

Angostura Resource Management Plan

The Resource Management Plan for Angostura Reservoir Continues!!

For those of you new to our mailing list, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), in cooperation with the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP), has begun work on a Resource Management Plan (RMP) for Angostura Reservoir. The RMP will serve as the blueprint for the future use, management and development for Angostura Reservoir.

Newsletters are being sent to keep you informed on the progress of the RMP. This is the second newsletter for the Angostura RMP. It provides the current status and comments received on the RMP to this point.

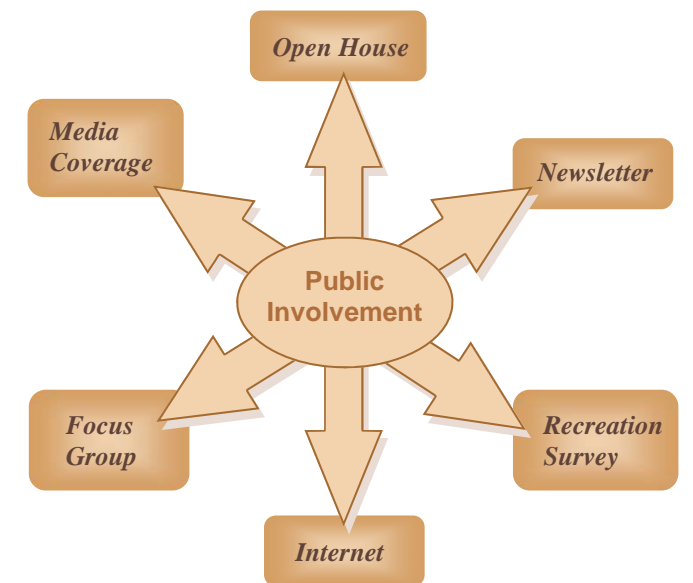
How To Stay Involved

Public involvement is one of the most important aspects of planning during the RMP development process.



We encourage everyone to stay involved by providing comments and suggestions at anytime during the RMP planning process. Reclamation will continue to provide periodic updates on the RMP and information on upcoming events.

For your convenience, a comment form is provided in this newsletter.



Send Reclamation your comments.

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U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

- A full service restaurant (preferably at Breakers), better summer eating facilities as part of the contract, an expanded marina at the North Boat launch are to spread out usage from the Main Marina, a water park addition to the day use area called Swim Beach.
- Build a "Trading Post", restaurant and Laundromat where Breakers is right now.
- Add more rental cabins.

7. General Land Management

- Manage uplands for wildlife production better.
- Should note any lands not needed for project purposes. Also, address mineral activities.
- We hope things don't change too much.
- With good management and advice, we can all win.
- Would like to see Management Area 15 managed more for wildlife, campers in area are leaving trash, concerned about septic system in new housing development, and 4 wheelers running around area.
- Address a location of utility corridor and communication sites where and where not to locate them (new Federal Law).
- Have GF&P, or Forest Service, or Reclamation acquire private land adjacent to the west side of Angostura. This land could then connect State, Reclamation, and Forest Service land and make that whole area open to the public.

Vegetation Management

- Plan for and control salt cedar invasion.
- Noxious weed management should be key aspect when considering RMP. Salt Cedar surrounds Angostura and should be a priority to remove to prevent further infestations down stream or the Cheyenne River.
- I would like to see live stock kept from the lake.

8. Fisheries and Wildlife Management

- GF&P should keep planting fish every year (walleye, crappies, perch, small mouth bass, large mouth bass).
- Where are the perch, walleye, and crappie? Would like to see more fish. Cascade Creek - keep stocking.
- An overabundance of mule deer have wreaked havoc with native plants and trees. The GF&P sad shelter belt of trees and shrubs east of Cheyenne Campground is a prime example.

While we received comments regarding water levels, irrigation, water rates, water conservation, and sedimentation, comments in these categories were not included because these topics are outside the scope of the RMP.

Open Houses

Informal open houses were held in three locations in April, 2007. Visitors were able to view displays and other information and talk to Reclamation and SDGFP staff about the reservoir and the RMP. These meetings generated many good comments from the public. These comments are included in the comment summary section of this newsletter. Attendance at the meetings was as follows:

- April 9, 2007 Rapid City- 70 people
- April 10, 2007 Hot Springs- 37 people
- April 12, 2007 Chadron, Nebraska- 27 people

RMP Steps Update

- Public scoping began in April, 2007. Open houses were held to gather comments.
- The first public scoping period ended June 1, 2007.
- A focus group has been formed and met in November, 2007.
- RMP team members have summarized comments and will work with the focus group to continue to gather information to be used in the development and analysis of the goals and alternatives.
- Develop goals and alternatives.
- Prepare draft RMP and Environmental Assessment (EA) for public comment.
- Distribute newsletter number three and hold second open house to gather comments on the draft RMP and EA.
- Distribute newsletter number four which will present the final RMP and a tentative schedule for putting the RMP into action.

