

7.2 Recreation Demand Study

7.2.1 Pertinent Issue Questions

The Recreation Demand Study addresses the following recreational resource questions:

- 8a. Does the project affect recreation at the following areas: Highway 50 at the turnoff for Ice House Road and Wentworth Springs Road?
27. Is there demand for trails under power line corridors? If so, what opportunities/constraints exist to use power line corridors as trails?
29. Is there a demand for flat-water recreation at Chili Bar reservoir? *[This issue question was included in the strawman outline for the Demand Study however a separate study will be developed to address this question. See section 7.2.5 below.]*
30. Is there a need for connections between existing and future trails within and outside UARP? If so, are there opportunities to provide connections between existing and future trails within and outside UARP?
72. What are the regional recreational demands (current, past and projected) in view of the primary recreational opportunities on these projects?
73. Are the existing sport fishing opportunities adequate to meet existing and future recreation demand?

7.2.2 Background

The Recreation Demand Study will identify recreation activities, facilities, opportunities and services that are currently in demand (i.e., desired by recreationists) and may be in demand in the future. Demand for recreation will be assessed in the Project vicinity and at the regional level to provide context to the conditions in the Project vicinity. Past recreational demand will be assessed to provide a context of recreational trends.

7.2.3 Study Objectives

The objectives of this study include:

- Identifying the demand for recreation activities and opportunities
- Identifying the demand for recreation facilities
- Identifying the demand for recreation services
- Identifying trends in past and future demand
- Answering all pertinent issue questions listed above in 7.2.1

7.2.4 Study Area and Sampling Locations

Outdoor recreation demand (including trails) will be discussed at two levels: 1) regional and 2) Project vicinity, and the study area will correspond to these two categories. The study area defined as *regional* will include the Highways 50, 80, and 88 corridors, between the California Central Valley and the Highway 395 corridor. The study area defined as the *Project vicinity* will include the area generally within one-quarter of a mile of Project reservoirs (including locations or river access points in the High Country, Crystal Basin and Canyonlands), as well as other locations beyond the one-quarter mile zone identified in consultation with the ENF and other interested participants, and agreed to by SMUD. The discussion of demand in the Project vicinity will include site specific details regarding recreation activities, facilities, opportunities and services.

7.2.5 Information Needed From Other Studies

Data from recreation user interviews conducted as part of the Visitor Use and Impact Study and information from the Recreation Supply Study and use level information from the Visitor Use and Impact Study are needed to assess demand for recreation activities, facilities, opportunities and services in the Project vicinity. Question no. 29 will be answered in a separate study to be developed jointly with PG&E and SMUD.

7.2.6 Study Methods And Schedule

REVIEW OF PUBLISHED OR OTHERWISE AVAILABLE INFORMATION-A review of the following information sources will be conducted to obtain information on trends in regional recreation demand: California Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (1993), California Recreation Preference Study, El Dorado Trail Plan, El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce Tourism Plan, CDFG Hunting and Fishing License data, CDBAW boat registration data, ENF RIM data and LRMP's for ENF, TNF, LTBMU. Other sources of information that will be used will include websites with current research information on state and regional recreation trends. This review will be initiated during 2002 and completed by the spring of 2003.

INTERVIEWS WITH AGENCIES AND PRIVATE RESORT OPERATORS-Key operational staff will be contacted to obtain anecdotal information describing their perception or assessment of user demand in the Project vicinity in terms of past trends and predicted future trends. Attempts will be made to contact the managing staff at the following private resorts in the Project vicinity: Ice House Resort and Robbs Valley Resort. Campground hosts or other on-the-ground personnel will also be interviewed to obtain their perspective on trends and specific demand for facilities and services based on their observations or from their direct conversations with the recreation visitors. Interviews will be initiated in 2002 and completed by the spring of 2003.

7.2.7 Analysis

The information developed in this study will be used to describe the demand that exists locally and regionally for recreational activities, facilities, opportunities and services. The Recreation Needs Assessment will compare the results of the Recreation Demand Study and the Recreation Supply Study for recreation activities, facilities, opportunities and services to determine recreational needs that may be met by the Project and identified in the Project Recreation Plan.

7.2.8 Study Output

The study output will be a narrative report organized in two sections to discuss demand at the regional and Project vicinity levels. Charts, graphs and tabular data may be included to describe trends and projected demand for the range of activities and it will include the issue questions addressed, objectives, study area, methods, results, analysis, discussion 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.

7.2.9 Preliminary Estimated Study Cost

SMUD's consultant estimates that this study will cost \$32,000 ± 20 percent.

7.2.10 Recreation and Aesthetics TWG Endorsement

This study plan was approved on February 22, 2002 by the following entities of the TWG: ENF, SWRCB, American River Recreation Association, NPS, and SMUD. This study plan will be sent out to other members of the Recreation and Aesthetics TWG for their consideration.

The Plenary Group approved this study plan on March 6, 2002. The participants at the meeting who said they could "live with" the study plan were: Taxpayers of EDC, ENF, Camp Lotus/ARRA, SMUD, EDC, PG&E, EDC Citizens for Water, PCWA, NPS, BLM, CDFG, California Outdoors, and SWRCB. None of the participants at the meeting said they could not "live with" the study plan.

7.2.11 Literature Cited

None.