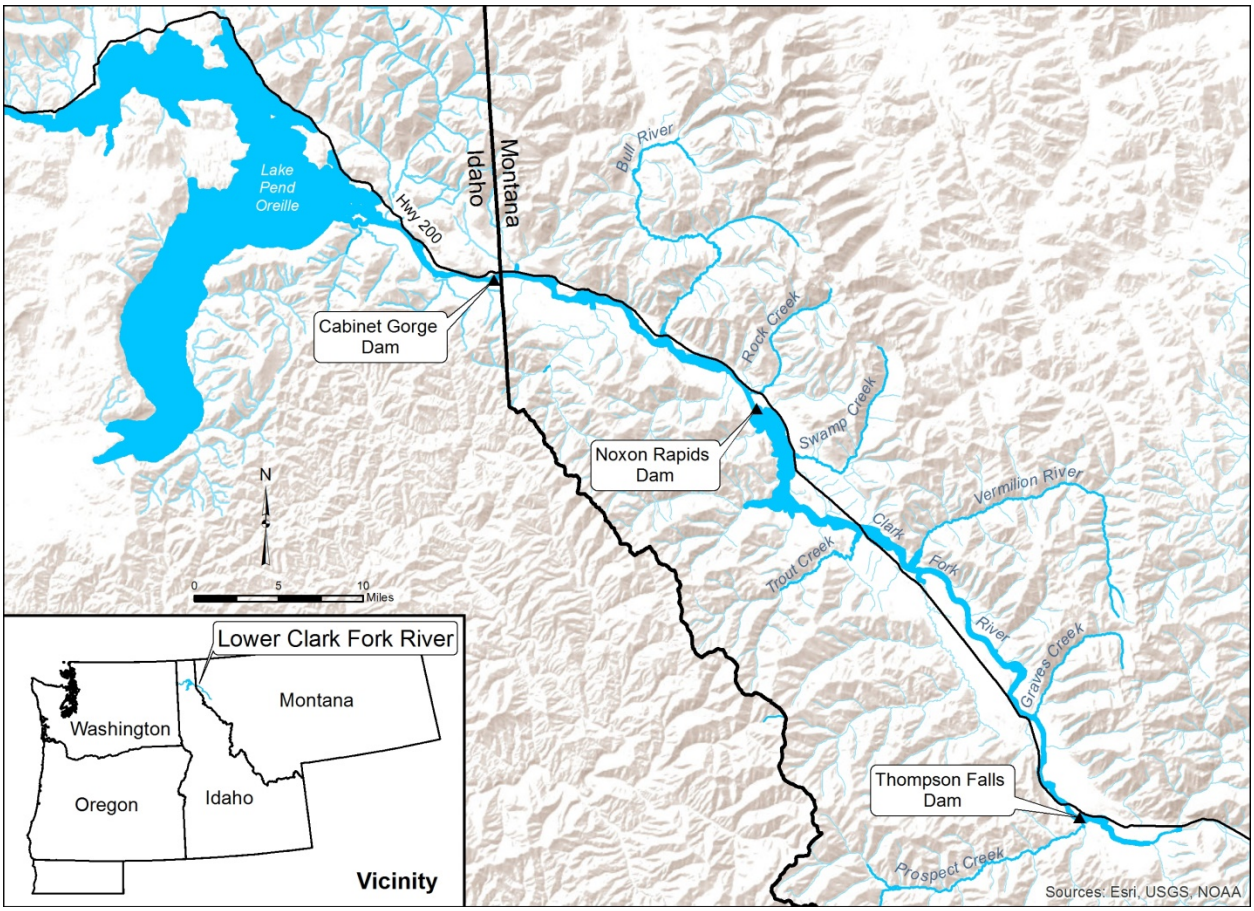
Clark Fork Project

Recreation Resource

Management Plan



Interim Update

July 2017

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

RRMP: Recreation Resource Management Plan

TRTAC: Terrestrial Resources Technical Advisory Committee

CRMG: Cultural Resources Management Group

LURAWG: Land Use, Recreation, and Aesthetics Work Group

Projects, Clark Fork Projects, or Lower Clark Fork Projects: Noxon Rapids Hydroelectric Project (FERC 2075) and Cabinet Gorge Hydroelectric Project (FERC 2058)

USFS: US Forest Service

LUMP: Land Use Management Plan

ADA: Americans with Disabilities Act

CRFT: Clark Fork Relicensing Team

BLM: Bureau of Land Management

MFWP or FWP: Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

IDFG: Idaho Department of Fish and Game

IDPR: Idaho Parks and Recreation

LAC: Limits of Acceptable Change

ROS: Recreation Opportunity Spectrum

GMCD: Green Mountain Conservation District

O&M: Operation and Maintenance

Management Committee or MC: Stakeholder group that oversees measures associated with the Clark Fork Settlement Agreement.

The Recreation Resource Management Plan (RRMP) was produced during relicensing of the Clark Fork Projects[1] in the late 1990s to guide and facilitate the management of existing and future recreation resources associated with the Projects. The RRMP[2] provides a vision of the desired future condition of the project area, establishes long-term goals and objectives for managing recreation resources in the project area, identifies both site-specific and programmatic recreation measures to be implemented over the term of the new license, and establishes a process for interim updates of the Plan.

The intent of the RRMP Interim Update is to determine if the goals established in the RRMP are being met, if the issues and goals identified in the RRMP are still applicable or if new ones have developed since the project license was renewed, and to assess current site conditions and desires for future conditions in order to develop an action plan for maintenance and improvements over the next 15 years. The Interim Update is not intended to replace or supersede the RRMP, but rather to work as a companion document that provides a renewed look at management issues and challenges, an updated vision for the future of recreation opportunities associated with the Lower Clark Fork Projects, and a progress report for site development stemming from the 1998 Plan.

1 Executive Summary

This updated Recreation Resource Management Plan, with a 15-20 year effective lifespan, provides a history of recreation improvements since the original RRMP was developed in 1998, a 15-year work list for additional site upgrades, a snapshot of current conditions, as well as ongoing and updated monitoring efforts going forward.

Two main concepts are driving factors for the RRMP and Clark Fork Projects, and remain central themes for site and resource management:

(1) maintain the Idaho/Montana rural and rustic experience, and
(2) utilize concepts related to use of Limits of Acceptable Change and Recreation Opportunity Spectrum for resource planning.

This updated plan furthers the goals and objectives of the RRMP, utilizes principles of adaptive management driven by consistent measurement of indicators and standards associated with a Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) program, and relies on regular monitoring of visitor use, satisfaction, and site amenity conditions, while retaining a focus of providing for a rural and rustic experience.

The Clark Fork Project encompasses 57 recreation sites (21 developed sites and 36 dispersed sites) associated with Noxon and Cabinet Gorge Reservoirs (Tables 1-4). Developed recreation sites account for 37 percent and dispersed recreation sites for 63 percent of all sites. Noxon Reservoir accounts for 48 percent of developed sites, while Cabinet Gorge accounts for 33 percent and peripheral sites

[1] The Noxon Rapids Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project 2075) and Cabinet Gorge Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project 2058) are collectively referred to as the Lower Clark Fork Projects or the Clark Fork Projects.
[2] Please refer to the Recreation Resource Management Plan, 12/22/98, for additional information and clarification.

downstream[3] of Cabinet Gorge Dam account for 19 percent. Noxon Reservoir accounts for 75 percent of dispersed recreation sites, while Cabinet Gorge accounts for 25 percent.

Table 1: Noxon Reservoir Recreation Sites

Site Name	Developed or Dispersed Recreation Site	Managing Entity	Map #	Site Inventory Page #
Thompson Falls State Park	Developed	MFWP	1	2
Malibu Beach	Dispersed	Avista	1	24
Golf Course Beach	Dispersed	Avista	1	26
Flat Iron Fishing Access Site	Developed	MFWP and Avista	1	4
Trestle Recreation Area	Dispersed	Sanders County and Avista	1	28
Cox Property	Dispersed	Avista	1	30
Finley Flats Recreation Area	Developed	Avista	2	6
Finley Flats Dispersed	Dispersed	Avista	2	32
Child's Road Boat-in Site	Dispersed	Avista	2	34
Sanders County Kirby Boat Launch	Dispersed	Sanders County and Avista	2	36
Beaver Creek	Dispersed	DNRC and Avista	2	38
Mouth of Beaver Creek	Dispersed	Avista	2	40
Pine Cove	Dispersed	Avista	2	42
Water Hill Trailhead	Dispersed	USFS and Avista	2	44
Vermilion Bay Boat Launch	Developed	Avista	2	8
Trout Creek Recreation Area	Developed	Trout Creek Community Improvement Association and Avista	3	10
Duck Hunter Point	Dispersed	Avista	3	46
Highway 200 Slough	Dispersed	Avista	3	48
Trout Creek Powerline	Dispersed	Avista	3	50
Trout Creek Dispersed East	Dispersed	Avista	3	52
Trout Creek Dispersed West	Dispersed	Avista	3	54
North Shore Recreation Area	Developed	USFS and Avista	3	12
Frog Pond	Developed	Avista	3	14
Beecher Flats	Dispersed	Avista	3	56
Marten Creek Campground	Developed	USFS and Avista	4	16
Marten Creek Dispersed	Dispersed	Avista	4	58
Dody Flats	Dispersed	Avista	3, 4	60
Mad Creek	Dispersed	Avista	3, 4	62
Swamp Creek	Dispersed	Avista	3, 4	64
Outer Stevens Creek	Dispersed	Avista	4	66

[3] Four sites downstream of Cabinet Gorge Dam – referred to as peripheral sites – generally lie outside of the Project Area and/or FERC boundary, though have a direct tie to the Lower Clark Fork Project through cooperation for site improvements, Appendix A measures with Idaho Fish and Game, or other voluntary measures. Therefore, these sites are included in the site lists.

Table 1 (*continued*): Noxon Reservoir Recreation Sites

Inner Stevens Creek	Dispersed	Avista	4	68
South Shore Bay	Dispersed	Avista	4	70
South Shore Isolated	Dispersed	Avista	4	72
McKay Creek Flats	Dispersed	Avista	4	74
USFS Site	Dispersed	USFS and Avista	4	76
South Shore Recreation Area	Developed	Avista	4	18
Noxon Rapids Dam Overlook	Developed	Avista	4	20

Table 2: Cabinet Gorge Reservoir Recreation Sites

Site Name	Developed or Dispersed Recreation Site	Managing Entity	Map #	Site Inventory Page #
Government Creek	Dispersed	Avista	4	80
Pilgrim Creek Park	Developed	Avista	4	98
Old Swimming Hole	Dispersed	Avista	4	100
Noxon Centennial Park	Developed	Town of Noxon and Avista	4	82
Soldier Creek	Dispersed	Avista	4	102
State Shop	Dispersed	Avista	4, 5	104
Triangle Pond	Developed	Avista	5	84
Triangle Pond Dispersed	Dispersed	USFS and Avista	5	106
Bull River Recreation Area	Developed	USFS	5	86
Two Rivers RV Park	Developed	Avista	5	88
Quinn's Cut	Dispersed	USFS and Avista	5	108
Elk Creek Bay	Dispersed	Avista	5, 6	110
Big Eddy Recreation Area	Developed	USFS	5, 6	90
Big Eddy Dispersed	Dispersed	Avista	5, 6	112
Heron Boat Launch	Developed	Avista	6	92
Blue Creek Bay	Dispersed	Avista	6	114
Cabinet Gorge Dam Overlook	Developed	Avista	6	94

Table 3: Peripheral Recreation Sites Associated with the Lower Clark Fork Project

Site Name	Developed or Dispersed Recreation Site	Managing Entity	Map #	Site Inventory Page #
Clark Fork Access Site	Developed	Avista	7	118
Antelope Lake	Developed	Avista	7	120
Johnson Creek Recreation Area	Developed	Idaho Parks and Recreation	7	122
Drift Yard Recreation Area	Developed	Idaho Fish and Game	7	124

Table 4: Summary of Recreation Site Locations

Location	Developed Sites	Dispersed Sites	Total
Noxon Reservoir	10	27	37
Cabinet Gorge Reservoir	7	9	16
Peripheral Sites	4	0	4
Total	21	36	57

Key differences between this update and the RRMP developed during relicensing are summarized below.

- The plan establishes a 15-year work list which will enable managers to consider and prioritize recreation improvement projects through the year 2030.
- Site upgrades generally include relocating and realigning campsites, adding picnic tables, dredging a boat launch area, extending or reconfiguring boat ramps and docks, adding or replacing mooring docks, improving fishing opportunities, designating swimming access areas and docks, replacing rock fire rings with metal rings, expanding boat trailer parking, adding seasonal portable toilets and vault toilets, irrigation system repairs, adding barrier boulders and bear-proof garbage cans, adding pathways to connect site amenities, and addressing water drainage on access roads. In addition, the plan includes a system-wide signage program to create a common thread of messages and information at all sites, including bulletin boards and displays.
- To encourage evaluations of site facilities and visitor experiences at regular intervals, details related to the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum and Limits of Acceptable Change concepts were updated and modified to provide a meaningful and applicable set of indicators and standards that are easily measured.
- The effective lifespan of the plan is 15-20 years, so the next interim plan update should be considered for the year 2030 to carry out the remainder of the project License, which expires in February 2044.

2 Background of the Recreation Resource Management Plan

The RRMP was the result of two years of cooperative efforts and commitment by the Land Use, Recreation, and Aesthetics Work Group[4] (LURAWG) during the relicensing process for the Clark Fork Project. Concepts for consensus-based decision-making, balancing various resource needs, and a need for adaptive management were established within the RRMP and carry forward in the Interim Update.

An adaptive management strategy relies on evaluation of conditions and actions as new information becomes available or situations change. As such, the RRMP established a 10 to 20 year timeframe in which the RRMP should be updated by the LURAWG, and this interim update achieves that directive. While the LURAWG formulated elements of the license and RRMP, the Terrestrial Resources Technical Advisory Committee (TRTAC) was formed after relicensing to implement the various measures of the license and directed the interim update of the RRMP. The TRTAC is a diverse stakeholder group comprised of representatives from local groups as well as state and federal agencies, all of whom have an interest in the Clark Fork Projects. The TRTAC includes:

- Avista Corporation
- Cabinet Resources Group
- Green Mountain Conservation District
- US Forest Service
- Panhandle Chapter Trout Unlimited
- Coeur d'Alene Tribe
- Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
- Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- Sanders County, Montana
- MT Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
- Bull River Watershed Council
- Elk Creek Watershed Council
- Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
- Montana Bass Federation
- Rock Creek Alliance
- Kalispel Tribe
- Idaho Department of Fish and Game
- MT State Historic Preservation Office
- Noxon-Cabinet Shoreline Coalition
- MT Department of Environmental Quality

The RRMP established seven goals and six management programs, which provide for a thorough system of checks and balances to ensure responsible management of resources in the Lower Clark Fork region.

[4] The LURAWG was comprised of representatives from a number of federal, state, and local agencies, Tribes, adjacent land owners, non-governmental organizations, and the licensee.

3 Process for the RRMP Interim Update

A stakeholder group including representatives from Avista, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Park, and the US Forest Service participated in group discussions, workshops, and reviews of the various components of the RRMP and prepared a draft plan for review by the TRTAC. Consultants for the plan update process summarized the history and background, goals and objectives, and recreation programs established within the RRMP for stakeholder review. In addition, site developments to date were summarized based on annual reports, and a recreation site inventory document was produced for developed and dispersed recreation areas. These elements were the basis for review, discussion, and site assessment during workshops and discussions with stakeholders in 2016. Outcomes of the workshops resulted in updated goals, objectives and recreation program details, and development of a "future look" for sites to prioritize upgrades and develop a 15-year work plan (through 2030) with the concept of maintaining the Idaho/Montana rural and rustic experience as a central guiding principle.

The TRTAC reviewed the draft updated plan in winter 2017, and a final plan was subsequently produced in 2017.

4 Recreation Project Work List: 2016-2030

The following project work list was comprised based on the desired future condition of individual sites and collective recreation opportunities in the Lower Clark Fork region, in keeping with the Idaho/Montana rural and rustic experience. As specific project elements are explored, the list may adapt to suit current conditions and issues as identified. The site improvement list is organized in an upstream-to-downstream order and includes discussion of desired improvements for 23 sites (40%) out of all 57 recreation sites associated with the Project. Thirty-four sites are not in need of upgrades at this time. Refer to Appendix A for site location maps.

Thompson Falls State Park: With a perpetual easement secured in 2015, master site plans will be reviewed and future development will be based on desired conditions within the site plan. Potential improvements include reconfiguring the campground to place more campsites closer to the shoreline, moving the host site closer to the entrance of the park and off the shoreline, and converting the current host site into an ADA-accessible site. Parking will be improved and possibly expanded on both sides of the family fishing pond once pond renovations are complete and an elevated fishing pier is constructed. The old picnic shelters are becoming deteriorated and need to be rebuilt, and one old, wooden vault toilet structure needs to be replaced.

Flat Iron FAS: Dredge the launch area to allow for low-water launching, and consider a re-design of the boat launch and dock area to prevent sedimentation.

Trestle Recreation Area: The addition of picnic tables will help concentrate use and better accommodate day use. While a need for camping facilities is not currently apparent, there is potential for accommodate 2-3 campsites at the upstream end of the site. The slope from the parking lots to the shoreline may need to be decreased to meet ADA-accessibility standards.

Finley Flats Recreation Area: Excavate the area at the top of the boat launch, lay back the shoreline and reduce the slope to facilitate easier access, and fill in the low spot to raise the toilet located nearest the boat ramp. Consider adding a swimming dock downstream of the boat launch, in the deeper section of the water. Also consider an elevated fishing pier. The site needs regular dust abatement. The current configuration of the site is not ideal because the access road runs between the campsites and shoreline. Reconfiguration could move campsites to the upper bench, further from the shoreline, with a new access road. However, the site's current layout accommodates use by large groups with multiple RVs and tents, and further delineation may affect those users.

Sanders County Kirby Boat Launch: This site gets more use than originally planned, and while upgrades such as a concrete ramp and additional parking could be considered, it functions well as a small community ramp and there are no indications that site upgrades are warranted at this time.

Vermilion Boat Launch: Add steel fire rings to replace the existing rock rings, add a vault toilet, reduce fire fuels and remove down trees to improve access to natural areas of the site adjacent to the launch, and add water bars to the access road to divert runoff and preserve the integrity of the road.

Trout Creek Recreation Area: Lengthen the boat ramp to accommodate larger boat trailers. Extend the dock, as well, and replace the bumpers to reduce damage to watercraft. Consider adding a second

mooring dock along the shoreline and a hand-carry launch between the two boat docks. Add a rope around the perimeter of the swimming area and reset landscape blocks along shoreline of the day use area that have fallen into the water. Repair the broken edges of the asphalt and remove the section of the wooden fencing closest to the shoreline to allow easier access to the day use area. Address drainage in the existing parking lot, and explore opportunities for more parking.

Trout Creek Dispersed Area: At the site on the west shore of the bay, replace the two rock fire rings with steel rings, place a portable toilet on site during the peak recreation season, and remove hazardous trees. At the site on the east shore of the bay, place barrier rocks to prevent ATVs from driving through the camp site, and add a steel fire ring for the main camping site.

North Shore Recreation Area: The toilet on the upper bench of the campground doesn't function well; consider adding one in the lower flat area. Better maintenance of weeds and pet waste is needed around the tables in the day use area, and more parking for boat trailers is warranted if a property purchase opportunity becomes available. Replace the steep, hazardous user-created trail between the boat launch and trailer parking area for visitor safety. The angle of the approach to the boat ramp is difficult to navigate; possible solutions are to expand the ramp by pouring concrete between the upstream side of the existing ramp and the dock, or to fill in the corner of the approach to expand the approach area. Configuration of the dock will be difficult to change as ice buildup damages pilings easily. Adding a second dock for swimming should be considered.

Frog Pond: Replace the rock fire ring with a metal ring.

Marten Creek Recreation Area: Replace sign at the site entrance and relocate information kiosk so it does not block the sun from the vault toilet in the campground to improve toilet function. Maintenance is needed on the access road leading into the site, and realigning the exit road to a straighter configuration should be considered to better accommodate large vehicles. Also consider converting the former vault toilet parking area into a camp site.

South Shore Recreation Area: For the isolated campsite upstream of the main site, consider adding a portable toilet and a sign at the end of the access road indicating whether the site is available or vacant (due to limited space to turn around if the site is occupied). Add a portable toilet to the day use peninsula.

Noxon Dam Overlook: At the lower overlook site, the irrigation system needs to be repaired, and the cottonwood trees may need to be removed and replaced with another species due to damage caused by their expansive root systems. At the upper overlook site, the interpretive signs need to be updated, and some trees should be thinned to open up the view.

Pilgrim Creek Park: The seats on the swings need to be replaced, and pea gravel added under the swings. Concrete slabs under the bleachers would improve weed management.

Noxon Centennial Park: Replace the dock along the boat ramp and fill in gaps of the boat ramp planks.

Triangle Pond: Remove cabling at the base of the fishing pier and improve the support pilings of the pier to improve stability. The shelter is becoming deteriorated and needs to be replaced. The approach of

the newest pull-through picnic site needs to be widened and the gravel driving surfaces sterilized. Add boulders to prevent access to the railroad grade, and consider grading the road each spring to improve the condition. The road west of the pond is under water each spring and vehicular access should be blocked to convert it to walk-in access only. The entrance sign should be upgraded, and directional signs to the site added.

Bull River Recreation Area: Some sites are in need of realignment for easier RV parking. Replace the boat launch with a monolithic slab and relocate the dock to the other (north) side of the ramp. Since parking is a limiting factor at the site, consider striping 4 truck + trailer parking spots in the middle of the boat launch turnaround and direct incoming traffic along the shoreline prior to backing down the ramp.

Two River's RV Park: Consider upgrading signage along the highway at the access road and upgrading the dock. Establish a rotation for replacing laundry equipment.

Quinn's Cut: Finalize road work to improve drainage, and add a vault toilet. Consider adding a designated trail and picnic tables with standing grills to the spit for ADA accessibility.

Big Eddy: Add bear-proof garbage cans, construct a trail between the camp area and boat launch, and replace the site sign at the boat launch. Improve the approach/apron at the site entrance. Consider adding boat-in sites in the 24-acre dispersed area across the bay purchased by Avista.

Heron Boat Launch: Place a portable toilet on site seasonally and replace the dock (after the Heron Bridge construction is completed). Extend the bulk head of the dock upland to reduce erosion from seasonal runoff, and add water bars to the boat launch approach to reduce washout.

Clark Fork Access Site: Smooth out the launch surface and consider opening the ramp to public use. Weeds need to be addressed on the old highway bed section, and erosion control is needed in some areas throughout the site.

Cabinet Gorge Viewpoint: Replace the highway signs and bus/RV parking sign, and repair the erosion and breakup on the entrance road. Once the dam upgrades are complete, new interpretive signs will be needed regarding fish passage and baffle blocks that reduce dissolved gases. All signs are in need of upgrades; flowers would add color to the site.

All Sites: Develop a signage program to create a common thread of messages and information at all sites, including bulletin boards and displays.

5 Goals and Objectives

The RRMP established seven goals with many specific, supporting objectives. These goals and objectives were thoroughly reviewed by the stakeholders and TRTAC, and updated as needed to reflect current conditions, concerns, situations, and management objectives. Goals of the RRMP are:

1. **Manage Existing Recreation Resource Needs**, which aims to provide a diverse set of recreation facilities, use areas, and opportunities to meet *existing* recreation demand.
2. **Manage Future Recreation Resource Needs**, which aims to provide a diverse set of recreation facilities, use areas, and opportunities to meet *future* recreation demand.
3. **Provide Adequate and Safe Public Access** to ensure the health and safety of recreation visitors.
4. **Preserve Recreation Resources**, which aims to protect the resource base by minimizing impacts.
5. **Coordinate Recreation Planning and Needs** by involving federal, state, and local stakeholders.
6. **Provide Cost-Effective and Desirable Recreation Opportunities** that minimize operational and maintenance costs while maximizing improvements and meeting the needs of visitors.
7. **Provide Compatible Recreation Opportunities** that meet objectives of other resource plans.

Goal 1: Manage Existing Recreation Resource Needs

Provide a diverse spectrum of public and private recreational facilities, use areas, and opportunities within the project area that help meet existing recreation demand within established LAC standards and indicators.

- Objective 1a: Provide and operate adequate public and private recreation facilities and use areas between Thompson Falls, Montana, and the Lower Clark Fork River delta area in Idaho.
- Objective 1b: Provide public and private recreation facilities and use areas that respond to visitor facility preferences and needs as identified in periodic visitor surveys.
- Objective 1c: Improve existing recreation facilities, as needed, by making necessary facility repairs and modifications and/or changes to facility operations and maintenance practices.
- Objective 1d: Comply with federal ADA guidelines and provide for the health and safety needs of all recreation visitors.
- Objective 1e: Establish LAC standards and indicators for the project area and manage existing recreation resources in accordance with the LAC-based monitoring program.
- Objective 1f: Manage private shoreline recreation resources in accordance with the Land Use Management Plan, private recreation permit standards, and the LAC-based monitoring program developed for the project area.

Goal 2: Manage Future Recreation Resource Needs

Provide a diverse spectrum of public and private recreational facilities, use areas, and opportunities within the project area that help meet future recreation demand within established LAC standards and indicators.

- Objective 2a: Monitor future changes in recreation demand and provide for recreation needs consistent with resource values and established LAC standards and indicators. Changes that may influence management decisions include the emergence of new recreation technologies, trends toward larger recreational vehicles, shorter day-use hiking opportunities, increasing demand for water-based recreation opportunities, increased desire for educational/interpretive recreation opportunities, or others.
- Objective 2b: Upgrades to satisfy demands for expanded opportunities should initially be examined within the context of existing sites and use areas, with development of new or additional sites anticipated only when existing sites are unable to absorb the use types or levels.
- Objective 2b: Provide additional, new or upgraded public recreation facilities or use areas as justified by periodic monitoring of recreation facility and use area visitation, condition, demand, and LAC standards and indicators over time.
- Objective 2c: Establish and implement a recreation monitoring program using LAC standards and indicators; monitor recreation use levels as needed and update the visitor needs and preference survey periodically.
- Objective 2d: Manage private shoreline recreation resources consistent with the Land Use Management Plan, private recreation permit standards, and LAC standards and indicators developed for the project area.
- Objective 2e: Plan for and establish adequate funding to help implement identified future recreation-related projects and programs.
- Objective 2f: Periodically update the recreation needs analysis for the project area considering the larger regional context for recreation demand.
- Objective 2g: Monitor traditional cultural uses of the project area through consultation with the CRMG to ensure that recreational planning and facilities do not limit or unnecessarily infringe on the environmental characteristics necessary to sustain traditional cultural practices.
- Objective 2h: Monitor dispersed and wilderness-oriented recreational use of the project area through participant observation.

Goal 3: Provide Adequate and Safe Public Access

Provide for the health and safety needs of recreation visitors and provide safe public access to, and use of, project water bodies and shorelines in the project area.

- Objective 3a: Provide safe public recreation opportunities and access to project water bodies as identified in US Forest Service land and resource management plans, the LUMP, and RRMP including viewpoints, shoreline trails, boat launches, swimming areas, and shoreline day-use areas.
- Objective 3b: Provide adequate informational signs and programs to alert boaters, swimmers, anglers, and other users about operational or natural hazards in and around project reservoirs.
- Objective 3c: Provide increased multi-use non-motorized trail opportunities in the project area by implementing cost effective and appropriate trail linkages and other opportunities consistent with private property rights, natural resources, cultural resources and ongoing traditional cultural uses of the area.

