

Resource Management Plan and Environmental Assessment



Horsetooth Reservoir
Carter Lake
Pinewood Reservoir
Flatiron Reservoir



Bureau of Reclamation
Great Plains Region
Eastern Colorado Area Office



Larimer County Parks and
Open Lands Department

June 29, 2007



IN REPLY
REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Eastern Colorado Area Office
21056 West County RD 18E
Loveland, Colorado 80537-9711



C & T (b) (5) (A)
Env G. - EA

Introduction

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the environmental effects of the proposed ten-year development plan for four Reclamation reservoirs in Larimer County, Colorado. Details of this project have been encapsulated in a combined Resource Management Plan and Environmental Assessment (RMP/EA), entitled, *Resource Management Plan and Environmental Assessment: Horsetooth Reservoir, Carter Lake, Pinewood Reservoir, and Flatiron Reservoir*. The purpose of the project is to provide a formal program and basis for Larimer County to enhance and effectively manage recreation at the four reservoirs and surrounding lands until 2017.

Background

All four reservoirs are components of the Colorado-Big Thompson Project (C-BT), which is a transmountain diversion project that provides supplemental water to 30 municipalities and 693,000 acres of irrigated farmland. Dating back to 1937, the project consists of a series of reservoirs on both sides of the Continental Divide and an extensive network of tunnels, canals, and other facilities. On average, the C-BT annually delivers approximately 220,000 acre feet of water from the Upper Colorado River west of the Continental Divide to the eastern slope. Horsetooth Reservoir, Carter Lake, Pinewood Lake, and Flatiron Reservoir are key storage reservoirs of this system.

Pursuant to agreement #9-07-70-W0020, project water is delivered to the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District (NCWCD) for distribution in northeastern Colorado. NCWCD is a public agency, which was established to operate and maintain certain project facilities and repay project construction costs. Recreational uses at the reservoirs are currently managed by the Larimer County Parks and Open Lands Department under provisions of a 1954 agreement with Reclamation that was recently renewed and is set to expire in 2047.

The reservoirs are located in the foothills west of the cities of Fort Collins and Loveland, Colorado. Camping, picnicking, and hiking take place at all reservoirs, but differences in the extent of water based recreation is observed between the reservoirs. Horsetooth Reservoir and Carter Lake support a full range of water and land-based recreational activities. Whereas, boating and swimming are prohibited at Flatiron Reservoir and boats at Pinewood Lake are restricted to wakeless speeds.

Recreation is an ancillary benefit of the C-BT project, which was constructed to provide municipal and agricultural water. The purpose results in dramatic fluctuations of seasonal water levels at Carter and Horsetooth and daily fluctuations of water levels at Pinewood and Flatiron. Despite this variability, recreation has become an increasingly important resource within Larimer County and studies indicate that recreation demand will increase substantially over the next 20 years. These facts evidence the need for a management strategy that provides policy guidelines for organized recreational development. In addition, federal economic incentives are available to Larimer County for recreation and land management but are predicated upon completion of NEPA compliance and the formulation of a RMP.

PROPOSED ACTION

The Proposed Action assumes that recreation opportunities and facilities at the four Reclamation reservoirs would be enhanced, developed, operated, and managed similarly and consistent with other reservoirs in the region. Under the Proposed Action, emphasis would be placed on building new facilities or altering current facilities to confer a higher quality of recreational experience to the visitor without increasing the amount of developed area around the reservoirs or disturbing extant wildlife habitat or wilderness. Facilities would be designed to suit pre-determined carrying capacities and to accommodate the anticipated increase in recreational visitation at the reservoirs.


FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

This EA adequately discloses the environmental effects associated with implementing the RMP proposed action(s) for each reservoir. Reclamation has determined that, with the implementation of the environmental mitigation commitments in chapter 5 of the EA, the proposed action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared. This finding is based upon consideration of the following factors:

1. All relevant environmental concerns and significant issues raised by Reclamation resource specialists, the public, and other agencies were addressed in the EA. The mitigation commitments prescribed in chapter 5 were developed in response to relevant environmental concerns/issues identified during scoping and subsequent reviews. Insignificant environmental impacts, if any at all, will be observed through implementation of these mitigation measures.
2. Detailed designs for facility development have not been completed since the EA had to be prepared in advance of any development activities. Therefore, analysis within the EA analysis is based on preliminary site plans. Reclamation is committed to additional environmental evaluation, as needed, when specific facility development or other actions approach implementation. All necessary resource clearances and permits (i.e. Clean Water Act Section 401 and 404) would be obtained prior to any construction activities.

3. Implementation of the RMP would not result in a change to reservoir operations, water levels, or stream releases.
4. Water quality will be adversely affected in a nominal manner due to increased visitation. This would occur under either the No Action Alternative or the Proposed Action. Other negative, short term effects to water quality may be observed under the Proposed Action if erosion control measures falter during construction. The addition of parking spots may decrease water quality longitudinally due to increased hydrocarbon run off following storms. Best Management Practices will be used during construction to minimize localized impacts to the water of the Reservoirs.
5. Under the Proposed Action, soil erosion due to construction activities may adversely affect soils around the reservoirs. Best Management Practices will be used during construction to minimize soil erosion in the areas of construction.
- 6) The Proposed Action would impact several vegetation communities including grasslands, shrublands, Ponderosa pine, and mixed shrublands. Impacts would be due to construction of parking areas, other infrastructure, and roads that provide access to parking, swimming, camping, RV locations, and trails.
- 7) The Proposed Action would develop about 65 acres of vegetation and wildlife habitat that has previously been disturbed.
- 8) Visual impacts will be observed under the Proposed Action through the construction of new buildings. However, efforts will be made to build in areas that area already populated with existing edifices and to use building materials that compliment the existing environment.
- 9) Since the majority of construction work will occur on previously disturbed land, no known cultural resources will be affected under the Proposed Action.

I concur with the above-described Resource Management Plan and Environmental Assessment:
 Horsetooth Reservoir, Carter Lake, Pinewood Reservoir, and Flatiron Reservoir

 Date 6/29/07
 Fred R. Ore
 Area Manager
 Eastern Colorado Area Office

Executive Comment Summary
Resource Management Plan/Environmental Assessment
For
Horsetooth, Cater, Flatiron & Pinewood Reservoirs

CARTER (4):

Four (4) comments regarded Carter Lake. One comment requested information about the design of the swim beach. Two comments opposed characterizing the Carter Lake Sail Club as “exclusive use” within the documents. One remark reflected that any development of the area will negatively affect the surrounding neighbors.

Flatiron (0):

No comments.

General Comments (6):

The majority of these comments regard differential fees, boaters, and other miscellaneous items that were not directly related to the RMP/EA.

Horsetooth (52):

Fifty two (52) residents mentioned Horsetooth reservoir in their comments. Thirteen (13) statements opposed the proposed archery range for a variety of reasons, such as traffic concerns and the opposition to any sort of development. Seventeen (17) comments were in favor of an archery range. The reasons cited for constructing an archery range include the full capacity of the current range and the notion that archery is a passive, non-obtrusive use of the area. Twelve (12) comments voiced concern over proposed events center (traffic, not economically feasible, detracts from natural setting). Two comments advocated more interpretation and educational opportunities at the reservoir. One comment suggested the addition of a bike lane to the road around the reservoir. One comment supported including the bouldering areas around the reservoir (e.g. Rotary Park) in the plan.

Pinewood (2):

Two (2) commentators spoke out regarding disapproval that cabins are being considered at Pinewood. It is felt that the cabins would detract from the natural environment around Pinewood.



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COMMENTER (DATE RECEIVED)	COMMENT SUMMARY	RESPONSE
Larry Gamble (4/5/07)	Mr. Gamble has some questions about the proposed swim beach at Carter Lake. Specifically, he is wondering how it can function at both high and low water.	Noted.
Duane Chaloupka (4/2/07)	As Commodore of the Carter Lake Sail Club (CLSC), Mr. Chaloupka objects to characterizing the CLSC as a "private marina" and has other questions regarding Larimer County's interpretation of "exclusive use."	<p>Reclamation's 9/29/06 response to Marilyn Musgrave's congressional inquiry explains that strict interpretation of the existing recreation policy defines the sail clubs as an "exclusive use" and further states that exclusive use entities can be phased out for the following reasons: 1) planning processes determine that the lands are needed for other public purposes, 2) direct conflicts with public use, 3) public health and safety concerns.</p> <p>These were included in the RMP/EA as part of the criteria for public/private partnerships to be compliant with the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA. Reclamation's congressional response was also reiterated to the public and representative members of the sail clubs at the initial RMP Update - stakeholders meetings held on May 25-26, 2006, the public open house RMP meetings held on July 11-12, 2006, and the associated RMP/EA workshops held on September 13-14, 2006.</p>
Claudine and Tony Szwaja (4/5/07)	The Swajas feel that the proposed improvements at Carter Lake will diminish their quality of life.	Noted.
Carrie Pfister (4/5/07)	Ms. Pfister is against the CLSC being characterized as exclusive use. Additionally, she is against the events center.	<p>Reclamation's 9/29/06 response to Marilyn Musgrave's congressional inquiry explains that strict interpretation of the existing recreation policy defines the sail clubs as an "exclusive use" and further states that exclusive use entities can be phased out for the following reasons: 1) planning processes determine that the lands are needed for other public purposes, 2) direct conflicts with public use, 3) public health and safety concerns.</p> <p>These were included in the RMP/EA as part of the criteria for public/private partnerships to be compliant with the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA. Reclamation's congressional response was also reiterated to the public and representative members of the sail clubs at the initial RMP Update - stakeholders meetings held on May 25-26, 2006, the public open house RMP meetings held on July 11-12, 2006, and the associated RMP/EA workshops held on September 13-14, 2006.</p> <p>The proposal to build an events center at Horsetooth Reservoir was included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA by a vote of the Parks Master Plan Task Force on April 10, 2007 with the stipulation that, rather than a significant building, a potential "community gathering place or places" would be built in the future. However, this place or these places will not be built until further study is conducted.</p>
Evelyn Fleharty (3/12/07)	Ms. Fleharty states that Larimer County and the Bureau of Reclamation are determined to change the culture of our beautiful untouched, natural lands north of Horsetooth Reservoir - I oppose	The proposed archery range north of Horsetooth Reservoir was included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA by a vote of the Parks Master Plan Task Force on April 10, 2007 with the stipulation that further



RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

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	these proposed changes - want no development, no improvements, no archery ranges, nothing that disturbs the natural environment. Additionally, she would like to see the old cables and hardware from the old quarry days cleaned up and the area restored.	study will be conducted and that other sites will be evaluated before a range is constructed. Noted. The quarry cables and hardware are considered historical artifacts. Thus, they can only be removed and curated in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office.
Sam Solt (3/12/2007)	Mr. Solt is concerned both about the size of the document and about water levels at Horsetooth.	Information regarding the Masterplan is also available via public meetings, website, & summaries in newspapers, radio, & TV. Larimer County and Reclamation conduct regular dialogues regarding water levels at Horsetooth.
Neal Spencer (3/9/07 and 4/7/07)	Mr. Spencer is against the proposed development in the area north of Horsetooth.	The proposed archery range north of Horsetooth Reservoir was included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA by a vote of the Parks Master Plan Task Force on April 10, 2007 with the stipulation that further study will be conducted and that other sites will be evaluated before a range is constructed.
Doug Prince (2/28/07, follow-up on 3/1/07, follow-up on 3/16/07)	Concerns regarding archery range. Specifically, regarding lack of notification, proposed layout, costs, etc., safety, traffic. Feels that residents should be contacted in writing prior to task force meetings.	The proposed archery range north of Horsetooth Reservoir was included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA by a vote of the Parks Master Plan Task Force on April 10, 2007 with the stipulation that further study will be conducted and that other sites will be evaluated before a range is constructed.
James Carrion (2/27/07)	Concerned about the proposed development at the north end of the reservoir. Feels that development of the magnitude of an archery range would be detrimental to wildlife and also thinks that public already expressed negative view of archery range.	The proposed archery range north of Horsetooth Reservoir was included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA by a vote of the Parks Master Plan Task Force on April 10, 2007 with the stipulation that further study will be conducted and that other sites will be evaluated before a range is constructed.
Tim Reed (3/1/07)	Tim is concerned about the proposed archery range at the north end of Horsetooth and whether or not citizens that own land that borders Reclamation land have greater input than other citizens in the county (specifically Bellevue residents).	No citizen or citizen group within Larimer county is given preference over another.
Lewis and Leanna Teich (3/15/07)	The Teichs are opposed to the archery range, with or without a picnic area. They feel that the increase traffic will decrease the value of their home and that the users of the range will decrease the quality of life they currently enjoy.	The proposed archery range north of Horsetooth Reservoir was included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA by a vote of the Parks Master Plan Task Force on April 10, 2007 with the stipulation that further study will be conducted and that other sites will be evaluated before a range is constructed.
Roland and Helene Linder (3/17/07)	The Linders are opposed to any development on the north end of Horsetooth Reservoir. They feel that the area should be left to wildlife and free from development.	The proposed archery range north of Horsetooth Reservoir was included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA by a vote of the Parks Master Plan Task Force on April 10, 2007 with the stipulation that further study will be conducted and that other sites will be evaluated before a range is constructed.



RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

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Bruce Davidson (3/17/07)	Mr. Davidson is opposed to development of the area north of Horsetooth Reservoir	The proposed archery range north of Horsetooth Reservoir was included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA by a vote of the Parks Master Plan Task Force on April 10, 2007 with the stipulation that further study will be conducted and that other sites will be evaluated before a range is constructed.
Paul Fromme (3/14/07)	Mr. Fromme questions why only recreation at Reclamation reservoirs was examined in this process. He also questions why no economic feasibility study has been conducted regarding the Horsetooth Reservoir Events Center.	Recreation at Reclamation reservoirs was the only aspect of the Larimer County Parks and Open Lands Department evaluated in the present study because development of a Recreation Master Plan is a requirement of Reclamation. All other components of recreation in Larimer County were purposefully neglected. The proposal to build an events center at Horsetooth Reservoir was included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA by a vote of the Parks Master Plan Task Force on April 10, 2007 with the stipulation that, rather than a significant building, a potential "community gathering place or places" would be built in the future. However, this place or these places will not be built until further study is conducted.
Rodney Albers (3/20/07)	Mr. Albers feels that a new archery range is warranted as the current range is often filled to capacity.	The proposed archery range north of Horsetooth Reservoir was included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA by a vote of the Parks Master Plan Task Force on April 10, 2007 with the stipulation that further study will be conducted and that other sites will be evaluated before a range is constructed.
Janice and Larry Martin (3/20/07)	Supports all of the plans for Horsetooth Reservoir, but advocates dropping the "Field of Dreams" moniker as it might be a copyright infringement.	Comments noted.
Dennis Acott (3/23/07)	Mr. Acott is wondering what the county plans to do to address traffic congestion on the south end of Horsetooth Reservoir.	Traffic issues were discussed by the Parks Master Plan Task Force but no specific recommendations were included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan or RMP/EA.
Ryan Murphey (3/25/07)	Mr. Murphy supports the archery range.	The proposed archery range north of Horsetooth Reservoir was included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA by a vote of the Parks Master Plan Task Force on April 10, 2007 with the stipulation that further study will be conducted and that other sites will be evaluated before a range is constructed.
Matthew Dworak (3/26/07)	Mr. Dworak supports the archery range.	The proposed archery range north of Horsetooth Reservoir was included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA by a vote of the Parks Master Plan Task Force on April 10, 2007 with the stipulation that further study will be conducted and that other sites will be evaluated before a range is constructed.
Matt Jackson (3/26/07)	Mr. Jackson supports the archery range.	The proposed archery range north of Horsetooth Reservoir was included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA by a vote of the Parks Master Plan Task Force on April 10, 2007 with the stipulation that further



RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

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		study will be conducted and that other sites will be evaluated before a range is constructed.
Clark Paterson (3/26/07)	Mr. Paterson supports the archery range and addresses four specific criticisms of archers: 1) That a natural area will be neglected by archers, 2) that an archery range will result in degradation of beauty/nature through usage, 3) that users of the archery range will be from the city and, by definition, temporary, 4) miscellaneous concerns over regulation of the area.	The proposed archery range north of Horsetooth Reservoir was included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA by a vote of the Parks Master Plan Task Force on April 10, 2007 with the stipulation that further study will be conducted and that other sites will be evaluated before a range is constructed.
Travis McKenzie (3/26/07)	Mr. McKenzie supports the proposed archery range.	The proposed archery range north of Horsetooth Reservoir was included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA by a vote of the Parks Master Plan Task Force on April 10, 2007 with the stipulation that further study will be conducted and that other sites will be evaluated before a range is constructed.
John Walgast (3/26/07)	Mr. Walgast supports the proposed archery range.	The proposed archery range north of Horsetooth Reservoir was included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA by a vote of the Parks Master Plan Task Force on April 10, 2007 with the stipulation that further study will be conducted and that other sites will be evaluated before a range is constructed.
Alan Van Arsdale (3/26/07)	Mr. Van Arsdale proposes a bike lane or paved bike trail (to parallel current road) to ease congestion and make conditions safer for bikers. Mr. Van Arsdale also supports the archery range.	Comments regarding bike lanes were conveyed to the Parks Master Plan but not included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan or the RMP/EA. The proposed archery range north of Horsetooth Reservoir was included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA by a vote of the Parks Master Plan Task Force on April 10, 2007 with the stipulation that further study will be conducted and that other sites will be evaluated before a range is constructed.
Zach Sanders (3/26/07)	Mr. Sanders supports the proposed archery range. He also acknowledges the apprehension of the surrounding community but comments that archers would be worthy stewards of the property and would respect the homeowners.	The proposed archery range north of Horsetooth Reservoir was included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA by a vote of the Parks Master Plan Task Force on April 10, 2007 with the stipulation that further study will be conducted and that other sites will be evaluated before a range is constructed.
Troy Tafoya (3/26/07)	Mr. Tafoya supports the proposed archery range, but has questions regarding maintenance of such a facility.	The proposed archery range north of Horsetooth Reservoir was included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA by a vote of the Parks Master Plan Task Force on April 10, 2007 with the stipulation that further study will be conducted and that other sites will be evaluated before a range is constructed.
Wendy Dvorak (3/26/07)	Mrs. Dvorak supports the proposed archery range.	The proposed archery range north of Horsetooth Reservoir was included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA by a vote of the Parks Master Plan Task Force on April 10, 2007 with the stipulation that further study will be conducted and that other sites will be evaluated before a range is constructed.



RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

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<p>Ramona Lokamas (3/27/07)</p>	<p>Ms. Lokamas supports the proposed archery range.</p>	<p>The proposed archery range north of Horsetooth Reservoir was included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA by a vote of the Parks Master Plan Task Force on April 10, 2007 with the stipulation that further study will be conducted and that other sites will be evaluated before a range is constructed.</p>
<p>Lin Wilder (3/28/07)</p>	<p>Ms. Wilder supports the proposed archery range.</p>	<p>The proposed archery range north of Horsetooth Reservoir was included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA by a vote of the Parks Master Plan Task Force on April 10, 2007 with the stipulation that further study will be conducted and that other sites will be evaluated before a range is constructed.</p>
<p>Joe Turner (3/29/07)</p>	<p>Mr. Turner supports the proposed archery range.</p>	<p>The proposed archery range north of Horsetooth Reservoir was included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA by a vote of the Parks Master Plan Task Force on April 10, 2007 with the stipulation that further study will be conducted and that other sites will be evaluated before a range is constructed.</p>
<p>Dave Rowe (3/29/07)</p>	<p>Mr. Rowe supports the proposed archery range.</p>	<p>The proposed archery range north of Horsetooth Reservoir was included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA by a vote of the Parks Master Plan Task Force on April 10, 2007 with the stipulation that further study will be conducted and that other sites will be evaluated before a range is constructed.</p>
<p>Louis Phillippe (3/30/07)</p>	<p>Mr. Phillippe, an active member of the Ft. Collins archery community opposes the proposed range unless it is 3-D or the county demonstrates that there is a need for another range.</p>	<p>The proposed archery range north of Horsetooth Reservoir was included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA by a vote of the Parks Master Plan Task Force on April 10, 2007 with the stipulation that further study will be conducted and that other sites will be evaluated before a range is constructed.</p>
<p>Cindy Kepner (3/31/07)</p>	<p>Mrs. Kepner is concerned that a large events center is already in the final stages of conceptual development and the early stages of construction at Horsetooth. She feels that the community was not involved in the decision to build a large events center.</p>	<p>The proposal to build an events center at Horsetooth Reservoir was included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA by a vote of the Parks Master Plan Task Force on April 10, 2007 with the stipulation that, rather than a significant building, a potential "community gathering place or places" would be built in the future. However, this place or these places will not be built until further study is conducted.</p>
<p>Ryan Miller (3/30/07)</p>	<p>Mr. Miller supports a 3D archery range at Horsetooth.</p>	<p>The proposed archery range north of Horsetooth Reservoir was included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA by a vote of the Parks Master Plan Task Force on April 10, 2007 with the stipulation that further study will be conducted and that other sites will be evaluated before a range is constructed.</p>
<p>Steve and Sue Everett (4/1/07)</p>	<p>The Everetts are against the Horsetooth Events Center as it would urbanize the reservoir and increase traffic. They also request that the people who live by the reservoir be notified of this proposal.</p>	<p>The proposal to build an events center at Horsetooth Reservoir was included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA by a vote of the Parks Master Plan Task Force on April 10, 2007 with the stipulation that, rather than a significant building, a potential "community gathering place or places" would be built in the future. However, this place or these places will not be</p>



RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

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		built until further study is conducted.
John Smethurst (4/2/07)	Mr. Smethurst is against the Events Center at Horsetooth. He feels that such a service is best provided by the private sector.	The proposal to build an events center at Horsetooth Reservoir was included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA by a vote of the Parks Master Plan Task Force on April 10, 2007 with the stipulation that, rather than a significant building, a potential "community gathering place or places" would be built in the future. However, this place or these places will not be built until further study is conducted.
Ann Dewey (4/3/07)	Ms. Dewey feels that there should be more interpreted areas at the Larimer County Reservoirs. Overall, does not believe that the Masterplan adequately addresses the added value of campground programming and increasing interpretive infrastructure. Also feels that light pollution should be addressed.	Noted. Interpretive sites and light pollution was brought up to the task force but not included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan or RMP/EA.
Raegan Morgan (4/3/07)	Ms. Morgan feels that LCPOLD should take a more active role in wildlife education and preservation.	Noted. The idea of Larimer County taking an active role in wildlife education and reservation was mentioned briefly at the April 10, 2007 Parks Master Plan Task Force meeting but was not included in the approved Larimer County Parks Master Plan or RMP/EA.
Inge Steiner (4/3/07)	Ms. Steiner is opposed to the proposed archery range for economic reasons and because of traffic concerns.	The proposed archery range north of Horsetooth Reservoir was included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA by a vote of the Parks Master Plan Task Force on April 10, 2007 with the stipulation that further study will be conducted and that other sites will be evaluated before a range is constructed.
Chuck Bentz (3/25/07)	Mr. Bentz, an avid archer, feels that the proposed location for the archery range is not an adequate site. He feels that if Larimer County is interested in providing an archery range that it should be located in a more suitable milieu.	The proposed archery range north of Horsetooth Reservoir was included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA by a vote of the Parks Master Plan Task Force on April 10, 2007 with the stipulation that further study will be conducted and that other sites will be evaluated before a range is constructed.
Linda Panepinto (4/4/07)	Ms. Panepinto opposes the proposed Horsetooth Events Center due to financial concerns, increased traffic, and decreased natural feel at the reservoir. She also feels that traffic is a concern and would advocate the opening of a restaurant.	The proposal to build an events center at Horsetooth Reservoir was included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA by a vote of the Parks Master Plan Task Force on April 10, 2007 with the stipulation that, rather than a significant building, a potential "community gathering place or places" would be built in the future. However, this place or these places will not be built until further study is conducted.
Brian Ficker (4/4/07)	Mr. Ficker supports the proposed archery range at Horsetooth.	The proposed archery range north of Horsetooth Reservoir was included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA by a vote of the Parks Master Plan Task Force on April 10, 2007 with the stipulation that further study will be conducted and that other sites will be evaluated before a range is constructed.
Larry and Kay Jones (4/4/07)	Mr. and Mrs. Jones are opposed to the proposed events center at Horsetooth because they feel that it is an unwise use of tax dollars and they feel that it is inconsistent with what a park system should provide.	The proposal to build an events center at Horsetooth Reservoir was included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA by a vote of the Parks Master Plan Task Force on April 10, 2007 with the stipulation that, rather than a significant building, a potential "community gathering place or places"



RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

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		would be built in the future. However, this place or these places will not be built until further study is conducted.
S. Cordery-Carter (4/5/07)	Mrs. Cordery-Carter has a number of comments regarding the implementation of erosion control measures at Horsetooth Reservoir. Additionally, she has a number of comments regarding finances and current and proposed fees.	Comment noted.
Dan & Evelyn King (4/6/07)	The Kings are opposed to the proposed events center on the grounds that it will compete with private businesses.	The proposal to build an events center at Horsetooth Reservoir was included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA by a vote of the Parks Master Plan Task Force on April 10, 2007 with the stipulation that, rather than a significant building, a potential "community gathering place or places" would be built in the future. However, this place or these places will not be built until further study is conducted.
Mari Murphy (4/6/07)	Ms. Murphy is against the proposed events center as it will increase traffic, decrease the privacy of surrounding residences, and because it costs too much.	The proposal to build an events center at Horsetooth Reservoir was included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA by a vote of the Parks Master Plan Task Force on April 10, 2007 with the stipulation that, rather than a significant building, a potential "community gathering place or places" would be built in the future. However, this place or these places will not be built until further study is conducted.
Courtney Loflin (4/6/07)	Ms. Loflin is against the proposed events center because it does not conform to the environment and because it will increase traffic.	The proposal to build an events center at Horsetooth Reservoir was included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA by a vote of the Parks Master Plan Task Force on April 10, 2007 with the stipulation that, rather than a significant building, a potential "community gathering place or places" would be built in the future. However, this place or these places will not be built until further study is conducted.
Todd Massey (4/6/07)	Mr. Massey wonders if it is possible to expand the current archery range or is the county really needs a new range.	The proposed archery range north of Horsetooth Reservoir was included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA by a vote of the Parks Master Plan Task Force on April 10, 2007 with the stipulation that further study will be conducted and that other sites will be evaluated before a range is constructed.
Darin Pytlik (4/6/07)	Mr. Pytlik is in favor of the proposed archery range.	The proposed archery range north of Horsetooth Reservoir was included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA by a vote of the Parks Master Plan Task Force on April 10, 2007 with the stipulation that further study will be conducted and that other sites will be evaluated before a range is constructed.
Bellvue Historic Foundation (4/6/07)	The Bellvue Historic Society feels that it needs more information about the proposed archery range before it can comment on the project. However, they feel that a better use of the parcel may be a historical museum may be a more appropriate use.	The proposed archery range north of Horsetooth Reservoir was included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA by a vote of the Parks Master Plan Task Force on April 10, 2007 with the stipulation that further study will be conducted and that other sites will be evaluated before a range is constructed.
Rob Cordery-Cotter (4/7/07)	Mr. Cordery-Cotter feels that management of the Rotary Park area should be included in this ten year management plan.	The idea of Larimer County taking an active role in managing Rotary Park and other bouldering areas was mentioned briefly at the April 10, 2007 Parks



RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

COMMENTS (DATE RECEIVED)	COMMENT SUMMARY	RESPONSE
		Master Plan Task Force meeting but was not included in the approved Larimer County Parks Master Plan or RMP/EA.
Elizabeth Ashbach and Mike Eland (4/7/07)	Ms. Ashbach and Mr. Eland are against any development of the North Horsetooth area.	The proposed archery range north of Horsetooth Reservoir was included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA by a vote of the Parks Master Plan Task Force on April 10, 2007 with the stipulation that further study will be conducted and that other sites will be evaluated before a range is constructed.
Pat Hayward (4/7/07)	Mr. Hayward is against the proposed events center due to traffic concerns.	The proposal to build an events center at Horsetooth Reservoir was included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA by a vote of the Parks Master Plan Task Force on April 10, 2007 with the stipulation that, rather than a significant building, a potential "community gathering place or places" would be built in the future. However, this place or these places will not be built until further study is conducted.
Ken Duncan (4/7/07)	Mr. Duncan is against the events center as is in contrast to the natural environment and it will increase traffic.	The proposal to build an events center at Horsetooth Reservoir was included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA by a vote of the Parks Master Plan Task Force on April 10, 2007 with the stipulation that, rather than a significant building, a potential "community gathering place or places" would be built in the future. However, this place or these places will not be built until further study is conducted.
Kathy Machado (4/7/07)	Ms. Machado is against the proposed events center due to traffic and pollution.	The proposal to build an events center at Horsetooth Reservoir was included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA by a vote of the Parks Master Plan Task Force on April 10, 2007 with the stipulation that, rather than a significant building, a potential "community gathering place or places" would be built in the future. However, this place or these places will not be built until further study is conducted.
James J. and Marika Anderson (2/27/07 & 3/9/07 & 3/12/07)	Public Mtg Consensus that Blue Mountain Area cabins would detract from the experience; a complete negative to the homeowners who are adjacent to the recreation site; public meetings were nothing more than an acceptable façade; sent letters to the county commissioners, LCPOLD & VGrizzle in your office.	The proposal to add cabins to Pinewood Reservoir was included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA by a vote of the Parks Master Plan Task Force on April 10, 2007 with the stipulation that cabins will only be built upon further study.
Bill Rolfe (2/27/07 and 4/6/07)	Mr. Rolfe disagrees with the idea of having cabins at Pinewood reservoir. He also feels that the citizens that live at Pinewood reservoir have repeatedly voiced consternation regarding putting cabins in, yet this idea is still presented in the draft Masterplan.	The proposal to add cabins to Pinewood Reservoir was included in the Larimer County Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA by a vote of the Parks Master Plan Task Force on April 10, 2007 with the stipulation that cabins will only be built upon further study.
Ken Freeman (3/15/07)	Mr. Freeman believes that Larimer County residents should pay less for entrance and annual fees than patrons that are from places other than Larimer County	This comment, while noted, is outside of the scope of the Masterplan and should be addressed directly to Larimer County
BJ (fcjmastertek@msn.com) (3/14/07)	Concerned about the idea of a lottery system for ascertaining annual slips at Larimer County reservoirs.	This topic is not something that will be specifically addressing in the RMP update - this is considered a license provision issue that would be addressed by the County, if at all, at the time of marina concession license renewal.



RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

COMMENTS (DATE RECEIVED)	COMMENT SUMMARY	RESPONSE
Linda Panepinto (3/29/07 and 3/30/07)	Ms. Panepinto advocates a much terser summary of the RMP. Ms. Panepinto also notes that the Carter Lake Sail Club is mentioned nine times while the Sail and Saddle Club is mentioned only once. She asserts that both clubs should be treated equally.	EDAW is releasing the Master Plan and EA/RMP in chapter by chapter increments for download. Despite the inequity in the frequency in which each club was mentioned, they will both be dealt with on equal terms.
Todd Rogers (3/30/07)	Mr. Rogers feels that boaters have an unfair onus of funding Larimer County parks, despite the fact that boaters only use the Reservoirs, not open spaces like Hermit Park.	Comments about fees should be addressed directly to Larimer County.
Wayne Tobey (4/5/07)	Mr. Tobey feels that charging Larimer County residents \$75-85 for an annual pass is outrageous for the amenities that are received.	Comments about fees should be addressed directly to Larimer County.
Larimer County Environmental Board (4/4/07)	The environmental board had a variety of comments on the Masterplan: 1) What evaluation was made of the potential environmental impacts from the construction and increased use of the parks?, 2) Differential fees, 3) Is the Horsetooth Events Center economically feasible?, and other misc. suggestions.	Construction impacts were evaluated both biologically and anthropologically. Questions of differential fees should be addressed directly to the county. The feasibility of the Horsetooth Events Center will be investigated if the proposal moves forward.



