

**Weber Hydroelectric Project  
FERC Project No. 1744**

**Final Study Plan  
Recreation**

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***For Public Review***

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

PacifiCorp, a subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway Energy, plans to file a new application for relicensing of a major project, the Weber Hydroelectric Project (Project), Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) Project No. 1744, on the Weber River in Weber, Morgan, and Davis counties in Utah. The current license will expire on May 31, 2020. The Project has a generation capacity of 3.85 megawatts (MW) and is located partially on federal lands managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, and partially on lands owned by the Union Pacific Railroad Company. PacifiCorp filed a Notice of Intent to File Application for New License (NOI) and a Pre-Application Document (PAD) to initiate FERC's Alternative Licensing Process (ALP) for the Project on May 29, 2015.

PacifiCorp proposes to conduct a Recreation Resource Study to meet FERC licensing requirements and address study requests from American Whitewater (AW), Trout Unlimited (TU), and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR). The study will include the following four phased components: 1) an inventory of existing recreation facilities and opportunities in the Project vicinity, 2) a recreation use and demand study, 3) a whitewater boating feasibility study, and 4) a recreation needs assessment.

## 2.0 PROJECT AREA

For the purposes of this document, the FERC Project Boundary (or Project Boundary) is defined as all lands and waters within the existing FERC Project Boundary for the Weber Hydroelectric Project No. 1744, as denoted on the Project's Exhibit G. The **Project Area** is the area which contains all project features (encompassing the FERC Project Boundary as defined above), and which extends out for the purposes of characterization and analysis from the furthest edge of the Project Boundary, and across the river to the far riverbank (including the river regardless of which side of the river the project features are found), as shown in Figure 1.

The existing Project consists of:

- (1) a 27-foot-high, 79-foot-long concrete diversion dam, having two radial gates approximately 29 feet wide, and a 35-foot-wide intake structure, for a total width of 114 feet, on the Weber River;
- (2) a 9,107-foot-long, 5-foot to 6.3-foot diameter steel pipeline partially encased in concrete beginning at the intake and terminating at the powerhouse on the Weber River;
- (3) a 3-foot by 18-foot non-operative fish passage structure (used however to pass the minimum flow through the calibrated slide gate opening);
- (4) a powerhouse containing a generating unit with a rated capacity of 3,850 kilowatt (kW) operating under a head of 185 feet producing a 30-year average annual energy output of 16,932 megawatt-hours (MWh);

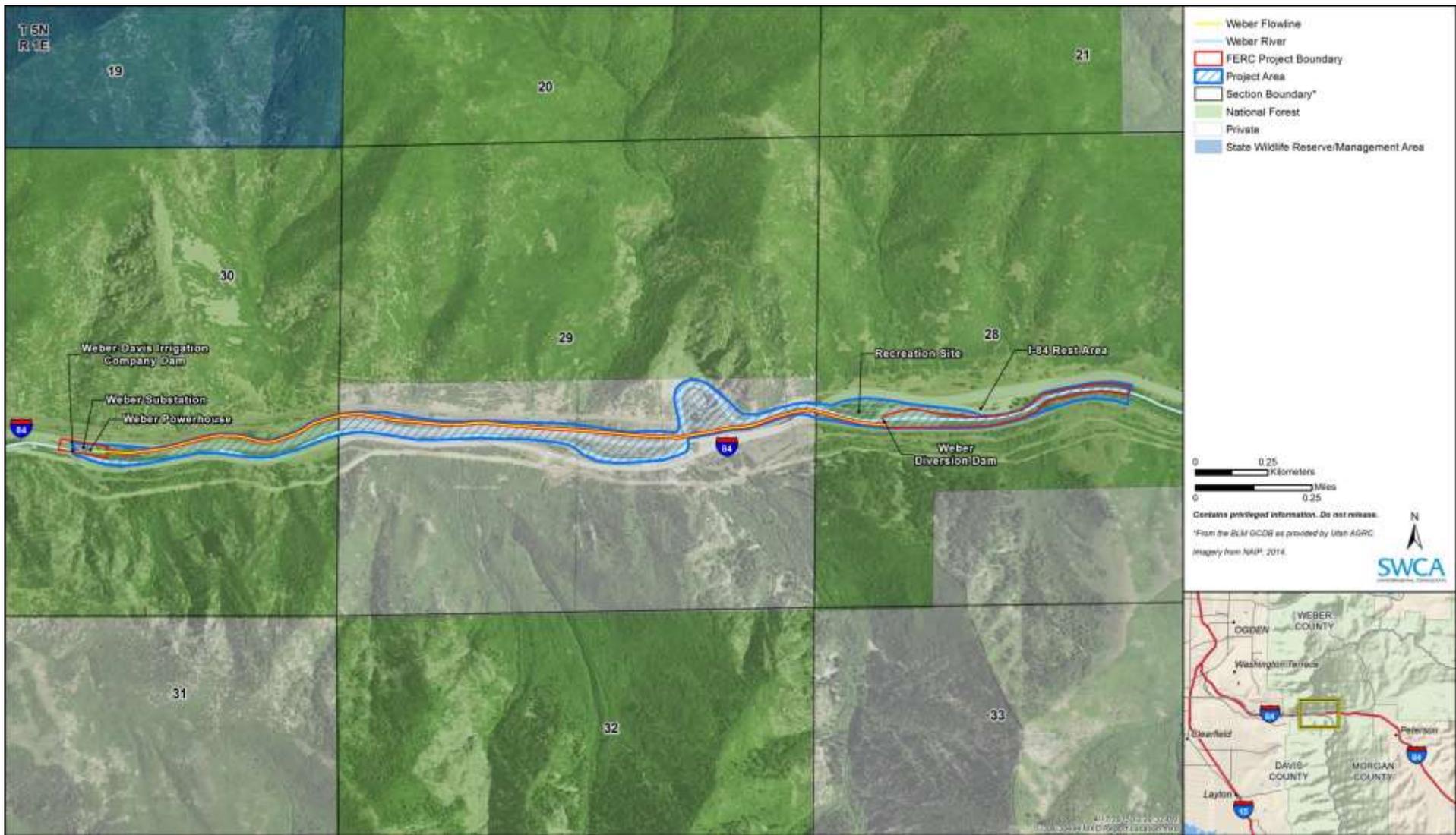


Figure 1. Weber Hydro Relicensing Project Location

- (5) a discharging pipe returning turbine flows into the Weber River at the powerhouse; and,
- (6) a 77-foot-long, 46-kilovolt (kV) transmission line which connects to the Weber substation.

