golf Course	YMCA Camp	Amanita	Campbell Creek	French Creek	Rainbow Point	Tamarack Falls	SICMS Church Camp (USFS)	Total	
Acreage		6	9	2	1	30	3	20	15	26	12	12	24	23	40	60	20	60	50	55	4	2	49	11	5	65	603	
Access and Parking																												
Road Access (Paved/Dirt)		P/D	P	P	P	P	P/D	P/D	P	P	P/D	P/D	P	P	P	P/D	P/D	P/D	P	P	P/D	P/D	P/D	P/D	P/D	P/D	P/D	
Interior Circulation		P	P	P	P	P	D	P	P	P/D	P	P/D	D	P/D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	P	D	D	D	D	D	
Car Parking Spaces		10	23	25	9	6	10	22	23	40				13	25	30	25	25	25			20			25	20	376	
Boat Trailer/Car Parking		20	22			11		24	27	20				10	10			40				30	12	15		8	249	
Boat Ramps (lanes)		2	2					2	2	2				1	2			2				2	1	1			21	
Courtesy Docks		*	*	*		*		*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*		*				*	*	*			*	
Fishing/Swimming Docks								*							*	*					*					*		
Day Use Areas and Facilities																												
Picnic Sites - Single Units			14	18	10			17	6					15	9	20		6							4	3	122	
Picnic Sites - Double Units																											0	
Group Picnic Shelters								1							1	1		1									4	
Dining/Recreation Halls																2	1	1								1	5	

**Table 3.8-1 Existing Recreation Facilities at Lake Cascade**

	Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR)												U. S. Bureau of Reclamation Leases				U.S. Forest Service										
	Acreage	Buttercup	Blue Heron	Snow Bank	Cabarton	Crown Point	Curlaw	Poison Creek	Sugarloaf	Van Wyck Park	Huckleberry	West Mountain	Big Sage	Boulder Creek	Donnelly City Park	4-H Club Camp	Osprey Point	SISCRA	Cascade Golf Course	YMCA Camp	Amanita	Campbell Creek	French Creek	Rainbow Point	Tamarack Falls	SICMS Church Camp (USFS)	Total
		6	9	2	1	30	3	20	15	26	12	12	24	23	40	60	20	60	50	55	4	2	49	11	5	65	603
Beaches at High Water			*	*	*	*			*						*	*											
Day Use Areas and Facilities																											
Trails/Paths																	*	*							*		
Group Campfire Areas																	*									*	
Archery/Volleyball Areas																*	*									*	
Informal/Interpretation																*		*							*		
Overnight Use Areas and Facilities																											
Campsites - Single Units		28	10			33		44	42	61	31	31	*		11			203			10		21	11		18	554
Campsites - Double Units																											0
Group Campsites			2	1	1		1	3										2									10
Tent Only Campsites							10																				10
Cabins																5	4									5	14
Support Facilities																											
Flush Restrooms, 1-Unit																			2							1	3

**Table 3.8-1 Existing Recreation Facilities at Lake Cascade**

	Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR)														U. S. Bureau of Reclamation Leases				U.S. Forest Service									
	Acreage	Buttercup	Blue Heron	Snow Bank	Cabarton	Crown Point	Curlew	Poison Creek	Sugarloaf	Van Wyck Park	Huckleberry	West Mountain	Big Sage	Boulder Creek	Donnelly City Park	4-H Club Camp	Osprey Point	SISCRA	Cascade Golf Course	YMCA Camp	Amanita	Campbell Creek	French Creek	Rainbow Point	Tamarack Falls	SICMS Church Camp (USFS)	Total	
		6	9	2	1	30	3	20	15	26	12	12	24	23	40	60	20	60	50	55	4	2	49	11	5	65	603	
Flush Restrooms, 2-Unit								3						1			2	1		1							8	
Support Facilities																												
Flush Restrooms, 3-Unit										1																2	3	
Flush Restrooms, 4-Unit												1				4		2									7	
Flush Restrooms, 5-Unit																				4							4	
Flush Restrooms, 6-Unit																											0	
Flush Restrooms, 8-Unit																		2									2	
Flush Restrooms, 10-Unit																											0	
Vault Restrooms, 1-Unit							2	1		1					1												5	
Vault Restrooms, 2-Unit		3	1			1		1	1	2	1		3	2								1	1	3	2	1	23	
Vault Restrooms, 4-Unit			1	1	1	3			3			1															10	
Vault Restrooms, 6-Unit																											0	
Showers and Sinks																*		*	*							*		
Potable Water		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*		*	*		*	

**Table 3.8-1 Existing Recreation Facilities at Lake Cascade**

	Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR)													U. S. Bureau of Reclamation Leases					U.S. Forest Service							
	Buttercup	Blue Heron	Snow Bank	Cabarton	Crown Point	Curlfew	Poison Creek	Sugarloaf	Van Wyck Park	Huckleberry	West Mountain	Big Sage	Boulder Creek	Donnelly City Park	4-H Club Camp	Osprey Point	SISCRA	Cascade Golf Course	YMCA Camp	Amanita	Campbell Creek	French Creek	Rainbow Point	Tamarack Falls	SICMS Church Camp (USFS)	Total
Acreage	6	9	2	1	30	3	20	15	26	12	12	24	23	40	60	20	60	50	55	4	2	49	11	5	65	603
Electrical Hookups																									*	
Support Facilities																										
Dump Stations									*		*						*									
Maint./Storage Facilities							*								*	*	*	*								
Miscellaneous																										
Disabled Persons Facilities	*	*	*	*	*			*	*	*	*				*	*	*								*	
Restaurant/Bar/Clubhouse																		*								
9-Hole Golf Course																		*								
Year Lease Expires														2006	2015	1990	2008	2012	2016							2007

Source: Reclamation (1991); Reclamation (1999); EDAW (1999)

\* Indicates existence of facility, number not relevant or known

reservoir. Docks are found at IDPR sites that have boat launches and at Crown Point, West Mountain, and Buttercup recreation areas.

Public picnicking facilities are provided at eight locations including Donnelly City Park, Tamarack Falls, Blue Heron, Snow Bank, Cabarton, Poison Creek, Boulder Creek, and Sugarloaf recreation areas. These sites generally have picnic tables, grills, toilets, and water. Two public facilities (Poison Creek and Donnelly City Park) have group picnic day use shelters. These sites are used extensively; group sites in general appear to be in short supply in the region. Picnicking at Poison Creek is particularly attractive, as some of the tables are scattered within an aspen grove next to the water. The Blue Heron, Snow Bank, Cabarton, and Sugarloaf picnic sites are exposed to heavier winds and lack shade for day use visitors during hot days. However, they are the only picnic areas with beaches at high water. The lower use of existing day use picnicking facilities at Lake Cascade, compared to more heavily used camping and boat launch facilities, apparently is because of lower demand for developed picnicking sites, the type of experience provided at these sites, or the location of picnicking sites. At Blue Heron, 10 of the previous picnic sites were converted to overnight campsites over the last few years to meet the demand for camping facilities.

Campgrounds at Lake Cascade provide a spectrum of camping opportunities ranging from group reservation sites, cabins, yurts, and RV campgrounds, to more rustic tent-only camping with gravel access roads. Campgrounds are widely dispersed around the reservoir. As shown in Table 3.8-2, there are a total of 564 individual campsites at 16 locations around the reservoir.

**Table 3.8-2. Campgrounds at Lake Cascade**

Owner/Operator	Total Number of Camping Areas	Total Number of Campsites	Percent of Total
Reclamation/IDPR	11	308	55%
Reclamation/SISCRA	1	203	36%
Reclamation/City of Donnelly	1	11	2%
USFS	<u>3</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>7%</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>564</b>	<b>100%</b>

Sources: EDAW 1999, IDPR 1999.

More than half (308, or 55 percent) of the campsites are operated by IDPR under an agreement with Reclamation. These are found in 11 recreation areas around the reservoir. More than one-third (203, or 36 percent) of the sites are located at one location (SISCRA), while the remaining four campgrounds make up nine percent of the total number of campgrounds. The IDPR campgrounds are typically well developed. In contrast, USFS campgrounds are smaller, less developed, and more heavily forested. All USFS campgrounds are located on the west side of the reservoir within



the Boise National Forest. The IDPR campgrounds are concentrated along the northwest and southeast shorelines.

The IDPR manages nine campgrounds at Lake Cascade. Big Sage, which provides dispersed camping opportunities with no facilities, is an undeveloped IDPR-managed site, as is the Van Wyck Extension area. IDPR-managed campsites per location range in size from 61 at Van Wyck Park to 10 at Blue Heron (formerly day use picnic sites). All nine developed sites to the northwest, except for Curlew, have paved roads and camping spurs with picnic tables and grills. Campsite spurs are generally spaced 40 to 80 feet apart with 50 feet being most common. Most of the campsite spurs were constructed many years ago and cannot accommodate new longer RVs. Some roadway turning areas are also tight for many of today's longer RVs.

Six of the nine IDPR-managed recreation sites can accommodate larger groups; however, formal group reservation sites are lacking. One of these newer sites, Osprey Point (former site leased to Boise State University and managed by IDPR), is a group reservation site only. This and other group areas have generally evolved out of necessity and in response to demand; they were not initially planned as group areas. As a result, they are not necessarily in the best locations and do not adequately buffer groups from nearby individual campsites.

In the city of Cascade, a nine-hole public golf course with clubhouse, restaurant, and bar facility is leased to the City of Cascade by Reclamation. The facility is operated by a concessionaire. The facility is located along the southeastern shoreline south of Van Wyck Park.

During the late 1960s, the Idaho State Division of Aeronautics constructed an unpaved airstrip on the east shore of the reservoir south of Arrowhead Point. For several years, this airstrip was operated and maintained by the Division of Aeronautics and used by private pilots for recreational fly-ins (day use trips and short-term overnight camping). In 1972, a dispute arose between the AE owner and the Division of Aeronautics that resulted in the closure of the airstrip, which remains in effect today. There continues to be a limited amount of public support for reopening this airstrip.

No formal hiking or mountain biking trails, or designated areas for off-road vehicles, are provided at Lake Cascade, although both have been considered in the past. Minor trails exist within established recreation sites, but no continuous shoreline trail exists. Use of an abandoned railroad right-of-way in the proposed Crown Point extension has been gradually increasing in the past several years.

### **3.8.2 Environmental Consequences**

This section discusses the expected positive and adverse impacts of the RMP alternatives on recreation resources. A general discussion of these potential impacts in each of five assessment categories is presented below, followed by a more detailed discussion of impacts under each of the four alternatives.

## **Assessment Categories**

### **Natural Resource, Habitat, and Cultural Resource Protection and Enhancement**

The degree of proposed native vegetation protection and enhancement varies by location; however, these actions would have only a limited impact on public recreation. Proposed increased wetlands protection or development in several areas, specifically Crown Point and Mallard Bay, would limit potential recreation development and access under the Preferred Alternative and Alternatives B and C. The proposed WMA designation on Sugarloaf Island and continued emphasis on native vegetation would also limit recreational access under all of the alternatives. On a reservoir-wide basis, vehicular access to the shoreline would be more limited under the Preferred Alternative and Alternatives B and C. Although these actions would potentially have an adverse impact on recreation, the protection and enhancement of native vegetation in the area would also enhance the overall visitor experience.

Overall, a healthy fishery would enhance recreation at Lake Cascade. Several actions, however, would be needed to achieve this goal. Looking at these specific proposed actions, many of them related to native fish and wildlife protection and enhancement would have an adverse impact on public recreation use and opportunities. Under the Preferred Alternative and Alternatives B and C, existing or proposed trail corridors would be subject to seasonal or permanent closures that would limit recreational use. One action under all of the alternatives that would have both positive and adverse impacts on recreation would be the enforcement of “no-wake zones” established in part to protect fish and wildlife and habitat. While enforcement of these zones would limit some recreational use, warnings issued to violators would serve as a way to educate the public on issues related to native fish and wildlife. Enforcement of no-wake zones would enhance the experience for users who prefer non-motorized activities. The provision of interpretive facilities (trails, kiosks, and viewing areas) related to wildlife protection would increase recreational opportunities as well as educate visitors on wildlife values under all of the alternatives.

### **Water Quality, Surface Water Management, and Erosion Control**

The erosion control objectives of the RMP would involve activity restrictions, physical improvements, BMPs, administrative support, as well as monitoring followed by appropriate responses to address specific problems that are identified.

Erosion control efforts related to recreation focus on water-based or land-based limitations to recreation use. In most cases, these limitations would have an adverse impact on public recreation. In general, most of the “no-wake zones” on the reservoir would limit high-speed recreational boating and waterskiing in these zones, and would restrict these activities under all of the alternatives. These actions would have both positive and adverse impacts on the overall recreation experience provided in these areas. Limiting these activities through these actions would have an adverse impact on these high-speed users by limiting the areas available to them. However, there would be a positive impact on other users who would have a more enjoyable and safer experience with fewer conflicts. However, since these zones would be established to limit potential user

conflicts, these actions would also have a positive impact on the overall water-based recreation experience. Buoys placed along eroding shoreline areas would have a similar impact on recreation under the Preferred Alternative. No-wake zones would affect a very small percentage of the reservoir surface area.

Under the Preferred Alternative and Alternatives B and C, land-based erosion control actions would also have an adverse impact on recreation by restricting access to some shoreline areas, however, the eventual protection of these sites would have a positive impact on recreation. On a reservoir-wide basis, many areas would have limited vehicular access to the shoreline in order to control erosion under the Preferred Alternative and Alternatives B and C. This would have an adverse impact on shoreline access to many of the developed recreation sites that are already experiencing shoreline erosion problems.

### **Improved or Restricted Access**

Potential actions related to public access involve either improving access, such as allowing additional trails, or restricting access to protect habitat or wildlife. Actions related to restricting access were also discussed above under *Native Fish and Wildlife Protection and Enhancement* and *Erosion Control*. Other actions that would result in less public access and an adverse impact on recreation under one or more of the alternatives include eliminating private docks (Alternative B), limiting snowmobile use in developed recreation areas (except along roads and designated routes) (Preferred Alternative and Alternatives B and C), limiting the use of float planes on portions of the reservoir (Preferred Alternative and Alternatives B and C), continued restrictions on off-road vehicle use (all alternatives), and continued management of areas of the reservoir based on motorized or non-motorized watercraft (all alternatives). Other users would perceive these restrictions (ORV/ATV limits and non-motorized boating areas) as beneficial to their recreation experience.

In contrast to these potential actions, several access-related actions would have a positive impact on public recreation. Under one or more of the alternatives, allowing boat-in access to areas for camping or day use (Preferred Alternative and Alternatives A and C), providing additional trails (for hiking, biking, or cross-country skiing) (all alternatives), and allowing for increased winter sports access (road plowing) (all alternatives) would all increase the recreational opportunities available to visitors.

### **Improved Facilities, Encroachment, and Miscellaneous**

Many actions under one or more of the alternatives would improve recreation facilities and would have a positive impact on public recreation. Potential actions under all of the alternatives focus on the improvement, expansion, or construction of new recreation facilities associated with day use, overnight, or boating facilities. Most of these actions would result in improved opportunities for recreation and a higher quality recreation experience. However, adverse impacts associated with increased public recreation under all of the alternatives include the increased operations and maintenance costs associated with additional facility maintenance, trash removal, human waste

disposal, and law enforcement. Specific actions as they relate to alternatives, and a discussion of the more specific impacts of these actions on public recreation, is presented in more detail below. These actions have been divided into those that impact camping, day use, group facilities, boating, visitor education, and other miscellaneous opportunities.

Under one or more of the alternatives, several actions would improve public camping facilities. Examples include new public campgrounds (all alternatives), renovation of existing public campgrounds (Preferred Alternative and Alternatives B and C), and provision of new facilities such as restrooms, showers, and RV dump stations (all alternatives). Improvements to existing campgrounds include renovating campsite spurs to accommodate today's standards (i.e., larger RVs that are more common now than when most of these sites were designed and constructed). Other camping related actions would include the creation of boat-in or hike-in camping areas (Preferred Alternative and Alternatives A and C). Several alternatives would also allow for additional public day use facilities (all alternatives). These would include restrooms, parking areas, picnic facilities, swimming areas, a visitor center, and a group amphitheater. Group facilities would also be improved with the creation of group camping facilities (with group shelters) (all alternatives) or permanent group facilities that would include dormitories (Alternative C) or a lodge (Alternative C).

All of the alternatives would allow improved public boating facilities to be developed. These improvements would include one or more marinas and associated services, boat ramps, docks, breakwaters, mooring buoys, community docks, boat-in camping and day use areas, and non-motorized boat put-in and take-out areas.

Visitor education facility improvements being proposed under one or more of the alternatives would include interpretive facilities (such as trails, signs, and kiosks) (all alternatives), a visitor center (all alternatives), an amphitheater (Alternative C), roadside pullouts (all alternatives), and wildlife-related developments such as wildlife viewing areas (all alternatives).

Fish cleaning stations represent a recreation development not included in the above categories, but included under all of the alternatives.

## **Alternatives**

The following section discusses the potential impacts of each of the four alternatives on recreation resources in the Lake Cascade area. This section addresses the relative magnitude of the impacts and provides a brief description of how the actions in each alternative would impact recreation.

### **Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices**

This alternative would result in continued operation and management of recreation resources as they currently exist. All existing recreation sites and facilities would be operated at their current level of service. This alternative would also continue the policies and actions prescribed in the 1991 RMP. In general, these policies prescribe a substantial level of recreation development in the area that would have a positive impact on the visitor recreation experience and available opportunities.

However, rather than Reclamation paying for all recreation developments, they are required by Federal law to find managing partners to share in the design and construction costs and provide operation and maintenance of new and existing recreation facilities. Therefore, facilities that were included in the 1991 RMP, but that have not been constructed, would only be built if managing partners are involved, Reclamation funds are available, and demand warrants. For purposes of this analysis, it is assumed that these facilities would be constructed. But the reader must be aware of the cost-share requirements when reviewing this and other sections for all of the alternatives.

One of the actions planned in the 1991 RMP is no longer feasible, thus resulting in a negative impact on potential recreation. This action would have provided for the development of camping and day use facilities in the Mallard Bay area. However, recent wetland development in this area has made additional recreation development an inconsistent objective, thus actions under the Preferred Alternative would be implemented instead. No existing recreation activities or facilities would be affected by this change.

On a reservoir-wide basis, this alternative would maintain current recreation facilities and opportunities, with some exceptions. These exceptions would have a positive impact on recreation in terms of providing additional opportunities. Driftwood Point would be opened to boat-in access for day use and camping. Recreation areas along the west side of the reservoir would experience a moderate increase in facilities with the addition of a marina, additional parking areas, and the development of a trail system that would link the various areas. The former airstrip near Arrowhead Point could also be re-opened for fly-in day or overnight use under this alternative, pending successful negotiation with the easement owner. While this would have a positive impact on airplane-based recreation access, it would change the character for opportunities such as boat-in or hike-in camping or day use. Based on the failure of past negotiations, the likelihood of the airstrip reopening is extremely low.

This alternative would also result in moderate public recreation development at Pelican Bay (on the Sugarloaf Peninsula) with vehicular access to a day use area and a trail interpretive trail with wildlife viewing opportunities.

This alternative would allow much more substantial recreation development at several areas along the southeastern shoreline of the reservoir. At Crown Point, the existing campground would be expanded to the north, while at the Crown Point Extension additional recreation development would occur. This would include the creation of RV, tent, and group camping areas, a boat launch, parking areas, a trail system, and vehicular access to the railroad grade. While these developments

would have a positive impact on the developed recreation experience, they would come at the expense of the less development-dependent recreation opportunities that are currently provided for in this area. Current pedestrian use of the railroad grade would be adversely affected.

Substantial expansions would also occur at Van Wyck and Big Sage. At Van Wyck, several recreation facilities would be developed including a 250-slip marina, a boat launch, visitor center, expanded day use and camping areas, and a paved shoreline trail. The dispersed camping area at Big Sage would be developed under this alternative with 35 RV campsites (with hookups), a group RV campground, restroom facilities, and an RV dump station. This alternative would also include the development of a proposed east-side trail system in the vicinity of the southeastern shoreline of the reservoir, specifically areas near Big Sage and Blue Heron. These facilities and improvements would have a positive impact on the availability of developed recreation facilities; however, this action would have an adverse impact on the more dispersed recreation experience that is currently available in this area.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

In general, impacts associated with the RMP and Alternative A would have a positive impact on recreation. Substantial new recreation development and opportunities would improve the recreation experience available to visitors and residents. Examples of some of the positive impacts associated with this alternative include additional boat-in use facilities, expanded day use and overnight facilities in areas such as Crown Point, and the construction of marina facilities on the western shoreline and at Van Wyck Park.

Construction of the proposed four-season WestRock resort would dramatically and permanently change the type and level of recreation activity in the valley. One major impact would be the creation of an entirely new recreation activity in the area (downhill skiing), and the new visitors and residents that would be drawn to the area to participate in this activity. In addition, the resort would be expected to attract many visitors and local residents in the summer when most reservoir visitors currently use the area. This use would create some adverse impacts such as crowding at recreation sites. This proposed development would also create many new recreational opportunities associated with its resort facilities.

Full development of WestRock is projected to result in traffic volumes of 16,500 vehicles per day west of Donnelly. This compares to the 1999 July 4th weekend traffic maximum volume of 2,500 vehicles per day at the same location. This large increase in traffic volumes would substantially degrade the quality of the current public experience at the west side campgrounds.

Aside from the direct impacts of the WestRock resort on recreation in the form of new visitor activities and opportunities, it would also have a substantial impact on the existing recreation facilities and opportunities in the area. The most direct cumulative impacts that would likely result from WestRock would occur on the west side of the reservoir. The narrow strip of Reclamation-managed land identified as C/OS, interspersed with small

recreation sites (Poison Creek, West Mountain, Buttercup, Curlew, and Huckleberry), would experience a great deal of pressure due to increased traffic and demand for future waterfront development to serve the resort villages of WestRock. As a result, increased pressure on this narrow resource area for increased water access and other more active recreation amenities would make camping and low intensity passive use impractical following resort build-out. This proposal could, therefore, force the removal of one or more of these public facilities. The Poison Creek and West Mountain campgrounds would experience the most direct impacts and would likely need to be converted to day use only areas. At the very least, this proposed development would impact these public recreation sites by eliminating the undeveloped and dispersed recreation experiences currently provided in these areas. Depending on the resort's success and growth, it is likely that similar pressures would affect other parts of the RMP study area as well in the future.

In addition, the alteration or elimination of existing recreation facilities and experiences on the west shore would potentially force visitors to use other existing sites as a substitute. Thus, increased visitation could occur in the northwestern and southeastern areas of the reservoir. The increased use in these areas would potentially create a more crowded recreation experience resulting in potential increased user conflicts, increased competition for available sites, and increased perceptions of crowding.

Boating use of the reservoir would also likely increase and potentially create more crowded conditions and the likelihood of increased user conflicts. This could strain existing or proposed boating facilities, such as marinas and boat launches. In general, WestRock would expose the area to new visitors, many of whom would eventually visit the recreation sites at Lake Cascade, potentially several times during the year.

In summary, the WestRock development would have both an adverse and a positive impact on recreation in the area. While it would create the positive impact of providing new recreational activities and visitor experiences, it would potentially displace existing visitors, as well as alter the character of the recreational experience currently available in the area.

The final potential source of cumulative impacts is implementation of the Cascade Reservoir Watershed Management Plan. This action would have a positive impact on recreation under this alternative by providing a more enjoyable recreation experience in the form of cleaner water for recreation activities such as swimming, boating, and fishing. This action would also likely provide improved aquatic habitat and increased fishing opportunities and success over time.

### **Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis**

The Preferred Alternative would primarily have positive impacts on recreation. However, these impacts and the level of development would not be at the same level of magnitude as Alternative A. It is important to note that while there would be many recreation actions under this alternative, they would primarily be related to less development-oriented opportunities, such as interpretive trails.

Many actions under this alternative would apply to the entire reservoir area. Actions having a positive impact on recreation would include providing universally accessible facilities, snowmobile parking areas, and expanded winter roadside plowing. Actions having an adverse impact on recreation would include issuing no new permits for private docks, prohibiting shoreline vehicular access at most areas, closing some areas to snowmobile use, restricting float plane use in some areas, and potentially closing WMA trails for wildlife habitat protection.

Actions related to the surface of the reservoir under this alternative would have both adverse and positive impacts. Stricter enforcement of state regulations pertaining to no-wake zones (particularly on the Boulder Creek Arm), and the recommended adherence of the 200 foot no-wake zone adjacent to the WMAs, would have an adverse impact on recreation by limiting waterskiing and powerboat and personal watercraft use in this area. The affected areas are small compared to the reservoir area not subject to no-wake restrictions. In addition, these areas are typically shallow and not conducive to waterskiing and other boating use. For this reason, any adverse impacts would be minimal. These actions would also have the positive impact of reducing conflicts between user groups. Enforcement of these actions may result in increased visitor education concerning wildlife-related issues.

In the northwestern area of the reservoir, the magnitude of new public recreation development under this alternative would be moderate, and would have a positive impact on recreation. A boat-in campground would be created at Driftwood Point if administrative access is available and a four-season restroom, group camping facilities, and hiking or cross-country ski trails would be allowed at Osprey Point and Duck Creek WMA. The western sections of the reservoir would also have moderate levels of facility development that would have a positive impact on recreation. Parking, restroom, trail, and interpretive facilities may be developed at Mallard Bay; however, this level of development would be considerably less than under Alternative A. Buttercup, Huckleberry, and Curlew recreation areas would have interpretive facilities installed. The most substantial recreation development in this area would be allowed at West Mountain and Poison Creek with the creation of a marina, parking area, interpretive facilities, and a group camping area.

The northeastern section of the reservoir would also have moderate levels of new public recreation development under this alternative. Boulder Creek Recreation Area would have improved boat launch facilities and additional parking, while the Gold Fork WMA would have new interpretive facilities and a non-motorized boating access area. The former airstrip would remain closed, which would have an adverse impact on potential air-based recreational access compared to the No Action Alternative. However, as noted, the airstrip is currently closed, has been for many years, and is not likely to reopen under any alternative.

Many of the recreation-related activities under this alternative in the southeastern area of the reservoir would be similar to those proposed under Alternative A, with slightly less development in most areas. However, these actions would still result in a positive impact on public recreation. Only actions that differ substantially from those in Alternative A are presented in this section. In the Crown Point area, a moderate level of recreation development would occur, with a notable increase in the number of boat-in and hike-in opportunities at the Crown Point Extension. Other



from those identified in the Preferred Alternative or Alternative A are outlined in this section, since many proposed actions are similar.

Several proposed actions under this alternative would apply to the entire reservoir area. Actions that would have an adverse impact on recreation would include the elimination of all private docks, no vehicular access to the shoreline by the public, and the limitation of snowmobile use in developed recreation areas to roads and designated routes. One action that would have a positive impact would be the community docks that would be allowed as a result of the elimination of all private docks.

In the northwestern area of the reservoir, most of the actions are similar to those outlined above with a more limited level of development. However, the overall impact on recreation remains positive. These more limited actions include the lack of group facilities at Osprey Point, no improvements to facilities at Mallard Bay, and no marina in the West Mountain area. In the northeastern area of the reservoir, the actions under this alternative are also more limited with respect to recreation. This is particularly true in the Boulder Creek Arm, where a no-wake zone would cover the entire arm with a continuation of non-motorized boating in the upper end of the arm. This would have an adverse impact on high-speed boating activities in the no-wake area; however, it may reduce conflicts between boaters and personal watercraft users and shoreline residents and result in a more positive and safer recreation experience for others. A limited interpretive trail would also be provided on the north side of the Gold Fork Arm.

Recreation development in the southeastern area of the reservoir would be similar to what would occur under the Preferred Alternative, with slightly lower levels of development. However, this lower level of new recreation development would still have a positive impact on recreation. Crown Point and Van Wyck would both have increased recreation facilities; however, there would be slightly fewer camping opportunities and an allowance for the same amount of boat slips as under the No Action Alternative (up to 250 slips). Improvements to the campsite spurs would also be carried out under this alternative to accommodate today's standards (i.e., larger RVs that are more common now than when most of these sites were designed and constructed). One impact of this alternative would be the elimination of developed recreational use of Big Sage and Cabarton resulting from the designation of these areas as C/OS. These actions would have an adverse impact on the recreational opportunities available in this area of the reservoir. The remaining areas of the reservoir would also have slightly less new recreation development than under the other alternatives, but would still result in a positive impact on recreation. Areas that would experience a slight increase in recreational facilities include the North Fork Payette Arm and the North Lake Fork Arm, which would have new trail developments.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

The cumulative impacts associated with this alternative would be identical to those outlined for Alternative A with regard to WestRock and the Cascade Reservoir Watershed Management Plan. However, recreation-related actions specified under Alternative B would differ from those in Alternative A. While actions associated with Alternative B would

have a positive impact on recreation, these impacts would not be as pronounced as under Alternative A. Alternative B would have the least positive impact on recreation of any of the four alternatives, as it would create many additional areas designated as C/OS and WMA, which limits recreation development and opportunities. Examples of this include designation of the entire Boulder Creek Arm as a no-wake zone and designation of the Big Sage and Cabarton recreation sites as C/OS. Other actions under this alternative would allow for positive impacts on recreation that are similar to other alternatives but to a lesser degree. Overall, these actions would still serve to improve the recreation opportunities available to visitors and residents.

### **Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis**

Alternative C would result in a moderate level of recreation development, although slightly less development would be allowed than under Alternative A. In general, this alternative allows for additional public recreation development that results in a positive impact on the visitor recreation experience. Many of the recreation-related actions specified by this alternative would be similar to those identified in the other three alternatives, thus only those that are substantially different are presented in this section.

Actions related to recreation under this alternative that would apply to the entire reservoir would generally have a positive impact on recreation. One action that would differ from previous alternatives is that shoreline vehicular access would not be prohibited (as in Alternative B), but would be permitted in designated areas. Northwestern areas of the reservoir would experience a moderate increase in recreation facilities that in some cases would exceed actions in the other alternatives. These additional actions include the creation of a day use facility focused on fishing at Mallard Bay, establishment of permanent group facilities at Osprey Point, and expansion of the west shore recreation sites into adjacent C/OS areas. All of these actions would have a positive impact on recreation.

Northeastern areas of the reservoir would also experience a moderate increase in recreation facilities that would have a positive impact on recreation. These facilities include a small marina at Boulder Creek Recreation Area, motorized trail use in areas adjacent to the Boulder Creek Arm, a larger day use area at the Gold Fork WMA, and most substantially, the creation of boat-in and hike-in camping areas at the former airstrip that would remain closed. The creation of these boat-in and hike-in sites would have a substantial positive impact on the availability of this type of recreation experience.

A moderate increase in new public recreation facilities would also occur in southeastern areas of the reservoir under this alternative. Although new development would be slightly less intensive than under the No Action Alternative, these actions would still have a positive impact on recreation. Specific differences between Alternatives C and A include allowing tent instead of RV camping at the Crown Point Extension, a larger marina under Alternative C, as well as an amphitheater and shower facilities at Van Wyck. Improvements to the campsite spurs would also be carried out under this alternative to accommodate today's standards (i.e., larger RVs that are more common

now than when most of these sites were designed and constructed). Under Alternative C the total number of slips allowed at this area would be 500, an increase of up to 250 slips over the No Action Alternative. Recreation developments at Big Sage and the Cabarton sites would be more limited than under Alternative A; however, these developments would still have a positive impact on recreation. The remaining areas of the reservoir would also have additional developments, primarily focused on creating interpretive trails and additional day use facilities on Sugarloaf Peninsula and Sugarloaf Island.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

The cumulative impacts associated with this alternative would be identical to those outlined for Alternative A with regard to WestRock and the Cascade Reservoir Watershed Management Plan. However, recreation-related actions specified under Alternative C would differ from those in Alternative A. While actions associated with Alternative C would have a positive impact on recreation, these impacts would not be as pronounced as under Alternative A. In general, the amount and extent of new recreation facilities and opportunities would be slightly less than under Alternative A, but would still serve to improve the recreation opportunities available to visitors and residents.

## **3.9 Visual Resources**

### **3.9.1 Affected Environment**

#### **Summary of 1991 Visual Resource Conditions**

In 1991, the visual environment at Lake Cascade featured predominantly natural-appearing landscapes that included areas where development was highly evident but seen within an overall naturalistic setting. Overall, scenic resources were considered to be at a high level. Human presence was characterized by roads, recreational facilities, residential development, agricultural, and ranching operations, within a general rural (in most cases) to suburban (where development is concentrated) landscape setting.

The landscape of the western shore of the reservoir appeared relatively undeveloped. This was the case even though a certain amount of development was in place, including a main road and several smaller roads, dozens of private residences, and several recreational developments existed there. Because of the extensive forest cover that extends to the shore of the reservoir in many places from the slopes of West Mountain, most development in this area was not particularly evident. This was especially true of the private residential development that was primarily unseen from anywhere but within the developments themselves. The recreation areas were visible to a limited extent from the main road on the west side of the reservoir and from the reservoir itself. Relatively small clearcuts were visible in a few locations.

On the eastern shore, where the tree cover is less dense and less extensive, higher levels of development were more evident by comparison. As a result, the east side of the reservoir had a

improvements in this area may include increased interpretive facilities and renovations to Crown Point Campground. Improvements include renovating campsite spurs to accommodate today's standards (i.e., larger RVs that are more common now than when most of these sites were designed and constructed). More facility developments in the Van Wyck area would result in a positive impact on recreation, including a larger marina, interpretive facilities, and the provision of facilities (water and electric) to campsites. Under the Preferred Alternative, the total number of slips allowed at this area would be 400, an increase of up to 150 slips over the No Action Alternative. Actions in the Cabarton and Big Sage areas would also be moderate, although slightly less than under Alternative A, with a focus on interpretive facilities, and the development of a trail system.

Recreation developments in the remaining reservoir areas would also be moderate and would have an overall positive impact on recreation. The focus at these facilities under this alternative would be on improving visitor access (trails and parking) and providing new interpretive facilities. The Tamarack area would also have a non-motorized boat access point and additional snowmobile parking under this alternative.

#### **Mitigation and Residual Impacts**

No mitigation measures are proposed under the Preferred Alternative, because the actions under this alternative do not have substantial adverse impacts on recreation in the area. The residual impacts are positive in nature and were previously outlined in more detail above.

#### **Cumulative Impacts**

The cumulative impacts associated with this alternative would be identical to those outlined for Alternative A with regard to WestRock and the Cascade Reservoir Watershed Management Plan. However, recreation-related actions specified under the Preferred Alternative would differ from those in Alternative A. While actions associated with the Preferred Alternative would have a positive impact on recreation, these impacts would not be as pronounced as under Alternative A. Compared to the No Action Alternative, the Preferred Alternative only allows for a moderate amount of recreation development and is primarily focused on improvements that are less-developed in nature such as trails, interpretive facilities, and opportunities for dispersed recreation. These actions would still serve to improve the recreation opportunities available to visitors and residents.

#### **Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis**

Alternative B would allow for the least amount of public recreation development and use of the four alternatives, in keeping with the increased natural resource emphasis under this alternative. This alternative would result in additional recreation development; however, not to the extent that would be provided under other alternatives. Frequently, this would result from the designation of these areas as C/OS or WMA. The overall impacts of Alternative B on recreation would be positive; however, some actions would have an adverse impact. Only those actions that are notably different

visual character that featured more development than the west shore. Within the area, but outside the direct viewshed of the reservoir, the towns of Cascade and Donnelly exist near SH-55. Also, privately-owned lands adjacent to Reclamation lands and the reservoir in the areas north of the town of Cascade and south and west of Donnelly were subdivided for residential development. Many individual lot owners constructed boat docks or implemented measures to control erosion of the shoreline in front of their property. This created a general visual disorder that detracted from the natural scenic character of the area, especially when viewed from the reservoir or adjacent properties.

A visually prominent location on the east shore of the reservoir just north of Cascade Dam is known as Crown Point. This area was used in the past by Reclamation and Valley County as a quarry site. Over time, the old quarry has become naturally revegetated with weeds. By 1991, scars from former quarry operations (terraces) were evident only when the site was viewed at close range.

### **Changes in the Visual Environment Since 1991**

From 1991 to 2000, changes in the visual environment have occurred. Some have been the result of Reclamation or other agency actions. Others have resulted from actions by private individuals.

For example, agencies have initiated wetland enhancement and habitat improvement projects in several areas around the reservoir. Several agency projects and numerous private endeavors have also stabilized the shoreline and controlled bank erosion in many areas, but particularly in the northeast portion of the reservoir. Standards for the design and construction of erosion control features, including retaining walls, have been developed and now apply to permits for construction of these features. This has resulted in a more consistent appearance along the shoreline where more recent structures have been developed.

A number of new residences have also been constructed on private lands near the reservoir. These have occurred mostly on the east side of the reservoir on subdivision lots that were platted prior to 1991. This has resulted in the increasingly suburban appearance in this area.

Vehicular access onto formerly exposed areas of the lake bed during periods of reservoir drawdown has continued. This is particularly true in the Big Sage and Van Wyck areas. This type of use continues to detract from the natural character of the landscape.

The former quarry site at Crown Point has continued to revegetate through natural means and is even less visible and evident than in the past.

### **Summary Comparison of Changes**

While some changes in the visual environment have occurred from 1991 to 2000, most of the changes have been relatively minor. For example, even though a number of new homes have been constructed on previously subdivided lots, the resulting negative change in the overall visual

environment has been negligible. In other cases, changes such as wetland enhancements or shoreline stabilization projects have generally produced small but positive visual effects.

### **3.9.2 Environmental Consequences**

This section discusses the expected positive and adverse impacts of the RMP alternatives on visual resources. A general discussion of these potential impacts in each of four assessment categories is presented below, followed by a more detailed discussion of impacts under each of the four alternatives.

#### **Assessment Categories**

##### **Natural Resource, Habitat, and Cultural Resource Protection and Enhancement**

The degree of proposed native vegetation protection and enhancement varies by location; however, these actions would have only a limited impact on visual resources. Actions proposed under all of the alternatives that would have an impact on visual resources would include the designation and creation of new wetland areas and C/OS areas. These areas would have a positive impact on the visual resources of the area by preserving the natural character of shoreline areas. In addition, proposed actions under the Preferred Alternative and Alternatives B and C would also regulate the amount of shoreline vehicular access, resulting in a positive impact on visual resources.

Most of the actions specified in all of the alternatives to protect the reservoir fishery (as stated in Appendix A, *RMP Draft Goals and Objectives*) would have little impact on visual resources; however, these minor impacts would primarily be positive in nature. Under all of the alternatives, the designation of WMAs and protecting shorelines from erosion (see above) would improve the visual character of the area by encouraging native vegetation as opposed to development.

##### **Water Quality, Water Surface Management, and Erosion Control**

Relatively few actions related to erosion control would impact visual resources. Under all of the alternatives these actions would include regulations on private landscaping as a means to control erosion, implementation of and increased efforts at enforcing no-wake zones, and a variety of erosion control measures at several recreation sites to minimize existing erosion control issues. Both of these actions would have positive impacts on visual resources by slowing the proliferation of the large, unvegetated areas that often accompany shoreline erosion.

##### **Improved or Restricted Access**

Potential actions related to public access involve either improving access, such as providing additional trails, or restricting access to protect habitat or wildlife. The only action related to access that would potentially impact visual resources relates to the construction of new trail facilities, and applies to all of the alternatives. Because most trails proposed in the alternatives would not be paved, no large-scale impact would occur on visual resources. Any paved trails, specifically those

provided to address accessibility concerns, would only have a slightly adverse impact on visual resources in a very limited area.

### **Improved Facilities, Encroachment, and Miscellaneous**

Many actions under all of the alternatives would result in the expansion and improvement of recreation facilities that would have an impact on visual resources. Potential actions focus on the improvement, expansion, or construction of new facilities associated with day use, overnight, or boating facilities. Most of these actions would not have an adverse impact on visual resources. However, under each of the four alternatives, adverse impacts associated with increased recreation development focus on the construction of large permanent facilities such as restroom buildings, marinas, visitor centers, and docks. Although these impacts are detailed below, it is important to note that adverse impacts would be minor, and no actions related to the improvement of facilities would create a substantial visual impact. An additional miscellaneous action that would have an impact on visual resources under all of the alternatives relates to the use of the quarry located near Crown Point.

Although recreation development would be extensive under all of the alternatives, visual impacts would be limited in nature. One proposed action included in each alternative is the creation of marina facilities in the reservoir. The presence of boat slips and breakwater features would have an adverse impact on visual resources, particularly when viewed from the water. This would be especially true on the west side of the reservoir where few developed areas are currently located. Actions related to the presence of private and community docks on the reservoir would have similar impacts on visual resources. Day use and overnight facilities that would have potentially adverse impacts include new restroom buildings (all alternatives) and the possible construction of a visitor center in the area (all alternatives). Other potential developments with adverse impacts on visual resources would include the construction of permanent group facilities such as picnic shelters (Preferred Alternative and Alternatives B and C), dormitories (Alternative C), and a lodge (Alternative C). It is important to emphasize that the majority of these developments would only have minor adverse impacts on visual resources, and in general, these developments would be occurring in areas that are already visually compromised in some fashion with existing recreation facilities.

An additional action under all of the alternatives with an adverse impact on visual resources would be the possible renewed extraction of materials from the rock quarry near Crown Point. The removal of vegetation from this area and the exposure of bedrock materials would have an adverse impact on visual resources, particularly from the area on the reservoir directly west of the quarry and areas from the west side shoreline. Although the quarry is located in a visually prominent area (Crown Point), these visual impacts would be short term and would be somewhat mitigated by the fact that the bedrock layers in this area are comprised of black basalt, which blends well with the surrounding landscape. This area would also be revegetated following any quarrying activities through the implementation of a reclamation plan.

### **Alternatives**

The following section discusses the potential impacts of each of the four alternatives on visual resources in the area. This section addresses the relative magnitude of the impacts and provides a brief description of how the proposed actions in each alternative would affect recreation.

### **Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices**

This alternative would result in continued operations and management of area resources as they currently exist. All recreation sites and facilities currently available would be operated at their current level of service. This alternative would also result in the continuance of policies and actions prescribed in the 1991 RMP. In general, these policies prescribe a substantial level of recreation development in the area that would have an impact on the visual resources of the area. Some of these actions would result in adverse impacts on visual resources; however, they would be limited in nature.

On a reservoir-wide basis, this alternative would allow for no new docks in C/OS areas, which would have a positive impact on visual resources. Also, there would be limited creation of new wetland areas and designation of some C/OS areas that would have a positive impact on visual resources. In the northwestern area of the reservoir, a new marina would be constructed at West Mountain that would have an adverse impact on visual resources. No actions in the northeastern area would impact visual resources. However, several actions in the southeastern area that would have negative impacts include the construction of a 250-slip marina, breakwater, and a visitor center at Van Wyck. Recreation development in the Crown Point area would also adversely impact visual resources with the construction of new restroom facilities.

Under this alternative, actions related to the quarry near Crown Point would be limited and would not have a substantial impact on visual resources. Future quarry operations would remain a possibility, however no major projects within the next 10 years are specified in this alternative.

Overall, while many of the activities undertaken as part of this alternative would result in incrementally negative impacts on the visual resources at Lake Cascade, several actions would also result in having a positive impact on the area's visual resources. In balance, the resulting impacts would be negligible.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

In general, impacts associated with Alternative A would have a negligible impact on visual resources. Positive impacts on visual resources would primarily be associated with the creation of additional C/OS areas while negative impacts would focus on new recreation developments such as day use and camping facilities and marinas.

The WestRock resort development would have an adverse impact on the visual resources of the area. The dominant background visual resource for most water-based recreational users and visitors to the east side of the reservoir is the forested slope of West Mountain rising above the reservoir. Clearing a portion of these lands for the development of alpine



ski trails, mountain lodges and homes, and extensive base area developments would substantially alter the visual resources of the area. The visual resources of the recreation developments located on the west shore of the reservoir would also be adversely impacted. Currently, these sites are bordered on the west by forested areas that provide a dominant middle-ground visual resource. It is likely that some of these areas would be removed to provide for the extensive developments planned in association with WestRock. Overall, the WestRock resort development would have an adverse impact on visual resources throughout the Lake Cascade area by altering the predominantly natural landscape to one that is highly developed in comparison.

The final potential source of cumulative impacts is the Cascade Reservoir Watershed Management Plan. This program would focus on improving water quality at Lake Cascade and would have little to no impact on the visual resources of the area. If water clarity is improved through this program, these measures would result in a positive impact on visual resources.

### **Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis**

Unlike Alternative A, which is focused on increased recreation development, this alternative balances recreation development with a natural resource emphasis. Thus, while the Preferred Alternative still would have some adverse visual impacts associated with recreational development (with some positive impacts resulting from natural resource related activities), these impacts, and the level of development, would be less than anticipated under Alternative A, with the exception of a larger marina facility at Van Wyck.

On a reservoir-wide basis, prohibiting any new private docks (only community docks allowed) would result in a positive impact on visual resources by decreasing the potential number of permanent visual intrusions along the shoreline. Also, this alternative would provide for increased areas of C/OS designation and wetland development as compared to Alternative A, resulting in a positive impact on visual resources. In the northwestern area of the reservoir, a restroom and a group shelter would be built at Osprey Point and a smaller marina than allowed in Alternative A would be built at West Mountain. Both of these actions would have minimal adverse impacts on visual resources.

While no impacts would result on visual resources from actions in the northeastern area of the reservoir, some impacts would occur in the southeastern area. In the Crown Point area, vault toilets and a shower facility would be added while at Van Wyck, a much larger marina (400 slips) and a shower facility would be added. These developments would have an adverse impact on visual resources, as would the provision of a new restroom at Big Sage; however, these impacts would be relatively minor because of the existing developed nature of the area. One exception is the marina facility at Van Wyck, which would have a more noticeable adverse impact on visual resources. The only additional impact on visual resources in the area would be at Sugarloaf Recreation Area where a breakwater would have an adverse impact on visual resources.

Actions related to the quarry at Crown Point would result in more impacts under this alternative than under Alternative A. Extraction of quarry materials for Reclamation's maintenance purposes would result in a short-term adverse impact on the visual resources of the area as detailed in the improved facilities, encroachment, and miscellaneous assessment category.

Overall, while many of the activities undertaken as part of this alternative would result in incrementally negative impacts on the visual resources at Lake Cascade, several actions would also result in having a positive impact on the area's visual resources. In balance, the resulting impacts would be negligible.

### **Mitigation**

No mitigation measures are proposed under the Preferred Alternative, as the actions under this alternative do not have a substantially adverse impact on the visual resources of the area.

### **Residual Impacts**

Minor residual impacts on visual quality described above would occur under the Preferred Alternative.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

The cumulative impacts associated with the Preferred Alternative would be identical to those outlined for Alternative A as they relate to WestRock and the Cascade Reservoir Watershed Management Plan. However, actions specified under the Preferred Alternative would differ from, and result in visual impacts slightly less than those under Alternative A. In general, actions associated with the Preferred Alternative would have a negligible impact on visual resources. While some recreation developments would have a negative impact on visual resources such as new marina facilities and additional day use and overnight facilities, these developments and their associated visual impacts would have less impact than under Alternative A.

## **Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis**

Alternative B would allow for the least amount of recreation development of the four alternatives, primarily a result of the increased natural resource emphasis under this alternative. In many cases there would be additional recreation development compared to Alternative A. However, the development would not be to the extent provided under other alternatives. Frequently, this would result from the designation of Reclamation lands as C/OS or WMA. Thus, the overall impacts of Alternative B on visual resources would be positive; however, some actions would have an adverse impact. Only those actions that are substantially different from those identified in the Preferred Alternative or Alternative A are outlined in this section, since many are similar to these.

On a reservoir-wide basis, all private docks would be eliminated and replaced with community docks. This would have a positive impact on visual resources in the area by decreasing the amount of structures and visual intrusion along the shoreline. Also, the increased emphasis on C/OS areas and WMAs under this alternative would result in a positive impact on visual resources.

Overall, while many of the activities undertaken as part of this alternative would result in incrementally negative impacts on the visual resources at Lake Cascade, several actions would also result in having a positive impact on the area's visual resources. In balance, the resulting impacts would be negligible.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

The cumulative impacts associated with Alternative B would be identical to those outlined for Alternative A as they relate to WestRock and the Cascade Reservoir Watershed Management Plan. However, actions specified under Alternative B would differ from those in Alternative A. In general, impacts associated with Alternative B would have a negligible impact on visual resources. While some recreation developments would have a negative impact on visual resources, the designation of additional areas as C/OS and WMA would have an equally positive impact on visual resources; overall resulting in negligible impacts on visual resources.

### **Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis**

Alternative C would result in a moderate level of recreation development, although there would be slightly less development than allowed under Alternative A. In general, this alternative allows for additional recreation development that results in a few additional impacts on the visual resources of the area. Many of the actions specified by this alternative would be similar to those identified in the other three alternatives, thus only those that are substantially different are detailed in this section.

In the northwestern area of the reservoir, a new lodge and dormitory at Osprey Point and the expansion of the west side recreation sites into C/OS areas would have negligible adverse impacts on visual resources. In the northeastern area, a small marina at Boulder Creek would result in an adverse impact by disrupting the unobstructed visual quality of the reservoir surface. More adverse impacts to visual resources would result from recreation developments in the southeastern area including a shower facility at Crown Point and a larger marina and shower facility at Van Wyck.

Overall, while many of the activities undertaken as part of this alternative would result in incrementally negative impacts on the visual resources at Lake Cascade, several actions would also result in having a positive impact on the area's visual resources. In balance, the resulting impacts would be negligible.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

The cumulative impacts associated with Alternative C would be identical to those outlined for Alternative A as they relate to WestRock and the Cascade Reservoir Watershed

Management Plan. However, actions specified under Alternative C would differ from those in Alternative A. In general, impacts associated with Alternative C would have a negligible impact on visual resources. While some recreation developments would have a negative impact on visual resources such as new marina facilities and additional day use and overnight facilities, these developments and their associated visual impacts would have less impact than under Alternative A.

## **3.10 Land Use**

This section addresses impacts associated with the three action alternatives and the No Action Alternative on land use in the vicinity of Reclamation-owned lands bordering Lake Cascade.

### **3.10.1 Affected Environment**

This section provides a brief discussion of surrounding land uses and an overview of existing land status and management issues. Such items include agreements, easements, and leases; and encroachment and trespass issues on Reclamation lands.

#### **Lake Cascade Area General Land Use**

Lake Cascade occupies the western side of Long Valley, a broad, long, flat-bottomed valley. A high ridge rises to the west and includes West Mountain. A smaller ridge borders the reservoir to the east, just north of the City of Cascade, but most of the eastern and northern sides of the reservoir consist of gently sloping rangeland. Dominant land uses in the general vicinity include, forest, rangeland and agriculture, and housing.

Most of the lands contiguous to the reservoir that are not in Reclamation ownership are currently managed as part of the Boise National Forest. These were originally acquired by Reclamation from private landowners when the project was planned and constructed then subsequently transferred to the USFS. Several smaller areas along the reservoir's shoreline are held in private ownership. Reclamation maintains flowage easements over these properties, authorizing the agency to flood the property if necessary.

#### **Forest**

Most of the West Mountain slope is timber land managed by the USFS. A relatively minor amount of timber cutting occurs here. USFS ownership extends to the lakeshore throughout much of the southwestern shoreline as well as around Tamarack Falls Bridge. The USFS supports public recreation in these areas with developed day use sites and campgrounds. USFS lands are also grazed.

Two large tracts of forest land on West Mountain are in private and State ownership. The private landowner is currently proposing to construct a major four-season destination resort called WestRock near the north west shore of the reservoir. As proposed, the development would include

downhill ski facilities with a capacity for 10,000 skiers per hour; 3,460 new housing units; an 18-hole golf course; ice skating rinks; tennis, racquet ball, and equestrian facilities; restaurants; commercial facilities; and the utility systems and infrastructure to support these facilities (ISLB 1999). As of spring 2000, the WestRock proposal has received concept approval from the Valley County Planning and Zoning Commission and Board of Commissioners, allowing the planning process to continue, as well as a Conditional Use Permit for the site. Additional permits would also be required for use of the State lands and the planned unit development (WestRock Agency Coordination Meeting Notes, August 11, 1999).

### **Agriculture**

Livestock grazing on either irrigated or non-irrigated pasture is the dominant use in the general area. The central eastern area is primarily agricultural. In addition, some grazing occurs on the west side both on private and public lands. A small amount of farming occurs, as well as a few other miscellaneous uses.

### **Residential Subdivisions**

The Cascade Valley is becoming even more of a recreation destination than it was prior to the 1991 RMP. This trend has been fueled by rapid economic development in nearby Treasure Valley, averaging 4 to 5 percent annually. Recreation opportunities are available all year long, but the visitor population is largest during the summer when cool climatic conditions and water-based recreation draw visitors to the area, primarily from Boise and other parts of Ada and Canyon Counties. The area also attracts a limited number of visitors during the winter and other seasons, primarily for snowmobiling and other winter-related activities.

An estimated 5,696 residential lots are located within a 2-mile radius of Lake Cascade. These lots are part of about 150 rural subdivisions, although there are several short plats and individual residential parcels as well. For the most part, these figures do not include homes in the cities of Cascade and Donnelly. Of the total number of residential lots, about 34 percent have residences or mobile homes. This percentage is much higher (approximately 70 percent) near the waterfront, where 557 of the lots have residential improvements. Only 240 lots near the reservoir shoreline remain undeveloped. Noticeable growth has occurred around Lake Cascade since the 1991 RMP. This is especially true adjacent to the shoreline, where 71 new houses have been built, representing a 14 percent increase in the percentage of near shore lots with houses.

Subdivisions are concentrated adjacent to the RR-designated land around the reservoir's northeastern points and arms, including the Lake Fork Arm, Boulder Creek Arm, Willow Creek, Gold Fork Arm, and at Arrowhead Point. A considerable number of homes are also located near the southwestern portion of the reservoir. The majority of these homes belong to owners whose primary residence is outside Valley County. Accordingly, most use occurs during summer weekends and holiday periods. Winter use is much less frequent, especially in subdivisions southwest of the reservoir and wherever the roads are not plowed (pers. comm., L. Ankenman, Valley County Engineer, May 11, 1999).

In recent years, subdivision activity has accelerated inland of land designated C/OS. This has resulted in numerous indiscriminate foot trails through C/OS areas that enable adjacent property owners to access the shoreline.

### **Existing Land Status and Management**

Reclamation's land holdings include the submerged lands beneath Lake Cascade as well as a band of land varying from approximately 10 feet to more than 1 mile wide around most of the reservoir. As the landowner, Reclamation has ultimate authority and responsibility over management of all Reclamation lands. IDPR manages all of Reclamation's public recreation areas at Lake Cascade. Reclamation also leases more than 400 acres of land for recreation purposes to the cities of Cascade and Donnelly, the YMCA, 4-H Club, and SISCRA. The lands under each of these five groups or agency lease agreements are also managed by these entities. Of Reclamation's land holdings around Lake Cascade, 1,846 acres are subject to permanent AEs. In addition, an estimated 1,279 acres of private land around the reservoir but outside of Reclamation ownership are subject to the agency's flowage easements.

### **Land Use Designations**

Nearly 7,000 acres of land above the normal high water line around Lake Cascade are owned by Reclamation and administered according to the policies in the existing 1991 RMP. The 1991 RMP established the following four distinct land use designations and associated acreage: Wildlife Management Areas (WMA), 3,987 acres; Conservation/Open Space (C/OS), 1,264 acres; Recreation, 699 acres; and Rural Residential (RR), 80 acres (Reclamation, 1991). These designations are fully described in Chapter 2 and briefly discussed here. The actual acreages provided in the 1991 RMP differ somewhat from the acreages indicated above. The numbers shown here were derived from actual survey data and are considered more accurate (although still preliminary).

The WMAs were established to maintain and enhance areas to protect wildlife habitat, especially for migratory birds, and sensitive and endangered wildlife species. The 1991 RMP identified six WMAs at various locations around the reservoir. Overnight use, motorized access, recreation development, and grazing are generally prohibited within WMAs.

The C/OS areas are intended to serve as a buffer between the WMAs and public recreation areas and private development. They are also intended to protect undeveloped landscapes, thus contributing to the area's rural character, as well as providing protection of vegetation, wildlife, and soil and water quality. Public access is limited within C/OS areas to passive recreation activities, primarily to protect habitat values and minimize wildlife impacts. Motorized vehicles other than snowmobiles are limited to roads and designated trails.

Fill material for Cascade Dam was quarried from Reclamation land at Crown Point. The quarry is on C/OS designated land. About 200 to 300 cubic yards of material are being held in reserve for future dam re-building and other operational needs. The quarry is located at a prominent site

overlooking the reservoir, providing panoramic vistas of the reservoir and the mountains to the west.

The recreation designation covers Reclamation-owned lands that have been developed or set aside for recreation-related purposes, including campgrounds, day use areas, trails, boat launches, and other public recreation facilities. The facilities are scattered around Lake Cascade and are managed by the IDPR. Private organizations manage the Reclamation lands leased for recreation purposes (for example, 4H Club, SISCRA, and YMCA). The City of Donnelly manages Donnelly City Park.

The RR designation applies to the developed shorelines along the northeast portion of the reservoir where Reclamation owns a narrow strip of property (generally less than 100 feet wide) between the high water line and the adjacent privately-owned residential lots. Management of the RR lands is focused on limiting encroachment of privately-owned structures and shoreline erosion control and prevention.

Operations and maintenance lands are managed for the purpose of operating and maintaining Cascade Dam and Reservoir. These lands provide the facilities needed to adequately manage all Reclamation lands.

### **Leases**

Reclamation leases portions of its holdings around Lake Cascade to several public and private entities for a variety of uses. More than 400 acres of land is leased for recreation, by far the dominant use of land leased from Reclamation on a renewable basis. Recreation lease holders include the cities of Cascade and Donnelly, the YMCA, 4-H Club, and SISCRA. Most of these leases are for facilities such as camping and day use, with leases ranging from 10 to 30 years. In addition, the IDFG has a long-term lease for approximately 100 acres on Sugarloaf Island and Sugarloaf Peninsula to manage and enhance migratory waterfowl habitat. Sugarloaf Peninsula is used extensively by bank anglers and, to a lesser extent, campers. The island is a popular boating destination and receives some overnight use.

The only residential lease is for a parcel of land occupied by a private cabin that was discovered on Reclamation land across the creek from SISCRA in the mid-1990s. Reclamation responded by issuing a 5-year non-transferrable lease that would expire in 2001.

### **AEs and Agricultural Leases**

Permanent reserved agriculture easements apply to approximately 1,800 acres that permit livestock grazing and other agricultural uses. In some areas, for example on the east side of the reservoir at the Sugarloaf Peninsula and within the North Fork Arm, cattle graze the uplands and wade into the reservoir to drink, particularly from June through September. These easements mostly date from before the reservoir was created in 1948.

