

CHAPTER 8 MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS FOR GRAZING MANAGEMENT

8.1 OVERVIEW

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 grazing resource management situation, lists the grazing resource goals for Banks Lake under the Desired Condition, and describes the management actions needed to reach those goals.

8.2 EXISTING GRAZING 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 WDFW is conducting the following grazing resource management activities in the Banks Lake area:

Grazing

- 1) Allow existing grazing permit renewal (BL-02, -03, and -04) by the WDFW provided the lands are grazed in a manner which maintain their productivity. Reclamation reserves the right to request WDFW termination of any permit at the end of any year if such termination is desirable to comply with other federal programs or resource needs.
- 2) Conduct annual monitoring of livestock grazing permit areas and modify permit conditions and Grazing Plans accordingly.
- 3) WDFW reserves the right to alter and change the provisions of the permit's "Grazing Plan" to include reduction in acres of pasture available and number of animal unit months authorized when such changes are required to benefit fish or wildlife management, public hunting, or other recreational uses.
- 4) WDFW reserves the right to cancel a permit in the event the area described in the permit is included in a land use plan determined to be a higher and better use.

Weed Control

- 1) Work cooperatively with the Noxious Weed Control Board of Grant County in identifying and prioritizing areas where noxious weed control is necessary.
- 2) Control Eurasian water milfoil in coordination with the Noxious Weed Control Board of Grant County, irrigation district and WDFW representatives, and other interested parties.

8.3 DESIRED CONDITION

The following management actions were developed to achieve the Desired Condition for *Grazing Management* resources in the Banks Lake area and are meant as additions to the existing resource management activities. Table 8.1 through 8.2 summarize the *Grazing Management* resource goals and management actions necessary to implement them (see Figures 8.3-1 and 8.3-2 *Grazing Management*).

