
CHAPTER 4 MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS FOR NATURAL RESOURCES

4.1 OVERVIEW

The Natural Resource chapter balances the management agencies' and the public's long-term vision for the Banks Lake area by recognizing the need to protect the natural environment while supporting the overall recreational interests of the visitors.

The Desired Condition for Banks Lake, referred to as Alternative B in the EA, was chosen to address the long-term needs of the public and Banks Lake management agencies by supporting the natural, cultural, and recreational resources of the area. Specific management goals outlined in the RMP were developed in response to concerns identified during the EA scoping process and based on information from the EA resource inventory. The following chapter summarizes the existing *natural* resource management situation, lists the *natural* resource goals for Banks Lake under the Desired Condition, and describes the management actions needed to reach those goals.

4.2 EXISTING NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SITUATION

As previously mentioned, the SPRC and the WDFW manage the Banks Lake area with oversight by Reclamation's Ephrata, Washington, field office. These agencies manage land use, recreation, and fish and wildlife resources under existing federal and state laws, policies and land use agreements including those defined in Chapter 3 of this plan, Agency Coordination and Standards. Currently, the SPRC and WDFW are conducting the following natural resource management activities in the Banks Lake area:

Wildlife Habitat

- 1) Managing vegetation and habitat to maintain wildlife populations at current or enhanced levels.

Fisheries

- 1) Current management actions for fisheries have not been identified.

Water Quality

- 1) Monitoring water quality.

Water Level Fluctuation/Reservoir Operations

- 1) In conjunction with facility maintenance drawdown operations every 10 to 15 years, water milfoil control will occur when problems associated with dense milfoil mats become prominent. Operations concerning the reservoir are not in the scope of the RMP.

4.3 DESIRED CONDITION

The following management actions were developed to achieve the Desired Condition for *Natural* resources in the Banks Lake area and are meant as additions to existing resource management activities. Tables 4.1 through 4.4 summarize the *Natural* resource goals and management actions necessary to implement them (see Figure 4.3-1 through Figure 4.3-4 Natural Resources).

Table 4.1
Natural Resource Management Goals and Actions for Wildlife Habitat

RMP Wildlife Habitat Goals	Management Actions
<p>Protect and enhance federal and state “Special Status Species” listed as threatened, endangered, sensitive, or of special concern.</p>	<p>*Conduct Surveys - Before initiating development actions, conduct site-specific surveys focusing on endangered, threatened, and sensitive plants, wildlife, and their habitats.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordinate with the FWS, Washington Natural Heritage Program, WDNR, and BLM to exchange information on the status of local rare plant distributions (particularly in areas north and northeast of Castle Rock and north of Fordair). <p>Locate Bald Eagle Nests - Identify and protect any bald eagle nest sites (and potential nesting areas). Prepare stipulations for existing nest sites and establish buffer to protect birds.</p> <p>*Develop Peregrine Falcon Management Plan - Develop a Peregrine Falcon Management Plan for the area east of Million Dollar Mile day/use boat launch area and the southwest agricultural lease area.</p> <p>Modify Steamboat Rock Bald Eagle Management Plan - Modify the 1991 Bald Eagle Territory Management Plan (between WDFW, SPRC, and Reclamation) to reflect the changes resulting from this RMP.</p>

*Management actions that are included in response to existing laws, regulatory requirements, management agreements, or Reclamation policy.

Table 4.1
Natural Resource Management Goals and Actions for Wildlife Habitat

RMP Wildlife Habitat Goals	Management Actions
<p>Restore, conserve, protect, and enhance native plant communities that are an important component of wildlife habitat (such as riparian and wetland areas, shrub-steppe communities, and cliffs, caves, and talus slopes).</p>	<p>*Seek Funding - Seek funding to survey and accurately delineate the vegetation/habitat types found throughout the Banks Lake management area.</p> <p>*Control Weeds - Emphasize weed control efforts in areas with high wildlife habitat value and potential for native species reestablishment (see Grazing Management - Weed Control).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allow limited use of spot herbicide applications to kill small patches of Eurasian water milfoil to maintain open water for water fowl resting and feeding. - Allow pesticide application to kill patches of purple loostrike that are colonizing wetlands and reducing/eliminating wildlife habitat. Prior to application, evaluate the effects of pesticides on leopard frogs (SSC). <p>Encourage Supplemental Seeding and Planting Efforts - Plant native species beneficial to wildlife; mixtures, densities, and location will be determined by the WDFW (see Grazing Management - Weed Control).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Replant native dune species to promote dune stabilization where necessary. - Support private initiatives and volunteer efforts to plant riparian vegetation (e.g. conifers, deciduous trees, and shrubs) along exposed shoreline where erosion is considered slight or moderate but not heavy. - Plant additional roost trees for bald eagles where suitable tree species area lacking. - Retain and renew the existing 360-acre agricultural lease (north of Dry Falls campground on the boundary of Douglas and Grant County, in the area southwest of Devils Punchbowl, and on the land southwest of Electric City) to provide cover and food for wildlife. <p>Remediate areas - Remediate areas damaged by land use activities like vehicular access or dispersed camping.</p> <p>Modify Grazing Leases - Modify grazing leases to benefit wildlife in areas where deemed necessary (see Grazing Management - Grazing).</p> <p><small>*Management actions that are included in response to existing laws, regulatory requirements, management agreements, or Reclamation</small></p>

