

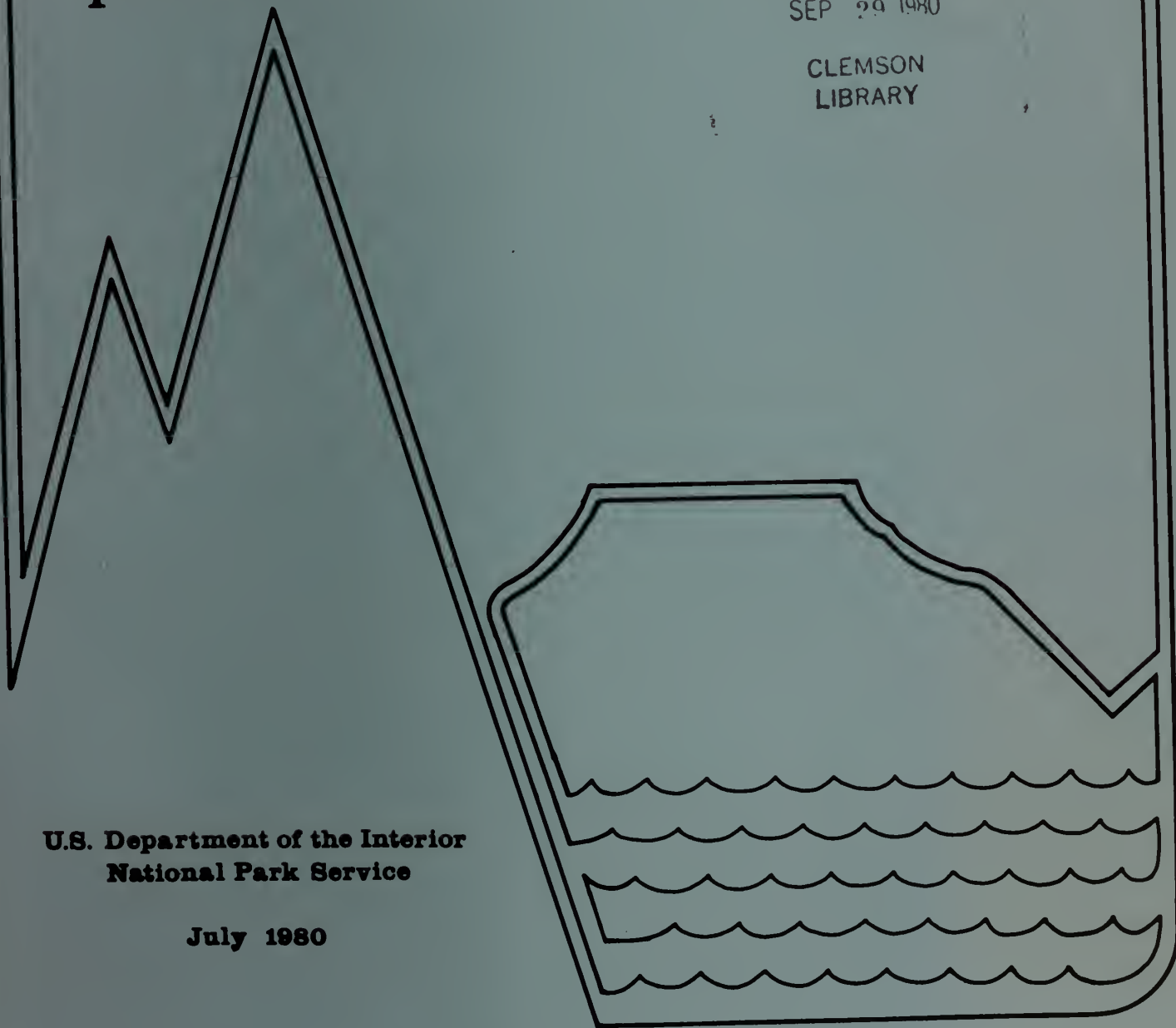
# Curecanti National Recreation Area

## general management plan

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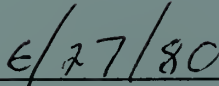
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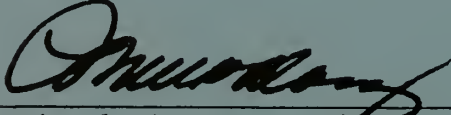
GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Curecanti National Recreation Area

Approval:

  
Glen D. Alexander, Superintendent

  
Date

  
Regional Director, Rocky Mountain Region <sup>acting</sup>

  
Date

## PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT HISTORY

### Curecanti National Recreation Area

Planning for public recreation use at Curecanti started in 1965 when the National Park Service prepared an estimate of recreation use for the area. This was followed by the construction of some basic recreation facilities at Blue Mesa Lake and appointment of a Superintendent. A draft master plan was prepared in 1971, however, it was not approved. Public meetings were conducted in the local area during 1974 regarding proposed recreation development at Morrow Point Lake, and an assessment of alternatives was prepared for Pine Creek Trail facilities in 1976. The current general management plan/development concept plan effort was begun in 1976 with expected completion in 1980. A 5-year construction program was started in 1980 to complete initial facilities for Curecanti under the provisions of the projects authorizing legislation. Following this construction program, the National Park Service will seek legislation for establishment of Curecanti as a national recreation area. Key dates in Curecanti's planning and development history are as follows:

1965 - Recreation, plan was prepared by the National Park Service.

1965 - Public use began; Superintendent appointed April 14.

1965-1974 - Basic recreation facilities were partially constructed at Blue Mesa Lake.

June 1971 - Master plan; prepared by Denver Service Center but not approved.

December 1974 - Public meetings conducted for Morrow Point Lake facilities.

April 1976 - Assessment of Alternatives for Pine Creek Trail facilities approved.

November 1976 - Initiated current general management plan/development concept plan effort.

1977-1978 - Pine Creek Trail facilities constructed. Tour boat operation began 1978.

September 1977 - Public meetings conducted for start of general management plan/development concept plan.

February 1978 - Recreation needs analysis for general management plan/development concept plan completed.

March 1978 - Sent newsletter to public involvement mailing list.

December 1978 - Draft assessment of alternatives for general management plan/development concept plan completed.

May 1979 - Assessment of alternatives summary worksheets completed and distributed to public.

August 1979

Final assessment of alternatives for general management plan/development concept plan completed.

Public workshops conducted for assessment of alternatives.

In-house review meeting and interagency agreement signed for Five Year Section 8 Funding Program.

November 8, 1979 - Environmental review completed and advertised in Federal Register.

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## GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN/DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS

### Curecanti National Recreation Area

#### I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose - This general management plan provides for public use at Curecanti National Recreation Area. It identifies development and management actions which satisfy public needs for recreation, while at the same time protecting the area's natural and cultural resources. This plan will be the guide for all future recreation development and management at Curecanti National Recreation Area.

B. Background - The Curecanti Storage Unit Project, consisting of three dams and reservoirs, is one of the four units of the Colorado River Storage Project. Under authority of Section 8 of the Colorado River Storage Project Act of April 11, 1956, (70 Stat. 105), the Secretary of the Interior is directed to "investigate, plan, construct, operate, and maintain public recreation facilities" on lands withdrawn or acquired for the project's purposes. The purpose of Curecanti National Recreation Area is derived from this legislation and is stated as follows: "To conserve the scenery, the natural, historic, and archeological objects and the wildlife, and to provide for public use and enjoyment of lands withdrawn or acquired and water areas created by the projects by such means as are consistent with their purposes."

C. Region - Curecanti National Recreation Area lies in the heart of one of the most scenic areas of the Central Rockies, well known for its outdoor recreation opportunities. It is located on Colorado's west slope of the Rocky Mountains in Gunnison and Montrose Counties as shown on Maps 1-A and 1-B. A short distance to the north and east of the area is the forest country of the Gunnison and San Isabel National Forests; to the northeast, the Sawatch Range, and to the south and southwest, the rugged San Juan Mountains. Adjoining the eastern or upstream boundary is the free flowing portion of the Gunnison River, nationally known for its trout fishing. Vacation cabin camps, guest ranches, and tourist resorts are numerous in this area. To the west, adjacent to the recreation area boundary, is the precipitous gorge through which the Gunnison River flows in the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument.

The region encompasses a large recreation complex on the western slope of the Rocky Mountains. It is an established vacation land with lake and stream fishing, hunting, camping, and outstanding wilderness areas to explore. The Gunnison River reputedly has the finest fishing waters in Colorado, and it attracts fishermen from across the nation. Quality deer and elk hunting exist within and adjacent to the area.

D. Management - The National Park Service operates Curecanti National Recreation Area to provide public recreation services in connection with its three lakes under a memorandum of agreement approved by the Secretary of the Interior. This agreement is shown in Appendix D to this plan.

with the Water and Power Resources Service, as approved by the Secretary of the Interior, Udall, on February 11, 1965. This agreement is shown in Appendix E to this plan. Curecanti National Recreation Area first became operational with the appointment of a Superintendent on April 14, 1965.

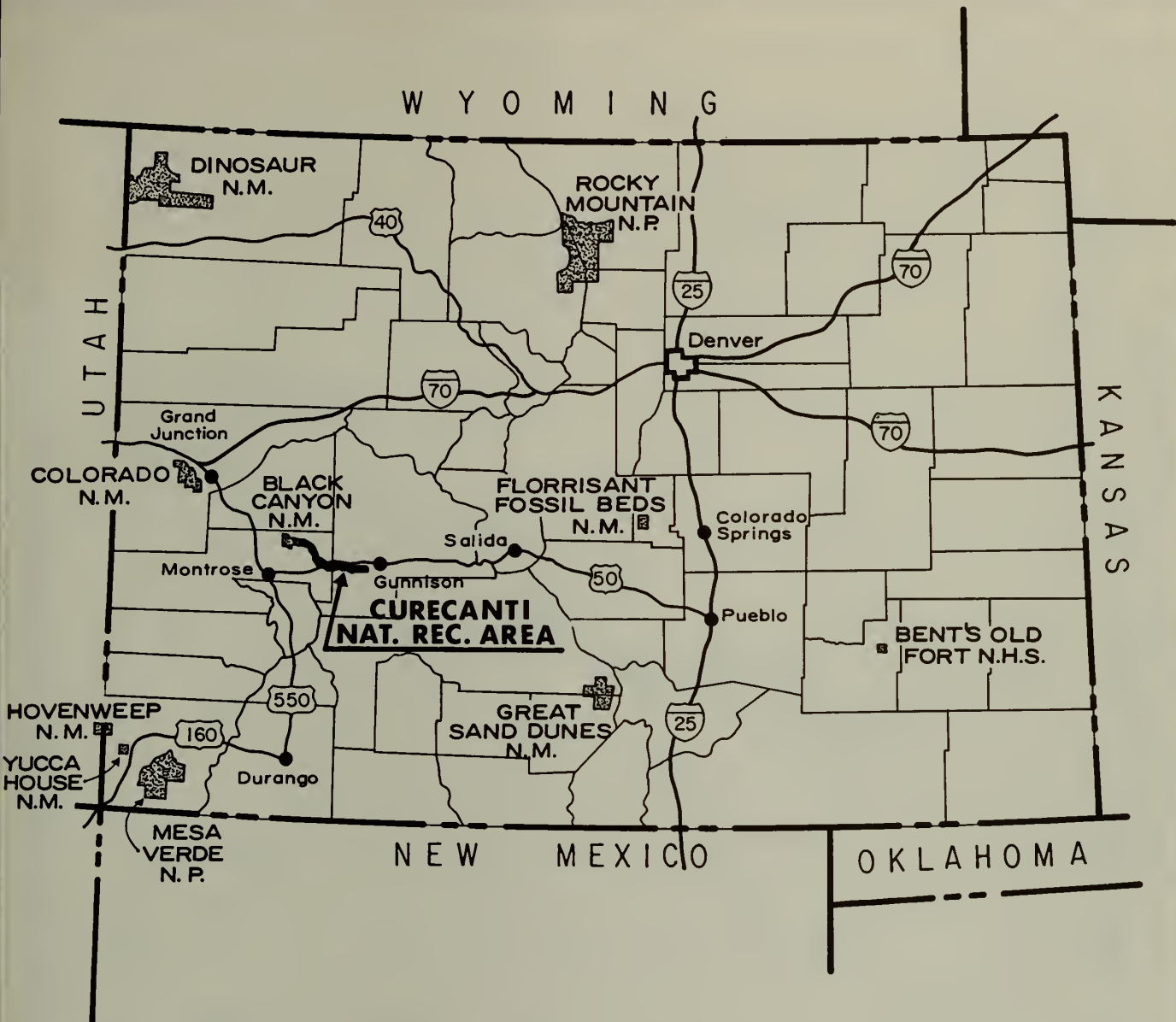
E. Status of Planning - Comprehensive recreation planning for Curecanti National Recreation Area was started in the 1960's with preparation of a draft master plan. Due to changes in policy regarding the consideration of environmental quality, benefit and cost relationships, and public involvement, the plan was not approved. This general management plan consolidates previous planning efforts of the National Park Service, and presents a plan for satisfying a portion of the region's water-based recreation needs. It identifies an interim (1980) level of expected recreation use as well as an optimum level of use based on Curecanti National Recreation Area's carrying capacity.

F. Construction Program - Development funds for Curecanti National Recreation Area are currently budgeted by the Water and Power Resources Service, then transferred to the National Park Service for construction of recreation facilities. This funding process will continue until a level of facility development is attained which makes Curecanti suitable for management as a national recreation area. This level will be jointly determined by the Water and Power Resources Service and the National Park Service at the Regional Directorate level. Upon completion of the Water and Power Resources Service construction funding to the agreed level, the National Park Service will seek legislation to formally establish Curecanti as a national recreation area. Following formal designation of the area, the National Park Service will fund all future recreation facility development.

G. National Recreation Area Status - The National Park Service manages Curecanti National Recreation Area on an interim basis as a "recreation area." This is based upon classification of the area's water resource base as a special use zone for recreation use. Areas managed for recreation use are proposed for designation by Congress as national recreation areas if they meet the evaluation criteria contained in the publication, Management Policies of the National Park Service, dated February 1978. These criteria and their application to Curecanti National Recreation Area are discussed as follows:

1. "National recreation areas should be spacious areas containing outstanding natural and/or cultural features and providing significant recreation opportunities." Curecanti National Recreation Area has 41,971 acres that contain unique geological features including a portion of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison, the Dillon Pinnacles, and the Curecanti Needle. Two of Curecanti National Recreation Area lakes, Morrow Point and Crystal, have a scenic fiord-like character which is unique in the country. Curecanti National Recreation Area's diverse wildlife resources include herds of deer and elk, bighorn sheep, prairie dogs, and bald and golden eagles.





**REGIONAL MAP**  
**CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA**  
**GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO**  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR · NATIONAL PARK SERVICE





# VICINITY MAP

## CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

### GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR · NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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2. "National recreation areas should be located and designed to achieve comparatively heavy recreation use and should usually be located where they can contribute significantly to the recreation needs of urban populations." Curecanti National Recreation Area Blue Mesa Lake is the largest body of water in the State of Colorado and is a significant water resource within the inter-mountain region. Since visitation began in 1967, recreation use at Blue Mesa Lake has quadrupled. Fifty-six percent of this visitation originates within Colorado's three urban areas. Curecanti National Recreation Area lies within a day's drive of urban populations totaling 8,000,000.

3. "National recreation areas should provide recreation opportunities significant enough to assure national, as well as regional visitation." Seventy-seven percent of Curecanti National Recreation Area's visitation originates within the State of Colorado.

4. "The scale of investment, development, and operational responsibility should be sufficiently high to require either direct Federal involvement or substantial Federal participation to assure optimum public benefit." Curecanti National Recreation Area is a major water resource development which serves public needs for irrigation, generation of hydro-electric power, flood control, fish and wildlife enhancement, and recreation. Total Federal expenditures for the project are estimated at \$216 million of which approximately \$23 million is for recreation facilities. Annual operation and maintenance costs for recreation facilities are estimated at \$2 million.

Based on consideration of these criteria, the National Park Service will seek legislation to formally establish Curecanti as a national recreation area.



## II. THE ENVIRONMENT

A. Area Description - Curecanti National Recreation Area is composed of three lakes impounded on the Gunnison River: Blue Mesa with about 9,000 acres, Morrow Point with about 800 acres, and Crystal with about 300 acres of water surface at their normal recreation pools as shown on Map 2-A. Blue Mesa Lake is easily accessible having a moderately sloping shoreline, while Morrow Point and Crystal Lakes are relatively inaccessible due to the extremely steep nature of their shorelines. An additional 32,014 acres of Curecanti administered lands surround these lakes as shown on Map 2-B. Existing permanent recreation development is limited to boat launching, interpretive, picnicking and camping facilities at Blue Mesa Lake, and tour boat and picnicking facilities at Morrow Point Lake.

An extensive selection of campsites, for both tent and campers and mobile camper units, can be found throughout the surrounding national forests and on other public lands. Towns near the recreation area have a variety of motels and commercial camping facilities.

B. Access - Major vehicular access to all three of Curecanti's lakes is from U.S. Highway 50 which parallels the recreation area as shown on Map 2-A. U.S. Highway 50 crosses Blue Mesa Lake twice. Colorado State Highway 149 to Lake City, Colorado, also crosses Blue Mesa Lake near the highway's intersection with U.S. Highway 50. Although separated by steep terrain from Morrow Point and Crystal Lakes, U.S. Highway 50 provides access to these two lakes and their damsites. A Water and Power Resources Service service road at Cimarron, Colorado, provides access to the Morrow Point Dam and powerhouse. A 7.5 mile Water and Power Resources Service service road from Colorado State Highway 347 provides access to Crystal Dam and power plant via Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument and the East Portal of the Gunnison River Diversion Tunnel. Colorado State Highway 92 parallels Morrow Point and Crystal Lakes along their north side, however, there is no road access to the lakeshore from this highway. Many gravel and dirt roads provide access from U.S. Highway 50 to surrounding Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and private lands.

Pedestrian access to Blue Mesa Lake is feasible along most of its shoreline due to the relatively flat nature of the surrounding terrain. However, because of the extremely steep canyon walls at Morrow Point and Crystal Lakes, pedestrian access is restricted. A foot trail access to Morrow Point Lake is at the Pine Creek Trail Developed Area. Several other undeveloped trails provide pedestrian access from Highway 92 on the north side of the lake. Pedestrian access to the upstream portion of Crystal Lake is possible downstream from the Morrow Point Damsite near Cimarron.

Boat access is available at Blue Mesa Lake's three boat launching ramps: Elk Creek, Iola, and Lake Fork. Several temporary gravel ramps and abandoned road ends are maintained by the National Park Service and marked as fishing access for use by visitors for boat launching. The Elk Creek Marina provides dry and wet storage of boats and boat rental during the summer recreation season. Boat access at Morrow Point Lake is limited to carry-in small boats, kayaks, rafts, and canoes on existing foot trails. A 33 passenger tour boat operates from the dock at the foot of the Pine Creek Trail to the Hermit's Rest picnic area three times daily during the summer recreation season. An additional similar tour boat is planned for this area.



C. Climate - Curecanti National Recreation Area has long, cold winters and short, mild summers. Beginning in the early fall, temperatures usually fall below freezing and frequently below zero; -36°F is the record low. Summer weather normally begins in June with an average high of 76°F; July averages 83°F, and August, 80°F. A record high of 90°F was recorded in August 1962.

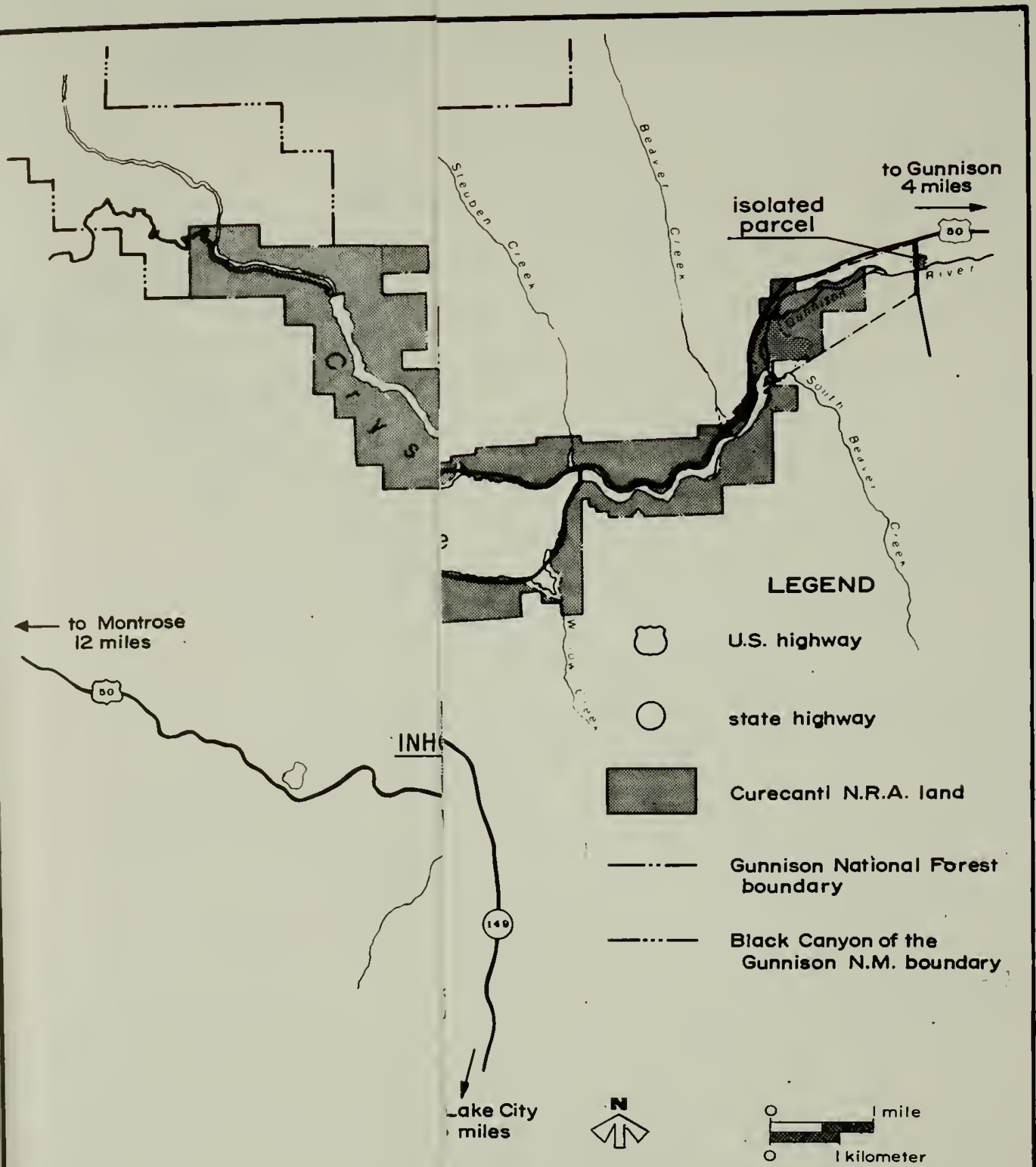
Monthly precipitation varies from 0.6 inches in early spring to a peak of 1.6 inches in August; annual precipitation averages 11 inches. Late spring and early summer are usually dry. Sudden thunderstorms can be quite severe in July, August, and early September. Snowfall averages 68.8 inches per year with the heaviest fall in January. Wind squalls resulting from thunderstorms can be severe. Strong winds are common.

D. Fishery - Curecanti National Recreation Area lakes are classified as cold-water fisheries. The dominant game fish species include Kokanee Salmon, Rainbow Trout, Brown Trout, and Brook Trout. They are managed for sport fishing by the Colorado Division of Wildlife primarily through stocking efforts. Most of the one million fingerlings which are stocked annually are placed in Blue Mesa Lake where those that survive natural predation and other environmental pressures grow to maturity and are caught by fishermen or flushed into the two downstream lakes. The Colorado Division of Wildlife estimates that 200,000 sports fish are available for harvest in Blue Mesa Lake annually. Only 5,000 in Morrow Point and Crystal Lakes are available for harvest each year. Reproduction of most fish species does not occur in Curecanti's lakes due to lack of suitable habitat and severe lake fluctuations. There are no threatened or endangered species in Curecanti National Recreation Area. Fish stocking is a cooperative endeavor between the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Colorado Division of Wildlife with a majority of the fish coming from the Colorado River Storage Project, constructed National Fish Hatchery at Hotchkiss.

E. Wildlife - Many game and nongame animal species make up Curecanti National Recreation Area wildlife resource. Some such as prairie dog and Golden Eagle are permanent residents. Others such as elk and Bighorn Sheep use the area as a wintering ground.

The wildlife is managed by the Colorado Division of Wildlife. Elk, deer, prairie dog, and fishery resources and current management approaches are discussed in detail in Curecanti National Recreation Area Resource Management Plan.

Wildlife species in the vicinity of Curecanti National Recreation Area listed by the Colorado Division of Wildlife in their publication Essential Habitat for Threatened and Endangered Wildlife in Colorado include the Peregrine Falcon and the River Otter. Peregrine Falcons have not been observed in the area. River Otter have recently been reintroduced by the Colorado Division of Wildlife downstream from Crystal Dam. Bald Eagles are migratory visitors to Curecanti National Recreation Area and are not known to nest in the area. The Bald Eagle has recently been included on Colorado's list of threatened or endangered species. Development and use proposed in this plan are in compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973.



# AREA MAP

## NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

### MONTROSE COUNTY, COLORADO

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR · NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

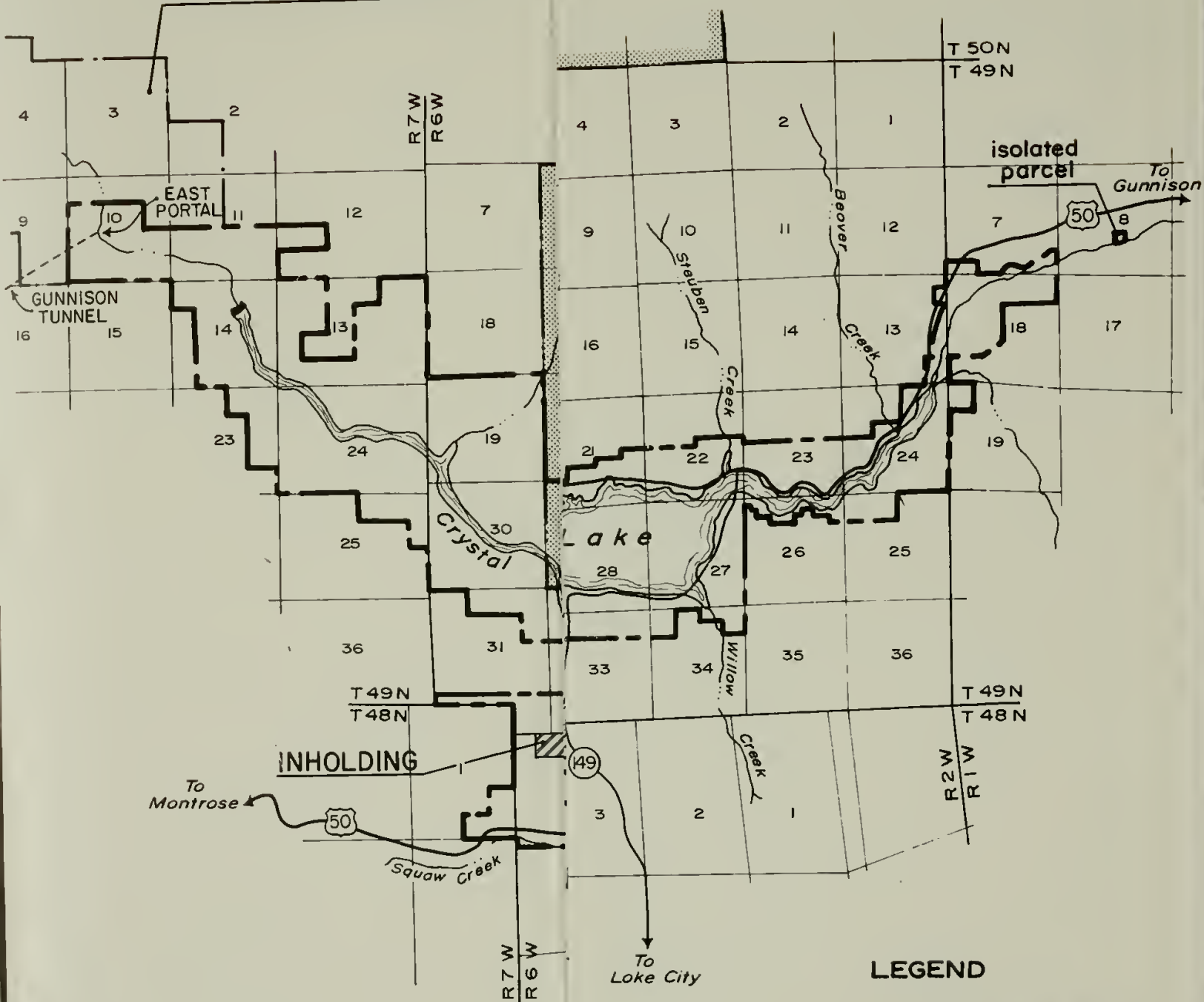
#### GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

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# BLACK CANYON OF THE GUNNISON NATIONAL MONUMENT



## BOUNDARY MAP NATIONAL RECREATION AREA ID MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO ARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR · NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

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Map 2 B



BLACK CANYON  
OF THE GUNNISON  
NATIONAL MONUMENT

GUNNISON NATIONAL FOREST

MONTROSE COUNTY  
GUNNISON COUNTY

INHOLDING

isolated  
parcel

LEGEND

- national recreation  
area boundary
- national forest  
boundary



**BOUNDARY MAP**  
**CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA**  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR · NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

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Map 2-R



F. Vegetation - The occurrence of different types of vegetation at Curecanti National Recreation Area is primarily determined by the availability of soil moisture. On the dry, south-facing slopes around Blue Mesa Lake, such species as sagebrush, Gambel Oak and native grasses are found. On north-facing slopes and in the shelter of the canyons, tree species such as Aspen, Douglas Fir, spruce and pine may be found. Cottonwood, willow and Dogwood occur along the Gunnison River and tributaries to the lakes. Scattered cottonwood trees may also be found along the abandoned irrigation ditches in previously irrigated areas. A more detailed description of existing vegetative resources and proposed management actions will be included in a future vegetative management study recommended in Appendix B of this plan.

G. Cultural Resources - Use of the area began approximately 11,000 years ago with aboriginal occupation and continued through the early historic period into modern times when European settlers went into the region. A recent archeological survey, carried out in compliance with Executive Order 11593, yielded 130 sites with evidence of Paleo-Indian and Archaic period occupation. Written documentation as well as artifactual and structural remains reflect historic period use.

1. Elk Creek Archeological Site (5GN 204-205) - Located at the Elk Creek Developed Area, this site represents human activity in the area approximately 4,500 years ago. The site has a high potential for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

2. Denver and Rio Grande Narrow Gauge Trestle - Located at the Cimarron Developed Area, this historic trestle was constructed in 1891. It illustrates a period of development in the region stimulated by construction of narrow gauge railroads. The trestle was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. The Denver and Rio Grande narrow gauge line served the Gunnison and Uncompaghre Valleys during the period of 1882 to 1949. This trestle was retained when the railway line was abandoned in 1949. The trestle forms the base for a historic exhibit which includes a Denver and Rio Grande engine, tender, box car, and caboose.
















3. Gunnison River Diversion Dam and Tunnel - This historic water resource development is located at Curecanti National Recreation Area's East Portal Developed Area. The dam and six mile long tunnel were completed in 1909. The tunnel provides irrigation water to the Uncompaghre Valley. The site was designated a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark in 1972 and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979.

Any action which could affect any of these significant cultural sites must be reviewed under the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

H. Existing Development Sites - Existing permanent recreation facilities at Curecanti National Recreation Area are listed in Table 2-1 and are mapped on Map 3-A.

TABLE 2-1

## EXISTING FACILITIES

Developed Area	Campsite	Picnic Site	Picnic Shelter	Hiking Trail	Ampitheater	Information	Visitor Center	Point of Interest	Boat-launch Lane	Fishing Access	Marina	Tour Boat	Bike Trail	Overnight Accomodations	Eating Facilities
															
Riverway		11								.					
Neversink		12								.					
Cooper Ranch		12								.					
Beaver Creek		12								.					
Iola									3	.					
Elk Creek	175	6			.	.	.		3	.	.				
Dillon				2											
Lake Fork								.	3	.					
TOTAL	175	53		2	1	1	1	1	9		1				
Pine Creek		7	2	1						.		.			
Hermit's Rest		10								.					
TOTAL		17	2	1								1			
Cimarron River								.		.					
Cimarron Town		12				.				.					
East Portal		12				.		.		.					
TOTAL		24				2		2							
Roadside		6													
TOTALS	175	100	2	3	1	3	1	3	9		1	1			

NOTE: Indicates an unquantified facility

### III.

## THE PLAN



BOAT LAUNCHING



FISHING



WATER SKIING



MARINA



BOATING



CAMPING



PICNICKING



PICNIC SHELTER



AMPHITHEATER



SIGHTSEEING



RANGER STATION



INFORMATION CENTER



OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS



EATING FACILITIES



CAMPER STORE



HIKING TRAIL



BIKE TRAIL



NORDIC SKIING



HUNTING



PARKING AREA



REST ROOMS



TREE PLANTINGS



BOAT TOURS



### III. THE PLAN

A. Management Zoning - Land and water areas at Curecanti National Recreation Area are classified as to what type of use will be allowed on each area. The classification is based on that area's inherent physical character and its potential for accommodating use. The classification system used for Curecanti National Recreation Area separates the area into four broad categories: park development zones, natural zones, historic zones, and special use zones. Each of these categories are discussed as follows:

1. Park Development Zones - Areas which have high potential to accommodate recreation use without severe adverse effects on the natural environment are included in this classification. Areas in this category may include boat launching areas, campgrounds, picnic areas, and interpretive facilities.

2. Natural Zones - Included in this category are areas having outstanding or sensitive natural qualities. They may be features or entire ecosystem areas which should be preserved to enhance the integrity of the total park environment. Only minor physical development such as foot trails, walk-in or boat-in campgrounds, and interpretive exhibits are permitted in this category.

3. Historic Zones - Included in this zone are areas of historic or archeological significance to be protected or interpreted.

4. Special Use Zones - This category includes land areas controlled by the Water and Power Resource Service for operation of the Curecanti Unit for its primary purposes. It includes the access roads to the three damsites, power generation and distribution facilities, and related interpretive facilities. Management of recreation use on the lake surfaces and adjacent lands is the responsibility of the National Park Service.

