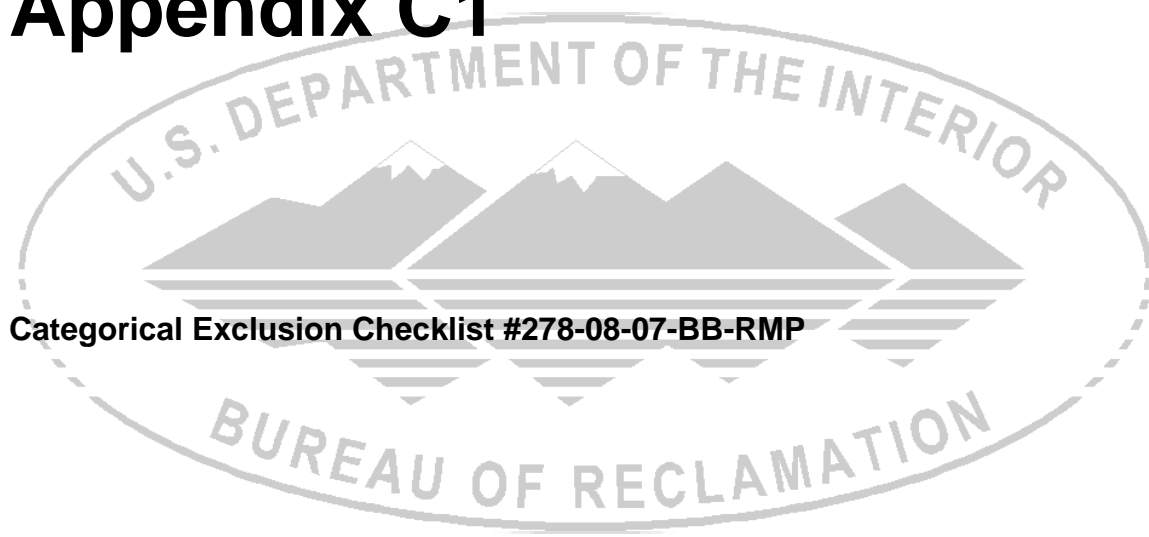


Appendix C1



Categorical Exclusion Checklist #278-08-07-BB-RMP

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION CHECKLIST

PROJECT: Box Butte Reservoir Resource Management Plan

278-08-07-BB-RMP

DATE: July, 2008

NATURE OF ACTION: The Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) Nebraska-Kansas Area Office, in cooperation with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (Commission), has developed the Box Butte Reservoir Resource Management Plan (RMP) in accordance with Public Law 102-575, Title 28, Section 2805 (106 Stat. 4690), Reclamation Recreation Management Act of October 30, 1992; which provides Reclamation with the authority to prepare an RMP. This RMP serves as a guideline for land use and resource management decisions to ensure public resources are used according to recognized standards, while considering the needs and desires of the public. This RMP replaces the 1985 Reservoir Area Management Plan. The purpose of the RMP is to establish a 10-year plan detailing the administration and management for the conservation, protection, enhancement, development, and use of resources at Box Butte Reservoir. The scope of this RMP includes the 2,260 acres acquired by Reclamation at Box Butte Reservoir. Specific land uses for Box Butte Reservoir are recreation, fish and wildlife, and operations. Discussed in the RMP are the following topics; land use, recreation management, fish and wildlife administration and management, agency responsibilities, and reservoir operations.

EXCLUSION CATEGORY. 516 DM 6 Appendix 9.4. *C. Project Implementation Activities #4*
Approval of Land Management Plans where implementation will only result in minor construction activities and resultant increased operation and maintenance activities.

EVALUATION OF EXTRADORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (516 DM 2 Appendix 2):

Extraordinary Circumstances Exist For This Action Which May:

1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety No Uncertain Yes
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands, wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national Monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas No Uncertain Yes
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102 (2)(E)]. No Uncertain Yes
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks. No Uncertain Yes
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. No Uncertain Yes
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects. No Uncertain Yes
7. Have a significant impact on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office. No Uncertain Yes

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION CHECKLIST (CONTINUED)

8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed on the list of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts designated Critical Habitat for these species. No X Uncertain ___ Yes___
9. Violate a Federal law, or State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. No X Uncertain ___ Yes___
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898). No X Uncertain ___ Yes___
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly Adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007). No X Uncertain ___ Yes___
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112). No X Uncertain ___ Yes___

INDIAN TRUST ASSETS:

This action will affect Indian Trust assets (ITAs). (To be completed by the ITA Coordinator): _____ (initials) No X Uncertain ___ Yes___

NEPA ACTION RECOMMENDED:

Categorical Exclusion Environmental Assessment Environmental Impact Statement

NATURE OF ACTION (CONTINUED)

The primary management actions anticipated under the Box Butte Reservoir RMP include:

- Surveys – Reclamation has contracted and completed legal property boundary surveys and has monumented all lands at Box Butte Reservoir that were acquired to elevation 4012’.
- Fencing – Reclamation has constructed new boundary fence, in areas where no boundary fence existed in the past.
- Access – Reclamation acquired a perpetual easement on private lands for the construction of a new all season public access road and parking lots.
- ADA – Reclamation and the Commission have entered into a cooperative agreement to provide funding for facility upgrades to meet accessibility standards.
- Land Use Authorizations – Reclamation has negotiated Land use Authorizations with adjacent landowners to document and temporarily allow use of Reclamation lands.

According to Lease Agreement #14-06-700-3816-A, the Commission is the administering agency for the recreation facilities and activities at Box Butte State Recreation Area and for the wildlife management activities at the Box Butte Wildlife Management Area. This agreement was executed May 1, 1995 (amended May 16, 1997, September 10, 1997, and February 5, 1998, June 8, 2001, November 22, 2002, September 24, 2003) and is in effect for a term of 25 years. The Commission has completed the 2008 Box Butte Wildlife Area Management Plan, and the 1995 Box Butte Reservoir Lake Management Plan. These plans address specific management activities at Box Butte Reservoir and are included in Appendix A of the RMP.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION CHECKLIST (CONTINUED)

ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRUST ASSET COMMITMENTS, EXPLANATION AND/OR COMMENTS:

This CEC addresses only the completion of the RMP document. Additional NEPA and NHPA compliance documentation will be completed as site specific actions consistent with the plan are proposed for implementation.

PREPARER'S NAME AND TITLE: Jay Leasure, Natural Resource Specialist

APPROVED: _____
Area Manager

DATE: _____