By contrast, and as a result of the 1991 RMP, grazing leases were terminated by Reclamation in response to concerns about water quality deterioration caused in part by agricultural runoff and

cattle grazing in and adjacent to the reservoir. The single remaining exception is one 8-acre agricultural lease used for row crops that remains in effect along the Gold Fork Arm.

### **Flowage Easements**

Flowage easements release Reclamation from liability for property damage caused by shoreline erosion resulting from fluctuating lake levels. These easements encumber several hundred of the private land holdings adjacent to the reservoir, covering a total of 802 acres. These easements were established where flooding or shoreline erosion was expected or occurred on private property. Flowage easements are of particular importance to Reclamation in several areas where the shoreline is close to, or has already retreated across, Reclamation lands and is nearing private lands (for example, south of Arrowhead Point).

### **Permits**

Permits are issued by Reclamation to private parties allowing for three types of improvements on Reclamation lands or within the reservoir: landscape improvements and erosion control, boat docks, and mooring buoys. These are described in greater detail below.

#### **Landscape Improvements and Erosion Control**

The main purpose for this type of permit is to assist private property owners in controlling erosion adjacent to their property. Retaining walls are the most common type of “improvement” permitted under these permits. The other common improvement is for vegetation planted on Reclamation RR-designated lands. Reclamation will issue a single permit that will allow both landscape improvements and/or erosion control structures. Adjacent property owners can apply for either or both type of improvement on Reclamation lands within RR designated lands.

Because retaining walls can benefit both the adjacent landowner and Reclamation by preventing shoreline erosion, they have been allowed as long as required permits were obtained from Reclamation and the COE. These permits are issued for 10-year terms, allowing the agency to periodically inspect the retaining walls and require necessary maintenance. Before the 1991 RMP was adopted, no standards were in place to ensure structural integrity or aesthetic quality. Therefore, many of the walls are now deteriorating, falling over, and exacerbating the shoreline erosion problem they were originally intended to overcome. Furthermore, because the retaining walls were allowed to be constructed with an assortment of materials and employing a variety of construction techniques, they vary considerably in appearance from one property front to the next, often resulting in a visually haphazard waterfront.

Out of concern that retaining walls do not provide fish habitat, the COE prefers the use of native vegetation and rock rip-rap to a structural retaining wall unless it has a coarse rock



facing. As required under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, the COE requires 404 Permits for retaining walls built below summer pool (ordinary high water), or in wetlands.

The COE issues retaining wall permits according to two separate review procedures. The simplest is the Nationwide Permit, which is applicable to typical residential applications. To be eligible, retaining walls must be no longer than 500 linear feet, result in no more than 1 cubic yard per lineal foot of discharge, and be faced with rock 6 inches in diameter or greater. The more complex Individual Permit requires extensive notification and agency review, often taking many months to process (pers. comm., G. Martinez, COE, Boise, Idaho, August 24, 1999).

### **Boat Docks**

Boat docks and other boating support structures have proliferated over time as new residences have been built, especially around the reservoir arms. The current policy at Lake Cascade allows owners to obtain annual or 5-year permits for boat docks. Both individual and community-owned docks are permitted. However, this is not in compliance with Reclamation policy; therefore, either the Preferred Alternative or Alternative B would be implemented, restricting new individual boat dock permits. Community docks are encouraged over individual docks through the permit pricing system, as community docks are less expensive on a per-moorage basis. Ideally, community docks are large enough to accommodate five to ten boats and are built, maintained, and used by a large number of residents. Currently, community docks are located within the Boulder Creek Arm, at Vista Point, and several other sites. All individual and community boat docks, although built and maintained at the expense of the owners, are required to be accessible to the general public in emergency situations. As of July 2000, approximately 400 boat docks were used at Lake Cascade under the permit system, including five community docks.

### **Mooring Buoys**

Each shoreline lot owner is allowed one mooring buoy per lot. These permits are issued by Reclamation.

## **Encroachments on Reclamation Lands**

Encroachments and other management problems have continued to increase since the 1991 RMP, primarily on the RR-designated lands along the reservoir's northeast shoreline. Reclamation ownership is limited to a narrow strip of land in this area between the high water line and subdivided private property.

One residence is known to be located beyond the private property line on Reclamation land, as well as minor portions of other homes and many decks. A majority of these encroachments exist in a limited number of the older subdivisions that were established when buyers and sellers were lax about surveying property. In addition, freestanding decks, storage structures, fences, restroom

facilities, trailers, landscaping, irrigation systems, and similar personal property extend across Reclamation land to the water's edge.

Construction in Valley County is regulated by the County's Land Use and Development Ordinance. This ordinance was first passed in 1982 after nearly all of the near shore subdivisions had been approved. The Land Use and Development Ordinance, which was updated most recently in 1992, requires that all residential buildings be set back at least 30 feet from the high water line. These updated development regulations prohibit development within 7.5 feet of Reclamation property, but permits are only required for structures more than 30 inches in height. Therefore, it is permissible for uncovered decks or other low structural features to be built right up to the boundary line. The ordinance requires other buildings to be set back at least 100 feet from high water lines as measured horizontally to the face of a building, including eaves, projections, or overhangs.

This regulation may have prevented some of the more recent encroachments on Reclamation lands; however, setback violations remain common. Some of these encroachments have been attributed to deliberate violations, while most are attributed to lack of knowledge or understanding by property owners; many home owners and builders may not be aware of the locations of actual property lines, even though it is their legal responsibility to know where their property boundaries are located.

### **3.10.2 Environmental Consequences**

This section discusses the expected positive and adverse impacts of the RMP alternatives on local land use. A general discussion of these impacts in each of five assessment categories is discussed in the first section, while a more specific presentation of impacts under each of the four alternatives is presented in the last section.

#### **Assessment Categories**

##### **Natural Resource, Habitat, and Cultural Resource Protection and Enhancement**

No direct impacts on land use are expected from actions to enhance vegetation, wildlife habitat, and natural resources on Reclamation lands under any of the alternatives.

##### **Water Quality, Surface Water Management, and Erosion Control**

Erosion control measures under all of the alternatives would have positive impacts on land use by protecting land from erosion. Actions that would be implemented under all of the action alternatives in support of RMP goals that relate to land use include: developing and/or updating habitat improvement plans, increasing efforts to protect shorelines from erosion, encouraging enforcement of limits for motor boat usage along shoreline areas, implementing BMPs, and increasing the amount of land designated as WMA and C/OS (Alternative B and Preferred Alternative). These potential actions would enhance water quality, which could indirectly affect land use by increasing property values and possibly attracting additional visitors and residents to the Cascade area.

### **Improved or Restricted Access**

Access would be affected by changes proposed under all of the alternatives as they relate to airplane use, enforcement of motor boat use along shorelines, vehicular access to the shoreline, road and trail use, and snowmobile access through developed recreation sites. None of the access-related actions proposed by any of the alternatives would be expected to negatively impact land use. Increased emphasis on trail development included in all of the alternatives would have a beneficial impact on land use by enhancing the region's trail-based recreation activities, thereby improving the local quality of life.

### **Improved Facilities, Encroachment, and Miscellaneous**

Facility improvements proposed under all of the alternatives would generally result in positive land use impacts by enhancing one of the region's major water-based recreation attractions, thereby improving the local quality of life. Specific facility-related impacts are discussed below for each alternative.

### **Alternatives**

This section discusses the expected impacts of each of the four alternatives on land use in the area. It also addresses the relative magnitude of the impacts and provides a brief description of how the features comprising each alternative would affect land use.

Table 3.10-1 illustrates the amount of acreage by each of the different land use designations for the four alternatives. Some of the acreage figures shown on Tables 3.10-1 vary from numbers generated for previous documents and reports, including the 1991 Cascade Reservoir EA and RMP. The figures shown herein are based on survey data entered into a computer-based Geographic Information System (GIS) as of September 2000, and are considered the most current and accurate data available. The amount of land designated for Proposed Recreation accounts for the most notable difference between the No Action Alternative and the Preferred Alternative and Alternative B. Specifically, both the No Action Alternative and Alternative C include more than five times as many acres of proposed recreation sites as the Preferred Alternative and over ten times more recreation acres than Alternative B. The difference would mostly result from changing C/OS-designated to recreation. All four of the alternatives propose no changes to the amount of land designated as Rural Residential. The amount of WMA-designated lands also vary somewhat between the alternatives, with Alternative B containing the most WMA lands and Alternatives A and C having the least.

**Table 3.10-1. Land Use Changes by Alternative (in Acres)**

<b>Land Use Designation</b>	<b>Alt. A</b>	<b>Preferred Alt.</b>	<b>Alt. B</b>	<b>Alt. C</b>
Conservation/Open Space	1,264	1,412	1,387	1,273
Wildlife Management Areas	3,987	4,026	4,142	3,987

**Table 3.10-1. Land Use Changes by Alternative (in Acres)**

Land Use Designation	Alt. A	Preferred Alt.	Alt. B	Alt. C
Recreation	386	386	389	392
Proposed Recreation	313	116	32	298
Rural Residential	80	90	80	80
Operations and Maintenance	19	19	19	19
Flowage Easement	802	802	802	802
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,851</b>	<b>6,851</b>	<b>6,851</b>	<b>6,851</b>

Source: Reclamation GIS File Data 2000.

### **Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices**

Under the No Action Alternative, the 1991 RMP would continue to be implemented except in situations where the 1991 actions conflict with current Reclamation policy or laws, or where various physical constraints prevent implementation. In such cases, the 1991 RMP would be amended to conform to these mandates and other limitations.

A number of the actions authorized in the 1991 RMP have yet to be implemented. Two of these in particular could have direct or indirect land use impacts. The first is development of a marina adjacent to the West Mountain Campground. Because this area is generally undeveloped, a development of this size and nature would be a distinct change to the existing low intensity of development and activity on the western shore of Lake Cascade. Direct land use impacts would depend on the type of ancillary facilities and levels of use and activity generated by the marina. Indirect land use impacts could result from potential commercial and residential development which could be catalyzed by the new marina. The other remaining 1991 RMP proposal that would result in potential land use impacts is motor vehicle use on the railroad grade north of Crown Point (i.e., the Crown Point Extension). Indirect land use impacts could result from increased development pressure resulting from use of this roadway by adjacent property owners to access their property.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

Construction of the proposed WestRock resort would dramatically and permanently change the type and level of human activity in the valley. The most direct cumulative impacts that would likely result from the resort development would occur on the west side of the reservoir. The narrow strip of Reclamation-owned land which is currently characterized as remote C/OS and WMAs interspersed with small recreation areas would likely be used as the public waterfront serving the resort villages proposed just up-slope from this area. As a result, pressure on this resource for trails, increased water access and other more active recreation amenities would make camping and low intensity passive use impractical.

following resort build-out. Depending on the resort's success and growth, it is likely that similar pressures would affect other parts of the planning area as well in the future.

Land use patterns, activity levels, and property values throughout the Long Valley area would be altered substantially. Development of a four-season resort could require possible revisions to the RMP to achieve certain natural resource protection objectives given the global scale of change likely to accompany this development.

The final potential source of cumulative impacts is implementation of the Cascade Reservoir Watershed Management Plan. This program would focus on improving water quality at Lake Cascade by managing point and non-point sources of phosphorus loading and would have a positive impact on land use by enhancing the region's principal scenic and recreational amenity.

### **Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis**

Because of its increased emphasis on erosion control, community over private uses, pro-active solutions to use conflicts, and monitoring for habitat and resource impacts, numerous and greater beneficial land use impacts would result from this alternative than from the No Action Alternative. For example, the Preferred Alternative includes a variety of measures to limit erosion and protect shorelines by assisting and monitoring shoreline stabilization permits. In addition, the Preferred Alternative would address a number of land use designations that were not resolved in the 1991 RMP (Alternative A) with more appropriate management areas.

#### **Mitigation and Residual Impacts**

The Preferred Alternative would not result in adverse land use impacts on land use warranting mitigation measures. No residual impacts are anticipated to result from any implementation of the Preferred Alternative.

#### **Cumulative Impacts**

The cumulative impacts associated with this alternative would be identical to those outlined for Alternative A with regard to WestRock and the Cascade Reservoir Watershed Management Plan. However, under the Preferred Alternative, the Crown Point railroad grade would not be open to motorized vehicles. Nevertheless, when combined with WestRock and the Cascade Reservoir Watershed Management Plan, the cumulative impacts resulting from this difference between the alternatives would be negligible.

### **Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis**

This Alternative shares many of the beneficial impacts of the Preferred Alternative, such as its emphasis on erosion control, removal of private uses occurring within RR designated areas, and reliance on habitat improvement plans. In some instances, however, elements of this alternative may actually challenge plan implementation. Specifically, the elimination of all private docks could create

intense opposition and resistance from near shore property owners, thereby increasing the need for more intensive and time-consuming management. In addition, depending on the type and scale of concession operations, the provision of fuel and supplies at the Boulder Creek Recreation Area could potentially result in localized land use incompatibilities with adjacent residential uses.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

The cumulative impacts associated with this alternative would be identical to those outlined for Alternative A with regard to WestRock and the Cascade Reservoir Watershed Management Plan. However, under Alternative B the west side marina would not be built and the Crown Point railroad grade would not be open to motorized vehicles. Nevertheless, when combined with WestRock and the Cascade Reservoir Watershed Management Plan, the cumulative impacts resulting from the differences between the No Action and Alternative B would be negligible.

### **Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis**

This alternative shares many of the positive as well as a few of the negative impacts of the other alternatives. Depending on how the site were actually used, conversion of the airstrip to a recreation site could potentially be incompatible with the large adjacent WMA. Likewise, conversion of the airstrip of C/OS-designated lands on the northwestern shore could alter both the level of activity and the character of the shoreline in that part of the reservoir. In addition, for reasons similar to those addressed in the discussion of the No Action Alternative impacts, conversion of the railroad grade to a county road could create a number of land use concerns related to expansion of development pressures which could have direct and indirect land use impacts on Reclamation lands in this area.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

The cumulative impacts associated with this alternative would be identical to those outlined for Alternative A with regard to WestRock and the Cascade Reservoir Watershed Management Plan. Similar to Alternative A, the Crown Point railroad grade would be open to motorized vehicles under Alternative C. However, when combined with WestRock and the Cascade Reservoir Watershed Management Plan, the cumulative impacts resulting from the differences between the alternatives would be negligible.

## **3.11 Socioeconomics**

This section addresses impacts associated with three action alternatives and the No Action Alternative on socioeconomic issues, public services, and utilities in the vicinity of Reclamation-owned lands bordering Lake Cascade.

### **3.11.1 Affected Environment**

Current population trends, employment and income, as well as public facilities and utilities for the Cascade area and Valley County, are discussed below.

#### **Demographics**

In July 1999, the population of Valley County was estimated to be 7,858 people (U.S. Census Bureau 2000a). Because of its small size, relatively small numeric changes result in the pattern of population growth and loss that has characterized estimates for the county in recent years. During the 1980's, the county's population grew 9.1 percent, reaching 6,109 in 1990. More recently, population growth was estimated to have slowed to 4.7 percent by 1997 (WestRock 1998). In addition, the large percentage of vacation properties in Valley County resulted in large population fluctuations. However, the greatest variable potentially affecting the County's future demographic profile is the WestRock resort development proposal.

The three largest towns in Valley County are McCall (population 3,065), Cascade (population 1,050), and Donnelly (population 137). The population of County subdivisions and residential parcels is estimated to be considerably larger than that of the towns. It is estimated that approximately 40 percent of the County's population is seasonal (McCall 2000).

#### **Employment and Income**

Before the 1970s, the agriculture and timber industries generally supported the local economies of Valley County. Economic growth slowed in the early 1980s, then began to expand in the late 1980s in response to growth and development in the Treasure Valley area. Unprecedented population growth during the 1990s (both permanent and seasonal) brought about more employment in real estate and construction. At this same time, however, the lumber mill in McCall was permanently closed resulting in a loss of jobs in the timber industry (IDEQ 1998a).

As of 1996, various government agencies employed the greatest number of employees in the County, followed by wholesale/retail trade and services. In Cascade, a majority of jobs are related to the wood products industry (for example, at the Boise Cascade timber mill) and county government. Agriculture is another leading industry in the Cascade area. Recreation and tourism remain steady and continue to have had a growing influence on the County's overall economy. The cities of McCall and Cascade depend heavily on the recreation expenditures of seasonal homeowners and tourists. The 1998 estimated median household income of Valley County was \$36,300 compared with a statewide median household income of \$39,860 (HUD 2000).

#### **Public Facilities, Utilities, and Services**

Most Reclamation-owned and IDPR-managed public facilities at Lake Cascade consist of recreation facilities such as campgrounds and day use areas (discussed in greater detail in Section 3.8, *Recreation*). Utility infrastructure varies around the reservoir ranging from limited to fully

developed sites and facilities. Police and fire services are provided for the entire valley by the County Sheriff's Department and several volunteer fire departments and other agencies (discussed below).

### **Electrical**

Idaho Power Company provides electrical service in the area and has expansion capabilities. Electrical power is available to most Reclamation recreation sites, supplying light and power for restroom facilities and maintenance needs. None of the campgrounds have individual electrical hookups, except for SISCRA, which is on lands leased from Reclamation.

A 69-kV transmission line crosses the Gold Fork Arm. No other transmission lines exist or are currently planned across Reclamation lands.

### **Potable Water**

All developed Reclamation/IDPR recreation sites have potable water. The well at the Sugarloaf Recreation Area requires chlorination. Water faucets are distributed throughout the campgrounds and picnic areas. Showers are not available at any Reclamation facility; however, two of the lease holders do provide showers at their facilities (SISCRA and 4-H Club Camp).

### **Wastewater**

Since the 1991 RMP, two new sewer and water districts have been established within the Lake Cascade basin. The recently completed North Lake Sewer and Water District serves about 900 residential hookups in subdivisions around the northeast corner of the reservoir between Arrowhead Point and Tamarack Falls. An even newer sewer and water district has been established to provide utility service to subdivisions adjacent to the southwestern portion of the reservoir, but construction has yet to begin on collection or treatment facilities. Both Cascade and Donnelly operate municipal sewerage systems. Donnelly's system failed in 1998 when excessive infiltration overwhelmed its lift station pumping capacity, resulting in direct discharge of untreated wastewater into Boulder Creek. This event attracted media attention and was attributed to the systems' age and poor condition. Cascade's system has also failed in recent years, but poses less of a threat to the reservoir because it is reputed to be in better repair and most of the system is downstream of the reservoir.

Over the years, toilet facilities in many of the recreation areas have been converted to flush toilets, which has improved performance, particularly during the busy summer season. Flush toilets are generally rendered inoperable and closed in the winter because of maintenance concerns related to frozen pipes. The Van Wyck facilities are connected to the Cascade City Sewer System. The Poison Creek and West Mountain recreation areas and some of the lease holder sites have flush toilets with septic systems.



Dump stations for RVs are available at West Mountain Campground on the west side, and SISCRA and Van Wyck on the east side. There is also a dump station at a private trailer park in Donnelly.

No shore-based dump stations exist for boaters; however, a floating pump-out barge is anchored off the shore south of Van Wyck for this use. Lack of dump stations is one of the most frequently expressed complaints of visitors to the reservoir (pers. comm., R. Brown, IDPR, Cascade, ID, May 11, 1999).

### **Solid Waste**

Dumpsters are provided at all IDPR-managed recreation areas with solid waste being collected by a private contractor and taken to the County transfer station. Use of some of the dumpsters by non-recreation users to dispose of household garbage has, and continues to be, a problem at some locations.

### **Fire Protection**

Wildland fire protection on Reclamation lands bordering Lake Cascade is handled through two separate contracts. These contracts are between Reclamation and the Donnelly Rural Fire Protection Association for the northern half of the reservoir, and between Reclamation and the Southern Idaho Timber Protection Association for the southern half of the reservoir. In addition, the USFS has firefighting capability, including aerial tankers and smokejumpers based in McCall.

Fires have not been a problem on or around Reclamation lands in recent years. The few fires that have occurred typically consisted of brush fires a few acres in size or less, which were caused by campfires or other human sources. A tree was lost to a lightning strike on the 4-H Camp several years ago, but lightning is considered to be less of a threat in lower elevations around the reservoir than in higher mountain areas. Nevertheless, the County's increasing urbanization concerns firefighters because future wildfires could involve developed areas, increasing risk to life and property (pers. comm., J. Daniels, Chief, Cascade Rural Fire District, Cascade, Idaho, August 24, 1999).

### **Law Enforcement**

The Valley County Sheriff's Department provides law enforcement throughout the county, including a contract with Reclamation to provide law enforcement on Reclamation-owned lands and on Lake Cascade. The Valley County Sheriff's Department provides a seasonal sheriff's patrol on the reservoir from Friday through Sunday and on busy weekdays from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. The Sheriff berths a patrol boat at each end of the reservoir for fast response anywhere on the water. Some of the more common duties include boat and ramp inspections, responding to emergencies, removing boating hazards, righting capsized catamarans, towing boats that have broken down or run out of gas, and picking up floating debris. The

increasing popularity of cellular phones by boaters and shore observers has aided telephone dispatch (pers. comm., Sgt. Helms, Sheriff, Valley County, Idaho, August 31, 1999).

Boater conflicts on the reservoir are fairly limited because of the size of the reservoir and the fact that different boating activities are taking place in different parts of the reservoir. Anglers and sailors prefer the southern portion of the reservoir while waterskiers and personal water craft operators use the more sheltered waters north of Sugarloaf Island. The main area where user conflicts are known to occur is in Boulder Creek Arm. The protection from the wind and waves afforded by the relative lack of fetch and high banks make this a preferred area for waterskiers seeking flat water. However, many land owners within this narrow arm of the reservoir view this use as incompatible citing safety, noise, and wake-related damage to boat docks as their major concerns.

Non-motorized zones in or adjacent to all of the WMAs were designated in the 1991 RMP. However, a County ordinance was never enacted; therefore, the County Sheriff has no jurisdictional enforcement authority. This has generally not been a problem. However, speeding motorboats occasionally have been reported in these non-motorized zones upstream of the Tamarack Falls Bridge, and personal water crafts are occasionally seen in the Gold Fork Arm above the old highway.

Serious accidents rarely occur on the reservoir, although there was one drowning in 1992, two in 1996, and one in 1997. The Sheriff routinely inspects vessels for safety equipment, issuing warnings and citations for missing safety equipment such as personal flotation devices and fire extinguishers. The reservoir patrols provide safety lectures and literature to violators as well as loaner life jackets when necessary (pers. comm., Sgt. Helms, Sheriff, Valley County, Idaho, August 31, 1999).

The County Sheriff is on-call for campground disturbances that cannot be settled by IDPR personnel or the camp host. In general, vandalism, theft, and other problems are relatively minor; however, alcohol-related misconduct such as domestic disturbances do occasionally require police response. Nuisances such as all-terrain vehicle-riding by juveniles in campgrounds and on adjacent county roads have been an ongoing law enforcement problem. The County Sheriff patrols the area in the winter by snowmobile and conducts educational efforts in local schools on snowmobile safety (pers. comm., Sgt. Helms, Sheriff, Valley County, Idaho, August 31, 1999).

### **3.11.2 Environmental Consequences**

This section discusses the expected positive and adverse impacts of the Cascade RMP alternatives on socioeconomic issues, public services and utilities in the vicinity of Reclamation-owned lands bordering Lake Cascade. A general discussion of these impacts in each of four assessment categories is discussed in the first section, while a more specific presentation of impacts under each of the four alternatives presented in the last section.

#### **Assessment Categories**

##### **Natural Resource, Habitat, and Cultural Resource Protection and Enhancement**

A number of the actions authorized in the 1991 RMP have yet to be implemented. Two of these in particular could have direct or indirect socioeconomic impacts. The first is allowing the development of a marina adjacent to the West Mountain Campground. This development would be a distinct change to the existing low intensity of development and activity on the northwestern shore of Lake Cascade. Direct impacts on local public services and utilities would depend on the type of ancillary facilities and levels of use and activity generated by the marina. Indirect impacts would result from potential commercial and residential development, which could be catalyzed by the new marina. In general, it would be expected that additional water and wastewater facilities would be required. Of particular concern would be firefighting capabilities because of the distance from the nearest fire station. The other unimplemented action of potential concern remaining from the 1991 RMP is motor vehicle use on the railroad grade within the Crown Point Extension. Indirect public service and utility impacts would result from increased development pressure resulting from use of this roadway by adjacent property owners to access their property. However, this could also cause a beneficial socioeconomic impact by expanding the area's economy through additional home building and new residences.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

Construction of the proposed WestRock resort would dramatically and permanently change the type and level of human activity in the valley as described in Section 3.10, *Land Use*. The socioeconomic changes and public service demands resulting from WestRock would be proportionate to the development itself. Accordingly, the project's proponent would be responsible for creating all new public services resulting in beneficial cumulative impacts since sewer, water, emergency medical, fire, and other public services and utilities would be available on the west side of Lake Cascade. These services may potentially be available to Reclamation lands and facilities as well. Likewise, WestRock would add a large number of job opportunities, including needed winter employment. Unfortunately, a large percentage of resort jobs tend to be relatively low-paying service sector jobs, without much career potential.

Implementation of the Cascade Reservoir Watershed Management Plan would have a positive impact on socioeconomic conditions by enhancing one of the region's principal scenic and recreational amenity.

### **Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis**

Because of its emphasis on erosion control, community over private uses, pro-active solutions to user conflicts, and monitoring for habitat and resource impacts, numerous beneficial socioeconomic impacts would indirectly result from this alternative. For example, the Preferred Alternative includes a variety of measures to address float plane and snowmobile activity, manage boat docks, restrict boat wakes in sensitive areas, cooperate with the USFS, and address stormwater treatment. The Preferred Alternative also calls for an increased emphasis on regulatory signage and information kiosks. This is key to management of the area, especially because of the limited enforcement resources available to authorities. In addition, the Preferred Alternative would generally result in

positive socioeconomic impacts by enhancing one of the region's major water-based recreation attractions and thereby improving the local quality of life and expanding the area's economy.

### **Mitigation and Residual Impacts**

The Preferred Alternative would not result in adverse socioeconomic impacts warranting mitigation measures. The beneficial impacts are described above.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

The cumulative impacts associated with this alternative would be identical to those outlined for Alternative A with regard to WestRock and the Cascade Reservoir Watershed Management Plan. However, under the Preferred Alternative the Crown Point railroad grade would not be open to motorized vehicles. Nevertheless, when combined with WestRock and the Cascade Reservoir Watershed Management Plan, the cumulative socioeconomic impacts resulting from this difference between the alternatives would be negligible.

## **Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis**

Alternative B shares many of the beneficial impacts of the Preferred Alternative, such as its emphasis on information and regulatory signage, removal of private uses occurring within RR designated areas, and management of float planes, snowmobile activity, and boat wakes in sensitive areas. This alternative proposes the elimination of all private docks, an action that would likely create opposition and resistance from adjacent property owners, which could create increased management and enforcement problems for authorities. The action of eliminating all private docks and replacing them with community docks or concession-run moorage facilities would also potentially have a negative socioeconomic impact by reducing the adjacent property values associated with those docks. In addition, depending on the type and scale of concession operations, the provision of fuel and supplies at Boulder Creek Recreation Area could potentially result in added concerns for local fire departments. Conversely, the development of this facility at the Boulder Creek Recreation Area would likely have a beneficial socioeconomic impact by creating additional jobs and expenditures thus slightly expanding the local economy.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

The cumulative impacts associated with this alternative would be identical to those outlined for Alternative A with regard to WestRock and the Cascade Reservoir Watershed Management Plan. However, under Alternative B the west side marina would not be built and the Crown Point railroad grade would not be open to motorized vehicles. Nevertheless, when combined with WestRock and the Cascade Reservoir Watershed Management Plan, the cumulative socioeconomic impacts resulting from the differences between the No Action and Alternative B would be negligible.

No direct or indirect socioeconomic impacts would be expected from actions to enhance vegetation, wildlife habitat, and natural resources on Reclamation lands under any of the alternatives.

### **Water Quality, Surface Water Management, and Erosion Control**

No direct socioeconomic impacts would be expected from actions to enhance water quality, manage surface water, or control erosion on Reclamation lands under any of the alternatives. However, actions that would be implemented to control erosion under the action alternatives, and enhance water quality under all alternatives could result in improved fishing at Lake Cascade. This would likely attract additional visitors, and indirectly new residents to the Cascade area. Indirectly, this would result in causing a beneficial socioeconomic impact to the area by adding expenditures to local area businesses and expanding the area economy.

### **Improved or Restricted Access**

Access would be affected by changes proposed in the action alternatives for airplane use, motor boat and snowmobile access, vehicular access to the shorelines, and road and trail use. With the possible exception of allowing vehicular access on the railroad grade within the Crown Point Extension proposed in the No Action Alternative and Alternative C, none of the access-related policy directives proposed by any of the alternatives would have any socioeconomic impacts. If the railroad grade were converted into a public road, the potential would be greater for the road to be extended further north in the future, thus potentially increasing development pressure in the area. Indirectly, this could cause a beneficial socioeconomic impact by expanding the area's economy through additional home building and new residences. However, it would also have a negative impact by increasing the demand on public services and utilities.

### **Improved Facilities, Encroachment, and Miscellaneous**

Facility improvements proposed by all of the alternatives would generally result in positive socioeconomic impacts by enhancing one of the region's major water-based recreation attractions and thereby improving the local quality of life and expanding the area's economy. Specific relevant facility-related impacts are discussed for each alternative.

## **Alternatives**

### **Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices**

Under the No Action Alternative, the 1991 RMP would continue to be implemented except when the 1991 policies conflict with Reclamation policy or laws, or when various physical constraints prevent implementation. In such cases, the 1991 RMP would be amended to conform to these mandates and other limitations. As a result, no direct or indirect socioeconomic impacts would be expected to result from this alternative.

### **Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis**

This alternative shares many of the positive impacts of the other alternatives, particularly with regard to the management of higher impact motorized recreation activities, widespread use of informative kiosks and regulatory signage, and cooperation with the USFS. Like the No Action Alternative, Alternative C proposes conversion of the railroad grade to a public road that would create a number of concerns related to expansion of development pressures that could have direct and indirect public service and utility impacts in this area. In addition, use of Sugarloaf Island for day use recreation could add to the management and enforcement burden of authorities.

#### **Cumulative Impacts**

The cumulative impacts associated with this alternative would be identical to those outlined for Alternative A with regard to WestRock and the Cascade Reservoir Watershed Management Plan. Similar to Alternative A, the Crown Point railroad grade would be open to motorized vehicles under Alternative C. However, when combined with WestRock and the Cascade Reservoir Watershed Management Plan, the cumulative socioeconomic impacts resulting from the differences between the alternatives would be negligible.

## **3.12 Environmental Justice**

This section addresses impacts associated with the three action alternatives and the No Action Alternative on environmental justice issues in the vicinity of Lake Cascade.

### **3.12.1 Affected Environment**

In February 1994, the President issued Executive Order 12898 that requires all Federal agencies to seek to achieve environmental justice by “identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations” (Executive Order 12898).

This resource management planning and NEPA environmental review process complied with Executive Order 12898 by identifying minority and low-income populations early in the process and incorporating the perspectives of these populations into the decision-making process.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines low income as 80 percent of the median family income for the area, subject to adjustment for areas with unusually high or low incomes or housing costs. Valley County, with an estimated average annual per capita income of approximately \$36,300 (HUD 2000) is only slightly lower than the national average annual per capita income of approximately \$38,885 (U.S. Census Bureau 2000b). Based on the HUD standard, Valley County would not be considered a low-income population. The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, the Nez Perce Tribe, the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, and the Burns Paiute Tribe were all identified as a potentially affected minority populations in this region.

### 3.12.2 Environmental Consequences

All four alternatives fully comply with Executive Order 12898. As managing agency of the recreation sites on Reclamation lands, IDPR has the authority to charge, and subsequently adjust fees for the use of these sites. Increases in fees charged at Lake Cascade recreation sites could potentially cause adverse impacts to minority or low income and minority populations due to fee increases that could indirectly result from one or more of the alternatives. Alternative B, and to a lesser extent the Preferred Alternative would have less potential to cause consequential fee increases (i.e., impacts) to these populations through enhancement of low-cost recreation opportunities (e.g., less developed improvements at Crown Point Extension).

### Mitigation Measures

No substantial adverse Environmental Justice impacts or residual impacts would result from any of the alternatives; thus, no mitigation measures are required.

## 3.13 Cultural

### 3.13.1 Affected Environment

The assemblage of sites in the Cascade area reflects the full range of human prehistory and history in the region, from the Paleo-Indian Period through the historic era. Evidence of human occupation in southwestern Idaho dates as early as 10,000 years before present, and archaeological materials dating from the Paleo-Indian to Proto-historic periods have been documented in west-central Idaho. Paleo-Indian Period isolated artifacts in private collections made at Lake Cascade include one Clovis style and a number of Windust Phase projectile points, indicating the reservoir area has been utilized by human groups for more than 10,000 years.

Geographically, Long Valley lies at the edges of the Plateau and Great Basin culture areas. Ethnographically, the Nez Perce of the Plateau area and Shoshoni (especially takedeka or Sheepeaters) of Great Basin affiliation visited the area and resided nearby. Use of or association with the RMP area primarily centered around traditional subsistence, medicinal, ceremonial, and religious practices. Current Tribal use of and interest in the resources in or near the RMP area, although now more limited in scope and nature because of the distance from the reservations to Long Valley, continues for the same reasons as in the past.

Documented historical reference to Shoshone-Paiute in the RMP area is meager, but two historical events are remembered by most Tribal members. One, the Sheepeater War of 1878-79, was a series of skirmishes involving soldiers tracking Sheepeater, Weiser, and Bannock people who refused to be relocated to reservation life. The operation lasted three months with the Indians moving throughout the region in and around Long Valley. The other historical event is the account of Chief Eagle Eye, a Weiser leader who also resisted removal to reservation life for years after the Sheepeater War. He succeeded through peaceful avoidance of contact with his white adversaries.

When pursued by army troops, Eagle Eye and his small group stayed hidden in Indian Valley (adjacent to Long Valley) where certain of the Weiser people had traditionally maintained winter camps. Some descendants of Eagle Eye reside at Duck Valley today.

Historic and cultural use of Long Valley by the Nez Perce is established in the oral tradition of the Tribe. Hence, the name for the area of Long Valley is /welu.kitpe/. This translates to a “crooked or winding stream” and the name predates the Lewis and Clark expedition by many years. Also it is known that the general path of the highway from McCall to the city of Cascade follows an ancient trail network utilized by the Nez Perce.

Historically, several Euro-American trappers likely came through Long Valley during the fur trade era, but for the most part, their activities are undocumented. Idaho’s early gold mining boom brought some Euro-Americans into Long Valley, although most merely passed through the valley on their way to rich strikes elsewhere. By the mid-1870’s, some southern Idaho ranchers began to rely on Long Valley’s natural lush hay fields for summer range.

Historic records indicate that Euro-American settlement of Long Valley began in 1883, substantially aided by the appearance of the Oregon Short Line railroad. By 1890 several towns and a saw mill had been established. The arrival of the railroad transformed an economy based on subsistence agriculture into a more diversified commercial economy that supplied both agricultural and lumber products to outside markets. The railroad also serviced several local logging operations and mills. The population in the valley steadily increased until, by 1935, its population stood at about 3,500. In the late 1940’s Reclamation constructed Cascade Dam, as a component of the Bureau’s massive network of dams, reservoirs, hydroelectric facilities, and canals contrived to bring irrigation waters to the arid lands of southern Idaho and Oregon.

### **Prehistoric Resources**

Prior to filling, the proposed Lake Cascade area was surveyed by Phillip Drucker in 1948, as part of the Smithsonian Columbia River Basin Surveys. Since that time, approximately 30 cultural resource survey projects have occurred in the vicinity of the reservoir, most being smaller-scale surveys done for Boise and Payette National Forests, Idaho Transportation Department, and Reclamation, in response to timber sales, land exchanges, and other land use actions. One of the more definitive surveys was conducted by Renewable Technologies, Inc. in 1991, under contract from Reclamation, for the purpose of supplementing the Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan which had also been completed in 1991. That survey intensively covered an estimated 8,250 acres above and below the reservoir high water line, and recorded or re-recorded 64 prehistoric or historic sites. In 1999, Reclamation contracted separately with the Nez Perce and the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes for traditional cultural properties (TCP) inventories around Lake Cascade.

Thirty eight prehistoric (aboriginal) sites and 41 prehistoric (aboriginal) isolated finds have been recorded around the Lake Cascade perimeter. There is reason to believe that the Lake Cascade area contains intact Paleo-Indian sites dating to at least 10,000 years before present (B.P.). A wide variety of temporally diagnostic projectile points (for example, Cascade and Northern Side



Notched), as well as other artifacts and stone features recovered in the vicinity of the reservoir also indicate extensive aboriginal use of the study area during the early, middle, and late Archaic periods (8,000 to 1,500 B.P.), extending through the Late Prehistoric Period (1,500 B.P. to 200 B.P.).

All sites except 10VY886 (the Peeled Tree site) are lithic scatters including chipped and sometimes ground stone and, in a few cases, one or more fire-cracked rock features. Chipped stone at these sites is represented by projectile points (including an obsidian Clovis projectile point and other lanceolate points); projectile point fragments; other tools (including knives, scrapers, choppers, saws, picks, bifacial tool fragments); and obsidian, basalt, chert, and other crypto-crystalline flakes representing various stages of tool manufacture. The sites appear to be short-term or seasonal use locations.

The distribution of prehistoric sites in the RMP area indicates a strong preference by aboriginal peoples for establishing camps on the west side of Long Valley. The majority of prehistoric sites lie on the west side of Lake Cascade between Gibson and Campbell Creeks. Nevertheless, archaeological sites in general (historic and prehistoric) seem to have a widespread distribution around the entire perimeter of the reservoir. The preference for the west side might be attributed to a number of factors, including easier access to sources of good-quality lithic material in the West Mountains, available water year-round (except possibly in the winter), and a cultural preference for a morning view of the sun (the Nez Perce preferred to camp at locations which allowed a view of the sun as it rose in the morning). Of further interest concerning the distribution of recorded sites on the west side of reservoir is the fact that these sites appear to be on slopes averaging 4.5%, a possible predictor of archaeological site location in other areas of the reservoir.

Recorded archaeological sites have been impacted or are currently being impacted by several actions, including erosion, recreational development, illegal collection of surface artifacts, and livestock trampling. The role of erosion on the current appearance of sites is undeniably dominant, but the current effects of reservoir wave action are less obvious. With the possible exception of Site 10VY797 on the east side of Lake Cascade, none of the known (recorded) sites at Lake Cascade are located in areas of substantial shoreline erosion. While erosion is relatively minor, occasional concentrations of artifacts in the reservoir cut bank or immediately below it suggest some active backcutting.

Upon further testing, many of the Lake Cascade sites could yield important archaeological data and might, therefore, be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The presence of lanceolate, stemmed, Cascade, and/or Windust projectile points at some sites suggest that the sites have the potential to address questions about the earliest occupants of Long Valley. Lake Cascade sites of the Archaic period might provide information on the transition from dependence on large game to increased reliance on anadromous fish and vegetal foods. Several Lake Cascade sites contain ground stone, suggesting that the development of vegetal food procurement and processing in the region might be reflected in the Cascade materials. Future archaeological testing of key sites is needed to shed more light on the National Register potential of the Lake Cascade sites.

## **Historic Resources**

Sixty one (61) historic resources have been identified in the study area. Four of these sites contain both historic and prehistoric components. Historic site types are dominated by structures and features related to logging and agriculture (including grazing). The study area contains a number of farmsteads, most of which have lost their architectural integrity. Other historic site types identified in the study area include refuse dumps of indeterminate importance; transportation sites including a railroad grade, two bridges, and a culvert; various log structures; a damtender's house, school, and sawmill; and a dam.

Historic resources considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places include the deck plate-girder bridge (10VY795) over the North Fork of the Payette River immediately east of Cascade Dam, and portions of the railroad grade (10VY800) associated with the Union Pacific Railroad's "Idaho Northern Branch." Both properties are judged significant for their association with early development of the Cascade area and on the basis of aspects of their design and construction.

### **Traditional Cultural Properties**

A survey to identify traditional cultural properties (TCP's) was conducted under separate contracts to the Nez Perce and the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes. For reasons of sensitivity, exact locations are not revealed. TCP's in the Cascade RMP study area include locations on the west side of the reservoir where plant resources were harvested for food sources (for example, wild carrots, chokecherries, bearberries, and white sage) and for medicinal sources (for example, western larch and quaking aspen). Dozens of other plant resources were utilized by the Tribes in the RMP area. Nez Perce place names indicate traditional use of the RMP area and adjacent areas for utilization of plant and animal resources. Both the Shoshone-Paiute and the Nez Perce Tribes are known to have utilized the inner bark of Ponderosa Pine trees as an occasional food source, and at least one such scarred tree (the peeled tree site—10VY886) is reported to exist in the RMP area.

Other classes of sites that might also qualify as TCP's in the study area are hunting, fishing, and animal source areas (for example, bald eagle locations); water sources (springs and headwaters); historical places (for example, battlegrounds, rendezvous sites, sites where ceremonies occurred, and routes traveled by important persons); lookout points (hills or vistas); natural hot springs (for example, the area around Arling Hot Springs); and the confluence of tributaries.

## **3.13.2 Environmental Consequences**

### **Assessment Categories**

#### **Natural Resource, Habitat, and Cultural Resource Protection and Enhancement**

Reforestation projects designed to plant seedlings or shrubs could disturb the horizontal and vertical context of artifacts, or in the case of burning associated with haying, contaminate or alter organic material such as wood or bone. Measures to control noxious weeds under all alternatives through spraying projects have the potential to adversely affect archaeological sites by chemical

contamination of radiocarbon samples and possibly other organic remains. Development of additional wetlands, requiring heavy soil-moving equipment, can disturb or destroy archaeological site deposits through compaction and/or scattering of artifacts, thus disturbing both horizontal and vertical context. Inundating new wetland areas can accelerate decomposition of archaeological materials, especially organic materials.

Fencing or excluding cattle from areas would have a positive effect on cultural resources. Threats to archaeological sites would be lessened as a result of reduced compaction of sites and churning of culture material-bearing soils from trampling of artifacts, features, and other site materials.

Restricting grazing would also have the secondary effect of improving soil stability and reducing soil loss by enhancing vegetation cover and allowing vegetation to establish, thus lessening the erosive effects of natural wind and water and the adverse effects of these forces on archaeological deposits.

### **Water Quality, Surface Water Management, and Erosion Control**

Any surface water management activities such as restricted motorized boating and establishment of no-wake zones would help to reduce shoreline soil loss from boat-generated waves, thus reducing the potential for damage to archaeological deposits. A system for assisting residents in obtaining permits for shoreline erosion control structures and facilitating issuance of the permits, would likely increase the number of structures installed. More structures equates to more erosion control and less soil loss, enhancing the protection of archaeological sites.

Methods to control erosion around roads or trails, or water channels, that would involve the use of heavy machinery or equipment, have the potential to adversely affect cultural site deposits. Vehicle operation or road grading in association with erosion control can destroy or damage cultural deposits by compaction causing breaking and dissociation of artifacts, or soil movement and churning causing horizontal or vertical mixing of cultural levels and overall loss of context.

Thirty eight prehistoric and 61 historic sites have been recorded around the perimeter of Lake Cascade. Reservoir operations may damage those sites as well as traditional cultural properties, which future testing may determine are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Impacts to archaeological sites from reservoir operations typically involve eroding away the soils that surround artifact deposits and moving those artifacts both vertically and horizontally. This destroys scientifically valuable depositional data and exposes artifacts to relic collection. Repeated wet and dry cycles associated with the rising and falling of the reservoir accelerate the deterioration of organic materials in a site (many archaeological sites at Lake Cascade are inundated seasonally). Wakes generated by boats operating near the shoreline can cause bank erosion, impacting archaeological deposits in the eroding areas.

### **Improved or Restricted Access**

Improving access in the Lake Cascade recreation areas by means of increased or improved roads or trails could physically destroy scientifically and culturally valuable depositional data. The building of a road or trail and its subsequent use, by vehicles or pedestrians, can damage intact cultural

deposits, break artifacts, and mix together artifacts from different episodes of occupation. A secondary effect of improved access would be an increase of surface erosion once the road or trail is established, especially on soft, sandy soils which are very vulnerable to damage from increased vehicle access or recreational use. Repeated use strips vegetation that serves to hold sandy soils in place, leading to soil destabilization. Destabilized soils cause vertically distinct cultural layers, representing many occupations, to be deflated into a single, disturbed layer. An indirect effect of improved access for recreational and other purposes would be greater potential for site looting or vandalism.

There is a possibility that known as well as yet-to-be-recorded archaeological sites could be on or adjacent to existing dirt roads used by motor vehicles. Continued use of the road by motorized vehicles could damage the archaeological deposits. Types of damage typically caused by vehicles driving through an archaeological site are artifacts being broken by the weight of the vehicle, and destruction of site's depositional integrity when soft or wet soils containing cultural material are rutted and churned by vehicle tires. Rutting also sets the stage for subsequent erosion.

Most of the recorded archaeological sites and material concentrations are located along the reservoir shoreline, where public use focuses. Site looting has been documented in the Lake Cascade area. Relic collection reduces the scientific value of a site by removing artifacts that can be used to date when a site was used and to interpret its function and organization.

### **Improved Facilities and Miscellaneous**

A variety of facilities would be constructed or expanded, including expanding camping areas, developing or enlarging parking areas, constructing trails, constructing kiosks and interpretive areas, among others. There is a direct correlation between impacts to cultural resources and improved facilities, land development, and other encroachments that modify the surface of the land. Increased use of lands for these purposes increases impacts to archaeological, historical, and traditional cultural properties by directly disturbing or destroying the physical context of artifacts, features, and structures comprising the site. Construction or expansion of facilities would encourage additional visitor days, inviting or attracting more visitors to an area. This would cause an indirect impact to cultural sites through increased potential for vandalism and looting.

## **Alternatives**

### **Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices**

Under Alternative A, the policies and actions prescribed in the 1991 RMP would continue. A cultural resources management plan (CRMP) would be developed that addresses proactive strategies for managing and protecting cultural resource sites, for testing and determining the eligibility of sites to the National Register, and for facilitating consultation with the SHPO and Tribes. Management of cultural sites would also continue to be reactive, with site identification and protection occurring in response to specific Reclamation undertakings, vandalism and relic collecting, and erosive forces within and away from the Lake Cascade pool.

Under the Preferred Alternative recreational developments are also planned for a number of locations on the north, east, and south sides of Lake Cascade. Archaeological sites there are sparse, consisting mainly of lithic scatters, farmsteads, historic dumps, and isolated flakes. Recreational developments for these locations would include new or expanded campgrounds and parking areas, day use sites, restroom facilities, kiosks, non-motorized trails, among other actions. Archaeological and historical sites are reported in most of the RMP areas. Although the sites are scattered and many may no longer retain their integrity, the possibility does exist that significant sites could be directly impacted by future recreational improvements in those areas once specific project locations are determined. An historic dump site has been reported in the vicinity of the Ambush Site and could be impacted by efforts to increase access and parking in the vicinity of the Ambush Site. Future recreational development at the Ambush Site is also likely to affect this potentially significant site itself. Increased use of intact portions of the railroad grade (especially north of Gold Fork) or uses not compatible with preserving the grade, could adversely impact this National Register quality site.

### **Mitigation**

Mitigation will occur if cultural resources are present that are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, and they are being adversely impacted by reservoir operations or land uses, or are being damaged by natural agents. If an action is planned that could adversely impact an archaeological, traditional, or historic resource, Reclamation will investigate options to avoid the site. Cultural resource management actions for impacted sites will be planned and implemented in accordance with consultation requirements defined in 36 CFR 800, using methods consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines, or for the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, for remains or items that fall under the purview of that statute.

See Section 5.1.7 for specific cultural resource site protection/mitigative measures applicable to each of the alternatives.

### **Residual Impacts**

The potential for "residual impacts" to mitigated archaeological sites from looting and relic collection exists during and following a site's excavation. In addition, residual impacts may also result from interpretive displays and signs which warn of cultural sites in an area, inadvertently flagging those areas as "hot spots" for would-be vandals and looters.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

Expected cumulative impacts would be slightly less than those described under the No Action Alternative because of less recreation development.

## **Alternative B—Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis**

Reclamation undertakings under Alternative A that could potentially adversely affect cultural resources include: recreational development, continued use and/or expansion at Driftwood Point, West Mountain Campground and Poison Creek, Crown Point Extension and Campground, Van Wyck Park, Big Sage, Blue Heron, Snow Bank, Cabarton; and development of trail systems or access at Buttercup, Huckleberry, Curlew, Pelican Bay, and the Quarry Area.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

Construction of the proposed four-season WestRock resort would result in a large increase in the local population and visitation to the area, putting pressure on existing recreational facilities and locations, and possibly resulting in the development of new forms of recreation. An increased potential for vandalism and site looting would be associated with the increased numbers of visitors. If vandalism or looting were not an objective, the sheer increase in numbers could result in inadvertent physical damage from trampling and compaction of archaeological sites.

Erosive forces acting on archaeological, historical, and traditional cultural properties are accumulative from one annual operational drawdown cycle of the reservoir to the next (from repeated wet-dry cycles, wave action, and flow changes). The impacts are not one-time events, but coincide with the annual cycle of reservoir operations. Hence, each year, a given cultural resource property being affected by reservoir operations is potentially worse off than the previous year. Disturbances to cultural resource sites from vandalism and looting as a result of increased recreational use of an area, are also cumulative. Initial impacts may be imperceptible at first or scarcely noticeable; however, if the elements that contribute to a site's eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places continue to be compromised, the site's integrity is diminished to the point that the site is no longer eligible for the register.

### **Preferred Alternative—Recreation Development Compatible with Natural Resource Emphasis**

Possible erosional impacts from reservoir operations and natural forces, as well as adverse effects from relic collecting would continue under this alternative. Although recreation is emphasized under the Preferred Alternative, recreational developments and activities are more controlled and contained than under the No Action Alternative, thereby lessening the potential for relic collecting relative to the No Action Alternative.

On the west side of Lake Cascade, the shoreline area has been surveyed for archaeological sites, although areas to the west of the shoreline have not. Subsequent survey and testing will very likely reveal those unsurveyed areas to contain substantial archaeological deposits in view of the density of recorded sites along the shoreline. A variety of recreational improvements (such as camping expansions, shelters, restrooms, and additional parking) are envisioned under the Preferred Alternative at Osprey Point, West Mountain, Mallard Bay, Huckleberry, Buttercup, and Curlew. Potential impacts to yet-to-be-recorded archaeological resources and traditional cultural properties can be expected in conjunction with the planned recreational improvements.

Possible erosional impacts from reservoir operations and natural forces, as well as adverse effects from relic collecting would continue under this alternative. However, direct impacts to cultural resources from additional campgrounds, day use sites, restroom facilities, trails, kiosks, parking areas, and other recreational improvements would be less than under the other alternatives since those types of actions would be reduced or non-existent under Alternative B. Accordingly, indirect impacts associated with vandalism and relic collection would be reduced.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

Expected cumulative impacts would be slightly less than those described under the No Action Alternative because of less recreation development.

## **Alternative C—Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis**

Erosional impacts from reservoir operations and natural forces would continue under this alternative. However, because Alternative C provides for the highest possible level of expansion and development of recreation sites and facilities, this alternative would result in greater levels of impacts to cultural resources than the other alternatives. The impacts would occur in association with more extensive surface disturbance activities, as well as indirectly through increased relic collection and looting of sites.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

Expected cumulative impacts would be the same as those described under the No Action Alternative.

## **3.14 Sacred Sites**

### **3.14.1 Affected Environment**

Sacred sites are defined in Executive Order 13007 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...”

A survey to identify properties of religious or spiritual importance to the Shoshone-Paiute and the Nez Perce Tribes was undertaken for the RMP study area. Because of their sensitive nature, specific site locations are not revealed. The Long Valley area is known to have important sacred meaning to both Tribes. Among the Shoshone-Paiute, there is evidence of sacred sites still being used in the Long Valley area. The importance of the Long Valley area to the Shoshone-Paiute and the Nez Perce Tribes is reflected in the histories, place names, and stories recounted by both Tribes. For example, one of the most prominent figures in Nez Perce history, Chief Red Bear, gained his chieftainship in Long Valley. There he witnessed the arrival of the first white people to the area as well as missionaries.

There are natural and cultural property types in the study area that are considered sacred and religious to the Tribes, which might require special attention by Reclamation in the future administration of the study area. These properties include altars; vision quest sites; burial sites; and geographic features (river and rock features, and natural ponds and lakes).

### **3.14.2 Environmental Consequences**

#### **Assessment Categories**

##### **Natural Resources, Habitat, and Cultural Resource Protection and Enhancement**

Development of additional wetlands or measures to plant trees in an area could adversely affect Indian sacred sites, especially human burials, by physically disturbing or damaging the site and its contents. The setting and local environment of non-archaeological sacred locations or places could be disturbed to the extent that their regard and use as a sacred site would be severely compromised. Fencing or excluding cattle from environmentally sensitive areas would have a positive effect on sacred sites by reducing physical threats to archaeological sites and burials from compaction and trampling, and by reducing soil loss and subsequent wind and water erosion.

##### **Water Quality, Surface Water Management, and Erosion Control**

Surface water management activities such as restricted motorized boating and no-wake zones help reduce shoreline soil loss from boat-generated waves, thus reducing potential physical damage to burials and other archaeological sites considered sacred by the Tribes. A system for assisting residents in obtaining permits for shoreline erosion control structures and facilitating issuance of the permits, would likely increase the number of structures installed. More structures equates to more erosion control and less soil loss, enhancing the protection of sacred sites and their local setting.

##### **Improved or Restricted Access**

Any activities which result in an increase of visitors to an area are likely to adversely impact sacred sites—directly, by causing a physical change in the character of the site, and indirectly, by introducing intrusive elements such as noise and changes in viewshed and setting. Conversely, improved access could benefit Indian Tribes if such access facilitates their ability to reach a site of religious or sacred value.

##### **Improved Facilities, Encroachment, and Miscellaneous**

Construction and development associated with expansion and improvement of recreation facilities (and other land development) may compromise the physical and spiritual integrity of Indian sacred and religious sites. If the site is an archaeological site, such as a human burial, its contents could be physically damaged or destroyed. Improved facilities are often associated with increased visitor use, which can introduce elements discordant with a sacred site and its “sacredness”—for example, noise, refuse, site looting, vandalism, or simply a greater number of people into a given area. An aspect of “sacredness” likely to suffer because of improved facilities and other encroachment is the



physical setting of the sacred site—the character of that location and how that site is situated and its relationship to surrounding features and open space. A compromised setting is likely to diminish the spiritual qualities of the site from the perspective of Tribal members and practitioners.

## **Alternatives**

### **Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices**

Possible impacts to Indian sacred sites from a continuation of existing management practices in the area of the RMP (or from new management practices or activities) cannot be clearly determined since the specific location of sacred properties is unknown. If sacred sites are located in the area of potential effect of a Reclamation project, their integrity is compromised by actual physical disturbances as well as visual or auditory intrusions resulting in changes in character, feeling, and association of the site. In such cases, their “sacredness” and importance as a religious or sacred site is diminished. As with cultural resources, sacred sites are compromised by vandalism and relic collecting, by land use activities, and recreation and other development.

#### **Cumulative Impacts**

Construction of the proposed four-season WestRock resort would result in a large increase in the local population and visitation to the area, putting pressure on existing recreational facilities and locations. An increased potential for vandalism and site looting, and a degraded sacred site environment, could be expected with increased numbers of visitors.

### **Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis**

Impacts would be the same as described for Alternative A.

#### **Mitigation**

Executive Order 13007 does not authorize agencies to mitigate for the impact of their actions upon Indian sacred sites. However, it does direct them to avoid adverse impacts whenever possible. For future Reclamation actions in the RMP area that could impact Indian sacred sites, Reclamation will consult with Tribes in conjunction with any 36 CFR 800 consultations. Under these consultations, Reclamation will seek means to avoid adverse impacts to the sacred sites.

#### **Residual Impacts**

Based on avoiding Sacred Sites, there would be no residual impacts.

#### **Cumulative Impacts**

Expected cumulative impacts would be the same as those described under the “No Action Alternative.”

### **Alternative B: Limited Recreation Development/Increase Natural Resource Emphasis**

This alternative is basically the same as Alternative A. Because of limited recreation development under Alternative B, potential impacts to sacred sites would be less than for the other alternatives.

#### **Cumulative Impacts**

Expected cumulative impacts would be the same as those described under the “No Action Alternative.”

### **Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis**

Because Alternative C provides for the highest possible level of expansion and development of recreation sites and facilities, this alternative results in greater levels of impacts to sacred sites than the other alternatives. The impacts would occur in association with more widespread surface disturbance activities, potentially affecting the physical and spiritual integrity of the sacred site.

#### **Cumulative Impacts**

Expected cumulative impacts would be the same as those described under the “No Action” Alternative.

## **3.15 Indian Trust Assets**

### **3.15.1 Affected Environment**

Indian Trust Assets (ITA's) are legal interests in property held in trust by the United States for Indian tribes or Indian individuals. The Secretary of the Interior, acting as the trustee, holds many assets in trust for Indian tribes or individuals. Examples of things that may be trust assets are lands, minerals, hunting and fishing rights and water rights. While most ITA's are on-reservation, 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 individuals by treaties, statutes, and executive orders. These are sometimes further interpreted through court decisions and regulations.

The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, a Federally recognized Tribe located at the Fort Hall Reservation in southeastern Idaho, have trust assets both on- and off-reservation. The Fort Bridger Treaty was signed and agreed to by the Bannock and Shoshone headmen on July 3, 1868. The Treaty states in Article 4, that members of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes “shall have the right to hunt on the unoccupied lands of the United States....”.

The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes believe their right extends to the right to fish. The Fort Bridger Treaty for the Shoshone-Bannock has been interpreted in the case of State of Idaho v. Tinno, an off-reservation fishing case in Idaho. The Idaho Supreme Court used the canon of construction to

determine the Shoshone word for “hunt” also included to fish. Under Tinno, the Court affirmed the Tribal Members’ right to take fish off-reservation pursuant to the Fort Bridger Treaty. (Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, 1994)

The Nez Perce Tribe is a Federally recognized Tribe located at the Nez Perce Reservation in northern Idaho. The United States and the Tribe have entered into three treaties (Treaty of 1855, Treaty of 1863 and Treaty of 1868) and one agreement (Agreement of 1893). The Nez Perce Tribe states their rights include the right to hunt, gather and graze livestock on open and unclaimed lands and the right to fish in all usual and accustomed places. (Nez Perce Tribes, 1995) According to the 1855 Walla Walla Treaty with the Nez Perce, the ceded lands include the northern portion of Lake Cascade.

Other Federally recognized Tribes, the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation at the Idaho and Nevada border and the Burns Paiute near Burns, Oregon do not have recognized treaty rights outside their Executive Order Reservations, but Tribes may have cultural and religious interests in the area of the Lake Cascade. These interests of the Tribes may be protected under historic preservation laws and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). See Sections 3.13, *Cultural Resources*, and 3.14, *Sacred Sites*, for a discussion of other Tribal interests.