- Objective 3d: Improve universal accessibility in the project area to federal ADA guidelines for recreation facilities.
- Objective 3e: Communicate to the public the range of recreational facilities and use areas that are available in the project area.

Goal 4: Preserve Recreation Resources

Avoid, minimize, or mitigate existing and future project-related impacts to recreation resources in the project area and preserve the resource base.

- Objective 4a: Allow for recreation use of the project reservoirs and downstream reach by maintaining pool level and range of fluctuation of the project in accordance with the FERC license as prescribed in the Settlement Agreement.
- Objective 4b: Conduct periodic monitoring of recreation use at project water bodies and downstream reach to assess potential impacts to recreation, natural, and cultural resources over time and take appropriate corrective measures as needed.
- Objective 4c: Provide environmental education opportunities in the project area to foster a better understanding and stewardship of natural and man-made resources.
- Objective 4d: Set aside appropriate open space lands to meet potential future goals and objectives in the project area and to help maintain the existing recreational experience.
- Objective 4e: Ensure that future recreation development occurs in suitable areas and does not significantly affect the existing recreation experience or sensitive resources in the project area. Existing experiences should not constrain future demand for other types of experiences. Physical and cultural resource constraints and user demand should be key features in determining suitability in the adaptive management strategy. Redirecting use to protect sensitive areas or prevent additional resource damage, by spreading invasive species or causing similar impacts, for instance, should be considered alongside user demands in an adaptive management strategy. The CRMG will be consulted to determine traditional cultural use parameters.
- Objective 4f: Protect and interpret significant natural features and enhance the public's experience of the corridor (e.g. through interpretation, trails, Watchable Wildlife programs, etc.).
- Objective 4g: Respect private property interests and surrounding natural environments while addressing social and economic expectations to meet increasing recreation needs in the project area.

Goal 5: Coordinate Recreation Planning and Needs

Coordinate recreation planning efforts in the Lower Clark Fork River Valley area, focusing on the project area, by involving federal, state, and local public recreation providers; private recreation providers; and licensee recreation planning decisions, and provide necessary input to the management committee for decision-making.

- Objective 5a: Maintain the TRTAC, representing the licensee; federal, state, and local agencies; Tribal representatives; local landowners; and other interested parties. The TRTAC will meet periodically to oversee implementation of the RRMP and report to the management committee.
- Objective 5b: Address recreation issues affecting project lands and water bodies and communicate information on various ongoing or planned activities by public and private recreation providers, such as fees charged for facilities or services in the corridor, facility and use area openings and closures, access, new recreation technologies, user conflicts, law enforcement, fire prevention, communications, permits, management changes, resource management, and regional facilities.
- Objective 5c: Monitor recreation resources and visitation using LAC standards and indicators and identify appropriate management actions and associated costs needed to address identified problems.
- Objective 5d: Provide adequate staffing and resources to address recreation resource issues and shoreline permitting in the project area and to support recommendations made to the management committee.
- Objective 5e: Participate in future comprehensive planning efforts in the Lower Clark Fork River Valley to further the goals and objectives of the RRMP as appropriate.

Goal 6: Provide Cost-Effective and Desirable Recreation Opportunities

Provide cost-effective recreation facilities and programs in the project area to: maximize the on-the-ground recreation improvements possible with the available dollars; minimize operational and maintenance costs; and provide compatible and desirable facilities that meet the needs of visitors.

- Objective 6a: Provide public and private recreation facilities and programs that are cost effective and compatible with project operations and maintenance and USFS and state trust land management practices.
- Objective 6b: Provide public and private recreation facilities that reduce, to the extent feasible, long-term operations and maintenance costs compatible with other stated goals.
- Objective 6c: Provide cost-effective public and private recreation facilities that accommodate existing visitor facility preferences but also allow for future modification if preferences change over time.
- Objective 6d: Provide a range of public and private recreation opportunities that, as a guideline, include a combination of developed fee sites and undeveloped or dispersed non-fee sites to allow for a diversity of visitor choices, opportunities and experiences. Concentrating visitor use at developed recreation sites helps to mitigate for resource impacts system-wide, while offering recreation opportunities in more primitive settings satisfies needs for a diverse set of users. Under an adaptive management strategy, these guidelines may change over time per future TRTAC review.
- Objective 6e: Improve recreation-related private enterprise opportunities in the corridor, including but not limited to concessionaires.
- Objective 6f: Strive to provide low fee or fee-free recreation opportunities that can be operated and maintained within parameters of internal budgets.

Goal 7: Provide Compatible Recreation Opportunities

Provide recreation resources that are compatible with other resources in the project area.

- Objective 7a: Provide public and private recreation facilities and programs that meet applicable environmental regulations.
- Objective 7b: Provide public recreation facilities and programs that are compatible with agency plans and policies and other project-related resource needs, goals, and objectives including water quality, cultural, terrestrial, aesthetic/visual, and aquatic resources.
- Objective 7c: Provide environmental education opportunities (e.g. through viewpoints, interpretive signs or kiosks, environmental education programs, and nature trails) that demonstrate compatibility with and stewardship of natural and cultural resources in the project area.

6 Recreation Programs

Avista Utilities and the TRTAC are responsible for implementing recreation measures, as appropriate, according to the six recreation programs developed within the RRMP:

1. **Recreation Facility Development Program**, which provides guidelines and criteria for facility and development.
2. **Recreation Operations and Maintenance Program**, which guides facility use, maintenance, and operations from a managerial and funding standpoint.
3. **Recreation Monitoring Program**, which establishes regular monitoring programs for use in decision-making regarding site and amenity management.
4. **Resource Integration Program**, which guides integration of recreation resource needs with needs of wildlife and aquatic resources.
5. **Interpretation and Education Program**, which guides dispersal of educational and interpretive information within the Projects.
6. **Plan Review and Revision Program**, which establishes a need for regular updates of the RRMP over the term of the license.

6.1 Recreation Facility Development Program

The Recreation Facility Development Program is intended to meet existing and future recreation facility needs identified in the project area by upgrading existing facilities and constructing new facilities where appropriate based on LAC standards and indicators. As an ongoing practice, the TRTAC will prepare implementation plans to guide decision-making. The facility development program includes seven program elements.

6.1.1 Recreation Facility Development and Upgrades

Recreation facility development and upgrades are identified and projected by the TRTAC to satisfy both existing and foreseeable project-related recreation needs. New public recreation facilities and amenities will be constructed following review, prioritization, and approval by

the TRTAC and management committee. These improvements would be funded and/or constructed by Avista and other cost-share partners.

6.1.2 Recreation Development Locations

A brief site development history is found in section 8 of this report, and maps depicting site locations are found in section 11. Existing recreation site amenities are included in the site inventory found in section 12, along with detailed site location information such as GPS coordinates and access details. New developments will be added to this comprehensive list as constructed.

6.1.3 Recreation Facility Design Guidelines

Design guidelines, siting criteria, and other standards will comply with public health and safety codes and regulations, provide design continuity and consistency with the ROS class where the site is located, provide a high quality visitor experience and added visitor convenience, minimize facility and site deterioration and operations and maintenance costs, and protect the environment. Facility and amenity construction will also comply with standards adopted by agency partners. Signage for interpretive displays and kiosks will also be considered when planning site improvements.

6.1.4 Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance and Facility Upgrades

Recreation site facilities will conform to ADA standards, as appropriate, at the time of construction. Justification will be provided for any recreation measures that do not comply with ADA standards.

6.1.5 NEPA and MEPA Compliance and Environmental Project Review

Recreation projects on federal lands will be reviewed by the US Forest Service for compliance with National Environment Policy Act (NEPA) and all other applicable land use regulations and policies. Future recreation projects on project lands will be in compliance with the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) and reviewed by the State of Montana.

6.1.6 Agency and Public Review

Agencies and the general public are invited through public notice to participate in all TRTAC meetings and the development of recreation sites and amenities.

6.1.7 Facility Construction Coordination, Scheduling, and Phasing

The TRTAC selects projects based on a set of prioritization criteria. These criteria examine project elements, need, and timelines, in addition to:

- how and when proposed projects move up or down the list of identified needs
- how unexpected opportunities are addressed
- how new cost-share or partnership funding sources are evaluated and addressed

- how proposed projects are matched with available funding
- how priority levels are defined and assigned to proposed projects.

If potential cost share or partnership funding sources are delayed, a recreation project may also be delayed until appropriate cost share or partnership funding can be secured. Project delay is contingent on TRTAC review and consideration or possible re-prioritization or fund re-allocation for proposed projects.

Some projects will be completed in phases contingent upon completion of the first phase. Project phases may be adjusted during the annual TRTAC meeting.

Jurisdiction or permitting agencies – including the USFS, BLM, MFWP, IDFG, GMCD, and others - are consulted. Avista works with these agencies to assist in timely project reviews, and Avista funds necessary compliance or permitting activities based on the proportional share of the cost of the individual project.

For private or county-managed lands, Avista (or the project proponent) is responsible for preparing required plans, studies, public reviews for permit applications, and securing necessary permits prior to construction.

6.2 Recreation Operations and Maintenance Program

Avista funds annual O&M of Avista recreation facilities and use areas managed by Avista and others. The USFS, MFWP, or other managing agencies, as appropriate, schedule and perform necessary management tasks utilizing agency personnel, equipment, and materials. Avista provides O&M for its own facilities, though may fund others to provide O&M services for its facilities. The O&M Program defines facility and use area maintenance standards.

6.2.1 Operations and Maintenance Standards

The specific operation and maintenance standards applied may differ between sites depending on property ownership, managing agency, and ROS classification. In general, recreation facilities will be appropriate for the ROS class prescribed to a site and according to state health and safety codes.

The USFS will specify the standards to be used for federally managed lands within or adjacent to the FERC project boundary following appropriate and adopted standards. MFWP and IDFG or IDPR will specify the standards to be used for recreation facilities on state lands associated with the projects, and Avista will specify standards applicable to property owned or managed by Avista, and for property under lease. The TRTAC will review and comment on Federal, state and private land standards, and may recommend modifications.

Avista and the TRTAC will oversee the enforcement and/or management of O&M practices and activities in a number of ways, including: (1) Avista recreation-related contracts or leases may be reviewed by the TRTAC, if requested, for adequacy of the O&M provisions; (2) Avista will enforce contract or lease O&M provisions once enacted; (3) the TRTAC will provide

direction to O&M providers as appropriate; (4) public comments received related to adequacy of recreation O&M will be considered during 5-year implementation plan development; (5) O&M responsibilities identified in Avista's Private Recreation Permit Program will be enforced by Avista and actions taken referenced in the LUMP; and (6) the results of the Monitoring Program will be available for review by the TRTAC, and will include several indicators. Based on these activities, the TRTAC may specify remedial actions as deemed necessary.

6.2.2 Shoreline Access

As part of the O&M program, reasonably available and safe access to project reservoirs will be provided through the maintenance of signs, trails, and trailheads, swimming areas, and boating access sites. Water levels will be maintained by Avista in accordance with the FERC license.

6.3 Recreation Monitoring Program

In many cases, facility development hinges on evaluation of LAC standards and thresholds. Therefore, the Monitoring Program is integral to the success of the RRMP and the maintenance of the Montana/Idaho rural and rustic experience. The Monitoring Program defines a number of actions to test LAC standards and indicators, annual monitoring activities and reporting, and survey requirements. The features of the Monitoring Program are discussed in six program elements. See Section 10 for additional information.

6.3.1 Limits of Acceptable Change

A primary focus of the Monitoring Program is the use of ROS and LAC concepts in maintaining a desired recreation experience in the project area, referred to as the Montana/Idaho rural rustic experience.

During the first 5 years of RRMP implementation, LAC standards were field tested to establish a baseline, and follow-up monitoring was prescribed at regular intervals to track changes over time. Section 10 of this update provides analysis of LAC standards and discussion related to the indicators, standards, and their measurement.

6.3.2 Study Area and Survey Scheduling and Techniques

The TRTAC developed a more detailed monitoring program with specific protocols for each management unit.

Two levels of monitoring occur: (1) annual monitoring and evaluation of recreation sites, facility conditions, use areas, and management units using readily available data such as paid fee receipts, and camp host counts, as well as traffic counts using automated equipment to track the volume of use at recreation sites, annual manager facility condition reports, etc.; and (2) in-depth recreation survey work conducted at regular intervals, including site inventories, sweeping counts and visitor surveys, etc.

6.3.3 TRTAC Reporting Requirements

Detailed reporting requirements were developed by the TRTAC for monitoring project-related sites, facilities, and associated operations and maintenance.

Each year, an annual assessment of recreation resources within management units is prepared which documents (1) annual recreation monitoring efforts; (2) statistical methods applied in analyzing monitoring data; (3) annual recreation facility use levels and counts; (4) overall recreation facility conditions; (5) trends in recreation facility use; (6) projected needs based on LAC standards and indicators; and (7) consultation with the CRMG concerning traditional cultural uses of the project area as they are relevant to recreation planning.

As needed, annual data from multi-year periods, as well as other detailed surveys, if conducted, will be compiled for use by the TRTAC to assess visitor trends and use levels to assist in planning.

6.3.4 FERC Reporting Requirements

An annual Monitoring Report will be prepared by Avista, in consultation with TRTAC, with the results provided as part of the Avista Clark Fork Project Annual Report.

The Monitoring Report will contain: (1) annual recreation facility and use area figures for each management unit as appropriate, (2) a discussion of the adequacy of the recreation facilities within the FERC project boundary to meet recreation demand, (3) a description of the methodology used to collect data, (4) the projected need for additional future recreation facilities within the FERC project boundary, and (5) documentation of TRTAC acceptance of or comments on the Monitoring Report.

Current Monitoring Reports will be provided for public viewing online at the Avista Utilities website (www.avistautilities.com).

6.3.5 Detailed Surveys or Study Requirements

Additional surveys, studies or analyses will be conducted as determined necessary by the TRTAC to further validate peak season capacity utilization of campgrounds and day use areas, to monitor conditions related to LAC indicators and thresholds, and identify changing visitor attitudes and perceptions over time.

6.3.6 Future Facility and Other Resource Decision-Making

Timing of new recreation facility design, construction, and operation is based on consensus of the TRTAC with review and comment by the management committee. Decision-making is based on analysis of Monitoring Report findings for each management unit, LAC indicators and thresholds, and periodic studies. At least two to three consecutive years of monitoring and use data are evaluated for decision-making as visitation is volatile based on conditions related to weather, water levels, and other environmental and economic factors.

Potential management actions by managers are discussed by the TRTAC at an annual coordination meeting based on available data and may include:

(1) planning, design, expansion, renovation, and/or construction of facilities in one or more phases
(2) increasing monitoring efforts, such as using volunteers to collect more detailed visitor counts at facilities in question
(3) initiate planning and design for new facilities or renovation projects
(4) establish timing for new construction projects
(5) modify LAC indicators or thresholds
(6) increase visitor information regarding facilities and use areas in the project area that are less crowded
(7) consider a full or partial reservation system.

Other management actions may also be considered.

6.4 Resource Integration Program

The Resource Integration Program consists of four processes that ensure ongoing communication between the TRTAC and other technical work groups.

1. Conduct on-going and regular consultation and coordination between necessary parties and resource groups over the term of the new license;
2. Share information that is used to make resource decisions, whether geographic information system (GIS) data, on-the-ground knowledge, or other data;
3. Clarify resource goals, objectives, and priorities as necessary; and
4. Coordinate and conduct, as necessary, studies or consultation that help solve particular problems or issues.

6.5 Interpretation and Education Program

The purpose of the Interpretation and Education (I&E) Program is to enhance experiences for visitors and residents by providing interpretation on cultural, historical and natural phenomena related to recreation sites and the Lower Clark Fork Projects.

6.6 Plan Review and Revision Program

The RRMP was prepared by the LURAWG and presented to the CFRT as part of the Settlement Agreement and relicensing process in 1998. The RRMP was also filed with FERC as part of the License Application for the Clark Fork Projects. Implementation of the measures identified and detailed in the RRMP will occur through the end of the term of the license (February 2044), with oversight and guidance provided by the TRTAC.

Conditions are likely to change over time. It is likely that unforeseen recreation needs, changes in visitor preferences and attitudes, new recreation technologies, ecological or resource changes, or other actions will arise over the course of the license term. As a result,

the RRMP, or portions thereof, should be updated and/or revised if agreed upon by the TRTAC with approval by the management committee as defined in the Settlement Agreement. Revisions to the RRMP will be fully documented.

The frequency with which the RRMP is revised or updated depends upon the needs of the TRTAC and adaptive management decisions made over time. Guidelines were provided in the RRMP for consideration, as summarized below. However, the TRTAC prescribed a 15-year interim update based on the nature and character of the recreation resource and users, which may remain appropriate for the remaining 27 years of the License term.

1) RRMP Guideline for Update:
RRMP Section 1 through 4 should be updated approximately every 10 to 20 years, or as directed by the TRTAC, as conditions change.

> **Update Task Performed:** RRMP Sections 1-4 were reviewed and updated as a component of this 2016 plan update. This included review and minor updates to the plan overview, goals and objectives, and recreation management programs.

2) RRMP Guideline for Update:
Measures and estimated costs (Exhibits 1 through 3) should be updated every 5 years based on completion of 5-year implementation plans and the planning done for the next 5 year period.

> **Update Task Performed:** Recreation improvements were made during plan implementation, and new potential improvements identified for the next 15 years. Past improvements were prioritized by the TRTAC based on need, associated costs, available funding, and other factors, and implemented by Avista and cooperating partners based on this prioritization and available resources. This method of prioritization by consensus will be utilized for future recreation measures.

3) RRMP Guideline for Update:
LAC and ROS monitoring information (Exhibits 4 and 5) should be updated after the first 1-2 years based on initial testing of LAC standards and indicators and then updated every 10 years thereafter, or as directed by the TRTAC, based on Monitoring Report results.

> **Update Task Performed:** LAC and ROS monitoring was conducted in conjunction with visitor surveys in 2002 and 2012. The indicators and standards were reviewed and modified as part of this plan update. See Section 10 for additional information.

4) RRMP Guideline for Update:
Baseline information (Exhibits 6A though 6E) should be updated following completion of detailed studies that may be conducted every 5-10 years as directed by the TRTAC.

> **Update Task Performed:** Regional and local recreation information was updated to provide a snapshot of current conditions for the plan update. See Section 7 for additional information.

7 Recreation Use and Visitation Trends

Understanding trends in recreation use and visitation patterns is important for understanding how opportunities and facilities at the Lower Clark Fork Project fit into the big picture of the public outdoor recreation landscape on a national, regional, and local level.

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) produced by Montana State Parks outlines Montana's five-year strategy and vision for outdoor recreation management. The current plan, with an effective life of 2014-2018, describes national trends in outdoor recreation as well as Montana trends and visitation patterns.

National Outdoor Recreation Trends

Participation in outdoor recreation by Americans has steadily increased since 2006, and the trend is expected to continue. Nearly 142 million Americans participated in outdoor recreation activities in 2012, accounting for over 12 billion outings overall. While walking and running have remained the most popular activities, wildlife viewing has gained more new participants than other activities. Stand up paddling and kayak fishing are among adventure racing and triathlons as emerging activity trends. While participation in fishing is declining nationwide, females and youth ages 6-12 represent the largest groups of new fishing participants, which help to offset the amount of participants that are lost each year. Projections in recreation participation patters through 2060 note per-capita increases in participation rates in challenge activities (triathlons, adventure racing, etc.), winter skiing, and motorized water activities, while per-capita participation rates for developed recreation site use, viewing nature, and visiting interpretive sites are projected to have little or no change.

Montana Resident Trends

More than one-quarter (27%) of all travel performed by Montana residents was for outdoor recreation, while another 24 percent was to visit friends or relatives. Day hiking, fishing, scenic driving, wildlife watching, and camping were the most popular activities on trips taken 50 or more miles from home.

Montana resident participation rates in fishing and hunting are higher than the national rates, though resident fishing and hunting license sales have declined in recent years. Revenue from fishing license sales has hovered around the $230,000 mark since 2000, ranging from a low of $220,000 in 2002 to a high of $245,000 in 2009, and then dropping 2 percent in 2010. Hunting participation has followed a national pattern of declining rates as well, decreasing 6 percent from 2000 through 2010.

In contrast, participation in motorized recreation (OHVs and snowmobiles) has increased significantly since 2000. The number of registered OHVs has more than tripled while the number of registered snowmobiles has more than doubled.

Nonresident Trends

Montana hosted 11.7 million visitors in 2015[5], the highest year of visitation on record and more than 6 percent higher than the previous record of 11.0 million visitors in 2013. These visitors spent a total of $3.66 billion in the state, with gasoline and restaurants accounting for the highest percentage of those expenditures (20% and 18% respectively). Roughly one percent of nonresident visitors to Montana spent at least one night in Sanders County, and 95 percent of those had been to Montana before[6]. Camping, day hiking, scenic driving, fishing, and wildlife watching were among the 10 most popular activities by nonresident visitors to Sanders County. Mountains/forests, open space/uncrowded areas, rivers, and lakes were among the most popular attractions for visitors to Sanders County

Lower Clark Fork Project Recreation Monitoring

Visitor use of recreation sites is monitored through a number of efforts. On an annual basis, the volume of use during the peak use season (Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day) at many recreation sites is monitored using automatic vehicle and trail counters. Use of project lands for hunting is also monitored annually. On a periodic basis, a recreation visitor survey is conducted at many recreation sites during the peak recreation season, and creel surveys are conducted to determine fishing pressure and success on the reservoirs. Summary results of these efforts are provided in this section.

Lower Clark Fork Projects Recreation Visitor Survey

Surveys of visitors to public recreation sites associated with the Clark Fork Project were conducted during the peak recreation season of 2002[7] and 2012[8]. Visitors were intercepted at recreation sites to complete a survey regarding their trip, group characteristics, and experiences. A total of 1,378 surveys were completed in 2012 at 22 recreation sites. A total of 662 surveys were completed in 2002 at 17 recreation sites. The five additional sites included in the 2012 sampling were either developed or came under Avista (or a cooperating partner's) ownership between 2002 and 2012 (Table 5).

[5] Grau, Kara, "2015 Nonresident Visitation, Expenditures & Economic Impact Estimates: Estimates by full year, quarters, trip purposes, and international visitors." (2016). Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research.
[6] Special report from 2015 Nonresident Visitation interactive data. Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research.
[7] American Public Land Exchange. February 24, 3002. 2002 Recreation Use Study Report: Noxon Rapids and Cabinet Gorge Hydroelectric Projects.
[8] REC Resources and Pinnacle Research. February 2013. 2012 Recreation Visitor Survey Report.

Table 5: Recreation Site Sampling Summary

Noxon Rapids HED Recreation Site	Sampling Year 2002	2012	Cabinet Gorge HED Recreation Site	Sampling Year 2002	2012
Finley Flats Recreation Area	X	X	Big Eddy Recreation Area	X	X
Flat Iron Ridge Fishing Access Site	X	X	Bull River Recreation Area	X	X
Frog Pond Recreation Area		X	Clark Fork Access Site[9]	X	X
Marten Creek Bay Recreation Area	X	X	Cabinet Gorge Dam Overlook	X	X
Thompson Falls State Park	X	X	Heron Boat Ramp		X
McKay Creek Flats dispersed recreation area[10]	X	X	State Shop dispersed recreation area		X
North Shore Recreation Area	X	X	Noxon Centennial Park	X	X
Noxon Rapids Dam Overlook	X	X	Pilgrim Creek Park[11]	X	X
South Shore Recreation Area	X	X	Two Rivers RV Park		X
Trout Creek dispersed rec area	X	X	Triangle Pond	X	X
Trout Creek Recreation Area	X	X			
Vermilion Bay Boat Ramp		X			

The proportion of male and female respondents was fairly consistent between 2002 and 2012, though the median age was about 5 years older in 2012. The size of visitor groups remained consistent at 3 people per group. Montana residents comprise the majority of visitors to Lower Clark Fork recreation sites, and most are repeat visitors (Table 6).

Table 6: Respondent Characteristics

Survey Year	Respondent Gender	Median Age of All Respondents	Median Group Size	Most Common Places of Residence	First vs Repeat Visitors
2012	56% Male 44% Female	51	3	60% Montana (50% of MT visitors were from Sanders Co.) 14% Idaho 12% Washington	35% First Time Visitors 65% Repeat Visitors
2002	59% Male 41% Female	46	3	59% Montana (Proportion from Sanders Co. is unknown) 13% Idaho 14% Washington	36% First Time Visitors 64% Repeat Visitors

[9] Clark Fork Access Site was named VFW RA in 2002.
[10] McKay Creek Flats was named Nurreaux Flats in 2002.
[11] Visitors using sports fields at Pilgrim Creek Park were excluded from the survey.

Day use of recreation sites increased somewhat between 2002 and 2012. However, some of this shift is due to the addition of four new day use sites in the 2012 study compared to the 2002 study. In 2012, day users and overnight users were split 50/50 but tended to stay a bit longer than in 2002 (Table 7).

Table 7: Length of Stay

Survey Year	Day Users vs Overnight Users	Length of Stay
2012	50% Day Use	3 Hours
	50% Overnight Use	3 nights
2002	41% Day Use	2 Hours
	59% Overnight Use	2 nights

Participation rates in the array of activities and opportunities on the Lower Clark Fork between 2002 and 2012 are somewhat influenced by the addition of five recreation sites to the study in 2012. However, the main points that are evident are that (1) opportunities for walking, hiking, and biking are important, and (2) facilities for boat launching – for both motorized and nonmotorized boats – are important. Participation in these activities increased over the ten year timeframe, so providing opportunities and good facilities for these activities is crucial. Camping in either tents or RVs declined slightly between 2002 and 2012, which is consistent with the slight shift from overnight use to day use, though camping facilities remain important as levels of visitor use remain high (Table 8).

Table 8: Activity Participation

Activity	2002 Participation	2012 Participation	2002 - 2012 Change
Biking	4%	8%	+ 100%
Walking or Hiking	26%	41%	+ 58%
Nonmotorized Boating	8%	10%	+ 25%
Fishing from Boat	27%	32%	+19%
Motorboating	23%	25%	+ 9%
Swimming	46%	42%	- 9%
Waterskiing / Tubing / Wakeboarding	8%	7%	- 13%
RV Camping	36%	31%	- 14%
Fishing from Shore or Pier	49%	40%	- 18%
Viewing Scenery	81%	64%	- 21%
Tent Camping	27%	21%	- 22%
Picnicking	60%	36%	- 40%
Viewing Wildlife	66%	43%	- 35%

Visitor satisfaction was addressed differently in 2012 compared to 2002, so the results are not comparable. While the 2002 survey asked respondents to rate satisfaction with their overall recreation experience, the 2012 study focused satisfaction ratings on facilities at the site and in the general area separately. However, no matter how they are examined, satisfaction ratings have remained high (Table 9).

