
6.0 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

6.1 Introduction

A formal planning process was completed in order to develop this planning and environmental compliance document. Based on the issues and concerns identified through Planning Team, Task Force, and the public involvement process, Reclamation and Larimer County analyzed possible management scenarios for the four Larimer County reservoirs. After analyzing alternatives, the Planning Team selected the Proposed Action (Alternative B) to recommend as the preferred management alternative. Alternative B will be the Resource Management Plan (RMP). The necessary RMP implementation actions, goals and objectives are described in the remainder of this chapter.

Based on public input and internal review of Reclamation programs and policies, the actions highlighted in this chapter should be implemented within the four reservoir project areas. The overall goal is to implement the actions within the 10-year planning period; however, implementation depends on, among other things, available funding, cooperation of other involved entities; cost-sharing efforts; results of visitor use surveys; and the results of prepared for individual recreation areas.

This chapter describes the goals formulated to address the issues and opportunities, the associated policies formulated to successfully achieve the goals, and the actions necessary to meet the policies.

6.2 Plan Development

Reclamation has the primary stewardship responsibility to manage the lands under its jurisdiction in accordance with existing laws, policies, and guidelines. In cases in which Reclamation lands are directly managed by others, such as through the management agreement with Larimer County Parks and Open Lands, Reclamation exercises oversight responsibility to ensure that the managing agency fulfills its responsibilities pursuant to the terms and conditions of the management agreement between the parties. Key objectives for development include protecting fish, wildlife, and biodiversity; preserving the environmental resources and cultural values of historical places; providing for outdoor recreation; and protecting the health and safety of visitors. These objectives, as well as the actions, must be met in an environmentally and economically sound manner.

A primary step in the planning process was to identify goals and policies to address issues and opportunities. Many of the goals, policies, and actions were formulated in response to Reclamation land management principles, concepts and policy. Pursuant to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements, potential effects of implementing certain combinations of actions (i.e., "alternatives" or management plans) were analyzed and the results have been disclosed in the preceding chapters.

6.3 Issue Identification

The issues presented in Chapter 5.0 reflect a broad range of perceived issues and

opportunities associated with management and operation of the reservoirs. The issues and opportunities were identified through consultation with a variety of individuals and agency representatives, including those who attended the two public meetings on the resource management plan, and views expressed by members of the Task Force and Planning Team. As such, the list represents a comprehensive look at the elements requiring attention in development of the RMP. The issues and opportunities contributed to development of the goals and policies and plan recommendations.

6.4 Management Goals and Policies

Goals and policies for the RMP were developed in direct response to the issues and opportunities identified during scoping. Each goal is the desired future condition that Reclamation wishes to achieve as a result of the implementation of this revised RMP. Each goal is accompanied by a set of policies that LCPOL and Reclamation should pursue to attain the goals (desired future condition).

The Larimer County vision states that the County will add value to the lives of its citizens by adhering to the following vision statements (V-1, V-2, etc. Goals and policies are then organized by vision statement (V-1-1, etc.):

V-1. BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

Goal V-1-1. Partner and coordinate with other programs and agencies to provide and manage park resources

Policies

- A. Play an important role in a larger park, open space, and trail recreational system.

- B. Participate in intergovernmental planning efforts for the provision of recreational opportunities and management of resources.
- C. Give appropriate consideration to the regulations and policies of managing partners when developing partnership agreements, while keeping within the framework of Reclamation laws, regulations, and policies.
- D. Ensure that recreation facilities, services, and activities are compatible with other reservoir water management operations.
- E. Consider the Larimer County Master Plan, the Open Lands Master Plan and other plans before implementing projects.
- F. Continue to collaborate with managing partners, such as Reclamation, NCWCD, and CDOW.
- G. Expand collaboration with related agencies and interest groups.
- H. Develop agreements with adjacent public lands to assure compatible and mutually supportive management decisions (also supports Goal V-5-2).
- I. The Larimer County Parks and Open Lands Department will collaborate with Reclamation to determine when its feasible to enhance water levels for recreation purposes.

V-2. BEING CUSTOMER DRIVEN

Goal V-2-1. Provide Appropriate Opportunities for Nature-Based Recreation

Policies

- A. Ensure that public access to major reservoirs (such as Horsetooth and Carter) and developed facilities for boating, camping and related activities continues to be available.

- B. Where appropriate, provide increased opportunities for low-intensity activities, including swimming, wakeless boating, and nature observation at less-developed sites, including reservoirs, ponds, rivers and streams.
- C. Provide opportunities and access to new public lands and water resources (i.e. future reservoirs).
- D. Develop additional trails that provide access to recreation opportunities within the Parks to adjacent public lands and communities (also supports Goal V-1-1)
- E. Provide interpretive programs, multi-faceted facilities, and recreational opportunities that encourage repeat and year-round visitation.
- F. Further develop recreational activities, such as cabins use, bouldering, rock climbing, swimming, paddling, rowing, and day use opportunities.
- G. Expand and improve visitor access and use of shoreline areas; and minimize the development of parking areas, roads, and buildings in these areas.
- H. Provide access for people with a wide range of abilities and incomes.
- I. Establish a diversity of appropriate recreation opportunities at capacities desired by the public and acceptable from a resource management standpoint.
- J. Adapt to changing recreation trends if they are compatible.
- K. Adopt and implement design guidelines that assure the provision of basic amenities in reasonable proximity to campsites and other areas of concentrated use. Monitor carrying capacity of the reservoirs; limit the number of boats and other uses when capacity is reached.

