



Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 RMP Program and Policy

The Pacific Northwest Region of the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is conducting a multi-year program to prepare a Resource Management Plan (RMP) for each of its major facilities. This program is guided by Federal legislation and policies to ensure that Federal lands are managed to serve a wide range of public purposes. RMP preparation is specifically authorized in Title 28 of Public Law 102-575. It is also an outcome of *Assessment '87*, a Reclamation study that examined the future direction of its programs. This study established a broad framework for moving forward into the 21st century, with increased emphasis on the improved management of projects and the protection of the environment. Each RMP is intended to provide the management framework needed to balance the development, use, and protection of Reclamation lands and their associated natural, cultural, and recreational resources. It is Reclamation's blueprint for future resource management decisions to guide Reclamation, managing partners, and agency cooperators, as well as inform the public about the resource management policies and actions to be implemented over the life of the RMP.

Reclamation's resource management policy is to provide a broad level of stewardship to ensure and encourage resource protection, conservation, and multiple use, as appropriate. Management practices and principles established in this RMP, in accordance with existing Federal

laws, regulations, and policies, provide for the protection of fish, wildlife, and other natural resources; cultural resources; public health and safety; and applicable uses of Reclamation lands and water areas, public access, and outdoor recreation.

1.2 Purpose and Scope of the Plan

The Prineville RMP is being prepared in cooperation with Reclamation's non-Federal managing partner at Prineville Reservoir – the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD), the State agency responsible for managing recreation facilities on Reclamation lands at Prineville Reservoir. This entails combining Reclamation's RMP planning process with OPRD's development of a State Park Master Plan (MP). The State Park Master Plan projects needs for the next 25 years, allowing for a phased approach to recreation development. This combined Resource Management Plan and Master Plan is collectively referred to as the RMP in this document.

The Prineville RMP is a 10-year plan to provide management direction for lands and waters under Reclamation jurisdiction in the vicinity of Prineville Reservoir in Crook County, Oregon about 20 miles upstream from Prineville, Oregon. Collectively, the entire area is referred to as the "RMP Study Area" in this document.

The first RMP prepared for Prineville Reservoir was completed and approved in September 1992. The purpose of this 2003 RMP update is to address current and anticipated future issues to permit the orderly and coordinated development and management of lands and facilities and the water surface under Reclamation jurisdiction in the RMP Study Area. The updated plan will be used as the basis for directing activities on Reclamation lands and the reservoir in a way that maximizes overall public and resource benefits, and that provides guidance for managing the area during the next 10 years.

Through implementation of the RMP, Reclamation aims to balance competing and conflicting demands for differing uses and to maximize compatibility with surrounding land uses, while affording an appropriate level of resource protection and enhancement.

Over the course of implementing the RMP, it will be reviewed, reevaluated, and revised (if necessary) in cooperation with all involved agencies and Tribes to reflect changing conditions and management objectives. If a proposed modification to the RMP would significantly affect area resources or public use, opportunities for public involvement will be provided. The RMP will be fully reviewed and updated, as needed, at the end of its 10-year life.

In addition to this introductory chapter, the RMP contains the five main chapters, summarized below.

Chapter 2 summarizes the relevant natural, visual, cultural, and socioeconomic resources around the reservoir. The resource inventory describes existing conditions and lays the framework for identifying suitable resources for a variety of land and water uses, as well as sensitive resources that require special protection, enhancement, or restoration.

Chapter 3 summarizes existing land use and management. The range of existing land uses is described and existing land use designations

and agreements identified. These include: Project facilities and general operations (i.e., Bowman Dam and Prineville Reservoir); agreements, easements and permits; encroachments; public facilities, utilities and services; recreational uses; and access and transportation.

Chapter 4 provides a detailed description of the RMP planning process, including the public involvement program and input received through newsbrief response forms, meetings/workshops, hearings, and agency consultation. This chapter also describes Reclamation's efforts regarding its trust responsibilities to the affected Tribes. All of this information helped identify the range of issues and concerns, establish goals and objectives, identify the range of alternative plans for study, and modify the Preferred Alternative, which became the RMP.

Chapter 5 is the core of the RMP and provides a detailed description of the Goals, Objectives, and Management Actions associated with the plan. The Goals, Objectives, and Management Actions are organized according to the following seven themes: (1) natural resources; (2) cultural resources; (3) Indian sacred sites; (4) Indian Trust Assets; (5) paleontological resources; (6) recreation and access; and (7) land management and implementation.

Chapter 6 presents the implementation program associated with the management actions set forth in Chapter 5. This includes a description of program phasing, related actions, priorities, and responsible entities, as well as the process involved with amending and updating the plan.

