

5.0 Environmental Commitments

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

5.1 Best Management Practices

The following best management practices (BMPs) will be implemented to avoid or minimize potential effects to the resources within the Lake Cascade RMP study area that could occur if the preferred alternative were implemented. Although not listed here, the management actions identified in the preferred alternative as needed for proper stewardship of resources are also considered to be environmental commitments.

5.1.1 Landscape Preservation and Impact Avoidance

1. Developed facilities will complement the surrounding landscape.
2. Disturbed areas resulting from any construction will be aggressively revegetated.
3. To the maximum extent practicable, all existing trees, shrubs, and other naturally occurring vegetation will be preserved and protected from construction operations and equipment except where clearing operations are required for permanent structures, approved construction roads, or excavation operations.
4. To the maximum extent practicable, all maintenance yards, field offices, and staging areas will be arranged to preserve trees, shrubs, and other vegetation.
5. Clearing will be restricted to that area needed for construction. In critical habitat areas—including, but not limited to, wetlands and riparian areas—clearing may be restricted to only a few feet beyond areas required for construction.
6. Stream corridors, wetlands, riparian areas, steep slopes, or other critical environmental areas will not be used for equipment or materials storage or stockpiling; construction staging or maintenance; field offices; hazardous material or fuel storage, handling, or transfer; or temporary access roads, in order to reduce environmental damage.
7. Excavated or graded materials will not be stockpiled or deposited on or within 100 feet of any steep slopes (defined by industry standards), wetlands, riparian areas, or stream banks (including seasonally active ephemeral streams without woody or herbaceous vegetation growing in the channel bottom), or on native vegetation.
8. To the maximum extent possible, staging areas, access roads, and other site disturbances will be located in disturbed areas, not in native or naturally occurring vegetation.

9. The width of all new permanent access roads will be kept to the absolute minimum needed for safety, avoiding wetland and riparian areas where possible. Turnouts and staging areas will not be placed in wetlands.

5.1.2 Erosion and Sediment Control

1. The design and construction of facilities will employ applicable recognized Best Management Practices to prevent possible soil erosion and subsequent water quality impacts.
2. The planting of grasses, forbs, trees, or shrubs beneficial to wildlife, or the placement of riprap, sand bags, sod, erosion mats, bale dikes, mulch, or excelsior blankets will be used to prevent and minimize erosion and siltation during construction and during the period needed to reestablish permanent vegetative cover on disturbed sites.
3. Final erosion control and site restoration measures will be initiated as soon as a particular area is no longer needed for construction, stockpiling, or access. Clearing schedules will be arranged to minimize exposure of soils.
4. Cuts and fills for relocated and new roads will be sloped to facilitate revegetation.
5. Slope instability in reservoir areas will be identified through surveys conducted during final design. The identified areas will be stabilized or protected to prevent mass soil movement into reservoir pools to the extent practicable.
6. Soil or rock stockpiles, excavated materials, or excess soil materials will not be placed near sensitive habitats, including water channels, wetlands, riparian areas, and on native or naturally occurring vegetation, where they may erode into these habitats or be washed away by high water or storm runoff. Waste piles will be revegetated using suitable native species after they are shaped to provide a natural appearance.

5.1.3 Biological Resources

1. Rare and sensitive species clearances described below will be conducted after project authorization, but prior to the start of construction.
2. If native plant communities must be used for access roads or staging areas, site clearances at the appropriate time of year for the species involved will be conducted by qualified biologists to ensure sensitive species are not impacted. Any established search protocols will be followed. Additional information concerning avoidance of threatened or endangered species is presented in Section 3.6.
3. Construction activities that could impact fish will be undertaken during non-spawning periods.

4. During the 10-year period covered by this RMP, species not currently protected under the Endangered Species Act will be listed. If any such species occur on Reclamation lands, Reclamation would enforce time of year access restrictions in areas harboring Federal and state designated species of special concern (including Federally designated rare, endangered, or threatened species).

5.1.4 Site Restoration and Revegetation

1. Construction areas, including storage yards, will limit the amount of waste material and trash accumulations at all times.
2. All unused materials and trash will be removed from construction and storage sites during the final phase of work. All removed material will be placed in approved sanitary landfills or storage sites and work areas will be left to conform to the natural landscape.
3. Upon completion of construction, grade any land disturbed outside the limits of reservoir pools, permanent roads, and other permanent facilities to provide proper drainage and blend with the natural contour of the land. Following grading, revegetate using plants native to the area, suitable for the site conditions, and beneficial to wildlife.
4. Where applicable, consult with the following agencies to determine the recommended plant species composition, seeding rates, and planting dates:
 - Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG)
 - U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
 - U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
 - U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
1. Grasses, forbs, shrubs, and trees appropriate for site conditions and surrounding vegetation will be included on a plant list developed during site design. Species chosen for a site will be matched for site drainage, climate, shading, resistance to erosion, soil type, slope, aspect, and vegetation management goals. Wetland and riparian species will be used in revegetating disturbed wetlands. Upland revegetation shall match the plant list to the site's soil type, topographic position, elevation, and surrounding communities.

5.1.5 Pollution Prevention

1. All Federal and state laws related to control and abatement of water pollution will be complied with. All waste material and sewage from construction activities or project-related features will be disposed of according to Federal and state pollution control regulations.