- L. Educate and manage visitors to minimize user conflicts and improve safety.
- M. Provide public access to all facilities to limit exclusive use of public resources.
- N. Improve facilities to ensure a high quality and safe recreation experience.
- O. Purchase additional park lands as necessary to meet this goal.

V-3. EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

Goal V-3-1. Promote active outreach efforts that celebrate our County's Park Resources

Policies

- A. Promote active outreach and communication efforts with stakeholders, community leaders, and the public to successfully implement plan recommendations.
- B. Actively celebrate and promote the Larimer County Park Program.
- C. Actively disseminate information about the Park Program, conservation, recreational, and the theme of water.
- D. Facilitate citizen-led initiatives, volunteers, and other community-based programs to implement the Plan.

V-4. BEING A FULFILLING AND ENJOYABLE PLACE TO WORK

Goal V-4-1. Ensure an efficient and effective operational structure

Policies

- A. Provide appropriate resources to support department responsibilities, including funding, staff, training, and equipment.

- B. Provide an adequate level of concession services to the general public, and obtain a fair market return from concession operations (also supports Goals V-1-1 & V-2-1).
- C. Create a parks board to support and provide input on the management of the park system and implementation of plans (also supports Goal V-3-1).
- D. Provide needed administrative facilities and other improvements to support park operations.
- E. Empower park employees to implement the RMP.
- F. Use employee knowledge, skills, and abilities to further park(s) vision and achieve park goals.
- G. Provide staffing levels that meet visitor needs.

V-5. BEING A GOOD STEWARD OF PUBLIC RESOURCES

Goal V-5-1. Manage our County's Park resources in an economically sustainable manner

Policies

- A. Seek adequate funding to develop, operate, and maintain recreation resources and staff at a level to manage the parks and provide quality visitor experiences.
- B. Pursue alternative and diversified funding sources, such as donations, grants, foundations, and trust funds.
- C. Set realistic fee policies to ensure the Park system is mostly self supporting, accounts for market conditions, and the real costs of developing and maintaining facilities.
- D. Increase fees for facilities with higher levels of amenities and location factors, such as shoreline access.

- E. Leverage resources through partnerships with federal and state agencies, cities and counties.
- F. Use sound business practices in the operation and management of recreation facilities and concessions, and exercise appropriate approval authority and oversight of managing partners and concessionaires to ensure the full implementation of these practices.
- G. Develop obtainable annual operational plans to effectively implement the RMP and Master Plan over time.
- H. Provide a mix of recreation opportunities that cover the spectrum of citizen's ability to pay.
- I. Develop policies to ensure funding increases commensurate with population increases.
- J. Pursue other appropriate and creative visitor services opportunities (e.g, campgrounds, group facilities)

Goal V-5-2. Conserve and Enhance Natural Resources and Water Quality

Policies

- A. Control shoreline erosion in areas where important resource or property values are threatened.
- B. Minimize the use of non-native species in landscaping and restoration efforts.
- C. Improve key wildlife habitats within the park system, and provide enhanced opportunities for wildlife observation.
- D. Selectively acquire additional lands to preserve important resource values, and buffer the park system from intrusive development (also supports Goal V-1-1).
- E. Limit recreational use of remote areas to provide less disturbed areas for

wildlife and provide backcountry experiences for visitors.

- F. Provide restrooms and adequate waste disposal for shoreline camping areas.
- G. Monitor the park's natural environment, including plant, and animal diversity.
- H. Conserve the natural character and environmental quality of County parks (also supports Goal V-2-1).
- I. Improve ecological connectivity through the preservation of key areas and the management of adjacent lands.

6.4.1 Framework for a Exclusive and Special Use Policy

Exclusive use is any use that excludes other appropriate public recreation use or users for extended periods of time. This includes but is not limited to infrastructure such as boat docks, cabins, trailers, manufactured or mobile homes, structures, or amenities that are located on government property. Reclamation and Larimer County Parks and Open Lands Department will continue to cooperate with private organizations that use the reservoirs; however, it is the Reclamation and Larimer County Parks and Open Lands' policy is to transition privately-owned structures to public ownership and gradually phase out the concept of exclusive use. This framework provides the approach for the creation of a new special use policy that will be evaluated after the adoption of this plan.

When exclusive use occurs on Federal land, special use permits and contractual clauses will be used to encourage additional public benefits. Special use permits are considered as part of an established process to evaluate the public value and access of facilities, as well as to permit a potential change of land or recreation use. A special use permit for

private groups would be considered if uses and facilities are consistent with all the following criteria:

1. Facilities are available for public use
2. All buildings and facilities the groups use will be publicly owned (or future transition plans)
3. The group is easy to contact, provides open enrollment and membership information
4. The group makes a contribution to the community, such as hosting public or charity events
5. The group provides courses, training, or educational opportunities for the community
6. The group does not duplicate existing services and experiences the are provided in the park
7. Fees are commensurate with market rates
8. Permits are short-term (annual evaluation and permits for up to 5 years)
9. The land the group uses is not needed for other public purposes
10. The group will avoid conflict with other public uses/users
11. The group's facilities and associated programs are consistent with the park resource management plan
12. The group provides recreation experiences that are desired by a large group of parks users (relative to the park's visitation levels)
13. The facility has a public right-of-way (i.e. road) to the facility (or future transition plans)
14. The group's bylaws/membership regulations are approved by Larimer County

