

Appendix A

Environmental Commitments

In addition to the management actions described as part of the alternatives, the following mitigation actions are considered to be commitments being made by the Bureau of Reclamation.

Air Quality

- Standard measures would be required of contractors to reduce dust from construction operations
- Burning materials would be permitted only when atmospheric conditions are considered favorable by appropriate state or local air pollution or fire authorities.
- Where open burning is permitted, burn piles would be constructed to reduce smoke.

Soil and Water

- Several procedures would be used as necessary to prevent and minimize erosion and siltation during construction and during the period needed to reestablish permanent vegetative cover on disturbed sites. Clearing schedules would be arranged to minimize the practical exposure of soils. Final erosion control and site restoration measures would be initiated as soon as an area is no longer needed for construction, stockpiling, or access.
- Short-term effects such as increased land or shoreline erosion in or near recreation sites would be minimized by adhering to Best Management Practices (BMPs) during construction. These BMPs would help minimize erosion and prevent sediment-laden runoff from leaving the construction site. Strict adherence to BMPs would control and reduce adverse construction- and operation-related soil effects. Fill placement and sediment removal operations below the reservoir high water line would occur when the reservoir pool is at its lowest elevation.
- Water quality would be protected by avoiding construction activities during wet periods of the year and through the use of proper construction techniques and procedures to keep silt out of Banks Lake and other drainages.
- Standard mitigation measures would be required of contractors during facility construction operations. Construction specifications would require construction activities to be performed by methods that prevent the entrance or accidental spillage of

contaminants and other objectionable pollutants into surface waters. Excavated materials would not be stockpiled or deposited near or on shorelines, streambanks, wetlands, or other watercourse perimeters where they could be washed away by high water or storm runoff, or encroach upon any sensitive areas.

- Construction activities below the reservoir high water line (i.e., boat ramp construction or improvements) would be scheduled when the reservoir is at its lowest elevation (typically from November through January) to minimize turbidity caused by lake sediment disturbances. Construction specifications would also require riprap and other materials used for shoreline erosion control or jetties to be free of contaminants and not contribute to reservoir turbidity.
- The potential for petroleum product spills and water quality contamination due to the two boat fueling stations proposed under Alternative D would be minimized by adhering to AST safety program requirements. Safety requirements for SPRC's AST program include: providing overfill and fuel level indicators; protection from auto impact and excessive solar insolation; adequate support structure with retainment to guard against bank slippage; providing mechanisms to guard against back-siphonage or spillage as a result of damage or dispenser switch malfunction; and locking mechanisms to all caps, openings and ports to prevent unauthorized use.
- Only EPA registered herbicides authorized for water application and with known low toxicities to fish and wildlife would be authorized for use. Herbicides that are highly toxic to people, fish or wildlife would be prohibited. This would apply to the Eurasian water milfoil control program proposed near boat ramps, courtesy docks, and public swimming areas as well as to noxious weed control program. Such a provision would be required in all new or renewed land use agreements issued by Reclamation, the SPRC or WDFW.

Vegetation

- The use of native species or non-invasive species would be used whenever possible for revegetation efforts to maximize the potential to restore revegetated areas to high quality habitat beneficial to wildlife.
- In conjunction with the 100-acre land disposal proposed near Coulee City, the wetland area near the substation and a sufficient buffer (a minimum 100-foot buffer around the wetland perimeter) would be retained under Reclamation jurisdiction. The centrally located 0.3-acre wetland would be protected and preserved under Washington State

law, the Grant County Comprehensive Plan, and the Growth Management Act which require local jurisdictions to designate and adopt development regulations that protect wetlands.

