

2. Development of Alternatives

2.1 Introduction

This chapter is a discussion of the alternatives that describe different approaches to managing public land resources and uses in the New Melones Lake Area. This chapter also contains an explanation of the alternative development process. Each alternative is composed of a complete and reasonable set of desired outcomes and a description of allowable uses and management actions to achieve these outcomes.

In the alternatives, desired outcomes are expressed as goals, which are broad statements of desired outcomes that are not quantifiable. Goals are common to all alternatives.

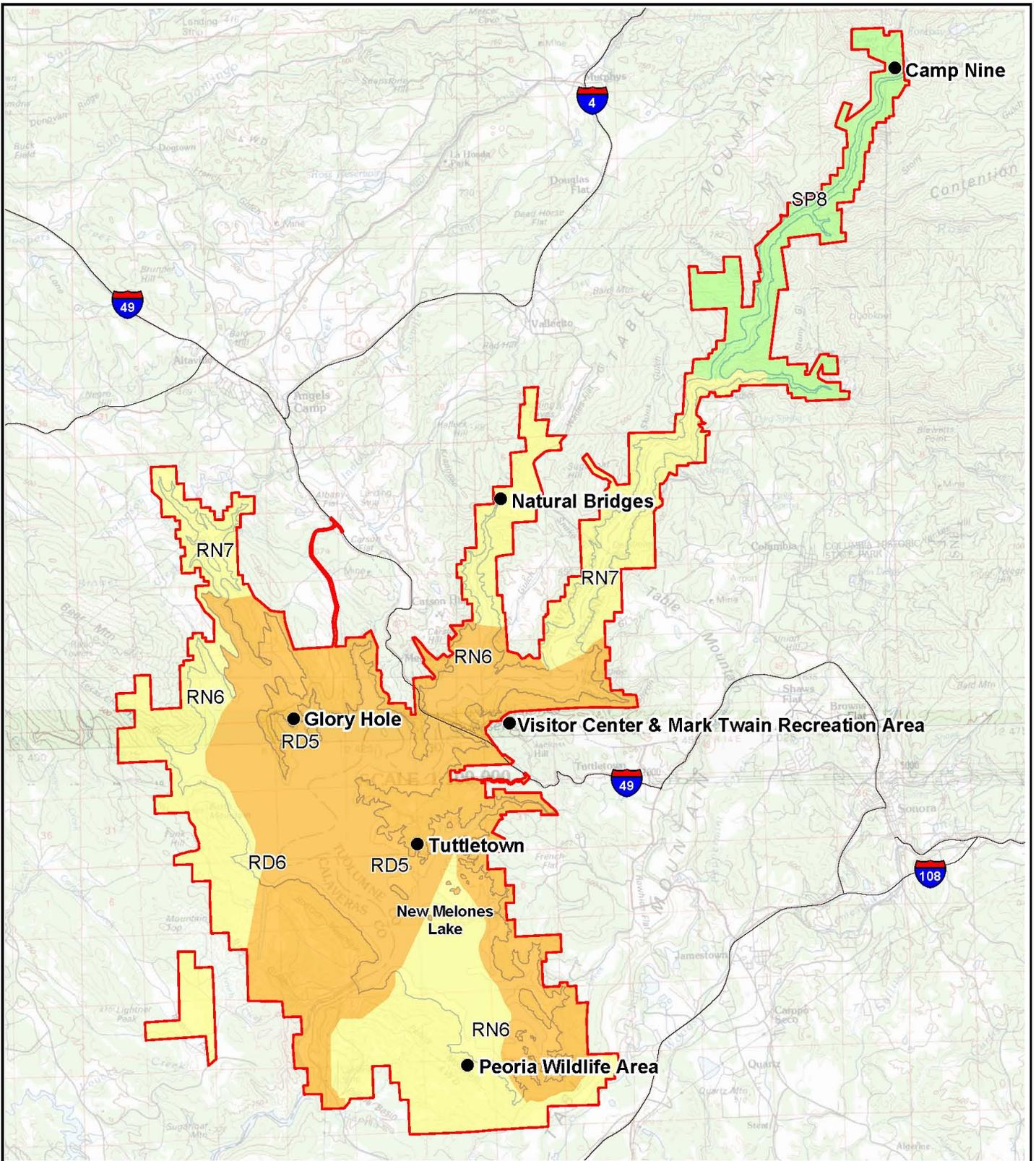
In the alternatives, allowable uses and management actions are expressed as actions, which identify uses or allocations that are allowable, restricted, or prohibited on public lands. Actions also identify proactive measures to achieve goals and objectives, as well as measures or criteria to guide activities on public lands. Actions may or may not vary among alternatives.

Reclamation has developed four management alternatives (the No Action Alternative and three action alternatives), which are presented in detail in this chapter. These alternatives provide a range of choices for resolving the planning issues identified during the scoping process for the RMP/EIS and listed in Chapter 1.

2.2 New Melones Lake Management Areas

The management areas proposed in the Master Plan will be changed in this RMP/EIS to reflect updated information, current use of management areas, and potential future management from such sources as the Water Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (WROS), carrying capacity study, and commercial services plan. The preparers of the 2008 WROS analysis identified, classified, mapped, and described the current recreation situation for New Melones Lake (Figure 2-1). The WROS is meant to help identify and preserve a diversity of recreation opportunities and experiences at New Melones Lake. Details on the WROS and terms used are in Appendix B. The new proposed management areas, with their associated WROS designation, facilities, and attributes, are presented in Table 2-1. Table 2-1 also shows the WROS designation for each management area under each alternative, because WROS designations may change for a management area depending on the alternative. Management actions that would affect the WROS designation are also listed. Figure 2-2 shows the new proposed management areas.

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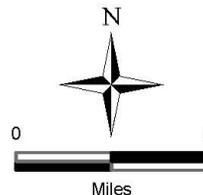
WROS INVENTORY SCALE										
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
U	S	RD	RN	SP	P					

- U - Urban Recreation
- S - Suburban Recreation
- RN - Rural Natural Recreation
- RD - Rural Developed Recreation
- SP - Semi Primitive Recreation
- P - Primitive Recreation

WROS Categories

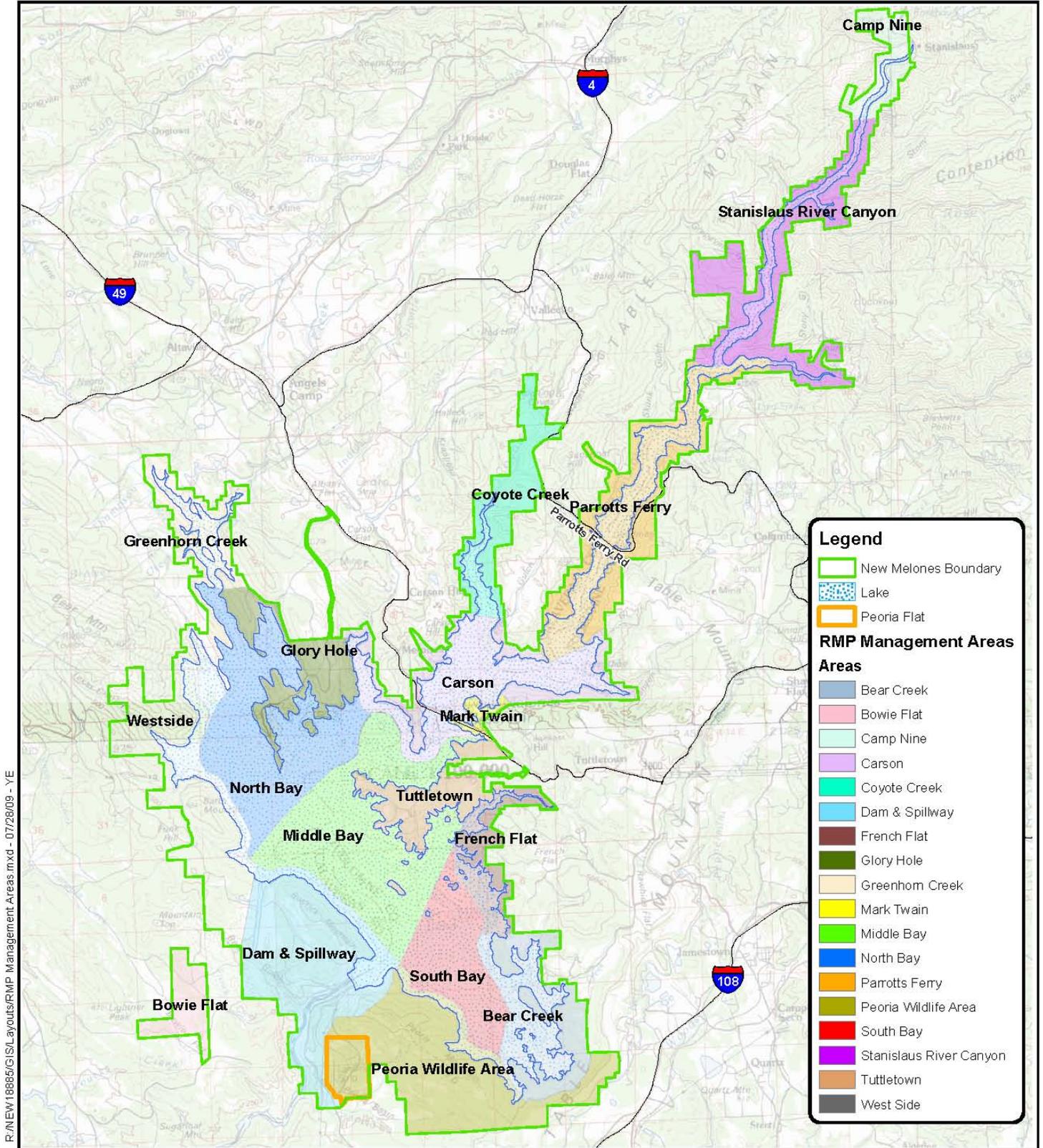
- U
- S
- RD
- RN
- SP
- P

Recreation Areas and Zones



New Melones Lake, California
Central California Area Office

Figure 2-1



Proposed New Melones Management Areas

New Melones Lake Area, California
Central California Area Office

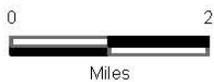


Figure 2-2

Table 2-1: Proposed Management Areas and WROS Designations

Proposed Management Area	1976 Master Plan Management Area Name	WROS Designation	Major Facilities	Major Attributes	Other Names for All or Part of the Management Area
Bear Creek	Bear Creek, Chaparral	<p>Alternative A Rural Natural (RN6)</p> <p>Alternative B Rural Developed (RD4/5)</p> <p>Alternative C Rural Natural (RN6)</p> <p>Alternative D Rural Developed (RD5)</p> <p><i>Applicable actions:</i> <i>Action WR 1</i> <i>Action WR 28</i> <i>Action VR 2</i> <i>Action SSS 2</i> <i>Action LM 13</i> <i>Action LM 17</i> <i>Action TA 4</i> <i>Action CR 2</i> <i>Action R 17</i> <i>Action R 29</i> <i>Action R 30</i> <i>Action R 32</i> <i>Action R 33</i> <i>Action R 34</i> <i>Action R 35</i> <i>Action R 36</i> <i>Action R 37</i> <i>Action R 38</i> <i>Action R 40</i> <i>Action R 46</i> <i>Action R 47</i> <i>Action AR 21</i></p>	No major Reclamation facilities, though next to housing	Borders the lake shore and Peoria Wildlife Management Area. No public vehicle access.	None

Table 2-1: Proposed Management Areas and WROS Designations

Proposed Management Area	1976 Master Plan Management Area Name	WROS Designation	Major Facilities	Major Attributes	Other Names for All or Part of the Management Area
		<i>Action LR 15</i> <i>Action LR 22</i> <i>Action LR 28</i>			
Bowie Flat	Bowie Flat	Alternative A Rural Natural (RN7)	No major Reclamation facilities	Remote, no direct access via public road	None
		Alternative B Rural Developed (RD5/6)			
		Alternative C Rural Natural (RN7)			
		Alternative D Rural Natural (RN7)			
		<i>Applicable actions:</i> <i>Action WR 1</i> <i>Action WR 28</i> <i>Action VR 2</i> <i>Action SSS 2</i> <i>Action LM 13</i> <i>Action LM 17</i> <i>Action TA 4</i> <i>Action TA 11</i> <i>Action TA 14</i> <i>Action TA 17</i> <i>Action CR 2</i> <i>Action R 17</i> <i>Action R 29</i> <i>Action R 30</i> <i>Action R 32</i> <i>Action R 33</i> <i>Action R 34</i> <i>Action R 35</i> <i>Action R 36</i>			

Table 2-1: Proposed Management Areas and WROS Designations

Proposed Management Area	1976 Master Plan Management Area Name	WROS Designation	Major Facilities	Major Attributes	Other Names for All or Part of the Management Area
		<i>Action R 37</i> <i>Action R 40</i> <i>Action R 46</i> <i>Action R 47</i> <i>Action LR 15</i> <i>Action LR 28</i>			
Camp Nine	Camp Nine	Alternative A Semi Primitive (SP9) Alternative B Semi Primitive (SP8) Alternative C Semi Primitive (SP9) Alternative D Semi Primitive (SP8)	Camp Nine Road, New Camp Nine Bridge, pedestrian bridge, trailhead, trail, restroom, and two nonfederal hydroelectric facilities	Steep canyons, river- like, and remote	Clarks Flat
		<i>Applicable actions:</i> <i>Action WR 28</i> <i>Action TA 3</i> <i>Action TA 5</i> <i>Action TA 9</i> <i>Action PHS 8</i> <i>Action PHS 10</i> <i>Action R 17</i> <i>Action R 33</i> <i>Action R 34</i> <i>Action R 35</i> <i>Action R 37</i> <i>Action R 46</i> <i>Action AR 5</i> <i>Action AR 15</i> <i>Action AR 24</i> <i>Action AR 25</i>			

Table 2-1: Proposed Management Areas and WROS Designations

Proposed Management Area	1976 Master Plan Management Area Name	WROS Designation	Major Facilities	Major Attributes	Other Names for All or Part of the Management Area
		<i>Action LR 33</i>			
Carson	Melones	<p>Alternative A Rural Developed (RD5)</p> <p>Alternative B Rural Developed (RD5)</p> <p>Alternative C Rural Developed (RD5)</p> <p>Alternative D Rural Developed (RD5)</p> <p><i>Applicable actions:</i> <i>Action WR 1</i> <i>Action WR 28</i> <i>Action FW 22</i> <i>Action LM 17</i> <i>Action TA 4</i> <i>Action R 47</i> <i>Action AR 17</i> <i>Action AR 21</i> <i>Action LR 15</i> <i>Action LR 28</i></p>	No major Reclamation facilities	Borders the lake shore, former lake access point at Old Melones. No public vehicle access.	None
Coyote Creek	Coyote Creek	<p>Alternative A Rural Natural (RN6)</p> <p>Alternative B Rural Natural (RN6)</p> <p>Alternative C Rural Natural (RN7)</p> <p>Alternative D Rural Natural (RN6)</p>	Natural Bridges trail and parking lot, restroom, picnic area	Two Natural Bridges, Coyote Creek, fishing cove	Natural Bridges

Table 2-1: Proposed Management Areas and WROS Designations

Proposed Management Area	1976 Master Plan Management Area Name	WROS Designation	Major Facilities	Major Attributes	Other Names for All or Part of the Management Area
		<i>Applicable actions:</i> <i>Action WR 1</i> <i>Action WR 19</i> <i>Action WR 28</i> <i>Action VR 2</i> <i>Action FW 22</i> <i>Action SSS 2</i> <i>Action LM 17</i> <i>Action TA 3</i> <i>Action TA 10</i> <i>Action CR 2</i> <i>Action R 17</i> <i>Action R 29</i> <i>Action R 30</i> <i>Action R 32</i> <i>Action R 34</i> <i>Action R 35</i> <i>Action R 36</i> <i>Action R 37</i> <i>Action R 46</i> <i>Action R 47</i> <i>Action AR 5</i> <i>Action AR 15</i> <i>Action AR 17</i> <i>Action LR 20</i>			
Dam and Spillway	Dam and Spillway	Alternative A Rural Developed (RD4) Alternative B Rural Developed (RD4) Alternative C Rural Developed (RD4)	New Melones dam, spillway, and power plant, federal and nonfederal power agency switchyards and transmission lines	New Melones Dam and Spillway	None

Table 2-1: Proposed Management Areas and WROS Designations

Proposed Management Area	1976 Master Plan Management Area Name	WROS Designation	Major Facilities	Major Attributes	Other Names for All or Part of the Management Area
		<p>Alternative D Rural Developed (RD4)</p> <p><i>Applicable actions:</i> Action WR 1 Action WR 28 Action LM 17 Action TA 2 Action TA 4 Action R 47 Action LR 15 Action LR 28</p>			
French Flat	Rawhide	<p>Alternative A Rural Developed (RD4)</p> <p>Alternative B Rural Developed (RD4)</p> <p>Alternative C Rural Developed (RD6)</p> <p>Alternative D Rural Developed (RD4)</p> <p><i>Applicable actions:</i> Action WR 1 Action WR 28 Action LM 13 Action LM 17 Action TA 4 Action R 8 Action R 17 Action R 32 Action R 33 Action R 34</p>	No major Reclamation facilities, though next to housing	Fishing cove, next to a BLM management area	None

Table 2-1: Proposed Management Areas and WROS Designations

Proposed Management Area	1976 Master Plan Management Area Name	WROS Designation	Major Facilities	Major Attributes	Other Names for All or Part of the Management Area
		<i>Action R 35</i> <i>Action R 36</i> <i>Action R 37</i> <i>Action R 40</i> <i>Action R 46</i> <i>Action R 47</i> <i>Action AR 5</i> <i>Action AR 15</i> <i>Action LR 15</i> <i>Action LR 22</i> <i>Action LR 28</i>			
Glory Hole	Glory Hole	Alternative A Rural Developed (RD5) Alternative B Rural Developed (RD5) Alternative C Rural Developed (RD5) Alternative D Rural Developed (RD5)	Glory Hole Recreation Area, Glory Hole and Angels Creek launch ramps, and New Melones Lake Marina	Intensive recreation development (campgrounds, day-use areas, hiking, and biking trails, and flat water recreation opportunities), access to Greenhorn Creek and Westside Management Area	Angels Creek Recreation Area
		<i>Applicable actions:</i> <i>Action WR 1</i> <i>Action WR 17</i> <i>Action WR 28</i> <i>Action LM 17</i> <i>Action TA 5</i> <i>Action TA 16</i> <i>Action R 15</i> <i>Action R 16</i> <i>Action R 22</i> <i>Action R 23</i> <i>Action R 24</i> <i>Action R 25</i>			

Table 2-1: Proposed Management Areas and WROS Designations

Proposed Management Area	1976 Master Plan Management Area Name	WROS Designation	Major Facilities	Major Attributes	Other Names for All or Part of the Management Area
		<i>Action R 26</i> <i>Action R 27</i> <i>Action R 28</i> <i>Action R 47</i> <i>Action AR 5</i> <i>Action AR 15</i> <i>Action LR 15</i> <i>Action LR 21</i> <i>Action LR 28</i> <i>Action IS 7</i>			
Greenhorn Creek	Glory Hole	Alternative A Rural Natural (RN6)	No major Reclamation facilities	Fishing cove, access to Westside Management Area	Vonich Gulch
		Alternative B Rural Developed (RD4/5)			
		Alternative C Rural Natural (RN8)			
		Alternative D Rural Natural (RN7)			
		<i>Applicable actions:</i> <i>Action WR 1</i> <i>Action WR 28</i> <i>Action VR 2</i> <i>Action SSS 2</i> <i>Action LM 13</i> <i>Action LM 17</i> <i>Action TA 4</i> <i>Action TA 14</i> <i>Action TA 16</i> <i>Action CR 2</i> <i>Action R 17</i> <i>Action R 29</i>			

Table 2-1: Proposed Management Areas and WROS Designations

Proposed Management Area	1976 Master Plan Management Area Name	WROS Designation	Major Facilities	Major Attributes	Other Names for All or Part of the Management Area
		<i>Action R 30</i> <i>Action R 32</i> <i>Action R 33</i> <i>Action R 34</i> <i>Action R 35</i> <i>Action R 36</i> <i>Action R 37</i> <i>Action R 40</i> <i>Action R 46</i> <i>Action R 47</i> <i>Action AR 5</i> <i>Action AR 15</i> <i>Action LR 15</i> <i>Action LR 21</i> <i>Action LR 28</i>			
Mark Twain	Mark Twain	Alternative A Rural Developed (RD5) Alternative B Rural Developed (RD5) Alternative C Rural Developed (RD5) Alternative D Rural Developed (RD5) <i>Applicable actions:</i> <i>Action WR 1</i> <i>Action WR 28</i> <i>Action FW 23</i> <i>Action LM 17</i> <i>Action TA 4</i> <i>Action TA 5</i> <i>Action R 46</i>	Administration complex, Visitor Center, non-motorized boat launch, hiking trail, picnic sites	Borders the lake shore, fishing access	None

Table 2-1: Proposed Management Areas and WROS Designations

Proposed Management Area	1976 Master Plan Management Area Name	WROS Designation	Major Facilities	Major Attributes	Other Names for All or Part of the Management Area
		<i>Action R 47</i> <i>Action AR 5</i> <i>Action AR 15</i> <i>Action LR 15</i> <i>Action LR 28</i> <i>Action IS 11</i>			
Parrotts Ferry	Parrotts Ferry	Alternative A Rural Natural (RN7)	No major Reclamation facilities	New Parrotts Ferry Bridge, former road crossing via Parrotts Ferry Bridge, former raft takeout for Camp Nine rafting stretch	None
		Alternative B Rural Developed (RD5)			
		Alternative C Rural Natural (RN7)			
		Alternative D Rural Natural (RN6)			
		<i>Applicable actions:</i> <i>Action WR 1</i> <i>Action WR 28</i> <i>Action VR 2</i> <i>Action SSS 2</i> <i>Action LM 17</i> <i>Action TA 5</i> <i>Action CR 2</i> <i>Action R 17</i> <i>Action R 29</i> <i>Action R 30</i> <i>Action R 32</i> <i>Action R 34</i> <i>Action R 35</i> <i>Action R 36</i>			

Table 2-1: Proposed Management Areas and WROS Designations

Proposed Management Area	1976 Master Plan Management Area Name	WROS Designation	Major Facilities	Major Attributes	Other Names for All or Part of the Management Area
		<i>Action R 37</i> <i>Action R 46</i> <i>Action R 47</i> <i>Action AR 5</i> <i>Action AR 15</i> <i>Action LR 15</i> <i>Action LR 28</i>			
Peoria Wildlife Management Area (PWMA)	Wildlife Management Area	Alternative A Rural Natural (RN7) Alternative B Rural Natural (RN7) Alternative C Rural Natural (RN7) Alternative D Rural Natural (RN7)	Table Mountain trail, trailheads, restrooms, and parking area, designated wildlife mitigation area	Table Mountain, Peoria Ridge, fishing and hunting access, equestrian trails	Table Mountain, Peoria Ridge, Peoria Flat
		<i>Applicable actions:</i> <i>Action WR 1</i> <i>Action WR 28</i> <i>Action VR 2</i> <i>Action FW 2</i> <i>Action FW 12</i> <i>Action FW 13</i> <i>Action FW 14</i> <i>Action SSS 1</i> <i>Action SSS 2</i> <i>Action SSS 4</i> <i>Action SSS 6</i> <i>Action LM 6</i> <i>Action LM 13</i> <i>Action LM 17</i> <i>Action TA 4</i>			

Table 2-1: Proposed Management Areas and WROS Designations

Proposed Management Area	1976 Master Plan Management Area Name	WROS Designation	Major Facilities	Major Attributes	Other Names for All or Part of the Management Area
		<i>Action CR 2</i> <i>Action CR 18</i> <i>Action CR 21</i> <i>Action R 17</i> <i>Action R 29</i> <i>Action R 30</i> <i>Action R 32</i> <i>Action R 33</i> <i>Action R 34</i> <i>Action R 35</i> <i>Action R 36</i> <i>Action R 37</i> <i>Action R 40</i> <i>Action R 46</i> <i>Action R 47</i> <i>Action LR 3</i> <i>Action LR 16</i> <i>Action LR 22</i> <i>Action LR 29</i> <i>Action LR 37</i> <i>Action LR 39</i>			
Peoria Flat*	Wildlife Management Area	Alternative A Rural Developed (RD5) Alternative B Rural Developed (RD4) Alternative C Rural Developed (RD5) Alternative D Rural Developed (RD4) <i>Applicable actions:</i> <i>Action WR 1</i> <i>Action WR 28</i>	Radio-controlled flying facility, Baseline Conservation Camp, power plant, warehouse, archaeological storage facility, equestrian staging area, equestrian and hiking trails, closed overlook facilities	Peoria Flat is within the PWMA, access to Peoria Ridge and Table Mountain.	PWMA

Table 2-1: Proposed Management Areas and WROS Designations

Proposed Management Area	1976 Master Plan Management Area Name	WROS Designation	Major Facilities	Major Attributes	Other Names for All or Part of the Management Area
		<i>Action LM 17</i> <i>Action LM 19</i> <i>Action R 40</i> <i>Action R 47</i> <i>Action LR 15</i> <i>Action LR 28</i> <i>Action LR 35</i>			
Stanislaus River Canyon	Skunk Gulch, Grapevine Gulch	Alternative A Semi Primitive (SP9) Alternative B Rural Natural (RN7) Alternative C Semi Primitive (SP9) Alternative D Semi Primitive (SP8)	No major Reclamation facilities	Remote, no direct public access via public road; Limestone Canyon, caves	Skunk Gulch, Grapevine Gulch
		<i>Applicable actions:</i> <i>Action WR 1</i> <i>Action WR 28</i> <i>Action VR 2</i> <i>Action SSS 2</i> <i>Action LM 17</i> <i>Action TA 3</i> <i>Action TA 4</i> <i>Action TA 5</i> <i>Action CR 2</i> <i>Action R 29</i> <i>Action R 30</i> <i>Action R 32</i> <i>Action R 33</i> <i>Action R 34</i> <i>Action R 35</i>			

Table 2-1: Proposed Management Areas and WROS Designations

Proposed Management Area	1976 Master Plan Management Area Name	WROS Designation	Major Facilities	Major Attributes	Other Names for All or Part of the Management Area
		<i>Action R 36</i> <i>Action R 37</i> <i>Action R 46</i> <i>Action R 47</i> <i>Action AR 5</i> <i>Action AR 15</i> <i>Action AR 24</i>			
Tuttle town	Tuttle town	Alternative A Rural Developed (RD5) Alternative B Rural Developed (RD5) Alternative C Rural Developed (RD5) Alternative D Rural Developed (RD5)	Tuttle town Recreation Area and Tuttle town Launch Area	Intensive recreation development (campgrounds, day- use areas, hiking and biking trails, and flat water recreation opportunities)	None
		<i>Applicable actions:</i> <i>Action WR 1</i> <i>Action WR 17</i> <i>Action WR 28</i> <i>Action LM 17</i> <i>Action TA 5</i> <i>Action R 15</i> <i>Action R 16</i> <i>Action R 22</i> <i>Action R 23</i> <i>Action R 24</i> <i>Action R 25</i> <i>Action R 26</i> <i>Action R 27</i> <i>Action R 28</i> <i>Action R 47</i>			

Table 2-1: Proposed Management Areas and WROS Designations

Proposed Management Area	1976 Master Plan Management Area Name	WROS Designation	Major Facilities	Major Attributes	Other Names for All or Part of the Management Area
		<i>Action AR 5</i> <i>Action AR 15</i> <i>Action LR 15</i> <i>Action LR 22</i> <i>Action LR 28</i> <i>Action IS 7</i>			
Westside	None	Alternative A Rural Natural (RN6) Alternative B Rural Developed (RD5) Alternative C Rural Natural (RN7) Alternative D Rural Natural (RN6)	No major Reclamation facilities	Remote, no direct public access via public road	None
		<i>Applicable actions:</i> <i>Action WR 1</i> <i>Action WR 28</i> <i>Action VR 2</i> <i>Action SSS 2</i> <i>Action LM 13</i> <i>Action LM 17</i> <i>Action TA 4</i> <i>Action TA 14</i> <i>Action TA 16</i> <i>Action FM 1</i> <i>Action CR 2</i> <i>Action R 17</i> <i>Action R 29</i> <i>Action R 30</i> <i>Action R 32</i> <i>Action R 33</i>			

Table 2-1: Proposed Management Areas and WROS Designations

Proposed Management Area	1976 Master Plan Management Area Name	WROS Designation	Major Facilities	Major Attributes	Other Names for All or Part of the Management Area
		<i>Action R 34</i>			
		<i>Action R 35</i>			
		<i>Action R 36</i>			
		<i>Action R 37</i>			
		<i>Action R 40</i>			
		<i>Action R 46</i>			
		<i>Action R 47</i>			
		<i>Action AR 5</i>			
		<i>Action LR 15</i>			
		<i>Action LR 21</i>			
		<i>Action LR 28</i>			

* Peoria Flat is a sub-management area within the Peoria Wildlife Area.

Three WROS designations are presently managed at New Melones Lake: Semi Primitive, Rural Natural, and Rural Developed. Camp Nine and Stanislaus River Canyon are the two management areas designated as Semi Primitive. In these areas, the landscape is dominated by natural resources with little development. Visitation at Stanislaus River Canyon is low most of the year, with boat fishing the predominant use. During the peak recreation season, visitation increases and includes use by pleasure craft boaters, jet skiers, and occasional visits and/or overnight use by houseboaters. The area is peaceful and quiet, except for the occasional noise from boats, with frequent wildlife sightings. At Camp Nine, the Stanislaus River enters the reservoir in a remote canyon, creating opportunities for more primitive recreation different from the main reservoir. Peak season use includes bank fishing/fly fishing, swimming, nonmotorized boating, hiking, picnicking, and wildlife viewing. Rural Natural Management Areas include Bear Creek, Bowie Flat, Coyote Creek, Greenhorn Creek, Parrotts Ferry, Peoria Wildlife Area, and Westside. Natural features are predominant on the landscape in these areas, and the presence of development is occasional or infrequent. The opportunities for visitors to see, hear, and smell nature is prevalent and common, as are occasions to enjoy periods of solitude. Common recreation activities include waterskiing, wakeboarding, jet skiing, houseboating, and fishing. Management areas designated as Rural Developed include Carson, Dam and Spillway, French Flat, Glory Hole, Mark Twain, Middle Bay, North Bay, Peoria Flat, South Bay, and Tuttletown. In these areas, development is prevalent and common, yet the setting has a pastoral sense because of the presence of natural resources in the landscape. Recreation includes waterskiing, jet skiing, houseboating, fishing, and swimming.

2.3 Formulating Alternatives

One goal in formulating alternatives for an RMP/EIS is to identify combinations of management practices to resolve planning issues. Another goal is to provide guidance where direction for a resource or use is currently lacking or is insufficient in the existing planning documents. The intent of each alternative is to represent a complete and reasonable interdisciplinary land use plan. Reclamation used a collaborative approach in developing the alternatives and relied extensively on public input to identify planning issues and develop management actions.

2.3.1 The Anatomy of an Alternative

This resource management plan contains two critical elements: goals and management actions. As discussed above, issue statements help to focus the management plan on relevant concerns. Goals provide overarching direction for Reclamation actions in meeting the agency's legal, regulatory, policy, and strategic requirements. Goals are broad statements that provide the vision for the management plan but generally are not measurable.

Desired Future Condition and Goals

Management goals were defined for each resource management category and land use program that Reclamation must address in the planning process. The goals are common

to all alternatives and represent the desired outcomes for the landscape, resources, and resource uses. The management goals for each resource management category and land use program are presented below in Table 2-2.

Table 2-2: RMP Management Goals

Air Quality
Comply with applicable air quality regulations to meet public health and safety requirements.
Noise
1) Comply with applicable noise regulations to meet public health and safety requirements.
2) Manage noise at levels appropriate to the use of particular areas. (Zoning lake and campground policies).
Geologic Resources (Excluding Caves)
Allow appropriate uses of geologic resources while protecting resource values (e.g., rock climbing, education, scientific research, soils, minerals, mining).
Caves
1) Comply with applicable cave management regulation, such as the 1988 Federal Cave Resources Protection Act.
2) Protect cave formations and the sensitive resources within them.
Hydrology/Water Quality
1) Comply with applicable water quality regulations such as the Clean Water Act.
2) Conserve water resources and protect the water quality of those resources at New Melones Lake (management action, visitor use).
3) Maintain the ecological health of aquatic habitats on New Melones Lake lands (e.g., riparian and wetlands).
Visual Resources
Manage Reclamation lands and activities to provide protection of the visual values and scenic quality of existing landscapes.
Vegetation
Maintain and enhance native and unique plant communities.
Fish and Wildlife
1) Manage for habitat quality to maintain or enhance biological diversity.
2) Manage vegetation in areas outside of fuel treatment project perimeters to retain sufficient wildlife cover.
3) Conserve sensitive wildlife habitats by minimizing disruption and loss.
4) Enhance wildlife habitat values, features, and diversity.
5) Restore wildlife habitat values of damaged areas through revegetation and restoration.
Special Status Species (Federally Endangered, Threatened, Proposed, Candidate Species, and Other Special Status Fauna and Flora)
1) Manage habitat to contribute to the conservation of special status fish, wildlife, and plant species.
2) Manage public use and operations and maintenance to contribute to the conservation of special status fish, wildlife, and plant species.
General Land Management
1) Manage Reclamation-owned and managed lands in accordance with authorized project purposes and applicable laws and regulations.
2) Manage rights-of-way and right-of-use permits in accordance with authorized project purposes and applicable laws and regulations.
3) Minimize and consolidate right-of-way and easement grants on Reclamation lands; if granted, monitor and enforce for compliance with permit measures.
4) Reduce and eliminate encroachment onto or from New Melones Lake lands.
5) Provide, operate, and maintain facilities appropriate to the needs of Reclamation and the general public.