6.4.2 *Guiding Statements for Horsetooth Reservoir*

Desired Visitor Experience

Recreation

- Higher speed motorized boating in open water – primary activity
- Fishing opportunities
- Non-motorized boating at off-peak visitation times (e.g., weekdays) and in no-wake areas
- Highly social and developed full-service camping adjacent to the reservoir including multiuse campsites and cabins (approximately 300 boats)
- Full service marina
- Primitive boat-in camping in remote shoreline locations
- Picnicking in scenic locations
- Swimming at a beach location
- Trail use in the park and on to regional trails
- Group picnics and events
- Rock climbing
- Buildings to host weddings, family functions, and events

Interpretation

- Tell the story of water in Colorado, geologic structure of the park, and local history
- Provide information about regional conservation lands and trails
- Provide opportunities for wildlife viewing
- Provide a setting for interpretive and other presentations (wildlife, recreation, water, geology, history, etc.)

Desired Resource Conditions

- **Water Quality:** Maintain water quality suitable for swimming and healthy fish populations
- **Wildlife:** Protect habitat to ensure the presence of wildlife
- **Vegetation:** Protect rare vegetation and manage for native vegetation to prosper
- **Level of Development:** The majority of the park will remain natural with a few highly developed areas
- **Level of Resource Management:** Natural resource management will ensure a healthy ecosystem, fish population, weed control, and limited fire risk
- Cultural resources will be protected to ensure their preservation

Desired Managerial Conditions

- Provide a high level of safety through appropriate staff levels and visitor education
- Provide full service campgrounds and a marina
- Maintain facilities at a high quality of condition and cleanliness
- Manage for a high level of visitation and revenue
- Provide appropriate recreation opportunities

6.4.3 *Guiding Statements for Carter Lake*

Desired Visitor Experience

Recreation

- Motorized boating in open water – primary activity
- Sail boating and associated events

- Fishing opportunities
- Non-motorized boating at off-peak visitation times and in no-wake areas
- Highly social and developed full-service camping adjacent to the reservoir including multiuse campsites, cabins and walk-in tent sites
- Full service marina
- Picnicking in scenic locations
- Swimming at a beach location
- Trail use in the park and on to regional trails
- Group picnics, camping, and events
- Rock climbing

Interpretation

- Tell the story of water in Colorado, geologic structure of the park, and history
- Provide information about the parks habitat and wildlife
- Provide opportunities for wildlife viewing
- Provide a setting for interpretive and other presentations (wildlife, recreation, water, geology, history, etc.)

Desired Resource Conditions

- Water Quality: Maintain water quality suitable for swimming and healthy fish populations
- Wildlife
 - Protect habitat to ensure the presence of wildlife
 - Connect the park to other conservation lands to conserve wildlife movement
- Vegetation: Protect rare vegetation and manage for native vegetation to prosper

- Level of Development: The majority of the park will remain natural with a few highly developed areas
- Level of Resource Management:
 - Natural resource management will ensure a healthy ecosystem, fish population, weed control, and limited fire risk
 - Cultural resources will be protected to ensure their preservation

Desired Managerial Conditions

- Provide a high level of safety through staff presence and visitor education
- Provide full service campgrounds and a marina
- Maintain facilities at a high quality of condition and cleanliness
- Manage for a high level of visitation and revenue

6.4.4 Guiding Statements for Flatiron Reservoir

Desired Visitor Experience

Recreation

- Highly social and developed full-service camping adjacent to the reservoir including multiuse campsites and cabins – primary activity
- Shoreline fishing opportunities
- Picnicking in a scenic location
- Group picnicking
- Trail use in the park and to the Bison Visitor Center

Interpretation

- Tell the story of water in Colorado, geologic structure of the park, and history
- Provide information about the parks habitat and wildlife
- Provide opportunities for wildlife viewing

Desired Resource Conditions

- Water Quality: Maintain high water quality for healthy fish populations
- Wildlife
 - Protect habitat to ensure the presence of wildlife
 - Connect the park to other conservation lands to conserve wildlife movement
- Vegetation: Protect rare vegetation and manage for native vegetation to prosper
- Level of Development: Most of the park will remain natural with little development
- Level of Resource Management
 - Natural resource management will ensure a healthy ecosystem, fish population, weed control, and limited fire risk
 - Cultural resources will be protected to ensure their preservation

Desired Managerial Conditions

- Provide good level of safety through limited staff presence and visitor education
- Maintain facilities at a high quality of condition and cleanliness
- Manage for a moderate to high level of visitation and revenue

6.4.5 *Guiding Statements for Pinewood Reservoir*

Desired Visitor Experience

Recreation

- Fishing opportunities – primary activity
- Non-motorized boating and no-wake motorized boating
- Somewhat social, rustic camping adjacent to the reservoir including multiuse campsites, walk-in tent sites and rustic cabins
- Picnicking in a scenic location
- Trail use in the park and on to open space trails

Interpretation

- Tell the story of water in Colorado, geologic structure of the park, and history
- Provide information about the parks habitat and wildlife
- Provide opportunities for wildlife viewing

Desired Resource Conditions

- Water Quality: Maintain high water quality for healthy fish populations
- Wildlife: Protect habitat to ensure the presence of wildlife
- Vegetation: Protect rare vegetation and manage for native vegetation to prosper
- Level of Development: Most of the park will remain natural with very little development and no large structures
- Level of Resource Management
 - Natural resource management will assure a healthy ecosystem,

