

FEB-26-01 MON 03:21 PM BUREAU OF REC BURLEY FAX NO. 12086784321 P. 02/02
FEB-26-2001 12:44PM FROM-BONNEVILLE COUNTY AUDITOR RECORDER 208-828-1911 T-888 P.002/002 F-241



BONNEVILLE COUNTY, IDAHO

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ROGER S. CHRISTENSEN, CHAIRMAN, DISTRICT #1
RALPH J. STEELE, DISTRICT #2
LEE STAKER, DISTRICT #3

605 NORTH CAPITAL AVENUE
IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO 83402
OFFICE: (208) 529-1358
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TDD (Hearing Impaired): (208) 529-1183

February 26, 2001

Comments in Regard to the Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the Ririe/Tex
Creek Resource Management Plan

A2-1

I wish to reemphasize my statements in regard to the Blacktail area. This area should not be reduced in size, and I believe that we should continue to expand this area as the Bureau of Reclamation originally had planned with the addition of a campground and renovation of the boat ramps and parking area.

A2-2

I also feel that the addition of a heritage center would address some of the concerns the tribes might have. This center could address the cultural issues and history of the tribes in the Willow Creek Drainage area.

Sincerely,

Lee Staker, Commissioner
Bonneville County Board of Commissioners
Ad Hoc Work Group Member

Is ad hoc work grp dea stmat.doc

A2—Lee Staker, Bonneville County Board of Commissioners, Idaho Falls, Idaho

A2-1: The size of the active recreation area at Blacktail has not been changed. An area in which future additional development may occur is shown on Map 2-5. The future additional development will be based on the results of a carrying capacity/demand study to determine recreation demand and how/if this can be met without damaging natural and cultural resources.

A2-2: Please see response to comment A1-3, letter from Susan Pengilly Neitzel, Idaho State Historical Society.

From: <IUSR_IBR1PNRW@ibr1pnrw.pn.usbr.gov>
To: <Public_Comment@pn.usbr.gov>
Date: Fri, Feb 9, 2001 10:14 AM
Subject: Ririe Public Comment Form

.....
T1: Christiansen
T2: David
T3: City of Idaho Falls Parks and Recreation Division
T4: PO Box 50220
T5: Idaho Falls
T6: Idaho
T7: 83405
T8: 208-529-1482
B1: Mail Comments

S1:

- A3-1 EA - Creekside Park - A suggestion regarding alternative B regarding Creekside Park. During the period of time that Creekside Park is accessible for recreational purposes the area has had a past history with a abundance of deer flies making the day use a misserable experience for the recreationalist. If this area is to be reopened than measures to insure a more pleasurable experience may need to be looked at. Also in
- A3-2 the past this area has experienced extreme vandalism. More patrolling and security of the area might be needed.

A3—David Christiansen, City of Idaho Falls Parks and Recreation Division, Idaho Falls, Idaho

- A3-1: Insect control would not be undertaken as part of the operation of Creekside Park.
- A3-2: Vandalism concerns at Creekside Park will be addressed through law enforcement agreements with Bonneville County.

January 30, 2001

To: Steve Schmidt

From: Kim Ragotzkie 

Subject: Cartier Slough / Ririe Reservoir RMP Draft E.A. comments

I have the following comments, corrections, and clarifications regarding the Draft EA prepared by U.S. BOR. I only reviewed the portions pertaining to Cartier Slough WMA.

Overall comments:

- A4-1 • I am concerned that groomed ski trails are being considered in the two action alternatives. Currently, Cartier receives a moderate amount of winter use by walkers, snowshoers, and XC-skiers. It also used lightly by trappers and rabbit hunters. Most visitors use the administrative two-track through the WMA as a trail, which works very well. I am concerned a groomed trail might encourage additional human activity to the point wildlife is disturbed and displaced on a daily basis. Cartier provides a small but important wintering area for a number of moose, deer, bald eagles, and increasingly trumpeter swans. I do not think Cartier is an appropriate place for a groomed ski trail.
- A4-2 • Development of a 'nature' trail south of Beaver Dick Park. This always sounds like a good idea in late summer, but we need to remember most of this area is underwater 1-2 months each spring, with strong currents scouring any exposed soil. It will be a challenge to develop a 'flood-resistant' trail, and will require considerable annual maintenance to clear debris. But more importantly, it should be noted that most of the land in this particular area is actually BLM land, not BOR. The small parking area at the Beaver Dick entrance to Cartier is (I believe) on county land, and was developed by the county.