Table 9: Visitor Satisfaction

Survey Year	Scale	Mean	% of Respondents Very or Extremely Satisfied
2012: Satisfaction with facilities at the recreation site.	1 (not at all satisfied) to 5 (extremely satisfied)	4.4	91%
2012: Satisfaction with recreation facilities in the area.	1 (not at all satisfied) to 5 (extremely satisfied)	4.3	90%
2002: Satisfaction with overall recreation experience.	1 (not at all satisfied) to 5 (extremely satisfied)	4.4	93%

Crowding at recreation sites was measured differently in 2012 than in 2002. A 9-point scale was used to measure how crowded recreationists felt on their visit to the site in 2002. The 9-point scale had labels for the odd-numbered points on the scale, (1=not at all crowded, 3=slightly crowded, 5=moderately crowded, 7=very crowded, 9=extremely crowded) but no labels on the even-number points of the scale, leaving room for interpretation. Conversely, a 5-point scale was used in 2012 to measure both crowding at the recreation site and crowding on the water. All points of the 5-point scale were labeled and corresponded to the 2002 scale (i.e. 1=not at all crowded, 2=slightly crowded, 3=moderately crowded, 4=very crowded, 5=extremely crowded).

Overall, ratings of crowdedness remain low at recreation sites and on the water (Table 10).

Table 10: Crowding

Survey Year	Scale	Mean	% of Respondents Slightly to Extremely Crowded	% of Respondents Moderately to Extremely Crowded
2012: Rating of crowdedness at the recreation site.	1 (not at all crowded) to 5 (extremely crowded)	1.5	27% (2-5 on the 5-point scale)	13% (3-5 on the 5-point scale)
2012: Rating of crowdedness on the water.	1 (not at all crowded) to 5 (extremely crowded)	1.3	18% (2-5 on the 5-point scale)	6% (3-5 on the 5-point scale)
2002: How crowded visitors felt on their visit to the recreation site.	1 (not at all crowded) to 9 (extremely crowded)	2.5	35% (3-9 on the 9-point scale)	21% (5-9 on the 9-point scale)

Lower Clark Fork Projects Recreation Visitor Use Counts

Avista Corporation conducts an annual study of visitor use at recreation sites associated with its Noxon Rapids and Cabinet Gorge Hydroelectric Projects during the peak use season (Memorial Day to Labor Day weekends). While the Visitor Use Study was initiated in 2003 with the use of automatic traffic counters for primary data collection, counting equipment was upgraded in 2007 to state-of-the-art units that have proven to be very consistent and reliable.

Automatic traffic counters were installed in 2015 at the following sites[12]:

- Thompson Falls State Park
- Finley Flats Recreation Are
- North Shore Recreation Area
- Pilgrim Creek Park
- South Shore Recreation Area
- McKay Creek Flats
- Noxon Rapids Dam Overlook
- Bull River Recreation Area
- Cabinet Gorge Dam Overlook
- Clark Fork Access Site – Eastern Access Road
- Flat Iron Fishing Access Site
- Trout Creek Recreation Area
- Frog Pond
- Marten Creek Bay Recreation Area
- Vermilion Bay Boat Launch
- Quinn's Cut
- Sellmer Property
- Two Rivers RV Park
- Antelope Lake

Overall, the 19 study sites hosted over 86,400 visitor groups between May 22 and September 7, 2015[13] (Table 11). The Trout Creek Recreation Area hosted the highest proportion of visitors, with 28 percent of all visits occurring at this site. Flat Iron FAS accounted for 13 percent of total use, while Bull River Recreation Area hosted 11 percent of all recorded use (Chart 3). Boat launch sites accounted for 43 percent of total visitation, followed by large campgrounds (30%), and small campgrounds and day use sites (12% each) of total visitation (Chart 4).

Visitation to all sites combined peaked at 1,473 group visits on July 4, followed by 1,420 group visits on June 27. The weekend with the highest combined visitation was July 4-5, hosting a total of 2,784 group visits at all sites in the study. June 29 – July 3 was the week with highest visitation of the season, with recreation sites hosting a total of 4,868 group visits (Chart 5).

[12] Visitation is typically monitored on the recreational access trail of the Clark Fork Access Site, but counts were not collected there in 2014 or 2015 due to vandalism activity that resulted in the counter and locking box being stolen. The counter will be replaced at some point in the future.

[13] Pinnacle Research & Consulting. January 2016. 2015 Clark Fork Recreation Site Visitation, Noxon Rapids and Cabinet Gorge Hydroelectric Projects.

Table 11: Annual Peak Season Visitation and Percent Change

Total Group Visitation	**2015**	**2014**	**2013**	**2012**	**2011**	**2010**	**2009**	**2008**	**Percent Change '14-'15**	**Percent Change '08-'15**
Thompson Falls State Park	5239	4918	5019	6837	4149	4140	5061	4332	+7%	+21%
Flat Iron FAS	11025	9763	9470	9195	8107	6618	n/a	n/a	+13%	n/a
Finley Flats	3240	3170	3328	4176	2205	2661	3108	2532	+2%	+28%
Frog Pond	1663	1693	1522	1553	1801	1398	n/a	n/a	-2%	n/a
Vermilion Bay Boat Launch	2418	2043	2092	1763	1712	1648	n/a	n/a	+18%	n/a
Trout Creek Recreation Area	23804	20,065	12,925	12,406	11,757	12,659	n/a	n/a	+19%	n/a
Marten Creek Bay Recreation Area	2129	1991	1954	2096	1971	1871	n/a	n/a	+7%	n/a
North Shore Recreation Area	3073	2903	3028	4949	2938	3266	3364	3226	+6%	-5%
McKay Creek Flats	2065	3069	2025	3901	1895	2835	2195	3418	-33%	-40%
Noxon Rapids Dam Overlook	1569	1512	1490	2081	2378	1621	1636	1786	+4%	-12%
Pilgrim Creek Park	6610	5537	5737	4884	5334	5573	4859	4282	+19%	+54%
South Shore Recreation Area	2613	2336	1839 *(est)*	2085	1709	2038	2234	1454	+12%	+14%
Bull River Recreation Area	9548	7840	7116	11,153	7578	7056	7209	5697	+22%	+68%
Two Rivers RV Park	7625	7964	6319	6204	6728	n/a	n/a	n/a	-4%	n/a
Sellmer Property	199	267	404	431	353	350	n/a	n/a	-25%	n/a
Cabinet Gorge Dam Overlook	1353	1279	Closed	1474	2168	1489	1481	1261	+6%	n/a
Clark Fork Access Site – Vehicle	642	467	702	660	679	640	n/a	n/a	+37%	n/a
Clark Fork Access Site – Trail Use	n/a	n/a	n/a	268	231	145	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Antelope Lake	672	819	963	1017	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-18%	n/a
Quinn's Cut	992	880							+13%	
All Indicator Sites*	**35,310**	**32,564**	**29,582**	**41,540**	**33,127**	**30,679**	**31,147**	**27,988**	**+8%**	**+26%**
All Sites	**86,479**	**78,516**	**65,933**	**76,281**	**63,693**	**56,152**				

Chart 1: Peak Recreation Season Visitor Groups, 2008-2015

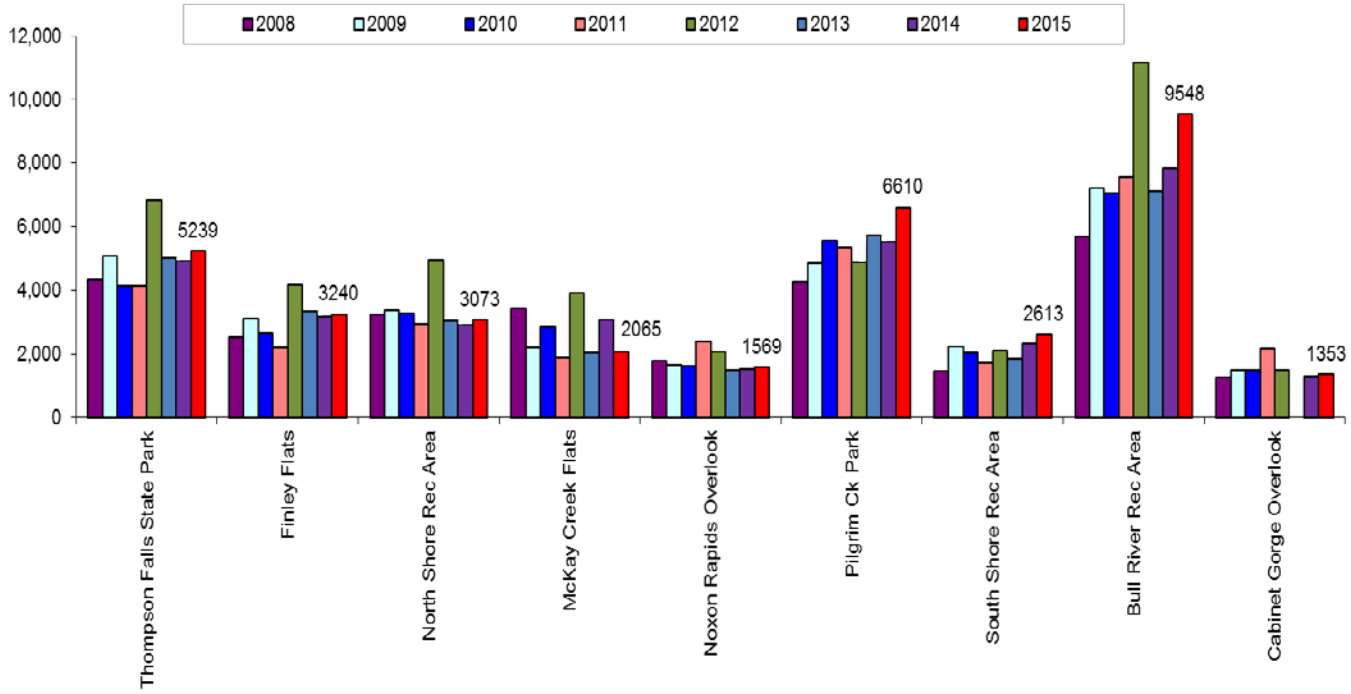


Chart 2: Peak Recreation Season Visitor Groups, 2010-2015

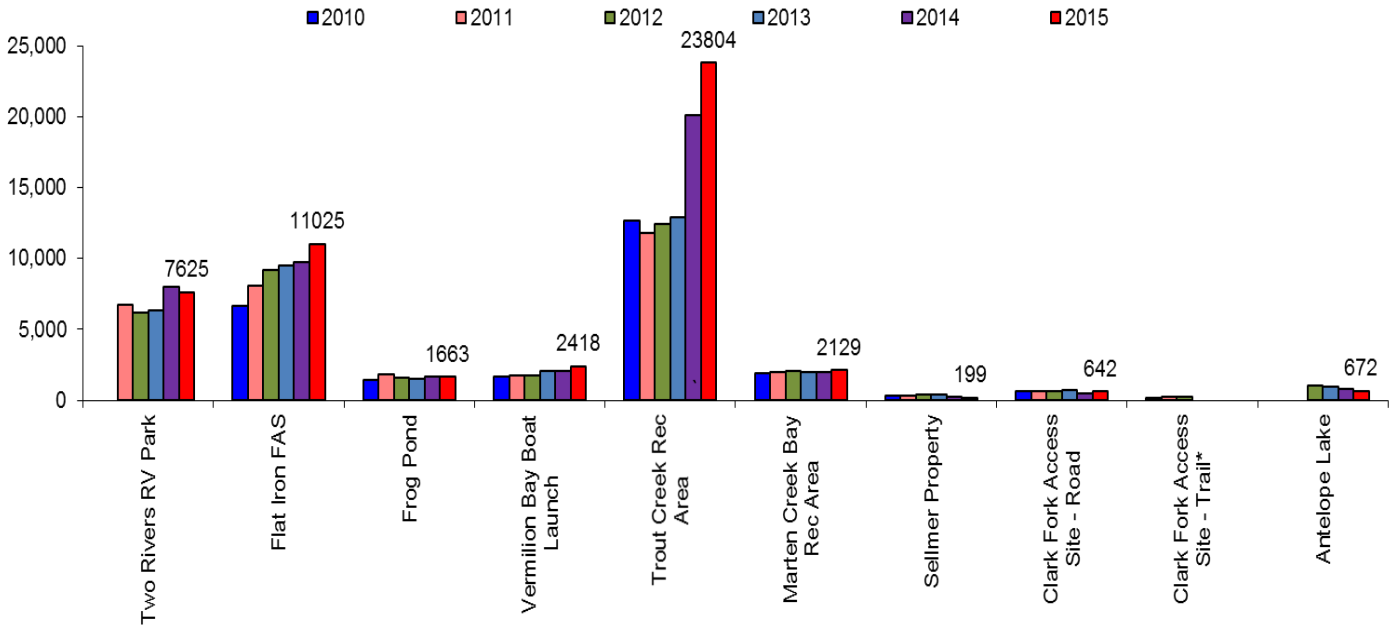


Chart 3: Proportion of Total Visitation to All Sites, Peak Recreation Season 2015

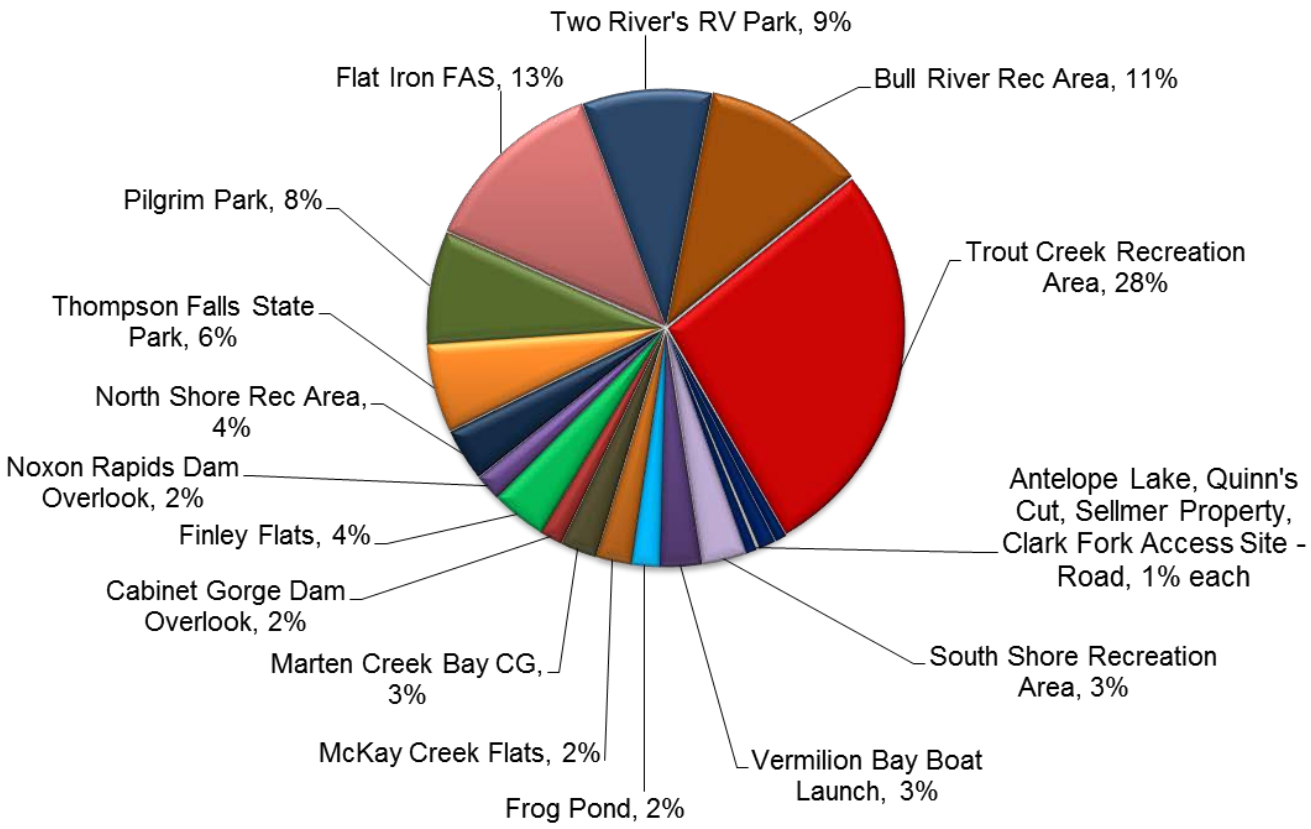


Chart 4: Proportion of Total Visitation by Site Type, Peak Recreation Season 2015

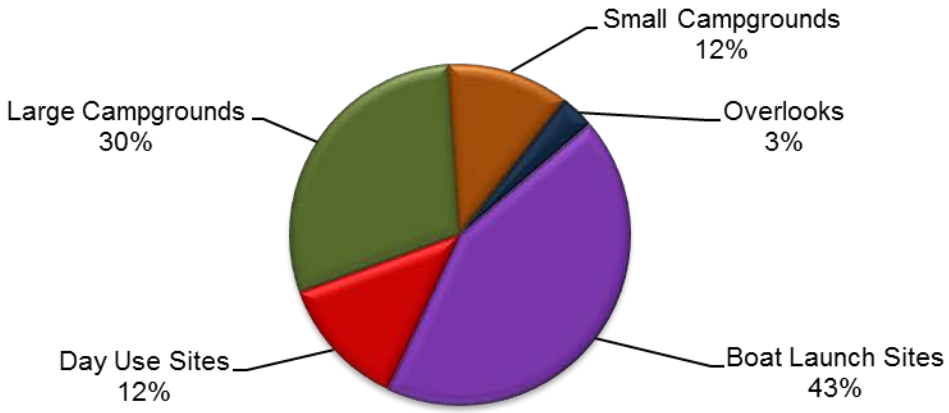
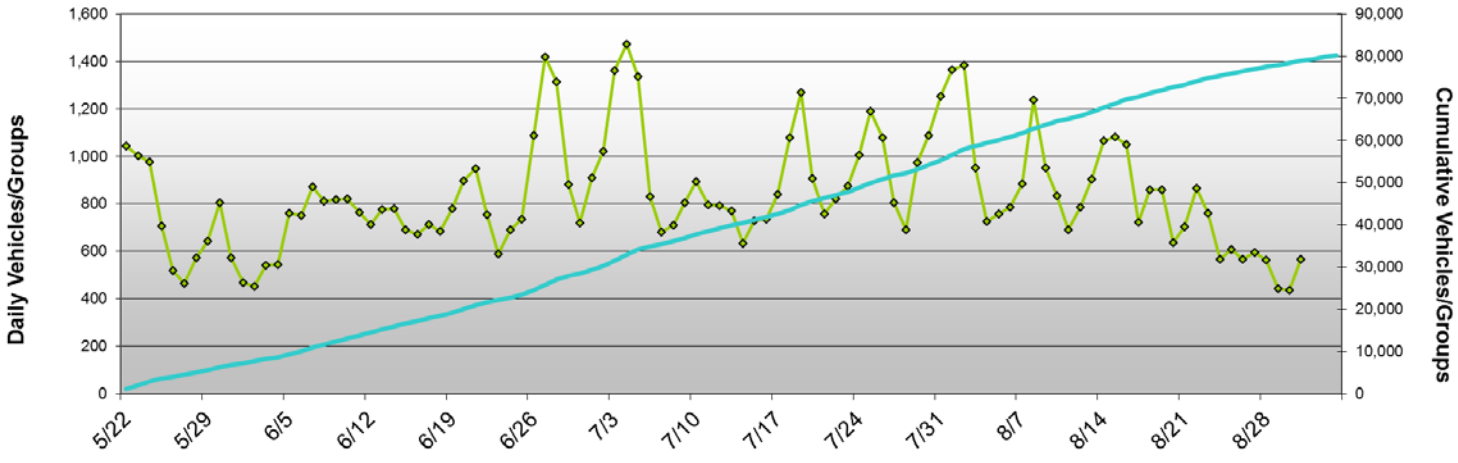


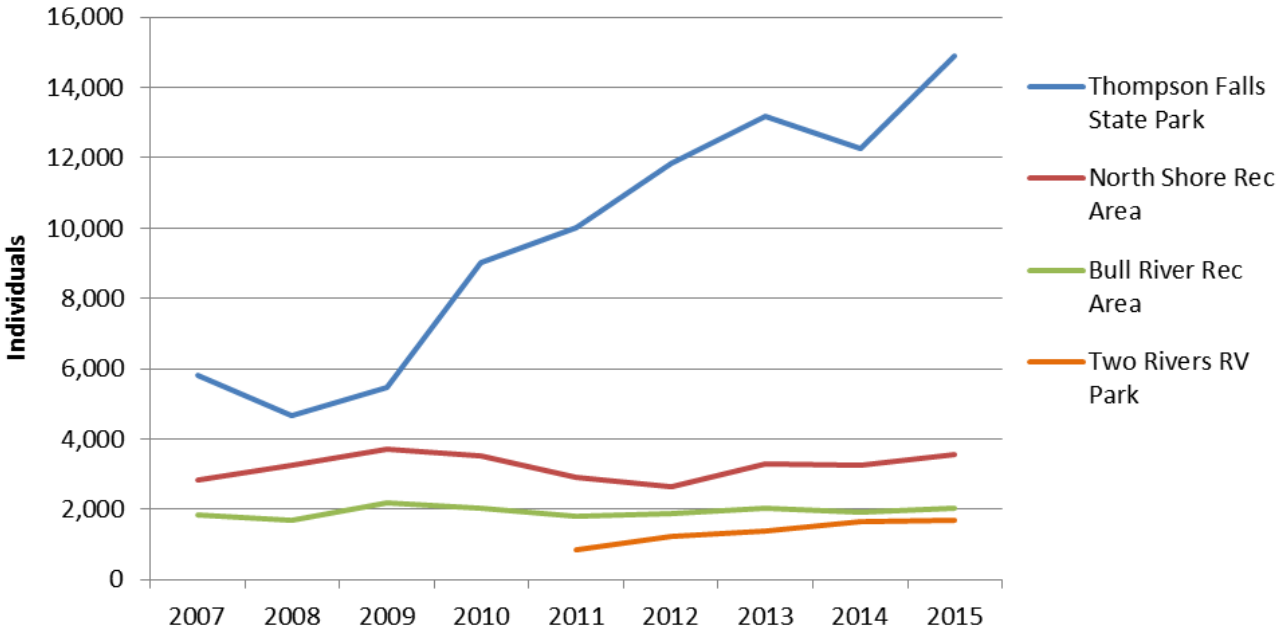
Chart 5: Total Daily and Cumulative Visitation, Peak Recreation Season 2015



Overnight Visitation

Visitation to the four large campgrounds in the Lower Clark Fork Projects is monitored through collection of fees and site host records. Overnight use of Bull River and North Shore Recreation Areas has been fairly consistent over recent years. These two Forest Service campgrounds host just under 2,000 people and just over 1,000 people, respectively, each year in the camping portions of their sites. Overnight use of Thompson Falls State Park has increase in recent years, likely due to improvements made at the site. Similarly, use of the Two Rivers RV Park has steadily increased since it came under Avista ownership in 2012 and site improvements were made.

Chart 6: Overnight Visitors, 2007-2015



Lower Clark Fork Projects Block Management Area Use and Hunting Access

Avista utilizes the MFWP Block Management Program to provide for public access on three of its larger parcels. Two of these, South Fork Bull River (574 acres) and Wood Duck (155 acres), are located along the Bull River and are managed under the supervision of the Management Committee.

The South Fork Bull River parcel, which is adjacent to the Bull River Wildlife Management Area (1,330 acres owned and managed by MFWP), is open for public use from May 15 to December 2 of each year with written permission from staff at the Avista Noxon Natural Resource Office. The primary uses are hunting, fishing, and hiking. Public use of the South Fork Bull River BMA for hunting has remained fairly consistent since 2003, averaging 47 hunter days per year. The lowest visitation occurred in 2014, when only 15 hunter days were recorded (Table 12). This low use was likely due to a lack of snow during the big game season, and challenging access routes due to formulation of new river channels from beaver activity.

The Wood Duck Property has a volunteer sign-in station on site. This property receives low, but consistent visitation (10 to 20 visits per year), with most of the use occurring during the summer months for fishing, bird watching, and hiking.

The Tuscor Block Management Area contains approximately 500 acres of project lands along Noxon Reservoir and is open for public use with written permission from the Avista Noxon Natural Resource Office. The primary public use of this property is for big game hunting. Use of the Tuscor area has increased in use, from an average of 42 hunter days from 2004 through 2009 to an average of 94 hunter days from 2010 to 2015. This increase is most likely due to easier hunting conditions due to past timber harvest, and elk being present on the property for the majority of the hunting season (Table 12).

Table 12: Summary of Big Game Hunter Days compiled from attached narratives

Year	South Fork Bull River BMA Hunter Days	Tuscor BMA Hunter Days
2003	57	No data
2004	57	53
2005	48	25
2006	57	43
2007	51	37
2008	44	59
2009	24	35
2010	48	103
2011	50	42
2012	54	74
2013	40	86
2014	15	113
2015	61	143

Lower Clark Fork Projects Creel Survey: Winter 2011-2012

During the winters of 2011 and 2012, ice anglers were interviewed on Noxon Rapids, Cabinet Gorge, and Thompson Falls reservoirs, as well as the Frog Pond and Triangle Pond[14]. Surveyors roved between sites, actively pursuing interviews at ice fishing locations. Common ice fishing locations were determined prior to the survey and were required stops during all surveys, including:

- Thompson Falls Reservoir
- Finley Flats Bay
- Vermilion Bay
- Beaver Creek Bay
- Town of Trout Creek
- Trout Creek Bay
- Frog Pond
- Marten Creek Bay
- McKay Creek Flats
- Bull River Bay
- Triangle Pond
- Elk Creek Bay

Additionally, if anglers were observed at other locations with public access during the course of the survey, an interview was conducted. Interview sample sizes were low on all waterbodies except Noxon, and therefore more thorough analyses were only conducted for that reservoir.

Counts were stratified to include a sampling of weekdays, weekend days, and holidays. Two weekdays per week were sampled during the study period and most weekend days were also sampled. Three of the four holidays during the study period were surveyed as well (Martin Luther King Jr. Day 2011, President's Day 2011 and 2012). Monday holidays were grouped with weekends for analysis.

A total of 1,205 total anglers were encountered at all locations in 67 days of interviews. On average, 18 anglers were encountered per day. Sanders County residents comprised 54% of the total anglers interviewed, while out of state anglers comprised about 11% of all anglers encountered in both years. Sixty four percent of all anglers encountered on weekdays were from Sanders county (range: 56-75%). On the weekends, 50% of all anglers were from Sanders County.

In both years, slightly more than 90% of interviews were conducted on Noxon Reservoir, although all sites were checked at least once per day on interview days. The most popular locations were Marten Creek Bay, Finley Flats, and Beaver Creek. The average duration of a completed fishing day was about 4 hours.

The vast majority (91%) of interviewed anglers specified a target species, and nearly all (96%) sought yellow perch, northern pike, or both. A total of 114 harvested northern pike were observed at all sites, with an average length of 26 inches (range of 16-42 inches). All but seven of these fish were harvested from Noxon Reservoir. Forty five mostly smaller northern pike were also released with an estimated average length of 19 inches. A northern pike catch rate of 0.140 fish/hour and a harvest rate of 0.083 fish/hour were recorded in 2011 on Noxon, equal to one harvested northern pike per 12 angler hours. In 2012, the catch rate was 0.047 fish/hour (33% of the 2011 rate) and the harvest rate was 0.037

[14] Winter Creel Survey on the Lower Clark Fork River Reservoirs: Noxon and Cabinet Gorge Reservoirs, Frog and Triangle Ponds, Thompson Falls Reservoir, 2011-2012.

fish/hour (45% of the 2011 rate), equal to one harvested northern pike per 27 hours. The difference in harvest rates between years (1 per 12 hours in 2011 vs 1 per 27 hours in 2012) was significant (Chart 13).

