

Upper American River Project
FERC Project No. 2101

Plenary Group Participant's Interests
Identified during July through September, 2001

October 1, 2001

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American River Recreation Association & Camp Lotus

Source: Bill Center, Plenary meeting summary for July 31, 2001

1. Expanded, reliable, and instant gaging system that will not go dark in high flow events
2. For SMUD to work as a partner in watershed protection and sediment management
3. For SMUD to work with the boating community to develop and design flow studies for every stretch affected by the UARP to assess boating opportunities

American Whitewater

Source: John Gangemi, Plenary meeting summary for September 5, 2001

- A. The timing and magnitude of flows in respective stream reaches regulated by project operations
- B. Access to flow information
- C. Physical access to specific stream reaches

California Department of Fish and Game

Source: Mike Meinz, e-mail dated August 31, 2001

- Are stream flows in the 50 plus miles of stream affected by the UARP adequate?

Our goal is to restore the natural aquatic ecosystem – a multispecies approach that mimics the natural hydrograph, restores geomorphic processes and addresses: native species (aquatic and riparian), T&E species (aquatic and riparian), water temperature, water quality, ramping rates, flow fluctuations, sedimentation, the need for fish screens, and barriers to fish movement.

- Are minimum reservoir levels adequate for fishery protection?

Our goal is to protect the recreational “put and take” fisheries now present the project lakes.

- Is there adequate mitigation for project related impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat?

Our goal is to provide PM&E for T&E species, to recover wildlife habitat (wetland and riparian) lost due to inundation by project reservoirs, and eliminating project features that may entrap or limit the movement of wildlife.

- Are project related features causing soil erosion?

Our goal is to eliminate or limit sediment sources associated project features such as powerline corridors, roads, culverts, reservoir flushing, etc.

California Outdoors

Source: Nate Rangel, Plenary meeting summary for July 31, 2001

1. Consistent, reliable and predictable daily flows into Chili Bar Reservoir in a quantity sufficient enough to support whitewater recreation downstream of Chili Bar from March 1 through the end of October.
2. Investigation and facilitation of boating opportunities upstream of Chili Bar Reservoir.
3. Investigation and consideration of mitigation measures that relate to any management choices made by SMUD that can and do affect these first two interests.
4. Investigation, facilitation and construction of physical facilities both up and downstream of Chili Bar Reservoir to the benefit of recreational whitewater boating.
5. Coordinated management of all hydroelectric systems within the American River watershed.

California State Water Resources Control Board

Source: Sharon Stohrer, e-mail dated September 17, 2001

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards are the principal state agencies responsible for administering the state's water quality control program (Water Code sections 13000-14958). The SWRCB is also the state agency authorized to grant, waive, or deny water quality certification as provided for under section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act (Water Code section 13160; see generally 33 U.S.C section 1341). The SWRCB must grant or waive water quality certification before a license to operate a hydropower project may be issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). In addition, the SWRCB is the state agency responsible for administering surface water rights throughout the state (Water Code sections 1000-5976).

SWRCB staff agree to participate in the development of information regarding Upper American River Project (UARP) as part of a FERC Alternative Licensing Process (ALP). Although SWRCB staff are willing to participate in the ALP collaborative effort in good faith, SWRCB staff cannot guarantee that an agreement on FERC license conditions with Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) and other stakeholders will be reached.

The SWRCB acts in an adjudicative capacity when it processes a request for water quality certification. The SWRCB must be impartial and afford all parties before it a fair hearing. The SWRCB's obligation as a decision-maker may limit its ability to compromise in the course of negotiating FERC license conditions with SMUD and other stakeholders.

In addition, the SWRCB has an independent statutory duty under the Clean Water Act and applicable Regional Water Quality Control Plan to ensure that the operation of UARP will not adversely affect water quality and the beneficial uses of the affected lakes and stream reaches within in the South Fork American River Basin.

Therefore, the SWRCB staff interests in the UARP relicensing effort will focus on project compliance with the Clean Water Act and the protection of the beneficial uses designated for project-affected waters, as stated in the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's Basin Plan.