Specific comments:

- A4-3 • p.3-14: Soils – there should be some mention of the effects of the Teton flood on the soils at Cartier, as a tremendous amount of sediment was deposited in this area when the floodwaters slowed.
- A4-4 • p.3-20: Noxious Weeds: include plumeless thistle (*Carduus acanthoides*) and diffuse knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*) in the list of noxious weeds. Correct the latin spelling for purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*).
- A4-5 • p.3-21: Improved or Restricted Access section: add a statement such as: " Trail improvements and resultant increased visitor use would result in greater disturbance and/or displacement of wildlife during winter and summer."
- A4-6 • p.3-32: Rare Species: Include white-faced ibis, they are seasonal residents at Cartier. add: " Trumpeter swans are present yearlong and up to 75 winter on the Henrys Fork Snake River along Cartier Slough."
- A4-7 • p.3-37: 4th paragraph: I do not agree that actions proposed for Cartier (trail developments) would have 'very minor' adverse impacts. Maybe the term 'some' or 'moderate' would be more accurate.
- A4-8 • p.3-39: Wildlife, 3rd paragraph: suggested rewording: "A bald eagle nest is located ¼ mile south of Cartier Slough on BLM land, and bald eagles are common in the areas all year. The Cartier Slough pair fledged one young in 1998 (Beals and Melquist 1998), and the nest was still active in 2000. The abundant fish"
- A4-9 • p.3-40: 3rd paragraph: Teton Valley is actually 35 miles northeast of Tex Creek.

A4—Kim Ragotzkie, Idaho Department of Fish and Game,
Idaho Falls, Idaho

- A4-1: The groomed ski trail proposed at Cartier Slough has been deleted from the Preferred Alternative.
- A4-2: Addition of interpretive signs would likely occur along the existing trail and would only be done in cooperation with Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG).
- A4-3: This comment has been incorporated in Section 3.3.1 of the Final EA.
- A4-4: Diffuse knapweed and plumeless thistle have been added, and the scientific name for purple loosestrife was corrected in Section 3.4.1 under the heading *Noxious Weeds*.
- A4-5: The text has been changed to reflect your concern in section 3.4.2, under the heading *Improved Facilities and Miscellaneous*.
- A4-6: Your comments have been incorporated in Section 3.5.1, within the *Cartier Slough WMA* section, under the heading for *Rare Species*.
- A4-7: The text has been changed to reflect your concern in section 3.4.2, under the heading *Alternative B—Preferred Alternative: Recreation Development Compatible with Increased Natural Resource Protection Emphasis*.
- A4-8: The text was corrected according to your suggestion in Section 3.6.1, under the heading *Wildlife*.
- A4-9: The text was corrected according to your suggestion in Section 3.6.1, under the heading *Wildlife*.

- A4-10 • p.3-41: Wildlife, 1st paragraph: add: “The bald eagle nest near Cartier Slough is on BLM land and is subject to the Feb 1-July 31 public lands closure to all unauthorized entry to protect nesting bald eagles.”
- A4-11 • p.3-53: Cartier Slough WMA: delete the 3rd sentence ‘...low-lying swampy...’ Reword the next sentence: “The primary recreational activities include walking, wildlife viewing, hunting (waterfowl, pheasants, deer, moose, and small game), fishing, trapping, snowshoeing, and XC-skiing. Cartier Slough is also used by Rexburg school and scout groups, and by Ricks College as an outdoor classroom.” reword the last couple sentences: “This park provides a campground, picnic shelters, restrooms, boat ramp, and an accessible fishing pier. The primary walk-in access to Cartier Slough is through Beaver Dick Park, however visitors also walk in from the access road along the north boundary of Cartier Slough.
- A4-12 • p.3-68: last paragraph: 1st sentence OK, replace the 2nd and 3rd sentences with: “Secondary visitor access is from the primitive road which more or less follows the northern boundary of Cartier Slough. This road also accesses the primitive boat ramp in one of the slough channels, and ultimately leads to the water control structure at the west end of Cartier Slough. There is an unimproved two-track running through much of Cartier Slough which is restricted to administrative motorized use only. Most visitors use this two-track as a trail for walking, horseback riding, or XC-skiing. This two-track is not accessible during high water periods.” The last two sentences are OK.

Kim Ragotzkie
Wildlife Mitigation Specialist, Cartier Slough
Idaho Department of Fish & Game
1515 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, ID 83401

A4-10: The suggested sentence has been added in Section 3.6.2, under the heading *Alternative B—Preferred Alternative: Recreation Development Compatible with Increased Natural Resource Protection Emphasis*.

A4-11: The text has been re-written to reflect your comment in Section 3.8.1 under the heading *Ririe and Teton Mitigation Lands—Cartier Slough WMA*.

A4-12: The text has been re-written to reflect your comment.

From: <IUSR_IBR1PNRW@ibr1pnrw.pn.usbr.gov>
To: <Public_Comment@pn.usbr.gov>
Date: Wed, Feb 14, 2001 11:15 AM
Subject: Ririe Public Comment Form

T1: Casperson
T2: Karl
T3: Bonneville County Sheriff
T4: 605 N Capital
T5: Idaho Falls
T6: Idaho
T7: 83402
T8: 208-529-1310
B1: Mail Comments

S1:

I am the coordinator of the Bonneville County Sheriffs Office Aquatic Rescue Team. The following is my feelings regarding the use of Ririe Reservoir. The dive rescue team uses the reservoir for training both from shore and from the water. There are ten members and four alternates. We use the area at the dam because of the availability of parking and access to the water. The rock bottom allows for better visability when repeating exercises with several divers. We use this area for safety and have not had any conflict with anyone else. This is also where a lot of other activities occur and we feel by being familiar with the area we can do our job better if a problem occurs.

