

## 2.0 Alternatives

## 2.0 ALTERNATIVES

### 2.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the process used to develop alternatives to the proposed Federal action, describes the alternatives in detail, and provides a summary comparison of the alternatives. The proposed Federal action, implementation of the Ririe Reservoir RMP, was described in Chapter 1, *Introduction and Background*.

Several recreation area improvements are described for each of the alternatives, such as trails, a visitor's center, interpretive signage, boat launching facilities, and parking improvements. Reclamation does not intend to build all of these facilities independently. Rather, Reclamation would allow these developments to occur if a managing partner is involved, cost-share conditions are met, and Reclamation funds are available. For the purpose of comparing the alternatives, it is assumed that all of the facilities would be built. Other actions not related to recreation facility development, such as increased noxious weed control, do not require managing partners or cost-share agreements and would be implemented as described in the alternatives.

### 2.2 Alternative Development

NEPA requires Federal agencies to evaluate a range of reasonable alternatives to a proposed Federal action. The alternatives should meet the purpose and need of the proposal while minimizing or avoiding environmental impacts. The NEPA alternative development process allows Reclamation to work with interested agencies and the public to formulate alternative management plans that respond to identified issues. The EA documents Reclamation's planning and decision process for the RMP.

Reclamation began the public involvement process in January 1999. The purpose of this process was to identify issues at Ririe Reservoir that needed to be considered in the RMP process and addressed in the EA. After the first public meeting, held in February 1999, an Ad Hoc Work Group was formed to assist in addressing issues, identifying goals and objectives, and developing alternatives. The public involvement process is fully described in Chapter 4, *Consultation and Coordination*. Reclamation developed the alternatives based on issues identified during the public involvement process, and refined alternatives with assistance from the Ad Hoc Work Group and in a February 2000 public meeting. The alternatives relate directly to the Goals and Objectives included in Appendix A.

This process resulted in the development of two action alternatives that prescribe a change in resource management. A third alternative analyzed in this EA is the No Action Alternative, which is required by NEPA. Each alternative would result in different future conditions at the reservoir and on other Reclamation lands addressed in the RMP. The three alternatives are summarized below:

- **Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices.** Reclamation would adopt no additional measures to provide management direction to meet future demand, facility needs, or natural and cultural resource improvements.
- **Alternative B—Preferred Alternative: Recreation Development Compatible with Increased Natural Resource Protection Emphasis.** The focus of this alternative is to allow a limited amount of expansion and development of recreation sites and facilities, and to increase efforts of protecting and managing natural and cultural resources on Reclamation's lands.
- **Alternative C—Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis.** The focus of this alternative is to maintain current levels of protecting and managing natural and cultural resources on Reclamation's lands and allow for a moderate level of expansion and development of recreation sites and facilities.

Table 2.2-1, presented at the end of Section 2.2, summarizes the elements of the alternatives. The table highlights the differences among the alternatives. Section 2.3, *Alternatives Considered in Detail*, describes each of the alternatives. Although the alternatives differ in many ways, several features are common to all three alternatives:

- Continue to operate and maintain Reclamation lands and facilities in conjunction with existing management partners.
- Adhere to existing and future Federal, state, and county laws and regulations.
- Authorize special recreation events on a case-by-case basis.
- Access and erosion control measures continue as currently managed at Cartier Slough.
- Bonneville County continues to manage the Ririe Reservoir recreation sites under an agreement with Reclamation.
- IDFG continues to manage Tex Creek and Cartier Slough under an agreement with Reclamation.
- For recreation development and management aspects, follow the principles contained in Public Law 89-72, Federal Water Projects Recreation Act of 1965, as amended by Title 28 of Public Law 102-575. Basically, if a non-Federal government entity has agreed to manage recreation on Reclamation lands, Reclamation may share development costs for up to 50 percent of the total cost.
- Management actions on Ririe and Teton Mitigation Lands are consistent with IDFG's Management Plans for Tex Creek and Cartier Slough.
- Use and management of the Ririe Outlet Channel would remain basically the same.

Chapter 5 presents Reclamation's environmental commitments that would be implemented as part of the alternatives for this RMP. The section on *Environmental Commitments and Best Management Practices (BMPs)* discusses standard construction and land restoration practices that would be implemented at the site of all land disturbing activities. These actions are intended to avoid or reduce the magnitude and duration of impacts from construction activities by implementing practices, such as aggressive revegetation of disturbed sites or the use of silt fences or other barriers to reduce sediment-laden runoff from construction sites. The description of expected impacts of the RMP actions assumes that the BMPs would be fully and successfully implemented.

The alternatives are described relative to four land categories present in the area. The land categories, and the geographic areas included in each, are briefly described below:

- Non-Mitigation Lands: Reclamation's lands for operation and maintenance of the Ririe Project.
  - Creekside Park and Vicinity
  - Juniper Park and Vicinity
  - Benchlands Area
  - Blacktail Park, Access Road, and Adjacent Reservoir Area
  - Remaining Non-Mitigation Lands (including a 300-foot-wide strip of land surrounding the reservoir and an east side trail)
  - Ririe Outlet Channel
- Ririe Mitigation Lands—Tex Creek WMA: Reclamation's lands purchased at Tex Creek to mitigate for the Ririe Project.
  - Willow Creek Arm
  - Remaining Ririe Mitigation Lands
- Teton Mitigation Lands—Tex Creek WMA: Reclamation's lands purchased at Tex Creek to mitigate for the Teton Project.
- Ririe and Teton Mitigation Lands—Cartier Slough WMA: Reclamation's lands purchased at Cartier Slough to mitigate for the Ririe and Teton Projects.