A total of 4,852 harvested yellow perch were encountered during angler interviews in both years at all sites, and anglers that were interviewed estimated a total of 3,070 perch were also released at Noxon sites. An approximate catch rate of yellow perch at Noxon sites was 5.14 fish/hour in 2011 and 4.45 fish/hour in 2012. In 2011, the harvest rate was 3.36 fish/hour and in 2012 it was 2.29 fish/hour (Chart 14).

Chart 13: Northern pike catch and harvest rates

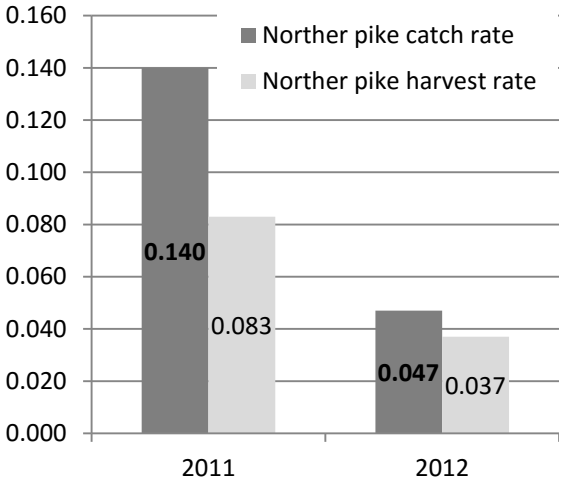
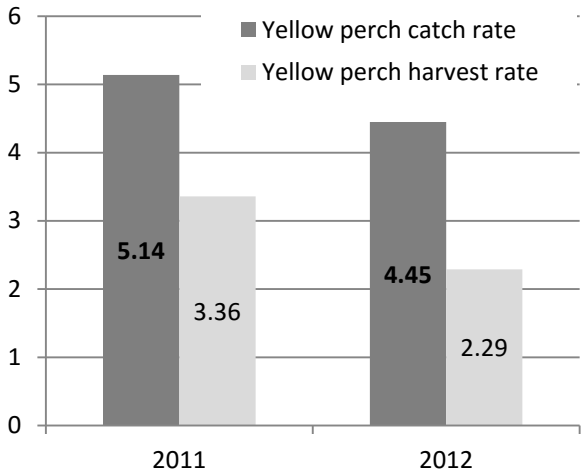


Chart 14: Yellow perch catch and harvest rates



The reservoirs on the Lower Clark Fork River provide an important fishery. During the summer, the most commonly sought species are largemouth and smallmouth bass in Noxon Reservoir and northern pike in Cabinet Gorge[15]. However, yellow perch and northern pike are by far the most sought after species throughout the entire system in the winter. This is true not only for local anglers, but also for out of county and out of state anglers as well.

[15] Horn, C. and T. Tholl. 2010. Noxon and Cabinet Gorge Reservoirs fish monitoring. Comprehensive Report: 1997-2009. Report
to Avista Corporation, Spokane, Washington.

8 Recreation Site Work History: 2000 – 2016

The following section provides a summary of work performed at Lower Clark Fork Project recreation sites between 2000 and 2016. Development of sites and ongoing improvements have resulted from the cooperative efforts of Avista, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, US Forest Service, Sanders County, and a multitude of community volunteers and foundations through donations of time, materials, and funding. A list of grants secured for site improvements is included in Appendix A. Sites are listed in an upstream-to-downstream order.

Thompson Falls State Park:

2001: New picnic tables were installed.

2009: Forest thinning performed to improve forest health.

2010: Two vault toilets replaced.

2011: State Park removed from primitive category by Montana State Legislature.

2013: Following 15 years of negotiations and discussions with Montana DNRC, a perpetual easement for the site was secured.

2015: Work was initiated to relocate the existing camp host site and add an additional site, as well as develop the family fishing pond at the State Park. Work will be completed in 2016.

Thompson Falls Community Trails Projects

2009 – 2016: Avista contributed a total of $55,700 in matching funds for grants awarded from the Recreational Trails Program for construction of trails in the Thompson Falls area. These trails resulted from the Clark Fork River Corridor Trail Concept Plan, an effort that was supported by the National Park Service for the Lower Clark Fork Project in 2001.

Flat iron FAS:

2000: A new ADA-accessible dock was installed.

2001: Boat dock was extended 20 feet to increase usefulness at all water levels.

2002: MFWP engineers developed construction plans to address parking and ADA issues at this site.

2003: Avista engineers developed plans for a fishing pier.

2004: An ADA-accessible fishing pier was constructed, as well as additional parking and an informational kiosk.

2005: The gravel access road and parking areas were resurfaced. The downstream parking area was expanded to hold six additional vehicles. Approximately 100' of erosion control near the restroom was completed, and the boat ramp area was dredged with a super excavator, removing 40 truckloads of silt and increasing the utility of the ramp at lower water levels. The project was completed under budget and with good cooperation on river flow management from operators at the Thompson Falls Dam (PPL Montana) and Noxon Dam (Avista).

2006: A fishing pier was installed just upstream of the ADA-accessible pier for additional water access. The fishing pier is a permanent structure on helical inserts that are screwed into the bed of the reservoir. The pier deck is constructed of synthetic material that is slip resistant and will not rot. The pier allows passenger and supply loading of boats from the overflow parking area and is also suitable for fishing.

2008: Additional parallel parking was constructed at the west end of the site.

2011: Avista staff worked with MFWP staff to re-deck 60' of the dock. The old fir decking was replaced with long life synthetic decking.

2012: Annual dust abatement was completed in the day use area and in the overflow parking lot.

2013: Annual dust abatement was completed in the day use area and in the overflow parking lot.

2014: The old vault restroom located near the river, which historically was inundated with river water during periods of high flow, was replaced with a pad and seasonal facility. The old restroom was donated to a local non-profit organization. A new vault restroom was installed closer to the ADA-accessible fishing pier which is not susceptible to seasonal flooding. Annual dust abatement was completed in the day-use area and in the overflow parking lot.

2015: Annual dust abatement was completed in the day-use area and in the overflow parking lot. Sediment was dredged from the boat ramp area to improve the accessibility of the site at all water levels. A special excavator with a long reach was brought into the area to conduct this work.

Trestle Recreation Area:

2012: Property acquired in conjunction with Sanders County for development as a recreation site.

2014: A new access road and parking lot were constructed in cooperation with the Sanders County Road Department. A trail was cleared to the shoreline and all hazard trees were removed.

2015: A portable restroom was provided during the peak recreation season.

Sanders County Kirby Boat Launch:

2009: Constructed the primitive boat ramp along the Blue Slide Road.

Finley Flats Recreation Site

2001: Planning for site development completed, with Sanders County partnering on the project.

2004: Installed a new restroom, created and staffed a camp host site and hardened existing campsites.

2005: Staffed by volunteer camp host (2005-2014). The host greeted visitors, distributed rules and regulations, and called Avista or local law enforcement if needed to resolve issues. Camp hosts received gas for their generators, firewood, and a year-end gift certificate for their efforts. This program increased safety and security and effectively eliminated vandalism at the site.

2007: Installed a second vault toilet with cooperation from the Lolo National Forest and the Sanders County Park Board.

2008: Avista staff and MCC crews made improvements to several campsites, including the host site. New gravel was laid down, several new picnic tables were placed and trees were trimmed or removed as needed.

2010: Installed a new 8' X 60' dock and several new picnic tables. ADA access to the shoreline and facilities was improved.

2011: Avista worked with multiple partners including Sanders County, USFS, Montana Rail Link and the Montana Department of Transportation to move and reconstruct a portion of the access road. The railroad crossing was also moved to provide better site distance. The crossing was widened to two lanes and crossing arms and lights were added to increase safety.

2012: Hazard trees were removed near popular campsites. Volunteers repaired and painted picnic tables and raked gravel at campsites. Annual dust abatement was completed in the campground and day use area.

2013: Hazard trees were removed near popular campsites and next to the parking lot. Volunteers repaired and painted picnic tables and raked gravel at campsites. Annual dust abatement was completed in the campground and day use area.

A waste water tank was installed at the volunteer host site to allow the host to hook up to sewer. This allowed the hosts to stay at this primitive location for longer periods of time without the need to leave the park to dump their holding tanks.

2014: Hazard trees were removed near popular campsites and next to the parking lot. Volunteers repaired/painted picnic tables and raked gravel at campsites. Annual dust abatement was completed in the campground and day-use area. Two new picnic shelters were constructed by the Boy Scouts of America and other volunteers. A new, centrally located vault restroom was installed.

2015: Hazard trees were removed near popular campsites and next to the parking lot. Annual dust abatement was completed in the campground and day-use area.

Vermilion Bay Access:

2003: Site ownership and potential designs were assessed.

2007: A new access road and parking area were developed.

2008: A new concrete boat ramp that measures 12' wide by 60' long was installed. This ramp provides excellent access for people that live on the Blue Slide Road and provides access during low water.

2009: Finished the approach to the boat ramp with a top layer of gravel.

2010: Installed picnic tables and a new 6' X 16' dock. A trail to the shoreline from Water Hill Trailhead was constructed to provide access for ice fishing in the winter. A parking area was constructed that will accommodate trail users as well as ice fisherman.

Trout Creek Recreation Area:

2001: The access road was paved.

2002: The existing restroom was replaced by a new all-concrete building located in a more accessible location and not the middle of the parking lot. To address safety concerns, a new dock was purchased and installed adjacent to the boat ramp for boat use only. Decking on the existing dock was replaced and the dock was relocated as a swim dock to provide a safe environment for swimmers using the area. Concrete sidewalks were installed in the picnic area to improve universal accessibility to the site. New ADA-accessible picnic tables, a BBQ and fire ring were installed at the site.

2003: A new boat ramp was constructed.

2004: The parking lot was painted and sealed. Avista coordinated with Sanders County United for Disabilities (SCUD) to ensure that the dock and restroom recently installed were fully ADA-accessible.

2005: Avista provided $2000 to the volunteer Trout Creek Park Board for capital improvement projects of their choosing (construction of a new section of dock at the swimming beach).

2006: Avista provided $4000 to the volunteer Trout Creek Park Board for capital improvement projects of their choosing. The purpose of this funding is to promote local input via the Trout Creek Park Board in management direction of the park. This year, the Trout Creek Park Board spent the funds on the final section of the swim dock.

2014: Purchased and installed a new 20-foot dock section, extending the dock to 60 feet.

2016: Installed new swim area rope and buoys.

Trout Creek Dispersed Recreation Site:

2001-2016: Portable restroom placed on site seasonally to address increasing sanitation problems.

North Shore Recreation Area:

2000: A new ADA-accessible dock and boat ramp were installed to provide greater access.

2002: Sanders County, US Forest Service and Avista cooperated on paving of the access road to the Recreation Area. Two picnic shelters in the day use area were re-roofed.

2003: Discussions were initiated with an adjacent landowner to possibly acquire ½ acre for expansion of the current parking area for boat trailers.

2004: Phase 1 of parking expansion: cleared the adjacent US Forest Service property.

2005: Paved the existing and new addition to the parking lot.

2006: Provided electrical service to the host site and restrooms. Lights were added to the restrooms in the campground for safety. An ADA-accessible trail was constructed from the paved parking area to the day use picnic shelter. The parking area has designated ADA parking.

2007: Three extra trailer parking spots were created within the campground to free up parking spaces at the day use area.

2008: Constructed three new campsites, including new tables, fire rings, and parking barriers. One of the sites is fully ADA accessible with an elevated tent pad. New pathways were constructed to connect various site amenities, such as picnic shelters, tables, potable water and a viewpoint. The new trails provide ADA access to all amenities.

2009: Install a new 20' section of dock.

2010: New campsites were constructed and expanded parking and provided better ADA access to camping facilities.

2011: Finished construction of new campsites and expanded parking.

2013: Upgrades were completed at five campsites, including improved ADA accessibility, new tent pads and parking areas. Bear proof garbage cans were also installed.

2014: Renovations to improve ADA access were completed, including construction of new tent pads, parking areas, and paths. A new vault restroom with lights was installed.

2015: Discussions were initiated with a landowner regarding the potential to purchase property adjacent to the day use area for additional parking.

2016: Added stone dust to trails.

Frog Pond Recreation Area

2007: The nine-acre site intended for development as the Frog Pond Recreation Area was purchased. Development of the day use facility and put-and-take fishery will occur in phases.

2008: A new access road, parking area, and trails, were constructed, and a new vault restroom was installed. The site also received two picnic tables from the Forest Service.

2009: Installed an ADA-accessible fishing pier.

2010: Picnic tables were installed and water bars were added to the hiking trails.

2014: A new concrete approach to the fishing pier was constructed.

Marten Creek Recreation Area

2001: Survey of the property was completed to address US Forest Service and Avista ownership.

2002: Improvements to the roads, parking, and interior ADA-accessible pathways was initiated, and a new restroom facility was added. A new picnic shelter was also constructed and a new dock was installed.

2003: Improvements to roads, parking, interior ADA-accessible pathways, and the new restroom facility were completed.

2010: Two old vault toilets were removed and two new vault toilets installed.

2015: The vault restroom was removed and reset to be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The site was leveled and the foundation gravel was compacted.

South Shore Recreation Site:

2001: A portable restroom was placed on site to address increasing sanitation problems. A site map has been completed, and will be used by a recreation subgroup in 2002 to develop site plans.

2002: A portable restroom was placed on site to address increasing sanitation problems. The access road was resurfaced, with additional improvements at the site scheduled in 2003.

2003: A site plan was finalized and a public comment meeting was held. Comments received were incorporated into the plan prior to implementation. Improvements include road repairs and the construction of a parking lot, the addition of 12 new campsites, a picnic shelter and a day use area, and the installation of a new restroom.

2004: Improvements that began in 2003 were completed, including campsites, a parking lot, a day use area, a restroom, and a new boat ramp.

2005: A swimming dock was installed in the middle of the swimming bay. The dock was previously located at the Marten Creek Recreation Area (USFS) and was disposed as surplus when that area received a new dock system.

2006: Riprap along the new boat ramp was reinforced, and access to the boat ramp and camp sites was improved. Avista staff also worked to improve landscaping and individual camp sites.

2009: Installed a new 6' by 14' dock at the boat launch.

2014: Parking lot repairs were completed and four new campsites were added by Avista personnel. In association with construction of the Noxon Switchyard, a new access road was constructed. In association with changes to Avista's Hydro Public Safety Plan, additional signage and boater safety buoys were installed, and modifications were made to the availability of the boat ramp. Tree thinning and other improvements to the existing campsites were also completed.

Noxon Dam Viewpoint:

2003: Site renovations and upgrades included a paved parking area, new sidewalks, a new restroom, extensive landscaping, and fence relocation. Both the upper and lower viewpoints were modified to meet accessibility standards.

2015: Design plans for a new picnic shelter were completed in 2014.

2016: New picnic shelter was constructed and installed.

Government Creek Dispersed Recreation Area

2015: Debris was removed at the mouth of the creek to create a safer environment.

Pilgrim Creek Park:

2000: The new baseball field was fenced, and new roads and parking areas were constructed to improve safety and traffic flow. An ADA-accessible fishing pier was constructed, and a new below-ground concrete pump house was installed. Utility and foundation preparation work for a new restroom and concession building was performed; the structure was scheduled to arrive in early 2001.

2001: Installed ADA-accessible picnic tables and grills near the picnic shelter, and constructed an equipment storage shed. Local baseball players and coaches finished the new baseball field.

2002: Over 60 volunteers assisted in a work day to clean up the park, pour cement for dugouts of the baseball field, install benches, repair the fence at the old ballfield, and plant shade trees near the ADA-accessible parking area.

2003: The entrance roads were chip sealed with cooperation from Sanders County. Entrance signage and an educational kiosk were installed. To improve both aesthetics and visibility, trees and other vegetation were thinned between the two baseball diamonds.

2004: New playground equipment was purchased; installation is planned for 2005. Approximately 60-70 volunteers spent one Saturday raking leaves, picking up litter, cleaning restrooms, mowing grass, trimming vegetation, fertilizing the baseball field, and generally preparing the park for the recreation season.

2005: New playground equipment was installed, including an innovative "pirate ship." Approximately 70 volunteers attended a work day building the playground, raking leaves, picking up litter, cleaning restrooms, mowing grass, trimming vegetation, fertilizing the baseball field, and generally preparing the park for the recreation season. Volunteers enjoyed lunch provided by Avista. This annual event has raised awareness of the park and its maintenance needs, and has helped to eliminate vandalism. Avista provided $2000 to the volunteer Pilgrim Creek Park Board for capital improvement projects of their choosing (including construction of a new backstop for the girls' softball field).

2006: Two new dugouts were installed at the softball field using donated lumber and some donated labor. Avista provided $5000 to the volunteer Pilgrim Creek Park Board for capital improvement projects of their choosing. The purpose of this funding is to promote local input via the Pilgrim Creek Park Board in management of the park. This year, the Board spent some of the funds on frisbee golf equipment and the remainder was spent on hardware and roofing for the new dugouts.

2008: An addition was put onto the maintenance shed to provide secure storage for sports equipment.

2009: Work on the Frisbee golf course continued, and two spring-style toys were purchased for the playground.

2010: Work on the Frisbee golf course continued, and two spring-style toys were installed on the playground. The host site was also repaired to allow easier parking for the host camper and easier access to utilities.

2014: Fifteen new picnic tables were purchased from a local builder. The old picnic tables were relocated to primitive day-use and camp areas. An existing vault restroom was replaced with a new model. The old restroom was donated to a local non-profit organization.

2015: A concession area was constructed next to the restroom building. A lean-to was also constructed on the shop to provide additional covered storage space.

2016: A Native American interpretive display was installed near the shoreline.

Noxon Centennial Park

2005: Purchased and installed a new 6' by 24' T-shaped dock.

2009: Installed two new ADA-accessible restrooms and completed some minor landscaping.

Triangle Pond:

2002: A cement slab was installed at the picnic shelter in order to provide a more usable area for the annual Kid's Fishing Day event. To provide universal accessibility, a cement sidewalk was poured from the parking lot to the shelter and restroom.

2004: Metal debris was removed from the pond using divers with underwater torches.

2006: A diver was hired and spent three days removing metal, cable and other debris from the bed of the pond using an underwater torch.

2007: The picnic shelter was painted, re-roofed and repaired,, including replacement of rotten supports.

2009: Finished construction on an ADA-accessible fishing pier and a swim platform.

2010: Constructed new parking and ADA pathways to provide improved access to the shoreline. Three new restrooms were also installed by the Forest Service.

2016: Access road was graded.

Bull River Recreation Area:

2000: A new ADA-accessible dock installed.

2001: Improvements to the boat ramp and dock access were 75% completed.

2002: Boat ramp improvements were completed and picnic shelter at the lower day use area was replaced.

2004: A universally accessible trail from the new parking area to the picnic shelter and restroom was constructed.

2005: A 30' x 45' arch-style, universally accessible picnic shelter was constructed.

2006: Two universally accessible restrooms were installed. One restroom has indoor plumbing and the second restroom is vault style. The project included safety lighting and ADA-accessible paths.

2008: Phase 1 of trail improvements were completed, including construction of ADA-accessible pathways to connect the waterfront to campsites on the lower loops.

2009: Phase 2 of trail improvements were completed, including construction of ADA accessible pathways to connect the waterfront to campsites on the lower loops and day use area. Campsites were improved to make them fully ADA-accessible and easier for large RV's to utilize.

2013: Purchased an EZ Go golf cart for use by the park host. Purchased and installed anti-back flow valves and other plumbing hardware required to provide RV camper fill sites throughout the campground.

2014: A new 20-foot dock section (purchased in 2013) was installed, extending the dock to a total length of 60 feet. Engineering review of trail opportunities to connect the day-use area and campground was completed.

2015: Grout was utilized as a short-term repair for gaps between the concrete planks of the existing boat ramp. Water hydrants within the campground area were modified to make them universally accessible. Eight new bear-resistant garbage cans were installed.

2016: ADA projects were completed.

Two Rivers RV Park:

2012: Under direction of the Recreation Subgroup, and approval by the Management Committee, Avista purchased a 21-acre RV Park adjacent to Cabinet Gorge Reservoir to preserve the camping opportunity and the habitat surrounding the park. The site was renamed to Two Rivers RV Park. Major renovations to the septic system included a new pressurized dose system, five septic tanks, three drain fields and a RV dump station. To meet building codes and improve service, major renovations to the electrical system included upgrading from 200-amp service to 600-amp service and new electric pedestals were installed at all campsites. A new propane fill station was constructed to accommodate all recreation vehicles and to meet state code. The Laundromat located at the Park was also renovated. Hot water heaters were replaced, a water softener was installed and washing machines were replaced. Additionally, the interior and exterior of the building was painted. Approximately 10 hazard trees were removed from the park and cut into lumber. The lumber was used to build picnic tables and a pergola. A future project includes a deck for the office and cabin. Other upgrades include brush removal, grading of camp sites, roads, trails, cabin and dock repairs, and general park clean-up.

2013: The Laundromat located at the Park received updated appliances. Remaining lumber from hazard tree removal was used to build a new deck at the Park office. Other upgrades included brush removal, grading of campsites, roads, trails, cabin and dock repairs and general park clean-up.

2014: The laundromat received maintenance to the appliances. New highway signs were purchased and installed. New lightweight picnic tables were also purchased.

2015: A new well pump was purchased and installed, and two new cabins including new electrical supply, water lines, and septic system were permitted and constructed.

2016: Anew camp host pad was constructed, and one washing machine was replaced.

Quinn's Cut Pond:

2009: An access easement was purchased from a local rancher for the existing road that provides access to Quinn's Cut Pond on USFS land.

2010: The USFS and Avista held a public meeting on site to discuss how the site might be developed. The meeting was well attended and public participation resulted in many good suggestions.

2012: The access road to the pond was reconstructed, making the area accessible by two wheel drive vehicles. The grade of the road was decreased and drainage issues were addressed.

2013: Road **r**econstruction tasks that began in 2012 were completed.

Heron Boat Ramp

2005: Development of this site, in cooperation with the Sanders County Park Board, included a new concrete boat ramp, new parking, a universally accessible trail, a perimeter split rail fence, and signage. Sanders County rebuilt the entrance road and constructed a new parking lot.

2014: Maintenance was performed on the trail and boat dock to address erosion concerns.

Cabinet Gorge Dam Overlook:

2000: Chip sealing of access road was completed.

2001: Upgrades were made for a new parking area, including an ADA parking space, ADA portable restroom, improved viewing area, and interpretive signage. The signage focused on Glacial Lake Missoula, Cabinet Gorge Dam, and a turbine runner removed from the dam. The project was put on hold after the September 11 terrorist attack at 90% completion.

2002: Site improvements for universal accessibility, fencing of turbine display, and remaining interpretative displays were completed. A gravity-fed irrigation system was installed to help establish and maintain vegetation at the site.

2003: A large-vehicle parking lot to accommodate buses and RVs was constructed. Six new interpretive and educational signs were installed.

2004: A new ADA vault restroom was installed**.**

Clark Fork Access Site:

2001 - 2003: Avista worked with the Idaho Department of Transportation on configuration and timing of the Highway 200 relocation project, as well as details of the land purchase (for recreation) and right-of-way sale. The new recreation site was in Avista ownership in 2003.

2004: A site plan was developed to include a restroom, boat ramp, parking area, and trail.

2005: Avista contributed $68,500 to construct trails, in addition to a boat ramp and parking area. Montana Conservation Corps and AmeriCorps volunteers constructed the majority of the footpaths. Avista employees constructed the universally-accessible portions of trail. The boat ramp will be open to the public for launching small, non-motorized watercraft, and will be the starting point of a water trail along the lower river. The boat ramp will also be used by authorized agencies (USFWS, IDFG, Bonner County Waterways, the Bonner County Sheriff's Office, and Avista) to launch motorized work boats.

2006: Finish work was completed on the boat ramp, parking area, and trail. Avista partnered with IDPR to produce a brochure outlining the water trail starting at this site and extending to Sandpoint, Idaho.

Big Eddy Recreation Area

2003: The entrance road was graded and compacted.

2004: A universally accessible trail connecting the restroom, parking area and picnic shelter was constructed. The picnic shelter was reconstructed to repair damage from a winter storm.

2009: A universally accessible trail was constructed to connect campsites to the restroom.

2014: Access road repairs were completed.

Drift Yard

2007: Site design, engineering, permitting and cultural clearance were completed for improvements to the Drift Yard. The new dock, improved boat ramp, parking area and access road were scheduled for completion in 2008.

2008: Provided seed money for a grant for site improvements. Constructed a new parking area and improved the existing access road. Run-off at this site has been contained and a portable restroom will be place at the site each season. A new dock was installed and the boat ramp improved.

2015: Enlarged and improved parking area associated with the boat ramp as part of the Clark Fork Delta Restoration project.

Johnson Creek Recreation Area

2005: 100 feet of new docks were installed, as was a new restroom. Improvements were made to the parking area and entrance road.

9 Recreation Site Operation and Maintenance Activities: 2000 – 2016

The focus of implementing the Operation & Maintenance portion of Appendix H is not only to provide for O&M of Avista sites, but also to develop agreements with USFS and MFWP to assist them with their activities. The following section provides a summary of operation and maintenance tasks performed by Avista staff, and support provided to agency partners for Lower Clark Fork Project recreation between 2000 and 2016.

Over the last 16 years, Avista has contributed roughly $1.8 million for operation and maintenance of recreation sites on the Lower Clark Fork Project. This includes roughly $380,000 provided to the Forest Service, $225,000 provided to FWP, and $1.2 million expended for direct Avista O&M measures. In 2016, Avista's O&M contributions and expenditures totaled $31,348 to the Forest Service, $ 13,500 to FWP, and more than $67,000 in other expenditures for operation and maintenance measures.

2000: Avista staff installed, maintained, and removed four docks at USFS sites and three docks at Avista Corp. sites. Boat ramps at these sites were inspected and maintained as needed.

Avista provided for the pumping of outhouses located at six developed recreation sites, as well as at the Noxon and Cabinet Gorge dam viewpoints. O&M dollars were utilized to maintain the grounds at the two viewpoints and to hire a part-time student to assist with maintenance at Pilgrim Creek Park. Avista used O&M dollars to provide tours of Noxon Dam every Sunday from June 11 through September 3.

A collection agreement was developed and approved that allowed Avista to help fund O&M costs at USFS sites. The collection agreement covered costs for the years 1999 and 2000. A new agreement will be developed for 2001 and presented to the TRTAC and Management Committee for their approval with the 2001 Annual Implementation Plans.

Avista and MFWP developed a collection agreement for a $9,000 annual contribution to assist with O&M costs associated with Thompson Falls State Park and the Flat Iron Fishing Access Site. This agreement will carry over into 2001. Avista also covered the annual $5,000 lease payment for Thompson Falls State Park in 2000, and will do so again in 2001. Anticipating the annual cost of this lease to increase, Avista and MFWP are working towards a long term solution that is more economically feasible.

A five-year O&M plan was developed and approved by the TRTAC and Management Committee as part of the 2000 Annual Implementation Plans.

Avista has entered into a new low-cost lease with the Thompson Falls Golf Course. Avista will also continue to work on the long-term management issues associated with the Trout Creek Recreation Area with the Trout Creek Improvement Association. There are a number of facility development projects slated for 2001-2003 that will be cost shared with the Trout Creek Improvement Association.

