State of Idaho
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
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C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER
Governor

DAVID R. TUTHILL, JR.
Director

November 27, 2007

Ms. Debbie Suehr
Bureau of Reclamation
1150 N. Curtis Road
Boise, ID 83706

RE: Request under Freedom of Information Act

Dear Debbie:

The Idaho Department of Water Resources requests copies of the following information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA):

Minidoka Project, ID-WY, North Side Pumping Division – DPR appendix

- *Project Lands* (June 1952; rev. July 1956) no.1
- *Supplement to Project Lands* (1956)
- *Water Supply Supplemental (1954);* no. 1
- *Supplemental Drainage (1954);* no. 1

Minidoka Project, ID-WY, North Side Pumping Division, *Definite Plan Report, Volume 1, General Plan, February 1955,* Region 1

- Three revision sheets inside

Minidoka Project, ID-WY, North Side Pumping Extension – PFWD appendix

- *Drainage Investigations, Supporting Computations* (December 1974)

Minidoka Project, ID-WY, North Side Pumping Division Extension – Planning Report/Draft EIS

- *Hydrology* (July 1985); no. 1 [include large drawings/maps full size]

Minidoka Project, ID-WY, North Side Pumping Division, *Drainwater Management Plan, Draft Environmental Assessment,* December 1993, PN Region

Minidoka Project, ID, WY, North Side, *Minidoka North Side Resource Management Plan,* January 2005, SRAO (CD version)

If you have any questions, please call me at (208) 287-4841.

MNS-RMP - FULL. pdf

A&B 849

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Snake River Area Office
230 Collins Road
Boise, Idaho 83702-4520

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

JAN 28 2005

PN-3906
LND-8.00

Subject: Release of the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Minidoka North Side, Minidoka Project, Burley, Idaho

Dear Interested Party:

Enclosed you will find the RMP for the Minidoka North Side. As you may be aware, a planning process has been on-going for the last 2½ years involving Federal, state, local government, Tribes, and interested members of the public, to develop alternatives for managing the land and recreation resources around Burley, Idaho. This document presents the conclusion of this effort. The RMP will serve as a guide for managing the natural and cultural resources, recreation facilities, and public access for the next 15 years.

The RMP emphasizes natural and cultural resource enhancement while maintaining current recreational opportunities on Minidoka North Side land parcels. Some facility improvements are proposed. The plan addresses agricultural and grazing leases, location of sand and gravel extraction sites, and the location of drain water wetlands. The plan also identifies means for better management and enforcement of ad hoc camping, day use and off road vehicle use to protect natural resources, and efforts to eliminate current, and prevent future, trespass and encroachment onto Reclamation lands. The plan specifies that land with higher wildlife habitat values would generally not be converted to, or degraded by, other uses.

The RMP can also be viewed on Reclamation's website at www.usbr.gov/pn. The document is also available at the public library in Burley and at Reclamation's Burley, and Boise Offices. For questions about the RMP, or to request additional copies of the document, please contact: Vicki Kellerman, Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Northwest Regional Office, 1150 N. Curtis Rd, Suite 100, Boise, ID 83706, or by phone at 208-378-5326, or e-mail at: vkellerman@pn.usbr.gov.

Sincerely,

Jerrold D. Gregg
Area Manager

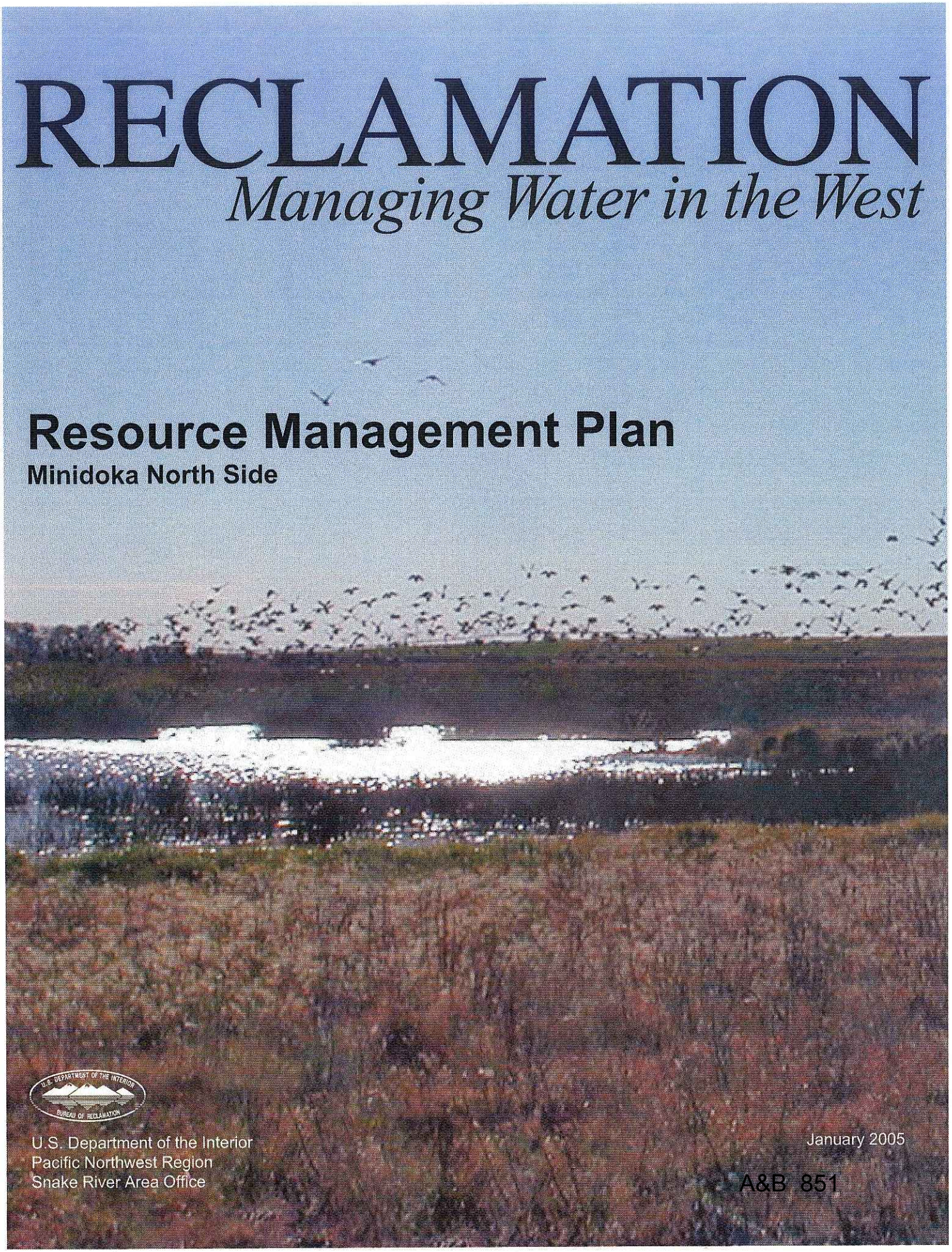
Enclosure

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Resource Management Plan

Minidoka North Side



U.S. Department of the Interior
Pacific Northwest Region
Snake River Area Office

January 2005

A&B 851

Minidoka North Side

Resource Management Plan

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

Approved:

Area Manager
Snake River Area Office
Boise, Idaho

11/17/2004
Date

J. William McDonald

Regional Director
Pacific Northwest Region
Boise, Idaho

Nov. 22, 2004
Date

This Resource Management Plan was prepared by EDAW, CH2M Hill, and JPA under contract for the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Northwest Region.

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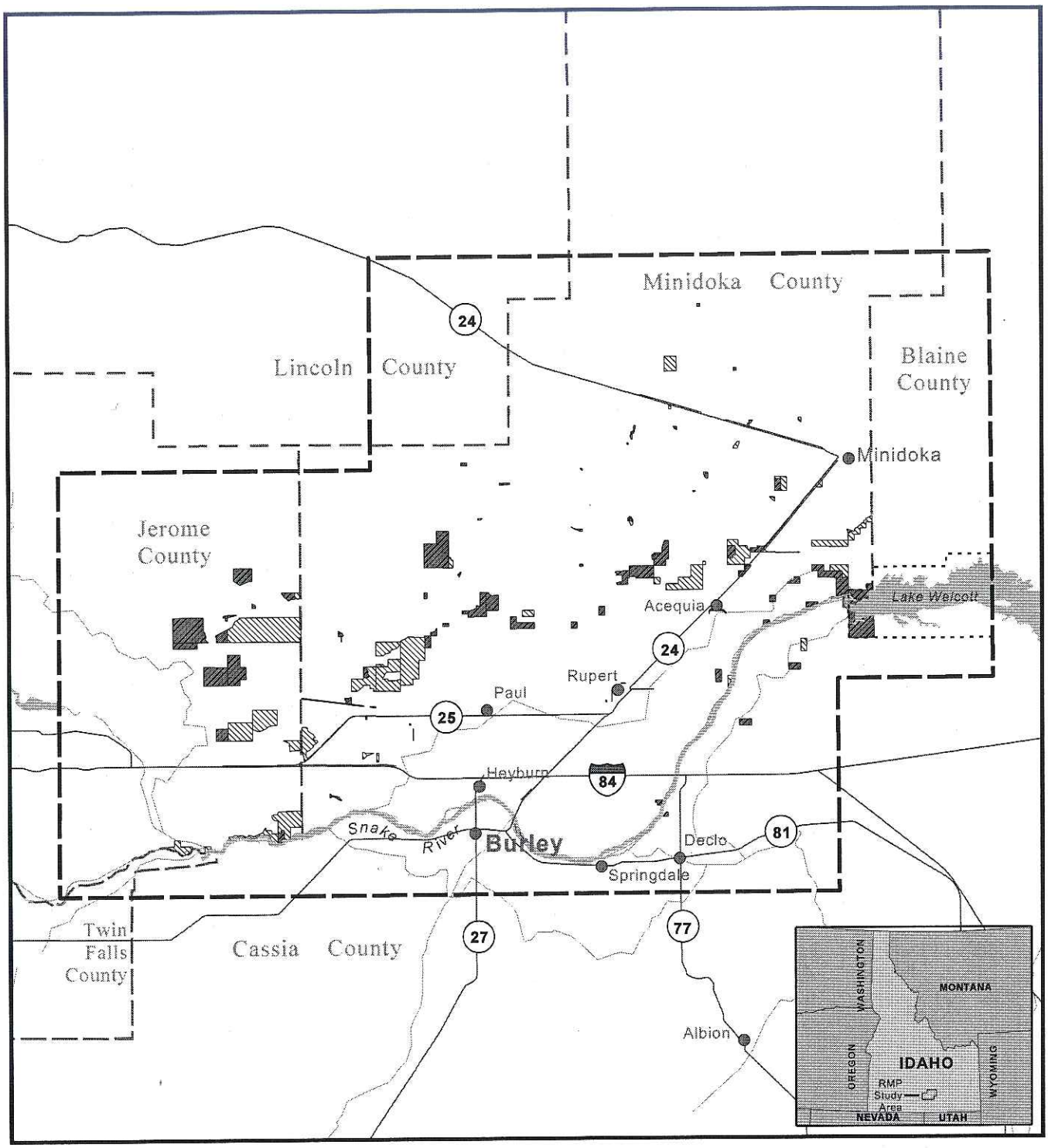

Legend

- Cities & Towns
- Major Roads
- Rivers & Streams
- Open Water
- Study Area Boundary
- Minidoka NWR Boundary

Reclamation Parcels

- Land to be Retained by Reclamation
- Lands to be Relinquished to BLM
- County Boundaries

0 1 2 3 4 5
Miles
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Source: U.S.Bureau of Reclamation, EDAW Inc. 2004

Regional Location Map
Minidoka North Side
Resource Management Plan

Neither the authors, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, nor any other party involved in preparing the material and data displayed here warrant or represent that all information is in every aspect complete and accurate, and are not held responsible for errors or omissions. This map may graphically depict property boundaries for general reference only and does not necessarily represent legal descriptions.

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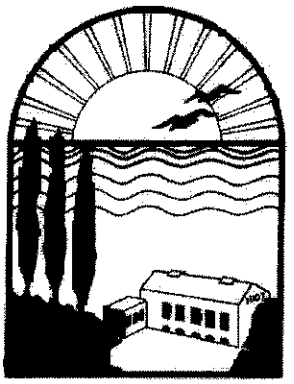
ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

A&B	A&B Irrigation District
AHWG	Ad Hoc Work Group
ARPA	Archeological Resources Protection Act
BID	Burley Irrigation District
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMP	Best Management Practice
B.P.	Before present
BPA	Bonneville Power Authority
CDC	Conservation Data Center
EA	Environmental Assessment
EO	Executive Order
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FR	Federal Register
FWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
GIS	Geographic information system
IDFG	Idaho Department of Fish and Game
IDPR	Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
IDWR	Idaho Department of Water Resources
IPM Plan	Integrated Pest Management Plan
ITAs	Indian Trust Assets
MBT Conventions	Migratory Bird Treaty Conventions
MID	Minidoka Irrigation District
N	nitrogen
NAGPRA	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
National Register	National Register of Historic Places
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NO_2	nitrogen dioxide
NO_3	nitrate
NPDES	Natural Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPS	National Park Service
NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
NTU	nephelometric turbidity units
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
ORV	off-road vehicle
Reclamation	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
RMP	Resource Management Plan
RV	recreational vehicle
SCIIDC	South-Central Idaho Interagency Dispatch Center
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SR	State Route
TCP	Traditional cultural property
TKN	Total Kjeldahl nitrogen
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USFS	U.S. Forest Service

Chapter 1

Introduction



Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 RMP Program and Policy

The Pacific Northwest Region of the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is conducting a multi-year program to prepare a Resource Management Plan (RMP) for each of its major facilities. This program is guided by Federal legislation and policies to ensure that Federal lands are managed to serve a wide range of public purposes. RMP preparation is specifically authorized in Title 28 of Public Law 102-575. It is also an outcome of *Assessment '87*, a Reclamation study that examined the future direction of its programs. This study established a broad framework for moving forward into the 21st century, with increased emphasis on the improved management of projects and the protection of the environment. Each RMP is intended to provide the management framework needed to balance the development, use, and protection of Reclamation lands and their associated natural, cultural, and recreational resources. It is Reclamation's blueprint for future resource management decisions to guide Reclamation, managing partners, and agency cooperators, as well as inform the public about the resource management policies and actions to be implemented over the life of the RMP.

Reclamation's resource management policy is to provide a broad level of stewardship to ensure and encourage resource protection, conservation, and multiple use, as appropriate. Management practices and principles established in this RMP, in accordance with existing Federal laws, regulations, and policies, provide for the protection of fish, wildlife, and other natural resources; cultural resources; public health and safety; and applicable uses of Reclamation lands and water areas, public access, and outdoor recreation.

1.2 Purpose and Scope of the Plan

The Minidoka North Side (MNS or Minidoka) RMP is a 15-year plan to provide management direction for lands and facilities under Reclamation's jurisdiction. This RMP is needed to address Reclamation's future management of the 119 separate parcels (approximately 17,700 acres) that make up the Minidoka North Side area, and are spread out over approximately 527,000 acres. Reclamation obtained the majority of these parcels at the beginning of the 20th century. The parcels were either acquired or withdrawn from the public land base specifically for Reclamation's irrigation projects. Now, however, it is apparent that not all of the parcels are required for operation and maintenance of the irrigation projects. In the long term, many of these parcels are likely to be relinquished – that is, put back in public land status and managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Approximately 46 percent of the parcels will remain under Reclamation's jurisdiction. The RMP addresses management of the existing land base (all 119 parcels), including interim management for parcels that are no longer

needed for Project purposes and long-term management for the parcels to be retained.

In this document, the entire area is collectively referred to as the "RMP Study Area." The Study Area includes Reclamation lands, as well as those surrounding the MNS parcels (see Regional Location Map).

Through implementation of the RMP, Reclamation aims to balance competing and conflicting demands for differing uses and to maximize compatibility with surrounding land uses, while affording an appropriate level of resource protection and enhancement.

Over the course of implementing the RMP, it will be reviewed, reevaluated, and revised (if necessary) in cooperation with all involved agencies and Tribes to reflect changing conditions and management objectives. If a proposed modification to the RMP would significantly affect area resources or public use, opportunities for public involvement will be provided. The RMP will be reviewed at the end of its 15-year life.

In addition to this introductory chapter, the RMP contains the five main chapters, summarized below.

Chapter 2 summarizes the relevant natural, cultural, and socioeconomic resources in the Study Area. The resource inventory describes existing conditions and lays the framework for identifying suitable resources for a variety of land and water uses, as well as sensitive resources that require special protection, enhancement, or restoration.

Chapter 3 summarizes existing land use and management. The range of existing land uses is described and existing land use agreements identified. These include: Project facilities and general operations (i.e., Minidoka Dam and Lake Walcott); agreements, easements and permits; encroachments; public facilities, utilities and services; recreational uses; and access.

Chapter 4 provides a detailed description of the RMP planning process, including the public involvement program and input received through newsbrief response forms, meetings/workshops, and agency consultation. This chapter also describes Reclamation's efforts regarding its responsibilities to the affected Tribes. All of this information helped identify the range of issues and concerns, establish goals and objectives, identify the range of alternative plans for study, and modify the Preferred Alternative, which ultimately became this RMP.

Chapter 5 is the core of the RMP and provides a detailed description of the Goals, Objectives, and Management Actions associated with the plan. The Goals, Objectives, and Management Actions are organized according to the six themes that follow: (1) land use and management; (2) natural resources; (3) cultural resources; (4) Indian sacred sites; (5) Indian Trust Assets; and (6) recreation and access.

Chapter 6 presents the implementation program associated with the Management Actions set forth in Chapter 5. This includes a description of program phasing, related actions, priorities, and responsible entities, as well as the process involved with amending and updating the plan.

1.3 Location and Description of the RMP Study Area

The Minidoka North Side RMP Study Area is located in parts of Minidoka, Cassia, Jerome, Lincoln, and Blaine counties, Idaho. The Study Area includes Minidoka Dam and 119 scattered land parcels, covering approximately 17,700 acres. The immediate Study Area includes the three counties where all of Reclamation's parcels are located—i.e., Minidoka, Cassia, and Jerome Counties.

1.4 Project Summary

Minidoka Dam was Reclamation's first Project in Idaho, with construction completed in 1906. The United States Congress designated its Project authorization to include irrigation and power generation. The Gravity Division and the North Side Pumping Division of the Minidoka Project were designed primarily to provide irrigation to the new communities of Heyburn, Paul, Acequia, and Rupert. The dam and powerplant were listed on the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) in 1974.

At the time the Project was initiated, large tracts of public land were withdrawn and transferred to Reclamation for homestead entry purposes and for the construction of Project facilities. Most of the Minidoka North Side Study Area lands were originally included in the North Side Extension Division, and were expected to become private irrigated farmland. However, because of economic conditions and water shortages, these lands were never developed. A portion of these remaining lands and land in the Minidoka Irrigation District (MID) are used for Project purposes. These parcels, many of which have trespass issues or other unauthorized uses, are scattered throughout the RMP Study Area among BLM and privately owned lands.

Minidoka Dam impounds Lake Walcott, one of five reservoirs associated within the larger Minidoka Project on the Snake River (see Photo 1-1). Lake Walcott State Park is located on Reclamation property adjacent to the lake, and Reclamation has closely coordinated this RMP effort with Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) for future planning related to park lands. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) manages the reservoir water surface and lands on the adjacent Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). Unlike Lake Walcott State Park, the Minidoka NWR is considered outside the RMP Study Area. President Theodore Roosevelt designated this 25,000-acre area as the Minidoka NWR in 1909. Other lands in the vicinity are owned or managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and private individuals and entities that use the land primarily for agriculture. A&B Irrigation District (A&B), formerly the North Side Pumping Division, and the MID, formerly the Gravity Division, operate and maintain the irrigation water system on these properties.

Due to recent water supply concerns which have been heightened by continuing drought and ground water depletions, a number of water user entities have expressed interest in studying whether it might be cost-effective to raise the dam/spillway by one to five feet in conjunction with rehabilitation efforts. A 5 foot raise could provide an additional 50,000 acre feet of storage. Raising the water surface elevation would not only alter the shore line around Lake Walcott, but could also expand or modify resource management activities. However, possible benefits of a dam raise could include: additional storage for irrigation or flow augmentation purposes; increased head for power generation; improved irrigation deliveries; additional seepage for groundwater recharge; and/or improved operational flexibility for operation of the Upper Snake system.

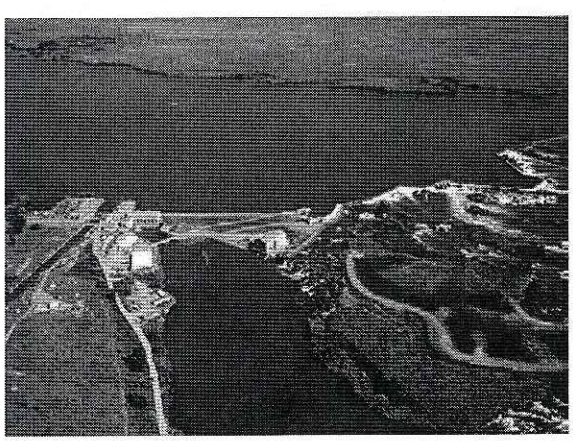


Photo 1-1. Aerial view of Minidoka Dam, powerplant, and operation facilities, with Lake Walcott above and the Snake River below.

This proposal is not part of the RMP, however, if it is pursued through legislation, Reclamation may be asked to formally study the

feasibility of this project and evaluate the effects and cost-effectiveness of the proposal. Additional representative information about the dam raise alternatives is being gathered so stakeholders can make informed decisions about their interest in, and potential support for, future project involvement.

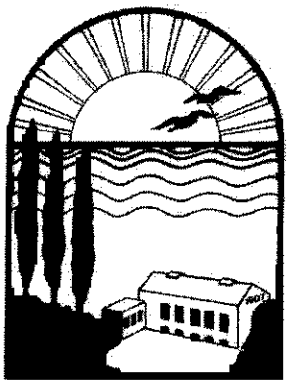
1.5 Overview of Public Involvement, Agency, and Tribal Coordination

Reclamation conducted an extensive public involvement program as part of the RMP planning process to ensure representation and participation by all those interested in the future of the Minidoka North Side lands. To achieve full representation, the program was designed to reach a user population that was dispersed over a broad geographical area, representing diverse points of view, and enthusiastic in participating in the RMP planning process.

The public involvement program consisted of four primary elements: (a) four newsbriefs mailed to agencies, Tribes, elected officials, organizations, media, and individuals; (b) three public meetings/workshops; (c) seven meetings with a group formed as part of the RMP planning process to represent key stakeholders (including agencies, Tribes, and interest groups in the area); and (d) a public web site providing access to newsbriefs, draft materials, and meeting announcements. These elements, as well as additional agency and Tribal consultation efforts, are discussed in further detail in Chapter 4.

Chapter 2

Existing Conditions



Chapter 2

Existing Conditions

2.1 Climate

The climate in the RMP area is semiarid with cold winters and hot, dry summers. Annual precipitation averages about 10 to 12 inches, with snowfall averaging 30 inches. Most precipitation falls during the fall, winter, and spring. Summer rainfall is quite low, but some precipitation falls each month. About 24 thunderstorms occur each year and most occur in the summer. Winters are relatively mild for the elevation, with average winter temperatures varying from 15 to 25°F. Temperatures below 0°F occur for very short periods. Summer temperatures vary considerably from day to day, but most days are cloudless and warm and the nights are cool. Daily temperatures average in the mid-60s to mid-80s during the summer, and the frost-free period ranges from 100 to 120 days. The prevailing winds average 10 miles per hour from the southwest.

2.2 Air Quality

Air quality is monitored by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and the results are stored in a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) database. Areas with persistent air quality problems are noted in the database as "nonattainment" areas. There are no nonattainment areas recorded by EPA in the RMP Study Area. Power County, just east of the RMP area, is a nonattainment area for particulate matter less than 10 microns in size (PM10), which typically results from airborne dust. Blowing dust is a concern in the RMP area throughout the year during windy conditions, and especially during dry years.

2.3 Topography and Geology

At Lake Walcott, the Snake River flows from east to west (see Figure 2.3-1). The terrain surrounding the reservoir and throughout the project area is generally flat (see Photo 2-1). The Snake River in southeastern Idaho lies approximately on the boundary between the Snake River plain, which is part of the Columbia Lava Plateau physiographic province, and the Basin and Range province. The mountainous areas south of the Snake River are composed of various Precambrian rocks and Paleozoic marine sedimentary rocks. The Snake River Plain north of the Snake River (and on which the RMP area is located) is composed chiefly of Quaternary basalt with interbedded sediments.

The entire Minidoka North Side RMP Study area is underlain by the Quaternary Snake River Basalt formation. This basalt bedrock formation was scoured into scablands about 15,000 years ago by the Lake Bonneville flood.

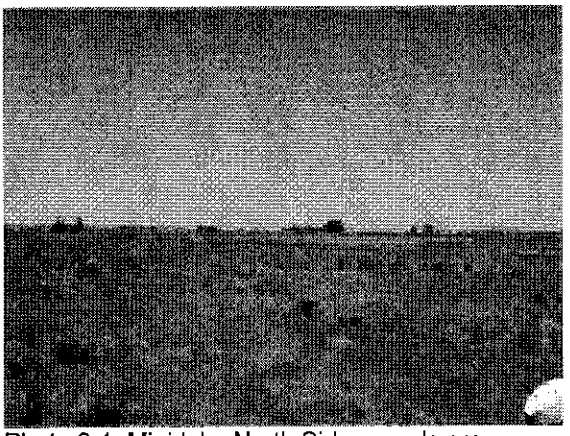


Photo 2-1. Minidoka North Side parcels are located on areas distinguished by mostly flat topography as shown in this typical landscape view.

This scabland terrain is seen on the north side of Lake Walcott in the rugged topography with a relief of several meters, exposed rock, and isolated sediment-covered areas (see Photo 2-2). Overlying the bedrock are sediments deposited by the Bonneville Flood, including sand, silt, and gravel. Much of this sediment lies in a mantle of windblown loess and sand throughout the RMP area.

2.4 Soils

Soils in the RMP Study Area have formed under shrub and grassland vegetation types. Underlying parent materials consist of irregular topographic basalt flows, as well as alluvial and eolian deposits. Alluvial deposits are gradually formed along a river through deposition of sediments. Eolian deposits are wind deposited materials, frequently formed as a result of volcanic eruptions.

Most soils are deep to very deep and are formed on level to gently sloping ground, although rock outcrops and shallow soils are found throughout the RMP Study Area. Specifically, soils in the RMP Study Area vary from silt loam and fine sandy loam deposited by wind over basalt to silty clay loam deposited on low alluvial terraces. Subsurface materials range from fine sands to very stony sandy loam. Basalt is the predominant subsurface material.

Certain soils have weakly cemented calcium or silica hardpans of varying thickness at the 12- to 36-inch depth. Scattered areas of high water tables, and salinity-affected soils, can be found north of the Snake River in the southern part of the RMP Study Area. There is a moderate risk of wind and water erosion from certain soils, although this problem is not widespread. Shrink-swell potential is moderate in some soils.

2.4.1 Soil Considerations for Wetland Development

Many of the parcels listed for potential wetland development in Table 2.4-1 are quite large and include more than one soil type, as well as variations within a particular type. Additionally, specific locations for potential wetland development have not been identified. Therefore, additional site-specific information regarding site suitability for wetland development will need to be evaluated on a case by case basis once specific locations are identified.

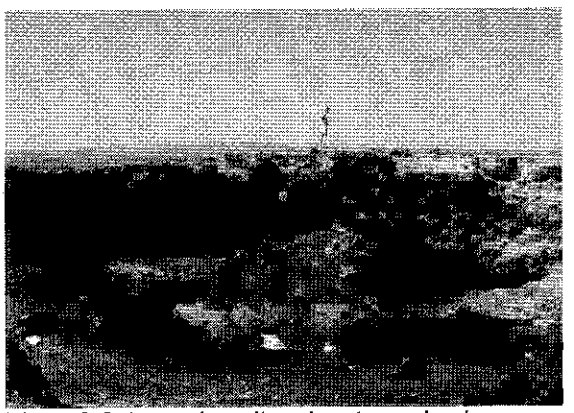


Photo 2-2. Large basalt rock outcropping known as the "Cinder Pit."

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Insert Figure 2.3-1.

Back of Figure 2.3-1.

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Table 2.4-1. Soil Characteristics of Potential Wetland Creation Locations in the Minidoka North Side RMP Study Area.

Parcel Number	Soil Survey	Dominant Soil Series	Soil Constraints/Opportunities	Other Constraints/ Opportunities
724-2-W	Minidoka Area	Sluka Silt Loam, 1-4% slopes	5-18% clay will not hold water well; hardpan at 20-40 inches; low gravel content	
821-2-W	Jerome County	Power Silt Loam, 1-4% slopes	15-30% clay enhances water holding capacity; low gravel content	
822-1-W	Minidoka Area	Power-McCain Complex, 1-4% slopes	McCain part of complex has shallow depth to bedrock	
825-4-W	Minidoka Area	Portneuf Silt Loam, 1-4% slopes	6-13% clay will not hold water well	
	Minidoka Area	Sluka Silt Loam, 1-4% slopes	5-18% clay will not hold water well; hardpan at 20-40 inches; low gravel content	
921-12-W	Jerome County	Chiara Silt Loam, 1-8% slopes	<10% clay will not hold water; hardpan at 10-20 inches	
	Jerome County	Dolman Silt Loam, 1-4% slopes	<15% clay will not hold water; hardpan at 20-40 inches	
	Jerome County	Barrymore-Starbuck Complex, 1-4% slopes	Shallow (18-25 inches to bedrock)	
921-13-W	Jerome County	Chiara Silt Loam, 1-8% slopes	<10% clay will not hold water; hardpan at 10-20 inches	
	Jerome County	Dolman Silt Loam, 1-4% slopes	<15% clay will not hold water; hardpan at 20-40 inches	
	Jerome County	Barrymore-Starbuck Complex, 1-4% slopes	Shallow (18-25 inches to bedrock)	
	Jerome County	Tulch Silt Loam, 0-2% slopes	10-30% clay is variable relative to water holding	
921-5-W	Jerome County	Chiara Silt Loam, 1-8% slopes	<10% clay will not hold water; hardpan at 10-20 inches	
	Jerome County	Sluka Silt Loam, 1-4% slopes	5-18% clay will not hold water well; hardpan at 20-40 inches; low gravel content	
922-3-W	Minidoka Area	Bahem Silt Loam, 4-8% slopes	10-18% clay is variable relative to water holding capacity; low gravel content	
	Minidoka Area	Pocatello Silt Loam, 12-30% slopes		May get too steep
925-6-W	Minidoka Area	Gravel Pits		May already have water table established
	Minidoka Area	Tindahay Sandy Loam, 0-1% slopes	Predominately sandy soils greater than 23 inches in depth; will not hold water	
921-6-W	Jerome County	Sluka Silt Loam, 1-4%slopes	5-18% clay will not hold water well; hardpan at 20-40 inches; low gravel content	
1022-6-W	Minidoka Area	Pocatello Silt Loam, 12-30% slopes		Need to identify vetch when it flowers; may get too steep

Source: Compilation of data from Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) 1975, 1994, and 1998 by CH2M HILL.

Various soil characteristics affect the difficulty with which wetlands can be created on a particular parcel. These characteristics include soil texture (relative percentages of sand, silt, and clay), prevalence of coarse fragments (rock, stone, and gravel); and presence of restrictive layers in the soil profile (hardpans or clay lenses). Characteristics conducive to wetlands creation include a high percentage of clay and silt, none to very few coarse fragments, and a clay lens deep in the soil profile. Physical limitations, such as steep slopes, may limit potential wetland development. Table 2.4-1 lists the potential wetland creation sites and known soil or physical constraints (if any) associated with the sites.

2.5 Water Resources and Hydrology

The only natural surface waters that occur within or adjacent to the boundaries of the Minidoka North Side RMP Study Area are the Snake River and Lake Walcott, formed by Minidoka Dam on the Snake River. However, these surface waters are not included in the RMP. Therefore, they are only briefly discussed.

2.5.1 Surface Waters

The Snake River lies in the southerly portion of the RMP Study Area. Reclamation's Minidoka Dam is located at the east end of the RMP Study Area. It is a diversion and storage structure that impounds Lake Walcott (see Photo 2-3). The Main North Side Canal, which serves the lands of the MID, heads at Minidoka Dam.

The Snake River Plain lacks a well-defined stream drainage pattern because of its youthful stage of geologic development, its limited precipitation, and its gentle slopes.

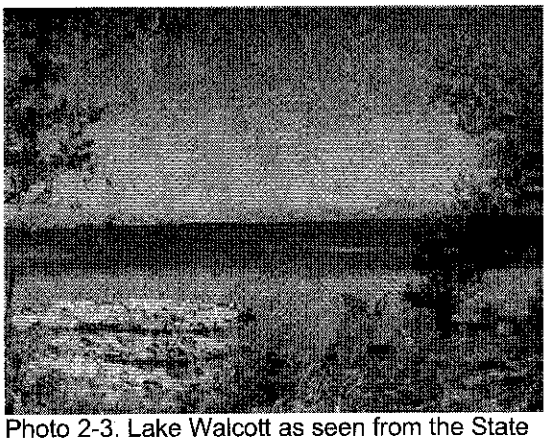

Photo 2-3. Lake Walcott as seen from the State Park.

As a result, the RMP Study Area has some enclosed drainage basins—relatively shallow depressions with no natural drainage outlets. The Snake River is the primary river of southern Idaho and its waters are diverted for irrigation on lands within the RMP Study Area boundary. Man-made surface waters include irrigation canals, return flow drains, and drain-water wetlands.

2.5.2 Groundwater

The Snake River Plain aquifer lies beneath the RMP Study Area and encompasses an area of about 10,800 square miles, extending from St. Anthony to Bliss, Idaho, a distance of 180 miles. The aquifer averages about 60 miles wide.

The Snake River Plain consists of a thick series of basalt flows under the northern part of the RMP Study Area and basalt flows interbedded with large amounts of fine-grained lake sediments to the south. The aquifer is fed by seepage from streams that enter or cross the plain, underflow from tributary valleys, seepage from irrigation, and from precipitation on the plain and bordering foothills. Discharge from the aquifer occurs as spring flows concentrated near the upper end of American Falls Reservoir and at Thousand Springs near the

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lower end of the aquifer and as groundwater pumpage for domestic, municipal, and irrigation supplies.

Data obtained from the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) indicates that the depth of groundwater below ground surface for wells in the RMP Study Area ranges from less than 10 feet to 400 feet. Depth to groundwater will likely be more shallow than indicated by well head values because of the perched water table. Perched water tables are irregular mounds in the regional water table that are often created through irrigation. Water yields from deep wells range from a high of several thousand gallons per minute per foot of drawdown in the predominantly basalt aquifer to the north to lows of less than 100 gallons per minute per foot of drawdown in the less permeable sediment-basalt aquifer to the south.

2.6 Water Quality and Contaminants

The land surface of the Snake River Plain in the RMP Study Area is flat to gently rolling, with smooth benches and small knolls. While the Snake River itself is deeply incised, the land area nearby often lacks well defined stream drainage patterns and has many local catchments formed within the landscape. As a result, relatively shallow depressions with no natural drainage outlets act as closed basins for low to moderate storm events.

In 1991, EPA designated the Snake River Plain Aquifer as a sole source of drinking water under the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. The EPA designation of the eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer as a sole source of drinking water has resulted in increasingly more stringent water quality standards.

All of the water diverted to the MID from the Snake River is delivered through a network of canals and laterals that are predominantly gravity fed (see Photo 2-4). Occasionally, pumps are used in the MID to lift surface water from a canal or drain where it enters a new lateral for distribution. A&B gets most of its water from wells (Unit B). The A&B has a limited canal system in the far southwest end of the district where it pumps water from the Snake River (Unit A).

Photo 2-4. Irrigation canals on one of the Minidoka North Side parcels.

Because of the lack of natural surface drainage outlets to the Snake River and constraints associated with drainage into the southern portions of the MID, most drainage return flows and storm water from Unit B are disposed of through injection wells that pass water directly into the underlying groundwater aquifer. There are 78 injection wells within A&B, of which 27 are still active. Within the MID, there are 5 injection wells, of which at least 2 are still active (see Photo 2-5).

In 1973, IDWR, through a grant from EPA, conducted an investigation to evaluate the impact of injection wells on the water quality of the Snake River Plain aquifer. A study site was selected in the A&B irrigation district where the basalt formations represented typical geologic conditions at injection well sites.

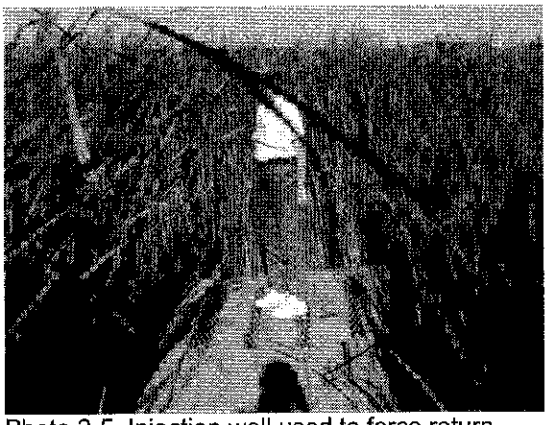

Photo 2-5. Injection well used to force return flows and storm water back into the aquifer.

Study results indicated that discharge to the injection wells was not symmetrical in the recharge zone, and the extent of the water in this zone became larger during each successive discharge sequence. This indicated that the discharge water in the receiving zone rapidly moves laterally into the receiving system. Groundwater flow in the upper receiving system moved through fractures and channels in the overlying basalt after the discharge zone had become saturated.

Purification of the discharged water moving both laterally through the recharge zone and vertically through the underlying basalt was limited. Bacterial levels within the recharge zone of both the deep perched water zone and the confined aquifer were similar to those of the discharged water. Turbidity, however, was reduced as the discharge water percolated downward through the basalt formations.

The quality of return flows is highly variable, depending on its source, method and rate of application, amount of fertilizer added, and other factors (Seitz 1977). In general, dissolved solids are increased because of leaching of minerals from the soil and from application of fertilizers. Nutrient concentrations are generally significantly higher in irrigation waste water than in the applied water. Bacteria concentrations are also significantly higher.

Drain water quality for six drain locations within A&B is summarized on Table 2.6-1. Overall, the drain water quality within A&B is generally good considering that this water is not intended for primary human contact; the data is not unexpected for agricultural drain water. Suspended sediments are within normal limits. Nitrogen values within H Drain are higher than other drain locations and all were high compared to water quality standards. Bacteria levels were also substantially higher than water quality standards, especially within the D Drain.

Drain water quality for six drains within MID is summarized on Table 2.6-2. Drain data are summarized from upstream to downstream discharges into the Snake River. Overall, the drain water quality within MID is good. Bacteria and suspended sediments are all within normal limits. Total phosphorus and turbidity values are relatively low and are actually better than expected for irrigation drain flows. Nitrogen values within the D-4 Drain are higher than other drain locations and all were high compared to water quality standards. Again, drain water is not intended for primary human contact. Phosphorous levels were also higher substantially than water quality standards, especially in the D-3 and D-4 drains. But this, too, was expected for agricultural drain water. No data was evaluated for the Southside Canal within MID.

Recent data (1996 to 2001) within MID suggest that concentrations of nitrate/nitrogen dioxide (NO3/NO2), fecal coliform bacteria, and total coliform bacteria are generally lower than those found in the Minidoka North Side Pumping Division from 1981 to 1992, which is summarized in Table 2.6-3. Fecal coliform bacteria

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Table 2.6-1. A&B Irrigation District Drain Water Quality.

Location and Analysis Method	Sample ID	NO3/NO2 mg/L	Fecal Coliform ct/100mL	Totals ct/100mL	E. coli ct/100mL	Suspended Solids mg/L
D-Drain						
average	26AD724 D-drain	2.02	2,126	4,638	—	4
median	26AD724 D-drain	2.03	700	1,120	—	4
max	26AD724 D-drain	2.53	15,100	39,000	—	7
min	26AD724 D-drain	1.65	2	20	—	1
F-Drain						
average	F-drn end infl to Cap@Hwly Weir	0.90	287	468	39	12
median	F-drn end infl to Cap@Hwly Weir	0.75	160	370	28	5
max	F-drn end infl to Cap@Hwly Weir	2.41	1,060	1,600	90	60
min	F-drn end infl to Cap@Hwly Weir	0.07	30	70	10	<1
average	F-drain below Cemetery Pond	2.94	257	755	—	34
median	F-drain below Cemetery Pond	2.94	257	755	—	34
max	F-drain below Cemetery Pond	3.97	1,060	3,000	0	93
min	F-drain below Cemetery Pond	2.13	16	20	0	4
H-Drain						
average	Infl to drn WLL5AD923ON Hdrn	5.03	918	1,210	—	9
median	Infl to drn WLL5AD923ON Hdrn	5.02	600	960	—	4
max	Infl to drn WLL5AD923ON Hdrn	5.36	2,200	2,300	—	33
min	Infl to drn WLL5AD923ON Hdrn	< 0.01	30	70	—	2
average	Goyne Sump S10 T9 R23	0.02	957	1,148	—	4
median	Goyne Sump S10 T9 R23	0.02	957	1,148	—	4

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Table 2.6-1. A&B Irrigation District Drain Water Quality.

Location and Analysis Method	Sample ID	NO3/NO2 mg/L	Fecal Coliform ct/100mL	Totals ct/100mL	E. coli ct/100mL	Suspended Solids mg/L
max	Goyne Sump S10 T9 R23	0.05	3,200	3,600	—	11
min	Goyne Sump S10 T9 R23	< 0.01	14	50	< 2	< 1
E-Drain						
average	Edrn@Edrn Stlngpnd nr rd clvrt	3.35	448	767	245	9
median	Edrn@Edrn Stlngpnd nr rd clvrt	3.35	448	767	245	9
max	Edrn@Edrn Stlngpnd nr rd clvrt	4.21	2,400	2,600	430	20
min	Edrn@Edrn Stlngpnd nr rd clvrt	2.38	12	70	16	<1
ALL DRAINS 1999-2001						
average		2.04	713	1,284	95	10
median		2.48	524	863	137	5
max		5.36	15,100	39,000	430	93
min		0.07	2	20	0	1

Source: Compilation of available data by CH2M HILL.

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Table 2.6-2. Minidoka Irrigation District Drain Water Quality.

Sample ID	Analysis Method	NO3/NO2 mg/L	Ortho-P mg/L	T-Phos mg/L	NH3 mg/L	TKN mg/L	Fecal ct/100mL	Totals ct/100mL	Suspended Solids mg/L	Turbidity NTU
D-3 d/s A1 Canal	average	2.43	0.08	0.10	0.05	0.40	201	392	3	2
D-3 d/s A1 Canal	median	2.42	0.08	0.11	0.04	0.39	120	240	2	2
D-3 d/s A1 Canal	max	5.01	0.22	0.24	0.27	0.78	1100	1900	8	4
D-3 d/s A1 Canal	min	0.83	0.01	0.03	< 0.01	0.16	10	22	< 1	< 1
D-4 1/4 Mi u/s Snake River	average	4.80	0.09	0.11	0.03	0.46	203	680	6	2
D-4 1/4 Mi u/s Snake River	median	4.70	0.08	0.10	0.03	0.46	136	320	4	2
D-4 1/4 Mi u/s Snake River	max	7.98	0.26	0.28	0.09	0.75	900	5800	44	6
D-4 1/4 Mi u/s Snake River	min	1.20	0.01	0.03	< 0.01	0.19	10	62	< 1	< 1
D-16 nr old MID Flume	average	0.93	0.03	0.06	0.07	0.47	121	449	5	2
D-16 nr old MID Flume	median	0.88	0.03	0.06	0.06	0.47	90	305	3	2
	max	1.84	0.11	0.13	0.17	0.84	640	1250	50	5
D-16 nr old MID Flume	min	0.24	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.14	10	40	< 1	< 1
D-6	average	0.48	0.05	0.07	0.06	0.41	196	427	3	2
D-6	median	0.46	0.05	0.07	0.03	0.38	89	290	3	2
D-6	max	1.36	0.11	0.14	0.41	0.75	2200	> 2000	6	3
D-6	min	0.03	0.00	0.02	< 0.01	0.26	12	60	< 1	< 1
D-12A	average	1.99	0.04	0.10	0.09	0.65	154	400	8	3
D-12A	median	2.02	0.03	0.10	0.07	0.72	85	250	7	3
D-12A	max	3.03	0.12	0.18	0.36	1.29	1100	> 2000	42	10
D-12A	min	1.05	0.01	0.04	< 0.01	0.08	12	24	1	< 1
Main Drain 1/4 Mi u/s Snake R	average	0.32	0.04	0.10	0.06	0.59	263	636	34	11

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Table 2.6-2. Minidoka Irrigation District Drain Water Quality.

Sample ID	Analysis Method	NO3/NO2 mg/L	Ortho-P mg/L	T-Phos mg/L	NH3 mg/L	TKN mg/L	Fecal ct/100mL	Totals ct/100mL	Suspended Solids mg/L	Turbidity NTU
Main Drain 1/4 Mi u/s Snake R	median	0.30	0.04	0.08	0.04	0.57	220	520	14	6
Main Drain 1/4 Mi u/s Snake R	max	0.79	0.14	0.31	0.16	1.80	1100	2300	264	61
Main Drain 1/4 Mi u/s Snake R	min	0.05	0.01	0.02	< 0.01	0.28	20	60	< 1	2
ALL DRAINS 1996-2001	average	1.58	0.05	0.09	0.06	0.49	169	441	10	4
	median	0.88	0.04	0.08	0.04	0.46	90	290	4	2
	max	7.98	0.26	0.31	0.41	1.80	2200	5800	264	61
	min	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.08	10	2	1	2

Note: Ortho-P = Ortho-Phosphorous; T-Phos = Total Phosphorous; NH_3 = Ammonia; TKN = Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen; NTU = nephelometric turbidity units

Source: Compilation of available data by CH2M HILL.

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Table 2.6-3. Water Quality Characteristics of Drainwater on the Minidoka North Side Pumping Division (1981-1992).

Parameter[1]	Standards/Criteria			Drainwater Concentrations		
	Drinking Water	Aquatic Life[2]	Irrigation Water[3]	No. of Samples	Range	Mean[4]
Electrical Conductivity (µS/cm)	—	—	750[5]	1021	6—1079	638
Turbidity (FTU)	—	—	—	1127	1—1400	66
Nitrate + Nitrate -N (mg/L)	10	—	—	986	0.1—10.0	2.0
Arsenic, Total	50	850	100	41	1—20	6
Boron	—	—	750	43	20—580	188
Cadmium, Total	5	3.9	10	77	<1—<2	1
Chromium, Total	100	16	100	77	<1—<26	6
Copper, Total	1000	18	200	77	<1—<28	6
Iron, Total	3000[6]	—	5000	77	60—20,300	2930
Lead, Total	15	82	5000	77	1—23	7
Lithium, Total	—	—	75	73	25—85	44
Manganese, Total	50[6]	—	200	77	2—645	100
Mercury, Total	2	2.4	—	78	<0.2—1.0	0.24
Selenium, Total	50	20	20	37	<1—2	2
Zinc, Total	5000	120	2000	77	1—132	30
Total Coliform Bacteria (counts/100 mL)	<1	—	—	888	5—34,000	1843
Fecal Coliform Bacteria (counts/100 mL)	<1	—	4000	888	<2—9,000	251

[1]Units are micrograms/liter except where noted: mS/cm = microsiemens per centimeter; mg/L = milligrams per liter; NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units; mL = milliliters
[2]EPA aquatic life criteria used by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the 1991 Minidoka North Side Contaminants Assessment
[3]Adapted from Water Quality Criteria for Agriculture, Environmental Protection Agency (1972)
[4]Mean of samples exceeding detection limits
[5]Problems for sensitive crops such as beans
[6]Secondary standards

Source: Reclamation 1993.

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concentrations in A&B are higher than MID. No significant concentrations of nitrates or trace elements have been found to date.

Results of drain water monitoring indicate that return flows entering project injection wells commonly exceed the Safe Drinking Water Act maximum contaminant level for coliform bacteria and turbidity. Because of the generally poor biological and physical quality of irrigation return flows, continued injection of untreated wastewater could potentially impact points of diversion for domestic use in the project area, and could contribute to contamination of the Snake River Plain Aquifer.

As noted, Reclamation has historically injected these drain waters back into the shallow groundwater aquifer. However, concerns over contamination of this aquifer with poor quality water have led to efforts to close the injection wells. In order to get rid of the irrigation runoff, Reclamation and the irrigation districts have constructed a series of artificial wetlands; the main purpose of which is to allow and facilitate evaporation and evapotranspiration of irrigation drain water. Secondary benefits of the constructed wetlands include wildlife habitat and potential water quality improvement.