### **3.15.2 Environmental Consequences**

There would be no direct impacts to the right to hunt, right to fish, or right to gather under any of the alternatives. Potential impacts to the associated resources would include minor losses of wildlife habitat with the largest losses occurring under the No Action Alternative and Alternative C (see Section 3.5, *Wildlife*).

## **3.16 Transportation and Access**

### **3.16.1 Affected Environment**

Lake Cascade is accessed through two main communities: Cascade on the southeast side of the reservoir, or Donnelly on the northeast. SH-55, directly east of the reservoir, is the main arterial connecting Boise to the south and McCall to the north. SH-55 is maintained by the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD). It is a typical rural, mountain highway with a standard paved width of approximately 24- to 28-feet and 2- to 6-foot gravel shoulders with a speed limit of 55 to 65 mph. Roadway and bridge improvements along SH-55 during the past decade have helped reduce travel time from the north and south. ITD is currently developing an alternative route for a section of SH-55 near the Smith’s Ferry area to eliminate some the narrowest and most serpentine stretch of the highway.

Reclamation facilities are accessible off SH-55 at the following locations:

- At Clear Creek on Cabarton Road south of Cascade

- Cabarton Road at the south end of Cascade
- Old State Highway Road at the north end of Cascade
- Minor paved and unpaved roads on either side of the Payette River SH-55 bridge at the north end of Cascade
- Sugarloaf Recreation Area turn-off
- Two turn-offs onto county roads between Gold Fork River and Donnelly
- Tamarack Falls Road in Donnelly

Circulation to and around the reservoir is generally circuitous and inadequately signed, especially along SH-55. Signs directing visitors to Reclamation facilities are inconsistent in graphic style and content, not always fully explanatory, and non-existent at several of the above locations. There is no single place where visitors can obtain maps, find out which campgrounds are not full and acquire other information. However, in 1988, an information booth staffed by Cascade Chamber of Commerce volunteers was constructed on private commercial property at the south end of Cascade adjacent to SH-55. In 1989, an interpretive kiosk was erected at Tamarack Falls.

### **Local Road System**

Lake Cascade is circled by a series of two-lane paved and unpaved roads, as described below.

#### **Donnelly Access**

Beginning at Donnelly, the Rosewood Road circles the reservoir for about 1.5 miles and crosses the Lake Fork Arm of the reservoir on a narrow bridge. This 24-foot wide, two-lane paved road is used westbound from SH-55, and intersects Norwood Road, a similar 35 mph facility that runs south. After approximately 1 mile, Norwood Road intersects Tamarack Falls Road, at a 90-degree turn, similar in dimensions to the previous two roads. Tamarack Falls Road is in good condition, but has a 90 degree turn at the junction with Norwood and a 26-foot wide curvilinear causeway across the Lake Fork Creek that is dangerous for high speed traffic. The Tamarack Falls Road passes through a newly developing subdivision area and ends at the Tamarack Falls store, approximately 1.4 miles beyond the Norwood intersection.

#### **West Side Access**

Tamarack Falls Road carries recreation traffic to West Side Road, an unpaved county road running along the west side of the reservoir to the south end. A majority of the traffic occurs on the southern (West Mountain) and northern (Tamarack Falls) 3-mile stretches; the long central segment of the road is only lightly traveled. The West Side Road is paved from the Tamarack Falls store to the new WestRock Planned Unit Development site, a distance of about 3 miles. This paved road has been built to the same 24-foot width as the other roads. From the WestRock site south, the West

Side Road is a 25- to 30-foot wide gravel road for approximately 15 miles to the intersection with Lake Shore Drive. In 1988, the county paved less than a mile of the road at the south end of the reservoir.

### **Cascade Access**

The Old State Highway Road through Cascade is in relatively good condition, but, because it is heavily used, it requires considerable maintenance. The city is considering adding a third (turning) lane and bike path in the near future.

The intersection of Old State Highway Road and Lakeshore Drive at the city's golf course and Van Wyck Park boat ramp parking lot lacks traffic control and is potentially dangerous, particularly during the peak use season. The angled intersection of Old State Highway Road and SH-55 is also less than desirable because of the awkward turns motorists must make. Lake Way provides access into the Crown Point area along the west side of Cascade Dam. Vista Point Boulevard was recently constructed to provide additional access into the Crown Point area from north of the dam.

Access to the eastern shore north from the dam to Sugarloaf Peninsula is limited. Sugarloaf Peninsula can be accessed from SH-55 using Stonebreaker Lane. Stonebreaker Lane is approximately the one-third point heading north between the towns of Cascade and Donnelly on SH-55. The area to the north of the dam is mainly subdivisions with private accesses.

### **Winter Access**

The Old State Highway, Tamarack Falls, West Side, and Lakeshore Roads are plowed in the winter, as well as most county and subdivision roads. The 6- to 8-mile section of West Side Road occasionally is not plowed immediately after big storms. IDPR does plow the Blue Heron, Van Wyck Park, Crown Point, and Poison Creek parking lots for winter recreationists.

The county has difficulty plowing the Crown Point subdivisions. They have expressed an interest in acquiring access through Reclamation lands to the west along an abandoned Union Pacific Railroad bed, so that plowing equipment can make a large loop rather than having to turn around on a narrow road on steep terrain.

### **Transit and Air Access**

Visitors may also reach Lake Cascade via Northwest Stages which provides daily round trip bus service along SH-55. Another option is flying as both Cascade and McCall have airports. Cascade can only service small private and chartered aircraft. Recent improvements at the McCall Airport would accommodate not only large private planes, but a potential future commercial commuter service.

## **Assessment Categories**

### **Natural Resource, Habitat, and Cultural Resource Protection and Enhancement**

Depending on the degree of protection proposed in the action alternatives for natural resource, habitat, and cultural resource protection and enhancement, limitations on vehicular access would vary. Transportation and access would be less impacted in areas where recreation use or development takes a precedent over habitat protection. Formalizing access under all the action alternatives would create a more consolidated and organized system, resulting in fewer natural and cultural resource impacts than under the No Action Alternative.

### **Water Quality, Surface Water Management, and Erosion Control**

Roads and trails are substantial sources of erosion. Maintenance activities proposed in the action alternatives would be conducted to reduce erosion and improve the physical condition of the road or trail, increasing its longevity and serviceability, thereby causing less impacts to water quality.

### **Improved or Restricted Access**

The transportation and access system would benefit from any improvements to access provided under the Preferred Alternative or Alternative C and may be impaired by any restrictions, as may be the case under Alternative B. Both beneficial and detrimental impacts to the transportation and access system are discussed in more detail under each of the alternative discussions.

### **Improved Facilities and Miscellaneous**

Alternatives A and C would likely result in greater increases in traffic volume than the other alternatives. Improvements would be made to parking and circulation under all of the alternatives. In general, this would result in having a beneficial effect on the transportation and access system at Lake Cascade. However, if facilities are improved beyond the capacity of a given circulation system and/or access road under any alternative, the overall result would be a detrimental impact to the transportation and access system. Because nearly 86 percent of the visitors to the Lake Cascade area are from Boise, they are probably arriving via SH-55 and the small collector streets that run through Cascade, Donnelly, and the adjacent neighborhoods. Improvements to facilities proposed in all of the alternatives would impact the volume of traffic reaching the recreation areas.

## **Alternatives**

### **Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices**

Private docks are currently permitted to shoreline lot owners. However, this is not in compliance with Reclamation policy, so private docks would be reduced by issuing no new dock permits. Community docks would be encouraged. This would be a minor negative impact to access because fewer locations would be available for select private users to access the water. Modifying C/OS requirements to allow docks would improve access by allowing more docks to accommodate more boaters.

Vehicular access to the shoreline and drawdown areas is not actively regulated and currently occurs in many areas of the reservoir. The intent of this alternative is to manage and control access to the

shoreline and drawdown areas, thereby reducing access at most locations where it currently exists, an adverse impact to some users.

The 1991 RMP recommends boat-in access for day use and camping at Driftwood Point. This improvement would result in a net increase in boat-in access to shoreline areas and camping, which would be a substantial improvement for boat-in users.

The 1991 RMP proposed a 150- to 200-slip marina with a 130-space parking lot, as well as a trail system, for the West Mountain and Poison Creek campground areas. None of these improvements have been implemented. Adding these improvements would increase access to the reservoir. Because the 1991 RMP did not identify improvements to West Mountain Road south of the campgrounds, the majority of users would likely access the proposed parking lot and marina from the north, increasing demand on this portion of the transportation system. The result would be increased traffic along SH-55 through Cascade, Donnelly, and along Tamarack Falls Road, possibly overloading the local road system capacity for short periods on busy weekends.

Development of a west side trail system including West Mountain, Poison Creek, Buttercup, Huckleberry, and Curlew campgrounds, as well as the C/OS between all of those areas would improve pedestrian access to the west side area. Expansion of the Boulder Creek area would include a day use area, a boat ramp, and docks. These developments improve access to the area and to the water, improving recreational opportunities, but also adding to local road traffic congestion.

The 1991 RMP allowed for re-opening of the airstrip under an agreement with State aeronautics for fly-in day and overnight uses. This would be an improvement to access by air, which would permit a type of use that does not currently exist. However, this agreement has not been secured, the airstrip has not reopened, and it is not likely to do so.

The 1991 RMP allowed for development of vehicular access along the old railroad grade in the Crown Point Extension area. In addition, added parking areas; RV, group, and tent camping; a boat launch and docks; and a trail system were proposed. However, none of these improvements have been completed. Construction of these improvements would negatively impact the adjacent transportation system by increasing traffic on SH-55, through Cascade, and along the old SH-55 to the reservoir. Access to the Crown Point Extension, currently only by non-motorized approach, would be increased, improving access for a large number of potential users. Current pedestrian users of the old railroad grade would be adversely affected as vehicle traffic increases.

Expansion of the Crown Point Campground, as proposed under the No Action Alternative, would improve user access to the area, but would also negatively impact the transportation system serving this facility by increasing traffic volumes. The impact would occur along the same routes as described in the Crown Point Extension.

Development of the 250-slip marina, parking lot, four-lane boat launch, expanded day use area, expanded RV and tent camping, a paved shoreline trail, and other amenities at Van Wyck Park



would result in a beneficial impact to boater access on the reservoir. However, marina development would negatively impact SH-55 and access through Cascade by increasing traffic volumes.

Improvements to Big Sage under the No Action Alternative included the addition of 35 new RV camp sites with hookups and one group RV campground. If these improvements were implemented, they would have a negative impact on Lakeshore Drive by increasing traffic on this road, especially on weekends.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

The WestRock development would likely have a substantial impact on the transportation system in the Lake Cascade area. The developers anticipate the creation of approximately 3,540 jobs onsite and approximately 1,865 jobs offsite (Sno Engineering et al. 1998). Full build-out of the development is anticipated in 2014. The Conditional Use Permit Application (Sno. Engineering et al. 1998) for the WestRock development describes impacts to the transportation system in detail. The WestRock development would substantially increase traffic on the SH-55 corridor from Boise to the junction with SH-95 at New Meadows. Other local roads impacted by the increase in traffic would be Tamarack Falls Road and the West Mountain Road. The projected increase in traffic volumes to 16,000 vehicles per day west of Donnelly following full WestRock build-out substantially greater than the July 4th 1999 weekend traffic maximum volume of 2,500 vehicles per day. This will have a substantial adverse impact on the local transportation system and on access to Reclamation recreation facilities on the west side of Lake Cascade. Towns impacted would include Banks, Cascade, Donnelly, Lake Fork, McCall, and New Meadows. The residents of several subdivisions near Donnelly and along Tamarack Falls Road would experience large increases in traffic volume.

The application describes in detail the degradation of the level of service along SH-55. Six levels of service are used in transportation studies. They range from A, which is the best operating condition, to F, which is the worst operating condition (unacceptable stop and go conditions). With the addition of the WestRock site, the application predicts that the summer peak hour events would, in general, result in a drop of approximately one level of service (such as from level of service B to level of service C). Impacts in the winter are predicted to be more severe, typically resulting in a drop of two levels on the level of service for peak hour events. These values are based on traffic counts from seven locations on SH-55. Several particularly challenging locations are the Rainbow Bridge, the canyon north of McCall to New Meadows, and canyon section of highway north of Banks.

The Valley County road system would be impacted as severely as the state highway system. Traffic counts were taken on the West Mountain Road south of the proposed WestRock project site and at the Tamarack store and on the county road at Donnelly. Predictions show that level of service is expected to drop from A

to E at the Tamarack Store and from A to D at Donnelly during the winter peak hour events. During summer peak hour events, the report predicts a drop in level of service from A to C at the Tamarack Store and Donnelly.

The lowering of level of service on county and state roads would cause a “...reduction in operating speeds, lost time, congestion, greater safety risks, and general frustration to motorists during peak travel periods” (Sno. Engineering et al. 1998).

Implementation of the TMDL program would not have any cumulative impacts on transportation.

Cumulative impacts from RMP actions generally involve higher traffic volumes associated with recreation site development.

### **Preferred Alternative: Balanced Recreation Development and Natural Resource Emphasis**

Under the Preferred Alternative, no new permits would be issued for private docks in RR areas. However, existing permits would be renewed, and new community docks would be permitted if they replace existing private docks. This would potentially result in a beneficial impact by improving access to the reservoir for boaters.

Under the Preferred Alternative, vehicular access to the shoreline and drawdown areas would be prohibited around the entire reservoir, except Mallard Bay (contingent on monitoring). Currently, access is not regulated and no specific direction is provided on where to restrict access, so vehicles are driven on the shoreline to reach fishing areas. The drawdown areas are particularly attractive for driving. The restrictions, if enforced, would substantially decrease the current ad hoc access occurring along the shoreline and within the drawdown area causing a negative impact on vehicular access to these areas.

Pedestrian access would be allowed and access to the full-pool shoreline would be improved at several locations for people with disabilities. This would not change pedestrian access and would improve access for people with disabilities.

At developed recreation areas, moorage is currently limited to loading and unloading only. The Preferred Alternative would limit the unloading time to 1 hour. Reduction in loading and unloading time could help reduce congestion in the area.

The Preferred Alternative would allow for take-offs and landings of float planes in the main body of the reservoir only, with taxiing allowed in all other motorized areas. The FAA would be responsible for enforcement. This additional control of float plane access would not create a reduction in access, although it may create a minor inconvenience for a very small number of users by requiring longer taxiing distances.

Under the Preferred Alternative, habitat protection and enhancement measures would potentially reduce seasonal pedestrian access in WMAs around the reservoir. The proposed action suggests closing any newly developed trails that appear to be detrimental to wildlife and habitat. Since these trails do not exist now, seasonal closures would have no effect on existing access in WMAs.

Access to Driftwood Point would be the same as described in the No Action Alternative. However, if a maintenance access cannot be provided to the site, the Preferred Alternative would convert Driftwood Point to a C/OS designation and would eliminate the boat-in access and current use. This would result in a net reduction in access to the site by boaters compared to access proposed in the No Action Alternative.

The Preferred Alternative would expand the Osprey Point facilities. Access improvements would include a staging area for winter use, development of a trail to a wildlife viewing area, and provision of cross-country ski trails. Expansion of the site facilities would draw more users to Osprey Point, creating more traffic along the West Mountain Road and the roads that feed into it. This would have a minor negative impact on the transportation system in this area.

The Preferred Alternative would designate Mallard Bay as a C/OS area, including formalized parking and monitored access to the shoreline, day use facilities with a focus on shoreline fishing, and development of seasonal trails. The improvements proposed in the Preferred Alternative would generally provide an increase to both vehicular and pedestrian access, especially to the shoreline, resulting in improved access and parking.

The Preferred Alternative would allow a smaller marina for the West Mountain and Poison Creek campground areas compared to the No Action Alternative. The west side trail system would be developed and the area would be converted from C/OS to Recreation. Compared to the No Action Alternative, access would decrease at the marina, but increase on the trail system. Access to the proposed marina and associated traffic impacts would be less under the Preferred Alternative than under the No Action Alternative. This would have a positive effect on both reservoir boat traffic as fewer boats could be accommodated and local roads because of slightly less traffic.

No impacts would occur to the transportation and access system under the Preferred Alternative for the Buttercup, Huckleberry, and Curlew campgrounds. However, winter access would be substantially improved in this area, including snowmobile parking areas north of Huckleberry, expanded plowing along right-of-way on West Mountain Road, and plowing into other west side recreation areas as parking is needed. Although no winter traffic counts are provided, it is anticipated that winter traffic would be much lighter than summer, and additional traffic during the winter months would not be a substantial impact to the county highway.

Improvements to the Boulder Creek Recreation Area under the Preferred Alternative would include additional parking and extension of the boat ramp. This is an improvement to the transportation and access system over the No Action Alternative.

The Preferred Alternative would increase access to the Gold Fork Arm and WMA by providing pull off interpretive displays, parking, and non-motorized boating access.

Access to the airstrip would be modified by the Preferred Alternative compared to the No Action Alternative. This alternative would not allow fly-in uses and would convert land use designation to WMA. By not allowing fly-in use, this alternative would eliminate potential access to the reservoir by plane, other than float plane.

In general, the actions proposed in the Preferred Alternative for the Crown Point Extension would decrease access to the area compared to the No Action Alternative. No RV or group camping is proposed; instead, day use areas are suggested, except for a small amount of hike-in and boat-in camping. However, this alternative would allow access to the southern-most pocket of the area, near Crown Point, to be accessible under uniform accessibility guidelines. In addition, interpretive hiking and biking trails providing access to the shoreline and linking Vista Point and Cascade would be allowed. This proposal would not allow north and south vehicular access along the old railroad grade, which would be a reduction in vehicular access compared to the No Action Alternative, but an increase in non-vehicular access. Compared to current conditions, there would be no change in access along the railroad grade.

Improvements to the Crown Point Campground would be slightly less extensive in the Preferred Alternative than the No Action Alternative, although hiking and biking trails would be included to access the shoreline. This would be an improvement to the access in the area. Other modifications are minor and would not noticeably impact the transportation and access system in the area.

Development of an overlook at the quarry would be an access improvement and is included in both the No Action and Preferred Alternatives. However, the Preferred Alternative would also include development of a non-motorized trail system and a parking or staging area for the Crown Point Extension area. These developments would improve access in the area.

The Van Wyck Park improvements under the Preferred Alternative would include a 400-slip marina as opposed to the 250-slip marina proposed in the No Action Alternative. A bigger parking lot would then be required. Basically, all other improvements would be the same as the No Action Alternative. This increase in volume of the marina and parking area would improve reservoir access for boaters. Increased traffic on SH-55 and through the town of Cascade would be adversely impacted by the increased traffic volumes.

North-south non-motorized trails linking Cabarton, Blue Heron, and Snow Bank would be allowed under the Preferred Alternative. This would be an improvement to the pedestrian access in the area and to the reservoir shoreline and would have a beneficial effect on access.

Depending on the measures suggested, erosion protection actions at Snow Bank might reduce access to the shoreline. In general, shoreline protection measures throughout the Cabartons campground area could reduce shoreline access. This may restrict access at some locations but would have only a very minor adverse effect on pedestrian access.

The Preferred Alternative would allow development of designated non-motorized (no ORV/ATV) trails and would expand existing parking in the Willow Creek WMA. This would be a positive impact on access to this WMA compared to the No Action Alternative.

Improvements to access in the North Fork Payette Arm would include development of non-motorized trails along the northwest side and throughout the arm, designation of non-motorized boat put-ins and take-outs, and increased snowmobile parking along West Mountain Road. Depending on the size and popularity of the boat put-in and take-out, the transportation system could be negatively impacted. Tamarack Falls Road would experience slightly more traffic because of additional users. These access improvements are not included in the No Action Alternative.

The Preferred Alternative would allow several access improvements to the Donnelly City Park within the Lake Fork Arm that would not occur under the No Action Alternative. Access improvements would include development of non-motorized (no ORV/ATV) trails, public moorage facilities (as feasible), and boat services such as fuel. These additions would attract more users and would increase traffic through Donnelly to the park compared to the No Action Alternative. This would be a negative impact on the transportation system, but a positive impact on the access to the area and reservoir.

Improved parking, better signage on SH-55, and improved safety would all be access improvements at the Hot Springs Creek WMA and result in beneficial impacts to access compared to the No Action Alternative.

Access improvements to Vista Point and vicinity would include development of a non-motorized trail system, trail access to the shoreline, and trail linkage to Sugarloaf Peninsula and Crown Point and would result in beneficial impacts to pedestrian access compared to the No Action Alternative.

### **Mitigation**

Upon development of more detailed plans for planned improvements (e.g., Van Wyck marina), predictions of increased traffic volumes would be more clearly defined. Mitigation to reduce congestion could include measures such as the installation of left hand turn lanes, pavement widening, or noise abatement where necessary. Specific mitigation requirements would be determined during site-specific facility designs.

### **Residual Impacts**

With implementation of mitigation measures, the impacts related to traffic congestion described previously would persist but to a lesser and likely negligible degree.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

Cumulative impacts would be essentially the same as described for the No Action Alternative. However, some recreational facilities proposed under the No Action Alternative would not be developed under the Preferred Alternative. Therefore, the cumulative effects would be slightly less, except for those associated with the marina at Van Wyck Park. Cumulative impacts from WestRock and the TMDL process would be the same as described for the No Action Alternative.

### **Alternative B—Limited Recreation Development /Increase Natural Resource Emphasis**

Alternative B would eliminate all private docks in RR areas, and only permit new community docks or concession-run moorages that would serve shoreline and inland lot owners as well as the general public. This alternative would reduce the actual number of accesses, but create a more organized and equitable system of dock access for the general public, a beneficial effect on boat access. In addition to these proposed modifications, this alternative would allow boat launch access in C/OS areas on a case-by-case basis. Although numerous individuals would lose their private accesses to the lake with this alternative, the net impact to access would be negligible because of the addition of launches in the C/OS areas and increased organization of community docks. A future full accounting of individual docks for potential removal and the number and location of community docks to be installed would have bearing on the extent of this impact.

Alternative B would convert Driftwood Point designated area to C/OS. This designation would allow no access, thus reducing potential access and use of the area compared to the No Action Alternative, a minor adverse effect on future access to this area.

A staging area for winter use at Osprey Point would provide improved access to the area during winter months, as compared to the No Action Alternative.

Mallard Bay would be designated as a WMA under this alternative and parking would be formalized to prohibit vehicular access to the shoreline. Restriction of vehicles from the shoreline would be a reduction in access for current users compared to the No Action Alternative.

Alternative B would allow much less recreational development for the West Mountain and Poison Creek campground areas compared to the No Action Alternative. Although a day use area would be added, the marina would not be allowed. This would be a reduction in general and boating access to the area as compared to the No Action Alternative. The reduction in vehicles anticipated for the marina and other planned facilities compared to the No Action Alternative would be beneficial for the West Mountain Road and other approach roads because of the reduced traffic volumes.

Compared to the No Action Alternative, winter access would be substantially improved in the Buttercup, Huckleberry, and Curlew areas, including provision of snowmobile parking areas north of Huckleberry and exploration into additional plowing along right-of-way on West Mountain Road. Depending on the current and predicted snowmobile use, an increase in traffic arriving at the

snowmobile parking areas would be anticipated. This would cause relatively minor adverse impacts on local roads because of increased traffic on weekends.

Alternative B would allow the development of boat services such as fueling and supplies at the Boulder Creek Arm area. This would be an additional draw for boat users, and create more boat as well as vehicle traffic. Compared to No Action, this would benefit boat access but result in more boat traffic in an already congested area and increase traffic volumes on local roads, both adverse impacts. The C/OS area along both sides of the Boulder Creek Arm would have cross country ski and non-motorized (no ORV/ATV) trails developed. This would be an improvement to pedestrian access over the No Action Alternative.

Alternative B would increase access to the Gold Fork Arm and WMA by providing a limited, non-motorized trail, a non-motorized boating access, and a limited day use area. All actions would improve access with positive effects compared to the No Action Alternative.

Alternative B would reduce proposed improvements and overnight access to the Crown Point Campground, adversely affecting vehicular access compared to the No Action Alternative but avoiding impacts on current pedestrian users.

The Van Wyck Park improvements under Alternative B are the same as under the No Action Alternative, except that additional camping would be eliminated under Alternative B. This would create a minor decrease in access to the area as compared to the No Action Alternative, an adverse impact. However, adverse impacts of more traffic under the No Action Alternative would be somewhat lower under Alternative B.

Trail development in the Big Sage and Cabartons area would be the same as the Preferred Alternative. Alternative B would change access to the Big Sage area as compared to the No Action Alternative by eliminating the RV camp sites and the RV group campground. Alternative B would convert the designation of the Big Sage area to C/OS. Reduction of recreation opportunity would reduce the number of vehicles traveling to and from the site, which would create a positive result of lower traffic volumes on the approach roads, Lakeshore Drive, and SH-55.

Alternative B would allow development of designated non-motorized (no ORV/ATV) trails and expansion of existing parking in the Willow Creek WMA. This would be a positive impact on access to this WMA as compared to the No Action Alternative because of the improved pedestrian access.

Improvements to access in the North Fork Payette Arm include development of non-motorized trails, which would improve pedestrian access to the area. Winter access would be improved under this alternative by providing snowmobile parking in the southern portion of the area. Both actions would result in benefits to access compared to the No Action Alternative.

Alternative B would allow limited trail development in the North Lake Fork Arm. Although the impact would be fairly minor, this would be an improvement to pedestrian access over the No Action Alternative.

Beneficial impacts to pedestrian access at Sugarloaf Peninsula and Vista Point and vicinity would be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

Cumulative impacts from RMP actions would generally be the same as described for the Preferred Alternative. Minor improvements in pedestrian access would occur compared to the No Action Alternative. Cumulative impacts from WestRock and the TMDL program would be the same as described for the No Action Alternative.

### **Alternative C: Moderate Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis**

The recommended action and impacts regarding private docks and RR areas would be the same for Alternative C as for the Preferred Alternative. This could result in a beneficial impact by improving access to the reservoir for boaters compared to the No Action Alternative. Vehicular access to the shoreline and drawdown areas would not change substantially between Alternative C and the No Action Alternative.

Access impacts from moorage policies and boat launching at developed recreation areas would be the same as Alternative B, and would improve boat access compared to the No Action Alternative.

This alternative would allow expansion of Osprey Point to include a more formalized dormitory or lodge. The expansion would also include parking areas and group and RV camping. An expanded network of seasonal trails would provide improved pedestrian access. Overall access to this area would improve compared to the No Action Alternative. Increased traffic congestion on West Mountain Road would be a negative impact because of the higher traffic volumes, especially on weekends.

Development of Mallard Bay Area would include formalized parking, vehicular access to the shoreline, day use facilities, shoreline fishing, and seasonal trails. Although camping would not be provided in Alternative C, vehicular and pedestrian access to the shoreline would be provided with additional pedestrian access on trails. This would maintain current vehicular access, similar to the No Action Alternative. Pedestrian access would be improved compared to the No Action Alternative.

Alternative C would allow development of West Mountain and Poison Creek campgrounds as described in the Preferred Alternative, with similar impacts.



## **Shoreline Access**

Shoreline access is most restricted in the northeast area where subdivisions are prevalent. Roads into these areas are circuitous and unsigned. It is difficult to find specific locations without detailed subdivision road maps. Few access easements to the reservoir are provided between privately owned lots, which in some cases occupy miles of the shoreline. Public access along the shoreline is also constrained in this area because of the lack of public land at the high water line and the presence of improvements that infer private ownership (for example, individual docks and retaining walls).

Shoreline access is further limited in those areas without public roads, most notably from Sugarloaf Peninsula to Arrowhead Point, where land is predominantly in permanent AEs. Parts of the Sugarloaf and Duck Creek areas are inaccessible when wet. The entire lower west shoreline is inaccessible to boaters late in the season as the water recedes far beyond the existing roads and facilities. The shoreline between Crown Point and Vista Point has unimproved roads and an abandoned railroad bed running through it, but vehicular access has been restrained by Reclamation because of the lack of facilities and management capability. Efforts to keep vehicles out have been ineffective so far and have led to destructive detours. In general, wherever visitors are not physically constrained, they would leave roadways and park near the shoreline or on the beaches.

### **3.16.2 Environmental Consequences**

This section discusses the impacts of the alternatives on the transportation and access system in the Lake Cascade resource management area. The transportation and access system consists of two parts:

- Physical condition and existence or non-existence of the accesses and roads
- Operational ability of those roads and accesses

No detailed traffic volumes are available at this time, so specific comments on level of service and average daily traffic cannot be prepared. Based on observations provided by site visitors in a 1999 survey, they perceive relatively little crowding, indicating the level of service of the existing transportation system adequately handles the volume of traffic currently using the area. The survey, which contains visitor counts and more detailed information, is more fully discussed in Section 3.8, *Recreation*. A more detailed evaluation of traffic in the area cannot be conducted without further study. However, it can be anticipated that peak traffic events occur during holiday weekends; these can stress the level of service of the transportation and access system but are not benchmark numbers.

Development of a west side trail system, including West Mountain, Poison Creek, Buttercup, Huckleberry and Curlew campgrounds, would be included under Alternative C. Also, exploration into expanding the existing recreation sites would be considered under this alternative. This would greatly increase access to the northwest shore recreation sites and pedestrian access to the reservoir, both positive impacts. Traffic volume would increase on West Mountain Road, a negative impact to the local transportation system compared to the No Action Alternative.

Winter access to the northwest recreation sites would be the same as described in the Preferred Alternative, which could be a benefit for snowmobile access but cause some additional congestion on West Mountain Road on weekends compared to the No Action Alternative.

Improvements to the C/OS areas along both sides of the Boulder Creek Arm would consist of formally developed non-motorized and motorized trails and cross country ski trails. This would be an improvement to access for motorized vehicles compared to the No Action Alternative, which are currently not allowed in this C/OS. Allowing motorized vehicle access would be an adverse impact on current non-motorized access because of conflicts between users. The improvements do not include a parking area; this would be necessary, especially in winter for skiers. Lack of a parking area and additional traffic through the residential neighborhoods would be a negative impact.

Alternative C for the C/OS on the north side of the arm, west of the old railroad grade on the Gold Fork Arm and the WMA, would be the same as Alternative B except that the day use area would be larger and a second take out point would be developed. This would result in increased access to the area for non-motorized boaters compared to the No Action Alternative.

Alternative C would not re-open the airstrip, but would allow boat-in and hike-in camping and day use. This would provide for an increase in boat-in and hike-in access to this area, a beneficial impact compared to the No Action Alternative. The airstrip has been closed for many years so there would be no effect on current use.

Alternative C would allow ORV/ATV use on the Crown Point Road and along designated roads and trails to access the Crown Point site road system and the associated shoreline access. This would be an increase in access for and beneficial impact on ORV/ATV users compared to the No Action Alternative. However, this would be an adverse impact on pedestrian users and access.

The Crown Point Campground, just south of the extension area, would be developed as described for the No Action Alternative, with the addition of a non-motorized trail for shoreline access and linkage to the north and south. This alternative improves pedestrian access to the shoreline and nearby sites, a beneficial impact compared to the No Action Alternative.

The Van Wyck marina would be as large as 500 spaces, requiring substantially more parking and other transportation improvements than the No Action Alternative. Impacts on the existing transportation infrastructure would be greater.

Proposed development in the Big Sage area under Alternative C would have slightly fewer campsites and no RV sites, resulting in somewhat decreased access compared to the No Action Alternative. However, there would be an improvement (decrease) in traffic on Lakeshore Drive and other approach roads.

Expansion of Blue Heron and Snow Bank under Alternative C would result in no net change to the transportation and access system as compared to improvements under the No Action Alternative. At Cabarton, Alternative C would allow for improvement to pedestrian access compared to the No Action Alternative by providing a non-motorized trail with north-south linkage.

Proposed access improvements and impacts to the Willow Creek WMA would be the same as those under Alternative B. Access would benefit from these actions compared to the No Action Alternative.

Alternative C would formalize the existing ad hoc non-motorized trail system within the North Fork Payette Arm and would expand the system to include new trails as possible. This would be an increase in pedestrian access to the area, a beneficial impact. Some form of parking would be necessary at trailheads to accommodate this access. Winter access to the area would be the same as that recommended under Alternative B, also an improvement compared to the No Action Alternative.

Pedestrian access improvements would be allowed in Alternative C. Non-motorized trails and pull-off parking would be provided in the North Lake Fork Arm. Both would be beneficial impacts on access compared to the No Action Alternative.

The Donnelly City Park, identified under the South Lake Fork Arm, would be developed as described under the Preferred Alternative, with benefits for access but minor adverse impacts on local traffic volumes compared to the No Action Alternative.

Alternative C would allow several access improvements at the Hot Springs Creek WMA. Such improvements would include a non-motorized seasonal trail, an enlarged parking space next to SH-55, and a potential parking lot and trail at the Hembry Creek Wetlands. These actions would all have beneficial impacts on access to the area compared to the No Action Alternative. Depending on the location and layout of the parking space near SH-55, safety may be an issue and should be considered.

Alternative C would allow for the addition of ORV/ATV access to existing trails at Vista Point and vicinity. This would improve access for all-terrain vehicles in the area as compared to the No Action Alternative. However, this would be an adverse impact on pedestrian use because of conflicts with motorized use.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

Cumulative impacts from RMP actions, WestRock, and the TMDL process would be the same as described for the No Action Alternative.

## **4.0 Consultation and Coordination**

## **4.0 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION**

### **4.1 Public Involvement**

Reclamation's approach to the RMP and EA was to develop a dialogue with local stakeholder groups. The goal of the public involvement process was to make sure that all stakeholders, including the general public, had ample opportunity to express their interests, concerns, and viewpoints, and to comment on the plan as it was developed. By fostering two-way communication, Reclamation was also able to use the talents and perspectives of local user groups and agencies during the alternatives development process.

Reclamation's public involvement process involved four key components:

- **Newsbriefs**—A newsletter was initially mailed to more than 1,300 user groups, nearby residents, and agencies. The mailing list was continuously expanded as more stakeholders were identified.
- **Public Meetings/Workshops**—Three sets of public meetings were included in the process. Two sets were held prior to the release of the Draft EA. The final set was held in January/February 2001. Each meeting set consisted of two meetings: one in Boise and one in Cascade.
- **Ad Hoc Work Group**—This group consisted of approximately 20 representatives from interested groups and agencies. They met throughout the development process to identify issues, and assist with RMP update and alternatives development.
- **RMP Study Web Site**—The newsbriefs, draft materials, and meeting announcements were continuously updated at <http://www.pn.usbr.gov/>.

Prior to the release of the Draft EA, Reclamation provided six newsbriefs, held two sets of public meetings, and held six Ad Hoc Work Group workshops. An additional newsbrief and one additional set of public meetings occurred during the public comment period.

In January 1999, the first newsbrief introduced the RMP process, announced the first set of public meetings, and provided a form for submitting issues and initial comments on the management and facilities at Lake Cascade. More than 200 of these response forms were returned. The results of the mail-in form and the issues raised at the first public meetings were summarized in the second newsbrief, mailed June 1999. The issues were listed in a table with the number of responses for each issue. The third newsbrief was mailed in November 1999 and provided an update of the Ad Hoc Work Group process. The fourth newsbrief in February 2000 announced the second public meetings, summarized the draft goals and objectives of the RMP, and summarized the alternatives being considered. The fifth newsbrief was mailed in March 2000 to clarify questions raised at the February public meetings. A sixth newsbrief was mailed prior to the release of the Draft EA to

summarize the alternatives and announce the third and final set of public meetings. The follow-up newsbrief was sent in March 2001, which solicited input on a potential change to the Preferred Alternative. A final newsbrief will be sent out in October 2001 that will summarize the final RMP.

The first set of public meetings was held February 10, 1999, in Boise, and February 11, 1999, in Cascade. The purpose of these meetings was to conduct public scoping of the issues at Lake Cascade. Approximately 50 people attended the Boise meeting and 70 attended the Cascade meeting. Reclamation provided information about the RMP planning process, then the participants broke into small work groups to discuss important issues and opportunities the RMP should address. The second set of public meetings was held February 16, 2000, in Boise, and February 17, 2000, in Cascade. Approximately 97 people attended the Boise meeting and 86 attended the Cascade meeting. The meeting followed a similar format, beginning with presentation of the alternatives and RMP draft goals and objectives, and following on with small group discussions. The final set of public meetings was held on January 31, 2001, in Boise, and February 1, 2001, in Cascade. Approximately 67 people attended the Boise meeting and 58 attended the Cascade meeting. These meetings were conducted as public hearings in addition to open-house style information style displays staffed by Reclamation personnel.

The Ad Hoc Work Group met in April, July, September, and October 1999; January and March 2000; and June 2001. As part of the July 1999 meeting, the group spent a day touring the Lake Cascade Study area and becoming more familiar with the issues. The 22 members were of considerable assistance in the alternatives development process. A wide variety of viewpoints were included in the group. The Preferred Alternative was arrived at through Ad Hoc Work Group discussions, public comments from the second set of public meetings, and the recommendations of agency scientists and planners. The entities represented in the Ad Hoc Work Group are listed in Table 4.1-1.

**Table 4.1-1. Ad Hoc Work Group**

Agriculture Representative	Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR)
Boulder Creek Homeowners Association	Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG)
Cascade Chamber of Commerce	Idaho State Snowmobile Association
Cascade Reservoir Association	Local Resident—Off-Road Vehicle Recreation Interest
Cascade Reservoir Coordinating Council	Shoshone-Paiute Tribes
Citizen at Large/Cascade High School	Southern Idaho Sailing Association
City of Cascade	Valley County Commissioners
City of Donnelly	Valley County Waterways Committee
Crown Point Homeowner's Association	Vista Point Homeowner's Group
Donnelly Chamber of Commerce	West Mountain Homeowner's Group

**Table 4.1-1. Ad Hoc Work Group**

Good Sam Club	U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
---------------	----------------------------

### 4.1.2 Summary of Public Comments

Reclamation's Draft EA of the Lake Cascade RMP was released for public review on December 20, 2001. The public was afforded 60 days to review and provide comments on the Draft EA. About halfway through the public review and comment period, Reclamation held a set of two public hearings (one in Boise and the other in Cascade) to solicit public testimony on the Draft EA. At these hearings, attendees had the choice of either providing their comments verbally via formal testimony recorded by a court reporter or by filling out a comment form provided upon entry to the hearing. During the comment period, a change was made to the Preferred Alternative regarding the airstrip, as described later in this section. This concept was not part of the Preferred Alternative as presented in the Draft EA. Therefore, Reclamation sought input on this potential change to the Preferred Alternative and extended the comment period until March 28, 2001, to provide the public an opportunity to consider this potential change and provide comments.

Reclamation thanks all of those who provided comments. The public comments, along with responses, are provided in Appendix D. Overall, comments focused on four main subject areas: re-opening the airstrip, using the Crown Point Road, boating the Boulder Creek Arm, and ensuring water quality. Several other subjects were also addressed, as listed in Table 4.1-2, which appears at the end of this section.

By far, the largest number of comments (approximately 150) came from proponents advocating that the State airstrip adjacent to Lake Cascade be re-opened as part of the Preferred Alternative, as was originally proposed in the 1991 RMP. The 1991 RMP proposed re-opening the airstrip for recreational fly-in use, and efforts were made to accomplish it. Before the airstrip can be re-opened, however, a land transaction is required between Reclamation and the private agricultural easement holder of this parcel. This transaction has not been successful to date; therefore, the airstrip never re-opened. Because Reclamation was not aware of the interest of proponents of the airstrip earlier in the RMP update process and due to the seemingly difficult effort regarding the land transaction, as well as the re-occupation of a nearby nest by a pair of bald eagles, it was decided not to include re-opening the airstrip as part of the Preferred Alternative in the Draft EA. Instead, the Preferred Alternative called for the airstrip and adjoining area to be reclassified as a Wildlife Management Area (WMA) land use designation and be added to the Duck Creek WMA.

Reclamation modified the Preferred Alternative to potentially allow the State airstrip to be re-opened for recreational fly-in use as well as boat and hike-in use. If the modified scenario is adopted, the area would be developed for fly-in and boat-in camping and day use (e.g., picnicking, swimming) activities. However, this would only be allowed provided several conditions were met. These conditions are listed in Section 2.3.2 of the final EA.

In the Preferred Alternative of the Final EA the area would continue to be designated and managed as a WMA. When/if all of the above conditions are met, Reclamation would prepare a separate environmental assessment for site-specific analysis of re-opening the airstrip. It is also important to note that several commentors expressed opposition to re-opening the airstrip, including a pilot who cited noise concerns and the availability of other nearby airports.

As stated in the Final EA, the Crown Point Road will be open for non-motorized (no ATV/ORV use) only. There was considerable support (19 letters) for this position from commentors on the Draft EA.

The Boulder Creek Arm will have a no-wake zone primarily for safety reasons. Commentors on the Draft EA expressed considerable support for a more complete closure than what is included in the Preferred Alternative.

Water quality concerns included erosion, phosphorous loading, wetland treatment, and tributary water quality. Reclamation addressed these concerns in the Final EA and has found no significant impacts on water quality from actions described in the Preferred Alternative.

**Table 4.1-2. Lake Cascade Draft EA-Comment Summary**

T = Tribal comment, A = agency comment

Issue	No. of Comments	Summary of Comments
Agricultural easements	2	Acquire these and eliminate grazing to protect natural resource values.
Airstrip	185 (letters and e-mails) (Several writers also testified at both Boise and Cascade) 17 testified 1 (A) of the above	Re-open the strip. It would receive much use. Good for training. Another emergency landing location is always good. Too many strips closing in U.S.
Airstrip	34	Oppose opening.
Believe main purpose of Cascade is for recreation	2	Want more recreation opportunities.
Big Sage	1 (T)	Include a dump station.
Boat camping	3	Support more areas; provide vault toilets; implement pack-in, pack-out policy.
Boulder Creek	15	Too narrow for high speed boats-under Idaho Law. Erosion from jet skis-too many of these and no regulation. Want no-wake for all of Boulder Creek.
Boulder Creek Recreation Area	1	Too much use-don't like signs on HWY 55.
Boulder Creek restrooms	1 (A)	Use vault, not flush, toilets.
Boulder Creek Trail	1	Provide trail.



**Table 4.1-2. Lake Cascade Draft EA-Comment Summary**

T = Tribal comment, A = agency comment

Issue	No. of Comments	Summary of Comments
Convert C/OS to RR	9	Owners want land adjacent to their property to be RR so they can get the dock they have a right to.
County law enforcement	2 (A)	Do not include provisions without funding.
Crown Point	1 (A) 5	Make old railroad grade a county road or allow ORV/ATV.
Crown Point	19	Agree with Preferred Alternative-no road, no vehicles, just a trail .
Crown Point Extension Campgrounds	2	Do not like northern location: erosive and wetlands.
Crown Point Quarry	1 (A)	Allow county use.
Crown Point/Snowmobile	5	Separate from X-C ski trail.
Cultural Resources	1 (A)	Support Preferred or Alternative B, like BMPs and development of cultural resources management plan.
Dam bridge and road	1	Do no close or at least leave open for pedestrian and bike access.
Day use on East side	1	Rehabilitate areas and close to camping; support creation of non-motorized trail.
Develop foot trails for beach access	1	Support; too many trails now.
Dock by church camp	2	Keep it.
Dock permits	1 (A) 1	Allow more dock permits.
Docks	1	Define community versus private docks.
Encroachment	1	Remove all improvements, this land belongs to all citizens.
Encroachment	1	May be appropriate for water quality and erosion control structures installed before 1985.
Erosion control	1	Provide landowners with assistance.
Float planes	2	Restricting take-off and landing to main body not safe (wind and waves) - want to do it in the arms.
Golf Course Lease	1 (T)	Make improving wildlife habitat a part of the lease

**Table 4.1-2. Lake Cascade Draft EA-Comment Summary**

T = Tribal comment, A = agency comment

Issue	No. of Comments	Summary of Comments
Grazing leases	2	Need better fence maintenance and want to see cows off of Reclamation lands.
Maps and Glossary	1	Suggest change for improvement.
Marinas	1	Too large, too many other problems like traffic and noise associated.
Minimum Pool	1 (T)	Maintain 300,000-foot minimum pool.
Not in my back yard	5	Put facilities somewhere else-mostly related to marinas and associated facilities.
No wake zone	1	Enforce 200 foot no-wake to reduce erosion. Not current voluntary compliance-and don't expect any in the future, must be enforcement.
Noise from snowmobile and jet ski	2	Don't like it.
Oppose conversion of Gibbon's property to RR	1	Development will only worsen erosion.
Perch fishery	1	Suggest ways to improve.
Recreation	1	Address siltation as is impacts recreation.
Recreation	1	Extend existing sites instead of new ones or minimize overall recreation development.
Recreation site expansion	1	Provide visual/noise barriers for surrounding cabins.
Road building and construction	1 (T)	Fisheries will be impacted by these activities.
Siltation	2	Address in EA.
Snowmobiles	1	Limit in C/OS areas and enforce a speed limit.
Structure of the alternatives	1	Favors Reclamation positions.
Surface water enforcement	1	County budget is fully expended-no more money is available.
Tamarack Falls Bridge	1 (T)	Limit use to minimized avian disturbance.
Trail construction	1 (T) 1	Habitat fragmentation a problem.

**Table 4.1-2. Lake Cascade Draft EA-Comment Summary**

T = Tribal comment, A = agency comment

Issue	No. of Comments	Summary of Comments
Tributary Fishery	1 (T)	Purchase upstream water rights and remove diversion structures.
Van Wyck Marina	1	In favor of this but not in proposed area- this is the best fishing spot.
Van Wyck Marina	1	Need breakwater.
Van Wyck Marina	1(T) 4	Too large.
Van Wyck marina	1	In favor of marina as proposed.
Vehicle access below high water line	1 (A) 8	Do not limit access Do not limit fires on beach Consider disabled Develop access points.
Walk-in, boat-in camping	1	Need enforcement of too much noise.
Walking trails	1 (A) 3	Support as many trails as possible. Add natural history interpretation.
Water quality	4 comments, 1 each issue	Cascade is a state-designated Impaired water with a mandate to improve water quality-yet water quality doesn't get the attention it deserves. Shoreline erosion a problem. Do not allow fuel facilities. Improve wetland designs.
WMA	4	Support more WMA lands with seasonal closures for wildlife.

## 4.2 Agency Consultation and Coordination

Reclamation consulted with several Federal and local agencies throughout the RMP process to gather valuable input and to meet regulatory requirements. This coordination was integrated with the public involvement process.

### 4.2.1 Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act

Reclamation has consulted with and arranged for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to provide a Coordination Act Report (CAR) under authority of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA). It is included in Appendix B. Recommendations contained in the CAR will be followed as indicated at the end of Appendix B.

## 4.2.2 Endangered Species Act

The evaluation of endangered species contained in this EA serves as Reclamation's biological assessment as required under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). It evaluates impacts to listed and proposed for listing species including Ute ladies'-tresses orchids, bald eagles, Canada lynx, gray wolf, and bull trout. Reclamation has determined that the Preferred Alternative would have **no effect** on bull trout and may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, the other species. FWS concurs with these findings.

## 4.2.3 National Historic Preservation Act

Reclamation has collected existing cultural resource information from the Lake Cascade area to prepare the EA, and to facilitate subsequent compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR 800). In addition, as part of Reclamation's government-to-government consultation with the Tribes (described in Section 4.3), Reclamation has contacted appropriate Indian Tribes to identify ITAs, TCPs, and Indian sacred sites. In conjunction with public review of the Draft EA, the Idaho SHPO received a copy to review. In addition to sending copies of the Draft EA, Reclamation met with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes during the public review period. (It is understood that specific, future undertakings in response to specific RMP prescriptions, will require specific consultations with the SHPO and the Tribes pursuant to the 36 CFR 800 regulations.)

# 4.3 Tribal Consultation and Coordination

## 4.3.1 Consultation with Tribes

Reclamation met with Council members and staff of the Nez Perce, Shoshone-Paiute, and Shoshone-Bannock Tribes to discuss the preparation of the RMP and to identify ITAs, TCPs, and Indian Sacred Sites. A representative from the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes participated in the Ad Hoc Work Group, which facilitated close coordination with the Government and helped assure that Tribal interests were integrated with the RMP. Several meetings were held and much correspondence was exchanged between Reclamation and the Tribes. The dates for the meetings and correspondence are provided in Appendix C.

The following goals and objectives for the RMP reflect Tribal input and concerns that were incorporated into the planning process:

***Goal CUL 1.1: Protect and conserve cultural resources, including prehistoric, historic, traditional, and sacred properties.***

**Objective CUL 1.1:** Ensure protection of sensitive cultural resources for all Reclamation undertakings in accordance with all applicable Federal and state laws.

**Objective CUL 1.2:** In accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act and other applicable cultural resource and legal mandates, accomplish proactive management of cultural resources, including inventory, identification, evaluation, and protection.

**Objective CUL 1.3:** Increase awareness of cultural resources compliance and protection needs among state and other resource management partners and lease holders who interact with Reclamation in the RMP study area.

**Objective CUL 1.4:** Provide opportunities for public education on cultural resources, including the importance of, and requirements for, protecting these resources within the parameters of various laws and regulations.

***Goal CUL 2: Protect and conserve Indian Trust Assets as specified in applicable Federal mandates.***

**Objective CUL 2.1:** Within the scope of Reclamation authorities, ensure that the RMP is consistent with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes adopted Snake River Basin Policy through conservation, protection, and/or enhancement of natural resources.

**Objective CUL 2.2:** Avoid any action which would adversely impact Tribal Indian Trust Assets.

The RMP and EA will be distributed to representatives from the Shoshone-Paiute, Nez Perce, and Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. Tribal representatives who received the Draft EA and will receive the Final EA and RMP are listed in Chapter 7, *Distribution List*.

### **4.3.2 National Historic Preservation Act Tribal Consultation**

The NHPA, adopted in 1966, requires agencies to consult with Native American Tribes if a proposed Federal action may affect properties to which they attach religious and cultural significance. The implementing regulations of the NHPA, 36 CFR 800, addresses procedures for consultation in more detail.

### **4.3.3 Indian Trust Assets**

Reclamation coordinated with the Shoshone-Bannock and Nez Perce Tribes to identify their interests, including ITAs. These are discussed in Chapter 3, Section 3.14, *Indian Trust Assets*.

### **4.3.4 Other Laws and Regulations**

The relationship between Federal agencies and sovereign Tribes is defined by several laws and regulations addressing the requirement of Federal agencies to notify or consult with Native American groups or otherwise consider their interests when planning and implementing Federal undertakings. Among these are the following:

- National Environmental Policy Act
- American Indian Religious Freedom Act
- Archeological Resources Protection Act
- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
- Executive Order 12875, Enhancing the Intergovernmental Partnership
- Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations
- Presidential Memorandum: Government-to-Government Relations with Native American Tribal Governments
- Executive Order 13007, Indian Sacred Sites
- Executive Order 13175 of November 6, 2000, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments (EO 13175 revokes EO 13084 issued May 14, 1998)

Reclamation has adhered to these laws and regulations as applicable to the development of the RMP.

## **5.0 Environmental Commitments**

## **5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS**

### **5.1 Best Management Practices**

The following best management practices (BMPs) will be implemented to avoid or minimize potential effects to the resources within the Lake Cascade RMP study area that could occur if the preferred alternative were implemented. Although not listed here, the management actions identified in the preferred alternative as needed for proper stewardship of resources are also considered to be environmental commitments.

#### **5.1.1 Landscape Preservation and Impact Avoidance**

1. Developed facilities will complement the surrounding landscape.
2. Disturbed areas resulting from any construction will be aggressively revegetated.
3. To the maximum extent practicable, all existing trees, shrubs, and other naturally occurring vegetation will be preserved and protected from construction operations and equipment except where clearing operations are required for permanent structures, approved construction roads, or excavation operations.
4. To the maximum extent practicable, all maintenance yards, field offices, and staging areas will be arranged to preserve trees, shrubs, and other vegetation.
5. Clearing will be restricted to that area needed for construction. In critical habitat areas—including, but not limited to, wetlands and riparian areas—clearing may be restricted to only a few feet beyond areas required for construction.
6. Stream corridors, wetlands, riparian areas, steep slopes, or other critical environmental areas will not be used for equipment or materials storage or stockpiling; construction staging or maintenance; field offices; hazardous material or fuel storage, handling, or transfer; or temporary access roads, in order to reduce environmental damage.
7. Excavated or graded materials will not be stockpiled or deposited on or within 100 feet of any steep slopes (defined by industry standards), wetlands, riparian areas, or stream banks (including seasonally active ephemeral streams without woody or herbaceous vegetation growing in the channel bottom), or on native vegetation.
8. To the maximum extent possible, staging areas, access roads, and other site disturbances will be located in disturbed areas, not in native or naturally occurring vegetation.



9. The width of all new permanent access roads will be kept to the absolute minimum needed for safety, avoiding wetland and riparian areas where possible. Turnouts and staging areas will not be placed in wetlands.

### **5.1.2 Erosion and Sediment Control**

1. The design and construction of facilities will employ applicable recognized Best Management Practices to prevent possible soil erosion and subsequent water quality impacts.
2. The planting of grasses, forbs, trees, or shrubs beneficial to wildlife, or the placement of riprap, sand bags, sod, erosion mats, bale dikes, mulch, or excelsior blankets will be used to prevent and minimize erosion and siltation during construction and during the period needed to reestablish permanent vegetative cover on disturbed sites.
3. Final erosion control and site restoration measures will be initiated as soon as a particular area is no longer needed for construction, stockpiling, or access. Clearing schedules will be arranged to minimize exposure of soils.
4. Cuts and fills for relocated and new roads will be sloped to facilitate revegetation.
5. Slope instability in reservoir areas will be identified through surveys conducted during final design. The identified areas will be stabilized or protected to prevent mass soil movement into reservoir pools to the extent practicable.
6. Soil or rock stockpiles, excavated materials, or excess soil materials will not be placed near sensitive habitats, including water channels, wetlands, riparian areas, and on native or naturally occurring vegetation, where they may erode into these habitats or be washed away by high water or storm runoff. Waste piles will be revegetated using suitable native species after they are shaped to provide a natural appearance.

### **5.1.3 Biological Resources**

1. Rare and sensitive species clearances described below will be conducted after project authorization, but prior to the start of construction.
2. If native plant communities must be used for access roads or staging areas, site clearances at the appropriate time of year for the species involved will be conducted by qualified biologists to ensure sensitive species are not impacted. Any established search protocols will be followed. Additional information concerning avoidance of threatened or endangered species is presented in Section 3.6.
3. Construction activities that could impact fish will be undertaken during non-spawning periods.

4. During the 10-year period covered by this RMP, species not currently protected under the Endangered Species Act will be listed. If any such species occur on Reclamation lands, Reclamation would enforce time of year access restrictions in areas harboring Federal and state designated species of special concern (including Federally designated rare, endangered, or threatened species).

#### **5.1.4 Site Restoration and Revegetation**

1. Construction areas, including storage yards, will limit the amount of waste material and trash accumulations at all times.
2. All unused materials and trash will be removed from construction and storage sites during the final phase of work. All removed material will be placed in approved sanitary landfills or storage sites and work areas will be left to conform to the natural landscape.
3. Upon completion of construction, grade any land disturbed outside the limits of reservoir pools, permanent roads, and other permanent facilities to provide proper drainage and blend with the natural contour of the land. Following grading, revegetate using plants native to the area, suitable for the site conditions, and beneficial to wildlife.
4. Where applicable, consult with the following agencies to determine the recommended plant species composition, seeding rates, and planting dates:
  - Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG)
  - U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
  - U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
  - U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
1. Grasses, forbs, shrubs, and trees appropriate for site conditions and surrounding vegetation will be included on a plant list developed during site design. Species chosen for a site will be matched for site drainage, climate, shading, resistance to erosion, soil type, slope, aspect, and vegetation management goals. Wetland and riparian species will be used in revegetating disturbed wetlands. Upland revegetation shall match the plant list to the site's soil type, topographic position, elevation, and surrounding communities.

#### **5.1.5 Pollution Prevention**

1. All Federal and state laws related to control and abatement of water pollution will be complied with. All waste material and sewage from construction activities or project-related features will be disposed of according to Federal and state pollution control regulations.

2. Construction contractors may be required to obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit as established under Public Law 92–500 and amended by the Clean Water Act (Public Law 95–217).
3. Construction specifications shall require construction methods that will prevent entrance or accidental spillage of pollutants into flowing or dry watercourses and underground water sources. Potential pollutants and wastes include refuse, garbage, cement, concrete, sewage effluent, industrial waste, oil and other petroleum products, aggregate processing tailings, mineral salts, drilling mud, and thermal pollution.
4. Eroded materials shall be prevented from entering streams or watercourses during dewatering activities associated with structure foundations or earthwork operations adjacent to, or encroaching on, streams or watercourses.
5. Any construction wastewater discharged into surface waters will be essentially free of settling material. Water pumped from behind cofferdams and wastewater from aggregate processing, concrete batching, or other construction operations shall not enter streams or watercourses without water quality treatment. Turbidity control methods may include settling ponds; gravel-filter entrapment dikes; approved flocculating processes not harmful to fish or other aquatic life; recirculation systems for washing aggregates; or other approved methods.
6. Any riprap shall be free of contaminants and not contribute significantly to the turbidity of the reservoir.
7. Appropriate controls to reduce stormwater pollutant loads in post-construction site runoff identified in the *Handbook of Valley County Storm Water Best Management Practices* (Valley County 1997) shall be followed. The appropriate facilities shall be properly designed, installed, and maintained to provide water quality treatment for runoff originating from all recreational facilities.
8. All parking lots and marinas should be designed to promote efficient vehicle and boat traffic to prevent congestion and pollution.
9. Waste facilities should be connected, whenever possible, to sanitary sewer systems instead of septic tanks to avoid water quality problems from failed tanks.

### 5.1.6 Noise and Air Pollution Prevention

1. Contractors will be required to comply with all applicable Federal, state, and local laws and regulations concerning prevention and control of noise and air pollution. Contractors are expected to use reasonably available methods and devices to control, prevent, and reduce atmospheric emissions or discharges of atmospheric contaminants and noise.

2. Contractors will be required to reduce dust from construction operations and prevent it from damaging dwellings or causing a nuisance to people. Methods such as wetting exposed soil or roads where dust is generated by passing vehicles will be employed.

