

SMALL COASTAL PARKS OF THE SOUTH EAST MANAGEMENT PLAN

AMENDMENT TO PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

LAKE ROBE GAME RESERVE

South East

South Australia



Department for Environment
Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs
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This amendment provides management prescriptions specific to the Lake Robe Game Reserve. As this forms part of the Small Coastal Parks of the South East Management Plan it should be read in conjunction with Section 1.2 and 1.3 of that plan.



Department for Environment
Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs
Government of South Australia



**This plan of management has been prepared
and adopted in pursuance of section 38 of
the National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1972-81**

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Department for Environment, Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs

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Foreword

This Management Plan sets out the management objectives and actions for the Lake Robe Game Reserve. It has been prepared in accordance with the *National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1972*.

Located south of the township of Robe and adjoining the Little Dip Conservation Park, Lake Robe Game Reserve is one of a number of the Department for Environment, Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs (DEHAA) reserves situated along the South East coastline. The reserve provides valuable habitats for a variety of waterbirds, and terrestrial mammals notably the hooded plover (*Thinomis rubricollis*), sharp-tailed sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*), and the swamp rat (*Rattus lutreolus*). As a game reserve recreational shooters have had access to the lake each year for duck hunting.

This plan of management was released in draft form for public review in December, 1996. At the close of the period for public consultation, three written submissions had been received. Those comments, and the draft plan, were subsequently reviewed by the Reserve Planning and Management Advisory Committee of the South Australian National Parks and Wildlife Council, resulting in a number of changes being made to the plan text. These changes were subsequently endorsed by Council. Public involvement in the planning process makes a worthwhile contribution to better park management, and those who took the time to make representations are thanked for their efforts.

The management objectives and actions for the Lake Robe Game Reserve have not been prepared in isolation, but rather in consultation with other agencies and community groups. Management prescriptions for other nearby coastal parks have also been considered with Sections 1.2 and 1.3 of the *Small Coastal Parks of the South East Management Plan* forming part of this plan. Readers are recommended to read the *Small Coastal Parks of the South East Management Plan* in conjunction with this plan.

The plan of management for Lake Robe Game Reserve is now formally adopted under the provisions of Section 38 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1972.

HON DOROTHY KOTZ MP
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE



Planning Process

There is a requirement under Section 38 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*, to prepare a management plan for each reserve constituted under the Act. Such plans set forth proposals to manage and improve reserves and the means by which the objectives of the Act will be accomplished. A management plan provides the framework for management of the park by stating the philosophy on which management should be based and by setting out objectives and actions for management. The objectives related to management of reserves are stated in Section 37 of the Act as:

- preservation and management of wildlife
- preservation of historic sites, objects and structures of historic or scientific interest within reserves
- preservation of features of geological, natural or scenic interest
- destruction of dangerous weeds and the eradication of disease of animals and vegetation
- prevention and suppression of bush fires and other hazards
- encouragement of public use and enjoyment of reserves and education in, and a proper understanding and recognition of their purpose and significance and
- generally, the promotion of the public interest.

DEHAA is obliged by legislation, current policy and at various times has agreed to invite comments from key agencies, groups and individuals before the draft management plans are formally released for comment from the general public.

This internal review stage aims to gain a measure of understanding amongst various stakeholders, with a view to retaining that support before the subsequent public exhibition period.

Once a draft management plan has been prepared, an announcement is made in the *Government Gazette* and the plan is placed on public exhibition for at least three months. Any person may make submissions in relation to the plan.

The plan and submissions are then referred to the SA National Parks and Wildlife Council who may make further comments or recommendations to the Minister. The Minister, after considering all representations, may then adopt the plan with or without alterations. Notice of adoption is published in the *Government Gazette* and copies of the plan are made available to the public.

Once a plan is adopted, the provisions will be carried out in relation to the reserve in question, and no activities are undertaken in conflict with the management plan. A similar process applies for any amendment proposed to a management plan.

