

# **APPENDIX C: ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS**

## **APPENDIX C: ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS**

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

### **WATER RESOURCES**

Potential impacts to water quality associated with RMP action alternatives would 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. Stormwater BMPs would reduce or eliminate stormwater-generated sediment and potentially eliminate untreated stormwater discharge into the reservoir. Vault toilets address impacts from untreated human waste entering the reservoir, and animal-proof garbage receptacles also reduce the amount of trash potentially entering the water body.

Riparian vegetation restoration and bank stabilization, as well as maintaining existing riparian buffers, would provide protection from soil erosion, reduce sediment loads to the reservoir or tributary streams, and filter pollutants transported by stormwater runoff. Locating trails outside of the riparian and marsh vegetation present between the full pool and low reservoir elevations would provide a buffer to help mitigate any runoff impacts from the proposed trail.

Under any alternative, Reclamation will continue existing interagency partnerships that maintain Steinaker Reservoir water quality and will participate in any future interagency coordination and partnership efforts associated with the Ashley Creek watershed.

### **RECREATION AND VISUAL RESOURCES**

In site specific design, visual resource impacts can be reduced or eliminated by using facility 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 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**

Shoreline erosion is currently occurring along the reservoir full pool elevation throughout much of the Study Area, except in those areas where shoreline stabilization has been provided (e.g., along the dam and Highway 191). Appropriate erosion control and shoreline stabilization measures will be installed where appropriate to prevent further erosion in high-use areas.

To mitigate soil erosion impacts, Reclamation would implement erosion control measures for individual projects under Alternatives B and C. Implementation of proper erosion controls would mitigate impacts caused by construction activities and stormwater runoff. Mitigation measures would include requiring a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan for all construction operations that disturb 1.0 or more acres; this would require use of published BMPs for controlling erosion and sedimentation from stormwater runoff and would 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. In site-specific designs, disturbed areas would be replanted with appropriate native species. Should it be found that any site specific projects would involve filling riparian-wetland communities, 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 would minimize or avoid impacts to wildlife are recommended below. These measures would be integrated into development of a Habitat Management Plan if either action alternative is selected for the RMP:

- At appropriate locations, signs would 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 would be protected in accordance with existing federal regulations. During the development and expansion of recreation facilities, construction would, to the extent possible, avoid disturbance (both directly and indirectly) of wetland and riparian areas.

- Wildlife management would 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 would 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 (wildlife and rare plants) would be completed as a component of site-specific environmental analysis prior to implementing any recreation facility developments.

## **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 the 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**

Under Alternative C, potential mitigation measures for saleable mineral resources will include designing and developing the proposed Developed Day Use Recreation Area in the Honda Hills Management Area such that the saleable mineral resources continue to be accessible.

## **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 will be followed during the possible expansion of the existing septic systems in the Developed Overnight Recreation Area. Additionally, providing adequate refuse collection frequency at all refuse collection locations in the Study Area will help reduce the potential of groundwater, soil, or surface water contamination.