

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Red Fleet Reservoir Resource Management Plan Final Environmental Assessment

Upper Colorado Region



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Provo Area Office
Provo, Utah

August 2013

Mission Statements

The mission of the Department of the Interior is to protect and provide access to our Nation's natural and cultural heritage and honor our trust responsibilities to Indian Tribes and our commitments to island communities.

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.



FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Red Fleet Reservoir Resource Management Plan Environmental Assessment Uintah County, Utah

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Upper Colorado Region
Provo Area Office
Provo, Utah

Recommended by:



Chief, Environmental Group

9/6/13

Date

Concur:



Chief, Water and Environmental Resources Division

9/6/13

Date

Approved by:



Curt Pledger
Area Manager, Provo Area Office

9/6/2013

Date

FINDING

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has determined that implementing the preferred alternative for the Red Fleet Reservoir Resource Management Plan (RMP) will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment and that an environmental impact statement is not required. This decision was based on a thorough review of comments received during the public review process and the environmental impacts as described in the Red Fleet Reservoir RMP Final Environmental Assessment (EA). This decision is in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, and the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508).

DECISION

Reclamation has decided to implement Alternative C, the Recreation Development Emphasis Alternative, which was identified as the preferred alternative in the Final EA. The preferred alternative prescribes a management plan for Red Fleet Reservoir that will allow for upgraded and expanded recreation facilities while also protecting important environmental and historic resource values at Red Fleet Reservoir. New boating, camping, parking, and picnicking facilities and the accompanying access roads would be developed. Specific components that would be included with this alternative are: development of group recreation sites; addition of rental cabins or yurts; expanded hiking trails, improved shoreline access, and an accessible fishing dock; and development of trailheads and trail connectivity. Opportunities to contract services with private concessionaires would be considered as appropriate. Activities that improve or protect environmental quality are included, as well as the development of interpretation systems to inform the public about important Study Area resource issues. Coordination with jurisdictions managing resources at the reservoir and the surrounding lands will be explored under this alternative. This alternative will not affect normal operations of the reservoir.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

A finding of no significant impact is based on the following:

1. The preferred alternative will have no adverse effect on such unique characteristics as cultural resources, wilderness areas, wetlands, and riparian areas.
2. The environmental effects of the preferred alternative are neither controversial nor do they involve unique or unknown risks.
3. The preferred alternative will have no adverse effect on species either currently listed or proposed for listing as candidate, threatened, or endangered species and no adverse effect on designated critical habitat for these species.

4. The preferred alternative does not threaten to violate Federal, State, or local laws or requirements imposed for protection of the environment.
5. Reclamation has analyzed the environmental effects, public comments, and the alternatives in detail and believes that the preferred alternative best meets the purpose and need described in the EA.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Preparation of the EA for the Red Fleet Reservoir RMP required extensive public involvement activities throughout the planning process. The public scoping process, to contact and solicit comment from interested parties, was initiated in October 2011. The public scoping methods included publishing newsletters, holding public workshops, forming a Resource Management Planning Work Group (PWG), and obtaining media exposure. Each of these methods is described in Chapter 5 of the EA.

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The expected environmental impacts of the preferred alternative are described in Chapter 4 of the EA. The environmental analysis is focused on impacts to resource management partnerships, water resources, recreation and visual resources, natural and cultural resources, and land management. The environmental analysis indicates that the impacts will be temporary, short term, and insignificant.

ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION COMMITMENTS

Reclamation is committed to carry out the mitigation measures described in Chapter 2 and Appendix C of the EA. These mitigation measures have been incorporated by reference into this FONSI decision. The implementation and effectiveness of these mitigation measures will be closely monitored by Reclamation. This monitoring will ensure incorporation of mitigation requirements in all construction contract specifications, as appropriate, and compliance with mitigation measures recommended by Reclamation or by other agencies.