

DEPOSITORY ITEM

JUN 1 1987

CLEMSON
LIBRARY

General Management Plan Amendment #3

March 1987



Curecanti
National
Recreation
Area

United States
Department of the Interior
National Park Service

AMENDMENT NUMBER THREE
to the
GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN
for
CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

Recommended:

Joseph F. Cesta 3-4-87
Superintendent, Curecanti NRA Date

Approved:

Jack Reschke Acting 3/17/87
Regional Director, Rocky Mountain Region Date

SUMMARY

Final Amendment Number 3 to the Curecanti National Recreation Area General Management Plan

This document is the result of a planning process in which various development alternatives and associated environmental consequences were given full consideration. Specifically addressed are two sites located in the Elk Creek area which were not fully considered in the 1980 General Management Plan for Curecanti. This effort reflects the needs generated by changes in visitor demand and uses, National Park Service management concerns, concessioner interests, and land use commitments.

Bay of Chickens.

For several years, 10 acres of this site, located west of the Elk Creek complex, were used as a source of gravel by the Colorado Department of Highways. In the last few years, visitation to the site for water recreation increased in spite of its usage as a gravel quarry. In December 1984, because of increasing conflicts between uses, the Park Service cancelled the special use permit for the gravel operation. Several development alternatives were considered for the site. The selected plan provides drinking water, vault toilets, picnic facilities, limited concession facilities, structured parking and circulation. These facilities would be provided in two phases with some of the cost being borne by the concessioner. This plan enhances the health, safety, and enjoyment of visitors, protects currently undisturbed natural and cultural resources and provides for some site rehabilitation.

Elk Creek Boneyard.

This site is located on a hill on the southern edge of the Elk Creek complex. The 1980 GMP shows a water storage tank unobtrusively placed and an area used for open storage by both the concessioner and the National Park Service. Since that time, higher profile items have been stored and constructed on site which are clearly visible for a considerable distance; e.g., the concessioner's gasoline storage tank and a NPS storage building. Three alternatives were considered during the planning process. The selected plan will minimize the visual impact of items located in the Boneyard with some of the cost borne by the concessioner. It specifically provides for the concealment of the gasoline storage tank, the eventual removal or relocation of the NPS storage building to eliminate the permanently placed higher profile items, and for berming to minimize the visual impact of lower profile items.

Table of Contents

Signature Page	i
SUMMARY	ii
I. BAY OF CHICKENS	
A. Area Description	1
B. Selected Plan	2
C. Other Alternatives Considered	3
II. ELK CREEK BONEYARD	
A. Area Description	5
B. Selected Plan	5
C. Other Alternatives Considered	7
Appendix A	
Public Comment to the Environmental Assessment /	
Development Concept Plan with Agency Response . .	8
Appendix B	
Finding of No Significant Impact	15

Final Amendment Number 3 to the
Curecanti National Recreation Area General Management Plan

This document addresses actions planned for two sites in the Elk Creek area of Curecanti National Recreation Area. The first site is a day-use area known as the Bay of Chickens. The second site is the Boneyard, an open storage area.

I. BAY OF CHICKENS

A. SITE DESCRIPTION

The Bay of Chickens site is located immediately west of the Elk Creek complex, across the East Elk Creek inlet and adjacent to the south side of U.S. Highway 50. This area was formerly used by the Colorado Department of Highways for the quarrying, crushing, and stockpiling of gravel. The permit was cancelled by the Superintendent of Curecanti National Recreation Area in December 1984 (1 year early) because of conflicts related to the increase in recreational use of the site.

The reliable westerly winds and the shelter provided by a jetty work together to make an extremely popular site for sailing and sailboarding by visitors with varying levels of experience. The development of the Bay of Chickens day-use area will specifically accommodate some of the needs of visitors predominately engaged in non-motorized water-related recreational activities.

Approximately 10 of the 16 acres comprising this site have been severely disturbed by the former operation of the gravel quarry. The disturbed portion has been graded to a gently sloping graveled area with few landforms and little vegetation. A jetty has been constructed to shelter U.S. Highway 50 from wave action as it crosses the bay where East Elk Creek enters Blue Mesa Reservoir.

The soils in the undisturbed areas are composed of a sandy alluvium with scattered gradation of rock. The vegetation found in these areas is made up largely of sage, rabbit brush, and bunch grasses. Because of the disturbed nature of much of the site, it is very poor wildlife habitat. Prairie dogs (Cynomys gunnisoni) have colonized the borders of the disturbed areas and are being managed to reduce the plague potential associated with prairie dogs in the Gunnison valley. The site was surveyed by National Park Service and Soil Conservation Service personnel during July of 1985. No rare or endangered flora or fauna species were found on this site.

Archeological site number 5GN52 of the Curecanti National Archeological District makes up approximately 7 1/2 acres of the Bay of Chickens site. While no extensive archeological research has been conducted, the National Park Service had personnel of the Midwest Archeological Center survey the site in 1977. Lithic debitage and a mano were collected at that time but no other artifacts or indications of habitation were observed. The Colorado Department of Highways conducted several additional archeological tests in 1978. They concluded that the site exhibited no depth of occupation after conducting two subsurface test excavations. About 70 percent of this archeological site has been severely disturbed or obliterated by the gravel operation.

