

7.3 Recreation Needs Assessment

7.3.1 Pertinent Issue Questions

The Recreation Needs Assessment addresses the following recreational resource questions:

- 7.a Identify recreation needs for the Project over the term of the license, including facilities from UARP to White Rock Powerhouse. *[note: this question was separated into above and below Chili Bar]*
- 22. Do existing Project related transportation facilities (e.g. roads and trails) meet current/future recreation needs?
- 26. Can the trail from Loon Lake to Rubicon Reservoir be made more recreation friendly, or easy to walk on?
- 28. What needs exist for providing trail access around and through Project facilities to the river edge for fishing, portage, etc.?
- 65. Are there any needed or desired repairs/replacements at Project recreation facilities?
- 66. Are there any needed or desired measures (e.g., education, engineering, enforcement) at dispersed recreational sites near Project facilities?

7.3.2 Background

The Recreation Needs Assessment identifies existing and future recreation needs or desires associated with the Project. The analysis will synthesize information from the Recreation Supply, Demand, and Visitor Use and Impact studies to determine outstanding existing and future recreation needs of the Project.

7.3.3 Study Objectives

The objectives of this study include:

- Identifying the need for recreation opportunities
- Identifying the need for facilities
- Identifying the need for recreation sites (e.g., measures necessary at dispersed sites, trails)
- Identifying other needs (e.g., services, programs, land management)
- Answering pertinent issue questions listed above in 7.3.1

7.3.4 Study Area and Sampling Locations

The study area will include all identified recreation sites 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 recreation sites beyond the one-quarter mile zone identified in consultation with the ENF and other interested participants, and agreed to by SMUD. The study area tiers to the Recreation Supply and Demand studies. The study area for this study encompasses locations where recreation activities commonly occur as well as the area where additional Project facilities could be sited or other needs accommodated that are related to the Project.

7.3.5 Information Needed From Other Studies

This assessment will compare the results of the Recreation Supply and Recreation Demand Study. The completed reports of these two studies are needed to prepare the Recreation Needs Assessment.

7.3.6 Study Methods And Schedule

Methodology to complete the Recreation Needs Assessment will consist of a comparative review of the results of the Recreation Demand and Recreation Supply studies. Methods of comparison will be developed after the results of the Supply and Demand studies are developed in consultation with the Recreation and Aesthetics TWG. This Assessment will be prepared in 2003 after the required studies listed in 7.3.5 are completed and the respective reports are prepared, and before completing the Carrying Capacity Study.

7.3.7 Analysis

As discussed in 7.3.6, this Assessment is a comparative analysis of study results listed in 7.3.5. The comparison will identify the unmet demand for recreational and activities, facilities, opportunities and services that may exist in the vicinity of the Project.

7.3.8 Study Output

The Assessment will be a narrative description of the recreational activities, facilities, opportunities and services activities (including management options) that could be considered in the vicinity of the Project. The discussion will be organized by geographical area (High Country, Crystal Basin and Canyonlands) and it will include the issue questions addressed, objectives, study area, analysis, discussion and conclusions (Note: methods and results will be included in the individual reports listed in 7.3.5 and will not be repeated in this assessment). 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.

7.3.9 Preliminary Estimated Study Cost

SMUD's consultant estimates that this study will cost \$5,000 ± 20 percent.

7.3.10 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.

7.3.11 Literature Cited

None.