### **3.0 PROPOSED RECREATION STUDY**

FERC guidelines identify the requirement to assess recreation needs as part of a license application. The goal of this study is to compile existing data and develop additional information to support a new FERC license application for continued future operation of the Project. PacifiCorp proposes to conduct a Recreation Resource Study to meet FERC licensing requirements and address study requests received from stakeholders, specifically, AW, TU, and UDWR. The study will include the following three components: 1) an inventory of existing recreation facilities and opportunities in the Project vicinity, 2) a recreation use and demand study, 3) a discussion of whitewater boating use and opportunities in the Project area, and 4) a recreation needs assessment.

The study has two principal objectives:

- Characterize existing recreation opportunities and use levels (including those for whitewater boating) in the Project vicinity. Existing recreation facilities and opportunities (recreation resource supply) in the Project vicinity will be identified and mapped. Use of recreation facilities in and near the Project Study Area (recreation resource demand) including the existing day-use Weber Recreation Site will be summarized based on use data, if available, or estimates.
- Identify both existing and future recreation needs (including those for whitewater boating) related to the Project over the term of the new license. Existing needs will be identified based on current use data and agency consultation. An estimate of future demand for recreation opportunities at the Project will be made.

#### **3.1 Existing Information**

As stated in the PAD, The Project Area is located within Weber Canyon and is surrounded by the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest and Union Pacific Railroad (UPR) lands. The Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest is adjacent to the highly populated and urbanized Wasatch Front, which stretches from Nephi to Brigham City and includes the state capital of Salt Lake City. The western mouth of Weber Canyon is approximately 8 miles from the Ogden city center and 30 miles north of Salt Lake City. The western edge of the Project Area is approximately 9 miles from the Ogden city center. Recreation is the dominant land use in the National Forest and includes activities such as camping, hiking, fishing, picnicking, biking, snowmobiling, and cross-country and downhill skiing.

Weber Canyon offers opportunities for fishing along the Weber River and limited (due to the lack of safe and legal access) hiking along the canyon slopes. Approximately 1,500 feet east

of the Weber Hydroelectric Project's diversion dam, on Interstate 84, the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) maintains a rest stop. The rest stop has restrooms, water, picnic tables, river access for handicapped persons, viewpoints, and irrigated landscaping. UDOT maintains another rest stop approximately 2 miles east of the Project Area. There is also an existing recreation site located on U.S. Forest Service (USFS) lands and operated by PacifiCorp in the Project Area immediately northwest of the Weber diversion dam that includes a small parking area, five picnic tables, a grassy area, fishing access to the river below the dam, fishing access to the forebay with a platform for disabled persons, and a portable toilet that is available on a seasonal basis. Using raw vehicle count data and the National Park Service's vehicle occupancy multiplier (2.4 during off-season and 2.7 during peak season) on a counter located for a year at the entrance road to the Weber diversion dam and associated recreation site, PacifiCorp estimated that approximately 19,454 people visited the recreation site in the Project Area during 2014, with 13,687 visitors during the off season and 5,767 visitors during the peak season (the Friday before Memorial Day through Labor Day). No information exists regarding specific uses of the area by the visitors noted above during 2014, although some may have just been curious as to where the entrance road led.

Extensive angling use occurs in the bypass reach downstream of the recreation site located at the Weber project dam. UDWR completed a creel survey in the Weber River from the mouth of Weber Canyon upstream to the confluence with Lost Creek. An estimated 66,606 angler trips were made during 2013 to this reach of the Weber River (Nadolski and Penne, 2013, in draft). While the creel survey did not quantify the number of anglers specifically using the bypass reach, it would be safe to assume that many of the estimated 19,454 visitors to the recreation site in 2014 were anglers.

While not designated as a Scenic Highway, Interstate 84 is popular for scenic driving, and at least one recreational loop drive crosses the Project Area. One of these recreational loop drives is popular for Ogden residents and involves taking Interstate 84 through Weber Canyon, past the Project Area at its east end, continuing north on Trappers Loop Road for 8 miles to Pineview Reservoir, and then returning to Ogden through Ogden Canyon via State Highway 39 along the Ogden River.

Although the Weber River overall offers some of the closest paddling to Wasatch Front communities, currently there are limited whitewater boating opportunities within the Project Area. In fact, the existing Class III-IV boatable section is relatively short and has limited safe and legal access due to the constraints on the Project Area of Interstate 84 and a non-Project irrigation diversion dam located immediately below the powerhouse. When water is available (generally when there is at least 650-700 cfs in the river above the diversion dam, assuming 320-365 cfs is being diverted into the project flowline), boaters can easily access the put in on the boatable reach immediately downstream of the existing Weber recreation site. However, after boating the 'Horseshoe,' aka., 'Scrambled Eggs' section of the bypassed reach, boaters must either carry their boats back upstream along the old highway and back to the put-in, or continue downstream and portage the non-Project diversion located immediately below the powerhouse. This diversion is owned by the Davis-Weber Irrigation Company, and it commonly takes most or all of the flow in the Weber River at that point, limiting options to continue downstream. This reach of the river is further constrained by being located between the two lanes of I-84, and the only access route to this area is the road

to the Davis-Weber irrigation diversion dam, which is gated and locked downstream of the potential portage area. Thus, although there is a short desirable boatable reach in the Project Area, accessing this section safely is problematic, and in fact the only other access to the only boatable reach (via the old highway) has been gated and locked by UDOT to prevent recreationists from using a freeway pullout that is considered unsafe due to the lack of acceleration and deceleration lanes. Further, due to geomorphology constraints, there is no room for acceleration or deceleration lanes in the Project Area. As a result of these factors, existing whitewater boating opportunities within the Project Area are constrained by the limited safe or legal egress routes (carrying back up to the put-in) for anyone putting in on the river at the recreation site.