In 1992, a research and demonstration project to evaluate the use of wetland systems for irrigation drainwater management was initiated at the end of the H Main Drain under Reclamation's wetlands program. Preliminary study results based on 2 years of monitoring by Reclamation indicated a net decrease in suspended solids. There are currently 11 drain water wetlands totaling about 218 acres and ranging in size from about 5 to 44 acres. Consolidation of injection wells and the construction of evaporation wetlands have allowed 51 injection wells to become inactive or capped, leaving 27 in operation in 2003 within A&B. The intent is to close all drain wells by the end of calendar year 2006.

2.7 Vegetation

Historically, the vegetation on uplands within and surrounding the RMP Study Area consisted of shrub-steppe habitat (Tisdale and Hironaka 1981). Shrub-steppe habitats in western North America are characterized by woody, mid-height shrubs, perennial bunchgrasses, and forbs (Daubenmire 1978, Dealy et al. 1981, Tisdale and Hironaka 1981, Short 1986). Periodic drought, extreme temperatures, wind, poor soil stability, and only fair soil quality (Wiens and Dyer 1975, Short 1986) create a stressful environment for biotic communities. The original shrub-steppe vegetation of the RMP Study Area was dominated by big sagebrush (Artemisia tridentata) with an understory of native perennial grasses and forbs, consisting mainly of bluebunch wheatgrass (*Agropyron/ Pseudoroegneria spicatum*), Sandberg's bluegrass (*Poa secunda*), needlegrasses (*Stipa* spp.), lupine (*Lupinus* spp.), Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja* spp.), and penstemon (*Penstemon* spp.) (Hironaka et al. 1983) (See Photo 2-6). As shown on Figure 2.7-1, most of the original

Photo 2-6. Portion of a parcel made up of mainly good shrub-steppe habitat.

Insert Figure 2.7-1.

Back of Figure 2.7-1.

bunchgrass-sagebrush communities in the vicinity of the RMP Study Area have been replaced by irrigated agriculture and pasture or are dominated by exotic species that have become established as a result of human disturbance, livestock grazing, and a higher fire frequency compared to pre-European settlement.

Currently, most of the lands within the RMP Study Area have been converted to irrigated agriculture. Remaining native vegetation exists primarily on RMP Study Area parcels that are interspersed within farmland. The western-most Reclamation parcels have the most remaining native sagebrush-grassland with native understory species of bunchgrasses and forbs (see Photo 2-7), while the eastern parcels generally have had more disturbance and are dominated by rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus* spp.) and cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) (see Photo 2-8). In some areas, protection from fire, coupled with heavy and prolonged livestock grazing, have resulted in sagebrush stands with an impoverished understory. With forb and grass depletion, biodiversity values are lost and the ability to withstand weed invasion decreases as well. Therefore, many sagebrush stands have an understory of exotic annuals dominated by cheatgrass. Cheatgrass enables a regime of frequent fires, which removes sagebrush cover and perpetuates cheatgrass dominance on these sites. Five major vegetation cover types were identified in the Study Area during vegetation mapping conducted in 2002 (Table 2.7-1, Current Vegetation on Minidoka North Side Parcels):

- Sagebrush or shrub-steppe
- Grasslands
- Wetlands
- Playas
- Forested areas

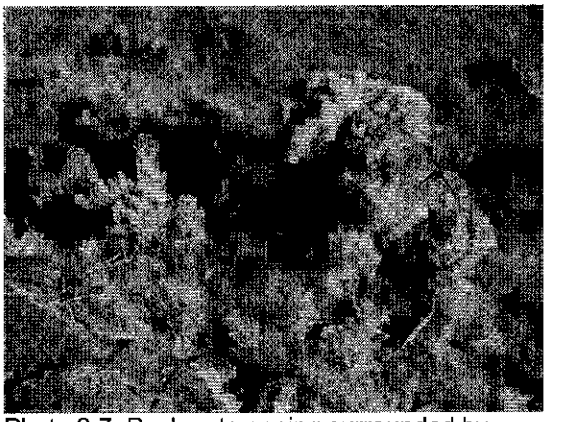

Photo 2-7. Rock outcropping surrounded by sagebrush and bunchgrasses.

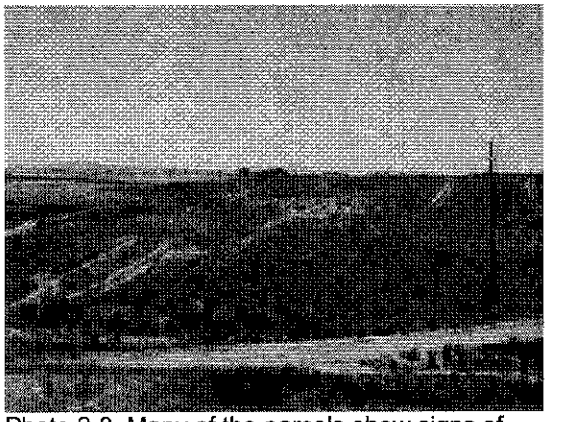

Photo 2-8. Many of the parcels show signs of degradation as typified in this photo (e.g., ORV use, over-grazing, and noxious weeds).

The shrub-steppe cover type on the west side of the RMP Study Area is dominated by big sagebrush. Rabbitbrush is scattered throughout all sites but is dominant mostly on the eastern parcels. Several internally drained basins contain silver sagebrush (*Artemisia cana*) as the dominant shrub, with lesser amounts of three-tip sagebrush (*A. tripartita*). These sites tend to have a sparse understory. There are also scattered stands of winterfat *(Ceratoides lanata*), which is rarely observed in this geographic region. Sites that have been protected from livestock grazing for several years and have not burned recently contain a variety of native grasses and forbs mixed with cheatgrass. These sites are typical of the shrub-steppe that are in relatively good

range condition. Some of the native plants found in these areas are Sandberg's bluegrass, squirreltail (*Sitanion hystrix*), bluebunch wheatgrass, western wheatgrass (*Agropyron smithii*), basin wildrye (*Elymus cinereus*), needlegrass, Indian ricegrass (*Oryzopsis hymenoides*.), lupine, penstemon, phlox (*Phlox hoodii*), paintbrush, death camas (*Zigadenus* spp.), larkspur (*Delphinium* spp.), and gooseberryleaf globemallow (*Sphaeralcea grossulariifolia*) (see Photo 2-9).

Wooded areas are defined by the presence of trees, whether native or invasive. The native species, Rocky mountain juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum*), is only found in a few areas along the Snake River.

Photo 2-9. Lupine, globe mallow, and bunch grasses.

Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), an aggressive exotic tree that displaces native species, is taking on a dominant role along the water's edge of most of the wooded parcels along the Snake River.

Table 2.7-1. Current Vegetation on Reclamation Parcels in the Minidoka North Side RMP Study Area.

Cover Type	Existing Habitat Value[a]	Approximate Total Acres (Hectares)
Sagebrush Habitat		
Sagebrush: Low Cover (<25% sagebrush cover and <60 cm tall)	Medium	400 (162)
Sagebrush: Medium-Low Cover (<25% sagebrush cover and >60 cm tall)	Medium	2,251 (911)
Sagebrush: Medium Cover (>25% sagebrush cover and <60 cm tall)	Medium-High	2 (1)
Sagebrush: High Cover (>25% sagebrush cover and >60 cm tall)	High	2,082 (843)
Grasslands		
Annual Grassland	None	7,054 (2,855)
Crested Wheat Grasslands	Low	842 (341)
Perennial Grassland	Low-Medium	876 (342)
Agriculture	None	864 (350)
Wetland	Low-High	321 (130)
Disturbed	None	91 (37)
Playas	Low	1 (<1)
Wooded	Medium-High	30 (12)
Unsurveyed	Unknown[b]	2,892 (1,207)
Total Acres (Ha)		17,706 (7,165)

[a]Based upon amount and number of native species present and amount of canopy structural diversity. [b]Generally, unsurveyed parcels likely have low habitat value because they are small and subject to disturbance and weed invasion

Source: Vegetation mapping conducted by CH2M HILL in 2002.

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Disturbed areas were dominated by either the non-native grasses listed under grassland (Table 2.7-1) or by non-native forbs. Forbs on disturbed sites include tumble mustard (*Sisymbrium altissimum*), bur buttercup (*Ranunculus testiculatus*), prickly lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*), goatsbeard (*Tragopogon* spp.), and pepperweed (*Lepidium perfoliatum*). These weedy and exotic forbs also are typical of the herbaceous cover found on disturbed areas.

The annual grassland cover type is dominated by cheatgrass with few forbs or other grasses. The cheatgrass-dominated areas are a result of increased fire frequency depressing the competitive ability of native vegetation. Some areas designated as grasslands were seeded with the non-native perennial grass crested wheatgrass (*Agropyron cristatum*). These areas were distinguished from native perennial grasslands dominated by native grass species because they lack structural diversity and have few, if any, forbs or other plant species that would make them as valuable to wildlife as the native perennial grassland species. Basin wildrye, a large native bunchgrass, occurs in limited areas on wetter sites such as the lower ends of irrigated fields and adjacent to irrigation canals.

Irrigation of RMP Study Area lands results in irrigation drain water that must be disposed. Reclamation and the irrigation districts have constructed a series of artificial wetlands, to dispose of irrigation runoff (see Photo 2-10). There are 11 drain water wetlands, totaling about 218 acres and ranging in size from about 5 to 44 acres. Other wetlands on the RMP Study Area are generally small, scattered, and usually associated with irrigation water runoff. In addition to the drain water wetlands, these other wetlands cover slightly more than 100 acres. Three wetland types are present: scrub shrub, emergent, and open water (Cowardin et al. 1979). Scrub shrub wetlands are dominated primarily by willows (*Salix* spp.). Emergent wetlands are dominated by cattails (*Typha* spp.) and bulrush (*Scirpus* spp.). The open water wetlands include stock ponds and drain water areas with no wetland vegetation.

Playas are unique natural areas where water collects temporarily following larger rain events. However, the water does not remain long enough to support wetland plants. There are several playas within some sagebrush-dominated parcels on the western side of the RMP Study Area.

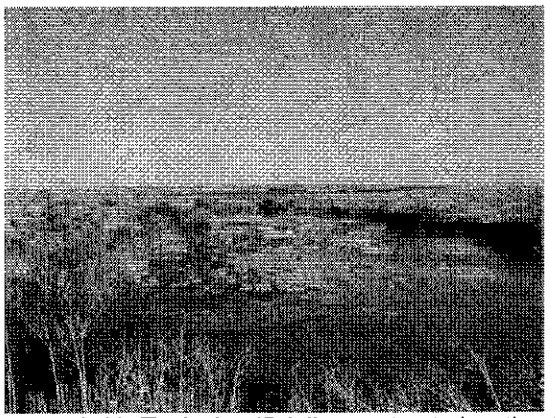

Photo 2-10. Typical artificially constructed wetland.

These playas are very rare, contain an uncommonly seen plant, combleaf (*Polyctenium fremontii*), and often contain large areas of soil covered by a cryptogramic or biological soil crust, consisting of cyanobacteria, green algae, lichens, mosses, and/or microfungi. Such crusts protect the soil surface from wind and water erosion by binding the soil surface together and also facilitate rain water percolation into the upper soil horizon.

Agricultural lands are comprised mostly of row crops, small grains, and hay. The primary irrigated crops are alfalfa, beans, corn, peas, potatoes, small grains, and sugar beets.

2.7.1 Weed Infestations

Weeds are an important issue across all land uses and cover types. Their presence on agricultural land can decrease harvest potential and increase the cost of farming. Their presence in areas with native plant cover decreases habitat values. Weed species are especially dominant where ground disturbance has occurred and along roads. Some areas are relatively weed free, especially on the larger western parcels where native species dominate and human-related disturbance within the parcels is relatively low. Cheatgrass is the most widespread weed. Bur buttercup is also ubiquitous on most areas with any sort of disturbance. Other weeds that are most often encountered are Canada thistle (*Circium arvense*), bull thistle (*Circium vulgare*), tumble mustard, bulbous bluegrass (*Poa bulbosa*), and kochia (*Kochia scoparia*).

2.7.2 Rare and Sensitive Species

Rare and sensitive species listed by the FWS as occurring in one or more of the counties in which the RMP Study Area occurs and that may be present in the Study Area are listed in Table 2.7-2. Expected presence in the Study Area is based on habitat suitability, known distribution, Idaho Conservation Data Center (CDC) information, and published literature.

2.8 Wildlife

In 1989, the FWS completed a study of wildlife and wildlife habitat on a portion of Reclamation withdrawn lands in the Minidoka North Side RMP Study Area (FWS 1989). The study was conducted to prepare a wildlife habitat management plan for parcels within the proposed Minidoka North Side Extension project. That project was not completed. However, data collected on the Reclamation parcels in the RMP Study Area provide the most comprehensive discussion of wildlife and wildlife habitat for the RMP Study Area. Information presented in that report (FWS 1989) was supplemented with information from Reclamation and IDFG biologists, Reclamation GIS files, published and unpublished literature, Idaho CDC data, and observations by CH2M HILL biologists. The FWS (1989) study focused on 73 of the 113 withdrawn parcels. There are only a few major habitat types on the parcels and within each type there is little variation, suggesting that the results of the FWS study broadly apply to all of the withdrawn lands and the surrounding agricultural lands. Information from FWS (1989) has been updated in those instances where more current data are available.

Table 2.7-2. Rare and Sensitive Plant Species Listed by FWS for Counties in RMP Study Area.

Species	Potential Occurrence by County[a]			Known Status in RMP Area
	CAS	JER	MIN	
Goose Creek milkvetch *(Astragalus anserinus)*	X			Barren slopes with substrate of white volcanic sand. Unlikely in the RMP area.
Davis' wavewing *(Cymopterus davisii)*	X			Alpine and subalpine slopes, ridges, and summits with calcareous or dolomitic soils. Not expected in the RMP area.
Idaho penstemon *(Penstemon idahoensis)*	X			Utah juniper, bitterbrush and bluebunch wheatgrass with volcanic outcrops. Possible, but unlikely in the RMP area.

[a]Counties: CAS=Cassia; JER=Jerome; MIN=Minidoka

Source: Compilation of on habitat suitability, Idaho CDC information, and published literature by CH2M HILL.

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Historically, the vast Snake River Plain, on which the RMP Study Area is located, was covered by shrub/steppe vegetation dominated by sagebrush and a wide variety of bunch grasses and forbs. Habitat value of the original shrub/steppe for wildlife has been substantially reduced and degraded by agricultural and related development, which eliminated most of the original habitat and fragmented much of what remains within predominantly agricultural areas. Remaining habitats have been further degraded by grazing and noxious weed invasion.

While the Reclamation parcels have been fragmented and degraded as described, they do represent the only remnants of native vegetation within a much larger area of irrigated lands served by the Minidoka project, and thus, those parcels that support native vegetation still do have value for wildlife. The highest wildlife habitat values are generally associated with the largest parcels supporting native vegetation. The parcels also provide virtually the only permanent cover for wildlife over a large expanse.

Wildlife using the RMP Study Area lands are generally restricted to species tolerant of the interspersed sagebrush cropland habitat. Removal of native vegetation and plant structural diversity, through overgrazing and fire, has reduced the abundance and diversity of wildlife (Kindschy 1978, McAdoo and Klebenow 1979, Ryder 1980). Reclamation ended grazing on most of the parcels in 1998, allowing some recovery of native grasses and forbs. However, no quantitative studies or inventories to document vegetation changes on these lands have been conducted.

Big game species on the project area include a few mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) and pronghorn (*Antilocarpa americana*). Some mule deer are resident and others are migrant. In recent years, the number of migrant mule deer has increased to a few hundred deer during severe winters. Fires occurring north of the project area have destroyed winter range, apparently forcing mule deer south onto the Minidoka North Side area (FWS 1985). The loss of native shrublands from fire and past conversion to agriculture has reduced and degraded mule deer winter range, resulting in increased depredations on private lands (FWS 1985, Reclamation 1986).

Large fur bearing mammals occurring in upland parts of the Study Area include coyote (*Canis latrans*), red fox (*Vulves vulpes*), badger (*Taxidea taxus*), and striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*). Raccoons (*Procyo lotor*), muskrats (*Ondatra zibethica*), long tailed weasels (*Mustela frenata*), and mink (*Mustela vison*) occur on parcels along the Snake River or those containing larger wetlands or canals. Small mammals common to the area include black tailed jackrabbits (*Lepus californicus*), montane voles (*Microtus montanus*), and deer mice (*Peromyscus maniculatus*).

Some of the conspicuous nongame birds breeding on parcels with native vegetation include common nighthawks (*Chordeiles minor*), western kingbirds (*Tyrannus verticalis*), sage thrashers (*Oreoscoptes montanus*), loggerhead shrikes (*Lanius ludovicianus*), and Brewer's sparrows (*Spizella breweri*).

More than 230 species of birds have been observed at the Minidoka NWR since 1950, according to FWS (2002). The more common breeding raptors are northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), and burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*). Less common raptors that are present during migration or summer include prairie falcon (*F. mexicanus*),

Swainson's hawk (*B. swainsoni*), ferruginous hawk (*B. regalis*), turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), short eared owl (*Asio flammeus*), and great horned owl (*Bubo virginianus*). The most abundant wintering raptors are the rough legged hawk (*Buteo lagopus*), red tailed hawk, and prairie falcon. Northern goshawks (*Accipiter gentilis*), may be present in the winter, especially near the Snake River, and golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) may also be present during winter.

As discussed in Section 2.7, Vegetation, Reclamation and the irrigation districts have constructed a series of artificial wetlands; the main purpose of which is to facilitate evaporation and evapotranspiration of irrigation drain water. There are 11 drain water wetlands totaling about 218 acres and ranging in size from about 5 to 44 acres. Other wetlands on the RMP Study Area are generally small, scattered, and usually associated with irrigation water runoff. In addition to the drain water wetlands, these other wetlands cover slightly more than 100 acres. Vegetation cover associated with these drain water wetlands varies considerably. The larger drain water wetlands provide the most valuable wildlife habitat.

The larger wetlands provide feeding and resting habitat for migrating waterfowl as well as some nesting habitat (see Photo 2-11). No surveys have been conducted to document wildlife use. However, it is likely that several of the species that are common to abundant at the Minidoka NWR would also use the larger drain water wetlands at times. The Minidoka NWR bird lists (FWS 2002 and 1989) indicate that the waterfowl species most likely to use Study Area wetlands and nearby grain fields include mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*), gadwalls (*A. strepera*), and cinnamon teal (*A. cyanoptera*). Fewer numbers of redheads (*Aythya americana*), ruddy ducks (*Oxyura jamaicensis*), pintails (*Anas acuta*), American wigeon (*Anas americana*) and northern shovelers (*Anas clypeata*) breed in the refuge area and may occasionally use drain water wetlands. Wintering waterfowl include Canada geese (*Branta canadensis*), mallards, pintails, gadwalls, American wigeon, northern shovelers, and green winged teal (*Anas crecca*). Tundra swans (*Cygnus columbianus*) forage in grain fields in relatively low numbers during migration.

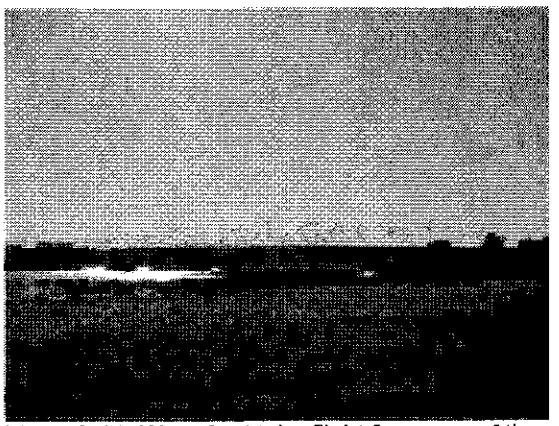

Photo 2-11. Waterfowl take flight from one of the larger artificially constructed wetlands.

Great blue herons (*Ardea herodias*), American avocets (*Recurvirosta americana*), long billed curlews (*Numenius americanus*), killdeer (*Charadrius vociferous*), and other shorebirds would also be expected to use the larger wetlands, as would red-winged blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceous*).

Historically, Minidoka County had some of the highest densities of pheasants in Idaho (Thomas 1985, FWS 1985). The pheasants reached peak densities between 1955 and 1965. The increase in grain production—in combination with weedy areas along canals, roadside vegetation, spoil areas, and interspersion of remaining sagebrush lands—created excellent habitat for pheasants (Reclamation 1986). In recent years, however, pheasants have declined

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drastically (Rybarczyk and Connelly 1985). Much of the decline is due to loss of permanent and carry-over wintering and nesting habitat that resulted from changes in farming practices. Conversion of rangelands to agriculture, and more efficient and intensive farming, has resulted in larger farms, loss of roadside cover, removal of riparian vegetation, increased use of herbicides and insecticides, and burning of fence rows and ditch banks. Croplands are usually fallow during fall and winter, making waste grain unavailable as a pheasant food source. In addition to clean farming practices, human-caused and wild fires have converted sagebrush to annual grasslands, destroying valuable winter and escape cover for pheasants.

In addition to pheasants, other upland game species in the Study Area include gray partridge (*Perdix perdix*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), Nuttall's cottontail (*Sylvilagus nuttallii*).

Amphibians and reptiles expected to occur include long toed salamanders (*Ambystoma macrodactylum*), Pacific treefrogs (*Hyla regilla*), western chorus frogs (*Pseudacris triseriata*), longnose leopard lizards (*Gambelia wislizenii*), side blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*), racers (*Coluber constrictor*), gopher snakes (*Pituophis melanoleucus*), garter snakes (*Thamnophis* spp.), and western rattlesnakes (*Crotalus viridis*).

The Snake River immediately downstream of Minidoka Dam is included in the RMP Study Area. Most of the wildlife species noted as using wetlands and river side parcels would be expected in this area. In addition, white pelicans (*Pelicanus erythrohynchus*) and several species of gulls use the area just below the dam during the summer.

Executive Order 13186 defines the responsibilities of Federal agencies to protect migratory birds under the four Migratory Bird Treaties (MBT Conventions) to which the United States is a signatory. Most birds in North America are considered migratory under one or more of the MBT Conventions. The Executive Order mandates that all Federal agencies cooperate with the FWS to increase awareness and protection of the nation's migratory bird resources. Each agency is required to develop an MOU with FWS stating how it intends to cooperate. Reclamation is in the process of finalizing an MOU with FWS, which includes provisions for analyzing Reclamation's effect on migratory birds.

2.8.1 Rare and Sensitive Species

Rare and sensitive species listed by the FWS as occurring in one or more of the counties in which the RMP Study Area occurs and that may be present in the Study Area are listed in Table 2.8-1. Expected presence in the Study Area is based on habitat suitability, occurrence in similar habitats at the nearby Minidoka NWR, and published literature including Groves et al. (1997). Other rare or sensitive species listed by the FWS for these counties, but that are not expected to occur in the RMP Study Area, are not included in Table 2.8-1. With few exceptions, there are no data regarding the occurrence of rare and sensitive species or their habitats on Reclamation parcels.

Table 2.8-1. Rare and Sensitive Wildlife Species Listed by FWS for Counties in RMP Study Area Containing Reclamation Parcels.

Species	Potential Occurrence by County[a]			Known Status in RMP Area
	CAS	JER	MIN	
Mammals				
Yuma myotis *(Myotis yumanensis)*				Often associated with water, ranges throughout southern Idaho. Likely near the Snake River and possible drain water wetlands.
Long-eared myotis *(Myotis evotis)*	X			More common in forested areas but may be present in riparian habitat along the Snake River
Western small-footed myotis *(Myotis ciliolabrum)*	X			Occurs in arid areas especially associated with cliffs; this habitat occurs on some of the western parcels along the Snake River
Townsend's big-eared bat *(Corynorhinus townsendii)*	X			Occurs throughout southern Idaho in shrub/steppe, among other habitats. Suitable habitat on larger parcels of native habitat.
Birds				
Columbian sharp-tailed grouse *(Tympanuchus phasianellus)*				Not likely in the RMP parcels but there has been a lek on the Minidoka NWR just east of the RMP Study Area since 1998.
Greater sage-grouse *(Centocercus urophasianus)*	X	X	X	Sign observed at one of the western parcels and suitable, but not high quality habitat present
Trumpeter swan *(Cygnus buccinator)*	X		X	Occasional at Minidoka NWR so possible, though rare, on larger Study Area drain water wetlands
Northern goshawk *(Accipiter gentilis)*	X			Present along the Snake River, especially during winter and migration. Expected along the Snake River parcels with trees.
Ferruginous hawk *(Buteo regalis)*	X			Suitable foraging habitat present on the Study Area and on the Minidoka NWR
Black tern *(Chlidonias niger)*	X			Migrates through the Minidoka NWR for a brief period in September, so could occur at the larger drain water wetlands. Has not nested at the Minidoka NWR and is unlikely to nest at the drain water wetlands because of limited habitat.
Long-billed curlew *(Numenius americanus)*	X	X	X	Likely present, and may nest, especially near larger wetland areas
Western burrowing owl *(Speotyto cunicularia hypugaea)*	X			May be present, uncommon on the Minidoka NWR
Invertebrates				
Idaho Dunes tiger beetle *(Cicindela arenicola)*			X	Known to be present on at least one parcel

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Table 2.8-1. Rare and Sensitive Wildlife Species Listed by FWS for Counties in RMP Study Area Containing Reclamation Parcels.

Species	Potential Occurrence by County[a]			Known Status in RMP Area
	CAS	JER	MIN	
Amphibians and Reptiles				
Northern leopard frog *(Rana pipiens)*	X	X	X	Likely present near wetlands and along the Snake River; fairly common around Lake Walcott.
Common garter snake *(Thamnophis sirtalis)*	X	X	X	Likely present along the Snake River, canals and drains, and drain water wetlands
Short-horned lizard *(Phrynosoma douglassi)*	X	X	X	Likely present on some larger parcels with native vegetation; have been observed by FWS on the Minidoka NWR.

[a]Counties: CAS=Cassia; JER=Jerome; MIN=Minidoka
Source: Compilation of available data by CH2M HILL.

2.9 Aquatic Biology

The Snake River below Minidoka Dam near Burley is predominantly a good quality fishery when water conditions are optimal (Personal Communication, Doug Megargle, May 29, 2003). The fishery is directly affected by seasonally fluctuating water levels and flows, and its quality typically deteriorates during dry periods. Poor water quality conditions are predominantly caused by irrigation return flows, high water temperatures, and algal blooms (ibid.). Water quality issues are exacerbated during periods of minimal flow.

The fishery is important to some and contains trophy size trout, but is generally considered to be a moderate use area for sport fishing (ibid.). Trout and bass are the main game species present in the Snake River below Minidoka Dam and fishing is permitted all year. Although some parts of the Snake River are stocked, this reach supports a self-sustaining trout population and is not supplemented (ibid.). This trout population is often affected by fluctuating water levels and flows, thriving during good water years and declining during dry periods (ibid.). Trout species found in this area include rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), brown trout (*Salmo trutta*), cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki*), and rainbow trout—cutthroat trout hybrids (IDFG 2001).

Warm water game fish species present in this area of the Snake River include largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*), smallmouth bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*), bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*), brown bullhead (*Ameiurus nebulosus*), channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*), and yellow perch (*Perca flavescens*) (IDFG 2001). The bass population, which is also self-sustaining, is more successful at maintaining itself and is less affected by poor quality water conditions than the trout population.

The only aquatic habitat present on the Study Area parcels are the drain water wetlands created to evaporate irrigation drain water. These are temporary in nature and only exist when there is excess irrigation drain water. The temporary nature of these wetlands prevents their use by all aquatic species except perhaps a few frogs and aquatic insects.

2.9.1 Rare and Sensitive Species

No state sensitive fish or other aquatic species were identified as occurring within

the Snake River immediately below Minidoka Dam (IDFG 2003 and FWS 2003a) and none occur on any of the parcels. Three snail species listed as Federally threatened or endangered and occurring within Minidoka and Cassia Counties are addressed in Section 2.10, Threatened, Endangered, Candidate, and Proposed Species.

2.10 Threatened, Endangered, Candidate, and Proposed Species

The RMP Study Area is located within parts of four counties. This area also includes a limited number of plant communities and cover types, compared to the wide variety of these present in the four counties. Topographic variation within the RMP Study Area is also limited compared to that of these four counties. The FWS web site for Idaho (FWS 2003a) lists all of the listed, proposed, and candidate species for each of the counties. These species are listed in Table 2.10-1, along with information regarding the species' known or expected status within the RMP Study Area. Species that are known or expected to occur in the Study Area or that occur near the Study Area are discussed below. Threatened and endangered species, listed by the ESA, along with candidate and proposed species that do not occur in the Study Area, are only discussed in Table 2.10-1. Expected presence in the Study Area is based on habitat suitability, occurrence in similar habitats at the nearby Minidoka NWR, and published literature including Groves et al. (1997).

2.10.1 Wildlife

Bald Eagle

Bald eagles were listed as endangered on March 11, 1967 (32 Federal Register [FR] 4001). The recovery of the species allowed a reclassification to threatened on July 12, 1995 (60 FR 35999-36010). Bald eagles are closely associated with lakes and large rivers in open areas, forests, and mountains. They nest near open water in late-successional forest with many perches or nest sites, and low levels of human disturbance (McGarigal 1988, Wright and Escano 1986). The nest site is usually within one quarter to 1 mile of open water with less than 5 percent of the shore developed within 1 mile. Perches are generally at the edge of forest stands, near foraging areas, or near the nest tree and have panoramic views of surrounding areas. They need large trees along rivers with good visibility, preferably snags, for perching. Protected deep ravines with large trees are often used as night roosts. Critical winter habitat is located near food sources, such as lakes, rivers, and uplands with big game winter range. These sites have adequate perch sites and sheltered roost sites. Human activity may be a major factor limiting bald eagle distribution on wintering habitats (Steenhof 1976).

One pair of bald eagles nest on the Minidoka NWR (Personal Communication, Steve Bouffard, June 16, 2003). There are typically 10 to 20 bald eagles along the Snake river within the refuge during the winter until the water freezes. When the reservoir freezes, the eagles at the west end of the reservoir move downstream below the dam, where they continue to feed on waterfowl and fish. They generally roost in large cottonwoods. Bald eagles would not be expected to use any of the parcels that are

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Table 2.10-1. Threatened and Endangered Species, Proposed Species, Candidate Species, and Species Petitioned for ESA Listing for Counties in RMP Study Area Containing Reclamation Parcels.

Species[a]	Potential Occurrence by County[b] CAS	JER	MIN	Expected or Known Status in RMP Area
Listed Species				
Mammals				
Canada lynx (LT) *(Lynx canadensis)*	X			No suitable habitat present in RMP area or on adjacent lands
Gray wolf (XN) *(Canis lupus)*	X	X	X	No suitable habitat present in RMP area or on adjacent lands
Birds				
Bald eagle (LT) *(Haliaeetus leucocephalus)*	X	X	X	Present along the Snake River especially during winter and spring migration; no known nests in the RMP Study Area
Invertebrates				
Bliss Rapids snail (LT) *(Taylorconcha serpenticola)*	X	X	X	Occurs downstream of RMP Study Area reach of the Snake River—see text
Snake River physa snail (LE) *(Physa natricina)*	X	X	X	Occurs downstream of RMP Study Area reach of the Snake River—see text
Utah valvata (LE) *(Valvata utahensis)*	X	X	X	Possible, though not expected in RMP Study Area reach of the Snake River—see text.
Fish				
Bull trout (LT) *(Salvelinus confluentus)*				Not present in the Study Area reach of the Snake River
Plants				
Ute ladies'-tresses (LT) *(Spiranthes diluvialis)*	X	X	X	Not expected to occur on RMP lands that are not adjacent to the Snake River because these wetlands did not exist before project implementation and were created as a result of the project and irrigation. Wetlands on the few parcels along the Snake River have a low potential for Ute ladies'-tresses.
Proposed/Candidate Species				
Birds				
Yellow-billed cuckoo (C) *(Coccyzus americanus oxidentalis)*	X	X	X	Suitable riparian habitat may exist along the Snake River
Amphibians				
Spotted frog *(Rana luteiventris)*	X	X	X	Does not occur in this portion of southern Idaho (Groves et al. 1997)

Table 2.10-1. Threatened and Endangered Species, Proposed Species, Candidate Species, and Species Petitioned for ESA Listing for Counties in RMP Study Area Containing Reclamation Parcels.

Species[a]	Potential Occurrence by County[b] CAS	JER	MIN	Expected or Known Status in RMP Area
Mammals				
Pygmy rabbit (PE) *(Brachylagus idahoensis)*	X	X	X	Possibly seen on one of the parcels. Pygmy rabbits, active burrows, and fresh sign observed on two parcels in 2003. Suitable habitat may be present on several other parcels.
Plants				
Christ's paintbrush (*Castilleja christii*)	X			This rare paintbrush covers approximately 200 acres near the summit of Mount Harrison on the Sawtooth National Forest. This is the only known population in the world (Moseley 1996). It does not occur in the RMP Study Area.

[a]Species: C = Candidate; P= Proposed for listing by FWS; LE = Listed endangered; LT = Listed threatened; XN = Experimental/non-essential population; PE Petitioned for listing under ESA
[b]Counties: CAS=Cassia; JER=Jerome; MIN=Minidoka

Source: FWS 2003 and compilation of available data by CH2M HILL.

not located immediately adjacent to the Snake River. Parcels along the river would only be used if there are large trees suitable for perching and if these trees are located near areas that support suitable and accessible prey species including fish or waterfowl.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

A petition to list this species was filed in 1998. The petitioners stated that "habitat loss, overgrazing, tamarisk invasion of riparian areas, river management, logging, and pesticides have caused declines in yellow-billed cuckoo." In the 90-day finding published on February 17, 2000 (FR 65[33]: 8104 8107), FWS indicated that these factors may have caused loss, degradation, and fragmentation of riparian habitat in the western United States, and that loss of wintering habitat may be adversely affecting the cuckoo. The yellow-billed cuckoo has status as a Candidate species for protection under the ESA. In July 2001, FWS announced a 12-month finding for a petition to list the yellow-billed cuckoo as threatened or endangered in the western United States. As of June, 2003, this species continues to have Candidate status (67 FR 4065740679).

This secretive bird is a neotropical species that breeds in North America and winters primarily south of the U.S.-Mexico border. Cuckoos may go unnoticed because they are slow-moving and prefer dense vegetation. In the West, they favor areas with a dense understory of willow (Salix spp.) combined with mature cottonwoods (Populus spp.) and generally within 100 meters of slow or standing water (Gaines 1974; Gaines 1977; Gaines and Laymon 1984). They appear to be dependent on the combination of a dense willow understory for nesting and a cottonwood overstory for foraging. The yellow-billed cuckoo is also known to use non-riparian, dense woody vegetation at times but these habitats are not preferred (Finch 1992; DeGraff et al. 1991). It feeds on insects, mostly caterpillars, but also beetles, fall webworms, cicadas, and fruit (especially berries). Populations seem to fluctuate dramatically in response to fluctuations in caterpillar abundance. These

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fluctuations are erratic, but not necessarily cyclic (Kingery 1981).

Most Idaho records are of isolated, non-breeding individuals (FWS 1985). Although occasional reports of this bird are noted, including several birds at Lawyers Creek in Lewis County in 1979 and six at Cartier Wildlife Management Area in 1980, no nesting attempts or young have been observed and breeding populations of yellow-billed cuckoos in Idaho are believed to be extirpated (Reese and Melquist 1985). Suitable habitat for the cuckoo exists in the more dense riparian stands along the Snake River within the RMP reach, some of which may occur on a few of the parcels bordering the river. None of the upland parcels provide suitable cuckoo habitat.

Pygmy Rabbit

The FWS was petitioned to list the pygmy rabbit as a threatened or endangered species throughout its range on April 14, 2003. Pygmy rabbits are uniquely dependent on sagebrush, which comprises up to 99 percent of its winter diet. It is one of only two North American rabbits that digs its own burrows. It is a strict sagebrush obligate, inhabiting sagebrush dominated habitats in the Intermountain Region and Great Basin. The historical range of the pygmy rabbit encompassed more than 100 million acres in 8 western states, including Idaho. Pygmy rabbits are one of a very few species, including pronghorn antelope and sage grouse, that can ingest large amounts of sagebrush leaves laden with terpenoids without major digestive disturbances and death (White et al. 1982, Katzner 1994).

This combination of small body size, specialized feeding strategies, and unique habitat requirements are unusual among leporids. Pygmy rabbits have the greatest surface area to volume ratio (and thus heat loss) of any rabbit species in their known geographic range and endure harsh climatic extremes characterized by cold winters and dry summers where drought is common (Katzner 1994).

The pygmy rabbit is an extreme habitat specialist at all levels, from the landscape level to placement of burrows and use of surrounding areas (Gabler 1997, Heady 1998, Heady et al. 2001). It is closely associated with native sagebrush stands, including clumps of tall dense sagebrush coupled with deep loose textured soils for burrow construction. Herbaceous vegetation is also important to pygmy rabbits (Lyman 1991), which augment their sagebrush diet with forbs and grasses. Pygmy rabbits choose tall dense sagebrush for their burrows. Wisdom et al. (2000) assumed that this vegetation cover, which provides protection from predators, is important and that areas of bare ground would be avoided. Burrows are typically occupied by one individual that has particular feeding use areas. It is found in aggregations or colonies in areas of suitable habitat.

Pygmy rabbits are slow and vulnerable to predators in open areas. They elude predators by maneuvering in dense shrub cover (66 FR 231). Big sagebrush provides both essential year-round food and critical protection from predation. Habitat fragmentation readily isolates populations, as disruptions in sage brush cover and open areas provide barriers to dispersal. The pygmy rabbit has very limited dispersal abilities and is reluctant to cross open areas, amplifying the effects of fragmentation.

A possible pygmy rabbit sighting was noted by CH2M HILL biologists on one of the Reclamation parcels during vegetation mapping in the fall of 2002. Pygmy rabbits, active burrows, and fresh sign were seen at two locations on one of the larger parcels in

the western third of the Study Area during surveys conducted by a Reclamation biologist in 2003. Habitat on some of the larger Reclamation parcels that support predominantly native vegetation may also be suitable for pygmy rabbits but has not been searched. As noted above, movement across agricultural or cheatgrass areas between parcels of suitable habitat is unlikely. Therefore, any larger parcels that contain occupied or suitable habitat is very important to pygmy rabbits. Pygmy rabbits present on the parcels would likely be isolated from other Reclamation parcels or larger blocks of suitable habitat on BLM lands to the west and north.

2.10.2 Fish and Other Aquatic Species

No Federally-listed proposed, candidate, threatened or endangered fish species were identified as occurring within the Snake River immediately below Minidoka Dam (IDFG 2003 and FWS 2003a).

Three snail species are listed as Federally threatened or endangered and occur within Minidoka and Cassia Counties. The listed species include the Bliss Rapids snail (*Taylorconcha serpenticola*), Federally threatened; the Utah valvata snail (*Valvata utahensis*), Federally endangered; and the Snake River physa snail (*Physa natricina*), Federally threatened (FWS 2003b). Remnant snail populations inhabit a small fraction of their historical range, and mostly exist near springs and other high quality water areas of the Middle Snake River with free-flowing, cool water. In 1992, the FWS reported known and suspected Utah valvata snail populations near Lake Walcott and near Burley, respectively, and suspected Snake River physa populations near Lake Walcott (Reclamation 1998a). More recent distribution estimates described in the FWS Snake River Aquatic Species Recovery Plan (1995) and by the FWS (2003b) for each of the identified snail species are as follows:

- Bliss Rapids snail—Found in the main stem of the Snake River from King Hill to Banbury Springs, Idaho, well downstream of the RMP Study Area, and in several unpolluted springs adjacent to the Snake River, including Thousand Springs, Banbury Springs, Box Canyon Spring, and Niagra Springs.

- Snake River physa snail—Found only at a few main stem Snake River locations, mostly in the Hagerman and King Hill reaches, which are also well downstream of the Study Area, with possibly a third colony immediately downstream of Minidoka Dam where live specimens were collected in 1987.

- Utah valvata snail—Found only in a few springs and mainstem sites from American Falls Reservoir to the Hagerman Valley, Idaho, including immediately downstream and upstream (in Lake Walcott) of Minidoka Dam, which includes the Study Area reach of the Snake River.

These three snail species are typically associated with free-flowing, cool water environments, which have been greatly modified in the Snake River (FWS 1995). However, as noted above, both the Utah valvata snail and Snake River physa snail are reported to occur immediately downstream of Minidoka Dam (FWS 1995), while the Utah valvata snail is reported to occur throughout Lake Walcott, which is not considered cool or free-flowing water according to the FWS. The snails are vulnerable to continued adverse habitat modification and deteriorating water quality from one or more of the following:

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hydroelectric development, peak-loading effects from existing hydroelectric project operations, water withdrawal and diversions, water pollution, and inadequate government regulatory mechanisms (Reclamation 1998a).

2.10.3 Plants

Ute Ladies'-tresses Orchid

The Ute ladies'-tresses orchid (*Spiranthes diluvialis*) is the only Federally protected plant species that may occur in or near the Snake River in the RMP Study Area. It typically occupies floodplains and wet meadows with little overhanging shrub or tree canopy. Wetland and riparian habitats such as springs, wet meadows, and point bars within river meanders are potential habitat. Ute ladies'-tresses orchids have been found in southeast Idaho and eastern Washington and may occur in suitable habitats between these locations. The most suitable potential tress habitat would occur in riparian communities along the Snake River. Wetlands within the Minidoka North Side area that are not adjacent to the Snake River would probably not be considered as potential habitat because these areas were only developed recently. No searches for this species have been conducted on Reclamation lands.

2.11 Cultural Resources

Evidence of human occupation in south-central Idaho dates as early as 14,500 years before the present (B.P.). The three major prehistoric cultural periods that have been identified for southeastern Idaho also apply to south central Idaho:

- Early Prehistoric Period (15,000 to 7,500 B.P.)
- Middle Prehistoric Period (7,400 to 1,300 B.P.)
- Late Prehistoric Period (1,300 to 150 B.P.)

These periods reflect a shift over time from a highly mobile lifestyle involving hunting and gathering (such as seeds, roots, mammals, and fish), to reduced mobility and intensified use of certain highly productive resources (such as camas and salmon). Many archaeological sites near the Minidoka North Side RMP Study Area have yielded diagnostic artifacts, indicating that the Study Area was occupied or used during all three prehistoric periods.

The Study Area is within the Snake River Basin, which was traditionally used by the Shoshone and Bannock Tribes for gathering plants for food and medicine, hunting, fishing, trading, and for ceremonial purposes. The Shoshone and Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation, Idaho, represent two linguistically distinct populations of people. The length of time these tribes have occupied southern Idaho is a subject of long-standing debate among scholars. Subsistence practices and lifestyles were similar to other Great Basin cultural groups. Because the environment could not sustain large populations, people moved from one resource to the next, relying on a wide variety of resources, including roots, berries, nuts, marmots, squirrels, rabbits, insects, large game, and fish. By the time of the earliest Euroamerican contact in the early 1800s, the Shoshone and Bannock Tribes had acquired the horse, making it easier to procure bison and other resources, and to trade.

The earliest Euroamericans in south-central Idaho came to develop the fur trade, to convert the Native Americans, or to explore and survey the region. The major east-west

travel route of these early explorers passed through the (now) Minidoka North Side RMP Study Area along the Snake River. Portions of the route later became the Oregon Trail, first used by emigrants in 1841. Settlement of south-central Idaho began in the 1870s, mainly associated with the expansion of Mormon communities out of Utah. The arrival of the railroad in the early 1880s was crucial to the development of southeastern Idaho, with several Union Pacific branch lines created in what is now the Study Area. Agriculture served as the primary economic activity in late 19th and early 20th centuries, and irrigation systems were of signal importance to that development. In 1894, Congress passed the Carey Act to encourage state and private cooperation in developing irrigated agriculture, and 8 years later it created the Reclamation Service to federalize irrigation in the west. One of the earliest Federal reclamation projects in Idaho, the Minidoka Project of 1904, provided for the construction of Minidoka Dam in 1904 to 1906, and other dams in the region, as well as thousands of miles of canals, laterals, and drains.

Indian relationships with Euroamericans deteriorated as the number of emigrants and settlers increased in the middle and late 1800s. Treaties with the United States Government in 1863 and 1868, and establishment of the Fort Hall Reservation in 1867, confined the Shoshone-Bannock and opened the area for Euroamerican settlement. Continuing hostilities, however, led to military action by the U.S. Government, including the Bannock War of 1878. Following the Bannock War, Congress reduced the area of the Fort Hall Reservation several times.

A total of 132 cultural resource sites (including isolates) within the boundaries of the Minidoka North Side Study Area have previously been filed on forms at the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The sites include 47 archaeological sites, 78 historic structures or features, and 7 sites of undetermined chronology or affiliation. Other cultural resource sites have been identified but not formally recorded within the boundaries of the Study Area. Those sites are not included in this count of cultural resource sites.

Most of the archaeological sites are deposits of prehistoric artifacts, usually obsidian, ignimbrite, and cryptocrystalline silicate (chert, jasper, or chalcedony) flakes produced in tool manufacture. Sometimes these artifacts are found in association with other stone tools (for example, bifaces, hammerstones, scrapers, and metates), pieces of animal bone, or ceramic potsherds. Prehistoric site types in the Study Area include open sites (lithic scatters), rock shelters, and stacked rock features (including cairns, possible hunting blinds, and wall structures of undetermined function). Diverse cultural activities and widespread use of the project area in prehistoric times is reflected in the range of site types, site location/environmental association, and variability in site size. Excavations at archaeological sites near the Minidoka North Side Study Area (but not in the Study Area) contain cultural deposits that provide circumstantial evidence for intensive prehistoric use of the Study Area over time.

The historic period sites recorded in the Study Area represent a wide variety of resources related to transportation (ferries, roads, bridges, and railroads), irrigation (dams, canals, and buildings), gold mining (placer mines), and residential activities (town sites, a work camp, trash scatters and dumps, buildings, foundations, and a cemetery).

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A Class I inventory of existing information for the Minidoka North Side RMP Study Area characterizes lands administered by Reclamation as rich in cultural and paleontological resources. Of the cultural sites known in the Study Area, those listed in Table 2.11-1 are considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (National Register). These sites (as well as other sites that remain to be identified and evaluated for the National Register) have the potential to address research questions or to offer vital information about the prehistoric or historic use of the Study Area.

Tribal members are reluctant to provide specific information about locations where traditional artistic, economic, or other cultural practices were conducted within the Study Area. However, certain natural resources within the Study Area are still used by Shoshone-Bannock Tribal members, although access to these resources has been restricted by historical and modern development, especially development related to irrigation and agriculture. Resources identified include round rocks found near the river for use in sweats and other ceremonies; pine nuts, chokecherries, sagebrush and roots used for food, medicine, and trading; animals such as deer and groundhog used for food and clothing; and fish, especially from the Snake River, for food.

The potential for encountering fossils in the Minidoka North Side Study Area is high in areas of Snake River alluvium (sands, gravels, and lake beds). All of the vertebrate fossils found to date on or near the Study Area were discovered during construction of the Minidoka Dam and gravel quarrying along the Snake River. These well-preserved fossils include many classic extinct animals from the late Pleistocene, including camels, musk ox, horses, mammoth, and ground sloth. Well-preserved paleontological faunas could also occur in some basalt flows on the northern margin of the Study Area.

2.12 Indian Sacred Sites

Sacred sites are defined in EO 13007 as "any specific, discrete, narrowly delineated location on Federal land that is identified by an Indian Tribe, or an Indian individual determined to be an appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion, as sacred by virtue of its established religious significance to, or ceremonial use by, an Indian religion..." Under EO 13007, Federal land managing agencies must accommodate access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners, and avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity of such sacred sites.

No information on specific sacred properties or locations within the Minidoka North Side Study Area has been provided by tribes. Nevertheless, certain ceremonial activities and practices with possible sacred or religious components continue to occur in the RMP Study Area. Within the Study Area, for example, Shoshone-Bannock tribal members collect rocks for ceremonial purposes. Various natural and physical features that may be present on the Study Area landscape—such as foothills, buttes, springs, lakes, and rivers—derive their sacredness and power from a natural undisturbed state. In addition, certain cultural sites may be regarded as sacred to tribes, including, for example, burial places, petroglyph and pictograph sites, important travel routes, and battle or massacre sites, among others.

