

8.4 Recreation Plan

8.4.1 Pertinent Issue Questions

The Recreation Plan addresses the following recreational resource questions:

4. Can efforts be made to coordinate lake levels and releases for recreation (all forms of recreation)?
LU-4. What additional use could be made of Project lands compatible with the Project (e.g., transmission lines for trails)?
15. Who is liable for public safety regarding new recreational opportunities?
18. What are the current and future costs of maintenance of existing and planned recreation facilities and of monitoring recreation uses?
21. What could be done to enhance the existing recreational opportunities?
23. Can we coordinate stream flow for recreation and ecological protection?
24. Are the current/future Project recreation facilities/plans/operations consistent with the comprehensive recreation management plans of CDFG, USFWS, BLM, USFS, El Dorado County General Plan and other agencies?
- 33a. What are the current and future costs of maintaining existing Project related recreational facilities and dispersed use management (monitoring) for BLM, and USFS from UARP to White Rock?
34. Is the current manner in which SMUD reimburses USFS adequate (e.g., how does it compare with the industry standard)?
39. What opportunities exist to coordinate operations with Project 184 in regard to reservoir levels throughout the watershed and river flows below Slab Creek Reservoir?
- 40/48. Are there any and, if so, what is the status of any identified/designated Wild and Scenic river reaches (e.g., USFS, BLM, NRI, or state) affected by the Project?
54. Could the ramp rates be changed in the future license to avoid future spill: what are the effects on biota and safety?
70. If there are any needed or desired repairs/replacement at Project recreation facilities or any needed or desired measures (e.g., education, engineering, enforcement) at dispersed recreation sites near Project facilities, what would be the plan for development and implementation?
71. What potential exists to enhance flatwater recreation by modifying Project operations (i.e., reservoir levels)?
- 1b. Is it possible to have consistent and regular releases that support boating in the reach below Chili Bar? [This question will also be addressed in the Recreation Plan because it's a trade-off question.]
16. Can we provide whitewater boating flow information in advance for different stretches in the Project area, such as flow phone, website, flow modeling for 1-week intervals, and past releases? [This question will also be addressed in the Recreation Plan because it's a trade-off question.]
74. How could operational changes to existing UARP facilities enhance the established whitewater-based recreational industry in ElDorado County? What would be the economic consequences to UARP?

8.4.2 Background

The Recreation Plan will integrate information from a variety of sources to develop a long-term Recreation Plan for the license application. Sources of information used to develop the Plan include results of all of the recreation studies, existing recreation plans for the Project Vicinity and Area, results of other resource studies conducted during the UARP relicensing and operational information of Project 184.

8.4.3 Study Objectives

The objectives of this study include:

- Identifying pertinent management plans
- Determining consistency of existing recreation with planning direction
- Evaluating the effects of changing Project operations for recreation relative to agency emphasis in management plans
- Evaluating the existing program of recreation facility operation and maintenance

- Determining whether new activities, facilities, opportunities and services are warranted in the Project area
- Creating a plan for Project recreation facilities (i.e., development/replacement schedule, triggering mechanisms, O&M responsibility)
- Identifying a monitoring program that has provisions for changed management
- Describing operational aspects of Project 184 as they affect reservoir levels and flows below Slab Cr.
- Answering all pertinent issue questions listed above in 7.4.1

8.4.4 Study Area

The Recreation Plan will focus on the areas where recreation activities commonly occur and where additional Project facilities could be sited or other needs accommodated that are related to the Project.

8.4.5 Information Needed From Other Studies

The recreation studies will provide the range of activities, facilities, opportunities and services that will be considered for inclusion in the Recreation Plan. The effects of the range of possible whitewater boating flows on Project reservoirs are needed from the Water Balance Study. Similarly, the results of all other studies will be required to identify sensitive areas where recreation use or activity may conflict with other resource values.

8.4.6 Study Methods And Schedule

The Recreation Plan will be an integration of the information developed in the other studies listed in 7.4.5. In addition, other sources of information will be reviewed to develop the Plan including: 1) ENF concessionaire operation and maintenance (O&M) cost data, 2) Special Use Permit which authorizes concessionaire O&M of developed recreation facilities in Crystal Basin, 3) list of projects (including costs) completed by the ENF concessionaire at Project recreation facilities in lieu of paying fees (fee offset), 4) Pacific R.D. O&M cost data for Fee Demo recreation facilities, 5) Pacific R.D. Fee Demo Business Plan, 6) Meaningful Measures standards for recreation facility maintenance used by the ENF and 7) Pacific R.D. list of Capital Investment Projects (CIP) that are in the Region 5 CIP pipeline to receive or submitted for funding, and any other available sources of information, including the El Dorado County River Management Plan, BLM's Land Management Plan, and operational information regarding Project 184. Gathering and reviewing this list of information will begin in 2002 however the Recreation Plan will not be developed until the other studies and the respective reports listed in 7.4.5 have been completed. This Plan will consider the capability of the ecosystem in developing recreation measures. The Recreation Plan will be prepared as part of the process to develop PM&E measures for the Project. This may occur sometime between 2003 and 2004.

8.4.7 Analysis

The information developed in this Plan will display the recreational measures that are developed for the UARP.

8.4.8 Study Output

The report will provide a text description of planning direction, planned development and O&M responsibility for Project recreation facilities. Where appropriate, maps will be included to depict types and locations of planned development. Any schedules for the Plan will be presented in a tabular format. The Plan will be organized by geographical area (High Country, Crystal Basin and Canyonlands, below Chili Bar) and it will include the issue questions addressed, methods and results (only those methods and results not included as part of the individual reports listed in 7.4.5) objectives, discussion, analysis and conclusions. The report will be prepared in a format that allows the information to be inserted directly into the Licensee-prepared Draft Environmental Assessment that will be submitted to the FERC with the Licensee's application for a new license.

8.4.9 Preliminary Estimated Study Cost

A cost estimate for this study plan will be developed after the Plenary Group approves this plan.

8.4.10 Recreation and Aesthetics TWG Endorsement

This study plan was approved on March 5, 2002 by the following entities of the TWG: ENF, SWRCB, American River Recreation Association/Camp Lotus, NPS, BLM, El Dorado County Parks Dept., California Outdoors and SMUD. This study plan will be sent out to other members of the Recreation and Aesthetics TWG for their consideration. On May 1, 2002 the following participants gave Plenary Group approval to the plan: USFS, BLM, USFWS, Taxpayers of El Dorado County, Friends of El Dorado County, Camp Lotus, El Dorado County Water Agency, El Dorado County, Placer County Water Agency, California Department of Fish and Game, California State Water Resources Control Board, Pacific Gas and Electric and Friends of the River. None of the participants at the meeting said they could not “live with” this study plan.

8.4.11 Literature Cited

None.