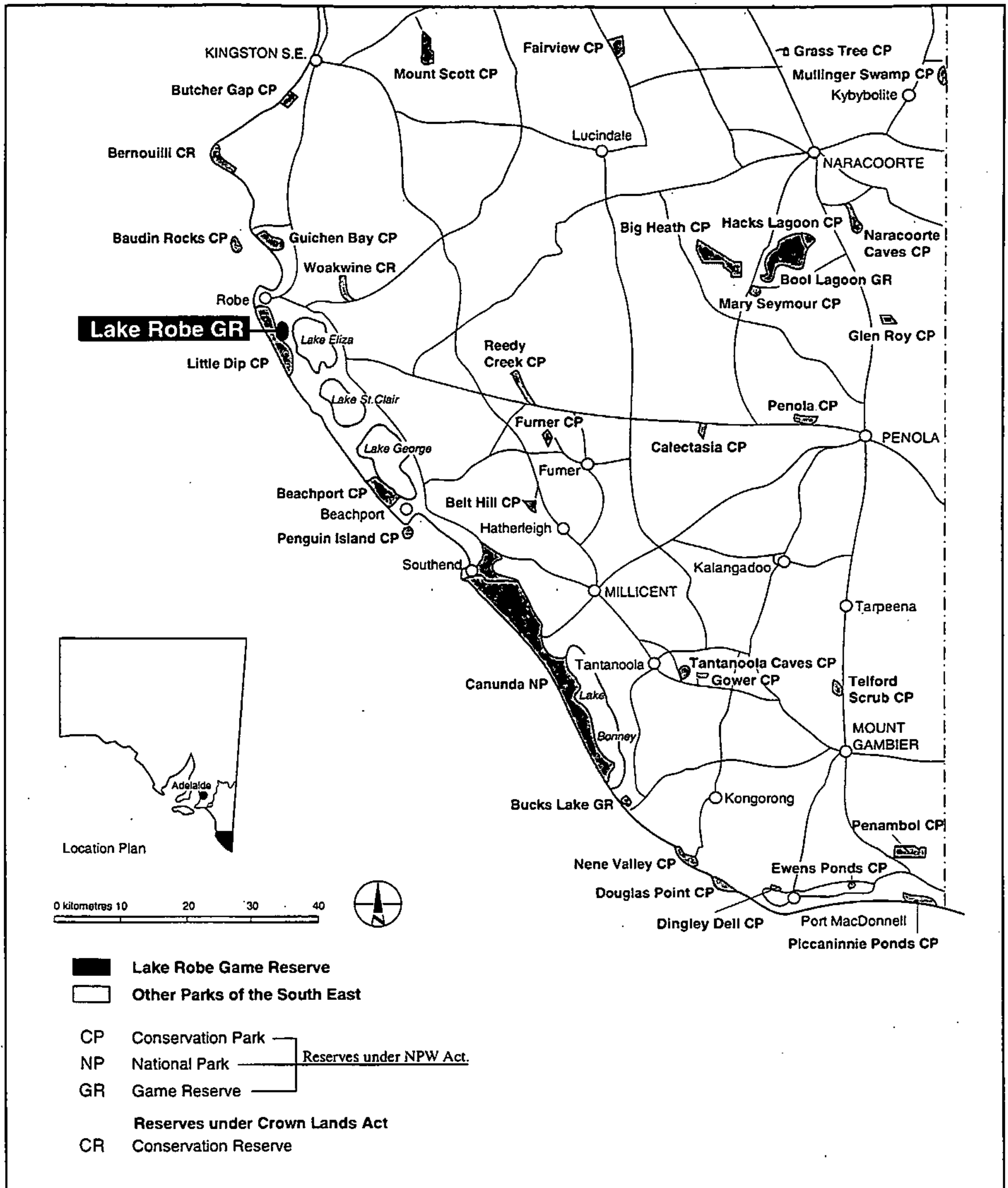


Figure 1

Lake Robe Game Reserve

Location Map

Lake Robe Game Reserve.

This is the Management Plan for the Lake Robe Game Reserve which has been adopted under the provisions of the National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1972. Sections 1.2 and 1.3 of the *Small Coastal Parks of the South East Management Plan* form part of this plan.

Lake Robe is a moderately sized shallow hypersaline lake, near the coast in southeast SA. It has been registered on the National Estate since 1982 as an area of significant geological value and is one of several saline lakes in south-eastern Australia that are unique in terms of their accessibility and ranges of salinity. This series of lakes includes St Clair, Eliza and George which formed as marine lagoons isolated from the sea by the formation of beachdune systems associated with the emerging coastline (Australian Heritage Commission, 1998).

Reserve Description

Lake Robe Game Reserve comprises Section 584, Hundred of Waterhouse and covers an area of 340 hectares. The Reserve is located 6 kilometres south of Robe along the Nora Creina Drive and adjoins Little Dip Conservation Park (Figure 1). It was constituted as a Game Reserve in December 1994.

