

Chapter 2: Description of the Alternatives

This chapter presents the process used to formulate resource management alternatives, the alternatives considered in detail, the alternatives eliminated from detailed study, and a summary comparison of the alternatives and their impacts at Red Fleet Reservoir. The three alternatives considered in detail are described, beginning with the No Action Alternative (expected future conditions based on current and historical resource management). The two action alternatives were designed to provide a broad spectrum of management options. One action alternative would emphasize conservation of resources; the other would emphasize recreational development. The names of the alternatives reflect the emphasis they represent.

Process Used to Formulate Alternatives

Alternatives for the Red Fleet Reservoir Resource Management Plan (RMP) Environmental Assessment (EA) were formulated through a systematic process using public input, technical information, interdisciplinary discussions, and professional judgment. The process began with consideration of the RMP Issue Statements and the RMP Goals and Objectives (Chapter 1 and Appendix A), in addition to recommendations and comments from public scoping activities.

In February and April, 2012, the Red Fleet Reservoir Resource Management Planning Work Group and the Red Fleet Reservoir RMP/EA Interdisciplinary Project Team (Project Team) convened to formulate the RMP alternatives. The Project Team developed two RMP alternatives, ranging from emphasizing conservation of resources to emphasizing recreational development, and presented these alternatives to the Planning Work Group. The alternatives were then presented to the public at a Public Workshop held in Vernal, Utah, in April 2012 and in a project newsletter (RMP Newsletter Volume 2). The public was asked to comment on the range of preliminary alternatives as part of the EA process. Based on public and participating agency input, the Project Team made appropriate revisions to the preliminary alternatives.

Land Use Categories

To facilitate development of the RMP alternatives, several “land-use categories” were defined to help describe present and future management strategies for different portions of Red Fleet Reservoir and its associated lands (Study Area). Land-use categories are used to facilitate understanding and consistency between land management agencies. These land-use categories are described in the following paragraphs.

Land Use Category 1: Developed Overnight Recreation Area

Developed Overnight Recreation Areas may contain improved recreational campsites with some or all utilities (e.g., water and electricity). They may have paved or gravel road systems and recreational vehicle dump stations. Campsites may be designated, leveled, and have tables and grills. Restrooms may be developed with water, or they may be vault- or chemical-type toilets. The Red Fleet State Park Campground is an example of a Developed Overnight Recreation Area.

Land Use Category 2: Developed Day Use Recreation Area

Developed Day Use Recreation Areas contain improved recreational picnic sites, and utilities (e.g., water and electricity) may be available. Access roads are either paved or have an improved gravel surface. Picnic sites with tables, grills, and shelters may be provided. Some areas contain restrooms with water; others have vault toilets. An example of a Developed Day Use Recreation Area is the Red Fleet State Park Day Use Area.

Land Use Category 3: Developed Overnight and Day Use Group Recreation Area

Developed Overnight and Day Use Group Recreation Areas contain improved recreational camp and picnic sites designed to accommodate a large recreational group. Designated sites are paved and contain picnic tables, grills, shelters, water, and restrooms with water or vault toilets. There are currently no Developed Overnight and Day Use Group Recreation Areas at Red Fleet Reservoir.

Land Use Category 4: Undeveloped Day Use Recreation Area

Undeveloped Day Use Recreation Areas consist of unimproved day-use recreational areas that may or may not have vault toilets and are accessible either by road or by boat. Activities in these areas may include picnicking, fishing, hiking, beach combing, etc. An example of an Undeveloped Day Use Recreation Area is the dinosaur trackway hiking trail and interpretive area at Red Fleet Reservoir.

Land Use Category 5: Administrative Area

Administrative Areas are set aside for management headquarters. Public access to Administrative Areas may be restricted. Administrative Areas include State Park offices, storage areas, and maintenance equipment. An example of an Administrative Area is the Red Fleet Reservoir administrative offices and maintenance facilities area.

Land Use Category 6: Primary Jurisdiction Area

The Primary Jurisdiction Area is set aside for dam operation and maintenance. For the protection of public health, safety, and welfare, public access to this area and recreational uses (including trail use) are not permitted unless approved by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the Uintah Water Conservancy District (UWCD). Examples of Primary Jurisdiction Area are the Red Fleet dam and aqueduct facility areas.

Land Use Category 7: Reservoir Inundation Area

The Reservoir Inundation Area delineates the extent of the reservoir at full pool. Permanent recreational facilities (with the exception of water-based facilities), administrative facilities, camping, and the use of motor vehicles are not permitted in this area. Recreational activities (e.g., dispersed day use) may be allowed during periods of low water levels. An example of a Reservoir Inundation Area is the Red Fleet Reservoir Inundation Area.

Land Use Category 8: Natural Area

Natural Areas contain important natural, historical, or cultural features (e.g., wildlife habitat, fossils, and archaeological sites) and/or are generally undeveloped areas in which public use is discouraged or limited to appropriate nonmotorized activities. In addition, access to these areas may be temporally restricted. These areas may include limited and appropriate facilities for low-

impact recreation and interpretation of natural, historical, and cultural resources. There are currently no designated Natural Areas at Red Fleet Reservoir.

Recreational Development Suitability

Development suitability within the Study Area was determined by the location of sensitive physical, natural, and cultural resource constraints that would limit future recreational facility developments and/or uses. These sensitive resource factors may constrain the ability to accommodate development in a particular area. As such, the recreational development suitability analysis for the Study Area also considered the resource constraints, facility capacities, and desired visitor experiences. For resource constraints, development suitability is influenced by the ability of the existing resources (i.e., physical, biological, and cultural resources) within the Study Area to accommodate different types of development and land uses.

Figure 2-1 illustrates areas considered both suitable and unsuitable for recreational development within the Study Area. As shown in the figure, factors used to determine these areas included:

- Slopes with greater than 20 percent steepness
- 50-foot stream channel buffers
- Habitat occupied by greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*)
- Important vegetation types (riparian and wetland vegetation communities)

All RMP alternatives include provisions for developing facilities only on lands determined to be suitable for such uses. In addition to consideration of these suitability factors, detailed site analysis would need to be conducted whenever specific development is proposed. Other suitability factors to be considered in site-specific analysis would include: cultural and archaeological sites, geologic hazards (e.g., rock fall areas), areas open for shotgun and archery hunting, and soil conditions that would be poor for building foundations or septic systems. Chapter 3 provides additional descriptions of each of these resource constraint factors.

Alternatives Considered in Detail

The three alternatives considered in detail are described below, beginning with the No Action Alternative, which provides a baseline for comparison. The two remaining “action” alternatives (i.e., Alternatives B and C, which prescribe changes in current resource management) have been developed and evaluated in detail and were designed to provide a broad spectrum of options. Alternative B has a resource conservation emphasis, and Alternative C has a recreational development emphasis.

Details of each alternative are divided into the five categories established by the Issue Statements and Goals and Objectives (see Chapter 1 and Appendix A). To facilitate evaluations of how the proposed changes would differ from the current management situation at the Study Area, each action alternative is presented for comparison with the No Action Alternative (Alternative A). Table 2-1 highlights the differences between alternatives in terms of acreages allocated to each of the eight land-use categories.