- fish population, weed control, and limited fire risk
- Cultural resources will be protected to assure their preservation

Desired Managerial Conditions

- Provide good level of safety through limited staff presence and visitor education
- Maintain facilities at a high quality of condition and cleanliness
- Manage for a moderate level of visitation and revenue

6.5 Resource Management and Environmental Protection

a. Water Quality

1. Control adverse water quality effects from human activities
 - Limit camping below the high water mark
 - Restrict vehicle use below the high water mark.
2. Provide adequate sanitation and waste management facilities at all recreation sites
 - Identify the need for additional waste management facilities.
 - Allow camping in designated sites only.
3. Protect or restore shoreline vegetation as a means of controlling erosion.
 - Identify areas with erosion problems
 - Enforce fishing regulations.
 - Evaluate the need for and cost of revegetation in areas with erosion problems and recommend a restoration plan.

4. Control potential pollutants (gasoline, petroleum products) associated with boat activity.

- Develop a pamphlet for distribution at park entrances to educate the public about methods to minimize gasoline or petroleum leaks.
- Ensure that the Horsetooth Reservoir and Carter Lake marinas are following best management practices for fueling boats and the use of fuel containers.

5. Consider land use control strategies.

- Coordinate with the Larimer County Planning and Environmental Health Departments to minimize the contamination from sewer systems and other land uses.

6. Design catchment basins and/or treatment wetlands to detain runoff from campgrounds and parking lots.

b. Fish and Wildlife

1. Enhance public awareness of fish resources in the reservoirs through educational and informational programs.
2. Improve the recreational fishing experience by refining and enforcing park regulations.
3. Coordinate with state and local agencies in managing vegetation and wildlife resources.
 - Work with the CDOW to enhance wildlife habitat and protect existing biological diversity associated with the reservoir area
 - Enforce fishing regulations

- Identify any important wildlife resources that are currently unknown (e.g., active Raptor nests, Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse habitat)
- Upon identification, develop appropriate management strategies to protect these resources
- Develop suitable monitoring programs, especially as reservoir use increases.
- Develop pine beetle program through the State Forest and County Forester regarding future mountain pine beetle damage to ponderosa pines near the reservoir, possibly removing specific infested trees that represent a potential hazard and leaving certain beetle damaged trees for wildlife habitat.
- Retain snags that do not pose a potential hazard for nesting birds and raptor use.
- Limit user conflict and vandalism damages by coordinating with the appropriate state agencies to identify posting or patrolling needs associated with habitat protection and interpretation.
- Work with the Fort Collins Natural Resources Department regarding resource protection (e.g., mule deer winter habitat, raptor nests), adequate trail maintenance, and controlling human use along the eastern ridgeline of the reservoir including Pine Ridge.
- Coordinate with the City of Fort Collins to identify important habitat along the eastern ridge that may support rare butterfly species and develop a plan to prevent habitat loss in these areas from increased use, thereby maintaining the current habitat quality.

4. Establish measures to avoid conflict or adverse impacts to important vegetation and wildlife habitat resulting from human activities.

- Minimize use of wetland and riparian areas for hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding.

5. Protect and enhance wetlands near reservoirs in accordance with existing federal regulations.

- Conduct a survey of the wetlands. If important wetlands are identified, consider constructing a check dam in the upper portion of the cove adjacent to the wetland area.
- Maintain tree canopy, understory and existing snags located north of Dixon Reservoir

6. Protect riparian zones important to resident and migratory wildlife species

- Enhance the habitat associated with the Spring Creek outlet by:
- Restricting development within the riparian zone
- Maintaining tree canopy and understory
- Retaining existing snags for cavity-nesting birds
- Planning trail development to minimize impacts to nesting songbirds
- Eradicate exotic plant species while maintaining native plant diversity and water levels in the Spring Creek outlet.

7. Protect and maintain habitat for rare and endangered species

- Restrict hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding to designated trails in areas near Bell's twinpod habitat.

- Coordinate with the CDOW regarding protection of any site that is identified by the CDOW as significant to particular wildlife species.
 - Retain snags or other roost sites around the reservoirs for use by wintering bald eagles.
 - Coordinate with Lory State Park and Horsetooth Mountain Park to minimize human disturbance to the historic, communal bald eagle roost site located west of the reservoir.
 - Coordinate with the CDOW and the Fort Collins Natural Resource Department to minimize human disturbance to bald eagles occurring along College Lake and the eastern portion of the reservoir.
8. Improve public awareness of vegetation and wildlife resources through educational and informational programs.
- Produce an exhibit for display in the general vicinity of the known habitat for Bell's twinpod.
 - Coordinate with state agencies to increase public awareness of and enhance habitat for Bell's twinpod (e.g., "Adopt a Plant Program").
 - Produce an exhibit for display of vegetation types present in the general vicinity of the reservoir.
 - Coordinate with the CDOW to develop "Watchable Wildlife Programs" for the public.
 - These programs are often led by CDOW employees or community volunteers.
 - Coordinate with the CDOW to identify resource needs that could be met through involvement of the Department's volunteer program. These needs may encompass habitat enhancement, construction of interpretive trails, or eradication of exotic plant species.
- Coordinate with Lory State Park, Horsetooth Mountain Park, City of Fort Collins and the CDOW in developing interpretive signs or kiosks, trails in appropriate areas, and community programs to provide public information or education programs to minimize conflicts and resource damage, and to encourage community participation.
 - Erect interpretive signs relative to the importance and value of wetlands and riparian habitat to both area wildlife species and community residents.
9. Reclaim disturbed areas with native plant species to enhance existing wildlife habitat.
- Establish native plants in areas disturbed by new or prior construction.
 - Control the invasion and spread of undesirable exotic plants that threaten the native habitat value or biological diversity.
10. Work with CDOW in developing and implementing fishery management and habitat improvement techniques.
- Place broken concrete slabs from canal replacements at south end of lake below the lowest drawdown level.
11. Coordinate with the Bureau of Reclamation, NCWCD and CDOW to consider operational changes in reservoir filling or releases.
- c. Cultural Resources**
1. Improve public awareness of cultural resources through educational and informational programs.