Table 2-2: RMP Management Goals

Access and Transportation
Manage travel, roads, and trails to provide safe access, minimize resource impacts, and provide for multiple use recreation opportunities within the planning area.
Public Health and Safety
1) Comply with applicable regulations to protect public health and safety.
2) Comply with applicable health and safety requirements for Reclamation staff and representatives.
3) Maintain a safe and healthy environment for employees and the public.
Invasive Species Control
Prevent and control invasive species infestations using integrated pest management techniques.
Fire Management
1) Comply with applicable fire protection regulations (state and local) and fulfill the requirements of the National Fire Plan for Reclamation.
2) Suppress fires that threaten life, property, and public safety to achieve 100 percent protection of adjacent communities and resource/social values at risk from unwanted wildfire.
Cultural Resources
1) Comply with all applicable cultural resources laws including the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and implementing regulations at 36 CFR, Part 800, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA), and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).
2) Manage activities for the long-term preservation of cultural resources and, whenever feasible, design activities to avoid impacts to cultural resources eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).
3) Complete the process of nominating the New Melones Archaeological District to the NRHP.
Socioeconomic and Environmental Justice
While meeting Reclamation obligations and goals, provide opportunities that will result in economic benefits to the community.
Indian Trust Assets (ITAs)
Continue to ensure that management actions will not negatively affect any tribal trust resources or assets by consulting with recognized tribal governments.
General Recreation
1) Provide for diverse recreation within Reclamation's authorities, to afford a safe and quality recreation experience consistent with natural and cultural resource management objectives.
2) Achieve fair value for recreation.
3) Ensure that concessions are planned, developed, and managed to meet public needs, are compatible with the natural and cultural resources, and provide a variety of services that are consistent with authorized project purposes.
Aquatic Recreation
1) Provide a diverse range of water-based recreation opportunities suited to user needs and compatible with the existing character of the lake and surrounding lands.
2) Protect cultural resources, natural resources, and water quality for the future, while providing safe and enjoyable recreational experiences.
Land-Based Recreation
1) Provide a diverse range of land-based recreation opportunities suited to user needs and compatible with the existing character of the project lands.
2) Protect cultural and natural resources for the future, while providing safe and enjoyable recreational experiences.
3) Provide specific recreation opportunities and adequate flexible and efficient support facilities under varying lake-level conditions, without compromising ecological resources and by demonstrating compatibility with the site-specific suitability of land and water environmental conditions.
4) Provide a variety of nonmotorized recreational experiences using trails and pathways.
5) Provide safe recreational hunting opportunities compatible with the Wildlife Management Plan,

Table 2-2: RMP Management Goals

while respecting private property rights and management authority over wildlife resources.
Interpretive Services and Visitor Information
1) Enhance the public's understanding of the history, purpose, and operation of the project and its archaeological, historical, human-made, natural, and cultural features.
2) Enhance recreation experiences through the Visitor's Center, interpretive services, and volunteer programs.
3) Enhance the quality of recreation for all visitors, including those with physical, sensory, and cognitive impairments.
4) Educate the public about Reclamation, water resources, water conservation, and water safety.
5) Promote stewardship, achieve management objectives, optimize resources, provide enhanced services, and provide educational opportunities.

Management Actions

Management actions comprise the second category of land use planning decisions and are anticipated to achieve the desired outcomes (goals). Management actions are proactive measures or limitations intended to guide Reclamation activities in the planning area and could include monitoring. Actions can be common to all alternatives or unique to a specific alternative. Alternatives may include specific land use restrictions to meet goals and may exclude certain land uses to protect resource values. Because the alternatives identify whether particular land uses are allowed, restricted, or prohibited, allowable uses often include a spatial (i.e., map) component.

Public Input

Reclamation follows the public involvement requirements according to the CEQ regulations set forth in 40 CFR, Part 1501.7. Reclamation requested comments from agencies and the public, organized and analyzed all of the comments received, and then reviewed the comments to identify issues that were addressed during the planning process. These issues and those identified by Reclamation staff were the scope of analysis for the RMP/EIS and were used to develop a reasonable range of project alternatives and management actions. Reclamation has used the following means to communicate with the public about preparation of the RMP/EIS:

- Published a Notice of Intent;
- Maintained the project Web site;
- Provided project updates;
- Disseminated news releases and newspaper announcements;
- Held scoping meetings;
- Held alternatives development workshops;
- Held Chapters 1 to 3 (presently Chapters 1 to 5) open houses; and

- Maintained a mailing list.

Details regarding the public involvement process are described in Chapter 7, Consultation and Coordination.

2.4 Alternatives Developed

Four management alternatives were developed to address the major planning issues. Each alternative provides direction for resource programs based on the development of specific goals and management actions. Each alternative describes specific issues influencing land management and emphasizes a different combination of resource uses, allocations, and restoration measures to address issues and resolve conflicts among users. Resource program goals are met in varying degrees across alternatives. Management scenarios for programs not tied to major planning issues or mandated by laws and regulations often contain few or no differences in management between alternatives.

Alternative A, the No Action Alternative, is a continuation of the current management and is based on existing planning decisions and amendments. Alternative B, the Increased Use Alternative, emphasizes development of recreational resources and infrastructure with a goal of encouraging and accommodating increasing numbers of visitors, while protecting natural and cultural resources, as required by law. Alternative C, the Conservation Alternative, emphasizes active management of natural and cultural resources and places less emphasis on resource use than Alternative A. Alternative D, the Multiple Use Alternative, seeks to balance the projected increases in visitors and demand for an array of user opportunities with the need to protect, enhance, and conserve the natural and cultural resources that are found in the planning area.

Within the alternatives, Reclamation has designated varying degrees of zoning for New Melones Lake: no ski zones, no wake zones, environmentally sensitive areas, no overnight mooring zones, and no boat zones. (The zones are defined under Section 3.2.1, Alternative Terms and Definitions.) These zones are necessary to achieve Reclamation's management goals. More specifically, in narrow areas or other areas of low visibility, no ski zones are needed to maintain a safe environment for aquatic recreation. No wake zones are needed because a rolling wave action may interfere with other aquatic recreation activities and may also create a hazardous situation in confined or populated areas. In addition, excessive wave actions may contribute to shoreline erosion. Designation of environmentally sensitive areas is beneficial because intensive recreation activities may harm natural or cultural resources in some environmentally sensitive areas. Environmentally sensitive areas may include caves, aquatic spawning habitat, riparian habitat, raptor nesting areas, cultural sites, and other vulnerable habitats. No overnight mooring zones have been designated because overnight uses in these areas may cause inappropriate noise levels, user conflicts, sanitation concerns, increased light disturbances, increased risk of shoreline fires, safety concerns, or water quality concerns (Please view Appendix C for more information on the New Melones Lake Moored

Vessel Plan). Lastly, areas marked as swimming areas are incompatible with boat use. A no boat zone is needed to maintain a safe environment for swimming.

As stated in Section 1.9.2, Economic Issues and Partnership Opportunities, Reclamation is seeking to provide the public with a diverse range of feasible recreation opportunities in keeping with authorized project purposes, management objectives and regulatory requirements.

Recreation opportunities provided by private commercial businesses under contract with Reclamation, called Commercial Concessions, may be authorized under Reclamation Manual Policy LND-04-01. This policy requires that any decisions to contract for Commercial Concessions shall be based upon the results of a commercial services planning process. The process includes public involvement, financial feasibility and environmental analysis. The outcome of this planning process is known as a Commercial Services Plan (CSP). The CSP will determine the number, type, and duration of concessions necessary to meet the public demand for services and quality recreation opportunities, in accordance with Reclamation management objectives, the financial feasibility of the concessions considered, and identification of locations for which such commercial services may be appropriate. Commercial services may include:

- Marina services with adequate storm protection;
- Additional marina services;
- Public swimming areas and beach facilities;
- Public floating campsites and restrooms;
- Guided interpretive lake tours;
- Sales and/or rentals of recreation-related equipment;
- Land-based lodging, facilities, and food services;
- A venue for large events (over 50 people);
- Mountain bike course;
- Seaplane school;
- Equestrian services and facilities;
- Primitive and recreational vehicle (RV) camping;
- Off-highway vehicle park;
- Paintball, skeet, and target shooting areas; and
- Radio controlled flying facility.

In developing the alternatives for the RMP/EIS, commercial services are addressed at a programmatic rather than site specific level. A CSP and appropriate environmental compliance document will be developed that will supplement the New Melones Lake RMP/EIS, with site-specific impact analysis prior to implementation of a development plan by a potential contractor. The following is a partial list of criteria required by Reclamation policy whenever commercial services planning is conducted:

- Facilities and services shall be compatible with Reclamation project purposes and the RMP/EIS Goals and Objectives, and Purpose and Need;

- Facilities and Services shall be necessary and appropriate to meet both current and future demand for broad spectrum public use and enjoyment;
- Commercial facilities shall not be developed or expanded on the federal estate if existing facilities, both on and off the federal estate, adequately meet current and projected needs;
- Facilities and services shall reflect the general public needs rather than the desires of a particular group or individual;
- Facilities and services considered to be private, exclusive use shall not be allowed and should not be considered;
- Existing exclusive use of facilities, services or sites shall be removed when a contract expires;
- Potential impacts to natural and cultural resources shall be considered in the development of facilities and services;
- The commercial services plan shall consider whether other sites or locations exist that shall enhance the broad spectrum of public use and enjoyment conducive to both land and water recreation activities;
- The plan shall determine whether the existing facilities sit in an area that is topographically limited or otherwise physically constrained, and cannot meet required standards or provide for the desired levels of public services and facilities;
- The plan shall determine whether the existing site can or cannot accommodate the anticipated demand for concession services; and
- If existing facilities are proposed to be retained as a part of any new concession operation, facilities shall be formally evaluated within the Commercial Services Plan to determine if the existing condition and useful life of the facilities are sufficient to last through the duration of a new contract period.

A financial feasibility evaluation must be performed to determine the financial viability of any proposed concession operations, proposed length of term of the concession agreement, and the underlying assumptions regarding concessioner capital investment in the concession. Financial planning criteria to be considered include:

- Concession's gross revenue by operating department;
- Direct expenses;
- Franchise fees;
- Capital investment costs;
- Cash flow analysis;
- Cost estimates for new facility development, and for removal or replacement should the existing facilities be deemed to require significant maintenance; and
- Factors that may influence a concession business including length of season, seasonal rates, visitation, inflation, cost of capital and the appropriate return rate to the concessioner.

2.5 Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis

Most of the elements suggested by the public were included in one or more of the alternatives. The following alternatives were eliminated from detailed study because they did not meet the purpose and need for the proposal or were outside of the technical, legal, or policy constraints of developing a land use plan for public land resources and uses.

Exclusive Use

Alternatives and general management options proposing exclusive use for profit or benefit of a private entity were not considered. This includes operation of part or all of New Melones Lake Area as a private lake or private recreation area.

Management for Only One Authorized Purpose

Alternatives and general management options proposing maximum development, production, or protection of one resource at the expense of other resources and uses were not considered. Several specific alternatives that were eliminated were full closure of the New Melones Lake Area to recreation and operation of New Melones Lake to maximize recreation.

Full Elimination of Multiple Traditional Uses from the Project without Clear Cause

Alternatives eliminating multiple traditional uses where resource conditions do not justify such measures were not considered reasonable. Each alternative considered allows for some level of support, protection, or use of all resources present in the planning area. In some instances, the alternatives analyzed in detail do include various considerations for eliminating or maximizing individual resource values or uses in specific areas where conflicts exist. Currently, resource conditions do not warrant planning-area-wide prohibition of any particular use. This includes the full prohibition of land use activities that might be considered resource depleting such as mineral development, hunting, fishing, or grazing.

Management of the New Melones Lake Water Project Operations and Maintenance

The RMP/EIS will not address water or power operations or water service contracts. Operation of the New Melones Lake Project is managed through Reclamation's Central Valley Project (CVP). Management of the land surrounding New Melones Lake is secondary to operation of the CVP and is required to support Reclamation's core mission of delivering water and generating power.

Full Buildout of the Master Plan

Due to the constraints identified in Chapter 1, scoping comments and the Water Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (WROS) assessment, the proposed buildout identified in the 1976 Master Plan is no longer viable. In particular, the requirement for a non-federal cost share partner for infrastructure development and the increase in the cost of operation and maintenance that building such infrastructure would entail do not meet Reclamation's fiscal goals and objectives. In addition, current natural resource and cultural resource best management practices identified several Rural Natural Management Areas (such as Bear Creek, Stanislaus River Canyon Management Area)

and wildlife mitigation areas (such as Peoria Wildlife Mitigation Area) that would no longer be considered appropriate locales for intensive recreation development.

2.6 Description of Alternatives

2.6.1 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

Each of the alternatives has different components and management actions that would attain the direction of that alternative. However, several components and management actions are common to the No Action and action alternatives. These common actions are discussed in this section. Other unique management elements specific to Alternatives A, B, C, and D are discussed in the subsequent sections.

Under all alternatives, Reclamation would comply with all applicable laws and regulations, including those relating to air and water quality, hazardous materials, fish and wildlife, special status species, trespass, health and safety, transportation, recreation, cultural resources, social and economic resources, and environmental justice. Reclamation would continue to work with appropriate agencies and entities to adequately manage the New Melones Lake Area. Further, the New Melones Lake Project would continue to be designated and managed as a Special Use Area, pursuant to 43 CFR, Part 423.

Physical Resources

Under all alternatives, mining would be restricted to protect geologic resources, and caves within the New Melones Lake Area would be protected. Water quality would be protected by implementing such management actions as erosion control measures, preventing contaminant release into New Melones Lake, updating minimum basic facilities, and ensuring sanitary waste management facilities.

Natural Resources

Native and unique plant communities would be protected under all alternatives for long-term sustainability and viability. In addition, the Vegetation and PWMA Management Plans would continue to be implemented, and wetlands would be protected and restored. Reclamation would fulfill the mitigation requirements in the Peoria Wildlife Mitigation Area and the wildlife management requirements in the Baseline Conservation Camp lease. Reclamation would also continue to operate within the management guidelines for fish and wildlife resources from the 1976 Master Plan, and would work to conserve and improve fish, wildlife, sensitive, and special status species' habitats. Grazing, hunting, and introduced and feral species would be managed to protect fish and wildlife. Fisheries management would continue with CDFG, and Reclamation would use integrated pest management techniques to prevent and control invasive species infestations.

Lands, Transportation, and Access

Under all alternatives, Reclamation would continue to assess how lands contained within the New Melones Lake Area are being effectively used for project purposes. Future easements and rights-of-way over Reclamation lands would be avoided or minimized. Reclamation would continue to restrict public access to, and enforce a no trespassing

zone in, the New Melones Dam and Spillway Management Area. The lands in the Westside and Bowie Flat Management Areas would continue to be managed for project purposes. Reclamation would also continue to implement the sign management plan and the New Melones seaplane policy. Further, Reclamation would address illegal activities in all management areas through continued law enforcement presence, management controls, signs, and education.

Cultural and Social Resources

Under all alternatives, Reclamation would continue to educate the public regarding sensitive cultural resources in the New Melones Lake Area, and would consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and appropriate Indian Tribes regarding activities subject to compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA.

Recreation

Reclamation would develop a long-term strategy that maintains and, wherever appropriate, optimizes the diversity of recreation and level of service found at New Melones Lake. Recreation management would continue to be updated to accommodate visitor trends, and concessioner agreements with private enterprises, and/or managing partner agreements with public agencies would be explored and supported, where appropriate. Reclamation would continue to implement a user fee program and would try to minimize impacts to natural resources from recreation. In addition, campgrounds and day-use facilities would continue to be operated, managed, updated, and modernized. Reclamation would maintain trails and pathways according to Reclamation design standards and best management practices (BMPs). Reclamation would also continue to prohibit equestrian use of trails within developed portions of existing Rural Developed Management Areas (e.g. Tuttle town).

2.6.2 Alternative A (No Action—Continue Current Management)

Alternative A is the continuation of current management and would continue present management practices based on the existing land use plan and plan amendments. Valid and feasible decisions contained in the 1976 Master Plan would be implemented, if they are not already completed. Direction contained in existing laws, regulations, policies, and standards would also continue to be implemented, sometimes superseding provisions of the 1976 Master Plan. The current levels, methods, and mix of multiple use management of public lands in the New Melones Lake Area would continue, and resource values would generally receive attention at present levels. Existing facilities, roads, and trails would not be expanded or updated unless it were done under the direction of specific health and safety or ADA guidelines. BMPs would continue to be used to address fire response at New Melones Lake. Land management would also comply with land allocation identified in the 1976 Master Plan.

Physical Resources

Under Alternative A, Reclamation would seek voluntary compliance with boat and visitor noise regulations. Cave access would be managed to comply with federal law and meet health and safety requirements. To protect water resources, the use of pesticides and fertilizers would be allowed in accordance with the Integrated Pest Management Plan for the New Melones Lake Area.

Natural Resources

Alternative A would call for reseeded of degraded or impacted grassland and woodland habitats with native seed. Existing population data for serpentine plant communities would be used for long-term planning. Further, Reclamation would continue to implement BMPs and standard operating procedures (SOPs) to reduce fire danger and respond to fire. Portions of the PWMA Interim Management Plan would continue to be implemented, and the Baseline Conservation Camp would continue to operate as it is currently operating. In addition, Reclamation would continue monthly monitoring of special status bat populations and nearby rock climbing routes.

Lands, Transportation, and Access

Under Alternative A, the Westside Management Area would be managed with an emphasis on conservation, and Reclamation would continue to try to eliminate unpermitted grazing and illegal off-highway vehicle (OHV) use on Reclamation lands. Alternative A would call for the least updating and modernizing of roads, access areas, and facilities.

Cultural and Social Resources

Alternative A would continue operation of the New Melones Archaeological Storage Facility in the PWMA near the Baseline Conservation Camp.

Recreation

Alternative A would permit hunting on Reclamation lands except within 150 yards of a designated recreation area. The existing amount of watercraft use and public boat mooring and storage would be maintained, and enforcement of lake zoning would continue. Interpretive services would continue to be provided in accordance with the 1976 Master Plan and other current guidance.

2.6.3 Alternative B (Increased Use)

Alternative B emphasizes active management for access and recreation. Protecting other resources would be secondary to accommodating recreational interests, although all resources would be managed, at minimum, to the levels required by law. This alternative also emphasizes opportunities for developed and motorized recreation. This alternative would focus on increasing access (roads and trails) and expanding facilities (such as concessions and fish cleaning stations). The key components of this alternative are to evaluate adding recreation facilities at Glory Hole, Tuttle town, Bowie Flat, Westside, French Flat, Bear Creek, Parrotts Ferry, Mark Twain, and Greenhorn Green Management Areas and to allow increased levels of houseboat, water vessel, and equestrian use, in addition to relocating the equestrian staging area. Prescriptive grazing may be allowed to assist in invasive weed removal and fire protection. WROS categories would change certain management areas from Rural Natural to Rural Developed, or from Semi Primitive to Rural Natural (Table 2-1).

Physical Resources

Like Alternative A, Alternative B would have Reclamation seek voluntary compliance with boat and visitor noise regulations. Cave access would be expanded while complying with federal law and health and safety requirements. To protect water resources, the use

of pesticides and fertilizers would be allowed in accordance with the Integrated Pest Management Plan for the New Melones Lake Area.

Natural Resources

As in Alternative A, existing population data for serpentine plant communities would be used for long-term planning in Alternative B. In addition, Reclamation would fully implement a project-wide Fire Management Plan. Portions of the PWMA Interim Management Plan would continue to be implemented in Alternative B. The Baseline Conservation Camp would be allowed to expand its operations and its existing water supply and waste treatment facilities would be upgraded and expanded. Like Alternative A, Reclamation would continue monthly monitoring of special status bat populations and nearby rock climbing routes.

Lands, Transportation, and Access

Under Alternative B, Reclamation would assess the feasibility of future additional recreation at the Westside and Bowie Flat Management Areas. In appropriate areas, and with an approved permit and grazing plan, Reclamation may allow grazing and stock watering as a means to control invasive plant species and to reduce fire danger on Reclamation lands. Alternative B would call for the most updating and modernizing of roads, access areas, and facilities. In addition, Reclamation would reopen Old Parrotts Ferry Road and Melones Recreation Area with updated facilities, if feasible.

Cultural and Social Resources

Alternative B would move the New Melones Archaeological Storage Facility to a site outside the PWMA and to a site that meets modern standards for an archaeological collections storage facility.

Recreation

Alternative B would permit shotgun-only hunting on Reclamation lands except within 150 yards of a designated recreation area. Reclamation would assess the need for additional boat storage on the lake, and would assess the feasibility of future development in both Rural Natural and Rural Developed Management Areas. Additional lake zones would be added to facilitate increased use of the lake. Further, Reclamation may allow an increased level of houseboat use, in accordance with an updated carrying capacity. Trail improvements would focus on encouraging a diversity of recreational uses. Under Alternative B, an Interpretive Master Plan would be prepared and implemented.

2.6.4 Alternative C (Conservation)

Alternative C deemphasizes recreational goals and facilities in favor of natural resource values. There would be less active management of recreational resources and facilities than under the other alternatives. Alternative C emphasizes tighter controls on motorized recreation. The key components of this alternative include potentially decreasing the level of houseboat use and minimizing development of recreation areas in Rural Natural and Rural Developed Management Areas, in addition to relocating the equestrian staging area. New trails would not be developed unless needed to protect sensitive species and habitats. Access to caves and rock climbing routes would also be restricted to protect

unique and special species habitats. This alternative would allow the use of chemical, biological, and mechanical controls to help eradicate invasive species. WROS categories would change slightly, to less developed uses (Table 2-1).

Physical Resources

Under Alternative C, Reclamation would require mandatory compliance with boat and visitor noise regulations. Measures would be implemented to control access to caves. To protect water resources, the Integrated Pest Management Plan for the New Melones Management Area would be implemented to allow the safe use of chemical invasive species control.

Natural Resources

Alternative C calls for a full baseline survey for serpentine special status plants for long-term planning. Like Alternative B, Reclamation would fully implement a project-wide Fire Management Plan. In addition, the PWMA Interim Management Plan would be fully implemented by adopting it in the New Melones RMP. The footprint of the Baseline Conservation Camp operations would be reduced and its water supply and waste treatment facilities would need to meet appropriate standards. Alternative C would require extra protection for spawning fish in the New Melones Lake Area, and restrictions would be placed on rock climbing to protect special status bat populations.

Lands, Transportation, and Access

Similar to Alternative A, Reclamation would manage the Westside Management Area with an emphasis on conservation. In appropriate areas, and with an approved permit and grazing plan, Reclamation may allow grazing and stock watering as a means to control invasive plant species and to reduce fire danger on Reclamation lands. Alternative C would call for a moderate amount of updating and modernizing of roads, access areas, and facilities.

Cultural and Social Resources

Alternative C would move the New Melones Archaeological Storage Facility to a site outside the PWMA and to a site that meets modern standards for an archaeological collections storage facility.

Recreation

Under Alternative C, Reclamation would develop and implement a long-term strategy for managing hunting as visitation and urban development increase. Reclamation would also expand environmental constraints on recreation activities. The existing amount of public boat mooring and storage would be maintained, and future development in both Rural Natural and Rural Developed Management Areas would be minimized. Additional lake zones would be added to encourage environmental protection and facilitate some increased use of the lake. Further, Reclamation would decrease the level of houseboat use on New Melones Lake, in accordance with an updated carrying capacity. Development of additional trails would be limited, with a focus on maintaining trails for hiking use. As in Alternative B, an Interpretive Master Plan would be prepared and implemented.

2.6.5 Alternative D (Multiple Use)

Alternative D is intended to balance management of recreational uses and resources with management of natural and cultural resources. This alternative was developed by combining those aspects of Alternatives A, B, and C that provide the most balanced outcome for managing public lands within the New Melones Lake Area. This alternative incorporates many management objectives and actions from the first three alternatives and may include new management direction as necessary. This alternative also generally allows for more uses and active resource management than Alternative C but less than Alternative B. The key components of this alternative include allowing increased watercraft use, minimizing development of recreation areas in Rural Natural Areas and relocating the equestrian staging area. This alternative, like Alternatives B and C, would update land use allocations based on input from the public and results of the visitor use survey, WROS, and the commercial services plan. WROS categories would change slightly, to more developed uses (Table 2-1).

Physical Resources

Like Alternative A, Reclamation would seek voluntary compliance with boat and visitor noise regulations. Cave access would be managed to comply with federal law and meet health and safety requirements. To protect water resources, the use of pesticides and fertilizers would be allowed in accordance with the Integrated Pest Management Plan for the New Melones Lake Area.

Natural Resources

Alternative D calls for a full baseline survey for serpentine special status plants for long-term planning. Like Alternative B, Reclamation would fully implement a project-wide Fire Management Plan. In addition, the PWMA Interim Management Plan would be fully implemented by adopting it in the New Melones RMP. The Baseline Conservation Camp would continue to operate as it is currently operating, and existing facilities would be upgraded and/or replaced. Its water supply and waste treatment facilities would need to meet appropriate standards. Reclamation would continue monthly monitoring of special status bat populations and nearby rock climbing routes.

Lands, Transportation, and Access

Similar to Alternative A, Reclamation would manage the Westside Management Area with an emphasis on conservation. In appropriate areas, and with an approved permit and grazing plan, Reclamation may allow grazing and stock watering as a means to control invasive plant species and to reduce fire danger on Reclamation lands. Alternative D would call for a moderate amount of updating and modernizing of roads, access areas, and facilities. In addition, Reclamation would reopen Old Parrotts Ferry Road and/or Melones Recreation Area with updated facilities, if feasible.

Cultural and Social Resources

Alternative D would move the New Melones Archaeological Storage Facility to a site outside the PWMA and to a site that meets modern standards for an archaeological collections storage facility.

Recreation

Under Alternative D, Reclamation would develop and implement a long-term strategy for managing hunting as visitation and urban development increase. Reclamation would also expand environmental constraints on recreation activities. The need for additional boat storage would be assessed, and additional lake zones would be added to encourage environmental protection and facilitate increased use of the lake. Future development in Rural Natural Management Areas would be minimized, but development in Rural Developed Management Areas would be expanded. Reclamation would allow for an increased level of watercraft use. Trail improvements would focus on allowing a diversity of uses. As in Alternative B, an Interpretive Master Plan would be prepared and implemented.

3. Comparison of Alternatives

3.1 How to Read This Chapter

This chapter presents Table 3-1, which details management goals and actions for each alternative. Table 3-1 is a comparison of the alternatives and shows details of the management guidance for each alternative. The table is organized into resource and use categories.

If acreages and other numbers were used in the alternatives, they are approximate and serve for comparison and analytic purposes only. Acreages are only estimates, based on the most current available data. Readers should not infer that acreages reflect exact measurements or precise calculations.

3.1.1 Alternative Terms and Definitions

The following terms are used throughout the alternatives and are defined here to provide content in Table 3-1:

No Ski Zone. Pulling or towing persons on an aquaplane are prohibited in this zone. This restriction applies to water skiing, wake boarding, towable rafts, or other line-towed devices. Wake and “teak surfing” are also prohibited. “Teak surfing” is performed by hanging on the swim platform (often made of teak wood) at the back of a boat while the boat is moving forward in slow motion. Often the swimmers will let go of the teak and body surf on the boat's wake.

No Wake Zone. Not allowed in this zone is high speed boating, which may produce a white water wake, and excessive wave action. Boat operation is restricted to five miles per hour or less in order to prevent excessive wave action.

Environmentally Sensitive Area. This area is zoned for no overnight use, no wake, no skiing, no excessive noise, and no mining.

No Overnight Mooring Zone. This zone prohibits shoreline tie-up, anchoring, or any other form of securing a vessel for the purpose of overnight occupancy, within ¼ mile of campgrounds, day use areas, launch ramps, and other designated areas.

No Boat Zone. Boats are not allowed within this designated zone.

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Table 3-1: New Melones Lake Resource Management Plan Alternatives

All Actions Organized by Resource

This table includes all the actions organized by resource category. When an action influenced multiple resources the action has been listed under the resource most affected by the action.

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Increased Use)	Alternative C (Conservation)	Alternative D (Multiple Use)
AIR QUALITY			
Goal: Comply with applicable air quality regulations to meet public health and safety requirements.			
Action AQ 1. Comply with applicable asbestos regulations regarding friable asbestos.			
Action AQ 2. Comply with smoke production limitations during period of poor air quality, for example, restrict sanctioned visitor fires and Reclamation use of fire during designated burn days.			
NOISE			
Goal 1: Comply with applicable noise regulations to meet public health and safety requirements.			
Goal 2: Manage noise at levels appropriate to the use of particular areas. (Zoning lake and campground policies).			
Action N 1A. Monitor and seek voluntary compliance with boat noise regulations.	Action N 1B. Same as Alternative A.	Action N 1C. Monitor and seek mandatory compliance with boat noise regulations.	Action N 1D. Same as Alternative A.
Action N 2A. Monitor and seek voluntary compliance with visitor noise regulations.	Action N 2B. Same as Alternative A.	Action N 2C. Monitor and seek mandatory compliance with visitor noise regulations.	Action N 2D. Same as Alternative A.
GEOLOGIC RESOURCES (Excluding Caves)			
Goal: Allow appropriate uses of geologic resources while protecting resource values (i.e., rock climbing, education, scientific research, soils, minerals, mining).			
Action GR 1. Restrict mining and material excavation within the study area and coordinate with adjacent landowners/managers to prevent degradation of Reclamation lands.			
Action GR 2. Continue closing old mine workings after conducting appropriate studies.			
Action GR 3. Review and comment on all proposed mining plans and reclamation plans that may affect the New Melones watershed.			
CAVES			
Goal 1: Comply with applicable cave management regulation, such as the 1988 Federal Cave Resources Protection Act.			
Goal 2: Protect cave formations and the sensitive resources within them.			
Action C 1. The cave inventory will be updated to identify and classify caves.			
Action C 2. A protection plan for caves with significant resource value or potential hazards will be implemented, as needed. Should funding become available, Reclamation may develop an updated cave management plan by coordinating with other agencies to strengthen and protect cave resources.			
Action C 3. As needed, manage recreation use to preserve cave resources, such as scenic qualities, fragile formations, cultural resources, and sensitive species.			
Action C 4A. Manage access to caves to comply with federal law and meet health and safety requirements.	Action C 4B. Expand access to caves while complying with federal law and meet health and safety requirements.	Action C 4C. Implement measures to control access to caves.	Action C 4D. Same as Alternative A.
Action C 5A. No similar action.	Action C 5B. Identify caves appropriate for interpretive opportunities. Provide cave tours led by Reclamation or a concessionaire for suitable caves.	Action C 5C. Close caves to interpretive activities. Protect caves for conservation.	Action C 5D. Same as Alternative B.
HYDROLOGY/WATER QUALITY			
Goal 1: Comply with applicable water quality regulations, such as the Clean Water Act.			
Goal 2: Conserve water resources and protect the water quality of those resources at New Melones Lake (management action, visitor use).			
Goal 3: Maintain the ecological health of aquatic habitats on New Melones Lake lands, for example riparian and wetlands.			

Action WR 1. In all Rural Developed and Rural Natural Management Areas, update minimum basic facilities, such as parking and restrooms which, among other standards, need to provide for public health and safety, water quality, and ecosystem protection.

Action WR 2. Coordinate management of shared watersheds with neighboring landowners and agencies to protect ecological health and water quality.

Action WR 3. Coordinate with and assist local and state agencies for possible water quality monitoring.

Action WR 4. Review environmental documents for projects within the watershed and provide comments to the lead agency on limiting increases in impervious surfaces, minimizing soil disturbances, and other water quality impacts.

Action WR 5. Design, operate, and maintain recreation area facilities to minimize water contamination and the loss of soils due to surface runoff.

Action WR 6. Where appropriate, design, operate, and maintain recreation area facilities to maximize water conservation.

Action WR 7. The number, extent, and adverse effect of stream crossings would be minimized when new roads, trails, or easements are designed. New stream crossings would be designed and existing crossings would be maintained to minimize disruption to riparian vegetation, to prevent alteration of stream flow regime, and to prevent initial and chronic sources of erosion and sedimentation.

Topic: Sanitation

Action WR 8. Waste treatment systems will continue to comply with applicable waste discharge requirements.

Action WR 9. Promote sound fish waste management through a combination of fish-cleaning facilities and public education.

Action WR 10. Implement industry standard BMPs, in addition to minimum basic facilities, to improve sanitation facilities and infrastructure and pollution prevention structures, such as lift stations, floating restrooms, and improved waste management facilities.

Action WR 11. Locate the restrooms in high-visibility areas to maximize use and minimize vandalism.

Action WR 12. Continue to operate and maintain floating restrooms at various locations on the lake.

Action WR 13. Locate permanent facilities above gross pool. Use concrete vault toilets or portables where facilities are needed below the gross pool.

Action WR 14. Ensure facilities below gross pool are pumped dry or removed before inundation.

Action WR 15. Continue to require houseboat operators to meet industry standards in regard to holding tanks. Require marina to provide sewage pump-out service to the public.

Action WR 16. Prohibit dumping of any kind on Reclamation lands and water.

Action WR 17A. Operate and maintain existing fish-cleaning stations.	Action WR 17B. Continue to operate and maintain the fish-cleaning stations and provide additional fish-cleaning stations closer to the boat launch area in the Tuttle town and Glory Hole Management Areas.	Action WR 17C. Modify the existing fish-cleaning stations to improve sanitation, and provide an adequate fish-cleaning station closer to the boat launch area in the Tuttle town and Glory Hole Management Areas.	Action WR 17D. Same as Alternative C.
Action WR 18A. Provide and maintain appropriate restroom facilities at existing high-use areas and as a part of all new development.	Action WR 18B. Provide and maintain appropriate restroom facilities, showers, recreation vehicle (RV) dump stations, and RV hookups at existing high-use areas and as a part of all new development. When water levels decrease, also provide temporary restroom facilities at lower elevations when appropriate.	Action WR 18C. Provide and maintain appropriate restroom facilities at existing high-use areas and as a part of all new development. When water levels decrease also provide temporary restroom facilities at lower elevations when appropriate.	Action WR 18D. Same as Alternative C.
Action WR 19A. Operate and maintain the sanitation facilities at Natural Bridges in the Coyote Creek Management Area with the current configuration where the sanitation facilities are distant from the location of most visitor use.	Action WR 19B. Install a sign that indicates that there are no toilets near Coyote Creek. Additional signs or a restroom facility closer to Natural Bridges would be installed, if feasible.	Action WR 19C. Install a sign that indicates that there are no toilets near Coyote Creek. Should funding become available, a composting toilet facility could be installed at Natural Bridges in the Coyote Creek Management Area, to accompany an existing facility.	Action WR 19D. Same as Alternative C.

Topic: Erosion

Action WR 20. Locate and design roads, trails, and access easements to follow the natural topography, minimizing steep slopes and the number of stream crossings.

Action WR 21. Avoid soil disturbance, to the extent possible, of areas that are particularly vulnerable to erosion and sediment loss.

Action WR 22. Confine all public vehicles to existing roadways and continue to enforce ban on Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) operation.

Action WR 23. Stabilize and construct water bars on all unpaved roads and trails to control erosion.