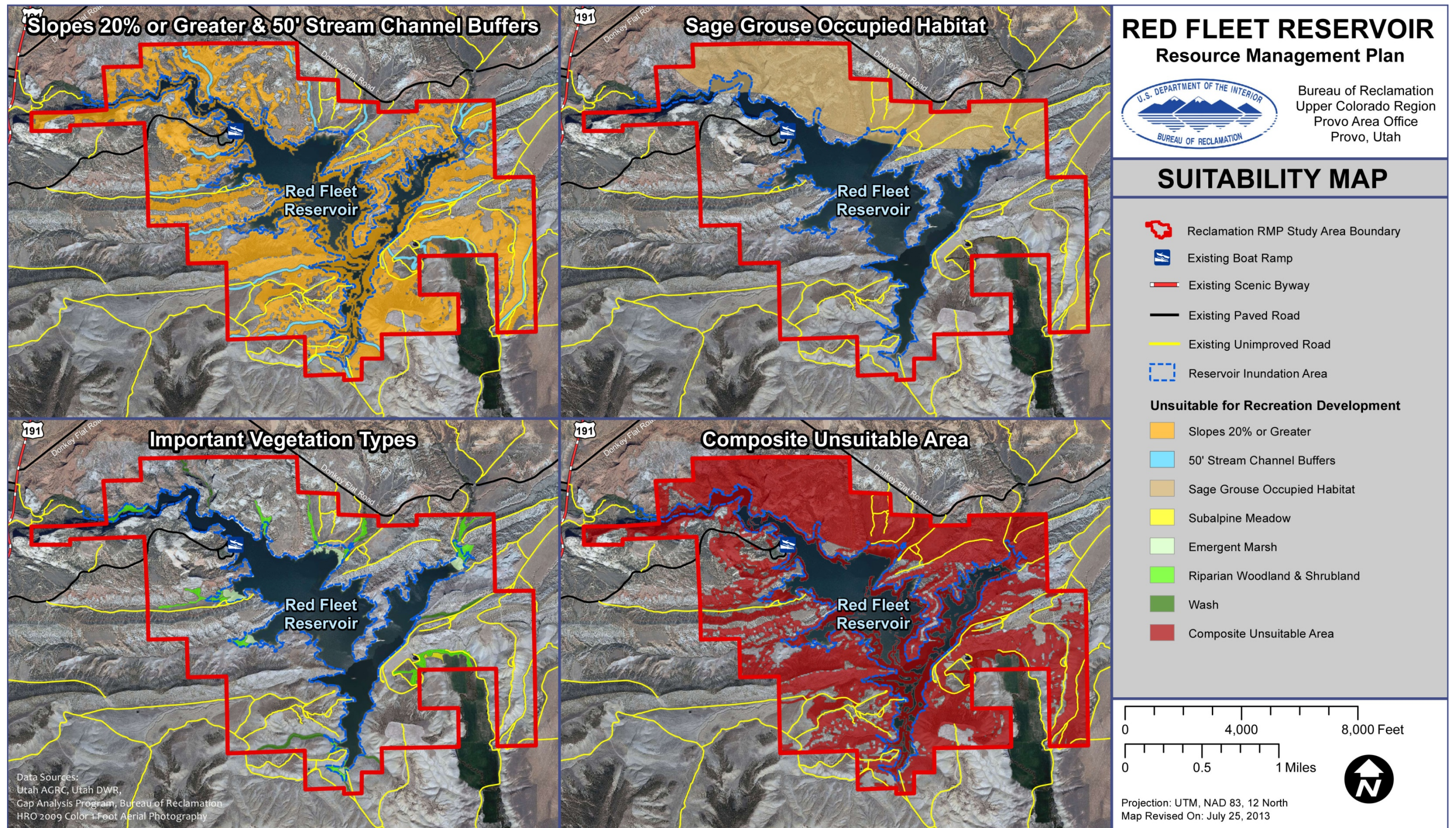


Figure 2-1. Recreation Development Suitability Map for the Red Fleet Reservoir Resource Management Plan (RMP).

Table 2-1. Acres of Study Area Lands in Land Use Categories by Project Alternative.

LAND USE CATEGORIES	ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C
	NO ACTION	RESOURCE CONSERVATION EMPHASIS	RECREATION DEVELOPMENT EMPHASIS
Developed Day Use Recreation Area	6.1	6.1	14.7
Developed Overnight Recreation Area	4.9	4.9	9.2
Developed Day Use and Overnight Group Recreation Area	-	-	10.1
Undeveloped Day Use Recreation Area	1,845.6	410.3	822.5
Natural Area	-	1,435.3	1,000.1
Administrative Area	1.6	1.6	1.6
Primary Jurisdiction Area	88.0	88.0	88.0
Reservoir Inundation Area	529.4	529.4	529.4
Total Study Area Acres ^a	2,475.6	2,475.6	2,475.6

^a Due to rounding, acreages within land use area categories may not add exactly to the total Study Area acres in each column.

Alternative A: No Action

The No Action Alternative (Figure 2-2) maintains existing recreation development areas without expansion beyond existing disturbances. No new recreational facility site development would occur, but facility upgrades and site redesign would be completed as needed and as funding becomes available. Public information programs and interpretive opportunities are included in this alternative. Activities that help to clarify management policy and minimize resource degradation are also included. Consistent with existing use, the majority of Study Area lands (1,845.6 acres) are designated as Undeveloped Day Use Recreation Areas (Table 2-1). These lands would be managed much as they are currently.

Alternative A: Area-Wide Management

Partnerships The various partnerships that exist between state and federal agencies through statutes, regulations, and agreements would continue under Alternative A. The Utah Division of State Parks and Recreation (State Parks) would continue to manage recreation activities and provide law enforcement at Red Fleet Reservoir. When necessary, Uintah County would continue to provide additional law enforcement support to State Parks. The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) would continue to manage fish and wildlife resources within the Study Area. Reclamation would work to formalize and continue any existing partnerships that have not been formalized to establish roles and commitments of resources from respective management entities.

Water Resources Water operations, managed by UWCD, would continue as normal under the No Action Alternative. Maintaining water quality is important for meeting designated beneficial uses of water at Red Fleet Reservoir. Red Fleet Reservoir is a drinking water source for Vernal, Jensen, and Ashley Valley. Under the No Action Alternative, water quality would continue to be

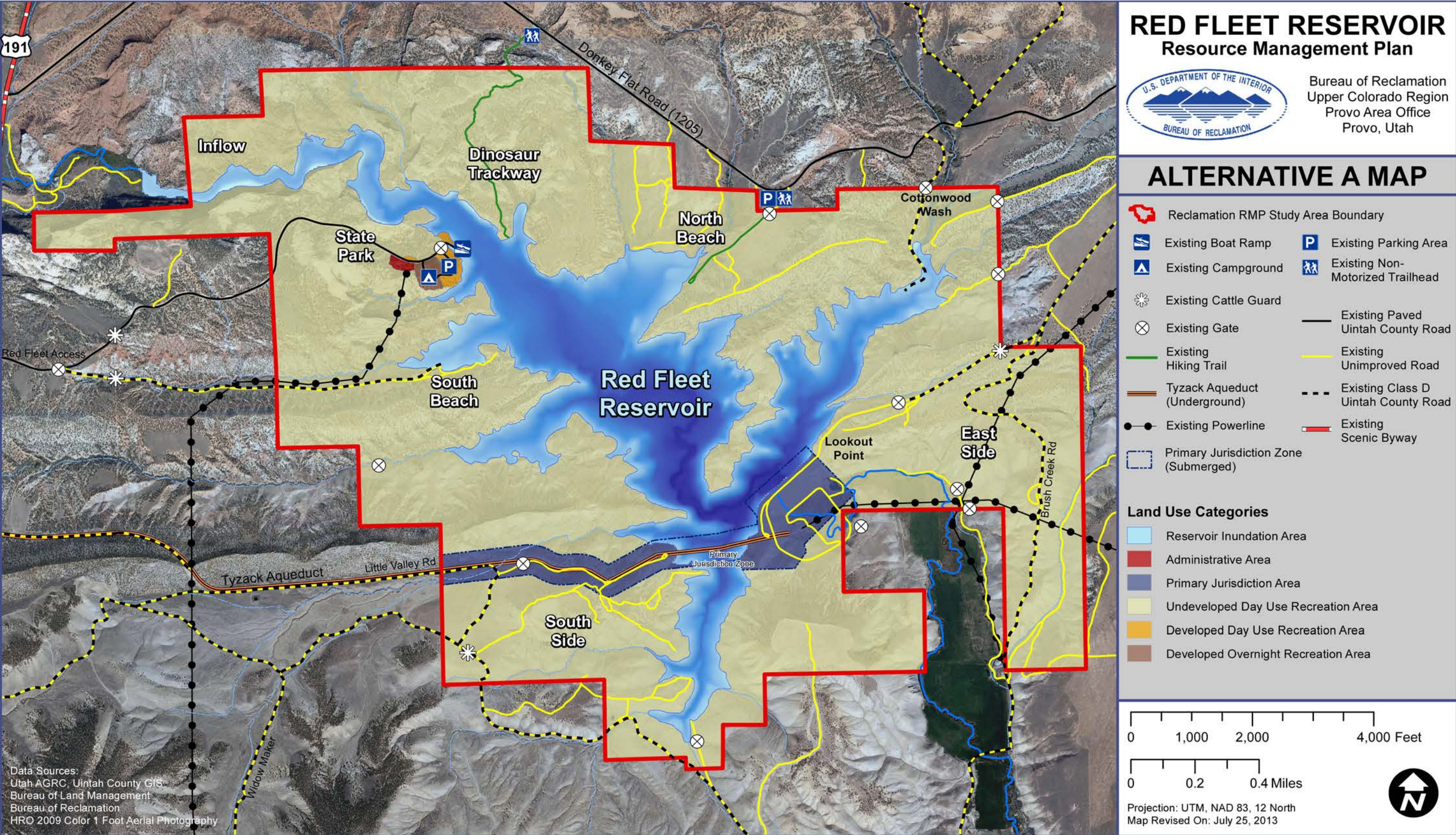


Figure 2-2. No Action Alternative A Map for the Red Fleet Reservoir Resource Management Plan (RMP).

monitored by the Utah Division of Water Quality (UDWQ). Reclamation and UWCD would continue to coordinate with UDWQ to monitor potential contaminants, bacteria, and viruses that would pose threats to aquatic life and human health. Any site redesign of existing recreation facilities would need to incorporate adequate sanitation facilities to prevent water contamination in Red Fleet Reservoir. Existing site redesign or facility rehabilitation would also incorporate improved stormwater control design elements.