Table 4.1
Natural Resource Management Goals and Actions for Wildlife Habitat

RMP Wildlife Habitat Goals	Management Actions
<p>Maintain, protect, and enhance wildlife diversity, populations, and habitats.</p>	<p>*Enhance Fish/Wildlife Habitats - Use the best available science to enhance fish and wildlife habitats that are not in conflict with boating and public safety.</p> <p>Post Signs - Post signs to discourage recreational use on birds nesting islands from March 1 to June 30 and to discourage the use of Barker Cove, Old Devils Lake, Goose Island, and Lover’s Lane from November 1 through April 15 (see Recreation - Resource Protection and Enhancement). Post signs to discourage foot traffic and prevent further deterioration of the sand dunes and associated plant communities found in the SPRC.</p> <p>Seasonal Closures - The WDFW will determine if seasonal closures were necessary in areas where minimizing human disturbance will protect roosting/wintering bald eagles, colonial birds, and waterfowl nesting areas (see Recreation - Resource Protection and Enhancement).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Depending on the species present, seasonally close dispersed campsites located in “high value” riparian/wetland areas in Barker Flats from November 1 to June 30. - Seasonally close Osborn Bay E road (from March 1 to May 29) but prohibit dispersed camping in this area year-round to reduce disturbance to wintering/nesting bald eagles. - Post signs to discourage foot traffic and prevent further deterioration of the sand dunes and associated plant communities found in the SPRC. <p>Terminate Use - Terminate use (where necessary), in areas where remediation will not be possible without abstinence. Eliminate roads and discourage trails through wetlands, meadows, and other sensitive wildlife habitats.</p> <p>*Management actions that are included in response to existing laws, regulatory requirements, management agreements, or Reclamation policy.</p>

Table 4.1
Natural Resource Management Goals and Actions for Wildlife Habitat

RMP Wildlife Habitat Goals	Management Actions
<p>Determine the success of the management action, reevaluate how well the action met the goal, determine the success of management action.</p>	<p>Monitor and Evaluate - Physically monitor the initiative; if necessary, adjust the specific methods and techniques employed when project is not meeting the RMP goal. Follow up with spatial monitoring using GIS to manage the natural resource database and assist in management decisions by conducting a GIS update, across the management area, at least every 10 years. The inventory will begin with an account of all mammal and avian attributes mapped in 1998, including waterfowl, colonial nesting birds, long-eared owls, bald eagle perch and roosting trees, and threatened and endangered species locations.</p>

*Management actions that are included in response to existing laws, regulatory requirements, management agreements, or Reclamation policy.

Table 4.2
Natural Resource Management Goals and Actions for Fisheries

RMP Fishery Goals	Management Actions
Protect and enhance federal and state “Special Status Species” listed as threatened, endangered, sensitive, or of special concern.	Control Shoreline Access - Control shoreline access detrimental to wildlife habitat throughout Banks Lake management area. Traditional fishing access will be maintained, designated, and perhaps formalized with constructed trails to prevent habitat destruction.
Protect and enhance fish populations.	*Enhance Fish/Wildlife Habitats - Use the best available science to enhance fish and wildlife habitats that are not in conflict with boating and public safety. Management goals and actions for fisheries have not been identified.
Maintain a diversity of fish species and angling opportunities.	*Control Weeds - Emphasize weed control efforts in areas with high wildlife habitat value and potential for native species reestablishment (see Grazing Management - Weed Control). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allow limited use of spot herbicide applications to kill small patches of Eurasian water milfoil to maintain open water for water fowl resting and feeding.
Determine the success of the management action, reevaluate how well the action met the goal, determine the success of management action.	Monitor and Evaluate - Physically monitor the initiative; if necessary, adjust the specific methods and techniques employed when project is not meeting the RMP goal. Follow up with spatial monitoring using GIS to manage the natural resource database and assist in management decisions by conducting a GIS update, across the management area, at least every 10 years.