### **5.1.7 Cultural Resource Site Protection**

1. Cultural resource personnel, or other land management personnel sensitized to cultural resource management concerns, will periodically monitor the RMP area to determine if operations, natural erosion, or land use is damaging cultural resources. If significant sites are being damaged, management actions to protect the site will be implemented. If the site cannot be protected, mitigation may be required.
2. If there are significant cultural resource sites that may be affected by a Reclamation undertaking, Reclamation will consult with the SHPO and the Tribes about appropriate actions to take to protect those sites.
3. Reclamation will prepare a cultural resource management plan (CRMP) for these lands that outlines actions and methods to protect cultural resources. The CRMP will identify management actions to protect and stabilize sites, and address issues relating to curation of cultural materials, inadvertent discoveries, intentional excavation, and discovery of human skeletal remains, among other things.
4. If consultation with Indian Tribes determines that Indian sacred sites are present and are being adversely affected by land use, then, when feasible, Reclamation will seek to implement actions to reduce or avoid such impacts.
5. In accordance with NHPA and its implementing 36 CFR 800 regulations, Reclamation will obtain project-specific cultural resource clearances when the agency acts to enhance recreation or wildlife, or undertakes other actions that have the potential to affect cultural resources. The agency will seek to avoid or reduce adverse effects to significant cultural resource sites or sacred sites by relocating or redesigning any proposed development.
6. Reclamation will stabilize or protect cultural sites when avoidance is not possible. Test excavations will be conducted as necessary to determine if the sites are eligible for the National Register. Consultations, per 36 CFR 800, will be conducted to determine site eligibility, project effect, and appropriate treatment of adversely affected National Register-eligible sites.
7. Reclamation will initiate actions to protect human burials as soon as possible if they are reported to be exposed or endangered by reservoir operations, natural erosion, or land use. Unless the burials are clearly non-Indian, the Tribes will be consulted upon the discovery of a burial and procedures for protection, treatment, and disposition of the remains will be worked out with the Tribes in accordance with NAGPRA.

8. Reclamation will curate archaeological collections at the Southeastern Idaho Regional Archaeological Center. Exceptions will be human burials, grave goods associated with a burial, and items that are sacred to or of cultural patrimony to American Indian Tribes (NAGPRA items). When NAGPRA items are recovered, procedures set forth in 43 CFR Part 10 for inadvertent discoveries, consultation, and custody will be followed.

### **5.1.8 Miscellaneous Comments**

1. Reclamation-issued land use licenses, leases, and permits will contain sufficient language and stipulations to help protect existing resources and help mitigate possible conflicts among the various users and between visitors and adjacent land owners.
2. To offset possible negative impacts to low income visitors, entrance and user fees will be structured to allow many individuals and families of different income levels to use Lake Cascade lands and facilities. In addition, a range of recreational opportunities that appeal to a wide variety of visitors, including low income users, will be provided.

## **5.2 Mitigation Measures**

Mitigation measures are environmental commitments intended to compensate for impacts that cannot be avoided through implementation of BMPs.

### **5.2.1 Soils**

All roads, trails, and new or upgraded facilities would employ designs that would not contribute to short- or long-term soil loss during and following construction and revegetation.

### **5.2.2 Vegetation**

In addition to Reclamation's overall planned increase in noxious and invasive weed control efforts, all sites that are disturbed for facilities and trail construction would be actively monitored for these plants. All infestations would be immediately treated in accordance with accepted methods and agreements with IDFG and Valley County. Trails would continue to be monitored at least once annually, followed by aggressive weed control efforts. Any wetland losses would be mitigated on at least a one-to-one basis, replacing both affected area and habitat value.

### **5.2.3 Wildlife**

Reclamation would replace the area and habitat value of all wetland and riparian areas that would be directly impacted or degraded by implementation of this alternative.

### **5.2.4 Cultural Resources**

Mitigation under all alternatives would occur if cultural resources are present that are eligible for the National Register, and if they are being adversely impacted by reservoir operations or land uses or are being damaged by natural agents. If an action is planned that could adversely impact an archaeological, traditional, or historic resource, then Reclamation would investigate options to avoid the site. Cultural resource management actions for impacted sites would be planned and implemented in accordance with consultation requirements defined in 36 CFR 800, using methods consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines.

### **5.2.5 Transportation and Access**

Upon development of more detailed plans for planned improvements (e.g., Van Wyck marina), predictions of increased traffic volumes would be more clearly defined. Mitigation to reduce congestion could include measures such as the installation of left hand turn lanes, pavement widening, or noise abatement where necessary. Specific mitigation requirements would be determined during site-specific facility designs.

## **6.0 Preparers**

## 6.0 PREPARERS

Name	Background	Responsibility
Chuck Blair	Wildlife Ecologist	EA Project Manager, Wildlife Biology, Threatened and Endangered Species
Kevin Butterbaugh	Environmental Planner	Senior Review, RMP Manager
Jason Dedrick	Recreation Planner	Recreation, Visual Resources
Chuck Everett	Recreation Planner	Recreation
Mary Heim	GIS Specialist	Graphics
Denny Mengel	Soil Scientist	Soils and Vegetation
Mike Miller	GIS Specialist	Graphics
Steve Miller	Water Resources Engineer	Water Quality and Hydrology
Mark Mullins	Fishery Science	Aquatic Biology
Jill Lawrence	Native American Affairs Coordinator	Indian Trust Assets
Ray Leicht	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources
Betsy Roberts	Transportation Engineer	Traffic/Access
Mike Usen	Land Use Planner	Land Use, Socioeconomics, Environmental Justice
Steve Van Otingham	Engineer	Air Quality
Greg Warren	Geologist	Geology
Brandy Wilson	Technical Writer and Geologist	Technical Writing, Editing, Geology



## **7.0 Distribution List**

## **7.0 DISTRIBUTION LIST**

### **7.1 Overview**

The Lake Cascade RMP Final EA has been sent to the tribes, government officials, agencies, organizations and businesses, libraries, and individuals named in the following distribution list. As noted, the EA is available for review at several libraries; it is also available for viewing (and downloading, if desired) on Reclamation's web site. Entities listed below that provided comments on the Draft EA are marked with an asterisk (\*). Many of the commentators listed in Appendix D are not listed here to receive a Final EA. Instead, those entities will receive a copy of the FONSI along with instructions for obtaining a copy of the Final EA, if desired.

### **7.2 Tribes**

Albert Teeman, Tribal Chairman  
Burns-Paiute General Council  
HC71, 100 Pa'Si'go Street  
Burns, Oregon 97720-9303

Samuel Penny, Chairman  
Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee  
P.O. Box 305  
Lapwai, Idaho 83540

Mr. Lionel Boyer, Chairman  
Fort Hall Business Council  
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes  
P.O. Box 306  
Fort Hall, ID 83203-0306

Chad Colter, Fish & Wildlife Coordinator  
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes  
P.O. Box 306  
Fort Hall, ID 83203-0306

Diane Yupe  
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes  
Heritage Tribal Office  
P.O. Box 306  
Fort Hall, ID 83203-0306

Marvin Cota, Chairman  
Shoshone-Paiute Tribal Council  
P.O. Box 219  
Owyhee, Nevada 89832-0219

\*Carol C. Perugini  
Shoshone-Paiute Tribes  
P.O. Box 219  
Owyhee, Nevada 89832

Guy Dodson  
Shoshone-Paiute Tribes  
P.O. Box 219  
Owyhee, Nevada 89832

## **7.3 Government Officials**

Debbie Haskins  
Cascade City Council  
P.O. Box 649  
Cascade, Idaho 83611

Larry Walters, Mayor  
City of Cascade  
P.O. Box 783  
Cascade, Idaho 83611

\*Jill Layton, Mayor  
City of Donnelly  
c/o Donnelly City Hall  
Donnelly, Idaho 83615

Dorothy Gestrin  
Donnelly City Council  
P.O. Box 10  
Donnelly, Idaho 83615

Honorable Butch Otter  
House of Representatives  
Attention Catherine Kennett  
304 N 8th Street, Room 454  
Boise, Idaho 83702

Honorable Butch Otter  
House of Representatives  
Attention Mike McEleney  
Senior Legislative Assistant  
1711 Longworth  
Washington DC 20515

Honorable Mike Simpson  
House of Representatives  
304 N 8th Street, Room 325  
Boise, Idaho 83702

Honorable Larry Craig  
U.S. Senate  
Attention Nate Helm  
304 N. 8th Street, Room 149  
Boise, Idaho 83702-5820

Honorable Larry Craig  
U.S. Senate  
Attention Calli Daly  
Legislative Assistant  
520 Hart Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Michael Crapo  
U.S. Senate  
Attention Jeff Allen  
304 N. 8th Street, Room 338  
Boise, Idaho 83702-5820

Terry Gestrin, Chairman  
Valley County Commissioners  
P.O. Box 1350  
Cascade, Idaho 83611

\*Lee Heinrich  
Valley County Commissioners  
P.O. Box 757  
Cascade, Idaho 83611

\*Tom Kerr  
Valley County Commissioners  
P.O. Box 853  
McCall, Idaho 83638

## **7.4 Agencies**

Ron Julian, District Ranger  
Cascade District, Boise National Forest  
Box 851  
Cascade, Idaho 83611

Tonya Dombrowski  
Dept Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 247  
Cascade, Idaho 83611

Mark Bingman  
Forest Service, Rec. Department  
P.O. Box 696  
Cascade, Idaho 83611

Jeff Rohlman  
Regional Wildlife Manager  
Idaho Department of Fish and Game  
555 Deinhard Rd  
McCall, Idaho 83638

Director's Office  
Idaho Department of Lands  
954 W. Jefferson  
Boise, Idaho 83702

Rick Brown, Park Manager  
Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation  
P.O. Box 709  
Cascade, Idaho 83611

Yvonne S. Ferrell, Director  
Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation  
P.O. Box 83720  
Boise, Idaho 83712-8752

Bart Welsh  
Idaho Transportation Department  
3483 Rickenbacker Blvd.  
Boise, Idaho 83705

Keith Bumsted  
Idaho Transportation Department  
Division of Aeronautics  
3483 Rickenbacker Street  
Boise, Idaho 83705

Barry Albert  
Natural Resource Conservation Service  
P.O. Box 580  
Cascade, Idaho 83611

Director  
Natural Resource Conservation Service  
9173 W. Barnes Drive, Suite C  
Boise, Idaho 83709

Mr. Steve Guerber  
Executive Director  
Idaho State Historical Society  
1109 Main Street, Suite 250  
Boise, Idaho 83702-5642

Dr. Kenneth C. Reid  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Idaho State Historical Society  
201 Main Street

Boise, ID 83702-7264

\*Ms. Suzie Pengilly-Neitzel  
Compliance Coordinator  
Idaho State Historical Society  
201 Main Street  
Boise, ID 83702-7264

Alison Beck Haas  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1387 S. Vinnell Way, #343  
Boise, Idaho 83709-1657

\*Cynda Herrick  
Valley County Planning & Zoning  
P.O. Box 737  
Cascade, Idaho 83611

\*Brenda Heinrich  
Valley County Waterways Committee  
P.O. Box 757  
Cascade, Idaho 83611

Mark Limbaugh, Watermaster  
Water District 65  
102 North Main Street  
Payette, ID 83661-2522

## **7.5 Organizations and Businesses**

\*Ray Costello  
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association  
490 NW Riverdell Lane  
Covallis, Oregon 97330

Sue Fornander  
Boulder Creek Homeowners Group  
8325 Wyndham Lane.  
Boise, Idaho 83704

\*R.D. Cantlon  
Cantlon Properties, Inc.  
1101 West River Street  
Suite 100  
Boise, Idaho 83702

Jim Mayfield, President  
Cascade Chamber of Commerce  
P.O. Box 571  
Cascade, Idaho 83611

Steven Ormiston  
Cascade Reservoir Association  
P.O. Box 594  
Donnelly, Idaho 83615

Wayne VanCour  
Cascade Reservoir Coord. Council  
P.O. Box 569  
Donnelly, Idaho 83615

Dr. Greg & Pam Schaefer  
Crown Point Homeowners Group  
3719 Clifton Way  
Nampa, Idaho 83686

\*Sheri Gestrin  
Donnelly Chamber of Commerce  
Box 156  
Donnelly, Idaho 83615

Jessie Somerton  
Donnelly Chamber of Commerce  
Box 156  
Donnelly, Idaho 83615

George Dillard  
Good Sam Club  
135 Jakona Lane  
Eagle, Idaho 83616



\*Sandra Mitchell  
Hells Canyon Alliance  
P.O. Box 70001  
Boise, Idaho 83707-0101

\*Kathleen Miller, President  
Idaho Aviation Association  
P.O. Box 1558  
McCall, Idaho 83638

\*David Walker  
Idaho Aviation Foundation  
P.O. Box 369  
McCall, Idaho 83638

Sandra Mitchell, Public Lands Director  
Idaho State Snowmobiler Association  
P.O. Box 70001  
Boise, Idaho 83707-0101

Tina Klamt, Commodore  
S. Idaho Sailing Association  
12083 W. Mesquite Drive  
Boise, Idaho 83713

Richard Schoonover, Chair  
Valley County Waterways Committee  
P.O. Box 75  
Donnelly, Idaho 83615

Lorette Williams  
Vista Pt. Homeowners Association  
8966 Brookview Drive  
Boise, Idaho 83709

Phil Morton  
West Mountain Homeowners Group  
P.O. Box 457  
Donnelly, Idaho 83615

\*Don Moore

Western Whitewater Association  
P.O. Box 8922  
Boise, Idaho 83707

## 7.6 Libraries

Boise Public Library  
715 S. Capitol Boulevard  
Boise, Idaho 83702-7115

Caldwell Public Library  
1010 Dearborn Street  
Caldwell, Idaho 83605-4165

Cascade Public Library  
105 Front Street  
Cascade, Idaho 83611

Acquisitions Department  
Idaho State Library  
325 W. State Street  
Boise, Idaho 83702-6055

McCall Public Library  
218 Park Street  
McCall, Idaho 83638

Nampa Public Library  
101 11th Ave S.  
Nampa, Idaho 83651

Parma Library  
P.O. Box 309  
Parma, Idaho 83660-5725

## 7.7 Individuals

Larry Baum  
P.O. Box 857  
McCall, Idaho 83638

\*Clint Kennedy  
P.O. Box 735  
Cascade, Idaho 83611

\*Ken McPhail  
422 Powell Street  
Hollister, CA 95023

\*Glen Loomis  
P.O. Box 458  
Donnelly, ID 83615

## **8.0 Glossary**

## 8.0 GLOSSARY

Accessibility standards	Federal standards for universal accessibility. All Federal and Federally funded buildings and facilities must comply with the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards; however, Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines will be used if it is the more stringent of the two standards.
Acre-foot	Volume of water (43,560 cubic feet) that would cover 1 acre land, 1 foot deep.
Action alternative	A change in the current management approach.
Agricultural Easements	Deed restriction and reserved easement rights on Reclamation-owned land for agricultural purposes.
Affected environment	Existing biological, physical, social, and economic conditions of an area subject to change, both directly and indirectly, as the result of a proposed human action. Also, the chapter in an environmental document describing current environmental conditions.
Algae	Mostly aquatic single celled, colonial, or multicelled plants, containing chlorophyll and lacking stems, roots, and leaves.
Algal bloom	Rapid and flourishing growth of algae.
Alternatives	Courses of action that may meet the objectives of a proposal at varying levels of accomplishment, including the most likely future conditions without the management plan or action.
Amphibian	Vertebrate animal that has a life stage in water and a life stage on land (for example, salamanders, frogs, and toads).
Aquatic	Living or growing in or on the water.
Archeology	Related to the study of human cultures through the recovery and analysis of their material relics.
Archeological site	A discrete location that provides physical evidence of past human use.
Artifact	A human-made object.
Assessment categories	Categories used to compare the effects of the alternatives in this EA.
Best Management Practices	Activities that are added to typical operation, construction, or maintenance efforts that help to protect environmental resources by avoiding or minimizing impacts of an action.

Carrying capacity	The ability of a resource to accommodate a user population at a reasonable threshold without negatively affecting the resource.
Community	A group of one or more interacting populations of plants and animals in a common spatial arrangement at a particular point in time.
Concentration	The density or amount of a substance in a solution (water quality).
Conservation/Open Space	A category of land use. Lands in this category are managed to retain large areas of undeveloped landscapes; contribute to an open, natural, or rural visual character for the reservoir setting; buffer between public recreation areas, habitat areas, and adjacent private development; conserve vegetation, wildlife, soil, and water quality values in general, and restore these values by implementing programs for wetland habitat restoration, erosion control, revegetation of over-used areas, and others.
Cubic foot per second (cfs)	As a rate of streamflow, a cubic foot of water passing a reference section in 1 second of time. A measure of a moving volume of water.
Cultural resource	Cultural resources are prehistoric, historic, and traditional properties that reflect our heritage.
Drawdown	Lowering of a reservoir's water level; process of releasing reservoir storage.
Endangered species	A species or subspecies whose survival is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
Erosion	Refers to soil and the wearing away of the land surface by water, wind, ice, gravity, or other physical processes.
Exotic species	A non-native species that is introduced into an area.
Facilities	Manmade structures.
Fish and Wildlife Service Species of Concern	Species identified by the FWS for which further biological research and field study are needed to resolve these species' conservation status.
Forebay	The water behind a dam. Also, a reservoir or pond situated at the intake of a pumping plant or power plant to stabilize water levels.
Habitat	Area where a plant or animal finds suitable living conditions.
Hydrologic	Pertaining to the quantity, quality, and timing of water.

## **9.0 Bibliography**

## 9.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ada County Community Planning Association. 2000.

Alexander, R.R. 1985. Major Habitat Types, Community Types, and Plant Communities in the Rocky Mountains. USDA Forest Service General Technical Report RM-123, 105 p. Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, Fort Collins, CO.

Banci, V. 1994. Chapter 5: Wolverine. In *The Scientific Basis for Conserving Forest Carnivores: American Marten, Fisher, Lynx, and Wolverine in the Western United States*. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. General Technical Report RM-254.

Beals, J. and W. Melquist 1988. *Idaho Bald Eagle Nesting Report*. Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program. Threatened and Endangered Species Report. Project E-22-1. Section 6, Endangered Species Act. Boise, Idaho.

Bender, Merlynn D. 1997. *Two-Dimensional Water Quality Modeling of Lake Cascade*. U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation. Technical Service Center. Denver, Colorado.

City of McCall. 2000. City of McCall Draft Comprehensive Plan, February 2000.  
<http://www.mccall-idchamber.org/> (05 April 2000).

Connelly, J.W., A. Schroeder, R. Sands, and E. Braun. 2000. *In press*. Guidelines for Management of Sage Grouse Populations and Habitats. Submitted to the *Journal of Wildlife Management*.

EDAW and IDPR. 1999.

Fitzgerald, J.F., 1982. Geology and Basalt Stratigraphy of the Weiser Embayment, West-Central Idaho, in Bill Bonnicksen and R. M. Breckenridge, editors, *Cenozoic Geology of Idaho*: Idaho Bureau of Mines and Geology Bulletin 26, p. 103-128.

Groves, C.R., B. Butterfield, A. Lippincott, B. Csuti, and J.M. Scott. 1997. *Atlas of Idaho's Wildlife: Integrating Gap Analysis and Natural Heritage Information*. Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program. Boise, Idaho.

Hall, E. R. 1981. The mammals of North America. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York: John Wiley and Sons. 1181 p.

Holden, T. pers. comm., U.S. Forest Service. 2000.

Idaho Department of Fish and Game. 1998. Bull Trout Distribution and Status, Boise and Payette River Drainages (Map). Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Boise, Idaho.



\_\_\_\_\_. 1996. Fisheries Management Plan 1996–2001.  
<http://www2.state.id.us/fishgame/fishmng.htm> (9 April 1999).

\_\_\_\_\_. 1990. *Upland Game Management Plan*; 1991–1995. Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Boise, Idaho.

Idaho Department of Water Resources. 1999. Letter from Steve Lester, Water Rights Supervisor, to Bob Snapp, Idaho Department of Lands, in response to the WestRock Proposed Development. July 6, 1999.

Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation. 1986. *Governor's Task Force Opinion Survey*. Boise, Idaho.

\_\_\_\_\_. 1986. *Idaho Leisure Travel and Recreation Survey*. Boise, Idaho.

\_\_\_\_\_. 1989. *State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan*. Boise, Idaho.

\_\_\_\_\_. 1997. *State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Plan*. Boise, Idaho.

Idaho Division of Environmental Quality. 2000. *Draft Implementation Plan for the Cascade Reservoir Watershed Management Plan, Phase II*. Boise Regional Office. Boise, Idaho.

\_\_\_\_\_. 1998a. *Cascade Reservoir Phase II Watershed Management Plan*. Boise Regional Office. Boise, Idaho.

\_\_\_\_\_. 1998b. *Cascade Reservoir Watershed Management Plan, TMDL Phase II, Agricultural Source Plan*. Boise Regional Office. Boise, Idaho.

\_\_\_\_\_. 1997. *Catalog of Storm Water Best Management Practices for Idaho Cities and Counties*. Storm Water Program, Watershed and Aquifer Protection Bureau. Boise, Idaho.

\_\_\_\_\_. 1996. *Cascade Reservoir Phase I Watershed Management Plan: Executive Summary*. Boise Regional Office. Boise, Idaho.

Idaho State Land Board. 1999. *Idaho State Agency Analysis of the WestRock Project*. Idaho State Land Board, Boise, Idaho.

Jones, J.L. 1991. *Habitat Use of Fisher in Northcentral Idaho*. M.S. Thesis. University of Idaho. Moscow, Idaho.

Kelsall, J.P. 1981. Status Report on the Wolverine, *Gulo gulo*, in Canada in 1981. Ottawa, On: Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). 47 p.

Knudson, K. L., Wong, I., Sawyer, T. L., Bott, J., Silva, W., Lettis, W. R., 1996. Seismotectonic Evaluation, Cascade Dam, Boise Project, West-Central Idaho, prepared for U. S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation.

Levine, E., J. Beals, and W. Melquist. 1998. *Idaho Peregrine Falcon Survey and Nest Monitoring: 1998 Annual Summary*. Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program. Threatened and Endangered Species Report. Project E-22-1. Boise, Idaho.

Melquist, W., and M. Hornocker. 1983. Ecology of River Otters in West Central Idaho. *Wildlife Monograph*. Number 83; 60 pp.

Milligan, James H., R. Ashley Lyman, C. Michael Falter, Edwin E. Krumpe, and John E. Carlson. 1983. Classification of Idaho's Freshwater Lakes. Idaho Water and Energy Resources and Research Institute. University of Idaho. Moscow, Idaho.

Mitchell, V.E. and Bennett, E. H. 1979a. Geologic Map of the Baker Quadrangle, Idaho. Idaho Department of Lands Geologic Map Series, scale 1:250,000.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly the U.S. Soil Conservation Service). 1981. *Soil Survey Report*. U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Niemeyer, C. and R. Vizgirdas. Pers. comm. USFWS. 2000.

Nez Perce Tribe. 1995. Ensuring Our Future, Honoring Our Past. Nez Perce Tribe, Idaho.

Pinkham, Josiah. 2000. *Nez Perce Tribe Traditional Cultural Property/Sacred Site Survey for Cascade Reservoir*. Document prepared by Nez Perce Tribe under contract with Bureau of Reclamation.

Powell, R.A., and W.J. Zielinski. 1994. Chapter 3: Fisher. In *The Scientific Basis for Conserving Forest Carnivores: American Marten, Fisher, Lynx, and Wolverine in the Western United States*. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. General Technical Report RM-254.

Roy, K.D. 1991. *Ecology of Reintroduced Fishers in the Cabinet Mountains of Northwest Montana*. M.S. Thesis. University of Montana. Missoula, Montana.

Ruggiero, L.F., and K.S. McKelvey. 1999. *Chapter 1—Toward a Defensible Lynx Conservation Strategy: A Framework for Planning in the Face of Uncertainty*. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. General Technical Report RMRS-GTR-30.

Sather, J. Henry, and R.D. Smith. 1984. *An Overview of Major Wetland Functions and Values*. Western Energy and Land Use Team. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Washington, D.C.

Schmidt, D.C., and Mackin, J.H., 1970. Quaternary Geology of Long and Bear Valleys, West-Central Idaho: U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 1311-A.

Shepard, Craig. 1995. *Lake Cascade Data Summary. 1993 and 1994*. Division of Environmental Quality, Boise Regional Office. Boise, Idaho.

Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. 1994. Treaty Rights Seminar (booklet). Pocatello, Idaho. May 18-20; Publisher, The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Treaty Rights Seminar Planning Committee.

Simpson, J.C. and R.L. Wallace. 1978. *Fishes of Idaho*. The University Press of Idaho. Moscow, ID.

Sno Engineering, Inc., Jones & Stokes Associates, Inc., and Toothman-Orton Engineering Co. 1998. *Conditional Use Permit Application for Planned Unit Development for WestRock Resort*. Prepared for the Valley County Planning and Zoning Department. Cascade, Idaho.

Steed, R. 1998. Gold Fork and Squaw Creek key watersheds bull trout problem assessment. South West Basin Native Fish Watershed Advisory Group. 31 p.

Steele, R. and K. Geier-Hayes. 1989. The Douglas-Fir/Ninebark Habitat Type in Central Idaho: Succession and Management. Gen. Tech. Rep. INT-252. Ogden, UT: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Intermountain Research Station. 65 p.

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. 1998. The Cascade Reservoir 1995 Sedimentation Survey. U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Denver Regional Office. Denver, Colorado.

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. 1999. Boise Project, Payette Division: Reservoir Space Holdings. Snake River Basin Office. Revised May 1999. Boise, Idaho.

\_\_\_\_\_. 1999b. *Cascade Reservoir Created Wetlands Project: Project Description and Monitoring Plan, Phase II*. Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Division of Environmental Quality. U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Northwest Region. Boise, Idaho.

\_\_\_\_\_. 1998. Boise Project, Lake Cascade, Idaho—Area and Capacity Tables. U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Northwest Region. Boise, Idaho.

\_\_\_\_\_. 1997. Operations Manual, Mid-Snake River, Upper Snake River. U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Northwest Region, Boise, Idaho.

\_\_\_\_\_. 1991a. *Cascade Reservoir Resource Management Plan*. U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Northwest Region, Central Snake Projects Office. Boise, Idaho.

\_\_\_\_\_. 1991b. *Finding of No Significant Impact and Final Environmental Assessment: Cascade Reservoir Resource Management Plan*. U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Northwest Region, Central Snake Projects Office. Boise, Idaho.

\_\_\_\_\_. 1991c. *Cascade Reservoir Bald Eagle Management Plan*. U.S. Forest Service, Boise National Forest. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Boise Field Office. U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Northwest Region, Central Snake Projects Office. Boise, Idaho.

U.S. Census Bureau. 2000a. Population Statistics. <http://tier2.census.gov/cgi-win/usac/compare.exe> (25 April 2000).

U.S. Census Bureau. 2000b. 1998 Median Income Estimates. Website address of <http://www.huduser.org/datasets/il/fmr00/SEC82000.DOC>. (31 July 2000.)

U.S. Department of Agriculture-Boise National Forest. 2000 Biological assessment of the effects to threatened and endangered wildlife species from the West Mountain North Project. Middle North Fork Payette River Subwatershed. Cascade Ranger District. Boise, ID. 20 p .

U.S. Department of Agriculture-Payette National Forest. 1998 Biological assessment for the potential effects of managing the Payette National Forest in the North Fork Payette River section 7 watershed on Columbia River bull trout. Volume 1: Ongoing Activities. McCall, ID. 86 p.

\_\_\_\_\_. 2000. Biological assessment for the potential effects of managing the Payette National Forest in the North Fork Payette River section 7 watershed on Columbia River bull trout and biological evaluation for westslope cutthroat trout. Volume 2: Ongoing and New Actions. McCall, ID. 69 p.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). 2000. Public Housing, Section 8 Revised Income Limits for FY 2000. Website address of <http://www.census.gov/hhes/income/income98/in98def.html>. (31 July 2000).

U.S. Forest Service. 1990. *Land and Resource Management Plan for the Boise National Forest*. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. Boise, Idaho.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1990. *Cascade Reservoir Coordination Act Report*. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Boise, Idaho.

Valley County. 1997. Handbook of Valley County Storm Water Best Management Practices. Valley County, Idaho.

Van Daele. 1981. *Reference to be provided for final draft*.

Walker, D., D. Matthews, and P. Jones. 1999. *A Cultural Assessment of the Cascade Reservoir*. A report prepared under contract with the Bureau of Reclamation by the Walker Research Group, Ltd., in behalf of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes. Boulder, Colorado.

Ward, R.M.P. and C.J. Krebs. 1985. Behavioral Responses of Lynx to Declining Snowshoe Hare Abundance. *Canadian Journal of Zoology*. 63:2817-2824.

WestRock, Inc. 2000. *WestRock Resort Wildlife Habitat Conservation Plan*. WestRock, Inc., Boise, Idaho.

Wilson, M.D., Applegate, J. K., Chapman, S. L., Donaldson, P. R., 1976. Geothermal Investigation of the Cascade, Idaho Area. Department of Geology and Geophysics, Boise State University, Idaho.

# **Appendix A**

## **Lake Cascade RMP Goals and Objectives**

***Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan: Environmental Assessment***

Reclamation is required to comply with a number of legal mandates in the preparation and implementation of the RMP. The following is a list of the environmental laws, executive orders, and policies that may have an effect on the RMP or Reclamation actions in the implementation of the plan:

<b>Law, Executive Order, or Policy</b>	<b>Description</b>
Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities – Reclamation Policy (November 18, 1998)	Established a Pacific Northwest regional policy to assure that all administrative offices, facilities, services, and programs open to the public, utilized by Federal employees, and managed by Reclamation, a managing partner, or a concessionaire, are fully accessible for both employees and the public.
American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978	Provides for freedom of Native Americans to believe, express, and exercise their traditional religion, including access to important sites.
Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) of 1979, as amended	Ensures the protection and preservation of archaeological sites on Federal land. ARPA requires that Federal permits be obtained before cultural resource investigations begin on Federal land. It also requires that investigators consult with the appropriate Native American groups before conducting archaeological studies on Native American origin sites.
Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974	Provides for the preservation of historical buildings, sites, and objects of national significance.
Clean Water Act (CWA) of 1974, as amended*	Provides for protection of water quality.
Clean Air Act (CAA) of 1970	Provides for protection of air quality.
Department of Defense (DoD) American Indian and Alaska Native Policy, October 20, 1998	The policy supports Tribal self-governance and government-to-government relations between the Federal government. It specifies that DoD will meet its trust responsibilities to Tribes and will address Tribal concerns related to protected Tribal resources, Tribal rights, and Indian lands.
Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended	Provides for protection of plants, fish, and wildlife that have a designation as threatened or endangered.
Executive Order 12875, Enhancing the Intergovernmental Partnership, October 26, 1983	Establishes “regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with state, local, and Tribal governments on Federal matters that significantly or uniquely affect their communities.”

Law, Executive Order, or Policy	Description
Executive Order 12898, February 11, 1994, Environmental Justice	Requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of its programs and policies on minority and lower income populations.
Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands	Directs all Federal agencies to avoid, if possible, adverse impacts to wetlands and to preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values of wetlands.
Executive Order 13007, Indian Sacred Sites, May 24, 1996	Provides for access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian sacred sites on Federal lands used by Indian religious practitioners.
Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Government, November 6, 2000 (revokes EO 13084)	<p>The EO builds on previous administrative actions and is intended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with tribal officials in the development of Federal policies that have tribal implications.</li> <li>• Strengthen government-to-government relations with Indian tribes; and</li> <li>• Reduce the imposition of unfunded mandates upon Indian tribes.</li> </ul>
Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) of 1958	Requires consultation and coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Indian Trust Assesses Policy (July 1993)	Requires that Reclamation provide protection and continuation of Tribal hunting, fishing, and gathering Treaty Rights.
Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, as amended	Provides protection for bird species that migrate across state lines.
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969	Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA specify that as part of the NEPA scoping process, the lead agency "... shall invite the participation of affected Federal, State, and local agencies, any affected Indian tribe, ... (1501.7[a]1."
National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended	Section 106 of the NHPA requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of any actions or programs on historic properties. It also requires agencies to consult with Native American Tribes if a proposed Federal action may affect properties to which they attach religious and cultural significance.



Law, Executive Order, or Policy	Description
Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of 1990	Regulations for the treatment of Native American graves, human remains, funeral objects, sacred objects, and other objects of cultural patrimony. Requires consultation with Native American Tribes during Federal project planning.
Presidential Memorandum: Government-to-Government Relations with Native American Tribal Governments, April 29, 1994	Specifies a commitment to developing more effective day-to-day working relationships with sovereign Tribal governments. Each executive department and agency shall consult to the greatest extent practicable and to the extent permitted by law, with Tribal governments prior to taking actions affecting Federally recognized Tribal governments.
Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title V, Section 504	Provides for access to Federal or Federally assisted facilities for the disabled. The Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS) or the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG), whichever is the more stringent, are followed as compliance with Section 504.
Title 28, Public Law 89-72, as amended	Provides Reclamation with the authority to cost-share on recreation projects and fish and wildlife enhancement facilities with managing partners on Reclamation lands.

\*A permit may need to be required for construction related activities.

## Goals & Objectives

### Introduction

A set of draft RMP Goals and Objectives were prepared as part of the RMP alternatives development and analysis process and included as Appendix A in the Draft EA. The draft Goals and Objectives were derived from: (1) the public involvement process (especially Ad Hoc Work Group discussions); (2) ongoing coordination with Reclamation decision-makers regarding the scope of the RMP and Reclamation's mission/authority related to RMP preparation and implementation; (3) preliminary findings of the RMP resource inventory; and (4) input from specialists on the RMP Planning Team.

These final Goals and Objectives were further refined as a result of public, agency, and Tribal comments on the Draft EA and are included in the RMP. They reflect the full range of issues and opportunities that are addressed in the RMP (as presented and discussed in the separate Problem Statement document included in the RMP).

## **Natural Resources (NAT)**

### **Wildlife and Vegetation Management**

***GOAL NAT 1: Protect, conserve, and enhance wildlife habitat and natural resources on Reclamation lands.***

**Objective NAT 1.1:** Avoid or minimize impacts of RMP actions on Federal and State designated species of special concern, including Federally listed rare, endangered, or threatened species.

**Objective NAT 1.2:** Minimize long-term impact to wildlife and vegetation values in all actions considered to accommodate public demand at recreation sites or on the surface and shoreline of Lake Cascade; and utilize management practices that protect and enhance resource values of and for native species (plants and animals) in all decisions related to habitat management and land use.

**Objective NAT 1.3:** Manage all WMA-designated lands and adjacent shoreline areas to protect habitat for migratory birds and sensitive, threatened, or endangered wildlife.

**Objective NAT 1.4:** Manage all C/OS-designated lands as land use buffer zones to avoid conflict with or damage to WMAs and other sensitive habitat areas such as wetlands and riparian areas arising from nearby developed land uses/areas (i.e., recreation and residential areas).

**Objective NAT 1.5:** Protect, enhance, and/or restore all wetland and riparian habitats at and adjacent to Lake Cascade in accordance with existing Federal regulations and, as applicable, consistent with HIPs prepared and updated as part of this RMP.

**Objective NAT 1.6:** Work with partner agencies (IDEQ, Valley County, and the Upper Payette River Cooperative Weed Management Area [UPR CWMA]) to study and effectively control aquatic and terrestrial noxious and invasive weed problems on Reclamation lands and waters; emphasize integrated pest management practices and techniques in all associated actions.

### **Fishery Resources**

***GOAL NAT 2: Protect and enhance the quality of the fishery at Lake Cascade.***

**Objective NAT 2.1:** Improve and maintain the water quality of Lake Cascade as this is critical to fishery protection and improvement.

**Objective NAT 2.2:** As much as feasible given legal and contractual operations requirements, maintain water storage levels of 300,000 acre-feet or greater.

**Objective NAT 2.3:** Recommend reservoir releases on a schedule that is most beneficial to fishery resource protection (within the constraints of legal and contractual operations requirements).

**Objective NAT 2.4:** Continue to cooperate with IDFG and Idaho Power in ongoing studies of fishery conditions and improvement needs, particularly those related to restoring the perch fishery.

**Water Quality**

***GOAL NAT 3: Protect and improve water quality in Lake Cascade and its tributaries.***

**Objective NAT 3.1:** Continue to actively participate with the local Watershed Advisory Group (WAG—also known as the Cascade Reservoir Coordinating Council [CRCC]), its Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and IDEQ in implementing IDEQ’s water quality improvement plan.

**Objective NAT 3.2:** Provide adequate sanitation and waste management facilities at all recreation sites (e.g., restrooms, trash containers, RV and boat dump stations, fish cleaning stations, as appropriate) to protect water quality.

**Objective NAT 3.3:** Continue efforts to acquire easements from agricultural easement (AE) holders or to reach agreement with AE holders to fence cattle away from the shoreline.

**Objective NAT 3.4:** Protect, enhance, restore, and develop wetland and riparian habitats as a key means of improving the quality of water entering the reservoir.

**Objective NAT 3.5:** Continue to prohibit motorized vehicular use on the shoreline (outside of designated recreation sites or access ways) and within the drawdown area of the reservoir.

**Objective NAT 3.6:** Manage the use of chemical fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides on Reclamation lands in a manner that does not adversely affect water quality.

**Objective NAT 3.7:** Minimize the potential for pollutants to enter Lake Cascade and its tributaries from construction-related activities on Reclamation lands.

### **Erosion and Sedimentation**

***GOAL NAT 4: Monitor soil erosion in priority areas where erosion causes concern for water quality, safety, and damage to capital improvements.***

**Objective NAT 4.1:** Limit recreational and other uses in shoreline areas where such uses can significantly increase erosion.

**Objective NAT 4.2:** Protect and/or restore shoreline vegetation and tributary riparian vegetation to control erosion.

**Objective 4.3:** Require that all leaseholders of Reclamation recreation sites utilize appropriate engineered erosion control measures and safety barriers where necessary to control erosion, enhance safety, and protect facility investments.

**Objective NAT 4.4:** Retain Reclamation ownership in areas along the reservoir and take specific action where erosion is occurring.

**Objective NAT 4.5:** Implement an effective erosion control program in all construction, operations, and maintenance programs on Reclamation lands (including the actions of special use permittees).

**Objective NAT 4.6:** In Rural Residential areas, provide assistance and coordination to private landowners in their efforts to design and implement effective erosion control barriers (e.g., retaining walls).

**Objective NAT 4.7:** Require compliance with the standards established through Objective NAT 4.6 in all new permits or permit renewals.

**Objective NAT 4.8:** Improve monitoring and enforcement of standards compliance on all privately constructed erosion control projects. Require appropriate remedial measures (such as reconstruction or replacement) where new projects are not in compliance with established standards or where prior projects are not functioning effectively.

### **Scenic Quality**

***GOAL NAT 5: Protect the scenic quality and open space values on Reclamation lands at Lake Cascade.***

**Objective NAT 5.1:** Ensure that siting and design of all new facilities on Reclamation lands maximize compatibility and integration with the open, rural environment of the reservoir and surrounding area.

**Objective NAT 5.2:** Remove existing and avoid future waste dumps and/or slash piles on Reclamation lands.

**Objective NAT 5.3:** Develop and require compliance with design guidelines for erosion control structures and any other permitted improvements on Reclamation shore lands.

**Objective NAT 5.4:** Update the reclamation plan developed for the quarry site at Crown Point, consistent with interim use and future Reclamation needs for further resource extraction.

### **Cultural Resources, Sacred Sites, and Indian Trust Assets (CUL)**

***Goal CUL 1.1: Protect and conserve cultural resources, including prehistoric, historic, traditional, and sacred properties.***

**Objective CUL 1.1:** Ensure protection of sensitive cultural resources for all Reclamation undertakings in accordance with all applicable Federal and state laws.

**Objective CUL 1.2:** In accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act and other applicable cultural resource and legal mandates, accomplish proactive management of cultural resources, including inventory, identification, evaluation, and protection.

**Objective CUL 1.3:** Increase awareness of cultural resources compliance and protection needs among state and other resource management partners and lease holders who interact with Reclamation in the RMP study area.

**Objective CUL 1.4:** Provide opportunities for public education on cultural resources, including the importance of, and requirements for, protecting these resources within the parameters of various laws and regulations.

***Goal CUL 2: Protect and conserve Indian Trust Assets as specified in applicable Federal mandates.***

**Objective CUL 2.1:** Within the scope of Reclamation authorities, ensure that the RMP is consistent with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes adopted Snake River Basin Policy through conservation, protection, and/or enhancement of natural resources.

**Objective CUL 2.2:** Avoid any action which would violate or adversely impact Tribal Indian Trust Assets.

The RMP and EA will be distributed to representatives from the Shoshone-Paiute, Nez Perce, and Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. Tribal representatives who received the Draft EA and will receive the Final EA and RMP are listed in Chapter 7, *Distribution List*.

## **Recreation (REC)**

***GOAL REC 1: Provide adequate shoreline support facilities to meet demand for water-oriented recreation uses (within the limits of reservoir carrying capacity).***

**Objective REC 1.1:** Within the limit of reservoir carrying capacity, continue to meet need for boat launch ramps around the reservoir shoreline.

**Objective REC 1.2:** In coordination with non-Federal managing partners and local interests, participate in developing a public use marina at the Van Wyck Park recreation area to serve as the primary marina at Lake Cascade.

**Objective REC 1.3:** Within the limits represented by reservoir carrying capacity, plan for other marinas and/or boat services (such as public moorage and fueling services) at key locations around the reservoir as demand warrants.

**Objective REC 1.4:** If feasible given cost, operational, and environmental constraints, construct breakwaters to shelter key ramp and moorage locations and any future marina site(s); priority locations include the Van Wyck Park marina/ramps, Sugarloaf recreation site, Boulder Creek recreation site, and West Mountain Campground marina/ramps, in that order.

**Objective REC 1.5:** Ensure compliance with the current nation-wide Reclamation policy that prohibits exclusive use facilities at Reclamation lands/reservoirs.

**Objective REC 1.6:** Ensure that all permitted individual and community docks remain available for use by the general public under emergency conditions (e.g., during storms or due to medical emergency or equipment failure).

**Objective REC 1.7:** Continue to permit mooring buoys to private landowners adjacent to RR lands through the established permit system, which allows one mooring buoy per littoral lot placed at a safe distance from any adjacent buoys.

**Objective REC 1.8:** Allow for the development of shoreline fishing facilities at appropriate locations around the reservoir, both at developed recreations sites and in C/OS or WMA areas. Facilities that may be provided include developed access (including access for the disabled as per UFAS standards), parking and staging areas, fishing piers, fish cleaning stations, and other day use facilities. In C/OS and

WMA areas, the level of development and type(s) of access provided will take into consideration all applicable objectives for protecting open space and natural resource values (e.g., seasonal closures and no motorized access in WMAs).

**Objective REC 1.9:** Allow for the continued use and future development of “at your own risk” swimming areas at appropriate locations around the reservoir.

***GOAL REC 2: Meet demand for land-based recreation uses within the constraints of Reclamation's limited land area and consistent with natural and cultural resource protection objectives.***

**Objective REC 2.1:** In all recreation facility development, focus first on expansion and capacity optimization at existing sites before planning and developing new sites.

**Objective REC 2.2:** Coordinate with managing partner to ensure that adequate, UFAS-accessible parking and restroom facilities are provided at all Reclamation/IDPR recreation sites (also see Objective LAI 4.2).

**Objective REC 2.3:** Coordinate with managing partner to provide additional RV campground capacity to meet increasing demand, both by expanding existing sites and developing new sites.

**Objective REC 2.4:** Coordinate with managing partner to provide RV dump stations at key locations around the reservoir (e.g., near available sewer, major campgrounds, ramps, and/or marinas).

**Objective REC 2.5:** Coordinate with managing partner to provide opportunities for tent-only camping both in areas of developed recreation sites that are separate from highly developed RV camping areas, and at designated tent-only sites (i.e., without RV accommodations).

**Objective REC 2.6:** Coordinate with managing partner to provide group camping opportunities on the east and west sides of the reservoir (at least one dedicated site on each side).



**Objective REC 2.7:** Coordinate with managing partner to provide additional day use sites and facilities to meet increasing demand and buffer day use activity areas from overnight campgrounds.

**Objective REC 2.8:** Coordinate with managing partner to reduce and eliminate the environmental degradation that accompanies unauthorized, ad hoc recreation activities (e.g., including uncontrolled vehicle use on the shoreline/drawdown area and unauthorized camping).

**Objective REC 2.9:** Coordinate with managing partner to provide improved accommodations for winter-season recreation activities, including snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, ice fishing, and camping.

**Objective REC 2.10:** Coordinate with managing partners, other agencies, and landowners to develop UFAS-accessible, non-motorized trails at appropriate locations around Lake Cascade.

**Objective REC 2.11:** Provide opportunities for wildlife observation and other natural resource based interpretation and education at appropriate locations.

**Objective REC 2.12:** Provide opportunities for cultural/historic resource interpretation and education at appropriate locations.

**Objective REC 2.13:** Continue Reclamation policy of prohibiting ORV use on Reclamation lands and actively enforce this prohibition.

**Objective REC 2.14:** Allow unrestricted snowmobile use on Reclamation lands, except within Recreation areas where snowmobiles shall be restricted to established roads and trails.

**Objective REC 2.15:** Consider re-opening the Former State Airstrip for recreational fly-in uses, subject to conditions and results of bald eagle monitoring studies.

**GOAL REC 3: *Minimize conflicts and promote safety for users of reservoir waters.***

**Objective REC 3.1:** Ensure that provision, permitting, and/or expansion of shoreline facilities (such as boat ramps, docks, and moorage) do not result in providing levels of water access that exceed the reservoir's carrying capacity (either in local areas or reservoir-wide).

**Objective REC 3.2:** Ensure that the existing, State-mandated 100-foot no-wake zone (i.e., adjacent to shoreline structures and between power boats and swimmers, non-motorized boaters, or other boats) is actively enforced, especially in areas of high watercraft density (such as the Boulder Creek arm or near public recreation sites).

**Objective REC 3.3:** Where necessary to promote user safety, resolve user conflicts, reduce erosion or noise impacts, or protect sensitive environmental resources, work with Valley County to establish and enforce other no-wake or non-motorized boating zones in specific areas of the reservoir.

**Objective REC 3.4:** Provide information to reservoir users regarding boating safety and operating rules and regulations.

***GOAL REC 4: Promote cooperative planning and implementation for recreation among Reclamation/IDPR, other involved jurisdictions, and the public.***

**Objective REC 4.1:** Coordinate plans for major recreation development with managing partners, involved agencies, and private entities.

**Objective REC 4.2:** In cooperation with IDPR and other involved jurisdictions, promote local economic development.

**Objective REC 4.3:** Actively seek agency partnerships or agreements to assist with recreation project implementation.

## **Operations, Maintenance, and Enforcement (OME)**

***GOAL OME 1: Operate Lake Cascade to optimize recreation, fish, wildlife, and scenic values while meeting contractual irrigation commitments.***

**Objective OME 1.1:** Maintain pool levels as high as possible (above 300,000 acre-feet) as long as possible into the peak recreation season, consistent with other operations requirements.

**Objective OME 1.2:** Continue to work with the Payette River Watershed Council to determine annual releases that benefit river recreation, fisheries, and irrigators.

***GOAL OME 2: Protect resources necessary for continued operation, maintenance, and safety of the dam and reservoir.***

**Objective OME 2.1:** Retain Crown Point quarry as a rock source for Reclamation purposes, with allowance for specific Valley County uses. Reclamation purposes may include but are not limited to: dam maintenance and/or restoration, recreation site development, and erosion control.

**Objective OME 2.2:** Continue to allow vehicular traffic over the dam contingent upon dam security and safety related concerns.

## **Land Use, Access, and Implementation (LAI)**

***GOAL LAI 1: Balance the need for expansion of recreation opportunities (or other development) with preservation of open space and scenic values.***

**Objective LAI 1.1:** Employ the definitions provided for all land use designations when considering new or modified uses or facilities at Lake Cascade.

**Objective LAI 1.2:** Develop new or improve existing facilities within the constraints of the applicable land base.

**Objective LAI 1.3:** Preserve open space and wildlife habitat components to maintain an open, low key character and to counterbalance the effects of residential and other development.

***GOAL LAI 2: Minimize conflicts and incompatibilities among land uses.***

**Objective 2.1:** Provide adequate buffer zones between public use areas and adjacent private development.

**Objective LAI 2.2:** Provide adequate buffer zones between WMAs or other important wildlife habitat and public use areas.

***GOAL LAI 3: Resolve existing and prevent future encroachments and trespass by private parties on Reclamation lands and water.***

**Objective LAI 3.1:** In accordance with current Reclamation permitting procedures, allow private erosion control and/or water quality protection developments (e.g., retaining walls, landscaping with native plants) to occur on Reclamation lands in Rural Residential areas.

**Objective LAI 3.2:** Continue to prohibit private encroachments on Reclamation lands that do not provide a demonstrated public purpose.

**Objective LAI 3.3:** Continue to prohibit un-permitted (trespass) grazing or other agricultural uses on Reclamation lands; ensure adequate enforcement of this prohibition.

***GOAL LAI 4: Provide adequate and safe access to all designated Reclamation recreation/public use areas.***

**Objective LAI 4.1:** Cooperate with the State, County, and the cities of Cascade and Donnelly in their efforts to achieve needed improvements and/or maintenance of regional and local access roads.

**Objective LAI 4.2:** Provide for adequate vehicular access to and parking at all designated recreation areas on Reclamation lands; this includes appropriate motor vehicle parking and staging areas adjacent to or near sites designated for non-motorized uses. Such access and parking should be sized in a manner reflecting the carrying capacity of the area being served.

**Objective LAI 4.3:** Ensure that adequate control measures are installed to prevent unauthorized access to sensitive areas (e.g., WMAs, C/OS, or restoration areas).

**Objective LAI 4.4:** Expand winter access to recreation areas around the reservoir in accordance with plans for winter activities.

**Objective LAI 4.5:** Ensure that all facilities, programs and signage, as well as access to these, are accessible to persons with disabilities.

**Objective LAI 4.6:** Allow floatplane access (i.e., takeoff and landing) in the main body of the reservoir only, with taxiing allowed in other areas of the reservoir that are open to motorized use.

**Objective LAI 4.7:** In providing for vehicular access, use route/alignment planning as a primary means to minimize opportunities for public trespass onto private property or environmental damage from informal/unauthorized access.

***GOAL LAI 5: Develop and implement needed regulations and/or guidelines to promote public health, safety, and welfare and to avoid conflicts in all land and water uses.***

**Objective LAI 5.1:** To the extent possible, make all regulations and guidelines related to use of Reclamation lands consistent with those of other adjacent or involved jurisdictions (including IDPR, IDEQ, Valley County, USFS, cities of Cascade and Donnelly, and IDFG).

**Objective LAI 5.2:** Provide for fire protection and suppression at Lake Cascade.

**Objective LAI 5.3:** Maintain adequate law enforcement and patrol on Reclamation lands at Lake Cascade.

***GOAL LAI 6: Provide enhanced public information regarding opportunities and management at Lake Cascade.***

**Objective 6.1:** Using Reclamation's and IDPR's sign manuals as appropriate, develop clear, consistent signage to guide public access to and use of Reclamation lands and facilities.

**Objective 6.2:** Provide informative and concise public information materials on a continuing basis (including adequate funding for reproduction of these materials) at: recreation sites, interpretive sites,

visitors center(s); and through local merchants, chambers of commerce, government offices, and other means (such as the world wide web).

**Objective LAI 6.3:** Explore and implement cooperative efforts with other agencies, private enterprise, local schools, and other local entities in achieving enhanced public outreach.

***GOAL LAI 7: Achieve timely implementation of RMP update programs and projects.***

**Objective LAI 7.1:** Establish and maintain a clear phasing schedule and list of priorities for RMP implementation and update on an annual basis.

***GOAL LAI 8: Continue public and agency involvement through RMP update implementation.***

**Objective LAI 8.1:** Keep the public informed regarding the status of implementing the RMP.

**Appendix B**  
**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**  
**Coordination and Consultation**

## **APPENDIX B. U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION**

The following items are included in this appendix:

1. Letter from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) on threatened and endangered species consultation
2. Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report
3. Reclamation responses to FWS recommendations in the Coordination Act report
4. Amendments to Biological Assessment for Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan from Reclamation to FWS
5. Letter from FWS on fish and wildlife consultation concurrence



## **Reclamation Responses to FWS Recommendations in the Coordination Act report**

1. Reclamation will use all existing and future new information at its disposal to evaluate ongoing and future actions and land management so that changes can be made to sustain and foster rare, sensitive, and protected species and their habitat. Furthermore, Reclamation will work closely with FWS on all such matters.
2. Reclamation is instituting a monitoring study of several bald eagle nests around the reservoir. Existing nest site management plans will be updated and new plans developed for nests without a current plan beginning in spring 2001. These management plans will be used to evaluate potential impacts of all future actions so that potential impacts can be avoided.
3. As noted in item 1 and 2, Reclamation will use all existing and future new information and the nest site management plans to evaluate potential impacts of all future actions and to change management practices within its control so that potential impacts can be avoided.
4. Reclamation agrees.
5. Reclamation will cooperate with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and others as indicated. It should be noted that the snowmobile parking at the Poison Creek recreation area, parking areas north of Huckleberry on USFS land, and possibly expanding plowing additional right-of-way along the county road would not increase parking capacity, but rather move parked vehicles off of the road right-of-way.
6. Reclamation agrees and has stated this position in Section 3.6-2 of the Environmental Assessment (EA).
7. Opportunities to construct additional nest platforms will be evaluated through the Wildlife Management Area (WMA) habitat improvement plans and implemented where feasible and warranted.
8. Reclamation has no current plans to monitor upland sandpiper use of the dewatered zone along the western shoreline of the reservoir. However, Reclamation will phase out vehicle access into the drawdown zone over a period of a few years. This action would reduce potential human disturbance of foraging sandpipers.
9. The no-wake zone specified in the Resource Management Plan (RMP) in the Boulder Creek arm extends along both sides of the entire arm.
10. Reclamation is working with Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) to assess the problem of yellow perch survival and to reduce northern pikeminnow populations through a trapping program. Reclamation will work with IDFG and FWS to address specific water quality problems if they arise.

11. Reclamation will retain suitable snags and mark them with signs describing their wildlife value on lands it manages. Reclamation does not allow fire wood cutting.
12. Reclamation will undertake surveys of potentially suitable slender moonwort habitat before undertaking any ground disturbing activities, similar to the process described for searching for Ute ladies'-tresses.
13. Reclamation is receiving the regular updates of the federal list of threatened and endangered wildlife and plants from FWS. Reclamation will review this list to assess the need to modify management strategies as appropriate to avoid impacts to listed species or their habitat.

## **Appendix C**

### **Tribal Consultation and Coordination**

## **Letters and Meetings with Tribes**

### **1998**

- September 22, 1998 Letter to Chairman of Shoshone-Paiute Tribal Council, requesting a meeting to discuss the Cascade Resource Management Plan and asking if the Tribe is interested in conducting an Inventory of Traditional Cultural Properties (TCP's)
- September 22, 1998 Letter to Chairman, Nez Perce Executive Committee requesting meeting to discuss the Cascade Resource Management Plan, and asking if the Tribe is interested in completing a Traditional Cultural Properties Inventory for the Cascade Resource Management Plan study area
- November 11, 1998 Meeting with the Nez Perce Tribal Staff to discuss the Cascade Resource Management Plan, and an agreement with the Tribe to prepare a Traditional Cultural Properties Inventory.
- December 4, 1998 Meeting with the Tribal Council of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes to discuss several projects including Resource Management Plans
- December 17, 1998 Meeting with Tribal Staff of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes to discuss interest in completing a Traditional Cultural Property Inventory for Ririe and Cascade Resource Management Plans
- December 28, 1998 Letter to the Chairman of the Fort Hall Business Council, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes requesting January 7, 1998, meeting to discuss several important initiatives

### **1999**

- January 7, 1999 Meeting at Fort Hall with the Chairman and Council Members of the Fort Hall Business Council, and Staff of Shoshone-Bannock Tribes to discuss issues in the Ririe Resource Management Plan, and issues applicable to the Cascade Resource Management Plan, where appropriate.
- February 17, 1999 Meeting with the Tribal Staff of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes to discuss potential Tribal issues in the Ririe RMP study area and issues which would also apply to the Cascade Resource Management Plan where appropriate

March 9, 1999	Letter to Chairman of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes summarizing the December 4, 1998, meeting where several important projects were discussed including Ririe and Cascade Resource Management Plans
April 30, 1999	Letter to the Chairman of the Fort Hall Business Council of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes summarizing the January 7, 1999, meeting where several important projects were discussed including Ririe and Cascade Resource Management Plans
June 11, 1999	June 11, 1999 meeting with Tribal staff of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes to discuss potential tribal issues in the Ririe Resource Management Plan study area, and issues that also may apply to the Cascade Resource Management Plan.
September 8, 1999	Letter to Chairman of the Fort Hall Business Council of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes requesting a meeting to discuss several important projects
September 9, 1999	Letter to the Chairman of the Tribal Council of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, requesting a September meeting to discuss several important projects
September 9, 1999	Letter to the Chairperson of the Burns Paiute Tribal Executive Committee requesting a meeting to discuss several Reclamation projects including Cascade and Ririe Resource Management Plans
September 20, 1999	Letter to Chairman, Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee requesting a meeting to discuss several Reclamation Projects including Cascade and Ririe Resource Management Plans
September 24, 1999	Letter to Chairman of the Fort Hall Business Council of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes concerning a tentative meeting date set for October 15, 1999, and agenda
September 25, 1999	Final Traditional Cultural Property Inventory from Shoshone-Paiute Tribes
October 15, 1999	Meeting with the Fort Hall Business Council and Staff of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes to discuss several important projects including Resource Management Plans
November 30, 1999	Meeting with the Executive Committee of the Nez Perce Tribal Council Members and Staff to discuss several important issues

## **2000**

February 29, 2000	Meeting with Commission Members, Director of the Department of Fisheries and staff of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes concerning the Cascade and Ririe Resource Management Plans
March 17, 2000	Meeting with the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes to discuss tribal issues and Reclamation projects including Cascade and Ririe Resource Management Plans
April 21, 2000	Final Traditional Cultural Property Inventory from Nez Perce Tribe
July 17, 2000	Meeting with the Tribal Council of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes to discuss Tribal issues. The status of Cascade and Ririe Resource Management Plans was reported.
October 6, 2000	Government to Government meeting with Shoshone-Bannock Business Council and staff to discuss several important issues including the Ririe and Cascade RMPs.
December 13, 2000	Letter to the Chairman of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribal Council transmitting the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Cascade RMP, requesting comments and a meeting to discuss the document.
December 13, 2000	Letter to the Chairman of the Shoshone-Bannock Business Council transmitting the draft EA for the Cascade RMP, requesting comments and a meeting to discuss the document.
December 13, 2000	Letter to the Chairman of the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee transmitting the draft EA for the Cascade RMP and requesting comments.
December 13, 2000	Letter to the Chairman of the Burns-Paiute General Council transmitting the draft EA for the Cascade RMP and requesting comments.

## **2001**

February 7, 2001	Meeting with the Tribal Council of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes and staff to discuss the Cascade and Ririe draft EAs and other Reclamation projects and proposals.
February 15, 2001	Meeting with the staff of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes concerning the draft EA of the Cascade and Ririe RMPs.

February 21, 2001      Letter received from Habitat, Parks, Fish and Game Department of the  
Shoshone-Paiute Tribes commenting on the Draft EA of the Cascade RMP.

