

Reclamation Manual

Policy

Subject:	Land Program Management
Purpose:	This Policy defines the Bureau of Reclamation's overall roles and responsibilities in managing federal land and interests in land (hereafter collectively referred to as land) under the jurisdiction of or administered by Reclamation. This Policy benefits Reclamation by providing the primary principles for implementing a successful land management strategy.
Authority:	Reclamation Act of 1902 (ch. 1093, 32 Stat. 388; 43 USC 391 et seq.), as amended and supplemented; Economy Act of 1932 (ch. 314; 31 USC 1535), as amended; Reclamation Project Act of 1939 (ch. 418, 53 Stat. 1187; 43 USC 485 et seq.); Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, (63 Stat. 377; 41 USC 101 et seq.), as amended and implemented under the Federal Management Regulations; Federal Water Project Recreation Act of 1965 (Pub. L. 89-72; 79 Stat. 213, 214; 16 USC 4601 et seq.), as amended; National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Pub. L. 89-665; 80 Stat. 915; 16 USC 470), as amended; Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (Pub. L. 90-480; 82 Stat. 718; 42 USC 4151 et seq.); National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321), as amended; Uniform Relocation and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (Pub. L. 91-646; 84 Stat. 1894), as amended; Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Pub. L. 93-112; 87 Stat. 355; 29 USC 701 et seq.), as amended; Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974, as amended (16 U.S.C. 469-469c-2); Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470aa-mm); Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (Pub. L. 101-601; 104 Stat. 3048; 25 USC 3001, et seq.); Reclamation Recreation Management Act of 1992 (Pub. L. 102-575, Title XXVIII; 106 Stat. 4690; 16 USC 4601-31-4601-34), as amended; Law Enforcement Authority at Bureau of Reclamation Facilities, 2001 (Pub. L. 107-69; 115 Stat. 593; 43 USC 373b); Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004 (Pub. L. 108-447, Div. J, Title VIII; 118 Stat. 3377; 16 USC 6801 et seq.); 43 CFR part 420, Off-road Vehicle Use; 43 CFR part 423, Public Conduct on Bureau of Reclamation Facilities, Lands, and Waterbodies; 43 CFR part 429, Use of Bureau of Reclamation Land, Facilities, and Waterbodies; 49 CFR part 24, Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition for Federal and Federally- assisted Programs; and Office of Management and Budget Circular A-25, User Charges.
Approving Official:	Commissioner
Contact:	Dam Safety and Infrastructure, Asset Management Division (86-67200)

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1. **Introduction.** Successful accomplishment of Reclamation's mission requires jurisdictional control over the land required to accommodate Reclamation facilities and waterbodies. The construction, operation, rehabilitation, betterment, and disposition of Reclamation project facilities and associated works requires the timely and lawful acquisition¹ of the needed land. Responsible management of Reclamation land requires ongoing accurate record keeping and monitoring, prudent and economic management of these assets, and appropriate consideration and disposition of requests for use by third parties. When no longer needed for Reclamation purposes, unneeded land must be removed from the Reclamation inventory as prescribed by law and regulation.
2. **Applicability.** This Policy applies to employees, federal or non-federal managing partners, or authorized private entities that manage federal land under Reclamation's jurisdiction, including the land managed directly by Reclamation and the land managed by water user organizations as transferred works. This Policy establishes the basic principles for implementing sound land management activities including, but not limited to, acquisitions, requests for use by third parties, and disposal² activities.
3. **Policy.** The land management program will:
 - A. Secure and retain land needed to allow Reclamation to economically and expeditiously fulfill its responsibility to construct, operate, maintain, protect, improve, and rehabilitate its projects.
 - B. Ensure appropriate and accurate land records are maintained, including regular periodic field inventory, boundary identification and maintenance, financial reconciliation, and maintenance of maps, contracts, and other pertinent documents.
 - C. Promote outreach and communication with stakeholders and the public to ensure transparency and successful implementation of land management principles and responsible stewardship of Reclamation land.
 - D. Effectively integrate, and where practical, balance the full and appropriate range of land management considerations, including economic and commercial uses, environmental and cultural resources conservation, resources management planning, public access and recreation, trespass abatement and law enforcement, remediation of damage to land resources, fire management, and public use.
 - E. When compatible with Reclamation project needs and purposes, give fair, due, and timely consideration to requests from outside entities for use authorizations related to ancillary uses of Reclamation land, and providing public service and support to local communities and economies.