Table 2.2-1. Ririe Reservoir Resource Management Plan EA Alternatives <sup>1</sup>			
Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Alternative B—Preferred Alternative: Recreation Development Compatible with Increased Natural Resource Protection Emphasis	Alternative C: Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
<b>Non-Mitigation Lands</b>			
<b>Creekside Park and Vicinity</b>			
Native vegetation protection and enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No measures currently in place or practices being implemented and none proposed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect native vegetation during design and construction of recreation facilities.</li> <li>The area will be surveyed for Ute ladies' tresses.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative B.
Native fish and wildlife protection and enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No measures currently in place or practices being implemented and none proposed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain and protect riparian vegetation.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative B.
Erosion control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No measures currently in place or practices being implemented and none proposed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor and address erosion problems.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative B.
Creekside Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Area closed to motorized access and facilities have been removed. Ad hoc use continues.</li> </ul>	<p>Reopen and renovate area for day use/camping recreation use, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allow for the development of loop trail from park to Willow Creek.</li> <li>Day use facilities.</li> <li>Group tent camping, as demand warrants (possibly by reservation or other management).</li> <li>Upgrade facilities/structures.</li> <li>Provide orientation kiosk, interpretive displays, and regulatory</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative B.

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		signage. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance park vegetation (i.e., plant shade trees, install irrigation system).</li> </ul>	
East side of Willow Creek below dam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ad hoc parking and trails currently lead to various stream-side areas.</li> </ul>	Formalize existing uses, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make trails accessible as per UFAS<sup>2</sup>.</li> <li>Organize parking area.</li> <li>Add orientation and interpretive displays, and regulatory signage.</li> <li>The area will be surveyed for Ute ladies' tresses.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative B, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add day use facilities (e.g., picnic tables, trash receptacle, shade structures).</li> <li>Provide porta potty.</li> </ul>
Signage and Fencing along Reclamation property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None currently exist.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install property boundary signage along Reclamation property boundary where needed.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative B.
<b>Juniper Park and Vicinity</b>			
Dam area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vehicular access across dam during daylight hours, in conjunction with, and support from Bonneville County law enforcement.</li> <li>Continued ad hoc pedestrian access to reservoir from dam.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allow for the development of fishing pier off dam face into reservoir that is accessible as per UFAS<sup>2</sup>.</li> <li>Organize parking and access to accommodate use of pier.</li> <li>Provide interpretive displays and regulatory signage.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative B.
Visitor's Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change in current</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reorganize interior of</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative B, plus:

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and Day Use Area  Visitor’s Center and Day Use Area (continued)	uses (Bonneville County Parks Headquarters and Sheriff’s office).	Visitor’s Center as an interpretive, educational, and enforcement facility. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post “at your own risk” signage for rock climbing and pursue with Bonneville County an ordinance to prohibit cliff diving.</li> <li>• Create trailhead and associated day use facilities for non-motorized trail.</li> <li>• Provide orientation kiosk, interpretive displays, and regulatory signage at dam overlook and trailhead.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reorganize interior of Visitor’s Center as concessionaire/ convenience store.</li> </ul>
Juniper moorage and shoreline day use site and access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ad hoc access.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow for the development of trail from Visitor’s Center and Juniper Campground to shoreline.</li> <li>• Provide overnight moorage facility for campground users.</li> <li>• Create swimming area (i.e., no boating allowed).</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative B, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide fishing pier as part of moorage facility.</li> </ul>
Juniper Campground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No change in current size or uses (i.e., two 40-site loops).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow for the development of third loop to accommodate approximately up to 40 additional camping sites or group camping.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative B.
Juniper Boat Launch and Vicinity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No change in current configuration or uses.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow for the development of overflow parking area uphill from current parking area.</li> <li>• Explore use of and</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative B, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accommodate winter access for ice fishing.</li> </ul>

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Juniper Boat Launch and Vicinity (continued)		<p>provision for allowing materials to be submerged in reservoir south of the boat launch ramp or at another suitable site that avoids safety hazards, i.e., not likely at the face of the dam for scuba divers. Include “at your own risk” signage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide orientation and interpretive displays, and regulatory signage at trailhead.</li> </ul>	
Reservoir Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No change in current uses or facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide at least 3 day use floating platforms within this area of the reservoir.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide at least 6 day use floating platforms within this area of the reservoir.</li> </ul>
Entrance Gate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No change in current uses or facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reorganize, better signage.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative B.
Juniper area trails and shoreline access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ad hoc trail use continues.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow for the development of a 4 to 6 mile long trail beginning at Juniper Visitor’s Center for non-motorized (hike, bicycle) use along the rim and shoreline of the east side of the reservoir.</li> <li>• Trail development to be conducted in two or more phases.</li> <li>• Provide connections between rim and shoreline for fishing and other shoreline activities.</li> <li>• Trail and trailhead to be maintained only during</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative B.