Resource Management Plan And Environmental Assessment for

Horsetooth Reservoir

Carter Lake

Pinewood Reservoir

Flatiron Reservoir



Bureau of Reclamation
Great Plains Region
Eastern Colorado Area Office
Loveland, CO
www.usbr.gov/gp/eca0



**Larimer County Parks and
Open Lands Department**
Loveland, CO
www.larimer.org/park

June 29, 2007

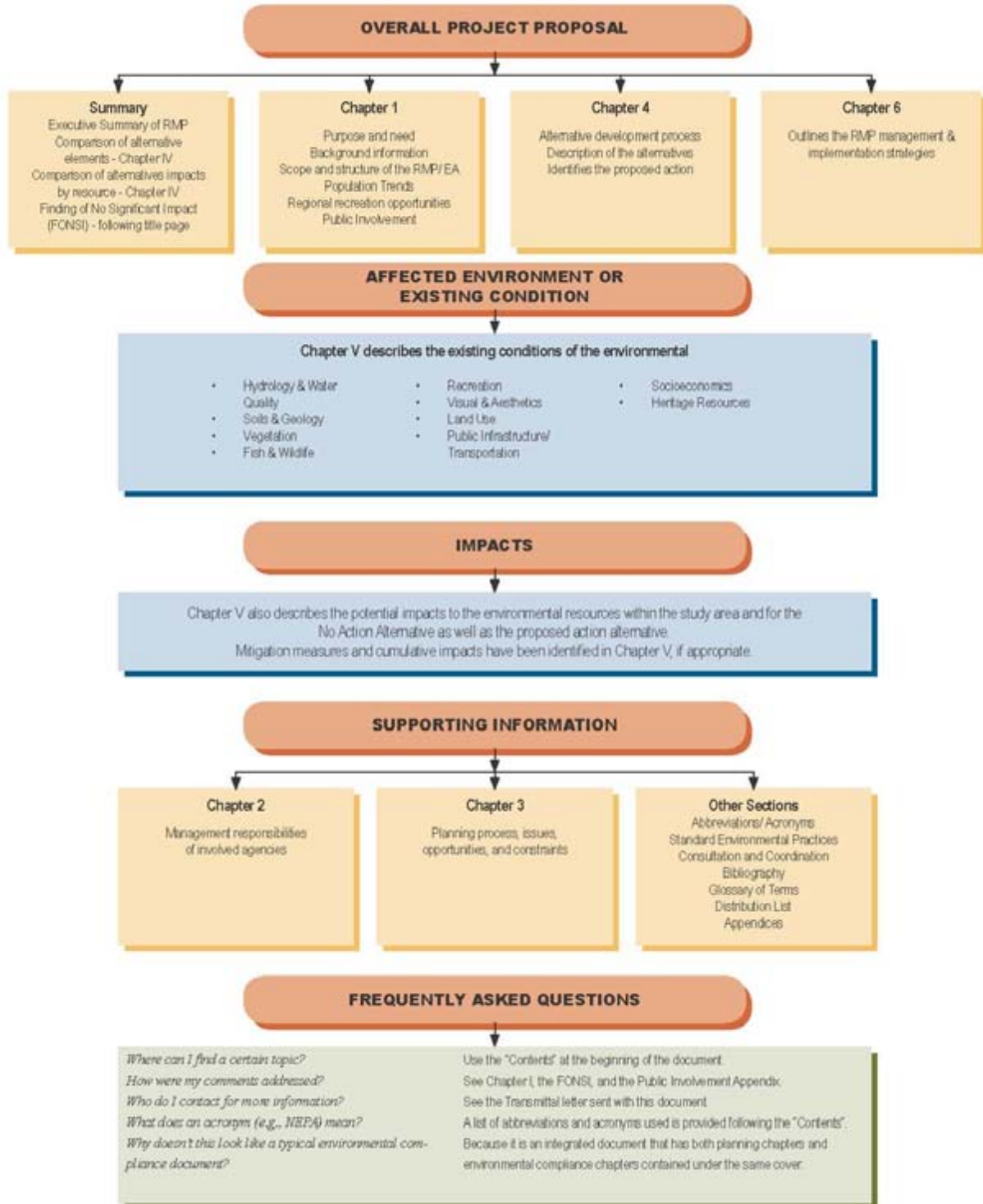
Mission Statements

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

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

The mission of the Larimer County Parks and Open Lands Department is to establish, protect, and manage significant regional parks and open lands, providing quality outdoor recreational opportunities and stewardship of natural resource values. We are committed to fostering a sense of community and appreciation for the natural and agricultural heritage of Larimer County for present and future generations.

HOW TO READ THIS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN/ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT



ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AF	Acre foot (or acre feet)
C-BT	Colorado – Big Thompson Project
CDOW	Colorado Division of Wildlife
CDPHE	Colorado Department of Health and Environment
CNHP	Colorado Natural Heritage Program
County	Larimer County
CR	County Road
CSU	Colorado State University
E.O.	Executive Order
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
FONSI	Finding of No Significance
FPD	Fire Protection District
GIS	Geographic Information System
GOCO	Great Outdoors Colorado
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRL	Minimum Reporting Levels
NCWCD	Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District
NDIS	National Diversity Information System
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
O&M	Operations and Maintenance
P.L.	Public Law
Parks Department	Larimer County Parks and Open Lands Department
Preble's	Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse
Reclamation	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
RMP	Resource Management Plan
RV	Recreational Vehicle
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0	INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW.....	1
1.1	Introduction	1
1.2	Scope and Organization of the Resource Management Plan and Environmental Assessment	1
1.3	Authority.....	2
1.4	History and Background.....	2
1.5	Overview of the Study Area(s)	4
1.5.1	Horsetooth Reservoir.....	4
1.5.2	Carter Lake	4
1.5.3	Flatiron Reservoir	6
1.5.4	Pinewood Reservoir	6
1.6	Regional Context	6
1.6.1	Region of Influence.....	6
1.6.2	Demographics	6
1.6.3	Other Regional Recreation Opportunities	10
1.7	Proposed Federal Action.....	13
1.8	Purpose and Need.....	13
1.9	Planning Objectives	14
1.10	Public Involvement	15
1.11	Agency Consultation and Coordination.....	16
1.11.1	State and Federal Compliance	16
1.11.2	Adjacent Landowners.....	16
2.0	MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK.....	1
2.1	Introduction	1
2.2	Management Responsibilities	1
2.2.1	Bureau of Reclamation.....	1
2.2.2	Larimer County	1
2.3	Management Partners	3
2.3.1	Fire Management	3
2.3.2	Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District: Water Supply.....	3
2.3.3	Colorado Division of Wildlife	3
2.3.4	Law Enforcement.....	3
2.3.5	Adjacent Land Use	3
2.3.6	Related Actions and Activities.....	4
3.0	PLANNING ISSUES, OPPORTUNITIES, & CONSTRAINTS.....	1
3.1	Introduction	1
3.2	Planning Process.....	1
3.3	Planning Issues and Opportunities.....	3
3.3.1	Natural Resources.....	4
3.3.2	Visitor Experience	4
3.3.3	Social and Cultural Resources.....	5
3.4	Management Constraints.....	5
3.4.1	Legislative Constraints	5

3.4.2	Environmental Constraints	6
3.4.3	Carrying Capacity Constraints	6
4.0	ALTERNATIVES.....	1
4.1	Introduction	1
4.2	Alternative Formulation	1
4.3	Alternatives Considered in Detail	2
4.4	Alternative A – No Action.....	2
4.5	Alternative B – Proposed Action.....	5
4.5.1	Horsetooth Reservoir.....	7
4.5.2	Carter Lake	13
4.5.3	Pinewood Reservoir	19
4.5.4	Flatiron Reservoir	21
4.6	Elements Common to All Alternatives.....	21
4.7	Alternative Elements Eliminated from Consideration	21
4.8	Standard Environmental Commitments	22
5.0	AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES.....	1
5.1	Introduction	1
5.2	Natural Resources	2
5.2.1	Hydrology and Water Quality.....	2
5.2.2	Soils, Geology and Topography	4
5.2.3	Vegetation.....	7
5.2.4	Fish and Wildlife.....	15
5.3	Visitor Experience.....	21
5.3.1	Recreation	21
5.3.2	Visual.....	23
5.3.3	Land Use.....	27
5.3.4	Public Facilities and Transportation	30
5.4	Social and Cultural Resources.....	33
5.4.1	Socioeconomics	33
5.4.2	Cultural and Heritage Resources	35
5.5	Unavoidable Adverse Impacts.....	37
5.6	Relationship Between Short-Term Uses and Long-Term Productivity	37
5.7	Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources	38
6.0	RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN	1
6.1	Introduction	1
6.2	Plan Development.....	1
6.3	Issue Identification.....	1
6.4	Management Goals and Policies	2
6.4.1	Framework for a Exclusive and Special Use Policy	5
6.4.2	Guiding Statements for Horsetooth Reservoir	6
6.4.3	Guiding Statements for Carter Lake.....	6
6.4.4	Guiding Statements for Flatiron Reservoir.....	7
6.4.5	Guiding Statements for Pinewood Reservoir.....	8
6.5	Resource Management and Environmental Protection.....	9
6.6	Plan Implementation.....	12
6.7	Implementation Actions.....	13

6.8	Implementation Guidelines	20
6.9	Amendments and Modifications to the RMP/EA.....	20
7.0	CONSULTATION & COORDINATION.....	1
7.1	Parks Planning Team	1
7.2	Parks Task Force	1
7.3	Federal, State, and Local Agencies.....	1
7.4	Others Persons or Parties.....	2
7.5	Stakeholder Groups Contacted for Participation	2

APPENDICES

- APPENDIX A: REFERENCES**
- APPENDIX B: GLOSSARY**
- APPENDIX C: PUBLIC WORKSHOPS & INTERVIEWS REPORT**
- APPENDIX D: APPLICABLE LAWS & REGULATIONS**
- APPENDIX E: SITE DESIGNS**

MAPS

- Map 1: Study Area
- Map 2: Horsetooth Reservoir, Alternative B, Proposed Action
- Map 3: Carter Lake, Alternative B, Proposed Action
- Map 4: Pinewood Reservoir, Alternative B, Proposed Action
- Map 5: Flatiron Reservoir, Alternative B, Proposed Action
- Map 6: Horsetooth Reservoir, Existing Conditions
- Map 7: Carter Lake, Existing Conditions
- Map 8: Pinewood Reservoir, Existing Conditions
- Map 9: Flatiron Reservoir, Existing Conditions

TABLES

- Table 1-1. Typical area of residence for Larimer County parks visitors.
- Table 1-2. Historical population and preliminary population forecasts.
- Table 1-3. Households and income.
- Table 1-4. Household income of Larimer County parks visitors.
- Table 1-5. Racial composition 1990 and 2000.
- Table 1-6. Ethnic background of Larimer County parks visitors
- Table 1-7. Population by age group and percentage change between 1990–2000 within the region of influence.
- Table 1-8. Typical ages of Larimer County park visitors.
- Table 1-9. Average gender of Larimer County park visitors.

