



June, 2012

Visitor Use Development Concept Plan

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Preliminary Need Ideas:

- Determine how to provide visitor access at varying lake levels during the summer months
- Determine the need for and scope of additional visitor services/facilities
- Evaluate the impacts of increasing development capacity within the existing developed areas

Dear Friends of Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area:

As part of the 2010 Shoreline Management Plan, a number of conceptual ideas were presented to address overcrowding and lower reservoir levels during the high visitation summer months. Currently, during the months of August and September, reservoir levels are 11 feet lower than they were when Lake Roosevelt NRA was designed. As a result we have seen a visitation shift away

from smaller campgrounds and boat launches, to those areas that still allow access to the reservoir during these key months. In order to address this issue the Park's planning team has identified four potential projects that will accommodate increased visitation in key areas, and still provide the services visitors to Lake Roosevelt have come to expect. As friends and supporters of Lake Roosevelt NRA, please take a moment to look at these ideas and let us know your thoughts.

Why a Development Concept Plan?

The 2010 Park Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) provides insight into issues facing Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area (LRNRA) in a programmatic, comprehensive approach. While the SMP does discuss the affect of lower reservoir levels during key visita-

tion months, it failed to anticipate the continued lowering of the reservoir during the months of August and September. This fact, in combination with the continual increase in annual visitation has brought into question the ability of LRNRA to physically accom-



Overcrowding at Bradbury Beach

Thank you for assisting us with these important decisions.

Sincerely,

Natalie Gates

Acting Superintendent

modate increased use with lower reservoir levels during the summer and early fall.

Continued



Summer Weekend at Porcupine Bay

Why a Development Concept Plan Cont.

A Development Concept Plan (DCP) will be developed and tiered to the existing SMP, which will provide guidance and strategies to build upon the concepts set forth in the SMP. Specifically the DCP will look at the requirements needed to properly analyze and address the development needs related to visitor use and lower summer reservoir water levels.

This DCP will focus on four existing developed areas, and will look at options for improving these areas to meet

the expressed goals as outlined in the 2010 SMP. These areas include; the Fort Spokane Boat Launch, Gifford Boat Launch, Kettle Falls Marina, and the Kettle Falls Swim Beach.

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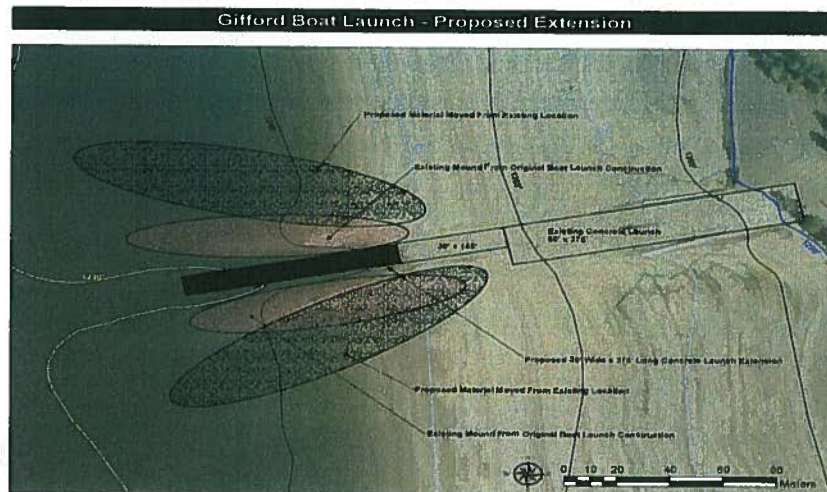
Gifford Boat Launch Extension

In order to address the issue of lower reservoir levels, the National Park Service is proposing to extend the Gifford Boat Launch by an additional 275'. This extension would increase the depth of the launch ramp to a water elevation of approximately 1222 above mean sea level. This would make the Gifford Boat launch the deep-

est launch in the North District of the Park, equal to that of the Spring Canyon Launch in the South. This extension would act as a deep water launch during the early spring months and address significant concerns related to access to the reservoir in the North District of the Park during these draw-down periods.



Gifford Launch



Fort Spokane Boat Launch Improvements

Currently, parking at this area consists of 88 truck and trailer stalls, with a small overflow lot that accommodates an additional 20 truck and trailers. The launch ramp only accommodates two vehicles at a time, and has a very limited turn-around area. When the launch ramp and parking area were originally constructed in 1974, annual visitation to LRNRA was near 575,000. Today annual visitation to Fort Spokane

alone is nearly 190,000. The proposed project would potentially add: parking, capable of accommodating an additional 60 vehicles with trailers; and an additional lane to the existing boat ramp. This project is designed to reduce boat launching/retrieval congestion, accommodate increased visitation and enhance the visitor experience at this location.



Fort Spokane boat launch in the Summer

Potential Expansion Area at Fort Spokane



"Today annual visitation to Fort Spokane alone is nearly 190,000"

Kettle Falls Marina and Swim Beach Improvements

As lower reservoir levels during the summer months will continue to affect all portions of the Park, the Kettle Falls area will most likely continue to see the greatest affect. The current reservoir levels of 1279 above mean sea level during the months of August and September means that four popular boat launches in the

northern area of the Park will no longer be usable during these times. Visitation to this region of the Park has steadily increased over the past five years. In order to accommodate this increase in visitation, and to absorb the overflow from areas that are no longer usable, the Park is proposing to expand the existing marina at

Kettle Falls and rehabilitate or move the currently unusable Kettle Falls Swim Beach. This project would not only service marina visitors, it would increase recreational opportunities for visitors and the local community.



Kettle Falls Marina

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Opportunities for Involvement!

Your comments are important to us and we encourage you to stay informed during the planning process. You can gather information about general National Park Service Planning on the web at www.nps.gov.

The www.parkplanning.nps.gov/parkHome.cfm?parkID=318 website will lead you to a link for the DCP and the public website for comments (PEPC). Other opportunities for your involvement include public meetings on the proposed alternatives. A public meeting will be held at the Colville Community College Campus on August 29, 2012 between 5:30 pm and 7:30pm to further discuss these topics and solicit

Kettle Falls Marina and Swim Beach cont.