B. SELECTED PLAN

This plan provides for the phased construction of permanent day-use facilities and services consistent with other developments within Curecanti NRA in order to enhance the experience of visitors engaging in non-motorized, water-based recreation activities. The plan provides for a well and hand pump for drinking water, two four-stall vault toilets with changing areas, two picnic shelters, picnic tables, paving the entryway from the highway, structured traffic patterns, parking which will accommodate over 200 vehicles, appropriate signing of the area, and a gate to limit access to the area as needed. Installation of a small concrete boat ramp to accommodate the launching of small non-fixed keel sailing craft and paving of the parking area will be lower priority items provided as a later phase should visitor use and park priorities indicate the need. (See plan foldout entitled Bay of Chickens.) If use of this site continues to increase, the need for acceleration / deceleration lanes will be considered.

This plan also provides for limited concession facilities consisting of a 1200 square foot building designed (subject to NPS approval) to match other concession and park structures in the Elk Creek area. Services to be provided would include the rentals, sales and short-term dry storage of small non-fixed keel sailing craft, sail boards and accessories, sailing instruction, and prepackaged food and beverage sales. The construction of this facility will be accomplished only through funding by the Concessioner. Installation of 110-volt power may be installed at concessioner expense with NPS approval. Neither water nor sewer will be provided in the concession facility. Only prepackaged foods and beverages which do not require those utilities will be authorized.

This plan will allow for complete utilization of all facilities at 20 feet below high pool. Below that level, all facilities except for the boat trailer access will be usable, but access to

the water will require an additional amount of walking and the beach surface may be somewhat less desirable.

This plan also provides for landscaping and conducting minor site rehabilitation. Some of the previously disturbed areas will be scarified and a limited amount of topsoil will be added. Those areas will be seeded with native grasses and other pioneer species of vegetation will be allowed to become established.

An "Assessment of Effect" and archeological site survey will be completed for the entire Bay of Chickens site. In the event that subsurface cultural resources are discovered, the measures necessary to mitigate impacts on the archeological resources, such as excavation and site salvage, will be identified. Since the area has previously been disturbed below the soil horizon and any suspected living surface, few mitigative measures are expected in the areas where facilities are to be located.

Monitoring will be done as the area is developed and used. Should conflicts arise, increased structuring and management of the recreational use, such as regulative buoy placement, will be considered.

C. OTHER ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

In addition to the selected plan, alternatives addressing "no action", "site closure", "minimum development", and "extensive development" were considered. The "no action" alternative was not selected because it failed to provide either facilities for enhancing the recreational experience of park visitors or for the protection of the area. The "site closure" alternative was not selected because established recreational use of the area which has not developed at other locations at Curecanti would in all likelihood continue at the site. The major change would be a serious deterioration of the safety with which the public could access the waters edge. Though increasing the level of public health, the "minimum development" alternative was not selected because unrestrained vehicular traffic would continue to threaten the remaining natural and cultural resources on the site and unlike the standard of development at other day-use areas at Curecanti, few facilities would be provided to enhance the recreational experience of park visitors. The "extensive development" alternative was not selected because additional facilities at this site would duplicate facilities presently available a mile away and the increased costs involved would make the project economically impractical.