As noted in the PAD, PacifiCorp maintains a non-consumptive water right of 365 cubic feet per second (cfs) from the Weber River for the purpose of power generation via the Project. This study will focus on boating opportunities across a range of flow conditions on this reach of the Weber River. During the most recent 10-year flow period (2005-2015), inflows of greater than 380 cfs to the Project occur approximately 31 percent of the time, or 113 days per year. Flows of this magnitude are likely to be encountered during the months of April-August, generally coinciding with irrigation season flows that are released upstream from Echo Reservoir. In addition, inflows of greater than 700 cfs occur approximately 11 percent of the time, or 40 days per year, at which time flows would be at least 340-380 cfs in the bypassed reach even with the maximum Project diversion of 320-360 cfs; these flows occur almost exclusively in May and June [Note that the USGS Gateway gage is widely used by boaters and others to determine the flow in the Project boundary study reach. *When the Project is operating and flows at the gage are above 350 cfs*, flows in the bypass reach downstream of the Project diversion can be calculated as approximately 300 cfs less than flows reported at the Gateway gage. At flows lower than 350 cfs, calculating the flows in the bypassed reach require knowing both the power generation flow at that time, and the minimum stream flow requirement associated with that year (varies from 34-50 cfs).

Other than those opportunities described above, other recreation opportunities are limited in the Project Area due to the existence of Interstate 84, the Union Pacific Railroad, two pipelines, a fiber optic line, steep terrain, and limited safe and legal access. The potential for trails is limited due both to safe access limitations and because users would have to traverse either the channelized river (and cross under the existing I-84 bridge) or steep canyon walls on either National Forest or private UPR lands.

### **3.2 Nexus to Project**

The Project has potential direct and indirect effects on recreation resources within and adjacent to the Project boundary and in the affected reach of the river downstream of the dam. These effects include providing public access to natural open space areas within and surrounding the Project for a variety of recreation activities, and access to and use of the river, forebay and tailrace for recreation purposes. PacifiCorp has developed and operates the existing Weber Recreation Site. User-defined trails from the Weber Recreation Site to the old highway to the west (crossing under I-84) allow unrecorded use of National Forest lands during all seasons, most commonly for anglers. The forebay access road is used in all seasons to access the river both above and below the recreation site, again, most commonly

for angling. The existing site is used for picnicking, most commonly in late spring and summer, as the low sun angle (due to the narrow canyon walls) creates relatively cold and windy winter-like conditions that tend to discourage many but the most cold-hardy users.

Study results will help inform PacifiCorp, USFS, AW, TU, and other stakeholders by synthesizing the information collected during the recreation studies and defining existing and future recreation needs that can reasonably be addressed by the Project and that may be considered for implementation during a new license term.

### **3.3 Study Area**

The Study Area will include the Project Area as described above and shown on Figure 1 along the Weber River from the diversion dam to the powerhouse, including lands owned by the USFS or Union Pacific Railroad, as described in the PAD. Note that the Study Area as defined includes the riverbank across from the powerhouse that will be looked at as a potential boater take-out site (this area is within the existing FERC Project Boundary and is covered by PacifiCorp's USFS Special Use Permit for the Project, but is also located at the terminus of the access road leading to the Weber-Davis Canal Company's intake gates and related infrastructure).

### **3.4 Methods**

This section provides a description of the proposed study methodology, including data collection and analysis techniques, or objectively quantified information, and a schedule including appropriate field season(s) and the duration.

The study methods involve the following four subtasks described below:

- Recreation Supply Analysis that will inventory recreation facilities and use areas in the Project Area and their condition;
- Recreation Use and Demand Analysis that will identify existing recreational demand in the Project Area and estimate future demand for various activities of interest;
- Whitewater boating feasibility study that will evaluate whitewater boating use on the Weber River and possible enhancement measures for whitewater boating opportunities within the Project's bypassed reach;
- Recreation Needs Analysis that will synthesize, compile and analyze the results of all of the above analyses into one synthesis study report. This analysis will identify existing and future recreation needs over the potential term of the new license (30 to 50 years).

The study will look at Project-specific recreation supply and capacity, demand, and current and future needs in the context of the local supply and projected demand to determine if the existing Project recreation facilities are fulfilling their intended purpose and meeting recreation needs at the Project. The results of this analysis will be directly used in the

development of recreation resource enhancement measures that will be proposed in the license application.

### **3.4.1 Recreation Supply Analysis**

In this subtask, existing recreation inventory information will be reviewed, compiled and updated as needed following FERC Project recreation facilities table guidance (FERC 2014). This analysis will describe the inventory (i.e., number of picnic sites, parking capacity, etc.) and condition status of existing Project recreation facilities, including compliance with current and proposed Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Guidelines, as amended. Project recreation facilities will be observed in the field to determine their current condition. Maintenance practices of the facilities will be identified and evaluated. Points of public access and trails in the Project area will be identified. Existing maps and features will be updated as necessary. The condition assessment of Project recreation facilities and informal recreation sites will use systematic and objective criteria for rating each site. To provide additional local context, inventory information for recreation facilities in the vicinity will be summarized based on information obtained from the USFS and other entities such as state parks, Bureau of Reclamation, and county facilities. The inventory of recreation facilities in the vicinity of the Project will clearly identify the relationship of these recreation facilities to the Project Boundary and who is responsible for the management of each inventoried recreation site.

This subtask will also inventory and assess Project lands for sites that are used for dispersed recreational activities (i.e., informal recreation sites). The presence of user-defined trails (e.g. the user-defined trail from the Weber Recreation Site extending under I-84 that is currently used to access the fishing and whitewater section of the by-passed reach), fire-rings, compacted or eroded soil, trampled vegetation, and litter/sanitary problems on Project lands will be used to help identify the occurrence of informal recreation sites. These features will be mapped and described in a similar fashion to Project recreation facilities.

### **3.4.2 Recreation Use and Demand Analysis**

This subtask will identify the visitor demand for recreation activities that are pertinent to the Project and how this demand will be anticipated to change in the future over the term of the new license. Information will be obtained from various sources, such as the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and USFS, to help determine predicted changes in anticipated demand for outdoor recreation activities associated with the Project. This information will be combined with updated national and regional demand forecasts from other recent publications.

Recreation use data for the Project will be derived from the *2015 FERC form-80 data*. To provide additional local context, use of other local recreation areas will be summarized based on use data if available or estimates. Recreation use will be estimated in recreation visits, recreation visitor days (RVDs), and site occupancy rate as appropriate. A recreation visit is defined as a visit by one person to a recreation area for any portion of a single day. An RVD is defined as 12 hours of use by any combination of users to a recreation area. Site occupancy rate will be reported as a percentage of total sites occupied at a facility for a particular period of time.