2. Construction contractors may be required to obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit as established under Public Law 92–500 and amended by the Clean Water Act (Public Law 95–217).
3. Construction specifications shall require construction methods that will prevent entrance or accidental spillage of pollutants into flowing or dry watercourses and underground water sources. Potential pollutants and wastes include refuse, garbage, cement, concrete, sewage effluent, industrial waste, oil and other petroleum products, aggregate processing tailings, mineral salts, drilling mud, and thermal pollution.
4. Eroded materials shall be prevented from entering streams or watercourses during dewatering activities associated with structure foundations or earthwork operations adjacent to, or encroaching on, streams or watercourses.
5. Any construction wastewater discharged into surface waters will be essentially free of settling material. Water pumped from behind cofferdams and wastewater from aggregate processing, concrete batching, or other construction operations shall not enter streams or watercourses without water quality treatment. Turbidity control methods may include settling ponds; gravel-filter entrapment dikes; approved flocculating processes not harmful to fish or other aquatic life; recirculation systems for washing aggregates; or other approved methods.
6. Any riprap shall be free of contaminants and not contribute significantly to the turbidity of the reservoir.
7. Appropriate controls to reduce stormwater pollutant loads in post-construction site runoff identified in the *Handbook of Valley County Storm Water Best Management Practices* (Valley County 1997) shall be followed. The appropriate facilities shall be properly designed, installed, and maintained to provide water quality treatment for runoff originating from all recreational facilities.
8. All parking lots and marinas should be designed to promote efficient vehicle and boat traffic to prevent congestion and pollution.
9. Waste facilities should be connected, whenever possible, to sanitary sewer systems instead of septic tanks to avoid water quality problems from failed tanks.

5.1.6 Noise and Air Pollution Prevention

1. Contractors will be required to comply with all applicable Federal, state, and local laws and regulations concerning prevention and control of noise and air pollution. Contractors are expected to use reasonably available methods and devices to control, prevent, and reduce atmospheric emissions or discharges of atmospheric contaminants and noise.

2. Contractors will be required to reduce dust from construction operations and prevent it from damaging dwellings or causing a nuisance to people. Methods such as wetting exposed soil or roads where dust is generated by passing vehicles will be employed.

5.1.7 Cultural Resource Site Protection

1. Cultural resource personnel, or other land management personnel sensitized to cultural resource management concerns, will periodically monitor the RMP area to determine if operations, natural erosion, or land use is damaging cultural resources. If significant sites are being damaged, management actions to protect the site will be implemented. If the site cannot be protected, mitigation may be required.
2. If there are significant cultural resource sites that may be affected by a Reclamation undertaking, Reclamation will consult with the SHPO and the Tribes about appropriate actions to take to protect those sites.
3. Reclamation will prepare a cultural resource management plan (CRMP) for these lands that outlines actions and methods to protect cultural resources. The CRMP will identify management actions to protect and stabilize sites, and address issues relating to curation of cultural materials, inadvertent discoveries, intentional excavation, and discovery of human skeletal remains, among other things.
4. If consultation with Indian Tribes determines that Indian sacred sites are present and are being adversely affected by land use, then, when feasible, Reclamation will seek to implement actions to reduce or avoid such impacts.
5. In accordance with NHPA and its implementing 36 CFR 800 regulations, Reclamation will obtain project-specific cultural resource clearances when the agency acts to enhance recreation or wildlife, or undertakes other actions that have the potential to affect cultural resources. The agency will seek to avoid or reduce adverse effects to significant cultural resource sites or sacred sites by relocating or redesigning any proposed development.
6. Reclamation will stabilize or protect cultural sites when avoidance is not possible. Test excavations will be conducted as necessary to determine if the sites are eligible for the National Register. Consultations, per 36 CFR 800, will be conducted to determine site eligibility, project effect, and appropriate treatment of adversely affected National Register-eligible sites.
7. Reclamation will initiate actions to protect human burials as soon as possible if they are reported to be exposed or endangered by reservoir operations, natural erosion, or land use. Unless the burials are clearly non-Indian, the Tribes will be consulted upon the discovery of a burial and procedures for protection, treatment, and disposition of the remains will be worked out with the Tribes in accordance with NAGPRA.

8. Reclamation will curate archaeological collections at the Southeastern Idaho Regional Archaeological Center. Exceptions will be human burials, grave goods associated with a burial, and items that are sacred to or of cultural patrimony to American Indian Tribes (NAGPRA items). When NAGPRA items are recovered, procedures set forth in 43 CFR Part 10 for inadvertent discoveries, consultation, and custody will be followed.

5.1.8 Miscellaneous Comments

1. Reclamation-issued land use licenses, leases, and permits will contain sufficient language and stipulations to help protect existing resources and help mitigate possible conflicts among the various users and between visitors and adjacent land owners.
2. To offset possible negative impacts to low income visitors, entrance and user fees will be structured to allow many individuals and families of different income levels to use Lake Cascade lands and facilities. In addition, a range of recreational opportunities that appeal to a wide variety of visitors, including low income users, will be provided.

5.2 Mitigation Measures

Mitigation measures are environmental commitments intended to compensate for impacts that cannot be avoided through implementation of BMPs.

5.2.1 Soils

All roads, trails, and new or upgraded facilities would employ designs that would not contribute to short- or long-term soil loss during and following construction and revegetation.

5.2.2 Vegetation

In addition to Reclamation's overall planned increase in noxious and invasive weed control efforts, all sites that are disturbed for facilities and trail construction would be actively monitored for these plants. All infestations would be immediately treated in accordance with accepted methods and agreements with IDFG and Valley County. Trails would continue to be monitored at least once annually, followed by aggressive weed control efforts. Any wetland losses would be mitigated on at least a one-to-one basis, replacing both affected area and habitat value.

5.2.3 Wildlife

Reclamation would replace the area and habitat value of all wetland and riparian areas that would be directly impacted or degraded by implementation of this alternative.

5.2.4 Cultural Resources

Mitigation under all alternatives would occur if cultural resources are present that are eligible for the National Register, and if they are being adversely impacted by reservoir operations or land uses or are being damaged by natural agents. If an action is planned that could adversely impact an archaeological, traditional, or historic resource, then Reclamation would investigate options to avoid the site. Cultural resource management actions for impacted sites would be planned and implemented in accordance with consultation requirements defined in 36 CFR 800, using methods consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines.