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		Juniper Park’s season of use.	
<b>Benchlands Area</b>			
Benchlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change in current size or uses.</li> <li>Restroom facilities to be made accessible as per UFAS<sup>2</sup> (i.e., existing Reclamation mandate).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand day use facilities within existing maintained area.</li> <li>Create swimming area (i.e., no boating allowed).</li> <li>Restroom facilities to be made accessible as per UFAS<sup>2</sup>.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative B, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allow overnight use of area.</li> <li>Remove native vegetation and mow additional area for expansion.</li> </ul>
Benchlands (continued)			
Reservoir Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change in current uses or facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide at least 3 day use platforms within this area of the reservoir.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide at least 6 day use platforms within this area of the reservoir.</li> </ul>
<b>Blacktail Park, Access Road, and Adjacent Reservoir Area</b>			
Moorage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change to moorage area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allow expansion or renovation of moorage facilities.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative B.
Reservoir area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change in current uses or facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide at least 2 floating day use platforms within this area of the reservoir.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide at least 4 floating day use platforms within this area of the reservoir.</li> </ul>
Blacktail Park Day Use Area, Trailhead, and Associated Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change in current size, configuration, or uses.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand and/or add new swimming area.</li> <li>Provide orientation kiosk, interpretive displays, and regulatory signage.</li> <li>Enhance existing park vegetation (e.g., plant shade trees).</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative B, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allow for the development of a new day use area, and associated facilities (i.e., picnic tables, trash receptacle, shade structures, landscaping,</li> </ul>

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Blacktail Park Day Use Area, Trailhead, and Associated Parking (continued)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow for the development of non-motorized trail that accommodates equestrians, hikers and bicyclists providing access to the south along Willow Creek and farther into Tex Creek WMA (trailhead structures must meet UFAS<sup>2</sup>).</li> <li>• Trail and trailhead only maintained during Blacktail Park’s season of use.</li> <li>• Allow for additional parking capacity as warranted by demand within the existing park area.</li> <li>• Reorganize (e.g., in-fill) existing day use area and expand to accommodate additional day use, as warranted by carrying capacity/demand study.</li> <li>• Convert management designation of most non-active recreation areas to non-mitigation lands. These will be managed in conjunction and consistent with WMA lands. Small area south of current active recreation area to remain non-active recreation (see Map 2-5).</li> </ul>	<p>and vault toilets) adjacent to the upper (overflow) parking area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow for additional parking capacity.</li> </ul>

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Boat Launch and Associated Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change in size or current configuration of boat launch and parking area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reconfigure and better manage traffic flow and parking at existing boat launch area.</li> <li>Expand existing boat ramp if needed (based on demonstrated demand).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allow for the development of a new launch facility at the upper (overflow) parking area.</li> </ul>
Electrical Power and Concessionaire Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Electrical power for concessionaire and site operations and maintenance currently supplied by generator.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allow for increased electrical power capacity at Blacktail via on-site (i.e., solar) power generation.</li> <li>Allow renovation or expansion of concessionaire facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allow for electrical power to be brought into Blacktail (i.e., through permitting of right-of-way along access road into the park).</li> <li>Allow expansion of concessionaire facilities.</li> </ul>
Electrical Power and Concessionaire Facilities (continued)			
Camping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No camping allowed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative A.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allow for the development of tent and/or RV campground and/or group camping adjacent to the upper (overflow) parking area.</li> <li>Camping to be allowed during Blacktail Park season only and open fires not allowed.</li> </ul>
<b>Remaining Non-Mitigation Lands</b>			
Native Fish and Wildlife Protection and Enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No measures currently in place or practices being implemented. Some noxious weed control is ongoing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain and protect riparian vegetation.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative B.

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Erosion Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No measures currently in place or practices being implemented and none are being proposed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor and address erosion control problems along trail.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative B.
Native Vegetation Protection and Enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Measures currently in place include noxious weed control.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide increased monitoring and interpretive information on noxious weeds, and conduct noxious weed control as needed.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative B.
<b>Ririe Outlet Channel</b>			
Entire Channel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued use as flood control channel with mostly open access on both sides.</li> <li>Formalize grazing through lease if grazing continues.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open gates and eliminate any existing grazing along channel roadway.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative B.
Realty Action on Isolated Parcel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retain and continue grazing through a lease.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retain and manage for wildlife benefits through an agreement with IDFG.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dispose of parcel.</li> </ul>
<b>Ririe Mitigation Lands—Tex Creek WMA</b>			
<b>Willow Creek Arm</b>			
Shoreline Access Restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are no shoreline access restrictions currently in place or proposed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No shoreline access zone from April 1 to July 15 within a 1/4 mile distance of bald eagle nest.</li> <li>Reclamation will monitor the eagle nest and activity for three</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative B.

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Shoreline Access Restrictions (continued)		<p>consecutive nesting periods in an effort to determine the potential effects on eagle nesting due to boating use in the Willow Creek Arm. Reclamation will seek assistance from FWS, IDFG, Tribes, and local boating organizations to accomplish monitoring activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boating restrictions would be pursued if monitoring results indicate potential effects to bald eagles.</li> <li>The Willow Creek area above the reservoir will be surveyed for Ute ladies' tresses.</li> </ul>	
<b>Remaining Ririe Mitigation Lands</b>			
Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No trails or shoreline access available.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allow for the development of a non-motorized trail from Blacktail south along west side of Willow Creek with connections to IDFG trail farther into Tex Creek WMA.</li> <li>Include equestrian use/facilities meeting UFAS<sup>2</sup>.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative B.

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Native Vegetation Protection and Enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued management under the Tex Creek Management Plan.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased noxious weed control.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative B.
Native Fish and Wildlife Protection and Enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued management under the Tex Creek Management Plan.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased riparian habitat improvement efforts.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A.
Erosion Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued management under the Tex Creek Management Plan.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor and address erosion problems.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative B.
Realty Action on Agricultural Use Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore exchange for wildlife habitat benefit or formalize existing use through a lease to include wildlife benefit.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
<b>Teton Mitigation Lands—Tex Creek WMA</b>			
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pipe Creek Road open year-round, however, not plowed in winter for vehicular access.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with IDFG and Bonneville County to implement an ordinance to close Pipe Creek Road to motorized use, including snowmobiles, during the winter season.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pipe Creek Road to remain open year-round, but with IDFG to provide appropriate informational and regulatory signage alerting users to wildlife sensitivity.</li> </ul>
Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primary activity is hunting; no defined/signed trails.</li> <li>Four designated primitive campsites exist.</li> </ul>	Coordinate with IDFG efforts to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop trails/parking.</li> <li>Provide interpretive displays and regulatory signage on existing trails and other appropriate locations.</li> <li>Allow for the development of four additional primitive campsites as demand warrants. Locations to</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative B.