Table 1-10.	Regional recreation opportunities.
Table 1-11.	Public lands within the nine county region of influence.
Table 3-1.	Partial list of stakeholders.
Table 4-1.	Existing inventory.
Table 4-2.	Total acres of new development or new disturbance.
Table 4-3.	Comparison of existing and planned campsites and parking spaces.
Table 4-4.	Total of new development or disturbance by site: Horsetooth Reservoir.
Table 4-5.	Total acres of new development or disturbance by site: Carter Lake.
Table 4-6.	Total acres of new development or disturbance by site: Pinewood Reservoir.
Table 5-1.	Characteristics of the four reservoirs in the project area.
Table 5-2.	Water quality parameters for selected analytes for supply water to the four reservoirs, Horsetooth Reservoir and Carter Lake.
Table 5-3.	Approximate acreage of plant communities at the four Larimer County reservoirs.
Table 5-4.	Weed species that occur and that have been mapped at each of the four reservoir locations.
Table 5-5.	Federal list of wildlife species for Larimer County, Colorado.
Table 5-6.	List of Colorado state special status species and other important species with habitat or potential to occur in the project area.
Table 5-7.	List of CNHP ranked species with habitat or potential to occur in the project area.
Table 5-8.	Species present at the four reservoirs in the study area.
Table 5-9.	CDOW NDIS important habitats.
Table 5-10.	Summary of existing land, water, and developed acreage at Larimer County reservoirs (acres).
Table 5-11a.	Comparison of alternatives: developed lands (land acres only).
Table 5-11b.	Comparison of developed lands under each alternative.
Table 6-1.	Implementation priorities, costs, and actions.

FIGURES

Figure 1.	Planning process for RMP/EA.
Figure 2.	Camper cabins (Horsetooth Reservoir).
Figure 3.	Group gathering area (Horsetooth Reservoir).
Figure 4.	Lower Sunrise day use area (Horsetooth Reservoir).
Figure 5.	Carter Knolls campground (Carter Lake).
Figure 6.	Group RV campground (Carter Lake).
Figure 7.	Blue Mountain area (Pinewood Reservoir).

1.0

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

1.1 Introduction

This document contains the Resource Management Plan (RMP) and associated National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance document for four Reclamation reservoirs constructed under the Colorado-Big Thompson Project (C-BT) and managed by Larimer County Parks and Open Lands: Horsetooth Reservoir, Carter Lake, Flatiron Reservoir, and Pinewood Reservoir. Much of the same information and analyses required by NEPA is included in an RMP; therefore, this RMP has been integrated with an Environmental Assessment (EA).

The RMP portion(s) of the document describes the management framework; the needs, opportunities, and constraints; public issues and concerns; United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and Larimer County Parks and Open Lands (County) goals and objectives; and specific management objectives and actions for the study area. It also provides a history and baseline for measuring the progress and success of proposed management actions.

The EA was prepared according to current Reclamation guidelines (1990 NEPA Handbook) and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. It provides an evaluation of the impacts of the proposed action and reasonable alternatives and is intended to help decision makers determine whether to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or to proceed to the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EA component of this document identifies two management alternatives, per reservoir: a No Action

Alternative and one action alternative, the Proposed Action. Existing resource conditions and environmental factors are described as well as the potential effects of the alternatives on these resources and environmental factors. The resources and environmental factors analyzed in this document include water quality, soils and geology, special status species including vegetation and fish and wildlife, cultural, recreation, visual, hydrology and water quality, socioeconomics, transportation, land use and noise.

This integrated RMP/EA updates and supersedes the previous RMP (August 1995) and EA (June 1995).

The 2007 Larimer County Parks Master Plan update was prepared concurrently with this RMP/EA. The update addresses all of the park properties managed by the Larimer County Parks and Open Lands department. The update addresses the foundation and vision of the parks system, current and expected recreational and demographic trends, and the implementation strategies, including revenue and funding, for achieving the parks' vision. The Master Plan focuses on the overall vision for the entire parks system whereas this RMP/EA is intended to meet the Reclamation's resource management planning and NEPA requirements for the four county reservoirs.

1.2 Scope and Organization of the Resource Management Plan and Environmental Assessment

The RMP/EA provides a conceptual framework for the protection, enhancement, and management of the Larimer County reservoir resources. The following summary

of chapters briefly describes the scope of the RMP/EA:

Chapter I: Introduction and Overview

Chapter I provides an introduction to and overview of the study area and states the purpose and need for an RMP/EA, overall objectives, public involvement process, and consultation and coordination efforts.

Chapter II: Management Framework

Chapter II establishes the management and policy framework by describing the existing land uses at Larimer County reservoirs, adjacent land uses, and the policies and programs influencing the use of Reclamation land and water areas.

Chapter III: Planning Issues, Opportunities, and Constraints

Chapter III summarizes the key factors that influenced the development of the RMP/EA by identifying the agency and county-wide planning issues, opportunities, and constraints.

Chapter IV: Alternatives

Chapter IV describes the alternative development process and the resulting alternatives by reservoir. The alternatives were formulated in response to the issues identified by the public, Reclamation and County.

Chapter V: Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

Chapter V describes the affected environment (existing condition) at each reservoir and discusses the expected environmental consequences of implementing each alternative. Existing condition(s) and potential effects are organized by reservoir.

Chapter VI: Resource Management Plan

Chapter VI describes the RMP, which is the preferred alternative selected by Reclamation. This chapter details the management directives, goals, and objectives and implementation strategies for the study area for the next 10 years.

Chapter VII: Consultation and Coordination

Chapter VII lists the names of persons involved in the preparation of the RMP/EA, including Larimer County, Reclamation, contractor personnel, stakeholder groups, consulting agencies, and tribal groups.

1.3 Authority

Title 28 of Public Law (P.L.) 102-575, Section 2805 (106 Stat. 4690, Reclamation Recreation Management Act of October 30, 1992), provides the Reclamation with the authority to prepare RMPs.

1.4 History and Background

Regional

The C-BT project is the largest transmountain diversion project in Colorado and provides supplemental water to 27 cities and towns and 630,000 acres of irrigated farmland in northeastern Colorado. The project consists of a series of reservoirs on both sides of the Continental Divide and an extensive network of tunnels, canals and other ancillary facilities. Together, these project features enable up to 310,000 acre-feet (AF) of water to be collected from the Upper Colorado River, west of the Continental Divide, and delivered to the Front Range, east of the Continental Divide. Four Larimer County reservoirs, Horsetooth, Carter, Flatiron, and Pinewood, are key elements of the C-BT system, storing water delivered from the Colorado River basin and also supporting hydroelectric power

production through a system that captures the energy of the imported water flowing down the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains.

The initial C-BT project was authorized by Congress on August 9, 1937. Construction of the first elements of the project began in 1938, but the completion of key elements of the system was delayed by the onset of World War II. Water from the Project is delivered to the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District (NCWCD), a public agency created in 1937 to distribute C-BT water to irrigators and municipalities in northeastern Colorado. Under the terms of an agreement with the federal government, NCWCD is responsible for operating and maintaining water supply facilities, including Carter Lake and Horsetooth Reservoir. Pinewood and Flatiron reservoirs, which function primarily as elements of the hydroelectric system, are operated by the Reclamation.

The initial authorization to construct these reservoirs for irrigation and hydroelectric purposes did not include provisions to construct, operate or maintain recreation facilities. However, recreational use of all reservoir facilities began soon after construction was completed. The reservoirs and surrounding lands have become increasingly important recreation and open space resources to the rapidly growing populations of Colorado's Front Range communities.

On June 18, 1954, the Larimer County Parks District was formed and Larimer County assumed the responsibility of administering Horsetooth, Carter, Flatiron and Pinewood reservoirs for recreational purposes. In 1965, the Federal Water Project Recreation Act (P.L. 89-72) provided for the planning, land acquisition and development of

recreational potential at existing water development projects. The law, as amended, allows for federal cost-sharing of up to one-half of the cost of planning, operations, maintenance and replacement (P.L. 102-575, Sect. 2804, Title 28). These funds are dependent on the implementation of a current RMP and satisfaction of NEPA requirements.

National

Today, water for recreation is in relatively static supply because large-scale Federal water project development in the United States is essentially complete. Currently, Reclamation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), and Tennessee Valley Authority reservoirs accommodate one-third of the total visitation to the Federal estate, but these same agencies administer only 2% of the total Federal estate acreage. Approximately 90 million people visit Reclamation's designated recreation areas annually. Visitation is increasing at an average rate of 1.2 million visitors per year, and over 100 million people are projected to visit these recreation areas by early in the 21st century. Reclamation projects stimulate an estimated \$24 billion in economic activity each year. Benefits in agriculture, recreation, hydropower, municipal and industrial (M&I) water service, and other related areas, including the construction industry, are the direct result of Reclamation's management of a limited natural water supply. These multipurpose benefits result in about \$5 billion in state and Federal tax revenues. An estimated 700,000 person-years of employment are produced each year. (Reclamation 1998).

Across the United States, about 161 million acres, 7% of the country's total land area, is covered by water, mostly fresh water. Streams, rivers, natural lakes, ponds, reservoirs, and other forms of water surface

are not only essential for aquatic microbiota, aquatic and terrestrial wildlife, household consumption, agriculture, and manufacturing, but they are also important and highly valued as recreation resources (Cordell, et al., 2004).

1.5 Overview of the Study Area(s)

The four reservoirs are located in the foothills west of the cities of Fort Collins and Loveland (Map 1). In general, all are subject to the same weather patterns and all support similar types of wildlife and vegetation. Variations in topography, elevation, aspect and level of development on adjacent lands result in characteristics unique to each reservoir. The two largest reservoirs, Horsetooth Reservoir and Carter Lake, support a full range of water and land based recreational activities. Flatiron and Pinewood Reservoirs are smaller and provide fewer recreational opportunities; boating and swimming are prohibited at Flatiron Reservoir and the operation of boats on Pinewood Reservoir is restricted to watercrafts moving at wakeless speeds. The shoreline of each reservoir is owned by the Reclamation and adjacent lands are held in a mix of private and public ownership. Water levels fluctuate seasonally and most dramatically at Carter, Horsetooth, and Pinewood while fluctuations at Flatiron occur on a daily basis and are not as significant.