## Appendix D

### Summary of Public Comments



## D.1 Public Comments and Responses

Letters of comment received as a result of the review of the Draft EA and Reclamation's response to specific comments are included in this appendix. All of the letters received are listed below. Letters that required a response follow, along with the responses. Letters that did not require a response are not attached.

Comments Requiring a Response	Page
<b>Tribes (T)</b>	
T1—Carol C. Perugini, Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, Owyhee, Nevada.....	D-9
<b>Federal Agencies (F)</b>	
<i>No Federal agencies provided comment on the Cascade EA</i>	
<b>State and Local Agencies (A)</b>	
A1—Susan Pengilly Neitzel, Idaho State Historical Society, Boise, Idaho .....	D-16
A2—Leland G. Heinrich, Valley County Commissioners, Cascade, Idaho .....	D-17
A3—Brenda Heinrich, Valley County Waterways, Cascade, Idaho.....	D-19
A4—Jill Layton, City Of Donnelly, Donnelly, Idaho.....	D-20
A5—Tom Kerr, Valley County Commissioner, Cascade, Idaho.....	D-21
A6—Leland G. Heinrich, Valley County Commissioners, Cascade, Idaho (second letter).....	D-22
A7—Cynda Herrick, Cascade City Council, Cascade, Idaho .....	D-23
<b>Organizations and Businesses (O)</b>	
O1—Sheri Gestrin, Donnelly Area Chamber of Commerce, Donnelly, Idaho.....	D-24
O2—Don Moore, Western Whitewater Association, Boise, Idaho .....	D-25
O3—Sandra F. Mitchell, Hells Canyon Alliance, Boise, Idaho .....	D-26
O4—R.D. Cantlon, Cantlon Properties, Inc., Boise, Idaho.....	D-28
O5—Kathleen Miller, Idaho Aviation Association, McCall, Idaho .....	D-29
O6—Ray Costello, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, Corvallis, Oregon.....	D-32
O7—David M. Walker, Idaho Aviation Foundation, McCall, Idaho .....	D-35
O8—David M. Walker, Idaho Aviation Foundation, McCall, Idaho (second letter) .....	D-36
<b>Individuals (I)</b>	
<i>Boulder Creek Comments</i>	
I1—Don Lojek, Boise, Idaho .....	D-39
I2—Roark Nagler, Boise and Donnelly, Idaho .....	D-41
I3—Meg Lojek, Cedar City, Utah.....	D-42
I4—Charles M. Couper, Boise, Idaho.....	D-43
<i>Access to Shoreline</i>	
I5—Anthony F. Schinner, Koosika, Idaho.....	D-44
I6—Matt F. and Rosalie Rice, Cascade, Idaho .....	D-45

*Crown Point Road*

I7—Roy Doan, Star, Idaho.....	D-46
I8—Josh Davis, Cascade, Idaho .....	D-47
I9—Krista Waldron, Cascade Idaho .....	D-48

*Proposed Marina*

I10—Stan James, Boise, Idaho .....	D-49
------------------------------------	------

*Trail Access*

I11—Sarah Hasbrouck, Cascade, Idaho.....	D-50
--	------

*Boat Camping*

I12—Don Moore, Boise, Idaho.....	D-51
----------------------------------	------

*Float Planes*

I13—Kurt Becker, New Meadows, Idaho.....	D-52
--	------

*Grazing*

I14—Kimberly Engelbreit, Donnelly, Idaho.....	D-55
---	------

*Boat Dock Near Christian Church Camp*

I15—Ray W. Squires, Boise, Idaho .....	D-57
--	------

*Classification of Old Gibbens Property/Camarie Cove Subdivision*

I16—M. Carmen Lete, Nampa, Idaho.....	D-59
I17—Glenn Loomis, Cascade, Idaho .....	D-60
I18—Dorothy Gestrin Rising, Cascade, Idaho.....	D-61
I19—Bradford L. Huebner, Toledo, Ohio.....	D-62

*Various Comments and Multi-Issue Letters*

I20—Rob Cimbalik, Cascade, Idaho.....	D-64
I21—Matt Hewlett, Cascade, Idaho.....	D-65
I22—Mark Brilz, Boise and Cascade, Idaho.....	D-66
I23—Ken McPhail, Hollister, California .....	D-68
I24—Cynda Herrick, Cascade, Idaho .....	D-84
I25—Charles D. Clarke, Donnelly, Idaho.....	D-86
I26—Odos Lowery, Boise, Idaho .....	D-89
I27—Steve Herrick, Boise, Idaho .....	D-90
I28—JoAnn J. and Charles O. Hower, Cascade, Idaho .....	D-91
I29—Jared Scott, Cascade, Idaho .....	D-92
I30—Ben Wellington, Cascade, Idaho.....	D-93
I31—Jonne Hower Lowery, Boise, Idaho.....	D-94
I32—David Barton, Donnelly, Idaho.....	D-96
I33—Jerry Robinson, McCall, Idaho .....	D-97

*Oppose Re-Opening Airstrip*

I34—Kathleen Terry, Boise, Idaho .....	D-98
I35—Kirk C. Odencrantz, Eagle, Idaho .....	D-99
I36—Name and Address Withheld .....	D-100
I37—Beverly Pressman, Address Withheld .....	D-103
I38—Ronn Julian, Cascade, Idaho .....	D-104
I39—William Miller, Cascade, Idaho .....	D-105

*Endorse Re-Opening Airstrip*

I40—Michael Anderson, McCall, Idaho .....	D-107
I41—Richard Thompson, Council, Idaho .....	D-109
I42—Bart Welsh, Boise, Idaho .....	D-111
I43—Olivia W. Welsh, Boise, Idaho .....	D-116

**Comments that Did Not Require a Response****Organizations**

*Endorse Re-Opening Airstrip: Please see responses to comment letters O5 to O8 and I40 to I44.*

- Mark Pilkington, Stancil Aviation Enterprises, Placerville, California
- Gail West, Ponderosa Aero Club, Boise, Idaho
- Daniel Lilja, Montana Pilot's Association, Plains, Montana
- Beverly Anderson, Idaho Aviation Association, McCall, Idaho
- Tom Jensen, Washington Pilots Association, Auburn, Washington
- Richard T. Taylor, Ramshorn Aviation, Ketchum, Idaho

**Individuals**

*Boulder Creek Comments: The following commentors support creating a no-wake zone at Boulder Creek Arm. Please refer to letters I1 through I4 for responses to these comments.*

- Mandy Ary, Boise, Idaho
- Amanda Askey (Address Withheld)
- Jennifer Cafferty, Boise, Idaho
- Richard Johnson, Kuna, Idaho
- Peter Lavin, Lincoln, Nebraska
- Jeremy Lavin, Lincoln, Nebraska
- Stephen Lavin, Lincoln, Nebraska
- Ruth Schmidle Lavin, Lincoln, Nebraska
- Ted McManus, Cedar City, Utah
- Chris J. Schmidle, Sacramento, California
- Name and Address Withheld

*Access to Shoreline: The following commentor supports motorized access to the shoreline. Please refer to response to comment letters I5 through I6 for a response to this comment.*

- Mrs. Ray Wholsein, Kooskia, Idaho



*Crown Point Road: The following individuals provided comment on this issue. Please refer to response to comment letters I7 through I9 for responses to these comments.*

- Roy Doan, Star, Idaho
- Sarah Keller, Cascade, Idaho
- Tony J. Hartshorn, Cascade, Idaho
- Clinton A. Kennedy, Cascade, Idaho

*Boat Dock Near Christian Church Camp: Please see response to comment letter I15.*

- Bill Squires, Boise, Idaho

*Classification of Old Gibbens Property/Camarie Cove Subdivision: Please see the response to these issues in comment letters I16 through I19.*

- Lot #2, Camarie Cove Subdivision (signed name illegible)
- Lot #3, Camarie Cove Subdivision (signed name illegible)
- Lot #4, Camarie Cove Subdivision, Jerry L. and Cindy Robinson
- Lot #5, Camarie Cove Subdivision, Raymond E. Barkley, Kaysville, Utah
- Lot #7, Camarie Cove Subdivision, Ray Roark

*Various Comments and Multi-Issue Letters: Issues raised in these letters were addressed by other commentors. Please refer to your area of interest, listed in the responses to individual comments, to see responses to your comments.*

- Gregory (Last Name Withheld; Address Withheld)
- Jake Sartori, Cascade, Idaho
- Luke Marben, Cascade, Idaho
- Matt Barron, Cascade, Idaho
- Robby Davison, Cascade, Idaho
- Sapphire Hibbard, Cascade, Idaho
- Susan and Gary Bennett, Emmett, Idaho

*Oppose Re-Opening Airstrip: Please see responses to comment letters I34 to I39.*

- Anna Rogers, Cascade, Idaho
- Aubri White, Donnelly, Idaho
- Bud Fosburg, Donnelly, Idaho
- Dean Hungerford, Boise, Idaho
- Dee Gibbens, Address Withheld
- Ed White, Donnelly, Idaho
- Elaine White, Yuma, Arizona and Donnelly, Idaho
- Gilbert White, Nampa and Donnelly, Idaho
- Joyce Calkins, Boise, Idaho
- Krista Waldron, Cascade, Idaho
- Michael and Linda Sedbrook, Castle Rock, Colorado and Donnelly, Idaho
- Roger and Vicki Cantlon, Boise, Idaho
- Rudi and Sya Rynders, Donnelly, Idaho
- Tom and Ada Wilson, Cascade, Idaho

- Virginia Hungerford, Address Withheld

*Endorse Re-Opening Airstrip: Please see responses to comment letters O5 to O8 and I40 to I44.*

- Al Hilde, Jr., Jackson, Wyoming
- Amos Gar (Address Withheld)
- Annette Magee, McCall, Idaho
- Bill Duncan, Joseph, Oregon
- Bill Keating, McCall, Idaho
- Bill L. Ables, Enterprise, Oregon
- Bob and Norma Petersen, Cameron Park, California
- Bonnie Jo Simpson (Address Withheld)
- Brian Jones, Parker, Colorado
- Bruce Bridgford, Anaheim, California
- Bruce Parker, Boise, Idaho
- Bryan Rose, Portland, Oregon
- Carlyle W. Briggs, Boise, Idaho
- Celestine Lacey Duncan, Helena, Montana
- Charles J. Manning, Kalispell, Montana
- Christopher Black, Sun Valley, Idaho
- Chuck Jarecki, Polson, Montana
- Curtis Pearson, Sagle, Idaho
- Dale L. Bright, Spokane, Washington
- Dan Rothenbuhler, Meridian, Idaho
- Darrell von Bargen, Lewiston, Idaho
- Dave Hedditch, Hamilton, Montana
- Dave Logan, North Plains, Oregon
- David Bennett, Richland, Washington
- David Bettis, Boise, Idaho
- David L. Rigby, Boise, Idaho
- David M. Horstkotte, Portland, Oregon
- David Rountree, Boise, Idaho
- David T. Chuljian, Port Townsend, Washington
- David Wells, Twin Falls, Idaho
- Dawn M. Decker, Spokane, Washington
- Dennis C. Averill, Boise, Idaho
- Dennis L. Colson, Boise, Idaho
- Dennis V. Holbrook, New Plymouth, Idaho
- Diane Miller, Santa Rosa, California
- Don L. Kinney, Red Lodge, Montana
- Don Pape, Boise, Idaho
- Don Waterhouse, Carnation, Washington
- Doug Worth, Lapwai, Idaho
- Douglas Joyo, Eagle, Idaho
- Duane B. Smith, McCall, Idaho



- Ed and Sonya Spencer, Calistoga, California
- Edward L. Miller, Santa Rosa, California
- Eldon J. Howard, Sisters, Oregon
- Eugene Soper, Athol, Idaho
- Gary Confer, Washougal, Washington
- Gary Regnani, Redding, California
- Gene Nora Jessen, Boise, Idaho
- George Barnhart, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
- George Derrick, Big Pine, California
- Gerald L. Eberhard, Ft. Collins, Colorado
- Gregory Langley, Cascade, Idaho
- H. William Bruce, Sebastopol, California
- Harold E. Thomas, Boise, Idaho
- Heidi Becker, New Meadows, Idaho
- Herb Ballou, Helena, Montana
- Holbrook Maslen, Carson City, Nevada
- Hugh and Cynthia McNair, McCall, Idaho
- J. R. Mann, Ontario, Oregon
- Jack Magee, McCall, Idaho
- Jade Harnis, Mulino, Oregon
- Jake Sartori, Cascade, Idaho
- James F. Stutzman, Lewiston, Idaho
- James L. Graham, Vancouver, Washington
- James P. Moulton, Albuquerque, New Mexico
- James R. Dahlgran, Idaho Falls, Idaho
- James T. Cameron, Bishop, California
- James W. Tucker, Cascade, Idaho
- Jan M. Peterson, Boise, Idaho
- Janet L. Liberty, Chelan, Washington
- Jeffery A. Magee, McCall, Idaho
- Jeffrey C. Pitts, Ontario, Oregon
- Jerome McCauley, McCall, Idaho
- Jerry Bisom, McCall, Idaho
- Jerry Terlisner, Boise, Idaho
- Jim Hudson, Boise, Idaho
- Jim Petersen, Paineville, Oregon
- Jim Steffert, Helena, Montana
- Joe Stancil, Jr., Placerville, California
- John B. Smith, Idaho Falls, Idaho
- John E. Richardson, Bellville, Texas
- John F. Rotter, Thompson Falls, Montana
- John J. Gallian, Twin Falls, Idaho
- John L. Reeder, Emmett, Idaho
- John McKenna, Jr., Belgrade, Montana
- John Sackett, Idaho Falls, Idaho

- Johnny G. Stewart, Lenore, Idaho
- Joseph Mulhern, Havre, Montana
- Josh Davis, Cascade, Idaho
- Katie Olson, Boise, Idaho
- Ken L. Morrow, Nampa, Idaho
- Kenneth L. Rosdahl, Yelm, Washington
- Kirt Miller, Middleton, Idaho
- Kurt Becker, New Meadows, Idaho
- Larry Wade, Condon, Oregon
- Liz Graham, Bishop, California
- Loren Smith, Great Falls, Montana
- Lori K. MacNichol, McCall, Idaho
- Lynda Carpenter, Deer Park, Washington
- Margarite Hargrove, Seattle, Washington
- Mark Britz (Address Withheld)
- Mark Hawkins, Mesa, Arizona
- Mark J. McCormack, Boise, Idaho
- Mark S. Denny, Portland, Oregon
- Mark W. Peterson, Lewiston, Idaho
- Mel Rozema, Centerville, Utah
- Michael S. Pape, Boise, Idaho
- Michel W. Creek, Spring Creek, Nevada
- Mike Weiss, Boise, Idaho
- Mimi More, McCall, Idaho
- Myrna Schram, Weiser, Idaho
- Nigel L. Davis (Address Withheld)
- Norm and Barbara Coffelt, Moreno Valley, California
- Patrick E. Simpson, Hailey, Idaho
- Paul A. Pitkin, Payson, Arizona
- Paul C. Collins, Boise, Idaho
- Paul Miller, Saint Helena, California
- Pete Kuckenberg, St. Maries, Idaho
- Pete White (Address Withheld)
- R. K. Williams, Kuna, Idaho
- R. W. (Rex) Maurer, Issaquah, Washington
- Randall Rudeen, Meridian, Idaho
- Ray Fry, St. Maries, Idaho
- Reed White, Corvallis, Oregon
- Rex N. LaBrie, Emmett, Idaho
- Richard A. Petty, San Jose, California
- Richard Duricka, Troy, Idaho
- Richard E. Dennis, Lapwai, Idaho
- Richard Friend, Meridian, Idaho
- Rob Strand, Santa Cruz, California
- Robert "Kelly" Taylor, Emmett, Idaho



- Robert A. Hoff, Idaho Falls, Idaho
- Robert and Robin Richardson, Denver, Colorado
- Robert C. Strand, Santa Cruz, California
- Robert D. Patrick, McCall, Idaho
- Robert Halverson, Eugene, Oregon
- Robert J. Norris, Mountain Home, Idaho
- Robert L. Hagenbaugh, Athol, Idaho
- Robert McCormick, Meridian, Idaho
- Robert Stevens, Ketchum, Idaho
- Roger Harker, Minden, Nevada
- Ronald Vaughn, Emmett, Idaho
- Ross Capawana, Sandpoint, Idaho
- Scott Jared, Cascade, Idaho
- Scott Newman, Lafayette, California
- Shawn Bickford, Auburn, California
- Sherry Rossiter, Boise, Idaho
- Steve and Tawni Swann, Meridian, Idaho
- Steve Johnson, Eagle, Idaho
- Steven Blomquist, Richfield, Utah
- Steven J. Rossiter, Missoula, Montana
- T. S. Remsen, McCall, Idaho
- Thomas A. Tucker, McCall, Idaho
- Thomas H. Irlbeck, Address Withheld
- Thoville G. Smith, Boise, Idaho
- Tim B. Whitney, Sausalito, California
- Tim C. Peterson, Boise, Idaho
- Tom Boyer, Boise, Idaho
- Tom Irlbeck, Somerset, Wisconsin
- Tom Thomas, Santa Fe, New Mexico
- Tony Guardalabene, Elmira, Oregon
- Vaughn B. Olson, Boise, Idaho
- Vaughn Jasper, Lewiston, Idaho
- Vern Adams, Lewiston, Idaho
- Warren Barry, Twin Falls, Idaho
- Wayne D. Thiel, Eagle, Idaho
- William C. Miller, Boise, Idaho
- William R. Parish, Moscow, Idaho
- William Strmiska, Tracy, California
- William T. Sell, Palmdale, California
- Yvonne and Bill Fate, Lewiston, Idaho



*Habitat, Parks, Fish & Game*  
Shoshone-Paiute Tribes P.O. Box 219 Owyhee, Nevada 89423  
(208) 759-3246 phone (208) 759-3248 fax  
e-mail DWIRFG98@AOL.COM

1-11-83

17684

February 21, 2001

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
PN Regional Office PN-3902  
Attn: Carolyn Burpee Stone  
1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100  
Boise, ID 83704-1234

Dear Carolyn:

I am writing on behalf of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation. This correspondence is to follow-up on our February 7<sup>th</sup> government-to-government meeting between the Bureau of Reclamation and the Tribes regarding the Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan (RMP) Environmental Assessment (EA).

The Department of Wildlife and Parks has reviewed the EA and we have outlined our concerns/questions in the attached document.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at (208) 759-3246 should you require clarification on the comments or any further information.

Sincerely,

*Carol C. Perugini*

Carol C. Perugini  
Fisheries Biologist

Attachment

cc: Guy Dodson Sr. -- Director, Department of Wildlife and Parks  
Marvin Cota -- Tribal Council Chairman

LNL-8.00  
BOL  
Lake Cascade RMP

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
OFFICIAL FILE COPY  
MAR 02 '01

TO	INIT	DATE
3902	CB	2/21/01
FILE		

T1—Carol C. Perugini, Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, Owyhee,  
Nevada

**Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan:  
Draft Environmental Assessment  
December 2000**

Page #	Area	Topic	Proposed Action	Concerns
2-17	West Side	Mallard Bay Area	Designate area as C/OS, allow: * formalized parking and vehicular access to shoreline * restroom facilities to accommodate shoreline fishing activities * trails with seasonal closure, specifically at southern end * monitor shoreline access; close if detrimental effects	We support the proposed action of designating this area as C/OS. These wetlands support a colony of western grebes and is an important area for numerous bird species (3-32).  Trail building, construction of parking areas, etc. will increase access to shoreline and will likely have negative impacts on avians. Trail closures may be difficult to enforce. Also, monitoring shoreline access and closing if detrimentally impacted is reactive management approach which may not be appropriate.
2-20	Boulder Creek Arm	Water Surface Mgmt.	* Establish and clearly demarcate a no-wake zone of 100 feet from shoreline structures adjacent to	What agency is responsible for enforcement of no-wake zones? How will future enforcement differ from current enforcement?

**T1—Carol C. Perugini, Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, Owyhee, Nevada**

- T1-1:** Trail construction will be undertaken to focus and consolidate use. This should help minimize avian disturbance as compared to ad hoc trail creation.
- T1-2:** Reclamation does not have the authority to enforce seasonal trail closures; however, use will be discouraged.
- T1-3:** No-wake zones are enforced by the Valley County Sheriff. Future enforcement will increase if necessary because of increased funding for Valley County from Reclamation.

Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan - Page 2

Page #	Area	Topic	Proposed Action	Concerns
			applicable areas of the Boulder Creek Arm through the use of buoys * Establish a no-wake zone in both reaches of the upper end of the Boulder Creek Arm * Increase enforcement of all no wake boating zones	According to this document (2-6) "The water surface adjacent to WMAs is limited to voluntary no-wake zones in the main body of the reservoir and to non-motorized boating in the arms to minimize wildlife disturbance. However, adherence to no-wake zones within areas open to motorized boating has not met with much success."
2-26	Cascade	Van Wyck Park and Extension	Same as Alternative A, plus: * Phased development up to 400 slips in the marina and larger associated parking area * Shower facilities etc.	If WestRock is developed, will a 400-slip marina be warranted? Other issues include increased boat traffic, inputs of unburned fuel into water, etc. Combined with WestRock development, there may be significant negative affects to reservoir, especially if 300,000 acre-foot minimum pool is not maintained

T1-4

**T1-4:** WestRock has not been approved yet, and the development of the Van Wyck park and extension marina is not tied to WestRock. Current and projected use indicates that this marina will be needed to accommodate visitors regardless of WestRock's future. The development would occur in phases to meet demand. Any action Reclamation takes in response to the effects of WestRock would be addressed in a separate NEPA process. Other effects of WestRock are being addressed through the Idaho State Land Board.

Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan - Page 3

Page #	Area	Topic	Proposed Action	Concerns		
2-26	Cascade	Golf Course	Monitor lease and consider renewal, in accordance with concession policy, when term expires. In addition, follow BMPs to address water quality	Leasee could be encouraged or required to follow Nature Conservancy or Cooperative Extension recommendations for golf course O&M that enhances wildlife habitat (Cooperative Extension Office - Gainesville, Florida)	T1-5	T1-5: The lease will be renewed in accordance with Reclamation BMPs that would address habitat and water quality concerns.
2-27	Big Sage & Cabarton	Big Sage	Same as Alternative A except: * Development of fish cleaning station and connection of restrooms to sewer contingent on City sewer development * No dump station	Based on number of RV sites (35) wouldn't a dump station be warranted?	T1-6	T1-6: A dump station would be provided at the Van Wyck Park Extension.
2-30	North Fork Payette Arm	Access and Trails	* Coordinate with agricultural easement owners to allow for development of non-motorized trails along north-west area. * Formalize existing and expand non-motorized trail system within arm. * Work with USFS to	According to this document, the upper arms of the reservoir "support the greatest abundance and diversity of wildlife because of the intermingled mosaic of habitat types. These areas provide the seclusion needed for especially sensitive species such as the common loon. Great		

Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan - Page 4

Page #	Area	Topic	Proposed Action	Concerns		
			designate specific non-motorized boat put-in/take out sites northwest of Tamarack Falls Bridge.	blue herons have established a large rookery...." (3-33). Trail building in this area may result in disturbance/abandonment of area by sensitive species, cause habitat fragmentation, etc.	T1-7	<b>T1-7:</b> Trails in this area are not expected to disturb the heron rookery because it is located on private property, at least 1/2 mile upstream of Lake Cascade. Trails would not be developed close enough to disturb the rookery.
				Non-motorized boating should be prohibited within an appropriate distance from the rookery to minimize disturbance to birds	T1-8	<b>T1-8:</b> As noted above, the rookery is located on private land upstream of Lake Cascade. Reclamation has no control over boating on the Payette River.
3-54	Tributary Fishery		Primary ecological problems associated with reservoir tributaries are fish access to spawning and refuge habitat, water quality and quantity. Gold Fork River has greatest potential for wild fish production...however, fish access to most of the river is blocked by an irrigation diversion located 4 miles upstream of the reservoir. Habitat in small tributary streams is critical, especially	Is purchasing water rights upstream of the reservoir a viable avenue to explore? Water quality will continue to be a primary consideration when evaluating lake management options. Seasonal fluctuations in water quality necessitate that tributary habitat be in good condition for wild fish production. Removal of diversion structures upstream of the reservoir will enhance spawning/rearing habitat. For long-term manage-	T1-9	<b>T1-9:</b> The purchase of water rights is outside the scope of the RMP.
					T1-10	<b>T1-10</b> Removal of diversion structures would not be pursued by Reclamation because they are privately owned.

Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan - Page 5

Page #	Area	Topic	Proposed Action	Concerns		
			when the reservoir water quality conditions become poor in late summer	ment of the resource, it may be more feasible to resolve the water issues than to stock hatchery fish every year.	T1-10 (cont.)	T1-11: Please see response to comment T1-1.
	Overall Plan Concerns	Trail Building	Several proposed actions include development of trails that dissect or occur within riparian areas	Riparian areas provide critical habitat for a variety of wildlife. Any type of trail development plan should consider the fragmentation affects on birds small mammals.	T1-11	T1-12: At times, it may be necessary to go below the 300,000-foot minimum pool. However, based on our administrative decision in 1984, we will maintain the 300,000-foot level whenever possible.
		Minimum Pool at Reservoir	Reclamation has authorization to lower water levels to 46,662 acre-foot minimum pool but, following a 1984 administrative decision, they maintain 300,000 acre minimum pool whenever possible	Water quality is and will continue to be a primary consideration in managing Lake Cascade. Maintaining/improving water quality will depend, in large part, on maintaining a minimum pool size of at least 300,000 acre-feet. If this minimum pool size is not maintained then negative impacts associated with the proposed actions will be compounded	T1-12	

Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan - Page 6

Page #	Area	Topic	Proposed Action	Concerns		
		Road Building, Parking Lot Construction	Various areas are targeted for road building and parking lot development. The document (3-58) states that all appropriate BMPs for minimizing erosion during construction and use would be followed so "erosion" issues related to trails and roads is not considered to be a potential impact to fisheries."	The soils and landscape in the study area are diverse (3-11). While following BMPs will minimize impacts, stating that there should be no effects on fisheries may be unrealistic.	T1-13	T1-13: The BMPs will reduce impacts so that effects on fisheries will be minimized. Therefore, it is not considered to be a significant impact.



Our mission: to educate through the identification, preservation, and interpretation of Idaho's cultural heritage.

Dirk Kempthorne  
Governor of Idaho

Steve Guerber  
Executive Director

Administration  
1109 Main Street, Suite 250  
Boise, Idaho 83702-5642  
Office: (208) 334-2682  
Fax: (208) 334-2774

Archaeological Survey  
210 Main Street  
Boise, Idaho 83702-7264  
Office: (208) 334-3847  
Fax: (208) 334-2775

Capitol Education Center  
Statehouse/P.O. Box 83720  
Boise, Idaho 83720-0001  
Office: (208) 334-5174

Historical Museum and  
Education Programs  
610 North Julia Davis Drive  
Boise, Idaho 83702-7695  
Office: (208) 334-2120  
Fax: (208) 334-4059

Historic Preservation Office  
210 Main Street  
Boise, Idaho 83702-7264  
Office: (208) 334-3841  
Fax: (208) 334-2775

Historic Sites Office  
2445 Old Penitentiary Road  
Boise, Idaho 83712-8254  
Office: (208) 334-2844  
Fax: (208) 334-3225

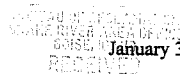
Library/Historical and  
Genealogical Collection  
450 North Fourth Street  
Boise, Idaho 83702-6027  
Office: (208) 334-3356  
Fax: (208) 334-3198

Oral History  
450 North Fourth Street  
Boise, Idaho 83702-6027  
Office: (208) 334-3863  
Fax: (208) 334-3198

Memberships and  
Outreach and Development  
1109 Main Street, Suite 250  
Boise, Idaho 83702-5642  
Office: (208) 334-3986  
Fax: (208) 334-2774

Publications  
450 North Fourth Street  
Boise, Idaho 83702-6027  
Office: (208) 334-3428  
Fax: (208) 334-3198

State Archives/Manuscripts  
2205 Old Penitentiary Road  
Boise, Idaho 83713-4250  
Office: (208) 334-2620  
Fax: (208) 334-2626



January 31, 2001

FEB -2 01

Mr. Jerrold D. Gregg  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Snake River Area Office  
214 Broadway Ave.  
Boise, Idaho 83702-7298

RE: Draft Environmental Assessment for the Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan

Dear Mr. Gregg:

Thank you for requesting our views on the draft environmental assessment for the Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan. We find that Section 3.13 accurately describes the history and types of historic properties identified within the project area.

With regard to alternatives, we generally support the Preferred Alternative or Alternative B. Either of these alternatives will provide better management of historic properties than is currently taking place. We also support the Best Management Practices and draft Goals and Objectives that relate to cultural resources. We strongly urge the Bureau of Reclamation to develop a cultural resource management plan and continue Section 110 efforts to identify and evaluate historic properties around the reservoir. We also advocate early integration of Section 106 Review during the planning stages for any proposed development. Finally, we recommend incorporating information on early EuroAmerican and Native American use of the area, as appropriate, in interpretive displays planned for several of the recreational sites.

We appreciate your cooperation. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 208-334-3847.

Sincerely,

Susan Pengilly Neitzel  
Deputy SHPO and  
Compliance Coordinator

cc: Ray Leicht, Bureau of Reclamation



The Idaho State Historical Society is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

## A1—Susan Pengilly Neitzel, Idaho State Historical Society, Boise, Idaho

**A1-1:** The Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP) will be prepared by the U.S. Forest Service, Boise National Forest, under an interagency agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation. The CRMP will provide direction and a framework for Reclamation to begin managing Lake Cascade's cultural resources in a logical, proactive manner. A major focus of the plan will be identifying factors that are damaging cultural sites and recommending ways to avoid or reduce those factors. Actions will be identified that enhance, protect, stabilize, and manage cultural resources in the Lake Cascade area. The plan will also address curation of cultural materials, inadvertent discoveries, treatment of human skeletal remains, and intentional excavation, among other things.

**A1-2:** Such information will be included on interpretive displays and kiosks, as appropriate, when they are developed in conjunction with other improvements at facilities.

A1-1

A1-2



**From:** "Leland Heinrich" <lheinrich@co.valley.id.us>  
**To:** <cstone@pn.usbr.gov>  
**Date:** 2/15/01 10:30AM  
**Subject:** February 22nd Meeting

Dear Carolyn:

We seem to have some conflicts for the February 22nd meeting, but are trying to realign schedules in order for some of us to attend.

Side Note: Our new mailing address is P.O. Box 1350; new phone # is 382-7100; fax # is 382-7107; my e-mail is lheinrich@co.valley.id.us

My Commissioners wanted me to address the following areas of concern, just in case they can't attend the meeting.

They still feel there is sufficient room for consideration of a County road, in addition to bike paths or walkways on the old railroad bed. The addition of a County road in this area would greatly increase winter-time access to the entire Crown Point area, plus improve response time of ambulance and/or fire equipment to improve public safety.

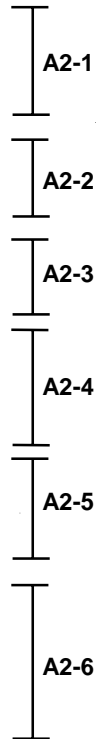
The County still believes there is sufficient quantities of material in the Crown Point Rock Quarry that it would be in the taxpayers' interest to develop some type of lease which would allow the County to use this material for the needs of our road maintenance and construction.

The County also would encourage you to listen to the public and take steps to enhance the existing airport so that it would be better utilized for recreational needs, rather than turn it into a wildlife management area.

We also feel that motorized recreational activities have not been given sufficient consideration. Many local people do indeed drive their vehicles or 4-wheelers upon the sandy beaches for access in order to enjoy their fishing experiences. Your proposed restrictions may well take away the ability of our senior citizens and the handicapped an opportunity to put a "line" in the water.

We further do not see a firm commitment to develop a funded Weed Control Program. Our local Land Use and Development Ordinance requires all new subdivisions to develop a Weed Control Management Program which is approved by our local Weed Superintendent and we feel you should do no less.

There is still some confusion over your dock permit process. We are losing our natural resources industry and are told recreation will have to replace it, but as this area grows and develops, how do you intend to provide for requests for dock permits? Understandably, community or group dock permits shall play a big part, but we certainly feel that individuals should have the right, as originally agreed to when this body of water was created, to apply for and receive an individual permit.



## A2—Leland Heinrich, Valley County Commissioners, Valley County, Idaho

- A2-1:** The Crown Point extension would not become a county road in this RMP because the majority of comments received strongly supported maintenance of all existing Conservation/Open Space (C/OS) and keeping this area for non-motorized use.
- A2-2:** Materials from the Crown Point Quarry would continue to be available for Valley County use under this RMP, as discussed in Section 2.3.2 of the EA.
- A2-3:** The airport may be re-opened, if certain conditions are met. Please refer to response to comment letters O5—Kathleen Miller, Idaho Aviation Association, McCall, Idaho; O6—Ray Costello, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, Corvallis, Oregon; and O7—David M. Walker, Idaho Aviation Foundation, McCall, Idaho, for a more detailed response.
- A2-4:** Vehicular access can no longer be allowed to the shoreline for a variety of reasons, including erosion and water quality. Docks and fishing areas provide access for elderly and physically challenged users. Specific fishing access points including parking and paths will be developed at Big Sage, and Van Wyck north and south.
- A2-5:** Reclamation has funded and would continue to fund Valley County Weed Control for noxious weed control on Reclamation lands and aquatic weeds within the reservoir if the need arises. We are also an active participant in planning for the Upper Payette River Cooperative Weed Management Area.
- A2-6:** Existing private boat docks are permitted as a privilege

In conclusion, we would ask you not to include regulations that will fall upon the County's law enforcement to uphold, unless you are willing to provide the funding which is necessary for the full enforcement.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment, and we do remain a committed partner with you to improve the opportunities and experiences of those who utilize our resources.

Sincerely,

Leland G. Heinrich  
Valley County Clerk  
Valley County, Idaho

A2-7

**A2-6:**

**(cont.)** and are not a right. Reclamation national policy is to not allow private boat docks and Lake Cascade is the only exception to this policy within Reclamation, except where the dock is in conjunction with a lease of property for a cabin site. No new private docks will be permitted, according to this policy. However, community docks will continue to be allowed to accommodate growth in recreation.

**A2-7:** Reclamation funding for fiscal year 2001 is \$13,000 (up from \$5,000 in fiscal year 2000). Future budget requests will be increased, if possible, to assist Valley County for law enforcement at Lake Cascade.

**From:** "Brenda Heinrich" <brelee@micron.net>  
**To:** "Budolfson BOR Jim" <jbudolfson@pn.usbr.gov>  
**Date:** 2/9/01 9:07AM  
**Subject:** Dear Jim.....

Dear Jim.....

I just had a few questions to ask about the Lake Cascade Draft Environmental Assessment at Boulder Creek page 2-19 when the toilets are changed are you going to use vault instead of the standard flush that caused so much grief originally?

A3-1

Next on the water Surface Management you have Increase enforcement of all no wake boating zones.....Our budget is maximized on our patrol men and time. With added enforcement are you going to help with added moneys to increase our marine program Budget? For now we are patrolling ( approximately )155 miles of shore line on Lake Cascade alone. We cannot possibly sit at Boulder Creek all day lone just for that no wake watch.

A3-2

After reading this document, over all I am pleased with the Preferred Alternatives. The remainder of the Waterways Committee will be sending in their opinions also. At this time this is just my opinion and questions. We will be sending more input as time sneaks by on this subject.

Thank you so very much for joining us last Tuesday. It is always a pleasure to have you here with us. And your input if vital to our decisions and knowledge.


Thanks

Brenda Heinrich ( Chairman — Valley County Waterways

### A3—Brenda Heinrich, Valley County Waterways, Cascade, Idaho

**A3-1:** The plan is not this specific at this stage.

**A3-2:** Please see response to comment A2-7.

 **OFFICIAL FILE COPY**  
**City of Donnelly**  
P O BOX 725  
DONNELLY, IDAHO 83615

**CITY OF HELPING HANDS**

February 21, 2001

1-1381  
17684

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
PN Regional Office PN-3902  
Attn: Carolyn Burpee Stone  
1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100  
Boise, Idaho 83707-1234

**OFFICIAL FILE COPY**

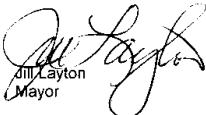
Dear Ms. Stone:

The Donnelly City Council would like to endorse the 2.3.2 Preferred Alternative Plan A, of the Boulder Creek Arm, under the topic: Conservation and open space.

This administration believes that the preferred alternative plan A will enhance the economics, and provide a more desirable residential / recreational environment for the present and future citizens of Donnelly.

The City of Donnelly is a strong advocate of developing a hiking, biking trail, cross-country ski trail and snowmobile trail. We wish to provide winter access from the Wagon Wheel subdivision to the City of Donnelly.

Sincerely,

  
Jill Layton  
Mayor

mlh

**BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
OFFICIAL FILE COPY**  
FEB 23 '01  
3902 CBS 2/23/01

**A4-1**

**A4—Jill Layton, City of Donnelly, Donnelly, Idaho**

**A4-1:** A non-motorized trail including snowmobile use is proposed in the Boulder Creek C/OS area to provide access.

NOTES ON  
LAKE CASCADE  
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN:  
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
Tom Kerr, January 2001

pg. 2-3: 2.2.2 Land Management Categories ..... Talks about "four" and lists "five".

Pg. 2-12: Table 2.3-1. Talks about Noxious and Invasive Weeds relative to terrestrial. Need to address Aquatic weeds such as Eurasian Milfoil and others.

Pg. 2-47: Second paragraph again talks about "control of terrestrial noxious and invasive weed problems". Need to add Aquatic Noxious and Invasive weeds.

Pg. 3-6: The first paragraph mentions "nuisance aquatic vegetation".

Pg. 3-122: The Payette River Scenic By-Way Committee is working on signs, turn lanes, kiosks and other informational items for the by-way. Christine Jarski of Ida-Ore is the main contact for this Committee. Hugh Somerton of Donnelly is the chairman.

Pg. 4 - Draft Goals and Objectives: Objective 1.1.9: ..... "address aquatic weed problems, particularly eurasian milfoil".

Pg. 2-76 "Bald Eagles have increased in the face of more human activity"

A5-1

A5-2

A5-3

A5-4

A5-5

A5-6

A5-7

**A5—Tom Kerr, Valley County Commissioner, Cascade, Idaho**

A5-1: The text has been revised according to your comment.

A5-2: The text has been revised according to your comment.

A5-3: The text has been revised according to your comment.

A5-4: The no-wake zones in this text will help limit the spread of nuisance aquatic vegetation.

A5-5: Thank you for providing this information about future plans. We will use this information to add to the RMP for coordinating activities.

A5-6: Aquatic weeds have been added to the objective.

A5-7: The table to which you refer describes impacts of the RMP that have been determined through the EA analysis and in consultation with FWS. The remainder of the text reads, "RMP actions may affect, but are not likely to adversely affect, bald eagles."



**Leland "Lee" G. Heinrich**  
VALLEY COUNTY  
IDAHO

CLERK OF THE DISTRICT COURT  
EX-OFFICIO AUDITOR & RECORDER

March 15, 2001

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
PN Regional Office  
Attention: Carolyn Burpee Stone  
1150 North Curtis, Suite 100  
Boise, ID 83706-1234

**Re: Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan**

Dear Review Team:

We at Valley County certainly do appreciate your giving additional consideration to the development of the State airstrip adjacent to Lake Cascade. With our loss of utilization of our other natural resources, i.e., timber, mining and agriculture, our County is becoming dependent upon developments that attract recreational usage, and this can certainly be very beneficial to this cause.

We do realize that there would be conditions required to re-opening this airstrip, but don't feel the conditions should be a part of your resource management plan. The actual conditions should be a part of later negotiations among interested parties, which could include others beside just the Idaho Aviation Association.

We would hope this action is not just a gesture to appease public opinion, because it appears to be accompanied by so many onerous conditions it would prevent the actuality from ever occurring.

Thank you for accepting our comments.

Sincerely,

Leland G. Heinrich  
Valley County Clerk  
Valley County, Idaho

LGH/dln

BUREAU OF  
 RECLAMATION  
 OFFICIAL FILE COPY  
 MAR 16 '01  
 TO INIT DATE  
 P. O. Box 1350 / 219 Nor  
 COURT  
 CORNER  
 3962 OBS 3/21  
 OFFICIAL FILE COPY

Recorders Office (208) 382-7100  
Court Office (208) 382-7178  
FAX (208) 382-7107  
E-Mail: [lheinrich@co.valley.id.us](mailto:lheinrich@co.valley.id.us)

**A6—Leland G. Heinrich, Valley County Commissioners,**  
**Cascade, Idaho (second letter)**

**A6-1:** The conditions listed for re-opening the airstrip are included in the RMP so that all parties will be aware of what will be required. Assessment of potential impacts associated with re-opening the airstrip would be assessed under a separate NEPA document as described in Section 2.3.2.

## A6-1

March 13, 2001

US Bureau of Reclamation  
PN Regional Office  
Attn: Carolyn Burpee Stone  
1150 North Curtis, Suite 100  
Boise, ID 83706-1234

RE: Resource Management Plan - Lake Cascade RMP

Dear Ms. Burpee:

I do not agree with the preferred plan as far as prohibiting motorized vehicles below the high water line. I have commented at public hearings and written comments. Some of my remaining thoughts are:

- Why can't there be designated areas on both sides of the reservoir? Big Sage and the VanWyck extension area are both very popular areas for fishermen, especially compared to Mallard Bay. Isn't Mallard Bay inaccessible until after the nesting season sometime in July? I have enclosed a "Petition to Fish" that I put in public areas for seven days. In seven days I was able to get 311 signatures.
- With the possibility of the closure of the Cascade Sawmill we need to increase tourism as one avenue of diversification. How can we increase tourism if we are decreasing those recreation activities that bring them to the Cascade area?
- The people who are going to be affected have not commented....why? They don't read RMPs and Draft Environmental Assessments – they barely read the newspaper – the tourists do not receive our local paper, especially if they only come in the summer. The last time I read anything in the local paper (after the January meeting) it gave me the impression that there would be designated areas for vehicular access – I once again visited the Draft EA and there were no areas except Mallard Bay – I spoke with some of the seniors at the high school and it was their impression that there would be access to Big Sage.
- There has been historical usage at this lake for all to use motor vehicles to access the beach.
- In the fall it is too cold to sit out of your pickup to fish. Old people and handicap people will not be able to access the water.
- Aren't boats more erosive to the shore – half in water half out, sloshing back and forth?
- Why not designate certain times of the year for fishermen to drive their pickups on the beach (August through December) when the water is really low and it may be cold enough to harden the beaches.

On March 12, 2001, the Cascade City Council endorsed my petition as long as I changed it to read: "We want to see vehicular access to the beach below the high water line at Big Sage and VanWyck Park extension area."

Let's compromise: We'll trade you...we'll keep Big Sage and VanWyck extension...you keep the entire Crown Point area (where we use to always drive our vehicles). I hope with the number of signatures you will consider changing the Preferred Alternative to address the wishes of the residents of Valley County. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Cynda Herrick  
Cascade City Council President

607 Dam Road, PO Box 1104, Cascade, ID 83611  
Day Phone: 382-7114 Night Phone: 382-6622

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

APR 26 2001

3902

A7-1

## A7— Cynda Herrick, Cascade City Council, Cascade, Idaho

**A7-1:** Reclamation has decided to phase out vehicle access to the shoreline to reduce shoreline erosion and protect water quality. Reclamation does not have the staff available to police access restricted to only a few locations. Additionally, during reservoir drawdown periods, vehicles could drive for great distances along the "beach" once they get into the drawdown zone. Again, Reclamation does not have the resources to control such movement.

LND-800-  
BOT

DONNELLY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

P.O. BOX 83

DONNELLY, IDAHO 83615

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

3902 CBS 1/24/01

January 23, 2001

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
PN Regional Office PN-3902  
Attn.: Carolyn Burpee Stone  
1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100  
Boise, ID 83706-1234

Re: Lake Cascade RMP - Draft Environmental Assessment

Dear Ms. Stone:

This is to advise you that the Donnelly Area Chamber of Commerce at it's January meeting approved the motion to support the 2.3.2. Preferred Alternative - Northeast Area - Boulder Creek Arm specific to the Conservation/Open Space. The Chamber supports the development of a hiking and biking trail (no ORV/ATV), and a cross-county skiing trail.

01-1

This trail system will be of great benefit to the Donnelly area and compliment to the Donnelly City Park.

Sincerely,

*Sheri J. Gestrin*  
Sheri Gestrin  
President

**O1—Sheri Gestrin, Donnelly Area Chamber of Commerce,  
Donnelly, Idaho**

**O1-1:** Thank you for your comment. A non-motorized trail is planned for this area.



FOLDEN 17684

**P. O. Box 8922 Boise, Idaho 83707**

**OFFICIAL FILE COPY**

BUREAU OF  
RECLAMATION  
OFFICIAL FILE COPY

FEB 22 '01

TO INIT DATE

3902 CWS 2/22/01

ed out of Boise.

states that enjoy

FILE

without resources.

- Alternative C is the closest alternative that would be acceptable to our membership.
- Many of our members have enjoyed boating and fishing on Cascade Reservoir for many years. One aspect of boating many of us enjoy is “Boat Camping”. We do not believe the current management plan or the preferred alternative has addressed the needs of these user groups. More areas must be identified for this very popular activity.
  - The Pelican Bay Recreation Site on Sugarloaf Peninsula should be developed for overnight boat camping area with no road access (other than maintenance).
  - The area west and adjacent the airstrip should be managed for recreational use and be managed to allow overnight boat camping.
  - The area between Crown and Vista Points should be managed to allow overnight boat camping.
- Restrooms/Pit Toilets must be installed at the Old Airstrip, Pelican Point and Sugarloaf Island. All these areas are currently used by day-use fishermen and require restroom facilities. Access for maintenance is available for Pelican Point and the Old Airstrip and a boat mounted pump system could easily maintain the Sugarloaf Island site.
- There needs to be a Pack in/Pack out policy set for all camping in undeveloped sites. Porte potties and firepans must be required whenever boat camping or where restroom facilities are not available.
- The North Fork of the Payette, above Cascade Reservoir, should be managed to allow access by powerboats when the river levels allow it.
- The Western Whitewater Association would be interested in co-authoring a brochure explaining the required equipment and procedures for Boat Camping on Bureau Lands.

**Don Moore – Past President WWA**

## O2-5

**02-5:** Thank you for your offer.

Chloe

**O3—Sandra F. Mitchell, Hells Canyon Alliance, Boise, Idaho**

**O3-1:** Please see response to comment O2-1, letter from Don Moore of the Western Whitewater Association.

February 21, 2001

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
PN Regional Office  
1150 North Curtis Road  
Suite 100  
Boise, ID 83706-1234

**Attention: Carolyn Burpee Stone**

Dear Carolyn:

While the primary focus of the Hells Canyon Alliance is on issues concerning the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area, we are interested in management of all northwestern rivers and lakes used by the public for boating. We provide a common voice for those who support responsible shared use of the waters and our membership includes a wide variety of citizens, businesses and organizations. Our founders and those on our current roster, it should be noted, include both motorized and non-motorized users, many of whom recreate on Lake Cascade.

In order for us to support your preferred alternative, there would need to be changes made in the way boat camping is handled. We would propose that the following changes be made:

- ◆ The area between Crown and Vista Points should be managed to allow for overnight boat camping;
- ◆ The Pelican Bay Recreation Site on Sugarloaf Peninsula should be developed for an overnight boat camping area with no road access except for administrative purposes; and
- ◆ The area west and adjacent to the airstrip should be managed for recreational use and be developed as an overnight camping area.

O3-1

We fully understand there are problems with use. However, the answer to the problem is not to eliminate the use but rather to manage it. By adding restroom/pit toilets at the Old Airstrip, Pelican Point and Sugarloaf Island many of the problems would be eliminated. An additional management tool would be to require porta potties and firepans whenever boat camping occurs or where restroom facilities are not available.

We truly appreciate the opportunity to use Lake Cascade and we urge you to try some management alternatives before you eliminate boat camping in the areas described above. Our organization is more than willing to work with you and we are confident that the Lake and its shorelines can be protected without prohibiting boat camping.

Regards,

Sandra F. Mitchell  
Executive Director  
Hells Canyon Alliance  
PO Box 70001  
Boise ID 83707-0101

**CANTLON  
PROPERTIES, INC.**

**OFFICE BUILDING — SHOPPING CENTER  
DEVELOPMENT and ACQUISITION**

February 15, 2001

US Bureau of Reclamation  
PN Regional Office PN-3902  
Attn: Carolyn Burpee Stone  
1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100  
Boise, ID 83706-1234

I have attended your meetings during the last twelve (12) months and I am somewhat amazed that you don't have any specific action regarding the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and its ability to enhance, through specific actions, the recreational properties of Lake Cascade. While you dabble around issues like grazing and boat ramps the core item, siltation is basically ignored. I would like you to review the enclosed article and address as appropriate how you are working on a local basis to adapt a national game plan to creating a more vibrant "recreational" reservoir. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sent without signature

R. D. Cantlon

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

1-1203

17684

LND-8.00 -  
BDI  
ascade RMP

[illegible]

**O4—R.D. Cantlon, Cantlon Properties, Inc., Boise, Idaho**

**O4-1:** Siltation of the reservoir is not a major problem from a reservoir capacity standpoint although it is a contributor to nutrient load and water quality problems. The RMP update addresses water quality and recreational enhancement in many areas.

I O4-1



B and f Directors: K tha Miller, residen Jo h tawant, Gily B tea Say rie Ffn  
Tan Gesin rg So e n emry y, erly HB ~~and~~ warr, ein R so ob

To comment on the "lack of interest" on the part of aviation, I think that over the course of the short time period we had to make comments, you can see our interest. The flying community is extremely interested and we have never lost interest in reopening this strip.

**O5-1**

**O5—Kathleen Miller, Idaho Aviation Association, McCall, Idaho**

**05-1:** The Division of Aeronautics would be the agency involved in managing the airstrip along with Reclamation if it opens.

The 1991 RMP proposed re-opening the airstrip for recreational fly-in use, and efforts were made to accomplish it. Before the airstrip can be re-opened, however, a land transaction is required between Reclamation and the private agricultural easement holder of this parcel. This transaction has not been successful to date; therefore, the airstrip never re-opened. Reclamation was unaware of the interest in the airstrip from the aviation community earlier in the RMP update process and due to the seemingly difficult effort regarding the land transaction, as well as the re-occupation of a nearby nest by a pair of bald eagles, it was decided not to include re-opening the airstrip as part of the Preferred Alternative in the Draft EA. Instead, the Preferred Alternative at that time called for the airstrip and adjoining area to be reclassified as a Wildlife Management Area (WMA) land use designation and be added to the Duck Creek WMA.

In October the Idaho Aviation Foundation took over this cause and began, once again, to work on ways to achieve this goal.

The IAA was a strong promoter of the HR 4578, the Backcountry Landing Strip Access Act. Senators Craig and Crapo were the writers of this act. This act states that strips can't close without contacting aviation agencies and users first.

There is also language in the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness Act that states that "no airport or landing strip can be permanently closed without specific approval of State Division of Aeronautics". It is serious business closing airstrips. There is strong interest congressionally for not allowing closure of airstrips.

Here are a few other reasons why this strip should remain.

**Idaho is Unique:** Idaho has over 120 airports and airstrips in the state. Twenty four are public use airstrips in the wilderness and dozens more are classified as back country. We have some of the very best recreational airstrips in the west and it is important to keep it this way for they have become "tourism attractions". People come from as far as back east and Canada to recreate on these airstrips. The economic value to Cascade and the state is tremendous. Airstrips are irreplaceable and cost prohibitive to create, therefore we must protect each and everyone that we have.

**CR Strip is Safe and Easy:** This strip is remote yet very accessible. It is ideal for those with less skill or less powered airplanes. For years families would fly up from Boise to picnic on the shores. It was well used in its days.

**CR as an Emergency Strip:** Cascade Lake airstrip happens to be under a well used flying corridor between Boise and McCall and the northern sections of our state. Airstrips can save lives. And they allow a safe alternative for many more difficult backcountry airstrips in the area taking pressure off the wilderness strips.

**Recreation:** This is the only airstrip in Central Idaho that is on a lake and only one of five in the entire state on lakes. It would make the perfect recreational stop for anglers, campers, and picnicking families.

Float planes are users too and although only a limited number of planes land and take off on the lake we need to account for them as well.

**Environmental Concerns:** Aviators are conscientious and respect their environment. It is my understanding that the Environmental Impact Statement made a few years ago found the airstrip to be completely compatible with long-term usage of the area.

**What the IAA and IAF Can Offer:** The Idaho Aviation Association can provide volunteers to do yearly upkeep on the strip through our yearly work party program. The IAA, along with the IAF, can contribute financially to a partnership with the BOR by providing grants for improvements such as picnic tables, fire rings, sanitary facilities, etc.

The aviation community's interest and support of this strip has not changed and perhaps after this round it is stronger than ever. We would like you to include this strip in the 2001 management plan and continue to work on negotiations to open this airstrip that is tremendously missed in the aviation community.

In summary,

1. Closing the airstrip will exclude aviators from the other recreational groups that are allowed to access the Cascade Lake. The only fair alternative would be to continue
2. the existing management practices, continue negotiations to re-open the strip and allow day use as well as over night use.
3. Allow the Division of Aeronautics to manage the airstrip. Allow the IAA to help maintain it.

I O5-2

Questions the pilots of the Idaho Aviation Association would like to have answered are:

1. For what reason did you leave the airstrip out of the new management plan? (I saw no evidence of conflict between the strip and other user groups.)
2. Why did you eliminate this airstrip in the RMP without any input from the aviation community or the Division of Aeronautics?
3. Was there documentation in any form that stated that we were not interested re-opening the strip? To assume something of this magnitude in the planning process is hard to believe.

I O5-3

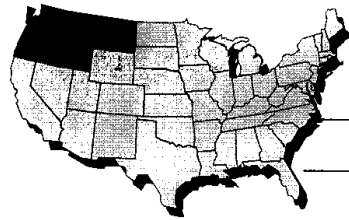
Sincerely,

Kathleen Miller, President  
Idaho Aviation Association  
PO Box 1558  
McCall, ID 83638

208-634-8798  
[c185bm@ctcweb.net](mailto:c185bm@ctcweb.net)

**O5-2:** Re-opening the airstrip through a permit to the Idaho Division of Aeronautics, subject to meeting certain conditions, is now included in the Preferred Alternative. See Section 2.3.2 of the Final EA.

**O5-3:** See response O5-1.



Ray Costello  
Northwest Regional Representative



## MONTHLY REPORT

O6—Ray Costello, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association,  
Corvallis, Oregon

February 21, 2001

U.S Bureau of Reclamation  
PN Regional Office PN-3902  
Attn: MS. Carolyn Burp Stone  
1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100  
Boise, ID 83706-1234

Dear Ms. Stone,

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) is a not-for-profit membership Association consisting of over 365,000 pilots and aircraft owners nationwide, 2,500 of whom are residents of the State of Idaho and over 20,000 in the four Northwestern States. AOPA is committed to ensuring the continued viability, growth and development of aviation and airports in Idaho and in the United States.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation issued a Draft Environmental Assessment on the Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan in December, 2000. In the Plan, the Environmental Assessment Preferred Alternative is to NOT RE-OPEN THE (Cascade Reservoir) AIRSTRIP FOR FLY-IN USES. Further, the recommendation is to "CHANGE RMP LAND USE DESIGNATION TO WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA."

AOPA takes strong exception to the stated intent of the Bureau of Reclamation's (BOR) to close the Cascade Reservoir Airstrip to aviation users. This is contrary to the alternative recommendations in the 1991 Plan and to the many manifestations of aviation's wish and need to re-open it expressed over time to your agency.

Northwest Report

1



Airports today are virtually irreplaceable with the Nation losing an average of fifty-two airports per year. Back-country airstrips are particularly unique to Idaho and extremely important to our members and the general aviation community.

Some of AOPA's strenuous objections to this alternative follows:

1. It is blatantly discriminatory. Aviation appears to be the only mode of transportation excluded from the use of this area and is contrary to the BOR's charge to manage lands in a fair and equitable manner. Closing this airstrip would be abdicating ones' duty to preserve irreplaceable assets.
2. No environmental rationale is given for the change from the 1991 Plan. That environmental impact study found the airstrip compatible with the reservoir's areas' long term usage.
  - Denying access without a commensurate conservation benefit violates the States' goals of the staff's E.I.S.
3. The BOR's stated perception on page 3-71, 4th paragraph of your draft assessment that "There continues to be a limited amount of public support for the re-opening of the airstrip" is patently false. At your public hearings recently held in Boise there was unanimous support from the aviation users testifying. The long involvement and discussions, over time, by the Idaho Aviation Association and the Idaho Aeronautics Divisions leadership with the Bureau testifies to aviation's support for the re-opening of the Cascade Reservoir Airstrip. These agencies organizations, and members are prepared to help restore, operate and maintain this facility if it is re-opened.

AOPA respectfully submits a request that the Bureau re-consider its alternatives to keep the Cascade Reservoir Closed and to select the unanimous choice of the aviation community to re-open this facility for use again.

Please include AOPA in any future notifications concerning Cascade Reservoir Airstrip. I can be reached at (541) 745-7358 and my E-mail address is [ray.costello@aopa.org](mailto:ray.costello@aopa.org).

**O6-1:** The potential impacts to bald eagles from re-opening the airstrip was disclosed in the Final EA/FONSI and the FWS Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report (included with the Final EA) for the 1991 RMP. The proposed opening of the airstrip at that time was provisional and would only occur if monitoring did not indicate fly-in use would adversely affect bald eagles. Since publication of the 1991 RMP, bald eagles have occupied a nearby nest and bald eagles are nesting at several locations around the reservoir. Bald eagles are protected by the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Consequently, before the airstrip could be re-opened, Reclamation would be required to conduct monitoring of the nearby bald eagle nest and its occupants, as well as other potentially affected bald eagles in the Lake Cascade area according to a future monitoring plan agreed to by Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Monitoring would need to clearly demonstrate that reinstating this use would not have a negative impact on the area's bald eagle population. If the airstrip is re-opened, it is anticipated it would be a provisional opening based on continued monitoring of eagle reaction to increased small airplane activity.

**O6-2:** The public comment received for re-opening the airstrip has not been unanimous and potential re-opening must be considered in relation to area residents and resource values. However, an option for re-opening the airstrip has been added to the Preferred Alternative, providing certain conditions are met. This is described in Section 2.3.2 of the Final EA.