*Management actions that are included in response to existing laws, regulatory requirements, management agreements, or Reclamation policy.

Table 4.3
Natural Resource Management Goals and Actions for Water Quality

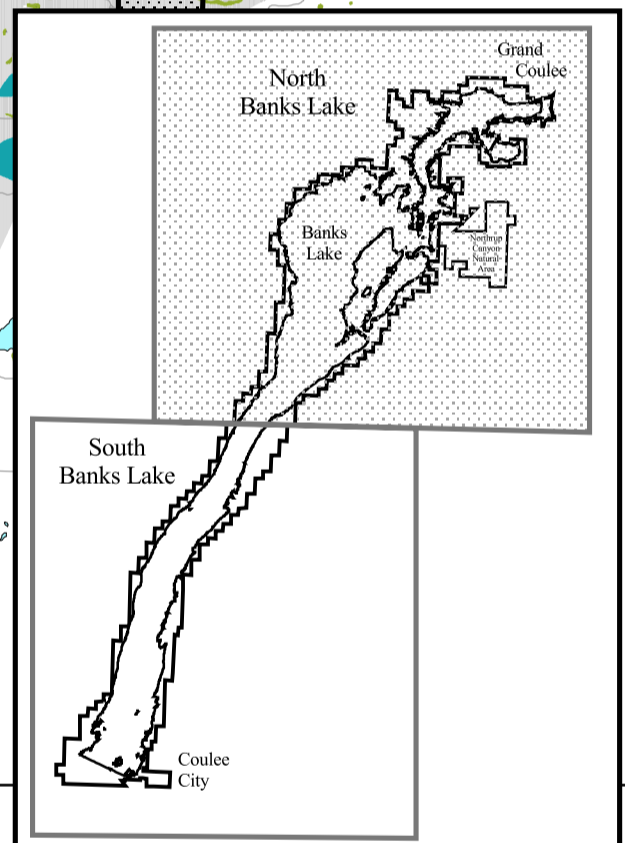
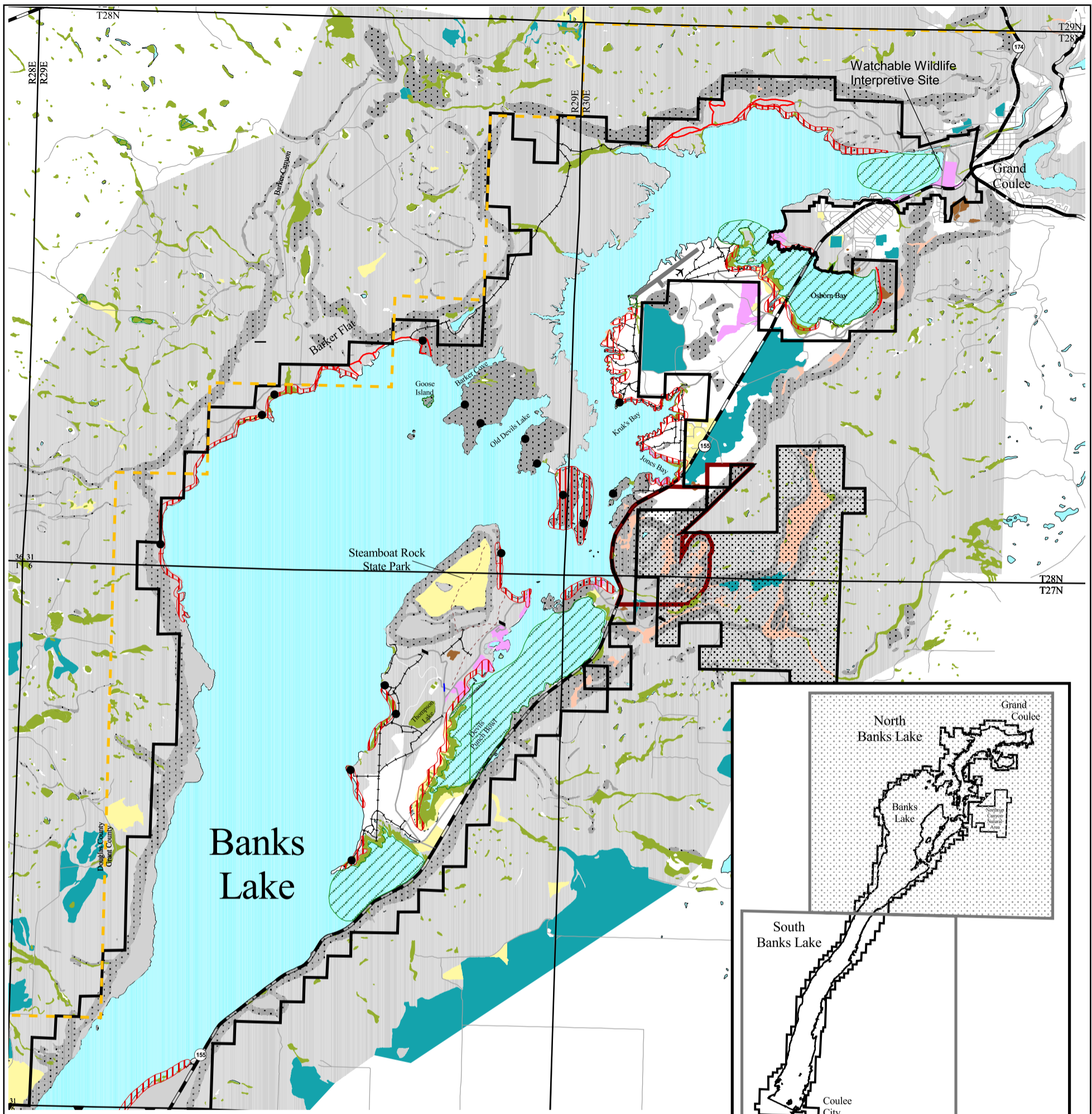
RMP Water Quality Goals	Management Actions
<p>Maintain, protect, and enhance reservoir water quality for water supply (e.g. domestic, industrial, and agricultural), fish production and consumption, recreation, and other beneficial uses.</p>	<p>*Initiate Monitoring Program - Initiate a routine reservoir water quality monitoring program and maintain a water quality database for routine water quality parameters (such as pH, alkalinity, nitrates, phosphates, etc.).</p> <p>*Prioritize Clean Water Act Actions - Plan and prioritize future Clean Water Act (CWA) actions for CBP waters. Coordinate the following actions with an Oversight Panel consisting of Reclamation, WDOE, EPA, and CBP Irrigation District representatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop appropriate water quality standards for Banks Lake. - Identify current and future water quality monitoring needs and determine which of these are appropriate for federal, state, or local implementation. - Develop water quality management plans for those waters identified in Section IV D of the CWA.
<p>Determine the success of the management action, reevaluate how well the action met the goal, determine the success of management action.</p>	<p>*Monitor and Evaluate - Conduct a semi-annual review of reservoir water quality data through an Oversight Panel, and as necessary, modify the water quality monitoring methods and data requirements. Follow up with spatial monitoring using GIS to manage the natural resource database and assist in management decisions by conducting a GIS update, across the management area, at least every 10 years.</p>