5.2.5 Transportation and Access

Upon development of more detailed plans for planned improvements (e.g., Van Wyck marina), predictions of increased traffic volumes would be more clearly defined. Mitigation to reduce congestion could include measures such as the installation of left hand turn lanes, pavement widening, or noise abatement where necessary. Specific mitigation requirements would be determined during site-specific facility designs.

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6.0 PREPARERS

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7.0 Distribution List

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7.1 Overview

The Lake Cascade RMP Final EA has been sent to the tribes, government officials, agencies, organizations and businesses, libraries, and individuals named in the following distribution list. As noted, the EA is available for review at several libraries; it is also available for viewing (and downloading, if desired) on Reclamation's web site. Entities listed below that provided comments on the Draft EA are marked with an asterisk (*). Many of the commentors listed in Appendix D are not listed here to receive a Final EA. Instead, those entities will receive a copy of the FONSI along with instructions for obtaining a copy of the Final EA, if desired.

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8.0 Glossary

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Accessibility standards	Federal standards for universal accessibility. All Federal and Federally funded buildings and facilities must comply with the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards; however, Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines will be used if it is the more stringent of the two standards.
Acre-foot	Volume of water (43,560 cubic feet) that would cover 1 acre land, 1 foot deep.
Action alternative	A change in the current management approach.
Agricultural Easements	Deed restriction and reserved easement rights on Reclamation-owned land for agricultural purposes.
Affected environment	Existing biological, physical, social, and economic conditions of an area subject to change, both directly and indirectly, as the result of a proposed human action. Also, the chapter in an environmental document describing current environmental conditions.
Algae	Mostly aquatic single celled, colonial, or multicelled plants, containing chlorophyll and lacking stems, roots, and leaves.
Algal bloom	Rapid and flourishing growth of algae.
Alternatives	Courses of action that may meet the objectives of a proposal at varying levels of accomplishment, including the most likely future conditions without the management plan or action.
Amphibian	Vertebrate animal that has a life stage in water and a life stage on land (for example, salamanders, frogs, and toads).
Aquatic	Living or growing in or on the water.
Archeology	Related to the study of human cultures through the recovery and analysis of their material relics.
Archeological site	A discrete location that provides physical evidence of past human use.
Artifact	A human-made object.
Assessment categories	Categories used to compare the effects of the alternatives in this EA.
Best Management Practices	Activities that are added to typical operation, construction, or maintenance efforts that help to protect environmental resources by avoiding or minimizing impacts of an action.

Carrying capacity	The ability of a resource to accommodate a user population at a reasonable threshold without negatively affecting the resource.
Community	A group of one or more interacting populations of plants and animals in a common spatial arrangement at a particular point in time.
Concentration	The density or amount of a substance in a solution (water quality).
Conservation/Open Space	A category of land use. Lands in this category are managed to retain large areas of undeveloped landscapes; contribute to an open, natural, or rural visual character for the reservoir setting; buffer between public recreation areas, habitat areas, and adjacent private development; conserve vegetation, wildlife, soil, and water quality values in general, and restore these values by implementing programs for wetland habitat restoration, erosion control, revegetation of over-used areas, and others.
Cubic foot per second (cfs)	As a rate of streamflow, a cubic foot of water passing a reference section in 1 second of time. A measure of a moving volume of water.
Cultural resource	Cultural resources are prehistoric, historic, and traditional properties that reflect our heritage.
Drawdown	Lowering of a reservoir's water level; process of releasing reservoir storage.
Endangered species	A species or subspecies whose survival is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
Erosion	Refers to soil and the wearing away of the land surface by water, wind, ice, gravity, or other physical processes.
Exotic species	A non-native species that is introduced into an area.
Facilities	Manmade structures.
Fish and Wildlife Service Species of Concern	Species identified by the FWS for which further biological research and field study are needed to resolve these species' conservation status.
Forebay	The water behind a dam. Also, a reservoir or pond situated at the intake of a pumping plant or power plant to stabilize water levels.
Habitat	Area where a plant or animal finds suitable living conditions.
Hydrologic	Pertaining to the quantity, quality, and timing of water.

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Appendix A

Lake Cascade RMP Goals and Objectives

Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan: Environmental Assessment

Reclamation is required to comply with a number of legal mandates in the preparation and implementation of the RMP. The following is a list of the environmental laws, executive orders, and policies that may have an effect on the RMP or Reclamation actions in the implementation of the plan:

Law, Executive Order, or Policy	Description
Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities – Reclamation Policy (November 18, 1998)	Established a Pacific Northwest regional policy to assure that all administrative offices, facilities, services, and programs open to the public, utilized by Federal employees, and managed by Reclamation, a managing partner, or a concessionaire, are fully accessible for both employees and the public.
American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978	Provides for freedom of Native Americans to believe, express, and exercise their traditional religion, including access to important sites.
Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) of 1979, as amended	Ensures the protection and preservation of archaeological sites on Federal land. ARPA requires that Federal permits be obtained before cultural resource investigations begin on Federal land. It also requires that investigators consult with the appropriate Native American groups before conducting archaeological studies on Native American origin sites.
Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974	Provides for the preservation of historical buildings, sites, and objects of national significance.
Clean Water Act (CWA) of 1974, as amended*	Provides for protection of water quality.
Clean Air Act (CAA) of 1970	Provides for protection of air quality.
Department of Defense (DoD) American Indian and Alaska Native Policy, October 20, 1998	The policy supports Tribal self-governance and government-to-government relations between the Federal government. It specifies that DoD will meet its trust responsibilities to Tribes and will address Tribal concerns related to protected Tribal resources, Tribal rights, and Indian lands.
Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended	Provides for protection of plants, fish, and wildlife that have a designation as threatened or endangered.
Executive Order 12875, Enhancing the Intergovernmental Partnership, October 26, 1983	Establishes “regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with state, local, and Tribal governments on Federal matters that significantly or uniquely affect their communities.”