Sincerely,

Ray Costello  
Pacific Northwest Regional Representative  
490 N.W. Rivendell Ln.  
Corvallis, OR 97330  
Phone: (541) 745-7358  
Fax: (541) 745-7358  
E mail ray.costello@aopa.org

cc: Kathy Miller, President of the Idaho Aviation Association, [C185BM@ctcweb.net](mailto:C185BM@ctcweb.net),  
Phone: (208) 634-8798  
Dave Walker, Idaho Aviation Foundation, President, P.O. Box 369, McCall, ID 83638,  
Phone: (208) 634-3090, Fax: (916) 314-9036, [redflash@mail.org](mailto:redflash@mail.org)  
Keith Bumsted, Interim Director, Idaho Division of Aeronautics, [kbumsted@itd.state.ID.us](mailto:kbumsted@itd.state.ID.us)

FitPlan .com ~ Copyright 2000

LIV00-0000 -  
BOR Page 2 of 2

OFFICE COPY  
1-930

David M. Walker  
P.O. Box 369  
McCall, ID 83638  
February 5, 2001

US Bureau of Reclamation  
PN Regional Office PN-3902  
Attn: Carolyn Burpee Stone  
1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100  
Boise ID 83706-1234

18451

3902-088 2/08/01

Subject: Comment on December 2000 Draft EA; support for reopening Cascade Reservoir Airstrip

Dear Carolyn :

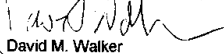
Thanks to you, Jim Budolfson, and Patti Llewellyn for your advice and assistance in our efforts to facilitate the reopening of the Cascade Reservoir Airstrip. I thought the public meetings were well-managed, and I appreciate the opportunity to be heard on this issue.

I would very much appreciate being kept on appropriate notification lists for subsequent meetings and working groups relative to this airstrip and to any airstrip in Idaho in which BOR has interest. As you observed in the two public meetings, in which almost all the testimony was in favor of reopening the airstrip, with no expressed opposition at all, the pilots of Idaho are very much involved and want to participate.

In the interest of brevity, I will not repeat here all the reasons why I request that the new Resource Management Plan for Cascade Reservoir include provisions for reopening the Cascade Reservoir Airport, but a few of the most important ones are re-stated below:

- The current (1991) RMP contains the appropriate provisions, and nothing in the Draft EA offers rationale for changing those provisions. The current RMP considered all the potential impacts and found that reopening the airstrip was both practical and environmentally sound.
- Support for access by airplane to Cascade Reservoir is strong among the Idaho aviation community, including the Idaho Department of Transportation Division of Aeronautics, the Idaho Aviation Association, the Idaho Aviation Foundation, the Idaho 99's and numerous other operators of general aviation aircraft throughout the Northwest.
- Reopening the airstrip would provide increased access to Cascade Reservoir recreational facilities for many people, including elderly and handicapped individuals and people coming from other states to Idaho, who would otherwise not be able to enjoy the Reservoir. Moreover, it would do so with less environmental impact than other motorized means of access.
- There would be no additional cost to BOR or local governmental agencies to reopen the airstrip, as the Division of Aeronautics and the Idaho Aviation Association have committed to bear all necessary costs.

Thank you for your attention,

  
David M. Walker

Cc: Idaho Aviation Foundation  
Idaho Transportation Department, Division of Aeronautics  
Idaho Aviation Foundation  
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association

**O7—David M. Walker, Idaho Aviation Foundation, McCall, Idaho**

**O7-1:** Representatives of the Division of Aeronautics and Idaho Aviation Association will be informed of all pertinent meetings.

**O7-2:** The Draft EA did not consider re-opening the airstrip in its evaluation of the action alternatives. Please see Section 2.3.2. See response to comment O6-1.

**O7-3:** The strong support for re-opening the airstrip has been noted in this document.

**O7-4:** Comment noted.

O7-1

O7-2

O7-3

O7-4

Page 1 of 3

US Bureau of Reclamation  
PN Regional Office PN-3902  
Attn: Carolyn Burpee Stone  
1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100  
Boise ID 83706-1234

OFFICIAL FILE COPY	
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION	
OFFICIAL FILE COPY	
MAR 21 '01	
3902	CBS 3/23
FILE	

David M. Walker  
P.O. Box 369  
McCall, ID 83638  
March 17, 2001

LND - 8.00 -  
B01  
Cascade RMP

1-1798

17684

Subject: Comment on December 2000 Draft EA as modified in BOR Newsbrief of March 2001

Dear Carolyn:

When you first informed me that, in response to inputs from the aviation community, the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) was considering support for reopening the Cascade Reservoir Airstrip in the modified Draft EA, I was heartened and appreciative.

However, now that I have seen the specifics of the BOR position I must register strong protest against the conditions that were placed on that support. Taken together, these conditions amount to de facto opposition by BOR to the reopening of the airstrip.

Before expressing my opinion on the BOR's latest position, I must first ask that you increase the time allowed for comment by the public on the new position. In fact, the elapsed time from when I received the Newsbrief in the mail on Monday, March 13, until the final due date for comments, March 28, is only 15 calendar days. This is insufficient to notify all the other interested parties, gather information and expertise, and respond effectively. I request that a comment period of at least 60 days from March 13, 2001, be allowed for public response.

O8-1

Specifically addressing the issues in the March 2001 Newsbrief:

- The Newsbrief gives three reasons why the Draft EA did not continue the current Resource Management Plan (RMP) policy of support for reopening of the airstrip:
  - "because proponents of the airstrip had not expressed their views earlier in the RMP update process"
  - "due to the seemingly difficult effort regarding the land transaction"
  - "re-occupation of a nearby nest by pair of bald eagles"

With respect to #1: In marked contrast to the process used in drafting the current (1991-2001) RMP, in which both the Idaho Aviation Association (largest private aviation group in Idaho) and the Idaho Department of Transportation, Division of Aeronautics (state authority for airports) were invited participants, this time neither organization was informed of the draft, let alone invited. In fact, BOR systematically excluded the aviation proponents who were the most vocal public participants in the 1991 process from the 2001 process. As soon as we found out, the proponents expressed their views enthusiastically, resulting, once again, in the reopening of the airstrip being the most popular issue discussed at the public hearings and the subject of the great preponderance of correspondence. Most expressed opinion was decidedly favorable. In fact, despite allusions by BOR personnel to the contrary, I have not heard or seen any opposition to the reopening of the airstrip other than one person who wondered "Where were these people when the draft was done?" and another who expressed surprise that there WERE any aviation interests. Both these people were anxious to get the RMP approved for their own reasons (respectively, agricultural use and residential development) so they did not want new requirements introduced late in the process. Clearly if BOR had included aviators in the process from the beginning we would not have surprised them. Moreover, logical objections from any source could have been addressed deliberately instead emotionally in public meetings.

## O8—David M. Walker, Idaho Aviation Foundation, McCall, Idaho (second letter)

**O8-1:** Reclamation believes the comment period is adequate, based upon the number of comments received regarding the airstrip.

With respect to #2: it is worth noting that the BOR is being sued by the landowner in question because of perceived bad faith in the land transaction, while the IAA and the IAF are attempting to facilitate the necessary land transaction. If BOR wants the transaction to go through and the lawsuit to disappear, then it should support the airstrip reopening. One wonders if personal grudges built up over the years of negotiation had something to do with both the BOR position in the draft EA and the failure to seek input from the aviation community.

With respect to #3: The bald eagles in question appear to have taken up residence approximately 1.5 miles from the airstrip, which is not particularly close. Boats, hikers, etc., will be closer to the nest, but their access is not restricted. Moreover, bald eagles are proposed for delisting from the endangered species list because their numbers are increasing significantly. The main reason for their decline in the first place was deemed to be use of pesticides. With the banning of DDT, they have steadily increased. I have found no documentation that blames eagle decline on airplanes, with the exception of some references to scheduled jet airline activity in Colorado in 1997 (asserted, not proven). To the contrary, I interviewed Mr. Burt Summerfield, environmental officer for the Kennedy Space Center spaceport, on the subject: Burt told me that airplanes and eagles did not conflict, but that habitat disturbance by ground vehicles, boats, and people was a concern. (This makes sense – eagles have no airborne natural enemies, but can be vulnerable to predation of their eggs and nesting young from the ground.) Eagles are on the increase in the Kennedy Space Center wildlife refuge and bird sanctuary, despite airplanes, space shuttles, expendable rocket launches and ever-increasing tourism (the biggest disturbance).

- The March Newsbrief states that "Reclamation is considering modifying the Preferred Alternative to potentially allow the State airstrip to be re-opened for recreational fly-in use as well as boat and hike-in use." It then states several conditions to be satisfied allowing the strip to be reopened.
  1. "Conduct monitoring of the nearby bald eagle nest and its occupants, as well as other potentially affected bald eagles in the Hot Springs WMA and Lake Cascade area according to a future monitoring plan agreed to by Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Monitoring would need to clearly demonstrate that reinstating this use would not have a negative impact on the area's bald eagle population. If the airstrip is reopened, it is anticipated it would be a provisional opening based on monitoring of eagle interactions."

This amounts to effectively blocking the airstrip reopening, because it places the burden of proof on the airplanes and the airstrip to show that eagles are not affected BEFORE the airstrip can be reopened – a logical impossibility. It extends the monitoring effort well beyond the immediate area of the airstrip, thus complicating an already impractical effort. Finally, it requires three bureaucracies to agree on the monitoring plan before even starting to implement it, which would even further delay any progress. If this requirement were placed on ANY proposed airport site the effect would be to postpone the airport indefinitely. I believe that to be the intent of this requirement, not any concern for the welfare of the eagles. Where are the studies showing that boating or other motorized vehicle uses do not adversely affect the eagles, if BOR is so concerned? Why is aviation singled out for discriminatory treatment on this issue?

2. "The land transaction would need to be consummated enabling Reclamation free and clear title without any restrictions over this parcel of land."

The land transaction will likely NOT be completed as stated if BOR has effectively proscribed the reopening of the airstrip, since the people who are trying to facilitate it have no incentive to do so except to reopen the airstrip. The landowner will proceed with his lawsuit.

3. "The Idaho Aviation Association would need to comply with all requirements set forth in a permit issued to them by Reclamation....." (There follows a list of five particulars, only one of which – concerning sewers - needs addressing. The others are irrelevant.)

O8-2

O8-3

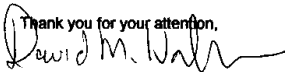
**O8-2:** Reclamation's primary responsibility concerning bald eagles is to avoid impacting this species, which is protected by several federal laws. We agree that there is some level of disturbance to nests from other uses on the lake and we have considered these and other potential disturbances when proposing management actions. The opening of the airport presents one more activity with potential for bald eagle disturbance and that is why Reclamation is monitoring bald eagle use near the airstrip.

**O8-3:** The prediction of impacts prior to an action occurring is standard practice in impact assessment under NEPA and ESA. Proposed monitoring of bald eagles before and after a provisional re-opening of the airstrip would be designed to answer questions regarding possible impacts to bald eagles from increased airplane traffic. Reclamation would use the best scientific information available in assessing the potential effects to bald eagles.

The Idaho Aviation Association does not intend to operate the Cascade Reservoir Airstrip, so none of the requirements mentioned applies to them. The Idaho Division of Aeronautics would operate the airstrip under the same procedures it uses in operating the other 31 State airstrips. The role of the Idaho Aviation Association would be to provide volunteer labor and to promote the safe, efficient use of the airstrip by its members and other pilots. This has always been the plan, and it has been communicated repeatedly to BOR personnel in writing and in public testimony. Until this Newsbrief, there was no indication that BOR disagreed or did not understand. That the BOR has failed to acknowledge the difference in the appropriate roles of the Division of Aeronautics and the Idaho Aviation Association is, unfortunately, indicative of a general disregard of aviation issues despite all attempts to inform them. The process envisioned would involve a permit or lease from BOR to the Division of Aeronautics. In fact, paperwork for this was drafted several years ago when reopening the airstrip seemed more imminent. It does not have to be unduly complicated if the BOR does not strive to make it so.

Concerning the reference to a requirement to hook up to the Donnelly sewer system: Regardless of who is responsible for effective waste disposal, it is inappropriate for BOR to demand a particular solution, especially when the solution specified is likely to be the most expensive for Idaho taxpayers. EPA approved vault toilets are in widespread use and can easily accommodate the waste requirements of airstrip users. If the boaters and hikers that BOR wants to allow into the area add enough demand that the sewer hookup is necessary, then that solution can be pursued as required, but it should not be imposed as a condition to reopening the airstrip.

- The current (1991) RMP expresses BOR support for reopening the airstrip, dependent only on the completion of the necessary land transaction and an appropriate agreement with the Idaho Division of Aeronautics. This is the current policy. Idaho aviators and potential users of the Cascade Reservoir Airstrip from other states want the new (2001) RMP to contain the same provisions.
- BOR has offered no logic for its obstruction, in which it persists even while acknowledging strong support for the reopening of the airstrip.
- If further justification were needed for reopening the airstrip, I remind you that the Long Valley has taken an economic hit of substantial proportions due to mill closings in addition to the general slowing of the US economy. Recreation is a clean way to increase spending in the local area., perhaps partially making up for losses of other types of business. Moreover, affordable access to recreational facilities is most important to local citizens when economic stresses are severe. It is bad business and bad government to ignore these factors. BOR should be enabling, not obstructing, responsible use of the Cascade Reservoir recreational area for both economic and social reasons

Thank you for your attention.  


David M. Walker  
President, Idaho Aviation Foundation  
Member Idaho Aviation Association, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association

Cc: Idaho Aviation Foundation  
Idaho Transportation Department, Division of Aeronautics  
Idaho Aviation Foundation  
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association  
Office of US Senator Mike Crapo  
Office of US Senator Larry Craig  
Office of US Representative "Butch" Otter  
Office of US Representative Mike Simpson  
Office of Governor Dirk Kempthorne

**O8-4:** Under the 1991 RMP, the opening of the airstrip was provisional and would have only occurred if monitoring did not indicate fly-in use would adversely affect bald eagles.

O8-4

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan  
Draft Environmental Assessment

Lake Cascade RMP Public Hearing  
January 31, 2001 - Boise  
February 1, 2001 - Cascade

FEB 26 '01

Name (required) DON LOJEK  
Address (required) 1344 Rimrock Ct Boise ID 83712  
(Also Longhorn Rd Donnelly, Idaho)

Please write your comments below:

3402 CBS 2/26/01

Thank you for participating in the review process for the Lake Cascade Draft Environmental Assessment. Your comments will be used to help us develop the final management plan.

Reclamation invites you to fill out this form to provide your comments on the recently released Draft RMP for the Lake Cascade RMP. Specifically, Reclamation is interested in your thoughts and views on the various alternative management plans for the future management of Lake Cascade.

When providing your comments, please be as specific as possible and please write clearly so we can understand your concerns.

Comments submitted at tonight's meeting will become part of the official hearing record.

You may also provide comments to be included in the final EIS within the 60 day review period which ends on March 22, 2001. This form is designed as a self-mailer if you wish to use it to submit comments via mail.

You can request that we withhold your name and/or address by stating this prominently at the beginning of your written comments. However, we will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public disclosure in their entirety.

Reclamation appreciates your interest and participation in the future management and use of Lake Cascade.



Visit Reclamation and the Lake Cascade RMP on the World Wide Web

[www.pn.usbr.gov](http://www.pn.usbr.gov)

*in the rough water wash rough by their wakes. Please impose a no-wake zone at least (over)*

I1—Don Lojek, Boise, Idaho

**I1-1:** Erosion will be addressed by establishing and enforcing a 100-foot-wide no-wake zone from the shorelines and structures in the Boulder Creek Arm and by placing marker buoys noting this zone.

*We support the Preferred alternative with a couple of exceptions: First, there is a huge changed condition in Boulder Creek, that is the Boulder Creek boat ramp which sends dozens of large boats into B.C. each day from 7:00 A.M. to well after 10:00 P.M. The wakes are constant and erode the shoreline quickly. We have lost nine feet in front of our cabin in the last four years. That is not good for the reservoir. The boats go there out of habit because they believe the water will be smooth. Often the main reservoir is smooth and we have 25 boats in B.C. dodging each other, towing their skiers*

I1-1

Additional Comments:

when the reservoir is full or 2 feet short  
of being full.  
Second, B.C. really ought to be a  
wildlife management area instead of  
C/Os. Please make arrangements to visit us  
in Ponderly and we'll take you on a tour & show you  
all of the trees falling in the water because of  
the erosion. Thanks, Dan Lejek

I1-2

- I1-2:** The Boulder Creek Arm will be managed as C/OS to maintain a balance between human use and preservation of natural areas, and to buffer the high-use recreation area of the reservoir.



U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
PN Regional Office PN-3902  
Attn: Carolyn Burpee Stone  
1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100  
Boise, ID 83706-1234



Carolyn Burpee Stone - RE: U. S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION COMMENT ON DRAFT EAS FOR LAKE CASCADE RMP Page 1

cf. 2/5/01

**From:** "Nagler, Roark K, BMSLS" <nagler@att.com>  
**To:** <CSTONE@pn.usbr.gov>  
**Date:** 2/5/01 8:05PM  
**Subject:** RE: U. S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION COMMENT ON DRAFT EAS FOR LAKE CASCADE RMP

> Roark Nagler  
> Data Network Applications Engineer  
> AT&T National Remotes Organization  
> 208-342-6072  
> 800-331-8464

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Nagler, Roark K, BMSLS  
**Sent:** Monday, February 05, 2001 8:02 PM  
**To:** 'CSTONE@pn.usbr.gov'  
**Subject:** U. S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION COMMENT ON DRAFT EAS FOR LAKE CASCADE RMP  
**Importance:** High

Dear Bureau Folks,

The preferred alternative includes renovating the Boulder Creek Recreation Site. This contemplates providing additional parking at the site. Our property sits at the corner of Wildwood and Hereford immediately across Hereford to the East of the Site. We feel the parking lot extension should be to the North of the present parking lot. In the event that the parking area is expanded, it is important that a buffer area be built between the parking lot and any surrounding cabins. A berm, hedge, vegetation, trees, etc. would be most appreciated to limit the noise and visual impact of the new parking area.

If possible, redesign of the water front area North of the boat ramp to include more beach area at high water would be a good thing.

The area north of the ramp could also support picnic tables/areas.

I2-1

Roark and Patricia Nagler

1002 N. 18th Street  
Boise, ID 83702  
208 384 1881

12746 Hereford Lane  
Donnelly, ID 83615  
208 325 8286

## I2—Roark Nagler, Boise and Donnelly, Idaho

**I2-1:** The specific details of the Boulder Creek Recreation site will be determined during RMP development. Your comment will be considered at that time.

**Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan  
Draft Environmental Assessment**

1-12-46  
12684  
Lake Cascade RMP

**BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
OFFICIAL FILE COPY**

**FEB 20 '01**

**LAKE CASCADE RMP PUBLIC HEARING**  
**January 31, 2001 - Boise**  
**February 1, 2001 - Cascade**

Name (required) Meg Lojek  
Address (required) 526 S. 780 W. Cedar City, UT 84720

TO INIT 2/20/01  
3902 OKS

Please write your comments below:

*I am writing to encourage a no-wake zone in Boulder Creek.*

*As a long time recreator to Cascade Reservoir, I have witnessed an incredible increase in large watercraft since the Boulder Creek launch ramp construction. These power boats zoom the short length of Boulder Creek not only every day, but all day long.*

*The main negative effect of these boats is, of course, not the boats themselves but the wake that trails them. The waves crash into the shoreline, continuously eroding the Reservoir's banks. The destruction is clearly visible and will only get worse each summer. Boulder Creek is simply too narrow to support the amount of wake-creating traffic the new boat ramp generates.*

*Since we can't change the constitution of the banks or the erosive power of water itself, the only logical solution is to create a no-wake zone to eliminate unnecessary damage to the shoreline. At the least, no wakes should be permitted when the reservoir is full or within two feet of being full.*

*This simple change to the RMP will not inhibit the enjoyment of boat usage overall. I can get in our power boat at our family's cabin in Boulder Creek and arrive in the main part of the lake within minutes. In the main part, I feel comfortable causing wakes since they don't damage the distant shores.*

*The RMP is acceptable other than this Boulder Creek no-wake issue. Thank you for your work to make Cascade Reservoir a wonderful place that continues to serve people's desires and ensure future use.*

**Visit Reclamation and the Lake Cascade RMP on the World Wide Web**

**www.pn.usbr.gov**

**Reclamation**

Thank you for participating in the review process for the Lake Cascade Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Resource Management Plan (RMP). Reclamation invites you to use this form to provide review comments on the recently released Draft EA for the Lake Cascade RMP. Specifically, Reclamation is very interested in your thoughts and impressions of the various alternatives presented for the future management of Lake Cascade.

When providing your comments, please be as specific as possible, and please write clearly so we can understand your concerns.

Comments submitted at tonight's meeting will become part of the official hearing record.

You may also provide comments to be included in the final EA within the 60 day review period which ends February 22, 2001. This form is designed as a self-mailer if you wish to use it to submit comments via mail.

You can request that we withhold your name and/or address by stating this prominently at the beginning of your written comments. However, we will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public disclosure in their entirety.

Reclamation appreciates your interest and participation in the future management and use of Lake Cascade.

### I3—Meg Lojek, Cedar City, Utah

**I3-1:** A no-wake zone will be enforced by the Valley County Sheriff's Department, according to State law, i.e. 100 feet from structures throughout the arm and in the upper reaches of the arm. Buoys will be placed at the entrance to the arm to remind boaters of the regulations.

I3-1

## Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan Draft Environmental Assessment

Lake Cascade RMP Public Hearing  
January 31, 2001 - Boise  
February 1, 2001 - Cascade

Name (required) CHARLES M. COUPER  
Address (required) 6013 LUBKIN, BOISE, IDA 83704 ✓

Please write your comments below:

Thank you for participating in the review process for the Lake Cascade Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Resource Management Plan (RMP) Update.

Reclamation invites you to use this form to provide review comments on the recently released Draft EA for the Lake Cascade RMP. Specifically, Reclamation is very interested in your thoughts and impressions of the various alternatives presented for the future management of Lake Cascade.

When providing your comments, please be as specific as possible, and please write clearly so we can understand your concerns.

Comments submitted at tonight's meeting will become part of the official hearing record.

You may also provide comments to be included in the final EA within the 60 day review period which ends February 22, 2001. This form is designed as a self-mailer if you wish to use it to submit comments via mail.

You can request that we withhold your name and/or address by stating this prominently at the beginning of your written comments. However, we will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public disclosure in their entirety.

Reclamation appreciates your interest and participation in the future management and use of Lake Cascade.



Mr. Charles M. Couper  
6013 Lubkin St.  
Boise, ID 83704 7561

Visit Reclamation and the  
Lake Cascade RMP on the  
World Wide Web

[www.pn.usbr.gov](http://www.pn.usbr.gov)

### I4—Charles M. Couper, Boise, Idaho

**I4-1:** Reclamation does not have enforcement authority at the reservoir; this is under the jurisdiction of the Valley County Sheriff's Department. Nevertheless, Reclamation will continue to work with Valley County to increase law enforcement at Lake Cascade.

**I4-2:** Buoys will be placed at the entrance to the Boulder Creek Arm to remind boaters of the regulations. Reclamation will also add signage and provide brochures on boater safety.

*Being unable to participate at the public meeting due to conflict, I have read through the overview of Draft EA with particular attention to the Northwest Area where our property is located. Namely on the south side of the Boulder Creek arm, approximately halfway between the lower Lewis Canyon and the main lake opening. The two main problems in this area is shoreline erosion (especially on the West side) and heavy boat & jet ski traffic during the summer months. Nature does create at times sizeable water action resulting in erosion. Add to this the added wave action caused by motor boats (not all) and erosion is a real concern. Attempts to stabilize shoreline especially on the West side due to vegetation over the years has been difficult at the least. It would seem, however, it is not the B.R. that really poses the shoreline as they will continue to maintain high water levels in the lake reducing the decked land, that any regulation of erosion control will be flexible. Water surface management ~~is~~ as proposed seems to be the best which exists currently. The buoys have been put in the area and the County Sheriff's office seems to be appearing more frequently. Enforcement needs to be maintained if the increased use of the lake is to be kept under control. Definitely the lake has a positive influence on the local speed and engine activity. The proposal to increase parking and widening the ramp at the Boulder Creek fork may increase boating activity (especially jet skis) on the Boulder Creek arm. This should be taken for more enforcement for safety reasons as well as the growing problem. Overall the proposed alternative seem to be proper as described. Would hope there are no negative factors in the future.*

*Charles M. Couper*

I4-1

I4-2

Jan 3/01

To  
Carolyn Burpee Store

I recieved the McCall Star News  
yesterday & saw the article on  
Lake Cascade

We spend the summer & fall  
at New Meadows & fish Lake  
Cascade fairly often. In the fall  
we fish on the beach South of  
the Cascade golf course. most  
everyone sits in thier cars out  
of the weather.

Nearly everyone is 60 to 80 plus  
years old. for myself I am a 100%  
disabled ex prisoner of war.

In the part of the beach I am  
referring to thier is very little if  
any erosion. If it would become  
necessary to close the beach I  
think the disabled pepole should  
be considered. Thank you  
Tony Schinner

I5-1

I5—Anthony F. Schinner, Kooskia, Idaho

**I5-1:** Vehicular access to the shoreline will be phased out for a variety of reasons, including erosion and especially water quality. Water quality was the overwhelming concern raised by the public during the RMP process. Reclamation does not have the resources to enforce limited access along the shoreline because, once in the drawdown zone, vehicles can be driven for many miles up and down the reservoir.



Anthony F. Schinner  
P.O. Box 43  
Kooskia, ID 83539-0043

LND 8.00 -  
BOR  
Cascade FEB 2 2001

1/29/01  
1-752

To: Caroline Burpee Stone 3902 OBS 2/05/01

From: Matt & Rosalie Rice 18451

This year we are 83 and 80 years old and no longer able to spend the winters at our home on West Mountain at Cascade Idaho.

However we spend the summers there and love to fish Cascade lake.

With the new proposal ban on driving on the sand to fish near the water will make it impossible for us when the water is very low ,like last fall. Not only us, but many elderly and handicapped people will be in the same kettle of fish.

It is apparent from the many years that we have fished at Cascade that the only damage and erosion cause from driving on the beach is done by off road vehicles and some cars driving and playing on the beach and in soil area's near the water.

May I suggest some alternatives:

Please give some consideration to the elderly and handicapped.  
Designate area's like south of the golf course, where the beach is all sand, and allow people to drive and park to fish within 15 or 20 feet of the water.

I6-1


Do not allow people to fish with two poles as this takes up too much beach.

P.S. Also this is very unsportman like and creates game hogs and not sportmans. (my Opinion)

I6-2

Please cut a little slack for the elderly and handicapped, if plossible.

Sincerely:

  
Matt F. Rice and Rosalie Rice  
PO Box 710  
Cascade, ID 83611

### I6—Matt F. and Rosalie Rice, Cascade, Idaho

- I6-1:** Please see response to comment I5-1, letter from Anthony F. Schinner of Kooskia, Idaho.
- I6-2:** Reclamation does not have the authority to mandate fishing practices. Fishing regulations are set by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

## Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan Draft Environmental Assessment

Lake Cascade RMP Public Hearing  
January 31, 2001 - Boise  
February 1, 2001 - Cascade

Name (required) Roy Doan  
Address (required) 10607 W Stonecrop Star ID

Please write your comments below:

Thank you for participating in the review process for the Lake Cascade Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Resource Management Plan (RMP) Update.

Reclamation invites you to use this form to provide review comments on the recently released Draft EA for the Lake Cascade RMP. Specifically, Reclamation is very interested in your thoughts and impressions of the various alternatives presented for the future management of Lake Cascade.

When providing your comments, please be as specific as possible, and please write clearly so we can understand your concerns.

Comments submitted at tonight's meeting will become part of the official hearing record.

You may also provide comments to be included in the final EA within the 60 day review period which ends February 22, 2001. This form is designed as a self-mailer if you wish to use it to submit comments via mail.

You can request that we withhold your name and/or address by stating this prominently at the beginning of your written comments. However, we will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public disclosure in their entirety.

Reclamation appreciates your interest and participation in the future management and use of Lake Cascade.



I own property in Crown Point. I would like to see ORV/ATV access provided to the beautiful sandy beaches in the Crown Point area. This could be done very easily by providing access to the old railroad right of way. Two of the areas I would suggest are south of the Crown Point Cemetery and another off of Sterling Drive. I think by having this area opened up it would give more people the opportunity to use this area. I have elderly parents who can not walk to the lake. I strongly support Alternative C or at least Alternative A. I believe Cascade Lake should be for recreation! Provide more access. Even if access were provided to the railroad right of way with parking areas close to the lake it would be a big help.

I7-1

### I7—Roy Doan, Star, Idaho

I7-1: The Crown Point Road will be open for non-motorized use to access the beaches in that area. The trail will be designed to Uniform Federal Accessibility standards to accommodate use by a wide range of individuals. Snowmobiles are not restricted from using this route. Please see response I5-1 regarding the reasons for restricting vehicle access to the shoreline.

[www.pn.usbr.gov](http://www.pn.usbr.gov)

Visit Reclamation and the  
Lake Cascade RMP on the  
World Wide Web

**Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan  
Draft Environmental Assessment**

1-901  
18451  
Lake Cascade RMP Public Hearing  
January 31, 2001 - Boise  
February 1, 2001 - Cascade

3902 CBS 2/9/01

NAME (required) Josh Davis  
Address (required) 14 Union Lake Hwy

**OFFICIAL FILE COPY**

Please write your comments below:

In response to the February 1, Lake Cascade Resource Management plan meeting, I feel as if I need to write on the Crown Point Extension issue. I totally believe that the existing rail road bed should be developed into a public landscaped trail. I think it should be open to hikers, bicyclists, snowshoers, and children and it should allow access to the back side of Crown Point where there is very good bass fishing. I believe that the trail should be landscaped with flowers and rocks etc. I think that the Bureau is going to run into serious problems if they try to leave the trail go that snowshoers and children share the trail. It always ends up in a fight, so they will have to pick one or the other. So from my point of view I would greatly encourage you to leave the crown point rail road bed as a public trail.

18-1

18-2

Thank you for participating in the review process for the Lake Cascade Draft Environmental Assessment (EIS) and Resource Management Plan Update. Reclamation invites you to provide your comments on the recently released Lake Cascade RMP. Specifically, Reclamation is very interested in your thoughts and impressions of the various alternatives presented for the future management of Lake Cascade. When providing your comments, please be as specific as possible and clearly write clearly so we can understand your concerns. Comments submitted at a public meeting will become part of the official hearing record. You may also provide comments included in the final EIS within the 60-day review period, which ends on March 22, 2001. This form is designed as a self-mailer if you wish to submit your comments via mail. You can request that we withhold your name and/or address by stating this prominently at the beginning of your written comments. However, we will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public disclosure in their entirety. Reclamation appreciates your interest and participation in the future management and use of Lake Cascade.

Visit Reclamation and the Lake Cascade RMP on the World Wide Web

[www.pn.usbr.gov](http://www.pn.usbr.gov)

## 18—Josh Davis, Cascade, Idaho

- 18-1:** The trail will be open to non-motorized uses that will provide the access you describe. There are no plans for landscaping along the trail.
- 18-2:** The railroad grade will continue to be used as a public trail as you request. Reclamation recognizes the potential for conflicts between snowmobiles and other winter users and will address this issue if it becomes a serious problem.

**Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan  
Draft Environmental Assessment**

CONTROL NO. 1-912 OFFICIAL FILE COPY Lake Cascade RMP Public Hearing  
January 31, 2001 - Boise  
February 7, 2001 - Cascade

18451

Name (required) Krista Waldron  
Address (required) PO Box 831 Cascade, ID 83611

Please write your comments below:

300a INIT DATE

Thank you for participating in the process for the Lake Cascade Draft Environmental Assessment and Resource Management Plan Update. Reclamation invites you to provide review comments on the recently released Draft of the Lake Cascade RMP. Specifically, Reclamation is very interested in your thoughts and impressions of the various alternatives presented for the future management of Lake Cascade.

When providing your comments, please be as specific as possible and write clearly so we can understand your concerns.

Comments submitted at a public meeting will become part of the official hearing record.

You may also provide comments included in the final EA within the 60-day review period which ends on May 22, 2001. This form is designed to self-mailer if you wish to submit comments via mail.

You can request that we withhold your name and/or address by stating this prominently at the beginning of your written comments. However, we will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public disclosure in their entirety.

Reclamation appreciates your interest and participation in the future management and use of Lake Cascade.

1 I think that the preferred Alternative is a perfect plan. For my Advanced Biology class, a couple of other kids and I took up the project with the trail. In the plan, for the Crown Point extension, I agree with what is written for the preferred Alternative. I think that the trail should stay a trail and it shouldn't be turned into a road. I agree with the "not for ORV/ATV use." People visit Cascade and look for a genuine wilderness experience. The trail provides this for them. It provides them and gives them the opportunity to take a nice walk down a developed non-motorized trail with a view of nature. They aren't looking for another country road. For my class, our project is to keep this trail a trail and when we did a survey, more than 60% of the people wanted to keep the trail a trail. Another road isn't needed.

19-1

Visit Reclamation and the Lake Cascade RMP on the Internet at [www.pn.usbr.gov](http://www.pn.usbr.gov)

## I9—Krista Waldron, Cascade, Idaho

**I9-1:** The trail will remain open for non-motorized use only. Please see response to comment I8-1, letter from Josh Davis of Cascade, Idaho.



## Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan Draft Environmental Assessment

your preferred ALTERNATIVE  
is very good AND MUST BE USER FRIENDLY

Lake Cascade RMP Public Hearing  
January 31, 2001 - Boise  
February 1, 2001 - Cascade

Name (required) STAN JAMES

Address (required) 506 Lake Shore CASCADE

MAILING ADDRESS 10524 WILDEROSE CT BOISE - 83704

Please write your comments below:

Thank you for participating in the review process for the Lake Cascade Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Resource Management Plan (RMP) Update.

Reclamation invites you to use this form to provide review comments on the recently released Draft EA for the Lake Cascade RMP. Specifically, Reclamation is very interested in your thoughts and impressions of the various alternatives presented for the future management of Lake Cascade.

When providing your comments, please be as specific as possible, and please write clearly so we can understand your concerns.

Comments submitted at tonight's meeting will become part of the official hearing record.

You may also provide comments to be included in the final EA within the 60 day review period which ends February 22, 2001. This form is designed as a self-mailer if you wish to use it to submit comments via mail.

You can request that we withhold your name and/or address by stating this prominently at the beginning of your written comments. However, we will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public disclosure in their entirety.

Reclamation appreciates your interest and participation in the future management and use of Lake Cascade.



My main concern is the new MARINA  
I like your preferred location -  
I worry that the construction of  
facilities may detract from our view of  
the lake. There is only three  
residents that border the park.  
The existing rest room is now in a spot  
that hurts the view and value of  
our properties.  
I would hope that if the marina  
is built that in the design no  
structures or signs are put in front  
of these existing homes.  
I realize that in the conditional  
use process that us with bordering  
properties will have input on design.  
If the design intent is proactive  
and does not block any of our views  
it would make the other permit process  
much easier.  
The location of sewer lines may  
detract that the restrooms/showers  
be built adjacent to Lake Shore Drive  
if they are not any higher in elevation  
than the current rest room  
and moved so they are not in front  
of these existing homes. I believe all  
of us bordering residents will  
support this project.

Thank you for this  
opportunity to voice my  
concerns

*Stan James*

1-31-01

Visit Reclamation and the  
Lake Cascade RMP on the  
World Wide Web

[www.pn.usbr.gov](http://www.pn.usbr.gov)

### I10—Stan James, Boise, Idaho

I10-1: The facilities will be designed to best accommodate recreation use and your concerns will be considered.

I10-2: Thank you for your suggestion on placement of the facilities.

I10-1

I10-2

**Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan  
Draft Environmental Assessment**

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
OFFICIAL FILE COPY

CONTROL NO. 1-913

DATE 7/01 1845

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

**Lake Cascade RMP Public Hearing**  
January 31, 2001 - Boise  
February 1, 2001 - Cascade

Name (required) Sarah Hasbrouck  
Address (required) 50 Hasbrouck Lane  
Cascade, ID 83611

Please write your comments below:

As a citizen of Cascade, I feel anywhere  
a trail is implemented in this  
plan, should be put into action.  
Trails along Lake Cascade would  
be an invaluable asset to the  
area. It would be wonderful to  
have trails along our lake where  
educational signs are available to  
learn about the wildlife, history  
of the area, and the landmarks  
seen from points in the trail. I  
believe if there were places for  
people to hike in and camp in  
tents, it would bring more  
business to not only the Blm  
State Parks, but to the businesses  
in Cascade & Donnelly. If sometime  
within the next 10 years the  
population of our area increases,  
places like trails would be  
nice to have as an escape from  
the motorized world.

Thank you for participating in the review process for the Lake Cascade Draft Environmental Assessment. The Resource Management Plan Update Reclamation invites you to provide review comments on the recently released Draft Environmental Assessment. Your input is very important. Your comments and impressions of the various alternatives presented for the management of Lake Cascade.


When providing your comments, be as specific as possible and write clearly so we can understand your concerns.

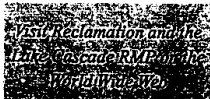
Comments submitted at this meeting will become part of the official hearing record.

You may also provide comments included in the final report during the 30-day review period which ends on March 22, 2001. This form is designed as a self-mailer if you wish to mail or submit comments via mail.

You can request that we withhold your name and/or address by stating this prominently at the beginning of your written comments. However, we will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public disclosure in their entirety.

Reclamation appreciates your interest and participation in the future management and use of Lake Cascade.





[www.pn.usbr.gov](http://www.pn.usbr.gov)

### I11—Sarah Hasbrouck, Cascade, Idaho

- I11-1:** The RMP, including several trails, will be implemented as described and as funding is available.
- I11-2:** Most trails proposed in the RMP will be accompanied by interpretive signage and kiosks.
- I11-3:** Hike-in camping is included for the Crown Point extension area.

February 22, 2001

US Bureau of Reclamation  
PN Regional Office PN-3902  
1150 N. Curtis Rd., Suite 100  
Boise, Idaho 83706-1234  
Attn: Carolyn Burpee Stone

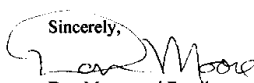
Re: Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan: DEA – December 2000

As a private power boater, my family and friends have enjoyed “Boat Camping” at Cascade and Owyhee Reservoir for over 15 years. We have always practiced proper camping etiquette and have always left our campsites cleaner than they were when we got there. This recreational activity has no negative impact on the resource if managed properly.

After reading the Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan: Draft Environmental Assessment, December 2000 - I have several issues the Bureau needs to take into consideration.

- Alternative C is the closest alternative that would be acceptable.
- More areas need to be identified for Boat Camping. (accessed only by boat or on foot)
  - The Pelican Bay Recreation Site on Sugarloaf Peninsula should be developed for overnight boat camping area with no road access (other than maintenance).
  - The area west and adjacent the airstrip should be managed for recreational use and be managed to allow overnight boat camping.
  - The area between Crown and Vista Points should be managed to allow overnight boat camping.
- Restrooms/Pit Toilets should be installed at the Old Airstrip, Pelican Point and Sugarloaf Island. All these areas are currently used by day-use fishermen as toilets and critically need restroom facilities. Access for maintenance is available for Pelican Point and the Old Airstrip and a boat mounted pump system could easily maintain the Sugarloaf Island site.
- There needs to be a Pack in/Pack out policy set for all camping in undeveloped sites. Porte potties and firepans should be required whenever boat camping or where restroom facilities are not available.

Sincerely,

  
Don Moore and Family  
5688 Kercliffe Ct  
Boise, Idaho 83704

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION OFFICIAL FILE COPY			ACR BUREAU P
FEB 22 '01			
TO	INIT	DATE	
3902	CBS	2/22/01	
FILE			

## I12—Don Moore, Boise, Idaho

**I12-1:** Please see response to comment O2-1, letter from Don Moore, Western Whitewater Association.

**I12-2:** Please see response to comment O2-2, letter from Don Moore, Western Whitewater Association.

**I12-3:** Please see response to comment O2-3, letter from Don Moore, Western Whitewater Association.

I12-1

I12-2

I12-3

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
PN REgional Office PN-3902  
ATTN: Carolyn Burpee Stone  
1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100  
Boise, ID 83706-1234

Dear Ms. Burpee Stone:

Please accept the following comments concerning the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan. I am awaiting your agency's response to my FOIA request for information regarding the agricultural lease on Arrowhead Point and reserve the right to submit further comments when this information arrives. I request that the public comment period be extended for this EA until two weeks after my FOIA request is answered.

I am very concerned about the potential effects of the proposed management direction on float planes and float plane safety. "The preferred alternative would allow for take-offs and landings of float planes in the main body of the reservoir only..." This action would have a much greater impact than the "...minor inconvenience for a very small number of users by requiring longer taxiing distances." as your document maintains. Please allow me to explain.

Landing on open bodies of water is a dangerous maneuver. When the water is calm, the pilot can't judge the height of the plane over the glassy water and this is the most dangerous landing a seaplane pilot can perform as the plane can flip over when contacting the water if the maneuver isn't completed with a high degree of proficiency. Under glassy water conditions, the pilot must perform a power-on approach with little or no flaps and a higher airspeed than normal. There can be no flair and the plane contacts the water while descending. The maneuver also takes a much larger area of water to perform safely and the pilot is encouraged to land near the shore, boats or other floating objects in order to discern the water surface.

When taking off from glassy water, the pilot needs a much longer takeoff run as the water is very sticky and one float takeoffs are recommended to reduce the drag on the floats and to allow the plane to accelerate to takeoff speed. After rotation, the pilot must initiate a positive rate of climb to insure that the plane does not fly back into the water.

[illegible]

### **I13—Kurt Becker, New Meadows, Idaho**

**I13-1:** Reclamation is working with you in response to your FOIA request. The comment period will not be extended however.

**I13-1**

**I13-2:** If glassy conditions exist on the main body of the reservoir they would likely also exist on the reservoir arms at that time. See response I13-3.

Both of these maneuvers are potentially very dangerous. I instruct students to not land or takeoff in glassy water unless absolutely necessary and then to land close to shore or other floating objects if at all possible in order to maintain a visual reference with the surface of the water.

Making float planes land and takeoff only in the main body of water in glassy water conditions would in effect be creating a safety hazard that goes against all of the seaplane training curriculums and even common sense. The same goes for windy and accompanied rough water conditions.

I13-2

During windy conditions, the restriction of landing only in the main body of water would also pose a safety hazard. When the water is rough (anything over 1 foot wave height for a float plane is considered rough water), you must fly low and slow over the water looking for the smoothest stretch of water to alight on and when you do land, you must use extreme measures (chopping the throttle, abruptly retracting the flaps and briskly pulling completely on the yoke) to keep the plane from capsizing and from damaging the airframe or floats.

Taking off from rough water is also very dangerous and can damage the plane, even when waves are not white-capping. You must get the plane into the air at minimum controllable airspeed to reduce the pounding on the floats. There is a high risk of stalling and flipping over during this maneuver if not done exactly right or during gusting winds. I instruct students in simulated rough water conditions but never in actual rough water as the maneuver is too dangerous. They are instructed to use these maneuvers only in emergencies.

Cascade Reservoir is a shallow body of water and thus the wave crests tend to be larger and the seas rougher during windy conditions. This only exacerbates an already dangerous situation and if your agency requires seaplanes to land only in the main body of water, you are simply putting these people at greater risk. In addition, if a plane flipped during a landing or takeoff from the main body of water, there would be a much lower chance of being rescued due to the distances from shore, the odds of the accident being observed and the dangerous water conditions for rescue craft.

I might also add that in my 22 years of flying float planes and over 12,000 hours of flight time, I have never had any people on a body of water or on shore complain about my flying. In fact, just the opposite occurs. Invariably people come up to us when we are beached and ask to look at the plane and want to know more about this kind of flying. They are impressed with the beauty of the plane and the unique blend of flying and boating. I have even given free

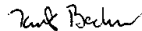
rides to interested people.

I should remind you that seaplanes are very safe. There has been only one seaplane/boat collision in the United States in the last 20 years and pilots are required to undergo indepth dual instruction, pass a flight test and have a valid flight physical before operating float plane. The same thing can't be said for boaters. In addition, I have never seen a drunk pilot but I have seen many drunk boaters and anglers.

Please see that your Final EA corrects these glaring errors and that the selected alternative provides for continued unrestricted float plane access to Cascade Reservoir. There is only light float plane traffic on the reservoir at the present time and there is no reason to believe it will increase in the future. There is absolutely no need to restrict an activity that is of low occurrence, self-limiting, extremely safe and provides enjoyment for pilots and spectators alike. Your preferred alternative would, contrary to your statements, reduce access to float planes by making this form of transportation and recreation less safe. Taxiing long distances is more than a minor inconvenience. During warm weather, the engine can overheat and during windy conditions, the spray on the propellor can be very damaging. In addition, such a restriction would add unnecessary costs to an already expensive activity.

I also challenge your legal right to restrict this form of activity on Cascade Reservoir. The State of Idaho owns the water and the FAA has jurisdiction over aircraft safety. Why then, are you trying to impose restrictions on something you have no authority over?

Sincerely,



Kurt Becker  
Certified Flight Instructor

cc: IAA  
SPA  
D.Kemphorne

**I13-3:** Float plane take-off and landings were deemed incompatible in the narrow reservoir arms because of conflicts with other recreationists.

**I13-4:** Restricting float plane take-off and landing in the narrow arms of the lake promotes safety for all lake users. Landing a float plane at the mouth of Lake Fork or Boulder Creek Arm and taxiing may be a minor inconvenience, but Reclamation believes it would promote general public safety on the lake.

**I13-5:** Reclamation has a duty to inform Valley County, FAA, and the public of the potential safety hazards associated with potential conflicts between airplanes and water craft.

I13-3

I13-4

I13-5

## **I14—Kimberly Engelbreit, Donnelly, Idaho**

February 17, 2001

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you today to express concern over some land use issues I have been following over the past few years. Recently I attended the two public meetings concerning the Draft Management Plan for the Lake Cascade area, and would like to comment on one aspect of it. Currently I own a two and a half acre parcel of land in Coho Estates in Donnelly immediately adjacent to a wildlife management area specifically set aside in the Lake Fork Creek drainage. This wildlife management area has been designated such for a number of reasons. Because it is a wetlands, the area attracts a wide variety of nesting migratory and local bird species as well as providing prime habitat for numerous other animals and wildlife. It is also a primary tributary flowing into Lake Cascade, and contributes to the overall health of the bio-community of the lake in addition to its water quality. As a wildlife management area, there are no motorized boats or vehicles allowed, as well as mountain bikes or other use that would potentially damage this unique and fragile area.

As is true with a number of these protected areas, this land is also part of an agricultural easement, allowing totally unrestricted livestock grazing rights. When I first acquired the land, this quickly became a concern to me as I witnessed the obvious degradation of this beautiful, supposedly “protected” area resulting from the livestock use. This past season, however, I witnessed an alarming increase to the destruction inflicted on the area. The number of cattle allowed to roam unrestricted increased dramatically and they truly decimated the habitat and broke down the streambed, trampling and devouring the existing grasses and low trees throughout the entire area. From the fence bordering our land, which they repeatedly broke through in search of food as the season progressed and they had effectively stripped the wildlife area of forage, to the banks of Lake Fork Creek (approximately 1/4 mile), by seasons end you literally could not walk three feet in a straight line without having to divert around cow piles. Some still remain from a build up from years past, hundreds upon hundreds are new ones. As in seasons past, in the spring when the melt occurs, these piles of manure will be clearly evident beneath the flooded area of the wetlands as it drains directly into Lake Cascade from April to mid- July.

As I have witnessed this process and the absolute reckless use of this area, I have been attempting to educate myself on the history of these easements and their place in current land management programs. I have acquired and studied the Draft Environmental Assessment that you will soon complete for the management of the Lake Cascade area for the next ten year period and spoken at length to others interested in and affected by this practice. Having been born and raised in South Dakota, I fully appreciate the complexity of private property issues. At the same time, I believe strongly as the dynamics of land use and the demands placed on our remaining natural areas change, we must all be willing to see a picture and envision a future greater than our own immediate interests might dictate. The Lake Fork Creek drainage is a very small example of a very large issue that is growing in importance in our state. Noteworthy as a very small but irreplaceable

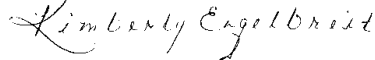
example, after this past season I am convinced, the Lake Fork Creek drainage cannot long absorb the abuse of the current system and hope to recover.

I am writing to encourage you to make it a strong priority to support efforts to address this problem. Primarily, please continue to work to purchase the agricultural easements that remain in these fragile and irreplaceable wildlife areas. Please support efforts to educate those who currently hold these easements in management practices that would protect and can revitalize these sensitive areas. Please encourage and reward those ranchers who truly have taken positive and responsible steps to change practices that historically depleted and compromised the integrity of the land they used. Finally, is it possible to better enforce the boundaries of the actual easements? I was surprised to find that the extensive damage I have witnessed is not even contained in the actual agricultural easement itself, but to acres upon acres of land outside of the easement boundaries.

The future implications of how this issue is handled in the present reach far beyond the emotional issue of private property rights. As is evident in the Draft Environmental Assessment, successful and continued use for the future will depend upon our ability to responsibly integrate multiple demands upon an increasingly fragile and often diminishing natural landscape. We are the caretakers of so much worth and beauty here in Idaho... we have got to do a better job.

Thank you very much for your time and attention. If public involvement in this process could ever be helpful, please contact me. I feel very strongly about this and would like to continue to work toward a balanced and positive solution. Again, I do so appreciate your time.

Sincerely,



Kimberly Engelbreit

434 Old Saybrook Rd.  
Boise, Id. 83706  
208-336-6085

**I14-1:** The RMP includes a provision stating that Reclamation will increase its efforts to acquire agricultural easements.

**I14-2:** Regulation of grazing practices is not under Reclamation's control either within or outside of the agricultural easements.

I14-1

I14-2



**Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan  
Draft Environmental Assessment**

**I15—Ray W. Squires, Boise, Idaho**

**I15-1:** Existing docks are permitted by a grandfather clause under the Preferred Alternative. There are no rights to boat docks.

1-1378  
17684

**Lake Cascade RMP Public Hearing**  
**January 31, 2001 - Boise**  
**February 1, 2001 - Cascade**

**NAME (required)** Ray W. Squires  
**Address (required)** 10508 Riley Ct.  
Boise, ID. 83709

**Please write your comments below:** Feb. 21, 2001

3902 CBS. 2/23/01

Thank you for participating in the review process for the Lake Cascade Draft Environmental Assessment. The Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan (RMP) is currently being developed. Reclamation invites you to provide comments on the recently released Draft RMP. The Lake Cascade RMP is a plan that will guide the future management of Lake Cascade. Reclamation is very interested in your thoughts and impressions of the various alternatives presented for the future management of Lake Cascade.


When providing your comments, please be as specific as possible, and please write clearly so we can understand your concerns.

Comments submitted at tonight's meeting will become part of the official hearing record.

You may also provide comments to be included in the final RMP within the 60-day review period which ends February 22, 2001. This form is designed as a self-mailer if you wish to use it to submit comments via mail.

You can request that we withhold your name and/or address by stating this prominently at the beginning of your written comments. However, we will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public disclosure in their entirety.

Reclamation appreciates your interest and participation in the future management and use of Lake Cascade.



**My name is Ray Squires. I am a native of Idaho, born in Boise and grew up in the Nampa-Boise area. I have lived in this area all my life, except for the time I spent in the US Marine Corps during World War 2, in the Islands of the South Pacific, defending my country. The Cascade-McCall area was my family's favorite week end and vacation spots. In 1971 I purchased some lots between Gods Acres and the Christian Church Camp on the west side of the lake. At that time there was a good boat dock and ramp that had been there for some time. This was, and is, across the road from the entrance to Evan's trail, which is south of the church camp and north of Gods Acres. The dock had been there some time before I built my summer home, on Black Bear Dr, which is just north of Gods Acres. The dock has been damaged and repaired a few times and we are trying to get it repaired or replaced. We, in this area, would like to maintain Grandfather rights to the dock area for loading and**

**www.pn.usbr.gov**

**Visit Reclamation and the Lake Cascade RMP on the World Wide Web**

**I15-1**

**(over)**

Additional Comments:

Unloading people and fishing supplies etc.,  
from boats, as it is several miles either  
way to other dock-loading-launching areas.

I15-1  
(cont)

There is a subdivision and several cabin  
sites in this area that would support the  
use of this dock.

We would like consideration given to the  
boat launch, across from the entrance road from  
the Christian Church camp. This has been there forever.

I15-2

Ray S. Jensen

Place  
stamp  
here

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
PN Regional Office PN-3902  
Attn: Carolyn Burpee Stone  
1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100  
Boise, ID 83706-1234

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

**Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan  
Draft Environmental Assessment**

Form No. 1-1420 Lake Cascade RMP Public Hearing  
January 31, 2001 - Boise  
February 1, 2001 - Cascade

Name (required) M. Carmen Lete  
Address (required) 2409 E. Colorado Ave.  
Nampa, ID 83686  
Please write your comments below:

Thank you for participating in the review process for the Lake Cascade Draft Environmental Assessment. Your comments will be included in the final report.

Reclamation is working to develop a plan to provide better management of the lake. We are currently in the process of reviewing the Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan. Your comments will be included in the final report.

When providing your comments, please be as specific as possible and please write clearly so we can understand your comments.

Comments submitted at public meetings will be included in the official hearing record.

You may also provide comments to be included in the final report within the 60-day review period ending February 22, 2001. This form is designed as a self-addressed envelope to submit comments via mail.

You can request that we withhold your name and/or address by stating this prominently at the beginning of your written comments. However, we will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public disclosure in their entirety.

Reclamation appreciates your interest and participation in the future management and use of Lake Cascade.



Visit Reclamation and the Lake Cascade RMP on the World Wide Web

[www.pn.usbr.gov](http://www.pn.usbr.gov)

**I16—M. Carmen Lete, Nampa, Idaho**

**I16-1:** Reclamation land adjacent to the Gibbens property will be converted from C/OS to RR because it now meets these criteria (i.e., it is less than 100 feet wide and adjacent to other RR designated lands).

**I16-2:** Refer to response to comment I16-1.

I16-1

I16-2

*I want to comment on the conversion of the Gibbens property to Rural Residential. I do NOT think the property should be Rural Residential. These properties have eroding banks that will be eroded further with shoreline development. The purpose and goal of converting to Rural Residential is entirely to enrich the owners of the Gibbens property. It will NOT help the lake, it will only help develop their properties.*

*The small development that lies between Loomis and Gibbens does appear to have a case and should receive special consideration. These properties are part of an existing subdivision and the owners may have purchased the land with an understanding that boat docks would be allowed.*

*Please don't bow to developers. Keep the Gibbens property. Conversation Open Space.*

*Thank You.*

*McCormick*

Received by SRAD  
Feb 2001

I17—Glenn Loomis, Cascade, Idaho

I17-1: Refer to response to comment I16-1.

To Whom It May Concern:

1. I am the owner of certain real property located on the shore of Lake Cascade in Valley County, Idaho. The location of my property is depicted in Exhibit A hereto. I have owned this property since 1971.

2. In 1981 I acquired property from the Gibbons brothers which I subsequently subdivided into seven lots known as Camarie Cove Subdivision as shown in Exhibit "A" hereto. As of 1991 I had sold 5 (five) of those lots, two of same have homes and two have boat dock permits, "Grand-fathered" by the Bureau of Reclamation.

3. I am a member of the ad hoc committee of property owners around Lake Cascade, as it pertains to the 2001 Resource Management Plan sponsored by the Bureau of Reclamation.

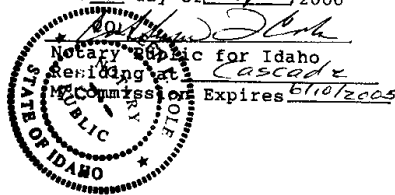
4. I also served on this committee under the 1991 R.M.P. was being prepared. I do not recall any discussion as to where the lines were drawn between Conservation/Open Space and Rural/Residential. It is apparent that the southern boundry of Rural/Residential in Sections 4, TWP 15 R 3 E B.M. was placed on the section line for "convenience" not realizing it dissected Lot 1 of Camarie Cove and other lands that comply with Rural/Residential classification. I believe it is reasonable to ask the B of R to move that line south to include the lands that coincide with the classification of Rural/Residential.

I17-1

Dated this 19 day of Sept., 2000.

Glenn Loomis  
Glenn Loomis

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19 day of Sept., 2000



I18—Dorothy Gestrin Rising, Cascade, Idaho

I18-1: Refer to response to comment I16-1.

Bureau of Reclamation - Snake River Area  
Resource Management Plan  
Attn: Jim Budolfson

1. I am a member of the ad hoc committee of property owners around Lake Cascade working on the 2001 Resource Management plan. I was also on the committee for the 1991 plan.

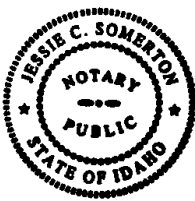
2. It has come to my attention that a boundry line for Rural Residential Classification was placed on the south line of Sec. 4 TWP 15 R 3 E which excludes most of Camarie Cove Subdivision and other land qualifying as Rural Residential.

3. I am sure this was an arbitrary decision and the committee would have extended it had it been their choice. I request the Bureau to include the land in NE $\frac{1}{4}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 9 TWP 15 N R 3 E B.M., Valley County Idaho that meets the Rural Residential qualifications.

I18-1

Dated this 27<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2000.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 27<sup>th</sup> day of September 2000.



Jessie C. Somerton  
Notary Public For Idaho  
Residing at Boise  
My Commission Expires 11-18-2006

February 15, 2001

TO: United States Bureau of Reclamation  
FROM: Brad Huebner  
REFERENCE: Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan

To Whom It May Concern:

Please be advised that I have recently purchased or have the option to purchase the properties formerly know as the Gibbens Ranch, a parcel of approximately 100 acres and 1600 front feet on Lake Cascade and the adjacent Loomis property, approximately 500 acres and 900 front feet on Lake Cascade. These properties are located off of Kantola Road, which is a few miles South of Donnelly, Idaho directly off of Highway 55.

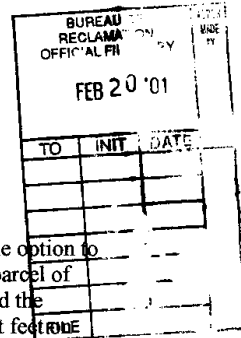
I attended the February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2001 meeting in Cascade, Idaho regarding the presentation of the USBR RMP for Lake Cascade. I would like to commend the USBR for putting together a very thorough and professional Update. This was my first experience relating to this process but I am taking it very serious as I have made a sizeable investment in the area and want to make sure that the right steps are taken to preserve the wonderful resource that Lake Cascade represents.

I am in full support of your overall Preferred Alternative that focuses on a "balanced recreation development and natural resource emphases" with a few exceptions based on my "understandings" of past policy and the new changes.

1) In regards to the Gibbens Ranch that I have purchased under Cape Kantola LLC, I strongly disagree with the fact that the Gibbens, who had been long time residents, were not given dock permits. I will not go into all of the details but I am sending a copy of the letter sent by Alfred Gibbens to BOR's Jim Budolfson regarding this subject that outlines all of the major salient points on why we should be able to have docks at that property.