2001: Avista and the USFS began working on the development of a Collection Agreement that will allow the USFS to receive funds from Avista. Avista provided MFWP $9,000 to conduct operation and maintenance activities at Thompson Falls State Park and Flat Iron Fishing Access Site.

Avista provided staff to patrol all dispersed recreation sites and provided for park hosts at Pilgrim Creek Park.

Avista staff installed, maintained, and removed four docks at USFS sites and three docks at Avista Corp. sites; boat ramps at these sites were inspected and maintained as needed.

Avista provided for the pumping of outhouses located at six developed recreation sites, as well as at the Noxon and Cabinet Gorge dam viewpoints. O&M dollars were utilized to maintain the grounds at the two viewpoints and to assist with maintenance at Pilgrim Creek Park.

O&M dollars were used to provide tours of Noxon Dam every Sunday from June 17 through August 26.

Due to invoicing problems, MFWP paid for the annual $5,000 lease for use of the Montana State School Trust Land for Thompson Falls State Park. (In 2002, Avista reimbursed MFWP $5,000 for payment of the 2001 lease.) The recreation subgroup is currently exploring opportunities other than annual lease payments.

2002: Avista and the USFS developed a Collection Agreement that allows the USFS to receive funds from Avista. Avista provided payment for 2001 and 2002 O&M activities.

Avista provided MFWP $9,000 to conduct operation and maintenance activities at Thompson Falls State Park and Flat Iron Fishing Access Site.

Avista provided staff to patrol all dispersed recreation sites and provided for park hosts at Pilgrim Creek Park.

Avista provided $5,000 for the annual lease of the Montana State School Trust Land for Thompson Falls State Park. The recreation subgroup continues to explore alternatives other than annual lease payments.

2003: Avista provided the USFS $27,698 to conduct operation and maintenance activities at USFS-owned recreation facilities along the Project.

Avista provided MFWP $9,000 to conduct operation and maintenance activities at Thompson Falls State Park and Flat Iron Fishing Access Site.

Avista provided staff to patrol all dispersed recreation sites and provided for park hosts at Pilgrim Creek Park.

Avista provided $5,000 towards the annual lease of the Montana State School Trust Land for Thompson Falls State Park. The recreation subgroup continues to explore alternatives other than annual lease payments.

2004: Avista provided the USFS $23,088 to conduct operation and maintenance activities at USFS owned recreation facilities along the Project.

Avista provided MFWP $9,000 to conduct operation and maintenance activities at Thompson Falls State Park and Flat Iron Fishing Access Site.

Avista provided staff to patrol all dispersed recreation sites and provided for park hosts at Pilgrim Creek Park and a volunteer host at Finley Flats Recreation Area.

Avista provided $5,000 towards the annual lease of the Montana State School Trust Land for Thompson Falls State Park. The recreation subgroup continues to explore alternatives other than annual lease payments.

2005: Avista provided the USFS $21,040.57 to conduct operation and maintenance activities at USFS-owned recreation facilities along the Project.

Avista provided MFWP $9,000 to conduct operation and maintenance activities at Thompson Falls State Park and Flat Iron Fishing Access Site.

Avista funded staff to patrol all dispersed recreation sites, provided for park hosts at Pilgrim Creek Park, and coordinated a volunteer host program at Finley Flats Recreation Area.

Avista provided $5,000 from the Facility Development Fund towards the annual lease of the Montana State School Trust Land for Thompson Falls State Park. The recreation subgroup continues to explore alternatives other than annual lease payments.

2006: Avista provided the USFS $25,833 to conduct operation and maintenance activities at USFS-owned recreation facilities along the Project.

Avista provided MFWP $9,000 to conduct operation and maintenance activities at Thompson Falls State Park and Flat Iron Fishing Access Site.

Avista-funded staff patrolled all dispersed recreation sites, provided for park hosts at Pilgrim Creek Park, and coordinated a volunteer host program at Finley Flats Recreation Area.

Avista provided $5,000 from the Facility Development Fund towards the annual lease of the Montana State School Trust Land for Thompson Falls State Park. The recreation subgroup continues to explore alternatives other than annual lease payments.

2007: Avista provided the USFS $25,833 to conduct operation and maintenance activities at USFS-owned recreation facilities along the Project.

Avista provided MFWP $9,000 to conduct operation and maintenance activities at Thompson Falls State Park and Flat Iron Fishing Access Site.

Avista-funded staff patrolled all dispersed recreation sites, provided for park hosts at Pilgrim Creek Park, and coordinated a volunteer host program at Finley Flats Recreation Area.

Avista provided $5,000 from the Facility Development Fund towards the annual lease of the Montana State School Trust Land for Thompson Falls State Park. The recreation subgroup continues to explore alternatives other than annual lease payments.

Avista provided $5,000 from the Facility Development Fund to provide the volunteer host with incentives to return. The funds were used for a golf cart at Bull River Campground and host campsite improvements at Finley Flats.

2008: Avista provided the USFS $25,809 to conduct operation and maintenance activities at USFS-owned recreation facilities along the Project. The USFS and Avista also reached agreement in late 2008 to extend the existing collection agreement as it is currently written for another five-year period. This document will be finalized in early 2009.

Avista provided MFWP $9,000 to conduct operation and maintenance activities at Thompson Falls State Park and Flat Iron Fishing Access Site.

Avista-funded staff patrolled all dispersed recreation sites, provided for park hosts at Pilgrim Creek Park, and coordinated a volunteer host program at Finley Flats Recreation Area.

Avista provided $5,000 from the Facility Development Fund towards the annual lease of the Montana State School Trust Land for Thompson Falls State Park. The recreation subgroup continues to explore alternatives other than annual lease payments.

Avista provided $5,000 from the Facility Development Fund to provide the volunteer host with incentives to return. The funds were used to improve host campsite at Finley Flats and Northshore Campgrounds.

2009: Avista provided the USFS $27,698 to conduct operation and maintenance activities at USFS-owned recreation facilities along the Project. The collection agreement was extended for another five-year period.

Avista provided MFWP $9,000 to conduct operation and maintenance activities at Thompson Falls State Park and Flat Iron Fishing Access Site.

Avista-funded staff patrolled all dispersed recreation sites, provided for park hosts at Pilgrim Creek Park, and coordinated a volunteer host program at Finley Flats Recreation Area. Avista also organized an annual spring clean-up day at Pilgrim Creek Park. Such volunteer efforts are important in maintaining recreation properties, increasing community pride and reducing vandalism.

Avista, as approved by the Management Committee as part of the 2009 Annual Implementation Plan, did not provide $5,000 from the Facility Development Fund towards the annual lease of the Montana State School Trust Land for Thompson Falls State Park in 2009. By majority vote, the Recreation Subgroup decided not to partially fund the lease, but did agree to financially support efforts that would lead to alternatives to the annual lease payment. Currently a land trade between MFWP and Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation is being considered.

Avista provided $5,000 from the Facility Development Fund to provide volunteer hosts with incentives to return. This year the majority of the funds were used to purchase a golf cart for the Thompson Falls State Park hosts. The remaining funds were spent on improvements to the Pilgrim Creek Park host site.

2010: Avista provided the USFS $27,698 to conduct operation and maintenance activities at USFS-owned recreation facilities along the Project.

Avista coordinated with the Thompson Falls grade school to organize a clean-up day at Frog Pond Recreation Site.

Avista provided MFWP $9,000 to conduct operation and maintenance activities at Thompson Falls State Park and Flat Iron Ridge Fishing Access Site. MFWP plans to use some O&M funds to build a maintenance shed to increase program efficiency.

Avista-funded staff patrolled all dispersed recreation sites, provided for park hosts at Pilgrim Creek Park and coordinated a volunteer host program at Finley Flats Recreation Area. Avista also organized an annual spring clean-up day at Pilgrim Creek Park. Such volunteer efforts are important in maintaining recreation properties, increasing community pride and reducing vandalism.

Avista, as approved by the Management Committee as part of the 2010 Annual Implementation Plan, did not provide $5,000 from the Facility Development Fund towards the annual lease of the Montana State School Trust Land for Thompson Falls State Park. Currently, a land trade between MFWP and Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation is being considered.

Avista provided $5,000 from the Facility Development Fund to provide volunteer hosts with incentives to return. This year the majority of the funds were used to finish improvements to the Pilgrim Creek Park host site.

2011: Avista provided the USFS $27,698 to conduct operation and maintenance activities at USFS-owned recreation facilities along the Project.

Avista coordinated with the Thompson Falls grade school to organize a clean-up day at Frog Pond Recreation Site.

Avista provided MFWP $13,500 to conduct operation and maintenance activities at Thompson Falls State Park and Flat Iron Ridge Fishing Access Site. MFWP plans to use some of the funds to assist with their new campsite reservation system.

Avista staff patrolled all dispersed recreation sites, provided for park hosts at Pilgrim Creek Park, the RV Park and coordinated a volunteer host program at Finley Flats Recreation Area. Avista also organized an annual spring clean-up day at Pilgrim Creek Park. Such volunteer efforts are important in maintaining recreation properties, increasing community pride and reducing vandalism.

Avista, as approved by the MC as part of the 2011 Annual Implementation Plan, did not provide $5,000 from the Facility Development Fund towards the annual lease of the Montana State School Trust Land for Thompson Falls State Park. Currently, a land trade between MFWP and Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation is being considered.

2012: Avista staff patrolled all dispersed recreation sites, provided for park hosts at Pilgrim Creek Park, Two Rivers RV Park and coordinated a volunteer host program at Finley Flats Recreation Area. All volunteer hosts spent hundreds of hours cleaning parks and facilities and visiting with guests. Such volunteer efforts are important in maintaining recreation properties, increasing community pride and reducing vandalism.

Avista participated in the day-to-day operation and maintenance of the 27 recreation facilities located within the project area. Activities included installation and maintenance of boat docks and swim buoys, picnic areas, grounds-keeping, restroom maintenance and compliance patrol.

Avista utilized an all-volunteer camp host team at Finley Flats Recreation Area. The host site, with almost no amenities, was occupied by campers and/or fishermen the majority of the summer. The hosts greeted visitors, distributed rules and regulations, and called Avista or local law enforcement if needed. The hosts received gas for their generators, firewood, and a year-end gift certificate for their efforts. This program increases safety and security, and effectively helps to eliminate vandalism at the site.

Avista, as approved by the Management Committee as part of the 2011 Annual Implementation Plan, did not provide $5,000 (which in the past came from the Facility Development Fund) towards the annual lease of the Montana State School Trust Land for Thompson Falls State Park. Avista hosted an onsite tour in 2011 for directors of MFWP and Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation to discuss potential resolution of the ownership issue and continues to discuss options with department staff.

Working with MFWP and volunteers, Avista maintained trail access to a popular swim area on Avista property near the Thompson Falls State Park.

Avista coordinated with the Thompson Falls grade school to organize a clean-up day at Frog Pond Recreation Site.

Avista provided $27,698 to the USFS to conduct operation and maintenance activities at USFS-owned recreation facilities along the Project area.

Avista provided $13,500 to MFWP to conduct operation and maintenance activities at Thompson Falls State Park and Flat Iron Ridge Fishing Access Site. MFWP utilized some of the funds to assist with their new campsite reservation system.

2013: Avista staff patrolled all dispersed recreation sites, provided for park hosts at Pilgrim Creek Park, Two Rivers RV Park and coordinated a volunteer host program at Finley Flats Recreation Area. All volunteer hosts spent hundreds of hours cleaning parks and facilities and visiting with guests. Such volunteer efforts are important in maintaining recreation properties, increasing community pride and reducing vandalism.

Avista participated in the day-to-day operation and maintenance of the 27 recreation facilities located within the project area. Activities included installation and maintenance of boat docks and swim buoys, grounds-keeping, restroom maintenance and compliance patrol.

Avista hired an intern from Eastern Washington University's Outdoor Recreation Program. The intern worked 3.5 days a week at Avista recreation sites and 1.5 days per week at Thompson Falls State Park.

Avista utilized an all-volunteer camp host team at Finley Flats Recreation Area. The host site, with almost no amenities, was occupied by campers and/or fishermen the majority of the summer. The hosts greeted visitors, distributed rules and regulations, and called Avista or local law enforcement if needed. The hosts received gas for their generators, firewood and a year-end gift certificate for their efforts. This program increases safety and security and effectively helps to eliminate vandalism at the site.

Avista, as approved by the Management Committee as part of the 2013 Annual Implementation Plan, did not provide $5,000 (which in the past came from the Facility Development Fund) towards the annual lease of the Montana State School Trust Land for Thompson Falls State Park. Avista hosted an onsite tour in 2011 for directors of MFWP and Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation to discuss potential resolution of the ownership issue and continues to discuss options with department staff. In 2013 Avista staff met with the newly formed State of Montana Park Board to discuss the issue.

Working with MFWP and volunteers, Avista maintained trail access to a popular swim area on Avista property near the Thompson Falls State Park.

Avista provided $26,695 to the USFS to conduct operation and maintenance activities at USFS-owned recreation facilities along the Project area.

Avista provided $13,500 to MFWP to conduct operation and maintenance activities at Thompson Falls State Park and Flat Iron Ridge Fishing Access Site. MFWP utilized some of the funds to assist with their new campsite reservation system.

2014: Avista staff patrolled all dispersed recreation sites, provided for park hosts at Pilgrim Creek Park, Two Rivers RV Park and coordinated a volunteer host program at Finley Flats Recreation Area. Volunteer hosts spent hundreds of hours cleaning parks and facilities and visiting with guests. Such volunteer efforts are important in maintaining recreation properties, increasing community pride and reducing vandalism.

Avista participated in the day-to-day operation and maintenance of the 28 recreation facilities located within the project area. Activities included installation and maintenance of boat docks and swim buoys, grounds-keeping, restroom maintenance, trail maintenance and compliance patrol.

Avista and MFWP hired a shared seasonal employee that worked 3.5 days a week at Avista recreation sites and 1.5 days per week at Thompson Falls State Park.

A volunteer camp host team was utilized at the Finley Flats Recreation Area. The camp host site, with minimal amenities, was occupied by campers and/or fishermen for the majority of the summer. Camp hosts greeted visitors, distributed rules and regulations, and called Avista or local law enforcement if needed. This program increases safety and security and effectively helps to eliminate vandalism at the site.

The Thompson Falls State Park perpetual easement was purchased from DNRC through contributions of $137,500 each by Avista and MFWP to permanently secure the site for recreational use. Avista, MFWP, and volunteers maintained trail access to a popular swim area on Avista property near the Thompson Falls State Park.

Avista provided $30,079to the USFS to conduct operation and maintenance activities at USFS owned recreation facilities along the Project area.

Avista provided funding to MFWP to conduct operation and maintenance activities at the Thompson Falls State Park and Flat Iron Ridge Fishing Access Site. MFWP utilized some of the funds to assist with their new online campsite reservation system.

Avista continued to provide a low-cost lease for a portion of the Thompson Falls Golf Course. In 2014, a total of 7,828 nine-hole rounds of golf were played on the course. In addition, the course hosted the Eagles Lodge Junior Golf Event, which is open to all youth in the area. There were also nine tournaments held at the course, many of which were run as fundraisers for various non-profit organizations.

A new trailer was purchased to transport mowing and other maintenance equipment to parks.

2015: Avista staff patrolled all dispersed recreation sites, provided for park hosts at Two Rivers RV Park and coordinated a camp host program at Finley Flats Recreation Area. Park and camp hosts spent hundreds of hours cleaning parks and facilities and visiting with guests. These host efforts are important in maintaining recreation properties, increasing community pride and reducing vandalism.

Avista participated in the day-to-day operation and maintenance of the 28 recreation facilities located within the project area. Activities included installation and maintenance of boat docks and swim buoys, grounds-keeping, restroom maintenance, trail maintenance, and compliance patrol.

Avista and MFWP hired a shared seasonal employee who worked 2.5 days a week at Avista recreation sites and 1.5 days per week at Thompson Falls State Park.

A camp host team was utilized at the Finley Flats Recreation Area. The camp host site, with minimal amenities, was occupied by campers and/or fishermen for the majority of the summer. Camp hosts greeted visitors, distributed rules and regulations, and called Avista or local law enforcement if needed. This program increases safety and security and effectively helps to eliminate vandalism at the site.

Avista, MFWP, and volunteers maintained trail access to a popular swim area on Avista property near the Thompson Falls State Park.

Avista provided $31,067 to the USFS to conduct operation and maintenance activities at USFS owned recreation facilities along the Project area.

Avista provided $13,500 to MFWP for operation and maintenance activities at Thompson Falls State Park and Flat Iron Ridge Fishing Access Site. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks utilized some of the funds to assist with the new online campsite reservation system.

In conjunction with a $10,000 grant provided through the FWP Fisheries Division, Avista provided $63,960 for the enlargement of the Thompson Falls State Park fishing pond.

Avista continued to provide a low-cost lease for a portion of the Thompson Falls Golf Course. In 2015, a total of 8,217 nine-hole rounds of golf were played on the course. In addition, the course hosted the Eagles Lodge Junior Golf Event, which is open to all youth in the area. There were also nine tournaments held at the course, many of which were run as fundraisers for various non-profit organizations.

A new mower was purchased to assist with maintenance activities at the Avista owned facilities.

2016: Avista staff patrolled all dispersed recreation sites, provided for park hosts at Two Rivers RV Park and coordinated a camp host program at Finley Flats Recreation Area. Park and camp hosts spent hundreds of hours cleaning parks and facilities and visiting with guests. These host efforts are important in maintaining recreation properties, increasing community pride and reducing vandalism.

Avista participated in the day-to-day operation and maintenance of the 28 recreation facilities located within the project area. Activities included installation and maintenance of boat docks and swim buoys, grounds-keeping, restroom maintenance, trail maintenance, and compliance patrol.

Avista and MFWP hired a shared seasonal employee who worked 2.5 days a week at Avista recreation sites and 1.5 days per week at Thompson Falls State Park.

A camp host team was utilized at the Finley Flats Recreation Area. The camp host site, with minimal amenities, was occupied by campers and/or fishermen for the majority of the summer. Camp hosts greeted visitors, distributed rules and regulations, and called Avista or local law enforcement if needed. This program increases safety and security and effectively helps to eliminate vandalism at the site.

Avista, MFWP, and volunteers maintained trail access to a popular swim area on Avista property near the Thompson Falls State Park.

Avista provided $31,348 to the USFS to conduct operation and maintenance activities at USFS owned recreation facilities along the Project area.

Avista provided $13,500 to MFWP for operation and maintenance activities at Thompson Falls State Park and Flat Iron Ridge Fishing Access Site. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks utilized some of the funds to assist with the new online campsite reservation system. In addition, Avista provided $39,220 for continued efforts to expansion the fishing pond at the State Park.

Avista continued to provide a low-cost lease for a portion of the Thompson Falls Golf Course. In 2015, a total of 8,217 nine-hole rounds of golf were played on the course. In addition, the course hosted the Eagles Lodge Junior Golf Event, which is open to all youth in the area. There were also nine tournaments held at the course, many of which were run as fundraisers for various non-profit organizations.

10 Limits of Acceptable Change Monitoring and Recreation Site Inventory and Assessment

The Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) concept is an overarching principle upon which development of the RRMP was based. The concept relies on regular assessment of site conditions and comparing those conditions to an established set of standards. Regular documentation of site conditions provides a basis for management decisions and helps managers and the TRTAC prioritize projects. When a site amenity condition falls outside of the "acceptable" range, management actions are triggered to remedy the situation and bring the condition into compliance.

The first part of this section examines and analyzes the ROS and LAC concepts as adopted in the RRMP, while the latter part provides details moving forward.

LAC and ROS in the RRMP

In the RRMP, LAC standards were adopted for various indicators based on classification of sites within the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS). Classification under ROS range from semi-primitive to suburban based on site characteristics, the natural setting, and desired level of development.

Recreation sites adopted for LAC analysis in the RRMP are categorized based on their ROS classification in Table 13.

Table 13: LAC Monitoring Sites Adopted in RRMP by ROS Class

ROS Class	Monitoring Sites
Semi-Primitive	Stevens Creek Bay/Point Dispersed Use Area
Roaded Natural	Bull River Recreation Area/Campground Big Eddy Recreation Area Elk Creek Access (undeveloped) Triangle Pond Recreation Area Marten Creek Recreation Area Finley Flats Recreation Area Clark Fork Access Site Recreation Area (formerly VFW Recreation Area)
Rural	Flat Iron Ridge FAS Trout Creek Recreation Area Trout Creek Bay Dispersed Use Area North Shore Recreation Area Day Use Area
Suburban	N/A

The LAC indicators, methods and frequency of measurement since 2000, and management options as specified in the RRMP are included in Table 14.

In general, most indicators are monitored periodically or as needed, which has typically coincided with the visitor surveys in 2002 and 2012. This is true for indicators related to informal site use, perceived crowding, boating use, and public campground utilization. Use levels have been monitored annually for 19 recreation sites and in conjunction with the 2002 and 2012 visitor surveys for remaining recreation sites, while encounters have been monitored as a component of the visitor survey for all sites. The number of docks per half mile of shoreline is monitored as needed, generally when new dock permits are applied for, granted, or change ownership.

Standards for each threshold adopted in the RRMP were based on ROS class, as provided in Table 15. In most cases, the standard (or acceptable condition) becomes more stringent as the development level of the ROS class is diminished. The rationale is that sites or areas that are more highly developed are constructed in ways that will accommodate higher levels of use and more developed recreation facilities. In areas with little or no development, standards are more stringent in order to protect the resource, the natural characteristics of the setting, and provide for greater solitude.

Table 14: Recreation Indicators, Method of Measurement, and Management Options Adopted in RRMP

Indicator	Method and Frequency of Measurement	Management Options
Informal Sites	Method: Periodically survey the reservoir shoreline and record the number of informal recreation sites per 1/2 mile of shoreline. Evidence of informal use would include bare ground, litter, and vegetation damage. Frequency: Inventory conducted in conjunction with visitor surveys in 2002 and 2012	• Site/road closures • Barriers • Define site boundaries
Encounters/ Use Levels	Method: Monitor average weekend use levels based on user counts conducted at selected sample sites during the primary recreation season. Track data for each sample site, but aggregated across sites to develop an overall average/indicator. Frequency: Monitored annually for some sites.	• Redistribute use by providing information about alternative sites. • Limit facilities such as campsites and/or parking. • Institute a limited entry system.
Perceived Crowding	Method: Survey visitors using an established 9-point crowding scale to calculate percentage of users that feel crowded (response > 2). Focus on selected sample sites on weekends during the primary recreation season (Memorial to Labor Day weekends). Indicators to be tracked for each sample site (rather than aggregating across sites). Frequency: Monitored on visitor surveys in 2002 and 2012.	(Same as above)
Boating Use	Method: Monitor boating use at selected launch sites on weekends during the months of July and August (count boats and boat trailers). Also monitor boat lengths. Frequency: Monitored in conjunction with visitor surveys in 2002 and 2012.	(Same as above)
Number of Docks per ½ Mile	Method: Record the number of permitted docks for each designated Private Recreation area and Conservation 2 area. Numbers to be calculated for each ½ mile (as opposed to averaged over a given segment). Frequency: Monitored periodically, as needed.	• Limit number of dock permits. • Promote community docks.
Public Campground Capacity Utilization	Method: Calculate the average weekday and weekend capacity utilization of selected campground during the primary recreation season (Memorial Day to Labor Day weekends). Frequency: Monitored in conjunction with visitor surveys in 2002 and 2012.	• Increase campground capacity. • Develop alternative sites. • Institute limited entry system. • Institute reservation system (partial or full). • Provide visitors with information about alternative sites.

Table 15: Recreation Indicators and Standards Adopted in RRMP by ROS Class

Indicator	Semi-Primitive	Roaded Natural	Rural and Project Facilities	Suburban
RESOURCE: Informal Sites	<5 per ½ mile	0-10 per ½ mile	0-20 per ½ mile	0-30 per ½ mile
SOCIAL: Encounters/Use Levels	Average of <3 people observed at any one time	Average of <20 people observed at any one time	Average of <40 people observed at any one time	Average of <60 people observed at any one time
Perceived Crowding	<10% of users feel crowded	<25% of users feel crowded	<50% of users feel crowded	<50% of users feel crowded
Boating Use	<10 boats per weekend day with <1 boat >20 feet long	<20 boats per weekend day with <5 boats >20 feet long	<30 boats per weekend day with <10 boats >20 feet long	<40 boats per weekend day with <20 boat >20 feet long
MANAGERIAL: Total number of Docks/Piers per ½ Mile of Shoreline	0	0 – 4	0 – 15	0 – 25
Public Campground Capacity Utilization	N/A	Up to 50% season long (weekday and weekend) and/or up to 75% season long (weekend only)	Up to 50% season long (weekday and weekend) and/or up to 75% season long (weekend only)	Up to 50% season long (weekday and weekend) and/or up to 75% season long (weekend only)

Note: The recreation season is defined as Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend. Subject to revision based on adaptive management and on-the-ground testing.
* There are currently no Suburban recreation opportunities in the project area. No monitoring is necessary.

Analysis and Examination of LAC Indicators adopted in the RRMP

Under the RRMP, six LAC indicators and associated standards were developed based on ROS class. The following section provides an examination of each indicator, discussion of most recent monitoring results related to that indicator, and provides recommendations going forward. The new site classifications and indicators are provided at the end of this chapter.

Analysis of Informal Sites Indicator adopted in RRMP

Monitoring of dispersed recreation sites occurred in early fall 2015, replicating the same effort conducted in 2012. In total, 35 sites with evidence of informal recreation use were cataloged. Camping use was evident at 22 sites, and some of these areas had more than one campsite[16].

The standard for informal sites was developed based on the positioning of sites in relation to others and provides for a maximum number of informal sites within a half mile of each other, ranging from 5 to 30 based on ROS class. Informal sites were inspected in conjunction with the visitor surveys in 2002, 2012, and again for this plan update in 2016.

Of the 35 informal use sites, 24 had no other informal use area within one-half mile of shoreline while 11 were within one half-mile of at least one other informal site.

Within the Rural ROS class, which allows up to 20 sites per half mile, there was 1 instance of 3 sites per half mile and 2 instances of 2 sites per half mile. Within the Semi-Primitive ROS class, which allows up to 5 sites per half mile, there was 1 instance of 2 sites within a half mile. The Clark Fork Project shorelines are currently well within the adopted standards for density of informal recreation sites.

Discussion of Informal Sites Indicator

The standards adopted within the RRMP allow a much higher level of informal area use than would be acceptable. In fact, the reservoirs contain many contiguous miles of shoreline with no informal use areas, though the Rural section between North Shore Recreation Area and Vermilion Bay, at nearly 6 miles long, would accommodate almost 240 informal sites based on the prescription adopted in the RRMP. It is unlikely that this level of informal use would be acceptable to recreationists, managers or adjacent property owners, and equally unlikely that the resource could absorb this amount of use without long-term negative impacts or permanent damage.

Because the standards allow for a density of informal use sites that is many times greater than the current density and beyond what would seem to be acceptable levels of use, it is recommended that the standards be examined and adjusted to levels nearer the current conditions.

No new informal use areas were established between 2002 and 2012, nor between 2012 and 2016. Also, many of the sites show little evidence of use over the past number of years, and use at some sites has decreased due to new limitations to vehicle access. Many miles of shoreline contain no informal use sites due to constraints imposed by the terrain and surrounding land uses which limit roads and makes

[16] See Exhibit A: Clark Fork Project Recreation Site Inventory (September 2016).

many areas difficult to access. Similarly, some shoreline areas are too rocky or steep to support recreation use.