COST ESTIMATE

DEVELOPMENT COSTS

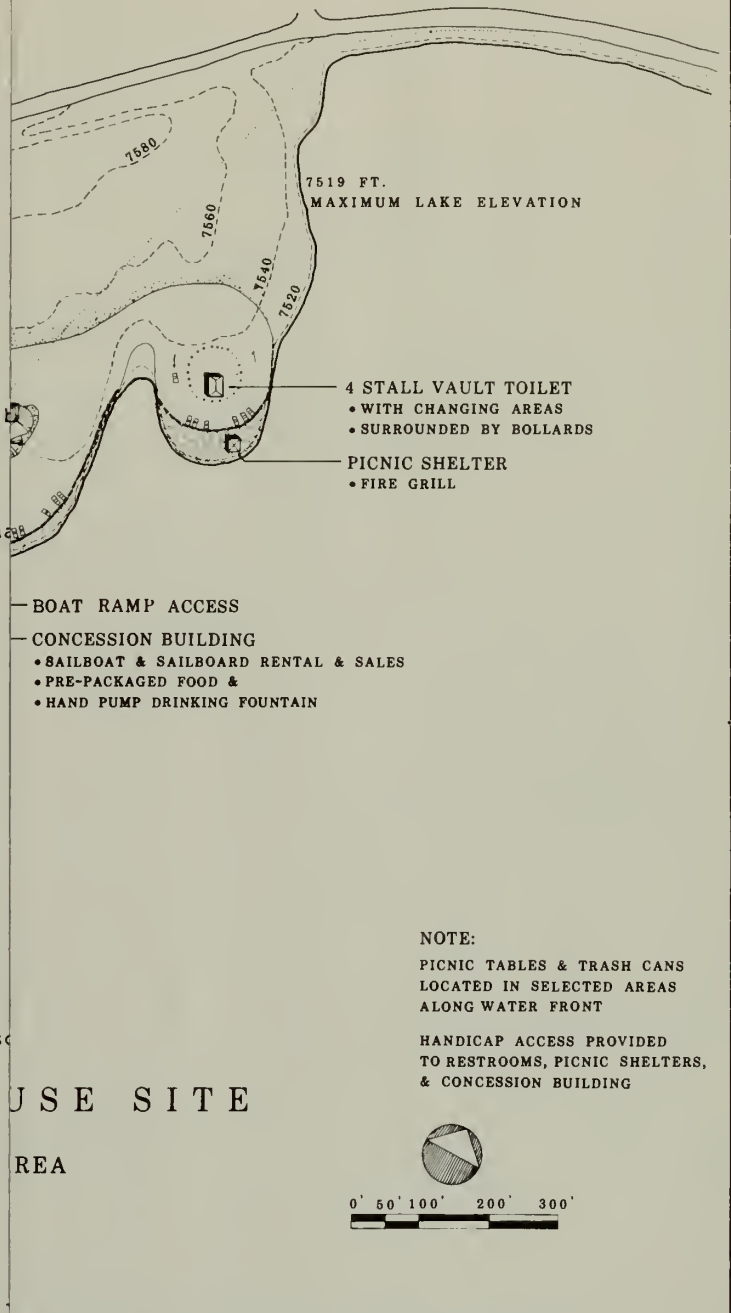
4 stall vault toilets, 2 with changing area	\$ 60,000	
- Off season operation	0	
Tables, 10	0	
Garbage cans, 12	0	
Signing	2,400	
Interpretive Panel	1,500	
Wheel Stops and Bollards	7,280	
Land contouring, above and below high water (includes road work and	5,000	
Rip Rap (150 ft.)	1,000	
Site Rehabilitation (topsoil, site preparation, and seeding with native grass)	24,000	
Drill well, 4" casing (80 ft.)	3,500	
Drinking fountain, hand pump type	1,500	
Paved access, asphalt	3,500	
Picnic shelters, 2	24,000	
Pedestrian access from picnic shelter to water	300	
Standard metal gate	2,000	
Buoys, 8	1,300	
Fire grates, 2	800	
Concession Building (1200 sq. ft.) w/ Boardwalk or Decking (2000 sq. ft.)	35,000 (c*)	
Electrical power, underground	24,800 (c*)	
Archeological Clearance	20,000	
Prairie dog management and Water quality monitoring	0	
Visitor Protection	0	

Subtotal \$ 217,880

Construction Detailing (surveying, grading plan and design)	3,000 (d*)	
Concrete Boat Ramp	10,000 (d*)	
Asphalt Paving	361,000 (d*)	
Striping	4,000 (d*)	

TOTAL \$ 595,880

- (a*) Operating & Maintenance Costs, May through September
 (b*) Annual rip-rap maintenance included in annual budget
 (c*) Items would be accomplished only by Concessionaire
 (d*) These items accomplished in a later phase of development on need and funding. (Not shown on plan).



USE SITE
 REA

NOTE:
 PICNIC TABLES & TRASH CANS
 LOCATED IN SELECTED AREAS
 ALONG WATER FRONT
 HANDICAP ACCESS PROVIDED
 TO RESTROOMS, PICNIC SHELTERS,
 & CONCESSION BUILDING

AMENDMENT #3 TO THE GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS BAY OF CHICKENS

