

# Reclamation Manual

## Policy

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<b>Subject:</b>	Recreation Program Management
<b>Purpose:</b>	Defines the Bureau of Reclamation's overall roles and responsibilities in providing public outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities. This Policy benefits Reclamation by providing the basic strategies for implementing a successful recreation program at Reclamation water resource projects.
<b>Authority:</b>	Reclamation Act of 1902 (ch. 1093, 32 Stat. 388; 43 USC 391 et seq.), as amended and supplemented; Economy Act of 1932 (ch. 314; 31 USC 1535), as amended; Reclamation Project Act of 1939 (ch. 418, 53 Stat. 1187; 43 USC 485 et seq.); Federal Water Project Recreation Act of 1965 (Pub. L. 89-72; 79 Stat. 213, 214; 16 USC 460l et seq.), as amended; Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (Pub. L. 90-480; 82 Stat. 718; 42 USC 4151 et seq.); Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Pub. L. 93-112; 87 Stat. 355; 29 USC 701 et seq.), as amended; Reclamation Recreation Management Act of 1992 (Pub. L. 102-575, Title XXVIII; 106 Stat. 4690; 16 USC 460l-31-460l-34), as amended; Law Enforcement Authority at Bureau of Reclamation Facilities, 2001 (Pub. L. 107-69; 115 Stat. 593; 43 USC 373b); Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004 (Pub. L. 108-447, Div. J, Title VIII; 118 Stat. 3378; 16 USC 6801 et seq.); 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 21, <i>Occupancy of Cabin Sites on Public Conservation and Recreation Areas</i> ; 43 CFR part 24, <i>Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Policy</i> ; 43 CFR part 420, <i>Off-Road Vehicles</i> ; 43 CFR part 423, <i>Public Conduct on Bureau of Reclamation Facilities, Lands, and Waterbodies</i> ; 43 CFR part 429, <i>Use of Bureau of Reclamation Land, Facilities, and Waterbodies</i> ; and Reclamation project-specific authorities.
<b>Approving Official:</b>	Commissioner
<b>Contact:</b>	Policy and Administration, Land Resources Division, 84-53000

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1. **Introduction.** Reclamation's multi-purpose water projects typically include outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities and may include recreation in the projects' economic justification and financial plan. Reclamation seeks both qualified non-Federal government entities and Federal agencies to manage facilities, lands, and waterbodies at Reclamation projects for recreation purposes in response to increasing public demand for access to reservoirs and rivers for water-based recreation. Through agreements with Reclamation, non-Federal partners and other Federal agencies manage most recreation areas, with some developed recreation areas managed solely by Reclamation without the benefit of a managing partner.
2. **Applicability.** This Policy applies Reclamation staff who are responsible for the management of recreation lands and waterbodies that remain under the jurisdiction of

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Reclamation, including those lands and waterbodies managed by a partner (i.e., non-Federal entity or another Federal agency). This Policy establishes the basic strategies and criteria for implementing various recreation authorities and supersedes the Commissioner's policy letters of December 22, 1993, and May 31, 1995.

3. **Definitions.** Definitions that are applicable to recreation program management may be found in Appendix B of the Reclamation Manual (RM) Directive and Standard (D&S), *Recreation Program Management*, LND 01-03.
4. **Responsibilities.** Implementation of this Policy and the underlying authorities is the responsibility of Reclamation's directors and managers with overall recreation program administration being provided by Policy and Administration as provided in LND 01-03.
5. **Recreation Program Policy.** In providing recreation facilities and opportunities on Reclamation lands and waterbodies, Reclamation will:
  - A. give full consideration for the inclusion of outdoor recreation opportunities in project planning that is commensurate with public needs and Reclamation responsibilities, objectives, and authorities;
  - B. use effective approaches in managing Reclamation's land and water recreation resources in cooperation with non-Federal government entities, Federal agencies, volunteers, for-profit and non-profit organizations, private businesses, and concessionaires, etc.;
  - C. consider regulations and policies of managing partners when developing partnership agreements and exercise appropriate approval authority and oversight of managing partners, permittees, and concessionaires to ensure agreement compliance and the protection and appropriate use of land, resources, and facilities; and
  - D. fulfill Reclamation's stewardship responsibilities by providing recreation opportunities, facilities, and services on Reclamation lands and waterbodies consistent with authorized project purposes, resource management plans or other planning documents, authorized uses, adjacent commercial or recreational land uses, and applicable laws, regulations, Executive Orders, and the appropriate RM Policies and D&Ss.
6. **Recreation Management Policy.** To the extent possible, Reclamation will manage recreation facilities and opportunities by entering into management agreements with qualified partners. Reclamation will itself manage recreation areas within the limitations provided by existing authorities if a partner cannot be secured. Every effort will be made to prevent developed recreation areas from being turned back to Reclamation once a partner has been secured.
  - A. When there is a Pub. L. 89-72 agreement with a non-Federal partner, Reclamation may cost share up to 50 percent for planning, constructing, operating and maintaining

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recreation facilities on Reclamation lands as described in RM D&S, *Implementation of the Cost-Sharing Authorities for Recreation and Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Facilities*, LND 01-01. When Reclamation has a Federal recreation partner, the level of funding for planning, constructing, and maintaining recreation facilities is determined through authorizing legislation and a management agreement.

- B. Absent a managing partner, Reclamation will plan, construct, and manage recreation facilities and activities pursuant to the stipulations contained in Pub. L. 89-72 or project-specific recreation authority as described in LND 01-03.
  - C. Within existing authorities, each Reclamation office will take appropriate action to minimize the possibility of a partner returning management of a recreation area back to Reclamation. If a recreation managing partner turns a recreation area back to Reclamation, Reclamation will manage and maintain existing recreation facilities and activities at a level that protects the health and safety of the public and the integrity of existing facilities. Expansion or replacement of existing recreation facilities at areas that have been turned back to Reclamation are not authorized unless project-specific authority exists.
7. **Supporting Reclamation Manual Policy and Directives and Standards.** This Policy is supported by the following RM Policies and D&Ss. These Policies and D&Ss provide detailed information for planning, developing, and managing recreation resources.
- A. *Allocation of Operation and Maintenance and Replacement Costs*, PEC P07.
  - B. *Implementation of Cost-Sharing Authorities for Recreation and Fish and Wildlife Enhancement*, LND 01-01.
  - C. *Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act*, LND 01-02.
  - D. *Recreation Program Management*, LND 01-03.
  - E. *Concessions Management*, LND P02.
  - F. *Concessions Management by the Bureau of Reclamation*, LND 04-01.
  - G. *Concessions Management by Non-Federal Partners*, LND 04-02.
  - H. *Visitor Centers*, LND P13 and LND 13-01.