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		be determined.	
Native Vegetation Protection and Enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued management under the Tex Creek Management Plan.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased noxious weed control.</li> <li>Formalize plan for conversion of former farm lands to native shrub communities.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative B.
Native Fish and Wildlife Protection and Enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued management under the Tex Creek Management Plan.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased riparian habitat improvement efforts.</li> <li>Winter closure of the Pipe Creek Road to vehicles and snowmobiles by Bonneville County, if approved.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A.
Erosion Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued management under the Tex Creek Management Plan.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased onsite erosion control efforts as needed.</li> <li>Reclamation leadership in the TMDL process to quantify and substantially reduce sediment entering the area from off-site.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased on-site erosion control efforts as needed.</li> </ul>
<b>Ririe and Teton Mitigation Lands—Cartier Slough WMA</b>			
Native Vegetation Protection and Enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued management under the Cartier Slough Management Plan.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased noxious weed control efforts.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A.
Native Fish and Wildlife Protection and Enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued management under the Cartier Slough Management Plan.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased noxious weed control efforts.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A.

Table 2.2-1. Ririe Reservoir Resource Management Plan EA Alternatives <sup>1</sup>			
Area and Topic	Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices	Alternative B—Preferred Alternative: Recreation Development Compatible with Increased Natural Resource Protection Emphasis	Alternative C: Recreation Development/Maintain Natural Resource Emphasis
Recreation Uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued management under the Cartier Slough Management Plan.</li> <li>Continued use of existing gravel parking area and ad hoc trails.</li> </ul>	<p>Support IDFG efforts to improve non-motorized public access to and use of the WMA, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A nature interpretation trail connecting with adjacent Beaver Dick County Park.</li> <li>Photography/viewing blinds.</li> <li>Retriever trials and dog training according to seasonal restrictions.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative B.

**NOTES:**

<sup>1</sup> Several recreation area improvements are described for each of the alternatives, such as trails, visitor’s centers, interpretive signage, boat launching facilities, and parking improvements. Reclamation does not intend to build all of these facilities independently. Rather, Reclamation would allow these developments to occur if a managing partner is involved, cost-share conditions are met, and Reclamation funds are available. For the purpose of comparing the alternatives, it is assumed that all of the facilities would be built. Other actions, such as increased noxious weed control, do not require managing partners or cost-share agreements and would be implemented as described in the alternatives.

<sup>2</sup>UFAS = Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards. These accessibility standards apply to all Federal and Federally funded buildings and facilities and will be followed whenever possible. The Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines will be used, however, when they are the more stringent of the two regulations.



## 2.3 Alternatives Considered in Detail

As described in Section 2.2, three alternatives were selected for detailed analysis. As shown on Table 2.2-1, many different actions are included within each alternative. These actions can be grouped into five broad **assessment categories**:

- Native vegetation protection and enhancement
- Erosion control
- Native fish and wildlife protection and enhancement
- Improved or restricted access
- Improved or new facilities or construction including parking and camping, trails, piers and moorage, day use and visitor structures, and miscellaneous items such as realty actions

The alternatives are described in this section in terms of the assessment categories. Within each assessment category, actions are discussed for the affected portions of the RMP study area. If no actions are proposed for a geographic area within an assessment category, that area is not listed. To understand the impacts of the alternatives, see Chapter 3, *Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences*.

### 2.3.1 Alternative A—No Action: Continuation of Existing Management Practices

#### Summary of Features

As with all the alternatives, Bonneville County would continue to manage the Ririe Reservoir recreation sites, and IDFG would continue to manage Tex Creek and Cartier Slough under their current agreements with Reclamation. Under the No Action Alternative, Reclamation would not enact additional measures to provide management direction. An RMP would not be implemented. Facilities and land status under the No Action Alternative are shown on Maps 2-1, 2-2, and 2-3. It is summarized on Table 2.2-1.

Table 2.2-1 includes the following statement at several locations under Alternative A: “no measures currently in place or practices being implemented and none proposed.” This means that Reclamation currently has no specific, long-term programs for those actions in those locations. Reclamation is not actively identifying potential problems related to native vegetation protection and enhancement, erosion control, or native fish and wildlife protection and enhancement. Rather, they react to situations or problems as they arise. Under Alternative A, Reclamation would not develop plans or programs involving a change from the current reactive mode to a more proactive mode of operations.

The Tex Creek management plan (IDFG 1998a) focuses management efforts on actions to improve big game and upland game bird habitat. Some of the specific actions that IDFG implements at Tex

Creek, with support from Reclamation, include planting and conversion of former farm land to improve habitat conditions; selective fertilizer application; burning; developing terraces and sediment basins to control erosion; vegetation management to promote health and productivity; noxious weed control using chemical, mechanical, and biological methods; upland shrub and riparian species planting; beaver introductions to control erosion, reduce sediment movement, and provide longer seasonal flows to benefit native fish, wildlife, and vegetation; fence maintenance; and general road maintenance.