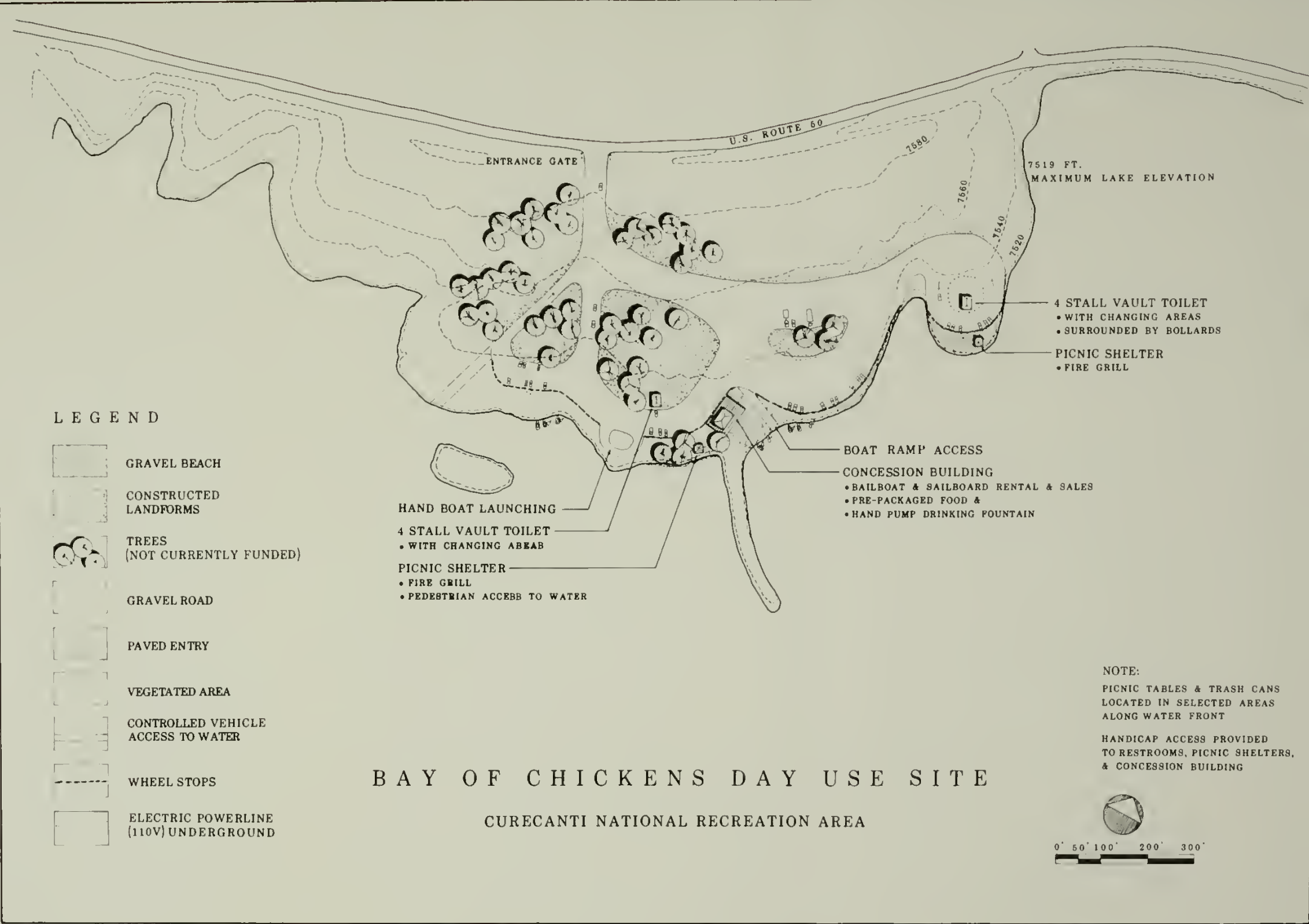
CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
 UNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

616 | 80,041-A
 Mar. 87 | RMRO

COST ESTIMATE

	DEVELOPMENT COSTS	O & M COSTS (a*)
4 stall vault toilets, 2 with changing area	\$ 60,000	\$ 1,800 (a*)
- Off season operation	0	1,000
Tables, 10	0	700
Garbage cans, 12	0	1,000
Signing	2,400	50
Interpretive Panel	1,500	25
Wheel Stops and Bollards	7,280	500
Land contouring, above and below high water (includes road work and berming)	5,000	400
Rip Rap (150 ft.)	1,000	0 (b*)
Site Rehabilitation (topsoil, site preparation, and seeding with native grasses)	24,000	0
Drill well, 4" casing (80 ft.)	3,500	0
Drinking fountain, hand pump type	1,500	25
Paved access, asphalt	3,500	50
Picnic shelters, 2	24,000	120
Pedestrian access from picnic shelter to water	300	10
Standard metal gate	2,000	10
Buoys, 8	1,300	300
Fire grates, 2	800	70
Concession Building (1200 sq. ft.) w/ Boardwalk or Decking (2000 sq.ft.)	35,000 (c*)	0
Electrical power, underground	24,800 (c*)	0
Archeological Clearance	20,000	0
Prairie dog management and Water quality monitoring	0	300
Visitor Protection	0	4,600
Subtotal	\$ 217,880	\$ 10,960
Construction Detailing (surveying, grading plan and design)	3,000 (d*)	0
Concrete Boat Ramp	10,000 (d*)	100
Asphalt Paving	361,000 (d*)	3,000
Striping	4,000 (d*)	1,000
TOTAL	\$ 595,880	\$ 15,060

(a*) Operating & Maintenance Costs, May through October, including cyclic maintenance for NPS operations only.
(b*) Annual rip-rap maintenance included in annual land contouring costs.
(c*) Items would be accomplished only by Concessioner funding.
(d*) These items accomplished in a later phase of development depending on need and funding. (Not shown on plan).



AMENDMENT #3 TO THE
GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN
DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS
BAY OF CHICKENS
CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

II. ELK CREEK BONEYARD

A. SITE DESCRIPTION

The Elk Creek Boneyard is a four acre area located on a hill on the southern edge of the Elk Creek complex. It is located east of archeological site number 5GN201 of the Curecanti National Archeological District and has received archeological clearance for surface use. At the time the current GMP was being developed, a water storage tank had been unobtrusively placed on the hill and the site was identified for use as open storage by both the National Park Service and the Concessioner as the site least visible for storage of lower profile items.