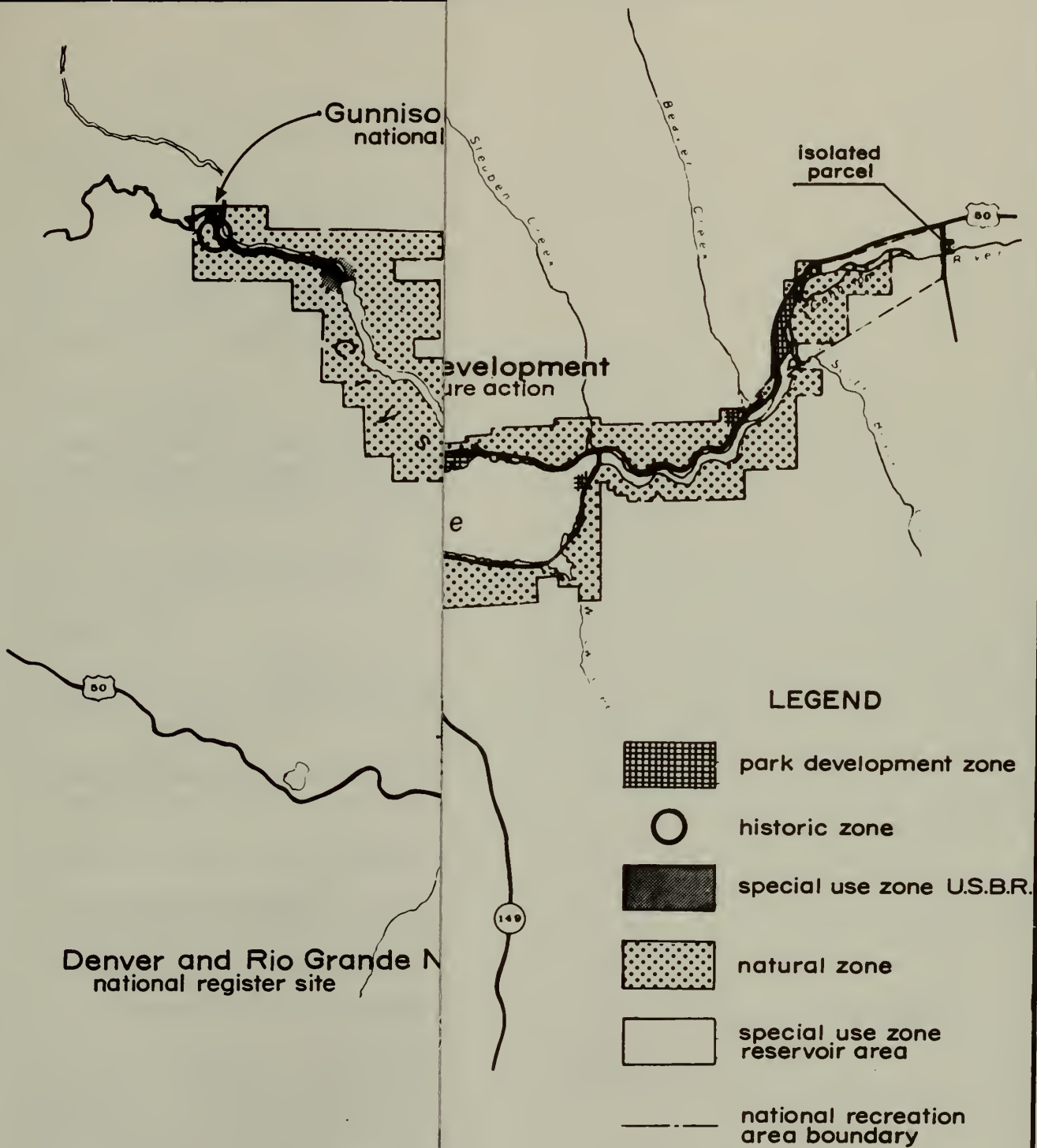
The location of land and water areas included in each zone is shown on Map 3-A. Each zone category, its characteristics, potential uses, and specific areas included in the zone are listed as follows:

#### Park Development Zone

Characteristics: moderate slopes; convenient access; water access; wind protection; should be in areas without significant cultural resources; should have potential to satisfy diverse recreation needs.

Potential Uses: boat launching; fishing access; camping; picnicking; hiking trails; trail head; maintenance areas; boat storage; interpretation; boating; fishing; water skiing.

Areas in Category: all existing and proposed recreation sites identified on Map 3-A.



RAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

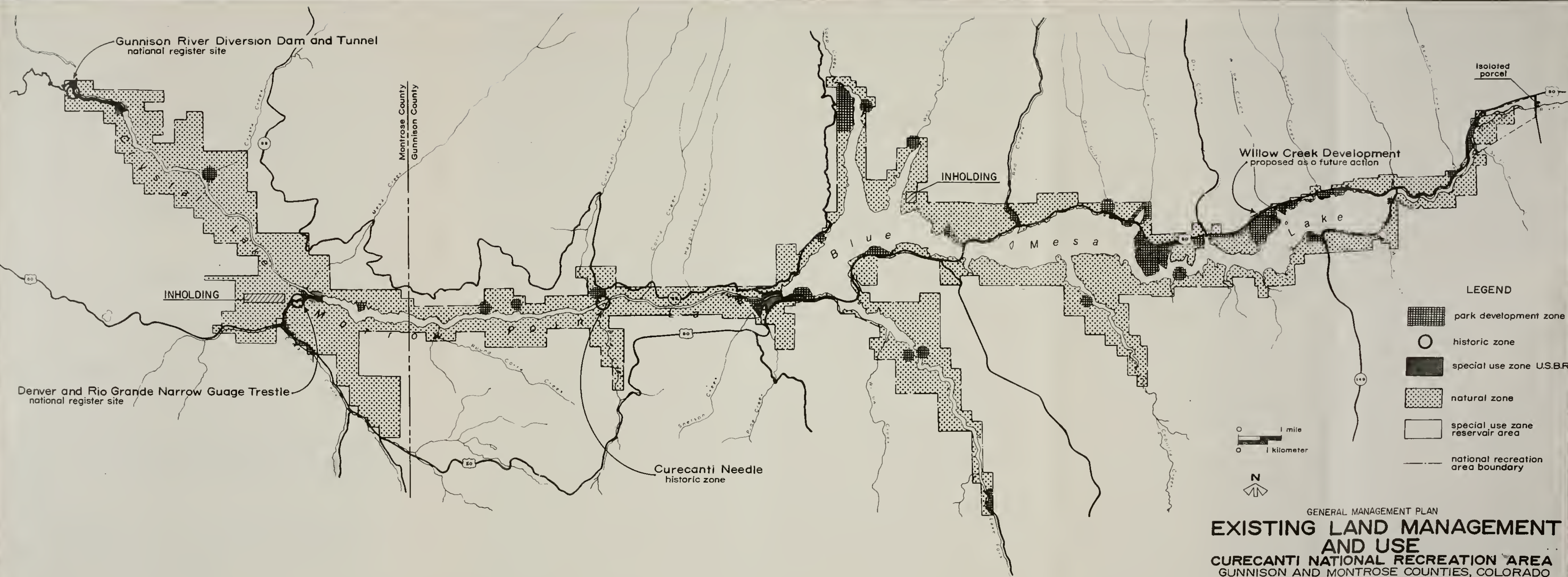
# LAND MANAGEMENT AND USE

NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE





GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN  
**EXISTING LAND MANAGEMENT AND USE**  
**CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA**  
 GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### Historic Zone

Characteristics: presence of significant historic or archeological resources.

Potential Uses: interpretation; research; preservation.

Areas in Category: Lake Fork railroad site; Pine Creek railroad site; Curecanti Needle; Denver and Rio Grande trestle and railroad exhibit; East Portal diversion dam and tunnel; Elk Creek archeological site; archeological sites to be identified as part of ongoing investigations.

### Special Use Zone

Potential Uses: operation of dams and generating facilities for their primary purposes; road access to Water and Power Resources Service facilities; interpretive facilities related to primary purposes.

Areas in Category: Blue Mesa, Morrow Point, and Crystal damsites; East Portal tunnel entrance.

### Natural Zone

Characteristics: outstanding scenic or natural features; environmentally sensitive areas; habitat for endangered plants and animals; critical wildlife habitat.

Potential Uses: interpretation; hiking trails; preservation; wildlife habitat improvement; research; sightseeing; backcountry use.

Areas in Category: all areas not included in the above categories.

B. Resources Management - Actions for the management of Curecanti National Recreation Area's natural and cultural resources are explained as follows:

#### 1. Consumption of Renewable and Non-renewable Resources

a. Grazing - Modification of grazing use under Curecanti National Recreation Area's existing grazing allotment program is proposed from the standpoint of reducing conflicts with recreation use and wildlife habitat. Small parts of three of the allotments which are administered in consultation with the Bureau of Land Management will be eliminated from grazing use and two allotments will be reduced in AUM's or season of use. One 240-acre parcel of land within the boundary is proposed for addition to the grazing allotment program.

b. Wood Cutting - Cutting of live or dead standing trees, shrubs or vines is prohibited in Curecanti National Recreation Area since they may serve as critical habitat for wildlife species. Gathering of down, dead vegetation not attached to the lake bottom below the maximum pool elevations of the three lakes is permitted.



c. Hunting and Trapping - Curecanti National Recreation Area's land and water areas are open for public hunting and trapping subject to the provisions of applicable State regulations except within one mile of developed recreation areas. Trapping is permitted on all of Curecanti National Recreation Area land and water areas in accordance with applicable State regulations. Provision for the continuation of hunting and trapping use will be included in legislation proposed for establishment of Curecanti as a national recreation area.

d. Mining - Curecanti National Recreation Area lands were withdrawn from further entry under the General Mining Laws to include the 1920 Mineral Leasing Act and the 1947 Acquired Mineral Leasing Act. This withdrawal was subject to valid existing rights.

2. Vegetation Management - It is proposed that existing management of several plant communities within Curecanti National Recreation Area continue. Specific management actions include restriction of foot and vehicular traffic, suppression of fires and selective planting. A detailed vegetation management plan will be prepared in the future which will address additional vegetation management actions.

3. Shoreline Management - The shorelines of Curecanti National Recreation Area three lakes are managed to preserve visual quality, reduce erosion of soil and vegetation, and to maximize opportunities for recreation use. Private floating facilities such as boat houses and docks, fishing platforms, or moorings are not permitted at Curecanti National Recreation Area. Vehicular use of the shoreline areas is permitted only below the maximum pool elevation of the three lakes. The National Park Service will act as necessary to preserve the shorelines of Curecanti National Recreation Area lakes in critical areas by use of erosion control plantings, stabilization structures or other measures as required.

4. Wildlife Management - Many game and non-game animal species make up Curecanti National Recreation Area wildlife resource. Some such as prairie dog and Golden Eagle are permanent residents. Others such as elk and Bighorn Sheep use the area as wintering grounds. The wildlife is managed by the Colorado Division of Wildlife. Elk, deer, prairie dog, and fishery resources and current management approaches are discussed in detail in the Resource Management Plan.

5. Reintroduction of Native Species - Several species of wildlife native to the area have been proposed for reintroduction by the Colorado Division of Wildlife. They include the River Otter in the Gunnison River downstream from Crystal Dam, and Bighorn Sheep near Ponderosa. Although the Peregrine Falcon has not been observed at Curecanti National Recreation Area, the area surrounding Blue Mesa Lake's Soap Creek arm is ideal habitat.

6. Resource Surveys and Monitoring - Survey of that portion of the Curecanti National Recreation Area boundary which adjoins private land is expected to be complete during 1980. Additional boundary surveys will be accomplished in the future as necessary. Potential threats to the area's air and water resources caused by proposed mining and residential development in the Gunnison Valley should be evaluated by monitoring future changes in these resources.

7. Land Requirements - Several changes in the Curecanti National Recreation Area boundary are necessary to adequately serve visitor needs and to protect the area's natural resources. Legislation is required prior to any land acquisition by the National Park Service. Proposed changes are described in the following table and are shown on Map 3-B.

<u>PARCEL</u>	<u>ACREAGE</u>	<u>TYPE OF ACQUISITION</u>	<u>PURPOSE</u>
A	add 5	Recreation easement	Recreation access
B	add 173	Protective easement	Protect Heron Rookery
C	add 40	Fee (from public domain)	Recreation development
D	add 10	Recreation easement	Trail corridor
E	add 13	Transfer of management responsibility	Trail corridor
F	add 5	Recreation easement	Trail corridor
G	add 5	Transfer of management responsibility	Trail corridor
H	add 5	Transfer of management responsibility	Trail corridor
I	add 1	Fee	Recreation development
J	delete 523	Not applicable	Not required
K	delete 1,256	Not applicable	Not required

8. Cultural Resources Management - In accordance with applicable laws and National Park Service policy, Curecanti National Recreation Area's cultural resources will be managed to identify, evaluate and protect these resources. Planning shall attempt to avoid impacts to cultural resources caused by development or increased visitor use. Where direct or indirect impacts are unavoidable, mitigation of cultural resources will be performed. Specific measures for management of known cultural resource sites are as follows:

a. Elk Creek Archeological Site - This site was identified and evaluated during 1978 as part of a preconstruction, archeological survey of a proposed administration building site. After discovery of the archeological site, the proposed building was relocated to avoid direct impact from construction. It is proposed that future management actions consist of detailed mapping and possible stabilization and interpretation of this site.

b. Denver and Rio Grande Narrow Gauge Trestle - It is proposed that existing management of this historic structure for protection and interpretation continue.

c. Gunnison River Diversion Dam and Tunnel - This historic site is located within Curecanti National Recreation Area, but is managed by the Uncompaghre Valley Water Users Association through an agreement with the Water and Power Resources Service. It is proposed that the National Park Service cooperate with these two entities to assure maximum protection and public use of this historic resource.

To better understand Curecanti National Recreation Area's historic resources it is recommended that the National Park Service prepare a "Historic Structures Survey." This survey will identify and evaluate historic structures within Curecanti National Recreation Area and will form the basis for a program of protecting and interpreting these resources.

### C. Interpretation and Visitor Use

1. Interpretation - Interpretation of Curecanti National Recreation Area's natural, cultural, and recreational resources will be accomplished in terms of the following objectives:

a. Use a variety of media to interpret the following themes and subthemes:

(1) Natural history

- Ecosystems of Curecanti National Recreation Area
- Tectonics and erosion of the Colorado Plateau

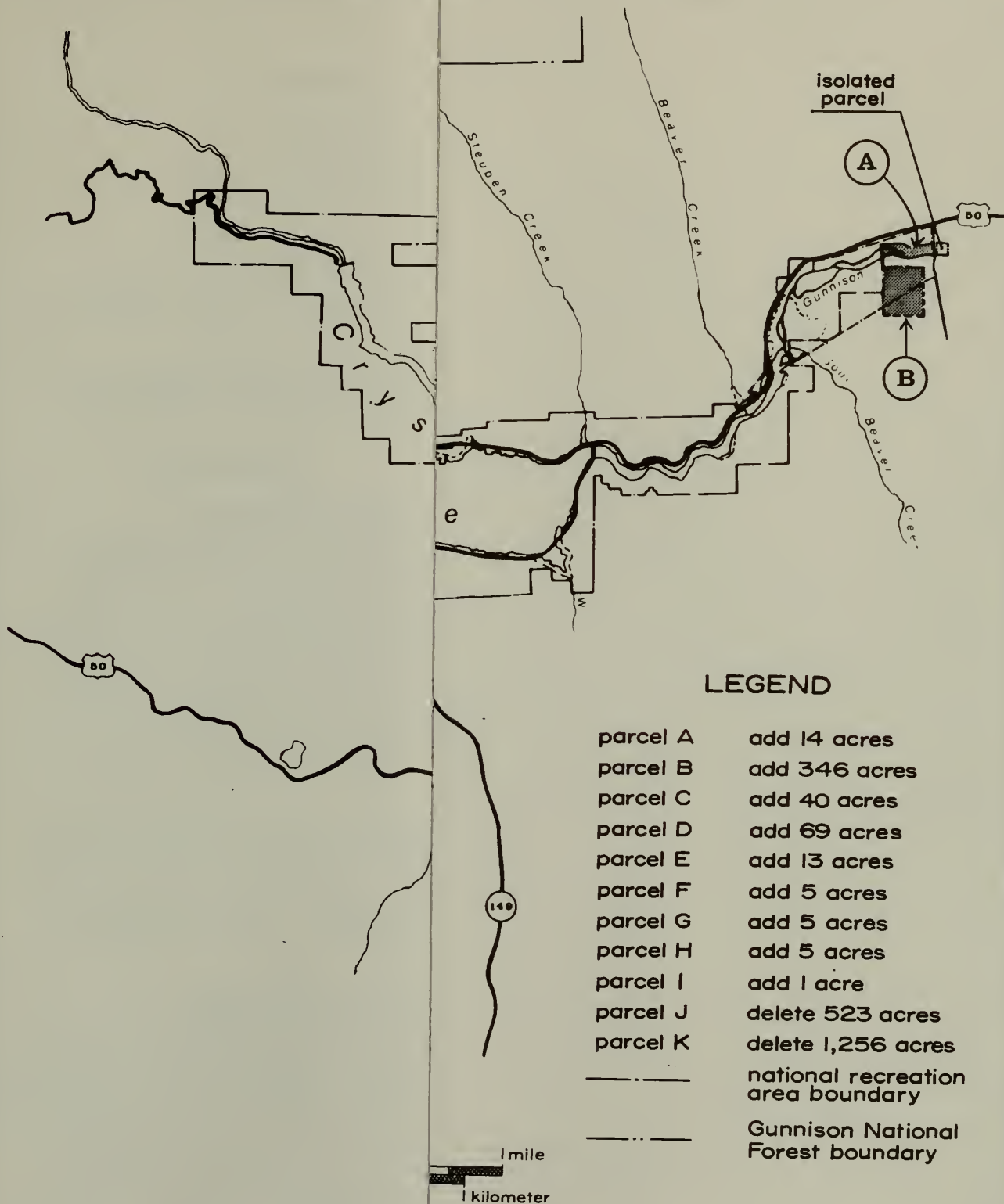
(2) Recreation

- Fishery of Blue Mesa Lake
- Fishing
- Boating
- Water skiing
- Swimming
- Hiking
- Birding
- Sightseeing
- Camping
- Hunting
- Picnicking

(3) Cultural history

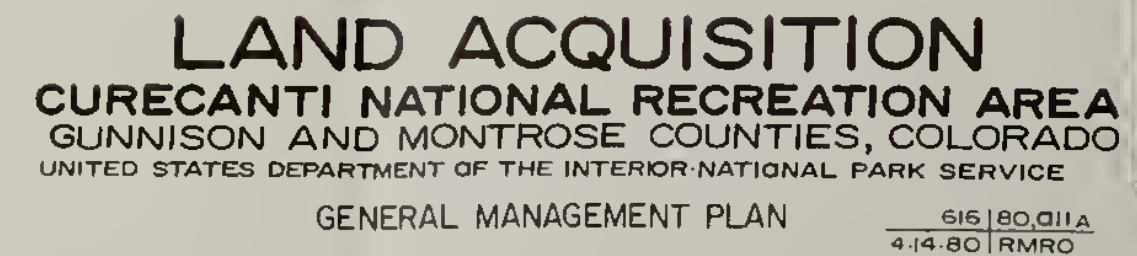
- Aboriginal hunter-gathers (12,000 B.P.-1800 A.D.)
- Pioneer railroad achievements (1870-1949)
- Frontier cattle industry (1880-1900)
- Irrigation and land development (1901-1912)





# **D ACQUISITION** **NATIONAL RECREATION AREA** **MONTRORSE COUNTIES, COLORADO** **MENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE** **GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN**

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(4) Secondary theme - information/orientation

- Locations of major facilities
- Agenda for interpretive programs
- Identification of significant wildlife species
- Surrounding (nonpark) attractions

b. Use interpretive media to promote a broader and more innovative use of the area's resources, with particular attention given the handicapped or otherwise disadvantaged.

c. Develop an understanding and appreciation of the need for environmental education and its application in specialty fields, such as alternate energy sources (wind, solar, and gasahol).

2. Visitor Use

a. Regional Context of Recreation Use - Located in the south central Rocky Mountains, Curecanti National Recreation Area is part of a popular tourist destination complex. Extensive Federal and State lands as well as numerous private recreation developments provide a wide variety of high quality recreation opportunities in the region. Adjacent National Forest, Bureau of Land Management, and State of Colorado lands offer the visitor participation in activities such as wilderness and backcountry camping, hiking, and horseback riding; downhill skiing and all terrain vehicle driving. Curecanti National Recreation Area's opportunities are primarily water oriented and are seen as a valuable compliment to other recreation use in the region.

Approximately 77 percent of visitors to Curecanti National Recreation Area originate within Colorado. Some 22 percent of the total use is from the local communities surrounding the area. State and local use is expected to continue as a trend related to increased fuel cost and unavailability. Increases in local use are expected due to dramatic increases in local populations related to projected growth in the region.

b. Visitation Trends and Participation - Recreation use at Curecanti National Recreation Area has increased from 182,000 visitors when public use began in 1967 to an estimated 885,000 visitors for the current 1980 recreation season as shown on Table 3-2. During the period between 1970 and 1980, visitor use has been relatively stable showing an average growth rate of about 2 percent annually. This rate of visitation growth is expected to continue in the foreseeable future and is used as the basis for visitor use and facility planning. Expected increases in local visitor use due to projected population growth in the local area are seen as offsetting the negative influences of higher fuel costs and unavailability.

Blue Mesa Lake attracts visitors who participate in power boating, fishing, water skiing, camping, and sightseeing while Morrow Point and Crystal Lakes satisfy needs for sightseeing, fishing, boating, tent camping, and picnicking.



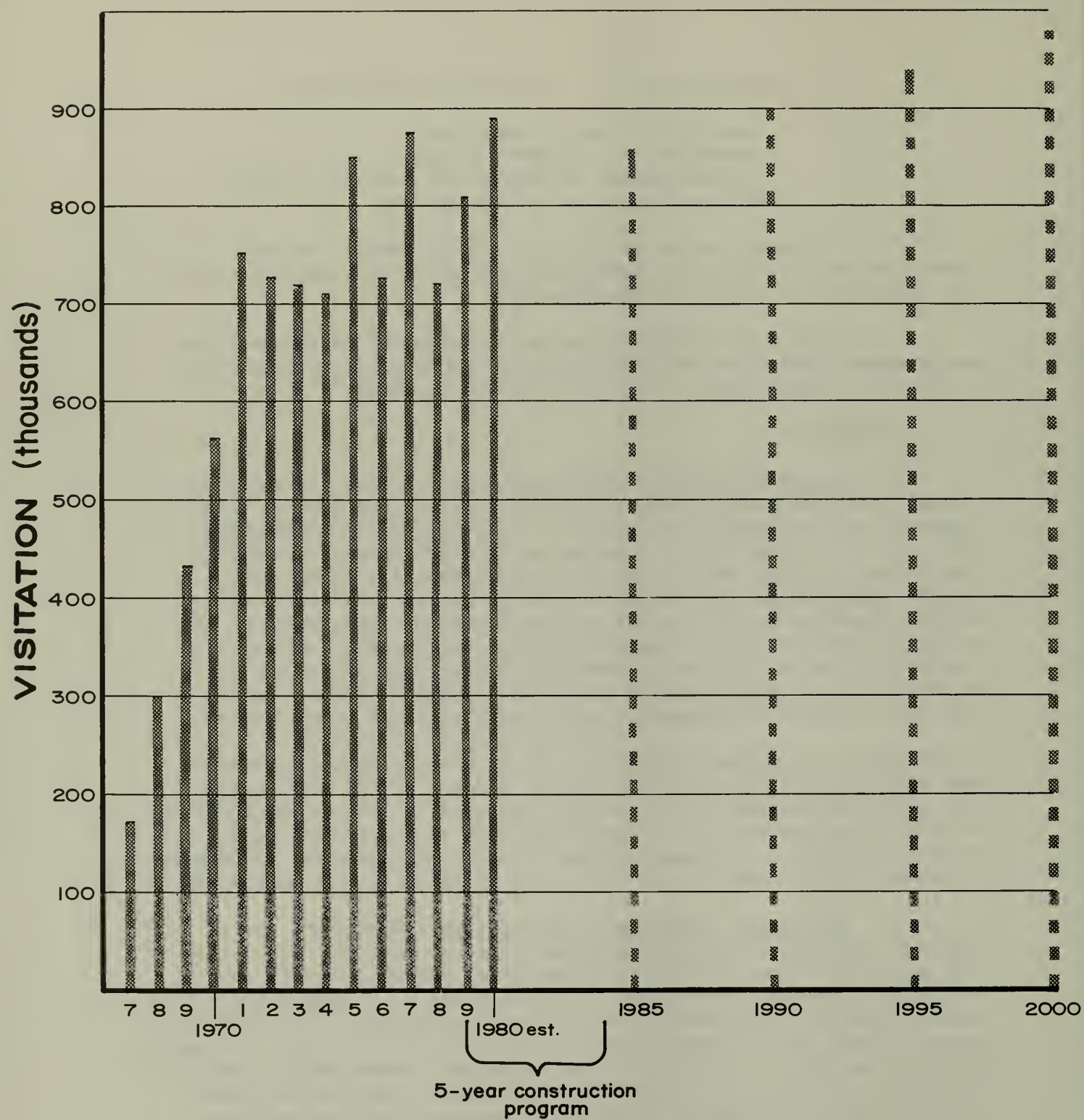


table 3-2  
**Existing and Projected Use**  
 CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
 GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR · NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



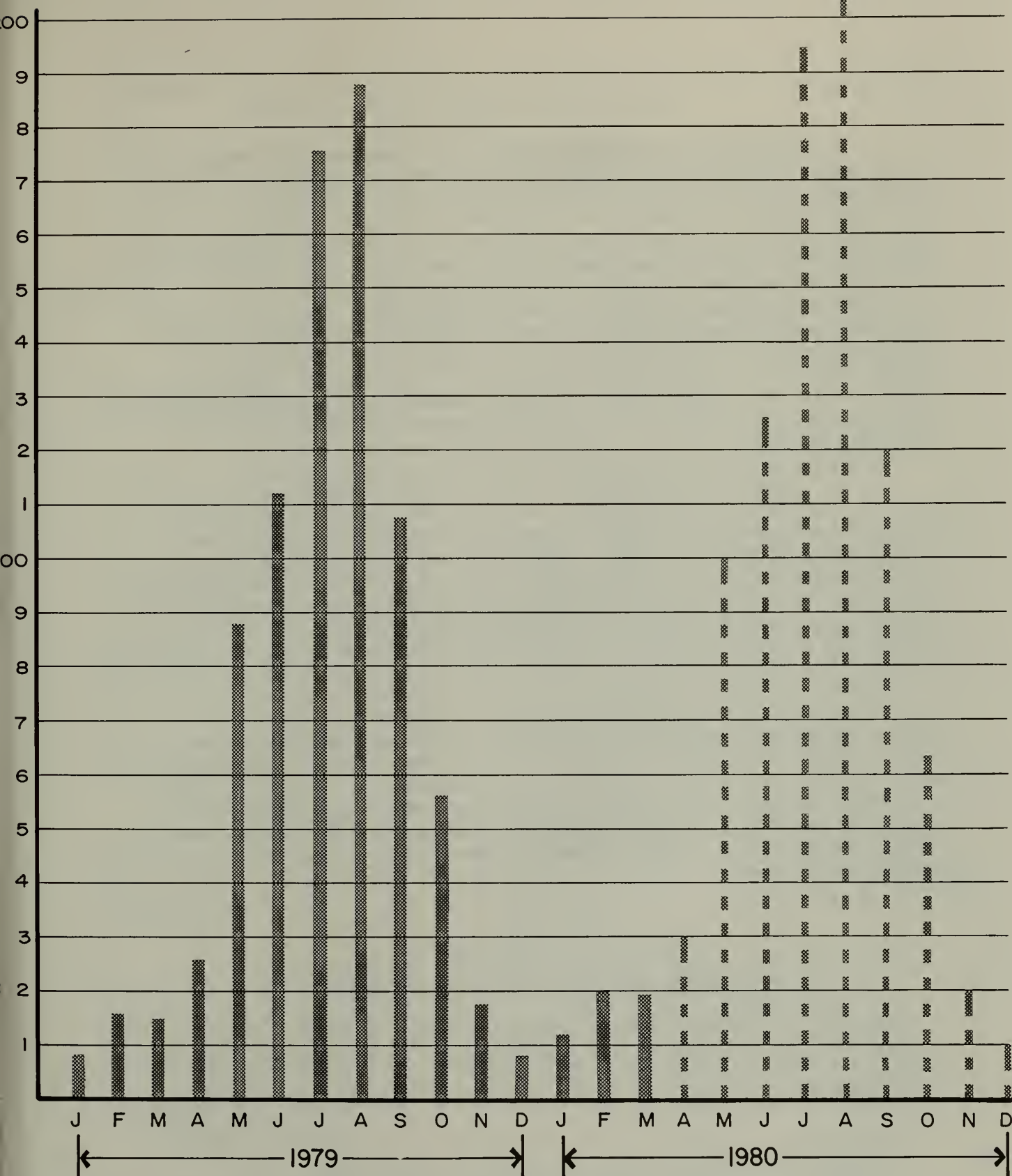


table 3-3  
**Monthly Recreation Use**  
 CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
 GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR · NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

c. Seasonal Distribution of Use - Approximately 75 percent of the recreation use at Curecanti National Recreation Area occurs during the 100-day recreation season from late May to early September. Of this summer season use, 41 percent at Blue Mesa Lake and 34 percent at Morrow Point and Crystal Lakes occurs on weekends. Peak use during the summer season is experienced on the Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Labor Day weekends. During the 1979 summer season peak daily use occurred on the Fourth of July with an estimated 9,250 visitors to the area. Camping use at the area's three campgrounds during the 1979 season is estimated at almost 2,000 persons on the peak summer day and almost 1,000 persons on an average summer day. Campgrounds and the Elk Creek Visitor Center are closed during the winter months. Monthly use experienced during 1979 and estimated for 1980 using the current 11 percent increase from 1979 is shown on Table 3-3.

d. Facility Requirements - Facilities are planned at Curecanti National Recreation Area to satisfy existing and projected recreation and management needs. Facility construction will be closely related to the actual occurrence of needs. Immediate plans for construction of initial facilities under Section 8 will satisfy needs to 1985, which is the end of the area's current five year construction program. Facilities planned for construction during this five year construction program period will satisfy recreation needs of the approximately 860,000 visitors estimated for 1985.

Facility needs are based on the number of park visitors engaged in various recreation activities at one time and the number of visitors each facility will support. Since facilities may withstand a certain amount of peak period overcrowding, it is assumed that facilities should be provided at Curecanti National Recreation Area to satisfy an average summer day use load. Average summer day load and facility determinations based on facility capacities included in Appendix F of this plan are shown in Table 3-4.

TABLE 3-4  
1985 Facility Requirements

1985 ANNUAL VISITATION = 860,000 ESTIMATED

ACTIVITY	PARTICIPATION RATE	AVERAGE SUMMER DAY USE	SUMMER USE	ANNUAL USE
Sightseeing	66%	4,257	425,700	567,600
Picnicking	8%	516	51,600	68,800
Camping	30%	1,935	193,500	258,000
Boating	18%	1,161	116,100	154,800
Fishing	27%	1,742	174,150	232,200

Campsites - 1,935 campers (average summer day use) divided by 4 persons per site per day equals 484 campsites needed.

Picnic sites - 516 picnickers (average summer day use) divided by 10 persons per picnic site each day equals 52 picnic sites needed.

Group picnic shelters - 516 picnickers (average summer day use) divided by 225 (1 shelter required for each 225 picnickers in addition to individual picnic sites) equals 2 picnic shelters plus latent demand for group facilities related to urban use equals 2 picnic shelters. Total of 4 group picnic shelters needed.

Boat-launch ramps - 1,161 boaters plus 871 fishermen (50 percent of fishermen use boats) equals 2,032 divided by 3 persons per boat equals 677 boats (average summer day use) divided by 40 boats per launch lane each day equals 17 boat launch lanes needed.

e. Carrying Capacity - Water-based recreation at Curecanti National Recreation Area consists of fishing, water skiing, power boating, sail boating, canoeing, raft boating, and tour boating. The carrying capacity of Curecanti National Recreation Area for these activities is related to the water surface area available for boating, fishing, water skiing, and the fishery resource available for harvest in each lake. It is intended that development of water-based recreation facilities will be limited by carrying capacity to avoid over use and subsequent deterioration of the area's natural resource base. Land based support facilities are proposed to complement water-based recreation at Curecanti National Recreation Area.

f. Winter Use - The long, October through April, winter season at Curecanti National Recreation Area gives a high potential for recreation use during this period. Opportunities exist at the area for ice fishing, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, hunting, sledding, and wildlife observing. Proposals for public use in some of these recreation categories are discussed as follows:

(1) Ice Fishing - The Blue Mesa Lake surface becomes frozen most years. The ice depth is monitored by the National Park Service personnel and usually is safe for fishing from early January until it thaws in April. While not restricted to any particular areas of the lake surface, ice fishing use is limited by the availability of access points. Use will be managed to assure safety and to avoid conflicts with wildlife. The surfaces of Morrow Point and Crystal Lakes do not freeze sufficiently to support ice fishing.

(2) Snowmobiling - Snowmobile use is presently confined to Blue Mesa Lake's frozen surface and winter closed roads within the recreation area. It is proposed that this use continue.



(3) Cross-country Skiing - Minimal participation in this activity occurs primarily on winter closed roads having easy access from plowed highways. Development concept proposals include the construction of trails for cross-country skiing at several of Curecanti National Recreation Area developed recreation areas.

g. Visitor Safety - Policies and facilities to assure that visitors to Curecanti National Recreation Area may use the area safely will be included as an integral part of all development proposed. Specific measures include the construction of signs or safety railings at hazardous areas, prohibition of public use at high safety risk areas, and a maintenance program which is responsive to emergency situations. Public awareness of the area's visitor safety program will be an objective of interpretation.

h. Handicapped Use - It is an objective of this plan to make as much of the area accessible to the total recreating public as possible. To achieve this objective proposed facilities will maximize the use of barrier-free design except in steep canyon areas where terrain severely limits access. Facilities accessible to handicapped persons will be identified with the appropriate international symbol for access. Operation of management and interpretive activities will accommodate maximum use by handicapped persons. Emphasis will be placed on providing handicapped fishing access at the Neversink and Cooper Ranch developed areas.

D. General Development - Development of facilities at Curecanti National Recreation Area is proposed to satisfy public needs for water related recreation use at the area's carrying capacity level. These facilities will be constructed in phases as needs become apparent and funds are available. Distribution of the proposed recreation facilities is shown on Map 3-D.

This plan proposes the construction of facilities to accommodate intensive recreation use at Blue Mesa Lake. This will allow for maximum public utilization of this lake's surface for fishing, boating, and water skiing. The plan minimizes facility construction at Morrow Point and Crystal Lakes, thereby limiting public use to activities such as hiking, fishing, boating, and tour boat sightseeing. This development approach will tend to reserve the Morrow Point and Crystal Lake areas in their primitive condition and provide a maximum of diversity in recreation use potential at Curecanti National Recreation Area.