Because the availability of shoreline sites that are suitable for informal public recreation use is finite, it is likely that most of the desirable locations are already in use. As such, an issue equally important to the proliferation of new sites, which is monitored based on density, is the increase in resource impacts to the existing areas as a result of informal recreation use.

Recommendation for Informal Sites Indicator

Since few new informal use sites have been identified since 2002, the standards for site density should be adjusted to levels that more closely reflect current densities. It is also recommended that the site conditions at the informal use areas be periodically and systematically monitored so that unacceptable recreation impacts are identified and addressed as needed. Monitoring should occur about every 5 years in the late summer or early fall, when seasonal use will be most evident. Site characteristics that should be monitored include: number of campsites and fire rings, presence of litter or sanitation problems, shoreline erosion, soil compaction, and vegetative damage.

Analysis of Encounters/Use Levels Indicator adopted in RRMP

During the 2012 visitor survey, instantaneous use counts were calculated for each of the six sites selected for LAC monitoring of this indicator under the RRMP. At two-thirds of the sites, use was far below the standard established in the RRMP, while use at Finley Flats was near the standard and at Bull River the standard was exceeded. Interestingly, use counts at ROS Rural sites tended to be lower than that for Roaded Natural, although the Rural standard allows for twice the use at Roaded Natural sites (Table 16).

Table 16: Average Number of Recreationists Using Site at Any One Time on Weekends

ROS Class	2012 Condition	Standard
Semi-Primitive		
No sites in this class	N/A	< 3
Roaded Natural		
Bull River RA	26	< 20
Big Eddy RA	6	< 20
Finley Flats RA	17	< 20
Rural		
Flat Iron Ridge FAS	3	< 40
Trout Creek RA	8	< 40
North Shore RA	12	< 40
Suburban		
No sites in this class	N/A	< 60

Discussion of Encounters/Use Levels Indicator

The title of this indicator uses the term "encounters," although the method of measurement is to "monitor average weekend use levels based on user counts" and the standard is the average number of people observed using the site at any one time on weekends. Encounters and use levels are distinctly different concepts, however.

Measurement of encounters between visitors occurs most appropriately in recreation settings where solitude is an important element of visitor experiences. The number of encounters is probably not an important factor in visitor experiences at most of the recreation sites monitored with this LAC indicator since the sites involved represent the more highly developed recreation sites that are designed to accommodate higher levels of use than less developed sites. Rather, it is the visitor's subjective evaluation of use encounters (perceptions of crowding, satisfaction with other users, or evaluation of user behaviors) that are important.

Use levels can be measured through mechanical counting devices or by observation, and Avista has implemented an annual comprehensive use count study at many recreation sites (19 sites in 2016). The system uses automated counters that track the number of vehicles entering a site, which is used to measure the amount of site use. Although the counts allow identification of peak use days and visitation patterns, the system does not provide instantaneous counts of the number of recreationists using a site at any one time, as the standard requires.

Recommendation for Encounters/Use Levels Indicator

Establishing standards for appropriate levels of use is difficult and essentially the same as establishing a carrying capacity, which can be difficult in many settings. In fact, the LAC concept was created because

of dissatisfaction with recreation management based on carrying capacity, and is intended to focus on recreation *conditions* rather than the *number* of recreationists. In essence, monitoring use levels within LAC subverts this intent.

Further, the LAC framework already includes indicators that monitor use levels at campgrounds and boat launches ("Public Campground Capacity Utilization" and "Boating Use"), and the six recreation sites included in this LAC analysis as adopted in the RRMP contain both *campgrounds* and *boat launches*. This redundancy is unnecessary.

The "Encounters / Use Levels" LAC indicator should be retitled to "Visitor Satisfaction" and modified to monitor visitor evaluations of satisfaction with other users and identification of users or user behaviors that produce negative reactions for all sites included in the visitor survey. Instantaneous use counts should also continue to be conducted at all sites included in the visitor survey as well, though not tied to any threshold or standard. Data from the use counts can be used to estimate facility capacity utilization, regardless of whether or not capacity utilization is used as an LAC indicator, and provide a basis for FERC Form 80 completion.

Lastly, annual monitoring of site use through automatic traffic counters should be continued to provide additional information related to the volume of use absorbed by recreation sites and timing of recreation visitors, all of which is useful for managers to understand the nature of use at a recreation site.

Analysis of Perceived Crowding Indicator adopted in RRMP

Perceptions of crowding, as adopted in the RRMP, are measured on weekends at ten[17] recreation sites. The indicator is based on the percentage of visitors that report feeling any level of crowding, ranging from "slightly" to "extremely" on an ordinal scale (i.e., feeling slightly crowded or above) based on ROS class.

Results from the 2012 visitor survey reveal many sites in violation of the established weekend standard for crowding. Four of the five sites (Bull River, Finley Flats, Marten Creek, and Triangle Pond RAs) in the Roaded Natural ROS class were in violation of the 25 percent standard. In the Rural ROS class, two of the four sites (North Shore and Trout Creek RAs) were in violation of the 50 percent standard (Table 17).

[17] Big Eddy RA, Bull River RA, Finley Flats RA, Flat Iron FAS, Trout Creek RA, North Shore RA, Marten Creek RA, Thompson Falls State Park, Triangle Pond RA, and South Shore RA.

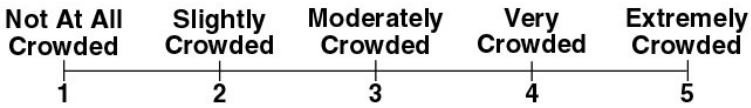


Table 17: Visitor Ratings of Crowdedness

	Percent of Users that Feel Crowded (>1 on 1-5 scale)		Average (mean) response on crowding scale (1-5)	
ROS Class	**2012 Weekend Condition**	**Weekend Standard**	**2012 Average: On Site Condition (all days)**	**2012 Average: On Water Condition (all days)**
Semi-Primitive				
No sites in this class	N/A	< 10%	N/A	N/A
Roaded Natural				
Big Eddy RA	21%	< 25%	1.3	1.2
Bull River RA	39%	< 25%	1.6	1.3
Finley Flats RA	57%	< 25%	1.8	1.3
Marten Creek RA	55%	< 25%	1.6	1.3
Triangle Pond RA	33%	< 25%	1.4	1.3
Rural				
Flat Iron Ridge FAS	43%	< 50%	1.6	1.4
North Shore RA	55%	< 50%	1.6	1.4
Thompson Falls SP	32%	< 50%	1.3	1.2
Trout Creek RA	64%	< 50%	1.5	1.1
Suburban				
No sites in this class	N/A	< 50%	N/A	N/A
Project Facilities				
South Shore RA	63%	< 50%	1.5	1.1

Discussion of Perceived Crowding Indicator

It is not surprising that the percentage of visitors that felt a level of crowding other than "not at all crowded" was much higher on weekends than on weekdays. Weekend use, on average, is roughly 25 percent higher per day than weekday use, so it is reasonable that weekends at recreation sites will feel more crowded because there are simply more people. However, five-day weeks (Monday-Friday) account for about twice the total visitation that two-day weekends account for over the course of the season[18]. Therefore, it would be extremely difficult to justify managing a site for weekend visitors more so than for weekday visitors, and vice versa. Therefore, perceptions of crowding should be measured for all visitors, weekend and weekday alike.

Measuring levels of crowdedness for all visitors takes into account the fact that crowding will be higher during the weekends (when visitation is 25 percent greater) but doesn't necessarily equate to dissatisfaction. Visitors expect to feel slightly crowded, especially on weekends, without their experience being significantly impacted.

What's more, recreation sites provide facilities to access project waterways and contribute to the amount of crowding on the water. On-water crowding would be most greatly impacted by managing use of public launch areas.

Recommendation for Perceived Crowding Indicator

An average rating for all visitors to a site at the low end of a five-point scale more closely corresponds with visitor ratings of crowdedness than a percentage of visitors that feel any level of crowding on weekends. Similarly, monitoring on-water ratings of crowdedness will offer additional information for managers, since not all encounters during a recreation experience will be at a recreation site as (some encounters are likely to occur on the waterway).

Analysis of Boating Use Indicator adopted in RRMP

The number of boat trailers present at a boat launch site is recorded during the visitor survey. In addition, boaters report the length of their motorboats on the visitor survey. The combination of this data allows calculation of the typical number and size of boats utilizing launch sites.

The number of boats using the launch sites in 2012 was well within the adopted standards that range from a maximum of 10 to 40 boats, depending on ROS class. Similarly, the occurrence of boats greater than 20' using the sites was relatively low and well below the standard of a maximum of 1 to 10 boats depending on ROS class (Table 18).

[18] 2015 Clark Fork Recreation Site Visitation, January 2016.

Table 18: Average Number of Boats Using Site on July and August Weekends

	Average Number of Boats Using Site on July and August Weekends		Average Number of Boats > 20 feet Using Site on July and August Weekends	
ROS Class	**2012 Condition**	**Standard**	**2012 Condition**	**Standard**
Semi-Primitive	N/A	< 10	N/A	< 1
Roaded Natural				
Big Eddy RA	1.4	< 20	0.0	< 5
Bull River RA	6.1	< 20	0.5	< 5
Finley Flats RA	6.7	< 20	0.2	< 5
Marten Creek RA	2.4	< 20	0.2	< 5
Rural				
Flat Iron Ridge FAS	5.5	< 30	0.3	< 10
Heron BR	0.6	< 30	0.0	< 10
North Shore RA	9.0	< 30	0.9	< 10
Trout Creek RA	9.0	< 30	1.9	< 10
Vermilion Bay BR	2.2	< 30	0.0	< 10
Suburban	N/A	< 40	N/A	< 20
Project Facilities				
South Shore RA	1.8	< 30	0.4	< 10

Discussion of Boating Use Indicator

Measuring the number of boats using launch sites provides an indication of the demand for such sites and reflects the vast majority of boat use of the reservoirs (some boating use originates from cabins or other non-monitored sites), although fishing derbies and other organized events will exaggerate estimates of typical boat ramp use. The boating use indicator is only prescribed for monitoring on July and August weekends, though use of these sites is quite uniform throughout the days of the week

(average weekday use is roughly 80 percent of average weekend day use) and throughout the peak recreation season[19].

Recommendation for Boating Use Indicator

Boat ramps should have sufficient launch lanes, maneuvering space, and parking to accommodate their intended use levels. The important issue related to boat ramp use is the degree to which the facility is being used to its design capacity and level to which the availability of launches satisfy the demand for public boating access to the waterway. Recording how often a boat parking area is full, how long boaters wait to launch their boats, and the size of boats being launched will provide adequate information to determine if boat launch facilities – number of lanes, parking availability, and length of ramps - are adequate.

Analysis of Dock Density Indicator adopted in RRMP

Docks on the Lower Clark Fork Project are permitted by Avista for private use, and information related to ownership and locations are catalogued on a regular basis. The adopted LAC system prescribes monitoring the number of docks within a linear half mile of shoreline in the Private Recreation and Conservation 2 land use classifications from the LUMP. This measurement is not the same as an average number of docks per segment of shoreline, but is a count of the number of docks per half-mile linear segment of the shoreline within the land use classification, with a maximum number of docks adopted as standards based on ROS class.

This indicator is only prescribed to lands in the classification of Private Recreation or Conservation 2, from the LUMP, though the standards are defined by ROS class. Incidentally, all lands within these land use classes are either Roaded Natural or Rural ROS classifications, allowing for 0-4 or 0-15 docks per half mile of shoreline, respectively.

There is one area where dock density is in violation of the adopted 0-4 standard, which exists between Sqaylth-Kwum Creek and Graves Creek, upstream of Finely Flats. Other areas approaching the adopted standard exist near Vermilion Bay and along the North Shore homes area (Table 19).

[19] 2015 Clark Fork Recreation Site Visitation, January 2016.

Table 19: Docks per half mile of shoreline between Thompson Falls Dam and Cabinet Gorge Dam on Private Recreation and Conservation 2 land use types.

Location	Land Use Type	Count	Standard	Segment location
Sec. 23, 26, T22N, R30W, South/West Shore	PR	2	0-15	First half mile
Sec. 23, T22N, R30W, South/West Shore	C2	1	0-15	First half mile
Sec. 23, T22N, R30W, North/East Shore	PR	11	0-15	First half mile
Sec. 23, T22N, R30W, North/East Shore	PR	1	0-4	Second half mile
Sec. 13, 14, T22N, R30W, North/East Shore	C2	2	0-4	Second half mile
Sec. 11, 14, T22N, R30W, North/East Shore	PR	7	0-4	First half mile
Sec. 11, T22N, R30W, North/East Shore	PR	2	0-4	Second half mile
Sec. 11, T22N, R30W, North/East Shore	PR	1	0-4	Third half mile
Sec. 34, T23N, R30W, South/West Shore	PR	1	0-4	First half mile
Sec. 21, T23N, R30W, North/East Shore	C2	1	0-4	First half mile
Sec. 17, T23N, R30W, North/East Shore	C2	1	0-4	Second half mile
Sec. 6, 7, T23N, R31W, South/West Shore	PR	3	0-4	First half mile
Sec. 6, T23N, R31W, South/West Shore	PR	2	0-4	Second half mile
Sec. 26, T24N, R31W, North/East Shore	PR	14	0-15	Second half mile
Sec. 26, T24N, R31W, North/East Shore	PR	14	0-15	Third half mile
Sec. 22, 23, 26, 27, T24N, R31W, North/East Shore	PR	11	0-15	Fourth half mile
Sec. 23, T24N, R31W, North/East Shore	C2	1	0-15	First half mile
Sec. 22, 23, T24N, R31W, North/East Shore	PR	1	0-15	First half mile
Sec. 22, 27, T24N, R31W, South/West Shore	PR	3	0-15	First half mile
Sec. 22, T24N, R31W, South/West Shore	PR	1	0-15	First half mile
Sec. 16, T24N, R31W, South/West Shore	PR	3	0-15	Second half mile
Sec. 16, T24N, R31W, South/West Shore	C2	1	0-15	First half mile
Sec. 16, 17, T24N, R31W, South/West Shore	PR	5	0-15	First half mile
Sec. 16, T24N, R31W, North/East Shore	PR	1	0-15	First half mile
Sec. 8, 9, T24N, R31W, North/East Shore	PR	11	0-15	First half mile
Sec. 8, T24N, R31W, North/East Shore	PR	5	0-15	Second half mile
Sec. 7, 8, T24N, R31W, North/East Shore	PR	7	0-15	Third half mile
Sec. 7, 18, T24N, R31W, South/West Shore	PR	2	0-15	First half mile
Sec. 7, 18, T24N, R31W, South/West Shore	C2	1	0-15	First half mile
Sec. 7, T24N, R31W, South/West Shore	C2	1	0-15	First half mile
Sec. 7, T24N, R31W, North/East Shore	PR	14	0-15	Fourth half mile
Sec. 7, T24N, R31W, North/East Shore	PR	5	0-15	Fifth half mile
Sec. 1, T24N, R32W, North/East Shore	PR	1	0-15	First half mile
Sec. 34, T24N, R32W, North/East Shore	PR	1	0-4	First half mile
Sec. 34, T25N, R32W, South/West Shore	C2	1	0-4	First half mile
Sec. 14, T25N, R32W, North/East Shore	C2	1	0-4	First half mile
Sec. 15, T26N, R33W, North/East Shore	PR	1	0-4	First half mile
Sec. 9, T26N, R33W, North/East Shore	C2	2	0-4	First half mile

Table 19 (continued): Docks per half mile of shoreline between Thompson Falls Dam and Cabinet Gorge Dam on Private Recreation and Conservation 2 land use types.

Sec. 5, T26N, R33W, North/East Shore	C2	1	0-4	Second half mile
Sec. 26, T27N, R34W, North/East Shore	C2	1	0-15	First half mile
Sec. 26, T27N, R34W, North/East Shore	C2	2	0-15	Second half mile
Sec. 28, T27N, R34W, South/West Shore	PR	8	0-4	Second half mile
Sec. 21, T27N, R34W, North/East Shore	C2	1	0-4	Second half mile
Sec. 21, T27N, R34W, North/East Shore	C2	1	0-4	Third half mile
Sec. 20, T27N, R34W, North/East Shore	C2	1	0-4	Fifth half mile
Sec. 24, T27N, R35W, North/East Shore	PR	2	0-4	First half mile

Discussion of Dock Density Indicator

The dock density standards seek to minimize resource and aesthetic impacts in order to preserve a rural and rustic experience for recreationists and visitors. Areas where densities near, meet, or exceed standards exist as a result of case-by-base examination of permit requests by the TRTAC.

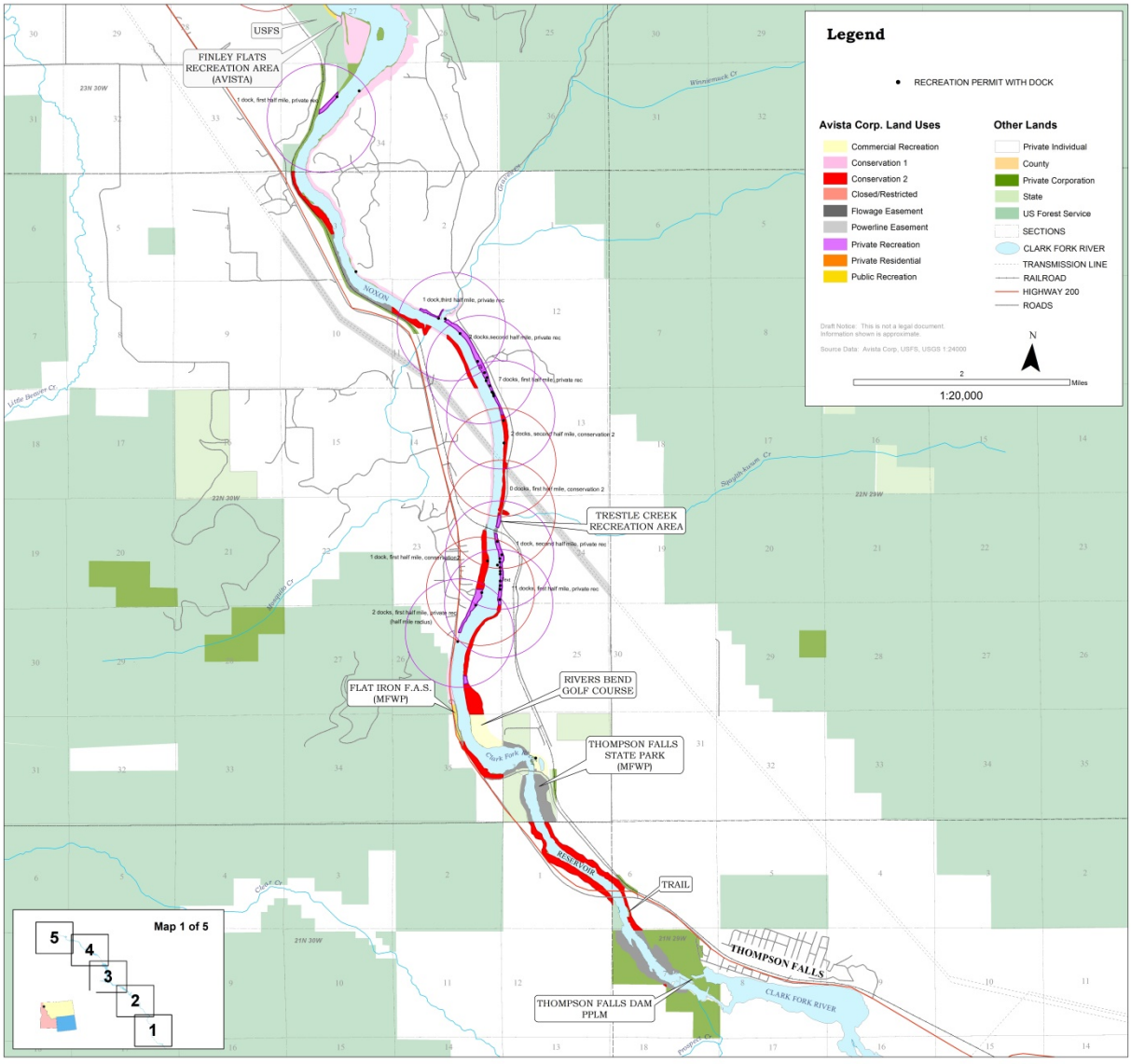
Recommendation for Dock Density Indicator

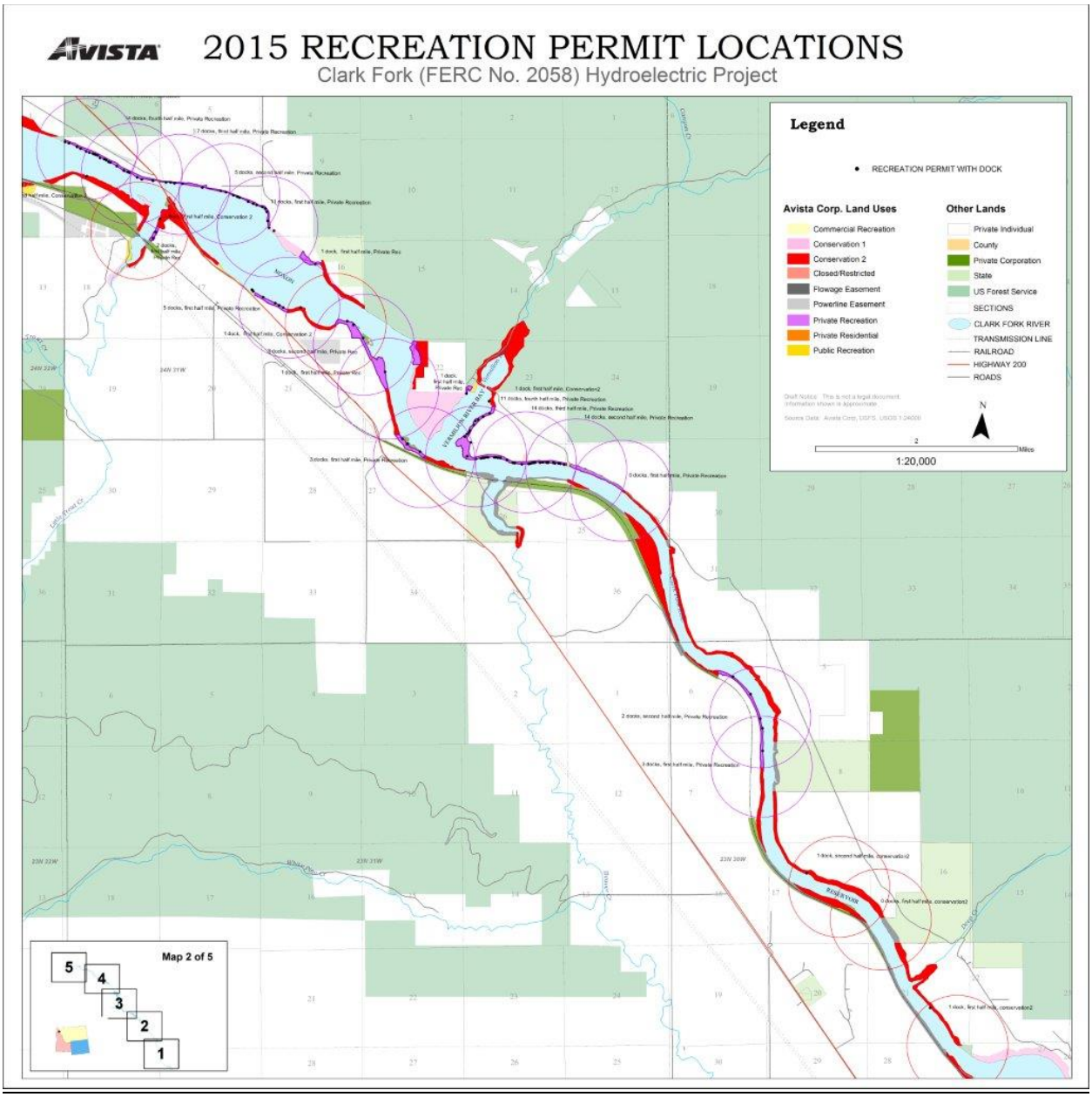
This standard, as adopted, serves the purpose of minimizing impacts while providing for facilities and preserving a rural and rustic experience.

The maps on the following pages depict the analysis of docks per half mile of shoreline for Private Recreation and Conservation 2 lands.