Since that time, higher profile items have been stored and constructed on the site. Most prominent of these are a concessioner-owned gasoline storage tank and a metal warehouse building owned by the National Park Service. Both are clearly visible two and one half miles to the east of Elk Creek on U.S. Highway 50. Some of the boats and boat trailers being stored on this location are also visible. While most of the other facilities and buildings in the Elk Creek complex are also visible from U.S. Highway 50, most are architecturally designed and painted for lower visual impact. Due to the lay of the land, most facilities are also visible when viewed from the west on U.S. Highway 50 or Blue Mesa Reservoir. The National Park Service wishes to reduce the visual impact of those items which are located or stored on the boneyard hill.

B. SELECTED PLAN

This plan will reduce the visual impact of objects located in the boneyard by: 1) placing approximately 200 feet of berm seeded with natural vegetation along the crest of the northeast side of the hill, which will help screen seasonal boat and boat trailer storage, 2) removing the Concessioner's gasoline storage tank and burying a new tank in the area of the Elk Creek ramp, and 3) painting the National Park Service building to blend in with the surrounding landscape. The intention is to eventually remove or relocate the storage building should the storage space in the building not be needed. (See foldout entitled Elk Creek Boneyard.) The water tank will remain as currently provided under the existing General Management Plan for Curecanti.

Costs involved with the berming will be the responsibility of the National Park Service as will the costs involved in removing or relocating the storage building and any materials located therein. The Concessioner will bear the cost of installing the new buried gasoline storage tank.

COST ESTIMATE

Berming, approx. 200
(variable height, 10' to 20')

Buried Gasoline Tank 7740

Painting of NPS storage
building for interior

Dismantle storage building

Cost of initial moving
materials stored

Additional cost of acquiring
materials once moved

Subtotal

TOTAL

Preparation and Relocation

Site "A" - Circular

Site "B" - Circular

Site "C" - Large

- (a*) Annual Operating
- (b*) Includes the cost
of the existing
estimated at \$10,000
- (c*) See the plans for
breakdown regarding

LOCATION OF
STORAGE BUILDING

UTILITY POLE
LOCATION

PAVED ROAD

BERMED & SEEDING AREA

PUMP HOUSE

BLUE MESA LAKE

BONEYARD

RECREATION AREA



AMENDMENT #3 TO THE GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS ELK CREEK BONEYARD

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

COST ESTIMATE

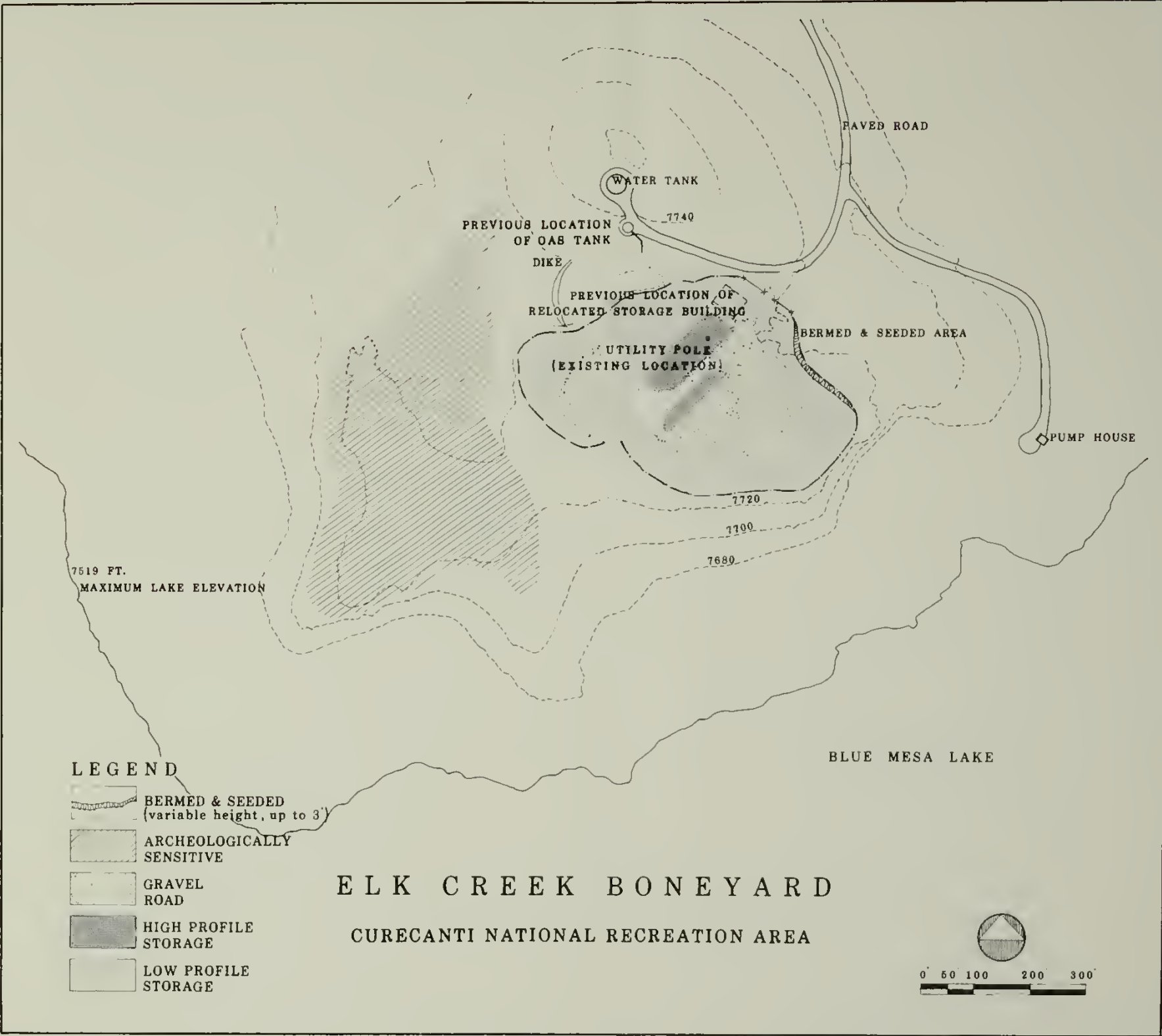
	DEVELOPMENT COSTS	O & M (a*) COSTS
Berming, approx. 200 ft. (variable height, up to 3 ft.)	\$ 2,000	\$ 0
Buried Gasoline Tank with pump	8,700 (b*)	0
Painting of NPS storage building for interim period	2,600	650
Dismantle storage building	5,500	0
Cost of initial movement of materials stored	3,000	0
Additional cost of accessing materials once moved	0	3,370
Subtotal	\$ 21,800	\$ 4,020