Angostura Continues to Improve!!

Reclamation and SDGFP recognize the need to continue to provide and maintain recreation, fisheries, and wildlife management activities prior to the completion of the RMP. With that in mind, the following is a list of projects that will be completed between now and the spring of 2009. Some of these were planned prior to the start of the RMP and some are a result of the immediate need to provide access and improvements.

Winter 2007/2008

- Low Water Ramp – Horsehead Boat Ramp
- Replace Comfort Station Floor Surfacing – Cheyenne Campground (CG), Hat Creek CG
- Replace Water Heater Systems – Cascade CG Comfort Stations
- Host Volunteer Site – Cascade CG
- Replace Dock Bumpers

Spring 2008

- Bike Trail Benches and Interpretive Signing
- Single Vault Toilet – Trout Point
- Camping Cabin – Cheyenne CG
- Two Universal Accessible Camp Sites – Cascade CG, Horsehead CG
- Fish Cleaning Station Repairs – South and North Units
- Amphitheater – Cascade CG
- Low Water Ramp - Pelican Point Boat Ramp
- Drip Irrigation System South Unit

Fall 2008

- Pave Bike Trail
- Universal Accessible Boat Ramp Dock
- Electrical Pedestal Upgrade to 50 Amp – Cascade CG, Horsehead CG, and Hat Creek CG
- Sewer System Study – Throughout Angostura Recreation Area
- Continue Boundary Fencing Projects



Thank You For Your Comments

We have gathered and summarized all of your responses to our request for comments. We received a total of 69 written or oral responses! Each response has been separated into individual comments and grouped into general issue categories, with corresponding subcategories. The comments are grouped and listed on the pages that follow:

1. Boating Facilities

Boat Slips/Docs

- Low water boat slips and docks.
- Temporary courtesy docks for loading and unloading.
- Build boat slips in Hat Creek and Shep's Canyon.
- Dig out high point of land underneath boat slips at the Marina.
- We shouldn't have to pay full price, we have paid for boat slips and have not been able to use them the last 5 years.
- Installation of private licensed boat docks.

Boat Ramps

- Need accessible boat ramp in Shep's Canyon. Have not had ramp access year round for nearly five years. Low water levels have provided the opportunity to expand and dredge this boat ramp. It's too far a drive to the east side of lake. Fixing boat ramp would help as a future fee area.
- Would like a ramp on the west side of the lake. There are two potential locations for a low-water boat ramp, Pelican Point and Shep's Canyon.
- Move the boat ramp at Horse Head to the south.
- Extend the ramp at the Marina.
- All boat ramps should be extended and fixed. Deep water boat ramps or lifts are essential.
- Make boat ramp at the primitive camping area useable.
- Add more ramps.
- A boat ramp at Pelican Point is ideal as water level launching is concerned, but has negatives; area is not protected from wind, anyone, particularly senior citizens and handicapped veterans, could be at safety risk if their boat is moving in harsh winds, area is not conducive for any boat docks or slips.
- Make boat ramps and docks wheel chair accessible.
- Improve ramps with wind protection.
- Please consider a third boat launch besides the North and Marina boat launch.
- No boat ramp wanted in Management Area 15.

- Raise the red and green buoy lights approximately 4 inches. Navigational beacon for North Boat Ramp along ridge.
- Need to flag/mark islands by dam-they are a hazard, lots of rocks that could kill someone.
- Two islands near dam should be marked via navigational buoys, so the recreational user group does not impact these areas.
- Our main concern is that the lake remains at a suitable depth for boating. Last year we broke 3 of our boat motor props due to the low water. Cost \$95.00 per prop.
- There have been a significant number of large motor boats in excess of 500 horse power that speed around the water at over 70 mph. They even race each other at times, primarily using the channel area towards the South Entrance. The wakes they produce are extremely hazardous to other boats. I have had a number of occasions when the waves produced by these boats crash over the deck of my pontoon. Young riders of watercraft are also a concern that should be addressed. There should be some type of education opportunity for riders to learn proper operation.
- Post and enforce no wake zones.
- Better enforcement of motorized watercraft regulations would also help those of us who sail.
- Should start restricting the size of water crafts allowed on the water. The reservoir doesn't seem big enough to handle large, fast boats with the increased number of boats in recent years and low water levels.
- Make some areas a no wake zone where it is necessary, by beaches and boat ramps.
- Personal water craft will have to have a designated area and speed boats will have to have some restrictions.
- There is a safety issue with having one usable boat ramp (North shore) during storms when boaters are at extreme risk of injury.