Table 8.1
Grazing Resource Management Goals and Actions for Grazing

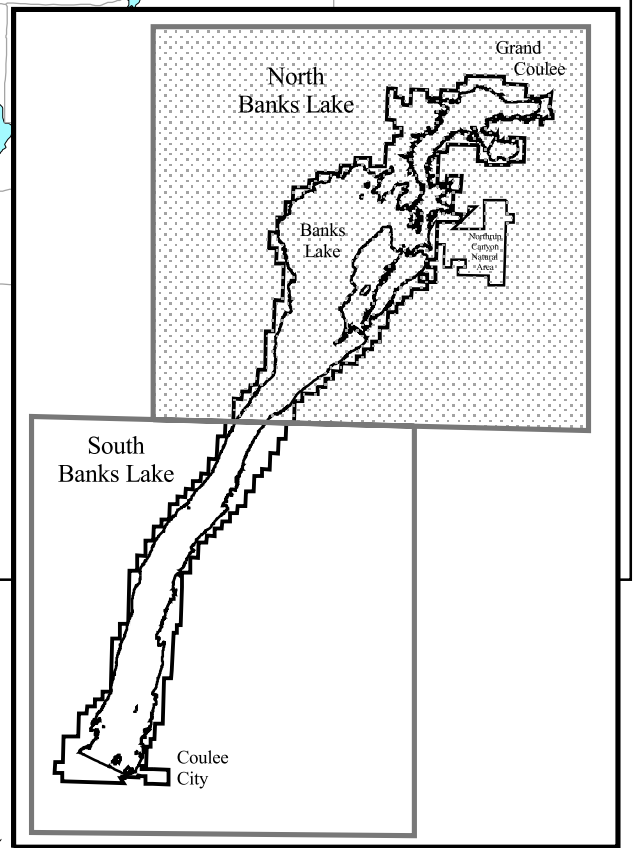
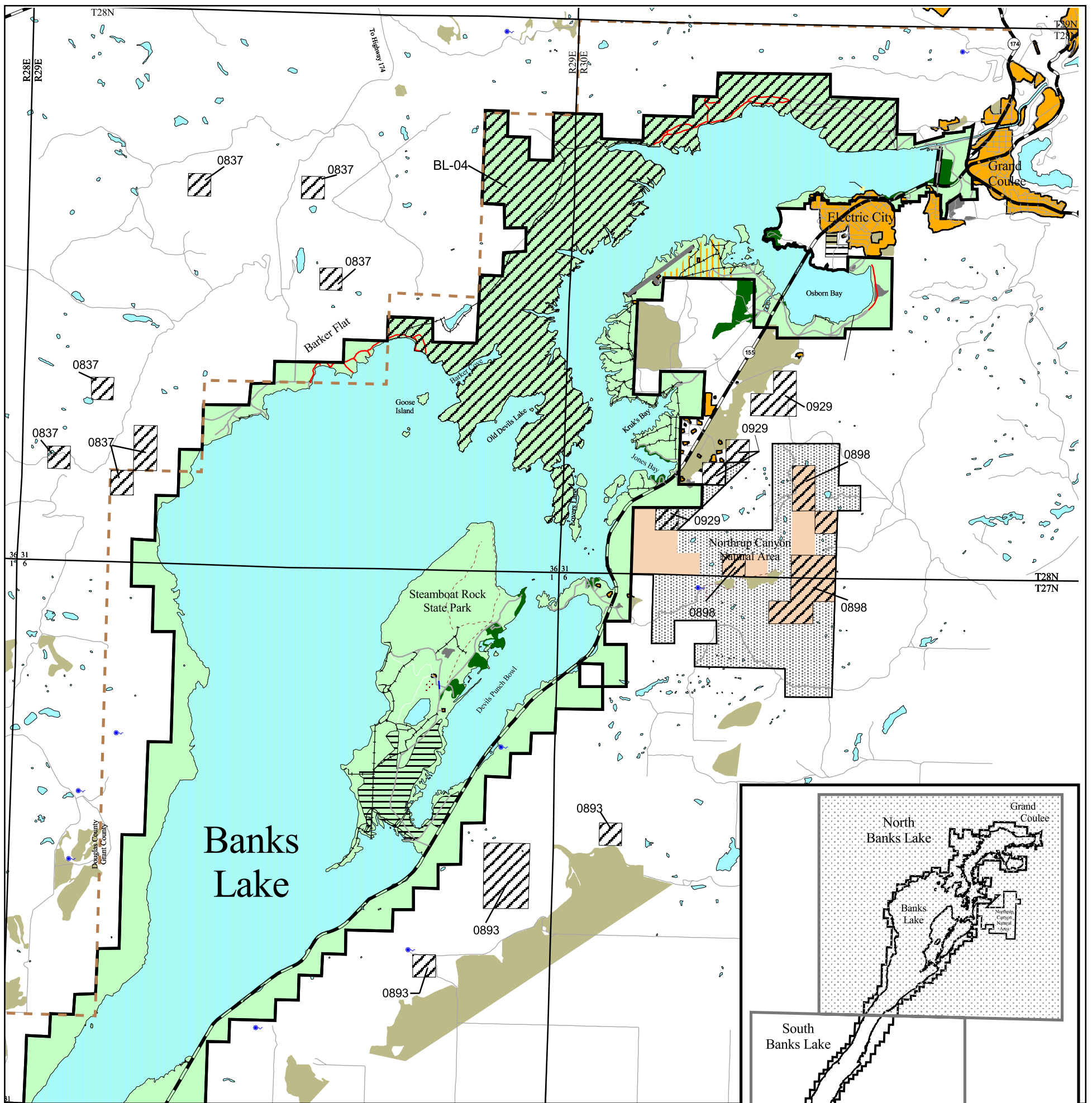
RMP Grazing Goals	Management Actions
<p>Minimize soil erosion and reservoir sedimentation to maintain or improve water quality and riparian protection.</p>	<p>Remove Livestock from Certain Areas - Install fencing along perennial streams and spring/seep areas to prevent cattle from grazing in wetland areas and along stream riparian corridors (see Natural Resources - Wildlife Habitat).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coulee, Table - Junction Lakes - Plots 7-1 and 7-2 in FWS Unit 7, North Banks Lake - Bebe Springs; cancel grazing permit BL-02 and fence to prevent trespass cattle entry to Bebe Springs (see Figure 8.3-1 through 8.3-2 Grazing Management). Grazing permit BL-03 and 04 will continue. <p>Adjust Grazing Management Practices - Adjust livestock grazing management, where necessary, to maintain or enhance habitat for special status plant and animal species. This may include development of livestock enclosures, or restricted use pastures where grazing systems cannot otherwise be adjusted to accommodate the habitat requirements of a special status species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure that animal unit month (AUM) allocations, season-of-use authorizations, and other Grazing Plan stipulations included in new or renewed permits maintain or improve native rangeland species and attain composition, density, foliar cover and vigor appropriate to site potential and wildlife management objectives. - Ensure new or renewed grazing leases stipulate a minimum of two growing seasons rest from livestock grazing following fires.
<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 - Annually monitor the effect of the livestock grazing lease program on native rangeland species, plant composition, density, foliar cover and vigor appropriate to site potential and wildlife management objectives. Modify permitted season(s)-of-use, AUM allocations, and/or pasture/rest rotations accordingly. 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 8.2
Grazing Resource Management Goals and Actions for Weed Control