SWRCB staff general resource interests in the operation of the UARP include, but are not limited to:

- 1) An evaluation of water quality in all storage reservoirs and affected stream reaches to determine compliance with Basin Plan objectives and other published criteria and goals (i.e.: Title 22 Drinking Water Standards, California Toxics Rule, National Toxics Rule, and USEPA Freshwater Aquatic Life Protection Criteria).
- 2) Assurance that water temperatures are protective of cold freshwater habitat and spawning habitat requirements.
- 3) Assurance that all affected stream reaches are provided an instream flow regime that supports a properly functioning stream system.
- 4) Assessment of project facilities and operations on sediment deposition and the potential impoundment of metals and toxins within existing and proposed reservoirs.
- 5) Establishment and implementation of ramping rates at all facility discharge points that will be protective of aquatic biota.
- 6) Maintenance of adequate gravel recruitment to diverted stream reaches to provide for cold freshwater spawning habitat and a healthy benthic macroinvertebrate community.
- 7) Maintenance or restoration of a diverse corridor of native riparian species along all project-affected stream reaches, to protect water quality and provide a healthy interface between aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.
- 8) Assessment of potential impacts to aquatic biota and to flat-water recreation opportunities that may result from fluctuations in lake levels.
- 9) An evaluation of the potential for project roads, project-related facilities, dispersed recreation, and water-based recreation to impact water quality (ie: sediment discharge, nutrient loading, bacterial contamination, MTBE and petroleum discharge, etc.).

- 10) An evaluation of project operations and flow releases necessary to support whitewater recreation, and any potential affects of controlled whitewater releases on public safety and access, on biologic resources, and on angling and other water contact recreation opportunities.
- 11) An inventory of cloud seeding activities and any other basin-wide measures under the direct control of SMUD, and an assessment of potential impacts of these activities on water quality.
- 12) A thorough feasibility analysis of the potential benefits and impacts that may result from implementation of the proposed addition of a pumped storage facility at Iowa Hill and its companion features at Slab Creek Reservoir. Feasibility determination should be founded on engineering achievability, economic viability, and environmental effects that may potentially result from construction and operation.

El Dorado County Airports, Parks & Grounds

Source: Jeff Novak, Plenary meeting summary for July 31, 2001

- UARP operations affect whitewater recreation resources below Chili Bar. Geographic scope of the environmental analysis should include the Chili Bar to Salmon Falls reach of the South Fork.
- Information from the forthcoming River Management Plant Update and Final EIR should be included in the assessment of the proposed action or project impacts on recreation resources.
- The County's Phase II Report (April 1997) provides additional information for the Plenary Group on recreation resources affected by the UARP project. This report contains an analysis of the economic impacts of whitewater recreation on the South Fork in El Dorado County.
- Release regime from the Slab Creek/White Rock Development adequate to maintain optimum safe whitewater boating conditions and support historic whitewater recreation uses levels on the South Fork throughout the April through September boating season.
- SMUD provide on-going flow information in coordination with the operators of Chili Bar dam:
 1. If releases from upstream reservoirs will likely increase flows below Chili Bar to levels above 6,000 cubic feet per second (cfs).
 2. The approximate date the South Fork below Chili Bar will no longer have 24 hour flows, and the river receives daily releases from the UARP.

3. If SMUD is likely to deliver releases to Chili Bar Reservoir during spring runoff that will cause flows below Chili Bar to ramp up quickly from 2,000 cfs to flows above 3,000 cfs.
 4. Projections of weekday and weekend flows and releases throughout the April through September rafting season.
 5. Projections of the annual ending date for releases adequate for boating.
- 2001 release “window” from Chili Bar and impacts to County’s adopted boating safety standard.
 - SMUD, Forest Service and County partnership on whitewater recreation opportunities above Chili Bar.
 - SMUD, California Stat Parks and County partnership to support General Plan Policy 9.1.4.2: *Support the acquisition of a public river access adjacent to the Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park.*