Lake Robe Game Reserve encompasses Lake Robe and its fringing vegetation. It is a low lying area of wetland with a stony rise on its western boundary with Little Dip Conservation Park (Figure 2).

The vegetation surrounding the lake is comprised of dryland tea-tree (*Melaleuca lanceolata*), swamp paperbark (*Melaleuca halmaturorum*), samphire (*Sarcocornia sp*), sea rush (*Juncus kraussii*) with a small area of coastal mallee (*Eucalyptus diversifolia*), native currant (*Leucopogon parviflorus*) and common reed (*Phragmites australis*)

The lake bed consists of a thin layer of shelly sand overlying extensive marine deposits which were laid down at the time of the last major sea level rise when the Robe Range was breached by the sea at Guichen Bay and Rivoli Bay.

Recharge for the lake comes through groundwater flows, direct rainfall, and a small amount of local run off.

Few fauna studies have been carried out in the area but the swamp rat and ringtail possum (*Pseudocheirus peregrinas*) are known to occur here.

The lake provides a valuable habitat for a variety of waterbirds (including waterfowl and waders), the most noticeable being the black swan (*Cygnus*

atratus). Pied oyster catcher (*Haematopus fuliginosus*), banded stilt (*Cladorhynchus leucocephalus*), sharp-tailed sandpiper and the red-necked stint (*Calidris ruficollis*) are frequently seen. Mountain Duck (*Tadorna tadornoides*), chestnut teal (*Anas castanea*), and grey teal (*Anas gibberifrons*) are also common. The vulnerable hooded plover has also been recorded on Lake Robe.

Other fauna collected at Lake Robe includes the small-mouthed hardyhead (*Atherinostoma microstoma*), a mollusc (*Coxiella striata*) and several crustaceans.

Lake Robe has been traditionally hunted each year by small numbers of shooters during the declared open season. Due to environmental considerations (widespread drought) there was no hunting season in the first year of its proclamation as the Lake Robe Game Reserve.

Management Prescription

The management of the Lake Robe Game Reserve will be best achieved through the following Objectives and Actions.

The Objectives and Actions in Section 1.3 of the *Small Coastal Parks of the South East Management Plan* also forms part of the management prescription for the reserve.

Preserve the ecological integrity of the reserve.

- Maintain boundary fences of the park.
- Maintain boundary tracks for fire access.
- Rehabilitate any degraded areas.

Improve knowledge of the reserve which contributes to the management of the reserves' resources.

- Encourage and assist research where appropriate into the natural resources of the reserve, and implement appropriate management programmes to conserve these resources.
- Provide resources and advice where appropriate and available.

Enhance visitor use and enjoyment, and protect the natural resources of the reserve.

- Erect and maintain signs which proclaim the area as the Lake Robe Game Reserve.
- Provide appropriate visitor facilities if a need is demonstrated.
- Maintain visitor infrastructure in good condition.
- Provide interpretative material as appropriate.
- Liaise with local user groups to determine their needs.

Provide opportunities for recreational hunting in the reserve.

- Allow and manage hunting in the reserve during declared open seasons, and in accordance with the *National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1972*.