¹ For the purposes of this Policy, refer to RM D&S, *Land Acquisition* ([LND 06-01](#)), for the definition of acquisition.

² For the purposes of this Policy, refer to RM D&S *Land Disposal* ([LND 08-02](#)), for the definition of disposal.

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- (1) Preservation of current and future project needs are foremost. Third party uses will not be granted to the detriment, added liability, or expense of Reclamation projects.
- F. Actively monitor land uses, identify land no longer needed for current or foreseen Reclamation project uses, and dispose of unneeded land to prevent, identify, and resolve unauthorized uses and encroachments.
4. **Land Program Management Implementation.** The Commissioner will ensure operational implementation of this Policy and the underlying authorities are the responsibility of Reclamation's Commissioner and regional directors, subject to the Reclamation Manual (RM) Delegations of Authority to the area, project, field, facility, and other managers, as determined appropriate.
 - A. Implementation of this Policy is the responsibility of Reclamation's regional directors or their designees. Regional directors will take appropriate steps to recruit, train, and retain regional realty officers and operational realty staff. Each regional director shall officially designate a regional realty officer in writing.
 - B. Regional realty officers will be responsible for expert technical guidance and oversight of the lands and realty program as assigned by the Regional Director.
 - C. The Land Resources Branch, Asset Management Division, Dam Safety and Infrastructure Directorate, will file required annual reports concerning Reclamation's land resources. The Land Resources Branch will review and revise land program RM D&Ss.
5. **Cost Recovery.** When authorized, costs associated with land management activities will be recovered from the benefitting project, program, or outside entity.
6. **Supporting RM Policies and D&S.** The following RM Policies and D&S are considered integral to land management activities and are provided as reference.
 - A. RM Policy
 - (1) Cultural Resources Management ([LND P01](#))
 - (2) Concessions Management ([LND P02](#))
 - (3) Wetlands Mitigation and Enhancement ([LND P03](#))
 - (4) Recreation Program Management ([LND P04](#))
 - (5) Visitor Centers ([LND P13](#))
 - (6) Wildland Fire Management (WFM) ([LND P14](#))

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(7) Incidental Revenues ([PEC P03](#))

B. RM D&S

- (1) Implementing Cost Sharing Authorities for Recreation and Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Facilities ([LND 01-01](#))
- (2) Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) Program Management ([LND 01-02](#))
- (3) Recreation Program Management ([LND 01-03](#))
- (4) Cultural Resources Management (CRM) ([LND 02-01](#))
- (5) Administration of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) on Bureau of Reclamation Land ([LND 02-04](#))
- (6) Land Withdrawals, Withdrawal Management, and Withdrawal Revocations ([LND 03-01](#))
- (7) Concessions Management by the Bureau of Reclamation ([LND 04-01](#))
- (8) Concessions Management by Non-Federal Partners ([LND 04-02](#))
- (9) Real Property Appraisal ([LND 05-01](#))
- (10) Land Acquisition ([LND 06-01](#))
- (11) Land Use Authorizations ([LND 08-01](#))
- (12) Land Disposal ([LND 08-02](#))
- (13) Identification of Unneeded Land ([LND 08-03](#))
- (14) Land Records ([LND 09-01](#))
- (15) Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) ([LND 09-02](#))
- (16) Disposal of Bridges and Crossings on Bureau of Reclamation Land and Easements ([LND 11-01](#))
- (17) Identification and Reporting of Potential Hazardous Substances on Reclamation Acquired or Withdrawn Lands (Reclamation lands) ([LND 12-01](#))
- (18) Visitor Centers ([LND 13-01](#))

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(19) Wildland Fire Management (WFM) ([LND 14-01](#))

(20) Crediting Requirements for Incidental Revenues ([PEC 03-01](#))

7. **Definitions.** All terms related to land management are defined in the RM and D&S listed in Paragraph 7. There are no additional terms that need to be defined in this RM Policy.
8. **Review Period.** The originating office will review this release every 4 years.

RECLAMATION MANUAL TRANSMITTAL SHEET

Effective Date: _____

Release No. _____

Ensure all employees needing this information are provided a copy of this release.

Reclamation Manual Release Number and Subject

Summary of Changes

NOTE: This Reclamation Manual release applies to all Reclamation employees. When an exclusive bargaining unit exists, changes to this release may be subject to the provisions of collective bargaining agreements.

Filing instructions

Remove Sheets

Insert Sheets

All Reclamation Manual releases are available at <http://www.usbr.gov/recman/>

Filed by: _____

Date: _____