IDFG's Cartier Slough management plan (IDFG 1998b) focuses on efforts to provide and improve habitat for waterfowl, non-game birds, and upland game birds. Some of the specific actions that IDFG implements at Cartier Slough, with support from Reclamation, include maintaining and managing waterfowl nesting structures and habitat for optimum productivity, seasonally limiting human access to improve nesting success, vegetation manipulation to achieve desired habitat goals, noxious weed control similar to Tex Creek, fence maintenance, and development of a long-term monitoring plan for vegetation and wildlife.

## **Site-Specific Actions by Assessment Category**

### **Native Vegetation Protection and Enhancement**

#### **Non-Mitigation Lands**

No long-term measures or practices are currently being implemented by Reclamation to protect native vegetation. As described in Alternative A, *Summary of Features*, Reclamation would react to situations or problems as they arise, including endangered species issues. Currently, some noxious weed control is occurring in cooperation with Bonneville County. However, since no program exists to actively search for and eliminate noxious weeds, this occurs when particular problems are identified.

#### **Creekside Park and Vicinity**

Under the No Action Alternative, only the ad hoc measures described above would be implemented by Reclamation in the Creekside Park area.

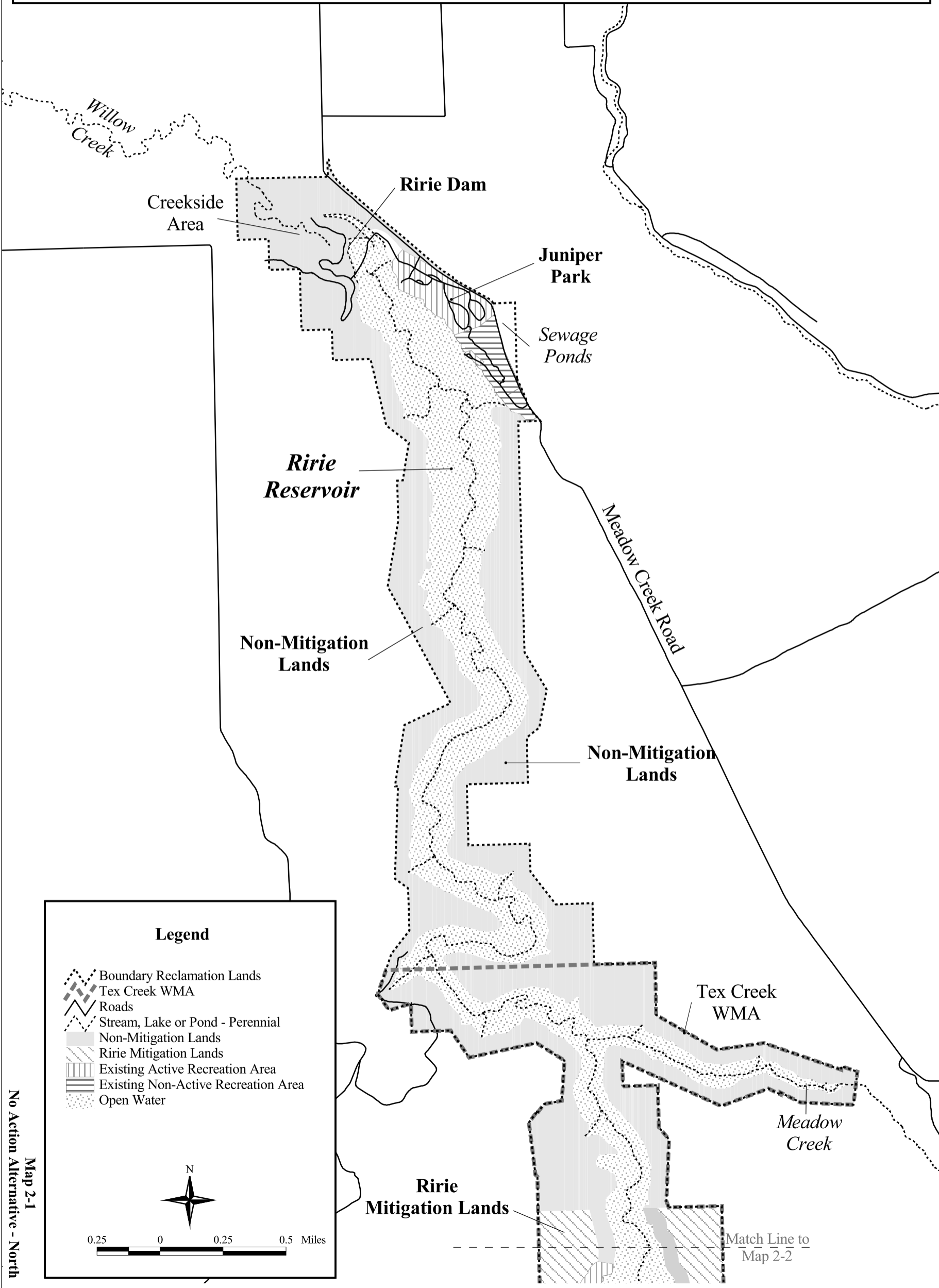
#### **Remaining Non-Mitigation Lands**

Measures would be the same as described for Creekside Park and Vicinity. Some noxious weed control is occurring on Reclamation's Non-Mitigation Lands in cooperation with Bonneville County. This generally occurs when a particular problem is identified. No program currently exists to actively search for and eliminate noxious weeds on Non-Mitigation Lands.

**Ririe Mitigation Lands—Tex Creek WMA** Native vegetation protection and enhancement measures would continue to be managed under the Tex Creek Management Plan on these lands, including the Willow Arm of Ririe Reservoir. Native vegetation on Ririe mitigation lands at Tex Creek involves Reclamation’s financial support of continued management under the Tex Creek Management Plan, which includes a series of goals and objectives intended to improve vegetation and wildlife habitat as described in Alternative A, *Summary of Features*.