Recreation and Visual Resources Under the No Action Alternative, existing Developed Day Use and Developed Overnight Recreation Areas would be maintained at their current sizes and locations. The number of developed campsites (38) would remain the same. Site redesign or rehabilitation of existing recreation facilities would be implemented, based on needs and available funding as determined by State Parks and Reclamation. However, no new recreation development sites would be proposed or developed under this alternative. Reclamation would evaluate consistency with visual quality management objectives in the renovation and redesign of existing recreation facilities.

Red Fleet Reservoir does not currently have a Developed Overnight and Day Use Group Recreation Area. Under the No Action Alternative, no group use facilities would be added at any new locations, though it would be possible to develop some group use facilities (such as a group picnic pavilion) in a redesign of the existing facilities.

State Parks would continue to be responsible for identifying and enforcing recreation capacities for both land- and water-based recreation, identifying appropriate recreational use areas for various activities, and managing user conflicts. Some programs would likely be implemented as funding becomes available; these would include interpretive displays and improved access for persons with disabilities.

By regulation 43 CFR § 420.2, Reclamation lands are closed to off-highway vehicle (OHV) use, except where specifically designated as open and in accordance with a public process specified in §420.21. Further, § 420.25 states that Reclamation lands managed by non-federal entities (such as State Parks) will be administered in a manner consistent with all applicable non-federal laws and regulations (including operation of OHVs).

The State of Utah legal code also states that currently registered OHVs may be operated on public land, trails, streets, or highways that are posted by sign or designated by map or description as open to OHV use by the controlling federal, state, county, or municipal agency (Utah Code 41-22-10.1(1)). At the present time, State of Utah administrative rules (R651-411-2(2)) specify that OHVs may be used to access ice fishing areas at Red Fleet Reservoir from the State Park boat ramp. Under Alternative A, Reclamation would officially designate that use under the federal regulation, but would not designate any other areas, roads, or trails open to public OHV use at Red Fleet Reservoir.

Natural and Cultural Resources Currently, Reclamation and partner agencies provide erosion control, revegetation, and road and parking area maintenance throughout the Study Area, as necessary. Under the No Action Alternative, necessary maintenance activities would continue; however, no comprehensive plans would be developed for habitat management or integrated pest

management. Reclamation would rely upon the UDWR to continue to manage the fishery and wildlife within the Study Area, and to monitor and prevent introduction of aquatic invasive species and pathogens. No special efforts would be implemented to enhance the fishery, fishing opportunities, or wildlife habitat.

Consistent with federal and state laws and regulations, cultural and paleontological sites would continue to be protected from the unauthorized collection and excavation of artifacts and all other ground-disturbing activities. The level of protection of cultural and paleontological sites and scenic quality would continue as it is presently; however, the potential for impacts to sites would likely increase as use of the Study Area increases. Under Alternative A, these conditions would continue.

Land Management Reclamation and its partners would continue to evaluate access and access controls and recommend improvements as needed. Reclamation and State Parks would work with Uintah County to manage OHV use within the Study Area in accordance with State and County laws. For purposes of the RMP, an unimproved road is defined as a road that does not have a paved or gravel surface and is irregularly maintained or not maintained. At Red Fleet Reservoir, there are currently a number of user-created unimproved roads that are not designated as county roads and that are not used for administrative access purposes. With Alternative A, none of the user-created unimproved roads would be actively decommissioned; however, boundary fencing, gates, and cattle guards would be installed, maintained, or upgraded as needed. As is currently the case, Reclamation would determine the appropriate uses for borrow pit areas, identify mineral rights for Reclamation lands, and coordinate with appropriate entities managing surrounding lands regarding any potential indirect effects to Reclamation lands and the reservoir.

Alternative A: Specific Area Management

The Study Area has been divided into nine management areas based upon natural resource features, land management, recreational activities, and existing facilities. The management areas are displayed on Figure 1-3 and are described below and shown on Figure 2-2.

State Park Area Under Alternative A, State Parks would continue to manage and maintain this area as an Administrative Area, Developed Day Use Recreation area, and Developed Overnight Recreation Area. Facilities would be upgraded or redesigned as needed but not expanded beyond existing disturbance areas.

Inflow Area Consistent with existing use, the Inflow Area would continue to be managed as an Undeveloped Day Use Recreation Area under Alternative A. No new facilities would be developed.

Dinosaur Trackway Area Consistent with existing use, the Dinosaur Trackway Area would continue to be managed as an Undeveloped Day Use Recreation Area under Alternative A. Reclamation, State Parks and U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) would continue to coordinate trail maintenance efforts. Reclamation and its partners would determine an appropriate strategy for preserving the paleontological resource (dinosaur tracks) found in this area. No new facilities would be developed.

North Beach Area Consistent with existing use, the North Beach Area would continue to be managed as an Undeveloped Day Use Recreation Area under Alternative A. The road into the North Beach Area would continue to be gated, allowing only walk-in access by the public. No new facilities would be developed.

South Beach Area Consistent with existing use, the South Beach Area would continue to be managed as an Undeveloped Day Use Recreation Area under Alternative A. The road into the South Beach Area would continue to be gated, allowing only walk-in access by the public. No new facilities would be developed.

South Side Area Consistent with existing use, the South Beach Area would continue to be managed as an Undeveloped Day Use Recreation Area under Alternative A. Fencing, gates, and cattle guards would be replaced as appropriate to control access. No new facilities would be developed.

East Side Area Consistent with existing use, the East Side Area would continue to be managed as an Undeveloped Day Use Recreation Area under Alternative A. Walk-in access to the Lookout Point area would remain under Alternative A, but no new trailhead improvements or shoreline fishing access improvements would be developed.

Primary Jurisdiction Area The Primary Jurisdiction Area is set aside for dam, pumping plant, and aqueduct operation and maintenance and would be managed the same under any RMP alternative. Access is restricted for the protection of public health, safety, and welfare. Permitted access and use of this area would be determined by Reclamation and UWCD.

Reservoir Inundation Area The Reservoir Inundation Area would be managed the same under any RMP alternative. State Parks has determined that Red Fleet Reservoir has a maximum boat-carrying capacity of 70 boats; however, existing parking can only accommodate about 40 boat trailers at any given time (M. Murray 2012a, pers. comm.). State Parks would continue to maintain the current maximum 70 boat-carrying capacity, reducing this number as necessary to compensate for reservoir water level fluctuations, available parking, and to promote public health and safety. Reclamation would allow the public to use OHVs to access ice fishing areas from the boat ramp as conditions permit and in accordance with existing State of Utah administrative rule R651-411-2(2). State Parks would be responsible to manage this use.

Alternative B: Resource Conservation Emphasis

The emphasis of Alternative B is conservation, protection, and enhancement of natural and cultural resources. Some improvements to existing recreational facilities, such as utility upgrades and facility redesigns, are included. Additions to facilities would include improvements to existing managed and maintained roads and development of facilities that either improve environmental quality in the area or inform the public about regulations and expectations of resource protection. Coordination with surrounding property owners and jurisdictions would be explored in order to assure that surrounding land uses are compatible with and complementary to the conservation theme.

In terms of land use (Table 2-1) Alternative B would designate 1,435 acres as Natural Area and 410 acres for Undeveloped Day Use Recreation Area. Locations of these land-use designations are illustrated in Figure 2-3. The amount of Study Area lands devoted to Developed Day Use and Overnight Recreation Areas, Administrative Area, Reservoir Inundation Area, and Primary Jurisdiction Area uses under Alternative B would be the same as found under Alternative A.

The Natural Area designation would be used for the more remote portions of the Study Area which include the Inflow Area, Dinosaur Trackway Area, North Beach Area, South Beach Area, and East Side Area portions of the Study Area. Consistent with the conservation emphasis of Alternative B, these areas would be primarily managed for wildlife habitat and to preserve natural and cultural resource features. Nonmotorized, day-use recreation would occur in these areas, but recreation facilities would not be developed. Existing hiking and walk-in trails at the Dinosaur Trackway Area and the North Beach Area would be maintained. In the East Side Area, an existing unmaintained road to Lookout Point would be decommissioned and replaced with a walk-in trail and trailhead parking areas with a vault toilet. The South Side Area, which has county road access from outside the Study Area, would continue to be managed as an Undeveloped Day Use Recreation Area. Reclamation, UWCD, and State Parks would determine appropriate public access within this area. Lands surrounding the existing State Park facilities would also continue to be managed as an Undeveloped Day Use Recreation Area.

Alternative B: Area-Wide Management

Partnerships The various partnerships that exist between state and federal agencies through statutes, regulations, and agreements would continue under Alternative B. State Parks would continue to manage recreation activities and provide law enforcement. When necessary, Uintah County would continue to provide additional law enforcement support to State Parks. The UDWR would continue to manage fish and wildlife resources within the Study Area.