El Dorado County Citizens for Water

Source: Doug Leisz, fax dated August 20, 2001

1. Recognize that periodic cycles of drought and rain-fall abundance are a natural part of the hydrologic cycle, and occur over a 20 to 40 year period. Provide all historic records to the public that demonstrate the variable nature of rainfall and resulting stream flows for the project area. Explain operation protocols during selected flow regimes, including severe drought years, and tell how economic considerations may impact these protocols.
2. Recognize that competing demands for water resources, i.e., protection of aquatic habitats, human consumptive use, power generation, and recreational uses, are in conflict during these cycles, but are exacerbated during drought when all demands exceed the natural and storage capacities of the system. Prepare priorities and explain the parameters used to meet conflicting demands under varying flow regimes.
3. Develop a hydrologic flow model that characterizes all stream behavior affected by the project over the past 100 years, with emphasis on those years with less than average rainfall.
4. Utilizing the above model, show how operation, management or additional facilities can best satisfy the competing demands of the above 4 user categories.
5. In light of the documented shortage of upstream storage facilities for El Dorado County, and in view of the model developed above, determine how best the UARP system can be modified to correct this deficiency.

6. Under the present license, a disproportionate share of El Dorado County's natural resources have been exported from the county by SMUD. In partnership with EDC, develop new license conditions that would provide equitable sharing with El Dorado County of the natural resources originating within the County.

El Dorado County Water Agency

Source: Penny Humphreys, letter dated August 17, 2001

- Increased drought protection and water delivery system reliability for west slope El Dorado County residents.
- Increased power production and energy conservation resulting from joint El Dorado/SMUD projects and partnerships.
- SMUD power service for facilities that provide public services on the west slope, and for present and future industrial users in the El Dorado Hills area.
- Improved quality and increased quantity of recreational opportunities at existing facilities, and in aquatic resources affected by project features.
- New recreational facilities and opportunities on project property, project rights of way, and adjacent areas.
- Public access to timely and accurate information on present and predicted flows in stream reaches utilized by, or suitable for, whitewater recreation.
- Protection and enhancement of water-related recreation throughout west slope El Dorado County.
- Data collection and studies to improve the understanding of aquatic and terrestrial biotic resources, and to identify the effects of various project operating regimes on those resources.
- Improved integration and coordination of UARP, Chili bar, and Project 184 operations, maintenance, and dispatch to enhance environmental conditions, power marketing opportunities, and recreational values.
- Enhanced protection and conservation of sensitive habitat on project property and rights of way and throughout the west slope.
- Improved management of watersheds that supply or are affected by the project, including integrated fuel load reduction/biomass generation projects.

- Flow studies of the Chili Bar-Salmon Falls reach of the South Fork American River sufficient to establish a baseline for further analyses of the environmental, power production, recreational, and economic impacts of increased water diversions for consumptive use upstream of Chili Bar Dam.
- Improved coordination and participation in the provision of public services, including road maintenance, within the project area.

El Dorado Irrigation District

Source: William Wilkins, letter dated August 20, 2001

1. Enhance EID's water system reliability, including increased drought protection, by making consumptive water available from the UARP system. This is consistent with the County of Origin protections included in the origin permits for the UARP and the 1957 and 1961 Agreements.
2. Joint development of the Alder Project for power and water production and increased recreational opportunities that benefits both SMUD and EID.
3. Enhanced integration and coordination of UARP and Project 184 operations and maintenance to improve environmental conditions, power production, power marketing opportunities and recreational values.
4. Increased recreational opportunities and improvements at UARP facilities and related water features.

Friends of El Dorado County

Source: Bernard Carlson, Plenary meeting summary for July 31, 2001

Our interests are to have El Dorado County be able to obtain sufficient water rights and water storage for present and future balanced use by residents, agriculture, recreation, and other businesses.

Friends of the River

Source: Maureen Rose, letter dated August 20, 2001

General Issues

1) Identification and Mitigation of Project Impacts

Friends of the River's core interest in the project relicensing is to ensure sound, scientifically-based studies to determine the true impacts of the project since its construction. Project impacts,

due to lowered non-natural flow regimes, creation of artificial reservoirs, ongoing maintenance, and more, should be reversed and/or mitigated. Study of project impacts should include but should not be limited to impacts on native aquatic and riparian species and their habitat, and impacts to recreational opportunities. All studies should be conducted throughout the project area. Additionally, cumulative effects downstream of the project area below Chili Bar reservoir must also be evaluated and/or mitigated.