The idea of a dive park would be a great advantage for us. The park could be used for training in boat accident, underwater crime scene investigations, search and recovery and well as other scuba related training. Again, safety is a big issue and a area set aside for scuba is important. This dive park would be a great benefit for us but we need to be able to use the whole area to conduct a wide range of training.

A5-1

A5—Karl Casperson, Bonneville County Sheriff, Idaho Falls, Idaho

A5-1: A scuba park will be allowed in the RMP. However, the location has not been determined and will be based on safety considerations. The park would not likely be located near the dam. Other uses will not be restricted and divers would continue to have access to the entire reservoir. Reclamation will work with local dive interests and Reclamation O&M, dive, and safety staff to determine an appropriate location.

From: "Roger H. Tall, M.D." <rhtall@qwest.net>
To: <cstone@pn.usbr.gov>
Date: 2/22/01 10:01AM
Subject: RMPAHWG

Dear Carol,

So sorry to have missed last night's meeting. Conflicts with patients with obstructed ureters and trips to Phoenix mad me unreliable once again. My attendance failures have not been due to apathy or lack of interest, just conflicting obligations.

Here is a brief summary of what I had intended to contribute:

O1-1 Our 10 year plan will fall short if we do not form a solid basis for the 20 to 30 year plan. This resource is finite with an expanding number of recreation users. Conflicts among users are already destroying the recreation experience to the point that the Blacktail area is being avoided. The motorized user group contributes the largest financially to the recreation area through stickers, taxes, day fees. This group also contributes the largest number of recreation area users. This group whose recreation user numbers are greater than all the other recreation user groups combined was represented by one AHWG member. The motorized users have also been poorly represented due to my being absent secondary to intense and chaotic conflicts of interest. Despite the poor motorized user representation, the RMP seems to reflect the general concerns of those seeking to preserve the total quality of the recreation area.

O1-2 The interests and concerns of the native Americans, government agencies, farmers, ranchers, hunters, hikers and conservationists have been carefully considered in painful detail. Conflicting perspectives have been noted. More than adequate opportunity for public input has been provided. The problem of an expanding number of recreation user numbers within a finite resource remains unanswered. From my perspective, the increasing number of users will eventually crush the recreation experience. Although no agency wants the political fallout of quotas or high day fees, this may ultimately be the solution. I realize that BLM cannot mandate how Bonneville County manages the recreation area.

You have been fair and thorough. Thank you for the opportunity for input and for allowing my intermittent participation.

Yours sincerely,

Roger Tall, M.D.

208-529-0633 office
208-529-0634 home

O1—Dr. Roger Tall, Bonneville County Waterways Committee, Idaho Falls, Idaho

O1-1: The RMP process is managed for a 10-year planning horizon. The Final EA contains projections for recreation increases in Section 3.8, *Recreation*. Planned recreation carrying capacity and demand studies will determine the need for additional facilities during the next 10 years and how/if this can be met without damaging existing natural and cultural resources.

O1-2: The planned recreation carrying capacity and demand study will determine how and if facilities will be expanded and try to assure an appropriate number of users without damaging existing natural and cultural resources.

cfiler ✓

From: "Gary E. McConnell" <gem@ieea.org>
To: 'Carolyn Burpee Stone' <CSTONE@pn.usbr.gov>
Date: 2/12/01 8:02AM
Subject: Comments on Ririe RMP Draft EA

Comments on the Ririe RMP Draft EA, provided by:
Gary E. McConnell
PO Box 3128
Idaho Falls, ID 83403-3128
(208) 526-1778 (W), (208) 523-3508 (H)

The 15 comments below are on behalf of the AquaNutz dive club of Idaho Falls.

Our comments fall into four broad groups: continued use, dive park creation, role of the Club, and comments on specific sections of the EA.

CONTINUED USE:

O2-1 | Comment #1. We would like to make sure the RMP does not have negative impact on our continued use of the reservoir for diving.

Over the years we've found that the dam area is the best place for diving because:

- a. Access by car is convenient,
- b. Sufficient parking is available, and
- c. Access to the water is good.
- d. Underwater, the bottom is rock (most other sites have a mud bottom), and
- e. A large area is available at reasonable depths (most other sites drop off quickly).
- f. Boaters generally don't use the area, so there is little conflict.
- g. Only a few people fish from the dam, and we get along well with them.

O2-2 | We have had good relations with the fishermen in the area and we believe that the dam can provide both accessible diving and fishing without conflict. It is important that current proposals of the RMP such as the handicap-accessible fishing dock at the dam do not impact existing SCUBA diving activities at the dam.

DIVE PARK CREATION

Comment #2. We believe that submerging objects in the reservoir will improve the SCUBA diving experience and improve fish habitat by providing an artificial reef environment.