Reclamation would need to expand existing partnerships or pursue new ones to achieve Alternative B planning objectives. Reclamation would work to formalize and continue any existing partnerships that have not been formalized to establish roles and commitments of resources from respective management entities. Reclamation would pursue additional partnerships with Uintah County, Vernal City, UDWR, BLM, the National Scenic Byways Program, and other entities to facilitate best management of Study Area resources. Reclamation would consider contracts with qualified private concessioners for provision of specific public recreation facilities and/or activities and would consider formal partnerships with private, nonprofit recreation user groups for provision and maintenance of specific public recreation facilities and/or activities.

Water Resources Water operations, managed by UWCD would continue under Alternative B. Any site redesign or rehabilitation of existing recreation facilities would need to incorporate adequate sanitation facilities to prevent water contamination in Red Fleet Reservoir. Site redesign or facility rehabilitation would also incorporate improved stormwater control design elements.

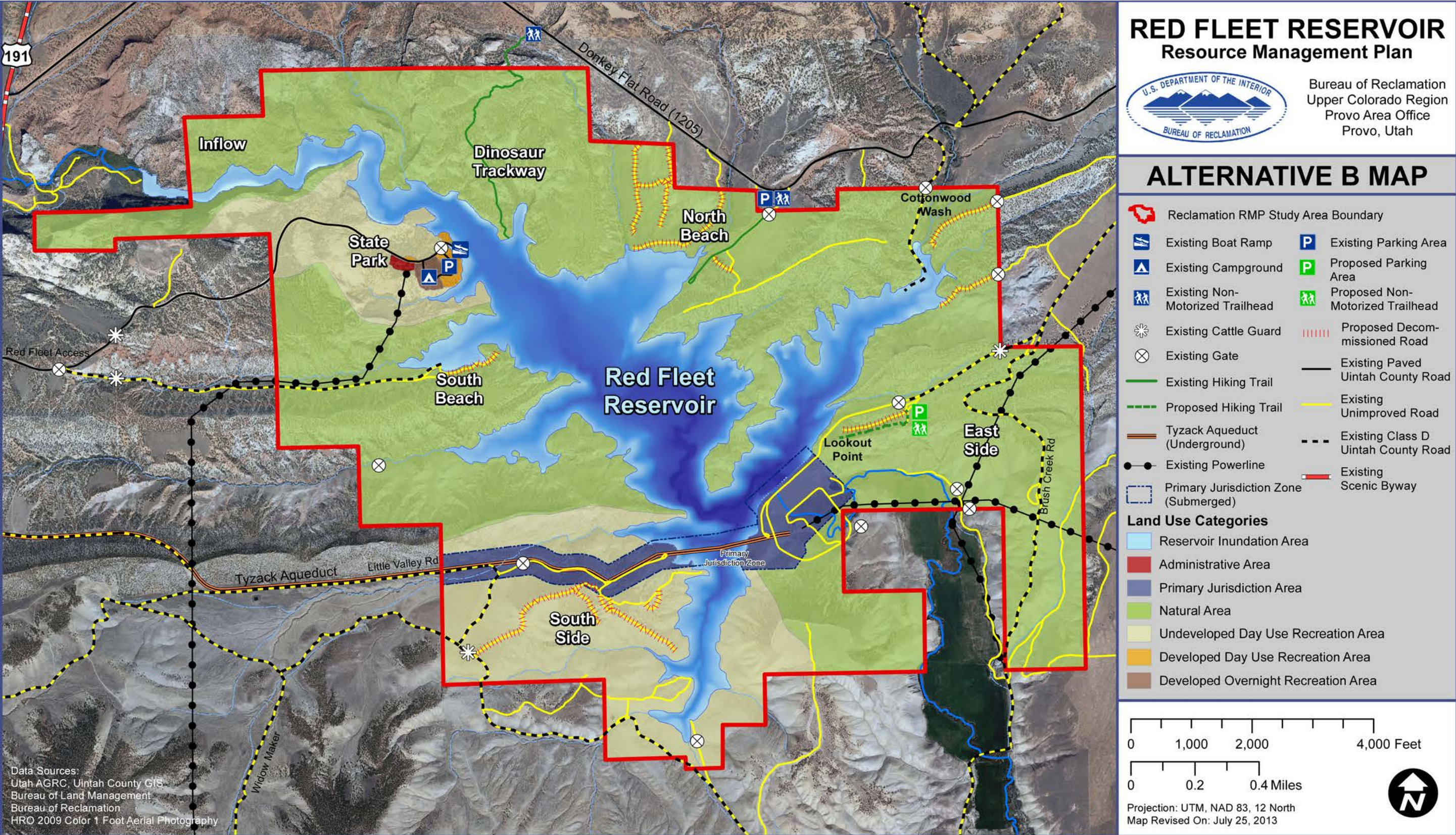


Figure 2-3. Resource Conservation Emphasis Alternative B Map for the Red Fleet Reservoir Resource Management Plan (RMP).

Reclamation would identify water quality impacts originating in Red Fleet Reservoir and suggest ways to meet beneficial use designations. Red Fleet Reservoir is a drinking water source for Vernal, Jensen, and Ashley Valley. Under the No Action Alternative, water quality would continue to be monitored by UDWQ. Reclamation and UWCD would continue to coordinate with UDWQ to monitor potential contaminants, bacteria, and viruses that would pose threats to aquatic life and human health.

Recreation and Visual Resources Under Alternative B, Developed Day Use Recreation Areas and Developed Overnight Recreation Areas would be maintained at the current sizes and locations. The number of designated campsites (38) would remain the same under Alternative B. Site redesign or rehabilitation of existing recreation facilities would be implemented, based on needs and available funding as determined by State Parks and Reclamation; however, no new recreation development sites would be proposed or developed. Reclamation would evaluate consistency with visual quality management objectives in the renovation and redesign of existing recreation facilities.

Red Fleet Reservoir does not currently have a designated Developed Overnight and Day Use Group Area. Under Alternative B, no group use facilities would be added at any new locations, though it would be possible to develop some group use facilities (such as a group picnic pavilion) in a redesign of the existing development areas.

State Parks would continue to be responsible for identifying and enforcing recreation capacities for both land- and water-based recreation, identifying appropriate recreational use areas for various activities, and managing user conflicts. Some programs would likely be implemented as funding becomes available; these would include installing interpretive displays and providing improved access for persons with disabilities.

Under Alternative B, Reclamation would allow public OHV access to the Reservoir Inundation Area for ice fishing from the State Park Area boat ramp, as conditions permit and in accordance with existing Utah administrative rule R651-411-2(2). State Parks would be responsible to manage this use. Reclamation would also coordinate with the appropriate management entities regarding potential OHV use on designated state and county roads, or portions thereof, within the Study Area. An existing informal and undesignated OHV riding area in the East Side Area would be closed to that use, consistent with designation of that area as a Natural Area under Alternative B.

Natural and Cultural Resources Under Alternative B, management of the Study Area would focus on conservation of natural and cultural resources. For example, coordination with BLM and UDWR would occur for determining objectives and management strategies for conservation of greater sage-grouse occupied habitat and elk and deer habitat areas. Reclamation would encourage and work with the UDWR to develop a Fishery Management Plan intended to enhance recreational fishing opportunities where feasible within existing reservoir operating criteria and a Habitat Management Plan intended to conserve viable wildlife habitat where feasible using management strategies to protect wildlife values. In developing these plans Reclamation and its partners would determine and consider status of the state-listed flannelmouth sucker (*Catostomus latipinnis*) and would also consider plantings of native plant species that are

beneficial aquatic plants in vegetated shallows and shrubs and trees along shorelines and riparian areas where appropriate.

The RMP would also include specific objectives to develop and implement drainage improvements and stormwater best management practices (BMPs) and an Integrated Pest Management Plan. The latter would focus on controlling noxious and invading weeds, pests, and aquatic nuisances within the Study Area. Control methods could include mowing, applying chemicals, burning, removing, pulling, and trapping. This plan would improve current vegetation management within the Study Area.

Reclamation would continue to cooperate with UDWR, UDWQ, and other entities that monitor accumulations of selenium and mercury and provide adequate public information and education. Working with State Parks, Reclamation would continue fencing maintenance efforts to keep livestock and OHVs out of riparian wetlands and other sensitive areas. In developing recreation site redesign or rehabilitation activities, Reclamation and State Parks would develop an appropriate plant list for future landscaping, erosion control, and water conservation.

Consistent with federal and state laws and regulations, cultural and paleontological sites would continue to be protected from the unauthorized collection and excavation of artifacts and all other ground-disturbing activities. Reclamation would coordinate with the Utah State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the cultural resource sections of State Parks and Reclamation, as necessary, to protect cultural and paleontological resources. Specific objectives would be developed to identify, manage, and interpret cultural and paleontological resources under Alternative B.

Land Management Reclamation and its partners would continue to evaluate access and access controls and recommend improvements as needed. Reclamation and State Parks would work with Uintah County to manage OHV use within the Study Area in accordance with State and County laws. For purposes of the RMP, an unimproved road is defined as a road that does not have a paved or gravel surface and is irregularly maintained or not maintained. With Alternative B, user-created unimproved roads (unimproved roads that are not designated as county roads or that are not used for administrative access purposes) would be decommissioned, particularly wherever these roads present erosion problems, provide access to unsafe areas, or enable trespass into the Primary Jurisdiction Area. Boundary fencing, gates, and cattle guards would be installed, maintained, or upgraded as needed to prevent trespass.