2. Erect interpretive signs on the history of the area, including early settlement activities as well as Native American use and occupation.

d. Recreation and Visitor Services Management

Larimer County Parks should continue to operate and manage the recreation and other visitor services at the reservoirs. Staffing levels should be optimized to meet visitation levels and facility maintenance needs.

- Visitor information should continue to be provided at all entry stations, self-service stations and at the Bison visitor center. Information about park regulations as well as environmental education and wildlife and cultural resource interpretive displays and programs should also be provided.
- Provide shoreline access for all populations wherever possible.

e. Road and Park Maintenance

Larimer County Parks Department will continue to be responsible for park facilities, lands and road maintenance. Larimer County Road and Bridge Department will continue to be responsible for maintenance of county roads around the reservoir.

- Primary circulation roads should be paved (e.g., recycled asphalt or aggregate base), and secondary roads graded as necessary to keep the surfaces in acceptable condition.
- Provide adequate staffing and funding for on-going maintenance.
- Clean toilets daily during peak use times.

f. Public Safety

The Larimer County rangers are responsible for law enforcement, including enforcement of public use regulations at the reservoirs. Local ambulance services or the Larimer County Emergency Services respond to serious medical emergencies.

- Provide adequate numbers of rangers to sufficiently enforce the rules and regulations, and to respond to emergencies such as wildland fires, dive calls, etc.
- Continue to enforce a vessel regulations, wakeless zones, travel directions and mark water hazards as feasible to reduce the likelihood of boating accidents.
- Provide information regarding safe boating practices, especially targeting operators of personal water craft, the type of vessel that is becoming a greater safety hazard as its popularity and numbers increase.

6.6 Plan Implementation

Implementation of the RMP is primarily the responsibility of Larimer Parks and Open Lands. Approval and acceptance of the RMP/EA by Reclamation and involved agencies includes a commitment by Reclamation, and other entities where appropriate, to seek financial, program, and staffing resources necessary to implement the proposed actions. Because funding priorities are subject to change, implementation of specific actions will require close coordination between Reclamation and the other parties, including the County and stakeholders, interested in the management and use of the reservoir lands and waters.

Other factors that may influence the implementation of a particular action are

based on whether the action: (1) is procedural or technical, such as preparing agreements or developing specific plans; (2) addresses public health and safety concerns; (3) is in compliance with existing laws and regulations; (4) is required to prevent resource damage or protect wildlife species or habitats; or (5) requires large capital investments, such as facility development. Successful planning and coordination will be necessary to identify annual program priorities and will be essential in securing funding necessary to accommodate the goals and objectives of this RMP. To aid in planning for future needs and development at the reservoirs, Larimer County Parks and Open Lands will serve as the lead agency to collaborate with appropriate stakeholders on a periodic basis to discuss issues, concerns, and solutions and identify funding sources. The Parks Advisory Board will be used to identify concerns and help the Parks and Open Lands Department decide which projects should be funded and who will fund them. Once a budget is approved, the Parks and Open Lands Department could then implement specific actions.

6.7 Implementation Actions

The following are general actions identified during the planning process to facilitate the management of the reservoirs and to achieve the goals and policies established for the project areas; these actions apply to all lands within the project areas. More specific actions are detailed later in this chapter.

- Reclamation will continue to operate the four Larimer County reservoirs and adjacent Reclamation lands for the purposes for which the project was authorized.
- Reclamation will adhere to existing and future Federal, State, and county

laws, regulations, and ordinances, including accessibility regulations and guidelines.

- Decisions will be made for the benefit of the project and the general public.
- Visitor health and safety will be the primary focus when constructing or upgrading needed facilities and providing visitor use opportunities.
- The following indicators will be used to monitor the effectiveness of this management plan:
 - Visitor surveys
 - Water Testing by Fort Collins Utilities
 - Weed Monitoring
 - Wildlife Sighting documentation by staff
 - CDOW fisherman surveys

In addition, each set of goals and policies outlined in this chapter is accompanied by certain actions that will facilitate their completion.

The implementation of the majority of these projects would be phased over the next ten years. Projects are phased by priority level to match anticipated levels of funding and implementation timing based on grants, fees, and other funding sources. Project that require a separate dedicated funding source are also highlighted (i.e, Special Projects). Cost estimates for proposed projects are outlined in Table 6-1. Actual development costs may vary after detailed designs and final cost estimates are prepared for each improvement. These estimates were prepared with the best information available at the time of the design (schematic design examples are provided in Chapter 4.0, *Alternatives*).