A recreation visitor survey (Appendix A) will be conducted at the Weber Recreation Site through the use of a questionnaire to assess the attitudes, preferences and characteristics of the primary user group. This is the only location where recreation visitor surveys will be conducted or distributed because this is the only safe, legal access point to the by-passed reach of the river. The survey will be distributed to site users via direct contact. Weber site users will be asked to fill out the questionnaire either on-site or after their visit and return it via U.S. Mail or email. The following topics will be addressed on the survey form:

- Socio-demographic characteristics (age, gender, etc);
- Visitor activities (general and primary);
- Trip characteristics (group size, length of trip, etc);
- Crowding and capacity issues;
- Opinion of adequacy/condition of facilities;
- Location of primary residence (zip code);

The visitor survey was patterned after surveys routinely administered by researchers for similar hydroelectric projects. Additional questions were added or modified to address Project-specific needs and issues. However, the number of questions asked were limited with the intention that the questionnaire did not become too long, therefore reducing the response rate.

Use (by unrecorded National Forest visitors) of user-defined trails leading from the developed Weber site to the user-defined trail west to the old highway will also be estimated from at least Memorial Day through Labor Day (late May-early September). A trail camera will be hidden in the vicinity of the primitive user-defined trail, extending west of the recreation site. The trail camera will be run continuously from spring through fall of 2016 and the images downloaded and analyzed periodically

Year-round use of the forebay access road just beyond its intersection with the UDOT rest area was estimated using a traffic counter and standard occupancy estimates in 2015. This information may be further refined and categorized for this Study Plan.

### **3.4.3 Whitewater Boating Feasibility Study**

To conduct the study, PacifiCorp proposes to follow the Level 1 methodologies summarized in “Flows and Recreation: A Guide to Studies for River Professionals” (Whittaker, Shelby and Gangemi 2005).

The study methods involve the following three subtasks described below.

- (1) Whitewater Boating Hydrology Analysis that will study the effects of flow-dependent recreational boating opportunities on the river segments within the Project Study Area.
- (2) Whitewater Boating Use and Demand Analysis that will identify existing recreational demand in the Project Study Area and estimate future demand for whitewater boating activity.

- (3) Whitewater Boating Needs Analysis that will compile, synthesize, and analyze the results of the above analyses into one synthesis study report. This analysis will identify existing and future whitewater boating needs over the potential term of the new license (30 to 50 years).

#### ***3.4.3.1 Whitewater Boating Hydrology Analysis***

PacifiCorp will describe the existing hydrology of the Project Study Area and analyze the influence of fluctuating river flows on boating opportunities within the bypass reach. PacifiCorp will use relevant hydrology data provided by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) database from USGS gauging station 10136500, located at the Gateway Weber River site approximately one mile upstream of the Project diversion, as well as PacifiCorp and irrigation/water conservancy district operations records, as appropriate, to characterize the flows in the Project Area. PacifiCorp will describe how Project operations affect the hourly, daily, and monthly flows and potential recreation opportunities within the bypassed reach. This summary of information may also include interviews with people knowledgeable about the river system and boating opportunities in the reach.

This subtask will also summarize recreation-relevant hydrology, describe the Project Study Area reach and its usability based on topographic analysis, and evaluate any existing and potential operational constraints on existing or alternative flow regimes. These features will be mapped and/or described.

If this analysis and the use and demand analysis described below identify a potential need for enhanced boater flows through flow releases, ramping rates will also be assessed to ensure the safety of anglers and that fish stranding is limited. Appropriate on-site and/or electronic notice of any resultant boater flows may also be addressed; PacifiCorp may also look at the feasibility of providing updated and more site-specific flow information than that currently available to the public at the Weber River Gateway USGS gage location.

#### ***3.4.3.2 Whitewater Boating Use and Demand Analysis***

This subtask will focus on identifying and surveying stakeholders and focus groups with an interest in whitewater resources affected by the Project. A stakeholder and focus group meeting will be conducted early (likely by April) in 2016. The purpose of this meeting is to gain first-hand information regarding recreation flows, boating access, and potential boating needs within the bypassed reach. The meeting will include a presentation on the results of the hydrology analysis and existing information on recreation access and known boatable flows. This discussion will provide an opportunity for stakeholders to gain a deeper understanding of the operational dynamics of the Project and how the Project impacts Weber River flows. PacifiCorp will query attendees regarding their desire for a site visit. PacifiCorp will schedule a subsequent site visit, if desired by attendees.

PacifiCorp will conduct the following activities to complete this subtask.

- Conduct a formal survey of whitewater boaters, user groups and others to determine the types and locations of whitewater boating activity occurring within the bypassed reach of the Weber River and a range of conditions (including flows) generally acceptable to whitewater boaters with various skill levels (see Appendix B). The survey includes interviews with whitewater boaters and experts familiar with whitewater resources in the Project Area. American Whitewater and other interested stakeholders were asked to review and comment on the final survey questionnaire.
- Based on surveys/interviews with whitewater boaters, identify a range of flows that are acceptable or optimal for whitewater boating in the Study Area and indicate what level of challenge these flows offer based on the International Scale of River Difficulty (Class I – Class VI). Additionally, assess the Project’s bypassed reach including commercial and non-commercial use, trip length, and seasonal considerations.
- For the study reach, briefly describe the river environment and existing and potential boating activity that could occur at a range of flows. To the extent practical, estimate current and future use that might be expected for the whitewater boating season.
- Identify and describe any present whitewater boating use in nearby waterways.
- If study results warrant, develop recommendations for enhancing whitewater boating opportunities at the Project.

This subtask will also consider existing and potential sites for access (put-in and take-out sites) and portage along the Study Area, as well as confirm USFS land ownership of the areas that could be used to access the river. Considerations for take-out sites will be limited to the area across the river from the powerhouse. However, access to this area is behind a locked gate. There is the potential to consider an alternate take-out site just downstream from the area across the river from the powerhouse in the event that the locked gate issue cannot be resolved. There is likely no need to consider both of these sites simultaneously because they are similar in most respects with the exception of constraints associated with the locked gate (i.e., one take-out site is behind the locked gate and the other take-out site is not).

To narrow down take-out sites for detailed consideration in the analysis to the one identified above, PacifiCorp reviewed the benefits and constraints of a total of four take-out sites regarding a number of factors. The results of this review, including all the take-out sites considered, are provided in the table below (Table 1).

