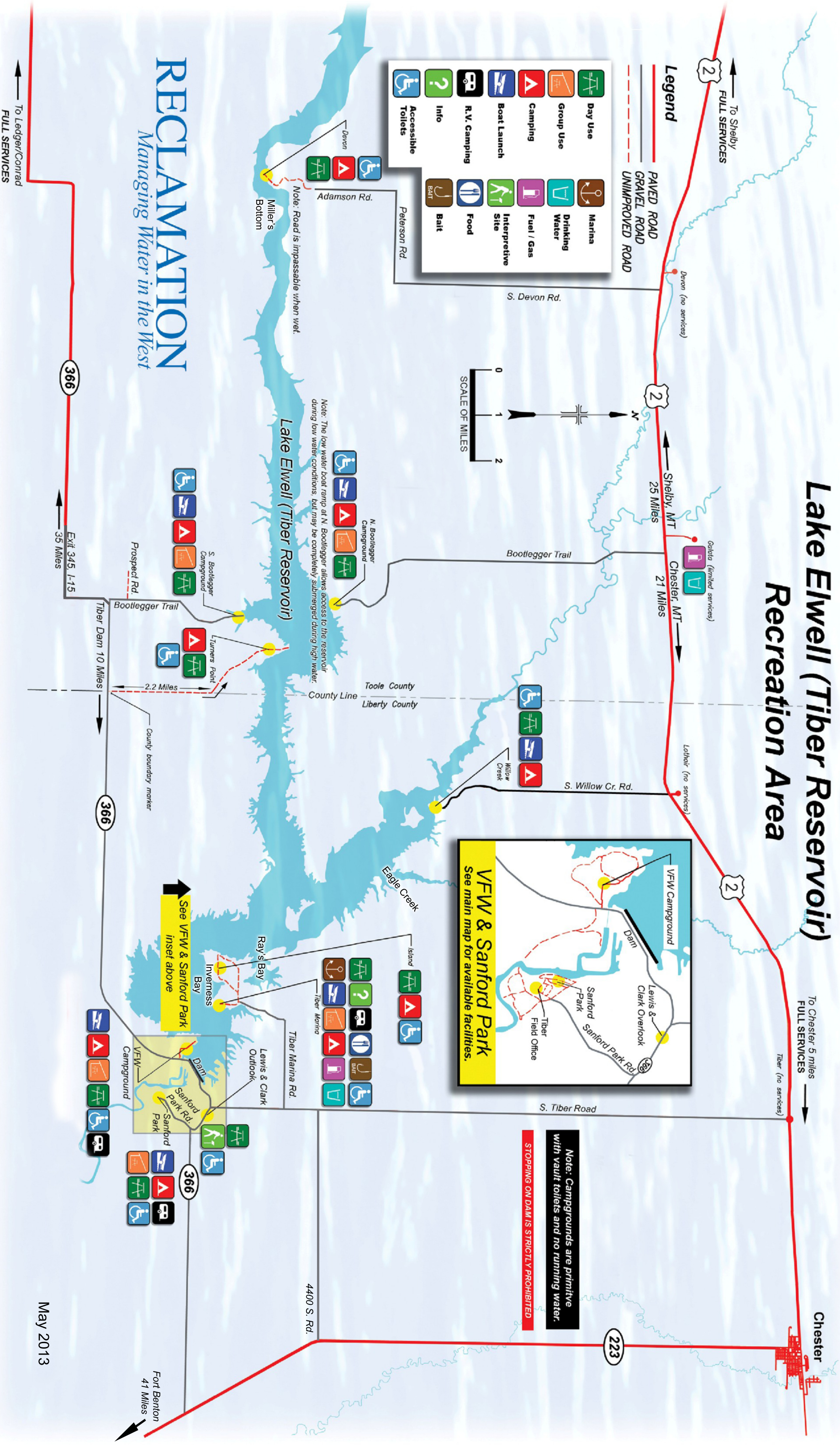


Lake Elwell (Tiber Reservoir) Recreation Area



RECLAMATION Managing Water in the West

Note: Campgrounds are primitive with vault toilets and no running water.
STOPPING ON DAM IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED

Note: Road is impassable when wet.
 Miller's Bottom

Note: The low water boat ramp at N. Bootlegger allows access to the reservoir during low water conditions, but may be completely submerged during high water.
 N. Bootlegger Campground

Tiber Dam

Tiber Dam impounds the Marias River forming Lake Elwell (Tiber Reservoir). The Bureau of Reclamation facility was originally constructed for flood control and irrigation purposes. Present operations also supply municipal and industrial water, provide recreation opportunities, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and provide electricity through a privately developed hydropower plant.

Tiber Dam is an earth filled structure containing 9.8 million cubic yards of embankment materials. The dam, completed March 6, 1956, has a crest length of 4,300 feet and a structural height of 211 feet. An earth filled dike closes the saddle on the south rim of the reservoir west of the dam. The dike contains 1.95 million cubic yards of material, with a length of 16,650 feet and height of 65 feet. Between 1976 and 1981 the spillway was modified and the dam was raised to allow a total storage capacity of 1,368,158 acre-feet.

Recreation, Fish and Wildlife

The diversity of Reclamation lands surrounding Tiber Reservoir provides habitat for many wildlife species. The many bays on the shoreline provide excellent fishing opportunities. Whitetail, mule deer, and pronghorn antelope are frequent visitors. Upland game birds include sharp-tail and sage grouse, ring-necked pheasant, and Hungarian partridge. During migration, an abundance of waterfowl, including ducks, geese, and shorebirds, can be found on the reservoir and in the surrounding wetlands. A variety of songbirds frequent the upland and riparian areas, and numerous raptors can be found throughout the project area.