2015 RECREATION PERMIT LOCATIONS

Clark Fork (FERC No. 2058) Hydroelectric Project




AVISTA
2015 RECREATION PERMIT LOCATIONS
Clark Fork (FERC No. 2058) Hydroelectric Project
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RECREATION PERMIT WITH DOCK
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Commercial Recreation
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Conservation 2
Closed/Restricted
Flowage Easement
Powerline Easement
Private Recreation
Private Residential
Public Recreation
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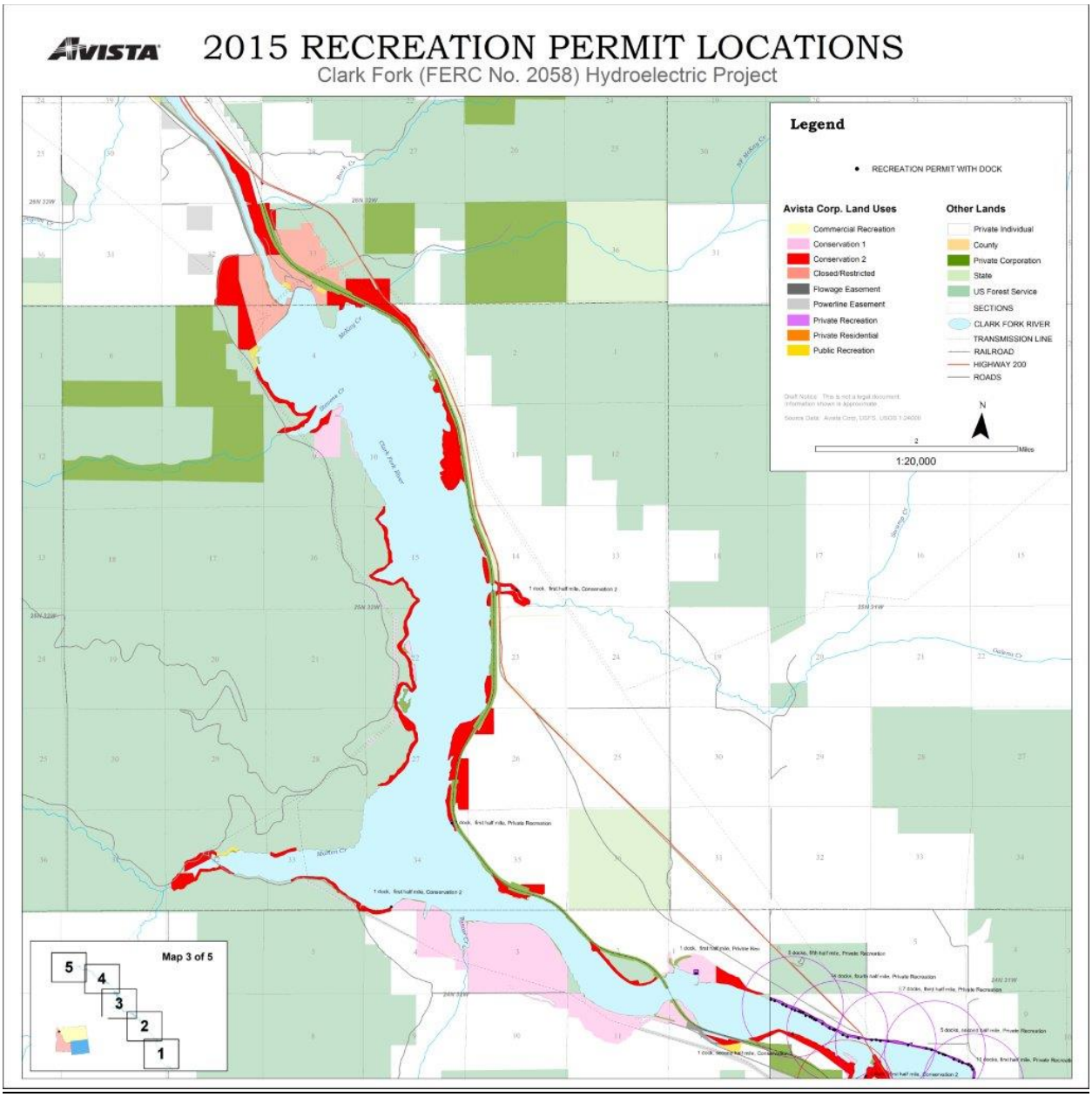
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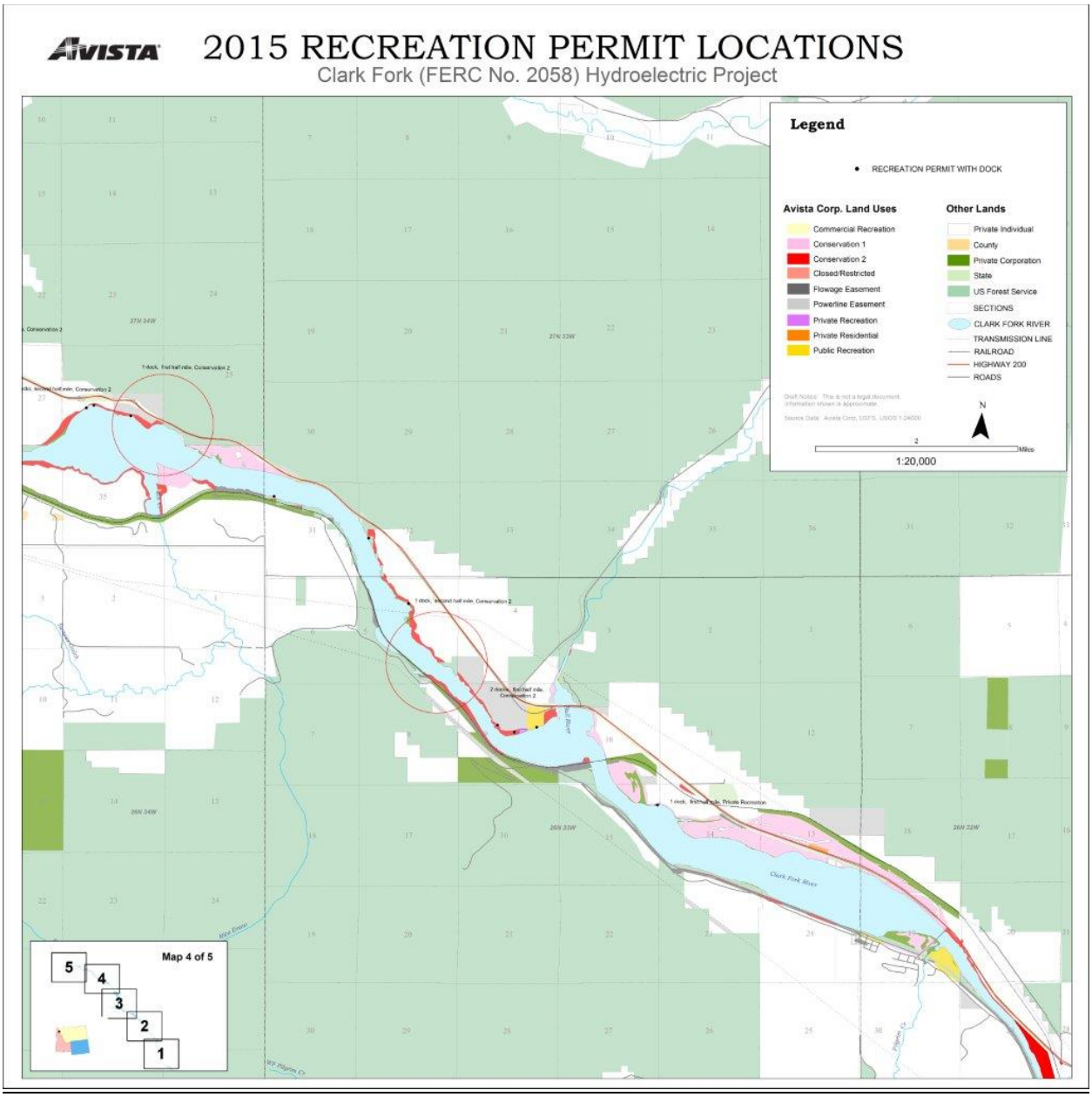
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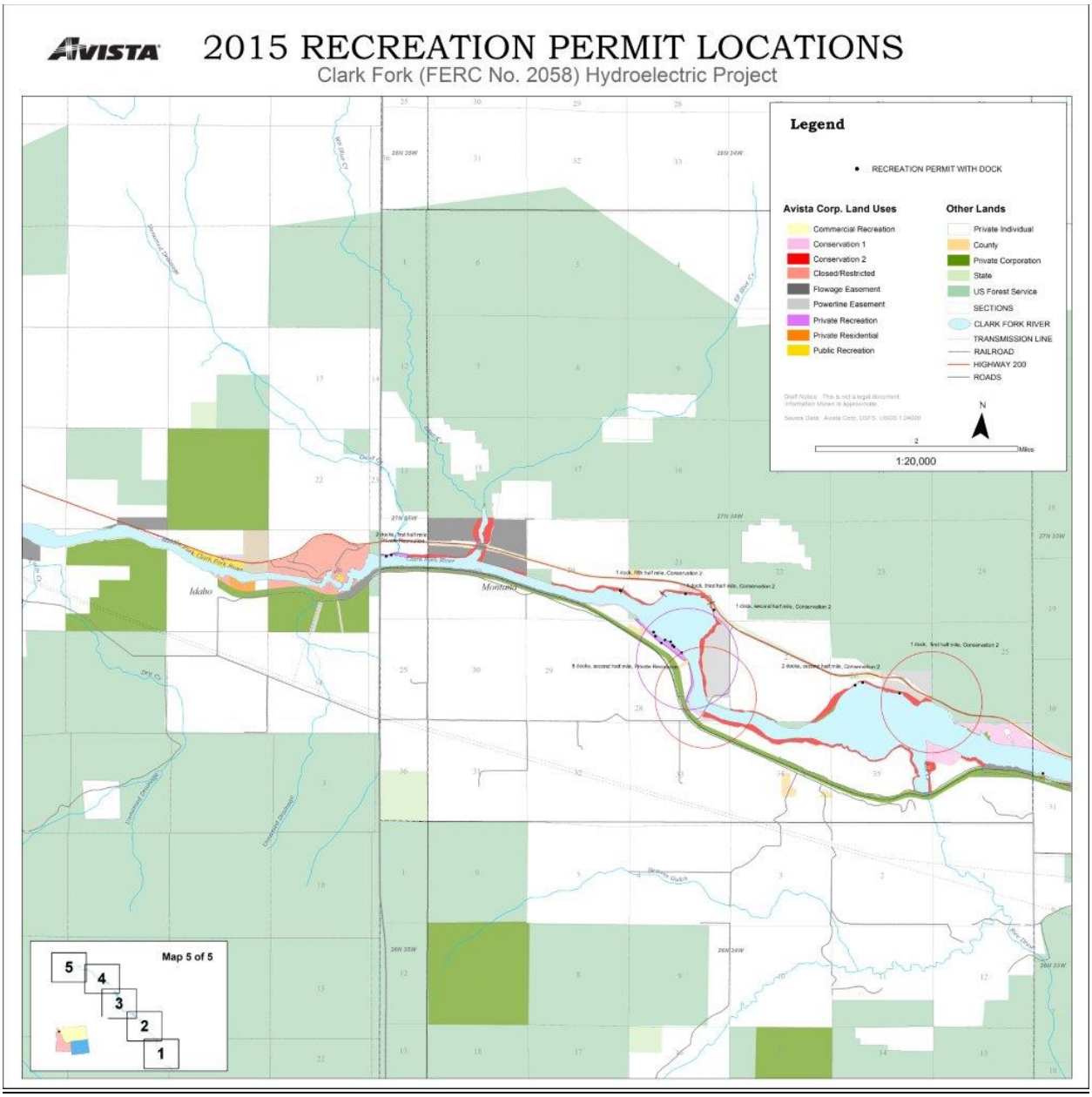
Clark Fork River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Analysis of Public Campground Utilization Indicator adopted in RRMP

Using campsite use records from four primary campgrounds (Thompson Falls State Park, Bull River RA, North Shore RA, and Two Rivers RV Park), the number of units occupied at each site was compiled and analyzed for season-long campground utilization, and where possible, weekend campground utilization. It was assumed that campground capacity was fixed throughout the season (i.e., camping loops were not opened or closed mid-season).

The RRMP provides two standards for assessing campground utilization: 50 percent utilization for season-long use and 75 percent utilization for weekend use. None of the four monitored campgrounds exceeded the standards. The most utilized campground was Bull River RA, followed by North Shore RA and Thompson Falls State Park (Table 20).

Table 20: Average Campground Capacity Utilization, Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend

	2012 Season (all days)	Season Standard (all days)	2012 Weekend Only	Weekend Standard
Two Rivers RV Park	13%	50%	N/A*	75%
Thompson Falls SP	32%	50%	N/A*	75%
North Shore RA	34%	50%	40%	75%
Bull River RA	40%	50%	50%	75%

* Data unavailable for weekend only.

Discussion of Public Campground Utilization Indicator

The objectives of the standards established in the RRMP are unclear even though utilization of all four monitored campground fell below those standards. When use of a large, public campground exceeds 50 percent capacity over the course of the season, management actions to increase capacity, limit entry, or develop new sites may be triggered. This is extreme for a site used to 50 percent design capacity. Even when full, adequately designed campgrounds should be able to provide the desired recreation experience. Additionally, it can be problematic to establish capacity utilization standards in a system that aims to provide a rural and rustic experience.

Recommendation for Public Campground Utilization Indicator

A more relevant indicator is the percentage of nights that a facility is full (i.e. occurrences of demand exceeding supply).

FERC Form 80 recreation reporting requires estimates of the capacity utilization of several recreation facility types (camping areas, picnic areas, boat launches, playgrounds, etc.). On Form 80s, facility capacity utilization is expressed as a percentage and reflects the amount of non-holiday weekend use during the recreation season relative to each facility's capacity. Where a licensee has several instances of a facility type within the FERC Project boundary, such as multiple campgrounds or boat launch areas, average capacity utilization across all sites is reported for each facility type for the entire HED.

During recreation visitor surveys, use data critical for estimating capacity utilization at all types of recreation facilities is acquired, either through primary data collection (instantaneous use counts of visitors or vehicles) or through secondary sources (such as campground fee collections).

While useful for understanding the nature of visitor use at recreation sites system wide, capacity utilization standards adopted in the RRMP tend to drive management modifications unnecessarily. Of greatest importance is the frequency at which facilities are full or nearly full. If those conditions, in turn, drive visitor satisfaction downward or result in significantly greater resource impacts, management actions would be triggered. Therefore, capacity utilization is an informational item for which no standards should be developed.

Analysis of ROS Classifications

The ROS classification system was developed for and is most applicable on large tracts of wild lands, and is most commonly used by federal agencies. In the Lower Clark Fork region, ROS is utilized by the Forest Service in Wilderness areas and was built into the RRMP when developed during relicensing, but is not used by FWP or on other non-Wilderness lands by the Forest Service. The Lower Clark Fork Projects include land managed by state and federal agencies as well as private parcels and townships managed by Avista and other parties. All properties were classified within the ROS system under the RRMP, regardless of ownership or whether the classification had a practical application (such as on private parcels).

Discussion of ROS Classifications

By classifying the landscaped based on the ROS classification system, it was intended that managers would develop recreation sites in keeping with the ROS class prescribed to the area in which they exist. In reality, site development has not necessarily followed this protocol, but instead has occurred where resources are managed by an appropriate entity, can sustain some level of recreation development, and where a public need has been established. In other words, recreation sites on the Lower Clark Fork Projects have been developed as opportunities arose to fulfill a public need, and development of sites within the system provide a variety of opportunities along a spectrum from primitive settings to developed settings. While development may not have always occurred based on the ROS class prescribed in the RRMP, the goal of maintaining a rural and rustic experience has remained the central, guiding principle during development of recreation opportunities throughout the system.

Bull River Recreation Area, as an example, is located within a Roaded Natural ROS classification, a class that is prescribed to be predominately natural appearing, with occasional structures, gravel roads, and low to moderate levels of use. By contrast, the site roads and campsites are paved with asphalt, there is

a mix of vault and flush toilets, running water is available, shelters and structures are present at the site, and it is the highest used campground in the area. However, it is only one of three sites within the entire system that offers this high level of development, which was determined to be appropriate based on the proximity to highway 200, and the site caters to visitors seeking a pseudo-natural setting that can be accessed with their big-rig RVs and campers. For those groups that desire a more natural setting – including natural-occurring vegetation, native-surface roads, and few structures - other sites provide these opportunities a bit more off the beaten path.

Recommendation for ROS Classifications

To meld the management concept of ROS with the reality of site development as it has occurred, modifying the ROS classifications to reflect the level of development that exists at each site allows managers to adaptively manage the sites to meet needs of the visitors, protect the resource, and preserve the rural and rustic experience.

Site Development Classifications: 2016-2030

Adopting LAC standards based on site development classes that reflect the current and desirable level of site development will allow managers to be responsive to changes in site and resource conditions while also operating within the parameters of a site class (Table 21). This modification in classifications, along with LAC indicators and standards, supports an adaptive management strategy that is more meaningful and practical than the prior system, but retains the concepts of ROS and LAC for site management.

Table 21: LAC Monitoring Sites by Development Class

Development Class	Designated Monitoring Sites	Optional Monitoring Sites	
Undeveloped	Vermilion Bay Boat Launch Trout Creek Bay Dispersed Use Area East Trout Creek Dispersed Use Area West Quinn's Cut Heron Boat Launch	Malibu Beach Golf Course Beach Trestle Recreation Area Cox Property Finley Flats Dispersed Child's Road Boat-In Site Sanders County Kirby Boat Launch Beaver Creek Mouth of Beaver Creek Pine Cove Water Hill Trailhead Duck Hunter Point Highway 200 Slough Trout Creek Powerline Beecher Flats	Marten Creek Dispersed Dody Flats Mad Creek Swamp Creek Outer Stevens Creek Inner Stevens Creek South Shore Bay Government Creek Old Swimming Hole Soldier Creek Triangle Pond Dispersed Quinn's Cut Elk Creek Bay Big Eddy Dispersed Blue Creek Bay
Moderately Developed	Flat Iron FAS Finley Flats Recreation Area South Shore Recreation Area Triangle Pond Big Eddy Campground Clark Fork Access Site	Noxon Centennial Park Cabinet Gorge Dam Overlook Antelope Lake Johnson Creek Recreation Area Drift Yard Recreation Area South Shore Isolated	McKay Creek Flats USFS Site State Shop
Developed	Thompson Falls State Park Trout Creek Recreation Area North Shore Recreation Area Marten Creek Recreation Area Bull River Recreation Area Two Rivers RV Park	Pilgrim Creek Park Noxon Rapids Dam Overlook	

Limits of Acceptable Change Indicators: 2016-2030

The following LAC indicators and thresholds have been adapted from the RRMP based on the preceding analysis and discussion. Also include are some new indicators based on management experiences since 2000 (Table 22). Implementation of these new monitoring measures will begin concurrent with this plan update.

Table 22: LAC Indicators, Units of Measure, and Acceptable Conditions

Indicator	Unit of Measure	Data Source	Acceptable Condition
Informal Site Distribution	Monitoring of site locations	Field surveys in late summer or early fall.	Less than 5 sites per linear half mile of shoreline.
Informal Site Conditions	Monitoring of site conditions	Field surveys in late summer or early fall.	Fewer than 3 campsites and fire rings. Vegetative damage is low or non-existent. Shoreline erosion is low or non-existent. Soil compaction is low or non-existent. Sanitation issues are low or non-existent. Litter is not present or there is very little present.
Recreation Site Resource Conditions	Monitor condition of vegetative damage, shoreline erosion, and soil compaction that occur outside of designated use areas.	Annual manager assessment	Degree of vegetative damage, shoreline erosion, and soil compaction outside designated use areas: • Low degree for undeveloped sites • Low or moderate degree for moderately developed and developed sites.
Visitor Satisfaction with Site Amenities	Average rating on a five-point scale, where: 1 = Not at all satisfied 2 = Not very satisfied 3 = Somewhat satisfied 4 = Very satisfied 5 = Extremely satisfied	Visitor survey	Average per-site rating greater than 3.5 on a scale of 1-5 for visitor satisfaction with: • site facilities • campsite/ picnic area conditions • boat dock/launch conditions • sanitation and toilet facilities • the number, type, and condition of facilities at the site
Sanitation	Monitor degree to which sanitation is a problem at moderately developed and undeveloped sites.	Annual manager assessment	Degree of sanitation problem: • Low degree for moderately developed and undeveloped sites.

Table 22 *(continued)*: LAC Indicators, Units of Measure, and Acceptable Conditions

Indicator	Unit of Measure	Data Source	Acceptable Condition
Facility Conditions	Rating on a five-point scale, where: 1 = Very Poor 2 = Poor 3 = Fair 4 = Good 5 = Very Good	Annual manager assessment	Rating of 3 (Fair), 4 (Good), or 5 (Very Good) for site facilities, including: Boat launch Boat dock Swimming area Swimming dock/platform Fishing pier Vault toilets Flush Toilets Developed campsites Dispersed campsites RV Hookups Picnic tables/grills Shelters Group use pavilion Interpretive/informational signs Bulletin board/kiosk Other items as identified by managers
User Conflicts	Average rating on a five-point scale, where: 1 = Not at all satisfied 2 = Not very satisfied 3 = Somewhat satisfied 4 = Very satisfied 5 = Extremely satisfied	Visitor survey	Average per-site rating greater than 3.5 on a scale of 1-5 for visitor satisfaction with behavior of other people.
Visitor Satisfaction with Regional Amenities	Average rating on a five-point scale, where: 1 = Not at all satisfied 2 = Not very satisfied 3 = Somewhat satisfied 4 = Very satisfied 5 = Extremely satisfied	Visitor survey	Average rating aggregated for all recreation sites greater than 3.5 on a scale of 1-5 for visitor satisfaction with the number, type, and condition of facilities in the Noxon/Cabinet Gorge area.
Crowding at Recreation Site	Average rating on a five-point scale, where: 1 = Not at all crowded 2 = Slightly crowded 3 = Moderately crowded 4 = Very crowded 5 = Extremely crowded	Visitor survey	Average per-site rating less than 2 on a scale of 1-5 for visitor rating of crowdedness at undeveloped recreation sites. Average per-site rating less than 2.5 on a scale of 1-5 for visitor rating of crowdedness at developed and moderately developed recreation sites.

Table 22 *(continued)*: LAC Indicators, Units of Measure, and Acceptable Conditions

Indicator	Unit of Measure	Data Source	Acceptable Condition
Crowding on Water	Average rating on a five-point scale, where: 1 = Not at all crowded 2 = Slightly crowded 3 = Moderately crowded 4 = Very crowded 5 = Extremely crowded	Visitor survey	Average on-water rating less than 2.5 on a scale of 1-5 for visitor rating of crowdedness on the water, aggregated across all sites per reservoir.
Boat Size	Average number of boats greater than 20 feet in length using a site per day.	Visitor survey	Average number of boats per day greater than 20 feet long using a site: • Less than 5 at undeveloped sites. • Less than 10 at moderately developed sites. • Less than 20 at developed sites.
Boat launch crowding	Length of time visitor waits to gain access to boat launch	Visitor survey	Average number of minutes waited: • Less than 10 minutes at undeveloped sites. • Less than 20 minutes at moderately developed sites. • Less than 30 minutes at developed sites.
Boat launch parking area capacity utilization	Average capacity utilization of boat ramp parking area on non-holiday weekends and weekdays.	Annual manager assessment and instantaneous count during visitor survey administration	Number of non-holiday weekend days and weekdays at 100% capacity utilization or greater during peak season: • Less than 2 days for undeveloped sites. • Less than 6 days for moderately developed sites. • Less than 10 days for developed sites.
Dock Density	Number of docks per linear half mile of shoreline	Monitor and map permitted docks.	Number of docks per linear half mile of shoreline in Private Recreation and Conservation 2 areas of the LUMP: • Less than 5 docks for Roaded Natural ROS class. • Less than 16 docks for Rural and Project Facilities ROS class. • Less than 26 for Suburban ROS class.

Table 22 *(continued)*: LAC Indicators, Units of Measure, and Acceptable Conditions

Indicator	Unit of Measure	Data Source	Acceptable Condition
Campground capacity utilization	Average capacity utilization of campground on non-holiday weekends and weekdays.	Annual manager assessment and instantaneous count during visitor survey administration	Informational only
Campground capacity utilization	Percentage of peak-season nights >90% capacity utilization for campgrounds on non-holiday weekends and weekdays.	Annual manager assessment and instantaneous count during visitor survey administration	Informational only
Day use area capacity utilization	Average capacity utilization of day use area on non-holiday weekends and weekdays.	Annual manager assessment and instantaneous count during visitor survey administration	Informational only

With LAC indicators monitored using various efforts, a timeline of data collection efforts helps to simplify planning (Table 23).

Table 23: Timeline of Monitoring Plan Elements

Year 20--	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Informal Site Assessment							*										*
Visitor Survey							*										*
Visitor Use Counts Study	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Manager Site Assessment	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
FERC Form 80						*						*					
Plan Update	*														*		

When LAC thresholds are exceeded, managers have an obligation to respond to correct the situation. The following responses should be considered, though may not represent all potential responses (Table 24). In responding to conditions that fall outside of the range of acceptability, managers much keep in mind the central guiding principle of retaining the Idaho/Montana rural and rustic experience.

Table 24: Management Response Options for Exceeded LAC Thresholds

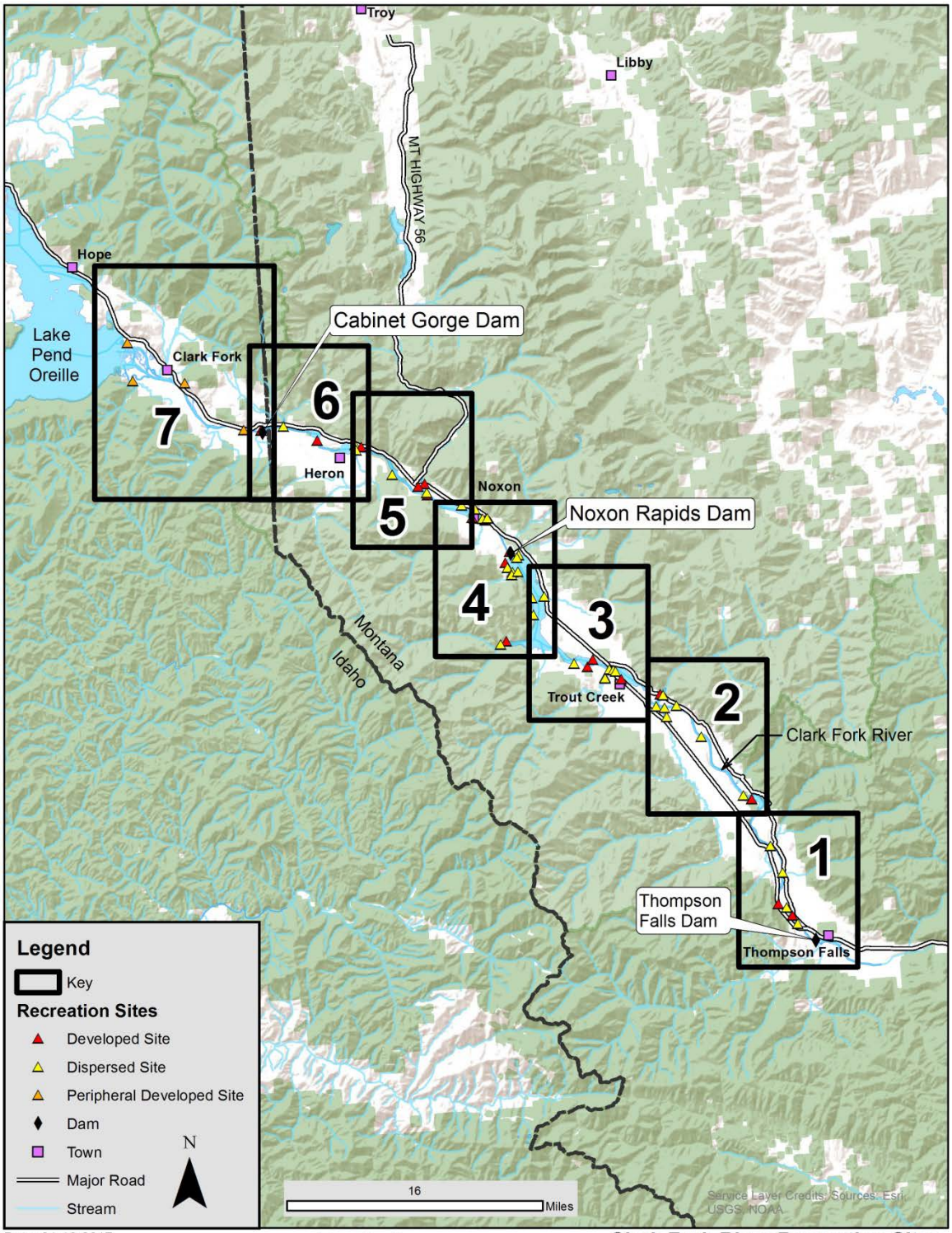
Indicator	Management Response Options
Informal Site Distribution	Site/road/access closure or limitations. Define site boundaries and manage as a developed site.
Informal Site Conditions	Same as above.
Recreation Site Resource Conditions	Same as above.
Visitor Satisfaction with Site Amenities	Increase enforcement to minimize vandalism, replace or repair facility, remove structures or facilities.
Sanitation	Provide toilet facilities of more appropriate design or in greater quantity. Increase toilet cleaning and/or pumping services.
Facility Conditions	Increase enforcement to minimize vandalism, replace or repair facility, remove structures or facilities.
User Conflicts	Work with recreating public to resolve conflicts between different types of uses. Limits specific uses to specific areas (i.e. motorized vs non-motorized uses). Better enforcement of quiet hours or site regulations.
Visitor Satisfaction with Regional Amenities	Provide information regarding where facilities are available. Increase availability of facilities and amenities in the region.
Crowding at Recreation Site	Distribute use throughout days of the week, the season, and to other sites by instituting fees, a reservation system, enforce maximum parking capacity through ticketing or “site full” signage. Impose limits to number of people or groups at a site. Develop new sites.
Crowding on Water	Distribute use throughout days of the week, the season, and to other sites by instituting fees, enforce maximum parking capacity through ticketing or “site full” signage. Impose limits to number of launches per site. Close boat launches to concentrate and direct use. Develop new sites.