**Table 1. Whitewater Boater Take-Out Site Feasibility Assessment**

	<b>Take-out Site 1: East of the Powerhouse</b>	<b>Take-out Site 2: Across the River from the Powerhouse</b>	<b>Take-out Site 3: Gated Area that Provides Access to the ‘Old Highway’</b>	<b>Take-out Site 4: Approximately 0.5 miles Downstream of Take-out 2</b>
<b>Proximity to terminus of whitewater run (approximate miles)</b>	~1.25 mile float	~1.25 mile float	~0.25 mile hike Closest	a. 1.25 mile float + 700ft portage to additional 0.5 mile float b. 1.25 mile float+ 0.5 mile hike to parking (if insufficient water available below Weber-Davis diversion) Furthest
<b>Site topography and bank slope to river</b>	Steep, rocky	Shallow, dirt/gravel	Steep, rocky	Shallow, dirt/gravel
<b>Number of vehicles accommodated</b>	8-10 (MED)	20-25 (MED-HIGH)	3-5 (LOW)	25-30 (MED-HIGH)
<b>Acceleration/deceleration lanes required on I-84</b> (See row below for details related to feasibility of accel/decel construction)	YES Deceleration from the left (fast) lane would be required to access the area east of the powerhouse. Re-entry onto I-84 would require an acceleration lane west of the powerhouse. Re-entry onto I-84 at this location is into the left (fast) lane.  NOTE: At present only PacifiCorp personnel or others with permission from PacifiCorp are allowed to access the powerhouse site. This is for safety and site security reasons.	NO Access to take-out is off of I-84, from South Weber Drive	YES Deceleration and acceleration lanes would be required for vehicles to safely pull off of I-84 and pull back on to I-84  NOTE: In recent years UDOT has instructed the Utah Highway Patrol to ticket vehicles parked on the shoulder of I-84 through the canyon (including this location). This is intended, for safety reasons, to prevent vehicles from parking in the canyon unless parking is required for other reasons (vehicle breakdown, flat tire, etc.). The gate was added in 2007 to prevent illegal access to the freeway margin leading to the ‘old highway.’ The closure was initiated for safety reasons specifically associated with a lack of deceleration/acceleration lanes on this section of I-84.	NO Access to take-out is off of I-84, from South Weber Drive

	<b>Take-out Site 1: East of the Powerhouse</b>	<b>Take-out Site 2: Across the River from the Powerhouse</b>	<b>Take-out Site 3: Gated Area that Provides Access to the ‘Old Highway’</b>	<b>Take-out Site 4: Approximately 0.5 miles Downstream of Take-out 2</b>
<b>Construction concerns and complications</b>	<p>HIGH+</p> <p>There is no known way to provide a safe deceleration lane due to the constraints of the canyon in this location: steep canyon walls, east-bound and west-bound sections of I-84 are separated by the powerhouse area, river banks and river bed, presence of the project penstock, Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) lines, and other linear features such as transmission lines and multiple pipelines.</p> <p>In addition, development of this area for take-out would create impacts that are not warranted relative to the potential benefits of this location for boaters. These impacts (which are likely significant) include, but are not limited to, the following resources: socioeconomics, vegetation, geology/soils, wildlife, and cultural.</p>	<p>MED-LOW</p> <p>Limited construction concerns and complications including underlying landownership and control issues</p>	<p>HIGH+</p> <p>Building deceleration and acceleration lanes and a parking area here is likely not possible due to constraints of the canyon in this location: steep canyon walls, presence of the project penstock, UPRR lines, and other linear features such as transmission lines and multiple pipelines.</p> <p>In addition, development of this area for take-out would create impacts that are not warranted relative to the potential benefits of this location for boaters. These impacts (which are likely significant) include, but are not limited to, the following resources: socioeconomics, vegetation, geology/soils, wildlife, and cultural.</p>	<p>MED-LOW</p> <p>Limited construction concerns and complications including underlying landownership and control issues</p> <p>May include additional construction/improvements of a path to the river.</p>
<b>Cost range to develop site</b>	\$\$\$\$ (millions)	\$	\$\$\$\$ (millions)	\$\$
<b>Current property ownership/control</b>	<p>U.S. Forest Service/PacifiCorp</p> <p>New USFS Special Use Permit would include boater access to this site</p> <p>Permission and permits required from all state and federal transportation agencies</p>	<p>U.S. Forest Service/Weber-Davis Irrigation Company</p> <p>New USFS Special Use Permit would need to include boater access to this site</p>	<p>UPRR/UDOT ROW</p> <p>Permission and permits required from all state and federal transportation agencies</p>	<p>U.S. Forest Service/; adjacent to South Weber Irrigation Company facilities</p> <p>New USFS Special Use Permit would need to include boater access to this site</p>
<b>Safety concerns</b>	<p>HIGH+</p> <p>Requires boaters to exit I-84 west-bound from the left (fast) lane and decelerate quickly; requires boaters to accelerate west-bound into the left (fast) lane with limited visibility; not possible to construct deceleration and acceleration lanes on this section of I-84; providing this take-out location for boaters would put boaters in close proximity to substation and powerhouse particularly when exiting the location west-bound.</p>	<p>LOW</p> <p>Take-out is located under I-84 and in close proximity to other infrastructure.</p>	<p>HIGH</p> <p>Requires boaters to exit and re-enter I-84 west-bound from the freeway shoulder on a curve in the road with limited visibility.</p>	<p>LOW</p> <p>Portage is located under I-84 and in close proximity to other infrastructure.</p>