Table 2.11-1. Cultural Sites that are Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Identification Number	Description	Identification Number	Description
10CA630	prehistoric lithic scatter	00-078	historic "North Side Canal"
10CA653	historic "H" Canal	10MA19	historic dump
10CA654	historic "J" Canal	10MA20	historic dump
10CA655	historic "G" Canal	10MA21	historic dump
10CA862	historic "Oregon Trail" South Side Alternate	10MA24	historic dump
10CA873	historic "Milner Lowlift Canal"	10MA27	historic dump
10JE47	prehistoric rock shelter—ARPA Site	10MA33	prehistoric lithic scatter
10JE54	prehistoric lithic scatter—"Twin Lakes Site"	10MA41	prehistoric lithic scatter
10JE57	historic dump	10MA44	prehistoric lithic scatter
10JE59	historic "Stage Road"	10MA49	historic camp—"Walcott Park"
10JE60	prehistoric lithic scatter—"Duck Rock Site"	10MA144	historic "Oregon Short Line"
10JE62	prehistoric lithic scatter—"Dike 3 Site"	67-554	historic "Minidoka Dam and Powerplant"
10JE77	prehistoric lithic scatter	10TF463	historic "Oregon Trail"
10JE79	prehistoric lithic scatter	10TF1105	historic "Milner"
10JE81	prehistoric lithic scatter	10TF1106	historic/prehistoric multi-component—"Alveolus Site"
10JE82	prehistoric lithic scatter	10TF1135	historic "Oregon Trail at West Milner"
10JE113	prehistoric lithic scatter	10TF1279	historic "Milner Lowlift Canal"
10JE146	historic "Oregon Short Line"	10TF1280	historic "Twin Falls Main Canal"
01-1302	historic "Sprague House"	83-772	historic "Milner Dam"

Source: Compilation of data from Reclamation cultural resources reports, including Ozbun et al. 2000.

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2.13 Indian Trust Assets

ITAs are legal interests in property held in trust by the United States for Indian tribes or individuals. The Secretary of the Interior, acting as the trustee, holds many assets in trust for Indian tribes or Indian individuals. Examples of things that may be trust assets are lands, minerals, hunting and fishing rights and water rights. While most ITAs are on-reservation, they may also be found off-reservation.

The United States has an Indian trust responsibility to protect and maintain rights reserved by or granted to Indian tribes or Indian individuals by treaties, statues, and executive orders. These are sometimes further interpreted through court decisions and regulations.

The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, a Federally recognized Tribe located at the Fort Hall Indian Reservation in southeastern Idaho, have trust assets both on- and off-reservation. The Fort Bridger Treaty was signed and agreed to by the Bannock and Shoshone headman on July 3, 1868. The treaty states in Article 4 that members of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe "...shall have the right to hunt on the unoccupied lands of the United States..." ••

The Tribes believe their right extends to the right to fish. The Fort Bridger Treaty for the Shoshone-Bannock has been interpreted in the case of State of Idaho v. Tinno, an off-reservation fishing case in Idaho. The Idaho Supreme Court determined that the Shoshone word for "hunt" also included to "fish." Under Tinno, the Court affirmed that the Tribal members' right to take fish off-reservation pursuant to the Fort Bridger Treaty (Shoshone-Bannock Tribes 1994).

The Nez Perce Tribe is a Federally recognized Tribe of the Nez Perce Reservation in northern Idaho. The United States and the Tribes entered into three treaties (Treaty of 1855, Treaty of 1863, and Treaty of 1868) and one agreement (Agreement of 1893). The rights of the Nez Perce Tribes include the right to hunt, gather, and graze livestock on open and unclaimed lands, and the right to fish in all usual and accustomed places (Nez Perce Tribe 1995).

The Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Indians, a Federally recognized Tribe without a reservation, possess treaty protected hunting and fishing rights which may be exercised on unoccupied lands within the area acquired by the United States pursuant to the 1868 Treaty of Fort Bridger. No opinion is expressed as to which areas maybe regarded as "unoccupied lands."

Other Federally recognized Tribes that do not have off-reservation ITAs, may however have cultural and religious interests in the areas being considered in the RMP. These interests may be protected under historic preservation laws and NAGPRA. See Sections 2.11, Cultural Resources, and 2.12, Indian Sacred Sites, for a discussion of other Tribal interests.

2.14 Socioeconomics

Most of the Reclamation parcels are found in Minidoka County, although some of the largest parcels are located in Jerome County. Eight parcels are also located in Cassia County. This region includes the communities of Burley, Heyburn, Paul, Acequia, Rupert, Minidoka, and Declo. Distribution of Reclamation lands by jurisdiction, area, and parcel is presented in Table 2.14-1.

Table 2.14-1. Minidoka North Side Land Distribution Summary.

County	Parcels	% of Total	Acres	% of Total
Minidoka	92	77.31	9,732.8	55.05
Jerome	19	15.97	6,598.5	37.32
Cassia	8	6.72	1,348.4	7.63
Total	**119**	**100**	**17,679.7**	**100**

Source: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation GIS Data.

2.14.1 Economy and Employment

The region's economy is largely dependant on farming and food processing. Dominant commodities include potatoes, sugar beets, beans, corn, grains, dairies, and others. A number of large food processors convert these to commodities such as sugar, frozen french fries, and cheese. Together, Minidoka, Jerome, and Cassia Counties contribute approximately two-thirds of the region's labor force. In 2003, both Minidoka and Cassia Counties had unemployment rates significantly higher than the surrounding region or the state of Idaho, while Jerome County's unemployment rate was just slightly above the regional average. Labor force and unemployment data are summarized in Table 2.14-2.

The state of Idaho has traditionally lagged behind the national average in terms of both per capita income and income growth. Likewise, the three-county area surrounding the Study Area tended to lag behind the state in terms of per capita income, even though income growth exceeded the State's. In 1979, Minidoka and Jerome Counties had roughly comparable per capita incomes trailing behind Cassia County's. Jerome and Cassia Counties now have comparable per capita incomes with the State, however Minidoka County continues to trail its two neighbors. Changing per capita income is compared in Table 2.14-3.

2.14.2 Population and Demographics

Together, the three counties comprising the Study Area contribute 4.6 percent of the state's population. However, if recent trends continue, this percentage will decline, because the average population growth in Idaho has easily outpaced even the fastest growing of the three counties (Jerome) and greatly exceeded the slowest (Minidoka).

Table 2.14-2. 2003 Annual Average Labor Force and Employment Summary.

Area	Civilian Labor Force	Unemployment	% Unemployment	Total Employment
Minidoka County	9,709	802	8.3	8,907
Jerome County	10,114	416	4.1	9,698
Cassia County	9,935	659	6.6	9,276
Magic Valley LMA	54,248	2,173	4.0	52,075
State of Idaho	692,552	37,447	5.4	655,104

Source: Idaho Department of Labor, 2004.

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Although relatively diverse, all three counties are dominated ethnically by white persons. Other than this majority, the only considerable ethnic group is persons of Hispanic or Latino origin who comprise more than one-fourth of Minidoka County's population and substantial segments of the other two counties as well. Census data from 2000 are presented for the three counties and the state of Idaho in Table 2.14-4.

Table 2.14-3. Comparative Per Capita Income Summary.

Per Capita Income	1979	1984	1989	1994	1998	2002	% Change from 1998
Minidoka County	$6,107	$8,553	$12,114	$15,054	$16,669	$19,664	18.0
Jerome County	$6,087	$9,346	$14,083	$17,349	$22,702	$24,787	9.2
Cassia County	$6,707	$10,535	$14,736	$16,538	$19,923	$24,324	22.1
State of Idaho	$7,894	$11,069	$14,803	$18,846	$22,079	$25,476	15.4
United States	$9,230	$13,824	$18,566	$22,581	$27,203	$30,906	13.6

Source: Idaho Department of Labor 2004.

Table 2.14-4. Comparative Demographic Data Summary.

Population Data	Minidoka County	Jerome County	Cassia County	State of Idaho
Population 2003	19,349	18,913	21,610	1,366,332
Population, percent change, April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2003	-41%	3.1%	0.9%	5.6%
Population, 2000	20,174	18,342	21,416	1,293,953
Population, percent change, 1990 to 2000	4.2%	21.2%	9.6%	28.5%
White persons, percent, 2000 (a)	78.1%	87.0%	84.7%	91.0%
Persons reporting some other race, percent, 2000 (a)	17.8%	9.8%	12.1%	4.2%
Persons reporting two or more races, percent, 2000	2.5%	1.9%	1.9%	2.0%
Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, percent, 2000 (b)	25.5%	17.2%	18.7%	7.9%
Median household income, 1999 model-based estimate	$32,021	$34,696	$33,322	$37,572
Persons below poverty, percent, 1999 model-based estimate	14.8%	13.9%	13.6%	13.0%
Children below poverty, percent, 1997 model-based estimate	20.6%	20.5%	20.4%	17.3%

(a) Includes persons reporting only one race
(b) Hispanics may be of any race, so also are included in applicable race categories
Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2004.

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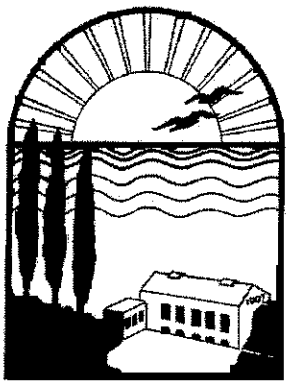
Chapter 3

Existing Land Use and Management



Chapter 3

Existing Land Use and Management

3.1 Land Use and Management

This RMP addresses 119 individual parcels comprised of about 17,700 acres of land. Most of this land was originally withdrawn from BLM holdings and a small portion was acquired or purchased from individual landowners. These lands were either acquired or withdrawn for the Minidoka Project during the early 20th century when the MID was developed. During the 1950s, the A&B Irrigation District was created on previously withdrawn lands (see Figure 3.1-1).

Water is diverted from the north side of Lake Walcott into the North Side Canal, a gravity canal and lateral system operated by MID. This system, called the Minidoka project Gravity Division, was constructed by Reclamation in 1905 and serves 72,000 acres of land in the vicinity of Rupert, Idaho. Reclamation began construction on the North Side Pumping Division of the Minidoka project in 1948. It consists of approximately 77,000 acres of irrigable lands that have been withdrawn by Reclamation, of which 62,000 acres (Unit B) are irrigated by pumping groundwater from deep wells, and 15,000 acres (Unit A) by pumping from the Snake River. A&B operates the North Side Pumping Division.

Operation and maintenance of the respective systems were taken over by MID in 1917 and by A&B in 1966. Construction costs of the systems are reimbursed to Reclamation through long term debt repayment by the irrigation districts.

The lands addressed by this RMP are scattered throughout a rural agricultural setting near the communities of Rupert, Paul, Heyburn, Minidoka, Acequia, Declo, and Burley. Most of the lands are undeveloped. There are currently some uses occurring on these lands such as wetland development and drain runoff for the irrigation districts, wildlife enhancements, municipal sewage treatment, grazing, and agriculture, as well as a variety of unauthorized uses such as ORV use, encroachments, and dumping.

Reclamation also has lands that it manages below Minidoka Dam on the Snake River that are addressed in the RMP. Some of these lands are within the Minidoka Wildlife Refuge. The area is known for good fishing and both sides of the river are frequently used by local anglers (see Photo 3-1).

The majority of the parcels were originally withdrawn from the public domain for the North Side Pumping Division, and were to become private lands irrigated by A&B as part of the North Side Pumping Division Extension Plan (Extension Plan). The Extension Plan was developed in 1984, and was to be authorized by Congress. Land was to be set aside for new irrigation development, wildlife habitat tracts, and

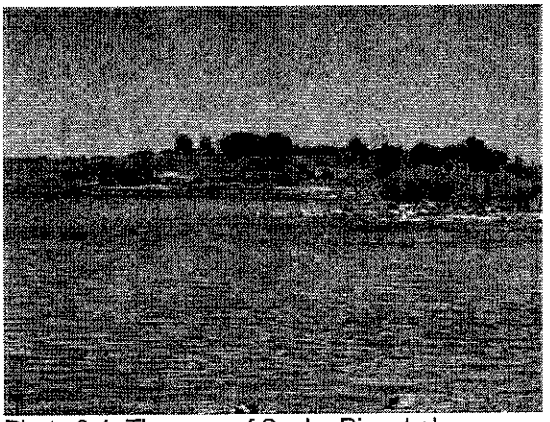


Photo 3-1. The area of Snake River below Minidoka Dam is known for good fishing opportunities.

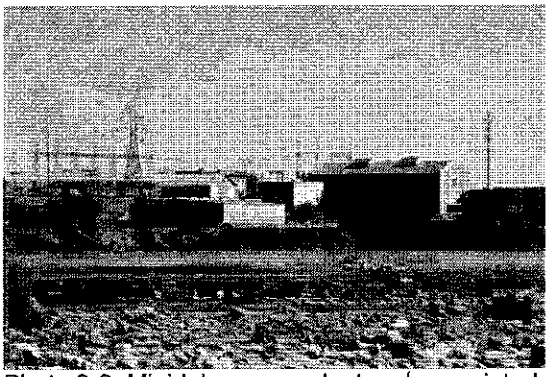


Photo 3-2. Minidoka power plant and associated facilities.

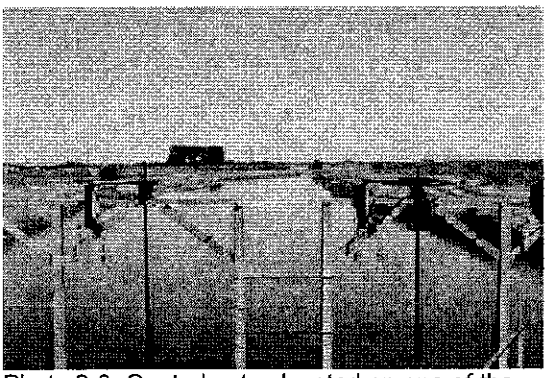


Photo 3-3. Control gates located on one of the many irrigation canals.

municipal purposes. This Extension Plan was never finalized and sent through Congress because of a critical groundwater shortage in the area. The remainder of the parcels that were not under the Extension Plan have been withdrawn or acquired by Reclamation over the years for project purposes such as gravel removal, material sites, ponding areas for drainwater cleanup, and other purposes.

3.1.1 Project Facilities

Minidoka Dam and Lake Walcott

Minidoka Dam is a multi-purpose structure providing irrigation, power production, flood control, recreation, and fish and wildlife conservation for the lower portion of the Minidoka project (see Photo 3-2). The dam is located on the main stem of the Snake River, 11 miles northeast of Rupert, Idaho. It is an earth and rockfill structure constructed, operated, and maintained by Reclamation.

North Side Canal

Water is diverted on the north side of Minidoka Dam into the North Side Canal, a gravity canal and lateral system serving 72,000 acres of land called the Gravity Division, in the vicinity of Rupert, Idaho. The 8-mile canal is operated by MID and has an initial capacity of 1,700 cubic feet per second (see Photo 3-3).

South Side Canal

Water is diverted on the south side of Lake Walcott near the left abutment of Minidoka Dam into the South Side Canal system, operated by Burley Irrigation District (BID) which includes three large pumping plants. Each plant lifts the water about 30 feet, for a total lift of about 90 feet. The system, known as the South Side Pumping Division, serves 48,000 acres adjacent to Burley and Declo. The canal is 13 miles long and has an initial capacity of 1,325 cubic feet per second.

Title to the South Side Canal, as well as all rights-of-way, pumping plants, canals,

Insert Figure 3.1-1

Back of Figure 3.1-1

laterals, drains, transmission lines, and appurtenant facilities, were transferred to the BID (the operating agency for the South Side Pumping Division) on February 24, 2000.

3.1.2 Land Management

IDFG Wildlife Management

As described earlier, Reclamation manages about 17,700 acres in the RMP Study Area, divided among 119 parcels. Under the Extension Plan, a portion of these lands were set aside for wildlife purposes, primarily upland habitat. This acreage originally included 34 of the 119 parcels. Portions of 39 other parcels were also included. These lands were to be managed according to three separate contracts between Reclamation and IDFG. The first of the IDFG contracts (#14 06-100-5429) was dated March 15, 1966, included two parcels, and encompassed approximately 60 acres. This 25-year contract expired in 1991 and was not renewed; however, two other contracts are still active, containing a total of 3,406.04 acres. Contract No. 0-07-10-L0388 is for 1,019.24 acres and will expire September 23, 2005. Contract No. 6-07-10-L791 is for 2,386.8 acres and will expire on November 1, 2011. Under the terms of the contracts, the IDFG-managed lands are open to the public and IDFG is responsible for law enforcement and weed control. The contracts also authorize IDFG to construct site improvements such as roads, trails, and other infrastructure. In addition, IDFG issued farm cooperative agreements on some of these lands that permitted some agricultural practices in exchange for habitat improvements. These agreements expired approximately 10 years ago and were never reissued. Resource constraints have limited IDFG's ability to implement many of the provisions of the contracts, but IDFG is still considered an informal partner in the management of these lands.

Lake Walcott State Park

Lake Walcott State Park, which is adjacent to Lake Walcott and Minidoka Dam and within the Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge, is a Reclamation-developed public recreation site with boating, day use and camping facilities. Reclamation has a lease agreement with IDPR to administer the 140-acre Lake Walcott State Park for public recreation. IDPR assumed responsibility for operation and maintenance of recreation facilities at the park constructed by either Reclamation or IDPR per the lease agreement. The term of the lease agreement is 20 years, from the effective date of July 1, 1996, through June 30, 2016, and is subject to additional terms listed in the lease agreement. Some maintenance services at the park are performed through an agreement with IDPR by Idaho Youth Ranch. Historically, the park has received a great deal of local support in terms of cost sharing and volunteer services for construction of park projects and serves as the primary local park for Minidoka and Cassia Counties and the community of Rupert.

National Wildlife Refuge

The Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge is managed by FWS subject to an MOU signed between the two agencies on April 23, 1964. FWS management includes the water surface of Lake Walcott and most lands adjacent to the lake with the exception of the State Park and Reclamation Zone surrounding Minidoka Dam. Part of the Refuge is open to public hunting and fishing. FWS does not currently have a refuge management plan in place; however, there are management objectives established. A management plan is scheduled for completion in the near future.

Reclamation Zone

Reclamation has retained exclusive management of an area immediately upstream and downstream of the Minidoka Dam for operations, maintenance, and security purposes.

3.1.3 Easements and Leases

Transferred Works

Although ownership was retained by the United States (Reclamation), responsibility for care operation, and maintenance of various property and facilities associated with project purposes was transferred to the irrigation districts for continued operation of the irrigation systems. Examples of transferred works include irrigation facilities such as pumps, wells, pumping plants, and laterals as well as ditch rider's homes, vehicles, and tools transferred by Reclamation to A&B on March 1, 1966.

Agriculture and Grazing

Farming and grazing has been authorized on many of the parcels over the years. Reclamation currently administers nine such leases on 2,162 acres. Six agricultural leases total 196 acres, while three grazing leases total 1,966 acres (two dry for 1,918 acres and one irrigated for 48 acres). The term of each lease is 1 year with the option to extend four successive additional periods of 1 year each. Agricultural leases issued in 2003 cannot be extended beyond February 28, 2008. Whether future leasing will occur would be determined at that time. Agricultural leases require soil protection by mandatory rotation of cover crops and planting of grasses on all cultivated acreage at the end of any lease that is not reissued. Many of the terms and conditions of agricultural leases are similar to those governing the grazing leases except the rental charges are substantially higher for agriculture leases. Rather than protecting the resource through crop rotation, grazing leases limit animal unit months (AUMs) as well as the specific time period during which grazing is permitted.

Six grazing leases on the A&B totaling 2,343 acres were terminated in 1995. In addition, two agricultural leases totaling 23.5 acres were terminated in 2002 as a result of water issues raised in the State's adjudication process. One additional agricultural lease on 4.8 acres was terminated February 28, 2004.

Current farming and grazing leases are summarized in Table 3.1-1.

Apiary Sites Special Land Use Permit

In addition to agriculture and grazing leases, Reclamation issued special use permits to two permittees to maintain honey bee colonies on three Reclamation parcels within the RMP Study Area: 922-5-W, 824-6-W, and 1021-6-W. The permits restrict the use to 80 colonies per 100-foot by 100-foot site.

Cooperative Wildlife Habitat Development Agreements

Some farming has occurred on Reclamation lands as a result of cooperative agreements issued by IDFG on some of the lands IDFG was contracted to manage. Farm Cooperative Agreements were arrangements between IDFG and neighboring farmers that allowed the farmers to use portions of the IDFG-managed property for crop production in exchange for habitat improvements. Under this type of development, selected portions of tracts were farmed by the adjacent land owner and an equal number of acres were planted with irrigated nesting cover for upland game birds. Food patches and shelterbelts may also have been developed where possible. In cases where the farmer was agreeable, portions of privately-owned unusable farmland may have been improved and included in the agreement (Reclamation Lease File).

Table 3.1-1. Agriculture and Grazing Lease Summary.

Parcel	Use	Acres	Contract Number
925-8-W	Grazing (dry)	80	0-07-14-LA351
921-7-W	Grazing (dry)	1838	7-07-14-LA261
922-6-W	Grazing (irrigated)	48.3	3-07-14-LA419
825-14-W	Agriculture	35.3	3-07-14-LA410
921-1-W	Agriculture	42.4	3-07-14-LA416
724-1-W	Agriculture	9.5	3-07-14-LA417
824-7-W	Agriculture	67.9	3-07-14-LA418
821-2-W	Agriculture	38.4	3-07-14-LA420
921-1-W	Agriculture	3	3-07-14-LA422

Source: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Lease File, 2003.

These agreements expired approximately ten years ago and were never reissued.

Municipal and Industrial Uses

A number of Reclamation parcels have been, or are currently, in use for municipal and industrial purposes. Several examples of these are described below.

The City of Rupert has an agreement with Reclamation to use four tracts totaling 600 acres of Reclamation land to spread treated waste water from the City's sewage treatment ponds. This lease was initiated on May 1, 1989, for one year, and has been renewed on an annual basis. Only 160 of these acres, located on Parcel 824-11-W, are receiving waste water. This wastewater is disposed of using a pivot irrigation system; the irrigated land being cropped by City lessees. The remaining 440 acres have never been cropped, nor had waste water applied, but are needed to facilitate expanded treatment capacity. Reclamation is currently working with the City of Rupert and BLM to transfer the 600 acres to City ownership.

A small portion of Parcel 824-8-W has been used by Minidoka County as a repository for fill and other material for road building through an informal agreement with Reclamation. Several other Reclamation parcels are also used for storage of similar materials such as Parcel 921-11-W and 824 8-W. Some of these uses are informally authorized and some are not, and they will need to be formalized or addressed as an unauthorized use. In addition, portions of Parcel 923-1-W was formerly used as a County Landfill.

3.1.4 Adjacent Land Uses

Use of lands adjoining Reclamation parcels within the Study Area were manually inventoried using aerial photography. Nearly all adjacent lands were determined to be used for agricultural purposes or left vacant with potential grazing use. Since most lands bordering Reclamation parcels are located within the boundaries of irrigation districts, most of these parcels are currently used for irrigated agriculture. Likewise, lands bordering Reclamation parcels located on the borders of or outside the irrigation districts are in either non-irrigated agricultural use or appear to be vacant. Since it is difficult to determine from aerial photography if a non-farmed parcel is being

grazed, these parcels were simply classified "vacant/grazing." Other applicable land use classifications for adjacent lands include urban, residential, and municipal/industrial. In addition, Reclamation parcels bordering the Snake River were also identified accordingly. Table 3.1-2 summarizes adjacent land uses. This data is fairly general, with emphasis on dominant land use patterns.

The inventory also identified adjoining Reclamation parcels: 40 of the 119 parcels inventoried, or 35 percent of the total, share at least one property line with another Reclamation parcel.

3.1.5 Unauthorized Land Uses

The majority of Reclamation parcels are unmarked, unused for project operations, and are not being farmed or grazed. A variety of uses that have not been authorized occur on these lands, ranging from agricultural encroachments to illegal dumping and ORV use.

Agricultural Encroachments

The most common unauthorized land use occurring on Reclamation lands is agricultural encroachment by neighboring farms. This typically results from squaring-up agricultural fields for wheel-line irrigation systems and changing field boundaries to allow use of pivot systems. Most of the agricultural encroachments are believed to be in current irrigated agricultural use but some are now idle because the use of pivots creates empty field corners. A total of 147 agricultural encroachments have been identified by Reclamation, affecting 70 Reclamation parcels. More than half of all Reclamation parcels are encroached upon by neighboring agricultural uses. Most are affected by only one small encroachment, although multiple encroachments are not uncommon. One parcel has 12 individual encroachments totaling nearly as many acres and another parcel has 3 with a combined acreage of over 29 acres. In total, agricultural encroachments are estimated to use 394.2 acres of Reclamation land as summarized in Table 3.1-3. Reclamation is developing a plan/procedure to be used regarding each unauthorized use. Initial contacts with encroaching parties began in the fall of 2004.

Other Types of Unauthorized Use

A number of other types of unauthorized use also occur or have occurred in the past on Reclamation lands. Reclamation has identified 32 separate sites, containing 61.3 acres on some 25 Reclamation parcels; however, other unauthorized uses are likely. Unauthorized uses include dumping, ORV use, target practice/shooting sites, material storage, apiary sites, and other uses.

Table 3.1-2. Adjacent Land Use Summary.

Use Classification	%	Notes
Irrigated Agriculture	58.0	Includes green farms and fields with visible irrigation equipment
Dry Agriculture	3.7	May include some formerly irrigated parcels
Vacant/Grazing	18.6	Mostly vacant parcels but grazing may occur on some.
Residential	0.6	Includes concentrations of housing
Municipal/Industrial	0.4	Includes gravel extraction sites
Urban	4.5	Includes mix of high density development
Mixed	8.0	This includes a mixture of the above categories
Other	6.1	This includes parcels bordering the Snake River and unidentified land uses

Source: Land Use inventory based on Reclamation GIS data, 2003.

Table 3.1-3. Summary of Known Agriculture Encroachments by Reclamation Parcel[1].

Parcel ID	Number of Encroachments	Unauthorized Acreage	Parcel ID	Number of Encroachments	Unauthorized Acreage
1021-1-W	2	11.9	825-13-W	1	1.3
1021-2-W	10	7.2	825-15-W	1	1.2
1022-3-W	1	3.8	825-1-W	1	6.9
1022-4-W	3	3.9	825-2-W	7	17.2
1022-5-W	1	9.6	825-3-W	1	0.4
1022-6-W	1	1.0	825-4-W	2	4.0
724-2-W	2	5.2	825-7-W	1	0.9
724-3-W	3	4.6	825-8-W	5	9.3
724-5-W	1	0.1	825-9-W	4	12.1
725-1-W	1	5.7	921-10-W	1	10.2
725-2-W	1	0.1	921-11-W	4	6.4
725-3-W	2	3.5	921-13-W	1	1.8
725-4-W	1	1.7	921-3-W	1	2.6
725-5-W	12	11.8	921-6-W	3	4.3
821-2-W	3	29.3	921-7-W	2	17.4
822-1-W	1	2.5	921-8-W	2	9.9
823-1-W	2	0.6	921-9-W	1	1.1
823-2-W	1	0.8	922-12-W	1	0.9
823-3-W	1	1.1	922-13-A	1	4.1
823-4-W	1	1.5	922-15-A	1	0.7
823-5-W	1	5.7	922-1-W	1	0.9
823-6-W	2	3.9	922-2-W	1	4.1
823-7-W	1	3.9	922-4-W	1	4.7
823-8-W	1	0.5	922-6-W	8	25.8
824-12-W	1	1.1	922-8-W	1	3.8
824-13-A	1	9.4	922-9-W	1	0.7
824-14-A	1	5.0	923-2-W	3	22.3
824-2-W	1	8.0	923-3-W	4	20.0
824-3-W	1	0.1	924-1-W	5	3.3
824-6-W	2	0.5	924-2-W	1	0.2
824-8-W	4	23.8	924-4-W	2	3.0
824-9-W	1	3.5	925-10-W	1	0.6
825-10-W	5	7.1	925-3-W	2	2.2
825-11-A	1	2.7	925-8-W	1	1.5
825-12-W	1	6.9	**Total:**	**147**	**394.2**

[1]The number of encroachments and associated acreages continues to change. The data shown here represent the numbers and acreage at one specific point in time.

Source: Land Use inventory based on Reclamation GIS data, 2003.

After agricultural encroachment, the most common unauthorized use has traditionally been illegal dumping. Piles of field rock remaining from when the land was cleared, or broken concrete from former irrigation system components, have been dumped in many of these parcels over the years. On some sites, illegally dumped material has also contained solid waste. The most notable example of this can be seen on Parcel 825 15 W, illustrated in Photo 3-4. Unauthorized tree cutting has also taken place on this site. Target practice and shooting are other unauthorized uses that commonly occur on some parcels, such as portions of Parcels 824-8-W and 1022-5-W. Unauthorized ORV use also occurs on many parcels including those on Parcel 824-8-W, shown in Photo 3-5.

Reclamation, in cooperation with the Bonneville Power Administration, does have a crime witness program in place (see Photo 3-6). This program affords a person reporting a crime (e.g., illegal dumping) anonymity and a cash reward if it leads to the arrest and conviction of the party responsible for the crime. See Appendix E for further information related to this program. However, this program has been underutilized in the past.

Reclamation addressed the unauthorized dumping problem on 9 of the dump sites by contracting to have these sites cleaned up in

Photo 3-4. Illegally dumped materials.

Photo 3-5. Photo showing ORV damage (and agricultural encroachment in top left corner of photo).

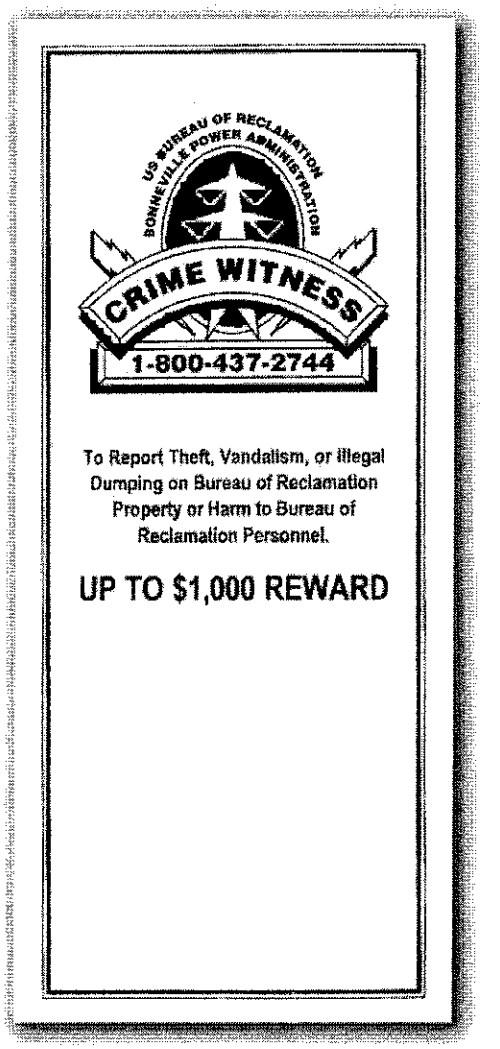


Photo 3-6. Copy of a brochure containing information regarding Reclamation's Crime Witness program.

2003/2004. These sites ranged from older trash dumping areas to areas where dumping continues to occur and included both "highly visible" and "remote" sites. Material removed included residential trash, abandoned vehicles and farm equipment, old appliances, fencing materials, and damaged irrigation equipment. During the 2003/2004 clean up effort, 192 tons of illegally dumped material was removed at a cost to the taxpayers of $127,500.

Rock and concrete were not included in cleanup sites completed in 2003/2004. Future cleanup contracts will consider removal and/or burial of rock and concrete at selected sites. The cleanup effort reflected Reclamation's intent to better manage its lands and provide better public education regarding where Reclamation lands are and that continued dumping is not acceptable. As part of this effort "No Dumping" signs have been placed in the fall of 2004 at all sites were cleanup has already occurred and at sites where dumping presently exists.

Non-agricultural encroachments are summarized in Table 3.1-4.

3.2 Recreation and Access

Recreation is an important use of Federal and private lands in the Study Area, often tied to roads and accessible water bodies. The primary water bodies in the Study Area are the Snake River and Lake Walcott (see Photo 3-7). Much of the property along the river corridor is privately owned, with public access points concentrated at Lake Walcott. Several recreation facilities are located within the Study Area vicinity.

Many of these facilities are associated with the Snake River and provide similar recreation opportunities, such as camping, boating, picnicking, swimming, and fishing, as those found at facilities within the Study Area. Recreation providers in the region include IDPR, BLM, IDFG, Idaho Power, Inc., and various local agencies.

Table 3.1-4. Summary Of Non-Agriculture Encroachments by Reclamation Parcel.

Parcel ID	Number of Encroachments	Unauthorized Acreage	Parcel ID	Number of Encroachments	Unauthorized Acreage
1021-2-W	3	0.8	825-3-W	1	3.2
1021-5-W	1	18.2	825-5-W	1	0.3
1021-6-W	1	1.1	825-8-W	1	5.7
1023-1-W	2	0.1	921-11-W	1	3.2
1024-1-W	1	0.1	921-13-W	1	3.9
1024-2-W	1	0.7	921-1-W	2	3.5
823-7-W	1	2.1	922-10-W	1	0.9
824-3-W	1	0.1	922-11-W	1	0.6
825-13-W	1	1.8	923-4-W	1	1.2
825-14-W	1	0.3	924-1-W	1	0.2
825-15-W	3	6.2	925-2-W	2	3.2
825-2-W	2	2.2	925-8-W	1	1.8
			Total	**32**	**61.3**

Source: Land Use inventory based on GIS data supplied by U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, 2003.

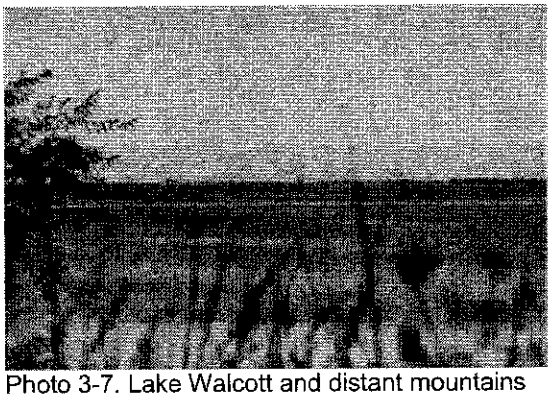


Photo 3-7. Lake Walcott and distant mountains as seen from the State Park.

3.2.1 Recreation Activities within the Study Area Boundary

Numerous land- and water-based recreation activities occur in the region, including fishing, hunting, wildlife viewing, camping, day use (such as picnicking and swimming), boating, trail use, ORV use, skiing, and snowmobiling. Table 3.2-1 provides an overview of the more typical recreation activities known to occur on specific Reclamation parcels in the Study Area.

Table 3.2-1. Recreation Activities on Specific Reclamation Parcels in the Study Area.

	Recreation Activities						
Parcel Number/Name	Fishing	Hunting	ORV Use[1]	Wildlife Viewing	Target Practice[1]	River Access	Camping[2]
824-7-W/E Pond		x		x			
922-6-W		x			x		
923-4-W		x	x				
925-4-W[3]	x					x	x
1022-5-W		x			x		
824-8-W/F-Drain		x			x		
825-8-W		x					
825-16-A							
D-5 Drain	x	x				x	
925-9-W	x	x				x	
925-1-W		x					x
925-5-A							x
1021-5-W	x	x				x	
1024-1-W	x	x				x	
1022-5-W (Cinder Pit)		x			x		

[1]Unless specifically opened for such use, ORV use and concentrated target practice/shooting ranges are unauthorized activities on Reclamation lands

[2]The only designated camping area is on Parcel 925-1-W. All other camping is on an ad-hoc basis.

[3]Camping is not allowed on the Minidoka NWR portion of this parcel; however, ad hoc camping does occur in the area of Bishop's Hole.

Source: Reclamation 2002.

Fishing access is an important component of the outdoor recreation experience at parcels along the Snake River. IDFG maintains three Sportsman Access Areas in the Study Area: Peterson Island, near the town of Declo; Minidoka Pond, east of Heyburn; and Ponderosa Pond, just north of Burley. Each of these areas provides parking, a boat dock, and fishing access. There is an accessible fishing dock at Minidoka Pond (IDFG 2002). In addition to these established fishing access sites, several of the Reclamation parcels along the Snake River are currently serving as informal river access sites (see Table 3.2-1). Bishop's Hole is one of the most popular of these sites (see Photo 3-8). This area receives regular use throughout the year by anglers and for other day use activities (picnicking, wildlife viewing, etc.). Until recently, it was the location of the largest Eastern cottonwood in the United States. Unfortunately, in August 2002 it suffered major damage requiring removal of the downed tree (see Photos 3-9 and 3-10).

Camping is allowed on BLM land, and dispersed camping occurs on much of the Federal land in the Study Area. In addition, camping is allowed at most of the Sportsman Access Sites maintained by IDFG. Camping is a popular activity in several areas just downstream of Minidoka Dam, particularly on holiday weekends (see Table 3.2-1). Camping in these areas is potentially hazardous, because large fluctuations in water flow occur with little or no warning.

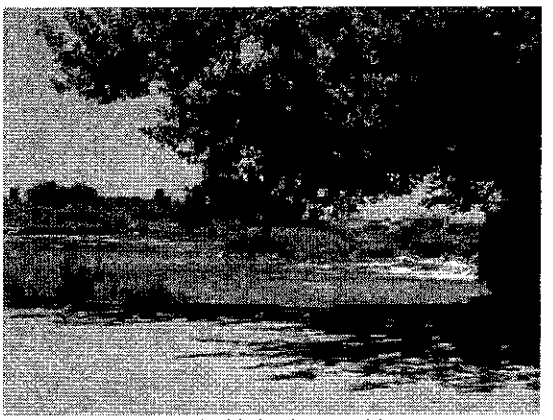


Photo 3-8. Bishop's Hole, located just downstream of Minidoka Dam, is a popular fishing site and day use area.

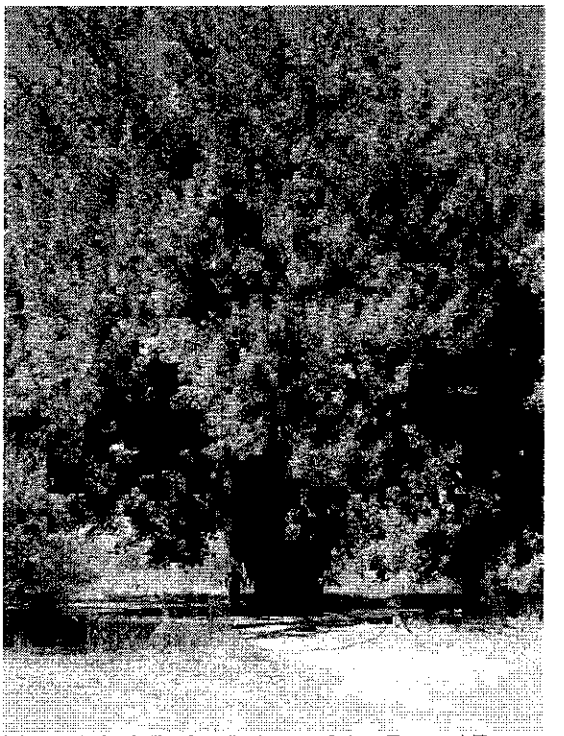


Photo 3-9. A "before" photo of the *Record Tree* (previously the largest Eastern cottonwood in the U.S.) taken in October 2001.

Photo 3-10. An "after" photo of the same tree taken a week after incurring major damage (August 2002).

Hunting is a popular activity in the Study Area and occurs on nearly all of the

Reclamation parcels. Exceptions include Lake Walcott State Park, parcels near dam facilities, parcels where firearms are specifically prohibited, urban parcels, and very small parcels. Primary hunting activities include waterfowl and upland game birds. Much of the hunting activity on Reclamation parcels is generally focused around constructed wetland areas as a result of the concentration of waterfowl. Hunting is also allowed on IDFG access sites and is a popular activity on BLM land near Lake Walcott (Personal Communication, A. Crump, Recreation Technician, BLM Burley Field Office, June 3, 2002). Intermittent target practice and shooting occur in the Study Area (see Table 3.2-1); however, concentrated target practice and shooting ranges are prohibited on Reclamation lands unless specifically permitted for such use. Because of safety concerns, a portion of parcel 824-8-W was closed to firearms and vehicles by the A&B Irrigation District. In addition, Reclamation has worked closely with Minidoka County in developing an ordinance (Minidoka County Ordinance No. 96-3) that prohibits the discharge of firearms, and subsequently target practice/shooting on parcel 1024-1-W. This ordinance is posted at parcel 1024-1-W. Reclamation also recently closed the Cinder Pit (parcel 1022-5-W) to target practice and shooting due to safety concerns.

ORV use is occurring in the Study Area; however, unless specifically opened for such use, ORV use is prohibited on Reclamation lands. At this time, no Reclamation parcels within the Study Area are open to ORV use.

3.2.2 Recreation Facilities

Few developed recreation facilities occur on Reclamation lands in the RMP Study Area. Exceptions include Lake Walcott State Park and Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge.

Lake Walcott State Park

Lake Walcott State Park is located at the northwest end of Lake Walcott, 11 miles northeast of Rupert, accessed from State Highway 24. Dating from the earliest days of the Minidoka Project, the park was developed somewhat informally in response to various needs and policies of Reclamation. The park area nearest the dam first served as a construction camp for the dam, and later uses included housing camps for Reclamation employees and Civilian Conservation Corps enrollees. While Reclamation officially named the area "Walcott Park" in 1912, it was not developed for public recreational purposes until the 1930s. Much of the site development in the park, including the rock walls still visible today, was completed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (see Photo 3-11). A formal master plan was developed for the park in 1938, yet funding cutbacks and the disbandment of the Civilian Conservation Corps limited the improvements made at the park. Although closed to the public during World War II, the popularity and use of Walcott Park grew steadily once open again in the 1950s. The park was briefly under the jurisdiction of the FWS in the mid-1960s and became a state park in 1996 (Reclamation 1998b).

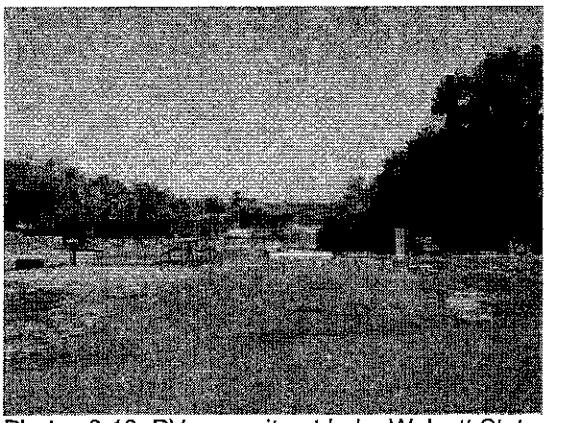
Photo 3-11. Walls built by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the early part of the 20th century.

The park is open year round; however, the camping season extends from May 1 through October 1. Lake Walcott State Park is the only developed park on the reservoir and the only place where camping is allowed. The entire park, managed by IDPR for Reclamation, is situated within the Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge and the refuge headquarters building is located within the park. The 140-acre park is in a quiet, grassy setting with many large, mature shade trees. Activities include camping, fishing, boating, waterskiing, bird watching, basketball, horseshoes, and picnicking. The park also has an 18-hole disc (Frisbee™) golf course that serves as the venue each April for the Lake Walcott Open disc golf tournament. Wading and beach swimming are not allowed at Lake Walcott State Park.

The park is generally divided into three separate use areas: day use, camping, and boating. The day use area is on the west end, the camping is approximately in the middle, and the boat launch is on the east end of the park. Paved trails wind throughout the park and provide foot access and some waterfront trails to each of the different use areas and to Minidoka Dam (see Photo 3-12). There is also a dirt hiking trail that leaves the park near the boat ramp and follows the shoreline for approximately 1.5 miles. The park provides extensive picnicking opportunities, with five picnic shelters and approximately 200 individual picnic sites. The day use area also provides an interpretive kiosk that provides historical information about the local area and the construction of Minidoka Dam.

Photo 3-12. Pathways connect various areas within the park.

The park has four camping areas, one for recreational vehicles (RVs) and three separate tent areas. The RV area provides 23 sites with water and electric hook-ups, including one site for a campground host (see Photo 3-13). The three separate tent areas each accommodate approximately eight tent sites. Each tent area has a small parking area adjacent to it, as the tent areas are for walk-in camping only.



Photos 3-13. RV campsite at Lake Walcott State Park.

Additional camping opportunities have recently been made available with the addition of two new camper cabins. Each of these wood cabins is approximately 200 square feet, and is located to the west of the RV camping area adjacent to the upper parking lot. Each cabin has a deck facing Lake Walcott, electrical outlets, heating and air conditioning, and outdoor water spigots. Paved trails provide pedestrian access to the restrooms, parking lot, and other trails throughout the park. Each cabin has a maximum occupancy of five; however, the maximum accessible occupancy is three. Each cabin has a bunk bed and futon couch. Use of the cabins is from May 1 through October 1. The cost to rent these cabins is

approximately $41.00 ($35.00 for cabin, $4.00 entrance fee, plus appropriate taxes).

Boat ramps are open at Lake Walcott State Park from April 1 through September 30. A two-lane concrete boat ramp with approximately 60 parking spaces is located at the east end of the park (see Photo 3-14). Approximately 5 miles of shoreline are available for year-round bank fishing; however, fishing is not allowed from the boat dock. Available species include rainbow trout, largemouth bass, and yellow perch.

A number of special events are held in the park throughout the year. These events do not require a permit; however, the group hosting the event must contact the park office in advance. Popular group events include family reunions, company picnics, and group camping. Specific special events held at the park include a disc golf tournament, the Reclamation-sponsored "Catch a Special Thrill" event, and high school cross-country running meets.

The park provides a no-fee shower building with four showers. The shower building is located in the RV area, although it is open to all campers. There are a total of seven restroom buildings scattered throughout the park. The restrooms and showers are open only during the camping season and remain closed throughout the winter. There is an RV dump station located in the park; however, it is currently closed because of high phosphate content in recent water samples. As an alternative, RV users can use a nearby dump station approximately 10 miles west of the park along Highway 24. User fees in 2004 were $18/night for RVs and $12/night for tents. The park also charges a Motorized Vehicle Entrance Fee of $4 for any non-camping visit; however, an Annual State Park Passport ($25 in 2004) allows unlimited day use. New in 2004, the Motorized Vehicle Entrance Fee was not waived for campers; that is, campers were charged the fee in addition to the overnight camping fee. Also new in 2004, state sales tax was added to all entrance fees.

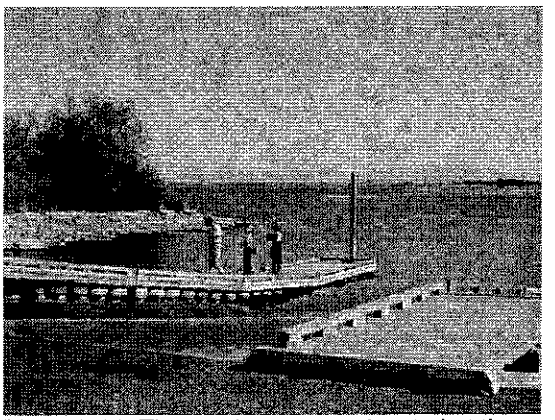


Photo 3-14. The two boat ramps located at the east end of the park.

Maintenance in the park is performed by a crew of four seasonal maintenance workers. In addition, volunteers from organizations such as Boy Scouts and Idaho Youth Ranch help maintain the park. Security in the park is provided by the park ranger and a seasonal employee who stays in the campground during the summer and acts as a camp host. In addition, firefighters from two local fire districts (East End and North End Fire Districts) act as volunteer security personnel during busy weekends.

Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge

Minidoka NWR, managed by FWS, includes about 80 miles of shoreline around Lake Walcott, stretching about 25 miles upstream from Minidoka Dam. About half of the refuge's 20,699 acres is open water and wetlands (FWS 2001). The diversity of habitats at Minidoka NWR supports a wide variety of birds and mammals. While the refuge is open to visitors year-round, public access may be limited in certain places throughout the year to protect wildlife. Designated recreation areas within the

refuge include public hunting land areas, public hunting water areas, boat fishing areas, and Lake Walcott State Park (see Photo 3-15). Fishing from boats on Lake Walcott is permitted from April 1 through September 30. Fishing from shore is permitted year-round in accordance with state fishing regulations. Motorized vehicles are permitted only on designated roads and several hunter parking areas are provided. Improved access roads are closed to vehicles January 15 to September 20; however, foot access is allowed at any time throughout the refuge. There are two boat ramps in the refuge, one at Lake Walcott State Park and the other just downstream of Tule Island. Wading and beach swimming are not allowed within the refuge and camping is allowed only within Lake Walcott State Park.

Photo 3-15. Interpretive sign at the State Park describing wildlife values within the adjacent Minidoka NWR.

3.2.3 Visitor Profile and Use Levels

In 2000, a survey of recreation users at Lake Walcott State Park was administered with a sample size of 197 (IDPR, EDAW 2000). Limited survey data are also available from visitor surveys conducted by IDPR in 1999, 2000, and 2001. Results from each survey provide information regarding visitor profiles and perceptions of the park and its facilities. The results of these completed surveys are the basis for the visitor information presented below. It should be noted, however, that in each of the 3 years for which the IDPR survey data are available, the sample size was quite small (ranging from 13 to 36 completed surveys). Therefore, these data are not statistically significant, but do provide an overall idea of general use and visitation patterns.