<p>Action WR 24. Prohibit discharge of sediment to any water body.</p> <p>Action WR 25. Identify areas where stormwater runoff from paved surfaces is concentrated and drains directly to water bodies; develop retention basins or other water quality control features for these areas.</p> <p>Action WR 26. Harden surfaces prone to erosion and subject to extensive visitor use through use of compacted aggregate, paving with asphalt or concrete, soil cement, or other hardening agent.</p> <p>Action WR 27. Promote stream bank and reservoir shoreline stability to encourage establishment of riparian vegetation.</p>			
<p>Action WR 28A. In Rural Developed Management Areas, continue closing former roadways to trailered boat launching, vehicle, and certain other uses when the facilities do not meet Reclamation standards for public health and safety, and to prevent erosion and protect water quality and natural and cultural resources.</p>	<p>Action WR 28B. If funding becomes available, in Rural Developed Management Areas, update and improve former roadways to be used as lake access points. Construct modern boat launch and support facilities that meet Reclamation standards, while minimizing erosion and water quality impacts.</p>	<p>Action WR 28C. In Rural Developed Management Areas, continue closing former roadways to trailered boat launching, vehicle, and certain other uses when the facilities do not meet Reclamation standards for public health and safety, and to prevent erosion and protect water quality and natural and cultural resources.</p> <p>Restrict or reduce vehicle use on roadways in Semi Primitive Management Areas and reduce vehicle operation on unimproved roadways in Rural Natural Management Areas.</p>	<p>Action WR 28D. If funding becomes available, in Rural Developed Management Areas, update and improve roads to Mark Twain, Parrott's Ferry, and Melones Recreation Areas, while minimizing erosion and water quality impacts.</p> <p>Restrict or reduce vehicle use on roadways in Semi Primitive Management Areas and reduce vehicle operation on unimproved roadways in Rural Natural Management Areas.</p> <p>Where appropriate, provide for dry camp (e.g., no fire rings, no piped water) opportunities at walk-in portions of Semi Primitive Management Areas and provide floating camp sites in Rural Natural Management Areas.</p>
<p>Topic: Contaminants</p>			
<p>Action WR 29. Comply with applicable hazard waste/materials (HazMat) regulations, including the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), such as storage, transfer, containment, and disposal of hazardous materials, such as oil, solvents, antifreeze, and paints. When appropriate, Reclamation staff, Reclamation contractors, and lessees of facilities at New Melones are encouraged to recycle these materials.</p> <p>Action WR 30. Respond to any hazardous waste problems discovered on Reclamation lands immediately to minimize water quality degradation, per RCRA and other applicable regulations.</p> <p>Action WR 31. Continue to require emergency spill plans for the marina and all other facilities that store fuels. Continue to require that these facilities have spill containment equipment.</p> <p>Action WR 32. Continue to require the marina to use automatic shutoff nozzles and promote the use of fuel/air separators on air vents or tank stems of inboard fuel tanks to reduce the amount of fuel spilled into surface waters during fueling of boats.</p> <p>Action WR 33. Restrict vehicle and vessel maintenance, repairs, and construction on Reclamation lands to designated areas.</p> <p>Action WR 34. Minimize development and disturbance on serpentine outcrops to control movement of asbestos fibers into water bodies.</p>			
<p>Action WR 35A. Surface runoff of pesticides and fertilizers from Reclamation lands shall be controlled through the use of the Integrated Pest Management Plan for the New Melones Lake Area.</p>	<p>Action WR 35B. Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Action WR 35C. Same as Alternative A, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use only mechanical or biological controls and target-specific herbicides to control invasive species, in accordance with the Integrated Pest Management Plan for the New Melones Lake Area. 	<p>Action WR 35D. Same as Alternative A, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use chemical, mechanical and biological methods of pest control, in accordance with the Integrated Pest Management Plan for New Melones Lake Area.
<p>VISUAL RESOURCES</p> <p>Goal: Manage Reclamation lands and activities to provide protection of the visual values and scenic quality of existing landscapes.</p>			
<p>Action VR 1. Continue to educate agencies and landowners on the negative impacts from certain land use activities on the visual quality of the study area.</p> <p>Action VR 2. Manage recreation impacts in Rural Natural Management Areas to preserve sensitive resources in their natural state and to maintain scenic qualities associated with these areas.</p> <p>Action VR 3. All facilities would be designed to blend in to the natural landscape through careful siting (for example, behind terrain, away from ridgelines, within vegetated areas), screening with appropriate native plant species, use of architectural design compatible with the applicable surroundings (including style, scale, texture, and colors) and avoiding the use of unpainted metallic surfaces, such as roof materials.</p> <p>Action VR 4. All Reclamation and concession signs will comply with the Reclamation sign manual.</p> <p>Action VR 5. Comment on plans and environmental documents for new major projects within the watershed to prevent potential adverse visual effects on Reclamation lands.</p>			

Action VR 6. Continue to implement and update the project-wide sign management plan.

Action VR 7. Design fuel breaks and firebreaks in a manner that minimizes impacts on aesthetic, visual, and scenic resources.

VEGETATION

Goal: Maintain and enhance native and unique plant communities.

Action V 1. Protect and promote native and unique plant communities for long-term sustainability and viability. These communities include oak woodlands, native perennial grasslands, wetlands, vernal pools, and plants associated with serpentine soils.

Action V 2. Minimize clearing or converting native plant communities caused by human activities.

Action V 3A. Continue to implement best management practices and standard operating procedures to reduce fire danger and respond to wildland fire.

Action V 3B. Implement the Fire Management Plan for the New Melones Lake Area (Appendix D), which includes using prescribed burning to achieve the following vegetation management goals, objectives, and benefits:

- Protect native habitats from conversion to nonnative habitats by returning fire to the landscape;
- Rejuvenate chaparral by reducing brush density and creating variable structure and age composition in chaparral communities;
- Remove build up of chaparral fuels to provide for propagation and rejuvenation of native plants in heavy brush areas;
- Rejuvenate oak woodland by curtailing brush encroachment;
- Prevent severe infestation of some invasive plant species; and
- Design fuel breaks and firebreaks in a manner that considers resource objectives for vegetation management and soil stabilization.

Action V 3C. Same as Alternative B.

Action V 3D. Same as Alternative B.

Action V 4. Continue to implement the Vegetation Management Plan.

Topic: Invasive Species (For more information, see Invasive Species Control, page 3-16).

Action V 5A. When appropriate, reseed degraded or impacted grassland and woodland habitats with native seed.

Action V 5B. When appropriate, reseed degraded or impacted grassland and woodland habitats with seed.

Action V 5C. Same as Alternative A.

Action V 5D. Same as Alternative A.

Action V 6A. Use of herbicides as a vegetation treatment option will be carefully examined, for potential impacts on water sources, wildlife habitat, and cultural/traditional uses.

Action V 6B. Same as Alternative A.

Action V 6C. Use target-specific herbicides, when used seasonally (late winter or early spring) and in conjunction with mechanical removal operations, to reduce infestations of invasive species.

Action V 6D. Use target-specific herbicides, when used seasonally (late winter or early spring) and in conjunction with mechanical removal operations and biological controls, to reduce infestations of invasive species.

Action V 7A. Continue to prevent severe invasions of exotics (such as yellow star thistle).

Action V 7B. Continue to prevent severe invasions of exotics (such as yellow star thistle) where inexpensive opportunities for control exist.

Action V 7C. Continue to prevent severe invasions of exotics (such as yellow star thistle) by restricting activities in areas prone to weed invasion and using mechanical and biological means of control.

Action V 7D. Same as Alternative A.

Topic: Native Plant Communities

Action V 8. Restore or enhance lost or degraded native communities, where appropriate and when opportunities exist, subject to limitation of increased cost of operation or maintenance.

Action V 9. Provide for public education on the ecology and cultural importance of native plant communities, such as oak woodland, native perennial grasslands, vernal pools, riparian areas and wetlands, and plants associated with serpentine soils.

Action V 10. Minimize disturbance detrimental to native plant communities, such as infrastructure development, extensive visitor use, clearing, or other human activity that might cause conversion of plant communities.

Action V 11. Preserve serpentine-based communities by performing a plant survey during project planning and, where possible, modify the proposed project to avoid occurrences of special status plants, such as *Chlorogalum grandiflora* and *Allium tuolumnense*.

Action V 12. When practical, avoid serpentine soils especially when an activity or visitor use may cause erosion or compaction that would degrade habitat values.

Action V 13. Survey and inventory New Melones Lake Area lands to establish baseline plant communities.

Action V 14A. No similar action.	Action V 14B. If feasible and in conjunction with Caltrans, manage a 66-acre parcel of land near the Peoria Wildlife Management Area for a possible oak tree mitigation area.	Action V 14C. Same as Alternative B.	Action V 14D. Same as Alternative B.
Action V 15A. Use existing population data on plant communities associated with serpentine soils for long-term planning.	Action V 15B. Same as Alternative A.	Action V 15C. Develop a full baseline survey of the populations of serpentine special status plants at New Melones Lake, such as <i>Chlorogalum grandiflora</i> and <i>Allium tuolumnense</i> . This survey could then be used for monitoring key plant populations and project planning.	Action V 15D. Same as Alternative C.

Topic: Wetlands

Action V 16. When practical, avoid wetland communities, such as riparian communities along streams, rivers, or shoreline, wet meadow communities, seeps, vernal pools, or other water-dependent community, especially when an activity or visitor use may cause erosion or compaction that would degrade habitat values.

Action V 17. Educate about the ecology and cultural importance of wetland vegetation communities, such as riparian areas, seeps, and vernal pools.

Action V 18. Protect, restore, or enhance degraded riparian communities where appropriate and when opportunities exist, subject to limitations of increased cost of operation or maintenance.

Action V 19. When possible, plan management activities that may impact wetlands for the dry season.

Action V 20. Promote stream bank and reservoir shoreline stability to encourage establishment of riparian vegetation.

Action V 21. Manage wetland communities to ensure no net loss of these habitats, in compliance with USACE and EPA policy.

FISH AND WILDLIFE

Goal 1: Manage for habitat quality to maintain or enhance biological diversity.

Goal 2: Manage vegetation in areas outside of fuel treatment project perimeters to retain sufficient wildlife cover.

Goal 3: Conserve sensitive wildlife habitats by minimizing disruption and loss.

Goal 4: Enhance wildlife habitat values, features, and diversity.

Goal 5: Restore wildlife habitat values of damaged areas through revegetation and restoration.

Action FW 1. Continue to operate within management guidelines for fish and wildlife resources from the 1976 Master Plan, as well as appropriate regulations and accepted standards for Reclamation.

Action FW 2. Fulfill mitigation requirements in the Peoria Wildlife Management Area.

Action FW 3. Document, conserve, and enhance habitat for fish and wildlife resources, where appropriate, and when opportunities exist that will not increase the cost of operation or maintenance.

Action FW 4. Leash or cage all domestic pets when on Reclamation lands.

Action FW 5. Develop and fund programs that improve habitat for wildlife within New Melones Lake Area. Such programs include the following:

- Protect, restore, and enhance wetlands, including vernal pools and drainages;
- Practice oak silviculture for hardwood-dependent species;
- Maintain snags and install nest boxes for cavity nesting birds, including wood ducks;
- Provide artificial nest structures for osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) to supplement nests subject to inundation; and
- Provide wildlife water facilities, such as quail guzzlers, similar to those constructed in the Peoria Mountain Wildlife Area.

Action FW 6. Prohibit release of any introduced species without permit from the CDFG or release of domestic animals onto Reclamation lands.

Action FW 7. Trespass grazing will be minimized by maintaining fence lines and posting signs. When trespass occurs, Reclamation will coordinate with local landowners and law enforcement to remove the animals.

Action FW 8. Throughout the New Melones Lake Area, allow hunting in accordance with applicable regulations, such as EO 13443, except where prohibited or restricted.

Action FW 9. The CDFG would be encouraged to monitor and enforce rules and regulations related to hunting and fishing.

Action FW 10. Continue to monitor New Melones lands for feral species, such as wild pigs, that may cause resource damage. If a feral animal population is confirmed, Reclamation will take action to control those populations using the methods described in the Integrated Pest Management Plan.

<p>Action FW 11A. Continue to use BMPs and standard operating procedures (SOPs) to reduce fire danger and respond to wildland fire.</p> <p>Implement prescribed fire techniques such as pile burning in late fall or early winter, in accordance with BMPs, to minimize erosion and fire hazard and to create wildlife habitat.</p>	<p>Action FW 11B. Implement the Fire Management Plan (Appendix D) by the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct fuel breaks by either mechanical means or prescribed burns that will increase access within Wildlife Management Areas, while continuing to provide wildlife habitat; • Conserve sensitive wildlife habitats by minimizing disruption and loss; • Enhance wildlife habitat values, features, and diversity; • Restore wildlife habitat values of damaged areas through revegetation and restoration; and • Design fuel breaks and firebreaks in a manner that minimizes impacts on ecological resources and consider resource objectives for wildlife habitat management. 	<p>Action FW 11C. Implement the Fire Management Plan (Appendix D) by the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design fuel breaks and firebreaks in a manner that minimizes impacts on ecological resources and consider resource objectives for wildlife habitat management; • Conserve sensitive wildlife habitats by minimizing disruption and loss; • Enhance wildlife habitat values, features, and diversity; • Restore wildlife habitat values of damaged areas through revegetation and restoration; • Time prescribed burns to occur when fuel moisture is at a level to permit burning that creates brush islands to improve wildlife habitat; and • Manage prescribed burns to protect and encourage growth for threatened species or species of concern within Wildlife Management Areas. 	<p>Action FW 11D. Implement the Fire Management Plan (Appendix D) by taking the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage vegetation in areas outside of fuel treatment project perimeters to retain sufficient wildlife cover; • Conserve sensitive wildlife habitats by minimizing disruption and loss; • Enhance wildlife habitat values, features, and diversity; • Restore wildlife habitat values of damaged areas through revegetation and restoration; • Design fuel breaks and firebreaks to minimize impacts on ecological resources and to consider resource objectives for wildlife habitat management; • Time prescribed burns to occur when fuel moisture is at a level to permit burning that creates brush islands to improve wildlife habitat; • Manage prescribed burns to protect and encourage growth for threatened species or species of concern within Wildlife Management Areas; and • Use low-severity prescribed fire to create fire breaks in wetland and riparian buffer areas.
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<p>Action FW 12A. Continue to implement wildlife management requirements included in the Baseline Conservation Camp lease by having the lessee perform the following actions in the Peoria Wildlife Management Area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devote 250 person-days per year for wildlife enhancement project; • Implement an annual operating plan that includes erosion control projects, tree planting, fire lines to protect wildlife area, and maintaining and constructing water impoundments; and • Restrict access of inmates and Forestry or Corrections staff beyond the camp-leased area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action FW 12B. Same as Alternative A. 	<p>Action FW 12C. Same as Alternative A, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide at least 40 hours of dozer and operator time each year to help develop water impoundments and maintain fire roads. 	<p>Action FW 12D. Same as Alternative A until the new lease is signed and in effect.</p>
<p>Action FW 13A. In the Peoria Wildlife Management Area, continue to implement Interim Management Plan by the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue year-round public vehicle use restrictions for resource protection; • Build designated trails, in accordance with the trail plan; • Close and restore unauthorized trails; • Encourage continued hiking and biking, along with other low impact recreation; • Implement Vegetation Management Plan; • Environmental interpretation; • Limit camping to group camping permitted by reservation only; • Reseed/restore unauthorized roads and impacted areas; • Continue to ban shooting and target practice; and • Allow hunting in accordance with applicable regulations, except where prohibited or restricted. 	<p>Action FW 13B. In the Peoria Wildlife Management Area, implement a modified version of the Interim Management Plan including the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrict public vehicle use from December 1 to May 1; • Develop and implement a trail plan; • Build designated trails, in accordance with the trail plan; • Implement Vegetation Management Plan; • Implement environmental interpretation; • Limit camping to groups permitted by reservation only; • Allow nonequestrian camping by hunters and such organizations as the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts by Special Use Permit and reservation; • Enhance wildlife watching opportunities; • Continue to ban shooting and target practice; and • Allow hunting in accordance with applicable regulations, except where prohibited or restricted. 	<p>Action FW 13C. In the Peoria Wildlife Management Area, implement a modified version of the Interim Management Plan, including the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibit public vehicle use year-round to protect resources; • Prohibit camping; • Close and restore unauthorized trails; • Implement the Vegetation Management Plan; • Reseed and restore unauthorized roads and impacted areas; • Continue to ban shooting and target practice; and • Allow hunting in accordance with applicable regulations, except where prohibited or restricted. 	<p>Action FW 13D. Fully implement the Interim Peoria Wildlife Management Plan as described in Alternative A, by adopting the interim plan in the New Melones Resource Management Plan, thereby integrating the preferred actions described in the Peoria Wildlife Interim Management Plan into the long-term management at New Melones.</p>
<p>Action FW 14A. For existing purposes and levels of use, continue to allow Baseline Conservation Camp to operate on the existing footprint with the existing water supply and water treatment facilities of the camp in the Peoria Wildlife Management Area.</p>	<p>Action FW 14B. Allow Baseline Conservation Camp to expand operations such as periodic fire camps and/or different uses of the facility than currently in place. The existing water supply and waste treatment facilities would be upgraded and expanded to meet appropriate standards.</p>	<p>Action FW 14C. Reduce the footprint of the operation of Baseline Conservation Camp within the Peoria Wildlife Management Area. In addition, the water supply and waste treatment system would need to meet appropriate standards.</p>	<p>Action FW 14D. Allow Baseline Conservation Camp to realign or expand the existing footprint and upgrade existing facilities, if needed, to accommodate updated uses. In addition, the water supply and waste treatment system would need to meet appropriate standards.</p>
<p>Topic: Fisheries</p> <p>NOTE: Reclamation will follow directives to provide water releases from New Melones Reservoir to maintain downstream water quality and fisheries. A revised plan of operations is under development and will supersede any interim measures. Reservoir operations and water releases are beyond the scope of the management of the New Melones Field Office, Central California Area Office (CCAO), or this resource management plan.</p>			

<p>Action FW 15. Continue to manage fisheries through an agreement with the CDFG.</p> <p>Action FW 16. Limit disturbance and intensive visitor use along perennial stream corridors and reservoir coves that maintain prime spawning, rearing, and adult residence area fisheries.</p> <p>Action FW 17. Minimize disturbance of habitat in perennial streams that support native fish.</p>			
<p>Action FW 18. Continue to enhance fish habitat by installing fish attractors, consisting of piles of logs and brush anchored to the ground.</p> <p>Action FW 19. Support efforts by volunteers and partners to rehabilitate and improve fisheries, fish habitat, and aquatic resources.</p> <p>Action FW 20. Prevent entrapment and death of fish within water impoundment facilities.</p> <p>Action FW 21. Except when snags present a safety hazard, continue to leave dead trees in the reservoir to provide fish habitat.</p>			
<p>Action FW 22A. Restrict and minimize disturbance of known trout spawning areas in Texas Charley Gulch.</p>	<p>Action FW 22B. Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Action FW 22C. Annually restrict and minimize disturbance on a rotational basis of known trout spawning areas located in Coyote Creek Cove, Angels Creek Cove, Carson Creek Cove, and Mormon Creek Cove as well as areas of the Stanislaus River downstream from the confluence of Rose Creek and the South Fork.</p>	<p>Action FW 22D. During spawning season, minimize disturbance of known trout spawning areas in Coyote Creek Cove, Angels Creek Cove, Carson Creek Cove, and Mormon Creek Cove, as well as areas of the Stanislaus River downstream of the confluence of Rose Creek and the South Fork.</p>
<p>Action FW 23A. Minimize disturbance of known warm water fish spawning areas, such as Black Bart Cove.</p>	<p>Action FW 23B. Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Action FW 23C. During spawning season, restrict and minimize disturbance in known warm water fish spawning areas, such as Black Bart Cove and Mark Twain.</p>	<p>Action FW 23D. Same as Alternative A.</p>
<p>SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES (Federally Endangered, Threatened, Proposed, Candidate Species, and Other Special Status Fauna and Flora)</p> <p>Goal 1: Manage habitat to contribute to the conservation of special status fish, wildlife and plant species.</p> <p>Goal 2: Manage public use and operations and maintenance to contribute to the conservation of special status fish, wildlife, and plant species.</p>			
<p>Action SSS 1A. Protect wildlife species and habitats legally listed or proposed for listing under the federal Endangered Species Act.</p>	<p>Action SSS 1B. Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Action SSS 1C. Conserve sensitive wildlife habitats, such as caves and riparian areas, by minimizing disruption and loss. In the Peoria Wildlife Management Area, continue to implement the Peoria Wildlife Management Plan and consider seasonal use restrictions when legally mandated to avoid impacts on sensitive habitats and species. For example restrict recreational uses during breeding periods for raptors and bats.</p>	<p>Action SSS 1D. Same as Alternative C.</p>
<p>Action SSS 2. In Rural Natural Management Areas, continue to minimize impacts on sensitive natural and cultural resources by maintaining dispersed visitor use.</p>			
<p>Topic: Raptors</p>			
<p>Action SSS 3A. Conduct semiannual inventories of eagles, ospreys, and other raptors.</p>	<p>Action SSS 3B. Conduct semiannual inventories of eagles, ospreys, and other raptors.</p> <p>Maintain, construct, or modify osprey platforms and other nesting structures, as needed.</p> <p>Use information gathered during the semiannual inventory to improve the Interpretive Program at New Melones by encouraging visitor participation in such activities as lakeside viewing and boat tours.</p>	<p>Action SSS 3C. Conduct semiannual inventories of eagles, ospreys, and other raptors.</p> <p>Minimize disturbance to nesting raptors by regulating public uses, visitor density, and visiting hours or other appropriate measures.</p> <p>Partner with other agencies to study the environmental effects on raptors, using data from the semiannual inventory.</p>	<p>Action SSS 3D. In addition to Alternative A, maintain, construct, or modify osprey platforms and other nesting structures, as needed.</p>
<p>Topic: Bats</p>			
<p>Action SSS 4. In the Peoria Wildlife Management Area, manage rock climbing use in accordance with federal regulations on natural and cultural resources.</p>			

<p>Action SSS 5A. During the habitation period, conduct monthly inventories of sensitive bat species, such as the mastiff bat, on the northwest slope of Table Mountain. Climbing routes in the area are monitored for effects on sensitive species.</p>	<p>Action SSS 5B. Same as Alternative A, including partnering with local spelunker organizations to determine cave locations where bats are nesting.</p>	<p>Action SSS 5C. Conduct bat surveys to determine bat population numbers and locations at Natural Bridges and other outlying areas.</p> <p>Conduct a study to determine the impacts of climbers on sensitive bat species.</p> <p>Restrict access to climbing routes near sensitive bat species caves during bat habitation periods.</p>	<p>Action SSS 5D. Same as Alternative A.</p>
<p>Action SSS 6A. As described in the Peoria Wildlife Management Plan, if impacts on sensitive species are identified, Reclamation would develop and implement a climbing management plan.</p>	<p>Action SSS 6B. Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Action SSS 6C. Develop and implement a climbing management plan that includes designated climbing routes and areas.</p>	<p>Action SSS 6D. Same as Alternative A.</p>

GENERAL LAND MANAGEMENT

- Goal 1: Manage Reclamation owned and managed lands in accordance with authorized project purposes and applicable laws and regulations.**
- Goal 2: Manage rights-of-way and right-of-use permits in accordance with authorized project purposes and applicable laws and regulations.**
- Goal 3: Minimize and consolidate right-of-way and easement grants on Reclamation lands; if granted, monitor and enforce for compliance with permit measures.**
- Goal 4: Reduce and eliminate encroachment onto or from New Melones Lake lands.**
- Goal 5: Provide, operate, and maintain facilities appropriate to the needs of Reclamation and the general public.**

Action LM 1. Continue the designation of the New Melones Lake Project as a Special Use Area, pursuant to 43 CFR, Part 423, for the protection of public health and safety, the protection and preservation of cultural and natural resources, the protection of environmental and scenic values, scientific research, the security of Reclamation facilities and the avoidance of conflict among visitor use activities. Reclamation has established schedules of visiting hours, public use limits, special uses and other conditions, restrictions and prohibitions on particular uses or activities. 43 CFR, Part 423 and subsequently established special use area regulations are used to maintain law and order and protect persons and property within the New Melones Lake Project.

Topic: Coordination

Action LM 2. Continue to encourage and support cooperative planning within the Stanislaus watershed among Reclamation, other affected federal, state, and local agencies, and the public.

Action LM 3. Review and participate in the development of regional plans on adjacent lands to ensure that land use decisions and activities are compatible with those at New Melones. Coordinate with the Tuolumne and Calaveras County Planning Departments to review and contribute to resource and land use plans that may affect the Stanislaus watershed.

Action LM 4. Coordinate with applicable agencies (such as Tuolumne County, BLM, USFWS, and CDFG) and appropriate private entities to develop measures to protect and preserve the ecological and cultural values at New Melones Lake. Measures would address such issues as access, land acquisition and disposal, recreational shooting, and the potential disturbance of vegetation, soils, and geologic features.

Action LM 5. Coordinate with applicable entities (such as Pacific Gas and Electric, Calaveras County Water Agency, Calaveras County, BLM, USFWS, and CDFG) and appropriate private entities to develop measures to maintain effective management and decrease negative activities along Camp Nine Road. Measures would address issues such as safety, access, recreational shooting, and the potential disturbance of vegetation, soils, and geologic features.

<p>Action LM 6A. Continue to implement wildlife management requirements included in the Baseline Conservation Camp lease by having the lessee perform the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide fire suppression services for Reclamation lands at the New Melones Lake Area; • Provide crew assistance with project maintenance; • Develop an annual work plan identifying projects to be accomplished each year; • Use crews to maintain fire protection around facilities and infrastructure; and • Restrict access of inmates and forestry/corrections staff beyond leased area. 	<p>Action LM 6B. Continue to implement wildlife management requirements included in the Baseline Conservation Camp lease by having the lessee perform the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide fire suppression services for Reclamation lands at the New Melones Lake Area; • Provide crew assistance with project maintenance; • Develop an annual work plan identifying projects to be accomplished each year; • Use crews to maintain fire protection around facilities and infrastructure; and • Restrict access of inmates and forestry/corrections staff beyond leased area. <p>If funding becomes available, move Baseline Conservation Camp to existing Equestrian Area away from the Stanislaus River area of the Peoria Wildlife Management Area.</p> <p>Restore open areas formerly used by Baseline Conservation Camp to natural habitat, leaving roads and specific facilities for future use.</p> <p>Allow a larger or different footprint for Baseline Conservation Camp if needed to accommodate updated facilities and uses.</p>	<p>Action LM 6C. Continue to implement wildlife management requirements included in the Baseline Conservation Camp lease by having the lessee perform the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide fire suppression services for Reclamation lands at the New Melones Lake Area; • Provide crew assistance with project maintenance; • Develop an annual work plan identifying projects to be accomplished each year; • Use crews to maintain fire protection around facilities and infrastructure; and • Restrict access of inmates and forestry/corrections staff beyond leased area. <p>If funding becomes available, move Baseline Conservation Camp to existing Equestrian Area away from the Stanislaus River area of the Peoria Wildlife Management Area.</p> <p>Restore open areas formerly used by Baseline Conservation Camp to natural habitat, leaving roads and specific facilities for future use.</p> <p>Remove Baseline Conservation Camp lease area from the Peoria Wildlife Management Area, offsetting with equivalent or more acreage for wildlife mitigation adjacent to the Peoria Wildlife Management Area in other areas.</p>	<p>Action LM 6D. Continue to implement wildlife management requirements included in the Baseline Conservation Camp lease by having the lessee perform the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide fire suppression services for Reclamation lands at the New Melones Lake Area; • Provide crew assistance with project maintenance; • Develop an annual work plan identifying projects to be accomplished each year; • Use crews to maintain fire protection around facilities and infrastructure; and • Restrict access of inmates and forestry/corrections staff beyond leased area. <p>If funding becomes available, move Baseline Conservation Camp to existing Equestrian Area away from the Stanislaus River area of the Peoria Wildlife Management Area.</p> <p>Restore open areas formerly used by Baseline Conservation Camp to natural habitat, leaving roads and specific facilities for future use.</p> <p>Allow a larger or different footprint for Baseline Conservation Camp if needed to accommodate updated facilities and uses.</p> <p>Change the boundaries of the Peoria Wildlife Management Area to exclude the Baseline Conservation Camp lease area, offsetting with equivalent or more acreage for wildlife mitigation adjacent to the Peoria Wildlife Management Area in other areas.</p>
<p>Topics: Rights of Use</p>			
<p>Action LM 7A. Continue to assess how lands contained within the New Melones Lake Area are being effectively used for project purposes.</p> <p>Maintenance of right-of-way utility crossings will be coordinated with Reclamation before any land or vegetation is altered.</p>	<p>Action LM 7B. Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Action LM 7C. In addition to Alternative A, avoid or minimize future easements and rights-of-way over Reclamation lands. As a condition of approval, new easements (e.g., roadways, electrical transmission lines, pipelines, structures, and facilities) must adhere to applicable guidelines to avoid potential operational and resource impacts.</p>	<p>Action LM 7D. Same as Alternative C.</p>
<p>Action LM 8. Continue to prohibit certain activities on federal land without a permit as per 43 CFR, Part 423, such as livestock grazing, OHV operation, and construction.</p>			
<p>Action LM 9A. Continue Reclamation's efforts to eliminate unpermitted grazing and water access on lands under its jurisdiction.</p>	<p>Action LM 9B. Continue Reclamation's efforts to eliminate unpermitted grazing and water access on lands under its jurisdiction. In appropriate areas, and with an approved permit and grazing plan, Reclamation may allow grazing and stock watering as a means to control invasive plant species and to reduce fire danger.</p>	<p>Action LM 9C. Same as Alternative B.</p>	<p>Action LM 9D. Same as Alternative B.</p>

Topic: Trespass and Unauthorized Use			
<p>Action LM 10. Continue to enforce regulations related to trespass onto, or the unauthorized use of, the land and water under Reclamation's jurisdiction. Trespass and unauthorized use deprives the public of its rightful use and enjoyment of the public lands. It is the general policy of Reclamation to facilitate and ensure the proper use of land resources. Benefits to the public as a whole resulting from nonexclusive uses of federal lands is the primary management emphasis.</p> <p>Action LM 11. Continue to implement a program to periodically patrol areas where unpermitted grazing or water access occurs, as well as areas where off-road vehicles are known to be used.</p> <p>Action LM 12. Pursue cooperation aimed at preventing unauthorized use and trespass by continuing to implement a program of public information, education, and contact (for example, through signs, pamphlets, maps, and public notices). Inform neighboring landowners and appropriate local, state, and federal agencies of changes to the boundaries of Reclamation-managed lands.</p>			
<p>Action LM 13A. Continue to enforce Reclamation's off-road vehicles policy and regulation, which states that all Reclamation lands are closed to off-road vehicles, except for those areas specifically designated for such use (43 CFR, Part 420). No off-road vehicles are allowed at New Melones Lake; vehicles must remain on paved or other specified hard surface roads. In accordance with 43 CFR, Part 420, vehicular access for fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicles and those used for officially designated purposes is allowed.</p>	<p>Action LM 13B. Continue to enforce Reclamation's off-road vehicles policy and regulation, which states that all Reclamation lands are closed to off-road vehicles, except for those areas specifically designated for such use (43 CFR, Part 420).</p> <p>Enter into a managing partner or concession agreement to construct facilities and operate an OHV park. Locations to be considered may include Peoria Wildlife Management Area, Westside, Bowie Flat, Greenhorn Creek, French Flat, and Bear Creek Management Areas (See Action R 36B).</p>	<p>Action LM 13C. Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Action LM 13D. Same as Alternative A.</p>
<p>Action LM 14. Resolve land ownership and jurisdictional uncertainties with other agencies when discrepancies are identified.</p>			
<p>Action LM 15A. Using the existing land use allocation map in the Master Plan, manage land and water in the New Melones Lake Area.</p>	<p>Action LM 15B. Reclamation will not use the existing land use allocation map in the 1976 Master Plan to manage land and water in the New Melones Lake Area.</p> <p>Update land use allocation at New Melones Lake, as described in Table 2-1: Land Use, to reflect updated information, currently used management areas, and potential management from such sources as the WROS, carrying capacity study, and commercial services plan (Land Capability, per the 1976 Master Plan, page 45).</p>	<p>Action LM 15C. Same as Alternative B.</p>	<p>Action LM 15D. Same as Alternative B.</p>
<p>Action LM 16. Perform repairs/alterations on existing facilities necessary to comply with accessibility and public health and safety standards, such as the accessibility action plan.</p> <p>Action LM 17. In both Rural Developed and Rural Natural Management Areas, update minimum basic facilities and minimal facilities (expanded), such as parking and sanitation facilities, which, among other standards, need to protect public health and safety and protect water quality.</p> <p>Action LM 18. Unless otherwise specified, continue to operate and maintain current facilities and continue existing uses in all management areas. See Chapter 5 for description of facilities and uses.</p>			
<p>Action LM 19A. Continue closure of overlook facilities (parking, restroom, picnic area) at Peoria Flat.</p>	<p>Action LM 19B. If public health and safety and security concerns can be addressed, reopen the overlook facilities at Peoria Flat. Explore the possibility of finding a managing partner for the overlook and its facilities.</p>	<p>Action LM 19C. Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Action LM 19D. Continue closure of overlook facilities as in Alternative A. Allow public access to the overlook facilities at Peoria Flat through guided tours with Reclamation.</p>
Topic: Utilities			
<p>Action LM 20. Forecast and plan for updating systems to coincide with future demands and regulatory requirements.</p> <p>Action LM 21. Conduct periodic review of utilities, maintain a long-term plan for maintenance, replacement, and updating of systems, and seek funding to address deferred maintenance of utilities.</p>			
ACCESS AND TRANSPORTATION			
Goal: Manage travel, roads, and trails to provide safe access, minimize resource impacts and provide for multiple use recreation opportunities within the planning area.			
Topic: Access			