1.3 Relationship to OPRD Master Plan

OPRD has been working with Reclamation to develop this combined RMP/MP for the management of Prineville Reservoir recreation lands. OPRD is required by State law to prepare and implement Master Plans for State Parks. While the RMP planning period is for the next 10 years, the OPRD Master Plan period

is for the next 25 years. This allows for an efficient approach to developing recreation sites in a phased manner with a desired future condition clearly identified. OPRD also provides recreation management, protection, administration, and maintenance on lands referred to as the State Wildlife Area (SWA), which are currently under a wildlife management agreement with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). OPRD’s lease agreement with Reclamation expires in 2037 and will be renewed if desired by both parties and if terms and conditions are mutually agreeable.

1.4 Location and Description of the RMP Study Area

As shown in Figure 1.4-1, the RMP Study Area consists of Reclamation-owned lands and adja-

cent lands surrounding Prineville Reservoir. Prineville Reservoir is the major storage reservoir facility of the Crooked River Project and has a total storage capacity of 150,216 acre-feet (af) and a water surface area of 3,030 acres at normal full pool elevation. Lands under Reclamation jurisdiction include Prineville Reservoir (3,030 acres) and adjacent lands (5,470 acres).

Reclamation lands generally consist of a strip of land around the reservoir (including 43 miles of shoreline), lands under the reservoir, and Big Bend Campground located below the dam. Most lands surrounding the Reclamation lands are managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM). A small portion of surrounding land is privately owned. OPRD is the non-Federal recreation managing partner on all