*Management actions that are included in response to existing laws, regulatory requirements, management agreements, or Reclamation policy.

Table 4.4
Natural Resource Management Goals and Actions for Water Level Fluctuation

RMP Water Level Fluctuation Goals	Management Actions
Minimize erosion along the shoreline.	<p>Conduct an Inventory - Conduct an integrated erosion inventory and control program to identify and prioritize eroded areas, unstable land forms, and areas susceptible to soil erosion and compaction.</p> <p>Implement Measures - Implement shoreline control measures with an emphasis on protecting cultural resources and public facilities in developed recreation areas. Specific erosion control measures will be site-specific basis and likely include the construction of retaining walls, the placement of rock revetments or gabions, vegetative plantings, or other measures to reduce the process of shoreline retreat (see Grazing Management - Grazing).</p>
Determine the success of the management action, reevaluate how well the action met the goal, determine the success of management action.	<p>Monitor and Evaluate - Monitor and evaluate the success of soil conservation and shoreline erosion control projects; if necessary, adjust the specific methods and techniques employed when project is not meeting the RMP goal. Follow up with spatial monitoring using GIS to manage the natural resource database and assist in management decisions by conducting a GIS update, across the management area, at least every 10 years.</p>

*Management actions that are included in response to existing laws, regulatory requirements, management agreements, or Reclamation policy.