I have personally expressed my feelings about this topic to Jim and have informed him that I am planning to put a very upscale single family housing development on this property. I would like very much to be able to put a boat access ramp and dock in as well as a community dock as opposed to many smaller individual owner boat docks so that these people would be able to enjoy the aquatic amenities that Lake Cascade has to offer.

2) In regards to Erosion Control Measures I would like to know if I could be given any assistance regarding the significant amount of erosion that is happening on the South side of Cape Kantola, the land area that juts out into Lake Cascade off of the Gibbens Ranch. Also, just around the



## I19—Bradford L. Huebner, Toledo, Ohio

**I19-1:** The Preferred Alternative would allow permits for community docks to replace individual private docks. No additional boat ramps, besides those included in the RMP, would be allowed.

**I19-2:** Under the Preferred Alternative, Reclamation would increase efforts to assist adjacent landowners in obtaining permits for construction shoreline erosion control measures and would provide some technical assistance in the form of design standards.

I19-1

I19-2

corner of the "Cape" proceeding for another 1000 feet or so all the way over to Camarie Cove subdivision, I would like to be able to pull the grade of the bank down to a more gentle slope and put a concrete retaining wall in and seed and maintain the area with grass to keep it looking nice for the people that will be owning the lakefront lots of my project.

I19-2  
(cont)

3) I am purchasing approximately 900 front feet of property on Lake Cascade from Glen Loomis. When Glen went to apply for his boat doack permit, he was told that he could have one permit. At the Cascade meeting we mentioned this to Jim Budolfson and he said that Glen should be able to have about 10 permits as the lakefront lots would be about 90 feet wide. This property is zoned Conservation/Open Space and would qualify for the docks. Would you please see to it that Glen will be able to get that number of dock permits before the deadline expires.

I19-3

4) I was initially a bit overwhelmed at the Cascade meeting by the support the Idaho Pilot Association showed for the re-opening of the grass airstrip adjacent to the Gibbens Ranch. However, the more I thought about this issue the better I liked it. I would like to lend my support for the opening of the airstrip as I think it would be a positive for my project as that would open up a marketing group for pilots to be potential prospects for my lots.

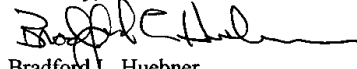
I19-4

5) As you are aware, I am in the process with Ron Yanke to try and buy the Jasper property. We will do everything in our power to try and get this accomplished within the next six months so that you have much more "reasonable" landowners to deal with. I will keep you apprised of these developments.

I am looking forward to being a responsible landowner on Lake Cascade. I think that the future of the Lake is very bright especially under the guard of the Bureau of Reclamation and other responsible landowners.

Thank you for your consideration regarding the above points of concern that I have expressed.

Sincerely,



Bradford L. Huebner  
PH: 419-536-1006

**I19-3:** Refer to response to comment I16-1. Only approved subdivided lots adjacent to Reclamation lands in this RR designation can apply for one boat dock permit per lot. This can occur until the RMP is completed. After the RMP is completed, no new dock permits will be allowed.

**I19-4:** An option for re-opening the airstrip has been added to the Preferred Alternative, providing certain conditions are met. This is described in Section 2.3.2 of the Final EA.



## Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan Draft Environmental Assessment

1-916 Lake Cascade RMP Public Hearing  
January 31, 2001 - Boise  
February 1, 2001 - Cascade

18451

INIT DATE  
3102 CBS Name (required) Rob Cimbalik  
Address (required) 1921 Gold Dust Ad.

**OFFICIAL FILE COPY**

Please write your comments below:

Thank you for participating in the review process for the Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan. The recently released Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the Lake Cascade RMP. Specifically, your attention is very interested in your thoughts and impressions of the various alternatives presented for the future management of Lake Cascade.

Reclamation invites you to provide review comments on the recently released DEA for the Lake Cascade RMP. Specifically, your attention is very interested in your thoughts and impressions of the various alternatives presented for the future management of Lake Cascade.

When providing your comments, please be as specific as possible and clearly write clearly so we can understand your concerns.

Comments submitted at a public hearing will become part of the official hearing record.

You may also provide comments included in the final EA during the 60 day review period which ends August 22, 2001. This form is designed as a self-mailer if you wish to submit comments via mail.

You can request that we withhold your name and/or address by stating this prominently at the beginning of your written comments. However, we will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public disclosure in their entirety.

Reclamation appreciates your interest and participation in the future management and use of Lake Cascade.



Bureau of Reclamation and the  
Lake Cascade RMP  
Public Hearing

[www.pn.usbr.gov](http://www.pn.usbr.gov)

### I20—Rob Cimbalik, Cascade, Idaho

**I20-1:** The Crown Point extension is planned as a non-motorized trail.

**I20-2:** Additional WMAs beyond those included in the Preferred Alternative are not planned for this RMP.

My main concerns for Lake Cascade for the following 10 years has to deal with the railroad grade and the WMA's. As an outdoor enthusiast, I would like to see the railroad grade left as C/O's so that it can be developed into a trail for hikers, bikers, snowshoers, and crosscountry skiers. I would love to have a trail that will run around Crown Point so I have easier access for fishing. I also like the ideas for increased WMA's in Alternative B. I like the Preferred Alternative, except I would like to see more areas be WMA's like in Alternative B.

I20-1

I20-2



**Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan  
Draft Environmental Assessment**

1-900  
3902 OBS 2/01/01 18451  
Name (required) Matt Hewlett  
Address (required) P.O. Box 543  
OFFICIAL FILE COPY

Please write your comments below:

I agree with the preferred alternative that the Crown Point extension should stay a nature trail. I believe the airstrip should be reopened. I also believe that the ~~Marina~~ Marina is a great idea. If nature trail is to be passed I believe there should be a designated snowmobile area away from the crosscountry area.

Thank you for participating in the process for the Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan. Environmental Assessment (EA) is a key part of the Resource Management Plan (RMP) Update process. Reclamation invites you to use this form to provide review comments on the recently released Draft EA for the Lake Cascade RMP. Specifically, Reclamation is very interested in your comments and impressions of the various alternatives presented for the future management of Lake Cascade.


When providing your comments, please be as specific as possible and write clearly so we can understand your concerns.

Comments submitted at this public hearing will become part of the official hearing record.

You may also provide comments included in the final EA within the 60-day review period which ends February 22, 2001. This form is designed as a self-mailer if you wish to mail your comments via mail.

You can request that we withhold your name and/or address by stating this prominently at the beginning of your written comments. However, we will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public disclosure in their entirety.

Reclamation appreciates your interest and participation in the future management and use of Lake Cascade.



Visit Reclamation and the Lake Cascade RMP on the World Wide Web  
[www.pn.usbr.gov](http://www.pn.usbr.gov)

## I21—Matt Hewlett, Cascade, Idaho

**I21-1:** The Crown Point extension is planned as a non-motorized trail.

**I21-2:** An option for re-opening the airstrip has been added to the Preferred Alternative, providing certain conditions are met. This is described in Section 2.3.2 of the Final EA.

**I21-3:** Reclamation policy does not restrict snowmobiles except in designated recreation areas. Please also see response I8-2.

0 files

Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan  
Draft Environmental Assessment Testimony

Name:	Mark Brilz	Mark Brilz
Address:	1106 North 24th Street	69 Sunset Loop
	Boise, Idaho 83702	Cascade, Idaho
	208-384-0605	208-382-5705
	email: mjbrilz@micron.net	

To Whom It May Concern:

Below are listed my areas of concern or comment concerning the Lake Cascade RMP. All of these statements concern the Southeast section of the plan, in particular the Crown Point Area.

1. I am in full approval of the decision not to make the old railroad bed into a motorized trail. This trail needs to be maintained as a hike in and bike trail. I also agree that additional signage needs to be added to the alert users of this fact. More signage needs to be added along the length of the trail so that users entering the trail at points other than Crown Point Campground will understand the rules of the trail.

2. As a user of this trail, I think that it would be beneficial to have trails designated for beach access. There are too many small trails leading to the beaches that are causing erosion of the delicate soils of this area. Along with specific access sites, many of the small trails to the beach need to be marked closed.

3. The campgrounds for boat in or hike in use are a great idea. The need for vault toilets and garbage disposal areas can be seen at the end of each weekend during the summer. However, somewhere in the RMP there needs to be some thought given to how these campgrounds will affect the surrounding residential areas, in particular parking and noise. I have witnessed on several occasions, that large groups want to camp on the beaches. In my subdivision there have been up to ten cars parked along the road and blocking resident's access to their property in order for them to have easy access to the beaches for camping. Some of these camping parties have been extremely loud. Since there is no way to reach these areas other than by boat or hiking, a plan needs to be devised as to whom will patrol these areas and respond when there are problems. With the development of

I22-1

I22-2

I22-3

**I22—Mark Brilz, Boise and Cascade, Idaho**

**I22-1:** The railroad bed in the Crown Point extension area is planned as a non-motorized trail.

**I22-2:** Trail construction will be undertaken to focus and consolidate use. This will involve marking certain trails as closed to restore vegetation. Additional near-shoreline trails are planned for the west side near Mallard Bay and the recreation areas to the north, the Crown Point extension area, and in the southeast part of the reservoir.

**I22-3:** All existing developed campgrounds presently have administrative access for maintenance and all campgrounds developed under this RMP will have administrative access for maintenance. Dispersed camping will continue to be available and signing/education will be increased to encourage site clean-up and respect for adjacent neighbors. Valley County Sheriff's Department Marine Deputies patrol Lake Cascade from the water.

campgrounds that can only be reached by boat or hiking, I see these problems only getting worse.

4. The first two campgrounds purposed on the Crown Point Extension are placed in very logical places. I disagree with the placement of the third most northern campground. The third campground is placed around a small bay. On the map, this looks like a very nice place for a campground. As a person who lives in the vicinity and who has spent numerous hours both on the railroad bed trail and walking the beaches, this area is not a place for a campground. For much of the year, this area is a wetland swamp. The soil is so soft that walking on it leaves an indentation of three to four inches. The surrounding area is a flat area, but to get to the beach there is eight to ten foot bank of decomposing granite that will be decimated by people using the area. The shoreline is the sight of major erosion. Due to the fact of the sensitive soils in the area, and that the area is a wetlands for much of the year, I hope that the campground in this area is reconsidered.

5. The last area of concern that I do not seem to see addressed is noise pollution. Over the last six years, the noise level has grown greatly. There is noise from boats on the lake. There is extreme noise from personal watercraft (jet skis). In winter there is noise from snowmobiles both on the lake and on the railroad bed trail. Many of these noisy machines are still operating using two cycle engines. These engines not only make excessive noise, but also greatly pollute the water and the air. If the state airstrip is reopened, there will also be noise from increased air traffic over the area. Cascade was once a place of great quiet. There needs to be someplace in the Cascade Lake RMP where noise is addressed.

Thank you for the opportunity to give testimony,

Mark Brilz

I22-4

I22-5

**I22-4:** Reclamation would complete an access and site analysis prior to locating all sites proposed as a part of the Crown Point Extension. Existing regulations require protection of wetlands.

**I22-5:** Reclamation does not control the number of recreational users of motorized vehicles. Noise would be one of the considerations in a future environmental analysis of the potential re-opening of the airstrip.

US Bureau of Reclamation  
Pacific Northwest  
Snake River Area Office  
Attn: C. Stone  
Boise, Idaho

Feb. 12, 2001

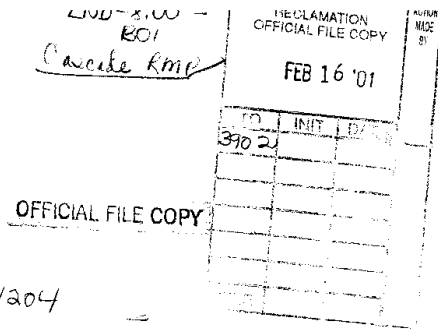
Sir,

After careful review of your draft EA I am providing the following general and specific comments for your consideration.

GENERAL: I find the preparation of the draft EA to have addressed most areas of my concern and was done in a manner that appears to objectively delineate the pro's and con's of most items in most cases. However, some of the items identified in the EA are not presented at a level of importance that would be expected given their mandatory nature or legally imposed mandates. For example, Cascade Lake has been declared a impaired waterbody and water quality improvement is mandated, yet attainment of this mandate is not even in the preferred alternative. Boulder Creek has been determined through both manual and GPS distance surveys performed by the B of R, to be to narrow under Idaho State Boating laws to allow high speed boating and water-skiing. Yet the correction for this current violation of State law is also not in the preferred alternative. Further, it appears the composition of the alternatives are such that the public is being forced to choose between actions that have the least desirable impact on the person(public) rather than what is most beneficial in achieving accomplishments on Cascade Lake, particularly those needs that are mandated by either law or legislative action, (ie: violation of boating laws and mandated water quality improvement, erosion control etc). Further, highly sensitive issues that are known to be objectionable to the majority of the populace, such as prohibiting all boat docks, are placed in alternatives that B of R managers are known thru past documentation to disfavor. Thus, by the composition of the elements of each alternative, the alternative most likely to be chosen will be the one that contains the elements favored by the B of R managers, which as already addressed above does not contain( in the preferred alternative). the mandated items required to be achieved.

Further, it has already been admitted throughout the EA that the 1991 Management Plan goals have not been met after ten years. To even consider this as a continuing alternative serves merely to dilute the value of a RMP concept as a useful management tool to attain future actions.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS KEYED TO PARAGRAPHS OR PAGES AS APPLICABLE:



## I23—Ken McPhail, Hollister, California

**I23-1:** We agree that the Preferred Alternative contains elements that Reclamation desires, based on public comment, environmental protection, and what is practical to implement and enforce. We know of no action within this alternative that violates boating laws or other mandates. Reclamation and Valley County responded to the boat traffic and congestion within Boulder Creek by placing buoys in the channel in accordance with existing Idaho State Law. Valley County is actively enforcing the state boating law. Other no-wake zones are designated along the lake shore to protect adjacent land uses.

Lake Cascade's water quality is the result of many activities in the watershed, most of which occur on lands not encompassed by this RMP or are internal to the nature of the physical and chemical characteristics of the lake itself. Accordingly, this RMP only addresses the issues to protect water quality associated with the Reclamation-administered federal land.

The elements of the alternatives considered are required to represent a reasonable range and, from our perspective, have a likelihood of being accomplished. Reclamation does not have ultimate or absolute authority related to the land and resources at Lake Cascade. Removal of all the private boat docks was seriously considered and evaluated. This action was not a part of the Preferred Alternative because the amount of federal land administered by Reclamation where the boat docks are located, i.e., Rural Residential, would be difficult and costly to develop for public purposes, such as a trail.

I23-1

I23-2

1. para 2-2.1- States that all alternatives adhere to "existing and future Federal, state, and county laws and regulations yet as pointed out above, high speed boating on Boulder Creek does not conform to Idaho Boating Laws that require minimum separation distances between boats, boat wake distances to docks, and separation between boats that are pulling skiers. Nor do all alternatives incorporate elements that will achieve mandated erosion control and water quality goals. There is a legal boating width of only approximately 79 feet at several places on Boulder Creek. Such a distance does not allow two water-skiing boats to be legally on Boulder Creek at the same time.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION:** Change each alternative to incorporate elements to meet all legal and mandated actions or change the paragraph to acknowledge not meeting legal and mandated requirements in formulating the various alternatives.

2. page 2-15 "Water Quality", states no additional action in all of the Alternatives. Yet the EA draft cites other area's such as reducing boat wake erosion which places sediment in suspension as a means of improvement. Also indicated was extension of the 100 foot no wake area to 200 feet and precluding high speed boating in small channels. No mention was made of efforts to monitor and ensure the purity of McCall's lake runoff as a means to enhance water quality.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION:** Incorporate those items listed above in actions for water quality improvement and explore other options prior to finalization since the failure to provide any new mechanisms is illustrative of this item not getting proper attention.

3. page 2-20 Water surface management- The preferred Alternative and Alternatives A and C. are not in compliance with Idaho Boating Laws that specifically cite legal distances that must be maintained between boats, water-skiers, wakes and structures. The channel measured by both GPS and manually is to narrow in several places to support more than one boat at a time and that boat must precisely stay exactly in the middle of the irregular shoreline to be legal. In addition, only Alternative B no wake on Boulder Creek implements the desires of the people as evidenced by the results of both Valley County survey and the B of R survey taken in Feb. 2000, whereby the people voted, in both surveys for a no wake zone the entire channel. It should also be noted in the draft that the Boulder Creek channel significantly narrows as the water is drawn down making Boulder Creek even narrower than the figures shown by the GPS survey and used in citing the violation of Idaho State Boating laws.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION:** See corrective action in para. 1 above or incorporate the same no wake boating contained in Alternative B to each other Alternative. In addition, if the results of surveys taken are not to be implemented then do not initiate them thereby saving both the government money and precluding the false hope in those governed that their position on issues can effect that issue's outcome.

4. para. 2-3.2- Conspicuously omits any reference to boating safety.

I23-3

I23-4

I23-5

I23-6

**I23-2:** All elements of the 1991 RMP were subject to implementation when funds were available. Many plan elements have been implemented, but some have not. By definition, continuation of current management under the provisions of the 1991 RMP constitutes the No Action Alternative.

**I23-3:** Reclamation knows of no mandatory erosion control goals for water quality. While bank erosion from waves during storms and boat wakes does occur, phosphorus loading from shoreline erosion is not a significant contributor to the Lake's overall annual phosphorus load (IDEQ 1998a). Erosion control has been incorporated into the RMP update in several areas. See also response to comment I23-1.

**I23-4:** Please see response to comment I23-1.

**I23-5:** Refer to responses to comments I23-1 and I23-3.

**I23-6:** Reclamation has undertaken measures to improve water quality through development of treatment wetlands on small tributaries and will provide technical assistance to land owners to reduce shoreline erosion. Reclamation will also increase its efforts to acquire agricultural easements and eliminate grazing on WMAs. Reclamation has no control over runoff from Payette Lake in McCall. Reclamation has, through an appropriation unrelated to the Cascade RMP update, provided cost-share funding to the City of McCall for construction of the City's wastewater facility.

CORRECTIVE ACTION: Address boating safety in this alternative

5. page 2-48- Enforcement action cannot increase because no violations will occur in the presence of patrol boats and the size of the lake and limited resources preclude realistic improvement through enforcement. Further, on page 6 of this EA it is already stated that adherence to current no wakes zones has not met with much success.

CORRECTIVE ACTION: Establish a mandatory 200 foot no wake zone around the shore of the lake. Such an action would have a better chance of positively impacting boating safety, water quality, erosion etc. In addition, it would make enforcement easier through more visible and definitive no wake areas, and the freeing of patrol boats for concentration on the areas most prevalent to violations. Further, a 200 foot no wake zone has a much greater chance of achieving an actual no wake zone within a 100 foot from shore area than the mere 100 foot zone does. Distances on water seem difficult for some people to judge and others always want to push the acceptable envelope. It is noted that 200 feet is the normal no wake distance in most states.

6. page 2-48 Voluntary adherence to 200 foot no wake zone- This comment is absurd given the known failure of achieving the mandated 100 foot no wake zone law. Expecting compliance on a voluntary basis of twice the distance when half that distance cannot be accomplished by law demonstrates either the significant lack of the actual situation on Cascade Lake or the desire to try and mitigate an issue with a proposal that to the uninformed purest may seem to have some merit but which has no potential for accomplishing anything in the real world and merely creates an illusion of a potential improvement to no wake violations and the associated minimizing of damaging impacts caused by wakes.

CORRECTIVE ACTION: Remove voluntary compliance considerations to a 200 foot no wake area from the EA. Either mandate the 200 foot no wake area or forget it. If no change is made on this issue recommend that any statement proposing voluntary compliance to a 200 ft no wake area be accompanied by the statement on p.6 of the EA, "that achievement of the mandated by law no wake area of 100 feet has not met with much success." Thus providing the reader with the capability to easily evaluate the potential for success of a voluntary 200 foot no wake zone.

7. page 2-48- Verbiage reference to Boulder Creek no wake proposals does not satisfy compliance with Idaho Boating laws regarding distances to downed skiers, other boats etc.

CORRECTIVE ACTION: Review Idaho Boating laws, GPS survey of Boulder Creek, and B of R and Valley County surveys taken in Feb. 2000. Adjust proposal to comply with the Idaho law and the desire of the people of Valley County.

8. page 2-51 Continue existing boat ramps. Its hard for me to reward people who have

I23-7

I23-8

I23-9

I23-10

**I23-7:** Boating safety is addressed for all action alternatives under water quality, surface water management, and erosion control through increased enforcement of the 100-foot no-wake zones and distribution of handouts, notices, and educational materials about navigational hazards and observance of the voluntary 200-foot no-wake zone.

**I23-8:** Refer to response to comment I23-1.

**I23-9:** Refer to response to comment I23-1.

**I23-10:** Refer to response to comment I23-1.

violated regulations and installed private ramps while at the same time preventing others from benefiting from actions of non-compliance.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION:** Require all private ramps in violation to be removed or establish an envelope of opportunity for others to install private ramps before implementation of any restrictions.

9. page 2-56 Incorporates removal of all docks. This proposal alone is enough to negate this alternative in its entirety if allowed to remain. This proposal should be in all alternatives or none. Neither the people who have docks nor those who fantasize about having one in the future will support an alternative containing this element. It is noted that there was no analysis of benefits expected to be derived from implementation of boat dock removal. It appears that it has been inserted merely as a means of dissuading the public from supporting a particular alternative.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION:** Either incorporate no docks in all alternatives or remove it from all alternatives. Further, if it is incorporated in any or all alternatives there should be a benefit analysis identified with the need to consider such a radical action. It is noted that the EA states that there is a benefit TO having docks as they provide additional favorable fish habitat.

10. page 3-4 refers to the major sources of non-point pollution as two items. One of which is internal recycling of nutrient within the reservoir. An action that incorporates results from boat wakes and wake generated erosion. This point is not mentioned anywhere else regarding the positive impacts of an extended mandated no wake distance nor as a major consideration of not allowing high speed boating in marginal or inadequate areas. Further, there has been no mention of the semi-v or full V hull designs that by their design displace more water creating better control and ride but a significantly higher wake and requiring more horsepower to drive them. The majority of boats now (99%) are full or semi V bottom. Consideration of boating technology which has and does shrink the value of a 100 foot no wake distance has not been incorporated in the EA. Such consideration would, if incorporated in the EA, provide a greater illustration of the need to restrict high speed boating to areas on the 25 mile long lake less susceptible to wake damage and associated environment consequences. Least I be considered unknowledgeable, I currently own 6 boats, one of which is a twin 1300hp 38' off shore Scarab raceboat and am in my 42 year of boat ownership, racing, and boat design and modification.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION:** Review the EA and specifically address the ramifications of boat wakes and wake erosion on the internal recycling of nutrients. Review the technology of current boat hull and propulsion design and its impact on wake generation and wake speed, size and travel distance and evaluate this review regarding the sufficiency of mere 100 ft no wake distance. Concentrate on boats design made in the last ten years.

I23-11

I23-12

I23-13

**I23-11:** The seven private boat ramps have been in place for many years. The ramps and the purposes they serve were evaluated. It was concluded that substantial damage could occur to the shoreline if they were removed, the ramps are used by more than an occasional boater, and the ramps could serve a public purpose. Accordingly, the Preferred Alternative includes issuing a permit to the adjoining property owner or a subdivision requiring that the ramp be maintained, be safe for use, be open for public boat launching, and that liability insurance be in place. If the adjoining landowner or subdivision refuses the terms of the permit, the ramp will be removed.

**I23-12:** Removal of all boat docks would be consistent with Reclamation's national policy. It is included here to provide a range of alternatives as required under NEPA.

**I23-13:** An analysis of boat hull and propulsion is beyond the scope of the RMP. See response to comment I23-1 regarding no-wake designation and enforcement.

11. page 3-5 addresses voluntary compliance to a 200 ft no wake area and the significant need to achieve water quality enhancement.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION:** Remove reference to voluntary compliance as it is a non achievement process from the start. If water quality is truly a issue that is desired to be attained, make attainment a MANDATORY element of applicable B of R job descriptions. I can assure you you will get attainment. Further, ALL actions that merit attainment should be incorporated in the preferred alternative. For example if removing all docks is truly a desired happening then it should be in the preferred alternative as well as all others. If water quality attainment is mandated then it should be in the preferred alternative and all actions that facilitate water quality enhancement should be part of the elements applying to that alternative. This same scenario applies to all other mandated actions, whether either mandated by law or regulation.

12. page 3-10 states that Alternative B would adversely impact water quality slightly less than the preferred alternative. Slightly is unquantified. Suggest a percentage be used ie: 10%, 30% etc. However, the use of the word slightly suggests relatively little if any improvement, whereby previous documentation in the EA suggests the potential for major improvements. p 3-6 and page 3-14. Page 3-14 states " Boat wake and storms are the two MAJOR actions initiating shoreline erosion." It further states that storms cannot be avoided but erosion due to boat wakes CAN. Erosion by definition results in water carried sediment and significantly reduced water quality. For the uninformed, watch the color of the water after a large wake hits the shoreline.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION:** Significantly reduce shoreline erosion and enhance water quality by mandating a 200 foot no wake area. Place attainment of water quality goals and the goal of minimizing shoreline erosion in the preferred alternative and support attainment of these items by identifying attainment of these items as a priority over all other actions. Further, do not allow any other item in the preferred alternative that would diminish attainment of these goals.

13. page 3-14- 3d para. refers to increasing the no wake zone to two hundred feet as contained in the preferred alternative and alternative C. However, as previously explained the 200 ft no wake zone is voluntary and since the mandated 100 ft. no wake area is not being honored, the expectation of people accepting a voluntary 200 ft no wake zone is virtually zero. Again, to expect voluntary compliance in a recreation area that is visited by numerous outsiders who do not have to live with the results of their actions, whose actions are often clouded by alcohol, and a minimal presence of law enforcement, seriously borders on fantasy.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION:** Make a 200 ft no wake area law and enforce mandatory compliance vigorously.

I23-14

I23-15

I23-16

**I23-14:** Refer to response to comment I23-1.

**I23-15:** Refer to response to comment I23-1.

**I23-16:** Refer to response to comment I23-1.



14. page 3-16- suggests that "existing no-wake zones would continue to protect certain shorelines from boat generated wave action but others in need of protection would continue to decline." Although redundant I submit that the 100 ft no wake distance is a relic of by gone days of flat bottomed boats and fishing scows capable of no more than 10-15 mph. In todays environment of deep v and semi v boats of 18-26 ft lengths and pumping 300-400 hp a 100 foot no wake zone is insufficient, (and so recognized in most other states. With the configuration of todays boats a 100 ft no wake zone protects nothing. I might add that I have hours of video tape taken on Cascade Lake that will support this. I offered this tape to personnel putting together the EA but heard nothing.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION:** Mandate by law a 200 ft no wake zone and vigorously enforce it. Further, it should be noted in the EA that the B of R relies on landowners to maintain the shoreline where applicable and of course this is done at no cost to the B of R. A factor in the B of R not vigorously supporting shoreline protection. Areas not maintained by private landowners are generally not subject to high boat traffic for obvious reasons. Refer to surveys taken by Valley County and B of R on Boulder Creek no wake desires, Feb. 2000

15. page 3-18- states vigorous enforcement action would be needed to enforce no-wake zones, and implies that nothing can be done to mitigate this. I have previously stated that establishing a 200 ft mandatory no wake area, prohibiting high speed boating in narrow channels such as Boulder Creek would make it much easier to identify violators and would provide a easier means for law abiding citizens to identify violators and assist in securing proper enforcement of flagrant violators.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION:** Mandate a 200 ft no wake zone and enforce it.

16. pages 3-25 and 3-26- again suggests a 200 ft no wake zone. However, the EA further states that the "degree to which a wider no-wake zone can be enforced or would be followed voluntarily is unknown. I submit that it is definitely known. Compliance would be zero on a voluntary basis since there is no compliance with the now required 100 ft no wake laws.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION:** Suggest changing the wording from unknown to ZERO.

17. page 3-29- " Expansion of no-wake zones, public awareness campaigns to promote no wake zones and enhanced enforcement would increase shoreline PLANT protection. I've identified this phrase because it is yet another quotation in the EA identifying boat wakes as a serious threat to erosion control, water quality and all other environmental considerations. I believe there is a pattern being formed here. Interestingly, no one has suggested mandating a 200 ft no wake zone in the EA. It is becoming more clear in this review of the EA that innumerable attainments would be achieved by a mandatory 200 ft no wake zone.

**I23-17:** Refer to response to comment I23-1 regarding no-wake zones. Under Federal law Reclamation must address erosion of private lands where it occurs through erosion protection, financial compensation, land acquisition, or condemnation. Refer to response to comment I23-1.

**I23-18:** Refer to response to comment I23-1.

**I23-19:** Refer to response to comment I23-1 regarding no-wake zones.

I23-17

I23-18

I23-19

**CORRECTIVE ACTION:** Review all instances of recommendations for voluntary compliance with a 200 ft no wake zone and change voluntary compliance to mandatory compliance. As a minimum readdress the benefits of voluntary verses mandatory compliance and adjust the EA accordingly. State in the EA the pro's verses Con's of voluntary verses mandatory compliance of the 200 ft no wake zone. Quantify this comparison where possible. Stress long and short range benefits and further address encompassing the fact that this is a ten year plan and acknowledge again that little if any achievement was made on the previous management plan goals.

18. page 3-30- Refers to an enhancement of the protection of vegetation by voluntary adherence to a 200 ft no wake zone.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION** Substitute mandatory for voluntary

19. page 3-40- Refers to voluntary compliance experience with keeping livestock away from reservoir shoreline to reduce erosion. States success has been mixed.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION:** Change voluntary to mandatory to assure success

20. page3-41 States water quality improvement and improved erosion control would benefit wildlife-eliminating boat generated waves reduces shoreline erosion and habitat loss and reduces the flooding of bird nests--. Further states, establishment of 200 ft wide no-wake zone would provide benefits for wildlife to the extent that public education/awareness is successful-

**CORRECTIVE ACTION:** Do not rely on voluntary compliance. Make 200 ft no-wake area mandatory.

21. page 3-42- States recreation use is expected to increase 20% in next 10 years. This seems exceptionally low given West Rock or some other major development in the county. This is 2% per year and I do not believe this tracks with the experience the county has documented in other publications, particularly within the last 3-4 years.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION:** Verify figures and correct as necessary

22. page 3-43- Identifies more erosion would be expected from boat wakes. Does not address the enhanced erosion from greater wakes do to current hull designs and boat powerplant combinations. This will be significant as older boats are replaced with new and new used boats that have greater capability to displace water.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION:** Address the size and velocity of wakes from newer style hull and powerplant combinations.

23. page 3-44- States that a voluntary 200 ft wide no-wake zone would actually provide more security for wildlife than they are currently afforded by a much WIDER no-

**I23-20:** Refer to response to comment I23-1.

**I23-21:** Reclamation will increase its efforts to acquire the agricultural easements in order to eliminate grazing and seek funding to fence those areas where grazing is determined to be interfering with the operation and maintenance of the reservoir.

**I23-22:** The projected 20 percent increase in visitation is based on Ada County's projection of a 20 percent increase in population expected to occur within Ada County by 2010 (Ada County Community Planning Association 2000). Since 86 percent of the visitation to Lake Cascade is from Ada County, the estimate seems reasonable.

**I23-23:** Any difference in erosion caused by modern boat designs versus old designs would be the same for all alternatives.

I23-20

I23-21

I23-22

I23-23

wake zone that is not adhered to by the public. Currently the law says 100 ft. Statements here refer to a wider zone that has not been addressed previously in the EA.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION:** Correct the phrasing or address what CURRENT wider zone is being referred to.

24. page 3-54- Refers to water quality impacted by direct discharge from McCall. This appears to be the first and only time direct wastewater from McCall is referred to in the entire EA. How can this be?

**CORRECTIVE ACTION:** Address McCall wastewater run off through-out the EA, as appropriate.

25. page 3-57- Again refers to a reduction in erosion and sediment resulting in improved water quality and cleaner spawning substrata. This is identified here only because erosion and sediment seem to be one of the single most consistent elements affecting almost all categories and seemingly may have the most positive impact on all the lakes concerns, if minimized.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION:** Consider changing the elements of the preferred alternative to key in on successful minimization of erosion, sediment, and the attainment of water quality standards.

26. page 3-58 States that "erosion is the primary factor contributing to water quality problems of the reservoir." This seems in conflict with other statements throughout the text ie: page 3-54 where water quality is stated to be impacted mostly through agricultural diversions.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION:** Establish consistent statement on this issue and review and correct text.

27. pages 3-59 and 3-60- states that all in-reservoir features (docks and piers) are well known to provide cover, shade and ambush sites for predatory gamefish. Removal of docks would impact this benefit. Removal of docks appears to be based merely on some persons esthetic viewpoint. There did not appear to be any pro and con discussion of dock removal in the EA yet this is a major condition of Altern. B.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION:** Specifically address the pro's and con's of boat dock removal and adjust Alternatives accordingly.

28. page 3-61 Again addresses only the possibility of anything positive resulting from a voluntary compliance with no wake zones.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION:** Assure results by mandating increased no wake area. Correct text as appropriate.

I23-24

I23-25

I23-26

I23-27

I23-28

I23-29

**I23-24:** Refer to response to comment I23-1.

**I23-25:** McCall's wastewater is outside the scope of this RMP update and is therefore not addressed. See response I23-6.

**I23-26:** No-wake zones designed to protect habitat and water quality have been retained from the 1991 RMP with additional measures proposed under the Preferred Alternative.

**I23-27:** The text has been clarified.

**I23-28:** Boat dock removal has been discussed to an extent consistent with the potential associated impacts of this action. The alternatives have not been changed.

**I23-29:** Refer to response to comment I23-1.

29. page 3-62- Address the "the small amount of surface area docks cover relative to the entire reservoir" appears in conflict with the recommendation to remove them.

CORRECTIVE ACTION: Remove conflicting statements from EA

30. page 3-65 - States Boise is expected to experience a 20% growth in the next 10 years and that visitors to the lake would increase 20%. Because the base is different, ie: Boise's base is in the hundreds of thousands compared to Valley County's few thousand, a translation of 20% in Boise would not result in a mere 20% increase in Valley County. Nor, is there a mention of increases incorporated in Valley County due to development. Further, there are areas of the lake such as Boulder Creek that are experiencing significant crowding of boats, particularly on weekends.

CORRECTIVE ACTION: Review data on projected increase of use of Cascade Lake for next ten years. Review videos provided B of R depicting boating use on Boulder Creek. Correct as appropriate.

31. pages 3-72 and 3-73- Reflects quite realistically the benefits derived from limiting high speed boating in narrow channels and areas susceptible to erosion. It further states No wake zones would affect a very small percentage of the reservoir surface area and that limiting high speed boating in questionable areas "would have a positive impact on the overall water-based recreation experience." This position on these pages is microscopic in the EA as a whole but appears to merit reiteration in most other elements of the EA concerned with damage from boat wakes.

CORRECTIVE ACTION: Incorporate this consideration in all text areas that comment on the benefits derived from reducing damage from boat wakes.

32. page 3-77- Addresses issuing no new permits for private docks. I find this self-serving in that the only benefit of no new docks accrues to the B of R in that they foresee a reduced workload as a result and less conflict between the B of R and citizens. The problem with the B of R is that they do not have enough stakeholders in the lake which makes their job harder. Allowing docks and private bank protection as well as encouraging citizen participation in assuring rules and laws are upheld would actually reduce the B of R workload in these areas.

CORRECTIVE ACTION: Solicit more user involvement in making Cascade Lake a success story by actually achieving goals and accomplishments. Support this citizen involvement with increased law enforcement and incorporation of achievement of RMP goals in B of R performance appraisals.

33. page 3-78- States that adherence to a 200 ft no wake zone would have minimal adverse impacts. This page also addresses a adverse impact of stricter enforcement of no-wake zones. This appears in conflict with all the previous statements of the benefits of a

I23-30

I23-31

I23-32

I23-33

**I23-30:** The statement regarding surface area of docks is in the context of fish habitat provided by the docks. See response I23-12.

**I23-31:** With 86 percent of visitors coming from Treasure Valley, it is reasonable to expect that a 20 percent population increase would mean a 20 percent increase in recreation use at Cascade.

**I23-32:** Sections discussing water quality, surface water management, and erosion control are included for all resource categories and the impacts of these activities, both beneficial and adverse, are discussed where effects occur.

**I23-33:** Accomplishments of elements in the RMP will be tracked and documented. Volunteers will assist with accomplishing many of the goals.

200 ft no wake zone but then appears to mitigate this by stating the affected areas are small compared to the reservoir area and not conducive to water-skiing and other boating uses. Therefore any adverse impacts would be minimal. The phrasing of the second paragraph needs to be reviewed for consistency since when reducing conflicts between user groups are factored in the adverse impact might be mitigated in total. However, this comment as well as the authors' in the EA are strictly subjective.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION:** Consider a rewrite of this paragraph.

34. page 3-80- Addresses ramifications of making the Boulder Creek arm no wake and states such an action may result in reduced conflicts between boaters and personnel watercraft users and shoreline residents and result in a more positive and safer recreation experience for some. "Some" is unquantifiable. However, it should be noted that both in the B of R survey of Feb. 2000 and the Valley County survey of 2000, the majority of people voted to make Boulder Creek a no wake area.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION:** Incorporate the survey results as described above in the EA. Quantify descriptions since words such as some could mean hardly any, a few, many etc.

35. page 3-81 - states that "overall these actions would still serve to improve the recreation opportunities available. These actions being making Boulder Creek a no wake zone the entire channel. This statement seems to negate the verbiage on the previous page minimizing the benefits of no wake areas.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION:** Review the phrasing of the previous page.

36. page 3-84- States protecting shorelines from erosion would improve the visual character of the area. Previous comments, require no wake areas to achieve this, but no wake areas are not brought out in this particular reference to protecting shorelines.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION:** Incorporate no wake as a mean of achieving reduced erosion.

37. page 3-85 - States actions related to the presence of private AND community docks on the reservoir would have similar impacts on visual resources. This comment appears to negate the removal of private docks based on visual enhancements. Visual enhancements seems to be the only benefit of removal of private docks.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION:** Specifically identify the benefits of private dock removal. Incorporate results throughout text if warranted.

38. page 3-86 and 3-87- address no new docks, and the visual benefits resulting from reducing the number of docks seen via community docks. Visual impacts are in the eyes of the beholder. People actually visit facilities to see boats. This has not been addressed. Consider comments in para. 37. above.

I23-34

I23-35

I23-36

I23-37

I23-38

I23-39

**I23-34:** A proposed action can be beneficial for some resources or users while at the same time have adverse effects on other resources or users.

**I23-35:** Refer to response to comment I23-31.

**I23-36:** Refer to response to comment I23-31.

**I23-37:** We have revised the Final EA to include no-wake zones in this discussion.

**I23-38:** The benefits and adverse effects from dock removal are included here and elsewhere in the document where effects would occur. See also response to comment I23-12.

**I23-39:** Visual impacts are described in the context of intrusions to natural surroundings. We do not believe docks would be considered visually appealing to most lake users.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION:** Address the benefits of docked boats for those who appreciate this type of visual beauty. I can assure you that docked boats are NOT a visual annoyance to everyone. Consider comments in para. 37.

39. page 3-92- Reclamation has ultimate authority and responsibility over management of all Reclamation lands. While this is certainly a true statement it has not always been accepted by B of R personnel as fact. This position needs to be reinforced elsewhere in the EA, an opportunity presented, and an avenue established for those who do not see the B of R adequately performing in this capacity. There seems no mechanism for challenging performance except through the B of R who at the point of disagreement would in effect not be the best resource for adjudicating a disagreement they are a party to.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION:** Establish a clear contact point for dissatisfaction with B of R performance and identify this to the public. Clearly reiterate the B of R authority and responsibility elsewhere in the EA.

40. page 3-94- states that before the 1991 RMP there were no rules on retaining walls and thus seems to place the blame on the result of unregulated installations on the public. This lake was built in 1946 and any resulting failure of landowner construction failures are a direct result of non management by those in charge, ie: per previous statement the B of R and COE. This failure should be identified as such and the agencies should be tasked with assuring improvement.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION:** Accept the blame for past management failures in protecting the lake and assure through the new 2001 RMP that no such failures will result in the future. Identify and accept responsibility in the EA.

41. page 3-95- Identifies over "400" boat docks on Lake Cascade. At a \$ 213 -\$250 fee per dock, using the \$213 figure results in \$852,000 in income for the U.S. and should result in an equal amount put back in the Lake as improvements. Eliminating boat docks would eliminate this income. This was NOT addressed in the EA. Nor was the use of this money as a benefit to the Lake addressed. It is noted that fee's generally go into the treasury. However, this does not preclude them from being reissued for a specific purpose of improving Lake Cascades' usability.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION:** Incorporate the docks fees as a benefit in pro's and con's issues of docks and further state how much of this money is returned in the form of benefits to dock owners or lake users. If none is returned state proposed action to change this.

42. page 3-98- states that "a number of actions authorized in the 1991 RMP have yet to be implemented." In fact, almost none of the actions authorized have been implemented. The 1991 RMP has been a failure and this should be a major point of the 2001 RMP. DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN AGAIN.

I23-40

I23-41

I23-42

**I23-40:** The Snake River Area Office is the responsible entity for management of the lands and resources at Lake Cascade. Authorities to manage resources at Lake Cascade came from a variety of laws and regulations. Most authorities are cooperative in nature regarding partners. Reclamation has no law enforcement authority.

**I23-41:** The lack of standards prior to the 1991 RMP is cited in the Draft EA. The assistance and monitoring of retaining wall permits under the Preferred Alternative would help assure these structures are constructed properly and maintained.

**I23-42:** Refer to response to comment I23-1. Under requirements of the existing law, Reclamation must transfer collected revenue to the U.S. Treasury. Annual funding (appropriations) from Congress far exceeds the revenue collected from dock permits. Dock permits are not mandatory, but a privilege to use federal land. Permit holders must believe docks are valued at the cost or they would not obtain a permit. Reclamation does not foresee a change in our existing legal requirement to return the collected revenue to the Treasury.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION:** Correct the statement to reflect almost none of the actions authorized have been implemented. Incorporated actions, reviews etc. that will preclude this from happening again.

43. page 3-99- States, and rightfully so, that removal of all private docks and the resulting resistance could actually increase the need for more intensive and time-consuming management. This reflects somewhat on my previous comments of the need to secure a "stake" in Lake Cascade by those who live on it and therefore by design are those who will, and want to, assure its enhancement.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION:** Develop a "ownership philosophy" of residents of the Lake since they will be your best ally in mitigating future concerns and problems.

44. page 3-105- Addresses the retention of 1991 RMP plans. This has already been identified as a failure. See above. Retention of the 1991 RMP is a non starter. Because of it's identified failure, any suggestion of retaining this as a alternative only serves to demean the value of having a RMP.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION:** Admit the total failure of the 1991 RMP and stress a new beginning with the 2001 RMP.

45. page 3-106- Addresses what is in the preferred alternative. How was this alternative constructed? It would seem more beneficial to evaluate all the recommendation that can be implemented with no adverse effects and assure that they are in the preferred alternative regardless of these items meeting the predetermined aspects of that alternative. Improvement should be the goal in the preferred alternative, not meeting some predetermined criteria.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION:** Review the EA and place all those items that would result in improvement to Lake Cascade with minimal or no adverse consequences and place them in the preferred alternative. Restructure the preferred alternative to achieve actual enhancement to the lake rather than a achievement of a predetermined parameter that by design of that parameter, excludes many areas of enhancement that otherwise would get incorporated.

46. page 3-107 Addresses the impact on property values if all private docks were eliminated. A economic analysis of this impact on Valley County should be included in the benefit analysis of removing all private docks. However, as note above, there has been no analysis of the benefits of removing all private docks. Just a proposal to do so.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION:** Provide a benefit analysis of removing private docks and adjust the EA according or lacking a benefit analysis remove this action from the EA.

I23-43

I23-44

I23-45

**I23-43:** Many of the actions noted in the 1991 RMP have in fact been implemented. Major actions that have not been undertaken include the airstrip re-opening and construction of the Van Wyck marina. These have not occurred because of easement holder reluctance or lack of funding and local cost-share partners. Future actions are also dependent on these same issues.

**I23-44:** See Section 2.2 of the EA for an explanation of alternative development. Elements in various alternatives that are perceived as beneficial to some users are not necessarily so to others. The Preferred Alternative was developed through a public involvement process. This process included input from Reclamation staff regarding the ability to accomplish recommendations including funding, authorities, and personnel limitations. Reclamation authority is limited to the federal land it administers.

**I23-45:** See response to comment I23-12.

47. page 3-113- Addresses the damage to archaeological deposits by boat wakes and suggests "establishment of no-wake zones would help to reduce shoreline erosion from boat generated waves."

CORRECTIVE ACTION: Insert mandatory no-wake zones.

48. page 3-125- Eliminates new docks. This will affect the value of new property owners however it is somewhat mitigated by the fact that current landowners could install docks before the change in policy. Such an action would place a immediate and significant workload on the B of R but would bring in additional money through fees. Recommend establishment of a window of opportunity for landowners to install docks prior to effective date of policy change. Further, there does not seem to be any benefit to limiting docks other than it does not conform to B of R policy. Consideration of changing that policy was not addressed.

CORRECTIVE ACTION: Establish window of opportunity for non-dock owners to install docks before implementation, or change the B of R policy

49. page 3-128 states that under the preferred alternative no new private dock permits will be issued. A previously stated, there appears no real justification for this proposal other than esthetics, which by definition is strictly in the eyes of the beholder. Having even one dock violates B of R policy so retaining some and prohibiting others doesn't really achieve policy compliance.

CORRECTIVE ACTION: Change B of R policy regarding no docks as it applies to Cascade Lake.

50. page 3-132 eliminates all private docks, thus this single elements eliminates support for Alternative B. As previously stated, if this is a good idea it should be in all the alternatives. If its not a good idea, it should be removed from all alternatives. As a minimum the pro's and con's should be addressed to include the loss of about one million dollars a year in fee's for the current stated 400 docks.

CORRECTIVE ACTION: Incorporate the pro's and con's of dock removal in the EA or remove this elements from alternative B.

#### FINAL COMMENTS

The following contains comments that result from the detailed review above:

1. This EA does a good job of addressing all applicable issues (except law enforcement). However, the packaging of the alternatives and in fact the theme of the alternatives leaves a lot to be desired. It would seem that one should go through the EA and incorporate in

I23-46

I23-47

I23-48

**I23-46:** Refer to response to comments I23-1.

**I23-47:** Reclamation has provided a widely publicized window for applications for new boat docks. This period will not be extended. Changing a Reclamation-wide policy that applies to all Reclamation projects is beyond the scope of this RMP.

**I23-48:** Refer to response to comment I23-12.



the preferred alternatives all those items having a positive benefit to the lake and no negative ramifications, regardless of whether that element directly supports the definition of the alternative. Further, correction of all violations of law (such as insufficient distance for high speed boating on Boulder Creek), and other mandates such as achieving water quality goals should be incorporated in all the alternatives regardless of the theme of that alternative. The sensing is that someone predetermined what they desired and then constructed the preferred alternative to meet that desire and the remaining alternatives were constructed in a manner that would assure their nonselection.

2. It is clear after the above detailed review that in every case (except the text on roads), there is glaring support throughout the EA for minimizing the detrimental impact of boat wakes and in most cases achieving this by increasing the no-wake zone distance to 200 ft. from shore or docks. See above review comments. Yet this is not even a proposal in any alternative.

3. There is either a naiveness in the drafters of the EA or the lack of will to incorporate mandatory requirement considerations regarding a 200 ft no wake area around the lake. It has already been pointed out in the EA that the current 100 ft mandated by law, no wake zone is not effective yet the EA attempts to want to rely on voluntary compliance with a 200 ft no wake distance to effect improvements. If you mandate 200 ft you might get compliance of at least 100 ft. Of course vigorous enforcement would assist in attainment of compliance but patrol boats are by design highly visible therefore catching violators is difficult. However, a 200 ft no wake zone eliminates high speed boating in narrow areas most susceptible to damage from boat wakes and provides a more definitive area for enforcement. There are no lines drawn on the water to comply with but 200 ft is certainly more visual than 100 ft.

4. The EA was drafted by government personnel, will be configured in final form by government personnel, and inherently therefore contains the will of government personnel. This also applies to the final RMP. I suggest, therefore, that to achieve the contents of the RMP 2001 that all government personnel that impact the implementation of the RMP be required to have successful implementation of the RMP a factor in their performance appraisals. Failure to do so will result in the accomplishment level attained by the 1991 RMP, basically zero.

5. There is in my opinion, one glaring deficiency in this EA. There has been virtually no analysis of the performance, necessary funding levels, impact of recommendations on or any other matter that incorporates Valley County law enforcements participation on Cascade Lake. Nor has there been any position identified on their ability to assist in or enforce some of the proposed actions contained in the EA. Although law enforcement is contracted out they are in fact an agent of the B of R for all law enforcement on the lake. It is my understanding that the annual budget for the marine patrol is \$5,000. In the EA it is stated that annual visitor days equate to 330,000 persons. This statistic represents one and a half cents per visitor day for law enforcement on the lake. This figure alone suggests a significant need to incorporate law enforcement considerations in ALL aspects

I23-49

**I23-49:** The alternatives were developed based on input from the public and ad hoc work groups. The structure and components of the alternatives is intended to provide a range of alternatives for consideration, as required by NEPA.

**I23-50:** Reclamation personnel are responsible for the RMP as written, and will complete the projects and activities outlined in the RMP that fall within Reclamation authorities and with funding provided by Congress.

**I23-51:** Reclamation and Valley County will work together to accomplish the necessary law enforcement needed to implement the RMP.

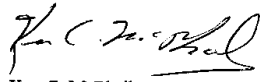
I23-50

I23-51

of the EA if in fact some positive results are expected to happen from their effort. More importantly is that law enforcement activities at one and a half cents per visitor day appears to result in significant underfunding of law enforcement that is essential to successful use of Cascade Lake. Attention to the law enforcement factor is even more critical if law enforcement is expected to assist in achieving RMP goals that result from the EA. HIGHLY RECOMMEND that the EA be redone to incorporate law enforcement impacts in all aspects of each EA proposal and/or EA consideration. Because law enforcement on Cascade Lake is by contract, adequate funding will be the key to successful accomplishment of current and proposed law enforcement activities.

I23-51  
(cont)

Thank you for allowing me to provide my comments.



Ken C. McPhail  
422 Powell St.  
Hollister, Ca. 95023

or

Box 731  
Donnelly, Idaho 83615

February 8, 2001

Ms. Carolyn Burpee Stone  
PN-3902  
Bureau of Reclamation  
1150 N. Curtis Road, Suite 100  
Boise, ID 83706-1234

Re: Draft EA for Lake Cascade RMP

Dear Ms. Burpee:

I attended the public hearing on February 1, 2001, in Cascade, Id. The only comment I made at that time was on my concern for handicap and elderly access to fishing. The following are my personal comments on the proposed RMP:

**Fishing** - I do not want access to fishing decreased by prohibiting vehicles below the high water line.

- Old people and handicapped people are unable to get to the water when the water is low if they cannot drive.
- I cannot imagine trying to push a wheelchair to the water's edge. Handicapped people should not be limited to fishing from a "handicap fishing dock".
- Many older fishermen fish in the fall when the water is low – they stay warm by sitting in their trucks with the heaters running. It is a tradition – many old men have dreamed about their retirement when they could fish all day long.
- I don't believe the "fishing bridge" at Tamarack is adequate for access of all.
- In the article published the week after the meeting it states there will be vehicles allowed below the high water line – where, I couldn't find it in the Draft Plan?

**Dogs:** I do not want dogs prohibited from swimming in the lake. I have a boy (currently 14) who has a labrador and they love to go swimming. We live about 100 yards from the lake and sometimes we are harassed about our dog frolicking with his boy. I must commend the people at Cascade, however, they have never harassed us.

**Fire on the Beach:** Will this be prohibited also? What about catfishing at night?

**Crown Point:** This area should be opened up by creating a county road on the old railroad grade. There is realistically one access to this entire area – it is a disaster waiting to happen. If this road was constructed it would also provide more access to fishing.

**Marina:** I am in favor of a marina. However, I don't believe the marina should be constructed in the VanWyck Park extension area since this is the best fishing in the area.

CONTINUED

LND-8-00-  
BoI

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION OFFICIAL FILE COPY			ACTON WIRE ST
FEB 8 '01			
OFFICIAL FILE COPY			
TO	INIT	DATE	
3902	CBs	2/09/01	
FILE			

## I24—Cynda Herrick, Cascade, Idaho

**I24-1:** Reclamation lands have been closed to ORV's including cars and pickups since 1974. The plan provides for facilities to be developed to accommodate elderly and physically challenged users.

**I24-2:** State park regulations govern pets in the recreation areas.

**I24-3:** Only vehicle access to the shoreline will be prohibited.

**I24-4:** The Crown Point Road will be open for non-motorized use to access the beaches in that area. The trail will be designed to Uniform Federal Accessibility standards to accommodate use by all individuals.

**I24-5:** Under a separate process prior to beginning the update to the RMP, Reclamation held public meetings to determine various locations for a marina near Cascade. These marina locations were further assessed during the RMP update process and the final site was selected. The site was selected because of the feasibility of construction and least amount of impacts at this location.

I24-1

I24-2

I24-3

I24-4

I24-5

Page 2  
Burpee  
February 8, 2001


**Bridge and Dam Road:** I don't think either one of these accesses to the lake should be closed. In fact, I think the BOR should help with the cost of maintenance. They could oil and water both roads.

**Lakeshore Drive:** The BOR should help improve this road with grading, graveling, and oiling. This would help improve water quality too.

**Boulder Creek Recreation Area:** When Boulder Creek Recreation Area was going through the approval process statements were made that have not been kept (or so it appears). The attached letter dated March 17, 1992 to Ankenman stated there would not be a significant change in the traffic since it was intended for use by surrounding residents. Now, signs have been placed in various locations, including State Highway 55, directing traffic down Hereford – it has increased traffic tremendously. Signs were only supposed to be placed at the site. Were the neighbors asked or did anyone talk to the County about impacts to the roads?

People in Cascade were “blown away” when they had to start paying fees to fish at the lake that they'd always fished at -- to prevent them from fishing would be a double whammy. Thank you for hearing and considering my comments.

Respectfully,

  
Cynda Herrick  
PO Box 1104  
Cascade, Id 83611  
  
382-7114 (Day)  
6622 (Evening)

I24-6

I24-7

I24-8

**I24-6:** The road across the dam will not be closed. Reclamation assists Valley County with funding various projects and discussions could also include Lakeshore Drive.

**I24-7:** Please see response I24-6.

**I24-8:** In Reclamation's March 17, 1992, letter to Mr. Ankenman, the only reference to “signs” states, “signs indicating day use only will be posted at the site.” Recreation use has increased at all the recreation sites at Lake Cascade. Additionally, the number of residents or second homes has dramatically increased, particularly in the Boulder Creek area.

LND-640-  
BOI JAN 30 '01

3902 CWS 2/05/01

P.O. Box 823  
Donnelly, ID, 83615  
January 29, 2001

1-673

17684

Carolyn Burpee Stone  
PM 390, Bureau of Reclamation  
1150 N. Curtis Rd., Suite 100  
Boise, ID, 83706-1234

Dear Ms. Stone:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Draft Environment Assessment for the Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan. The following comments are for your use in developing the final EA.

Comment 1: Section 1.6.2 River and Reservoir System, page 1-7, last paragraph

Can the difference between the Congressionally authorized minimum pool of 50,000 acre feet and the 46,662 acre feet based on the 1998 bathymetric survey be explained by sediment deposition? If so, this information should be stated. It would mean that this approach, if continued, would result in the ultimate elimination of the minimum pool. If this is not the case, the reason for the change should be given.

I25-1

Comment 2: Section 2.2.2 Land Management Categories, page 2-6, Rural Residential, last paragraph

No explanation is given for the decision that complete removal of all encroachment is not justified. Because these are public lands (owned by all the people), there should be no special privileges allowed for some of the people. This is especially true when the encroachments have nothing to do with the primary purposes of the reservoir.

I25-2

Comment 3: Table 2.3.1 Cascade Resource Management Plan: Draft EA Alternatives, page 2-15

The Preferred Alternative shows implementation of habitat improvement plans to improve water quality. Care should be taken to avoid a glaring mistake made at Mallard Bay. Apparently the wetland was developed without an adequate topographic survey. Spring runoff has been overflowing the wetland to the east and creating a gully which is contributing sediment (possibly with high phosphorous concentration) to Lake Cascade. Also, this situation will result in the eventual draining of the wetland. This problem, which could be causing more harm than good, could have been avoided by simply placing a low embankment on the east side of the wetland. Action to this effect should be shown in this table on page 2-17 under West Side, Mallard Bay.

I25-3

Another practice which should be avoided in the future is the building

## I25—Charles D. Clarke, Donnelly, Idaho

- I25-1:** The decision to maintain the 300,000 acre feet conservation pool would not change based on future sedimentation.
- I25-2:** Under the Preferred Alternative encroachments that do not serve a public purpose will be removed from C/OS, WMA, RR, and recreation lands.
- I25-3:** Reclamation will look into this during maintenance inspection of the constructed wetlands.

of dams with frozen soils. This happened at Duck Creek North. As the USBR knows, adequate compaction cannot be attained in this manner. It presents a high risk of failure, reduced water quality and danger to anyone downstream from the dam.

Comment 4: Table 2.3.1 Cascade Resource Management Plan: Draft EA Alternatives, Water Quality, page 2-15

Another item is needed for all alternatives. Easements to eliminate grazing of Reclamation lands have very limited effectiveness as long as fence maintenance is as lax as it has been in the Poison Creek area. Cattle grazed Reclamation land in this area at least two months during 2000. This situation did not improve even after the Cascade office of the USBR was informed.

Comment 5: Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan Maps, Legends

The colors for State Land and Rural Residential Area are very similar. A color change is needed to avoid confusion. The railroad cannot be found easily.

Comment 6: Section 3.3.1 Affected Environment, Shoreline Erosion, page 3-11

While the most noticeable impact of shoreline erosion is where structures are threatened or lost, the most serious impact could be the degradation of water quality by phosphorous rich sediment yield to Lake Cascade. The soils where shoreline erosion is occurring or is predicted should be tested for phosphorous content so that the significance of shoreline erosion as a source of phosphorous loading can be addressed. Also, the west side has serious shoreline erosion other than at Huckleberry Park. Apparently a shoreline erosion survey is needed.

Comment 7: Affected Environment, Recreation Facilities, page 3-71, paragraph 2

The paragraph seems to be indicating that group campsites need to be buffered from individual sites rather than vice versa. It should be pointed out that individual camp users are usually the ones negatively impacted by adjoining group camping. People in large groups tend to make more noise and show less respect for others than do individuals or small groups. True camping experiences are being lost as group campsites are developed in close proximity with individual campsites. The Federal Government should not be a part of this demise as long as there are still people who value true camping.

