

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. Survey instruments (questionnaires) will be developed in consultation with the participants of the Recreation TWG and USDA-FS recreation specialists.

General User Survey

- 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.
- 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

- 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 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.

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