Natural Resources With Raptor Locations North Banks Lake

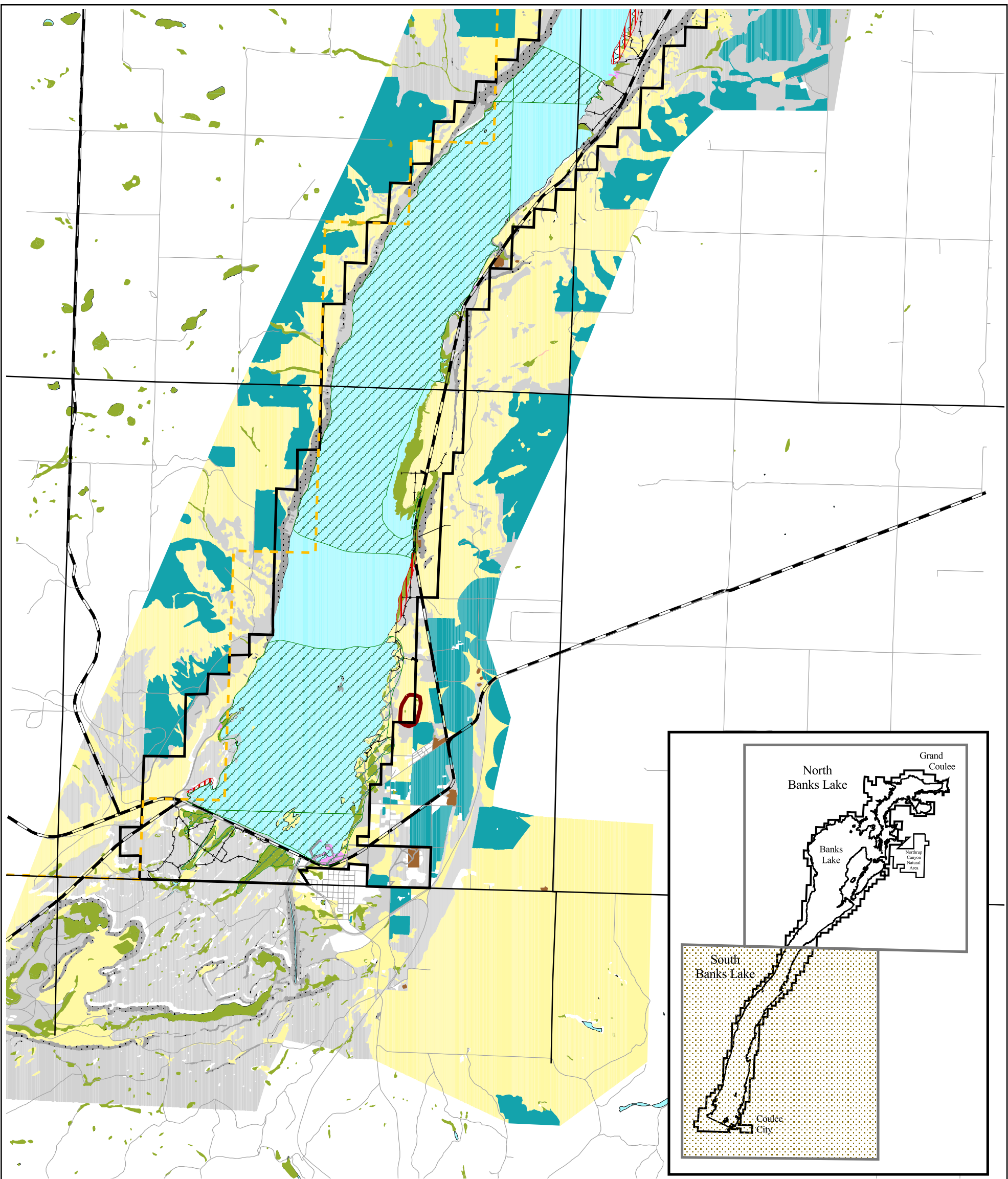


Banks Lake Resource Management Plan

- Cover Type**
- Wetland/riparian
 - Gravel/borrow pits
 - Sagebrush/Steppe
 - Grassland
 - Woodland
 - Agricultural
 - Rock
 - DRA
 - Prime Farmland
Based on Soil Survey
 - Islands
 - Lakes
 - Project Area
 - Northrup Canyon

- Bald Eagle - Regular Large Concentration
- Waterfowl Breeding Area
- Bald Eagle Perch
- County
- Township & Range
- Airstrip
- Roads**
- Highway
- Primary/Secondary Roads (Open)
- Secondary Roads (Closed)
- Seasonal Road Closure (11/1 - 4/15)
- Trails
- Gates

Natural Resources
Raptor Locations, RMP Figure 4.3-1



Cover Type

- Wetland/riparian
- Gravel/borrow pits
- Sagebrush/Steppe
- Grassland
- Woodland
- Agricultural
- Rock
- DRA
- Prime Farmland *Based on Soil Survey*
- Islands
- Lakes
- Project Area
- Northrup Canyon