O2-3 | Comment #3. We request reconsideration of placing the dive park near the dam. We believe careful placement can eliminate current BOR concerns. The best place for a dive park is at the dam, for the same reasons that we dive there: access, good underwater characteristics, and lack of conflict with other reservoir users.

The proposed location south of the Juniper boat ramp falls short of the dam location due to the mud bottom, difficult access, and potential conflict with boating users at the already-crowded boat ramp area. We are quite

O2—Gary E. McConnell, AquaNutz Dive Club, Idaho Falls, Idaho

O2-1: Scuba diving is included as an acceptable use in the RMP and is not restricted.

O2-2: Scuba diving is not restricted at the dam. However, for safety reasons, a future scuba park will not likely be located at the dam. Please see response to comment A5-1, letter from Karl Casperson, Bonneville County Sheriff, Idaho Falls, Idaho.

O2-3: Because of safety and liability concerns, the proposed scuba dive park will not likely be located at the dam. However, scuba diving is not restricted at the dam.

O2-3 (cont) concerned about access and congestion. However, the Juniper location is probably the best among the less attractive places.

O2-4 **ROLE OF THE DIVE CLUB IN IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN**
 Comment #4. The dive club would like to set up a cooperative arrangement with BOR, State, and County to implement diving-related aspects of the RMP. We have a large group of volunteers eager to maintain and improve diving at the reservoir. The Club can serve as the focal point for organizing and carrying out volunteer activities.

COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC SECTIONS OF THE DRAFT EA

Comment #5. Chapter 2, Table 2.2-1, Juniper Park and Vicinity section, Alternative B (preferred), Dam area: Vehicular access across dam during daylight hours ...
 [It is important to retain existing vehicular access to the dam.]

Comment #6. Chapter 2, Table 2.2-1, Juniper Park and Vicinity section, Alternative B (preferred), Dam area: Continued ad hoc pedestrian access to reservoir from dam.
 [It is important to retain existing access to the reservoir from the dam.]

O2-5 Comment #7. Chapter 2, Table 2.2-1, Juniper Park and Vicinity section, Alternative B (preferred), Dam area: Allow for the development of fishing pier off dam face into reservoir that is accessible as per UFAS.
 [The pier should not impact existing scuba diving activities conducted at the dam.]

O2-6 Comment #8. Chapter 2, Table 2.2-1, Juniper Park and Vicinity section, Alternative B (preferred), Dam area: Organize parking and access to accommodate use of pier.
 [Parking and access should also accommodate existing diving use.]

O2-7 Comment #9. Chapter 2, Table 2.2-1, Juniper Park and Vicinity section, Alternative B (preferred), Juniper Boat Launch and Vicinity: Explore use of and provision for allowing materials to be submerged in reservoir south of the boat launch ramp for scuba divers.
 [We request that the BOR reconsider the location. As described in our comments #1 and #3, the dam is a much better site. We have concerns with accessibility, parking, and conflict with boaters at the already-crowded Juniper boat launch area.]

O2-8 Comment #10: Chapter 2, Section 2.3.2, Alternative B (preferred), page 2-37, improved or restricted access: Juniper Park and Vicinity: At Juniper Park near the dam area, Alternative B would allow for the development of an accessible fishing pier off the dam face into the reservoir. Parking and access would be organized to accommodate use of the pier, and interpretive displays and regulatory signage would be provided.
 [We suggest adding clarification that existing diving use would not be impacted.]

O2-4: We appreciate your past efforts and will continue to coordinate development of a scuba dive park with your group.

O2-5: Reclamation does not believe that the pier will adversely impact scuba diving activities.

O2-6: Improvements at the pier would also accommodate scuba diving activities; however, no special provisions for diver parking are included.

O2-7: The preferred site for a scuba dive park has not been identified. Please see response to comment O2-3.

O2-8: Please see response to comment O2-6.

O2-9 Comment #11: Section 2.3.2, pages 2-38 and 2-39: improved facilities and miscellaneous:
 Juniper Park and Vicinity: ... In the vicinity of the Juniper Boat Launch, overflow parking uphill of the current parking area would be developed. Reclamation would analyze provisions for allowing materials to be submerged in the reservoir near the overflow parking area for scuba divers.
 [The proposed overflow parking area is at the top of the hill. As such, the proposed diving area would not be near the parking area. Access would have to be via the boat launch area. We are concerned with the conflict this would create with boaters. The Juniper boat launch is already quite crowded.]

O2-10 Comment #12: Appendix A - Draft Goals and Objectives, B. Recreation, Goal B.2: Manage the Ririe Reservoir water surface to accommodate a variety of different user groups and minimize conflicts among users, Objective B.2.4: Accommodate the establishment of a scuba diving park at or near the dam which incorporates appropriate safety, liability, and use conflict avoidance considerations.
 [We do not believe there are any special liability considerations for scuba diving. It is no different than boating, water skiing, jet skiing, fishing, or swimming.]