The 2000 survey provided information regarding the location of the primary residence of visitors. Eighty-four percent of respondents were from Idaho. The majority of visitors were from Minidoka County (37 percent) and Cassia County (30 percent). These numbers indicate that Walcott State Park primarily serves visitors from the immediate area.

The survey asked respondents to indicate all of the types of recreation activities they participated in while visiting Walcott State Park. Picnicking was the activity most participated in by park users, followed by rest/relaxing, sightseeing, other activities, fishing, and numerous other activities (see Table 3.2-2).

Overall, visitors perceive few problems with capacity and conflict in the area. Several questions related to social capacity were

Table 3.2-2. Primary Activities at Lake Walcott State Park.

Activity	Respondents (percent)
Picnicking	66
Rest/relaxing	28
Sightseeing	18
Other activities	17
Fishing	16
Wildlife observation	10
Hiking	10
Waterskiing	10
Camping	9
Swimming*	8
Powerboating	6
Sightseeing	5

*Although swimming is not allowed at Lake Walcott, survey respondents noted that it is an activity that some of them participate in.

Source: IDPR, EDAW 2000

included in the survey to determine how visitors felt about crowding at the park. Nearly 4 out of 10 respondents (38 percent) indicated problems with disruptive behavior by others as "a big problem." This value may indicate that high use levels could be creating conditions that lead to conflicts among visitors. Such conflicts, however, do not apparently significantly detract from visitors' overall satisfaction with their visit to the park. Almost all survey respondents (94 percent) indicated that they were either "extremely satisfied" or "somewhat satisfied" with their visit to Walcott State Park.

3.2.4 Access

Access to the scattered parcels in the Minidoka North Side RMP Study Area is primarily by secondary, rural roads. Main roads are shown on the Regional Location Map at the beginning of this document. Interstate 84 (I-84) runs east and west through the RMP Study Area. East of the Study Area, I-84 turns to the south towards Ogden, Utah. I-86 continues east to American Falls and Pocatello, Idaho. I-84 and I-86 follow the Snake River and link the major population centers of southern Idaho, including Boise, Twin Falls, and Pocatello. The communities of Burley and Heyburn are located immediately adjacent to and south of I-84, and Rupert and Paul lie further to the north. Four freeway exits serve the Study Area communities. The Study Area also contains two-lane state routes. The rural roads in the RMP Study Area generally follow a grid system, except where diverted around such features as canals, railroad tracks, and the Snake River. The roads are numbered north and south parallel to Baseline Road, roughly following State Route (SR) 25, and east and west parallel to Meridian Road.

Dirt, two-track roads traverse many of the Reclamation parcels in the Minidoka North Side RMP area (see Photo 3-16). Some are used to access Reclamation facilities. Most have been created by public use over many years and some result from trespass and ORV use (see Photo 3-17). Table 3.2-3 shows the number of roads in each parcel in terms of the parcel size, as identified from low level aerial photographs. This qualitative analysis, based on review of 100 parcels in aerial photos, indicates that 95 percent of the parcels contain roads. All but four of the small-sized parcels and one of the medium-sized parcels contain roads.

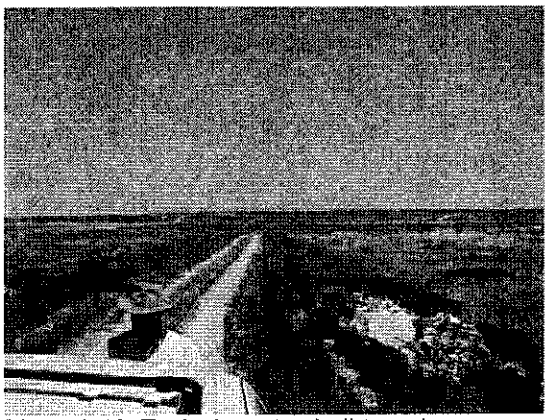


Photo 3-16. Typical two-track dirt road.

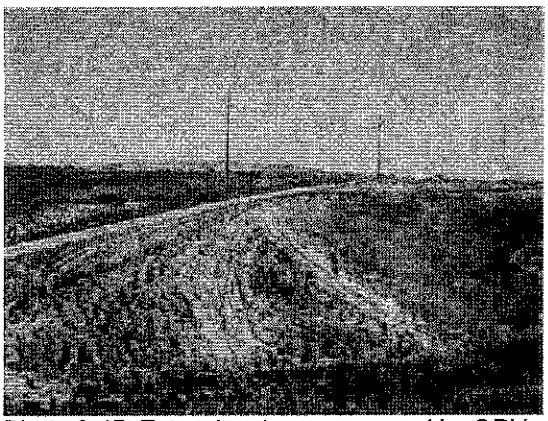


Photo 3-17. Extensive damage caused by ORVs from overland travel off one of the many two-track dirt roads.

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Table 3.2-3. Dirt Roads Through Parcels as Related to Parcel Size.

	Road Frequency				
Parcel Size	**High: More than 5 roads on parcel**	**Medium: 3 to 4 roads on parcel**	**Low: 1 or 2 roads on parcel**	**None: No roads in parcel**	**Total Parcels of Each Size**
Small: Less than 160 acres or 1/4 section	8	18	53	4	**83**
Medium: 1/4 section to 1 section	6	1	2	1	**10**
Large: Greater than 1 section	4	2	1	0	**7**
Total Parcels of Each Road Frequency	**18**	**21**	**56**	**5**	**100**

Note: Linear parcels that follow canals and roads are not included

Source: Compilation of available GIS data and aerial photography by CH2M HILL.

Of the seven large parcels reviewed (greater than 1 section, or 1 square mile), all contained roads and more than half contained more than five roads. Likewise, more than half of the 10 medium-sized parcels ranging from 1/4 section to 1 section in size contained more than 5 roads per parcel. Only one medium-sized parcel did not contain roads. Small parcels, those less than 160 acres, were often physically too small to contain many roads. However, nearly 10 percent of those small parcels contained more than five roads. Approximately 22 percent contained three or four roads, and 64 percent contained one or two roads.

3.3 Public Services and Utilities

3.3.1 Emergency Fire Suppression Services

Wildland fires are common in the Study Area, typically resulting from accidental ignition (such as cigarettes, vehicle exhaust systems, and lightning strikes), as well as the intentional burning of adjacent cropland. The combination of fire and overgrazing has reduced the amount of native cover (sagebrush, forbs, and grasses) and facilitated the invasion of cheatgrass. An annual invasive species, cheatgrass dries early in the season becoming highly flammable, increasing the incidence and facilitating the spread of wildland fires (FWS 1989).

Wildland fire suppression is coordinated by the South-Central Idaho Interagency Dispatch Center (SCHC), a cooperative arrangement between BLM, Reclamation, FWS, U.S. Forest Service (USFS), National Park Service (NPS), and the State of Idaho. The primary function of the SCHC is to provide cost effective and timely responses to wildland fire incidents primarily through initial attack using the closest available forces, regardless of jurisdiction. BLM is the major provider of fire suppression services, providing staffing and equipment for initial fire attack and full suppression.

A typical response to a wildland fire includes two small engines, each staffed by 2 to 3 person crews, a larger engine with five personnel, a single-engine aerial tanker and a helicopter (Personal Communication, Mike Aoi, June 6, 2002). The closest BLM fire station to the Study Area is in Burley. This station maintains four small engines and one large engine. A BLM fire response helicopter is based in Jerome and two single engine tankers are based at the Twin Falls Airport (Personal Communication, Mike Aoi, June 6, 2002).

Reclamation and BLM have a long-standing (since 1955) relationship for wildland fire

suppression. The agencies have an agreement that authorizes BLM to provide wildland fire suppression activities on certain withdrawn and acquired lands under Reclamation's jurisdiction in the region. Most of the lands within the Study Area are provided coverage through this agreement.

Fires occurring at Lake Walcott State Park and Minidoka Dam are the responsibility of the East End Fire Department, which is co-located with the City of Rupert Fire and Rescue Department. The East End Fire Department consists of four units including a 3,500 gallon tanker, a 1,000 gallon foam unit, a 1,000-gallon pumper, and a quick response unit staffed by 20 volunteer fire fighters. The City of Rupert Fire and Rescue Department has responsibility for confined space and high angle rescues occurring at the Lake Walcott State Park and Minidoka Dam. Response time to Lake Walcott State Park and Minidoka Dam is estimated to be 10 to 15 minutes. There have not been any emergencies at Lake Walcott State Park and Minidoka Dam that required response by either fire department in recent memory (Personal Communication, Larry Pool, August 15, 2002).

The East End Fire Department is a division of the Minidoka County Fire Protection District, consisting of four fire stations in Minidoka County. The Minidoka County Fire Protection District has had a mutual aid agreement with BLM since 1966 facilitating coordinated fire response throughout the Study Area (Personal Communication, Larry Pool, August 15, 2002). BLM does not provide structural fire suppression services.

The FWS provides wildland fire suppression activities for those lands within the Study Area located within the NWR, but not including Lake Walcott State Park or the Minidoka Dam site. Those lands are included in the FWS Wildland Fire Management Plan for the Southeast Idaho National Wildlife Refuge Complex, 2001.

3.3.2 Law Enforcement

The majority of the Study Area is located within an area patrolled by the Minidoka Sheriff's Office. This agency is staffed by 38 sworn officers who patrol the area on a four-shift rotation. The area is patrolled by 17 patrols, each cruiser operated by a single officer. In addition, the Minidoka Sheriff's Office patrols the waters of the Snake River between the Minidoka Dam and the Milner Dam as well as the western part of Lake Walcott. The Cassia County Sheriff's Department patrols Reclamation parcels located in Cassia County. They provide 24-hour scheduled coverage by 27 sworn officers, including 5 resident deputies plus an additional 10 volunteer reserves.

Currently, no formal agreement exists between the Minidoka and Cassia County Sheriff's Offices and Reclamation; however, the patrol area does include Reclamation lands. Principal law enforcement concerns relevant to Reclamation include illegal dumping, unauthorized ORV and firearm use, vandalism, and drug interdiction. The water patrol, which uses both personal watercraft and boats, also enforces the State's boating laws and provides law enforcement on behalf of Jerome and Blaine counties (Personal Communication, Dan Kindig, May 29, 2002). The Minidoka Sheriff's Office has expressed interest in increased access to the river for patrol purposes through Reclamation property. Cassia County Sheriff's Department patrols Bishop's Hole at least once daily for illegal camping, dumping, and other concerns (Personal Communication, Cary Bristol, June 21, 2003).

3.3.3 Water Supply

Irrigation

The major water agencies within the Study Area are A&B and MID. Both irrigation districts supply irrigation water to the majority of farms located within district boundaries. Their resources and coverage are described in Section 3.1, Land Use.

Water Rights

In the state of Idaho, water rights within the borders of A&B and MID are delivered to individual farm units. In most cases, the farm unit is irrigated with water obtained from the irrigation district through exercise of the water right obtained under a repayment contract with Reclamation. Reclamation holds title to these water rights for the beneficial use of the water users who entered into repayment contracts. In contrast to private lands within the irrigation district boundaries, most Reclamation parcels do not hold water rights. As a result, these parcels cannot legally be irrigated with project water unless a water right (and associated construction, operation, and maintenance costs) can be transferred from another parcel, which is a legally and administratively cumbersome process, and therefore highly unusual. Urban parcels within the irrigation district that are no longer farmed provide a possible source for additional water rights.

Domestic Water

Domestic water used by residents of rural parts of the Study Area, including inhabitants of Reclamation parcels, depend on well water drawn from the Snake River Plain Aquifer, the sole-source aquifer for the region.

3.3.4 Wastewater Treatment and Irrigation Nutrient Management

Irrigation Return Flow

Irrigation return flow is drained from farm land through a series of drains. Historically, most of the return flow from MID returned to the Snake River while most A&B return flow was discharged back into the aquifer using injection wells. Reclamation has strongly supported discontinuing this practice to protect water quality. Irrigation return flow is described in Section 2.6, Water Quality and Contaminants.

Domestic Sewage

Wastewater is collected by municipal sewage collection and treatment systems operated by all the jurisdictions in the Study Area. These serve both residential and industrial waste water generators. Outside of local city limits, residents rely on septic systems for wastewater treatment, including homes on Reclamation lands occupied by A&B employees (Personal Communication, Dan Temple, June 6, 2002). The City of Rupert relies on land leased from Reclamation for disposal of wastewater. Rupert uses an irrigation pivot to spray wastewater on private farm fields and one 160-acre farm located on Reclamation parcel 824-11-W to dispose of municipal and industrial wastewater. As this facility nears its 3.5 million gallon per day capacity, Rupert will need to expand its facilities to another site. The new facilities may recycle the wastewater for municipal irrigation, reducing the need for irrigation water and land for storage lagoons during the summer (Personal Communication, Richard Castro, August 14, 2002). Rupert's current plans include doubling its existing two irrigation pivots to four within the next 4 years, depending on population growth (Personal Communication, David Joyce, June 22, 2003).

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Chapter 4

The RMP Planning Process

Chapter 4

The RMP Planning Process

4.1 Overview

This chapter summarizes the principal factors that most influenced development of the Minidoka North Side RMP (as illustrated in Figure 4.1-1). These factors were identified through the following two fundamental processes:

1. Review and analysis of regional and Study Area resource inventory data, and current land use and management practices; and Federal laws and Reclamation policies and authorities (see Appendix B).

2. A public involvement program and agency and Tribal consultation focused on feedback and input from public meetings/workshops, newsbriefs, Ad Hoc Work Group (AHWG) meetings, and other meetings and communications.

A detailed Problem Statement defining the major opportunities, constraints, and planning issues was developed based on input from the processes listed above (see Appendix C).

Table 4.1-1 lists the primary issues of concern raised in the first public meeting and through written comment in response to the first newsbriefs, AHWG meetings, and agency and stakeholder meetings. These issues are described in detail in the Problem Statement contained in Appendix C. While not all issues of concern are listed in Table 4.1-1, the Problem Statement provides a comprehensive review and understanding of all of the issues,

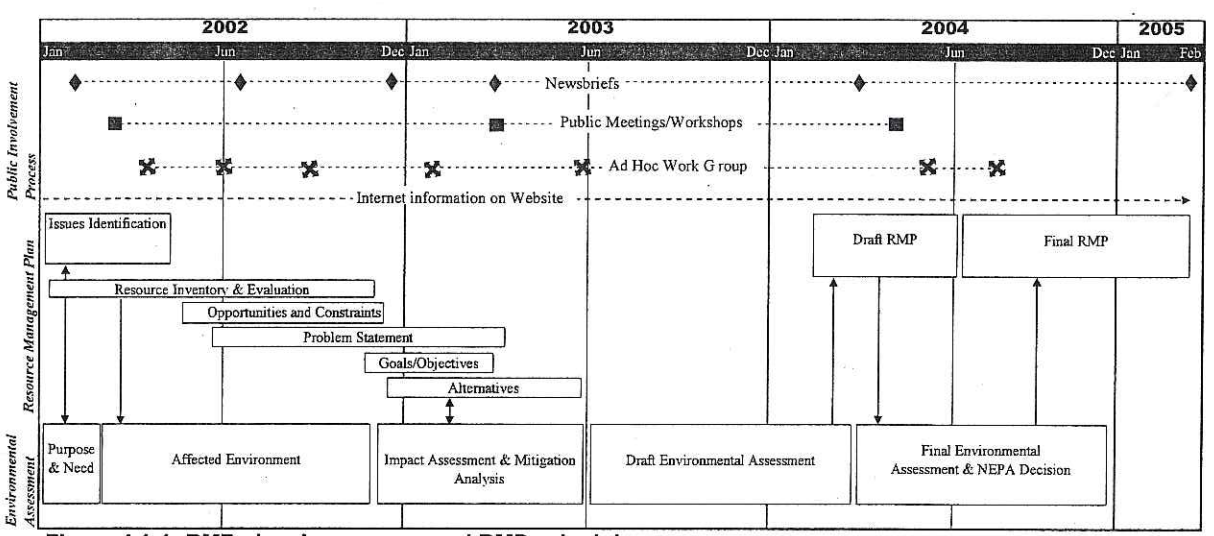

Figure 4.1-1: RMP planning process and RMP schedule.

needs, and opportunities (including all relevant perspectives) that are addressed by the RMP.

The Problem Statement was also used to guide development of the RMP Goals and Objectives, which are the foundation upon which alternative Management Actions were developed (described in detail in Chapter 5). The range of alternatives was reviewed by the public and the Ad Hoc Work Group. The alternatives were also identified and analyzed in the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Minidoka NS RMP to investigate potential environmental effects (Reclamation 2004).

Letters of comment on the Draft EA were received from two state agencies, one irrigation district, and one Federal agency. The Preferred Alternative was overwhelmingly supported by all four entities providing input on the Draft EA.

4.2 Public Involvement Program

Reclamation initiated a public involvement program in February 2002 and continued it throughout the planning process to support development of the RMP (see Figure 4.1-1). The program included: (a) six newsbriefs; (b) three public meetings/workshops; (c) seven meetings with the AHWG representing key agencies, organizations, Tribes, and stakeholders in the RMP Study Area; and (d) a project website providing information to the public and a forum in which to comment on the process. Each of these program components is described in further detail below.

4.2.1 Newsbriefs

The first newsbrief was mailed in February 2002 to about 200 individuals, organizations, and Tribes. It explained the RMP planning process, announced the project schedule, introduced the team members, and provided a mail-in response form for submitting issues and initial comments on the management and facilities in the Study Area. This information was used to help lay the foundation for the Problem Statement and subsequently form the Goals and Objectives for the RMP.

In July 2002, the results of the mail-in response form and the issues raised at the first public meeting were summarized in a second newsbrief. These issues were listed in a table and categorized by issue type (natural and cultural resources; recreation, land use and general management). Newsbrief #2 also listed the membership of the Ad Hoc Work Group, as well as provided a summary of the resource inventory conducted for the Minidoka NS parcels.

The third newsbrief was mailed in December 2003, and provided an update of the AHWG process and the Problem Statement compiled from the public outreach efforts. The forth newsbrief was mailed in February 2003 and provided a summary of the RMP Draft Goals and Objectives, the draft alternatives, and announced the second public meeting/workshop. The fifth newsbrief, mailed out in April 2004, announced the availability of the Draft EA for public and agency review and announced the time, location, and date of the third (and final) public meeting/workshop.

The sixth and final newsbrief was mailed in January 2005 to announce the RMP and Final EA. It also summarized comments received on the Draft EA and provided an overview of the RMP, including implementation.

Table 4.1-1. Primary Issues of Concern Identified During the Initial RMP Phase, Based on Public Input.

Overarching Concerns
• Maintain a view of the "big picture," i.e., look beyond a tract-by-tract perspective to include area/regional needs & opportunities.
• Consider area economic development in management decisions.
• Availability of water and water rights.
Land Status
• Keep lands needed for Project purposes in Reclamation's jurisdiction.
• Define criteria for Project purposes.
• Support Irrigation District needs as a first priority.
• Dispose of lands not needed for Project purposes.
• Give preferences to adjoining owners in land sales or exchanges.
• Expand agricultural and grazing lease opportunities on Reclamation lands.
• Protect Reclamation Zone at Minidoka Dam.
• Keep all lands in Reclamation jurisdiction—do not relinquish to BLM.
• Allow exchanges/sales to "square up" farm units.
Natural Resources
• Inventory vegetation and wildlife resources on Reclamation lands.
• Identify parcels with high resource value and restrict other uses.
• Reduce impacts from ORV use, fire, weeds, dumping, and trespass.
• Protect wetlands and sensitive species.
• Explore opportunities with farmers for cooperative wildlife habitat/farming.
• Coordinate efforts for weed/insect control (e.g., BLM/Reclamation).
• Water quality management & protection, including recharge of aquifer.
Recreation
• Provide more recreation opportunities, such as interpretation/education opportunities for cultural resources and wildlife viewing.
• Promote economic benefits through recreation.
• Examine expanded use opportunities at the State Park.
• Protect public access to the river.
• Manage current unauthorized camping, examine potential for allowing/providing camping outside of State Park.
Enforcement
• Prevent illegal dumping, ORV use, and vandalism on Reclamation lands.
• Address trespass and encroachment on Reclamation lands.
• Protect public safety.
• Need for boundary signage and/or fencing.
• Need to control fires—fire management.
Coordination
• Conduct government-to-government consultation with affected Tribes.
• Define relationships with other agencies (e.g., FWS, Idaho Fish and Game [IDFG], Irrigation Districts, BLM, Counties).
Cultural Resources
• Reclamation will meet its responsibilities under Sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.
• Comply with Federal laws related to Tribes and cultural resources (e.g., Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act [NAGPRA]).
• Need to protect historic cultural sites (e.g., Oregon Trail).
• Need to protect archaeological resources.
Indian Trust Assets (ITAs)
• Keep all lands in Federal ownership for protection of ITAs.

4.2.2 Public Meetings

The first public meeting/workshop was held on March 6, 2002 in Burley, Idaho. The purpose of this meeting was to conduct public scoping of the issues in the Minidoka North Side Study Area. Approximately 25 people attended the meeting. Reclamation provided information about the RMP planning process, then the participants broke into small work groups to discuss important issues and opportunities the RMP should address.

The second public meeting was held in Burley a year later on March 20, 2003. Approximately 10 people attended the meeting. In the interim, the Reclamation Planning Team had conducted additional research and surveys on the parcels, and had drafted an initial set of alternatives. The purpose of this meeting was to determine what alternative management concepts the public supported and why. This information was used to help refine the alternatives that were described and assessed in the Draft EA.

The third and final public meeting/workshop was held in Burley on April 22, 2004. Ten people signed in for the meeting. Its primary purpose was to solicit comments on the Draft EA. This meeting followed a similar format to the previous two meetings, beginning with presentation of the alternatives. Attendees could then ask questions of the RMP team members at stations that emphasized particular portions of the plan.

4.2.3 Ad Hoc Work Group

The Ad Hoc Work Group met seven times: in April, June, and August 2002, February and May 2003, and May and July of 2004. As part of the June 2002 meeting, the group spent a day touring the RMP Study Area and becoming more familiar with site-specific issues.

The 21 members brought a wide variety of viewpoints, and, although some were able to participate more than others, the group was of considerable assistance in the alternatives development process. The Preferred Alternative, and ultimately this plan, were arrived at through Ad Hoc Work Group discussions, public comments from the second and third public meetings, and the recommendations of agency scientists and planners. The entities represented in the Ad Hoc Work Group are listed in Table 4.2-1.

At the first meeting, the group was introduced to the planning process and asked to identify their issues of concern (see Photo 4-1). This information was recorded and used to help draft the Problem Statement. At the second meeting, an overview of the resource inventory was presented, focusing on potential opportunities and constraints. The Team also presented and took initial comments on the draft Problem Statement. In conjunction with the second meeting, the AHWG took part in a tour of the RMP Study Area (see Photos 4-2 and 4-3).

Table 4.2-1. Agencies, Tribes, and Organizations Represented on the Ad Hoc Work Group.

- A&B Irrigation District
- Adjacent Property Owners (2)
- Bureau of Land Management
- Cassia County Commission
- Cassia County Sheriff's Office
- City of Rupert City Council
- Idaho Department of Fish & Game, Region 4
- Idaho State Parks and Recreation
- Jerome County Commission
- Local Business Interest
- Minidoka County Commission
- Minidoka County Historical Society
- Minidoka County Sheriff's Office
- Minidoka County Weed Control
- Minidoka Irrigation District
- Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Pheasants Forever
- Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
- Shoshone-Paiute Tribes
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Minidoka Wildlife Refuge

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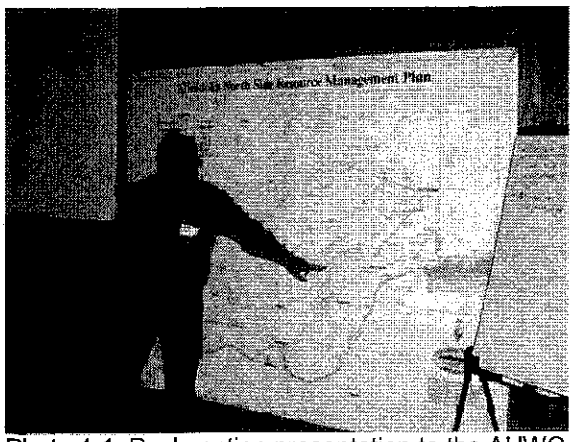

Photo 4-1. Reclamation presentation to the AHWG on various parcel information.

Photo 4-2. The AHWG discussing concerns related to the Bishop's Hole area under the *Record Tree*.

Photo 4-3. The AHWG observing wildlife and overall conditions of one of the constructed wetlands.

The primary intent of the third meeting was to finalize the Problem Statement and gather AHWG comments related to developing the Draft Goals and Objectives. The primary purposes of the fourth meeting were to describe and get feedback on the Draft Goals and Objectives, and receive feedback on a preliminary set of draft alternatives. The fifth meeting was used to summarize and get feedback on the draft EA alternatives.

The sixth meeting was held two weeks after the third public meeting with the main purpose of getting comments on the Draft EA, in particular the Preferred Alternative. Input received on the Draft EA was summarized and presented at the seventh and final meeting. However, the main purpose of this meeting was to present and receive feedback on the RMP management actions and Implementation Program.

4.2.4 World Wide Web

A Minidoka North Side RMP web site was set up on Reclamation's Pacific Northwest (PN) Region's homepage and updated regularly to provide relevant information to the public. Newsbriefs, contact names/addresses, draft materials, the draft and final versions of the EA, and meeting announcements were posted on this website. The site also provided a forum for individuals to provide comments on the RMP planning process.

4.3 Tribal Consultation

4.3.1 Overview of Government-to-Government Consultation with Tribes

Reclamation provided information regarding the RMP process through meetings and letters to the Fort Hall Business Council of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, the Tribal Council of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, the Tribal Council of the Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation, the Natural Resources Committee of

the Nez Perce Tribe, and the Tribal Council of the Burns Paiute Tribe.

The Draft EA was distributed to representatives from the above Tribes. No comments on the Draft EA were received from the Tribes.

4.3.2 National Historic Preservation Act Requirements

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) (as amended through 1992) requires agencies to consult with Indian Tribes if a proposed Federal action may affect properties to which the Tribes attach religious or cultural significance. The implementing regulations of the NHPA, 36 CFR 800, address procedures for consultation in more detail. Reclamation complied with these requirements in preparing the RMP.

4.3.3 Indian Trust Assets

Indian Trust Assets are legal interests in property held in trust by the United States for Indian Tribes or individuals. The Secretary of the Interior, acting as the trustee, holds many assets in trust for Indian Tribes or Indian individuals. Examples of trust assets include lands, minerals, hunting and fishing rights, and water rights. While most ITAs are on-reservation, they may also be found off-reservation.

The United States has an Indian trust responsibility to protect and maintain rights reserved by or granted to Indian Tribes or Indian individuals by treaties, statutes, and executive orders. These are sometimes further interpreted through court decisions and regulations.

4.3.4 Indian Sacred Sites

Sacred sites are defined in Executive Order 13007 as "any specific, discrete, narrowly delineated location on Federal land that is identified by an Indian Tribe, or Indian individual determined to be an appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion, as sacred by virtue of its established religious significance to, or ceremonial use by, an Indian religion...."

Reclamation informed the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes about the RMP and requested that they inform Reclamation if they were aware of Indian sacred sites within the Study Area. The notification and consultation processes were coordinated with the NHPA consultation process. No information on sacred sites was received from the Tribes.

4.3.5 Other Laws and Regulations

The relationship between Federal agencies and sovereign Tribes is defined by several laws and regulations addressing the requirement of Federal agencies to notify or consult with Native American groups or otherwise consider their interests when planning and implementing Federal undertakings. Among these are the following (also see Appendix B, Legal Mandates):

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- American Indian Religious Freedom Act
- Archaeological Resources Protection Act
- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
- Executive Order 12875, Enhancing the Intergovernmental Partnership
- Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations
- Presidential Memorandum: Government-to-Government Relations with Native American Tribal Governments.
- Executive Order 13007, Indian Sacred Sites

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- Executive Order 13175 of November 6, 2000, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments (EO 13175 revokes EO 13084 issued May 14, 1998).

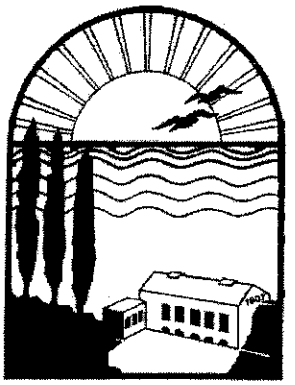
4.4 Agency Coordination

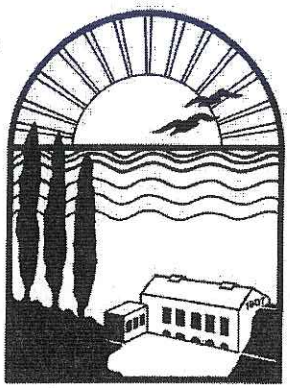
Reclamation consulted with several Federal and local agencies throughout the RMP process to gather valuable input and to meet regulatory requirements. This coordination was integrated with the public involvement process.

The evaluation of endangered species contained in the EA serves as Reclamation's biological assessment as required under the ESA. It evaluates impacts on listed species and those proposed for listing, including the Ute ladies'-tresses orchid, bald eagle, yellow-billed cuckoo, pygmy rabbit, and three snail species. Reclamation has determined that the Preferred Alternative will have no affect on these species and is therefore not required to formally consult with the FWS. As a result, Reclamation does not need concurrence from FWS.

Chapter 5

Resource Management





Chapter 5

Resource Management

5.1 Introduction

This chapter describes Reclamation's decisions regarding strategies that will guide use and management of Reclamation's lands over the next 15 years. Some background on Reclamation's approach, authorities, and policies is provided for each of the primary categories; these are followed by specific Goals, Objectives, and Management Actions. Specific guidelines and procedures are provided for management as needed. Figure 5.1-1 shows which lands are slated to be retained by Reclamation and which ones will be relinquished to BLM, as well as other pertinent information. This figure also serves as an index to Appendix F, which provides more detail on these data in the form of enlarged maps of the area. See Appendix D for an explanation of the laws and policies related to Reclamation's authority to retain and relinquish lands. In all, approximately 9,607 acres are slated to be relinquished to BLM, while approximately 8,202 acres will be retained by Reclamation (including Lake Walcott State Park [140 acres]).

5.2 Goals, Objectives, and Management Actions

Management Actions are specific tasks intended to guide Reclamation management and staff, as well as managing partners, in the activities required to properly manage Reclamation lands. They were derived from the Goals and Objectives developed over the course of preparing the RMP and associated EA. Guidelines and standards provide additional direction and clarification for selected Management Actions, where needed.

Management Actions are intended to be implemented over the next 15 years and are included here because they are considered the most appropriate actions for managing these lands. Inclusion of these actions is dependent on funding. Following are the six primary categories and associated subcategories described in this chapter:

- Land Use and Management (Section 5.2.1);
- Natural Resources (Section 5.2.2);
- Cultural Resources (Section 5.2.3);
- Indian Sacred Sites (Section 5.2.4);
- Indian Trust Assets (Section 5.2.5); and
- Recreation and Access (Section 5.2.6).

5.2.1 Land Use and Management (LUM)

Reclamation's general land use approach is to: (1) manage the lands in a manner consistent with Federal laws and regulations, and the principles of good stewardship to accomplish Project purposes and serve the public interest; (2) seek opportunities for coordinated and cooperative land use planning with other Federal, State, and local agencies; and (3) develop RMPs that best support the public interest, preserve and enhance environmental quality, and are compatible with project purposes and needs. As part of this approach, Reclamation strives to maintain a current inventory of all land holdings and uses.

Normally, law enforcement services on Reclamation lands are provided through contract and agreements with local partners. Enforcement efforts are required to address trespass and encroachment; willful damage or destruction of facilities, lands, or resources; and dumping on Reclamation lands.

Trespass and unauthorized use, when allowed to continue, deprive the public of their rightful use and enjoyment of the public lands. Willful damage or destruction of facilities, lands, or resources could endanger the public, prevent provision of project services, and destroy valuable natural and cultural resources, as well as cost money to repair. Prohibited acts on Federal land include: (1) constructing, placing, or maintaining any kind of road, trail, structure, fence, enclosure, communication equipment, pump, well, or other improvement without a permit; (2) extracting materials or other resources without a permit; (3) damage or destruction of facilities or structures, including abandoned buildings; and (4) excavation, collection, or removal of archeological or historical artifacts. Reclamation's general approach is to facilitate and ensure the proper use of land resources consistent with the requirements of law and BMPs. The primary management emphasis is to provide the public as a whole non-exclusive use of Federal lands while still protecting environmental values and natural and cultural resources.

It is also Reclamation's approach to clear, and keep clear, all lands from trespasses and unauthorized uses. In resolving trespass or unauthorized use issues, priority is given to those trespasses that are not in the best public interest, are not compatible with the primary uses of the land, or that have caused or are causing damage to significant environmental values or natural or cultural resources. Unauthorized uses and trespasses are best resolved before they become well established. When a violation does occur, Reclamation's first priority is to negotiate a solution to resolve the violation. In the event such negotiations fail, Reclamation will take actions necessary to protect the public interest and project lands, including legal action through the courts.

GOAL LUM 1: Ensure that Project purposes are not restricted or impacted as a result of other uses and activities.

Objective LUM 1.1: For safety and security reasons, require that Minidoka Dam and the security area surrounding the dam remain closed to public access.

Management Actions

LUM 1.1.1: Describe and show both the Reclamation Zone and the specific areas closed to public access for security purposes on publicly distributed materials and signage.

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Insert Figure 5.1-1.

11x17

Back of Figure 5.1-1.

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LUM 1.1.2: Notify the public through appropriate means if the closed area around the dam is modified.

Objective LUM 1.2: Protect access to and use of material extraction sites on Reclamation lands to allow for the continued extraction and/or storage of sand, gravel, and rock for the purpose of Irrigation District and Reclamation construction activities.

Management Actions

LUM 1.2.1: Consider the extraction/ storage of sand, gravel, and rock on Reclamation parcels on a case-by-case basis where it does not conflict with other Reclamation needs or priority natural and cultural values.

LUM 1.2.2: Ensure that responsible parties implement all applicable Best Management Practices in the course of extracting/storing materials from Reclamation parcels.

Objective LUM 1.3: Ensure that easements and crossing agreements issued to private and public entities do not interfere with Project operation and maintenance.

Management Actions

LUM 1.3.1: Consult with Irrigation Districts or managing partners prior to issuance of easements and crossing agreements (see Reclamation Manual LND 08-01, paragraphs 3.H and 4.F).

Objective LUM 1.4: Address and resolve unauthorized access-related conflicts pertaining to Reclamation operations and maintenance roads (see Reclamation Manual LND 08-01, paragraphs 3.H).

Management Actions

LUM 1.4.1: Provide signage as appropriate to limit access on operations and maintenance roads.

LUM 1.4.2: Enforce operations and maintenance road access restrictions through periodic monitoring and follow through related to the prosecution of violators.

LUM 1.4.3: Work with local agencies to ensure operations and maintenance roads are not identified as access to private property.

Objective LUM 1.5: Ensure that Reclamation facilities are not impacted by new construction (e.g., stormwater runoff, relocations, and crossings).

Management Actions

LUM 1.5.1: Provide counties/cities with applicable Reclamation facility, property, and mapping information (i.e., lot splits) in an effort to coordinate working with their planning, zoning, and permitting processes.

GOAL LUM 2: Provide direction on the use or disposal of Reclamation property.

Objective LUM 2.1: Within authorities and compatible with Project purposes, natural and cultural resource protection, and land management needs, allow suitable parcels to be transferred or disposed (see Reclamation Manual LND 08-02).

Management Actions

LUM 2.1.1: Follow Reclamation policy and criteria provided in Appendix D (Authorities & Methods for Disposing of Minidoka North Side Lands) for parcels

determined suitable for transfer or disposal.

Objective LUM 2.2: Consider leasing Reclamation parcels for grazing or agricultural uses where appropriate.

Management Actions

LUM 2.2.1: Develop prescriptions and lease limitations on parcels considered for grazing.

LUM 2.2.2: Consider new grazing leases on designated parcels that do not affect operations and maintenance, and are based on protection and/or improvement of natural and cultural resource values and water quality concerns.

LUM 2.2.3: Consider new agricultural leases only when they contribute to the closure of drain wells, where water rights are legally appropriated, and where there would be no impacts to natural and cultural resources.

GOAL LUM 3: Engage and work cooperatively with other agencies to manage resources, uses, and activities on appropriate Reclamation lands.

Objective LUM 3.1: Renegotiate formal Reclamation/IDFG agreements for IDFG management of specific parcels. [see NAT 1.7].

Management Actions

LUM 3.1.1: Work with IDFG to prepare overall vision and goals for managing appropriate Reclamation parcels and framework for a new management agreement.

LUM 3.1.2: Determine appropriate parcels, or portions of parcels to be managed by IDFG, and prepare management criteria and objectives for each specific parcel.

LUM 3.1.3: Perform annual implementation planning meetings and monitoring to see that management criteria are being followed and objectives are being met.

Objective LUM 3.2: Continue agreements and cooperative working relationships with Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for the management of Lake Walcott State Park and Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge (respectively), and where appropriate and feasible on other nearby Reclamation lands. [see REC 1.1 and 1.2]

Management Actions

LUM 3.2.1: Coordinate with IDPR in the preparation and implementation of a Historic Preservation and Maintenance Plan for Lake Walcott State Park outlining vegetation preservation/ protection, use areas, hardscape areas, and other pertinent park guidance.

LUM 3.2.2: Update the Reclamation/ IDPR agreement regarding IDPR's management of Lake Walcott State Park incorporating implementation of measures outlined in the park's Historic Preservation and Maintenance Plan. [see CUL 1.2.1 and REC 1.1.1]

LUM 3.2.3: Continue coordination efforts with FWS related to their management of Minidoka NWR, where needed.

LUM 3.2.4: Amend FWS and/or IDPR agreements to incorporate coordinating activities related to managing

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Reclamation parcels adjacent to the refuge and park, if needed.

GOAL LUM 4: Ensure protection of the public, facilities, and public resource values on Reclamation lands and alleviate conflicts with adjacent lands.

Objective LUM 4.1: Pursue agreements with other Federal and local agencies as the primary enforcement entities to ensure an adequate level of law enforcement on Reclamation lands.

Management Actions

LUM 4.1.1: Prepare new law enforcement agreements with interested entities focused on enforcing laws and Reclamation policies to protect natural and cultural resources and provide for security and public safety on Reclamation lands.

LUM 4.1.2: Define and incorporate specific law enforcement needs and purposes into agreements with other entities providing law enforcement services on Reclamation lands.

LUM 4.1.3: Monitor law enforcement activities and changing needs over time to adjust purpose and priorities for providing law enforcement on Reclamation lands.

LUM 4.1.4: Provide funding for law enforcement of Reclamation lands.

Objective LUM 4.2: Investigate and implement means of more efficiently and effectively improving law enforcement on Reclamation lands.

Management Actions

LUM 4.2.1: Work with counties to pass ordinances aimed at improving law enforcement on Reclamation lands.

LUM 4.2.2: Seek adjacent landowner and citizen participation in improving law enforcement on Reclamation lands.

LUM 4.2.3: Participate in Crime Witness program wherein rewards are offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction for illegal dumping, vandalism, theft, waste, fraud, or harm to Reclamation personnel (see Appendix E).

Objective LUM 4.3: Develop and implement a comprehensive wildland fire management plans as needed to address public safety-related concerns, as well as efforts that would enhance or protect the natural resource values of RMP lands. [see NAT 1.6]

Management Actions

LUM 4.3.1: See NAT 1.6.1.

LUM 4.3.2: Provide funding for fire-related activities on Reclamation lands, subject to appropriations.

Objective LUM 4.4: Eliminate existing trespass/encroachments on Reclamation lands (see Reclamation Manual LND P04).

Management Actions

LUM 4.4.1: Establish immediate, short- and long-term priorities for addressing trespass/encroachments on Reclamation lands.

LUM 4.4.2: Complete surveying of sites to determine the extent of trespasses/encroachments.

LUM 4.4.3: Update Reclamation's GIS database (and continue to revise as needed) incorporating surveys and other relevant information.

LUM 4.4.4: Increase enforcement activities related to trespass and unauthorized use of Reclamation lands, including notifications, fines, removal, etc.

LUM 4.4.5: Work with adjacent landowners to eliminate existing trespass/encroachments and rehabilitate lands, where appropriate.

LUM 4.4.6: Develop and implement a monitoring program aimed at preventing future trespasses/encroachments on Reclamation parcels.

LUM 4.4.7: Use the Crime Witness program to offer rewards to individuals who report unauthorized or illegal use of Reclamation lands, and which lead to arrest or levied fines. [see LUM 4.2.3]

Objective LUM 4.5: Implement measures to address unauthorized uses of Reclamation lands, including the clean up of trash dumps and monitoring to prevent future dumping.

Management Actions

LUM 4.5.1: Establish immediate, short- and long-term priorities for addressing dump sites on Reclamation lands, and issue contracts for cleanup as needed.

LUM 4.5.2: Complete surveying of sites to determine the extent of dump sites, specific problems associated with particular uses, and characterization of contents in an attempt to determine responsible party(ies).

LUM 4.5.3: Update Reclamation's GIS database (and continue to revise as needed) incorporating illegal dump sites and other relevant information.

LUM 4.5.4: Increase enforcement activities related to dump sites of Reclamation lands, including notifications, fines, removal, etc.

LUM 4.5.5: Work with the public to enlist and form a "watchdog" group aimed at catching perpetrators; include incentives such as rewards through participation in the Crime Witness program. [see LUM 4.2.3]

LUM 4.5.6: Develop and implement a monitoring program aimed at preventing future unauthorized uses on Reclamation parcels.

Objective LUM 4.6: Educate the public that all Reclamation lands are closed to ORV use (see 43 CFR Part 420). [see REC 2.1 related to preparation of an Access Management Plan]

Management Actions

LUM 4.6.1: Prepare and post signs at areas with past evidence of ORV use noting Reclamation's ORV regulation.

LUM 4.6.2: Post Reclamation's ORV regulation signs at appropriate locations on fences or at other boundary demarcations.

LUM 4.6.3: Describe Reclamation's ORV regulation in all appropriate future pamphlets, publications, public announcements.

Objective LUM 4.7: Ensure that siting and design of all new facilities, structures, roads, and trails on Reclamation lands maximize compatibility and integration with the open, rural environment and historic landscape of the surrounding area.

Management Actions

LUM 4.7.1: Design facilities to complement and be subordinate to the surrounding landscape wherever feasible.

LUM 4.7.2: Immediately revegetate disturbed areas resulting from any construction-related activities.

LUM 4.7.3: Preserve and protect all existing trees, shrubs, and other naturally occurring vegetation from construction operations and equipment except where clearing operations are required for permanent structures, approved construction roads, or excavation operations.

LUM 4.7.4: Design all maintenance yards, field offices, and staging areas to preserve trees, shrubs, and other vegetation wherever feasible.

Objective LUM 4.8: Minimize impacts on adjacent/surrounding lands resulting from land disturbing activities undertaken on Reclamation lands.

Management Actions

LUM 4.8.1: Monitor any land-disturbing activities on Reclamation lands to ensure minimal impacts to adjacent lands.

Objective LUM 4.9: Address and resolve unauthorized access-related conflicts pertaining to Reclamation lands.

Management Actions

LUM 4.9.1: Using Reclamation sign guidelines, post signs at areas with past evidence of access-related conflicts noting Reclamation's ownership and road restrictions.

LUM 4.9.2: Describe and show access-restricted roads in the Access Management Plan (see REC 2.2.1).

Objective LUM 4.10: Ensure that monitoring of agricultural and grazing activities is conducted to enforce compliance with lease terms.

Management Actions

LUM 4.10.1: Establish and implement grazing and agricultural lease monitoring schedules and protocols.

LUM 4.10.2: Perform reviews of each leased parcel as per monitoring schedule to ensure compliance with lease provisions and effect on lands for grazing, noting field observations from each visit.

Objective LUM 4.11: Prohibit concentrated shooting/target practice on Reclamation lands as required except as formally authorized by Reclamation policy (see Reclamation Manual ENV 02-07).

Management Actions

LUM 4.11.1: Post Reclamation's policy related to concentrated shooting/target practice on signs at appropriate locations, including on fences or at other boundary demarcations, and at areas with past evidence of concentrated shooting/target practice.

LUM 4.11.2: Describe Reclamation policy in all appropriate future pamphlets, publications, public announcements.

GOAL LUM 5: Provide informational, educational, and interpretive materials to increase public awareness of Reclamation boundaries, use restrictions, safety

concerns, natural and cultural resource values, and recreational opportunities.

Objective LUM 5.1: On all publicly distributed materials show the public closure area in the vicinity of Minidoka Dam, as appropriate.

Management Actions

LUM 5.1.1: Clearly mark the areas closed to the public in the vicinity of Minidoka Dam on pamphlets, signs, fences, and interpretive kiosks; provide a note stating that the boundaries of closed areas are subject to change.

Objective LUM 5.2: Using Reclamation's sign manual develop clear, consistent signage to guide public access to and the use of Reclamation lands.

Management Actions

LUM 5.2.1: Inventory existing signs and determine a prioritized list of additional sign needs.

LUM 5.2.2: Design, purchase, construct, and install signs as funding allows and according to the prioritized list.

Objective LUM 5.3: Improve public information/awareness of Reclamation lands through better on-the-ground boundary demarcation using signage, fencing, or other means as feasible and where necessary.

Management Actions

LUM 5.3.1: Inventory existing boundary fence and sign locations and determine a prioritized list of additional needs.

LUM 5.3.2: Install additional boundary signs and fencing as funding allows and according to the prioritized list.

Objective LUM 5.4: Coordinate with other agencies and entities to develop an educational interpretive program that incorporates illustrating the prehistoric, historic, and current land use practices, as well as natural features.

Management Actions

LUM 5.4.1: Work with Federal, State, and local agencies to prepare interpretive information for visitors to Lake Walcott State Park, Minidoka NWR, Bishop's Hole, and other appropriate locations.

GOAL LUM 6: Achieve timely implementation and coordination of RMP programs and projects.

Objective LUM 6.1: Maintain a clear phasing schedule and list of priorities for RMP implementation; and update on an annual basis.

Management Actions

LUM 6.1.1: Track and annually update progress on the Management Actions in the RMP implementation schedule.

LUM 6.1.2: Conduct annual meetings with managing partners to track progress in implementing the RMP and set priorities for the upcoming year.

Objective LUM 6.2: Seek Reclamation and managing partners (FWS, IDPR, IDFG, Counties, etc.) joint funding to implement applicable RMP actions according to the priority list and phasing schedule.

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Management Actions

LUM 6.2.1: Pursue implementation through a variety of sources including, but not limited to:

- Title 28 cost share program for recreation enhancements, which allows a 50 percent Federal contribution to match a 50 percent non-Federal managing partner contribution (see Reclamation Manual LND 01-01, paragraph 2).
- Title 28 cost share program for fish and wildlife enhancement, improvement, and restoration projects, which allows a 75 percent Federal contribution to match a 25 percent non-Federal managing partner contribution (see Reclamation Manual LND 01-01, paragraph 2).
- Idaho State Waterway or Recreational Vehicle Grants.
- Land and Water Conservation Fund Grants.
- Other Federal, State, and local cost share and grant programs.

Objective LUM 6.3: Keep stakeholders, surrounding landowners, Tribes and the public informed regarding the status of implementing the RMP.

Management Actions

LUM 6.3.1: Provide news releases to the local media for major projects and accomplishments (e.g., trash removal, dump cleanup, new interpretive information, etc.). Post or provide implementation information for major actions at public sites.

5.2.2 Natural Resources (NAT)

Reclamation's approach to managing natural resources is to preserve and enhance native wildlife populations and their habitat in accordance with an approved land use or resource management plan and encourage its land-management partners to follow suit.

The principles in Public Law 89-72, Federal Water Projects Recreation Act of 1965, as amended by Title 28 of Public Law 102-575, will continue to be adhered to for fish and wildlife-related activities and management considerations. Basically, Title 28 states that if a non Federal public entity has agreed to manage fish and wildlife resources on Reclamation lands, Reclamation may share those costs for up to 75 percent of the total cost. IDFG has been Reclamation's non-Federal public entity managing partner for specific parcels within the RMP Study Area that warrant protection and/or enhancement related to habitat values, and will continue to be in the future.

In accordance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (P.L. 93-205), Federal and Reclamation policies provide for the protection of plant and animal species that are currently in danger of extinction (endangered) or those that may become so in the foreseeable future. Section 7 of the ESA requires Federal agencies to conduct informal and formal consultations with the FWS on all proposed actions that may affect any Federally listed or candidate threatened or endangered species. This consultation process is designed to ensure that Federal activities will not jeopardize the continued existence of threatened or endangered species, or on designated areas (critical habitats) that are important in conserving these species.

