

APPENDIX C: ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

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The following environmental commitments (mitigation measures) will be implemented to avoid potential adverse effects to resources within the Red Fleet Reservoir RMP Study Area as part of implementing the recommended alternative.

WATER RESOURCES

Potential impacts to water quality associated with RMP action alternatives (Alternative B or C) will be mitigated through proper design, installation, and maintenance of stormwater best management practices (BMPs), placement of vault toilet facilities in high-use recreation areas, and use of animal-proof garbage receptacles. Any development of the South Beach Management Area will include removal of existing invasive plants and restoration of native riparian vegetation.

As a component of a Habitat Management Plan to be developed under Alternative B or C, a plan for improving floodplain and riparian functions of Big Brush Creek below the dam will be considered.

Under any alternative, Reclamation will continue existing interagency partnerships that maintain Study Area water quality and will participate in any future interagency coordination and partnership efforts associated with the Big Brush Creek watershed.

RECREATION AND VISUAL RESOURCES

In site specific design, visual impacts can be reduced or eliminated by using design and land planning techniques that borrow from naturally established line, form, color, and texture. Design considerations include building materials, size and scale, color, location, screening, and distance from critical viewpoints or transportation corridors. Visual resource values must be considered throughout the RMP implementation process as the assignment of visual management classes is based on the management decisions made in the RMP. All proposed actions that would result in surface disturbances must consider the importance of the visual resource and the impacts the project may have on the characteristic landscape. Management decisions must reflect the importance of visual resources within the Study Area while also giving consideration to other resource values and uses.

GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Erosion control and shoreline stabilization measures will be installed where appropriate to prevent further erosion in high-use areas. Under either action alternative, mitigation measures for facility development or rehabilitation will include requiring a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan for all construction operations that disturb 1.0 or more acres; this will include use of published BMPs for controlling erosion and sedimentation from stormwater runoff and will address runoff from all roads (paved and unpaved), trails, campgrounds, parking lots, and administrative buildings.

VEGETATION, INCLUDING WETLANDS

Mitigation measures for either action alternative will include the development of noxious and invasive weed control strategies as a part of an Integrated Pest Management Plan. Fence lines can facilitate weed invasion as winds blow invasive vegetation against fences, where it becomes trapped and releases seed. Therefore, including a provision for removal of redundant/unnecessary fence lines as part of the Integrated Pest Management Plan would provide some weed management benefit. Additionally, the plan should address weed control strategies to be implemented along all existing and future boundary and access control fences in the Study Area.

After site-specific environmental assessment and design, appropriate sediment and erosion control strategies would be implemented during construction activities to limit impacts to the upland and riparian-wetland vegetation communities. Restored areas would be replanted with appropriate native species. Should it be found that any site specific projects would involve filling of wetlands, Reclamation would comply with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Section 404 requires wetland impacts be mitigated and that no net loss of wetland occurs. The Section 404 permitting and mitigation process is under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Mitigation measures that will minimize or avoid impacts to wildlife are recommended below. These measures will be integrated into development of a Habitat Management Plan if either action alternative were selected for the RMP:

- At appropriate locations, signs will be posted to encourage recreationists to stay on the trail and within developed recreation facility boundaries to minimize the amount of vegetation trampling and disturbance to wildlife.
- Wetland and riparian habitats will be protected in accordance with existing federal regulations. During the development and expansion of recreation facilities, construction will, to the extent possible, avoid disturbance (both directly and indirectly) of wetland and riparian areas.
- Wildlife management will be coordinated between Reclamation and appropriate partner agencies to specify suitable recreation within the Natural Areas and identify measures to target areas that were previously impacted by recreationists and are in need of restoration.

Under Alternative B or C, Reclamation will engage partners, particularly State Parks and UDWR, in developing a Fishery Management Plan. Among other elements, the Fishery Management Plan will include goals to emphasize aquatic invasive species awareness and preventive measures for the Study Area.

THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND OTHER SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES

Mitigation measures for special status species are inclusive of those previously described for vegetation, wildlife, and fisheries. Surveys for special status species would be completed as a component of site-specific environmental analysis prior to implementing any recreation facility developments. With implementation of Alternative B or C, Reclamation will encourage UDWR to include objectives in a Fishery Management Plan to determine the status of the flannelmouth sucker (*Catostomus latipinnis*) population in the Study Area.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Reclamation will ensure the completion of cultural resource compliance for all site-specific undertakings as a means to fulfill Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as well as to avoid, reduce, or mitigate impacts to the integrity of cultural resources. Avoidance is the preferred method of cultural resource mitigation. If historic properties are located within the area of potential effects associated with a specific undertaking, and if they would be impacted by activities associated with the undertaking, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) would be developed. The MOA would be among Reclamation, the Utah State Historic Preservation Office, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (if it chooses to participate), and any other party that assumes responsibility under the agreement. The MOA would include the terms and conditions agreed upon to resolve (mitigate) the impacts of the undertaking upon historic properties.

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Reclamation will ensure the completion of paleontological resource compliance for all site-specific projects as a means to fulfill Section 6302 of the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act, as well as to avoid, reduce, or mitigate impacts to the condition of paleontological resources. Avoidance is the preferred method of paleontological resource mitigation. If avoidance of paleontological resources is not possible, a mitigation plan would be developed. The mitigation plan would include the terms and conditions agreed upon to resolve (mitigate) the impacts to paleontological resources.

INDIAN TRUST ASSETS

Reclamation will ensure the completion of Indian Trust Asset (ITA) compliance for all site-specific projects as a means to fulfill both U.S. Department of Interior (512 DM 2) and Reclamation policies regarding ITAs, as well as to avoid, reduce, or mitigate impacts to ITAs. Avoidance is the preferred method of ITA mitigation. If avoidance of ITAs is not possible, a mitigation plan would be developed. The mitigation plan would include the terms and conditions agreed upon to resolve (mitigate) the impacts to ITAs.

ENERGY, MINERALS, AND OTHER EXTRACTIVE RESOURCES

No mitigation measures for locatable, saleable, or leasable mineral resources are necessary as there are no impacts to the exploration and development of the resources in the Study Area.

WASTEWATER, SOLID WASTE, AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Under Alternative C and pending site specific environmental analysis and design, local and state regulations concerning septic tank renovations would be followed during the possible expansion of the existing septic systems in the Developed Overnight Recreation Area. Additionally, providing frequent and adequate refuse collection frequency at all refuse collection locations in the Study Area will help reduce the potential for groundwater, soil, or surface water contamination from litter and trash.