Comment 8: Environmental Consequences, Alternative A, No Action, Cumulative Impacts

Reference is made to "Reclamation-owned land". The USBR does not own the land. It is publicly owned land, and the USBR is responsible for managing and protecting it.

**I25-4:** Reclamation had substantial problems with the electric fence being grounded and cattle walking through it in the Poison Creek area in the fall of 2000. This is an ongoing problem (some years worse than others) that we continue to work on with the cattle ranchers and attempt to resolve.

**I25-5:** The maps will be changed to avoid confusion.

**I25-6:** Please see response to comment I23-3.

**I25-7:** The buffer is intended to separate individual and group camps and does not imply which group causes the need for a buffer.

**I25-8:** As a public agency, Reclamation refers to land as "Reclamation-owned" as a convenience to differentiate from many other types of public and private lands surrounding Lake Cascade. Reclamation lands are owned by the public, but are not considered public land as defined by the Bureau of Land Management. Other federal agencies manage "public lands" for public purposes and those lands are open to the public unless specifically closed. Reclamation manages federally-owned acquired or withdrawn public lands for specific Reclamation project purposes. Those lands are closed unless specifically opened for public use such as for ORV use.

I25-4

I25-5

I25-6

I25-7

I25-8

Comment 9: Section 3.10.2 Environmental Consequences, Alternative A, No Action

The statement is made that proposed West Rock Resort would make camping and low intensity passive use impractical. The problem with that statement is that the use of that area is not low impact now. Consider the campgrounds jammed with RV's, heavy motorized traffic and the general circus-like atmosphere around Poison Creek on weekends and holidays without West Rock.

Comment 10: Glossary, Erosion, page 8-2

The definition of erosion should be modified to read as follows in order to include important processes occurring in the watershed of Lake Cascade: The wearing away of soil and rock from the land surface by water, wind, ice and/or gravity.

The inclusion of gravity would recognize the important processes of mass wasting (i.e. bank failure, slope failure, landslide and soil creep) which are highly significant on the reservoir shoreline, stream and mountain slopes.

Comment 11: Glossary, Sediment, page 8-4

The definition of sediment needs to be expanded for clarification: A product of erosion which is composed of unconsolidated mineral and/or organic material carried by, suspended in, or deposited by water, wind, or ice.

Weathering does not necessarily produce sediment. Detachment is an essential process to produce sediment. Erosion involves detachment and, therefore, should be included in the definition.

Comment 12: Glossary

The definition of ORV/ATV should be given. It is needed to clarify whether the references to non-ORV/ATV throughout the draft EA are intended to exclude snowmobiles. For example, if a trail is to be used by Nordic skiers, it would be incompatible to include snowmobiles on the same trail.

The above comments are intended to be entirely constructive. Please call 208-382-3059 if you wish to discuss them.

Sincerely,

*Charles D. Clarke*

Charles D. Clarke  
National Sedimentation Geologist  
Soil Conservation Service, Retired

**I25-9:** The word “gravity” has been added to the definition.

**I25-10:** The definition has been revised according to your comment.

**I25-11:** A definition has been added and it does not include snowmobiles.

I25-9

I25-10

I25-11

Ms. Carolyn Burpee-Stone  
Bureau of Reclamation  
PN-3902  
1150 N. Curtis Rd., Suite 100  
Boise ID 83706

RE: Lake Cascade RMP/Draft EA

In general, I support the preferred alternative for the Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan. However, I have a few additional comments.

At the Van Wyck Park extension, I support elimination of the development of the marina in favor of improving the existing marina facilities located near the Golf Course. I believe there is no need for major storage of boats at slips due to limited boating season of May through September. With the proposed marina development, I am concerned about possible contamination of fuel at the marina, therefore I support no fueling facilities on Lake Cascade.

I am also concerned about maintaining water quality standards with the additional 250 boats on the Lake. Water quality is important for all the other users of the lake. I also am concerned about road access to the marina, road width, and erosion from the road right-of-way and runoff from the parking lot. The wetlands ecosystem will be disturbed by marina development at Van Wyck Park.

I support development of 50 slips at existing marina, with two state-of-the-art put-ins and toilet facilities hooked to sewer system. Add a fish cleaning station hooked to sewer system. Double the existing parking. Install storm drains for parking lot runoff.

I support retaining all conservation open space designations and continued closure to motorized vehicles.

I support closure of Reclamation lands within city limits to snowmobile use, especially conservation open space.

I support bike and foot traffic only across the top of Cascade Dam.

I support development of a trail system from south end of Lake Cascade to Crown Point.

I support keeping the bike path closed to motorized vehicles. Experiences this winter have demonstrated a clear need for management decisions to protect the safety of skiers, snowshoers, and other non-motorized winter recreation users. KEEP SNOWMOBILES OFF THE BIKE PATH

I support not reopening of the air strip at the edge of Lake Cascade due to noise considerations. This airport, unlike many other in Idaho's back country is not a primary access point for visitors. Pilots can already fly into 2 well-developed airports in that part of Valley County.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,  
  
Odos Lowery  
1616 Sunrise Rim Rd.  
Boise, ID 83705

1-1109  
17624

LND 802  
BOI

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION OFFICIAL FILE COPY			ACTION MADE BY
FEB 1 1991 OFFICIAL FILE COPY			
TO	INIT	DATE	
3902	UPS	2/10/91	

I26-1

I26-2

I26-3

I26-4

## I26—Odos Lowery, Boise, Idaho

**I26-1:** Please see response to comment I24-5. Water pollution has been identified as an impact associated with marinas.

**I26-2:** Development of the marina would occur in phases to meet demand. The phasing of marina development would also allow Reclamation and IDPR to monitor any potential impacts associated with this development.

**I26-3:** Please see response to comment I7-1 and I8-2.

**I26-4:** An option for re-opening the airstrip has been added to the Preferred Alternative, providing certain conditions are met. Part of these conditions include monitoring for noise disturbance to bald eagles. This is described in Section 2.3.2 of the Final EA. Noise will be evaluated in a separate NEPA document if the airstrip proposal moves forward.



From: <IUSR\_IBR1PNRW@ibr1pnrw.pn.usbr.gov>  
To: <Public\_Comment@pn.usbr.gov>  
Date: Tue, Feb 20, 2001 9:02 PM  
Subject: Cascade Public Comment Form

T1: Herrick  
T2: Steve  
T3:  
T4: 2304 N. 24th  
T5: Boise  
T6: ID  
T7: 83702  
T8:  
B1: Mail Comments

S1:

Rmp Cascade

After attending the meetings in Boise and seeing the multitude of issues being voiced in protest, it appears that it may be time to voice a few concerns of my own.

The local pilots association that appeared en masse in Boise gave me cause for concern. We are continually assaulted with noise in our daily lives, and to reopen the airport at Arrowhead Point is another continuation of the same. There is an all-weather airport 7 miles south of Arrowhead and their claims of recreational access are less than credible. The opening of the airport would be only for the few moneyed individuals and the noise assault would be on the grounded many. Particularly when they like to fly in and out at the earliest part of the day.

The next complaint is both noise and pollution from snowmobiles and jet skis. The easiest part to control would be by requiring four stroke engines on both. The damage done by snowmobiles in low snow conditions to terrain and small trees and shrubs sometimes borders on the ludicrous. Unfortunately you can't do anything about the continual trespass across private property as snowmobilers try to access the parkway and lake. Cross country skiers have to put up with continual degradation of the track set on the old railroad bed, along with the trash of beer cans, cigarette butts and candy wrappers. Jet skis continually work on a small cove and their two stroke engines can be heard for miles. All three of the above problems are exacerbated by the stillness of the lake and the solitude we seek in our increasing stressful lives. Something must be done before the sound and air pollution stalemates the reason for coming to and living in Cascade. The Yellowstone Ban is proof! of the same reasons I bring forth. It's true we must try and stimulate the economic opportunities in and around the reservoir, but not to the detriment of our health and sanity.

In an overview of the hike in, boat in camping areas, the northern most campsite is a swampy, bulrush filled, mosquito haven. There may be more suitable terrain elsewhere around the lake to locate vault toilets and spend money than in an area that does not provide for a pleasant camping experience.

Steve Herrick

2304 N. 24th  
Boise 83702  
345-0343

## I27—Steve Herrick, Boise, Idaho

- I27-1:** Issues such as noise would be addressed, along with other environmental concerns, in a separate EA that would be conducted to evaluate re-opening the airstrip.
- I27-2:** Noise issues from existing, ongoing activities that are not under Reclamation control (boats, jet-skis, snowmobiles) are outside of the scope of this RMP and EA. Noise associated with potentially re-opening the airstrip would be addressed under a separate NEPA analysis.
- I27-3:** Specific camping sites will be determined through further study when the RMP is implemented.

I27-1

I27-2

I27-3

Charles Hower  
PO Box 664  
Cascade, Idaho 83611

February 9, 2001

1-1180

17684

Dear Carolyn Burpee Stone:

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION OFFICIAL FILE COPY		
FEB 15 '01		
TO	INIT	DATE
3902	CBS	2/20/01

LND - 8.00 -  
801  
Cascade RMP

This letter is in regard to the RMP Update for Cascade Reservoir. We are long-time residents of Cascade and property owners within Cascade and at PLR. We simply want to register our strong support for the Preferred Alternative as described in the Draft RMP.

It is clearly evident that detailed and careful consideration has been given to the many issues involved in managing Lake Cascade. The plan update is a complex process and we are indebted to the many people who have contributed to it. In our judgment the Preferred Alternative is a good balance between development and preservation of open space and wildlife management areas.

We wish to affirm our strongly held conviction that the Rail Road grade north of Crown Point be preserved in its entirety for low impact uses and NOT converted to a county road. The Preferred Alternative seems to accomplish this.

Our one criticism of the proposal is the size of the marina at Van Wyck Park. We do not question the need for a marina here, but the size of the development allowed by the plan (400 slips) is not compatible with the available space for parking and the many other ancillary facilities that will be needed. It is also not compatible with the long-time use of this area for swimming and fishing.

Thanks for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

*JoAnn J. Hower*


*Charles O. Hower*

## I28—JoAnn J. and Charles O. Hower, Cascade, Idaho

- I28-1:** The Crown Point extension will be confined to non-motorized uses.
- I28-2:** Current and projected use indicates that this marina will be needed to accommodate visitors. The development would occur in phases to meet demand, and could be adjusted as needed.

I28-1

I28-2

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION		ACTION	
			
<h2 style="text-align: center;">Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan</h2> <h3 style="text-align: center;">Draft Environmental Assessment</h3>			
INITIALS		DATE	
3902-0625		2/09/01	
NAME (required)		Jared Scott	
ADDRESS (required)		P.O. Box 300	
PHONE (optional)			
E-MAIL (optional)			
Please write your comments below:			
<p>           Thank you for participating in the review process for the Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan. The Bureau of Reclamation is very interested in your comments and impressions of the various alternatives presented for the future management of Lake Cascade.         </p> <p>           When providing your comments, please be as specific as possible and write clearly so we can understand your concerns.         </p> <p>           Comments submitted at a public hearing will become part of the official hearing record.         </p> <p>           You may also provide comments included in the final EIS within a 30-day review period which ends February 22, 2001. This form is designed to self-mail if you wish to use it to submit comments via mail.         </p> <p>           You can request that we withhold your name and/or address by stating this prominently at the beginning of your written comments. However, we will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public disclosure in their entirety.         </p> <p>           Reclamation appreciates your interest and participation in the future management and use of Lake Cascade.         </p>			
<p>           As I overviewed the plans, I noticed that there was some that were a lot alike and others that were really different. The plans that I liked are Preferred Alternative, Plan B, and Alternative A is okay, but I feel that there should be some improvements. The perspective I'm looking at is from an outdoorsman point of view. The Preferred Alternative has a lot of good ideas. I feel that there should be some trail accesses and some improvements of a little expansion which is shown in the Preferred Alternative Plan B. I liked a little bit better because it seems to have more WMA. I feel that if it's possible to have more WMA, then we should especially during the nesting seasons. Preferred Alternative I really like. Maybe you can consider expanding the WMA like in Plan B. Plan C I feel is good if West Rock was to go in. If it doesn't I think it's impossible to keep all of the Marinas in business. I would like to see the Marina go in by Lakeview. It would also be nice to have another Marina go in up north and on the West Side I think it's going to be hard to fund the Marinas. Maybe we could downsize them a little. Really I like to see Preferred Alternative with more WMA and a Marina or two.         </p>			
<p style="text-align: right;">OFFICIAL FILE COPY</p>			
<p style="text-align: center;">www.pn.usbr.gov</p>			

## I29—Jared Scott, Cascade, Idaho

- I29-1:** Additional WMAs beyond those included in the Preferred Alternative are not planned for this RMP.
- I29-2:** Another marina is not planned beyond those listed in the Preferred Alternative.

I29-1

I29-2

## Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan Draft Environmental Assessment

Lake Cascade RMP Public Hearing  
January 31, 2001 - Boise  
February 1, 2001 - Cascade

Name (required) Ben Wellington

Address (required) P.O. Box 713 Cascade, Idaho 83611

Please write your comments below: To Whom It May Concern:

Regarding a Marina at the south end of Lake Cascade. It is my opinion that the BEST location for a Marina is at the Van Wyck Extension.  
1). Close to HiWay 55 2). Power, City of Cascade water, sewer, police, hospital, easy in and out with 2 roads, Old State Hiway and Dam Road. 3). Economic benefit to the City of Cascade.

Regarding the breakwater: I have lived in Cascade for 21+ years and have witnessed the fury of a storm from the West. Therefore the breakwater needs to be built out of rock, from the Crown Point Quarry. At high water mark, the rock is loaded onto a belly-dump barge via a conveyor system at Crown Point and then delivered and dumped in a line with the proposed breakwater. This method would be inexpensive, permanent and feasible. When the water is low in the fall, the cap of the breakwater (top) could be hauled in dumptrucks and placed on top of what was dumped via the barge in the spring. This rock breakwater will serve as ideal fish habitat, Marina protection and a place to fish from.

Please consider these ideas in your future plans.

Sincerely,

*Ben Wellington*

I30-1

I30-2

### I30—Ben Wellington, Cascade, Idaho

I30-1: Thank you for your comment.

I30-2: A breakwater would be constructed along with the marina when Reclamation funds are available, when a managing partner is identified, and when cost-share conditions are met.



www.pn.usbr.gov

# Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan Draft Environmental Assessment

Lake Cascade RMP Public Hearing  
January 31, 2001 - Boise  
February 1, 2001 - Cascade

Name (required) Jonne Hower Lowery  
Address (required) 1616 Sunrise Blvd  
Boise Id 83706  
Please write your comments below:

Thank you for participating in the review process for the Lake Cascade Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Resource Management Plan (RMP) Update.

Reclamation invites you to use this form to provide review comments on the recently released Draft EA for the Lake Cascade RMP. Reclamation is very interested in your thoughts and input on the various alternatives presented for the future management of Lake Cascade.

When providing your comments, please be as specific as possible, and please write clearly so we can understand your concerns.

Comments submitted at tonight's meeting will become part of the official hearing record.

You may also provide comments to be included in the final EA within the 60 day review period which ends February 22, 2001. This form is designed as a self-mailer if you wish to use it to submit comments via mail.

You can request that we withhold your name and/or address by stating this prominently at the beginning of your written comments. However, we will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public disclosure in their entirety.

Reclamation appreciates your interest and participation in the future management and use of Lake Cascade.



In general I support the Preferred Alternative.

However, I do not support development of such a large marina. I am concerned about infrastructure, road access, and water quality. I would support a smaller marina - 100 slips - w/ an opportunity for expansion if demand warranted.

I support rehabilitation of day use areas on the east side of the lake.

I am quite concerned about snowmobile use in CLOS - Can CLOS within city limits be closed to snowmobiles?

I am concerned about reckless snowmobile driving on frozen Lake Cascade. Who enforces? What are the regulations? My understanding is that most snowmobiles are not "street-worthy" under Idaho state law.

I support all CLOS designation to be continued

I support development of non-motorized trail development on the east side

[www.pn.usbr.gov](http://www.pn.usbr.gov)

over

## I31—Jonne Hower Lowery, Boise, Idaho

I31-1: Please see response to comment I29-2.

I31-2: It was determined that closure of C/OS lands to snowmobiles was not necessary as a management action in the RMP.

I31-3: Snowmobiles are allowed on the reservoir. Enforcement is done by the Valley County Sheriff's Department. However, there are no speed limits for snowmobiles.

I31-1

I31-2

I31-3

Additional Comments:

I believe that much of the "informal camping" along the eastside - should ~~be~~ not be allowed - these sites need to be rehabilitated

I31-4

I support keeping the road across the dam open at least to foot & bicycle traffic - otherwise access is severely restricted from the south to Crown Point CG & ~~the~~ RR bike path

I31-5

~~Can be determined~~

I do not support opening Cascade airstrip.

I31-6

Some management ~~need~~ of snowmobiles & non-motorized rec (skiers & snow-trails) is needed on railroad grade. Can there be a speed limit?

I31-7

I support railroad bike path remaining closed to motorized vehicles

Place  
stamp  
here

- I31-4:** Boat-in camping occurs at this site and would be formalized by completing the Crown Point Extension.
- I31-5:** The Crown Point extension will be confined to non-motorized uses.
- I31-6:** An option for re-opening the airstrip has been added to the Preferred Alternative, providing certain conditions are met. Part of these conditions include monitoring for noise disturbance to bald eagles. This is described in Section 2.3.2 of the Final EA.
- I31-7:** Snowmobiles will be allowed on the non-motorized trail for the Crown Point extension. Please see response I7-1 and I8-2.

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
PN Regional Office PN-3902  
Attn: Carolyn Burpee Stone  
1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100  
Boise, ID 83706-1234

## Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan Draft Environmental Assessment

Lake Cascade RMP Public Hearing  
January 31, 2001 - Boise  
February 1, 2001 - Cascade

Name (required) David Barton  
Address (required) Box 186 Donnelly, Id.

Please write your comments below: In general favor preferred alternative

Thank you for participating in the review process for the Lake Cascade Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) and Resource Management Plan (RMP) Update.

Reclamation invites you to use this form to provide review comments on the recently released Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) and Resource Management Plan (RMP) Update. Reclamation is very interested in your thoughts and impressions on the various alternatives presented for the future management of Lake Cascade.

When providing your comments, please be as specific as possible, and please write clearly so we can understand your concerns.

Comments submitted at tonight's meeting will become part of the official hearing record.

You may also provide comments to be included in the final RMP within the 60-day review period which ends February 22, 2001. This form is designed as a self-mailer if you wish to mail in your comments via mail.

You can request that we withhold your name and/or address by stating this prominently at the beginning of your written comments. However, we will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public disclosure in their entirety.

Reclamation appreciates your interest and participation in the future management and use of Lake Cascade.



Visit Reclamation and the Lake Cascade RMP on the World Wide Web

[www.pn.usbr.gov](http://www.pn.usbr.gov)

### I32—David Barton, Donnelly, Idaho

**I32-1:** Private ramps are those constructed for use by a subdivision or group of people and not located at, within, or adjacent to a public recreation site or public facility. The RMP proposes a permit for these ramps to continue to be used. Refer to response to comment I23-11.

**I32-2:** Encroachments are any and all structures and improvements, including landscaping, that encroach onto federal lands. All encroachments that do not serve a public purpose will be removed. Properly constructed and functioning retaining walls that prevent erosion as well as deep-rooted vegetation that prevent erosion would be deemed in the public interest and would not be removed.

I32-1

I32-2

✓ LND-800-  
Bar

# Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan Draft Environmental Assessment

1-98

17684

Lake Cascade RMP Public Hearing  
January 31, 2001 - Boise  
February 1, 2001 - Cascade

Name (required) JERRY Robinson  
Address (required) 321 Finn Church Lane  
McCall Idaho 83638

OFFICIAL FILE COPY  
CBS 2/14/01

Please write your comments below:

- 1) The preferred alternative should be modified to allow private docks on lots adjoining Reclamation ground within 200 ft of the lake.
- 2) Easier access should be available to everyone to the lake.
- 3) The old State Airport (Greens Airport) should be reestablished.

Thank you

I33-1

I33-2

I33-3

## I33—Jerry Robinson, McCall, Idaho

- I33-1:** No new private docks will be permitted, according to national Reclamation policy. However, community docks will continue to be allowed where they replace individual docks.
- I33-2:** Access to the lake is provided in many forms and will be increased for different recreational experiences.
- I33-3:** An option for re-opening the airstrip has been added to the Preferred Alternative, providing certain conditions are met. Part of these conditions include monitoring for noise disturbance to bald eagles. This is described in Section 2.3.2 of the Final EA.



www.pn.usbr.gov



**From:** <IUSR\_IBR1PNRW@ibr1pnw.pn.usbr.gov>  
**To:** <Public\_Comment@pn.usbr.gov>  
**Date:** Mon, Feb 19, 2001 4:36 PM  
**Subject:** Cascade Public Comment Form

\*\*\*\*\*  
T1: TERRY  
T2: KATHLEEN  
T3:  
T4: PO BOX 44450  
T5: BOISE  
T6: ID  
T7: 83711  
T8: 208-939-2148  
B1: Mail Comments

S1:

As a homeowner in Arrowhead Point Subdivision, I would like to express my opposition to the opening of the airstrip down the road from us for the following reasons:

1. I believe it is too close to a residential area.
2. It will disturb the habitat for the wildlife in the area. Ospreys, Eagles, and Pelicans all nest here.
3. Noise pollution will diminish the enjoyment of the recreation area.
4. Our community well water is at risk of contamination as well as the quality of the lake water. Fuel storage would jeopardize ground water.
5. There are other options for locating an airstrip east of Highway 55.

Thanks for this opportunity to respond,  
Kathleen Terry

I34-1

### **I34—Kathleen Terry, Boise, Idaho**

**I34-1:** An option for re-opening the airstrip has been added to the Preferred Alternative, providing certain conditions are met. Part of these conditions include monitoring for noise disturbance to bald eagles. This is described in Section 2.3.2 of the Final EA. Fuel would not be available at the airstrip if it is opened.

16 February 2001

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
PN Regional Office PN-3902  
Attn: Carolyn Burpee Stone  
1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100  
Boise, ID 83706-1234

Dear Ms. Stone,

Please include my comments regarding the Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan Draft Environmental Assessment.

When I attended the meeting for the Lake Cascade RMP in Boise, I did not feel the other side of the airport issue was presented. I would like to indicate that I am a licensed pilot, to add background to my comments.

An airport with a landing pattern over the lake is disruptive to animals and humans. The area is already served by two very nice airports. The lake currently has wonderful access for everyone. Opening the airport will not improve access. This airport would be for a few pilots who will then have a "private" campsite. The cost will be placed on the balance of the users of the lake (and to wildlife) with increased noise levels within the valley and especially over the lake.

When a plane flies in the valley the sound is heard for miles, unlike for cars where the sound is quickly muffled by vegetation. Take-offs are very noisy, as the planes use full power to become airborne and to climb.

I do fully agree with most of the speakers at the Boise meeting that backcountry airports are an important asset to provide access. And I do agree that emergency airports are also valuable. But, I disagree that opening the airport will be beneficial by improving access. Lake Cascade is very well served with better and quieter forms of access.

I urge you to approve the Lake Cascade RMP without adding support to open the airstrip.

Sincerely,

  
Kirk C. Odencrantz

1-1337  
17684

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
OFFICIAL FILE COPY  
Kirk C. Odencrantz  
1104 W. Stafford Dr.  
Eagle, ID 83614  
FEB 21 '01

TO	INIT	DATE
PN	CBS	2/21/01
FILE		

### I35—Kirk C. Odencrantz, Eagle, Idaho

**I35-1:** Please see response to comment I34-1. The impacts will be monitored as part of the conditions for re-opening the airstrip.

**I35-2:** Please see response I27-2.

I35-1

I35-2

\*From:

To: Carolyn Burpee Stone

Date: 3/16/01 Time: 1:08:40 PM

Page 2 of 4

March 16, 2001

**PLEASE WITHHOLD MY NAME AND ADDRESS (SO STATED PER REQUEST FOR COMMENTS)**

**U.S. Bureau of Reclamation**

PN Regional Office

Attn: Carolyn Burpee Stone

1150 North Curtis, Suite 100

Boise, ID 83706-1234

**VIA FAX: 208-378-5305**

**RE: DRAFT EA of CASCADE LAKE, ID**

**Preferred Alternative Modification Allowing Re-opening of State Airstrip**

The Bureau:

As a property holder located approximately 1.5-2 miles from the above reference airport Property. Further, my property is in an approximate direct alignment with the axis of the runway alignment.

I oppose the re-opening of the airstrip for the following reasons which I do not believe has been addressed in the Draft EA and therefore, available for public comment and consideration.

**1. NOISE.**

Aircraft noise requirements are established based on buffer zones from their operation. No such buffer zone has been established around this airstrip and I do not believe the BOR has that authority. If established it would be a "take" of personal property rights subject to compensation as would a decision not to establish such a zone to maintain the current level of impact.

Further, those noise levels do not conform to the established standards of the Valley County Planning and Zoning Ordinance, which has established requirements for such impacts to adjacent properties.

The airstrip is also within 1 mile of the established City of Donnelly Impact Area and should also be considered.

**2. FLIGHT PATH**

I do not believe that there is proposed any restriction on the direction of take-off and landings. Considering the location of my property I am concerned about the noise impacts as well as risk of an over flight accident. on approach and take-off from the north.

**I36—Name and Address Withheld**

**I36-1:** See Response I27-2. Details concerning impacts and operating conditions would be addressed under a future NEPA analysis if initial monitoring shows no potential for impacts on bald eagles. Issues such as noise would be addressed at that time.

I36-1

I36-2

\* From:

To: Carolyn Burpee Stone

Date: 3/16/01 Time: 1:08:40 PM

Page 3 of 4

U. S. Bureau of Reclamation  
March 16, 2001  
Page 2

Even upon approach from the south, over flights due to inability to land or errors places residences in such proximity at risk.

Again, buffer zones, which normally accompany such an airport development, do not exist and I do not believe the BOR has that authority. If established it would be a "take" of personal property rights subject to compensation as would a decision not to establish such a zone to maintain the current level of impact.

Even in the event of takeoff to the south, the noise from airplane engines are directed to the north exasperating the intrusion, as would the low level over flights as discussed above.

### 3. Sewer

While the requirement to "hook-up" to the Donnelly city sewer system is admirable as addressing the reservoir water quality issues the system that they would be connecting to is not the Donnelly city collection system. It is in place through the Northlake Recreational Sewer and Water District, and LID that was established and paid for by those within the district.

Connection to the system would have to be accomplished within the regulations of the district with an appropriate reduction in the burden to each original member of the district, assuming there is available capacity. Without such approval and adjustment such an inclusion would not be fair and equitable subject to appropriate action by any original member. No discussion as to these issues has been presented.

Similarly, there is approval for a central water system LID to be installed this summer. Any connection to that system will be subject to similar issues as discussed for the sewer.

Connection to these systems, assuming the above can be satisfactory addressed, will require approximately 1-1.5 miles to the north and cross private land. No indication has been presented as to the willingness of such landowners to allow such a right-of-way easement and for what compensation.

### 4. ACCESS and EMERGENCY SERVICES

Beyond access to the site by airplane, it is unclear what access to the site from land-based vehicles is to be provided. Specific information as to what right-of-way will be utilized, what level of improvements will be provided and by whom, the impact to the connected roads and maintenance should be presented. Access for emergency vehicles and services would depend on these roads.

**I36-2:** Refer to response I36-1.

**I36-3:** These issues would be addressed at the time a permit is proposed and during the separate NEPA compliance process.

I36-2  
(cont.)

I36-3

From:

To: Carolyn Burpee Stone

Date: 3/16/01 Time: 1:08:40 PM

Page 4 of 4

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
March 16, 2001  
Page 3

**I36-4:** Please see response I36-3.

Either Valley County, based in Cascade or the Donnelly Rural Fire Protection Association, will provide emergency access for EMT and fire protection. The boundary for these jurisdictions is approximately at this location but not determined in the proposal. Their capability and response times should be discussed particularly as it impacts adjacent landowners.

**5. NEED**

Although I appreciate the desire of motivated persons of the special interest group, which desire to utilize this old airstrip as an extension of their recreation of flying, to allow them that right would impact others established in the area. The need has not been demonstrated beyond a desire for an additional recreational opportunity.

Previous use, as a potential argument, occurred at a time when there were few uses beyond ranching in the area. Times have changed during the period the airstrip use was not allowed. Single-family development and airstrips are conflicting uses.

There are existing alternative opportunities to access the recreational activities of the area. Airports are located at McCall and Cascade as well as an airstrip at the City of Donnelly, which similarly provides direct access to the reservoir and established facilities at the City of Donnelly boat ramp and recreation area located directly across the road are already provided.

The road is paved, sewer and water issues are addressed and the end of the airstrip is less than one half mile from the Donnelly Rural Fire Protection Association EMT and fire facilities.

The need to reopen this proposed old airstrip has not been established and no aircraft alternatives presented for public opinion.

In conclusion, it is my position and comment that inasmuch as the above issues have not been adequately addressed or presented for public comment, and; the need has not been adequately demonstrated and the impacts and alternatives discussed; nor has a mitigation plan been developed to a level to address the issues; there is not sufficient basis to revise the Preferred Alternative as proposed.

Please keep me advised, directly, as to your decision.

Very truly yours,

I  
I36-4  
I

**From:** "bev pressman" <pressman@rmci.net>  
**To:** <pninfo@pn.usbr.gov>  
**Date:** 3/15/01 7:34AM  
**Subject:** Attn: Carolyn Burpee Stone; Draft Environmental Assessment-Lake Cascade

March 15,2001

U. S. Bureau of Reclamation  
PN Regional Office  
Attn: Carolyn Burpee Stone  
1150 North Curtis, Suite 100  
Boise, ID 83706-1234

Dear Bureau of Reclamation:

I am opposed to allowing the airstrip to be re-opened and developed at Lake Cascade in the Day Star area. My reasons are as follows:

1. In addition to the bald eagles, the airstrip in question is adjacent to an area at the end of the old state highway that has been a nesting ground for a variety of birds in our area. This area has been designated a protected area and closed to disruptive motor traffic for years. Those of us living in this area pride ourselves in the number of birds we have been able to preserve as a result of these efforts. The proposed air traffic activity would be in direct conflict with these preservation efforts.
2. There are already two well established airstrips within 12-15 miles at Cascade and McCall. There is also an airstrip currently at Donnelly, approximately 8 miles from the additional proposed site. This is unnecessary duplication.
3. When I participate in "fly-in" opportunities, it means you fly directly to the destination. All of the current airstrips provide much better access to public camping, boating, and picnicking. The proposed airstrip, however, is surrounded by private lands and homes, with the nearest public camping 8-12 miles away.
4. This is being proposed at a time when we are attempting to preserve our environmental quality. At a time when the number of docks and boat ramps are being limited, we are considering duplicating and expanding unnecessarily? It does not make sense.

Sincerely,

Beverly Pressman

### **I37—Beverly Pressman, Address Withheld**

**I37-1:** Your letter refers to the proposed airstrip in the Day Star area. While some of the comments might still apply, this is an airstrip proposed on private property and not the same airstrip referred to in the RMP.

I37-1

**From:** <IUSR\_IBR1PNRW@ibr1pnrw.pn.usbr.gov>  
**To:** <Public\_Comment@pn.usbr.gov>  
**Date:** Fri, Mar 16, 2001 11:09 AM  
**Subject:** Cascade Public Comment Form

\*\*\*\*\*

T1: Julian  
T2: Ronn  
T3: n/a  
T4: Box 851  
T5: Cascade  
T6: Id.  
T7: 83611  
T8: (208) 382-4379  
B1: Mail Comments

S1:

The proposal to open the State airstrip on the west side of Lake Cascade should give serious consideration to the safety of all aircraft concerned. There is a definite flight pattern of north/south bound aircraft to make low elevation paths in the vicinity of the strip. In addition, Life Flight often uses this same route when conducting missions to the north from Boise. Landings and take-offs could increase the possibility of a mid-air collisions. In addition, it would seem the airstrip would offer some utility to a very few individuals. Compromising safety for other air travelers should not be a concession if it is a factor.

I38-1

**I38— Ronn Julian, Cascade, Idaho**

**I38-1:** Safety, along with other issues, would be addressed under a separate future NEPA analysis.

U. S BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
1150 N CURTIS RD, SUITE 100  
BOISE ID 83706-1234  
ATTN: CAROLYN BURPEE STONE

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

FEBRUARY 2001

1-1070

17684

3902 CBS 2/12/01

SUBJECT: Draft EIS, Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan (December 2000)

*The USBOR draft plan preferred alternative did not include a recreational airport that is in the 1991 Cascade Reservoir RMP, but USBOR eliminated the airport without any aviation input. This procedural violation must be corrected, and the draft plan final decision must be delayed until such corrective action is complete.*

Supporting this statement are facts relating to the state airfield issue:

- Airfield reactivation was initiated by the Idaho aeronautics agency;
- Airfield reactivation was supported by the Idaho aeronautics agency and USBOR;
- There was and still exists strong aviation support for airfield reactivation;
- The aviation public and aeronautics agency weren't adequately advised of the proposed actions; and
- More time is needed for input from the aviation public on the airfield issue.

I39-1

**BACKGROUND**--I was directly involved with the actions which got the old state airfield in the current management plan. As director of the Idaho Bureau of Aeronautics from 1988 to 1992, I initiated action in April 1988 to get the airport reopened, consulting with U. S. Bureau of Reclamation's (USBOR) regional office staff and later on with the consultant contracted to conduct the public process for the management plan revision. I worked extensively with Jim Brooks, now retired, of the Boise office. The late Boyd Miller of McCall served on one of several citizens' committees that identified issues and formulated alternatives. During that process, there was overwhelming aviation response to the recreational airfield reactivation option. This resulted in the airfield project being included among other recreational projects as part of the preferred alternative, which was adopted in the USBOR record of decision for the 1991 RMP.

**AGENCIES SUPPORTED AIRFIELD**—Both the USBOR and Bureau of Aeronautics became active in trying to get the airfield project completed. Despite the agencies' inability to consummate an agreement with Vaughn Jasper, the airfield site easement holder, the popularity of the project has not waned. Although I left the Bureau of Aeronautics in June, 1992, I continued my personal involvement in the issue as an officer and member in the Idaho Aviation Association (IAA), as member and president of the Idaho Aviation Hall of Fame, as a member of Ada County Aerial Sheriff Reserve, and as part owner of Big Creek Lodge, a backcountry lodge catering to fly-in guests. In these organizations, I have stayed in touch with aviators and know the issues. Recently I served on a task force of the IAA assigned to work with the easement owner Vaughn

### I39—William Miller, Cascade, Idaho

**I39-1:** Re-opening the airstrip will be addressed in the future following bald eagle monitoring and through a separate NEPA process.



Jasper, USBOR Regional Director John Keyes (now retired), Jim Budolfson of USBOR staff, and the Idaho Division of Aeronautics in an effort to reach agreement on site-related issues, and get the airfield reactivation project completed. From my continuing involvement in the issue, I know the aviation community's interest and support for the Cascade Reservoir airfield has not waned, and today remains as strong as ever.

In October 1993, the Idaho Division of Aeronautics, anticipating successful negotiations with Mr. Jasper, conducted a preliminary work session on the airfield site using their own airport maintenance staff and volunteers from aviation groups.

**SUPPORT BY AVIATION PUBLIC**—The Cascade Reservoir airfield has remained a high priority project with the Idaho Division of Aeronautics, aviators, and leaders of aviation organizations. Some very graphic evidence of the strong support for recreational-access airport issues is the IAA-promoted act passed by Congress in October 2000, HR 4578 The Backcountry Landing Strip Access Act. Also, the IAA and other aviation supporters in 1999 helped establish an endowment program—the Idaho Aviation Foundation—to provide grants to improve safety and operations at backcountry and recreational airports. Although these two actions do not deal directly with the Cascade Reservoir issue, their existence illustrates the current level of aviation community support for preserving and enhancing recreational and backcountry airfields in Idaho.

**AERONAUTICS AGENCY NOT CONSULTED AND AVIATION PUBLIC NOT PROPERLY ADVISED**-- The Idaho Division of Aeronautics was not advised, and hence was not involved in the recent management plan actions. Aeronautics has a direct stake in the alternatives and outcomes of the plan. Aeronautics has been directly involved in the issue since early 1988. The USBOR should not have abandoned the airfield reactivation without consultation with or involvement by the state agency for aeronautics. Further, the aviation public was not advised that the airfield project might be abandoned. I received notice of USBOR's proposed action indirectly from an emergency mailing sent by the IAA on January 24. For whatever reasons, the aviation community was not sufficiently notified in time to participate in the discussion and selection of proposed alternatives. No representative of aviation was made aware the airfield option could be abandoned under a revised management plan.

**MORE TIME IS NEEDED FOR AVIATION INPUT**--The USBOR's procedural deficiency must be addressed. The Administrative Procedures Act requires that public decisions must involve those being affected by the decisions.



WILLIAM C. MILLER  
5625 W. Beachfront Lane  
Boise, Idaho 83703  
(208) 853-8585 email "wildbil@micron.net"

**OFFICIAL FILE COPY**

**Michael Anderson**  
P.O. Box 2550  
McCall, ID 83638  
208 634 8459  
anderson@ctcweb.net

1-12-03  
17684

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION OFFICIAL FILE COPY			FILED
FEB 20 '01			
TO	INIT	DATE	
905	0BS	2/20/01	
		February 15, 2001	
FILE			

WNO 82  
R01  
Cascade  
gmp

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
PN Regional Office PN-3902  
1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100  
Boise, ID 83706-1234  
Attention: Ms. Carolyn Burpee Stone

Reference: Cascade Reservoir Airstrip, Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan

Dear Ms. Stone

This letter is in support of recreational aviation use of the Cascade Reservoir Airstrip.

#### Previous Activities

John Keys, formerly of the Bureau of Reclamation, spent considerable time negotiating with the present holder of the Agricultural Easement on the airstrip and surrounding property in hopes of trading some B.O.R. land for abandonment of the easement so that the airstrip could be reopened. Bart Welsh and Bill Miller, both former Division of Aeronautics Administrators, have been active participants in this process. The three of us (Welsh, Miller, and myself) have met with Vaughn Jasper, the holder of the easement, and with John Keys on several occasions in efforts to facilitate the resolution of this trade. Don Miller, a Director of the Idaho Aviation Foundation is currently negotiating with Vaughn Jasper for a sale of his property and easement to a third party who will participate with the B.O.R. in enabling the reopening of the airstrip. There have been numerous other people involved in this process over the last ten years from the Idaho Aviation Association, the Idaho Aviation Foundation, and the B.O.R. It is inappropriate to assume that there is no current interest in this issue.

#### Current Need

Boyd Miller, former president of both the Idaho Aviation Association and the Idaho Aviation Foundation, had a vision to develop recreational airstrips outside of the Wilderness areas to relieve heavy recreational use of the Idaho Backcountry. With growing awareness of the benefits of recreational flying in Central Idaho, pilots from virtually every state and many foreign countries visit numerous times each year. The attractions are convenient camping, fishing, and hiking, along with ready access by air. The State of Idaho already operates a number of airstrips for recreational use through the Division of Aeronautics, as does the U.S. Forest Service. Unfortunately, some of the destinations suffer heavy use making it necessary to offer safe and attractive alternatives.

I40-1

#### I40—Michael Anderson, McCall, Idaho

**I40-1:** Please see response to comment O5-1, letter from Kathleen Miller, Idaho Aviation Association.

**I40-2:** Please see response to comment O5-1, letter from Kathleen Miller, Idaho Aviation Association.

Johnson Creek Airstrip about 40 miles east of Lake Cascade offers camping, hiking, and fishing, and is one of the most popular destinations in the region. The Cascade Reservoir Airstrip offers similar amenities in that it has clear approach and departure paths, is relatively isolated, has camping potential, and proximity to a sandy beach on the lake. Utilizing this existing asset is more cost effective than developing an alternate site.

**Management Responsibility**

Cascade Reservoir was created to enhance agricultural activities downstream by providing a regulated source of irrigation water. In the ensuing years, recreational use of the reservoir has gained importance as evidenced by, the number of recreational residences on the lakeshore, the change in name to Lake Cascade, and proposed resort development nearby. There have been significant efforts by the Division of Environmental Quality to reduce phosphor loading in Lake Cascade to enhance its recreational and aesthetic qualities. Virtual collapse of the timber and extractive industries has left Valley County with little other than recreation as a basis for the local economy. This leads to a responsibility by the B.O.R. to give serious consideration to recreation in planning its management strategy.

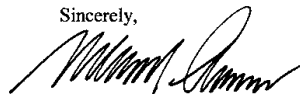
**Stewardship and Care**

It is proposed that the Division of Aeronautics assume overall responsibility for the maintenance of this airstrip, either as ultimate owners of the property or through a long-term lease agreement with the B.O.R. The Idaho Aviation Association has offered to participate in maintenance by providing volunteer labor, contributions, and periodic inspections by its members. The Idaho Aviation Foundation has resources available to contribute to capital improvements, and is committed to the future of this facility.

**Summary**

I urge you to include recreational aviation use in the Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan. Existing recreational airstrips are a scarce and precious commodity and the aviation community cannot afford to lose this one. There is a desperate need for additional landing areas to relieve the existing backcountry airstrips that are heavily used. Volunteers and the Division of Aeronautics stand ready to assume responsibility for making this valuable facility available once again for public use.

Sincerely,



Michael Anderson

I40-2

1-1205  
17684  
Richard Thompson P.O. Box 821 Council, ID 83612-0821  
208 - 253 - 4299 eMail: ahahorse@ctcweb.net

February 15, 2001

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
PN Regional Office PN 3902  
ATTN: Carolyn Burpee Stone  
1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100  
Boise, Idaho 83706 - 1234

Dear Ms. Burpee Stone:

**Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment, Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan**

I have just finished an on-line review of the subject draft EA. Thank you for making it available in that form. I have some comments and suggestions that I would like you and the team to consider. I am a private pilot based in Council.

In the Purpose and Need section, I understand that the current Resource Management Plan is effective through 2001 and this analysis is needed to continue planned management. However, what existing or potential resource conditions were to be addressed with this analysis? This, I think, would help define some of the issues.

In terms of issue development, I believe that the former State airstrip near Arrowhead Point should have been included because of the substantial input you received from the State and interested aviators. I notice that State Aeronautics or a representative was not included in the Ad Hoc Working Group (AHWG) but had been included in previous planning activities. From the State's testimony at the hearing on January 31, I would have thought that you would at least include them in the process and summarize those comments. The AHWG meeting summaries contain little discussion about the strip except that the Preferred Alternative was selected to address this.

For alternative development, there should be clear linkages between issues and opportunities and alternatives developed to address those issues and alternatives. I have a hard time seeing those linkages in the document. In terms of an issue, was there a reason identified to not reopen the airstrip? From testimony during scoping, there was a reason to reopen it. I understand that difficult negotiations are involved, that those negotiations have been ongoing for some time, and that the State, Idaho Aviation Association, and the Leaseholder are committed to concluding those negotiations to reopen the strip.

AND-8.00 - 601  
Cascade RMP

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION OFFICIAL FILE COPY		ACTION DATE BY
FEB 16 '01		
TO	LINE	DATE
3902		

#### **I41—Richard Thompson, Council, Idaho**

- I41-1:** The resources within the scope of the RMP update are listed and explained in Section 1.8, *Summary of Issues*.
- I41-2:** Please see response to comment O6-1, letter from Ray Costello, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association. Re-opening of the airstrip is now part of the Preferred Alternative.

I41-1

I41-2

Page 2  
February 15, 2001  
Carolyn Burpee Stone  
Draft EA, Lake Cascade RMP

In table 2.3.1 and on page 2-53, the document states that the State Airstrip would not reopen. Yet, I can find no documented rationale or resource conflict evaluation presented for that decision. It would be difficult to support such a decision without a clear evaluation especially with State interests involved.

I understand that Reclamation feels there is little interest in reopening the State strip. I assure you that is not the case. This should have been evident from input received during scoping.

I request that you and the team consider modifying the Preferred Alternative, taking the best of the resource enhancement features from the present Preferred Alternative and including the State airstrip reopening feature from the No Action Alternative to formulate a Modified Preferred Alternative.

I commend your inclusion of float plane use on the reservoir and its limitation to the open water areas. I also like the non-motorized designation for the upper end of the lake. A friend of mine and I paddled a canoe from the "Governor's Bridge" to Rainbow Point some years ago. Not having to cope with high speed boats and large wakes in those confined areas will enhance the experience.

Please contact me if I can provide more information or answer questions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Dick Thompson

I41-3

**I41-3:** Please see response to comment O6-1, letter from Ray Costello, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association; and response to comment O5-1, letter from Kathleen Miller, Idaho Aviation Association.

ADDRESS TO BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Re: DRAFT EA, CASCADE RESERVOIR AIRSTRIP, JAN. 31, 2001

**I42—Bart Welsh, Boise, Idaho**

Ladies & Gentlemen:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input on a most critical subject, the Cascade Reservoir Airstrip. It is only through this type of planning, with input from all the various publics, that a truly workable plan can be developed.

My name is Bart Welsh and I have been flying and teaching flying in Idaho for the past 20 years. Our State is unique among other states in the number of aircraft pilots and airstrips. We also have a history of protecting the airports of Idaho. As the former Administrator of Aeronautics for the State of Idaho, much of my time was spent preserving and protecting the State's airports and pilots' ability to use them.

For all practical purposes, airports today are irreplaceable. Because of the costs involved, the environmental considerations, the local permit requirements, and the pressure from developers, there are no new airports being built. In fact, nationally, airports are being closed at the rate of about one per week. All airports are therefore "irreplaceable State and National treasures".

Today, Idaho has some 50 backcountry airstrips. These are used not only for recreational purposes, but are the only realistic way to get food, supplies, mail and all other materials into backcountry ranches, mines and homesites. In fact, there are some 50 air taxi operators

2

supplying materials and transporting people to areas where air is the only practical way to travel. The importance of maintaining these airstrips was recognized years ago when the “Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness” was designated as a wilderness area. The Act carries specific language stating that “no airport or landing strip can be permanently closed without the specific approval of the State Division of Aeronautics”. There has also been recent legislation passed carrying this same provision applicable to all Federal and State agencies.

Our neighboring State of Montana, some 20 years ago, also had a highly developed network of backcountry airstrips available to the public. Over the years, primarily through the efforts of Federal Governmental agencies and lack of local pilots’ ability to fight the U.S.

Government, Montana now has only four airstrips open. Each of these is highly limited as to the amount of access the public can have of their own airstrips. We in Idaho must be vigilant in our protection of every single airstrip.

Now, you are in the process of developing a revised Master Plan for the Cascade Reservoir area. In the existing Master Plan, the Cascade Reservoir Airstrip is not only included but is an integral part of the entire reservoir recreational opportunity. We in the aviation community are most concerned over the deletion of this valuable airstrip in the preliminary planning for the new Master Plan. In addition, not only was this airstrip included in the former Master Plan, but was also the subject of an extensive environmental impact study a few years ago and found to be completely compatible with the long term usage of the area.

I42-1

**I42-1:** Please see response to comment O6-1, letter from Ray Costello, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association; and response to comment O5-1, letter from Kathleen Miller, Idaho Aviation Association. We know of no extensive environmental impact studies pertaining to the State Airstrip showing it to be compatible. The 1991 RMP identified the need for further study prior to re-opening the airstrip.

The Cascade Reservoir airstrip was open for many years through a cooperative effort between the leaseholder, the Idaho Aeronautics Dept. (then called the Aeronautics Bureau), and local pilots. Some time ago, the leaseholder decided to limit the usage of the airstrip to specifically approved pilots. Since that time, there has been a high degree of interest in reopening the airstrip to the public.

Four years ago, in my role as Administrator of Aeronautics for the State of Idaho, negotiations with the leaseholder were reinitiated to reopen the airstrip. Meetings were held with Mr. Vaughn Jasper, representatives of the Bureau of Reclamation, and members of the Idaho Aviation Association. Although negotiations were difficult, there was never any question that all parties were working toward the same end. That is, to preserve this valuable and important airstrip as part of the available airports in Idaho. There have even been two occasions when there were signed contracts and we all felt we had a deal.

At the present time, agreements are in place with the Idaho Transportation Department, the Idaho Aeronautics Advisory Board and the Idaho Aviation Association. These agreements include a plan to create camping sites, a plan for the operation of the airstrip, including all maintenance and sanitary facilities, and a budget for the airstrip. There is also an agreement in place with the Idaho Aviation Association for the ongoing maintenance, including mowing, fence repairs, and other necessary maintenance. In short, both the Idaho State Government and the local flying community are standing by and working to put this airstrip back into the State's network of airports.



4  
The question then comes up, with so many people involved in getting this airstrip reopened, including the Bureau of Reclamation, why was it not included in the proposed New Master Plan? There are several possible answers to that question.

One possibility is that it was simply an oversight. Although hard to believe, given the number of people involved over the years, these things do happen. If this is the case, it will simply be a matter of including it now and work can continue toward reopening Cascade Reservoir airstrip to the public.

A second possibility is that there are individuals or agencies that in fact, do not want it to reopen. These may or may not be the same people or agencies that are working to close or discourage all backcountry airstrips in Idaho. There have been obvious unsuccessful attempts in just the last few years, to close or render useless, such strips as Wilson Bar, Cabin Creek, Simons, Dewey Moore, Mile High and Vines.

The third possibility is that negotiations with the leaseholder have been long running and at times difficult. However, there does continue to be a desire on behalf of all parties involved to make a final agreement satisfactory to all sides.

All truly great things take time to come to fulfillment. Here is rarely a prize for speed, only a lasting reward of a job well done for today and for future generations. Let us not be the ones that simply gave up because it seemed that there was no quick solution.

What is critical at this point is that this valuable airstrip continue to be included in the Master Plan as it always has been and to allow the parties involved to continue to work without timeline pressures. By doing this, an “irreplaceable treasure” will not be lost forever.

5  
I42-2

**I42-2:** An option for re-opening the airstrip has been added to the Preferred Alternative, providing certain conditions are met. This is described in Section 2.3.2 of the Final EA.

I, the officers and members of the Idaho Aviation Association, and the entire Idaho aviation community, stand by to assist wherever needed. In the past, I have served as a negotiator in this project and stand ready again to serve in that capacity, if needed.

It is crucial that we not shrink from our responsibility. The Cascade Reservoir airstrip must be included in the revised Master Plan as it always has been. When included, we will be able to continue our work to reopen this airstrip. If not included, we are saying to all future generations that we simply were not willing to do what was necessary and right to preserve one of Idaho's “irreplaceable State and National treasures”.

Thank you for your time and consideration and I will be happy to respond to any questions.

Bart Welsh (retired)  
Administrator of Aeronautics  
State of Idaho

208/367-9328  
157 Mores Creek Rim Rd.  
Boise, ID 83716

March 20, 2001

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
PN Regional Office  
Attn: Ms. Carolyn Burpee Stone  
1150 North Curtis, Suite 100  
Boise, Idaho 83706-1234

RE: COMMENT: Cascade Draft RMP EA, December 2000 as  
Modified by CASCADE NEWSBRIEF, March 2001

I respectfully submit the following comments for your consideration. While the BOR has agreed to modify the draft RMP "preferred alternatives", much has been lost in the process. Instead of restoring the language in the current RMP to the new "preferred alternatives", only a "consideration" is to be included. The re-opening of the airstrip with prior conditions would suffice and was strongly recommended by proponents during the recent public hearings. Now, new and substantially different conditions have been imposed, not heretofore mentioned. These new conditions are not only onerous and illogical, they seem to be arbitrary and capricious.

It is my strong recommendation that the Comment Period be extended past the current deadline of March 28<sup>th</sup> (which is a time period of approximately 2 ½ weeks). The comment period should be extended at least 60 days, if not the usual 90 days. No one, especially BOR, can benefit from this short comment period. After all, aren't we all looking for the best solution to managing this beautiful resource?

My reasons for the PROTEST and REQUEST FOR EXTENSION are numerous and substantial, as you will see in the following. In addition, I have attached "notes" from meetings held 3/5/01 and 3/12/01 with Mr. Budolfson and other BOR representatives, for your convenience. (Ms. Kennett, Field Representative for U.S. Congressman Otter, related to me, her conversation with you on 3/19/01. The conversation indicated to me that you are not thoroughly informed. Since you are responsible for gathering input concerning the RMP, I thought you would appreciate some background.)

The CASCADE NEWSBRIEF contains many new and substantially different conditions proposed for the revised RMP from the existing RMP. These new conditions are without precedent and are illogical based on prior experience with backcountry airstrips and existing agreements with other Federal and State agencies. I will address these later in this letter.

The process appears to be flawed. Please consider:

- Notification of affected and/or interested parties did not take place from the beginning of the revised RMP project. This included the State of Idaho, Division of Aeronautics; the Idaho Aviation Association, and individual aviators.
- The aviation community became aware only accidentally, during the last few weeks of the public hearing period, and not because BOR and their consultant informed them.
- Those parties who attended the hearings were promised notification of further changes. This has NOT OCCURRED. The most recent CASCADE NEWSBRIEF containing proposed changes, was sent to only select individuals.
- There has been no provision made for public response to the revised RMP as promised. Instead, the NEWSBRIEF is apparently serving as the vehicle announcing how the revised RMP will be corrected to address the airstrip issue.
- The time period for any response to this NEWSBRIEF is approximately 2 ½ weeks, much too little.

### I43—Olivia Welch, Boise, Idaho

**I43-1:** The comment period was not extended. Reclamation received numerous comments both for and against re-opening the airstrip covering a wide range of issues. Furthermore, potential opening of the airstrip would be fully addressed under a separate future NEPA analysis. This will provide adequate opportunities to provide input to and comment on the pros and cons of re-opening the airstrip.

I43-1

USBOR, Ms. Stone

-2-

March 20, 2001

- Interest in the airstrip has never diminished. The State of Idaho, Division of Aeronautics, has worked closely with BOR to facilitate with negotiations for more than ten years. There are agreements already on file that show the State of Idaho would accept responsibility for the operation and maintenance of this airstrip. (Note: The State of Idaho, Division of Aeronautics, is the State authority having jurisdiction over airports in the state.)
- Moreover, the Idaho Aviation Association (a volunteer organization) and the aviation community, have continued to support the re-opening of the airstrip. This interest has also never waned. In addition, IAA would "adopt" the airstrip to offer maintenance assistance to the State of Idaho.
- For any BOR representative to state that there was no interest in this airstrip, is simply untrue. Those very representatives have been intimately involved in discussions and negotiations over the years.
- In two recent meetings, Mr. Budolfson and BOR have been less than forthright in their depiction of how the revised RMP would be changed. We were told that the airstrip was going to be put into the "preferred alternatives", as we had requested. NOT SO!! The wording in the NEWSBRIEF states they are "considering modifying the preferred alternatives to potentially allow the airstrip to be re-opened for recreational fly-in uses". In addition, they are placing the airstrip into a Wildlife Management Area.

As appearing in the CASCADE NEWSBRIEF, many NEW and previously unmentioned conditions are being imposed. These new conditions are being made in an arbitrary manner, and serve only to BLOCK THE RE-OPENING under any circumstances.

The aviation community has extended every courtesy to Mr. Budolfson and others at BOR. We would like to continue a cooperative working relationship with the agency so that this issue can be resolved to the benefit of all parties. At this time, the imposition of the new conditions, as well as the unwillingness to consider other alternatives, appear to be nothing more than a deliberate attempt to block the re-opening of this airstrip.

During the public hearings held in Boise and in Cascade, discussion with Chuck Blair of Ch2mHill Consultants, Ms. Patti Llewellyn, and others, indicated the airstrip had been removed from the previous RMP because there had been no interest expressed from the aviation community. Another reason given was that the negotiations with the leaseholder had been "difficult" and there appeared no hope of culminating the negotiation. No mention of "Eagles" was made at that time.

Specifically, many of the NEW CONDITIONS are completely arbitrary and should be deleted.

- The airstrip should not be placed into a Wildlife Management Area without some basis for doing so. The airstrip was originally designated a recreational area and should remain recreational.
- The nearest eagle's nest is approximately 1 ½ miles away, across the Goldfork Arm of Cascade Lake.
- If a monitoring study of eagles is deemed necessary, it should be done with aircraft present. Boats and hikers are not being restricted and pose a higher threat to eagles than do aircraft. *(There is much data available to prove that eagles are in no way threatened by aircraft.)*
- The BOR management team should be better informed. It is the State of Idaho, Division of Aeronautics, who has jurisdiction over airports in the State of Idaho. (Not the Idaho Aviation Association, a volunteer organization)
- The Division of Aeronautics currently has lease/license agreements with the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management in other parts of the State.

**I43-2:** If the decision is made to issue a permit to re-open the airstrip, then the RMP would be revised to re-designate the area as a recreation area.

**I43-3:** Bald eagles were a concern in re-opening the airstrip in 1991 and continue to be so today. It is true that the nearest eagle nest is over 1-1/2 miles from the airstrip, however studies in the late 1980's showed bald eagles using the area near the airstrip for perching and foraging. Monitoring of bald eagles in 2001 will help to determine the extent of current use and if bald eagles would be adversely affected by activities at the airstrip. It is possible that a monitoring with the use of airplanes may be desirable after a provisional opening. All of these activities would involve consultation with FWS and IDFG.

I43-2

I43-3

US BOR, Ms. Stone

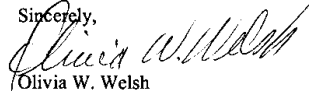
-3-

March 20, 2001

- The sub-conditions being imposed on the lease/licensee of the airstrip (State of Idaho, Division of Aeronautics) are also arbitrary. There already exist proven methods for operating airstrips safely and properly.
- The requirement to hook up to the Donnelly sewer system is without merit. The distance is too great, bringing the cost out-of-reach for any agency. The proposal to install vault toilet facilities is completely safe and more cost effective.
- The Idaho Aviation Foundation, a separate entity, is proposing a third party transaction that could solve the stalemate with BOR and the AG leaseholder. The reopening of the airstrip would not occur until the transaction is completed.
- Lines of flight and times for take-off and landing can be pre-set and published. This is a common occurrence where flight rules are imposed.

I reiterate my request that you reconsider the "new conditions" to the RMP as well as extend the comment period. Thank you for your consideration. The aviation community stands ready to assist you in developing appropriate guidelines for the management of this resource.

Sincerely,



Olivia W. Welsh  
157 Mores Creek Rim Rd., Boise, ID 83716  
Phone/FAX: 208/367-9328  
Email: [oliviaw@micron.net](mailto:oliviaw@micron.net)

Cc: Ms. Patti Llewellyn, USBOR  
Mr. Jim Budolfson, USBOR  
Honorable Butch Otter, U.S. Congressman  
Honorable Mike Simpson, U.S. Congressman  
Honorable Larry Craig, U.S. Senator  
Honorable Mike Crapo, U.S. Senator  
Honorable Dirk Kempthorne, Governor  
State of Idaho, Division of Aeronautics  
Idaho Aviation Association, Ms. Kathy Miller, President  
Idaho Aviation Foundation, Mr. Dave Walker, President  
Other interested parties

Attachments (2)