Bald Eagle - Regular Large Concentration



Waterfowl Breeding Area



Bald Eagle Perch



County



Township & Range

Roads



Highway



Primary/Secondary Roads (Open)



Secondary Roads (Closed)



Seasonal Road Closure (11/1 - 4/15)



Trails



Gates

Natural Resources With Raptor Locations South Banks Lake

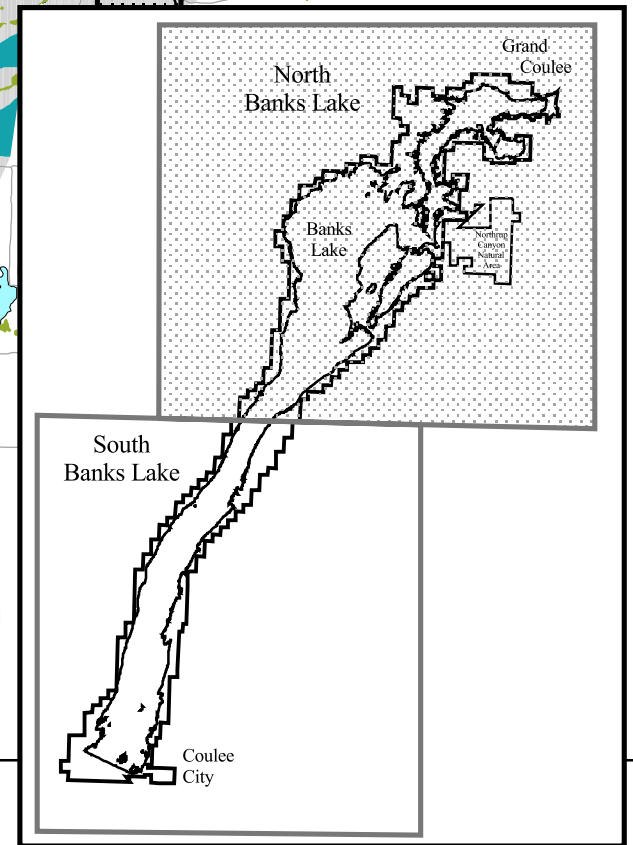
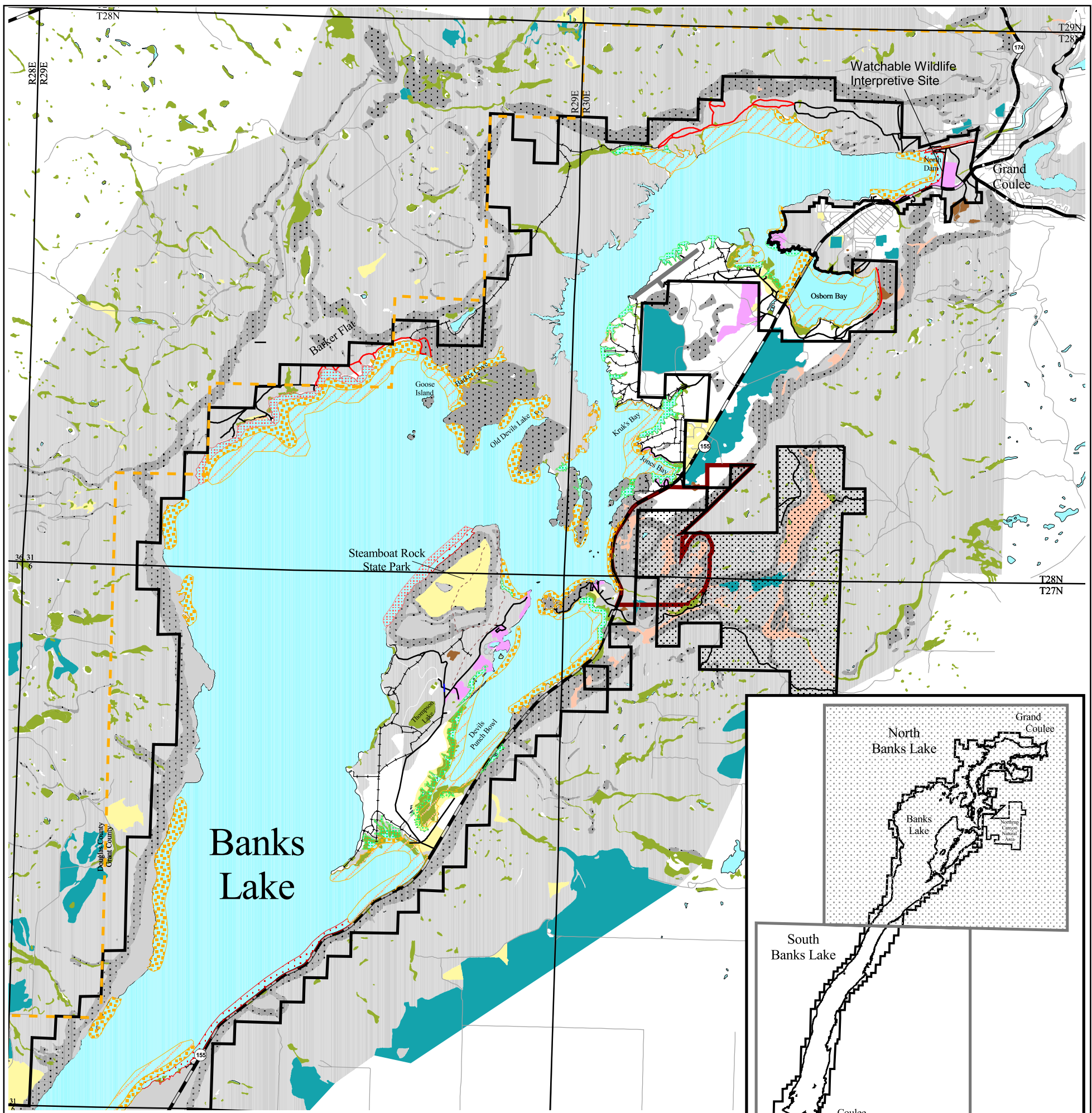