2) Adherence to Relevant Laws and Planning Documents

Any decisions made by the Plenary Group must be made in adherence to the appropriate legal planning documents for the project area and relevant laws. This includes, but is not limited to:

Planning Documents:

- State Water Resources Control Board Basin Plan
- Eldorado National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan
- U.S. Forest Service Sierra Nevada Framework

Relevant Laws:

- Clean Water Act
- Endangered Species Act
- Wild and Scenic Rivers Act
- California Migratory Bird Act
- California Fish and Game Code
- California Water Code

The SMUD UARP relicensing process must focus solely on creating a new project license for the UARP using these related Planning Documents and Laws. The relicensing process should NOT be used for unrelated actions including increased water diversions for consumptive water use, or the addition of unrelated electric generating facilities for unlicensed parties.

3) Adaptive Management Plan

Friends of the River will not approve any new license for the UARP if the license provisions do not include an effective adaptive management strategy. Adaptive management is a critical component of any new hydropower license, and must be implemented to determine the effectiveness of Plenary Group decisions. The adaptive management provisions must specifically include a plan for amending the license with a more effective operational plan if project operations do not have the desired effect on maintenance and restoration of native species and their habitat, and increased recreational opportunities.

Specific Interests

Biological Interests

- 1) Adequate pre-project baseline studies should be conducted for use in determining where native species restoration can occur. This includes studies on flows, temperatures, habitat, sediment, vegetation, sensitive native species populations, and more.
- 2) New license must have adequate minimum flows (set by water year type) in all river reaches affected by the project. Specifically:
 - A) Flows must be adequate for the survival and/or restoration of all native aquatic and riparian species including fish, amphibians, macroinvertebrates, and vegetation. “Adequate” flows can be defined as flows that provide necessary aquatic habitat for instream species, result in appropriate water temperatures necessary for all native species life cycles, and provide the critical hydrologic conditions necessary for riparian species.
 - B) New minimum instream flow requirements must be adequate for natural sediment transport.
 - C) Flow requirements must mimic a natural hydrograph. A natural hydrograph will have higher flows in spring, and lower flows in summer. A review of the natural hydrograph on the unimpaired North Fork American River should occur, for comparison to possible natural hydrograph in the project river reaches.
- 3) Studies must be conducted to determine the appropriate native species to use as a basis for management of the project. Limiting factors of native species need to be identified to determine the appropriate management actions.
- 4) Friends of the River is interested in restoring natural vegetative cover to stream reaches for natural temperature reduction.
- 5) Any project license granted must adhere strictly to the Regional Water Quality Control Board Basin Plan water quality standards and the associated beneficial uses identified for this river system.
- 6) Habitat for various native wildlife and amphibian species in and surrounding the project area must be analyzed to determine the level of project impacts. Project impacts may include, but are not limited to road building, impacts due to project maintenance activities, interruption of migration corridors, and more. This analysis must include a thorough review of the cumulative effects of the project including interruption of ecological processes and species life cycles.

Recreational Interests

- 1) Friends of the River is interested in studying the possibility of increased whitewater recreation opportunities in the project area. Studies need to document:

- A) Water availability for adequate whitewater flows in each reach of the project area including a review of possible water releases in conjunction with a natural hydrologic cycle.
 - B) Access considerations, with an analysis of the necessary recreational improvements, including toilets and camping facilities for increased whitewater use.
 - C) Native species habitat considerations to determine possible impacts of increased whitewater flows on native species life cycles.
- 2) Water availability for boating flows below Chili Bar must be analyzed. Adequate flows must be released to Chili Bar reservoir for maintenance of whitewater boating opportunities on the South Fork American River. SMUD should coordinate their efforts with PG&E to ensure optimal whitewater opportunities.
- 3) Friends of the River is interested in determining the level of increased Off Highway Vehicle use due to SMUD road-building, or construction of transmission lines, or any activities conducted by SMUD for project operation and maintenance.

Economic Interests

An economic evaluation of the tourism dollars generated due to recreation in the project area, (and cumulatively generated in the local communities near the South Fork American River,) must be evaluated to determine the project benefits to the local community.

Cultural Interests

Any items of cultural significance must be located, evaluated and protected in the project area. Furthermore, any items of cultural significance that were destroyed by project construction or operations must be mitigated.

Georgetown Divide Public Utility District

Source: Robert Flynn, letter dated August 15, 2001

Same interests as provided by El Dorado County Water Agency (see page 8).