1.5.1 Horsetooth Reservoir

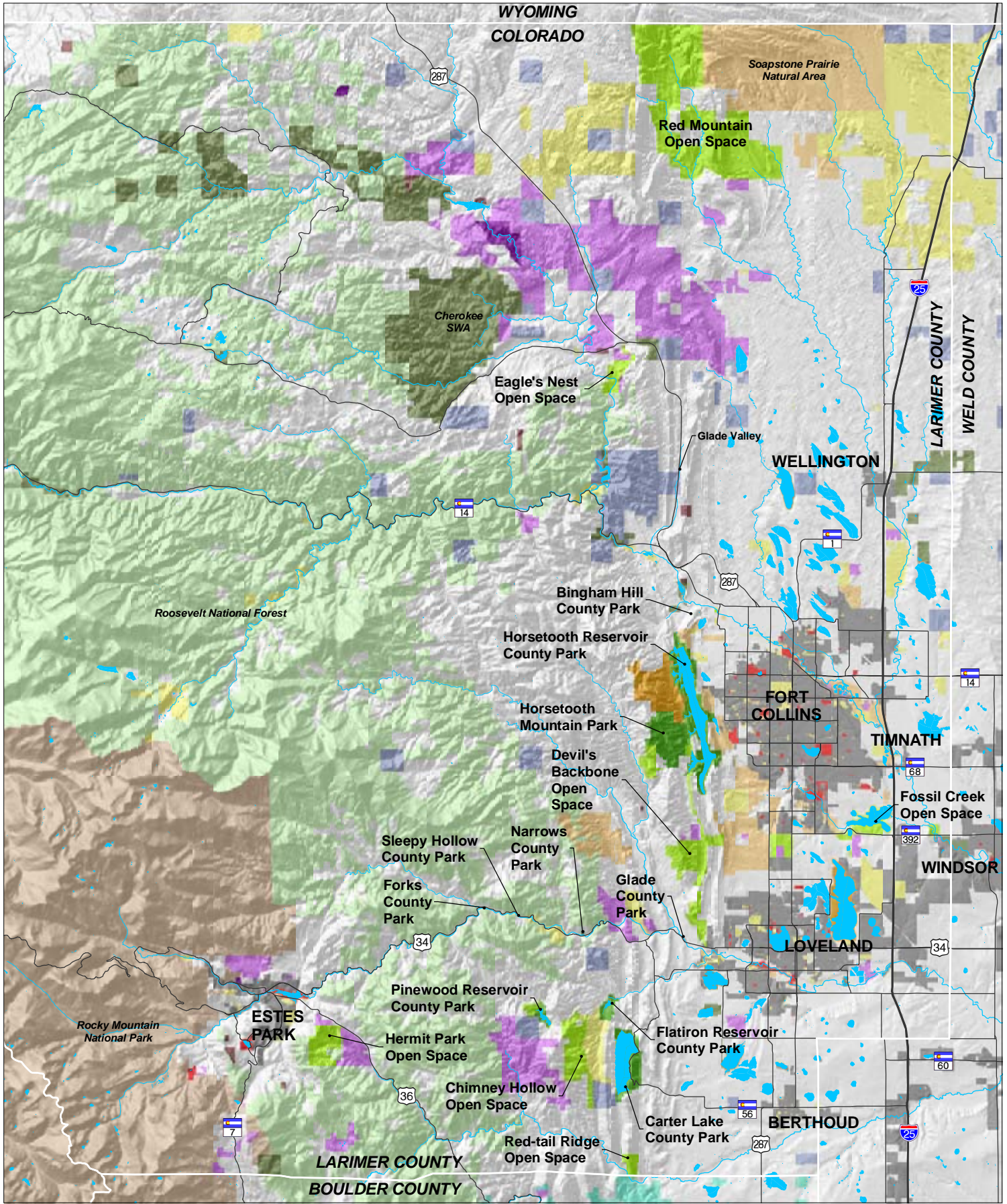
Horsetooth Reservoir is located in the foothills just west of the City of Fort Collins

at a normal pool elevation of 5,430 feet. The reservoir was created in a narrow valley between two ridges, resulting in a linear water body approximately 6.5 miles long with a north-south orientation. In most locations, the reservoir is less than one-half (0.5) mile wide, but a series of coves on the west side add as much as an additional half-mile of width in some locations. These coves also add variety to the reservoir shoreline and provide protected areas that are highly valued for boating and other recreational activities as well as for wildlife habitat.

Horsetooth Reservoir was constructed to provide terminal storage for the C-BT project. Water flows into Inlet Bay via the Charles Hansen Feeder Canal, which is located at the southwest end of the reservoir. At normal high water, the reservoir occupies approximately 2,040 surface acres and stores approximately 157,000 AF of water. Land associated with the reservoir includes approximately 2,000 acres, resulting in a management area of nearly 4,000 acres.

1.5.2 Carter Lake

Carter Lake is located approximately 12 miles west of the City of Loveland at an elevation of 5,769 feet. The reservoir lies in a natural basin between a series of hogback ridges oriented north-south. The reservoir extends approximately 3 miles from north to south and varies between 3,000-4,000 feet in width. Carter Lake has a fairly regular shoreline and has a normal high water surface area of 1,144 acres. Approximately 910 acres around the reservoir are owned by



Larimer County Parks and Open Lands
 U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
 0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles
 2/12/07
 Data Sources:
 COMap & Larimer County

- | | | |
|------------------------------|------------|--------------------|
| LARIMER COUNTY PARK | BLM | CITY NATURAL AREA |
| LARIMER COUNTY OPEN SPACE | SLB | BOULDER OPEN SPACE |
| CONSERVATION EASEMENT | STATE PARK | OTHER PUBLIC LANDS |
| THE NATURE CONSERVANCY | CDOW | NATIONAL FOREST |
| ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK | CITY PARK | |

Larimer County, Colorado

Map 1 - Study Area
 Resource Management Plan/ EA

Reclamation and are permitted to Larimer County for use as a public recreation area; combined, the shoreline and water surface areas approximate 2,054 acres.

Carter Lake was constructed to provide terminal storage for the C-BT project. Water is pumped uphill to Carter Lake from Flatiron Reservoir via a pressure tunnel that terminates in the northwest corner of the lake. Water stored in Carter Lake is used for agricultural, domestic, municipal, and industrial purposes and is delivered to users via the St. Vrain Canal. Water stored in the lake is used for peak power generation at Flatiron Reservoir which is accomplished by allowing water to flow back down to the power plant.

1.5.3 Flatiron Reservoir

Flatiron Reservoir is located at the base of Flatiron Mountain approximately 8 miles west of Loveland. The reservoir serves as an afterbay for the Flatiron Power Plant and also as a forebay for a pumped storage unit. In addition, Flatiron is the distribution point from which C-BT water can be diverted either to the north or south into other project facilities, including Horsetooth Reservoir and Carter Lake. The reservoir is the smallest of the four Larimer County C-BT reservoirs and has a total storage capacity of 760 AF and a surface area of 47 acres. The main body of the reservoir is approximately 2,200 feet long and the width varies from 600-1,200 feet. The total federal land ownership surrounding Flatiron Reservoir is 200 acres.

1.5.4 Pinewood Reservoir

Pinewood Reservoir is a small reservoir located in Rattlesnake Park approximately 12 miles southwest of Loveland. The reservoir is oriented north-south and has a length of approximately 4,200 feet; the

average width of the reservoir is approximately 800 feet. Public lands around the reservoir comprise approximately 150 acres. The reservoir has a surface area of 100 acres.

1.6 Regional Context

1.6.1 Region of Influence

Recent user surveys (Table 1-1) indicate that 58% of the visitors to Larimer County Parks and Open Lands are out-of-county visitors; the majority of these visitors are from the Denver metropolitan area and other Front Range counties. Approximately nine Front Range counties comprise the “region of influence” for the Larimer County reservoirs: Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, Jefferson, Larimer, and Weld. Since the completion of the 1995 RMP and EA, which considered eight Front Range counties as the reservoirs’ region of influence, Broomfield County was created by an amendment to the Colorado State Constitution. Broomfield County was established in 2001 and is comprised of former portions of Adams, Jefferson and Weld counties.

1.6.2 Demographics

Population in the region of influence has been steadily growing in all counties; growth rates for the past 30 years vary between a low of 19% in Denver County and a high of 191% in Douglas County. U.S. Census Bureau projections indicate that population of northern Colorado will continue to grow at a substantial rate, reaching a level of 4,566,493 by the year 2030, an increase of 62% (or 1,750,216 people) over the 2000 population. Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas counties are predicted to accommodate the greatest

Table 1-1. Typical area of residence for Larimer County parks visitors.

Area of residence	Frequency of responses (number of responses)	Percent
Denver Metro	158	29
Fort Collins/Loveland	109	20
Longmont/Berthoud	48	9
Brighton/Westminster	46	8
Greeley	20	4
Boulder/Lafayette	11	2
Colorado Springs/Pueblo	10	2
Out of state	25	4

Source: Larimer County Parks and Open Lands Visitor Survey (2005)

amount of growth (DRCOG 2004). State and regional historic and projected rates of growth are both higher than the national average; however, the pattern of growth is similar for all.

Between 2000 and 2005, three counties within the region of influence were among the 100 fastest growing counties in the nation; Douglas, Weld and Adams counties grew by 42%, 31%, and 21%, respectively during this period (Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau). As Table 1-2 shows, population growth on the Front Range is expected to continue to out-pace growth in other counties over the next 30 years, with Douglas County projecting a 51% increase, Larimer County projecting a 62% increase,

Adams County projecting a 61% increase, and Boulder County projecting a 76% increase (Colorado Department of Labor Affairs website).

A majority of the people living within the region of influence reside in urbanized areas. U.S. Census Bureau statistics show that the populations of the cities of Fort Collins and Loveland grew 35.2% and 35.5%, respectively from 1990 to 2000 (U.S. Census Bureau Fact sheets). Furthermore, five of the top 100 fastest growing cities in the nation for the period 2000-2002, with populations greater than 50,000 persons, are located along the northern Front Range including Thornton (ranked 14th, 13.4% increase), Longmont (ranked 27th, 10.7%),

Table 1-2. Historical population and preliminary population forecasts.

Area	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010**	2020	2030
Adams	40,234	120,296	185,789	245,944	265,038	363,857	453,924	557,541	659,646
Arapahoe	52,125	113,426	162,142	293,292	391,511	487,967	581,151	683,817	779,713
Boulder	48,296	74,254	131,889	189,625	225,339	291,288	307,271	344,596	375,914
Broomfield ¹	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	52,020	66,284	78,339
Denver	415,786	493,887	514,678	492,694	467,610	554,636	591,103	644,749	716,791
Douglas	3,507	4,816	8,407	25,153	60,391	175,766	309,241	414,633	491,389
Jefferson	55,687	127,520	235,368	371,753	438,430	527,056	555,345	607,417	653,603
Larimer	43,554	53,343	89,900	149,184	186,136	251,494	296,519	366,240	439,217
Weld	67,504	72,344	89,297	123,436	131,821	180,936	264,853	360,335	485,502
Colorado*	1,325,089	1,753,947	2,207,259	2,889,964	3,294,394	4,301,261	3,411,427	4,045,612	4,680,114
USA (millions)	150.7	179.3	203.2	226.5	248.7	281.4	308.9	335.8	363.6

Source: Compiled by the Demography Section from U.S. Census Bureau Records

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Demographic Trends in the 20th Century

**Source: Colorado Department of Local Affairs. Forecast of total Population for Colorado Counties, 2000-2035.

Loveland (ranked 37th, 9.2%), Greeley (ranked 63rd, 6.6%), and Fort Collins (ranked 95th, 5.0%). Three of the top 100 fastest growing cities in the nation for the period 2000-2002, with populations between 5,000-50,000 persons, are located north of Denver, including Evans (ranked 14th, 37.7%), Erie (ranked 21st, 32.3%), and Windsor (ranked 43rd, 25.5%) (City Data).