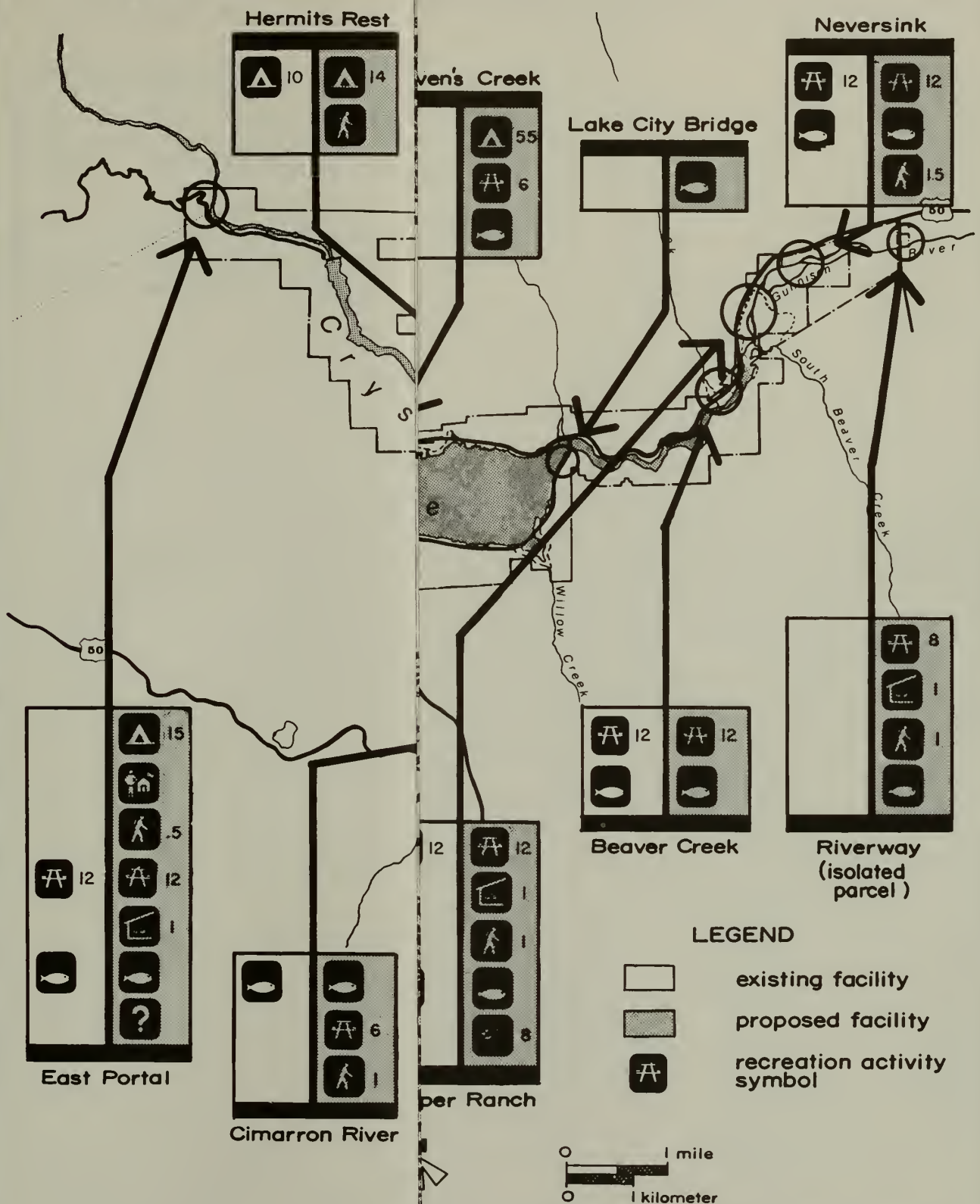
The plan also allows for the development of associated administration, residential, and maintenance facilities as necessary for effective management of the area. Development proposed is considered the maximum acceptable for Curecanti National Recreation Area, and will be provided only as demand on existing facilities reach their capacity. These facilities are itemized in the following section entitled Development Concepts.



Facilities will be planned to maximize energy savings. This may be done by locating facilities within walking distance of each other or providing alternatives to automobile use within the park, thereby causing a savings in gasoline for automobiles. Through special design of buildings, heat or air conditioning losses, may be reduced effecting a savings in fuel or electric energy. Use of passive design to accommodate seasonal as well as year-round use will be maximized. Existing structures will be modified to maximize energy savings where possible. Future changes in energy technology will be considered for use at Curecanti National Recreation Area as they become known.

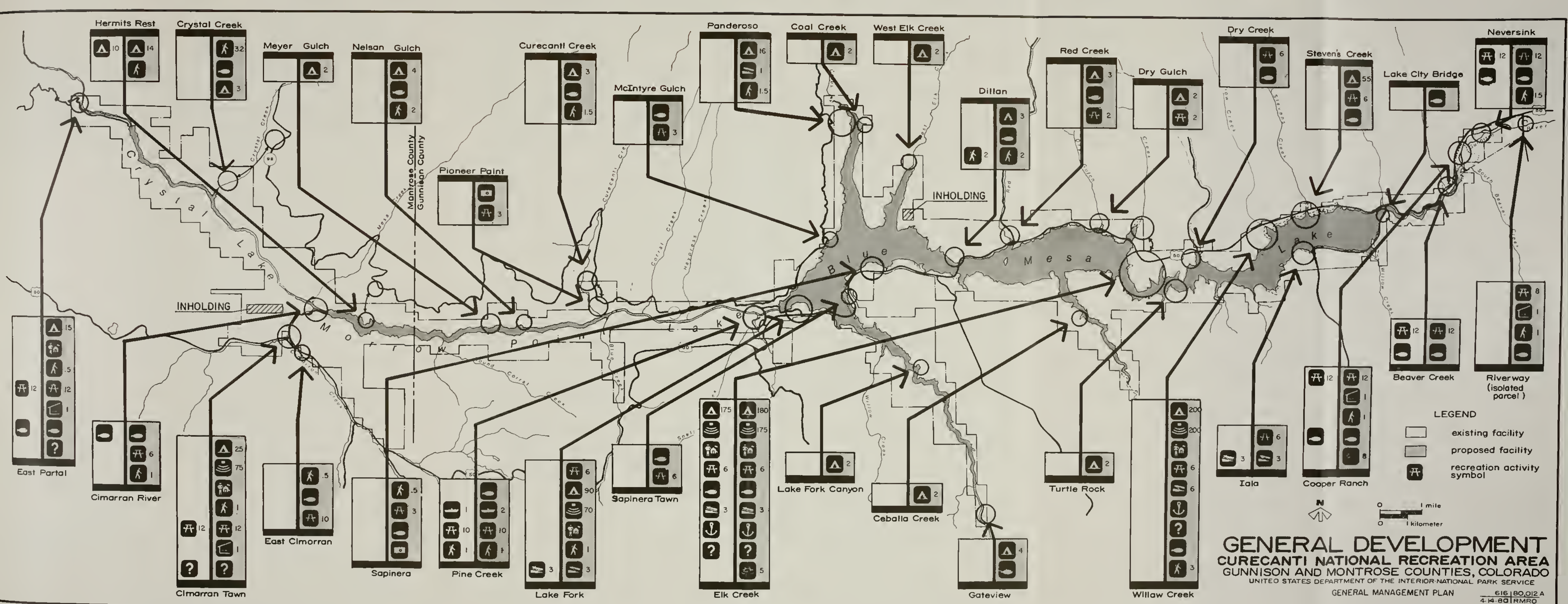
At sites where public drinking water is proposed, careful consideration will be given during the design process to assure proper well location, design, and periodic water anlaysis or treatment to protect public health.





**AL DEVELOPMENT**  
**NATIONAL RECREATION AREA**  
**MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO**  
 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR-NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
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E. Development Concepts - Plans for development of recreation facilities at specific sites within Curecanti National Recreation Area are presented in this section. These facilities will be constructed as needs become apparent and funds available. Facility costs are current as of December 7, 1979 and are subject to minor change.

At areas adjacent to highways, a corridor will be reserved as a buffer and to accomodate possible future expansion of the highway. The effects of this plan on highway use volumes on U.S. Highway 50, and State Highways 149 and 92 are considered negligible.



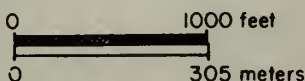


Located approximately 4 miles west of Gunnison, on the Gunnison River, the 4 acre Riverway Site is separated from the rest of Curecanti National Recreation Area fee-owned land by about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile of private land. The site is easily accessible by an adjacent, paved county road and because of its close proximity to the City of Gunnison, has good potential for satisfying town-oriented, day use recreation needs. The south portion of the site, along the Gunnison River is well shaded by large cottonwood trees. Most of the site is subject to flooding and is located in the Gunnison River's 100-year flood plain. The site's 400 feet of river shoreline provides limited opportunity for bank line fishing. Adjacent private land is posted to prohibit fishing, hunting, and other recreation uses. An access easement to an existing private residence is via a gravel road located on the Riverway Site. This access must be retained in the site development plan.

Day use development proposed includes paving a portion of the existing access road on the site, providing parking facilities, group picnic facilities in the form of a large group picnic shelter with tables, individual picnic sites, a vault restroom and development of a bank line fishing access trail approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile downstream on recreation easement lands to be acquired. This plan proposes buffer plantings to aid in screening conflicting adjacent land uses. Electrical service is available adjacent to the county road. A well will be drilled to provide potable water at the site.

Since most of the riverway site is located within the 100-year floodplain development of needed facilities will cause unavoidable adverse impacts. Other alternatives, including no action, were considered but were found to be unacceptable due to high demand for public use. Mitigating measures will include placement of only temporary facilities in the floodplain where possible. Where placement of facilities in the flood plain is unavoidable, they will be specially designed to withstand the effects of periodic flooding.

## LEGEND



recreation  
paved road  
gravel road  
dirt road  
trail  
structure  
recreation  
or facility

### DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS

## RIVERWAY

CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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# RECREATION FACILITIES

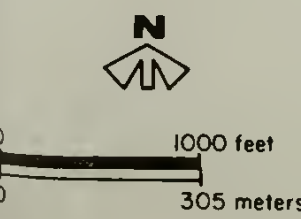
FACILITY	UNIT	EXISTING QUANTITY	PROPOSED	
			QUANTITY	COST
				(thous.)
Picnic sites	each		8	\$ 6
Group picnic shelter	each		1	21
Trees, site work, and seeding	acre		2	20
Restroom, vault-type	each		1	8
Signs	lump sum			4
Trash receptacles	each		6	1
Water well with hand pump	each		1	6
Road, asphalt, 22-foot wide with gate	mile		.08	44
Parking area, asphalt	space		15	23
Hiking trail, 6-foot wide	mile		1	15
Subtotal				\$148
Design, Admin., and Contingencies-46%				68
TOTAL				\$216

Located approximately 4 miles west of Gunnison, on the Gunnison River, the 4 acre Riverway Site is separated from the rest of Curecanti National Recreation Area fee-owned land by about ½ mile of private land. The site is easily accessible by an adjacent, paved county road and because of its close proximity to the City of Gunnison, has good potential for satisfying town-oriented, day use recreation needs. The south portion of the site, along the Gunnison River is well shaded by large cottonwood trees. Most of the site is subject to flooding and is located in the Gunnison River's 100-year flood plain. The site's 400 feet of river shoreline provides limited opportunity for bank line fishing. Adjacent private land is posted to prohibit fishing, hunting, and other recreation uses. An access easement to an existing private residence is via a gravel road located on the Riverway Site. This access must be retained in the site development plan.

Day use development proposed includes paving a portion of the existing access road on the site, providing parking facilities, group picnic facilities in the form of a large group picnic shelter with tables, individual picnic sites, a vault restroom and development of a bank line fishing access trail approximately ½ mile downstream on recreation easement lands to be acquired. This plan proposes buffer plantings to aid in screening conflicting adjacent land uses. Electrical service is available adjacent to the county road. A well will be drilled to provide potable water at the site.

Since most of the riverway site is located within the 100-year floodplain development of needed facilities will cause unavoidable adverse impacts. Other alternatives, including no action, were considered but were found to be unacceptable due to high demand for public use. Mitigating measures will include placement of only temporary facilities in the flood plain where possible. Where placement of facilities in the flood plain is unavoidable, they will be specially designed to withstand the effects of periodic flooding.

## LEGEND



EXISTING	PROPOSED

contour interval 20 feet

DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS  
**RIVERWAY**  
 CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
 GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE





The Neversink Site is located about 5 miles west of Gunnison, along the Gunnison River. The area includes the 8 acre site of a previous tourist resort adjacent to U.S. Highway 50 and the river. This area is presently used for day use activities such as bank fishing, picnicking and as a take out point for canoeists and rafters on the Gunnison River. Existing facilities include gravel roads, parking areas and picnic tables. A large, undeveloped area extending about 1 mile along the Gunnison River upstream from the developed area is included as a part of this site. This area consists of about 40 acres on the north side of the river including several small islands. This area contains a diversity of vegetative and wildlife resources including riparian vegetation such as willow and cottonwood and wildlife species such as deer, beaver, and herons. The entire area is subject to annual flooding from the Gunnison River during the spring rise and is located in the 100-year flood plain.

Construction of permanent day use recreation facilities including individual picnic sites, parking and restrooms in the area of existing temporary facilities is proposed as shown on the map. A well will be drilled to provide potable water at this site. This proposal also includes the construction of fishing access and interpretive trail facilities with two footbridges located upstream from the existing temporary area. Development of these trail facilities will make about 40 acres of diverse, riparian habitat area available for public use activities such as fishing, nature study, hiking and cross-country skiing. The trail will connect the Neversink Area with the Riverway Area Trail upstream. An additional trail is proposed for bank fishing and to connect with the Cooper Ranch Area. Stabilization of the riverbank will be necessary at several points along the trail to reduce excessive bank caving. The large island located across the Gunnison River from the picnic area will be retained in its existing undeveloped condition to provide a scenic backdrop for the developed area and habitat for wildlife.

## LEGEND



0 1000 feet  
0 305 meters

recreation  
paved road  
gravel road  
dirt road  
trail  
structure  
recreation  
or facility

## DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS NEVERSINK

CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR · NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECREATION FACILITIES

FACILITY	UNIT	EXISTING QUANTITY	PROPOSED	
			QUANTITY	COST
				(thous.)
Picnic sites	each		12	\$ 8
Signs	lump sum			7
Restroom, vault-type	each		1	8
Trash receptacles	each		6	1
Water well with hand pump	each		1	6
Site work	lump sum			10
Road, asphalt, 22- foot wide	mile		.2	70
Parking, asphalt	space		22	33
Gate	each		1	1
Hiking trail, 6-foot wide	mile		1.5	23
Footbridges (6 foot by 30 foot)	each		4	40
Subtotal				\$207
Design, Admin., and Contingencies-46%				95
TOTAL				\$302

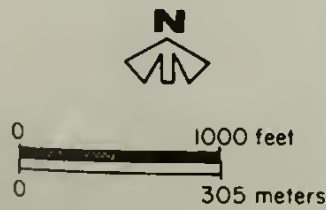
The Neversink Site is located about 5 miles west of Gunnison, along the Gunnison River. The area includes the 8 acre site of a previous tourist resort adjacent to U.S. Highway 50 and the river. This area is presently used for day use activities such as bank fishing, picnicking and as a take out point for canoeists and rafters on the Gunnison River. Existing facilities include gravel roads, parking areas and picnic tables. A large, undeveloped area extending about 1 mile along the Gunnison River upstream from the developed area is included as a part of this site. This area consists of about 40 acres on the north side of the river including several small islands. This area contains a diversity of vegetative and wildlife resources including riparian vegetation such as willow and cottonwood and wildlife species such as deer, beaver, and herons. The entire area is subject to annual flooding from the Gunnison River during the spring rise and is located in the 100-year flood plain.

Construction of permanent day use recreation facilities including individual picnic sites, parking and restrooms in the area of existing temporary facilities is proposed as shown on the map. A well will be drilled to provide potable water at this site. This proposal also includes the construction of fishing access and interpretive trail facilities with two footbridges located upstream from the existing temporary area. Development of these trail facilities will make about 40 acres of diverse, riparian habitat area available for public use activities such as fishing, nature study, hiking and cross-country skiing. The trail will connect the Neversink Area with the Riverway Area Trail upstream. An additional trail is proposed for bank fishing and to connect with the Cooper Ranch Area. Stabilization of the riverbank will be necessary at several points along the trail to reduce excessive bank caving. The large island located across the Gunnison River from the picnic area will be retained in its existing undeveloped condition to provide a scenic backdrop for the developed area and habitat for wildlife.

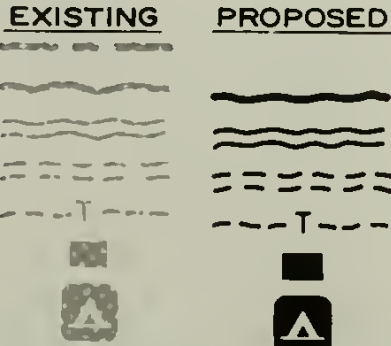
Since most of the Neversink site is located within the 100-year flood plain, development of needed facilities will cause unavoidable adverse impacts. Other alternatives, including no action, were considered but were found to be unacceptable due to high demand for public use. Mitigating measures will include placement of only temporary facilities in the flood plain where possible. Where placement of facilities in the flood plain is unavoidable, they will be specially designed to withstand the effects of periodic flooding.

DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS  
NEVERSINK  
CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR-NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

LEGEND



- recreation area boundary
- paved road
- gravel road
- dirt road
- trail
- structure
- recreation activity or facility



contour interval  
40 feet



Located about 6 miles west of Gunnison, the 23 acre Cooper Ranch Area was formerly used as a ranch and tourist resort. The Gunnison River forms the site's south border with U.S. Highway 50 forming its north extremity. Most of the site is located in the 100-year flood plain and is subject to annual flooding from the river's spring rise. Also, the site is affected by ice flows in the winter months due to ice jams in the Gunnison River. The area along the river is well shaded by large cottonwood trees. Presently the area's temporary facilities are used for fishing access and picnicking.

Development proposed in this plan uses the area for day use recreation only. Facilities include a group picnic shelter and individual picnic sites, a bank line fishing access and hiking trail, a parking and landing area for canoeists and rafters, permanent roads, bicycle trail, parking and restroom facilities as shown on the map. Electrical service is located within the adjacent U.S. Highway 50 right-of-way. A well will be drilled to provide potable water at the site. The bicycle trail will serve as a component of a bicycle trail system connecting Gunnison with recreation developments at Curecanti. This bicycle trail will be constructed in cooperation with the State of Colorado, Division of Highways. All permanent recreation facilities will be located above the 100-year flood plain elevation, with only portable facilities located below this elevation.

Since most of the Cooper Ranch site is located within the 100 year flood plain, development of needed facilities will cause unavoidable adverse impacts. Other alternatives, including no action, were considered, but were found to be unacceptable due to high demands for public use. Mitigating measures will include placement of only temporary facilities in the flood plain where possible. Where placement of facilities in the flood plain is unavoidable, they will be specially designed to withstand the effects of periodic flooding.

## LEGEND



0 1000 feet  
0 305 meters

recreation  
paved road  
gravel road  
dirt road  
trail  
structure  
recreation  
or facility

### DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS

## COOPER RANCH

CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR · NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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## RECREATION FACILITIES

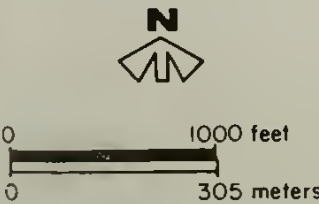
FACILITY	UNIT	EXISTING QUANTITY	PROPOSED	
			QUANTITY	COST (thous.)
Picnic sites	each		12	\$ 8
Group picnic shelter	sq. ft.		600	21
Restroom, vault-type	each		1	8
Signs	lump sum			6
Tree planting and site work	lump sum			10
Trash receptacles	each		6	1
Water well with hand pump	each		1	6
Road, asphalt, 22- foot wide	mile		.5	175
Parking, asphalt	space		15	23
Hiking trail, 6-foot wide	mile		1	15
Gate	each		1	1
Subtotal				\$274
Design, Admin., and Contingencies-46%				126
TOTAL				\$400

Located about 6 miles west of Gunnison, the 23 acre Cooper Ranch Area was formerly used as a ranch and tourist resort. The Gunnison River forms the site's south border with U.S. Highway 50 forming its north extremity. Most of the site is located in the 100-year flood plain and is subject to annual flooding from the river's spring rise. Also, the site is affected by ice jams in the winter months due to ice jams in the Gunnison River. The area along the river is well shaded by large cottonwood trees. Presently the area's temporary facilities are used for fishing access and picnicking.

Development proposed in this plan uses the area for day use recreation only. Facilities include a group picnic shelter and individual picnic sites, a bank line fishing access and hiking trail, a parking and landing area for canoeists and rafters, permanent roads, bicycle trail, parking and restroom facilities as shown on the map. Electrical service is located within the adjacent U.S. Highway 50 right-of-way. A well will be drilled to provide potable water at the site. The bicycle trail will serve as a component of a bicycle trail system connecting Gunnison with recreation developments at Curecanti. This bicycle trail will be constructed in cooperation with the State of Colorado, Division of Highways. All permanent recreation facilities will be located above the 100-year flood plain elevation, with only portable facilities located below this elevation.

Since most of the Cooper Ranch site is located within the 100 year flood plain, development of needed facilities will cause unavoidable adverse impacts. Other alternatives, including no action, were considered, but were found to be unacceptable due to high demands for public use. Mitigating measures will include placement of only temporary facilities in the flood plain where possible. Where placement of facilities in the flood plain is unavoidable, they will be specially designed to withstand the effects of periodic flooding.

## LEGEND

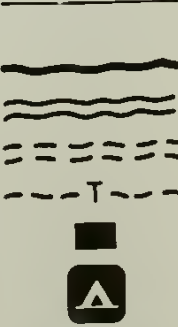


recreation area boundary  
paved road  
gravel road  
dirt road  
trail  
structure  
recreation activity  
or facility

### EXISTING



### PROPOSED



### key elevations

maximum pool  
elevation 7519'  
contour interval  
40 feet

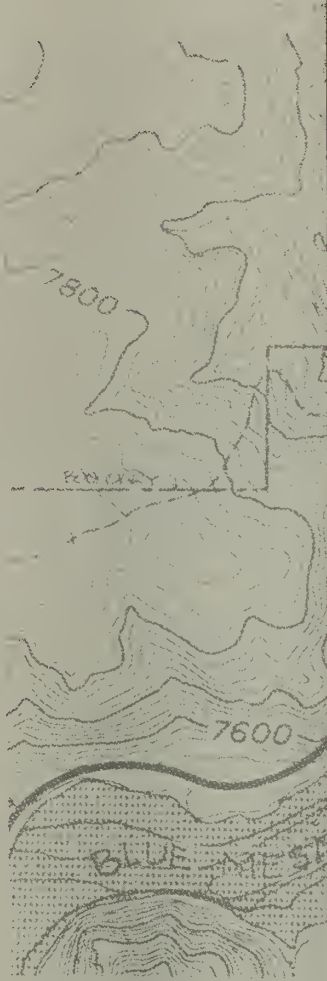
### DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS

## COOPER RANCH

CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR-NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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4-1780/RMRO

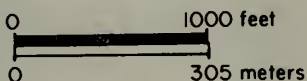




The 3 acre Beaver Creek Site is located about 7 miles west of Gunnison. It is separated from Blue Mesa Lake by U.S. Highway 50. Public use of Blue Mesa's shoreline for fishing presents safety hazards in that fishermen have to cross busy U.S. Highway 50 to get to the shoreline. The site is adjacent to Beaver Creek which flows into Blue Mesa Lake at the site and a portion of the site is located within the creek's 100-year flood plain. Existing temporary facilities include restrooms, a parking area, and picnic tables

Day use development proposed at this site includes individual, walk-in picnic sites, parking area, and restroom facilities as shown on the map. Electrical service is available about 1,200 feet north of U.S. Highway 50. A well will be drilled to provide potable water at this site.

## LEGEND



recreation  
paved road  
gravel road  
dirt road  
trail  
structure  
recreation  
or facility

DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS  
**BEAVER CREEK**  
CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR · NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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4-21-80 | RMRO



RECREATION FACILITIES

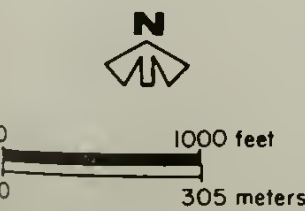
FACILITY	UNIT	EXISTING QUANTITY	PROPOSED	
			QUANTITY	COST
				(thous.)
Picnic sites	each		12	\$ 8
Restroom, vault-type	each		1	8
Trash receptacles	each		4	1
Water well with hand pump	each		1	6
Underground electric service	linear feet		1,200	10
Lighting for pedestrian underpass	lump sum			2
Signs	lump sum			4
Parking, asphalt	space		20	30
Pedestrian underpass	linear feet		75	20
Gate	each		1	1
Subtotal				\$ 90
Design, Admin., and Contingencies-46%				41
TOTAL				\$131

The 3 acre Beaver Creek Site is located about 7 miles west of Gunnison. It is separated from Blue Mesa Lake by U.S. Highway 50. Public use of Blue Mesa's shoreline for fishing presents safety hazards in that fishermen have to cross busy U.S. Highway 50 to get to the shoreline. The site is adjacent to Beaver Creek which flows into Blue Mesa Lake at the site and a portion of the site is located within the creek's 100-year flood plain. Existing temporary facilities include restrooms, a parking area, and picnic tables

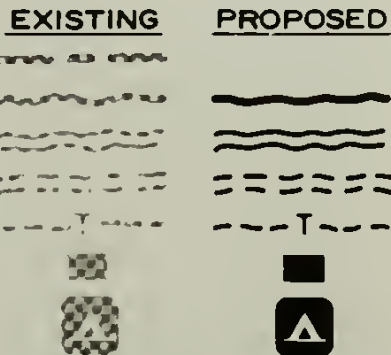
Day use development proposed at this site includes individual, walk-in picnic sites, parking area, and restroom facilities as shown on the map. Electrical service is available about 1,200 feet north of U.S. Highway 50. A well will be drilled to provide potable water at this site.



LEGEND

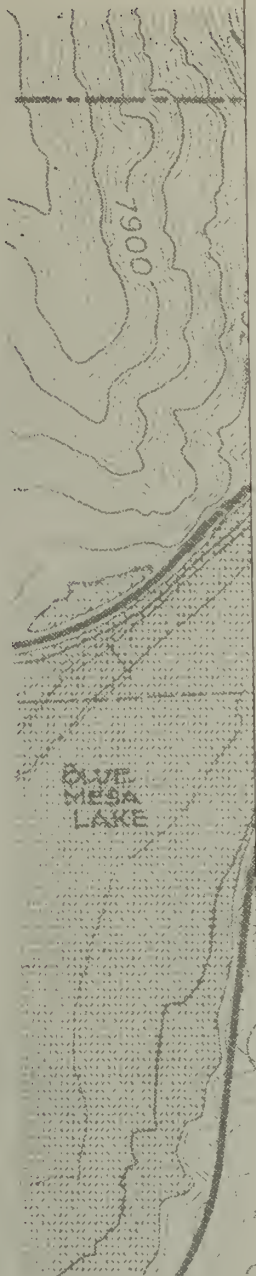


- recreation area boundary
- paved road
- gravel road
- dirt road
- trail
- structure
- recreation activity or facility



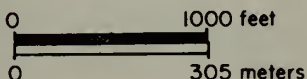
key elevations  
maximum pool  
elevation 7519'  
contour interval  
20 feet

DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS  
**BEAVER CREEK**  
CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



Located about 8 miles west of Gunnison, the  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre Lake City Bridge Site provides shoreline fishing access to Blue Mesa Lake's Iola Basin. Day use facilities proposed at the area include paved parking and a vault-type restroom as shown on the map.

## LEGEND



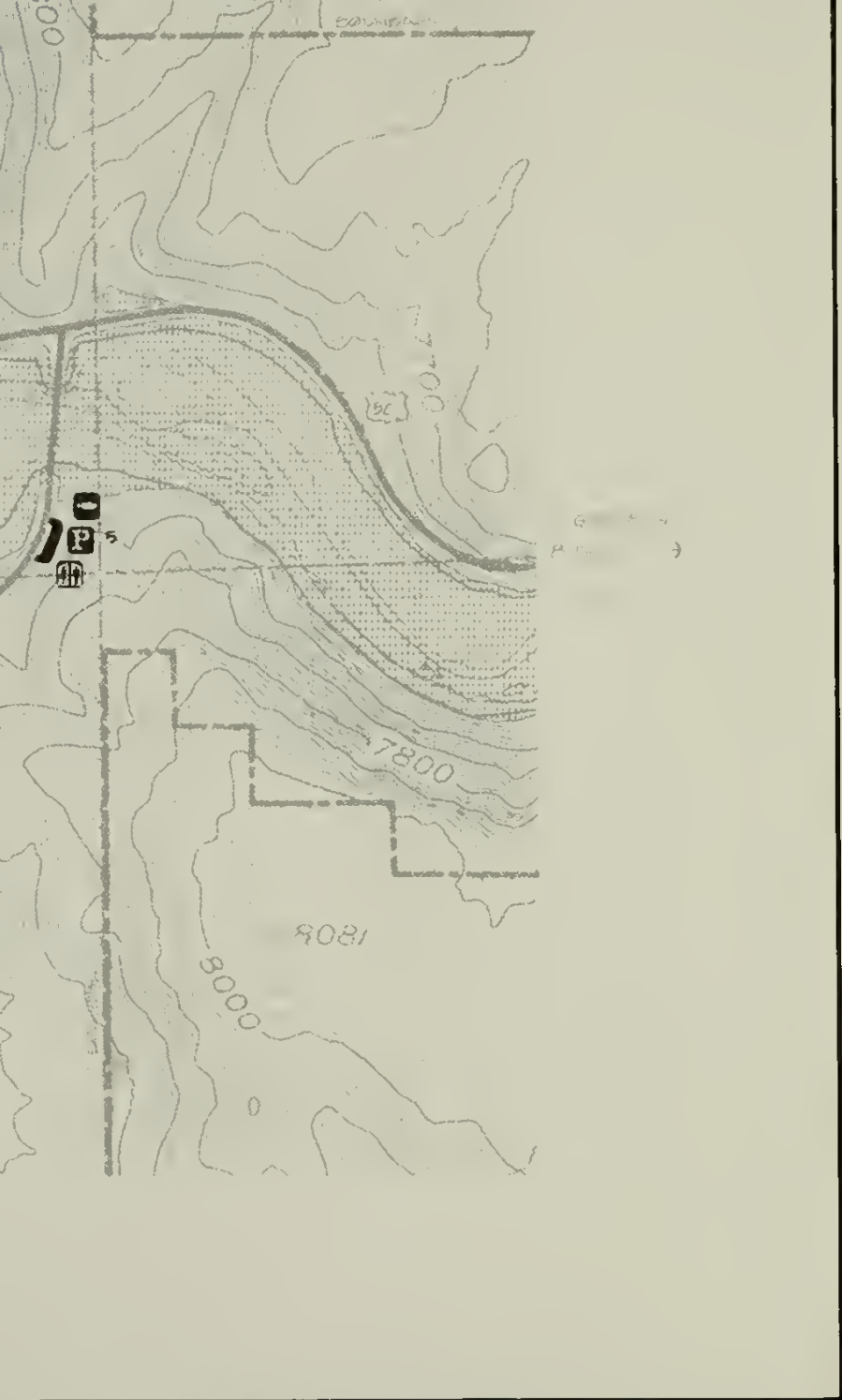
recreation  
paved road  
gravel road  
dirt road  
trail  
structure  
recreation  
or facility

## DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS

# LAKE CITY BRIDGE

CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

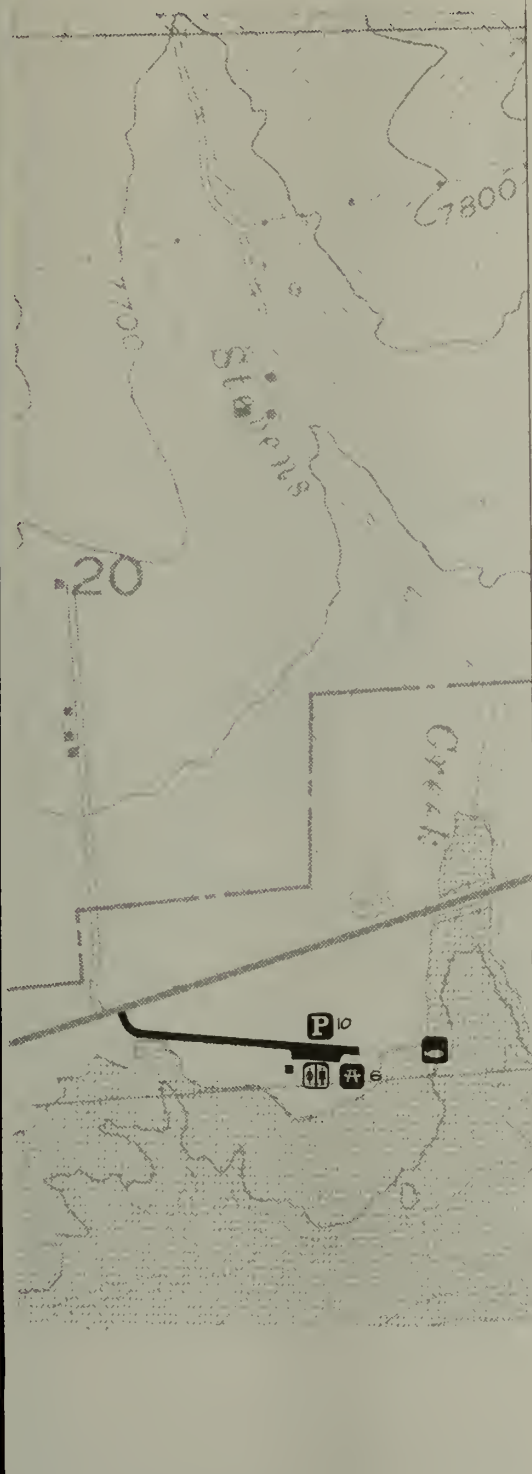
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4-15-80 | RMRO



		(thous.)	
Restroom, vault-type	each	1	8
Trash receptacles	each	3	1
Gate	each	1	1
Parking, asphalt	space	5	8
Earth fill	cubic yard	600	50
Subtotal			\$ 68
Design, Admin., and Contingencies-46%			31
TOTAL			\$ 99

Located about  
Gunnison, th  
Bridge Site  
fishing acce  
Lake's Iola  
facilities p  
include pave  
type restroo  
map.