- Construction specifications would require contractors to preserve the natural landscape and prevent any unnecessary destruction, scarring, or defacing of the natural surroundings in the work vicinity. All trees, shrubs and other vegetation would be preserved and protected from construction operations and equipment except where clearing operations are required for permanent structures, approved roads, or excavation operations. All maintenance yards, field offices, and staging areas would be arranged to preserve trees and vegetation to the maximum practicable extent, and all disturbed areas would be reclaimed.
- Critical environmental areas (i.e., stream corridors, wetlands, riparian areas, Ute ladies'-tresses orchid habitat, and steep slopes) would not be used for construction equipment or material storage or stockpiling; construction staging or maintenance; or temporary access roads. Damage to critical area vegetation would be strictly prohibited or limited only to areas required for construction activities when no other alternative exists.
- Upon the completion of construction, any land disturbed but not permanently occupied by new facilities would be graded to provide proper drainage and blend with the natural contours of the land, covered with topsoil stripped from construction areas, and revegetated with plants native to the area and beneficial to wildlife. Native plantings would be required outside the developed footprints established for the SRSP campground and golf course expansion projects.
- The final recommended composition of plant species, seeding rates, and planting dates would be determined in consultation with the WDFW and FWS (where applicable or appropriate). The species to be used in site restoration and revegetation would be matched for soil drainage, climate, shading, resistance to erosion (slope of site), and vegetation management goals. Disturbed wetlands and riparian areas would be revegetated with wetland and riparian species.
- Uplands would be revegetated to the native vegetative community appropriate for the site's soil type, topographic position, and elevation. Trees and shrubs appropriate for site conditions and surrounding vegetation types also would be included in the reclamation plant list for uplands.

Fisheries

- During project final layout and design, site-specific erosion and sediment control measures would be identified and incorporated into the project's construction specifications, reducing sediment delivery to the lake. Construction sites would be revegetated and riparian areas near shorelines would be planted with trees and shrubs to provide shade and habitat for fish and near-shore wildlife. Projects built below the reservoir high water line would be timed for construction to occur when the reservoir pool is at its lowest elevation to avoid damage to fish spawning and rearing habitat caused by the release of sediment into the lake or increases in turbidity.
- Short-term effects such as increased shoreline erosion in or near construction sites would be minimized by adhering to Best Management Practices (BMPs) during project construction. During final layout and site design, measures to minimize asphalt surface runoff and the potential for pollutants (e.g., oil) entering the lake would also be identified and incorporated into the design.
- Herbicides used for the control of Eurasian water milfoil and purple loosestrife would be selected for their low toxicity to aquatic wildlife and fish.
- Additional studies would be conducted to determine fishing tournament impacts at Banks Lake. Based on study findings, the tournament venue would be modified or curtailed as necessary.

Wildlife

- In conjunction with the 100-acre land disposal proposed near Coulee City, the wetland area near the substation and a sufficient buffer (a minimum of 100-feet would be required around the wetland perimeter) would be retained under Reclamation jurisdiction. The centrally located 0.3-acre wetland would be protected and preserved under Washington State law and the Grant County Comprehensive Plan which specifically require the protection of wetlands and their ecological values.
- Standards would be developed for determining grazing management changes, monitoring protocols, and schedules.
- A wildfire management plan would be developed

- Reclamation would require that WDFW and SPRC develop and implement specific wildlife management plans for the areas under their jurisdiction.
- Reclamation would coordinate closely with the SPRC and BLM to ensure potential impacts to Northrup Canyon resources from RMP implementation are either avoided or minimized.
- Actions, such as the construction of recreation facilities, would receive additional review and evaluation from the FWS.
- Any new construction would be scheduled to avoid impacts during critical wildlife periods (e.g., wintering, nesting and/or breeding, hibernation, or juvenile dispersal periods).
- Areas of native plant cover would not be used as staging areas for construction activities. All areas disturbed by construction activities would be reseeded using a native seed mixture beneficial to wildlife.

ITAs

- Reclamation will work with the affected Tribal governments if specific ITAs are identified.

Noise

- During project-specific construction activities, contractors would be required to comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations concerning the prevention and control of noise emissions. Contractors would be required to use reasonable available methods and devices to control, prevent, and reduce noise emissions including no construction restriction from dusk to dawn in consideration of the sensitivity of state park campground users and/or nearby residents.