**Map 2-1**  
**U.S. Bureau of Reclamation**  
**Ririe Reservoir Resource Management Plan**  
**No Action Alternative**  
**North Part of Ririe Reservoir Area**

The information displayed here is based on the best available data at the time of publication. Neither the authors, Reclamation, or any other party here warrant or represent that the information is in every respect complete and accurate, and are not held responsible for errors or omissions.



**Legend**

- Boundary Reclamation Lands
- Tex Creek WMA
- Roads
- Stream, Lake or Pond - Perennial
- Non-Mitigation Lands
- Ririe Mitigation Lands
- Existing Active Recreation Area
- Existing Non-Active Recreation Area
- Open Water



0.25    0    0.25    0.5 Miles

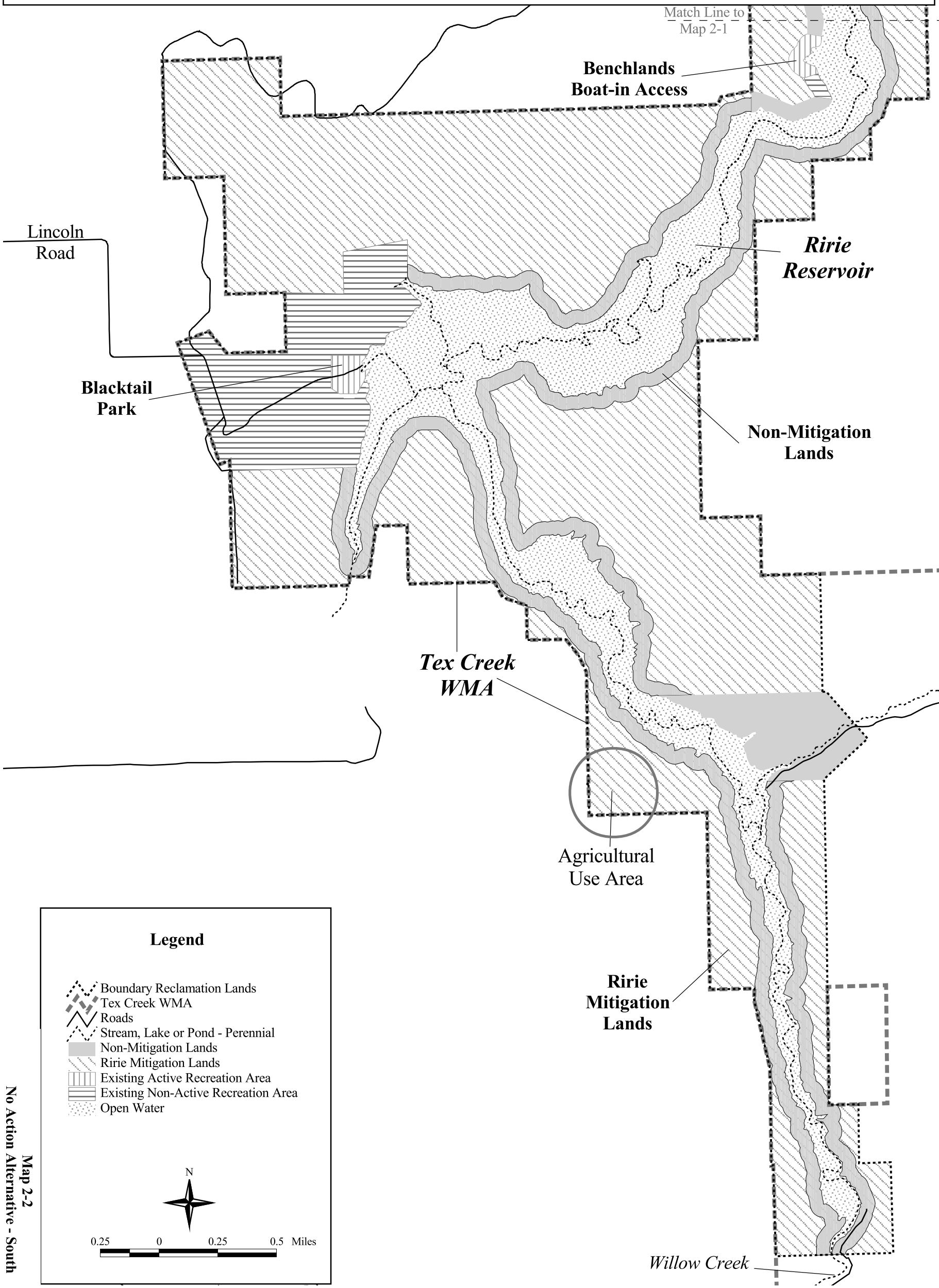
No Action Alternative - North

Map 2-1

Match Line to  
Map 2-2

**Map 2-2**  
**U.S. Bureau of Reclamation**  
**Ririe Reservoir Resource Management Plan**  
**No Action Alternative**  
**South Part of Ririe Reservoir Area**