The Steven's Creek Site is located between U.S. Highway 50 and Blue Mesa Lake about 4 miles east of the Elk Creek Developed Area. It is presently used as an interim camping and fishing area during the summer and as an ice fishing access point during the winter season. The area was not considered for development in the Curecanti National Recreation Area Assessment of Alternatives; however, due to deferment of development at the nearby Willow Creek Area, it was decided to continue camping use and provide camping facilities at Steven's Creek as an interim measure. When the Willow Creek Site is developed for overnight use, camping use at Steven's Creek will be phased out. Long-term future use of the Steven's Creek Area will be for day use picnicking and fishing access. Electric service is available adjacent to U.S. Highway 50. Potable water will be provided by a well to be drilled on the site. As an interim measure, potable water will be hauled to the site from the Elk Creek Developed Area and stored in a tank. These facilities are shown on the map.

## LEGEND



0 1000 feet  
0 305 meters

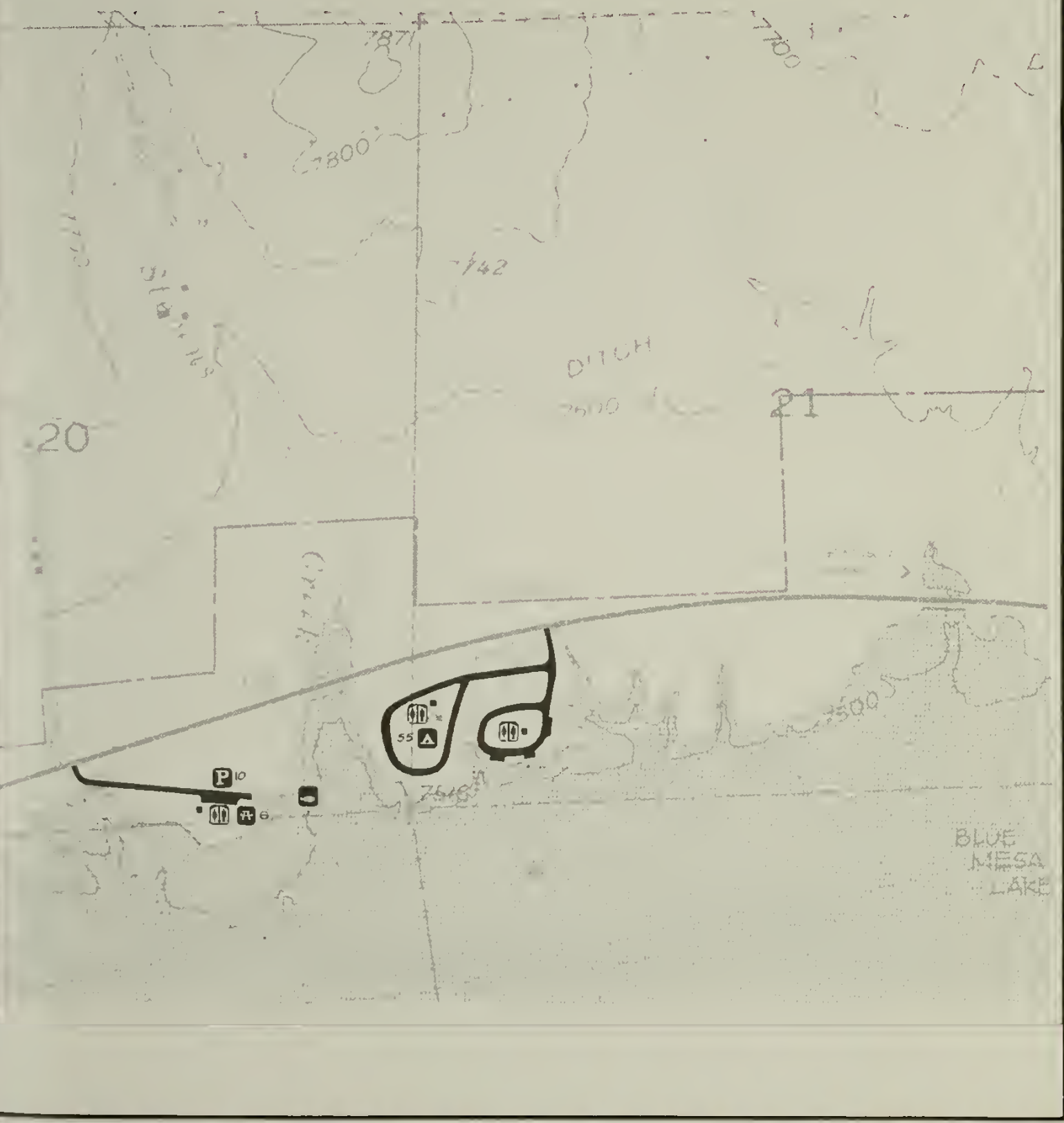
recreation  
paved road  
gravel road  
dirt road  
trail  
structure  
recreation  
or facility

### DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS

# STEVEN'S CREEK

CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR · NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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# RECREATION FACILITIES

FACILITY	UNIT	EXISTING QUANTITY	PROPOSED	
			QUANTITY	COST
				(thous.)
Campsites	each		55	\$110
Picnic sites	each		6	5
Gate	each		1	1
Restroom, vault-type	each		3	32
Signs	lump sum			4
Tree planting	acre		4	27
Irrigation system	acre		4	24
Water system	each		1	35
Drinking fountains	each		2	2
Waterline	linear foot		600	7
Electrical service	linear foot		500	4
Road, asphalt, 18- foot wide	mile		.5	150
Road, asphalt, 22- foot wide	mile		.5	175
Parking area, asphalt	space		10	15
Subtotal				\$591
Design, Admin., and Contingencies-46%				272
TOTAL				\$863

The Steven's Creek Site is located between U.S. Highway 50 and Blue Mesa Lake about 4 miles east of the Elk Creek Developed Area. It is presently used as an interim camping and fishing area during the summer and as an ice fishing access point during the winter season. The area was not considered for development in the Curecanti National Recreation Area Assessment of Alternatives; however, due to deferment of development at the nearby Willow Creek Area, it was decided to continue camping use and provide camping facilities at Steven's Creek as an interim measure. When the Willow Creek Site is developed for overnight use, camping use at Steven's Creek will be phased out. Long-term future use of the Steven's Creek Area will be for day use picnicking and fishing access. Electric service is available adjacent to U.S. Highway 50. Potable water will be provided by a well to be drilled on the site. As an interim measure, potable water will be hauled to the site from the Elk Creek Developed Area and stored in a tank. These facilities are shown on the map.

## LEGEND

recreation area boundary

paved road

gravel road

dirt road

trail

structure

recreation activity or facility

EXISTING

PROPOSED

key elevations

maximum pool elevation 7519'

contour interval 20 feet

DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS

STEVEN'S CREEK

CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR · NATIONAL PARK SERVICE





Located on the south shore of Blue Mesa Lake's Iola Basin, the 46 acre Iola Site is about 12 miles from Gunnison. It is presently used for boat launching and as a winter ice fishing access point. Existing permanent developments include a three lane launching area, parking area, and utility system. The existing utilities include a water well, pump, and storage tank, sewage drain field, and electrical service. Temporary existing facilities include restrooms and a mobile home used for seasonal employee housing. The plan for proposed day use of the area is shown on the map. This plan adds picnic sites with shelters, a fish cleaning station, breakwater, and permanent restrooms to the existing facilities.

## LEGEND



0 1000 feet  
0 305 meters

recreation  
paved road  
gravel road  
dirt road  
trail  
structure  
recreation  
or facility

### DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS

## IOLA

CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR · NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

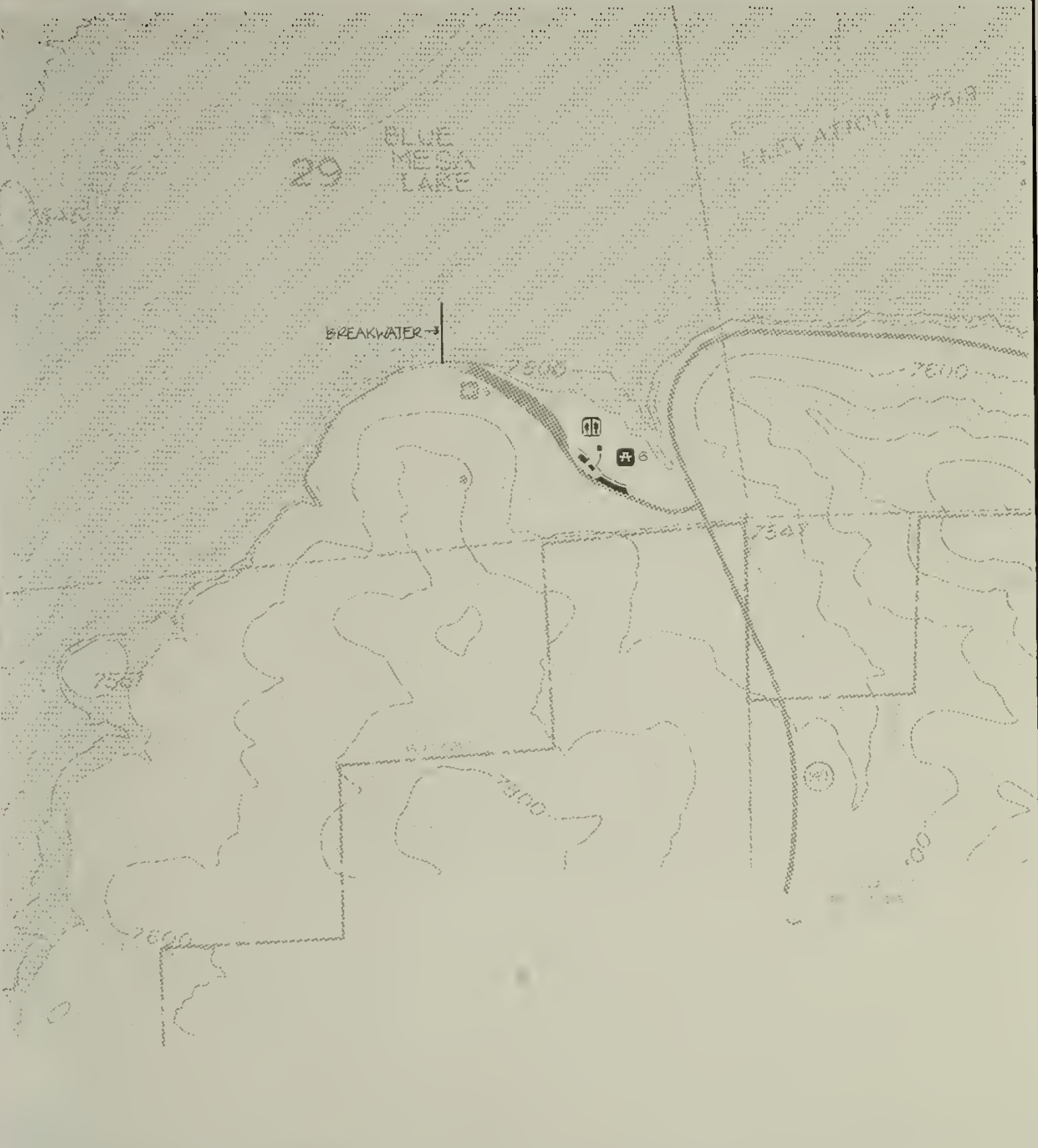
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RECREATION FACILITIES

FACILITY	UNIT	EXISTING QUANTITY	PROPOSED	
			QUANTITY	COST
				(thous.)
Picnic sites	each		6	\$ 4
Restroom, water-borne	each		1	45
Breakwater	linear feet		400	50
Trash receptacles	each		10	2
Fish cleaning station	each		1	16
Drinking fountain	each		1	1
Utility connections	lump sum			14
Launching ramp	lane	3		
Parking area, asphalt	space	77		
Road, asphalt	mile	.4		
Subtotal				\$132
Design, Admin., and Contingencies-46%				61
TOTAL				\$193

Located on the south shore of Blue Mesa Lake's Iola Basin, the 46 acre Iola Site is about 12 miles from Gunnison. It is presently used for boat launching and as a winter ice fishing access point. Existing permanent developments include a three lane launching area, parking area, and utility system. The existing utilities include a water well, pump, and storage tank, sewage drain field, and electrical service. Temporary existing facilities include restrooms and a mobile home used for seasonal employee housing. The plan for proposed day use of the area is shown on the map. This plan adds picnic sites with shelters, a fish cleaning station, breakwater, and permanent restrooms to the existing facilities.



### LEGEND

0 1000 feet  
0 305 meters

recreation area boundary

paved road

gravel road

dirt road

trail

structure

recreation activity or facility

EXISTING

PROPOSED

key elevations

maximum pool elevation 7519'

contour interval 20 feet

DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS

IOLA

CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

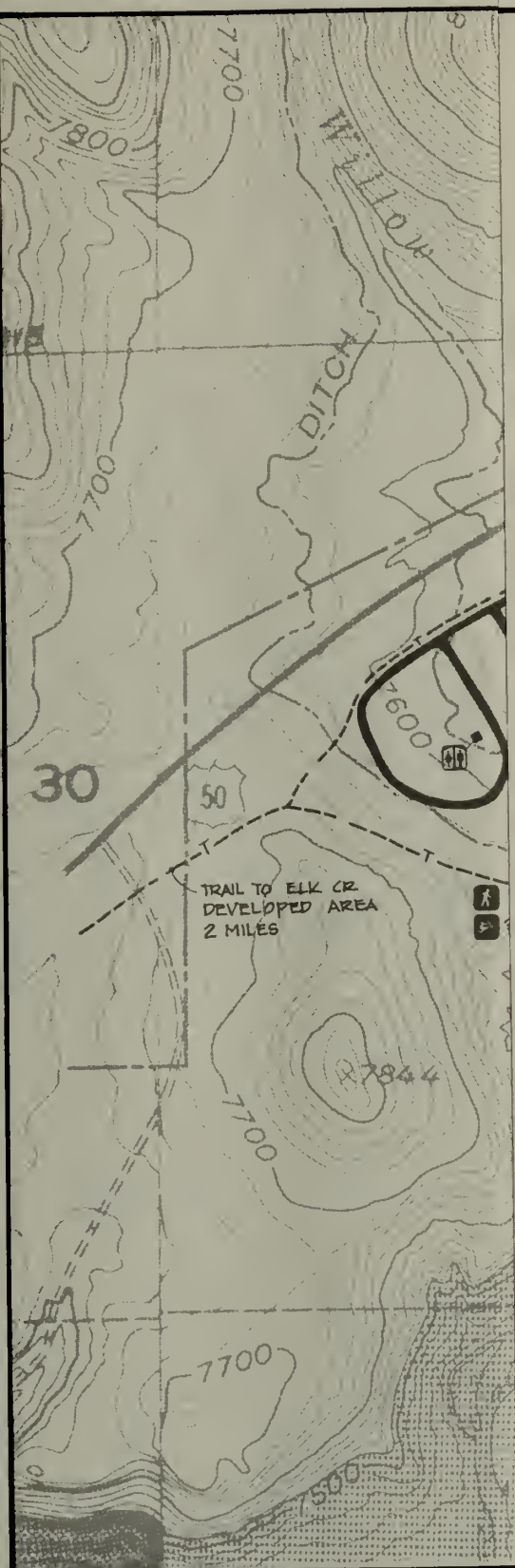
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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35



The 275 acre Willow Creek Site is located about 11 miles west of Gunnison, on the north shore of Blue Mesa Lake's Iola Basin. The site is between U.S. Highway 50 and the lake at the confluence of Willow Creek and the lake. The site's two land areas are located on the east and west sides of a 30 acre arm of the lake protected from prevailing winds. These land areas contain large flat areas suitable for intensive recreation development. The shoreline slope is flat to moderate around the embayment. Wildlife including elk and deer use the Willow Creek drainage and adjacent areas for winter range. As many as 200 elk may be present in the Willow Creek Area at one time during the winter season. Prairie dogs are abundant on the flat, south and east facing slopes at this site. This site is considered the only feasible site for a large scale recreation development on Blue Mesa Lake due to its large size, marina, and boat launching potential, and flat to moderate slopes. Development of this site will be deferred until future recreation needs become apparent. At that time, the proposed plan will be implemented based on additional feasibility studies in progress at this time and consideration of environmental impacts, economic impacts and associated costs.

The plan proposes eventual use of the Willow Creek Area as an additional major recreation area. Permanent development will provide for satisfaction of recreation needs presently accommodated at temporary areas such as Steven's Creek and Lake Fork. Proposed facilities include a 150 unit, low-density campground, a 50 unit, high-density campground, marina facilities such as boat docks, boat repair and storage facilities, buffer plantings and utility systems as shown on the map. Electrical service is available along the north side of U.S. Highway 50 adjacent to the site. Potable water will be provided by a well to be drilled onsite. Sewage will be disposed of onsite using oxidation ponds. The proposed developments will satisfy a large portion of additional recreation needs related to Blue Mesa Lake. Recreation use will occur primarily during the summer recreation season.

## LEGEND



0 1000 feet  
0 305 meters

recreation  
paved road  
gravel road  
dirt road  
trail  
structure  
recreation  
or facility

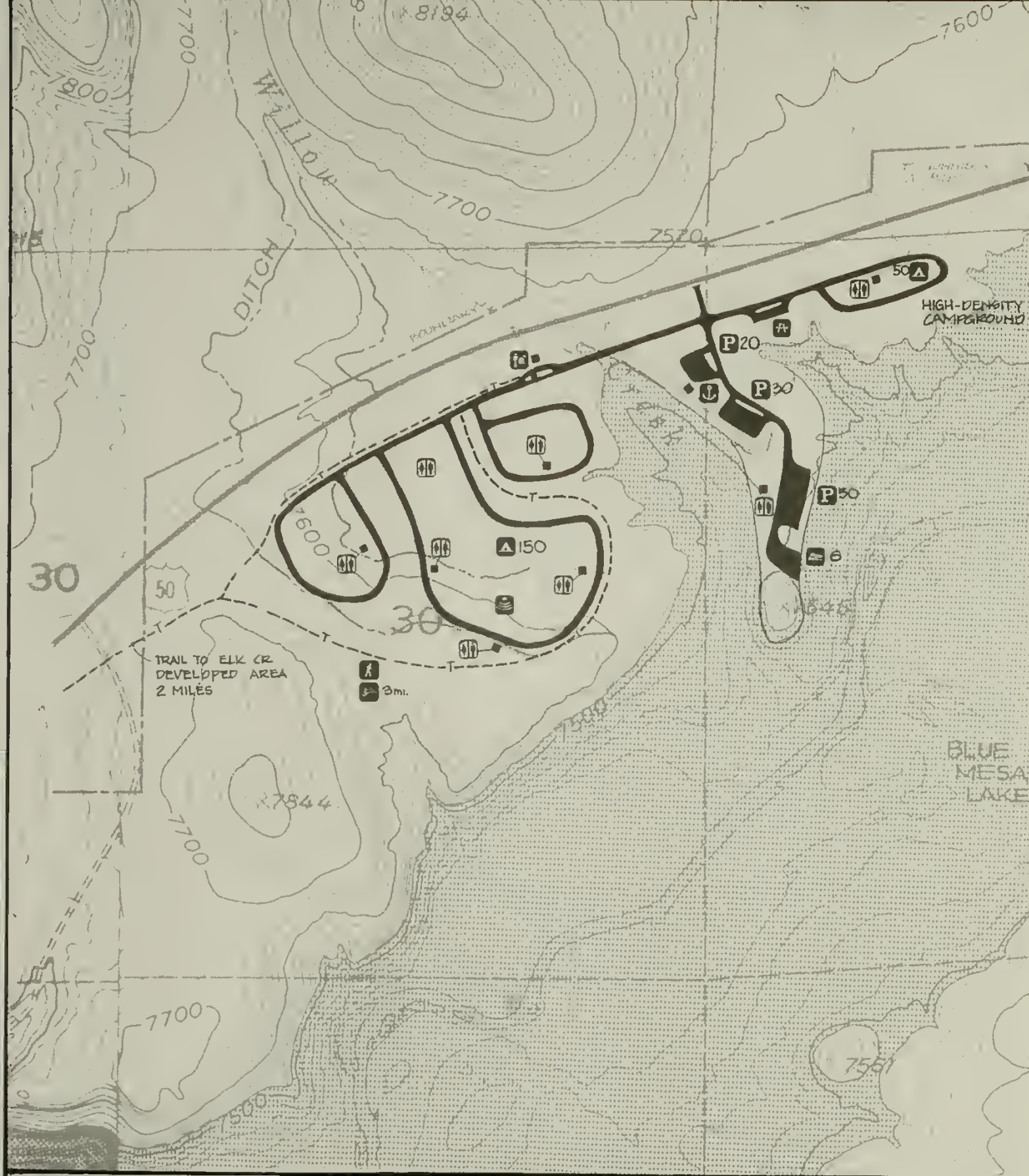
## DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS

# WILLOW CREEK

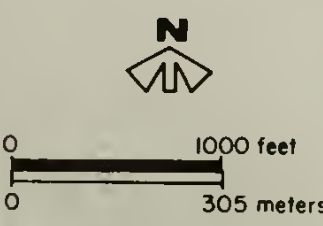
CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR · NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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4-15-80/RMRO





## LEGEND



recreation area boundary  
paved road  
gravel road  
dirt road  
trail  
structure  
recreation activity  
or facility

**EXISTING**  
**PROPOSED**

**key elevations**  
maximum pool  
elevation 7519'  
contour interval  
20 feet

FACILITY	UNIT	PROPOSED	
		QUANTITY	COST
Campsites	each	200	(thous.) \$ 180
Fee station	sq. ft.	400	28
Seasonal apartments	sq. ft.	1,600	80
Storage building	sq. ft.	400	18
Furniture and appliances	lump sum		8
Tree plantings	each	100	10
Restrooms, water-borne	each	11	525
Trash receptacles	each	40	8
Picnic sites	each	6	5
Ramadas	each	6	13
Amphitheater	seat	200	110
Water well and pump	each	1	6
Drinking fountain	each	4	5
Waterline	linear feet	2,700	32
Electrical line	linear feet	3,700	28
Sewage system	lump sum		100
Dredging	lump sum		2,385
Embankment	lump sum		1,000
Launching ramp	lane	6	90
Water storage tank	each	1	250
Floating dump station	each	1	60
Marina dock	each	1	650
Sling hoist	each	1	12
Concession store	sq. ft.	600	45
Fuel station	each	1	100
Maintenance building	sq. ft.	900	54
Utility building	sq. ft.	400	18
Boat dry storage	space	100	55
Marina building	sq. ft.	400	20
Fish cleaning station	each	2	36
Visitor contact station	sq. ft.	200	10
Dock lighting	linear feet	500	3
Fire hydrants	lump sum		2
Fire pump	lump sum		5
Road, asphalt, 24-foot wide	mile	.8	360
Bridge, 26-foot wide	each	1	250
Parking, asphalt	space	50	75
Bicycle trail, 8-foot wide	mile	5.25	368
Hiking trail, 6-foot wide	mile	3	60
Subtotal			\$ 7,064
Design, Admin., and Contingencies-46%			3,249
TOTAL			\$10,313

The 275 acre Willow Creek Site is located about 11 miles west of Gunnison, on the north shore of Blue Mesa Lake's Iola Basin. The site is between U.S. Highway 50 and the lake at the confluence of Willow Creek and the lake. The site's two land areas are located on the east and west sides of a 30 acre arm of the lake protected from prevailing winds. These land areas contain large flat areas suitable for intensive recreation development. The shoreline slope is flat to moderate around the embayment. Wildlife including elk and deer use the Willow Creek drainage and adjacent areas for winter range. As many as 200 elk may be present in the Willow Creek Area at one time during the winter season. Prairie dogs are abundant on the flat, south and east facing slopes at this site. This site is considered the only feasible site for a large scale recreation development on Blue Mesa Lake due to its large size, marina, and boat launching potential, and flat to moderate slopes. Development of this site will be deferred until future recreation needs become apparent. At that time, the proposed plan will be implemented based on additional feasibility studies in progress at this time and consideration of environmental impacts, economic impacts and associated costs.

The plan proposes eventual use of the Willow Creek Area as an additional major recreation area. Permanent development will provide for satisfaction of recreation needs presently accommodated at temporary areas such as Steven's Creek and Lake Fork. Proposed facilities include a 150 unit, low-density campground, a 50 unit, high-density campground, marina facilities such as boat docks, boat repair and storage facilities, buffer plantings and utility systems as shown on the map. Electrical service is available along the north side of U.S. Highway 50 adjacent to the site. Potable water will be provided by a well to be drilled onsite. Sewage will be disposed of onsite using oxidation ponds. The proposed developments will satisfy a large portion of additional recreation needs related to Blue Mesa Lake. Recreation use will occur primarily during the summer recreation season.

DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS

WILLOW CREEK

CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

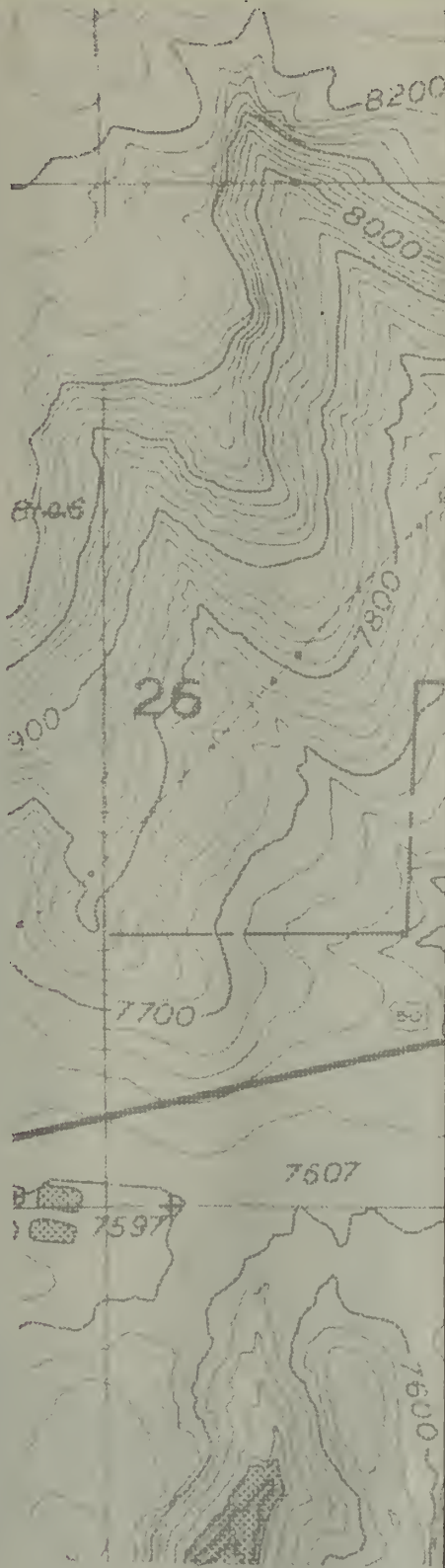
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Located about 1 mile east of the Elk Creek Developed Area, the 3 acre Dry Creek Site is proposed for development as a day use fishing access and water-ski area. It also has potential for use as a winter, ice fishing access point. Proposed facilities include a paved access road and parking area, vault-type restroom, and several picnic sites as shown on the map.

## LEGEND



0 1000 feet  
0 305 meters

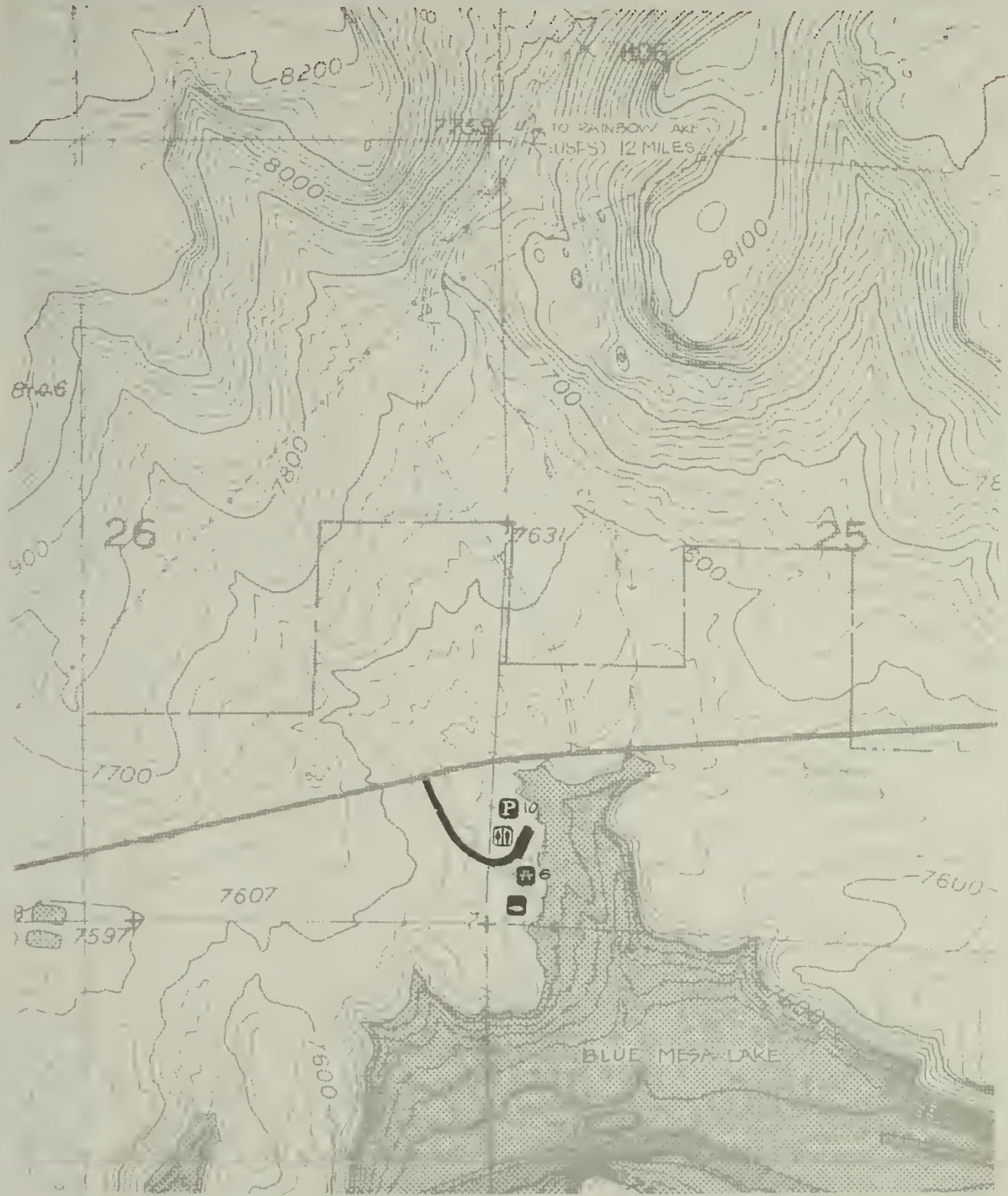
recreation  
paved road  
gravel road  
dirt road  
trail  
structure  
recreation  
or facility

### DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS

## DRY CREEK

CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR · NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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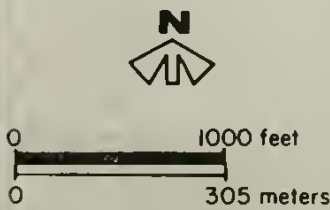


RECREATION FACILITIES

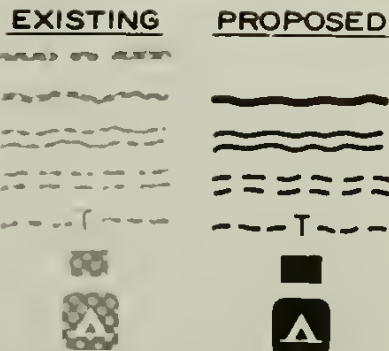
FACILITY	UNIT	EXISTING QUANTITY	PROPOSED	
			QUANTITY	COST
				(thous.)
Picnic sites	each		6	\$ 5
Restroom, vault-type	each		1	8
Road, asphalt	mile		.25	88
Parking area, asphalt	space		10	8
Subtotal				\$109
Design, Admin., and Contingencies-46%				50
TOTAL				\$159

Located about 1 mile east of the Elk Creek Developed Area, the 3 acre Dry Creek Site is proposed for development as a day use fishing access and water-ski area. It also has potential for use as a winter, ice fishing access point. Proposed facilities include a paved access road and parking area, vault-type restroom, and several picnic sites as shown on the map.

LEGEND



- recreation area boundary
- paved road
- gravel road
- dirt road
- trail
- structure
- recreation activity or facility



key elevations  
maximum pool elevation 7519'  
contour interval 20 feet

DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS  
**DRY CREEK**  
CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE





Located about 14 miles west of Gunnison, the existing Elk Creek Developed Area presently serves as the only major permanent recreation development at Blue Mesa Lake. Existing facilities at Elk Creek include a large campground, visitor center, marina, boat launching lanes, employee housing, administration building, and maintenance area. Due to topographic and archeological resource constraints and the existing high level of recreation development at this site, only minimal additional development is proposed including previously approved plans for an administration building, campground entrance station, boat maintenance building, amphitheater expansion, campground landscaping and group picnic shelters. Five group campsites will be added at an adjacent area located north of U.S. Highway 50 in response to public demand for this type of facility. A well will be drilled onsite to provide potable water for this area. Recreation facilities existing and proposed at Elk Creek are shown on the map.

## LEGEND



0 1000 feet  
0 305 meters

recreation  
paved ro  
gravel ro  
dirt road  
trail  
structure  
recreation  
or facility

### DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS

## ELK CREEK

CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR · NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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LEGEND

recreation area boundary

paved road

gravel road

dirt road

trail

structure

recreation activity or facility

EXISTING

PROPOSED

key elevations

maximum pool elevation 7519'

contour interval 20 feet

RECREATION FACILITIES

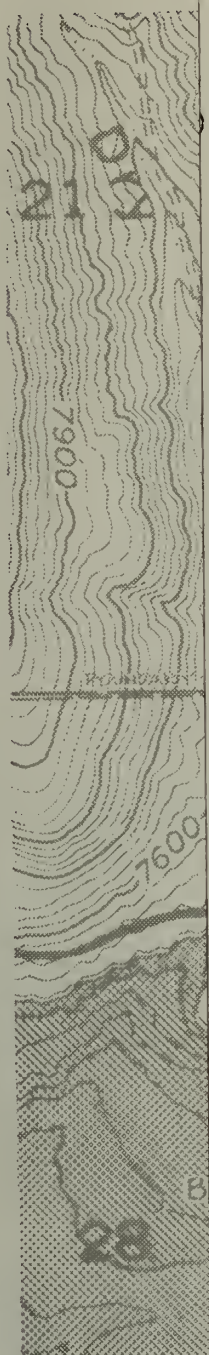
FACILITY	UNIT	EXISTING QUANTITY	PROPOSED	
			QUANTITY	COST (thous.)
Interim trailer site	each		1	\$ 5
Tree planting	each		1,300	65
Picnic sites with shelters	each		3	18
Restrooms, vault-type	each		4	32
Visitor contact station	sq. ft.		400	28
Expand amphitheater	seat		175	88
Boat maintenance building	sq. ft.		4,000	220
Modify existing residences	lump sum			58
Irrigation system	lump sum			105
Extend utilities	linear feet		100	3
Parking area, asphalt	space	175	5	5
Pave existing gravel road	mile		1.5	250
Road, two-way asphalt	mile	2.6		
Boat ramp	lane	3		
Campsites	each	175		
Picnic sites	each	6		
Restrooms, water-borne	each	8		
Amphitheater	each	1		
Fish cleaning station	each	1		
Visitor center	each	1		
Administrative building	each	1		
Group campsites	each		5	4
Floating sanitary dump station	each		1	50
Water well and pump	each		1	20
Subtotal				\$951
Design, Admin., and Contingencies-46%				437
TOTAL				\$1,388

Located about 14 miles west of Gunnison, the existing Elk Creek Developed Area presently serves as the only major permanent recreation development at Blue Mesa Lake. Existing facilities at Elk Creek include a large campground, visitor center, marina, boat launching lanes, employee housing, administration building, and maintenance area. Due to topographic and archeological resource constraints and the existing high level of recreation development at this site, only minimal additional development is proposed including previously approved plans for an administration building, campground entrance station, boat maintenance building, amphitheater expansion, campground landscaping and group picnic shelters. Five group campsites will be added at an adjacent area located north of U.S. Highway 50 in response to public demand for this type of facility. A well will be drilled onsite to provide potable water for this area. Recreation facilities existing and proposed at Elk Creek are shown on the map.

DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS

# ELK CREEK

CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR · NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



Located about 16 miles west of Gunnison, north of U.S. Highway 50, the 2 acre Dry Gulch Site is proposed for development as a minor picnicking and camping area. The site is heavily used during the fall season as a hunting base camp for the Dry Gulch Area. Proposed facilities include paving a portion of the existing access road and parking, vault-type restrooms and several camping sites as shown on the map.

## LEGEND



0 1000 feet  
0 305 meters

recreation  
paved ro  
gravel ro  
dirt road  
trail  
structure  
recreation  
or facility

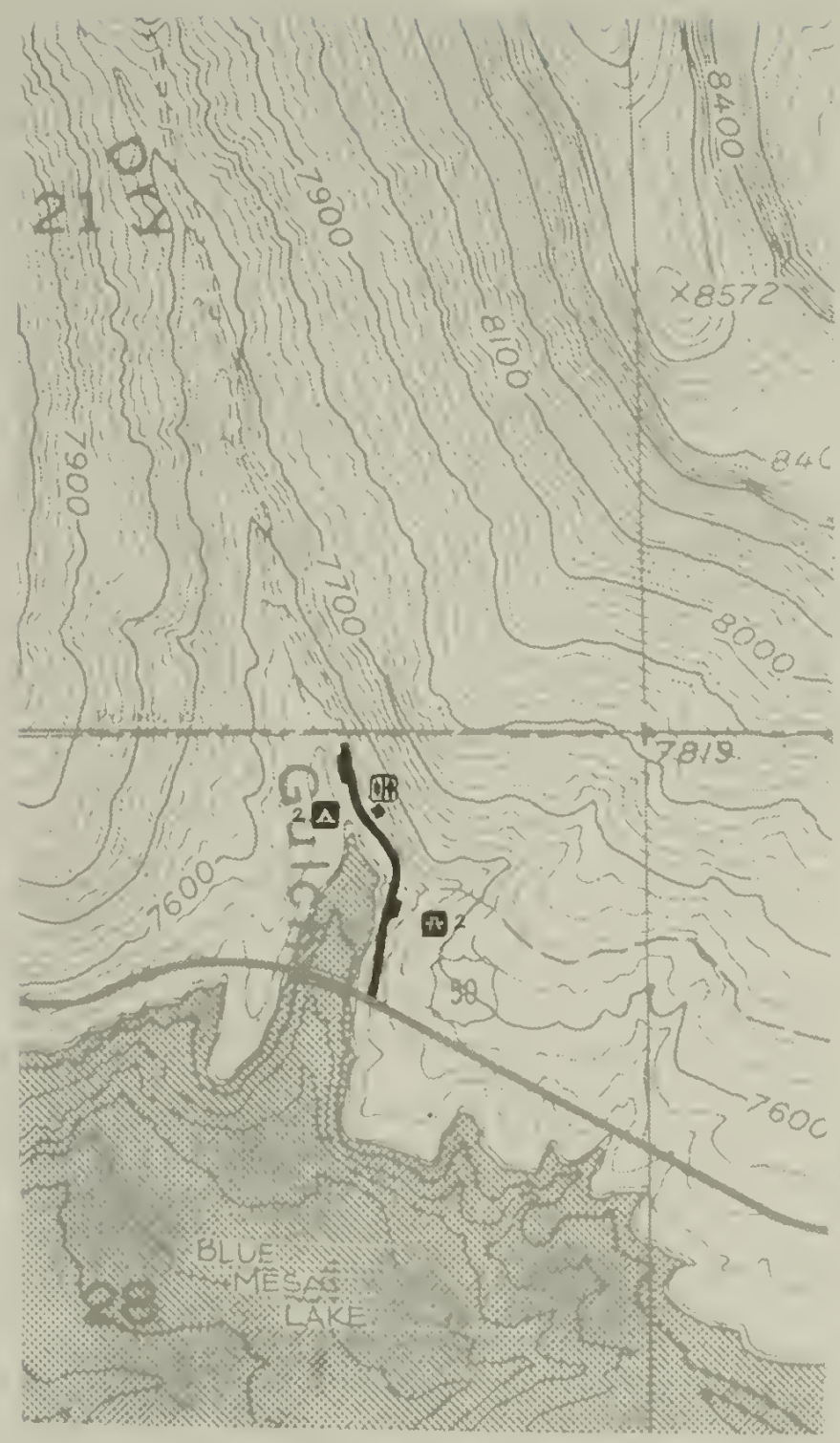
### DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS

## DRY GULCH

CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR · NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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4-21-80 | RMRO



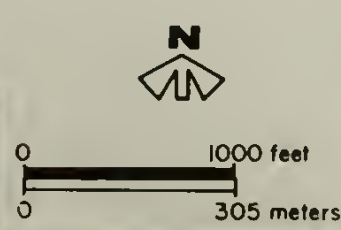


# RECREATION FACILITIES

FACILITY	UNIT	EXISTING QUANTITY	PROPOSED	
			QUANTITY	COST (thous.)
Campsites	each		2	\$ 2
Picnic sites	each		2	1
Restroom, vault-type	each		1	8
Gate	each		1	1
Road, asphalt	mile		.25	30
Parking area, asphalt	space		5	8
Subtotal				\$50
Design, Admin., and Contingencies-46%				23
TOTAL				\$73

Located about 16 miles west of Gunnison, north of U.S. Highway 50, the 2 acre Dry Gulch Site is proposed for development as a minor picnicking and camping area. The site is heavily used during the fall season as a hunting base camp for the Dry Gulch Area. Proposed facilities include paving a portion of the existing access road and parking, vault-type restrooms and several camping sites as shown on the map.

## LEGEND

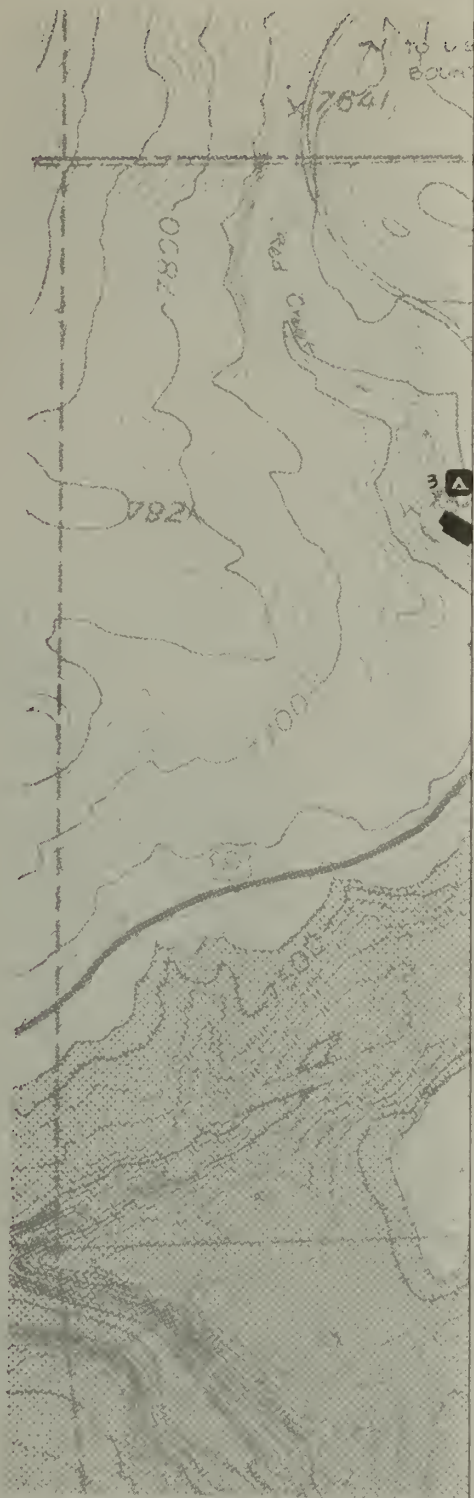


	EXISTING	PROPOSED
recreation area boundary	— — — — —	— — — — —
paved road	— — — — —	— — — — —
gravel road	— — — — —	— — — — —
dirt road	— — — — —	— — — — —
trail	— — — — —	— — — — —
structure	■	■
recreation activity or facility	▲	▲

**key elevations**  
 maximum pool elevation 7519'  
 contour interval 20 feet

DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS  
**DRY GULCH**  
 CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
 GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR-NATIONAL PARK SERVICE





The small Red Creek Area is located about 17 miles west of Gunnison, north of U.S. Highway 50. It is separated from Blue Mesa Lake by the highway. The area along Red Creek is shaded by large cottonwood trees and is a popular day use and camping area. This area is also a popular lake bank fishing access point. Permanent development proposed for this site is shown on the map and includes campsites, picnic sites, parking and sanitary facilities.

## LEGEND



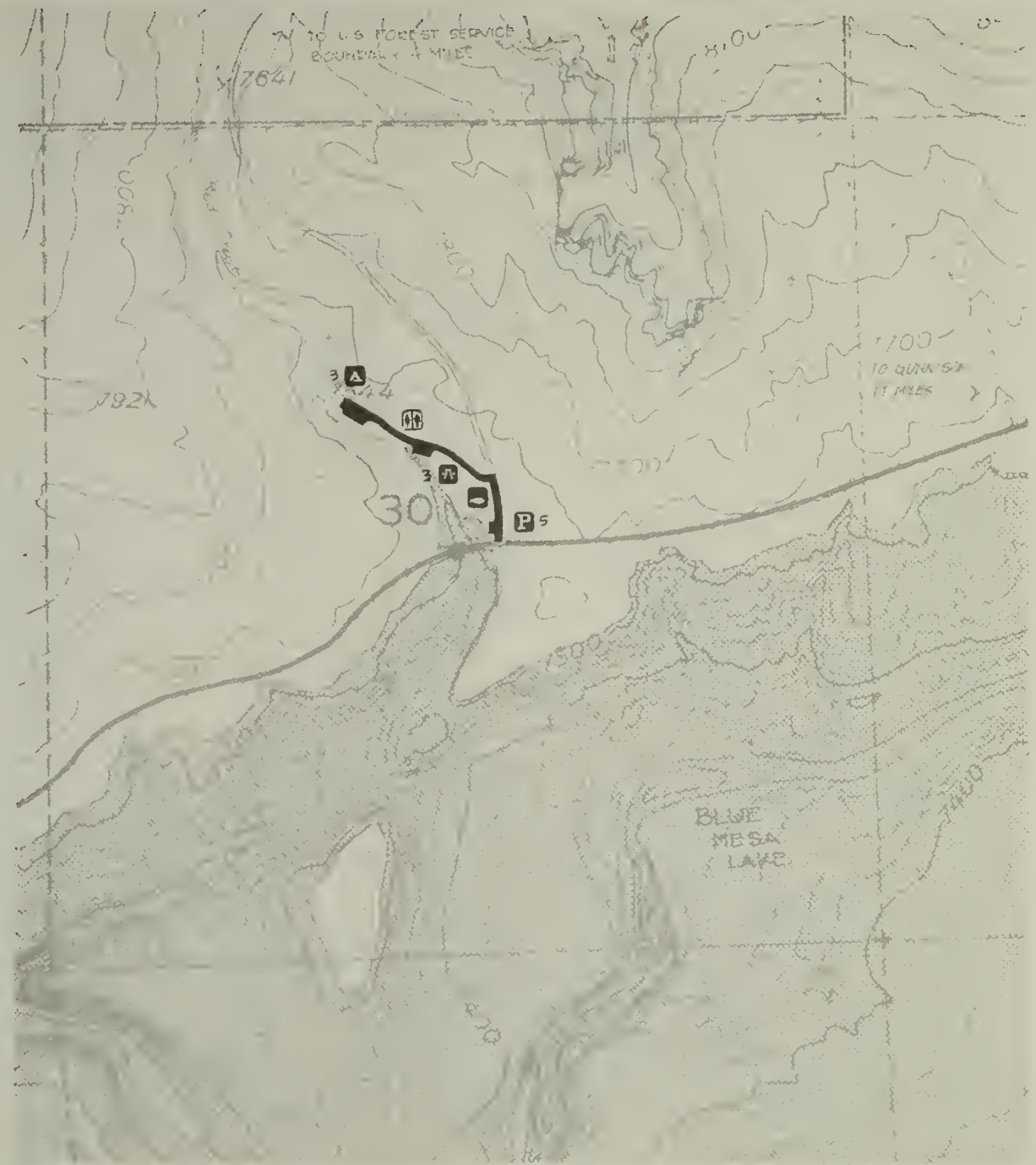
0 1000 feet  
0 305 meters

recreation  
paved road  
gravel road  
dirt road  
trail  
structure  
recreation  
or facility

## DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS RED CREEK

CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR · NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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# RECREATION FACILITIES

FACILITY	UNIT	EXISTING QUANTITY	PROPOSED	
			QUANTITY	COST (thous.)
Campsites	each		3	\$ 2
Picnic sites	each		3	2
Restroom, vault-type	each		1	8
Signs	lump sum			2
Gate	each		1	1
Road, asphalt	mile		.25	50
Parking area, asphalt	space		5	8
Subtotal				\$ 73
Design, Admin., and Contingencies-46%				34
TOTAL				\$107

The small Red Creek Area is located about 17 miles west of Gunnison, north of U.S. Highway 50. It is separated from Blue Mesa Lake by the highway. The area along Red Creek is shaded by large cottonwood trees and is a popular day use and camping area. This area is also a popular lake bank fishing access point. Permanent development proposed for this site is shown on the map and includes campsites, picnic sites, parking and sanitary facilities.

## LEGEND

recreation area boundary  
paved road  
gravel road  
dirt road  
trail  
structure  
recreation activity  
or facility

### EXISTING

### PROPOSED

### key elevations

maximum pool  
elevation 7519'

contour interval  
20 feet

### DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS

## RED CREEK

CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR · NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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The Dillon Area is located about 20 miles west of Gunnison, near Blue Mesa Lake's middle bridge. The site contains breccia cliffs and pinnacles of outstanding scenic quality and is highly visible from U.S. Highway 50. Bighorn Sheep are abundant in the area throughout the year. The plan for development at this site includes an interpretive trail into the pinnacles area with parking and restroom facilities at U.S. Highway 50 and several walk-in campsites along the trail as shown on the map. This trail will be used for cross-country skiing during the winter season.

## LEGEND



0 1000 feet  
0 305 meters

recreation  
paved ro  
gravel ro  
dirt road  
trail  
structure  
recreation  
or facility

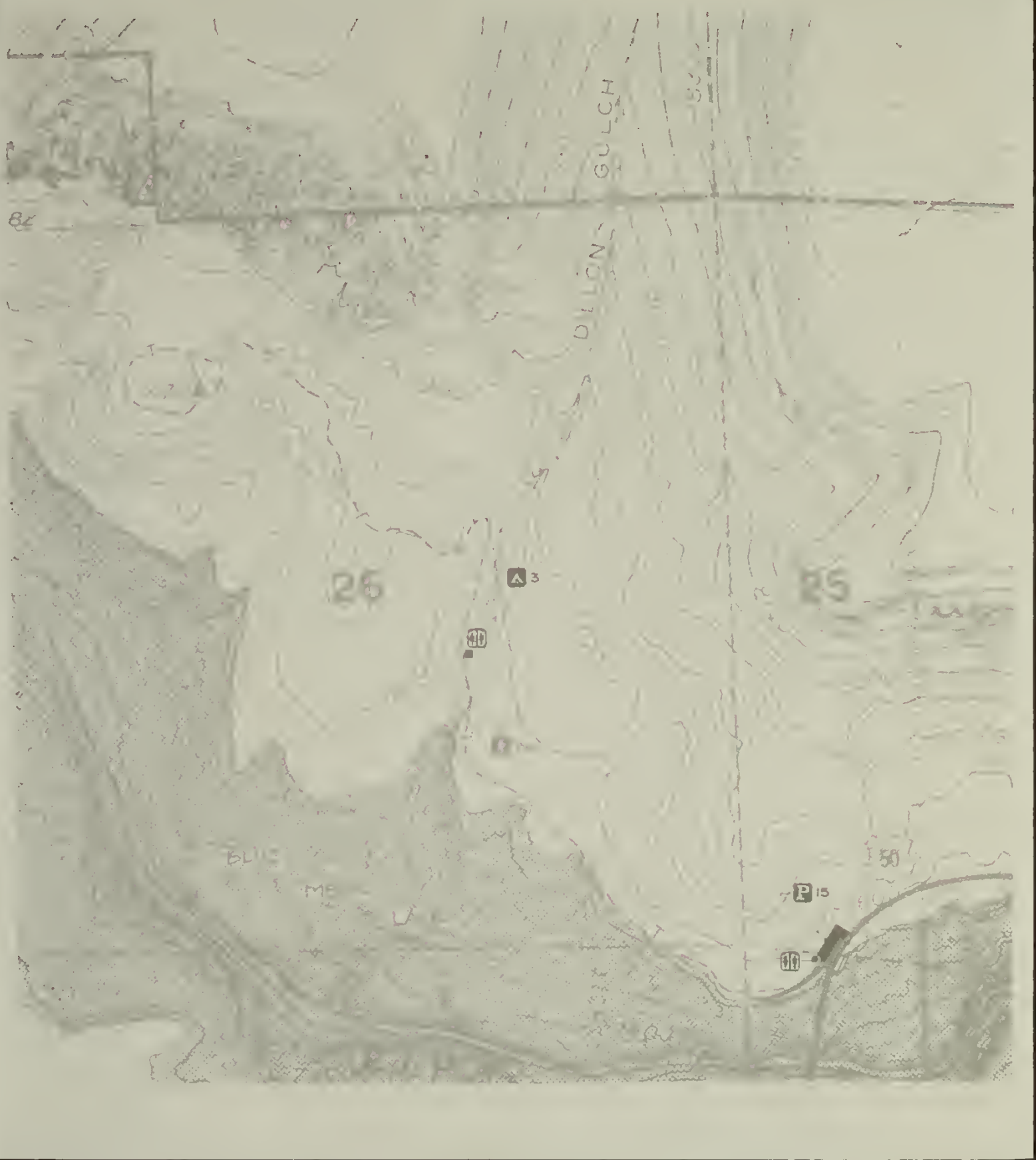
### DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS

## DILLON

CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR · NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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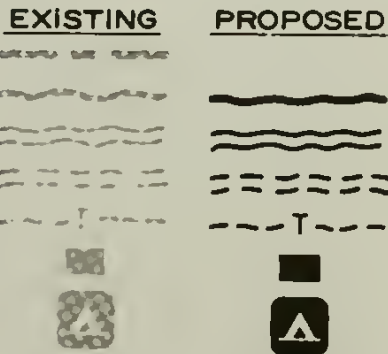
RECREATION FACILITIES

FACILITY	UNIT	EXISTING QUANTITY	PROPOSED	
			QUANTITY	COST
				(thous.)
Campsites, walk-in	each		3	\$ 5
Restroom, container type	each		2	24
Signs	lump sum			4
Trash receptacles	each		3	1
Parking, asphalt	space		15	23
Hiking trail, 4-foot wide	mile	2		
Subtotal				\$57
Design, Admin., and Contingencies-46%				26
TOTAL				\$83

The Dillon Area is located about 20 miles west of Gunnison, near Blue Mesa Lake's middle bridge. The site contains breccia cliffs and pinnacles of outstanding scenic quality and is highly visible from U.S. Highway 50. Bighorn Sheep are abundant in the area throughout the year. The plan for development at this site includes an interpretive trail into the pinnacles area with parking and restroom facilities at U.S. Highway 50 and several walk-in campsites along the trail as shown on the map. This trail will be used for cross-country skiing during the winter season.

LEGEND

recreation area boundary  
paved road  
gravel road  
dirt road  
trail  
structure  
recreation activity or facility



key elevations

maximum pool elevation 7519'  
contour interval 20 feet

DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS

DILLON

CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



Located about 21 miles west of Gunnison, the Sapinero Site is proposed as a day use picnic and overlook area. The purpose of the facility is to provide overall visitor information and orientation at a centrally located point in the recreation area. Facilities will include the exhibit, picnicking, parking, and restroom facilities as shown on the map.

## LEGEND



0 1000 feet  
0 305 meters

recreation  
paved road  
gravel road  
dirt road  
trail  
structure  
recreation  
or facility

## DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS

# SAPINERO

CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR · NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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## RECREATION FACILITIES

FACILITY	UNIT	EXISTING QUANTITY	PROPOSED	
			QUANTITY	COST
				(thous.)
Picnic sites	each		3	\$ 2
Ramadas	each		3	12
Restroom, vault-type	each		1	8
Exhibit shelter	sq. ft.		200	5
Signs	lump sum			2
Utilities	lump sum			6
Road, asphalt	mile		.25	100
Parking area	space		9	14
Parking for cars and trailers	space		6	12
Handicapped trail	linear feet		700	9
Subtotal				\$170
Design, Admin., and Contingencies-46%				78
TOTAL				\$248

Located about 21 miles west of Gunnison, the Sapinero Site is proposed as a day use picnic and overlook area. The purpose of the facility is to provide overall visitor information and orientation at a centrally located point in the recreation area. Facilities will include the exhibit, picnicking, parking, and restroom facilities as shown on the map.

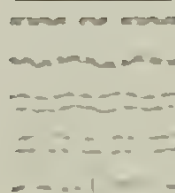
## LEGEND



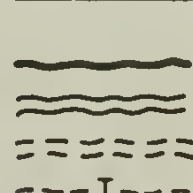
0 1000 feet  
0 305 meters

recreation area boundary  
paved road  
gravel road  
dirt road  
trail  
structure  
recreation activity  
or facility

### EXISTING



### PROPOSED



### key elevations

maximum pool  
elevation 7519'

contour interval  
40 feet

DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS  
**SAPINERO**  
CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR · NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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## LEGEND



0 1000 feet  
0 305 meters

recreation  
paved road  
gravel road  
dirt road  
trail  
structure  
recreation  
or facility

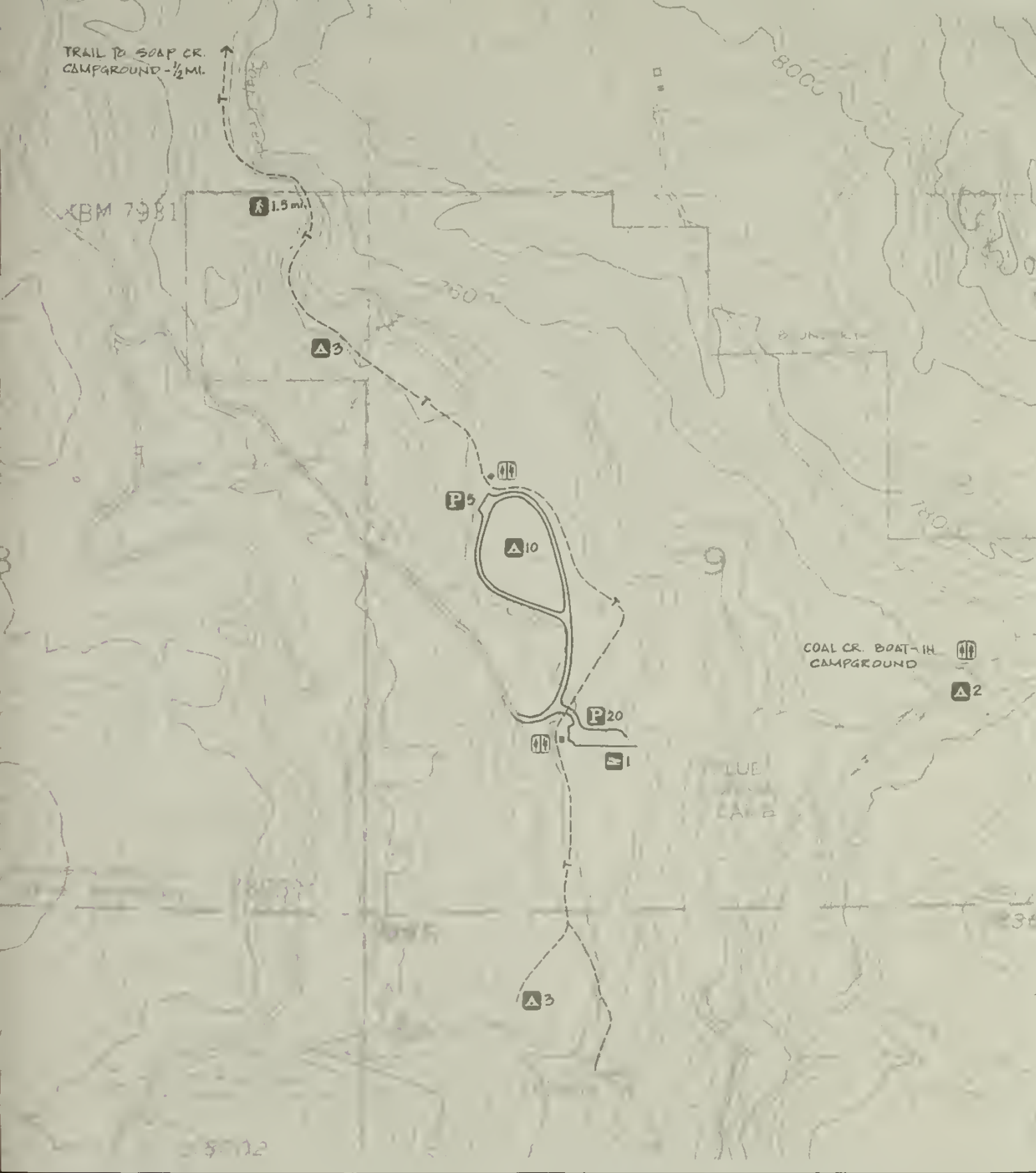
Access to the 200 acre Ponderosa Site located on the west shore of Blue Mesa Lake's Soap Creek Arm is via a 7.5 mile, rough gravel road. This road also provides access to two Forest Service recreation areas, Commissary and Soap Creek campgrounds, located within the Gunnison National Forest to the north of Ponderosa. The Ponderosa Site is also located within the Gunnison National Forest boundaries, but is managed for recreation purposes by the National Park Service under a management agreement with the Forest Service. A route for driving cattle across the Ponderosa Site exists north of the maximum lake elevation on Soap Creek. The exact location of this route will be jointly determined by the National Park Service and the Forest Service. This site is characterized by moderate to steep slopes with a natural boat launching area slope range occurring at the upper limit of Blue Mesa Lake's minimum pool elevation (7,460 feet m.s.l.). Vegetation on the site consists primarily of sagebrush with scattered groups of Ponderosa Pine on the steep hill-sides, and cottonwood and spruce along Soap Creek. The area has been evaluated by the Colorado Division of Wildlife and is considered ideal habitat for the endangered Peregrine Falcon, although none have been observed in the area. The Ponderosa Site is expected to receive a relatively low level of recreation use due to its steep slopes, remote location and difficulty of access. Some lake access and overflow camping use from the Forest Service campgrounds located to the north is expected to occur during peak periods of use.

### DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS

## PONDEROSA

CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR · NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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# RECREATION FACILITIES

FACILITY	UNIT	EXISTING QUANTITY	PROPOSED	
			QUANTITY	COST
Launching ramp, concrete	lane		1	(thous.) \$ 50
Campsites, walk-in	each		6	9
Campsites, standard	each		10	20
Restroom, vault-type	each		2	16
Signs	each		7	9
Trash receptacles	each		5	1
Water well with hand pump	each		1	20
Road, gravel	mile		2.5	313
Improve existing gravel road	mile		7.5	300
Parking areas, gravel	space		5	4
Parking, car and trailer	space		20	24
Hiking trail, 4-foot wide	mile		1.5	15
Subtotal				\$ 781
Design, Admin., and Contingencies-46%				359
TOTAL				\$1,140

Access to the 200 acre Ponderosa Site located on the west shore of Blue Mesa Lake's Soap Creek Arm is via a 7.5 mile, rough gravel road. This road also provides access to two Forest Service recreation areas, Commissary and Soap Creek campgrounds, located within the Gunnison National Forest to the north of Ponderosa. The Ponderosa Site is also located within the Gunnison National Forest boundaries, but is managed for recreation purposes by the National Park Service under a management agreement with the Forest Service. A route for driving cattle across the Ponderosa Site exists north of the maximum lake elevation on Soap Creek. The exact location of this route will be jointly determined by the National Park Service and the Forest Service. This site is characterized by moderate to steep slopes with a natural boat launching area slope range occurring at the upper limit of Blue Mesa Lake's minimum pool elevation (7,460 feet m.s.l.). Vegetation on the site consists primarily of sagebrush with scattered groups of Ponderosa Pine on the steep hill-sides, and cottonwood and spruce along Soap Creek. The area has been evaluated by the Colorado Division of Wildlife and is considered ideal habitat for the endangered Peregrine Falcon, although none have been observed in the area. The Ponderosa Site is expected to receive a relatively low level of recreation use due to its steep slopes, remote location and difficulty of access. Some lake access and overflow camping use from the Forest Service campgrounds located to the north is expected to occur during peak periods of use.

Facility development is proposed to satisfy the maximum level of expected public use at the site as shown on the map. Facilities include drive-in and walk-in campsites, boat launching ramps, trails, roads, parking areas, restrooms, and improvement of the existing gravel road from Colorado Highway 92 to the Ponderosa Site. This would involve grading, gravel, and drainage as required. Work on that portion within the county right-of-way would be done by agreement with the county. Work on that portion within the Gunnison National Forest would be done by amendment of the existing management agreement with the Forest Service. A well will be drilled to provide potable water for this site. Trail development would connect the Ponderosa Site with Forest Service areas upstream along Soap Creek.

## LEGEND

N

1000 feet

305 meters

recreation area boundary

paved road

gravel road

dirt road

trail

structure

recreation activity or facility

EXISTING

PROPOSED

key elevations

maximum pool elevation 7519'

contour interval 40 feet

DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS  
**PONDEROSA**  
CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR-NATIONAL PARK SERVICE





Located about 3 miles north of Blue Mesa Dam, the small McIntyre Gulch Site is proposed for day use development as a minor fishing access area. Facilities will include a parking area, restroom, and several picnic tables, as shown on the map.

## LEGEND



0 1000 feet  
0 305 meters

recreation  
paved road  
gravel road  
dirt road  
trail  
structure  
recreation  
or facility

### DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS

**McINTYRE GULCH**  
CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR · NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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## RECREATION FACILITIES

FACILITY	UNIT	EXISTING QUANTITY	PROPOSED	
			QUANTITY	COST
				(thous.)
Picnic sites	each		3	\$ 2
Restroom, vault-type	each		1	8
Gate	each		1	1
Signs	lump sum			4
Parking area, asphalt	space		5	8
Subtotal				\$24
Design, Admin., and Contingencies-46%				11
TOTAL				\$35

Located about 3 miles north of Blue Mesa Dam, the small McIntyre Gulch Site is proposed for day use development as a minor fishing access area. Facilities will include a parking area, restroom, and several picnic tables, as shown on the map.

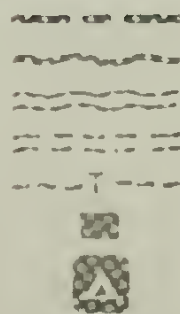
## LEGEND



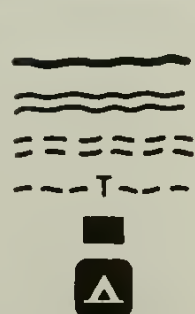
0 1000 feet  
0 305 meters

recreation area boundary  
paved road  
gravel road  
dirt road  
trail  
structure  
recreation activity  
or facility

### EXISTING



### PROPOSED



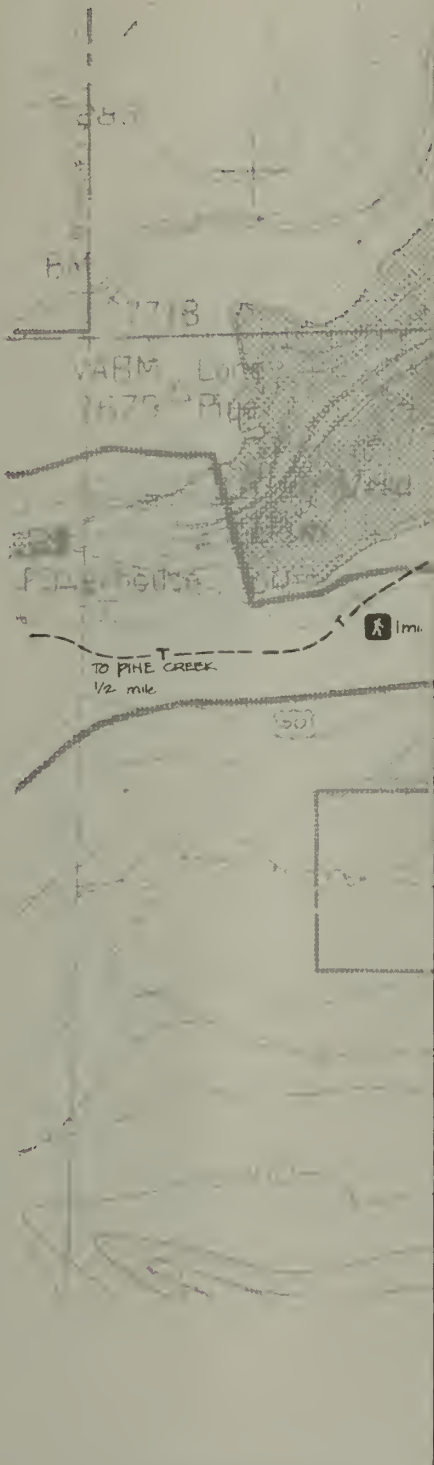
### key elevations

maximum pool  
elevation 7519'  
contour interval  
20 feet

### DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS

**McINTYRE GULCH**  
CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR · NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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The Lake Fork Site is located about 24 miles from Gunnison, near Blue Mesa Dam. The site is conveniently accessible from U.S. Highway 50 and Colorado Highway 92. Its 128 acres are partially developed. Permanent facilities include boat launching ramps, restrooms, a fish cleaning station, roads, and utility system. A large gravel parking area is used as a temporary camping area. The area presently receives heavy water-oriented and transient camper recreation use, especially during peak summer holiday and weekend periods. The plan for recreation use at the Lake Fork Area includes the development of a high density campground to serve transient camping needs, a picnic area, amphitheater, ranger contact station with seasonal employee apartments, fishing trail, and a trail to connect with the Pine Creek Developed Area about 1 mile to the west. Water, electric, and sewage disposal needs will be satisfied with the area's existing system. A much higher level of recreation needs will be satisfied by this plan than at present.