<p>Action TA 1. Continue the designation of the New Melones Lake Project as a Special Use Area, pursuant to 43 CFR, Part 423, which states that areas within the Special Use Area will remain open unless closed by Reclamation. Closure of federal lands under 43 CFR, Part 423 includes publication of a notice in the Federal Register and in the local press.</p> <p>Action TA 2. Continue to restrict public access to, and enforce a no trespassing zone in, the New Melones Dam and Spillway Management Area, which includes the New Melones power plant and outlet works, Stanislaus River downstream to buoy line, the Visitor Overlook, and area leased to the California Division of Forestry for Baseline Conservation Camp. To protect public health and safety, these areas are closed to public vehicles, hunting, and fishing.</p> <p>Action TA 3. Manage access to caves in the Camp Nine, Coyote Creek, and Stanislaus River Canyon Management Areas to comply with federal law and meet health and safety, as well as to minimize adverse impacts on cave organisms, microclimate, and paleontological resources.</p>			
<p>Action TA 4A. The following areas are closed to public vehicles, unless the current Closure Notice is changed (see page E-9): Old Parrotts Ferry Road, Peoria Wildlife Management Area, Melones Recreation Area, French Flat Recreation Area, Bear Creek Recreation Area, as well as the Westside, Bowie Flat, Greenhorn Creek, Carson Hill, Dam and Spillway, and Stanislaus River Canyon Management Areas.</p>	<p>Action TA 4B. The same areas would be closed to public vehicles as under Alternative A, unless the current Closure Notice is changed (see page E-9). Possible changes to these closures include opening the Peoria Wildlife Management Area to vehicular access from May 2 through November 30, and reopening Old Parrotts Ferry Road and Melones Recreation Area with updated facilities, if feasible.</p>	<p>Action TA 4C. Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Action TA 4D. The same areas would be closed to public vehicles as under Alternative A, unless the current Closure Notice is changed (see page E-9). A possible change to these closures is reopening Old Parrotts Ferry Road as a lake access point, if feasible.</p>
<p>Action TA 5A. Operate and maintain substandard lake access routes and associated facilities in Glory Hole, Tuttletown, Mark Twain, Camp Nine, Parrotts Ferry, and Stanislaus River Canyon Management Areas. When warranted, restrict access to these limited facilities.</p>	<p>Action TA 5B. Operate and maintain lake access routes and associated facilities at Glory Hole and Tuttletown Management Areas. Update and modernize lake access routes and associated facilities in the Mark Twain, Camp Nine, and Parrotts Ferry Management Area to meet requirements for minimum basic facilities, unless a nonfederal cost-sharing partnership or contractual agreement provides for additional improvements.</p>	<p>Action TA 5C. Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Action TA 5D. Same as Alternative B.</p>
<p>Topic: Roads</p>			
<p>Action TA 6. Operate and maintain roads and parking facilities in accordance with appropriate regulations and guidelines on Reclamation property and for access to the New Melones Lake Area.</p> <p>Action TA 7. Reclamation will continue to operate and maintain a system of recreation area access roads within the influence of the reservoir, which will be maintained as fluctuating water levels permit. Generally these roads above gross pool in the main lake area will be paved, while roads below gross pool will have a stabilized aggregate surface.</p> <p>Action TA 8. Continue to implement and update the project-wide sign management plan.</p>			
<p>Action TA 9A. Operate and maintain existing substandard lake access routes and associated facilities at Camp Nine Management Area. When warranted, restrict access to substandard facilities, per 43 CFR, Part 423, to meet health and safety standards for roads at Camp Nine Management Area.</p>	<p>Action TA 9B. Where appropriate, improve Camp Nine Road for safe vehicle ingress and egress from Camp Nine Management Area.</p>	<p>Action TA 9C. Same as Alternative B.</p>	<p>Action TA 9D. Same as Alternative B.</p>
<p>Action TA 10A. Operate and maintain existing substandard lake access routes and associated facilities at Coyote Creek Management Area. When warranted, restrict access to substandard facilities, per 43 CFR, Part 423, to meet health and safety standards for parking and roads at Coyote Creek Management Area.</p>	<p>Action TA 10B. Where appropriate, update and modernize the access road and parking for safe vehicle access and egress onto Parrotts Ferry Road in the Coyote Creek Management Area at Natural Bridges.</p>	<p>Action TA 10C. Same as Alternative B.</p>	<p>Action TA 10D. Same as Alternative B.</p>

<p>Action TA 11A. Operate and maintain roads to appropriate regulations and guidelines on Reclamation property and for access to the New Melones Lake Area.</p>	<p>Action TA 11B. Where appropriate, implement road maintenance agreements on management of Reclamation roads, such as along Glory Hole Road/Whittle Ranch Road.</p> <p>Where feasible, obtain access to landlocked Reclamation property, such as Bowie Flat, Skunk Gulch, Grapevine Gulch, and Melones Recreation Area. Where no road exists, construct a road that meets Reclamation standards and is suitable for management of the area.</p>	<p>Action TA 11C. Where appropriate, implement road maintenance agreements for management of Reclamation roads, such as along Glory Hole Road/Whittle Ranch Road.</p>	<p>Action TA 11D. Where appropriate, implement road maintenance agreements for management of Reclamation roads, such as along Glory Hole Road/Whittle Ranch Road.</p> <p>Where feasible, obtain easements or purchase fee titles to access landlocked Reclamation property, such as Bowie Flat, Skunk Gulch, Grapevine Gulch, and Melones Recreation Area. Where no road exists, construct a road that meets Reclamation standards and is suitable for management of the area.</p>
<p>Topic: Aircraft</p>			
<p>Action TA 12A. Continue to implement the existing New Melones seaplane policy and comply with 43 CFR, Part 423, which includes restrictions on commercial operation of seaplanes and designates appropriate landing zones and operations (see Figure 3-1).</p>	<p>Action TA 12B. Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Action TA 12C. Restrict access to New Melones Lake for seaplane activities.</p>	<p>Action TA 12D. Same as Alternative A.</p>
<p>Action TA 13A. Monitor aircraft for compliance with appropriate regulations, such as 43 CFR, Part 423, and report airplane -related problems on New Melones Lake to the Federal Aviation Administration, as needed. Reclamation reports aircraft that are too near infrastructure and when there are near misses between seaplanes and boats.</p>	<p>Action TA 13B. Prepare and implement a strategy to address adverse overflight activities. The strategy may include a range of actions, from increased education and communication with aviators, county airport personnel, and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), to requesting that the FAA restrict airspace over New Melones Lake Area to protect public safety and critical infrastructure. Exclusions would apply to fire fighting, emergency, and military air operations.</p>	<p>Action TA 13C. Increase and enforce designated no-fly zones near critical infrastructure for all aircraft except fire fighting, emergency, and military air operations.</p>	<p>Action TA 13D. Same as Alternative B.</p>
<p>Topic: Westside and Bowie Flat Management Areas</p>			
<p>Action TA 14A. Continue to manage the lands in the Westside and Bowie Flat Management Areas for project purposes. The Master Plan land use allocation was Recreation Low Density and Lands Excess to the Project Needs; this area was not included in any designated recreation area. The WROS designation is Rural Natural, and the facilities within this area include several fire roads. Public access to this area is via boat from New Melones Lake.</p>	<p>Action TA 14B. Develop an access road to the Westside through an appropriate route to an appropriate destination for the development and management of recreation facilities by a managing partner or contractor, if feasible, and in keeping with Reclamation's mission.</p>	<p>Action TA 14C. Allow access to the Westside for beneficial dispersed recreation via hiking or boat.</p>	<p>Action TA 14D. Allow access to the Westside for beneficial dispersed recreation by way of hiking, biking, and horseback riding via connecting trails in the Greenhorn Creek Management Area or by boat. Should vehicle access be needed for recreation use or other project purposes, transportation routes may be considered.</p>
<p>Action TA 15A. Continue to assess how lands contained within the New Melones Lake Area are being effectively utilized for project purposes.</p>	<p>Action TA 15B. If lands no longer serve project purposes, update management of those lands such as disposal of those lands or transfer of those lands.</p>	<p>Action TA 15C. Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Action TA 15D. Same as Alternative A.</p>
<p>Action TA 16A. Operate and maintain the existing fire road and trail system in Glory Hole, Greenhorn Creek, and Westside Management Areas.</p>	<p>Action TA 16B. Optimize the connectivity between the existing fire road and trail system for a variety of uses, such as mountain biking, equestrian use (outside of existing Rural Developed Management Areas), and hikers in Glory Hole, Greenhorn Creek, and Westside Management Areas. Develop new trailheads to access the Greenhorn Creek and Westside areas.</p>	<p>Action TA 16C. Optimize the connectivity between the existing fire road and trail system for use by hikers in Glory Hole, Greenhorn Creek, and Westside Management Areas.</p>	<p>Action TA 16D. Same as Alternative B.</p>

<p>Action TA 17A. Continue to manage the land at Bowie Flat Management Area for project purposes, with an emphasis on conservation.</p>	<p>Action TA 17B. Increase the use of the Bowie Flat Management Area to allow for multiuse trails (hiking, biking, equestrian) and a trailhead staging area and permit dry camping if suitable vehicle access is available. Possible special use activities could also be considered for this area should vehicles be allowed.</p>	<p>Action TA 17C. Use the Bowie Flat Management Area of recreation trails for hiking and equestrian use. Permit dry camping without additional vehicle access.</p>	<p>Action TA 17D. Same as Alternative B.</p>
<p>PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY Goal 1: Comply with applicable regulations to protect public health and safety. Goal 2: Comply with applicable health and safety requirements for Reclamation staff and representatives. Goal 3: Maintain a safe and healthy environment for employees and the public.</p>			
<p>Action PHS 1. Provide staff levels and funding levels commensurate with recreation visitation in order to maintain the level and quality of services expected by the visitors to New Melones.</p> <p>Action PHS 2. Project specific safety plans are formulated by Reclamation or its agent for individual operations and maintenance projects. These plans would help staff recognize and address safety issues. In these plans, project personnel will identify precautionary measures to prevent accidents from common recurring hazards or unsafe conditions.</p> <p>Action PHS 3. Continue using park rangers to help prevent some unacceptable public behavior and increase visitor awareness through ranger interaction with the public. By patrolling New Melones, rangers can identify and report unacceptable behavior, be a visible presence on the land and water, and educate the public on a case-by-case basis on policies, rules, and regulations that apply at New Melones Lake.</p> <p>Action PHS 4. In support of primary emergency services, rangers provide first response for medical, hazardous materials, search and rescue, and other emergencies at New Melones Lake.</p> <p>Action PHS 5. Continue to develop appropriate educational opportunities on water, boating safety, and general boating etiquette. In addition, educate boaters on a case-by-case basis by monitoring boating activities and seeking voluntary compliance with federal and state laws and regulations. Establish a partnership with the Coast Guard Auxiliary to help with boater education.</p> <p>Action PHS 6. Where necessary, ensure adequate closure of unsafe or potentially hazardous areas (e.g., caves, old mine shafts, exposed steep areas, and high fire hazards areas) in compliance with closure procedures in 43 CFR, Part 423.</p> <p>Action PHS 7. Continue to mark the tops of intermittent islands, large rock outcroppings, or other aquatic hazards with warning buoys as per the New Melones Lake Waterway Hazard Marking Plan.</p> <p>Action PHS 8. Continue to coordinate response to health and safety issues with local, state, federal entities. Continue communications with representatives from Reclamation, BLM, USFWS, CDFG, Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties, and others to share information and work cooperatively on public safety issues. This includes improving communication capability in remote areas such as Camp Nine Management Area.</p> <p>Action PHS 9. Encourage Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties, CDFG, and BLM to monitor ongoing and reclaimed mining operations for compliance with permitting criteria.</p>			
<p>Action PHS 10A. Unless expressly prohibited, hunting is allowed on Reclamation lands or waters, except within 150 yards (135 meters) of any designated recreation area, facility, campground, day use area, boat ramp, parking area, neighboring residence, or within 150 yards (135 meters) of Camp Nine's two power plants (see Figure 3-7).</p>	<p>Action PHS 10B. Unless expressly prohibited, shotgun-only hunting is allowed on Reclamation lands or waters, except within 150 yards (135 meters) of any designated recreation area, facility, campground, day use area, boat ramp, parking area, neighboring residence, or within 150 yards (135 meters) of Camp Nine's two power plants (see Figure 3-7).</p>	<p>Action PHS 10C. To protect health and promote safety, develop and implement a long-term strategy for managing hunting as visitation and urban development increase. This policy may include restrictions to meet management goals, such as compliance with California Fish and Game code, as well as other applicable regulations, such as EO 13443 (see Figure 3-7).</p>	<p>Action PHS 10D. To protect health and promote safety, develop and implement a long-term strategy for managing shotgun-only hunting as visitation and urban development increase. This policy may include restrictions to meet management goals, such as compliance with California Fish and Game code, as well as other applicable regulations, such as EO 13443 (see Figures 3-6 and 3-8).</p>
<p>Action PHS 11A. Inform visitors of fire activity in the area, including suppression and prescribed burns, through personal contact, announcements, signs, and news articles.</p>	<p>Action PHS 11B. Continue to implement a project-wide Fire Management Plan and Integrated Pest Management Plan (Appendix D). These plans include procedures for notifying the public and local, state, and federal agencies of fire activity in the area, including suppression and prescribed burns.</p>	<p>Action PHS 11C. Same as Alternative B.</p>	<p>Action PHS 11D. Same as Alternative B.</p>
<p>Topic: Law Enforcement</p>			
<p>Action PHS 12. Address illegal activities in all management areas through continued law enforcement presence, management controls such as gates and visiting hours, signs, and education.</p> <p>Action PHS 13. Continue to implement a long-term strategy for effective law enforcement at New Melones Lake by cooperating with local, state, and federal agencies.</p> <p>Action PHS 14. Continue working relationships and oversee contracts with Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties to provide law enforcement services. Work to increase law enforcement presence through patrols, public affairs, and other feasible means.</p> <p>Action PHS 15. Develop a strong partnership with CDFG to increase communication, leading to more effective enforcement of the appropriate regulations under the Clean Water Act and the Fish and Game Code of California. Encourage CDFG to enforce laws and regulations related to gold dredging.</p>			

<p>Action PHS 16A. Continue the existing working relationships and contracts with Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties to provide law enforcement services, which are based on patrols and dispatch from the respective county sheriff station.</p>	<p>Action PHS 16B. As part of the working relationships with Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties, explore the feasibility of siting a sheriff substation with lake access to each county, which would decrease the response time for a sheriff to respond to disturbances in the New Melones Lake Area.</p>	<p>Action PHS 16C. Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Action PHS 16D. Same as Alternative B.</p>
<p>INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL Goal: Prevent and control invasive species infestations using integrated pest management techniques.</p>			
<p>Action ISC 1A. Continue to use BMPs and SOPs to reduce fire danger and respond to wildland fire.</p>	<p>Action ISC 1B. Implement a project-wide Fire Management Plan targeting late spring or early summer burning to control or eliminate invasive plants such as yellow star-thistle (Appendix D).</p>	<p>Action ISC 1C. Implement a project-wide Fire Management Plan targeting late spring or early summer burning to control or eliminate invasive plants such as yellow star-thistle (Appendix D). Rehabilitate all burn areas to prevent infestation of invasive plant species.</p>	<p>Action ISC 1D. Implement a project-wide Fire Management Plan targeting late spring or early summer burning to control or eliminate invasive plants such as yellow star-thistle (Appendix D). Work with CAL FIRE and federal agencies to coordinate rehabilitation efforts on moderate to large fire areas to prevent invasive plant infestation.</p>
<p>Action ISC 2A. Use integrated pest management strategies that determine the acceptable level of pest populations rather than attempting to eradicate populations; apply pesticides only when necessary, considering alternative measures first or as a means of complementing pesticide application.</p>	<p>Action ISC 2B. Coordinate and share information on invasive species with the appropriate federal, state, and local agencies. Currently the Agricultural Departments of Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties track new types of pests and the severity of infestation within their respective counties.</p>	<p>Action ISC 2C. Evaluate all pest problems and previous pest control measures. Research newer practices and other measures available for effective invasive species control.</p>	<p>Action ISC 2D. When pesticide application is necessary for invasive species control, targeted chemicals will be used when available, such as Transline for thistle control. Work with Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties to monitor for invasive species infestations by trapping and other means.</p>
<p>Action ISC 3A. Continue to implement an Integrated Pest Management Plan that describes appropriate techniques for invasive species control (i.e., quagga/zebra mussels, yellow star thistle, New Zealand mud snail). These techniques include pesticide and herbicide application, grazing, fire, mechanical techniques, and biological control.</p>	<p>Action ISC 3B. Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Action ISC 3C. Continue to implement a portion of an Integrated Pest Management Plan that describes appropriate techniques for invasive species control (i.e., quagga/zebra mussels, yellow star thistle New Zealand mud snail). These techniques include grazing, fire, mechanical techniques, target-specific herbicides, and biological control.</p>	<p>Action ISC 3D. Same as Alternative A.</p>
<p>Action ISC 4A. All grazing leases within New Melones lands are now expired and have not been renewed. Continuance of grazing could be allowed with the development of approved grazing plans.</p>	<p>Action ISC 4B. On completing approved grazing plans, allow grazing in all areas permitable for this type of use except high-density recreation areas. Implement industry standard BMPs to protect water quality. This grazing could be used to control invasive species, to reduce the fire hazard, to increase the abundance of desired plant populations, and to generate revenue.</p>	<p>Action ISC 4C. On completing approved grazing plans, allow grazing in all areas permitable for this type of use except high density recreation areas. Implement industry standard BMPs to protect water quality. This grazing could be used to control invasive species, to reduce the fire hazard, and to increase the abundance of desired plant populations.</p>	<p>Action ISC 4D. On completing approved grazing plans, allow grazing in all areas permitable for this type of use except high density recreation areas. Implement industry standard BMPs to protect water quality. This grazing could be used to control invasive species, to reduce the fire hazard, and to increase the abundance of desired plant populations. Investigate and implement, if feasible, seasonal grazing of recreation areas to reduce grass growth for controlling invasive plant species and reducing fire hazards.</p>
<p>FIRE MANAGEMENT Goal 1: Comply with applicable fire protection regulations (state and local) and fulfill the requirements of the National Fire Plan for Reclamation. Goal 2: Suppress fires that threaten life, property, and public safety to achieve 100% protection of adjacent communities and resource/social values at risk from unwanted wildfire.</p>			
<p>Action FM 1A. Continue to implement project-wide BMPs to reduce fire danger and respond to wildland fire. The fire management measures currently implemented are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain defensible space and implement BMPs to ensure public health and safety. 	<p>Action FM 1B. Implement the project-wide Fire Management Plan (Appendix D). The additional measures for implementation include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide for immediate and effective fire response. 2. Post signs and gate main entry points to 	<p>Action FM 1C. Implement the project-wide Fire Management Plan (Appendix D). The additional measures for implementation include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fire suppression strategies will be tailored to address areas of significant constraints, including critical habitat for wildlife, threatened and endangered species, areas 	<p>Action FM 1D. Implement the project-wide Fire Management Plan (Appendix D). The additional measures for implementation include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use natural or manufactured barriers, such as roads, streams, ponds, and wetlands, to minimize the need for fire

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Project lands are within a USFS and CAL FIRE mutual aid zone, with CAL FIRE having responsibility for fire control. Fire prevention and suppression activities will be supervised and coordinated by CAL FIRE through the unit chief stationed at the Tuolumne/Calaveras Unit in San Andreas. 3. Maintain interagency agreements for fire prevention and suppression. 4. Minimize the bulldozing of fire lines in high erosion areas. If unavoidable, construct on contour or stabilize with water bars to control erosion. 5. Design fuel breaks and firebreaks to minimize impacts on aesthetic, scenic, and ecological resources, and to consider resource objectives for vegetation management, wildlife habitat management, soil stabilization public safety, ignition sources, and safety of firefighters. 6. Limit open campfires to designated overnight campgrounds and within provided fire rings and pedestal grills. 7. Maintain adequate grass and brush clearance next to roads and in recreation areas consistent with the Integrated Pest Management Plan and special status plant requirements. 8. Ensure that CAL FIRE-Tuolumne-Calaveras Ranger Unit has updated fire suppression information, including boundary maps and fire management units. 	<p>Reclamation lands. Signs will give the current fire danger warning status or the reason for site closure, if necessary, under extreme fire danger conditions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Fuel hazard reduction activities will be designed and implemented to maintain adequate grass and brush clearance directly adjacent to high use roads and in Reclamation recreation areas during the fire season, consistent with the Vegetation Management Plan for New Melones Lake objectives and special status plant requirements. 4. Design fuel breaks and firebreaks to minimize impacts on aesthetic, scenic, cultural, and ecological resources and to consider resource objectives for vegetation management, wildlife habitat management, soil stabilization public safety, ignition sources, and safety of firefighters. 5. Burned Area Stabilization and Emergency Response Plan will be followed and includes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considering nonpoint sources of pollution resulting from wildfire suppression and rehabilitation, while recognizing safety and operational priorities of fighting wildfires; • Consulting with staff archaeologist, botanist, wildlife biologist, and other staff specialists to evaluate fire and suppression operations effects and to determine if additional restoration is necessary; and • Rehabilitate burned areas with native plant species or other methods or activities necessary to stabilize soils and prevent unacceptable degradation of natural and cultural resources. 6. Meet resource, watershed, wetlands, wildlife, fisheries, cultural, and vegetation/fuels management goals and objectives through the appropriate use of fire and nonfire fuel treatments. Implement appropriate decisions, as identified in the final draft New Melones Fire Management Plan. 7. In prescriptions for burns, fire lines should be constructed on contour or stabilized with water bars or other appropriate techniques to control erosion, protect water quality, and prevent rolling fire brands. Prevent runoff from directly entering water bodies. 	<p>of soil instability, areas of other critical resource constraints (cultural), and where plant communities are at risk due to current conditions/times of year or other ecological constraints.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. To the extent practical, sensitive sites will be protected from damage by heavy mechanized equipment. 3. Design fuel breaks and firebreaks in a manner that minimizes impacts on aesthetic, scenic, cultural, and ecological resources and consider resource objectives for vegetation management, wildlife habitat management, soil stabilization public safety, ignition sources, and safety of firefighters. 4. Retain clumps of unmodified vegetation within fuel breaks to provide cover and food for wildlife. 5. Follow the Burned Area Stabilization and Emergency Response Plan including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considering nonpoint sources of pollution resulting from wildfire suppression and rehabilitation, while recognizing safety and operational priorities of fighting wildfires; • Consulting with staff archaeologist, botanist, wildlife biologist, and other staff specialists to evaluate fire and suppression operations effects and to determine if additional restoration is necessary; and • Rehabilitating burned areas with native plant species or other methods or activities necessary to stabilize soils and prevent unacceptable degradation of natural and cultural resources. 6. Use low-severity prescribed burns to establish fire breaks within wetland/riparian buffer zones. 7. Carefully plan burning to consider weather and fuel conditions that will help achieve the desired results, while minimizing water quality impacts. 8. Create fuel breaks with blended or feathered edges through selective thinning and by cutting indentations in brush to create bays. 9. Perform low-severity burning to create wildlife passage through heavy fuels. 10. Retain mature oaks for their wildlife benefits 	<p>line construction.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. In coordination with CAL FIRE, implement site closure procedures during periods of extreme fire danger according to the state fire warning system. 3. Post signs and gate main entry points to Reclamation lands. Signs will give the current fire danger warning status or the reason for site closure, if necessary, under extreme fire danger conditions. 4. Design fuel breaks and firebreaks to minimize impacts on aesthetic, scenic, cultural, and ecological resources and to consider resource objectives for vegetation management, wildlife habitat management, soil stabilization, public safety, ignition sources, and safety of firefighters. 5. Follow the Burned Area Stabilization and Emergency Response Plan, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considering nonpoint sources of pollution resulting from wildfire suppression and rehabilitation, while recognizing safety and operational priorities of fighting wildfires; • Consulting with staff archaeologist, botanist, wildlife biologist, and other staff specialists to evaluate fire and suppression operations effects and to determine if additional restoration is necessary; and • Rehabilitate burned areas with native plant species or other methods or activities necessary to stabilize soils and prevent unacceptable degradation of natural and cultural resources. 6. Meet resource, watershed, wetlands, wildlife, fisheries, cultural, and vegetation/fuels management goals and objectives through the appropriate use of fire and nonfire fuel treatments. Implement appropriate decisions, as identified in the final draft New Melones Fire Management Plan. 7. Retain mature oaks for their wildlife benefits and scenic qualities during fire management activities. 8. Use CAL FIRE, Baseline Conservation Camp crews and staff from other federal
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		<p>and scenic qualities during fire management activities.</p> <p>11. Partner with CAL FIRE, federal agencies, and local Fire Safe Councils to complete fuel breaks to aid in protecting both the cultural and natural resources, along with the wildlife habitat.</p>	<p>agencies on prescribed burns to improve firefighting skills, while increasing knowledge of the New Melones Project's terrain and unique weather patterns.</p> <p>9. Improve Shell Road for use as a fire road and fuel break.</p> <p>10. Construct a fuel break along the Westside from Peoria to Angels Creek to aid in protecting project lands from fire threat.</p>
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CULTURAL RESOURCES

Goal 1: Comply with all applicable cultural resources laws including the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and implementing regulations at 36 CFR, Part 800, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA), and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

Goal 2: Manage activities for the long-term preservation of cultural resources and, whenever feasible, design activities to avoid impacts to cultural resources eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Goal 3: Complete the process of nominating the New Melones Archaeological District to the NRHP.

Action CR 1. Reclamation will manage cultural resources in the New Melones Lake Area in accordance with Reclamation Policy and Directives and Standards for Cultural Resources Management and Museum Property Management, the Inadvertent Discovery of Human Remains on Reclamation Lands, Department of the Interior Departmental Manual 411, the NHPA, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA), the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 36 CFR, Part 800, 36 CFR, Part 60, 36 CFR, Part 79, and 43 CFR, Part 10.

Action CR 2. In all Rural Natural Management Areas, continue to minimize impacts on cultural resources by maintaining dispersed visitor use.

Action CR 3. Whenever possible, protect historic properties by avoidance through Reclamation's planning process.

Action CR 4. Complete electronic data base and GIS mapping of known cultural resources.

Action CR 5. Promote protection of cultural resources through visitor education and public outreach.

Action CR 6. Provide protective signs, educational printed handouts, interpretative programs, and ranger interface with the public to explain the values of cultural resources.

Action CR 7. Protect cultural resources through the use of protective fencing, coverings, and exclusion, as applicable.

Action CR 8. Protect cultural resources through ranger patrol.

Action CR 9. For site-specific projects, consider the effects on historic properties through implementation of the Section 106 process of the NHPA.

Action CR 10. Excavation of cultural resources will be permitted in accordance with the ARPA and the American Antiquities Act. Intentional removal of human remains under NAGPRA will require an ARPA permit.

Action CR 11. Permitting for cultural resources survey and excavation will be processed by Reclamation's Regional Office.

Action CR 12. When compatible with resource protection, interpret selected cultural resources for the education and enjoyment of the general public; give priority to sites within public use areas in proximity to special cultural features; and give special attention to public use areas being degraded through natural or human impacts.

Action CR 13. Produce scientifically accurate and culturally sensitive cultural resources displays and brochures.

Action CR 14. Continue to operate the visitor center and maintain cultural resources interpretive displays.

Action CR 15. Minimize publicity and access to sensitive cave locations; avoid constructing trails to caves and install gates where necessary for conservation purposes.

Action CR 16. Require permits and review for all research projects within and around cave resources.

Action CR 17. For all actions at New Melones Lake, if buried cultural resources, such as chipped or ground stone, historic debris, building foundations, or bone are discovered during ground-disturbing activities, all work in that area and within 100 feet (30 meters) of the find would be stopped immediately until a Reclamation archaeologist can assess the significance of the find and, if necessary, develop appropriate treatment and avoidance measures in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Action CR 18. Complete Section 106 before initiating any ground-disturbing actions under the Peoria Wildlife Mitigation Area Plan. No construction related to the Peoria Wildlife Mitigation Area Plan can be implemented until a Section 106 consultation is completed.

Action CR 19. In areas of known archaeological resources, protect sensitive cultural resources by using Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics and by coordinating with a cultural resource advisor during fire suppression activities. Such activities must be coordinated with Reclamation cultural resources staff.

Action CR 20. In emergency circumstances, where heavy equipment was employed without prior on-site coordination, Reclamation will conduct post-fire archaeological evaluations to assess and document equipment damage to cultural resources. Damage assessments and possible mitigation work may be required.			
Action CR 21A. In the Peoria Wildlife Management Area, continue operation of the noncompliant New Melones Archaeological Storage Facility near Baseline Conservation Camp. This facility does not meet modern standards for an archaeological collections storage facility.	Action CR 21B. Move the New Melones Archaeological Storage Facility to a site outside of the wildlife mitigation area in the Peoria Wildlife Management Area and construct a new building that meets modern standards for an archaeological collections storage facility. Operate and maintain this modern facility and the collections stored there in accordance with regulatory requirements.	Action CR 21C. Same as Alternative B.	Action CR 21D. Same as Alternative B.
SOCIOECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE			
Goal: While meeting Reclamations obligations and goals, provide opportunities that will result in economic benefits to the community.			
Action SE 1. Coordinate with local agencies to promote tourism within the region.			
Action SE 2. Comply with EO 12898 by identifying and addressing any disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects on low-income and minority populations.			
INDIAN TRUST ASSETS (ITAs)			
Goal: Continue to ensure that management actions will not negatively affect any tribal trust resources or assets by consulting with recognized tribal governments.			
Action ITA 1. Early in the planning process, consultation should be initiated with appropriate Indian Tribes/Nations and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) concerning potential ITAs. The initial contact with the Indian Tribes/Nations in the immediate area should be government-to-government in a face-to-face meeting, if possible. Coordination should also occur with Reclamation's Native American Affairs Office and the BIA to identify other Indian tribes/nations outside the immediate area that may be interested or affected.			
GENERAL RECREATION			
Goal 1: Provide for diverse recreation within Reclamation's authorities, to afford a safe and quality recreation experience consistent with natural and cultural resource management objectives.			
Goal 2: Achieve fair value for recreation.			
Goal 3: Ensure that concessions are planned, developed and managed to meet public needs, are compatible with the natural and cultural resources and provide a variety of services which are consistent with authorized project purposes.			
Action R 1. Develop a long-term strategy that maintains and, wherever appropriate, optimizes the diversity of recreation and level of service found at New Melones Lake.			
Action R 2. Meet visitor demand for specific recreation opportunities within the constraints of the existing infrastructure and while complying with existing applicable regulations, policies, laws, and funding.			
Action R 3. Continue to update recreation management, where it supports Reclamation's mission, to accommodate trends in demographics and recreation interests of the potential visitor to New Melones Lake.			
Action R 4. Recreation activities would be sufficiently varied to accommodate the diversity of potential visitors to New Melones Lake. Activities target different age groups, a range of ability levels, and a mix of cultures.			
Action R 5. When special events support Reclamation's mission, events such as fishing tournaments, triathlons, water-ski exhibitions, equestrian trail trials, special hunts, or cross-country sporting events, may be allowed by permit.			
Action R 6. Long-term and seasonal concessionaire agreements with private enterprises would be explored and, where appropriate, supported to achieve needed recreational support services, programs, and facilities and to disseminate Reclamation information.			
Action R 7A. Minimize conflicts and promote safety between recreational activities and users, by monitoring and seeking compliance with existing reservoir management regulations.	Action R 7B. Same as Alternative A.	Action R 7C. Minimize conflicts and promote safety between recreational activities and users by monitoring and seeking collaboration for compliance with management regulations and expanded environmental constraints.	Action R 7D. Same as Alternative C.
Topic: Coordination			
Action R 8. Implement, in coordination with the BLM, a strategy to prevent illegal activities and public trespass in addition to a proper stock handling program at the French Flat Management Area.			
Action R 9. Continue to educate agencies and landowners on the negative impacts that certain land use activities that may affect the visual quality of the study area.			
Action R 10. Continue to support and expand boating law enforcement services from Tuolumne and Calaveras counties.			

Topic: Commercial Services / Concessions

Action R 11. All concession contracts will be written in accordance with all applicable policies and regulations; administration of the concessions contract will be the responsibility of New Melones Recreation Resource Branch.

Action R 12. Continue to implement the regulations and Reclamation policies related to concessions and commercial services, such as 43 CFR, Part 429 (Cost Recovery) and Reclamation Manual Direction. Educate the public in the need to acquire a permit from Reclamation for commercial services on Reclamation lands.

Action R 13. Implement concessionaire agreements or commercial service permits with private enterprises to achieve needed recreational support services, programs, and facilities. Potential concessions or commercial services may include, but are not limited to, watercraft rentals, dry boat storage, equestrian day rides, an additional marina, food trucks, and firewood sales.

Action R 14. Continue the existing concessionaire agreement at New Melones Lake through its expiration in 2012. Plan for future concession services through a commercial services plan and financial feasibility study. Potential concessions must be self supporting and compatible with Reclamation goals and objectives and must provide services desired by the public. The plan would analyze the existing marina concession and explore feasibility of additional services or contracts.