TOTAL (dependent on future storage needs and specific relocation site, if selected, as shown below)

Preparation and Relocation at:

Site "A" - Cimarron	\$ 20,000 (c*)
Site "B" - Cimarron	\$ 10,500 (c*)
Site "C" - Lake Fork	\$ 26,900 (c*)

(a*) Annual Operating and Maintenance Costs for NPS Operations Only.
(b*) Includes the cost of a new tank. Should horizontal placement of the existing tank prove feasible, the costs involved are estimated at \$1,500.
(c*) See the plans entitled "Relocation Options" for detailed cost breakdown regarding site preparation and building relocation.



AMENDMENT #3 TO THE
GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN
DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS
ELK CREEK BONEYARD

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

C. OTHER ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

In addition to the selected plan, "no action" and "moderate development" alternatives were considered. The "no action" alternative was not selected because it would be non-responsive to both the reduction of existing visual impacts and to the need for additional facilities and services identified by the concessioner. The "moderate development" alternative was not selected because the facilities proposed would have a high visual impact at the proposed location. Further, some of the services proposed are now available in Gunnison or may be accommodated elsewhere outside the recreation area.

PUBLIC COMMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT /
DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT PLAN WITH AGENCY RESPONSE

The Draft Amendment Number 3 Environmental Assessment and Development Concept Plans were sent to over 80 entities including all individuals or organizations who had responded to the scoping process, expressed an interest in the planning process, or had previously expressed an interest in planning and environmental concerns related to Curecanti. In addition, a news release was issued and distributed on a state-wide basis. Public review and comments were solicited for a 40-day period ending November 28, 1986.

Comments were received from the various publics listed below:

City of Gunnison, Planning Department
Colorado Department of Highways
Colorado Division of Wildlife
District 10 Regional Planning Commission
Dorothy Detring
Jerry Green
Gunnison Country Chamber of Commerce
Gunnison County Planner & Planning Commission
David and Marti Kuntz
Tina and Bryon McNew
Craig Sterbenz
Ralph J. Trapani
USDA
 Forest Service
USDI
 Bureau of Land Management, Gunnison Area Office
 NPS, Water Resources Division
Irene Westbye
Western State College,
 Biology Department
 Division of Health, Physical Education and Recreation
 Western Colorado Rural Communities Institute

The responses received were generally supportive of the actions proposed. There were several requests for tent camping facilities at the Bay of Chickens both prior to and as a part of this review process. There were also comments which addressed the need for future management action at the site to reduce or eliminate potential conflicts between user groups. Both topics are specifically addressed below. Following the discussion on camping and future management actions are specific responses to the public comments regarding the Bay of Chickens proposal.

A. Camping

The provision of facilities for camping, specifically tent camping, was considered during this planning process. There were a number of factors which were weighed in this regard. With the limited amount of space available, few quality camping sites could be accommodated without a significant amount of land structuring or additional impacts to currently undisturbed natural and cultural resources. Amenties which contribute to more enjoyable camping experiences (vegetation & noise buffers) are not found on this site and can be provided only with a considerable amount of initial construction and long term maintenance. Other facilities being planned for this site are of a day-use nature. Significant additional expense from both initial construction and long term administration would be required to provide a limited number of overnight facilities at this location when there are currently three campgrounds with over 200 sites within a 5 mile radius. Given the above, the National Park Service will not be constructing camping facilities at the Bay of Chickens.