## LEGEND



0 1000 feet  
0 305 meters

recreation  
paved ro  
gravel ro  
dirt road  
trail  
structure  
recreation  
or facility

### DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS

## LAKE FORK

CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR-NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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4-21-80 RMRO



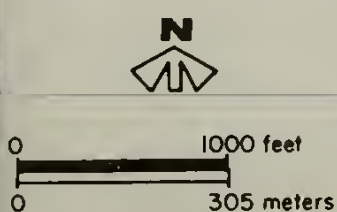


# RECREATION FACILITIES

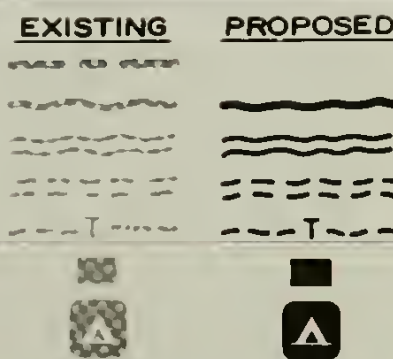
FACILITY	UNIT	EXISTING QUANTITY	PROPOSED	
			QUANTITY	COST
				(thous.)
Campsites	each		90	\$ 90
Signs	lump sum			6
Contact station with apartments	sq. ft.		2,500	190
Appliances and furnishings	lump sum			28
Amphitheater	seat		70	35
Boat dock	sq. ft.		800	32
Breakwater	linear feet		800	100
Fish cleaning station	each	1	1	16
Rehabilitate storage building	lump sum			54
Interim trailer sites	each		2	10
Restroom, water- borne	each	2	1	60
Grading and seeding	acre		20	57
Tree planting	each		300	15
Rehabilitate mainten- ance building	lump sum			68
Irrigation system	acre		18	71
Utility extensions	lump sum			160
Hiking trail, 4-foot wide	mile		1	10
Road, asphalt	mile	.5	.4	140
Launching ramp	lane	3		
Floating sanitary dump station	each		1	50
Subtotal				\$1,192
Design, Admin., and Contingencies-46%				548
TOTAL				\$1,750

The Lake Fork Site is located about 24 miles from Gunnison, near Blue Mesa Dam. The site is conveniently accessible from U.S. Highway 50 and Colorado Highway 92. Its 128 acres are partially developed. Permanent facilities include boat launching ramps, restrooms, a fish cleaning station, roads, and utility system. A large gravel parking area is used as a temporary camping area. The area presently receives heavy water-oriented and transient camper recreation use, especially during peak summer holiday and weekend periods. The plan for recreation use at the Lake Fork Area includes the development of a high density campground to serve transient camping needs, a picnic area, amphitheater, ranger contact station with seasonal employee apartments, fishing trail, and a trail to connect with the Pine Creek Developed Area about 1 mile to the west. Water, electric, and sewage disposal needs will be satisfied with the area's existing system. A much higher level of recreation needs will be satisfied by this plan than at present.

## LEGEND



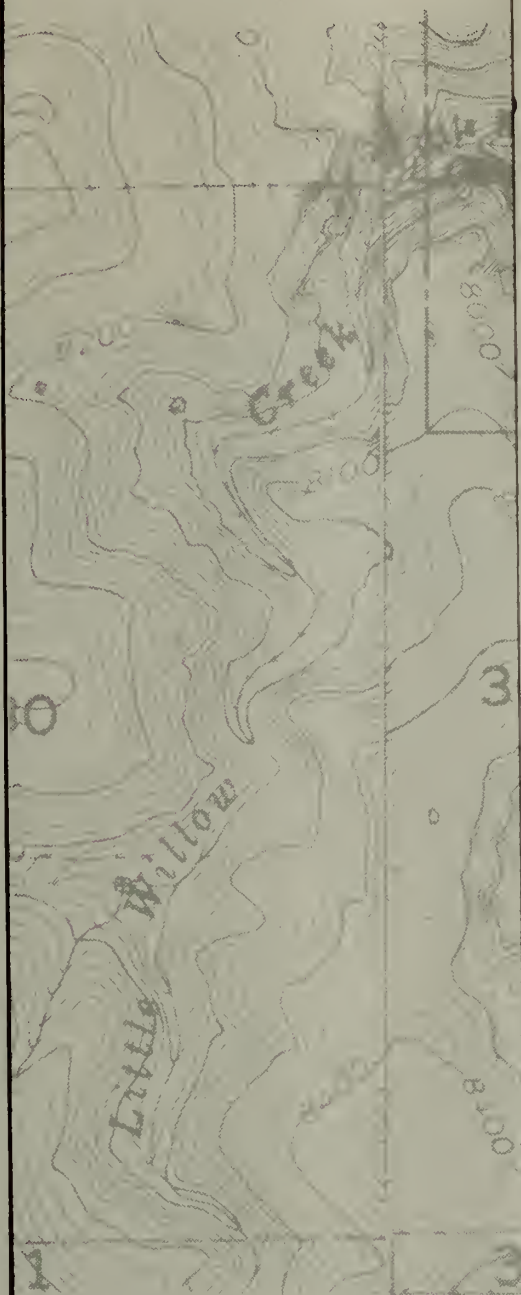
recreation area boundary  
paved road  
gravel road  
dirt road  
trail  
structure  
recreation activity or facility



key elevations  
maximum pool elevation 7519'  
contour interval 20 feet

DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS  
**LAKE FORK**  
CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE





Located about 17 miles west of the town of Powderhorn, Colorado, the 2 acre Gateview Site is presently accessible by 5 miles of rough gravel road via Colorado Highway 145. Approximately 4 miles of this road are located on lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. The site provides access to Blue Mesa Lake's Lake Fork Arm for shoreline and lake fishing. It is located in the scenic Lake Fork Canyon, an area of diverse historic and natural resources. Recreation facilities proposed for this site include improving the existing rough gravel road, providing parking areas, a vault-type restroom and several campsites as shown on the map. Work on that portion of the road located on Bureau of Land Management lands will be done by agreement with that agency.

## LEGEND



0 1000 feet  
0 305 meters

recreation  
paved ro  
gravel ro  
dirt road  
trail  
structure  
recreation  
or facility

### DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS

## GATEVIEW

CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR · NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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4-15-80 RMRO

## RECREATION FACILITIES

FACILITY	UNIT	EXISTING QUANTITY	PROPOSED	
			QUANTITY	COST (thous.)
Campsites	each		4	\$ 3
Gate	each		1	1
Restroom, vault-type	each		1	8
Signs	lump sum			7
Improve existing gravel road	mile		5	200
Parking area, gravel	space		9	6
Subtotal				\$225
Design, Admin., and Contingencies-46%				104
TOTAL				\$329

Located about 17 miles west of the town of Powderhorn, Colorado, the 2 acre Gateview Site is presently accessible by 5 miles of rough gravel road via Colorado Highway 145. Approximately 4 miles of this road are located on lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. The site provides access to Blue Mesa Lake's Lake Fork Arm for shoreline and lake fishing. It is located in the scenic Lake Fork Canyon, an area of diverse historic and natural resources. Recreation facilities proposed for this site include improving the existing rough gravel road, providing parking areas, a vault-type restroom and several campsites as shown on the map. Work on that portion of the road located on Bureau of Land Management lands will be done by agreement with that agency.

## LEGEND



recreation area boundary  
paved road  
gravel road  
dirt road  
trail  
structure  
recreation activity  
or facility

EXISTING

PROPOSED

*key elevations*

maximum pool  
elevation 7519'

contour interval  
20 feet

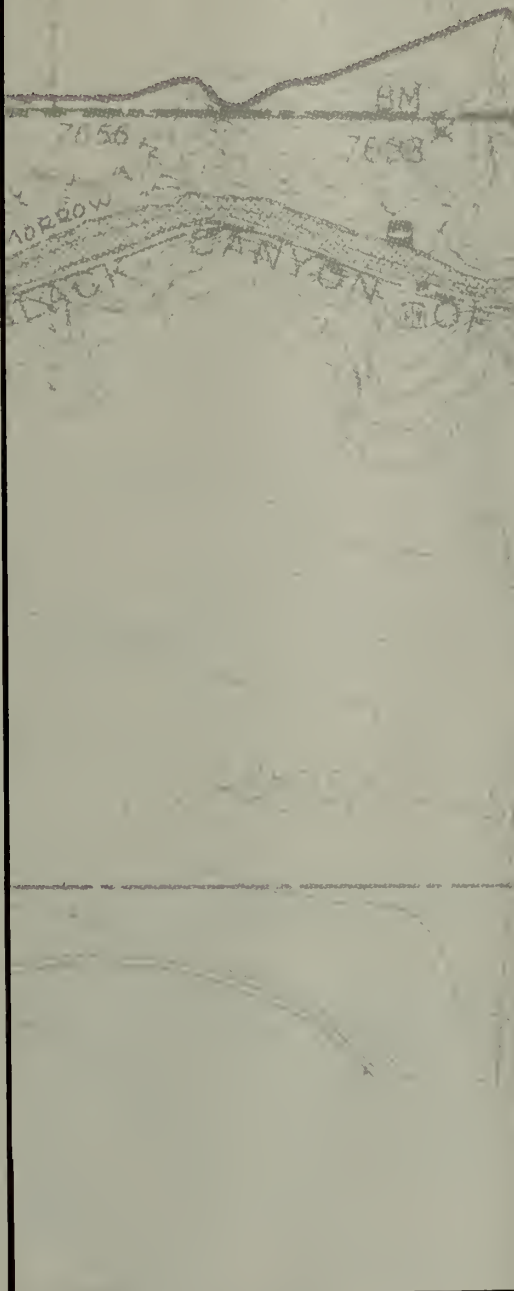
## DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS

# GATEVIEW

**CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA**  
**GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO**  
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR · NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Located about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile downstream from Blue Mesa Dam, the Pine Creek Day Use Area provides the only existing public access to Morrow Point Lake. The site is accessible by a 1 mile gravel road from U.S. Highway 50. Existing developed facilities at the area as shown on the map include a 1 mile trail, trailhead parking area, restrooms and tour boat docking facilities. The National Park Service presently operates a 30 passenger tour boat on Morrow Point Lake. The boat tour originates at the dock located at the end of the Pine Creek Trail. In addition to public use of the boat tour, the Pine Creek facilities also serve fishermen and boaters who handcarry their equipment to the lake via the trail. An environmental assessment of alternatives for recreation use at the Pine Creek Area was completed and approved in 1976 which included the Pine Creek developments. With the exception of the addition of another tour boat, modification of docking facilities and paving the access road, no further facility development is proposed at this site.

## LEGEND



0 1000 feet  
0 305 meters

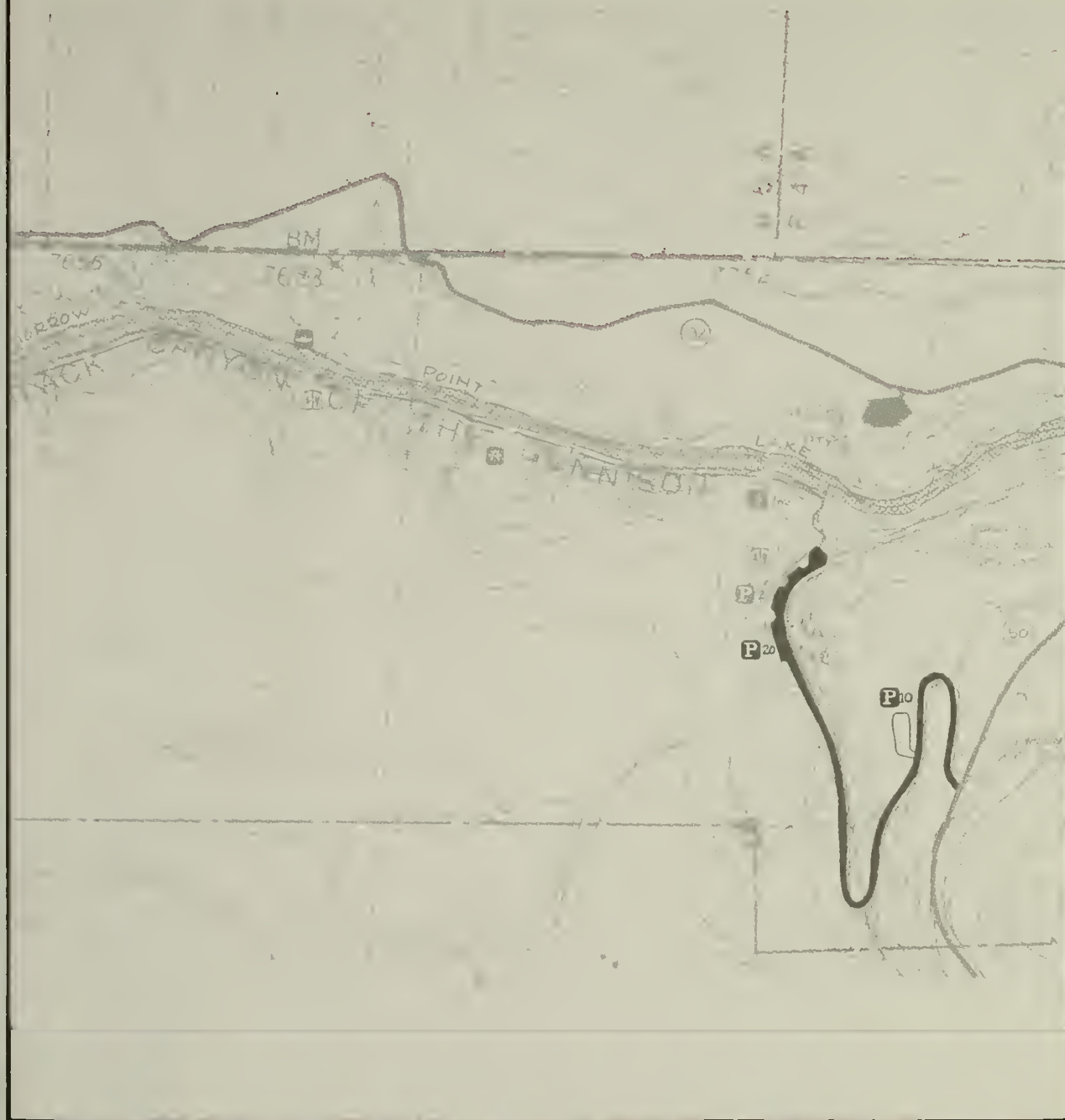
recreation  
paved road  
gravel road  
dirt road  
trail  
structure  
recreation  
or facility

## DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS PINE CREEK

CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR · NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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## RECREATION FACILITIES

FACILITY	UNIT	EXISTING QUANTITY	PROPOSED	
			QUANTITY	COST (thous.)
Tour boat (30 passenger)	each	1	1	\$100
Docking facility	sq. ft.	400		
Modify dock	lump sum			40
Pave two-way access road	sq. yd.		7,040	70
Pave parking area	space		40	32
Picnic sites	each	7		
Ramadas	each	4		
Restrooms (vault type)	each	2		
Hiking trail	mile	1		
Subtotal				\$242
Design, Admin., and Contingencies-46%				111
TOTAL				\$353

Located about ½ mile downstream from Blue Mesa Dam, the Pine Creek Day Use Area provides the only existing public access to Morrow Point Lake. The site is accessible by a 1 mile gravel road from U.S. Highway 50. Existing developed facilities at the area as shown on the map include a 1 mile trail, trailhead parking area, restrooms and tour boat docking facilities. The National Park Service presently operates a 30 passenger tour boat on Morrow Point Lake. The boat tour originates at the dock located at the end of the Pine Creek Trail. In addition to public use of the boat tour, the Pine Creek facilities also serve fishermen and boaters who handcarry their equipment to the lake via the trail. An environmental assessment of alternatives for recreation use at the Pine Creek Area was completed and approved in 1976 which included the Pine Creek developments. With the exception of the addition of another tour boat, modification of docking facilities and paving the access road, no further facility development is proposed at this site.

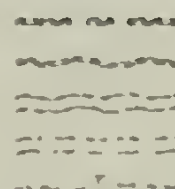
## LEGEND



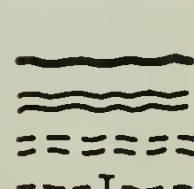
0 1000 feet  
0 305 meters

recreation area boundary  
paved road  
gravel road  
dirt road  
trail  
structure  
recreation activity or facility

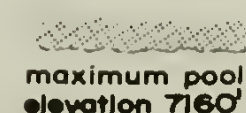
### EXISTING



### PROPOSED



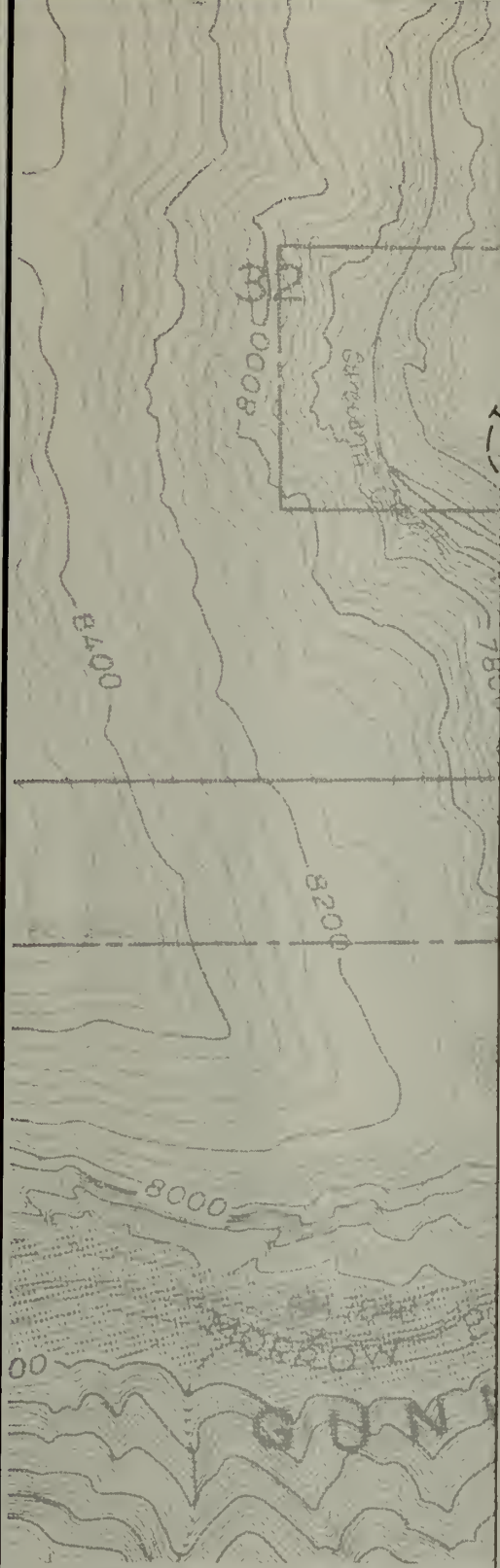
### key elevations



contour interval  
20 feet

DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS  
**PINE CREEK**  
CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR-NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

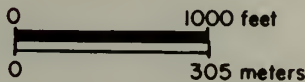
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4-21-80/RMRO



The Curecanti Creek Area is located on the north shore of Morrow Point Lake at its confluence with Curecanti Creek. The site is accessible from adjacent Colorado Highway 92. The plan for development provides foot trail access into the canyon, several walk-in campsites and a restroom. Access facilities will include a parking area near Colorado Highway 92, a vault-type restroom and hiking trail, as shown on the map.

Also included at this area is the Pioneer Point Overlook which provides a scenic view of the Curecanti Needle and Morrow Point Lake. Facilities planned for this overlook area include a viewing platform, roads, parking and restroom facilities.

# **LEGEND**



recreation  
paved road  
gravel road  
dirt road  
trail  
structure  
recreation  
or facility

## DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS CURECANTI CREEK CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR · NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

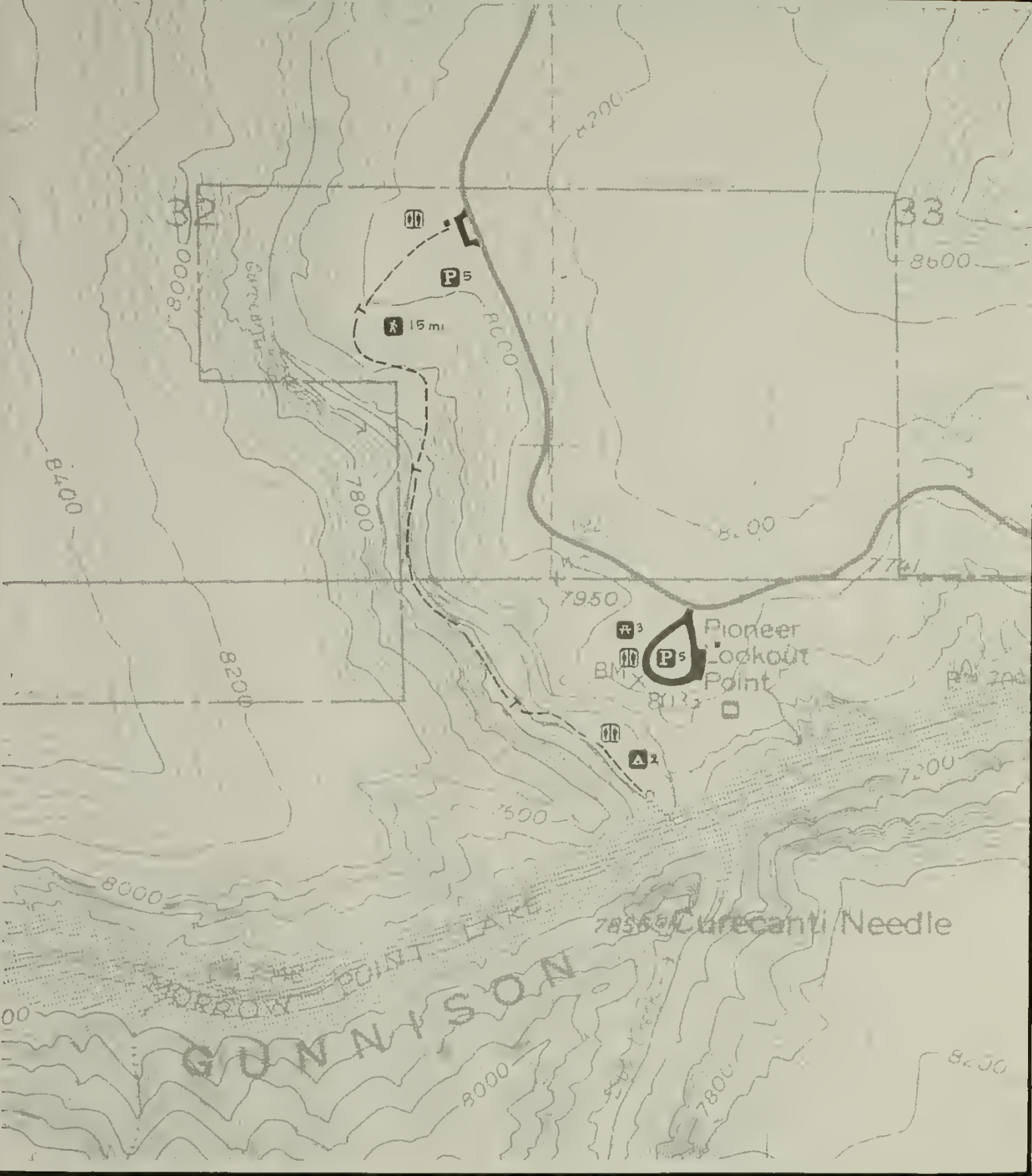


RECREATION FACILITIES

FACILITY	UNIT	EXISTING QUANTITY	PROPOSED	
			QUANTITY	COST (thous.)
Restrooms (vault type)	each		3	\$ 24
Signs	lump sum			10
Campsites, walk-in	each		2	2
Trash receptacles	each		2	1
Overlook	lump sum			5
Picnic sites	each		3	3
Gate	each		1	1
Pave 12-foot wide road	mile		.3	25
Paved parking area	space		10	16
Hiking trail, 4-foot wide	mile		1.5	23
Subtotal				\$110
Design, Admin., and Contingencies-46%				51
TOTAL				\$161

The Curecanti Creek Area is located on the north shore of Morrow Point Lake at its confluence with Curecanti Creek. The site is accessible from adjacent Colorado Highway 92. The plan for development provides foot trail access into the canyon, several walk-in campsites and a restroom. Access facilities will include a parking area near Colorado Highway 92, a vault-type restroom and hiking trail, as shown on the map.

Also included at this area is the Pioneer Point Overlook which provides a scenic view of the Curecanti Needle and Morrow Point Lake. Facilities planned for this overlook area include a viewing platform, roads, parking and restroom facilities.



LEGEND

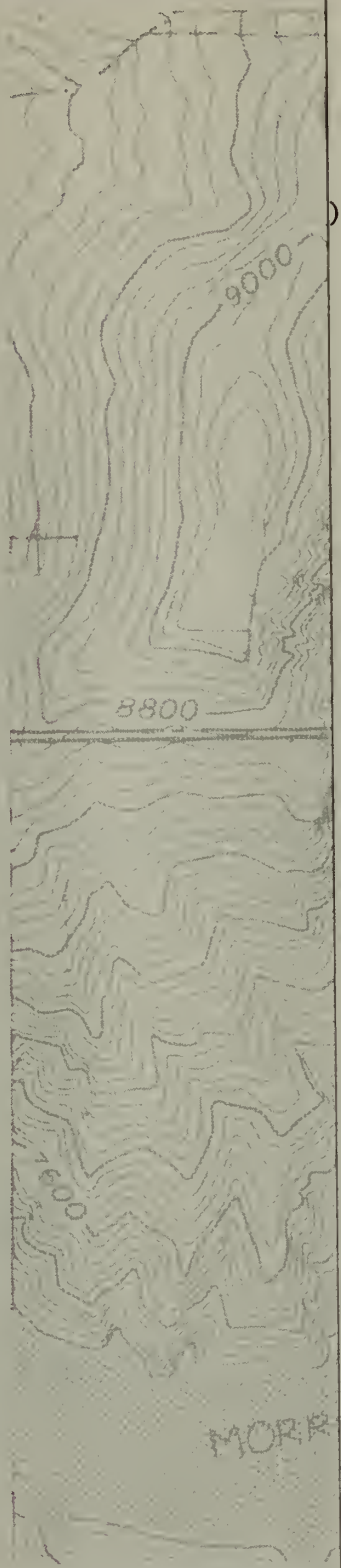
recreation area boundary  
paved road  
gravel road  
dirt road  
trail  
structure  
recreation activity or facility

EXISTING  
PROPOSED

key elevations  
maximum pool elevation 7160'  
contour interval 40 feet

DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS  
CURECANTI CREEK  
CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE





The Nelson Gulch Area is located on the north shore of Morrow Point Lake. The site is accessible by adjacent Colorado Highway 92. The plan provides foot trail access into the canyon, a parking area near Colorado Highway 92 and vault-type restrooms. Interests in about 5 acres of land between Colorado Highway 92 and Curecanti National Recreation Area's boundary will have to be acquired for construction of trailhead facilities and a portion of the trail.

## LEGEND



1000 feet

305 meters

recreation  
paved road  
gravel road  
dirt road  
trail  
structure  
recreation  
or facility

### DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS

## NELSON GULCH

CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR · NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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## RECREATION FACILITIES

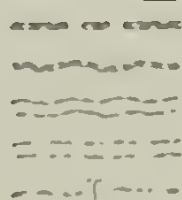
FACILITY	UNIT	EXISTING QUANTITY	PROPOSED	
			QUANTITY	COST
				(thous.)
Campsites, walk-in	each		4	\$ 3
Restroom, vault-type	each		2	16
Trash receptacles	each		5	1
Signs	lump sum			4
Hiking trail, 4-foot wide	mile		.5	20
Parking area, asphalt	space		5	8
Subtotal				52
Design, Admin., and Contingencies-46%				24
TOTAL				\$76

The Nelson Gulch Area is located on the north shore of Morrow Point Lake. The site is accessible by adjacent Colorado Highway 92. The plan provides foot trail access into the canyon, a parking area near Colorado Highway 92 and vault-type restrooms. Interests in about 5 acres of land between Colorado Highway 92 and Curecanti National Recreation Area's boundary will have to be acquired for construction of trailhead facilities and a portion of the trail.

## LEGEND

recreation area boundary  
paved road  
gravel road  
dirt road  
trail  
structure  
recreation activity  
or facility

### EXISTING



### PROPOSED



### key elevations

maximum pool  
elevation 7160'

contour interval  
40 feet



1000 feet

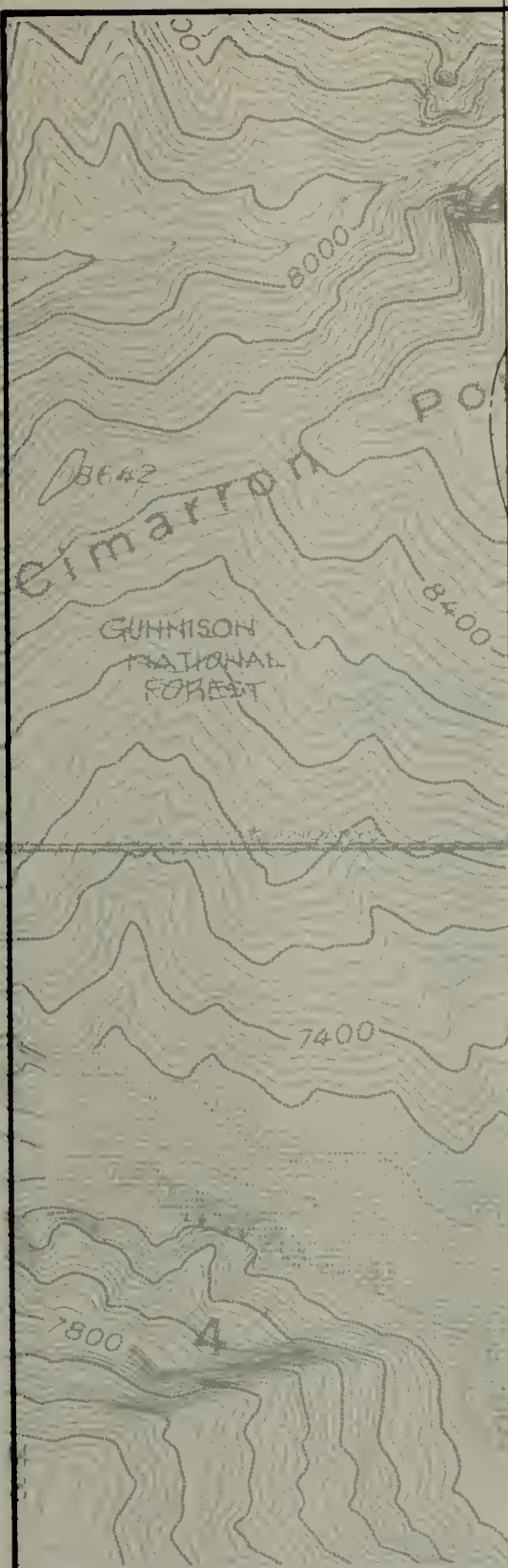
305 meters

### DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS

## NELSON GULCH

CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE





Located on Morrow Point Lake's north shore about 1 mile upstream from the dam, the Hermit's Rest Site is presently accessible by the tour boat which originates at the Pine Creek Developed Area. The 2 acre site includes a wooded, relatively flat area which has been developed as a picnic area. Other existing facilities include a short foot trail, tour boat dock, and restrooms as shown on the map. Minor access to this site is provided by an unimproved foot trail from Colorado Highway 92. Additional development is limited to providing an additional tour boat from the Pine Creek Developed Area, construction of a foot trail from Colorado Highway 92 and trailhead parking with restrooms at the highway, and addition of several walk-in and boat-in campsites. There is an existing gravel parking area adjacent to Highway 92. The parking area, presently administered by Bureau of Land Management, would be jointly administered under this development concept. Existing picnic sites will be converted for dual use as campsites as camping needs become apparent.