Law, Executive Order, or Policy	Description
Executive Order 12898, February 11, 1994, Environmental Justice	Requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of its programs and policies on minority and lower income populations.
Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands	Directs all Federal agencies to avoid, if possible, adverse impacts to wetlands and to preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values of wetlands.
Executive Order 13007, Indian Sacred Sites, May 24, 1996	Provides for access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian sacred sites on Federal lands used by Indian religious practitioners.
Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Government, November 6, 2000 (revokes EO 13084)	<p>The EO builds on previous administrative actions and is intended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with tribal officials in the development of Federal policies that have tribal implications. • Strengthen government- to-government relations with Indian tribes; and • Reduce the imposition of unfunded mandates upon Indian tribes.
Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) of 1958	Requires consultation and coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Indian Trust Assesses Policy (July 1993)	Requires that Reclamation provide protection and continuation of Tribal hunting, fishing, and gathering Treaty Rights.
Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, as amended	Provides protection for bird species that migrate across state lines.
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969	Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA specify that as part of the NEPA scoping process, the lead agency "... shall invite the participation of affected Federal, State, and local agencies, any affected Indian tribe, ... (1501.7[a]1."
National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended	Section 106 of the NHPA requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of any actions or programs on historic properties. It also requires agencies to consult with Native American Tribes if a proposed Federal action may affect properties to which they attach religious and cultural significance.

Law, Executive Order, or Policy	Description
Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of 1990	Regulations for the treatment of Native American graves, human remains, funeral objects, sacred objects, and other objects of cultural patrimony. Requires consultation with Native American Tribes during Federal project planning.
Presidential Memorandum: Government-to-Government Relations with Native American Tribal Governments, April 29, 1994	Specifies a commitment to developing more effective day-to-day working relationships with sovereign Tribal governments. Each executive department and agency shall consult to the greatest extent practicable and to the extent permitted by law, with Tribal governments prior to taking actions affecting Federally recognized Tribal governments.
Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title V, Section 504	Provides for access to Federal or Federally assisted facilities for the disabled. The Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS) or the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG), whichever is the more stringent, are followed as compliance with Section 504.
Title 28, Public Law 89-72, as amended	Provides Reclamation with the authority to cost-share on recreation projects and fish and wildlife enhancement facilities with managing partners on Reclamation lands.

*A permit may need to be required for construction related activities.

Goals & Objectives

Introduction

A set of draft RMP Goals and Objectives were prepared as part of the RMP alternatives development and analysis process and included as Appendix A in the Draft EA. The draft Goals and Objectives were derived from: (1) the public involvement process (especially Ad Hoc Work Group discussions); (2) ongoing coordination with Reclamation decision-makers regarding the scope of the RMP and Reclamation's mission/authority related to RMP preparation and implementation; (3) preliminary findings of the RMP resource inventory; and (4) input from specialists on the RMP Planning Team.

These final Goals and Objectives were further refined as a result of public, agency, and Tribal comments on the Draft EA and are included in the RMP. They reflect the full range of issues and opportunities that are addressed in the RMP (as presented and discussed in the separate Problem Statement document included in the RMP).

Natural Resources (NAT)

Wildlife and Vegetation Management

GOAL NAT 1: Protect, conserve, and enhance wildlife habitat and natural resources on Reclamation lands.

Objective NAT 1.1: Avoid or minimize impacts of RMP actions on Federal and State designated species of special concern, including Federally listed rare, endangered, or threatened species.

Objective NAT 1.2: Minimize long-term impact to wildlife and vegetation values in all actions considered to accommodate public demand at recreation sites or on the surface and shoreline of Lake Cascade; and utilize management practices that protect and enhance resource values of and for native species (plants and animals) in all decisions related to habitat management and land use.

Objective NAT 1.3: Manage all WMA-designated lands and adjacent shoreline areas to protect habitat for migratory birds and sensitive, threatened, or endangered wildlife.

Objective NAT 1.4: Manage all C/OS-designated lands as land use buffer zones to avoid conflict with or damage to WMAs and other sensitive habitat areas such as wetlands and riparian areas arising from nearby developed land uses/areas (i.e., recreation and residential areas).

Objective NAT 1.5: Protect, enhance, and/or restore all wetland and riparian habitats at and adjacent to Lake Cascade in accordance with existing Federal regulations and, as applicable, consistent with HIPs prepared and updated as part of this RMP.

Objective NAT 1.6: Work with partner agencies (IDEQ, Valley County, and the Upper Payette River Cooperative Weed Management Area [UPR CWMA]) to study and effectively control aquatic and terrestrial noxious and invasive weed problems on Reclamation lands and waters; emphasize integrated pest management practices and techniques in all associated actions.

Fishery Resources

GOAL NAT 2: *Protect and enhance the quality of the fishery at Lake Cascade.*

Objective NAT 2.1: Improve and maintain the water quality of Lake Cascade as this is critical to fishery protection and improvement.

Objective NAT 2.2: As much as feasible given legal and contractual operations requirements, maintain water storage levels of 300,000 acre-feet or greater.

Objective NAT 2.3: Recommend reservoir releases on a schedule that is most beneficial to fishery resource protection (within the constraints of legal and contractual operations requirements).

Objective NAT 2.4: Continue to cooperate with IDFG and Idaho Power in ongoing studies of fishery conditions and improvement needs, particularly those related to restoring the perch fishery.

Water Quality

GOAL NAT 3: *Protect and improve water quality in Lake Cascade and its tributaries.*

Objective NAT 3.1: Continue to actively participate with the local Watershed Advisory Group (WAG—also known as the Cascade Reservoir Coordinating Council [CRCC]), its Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and IDEQ in implementing IDEQ’s water quality improvement plan.