<p>Action R 15A. Continue to operate the existing marina concession in its present location, with a seasonal reduction in services.</p>	<p>Action R 15B. In addition to Alternative A, construct a wave attenuator in the current marina location to minimize storm damage.</p>	<p>Action R 15C. Relocate the marina within Glory Hole Management Area, but with a smaller footprint or seasonal operation to minimize storm damage.</p>	<p>Action R 15D. Relocate the marina within Glory Hole Management Area, with separate areas for private moorage and public rentals and services. Construct an appropriate wave attenuator for the marina or allow for seasonal operation to minimize storm damage.</p>
<p>Action R 16A. No similar action.</p>	<p>Action R 16B. Construct additional full service marina(s) in appropriate locations in Rural Developed Management Areas, such as Tuttle town. Provide additional marina services at Glory Hole, which could include day rentals of non-motorized boats, wave runners, runabouts, patio boats, and small houseboats that can be trailered and launched.</p>	<p>Action R 16C. Provide seasonally-operated additional marina services in appropriate locations in Rural Developed Management Areas, such as Tuttle town and Glory Hole. Additional services could include day rentals of non-motorized boats.</p>	<p>Action R 16D. Provide seasonally-operated additional marina services in appropriate locations in Rural Developed Management Areas, such as Tuttle town and Glory Hole. Additional services could include day rentals of non-motorized boats, wave runners, runabouts, patio boats, and small houseboats that can be trailered and launched.</p>
<p>Action R 17A. No similar action.</p>	<p>Action R 17B. Construct additional marina(s) in appropriate locations in Rural Natural Management Areas, such as French Flat, Bear Creek, Parrotts Ferry, or Greenhorn Creek. The additional marina(s) would be operated under a Managing Partner Agreement and/or Concession Agreement.</p>	<p>Action R 17C. No similar action.</p>	<p>Action R 17D. Provide seasonally-operated additional marina services in appropriate locations in Rural Natural Management Areas, such as Parrotts Ferry, Greenhorn Creek, or Camp Nine. Additional services could include day rentals of non-motorized boats.</p>
<p>Action R 18A. No similar action.</p>	<p>Action R 18B. Provide additional marina amenities in appropriate areas, such as dry storage, dry stacking, transient slips, restaurant or food service, boat repair yard and/or boat repair services.</p>	<p>Action R 18C. No similar action.</p>	<p>Action R 18D. Same as Alternative B.</p>
<p>Action R 19A. Continue to operate and maintain the Angels Creek swim beach at lake elevations above 1,050 feet msl.</p>	<p>Action R 19B. In addition to Alternative A, construct protected floating swim dock facilities.</p>	<p>Action R 19C. Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Action R 19D. Same as Alternative B.</p>
<p>Action R 20A. No similar action.</p>	<p>Action R 20B. Construct floating overnight lodging facilities, such as "Dockominiums," "Flotels," or floating campsites with yurts and restrooms.</p>	<p>Action R 20C. No similar action.</p>	<p>Action R 20D. Construct floating campsites with yurts and restrooms.</p>
<p>Action R 21A. No similar action.</p>	<p>Action R 21B. Provide seasonal scenic cruises, such as sunset dinner cruises, which include interpretation of area history, and natural and cultural resources.</p>	<p>Action R 21C. Provide seasonal scenic cruises and lake tours to view physical and environmental features and provide education on conservation and appropriate uses.</p>	<p>Action R 21D. Provide seasonal scenic cruises and lake tours that include interpretation of area history, natural and cultural resources, and provide education on conservation and appropriate uses.</p>

Action R 22A. Continue to provide a marina-based store facility in Glory Hole for retail sales of recreation-related products.	Action R 22B. In addition to Alternative A, provide a “Camp Store” to sell ice, beverages, film, firewood, and other related products in Tuttle town and Glory Hole.	Action R 22C. Same as Alternative A.	Action R 22D. Same as Alternative B.
Action R 23A. Continue to provide a marina-based store facility in Glory Hole for retail sales of recreation-related equipment.	Action R 23B. Issue permits to a limited number of commercial businesses for rental operations for equipment such as bicycles, non-motorized boats, camping gear, and pre-delivered RVs.	Action R 23C. Same as Alternative A.	Action R 23D. Same as Alternative B.
Action R 24A. No similar action.	Action R 24B. Construct a new full hook-up RV park within Tuttle town and/or Glory Hole Management Areas.	Action R 24C. No similar action.	Action R 24D. Same as Alternative B.
Action R 25A. No similar action.	Action R 25B. Construct overnight lodging facilities, such as yurts, park models, and cabins within Tuttle town and/or Glory Hole Management Areas.	Action R 25C. Construct eco-friendly “green” lodging facilities such as yurts within the existing footprint of development in Tuttle town and/or Glory Hole Management Areas.	Action R 25D. Same as Alternative B.
Action R 26A. No similar action.	Action R 26B. Construct a cafe, restaurant, or walk-up grill facility within Tuttle town and/or Glory Hole Management Areas.	Action R 26C. No similar action.	Action R 26D. Same as Alternative B.
Action R 27A. Continue to issue Special Event permits when and where appropriate, per 43 CFR, Parts 429 and 423.	Action R 27B. Construct new facilities within Tuttle town and/or Glory Hole Management Areas for staging large events such as Boy Scout camperees, concerts, and dramatic presentations.	Action R 27C. Same as Alternative A.	Action R 27D. In addition to Alternative A, update and modify the existing amphitheater in Glory Hole and construct an amphitheater in Tuttle town, to hold mission-related interpretive and other events under Reclamation management.
Action R 28A. No similar action.	Action R 28B. Enter into a managing partner or concession agreement, to construct facilities and operate a mountain bike course or park in Tuttle town or Glory Hole Management Areas.	Action R 28C. No similar action.	Action R 28D. Same as Alternative B.
Action R 29A. In all Reclamation management areas, continue to operate and maintain Reclamation facilities and provide services with a combination of Reclamation staff, service contracts, concession agreements, and MOU or MOA with other entities for maximum flexibility and resource protection.	Action R 29B. If feasible, assign operation and management of all developed recreation areas, facilities, and public services to a non-federal managing partner, federal partner, or concessioner(s). Reclamation will retain direct management responsibility for all Rural Natural Management Areas, project operational areas, and administrative areas.	Action R 29C. Same as Alternative A, except, in all decisions regarding commercial services, emphasize conservation of natural and cultural resources over and above additional development of facilities or services for the generation of profit for a managing entity.	Action R 29D. Same as Alternative A.
Action R 30A. Continue to issue Special Event permits when and where appropriate, per 42 CFR, Parts 429 and 423.	Action R 30B. Issue permits to a limited number of commercial businesses to operate mission-compatible “adventure” outfitter guide services in Rural Natural Management Areas.	Action R 30C. Same as Alternative B, except emphasize non-consumptive, low-impact “ecotourism” activities, such as interpretive tours for wildlife viewing, caves and geology, and/or living history/cultural resources education.	Action R 30D. Same as Alternative B.
Action R 31A. Do not permit a seaplane school at New Melones Lake, per 43 CFR, Part 423.	Action R 31B. Issue permits to a limited number of commercial businesses to operate mission-compatible seaplane training.	Action R 31C. Same as Alternative A.	Action R 31D. Same as Alternative A.

<p>Action R 32A. Continue to issue Special Event permits when and where appropriate, per 42 CFR, Parts 429 and 423.</p>	<p>Action R 32B. Issue permits to a limited number of commercial businesses, or enter into a managing partner or concession agreement, to construct facilities and operate an equestrian trail riding business in a Rural Natural Management Area. Locations to be considered may include Peoria Wildlife Management Area, Westside, Bowie Flat, Greenhorn Creek, French Flat, and Bear Creek Management Areas.</p>	<p>Action R 32C. Same as Alternative B, except emphasize minimum facilities for day use staging only, featuring horseback tours focusing on interpretive subjects and education, such as natural and cultural history and resource conservation.</p>	<p>Action R 32D. Same as Alternative B.</p>
<p>Action R 33A. Continue to issue Special Event permits when and where appropriate, per 42 CFR, Parts 429 and 423.</p>	<p>Action R 33B. Issue permits to a limited number of commercial businesses, or enter into a managing partner or concession agreement, to construct facilities and operate venues for outdoor adventure schools, environmental education outings, ecotourism, and/or volunteer vacations for the public. Locations to be considered include Peoria Wildlife Management Area, Westside, Bowie Flat, Greenhorn Creek, Stanislaus River Canyon, Camp Nine, French Flat, and Bear Creek Management Areas.</p>	<p>Action R 33C. Same as Alternative B, except emphasize minimum facilities for day use only.</p>	<p>Action R 33D. Same as Alternative B.</p>
<p>Action R 34A. Do not allow primitive camping in Rural Natural Management Areas per 43 CFR, Part 423.</p>	<p>Action R 34B. Construct and maintain primitive camping facilities in a Rural Natural Management Area at trailhead staging areas or other areas for overnight backpacking, equestrian, guided services, or other commercial activities. Locations to be considered may include Peoria Wildlife Management Area, Westside, Bowie Flat, Greenhorn Creek, Stanislaus River Canyon, Camp Nine, French Flat, and Bear Creek Management Areas.</p>	<p>Action R 34C. Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Action R 34D. Same as Alternative B.</p>
<p>Action R 35A. Do not allow RV camping in Rural Natural Management Areas per 43 CFR, Part 423.</p>	<p>Action R 35B. Construct and maintain a full-service RV campground in a Rural Natural Management Area with hook-ups at trailhead staging areas or other areas or overnight use associated with authorized dispersed recreation activities. Locations to be considered may include Peoria Wildlife Management Area, Westside, Bowie Flat, Greenhorn Creek, Stanislaus River Canyon, Camp Nine, French Flat, and Bear Creek Management Areas.</p>	<p>Action R 35C. Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Action R 35D. Same as Alternative A.</p>
<p>Action R 36A. Do not allow OHV use per 43 CFR, Part 423.</p>	<p>Action R 36B. Enter into a managing partner or concession agreement, to construct facilities and operate an OHV park in a Rural Natural Management Area. Locations to be considered may include Peoria Wildlife Management Area, Westside, Bowie Flat, Greenhorn Creek, French Flat, and Bear Creek Management Areas.</p>	<p>Action R 36C. Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Action R 36D. Same as Alternative A.</p>
<p>Action R 37A. No similar action.</p>	<p>Action R 37B. Enter into a managing partner or concession agreement, to construct facilities and operate a mountain bike course or park in a Rural Natural or Semi Primitive Management Area. Locations to be considered may include Peoria Wildlife Management Area, Westside, Bowie Flat, Greenhorn Creek, French Flat, and Bear Creek Management Areas.</p>	<p>Action R 37C. Do not allow construction of a mountain bike course in Rural Natural or Semi Primitive Management Areas.</p>	<p>Action R 37D. Same as Alternative C.</p>

Action R 38A. Continue to operate and maintain the existing water-ski club course located within the South Bay/Bear Creek Management Area.	Action R 38B. Develop additional water sports courses, such as a jet ski course or high speed boat racing in appropriate areas of the lake.	Action R 38C. Same as Alternative A.	Action R 38D. Same as Alternative A.
Action R 39A. Do not allow skeet or target shooting per 43 CFR, Part 423.	Action R 39B. Enter into a managing partner or concession agreement, to construct facilities and operate a skeet or target shooting range.	Action R 39C. Same as Alternative A.	Action R 39D. Same as Alternative A.
Action R 40A. Continue to operate and maintain the existing radio controlled flying facility in the Peoria Wildlife Management Area, Peoria Flat subarea.	Action R 40B. Develop additional radio-controlled flying facilities in locations such as Westside, Bowie Flat, Greenhorn Creek, French Flat, or Bear Creek Management Areas.	Action R 40C. Same as Alternative A.	Action R 40D. Same as Alternative A.
Topic: Facilities and Maintenance Program			
Action R 41. Provide a recreation maintenance program that includes such components as potable water, sanitation, refuse management, landscape maintenance, building and facility repairs, waterway and hazard marking, and pest control.			
Action R 42. Restrict all public vehicles to designated roads, except as authorized under permit.			
Action R 43. Roads, trails, and access easements would be designed to follow the natural topography, minimizing steep slopes and the number of stream crossings.			
Action R 44. Land and water-based toilets would be provided and maintained to minimize exposure to unsanitary conditions for visitors.			
Action R 45. Appropriate storage, transfer, containment, and disposal facilities would be provided and maintained for liquids, such as oil, solvents, antifreeze, and paints, at Reclamation and lessee facilities. Recycling of these materials would be encouraged.			
Action R 46A. Operate and maintain facilities in Rural Natural Management Areas.	Action R 46B. In addition to operating and maintaining facilities in all Rural Natural Management Areas, assess the need and feasibility of future additional development to meet recreation demand in Rural Natural Management Areas.	Action R 46C. In addition to operating and maintaining facilities in Rural Natural Management Areas, minimize development of future recreational facilities in Rural Natural Management Areas, such as Bear Creek, Parrotts Ferry, Westside, Bowie Flat, French Flat, Natural Bridges, Camp Nine, and Greenhorn Creek.	Action R 46D. In addition to operating and maintaining facilities in Rural Natural Management Areas, assess the need and feasibility of appropriate additional development, in keeping with Rural Natural attributes, to meet recreation demand in the following areas: French Flat, Bear Creek, Parrotts Ferry, Westside, Natural Bridges, Westside, Bowie Flat, Mark Twain, Camp Nine, and Greenhorn Creek.
Action R 47A. Operate and maintain facilities in Rural Developed Management Areas.	Action R 47B. In addition to operating and maintaining facilities in all Rural Developed Management Areas, assess the need and feasibility of constructing additional facilities in one or more Rural Natural Management Areas, such as Westside, French Flat, Parrotts Ferry, Greenhorn Creek, Bowie Flat, and Mark Twain, changing their WROS designation from Rural Natural to Rural Developed.	Action R 47C. Minimize development of future recreational facilities in Rural Developed Management Areas.	Action R 47D. In addition to operating and maintaining facilities in all Rural Developed Management Areas, assess feasibility of future development. Any additional facilities would be concentrated in areas of existing development, such as Tuttle town and the Glory Hole Management Area.
Topic: Recreation Use Fees			
Action R 48. In the designated fee areas, continue to implement a user fee program and expand to areas if appropriate to achieve management goals.			
Action R 49A. Evaluate visitor satisfaction with the operation and management of New Melones Lake through anecdotal information.	Action R 49B. Evaluate quality and variety of recreation through formal customer surveys, as well as other forms of public involvement. Evaluate visitor satisfaction with value for fee paid through formal surveys approved by the Office of Management and Budget.	Action R 49C. Same as Alternative B.	Action R 49D. Same as Alternative B.
Topic: Universal Access			
Action R 50. All new facilities and programs would be designed to incorporate the universal design approach to accessibility. All existing facilities would be retrofitted to provide accessibility per ADA, ADA Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities, Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, and mandates in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. This approach combines the basic principle of barrier-free design with the more comprehensive view, which considers all degrees of sensory awareness, all types of locomotion, and all levels of physical and intellectual function. As required, facilities and programs would meet legally mandated accessibility standards (per the ADA of 1990 and the 1991 ADA accessibility guidelines, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended in 1978, and the International Building Code [National Fire Protection			

Association 5000 Building and Safety Code]).

Action R 51. An accessibility review would be conducted of all facilities at developed and undeveloped recreation areas not previously surveyed or in response to new requirements.

Action R 52. A site's topography and natural features, the degree of structural modification, and visitors' expectations related to the recreational land use would be considered when determining the applicable levels of accessibility. Efforts would be made to provide accessibility to all visitors within the confines of topography, natural features, and cultural and historical site locations.

Action R 53. Facilities and programs would be modified to comply with ADA requirements, where practical to provide for reasonable accommodations as resources for updating become available.

Topic: Visitor Services and Ranger Program

Action R 54. Continue to implement the RRMA of 1992.

Action R 55. Park Rangers and resource staff implement and manage the recreation, interpretive, natural resource, and visitor services programs.

Action R 56. A phone and Internet-based reservation system (National Recreation Reservation System) is used for campground and group picnic facility reservations.

Action R 57. In support of primary emergency services, provide first response for medical, hazardous materials, search and rescue, and other emergencies at New Melones Lake.

Action R 58. Provide public education on natural resources, cultural resources, public safety, invasive species, and Reclamation's mission.

AQUATIC RECREATION

(fishing, motorized boating, nonmotorized boating, seaplane operation, swimming, wake boarding, water skiing)

Goal 1. Provide a diverse range of water-based recreation opportunities suited to user needs compatible with the existing character of the lake and surrounding lands.

Goal 2. Protect cultural resources, natural resources, and water quality for the future while providing safe and enjoyable recreational experiences.

Action AR 1A. No similar action.

Action AR 1B. Use the WROS and the related carrying capacity study as a guide when managing visitor use and recreation (Appendix B). Included in the carrying capacity are estimates of the optimum number of visitors at New Melones Lake and the optimum density of watercraft on New Melones Lake.

Action AR 1C. Same at Alternative B.

Action AR 1D. Same at Alternative B.

Action AR 2. Develop appropriate educational opportunities on water and boating safety.

Action AR 3. (Also Action R 5) When special events support Reclamation's mission, events such as fishing tournaments, triathlons, water-ski exhibitions, or similar aquatic sporting events may be allowed by permit.

Action AR 4. Prevent the introduction of aquatic invasive pest species through procedures such as prohibiting launching of boats from known source locations, screening for invasive pest species, and education efforts.

Action AR 5A. To address ongoing safety concerns, prohibit specific uses of the water surface by continuing to require the following measures:

- No ski zones in the Camp Nine, and Stanislaus River Canyon areas;
- No-wake zones 200 feet (60 meters) from the launch and marina;
- No boating in designated swimming areas;
- No swimming zone within the marina;
- No swimming zones within 100 feet (30 meters) of launch ramps or docks; and
- No fishing off of docks unless otherwise permitted (see Figure 3-2).

Action AR 5B. Implement additional lake zones to promote safety and protect the public. For example, designate additional swimming areas and areas appropriate for nonmotorized boating, houseboats, and seaplanes. Zones may include, but would not be limited to, designated areas of Greenhorn Creek, Glory Hole, Coyote Creek, Parrotts Ferry, Tuttletown, French Flat, Mark Twain, Stanislaus River Canyon, and Camp Nine Management Areas. Additional float docks (to be used for swimming and fishing) and floating campsites could also be constructed under this alternative (See Figure 3-3).

Action AR 5C. Implement additional lake zones to promote safety, and protect the public and natural resources. For example, designate additional swimming areas and areas appropriate for nonmotorized boating, houseboats, and seaplanes. Further, designate no-wake zones to prevent shore erosion. Zones may include, but would not be limited to, designated areas of Greenhorn Creek, Westside, Glory Hole, Coyote Creek, Parrotts Ferry, Tuttletown, French Flat, Mark Twain, Stanislaus River Canyon, and Camp Nine Management Areas. (see Figure 3-4).

Action AR 5D. Implement additional lake zones to promote safety, and protect the public and natural resources. For example, designate additional swimming areas and areas appropriate for nonmotorized boating, houseboats, and seaplanes. Further, designate no-wake zones to prevent shore erosion. Zones may include, but would not be limited to, designated areas of Greenhorn Creek, Westside, Glory Hole, Coyote Creek, Parrotts Ferry, Tuttletown, French Flat, Mark Twain, Stanislaus River Canyon, and Camp Nine Management Areas (see Figures 3-5 and 3-6).

Action AR 6A. Maintain existing floating vault toilets at various locations on New Melones Lake when lake level and weather conditions permit.

Action AR 6B. Install additional floating vault toilets at various locations on New Melones Lake when lake level and weather conditions permit.

Action AR 6C. Same at Alternative B.

Action AR 6D. Same at Alternative B.

Topic: Fishing			
Action AR 7 (Also Action FW 15). Continue to manage fisheries through an agreement with the CDFG.			
Action AR 8 (Also Action PHS 15). Develop a strong partnership with CDFG to increase communication, leading to more effective enforcement of the appropriate regulations under the Clean Water Act and the Fish and Game Code of California.			
Action AR 9 (Also Action FW 16). Limit disturbance and intensive visitor use along perennial stream corridors and reservoir coves that maintain prime spawning, rearing, and adult residence area fisheries.			
Action AR 10 (Also Action FW 17). Minimize disturbance of habitat in perennial streams that support native fish.			
Action AR 11 (Also Action FW 18). Continue to enhance fish habitat by installing fish attractors, consisting of piles of logs and brush anchored to the ground, to provide cover for fish.			
Action AR 12 (Also Action FW 19). Support efforts by volunteers and partners to rehabilitate and improve fisheries, fish habitat, and aquatic resources.			
Action AR 13 (Also Action FW 20). Prevent entrapment and death of fish within water impoundment facilities.			
Action AR 14 (Also Action FW 21). Except when snags present a safety hazard, continue to leave dead trees in the reservoir to provide fish habitat.			
Action AR 15A (Also see Action AR 5A). Continue to prohibit specific uses of the water to maintain quiet fishing zones around the lake, including no ski zones in the Camp Nine and Stanislaus River Canyon areas and no wake zones 200 feet (60 meters) from the launch and marina, and no boating in designated swimming areas.	Action AR 15B (Also see Action AR 5B). Designate additional zoning at Glory Hole, Mark Twain, Tuttle town, Parrotts Ferry, Stanislaus River Canyon, and Camp Nine to encourage fishing, prevent shoreline erosion, and protect public safety.	Action AR 15C (Also see Action AR 5C). Same as Alternative B, with the inclusion of no wake zones in Texas Charley Gulch, Vonich Gulch, and the South Fork of the Stanislaus River in the Stanislaus River Canyon area. In addition, designate Camp Nine, Coyote Creek, Greenhorn Creek, and Mormon Creek as environmentally sensitive areas.	Action AR 15D (Also see Action AR 5D). Same as Alternative B, with the inclusion of no wake zones in Texas Charley Gulch, Vonich Gulch, South Fork of the Stanislaus River in the Stanislaus River Canyon area, and Greenhorn Creek. In addition, designate Camp Nine, Coyote Creek, and Mormon Creek as environmentally sensitive areas.
Action AR 16A (Also Action FW 23A). Minimize disturbance of known warm water fish spawning areas, such as Black Bart Cove.	Action AR 16B (Also Action FW 23B). Same as Alternative A.	Action AR 16C (Also Action FW 23C). Especially during spawning season, restrict and minimize disturbance in known warm water fish spawning areas such as Black Bart Cove.	Action AR 16D (Also Action FW 23D). Same as Alternative A.
Action AR 17A (Also Action FW 22A). Restrict and minimize disturbance of known trout spawning areas in Texas Charley Gulch.	Action AR 17B (Also Action FW 22B). Same as Alternative A.	Action AR 17C (Also Action FW 22C). Especially during spawning season, restrict and minimize disturbance of known trout spawning areas in Coyote Creek Cove, Angels Creek Cove, Carson Creek Cove, and Mormon Creek Cove, as well as areas of the Stanislaus River downstream from the confluence of Rose Creek and the South Fork.	Action AR 17D (Also Action FW 22D). Minimize disturbance of known trout spawning areas in Coyote Creek Cove, Angels Creek Cove, Carson Creek Cove, and Mormon Creek Cove as well as areas of the Stanislaus River downstream from the confluence of Rose Creek and the South Fork.
Topic: Boating, Water-Skiing, Wake Boarding, and Rafting			
Action AR 18 (Also Action PHS 7). Continue to mark the tops of intermittent islands, large rock outcroppings, or other aquatic hazards with warning buoys as per the New Melones Lake Waterway Hazard Marking Plan.			
Action AR 19. Provide courtesy docks in the waters surrounding usable boat ramps to facilitate the efficient launch and take-out of boats.			
Action AR 20. Provide flexible support facilities at all functioning (usable) boat ramp locations (e.g., portable toilets, trash receptacles).			
Action AR 21A. A water ski club has a license to construct, operate, and maintain for public use a ski course and dock within Bear Creek Cove. This nonprofit organization is open to the public and conducts periodic public outreach activities.	Action AR 21B. Relocate the public ski course and dock to Carson Creek cove (Figure 3-3). The water ski club will continue to operate and maintain the ski course, which is open to the public, and to conduct periodic public outreach activities.	Action AR 21C. Do not relocate the public ski course and dock unless a more suitable location is found that would benefit resources, provide for public safety, minimize conflicts, and optimize recreational opportunities in keeping with the planned WROS designation.	Action AR 21D. Same as Alternative C.
Action AR 22A. Continue operation and maintenance of New Melones Lake to allow for the current level of watercraft use.	Action AR 22B. Allow increased level of watercraft use at New Melones Lake, in accordance with an updated carrying capacity, desired future conditions, and WROS designations for the various management areas.	Action AR 22C. Decrease the level of watercraft use at New Melones Lake, in accordance with an updated carrying capacity, desired future conditions, and WROS designations for the various management areas.	Action AR 22D. Same as Alternative B.

Action AR 23A. Continue status quo management of houseboat activities and overnight occupancy vessels on New Melones Lake.	Action AR 23B. Prepare and implement a moored vessel plan for New Melones Lake, addressing such topics as mooring sites, houseboat size limits, quantities, mooring agreements, term limits, and boat slips (Appendix C).	Action AR 23C. Same as Alternative B.	Action AR 23D. Same as Alternative B.
Action AR 24A (Also see Action AR 5A). Continue to prohibit specific uses of the water surface to address safety concerns, including no wake zones in the Camp Nine and Stanislaus River Canyon areas and 200 feet (60 meters) from the launch and marina, and no boating in designated swimming areas (see Figure 3-2).	Action AR 24B (Also see Action AR 5B). Designate areas as no wake zones. These areas would encourage a diversity of experiences at the lake, prevent shoreline erosion, and protect public safety (see Figure 3-3).	Action AR 24C (Also see Action AR 5C). Designate additional areas as no wake zones. These areas would encourage an increased diversity of experiences at the lake, would prevent shoreline erosion, and would protect public safety (see Figure 3-4).	Action AR 24D (Also see Action AR 5D). Designate additional areas as no wake zones. These areas would encourage an increased diversity of experiences at the lake, would prevent shoreline erosion, and would protect public safety (see Figures 3-5 and 3-6).
Action AR 25A. Continue to issue Special Event permits when and where appropriate, per 43 CFR, Parts 429 and 423.	Action AR 25B. Issue permits to a limited number of commercial businesses to operate mission-compatible white-water rafting services in the Camp Nine Area.	Action AR 25C. Concessionaire-operated white-water rafting opportunities would not be considered at New Melones Lake.	Action AR 25D. Same as Alternative B.
Topic: Aircraft Operation			
Action AR 26A (also Action TA 12A). Continue to implement the New Melones seaplane policy and comply with 43 CFR, Part 423, which includes restrictions on commercial operation of seaplanes and designates appropriate landing zones and operations (see Figure 3-1).	Action AR 26B (Also Action TA 12B). Same as Alternative A.	Action AR 26C (Also Action TA 12C). Restrict seaplane access to New Melones Lake.	Action AR 26D (Also Action TA 12D). Same as Alternative A.
Action AR 27A (also Action TA 13A). Monitor aircraft for compliance with appropriate regulations, such as 43 CFR, Part 423 and report airplane-related problems on New Melones Lake to the FAA, as needed. Reclamation reports aircraft that are too near infrastructure and when there are near misses between seaplanes and boats.	Action AR 27B (Also Action TA 13B). Prepare and implement a strategy to address adverse overflight activities. The strategy may include a range of actions from increased education and communication with aviators, county airport personnel, and the FAA, to requesting that the FAA restrict airspace over New Melones Lake Area to protect public safety and critical infrastructure.	Action AR 27C (Also Action TA 13C). Increase and enforce designated no-fly zones near critical infrastructure for all aircraft.	Action AR 27D (Also Action TA 13D). Same as Alternative B.
Topic: Swimming			
Action AR 28A. Designated swimming areas are buoyed off and closed to incompatible uses.	Action AR 28B. Designate additional water play areas, which would be safe for swimming and close those areas to incompatible uses (see Figure 3-3).	Action AR 28C. Maintain existing water play areas and close those areas to incompatible uses.	Action AR 28D. Same as Alternative B.
LAND-BASED RECREATION (biking, camping, hiking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, hunting, picnicking and day use activities, radio-controlled aircraft, rock climbing, spelunking) Goal 1. Provide a diverse range of land-based recreation opportunities suited to user needs compatible with the existing character of the project lands. Goal 2. Protect cultural and natural resources for the future, while providing safe and enjoyable recreational experiences. Goal 3. Provide specific recreation opportunities and adequate flexible and efficient support facilities under varying lake level conditions, without compromising ecological resources and by demonstrating compatibility with the site-specific suitability of land and water environmental conditions. Goal 4. Provide a variety of nonmotorized recreational experiences using trails and pathways. Goal 5. Provide safe recreational hunting opportunities compatible with the Wildlife Management Plan, while respecting private property rights and management authority over wildlife resources.			
Action LR 1. Continue to provide a diverse range of land-based recreation opportunities suited to user needs, compatible with the existing character of the project lands, and targeting a diversity of visitor interest and capabilities. Action LR 2. Land use activities are limited within wetland/riparian buffer zones to prevent significant deterioration of wetland habitats. Action LR 3. Promote wildlife viewing and appropriate dispersed recreation, such as hiking, horseback riding, climbing, bicycling, hunting, and fishing throughout New Melones, but especially in the Peoria Wildlife Management Area. Action LR 4 (Also Action R 5). When special events support Reclamation's mission, events such as equestrian trail trials, special hunts, or cross-country sporting events, may be allowed by permit.			

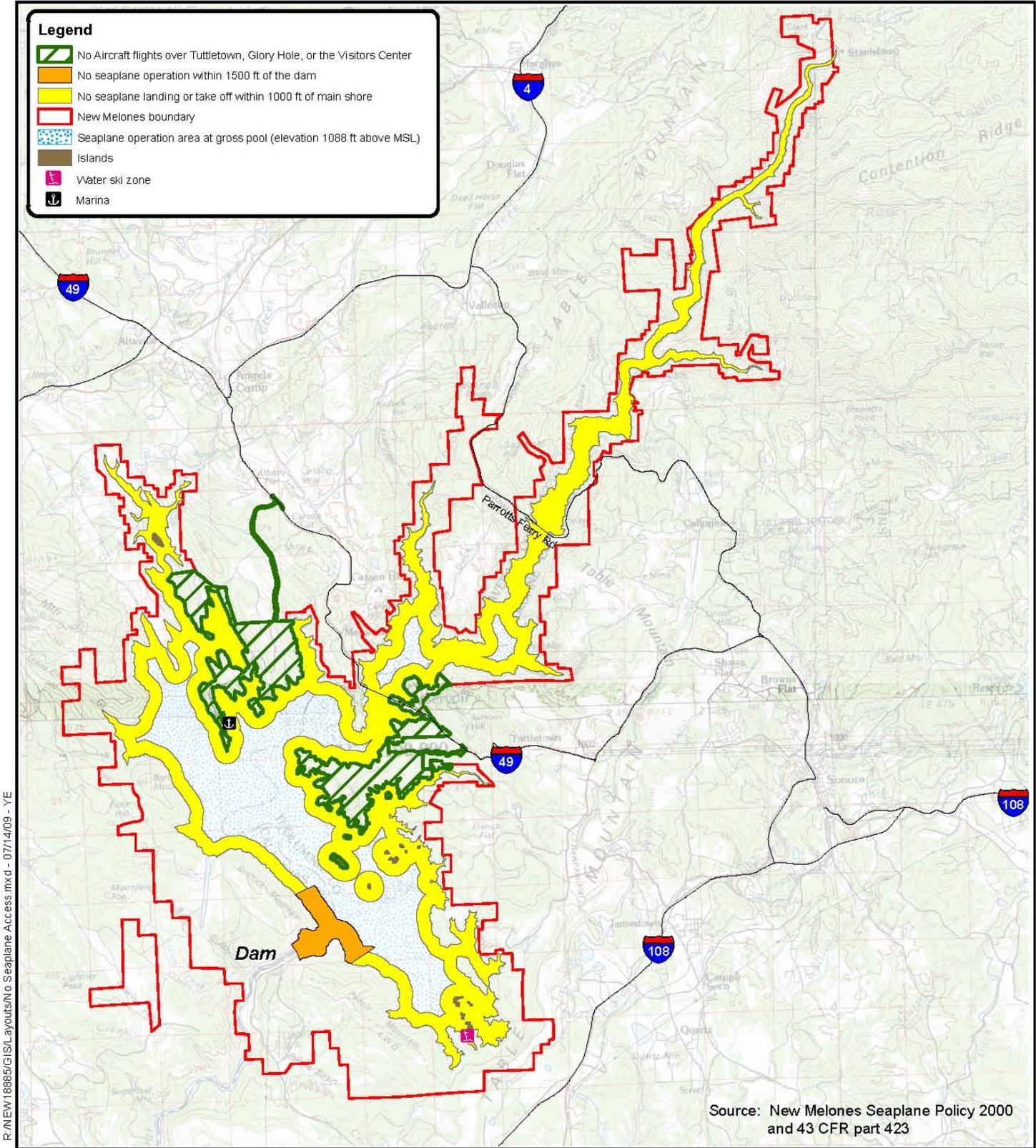
Action LR 5. Design recreation area facilities to minimize water contamination and loss of soils due to surface runoff.			
Topic: Trails and Pathways for Biking, Hiking, and Horseback Riding			
Action LR 6. Directional signs will continue to be provided at trailheads and trail junctions, and trail markers would be provided as required on longer trails.			
Action LR 7. Interpretive markers will continue to be placed at selected sites along designated trails.			
Action LR 8. Within intensively used recreation areas, pathways are constructed to concentrate foot traffic in specific areas.			
Action LR 9. Pathways lead from the parking lots to picnic areas, restrooms, beaches, and walk-in campsites.			
Action LR 10. Pathways and trails follow current Reclamation design standards and industry standard BMPs.			
Action LR 11. Roads, trails, and access easements are designed to follow the natural topography, minimizing steep slopes, and to limit the number of stream crossings.			
Action LR 12. Reclamation coordinates with the county, local landowners, and other partners in regional trails planning.			
Action LR 13. Continue to develop and maintain partnerships to construct and manage the trail systems.			
Action LR 14. Develop and maintain trailhead staging areas with minimum basic facilities in strategic locations to provide visitor access to trails, while protecting sensitive natural and cultural resources.			
Action LR 15. Continue to prohibit equestrian use of trails within developed portions of existing Rural Developed Management Areas (e.g., Tuttle town). Where equestrians are permitted, allow multiple use by bicycles only if safe to do so.			
Action LR 16A. In the Peoria Wildlife Management Area, relocate equestrian staging area and associated minimum basic facilities to a more appropriate location that allows day use and possible overnight use by permit.	Action LR 16B. In the Peoria Wildlife Management Area, relocate equestrian staging area and associated minimum basic facilities to a more appropriate location that allows day use and possible overnight use by permit. Improve the staging area and existing trails, and develop additional trails by a concession-operated equestrian facility or managing partner.	Action LR 16C. Continue to operate and maintain the equestrian staging area in the Peoria Wildlife Management Area and impose use limits as necessary to protect sensitive resources. Relocate Baseline Conservation Camp to the existing equestrian area, keeping only limited structures in the original site to reduce the footprint of the facility in the Peoria Wildlife Management Area.	Action LR 16D. In the Peoria Wildlife Management Area, relocate equestrian staging area and associated minimum basic facilities to a more appropriate location that allows day use and possible overnight use by permit. Improve the staging area and existing trails. Develop additional trails by a concession-operated equestrian facility or managing partner if the purpose is to meet the management goals of better stewardship presence, trail and facility maintenance, and enhancement of public education through interpretive efforts regarding sensitive species conservation in the serpentine plant community. Develop a partnership with CAL FIRE or other entity to manage recreation opportunities in the Peoria Wildlife Management Area.
Action LR 17A. In the development of future trail systems, where appropriate, the use of existing trails and unpaved roads would be promoted.	Action LR 17B. Same as Alternative A.	Action LR 17C. No new trails will be developed beyond existing trails and unpaved roads unless for the purpose of protecting sensitive species and habitats.	Action LR 17D. Same as Alternative A.
Action LR 18A. Operate and maintain trail infrastructure within intensively used recreation areas. Pathways were constructed to concentrate foot traffic in specific areas and reduce trampling of the natural vegetation and provide efficient circulation routes. Pathways lead from the parking lots to picnic areas, beaches, and campsites.	Action LR 18B. Multiuse trail activities (pedestrian, equestrian, and bicycle) would be encouraged in the development of new trails or the redevelopment of existing trails through consideration of trail design (width, surface, visibility), compatibility, and land use suitability.	Action LR 18C. Multiuse trail activities (pedestrian, equestrian, and bicycle) would be encouraged in the redevelopment of trails through consideration of trail design (width, surface, visibility), compatibility, and land use suitability.	Action LR 18D. Same as Alternative B.
Action LR 19A. Pathways would be three feet (one meter) wide, with a stabilized aggregate surface, and would generally follow the natural contours of the land.	Action LR 19B. Prepare and implement a trails management plan that optimizes connectivity and multiple uses of trails including ADA-compliant trails where appropriate. Consider improvements for safety, sanitation, and better access, such as connection of the lower bridge at Natural Bridges to the rest of the trail system.	Action LR 19C. Prepare and implement a trails management plan that focuses on resource protection, including ADA-compliant trails, where appropriate.	Action LR 19D. Same as Alternative B.