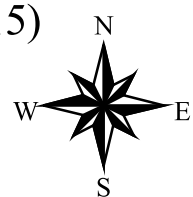
RMP Weed Control Goals	Management Actions
<p>Control or eradicate noxious weeds and ensure the safe application of herbicides so water quality is not compromised.</p>	<p>Conduct Riparian Plantings - Conduct riparian plantings in shoreline areas where erosion is not a problem or has been alleviated/controlled by structural measures and/or modifications in reservoir operations (see Natural Resources - Wildlife Habitat).</p> <p>Rehabilitate Closed Roads - Rehabilitate closed roads and other disturbed areas.</p> <p>Control Eurasian Watermilfoil - Eurasian watermilfoil control (see Natural Resources - Wildlife Habitat):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Manipulate reservoir water levels when problems associated with dense watermilfoil mats become prominent; conduct necessary water level manipulation in conjunction with facility maintenance needs (generally a 10-year cycle). - Use spot herbicide application to kill small patches affecting public boat ramps, courtesy docks, and swimming areas.
<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 - Monitor and evaluate the success of the management action; if necessary, adjust the specific methods and techniques employed when an initiative 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>

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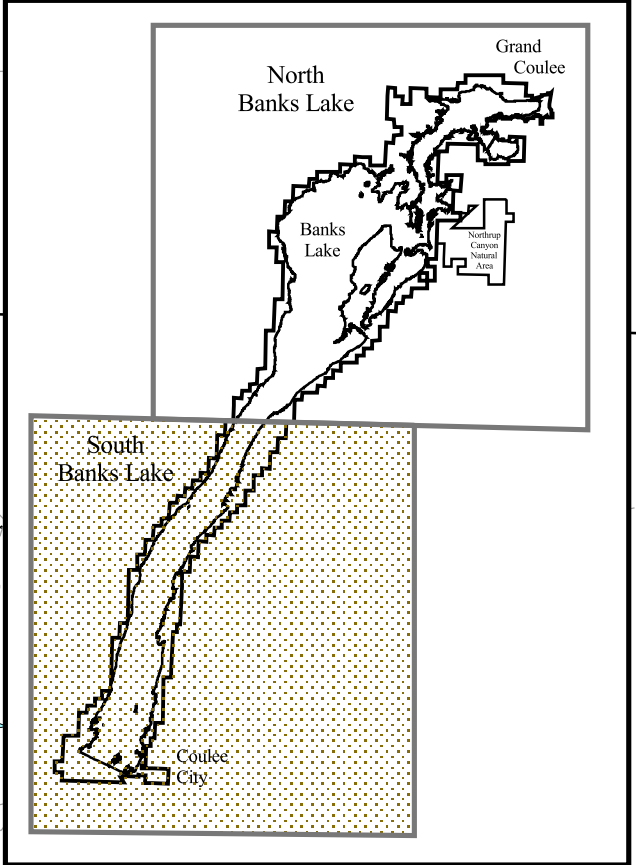
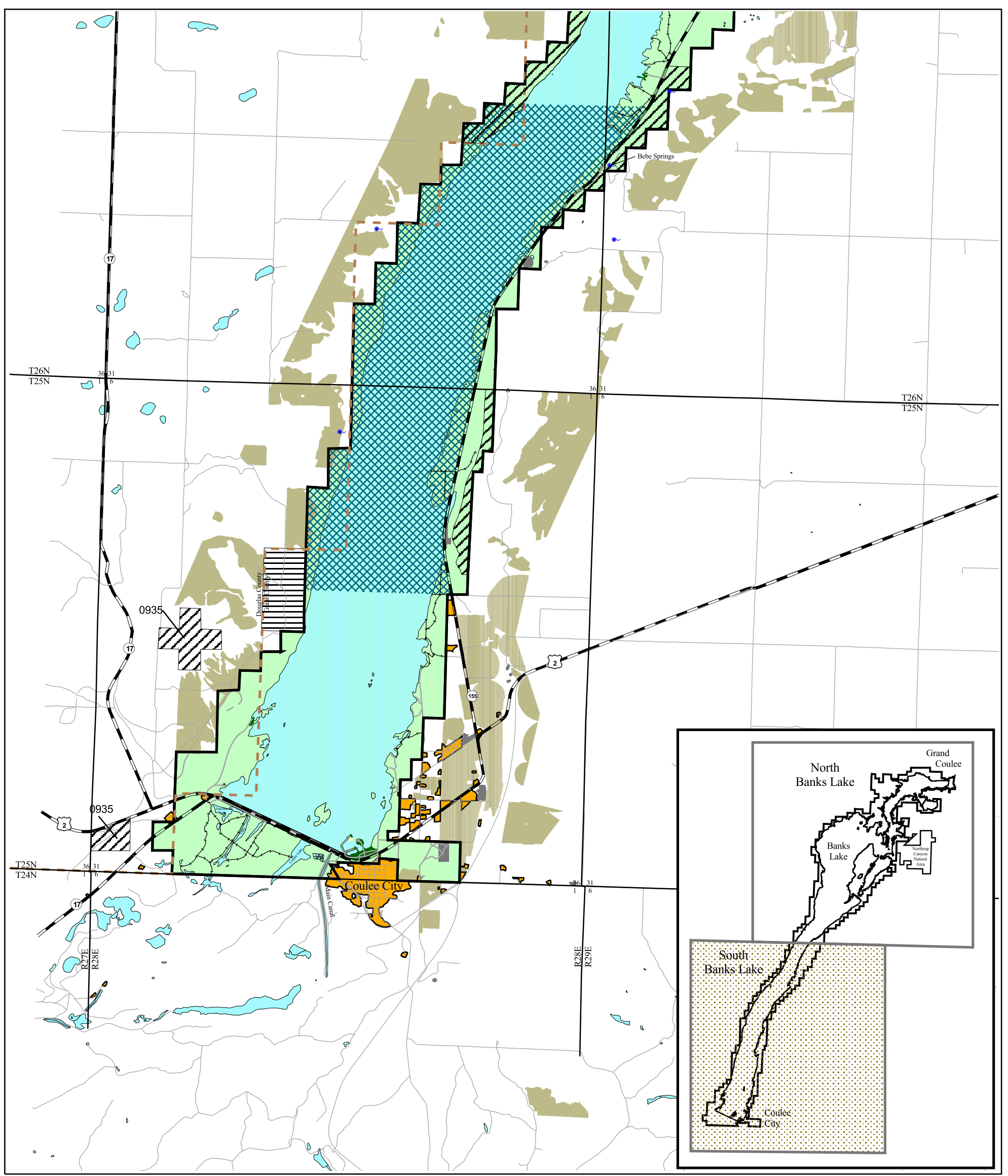
-  Grazing Leases/Permits
-  Ag Lease
-  Urban/Commercial/Residential
-  Developed Recreation Area
-  Agriculture
-  ORV Use Area
-  Fish Rearing
-  State Game Reserve
-  BLM Rec/Public Purpose Lease
-  Gravel/Material Sites
-  Sewage Lagoons
-  County Boundaries
-  Township & Range
-  Dams
-  Project Area
-  Northrup Canyon Area
-  Springs
- Roads**
-  Highway
-  Primary/Secondary Roads (Open)
-  Secondary Roads (Closed)
-  Seasonal Road Closure (11/1 - 4/15)
-  Trails
-  Airstrip

Grazing Management North Banks Lake



Banks Lake Resource Management Plan

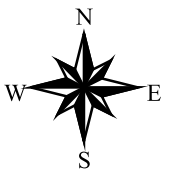
0 1 2 Miles



- Grazing Leases/Permits
- Ag Lease
- Urban/Commercial/Residential
- Developed Recreation Area
- Agriculture
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Grazing Management South Banks Lake



Banks Lake Resource Management Plan

Grazing Management
RMP
Figure 8.3-2