The following preliminary concept plan cost estimates (Table 6-1) is an opinion of

probable costs for the construction of the plan elements and areas as shown on the concept plans for each specific area. Assumptions utilized in the development of the cost estimates include:

1. The estimate is a Class C estimate due to the conceptual level of planning and design that is in support of this estimate. At the preliminary stages of planning and design, it is very difficult to determine the complete scope of the project in detail; programming of the project is an approximation and is based on project meetings, existing site inventory and conditions and review by Larimer County. The cost estimate should be used for preliminary budgeting purposes only.

2. The cost estimate is organized into the major specific site areas as shown on the Concept Plans. The individual items outlined in the cost estimate are not all illustrated on the Concept Plans, but they are typical elements found in this type of project as well as existing site elements inventoried at the site.

3. The preliminary unit quantities are both take-offs of features from the Concept Plans as well as assumptions based on similar project experience. The assumptions are noted in the notes column of the specific cost estimates.

4. The unit costs are based on review and recommendations from Larimer County, current cost estimate data collected from similar types of projects bid in the past few years as well as published cost data information for some project elements. The unit costs reflect several types of costs: in-house construction utilizing Larimer County staff, materials and/or equipment; and unit costs typically found in a bid and construct project.

5. The cost estimate does not include a yearly escalation factor. The costs reflect estimated costs for 2006.

6. The cost estimate does not include overall project development or overhead costs that may be accrued if the project is developed in multiple phases.

7. Costs for compliance and/or mitigation permitting costs are not included.

8. The cost estimate, as directed by Larimer County, does not include any contingencies (these typically include: Contractor's General Conditions, Concept Plan Contingency and Contractor's Bid Bonds).

9. The costs included for utilities are assumptions only as existing and proposed utility plans were not available.

Opportunity	Location	Program Elements	Priority 1 Capital Cost	Priority 2 Capital Cost	Other Projects Capital Cost	Potential Funding Sources	Implementation Notes
HORSETOOTH RESERVOIR							
New Trailhead & Day Use Area	Field of Dreams	Trail connections Parking area Vault toilet Lawn play area - re-vamp old irrigation system Signs - wayfinding and regulatory Automatic closure gate Split rail fence along property line Picnic Shelter	\$37,500			Title 28 GOCO grant funds Annual Permits User Fees Patrons Permit Open Space Sales and Use Tax Revenues Etc.	This estimate represents 50% of the cost, the other half will be paid with Open space funds.
New Camper Services Buildings	Inlet Bay	Camper services building (6 showers, 4 flush toilets) Pedestrian connections Parking Landscaping Signs - wayfinding Utilities - from existing lines Dumpster and enclosure	\$175,000			Title 28 GOCO grant funds Annual Permits User Fees Patrons Permit Open Space Sales and Use Tax Revenues Etc.	This facility would generate revenue after construction investment.
New Camper Services Building	South Bay	Camper services building (6 showers, 4 flush toilets) Pedestrian connections Parking Landscaping Utilities - from existing lines Dumpster and enclosure	\$161,000			Title 28 GOCO grant funds Annual Permits User Fees Patrons Permit Open Space Sales and Use Tax Revenues Etc.	This facility would generate revenue after construction investment.
Improve Existing Swim Beach Area & Develop Group Day Use Facilities	South Bay	Expand the land area (dredge and fill) Group picnic shelter (75-100 people) Picnic shelter Vault toilet Expanded day use parking - oversized vehicles Landscaping Volley Ball and Horse shoes Drinking fountain and water spigot User amenities (picnic tables, benches, etc.)			\$568,000	Other Major Funding Source (see Parks Master Plan - Financial Considerations Memo, 2006)	This facility would generate revenue after construction investment.
Group Gathering Area	South Bay	To Be Determined			Unknown	Other Major Funding Source (see Parks Master Plan - Financial Considerations Memo, 2006) including corporate sponsorship	This facility has the potential generate significant revenue that would pay for part of the Capital costs and cover the maintenance. The facility will be further evaluated
Rebuild Administration Buildings & Maintenance Yard	South Bay	Maintenance building Office/staff building Improved access More parking Expanded yard storage Security Fencing			\$1,178,000	Other Major Funding Source (see Parks Master Plan - Financial Considerations Memo, 2006)	
Improve & Expand Campground	South Bay	Pedestrian connections More Camping - RV Sites Utilities - electric/ water/ sewer User amenities (picnic tables, benches etc.)	\$157,000			Title 28 GOCO grant funds Annual Permits User Fees Patrons Permit Open Space Sales and Use Tax Revenues Etc..	This facility would generate revenue after construction investment.