6. Concession

- We would like to see a re-worked main marina area with a boat ramp providing access during even the lowest possible water level.
- Would like to see a hard point breakwater, lights at marina and at breakwater, and no wake signs. Slip rental rates have steadily gone up - they have a 5% increase every year. See litter at slip area - who is responsible for cleanup? Put Mooring buoys by Cheyenne Campground/Marina. Install a navigational beacon at North Trailer area.
- A store providing expanded offerings would be beneficial and an additional revenue source.
- The Game, Fish & Parks have established a non-regulated monopoly in the form of the current concessionaire. This has resulted in an atmosphere of continued price increases without the benefit of competition. In 2002 I rented my slip for \$479.00. If I chose to rent the same slip in 2007 it will cost me \$569.00. This is without any changes or improvements in services or facilities. I would like to see the GF&P break up the current monopoly and parcel the various elements to other competitive interests. I would like to see GF&P consider development of an additional marina to provide direct competition to the existing marina concessionaire.

- Keep it primitive on west side. Allow for expansion of public campgrounds only on east side.
- The west side of the lake is a jewel for the park system, and to improve it for campsites with power and water is a mistake. We want to continue to work with the State regarding food plots and game habitat as we have been doing for the last 12 years. We feel farming efforts has a twofold benefit in that it is providing game habitat for hunters plus it relieves a lot of depredation off our alfalfa and grain fields. We would like to see extensive signage regarding the designated uses of the area. We deal with trespassers, mainly during hunting season, so help with that would be appreciated.

Wildlife Area

- Acquire access and develop campgrounds and picnic areas in Management Unit 15 (Pig Beach area).
- I would like to see, the whole south side of the lake stay closed to development allowing wildlife, birds, and snakes to inhabit the banks and ridges of the area - now that the shoreline/area can be access by boat so it would not be totally off limits. Shoreline fishing could be done by walking in.

5. Public Health and Safety

- Build sewer lines so no septic systems are in use along the lake.
- All of us are aware of areas around the Angostura facility that have less than substandard septic tanks and drain fields that need to be removed and to specification tanks and fields installed.
- Waste disposal via septic systems and the quality of maintenance of these systems must be investigated.
- The Angostura Resort (Concessionaire) should be required to maintain in proper working order the sewage boat pump out station (At Common Cents Marina). Due to low water levels boats with restroom facilities on board capable of being pumped out should be an environmental concern that raw sewage does not end up in the lake. The contractor has not maintained this facility for several years and is totally unconcerned. Even with a fee for use, this system should be provided.
- There is a concern that the water quality in Angostura Reservoir is on the decline due to the drought conditions and the discharge of water from Wyoming Methane Wells.
- The water at lower levels appears to be cloudier with a greater amount of sediments in it. A problem that is exaggerated by the number of boats on the weekends.

Safety

- We are always concerned about the fire danger that exists within the primitive camping area, and there have been many occasions when we can see bonfires 10 feet high from campers on the lake.
- Activate and have on-line the weather station that is located at the Common Cents store.
- Ensure proper navigation and harbor lighting is in place and working.
- When lake is low (below 50% capacity), more buoys should be added where there is danger areas to inform people with boats of the bad areas (stumps, rocks, sunken islands).

2. Access

Shoreline Access

- Do not add any more access to the lake. Need to keep Angostura intact and clean.
- Need access to beaches that are only accessible by boat.
- Do not block direct access to lake from Long's Trailer area. We put money into park passes and local economy.
- Keep Island Estates paved paths open. Allow maintenance of the paths and beach area. If public is allowed access, keep gates locked at night.
- Lake access with a four wheeler or golf cart having speed limits and horse play laws.
- Shoreline access is limited. Not many places elder folks can get to the water, especially during low water. How about handicap access.
- Need more access for shoreline fishing. Need universal accessible fishing pier.

Trails

- A non-motorized trail from Hwy 71 east to Bailey's Lakeside Use area for day use and access of 640 acres of BLM land.
- A very well planned agreement between Reclamation, GF&P, and public to develop carefully placed walkways/paths providing beach access to prevent erosion and damage to beach areas.
- Continue bike/walking path around reservoir, with nature hike alternatives and spurs.
- Horse trails and bike/jogging paths that circumference the lake for recreation that does not directly harm Angostura's contents or its shorelines.

Roads

- Build a road along the lake between the north and south ends.
- Paving Shep's Canyon Road will help solve the dust problem, and the best solution for other road problems.
- Pave road to Water's Edge development. Also, put road in from north side of lake to Water's Edge development, or have ferry access to same.