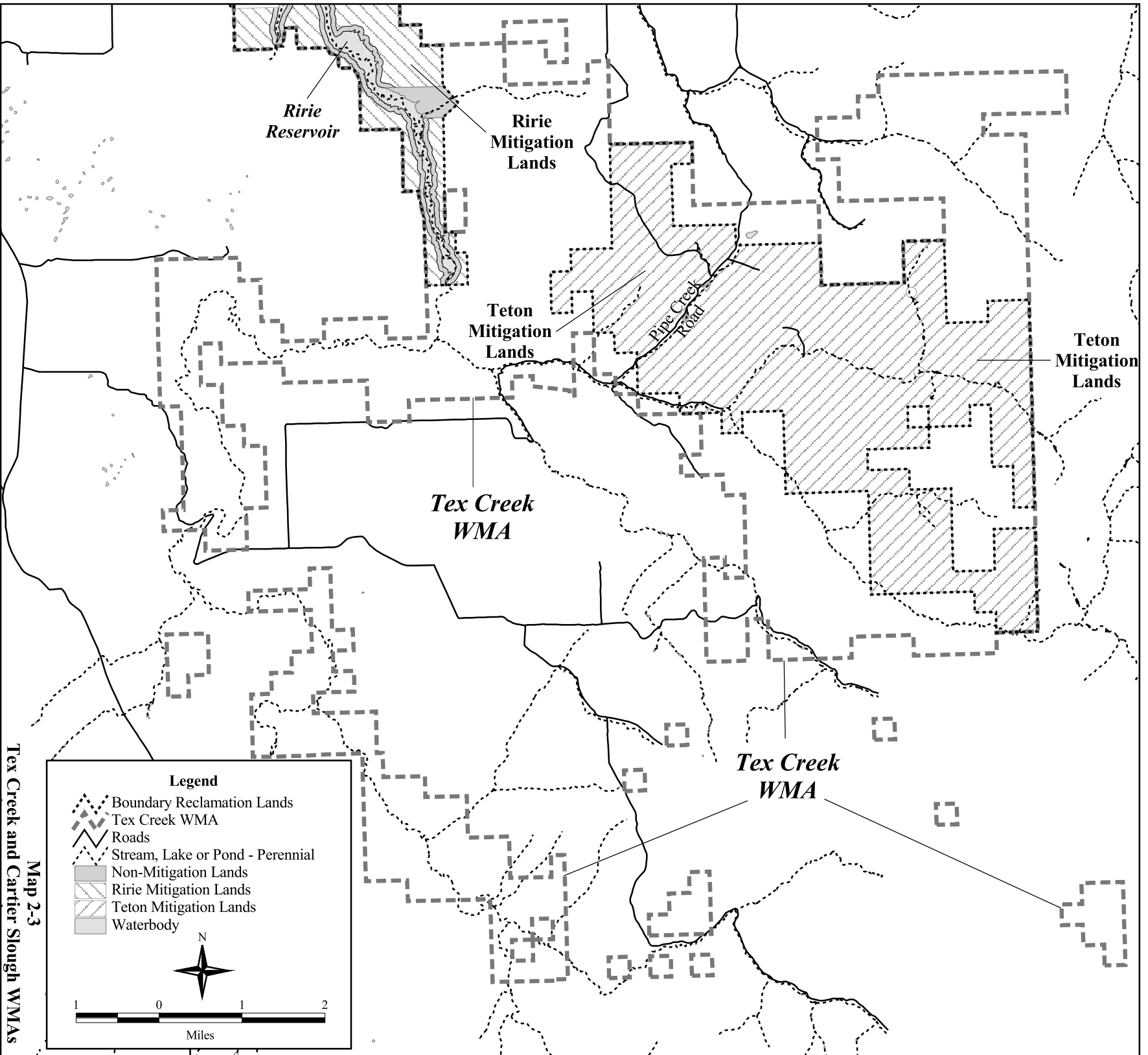
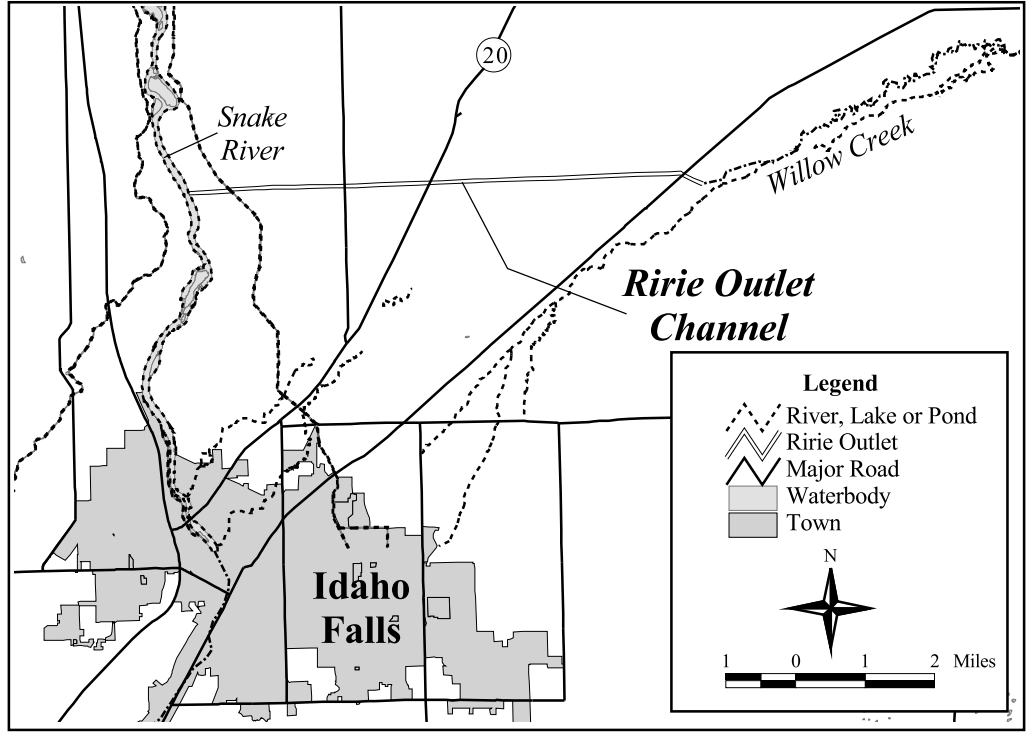
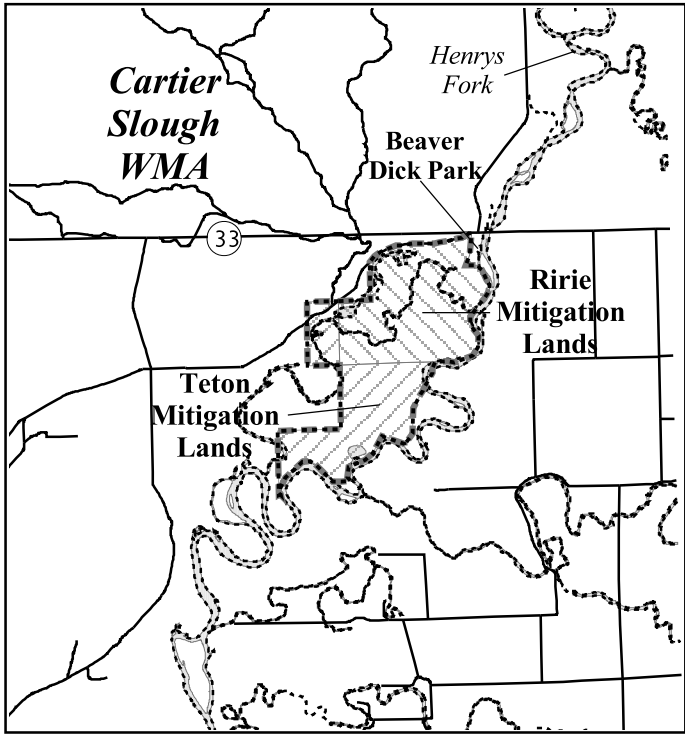
The information displayed here is based on the best available data at the time of publication. Neither the authors, Reclamation, or any other party here warrant or represent that the information is in every respect complete and accurate, and are not held responsible for errors or omissions.