Objective NAT 3.2: Provide adequate sanitation and waste management facilities at all recreation sites (e.g., restrooms, trash containers, RV and boat dump stations, fish cleaning stations, as appropriate) to protect water quality.

Objective NAT 3.3: Continue efforts to acquire easements from agricultural easement (AE) holders or to reach agreement with AE holders to fence cattle away from the shoreline.

Objective NAT 3.4: Protect, enhance, restore, and develop wetland and riparian habitats as a key means of improving the quality of water entering the reservoir.

Objective NAT 3.5: Continue to prohibit motorized vehicular use on the shoreline (outside of designated recreation sites or access ways) and within the drawdown area of the reservoir.

Objective NAT 3.6: Manage the use of chemical fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides on Reclamation lands in a manner that does not adversely affect water quality.

Objective NAT 3.7: Minimize the potential for pollutants to enter Lake Cascade and its tributaries from construction-related activities on Reclamation lands.

Erosion and Sedimentation

GOAL NAT 4: Monitor soil erosion in priority areas where erosion causes concern for water quality, safety, and damage to capital improvements.

Objective NAT 4.1: Limit recreational and other uses in shoreline areas where such uses can significantly increase erosion.

Objective NAT 4.2: Protect and/or restore shoreline vegetation and tributary riparian vegetation to control erosion.

Objective 4.3: Require that all leaseholders of Reclamation recreation sites utilize appropriate engineered erosion control measures and safety barriers where necessary to control erosion, enhance safety, and protect facility investments.

Objective NAT 4.4: Retain Reclamation ownership in areas along the reservoir and take specific action where erosion is occurring.

Objective NAT 4.5: Implement an effective erosion control program in all construction, operations, and maintenance programs on Reclamation lands (including the actions of special use permittees).

Objective NAT 4.6: In Rural Residential areas, provide assistance and coordination to private landowners in their efforts to design and implement effective erosion control barriers (e.g., retaining walls).

Objective NAT 4.7: Require compliance with the standards established through Objective NAT 4.6 in all new permits or permit renewals.

Objective NAT 4.8: Improve monitoring and enforcement of standards compliance on all privately constructed erosion control projects. Require appropriate remedial measures (such as reconstruction or replacement) where new projects are not in compliance with established standards or where prior projects are not functioning effectively.

Scenic Quality

GOAL NAT 5: Protect the scenic quality and open space values on Reclamation lands at Lake Cascade.

Objective NAT 5.1: Ensure that siting and design of all new facilities on Reclamation lands maximize compatibility and integration with the open, rural environment of the reservoir and surrounding area.

Objective NAT 5.2: Remove existing and avoid future waste dumps and/or slash piles on Reclamation lands.

Objective NAT 5.3: Develop and require compliance with design guidelines for erosion control structures and any other permitted improvements on Reclamation shore lands.

Objective NAT 5.4: Update the reclamation plan developed for the quarry site at Crown Point, consistent with interim use and future Reclamation needs for further resource extraction.

Cultural Resources, Sacred Sites, and Indian Trust Assets (CUL)

Goal CUL 1.1: Protect and conserve cultural resources, including prehistoric, historic, traditional, and sacred properties.

Objective CUL 1.1: Ensure protection of sensitive cultural resources for all Reclamation undertakings in accordance with all applicable Federal and state laws.

Objective CUL 1.2: In accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act and other applicable cultural resource and legal mandates, accomplish proactive management of cultural resources, including inventory, identification, evaluation, and protection.

Objective CUL 1.3: Increase awareness of cultural resources compliance and protection needs among state and other resource management partners and lease holders who interact with Reclamation in the RMP study area.

Objective CUL 1.4: Provide opportunities for public education on cultural resources, including the importance of, and requirements for, protecting these resources within the parameters of various laws and regulations.

Goal CUL 2: Protect and conserve Indian Trust Assets as specified in applicable Federal mandates.

Objective CUL 2.1: Within the scope of Reclamation authorities, ensure that the RMP is consistent with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes adopted Snake River Basin Policy through conservation, protection, and/or enhancement of natural resources.

Objective CUL 2.2: Avoid any action which would violate or adversely impact Tribal Indian Trust Assets.

The RMP and EA will be distributed to representatives from the Shoshone-Paiute, Nez Perce, and Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. Tribal representatives who received the Draft EA and will receive the Final EA and RMP are listed in Chapter 7, *Distribution List*.

Recreation (REC)

GOAL REC 1: Provide adequate shoreline support facilities to meet demand for water-oriented recreation uses (within the limits of reservoir carrying capacity).

Objective REC 1.1: Within the limit of reservoir carrying capacity, continue to meet need for boat launch ramps around the reservoir shoreline.

Objective REC 1.2: In coordination with non-Federal managing partners and local interests, participate in developing a public use marina at the Van Wyck Park recreation area to serve as the primary marina at Lake Cascade.

Objective REC 1.3: Within the limits represented by reservoir carrying capacity, plan for other marinas and/or boat services (such as public moorage and fueling services) at key locations around the reservoir as demand warrants.

Objective REC 1.4: If feasible given cost, operational, and environmental constraints, construct breakwaters to shelter key ramp and moorage locations and any future marina site(s); priority locations include the Van Wyck Park marina/ramps, Sugarloaf recreation site, Boulder Creek recreation site, and West Mountain Campground marina/ramps, in that order.

Objective REC 1.5: Ensure compliance with the current nation-wide Reclamation policy that prohibits exclusive use facilities at Reclamation lands/reservoirs.

Objective REC 1.6: Ensure that all permitted individual and community docks remain available for use by the general public under emergency conditions (e.g., during storms or due to medical emergency or equipment failure).

Objective REC 1.7: Continue to permit mooring buoys to private landowners adjacent to RR lands through the established permit system, which allows one mooring buoy per littoral lot placed at a safe distance from any adjacent buoys.