Mr. Pete Bell

Source: Pete Bell, Plenary meeting summary for July 31, 2001

1. A flow regime that resembles the natural hydrograph, at least in shape and timing
2. A flow regime that favors native species

3. A flow regime that allows for proper functioning of the hydrology of the stream segments
4. A flow regime that allows for proper geomorphic processes
5. A flow regime that relies upon the best available science
6. Water temperatures that promote the restoration of frog populations as well as native fish
7. An adaptive management program that allows for significant change over time if the current science is wrong
8. In short, each and every stream reach in the best possible health given the existence of the project

Mr. Bill Demerritt

Source: Bill Demerritt, Plenary meeting summary for July 31, 2001 and e-mail dated August 15, 2001

This is to get my thoughts on record. I won't attempt to transcribe them verbatim and I am representing myself. My interests were expressed as an El Dorado citizen since 1977 and that of being an employee of SMUD for 33 plus years before retiring.

- I would like to see SMUD committed to some form of generation for the benefit of El Dorado County.
- I personally recognized that consumptive water could be accessed at the White Rock penstock before the powerhouse but I suggested a win-win arrangement could be water pumped to, perhaps, a water tower from below White Rock where the water would be of no further use to SMUD.
- I would like to see SMUD provide power, residential included, to the whole western slope of El Dorado County.

Pacific Gas & Electric Company

Source: Steve Peirano, Plenary meeting summary for July 31, 2001

1. Public and Company employee safety
2. Regulatory, environmental and legal compliance affecting Company interests/assets
3. Maintain Company's electric ratepayer benefits (reliable, low-cost, renewable generation)
4. Coordinated operations (SMUD's White Rock Powerhouse releases to Chili Bar), including minimum in-stream flows, ramping rates, reservoir levels, protection of property and equipment, and availability of water for recreation

5. Licensee's liability associated with recreation activities
6. Limit Company's involvement to issues that overlap with Chili Bar Project relicensing or affect Company interests/assets
7. Licensee's cooperate on relicensing efforts with regard to overlapping issues

Raft Photo

Source: Dirk Gallian, Plenary meeting summary for July 31, 2001

1. Consistent, reliable water flows on the South Fork American River below Chili Bar.
2. Accurate forecasting of expected river flows at the earliest possible date prior to the summer rafting season. To that end I would like to see water storage scenarios that are to be used as plans of future releases that take into consideration overall storage, anticipated snow melt, anticipated release schedules, and overall conditions such as drought or above normal rainfall/snowfall. I would like there to be scenarios that go from worst case through best case with as many variations in between. Using these scenarios SMUD could then indicate the scenario that best fits a given year and adopt the operation protocols that are indicated by the scenario.
3. I would like to see these scenarios take into account ALL other water needs and distribute the resources evenly for the benefit of all parties. In high water years we can all enjoy the maximum benefits but in a drought year we need to all share in the discomfort.
4. I would like to see releases scheduled with the concerns of the environment and the people and businesses that are affected be the paramount consideration, NOT THE COST OF A MEGAWATT!

Sacramento Municipal Utility District

Source: Dave Hanson, Plenary meeting summary for July 31, 2001

SMUD Mission Statement: SMUD meets the electricity and energy services needs of our customer owners safely, dependably, economically and in an environmentally responsible manner.

SMUD Relicensing Goal: SMUD commits to relicensing the UARP in a manner that optimizes operational flexibility and economical generation while protecting the environment through a process that provides for active participation by interested parties.

SMUD's Interests:

Outcome

- Achieve new license for UARP that provides for:
 - Operational flexibility
 - Economical generation
 - Project peaking capacity
 - System safety and reliability
 - Potential expansion of project capacity
- Protect and enhance natural and social resources within the UARP to provide for:
 - Public safety
 - Sustainable aquatic resources in project reservoirs and streams
 - Water quality protection in project reservoirs and streams
 - Wide spectrum of recreational opportunities associated with UARP
 - Consideration of project effects on terrestrial and cultural resources
 - Consideration of project effects on socioeconomic resource and other public benefits