Federal policy and Reclamation's approach also support the protection and "no net loss" of wetlands. In carrying out land

management responsibilities, Federal agencies are required to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands, and to preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values of wetlands. Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands) states that agencies shall: "Avoid to the extent possible the long- and short-term adverse impacts associated with the destruction or modification of wetlands and avoid direct or indirect support of new construction in wetlands wherever there is a practicable alternative."

Noxious weeds reduce the quantity and quality of forage and wildlife habitat, contaminate food stocks, and restrict waterways. Reclamation will strive to reduce, and eliminate if possible, noxious weeds on all of its lands and assist adjacent landowners (wherever possible) in their efforts at eradicating noxious weeds. It is Reclamation's approach to prepare and implement Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plans for lands under its jurisdiction. Reclamation also works with local agencies under the guidance of the IPM Plan.

Reclamation's approach to managing soil resources and water quality focuses on reducing soil erosion from various sources or the improper use of hazardous materials. All development and/or Management Actions will consider and respond to this approach.

GOAL NAT 1: Protect, conserve, and as funding is available, enhance wildlife, vegetation, and habitat values on Reclamation lands.

Objective NAT 1.1: Avoid or minimize impacts of RMP actions on Federal and State designated species of special concern, including those Federally listed rare, threatened or endangered (see Reclamation Manual LND P03).

Management Actions

NAT 1.1.1: Comply with Federal Endangered Species Act regarding all pertinent activities by using existing and future information in adaptive management of Federally protected species and their habitat.

NAT 1.1.2: In addition to ESA-protected species, specifically protect State species of special concern, including Idaho Conservation Data Center category S2 and S3 plants and plant communities.

NAT 1.1.3: Conduct TES and rare species surveys as necessary, but prior to the start of construction or allowance of land use activities (e.g., grazing). Any established search protocols will be followed.

NAT 1.1.4: The priority for protection and recovery includes rare, threatened, and endangered species. Therefore, actions that have the potential of adversely affecting sensitive species would only be implemented after appropriate habitat evaluations followed by site clearances, if necessary, to assure that sensitive species and their habitats are not impacted and that recovery efforts are furthered. This would be a two step process through which it would first be determined if suitable habitat types for sensitive species are present in the vicinity of a proposed action. If suitable habitat is present, site clearances following established survey protocols would be conducted before actions are implemented.

Objective NAT 1.2: Protect and enhance resource values, of and for, native species

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(plants and animals) on parcels or portions of parcels exhibiting mainly high quality habitat (where native vegetation is dominant).

Management Actions

NAT 1.2.1: Prioritize areas to be protected and enhanced using GIS data, aerial photography, and field verification.

NAT 1.2.2: Implement protection measures and enhancement techniques, such as: access/use restrictions, fencing, buffers and signage, and re-seeding disturbed lands to reduce weeds and establish native plantings.

NAT 1.2.3: Supplement wildland fire management funds to support protection and enhancement efforts.

NAT 1.2.4: Follow Best Management Practices listed below when engaging in activities that may affect native plant and animal species on Reclamation parcels.

NAT 1.2.4.1: Disturbed areas resulting from any construction will be aggressively revegetated.

NAT 1.2.4.2: To the maximum extent practicable, all native existing trees, shrubs, and other vegetation will be preserved and protected from construction operations and equipment except where clearing operations are required for permanent structures, approved construction roads, or excavation operations.

NAT 1.2.4.3: To the maximum extent practicable, all maintenance yards, field offices, and staging areas will be arranged to preserve trees, shrubs, and other vegetation.

NAT 1.2.4.4: Clearing will be restricted to that area needed for construction. In critical habitat areas including, but not limited to, wetlands and riparian areas, clearing may be restricted to only a few feet beyond the areas required for construction.

NAT 1.2.4.5: Stream corridors, wetlands, riparian areas, steep slopes, or other critical environmental areas will not be used for equipment or materials storage or stockpiling; construction staging or maintenance; field offices; hazardous material or fuel storage, handling, or transfer; or temporary access roads, in order to reduce environmental damage.

NAT 1.2.4.6: Excavated or graded materials will not be stockpiled or deposited on or within 100 feet of any steep slopes (defined by industry standards), wetlands, riparian areas, or stream banks (including seasonally active ephemeral streams without woody or herbaceous vegetation growing in the channel bottom), or on native vegetation.

NAT 1.2.4.7: To the maximum extent possible, staging areas, access roads, and other site disturbances will be located in disturbed areas, not in native or naturally occurring vegetation.

NAT 1.2.4.8: The width of all new temporary and permanent roads will be kept to the absolute minimum needed for safety, avoiding wetland and riparian areas where possible. Turnouts and staging areas will not be placed in wetlands.

NAT 1.2.4.9: Construction areas, including storage yards, will limit the amount of waste material and trash accumulations at all times.

NAT 1.2.4.10: All unused materials and trash will be removed from construction and storage sites during the final phase of work. All removed material will be placed in approved sanitary landfills or storage sites, and work areas will be left to conform to the natural landscape.

NAT 1.2.4.11: Upon completion of construction, any land disturbed outside the limits of reservoir pools, permanent roads, and other permanent facilities will be graded to provide proper drainage and blend with the natural contour of the land. Following grading, the disturbed areas will be revegetated using plants native to the area, suitable for the site conditions, and beneficial to wildlife.

NAT 1.2.4.12: Where applicable, Reclamation and contractors will consult with applicable agencies (IDFG, IDPR, NRCS, BLM) to determine the recommended plant species composition, seeding rates, and planting dates.

NAT 1.2.4.13: Native grasses, forbs, shrubs, and trees appropriate for site conditions and surrounding vegetation will be included on a plant list developed during site design. Species chosen for a site will be matched for site drainage, climate, shading, and resistance to erosion, soil type, slope, aspect, and vegetation management goals. Wetland and riparian species will be used in revegetating disturbed wetlands. Upland revegetation shall match the plant list to the site's soil type, topographic position, elevation, and surrounding communities. Local native species will be used in all areas that are not landscaped.

NAT 1.2.4.14: Where appropriate, construction activities that could impact native fish will be undertaken during non-spawning periods.

NAT 1.2.4.15: If native plant communities must be used for access roads or staging areas, site clearances at the appropriate time of year for the species involved will be conducted by qualified biologists to ensure sensitive species are not impacted. Any established search protocols will be followed.

Objective NAT 1.3: Conserve and restore pockets of native vegetation on portions of larger parcels exhibiting mainly non-native vegetation.

Management Actions

NAT 1.3.1: Prioritize pocket areas to be conserved and restored (e.g., GIS data, aerial photography, and field verification).

NAT 1.3.2: Implement conservation measures and restoration techniques, such as: access/use restrictions, fencing, buffers and signage, and re-seeding disturbed lands to reduce weeds and native plantings during appropriate times of the year.

Objective NAT 1.4: Protect, enhance, and/or create new wetland and riparian habitats on Reclamation lands in accordance with existing Federal regulations, Irrigation District needs, and wildlife habitat conservation objectives by pursuing partners

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for wetland development and other appropriate means (see Reclamation Manual LND P03).

Management Actions

NAT 1.4.1: Continue to create wetlands which contribute to drain water management and that facilitate closure of groundwater injection wells on a case-by-case basis.

NAT 1.4.2: Work with other interested entities (IDFG, Ducks Unlimited) to improve/increase wetlands habitat value in conjunction with and when compatible with drain water management.

Objective NAT 1.5: Develop, and work with other agencies (BLM, IDFG, IDPR, and various county Weed Control Boards) to implement, an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plan for parcels within the RMP area, including: aquatic, terrestrial, and airborne noxious and invasive weed and pest problems (see Reclamation Manual ENV 01-01).

Management Actions

NAT 1.5.1: Develop an IPM plan that incorporates and implements an active weed control program with efforts focused on areas with high habitat values (especially along watercourses).

NAT 1.5.2: Incorporate and implement an active noxious/invasive species transfer identification and prevention program into the IPM Plan. The program will identify potential pathways for the transport of noxious/invasive species or their various parts (seedlings, cuttings, etc.).

NAT 1.5.3: Fund IPM Plan activities, including allocations for partnership agencies.

Objective NAT 1.6: Ensure development and implementation of a comprehensive wildland fire management plan or plans as needed. For example, implementation may include additional agreements related to wildland fire prevention, fuels management, suppression, and rehabilitation, in an effort to protect, restore, and enhance, the natural resource values of RMP lands, as well as public safety-related concerns.

Management Actions

NAT 1.6.1: As needed, prepare and implement a comprehensive wildland fire management plan(s) that incorporates the following elements, in keeping with the RMP objectives:

- Specify entity(ies) responsible for wildland fire suppression response on specific parcels or Fire Management Units which cover RMP lands.
- Establish goals, standards, objectives, and/or desired future conditions for wildland fire management and rehabilitation.
- Incorporate wildland fire management tools for managing fuels into land management activities, such as fire breaks and vegetation management.
- Develop possible long-term prescribed treatment proposals and options to meet land management objectives.

NAT 1.6.2: Fund wildland fire management plan activities, as appropriate, to meet RMP objectives.

NAT 1.6.3: As needed, enter into agreements with managing partners, adjacent land managers, and/or service providers to implement appropriate wildland fire management practices to meet RMP objectives.

Objective NAT 1.7: Work with IDFG to implement habitat protection, enhancement, and restoration activities on Reclamation lands managed jointly with IDFG. [see LUM 3.1]

Management Actions

NAT 1.7.1: See LUM 3.1.1 – 3.1.3

GOAL NAT 2: Protect water quality on all Reclamation lands.

Objective NAT 2.1: Where appropriate, coordinate with Irrigation Districts the use of appropriate parcels for drain water management purposes.

Objective NAT 2.2: Manage the use of fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides on Reclamation lands, including those leased for agricultural purposes, in a manner that does not adversely affect water quality and is consistent with State and Federal laws. [see NAT 1.5]

Management Actions

NAT 2.2.1: See lease compliance actions LUM 4.10.1 – 4.1.0.3 related to agricultural leases.

Objective NAT 2.3: Minimize the potential for pollutants to enter wetlands and the Snake River from activities on Reclamation lands.

Management Actions

NAT 2.3.1: Follow Best Management Practices when engaging in activities that could result in pollutants being released from Reclamation parcels (note: BMPs do not apply to ongoing exempted agricultural activities), including those listed below.

NAT 2.3.1.1: All Federal and State laws related to control and abatement of water pollution will be complied with. All waste material and sewage from construction activities or Project-related features will be disposed of according to Federal and State pollution control regulations.

NAT 2.3.1.2: Construction contractors may be required to obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit as established under Public Law 92B500 and amended by the Clean Water Act (Public Law 95B217).

NAT 2.3.1.3: Construction specifications shall require construction methods that will prevent entrance or accidental spillage of pollutants into flowing or dry watercourses and underground water sources. Potential pollutants and wastes include refuse, garbage, cement, concrete, sewage effluent, industrial waste, oil and other petroleum products, aggregate processing tailings, mineral salts, drilling mud, and thermal pollution.

NAT 2.3.1.4: Eroded materials shall be prevented from entering streams or watercourses during dewatering activities associated with structure foundations or earthwork operations adjacent to, or encroaching on, streams or watercourses.

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NAT 2.3.1.5: Any construction wastewater discharged into surface waters will be essentially free of settling material. Water pumped from behind cofferdams and wastewater from aggregate processing, concrete batching, or other construction operations shall not enter streams or watercourses without water quality treatment. Turbidity control methods may include settling ponds; gravel-filter entrapment dikes; approved flocculating processes not harmful to fish or other aquatic life; recirculation systems for washing aggregates; or other approved methods.

NAT 2.3.1.6: Any riprap shall be free of contaminants and not contribute significantly to the turbidity of the reservoir.

NAT 2.3.1.7: Appropriate controls to reduce stormwater pollutant loads in post-construction site runoff shall be followed. The appropriate facilities shall be properly designed, installed, and maintained to provide water quality treatment for runoff originating from all recreational facilities.

Objective NAT 2.4: Provide adequate sanitation and waste management facilities at developed recreation sites (e.g., restrooms, trash containers, and RV dump stations, as appropriate) to protect water quality.

Management Actions

NAT 2.4.1: Follow Best Management Practices when regarding sanitation and waste management facilities, including those listed below.

NAT 2.4.1.1: All parking lots, boat ramps and associated areas shall be designed to promote efficient vehicle and boat traffic to prevent congestion and pollution.

NAT 2.4.1.2: Waste facilities shall be connected, whenever possible, to sanitary sewer systems instead of septic tanks to avoid water quality problems from failed tanks.

GOAL NAT 3: Control soil erosion in priority areas where it causes concern for water quality and damage to resources and facilities.

Objective NAT 3.1: Implement an effective erosion control program (standards, guidelines, and BMPs) in all construction activities and maintenance programs on Reclamation lands while considering program effects on other resources (natural, scenic, cultural).

Management Actions

NAT 3.1.1: Follow Best Management Practices when engaging in activities that may cause soil erosion on Reclamation parcels, including those listed below.

NAT 3.1.1.1: The design and construction of facilities will employ applicable recognized BMPs to prevent possible soil erosion and subsequent water quality impacts.

NAT 3.1.1.2: The planting of native grasses, forbs, trees, or shrubs beneficial to wildlife, or the placement of riprap, sand bags, sod, erosion mats, bale dikes, mulch, or excelsior blankets will be used to prevent and minimize erosion and siltation during construction and during the period needed to

reestablish permanent local native vegetative cover on disturbed sites located outside of landscaped areas. Appropriate landscaping plants and materials will be used for such purposes in landscaped areas.

NAT 3.1.1.3: Final erosion control and site restoration measures will be initiated as soon as a particular area is no longer needed for construction, stockpiling, or access. Clearing schedules will be arranged to minimize exposure of soils.

NAT 3.1.1.4: Cuts and fills for relocated and new roads will be sloped to facilitate revegetation.

NAT 3.1.1.5: Soil or rock stockpiles, excavated materials, or excess soil materials will not be placed near sensitive habitats, including water channels, wetlands, riparian areas, sites with rare and sensitive-plant species, and on native or naturally occurring vegetation, where they may erode into these habitats or be washed away by high water or storm runoff. Waste piles will be revegetated using suitable native species after they are shaped to provide a natural appearance.

NAT 3.1.2: Provide BMPs to contractors, managing partners, permit holders, and others conducting authorized construction activities; and require full compliance through inclusion and contract/permit specifications.

5.2.3 Cultural Resources (CUL)

Cultural resources are historic properties that reflect our Nation's heritage. Historic properties include prehistoric and historic archeological sites, buildings, traditional cultural properties (TCPs), and historically significant places that are eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register). TCPs are National Register-eligible properties that have special heritage value to contemporary communities (usually Indian communities) because of association with cultural practices or beliefs that are important in maintaining the cultural identify of that community.

Federal law requires Federal agencies to identify, evaluate, and appropriately manage National Register-eligible historic properties that are affected by their actions or are located on lands they administer. A list of these laws is provided in Appendix B. Agencies are required to assess resource significance, evaluate impacts on significant sites, and select resource management actions in consultation with the SHPO, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (the Advisory Council), and other affected or interested parties. Indian tribes must be consulted where cultural resources of concern to a tribe could be present, or where human burials or other Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) cultural items affiliated with a tribe could be affected by agency actions. Reclamation implements these laws using processes defined in regulations (particularly 36 CFR 800 for the National Historic Preservation Act [NHPA] and 45 CFR 10 for NAGPRA. Reclamation Manual LND 02-01 (Cultural Resource Management) directs the agency to implement cultural resource management actions in a positive manner that fulfills the spirit, as well as the letter, of the law.

The requirements of Federal law and Reclamation cultural resource management policy also apply to other parties who manage or use Reclamation lands under a permit, lease, use agreement, or other legal

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instrument. Those parties are responsible for notifying Reclamation of proposed actions on those lands; implementing actions to identify and evaluate resources that could be affected by their use or action; and implementing actions to protect National Register-eligible resources or mitigating unavoidable effects to eligible sites resulting from their use or actions. Reclamation is responsible for defining the necessary identification, evaluation, and management or mitigation actions, and for ensuring that managing partners, lessees, and permittees observe these terms and conditions and act as responsible stewards of the resources on those lands.

Reclamation's policy is to avoid or minimize adverse effects to National Register-eligible historic properties whenever possible. If adverse effects are unavoidable, Reclamation typically mitigates the adverse effects through a site documentation or data recovery program that has been developed in consultation with the SHPO and other interested parties, and formalized through a memorandum of agreement. For impacted TCPs, Reclamation would work with affected Indian tribes to identify means to minimize impacts, and seek to mitigate damaging impacts when mitigation is possible.

The following Goals and Objectives outline actions that Reclamation has determined are necessary to meet the agency's cultural resource management responsibilities under the law. Reclamation will continue to use consultative processes defined in 36 CFR 800 to determine site eligibility, impacts from new actions or existing uses, and appropriate treatment.

Goal CUL 1: Seek to protect and preserve cultural resources, including prehistoric and historic-period archaeological sites and traditional cultural properties.

Objective CUL 1.1: In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) seek to protect National Register-eligible sites from impacts from new undertakings.

Management Actions

CUL 1.1.1: Complete pedestrian archeological surveys when ground-disturbing actions are proposed in unsurveyed locations. Complete site evaluation actions to determine National Register eligibility to sites threatened by new actions, land use, or project operations, and address impacts to eligible sites.

CUL 1.1.2: Complete tribal consultations, as necessary, to determine if TCPs are present in areas of new ground-disturbing actions, or in or near focused use areas. If present, assess and address impacts from new actions or existing use.

CUL 1.1.3: If Indian tribes identify culturally important resources within new development areas, avoid adverse impacts to those resource locations when avoidance will accomplish broader agency responsibilities, is cost effective, and lies within Reclamation's authority.

CUL 1.1.4: In the event of discovery of human remains of Indian origin, complete protective actions and tribal notification and consultation actions per 43 CFR 10.

CUL 1.1.5: Design facilities to avoid or minimize cultural resource damage.

Objective CUL 1.2: In accordance with Section 110 of the NHPA implement proactive management of cultural resources, focusing on protecting identified resources from damage.

Management Actions

CUL 1.2.1: Include cultural resource protection strategies in IDPR Historic Preservation and Maintenance Plan. [see LUM 3.2.2 and REC 1.1.1]

Objective CUL 1.3: Increase awareness of cultural resources compliance and protection requirements among resource management partners.

Management Actions

CUL 1.3.1: Develop guidelines/ procedures and provide training for IDPR staff, IDFG staff, lease holders, and other managing partners to increase awareness of the NHPA and other cultural resource statutory requirements.

Objective CUL 1.4: With local partners provide opportunities for public education on area prehistory and history, including the importance of and requirements for protecting these resources.

Management Actions

CUL 1.4.1: Prepare and provide educational information about resource values and area history at appropriate locations (i.e., Lake Walcott State Park).

5.2.4 Indian Sacred Sites (ISS)

No Indian sacred sites have been identified on Reclamation lands within the Minidoka North Side RMP Study Area. Reclamation will avoid impacts to any Indian sacred sites if they are identified in the future.

***Goal ISS 1:* Comply with requirements of Executive Order 13007 (Indian Sacred Sites).**

Objective ISS 1.1: Seek to avoid damage to Indian sacred sites (when present and identified), when avoidance is consistent with accomplishing Reclamation's mission and larger public responsibilities.

Management Actions

ISS 1.1.1: Consult with Indian tribes when it appears that sacred sites might be present in areas of new ground-disturbance, or in locations where sacred sites might be damaged by existing public land uses. If present, seek to avoid damages and maintain access when implementing new actions.

Objective ISS 1.2: Provide for access by traditional religious practitioners to sacred sites, when consistent with mission.

Management Actions

ISS 1.2.1: Consult when it appears that sacred sites might be present in areas of focused public use. If present, seek to resolve impacts and maintain access.

5.2.5 Indian Trust Assets (ITA)

Goal ITA 1: Protect and conserve Indian Trust Assets as specified in applicable Secretarial Orders.

Objective ITA 1.1: Consult with appropriate tribes on actions that may affect Indian Trust Assets.

Management Actions

ITA 1.1.1: Use the NEPA process to assess potential impacts to ITAs that may exist.

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5.2.6 Recreation and Access (REC)

Reclamation's approach to providing and maintaining public recreational opportunities, facilities, and interpretive programs is to work with non-Federal managing partners in accordance with an approved RMP. The RMP is intended to protect the health and safety of the users, protect land and water resources from environmental degradation, and protect cultural resources from damage. Recreation facilities under Reclamation jurisdiction will be operated and maintained in a safe and healthful manner and be universally accessible.

All new construction is required to be 100 percent accessible to persons with disabilities in accordance with current Federal accessibility standards. These standards include (but are not limited to) parking lots and spaces, access routes, camping sites, restrooms, concessions, entrance booths, trails, interpretive displays, and all signage.

The principles in Public Law 89-72, Federal Water Projects Recreation Act of 1965, as amended by Title 28 of Public Law 102-575, will continue to be adhered to for recreation-related development and management considerations. Basically, Title 28 states that if a non-Federal public entity has agreed to manage recreation on Reclamation lands, Reclamation may share development costs for up to 50 percent of the total cost.

Reclamation's non-Federal public entity managing partner at Lake Walcott State Park is IDPR, and will continue to be so in the future. All other parcels are managed by Reclamation, except for those specific parcels where IDFG has management jurisdiction related to wildlife resources. In lieu of a qualifying partner on parcels outside of the State Park, it is Reclamation's policy, where deemed necessary, to provide and maintain minimum basic facilities at recreation sites.

Where Reclamation lands may be directly managed by others for recreation purposes, Reclamation shall exercise oversight responsibility to ensure that those management entities fulfill all aspects of the approved RMP. All contractual agreements with these management entities must comply with Federal laws and regulations concerning natural and cultural resource protection.

Visitor information is an important management responsibility that is not readily apparent but instrumental in providing a quality recreation experience and contributing to an informed visitor. An informed public will help protect and enhance the unique recreational and environmental attributes of the area. It is Reclamation's approach to assist with the development of interpretive programs to educate the public on resources and to provide information to visitors to improve their experience in the area, as well as to increase their awareness of natural and cultural resource values and public health and safety protection.

GOAL REC 1: Work with IDPR and FWS in continuing to provide adequate facilities at Lake Walcott State Park and the surrounding area while affording the public a quality recreational experience consistent with natural and cultural resource objectives.

Objective REC 1.1: Coordinate with IDPR in development on any expansion plans to accommodate increased demand at Lake Walcott.

Management Actions

REC 1.1.1: Work with IDPR to prepare and implement a Historic Preservation and Maintenance Plan for the park outlining vegetation preservation/protection, use areas, hardscape areas, and other pertinent information and guidance.

Objective REC 1.2: Work with IDPR or other appropriate managing entity by establishing an agreement for the management of the Bishop's Hole site.

Management Actions

REC 1.2.1: Implement management strategies at Bishop's Hole to enhance the visitor experience and increase public safety and security, including providing minimum basic facilities (e.g., organized access and parking, accessible toilet facility) in coordination with the results and implementation of the spillway study (see Reclamation Manual LND P03 and PN 04-01).

REC 1.2.2: Increase management oversight at Bishop's Hole and surrounding area where ad hoc uses are occurring.

REC 1.2.3: Seek public non-Federal managing partner for management of the Bishop's Hole day use site.

REC 1.2.4: Monitor use and conditions and adjust access or use levels to protect resources.

Objective REC 1.3: Assess, and where appropriate support, viable concession services at the State Park and/or appropriate sites; with concession management to follow Reclamation's policy.

Management Actions

REC 1.3.1: Consider compatible concession/recreation permits on a case-by-case basis and authorize in compliance with Reclamation policy (see Reclamation Manual LND P-02 and LND 04-01).

Objective REC 1.4: Pursue enhancement of fishing access downstream of Minidoka Dam subject to security concerns.

Management Actions

REC 1.4.1: Explore opportunities with a managing partner to develop enhanced fishing access on parcels along the Snake River.

GOAL REC 2: Allow for dispersed recreational activities on Reclamation lands, consistent with Reclamation Project purposes, regulations, and natural and cultural resource objectives.

Objective REC 2.1: Prepare and conduct an access management plan in coordination with other affected agencies and managing partners to determine where and how vehicular access will be allowed on Reclamation lands.

Management Actions

REC 2.1.1: Develop and implement the following elements into an Access Management Plan for all Reclamation parcels:

- Signs
- Fencing of parcels and placement of barriers
- Maps and brochures showing areas of access and public education

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interests, including open nearby BLM lands and regulations

- Established vehicle parking areas
- Criteria for which parcels continue to be allowed for public vehicular access
- Public information process (media announcements, informative meetings, etc.)
- Monitoring program

Objective REC 2.2: Continue to allow non-vehicular access on all parcels (except for those specifically closed for such use), and where appropriate improve opportunities with a non-Federal, public entity managing partner (i.e., hunting, fishing, and trapping).

Management Actions

REC 2.2.1: Monitor non-vehicular access and modify as necessary to protect resources.

Objective REC 2.3: Continue to allow ad hoc day use activities, and where appropriate, improve opportunities with a qualifying partner for non-consumptive recreational uses (e.g., nature appreciation, dispersed camping, wildlife watching, etc.) on suitable parcels.

Management Actions

REC 2.3.1: Actively seek a non-Federal managing partner to provide more active management and appropriate facilities at selected day use sites outside the park boundaries.

REC 2.3.2: Monitor ad hoc day use activities and modify as necessary to protect resources.

Objective REC 2.4: Where appropriate continue to allow ad hoc camping to occur consistent with natural and cultural resource objectives.

Management Actions

REC 2.4.1: Increase management oversight at areas where ad hoc camping is occurring to protect resources and avoid land use conflicts.

REC 2.4.2: Prohibit any developed camping outside of Lake Walcott State Park.

Objective REC 2.5: Pursue a relationship and work with a qualifying partner to develop feasible opportunities for developing and maintaining non-motorized recreational trails on appropriate parcels, including interpretive trails focused on natural and cultural resources, as well as tying into IDPR/FWS plans for additional trail development in the Lake Walcott area.

Management Actions

REC 2.5.1: Actively seek a non-Federal managing partner to provide more opportunities for developing and maintaining non-motorized recreational trails.

REC 2.5.2: Monitor trail use and modify as necessary to protect resources.

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Chapter 6

Implementation Program

Chapter 6

Implementation Program

6.1 Introduction

The success of this RMP will ultimately be measured by the degree to which it is implemented. This chapter provides a framework necessary to follow through with the Goals and Objectives, and implement the Management Actions presented in Chapter 5. This chapter consists primarily of a series of tables (Tables 6.1-1 through 6.1-6, presented at the end of this Chapter) that reiterate, prioritize, establish sequencing, identify responsibility for implementation, and designate key funding for each Management Action. The purpose of these tables is to assist resource managers, staff, and managing partners in implementing specific actions required to achieve the RMP's Goals and Objectives. These tables also provide a convenient mechanism to track implementation progress on a regular (annual) basis over the 15-year life of the plan.

6.2 Implementation Components

It should be noted that implementation in general for the Minidoka North Side RMP is dependant on Federal funding and in many cases is also dependant on cost share requirements. The timing indicated in Tables 6.2-1 through 6.2-6 is an approximation only and will depend on the availability of Federal and non-Federal cost share funds. Implementation of the RMP is organized into a series of specific Management Actions for each of the issues associated with Land Use, Management; Natural Resources; Cultural Resources; Indian Sacred Sites; Indian Trust Assets; and Recreation and Access. The tables present a structure that addresses the key components of implementation. Each component is listed in a separate column in these tables and explained below.

6.2.1 Management Actions

Management Actions are specific action items intended to implement each Objective, consistent with Goals listed in Chapter 5. To avoid repetition with Chapter 5 in the tables, Management Actions are listed by number and a full description is provided.

6.2.2 Prioritization

Each Management Action is prioritized in a simple hierarchy ranging from "High" to "Low." High priority Management Actions are identified as critical to the success of this RMP. Management Actions identified as Medium priority are still considered important, but not critical. Low priority Management Actions are those that should be implemented if resources are available. Mandatory actions are listed as "Required" elements.

6.2.3 Related Management Actions

Other related or linked Management Actions for the same resource topic are identified in Column 3, as appropriate.

6.2.4 Timing and Sequencing

All Management Actions listed in the tables are intended to be implemented during the life of this 15-year plan. The timing column identifies the specific timeframe, by indicating which year the action is anticipated to commence. Management Actions to be implemented continuously, annually, or on an as-needed basis are also indicated.

6.2.5 Lead Agency

A single agency with lead responsibility for implementation of each Management Action is listed (underlined) in Column 5. Agencies playing support roles are also listed in this column (not underlined). In addition to Reclamation, responsible agencies include: IDFG, IDPR, Irrigation Districts, and others.

6.2.6 Funding

Column 6 lists anticipated sources of funding for each Management Action. For example, potential funding and authority for recreation planning, enhancement, and development is from Reclamation's Title 28 cost sharing program with its partnering agencies.

6.2.7 Monitoring

Plan implementers are expected to monitor implementation progress through the life of the RMP. This column describes the type and timing of each specific Management Action to be implemented (as appropriate and needed).

6.3 Amending and Updating the RMP

6.3.1 Amending Information in the RMP

The RMP will be reviewed and amended on an as-needed basis to reflect changing conditions, new information, and budgetary realities. Much of this is expected to occur in response to activities related to monitoring actions (e.g., water quality) and facilities development when it occurs (e.g., day use area improvements, trails development, etc.). Any major changes or amendments to the RMP would require additional public involvement and NEPA analysis.

6.3.2 Updating the RMP

This RMP has an intended life of 15 years. Therefore, a thorough review will be needed to the RMP around 2020. Plan updates or plan amendments can occur whenever conditions warrant. These will require NEPA analysis and ample opportunity for public involvement, and agency and Tribal coordination.

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Table 6.2-1. Management Actions for Land Use & Management (LUM).

Action	Priority	Related Mgmt Actions	Timing/ Sequence	Lead Agency	Funding	Monitoring
Wildlife, Vegetation, and Habitat Management						
LUM 1.1.1: Describe and show both the Reclamation Zone and the specific areas closed to public access for security purposes on publicly distributed materials and signage.	H	LUM 1.1.2	2006	Reclamation	Reclamation	NA
LUM 1.1.2: Notify the public through appropriate means if the closed area around the dam is modified.	H	LUM 1.1.1	2006	Reclamation	Reclamation	NA
LUM 1.2.1: Consider the extraction/storage of sand, gravel, and rock on Reclamation parcels on a case-by-case basis where it does not conflict with other Reclamation needs or priority natural and cultural values.	L	LUM 1.2.2	As Requested	Reclamation	Reclamation/ Lessee	As per contract/ lease
LUM 1.2.2: Ensure that responsible parties implement all applicable Best Management Practices in the course of extracting/storing materials from Reclamation parcels.	R	LUM 1.2.1	Ongoing	Reclamation	Reclamation/ Lessee	As per contract/ lease
LUM 1.3.1: Consult with Irrigation Districts or managing partners prior to issuance of easements and crossing agreements (see Reclamation Manual LND 08-01, paragraphs 3.H and 4.F).	H		As Needed	Reclamation, Irrigation Districts	NA	NA
LUM 1.4.1: Provide signage as appropriate to limit access on operations and maintenance roads.	H	LUM 1.4.2, 1.4.3	Initiate Year 2005	Reclamation, Irrigation Districts	Reclamation/ Irrigation Districts	NA
LUM 1.4.2: Enforce operations and maintenance road access restrictions through periodic monitoring and follow through related to the prosecution of violators.	M	LUM 1.4.1, 1.4.3	2005	Reclamation, Irrigation Districts	Reclamation/ Irrigation Districts	Periodic
LUM 1.4.3: Work with local agencies to ensure operations and maintenance roads are not identified as access to private property	H	LUM 1.4.1, 1.4.2	Ongoing	Reclamation, Counties, Cities	NA	NA
LUM 1.5.1: Provide counties/cities with applicable Reclamation facility, property, and mapping information (i.e., lot splits) in an effort to coordinate working with their planning, zoning, and permitting processes.	H	LUM 1.5.2	Ongoing	Reclamation, Counties, Cities	NA	NA
LUM 2.1.1: Follow Reclamation policy and criteria provided in Appendix D (Authorities & Methods for Disposing of Minidoka North Side Lands) for parcels determined suitable for transfer or disposal	R		Ongoing	Reclamation	NA	NA
LUM 2.2.1: Develop prescriptions and lease limitations on parcels considered for grazing.	H	LUM 2.2.2	2005	Reclamation, BLM, NRCS	Reclamation	NA
LUM 2.2.2: Consider new grazing leases on designated parcels that do not affect operations and maintenance, and are based on protection and/or improvement of natural and cultural resource values and water quality concerns.	H	LUM 2.2.1	Initiate Year 2005	Reclamation	NA	NA

Table 6.2-1. Management Actions for Land Use & Management (LUM).

Action	Priority	Related Mgmt Actions	Timing/ Sequence	Lead Agency[1]	Funding	Monitoring
LUM 2.2.3: Consider new agricultural leases only when they contribute to the closure of drain wells, where water rights are legally appropriated, and where there would be no impacts to natural and cultural resources.	L		As Needed	Reclamation	NA	NA
LUM 3.1.1: Work with IDFG to prepare overall vision and goals for managing appropriate Reclamation parcels and framework for a new management agreement.	H	LUM 3.1.2, 3.1.3	2005	Reclamation, IDFG	NA	NA
LUM 3.1.2: Determine appropriate parcels, or portions of parcels to be managed by IDFG, and prepare management criteria and objectives for each specific parcel.	H	LUM 3.1.1, 3.1.3	2005	Reclamation, IDFG	NA	NA
LUM 3.1.3: Perform annual implementation planning meetings and monitoring to see that management criteria are being followed and objectives are being met.	M	LUM 3.1.1, 3.1.2	Annual	Reclamation, IDFG	NA	Annual
LUM 3.2.1: Coordinate with IDPR in the preparation and implementation of a Historic Preservation and Maintenance Plan for Lake Walcott State Park outlining vegetation preservation/protection, use areas, hardscape areas, and other pertinent park guidance.	H	LUM 3.2.2	Initiate Year 2006	Reclamation, IDPR	NA	NA
LUM 3.2.2: Update the Reclamation/IDPR agreement regarding IDPR's management of Lake Walcott State Park incorporating implementation of measures outlined in the park's Historic Preservation and Maintenance Plan. [see CUL 1.2.1 and REC 1.1.1]	H	LUM 3.2.1	Following completion of LUM 3.2.1	Reclamation, IDPR	NA	NA
LUM 3.2.3: Continue coordination efforts with FWS related to their management of Minidoka NWR, where needed.	M	LUM 3.2.4	Ongoing	Reclamation, FWS	NA	NA
LUM 3.2.4: Amend FWS and/or IDPR agreements to incorporate coordinating activities related to managing Reclamation parcels adjacent to the refuge and park, if needed.	L	LUM 3.2.3	If Needed	Reclamation, FWS, IDPR	NA	NA
LUM 4.1.1: Prepare new law enforcement agreements with interested entities focused on enforcing laws and Reclamation policies to protect natural and cultural resources and provide for security and public safety on Reclamation lands.	H	LUM 4.1.2	2005	Reclamation, Others	Reclamation	NA
LUM 4.1.2: Define and incorporate specific law enforcement needs and purposes into agreements with other entities providing law enforcement services on Reclamation lands.	H	LUM 4.1.1	2005	Reclamation, Others	Reclamation	NA
LUM 4.1.3: Monitor law enforcement activities and changing needs over time to adjust purpose and priorities for providing law enforcement on Reclamation lands.	H	LUM 4.1.4	Ongoing	Reclamation	Reclamation	As Required
LUM 4.1.4: Provide funding for law enforcement of Reclamation lands	H	LUM 4.1.3, 4.5.4	Ongoing	Reclamation	Reclamation	NA

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Table 6.2-1. Management Actions for Land Use & Management (LUM).

Action	Priority	Related Mgmt Actions	Timing/ Sequence	Lead Agency[1]	Funding	Monitoring
LUM 4.2.1: Work with counties to pass ordinances aimed at improving law enforcement on Reclamation lands.	H	LUM 4.1.2, 4.1.3	Ongoing	Reclamation, Counties	NA	NA
LUM 4.2.2: Seek adjacent landowner and citizen participation in improving law enforcement on Reclamation lands.	H	LUM 4.4.2, 4.5.5	Ongoing	Reclamation, Others	NA	NA
LUM 4.2.3: Participate in Crime Witness program wherein rewards are offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction for illegal dumping, vandalism, theft, waste, fraud, or harm to Reclamation personnel (see Appendix E).	H	LUM 4.4.7, 4.5.5	Ongoing	BPA, Reclamation	BPA	NA
LUM 4.3.1: See NAT 1.6.1						
LUM 4.3.2: Provide funding for fire-related activities on Reclamation lands, subject to appropriations.	R		Ongoing	Reclamation	Reclamation	NA
LUM 4.4.1: Establish immediate, short- and long-term priorities for addressing trespass/encroachments on Reclamation lands.	H		Ongoing	Reclamation	NA	NA
LUM 4.4.2: Complete surveying of sites to determine the extent of trespasses/encroachments.	H	LUM 4.4.3, 4.5.2	Ongoing	Reclamation	NA	NA
LUM 4.4.3: Update Reclamation's GIS database (and continue to revise as needed) incorporating surveys and other relevant information.	H	LUM 4.4.2, 4.5.3	Ongoing	Reclamation	Reclamation	NA
LUM 4.4.4: Increase enforcement activities related to trespass and unauthorized use of Reclamation lands, including notifications, fines, removal, etc.	H	LUM 4.1.4, 4.2.1	Ongoing	Reclamation	Reclamation	NA
LUM 4.4.5: Work with adjacent landowners to eliminate existing trespass/encroachments and rehabilitate lands, where appropriate.	H	LUM 4.2.2, 4.5.5	Ongoing	Reclamation, Adjacent Landowners	Reclamation	NA
LUM 4.4.6: Develop and implement a monitoring program aimed at preventing future trespasses/encroachments on Reclamation parcels.	H		Ongoing	Reclamation	Reclamation	NA
LUM 4.4.7: Use the Crime Witness program to offer rewards to individuals who report unauthorized or illegal use of Reclamation lands, and which lead to arrest or levied fines.	M	LUM 4.2.3	Ongoing	BPA, Reclamation, Public	Reclamation	NA
LUM 4.5.1: Establish immediate, short- and long-term priorities for addressing dump sites on Reclamation lands, and issue contracts for cleanup as needed.	H		Ongoing	Reclamation	Reclamation	NA
LUM 4.5.2: Complete surveying of sites to determine the extent of dump sites, specific problems associated with particular uses, and characterization of contents in an attempt to determine responsible party(ies).	H	LUM 4.4.2, 4.5.3	Ongoing	Reclamation	Reclamation	NA

A&B 6/14

Table 6.2-1. Management Actions for Land Use & Management (LUM).

Action	Priority	Related Mgmt Actions	Timing/ Sequence	Lead Agency[1]	Funding	Monitoring
LUM 4.5.3: Update Reclamation's GIS database (and continue to revise as needed) incorporating illegal dump sites and other relevant information.	H	LUM 4.4.2, 4.4.3	Ongoing	Reclamation	Reclamation	NA
LUM 4.5.4: Increase enforcement activities related to dump sites of Reclamation lands, including notifications, fines, removal, etc.	H	LUM 4.1.4	Ongoing	Reclamation	Reclamation	NA
LUM 4.5.5: Work with the public to enlist and form a "watchdog" group aimed at catching perpetrators; include incentives such as rewards through participation in the Crime Witness program. [see LUM 4.2.3]	H	LUM 4.2.2, 4.2.3, 4.4.5	Initiate Year 2005	Reclamation	Reclamation	NA
LUM 4.5.6: Develop and implement a monitoring program aimed at preventing future unauthorized uses on Reclamation parcels.	H	LUM 4.1.4	Ongoing	Reclamation	Reclamation	Periodic
LUM 4.6.1: Prepare and post signs at areas with past evidence of ORV use noting Reclamation's ORV regulation.	H		Initiate Year 2005	Reclamation, Irrigation Districts	Reclamation	Ongoing
LUM 4.6.2: Post Reclamation's ORV regulation signs at appropriate locations on fences or at other boundary demarcations.	H		Initiate Year 2005	Reclamation, Irrigation Districts	Reclamation	Ongoing
LUM 4.6.3: Describe Reclamation's ORV regulation in all appropriate future pamphlets, publications, public announcements.	H		As Needed	Reclamation	Reclamation	Ongoing
LUM 4.7.1: Design facilities to complement and be subordinate to the surrounding landscape wherever feasible.	R		As Needed	Reclamation	Reclamation	As per contract specs
LUM 4.7.2: Immediately revegetate disturbed areas resulting from any construction-related activities.	R		As Needed	Reclamation	Reclamation	As per contract specs
LUM 4.7.3: Preserve and protect all existing trees, shrubs, and other naturally occurring vegetation from construction operations and equipment except where clearing operations are required for permanent structures, approved construction roads, or excavation operations.	R		As Needed	Reclamation	Reclamation	As per contract specs
LUM 4.7.4: Design all maintenance yards, field offices, and staging areas to preserve trees, shrubs, and other vegetation wherever feasible.	R		As Needed	Reclamation	Reclamation	As per contract specs
LUM 4.8.1: Monitor any land disturbing activities on Reclamation lands to ensure minimal impacts to adjacent lands.	R		Ongoing	Reclamation	Reclamation	As Required
LUM 4.9.1: Using Reclamation sign guidelines, post signs at areas with past evidence of access-related conflicts noting Reclamation's ownership and road restrictions.	H		Ongoing	Reclamation	Reclamation	NA
LUM 4.9.2: Describe and show access-restricted roads in the Access Management Plan (see REC 2.2.1).	H		As Needed	Reclamation	Reclamation	NA

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Table 6.2-1. Management Actions for Land Use & Management (LUM).

Action	Priority	Related Mgmt Actions	Timing/ Sequence	Lead Agency	Funding	Monitoring
LUM 4.10.1: Establish and implement grazing and agricultural lease monitoring schedules and protocols.	H		2006	Reclamation, Lessee	NA	NA
LUM 4.10.2: Perform reviews of each leased parcel as per monitoring schedule to ensure compliance with lease provisions and effect on lands for grazing, noting field observations from each visit.	H	LUM 4.10.1	2006	Reclamation, Lessee	Reclamation	Annual
LUM 4.11.1: Post Reclamation's policy related to concentrated shooting/target practice on signs at appropriate locations, including on fences or at other boundary demarcations, and at areas with past evidence of concentrated shooting/target practice.	H		Ongoing	Reclamation	NA	NA
LUM 4.11.2: Describe Reclamation policy in all appropriate future pamphlets, publications, public announcements.	H		As Needed	Reclamation	NA	NA
LUM 5.1.1: Clearly mark the areas closed to the public in the vicinity of Minidoka Dam on pamphlets, signs, fences, and interpretive kiosks; provide a note stating that the boundaries of closed areas are subject to change.	H	LUM 1.1.1	Ongoing	Reclamation	NA	NA
LUM 5.2.1: Inventory existing signs and determine a prioritized list of additional sign needs.	H	LUM 5.3.1	2005	Reclamation	NA	NA
LUM 5.2.2: Design, purchase, construct, and install signs as funding allows and according to the prioritized list.	H	LUM 5.2.1	2005	Reclamation	NA	NA
LUM 5.3.1: Inventory existing boundary fence and sign locations and determine a prioritized list of additional needs.	H	LUM 5.2.1	2005	Reclamation	NA	NA
LUM 5.3.2: Install additional boundary signs and fencing as funding allows and according to the prioritized list.	H	LUM 5.3.1	2005	Reclamation	NA	NA
LUM 5.4.1: Work with Federal, State, and local agencies to prepare interpretive information for visitors to Lake Walcott State Park, Minidoka NWR, Bishop's Hole, and other appropriate locations.	M		2006	Reclamation, IDPR, IDFG, FWS, Others	Reclamation, cost share with partners	NA
LUM 6.1.1: Track and annually update progress on the Management Actions in the RMP implementation schedule.	H		Annual	Reclamation	NA	Annual
LUM 6.1.2: Conduct annual meetings with managing partners to track progress in implementing the RMP and set priorities for the upcoming year	H		Annual	Reclamation, Managing Partners	NA	Annual

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Table 6.2-1. Management Actions for Land Use & Management (LUM).

Action	Priority	Related Mgmt Actions	Timing/ Sequence	Lead Agency[1]	Funding	Monitoring
LUM 6.2.1: Pursue implementation through a variety of sources including, but not limited to: • Title 28 cost share program for recreation enhancements, which allows a 50 percent Federal contribution to match a 50 percent non-Federal managing partner contribution (see Reclamation Manual LND 01-01, paragraph 2). • Title 28 cost share program for fish and wildlife enhancement, improvement, and restoration projects, which allows a 75 percent Federal contribution to match a 25 percent non-Federal managing partner contribution (see Reclamation Manual LND 01-01, paragraph 2). • Idaho State Waterway or Recreational Vehicle Grants. • Land and Water Conservation Fund Grants. • Other Federal, State, and local cost share and grant programs.	H		Ongoing	Reclamation, Others	Reclamation, cost share	NA
LUM 6.3.1: Provide news releases to the local media for major projects and accomplishments (e.g., trash removal, dump cleanup, new interpretive information, etc.). Post or provide implementation information for major actions at public sites.	H		As Needed	Reclamation	Reclamation	NA

NOTES:
- [1]Underline denotes primary responsibility.
- NA = Not applicable.

Table 6.2-2. Management Actions for Natural Resources (NAT).

Action	Priority	Related Mgmt Actions	Timing/ Sequence	Lead Agency[1]	Funding	Monitoring
Land-Based Sites and Facilities						
NAT 1.1.1: Comply with Federal Endangered Species Act regarding all pertinent activities by using existing and future information in adaptive management of Federally protected species and their habitat.	R		As Needed	Reclamation	Reclamation	As Required
NAT 1.1.2: In addition to ESA-protected species, specifically protect State species of special concern, including Idaho Conservation Data Center category S2 and S3 plants and plant communities.	R		As Needed	Reclamation	Reclamation	As Required
NAT 1.1.3: Conduct TES and rare species surveys as necessary, but prior to the start of construction or allowance of land use activities (e.g., grazing). Any established search protocols will be followed.	R		As Needed	Reclamation	Reclamation	As Required

Table 6.2-2. Management Actions for Natural Resources (NAT).

Action	Priority	Related Mgmt Actions	Timing/ Sequence	Lead Agency[1]	Funding	Monitoring
NAT 1.1.4: The priority for protection and recovery includes rare, threatened, and endangered species. Therefore, actions that have the potential of adversely affecting sensitive species would only be implemented after appropriate habitat evaluations followed by site clearances, if necessary, to assure that sensitive species and their habitats are not impacted and that recovery efforts are furthered. This would be a two step process through which it would first be determined if suitable habitat types for sensitive species are present in the vicinity of a proposed action. If suitable habitat is present, site clearances following established survey protocols would be conducted before actions are implemented.	R		As Needed	Reclamation	Reclamation	As Required
NAT 1.2.1: Prioritize areas to be protected and enhanced using GIS data, aerial photography, and field verification.	H	NAT 1.2.2	Initiate Year 2005	Reclamation, IDFG	Reclamation	NA
NAT 1.2.2: Implement protection measures and enhancement techniques, such as: access/use restrictions, fencing, buffers and signage, and re-seeding disturbed lands to reduce weeds and establish native plantings.	H	NAT 1.2.1	Ongoing	Reclamation, IDFG, BLM, Others	Reclamation	NA
NAT 1.2.3: Supplement wildland fire management funds to support protection and enhancement efforts.	M		Initiate Year 2007	Reclamation	Reclamation	NA
NAT 1.2.4: Follow listed Best Management Practices (see Chapter 5) when engaging in activities that may affect native plant and animal species on Reclamation parcels.	R		As Needed	Reclamation, Contractors	Reclamation	As per contract specs
NAT 1.3.1: Prioritize pocket areas to be conserved and restored (e.g., GIS data, aerial photography, and field verification).	H	NAT 1.3.2	2005	Reclamation, IDFG	Reclamation	NA
NAT 1.3.2: Implement conservation measures and restoration techniques, such as: access/use restrictions, fencing, buffers and signage, and re-seeding disturbed lands to reduce weeds and native plantings during appropriate times of the year.	M	NAT 1.3.1	Ongoing	Reclamation, IDFG, BLM, Others	75/25 cost share	As Required
NAT 1.4.1: Continue to create wetlands which contribute to drain water management and that facilitate closure of groundwater injection wells on a case-by-case basis.	H		Complete by 12/2006	Reclamation, A&B ID	Reclamation, A&B ID	As Needed
NAT 1.4.2: Work with other interested entities (IDFG, FWS, Ducks Unlimited) to improve/increase wetlands habitat value in conjunction with and when compatible with drain water management.	M		Ongoing	Reclamation, Partners	75/25 cost share	As Needed
NAT 1.5.1: Develop an IPM plan that incorporates and implements an active weed control program with efforts focused on areas with high habitat values (especially along watercourses).	R		Complete by 12/2006	Reclamation, Counties, BLM	Reclamation	Annual
NAT 1.5.2: Incorporate and implement an active noxious/invasive species transfer identification and prevention program into the IPM Plan. The program will identify potential pathways for the transport of noxious/invasive species or their various parts (seedlings, cuttings, etc.).	H		Ongoing	Reclamation, Counties, BLM	Reclamation	As Needed

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Table 6.2-2. Management Actions for Natural Resources (NAT).

