

POTENTIAL RESOURCE ISSUE:

Recreation opportunities and access.

PROJECT NEXUS:

The Project has the responsibility to develop and maintain facilities for supporting recreation opportunities.

POTENTIAL LICENSE CONDITION:

- Recreation Plan
 - Recreation facility operation, maintenance, rehabilitation, and enhancement
 - American with Disabilities Act (ADA) access

STUDY OBJECTIVES:

- Characterize existing and future use of Project recreation facilities.
- Characterize existing condition of Project recreation facilities, including operations and maintenance responsibilities.
- Assess ~~compliance~~ consistency of recreation facilities with ADA standards and guidelines.

EXTENT OF STUDY AREA:

The study area includes Project reservoirs and Project recreation facilities (Table REC1-1).

STUDY APPROACH:

Recreation Use

- Collect and compile existing use data available from the USDA-FS, campground concessionaires, the Auburn State Recreation Area (Auburn SRA), and other sources.
- Evaluate the existing data to determine whether it can be used: 1) to characterize use of existing Project facilities and other recreation areas over time; and 2) as a basis for designing and implementing the general visitor surveys described in REC-2. Assess the reliability of existing use data and determine how the existing data should be augmented in consultation with the USDA-FS, Auburn SRA, and other stakeholders. ~~how the data should be augmented, in consultation with the stakeholders.~~
- Correlate use data to factors that may influence use such as weather conditions and fires.
- Conduct vehicle counts, observations, and occupancy counts to augment the existing use data. This effort would focus on developing use data at existing developed Project recreation facilities, for example, campgrounds, day use areas, boat ramps, and vistas. The use data would be used to help design and implement the general visitor surveys described in REC-2.

- Develop information that could be used to inform discussions involving potential future demand and carrying capacity. Pertinent information includes trends data on projected population and recreation activity rates, including USDA-FS recreation management trends.

Recreation Facility Assessment

- Develop a Geographic Information System (GIS) map showing Project recreation facilities and other recreation areas identified by the stakeholders. Preliminary information regarding Project recreation facilities is provided in the *Middle Fork American River Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2079) Draft Existing Resource Information Report, Second Series* (PCWA 2006).
- Obtain and review USDA-FS recreation facility inventory information. Determine how the existing inventory information should be augmented in consultation with the USDA-FS.
- ~~Obtain and review the~~ Review the Site Action Plan developed by the ENF in 1999. Utilize the Site Action Plan as a starting point for facility assessments. Determine which of the upgrades recommended in the Site Action Plan have been implemented, and what additional upgrades might be necessary. ~~facility improvements action plan developed by the USDA-FS in 1989.~~
- Compile, review and summarize information developed through the FERC inspection process.
- Identify current operation and maintenance activities at Project recreation facilities and responsible parties.
- Develop a Facility Inventory Form based on the USDA-FS Facility Inventory Form (Meaningful Measures Program), in consultation with the USDA-FS and other interested user groups.
- Document the physical capacity of existing facilities based on USDA-FS persons-at-one-time (PAOT) information. Identify and document USDA-FS goals for PAOT/acre.
- Conduct on-site recreation facility assessments with USDA-FS staff to determine the current condition and expected life of developed recreation facilities. This will include an assessment of the toilets, campsites, roads within recreation facilities, parking areas, water systems, boat ramps, signage, and other features directly associated with Project recreation facilities. An assessment of other Project roads will be completed as part of the LAND1 - Transportation System Management Technical Study Plan.
- Photograph selective features at Project recreation facilities to illustrate current facility condition.
- Characterize existing interpretive opportunities including, but not limited to, brochures, maps, and websites describing resources in the vicinity of the MFP. Inventory, photograph, and describe interpretive displays and/or signage at Project facilities.

ADA Assessment

- Obtain and review current USDA-FS (Region 5) accessibility standards.
- Obtain current protocol for conducting accessibility surveys from the USDA-FS.

- Conduct accessibility survey in coordination with USDA-FS staff to identify features at each Project recreation facility that do not meet current ADA accessibility standards and Universal Design Principles (UDP).

SCHEDULE:

To be developed in early 2007.

REFERENCES:

Placer County Water Agency (PCWA). 2006. Middle Fork American River Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2079) Draft Existing Resource Information Report, Second Series.

Table REC1-1. Project Reservoirs and Recreation Facilities.

Large Reservoirs
French Meadows Reservoir
Hell Hole Reservoir
Medium Reservoirs
Middle Fork Interbay
Ralston Afterbay
Recreation Facilities
Ahart Campground
Coyote Group Campground
French Meadows Boat Ramp
French Meadows Campground
French Meadows Picnic Area
Gates Group Campground
Lewis Campground
McGuire Boat Ramp
McGuire Picnic Area and Beach
Poppy Campground
Big Meadows Campground
Hell Hole Boat Ramp
Hell Hole Campground
Hell Hole Vista
Upper Hell Hole Campground
Middle Meadows Group Campground
Ralston Picnic Area