Objective REC 1.8: Allow for the development of shoreline fishing facilities at appropriate locations around the reservoir, both at developed recreations sites and in C/OS or WMA areas. Facilities that may be provided include developed access (including access for the disabled as per UFAS standards), parking and staging areas, fishing piers, fish cleaning stations, and other day use facilities. In C/OS and

WMA areas, the level of development and type(s) of access provided will take into consideration all applicable objectives for protecting open space and natural resource values (e.g., seasonal closures and no motorized access in WMAs).

Objective REC 1.9: Allow for the continued use and future development of “at your own risk” swimming areas at appropriate locations around the reservoir.

GOAL REC 2: Meet demand for land-based recreation uses within the constraints of Reclamation's limited land area and consistent with natural and cultural resource protection objectives.

Objective REC 2.1: In all recreation facility development, focus first on expansion and capacity optimization at existing sites before planning and developing new sites.

Objective REC 2.2: Coordinate with managing partner to ensure that adequate, UFAS-accessible parking and restroom facilities are provided at all Reclamation/IDPR recreation sites (also see Objective LAI 4.2).

Objective REC 2.3: Coordinate with managing partner to provide additional RV campground capacity to meet increasing demand, both by expanding existing sites and developing new sites.

Objective REC 2.4: Coordinate with managing partner to provide RV dump stations at key locations around the reservoir (e.g., near available sewer, major campgrounds, ramps, and/or marinas).

Objective REC 2.5: Coordinate with managing partner to provide opportunities for tent-only camping both in areas of developed recreation sites that are separate from highly developed RV camping areas, and at designated tent-only sites (i.e., without RV accommodations).

Objective REC 2.6: Coordinate with managing partner to provide group camping opportunities on the east and west sides of the reservoir (at least one dedicated site on each side).

Objective REC 2.7: Coordinate with managing partner to provide additional day use sites and facilities to meet increasing demand and buffer day use activity areas from overnight campgrounds.

Objective REC 2.8: Coordinate with managing partner to reduce and eliminate the environmental degradation that accompanies unauthorized, ad hoc recreation activities (e.g., including uncontrolled vehicle use on the shoreline/drawdown area and unauthorized camping).

Objective REC 2.9: Coordinate with managing partner to provide improved accommodations for winter-season recreation activities, including snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, ice fishing, and camping.

Objective REC 2.10: Coordinate with managing partners, other agencies, and landowners to develop UFAS-accessible, non-motorized trails at appropriate locations around Lake Cascade.

Objective REC 2.11: Provide opportunities for wildlife observation and other natural resource based interpretation and education at appropriate locations.

Objective REC 2.12: Provide opportunities for cultural/historic resource interpretation and education at appropriate locations.

Objective REC 2.13: Continue Reclamation policy of prohibiting ORV use on Reclamation lands and actively enforce this prohibition.

Objective REC 2.14: Allow unrestricted snowmobile use on Reclamation lands, except within Recreation areas where snowmobiles shall be restricted to established roads and trails.

Objective REC 2.15: Consider re-opening the Former State Airstrip for recreational fly-in uses, subject to conditions and results of bald eagle monitoring studies.

GOAL REC 3: *Minimize conflicts and promote safety for users of reservoir waters.*

Objective REC 3.1: Ensure that provision, permitting, and/or expansion of shoreline facilities (such as boat ramps, docks, and moorage) do not result in providing levels of water access that exceed the reservoir's carrying capacity (either in local areas or reservoir-wide).

Objective REC 3.2: Ensure that the existing, State-mandated 100-foot no-wake zone (i.e., adjacent to shoreline structures and between power boats and swimmers, non-motorized boaters, or other boats) is actively enforced, especially in areas of high watercraft density (such as the Boulder Creek arm or near public recreation sites).

Objective REC 3.3: Where necessary to promote user safety, resolve user conflicts, reduce erosion or noise impacts, or protect sensitive environmental resources, work with Valley County to establish and enforce other no-wake or non-motorized boating zones in specific areas of the reservoir.

Objective REC 3.4: Provide information to reservoir users regarding boating safety and operating rules and regulations.

GOAL REC 4: Promote cooperative planning and implementation for recreation among Reclamation/IDPR, other involved jurisdictions, and the public.

Objective REC 4.1: Coordinate plans for major recreation development with managing partners, involved agencies, and private entities.

Objective REC 4.2: In cooperation with IDPR and other involved jurisdictions, promote local economic development.

Objective REC 4.3: Actively seek agency partnerships or agreements to assist with recreation project implementation.

Operations, Maintenance, and Enforcement (OME)

GOAL OME 1: Operate Lake Cascade to optimize recreation, fish, wildlife, and scenic values while meeting contractual irrigation commitments.

Objective OME 1.1: Maintain pool levels as high as possible (above 300,000 acre-feet) as long as possible into the peak recreation season, consistent with other operations requirements.

Objective OME 1.2: Continue to work with the Payette River Watershed Council to determine annual releases that benefit river recreation, fisheries, and irrigators.

GOAL OME 2: Protect resources necessary for continued operation, maintenance, and safety of the dam and reservoir.

Objective OME 2.1: Retain Crown Point quarry as a rock source for Reclamation purposes, with allowance for specific Valley County uses. Reclamation purposes may include but are not limited to: dam maintenance and/or restoration, recreation site development, and erosion control.

Objective OME 2.2: Continue to allow vehicular traffic over the dam contingent upon dam security and safety related concerns.

Land Use, Access, and Implementation (LAI)

GOAL LAI 1: Balance the need for expansion of recreation opportunities (or other development) with preservation of open space and scenic values.

Objective LAI 1.1: Employ the definitions provided for all land use designations when considering new or modified uses or facilities at Lake Cascade.

Objective LAI 1.2: Develop new or improve existing facilities within the constraints of the applicable land base.

Objective LAI 1.3: Preserve open space and wildlife habitat components to maintain an open, low key character and to counterbalance the effects of residential and other development.