Action	Priority	Related Mgmt Actions	Timing Sequence	Lead Agency	Funding	Monitoring
NAT 1.5.3: Fund IPM Plan activities, including allocations for partnership agencies.	R		Annual	Reclamation, Counties	Reclamation	NA
NAT 1.6.1: Prepare and implement a comprehensive wildland fire management plan(s) that incorporates the following elements, in keeping with RMP objectives: • Specify entity(ies) responsible for wildland fire suppression response on specific parcels or Fire Management Units which cover RMP lands. • Establish goals, standards, objectives, and/or desired future conditions for wildland fire management and rehabilitation. • Incorporate wildland fire management tools for managing fuels into land management activities, such as fire breaks and vegetation management. • Develop possible long-term prescribed treatment proposals and options to meet land management objectives.	R		Complete by 12/2006	Reclamation, BLM	Reclamation	NA
NAT 1.6.2: Fund wildland fire management plan activities, as appropriate, to meet RMP objectives.	R	NAT 1.6.1	Annual	Reclamation, BLM	Reclamation	NA
NAT 1.6.3: As needed, enter into agreements with managing partners, adjacent land managers, and/or service providers to implement appropriate wildland fire management practices to meet RMP objectives.				Reclamation	Reclamation	NA
NAT 1.7.1: See LUM 3.1.1 – 3.1.3						
NAT 2.2.1: See lease compliance actions LUM 4.10.1 – 4.1.0.3 related to agricultural leases.	R		Ongoing	Reclamation, Lessees	Reclamation	As per schedule
NAT 2.3.1: Follow listed Best Management Practices (see Chapter 5) when engaging in activities that could result in pollutants being released from Reclamation parcels (note: BMPs do not apply to ongoing exempted agricultural activities).	R		Ongoing	Reclamation, Lessees	Reclamation	As per contract specs
NAT 2.4.1: Follow listed Best Management Practices (see Chapter 5) when regarding sanitation and waste management facilities.	R		Ongoing	Reclamation	Reclamation	As per contract specs
NAT 3.1.1: Follow listed Best Management Practices (see Chapter 5) when engaging in activities that may cause soil erosion on Reclamation parcels.	R		Ongoing	Reclamation	Reclamation	As per contract specs
NAT 3.1.2: Provide BMPs to contractors, managing partners, permit holders, and others conducting authorized construction activities; and require full compliance through inclusion and contract/permit specifications	R		Ongoing	Reclamation	Reclamation	As per contract specs

NOTES:
- [1]Underline denotes primary responsibility.
- NA = Not applicable.

Table 6.2-3. Management Actions for Cultural Resources (CUL).

Action	Priority	Related Mgmt Actions	Timing/ Sequence	Lead Agency[1]	Funding	Monitoring
Land-Based Sites and Facilities						
CUL 1.1.1: Complete pedestrian archeological surveys when ground-disturbing actions are proposed in unsurveyed locations. Complete site evaluation actions to determine National Register eligibility to sites threatened by new actions, land use, or project operations, and address impacts to eligible sites.	R		Ongoing	Reclamation, SHPO, Tribes	Reclamation	NA
CUL 1.1.2: Complete tribal consultations, as necessary, to determine if TCPs are present in areas of new ground-disturbing actions, or in or near focused use areas. If present, assess and address impacts from new actions or existing use.	R		Ongoing	Reclamation, Tribes	Reclamation	NA
CUL 1.1.3: If Indian tribes identify culturally important resources within new development areas, avoid adverse impacts to those resource locations when avoidance will accomplish broader agency responsibilities, is cost effective, and lies within Reclamation's authority.	R		Ongoing	Reclamation, Tribes	Reclamation	NA
CUL 1.1.4: In the event of discovery of human remains of Indian origin, complete protective actions and tribal notification and consultation actions per 43 CFR 10.	R		Ongoing	Reclamation, Tribes	Reclamation	If Needed
CUL 1.1.5: Design facilities to avoid or minimize cultural resource damage.	R		Ongoing	Reclamation, SHPO, Tribes	Reclamation	Periodically
CUL 1.2.1: Include cultural resource protection strategies in the Reclamation/IDPR Historic Preservation and Maintenance Plan. [see LUM 3.2.2 and REC 1.1.1]	H		2006	Reclamation, SHPO, IDPR	Reclamation	NA
CUL 1.3.1: Develop guidelines/procedures and provide training for IDPR staff, IDFG staff, lease holders, and other managing partners to increase awareness of the NHPA and other cultural resource statutory requirements.	M		2007	Reclamation, IDPR,IDFG, Lessees	Reclamation	NA
CUL 1.4.1: Prepare and provide educational information about resource values and area history at appropriate locations (i.e., Lake Walcott State Park).	M		2008	Reclamation, IDPR, FWS	Reclamation	NA

NOTES:
- [1]Underline denotes primary responsibility.
- NA = Not applicable.

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Table 6.2-4. Management Actions for Indian Sacred Sites (ISS).

Action	Priority	Related Mgmt Actions	Timing/ Sequence	Lead Agency[1]	Funding	Monitoring
Land-Based Sites and Facilities						
ISS 1.1.1: Consult with Indian tribes when it appears that sacred sites might be present in areas of new ground-disturbance, or in locations where sacred sites might be damaged by existing public land uses. If present, seek to avoid damages and maintain access when implementing new actions.	R		Ongoing	Reclamation, Tribes	Reclamation	As per construction schedule
ISS 1.2.1: Consult when it appears that sacred sites might be present in areas of focused public use. If present, seek to resolve impacts and maintain access.	R		Ongoing	Reclamation, Tribes	Reclamation	As Needed

NOTES:
- [1]Underline denotes primary responsibility.
- NA = Not applicable.

Table 6.2-5. Management Actions for Indian Trust Assets (ITAs).

Action	Priority	Related Mgmt Actions	Timing/ Sequence	Lead Agency[1]	Funding	Monitoring
Land-Based Sites and Facilities						
ITA 1.1.1: Use the NEPA process to assess potential future impacts to ITAs that may exist.	R		Ongoing	Reclamation, Tribes	NA	NA

NOTES:
- [1]Underline denotes primary responsibility.
- NA = Not applicable.

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Table 6.2-6. Management Actions for Recreation and Access (REC).

Action	Priority	Related Mgmt Actions	Timing/ Sequence	Lead Agency[1]	Funding	Monitoring
Land-Based Sites and Facilities						
REC 1.1.1: Work with IDPR to prepare and implement a Historic Preservation and Maintenance Plan for the park outlining vegetation preservation/protection, use areas, hardscape areas, and other pertinent information and guidance.	H		2006	Reclamation, SHPO	Reclamation	NA
REC 1.2.1: Implement management strategies at Bishop's Hole to enhance the visitor experience and increase public safety and security, including providing minimum basic facilities (e.g., organized access and parking, accessible toilet facility) in coordination with the results and implementation of the spillway study. [see Reclamation Manual LND P03 and PN04-01]	M		Initiate Year 2007	Reclamation	Reclamation	As Required
REC 1.2.2: Increase management oversight at Bishop's Hole and surrounding area where ad hoc uses are occurring	M		Ongoing	Reclamation, managing partner	Reclamation	Periodically
REC 1.2.3: Seek public non-Federal managing partner for management of the Bishop's Hole day use site.	M		Ongoing	Reclamation	NA	NA
REC 1.2.4: Monitor use and conditions and adjust access or use levels to protect resources.	M		Ongoing	Reclamation, managing partner	Cost share	Periodically
REC 1.3.1: Consider compatible concession/recreation permits on a case-by-case basis and authorize in compliance with Reclamation policy (see Reclamation Manual LND P-02 and LND 04-01).	L		As Needed	Reclamation, concessionaire	concessionaire	As per contract provisions
REC 1.4.1: Explore opportunities with a managing partner to develop enhanced fishing access on parcels along the Snake River.	M		Ongoing	Reclamation, IDFG, Counties	Cost share	NA
REC 2.1.1: Develop and implement the following elements into an Access Management Plan for all Reclamation parcels. • Signs • Fencing of parcels and placement of barriers • Maps and brochures showing areas of access and public education interests, including open nearby BLM lands and regulations • Established vehicle parking areas • Criteria for which parcels continue to be allowed for public vehicular access • Public information process (media announcements, informative meetings, etc.) • Monitoring program	H		2005	Reclamation, BLM, IDFG, Irrigation Districts, Counties	Reclamation	As per Access Management Plan
REC 2.2.1: Monitor non-vehicular access and modify as necessary to protect resources.	H		As Needed	Reclamation	Reclamation	Periodically
REC 2.3.1: Actively seek a non-Federal managing partner to provide more active management and appropriate facilities at selected day use sites outside the park boundaries.	M		Ongoing	Reclamation	NA	NA

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Table 6.2-6. Management Actions for Recreation and Access (REC).

Action	Priority	Related Mgmt Actions	Timing/ Sequence	Lead Agency[1]	Funding	Monitoring
REC 2.3.2: Monitor ad hoc day use activities and modify as necessary to protect resources.	H		As Needed	Reclamation	Reclamation	Periodically
REC 2.4.1: Increase management oversight at areas where ad hoc camping is occurring to protect resources and avoid land use conflicts.	H		Ongoing	Reclamation	NA	NA
REC 2.4.2: Prohibit any developed camping outside Lake Walcott State Park	H		Ongoing	Reclamation	NA	NA
REC 2.5.1: Actively seek a non-Federal managing partner to provide more opportunities for developing and maintaining non-motorized recreational trails.	M		Ongoing	Reclamation	NA	NA
REC 2.5.2: Monitor trail use and modify as necessary to protect resources.	H		As Needed	Reclamation	Reclamation	Periodically

NOTES:

- [1]Underline denotes primary responsibility.
- NA = Not applicable.
- All new facilities, programs, and information will be designed in accordance with current standards for accessibility for persons with disabilities.

A&B 983

Chapter 7

Glossary of Terms

A&B 985

Chapter 7

Glossary of Terms

1890 Act reserved rights-of-way	Rights-of-way, for ditches or canals constructed by the authority of the United States, were reserved in all patents issued on public lands west of the 100th Meridian entered after August 30, 1890. (Patents are the initial conveyance of public lands from the United States.) These reserved rights-of-way can be exercised either by Confirmation Deed, Right-of-Way Notice, or through construction itself.
A&B Irrigation District	The North Side Pumping Division. A&B irrigates 77,000 acres to the north of the Gravity Division, in Minidoka and Jerome Counties. Unit A (15,000 acres) is served by pumping from the Snake River. Unit B (62,000 acres) is irrigated from deep wells which tap the Snake Plain aquifer. Reclamation constructed the project in the 1950s.
Accessibility	Providing participation in programs and use of facilities to persons with a disability. Disability is defined with respect to an individual: (1) a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of such an individual; (2) a record of such an impairment; or (3) being regarded as having such an impairment.
Acquired Lands	Lands which Reclamation has acquired by purchase, donation, exchange, or condemnation.
Acre-foot	Volume of water (43,560 cubic feet) that would cover 1 acre of land, 1 foot deep.
Action Alternative	A change in the current management approach.
Affected environment	Existing biological, physical, social, and economic conditions of an area subject to change, both directly and indirectly, as the result of a proposed human action. Also, the portion of an environmental document describing current environmental conditions.

Algae	Mostly aquatic single celled, colonial, or multicelled plants, containing chlorophyll and lacking stems, roots, and leaves.
Algal bloom	Rapid and flourishing growth of algae.
Alluvial	Pertaining to or composed of alluvium, or deposited by a stream or running water.
Alluvium	An accumulation of sediments deposited by streams or rivers.
Alternatives	Courses of action that may meet the objectives of a proposal at varying levels of accomplishment, including the most likely future conditions without the management plan or action.
Amphibian	Vertebrate animal that has a life stage in water and a life stage on land (for example, salamanders, frogs, and toads).
Aquatic	Living or growing in or on the water.
Archeology	Related to the study of human cultures through the recovery and analysis of their material relics.
Archeological site	A discrete location that provides physical evidence of past human use.
Artifact	A human-made object.
Artificial wetlands	Areas created to intentionally hold moisture or ponded water such that wetland vegetation (e.g., cattails, bulrush, sedges, willows) can establish, thus providing forage and shelter to numerous wildlife species and reducing sediment loads in the water.
Best Management Practices (BMPs)	Activities that are added to typical operation, construction, or maintenance efforts that help to protect environmental resources by avoiding or minimizing impacts of an action.
Burley Irrigation District (BID)	The South Side Pumping Division of the Minidoka Project. BID irrigates 48,000 acres, immediately south of the Snake River. Title to the U.S. facilities, lands, and interests in lands were transferred to BID on 2/24/00.
Community	A group of one or more interacting populations of plants and animals in a common spatial arrangement at a particular point in time.
Concentration	The density or amount of a substance in a solution (water quality).

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Conservation measures	Similar to mitigation measures (defined below), conservation measures are actions taken to avoid impacts to species protected under the Endangered Species Act.
Cubic foot per second (cfs)	As a rate of streamflow, a cubic foot of water passing a reference section in 1 second of time. A measure of a moving volume of water.
Cultural resource	Cultural resources are historic and traditional properties that reflect our heritage.
Drainwater projects	Areas in which water is intentionally ponded such that injection of irrigation run-off water into the aquifer is reduced and, in some situations, lower water velocities allow sediment to precipitate out of the water column.
Drawdown	Lowering of a reservoir's water level; process of releasing reservoir storage.
Endangered species	A species or subspecies that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
Eolian	Pertaining to sediment deposition by wind; such as loess and dune sand, or sedimentary structures such as wind-formed ripple marks. Erosion and deposition accomplished by the wind.
Ephemeral stream	A stream that flows only in direct response to precipitation, and thus discontinues its flow during dry seasons. Such flow is usually of short duration. Most of the dry washes of more arid regions may be classified as ephemeral streams.
Erosion	Refers to soil and the wearing away of the land surface by water, wind, ice, or other physical processes.
Eutrophic	A body of water with high nutrient levels.
Evapotranspiration	The amount of water that transpires through a plants' leaves, combined with the amount that evaporates from the soil in which it is growing.
Exotic species	A non-native species that is introduced into an area.
Facilities	Manmade structures.
Federal lands	Lands, or interests in lands (such as easements and rights-of-way), owned by the United States.

Fish and Game Tracts/Wildlife Tracts	Certain Extension lands which were designated as wildlife habitat areas. These lands are managed by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game under agreements with Reclamation. The goal is to protect and improve these lands for long-range wildlife use as escape and winter cover.
Fish and Wildlife Service Species of Concern	Species identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for which further biological research and field study are needed to resolve these species' conservation status.
Forb	Herbaceous plant that is not a grass, sedge, or rush. Non-woody herbs and wildflowers are examples of forbs.
Grass	Herbaceous plants with jointed stems, slender sheathing leaves, and flowers borne in spikelets of bracts.
Habitat	Area where a plant or animal finds suitable living conditions.
Hydrologic	Pertaining to the quantity, quality, and timing of water.
Indian Sacred Sites	Defined in Executive Order 13007 as "any specific, discrete, narrowly delineated location on Federal land that is identified by an Indian tribe, or Indian individual determined to be an appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion, as sacred by virtue of its established religious significance to, or ceremonial use by, an Indian religion; provided that the tribe or appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion has informed the agency of the existence of such a site."
Indian Trust Assets (ITAs)	Legal interests in property held in trust by the United States for Indian Tribes or individuals, such as lands, minerals, hunting and fishing rights, and water rights.
Injection wells	Some irrigation return flow from Unit B, the ground-water unit of the North Side Pumping Division is disposed of through injection wells which pass water directly underground into the Snake Plain aquifer. Injection wells are used because the area lacks natural surface drainage outlets. The North Side Pumping Division originally had 78 injection wells; about 27 of them are still in operation. These wells also provide drainage for stormwater runoff, which can amount to larger amounts of runoff than the Project irrigation return flows.
Intermittent streams	Streams that contain running water longer than ephemeral streams but not all year.
Juvenile	Young animal that has not reached reproductive age.

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Migratory birds	Most birds in North America are considered to be migratory birds under one or more of the four international Migratory Bird Treaty Conventions to which the United States is a signatory. Under provisions of the Migratory Bird Treaty Acts, it is unlawful "by any means or manner to pursue, hunt, take, capture, or kill" any migratory birds except as permitted by regulations issued by the FWS.
Minidoka Irrigation District (MID)	The Gravity Division of the Minidoka Project. MID irrigates 72,000 acres to the south of the North Side Pumping Division. Reclamation constructed the Project starting in 1905.
Mitigation measures	Action taken to avoid, reduce the severity of, or eliminate an adverse impact. Mitigation can include one or more of the following: (1) avoiding impacts; (2) minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of an action; (3) rectifying impacts by restoration, rehabilitation, or repair of the affected environment; (4) reducing or eliminating impacts over time; and (5) compensating for an unavoidable impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments to offset the loss.
National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)	A Federally maintained register of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and properties that meet the criteria of significance defined in 36 CFR 63.
Neotropical migrant	Birds that breed in North America and winter in tropical and subtropical America.
No Action Alternative	The outcome expected from a continuation of current management practices.
North Side Pumping Division	Constructed by Reclamation in the 1950s. Irrigates 77,000 acres. The Project is operated by the A&B Irrigation District.
North Side Pumping Division Extension Plan	A plan proposed in the 1980s for the management and use of the scattered tracts of dry Federal lands located in and adjacent to Reclamation's existing North Side Pumping Division. This plan included providing irrigation service to 9,400 acres of irrigable drylands (part of each tract would be managed for wildlife habitat by the new landowner), and improving and managing 5,590 acres of Federal lands for wildlife (Idaho Department of Fish and Game would manage these lands). In addition, other future land uses were recognized in the plan. This plan is now considered no longer economically feasible, mainly due to lack of water availability. The extension plan project was never Congressionally authorized.

Off-road vehicle (ORV) use	Reclamation lands are closed to ORV use, unless specifically opened.
Perennial	Plants that have a life cycle that lasts for more than 2 years.
Precipitation	Rain, sleet, and snow.
Preferred Alternative	The primary alternative considered by Reclamation for implementation following analysis in the Environmental Assessment. This analysis, along with public input, could alter management actions described in the Preferred Alternative. If this occurs, any changes would be documented in the Final Environmental Assessment.
Project facilities	Canals, laterals, drains, pumps, buildings, and etc. owned by the United States. *Note:* Title to Project facilities and lands remains in the United States until specific legislation is enacted to authorize relinquishment (regardless of who is responsible for care, operation and maintenance of the facilities).
Project purposes	Lands are withdrawn and acquired for authorized purposes of the specific Reclamation Project. These can include irrigation, flood control, recreation, and fish and wildlife.
Public involvement	The systematic provision for affected publics to be informed about and participate in Reclamation decision making. It centers around effective, open exchange and communication among the partners, agencies, organizations, and all the various affected publics.
Public lands	Public lands include only those Federal lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (with the exception of lands located on the Outer Continental Shelf and lands held for the benefit of Indians, Aleuts, and Eskimos).
Qualifying partner	A non-Federal public entity managing partner that manages all or a portion of lands and/or facilities on Reclamation-owned lands.
Raptor	Any predatory bird, such as a falcon, eagle, hawk, or owl, that has feet with sharp talons or claws and a hooked beak.

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Reclamation Project lands	Federal lands or interests in lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). Includes withdrawn lands, acquired lands, and 1890 Act reserved rights-of-way which have been exercised. *Note:* Reclamation Project Lands **are not** the same as public lands. Reclamation Project Lands were initially withdrawn, acquired or exercised for specific Project purposes, and are governed by different Federal land management laws and regulations than public lands. Public uses of Reclamation Project Lands can be suspended as necessary to protect Project Facilities, and Reclamation Project Lands are not open to off-road vehicles unless specifically opened for that use.
Reclamation zone	Area located immediately around the dam and administered by Reclamation.
Record Tree	This tree, formerly located at Bishop's Hole, holds the record for being the biggest Eastern Cottonwood in the United States. It broke apart during Spring 2002 because it was weak on the inside from old age.
Relinquishment	Notification to BLM by a Federal agency (like Reclamation) that specific withdrawn lands are no longer needed for Project purposes.
Reptile	Cold-blooded vertebrate of the class Reptilia, comprised of turtles, snakes, lizards, and crocodiles.
Reserved works	Those Project facilities for which the care, operation, and maintenance has been retained by the United States.
Resident	A wildlife species commonly found in an area during a particular season: summer, winter, or year round.
Resource topics	The components of the natural and human environment that could be affected by the alternatives, such as water quality, wildlife, socioeconomic, and cultural resources.
Resource Management Plan (RMP)	A 15-year plan developed by Reclamation to manage their lands and resources in the Study Area.
Restoration	An action by BLM that restores withdrawn land to the status of unreserved public lands subject to settlement, sale, location, or entry under some or all of the general land laws.

Revocation	The actual cancellation of a withdrawal by the Bureau of Land Management. Revocations do not necessarily open the land to settlement, sale, location, or entry under some or all of the general land laws.
Riparian	Of, on, or pertaining to the bank of a river, pond, or lake where soil moisture levels are higher than in surrounding uplands.
Runoff	That part of precipitation that contributes to streamflow, groundwater, lakes, or reservoir storage.
Sediment	Unconsolidated solid material that comes from weathering of rock and is carried by, suspended in, or deposited by water or wind.
Shrub	A woody perennial, smaller than a tree, usually with several stems.
Songbird	Small to medium-sized birds that perch and vocalize or "sing," primarily during the breeding season.
Spawning	Laying eggs directly in water, especially in reference to fish.
Species	In taxonomy, a subdivision of a genus that (1) has a high degree of similarity, (2) is capable of interbreeding only within the species, and (3) shows persistent differences from members of allied species.
Steppe	A plain without trees (apart from near rivers and lakes), the same as a prairie. It may be semi-desert or covered with grass or shrubs, or both depending on the season.
Study Area	The area evaluated in this Environmental Assessment as being directly affected by potential management actions described in the Resource Management Plan.
Threatened species	Any species that has the potential of becoming endangered in the near future and is listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.
Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)	A TMDL is a pollution reduction plan that accounts for all pollutant sources to the water and determines how much each source is allowed to contribute. The basic premise is that if existing pollutant inputs (loads) from all sources are reduced to a specified level (the maximum daily load), and a margin of safety is added, then water quality goals will be achieved.

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Traditional Cultural Property (TCP)	A site or resource that is eligible for inclusion in the *National Register of Historic Places* because of its association with cultural practices or beliefs of a living community.
Transferred works	Those Project facilities for which the care, operation, and maintenance has been transferred from the United States to the irrigation districts.
Water quality limited	A water body that exceeds water quality standards or does not support its designated beneficial use, such as cold water habitat or primary contact recreation.
Wetland habitat	Wildlife habitat associated with water less than 6 feet deep, with or without emergent and aquatic vegetation in wetlands.
Wetlands	Lands transitional between aquatic and terrestrial systems where the water table is usually at or near the land surface or the land is covered by shallow water. Often called marshes or wet meadows.
Withdrawn lands	Withholding of an area of public land from settlement, sale, location, or entry under some or all of the general land laws for the following purposes: (1) to limit activity under those laws in order to maintain other public values in the area; (2) to reserve the area for a particular public purpose or program, or (3) to transfer jurisdiction of the area from one Federal agency to another.

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Chapter 8

Bibliography

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Appendix A

Tribal Consultation/Coordination

Consultation and Coordination with Tribal Governments

1999

October 15, 1999	Meeting with the Fort Hall Business Council at which preparation of the Minidoka Northside RMP was discussed
September 9, 1999	Letter to the Chairman, Shoshone-Paiute Tribal Council, Duck Valley requesting a meeting to discuss Reclamation initiatives which included Resource Management Plans
November 19, 1999	Letter to the Chairman, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall regarding Minidoka Northside RMP

2001

August 10, 2001	Meeting with the Fort Hall Business Council, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes to discuss Resource Management Plans and other Issues
November 19, 2001	Meeting with the Fort Hall Business Council, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes to discuss Resource Management Plans and other issues

2002

January 9, 2002	Letter to the Chairman of the Fort Hall Business Council, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall summarizing the November 19, 2001 Meeting
February 1, 2002	Meeting with the Shoshone-Paiute Tribal Council, Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley to discuss Resource Management Plans and other issues
February 25, 2002	Meeting with staff of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall to discuss Resource Management Plans
March 13, 2002	Letter to the Chairman of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribal Council of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley inviting the Tribes to designate a representative to the Ad Hoc Work Group
March 13, 2002	Letter to the Chairman of the Fort Hall Business Council, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall inviting the Tribes to designate a representative to the Ad Hoc Work Group
March 13, 2002	Letter to the Chairman of the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee of the Nez Perce Tribes inviting the Tribe to designate a representative to the Ad Hoc Work Group and offering to meet with staff or leaders to discuss the RMP

March 25, 2002	Meeting with staff of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall to discuss Resource Management Plans and other issues
April 10, 2002	Letter to the Chairman of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribal Council of Duck Valley- Summary of February 1, 2002 meeting

2003

February 21, 2003	Letter to the Chairman of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribal Council of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley requesting a meeting to discuss Reclamation Programs and Activities
March 11, 2003	Meeting with staff of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall to discuss Resource Management Plans and other issues
April 2, 2003	Meeting with the Shoshone-Paiute Tribal Council, Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley to discuss Resource Management Plans and other issues
April 22, 2003	Summary of April 2, 2003 Meeting with the Tribal Council of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley with enclosure, Summary of Programs and Activities, Spring 2003
April 22, 2003	Letter to the Chairman of the Fort Hall Business Council, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall confirming April 30, 2003 meeting
April 28, 2003	Letter to the Chairman of the Natural Resource Committee of the Nez Perce Tribe requesting a Meeting to Discuss Reclamation Programs and Activities including Resource Management Plans
April 30, 2003	Meeting with the Fort Hall Business Council of the Shoshone- Bannock Tribes
June 3, 2003	Meeting with the Nez Perce Natural Resource Committee to discuss various Reclamation Programs and Activities including Resource Management Plans
June 12, 2003	Letter to the Chairman of the Nez Perce Natural Resources Subcommittee summarizing the June 3, 2003 meeting
June 19, 2003	Letter to the Chairperson of the Fort Hall Business Council of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes summarizing the April 30, 2003 meeting
June 19, 2003	Letter to the Chairman of the Tribal Council of the Burns Paiute Tribe requesting a meeting concerning Reclamation projects that may be of interest to the Council and staff
July 22, 2003	Meeting with the Tribal Council of the Burns Paiute Tribe
October 2, 2003	Letter to the Chairman of the Burns Paiute Tribes summarizing the July 22, 2003 meeting

2004

April 1, 2004	Letter to the Chairman of the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee, releasing Draft Environmental Assess for the Minidoka North Side RMP.
April 1, 2004	Letter to the Chairman of the Fort Hall Business Council, releasing Draft Environmental Assessment for the Minidoka North Side RMP.
April 1, 2004	Letter to Chairman of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribal Council, releasing Draft Environmental Assessment for the Minidoka North Side RMP.
April 1, 2004	Letter to the Chairman of the Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation releasing Draft Environmental Assessment for the Minidoka North Side RMP.

Appendix B

Legal Mandates

Minidoka North Side Resource Management Plan
Legal Mandates

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

Law, Executive Order, or Policy	Description
American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978	Provides for freedom of Native Americans to believe, express, and exercise their traditional religion, including access to important sites.
Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) of 1979, as amended	Ensures the protection and preservation of archaeological sites on Federal land. ARPA requires that Federal permits be obtained before cultural resource investigations begin on Federal land. It also requires that investigators consult with the appropriate Native American groups before conducting archaeological studies on Native American origin sites.
Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974	Provides for the preservation of historical buildings, sites, and objects of national significance.
Clean Water Act (CWA) of 1974, as amended*	Provides for protection of water quality.
Clean Air Act (CAA) of 1970	Provides for protection of air quality.
Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended	Provides for protection of plants, fish, and wildlife that have a designation as threatened or endangered.
Executive Order 12898, February 11, 1994, Environmental Justice, as amended by Executive Order 12948, January 30, 1995	Requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of its programs and policies on minority and lower income populations.
Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands	Directs all Federal agencies to avoid, if possible, adverse impacts to wetlands and to preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values of wetlands.
Executive Order 13007, Indian Sacred Sites, May 24, 1996	Provides for access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian sacred sites on Federal lands used by Indian religious practitioners.
Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Government, November 6, 2000 (revokes EO 13084)	The EO builds on previous administrative actions and is intended to: • Establish regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with tribal officials in the development of Federal policies that have tribal implications. • Strengthen government- to-government relations with Indian tribes; and • Reduce the imposition of unfunded mandates upon Indian tribes.
Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) of 1958	Requires consultation and coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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Law, Executive Order, or Policy	Description
Indian Trust Assets Policy (July 1993)	Reclamation will carry out its activities in a manner which protects Indian Trust Assets and avoids adverse impacts when possible.
Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, as amended	Provides protection for bird species that migrate across state lines.
Executive Order 13186, January 10, 2001. Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds	Requires Federal Agencies that may have a negative effect on migratory birds to develop and implement a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to promote the conservation of migratory birds.
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969	Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA specify that as part of the NEPA scoping process, the lead agency "... shall invite the participation of affected Federal, State, and local agencies, any affected Indian tribe, ... (1501.7[a]1."
National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended	Section 106 of the NHPA requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of any actions or programs on historic properties. It also requires agencies to consult with Native American Tribes if a proposed Federal action may affect properties to which they attach religious and cultural significance. Section 110 requires agencies to identify and appropriately manage historic properties on lands under their jurisdiction.
Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of 1990	Regulations for Tribal consultation in the event of discovery of Native American graves. Requires consultation with Tribes during Federal project planning if graves might be discovered.
Presidential Memorandum: Government-to-Government Relations with Native American Tribal Governments, April 29, 1994	Specifies a commitment to developing more effective day-to-day working relationships with sovereign Tribal governments. Each executive department and agency shall consult to the greatest extent practicable and to the extent permitted by law, with Tribal governments prior to taking actions affecting Federally recognized Tribal governments.
Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities – Reclamation Policy (November 18, 1998)	Established a Pacific Northwest regional policy to assure that all administrative offices, facilities, services, and programs open to the public, utilized by Federal employees, and managed by Reclamation, a managing partner, or a concessionaire, are fully accessible for both employees and the public.

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Law, Executive Order, or Policy	Description
Reclamation Policy for Land Management & Concessions	Provides policy, directives, and standards Reclamation follows in managing Federal Project lands, facilities, and concessions.
Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title V, Section 504	Provides for access to Federal or Federally assisted facilities for the disabled. The Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS) or the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG), whichever is the more stringent, are followed as compliance with Section 504.
Public Law 102-575, Title 28, as amended	Provides Reclamation with the authority to cost-share on recreation projects and fish and wildlife enhancement facilities with public non-Federal managing partners on Reclamation lands and authorization for preparing RMPs.
Interior Department Manual Part 512, Chapter 2	Articulates the policy, responsibilities and procedures for consulting with tribes to identify and assess impact to Indian trust resources.

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

A&B 1014

Appendix C

Problem Statement

FINAL PROBLEM STATEMENT

Minidoka North Side Resource Management Plan

Introduction

This Problem Statement is intended to portray all points of view regarding the issues, opportunities and options identified by the public and involved agencies as relevant to the Minidoka North Side Resource Management Plan (RMP) process.

The issues, opportunities, and options discussed are presented in the same order and use the same titles and numbers shown on the Summary of Issues, Opportunities, and Options that was developed from: (1) public responses to the first RMP Newsbrief, (2) public input obtained at, or as a result of, the first RMP public meeting, (3) discussion by AHWG members at their first meeting, and (4) Reclamation Planning Team internal discussion.

For each issue/opportunity/option discussed, the information provided is presented under the headings of Discussion and/or Planning Team Notes.

The Discussion heading reflects the results of AHWG commentary received at the Group's June 13 and August 29 meetings. It will be noted that some issue statements do not include a Discussion heading. This is because both the issue statements are considered self-explanatory and no additional AHWG discussion occurred, or no additional insight was available through AHWG members. It should also be noted that, although it is Reclamation's practice to report all input received on issues and opportunities pertinent to its Resource Management Plan efforts, this reporting does not necessarily infer endorsement of all comments received and outlined in this document.

Planning Team Notes are included wherever relevant to: (1) provide background or explanation for issue statements to properly introduce AHWG discussion, (2) provide additional perspectives based on Planning Team knowledge, (3) clarify discussions, (4) add insight where little or no AHWG discussion occurred, or (5) indicate where Reclamation or other agency regulations or limitations will affect the range of possible responses.

Issue/opportunity/option discussions are organized according to the following major headings, sub-topics, and numbering system:

Overarching Concerns (O-1 to O-5)

Land Status

→ Lands Needed for Project Purposes—Long Term Management (S-1 to S-17)
→ Lands Not Needed for Project Purposes—Interim Management (S-18 to S-24)

Land Use & Resource Management

→ Agriculture and Grazing Leases (A-1 through A-10)
→ Natural & Cultural Resources (N-1 through N-24)
→ Recreation (R-1 through R-20)

→ Municipal, Industrial, and Commercial Uses (M-1 through M-6)
→ Boundary, Compatibility, & Other Land Use Concerns (B-1 through B-10)

RMP Implementation & Administration

→ Reclamation Responsibilities, Authorities, & Limitations (I-1 to I-7)
→ Other Agencies—Consultation, Coordination, Roles, & Responsibilities (I-8 to I-15)
→ Law Enforcement & Public Safety (I-16 to I-23)
→ Public Information (I-25 to I-27)
→ Priorities, Costs, and Funding (I-28 to I-30)

Overarching Concerns

→ O-1 Maintain a view of the "big picture"; look beyond a tract-by-tract perspective to include area/regional needs & opportunities:

Discussion: This perspective is self-explanatory.

Planning Team Notes: The RMP process will certainly look at both the local and regional context of all lands and resources within the study area.

→ O-2 Need to manage the land:

Discussion: Simply stated, many members of the public believe that there is insufficient active management occurring on lands owned/managed by Reclamation, BLM, IDFG, etc. in the study area. Regardless of decisions on future status for these lands, better, more active management is seen as being needed.

→ O-3 Consider economic development in this area in management decisions:

Discussion: One objective of the RMP should be to facilitate and support economic well-being in the study region. Examples could include: increased use of the RMP lands for agriculture or grazing; assisting local jurisdictions by providing locations for wastewater disposal; providing access to or storage locations for sand, gravel, and rock resources; and providing recreation or education opportunities.

Planning Team Notes: The RMP process can seek to respond to this objective. However, any efforts or actions will need to be within the sideboards of Reclamation authorities and consistent with requirements for proper management of Reclamation Project lands.

→ O-4 Availability of water and water rights:

Planning Team Notes: The desire to use some of the RMP lands for agriculture is one of the main themes found in several issue discussions herein (e.g., S-3 through S-6 and A-1 through A-4). Among the potential constraints that could limit additional agricultural use of these lands, one of the most fundamental is the need for water rights. No agricultural leasing or other means of pursuing agricultural use of the lands can proceed unless legal water rights are demonstrated. In addition to the water right, lands receiving Federal water would have to be eligible under contract & Reclamation law. Currently, for example, there can be no expansion of acreage in A&B Irrigation District for Federal water rights without further contract authority.

Discussion: The Irrigation Districts note that water rights can be transferred between parcels within each district. For this to occur, the current owner of the right must be willing to cease or forego using the water on the land to which the right is currently attached; the owner can then transfer the right to

another location within his/her ownership or sell/transfer the right to another landowner within the district. A key point is that water rights sales/transfers must be to another landowner, not to Reclamation. This is could be a problem because many of the lands to which the Districts would like to facilitate water right transfers are Reclamation lands.

→ O-5 Need full consideration/analysis of impact from management strategies:

Discussion: Alternative programs for future management of RMP lands must be assessed and compared to determine their potential impact on natural resources (e.g., vegetation, wildlife, and water quality), cultural resources, land use patterns and socioeconomics. This assessment must look at both the regional, "big picture" (as noted in O-1) and parcel-specific perspectives.

Planning Team Notes: The need identified in this issue statement will be met by complying with the National Environmental Policy Act through preparation of an Environmental Assessment, which is part of the RMP program.

Land Status

Lands Needed for Project Purposes—Long Term Management

→ S-1 Determine lands needed for Project purposes; keep in Reclamation jurisdiction:

Discussion: The A & B and Minidoka Irrigation Districts (A&B and MID, or Districts) and the agricultural community as a whole want to make sure that Reclamation lands needed for Minidoka Project purposes (now or in the future) remain available for these purposes and remain under Reclamation jurisdiction.

Planning Team Notes: Identification of lands needed for Project purposes is being accomplished concurrently with the RMP effort. The primary reason the RMP is being prepared is to decide long-term management for the lands that are still needed for Project purposes and will be retained in Reclamation ownership, and interim management for the lands that are no longer needed for Project purposes and will be disposed of &/or relinquished. Both A&B and MID are assisting Reclamation in identifying those parcels that are now, or likely will be needed. The two Districts have already prepared a preliminary assessment in this regard and given the results to Reclamation for its use in this determination.

→ S-2 Define criteria for Project Purposes:

Planning Team Notes: Irrigation and power production are the basic Project purposes for which the Minidoka Project was originally authorized. Over the years, fish & wildlife and recreation have been added as authorized Project purposes.

Identifying which parcels are needed for irrigation or power production is relatively straightforward. However, it is important to look at potential future needs as well as current requirements. For example, the current need to use Reclamation lands for drain water management was not originally foreseen; the RMP process may help Reclamation to anticipate other such future needs. Reclamation and the Districts are currently accomplishing the task of defining the various irrigation and power production needs (e.g., project works, drain water management) and, as noted in S-1, are conducting a review of the parcels to identify those that should be retained for these purposes.

Determining which parcels should be retained for fish & wildlife or for recreation is less straight-forward. Those parcels with high values for these purposes are being identified in conjunction with the RMP process

→ S-3 Are lands being used for intent of withdrawal?:

Discussion: AHWG members discussing this question feel that most of the RMP lands are not being used in the manner intended at the time of withdrawal. The withdrawal was for development of the Irrigation Districts for agriculture; and most of the lands are not being used for this purpose. Exceptions to this include those parcels that contain project works and those being used for purposes such as borrow sites (i.e., sand and gravel) and for drain water management. Uses of RMP lands that would be directly consistent with the intent of withdrawal are noted in S-4 through S-7, below.

Planning Team Notes: Reclamation is required by law to relinquish withdrawn lands no longer needed for Project purposes to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

→ S-4 Protect/promote agriculture & irrigation; S-5 Support Irrigation District needs as a first priority; and S-6 Do nothing detrimental to operation of MID and A&B Districts and farming:

Discussion: These issue statements are self-explanatory. AHWG members discussing them stress that they should be translated directly into the highest priority goal(s) of the RMP. Land uses and management options that would serve to achieve this goal include:

- Agricultural production, either through leasing or sale of the land (see also S-21 and A-1 through A-4);
- Additional use of land for drain water management, including development of additional wetlands and/or use of drain water for agricultural production on RMP parcels (see S-9 and S-11);
- Relocation of wells, and potentially associated farm units, from areas within the Districts where groundwater quantity or quality is becoming limited to RMP tracts where good water supply can be restored (e.g., through land exchanges). A&B has identified sites where such relocations/exchanges are, or will be needed;
- Use of tracts for extracting or staging needed construction materials (e.g., sand, gravel, and rock—see S-10); and
- Avoiding land uses or management actions on RMP lands that could adversely affect adjacent farm operations.

Another important perspective on supporting Irrigation District needs is the potential revenue benefits that could accrue from using RMP lands for the purposes listed above. Using RMP lands for agriculture would enhance District revenues through the fees charged for water delivery. Also, by providing for efficient management/use of drain water, these lands can help avoid the costs of more expensive management alternatives.

Planning Team Notes: Revenues generated by agriculture/grazing leases are not retained by Irrigation Districts (except for administrative fees). The revenues are turned over to Reclamation and then credited to the Districts in accordance with their contracts and with applicable laws. Regarding the desire for expanding agricultural production on RMP lands, it is relevant to note that: [1] Reclamation's latitude in disposing of land, particularly withdrawn land, is limited, as discussed in I-4; [2] Reclamation policy discourages "exclusive use" of its lands by private parties (e.g., through leasing); and [3] all of these lands would be subject to water rights, land classifications and contract provisions between Reclamation and the Districts, as discussed in O-4. If these limitations remain unchanged, the RMP program will likely not include significant disposal or leasing of lands for agricultural production)

→ S-7 Protect transferred works:

Discussion: This is a concern expressed by the Districts and reflects the objective of avoiding any adverse impact of irrigation or agriculture.

Planning Team Notes: The term "transferred works" generally refers to irrigation project features (e.g., canals, pumping plants, etc.) that have been turned over to the Districts by Reclamation for ongoing operation and maintenance. Reclamation still retains ownership and overall responsibility for management, especially related to compliance with Federal regulations (see I-6); however, the Districts assume primary responsibility for facility operation and maintenance. Transferred works present on RMP parcels will be retained as Project purpose lands/facilities, as discussed under S-1 and S-2, above.

→ S-8 Protect Reclamation Zone at Minidoka Dam:

Planning Team Notes: The Reclamation Zone surrounding Minidoka Dam is defined by Reclamation and includes the dam, spillway, associated facilities and all lands needed for operation and maintenance. This zone will certainly be retained in Reclamation ownership; and any decisions regarding other uses within or surrounding the zone will be made to avoid significantly impacting operations or maintenance. Decisions regarding public use within or surrounding the zone will also consider safety and security requirements, as noted under I-21 and I-23.

→ S-9 Tracts needed for surface disposal of drain water (e.g., additional wetlands):

Discussion: The Districts stress that management of drain water will remain a challenge and a need into the foreseeable future. Some RMP lands are currently being used for this purpose and additional lands may be needed. The Districts have provided input to Reclamation in identifying RMP lands that likely will be needed for this Project purpose.

Planning Team Notes: Lands needed for drain water management will be retained in Reclamation ownership and will be managed to protect their value and usefulness for this purpose.

→ S-10 Access to (use of) tracts as borrow pits:

Discussion: Some RMP tracts are being used to extract and/or store sand, gravel, and rock for highway maintenance or other construction use. Agencies involved in these uses include the Irrigation Districts and the county highway departments. Example locations in Minidoka County include: the D-5 drain area, the parcel across from the cemetery, 600 West/3 North, and 1150 West/25 South. These uses should be protected as part of the RMP. For example, in the D-5 drain area, MID has sites currently being used for sand and gravel extraction. Another site in the area is slated for future extraction. The District is concerned that continuing or expanded recreation use of the area will conflict with this use.

→ S-11 Use drain water for farming (increase utilization) to reduce amount of drain water pumped:

Discussion: Clearly, if drain water currently being pumped to created wetlands or other management/disposal locations could be used locally to support farm production, this would represent a more efficient use of water and would save pumping/management/disposal costs. The Districts are working with Reclamation to identify RMP tracts where drain water re-use could be implemented if constraints associated with water rights, contract provisions, and/or limitations on Reclamation's latitude in disposing of land can be resolved.

→ S-12 Water quality protection & improvement along the river:

Discussion: Withdrawn lands along or near the river should be retained for use in water quality protection and/or improvement. Examples include the lands near D-5 and F Drains and parcel 1024-2-W. For example, the Districts want to construct a containment area for drain water on parcel 1024-2-W; this containment would protect the river in case of hazardous materials being introduced upstream.

→ S-13 Potential use of tracts for relocating well installations (i.e., to improve/restore production volume and quality): (See S-4 through S-6.)

→ S-14 Do we consider fish & wildlife and recreation as Project purposes?:

Planning Team Notes: Yes, Reclamation has specific authority to manage Project lands and water areas for fish & wildlife and recreation enhancement (see S-2). However, AHWG members discussing this question stressed that these Project purposes should not supercede irrigation or agriculture and Reclamation must have a non-Federal, public entity managing partner that can cost-share recreation development or fish & wildlife enhancement projects (see I-29).

→ S-15 Review prior relinquishment decisions:

Planning Team Notes: Withdrawn lands that were previously submitted by Reclamation for relinquishment back to BLM have been included for reconsideration/confirmation in conjunction with this RMP process (see also I-3).

→ S-16 Specific parcel reference: "925-gw--retain land in Reclamation--no change in use":

Planning Team Notes: The parcel referenced in this statement is probably meant to read "925-9-W". This is a parcel along the river. While all reasonable alternatives must be considered, it is unlikely that the basic use of this parcel will change significantly as part of the RMP (i.e., due to the focus on water quality protection, habitat conservation, and potential for public access associated with parcels bordering the river).

→ S-17 Specific parcel reference: "925-1-W--what will happen to this parcel?":

Planning Team Notes: This parcel reference covers the State Park at Lake Walcott. No change in land status or use is expected here.

Lands Not Needed for Project Purposes—Interim Management

→ S-18 Dispose of lands not needed--back on the tax rolls, rather than relinquish to BLM:

Discussion: This issue statement is interpreted broadly herein to identify the desire by some members of the public to convert RMP lands not needed for Project purposes into some form of economically productive use, as discussed above under O-3.

Planning Team Notes: Annually, under the authority of 31 U.S.C.A. 6901-6906, the Secretary of the Interior makes a payment to each unit of general local government called Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT). This is paid to the county in which certain Federal lands are located (lands administered by BLM, Reclamation, and others). The local government may use the payment for any governmental purpose. The payments are based on a formula, which, with minor exception, results in a figure unrelated to what the taxes would be if the land were actually on the tax rolls. It is difficult to

determine how much the taxing authority is "losing" however, because the taxing authority also incur (permanently) less cost (i.e., no need to provide the increased schools, police and fire protection, etc., which would accompany residential subdivisions or other private development on the land).

→ S-19 Keep all lands in Reclamation jurisdiction to prevent development:

Planning Team Notes: This is another public perception, representing a counterpoint to that expressed in S-18. Such a perception could be very valid for some lands, especially those adjacent to the river. However, like many opinions and options discussed herein, RMP parcels are being considered on a case-by-case basis to explore the potential validity of this viewpoint.

→ S-20 Keep all lands in Reclamation jurisdiction--do not relinquish to BLM:

Planning Team Notes: The specific motivation for this statement is not clear. It could be that some members of the public simply consider Reclamation the agency best able to manage these lands; or, it may be that the statement is motivated by the sentiment expressed in S-19 (i.e., by keeping the lands in Reclamation jurisdiction and designating them as habitat or other open space use, the potential for BLM to release the land for some form of development in the future would be eliminated). In any case, Reclamation is required by law to relinquish withdrawn lands no longer needed for Project purposes to BLM. BLM is also required to follow Federal regulations to protect natural and cultural resources as public lands.

→ S-21 Allow exchanges/sales to "square up" farm units:

Discussion: There are several examples in the RMP study area where farm operations could be made more efficient and productive by gaining access to all or part of an adjacent Reclamation parcel (e.g., to fully implement a center pivot irrigation system or otherwise square-up farm units; reference parcel 924-4-W). The Districts and affected landowners would like flexibility in obtaining access to Reclamation lands in such cases through leasing, land exchanges, or land sales.

AHWG members also asked whether Reclamation would have requirements for habitat benefits or other "concessions" on the part of farmers who lease or buy RMP lands to square-up their farm units. Reclamation representatives responded that in the case of a lease, cooperative efforts to provide habitat benefits, protect water quality or promote other environmental values would likely be required as part of the lease terms. In the case of a land sale, no such requirements would apply.

Planning Team Notes: As noted in O-4, all of these lands would be subject to water rights, land classification, and contract provisions between Reclamation and the Districts. Proposals for "squaring up" or similar adjustments, and associated requirements will need to be reviewed on a specific, case-by-case basis.

→ S-22 Give preference to adjoining owners in sales or exchanges:

Planning Team Notes: This issue/request refers primarily to the situation discussed under S-21. However, it is usually not within Reclamation's authority to provide preference in these instances.

→ S-23 Sale of small tracts as a means of resolving current encroachment: (See B-5.)

→ S-24 Requirements and process if interested in acquiring a parcel from Reclamation:

Planning Team Notes: The process currently in place requires direct consultation with Reclamation land specialists in Burley. Each request is assessed on a case-by-case basis. The RMP could include some basic information needed in this process.