	<b>Take-out Site 1: East of the Powerhouse</b>	<b>Take-out Site 2: Across the River from the Powerhouse</b>	<b>Take-out Site 3: Gated Area that Provides Access to the 'Old Highway'</b>	<b>Take-out Site 4: Approximately 0.5 miles Downstream of Take-out 2</b>
<b>Other considerations</b>	<p>Modifications to existing site are likely not feasible (see above)</p> <p>Even if acceleration/deceleration construction was deemed feasible, public access in the very near vicinity of the substation would still be required, putting the public at risk by being within the substation minimum approach distance.</p> <p>UDOT's strong preference is to avoid this option due to considerations indicated in construction concerns section.</p> <p>Security concerns for PacifiCorp facilities given access the public would have to cottages, powerhouse, and substation.</p>	<p>There is a locked gate currently preventing public access to this take-out location</p> <p>This option was presented in the preliminary draft recreation study plan and approved by all responding stakeholders, including American Whitewater (AW).</p>	<p>Modifications to existing site are likely not feasible (see above).</p> <p>UDOT's strong preference is to avoid this option due to considerations indicated in construction concerns section.</p>	<p>There is currently public access to this take-out location (parking area and take-out are not located behind a locked gate).</p> <p>The benefit of this site is only if there is water remaining below Weber-Davis Irrigation Canal diversion structure; as lack of water necessitates an additional 0.5 mile hike (carrying a boat) to the parking area.</p> <p>Requires a 700-foot portage around the Weber-Davis Irrigation Canal diversion structure and potentially additional construction for path back to river.</p> <p>This take-out is a suitable alternative to take-out 2 only if the locked gate issue associated with take-out 2 cannot be resolved.</p> <p>This alternative to take-out 2 was suggested by the AW representative during the 10/7 study plan stakeholder meeting.</p>
<b>Conclusions (based on information above)</b>	<p>Infeasible</p> <p>Not worthy of further study</p>	<p>Feasible</p> <p>Further study</p>	<p>Infeasible</p> <p>Not worthy of further study</p>	<p>Feasible</p> <p>Further study (very similar to take-out 2; only beneficial if locked gate issue is unresolved).</p>

### ***3.4.3.3 Whitewater Boating Needs Analysis***

This subtask will provide a synthesis of the previous two study components. The synthesis report will summarize the description of the optimum hydrologic recreational boating flows, and Project effects on recreation flows, recreation access to the Project, and potential improvements and information needs to consider as part of the relicensing process. In addition, opportunities for meeting existing and future needs through the scheduling of boatable flows during the typical boating season (generally mid-March through June, when flows exceed 650 cfs at the Gateway USGS gage) in the Project bypassed reach will be examined. The need to advance to Level 2 studies is predicated on answers to the following questions, which will be addressed in the analysis:

- Are there flow-dependent recreation opportunities, including safe and legal access and egress, available on the Weber River?
- Are flow-dependent opportunities affected by Project operations?
- Are flow-dependent recreation opportunities “important” relative to other resources or foregone generation?
- Does Level 1 information precisely define flow ranges?

### **3.4.4 Recreation Needs Analysis**

This subtask will provide a synthesis of the previous study results and analysis of Project-related recreation needs and opportunities over the term of the new license. In this analysis, existing recreation needs will be identified and future needs will be projected for increments of time (e.g., 10-year periods) over a 50-year timeframe. Recreation needs will be assessed in terms of how existing facilities meet those needs and projected future needs. In addition, opportunities for meeting existing and future needs through the development of future recreation facilities in the Project Area will be examined. Recreation needs identified in the Project Area will be coordinated with other resource specialists to help identify and minimize potential resource conflicts. Specific components of this analysis will include:

- An analysis of recreation needs at the Project over time (i.e., estimate of the number of total picnic sites, parking spaces, access points, trails, etc. needed in the future based on demand); and
- An identification of developed and dispersed recreation needs at the Project, both existing and future (in 10-year increments). These needs will be put in the context of local opportunities available and what can reasonably be addressed by the Project.

### **3.4.5 Reporting**

The initial study report will be made available for 30-day stakeholder review and comment by fall of 2016. The initial study report will describe the study methods and findings, field

survey methods, schedule, and results. Maps will include the Study Area, major Project features (e.g. powerhouse, roads, dam etc), survey routes, and recreation feature locations, with unique identification labels for each. The report will present the results of the recreation supply, use and demand analysis, discuss any potential Project effects on recreation opportunities, and provide possible mitigation measures. The study report will also include initial information regarding whether an additional year of phased study (Level 2, as described above) is warranted.

### **3.5 Level of Effort and Cost**

The anticipated level of effort and estimated cost of the work as proposed in this Study Plan is \$75,000 to \$150,000, depending on the phased level of required studies. The cost estimate covers time to review existing data sources, obtain required new data, interview knowledgeable boaters, evaluate current and future use, describe any enhancement opportunities, and prepare maps and reports.

#### 4.0 REFERENCES

- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). 2014. Project Recreation Facilities Tables and As-built Site Plan Drawing Guidance. Office of Energy Projects, Division of Hydropower Administration and Compliance, 888 First Street, N.E. Washington, D.C. 20426. Available at: <https://www.ferc.gov/industries/hydropower/gen-info/guidelines/as-built-site-plan.pdf>. Accessed October 26, 2015.
- Whittaker, D., Shelby, B., & Gangemi, J. (2005). Flows and Recreation: A Guide to Studies for River Professionals.

**Appendix A**

**Weber General Recreation Visitor Use Survey**

**Weber General Recreation  
Visitor Use Survey  
PacifiCorp Weber River Hydroelectric Project – Weber Canyon,  
Weber, Morgan, and Davis Counties, Utah**

**Introduction**

PacifiCorp owns and operates the Weber Hydroelectric Project on the Weber River in Weber, Morgan, and Davis counties in Utah. This Project is operated under a license granted by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC Project No. 1744). That license is nearing the end of its term and PacifiCorp has begun the process of renewing the Project's license. PacifiCorp would like to take this opportunity to evaluate the recreation uses associated with the Project.

PacifiCorp is requesting information from you to help in the evaluation of recreation opportunities associated with the Weber Hydroelectric Project, and on lands surrounding the Project. Please note that the Weber Recreation Site is unaffiliated with the nearby UDOT Rest Area; the recreation site is related solely to the Weber Hydroelectric Project. The information you provide will be used to describe the current recreation uses of the Project and determine the future recreation needs of the Project Area. Your participation in this survey is voluntary and the information you provide is strictly confidential. Your information will only be used for the purposes described here.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**To return survey by mail, please send to:**

Cirrus Ecological Solutions  
965 S 100 W #200  
Logan, UT 84321

1. Would you be willing to take a few approximately 10 minutes to complete this survey?

Yes

No

If no:

Primary activity:

Reason for refusal:

2. Is recreation your primary purpose for visiting this site today?

Yes

No

If yes, what is your primary form of recreation at this site today?

If no, what is the purpose of your visit here today?