Action LR 20A. Operate and maintain the existing Natural Bridges trail.	Action LR 20B. In the Coyote Creek Management Area, update Natural Bridges access trail including trail markers.	Action LR 20C. In the Coyote Creek Management Area, update Natural Bridges access trail, including trail markers to correct existing and prevent future resource degradation.	Action LR 20D. Same as Alternative C.
Action LR 21A. Operate and maintain the fire road and trail system in Glory Hole, Greenhorn Creek, and Westside Management Areas.	Action LR 21B. Optimize the connectivity between the existing fire road and trail system for a variety of uses, such as mountain biking, equestrian use (outside of existing Rural Developed Management Areas), and hikers in Glory Hole, Greenhorn Creek, and Westside Management Areas. Develop new trailheads to access the Greenhorn Creek and Westside areas.	Action LR 21C. Optimize the connectivity between the fire road and trail system for use by hikers in Glory Hole, Greenhorn Creek, and Westside Management Areas.	Action LR 21D. Same as Alternative B.
Action LR 22A. Operate and maintain the fire road and trail system in Tuttle town, Bear Creek, French Flat, and Peoria Wildlife Management Areas.	Action LR 22B. Optimize the connectivity between the existing fire road and trail system for a variety of uses, such as mountain biking, equestrian use (outside of existing Rural Developed Management Areas), and hikers in Tuttle town, Bear Creek, French Flat, and Peoria Wildlife Management Areas. Develop trailheads in these areas.	Action LR 22C. Optimize the connectivity between the fire road and trail system for use by hikers in Tuttle town, Bear Creek, French Flat, and Peoria Wildlife Management Areas.	Action LR 22D. Same as Alternative B.
Topic: Camping, Picnicking, and other Day Use Activities			
Action LR 23. Continue to operate and manage the campgrounds and day use facilities under the New Melones Lake Policy (Appendix E), and 43 CFR, Part 423.			
Action LR 24. Manage fee collection for campground and day use through the National Recreation Reservation Service.			
Action LR 25A. Continue to update and modernize campground and day-use facilities. Reclamation efforts are concentrated on redeveloping and enhancing facilities in high demand areas, expanding day-use facilities for larger groups, providing permanent restrooms with showers to replace portable facilities, installing additional potable water outlets, and improving potable water and waste treatment facilities.	Action LR 25B. Continue to update and modernize campground and day-use facilities. Reclamation efforts are concentrated on creating full hookup campsites, redeveloping and enhancing facilities in high demand areas, expanding day use facilities for larger groups, providing permanent restrooms with showers to replace portable facilities, installing additional potable water outlets, and improving potable water and waste treatment facilities.	Action LR 25C. Continue to update and modernize campground and day-use facilities. Reclamation efforts are concentrated on installing vehicle barriers in the campgrounds and day-use areas, redeveloping and enhancing facilities in high demand areas, expanding day-use facilities for larger groups, providing permanent restrooms with showers to replace portable facilities, installing additional potable water outlets, and improving potable water and waste treatment facilities.	Action LR 25D. Continue to update and modernize campground and day-use facilities. Reclamation efforts are concentrated on installing vehicle barriers in the campgrounds and day-use areas, creating full hookup campsites, redeveloping and enhancing facilities in high demand areas, expanding day-use facilities for larger groups, providing permanent restrooms with showers to replace portable facilities, installing additional potable water outlets, and improving potable water and waste treatment facilities.
Action LR 26. Campsites and picnic sites for groups, including persons with disabilities, would be located within camping and day-use areas at the larger recreation areas.			
Action LR 27. Continue to operate a volunteer camp host program to provide information to visitors and maintain a Reclamation presence in the campgrounds.			
Action LR 28A. In all Rural Developed Management Areas, update and modernize campground facilities for RVs and tent camping.	Action LR 28B. In all Rural Developed Management Areas, update and modernize campground facilities for RVs and tent camping. In particular, at Glory Hole and Tuttle town, consider adding utilities to RV sites or constructing additional full-service RV campgrounds via a concession contract.	Action LR 28C. Consider reducing the density of campground facilities at Rural Developed Management Areas. Install vehicle barriers in the campgrounds and day-use areas.	Action LR 28D. In all Rural Developed Management Areas, update and modernize campground facilities for RVs and tent camping. In particular, at Glory Hole and Tuttle town, consider adding utilities to RV sites or constructing additional full-service RV campgrounds via a concession contract. Install vehicle barriers in the campgrounds and day-use areas.
Action LR 29A. No similar action.	Action LR 29B. If feasible and in conjunction with Caltrans, manage a 66-acre parcel of land near the Peoria Wildlife Management Area. Create a day-use parking area to allow additional access to the Peoria Wildlife Management Area.	Action LR 29C. If feasible and in conjunction with Caltrans, manage a 66-acre parcel of land near the Peoria Wildlife Management Area for natural resource restoration projects.	Action LR 29D. If feasible and in conjunction with Caltrans, manage a 66-acre parcel of land near the Peoria Wildlife Management Area. Provide a combination of recreation access and resource restoration.

Topic: Hunting			
Action LR 30. Reclamation would manage hunting in accordance with rules and regulations set forth by the CDFG, 43 CFR, Part 423 and other federal laws and regulations.			
Action LR 31. Provide information to visitors on hunting opportunities and restrictions through signs, maps, visitor contact, and other media.			
Action LR 32A. Recreational target shooting is not permitted on Reclamation lands or waters.	Action LR 32B. If a target shooting range is constructed, allow target shooting only in designated areas.	Action LR 32C. Same as Alternative A.	Action LR 32D. Same as Alternative A.
Action LR 33A. Unless expressly prohibited, hunting is allowed on Reclamation lands or waters, except within 150 yards (135 meters) of any designated recreation area, facility, campground, day use area, boat ramp, parking area, neighboring residence, or within 150 yards (135 meters) of Camp Nine's two power plants (see Figure 3-7).	Action LR 33B. Unless expressly prohibited, shotgun-only hunting is allowed on Reclamation lands or waters, except within 150 yards (135 meters) of any designated recreation area, facility, campground, day use area, boat ramp, parking area, neighboring residence, or within 150 yards (135 meters) of Camp Nine's two power plants (see Figure 3-7).	Action LR 33C. To protect health and safety, develop and implement a long-term strategy for managing hunting as visitation and urban development increase. This policy may include restrictions to meet management goals, such as compliance with California Fish and Game code, as well as other applicable regulations, such as EO 13443 (see Figure 3-7).	Action LR 33D. To protect health and safety, develop and implement a long-term strategy for managing shotgun-only hunting as visitation and urban development increase. This policy may include restrictions to meet management goals, such as compliance with California Fish and Game code, as well as other applicable regulations, such as EO 13443 (see Figures 3-6 and 3-8).
Action LR 34A. Educate hunters through passive dissemination of information, such as signs, maps, and other media.	Action LR 34B. Enhance hunting opportunities by developing agreements to allow special hunting events, such as youth hunts and special needs hunts.	Action LR 34C. Same as Alternative A.	Action LR 34D. Same as Alternative B.
Topic: Radio-Controlled Aircraft			
Action LR 35. Reclamation would continue to allow the use of radio-controlled model airplanes in Peoria Flat via existing agreements/license. Use is allowed only in a designated facility that is open to the public and subject to contract terms and conditions.			
Topic: Rock Climbing			
Action LR 36. Continue to allow rock climbing at the visitor's own risk.			
Action LR 37 (Also Action SSS 4). In the Peoria Wildlife Management Area, manage rock climbing use in accordance with federal regulations on natural and cultural resources.			
Action LR 38. During the habitation period, conduct monthly inventories of sensitive bat species such as the mastiff bat on the northwest slope of Table Mountain. Climbing routes in the area are monitored for effects to sensitive species.			
Action LR 39A (Also Action SSS 6A). As described in the Peoria Wildlife Management Plan, if impacts on sensitive species are identified, Reclamation would develop and implement a climbing management plan.	Action LR 39B (Also Action SSS 6B). Same as Alternative A.	Action LR 39C (Also Actions SSS 5C and 16C). Restrict access to climbing routes near sensitive bat species caves during bat habitation periods. Develop and implement a climbing management plan, which includes designation of climbing routes and areas.	Action LR 39D (Also Action SSS 6D). Same as Alternative A.
Topic: Spelunking			
Action LR 40. Continue to allow spelunking at the visitor's own risk.			
Action LR 41 (Also Action C 2). A protection plan for caves with significant resource value or potential hazards will be implemented as needed.			
Action LR 42 (Also Action C 3). To preserve cave resources such as scenic qualities, fragile formations, cultural resources, and/or sensitive species, recreation use is managed to minimize impacts as needed.			
Action LR 43A (Also Action C 4A). Manage access to caves to comply with federal law and meet health and safety requirements.	Action LR 43B (Also Action C 4B). Expand access to caves while complying with federal law and meet health and safety requirements.	Action LR 43C (Also Action C 4C). Measures to control access to caves will be implemented.	Action LR 43D (Also Action C 4D). Same as Alternative A.
INTREPRETIVE SERVICES AND VISITOR INFORMATION			
Goal 1. Enhance the public's understanding of the history, purpose, and operation of the project and its archaeological, historical, human-made, natural, and cultural features.			
Goal 2. Enhance recreation experiences through the Visitor's Center, interpretive services, and volunteer programs.			
Goal 3. Enhance the quality of recreation for all visitors including those with physical, sensory and cognitive impairments.			
Goal 4. Educate the public about Reclamation, water resources, water conservation, and water safety.			
Goal 5. Promote stewardship, achieve management objectives, optimize resources, provide enhanced services, and provide educational opportunities.			

<p>Action IS 1. Interpret the natural, cultural, and recreation resources at New Melones, as well as the importance of water resource management and conservation activities of Reclamation, its water users, and other agencies.</p> <p>Action IS 2. Provide public information and education within all aspects of visitor services that support recreational activities.</p> <p>Action IS 3. Provide information, education, and quality recreational experiences through interpretive displays, trails, signs, visitor contact, brochures, booklets, programs, presentations, publications, and other media both on and off Reclamation lands.</p> <p>Action IS 4. Encourage recreational user groups and neighbors to assist Reclamation with the stewardship and management of project lands.</p>			
<p>Action IS 5A. Provide interpretive services in accordance with the Project Master Plan and current directives.</p>	<p>Action IS 5B. Prepare and implement an Interpretive Master Plan.</p>	<p>Action IS 5C. Prepare and implement an Interpretive Master Plan. Develop an interpretive program pertaining to the ecological importance of caves. Allow access to certain cave sites during low water periods for this program.</p>	<p>Action IS 5D. Same as Alternative B.</p>
<p>Action IS 6A. All concessionaires provide interpretation and public education to visitors such as water safety and boating rules.</p>	<p>Action IS 6B. All concessionaires could provide expanded interpretation and public education as appropriate and in conjunction with the Interpretive Master Plan. In addition, develop concessionaire contracts and partnerships specifically to provide interpretive services. These contracts could include a variety of programs ranging from activities based education such as boating safety to natural and cultural resource based education such as the history, prehistory, and ecology of the New Melones Area.</p>	<p>Action IS 6C. Same as Alternative B.</p>	<p>Action IS 6D. Same as Alternative B.</p>
<p>Action IS 7A. Continue to provide education and interpretation at existing facilities in Tuttle town Management Area and Glory Hole Management Area.</p>	<p>Action IS 7B. Update and modernize to ADA standards outdoor facilities for interpretive programs and services in Tuttle town Management Area and Glory Hole Management Area. This may include modification to the Glory Hole amphitheater and development of an amphitheater in the Tuttle town Management Area.</p>	<p>Action IS 7C. Update and modernize to ADA standards the outdoor amphitheater in the Glory Hole Management Area for interpretive programs and services.</p>	<p>Action IS 7D. Same as Alternative B.</p>
<p>Topic: Visitor Center</p>			
<p>Action IS 8. Operate the visitor center to provide interpretive services and visitor information. Provide accessibility services for all interpretive programs as needed at the visitor center.</p> <p>Action IS 9. Provide information through a variety of multimedia tools and programs at the Visitor Center.</p> <p>Action IS 10. Provide displays at the visitor center that are interactive and in compliance with ADA mandates.</p>			
<p>Action IS 10A. Operate and maintain the visitor center to modern standards.</p>	<p>Action IS 10B. Operate and maintain the visitor center to modern standards. This includes compliance with Reclamation's directives and standards on visitor centers LND 13-01.</p>	<p>Action IS 10C. Operate and maintain the visitor center to modern standards and develop an outdoor classroom at the Visitor Center for environmental education. This includes compliance with Reclamation's directives and standards on visitor centers LND 13-01.</p>	<p>Action IS 10D. Same as Alternative C.</p>
<p>Action IS 11A. Provide guided interpretive walks in the Mark Twain Management Area along the Norwegian Gulch Trail.</p>	<p>Action IS 11B. In the Mark Twain Management Area, develop interpretive features for the Norwegian Gulch Trail starting from park headquarters and the Visitor Center.</p>	<p>Action IS 11C. Same as Alternative B.</p>	<p>Action IS 11D. Same as Alternative B.</p>

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New Melones Current and Proposed Seaplane and Aircraft Operation Policy

New Melones Lake Area, California
 Central California Area Office

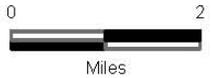
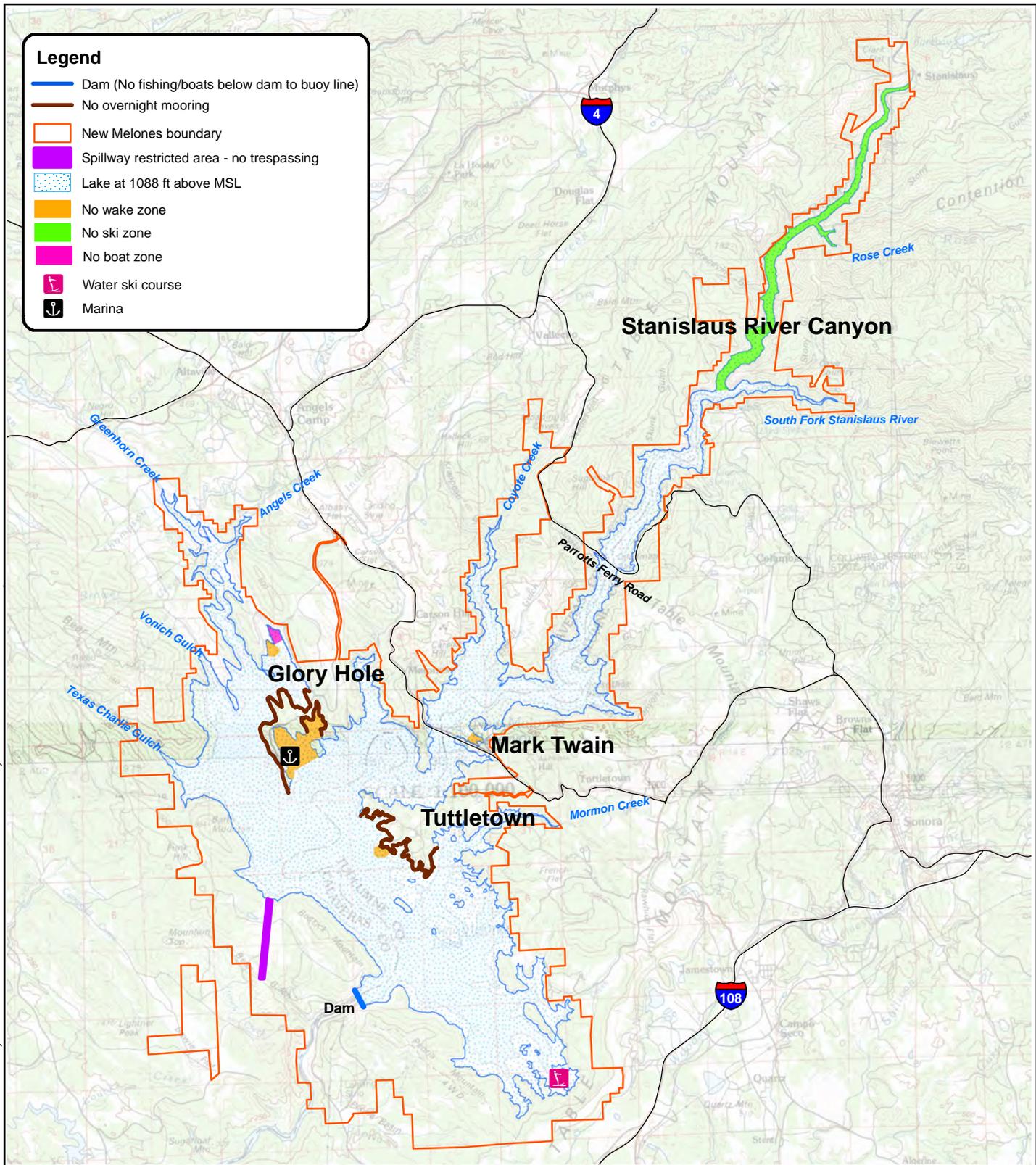


Figure 3-1

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-  No wake zone - 200 ft around marina, boat launches, and lake access
-  No ski zone - Areas where it has been determined that, due to the nature of the area, it is too dangerous to tow a person behind a vessel. No waterskiing, tubing, wakeboarding or kneeboarding is permitted.
-  No boat zone - No boats within designated area
-  Marina - No swimming within marina area

New Melones Water Use Zones No Action Alternative

New Melones Lake Area, California
Central California Area Office

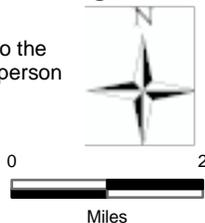
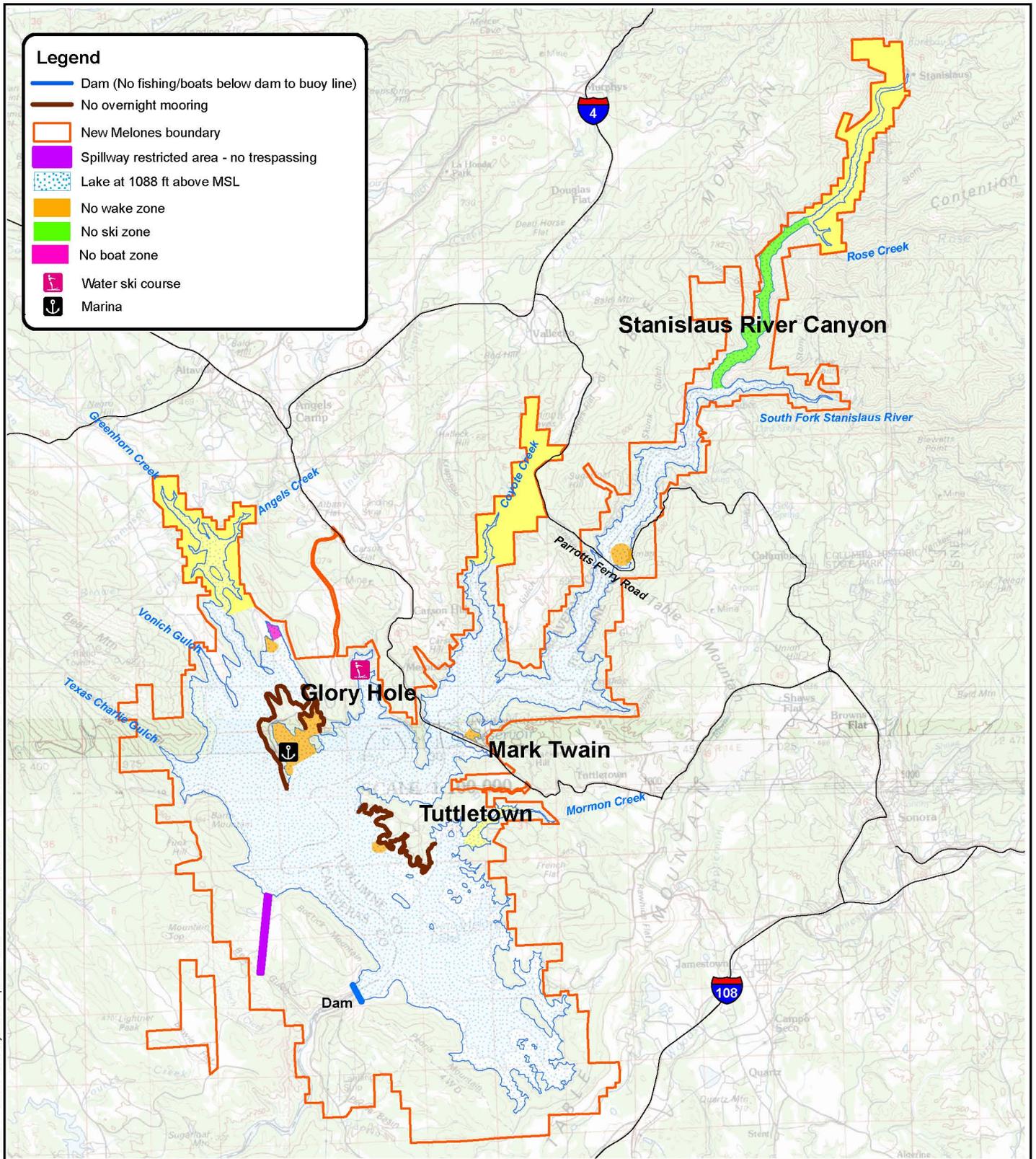


Figure 3-2

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-  No wake zone - 200 ft around marina, boat launches, and lake access
-  Environmentally sensitive area - No overnight use, no wake zone, no ski zone, no excessive noise, and no mining
-  No ski zone - Areas where it has been determined that, due to the nature of the area, it is too dangerous to tow a person behind a vessel. No waterskiing, tubing, wakeboarding or kneeboarding is permitted.
-  No boat zone - No boats within designated area
-  Marina - No swimming within marina area

New Melones Water Use Zones Increased Use Alternative

New Melones Lake Area, California
Central California Area Office

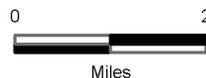
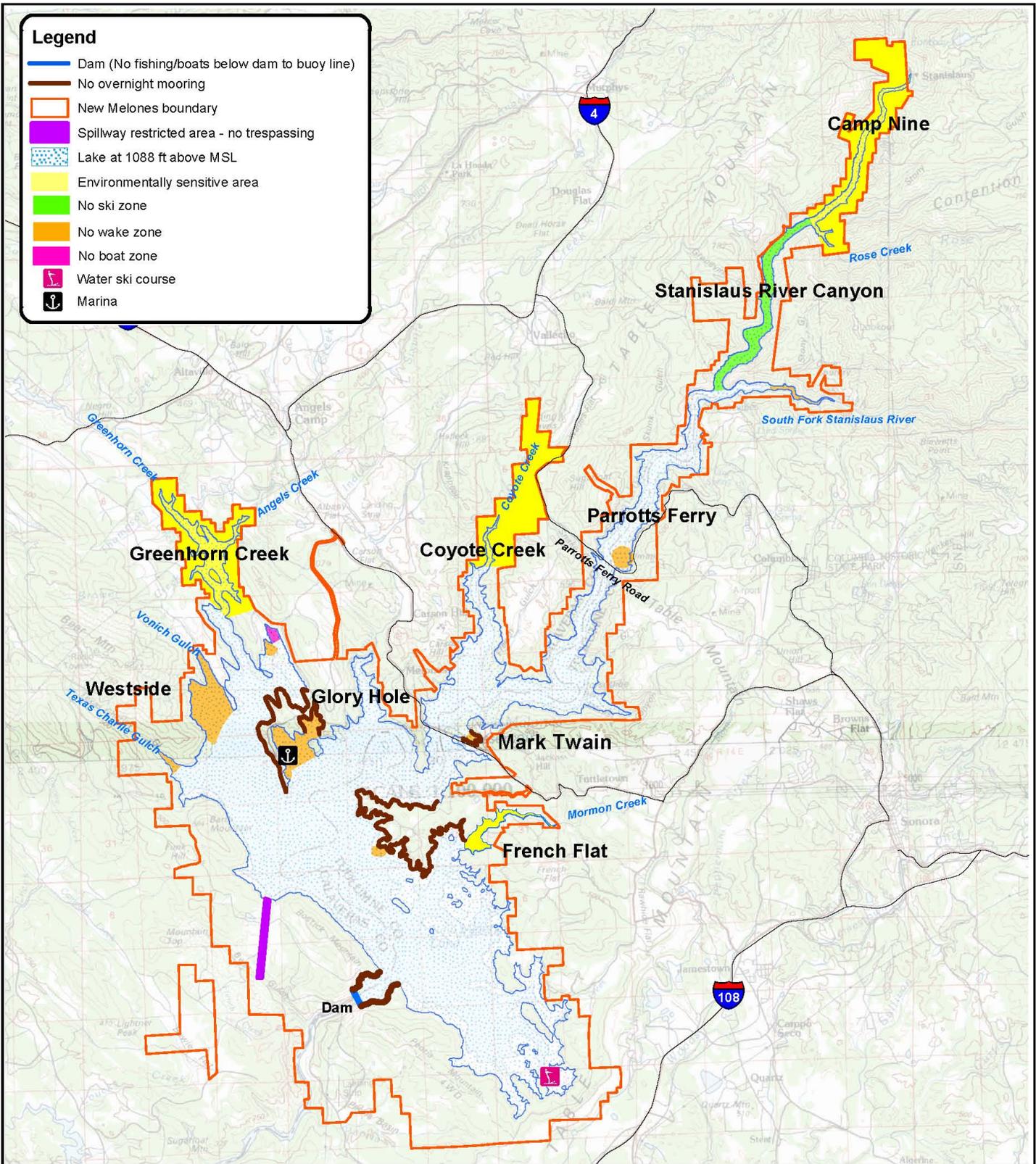


Figure 3-3

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Legend

-  Dam (No fishing/boats below dam to buoy line)
-  No overnight mooring
-  New Melones boundary
-  Spillway restricted area - no trespassing
-  Lake at 1088 ft above MSL
-  Environmentally sensitive area
-  No ski zone
-  No wake zone
-  No boat zone
-  Water ski course
-  Marina



-  No wake zone - 200 ft around marina, boat launches, and lake access, and other designated areas.
-  Environmentally sensitive area - No overnight use, no wake zone, no ski zone, no excessive noise, and no mining
-  No ski zone - Areas where it has been determined that, due to the nature of the area, it is too dangerous to tow a person behind a vessel. No waterskiing, tubing, wakeboarding or kneeboarding is permitted.
-  No boat zone - No boats within designated area
-  Marina - No swimming within marina area

New Melones Water Use Zones Conservation Alternative

New Melones Lake Area, California
Central California Area Office

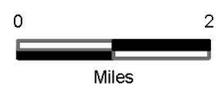
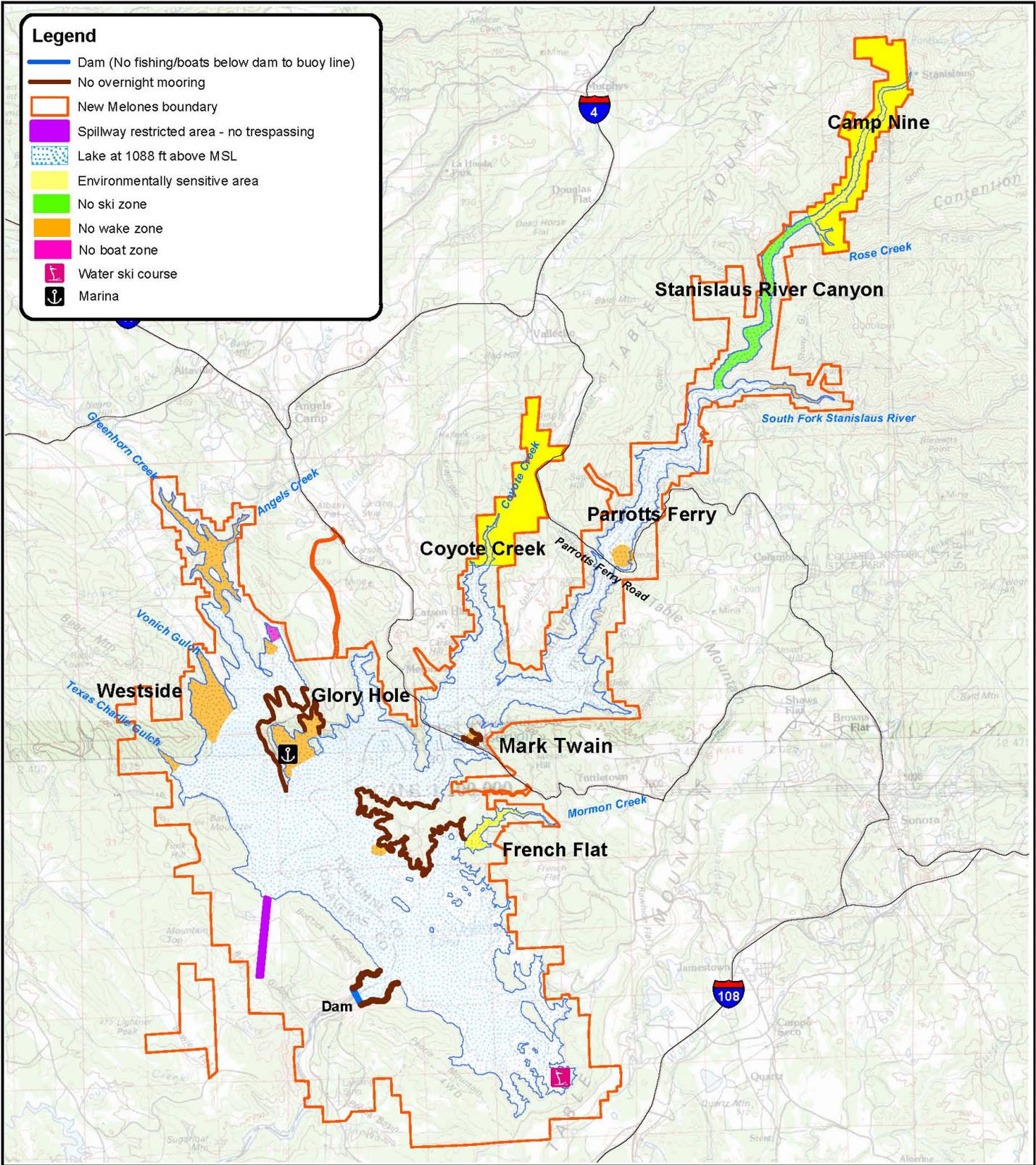


Figure 3-4

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New Melones Water and Land Use Zones Multiple Use Alternative

- No wake zone - 200 ft around marina, boat launches, and lake access, and other designated areas.
- Environmentally sensitive area - No overnight use, no wake zone, no ski zone, no excessive noise, and no mining
- No ski zone - Areas where it has been determined that, due to the nature of the area, it is too dangerous to tow a person behind a vessel. No waterskiing, tubing, wakeboarding or kneeboarding is permitted.
- No boat zone - No boats within designated area
- ⚓ Marina - No swimming within marina area

New Melones Lake Area, California
Central California Area Office

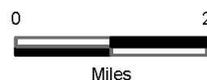
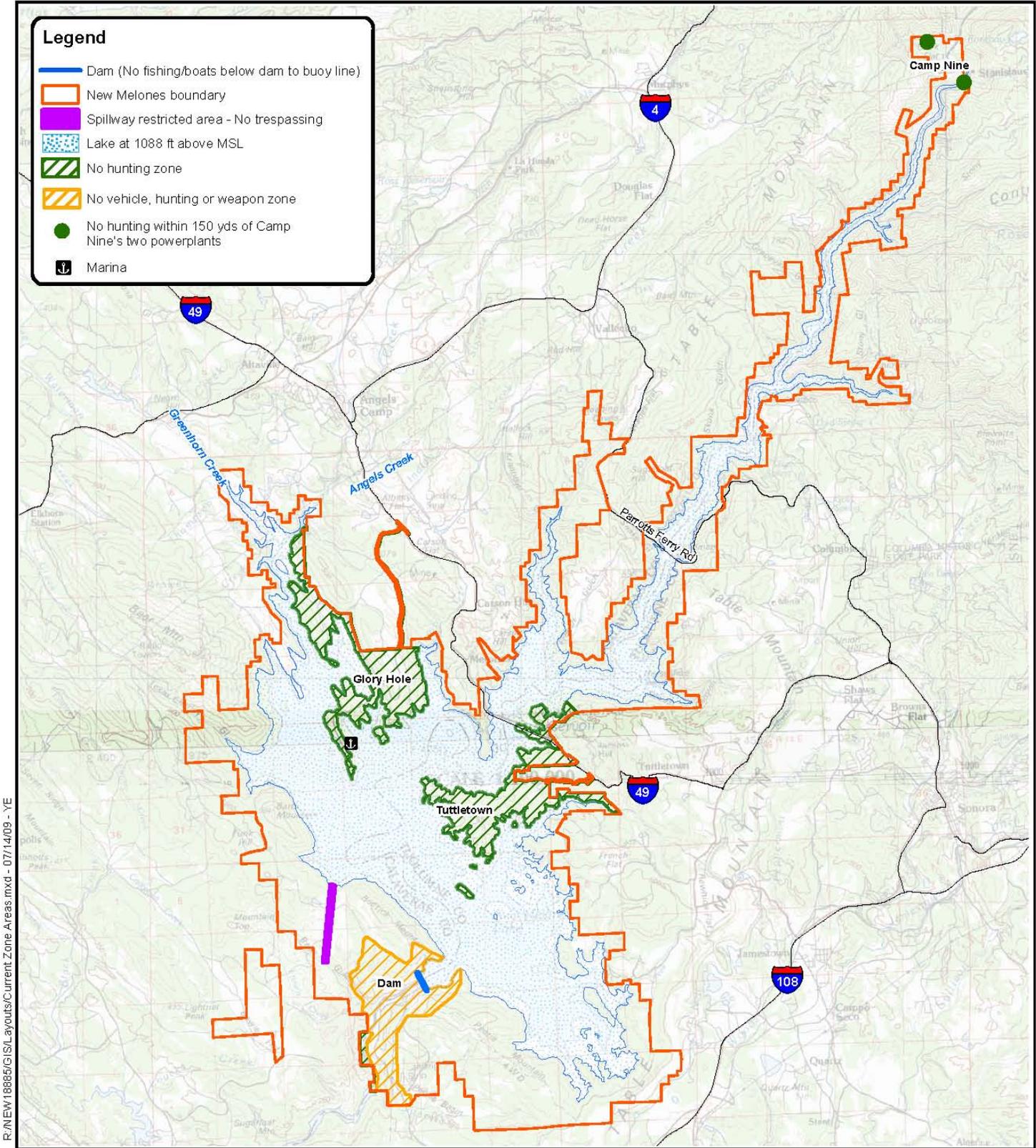


Figure 3-5



R:\NEW18885\GIS\Layouts\Current Zone Areas.mxd - 07/14/09 - YE

 No hunting within 150 yds of any developed recreation area, campgrounds, or other facilities, boat ramp parking area, day use area, neighboring residences, or within 150 yds of Camp Nine's two power plants

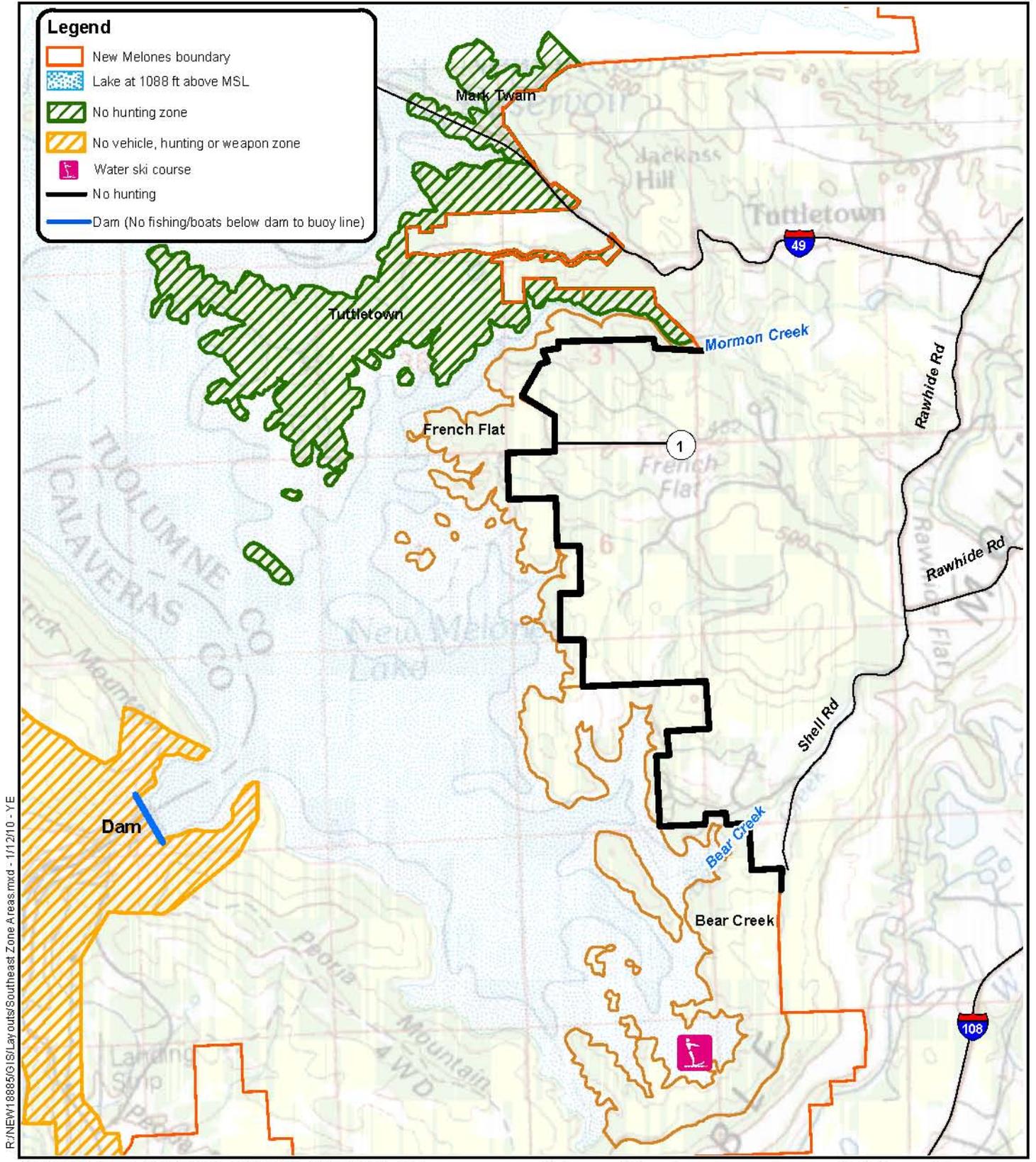
Dam zone - No vehicles, hunting or weapons

New Melones Land Use Zones No Action Alternative

New Melones Lake Area, California
Central California Area Office



Figure 3-7



R:\NEW18885\GIS\Layouts\Southeast_Zone_A_reas.mxd - 1/12/10 - YE

- Legend**
- New Melones boundary
 - Lake at 1088 ft above MSL
 - No hunting zone
 - No vehicle, hunting or weapon zone
 - Water ski course
 - No hunting
 - Dam (No fishing/boats below dam to buoy line)

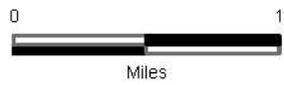
Southeast Zone - Mark Twain, Tuttle town, French Flat, and Bear Creek Management Areas.