Process

- Reach timely agreement on studies
 - Reliable and scientifically credible information
 - Clear application to project effects
 - Basis for sound consensus-building of protection, mitigation, and enhancement (PM&E) measures
 - Reasonable and prudent studies
- Expend financial resources efficiently in a manner consistent with municipal values
 - Least-cost alternatives to PM&E measures that offer comparable resource benefits
 - Reasonable and prudent PM&E measures
 - Relicensing process costs minimized for all participants
 - Process is respectful of the resources of all participants
- Support an open and respectful exchange of ideas to foster creative solutions to various UARP issues
- Reach timely settlement through comprehensive agreement on all issues

Taxpayers Association of El Dorado County

Source: Art Marinaccio, Plenary meeting summary for July 31, 2001

1. Ensure that economic interests of El Dorado County taxpayers are protected and advanced, including the following issues: recreation, the costs of watershed management, fuels management, and catastrophic wildfire
2. Discuss the overall consumptive water uses, including future changes to enable consumptive use
3. Ensure that the license application is economically viable

The Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation

Source: Craig Thomas, letter dated August 20, 2001

Public Policy and Resource Management

(1) The Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation's interest in this project is based upon a desire for legally and scientifically sound management of facilities on public land. We view the FERC license and the associated benefits to SMUD and its ratepayers as a privilege given to the utility by the people of the United States.

Legally sound management means full and complete disclosure and analysis of environmental impacts in the NEPA/CEQA review process.

Scientifically sound management means both the social and biological impacts are analyzed under the rigors of the best available science.

(2) CSNC has an interest in seeing this FERC project managed under the guidelines of the Eldorado National Forest, Forest Plan as recently amended by the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment Record of Decision and Final Environmental Impact Statement. Specifically the Standards and Guidelines for FERC Relicensing, aquatic and terrestrial wildlife resources, riparian area conservation, the aquatic conservation goals, and the fire and fuels management strategy.

(3) CSNC has an interest in working with state and Federal agencies and SMUD to insure that appropriate project monitoring is clearly spelled out in the FERC license. That the monitoring is properly implemented, effective and contributes to an information base to provide feed back to project operations.

(4) CSNC has an interest in creating license conditions based upon sound science, operations and monitoring with an Adaptive Management component to allow for changes in operations if desired outcomes such as species protections or restoration goals are not obtained in a timely and agreed upon manner.

(5) CSNC has an interest in an accurate definition of project related impacts, including direct, indirect and cumulative effects on the environment based upon the existence of the project. We

are interested in defining a reasonable and scientifically sound definition of the “sphere of influence” of effects, and therefore mitigation responsibilities, associated with the UARP.

Aquatic Resource Protection

- (1) We have an interest in seeing adequate minimum flows for fish, amphibians, and macro-invertebrates, by water year type, for all stream channel classes in the system.
 - a. This would include important attributes such as appropriate water temperature ranges for all cold and warm water fisheries that will sustain all life cycle function for eggs, fry, young-of-the-year, and adult fish.
- (2) We have an interest in seeing adequate hydrologic function within the system. This would include determination and reasonable replication of the timing and shape of the natural hydrograph.
- (3) We have an interest in seeing restoration and enhancement of aquatic habitats that provide healthy habitat conditions for aquatic-riparian associated species. This would include a renewable supply of large logs in the stream channel and adequate riparian vegetation and cover in appropriate ecological ranges for wildlife and plant communities.
- (4) We have an interest to restore and enhance habitat for all at-risk aquatic-riparian species.
- (5) We have an interest in restoring and enhancing the ecological and geomorphic characteristics of unique and rare aquatic features such as meadows, fens, bogs, wetlands, vernal pools, springs, and seeps that occur in, or are affected by, the project.
- (6) We have an interest to ensure adequate habitat connectivity (hydrologic and vegetative) with the project area.
- (7) We have an interest in ensuring water quality standards are (maintained, if currently appropriate), restored and enhanced to meet the goals of the Basin Plan, Clean Water Act and Aquatic Conservation goals, objectives and guidelines in the Eldorado National Forest, Forest Plan.
- (8) We have a specific interest in seeing the management of recreational facilities and activities, in and around the lakes and reservoirs, enhanced so as to protect soils, vegetation and ecological processes in and around the lakeshore environment.

Fire Risk and Fuels Management

- (1) We have a strong interest in seeing an accurate assessment of project related fire risk associated with project facilities. This is driven, not by project related fuels which is fire hazard related, but by the draw of the large and increasing human population to project facilities.