The median income within the nine county region of influence in 1999 ranged from \$40,883 in Denver County to \$92,732 in Douglas County (Tables 1-3 and 1-4). In 2003, Colorado's median income was approximately \$49,248 compared to the national median of \$43,318. With the exception of Denver County, all countywide median incomes are higher than the national median. Likewise, with the exception of Denver County, poverty levels in the region

of influence are less than the national average.

Comparison of the 1990 and 2000 census data for Colorado reveals that the area of influence is experiencing significant growth in Asian-Pacific Islander, Hispanic, and other racial groups, which is consistent with trends throughout the state and the nation (Tables 1-5 and 1-6). Between 1990 and 2000, Hispanic population in the region of influence grew by 30% and the African-American population by 23 %, compared to a statewide increase of 73.4% in the Hispanic population and a 24% increase in the African-American population. Approximately 67% of the state's Hispanic population lives within the region of influence. In contrast, the white population in both the state and the region has increased at a slower rate than the minority groups, but is still greater than that of the nation (4%)

Table 1-3. Households and income.

	Households, 2000	Persons per household, 2000	Median HH income, 2003	Persons below poverty, %, 2003
Colorado	1,658,238	2.53	\$49,248	10.0%
USA	105,480,101	2.59	\$43,318	12.5%
Adams	128,156	2.81	\$48,658	10.5%
Arapahoe	190,909	2.53	\$55,780	7.9%
Boulder	114,680	2.47	\$56,956	9.5%
Broomfield	NA	NA	\$63,883	5.1%
Denver	239,235	2.27	\$40,883	15.1%
Douglas	60,924	2.88	\$92,732	2.2%
Jefferson	206,067	2.52	\$58,786	6.8%
Larimer	97,164	2.52	\$50,197	9.3%
Weld	63,247	2.78	\$44,583	10.3%

Source: US Census Bureau State & County QuickFacts

Table 1-4. Household income of Larimer County parks visitors.

Household income	Frequency of responses (number of responses)	Percent
Under \$10,000	8	1.4
\$10,000 - \$30,000	38	7
\$30,000 - \$50,000	93	17
\$50,000 - \$70,000	83	15
\$70,000 - \$90,000	110	20
\$90,000 and above	122	22
Total	454	81
Missing	104	19
Total	558	

Source: Larimer County Parks and Open Lands Visitor Survey (2005)

for the same period (1990-2000). In 1990, the 25 to 34 age group was the largest represented age group in the region of influence at approximately 18% of the population. The 35 to 44 age group comprised the second largest portion of the population at 17%. The 2000 statistics were similar, the 25 to 34 and 35 to 44 age groups were again the largest groups represented in terms of percentage of the

population; each group comprised approximately 15% of the overall population.

Table 1-5. Racial composition 1990 and 2000.

	COLORADO			Adams			Arapahoe		
	1990	2000	Change	1990	2000	Change	1990	2000	Change
White alone	2,905,474	3,560,005	22.5%	229,808	281,231	22.4%	349,314	390,048	11.7%
Black/Afr.									
Amr.	133,146	165,063	24.0%	8,833	10,818	22.5%	23,279	37,428	60.8%
Amr. Indian	27,776	44,241	59.3%	2,396	4,321	80.3%	2,099	3,234	54.1%
Asian/Pac. Isl.	59,862	99,834	66.8%	6,876	12,096	75.9%	11,115	19,845	78.5%
Hispanic/Latino	424,302	735,601	73.4%	49,179	102,585	108.6%	21,743	57,612	165.0%
Other	168,136	432,118	157.0%	17,125	55,391	223.5%	5,704	37,412	555.9%

	Boulder			Denver			Douglas		
	1990	2000	Change	1990	2000	Change	1990	2000	Change
White alone	210,190	257,909	22.7%	337,198	362,180	7.4%	58,682	163,064	177.9%
Black/Afr.									
Amr.	1,959	2,559	30.6%	60,046	61,649	2.7%	407	1,676	311.8%
Amr. Indian	1,313	1,787	36.1%	5,381	7,290	35.5%	267	716	168.2%
Asian/Pac. Isl.	5,508	9,086	65.0%	11,005	16,259	47.7%	508	4,501	786.0%
Hispanic/Latino	15,195	30,456	100.4%	107,382	175,704	63.6%	1,910	8,886	365.2%
Other	6,369	19,947	213.2%	53,980	107,258	98.7%	527	5,809	1,003.2%

	Jefferson			Larimer			Weld		
	1990	2000	Change	1990	2000	Change	1990	2000	Change
White alone	414,542	477,454	15.2%	175,971	229,976	30.7%	117,247	147,834	26.1%
Black/Afr.									
Amr.	3,231	4,677	44.8%	1,114	1,650	48.1%	567	1,022	80.2%
Amr. Indian	2,428	3,971	63.6%	1,063	1,668	56.9%	785	1,581	101.4%
Asian/Pac. Isl.	7,630	12,445	63.1%	2,777	4,110	48.0%	1,133	1,658	46.3%
Hispanic/Latino	30,791	52,449	70.3%	12,227	20,811	70.2%	27,502	48,935	77.9%
Other	10,599	28,509	169.0%	5,211	14,090	170.4%	12,089	28,841	138.6%

	USA*		
	1990	2000	Change
White	188,128,296	194,552,774	3.4%
Black	29,216,293	33,947,837	16.2%
Amr. Indian & Eskimo	1,793,773	2,068,883	15.3%
Asian	6,968,359	10,123,169	45.3%
Hawaiian & Pac. Isl.	-	353,509	n/a
Other	249,093	467,770	87.8%
Hispanic	22,354,059	35,305,818	57.9%

Source: Colorado Department of Labor Affairs

Broomfield County data not available.

*USA racial composition data from Censusscope.org, racial categories differ from Colorado Department of Labor Affairs. In 1990 "Asians" includes Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.

Table 1-6. Ethnic background of Larimer County parks visitors.

Ethnicity	Frequency of responses (number of responses)	Percent
Caucasian	420	75
Hispanic/Latino	55	10
Asian	2	.4
African-American	4	.7
American Indian	2	.4
Other	12	2
Total	495	89
Missing	63	11
Total	558	

Source: Larimer County Parks Visitor Survey (2005)

Between 1990 and 2000, the most rapidly changing age group in the region of influence was the 45 to 54 age group, increasing by approximately 80% (Table 1-7). In both 1990 and 2000, this age group was the third most populated age group. The second highest percentage change occurred within the age group of 55 to 59. The 2005 Larimer County Parks survey questioned park visitors to determine the most frequent age range of visitors. The results are shown in Tables 1-8 and 1-9.

Colorado is challenged with satisfying the outdoor recreation demands of a diverse and

expanding population, while responsibly conserving the natural resources for future generations and for maintaining the resources for which Colorado is renowned. Various agencies throughout Colorado, including Federal, state and local agencies, are constantly challenged by the growing demands and expectations for quality outdoor recreation experiences.

1.6.3 Other Regional Recreation Opportunities

Larimer County and the northern Front Range provide numerous outdoor recreational opportunities and facilities and

Table 1-7. Population by age group and percentage change between 1990–2000 within the region of influence*.

	1990 population	Percent of population (1990)	2000 population	Percent of population (2000)	Percent change 1990–2000
Under 5	20,901	7.27	22,784	6.04	9.0
5 to 9	20,445	7.11	25,482	6.76	24.6
10 to 14	17,839	6.21	25,301	6.71	41.8
15 to 19	18,217	6.34	24,955	6.62	37.0
20 to 24	19,947	6.94	25,863	6.86	29.7
25 to 34	52,097	18.14	57,744	15.32	10.8
35 to 44	48,076	16.73	58,055	15.40	20.8
45 to 54	28,079	9.77	50,405	13.37	79.5
55 to 59	10,404	3.6	15,635	4.42	50.3
60 to 64	9,470	3.29	11,242	2.98	18.7
65 to 74	14,874	5.17	17,157	4.55	15.3
75 to 84	7,651	2.66	10,868	2.88	42.0
85 and up	2,545	0.89	3,703	0.98	45.5
Total population	270,785		354,125		30.8
Males	133,338		177,338		33.0
Females	137,447		176,787		28.6

*Broomfield County not included in table, data not available.

Source: Colorado Demography Office, <<http://dola.colorado.gov/demog/Demog.cfm>>.

Table 1-8. Typical ages of Larimer County park visitors.

Age of Visitor	Frequency of responses (number of responses)	Percent
10 – 20	18	3
21 – 30	70	13
31 – 40	132	24
41 – 50	148	27
51 – 60	79	14
61 – 70	30	5
Over 70	13	2
Total	490	88
Missing/omitted	68	12
Total	558	

Source: Larimer County Park Visitor Survey, 2005.

an abundance of reservoirs relative to other parts of the state. In Larimer County, there are the four Reclamation reservoirs, Boyd Lake State Park, numerous smaller reservoirs on the plains, and several higher mountain reservoirs. Table 1-10 lists some of the major state-managed recreational sites in the region of influence. All of the areas listed in Table 1-10 are within a two-hour drive from any place in the nine-county region.

In addition to state and county recreation opportunities, municipalities across the region offer active parks and recreation programs, including city parks and natural areas. Federal opportunities include National Forests and Grasslands adjacent to Front Range communities such as the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grasslands and Rocky Mountain National Park in western Larimer County.

Relative to the other counties within the region of influence, Larimer County offers

abundant public land resources; approximately 52% of the county is comprised of public lands (Table 1-11). Larimer County’s public lands are almost equal to the amount of public lands available in all of other region of influence counties combined.

Recent public polls indicate that 94% of Coloradoans participate in some form of outdoor recreation and most participants are trying a greater number of activities (Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2003). Population along the Front Range is growing and subsequently, recreation use is increasing. Colorado's climate supports high demand for water-based facilities that provide a variety of recreational uses. According to the 2005 Larimer County Parks and Open Lands Visitor Survey, the majority of users live within a 2.5 hour drive of the Larimer County reservoirs. Similarly, in previous surveys of Larimer County residents, users chose county facilities as their favorite place(s) to visit because of

Table 1-9. Average gender of Larimer County park visitors.

Gender of visitor	Frequency	Percent
Male	266	48
Female	260	47
Total	526	94
Missing	32	6
Total	558	

Source: Larimer County Park Visitor Survey, 2005.

Table 1-10. Regional recreation opportunities.