- No hunting within 150 yds of any developed recreation area, campgrounds or other facilities, boat ramp parking area, day use area, and neighboring residences.
- 1 French Flat and Bear Creek - No hunting 150 yds inside Reclamation boundary north from the end of the paved portion of Shell Road to Mormon Creek Cove.

New Melones Land Use Zones Southeast Zone - Multiple Use Alternative

New Melones Lake Area, California
Central California Area Office

Figure 3-8



4. Description of the Proposed Action Alternative

4.1 Description of the Proposed Action

4.1.1 Goals, Objectives and Implementation Strategies

The Proposed Action Alternative, Alternative D, strives to balance management of recreational uses and resources with management of natural and cultural resources. This alternative was developed by combining those aspects of Alternatives A, B, and C that provide the most balanced outcome for managing public lands within the New Melones Lake Area. This alternative incorporates many management objectives and actions from the other alternatives and may include new management direction as necessary. This alternative also generally allows for more uses and active resource management than does Alternative C but less than does Alternative B. The proposed goals are listed below in general terms and describe conditions that Reclamation, with input from the public, would envision at New Melones as a result of this RMP. Implementation strategies are listed that describe some of the options that Reclamation may pursue in carrying out the goals.

Air Quality

Goal: Comply with applicable air quality regulations to meet public health and safety requirements.

Air Quality Implementation Strategies:

- Comply with applicable asbestos regulations regarding friable asbestos;
- Conduct wetting operation during periods of serpentine outcrop disturbance to minimize release of airborne asbestos fibers; and
- Comply with smoke production limitations during period of poor air quality; for example, restrict sanctioned visitor fires and Reclamation use of fire during designated burn days (cooking fires are exempt).

Noise

Goal: Comply with applicable noise regulations to meet public health and safety requirements. Manage noise at levels appropriate to the use of particular areas (zoning, lake, and campground policies).

Noise Implementation Strategies:

- Monitor and seek voluntary compliance with boat noise regulations and
- Monitor and seek voluntary compliance with visitor noise regulations.

Geologic Resources (Excluding Caves)

Goal: Allow appropriate uses of geologic resources while protecting resource values (i.e., rock climbing, education, scientific research, soils, minerals, mining).

Geologic Implementation Strategies:

- Restrict mining and material excavation within the study area and coordinate with adjacent landowners/managers to prevent degradation of Reclamation lands;
- Continue closing old mine workings after conducting appropriate studies; and
- Review and comment on all proposed mining plans and reclamation plans that may affect the New Melones watershed.

Caves

Goals: Comply with applicable cave management regulation, such as the 1988 Federal Cave Resources Protection Act. Protect cave formations and the sensitive resources within them.

Cave Implementation Strategies:

- Update the cave inventory to identify and classify caves;
- Implement a protection plan for caves with significant resource value or potential hazards, as needed. Create a partnership with local spelunkers to protect and preserve cave resources. Should funding become available, Reclamation may develop an updated cave management plan by coordinating with other agencies to strengthen and protect cave resources;
- Manage recreation use, as needed, to preserve cave resources, such as scenic qualities, fragile formations, cultural resources, and sensitive species;
- Manage access to caves to comply with federal law and meet health and safety requirements; and
- Identify caves appropriate for interpretive opportunities. Provide cave tours led by Reclamation or a concessionaire for suitable caves.

Hydrology/Water Quality

Goals: Comply with applicable water quality regulations, such as the Clean Water Act. Conserve water resources and protect the water quality of those resources at New Melones Lake (management action, visitor use). Maintain the ecological health of aquatic habitats on New Melones Lake lands, for example riparian and wetlands.

Hydrology/Water Quality Implementation Strategies:

- In all Rural Developed and Rural Natural Management Areas, update minimum basic facilities, such as parking and restrooms, which, among other standards, need to provide for public health and safety, water quality, and ecosystem protection;

- Coordinate management of shared watersheds with neighboring landowners and agencies to protect ecological health and water quality;
- Coordinate with and assist local and state agencies for possible water quality monitoring;
- Review environmental documents for projects within the watershed and provide comments to the lead agency on limiting increases in impervious surfaces, minimizing soil disturbances, and other water quality impacts;
- Design, operate, and maintain recreation area facilities to minimize water contamination and the loss of soils due to surface runoff;
- Where appropriate, design, operate, and maintain recreation area facilities to maximize water conservation; and
- The number, extent, and adverse effect of stream crossings would be minimized when new roads, trails, or easements are designed. New stream crossings would be designed and existing crossings would be maintained to minimize disruption to riparian vegetation, to prevent alteration of stream flow regime, and to prevent initial and chronic sources of erosion and sedimentation.

Sanitation Implementation Strategies:

- Continue to ensure that waste treatment systems comply with applicable waste discharge requirements;
- Promote sound fish waste management through a combination of fish-cleaning facilities and public education;
- Implement industry standard BMPs, in addition to minimum basic facilities, to improve sanitation facilities and infrastructure and pollution prevention structures, such as lift stations, floating restrooms, and improved waste management facilities;
- Locate the restrooms in high-visibility areas to maximize use and minimize vandalism;
- Continue to operate and maintain floating restrooms at various locations on the lake;
- Locate permanent facilities above gross pool. Use concrete vault toilets or portables where facilities are needed below the gross pool;
- Ensure facilities below gross pool are pumped dry or removed before inundation;
- Continue to require houseboat operators to meet industry standards in regard to holding tanks. Require marina to provide sewage pump-out service to the public and upgrade marina sewage facilities;
- Prohibit dumping of any kind on Reclamation lands and water;

- Modify fish-cleaning stations to improve sanitation, and provide an adequate fish-cleaning station closer to the boat launch area in the Tuttle town and Glory Hole Management Areas;
- Provide and maintain appropriate restroom facilities at existing high-use areas and as a part of all new development. When water levels decrease also provide temporary restroom facilities at lower elevations; and
- Install a sign that indicates that there are no toilets near Coyote Creek. Should funding become available, a compost facility could be installed at Natural Bridges in the Coyote Creek Management Area, to accompany an existing facility.

Erosion Implementation Strategies:

- Locate and design roads, trails, and access easements to follow the natural topography, minimizing steep slopes and the number of stream crossings;
- To the extent possible, avoid disturbing the soil of areas that are particularly vulnerable to erosion and sediment loss;
- Confine all public vehicles to roadways and continue to enforce ban on off-highway vehicle (OHV) operation;
- Implement BMPs, such as water bars, trail nicks, drains, and culverts, to control erosion on roads and trails;
- Prohibit discharge of sediment to any water body;
- Identify areas where stormwater runoff from paved surfaces is concentrated and drains directly to water bodies; develop retention basins or other water quality control features for these areas;
- Harden surfaces prone to erosion and subject to extensive visitor use by using compacted aggregate or paving with asphalt or concrete, soil cement, or other hardening agent;
- Promote stream bank and reservoir shoreline stability to encourage riparian vegetation;
- If funding becomes available, in Rural Developed Management Areas, update and improve roads to Mark Twain, Parrott's Ferry, and Melones Recreation Area, while minimizing erosion and water quality impacts;
- Restrict or reduce vehicle use on roadways in Semi Primitive Management Areas and reduce vehicle operation on unimproved roadways in Rural Natural Management Areas; and
- Where appropriate, provide for dry camp (no fire rings or piped water, or other amenities) opportunities at walk-in portions of Semi Primitive Management Areas and Rural Natural Management Areas (e.g., Bowie Flat), and provide floating campsites in Rural Natural Management Areas.

Contamination Implementation Strategies:

- Comply with applicable hazardous waste and materials (HazMat) regulations, including the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), such as for storing, transferring, containing, and disposing of hazardous materials, such as oil, solvents, antifreeze, and paints. When appropriate, Reclamation staff, Reclamation contractors, and facility lessees at New Melones are encouraged to recycle these materials;
- Respond to any hazardous waste problems discovered on Reclamation lands immediately to minimize water quality degradation, per RCRA and other applicable regulations;
- Continue to require emergency spill plans for the marina and all other facilities that store fuels. Continue to require that these facilities have spill containment equipment;
- Continue to require the marina to use automatic shutoff nozzles and promote the use of fuel/air separators on air vents or tank stems of inboard fuel tanks to reduce the amount of fuel spilled into surface waters during fueling of boats;
- Restrict vehicle and vessel maintenance, repairs, and construction on Reclamation lands to designated areas;
- Minimize development and disturbance on serpentine outcrops to control movement of asbestos fibers into water bodies. Conduct wetting operation during periods of serpentine outcrop disturbance to minimize release of airborne asbestos fibers and to prevent runoff into adjacent water bodies;
- Control surface runoff of pesticides and fertilizers from Reclamation lands by using the Integrated Pest Management Plan for the New Melones Management Area; and
- Use chemical, mechanical and biological methods of pest control in accordance with the Integrated Pest Management Plan for the New Melones Management Area.

Visual Resources

Goal: Manage Reclamation lands and activities to provide protection of the visual values and scenic quality of existing landscapes.

- Continue to educate agencies and landowners on the negative impacts of certain land use activities that may affect the visual quality of the study area;
- Manage recreation impacts in Rural Natural Management Areas to preserve sensitive resources in their natural state, and to maintain scenic qualities associated with these areas;
- Design all facilities to blend in to the natural landscape through careful siting (for example, behind terrain, away from ridgelines, within vegetated areas), screening with appropriate native plant species, use of architectural design compatible with

the applicable surroundings (including style, scale, texture, and colors) and avoiding the use of unpainted metallic surfaces, such as roof materials;

- Have all Reclamation and concession signs comply with the Reclamation sign manual;
- Comment on plans and environmental documents for new major projects within the watershed to prevent potential adverse visual effects on Reclamation lands;
- Continue to implement and update the project-wide sign management plan; and
- Using the principles of shaded fuel breaks, design fuel breaks and firebreaks in a manner that minimizes impacts on aesthetic, visual, and scenic resources.

Vegetation

Goal: Maintain and enhance native and unique plant communities.

General Vegetation Implementation Strategies:

- Protect and promote native and unique plant communities for long-term sustainability and viability. These communities include oak woodlands, native perennial grasslands, wetlands, vernal pools, and plants associated with serpentine soils;
- Minimize clearing or converting native plant communities caused by human activities;
- Implement the Fire Management Plan for the New Melones Management Area, which includes using prescribed burning to achieve the following vegetation management goals, objectives, and benefits:
 - Protect native habitats from conversion to nonnative habitats by returning fire to the landscape,
 - Rejuvenate chaparral by reducing brush density and creating variable structure and age composition in chaparral communities,
 - Remove buildup of chaparral fuels to provide for propagation and rejuvenation of native plants in heavy brush areas,
 - Rejuvenate oak woodland by curtailing brush encroachment,
 - Prevent severe infestation of some invasive plant species,
 - Design fuel breaks and firebreaks to consider resource objectives for vegetation management and soil stabilization; and
- Continue to implement the Vegetation Management Plan.

Invasive Species Implementation Strategies:

- When appropriate, reseed degraded or impacted grassland and woodland habitats with native seed;

- Use target-specific herbicides, when used seasonally (late winter or early spring) and in conjunction with mechanical removal operations and biological controls to reduce infestations of invasive species; and
- Continue to prevent severe invasions of exotics (such as yellow star thistle).

Native Plant Community Implementation Strategies:

- Restore or enhance lost or degraded native communities, where appropriate and when opportunities exist, subject to limitation of increased cost of operation or maintenance;
- Provide for public education on the ecology and cultural importance of native plant communities, such as oak woodland, native perennial grasslands, vernal pools, riparian areas and wetlands, and plants associated with serpentine soils;
- Minimize disturbance detrimental to native plant communities, such as infrastructure development, extensive visitor use, clearing, or other human activity that might cause conversion of plant communities;
- Preserve serpentine-based communities by performing a plant survey during project planning and, where possible, modify the proposed project to avoid occurrences of special status plants, such as *Chlorogalum grandiflora* and *Allium tuolumnense*;
- When practical, avoid serpentine soils, especially when an activity or visitor use may cause erosion or compaction that would degrade habitat values;
- Survey and inventory New Melones Lake Area lands to establish baseline plant communities;
- If feasible and in conjunction with Caltrans, manage a 66-acre parcel of land near the PWMA for a possible oak tree mitigation area; and
- Develop a full baseline survey of the populations of serpentine special status plants at New Melones Lake, such as *Chlorogalum grandiflora* and *Allium tuolumnense*. This survey could then be used for monitoring key plant populations and project planning.

Wetland Implementation Strategies:

- When practical, avoid wetland communities, such as riparian communities along streams, rivers, or shoreline, wet meadow communities, seeps, vernal pools, or other water-dependent communities, especially when an activity or visitor use may cause erosion or compaction that would degrade habitat values;
- Educate the public about the ecology and cultural importance of wetland vegetation communities, such as riparian areas, seeps, and vernal pools;
- Protect, restore, or enhance degraded riparian communities where appropriate and when opportunities exist, subject to limitations of increased cost of operation or maintenance;

- When possible, plan management activities that may impact wetlands for the dry season;
- Promote stream bank and reservoir shoreline stability to encourage establishment of riparian vegetation; and
- Manage wetland communities to ensure no net loss of these habitats, in compliance with USACE and EPA policy.

Fish and Wildlife

Goals: Manage for habitat quality to maintain or enhance biological diversity. Manage vegetation in areas outside of fuel treatment project perimeters to retain sufficient wildlife cover. Conserve sensitive wildlife habitats by minimizing disruption and loss. Enhance wildlife habitat values, features, and diversity. Restore wildlife habitat values of damaged areas through revegetation and restoration.

General Fish and Wildlife Implementation Strategies:

- Continue to operate within management guidelines for fish and wildlife resources from the 1976 Master Plan, as well as appropriate regulations and accepted standards for Reclamation;
- Fulfill mitigation requirements in the Peoria Wildlife Management Area;
- Document, conserve, and enhance habitat for fish and wildlife resources, where appropriate, and when opportunities exist that will not increase the cost of operation or maintenance;
- Leash or cage all domestic pets when on Reclamation lands;
- Develop and fund programs that improve habitat for wildlife within New Melones Lake Area. Such programs include the following:
 - Protect, restore, and enhance wetlands, including vernal pools and drainages,
 - Practice oak silviculture for hardwood-dependent species,
 - Maintain snags and install nest boxes for cavity-nesting birds, including wood ducks,
 - Provide artificial nest structures for osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) to supplement nests subject to inundation,
 - Provide wildlife water facilities, such as quail guzzlers, similar to those constructed in the Peoria Mountain Wildlife Area;
- Prohibit release of any introduced species without permit from the CDFG or release of domestic animals onto Reclamation lands;
- Minimize trespass grazing by maintaining fence lines and posting signs. When trespass occurs, coordinate with local landowners and law enforcement to remove the animals;

- Throughout the New Melones Lake Area, allow hunting in accordance with applicable regulations, such as EO 13443, except where prohibited or restricted;
- Encourage the CDFG to monitor and enforce rules and regulations related to hunting and fishing;
- Continue to monitor New Melones lands for feral species, such as wild pigs, that may damage resources. If a feral animal population is confirmed, take action to control those populations using the methods described in the Integrated Pest Management Plan;
- Implement the Fire Management Plan by taking the following actions:
 - Manage vegetation in areas outside of fuel treatment project perimeters to retain sufficient wildlife cover,
 - Conserve sensitive wildlife habitats by minimizing disruption and loss,
 - Enhance wildlife habitat values, features, and diversity,
 - Restore wildlife habitat values of damaged areas through revegetation and restoration,
 - Design fuel breaks and firebreaks to minimize impacts on ecological resources and to consider resource objectives for wildlife habitat management,
 - Time prescribed burns to be done when fuel moisture is at a level where burning would create brush islands to improve wildlife habitat,
 - Manage prescribed burns within Wildlife Management Areas to protect and encourage growth for threatened species or species of concern, and
 - Use low-severity prescribed fire to create fire breaks in wetland and riparian buffer areas;
- Continue to implement wildlife management requirements included in the Baseline Conservation Camp Lease until the new lease is signed and in effect.
- Fully implement the Interim Peoria Wildlife Management Plan by adopting the interim plan in the New Melones Resource Management Plan, thereby integrating the preferred actions described in the Peoria Wildlife Interim Management Plan into the long-term management at New Melones. Implement the Plan with the following actions:
 - Continue to restrict public vehicle use to protect resources year-round;
 - Develop and implement a trail plan;
 - Build designated trails, in accordance with the trail plan;
 - Close and restore unauthorized trails;
 - Encourage continued hiking and biking, along with other low impact recreation;

- Implement the Vegetation Management Plan;
 - Implement environmental interpretation;
 - Limit camping to groups permitted by reservation only;
 - Reseed and restore unauthorized roads and impacted areas;
 - Continue to ban shooting and target practice; and
 - Allow hunting in accordance with applicable regulations, except where prohibited or restricted.
- Allow Baseline Conservation Camp to realign or expand the existing footprint and replace or upgrade existing facilities, if needed, to accommodate updated uses. In addition, ensure that the water supply and waste treatment systems meet appropriate standards.

Fisheries Implementation Strategies:

- Continue to manage fisheries through an agreement with the CDFG;
- Limit disturbance and intensive visitor use along perennial stream corridors and reservoir coves that maintain prime spawning, rearing, and adult residence area fisheries;
- Minimize disturbance of habitat in perennial streams that support native fish;
- Continue to enhance fish habitat by installing fish attractors, consisting of piles of logs and brush anchored to the ground;
- Support efforts by volunteers and partners to rehabilitate and improve fisheries, fish habitat, and aquatic resources;
- Prevent entrapment and death of fish within water impoundment facilities;
- Except when snags present a safety hazard, continue to leave dead trees in the reservoir to provide fish habitat;
- During spawning season, minimize disturbance of known trout spawning areas in Coyote Creek Cove, Angels Creek Cove, Carson Creek Cove, and Mormon Creek Cove, as well as areas of the Stanislaus River downstream of the confluence of Rose Creek and the South Fork; and
- Minimize disturbance of known warm-water fish spawning areas, such as Black Bart Cove.

Special Status Species

Goals: Manage habitat to contribute to the conservation of special status fish, wildlife and plant species. Manage public use and operations and maintenance to contribute to the conservation of special status fish, wildlife, and plant species.

General Special Status Species Implementation Strategies:

- In Rural Natural Management Areas, continue to minimize impacts on sensitive natural and cultural resources by maintaining dispersed visitor use;
- Conserve sensitive wildlife habitats, such as caves and riparian areas, by minimizing disruption and loss; and
- In the Peoria Wildlife Management Area, continue to implement the Peoria Wildlife Management Plan and consider seasonal use restrictions when legally mandated to avoid impacts on special status plants and sensitive habitats and species. For example, restrict recreational uses during breeding periods for raptors and bats.

Raptor Implementation Strategies:

Conduct semiannual inventories of eagles, ospreys, and other raptors. Maintain, construct, or modify osprey platforms and other nesting structures, as needed.

Bat Implementation Strategies:

- In the Peoria Wildlife Management Area, manage rock climbing use in accordance with federal regulations on natural and cultural resources;
- During the habitation period, conduct monthly inventories of sensitive bat species, such as the mastiff bat, on the northwest slope of Table Mountain. Monitor climbing routes in the area for effects on sensitive species. Consider expanding bat survey area to include other bat habitation areas, such as Natural Bridges; and
- As described in the Peoria Wildlife Management Plan, if impacts on sensitive species are identified, develop and implement a climbing management plan.

Land Management

Goals: Manage Reclamation owned and managed lands in accordance with authorized project purposes and applicable laws and regulations. Manage rights-of-way and right-of-use permits in accordance with authorized project purposes and applicable laws and regulations. Minimize and consolidate right-of-way and easement grants on Reclamation lands; if granted, monitor and enforce for compliance with permit measures. Reduce and eliminate encroachment onto or from New Melones Lake lands. Provide, operate, and maintain facilities appropriate to the needs of Reclamation and the general public.

General Land Management Implementation Strategies:

Continue the designation of the New Melones Lake Project as a Special Use Area, in accordance with 43 CFR, Part 423, for the protection of public health and safety, the

protection and preservation of cultural and natural resources, the protection of environmental and scenic values, scientific research, the security of Reclamation facilities, and the avoidance of conflict among visitor use activities. Reclamation has established schedules of visiting hours, public use limits, special uses and other conditions, restrictions and prohibitions on particular uses or activities. 43 CFR, Part 423, and subsequently established special use area regulations to maintain law and order and to protect persons and property within the New Melones Lake Project.

Coordination Implementation Strategies:

- Continue to encourage and support cooperative planning within the Stanislaus watershed among Reclamation, other affected federal, state, and local agencies, and the public;
- Review and participate in the development of regional plans on adjacent lands to ensure that land use decisions and activities are compatible with those at New Melones. Coordinate with the Tuolumne and Calaveras County Planning Departments to review and contribute to resource and land use plans that may affect the Stanislaus watershed;
- Coordinate with applicable agencies, such as Tuolumne County, BLM, USFWS, and CDFG, and appropriate private entities to develop measures to protect and preserve the ecological and cultural values at New Melones Lake. Address such issues as access, land acquisition and disposal, recreational shooting, and the potential disturbance of vegetation, soils, and geologic features. Encourage local volunteer organizations to participate in recreation planning for projects to protect and enhance resources. Reclamation will adaptively manage the implementation of the RMP, with input from applicable agencies and private entities;
- Coordinate with applicable entities (such as Pacific Gas and Electric, Calaveras County Water Agency, Calaveras County, BLM, USFWS, and CDFG) and appropriate private entities to develop measures to maintain effective management and decrease negative activities along Camp Nine Road. Measures would address such issues as safety, access, recreational shooting, and the potential disturbance of vegetation, soils, and geologic features.
- Continue to implement wildlife management requirements included in the Baseline Conservation Camp lease by having the lessee perform the following actions:
 - Provide fire suppression services for Reclamation lands at the New Melones Lake Area,
 - Provide crew assistance with project maintenance,
 - Develop an annual work plan identifying projects to be accomplished each year,
 - Use crews to maintain fire protection around facilities and infrastructure, and

- Restrict access of inmates and forestry/corrections staff beyond leased area;
- If funding becomes available, move Baseline Conservation Camp to existing Equestrian Area away from the Stanislaus River area of the PWMA;
- Restore open areas formerly used by Baseline Conservation Camp to natural habitat, leaving roads and specific facilities for future use; and
- Allow a larger or different footprint for Baseline Conservation Camp if needed to accommodate updated facilities and uses; and
- Change the boundaries of the PWMA to exclude the Baseline Conservation Camp lease area, offsetting with equivalent or more acreage for wildlife mitigation next to the PWMA in other areas.

Rights of Use Implementation Strategies:

- Continue to assess how lands contained within the New Melones Lake Area are being effectively used for project purposes;
- Assure that maintenance of right-of-way utility crossings will be coordinated with Reclamation before any land or vegetation is altered;
- Avoid or minimize future easements and rights-of-way over Reclamation lands. If allowed, ensure that new easements (e.g., roadways, electrical transmission lines, pipelines, structures, and facilities) adhere to applicable guidelines to avoid potential operational and resource impacts;
- Continue to prohibit certain activities on federal land without a permit as per 43 CFR, Part 423, such as livestock grazing, OHV operation, and construction; and
- Continue Reclamation's efforts to eliminate unpermitted grazing and water access on lands under its jurisdiction. In appropriate areas, and with an approved permit and grazing plan, allow grazing and stock watering as a means to control invasive plant species and to reduce fire danger.

Trespass and Unauthorized Use Implementation Strategies:

- Continue to enforce regulations related to trespass onto, or the unauthorized use of, the land and water under Reclamation's jurisdiction. Trespass and unauthorized use deprives the public of its rightful use and enjoyment of the public lands. It is the general policy of Reclamation to facilitate and ensure the proper use of land resources. Benefits to the public as a whole resulting from nonexclusive uses of federal lands is the primary management emphasis;
- Continue to implement a program to periodically patrol areas where unpermitted grazing or water access occurs, as well as areas where off-road vehicles are known to be used;
- Pursue cooperation aimed at preventing unauthorized use and trespass by continuing to implement a program of public information, education, and contact (for example, through signs, pamphlets, maps, and public notices). Inform

neighboring landowners and appropriate local, state, and federal agencies of changes to the boundaries of Reclamation-managed lands;

- Continue to enforce Reclamation's OHV policy and regulation, which states that all Reclamation lands are closed to OHVs, except for those areas specifically designated for such use (43 CFR, Part 420). No OHVs are allowed at New Melones Lake; vehicles must remain on paved or other specified hard surface roads. In accordance with 43 CFR, Part 420, allow access for fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicles and those used for officially designated purposes; and
- Resolve land ownership and jurisdictional uncertainties with other agencies when discrepancies are identified.

Facilities, Land Use, and Management Areas:

- Discontinue use of the existing land use allocation map in the 1976 Master Plan to manage land and water in the New Melones Lake Area;
- Update land use allocation at New Melones Lake, as described in Table 2-1: Land Use to reflect updated information, currently used management areas, and potential management from such sources as the WROS, carrying capacity study, and commercial services plan (Land Capability per the 1976 Master Plan, page 45);
- Perform repairs/alterations on existing facilities necessary to comply with accessibility and public health and safety standards (such as the accessibility action plan);
- In all Rural Developed and Rural Natural Management Areas, update minimum basic facilities and minimal facilities (expanded), such as parking and sanitation facilities, which, among other standards, need to protect public health and safety and protect water quality;
- Unless otherwise specified, continue to operate and maintain current facilities and continue existing uses in all management areas. See Chapter 5 for description of facilities and uses;
- Continue closure of overlook facilities (parking, restroom, picnic area) at Peoria Flat; and
- Allow public access to the overlook facilities at Peoria Flat through guided tours with Reclamation.

Utilities:

- Forecast and plan for updating systems to coincide with future demands and regulatory requirements; and
- Conduct periodic review of utilities, maintain a long-term plan for maintenance, replacement, and updating of systems, and seek funding to address deferred maintenance of utilities.

Access and Transportation

Goal: Manage travel, roads, and trails to provide safe access, minimize resource impacts and provide for multiple use recreation opportunities within the planning area.

Access Implementation Strategies:

- Continue designating the New Melones Lake Project as a Special Use Area, pursuant to 43 CFR, Part 423, which states that areas within the Special Use Area will remain open unless closed by Reclamation. Closure of federal lands under 43 CFR, Part 423 includes publishing a notice in the *Federal Register* and in the local press;
- Continue to restrict public access to, and enforce a no trespassing zone in, the New Melones Dam and Spillway Management Area, which includes the New Melones power plant and outlet works, spillway, Stanislaus River downstream to the buoy line, the Visitor Overlook, and the area leased to the California Division of Forestry for Baseline Conservation Camp. To protect public health and safety, close these areas to public vehicles, hunting, and fishing;
- Manage access to caves in the Camp Nine, Coyote Creek, and Stanislaus River Canyon Management Areas to comply with federal law and meet health and safety, as well as to minimize adverse impacts on cave organisms, microclimate, and paleontological resources;
- Continue to close the following areas to public vehicles, unless the current Closure Notice is changed (see page E-9): Mark Twain Lake Access (past vehicle barricades), Old Parrotts Ferry Road, Peoria Wildlife Management Area, Melones Recreation Area, French Flat Recreation Area, Bear Creek Recreation Area, as well as the Westside, Bowie Flat, Greenhorn Creek, Carson Hill, Dam and Spillway, and Stanislaus River Canyon Management Areas. A possible change to these closures is reopening Old Parrotts Ferry Road as a lake access point, if feasible; and
- Operate and maintain lake access routes and associated facilities at Glory Hole and Tuttle town Management Areas. Update and modernize lake access routes and associated facilities in the Mark Twain, Camp Nine, and Parrotts Ferry Management Area to meet requirements for minimum basic facilities, unless a nonfederal cost-sharing partnership or contractual agreement provides for additional improvements.

Road Implementation Strategies:

- Operate and maintain roads and parking facilities in accordance with appropriate regulations and guidelines on Reclamation property and for access to the New Melones Lake Area;
- Continue to operate and maintain a system of recreation area access roads within the influence of the reservoir, which will be maintained as fluctuating water levels

- permit. Generally these roads above the gross pool in the main lake area will be paved, while roads below the gross pool will have a stabilized aggregate surface;
- Continue to implement and update the project-wide sign management plan;
 - Where appropriate, improve Camp Nine Road for safe vehicle ingress and egress from the Camp Nine Management Area;
 - Where appropriate, update and modernize the access road and parking for safe vehicle access and egress onto Parrotts Ferry Road in the Coyote Creek Management Area at Natural Bridges;
 - Where appropriate, implement road maintenance agreements for management of Reclamation roads, such as along Glory Hole Road/Whittle Ranch Road; and
 - Where feasible, obtain easements or purchase fee titles to access landlocked Reclamation property, such as Bowie Flat, Skunk Gulch, Grapevine Gulch, and Melones Recreation Area. Where no road exists, construct a road that meets Reclamation standards and is suitable for management of the area.

Aircraft Implementation Strategies:

- Continue to implement the existing New Melones seaplane policy and comply with 43 CFR, Part 423, which includes restrictions on commercial operation of seaplanes and designates appropriate landing zones and operations (see Figure 3-1) and
- Prepare and implement a strategy to address adverse overflight activities. The strategy may include a range of actions, from increased education and communication with aviators, county airport personnel, and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), to requesting that the FAA restrict airspace over New Melones Lake Area to protect public safety and critical infrastructure. Exclusions would apply to fire fighting, emergency, and military air operations.

Westside and Bowie Flat Management Area Implementation Strategies:

- Allow access to the Westside for beneficial dispersed recreation by way of hiking, biking, and horseback riding via connecting trails in the Greenhorn Creek Management Area or by boat. Should vehicle access be needed for recreation use or other project purposes, transportation routes may be considered;
- Continue to assess how lands contained within the New Melones Lake Area are being effectively used for project purposes;
- Optimize the connectivity between the existing fire road and trail system for a variety of uses, such as mountain biking, equestrian use (outside of existing Rural Developed Management Areas), and hiking in Glory Hole, Greenhorn Creek, and Westside Management Areas. Develop new trailheads to access the Greenhorn Creek and Westside areas; and
- Increase the use of the Bowie Flat Management Area to allow for multiuse trails (hiking, biking, horseback riding), and a trailhead staging area, and dry camping

if suitable vehicle access is available. Possible Special Use activities could also be considered for this area should vehicles be allowed.

Public Health and Safety

Goal: Comply with applicable regulations to protect public health and safety. Comply with applicable health and safety requirements for Reclamation staff and representatives. Maintain a safe and healthy environment for employees and the public.

