

POTENTIAL RESOURCE ISSUE:

Recreation opportunities.

PROJECT NEXUS:

The Project has the responsibility to provide recreation opportunities.

POTENTIAL LICENSE CONDITION:

- Recreation Plan
 - Recreation instream flows
 - Reservoir water surface elevations
 - Flow information dissemination
 - Interpretive materials and facilities
 - Fish stocking

STUDY OBJECTIVE:

- Collect recreation user survey data to characterize current recreation opportunities (activities and location) and to evaluate future demand on recreation opportunities associated with the Middle Fork American River Project (MFP).

EXTENT OF STUDY AREA:

Surveys will be conducted at developed Project recreation facilities (Table REC1-1) and other developed facilities or concentrated use areas to be determined in consultation with the Recreation Technical Working Group (TWG).

STUDY APPROACH:

Recreation surveys will be conducted after collecting and summarizing recreation use data, as shown in Figure REC2-1. Issues to be addressed through user surveys will be identified in consultation with the resource agencies and other members of the Recreation TWG. In addition, Survey instruments (questionnaires) will be developed in consultation with the participants of the Recreation TWG and USDA-FS resource agency recreation specialists.

General User Survey

- Identify issues to be addressed through user surveys in consultation with a subgroup consisting of resource agency recreation specialists and other interested stakeholders. Issues will consider resource agency management direction and obligations.
- Discuss and finalize issues with the members of the Recreation TWG.
- Develop a draft General User Survey instrument and survey implementation protocols (eg. sampling frequency, sampling locations, etc.) in coordination with a

subgroup consisting of resource agency recreation specialists and other interested stakeholders.

- Discuss and finalize the General User Survey instrument and survey implementation protocols in consultation with the recreation TWG.
- Conduct a General User Survey at developed Project recreation facilities, using a stratified random sampling approach. This survey would focus on collecting information regarding, for example:
 - user activities and motivations for visiting the Project vicinity;
 - user perceptions regarding recreation site conditions;
 - visitor trip profiles;
 - demographic profiles of visitors;
 - user perceptions regarding reservoir elevations and stream flow;
 - availability of information about reservoir levels and stream flows;
 - availability of information about recreation opportunities in the vicinity of the Project, and;
 - whether users intercepted at Project facilities are using (dispersing to) other areas in the vicinity of the Project.

Specific data to be collected through surveys will be developed in coordination with the Recreation TWG and subgroup as the survey issues are defined and the survey instrument is developed.

- The General Visitor Survey would be conducted from April 1 through November 15, in order to collect information during the peak recreation season and during the shoulder seasons.

Activity-Specific Survey: Angling Questions

~~Conduct Angler Surveys at Hell Hole and French Meadows reservoirs and at Ralston Afterbay. This survey effort could be conducted as part of the General User Surveys or as a separate survey depending upon the issues to be addressed and the number of questions. Characterize angling use at dispersed locations along the bypass and peaking reaches by interviewing USDA FS, CDFG, and Auburn State Recreation Area (Auburn SRA) recreation and fisheries specialists, members of local angling groups, and commercial guides and outfitters.~~

Activity-Specific Survey: Whitewater Boating

- ~~Review the results of surveys currently being conducted by the Auburn State Recreation Area (Auburn SRA). Determine if information developed by the Auburn SRA should be augmented with additional survey information.~~

The General User Survey instrument will include questions that address issues involving specific user groups or activities, including angling, swimming, wading, and stream side activities such as picnicking. The survey questions will be developed in consultation with the Recreation subgroup and TWG members.

SCHEDULE:

To be developed in 2007 and 2008.

REFERENCES:

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

Figure REC2-1. Timeline for Recreation Data Collection