Under Alternative B, the roads into the South Beach and North Beach areas would continue to be gated, allowing only walk-in access by the public. On the east side, walk-in access to Lookout Point would remain, but no trailhead improvements or shoreline fishing access improvements would be made in this area. As is currently the case, access to Red Fleet Dam and the pumping plant segment of the Primary Jurisdiction Area would be restricted. There would be no change in the management of the Primary Jurisdiction Area. Permitted access and use of this area would be determined by Reclamation and UWCD.

As is currently the case, Reclamation would determine the appropriate uses for borrow pit areas, identify mineral rights for Reclamation lands, and coordinate with appropriate entities managing

surrounding lands regarding any potential indirect effects on Reclamation lands and the reservoir.

During the RMP planning process, Reclamation determined that a portion of land east of Red Fleet Dam within the Reclamation property boundary is contiguous with a private agricultural field and is being used by the private landowner for agricultural purposes. Under Alternative B, Reclamation would consider a mutually beneficial land exchange to resolve this issue.

Alternative B: Specific Area Management

Specific Management Area designations under Alternative B are described below and shown on Figure 2-3.

State Park Area Under Alternative B, State Parks would continue to manage this area as an Administrative Area, Developed Day Use Recreation Area, and Developed Overnight Recreation Area. Facilities would be upgraded or redesigned as needed but not expanded beyond existing disturbance areas. Reclamation would allow public OHV access to the Reservoir Inundation Area from the State Park Area boat ramp for ice fishing as conditions permit and in accordance with existing Utah administrative rule R651-411-2(2). State Parks would be responsible to manage this use. During the RMP planning process, State Parks expressed interest in increasing overnight camping stays by allowing public OHV use within the State Park Area and on the entrance road to Red Fleet Reservoir. As described above for Area-Wide management of Recreation and Visual Resources under Alternative B, Reclamation would coordinate with the appropriate management entities regarding this potential designation.

Inflow Area The Inflow Area would be designated as a Natural Area under Alternative B to protect natural and cultural resources, including scenic quality along the highway.. No new facilities would be developed.

Dinosaur Trackway Area The Dinosaur Trackway Area would be designated as a Natural Area under Alternative B to protect natural and cultural resources, including scenic quality. The existing hiking trail to the dinosaur trackway from a BLM trailhead would remain. Reclamation, State Parks, and the BLM would continue to coordinate trail maintenance efforts. Reclamation and its partners would determine an appropriate strategy for preserving the paleontological resource (dinosaur tracks) found in this area. Disturbed areas would be revegetated and erosion control would be provided as necessary. No new facilities would be developed.

North Beach Area The North Beach Area would be designated as a Natural Area under Alternative B to protect natural and cultural resources. The road into the North Beach Area would continue to be gated, allowing only walk-in access by the public. User-created unimproved roads would be decommissioned. Disturbed areas would be revegetated and erosion control would be provided as necessary. No new facilities would be developed.

South Beach Area The South Beach Area would be designated as a Natural Area under Alternative B to protect natural and cultural resources. The road into the South Beach Area would continue to be gated, allowing only walk-in access by the public. A user-created unimproved road would be decommissioned. Disturbed areas would be revegetated and erosion control would be provided as necessary. No new facilities would be developed.

South Side Area The South Side Area would continue to be managed as an Undeveloped Day Use Recreation Area under Alternative B. Fencing, gates, and cattle guards would be implemented as appropriate to control access. User-created unimproved roads would be decommissioned. Disturbed areas would be revegetated and erosion control would be provided as necessary. No new facilities would be developed.

East Side Area The East Side Area would be designated as Natural Area under Alternative B to protect natural and cultural resources. A walking trail to the Lookout Point would be developed with trailhead parking and a vault toilet. This would replace a user-created unimproved road to Lookout Point, which would be decommissioned. Two other user-created unimproved roads would be decommissioned, as illustrated on Figure 2-3. Shoreline fishing access improvements would also be made. Disturbed areas would be revegetated and erosion control would be provided as necessary. Consistent with the Natural Area designation, an existing informal and undesignated OHV riding area would be closed to that use within the Reclamation property boundary.

Primary Jurisdiction Area The Primary Jurisdiction Area is set aside for dam, pumping plant, and aqueduct operation and maintenance and would be managed the same under any RMP alternative. Access is restricted for the protection of public health, safety, and welfare. Permitted access and use of this area would be determined by Reclamation and UWCD.

Reservoir Inundation Area The Reservoir Inundation Area would be managed the same under any RMP alternative. State Parks has determined that Red Fleet Reservoir has a maximum boat-carrying capacity of 70 boats; however, existing parking can only accommodate about 40 boat trailers at any given time (M. Murray 2012a, pers. comm.). State Parks would continue to maintain the current maximum boat-carrying capacity of 70 boats, reducing this number as necessary to compensate for reservoir water level fluctuations, available parking, and to promote public health and safety. Under Alternative B, Reclamation would allow public OHV access to the Reservoir Inundation Area for ice fishing from the State Park Area boat ramp, as conditions permit and in accordance with existing Utah administrative rule R651-411-2(2).

Alternative C: Recreation Development Emphasis

Alternative C provides for and expands a variety of recreational opportunities by locating new facilities on accessible lands suitable for recreational development to meet demand. New boating, camping, parking, and picnicking facilities and the accompanying access roads would be developed. Specific components that would be included with Alternative C are: development of group recreation sites; addition of rental cabins or yurts; expanded hiking trails, improved shoreline access, and an accessible fishing dock; and development of trailheads and trail connectivity. Opportunities to contract services with private concessionaires would be considered as appropriate. Facilities that improve or protect environmental quality are included, as well as regulation and information systems to increase public awareness.

To accommodate these elements, Alternative C would allocate additional lands to developed recreation purposes, as illustrated in Figure 2-4. Table 2-1 indicates allocation of 14.7 acres to Developed Day Use Recreation Areas, 9.2 acres to Developed Overnight Recreation Areas, and 10.1 acres to Developed Overnight and Day Use Group Recreation Areas. Collectively, these

designations reflect an increase of 23 acres available for developed use over existing conditions (Alternative A). Administrative Areas, Primary Jurisdiction Areas, and Reservoir Inundation Areas would not change. A large proportion of the Study Area, 1,000.1 acres, would become Natural Area while 822.5 acres would remain Undeveloped Day Use Recreation Area.

Alternative C: Area-Wide Management

Partnerships The same management actions and policies for partnerships described under Alternative B would be implemented under Alternative C.

Water Resources The same management actions and policies for water resources described under Alternative B would be implemented under Alternative C.

Recreation and Visual Resources The emphasis of Alternative C is accommodating expanded recreation facilities and opportunities. Figure 2-4 illustrates specific area designations that are consistent with the recreation development suitability analysis. The footprint of the existing State Park facilities would be expanded northward. Developed Overnight Recreation Area facilities would be redeveloped within the existing footprint and would be expanded to the north across the road from the Administrative Area. Some of the redeveloped or expanded area would be devoted to proposed rental cabins or yurts. The number of designated campsites would increase to 58 under Alternative C. Similarly, the Developed Day Use Recreation Area would be redesigned within its existing footprint and also expanded to the north. This expansion would allow for development of a beach area surrounding the cove immediately north of the existing boat launch area.

At the South Beach Area, a Developed Overnight and Day Use Group Recreation Area would be developed. This area would be accessible by reservation only; access would be controlled by the existing gate and access road to this area. Electric power lines already pass through this area, so power would be easy to provide for developed facilities and camp site hookups. Water and sewer facilities would need to be assessed in site design. A boat ramp would be developed in the nearby cove for use by groups reserving this area. A conceptual walking trail between the South Beach group area and the main State Parks facility area is also illustrated on Figure 2-4.

At the North Beach Area, the existing access road from Donkey Flat Road would be opened to the public for vehicular access and a Developed Day Use Recreation Area would be constructed. State Parks would maintain the area and collect day-use fees as warranted. Facilities would include parking, vault toilets, and picnic tables/pavilions. The South Side Area would continue to be managed as an Undeveloped Day Use Recreation Area under Alternative C.

Under Alternative C, Reclamation would allow public OHV access to the Reservoir Inundation Area for ice fishing from the State Park Area boat ramp as conditions permit and in accordance with existing Utah administrative rule R651-411-2(2). Reclamation would also coordinate with the appropriate management entities regarding potential OHV use on designated state and county roads, or portions thereof, within the Study Area. An existing informal and undesignated OHV riding area in the East Side Area would be closed to that use, consistent with designation of that area as a Natural Area under Alternative C.

State Parks would continue to be responsible for identifying and enforcing recreation capacities for both land-and water-based recreation, identifying appropriate recreational use areas for various activities, and managing user conflicts. Programs would likely be implemented as funding becomes available; these would include installing interpretive displays and providing improved access for persons with disabilities.