	Acres Land / Water	Day-use Facilities	Camping	Swim Area	Boat Ramps	Recreation Opportunities
STATE PARKS						
Boyd Lake	1,700 acres (water, when full)	90 picnic sites	148 sites	Yes	2	Boating, waterskiing/jetskiing, swimming, walking, wildlife viewing, fishing, waterfowl hunting, camping, picnicking
North Sterling	2,820 acres (land) 2,880 acres (water)	38 picnic sites	141 sites	Yes	3	Amphitheater, boating, water sports, swimming, hunting, fishing, picnicking
Jackson Lake	484 acres (land) 2,700 acres (water)	60+ picnic site, 1 group site	260 sites, 1 group site	Yes	1	Birding, boating, camping, fishing, picnicking, hunting, jetskiing, swimming.
Cherry Creek	3,402 acres (land) 840 acres (water)	106 sites, 5 group sites	125 sites, 3 group sites	Yes	2	Fishing, swimming, boating, model airfield, shooting range, camping, picnicking, horseback riding, hiking, mountain biking
Chatfield	3,906 acres (land) 1,412 acres (water)	139 sites	163 sites	Yes	3	Camping, hiking, fishing, biking, picnicking, swimming, model airplane field, horseback riding, boating, hot air ballooning, bird watching, wildlife viewing, environmental education programs.
Barr Lake	1,759 acres (land) 1,950 acres (water, when full)	32 picnic sites	0	No	1	Hiking, biking, horseback riding. Canoeing, birdwatching, fishing, sailing, waterfowl hunting
St. Vrain	563 acres (land) 193 acres (water)	15 sites	60 sites	No	0	Picnicking, camping, fishing, wildlife and nature viewing, walking
Golden Gate	12,350 acres (land) 7 acres (water)	125 picnic sites	155 sites, 5 cabins, 2 yurts	No	0	Hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, stream fishing
Eldorado Canyon	1,319	42 sites	None	No	No	World-class rock climbing, hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, wildlife and nature viewing
Roxborough	3,329 acres (land) 1 acre (water)	0	0	No	No	Hiking, photography, wildlife and nature viewing
Lory	2,492 acres (land only)	5 picnic areas (inc. group area)	6 Backcountry sites	No	No	Hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, wildlife and nature viewing, picnicking, water sports nearby
LARIMER COUNTY RESERVOIR PARKS						
Horsetooth	1,900 acres (land) 2,040 acres (water)	29 sites, 1 group site	119 sites	Yes	4	Hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, picnicking, boating, fishing, waterskiing, other water sports
Carter	1,000 acres (land) 1,100 acres (water)	20 sites, 1 group site	123 sites	Yes	3	Hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, picnicking, boating, fishing, waterskiing, other water sports
Pinewood	504 acres (land) 100 acres (water)	3 sites	31 sites	No	1	Horseback riding, boating, fishing, hiking, camping
Flatiron	200 acres (land) 47 acres (water)	5 sites, 1 group site	38 sites	No	None	Fishing, camping picnicking

Table 1-11. Public lands within the nine county region of influence.

	Total land area (acres)	Total Federal public land (acres)	Total State public land (acres)	Local government public land (acres)	Total public land (acres)
Adams	765,745	17,596	27,253	7,781	52,630
Arapahoe	514,820	7,614	43,539	18,266	69,419
Boulder	480,731	168,842	3,279	61,216	233,337
Denver	99,620	2,544	346	18,759	21,649
Douglas	539,071	140,535	10,980	20,644	172,159
Jefferson	497,190	107,852	12,041	71,995	191,888
Larimer	1,683,922	791,185	78,776	13,472	883,433
Weld	2,571,835	207,723	175,164	1,492	384,379
County total	7,152,934	1,443,891	351,378	213,625	2,008,894

Note: Some State lands are leased, but were included as public lands for the purpose of this study. Only totals from the eight counties along the Front Range that are within the area of influence are shown. Broomfield County not included.

Sources: Department of Local Affairs, Cartography/GIS section, 1996. Land ownership data prepared for Colorado Gap Analysis Project, from BLM 1:100,000 map series, by National Ecology Research Center, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Table excerpted from Reclamation Recreation Demand and Capacity Analysis, April 2006.

their proximity to home, as well as the experiences provided. These responses indicate that the Larimer County reservoirs, located within tolerable driving distance from all points along the growing northern Front Range, can expect increasing demand on their existing facilities.

1.7 Proposed Federal Action

The preparation and implementation of an RMP is a federal action that is intended to direct the management of resources within the study area to maximize overall public and resource benefits for the next 10 years. NEPA requires federal agencies to consider the potential impact(s) of federal actions on the environment before implementing project alternatives. Therefore, a planning process and an appropriate level of environmental analysis were used to develop this RMP/EA. This RMP/EA will be used as the management framework for the Larimer County reservoirs and surrounding lands until 2017.

1.8 Purpose and Need

Nationwide, recreation use of available sites will continue to increase. This is a

reflection of the “baby boomer” generation, increased leisure time, new recreation technologies, and increased public awareness of recreation opportunities in rural communities. It has been estimated that there will be a 50–100% increase in public demand for water-based recreation opportunities at state and Federal facilities over the next 20 years. Without major changes in infrastructure and management programs, the health and safety of the recreational users and the integrity of the natural environment may be compromised (Reclamation 2002 and National Recreation Lakes Study Commission 1999).

The purpose of this RMP/EA is to provide formal program and policy guidelines enabling the orderly use, enhancement and management of the four reservoirs and surrounding lands. The RMP/EA will promote the following Reclamation and County management objectives and priorities:

- Balance natural resource protection with recreational opportunities
- Provide a diversity of recreational experiences
- Ensure financial sustainability

- Account for future growth and demand

The RMP/EA will identify specific strategies to accomplish these objectives, enabling the Reclamation and County to make appropriate management decisions, and to effectively meet the recreation demands of park visitors and county residents both now and in the future.

The current RMP and EA, completed in 1995, were intended to provide management direction until 2005. This integrated RMP/EA would replace the 1995 documents and would establish a 10-year plan detailing the management framework for the conservation, protection, and enhancement of the four regional reservoirs and surrounding lands.

The reservoirs and surrounding lands have become important resources serving the recreation needs of the rapidly growing communities located along Colorado's Front Range. Increasing regional demand reflects population growth and the continuing popularity of water-based recreation. Together, these factors could lead to user conflicts, natural resource degradation and water quality impacts at each of the reservoirs. Currently, a shortage of recreation facilities exists, and new facilities are necessary to adequately serve the demands of the growing population.

Current issues and needs have been identified by the County, Reclamation, and through the public and stakeholder involvement process. The RMP/EA will address issues and needs relating to:

- Visitor experience including safety, diversified experiences, recreational opportunities, and improved facilities
- Natural resources

- Socioeconomics and cultural resources
- Park Administration including fiscal responsibility

The RMP/EA would provide for the coordinated allocation of funds; planning and implementation of projects; and development of lands, facilities, and recreation opportunities.

1.9 Planning Objectives

Planning objectives were identified for this RMP/EA process to ensure the desirable outcomes. These objectives were defined by the Parks Planning Team (more detail on the various planning groups can be found in Chapter III) and were presented to the public and Parks Task Force for review:

- Ensure the plans are consistent with Reclamation and Larimer County vision statements and policies
- Meet Reclamation and Larimer County requirements for management plan updates
- Address new issues and opportunities
- Analyze new trends in parks and recreation
- Ensure a high quality recreational experience
- Ensure financial sustainability
- Balance natural resource protection with recreational opportunities

The planning objectives for completing an RMP/EA for Larimer County reservoirs are consistent with the objectives identified in Reclamation's 2000-2005 *Strategic Plan*:

- Manage, develop, and protect water and related resources to meet the needs of current and future generations

- Operate, maintain, and rehabilitate facilities safely, reliably, and efficiently to provide project benefits
- Advance Reclamation's organizational effectiveness

Chapter VI contains specific Reclamation and County goals and policies that were formulated as a result of the public involvement process and planning teams' review.

1.10 Public Involvement

The RMP/EA process relied on an extensive public involvement program to ensure that the resulting plan represented the needs, concerns and desires of the interested public. The program allowed for public input through a variety of channels, including workshops and open-house meetings, a website interface, written comments, and interviews. Newsletters and updates were distributed to all interested parties and adjacent property owners and fliers were distributed at Larimer County visitor contact facilities.

The Parks Task Force, a citizen's committee, was created in order to engage reservoir users directly and to assist and evaluate the planning process. The Task Force was comprised of 14 members, selected by an application process by the Larimer County Board of Commissioners. The Task Force met 7 times throughout the 15-month planning period. A list of the Task Force members can be found in Chapter 7.0.

Interested stakeholders, identified by Reclamation and County, were invited to participate in interviews to discuss their group or organization's ideas and concerns regarding management of the reservoirs. Stakeholders consisted of adjacent property

owners, recreation and conservation groups, concessionaires, community organizations, government organizations, and county boards and commissions. Stakeholder interviews were conducted in May and June 2006.

Four public meetings were held at various stages of the planning process. The first public session (July 2006) consisted of two meetings, one in Loveland and one in Fort Collins. The first meeting provided the public an opportunity to identify issues, concerns and needs at the reservoirs. The second public session (September 2006) also consisted of two meetings and provided the public with an opportunity to provide input on the alternatives development process. Throughout the process, all Park Task Force meetings were open to the public.

The County maintained a project website (<http://www.co.larimer.co.us/parks/masterplan/>) to inform the public of meeting schedules, the planning process, and ways to participate. The website included links to Planning Team and Task Force meeting agendas and minutes, information on NEPA requirements, vision statements and guiding principles, and participating agency websites. The website also included contact information for agency officials and project leaders and provided instructions on how to submit comments.

Press releases regarding the project and upcoming meetings were published in local newspapers. A press release was issued at least one week before each Task Force meeting. A project flier describing the project purpose and communicating the project schedule (including meeting schedule) was distributed to stakeholder groups at interviews and by email. The fliers were also distributed at each public meeting.

1.11 Agency Consultation and Coordination

1.11.1 State and Federal Compliance

All changes, new developments, and other work initiated under the term of this plan will be completed in full compliance with all applicable state and federal laws and executive orders. Options and alternatives for addressing park needs will be evaluated in terms of their effects on the biological, physical, and socioeconomic components of the natural and human environment. Applicable laws and executive orders are as follows:

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (P.L. 91-190)
- National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended
- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as amended
- Section 7, Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, as amended

Because of the existing disturbances at the reservoirs, the existing planning documents (1995) and the programmatic nature of this RMP/EA, formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was not initiated. However, the USFWS was informed of the project and was issued drafts of the planning documents in order to provide comments. Formal USFWS consultation will occur as site-specific projects are implemented.

1.11.2 Adjacent Landowners

Reclamation is required to coordinate its planning efforts with local (city and county), state, and other federal entities to ensure that its land uses are compatible with adjacent land uses (public and private). Information pertaining to the present and future uses of

adjacent lands was solicited from the following entities:

- Colorado Division of Wildlife
- Colorado State University Research Foundation, Real Estate
- City of Fort Collins Natural Areas
- Larimer County Planning and Building Services Department
- Lory State Park
- Colorado Natural Heritage Program
- Colorado State Forest Service
- City of Fort Collins Water Department