Comment #13: Appendix A - Draft Goals and Objectives, B. Recreation, Goal B.2: Manage the Ririe Reservoir water surface to accommodate a variety of different user groups and minimize conflicts among users, Objective B.2.4: ... (Note: Consider potential for adding submerged items as part of park development; and consider use of the park for search and rescue training, as well as recreational activities).
 [The dive club, in cooperation with Bonneville County Search and Rescue, has used the reservoir in the past for search and recovery training. Submerged items could improve the training.]

O2-11 Comment #14: Appendix A - Draft Goals and Objectives, C. Management, Coordination, and Implementation, Access, Objective C.1.2: Provide vehicular access to recreation activities at and below the dam, consistent with public safety and operations and maintenance concerns. Potential activities requiring such access: Reservoir fishing at the north side of the dam, particularly proposed ADA compliant facilities; Scuba diving activities in the vicinity of the dam; and Fishing along Willow Creek below the dam.
 [First, reservoir fishing is at the south side of the dam. Second, it is important that these activities do not conflict with one another.]

O2-12 Comment #15: Appendix A - Draft Goals and Objectives, C. Management, Coordination, and Implementation, Other Uses; General Management and Coordination, Goal C.5: Ensure continued coordination and cooperation with involved agencies and the public as needed to implement the RMP and associated IDFG WMA Management Plans, Objective C.5.8: Provide appropriate public information and education regarding RMP goals, objectives, policies and management actions. Potential topics: ... Locations and purposes of needed use restrictions and safety regulations, possibly including: vehicle use closures, reservoir no-wake or non-motorized use zones, specialized reservoir use areas (such as authorized scuba diving and rock climbing

O2-9: Reclamation will continue to work with local diving interests in locating the potential dive park, access, and parking based on safety concerns and minimizing conflicts with other users of the reservoir.

O2-10: Please see response to comment A5-1, letter from Karl Casperson, Bonneville County Sheriff, Idaho Falls, Idaho.

O2-11: Please see response to comment O2-9.

O2-12: General scuba diving will not be limited to certain areas.

O2-12 areas), etc.
(cont) [We would like clarification that diving would not be restricted to specified areas. It is reasonable to limit diving in certain areas, but we believe existing water use regulations address this topic adequately.]

We thank you for your consideration of these comments.
-Gary

cfile

From: <IUSR_IBR1PNRW@ibr1pnrw.pn.usbr.gov>
 To: <Public_Comment@pn.usbr.gov>
 Date: Mon, Feb 12, 2001 2:44 PM
 Subject: Ririe Public Comment Form

.....
 T1: Christensen
 T2: Keith
 T3: Inland Scuba, Inc.
 T4: 551 South Capital
 T5: Idaho Falls
 T6: Idaho
 T7: 83402
 T8: 208 529-2636
 B1: Mail Comments

S1:

- O3-1** As a owner of Inland Scuba, Inc. I would like to submit the following comments. The Ririe Reservoir is used by our club we sponsor which is Inland Scuba Aqua Nutz. We have been pursuing a place on the reservoir that divers could use to dive. Thus, the dive park. A area set aside where scuba diving could be promoted and activities could be done. This area could be used to provide more experiences in advanced skills like navigation, wreck, night and boat diving plus more. A place where objects could be submerged to improve the diving experience. This would improve the fishery in the area by creating a artificial reef. Even in fresh water this could occur. This area would be somewhat protected from the boaters that use the water but not limited to just boat traffic. The area selected should have a water and land (beach) access.
- O3-2** We do not want to be limited to a single area. The reservoir has many other places to dive and be enjoyed by divers. Not one area provides everything however, some areas are better than others. The Aqua Nutz dive club has gone every year and cleaned up the reservoir in the fall. The club promotes the International Coastal Cleanup which is a world wide event. Thus, another reason to not have just one area.
- O3-3** The dive park area will have more functions than just recreational diving. The Aqua Nutz dive club has provided divers for K-9 training for the Bonneville Sheriffs Search and Rescue team. This is known as the Water Workout Weekend. The purpose is to provide training of K-9's used by search teams to locate drowned or deceased victims. This could be from any type of water accident or investigation. The dive park could be used for training of Sheriffs Departments Aquatic Rescue Teams from Eastern Idaho. This would be a perfect place to conduct advanced training for the above mentioned skills as well as Search and Recovery of large items lost in the reservoir. Again, advanced training in boat accident investigations and other underwater crime scene investigations could be completed. The area that is currently been selected is protected and out of the way of boaters. However, it lacks access from shore. Provisions need to be addressed to provide a walkway from the Juniper parking area. A shore area needs to accommodate several people and dive equipment. Sometime in the future a picnic area could be constructed for full day use activities.
- O3-4** When we look for a area to use we look for a rock bottom that is fairly shallow and is easy to reach by everyone. I wish that the committee also review the use area by the dam. This area has a rock bottom that slopes off rather than falls off. There is sufficient parking and access to the water. The boaters rarely come near the shore but use the big area provided behind the dam to turn around. There are a few people who fish on the dam but we haven't had any conflicts with them. The underwater dive park would improve fishing in the area.
- O3-5** The most important note is that we don't want to limited to a single use area. We boat and dive to many places on the reservoir and wish to continue.