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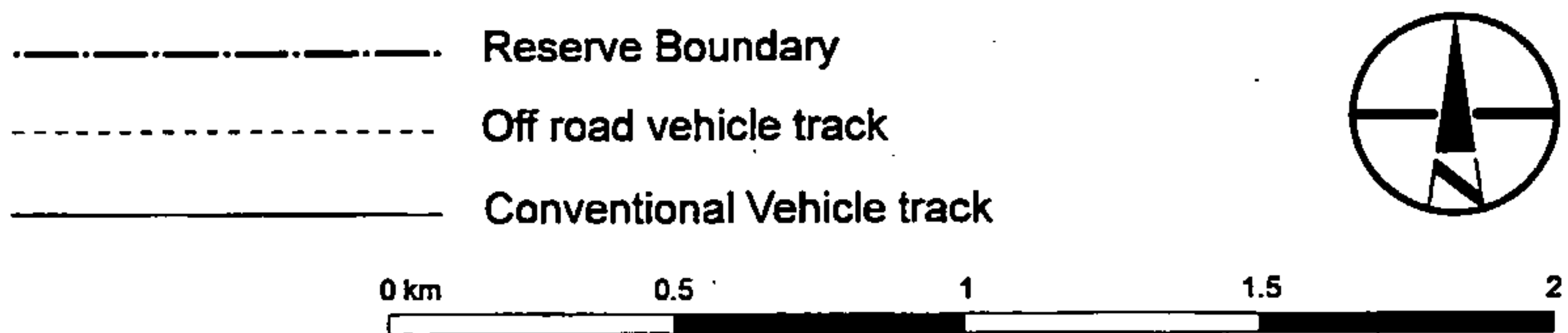
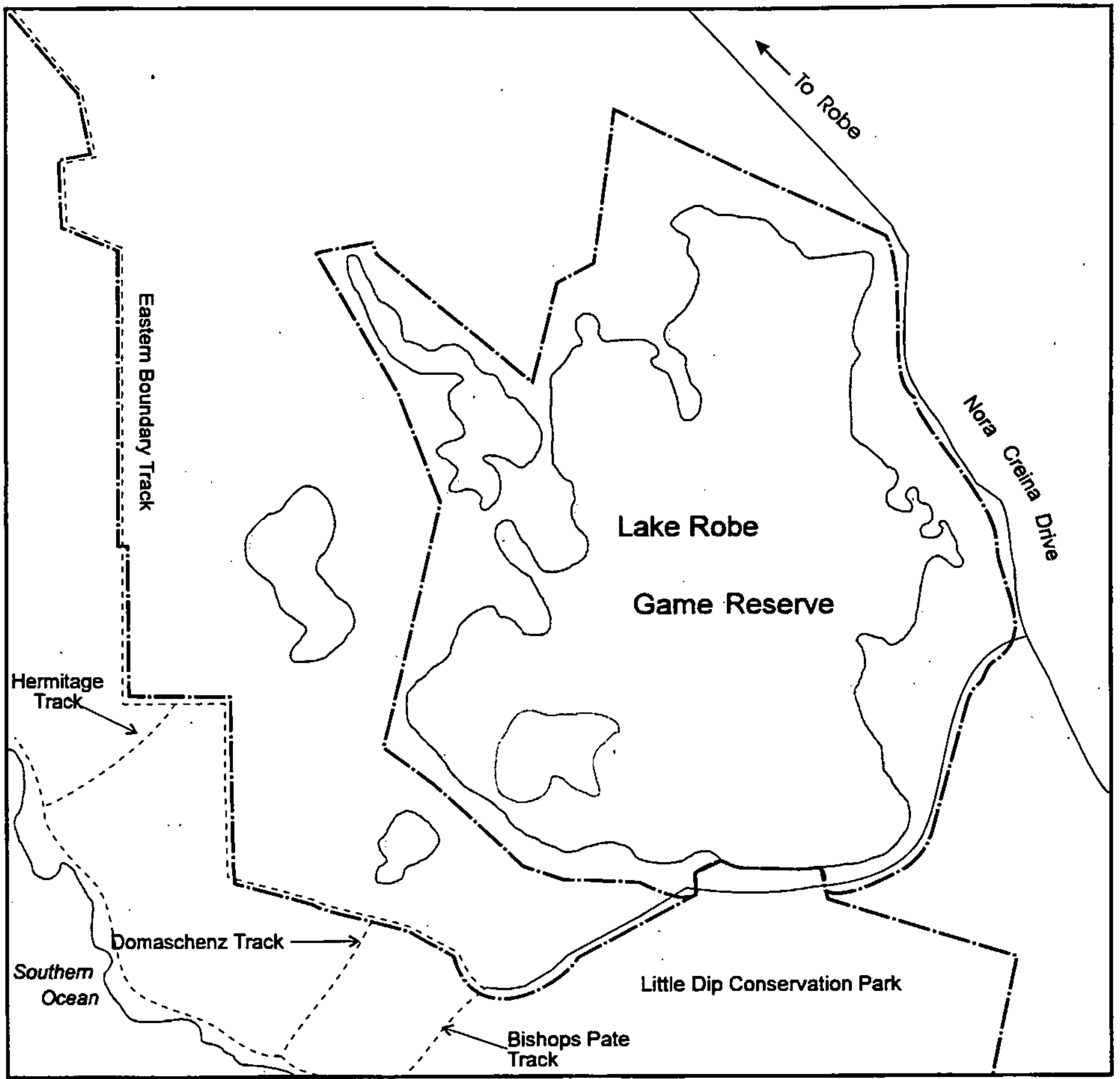


Figure 2
LAKE ROBE GAME RESERVE