## LEGEND



0 1000 feet  
0 305 meters

recreation  
paved road  
gravel road  
dirt road  
trail  
structure  
recreation  
or facility

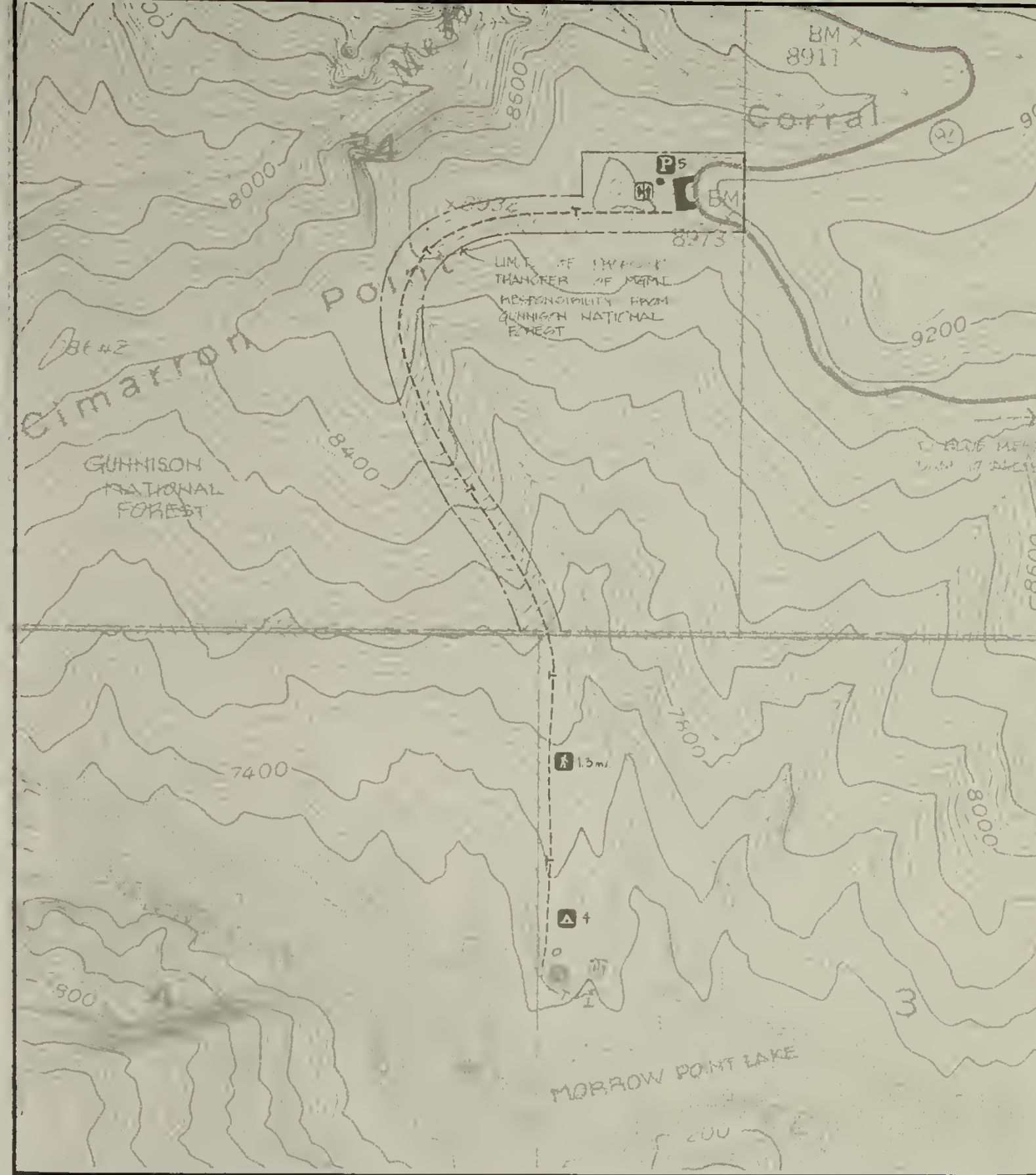
### DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS

# HERMIT'S REST

CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR · NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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## RECREATION FACILITIES

FACILITY	UNIT	EXISTING QUANTITY	PROPOSED	
			QUANTITY	COST
				(thous.)
Campsites, primitive	each		4	\$ 4
Restroom, vault-type	each	1	1	8
Gate	each		1	1
Trail, 4-foot wide	mile		1.3	20
Parking area, asphalt	space		5	8
Picnic sites	each	10		
Boat dock	sq.ft.	400		
Subtotal				\$41
Design, Admin., and Contingencies-46%				19
TOTAL				\$60

Located on Morrow Point Lake's north shore about 1 mile upstream from the dam, the Hermit's Rest Site is presently accessible by the tour boat which originates at the Pine Creek Developed Area. The 2 acre site includes a wooded, relatively flat area which has been developed as a picnic area. Other existing facilities include a short foot trail, tour boat dock, and restrooms as shown on the map. Minor access to this site is provided by an unimproved foot trail from Colorado Highway 92. Additional development is limited to providing an additional tour boat from the Pine Creek Developed Area, construction of a foot trail from Colorado Highway 92 and trailhead parking with restrooms at the highway, and addition of several walk-in and boat-in campsites. There is an existing gravel parking area adjacent to Highway 92. The parking area, presently administered by Bureau of Land Management, would be jointly administered under this development concept. Existing picnic sites will be converted for dual use as campsites as camping needs become apparent.

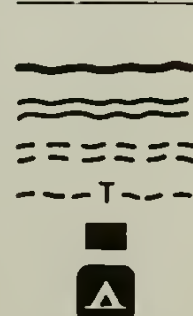
## LEGEND

recreation area boundary  
paved road  
gravel road  
dirt road  
trail  
structure  
recreation activity  
or facility

### EXISTING



### PROPOSED



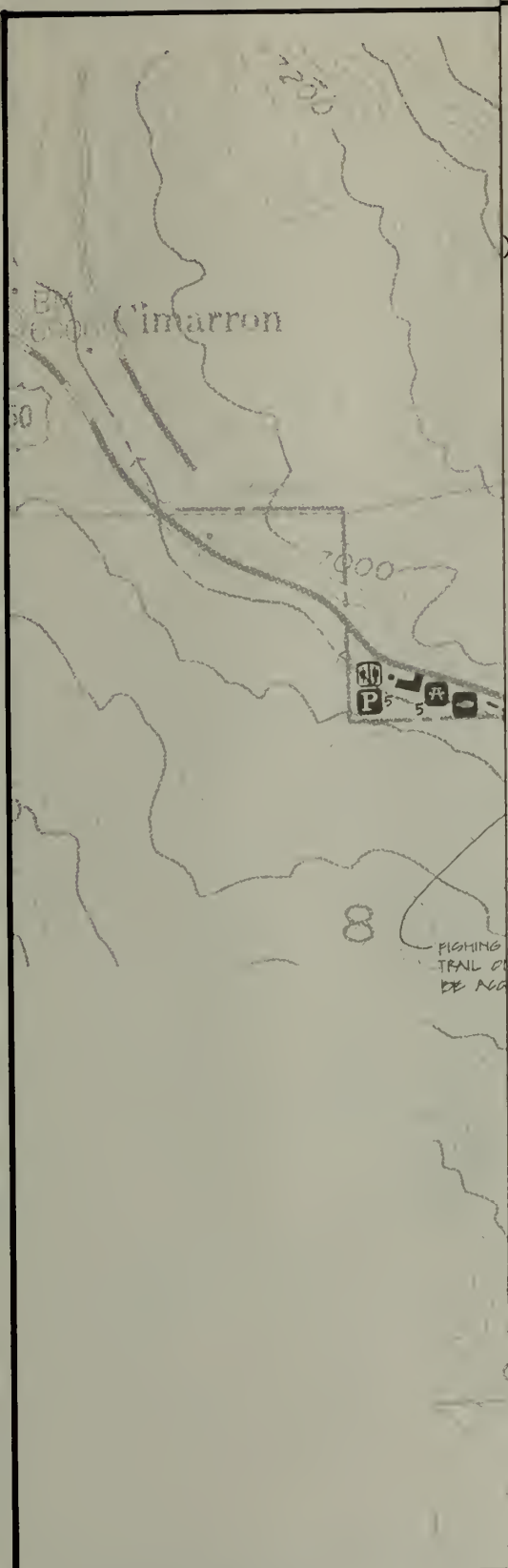
### key elevations

maximum pool  
elevation 7160'  
contour interval  
40 feet



0 1000 feet  
0 305 meters

DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS  
**HERMIT'S REST**  
CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR-NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



The 5 acre East Cimarron Area is located south of U.S. Highway 50 about 1 mile east of the town of Cimarron. It was formerly administered by the Colorado Division of Highways in agreement with the Water and Power Resource Service and has recently been transferred to National Park Service management. For this reason it was not included in the assessment of alternatives. The area provides picnicking, hiking, and bank fishing recreation opportunities along Cimarron Creek. Day use facility development selected for the area includes picnic sites, a fishing access trail, restrooms and potable water as shown on the map. Electrical service is available adjacent to U.S. Highway 50 north of the site. A well will be drilled to provide potable water at this area.

## LEGEND



0 1000 feet  
0 305 meters

recreation  
paved road  
gravel road  
dirt road  
trail  
structure  
recreation  
or facility

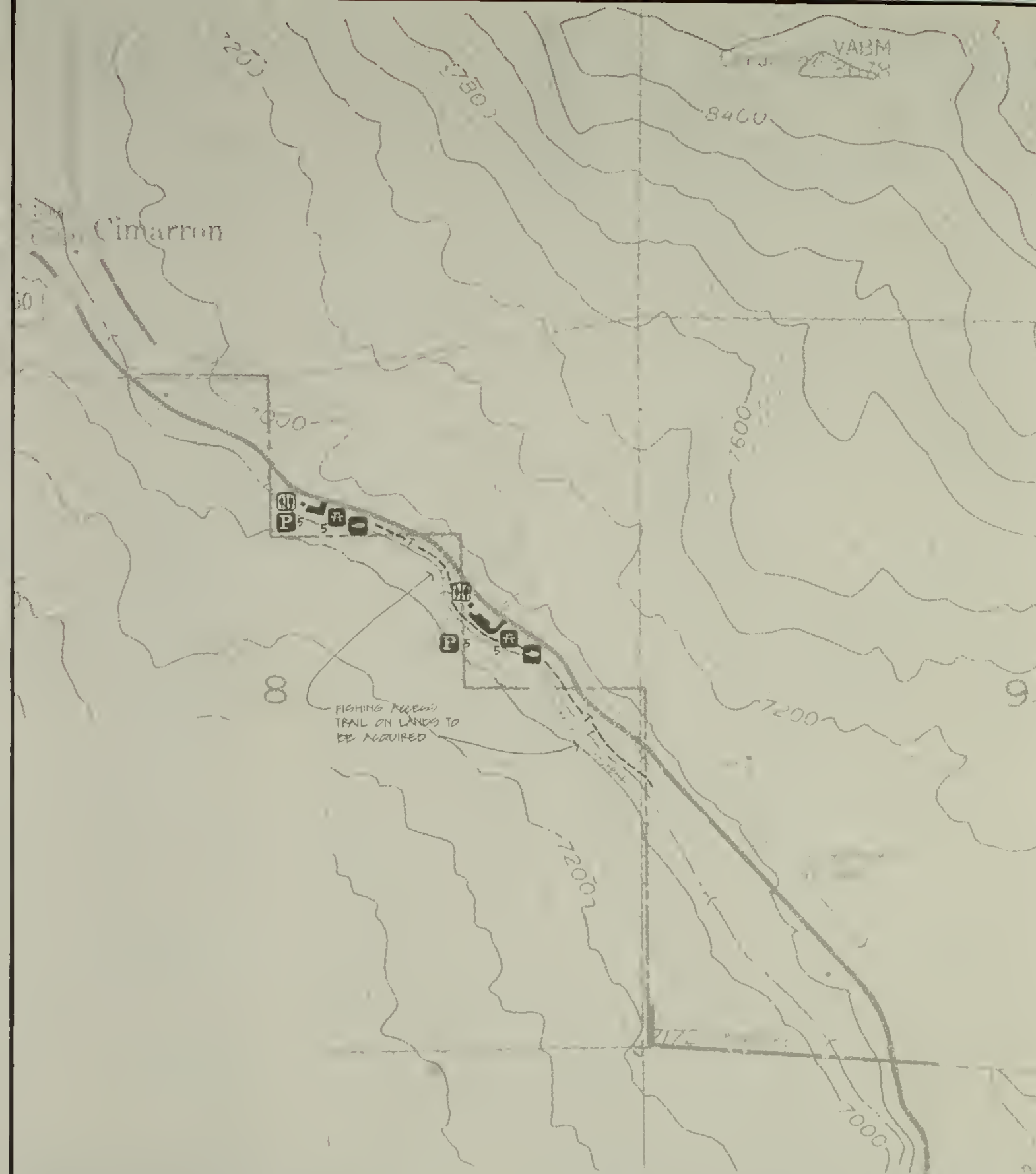
### DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS

## EAST CIMARRON

CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR · NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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## RECREATION FACILITIES

FACILITY	UNIT	EXISTING QUANTITY	PROPOSED	
			QUANTITY	COST
				(thous.)
Picnic sites	each		10	\$ 7
Restrooms, vault-type	each		2	16
Drinking fountain	each		1	1
Signs	lump sum			5
Gate	each		1	1
Water well and pump	each		1	20
Electrical service	linear feet		200	2
Parking area, asphalt	space		10	20
Road, asphalt	mile		.2	80
Hiking trail	mile		1	10
Subtotal				\$162
Design, Admin., and Contingencies-46%				75
TOTAL				\$237

The 5 acre East Cimarron Area is located south of U.S. Highway 50 about 1 mile east of the town of Cimarron. It was formerly administered by the Colorado Division of Highways in agreement with the Water and Power Resource Service and has recently been transferred to National Park Service management. For this reason it was not included in the assessment of alternatives. The area provides picnicking, hiking, and bank fishing recreation opportunities along Cimarron Creek. Day use facility development selected for the area includes picnic sites, a fishing access trail, restrooms and potable water as shown on the map. Electrical service is available adjacent to U.S. Highway 50 north of the site. A well will be drilled to provide potable water at this area.

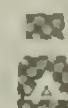
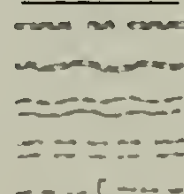
## LEGEND



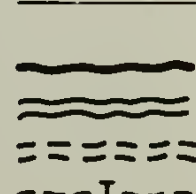
0 1000 feet  
0 305 meters

recreation area boundary  
paved road  
gravel road  
dirt road  
trail  
structure  
recreation activity  
or facility

### EXISTING



### PROPOSED

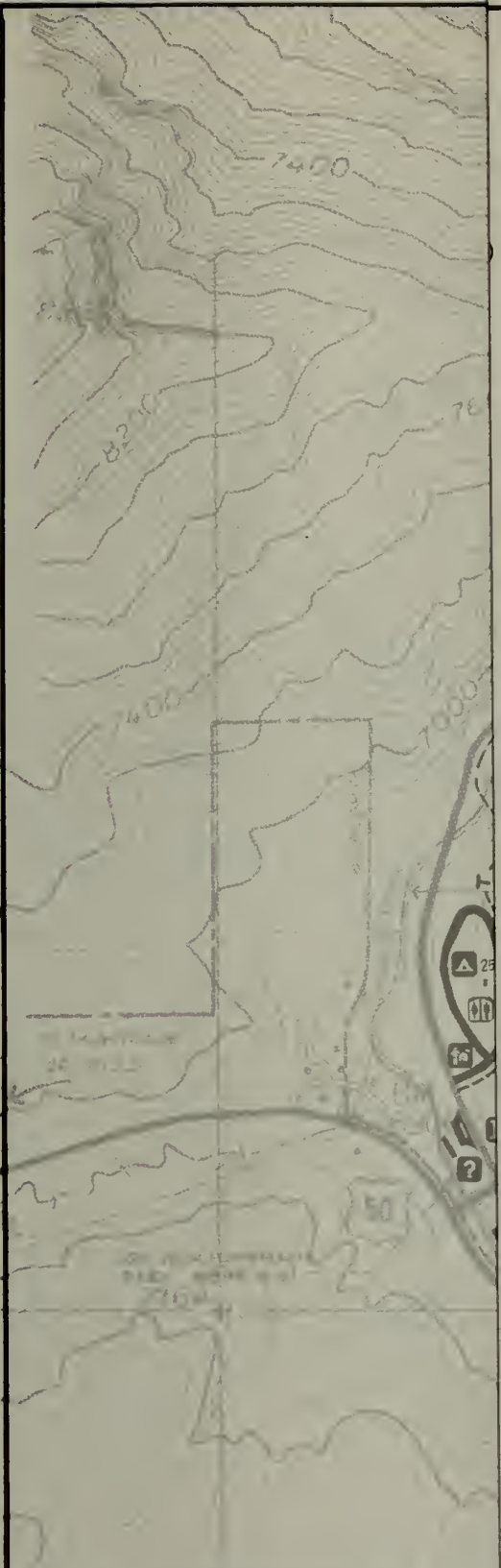


contour interval  
40 feet

DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS  
**EAST CIMARRON**  
CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR · NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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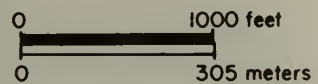


Located adjacent to the town of Cimarron, the 30 acre Cimarron Site was formerly used as a construction storage area during the construction of Morrow Point Dam and Powerhouse. The site is adjacent to U.S. Highway 50 and Curecanti Creek at the entrance to a narrow side canyon of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison. Curecanti Creek flows through this side canyon into the Gunnison River about 1 mile downstream from the town of Cimarron. The site is bordered by private commercial and residential development on both the east and west sides. Temporary facilities at this area include a ranger contact station, seasonal ranger's quarters, an office, storage and maintenance buildings, and picnic and camping sites. Part of the site is located within the 100-year flood plain of Cimarron Creek, as shown on the map.

A maximum level of recreation facility development is planned for this site. Facilities include a permanent visitor contact and orientation building, fee collection station with two seasonal apartments, group picnic shelter, 25 unit campground, maintenance area, and boat storage building. Potable water for this area will be provided by a well to be drilled on the site. Sewage disposal will be accomplished by a septic drain field.

The interpretation of Cimarron's role in development of the narrow gauge railroad and cattle ranching in this part of Colorado will be accomplished by a combination of exhibits. These will include rolling stock, rails, ties, loading dock, corral, drive chute, and exhibit panels.

# LEGEND



recreation  
paved road  
gravel road  
dirt road  
trail  
structure  
recreation  
or facility

## DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS

# CIMARRON TOWN

CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR · NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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# RECREATION FACILITIES

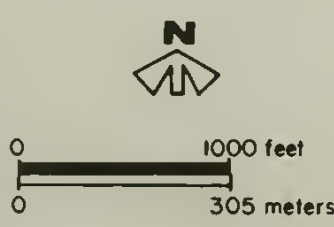
FACILITY	UNIT	EXISTING QUANTITY	PROPOSED	
			QUANTITY	COST
				(thous.)
Campsites	each		25	\$ 20
Contact station, ranger	sq. ft.		1,200	84
Picnic sites	each		12	8
Group picnic shelter	sq. ft.		600	21
Site rehabilitation	acre		5	15
Trees and irrigation	acre		5	40
Signs	lump sum			4
Contact station, campground	sq. ft.		1,600	112
Appliances and furniture	lump sum			24
Fencing	linear feet		300	5
Rehabilitate existing buildings	each		4	72
Amphitheater	seat		75	38
Restrooms, water-borne	each		1	60
Water and sewer	lump sum			24
Sanitary dump station	each		1	28
Train shelter	each		1	100
Parking area, asphalt	space		22	33
Hiking trail, 4-foot wide	mile		1	10
Subtotal				\$698
Design, Admin., and Contingencies-46%				321
TOTAL				\$1,019

Located adjacent to the town of Cimarron, the 30 acre Cimarron Site was formerly used as a construction storage area during the construction of Morrow Point Dam and Powerhouse. The site is adjacent to U.S. Highway 50 and Curecanti Creek at the entrance to a narrow side canyon of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison. Curecanti Creek flows through this side canyon into the Gunnison River about 1 mile downstream from the town of Cimarron. The site is bordered by private commercial and residential development on both the east and west sides. Temporary facilities at this area include a ranger contact station, seasonal ranger's quarters, an office, storage and maintenance buildings, and picnic and camping sites. Part of the site is located within the 100-year flood plain of Cimarron Creek, as shown on the map.

A maximum level of recreation facility development is planned for this site. Facilities include a permanent visitor contact and orientation building, fee collection station with two seasonal apartments, group picnic shelter, 25 unit campground, maintenance area, and boat storage building. Potable water for this area will be provided by a well to be drilled on the site. Sewage disposal will be accomplished by a septic drain field.

The interpretation of Cimarron's role in development of the narrow gauge railroad and cattle ranching in this part of Colorado will be accomplished by a combination of exhibits. These will include rolling stock, rails, ties, loading dock, corral, drive chute, and exhibit panels.

## LEGEND



- recreation area boundary
- paved road
- gravel road
- dirt road
- trail
- structure
- recreation activity or facility

EXISTING

PROPOSED

key elevations

maximum pool elevation 6755

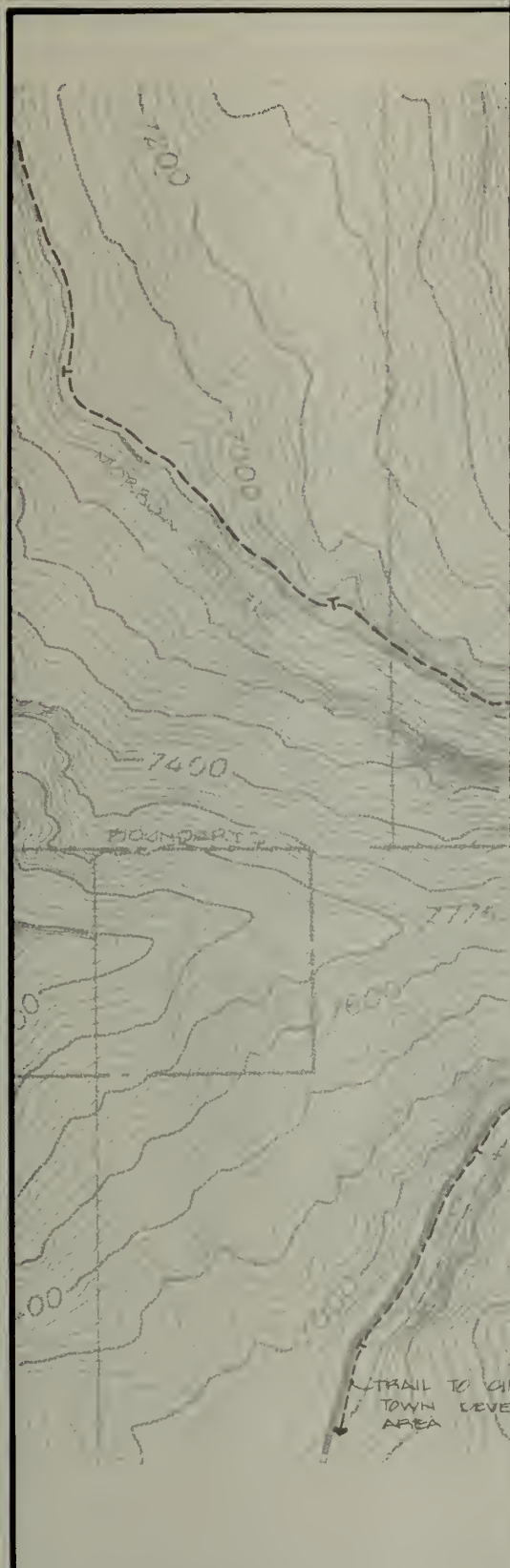
contour interval 40 feet

DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS

# CIMARRON TOWN

CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR-NATIONAL PARK SERVICE





The Cimarron River Site is located within the Black Canyon of the Gunnison about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile downstream from Morrow Point Dam and Powerhouse at the confluence of the Gunnison River and Cimarron Creek. Access to the area is via the Water and Power Resource Service service road which connects the Morrow Point Dam with U.S. Highway 50. This access road is maintained by the Water and Power Resource Service. Existing recreation facilities in this area include the Water and Power Resource Service's information kiosk, self guided tour of the Morrow Point Powerhouse, a 75 car parking area and the National Park Service's historic railroad exhibit. In addition to public use of these facilities, fishing is popular in the area downstream from the dam. Due to rapid fluctuations of the water level downstream from the dam caused by peak generation of power, fishermen often become stranded on the opposite bank of the river or creek. Public access to the top of Morrow Point Dam is not permitted because of safety hazards caused by steep grades and falling rocks on the steep dam access road. The plan for day use development at this area adds restroom facilities, pedestrian footbridge, boat courtesy dock and a trail across the Gunnison River. The trail and footbridge will satisfy additional fishing needs and will reduce fishermen safety problems associated with rapid water level fluctuations. Design of the footbridge will be determined based on a flood plain study currently being accomplished by the Water and Power Resource Service. Trail facilities will provide for small boat and foot access to Crystal Lake for fishing, boating, hiking, and camping use.

## LEGEND



0 1000 feet  
0 305 meters

recreation  
paved road  
gravel road  
dirt road  
trail  
structure  
recreation  
or facility

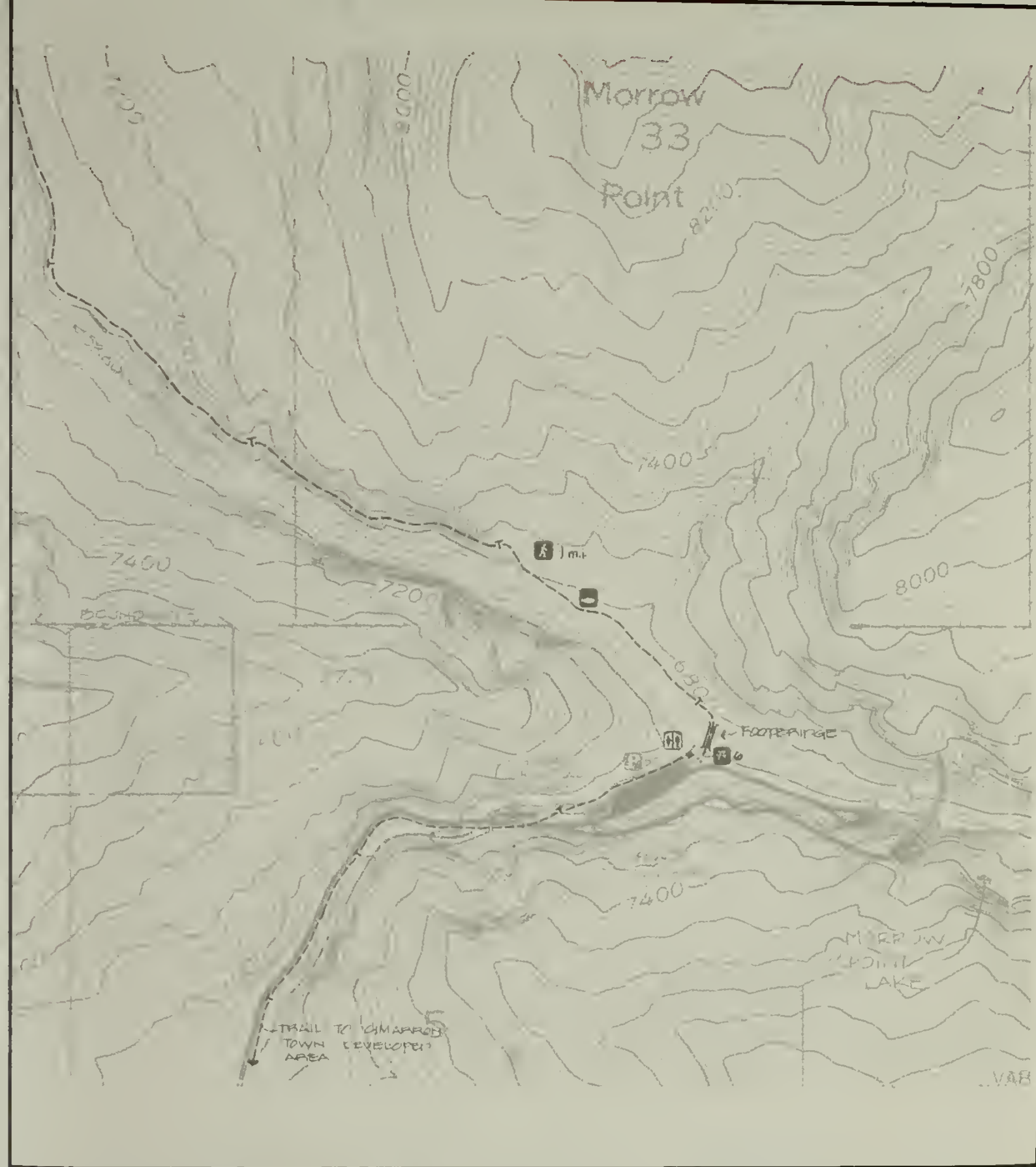
### DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS

## CIMARRON RIVER

CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR · NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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# RECREATION FACILITIES

FACILITY	UNIT	EXISTING QUANTITY	PROPOSED	
			QUANTITY	COST
				(thous.)
Parking, asphalt	space	50		
Pave existing pull off	lump sum			\$ 30
Hiking trail	mile		1	100
Footbridge	linear feet		150	120
Picnic sites	each		6	4
Ramadas	each		6	24
Signs	lump sum			5
Restroom, vault-type	each		1	8
Boat courtesy dock	each		1	10
Subtotal				\$301
Design, Admin., and Contingencies-46%				138
TOTAL				\$439

The Cimarron River Site is located within the Black Canyon of the Gunnison about ½ mile downstream from Morrow Point Dam and Powerhouse at the confluence of the Gunnison River and Cimarron Creek. Access to the area is via the Water and Power Resource Service service road which connects the Morrow Point Dam with U.S. Highway 50. This access road is maintained by the Water and Power Resource Service. Existing recreation facilities in this area include the Water and Power Resource Service's information kiosk, self guided tour of the Morrow Point Powerhouse, a 75 car parking area and the National Park Service's historic railroad exhibit. In addition to public use of these facilities, fishing is popular in the area downstream from the dam. Due to rapid fluctuations of the water level downstream from the dam caused by peak generation of power, fishermen often become stranded on the opposite bank of the river or creek. Public access to the top of Morrow Point Dam is not permitted because of safety hazards caused by steep grades and falling rocks on the steep dam access road. The plan for day use development at this area adds restroom facilities, pedestrian footbridge, boat courtesy dock and a trail across the Gunnison River. The trail and footbridge will satisfy additional fishing needs and will reduce fishermen safety problems associated with rapid water level fluctuations. Design of the footbridge will be determined based on a flood plain study currently being accomplished by the Water and Power Resource Service. Trail facilities will provide for small boat and foot access to Crystal Lake for fishing, boating, hiking, and camping use.

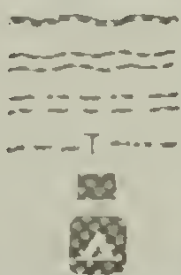
## LEGEND



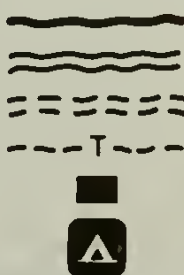
0 1000 feet  
0 305 meters

recreation area boundary  
paved road  
gravel road  
dirt road  
trail  
structure  
recreation activity or facility

### EXISTING



### PROPOSED

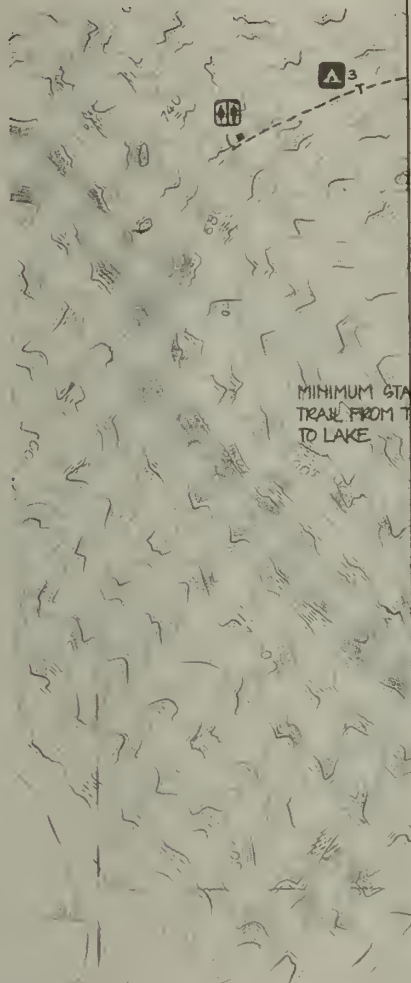


### key elevations

maximum pool elevation 7160'

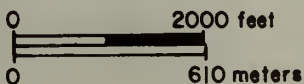
contour interval 40 feet

DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS  
**CIMARRON RIVER**  
CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



The Crystal Creek Area is located on the north shore of Crystal Lake at its confluence with Crystal Creek. The site is accessible via adjacent Colorado Highway 92. Provision of foot trail access into the canyon at this location is proposed as shown on the map. Access facilities will include a parking area near Colorado Highway 92, a vault-type restroom, hiking trail, and several walk-in campsites along Crystal Creek near the lake.

## LEGEND



recreation  
paved road  
gravel road  
dirt road  
trail  
structure  
recreation  
or facility

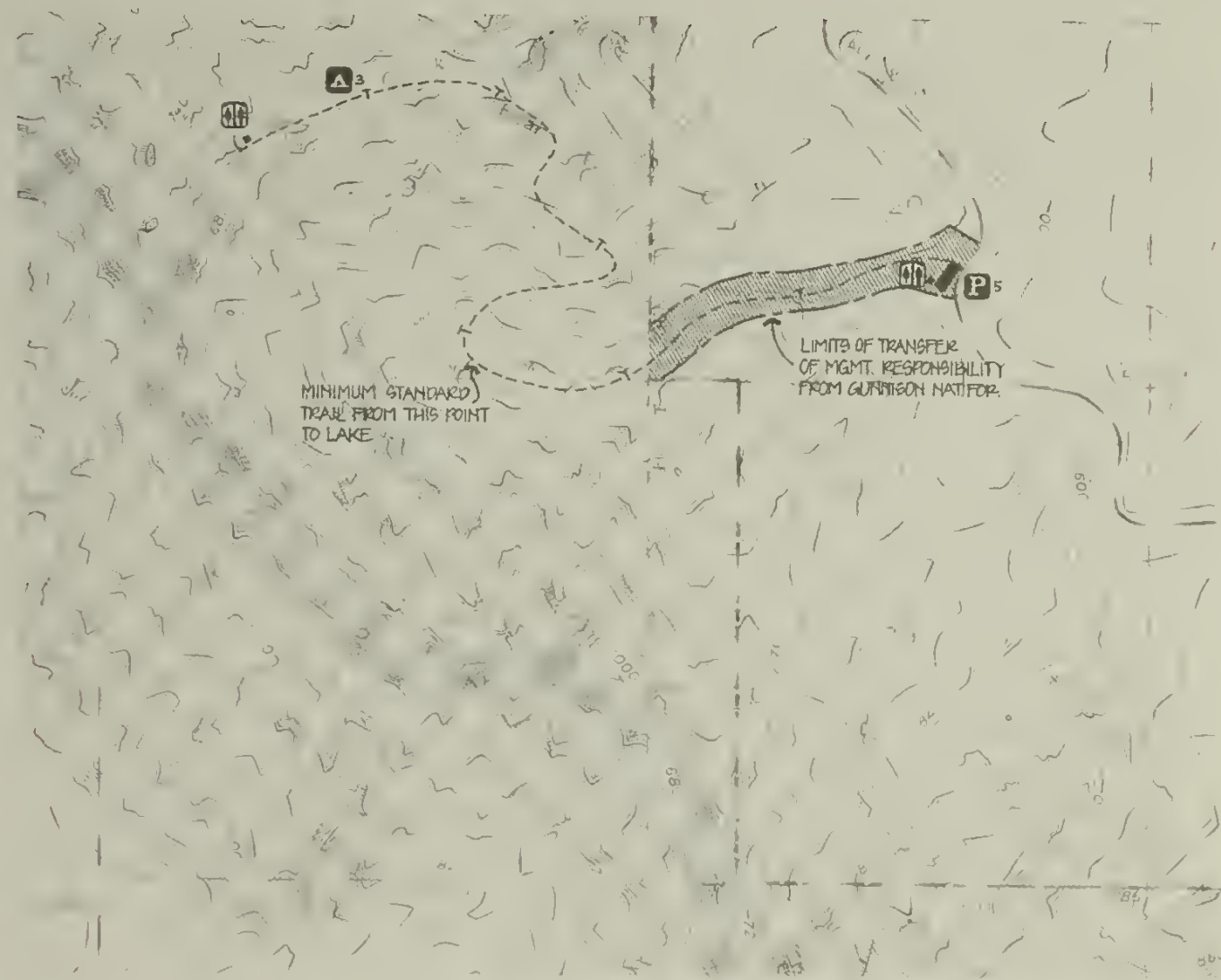
### DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS

# CRYSTAL CREEK

CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR · NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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4-21-80 | RMRO





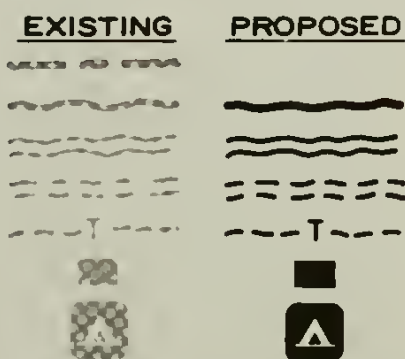
## RECREATION FACILITIES

FACILITY	UNIT	EXISTING QUANTITY	PROPOSED	
			QUANTITY	COST (thous.)
Signs	lump sum			\$ 4
Trash receptacles	each		6	1
Restroom, vault-type	each		2	16
Signs	lump sum			1
Campsites, primitive	each		3	2
Parking area, asphalt	space		5	8
Hiking trail, 4-foot wide	mile		3.2	48
Subtotal				80
Design, Admin., and Contingencies-46%				37
TOTAL				\$117

The Crystal Creek Area is located on the north shore of Crystal Lake at its confluence with Crystal Creek. The site is accessible via adjacent Colorado Highway 92. Provision of foot trail access into the canyon at this location is proposed as shown on the map. Access facilities will include a parking area near Colorado Highway 92, a vault-type restroom, hiking trail, and several walk-in campsites along Crystal Creek near the lake.