O3—Keith Christensen, Inland Scuba, Inc., Idaho Falls, Idaho

- O3-1:** Please see response to comment A5-1, letter from Karl Casperson, Bonneville County Sheriff, Idaho Falls, Idaho.
- O3-2:** The RMP does not restrict diving access to certain portions of Ririe Reservoir.
- O3-3:** The location of the potential dive park has not been determined. However, your concerns with the steepness of slopes for access will be taken into consideration when selecting potential sites.
- O3-4:** The area by the dam was considered for the scuba dive park, but eliminated because of safety and liability concerns.
- O3-5:** General scuba diving will not be limited to one area.

From: <IUSR_IBR1PNRW@ibr1pnrw.pn.usbr.gov>
To: <Public_Comment@pn.usbr.gov>
Date: Thu, Feb 8, 2001 3:40 PM
Subject: Ririe Public Comment Form

T1: Shearer
T2: Pam
T3:
T4: 1015 Pescadero Place
T5: Idaho Falls
T6: ID
T7: 83404
T8: 208-523-7317
B1: Mail Comments

S1:
February 8, 2001

I1—Jeff and Pam Shearer, Idaho Falls, Idaho

- I1-1:** Facilities improvements to accommodate additional usage are described throughout the Final EA, particularly in Section 3.8.
- I1-2:** Law enforcement is currently provided by Bonneville county through an agreement with Reclamation. The agreement is reviewed annually to ensure adequate enforcement efforts are provided.
- I1-3:** According to the RMP, existing facilities will be improved before new facilities are built.

I1-1

Our first and foremost important thoughts on these issues, whether or not this is concerning safety, are the safety issues on over crowding and over usage that already exist at Ririe Reservoir. Yes we want to make sure that this area remains beautiful and that we do not completely ruin the environment, but we also want it to be a safe place to take our families and friends to enjoy this place that we are lucky to have.

We don't want to make so many improvements so that it harms the environment, but we do need some improvements as to accommodate the people and thus make it a safe place to go. IMPROVEMENTS THAT INCREASE SAFETY DO NOT NECESSARILY INCREASE USAGE, BUT INHANCE EVERYONES EXPERIENCE!!

Some improvements that would not add to usage but enhance experience would be:

1 Better and safer loading ramps with signs to make people aware of No Wake Zones; and no swimming around loading ramps and docks.

2 Better signs showing the No Wake Zones;

3 New and repaired docks for day use and mooring. The docks are aging every year.

Some docks need maintenance and some just need replaced. We keep our boat at Blacktail moorage and some of these docks are full of nails, slivers and are in need of replacement for safety reasons and to insure that our boats will not be damaged.

I1-2

4 - More law enforcement (This would only require an occasional ticket issued to violators to that everyone would realize the importance of the safety laws.) How many recreation areas that attract this many people go without law enforcement? We hardly ever see an officer and if we do they mostly sit in their cars and watch from above. This does not encourage people to be lawful because they haven't experienced much enforcement.

No matter how much improvement or non improvement you have more and more people are still going to purchase recreational vehicles and come up to Ririe Recreation area, thus we need to accommodate this increase and make the necessary improvements to enhance safety and enjoyment.

I1-3

We would like to see improvements to the already existing facilities before any new facilities. As we said before improving existing facilities or adding for safety does not necessarily increase usage, there has to be a balance, the environment yes; but also safety.

We truly enjoy our time at the lake and know what we would be missing if we could not continue to go there. We want to go there enjoy the scenery the animals and the experience, hopefully we can do it in a safe and environmentally aware way. We would also be willing to donate time to help with safety issues and improvements. Anything that we can do let us know.

Thank You,
Pam & Jeff Shearer
1015 Pescadero Place
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83404

17352

LND-800-
MIN

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

3067 Gustafson Circle
Idaho Falls, ID 83402
January 25, 2001

3902 CBS 2/02/01

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
PN Regional Office PN-3902
Attn: Carolyn Burpee Stone
1150 North Curtis Rd, Suite 100
Boise, ID 83706-1234

Dear sirs:

I will probably be gone during the Public Workshop, so am mailing my comments on the Ririe Reservoir RMP/Draft EA.

My interests in the subject RMP are those of a recreationist: principally sailing, kayaking and swimming in the reservoir.

I2-1 I agree in general with the Draft EA and the selection of Alternative B as the preferred option. In regards to swimming in the reservoir, I have usually found the West side to be preferable since there one is sheltered from the prevailing winds. However, I can understand the need to have swimming areas near the campground and boat docks.

I2-2 In my view, one of the biggest problems in terms of safety, environmental impact, and conflicts with other recreation users, will be "personal watercraft" (jet skis). At Island Park Reservoir, I have seen them speed right through squadrons of waterfowl sitting on the water. I have seen them spray water onto people sitting on docks (not anyone known to the skiers). Here in Idaho Falls they often will drive endlessly in circles offshore so that fishermen are afraid to cast their lines and swimmers are afraid to go in the water. Of course, they also make a lot of noise when doing this, which many people find annoying. I don't suppose it will be possible to keep them off the reservoir. But perhaps it would be possible to have large no-wake zones around swimming, fishing and picnic areas.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Yours truly,

Harry Reilly

I2—Harry Reilly, Idaho Falls, Idaho

I2-1: The swimming area was chosen for safety and convenient location near existing facilities.