Map 2-2  
 No Action Alternative - South

**Map 2-3**  
**U.S. Bureau of Reclamation**  
**Ririe Reservoir Resource Management Plan**  
**All Alternatives**  
**Tex Creek and Cartier Slough WMAs and the Ririe Outlet Channel**

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Map 2-3  
Tex Creek and Cartier Slough WMAs

### **Teton Mitigation Lands—Tex Creek WMA**

Management would continue under the Tex Creek Management Plan. IDFG management actions on Tex Creek were described in Alternative A, *Summary of Features*.

### **Ririe and Teton Mitigation Lands—Cartier Slough WMA**

Management would continue under the Cartier Slough Management Plan as described in Alternative A, *Summary of Features*.

## **Erosion Control**

### **Non-Mitigation Lands**

No long-term measures or practices are currently being implemented by Reclamation to control erosion. As described in Alternative A, *Summary of Features*, Reclamation is not actively seeking to identify potential erosion problems. Rather, they react to situations or problems as they arise. Under Alternative A, Reclamation would not develop plans or programs involving a change from the current reactive mode to a more proactive mode of operations.

#### **Creekside Park and Vicinity**

Under the No Action Alternative, ad hoc measures would be implemented by Reclamation as described above.

#### **Remaining Non-Mitigation Lands**

Erosion control measures would be the same as described for Creekside Park and Vicinity.

### **Ririe Mitigation Lands—Tex Creek WMA**

Erosion control measures would continue to be managed under the Tex Creek Management Plan. IDFG management actions on Tex Creek were described in Alternative A, *Summary of Features*.

### **Teton Mitigation Lands—Tex Creek WMA**

Management of erosion would continue as described in the Tex Creek Management Plan. Plan elements regarding erosion were described above.

### **Ririe and Teton Mitigation Lands—Cartier Slough WMA**

Management would continue under the Cartier Slough Management Plan. Elements of the plan were described above.

## **Native Fish and Wildlife Protection and Enhancement**

### **Non-Mitigation Lands**

No long-term measures or practices are currently being implemented by Reclamation to enhance native fish and wildlife protection. As described in Alternative A, *Summary of Features*, Reclamation currently has no specific programs addressing native fish and wildlife protection on Non-Mitigation Lands. Reclamation is not actively identifying potential problems related to native fish and wildlife protection and enhancement. Rather, they react to situations or problems as they arise. Under Alternative A, Reclamation would not develop plans or programs involving a change from the current reactive mode to a more proactive mode of operations.

### **Creekside Park and Vicinity**

Under the No Action Alternative, ad hoc measures would be implemented by Reclamation.

### **Remaining Non-Mitigation Lands**

Proactive measures would not be implemented, as described for Creekside Park and Vicinity.

### **Ririe Mitigation Lands—Tex Creek WMA**

Native fish and wildlife protection measures would continue to be managed under the Tex Creek Management Plan. IDFG management actions on Tex Creek were described in Alternative A, *Summary of Features*.

### **Teton Mitigation Lands—Tex Creek WMA**

Management of fish and wildlife would continue as described in the Tex Creek Management Plan. Actions were described above for Ririe Mitigation Lands at Tex Creek.

### **Ririe and Teton Mitigation Lands—Cartier Slough WMA**

Fish and wildlife protection and enhancement measures would be implemented according to the Cartier Slough Management Plan as described in Alternative A, *Summary of Features*.

## **Improved or Restricted Access**

### **Non-Mitigation Lands**

Under the No Action Alternative, access would continue as it is available currently.