General Public Health and Safety Implementation Strategies:

- Provide staff levels and funding levels commensurate with recreation visitation in order to maintain the level and quality of services expected by the visitors to New Melones;
- Project specific safety plans are formulated by Reclamation or its agent for individual operations and maintenance projects. These plans would help staff recognize and address safety issues. In these plans, project personnel will identify precautionary measures to prevent accidents from common recurring hazards or unsafe conditions;
- Continue using park rangers to help prevent some unacceptable public behavior and increase visitor awareness through ranger interaction with the public. By patrolling New Melones, rangers can identify and report unacceptable behavior, be a visible presence on the land and water, and educate the public on a case-by-case basis on policies, rules, and regulations that apply at New Melones Lake;
- In support of primary emergency services, rangers provide first response for medical, hazardous materials, search and rescue, and other emergencies at New Melones Lake;
- Continue to develop appropriate educational opportunities on water, boating safety, and general boating etiquette. In addition, educate boaters on a case-by-case basis by monitoring boating activities and seeking voluntary compliance with federal and state laws and regulations. Establish a partnership with the Coast Guard Auxiliary to help with boater education;
- Where necessary, ensure adequate closure of unsafe or potentially hazardous areas (e.g., caves, old mine shafts, exposed steep areas, and high fire hazards areas) in compliance with closure procedures in 43 CFR, Part 423;
- Continue to mark the tops of intermittent islands, large rock outcroppings, or other aquatic hazards with warning buoys, in accordance with the New Melones Lake Waterway Hazard Marking Plan;
- Continue to coordinate response to health and safety issues with local, state, and federal entities. Continue communications with representatives from Reclamation, BLM, USFWS, CDFG, Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties, and others to share information and cooperate on public safety issues. This includes improving communication capability in remote areas, such as Camp Nine Management Area;

- Encourage Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties, the CDFG, and the BLM to monitor ongoing and reclaimed mining operations for compliance with permitting criteria;
- To protect public health and promote safety, develop and implement a long-term strategy for managing shotgun-only hunting as visitation and urban development increase. This policy may include restrictions to meet management goals, such as compliance with California Fish and Game code, as well as other applicable regulations, such as EO 13443; and
- Continue to implement a project-wide Fire Management Plan and Integrated Pest Management Plan. These plans include procedures for notifying the public and local, state, and federal agencies of fire activity in the area, including suppression and prescribed burns.

Law Enforcement Implementation Strategies:

- Address illegal activities in all management areas through continued law enforcement presence and management controls, such as gates and visiting hours, signs, and education;
- Continue to implement a long-term strategy for effective law enforcement at New Melones Lake by cooperating with local, state, and federal agencies;
- Continue working relationships and oversee contracts with Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties to provide law enforcement services. Work to increase law enforcement presence through patrols, public affairs, and other feasible means;
- Develop a strong partnership with CDFG to increase communication, leading to more effective enforcement of the appropriate regulations under the Clean Water Act and the Fish and Game Code of California;
- Encourage CDFG to enforce laws and regulations related to gold dredging; and
- As part of the working relationships with Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties, explore the feasibility of siting a sheriff substation with lake access to each county, which would decrease the response time for a sheriff to respond to disturbances in the New Melones Lake Area.

Invasive Species Control

Goal: Prevent and control invasive species infestations using integrated pest management techniques.

General Invasive Species Implementation Strategies:

- Implement a project-wide Fire Management Plan targeting late spring or early summer burning to control or eliminate invasive plants such as yellow star-thistle. Work with CAL FIRE and federal agencies to coordinate rehabilitation efforts on moderate to large fire areas to prevent invasive plant infestation;

- When pesticide application is necessary to control invasive species, use targeted chemicals when available, such as Transline for thistle control. Work with Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties to monitor for invasive species infestations by trapping and other means;
- Continue to implement an Integrated Pest Management Plan that describes appropriate techniques for invasive species control (i.e., quagga/zebra mussels, yellow star thistle, New Zealand mud snail). These techniques include applying pesticides and herbicides, grazing, fire, mechanical techniques, and biological control; and
- Upon completion of approved grazing plans, allow grazing in all areas permissible for this type of use except high density recreation areas. Implement industry standard BMPs to protect water quality. This grazing could be used to control invasive species, to reduce the fire hazard, and to increase the abundance of desired plant populations. Investigate and implement, if feasible, seasonal grazing of recreation areas to reduce grass growth for the purpose of controlling invasive plant species and reducing fire hazards.

Fire Management

Goals: Comply with applicable fire protection regulations (state and local) and fulfill the requirements of the National Fire Plan for Reclamation. Suppress fires that threaten life, property, and public safety to achieve 100% protection of adjacent communities and resource/social values at risk from unwanted wildfire.

General Fire Management Implementation Strategies:

Implement the project-wide Fire Management Plan (Appendix D). The additional measures for implementation include the following:

- Use natural or manufactured barriers, such as roads, streams, ponds, and wetlands to minimize the need for fire line construction;
- In coordination with CAL FIRE, implement site closure procedures during periods of extreme fire danger, according to the state fire warning system;
- Post signs and gate main entry points to Reclamation lands. Signs will give the current fire danger warning status or the reason for site closure, if necessary, under extreme fire danger conditions;
- Design fuel breaks and firebreaks to minimize impacts on aesthetic, scenic, and ecological resources, and to consider resource objectives for vegetation management, wildlife habitat management, soil stabilization, public safety, ignition sources, and safety of firefighters.
- Follow the Burned Area Stabilization and Emergency Response Plan, including
 - Consider nonpoint sources of pollution resulting from wildfire suppression and rehabilitation, while recognizing safety and operational priorities of fighting wildfires,

- Consult with staff archaeologist, botanist, wildlife biologist, and other staff specialists to evaluate fire and suppression operations effects and to determine if additional restoration is necessary, and
- Rehabilitate burned areas with native plant species or other methods or activities necessary to stabilize soils and prevent unacceptable degradation of natural and cultural resources;
- Meet resource, watershed, wetlands, wildlife, fisheries, cultural, and vegetation/fuels management goals and objectives through the appropriate use of fire and nonfire fuel treatments. Implement appropriate decisions, as identified in the final draft New Melones Fire Management Plan;
- Conduct fire management activities in a manner that retains mature oaks for their wildlife benefits and scenic qualities;
- Use CAL FIRE, Baseline Conservation Camp crews and staff from other federal agencies on prescribed burns to improve firefighting skills, while increasing both knowledge of the New Melones Project's terrain and unique weather patterns;
- Improve Shell Road for use as a fire road and fuel break; and
- Construct a fuel break along the Westside from Peoria to Angels Creek to aid in protecting project lands from fire threat.

Cultural Resources

Goals: Comply with all applicable cultural resources laws including the NHPA and implementing regulations at 36 CFR, Part 800, ARPA, and NAGPRA. Manage activities for the long-term preservation of cultural resources and, whenever feasible, design activities to avoid impacts to cultural resources eligible for inclusion in the NRHP. Complete the process of nominating the New Melones Archaeological District to the NRHP.

General Cultural Implementation Strategies:

- Manage cultural resources in the New Melones Project Area in accordance with Reclamation Policy and Directives and Standards for Cultural Resources Management and Museum Property Management, the Inadvertent Discovery of Human Remains on Reclamation Lands, Department of the Interior Departmental Manual 411, the NHPA, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA), the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 36 CFR, Part 800, 36 CFR, Part 60, 36 CFR, Part 79, and 43 CFR, Part 10;
- In all Rural Natural Management Areas, continue to minimize impacts on cultural resources by maintaining dispersed visitor use;
- Whenever possible, protect historic properties by avoidance through Reclamation's planning process;
- Complete electronic database and GIS mapping of known cultural resources;

- Promote protection of cultural resources through visitor education and public outreach;
- Provide protective signs, educational printed handouts, interpretative programs, and ranger interface with the public to explain the values of cultural resources;
- Protect cultural resources through the use of protective fencing, coverings, and exclusion, as applicable;
- Protect cultural resources through ranger patrol;
- For site-specific projects, consider the effects on historic properties by implementing the Section 106 process of the NHPA;
- Permit excavation of cultural resources in accordance with the ARPA and the American Antiquities Act; require intentional removal of human remains under NAGPRA to be done under an ARPA permit;
- Process permits for cultural resources survey and excavation at Reclamation's Regional Office;
- When compatible with resource protection, interpret selected cultural resources for the education and enjoyment of the general public, give priority to sites within public use areas in proximity to special cultural features, and give special attention to public use areas being degraded through natural or human impacts;
- Produce scientifically accurate and culturally sensitive cultural resources displays and brochures;
- Continue to operate the visitor center and maintain cultural resources interpretive displays;
- Minimize publicity and access to sensitive cave locations, avoid constructing trails to caves, and install gates where necessary for conservation purposes;
- Require permits and review for all research projects within and around cave resources;
- For all actions at New Melones Lake, if buried cultural resources, such as chipped or ground stone, historic debris, building foundations, or bone are discovered during ground-disturbing activities, require that all work in that area and within 100 feet (30 meters) of the find be stopped immediately until a Reclamation archaeologist can assess the significance of the find and, if necessary, develop appropriate treatment and avoidance measures in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer;
- Complete Section 106 before beginning any ground-disturbing actions under the Peoria Wildlife Mitigation Area Plan; allow no construction related to the Peoria Wildlife Mitigation Area Plan until a Section 106 consultation is completed;
- In areas of known archaeological resources, protect sensitive cultural resources by using Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics and by coordinating with a cultural

resource advisor during fire suppression activities. Such activities must be coordinated with Reclamation cultural resources staff;

- In emergencies, where heavy equipment is used without prior on-site coordination, conduct post-fire archaeological evaluations to assess and document equipment damage to cultural resources. Under certain circumstances, require damage assessments and possible mitigation work; and
- Move the New Melones Archaeological Storage Facility to a site outside of the wildlife mitigation area in the Peoria Wildlife Management Area and construct a new building that meets modern standards for an archaeological collections storage facility. Operate and maintain this modern facility and the collections stored there in accordance with regulatory requirements.

Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice

Goal: While meeting Reclamations obligations and goals, provide opportunities that will result in economic benefits to the community.

General Socioeconomic Implementation Strategies:

- Coordinate with local agencies to promote tourism within the region; and
- Comply with EO 12898 by identifying and addressing any disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects on low-income and minority populations.

Indian Trust Assets

Goal: Continue to ensure that management actions will not negatively affect any tribal trust resources or assets by consulting with recognized tribal governments.

General ITA Implementation Strategies:

- Early in the planning process, begin consultation with appropriate Indian tribes or nations and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) concerning potential ITAs. The initial contact with the Indian Tribes/Nations in the immediate area should be government-to-government in a face-to-face meeting, if possible. Coordination should also occur with Reclamation's Native American Affairs Office and the BIA to identify other Indian tribes/nations outside the immediate area that may be interested or affected.

General Recreation

Goals: Provide for diverse recreation within Reclamation's authorities, to afford a safe and quality recreation experience consistent with natural and cultural resource management objectives. Achieve fair value for recreation. Ensure that concessions are planned, developed and managed to meet public needs, are compatible with the natural and cultural resources and provide a variety of services which are consistent with authorized project purposes.

General Recreation Implementation Strategies:

- Develop a long-term strategy that maintains and, wherever appropriate, optimizes the diversity of recreation and level of service found at New Melones Lake;
- Meet visitor demand for specific recreation opportunities within the constraints of the existing infrastructure and while complying with existing applicable regulations, policies, laws, and funding;
- Continue to update recreation management, where it supports Reclamation's mission, to accommodate trends in demographics and recreation interests of the potential visitor to New Melones Lake;
- Ensure that recreation activities be sufficiently varied to accommodate the diversity of potential visitors to New Melones Lake. Target different age groups, range of ability levels, and mix of cultures;
- Allow special events when they support Reclamation's mission, such as fishing tournaments, triathlons, water-ski exhibitions, equestrian trail trials, special hunts, or cross-country sporting events;
- Explore long-term and seasonal concessionaire agreements with private enterprises or managing partners, where appropriate, support them to achieve needed recreational support services, programs, and facilities and to disseminate Reclamation information; and
- Minimize conflicts and promote safety between recreational activities and users by monitoring and seeking collaboration for compliance with management regulations and expanded environmental constraints.

Coordination Implementation Strategies:

- In coordination with the BLM, implement a strategy to prevent illegal activities and public trespass in addition to a proper stock handling program at the French Flat Management Area;
- Continue to educate agencies and landowners on the negative impacts of certain land use activities that may affect the visual quality of the study area; and
- Continue to support and expand boating law enforcement services from Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties.

Commercial Services/Concession Implementation Strategies:

- Write all concession contracts to be in accordance with all applicable policies and regulations; administration of the concessions contract will be the responsibility of New Melones Recreation Resource Branch;
- Continue to implement the regulations and Reclamation policies related to concessions and commercial services, such as 43 CFR, Part 429 (Cost Recovery), and Reclamation Manual Direction. Educate the public in the need to acquire a permit from Reclamation for commercial services on Reclamation lands;

- Implement concessionaire agreements or commercial service permits with private enterprises to achieve needed recreational support services, programs, and facilities. Potential concessions or commercial services may include, but are not limited to, watercraft rentals, dry boat storage, equestrian day rides, an additional marina, food trucks, and firewood sales;
- Continue the concessionaire agreement at New Melones Lake through its expiration in 2012. Plan for future concession services through a commercial services plan and financial feasibility study. Potential concessions must be self supporting and compatible with Reclamation goals and objectives and must provide services desired by the public. In the plan, analyze the existing marina concession and explore feasibility of additional services or contracts;
- If feasible, relocate the marina within Glory Hole Management Area, with separate areas for private moorage and public rentals and services;
- Construct an appropriate wave attenuator for the marina or allow for seasonal operation to minimize storm damage;
- Provide seasonally-operated, additional marina services in appropriate locations in Rural Developed Management Areas, such as Tuttle town and Glory Hole. Additional services could include day rentals of non-motorized boats, wave runners, runabouts, patio boats, and small houseboats that can be trailered and launched;
- Provide seasonally-operated additional marina services in appropriate locations in Rural Natural Management Areas, such as Parrotts Ferry, Greenhorn Creek, or Camp Nine. Additional services could include day rentals of non-motorized boats;
- Provide additional marina amenities in appropriate areas, such as dry storage, dry stacking, transient slips, restaurant or food service, boat repair yard or boat repair services;
- Continue to operate and maintain the Angels Creek swim beach at lake elevations above 1,050 feet msl;
- Construct protected floating swim-dock facilities;
- Construct floating campsites with yurts and restrooms;
- Provide seasonal scenic cruises and lake tours that include interpretation of area history, natural and cultural resources, and provide education on conservation and appropriate uses;
- Continue to provide a marina-based store in Glory Hole for sale of recreation-related products. In addition, provide a camp store to sell ice, beverages, film, firewood, and other related products in Tuttle town and Glory Hole;
- Issue permits to a limited number of commercial businesses for rental operations for equipment such as bicycles, non-motorized boats, camping gear, and pre-delivered RVs;

- Construct a new full hook-up RV park within Tuttle town and/or Glory Hole Recreation Areas;
- Construct overnight lodging facilities, such as yurts, park models, or cabins within Tuttle town and Glory Hole Management Areas;
- Construct a cafe, restaurant, or walk-up grill facility within Tuttle town and/or Glory Hole Management Areas;
- Continue to issue Special Event permits when and where appropriate as per 43 CFR, Parts 429 and 423;
- Update and modify the existing amphitheater in Glory Hole and construct an amphitheater in Tuttle town, to hold mission-related interpretive and other events under Reclamation management;
- Enter into a managing partner or concession agreement, to construct facilities and operate a mountain bike course or park in Tuttle town or Glory Hole Management Areas;
- In all Reclamation management areas, continue to operate and maintain Reclamation facilities and provide services with a combination of Reclamation staff, service contracts, concession agreements, and MOU or MOA with other entities for maximum flexibility and resource protection;
- Issue permits to a limited number of commercial businesses to operate mission-compatible “adventure” outfitter guide services in Rural Natural Management Areas;
- Continue to not permit a seaplane school at New Melones Lake, per 43 CFR, Part 423;
- Issue permits to a limited number of commercial businesses, or enter into a managing partner or concession agreement, to construct facilities and operate an equestrian trail riding business in a Rural Natural Management Area. Locations to be considered may include PWMA, Westside, Bowie Flat, Greenhorn Creek, French Flat, or Bear Creek Management Areas;
- Issue permits to a limited number of commercial businesses, or enter into a managing partner or concession agreement, to construct facilities and operate venues for outdoor adventure schools, environmental education outings, ecotourism, or volunteer vacations for the public. Locations to be considered include PWMA, Westside, Bowie Flat, Greenhorn Creek, Stanislaus River Canyon, Camp Nine, French Flat, or Bear Creek Management Areas;
- Construct and maintain primitive camping facilities in a Rural Natural Management Area at trailhead staging areas or other areas for overnight backpacking, equestrian, guided services, or other commercial activities. Locations to be considered may include PWMA, Westside, Bowie Flat, Greenhorn Creek, Stanislaus River Canyon, Camp Nine, French Flat, or Bear Creek Management Areas;

- Do not allow RV camping in Rural Natural Management Areas per 43 CFR, Part 423;
- Do not allow OHV use per 43 CFR, Part 423;
- Do not allow construction of a mountain bike course in Rural Natural or Semi Primitive Management Areas;
- Continue to operate and maintain the existing water-ski club course located within the South Bay and Bear Creek Management Area;
- Do not allow skeet or target shooting per 43 CFR, Part 423; and
- Continue to operate and maintain the existing RC flying facility in the PWMA, Peoria Flat subarea.

Facilities and Maintenance Program Implementation Strategies:

- Provide a recreation maintenance program that includes such components as potable water, sanitation, refuse management, landscape maintenance, building and facility repairs, waterway and hazard marking, and pest control;
- Restrict all public vehicles to designated roads, except as authorized under permit;
- Design roads, trails, and access easements to follow the natural topography, minimizing steep slopes and the number of stream crossings;
- Provide and maintain land and water-based toilets to minimize exposure to unsanitary conditions for visitors;
- Provide and maintain appropriate storage, transfer, containment, and disposal facilities for liquids, such as oil, solvents, antifreeze, and paints, at Reclamation and lessee facilities. Encourage recycling of these materials;
- In addition to operating and maintaining facilities in Rural Natural Management Areas, assess the need and feasibility of appropriate additional development, in keeping with Rural Natural attributes, to meet recreation demand in French Flat, Bear Creek, Parrotts Ferry, Natural Bridges, Westside, Bowie Flat, Mark Twain, Camp Nine, and Greenhorn Creek; and
- In addition to operating and maintaining facilities in all Rural Developed Management Areas, assess feasibility of future development. Concentrate any additional facilities in areas of existing development, such as Tuttle town and the Glory Hole Management Area.

Recreation Use Fee Implementation Strategies:

- In the designated fee areas, continue to implement a user fee program and expand to areas when appropriate to achieve management goals; and
- Evaluate quality and variety of recreation through formal customer surveys, as well as other forms of public involvement. Base planning for future use of funds on surveys. Evaluate visitor satisfaction with value for fee paid through formal surveys approved by the Office of Management and Budget.

Universal Access Implementation Strategies:

- Incorporate the universal design approach to accessibility in all new facilities and programs. Retrofit all existing facilities to provide accessibility, in accordance with ADA, ADA Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities, Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, and mandates in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. This approach combines the basic principle of barrier-free design with the more comprehensive view, which considers all degrees of sensory awareness, all types of locomotion, and all levels of physical and intellectual function. As required, facilities and programs would meet legally mandated accessibility standards (per the ADA of 1990 and the 1991 ADA accessibility guidelines, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended in 1978, and the International Building Code [National Fire Protection Association 5000 Building and Safety Code]);
- Conduct an accessibility review of all facilities at developed and undeveloped recreation areas not previously surveyed or in response to new requirements;
- When determining the applicable levels of accessibility, consider a site's topography and natural features, the degree of structural modification, and visitors' expectations related to the recreational land use. Provide accessibility to all visitors within the confines of topography, natural features, and cultural and historical site locations; and
- Modify facilities and programs to comply with ADA requirements, where practical to provide for reasonable accommodations as resources for updating become available.

Visitor Services/Ranger Program Implementation Strategies:

- Continue to implement the RRMA of 1992;
- Require park rangers and resource staff to implement and manage the recreation, interpretive, natural resource, and visitor services programs;
- Use a phone and Internet-based reservation system (National Recreation Reservation System) for campground and group picnic facility reservations;
- In support of primary emergency services, provide first response for medical, hazardous materials, search and rescue, and other emergencies at New Melones Lake; and
- Educate the public on natural resources, cultural resources, public safety, invasive species, and Reclamation's mission.

Aquatic Recreation

Goals: Provide a diverse range of water-based recreation opportunities suited to user needs compatible with the existing character of the lake and surrounding lands. Protect cultural resources, natural resources, and water quality for the future while providing safe and enjoyable recreational experiences.

General Aquatic Recreation Implementation Strategies:

- Use the WROS and the related carrying capacity study as a guide when managing visitor use and recreation (Appendix B). Included in the carrying capacity are estimates of the optimum number of visitors at New Melones Lake and the optimum density of watercraft on New Melones Lake;
- Develop appropriate educational opportunities on water and boating safety;
- Allow special events by permit when they support Reclamation's mission; examples are fishing tournaments, triathlons, water-ski exhibitions, or similar aquatic sporting events;
- Prevent the introduction of aquatic invasive pest species through prohibiting boat launching from known source locations, screening for invasive pest species, and education;
- Implement additional lake zones to protect the public and natural resources. For example, designate additional swimming areas and areas appropriate for nonmotorized boating, houseboats, and seaplanes. Further, designate no wake zones to prevent shore erosion. Zones may include, but would not be limited to, designated areas of Greenhorn Creek, Westside, Glory Hole, Coyote Creek, Parrotts Ferry, Tuttle town, French Flat, Mark Twain, Stanislaus River Canyon, and Camp Nine Management Areas (see Figures 3-5 and 3-6); and
- Install additional floating vault toilets at various locations on New Melones Lake when lake level and weather conditions permit.

Fishing Implementation Strategies:

- Continue to manage fisheries through an agreement with the CDFG;
- Develop a strong partnership with CDFG to increase communication, leading to more effective enforcement of the appropriate regulations under the Clean Water Act and the Fish and Game Code of California;
- Limit disturbance and intensive visitor use along perennial stream corridors and reservoir coves that maintain prime spawning, rearing, and adult residence area fisheries;
- Minimize disturbance of habitat in perennial streams that support native fish;
- Continue to enhance fish habitat by installing fish attractors, consisting of piles of logs and brush anchored to the ground, to provide cover for fish;
- Support efforts by volunteers and partners to rehabilitate and improve fisheries, fish habitat, and aquatic resources;

- Prevent entrapment and death of fish within water impoundment facilities;
- Except when snags present a safety hazard, continue to leave dead trees in the reservoir to provide fish habitat;
- Designate additional zoning at Glory Hole, Mark Twain, Tuttle town, Parrotts Ferry, Stanislaus River Canyon, and Camp Nine to encourage fishing, prevent shoreline erosion, and protect public safety. Designate no wakes zones in Texas Charley Gulch, Vonich Gulch, South Fork of the Stanislaus River in the Stanislaus River Canyon area, and Greenhorn Creek. In addition, designate Camp Nine, Coyote Creek, and Mormon Creek as environmentally sensitive areas (see Figures 3-5 and 3-6);
- Minimize disturbance of known warm-water fish spawning areas, such as Black Bart Cove; and
- Minimize disturbance of known trout spawning areas in Coyote Creek Cove, Angels Creek Cove, Carson Creek Cove, and Mormon Creek Cove, as well as areas of the Stanislaus River downstream from the confluence of Rose Creek and the South Fork.

Motorized Boating, Water Skiing, and Wakeboarding Implementation Strategies:

- Continue to mark the tops of intermittent islands, large rock outcroppings, or other aquatic hazards with warning buoys, in accordance with the New Melones Lake Waterway Hazard Marking Plan;
- Provide courtesy docks in the waters surrounding usable boat ramps to facilitate the efficient launch and take-out of boats;
- Provide flexible support facilities at all functioning (usable) boat ramp locations (e.g., portable toilets, trash receptacles);
- Do not relocate the public ski course and dock unless a more suitable location is found that would benefit resources, provide for public safety, minimize conflicts, and optimize recreational opportunities in keeping with the planned WROS designation;
- Allow an increased level of watercraft use at New Melones Lake, in accordance with an updated carrying capacity, desired future conditions, and WROS designations for the various management areas;
- Prepare and implement a moored vessel plan for New Melones Lake, addressing such topics as mooring sites, houseboat size limits, quantities, mooring agreements, term limits, and boat slips (Appendix C);
- Designate additional areas as no-wake zones. These areas would encourage an increased diversity of experiences at the lake, would prevent shoreline erosion, and would protect public safety (see Figures 3-5 and 3-6); and
- Issue permits to a limited number of commercial businesses to operate mission-compatible white-water rafting services in the Camp Nine Area.

Aircraft Implementation Strategies:

- Continue to implement the New Melones seaplane policy and comply with 43 CFR, Part 423, which includes restrictions on commercial operation of seaplanes and designates appropriate landing zones and operations (see Figure 3-1); and
- Prepare and implement a strategy to address adverse overflight activities. The strategy may include a range of actions, from increased education and communication with aviators, county airport personnel, and the FAA to requesting that the FAA restrict airspace over New Melones Lake Area to protect public safety and critical infrastructure.

Swimming Implementation Strategy:

Designate additional water play areas, which would be safe for swimming, and close those areas to incompatible uses (see Figure 3-5).

Land-Based Recreation

Goals: Provide a diverse range of land-based recreation opportunities suited to user needs compatible with the existing character of the project lands. Protect cultural and natural resources for the future, while providing safe and enjoyable recreational experiences. Provide specific recreation opportunities and adequate flexible and efficient support facilities under varying lake level conditions, without compromising ecological resources and by demonstrating compatibility with the site-specific suitability of land and water environmental conditions. Provide a variety of nonmotorized recreational experiences using trails and pathways. Provide safe recreational hunting opportunities compatible with the Wildlife Management Plan, while respecting private property rights and management authority over wildlife resources.

General Land-Based Recreation Implementation Strategies:

- Continue to provide a diverse range of land-based recreation opportunities suited to user needs, compatible with the character of the project lands, and targeted to a diversity of visitor interest and capabilities;
- Limit land use activities within wetland/riparian buffer zones to prevent significant deterioration of wetland habitats;
- Promote wildlife viewing and appropriate dispersed recreation, such as hiking, horseback riding, climbing, bicycling, hunting, and fishing throughout New Melones, but especially in the Peoria Wildlife Management Area;
- Allow by permit special events that support Reclamation's mission, such as equestrian trail trials, special hunts, and cross-country sporting events; and
- Design recreation area facilities to minimize water contamination and loss of soils due to surface runoff.

Trail/Pathway Implementation Strategies:

- Continue to provide directional signs at trailheads and trail junctions, and provide trail markers on longer trails;

- Continue to place interpretive markers at selected sites along designated trails;
- Within intensively used recreation areas, construct pathways to concentrate foot traffic;
- Construct pathways from the parking lots to picnic areas, restrooms, beaches, and walk-in campsites;
- Construct pathways and trails to follow current Reclamation design standards and BMPs;
- Design roads, trails, and access easements to follow the natural topography, minimizing steep slopes, and to limit the number of stream crossings;
- Coordinate with the county and local landowners and other partners in regional trails planning;
- Continue to develop and maintain partnerships to construct and manage the trail systems;
- Develop and maintain trailhead staging areas with minimum basic facilities in strategic locations to provide visitor access to trails, while protecting sensitive natural and cultural resources;
- Continue to prohibit equestrian use of trails within developed portions of existing Rural Developed Management Areas, such as Tuttle town. Where equestrians are permitted, allow multiple use by bicycles only if safe to do so;
- In the Peoria Wildlife Management Area, relocate equestrian staging area and associated minimum basic facilities to a more appropriate location that allows day use and possible overnight use by permit. Improve the staging area and existing trails. Develop additional trails by a concession-operated equestrian facility or managing partner, if the purpose is to meet the management goals of better stewardship presence, trail and facility maintenance, and public education about sensitive species in the serpentine plant community. Develop a partnership with CAL FIRE or other entity to manage recreation opportunities in the Peoria Wildlife Management Area;
- Promote the use of existing trails and unpaved roads in developing future trail systems, where appropriate;
- Encourage multiuse trail activities (pedestrian, equestrian, and bicycle) in developing new trails or redeveloping existing trails through consideration of trail design (width, surface, visibility), compatibility, and land use suitability;
- Prepare and implement a trails management plan that optimizes connectivity and multiple uses of trails, including ADA-compliant trails where appropriate. Consider improvements for safety, sanitation, and better access, such as connecting the lower bridge at Natural Bridges to the rest of the trail system;

- In the Coyote Creek Management Area, update Natural Bridges access trail, including trail markers to correct existing and prevent future resource degradation;
- Optimize the connectivity between the fire road and trail system for a variety of uses, such as mountain biking, equestrian use (outside of Rural Developed Management Areas), and hiking in Glory Hole, Greenhorn Creek, and Westside Management Areas. Develop new trailheads to access the Greenhorn Creek and Westside areas; and
- Optimize the connectivity between the fire road and trail system for a variety of uses, such as mountain biking, equestrian use (outside of Rural Developed Management Areas), and hiking in Tuttle town, Bear Creek, French Flat, and Peoria Wildlife Management Areas. Develop trailheads in these areas.

Camping, Picnicking, and other Day-Use Implementation Strategies:

- Continue to operate and manage the campgrounds and day-use facilities under the New Melones Lake Policy (Appendix E), and 43 CFR, Part 423;
- Manage fee collection for campground and day use through the National Recreation Reservation Service;
- Continue to update and modernize campground and day-use facilities. Concentrate on installing vehicle barriers in the campgrounds and day-use areas, creating full hookup campsites, redeveloping and enhancing facilities in high demand areas, expanding day-use facilities for larger groups, providing permanent restrooms with showers to replace portable facilities, installing additional potable water outlets, and improving potable water and waste treatment facilities;
- Locate campsites and picnic sites for groups, including persons with disabilities, within camping and day-use areas at the larger recreation areas;
- Continue to operate a volunteer camp host program to provide information to visitors and maintain a Reclamation presence in the campgrounds;
- In all Rural Developed Management Areas, update and modernize campground facilities for RVs and tent camping. In particular, at Glory Hole and Tuttle town, consider adding utilities to RV sites or constructing additional full-service RV campgrounds via a concession contract. Install vehicle barriers in the campgrounds and day-use areas; and
- If feasible and in conjunction with Caltrans, manage a 66-acre parcel of land near the PWMA. Provide a combination of recreation access and resource restoration.

Hunting Implementation Strategies:

- Manage hunting in accordance with rules and regulations set forth by the CDFG, 43 CFR, Part 423, and other federal laws and regulations;

- Provide information to visitors on hunting opportunities and restrictions through signs, maps, visitor contact, and other media;
- Continue to prohibit recreational target shooting on Reclamation lands and waters;
- To protect health and safety, develop and implement a long-term strategy for managing shotgun-only hunting as visitation and urban development increase. This policy may include restrictions to meet management goals, such as compliance with California Fish and Game code, as well as other applicable regulations, such as EO 13443. Restrict hunting within 150 yards of the Reclamation boundary at French Flat and Bear Creek (see Figures 3-6 and 3-8); and
- Enhance hunting opportunities by developing agreements to allow special hunting events, such as youth hunts and special needs hunts.

Radio Controlled Aircraft Implementation Strategy:

Continue to allow the use of radio-controlled model airplanes in Peoria Flat via existing agreements/license. Allow only in a designated facility that is open to the public and subject to contract terms and conditions.

Rock Climbing Implementation Strategies:

- Continue to allow rock climbing at the visitor's own risk;
- In the Peoria Wildlife Management Area, manage rock climbing use in accordance with federal regulations on natural and cultural resources;
- During the habitation period, conduct monthly inventories of sensitive bat species, such as the mastiff bat, on the northwest slope of Table Mountain. Monitor climbing routes in the area for effects on sensitive species; and
- As described in the Peoria Wildlife Management Plan, if impacts on sensitive species are identified, develop and implement a climbing management plan.

Spelunking Implementation Strategies:

- Continue to allow spelunking at the visitor's own risk;
- Implement a protection plan for caves with significant resource value or potential hazards, as needed; create a partnership with local spelunkers to protect and preserve cave resources;
- To preserve cave resources, such as scenic qualities, fragile formations, cultural resources, and sensitive species, manage recreation use to minimize impacts as needed; and
- Manage access to caves to comply with federal law and meet health and safety requirements.

Interpretive Services

Goals: Enhance the public's understanding of the history, purpose, and operation of the project and its archaeological, historical, human-made, natural, and cultural features Enhance recreation experiences through the Visitor's Center, interpretive services, and volunteer programs. Enhance the quality of recreation for all visitors including those with physical, sensory and cognitive impairments. Educate the public about Reclamation, water resources, water conservation, and water safety. Promote stewardship, achieve management objectives, optimize resources, provide enhanced services, and provide educational opportunities.

General Interpretive Service Implementation Strategies:

- Interpret the natural, cultural, and recreation resources at New Melones, as well as the importance of water resource management and conservation activities of Reclamation, its water users, and other agencies;
- Provide public information and education within all aspects of visitor services that support recreational activities;
- Provide information, education, and quality recreational experiences through interpretive displays, trails, signs, visitor contact, brochures, booklets, programs, presentations, publications, and other media both on and off Reclamation lands;
- Encourage recreational user groups and neighbors to assist Reclamation with the stewardship and management of project lands;
- Prepare and implement an Interpretive Master Plan;
- Require all concessionaires to provide expanded interpretation and public education as appropriate and in conjunction with the Interpretive Master Plan. In addition, develop concessionaire contracts and partnerships specifically to provide interpretive services. Include in these contracts a variety of programs, ranging from activities-based education, such as boating safety, to natural and cultural resource-based education, such as the history, prehistory, and ecology of the New Melones Area; and
- Update and modernize to ADA standards outdoor facilities for interpretive programs and services in Tuttle town Management Area and Glory Hole Management Area. This may include modifying the Glory Hole amphitheater and developing an amphitheater in the Tuttle town Management Area.

Visitor Center Implementation Strategies:

- Operate the visitor center to provide interpretive services and visitor information. Provide accessibility services for all interpretive programs as needed at the visitor center;
- Provide information through a variety of multimedia tools and programs at the visitor center;
- Provide displays at the visitor center that are interactive and in compliance with ADA mandates;

- Operate and maintain the visitor center to modern standards and develop an outdoor classroom at the visitor center for environmental education. This includes compliance with Reclamation's directives and standards on visitor centers LND 13-01; and
- In the Mark Twain Management Area, develop interpretive features for the Norwegian Gulch Trail starting from park headquarters and the visitor center.

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