From discussions with and correspondence from current sailboarders at the Bay of Chickens we note that there would be significant personal conveniences derived from being able to camp on site. The main thrust of the requests, however, seems to be based on the time and effort involved in loading and transporting the boardsailing equipment. With consideration to this, the National Park Service will require that secured overnight storage of sailboard equipment and small sailboats be available to the public as part of the concession operation at the Bay of Chickens. While this is obviously not a direct substitute for camping, it will provide an alternative for those who do not wish to load and transport their equipment overnight.

B. Additional Management Action

The structure and facilities contained in the plan for the Bay of Chickens are, in part, based on the ability of the National Park Service to effectively manage the area under a variety of conditions. The use of informal scenarios and assumptions regarding the future serves as a tool to indicate what potential management situations might be in the future. Since the future is not "known", no specific management actions regarding possible conflicts or other conditions are addressed.

As with other developments, the management and staff of Curecanti National Recreation Area will monitor use which occurs at the Bay of Chickens. As conflicts or problems are identified, the National Park Service will take those management actions which are necessary to resolve the identified problems.

The moderate development alternative for the Bay of Chickens will provide day-use facilities and services consistent with other developments within Curecanti NRA in order to enhance the experience of visitors engaged in non-motorized, water-based recreational activities.

C. Colo Dept Highways

1. Recommend that the access point at the Bay of Chickens should be shifted to the west slightly and channelized to include both left- and right-turn lanes before usage at the area substantially increases.

NPS - Moving the access point would disturb presently undisturbed natural and archeological resources on the site but will be considered. If usage continues to increase, the need for acceleration / deceleration lanes will be considered.

D. Dist. 10

1. The draft document does not address a public input process, especially from current users. Delay the adoption of a plan until further input can be gathered from users by way of an advisory group which would submit recommendations the fall of 1987.

NPS - While not addressed in the draft document, a scoping process was initiated in June of 1985 where we asked interested parties to make suggestions regarding the future actions to be taken on this site. Over 200 scoping brochures were distributed to interested parties. While only 40 were returned, the comments we received were given serious consideration during the development of alternatives. During the development and in-house analysis of this document we continued to talk to users of the site and informally collect ideas from the public. The comments being addressed in this appendix are the result of a public review and comment period regarding our proposals. While comments from users have been limited, they have been generally supportive. Based on our conversations with users over the past two summers and the written comments we have received, we feel confident that the facilities proposed in the Moderate Development Alternative are appropriate for the uses which occur on this site. We therefore do not intend to delay the plan to wait for further input.

2. Create a phased schedule of implementation. During spring 1987 construct minimal facilities (vault toilet, well and handpump) that will be part of the ultimate plan.

NPS - The development of this area will in fact be phased over a number of years. A limited amount of funding is currently available which will hopefully cover the cost of installing basic facilities (a vault toilet with changing space and a water well with hand pump). While some area deliniation and site rehabilitation may be possible, further development of this site will be dependent on the availability of additional funding through normal budgetary processes.

3. The draft lacks a discussion of management issues (such as safety of a mix of uses, power vs. non-power recreation, swimming).

NPS - See item "B" above regarding additional management actions.

E. D&M Kuntz

1. Suggest that the NPS grade and gravel an easy motor vehicle access to the water during low water. The beach area at low water should be graded and free from obstructions.

NPS - Vehicle access to the waters edge has traditionally been allowed during periods of low water. Under normal conditions, by the time the ground below high water is dry enough to allow heavy equipment to work, the water is once again rising. Actions needed to allow for appropriate access during years of low water will be addressed as they occur. For safety reasons, as they are identified, obstructions have been and will continue to be removed in the immediate area during periods of low water.

2. Several access points to the normal water level should be made available.

NPS - Access points to the normal water level are provided for in the plan. Parking a short distance back from the water is intended to reduce congestion at the water's edge.

3. Sod or seed with grass an area just above the beach for assembling and rigging equipment.

NPS - The establishment of any manicured grass at this location would require irrigation and continual attention resulting in costs for which funding is not available. We would be willing to sow some of the native grasses in that area to see if they will take.

4. Provide access to or eliminate the island to increase coastline and eliminate on-water congestion between island and jetty.

NPS - This suggestion would be of possible benefit to board sailers only during periods of high water at which time the shallow area behind the island is occasionally

utilized by families with children as a wading / waterplay area.

F. T. and B. McNew

1. The provision of vault toilets, a designated launch area for sailing vessels on the lee side of the jetty and the provision of parking away from the beach are our main concerns. We do not want to see a launch ramp for motor boats.

NPS - The preferred alternative provides for the facilities noted above. The ramp noted in the plan is intended for the launching of small, non-fixed keel sailing craft.

G. C. Sterbenz

1. The primary reason that the Bay of Chickens is popular is because of the unlimited vehicular access to the water which should be maintained.