## LEGEND

recreation area boundary  
paved road  
gravel road  
dirt road  
trail  
structure  
recreation activity  
or facility



### key elevations

maximum pool  
elevation 6755'

contour interval  
40 feet

### DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS

## CRYSTAL CREEK

CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR · NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

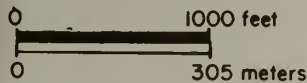
616/80,009A sheet 26 of 27  
4-21-80/RMRO





The East Portal Area is located within the Black Canyon of the Gunnison about 2 miles downstream from Crystal Dam at the site of the historic Gunnison River Diversion Dam and Tunnel. The 44 acre East Portal Site is at Curecanti National Recreation Area western extreme adjacent to the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument boundary. Vehicular access to the site is via a 7 mile, steep and narrow asphalt road which intersects Colorado Highway 347 near the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument entrance. This road was constructed primarily to provide access to Crystal Dam. It is maintained by the Water and Power Resource Service. The East Portal Site is separated into three areas for management purposes. The Uncompaghre Valley Water Users Association manages the Gunnison Diversion Dam and Tunnel and about 3 acres of land including a caretaker's residence and several maintenance buildings near the tunnel entrance. The residence is occupied by a caretaker on a year-round basis. The diversion dam, tunnel, and several small buildings near the tunnel entrance are listed on the National Register of Civil Engineering Landmarks. This recognizes the historic significance of the project which was completed in 1909 and was one of the first public water resource projects in the United States. The project provides irrigation water to agricultural areas in the Uncompaghre Valley via the 6 mile tunnel. The Water and Power Resource Service manages the area around Crystal Dam and Powerhouse and the 7 mile entrance road. Crystal Dam, completed in 1977, stores water for hydroelectric power and irrigation purposes. It forms the 301 acre Crystal Lake, the farthest downstream of Curecanti National Recreation Area three units. The National Park Service manages the rest of the East Portal Area for public recreation use. Traditionally, the area downstream from the Gunnison Diversion Dam has been used for fishing. More recently the area has attracted more diverse use including camping, picnicking, sightseeing, and hiking into Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument as well as fishing.

# LEGEND



recreation are  
paved road  
gravel road  
dirt road  
trail  
structure  
recreation act  
or facility

## DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS

# EAST PORTAL

CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR · NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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4.22-80/RMRO





# RECREATION FACILITIES

FACILITY	UNIT	EXISTING QUANTITY	PROPOSED	
			QUANTITY	COST (thous.)
Campsites, standard	each		5	\$ 10
Campsites, walk-in	each		10	15
Picnic sites	each		12	8
Group picnic shelter	sq. ft.		600	21
Trees	each		100	5
Restrooms, vault-type	each		2	16
Signs	lump sum			5
Safety railing	linear feet		300	5
Drinking fountain	each		1	1
Waterline extension	linear feet		600	9
A-M repeater	lump sum			3
Parking area, asphalt	space		30	45
Overlook, asphalt	lump sum			24
Hiking trail, 4-foot wide	mile		.5	5
Contact station/ residence	each	1		
Subtotal				\$172
Design, Admin., and Contingencies-46%				79
TOTAL				\$251

Existing recreation facilities at this area include temporary picnicking and walk-in camping areas, parking, restrooms, and seasonal employee housing. Because of its close association with Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument the East Portal Area is managed to assure compatibility with this area. The plan for recreation development at the East Portal Area represents the maximum level of recreation facility development at the site. This plan provides for both overnight and day use of the area. Facilities include walk-in and drive-in campsites, picnic sites, a visitor contact station, restrooms, and parking facilities. Electrical, water, and sewage disposal needs will be met by the existing utility systems onsite. These developments will satisfy a maximum level of recreation needs.

The East Portal Area is located within the Black Canyon of the Gunnison about 2 miles downstream from Crystal Dam at the site of the historic Gunnison River Diversion Dam and Tunnel. The 44 acre East Portal Site is at Curecanti National Recreation Area western extreme adjacent to the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument boundary. Vehicular access to the site is via a 7 mile, steep and narrow asphalt road which intersects Colorado Highway 347 near the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument entrance. This road was constructed primarily to provide access to Crystal Dam. It is maintained by the Water and Power Resource Service. The East Portal Site is separated into three areas for management purposes. The Uncompaghe Valley Water Users Association manages the Gunnison Diversion Dam and Tunnel and about 3 acres of land including a caretaker's residence and several maintenance buildings near the tunnel entrance. The residence is occupied by a caretaker on a year-round basis. The diversion dam, tunnel, and several small buildings near the tunnel entrance are listed on the National Register of Civil Engineering Landmarks. This recognizes the historic significance of the project which was completed in 1909 and was one of the first public water resource projects in the United States. The project provides irrigation water to agricultural areas in the Uncompaghe Valley via the 6 mile tunnel. The Water and Power Resource Service manages the area around Crystal Dam and Powerhouse and the 7 mile entrance road. Crystal Dam, completed in 1977, stores water for hydroelectric power and irrigation purposes. It forms the 301 acre Crystal Lake, the farthest downstream of Curecanti National Recreation Area three units. The National Park Service manages the rest of the East Portal Area for public recreation use. Traditionally, the area downstream from the Gunnison Diversion Dam has been used for fishing. More recently the area has attracted more diverse use including camping, picnicking, sightseeing, and hiking into Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument as well as fishing.

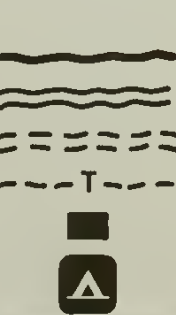
## LEGEND

recreation area boundary  
paved road  
gravel road  
dirt road  
trail  
structure  
recreation activity  
or facility

### EXISTING



### PROPOSED



### key elevations

maximum pool  
elevation 6755'

contour interval  
40 feet

### DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS

## EAST PORTAL

CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Boat-in Areas - Six areas are proposed for development as camping areas with access by boat only. Facilities at these sites will include vault-type restrooms, trails, and several campsites at each area. These six sites including Turtle Rock, Cebolla Creek, West Elk Creek, Coal Creek, Lake Fork Canyon, and Meyers Gulch are located as shown on Map 3-D.



#### IV. APPENDIX

A. Development and Operational Requirements - The following developments at the indicated current cost, and staffing will be required for implementation of this plan:

Development Package	Construction Cost (Thousands)	Additional Operating Requirements	Target Implementation Schedule (FY)
201, <u>Morrow Point</u> , Pine Creek*, Pioneer Point, Curecanti Creek, Meyer Gulch, Nelson Gulch, Hermits Rest, Crystal Creek*	\$ 667	1.9 MY-Maintenance Worker 2.2 MY-Park Ranger 2 GSA Vehicles Supplies and Utilities 1.2 MY-Interpreter	1980-82
203, <u>Blue Mesa</u> , Dry Creek, Elk Creek* Turtle Rock, Cebolla Creek, Dry Gulch, Red Creek	1,894	1.0 MY-Maintenance Worker 1.0 MY-Receptionist/Dispatcher Supplies and Utilities	1980-83
205, <u>Park General</u> , Boundary and Topographic Survey*	2,254	.3 MY-Maintenance Worker .9 MY-Park Ranger Supplies	1980-84
206, <u>Ponderosa</u> , West Elk Creek, Coal Creek, Ponderosa, McIntyre Gulch	1,335	.6 MY-Maintenance Worker .6 MY-Park Ranger .6 Year-Vehicle Supplies	1981-83
207, <u>Lake Fork</u> , Lake Fork Canyon, Gateview, Lake Fork*	2,024	3.2 MY-Park Ranger 1.2 MY-Interpreter 2.8 MY-Maintenance Worker 2 GSA Vehicles Supplies	1980-83
208, <u>Iola</u> *	168	.8 MY-Park Ranger .8 MY-Maintenance Worker .6 MY-Interpreter Supplies	1980

209, <u>Sapinero</u> , Sapinero and Sapinero Townsite	378	.4 MY-Park Ranger .4 MY-Maintenance Worker .4 MY-Interpreter Supplies	1983-84
211, <u>Crystal</u> , East Portal	274	1.2 MY-Park Ranger .6 MY-Maintenance Worker 1 GSA Vehicle Support costs	1981-82
212, <u>Morrow Point</u> , East Cimarron, Cimarron Town*, Cimarron River*	1,577	1.2 MY-Park Ranger .9 MY-Maintenance Worker 2 GSA Vehicles Supplies and Utilities	1980-84
213, <u>Gunnison River</u> , Riverway*, Neversink*, Cooper Ranch*, Beaver Creek*, Lake City Bridge*	1,356	.8 MY-Park Ranger .8 MY-Maintenance Worker .5 MY-Interpreter 1 GSA Vehicle Supplies	1980-84
216, <u>Blue Mesa</u> , Dillon	72	.3 MY-Park Ranger .3 MY-Maintenance Worker .3 MY-Interpreter Supplies	1981-82
217, <u>Blue Mesa</u> , Willow Creek Harbor (not a Section 8; Water and Power Resource Service funded project)	7,064	4 MY-Park Ranger 5 MY-Maintenance Worker 2.2 MY-Interpreter GSA Vehicle Supplies	Beyond fiscal year 1985 to meet future needs
218, <u>Park General</u> , Archeological Mitigation	145	.8 MY-Interpreter Supplies	1980-82
224, <u>Steven's Creek</u> *	839	1.6 MY-Park Ranger 1.6 MY-Maintenance Worker .8 MY-Interpreter 2 GSA Vehicles Supplies	1980-82

225, <u>Park General</u> , Bicycle Trails	1,034	1.5 MY-Park Ranger 1.5 MY-Maintenance Worker .5 MY-Interpreter Supplies	1982-82
299, <u>Park General*</u> , Planning, research and feasibility	366	1 Landscape Architect (annually) 1 Landscape Architect Technician (annually) 1 Clerk-Typist (annually) Travel, Supplies, and Equipment	1980-84

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TOTAL	\$21,447	49.7 MY
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B. Other Proposed Management Needs - In addition to this general management plan, more detailed planning and design efforts will be required to solve specific design problems related to facility construction, visitor use, and resource protection. Requirements for more detailed planning for Curecanti National Recreation Area include, but are not limited to the following specific tasks:

1. Regional Growth Study
2. Vegetative Management Study
3. Water Quality Study
4. Historic Resources Study
5. Historic Structures Maintenance Guide
6. Legislative Support Package for Curecanti National Recreation Area Legislation

C. Bibliography

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- National Park Service, Recreation Potential (A Professional Analysis and Report), July, 1965.
- Ross, Lee Ann, Dwight M. Blood, Kenneth C. Nobe, A Survey of Sportsmen Expenditures for Hunting and Fishing in Colorado, 1973.
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- U.S. Department of the Interior, A Survey of the Recreational Resources of the Colorado River Basin, Compiled in June 1946.
- Water Resources Council, Water and Related Land Resources, No. 174, Pt. III-1 Vol. 38, Establishment of Principles and Standards for Planning, September 10, 1973.
- Wildlife Management Section, Division of Wildlife, Department of Natural Resources, State of Colorado, Essential Habitat for Threatened and Endangered Wildlife of Colorado, January 1978.
- Wiltzius, William J., Some Factors Historically Affecting the Distribution and Abundance of Fishes in the Gunnison River, September 25, 1978.



D. Planning Team Members - This general management plan/development concepts was prepared in the Division of Park Planning, Rocky Mountain Region by a multidisciplinary planning team. Members of that team are as follows:

Robert W. Dunkley, Team Captain, Landscape Architect, RMR  
Glen D. Alexander, Superintendent, Curecanti NRA  
James W. Packard, former Superintendent, Curecanti NRA  
Jim Riggs, Chief Ranger, Curecanti NRA  
Don Hill, Chief Naturalist, Curecanti NRA  
Ray Frost, Chief of Maintenance, Curecanti NRA  
Dixie L. Fabiano, Administrative Officer, Curecanti NRA  
T. Homer Black, Park Planner, RMR  
John Reed, Interpretive Planner, RMR  
Adrienne Anderson, Archeologist, RMR  
Neil J. Reid, Regional Chief Scientist, RMR  
Karen Green, Public Involvement Specialist, RMR  
William J. Wiltzius, Fishery Biologist, Colorado Division of Wildlife  
Jim Houston, Wildlife Biologist, Colorado Division of Wildlife  
Bud Curtis, Gunnison Basin Area Resource Manager, Bureau of Land Management  
Marvin Combs, Recreational Specialist, Water and Power Resource Service  
Frank LeFevre, Concessioner, Elk Creek Marina  
Jimmy R. Wilkins, Forest Supervisor, Forest Service

E. Legislation - Legislation, Secretarial memorandum, and memorandums of agreement between agencies pertinent to this plan are contained in this section as follows:

1. Section 8 of the Colorado River Storage Project Act of April 11, 1956 (70 Stat. 105).

2. Memorandum of Agreement between the Bureau of Reclamation and the National Park Service Relating to the Development and Administration of Recreation on the Curecanti Unit, Colorado River Storage Project, dated February 11, 1965.

3. Secretary of the Interior memorandum dated February 17, 1958, Subject: Designation of Responsibility for Carrying-Out the Provisions of Section 8, Public Law 485, Colorado River Storage Project and Participating Projects.

4. Memorandum of Understanding between the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, and the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, dated July 11, 1966.

5. Agreement regarding final funding for development of facilities at Curecanti National Recreation Area under Section 8 of the Colorado River Storage Project Act, dated August 31, 1979.

PUBLIC LAW 84-485--April 11, 1956

Recreational and  
fish and wildlife  
facilities.

SEC. 8. In connection with the development of the Colorado River storage project and of the participating projects, the Secretary is authorized and directed to investigate, plan, construct, operate, and maintain (1) public recreational facilities on lands withdrawn or acquired for the development of said project or of said participating projects, to conserve the scenery, the natural, historic, and archeologic objects, and the wildlife on said lands, and to provide for public use and enjoyment of the same and of the water areas created by these projects by such means as are consistent with the primary purposes of said projects; and (2) facilities to mitigate losses of, and improve conditions for, the propagation of fish and wildlife. The Secretary is authorized to acquire lands ~~and to withdraw public lands from entry or other disposition under the public land laws~~ necessary for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the facilities herein provided, and to dispose of them to Federal, State, and local governmental agencies by lease, transfer, exchange, or conveyance upon such terms and conditions as will best promote their development and operation in the public interest. All costs incurred pursuant to this section shall be nonreimbursable and nonreturnable.

\*This provision was repealed by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, Public Law 94-579, October 21, 1976.  
(90 Stat. 2792)



MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT  
Between  
THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
and  
THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
RELATING TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF  
RECREATION ON THE CURECANTI UNIT  
COLORADO RIVER STORAGE PROJECT

THIS MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT, made and entered into this 11th day of February 1965, between the BUREAU OF RECLAMATION, hereinafter referred to as the Bureau, and the NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, hereinafter referred to as the Service as agencies of the United States of America:

WITNESSETH THAT:

WHEREAS the Bureau is proceeding with the construction of the Curecanti Unit as a part of the Colorado River Storage Project authorized by the Act of April 11, 1956 (70 Stat. 105); and

WHEREAS the Service has been designated as the agency responsible for carrying out the provision of Section 8 of the said Act of April 11, 1956; and

WHEREAS lands are being acquired and public lands have been withdrawn for the purposes of the project, as authorized by the aforesaid Act of April 11, 1956; and

WHEREAS a large number of persons are expected to use the lands and waters of such withdrawn area for the purposes of recreation; and

WHEREAS the Act of August 7, 1946 (60 Stat. 885) authorizes the use of appropriated funds by the Service for the administration, protection, improvement, and maintenance of areas under the jurisdiction of other agencies of the Government when such areas are devoted to recreational use pursuant to cooperative agreements; and

WHEREAS the Service is experienced in administering areas devoted to recreational use:

NOW, THEREFORE, the Bureau and the Service do hereby mutually agree as follows:

ARTICLE I  
GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The Bureau shall retain complete authority over and responsibility for construction, operation and maintenance of the Blue Mesa, Morrow Point, and Crystal Dams and Reservoirs for primary project purposes together with all engineering works in connection therewith. Except for the areas required by the Bureau for construction, operation and maintenance of the dams, the Service shall administer all lands and waters within the project area, providing for recreation therein. The agreed areas of authority between the Bureau and the Service include all those lands acquired, withdrawn, or segregated by the Bureau for project purposes under the authority of the aforesaid Act of April 11, 1956. These lands are generally depicted on the enclosed drawing marked Exhibit "A" and numbered SA-CUR-7101. This Exhibit may be revised at any time to illustrate changes in the project area as a result of land acquisition, or additional withdrawals.

2. The parties to this agreement acknowledge that, as authorized by Congress, each has an interest in the storage, release, and utilization of the water which is to be impounded by the Curecanti Unit, and that such unit was authorized, and is being constructed, for the primary purposes of irrigation, flood control, and the generation of hydro-electric power and the incidental purposes of recreation, and fish and wildlife conservation. This agreement shall not be construed to conflict with the primary purposes of the project or to alter the Bureau's control over storage and release of water. However, to the extent consistent with the authorized primary purposes of said project, the Bureau shall operate the dams and reservoirs in keeping with the Secretarial policy which provides for full consideration of public recreation and fish and wildlife conservation on reservoir projects undertaken by the Federal Government. The Service shall determine the optimum and minimum pool levels desirable for public recreational use and provide the Bureau with this information for consideration in carrying out the purposes of this paragraph.

3. Prior to making any new development or granting any concession, lease, license or permit which, because of its nature or location will affect the Bureau's activities at the Curecanti Unit Dams, the Service shall obtain the concurrence of the Bureau. Before making any new development or granting any concession, lease, license, or permit at the Curecanti Unit Dams which will affect the recreational and tourist facilities on the remainder of the project area, the Bureau shall obtain the concurrence of the Service. If either party does not concur in such proposed development, concession, lease, license, or permit the proposal shall be held in abeyance until agreement is reached by the Bureau and the Service or the Secretary has resolved any differences of opinion.

4. The parties to this agreement acknowledge and understand that the fulfillment of the agreement is contingent upon the availability of funds for the purposes thereof.

## ARTICLE II FUNCTIONS OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Subject to the primary purposes of the project, area limitations, and other provisions contained in Article I hereof, the Service in its administration of the project area for recreation, shall be responsible for:

1. Preparing plans for and constructing recreational facilities, including roads and trails.
2. Advertising for, evaluating and approving or rejecting bids and negotiating contracts for the installation or construction of recreational facilities.
3. Negotiating and executing contracts, with private individuals, partnerships or corporations for supplying necessary visitor services

related to recreational use of the project area, including, but not limited to, use of the waters for boating, canoeing, bathing, and sightseeing; and prescribing and enforcing reasonable rates and standards for the supplying of such services.

4. Establishing and enforcing policies regarding the recreational use of lands and waters in the project area. It is understood that grazing activities within that portion of the project area administered by the Service shall be controlled and supervised by the Service in consultation with the Bureau of Land Management.

5. Promulgating and enforcing such rules and regulations as are necessary or desirable for the conservation of any historic or archeological remains, and control of all archeological excavation and historical or archeological research or as may be needed for recreational use and enjoyment of the area and for the safety of visitors.

6. Establishing and maintaining protective, interpretive, and other facilities and services as may be necessary for the safe and full use and enjoyment of the area for recreational purposes. Public information activities and services shall be provided by the Service through coordination with other Interior agencies in order to facilitate public understanding of the interrelated programs of these agencies within the area.

7. Control of transportation in the area under its jurisdiction, whether by land, water, or air, to the extent consistent with Federal law, but such control shall not affect transportation the Bureau may require for the performance of its functions or transportation governed by Article III, paragraphs numbered 3 and 4.

8. Extending to the Bureau and other agencies involved technical assistance in the planning and development of exhibits and interpretive devices oriented toward visitor understanding and enjoyment of the project and related resources.

9. Negotiation of agreements or coordination of activities with State and Federal wildlife agencies as desirable for the conservation, protection and interpretation of wildlife consistent with applicable law.

10. Such other functions as are reasonably related to, or necessary for, its administration of the project area.

### ARTICLE III FUNCTIONS OF THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Subject to the area limitations and provisions contained in Article I hereof, the Bureau shall be responsible for:

1. Construction, operation and maintenance of the Blue Mesa, Morrow Point and Crystal Dams and Reservoirs and all engineering works incidental thereto or in connection therewith, together with all appurtenances thereof for the proper storage, release, protection and utilization of water



under the Federal Reclamation Laws.

2. Consultation with the Service on matters involving the development or administration of recreational facilities or public information services to be provided in the areas required by the Bureau for construction, operation and maintenance of the three dams in the Curecanti Unit.
3. Establishment and enforcement of rules and regulations governing public access to the Curecanti Unit Dams and the engineering works appurtenant thereto, and the control of traffic on the roads providing immediate access to the dams and their appurtenant engineering works.
4. Establishment of and, in cooperation with the Service, enforcement of such limitations governing approach to the dams by water as may be necessary either for their efficient functioning or for the safety of the public.
5. Coordination and preparation of reservoir management plans in cooperation with the Service and other concerned Federal, State, and local agencies, for management of the three dams and reservoirs in the project area.
6. Consultation with the Service so that recreational development and administration of the project area will be coordinated with construction and operation of the Curecanti Unit.

#### ARTICLE IV TERMINATION

This memorandum shall remain in force unless the parties thereto mutually agree to its termination or termination is directed by the Secretary of the Interior, or until enactment by the Congress of inconsistent or superseding legislation.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
Date 1/8/1965  
(Sgd) Floyd E. Dominy

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Date Dec. 21-1964  
(Sgd) George B. Hartzog

Approved: February 11, 1965

(Sgd) Stewart L. Udall  
Secretary of the Interior

February 17, 1958

Memorandum

To: Secretary of the Interior

From: Director, National Park Service

Subject: Designation of Responsibility for Carrying Out  
the Provisions of Section 8, Public Law 485,  
Colorado River Storage Project and Participating  
Projects

Planning and construction of recreation facilities on reservoirs authorized by the Colorado River Storage Project Act are definite responsibilities of the Department under provisions of Section 8 of that Act, copy attached. This Section also provides for the acquisition of lands necessary for recreation facilities.

The National Park Service has been cooperating with the Bureau of Reclamation in developing preliminary recreation plans for first priority reservoirs in the Upper Colorado and has obtained funds for this purpose. There is urgent need now, however, for approximately \$23,000 with which to investigate and adjudicate certain mining claims and to acquire a few partial tracts for recreation purposes, adjacent to lands being acquired by the Bureau for reservoir project purposes, so that severance damages may be avoided.

The Bureau can accomplish this work most expeditiously and economically if it does so at the same time it is acquiring land for reservoir operation and maintenance purposes. However, Section 5 of the Colorado River Storage Project Act provides that the Bureau shall derive its funds from the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund, thereby precluding it from carrying out the provisions of Section 8. This latter Section provides that all costs incurred pursuant to recreation and fish, and wildlife expenditures shall be nonreimbursable and nonreturnable.

It is the joint recommendation of the Bureau and the Service that you designate the National Park Service as the agency

responsible for carrying out the Department's obligation under Section 8 of the above act except, of course, as it relates to provision number (2) concerning fish and wildlife. Under this procedure, the Service could transfer funds to the Bureau for urgent comment needs and request funds with which to reimburse the Bureau for future years requirements. There will be many other recreation problems, of course, that will arise as the Colorado River Storage Project progresses. However, we feel that these can be met as they occur within the framework of Departmental policy and budgetary procedures.

There is a meeting pending between representative of this Department and the Department of Agriculture to discuss broad principles relating to the planning and development of recreation facilities on reclamation withdrawn lands within national forests. Certain national forests within the Upper Colorado River Basin will be partially affected by Bureau of Reclamation reservoirs. Your designation of the National Park Service as the agency responsible for carrying out the provisions of Section 8 of the Colorado River Storage Project Act will not, however, predetermine the position to be taken in these pending discussions. We expect to submit our recommendation in the near future concerning these basic policy questions for consideration and negotiation at Departmental level.

A Memorandum of Agreement will be developed by the Bureau and the Service for each reservoir area to provide a long-term basis for administration and development of the recreation resources. We hope you will see fit to approve this interim designation of responsibility requested herein at an early date in order that the Service may include the necessary funds in its 1960 fiscal year estimates.

/S/ Conrad L. Wirth

Director

Attachment

I concur: Mar 12, 1958

/S/ Alfred R. Golze  
Commissioner of Reclamation

Approved: April 21, 1958

/S/ Fred A. Seaton  
Secretary of the Interior



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN THE FOREST SERVICE  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND  
THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING made this 11 th day of July, 1966, by and between the NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, hereinafter referred to as the Park Service, acting pursuant to the Act of April 11, 1956 (70 Stat. 105), represented by the Superintendent, Curecanti Recreation Area, National Park Service, and the FOREST SERVICE, U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, hereinafter referred to as the Forest Service, acting pursuant to the Act of June 4, 1897 (30 Stat. 35), as amended, and in accordance with the letter from the Secretary of Agriculture to Secretary of Interior dated September 27, 1957; represented by the Forest Supervisor, Gunnison National Forest.

WHEREAS, Curecanti Unit of the Upper Colorado River Storage Project has a great public recreation potential; and

WHEREAS, Congressional action is expected, to the effect that, for the purpose of developing the Curecanti Recreation Area to its full recreation potential for the benefit and enjoyment of the public, the area be classified as a National Recreation Area; and

WHEREAS, only a very minor part of the Curecanti Recreation Area and the lands withdrawn by the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation for construction of the Curecanti Project are National Forest lands; and

WHEREAS, the Park Service will plan, construct, maintain and administer the public recreation developments on the shoreline with only a minor exception in the small instance where the reservoirs encroach on National Forest lands; and

WHEREAS, it is highly desirable for one agency to plan, construct, maintain and administer the entire public recreation complex around the Reservoirs; and

WHEREAS, the Park Service is desirous of doing the planning, construction, maintenance and administration of the public recreation facilities to be developed on the Forest Service lands within the withdrawal area of the Reservoirs; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Service is desirous to make available to the Park Service for development of public recreation facilities those National Forest lands which are within the withdrawal area of the Reservoirs.

NOW THEREFORE, the parties agree as follows:

A. THE FOREST SERVICE:

1. Grants the Park Service, subject to all valid claims and possible future Congressional or other legal classification of the Curecanti Recreation area as a National Recreation Area, use of the following described Forest Service lands to plan, construct, maintain and administer public recreation facilities as detailed in Section B, Paragraph 2, of this MEMORANDUM.

T. 49 N., R. 4 W., N.M.P.M.

Section 8 NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$

Section 9 SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$   
S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$

T. 49 N., R. 6 W., N.M.P.M.

Section 29 W $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$

2. Will allow the Park Service to survey, design, construct and maintain a road on Forest Service lands lying within the Blue Mesa Reservoir withdrawal area, the termini of this road being Forest Development Road #721 and the eastern most extent of the Blue Mesa Reservoir withdrawal area in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 9, T. 49 N., R. 4 W., N.M.P.M.

B. THE PARK SERVICE:

1. Will assume the fire protection responsibilities of those lands described in Section A, Paragraph 1, from the date of acceptance of this Memorandum to the date the Blue Mesa Reservoir area by Congressional or other legal action becomes a National Recreation Area, or until this Memorandum is terminated by mutual consent of both the Park Service and the Forest Service.

2. Will not develop or construct any improvements on National Forest land described herein during the life of this Memorandum other than those which are specifically mentioned below without the concurrence of the Forest Service. Those improvements which are specifically agreed to as a part of this Memorandum are: necessary access roads and trails, campground facilities and a boat dock.

3. Agrees that all land line surveys and boundary fencing needed in the exercise of this Memorandum will be the responsibility of the Park Service.

4. Will transfer to the Unit Collection Officer, Gunnison National Forest, money collected on National Forest lands administered by the Park Service under the terms and conditions of this Memorandum for deposit in the National Forest Fund. The frequency of transfer of said receipts to be mutually determined by the Park Service and the Forest Service, Provided, that all such transfers are made at least annually with last SF-1081 voucher for each fiscal year being submitted to the Forest Service not later than June 10.

C. THE PARK SERVICE AND FOREST SERVICE MUTUALLY AGREE THAT:

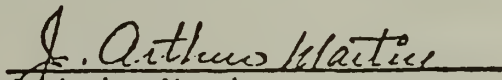
1. This Memorandum may be amended or modified by an exchange of correspondence between the parties thereto.

2. The Memorandum shall automatically terminate upon receipt by the Forest Service of written action from the Park Service (1) that the lands within the terms of this Memorandum are no longer needed for the intended purpose, or (2) that the proposed reclassification of the Blue Mesa Reservoir area has been legally authorized by Congress or other legal authority. If this Memorandum is cancelled by the exercise of the Park Service, said Park Service will within one (1) year remove or rehabilitate all structures and other developments in a manner acceptable to the Forest Service.

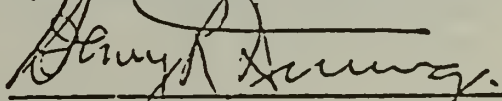
3. The liability of the parties under the Memorandum is contingent upon the necessary appropriations and reservation of funds being made therefore.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have signed this Memorandum as of the day and year first above written.

THE FOREST SERVICE  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

  
J. Arthur Martin  
Forest Supervisor  
Gunnison National Forest

THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

  
Henry R. Daring  
Superintendent  
Curecanti Recreation Area



Agreement regarding final funding for development of facilities at  
Curecanti National Recreation Area under Section 8 of the Colorado  
River Storage Project Act

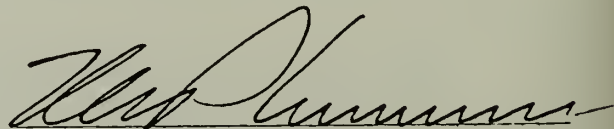
It is herewith agreed that the attached list of development packages shall constitute the minimum level of development necessary to satisfy Curecanti National Recreation Area's public recreation needs at the initial level of use. This list is in accordance with and is drawn from Curecanti's 1979 General Management Plan.

Funding for completion of facility development to this level shall be the responsibility of the U.S.B.R. in accord with Section 8 of the CRSP Act. The U.S.B.R. will program this construction over approximately five years beginning in FY 1980.

The NPS shall assume all responsibilities for operation, maintenance, construction of future facilities, and replacement of existing facilities upon the completion of this construction program. Legislation for final establishment of Curecanti National Recreation Area will be recommended to Congress by the National Park Service in a timely fashion such that enactment coincides approximately with completion of this construction program.



Glen T. Bean, Regional Director  
Rocky Mountain Region  
National Park Service



N. W. Plummer, Regional Director  
Upper Colorado Region  
U. S. Bureau of Reclamation

August 30, 1979  
Date

CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS

Development Packages for Section 8 Funding

PRIORITY	PACKAGE NUMBER AND TITLE	FUNDS EXPENDED*	ESTIMATES IN 1980 DOLLARS		
			FY 1980 PROPOSAL*	PROPOSED ADDITIONAL COST*	TOTAL COST*
1	203, Elk Creek	2,638	629	1,417	4,684
2	208, Iola	343	339	338	1,020
3	207, Lake Fork	192	42	2,318	2,552
4	201, Pine Creek	203	-	394	597
5	212, Cimarron	89	68	1,279	1,436
6	211, East Portal	71	130	76	277
7	213, Gunnison River	-	72	1,187	1,259
8	224, Stevens Cr. - Interim	-	-	336	336
9	216, Hiking Trails	26	25	302	353
10	225, Fishing Access	-	-	210	210
11	226, Minor Camping	-	-	681	681
12	206, Ponderosa	-	-	823	823
13	227, Boat-in Camping	-	-	64	64
14	218, Archeological Mitigation	35	35	105	175
15	205, Boundary Survey	54	96	692	842
16	209, Sapinero Wayside	-	39	151	190
17	299, Park Gen. - Planning & Feasibility	117	353	508	978
	Totals	3,768	1,828	10,881	16,477

NOTE: The above development concept packages are the final development necessary to satisfy initial levels of use and that the dollar estimates are subject to change which reflect inflation and/or mutually agreed upon changes.

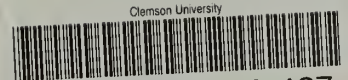
\*Numbers are expressed in thousands of dollars.

F. Recreation Facility Criteria - Recreation facilities proposed in this general management plan are estimated based on the following size and capacity criteria:

FACILITY	SIZE	DAILY CAPACITY	COMPONENTS
Picnic site	20' x 20'	10 persons/site	table, firepit, parking space and trash receptacle
Group picnic shelter	30' x 40'	40 persons/shelter	six tables, fireplace with cooking grill and two trash receptacles
Campsite	30' x 40'	4 persons/site	parking space for car and trailer, table, tent pad, firepit, and trash receptacle
Restrooms:			
standard, waterborne	400 sq. ft.	1/50 campsites	two stalls, sink each side
vault	230 sq. ft.	1/recreation use area	two stalls each side
vault	120 sq. ft.	1/minor recreation use area	one stall each side
vault	24 sq. ft.	1/primitive recreation use area	one stall
Launching ramp, concrete	12' wide, length varies	40 launchings/lane	ramp, parking, and turn-arounds every 150 feet
Foot trails, gravel surface	.4' wide	unspecified	trail, bench every ½ mile

Support facilities such as roads, utility systems, drinking fountains, sanitary dump stations, landscape plantings, signs, maintenance areas, and interpretive facilities will be provided as required in addition to the above facilities.





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**DATE DUE**

Demco, Inc. 38-293

As the nation's principal conservation Agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities to protect and conserve our land and water, energy and minerals, fish and wildlife, parks and recreation areas, and to ensure the wise use of all these resources. The Department also has major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

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