0 1 2 Miles



Banks Lake Resource Management Plan

Natural Resources Raptor Locations, RMP Figure 4.3-2



Cover Type

- Wetland/riparian
- Gravel/borrow pits
- Sagebrush/Steppe
- Grassland
- Woodland
- Agricultural
- Rock
- DRA
- Prime Farmland *Based on Soil Survey*

Fish Spawning

- Kokanee
- Kokanee Con.
- Lg. Mouth Bass
- Sm. Mouth Bass
- Sun fish, Crappi
- Walleye

Islands

- Lakes
- Project Area
- Northrup Canyon

Roads

- Highway
- Closed
- Open
- Trails
- Seasonally Closed
- Primary and Secondary Roads
- Airstrip
- County Boundaries
- Township & Range

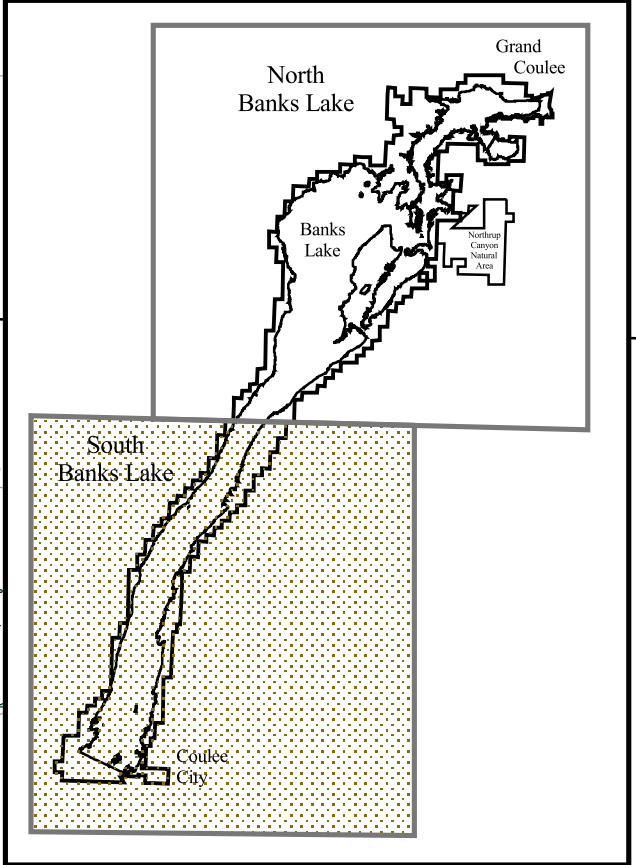
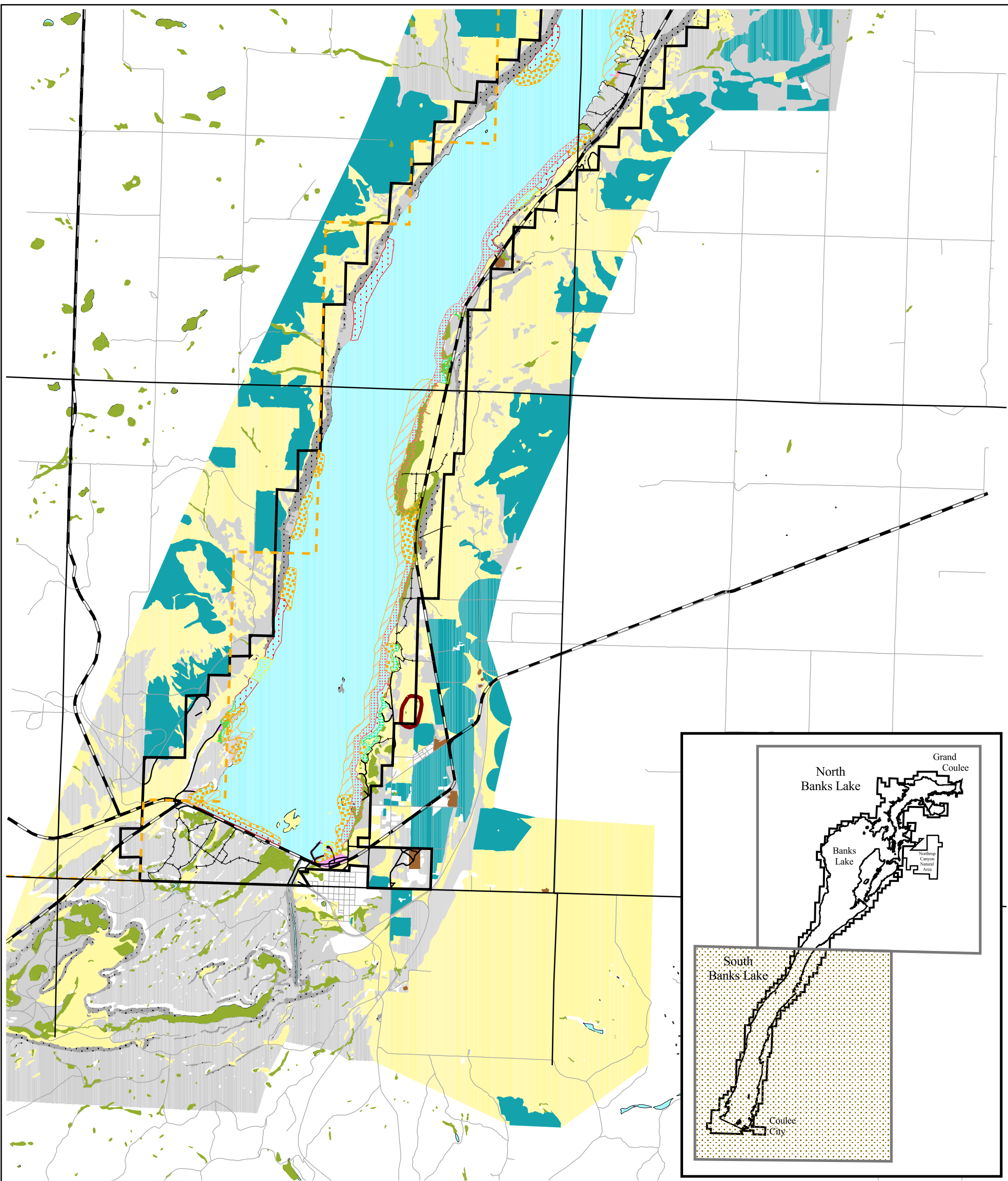
Natural Resources With Fish Spawning Areas North Banks Lake



Banks Lake Resource Management Plan



Natural Resources
Fish Spawning, RMP Figure 4.3-3



Cover Type

- Wetland/riparian
- Gravel/borrow pits
- Sagebrush/Steppe
- Grassland
- Woodland
- Agricultural
- Rock
- DRA
- Prime Farmland *Based on Soil Survey*
- Islands
- Lakes
- Project Area
- County Boundaries
- Township & Range

Fish Spawning

- Kokanee
- Kokanee Con.
- Lg. Mouth Bass
- Sm. Mouth Bass
- Sun fish, Crappi
- Walleye

Roads

- Highway
- Closed
- Open
- Trails
- Seasonally Closed
- Primary and Secondary Roads

Natural Resources With Fish Spawning Areas South Banks Lake



0 1 2 Miles



Banks Lake Resource Management Plan

Natural Resources Fish Spawning, RMP Figure 4.3-4