NPS - The National Park Service understands that vehicle access to the water's edge is important to many boardsailers. Spatial limitations of the site are such that during many weekends the prime parking places along the water's edge fill up and latecomers are left with no direct access to the water. Thus, under current usage, unlimited vehicle access does not exist. Our design is intended to provide an "optimal" level of access to the water. Our intent is to move vehicle parking back just far enough to maximize the amount of space available at the water's edge for participants. The "hand boat launching" area will allow loading/unloading to occur at the water's edge even for those who do not get a prime parking spot.

2. Allow "overnight parking" (tent camping) at the site.

NPS - See item "A" above regarding camping.

H. RJ Trapani

1. No powerboat launching should be allowed; the ramp should be used only for sailcraft. A wakeless area should be established 100 yards offshore of the beaches.

NPS - The ramp is intended for the launching of small, non-fixed keel sailing craft.

NPS - See item "B" above regarding additional management actions.

2. The "hand boat launching" area should be eliminated to provide increased beachside parking and sailboard access.

NPS - The intent of the "hand boat launching" area is to provide

sailboard offloading and access at the water's edge.
Moving some of the parking back from the water's edge was intended to permit more people to use the water's edge.

3. Reconsider rules on overnight use and designate Dry Gulch for tent camping only to provide sheltered sites.
NPS - See Item A above regarding camping.
NPS - While not a part of this planning process, serious consideration will be given to the suggestion regarding Dry Gulch.
4. Consider beer and wine sales and protected overnight storage at the concession.
NPS - Allowing the sale of beer will be considered. Wine sales require a separate license and will not be encouraged. Concession operated secured overnight storage for sailboard equipment will be available.

I. I. Westbye

1. Restore the natural habitat but within that habitat provide visitor conveniences, specifically drinking water, vault toilets, picnic facilities, organized parking and a small campground (12 sites).
NPS - The items suggested are generally provided by the plan.
NPS - See item "A" above regarding camping.

J. WSC, Biology Department

1. Include an amphitheatre for evening program presentation which would give non-participants something to do while others participate (in water activities).
NPS - Amphitheatres at Curecanti have normally been associated with campgrounds (activity center) since most interpretive programs are given in the evenings. The Bay of Chickens is designed as a day use area. An amphitheatre is located just accross the East Elk Creek inlet at the Elk Creek Campground. Utilization of the existing facility has not indicated the need for an additional facility.
2. Permit any activity to take place without interfering with others.
NPS - There are currently very few restrictions on the activities which can take place at this location.
NPS - See item "B" above regarding additional management actions.
3. Include an arboretum of local shrubs and trees to provide an educational element.
NPS - The establishment of an arboretum would require an extensive irrigation system and continual attention

resulting in a substantial financial committment. If such a facility were to be considered, it would probably be at another site.

K. WSC, HPE&R

1. Suggest the installation of approximately 20 slips for sailboats at the site to reduce the time and problems involved in sailing out of the canyon.

NPS - Slips for larger sailing craft are currently available nearby at the Elk Creek Marina which has the support facilities to accommodate overnight storage. While we recognize the winds in the narrows can at times be tricky for sailing craft, our intent at the Bay of Chickens is to provide a day-use facility. Smaller sailing craft using this day-use area are capable of beaching and do not require slips.

2. Suggest lengthening the breakwater in an easterly direction to provide more protection to the waters of the bay.

NPS - The current breakwater was designed to protect U.S.Highway 50 where it crosses East Elk Creek. It seems to be doing a good job. We see no need to extend the breakwater further.

AMENDMENT NUMBER 3 to the
CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

SUMMARY

This document concludes the planning process for amending the General Management Plan for Curecanti National Recreation Area. It describes the decision of the National Park Service to establish guidelines related to the development of the Bay of Chickens and Elk Creek Boneyard sites located in the Elk Creek area. The preparation of this document was preceded by an environmental assessment which was made available to the public for a 40-day review period ending November 28, 1986.

BAY OF CHICKENS

Selected Plan: A description of the environment is provided in the attached General Management Plan Amendment. The plan provides for needed visitor facilities and services while minimizing, and in some cases reducing environmental impacts on the site. No comments were received regarding environmental impacts during the review process. Prior to the start of construction on this site, an archeological site survey and "Assessment of Effect", identifying mitigative measures if needed, will be completed in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act.

Finding of No Significant Impact: Based on the environmental assessment, implementation of this plan for the Bay of Chickens site does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. It is not controversial and will not adversely affect populations of species protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. An environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

ELK CREEK BONEYARD

This action is categorically excluded from provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 pursuant to the Department of the Interior's Departmental Manual, Part 516, Chapter 6, Appendix 7.4c (11), (17), (18), and (19).

Recommended:

Joseph F. Austin
Superintendent

Curecanti National Recreation Area

3-4-87
Date

Approved:

Jack Schuler
Acting

Regional Director

Rocky Mountain Region

3/12/87
Date



DATE DUE

[illegible]

Demco, Inc. 38-293