GOAL LAI 2: Minimize conflicts and incompatibilities among land uses.

Objective 2.1: Provide adequate buffer zones between public use areas and adjacent private development.

Objective LAI 2.2: Provide adequate buffer zones between WMAs or other important wildlife habitat and public use areas.

GOAL LAI 3: Resolve existing and prevent future encroachments and trespass by private parties on Reclamation lands and water.

Objective LAI 3.1: In accordance with current Reclamation permitting procedures, allow private erosion control and/or water quality protection developments (e.g., retaining walls, landscaping with native plants) to occur on Reclamation lands in Rural Residential areas.

Objective LAI 3.2: Continue to prohibit private encroachments on Reclamation lands that do not provide a demonstrated public purpose.

Objective LAI 3.3: Continue to prohibit un-permitted (trespass) grazing or other agricultural uses on Reclamation lands; ensure adequate enforcement of this prohibition.

GOAL LAI 4: Provide adequate and safe access to all designated Reclamation recreation/public use areas.

Objective LAI 4.1: Cooperate with the State, County, and the cities of Cascade and Donnelly in their efforts to achieve needed improvements and/or maintenance of regional and local access roads.

Objective LAI 4.2: Provide for adequate vehicular access to and parking at all designated recreation areas on Reclamation lands; this includes appropriate motor vehicle parking and staging areas adjacent to or near sites designated for non-motorized uses. Such access and parking should be sized in a manner reflecting the carrying capacity of the area being served.

Objective LAI 4.3: Ensure that adequate control measures are installed to prevent unauthorized access to sensitive areas (e.g., WMAs, C/OS, or restoration areas).

Objective LAI 4.4: Expand winter access to recreation areas around the reservoir in accordance with plans for winter activities.

Objective LAI 4.5: Ensure that all facilities, programs and signage, as well as access to these, are accessible to persons with disabilities.

Objective LAI 4.6: Allow floatplane access (i.e., takeoff and landing) in the main body of the reservoir only, with taxiing allowed in other areas of the reservoir that are open to motorized use.

Objective LAI 4.7: In providing for vehicular access, use route/alignment planning as a primary means to minimize opportunities for public trespass onto private property or environmental damage from informal/unauthorized access.

GOAL LAI 5: Develop and implement needed regulations and/or guidelines to promote public health, safety, and welfare and to avoid conflicts in all land and water uses.

Objective LAI 5.1: To the extent possible, make all regulations and guidelines related to use of Reclamation lands consistent with those of other adjacent or involved jurisdictions (including IDPR, IDEQ, Valley County, USFS, cities of Cascade and Donnelly, and IDFG).

Objective LAI 5.2: Provide for fire protection and suppression at Lake Cascade.

Objective LAI 5.3: Maintain adequate law enforcement and patrol on Reclamation lands at Lake Cascade.

GOAL LAI 6: Provide enhanced public information regarding opportunities and management at Lake Cascade.

Objective 6.1: Using Reclamation's and IDPR's sign manuals as appropriate, develop clear, consistent signage to guide public access to and use of Reclamation lands and facilities.

Objective 6.2: Provide informative and concise public information materials on a continuing basis (including adequate funding for reproduction of these materials) at: recreation sites, interpretive sites,

visitors center(s); and through local merchants, chambers of commerce, government offices, and other means (such as the world wide web).

Objective LAI 6.3: Explore and implement cooperative efforts with other agencies, private enterprise, local schools, and other local entities in achieving enhanced public outreach.

GOAL LAI 7: Achieve timely implementation of RMP update programs and projects.

Objective LAI 7.1: Establish and maintain a clear phasing schedule and list of priorities for RMP implementation and update on an annual basis.

GOAL LAI 8: Continue public and agency involvement through RMP update implementation.

Objective LAI 8.1: Keep the public informed regarding the status of implementing the RMP.

Appendix B
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Coordination and Consultation

Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan: Environmental Assessment

APPENDIX B. U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION

The following items are included in this appendix:

1. Letter from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) on threatened and endangered species consultation
2. Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report
3. Reclamation responses to FWS recommendations in the Coordination Act report
4. Amendments to Biological Assessment for Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan from Reclamation to FWS
5. Letter from FWS on fish and wildlife consultation concurrence

Reclamation Responses to FWS Recommendations in the Coordination Act report

1. Reclamation will use all existing and future new information at its disposal to evaluate ongoing and future actions and land management so that changes can be made to sustain and foster rare, sensitive, and protected species and their habitat. Furthermore, Reclamation will work closely with FWS on all such matters.
2. Reclamation is instituting a monitoring study of several bald eagle nests around the reservoir. Existing nest site management plans will be updated and new plans developed for nests without a current plan beginning in spring 2001. These management plans will be used to evaluate potential impacts of all future actions so that potential impacts can be avoided.
3. As noted in item 1 and 2, Reclamation will use all existing and future new information and the nest site management plans to evaluate potential impacts of all future actions and to change management practices within its control so that potential impacts can be avoided.
4. Reclamation agrees.
5. Reclamation will cooperate with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and others as indicated. It should be noted that the snowmobile parking at the Poison Creek recreation area, parking areas north of Huckleberry on USFS land, and possibly expanding plowing additional right-of-way along the county road would not increase parking capacity, but rather move parked vehicles off of the road right-of-way.
6. Reclamation agrees and has stated this position in Section 3.6-2 of the Environmental Assessment (EA).
7. Opportunities to construct additional nest platforms will be evaluated through the Wildlife Management Area (WMA) habitat improvement plans and implemented where feasible and warranted.
8. Reclamation has no current plans to monitor upland sandpiper use of the dewatered zone along the western shoreline of the reservoir. However, Reclamation will phase out vehicle access into the drawdown zone over a period of a few years. This action would reduce potential human disturbance of foraging sandpipers.
9. The no-wake zone specified in the Resource Management Plan (RMP) in the Boulder Creek arm extends along both sides of the entire arm.
10. Reclamation is working with Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) to assess the problem of yellow perch survival and to reduce northern pikeminnow populations through a trapping program. Reclamation will work with IDFG and FWS to address specific water quality problems if they arise.