Working or commuting to work

Stopping to use the restroom

Curious to see where this road goes

Other:

3. Including yourself, how many people are in your group today?

4. How many vehicles did your group use to visit the recreation site today?

5. Does anyone in your group have disabilities?

Yes

No

If yes, are there sufficiently accessible facilities at this site for your activity?

Yes

No

If no, please explain:

6. How long did you or are you going to be recreating at the Weber recreation site today?

Short trip (under three hours)

About half the day

The majority of the day

7. On average, how many times per year do you use this recreation site?

8. Approximately how many times have you used this recreation site in total?

1

2-5

6-10

10-20

20+

9. How did you get information about or hear about this recreation site the first time you visited it?

- Stumbled upon it
- Word of mouth
- Gear/tackle shop
- Website      If so, which website:
- Other:

10. Please indicate: During which seasons have you participated in various activities at the recreation site?

<b>Activity Type:</b>	<b>Never</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Summer</b>	<b>Fall</b>	<b>Winter</b>
Walking/Hiking					
Fishing from bank/wading above the dam					
Fishing from the platform above the dam					
Fishing from a float tube or similar craft above the dam					
Fishing from bank/wading downstream from the dam					
Whitewater boating					
Road cycling					
Driving for pleasure					
Viewing/photographing natural features					
Picnicking					
Relaxing/hanging out					
Nature study					
Escaping city/getting outdoors					
Swimming					
Bird watching					
Other:					

11. Did you use the primitive trail passing under the freeway from the recreation site to access the river during your visit?

- Yes
- No

If yes, was the trail sufficient to meet your needs?

- Yes
- No

12. If you are using the river today, did you check the current river flow before your visit?

- Yes
- No

If yes, where did you get your information regarding flows (USGS 'Gateway' gage is the one located approximately one mile upstream of the hydroelectric project)??

13. Please indicate: How important were the following factors in selecting this site for recreation today?

<b>Factor:</b>	<b>Extremely Important</b>	<b>Very Important</b>	<b>Somewhat Important</b>	<b>Slightly Important</b>	<b>Not Important</b>
Proximity to home					
Variety of recreation opportunities					
No access fee required					
Lack of crowding					
Natural setting					
Access to river					
Access to whitewater boating areas					
Onsite restroom facilities					
Availability of picnic sites					
Pets permitted					
Clean/well maintained facilities					
Feeling of safety					
Handicapped access					
Other:					

14. If you are participating in whitewater boating during your visit, please indicate: Where did you put in and take out?

<b>Location</b>	<b>Put In Location</b>	<b>Take Out Location</b>
Weber Recreation Site (here)		
Pulled over on side of I-84 near the Horseshoe Bend		
Weber-Davis Irrigation Company dam (2 miles downstream from here)		
Other:		

15. Please indicate: What is your opinion of the condition of the facilities at the recreation site?

<b>Site Feature</b>	<b>Condition</b>				<b>Suggestions for improvement</b>
	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Adequate</b>	<b>Needs improvement</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>	
Parking facilities					
Picnic facilities					
Restrooms					
Fishing platform					
Primitive trail passing under the freeway from the recreation site					
Paved walkway running downriver from recreation site					
Other					
Other					

16. What are the most important actions that could be taken to improve recreation at this site?

- Additional picnic facilities
- Improved trail passing under the freeway from the recreation site
- Other improved fishing access to river
- Improved boater access to river
- Improve in-river fish habitat
- Improved waste collection
- Improved access to information about river flows
- Other (Please explain):

17. Please provide any additional comments about recreation at this site you think are important:

18. What is your age?

19. What is your gender?

- Male
- Female
- Other
- Prefer not to respond

20. Which racial group do you most closely identify with?

- American Indian/Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black/African American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- White/Caucasian
- Latino
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Prefer not to respond

21. In what zip code do you reside?

---

Date:

Time:

Flow Rate:

## **Appendix B**

### **Weber River Whitewater Boating Interview Survey**

1. Introduction

## Weber River Whitewater Boating Survey

Please read this before completing the survey.

This survey is part of PacifiCorp's Weber Hydroelectric Project (Project) relicensing study to collect and organize information about whitewater recreation use on the reach of the Weber River affected by the Project (Project Study Reach). Your participation in the survey will help to provide an understanding of the whitewater recreation opportunities on this reach of the river.

The extent of the study area is: the Weber River from the Weber Hydroelectric Diversion Dam near the UDOT Rest Area, to the takeout location approximately 1.9 miles downstream adjacent to the Weber Project powerhouse and across from the Davis-Weber Irrigation Company's headgates and canal intake (Figure 1).

This study focuses on boating opportunities provided across a range of flow conditions based on the water available in the Weber River downstream of the Project diversion. The United States Geological Service (USGS) Gateway gage is widely used by boaters and others to determine the flow in the Project Study Reach. Flows in the Project Study Reach downstream of the Project diversion are typically 300 cfs less than flows reported at the Gateway gage, when the Project is online. The Project typically operates when flows are above approximately 100 cfs, but is not at full capacity until ~350 cfs.

In this survey you will rate the flows you boat in the Project Study Reach. Please complete this online survey for each date you boat (or have boated) this reach on the Weber River. Trips from past years can be entered as well provided you know the date and time of trip and can report on your experience under those flow conditions. Information from repeat paddlers provides valuable comparative information that helps to better understand the boatable flow range. Before completing the survey, please verify online the exact instream flows for the day you were boating ([USGS Gateway Gage No. 10136500](#)).

Your participation in this survey is important to the study's success. As you complete the survey, base your responses on your direct experience with this reach of the Weber River rather than guidebooks, group opinions or historic flow preferences. Also, encourage fellow boaters to participate in this study. The more responses we receive the more useful our results will be. Thank you for taking the time to complete this short survey, your input is greatly appreciated. PacifiCorp will publish the results of this study in a technical report that will be filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and on our website at: <http://www.pacifiCorp.com/es/hydro/hil/weber.html>

Click "Next" to begin the survey.

Figure 1: Weber River Recreation Study Area.



2. Background Information

\* 1. Your First and Last Name (for data sorting purposes only):

\* 2. What was the date and time of this trip on this reach of the Weber River? (Please complete a new survey for each day paddling. Trips from previous years can be reported as well where the date and time of the trip are known.)

Date:  MM /  DD /  YYYY

\* 3. Gender?

