1.0 DRAFT RECREATION RESOURCES STUDY PLAN ANNOTATED OUTLINE

1.1 PROJECT NEXUS AND RATIONALE FOR STUDY [§ 5.9(B)(4)-(5)]

The Cutler Hydroelectric Project (Project) operates and maintains 13 recreation facilities within the Project Boundary. These facilities consist of boat launches, picnic areas, canoe trails and hiking trails. PacifiCorp implemented a recreation site development and monitoring program as part of the current license to improve public access and provide recreation facilities inside the Project Boundary.

- Changes in Project operations may affect:
    - Recreation opportunities, patterns in visitor use, public access to the reservoir and potentially recreation facility usability.
    - Reduction in reservoir surface area and water depth may affect navigation by motorized and non-motorized watercraft.

1.2 STUDY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES [§ 5.9(B)(1)]

- Quantify visitor use and carrying capacity for Project recreation facilities.
- Evaluate how other proposed ongoing actions may affect existing recreation facilities (State Road 30 widening).
- Characterize purpose and reservoir access for existing recreation facilities within the Project Boundary relative to current and proposed reservoir pool elevations. Use LiDAR data to:
    - Delineate reservoir access topographically for respective recreation sites, given the potential change in operations.
    - Quantify reservoir surface area associated with varying pool elevations resulting from a change in operations.
    - Assess motorized and non-motorized navigation.

1.3 RELEVANT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT GOALS AND PUBLIC INTEREST CONSIDERATIONS [§ 5.9(B)(2)]

This section will be completed in part with input from the public meeting. Could include:

- Cooperate with Logan River Task Force to create a water trail coming down the Logan River into the reservoir.
- River access downstream of the powerhouse.

Relevant management plans include the following:

- PacifiCorp Recreation Site Development Program for Cutler Hydroelectric Project (part of the existing PacifiCorp Cutler Recreation Management Plan).

- PacifiCorp FERC Form 80 Reports for Cutler Hydroelectric Project.
- PacifiCorp Recreation Monitoring Report for Cutler Hydroelectric Project.
- Utah Department of Natural Resources. 2017. Final Bear River Comprehensive Management Plan. October 2017.
- 2014 Utah State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) (Utah DNR 2013) (SCORP to be updated in 2019).
- 2010 Utah Boating Program Strategic Plan (Utah DNR 2010).

1.4 STUDY AREA

The study area for this plan will include the FERC Project Boundary, including the portion of the Bear River directly downstream of the powerhouse.

1.5 METHODS [§ 5.9(B)(6)]

1.5.1 RECREATION USE AND NEEDS STUDY

This plan will address the following questions: what are the recreation opportunities in the Project Area, how are they being used, and is there demand for additional recreation in the area that is not being offered currently? This could include: visitor counts (i.e. traffic counters at recreation sites, direct observation), visitor surveys and focus groups.

1.5.2 CARRYING CAPACITY

An analysis of physical capacity at each recreation site will be completed. This analysis will include an assessment of the physical space available versus actual use, comparing off-peak and peak use, and determining availability, and will examine seasonal use patterns.

1.5.2.1 PROJECT OPERATIONAL CHANGES AND ASSOCIATED POOL ELEVATION CHANGE EFFECT

This study will delineate the topography of near-shore recreation sites and reservoir access issues resulting from changes in pool elevation. It will assess how changes in pool elevations could impact recreation opportunities and visitor use in the following ways:

- Reservoir access using existing boat ramps.
- Recreation site usability including canoe trails.
- Motorized and non-motorized navigation.
- Carrying capacity associated with reduced reservoir surface area.
- Angling success.
- Waterfowl and upland bird hunting success.

- Aesthetics.

1.6 Analysis and Reporting

The Recreation Resources Initial Study Report (ISR) will document the analysis and results in compliance with FERC ILP guidance. This report will include a summary of all information collected and discussion of the findings. Specifically, the report will address the following:

- Information on recreation opportunities, visitor use and needs within the Project Boundary.
- Assessment of impacts of proposed operational changes on recreation access and opportunities in the Project Boundary.

The recreation studies will be competed in one study year. Based on the results provided in the ISR, licensing participants may request modifications to the recreation study and/or new studies; however, any proposal must demonstrate that the studies that were conducted were not consistent with the approved study plan or that the studies were conducted under unusual environmental conditions.

1.7 Schedule, Periodic Reporting, and Ongoing Consultation

Work will commence once the Recreation Study Plan is approved.

1.8 Level of Effort and Cost [§ 5.9(B)(7)]

The level of effort will be determined as this Study Plan is finalized.

1.9 References

Association of the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography. 2000. Cover page photo of Fishing in Cutler Reservoir, Cache Valley, Utah. Photo by Wayne Wurtsbaugh. Accessed June 14, 2019. http://www.aslo.net/photopost/showphoto.php/photo/2211/title/fishing-in-cutler-reservoir-2c-cache-valley-2c-utah/cat/503.

Utah Department of Natural Resources (Utah DNR). 2010. *2010 Utah Boating Program Strategic Plan.* Division of Utah State Parks and Recreation. https://stateparks.utah.gov/stateparks/wp-content/uploads/sites/26/2015/03/BoatingStrategicPlan2010.pdf. Accessed December 19, 2018.

Utah Department of Natural Resources (Utah DNR). 2013. *2014 Utah State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.* Division of Utah State Parks and Recreation. http://static.stateparks.utah.gov/docs/SCORP2014.pdf. Accessed December 19, 2018.