All of the above described recreation facility concepts were developed in consultation with State Parks. These facilities would be reasonable to implement within the time frame of the RMP (10–15 years), contingent on assessment of demand, available funding, and site-specific environmental evaluation as required by the U.S. National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). Reclamation would also evaluate consistency with visual quality management objectives in the design of renovated or new recreation facilities.

Natural and Cultural Resources While additional Study Area lands would be converted to developed uses under Alternative C, natural and cultural resources would be planned for and actively managed in the same manner as described for Alternative B. The more remote portions of the Study Areas—the Inflow, Dinosaur Trackway, and East Side areas—would be designated as Natural Areas. Management under this designation would emphasize the habitat values of these areas and would prioritize preservation of natural and cultural resources. To accommodate recreation opportunity an improved trailhead and shoreline access point would be provided in the East Side Area. This walk-in access would not compromise the Natural Area land-use designation but would be closed during certain times if needed. Otherwise, the same management actions and policies for natural and cultural resources described for Alternative B would be implemented under Alternative C.

Land Management Reclamation and its partners would continue to evaluate access and access controls and recommend improvements as needed. Reclamation and State Parks would work with Uintah County to manage OHV use within the Study Area in accordance with State and County laws. For purposes of the RMP, an unimproved road is defined as a road that does not have a paved or gravel surface and is irregularly maintained or not maintained. With Alternative C, user-created unimproved roads (unimproved roads that are not designated as county roads or that are not used for administrative access purposes) would be decommissioned, particularly wherever these roads present erosion problems, provide access to unsafe areas, or enable trespass into the Primary Jurisdiction Area. Boundary fencing, gates, and cattle guards would be installed, maintained, or upgraded as needed.

Public access to Red Fleet Reservoir would be improved and expanded with Alternative C. With site development, the road into the North Beach Area would be opened to public access. Development at the South Beach Area would be created for groups to reserve the area for day use or overnight camping. On the East Side Area, walk-in access to Lookout Point and the reservoir shoreline would be improved. As is currently the case, access to the Red Fleet Dam and the pumping plant segment of the Primary Jurisdiction Zone would be restricted. There would be no change in the management of the Primary Jurisdiction Zone; appropriate access and use of this area would be determined by Reclamation and UWCD.

As is currently the case, Reclamation would determine the appropriate uses for borrow pit areas, identify mineral rights for Reclamation lands, and coordinate with appropriate entities managing surrounding lands regarding any potential indirect effects to Reclamation lands and Red Fleet Reservoir.

During the RMP planning process, Reclamation determined that a portion of land east of Red Fleet Dam within the Reclamation property boundary is contiguous with a private agricultural field and is being used by the private landowner for agricultural purposes. Under Alternative C, Reclamation would consider a mutually-beneficial land exchange to resolve this issue.

Alternative C: Specific Area Management

Specific Management Area designations under Alternative C are described below and shown on Figure 2-4.

State Park Area Under Alternative C, State Parks would continue to manage this area as an Administrative Area, Developed Day Use Recreation Area, and Developed Overnight Recreation Area. Existing facilities would be upgraded or redesigned as needed. Available area for Developed Day Use Recreation Area and Developed Overnight Recreation Area have been expanded with Alternative C. Reclamation would allow public OHV access to the Reservoir Inundation Area from the State Park Area boat ramp for ice fishing as conditions permit and in accordance with Utah administrative rule R651-411-2(2). State Parks would be responsible to manage this use. During the RMP planning process, State Parks expressed interest in increasing overnight camping stays by allowing public OHV use within the State Park Area and on the entrance road to Red Fleet Reservoir. As described above for Area-Wide management of Recreation and Visual Resources under Alternative C, Reclamation would coordinate with the appropriate management entities regarding this potential designation.

Inflow Area As with Alternative B, the Inflow Area would be designated as Natural Area under Alternative C to protect natural and cultural resources, including scenic quality along the highway. No new facilities would be developed.

Dinosaur Trackway Area Management of the Dinosaur Trackway Area under Alternative C would be the same as described for Alternative B. The Dinosaur Trackway Area would be designated as Natural Area to protect natural and cultural resources, including scenic quality. The existing hiking trail to the dinosaur trackway from a BLM trailhead would remain. Reclamation, State Parks, and the BLM would continue to coordinate trail maintenance efforts. Reclamation and its partners would determine an appropriate strategy for preserving the paleontological resource (dinosaur tracks) found in this area. Disturbed areas would be revegetated and erosion control would be provided as necessary. No new facilities would be developed.

North Beach Area Under Alternative C, the road into the North Beach Area would be opened and a Developed Day Use Recreation Area would be developed to include vault toilets, picnic facilities, and a parking area. User-created unimproved roads would be decommissioned. Disturbed areas would be revegetated and erosion control would be provided as necessary.

South Beach Area A portion of the South Beach Area would be designated as a Developed Overnight Area and Day Use Group Recreation Area under Alternative C. State Parks would manage access to the Developed Overnight Area and Day Use Group Recreation Area that would be developed for reservation by groups. A user-created unimproved road would be decommissioned. Disturbed areas would be revegetated and erosion control would be provided as necessary. A walking trail connecting the South Beach Area to the main State Park Area facilities is also included.

South Side Area The South Side Area would be managed as an Undeveloped Day Use Recreation Area under Alternative C. Fencing, gates, and cattle guards would be implemented as appropriate to control access. User-created unimproved roads would be decommissioned. Disturbed areas would be revegetated and erosion control would be provided as necessary. No new facilities would be developed.

East Side Area Under Alternative C, the East Side Area would be managed the same as described under Alternative B. The area would be designated as a Natural Area to protect natural and cultural resources. A walking trail to the Lookout Point would be developed with trailhead parking and a vault toilet. This would replace a user-created unimproved road to Lookout Point, which would be decommissioned. Two other user-created unimproved roads in this area would be decommissioned, as illustrated on Figure 2-4. Shoreline fishing access improvements would also be made. Disturbed areas would be revegetated and erosion control would be provided as necessary. Consistent with the Natural Area designation, an existing informal OHV riding area would be closed to that use within the Reclamation property boundary.

Primary Jurisdiction Area The Primary Jurisdiction Area is set aside for dam, pumping plant, and aqueduct operation and maintenance and would be managed the same under any RMP alternative. Access is restricted for the protection of public health, safety, and welfare. Permitted access and use of this area would be determined by Reclamation and UWCD.

Reservoir Inundation Area The Reservoir Inundation Area would be managed the same under any RMP alternative. State Parks has determined that Red Fleet Reservoir has a maximum boat-carrying capacity of 70 boats; however, parking can only accommodate about 40 boat trailers at any given time (M. Murray 2012a, pers. comm.). State Parks would continue to maintain the current maximum boat-carrying capacity of 70 boats, reducing this number as necessary to compensate for reservoir water level fluctuations, available parking, and to promote public health and safety. Under Alternative C, Reclamation would allow public OHV access to the Reservoir Inundation Area for ice fishing from the State Park Area boat ramp as conditions permit and in accordance with existing Utah administrative rule R651-411-2(2). State Parks would be responsible to manage this use.

Summary Comparison of Alternatives and Impacts

Table 2-2 summarizes the land-use designations for each of the Red Fleet Reservoir management areas by alternative. As indicated in the table, the State Park Area retains the same land-use designations with Alternative B and C that it would have under the No Action Alternative

Table 2-2. Comparison of Land Use Designations for Resource Management Plan (RMP) Alternatives by Management Area.

MANAGEMENT AREAS	ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C
	NO ACTION	RESOURCE CONSERVATION EMPHASIS	RECREATION DEVELOPMENT EMPHASIS
State Park Area	AA ^a DDURA ^b DORA ^c UDURA ^d	AA DDURA DORA UDURA	AA DDURA DORA UDURA
Inflow Area	UDURA	NA ^e	NA
Dinosaur Trackway Area	UDURA	NA	NA
North Beach Area	UDURA	NA	DDURA UDURA
South Beach Area	UDURA	NA	DGRA ^f UDURA
South Side Area	UDURA	UDURA	UDURA
East Side Area	UDURA	NA	NA
Primary Jurisdiction Area	PJA ^g	PJA	PJA
Reservoir Inundation Area	RIA ^h	RIA	RIA

^a AA = Administrative Area^b DDURA = Developed Day Use Recreation Area^c DORA = Developed Overnight Recreation Area^d UDURA = Undeveloped Day Use Recreation Area^e NA = Natural Area^f DGRA = Developed Overnight and Day Use Group Recreation Area^g PJA = Primary Jurisdiction Area^h RIA = Reservoir Inundation Area

(Alternative A). However, the Developed Overnight Recreation Areas and Developed Day Use Recreation Areas would be expanded under Alternative C. The Inflow Area, Dinosaur Trackway Area, and East Side Area would all be designated as Natural Areas under Alternatives B and C but would be Undeveloped Day Use Recreation Areas under Alternative A.