Forest fires occur from either lighting or human related ignitions. In the last quarter century 64% of the large forest fires in the Sierra Nevada have been human related. Increased use of the area will lead to increased human related ignitions. This use and ignitions are, in significant proportion, related to the existence of project facilities.

(2) It is our interest to develop an ongoing forest fuels mitigation plan that involves SMUD, Forest Service, El Dorado County, and large timber land owners in a regional and/or project specific electrical co-generation facilities.

Wildlife Resource

(1) It is our interest to ensure the restoration and enhancement of terrestrial wildlife habitat for all project related sensitive, threatened, and endangered species.

(2) Our interest is to ensure restoration and enhancement of all Forest Service Management Indicator Species (MIS) affected by project facilities and operations.

(3) Our interest is to ensure the Wildlife Resource studies and assessment include the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of project facilities and operational impacts upon important habitats and ecological processes.

(4) Our interest is to seek ways to improve habitat capability for various wildlife species in and surrounding the project area.

Botanical Resources

(1) It is our interest to protect, restore and enhance important habitats and populations of rare, sensitive, threatened or endangered plant species affected by the project.

(2) It is our interest to develop a noxious weed management plan for the project that ensures SMUD facilities maintenance does not contribute to noxious weed introductions.

It is our interest to ensure the removal, through the least environmentally harmful means, of project related noxious weeds if introduced into the project area.

Recreation

(1) It is our interest to determine the appropriate level of project-related recreation based upon ecological carrying capacity studies specific to the variety of activities associated with the project.

(2) It is our interest to support recreational activities consistent with Forest Service land management direction.

(3) Within the to-be-defined parameters of ecologically appropriate recreational facilities, infrastructure, and uses, it is our interest to support those uses.

(4) It is our interest to develop and support an environmental education program accessible to all users in and surrounding the project area focused upon ecological carrying capacity and the long-term sustainability of natural resources and associated recreational uses in the UARP.

(5) It is our interest to ensure management of OHV activities in and around the project area consistent with the Forest Plan, existing Executive Orders, existing law, policy and regulation and ecological sound management.

Wilderness and Wild & Scenic River Values

(1) It is our interest to ensure the protection of wilderness and wild & scenic river values within the project area and to protect those values indirectly and cumulatively impacted by project operation, facilities or uses associated with the UARP.

UARP Facilities and Infrastructure

(1) It is in our interest to ensure transmission line corridor maintenance is conducive to species movement needs and that vegetation treatments within these areas maintain habitat connectivity and contain design features that support habitat usage.

(2) It is our interest to ensure the roads system that supports the project is appropriate to the needs of the project but that all unnecessary roads be restored to natural conditions.

It is our interest to ensure the Forest Service Roads Policy is fully implemented within the project area and that the existing road system that serves the project is maintained so as to not contribute negative impacts to public resources.

(3) It is our interest to see past project construction and development activities fully mitigated and restored. This includes spoils sites, materials storage sites, and construction sites.

(4) It is our interest to ensure all hazardous materials transported, stored and used in conjunction with the project be managed under a state-of-the-art hazardous waste management plan.

Enforcement

(1) It is in our interest to ensure that the Forest Service, as the Federal land manager, has full and complete funding to meet its enforcement needs to protect human health and safety and to enforce all existing forest orders, policy, and laws that are driven by the existence of the UARP.

It is our interest to ensure the SMUD share fully in these responsibilities due to limited Forest Service budgets to manage the increased demand from the UARP.

U.S. Bureau of Land Management

Source: Jim Eicher, Plenary meeting summary for July 31, 2001

- The project boundary should include the influence of the project on public lands to Salmon Falls.
- The way the project affects BLM's management framework plan and plans currently in development should be determined.
- Information on macroinvertebrates, fish, and feeder streams should be collected.
- Impacts and demand on public lands for recreational facilities should be determined.
- Demands for maintenance should be identified.
- Monitoring should be performed.
- Flows for whitewater boating uses, including protected flow, gauges, and reliability of flow.
- Optimum and minimum recreational flows should be determined.
- An adaptive management program should be used.
- The IIP should be amended to address resources below the current SMUD project boundary.
- PG&E's contribution to the project should be recognized.
- A settlement agreement should be reached.