11. Reclamation will retain suitable snags and mark them with signs describing their wildlife value on lands it manages. Reclamation does not allow fire wood cutting.
12. Reclamation will undertake surveys of potentially suitable slender moonwort habitat before undertaking any ground disturbing activities, similar to the process described for searching for Ute ladies'-tresses.
13. Reclamation is receiving the regular updates of the federal list of threatened and endangered wildlife and plants from FWS. Reclamation will review this list to assess the need to modify management strategies as appropriate to avoid impacts to listed species or their habitat.

Appendix C Tribal Consultation and Coordination

Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan: Environmental Assessment

Letters and Meetings with Tribes

1998

- September 22, 1998 Letter to Chairman of Shoshone-Paiute Tribal Council, requesting a meeting to discuss the Cascade Resource Management Plan and asking if the Tribe is interested in conducting an Inventory of Traditional Cultural Properties (TCP's)
- September 22, 1998 Letter to Chairman, Nez Perce Executive Committee requesting meeting to discuss the Cascade Resource Management Plan, and asking if the Tribe is interested in completing a Traditional Cultural Properties Inventory for the Cascade Resource Management Plan study area
- November 11, 1998 Meeting with the Nez Perce Tribal Staff to discuss the Cascade Resource Management Plan, and an agreement with the Tribe to prepare a Traditional Cultural Properties Inventory.
- December 4, 1998 Meeting with the Tribal Council of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes to discuss several projects including Resource Management Plans
- December 17, 1998 Meeting with Tribal Staff of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes to discuss interest in completing a Traditional Cultural Property Inventory for Ririe and Cascade Resource Management Plans
- December 28, 1998 Letter to the Chairman of the Fort Hall Business Council, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes requesting January 7, 1998, meeting to discuss several important initiatives

1999

- January 7, 1999 Meeting at Fort Hall with the Chairman and Council Members of the Fort Hall Business Council, and Staff of Shoshone-Bannock Tribes to discuss issues in the Ririe Resource Management Plan, and issues applicable to the Cascade Resource Management Plan, where appropriate.
- February 17, 1999 Meeting with the Tribal Staff of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes to discuss potential Tribal issues in the Ririe RMP study area and issues which would also apply to the Cascade Resource Management Plan where appropriate

March 9, 1999	Letter to Chairman of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes summarizing the December 4, 1998, meeting where several important projects were discussed including Ririe and Cascade Resource Management Plans
April 30, 1999	Letter to the Chairman of the Fort Hall Business Council of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes summarizing the January 7, 1999, meeting where several important projects were discussed including Ririe and Cascade Resource Management Plans
June 11, 1999	June 11, 1999 meeting with Tribal staff of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes to discuss potential tribal issues in the Ririe Resource Management Plan study area, and issues that also may apply to the Cascade Resource Management Plan.
September 8, 1999	Letter to Chairman of the Fort Hall Business Council of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes requesting a meeting to discuss several important projects
September 9, 1999	Letter to the Chairman of the Tribal Council of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, requesting a September meeting to discuss several important projects
September 9, 1999	Letter to the Chairperson of the Burns Paiute Tribal Executive Committee requesting a meeting to discuss several Reclamation projects including Cascade and Ririe Resource Management Plans
September 20, 1999	Letter to Chairman, Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee requesting a meeting to discuss several Reclamation Projects including Cascade and Ririe Resource Management Plans
September 24, 1999	Letter to Chairman of the Fort Hall Business Council of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes concerning a tentative meeting date set for October 15, 1999, and agenda
September 25, 1999	Final Traditional Cultural Property Inventory from Shoshone-Paiute Tribes
October 15, 1999	Meeting with the Fort Hall Business Council and Staff of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes to discuss several important projects including Resource Management Plans
November 30, 1999	Meeting with the Executive Committee of the Nez Perce Tribal Council Members and Staff to discuss several important issues

2000

- February 29, 2000 Meeting with Commission Members, Director of the Department of Fisheries and staff of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes concerning the Cascade and Ririe Resource Management Plans
- March 17, 2000 Meeting with the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes to discuss tribal issues and Reclamation projects including Cascade and Ririe Resource Management Plans
- April 21, 2000 Final Traditional Cultural Property Inventory from Nez Perce Tribe
- July 17, 2000 Meeting with the Tribal Council of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes to discuss Tribal issues. The status of Cascade and Ririe Resource Management Plans was reported.
- October 6, 2000 Government to Government meeting with Shoshone-Bannock Business Council and staff to discuss several important issues including the Ririe and Cascade RMPs.
- December 13, 2000 Letter to the Chairman of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribal Council transmitting the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Cascade RMP, requesting comments and a meeting to discuss the document.
- December 13, 2000 Letter to the Chairman of the Shoshone-Bannock Business Council transmitting the draft EA for the Cascade RMP, requesting comments and a meeting to discuss the document.
- December 13, 2000 Letter to the Chairman of the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee transmitting the draft EA for the Cascade RMP and requesting comments.
- December 13, 2000 Letter to the Chairman of the Burns-Paiute General Council transmitting the draft EA for the Cascade RMP and requesting comments.

2001

- February 7, 2001 Meeting with the Tribal Council of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes and staff to discuss the Cascade and Ririe draft EAs and other Reclamation projects and proposals.
- February 15, 2001 Meeting with the staff of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes concerning the draft EA of the Cascade and Ririe RMPs.

February 21, 2001 Letter received from Habitat, Parks, Fish and Game Department of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes commenting on the Draft EA of the Cascade RMP.

Appendix D

Summary of Public Comments