North Beach and South Beach areas would be Natural Areas under Alternative B but would have new developed recreation facilities under Alternative C. The North Beach Area would have a designated Developed Day Use Recreation Area under Alternative C, while the South Beach Area would have a Developed Overnight and Day Use Group Recreation Area. The Primary Jurisdiction and Reservoir Inundation Area uses would not be modified from existing conditions under any RMP alternative.

Table 2-3 summarizes the impacts of each alternative for the Study Area. For a detailed description of impacts by resource, see Chapter 4: Environmental Consequences. Based on these impact assessments, Table 2-4 summarizes how well each alternative would fulfill the RMP goals. A full statement of RMP Goals and Objectives is provided in Appendix A.

Table 2-3. Summary of Resource Management Plan (RMP) Impacts by Alternative.

IMPACT INDICATOR	ALTERNATIVE A: NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE B: RESOURCE CONSERVATION EMPHASIS	ALTERNATIVE C: RECREATION DEVELOPMENT EMPHASIS
Partnerships			
Change in the number and type of resource management partnerships	<p>No change to the number and type of partnerships.</p> <p>Existing partnerships include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Bureau of Land Management • U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service • Utah Division of State Parks and Recreation • Uintah Water Conservancy District • Utah Division of Wildlife Resources • Utah Department of Environmental Quality • Utah Department of Transportation • Uintah County 	<p>Current partners listed for Alternative A would remain with increased responsibilities related to a conservation emphasis.</p> <p>Potentially new resource management partners include local conservation organizations and adjacent landowners.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B, plus additional responsibilities and/or partnerships related to a recreation development emphasis.</p> <p>Potentially new resource management partners include those listed for Alternative B and also local recreation interest groups.</p>
Water Resources			
Change in the amount of unimproved roads due to de-commissioning and/or conversion to nonmotorized trail	No change from existing conditions (14 total miles of unimproved roads, including 5 miles within 50 feet of the reservoir or a tributary stream).	Decrease of 2.3 miles of unimproved roads, including a decrease of 0.7 mile within 50 feet of the reservoir or a tributary stream.	Decrease of 2.3 miles of unimproved roads, including a decrease of 0.7 mile within 50 feet of the reservoir or a tributary stream.
Change in the amount of nonmotorized trails	No change from existing conditions (1.1 miles of nonmotorized trails within the Study Area, including 0.2 mile within 50 feet of the reservoir or tributary stream).	Increase of 0.2 mile of nonmotorized trail in the East Side Area (at Lookout Point).	Increase of 1.8 miles of nonmotorized trail, including 1.4 miles within 50 feet of the reservoir or a tributary stream.
Change in the amount of developed recreation areas	No change from existing conditions (11 acres of developed recreation areas).	No change from existing conditions (11 acres of developed recreation areas).	<p>Increase of 23 acres of developed recreation areas to a total of 34 acres.</p> <p>Increase of 13.3 acres of developed recreation area within 50 feet of a stream or the reservoir.</p>

Table 2-3. (Cont.)

IMPACT INDICATOR	ALTERNATIVE A: NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE B: RESOURCE CONSERVATION EMPHASIS	ALTERNATIVE C: RECREATION DEVELOPMENT EMPHASIS
Change in the amount of Natural Area	No change from existing conditions (no existing Natural Areas).	Increase of 1,435 acres of Natural Area. Increase of 375 acres of Natural Area within 50 feet of a stream or the reservoir.	Increase of 1,000 acres of Natural Area. Increase of 255 acres of Natural Area within 50 feet of a stream or the reservoir.
Change in the number and types of toilet facilities	No change from existing conditions.	Additional vault toilet at the Lookout Point trailhead (East Side Area). No change in septic system at the State Park Area.	Additional vault toilets within the State Park, South Beach, North Beach, and East Side Areas. Septic system at the State Park Area may require upgrade or expansion.
Recreation and Visual Resources			
Change in recreational opportunities	No change from existing conditions.	Developed Recreation Areas would remain the same. Undeveloped Day Use Recreation Areas would decrease by 1,435.3 acres as Natural Areas would be designated. Administrative, Primary Jurisdiction, and Reservoir Inundation Areas would remain the same.	Developed Day Use Recreation Areas would increase by 8.6 acres. Developed Overnight Recreation Areas would increase by 4.3 acres. Developed Overnight and Day Use Group Recreation Areas would increase by 10.1 acres. Undeveloped Day Use Recreation Areas would decrease by 1,023.1 acres as 1,000.1 acres of Natural Areas would be designated and 23 acres of Developed Recreation Areas would be designated.
Change in visitation and recreational facilities	No change from existing conditions. Total persons at one time (PAOT): 575. Total developed campgrounds at 1. Total developed campsites at 38. Total day use picnic sites at 37. Total boat parking at 40. Total boat ramps at 1.	No change in total developed campgrounds (1). No change in developed campsites (38). No change in day use picnic sites (37). No change in boat parking (40). Total PAOT: 575. Total boat ramps at 1.	Expanding the footprint of the existing State Park Area facilities would increase the developed campsites from 38 to 58 in that area. Adding a Developed Overnight and Day Use Group Recreation Area at the South Beach Area would increase the campsites by 20 and the day-use sites by 20 in that area. Total PAOT would increase to 875. Total boat ramps at 2.

Table 2-3. (Cont.)

IMPACT INDICATOR	ALTERNATIVE A: NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE B: RESOURCE CONSERVATION EMPHASIS	ALTERNATIVE C: RECREATION DEVELOPMENT EMPHASIS
Change in Water and Land Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (WALROS) Classification	No change from existing conditions.	The Inflow Area WALROS Classification would change from RN8 to SP8. The East Side Area WALROS Classification would change from SP9 to SP8. All other areas would exhibit no change in WALROS Classification from existing conditions.	The Inflow Area WALROS Classification would change from RN8 to SP8. The East Side Area WALROS Classification would change from SP9 to SP8. The South Beach Area WALROS Classification would change from SP8 to RD6. All other areas would exhibit no change in WALROS Classification from existing conditions.
Change in visual resource conditions	No change from existing conditions.	No change in visual resource conditions.	No change in visual resource conditions.
Natural and Cultural Resources			
Change in the amount of shoreline erosion	Shoreline erosion would be expected to continue. No change from existing conditions and trends.	Slightly reduced shoreline erosion with designation of Natural Area.	Same as Alternative B, with fewer acres designated as Natural Area.
Change in the amount of soil disturbance	67.6 acres (total existing soil disturbance).	53.1 acres (total existing and new soil disturbance).	69.8 acres (total existing and new soil disturbance).
Change in the quantity, condition, and level of disturbance of upland vegetation communities	Existing level of disturbance is 68 acres. No change in current upland vegetation conditions and trends.	Level of disturbance reduced to 53 acres through designation of 1,435 acres of Natural Area. Decommissioning of 2.3 miles of unimproved roads, including conversion of 0.2 mile to nonmotorized trail. Overall potential for improved condition of upland vegetation.	Level of disturbance increased to 70 acres through development of new recreation areas. Decommissioning of 2.3 miles of unimproved roads. Creation of 1.8 miles of new nonmotorized trails. Overall slight potential for decreasing condition of upland vegetation.

Table 2-3. (Cont.)

IMPACT INDICATOR	ALTERNATIVE A: NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE B: RESOURCE CONSERVATION EMPHASIS	ALTERNATIVE C: RECREATION DEVELOPMENT EMPHASIS
Change in the quantity, condition, and level of disturbance of riparian-wetland vegetation communities	No change to the existing riparian-wetland conditions and trends.	Potential for some improvement due to designation of Natural Areas.	Overall potential for improvement due to designation of Natural Areas that include riparian-wetland vegetation communities. Some localized minor to moderate impacts due to new recreation facility development near riparian-wetlands.
Change in the overall quality and amount of wildlife habitat	No change from existing conditions and trends.	Little or no impacts related to the loss of wildlife habitat. Enhancement and protection of important habitats as a result of designating Natural Areas.	Minimal impacts related to habitat loss as a result of recreational development and uses.
Change in the amount of human-related disturbance	No change from existing conditions and trends.	Decrease in disturbance related to restrictions of vehicle access, designated parking areas, and decommissioning unimproved roads. Short-term increase in disturbances during construction of facilities in localized areas where recreational use would increase in association with the development of new facilities. Impacts would be minimal because of the limited amount of proposed development, current condition of areas proposed for development, and availability of similar habitat in the surrounding area.	New recreation facility sites would be constructed under Alternative C, resulting in more short- and long-term wildlife disturbances. Impacts would be minimal because of the current condition of areas proposed for development and the availability of similar habitat in the surrounding area.
Change in the quality and quantity of fish spawning and recruitment habitat	Ongoing negative impacts associated with unfettered shoreline access around Red Fleet Reservoir.	Minimal positive impact associated with designating Natural Areas, revegetating disturbed areas, restricting vehicle access to sensitive areas.	Minimal positive impact associated with revegetating disturbed areas and restricting vehicle access to sensitive areas. Negative impact associated with continued unfettered shoreline access, as well as developing new recreational facilities.
Change in the amount of angling pressure	No change from existing conditions. However, a future increase in visitation would continue to increase fishing pressure.	Slight positive impact associated with access restrictions to the Inflow, North Beach, and South Side areas.	Negative impact associated with developing new recreational facilities with more boat launching and recreational capacity.
Change in the threat of aquatic invasive species infestation	No change from existing conditions. However, a risk is always present.	Slight positive to no impact with restrictions on access to the Inflow, North Beach, and South Side areas. However, the risk remains with boat launching.	Negative impact associated with developing new recreational facilities and boat launching areas allowing for greater potential for infestation.