The reservoir itself provides fishing opportunities for walleye and northern pike, while the Marias River below the reservoir provides angling opportunities for both rainbow and brown trout. The walleye state record was caught in Lake Elwell at a whopping 17.75 lbs in 2007. Current reservoir elevations and safe landing elevations for boat ramps at Reclamation reservoirs in Montana can be accessed at <http://www.usbr.gov/gp/boat/>.

Facility Security and Safety requires that some areas near the dam, outlet works and spillway are closed to the public. These areas are marked by fences, cableways and signs.

Tiber Recreation Facilities

The reservoir, with 181 miles of shoreline, extends upstream of the dam for approximately 24 miles. The Bureau of Reclamation maintains eight recreational areas (shown on map) around the reservoir and one interpretive site. The Pack-it-in/Pack-it-out policy refers to visitors removing all trash they brought in or created.

Tiber Marina — A full service marina provides water and electrical camping hookups, designated primitive campsites, dump station, fish cleaning station, food, fuel, beverages, ice, bait, tackle and other camping necessities. The marina also has a boat ramp and dumpsters. Services may be available May 1 through September 30. *Please Note: To avoid any inconvenience, please inquire in advance to be sure that the Marina is running at this time.*

Sanford Park — Designated campsites, restroom facilities, horseshoe pits, picnic area, picnic shelter, baseball field, irrigated lawn and trees, playground and equipment, bird and wildlife viewing, parking and gravel access roads. The boat launch provides boating access to the Marias River. Trash dumpsters are available.

VFW Park — Camping, restroom facilities, picnic shelters (4), fire rings, irrigated lawn and trees, boat ramps (2), parking, gravelled access road, and trash dumpsters are available.

Island Recreation Area — Camping, restroom facilities, picnic shelters, fire rings, and gravelled access road, as well as trash dumpsters are available.

Willow Creek Recreation Area — Camping, restroom facilities, fire rings, boat ramp, and gravelled access road, Pack-it-in/Pack-it-out policy.

North Bootlegger Recreation Area — Camping, restroom facilities, fire rings, picnic shelters, boat ramp, low-water boat ramp, parking, and gravelled access road, Pack-it-in/Pack-it-out policy.

South Bootlegger Recreation Area/Turners Point — Camping, restroom facilities, fire rings, picnic shelters, boat ramp, parking, and gravelled access road, Pack-it-in/Pack-it-out policy.

Devon Recreation Area — Camping permitted, restrooms, and unimproved access roads, Pack-it-in/Pack-it-out policy.

Flood Control

One of the most important functions of Tiber Reservoir is the regulation of erratic and fluctuating flows of the Marias and Missouri Rivers. The top 19.5 feet of water storage, approximately 400,838 acre-feet, is allocated exclusively for flood control. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers estimated that Tiber Dam prevented \$234,584,700 in flood damages between 1956 and 2011. Some of the damage would have occurred immediately below the dam, while other damages would have occurred further downstream along the Missouri River below Fort Peck. The maximum high-water elevation occurred in 2011 at 3011.42 ft.

Municipal and Industrial Water Supply

Another function of Tiber Reservoir is to provide municipal and industrial water. Providing quality drinking water is a top priority for municipalities. Collaboration with these municipalities through the Source Water Protection Planning Process helps ensure be maintained as good quality water.

The town of Chester receives water from the reservoir for municipal use. The Tiber County Water District receives water for rural, domestic, and livestock use. The Rocky Boy/North Central Montana Regional Water System will deliver drinking water to the Rocky Boy Reservation and several communities in the Hillme area. Ground was broken on the project in September 2006.

Agricultural Benefits

An initial purpose of Tiber Dam was to provide irrigation water for up to 127,000 acres in the Lower Marias Unit. Although the irrigation distribution facilities have not materialized to date, the reservoir provides irrigation water to several individual operators through water service contracts.

Hydropower Generation

In 2003-2004 the River Outlet Works underwent extensive modification to incorporate the addition of a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) 7.5 MW powerplant, privately owned and operated by Tiber Montana, LLC. Under normal operations river releases of up to about 700 cfs can be released primarily through the 7.5MW powerplant. Required river flows greater than 700 cfs will normally be released through the auxiliary outlet works.

Campground Rules and Regulations

The following activities are prohibited in Tiber Reservoir recreation area:

1. Discharge of firearms or fireworks (including air guns, archery equipment and paintball guns).
2. Willful injury to, defacement, or destruction of public buildings, structures, signs, equipment and other property.
3. Willful injury to, destruction, or removal of trees, shrubs, flowers, vegetation, and soils.
4. Leaving an unoccupied campsite or property unattended for more than 24 consecutive hours.
5. Camping at any one location for a period longer than 14 days during any 30 consecutive-day period.
6. Littering the grounds or placing trash into restroom facilities.
7. Use of loud, profane, or abusive language or playing loud music. Excessive noise during quiet hours from 10:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.
8. Discharge of holding tanks, waste water from toilets, baths, showers, or sinks onto the ground or into restroom facilities.
9. Allowing pets or livestock to roam free or leaving them unattended. Domestic animals must be physically constrained or kept in a structure or enclosure. It is your responsibility to clean up after your own animals.
10. Operation of any motorized vehicle in excess of 15 mph, or posted speed, is limited to established roads. Off highway vehicle use is prohibited.

Failure to comply with campground rules and regulations may result in eviction from the property

May 2013

Contact Information:

Marias-Milk Rivers Division Office	(406) 759-5077
Liberty County Sheriff	(406) 759-5171
Toole County Sheriff	(406) 434-5585
Emergency Services	Dial 911

Cell phone service is very limited around the reservoir.



RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Lake Elwell (Tiber Reservoir) Recreation Area



Use your smart phone's QR CODE reader app for more information



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Great Plains Region