

POTENTIAL RESOURCE ISSUE:

Maintenance of Project roads and trails.

PROJECT NEXUS:

Project has the responsibility to maintain Project roads and trails.

POTENTIAL LICENSE CONDITION:

- Transportation System Management Plan

STUDY OBJECTIVES:

- Identify and describe Project roads and trails including condition and maintenance.
- Identify the locations along Project roads and non-project general access roads that may limit access to Project facilities from natural events.
- Characterize vehicle use of non-Project general access roads.
- Identify new roads or trails necessary to construct or access potential Project betterments.

EXTENT OF STUDY AREA:

The study area includes Project roads and trails (Table Land1-1) and non-Project general access roads. Non-Project general access roads are public roads necessary to access Project facilities or developed Project recreation facilities.

STUDY APPROACH:

- Verify Project roads and trails used by Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) to access Project facilities, including developed Project recreation facilities. A preliminary list and map of Project roads and trails is provided in the *Placer County Water Agency Middle Fork American River Hydroelectric Project (FERC NO. 2079) Draft Project Description* (PCWA 2006).
- Conduct a road assessment to characterize the current condition of Project roads and trails. The road assessment survey instrument will be developed in consultation with the USDA-FS and may consist of the following:
 - Surface treatment (e.g., paved, gravel, dirt)
 - General condition
 - Drainage features
 - Safety and access features (e.g., signage, gates)
- Identify current maintenance practices, schedules, and responsibilities for Project roads and trails including road and trail maintenance agreements between PCWA and USDA-FS.

- Identify, describe, and map the locations along Project roads and non-Project general access roads that may limit access to Project facilities from natural events (e.g., flooding, landslides, fire).
- Describe current vehicle use of non-Project general access roads.
 - Develop a Daily Travel Log for each PCWA vehicle to document year-round usage of non-Project general access roads.
 - Install and maintain vehicle counting stations at four locations along non-Project roads that provide access to Project recreation facilities. Traffic counters will be maintained from Memorial Day through Labor Day to obtain vehicle use data (Figure LAND1-1).
 - Conduct vehicle characterization active counts at vehicle counting stations to verify and refine the vehicle use data. Vehicle characterization active counts will be conducted as follows: two four-day non-holiday weekends (Friday through Monday), two four-day holiday weekends, and six weekdays (Tuesday through Thursday).
 - Review Recreation Opportunity Active Survey and Active Angler Survey data to identify use of non-Project roads by visitors using Project recreation facilities. This information will be collected as part of the REC2 – Recreation Opportunities Technical Study.
- Identify, describe, and develop a GIS map of new roads or trails necessary to construct or access potential Project betterments.

SCHEDULE:

To be developed in early 2007.

REFERENCES:

Placer County Water Agency (PCWA). 2006. Middle Fork American River Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2079) Draft Project Description.