Table 2-3. (Cont.)

IMPACT INDICATOR	ALTERNATIVE A: NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE B: RESOURCE CONSERVATION EMPHASIS	ALTERNATIVE C: RECREATION DEVELOPMENT EMPHASIS
Change in the quantity and quality of habitat for special status species	No change from existing conditions and trends.	Minimal impacts to the quantity and quality of habitat related to facility upgrades and improvements. Enhancement of habitat through designation of Natural Areas and development of a Habitat Management Plan.	Minimal impacts of habitat loss due to new developed recreation facilities; site-specific environmental analysis required. Enhancement of habitat through designation of Natural Areas and development of a Habitat Management Plan.
Change in the level of human-related disturbance for special status species	No change from existing conditions and trends.	Short-term increase in disturbance during improvements to recreational facilities in localized areas. Long-term decrease in disturbance due to decommissioning of unimproved roads and Natural Area designations.	Some localized increase in disturbance with recreation facility improvement and new facility development; site-specific environmental analysis required. Long-term decrease in disturbance due to decommissioning of unimproved roads and Natural Area designations.
Change in the integrity of cultural resource sites	Potential impacts to integrity of surficial and subsurface cultural resources unchanged.	Potential slight increased impact to the integrity of surficial and subsurface cultural resources.	Increased potential to impact the integrity of surficial and subsurface cultural resources caused by increased development.
Change in the condition of paleontological resource localities	Potential impacts to condition of surficial and subsurface paleontological resources.	Potential impacts to condition of surficial and subsurface paleontological resources.	Increased potential to impact the condition of surficial and subsurface paleontological resources caused by increased development.
Change in the use and quality of Indian Trust Assets (ITAs)	No projected impact to ITAs.	No projected impact to ITAs.	No projected impact to ITAs.
Land Management			
Change in the development of locatable, saleable, or leasable mineral resources	No projected impacts to energy, minerals, and other extractive resources.	No projected impacts to energy, minerals, and other extractive resources.	No projected impacts to energy, minerals, and other extractive resources.
Change in the amount of sanitation facilities	No change from existing conditions.	Addition of a vault toilet at the Lookout Point trailhead on the east side of the reservoir.	Increase in the number of vault toilets and possible expansion of existing septic systems.

Table 2-4. Summary of Resource Management Plan (RMP) Goals by Alternative.

RED FLEET RESERVOIR RMP GOALS	ALTERNATIVE A: NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE B: RESOURCE CONSERVATION EMPHASIS	ALTERNATIVE C: RECREATION DEVELOPMENT EMPHASIS
Goal Category A: Partnerships			
Goal A1: Support Existing Agreements and Contracts and Encourage New Partnerships that Improve Management Practices for Red Fleet Reservoir's Associated Lands and Resources (Issue A1)	⊙	●	●
Goal Category B: Water Resources			
Goal B1: Protect Water Quality in Red Fleet Reservoir (Issue B1)	⊙	●	⊙
Goal Category C: Recreational and Visual Resources			
Goal C1: Increase Visitation and Revenue by Improving Existing Recreational Facilities, Expanding and Enhancing Recreation Opportunities, and Providing Access to Regional Recreation Resources (Issue C1)	○	⊙	●
Goal C2: Provide for Safe, Quality Recreation Opportunities that Minimize Conflicts (Issue C1)	○	⊙	●
Goal C3: Protect and Manage Visual Resources (Issue C2)	●	●	●
Goal Category D: Natural and Cultural Resources			
Goal D1: Protect and Enhance the Quality of the Fishery and Fishing Opportunities (Issues D1 and D2)	⊙	●	●
Goal D2: Protect and Enhance Native Vegetation and Wildlife Habitat (Issues D3 and D4)	⊙	●	⊙
Goal D3: Determine Occurrence of Special Status Species and Identify Important Habitat Areas (Issue D4)	⊙	●	⊙
Goal D4: Control Erosion (Issue D5)	⊙	●	⊙
Goal D5: Protect and Manage Paleontological Resources (Issue D6)	●	●	⊙
Goal D6: Protect and Manage Cultural Resources (Issue D7)	●	●	⊙
Goal Category E: Land Management			
Goal E1: Provide Appropriate and Safe Access to Public Use Areas (Issues E1 and E4)	⊙	⊙	●
Goal E2: Address Fencing and Trespass Issues (Issue E2)	●	●	●
Goal E3: Manage Mineral Development (Issue E3)	●	●	●

Legend: ● Fulfills goal; ⊙ Partially fulfills goal; ○ Does not fulfill goal.

The No Action Alternative would be least effective at fulfilling the RMP goals, particularly goals related to expanding and enhancing recreation opportunities (Goal C1) and providing quality recreation opportunities that minimize conflicts (Goal C2). While existing recreation facilities could be redesigned or rehabilitated under the No Action Alternative, there would not be opportunities to provide expanded facilities at the location of the existing State Park facilities, to develop additional recreation sites, improve shoreline fishing access, or to work with other entities to develop and improve connectivity to motorized and nonmotorized trails beyond the Study Area.

Under Alternative B, Reclamation would not allow additional recreation facility site developments and would designate the majority of lands surrounding the reservoir as Natural Area. Additionally, under Alternative B, Reclamation would work cooperatively with partner entities in developing a Fishery Management Plan, Habitat Management Plan, and Integrated Pest Management Plan. Consequently, this alternative best fulfills RMP goals related to protecting natural and cultural resources (Goal Category D). Alternative B partially fulfills goals related to recreation facilities (Goal C1) and recreation opportunity (Goal C2). This is because Reclamation and its partners would work toward the objectives of redesigning or rehabilitating existing facilities and making improvements to shoreline access and hiking trails within the Study Area.

Under Alternative C, Reclamation would work with partners toward the goals of not only improving existing recreation facilities but also adding new recreation facility sites at Red Fleet Reservoir. Therefore, this alternative would best fulfill Goals C1 and C2, as well as Goal E1. However, as a result of increasing recreation development, fewer lands surrounding the reservoir would be designated as Natural Area. Sensitive resources would still be avoided and Reclamation would still work cooperatively with partner entities in developing a Fishery Management Plan, Habitat Management Plan, and Integrated Pest Management Plan. Consequently, Alternative C would partially fulfill Category D goals related to protecting natural resources (Goals D2, D3, D4, and D5).

Under any of the RMP alternatives (A, B, or C) Reclamation would continue to have responsibility for protecting and managing visual, paleontological, and cultural resources (Goals C3, D5, and D6) and for addressing fencing and trespass issues and managing mineral development (Goals E2 and E3). Therefore, these goals would reasonably be fulfilled regardless of the RMP alternative selected. Because Alternative C would be expected to increase the geographical extent and frequency of recreational activity on Study Area lands; however, it would have greater potential to have effects on cultural and paleontological resources. Thus, Alternative C was rated as partially fulfilling these goals (Goals D5 and D6).

Preferred Alternative

Based on public comments, input from the Planning Work Group, and internal deliberations, Reclamation has identified Alternative C as the Preferred Alternative.

Alternatives Considered and Eliminated from Detailed Study

No other potential RMP alternatives were suggested or developed; however, there were some suggested additions to Alternative C that were not adopted as components of the alternative. These suggestions included development of an overnight camping site at the North Beach Area, and development of day-use areas on the East Side and South Side areas. These suggestions were determined to exceed existing needs within the time frame of the RMP. Such facilities would also extend the need for additional patrolling, fee collection, and maintenance by State Parks to an unreasonably large and dispersed area.

Another suggestion was to allow OHV open riding at an area north of Red Fleet Dam, within the East Side Area. Reclamation and UWCD have indicated that this area is too close to the Reservoir and would present water quality and erosion concerns. It is also too remote of an area for State Parks to reasonably provide the law enforcement presence that would be needed with increased use.

Mitigation Measures

The following measures will be implemented to avoid potential adverse effects to resources within the Study Area. Unless otherwise noted, each of these mitigation measures will be implemented for any of the three alternatives. For reference purposes, these mitigation measures are also stated in Appendix C: Environmental Commitments.

Water Resources

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

As a component of a Habitat Management Plan to be developed under Alternatives 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 because 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 require a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan for all construction operations that disturb 1.0 acre or more; 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 and 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 need to 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 because 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 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.