U.S. Forest Service

Source: Beth Paulson, Plenary meeting summary for July 31, 2001

Forest Service interests are based on management areas described in the Forest Plan. The Forest Service has compiled much of the direction for each management area affected by the Upper American River Project and has developed desired condition statements based on this direction. This summary provides a broader definition of interests than the detailed management area direction.

Aquatic Biota/Hydrology/Soils/Riparian

- Meet water quality goals from the Regional Basin Plan.
- Protect beneficial uses of water.

- Maintain or restore the geomorphic and biological characteristics of special aquatic features (lakes, meadows, fens, bogs, wetlands, vernal pools, and springs), streams, and hydrologic connectivity both within and between watersheds to provide for the habitat needs of aquatic-dependent species.
- Preserve, restore, or enhance special aquatic features to provide the ecological conditions and processes needed to recover or enhance the viability of species that rely on these areas.
- Identify and implement restoration actions to maintain, restore, or enhance water quality and maintain, restore, or enhance habitat for riparian and aquatic species.
- Ensure a renewable supply of large down logs that can reach the stream channel and provide suitable habitat within and adjacent to the riparian conservation area.
- Ensure that management activities within riparian conservation areas enhance or maintain physical and biological characteristics associated with aquatic-or riparian-dependent species.

Recreation

- Determine appropriate level of project-induced recreation for which licensee is responsible.
- Provide a range of recreation facilities that meet design standards, are safe, and are consistent with appropriate management area direction.
- Provide recreation facilities within the capabilities of the ecosystem.
- Provide recreation facilities that are compliant with Federal policy and Forest Service direction for accessibility and meet standard maintenance levels.
- Address future recreation demands.

Wilderness

- Protect wilderness values in operating and maintaining the project.

Visual Quality

- Ensure that visual quality meets appropriate management area direction.

Heritage Resources/Tribal Relations

- Protect and enhance heritage resource sites where feasible.

- Evaluate heritage resources that may be affected.
- Identify Native American and other cultural group values associated with sites.
- Provide for curation of cultural materials.
- Maintain or enhance Forest resources of economic and social importance to tribes.

Noxious Weeds

- Remove and control noxious weeds induced by the project.

Terrestrial Wildlife

- Maintain habitat and protect threatened, endangered, and Forest Service sensitive species.
- Improve habitat capability for Forest Service management indicator species.
- Increase nesting opportunities for waterfowl on project reservoirs.

Fire and Fuels

- Determine appropriate level of project-induced fires.
- Develop appropriate fuel treatment methods.

Facilities

- Ensure road use does not result in adverse impact to national forest resources.
- Ensure design and maintenance of roads is commensurate with use.
- Rehabilitate spoils sites no longer needed and maintain sites that will continue.
- Identify appropriate waste disposal sites.

U.S. National Park Service

Source: Harry Williamson, Plenary meeting summary for July 31, 2001

A Universal Relicensing Goal: Develop and recommend new license conditions and management programs for the project that conserves, and restores as necessary, the essential attributes of the watershed ecosystem affected by the project while providing recreation and other beneficial uses.

NPS Resource Interest/Goal: Create, preserve, or enhance recreation by providing a broad range of developed and dispersed opportunities that meet current and projected demand while preserving the natural character of the watershed and providing for other beneficial uses.

NPS Desired Conditions

Participate in a settlement agreement which:

- Provides recreation –related facilities that are well maintained, accessible, appropriate to the setting, and meet future user demands in an environmentally sound way.
- Provides a broad spectrum of dispersed and developed recreation opportunities, while preserving the natural character of the watershed.
- Ensures that existing plans for the region (El Dorado National Forest Land Management Plan, SCORP, California Recreation User Preference Survey, El Dorado County plans, etc.) are considered while developing a comprehensive recreation resource plan for the project (Exhibit E).

Opportunities for mutual gain:

- Optimize reservoir level (operations) to even out flatwater recreation opportunities during the summer.
- Expand lake access, ramps, and facilities.
- Expand whitewater opportunities, where feasible and appropriate.
- Expand dispersed non-motorized recreation opportunities (hiking, mountain biking, cross country skiing).
- Enhance interpretation (natural resources, hydropower development, etc.) opportunities and provide passive recreation activities.