Land Use & Resource Management

Agriculture & Grazing Leases

→ **A-1 Retain & expand agriculture leasing on Reclamation lands. This use represents: A-2 Important revenue for A&B through fees for drain water use; A-3 Productive use of drain water that would otherwise need to be disposed of/managed; and A-4 More land productive within the county:**

Discussion: As noted in several other issue discussions, the Districts and some members of the public stress that the RMP should promote agriculture and economic benefits to the region. Issue statements A-1 and A-4 identify agricultural leasing as one method of achieving these objectives. Issue statements A-3 and A-4 identify specific benefits to the Districts (and the region) from agricultural use of RMP lands. Of these, the Districts note that A-3 is the primary value of using RMP lands for agriculture; A-2 is a secondary benefit. Using drain water for irrigation is a more efficient and less costly method of managing this water (i.e., offering economic benefits in general and avoiding more expensive drain water management solutions such as pumping and wetland creation).

→ **A-5 Re-issue grazing leases; A-6 Grazing can be compatible with wildlife and land management needs; A-7 Allow longer lease periods--so lessee investment can be spread out; and A-8 Use grazing to control weeds & fire hazard:**

Discussion: Issue statements A-5 through A-8 reflect a strong interest in resuming leasing for grazing on RMP lands, and identify ways that leasing can be more economically viable for lessees while remaining compatible with other management objectives. The term "strong interest" is used because a significant number of those attending the first RMP public meeting expressed the desire to resume the grazing lease program.

AHWG members discussing these issue statements agree that grazing can help with fire and weed control, and may be compatible with some wildlife values. However, more investigation is needed to define the levels to which grazing can be compatible with other management needs or objectives in this RMP (e.g., wildlife). In any case, if grazing is permitted, lease terms specifying an appropriate intensity and schedule must be defined and enforced to ensure that long-term damage to resources is avoided.

AHWG members also suggest that, at least, grazing could be considered as an interim use on parcels slated for future drain water management or agriculture leases. Grazing also may be an appropriate use on lands identified for relinquishment.

Planning Team Notes: As of 1996, and with the exception of two grazing leases, Reclamation ceased renewing grazing leases or issuing new ones for RMP lands pending the current comprehensive RMP effort. One intent of the RMP is to determine if, and to what extent, grazing leases may again be issued. It should be noted that it is Reclamation policy not to provide a water source for grazing.

→ **A-9 Specific parcel reference: "Farm of parcel 825-4-W":**

Discussion: AHWG members discussing this reference believe that the parcel in question was once leased for grazing, and perhaps the reference identifies a current interest in an agricultural lease. No further insight into the reference is available at present.

Planning Team Note: This parcel was under a grazing lease for many years, until 1995.

→ A-10 Enforcement/monitoring of lease terms (lease terms have not been honored in some cases):

Discussion: If agriculture and/or grazing leases are re-issued following adoption of the RMP, there must be a clear and feasible program for monitoring and enforcing lease terms. Examples of this need to include: [1] compliance with provisions for wildlife benefits (as applicable); [2] land restoration if/when an agriculture lease is terminated by either party; [3] compliance with grazing intensity limitations; and [4] land restoration in cases of damage causes by agriculture or grazing activity.

Planning Team Notes: Reclamation policy requires a Grazing Plan to include [1] a specific and set number of animal unit months (AUMs) of available forage upon which the lease and user fee is determined; [2] a prescribed season of use, avoiding situations where year-long use occur;, [3] strict prohibition against supplemental feeding on native ranges and that all salting be a minimum distance of 500 feet away form shorelines, streams, wetlands, riparian areas, etc;, [4] a pasture rotation schedule where applicable; and [5] a requirement that the lessee submits an "actual use report" detailing the on/off dates and numbers of livestock at the conclusion of each use period or grazing season.

Natural & Cultural Resources

→ N-1 Provide good inventory of resources on these tracts (i.e., vegetation & wildlife):

Planning Team Notes: Aerial photography, IDFG data, and other existing sources, along with limited field confirmation, are being used to assemble natural resources data for all RMP lands. The emphasis is on vegetation, size, and location characteristics and conditions as the primary indicator of wildlife values. These data will be the foundation for assessing overall resource conditions and values and making decisions related to future land status, potentially compatible uses, and use restrictions (e.g., public access, grazing, etc.).

→ N-2 Need to consider habitat in decisions—reassess conditions & needs; N-3 Role of these tracts in regional habitat patterns; and N-4 Identify parcels with high resource value and restrict other (i.e., incompatible) uses:

Discussion: Habitat conditions and values must be a basic consideration in making RMP decisions on future land use. Habitat resources should be assessed at two scales: [1] the individual resources and local context of each parcel; and [2] the existing and potential role of the tracts in regional habitat patterns. At both scales, key considerations should include vegetation characteristics and condition, tract size, location relative to other nearby habitat, presence or potential for sensitive or protected species, and seasonal sensitivities (e.g., nesting/breeding seasons). At the regional scale, such factors as the role in maintaining wildlife corridors and promoting regional diversity (both in habitat type and geographic distribution) will also become important.

Planning Team Notes: For interim or long term management protected or unique habitats such as wetlands should be preserved as much as feasible (see also N-6). As a general rule, however, habitat of high value locally or regionally should also be protected. Other uses of such lands should be managed to allow only activities that are compatible with this objective. Compatible use management can range from completely eliminating damaging uses to seasonal variations on allowed uses and/or use locations.

→ N-5 Habitat restoration/enhancement potential (e.g., pheasants & other wildlife):

Discussion: Key examples of the need for/desirability of habitat restoration include: areas that have recently burned; areas that have been damaged by over-use or are infested with weeds; and lands that were once farmed, either under lease or trespass. Each of these conditions exist on RMP tracts; and affected lands should be restored to native vegetation to the extent feasible, both to enhance habitat value and prevent the spread of weeds or other non-native species. Habitat restoration, however, is both difficult and expensive.

Planning Team Notes: Especially given the cost and difficulty of habitat restorations, the RMP will need to define priorities for restoration, seek adequate funding to accomplish these priorities, and determine which agency, combination of agencies, or public/private partnerships would be most effective in achieving success.

→ N-6 Federally protected species & State species of concern:

Discussion: Species and habitats protected by Federal regulation, legislation, or Executive Order should be preserved (and restored, if feasible) as a high priority in the RMP. Species of Concern at the State level should also receive high priority.

Planning Team Notes: Resources in these categories are being identified as part of the RMP inventory process. Protection of these resources is included as a priority objective in Reclamation's RMPs.

→ N-7 Wetlands—retain existing, opportunities to expand & create new:

Discussion: Existing wetlands (including those created as part of drain water management) should be protected in the RMP. Opportunities for new wetlands should also be explored, and priority should be assigned to protecting and retaining lands that offer high potential for wetland creation (especially in support of continuing drain water management needs). Funding for wetland creation and maintenance can be derived from a number of sources, including: the Districts and Reclamation for wetlands associated with drain water management and other Reclamation cost share programs (i.e., Reclamation can fund 75% of fish and wildlife projects such as wetlands if a non-Federal public entity managing partner is available to provide a 25% cost-share).

→ N-8 IDFG--Review current agreements; explore potential for new water quality & habitat initiatives/agreements:

Planning Team Notes: Several of the RMP tracts are covered by long-standing agreements that assign habitat management responsibility to IDFG. Conditions have changed significantly in a number of ways since these agreements were put in place. Changes have occurred in terms of both: [1] habitat conditions and values on many of the subject tracts (e.g., fire or other disturbance); and [2] IDFG agency priorities and/or personnel/funding resources available to manage these lands. The RMP is an opportunity to cooperatively review these old agreements and renew, revise, or terminate them, as appropriate. As part of this review, focus may be redirected to different lands/resources or new types of cooperative management initiatives, and new agreements may be desirable. In any case, both Reclamation and IDFG are interested in revitalizing their cooperative relationships as part of the RMP effort. Certainly, it will be appropriate to revisit and confirm priorities and adjust agreements accordingly. There also may be new opportunities for joint funding of habitat improvement or management.

→ **N-9 Explore opportunities with farmers for cooperative wildlife habitat/farming projects:**

Planning Team Notes: Reclamation currently has one grazing lease on a study area parcel that allows the lessee to do habitat improvements (i.e., re-seed burned areas) in lieu of paying grazing fees. Other agreements could be possible, but there are several conditions that would have to be met, dependent on the parcel. One example is that Project water can only be provided to the lands and purposes authorized under the contract and Project authorizations. Based on this, each situation will need to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. It should also be noted it is Reclamation policy not to provide a water source for grazing.

→ **N-10 Impacts on vegetation & wildlife from off-road vehicle (ORV) use, fire, weeds, dumping, and trespass**: (See N-2 through N-7.)

Planning Team Notes: Impacts of land use and management alternatives on vegetation and wildlife resources will be a key consideration in defining the preferred alternative for the RMP. Impacts can occur from either action (e.g., allowing certain types of use) or inaction (i.e., failing to adequately address existing sources of impact). Each of these perspectives will be reviewed in detail as part of the NEPA Environmental Assessment on the RMP.

→ **N-11 Protect Record Tree and Bishops Hole area (possibly close to vehicular traffic or otherwise restrict use):** (See R-6.)

→ **N-12 Rehabilitate burned areas:** (See N-5.)

→ **N-13 Remove weeds and re-establish native vegetation and grasses:** (See N-5.)

→ **N-14 Grazing as a benefit in weed control:**

Planning Team Notes: Grazing can be used as a tool in weed control (e.g., sheep or goats on leafy spurge & star thistle). However, the potential benefits of grazing can be outweighed by its impacts if not managed properly from the standpoints of intensity, season, and location. Each proposal for grazing must be assessed on a case-by-case basis to determine the best balance between potential benefits vs. impacts and costs. (See also A-8.)

→ **N-15 Mosquito problem wherever wetlands exist:**

Discussion: On RMP lands, mosquitoes can be an issue at wetland locations, including constructed wetlands and around drain wells. Public concern for mosquito control has risen recently due to the spread of the West Nile virus. At existing wetlands, as well as planned or proposed new wetlands, mosquito control measures may be needed, especially at locations near populated areas. .

Planning Team Note: Relevant to issues N-15 through N-17 is the subject of spraying for insect control. Reclamation has received requests for spraying at some locations. As noted in N-21, below, use of chemicals on Reclamation land is both generally discouraged and specifically regulated by federal laws and guidelines. Spraying for insect control is significantly constrained near drain wells and at wetlands due to water quality concerns. Reclamation is researching various options, especially biological control techniques. Spraying would only be considered as a last resort, and only in limited circumstances.

→ N-16 Camp Hawley – weed & mosquito problems:

Planning Team Notes: Issues at Camp Hawley will be addressed to the extent feasible as part of RMP actions addressing weed and insect control. (See N-5 and N-15.)

→ N-17 Coordinate efforts for insect control (e.g., BLM/Reclamation):

Planning Team Notes: Necessary coordination in this and other management actions will be part of RMP implementation.

→ N-18 Retain specific parcels as open space (e.g., 925-9-W):

Planning Team Notes: It is unlikely that any of the RMP parcels would be retained solely as public open space, unless it is for the purpose of protecting natural or cultural resources.

→ N-19 Water quality management & protection:

Planning Team Notes: The role of some RMP lands in addressing water quality management and protection challenges (i.e., drain water management and the retiring of injection wells) has been discussed above (see S-4 and S-9). Also, the importance of helping to protect water quality in the river through proper management of river-side parcels is noted in S-12. Beyond these perspectives, the RMP will need to consider any significant potential for water quality impact that could accompany management actions. Examples include any proposed use of chemicals for weed or insect control.

→ N-20 Hold possible sites for recharge of aquifer (e.g., parcel north of Minidoka Dam):

Planning Team Notes: This issue falls outside the scope of the RMP. It will be considered under the separate process Reclamation is conducting, with input from the Districts, on what lands are needed for Project purposes.

→ N-21 Responsibility for application of herbicides and pesticides (i.e., Oust application concerns):

Discussion: Federal and State laws govern use of herbicides and pesticide on RMP lands. Specifically related to Oust, neither Reclamation, the Districts, nor the Counties are using (or plan to use) this product on RMP lands.

Planning Team Notes: As a rule, use of chemicals is discouraged in Reclamation's RMPs, in favor of integrated pest management strategies, and any use of chemicals is done in compliance with applicable Federal regulations and guidelines.

→ N-22 Comply with Federal laws related to Tribes and cultural resources (e.g., NAGPRA); N-23 Need to protect historic cultural sites (e.g., Oregon Trail); and N-24 Need to protect archaeological resources, Indian Trust Assets, etc.:

Planning Team Notes: All of these concerns will be addressed in compliance with applicable Federal legislation, regulations, and Executive Orders. It should be noted that among these are the requirements to protect significant historic cultural sites and archaeological resources.

Recreation

→ R-1 Provide more recreation opportunities:

Discussion: This comment is very general and self-explanatory. More specific perspectives on recreational opportunities, both type and location, are provided in the discussions below.

→ R-2 Promote economic benefits through recreation:

Discussion: From the standpoint of local and regional economic well-being, the RMP should seek to maximize recreational access/opportunities, consistent with other resource needs. Key areas of interest in this regard include (many of which are discussed in greater detail in the paragraphs that follow):

- Resource education/interpretation opportunities and facilities (both natural and cultural resources—see R-3 and R-4);
- Expanding, improving, and/or providing new facilities at the State Park (see R-5);
- Balancing recreation with resource protection at the Bishop's Hole area (see R-6);
- Optimizing use of unique features such as the Cinder Pit (see R-7);
- Providing increased/improved access to the river, including day use, boating activities, and fishing opportunities (see R-8 and R-11);
- Developing recreational trails where feasible and desirable (see R-9 and R-10);
- Continuing and improving opportunities for hunting and shooting (see R-7, R-13 and R-14); and
- Providing additional camping areas.

→ R-3 Wildlife viewing, nature interpretation/education opportunities:

Discussion: Many opportunities exist on RMP lands for providing natural resource interpretation/education, either directly or by providing access to these opportunities.

The Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) around Lake Walcott and adjacent to Lake Walcott State Park offers the best opportunity in this regard, and Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) currently conduct an education/interpretation program focused on this resource (i.e., roughly 4,000 students as well as the general public participate each year). As noted in R-5, below, an education and interpretive center has been suggested for the State park. USFWS and the State Park are currently developing an accessible path connecting the NWR and Lake Walcott State Park.

Other significant opportunities include the wetland projects in the study area, parcels along the river, the area below Minidoka Dam, including the spillway and the Bishop's Hole/Record Tree area.

Planning Team Notes: For any of these opportunities, appropriate access should be provided (including compliance with Federal accessibility standards), basic signage would be necessary, and additional interpretive signage and/or information displays would be desirable. Obtaining adequate funding for development, operation, and maintenance of access and facilities is a primary challenge. The potential availability of State or Federal grants should be explored (e.g., through IDPR, IDFG, or USFWS). Reclamation can provide some funding, but only if an appropriate non-Federal managing public entity can serve as a cost-share partner (see I-29).

→ R-4 Cultural resource interpretation/education opportunities:

Discussion: Several facets of local/regional history and pre-history offer opportunities for interpretation and education. These include: Minidoka Dam and the Minidoka Project, the Oregon Trail, traditional tribal uses and activities, WWII-related sites/activities, and others. Specific concepts

suggested to date for developing these opportunities include: [1] the interpretive/educational center and trails suggested for the State Park/National Wildlife Refuge, and [2] a river historical tour focusing on Minidoka Dam and other features and perhaps operated by a concessionaire. At the State Park/National Wildlife Refuge, the USFWS and IDPR are currently working to develop interpretive facilities and programs that reflect the area's rich history. Regarding the river tour concept, the RMP could help make such an opportunity feasible by allowing for tour put-in/take-out locations along the river.

Planning Team Notes: In general, as with natural resource-related opportunities discussed above, funding for development, operation and maintenance of trails, signage, and/or information displays would be a challenge in developing these opportunities.

→ R-5 Lake Walcott State Park—expansion potential; new uses:

Discussion: The popularity of Lake Walcott State Park is growing; IDPR indicates that usage levels have increased 50% each year for the past four years. The RMP should reflect support for the park and desirable initiatives of the IDPR, including necessary or desirable expansions or new facilities. Concepts for improvement and/or expansion at the park include: [1] additional trail development, especially linking into the NWR and providing access to cultural/historic resources such as the dam area and nearby segments of the Oregon Trail; [2] an interpretive/educational center focusing on both fish and wildlife (especially the National Wildlife Refuge) and cultural/historic resources; [3] expansion of camping facilities: and [4] provision of cabins.

Also worthy of consideration is the suggestion that IDPR either assist in managing or assume full management responsibility for the Bishop's Hole/Record Tree area and/or the parcels near the Park where informal, unauthorized camping is occurring (e.g., parcel 925-2-W). Regarding the Bishop's Hole area, IDPR personnel could provide management and oversight if authorized to do so and provided with a means of getting to the area by boat. Regarding the informal, ad hoc camping locations, IDPR personnel already provide informal oversight and maintenance at some of these sites to promote resource conservation and stewardship.

Planning Team Notes: Lake Walcott State Park is unique among RMP parcels, being the only designated and developed recreation site. The park is expected to remain a central focus for recreation facilities in the RMP. Also, as with any designated recreation site on Reclamation land, accessibility of facilities (consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act [ADA]) will be a continuing responsibility. To date, accessibility improvements at the park have included: 3 picnic shelters (out of a total of 5), 2 showers (out of a total of 4), all restrooms (2 toilet stalls in each [one men's, one women's] are accessible), 1 parking space in each of the 11 parking areas, and all RV sites (tent sites are not accessible).

→ R-6 Bishop's Hole/Record Tree area—opportunities for trails to fishing areas, and other attractions vs. carrying capacity issues & impacts from overuse:

Discussion: The Bishop's Hole/Record Tree area is very popular for fishing access, swimming, and other day use activities, and is used for ad hoc camping. It is also the put-in point for rental of paddleboats/kayaks under permit from Reclamation (season of use is from Memorial Day through Labor Day).

The area is also the location of significant and sensitive vegetation and wildlife resources, including a large stand of riparian woodland. For many decades, the "Record Tree" (the largest Eastern cottonwood in the United States) was a natural and historic feature of the site that was highly valued by many in the region. However, in early August, 2002, the Record Tree suffered major damage, with most of the canopy breaking away from the trunk. The damage was so severe it was determined

not possible to save the tree. Due to safety concerns the major limbs were taken down to prevent someone being injured from a falling branch.

Recreational use levels and locations within the area, combined with the absence of any formal management, are causing substantial resource damage. If unchecked, this damage will continue to destroy both the natural resource and recreational values of the site. In fact, ad hoc camping, parking and vandalism may have contributed to the recent collapse of the Record Tree, and public commentary on the events surrounding the tree has raised public awareness of the need to better manage use and control over-use of the Bishop's Hole area.

Planning Team Notes: The RMP must develop a viable balance between recreation and resource conservation/protection for this area. The popularity of and demand for access to the area is expected to remain high and to grow. In fact, visitation to the area will probably increase markedly as a result of restrictions on fishing access at the dam (see R-11). Potential actions identified to date for addressing these issues include:

- Information and regulatory signage;
- Determination of appropriate protection measures for the Record Tree if it survives the recent damage;
- More frequent sheriff's patrols or increased enforcement from other agencies such as IDPR or USFWS (see I-16 through I-18);
- On-site supervision; and
- Stringent management and control of vehicular access by either: [1] formalizing vehicular circulation and parking at the site itself, or [2] restricting vehicle access at the site, providing parking outside the area, and requiring users to walk in.

→ R-7 Cinder Pit—control recreation uses (especially vehicles and shooting vs. adjoining land uses):

Discussion: The Cinder Pit site is a unique geological feature in the region. Historically, the site has been used for mining of cinder material; but the most prevalent public uses have been, and continue to be, shooting/target practice, ORV use, hiking and hunting. Significant littering and dumping have occurred on the parcel; damage from ORV use is evident; and lead contamination and hazardous materials are also a concern. Neighboring residents are concerned about impacts from these uses, including safety hazards from shooting, vehicle damage, and vehicle trespass.

Considerable interest has been expressed in continuing to allow shooting on this parcel, and the site has been suggested as a good location for a formal shooting range (see R-13). The Cinder Pit feature itself offers geological interpretation/education potential, and the parcel provides good hiking opportunities.

Planning Team Notes: The RMP will need to explore the appropriateness and feasibility of these and other existing and potential uses for the parcel; and must balance public use with resource protection/conservation and public safety needs. Key challenges in these regards include: [1] significant regulatory constraints and permit requirements that will apply to any proposal for a shooting range or for continued shooting activity in general (e.g., current Reclamation policy is to actively discourage and/or eliminate such uses unless there is a managing entity who is willing and able to both assume liability for the activity and follow very stringent and costly permit requirements. Included in these is addressing the concerns regarding lead contamination); [2] the long-standing prohibition of ORV use on all Reclamation land (see R-16); and [3] satisfactory resolution of existing and potential conflicts with neighboring land uses. Also important will be better management of site resources, including minimizing vehicular damage in general and controlling/eliminating litter and dumping.

→ **R-8 Public access to the river—protect in light of riverside development; develop/improve in specific areas (e.g., at Montgomery Bridge on Baseline, east of Rupert):**

Discussion: As indicated in these issue statements, providing opportunities for public access to the river is a concern noted by many members of the public. The Montgomery Bridge parcel (925-9-W) is noted as one that offers good river access. Other riverside parcels may offer general public day use and/or trail opportunities or may be appropriate for staging the type of river activities currently permitted at the Bishop's Hole site (i.e., paddleboat/kayak trips). Another potential use of riverside parcels could be group activities such as Boy Scout events, some of which could take peak period pressure off of the State Park. In any case, there is strong interest in keeping areas/parcels open to the public where river access is good and the land is under Reclamation jurisdiction.

→ **R-9 Potential for trail development (e.g., State Park, dam, wetlands, North Side Canal); and R-10 Types of feasible trail uses (e.g., hiking, bicycle, equestrian):**

Discussion: The RMP should explore and pursue feasible opportunities for recreational trails. The potential for interpretive trails focused on natural and cultural resources, as well as IDPR plans for additional trail development, have been noted in prior discussions. Other opportunities may exist along project features or on parcels bordering the river. Specific parcels suggested as offering trail potential include 825-8-W and 1021-5-W. As potential trails are suggested and considered, the issue of multiple use vs. use-specific facilities will need to be addressed. It is often difficult to combine uses on trails, especially biking and equestrian, due to user conflicts and differing resource needs. Thus, providing appropriate and equitable opportunities can be a challenge. Also, it will be important to provide management oversight (e.g., keeping vehicles such as ORVs off the trails) and maintenance.

Planning Team Notes: It should be clarified that any trail development outside of Lake Walcott State Park would need to have a non-Federal public entity as a managing partner to cost share (50/50) any recreational development.

→ **R-11 Fishing below the dam--balance security issues with recreation; don't shut people out unnecessarily:**

Discussion: The area immediately below Minidoka Dam is a very popular fishing location. Increased security concerns (as discussed under I-23), as well as long-standing concerns for public safety, have resulted in interim steps to restrict public access to this area. Many members of the public want to see fishing access to the dam restored, and are concerned that Reclamation's interim restrictions may be too severe and may become unnecessarily permanent. There is also concern that these restrictions will displace users to other areas, particularly Bishop's Hole, where impacts from over-use are already evident.

Planning Team Notes: Reclamation's ongoing analysis of long-term security requirements will define to what extent these restrictions must remain in effect. Recreational access to the area will not be limited or foreclosed arbitrarily, and it is understood that restricting fishing access at the dam will increase use pressure at areas downstream, such as Bishop's Hole. Security closure determinations are separate and outside the purview of the RMP, however, the RMP will look at other opportunities to accommodate these recreational uses, as necessary.

→ R-12 Provide equipment drop-off area near dam:

Planning Team Notes: AHWG members discussing recreation issues and opportunities were not able to provide insight on this request/statement. Clarification may be gained by further discussion. It is possible that the statement refers to providing a location where people fishing near the dam can stage their activities. If this is the case, then such an accommodation should be considered as the RMP defines allowable use and necessary restrictions on activities at/near the dam (see R-11 and I-23).

→ R-13 Provide a shooting range for the area (i.e., permanent, multi-use, gun clubs):

Discussion: At least two locations, F-Drain (parcel 824-8-W) and Cinder Pit (parcel 1022-5-W) (see R-7), are currently popular for shooting activities (i.e., target practice, sighting-in guns, etc. as opposed to general hunting). Considerable public interest has been expressed in allowing this recreational use to continue, at appropriate locations on RMP lands. This is especially true given the ever-decreasing number of places in the region where this activity is allowed. One suggestion, aimed at both continuing to accommodate shooting and providing better safety and oversight, is to establish a formal shooting range on one or more RMP parcels. It was noted that the BLM has permitted a shooting range on its land near Jerome, with the facility/activity managed by a local shooting club.

Planning Team Notes: Current Reclamation policy is to actively discourage and/or eliminate such uses unless there is a managing entity that is willing and able to assume liability for the activity and follow very stringent permit requirements. Included in these is addressing the concerns regarding lead contamination.

→ R-14 Hunting access:

Discussion: Hunting for upland game birds and waterfowl is a popular activity on many RMP parcels, as well as on other lands in the region. Hunting, as opposed to concentrated shooting uses such as target practice, is generally allowed on Reclamation land and is regulated by the State. Those who participate in this activity would like to ensure that the RMP provides for continuing and improved access for hunting on RMP lands. Important aspects of this concern include:

- Existing access for hunting should be protected as much as possible;
- Some RMP lands are surrounded by private land, with no or very limited public roadway or trail access; if feasible, access to these lands should be provided through acquisition of easements; and
- Trespass and unauthorized hunting on private land is a concern, due in part to the absence of clear public/private land boundary definition. Better signage or other boundary demarcation techniques and increased enforcement are needed in at least some areas to mitigate this concern.

Planning Team Notes: If easements for access were to be acquired, there would need to be a Project benefit demonstrated. Lands and interests in lands are acquired for Project purposes only with recreation, fish and wildlife enhancements being an acceptable secondary use of those lands/interests in lands.

→ R-15 Camping—managing current ad hoc use; potential for allowing/providing camping:

Discussion: Outside of the State Park, no developed or authorized camping areas are designated on RMP lands. However, ad hoc camping does occur on some parcels near the State Park, at Bishop's Hole, and other locations along the river. At some of these locations near the State Park, IDPR informally provides some supervision and maintenance, purely as means of protecting the resource base.

Planning Team Notes: The primary focus for camping in the RMP study area is expected to remain on the State Park, and it is unlikely that camping/campgrounds will be an appropriate use on most RMP parcels (i.e., because of land use compatibility issues, Project facilities or requirement, etc.). However, current locations where ad hoc camping occurs will be reviewed; other sites with camping potential may be identified through the resource inventory or public involvement efforts, and an assessment will be made of the need for (and availability of resources to sustain) camping at one or more of these locations. If a need exists and camping is proposed for lands outside of the State Park, Reclamation will need a non-Federal, public entity managing partner to cost-share any recreation development (see I-29). For lands reasonably near the State Park, this partner could be IDPR. Other potential partners include the Counties or IDFG, or it may be possible for recreation facilities to be developed through a concession agreement, per Reclamation's existing concession policy. In any case, camping is likely to be limited to parcels that may be designated for this use through the above-described process.

Discussion: The Irrigation Districts suggest that establishing one or more fee-based campgrounds or other recreation sites on RMP lands should be considered as a potential revenue source to help support the Minidoka Project. Such facilities could be run by a private concessionaire.

Planning Team Notes: As discussed above, Reclamation's authority to develop sites for recreation requires that it have a non-Federal managing partner willing to share the development costs on a 50/50 basis and be responsible for all operation and maintenance. The revenues generated from such sites can be used by the managing entity to offset development, operation and maintenance, and administrative costs associated with the recreation site. Revenues in excess of those costs must be deposited in accordance with Reclamation law.

→ R-16 ORVs —managing unauthorized use (Reclamation lands closed unless designated open); R-17 ORV use on some lands is desired (e.g., parcel 923-4-W); and R-18 Designate trails and roads (including ORV) in some parcels to direct use and avoid damage in other areas:

Discussion: ORV use is occurring on many of the RMP parcels. In some cases, resource damage from this use is noticeable and severe. The fact that Reclamation land in general is closed to ORV use (see Planning Team Notes) is not known by many members of the public. Some members of the public want to see these lands open to ORV use, particularly parcels popular for hunting. One suggested solution is open selected areas to help meet public demand and focus the use away from more sensitive lands. If this option were pursued, the lands to be opened could be identified in consultation with the local chambers of commerce or other interest groups

Planning Team Notes: ORV use is formally prohibited on all Reclamation land nationwide unless specifically opened (see Attachment A for a full description of the regulations governing ORV use on Reclamation lands). None of the Reclamation land under study for the RMP has been opened for this use.

Enforcement of this restriction is a challenge for several inter-related reasons:

- The general public is likely unaware for the most part that Reclamation land is closed to ORV use; this restriction has not been widely publicized and on-the-ground signage identifying the restriction is generally absent;
- Reclamation land in the study area is intermixed with BLM land. In contrast to Reclamation land, BLM land is open to ORV use unless specifically closed, and all the BLM land in the area is open to this use. The fact that BLM land is open is more widely known to the general public; and

- The boundaries between Reclamation, BLM, and private land are not marked in most areas. Thus, even if the distinctions between agency regulations were widely know, it is difficult for the public to distinguish where ORV use is allowed vs. prohibited.

Due to these factors, if the RMP confirms that Reclamation's prohibition on ORV use will remain in effect and the intent will be to enforce this restriction, action will be needed to inform the public. In some cases, property boundary demarcation may be necessary.

Regarding the suggestion that some RMP lands be opened to ORV use on a selective basis, Reclamation is very hesitant to consider this approach, and would only do so only on a very limited basis if there were a compelling reason. Reclamation does not want to set a broad precedent for opening lands to ORV use. These are Project lands, withdrawn from general public use for a specific public purpose (the Minidoka Project), and Reclamation has limited means of enforcing laws/regulations related to misuse, resource degradation, etc. In contrast, BLM manages Public lands, which are open to ORV use.

→ R-19 Motorized vehicles on Lake Walcott when it is closed in winter:

Planning Team Notes: Although the water surface of Lake Walcott itself is not part of the RMP, the main boat ramp access to the lake is through the State Park. Motorized vehicles are not allowed on the lake in the winter. The Planning Team will review whether increased supervision of boat access is needed in the State Park or whether this issue is outside of the RMP scope.

→ R-20 Golf course north of Paul:

Planning Team Notes: A portion of parcel 923-3-W was identified for a future golf course as part of the North Side Pumping Division Extension Plan (which was never authorized). The potential relevance of this proposal to the current RMP effort needs to be investigated further as these lands may need to be relinquished to BLM.

Municipal, Industrial, & Commercial Uses

→ M-1 Exchange lands for municipal uses:

Planning Team Notes: The primary examples of interest by local municipalities in using RMP lands are discussed below.

→ M-2 City of Rupert effluent disposal—continuing need (e.g., parcel 824-11-W):

Planning Team Notes: Over the past several years, Rupert has disposed of municipal wastewater by land application on the eastern half of parcel 824-9-W and the northeastern portion of parcel 824-11-W. This activity was conducted under permit from Reclamation. The portion of the permit which covered parcel 824-9-W has expired and was not renewed due to the A&B Irrigation District's need to expand its adjacent drain water management/wetland creation program onto this part of the parcel. Reclamation and the City are currently working together to transfer the land in 824-11-W to the City for their use in the spreading of municipal wastewater (a permit currently exists on this parcel for this use).

→ M-3 Potential need by City of Paul to spread wastewater:

Planning Team Notes: Existing or future needs by the City of Paul to dispose of municipal wastewater via land application have not been defined to date. If the City has a need, discussion should be initiated with Reclamation as soon as possible to define land area requirements and

potential locations. Options for potentially helping to meet City needs can be considered in RMP alternatives, assuming that candidate lands are determined to be needed for Project purposes. If the candidate lands are no longer needed for Project purposes, Reclamation is required to relinquish these lands to BLM. Withdrawn or acquired parcels that are relinquished or transferred to the BLM, can be disposed of by BLM to governmental or nonprofit entities under its authorities, including the Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act.

→ M-4 Status/management of storm drain in North Burley & Heyburn drain:

Planning Team Notes: This issue statement refers to RMP parcels containing drainage canals/corridors that pass through now-developed portions of Burley. The drains have been severely impacted by surrounding urban development. Examples include unauthorized placement of sections into underground conduits and un-permitted routing of storm water runoff from parking lots into the drain system. All of these parcels/facilities are needed for Project purposes. The RMP must review the condition of these lands and facilities, and must address/resolve unauthorized modifications and un-permitted uses.

→ M-5 Blaine County boat ramp at the State Park:

Planning Team Notes: Neither AHWG members nor the Reclamation Planning Team are aware of the motivation for this statement. The State park and associated boat ramp are in Minidoka County. Any proposed extension or significant modification of the existing ramp or addition of a new ramp would need to be coordinated with Reclamation as part of the RMP process.

→ M-6 Treatment/consideration of other requests, such as cemetery expansion:

Planning Team Notes: This comment refers to a request from the Cemetery District to purchase 10 acres of land in the southwest corner of parcel 824-9-W for expansion of the current cemetery. This request, as well as others described herein, illustrates the kind of proposed uses, both public and private, that have been and will continue to be proposed/requested on RMP lands over time. Lands determined to be needed for Project purposes would rarely be available for such uses. The RMP must anticipate that such requests will be made, but certainly cannot anticipate the full range of uses, locations, or other factors that might define individual requests. Given this, the RMP should: [1] articulate a clear process to be followed in applying for, considering, and making determinations regarding them; and [2] clarify relevant policy guidance, regulatory constraints, or other broad limitations that will dictate or influence decision-making (e.g., the limitations on land disposal and leasing authority discussed under I-4). Beyond these general provisions in the RMP, it is expected that decision-making within Reclamation will continue to require a large measure of case-by-case consideration.

Boundary, Compatibility, & Other Land Use Concerns

→ B-1 Boundaries between Reclamation, BLM, and private lands are often unclear; B-2 Boundary identification, particularly important related to agricultural lands & public use; and B-3 Need for boundary signage and/or fencing:

Planning Team Notes: The need for better public information/awareness and on-the-ground boundary demarcation through signage, fencing, or other means is noted under discussions of hunting access (R-14), ORV use (R-16), illegal dumping (B-4), trespass/encroachment issues (B-5 and B-6), and access conflicts (B-8 and B-9). It is clear that full implementation of boundary signage or fencing on all, or even a majority, of RMP lands is not feasible or necessary. The RMP must establish priorities based on specific need and available funding and staff resources.

→ B-4 Illegal dumping on Reclamation land:

Discussion: Dumping of trash, construction debris, old appliances, and equipment and other refuse are a major, growing problem on many RMP parcels. Use of signage, better boundary demarcation, and increased enforcement presence are needed to address this issue.

→ B-5 Trespasses & encroachment on Reclamation land (grazing, agriculture, structures, sprinklers, landscaping):

Planning Team Notes: Encroachments by private parties on Reclamation land are a major issue that must be addressed by Reclamation management and the RMP. Based on available aerial photography and boundary survey data, there appear to be approximately 153 cases of trespass/encroachment on RMP lands. Unauthorized/un-permitted uses include, but are not limited to, irrigated agriculture, grazing, equipment storage, and access roads.

In general, once the encroachments are confirmed by more detailed review of boundary survey data, remedial action will be required of the party or parties conducting the unauthorized activity. This action will most likely include removing the unauthorized use(s) and accomplishing appropriate land restoration/rehabilitation.

It is expected that the RMP will outline Reclamation's objectives and approach related to resolving encroachments/trespass, but that the action(s) most appropriate to each situation will need to be determined on a case-by-case basis.

→ B-6 Impacts on adjacent lands from changes in management/status on Reclamation lands; and B-7 Impacts on residences near the river from recreation use on Reclamation parcels:

Discussion: Compatibility with adjacent/surrounding land uses will be an important consideration for all RMP lands. Perspectives on this concern include:

- Generally avoiding adverse impacts on adjacent farming operations;
- Managing or controlling shooting or other recreation activities on RMP parcels to minimize noise and safety impacts on nearby residents;
- Providing adequate access to RMP lands and activities; and
- Adequately identifying Reclamation land boundaries so that public trespass on private land is reduced or eliminated.

Planning Team Notes: In general, it will be important for management decisions on RMP lands to be made in context with uses and resource values on surrounding lands and in accordance with Reclamation policies, regulations, and applicable laws. RMP decisions should be made to achieve and maintain maximum land use and resource management compatibility.

→ B-8 Access conflicts—getting to Reclamation lands by crossing private lands; and B-9 Access conflicts—getting to private lands by crossing Reclamation or District lands:

Planning Team Notes: Both of these situations exist on or are associated with various RMP parcels. There is particular concern for cases where Reclamation or District lands are being used for access to private parcels. For example, canal banks are used as roads/access to private lands in some areas. Also, the Districts are concerned that the Counties may not be adequately confirming legal access as part of issuing building permits for private parcels adjacent to or surrounded by Reclamation land.

The land ownership, land use, and access analyses being conducted for all RMP parcels will inventory where such concerns exist. Alternatives will be explored to resolve significant concerns or conflicts and provide appropriate access to support RMP land uses and management programs in conjunction with Project purposes. It is expected that solutions will need to be defined on a case-by-case basis, with the range of possible responses including re-routing existing accessways, developing new roads or trails, negotiating easements, closing access at some points, and providing better signage, gates or other access controls (including reinforcing to the public that the canal banks/roads are not public accessways). Consultation with the Counties may also be appropriate to ensure that legal access is confirmed prior to issuing building permits adjacent to RMP lands.

→ B-10 Closure of road on north side of reservoir? (Used for fishing and hunting, etc.):

Planning Team Notes: The road along the north side of the reservoir, (i.e., along the Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge boundary) has not been closed and there are no plans for a closure. This comment most likely refers to the fact that USFWS has found it necessary to lock the gate on an access road branching from the main road into the NWR. Previously, the gate at this location, installed to keep cattle out of the refuge, was not locked, and the public was able to use it to gain access to the refuge. However, users of the area have been leaving the gate open with increasing, and unacceptable, frequency. Therefore, USFWS has now locked this gate to assure its effectiveness in keeping cattle out of the refuge.

RMP Implementation & Administration

Reclamation Responsibilities, Authorities, & Limitations

→ I-1 Limitation on use of lands retained for Project purposes:

Planning Team Notes: The primary limitations on use and management of lands retained for Project purposes stem from: [1] the need to protect and support the Project purpose(s) for which the lands are retained (i.e., irrigation, power production, fish & wildlife, or recreation); [2] Federal laws, regulations and Executive Orders that govern all Federal agencies (e.g., Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, National Historic Preservation Act); and [3] Reclamation-specific authorities and policies (e.g., closure to ORV use, requirements for cost-share with managing public entity partners in any recreation or fish and wildlife improvement project, and elimination of exclusive private use of Reclamation lands). Applicable guidance and/or limitations associated with any of these sources will be explored and reported as a fundamental part of RMP studies, and will guide management decisions.

→ I-2 Lands to be relinquished, disposed, or exchanged; and I-3 Reclamation responsibility to manage until relinquished, disposed, or exchanged:

Planning Team Notes: It is Reclamation's responsibility to manage all RMP parcels, as long as they are under the Agency's jurisdiction, in compliance with applicable Federal laws, regulations, and Executive Orders, and with Reclamation-specific authorities and policies. Just as with lands retained for Project purposes, these requirements can strongly influence decisions on use and management of the parcels until relinquishment, other disposal or exchange is complete.

Since most of the parcels under study are withdrawn and would be relinquished back to BLM if not needed for Project purposes, it is relevant to note that the relinquishment process can take a long time to complete. For example, approximately five of the parcels included in this RMP were submitted for relinquishment to BLM in the 1980s and 1990s. To date, the process has not been completed, and Reclamation's decision to relinquish these parcels is currently being reviewed and confirmed. Given

the length of time that the relinquishment process can take, it is clear that the RMP must include an appropriate management program, spanning the time horizon of the RMP, for all withdrawn lands, even if they are scheduled to be relinquished.

Another aspect of Reclamation's responsibility related to parcels being considered for relinquishment, other disposal, or exchange is the need to assess the potential uses of/impacts on the lands as a result of a proposed change in jurisdiction or ownership. This assessment will be a National Environmental Policy Act process, separate from the RMP.

→ I-4 Limitations on Reclamation disposal/exchange flexibility:

Planning Team Notes: Refer to Attachment B (Appendix D in this RMP), Authorities & Methods for Disposing of Minidoka North Side Land, for a complete description and explanation of applicable laws, regulations and authorities.

→ I-5 Next steps/recourse if everyone agrees on how the lands should be managed but the actions are outside Reclamation authorities?:

Planning Team Notes: The most direct answer to this question is: A change or exception to Reclamation authorities must be made in Washington DC, and most often requires Congressional authorization. As a practical matter, all decisions made as part of this RMP will remain consistent with established Reclamation authorities, policies, contracts, and other Federal guidance.

→ I-6 Transferred works—what are Reclamation's responsibilities?:

Planning Team Notes: The Irrigation Districts are responsible for operation and maintenance of transferred works and project facilities. Reclamation retains ownership of the land and facilities. Because of this, Reclamation is responsible for compliance with applicable Federal laws, regulations, and Executive Orders as well as with Reclamation-specific authorities and policies. Reclamation also remains liable for uses and activities occurring on the land.

→ I-7 Concern with where decision making resides – in Reclamation office locally or in DC (i.e., sale or exchange of lands):

Planning Team Notes: If consistent with Reclamation authorities and policies, and in compliance with other Federal guidance, land management and status decisions are made locally, by Reclamation personnel in the Burley office. Land sales or exchanges, however, are subject to review by higher levels within the agency, including the Regional Office in Boise.

Other Agencies--Consultation, Coordination, Roles, & Responsibilities

→ I-8 Conduct Government-to-Government consultation with Tribes as part of RMP effort:

Planning Team Notes: This is part of Reclamation's responsibilities. It is being done during the RMP process and will continue as a part of applicable RMP actions.

→ I-9 Define relationships, roles, & responsibilities between Reclamation and other key agencies:

Planning Team Notes: One major intent and value of the RMP process is to clarify agency inter-relationships and responsibilities as they relate to the lands under study. Cooperative agreements and efforts between/among agencies often offer the best (sometimes the only) chance to achieve the wide

range of management objectives that characterize an RMP (see also I-28, regarding the challenge of setting priorities in an RMP). For example, Reclamation must have a non-Federal public entity managing partner to cost-share funding for most recreation or fish and wildlife developments on its lands.

Many such relationships and/or interdependencies currently exist in the study area, and new or redefined relationships may be necessary to implement various components of the RMP. Thus, it is important that these key relationships and interdependencies are well understood and that maximum synergy among involved agencies be sought (i.e., in terms of authorities, expertise, personnel, and/or funding resources). The primary relationships and interdependencies applicable to the current effort are identified below. Each of the agencies identified is participating in the RMP as part of the AHWG. A major benefit of this participation (in addition to the expertise each lends to management perspective) is the opportunity to discuss updating/revising existing or establish needed new agreements, leases, or permits between agencies to implement the RMP.

→ I-10 USFWS—overlapping withdrawals & joint facilities, including the Reclamation Zone below Minidoka Dam:

Planning Team Notes: Reclamation and USFWS jurisdiction overlaps on lands surrounding Lake Walcott and the Reclamation Zone associated with Minidoka Dam. By agreement, USFWS is the managing agency for lands around Lake Walcott (the Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge). Because of this, these lands are not included in the scope of the RMP. Most of the land in the Reclamation Zone is also within the National Wildlife Refuge. However, for obvious reasons, Reclamation must maintain active management in this area in cooperation with the USFWS, which is why the Reclamation Zone is included in the RMP.

Also relevant in exploring the relationship between the USFWS and Reclamation is the fact that USFWS will have a full time law enforcement officer on staff at the National Wildlife Refuge, beginning in 2003. This may offer potential for improved law enforcement on Reclamation lands (see I-16 through I-18).

→ I-11 USFWS and IDPR at State Park:

Planning Team Notes: The State Park is on Reclamation land and is also within the Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge. As a result, close coordination among Reclamation, the USFWS, and IDPR is necessary to achieve objectives for the refuge and the park. Also, as discussed in I-19, below, there may be potential for IDPR assistance with law enforcement or management oversight at the Bishop's Hole area, given its proximity to the State Park.

→ I-12 IDFG—Fish & Game tracts, IDFG leases:

Planning Team Notes: As discussed under N-8, above, IDFG has long-standing agreements with Reclamation for management of several parcels under study in this RMP. It is generally agreed by both Reclamation and IDFG that these agreements should be revisited as part of the RMP, with some being renewed or revised, some being terminated, and/or new ones forged to better meet current needs and resource conditions. In any case, some continuing level of participation by IDFG in managing the fish and wildlife resources on RMP lands will most likely be desirable and beneficial. This is true from the standpoints of both resource management expertise and law enforcement. In the latter regard, IDFG notes that it can assist with enforcing regulations on lands where it has management responsibility. A good example of this is enforcing the ORV prohibition on RMP lands where IDFG is tasked with management according to an MOU or lease with Reclamation.

→ I-13 Irrigation Districts—transferred works, wastewater management:

Planning Team Notes: The relationships and active cooperation between Reclamation and the Districts are described at several locations herein. Certainly, transferred works and drain water management represent two main focal points for cooperation. The Districts have also assisted Reclamation in defining which lands will or may be needed for other Project purposes, such as well relocations, staging authorities or mining of construction materials, etc. The Districts will also play a key role in implementing portions of the RMP.

→ I-14 Counties—law enforcement, leases, & permits:

Planning Team Notes: The primary relationships between Reclamation and involved counties center on agreements for provision of law enforcement services (see I-16 through I-18) and various leases/permits issued by Reclamation to the counties for staging of construction/road maintenance materials (e.g., sand and gravel) and other public purposes.

→ I-15 BLM—withdrawal relinquishment/restoration, fire suppression, fuel management, re-vegetation:

Planning Team Notes: This issue statement cites the primary existing and potential relationships between Reclamation and the BLM. The BLM's role as recipient of land relinquished by Reclamation has been noted elsewhere herein. In terms of service or management agreements, Reclamation contracts with BLM for fire suppression. No agreement currently exists for fuel management and no formal plan or agreement has been established for revegetation. Dependent upon RMP findings and decisions regarding future land status, a plan and agreement enlisting BLM's expertise for revegetating burned areas and/or providing fuel management may be desirable. Beyond these relationships, it will be important for the RMP to consider and optimize compatibility with BLM's management of its lands in the study area, especially where BLM and Reclamation lands adjoin. See also: I-22.

Law Enforcement

→ I-16 Need better law enforcement; problems exist with: illegal dumping, users leaving trash, trespass & encroachment, ORV use, poaching on lands closed to hunting, and vandalism, shooting, and ORV damage at transferred works (e.g., parcel 824-8-W); I-17 Patrol/enforcement needs vs. Sheriff staff & equipment capacity; and I-18 Ways to improve response time (e.g., potential for Sheriff's boat ramp/dock on parcel 925-9-W):

Discussion: There is a need for all involved agencies, especially Reclamation and the county Sheriffs, to meet and clarify who has authority and responsibility for different violations on RMP lands and where enforcement presence is most needed. Such coordination and clarification would be the first step in effectively meeting enforcement needs on Reclamation lands. Once needs and authorities are clearly understood, necessary agreements can be revised/developed or other formal relationships established. Following are some of the more important law enforcement perspectives applicable to the RMP.

The County Sheriff is the primary enforcement authority for State and local laws, such as those addressing trespass, littering/dumping and vandalism. For these existing laws, only a revised or new agreement formalizing the Sheriffs' role in enforcement on Reclamation land is needed to augment enforcement presence. When difficulties arise due to activities not regulated at the State or local level, two options exist: [1] Reclamation can work with the Counties to pass local ordinances to address these problems (e.g., ORV use on Reclamation lands); or [2] Reclamation now has the

authority (per Public Law 107-69) to enact its own regulations and then contract with the Sheriff to enforce them. In any case, it is often necessary for Reclamation to provide funding or other assistance to the local Sheriff in order to achieve necessary staff/resource augmentations or improve response times. One specific request in this regard, identified by the Minidoka County Sheriff during AHWG discussion, is for Reclamation to assist in establishing a boat ramp for the Sheriff's use on parcel 925-9-W along the river. This ramp would significantly improve the Sheriff's ability to respond to nearby river-side parcels where enforcement needs have historically been high.

Beginning in 2003, the USFWS will have a full time law enforcement officer on staff at the Minidoka NWR. It is possible that this officer can assist with enforcement on nearby Reclamation lands such as Bishop's Hole. This is especially true coupled with Reclamation's Public Law 107-69 authority.