Opportunity	Location	Program Elements	Priority 1 Capital Cost	Priority 2 Capital Cost	Other Projects Capital Cost	Potential Funding Sources	Implementation Notes
Additional Cabins	South Bay	Pedestrian connections More Cabins User amenities (picnic tables, benches etc.)			\$160,000	Other Major Funding Source (see Parks Master Plan - Financial Considerations Memo, 2006)	This facility would generate revenue after construction investment.
Improve Trail	Rotary Park	Rebuild trail to climbing areas and shoreline Revegetate existing social trails Trail material - aggregate base course Automatic Closure Gates		\$33,000		Title 28 GOCO grant funds Annual Permits User Fees Patrons Permit Open Space Sales and Use Tax Revenues Etc..	
New Swim Beach	Lower Sunrise	Picnic shelters Vault toilet Pedestrian and trail connections Parking area Limited lawn area Sand area Automatic closure gate User amenities (picnic tables, benches etc.) Dive area	\$321,000			Title 28 GOCO grant funds Annual Permits User Fees Patrons Permit Open Space Sales and Use Tax Revenues Etc.	This facility would generate revenue after construction investment.
New Paddling Sports Facility	Lower Sunrise	Storage Building Club House Outdoor Work/Training Area Dock system			Unknown	Fort Collins Rowing Association	These facilities will be funded and maintained by users. The facilities will be owned by Larimer County.
Trail to Lory State Park	Satanka Cove	Trail material Stairs			\$64,000	Other Major Funding Source (see Parks Master Plan - Financial Considerations Memo, 2006)	
Improved Boat-in campsites	Coves and West Shoreline	Composting Toilets Designated Campsites	\$15,000			Boating Grant - \$45,000 User Fees - \$15,000	Funding already obtained and will be constructed in the spring of 2007.
New Archery Range	North of Horsetooth Dam	To Be Determined			Unknown	Title 28 GOCO grant funds Annual Permits User Fees Patrons Permit Archery Group Corporate Sponsor	This facility would be funded and maintained by users. The facility will be further evaluated.

CARTER LAKE							
Upgrade Campground	North Pines Campground	Improve vehicular circulation Shoreline access Upgrade and add additional campsites-RV and Walk-In Vault toilets User amenities (picnic tables, benches etc.)		\$154,000		Title 28 GOCO grant funds Annual Permits User Fees Patrons Permit Open Space Sales and Use Tax Revenues Etc..	This facility would generate revenue after construction investment.
New Cabins	Eagle Campground	3 Cabins		\$110,000		Title 28 GOCO grant funds Annual Permits User Fees Patrons Permit Open Space Sales and Use Tax Revenues Etc..	This facility would generate revenue after construction investment.

Opportunity	Location	Program Elements	Priority 1 Capital Cost	Priority 2 Capital Cost	Other Projects Capital Cost	Potential Funding Sources	Implementation Notes
New Camper Services Building	Eagle Campground	Camper services building Pedestrian connections Landscaping Utility hookups in Lower Eagle User amenities (picnic tables, benches etc.)	\$172,000			Title 28 GOCO grant funds Annual Permits User Fees Patrons Permit Open Space Sales and Use Tax Revenues Etc.	This facility would generate revenue after construction investment.
Rebuild Marina	Marina Area	Concession/ Marina Building Boat maintenance storage yard Pedestrian connections Parking - trailer/ passenger Landscaping Lighting User amenities (picnic tables, benches etc.)			\$800,000	The Department has funds reserved to complete phase one of this project. Phase 2 funds will come from special project funding sources.	This facility would generate revenue after construction investment. This facility is currently being designed.
Upgrade Campground	Big Thompson Campground	Upgrade existing sites Utilities - electric User amenities (picnic tables, benches etc.)			\$69,000	Other Major Funding Source (see Parks Master Plan - Financial Considerations Memo, 2006)	These upgrades will improve visitor experience.
New Swim Beach	New Quarry Area South of Big Thompson Campground	County road realignment Camper services building Concession building Picnic shelters Vault toilets Pedestrian connections Parking - RV/ passenger Lawn area Existing sand area Breakwater User amenities (picnic tables, benches etc.)			\$1,143,000	Project Specific Funding Sources (see Parks Master Plan - Financial Considerations Memo, 2006)	This facility would generate revenue after construction investment. The program and cost estimate will be modified during the planning process.
New Group RV Camping Area	East of Carter Knolls	Camping - RV Vault toilet Trails to reservoir Pedestrian connections Parking Signs - interpretive User amenities (picnic tables, benches etc.)			\$303,950	Other Major Funding Source (see Parks Master Plan - Financial Considerations Memo, 2006)	This facility would generate revenue after construction investment.
New Cabin Area	Carter Knolls	4 Cabins Trails to reservoir Pedestrian connections Parking Signs - interpretive User amenities (picnic tables, benches etc.)		\$177,000		Title 28 GOCO grant funds Annual Permits User Fees Patrons Permit Open Space Sales and Use Tax Revenues Etc..	This facility would generate revenue after construction investment.
New Camper Services Buildings	South Shore Campground	Camper services building (6 showers, 4 flush toilets) Pedestrian connections Parking Landscaping Signs - wayfinding Utilities - from existing lines Dumpster and enclosure	\$161,000			Title 28 GOCO grant funds Annual Permits User Fees Patrons Permit Open Space Sales and Use Tax Revenues Etc.	This facility would generate revenue after construction investment.

Opportunity	Location	Program Elements	Priority 1 Capital Cost	Priority 2 Capital Cost	Other Projects Capital Cost	Potential Funding Sources	Implementation Notes
Upgrade Campground	South Shore Campground	Relocated entrance and driveway Improved vehicular circulation Expanded day use parking Entry station Vault toilets Pedestrian connections Camping - RV/ pull-through/ buddy spur 4 New Cabins Group camping Utilities - electric Closure gates Dumpsters and enclosures User amenities (picnic tables, benches, etc.)			\$466,810	Other Major Funding Source (see Parks Master Plan - Financial Considerations Memo, 2006)	This facility would generate revenue after construction investment.
New Trail Carter Knolls to New Swim Beach	East Shoreline	Trail east of CR 31 Trail material - aggregate base course Signs - wayfinding and interpretive Benches			\$48,000	Other Major Funding Source (see Parks Master Plan - Financial Considerations Memo, 2006)	
New Trail from Sundance Trail to Marina and new swim beach	North Shoreline	Trail along shoreline Trail material - aggregate base course Signs - wayfinding and interpretive Benches			\$48,000	Other Major Funding Source (see Parks Master Plan - Financial Considerations Memo, 2006)	