3. Trailer and Cabin Area

- Extend the contracts to the trailer owners and reach an understanding to further allow owners to improve the area. We would like to be able to upgrade our trailers, pull out some of those old ones and put in new ones.
- Keep the trailers at Summer Sun and Horsehead.
- Keep cabin areas at Angostura as they bring many people to the lake and enhance the goal of public use and recreation. Cabins bring revenue to GF&P via lease and entry fee collection and county property tax assessments.

- Define policies in the Cabin Area for upgrade and building guidelines that are acceptable for the enjoyment of recreation, sensitive to the environment, but encouraging investment to build, maintain and upgrade the properties. This would include common picnic grounds, playgrounds, and boat launch facilities available to cabin owners and the public.
- Need grading or paving of roads to eliminate numerous potholes, erosion and dust in Cabin Area.
- Sell leased cabin sites to lessees on a first rights basis to develop revenue for other needs.
- Keep Horsehead and South trailer areas.
- Both trailer and cabin areas could be better used with more revenue to the Parks Department.
- Long term leases would allow/encourage renters to keep up their location and not fear we will be moved and terminated.
- Would like courtesy docks in trailer area.
- There should be consistent and enforceable standards which should include appearance, upkeep, trash, landscape and septic/sewer standards. Long term commitment to private interest will retain some accommodations including addressing waste water, upkeep and conformity and will probably require lots unable to meet standards to be with either changed or eliminated.
- Do not allow shoreline encroachment of “private” cabins such as direct shoreline access, development, private docks or ramps. Maintain public ownership of entire shore.
- Beach maintenance (In Cabin Area) to eliminate weeds and tree growth that make the beach difficult to access.

4. General Recreation Management

- RMP should not focus upon expanding areas such as camping. Plans should only include the management of silt and accessible boat ramps since this drought is expected to continue.
- Highest priorities should be continued irrigation and recreational activities emphasizing fishing, boating, and camping. These should be much more important than trailers and cabins on the land immediately surrounding the lake.
- Thought needs to be given by all involved as to how we want this area to look down the road 10, 20, 50, 100 years out. Development around the reservoir will continue into the future. The more logical and better laid out, yet sensible and useable that development is, the better for everyone, in particular future generations.
- Due to the development of the Heartland Expressway the access to Angostura Reservoir has greatly improved and as a result, more people will certainly be using the area.
- We are glad that you are considering a new plan for managing Angostura as seems that it is truly needed. Due to the growing public demand on this recreational area, we request that the RMP ensure that future public recreation and access opportunities are enhanced at Angostura.
- Improve existing developments but severely limit new developments into new areas.
- I would like to see a convenience store.

- I feel it would be best to improve some existing campgrounds and to expand them around to the south and west sides due to the fact it is hard to get reservations for most families.
- Existing management needs your dollars/funding, not expansion of facilities they can't take care of.

Developed Fee Area

- Investigating the opportunity for purchase or land swap for land adjacent to Management Units 5, 6, 7, and 8 to top of bluffs could provide considerable additional land space for use.
- Remove a substantial portion, if not all, of the existing tire breakwater and replace it with a hard point permanent breakwater.
- Improvements in facilities we would like to see are showers at the marina restrooms and more modern restrooms on the north dock.
- Expansion of Cascade across the road and Cheyenne into Management Unit 1 (North Entrance area) could provide easy access to more spaces with minimal cost of infrastructure.
- If campground space is needed, better access and upgraded facilities on the northwest shore would help those that enjoy camping there and provide additional spots.
- I would like to have the “first come first served” in part of the campgrounds.
- It would be nice to have access to fuel on the lake (South Boat Ramp) once water comes up again.
- Restrooms are locked too early - need to use at night.

Lakeside Use Areas

- At Pelican Point, a primitive recreation area, there should be a limited number of campsites to be used by the public. There is one outhouse for all the many campers at a single time (can be over 100 campers).
- Cheyenne River Lakesides Use Area should be kept as a non-fee area. More affordable for groups who don't have big camper/trailers.
- Need more bathroom facilities in the Cheyenne Lake Side Use Area.
- We feel the future use of the west side of the lake should remain as an area for hunting and short-term camping.
- Put in some trash containers at the Shep's Canyon side cove area to keep people from littering.
- The growth pattern on the west side of Angostura should direct the budgeting to create a fee area with appropriate facilities for the public. Postponing improvements with the continuing growth pattern on the west side of Angostura is not in the best interest of the public. If the old cottonwood trees were removed, a great place for the new area could be created. If a fee area is considered, it has to start at some point. I feel that most of the public would be happy and patient if they knew that a new ramp was part of a plan in the next couple of years. The monies to be directed at the south end could be used on the north. Monies directed at fencing along the Cheyenne River area were no public can get to, could be redirected to the new fee area for a couple of years. I feel that the fee area should be increased to include the east side of the Island Estates, and down to the first 90 degree corner of the east side road.