- Male  
 Female

4. Age?

Age (yrs):

5. In general, how many days a year do you spend whitewater boating?

- 1                       21-30  
 2-5                       31-50  
 6-10                      >50  
 11-20

\* 6. What type of watercraft did you use for this trip?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Hardshell kayak   | <input type="radio"/> Open deck canoe with floatation |
| <input type="radio"/> Inflatable kayak  | <input type="radio"/> Cataract                        |
| <input type="radio"/> Closed-deck canoe | <input type="radio"/> Raft                            |

Other, Please list

7. How many years have you been using this type of craft?

Years:

8. How would you rate your skill level with this type of craft?

- Novice (comfortable running Class II)
- Intermediate (comfortable running Class III)
- Advanced (comfortable running Class IV)
- Expert (comfortable running Class V)

3. Rating This Flow

\* 9. In general, how would you rate the whitewater difficulty on this reach at this flow?

- Class I
- Class II
- Class III
- Class IV
- Class V
- Class VI
- Not sure

10. Please estimate the number of hits, stops, boat drags and portages you had on this trip.

Number of times I **hit** rocks and other obstacles (but did not stop):

Number of times I was **stopped** after hitting rocks or other obstacles (but did not have to get out of my boat to continue downstream):

Number of times I had to get out to **drag** or pull my boat off rocks or other obstacles:

Number of times I had to **portage** around unrunnable rapids, log jams, or other obstacles:

\* 11. Please evaluate the flow volume during this trip for your craft and skill level for each of the following characteristics. (choose one rating for each row)

	1. Totally unacceptable	2. Moderately unacceptable	3. Marginal	4. Moderately acceptable	5. Totally acceptable
Availability of technical boating	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Availability of powerful hydraulics	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Availability of whitewater play areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Safety	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Length of run	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Number of portages	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Overall rating	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

\* 12. Are you likely to return to boat this flow you just evaluated?

Yes

No

\* 13. In general, would you prefer a flow that was lower, higher or about the same as the flow on this trip?

Lower flow

About the same flow

Higher flow

4. Comparing Flows

- \* 14. What was the flow (cfs) at the USGS Gateway Gage when you boated?

Gateway Gage  
(USGS 10136500)  
Flow (cfs):

- \* 15. Determining flow in the Project Study Reach (method only applicable at flows greater than 350 cfs): Subtract 300 cfs from the USGS Gateway Gage flow you provided in Question 14. Write that number in the space below. That is the approximate flow in the Project Study Reach below the Weber Hydro Dam.

Example: 700 cfs at Gateway Gage – 300 cfs = 400 cfs in the Project Study Reach

Project Study Reach Flow: USGS Gateway Gage Flow – 300 cfs =

\* 16. For comparative purposes, please estimate the quality of the following flows in the Project Study Reach for your craft and skill level. In making your evaluations, consider all the flow dependent characteristics that contribute to a high quality trip (WW challenge, WW play, safety and length of run). If you do not feel comfortable evaluating a flow you have not seen, select Don't Know. Choose one rating for each flow.

	1. Totally unacceptable	2. Moderately unacceptable	3. Marginal	4. Moderately acceptable	5. Totally acceptable	Don't Know
200 cfs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
300 cfs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
400 cfs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
500 cfs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
600 cfs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
700 cfs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
800 cfs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
900 cfs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
1000 cfs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

\* 17. Using flows calculated for the Project Study Reach, what is the minimum acceptable flow for you on this run in cfs? The minimum acceptable is the lowest flow you would return to boat, not the minimum flow necessary to navigate.

cfs:

\* 18. Using flows calculated for the Project Study Reach, what is the optimum flow for you on this run in cfs?

cfs:

19. Boating opportunities on the Project Study Reach of the Weber River are....? (choose one per row)

	1. Worse than average	2. Average	3. Better than average	4. Excellent	5. Among the very best
Compared to the Weber River WW play park:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Compared to other rivers within a one-hour drive:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Compared to other rivers in Utah/Idaho/WY:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Compared to other rivers in the USA:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

\* 20. How long is a typical boating trip for you on the Project Study Reach of the Weber River? (Do not include driving time to the river)

- 1 - 2 hours of paddling
- 2 - 4 hours of paddling
- Full day of paddling

\* 21. Boating trips to the Project Study Reach of the Weber River typically occur during which of the following time periods for you?

- Weekdays 8 - 5 PM
- Weekdays after work (typically after 5 PM)
- Weekends

5. Access to the Weber River

\* 22. Where did you put-in?

- Weber Diversion Dam (located just downstream of the UDOT Rest Area, at Weber Rec Site)
- Top of Scrambled Eggs Rapid (aka top of Horseshoe Bend)
- Other, please name

\* 23. Where did you take-out from the river?

- Triple bridges at bottom of Scrambled Eggs Rapid
- Davis-Weber Irrigation Company's headgates and canal intake on River Left across from Weber Powerhouse
- Abandoned bridge at mouth of the Canyon

\* 24. Did you do a single run on this date or multiple laps on this trip?

- Single run
- Multiple laps (number of laps)

\* 25. Where did you park your vehicle for this trip while boating? (check all that apply)

- UDOT Rest Area
- Weber Dam Recreation Site
- I-84 shoulder at locked gate
- Powerhouse
- South Weber Drive access road to Davis-Weber Irrigation Company's headgates and canal intake on River Left
- Abandoned bridge on South Weber Drive at mouth of the Canyon
- Other (name)

\* 26. How many boating trips have you made to the Project Study Reach of the Weber River?

- 0 times
- 1 to 5 times
- 6 to 10 times
- 11 to 20 times
- More than 20 times

\* 27. How many boating trips have you made to the Project Study Reach of the Weber River in the last twelve months?

- 0 times
- 1 to 5 times
- 6 to 10 times
- 11 to 20 times
- More than 20 times

28. Do you have comments on access to the Weber River for whitewater boating.

29. Do you have other comments about whitewater boating on the Weber River or general comments about flows for paddlers?

30. Thank you for participating in the Weber River Hydroelectric Project Whitewater Flow Study. PacifiCorp will be hosting a focus group with the whitewater community in the spring. If you would like to participate in the focus group please provide your email and phone number so we can inform you of the time and location. Alternatively, you can contact Eve Davies at 801-220-2245@ to indicate your interest in the focus group.

Email Address:

Phone Number (w/ area code)