I2-2: The no-wake zones around/in water structures (docks, morrage facilities, etc.) or people in the water (swimmers, water skiers, etc.) is 100 feet, which is standard for the State of Idaho boating regulations.

LND-8.00-
MIN

**Ririe Reservoir Resource Management Plan
Draft Environmental Assessment**

1-1105

**Ririe RMP Reservoir Public Meeting
January 30, 2001 - Idaho Falls**

18174

OFFICIAL FILE COPY
CBS 2/16/01

Name (required) Harold Winther
Address (required) Rox 396 Iona Id 83427

Please write your comments below:

Thank you for participating in the review process for the Ririe Reservoir Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) and Reclamation Management Plan (RMP).

Reclamation invites you to use this form to provide your comments on the recently released Draft RMP for the Ririe Reservoir RMP. Specifically, Reclamation is very interested in your thoughts and impressions of the various alternatives presented for the future management of Ririe Reservoir and the Blacktail Creek and Carrizo-Stops Creek Drainage Management Area.

When providing your comments, please be as specific as possible and please write clearly so we can understand your concerns.

These comments should be provided within the official public review period. If possible, please return the comment form to the close of public meeting. The form will be accepted if a self-mailed envelope is returned to us and fill it out, make sure it is returned by February 15, 2001. You can request that we withhold your name and/or address by stating this prominently at the beginning of your written comments. However, we will make all submissions from organizations or businesses and from representatives or officials of organizations or businesses available for public disclosure of their identity.

Reclamation appreciates your interest and participation in the future management and use of Ririe Reservoir.



The Ririe Reservoir is a small reservoir with a high population of people in the surrounding area and the population is increasing at a rapid pace. Therefore, the more we make it accessible to people, the more congested it will become. At some point we have to realize that enough is enough.

A hiking trail along the lake would be enjoyed by many but unless it will be closed during the winter months and the closure is enforced, it will have to much of an impact on wildlife which must be our number one priority in this area.

We must make rules that can and will be enforced.

Power is another thing that should not be put into Blacktail. It would encourage to much development thereby increasing congestion and decreasing habitat.

Before the CRP program started the Willow creek drainage run straight mud into the Reservoir every spring and everytime it rained. It was just a matter of years that the reservoir would have filled up with silt. As these lands come out of CRP this problem

will again become

www.pn.usbr.gov

Visit Reclamation and the Ririe Reservoir RMP on the World Wide Web

I3—Harold Winther, Idaho Falls, Idaho

- I3-1: Reclamation will post the trail advising against winter use for wildlife protection. However, Reclamation does not have the authority to enforce the closure.
- I3-2: Easements for power lines to Blacktail will not be allowed on Reclamation lands. Instead, on-site (solar or generator) power at Blacktail is provided to meet facility needs.

I3-1

I3-2

**Ririe Reservoir Resource Management Plan
Draft Environmental Assessment**

**Ririe RMP Reservoir Public Meeting
January 30, 2001 - Idaho Falls**

Name (required) _____
Address (required) _____

Please write your comments below: _____

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- I3-3: The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is administered through the USDA. Reclamation agrees that CRP is an important component of maintaining water quality at Ririe Reservoir, but can only advise USDA regarding the benefits of the program for controlling erosion and sediment.
- I3-4: The Pipe Creek Road would be closed during the winter if approved by Bonneville County.

evident.

If we wait for the problem of erosion and sediment to increase before implementing a plan it will be to late. It is a lot easier to stop it before it starts. If we wait for the problem to start we will be to late.

We either need to keep the CRP program going to protect our environment and wildlife or find another alternative before it is to late.

This is another reason the Pipe creek road should be closed. Wildlife should be given top priority. We are taking away to much habitat and not replacing it which forces them to areas where they cause problems.

I3-3

I3-4

**Ririe Reservoir Resource Management Plan
Draft Environmental Assessment**

**Ririe RMP Reservoir Public Meeting
January 30, 2001 - Idaho Falls**

Name (required) SHANE OLSON
Address (required) 1734 PEGGY'S LANE
IDAHO FALLS, ID. 83402

Please write your comments below:

Thank you for participating in the review process for the Ririe Reservoir Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Resource Management Plan (RMP).

Reclamation invites you to use this form to provide review comments on the recently released Draft EA for the Ririe Reservoir RMP. Specifically, Reclamation is very interested in your thoughts and impressions of the various alternatives presented for the future management of Ririe Reservoir and the Ten Creek and Cartier Slough Wildlife Management Areas.