FLATIRON RESERVOIR

Additional Cabins	Campground	Pedestrian connections 2 Cabins Utilities - electric Signs - wayfinding and interpretive User amenities (picnic tables, benches etc.)			\$93,000	Parks and Open Lands USBR	
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PINEWOOD RESERVOIR

New Trail	East Shoreline	Trail along shoreline Trail material - aggregate base course Signs - Wayfinding and Interpretive Benches		\$25,000		Title 28 GOCO grant funds Annual Permits User Fees Patrons Permit Open Space Sales and Use Tax Revenues Etc.	
New Cabins	Blue Mountain Area	Pedestrian connections 2 Cabins Improve Parking	\$78,000			Title 28 GOCO grant funds Annual Permits User Fees Patrons Permit Open Space Sales and Use Tax Revenues Etc.	This facility would generate revenue after construction investment.
Re-develop Campsites & Parking Area	Launch Area	Improve vehicular circulation Trailer parking spaces Pedestrian connections Camping - Walk-In/ Drive-In- primitive experience Signs - wayfinding and interpretive Dumpster and enclosure User amenities (picnic tables, benches etc.)	\$74,000			Title 28 GOCO grant funds Annual Permits User Fees Patrons Permit Open Space Sales and Use Tax Revenues Etc.	

Opportunity	Location	Program Elements	Priority 1 Capital Cost	Priority 2 Capital Cost	Other Projects Capital Cost	Potential Funding Sources	Implementation Notes
Upgrade Camping Area	Windy Pines	Improve vehicular circulation New Vault toilet Pedestrian connections to reservoir Camping - RV/ Walk-In/ Pull-Through Utilities for all sites Signs - wayfinding and interpretive Dumpster and enclosure User amenities (picnic tables, benches etc.)		\$156,000		Other Major Funding Source (see Parks Master Plan - Financial Considerations Memo, 2006)	
Upgrade Day Use Area	Fisherman's Cove Area	Shoreline fishing access Signs - interpretive Scenic overlook User amenities (picnic tables, benches etc.)			\$27,000	Other Major Funding Source (see Parks Master Plan - Financial Considerations Memo, 2006)	
ESTIMATED TOTAL			\$1,351,500	\$655,000	\$4,968,760		
ESTIMATED GRAND TOTAL			\$6,975,260				

Priority 1 Projects - To be completed as the first priority within the Plan's 10 year planning horizon.
 Priority 2 Projects - To be completed as the second priority within the Plan's 10 year planning horizon.
 Other Projects - Already funded or to be completed if funding permits

6.8 Implementation Guidelines

The *USDI Bureau of Reclamation Recreation Facility Design Guidelines* (September 2002) provides examples of recreation facility design details. Use of these guidelines is intended to assist in the planning and budget processes, reduce design costs, and provide consistent designs throughout Reclamation's system of facilities. Reclamation, its managing partners, and concessionaires are encouraged to use these guidelines in the design and development of new recreation facilities and the renovation of existing facilities. As new designs, technology, and materials are developed, they will be added to the manual guidelines, and existing materials will be reevaluated. The manual provides guidelines for the following facilities:

- Entrance stations
- Camping facilities and campground layout
- Picnicking facilities
- Comfort station buildings
- Boating facilities
- Fishing facilities
- Utilities

* Note: This is not a comprehensive list.

Sign guidelines, to improve communication with the public, are provided in the *USDI Bureau of Reclamation Sign Guideline for Planning, Design, Fabrication, Procurement, Installation, and Maintenance of Signs for Outdoor Public Use Area* (March 2002). Additionally, the Federal Highway Administration's 2003 *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* must be followed when installing these types of signs on Reclamation lands. These guidelines encourage the development of a sign

program that fosters safety, facilitates management of an area, provides a learning opportunity for visitors, and offers a positive image and identity for all entities involved in the management of the area (i.e., Reclamation, Larimer County, water districts, State parks, etc). The manual provides guidelines for the following types of signs:

- Identification signs
- Administrative signs
- Feature signs
- Area signs
- Directional markers
- Regulatory/warning/security signs
- Interpretive signs
- Hiking and/or horse trail signs
- Waterway markers

* Note: This is not a comprehensive list.

A standard Larimer County Parks entrance sign has been designed and can be found in Appendix E.

6.9 Amendments and Modifications to the RMP/EA

Reclamation and LCPOL may revise or amend the RMP within the established 10-year planning period. During the implementation or monitoring phases of the RMP, Reclamation, other agencies, or the public may identify problems, deficiencies, or additional issues that should be addressed. Changes in the social, economic, physical, or environmental conditions may also necessitate changes to the RMP/EA. Minor changes in data or material that do not conflict with the established goals and objectives would be documented by Reclamation and LCPOL and would not require further public involvement and

NEPA compliance. Changes that would modify one or more of the prescribed decisions and require major changes to the established goals and policies would be documented by an amendment to the RMP and may require further public involvement and NEPA compliance. Reclamation will determine the level of public involvement and NEPA compliance.

The RMP is expected to be re-evaluated at the end of the 10-year planning period (year 2017) to determine whether or not the RMP should be revised. The planning and NEPA process used to complete this RMP/EA will then be used to prepare an updated RMP/EA.