IDPR is responsible for enforcing regulations at the State Park. There may also be the potential to enlist IDPR support in enforcing regulations or implementing the RMP at the Bishop's Hole area below the dam. Further discussion is needed regarding how support could be structured in terms of both: [1] necessary agreements and authorities; and [2] provision of necessary support to IDPR personnel.

IDFG is responsible for enforcing State hunting and other fish and wildlife regulations. Also, as noted under I-12, IDFG can augment enforcement of other regulations (e.g., ORV closures) on lands where it has a management responsibility. These authorities may be relevant in managing activities on RMP lands.

Under any circumstances, it will be important to better communicate to the public the laws, regulations and/or restrictions that apply to RMP lands. This could be accomplished through on-the-ground means, such as effective signage specifying use restrictions, as well as through the RMP document itself.

→ I-19 Potential for IDPR to assist with enforcement/management patrols at Bishop's Hole (e.g., via boat): (See I-18.)

→ I-20 Using the land (e.g., agriculture & grazing leases) could help with monitoring (eliminating) illegal uses such as dumping:

Planning Team Notes: This perspective may be true in some cases and should be considered in making decisions on agriculture or grazing lease proposals. However, leasing decisions will need to be based on a wide range of considerations, including availability of water rights (if applicable), natural resource values, feasibility of adequate monitoring, and cost/responsibility for land restoration if needed.

→ I-21 Protect Public Safety:

Planning Team Notes: Promotion of public safety is one intent of the RMP, and will be one of the considerations that influence management decisions. This is particularly true for public access and recreational uses. Other aspects of public safety encompass law enforcement, discussed above under I-16, and security concerns at and around Minidoka Dam, discussed below under I-23.

→ I-22 Need to control fires – fire management:

Planning Team Notes: Fuel management, fire suppression, and post-fire land rehabilitation are all valid considerations in the RMP process. Reclamation does not have expertise in these areas and normally must contract with other agencies for such services. In the RMP region, Reclamation currently has an agreement with the BLM for fire suppression. However, agreements/contracts are not in place for fuels management or land rehabilitation, and both of these aspects of fire management can play very important roles in protecting, restoring, and enhancing the natural resource values of RMP lands.

An integrated package of agreements covering all of these aspects of fire management should be pursued as part of the RMP process. Most likely, these agreements would be with the BLM, similar to the existing fire suppression agreement. The NRCS may also participate (Reclamation is currently working with the NRCS on a fire rehabilitation project in the study area). For rehabilitation, formal fire rehabilitation plans are necessary, and NEPA compliance is required prior to adoption of these plans. It is possible that existing BLM rehabilitation plans for other lands in the region can be adapted for application to RMP lands.

→ I-23 Security issues (i.e., at the dam) – How long and who determines?:

Planning Team Notes: This comment refers to the increased concern for security that has emerged at all Reclamation dams and major facilities since the events of September 11, 2001. Reclamation is in the process of studying and defining needed safety and security enhancements for its facilities, including Minidoka Dam. As decisions are made by Reclamation in this regard, and if these decisions would affect RMP options or alternatives, they will be incorporated into the RMP process. It is possible that some long-term restrictions on public access near the dam may be imposed because of security issues.

Public Information

→ I-24 Show Reclamation boundaries on RMP maps:

Planning Team Notes: This will be done as a matter of course in preparing RMP maps. Reclamation boundaries are currently shown, using the best available information, on aerial photo/GIS maps prepared to support the RMP effort. Refinements to this boundary mapping will be made throughout the RMP process, and on a continuing basis after the RMP is completed, as better information becomes available.

→ I-25 Show IDFG-managed lands on RMP maps:

Discussion: From the perspective of both day-to-day management and public information, it would be beneficial to reflect on RMP maps, which parcels are under IDFG management. Such lands will have their own unique set of management objectives and guidelines, and identifying them clearly on RMP mapping will efficiently communicate the locations where these objectives and guidelines apply.

Planning Team Notes: The Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge boundaries will also be shown on RMP maps.

→ I-26 (Issue I-26 on the Summary of Issues, Opportunities, and Options was an inadvertent duplication of I-30)

→ I-27 Improve signage as management tool:

Discussion: Improved and more widespread use of signage is one method of implementing RMP management and enforcement objectives. Appropriate and clear signage provides the best "on-the-ground" communication to both the public and management/law enforcement personnel, and can be used effectively to provide information regarding:

- Reclamation property boundary locations;
- Recreational opportunities and access points;
- Public safety concerns;
- Hunting, shooting, ORV, or other use restrictions, including "No Dumping"; and
- Other management or enforcement objectives.

Planning Team Notes: Given the number and size of parcels included in the RMP, it will probably not be economically feasible to install signage in every case where it might be desirable. The RMP process should establish priorities in this regard.

Priorities, Costs, and Funding

→ I-28 Challenge of setting priorities among various needs, including water quality, habitat, recreation, weed control, law enforcement, health & safety, accessibility, etc.):

Planning Team Notes: One of the fundamental challenges of the RMP effort is to establish priorities for which actions and programs should receive attention each year, within limitations on funding, personnel, and other resources. As noted in I-9, the RMP process should explore not only what can be accomplished within Reclamation's available resources, but also how cooperative relationships among agencies and/or the public can achieve more than any one entity individually.

→ I-29 Funding to implement priorities:

Discussion: Given the range of concerns, programs, and agency relationships that are being addressed by this RMP, the AHWG stresses that Reclamation consider adequate staff resources to carry out the Plan. For example, AHWG members suggest that a team of staff members should be dedicated early to pursing and arranging cooperative agreements and MOUs with other agencies; these agreements and MOUs are one way to maximize success in achieving RMP goals and objectives. Staff will also be necessary to pursue such programs as addressing existing encroachments and trespass. The basic point is that the need for staff resources should not be overlooked in defining how RMP programs will be funded and implemented.

Planning Team Notes: Reclamation's intent that the RMP be an active, practical management tool has been stressed at both the RMP public meeting and the AHWG meetings to date. To achieve this intent, RMP proposals, programs, and priorities must be adopted with full recognition of existing or potential funding and staff availability. Also of key importance are regulations governing Reclamation's funding of fish & wildlife enhancements or recreation development projects. To cost share on fish and wildlife projects, Reclamation must have a non-Federal managing public entity as a cost-share partner, with that partner providing at least 25% of the cost. For recreation development, a similar cost-share partner is also needed; however, in the case of recreation projects, the cost-share proportion is 50/50. Reclamation does have the authority to develop minimum basic recreation facilities (minimum improvements meeting health and safety, accessibility, and resource protection needs) and the authority to maintain and replace existing recreation facilities. These requirements reinforce prior discussions that cite the importance of cooperative relationships among agencies in implementing the RMP.

→ I-30 Specific request for funding trail development and tree planting at the State Park:

Discussion: Progress on trail development and tree planting at the State Park is being made through cooperative efforts between the IDPR and USFWS.

Planning Team Notes: This request must be considered in context with other proposed actions, programs, and priorities as part of RMP alternatives analysis.

Attachment A

Off-Road Vehicle Use on Reclamation Lands

Section 420.2 of 43 CFR Part 420 - OFF-ROAD VEHICLE USE, which was published July 24, 1974, and amended June 15, 1979, closed Reclamation lands to off-road vehicle (ORV) use, except for an area or trail specifically opened to use of ORVs in accordance with Section 420.21.

Section 420.21 describes the procedure for designating (i.e., ***opening***) areas for ORV use. The procedure requires:

- the Regional Director (RD) shall, to the extent practicable, hold public hearings except under emergency conditions;

- the RD shall designate and publicize areas and trails that are open to ORV use in accordance with Section 420.23;

- before an area or trail is opened, the RD will establish specific regulations for use of the area;

- The RD shall monitor and adjust or close areas being adversely affected.

Section 420.22 details criteria for ORV areas. It states that areas to be opened shall not be located in areas possessing unique natural, wildlife, historic, cultural, archeological, or recreational values unless the Commissioner determines that these unique values will not be adversely affected. They shall be located:

(1) to minimize potential hazards to public health and safety;

(2) to minimize damage to soil, watershed, vegetation, or other resources;

(3) to minimize harassment of wildlife or significant disruption of wildlife habitats;

(4) to minimize conflicts between ORV use and other recreational uses in the vicinity;

(5) in furtherance of the purposes and policy of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Section 420.23 provides that areas and trails **opened**, or **opened then restricted or closed**, to ORV use **may** be signed on Reclamation lands, but that all notices concerning the regulation of ORV use on Reclamation lands **shall** be:

- posted in a manner that will reasonably bring them to the attention of the public;

- made available to the public in the regional and field offices where appropriate;

- published, with the reasons therefore, in the *Federal Register*; and,

- otherwise publicized as appropriate.

Appendix D

Authorities and Methods for Disposing of Minidoka North Side Land

APPENDIX D

AUTHORITIES & METHODS FOR DISPOSING OF MINIDOKA NORTH SIDE LAND

WITHDRAWN LANDS

A **withdrawal** is a withholding of an area of Federal land from settlement, sale, location, or entry under some or all of the general land laws to (1) limit activity under those laws in order to maintain other public values in the area; (2) reserve the area for a particular public purpose or program; or (3) transfer jurisdiction of the area from one Federal agency to another.

The withdrawn lands involved in this study (the Minidoka North Side Resource Management Plan), were withdrawn from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for development of the Minidoka Project, but were not ultimately developed as part of that project or the proposed North Side Extension.

Reclamation, with involvement from the irrigation districts, is determining what lands are still needed for project purposes. Any withdrawn lands that are determined no longer needed for project purposes will in most cases be relinquished to the BLM. A **relinquishment** is a notification to BLM that the lands listed are no longer needed. This notification, however, does not itself terminate the withdrawal (i.e., Reclamation remains responsible for managing the lands until the revocation by BLM is completed). A **revocation** is the actual cancellation of a withdrawal by BLM. (Revocations do not necessarily "open" the land to settlement, sale, location, or entry.) **Restoration** is an administrative action by BLM that restores withdrawn land to the status of unreserved public land, and opens the land to the operation of some or all of the general land laws which could allow settlement, sale, location, or entry. The process for relinquishing withdrawn lands is contained in 43 CFR 2370.

The revocation of withdrawals is the primary method of disposing of withdrawn land, but Reclamation does have limited authority to dispose of withdrawn land through other methods as well, such as by sale or exchange.

The ***Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949*** *(FPASA)* authorizes disposal of withdrawn land only when it has been determined not suitable for return to the public domain because it has been substantially changed in character by improvements or otherwise. Again, only if this determination is made, then:

- Property can be turned over to the General Services Administration (GSA) for disposal under the *FPASA*. These disposals are generally through competitive bidding at not less than appraised value, however, there are provisions for Special Purpose disposals for public health or educational uses, public parks or recreational areas, historic monuments, correctional institutions, public airports, and etc.
- Reclamation has been delegated authority under the *FPASA* to dispose of property valued under $15,000 by means most advantageous to the United States.

There are two other authorities available for disposal of unimproved withdrawn land. They are the ***Act of May 16, 1930, Sale of Unproductive Public Land*** *(1930 Act)*, and the ***Act of March 31, 1950, Disposal of Small Tracts*** *(1950 Act)*. Both of these Acts are limited to purchasers that qualify as a "resident farm owner" (a farm owner who is actually residing on the farm he owns on the project) or "entryman" (a homestead entryman who is actually residing on the land in his homestead entry on the project).

- The 1930 Act only allows purchase of tracts of not more that 160 acres of temporarily or permanently unproductive land of insufficient size to support a family and that which together with lands already owned or entered on such project, does not exceed 320 acres.
- The 1950 Act only allows purchase of tracts of land too small to be classed as farm units under the Federal reclamation laws, which, together with land already owned or entered on such project, does not exceed 160 irrigable acres.

Improved withdrawn land may also be sold under the ***Act of May 20, 1920.*** These sales are limited to lands not otherwise reserved, which have been improved at the expense of the reclamation fund. Not more than 160 acres of such lands may be sold to any one person. Such land must be sold at public auction (unless valued under $300).

Withdrawn land may also be sold under the authority of the ***Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976*** *(FLPMA)*. This Act is BLM's primary disposal authority, and would normally be utilized by that agency if it determined specific parcels met its criteria for disposal.

ACQUIRED LANDS

Acquired land (as contrasted with withdrawn land) is land that has been purchased or condemned by the United States, or donated to the United States. When Reclamation determines it no longer needs a specific parcel of acquired land located in the study area for project purposes, there are limited authorities for it to dispose of that land.

Subsection Q of the Factfinders' Act authorizes land donated and conveyed to the United States for use in connection with a project to be reconveyed without charge to the donating grantor or to the heirs, successors, or assigns of such grantee.

The ***Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949*** *(FPASA)*

- Property can be turned over to the General Services Administration (GSA) for disposal under the FPASA. These disposals are generally through competitive bidding at not less than appraised value, however, there are provisions for Special Purpose disposals for public health or educational uses, public parks or recreational areas, historic monuments, correctional institutions, public airports, and etc.
- Reclamation has been delegated authority under the FPASA to dispose of property valued under $15,000 by means most advantageous to the United States.

The ***Act of February 2, 1911***

- Property may be sold only through competitive bidding at not less than appraised value.

EXCHANGES OF LAND

Exchanges of land are essentially the acquisition of a property, using other property (rather than money) as the consideration.

Reclamation's predominant exchange authority is the ***Reclamation Project Act of 1939***. That Act provides authority for exchanging Reclamation land (acquired or withdrawn) for privately owned land in connection with the relocation of highways, roadways, railroads, telephone, telegraph or electric transmission lines, or any properties whatsoever, the relocation of which is necessitated by construction, operation, or maintenance of any Reclamation project. While not providing Reclamation a general exchange authority to exchange unimproved land for resource management or land tenure adjustment purposes, this authority is used for making exchanges to:

- relocate physical improvements such as roads, railroads, power lines, and farms where the existing site is needed for Reclamation project purposes and where the discontinuance of the function would cause substantial severance damage or disrupt a public service.
- relocate canals, laterals, drains and other facilities for the purpose of water conservation, efficiency of operation and maintenance, or other Reclamation project purposes.

Under *FLPMA*, BLM can also process exchanges to assist Reclamation in exchanges of acquired or withdrawn land.

Appendix E

Crime Witness Program Informational Materials

Crime! If you see it, report it!

Damaging Bureau of Reclamation property is a crime. Reclamation and the Bonneville Power Administration are in a partnership against crime. The dams, powerhouses, substations, and transmission lines owned and operated by these two agencies constitute major parts of the Federal Columbia River Power System.

The Pacific Northwest Federal Crime Witness Program features a toll-free crime informant hotline which allows you to report, confidentially, any illegal activity that you witness against Reclamation or BPA property or personnel.

The Crime Witness Program is designed to heighten public awareness of the serious impacts of crime within or around power production facilities, electrical substations, and transmission lines.

Reclamation and BPA operate a 24-hour toll-free hotline to gather information about a crime or a crime in progress. This toll-free number is linked directly to BPA headquarters in Portland, Oregon.

The partnership between Reclamation and BPA is aimed at stopping and reporting crime.

A&B 1054

Crime Witness Hotline:
1-800-437-2744

What is a Crime?

What to watch for as a Crime Witness:

- dumping of any waste materials on Reclamation property
- theft of Reclamation property, buildings and vehicles
- physical harm or threats to Reclamation personnel

If you see or suspect that any of these crimes have been committed, be a Crime Witness.

Once your call is received, it is assigned a case number and given to a trained security specialist to follow-up and investigate.

You can help deter criminal activity and reduce costs to Reclamation and its customers (you) by calling the Crime Witness Program hotline at 1-800-437-2744 or the BPA Security Office at (503) 230-4274

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 People.

Why is this important to You?

Thousands of people in the Pacific Northwest depend on a reliable source of electricity. Hospitals, schools, businesses, and government agencies need electricity to perform the tasks we all depend on every day.

The Bureau of Reclamation operates 10 hydroelectric power plants in the Pacific Northwest, making it a key player in providing the power needed to keep the productivity of the region intact.

Reclamation's Pacific Northwest power plants produced an average of 22.9 million kilowatt-hours of electricity during 1997. That's almost three times the annual power consumption of the City of Seattle.

Reclamation facilities also provide a reliable source of water to meet the demands of irrigation, fish and wildlife, flood control, and recreation.

The Pacific Northwest Region that Reclamation operates within is a vast geographical area encompassing either all or parts of the following states: Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming.

Since many individuals, cities, towns and businesses depend on Reclamation facilities for various reasons, it is important that those who may witness a crime or have information about a crime to report it immediately to the proper authorities.

The Crime Witness Program's toll-free hotline is one way of reporting such activities.

Why is this important to the Ratepayer?

The Bonneville Power Administration is known for its ability to transmit power to cities, towns, homes and businesses throughout the Pacific Northwest and beyond.

BPA's team of security specialists recognize the need to apprehend, arrest, and convict those who would damage high voltage transmission lines and other facilities that provide power to the region.

High voltage transmission lines, when brought to the ground by gunfire or other acts of vandalism are dangerous. They can cause momentary lethal ground voltages that can kill or seriously injure people. Downed power lines can also cause forest or field fires leading to a potential loss of property and wildlife.

Each year, theft and vandalism cost BPA's rate payers $500,000 to $1 million. And these figures are only direct dollar costs to BPA of replacing stolen or damaged equipment. Over and above these costs are lost revenues and the economic losses of electricity to consumers due to power interruptions.

The Crime Witness Program will help in pursuing an investigation with local law enforcement agencies. Rewards of up to $1,000 are issued in such a way that the caller's identity remains confidential.

A&R 055

Pacific Northwest Federal Crime Witness Program
P.O. Box 3621 CGS-1
Portland, OR 97208-3821
1-800-437-2744

US BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION

CRIME WITNESS

1-800-437-2744

To Report Theft, Vandalism, or Illegal Dumping on Bureau of Reclamation Property or Harm to Bureau of Reclamation Personnel.

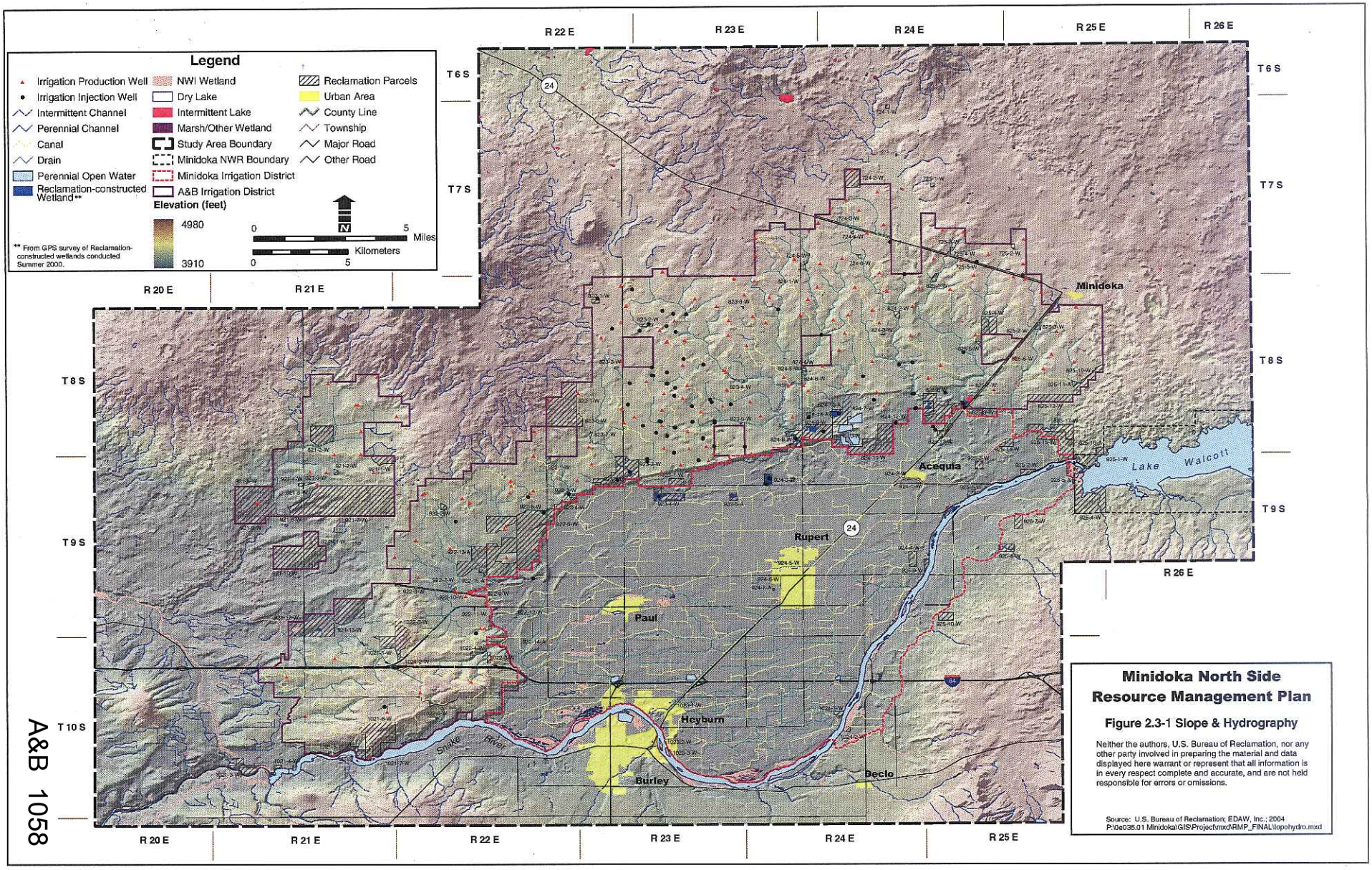
UP TO $1,000 REWARD

Appendix F

RMP Parcel Maps

7 maps - 166-514 North Side RMP
Jan 2005

A&B 1057

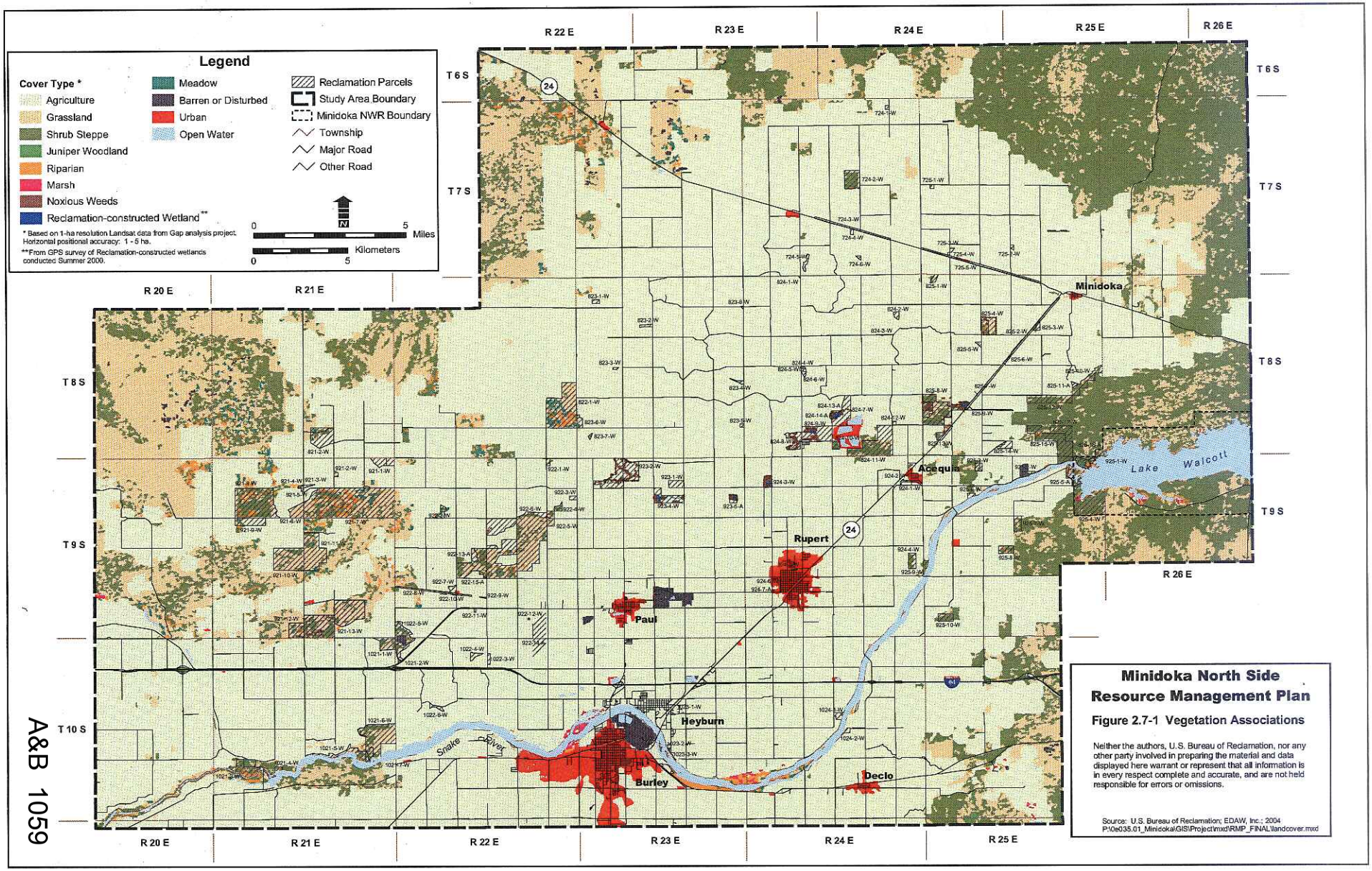


Minidoka North Side Resource Management Plan

Figure 2.3-1 Slope & Hydrography

Neither the authors, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, nor any other party involved in preparing the material and data displayed here warrant or represent that all information is in every respect complete and accurate, and are not held responsible for errors or omissions.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; EDAW, Inc.; 2004
P:\0e035.01 Minidoka\GIS\Project\mxd\RMP_FINAL\topohydro.mxd



Minidoka North Side Resource Management Plan

Figure 2.7-1 Vegetation Associations

Neither the authors, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, nor any other party involved in preparing the material and data displayed here warrant or represent that all information is in every respect complete and accurate, and are not held responsible for errors or omissions.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; EDAW, Inc.; 2004
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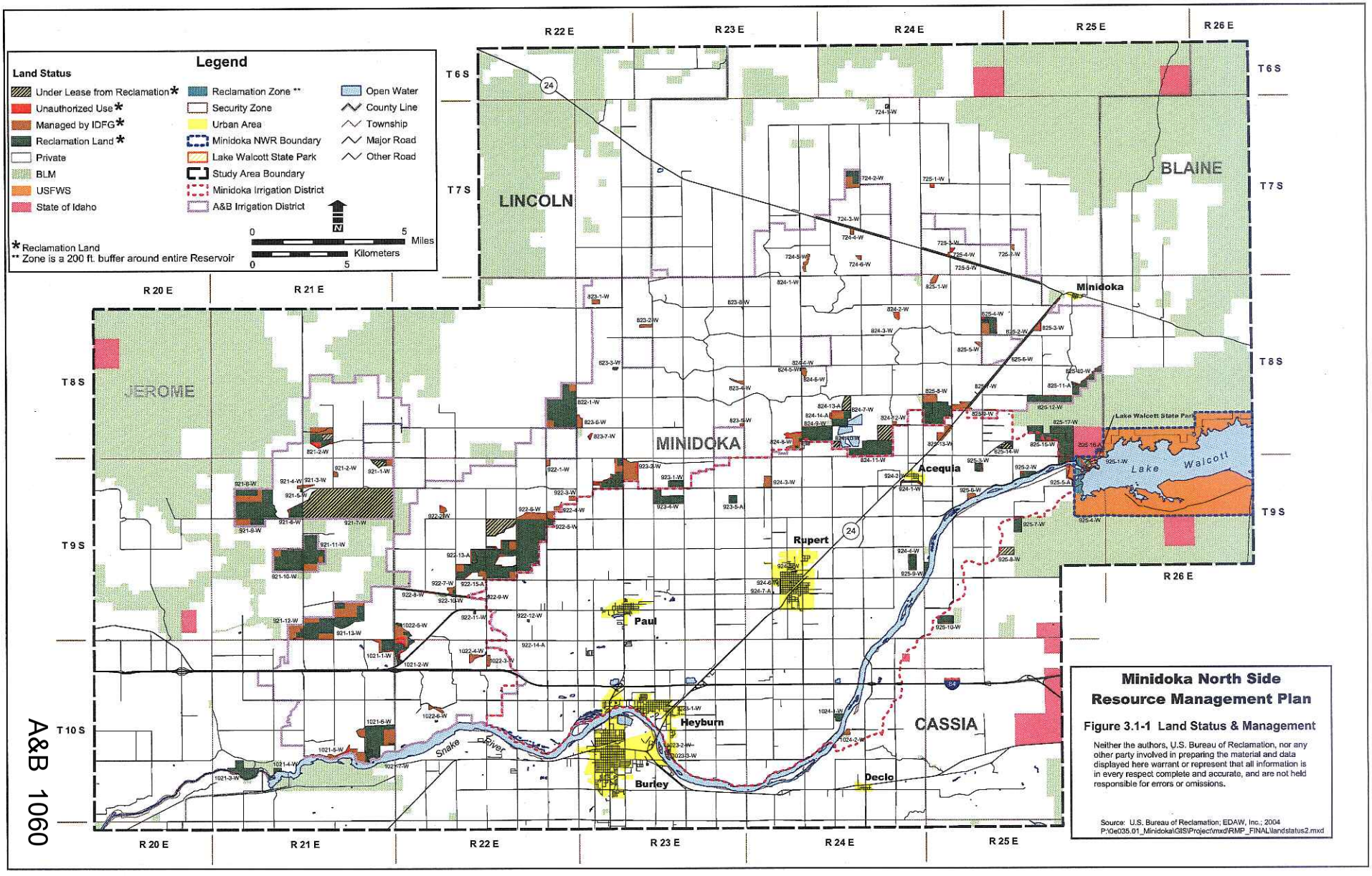
A&B 1059



Minidoka North Side Resource Management Plan

Figure 3.1-1 Land Status & Management

Neither the authors, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, nor any other party involved in preparing the material and data displayed here warrant or represent that all information is in every respect complete and accurate, and are not held responsible for errors or omissions.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; EDAW, Inc.; 2004
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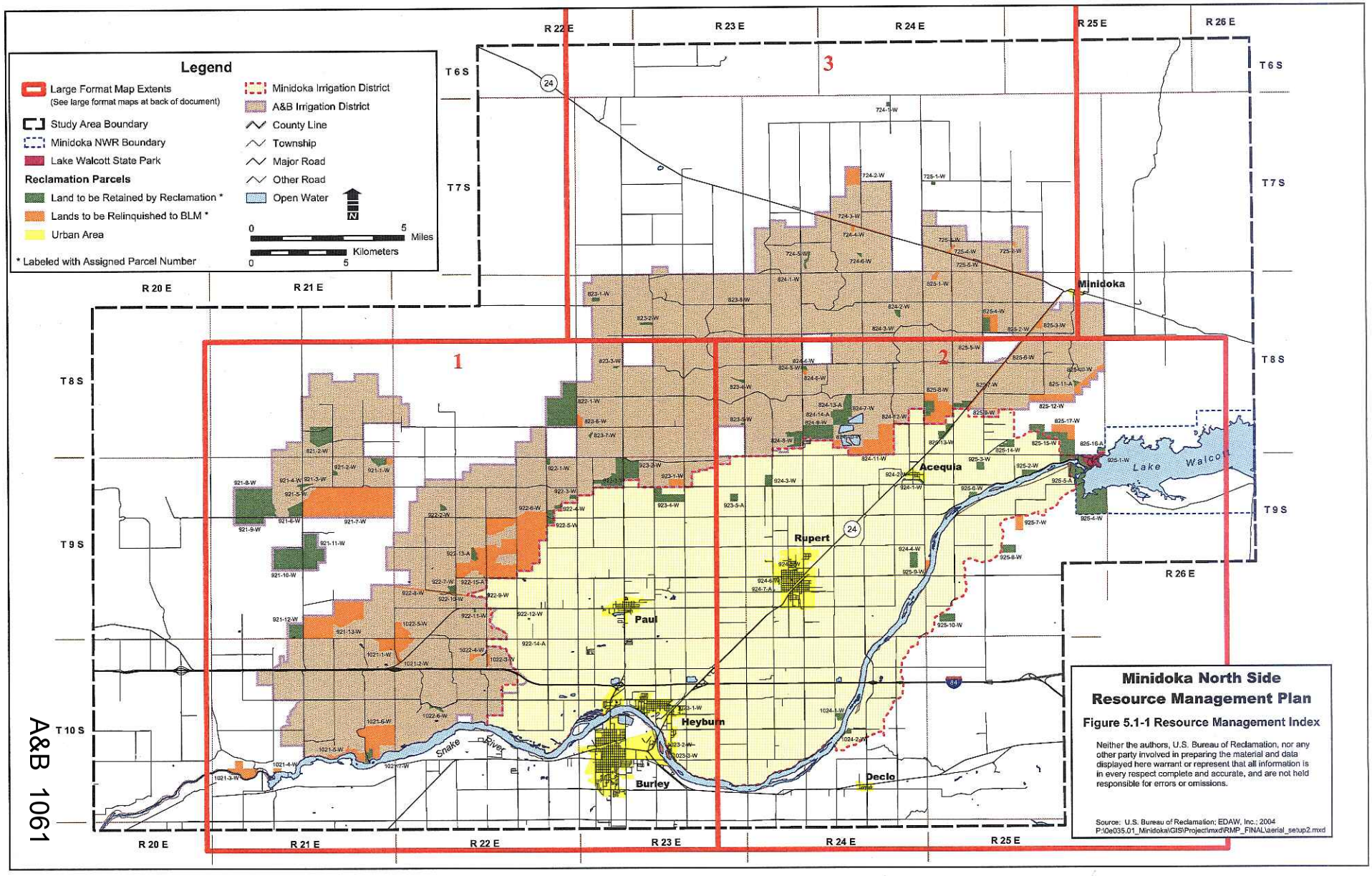
A&B 1060



Minidoka North Side Resource Management Plan

Figure 5.1-1 Resource Management Index

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Source: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; EDAW, Inc.; 2004
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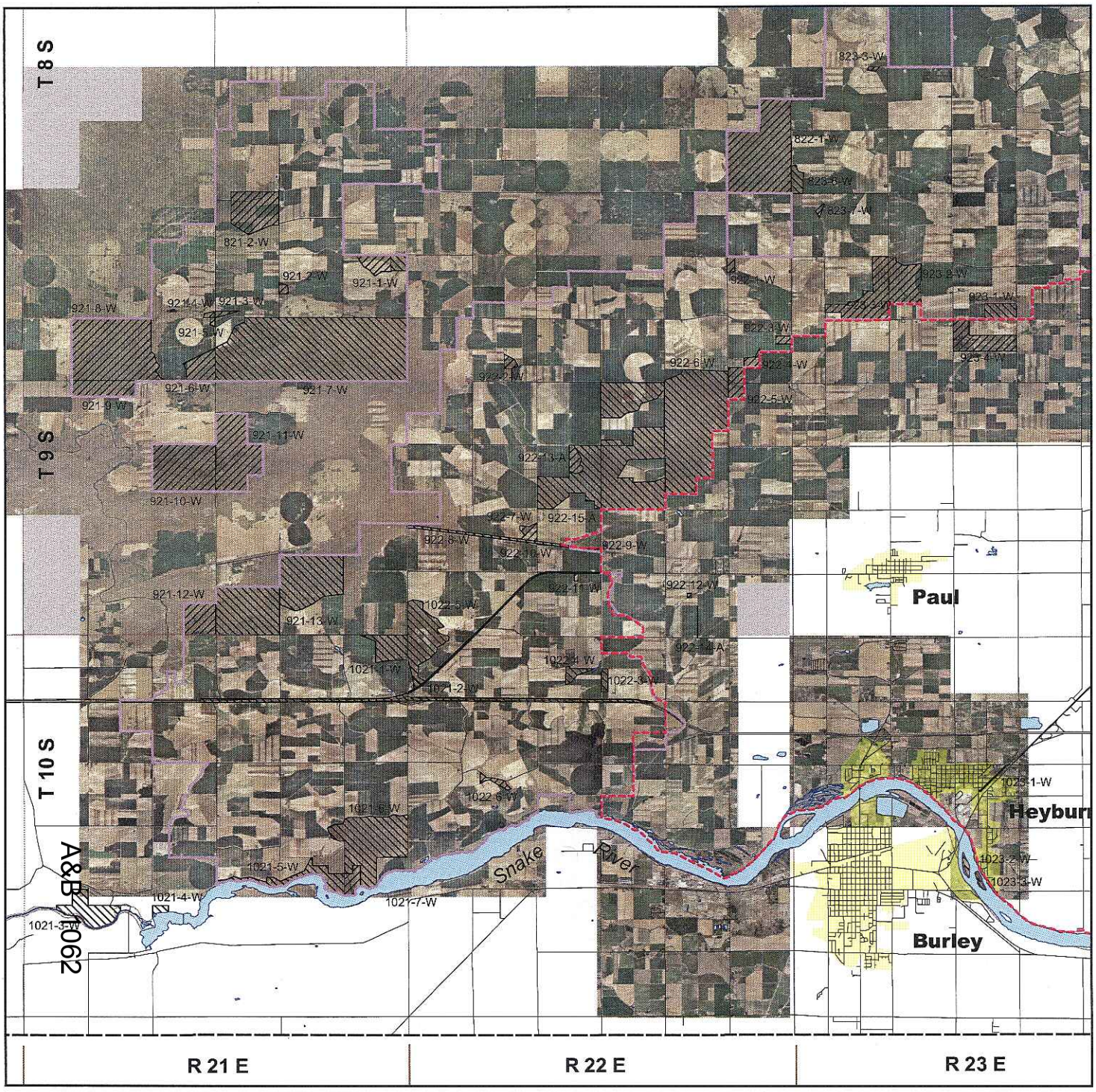

Minidoka North Side Resource Management Plan

Map 1 of 3

Legend

- Minidoka NWR Boundary
- Study Area Boundary
- Security Zone
- Reclamation Zone **
- Lake Walcott State Park
- Minidoka Irrigation District
- A&B Irrigation District

Reclamation Parcels

- Land to be Retained by Reclamation *
- Lands to be Relinquished to BLM *
- Township
- Major Road
- Other Road
- Urban Area
- Open Water
- Aerial Photo - No Data Areas

Aerial Photos - 1 Ft. Resolution
June 2000/ Oct. 2001 (where available)

* Labeled with Assigned Parcel Number

** Reclamation Zone includes a 200 ft. buffer around the entire reservoir (not fully shown).

0 1 2 3 4 5 Kilometers

0 1 2 3 Miles

1 inch equals 1 mile
1:63,388

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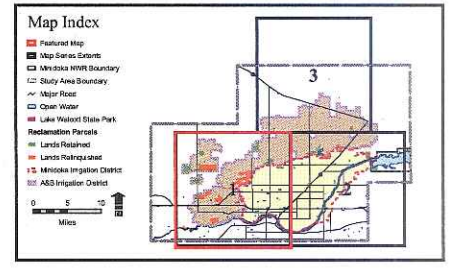
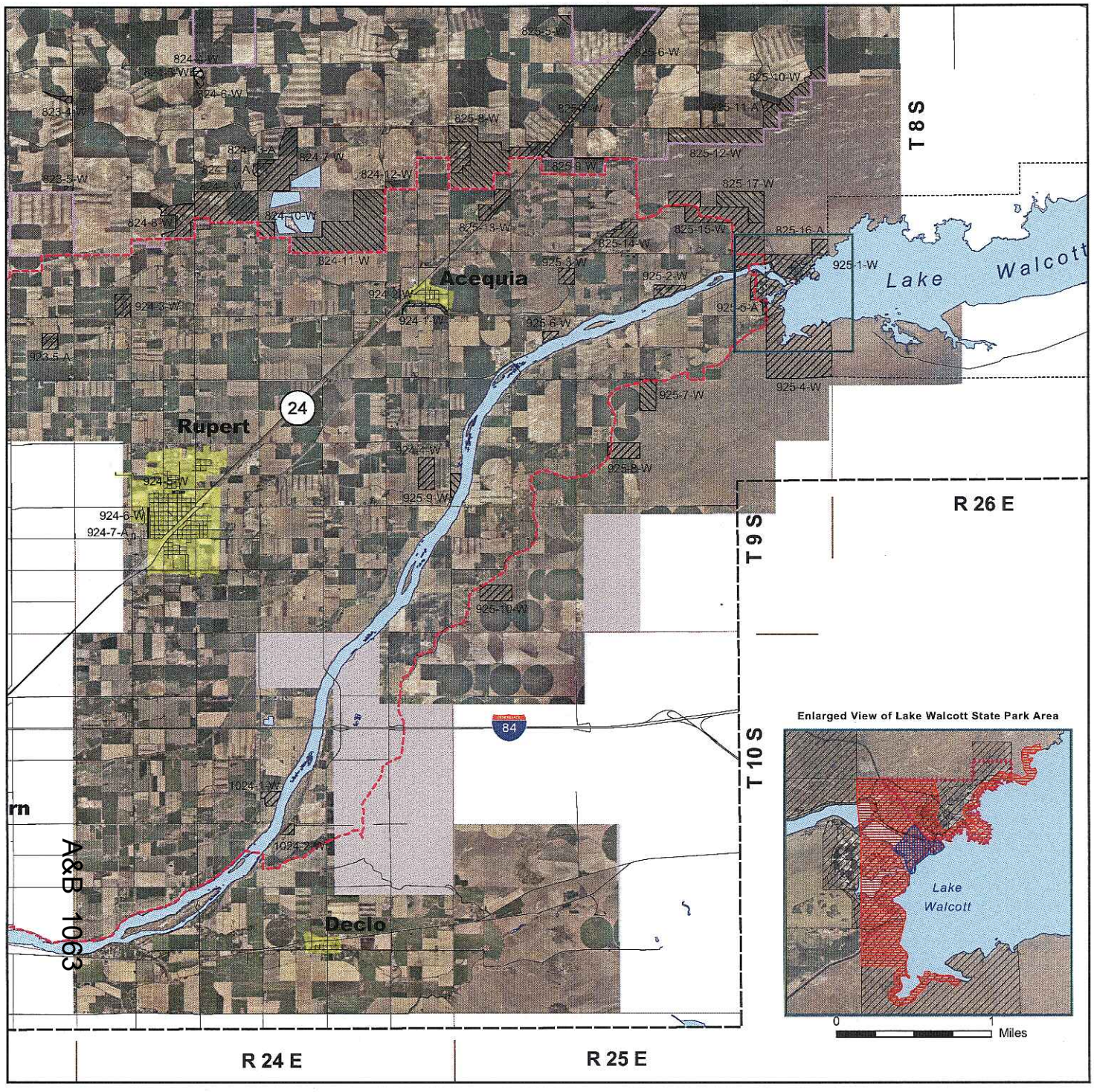
Source: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; EDAW, Inc. 2004 P:\de935.01_Minidoka\GIS\Projects\rwd\RMP_FINAL\aerial_tiled1.mxd





Minidoka North Side Resource Management Plan

Map 2 of 3

Legend

- Minidoka NWR Boundary
- Study Area Boundary
- Security Zone
- Reclamation Zone **
- Lake Walcott State Park
- Minidoka Irrigation District
- A&B Irrigation District

Reclamation Parcels

- Land to be Retained by Reclamation *
- Lands to be Relinquished to BLM *
- Township
- Major Road
- Other Road
- Urban Area
- Open Water
- Aerial Photo - No Data Areas
- Aerial Photos - 1 Ft. Resolution June 2000/ Oct. 2001 (where available)

* Labeled with Assigned Parcel Number

** Reclamation Zone includes a 200 ft. buffer around the entire reservoir (not fully shown).

0 1 2 3 4 5 Kilometers

0 1 2 3 Miles

1 inch equals 1 mile

1:63,360

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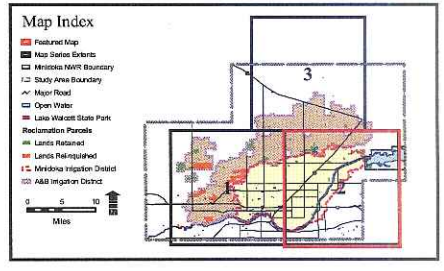
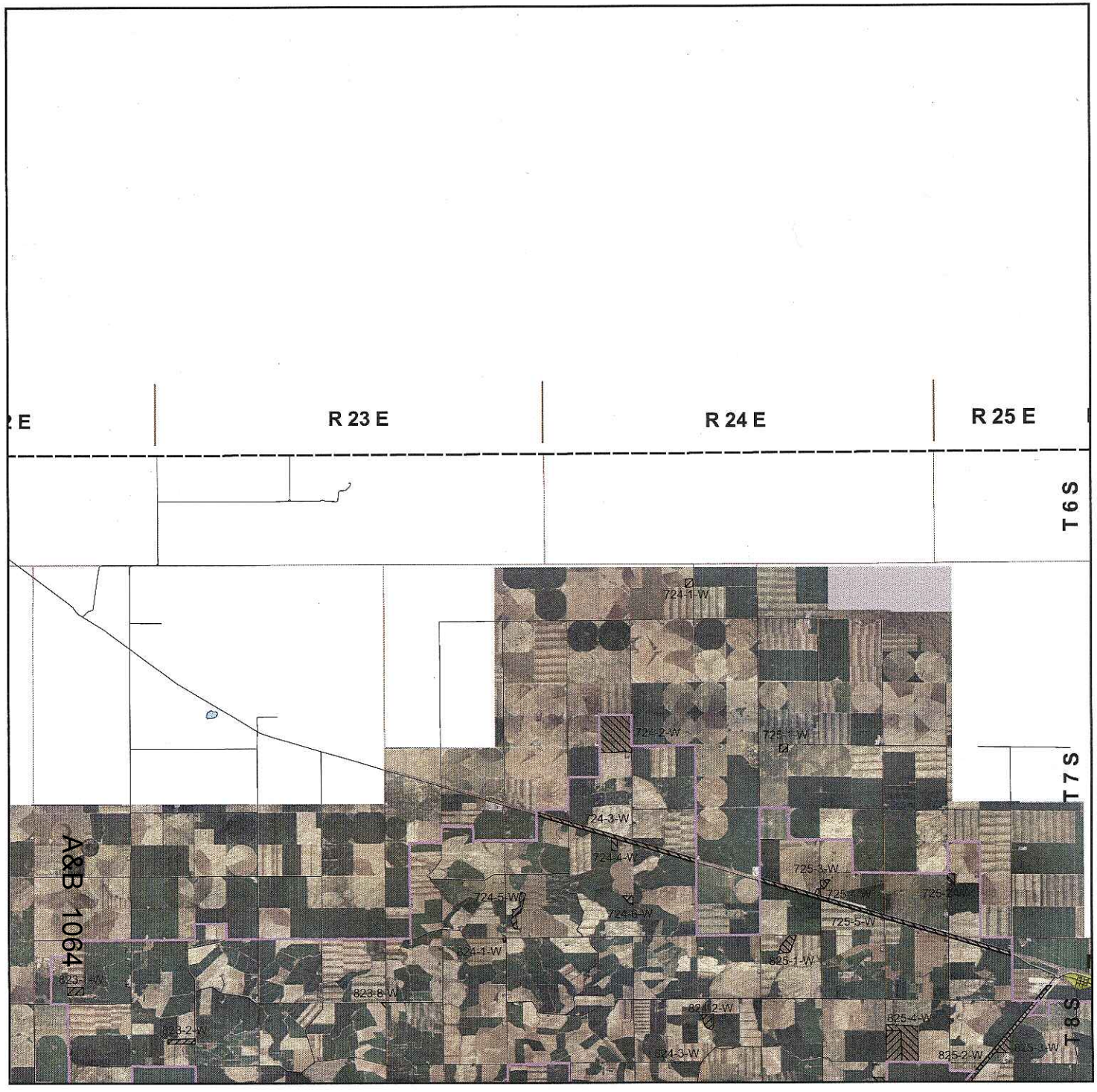
Source: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; EDAW, Inc.; 2004 P:\0e035.01_Minidoka\GIS\Projects\mxd\RMP_FINAL\aerial_blad2.mxd





Minidoka North Side Resource Management Plan

Map 3 of 3

Legend

- Minidoka NWR Boundary
- Study Area Boundary
- Security Zone
- Reclamation Zone **
- Lake Walcott State Park
- Minidoka Irrigation District
- A&B Irrigation District

Reclamation Parcels

- Land to be Retained by Reclamation *
- Lands to be Relinquished to BLM *
- Township
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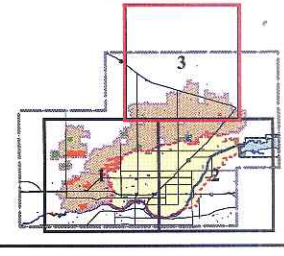
Source: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, EDAW, Inc.; 2004 P:\0e035 01_Minidoka\GIS\Project\mxd\RMP_FINAL\aerial_tiled1.mxd

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