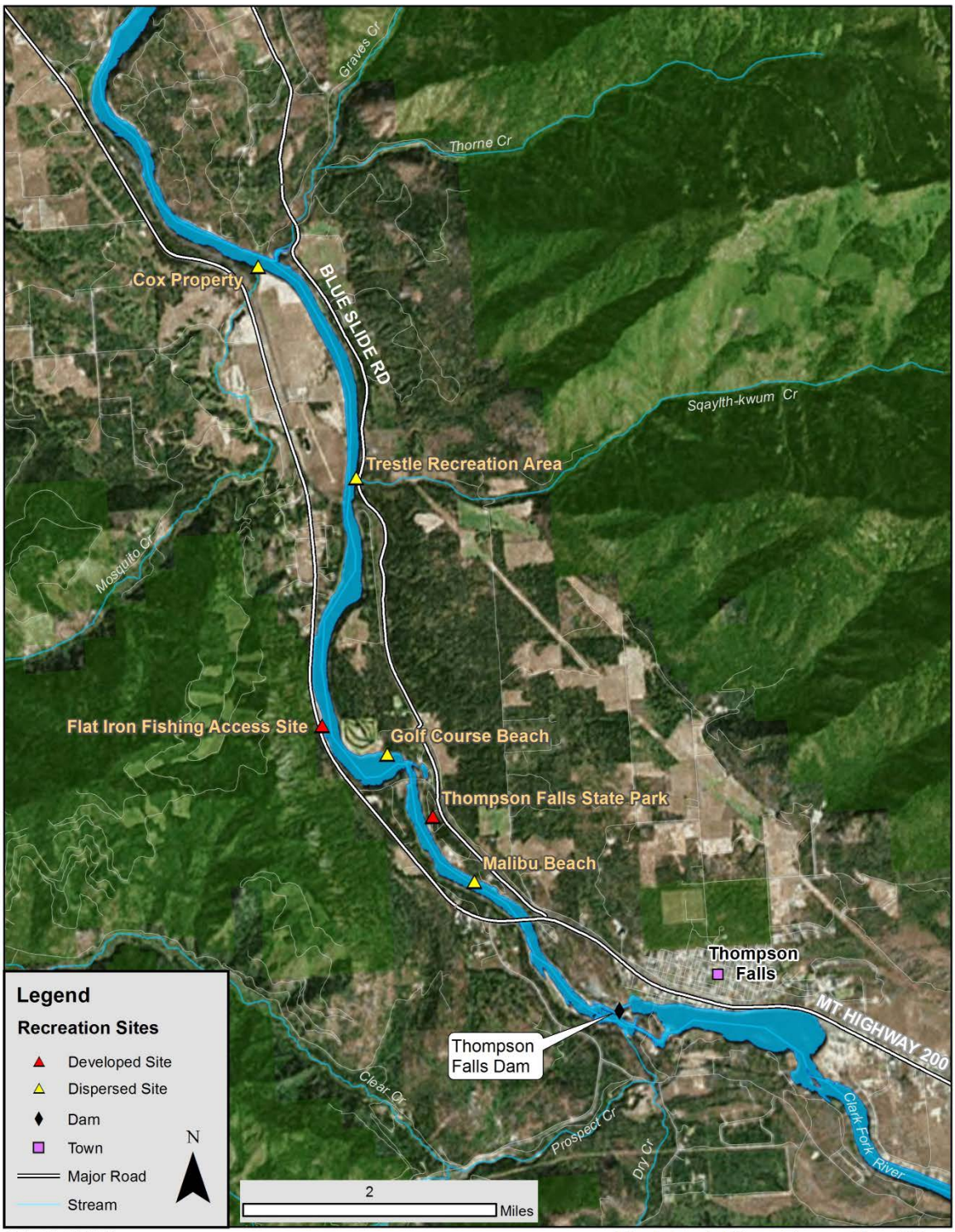
Table 24 *(continued)*: Management Response Options for Exceeded LAC Thresholds

Indicator	Management Response Options
Boat Size	Ensure boat ramps adequately meet needs to launch larger boats. Post information that will limit use of ramps by parties with larger boats to specific launches.
Boat launch crowding	Distribute use throughout days of the week, the season, and to other sites by instituting fees, enforce maximum parking capacity through ticketing or "site full" signage. Impose limits to number of launches per site. Post information that will limit use of ramps by parties with larger boats (and trailers) to specific launches. Close boat launches to concentrate use. Develop new sites.
Boat launch parking area capacity utilization	Same as above.
Dock Density	Limit number of dock permits. Promote community docks.

11 Site Location Maps

The maps below depict location of developed and dispersed recreation sites within the Lower Clark Fork Project.





Date: 01-19-2017

1 in = 1 miles

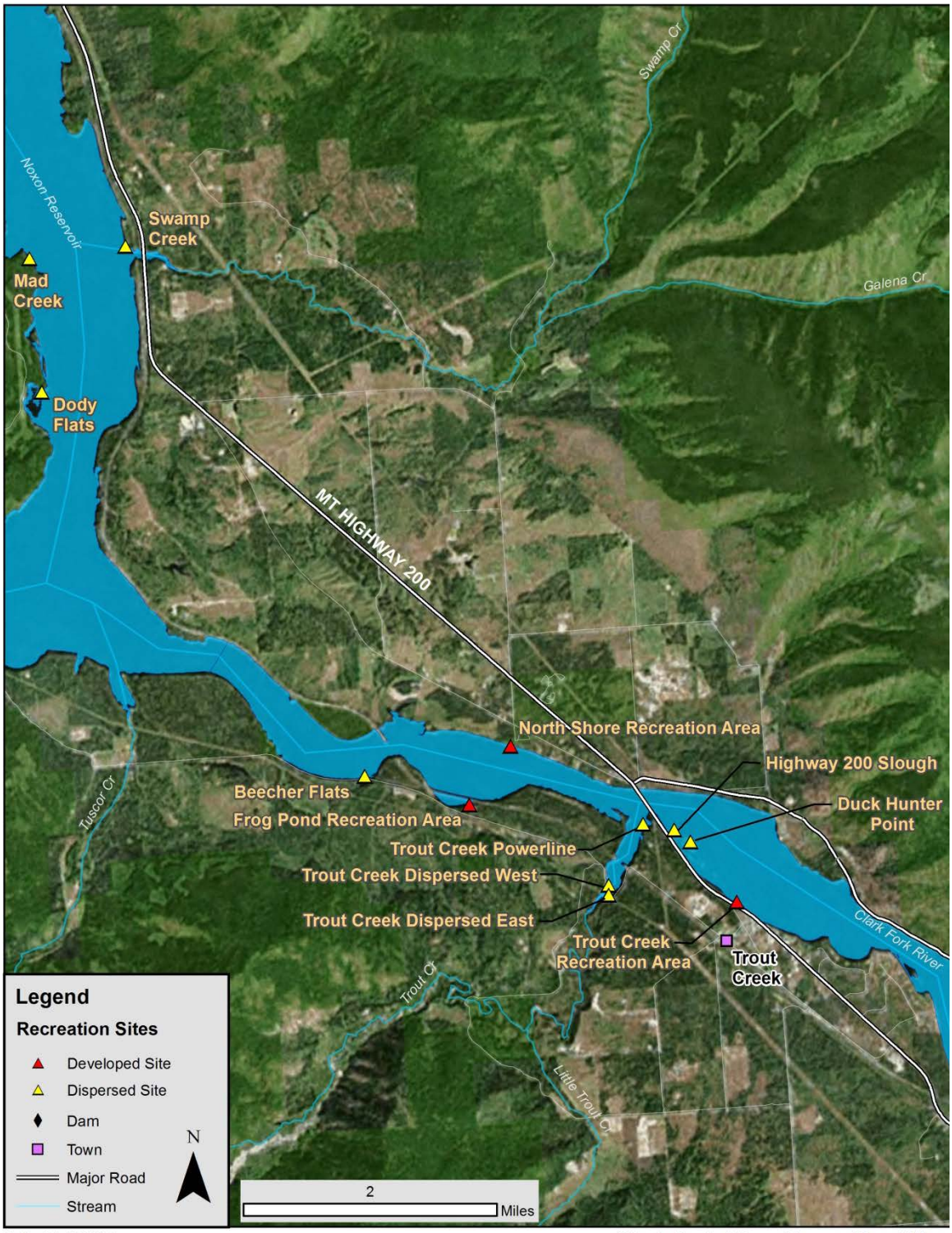
Clark Fork River Recreation Sites

Map 1

Date: 01-19-2017

1 in = 1 miles

Clark Fork River Recreation Sites
Map 2



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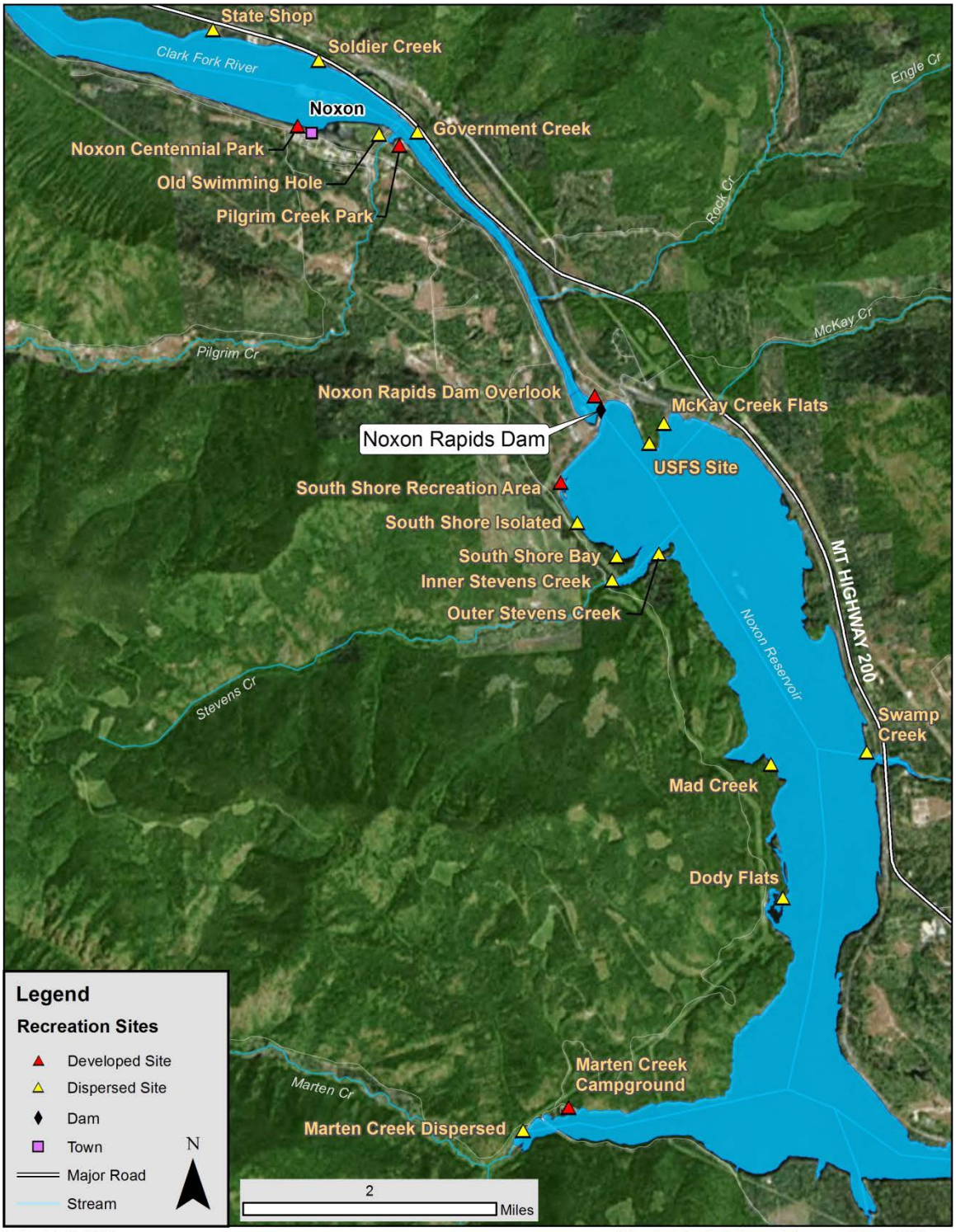
1 in = 1 miles

Clark Fork River Recreation Sites
Map 3

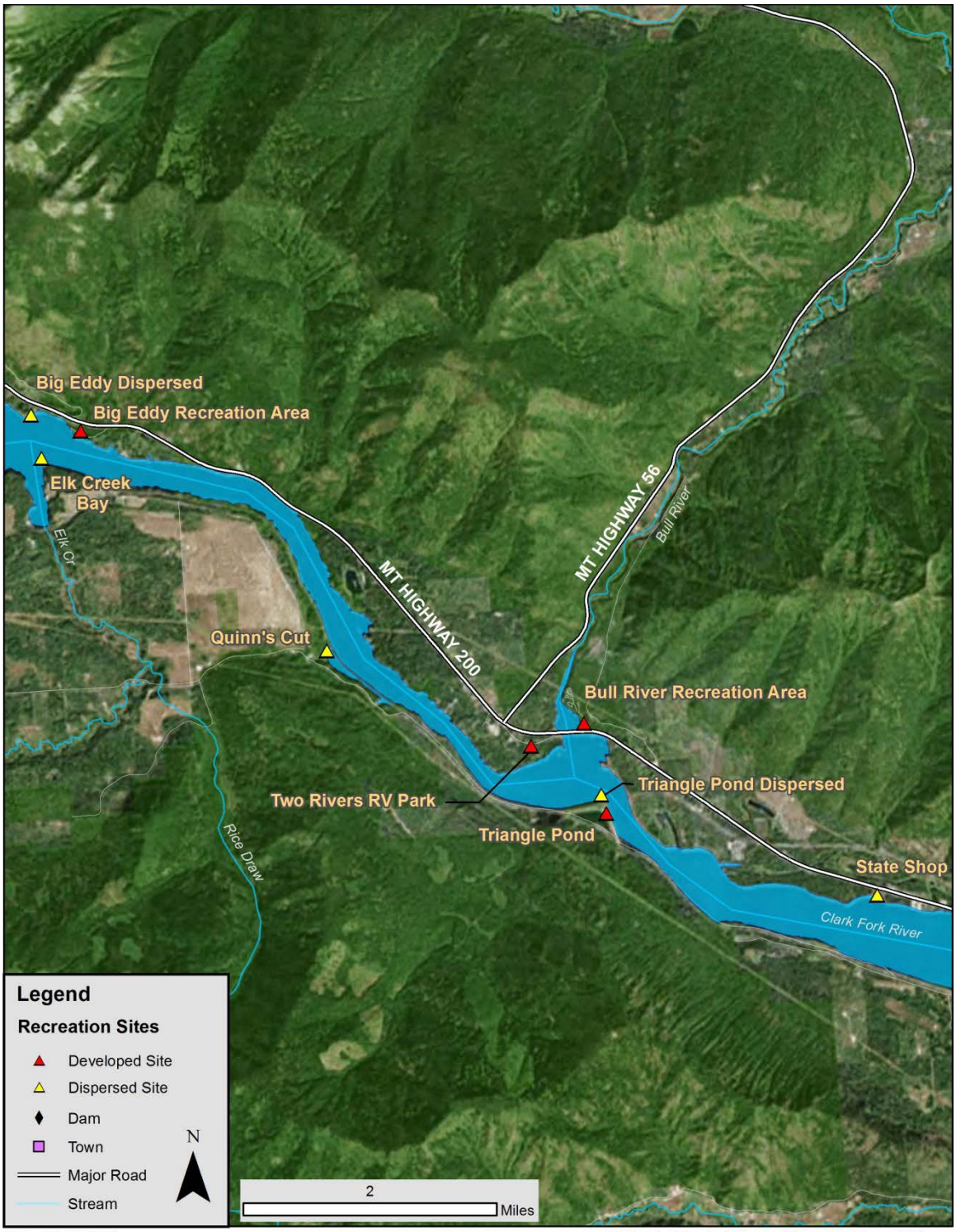


Date: 01-19-2017

1 in = 1 miles

Clark Fork River Recreation Sites

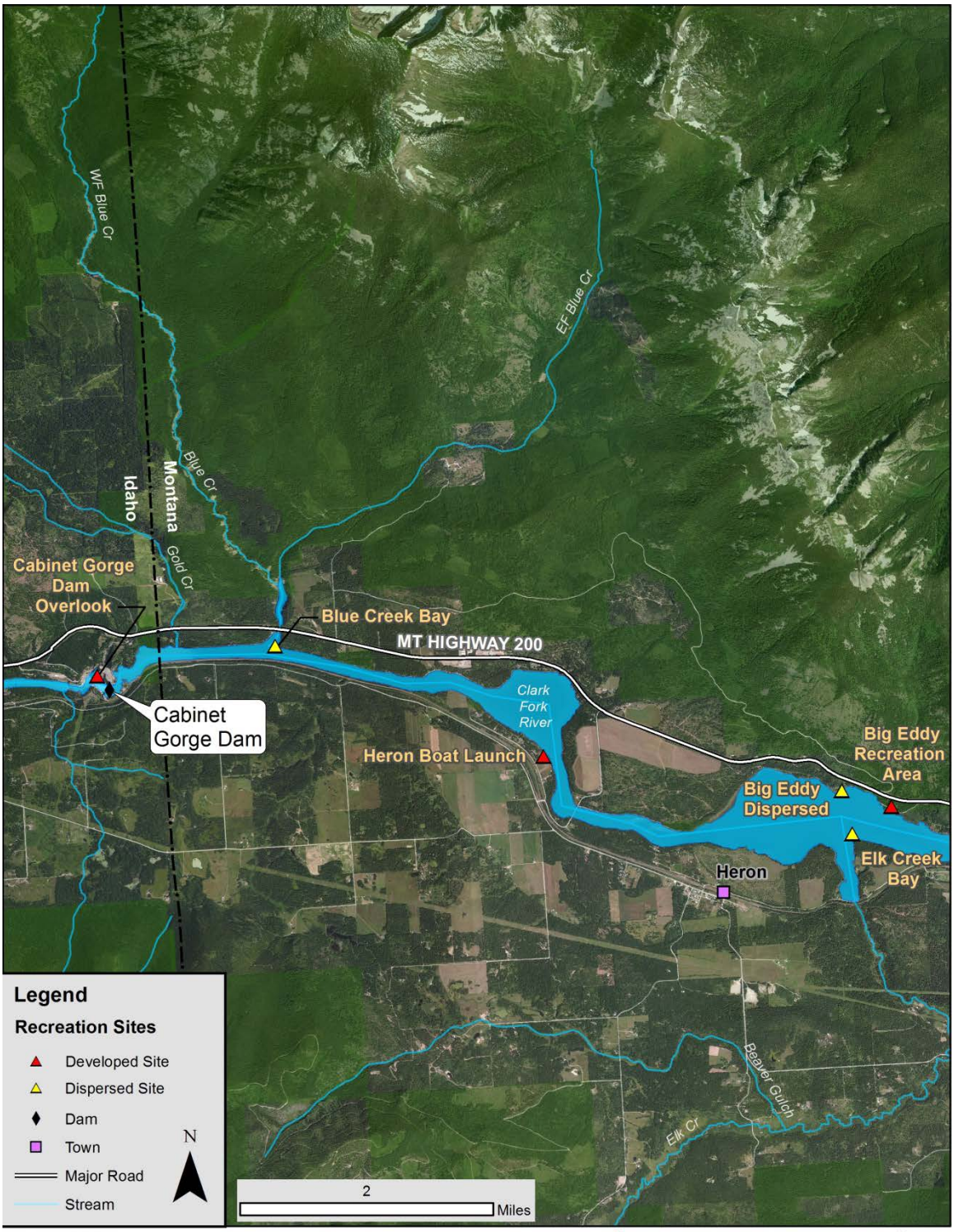
Map 4

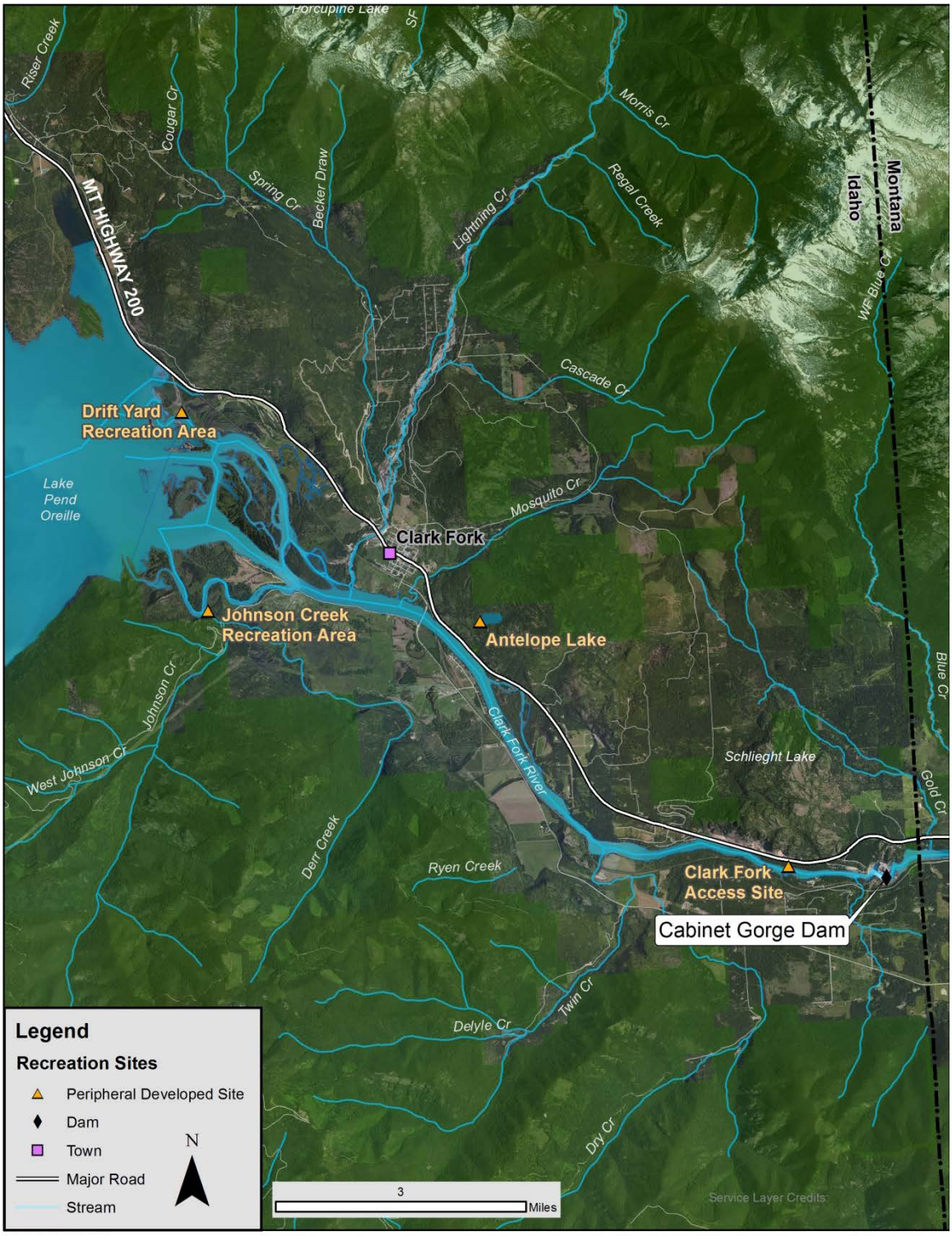


Date: 01-19-2017

1 in = 1 miles

Clark Fork River Recreation Sites
Map 5


WF Blue Cr
EF Blue Cr
Blue Cr
Idaho
Montana
Gold Cr
Cabinet Gorge Dam Overlook
Blue Creek Bay
MT HIGHWAY 200
Cabinet Gorge Dam
Clark Fork River
Heron Boat Launch
Big Eddy Recreation Area
Big Eddy Dispersed
Elk Creek Bay
Heron
Beaver Gulch
Elk Cr
Legend
Recreation Sites
Developed Site
Dispersed Site
Dam
Town
Major Road
Stream
N
2
Miles
Date: 01-19-2017
1 in = 1 miles
Clark Fork River Recreation Sites
Map 6



Date: 01-19-2017

1 in = 2 miles

Clark Fork River Recreation Sites
Map 7

Appendix A Grant Funds Received for Site Improvements

The table below includes the year and source of grants awarded for Lower Clark Fork recreation site improvements.

Year	Improvement description	Granting Entity	Amount
2001	Pilgrim Creek Park fishing pier	Dreyfus Foundation	$3,600
2001	Pilgrim Creek Park path	Montana Community Foundation	$1,050
2001	Pilgrim Creek Park improvements	Sample Foundation	$3,000
2001	Clark Fork River Corridor Trail Concept Plan	National Park Service	technical support
2002	Pilgrim Creek Park footbridge	American Greenways	$1,000
2002	Trout Creek Recreation Area improvements	Plum Creek Foundation	$1,500
2002	Trout Creek boat ramp	Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Boating Improvements program	$12,000
2003	Bull River/Big Eddy recreation site improvements	Sanders County Resource Advisory Committee	$7,500
2003	Flat Iron FAS fishing pier improvements	Special People in Need	$500
2004	Pilgrim Creek Park playground equipment	Henry Bull Foundation	$2,000
2004	Johnson Creek Recreation site improvements	Idaho Waterways Improvement Fund	$45,000
2004	Heron boat ramp	Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Boating Improvements program	$12,500
2004	Finley Flats improvements	Sanders County Resource Advisory Committee	$12,000
2004	Bull River Recreation Area restroom	Sanders County Resource Advisory Committee	$20,000
2005	Clark Fork Access site trail and improvements	Idaho Recreational Trails Program	$15,000
2005	Mule Pasture Trail	Sanders County Resource Advisory Committee	$10,000
2007	Clark Fork Drift Yard boat launch improvements	Idaho Waterways Improvement Fund	$20,000
2007	Vermilion River boat ramp	Sanders County Resource Advisory Committee	$20,000
2008	Thompson Falls Community Trail	Montana Recreational Trails program	$28,268
2009	Frog Pond improvements	MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks Community Ponds program	$5,000
2009	Thompson Falls Community Trails	Montana Recreational Trails program	$33,250
2012	Thompson Falls Community Trails	PPL Montana Community Fund	$5,250
2012	Bull River Recreation Area dock	Sanders County Resource Advisory Committee	$10,000
2012	Cutter Creek road/trail	Sanders County Resource Advisory Committee	$7,500
2013	Thompson Falls Community Trails	Plum Creek Foundation	$3,000
2013	Thompson Falls Community Trails	PPL Montana Community Fund	$5,500
2014	Finley Flats improvements	Sanders County Resource Advisory Committee	$15,000
2014	Bid Eddy road maintenance	Sanders County Resource Advisory Committee	$6,960
2015	Thompson Falls State Park pond improvements	Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Community Ponds program	$10,000
2015	Thompson Falls Community Trails	Montana Recreational Trails program	$90,000
2015	Thompson Falls Community Trails	Morbella Foundation	$25,000