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## **7.7 DRAFT RECREATION RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (REC 7)**

### **7.7.1 Objectives**

The objective of this plan is for the RRG and other resource groups to assess the responsibilities for PacifiCorp and Cowlitz PUD involvement in recreation resources in the study area over the term of the new license. These proposed Licensee responsibilities will be formatted into several programs included in a draft Recreation Resource Management Plan (RRMP). The draft RRMP will be distributed and reviewed by various relicensing resource groups. The programs in the draft RRMP will be integrated with other resource plans and proposals being considered by the Steering Committee.

### **7.7.2 Study Area**

The RRMP plan area includes the upper Lewis River basin and will focus on the 3 project reservoirs, Swift No. 2 canal area, Swift bypass reach, and river access sites below Merwin Dam.

### **7.7.3 Methods**

#### **7.7.3.1 Study Design**

In general, the Recreation Needs Analysis pulls together all of the previous study results into a single document that will analyze, identify, and project existing and future recreation needs in the study area. An example of this study is provided in the Yale Recreation FTR (PacifiCorp 1999). Specific tasks to be conducted as part of this analysis are described below.

- An overall analysis of recreation needs in the study area over time (i.e., estimate of the number of total campsites needed in the future based on current demand).
- Identification of developed and dispersed recreation needs on a site-by-site basis, both existing and future (in 10-year increments).
- Identification of project-related recreation needs.
- Compilation of needs information into a Recreation Needs Analysis summary report.

#### **7.7.3.2 Study Area**

The study area for the Recreation Needs Analysis is the area comprising the Lewis River hydroelectric projects, the 3 reservoirs including a 1/2-mile buffer zone surrounding each reservoir, downstream fishing access sites associated with the Merwin Project, and the 3 Kalama River basin sites (as appropriate).

#### **7.7.3.3 Analytical Methods and Reporting**

Details of each of the 4 tasks are described below.

### Identify Overall Recreation Needs

Overall recreation needs in the study area will be assessed using an analysis that compares and contrasts demand, supply, capacity, and suitability factors to arrive at conclusions regarding recreation needs. This process will essentially follow a formula: demand - supply = needs. Existing data for the study area from the demand and supply analyses and the capacity and suitability analysis will be used in this exercise. This first task focuses on the overall need for camping in the study area, for example, without specifying where that need may be specifically met.

A number of inter-related factors will be considered in this overall needs analysis. These include factors such as recreation facility occupancy criteria and management and impact parameters. Sources of data for these factors may include:

- Recreation visitor survey responses;
- Visitor perceptions of crowding and crowding criteria;
- Projected increases in demand for various activities;
- Seasonal and weekday/weekend occupancy rates;
- Facility and use area capacity utilization;
- Physical and spatial arrangement of existing facilities and use areas;
- Existing facility conditions and accessibility guidelines and report recommendations;
- Suitability analysis depicting potential sites or areas;
- Opportunities for infill, redesign, or expansion of existing facilities;
- Management goals and objectives of published plans;
- Visual observations and observed impacts from existing use; and
- Professional judgment and agency input.

Overall recreation needs will be identified and projected for the recreation activities in the study area listed in the study plan.

### Identify Recreation Needs on a Site-by-Site Basis

The previous task looked at the broader context of needs within the study area, generally by activity type. This task takes those identified needs and attempts to identify where they may be accommodated on a site-by-site basis. Site-specific needs will be identified through review and analysis of several data sources, including:

- Recreation survey responses about specific sites;
- Seasonal and weekday/weekend occupancy rates at specific sites;
- Spatial arrangement of sites and design problems observed;
- Facility conditions;
- Accessibility compliance and guideline recommendations at sites;
- Potential sites as identified in the GIS-based suitability analysis;
- Opportunities for infill, redesign, or expansion at each site;
- Observed impacts of use at each site; and
- Professional judgment and agency input.

The identification of future needs will build off of the list of identified existing needs. This analysis will project overall recreation needs into the future in 10-year increments. Where new facilities might be considered in a given area to satisfy demand, their anticipated implementation date will be projected. Primary indicators used in defining future needs for developed facilities are projected increases in demand over 30 to 50 years and anticipated capacity utilization. Projected future needs will be estimated for each developed facility, use area, and activity. This need is based on an understanding of existing need plus a projection of future utilization based on the demand analysis study and potential suitable sites based on the capacity and suitability analysis study.

#### Assessing Project-Related Recreation Needs

Not all needs identified in the preceding 2 analyses can automatically be assumed to be project-related impacts. Associating recreation needs with the project, or project-related recreation needs, will entail consultation and consideration of various contributing factors. Two of the likely factors to consider include proximity to the project and direct project cause. Further discussion with the agencies is needed to define other appropriate factors to consider. In addition, visitor survey results and dispersed use survey data collected in 1998 will be used to assess the area of potential effect of the projects. In addition, since the USFS does not accommodate its overnight visitors within the Monument, the impact of a lack of USFS-managed campgrounds in the project vicinity and the influx of Monument visitors to the study area will also be discussed.

#### Recreation Needs Analysis Summary Report

The results of this analysis will be compiled into a summary report for use in consultation and other reports. The format will be similar to the recreation needs analysis in the Yale Recreation FTR (PacifiCorp 1999), but more consolidated due to the number of projects in the study area.

#### 7.7.4 Key Questions

Responses to the following “key” questions will be addressed when the RRMP is developed in 2002:

- Are there needs for improved law enforcement or other means to minimize visitor-related problems within the project lands and waters?
- Are there any recreation-related needs relative to the surrounding area (e.g., law enforcement, emergency services, traffic, etc.) and who should address these concerns?
- How can recreation facilities and their management complement existing Monument-related facilities in the basin and vice versa?
- Where might new trails be located and who should build and maintain them? Is it possible to acquire trail easements and/or rights-of-way across private lands to allow development of a trail system?

- How do visitors to the project area affect the use of other nearby recreation areas during the peak use period and how should this be addressed if needs are identified?
- How might reservoir pool levels and river flow needs be integrated with other resource needs?

#### 7.7.5 Results

The RRMP has been developed for the Swift No. 1, Yale and Merwin projects and will be presented as an appendix to PacifiCorp's applications for new licenses. Because Cowlitz PUD proposes no recreation enhancement measures, it has not developed an RRMP for the Swift No. 2 Project.

#### 7.7.6 Schedule

PacifiCorp's draft RRMP has been developed.

#### 7.7.7 References

PacifiCorp. 1999. License Application for the Yale Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 2071. Includes Final Technical Reports as Technical Appendices. Portland, Oregon.