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MY CONCERN IS WITH THE CLOSURE OF THE WILLOW CREEK ARM. ESPECIALLY IF THE CAMPING, DAY USE AND MOORAGE IS IMPROVED AT EITHER END OF THE RESEVOIR, THAT WOULD ADD BOATS AND TAKE AWAY A LOT OF WATER, THAT PORTION OF THE RESEVOIR HAS SMOOTH WATER AND IS VERY NEAR THE LAUNCH RAMP. THE RAMP AREA GETS CONGESTED AND CAN BE UNSAFE. WITHOUT THE WILLOW CREEK ARM THE BOAT TRAFFIC WOULD GET WORSE ON THE OTHER AREAS.

MANY EAGLES CO-EXIST VERY WELL IN AREAS WITH MUCH HIGHER USE. THEY CAN BE OCCUPENTED.

ALSO, I THINK THAT ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN IMMEDIATELY IN REGARDS TO RE-SEEDING THE BURNED AREAS. IF IT TAKES BEYOND THIS UPCOMING SUMMER, 2001, TO FIX THAT, I WOULD QUESTION THAT IT MIGHT BE TOO LITTLE TO LATE. THE EROSION NOW IS INCREDIBLE.

THANK YOU FOR THE MEETING

MS - 1-30-01

14—Shane Olson, Idaho Falls, Idaho

14-1: The need for closing part or all of the Willow Creek Arm during the spring and early summer would be evaluated based on the results of planned monitoring. Appropriate protection measures will be taken if threats to bald eagle nesting exist, in compliance with the Endangered Species Act. For more information, please see response to comments F1-1 and F1-2 in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service comment letter.

14-2: Bald eagle behavioral response to human activity varies in each situation. Therefore, the planned monitoring program will be implemented. Please see response to comments F1-1 and F1-2 in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service comment letter.

14-3: The newly burned areas will be seeded by winter 2001. A fire management plan, including future fire restoration plans, will be developed for the study area as part of the RMP implementation.

14-1

14-2

14-3

**Ririe Reservoir Resource Management Plan
Draft Environmental Assessment**

Ririe RMP Reservoir Public Meeting
January 30, 2001 - Idaho Falls

Name (required) TOM ROWLEY
Address (required) 1166 HOJAVE IF 83404

Please write your comments below:

although the plan has merit I believe it has one shortfall - SAFETY - Blacktail boat ramp and Juniper boat ramp are in dire need of updating & they will be a larger craft. The concrete here is unusable for any boat longer than 21'. The concrete is not for enough great one could get a shot bridge between and serious injury could result. It is so steep it makes handicap access nearly impossible.

15-1

15-2

15-3

15—Tom Rowley, Idaho Falls, Idaho

15-1: Reclamation does not plan to mandate a boat size limitation in the RMP. However, the RMP does allow for expanding the dock facilities based on demonstrated demand.

15-2: If Reclamation finds that the dock needs to be expanded to meet use demand, we will consider your suggestions.

15-3: The RMP does provide for improvement of water facilities at Juniper Park, including an overnight moorage facility for campground users. As with Blacktail, the docks would be improved based on demonstrated demand and available cost-share funding with non-federal managing partners.

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as well as promote safety. Juniper - Re Construct Sweden update especially if added impact update from additional Camp sites. You can improve sand facilities and avoid water need

Additional Comments:

Research "must" be conducted on a viable breakwater system for the marina at Blacktail. Please contact me for a floating breakwall which is safe, cheap and cost effective.

I5-4

I5-4: A breakwater is not being considered for Blacktail as a part of this RMP.

**Ririe Reservoir Resource Management Plan
Draft Environmental Assessment**

FAX # 208 398 5305

Ririe RMP Reservoir Public Meeting
January 30, 2001 - Idaho Falls

Name (required) LYNN SHEARER
Address (required) 623 CEDAR RIDGE DR. IF ID 83404

Please write your comments below:

Thank you for participating in the review process for the Ririe Reservoir Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Resource Management Plan (RMP).

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Possible monitoring at Blacktail with a limit of vehicles per day you would get a quality parking lot for 100 vehicle limit, and replaced solar powered sign counters. This would eliminate parking along side road.

Possible mooring area to protect from wind mooring boaters would be out of way. I don't know if water depth is enough at low level conditions.

Build levee to get no wake zone around mooring area. Vents would probably be available to do this.

Clean up boat ramp access when it hot and windy. A-B

become a bottle neck if fixed. visit Reclamation and the Ririe Reservoir RMP on the World Wide Web. www.pn.usbr.gov

I6-1
I6-2
I6-3
I6-4

I6—Lynn Shearer, Idaho Falls, Idaho

- I6-1:** At Blacktail, the boat launch and associated parking may be reconfigured to better manage traffic flow and parking.
- I6-2:** A new mooring area is not proposed for Blacktail at this time pending the results of the demand and capacity study.
- I6-3:** A levee is not in the RMP for Blacktail.
- I6-4:** Please see response to comment I6-1.

Additional Comments:

*Like idea of other types
of access being a day counter also,
Blacktail could also use a solar
powered loading ramp light to
allow during a new moon.*

16-5

I6-5: A loading ramp light may be considered and the suggestion passed on to Bonneville County as Reclamation's managing partner.