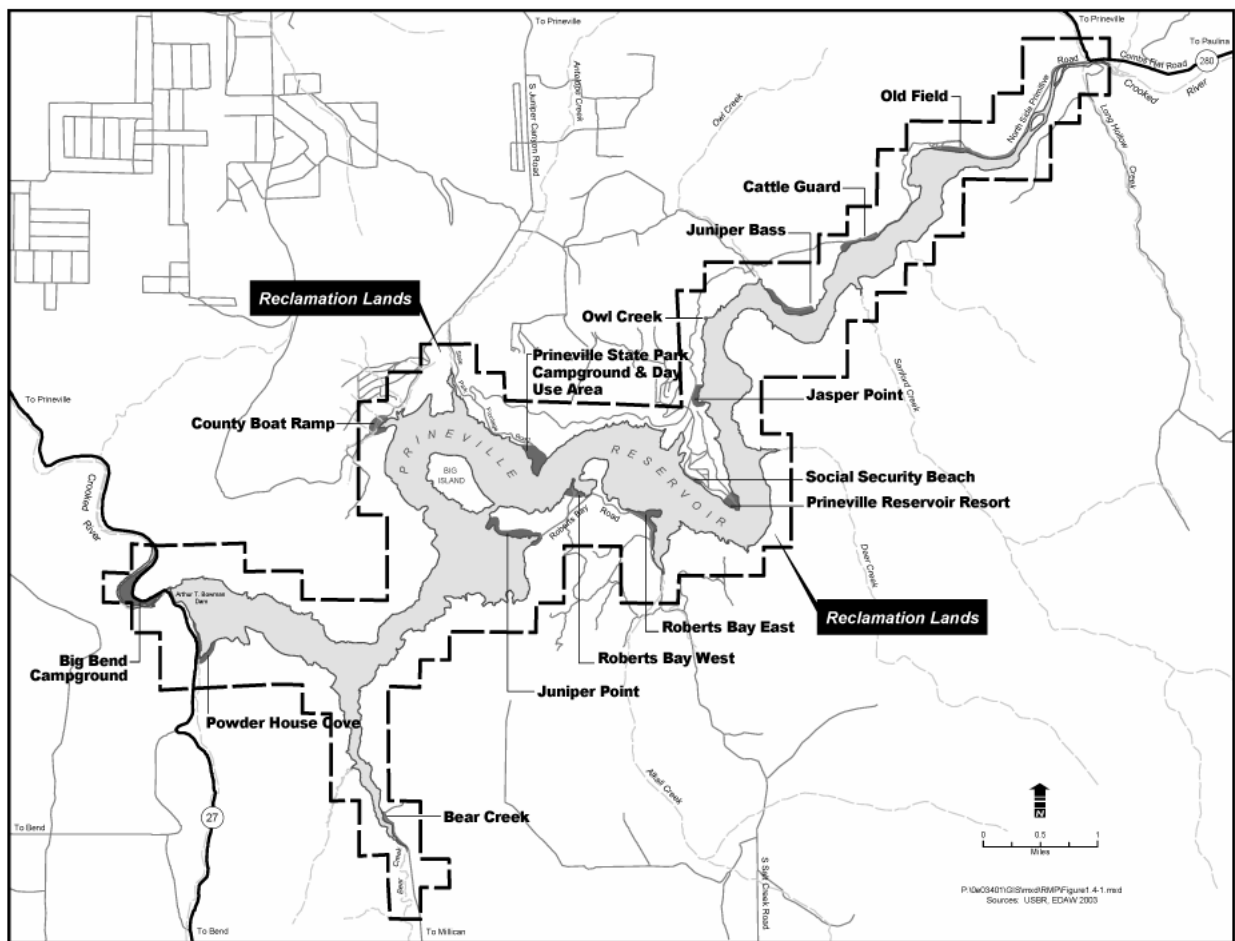


Figure 1.4-1. RMP Study Area.



Photo 1-1. A view of Prineville Reservoir, Roberts Bay, and other lands to the southeast.

lands under Reclamation jurisdiction surrounding the reservoir, with the exception of the Prineville Reservoir Resort, which is operated by a private party. In addition, ODFW manages the upper reservoir area for wildlife as the Prineville SWA. The BLM, through an inter-agency agreement with Reclamation, manages grazing, timber, and mineral rights on Reclamation lands.

The reservoir and adjacent lands have become increasingly important recreation sites since completion of the 1992 RMP. The City of Prineville is the primary gateway to the reservoir, but access from the City of Bend has been greatly improved from the recent (2001) County upgrade of the Alfalfa/Market Road. An increasing population in Central Oregon and the Willamette Valley is largely responsible for the increased recreation use of Prineville Reservoir.

State Highway 27 (or State Route [SR] 27) provides paved access to the reservoir from both Prineville and Bend. The reservoir can also be accessed from Prineville on S. Juniper Canyon Road, and from Prineville or Paulina on the Combs Flat Road (State Highway 280). Access to the south side of the reservoir is extremely limited as most of the south shoreline is roadless and accessible only by boat, or by the unimproved Salt Creek Road.

1.5 Project Summary

The Congressional Act of August 6, 1956 (Chapter 980, 70 Stat. 1058) authorized construction by the Secretary of the Interior of the Crooked River Federal Reclamation Project for the purpose of furnishing water for irrigation, flood control, and fish and wildlife management. Bowman Dam was constructed between 1958 and 1961 as part of the Crooked River Project. Under this Congressional authorization, the Secretary of the Interior was authorized to construct minimum basic public recreational facilities and to arrange for the operation and maintenance of these facilities by an appropriate agency or organization.

Prineville Reservoir has an active storage capacity of 148,633 af. Of this amount, 80,360 af remains uncontracted. Except for flood control operations and fish and wildlife releases, all inflow is stored in Prineville Reservoir and released as required for irrigation purposes. The Ochoco Irrigation District manager coordinates reservoir releases to meet the water supply needs of the irrigation district and individual water users. During the non-irrigation season, there is a mandated minimum flow of 10 cubic feet per second (cfs) downstream of Bowman Dam to meet fish and wildlife needs. In recognition of the Crooked River's regionally outstanding natural and recreational resources under the Federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Reclamation has administratively increased the minimum reservoir release to 75 cfs to further protect and improve the river's attributes. These changes in reservoir operations were initiated in February 1990 and will continue until modified by the Prineville Reservoir Reallocation Study (PRRS) recommendations. See Section 3.1, Project Facilities and General Operations for a more in-depth description of Prineville Reservoir's project history.

1.6 Overview of Public Involvement, Agency, and Tribal Coordination

Reclamation conducted an extensive public involvement program as part of the RMP planning process to ensure representation and participation by all those interested in the future of Prineville Reservoir. To achieve full representation, the program was designed to reach a user population that was dispersed over a broad geographical area, representing diverse points of view, and enthusiastic in participating in the RMP planning process.

The public involvement program consisted of four primary elements: (1) six newsbriefs mailed to agencies, Tribes, elected officials, organizations, media, and individuals; (2) three sets of public meetings/workshops; (3) seven meetings with a group formed as part of the RMP planning process to represent key stakeholders (including agencies, Tribes, and interest groups in the area); and (4) a public web site providing access to newsbriefs, draft materials, and meeting announcements. These elements, as well as additional agency and Tribal consultation efforts, are discussed in further detail in Chapter 4.



Photo 1-2. A view of Bowman Dam and Big Bend Campground in the foreground and Prineville Reservoir eastward.

